

SNOW BOUND

FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY HENRY F. EICHER

NARRATED
BY
VIOLA BRISTOW

The following interesting story was assembled by Viola Bristow, from excerpts of a letter her father, Henry F. Eicher, had written to her in January 1918, telling her of his experience in that snow storm.

Mr. Eicher, a grocery salesman, left his home at 5:30 in the morning on January the eleventh to go to Highland, Illinois. It was snowing and blowing very hard that morning and had the appearance of becoming one of the old time blizzards we used to have during the winter months many years ago.

Mr. Eicher had planned on returning to Lebanon by way of East Saint Louis on the Electric Trolley Car, and left Edgemont, Illinois at 3:30 P.M.. (This was the old Electric Line that operated between Lebanon, Illinois and Saint Louis, Missouri.

When they arrived at the Saint Ellen Mine, a stop along the way, the car was blocked by the deep snow, so the motorman figured he would try to get back to East Saint Louis and started westward again. When he arrived at Edgemont, the snow was drifted to a depth of five feet over the rails, putting an end to their chances of going any further. The motorman's avenue of escape being blocked a second time, he started to go toward Lebanon again. This time he got as far as French Village, where the car was forced to stop due to the depth of the snow. The passengers got out of the car and spent the rest of the night sitting in the dining room of the owner of a saloon-hotel.

Other passengers on this car, besides Mr. Eicher, were; Franz Sartison, Professor Moore, Saint Claire

Flint, Miss Clara Schuetz, Miss Carrie McGhee, Mrs. Anna Steidel, Miss Mary McQuire and her "210 pound cousin", Mrs. Arens and seven O'Fallon unfortunates.

Franz Sartison was elected Chief Fireman. He also made sure that no one slept, and, if anyone began to nod, he would shout, "Change Cars".

At 9:00 P.M. the group had coffee and sandwiches. Some of the crowd resorted to playing pinochle in an effort to pass away the time. Saturday morning was a bleak day, there were no cars, no Baltimore and Ohio trains and no news. So there was more pinochle and a dinner at 12:00 noon and finally about 8:30 P.M. Mr. Van Houten's car, following a snow plow, got through to O'Fallon where Mr. Eicher took time out to go to the home of Robert R. Ruth, a cousin, and slept for nine hours, as he put it, "in a real bed".

Miss McGhee found accommodations for the rest of the group. All of them contacted their relatives in Lebanon by phone to keep them informed of their well being and whereabouts.

This group finally completed their trip, arriving in Lebanon at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday morning, January the thirteenth, aboard a Baltimore and Ohio train, thus ending the forty two hour trip from Edgemont, which normally took about one hour.

ADDENDUM

The writer recalls this blizzard very clearly. It was one of the worst in the area for quite some time and there has been none to equal it since that time.

The snow averaged a depth of from twenty four to thirty inches and in places where it was drifted, it was from four to ten feet deep. Many of the roads in the area were impassible and had to have some of the snow removed before they could be used. The snow was on the ground for almost two months and there was a lot of sleighing and skating that year.

December 5, 1960.

By Albert J. Ruth.

THE JOHN AND MARIE EICHER HOME

LOCATED
IN

SUMMERFIELD, ILLINOIS

The names of the people in the picture, from left to right.

Ida Eicher, Nee Kurz, wife of Jacob A. Eicher.
Jacob A. Eicher.
Oliver Eicher, son of Henry F. Eicher.
Chauncey Eicher, son of Henry F. Eicher.
Viola Eicher, daughter of Henry F. Eicher.
Grandma Eicher, Mrs. John Eicher, Nee Ruth.
Mabel Eicher, daughter of John E. Eicher.
Grandpa Eicher, John Eicher.
Dora Eicher, daughter of John E. Eicher.
John E. Eicher.
Emma Eicher, Nee Mallman, wife of John E. Eicher.
Emelie Eicher, Nee Billmeyer, wife of Henry F.
Eicher.
Harvey Eicher, son of Henry F. Eicher.
Henry F. Eicher.
Valentine Eicher.
David Eicher.
Alvina Eicher, Nee Bauchenz, wife of Peter D.
Eicher.
Peter D. Eicher.



A HISTORY OF THE
KATHERINE RUTH-JOHANNES DAHLEM
FAMILY
THE SEARCH FOR ANCESTORS

There are two Dahlem branches in the Ruth Family Genealogy, namely the Katherine Ruth-Johannes Dahlem and the Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem families.

At the time we began working on this project, our information on these two families was limited to the data shown on the original family tree. We searched for some descendants of these two families who could give us some genealogical data and some history.

After four years of work on this project we found David J. Dahlem, a descendant of the Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem branch through our second cousin, Alta June Eicher and he told us that he had been working on the Dahlem family genealogy for several years.

Both of these families belonged to the Mennonite Faith and it is rather difficult to tell how many of their earlier ancestors belonged to the same faith. The Johannes Dahlem family left the Church when they moved to Grundy County, Illinois. Their reason might have been due to the fact that there were not enough people of the same faith living in the area to start a Congregation and rather than not go to any Church, they joined one of another denomination.

The Jacob Dahlem family belonged to the Mennonite Church of Summerfield, Illinois. Most of this family left their Mother Church and joined the Evangelical Church. Because of the fact that the records of the Summerfield Mennonite Church were destroyed by fire, it is impossible for us to give the dates they left or the reason why. Today, we find there are but only a few descendants of this family who still belong to the Mennonite Faith.

The earliest ancestors he had on his records were his grandparents. We mailed him a copy of our record and he was quite surprised to see the Katherine Ruth Johannes Dahlem branch on it. He remembered that his grandfather said that there were two brothers beside himself that came over to America from Bavaria. They came over at different times and seemed to have lost contact with one another several years later.

David J. Dahlem did learn that the three brothers were; Jacob, Heinrich and Johannes. Jacob, his grand father, lived in Summerfield, Illinois. Heinrich and his family lived in Evansville, Indiana and they did not have any definite information on Johannes. David corresponded with many Dahlem families in an effort to find the family ties but he never was successful. He found that the family traits, names and religion fit into the picture but there was so much time lost in the intervening years that many of the old-timers who remembered the family ties, have passed away and there being no written records, this data is lost.

David worked with us on this project and we were making very good progress when he contracted an illness, went to a hospital for an operation, but never recovered and passed away on May the eleventh, 1958. We now made another attempt to locate someone in the family who would continue to work with us but failed to find anyone who was interested enough to do so.

We knew several of the descendants of the Gerhard Dahlem-Elizabeth Kroll family (Gerhard was the first child of Veronica Ruth and Jacob Dahlem) who resided in the Summerfield area and made inquiry of them as to the whereabouts of some of the other relatives so we could locate the rest of the family. After we had visited several families we found one person who did recall, that John, a brother of Gerhard, was married to Elizabeth Dettweiler in Summerfield and they went to Mexico, Missouri to make their home.

A trip to Mexico, a search of old records, a few inquiries gave us several leads which we checked out

and found them to be the descendants we were looking for. Through the help of William Ernest Flittner and Mrs. Lillie May Piltoski we were able to locate most of the other descendants of the Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem family that we could not locate through Alta June Eicher. We were able to obtain most of the data on the John Dahlem-Elizabