

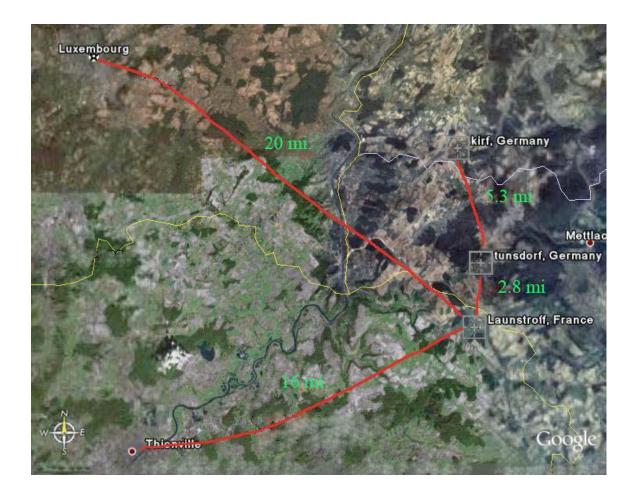
The Berg Family – a brief history

written by Michael Kohnen

The first recorded Berg in our family lived in the small mountain village of Kirf which is about 3 miles from Saarburg (pop. 6,700) in the Rhineland-Palatinate state of Germany. This is near the Saar River in hilly country a few miles from where the Saar runs into the Moselle River. The Moselle valley is famous for its beautiful scenery and the excellent wine it produces. The river is also the shipping corridor for an important industrial area, especially coal mining and steel manufacture. This first map shows the location of Kirf, Germany, and Launstroff, France (where the Bergs moved before coming to the US).



Kirf is also quite close to the origins of the Kohnen family since it is within 20 miles of Luxembourg City as the crow flies and only about 35 miles from Grosbous, the birthplace of John Peter Kohnen. The following map shows these distances, along with distances from the towns of Tunsdorf and Launstroff.



The country is hilly, but fertile, and very beautiful. It is known as the 'Pays des Trois Frontieres', the country of the three borders (France, Germany, and Luxembourg). In good weather a traveler can enjoy stunning views of the Saarburg region of Germany as well as the neighboring states of France and Luxembourg.

Because the people there have experienced such savage wars through the centuries, there is now an open air museum near Launstroff, with huge outdoor sculptures (28 in all) contributed by artists from all three countries.







near Launstroff



for Peace among Nations



On the next page are some modern photos of the Launstroff/Tunsdorf area.



Our first recorded ancestor is Peter Bergh (died 1696) who was the Jurist (Schoeffe) and Judge (Meier) for the Count von Berg. Peter was a big fish in a very small pond, the tiny village of Kirf (today's Population 760). As 'Meier' he would likely have acted as judge, bailiff, court reporter, etc., in the lower court (Gerichtstag). The Meier may have also directed proceedings for the middle court which was like a people's court. A jury that ultimately decided matters in dispute sat next to the Lord and the Meier. The jury was supposed to be an independent deliberating body, i.e., free from interference from the lord. These jurors (Schoeffen) were selected, either by election or by designation, from within the community and were usually men of property. The Meier was responsible for upholding the jury's decision and enforcing any penalties, with force if necessary.

From this we can surmise that Peter was a man of property in Kirf and that he served as a lower court judge and as a sort of bailiff and sheriff in the town. He also probably served as a juror in the middle court as well as being the bailiff. But his main occupation was probably farming.

He served the Count von Berg. This does not mean we are related to royalty. Although there was a ruling family over a medieval territory called Berg, it was quite a bit to the north in today's state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. This dynasty also ended before Peter was born. The Count von Berg mentioned here was a local lord.

Peter's son was Peter Ernst Berg (died 1775). His occupation is given as Synodale. The term "Synodale" is a Latin occupational term used in Catholic Church records which probably indicates that the individual was a lay judge (Kirchenschoeffe) in an ecclesiastical court. This probably means that the court fell under the jurisdiction of an ecclesiastical lord (such as the Abbot of a monastery) as opposed to a secular lord. Peter was a church member who acted as a juror (Kirchenschoeffen) in one of the lower courts. At any rate, Peter Ernst seems to have been a juror like his father, but probably not a bailiff or sheriff. Peter Ernst Berg also lived out his whole life in Kirf.

Peter Ernst Berg's son, Johannes Berg, was born on May 22, 1719, in Kirf, Germany, but died in Launstroff, France on January 15, 1792. While this move from one country to another sounds impressive, the actual move was only a little over 8 miles as the crow flies. Johannes' occupation is given in the Launstroff parish register as 'farmer'. Again we have to remember that these small farmers were probably not very interested in which nation they lived in; they were more concerned with the local lords or estates and simply wanted to be left alone by the major powers and their armies. Johannes' wife was Susanna Schneider, probably born in Ritzing, France. She married Johannes in Launstroff and died there in 1797.

Johannes' son was also named Johann. (Both names are forms of John.) John Jr. was born in Ritzing, his maternal grandparents' hometown, but lived and died (1833) in Launstroff. He married Anna Altenhoven on July 15, 1768, in Münzingen, Germany. On May 5, 1807, they had a son named Michael Berg. Michael married Catherine Hein, a woman from Tunsdorf, Germany which is just about 3 miles away across the border. They live in Launstroff until Michael was almost 40 years old.

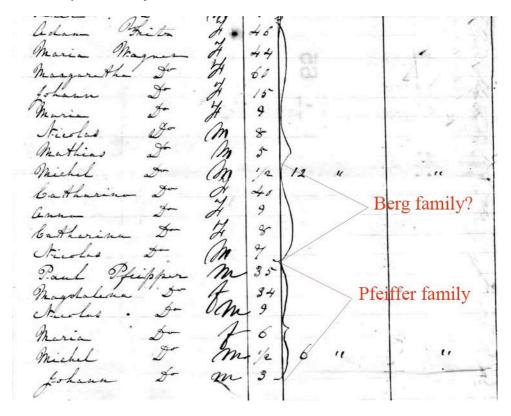
Michael Berg is the ancestor who migrated to America. He was said to have sailed from Antwerp on March 22, 1847, to the United States on the ship Charlemagne with the Blaise, Hammes and Peiffer families via New Orleans. Examination of the ship record

found the other families but not the Berg Family. Why don't Michael and Catherine show up on the passenger list of the Charlemagne? I looked through the list and did find everyone else. (See Appendix A) The Peiffers (page 5), Hammes (page 3), Horras (page 4) and Blaise (page 5) families are listed. Here is my own theory. First, a bit of background.

Michael Berg and Catherine Hein had seven children. I have two lists of their children. The first is from a genealogy printout from 1999. The children are listed as Anna Berg (b. 1833, d. 1835), Peter (b. 1834, d. 1834), Barbara (b. 1835, d. 1835), Catherine (b. 1837, d. 1919 in Iowa), Nicholas (b. 1839, d. 1915 in Iowa), Maria Berg (b. 1842, d. bef. 1847) and Barbara (b. 1852 in Iowa). Only two children come to Iowa.

However, the second list is from the website of Eduard Pese. (Listed in the references at the end of the Berg section) This website cites the original documents and seems more accurate. The children listed here are: Unnamed Son Berg (b. 1832, d. 1832), Anna (b. 1833, d. 1835), Anna (b. 1835, no death listed), Catherine (b. 1838, no death listed), Nicholas (b. 1839, no death listed), Maria (b. 1842, d. 1843) and Barbara (b. 1850 in Iowa, no death listed). All, except Barbara, were born in Tunsdorf, which was their mother's home town; perhaps she went to her mother's house for each childbirth.

This second list coincides with my own theory about the ship's manifest (list of passengers). On page 6 of the manifest, just before the Peiffer family names, is a large family of 12 all named Wagner. But it is a strange listing because there are two females of marriage age with families but only one male. The last part of that family's listing is an exact list of Michael Berg's family: Michael, Catherine, Anna, Catherine and Nicholas. If the infant Michael Wagner is changed to adult Michael Berg, then the list fits their family perfectly except some of the ages are off slightly which seems quite common in these lists. They are listed just before their friends, the Pfeiffers.



This means that Michael and Catherine came over to the US with three children. This matches the records from the Eduard Pese webpage. All three children with no death dates in that listing came to America. The question then becomes 'What became of Anna?' Did she die in the early days in Iowa? I have no further record of her.



The Ship Charlemagne

741 tons, built at Thomaston, Maine, in 1843, which sailed in the emigrant trade between Havre / Antwerp and New Orleans / New York in the early 1850's, and which was registered at New York as late as 4 February 1863.

The families arrived at New Orleans, took a Mississippi River Boat to Iowa and then traveled across country to German Township, Keokuk County, Iowa.



Mississippi River Boat

NEW ORLEANS IMMIGRATION FACTS (2007)



The America, Mississippi river boat, Mississippi River, Miss. Source: Library of Congress



St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans. Source: Library of Congress



By 1820, steamboats made the Mississippi River a vital transportation artery. New Orleans's location at the mouth of the Mississippi River made the city an ideal gateway to the American Midwest.

New Orleans' 40-Year Run

Accordingly, New Orleans' immigration Golden Years lasted from 1820 to 1860, as steamboats provided easy transportation for immigrants settling in areas near the Mississippi River.

During the 40 years between 1820 and 1860, 550,000 immigrants arrived in New Orleans. By 1837, New Orleans was America's second largest port of entry, exceeding Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

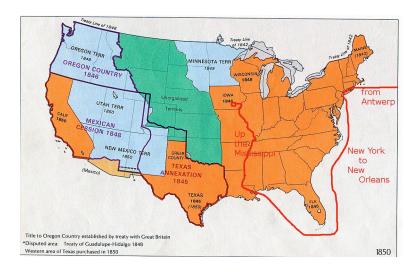
Post-Civil War Decline

After the Civil War, immigration to New Orleans declined dramatically, although the port was reopened to immigration. Railroads had reached the Mississippi, allowing immigrants faster and more reliable transportation to the middle of America.

Partnerships between rising steamship companies and railroads further curtailed the immigrant flow to New Orleans. New Orleans soon fell behind Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and newer ports such as Galveston and San Francisco.

A page about New Orleans from Ancestry.com.

The long trip to Iowa in 1847



This map shows the US as it was in 1850. Note that Iowa was on the frontier—the latest Indian territory to be taken over and given to settlers. It had been purchased only a generation before from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The American government was urgently looking for settlers to fill its huge territories.

When the three families arrived in Iowa on the riverboat they had to find their friends, the Bessers, who had told them about life in America, and somehow establish themselves in this wilderness territory. The following is a school report by a descendant of the Peiffers who pulled together some colorful stories about these first settlers in our family and how they established themselves in Iowa.

The History of the First Settlers

written by Ernest Peiffer while a senior student in St. Mary's School in 1923 From the

Theresa Lutz & Joseph Peiffer Family Tree Scrapbook by Marie Vittetoe & Diana Cox

Land was high priced and thickly populated in Rhine Province, Germany. Times were getting hard, and a man was hardly able to earn a living for a family. There was also a much hated law, which was that every young man without exception had to go into military training from the age of 18-21. These best three years of life had to be given to their country. At the age of 21, they were freed from training but could be called into service any time the Empire needed them. In this way the men were never free; they always had to be ready to serve their country. In those miseries our forbearers heard of America. They heard of its rich soil, of the boundless acres of land, and of the freedom of the people.

So in the year of 1844 Besser started for New York, with several other families, in a sail boat. After sailing for three months on fairly smooth waters, they landed **at** New York. From there they traveled to Quincy, Illinois, where Mr. Besser left his family and started out to find a place to settle. His comrades settled in different places. From Quincy he found his way to Burlington, and from here he followed a trail to Dublin, Iowa. When he arrived at Dublin, which was a small settlement, he heard of the new territory the government had bought from the Indians. Before the spring of 1844 the land west of Clear Creek belonged to the Indians. This land was guarded by soldiers, so no man could settle in it, but after the government bought the land it was open to settlers.

Mr. Besser set out immediately to find a suitable place in the new territory to live. He found a location along Clear Creek about 1/2 mile south of the present Bermel farm. Here he laid a claim for 40 acres of land, the price of which was \$50. This was the first land bought in this part of the county. Mr. Besser started back the next day to get his family. From Quincy they sailed up the Mississippi to Burlington, where they hired a wagon and drove oxen to their new farm. In June 1844 they arrived and built a log cabin. Three Kramer brothers who lived in Dublin for a short time previous, had also moved into the new territory near Besser's. Mr. Besser took sick from the chilly climate and from overwork, and died in the fall of the first year from typhoid fever. The sons were thus left in charge of the farm. Later on Joe Kramer married Mrs. Besser, and their son Joseph, was the first white child born in Lafayette township. Peter Kramer married the hired girl who had come from Germany with the Bessers. In 1849 the other brothers set out across the plains for California, and were never heard of after.

The Indians had a camp down along Clear Creek close to the stone quarry, which is still in existence. The Indians lived here two or three years after the government bought the land. When they left, they moved to Tama County on a reservation. After this a number of Indians would come around and camp along Clear Creek every fall to hunt deer, trap and have a good time. Chief Keokuk was well known and liked by the settlers. He could speak English and French with ease. Once Chief Keokuk had a buckskin coat which he sold to Mr. Kramer for a quart of whiskey. The chief was very much pleased with the deal and went happily back to camp. That evening he came back about 8 PM

with a few of his friends. Kramers, as anybody would have been, were afraid and grabbed their guns. The Chief said to them, "lay down your guns and we will not harm you. Let us be friendly". After this the family felt safe. Mrs. Kramer could speak French, so Chief Keokuk asked her in French, to give them a drink of whiskey. She told the Chief she was afraid they would get drunk and hurt them. The Chief answered saying they wanted just enough so each would get a little drink. She gave each a small glassful and they went away satisfied.

One winter Chief Keokuk, with a band of men and women, camped on Clear Creek a little northwest of the Bermel place. Kramers and Bessers could see this camp from their homes. They would often go down and visit, and do some trading with the Indians. The people would have very good times with them. The Indians never caused any trouble for the white people.

Mrs. Kramer would write letters to old friends in Germany. She wrote letters to Peiffer's with whom they were acquainted in Germany. In this way Peiffers learned about this country. In the year 1847 Peiffers with their friends, the Blaise, Berg and Horras families, started on their journey to New York, from which place they sailed around Florida into the Gulf of Mexico, then up the Mississippi to Burlington. It was 56 days after starting that they reached this town. There were 40 acres of land bordering Burlington for sale when they arrived, and Mr. Peiffer would have bought it and settled there, but he did not want to leave his friends who were going to hunt up Bessers and Kramers. It was all timber and he was afraid he could not make a living on it. This piece of land is now the center of Burlington.

After resting in Burlington for a few days, these men started inquiring about their old friends. They knew this was their hometown, but they did not know in what direction or how far away they lived. No one seemed to know anything about Bessers. When Mr. Peiffer was inquiring about them, a man standing nearby on the street heard him and asked what kind of a man Mr. Besser was. Mr. Peiffer described him, telling his size, height, what he looked like and so on. This man said, "There was a man something like that in here the first of the week. I asked him where he was from and he said he lived on a farm about 75 miles out in the country" at the same time motioning north. "I saw him drive out of town a while later with a team of oxen hitched on a wagon, and he went north. Out there you can see his tracks. Maybe if you follow them you will find his home "

Mr. Peiffer, from what the man had said, thought it to be Nick Besser, the oldest son of Bessers. Mr. Peiffer told the other men about this, so they decided to follow the wagon track. After finding places for their families to stay, the four men started out on foot the next morning. The prairie had been burned a few days previous, making it easier to follow the track. These men, not knowing where they were going, but having the thought in mind of finding old friends somewhere out on the prairie, traveled all that day. They slept out that night and the next morning continued their journey. That day in the afternoon they saw a man with a team of oxen, plowing in the distance. The wagon track had brought them out here. Just as soon as they got close enough to recognize the man plowing, Mr. Peiffer knew him to be Besser's oldest son Nick. Then Nick saw the four men. He knew Mr. Peiffer at once. He immediately unhitched his oxen and went home as fast as he could and told his mother that Mr. Peiffer was coming with other men. The men followed him and when they approached the log house they saw Mrs. Kramer

standing in the door with the rest of her family. These were the first people Bessers had seen from Germany since they left two years before. The visitors stayed all night and exchanged news with the Bessers. It was sad for them to hear that their old friend, Mr. Besser, had died the first year.

The next day these men went out to look for places. After a few days of hunting Mr. Berg found a place of 40 acres that he liked, and bought it from Mr. Malay for \$ 1.50 an acre. This place had a small log house on it. Nick Berg's grandson lives on the same location to this day. Mr. Peiffer and Mr. Horras bought 20 acres apiece for \$ 1.50/acre. This land joined, and Mr. Peiffer's twenty had a log house on it. His two grandsons and their mother live on the same farm now. Mr. Blaise bought a farm over at Garibaldi. After visiting for about a week, they started back to Burlington on foot. When they reached there they hired a team to haul their families out to the newly purchased farms. This was in June 1847.

Mr. Berg moved into his modern home and the Peiffer and Horras families moved into Peiffer's mansion. The two families lived in this log cabin, which was about 14 X 16 feet, for about three months. By this time Mr. Horras had his 20-acre farm improved with a log house.

The log house on the Peiffer farm did not have a nail in it. The logs were fastened together with wooden pins. The roof was made by laying small logs from gable to gable end. On those logs were laid slabs of wood about 2 feet long by 16 inches wide and one inch thick. The people split the slabs from large logs, with sharp axes. Then to hold these shingles in place a small smooth pole was laid across the top of each row. The hinges were made by fastening on the door a board with a hole bored through it vertically. Then a board was fastened on the building, which also had a hole bored through it vertically. A wooden pin was thrust through these holes, and the door would swing freely. Yellow clay was plastered in between the logs. Every fall they had to plaster the house over because the rain would wash the mud out during the spring and summer. One time after Bessers had lived here for a while, a heavy dashing rain came up and washed the clay mud out of the logs of their house. After the rain, it turned cold and froze solid. Of course, like everyone else, they had their kitchen, dining room, sitting room and bedrooms all in one. They had butchered the day before and they had the hogs laying in one comer of the log house. In the morning they were frozen, and a mink had crawled through the cracks between the logs and was eating at one of the hogs. With the wind howling in between the logs and the two frozen hogs with mink eating at them, it certainly must have been a pleasure to get up and build a fire and make breakfast. It was a usual occurrence to have the log house covered with snow inside after a snowstorm. In later years when people were more able, they plastered the walls with lime.

In 1846 a few Yankees by the names of Munnion, Rainwater, Fowler, and Shuster moved into this territory. In a few years they sold out to German settlers. There were five acres of corn on Mr. Peiffer's farm when he bought it. Berg's farm also had some corn on it. Peiffer's, Berg's and Horras's each bought a team of oxen and one breaking plow. The price of a good team of oxen was about \$25. They would hitch these three teams to the plow. The yokes were made out of a piece of wood about six feet long and seven inches square. This was laid over the neck and a V shaped hickory pole was fastened around the neck of the steer to the top piece. A ring was fastened in the middle from which they pulled. The wagons were all homemade. The wheels were made by taking a large log and

sawing off a piece three or four inches thick. A hole was bored through the center and a pole was used for the axle. A wheel was placed at either end of the axle. These were there only conveyances for six or more years. A wagon maker by trade then came across, and started the trade here. After a few years, factory wagons could be bought. Spring wagons then followed, and were thought to be a luxury. Soon after, carriages became common.

When people first settled here, money was never used in exchange for labor. Wages were 25 cents a day and laborer would have to work until they earned a calf, a pig, or some grain. Mr. Horras, who was a carpenter in those days, was hired to build a log house. It took him six days to build it, and he received the high wages of three dollars in cash for his work. This was the first time cash money was paid for labor, as grain or stock was used for exchange. On receiving his pay Mr. Horras went quickly home and on nearing the gate, he saw his wife standing in the door. He held the money in his hand above his head and yelled to her, "Just look, I have three dollars in real money." This was the highest wage received for any labor in the neighborhood.

After the land was broken and prepared for corn, the men would mark the fields with a homemade marker. It was made by driving pegs into a long pole. This pole was dragged over the fields, and where the pegs made the mark a row of corn was to be planted. They would take a one shoveled plow and draw furrows on these marks. The women would drop the corn in these furrows, and the corn was covered with hoes. It was cultivated with a one shoveled plow.

One winter there was a severe snowstorm. The snow was about three feet deep on the level. The next morning when Mr. Peiffer went out to feed his cattle they were no where in sight. After looking around a while he spied two horns sticking out of the snow and when he walked up to them his small herd of cattle jumped up. The cattle were warm and unharmed. For six weeks the snow stayed. People could not get out of their yards and not even to see their closest neighbors. Most people's corn meal supplies were exhausted in a short time. They would take a big kettle, fill it with ear corn, and boil it. After it was boiled, they would grate it and make corn bread out of it. After some of the snow melted, the people went down to the mill and had corn ground again.

At first wildcats were very numerous around here. There were many wolves and a few are still seen around in the winter. A panther was killed on the Iowa River in the year 1854. Every summer some bears would pass through here. There were never any buffaloes seen here, but there was a bunch of buffalo bones found along the Skunk River. John Besser found a pair of elk horns close to the river. Large herds of deer roamed over the country. Rattle snakes were very common. One time John Peiffer, who was about five years old and his little brother were playing. There was a rattlesnake lying on the ground and the boys thought it was a stick. They picked it up and the snake bit John on the arm and his brother on the hand. A cloth was tied around John's arm tight enough to keep the blood from circulating. In a few days the arm turned the color of the snake. The arm died off in a short time. After he grew up he could do as much work as any man could. His brother was bitten second and he did not get enough poison to hurt him.

When these men made their annual trip to Burlington they would see the priest and ask him to come out and bring them the consolation of their holy religion. So in the year 1854 Father Krackel, the first priest that ever visited the settlers, came out to Burlington. It is impossible to express in words the joy that filled the hearts of these people, to see a priest of God whom some of them had not seen for seven hard, dreary,

lonesome years. During that time the people would say the Rosary and their prayers at home. The first Mass read in this community was celebrated in Berg's log house. It was chosen because it was near the middle of the settlement. All the children were baptized, some of whom were six years old. The older ones could remember that great day all their lives. All the grown folks received the Sacraments. This gave them new life and encouragement in their hard life. After this Father Krackel came out from Burlington once every year. The services were held in the Berg's house. The First Communion class received Holy Communion on the second visit of the priest. They were Peter Besser, Nickolas Peiffer, Catharine Berg and Margaret Horras. The first cemetery was in Berg's timber close to the house. In the meantime people were moving in all around. So in 1857 Father Krackel proposed that they build a church. There were a number of people living around Baden. Those at Clear Creek wanted it to be close to Berg's, because this was about the middle of the settlement. So Mr. Horras and Mr. Peiffer told Father Krackel if he would have the church there in the center, they would donate ten acres of land. He said the other men offered first and that the church would be built at Baden. Thus Father Krackel built the first church of this community at Baden in 1857. Mr. Horras and Mr. Peiffer, with the rest of the Clear Creek people did not approve of this, so they got together and bought twenty acres of land with a log house on it for \$ 180. This building stood right where the Clear Creek church stands today and the twenty acres of land belongs to the parish. The log house was repaired so that Mass could be read in it. When the priest came to Baden, he would also say Mass at Clear Creek the next Sunday. This house was also used for the school. Most all the children went to this school, as it was the first and only close around. Mr. Adam Handel was the first teacher of this school. Before this school was established, the children did not get any schooling, only what they learned by themselves. After those churches were established Father Michels from Burlington came several times. By that time there was a resident priest at Richmond and as this was closer, a priest would come out to these parishes from there. Father Snider was the first priest from there to visit Baden. This was in 1861. He was the first priest who promised to have regular services six times a year.

In 1862, Rev Wenninger. SJ, held a mission in the new parishes. He proposed that a church be built at Clear Creek, for which he held a meeting at Peiffer's home. It was decided that they build one where the log house stood. Kramer's burned the bricks and some masons came and built the church. It was completed in 1863. The parish had by this time grown to forty families. After the mission Father Fendrich of Richmond, visited these parishes occasionally.

In 1864 Rev Hiltermann, OSF held a mission at Baden and Clear Creek. In 1865 Father Qunker had charge of the parishes, and in 1866 Father Fendrich came back again. Both came from Richmond. In 1867 Father Temmer offered to be a resident priest if they would build a house and give him enough to live on. This the people did, so Father Temmer became the first resident priest at Baden. He was pastor there, until Father Luehrsmann came in 1870. He stayed four years with Clear Creek as a Baden mission.

On May 22, 1873 a tornado went through this section. It was Ascension Day and most of the people were at home. Very few knew what a tornado was, only reading about it. Some years before a small one had gone through the very same place, but it did little damage, as there were few people living there at the time. The one in 1873 was very destructive, however. It was in the afternoon and most of the people saw it coming. It

came down the Skunk River to the Black Hawk mill where it started northeast. Many places were totally destroyed. There were four people killed, Mrs. Marsh with her child, and Mrs. Engledinger and her child. Peiffers saw the storm about twenty minutes before it got there. They did not know what to do as it was coming directly toward them. They started to run east but soon saw that they were going in its path, so they ran to the west side of the few building they had. In about a minute it had passed. When they went back to the house, the roofs with the two upper rounds of logs were gone. All their wagons, and machinery including two new one row walker corn plows, the first one to be bought around here, were all destroyed and carried away. The only thing left was the corn planter, which was out in the field. Peiffers always kept their hogs and cattle down by the stone quarry, which was in the path of the storm. They had sold their cattle about a week before, but all the hogs were killed. Some of them had boards and tree branches driven through them, pinning them to the earth. This is an example of the damage done to other farms. A few days after the tornado a man was around seeing the sights. In Mr. Peiffer's timber he ran across a tree about ten inches in diameter with a pine board driven through it. He asked Mr. Peiffer for the tree, and on receiving permission, he chopped it down and took the piece with the wood in it. It was placed in the museum at Iowa City and a few years later it was taken to the museum at Washington, D.C. They took it to the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893. Some people from Keota saw it there. (Ed. Note-this part of the tree is reported to still be in the Smithsonian in Washington D.C.)

Talleyrand was the market center in early times. People would take their hogs, sheep, and cattle there and then drive them in large herds to Washington. Hogs at this time sold for about 2 1/2 -3 cents a pound. After living here for a few years the settlers started to raise wheat and potatoes. Before this time corn was the only crop. They would live on corn bread and corn cakes the whole year. The first fall, when the corn was ripe, they did not know how to pick it, so they went out with big knives to cut it off. It did not take them long to find out it broke off. They would break off the corn and pile it up, then haul it home and shuck it. If they had the wheat and corn on good ground and would take care of it, it would yield about the same as now. They would thrash the wheat with large homemade stampers. The prairies were all grown up in prairie grass which made good hay. The people could cut as much as they needed for winter use, and haul it home and stack it up in piles. There were trees all along the rivers and creeks, and a few in the wet swamps.

Every year new settlers would move in, and the people always welcomed them. The men would go together and help build the log houses. The new settlers were assisted until they had raised their own things. During the "1850s" is when this territory populated the fastest. Most of the people came from Germany in these years. In spite of the hard times in those days, the people were sociable and happy. Everyone was ready to help the other if in need.

In 1853 a man by the name of Jinks started a store at the place that is called Talleyrand. It was about halfway between Washington and Sigourney, which were small towns. The county seat was formerly at Lancaster and in later years it was moved to Sigourney. A lady by the name of Sigourney donated land for the Square. The courthouse was built there and the town named after her.

Eggs were 2 cents a dozen for a long while. One time a man brought in a basketful, and Mr. Jinks told him eggs had raised recently to 2 1/2 cents. The man could

hardly wait until he got home to tell his wife about it, and said "We must quit eating eggs now that they are 2 1/2 cents a dozen". In the early "50s" Talleyrand had two dry goods stores, a grocery store, hardware store, doming store, two blacksmith shops, drug store, studio, saloon, hotel and post office. There were also two resident doctors. Dr. Brice was the first one to practice around here. A coach went from Washington to Talleyrand and from there to Sigourney. It took two days to make the round trip.

As people became able they would add to the land they owned. Whenever they wanted to buy land from the government they had to go to Iowa City to make the deal. People had their farms surrounded by rail fences. They did this to keep the hogs and cattle off the growing crop. Each farmer had a certain way to mark his cattle and hogs and no one within ten miles was allowed to have that mark. Sheep were the first stock raised by the settlers. They would use the wool to make their clothes, which were all homemade. The stock was marked every spring and then turned out on the prairies. Sometimes the hogs would not be seen but a few times during the summer. In the fall they would come home with their broads. They were very fat when they returned from summer feeding. Each man had a bell on one of the cows. Every bell had a different sound and when the people heard the bell they knew if they were their cattle or not. The cattle would also learn the sound of the bell, and would not follow another herd with a different bell. The cattle were driven home every night. Before Talleyrand was started people would butcher the few hogs they had and cure the meat. After it was cured they would haul it to Burlington and sell it for 2 1/2 cents a pound. This was their annual trip to town and it took a week to make it. They would buy enough groceries to last until the next year. There was a mill built on the river the first year the people settled here. It was located where the Manhattan mill is today. Here the people took their wheat and corn to get it ground.

In 1872 a railroad was built from Washington to Oskaloosa. People started to settle around where Keota is now. Heretofore it was all prairies. It was believed the town would grow and build into both Washington and Keokuk counties, so they took the first three letters of Keokuk and the last three of Washington, making the name Keoton. This did not sound well for a town name, so it was called Keota. Harper also started up at the same time Keota did. As these two cities built up, Talleyrand decreased. Since that time Keota has grown to be a beautiful little city of about a thousand people.

In 1874 Father Fraunhofer became pastor of Baden. After two years Father Kern took his place. During the first year of his pastorate the schools of Baden and Clear Creek were built. In 1884 a church was built at Harper and the parish was moved from Baden to that place. At the same time he also built a frame school at Harper. Father Kern left in 1887 and Father Fedler had charge of both Harper and Clear Creek until 1893, when Father Rangger became the first resident priest at Clear Creek. Father Fedler stayed at Harper until 1896. That year Father Grothe became pastor of Harper and remained until 1915. On June 19, 1901 Father Adam read his first Mass at Harper. Father Rangger was pastor of Clear Creek until 1903. Father Stahl then came and stayed four years. Father Peiffer read his first Mass at Clear Creek on June 15, 1905. In 1907 Fattier Sendbuehler came and is pastor there to the present time. In 1911 Clear Creek celebrated the golden jubilee of the parish. Father Schmitt was ordained at Clear Creek on July 26, 1912 by Bishop Wherle, and on July 30th he read his first mass there.

In 1904 Father Grothe built the Keota church and it was his mission for two years. In 1908 Father Peiffer became pastor of Buffalo. Iowa and he took Keota as a mission. He built a parsonage in 1911, and in 1912 Father Heinen became the first resident priest at Keota. He was pastor until 1921. On January 1, 1916, he opened the new parochial school. In 1921 Father Decker became pastor of Keota. Through his efforts we now have a beautiful chapel in the basement of the schoolhouse, and a \$300 physics laboratory for the high school. A road to the cemetery is being constructed. Father Luedtke succeeded Father Grothe at Harper in 1915. Thus we can see how the Faith was kept through the long years of hardship and loneliness of our forefathers. By their labors, they paved the way for our prosperity. Some few lost their Faith, but only those who had already grown cold before leaving the Mother Country. May we always keep this precious inheritance left us by our predecessors.

Editor's note: Marcella Peiffer Vittetoe can remember their father, Paul Peiffer, taking Ernest around to visit old folks who recalled the above recorded stories.

There is only one picture of poor quality which goes back to this time. It is a picture of a small cabin with many shadowy figures standing in front.



Keokuk County

In the short history which follows I have placed some comments in bold face within the text to point out items relevant to our family. I have also shortened up the original text.

A Short History of Keokuk County, Iowa from A. T. Andreas' Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa. 1875

The boundaries of (**Keokuk**) county were defined, and the name given, by an act of the Territorial Legislature, February 17, 1843, (**Remember that Michael Berg came over in 1847.**) and until its organization it was attached to Washington County. A part of the territory included in Keokuk County became the property of the government by a treaty with the Sac and Fox Indians, ratified on the 21st day of February, 1838. (**The Indians were not altogether willing to give up their land.**) Nearly all of the southeastern township, about half of the first, and a small part of the second township north of it, was included in this purchase, and on this strip the whites were entitled to settle October 21, 1838. By a treaty with the Indians, made at Agency, and signed October 11, 1842, the whites came into possession of all the territory lying east of Red Rock, in what is now Marion County, and under this treaty the balance of the territory embraced in Keokuk County was open to settlement on the first day of May, 1843. The principal chief who represented the Indians in making the last named treaty, was Keokuk, in whose honor the county was named.

Pioneers

The 21st of October, 1838, is usually regarded as the date of first settlement, although a few claims, upon which small improvements were commenced, ante-dated the removal of the Indians. They were made within the limits of the "Old Strip," in the present townships of Clear Creek and Richland. In the latter township the earliest pioneer was Aaron Miller, who came in the Spring of 1838, and, after him, William Searcy. In June John Wasson visited the country, and, liking its appearance, decided to settle. Cyrus Jordan, Jacob Weiner and Mr. Tays were next, and in the Spring of 1839 Mr. Wasson returned, accompanied by James Higginbotham, William Lewis, Mitchell Gill, William Bristow, Thomas Pringle and Samuel P. Bristow. A man by the name of Griffth turned the first sod in Clear Creek Township, in 1837, on the farm afterwards owned by Doctor Washington Nealey. Doctor Nealey came in 1838, and in 1839 came Harvey Stevens, Sr., afterwards sheriff, and William Grimsley. In 1840 the accessions were William Shockley, John Baker, William Goss, James Junkin, Sr., Thomas Henderson and L. B. Holmes, and the following year, Michael Hornish, Edward Cooley, John Crill, Sr., and Robert Alexander. Further up the river, in the neighborhood of Sigourney, at Stillman's Grove, Jacob Shavor located in 1843, built a cabin, and brought his family the following Spring; and in 1844 William Shaver, Robert Linder and John Shaver settled in the neighborhood. A saw mill was erected on the South Skunk, just above its confluence with the north branch, as early as 1843, by L. B. Hughes. (The Bergs and Peiffers came just after this period.)

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Court House

At the meeting of the board last mentioned, they ordered a survey of a public square and lots surrounding it, and prepared specifications for a court house, to consist of a hewn log building 20x24 feet, with thirteen sleepers, and as many joists; rafters and shingle roof, and weather-boarded gable ends. To these specifications, a new board in September following added a door, windows and floor, for better convenience, and let the building contract to W. B. Thompson, for \$218. This court house was finished in January, 1845, and was occupied until the completion of the present edifice, in 1859. The present court house is a substantial building, and was erected at a cost of \$17,200. The square on which it stands is 276 feet each way, and, in 1860, was decorated with a border of forest trees, by request of Mrs. Lydia H. Sigourney, of Hartford, Connecticut, at her expense.

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Physical Features

The north part of Keokuk County is traversed in a line running nearly due east and west by the watershed which very nearly coincides with the northeastern boundary of the carboniferous age of the geological system of Iowa. North of this line the south fork of English River drains about one-fourth of the county. The north and south forks of Skunk River, which unite in the eastern part of the county, and their numerous small tributaries, drain the remainder. The descent from the watershed to the valleys of these streams is abrupt, rendering the face of the country quite rolling, except along the margin of the rivers, which are skirted by broad, level valleys. (This land was remarkably similar to the rolling country in France that the Bergs came from.) Timber borders the principal streams in considerable quantities, but is limited to occasional groves on the uplands. The county has, therefore, considerable variety in its surface features. It has an excellent soil, derived from the very deep deposit of drift, and well adapted to the production of corn and nearly all the small grains, grass, fruits and vegetables. Stock raising has proved very remunerative, as the county possesses all the requisite advantages for success in this branch of business. Frequent and good water power is afforded by both branches of Skunk River, and in its banks are exposures of good limestone for ordinary uses. The county lies about equally in the sub-carboniferous section of Iowa and the region of the coal fields. Several good coal mines have been opened, but as the sub-carboniferous limestone frequently comes to the surface along Skunk River, and as coal exists only between this and the drift, its presence is chiefly limited to the south part of the county. The drift contains an abundance of excellent clay for the manufacture of brick.

lumber trade, woolen mills, flouring mills, and a national Bank with a capital of \$50,000. Several of the leading churches have good houses of worship, and its public schools are efficiently organized. Sigourney has two newspapers, the News, published by J. W. & T. M. Havens, and the Iowa Review by Kennedy & Hollingsworth. The News is Republican, published every Wednesday; it was established in 1859. The Review is Democratic, published Wednesdays, and was established in 1871. The town is incorporated as a city of the second class.

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Keota is a thriving young railroad town in the eastern part of the county, nearly midway between Washington and Sigourney. It is a shipping point for the produce of a considerable extent of country. The Keota Courier is a weekly newspaper established at this place in 1873; it is independent in politics, and published every Friday by Bruce and Hunter.

Harper (Where Nick Berg lived late in his life.) is a lively railway station between Keota and Sigourney, and enjoys considerable trade and a large shipping business.

The following is from the 1880 Keokuk county history:

"The Catholic church is a substantial brick building, two miles northwest of TALLEYRAND. Its members number ??. Theirs is a strong organization and outside of the church but little is known of its workings. It is well sustained by its members, among whom are Paul Pfeifer, Fredrick Berg, John Vogle, John Seman, Peter Quier, Jacob Conrad and many others who seem to be zealous in the cause they have espoused."

(Many of the names are misspelled or mistaken but the comments are interesting.)

Michael and Katherine Berg arrived with Anna (aged about 11 if my theory is right) Katherine (aged about 9) and Nicholas (aged about 7). (They had had 3 other children in France, all of who died in infancy or early childhood.) In 1852 they had another daughter, Barbara, while living in Clear Creek. (She later married Jacob Sondag). Sometime is this early period in Iowa, Anna must have died.

Following is the record of the Michael Berg, Paul Peiffer and Wendell Horras becoming citizens.

The State of Sona 3 Efore the Clink of the District Strokult County of Good County appeared and Teiffer a native of Brussia in Cermany agred 36 years, Talso Michael Derg a native of the Same place agrid Horras, a not Mendally Torras, a native of the Same place agrid 32 years, and who being duly Sworn, dictar Severally upon Oath, that it is bonated their intention to become Citizens of the United State of America, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince power, potentale, state or Sovereignly whatsoever, and particularly of the King of Frustia of Whom sthey are at present Subjects Subscribed and Servin to Chair of the Subjects Subscribed and Servin to Chair of the Strong of Strustia of whom sthey are at present Subjects Subscribed and Servin to Chair Good Surface of Strustia State of Strustia of Whom sthey are at present Subjects Subscribed and Servin to Chair Source Subscribed and Servin to Chair Spanes Calent Delays Survey Strustian States of Strustics County Strustian States of Strustics County Strustian Strustics County Strustian Strustics County Strustian County County Strustian County C

Naturalization Paper for Paul Peiffer, Michael Berg and Wendall Horras

The State of Iowa, Keokuk County, Before the Clerk of the District Court of Said County appeared <u>Paul Peiffer</u> a native of Prussia in Germany aged 36 years, also <u>Michael Berg</u>, a native of same place, aged 40 years, and <u>Wendall Horras</u>, a native of the same place, aged 32 years old, and who being duly sworn, declare severally upon oath, that it is bona fide their intention to become citizens of the United States of America, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, power, potentate, state or sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly of the King of Prussia of whom they are at present subjects.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of July AD 1847

S.A. James, Clerk D County, Keokuk Co, Iowa

The three men's signatures are written on the right hand side of the document.

The first land record of the Berg family is land purchased in 1853. Michael continued to buy land until he owned a full section. Following is a bill of sale for land purchased in 1853.

Theresa Lutz and Joseph Peiffer Family Tree and Scrapbook by Marie Vittetoe & Diana Cox

Copy of Deed conveying a 40acre tract to Michael Berg for the sum of \$70. December 19, 1853

Article of agreement made and concluded this 19th day of December 1853 between Henn Williams & Co. of Jefferson County Iowa of the first part and Michael Berg of Keokuk County Iowa of the second part. First the party of the Second promises covenants and agrees to pay to the said party of the First part the sum of seventy dollars payable within twelve months from date at the office of said Henn Williams & Co, Fairfield Iowa. If paid? at time before due 10 percent deduction is to be made for the time of payment. Second in consideration of the above and the fulfillment of all and? Covenants contained in this agreement to be performed and kept and on the fulfillment of each and every one of them by the said party of the Second part in the manner and at the time specified the party of the First part agrees to sell and convey to the said party of the Second part, his heirs and? deed of warranty all the following? _be a? or tract of land (or as soon thereafter as a patent shall? Government Therefor (to wit the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter Section No 4 in township #75 N of Range west containing 40 acres. Third it is understood and agreed that the party of the Second part is to pay all the taxes? on said land from and after the date here? --- and to protect the land from trespass or the destruction of timber and if said party of the Second part shall fail to make payment at the time and place stipulated in this agreement the said party of the First part shall be at liberty to forfeited on the part of the party of the second part and shall have the right to? on said promises in a quiet and agreeable manner in witness whereof the parties to these presents have herewith set their hands the day above mentioned. Signatures: Henn Williams & Co and Michael Berg

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His great-grandson Leander Berg has repurchased all the original land which had been sold over the years. Leander's son Michael lives on the original homestead. Leander remembers tearing down the original log cabin which in later years was used as a corn crib. The logs were black walnut.

The 1850 Iowa census lists Michael Berg as Michael Barish which is how Berg sounds when pronounced with a German accent. In the 1880 census he is living with his son Nicholas and is 75 years old. His wife, Katherine, is 72. Below is an edited version of the census page; the full page is in the appendix.

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The census gives his age as 75. This does not coincide with his given birth date of May 5, 1807 which would make him 73. I cannot account for this difference.

Unfortunately we do not have any pictures of Michael and Anna Berg. He died May 18, 1886 at the age of 79; she died January 2, 1884 at the age of 74. (Again this does not coincide with her age in the census.) They had lived 40 years in a small village in France and then came to this country for a grand adventure which lasted almost another 40 years.

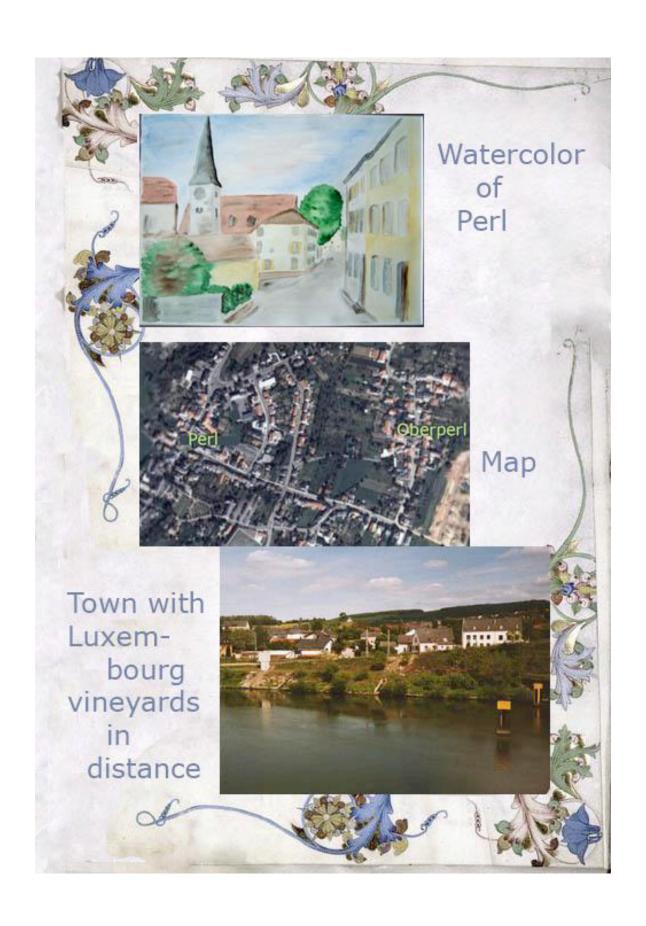
Nicholas and Anna (Kiefer) Berg

There is very little written information on Michael's son, Nicholas Berg, but quite a few pictures. He was 7 years old when he came to this country on the ship Charlemagne. He lived through the early years in Iowa in the log cabin. He married Anna Kiefer, who was born in Oberperl, Germany which is just over 5 miles from Nicholas' birthplace in Launstroff. Her family was from Oberleuken which is about 4 miles from Oberperl. Probably the families had known each other or contacted each other because of these mutual origins. The following map gives the relative locations of their origins.

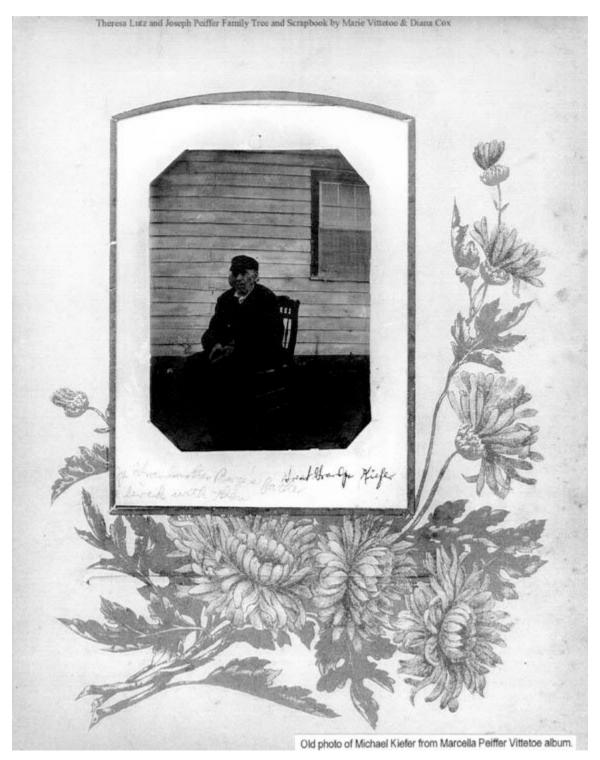


THE KIEFER FAMILY IN OBERPERL

Anna Kiefer Berg's birth-city of Oberperl's (pop. 440) history is intertwined with that of Perl (pop 1750) which is much the larger town and the leading local city for the surrounding communities. As you can see from the aerial picture below, the two cities are literally a few blocks apart. In the 17th century they shared a church. The cities are stopping points for hikers and tourist traveling into France and Luxembourg, especially to see the beautiful rolling country and the vineyards. The whole region has archeological findings from various parts of history: grave yards from the Mesolithic period, earth rampart castles from the bronze and iron ages and remnants from the Roman times. As with the rest of the region, it has been ruled by various powers: the Cathedral chapter of Trier, the counts of Luxembourg, the dukes of Lorraine, the kings of France, the Habsbourgs and the Prussians.



Anna Kiefer was born in Oberperl, but her family home was in Oberleuken, just 4 miles away. Her father, Michael Kiefer, emigrated to the US also, and lived with Nicholas and Anna in his old age. Below is a picture from the album of Marcella Vittetoe, a great granddaughter of Nicholas and Anna.



The writing in pencil says "My Grandmother Berg's father. He lived with them".

Nicholas and Anna did leave us some very good pictures of themselves and their family.



This is a picture of Nick and Anna looking quite prosperous. It should be remembered that Nick had his own parents living with him for some time. During the 1880 census his father and mother were in their 70's with 5 or 6 years still to live. They probably had been living with him for a few years before that. And Anna's father also lived with them for some time. (Since he died in 1905, perhaps he lived with them a bit later than Nick's parents.) At this same time they had 10 children growing up in the house. They had all the blessings and problems of a large extended family. The following picture is probably taken about the same time as the above with all the children. Since Henry looks to be in his twenties, this picture is probably taken before sometime in the 1920's.



Nicholas and Anna (Kiefer) Berg family

Back row, left to right: Nick (m. Lena Adam), Barbara (m. Michael Peiffer),
Lizzie (m. Paul Peiffer), Verona (m. John Linnenkamp), Theresa (m.
Nicholas Adam), Mary (m. John Schmid).
Front Row, left to right: Anna (m. John Peiffer), Frank (single?), father Nicholas,
Mother Anna (Kiefer), Henry (m. Maggie Lutz), Lena (single)

Henry is the first born and is our direct ancestor. Notice that three of the Berg women married Peiffer men; the families were obviously still strongly intertwined a generation after they came over from France together.



Nick and Anna



Nick and Anna lived their married life here. (Now owned by Michael Berg The great-great grandson of the original Michael Berg)

Finally, here is a picture of Nick sometime after Anna's death with a short narration about the picture by Nick's granddaughter, Marcella Peiffer Vittetoe.



"My grandmother Berg died when I was quite young, so I don't remember much about her. After her death, Grandpa Berg lived in a nice little cottage in Harper, with my Aunt Lena Berg, who never married, keeping house for him. This picture was taken on their back porch, very

natural, even to the canary bird and his hat hanging there. The young girl is Mary (Adam) Peiffer, my cousin, who I think was staying with them to attend the parochial school at the time.

When I was quite small, I sometimes stayed with my grandparents and Grandpa liked for me to comb his beard. I can remember the tin comb, his curly and rather tangled beard and his 'pipe tobacco breath'.

The story was told of me, that one time I had arranged my little iron cook stove with utensils, etc., on the old 'lounge'. Grandpa came and sat beside it, upsetting them all. I picked up the stove and threw it at him, just missed his head! He died in 1915, when I was 10 years old and I remember his funeral, with horse-drawn hearse and buggies in the procession from Harper to Clear Creek cemetery."

Henry and Margaret (Lutz) Berg

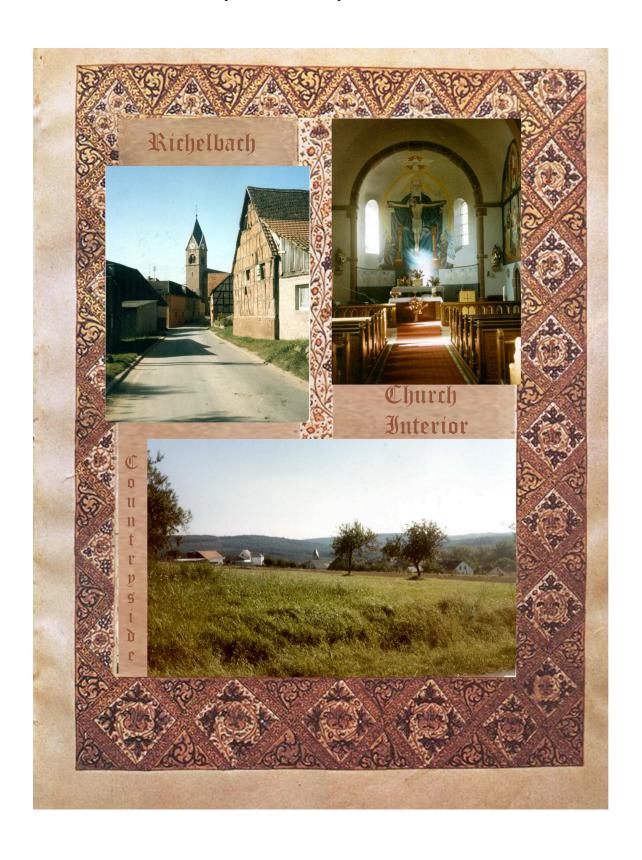
Again I have little written material about this family, but do have several good pictures. Also, their granddaughter, Maribelle Berg Kohnen, remembers both of them well and I have a few of her remarks about them in their later life.

Frances and Katherine Lutz

But before we start on Henry and Margaret's story, I would like to step back and bring in the history of Margaret's father and mother, Frances Anton Lutz and Katherine Conrad Lutz. He was an immigrant from Richelbach, Germany, who came over in 1847. Richelbach is about 150 miles east of Launstroff and Tunsdorf, further East into Germany in the State of Bavaria. It is also rich rolling farmland, although not quite as hilly as where the Bergs came from.

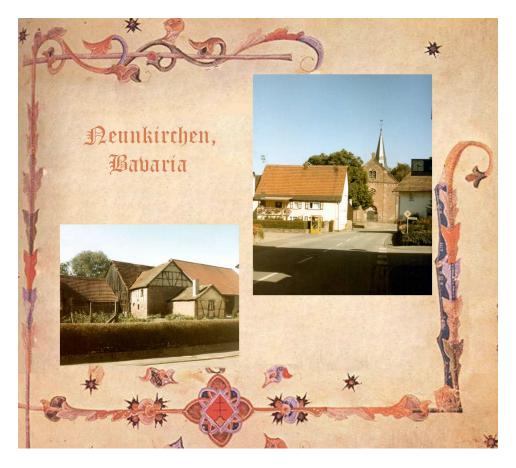


Next are a few pictures of Richelbach, courtesy of Janice Young who has done most of the research on the Lutz family used in this story.



Francis Lutz's family had lived in this village for at least three generations before him. He married a woman named Katherine Conrad from a nearby village called Neunkirken where her family had lived for several generations. Katherine came over to this country with her father according to the following short history.

"When his first wife, Regina Ott, died in 1834, Melchior Conrad married Maria Josephine Link about 1835 in Neunkirchen. Per family stories, Melchior's daughter, Katherine was 12 years old when her mother died and she took care of the family until her father married. It is not known when Melchior immigrated to America. The first record of him is in Dane County, Wisconsin, where he purchased 99.57 acres of land for \$1520 on Oct 20, 1856. This land was sold to Liborius Conrad on April 22, 1858 for \$1858. It is believed that Melchior and Liborius were brothers. Melchior and Maria are buried in St Mary's Cemetery at Pine Bluffs, Dane County, Wisconsin. Melchior had 8 children by his first wife and 2 children by his second wife."



Katherine had married Frances Lutz when she was 23 and he was 22 and they emigrated to America just 2 years later. Probably she came over to this country before her father and his family.

History of Frances and Catherine Lutz (from Janice Young)

Frank Anton Lutz was born April 15th 1823 in Richelbach, Bavaria, Germany and died May 3rd 1906 in Clear Creek Township, Keokuk County, Iowa. He was married to Catherine Conrad about 1845 in Germany. Catherine Conrad (daughter of Melchior and Regina (Ott) Conrad) was born May 20th 1822 in Neunkirchen, Koeniggreich, Bavaria, Germany and died Feb. 27th 1879 in Clear Creek Township, Keokuk County, Iowa. Both are buried at Saint Peter and Paul Cemetery in Clear Creek Township.

They immigrated to America in May of 1847 and settled in Pennsylvania. According to family stories, they lived at Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, but we first find them in the 1850 census living in the borough of Lebanon, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. (Note: this is where Maribelle Berg Kohnen lived many years later in 1943 while Jack was training to go overseas.) Frank Anton Lutz's occupation is given as a carpenter. In the same census, we also find Laborious (Catherine's uncle) and Rachel Conrad living in the borough of Lebanon. By 1855, Frank Anton Lutz had moved to Peoria, Illinois, where they lived about nine years.

In addition to farming, Frank Lutz was a carpenter and built his home of mostly walnut timber. He built the altar for the church. He had a vineyard and made wine for the priests to use at Mass. He also had a large orchard and grafted his own trees and had a large blackberry patch.

On Jan. 25th 1864, Frank Lutz purchased 140 acres of land in section 17 and 27, Township 75, in Clear Creek Township from John Shockley for \$1800. He purchased additional land at later dates. On Dec. 29th 1898, Frank Lutz sold his farm, then consisting of 300 acres, to his son-in-law, Frank B. Vogel, but remained on the farm living with his daughter and son-in-law until his death in 1906. On February 25th 1875. Frank Lutz purchased 160 acres described as just south of where Highway 92 is now located. The 1880 agricultural census of Keokuk County, Iowa, shows the following information concerning the Frank Anton Lutz farm: 106 acres tilled land, 145 acres pasture or orchard, 20 acres woodland, 174 acres unimproved. Value of farm \$7500. Value of machinery \$300. Value of livestock \$3000. Amount paid for labor \$225 for 52 weeks. Thirty-eight acres grassland mowed. Seventy-five acres not mowed. Thirtyeight tons of hay. Thirteen horses, 18 milk cows, 51 other cows, 20 calves dropped, three cows purchased, seventeen cows sold, four died, 165 swine, 1000 pounds of butter and 1879, seventy-five acres Indian corn, 2500 bushels. Twelve acres of oaks 360 bushels, 18 acres of wheat 275 bushels, 3/4 acre potatoes and 40 bushels, two acres 50 apple trees, five gallons of wine in 1879.

Obituary from Keota Eagle Thurs May 10, 1906

DEATH OF A PIONEER

Thursday am at 2 o'clock occurred the death of Frank Lutz, Sr. at the home of his son-in-law, Frank Vogel, at Clear Creek, Iowa. His demise caused by the infirmities of old age connected with kidney and bladder trouble of about a year's duration. He came to America about 60 years ago locating first in Pennsylvania there to continue his professional trade as a carpenter. From there he came to Iowa some 43 years ago settling down on the very place where he died. He was always very industrious and an upright

and intelligent character loyal to his church and consequently highly respected by all who know him.

He with his brother in law Jacob Conrad who died 10 months ago were pioneer settlers in this country having done great deeds of admiration for the good of his church and state. He is survived by 10 children who mourn his loss. Jacob in Kansas, Frank, Mrs. Geo. Greiner, Mrs. Peter Peiffer, Mrs Jos. Feiffer all of Clear Creek Township, Mrs. Geo Vogel of Talleyrand, Mrs. Frank Vogel, Mrs. Nic Flander of clear Creek, Mrs. Henry Berg and John Lutz of Kansas. He was 83 years old and held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Francis had a sister, Gertrude Lutz who was born ca 1817 and died ca 1889 in Germany. She married Foedalis (Vitalis) Ott. There was according to family stories, another sister who died as an infant in Germany.



Frank Lutz



Frank Lutz's Children
Back Row: Rose Vogel, Frank Lutz, John Lutz, Jacob Lutz, Margaret Berg
Front Row: Elizabeth Peiffer, Theresa Peiffer, Mary Greiner, Anna Flander, Katherine Vogel



Lutz/Vogel House Frank Benjamin Vogel and Catherine Lutz Vogel Family

The original house that Frank Anton Lutz built using native walnut was torn down after Frank Benjamin Vogel constructed the house in the picture above. Frank Lutz had his own room in this house until he died.



Home Altar built by Frank Anton Lutz For his room

Frank Lutz and Michael Berg came to the US in the same year, 1847. Frank was about 20 years younger than Michael or about 10 years older than Nicholas Berg. So Frank's youngest daughter married Nick Berg's oldest son. It is also interesting that two of Frank's daughters also married Peiffer men. There were certainly a lot of Peiffer families involved with our ancestors, although none of the Peiffers were directly related to us.

Back to the Henry and Margaret Berg family.

The following paragraph is from Janice Young's history.

"Margaret Lutz was born 13 Apr 1864 in Keokuk County, Iowa and died 29 May 1846 in Fleming, Colorado. She married Henry S. Berg (son of Nicholas and Anna (Kiefer) Berg) on 17 Nov 1891 at St Peter & Paul church in Keokuk County, Iowa. Henry S. Berg was born 4 Aug 1864 and died 6 July, 1930. Both are buried at St. Peter's Cemetery, Fleming, Colorado. After they were married, they lived in Keokuk County, Iowa until about 1901. They moved to Kansas and then to Colorado."

They lived together in Keokuk County for about 10 years. Their firstborn, John Joseph, was born and died there (He was kicked by a horse at the age of 5.) Their next six children (Anna, Irene, Henry, Joseph Clements, Michael [died within a month] and Elizabeth) were all born in Keokuk County. They show up next in the 1910 census in Olpe, Kansas where the next four of their children (Ted, Albert, Frank and Mary) were born. This means the following picture was taken in Olpe since Mary is not yet in the

picture. The census (May 19, 1910) has Henry as a farmer who owns his farm with a mortgage. He is 45 and Marge is 46.



Henry Berg Family

Back row: Henry Jr., Irene, Frank Berg, Anna, Clement Front row: Ted, Margaret, Elizabeth, Henry, Albert, Frank Note: Frank Berg (back row) is Henry's youngest brother.

The picture below is their home in Olpe, Kansas.



Since they were in Olpe from 1910 to 1916, they certainly would have known John Pimple, who was there from 1912 to 1915 and who would have gone to the same church. Perhaps the two families influenced one other about their respective moves to St. Peter's, CO, which happened within a year of each other.

The next census, Jan 30, 1920, shows Henry in Logan County, Colorado. He and Margaret are 55 years old. Irene, Albert, Elizabeth, Ted, Clem, Frank and Mary are still in the home. Finally, in 1930, Henry and Maggie Berg are listed in the census as being 65 years old and living with four children: Henry, Albert, Frank and Mary.



Henry and Marge

During this latter part of their life their granddaughter, Maribelle Berg Kohnen, has fond memories about the two of them.

"Grandma and Grandpa lived in a two story house 3 miles west of St. Peter's church. When I was about 7 or 8, we often went over there to visit. They had a grove of cherry trees. Even though we weren't supposed to, we always went out and ate the cherries. Grandma Margaret would come to stay with Gertie (my mom) each time she had a baby and stay with her until she was back on her feet.

I never heard my Grandpa Henry say one word; he was a very silent man. He was always lying on a love seat with his back to us. He just didn't visit. I remember when the ambulance came out and took him to Sterling. The Dieker family and our family were visiting when he became very ill and the ambulance was called. He later died of appendicitis.

After he died my Uncle Frank ran the farm and later married and Grandma lived with them for awhile. (You know, little pitchers have big ears, and I heard that she and Uncle Frank's wife did not get along.)

Grandma Margaret moved to Sterling and lived in a small one bedroom apartment. This all happened during my High School years (1936-1940). When I was working in Sterling I enjoyed going to visit her. She was a good and pleasant woman. She always made me tea. When Jack came back from the service and was still in uniform, we went together to visit her. I felt jealous because she gave him a big smile and a hug but didn't say a word to me. She became ill in October, 1945, right after Jack came home. Her landlady called me in Sterling and I called out to the store at St. Peter's and asked that Irene be told. Irene and Kitty came in and took turns staying with her until she died of liver cancer."







Margaret Lutz Berg

Finally here is the Obituary for Margaret Lutz Berg:

Mrs. Margaret Berg Dies Early Today; Funeral on Friday

Mrs. Margaret Berg, aged 82 years, a resident of Logan county for 30 years, died at her home in Sterling early this morning, after an illness of eight months.

Mrs. Berg was born on April 13, 1864, in Harper, Ia., the daughter of Frank A. and Catherine Conrad Lutz. She was married to Henry Berg in 1892, at Harper, and they lived in Iowa until 1901, when they moved to Olpe, Kan. In 1916, they established a residence in St Peter's community, and moved to Sterling 10 years ago. Mr. Berg died July 6, 1930. Mrs. Berg is a member of the Altar and Rosary society of St. Anthony's church.

Mrs. Berg is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Annie Dieker of Mount Angel, Ore., Mrs. Mary Lousberg of Boulder, Mrs. Lousberg of FLeming and Mrs. Elizabeth Boerner of Fleming; five sons, Henry Berg, Albert Berg and Frank Berg of Portland, Ore., Clem Berg pf Denver and Ted Berg of Sterling; three sisters, Mrs Rose Vogel of Jesup, Ia., Mrs Katie Vogel of Sigourney, Ia., and Mrs. Annie Flander of Keota, Ia.; 54 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

The Rosary for the family of Mrs Berg will be held at 7:30 o'clock Wednesday evening at the Radford Funeral home. Rosary for the friends and neighbors will be held at 7:30 o'clock Thursday evening at the funeral home.

Requiem mass for Mrs Berg will be held at 9 o'clock Friday morning, Mary 31, at St Anthony's Church. Burial will be at St. Peter's cemetery.

Clem and Gertrude Berg

(WRITTEN BY MARIBELLE (BERG) KOHNEN)

On June 15, 1920, Clement J. Berg and Gertrude Susan Lousberg were united in marriage in St. Peter's Church, Fleming.



Marriage Day Pete Lousberg, Clem Berg, Gertrude Lousberg, Kitty Boerner

Clem came with his family, the Henry Berg's, to the St Peter's community, in 1916. They homesteaded three miles west of St. Peter's Church. He was the fourth child in a family of eight children. Gertrude's family came in 1912 and she was the third child in a family of nine. Her mother died when she was fourteen, and she cared for her brothers and sisters until she married. Her father donated four acres on which the Church, parsonage and school were built. (The history of the Lousbergs is covered in a separate section.) She was eighteen when she married and Clem was twenty---two and a half years older. Her Dad was having a house built for them one mile north and 1/2 mile east of St. Peter's. In the meantime they resided in a small white house in the New Haven area.



Gertie, Maribelle, Clem

Their first child, a boy, was still-born, and then Maribelle was born, followed by Robert, another still-born boy, Bette, Loyola, Elaine, Howard, Doris, Alice, Richard and Daniel. They were all born in the "big white house on the hill" except Maribelle, who was born in the little house near New Haven.

Dad (Clem) had a truck and did trucking to supplement the family income. I recall riding with him to Ault, CO, to get coal for neighbors and for St. Peter's School. I also rode with him to get peaches from Grand Junction, CO and to sell them to the countryside. (I remember Mom saying that he just missed having to serve in World War I because he had the flu that killed so many at that time. He was very ill and lost all his hair.) He loved to hunt; he shot many pheasants and rabbits which made their way to our dinner table during the dust bowl years.



Mom made all of our clothes, always had a big garden, did lots of canning, raised chickens to eat and for eggs. And we always had milk cows. There was a small grocery store and creamery at St. Peter's, where Mom would sell cream and eggs to buy food for the family. (She also made and sold beer at the barn dances.) There was also a blacksmith shop and a gas pump at St. Peter's where all the community traded.



The Clem and Gertrude Berg Family Back Row: Betty, Maribelle, Loyola, Elaine, Bob Front Row: Richard, Doris, Gertrude, Danny, Clem, Alice, Howard

The dust bowl years or "dirty 30's" were really rough. We did not raise very good crops, but always squeaked by. Grasshoppers descended on us in hordes one year and stripped every bit of vegetation there was, including the garden! Even tried to eat the fence posts! Another year army worms ate everything: even the sides of the house was covered with them--we had quite a time keeping them out of the house. In 1943 the family moved to the Cremer place just south of Pete Lousberg's and in 1944 they moved to Denver. In Denver Clem did sheet metal work and Gertrude worked in Schwader's, where suitcases were made. Later they both worked at Gates Rubber Co. for awhile. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1970, and Gertrude died of breast cancer in April of 1971. Clem passed away in November, 1971; they are both buried in Denver.

Sources

http://e-pese.de/

This website is the main source for the Berg family tree in Europe. The site belongs to Eduard Pese; it is mostly in French and German but parts of it are translated to English.

<u>Theresa Lutz & Joseph Peiffer Family Tree Scrapbook</u> by Marie Vittetoe & Diana Cox. This came to me through Randy Lousberg.

<u>A Family History: Conrad, Vogel, Lutz, Greiner</u> compiled by Janice E. Young and Margaret C. Young. 1979

APPENDIX ONE

SHIPS MANIFEST FOR THE CHARLEMAGNE NEW ORLEANS

Berg and Pfeiffer Families (with document title pasted at top)

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APPENDIX TWO

UNITED STATES CENSUS SHEETS FOR BERG AND LUTZ

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Henry Berg family, Frank Lutz living with Vogel family

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1	1	Enter menume first, then the given name and middle lattick, if any.	Relationship of each person to the bead of the family.	1 4 4	d'year	Place of their of the	Place of Math of Farmers of the serves	Place of birth of Bosson	To the factor of the state of t	li.	1 1	1 1
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1930: Henry Berg family in Colorado

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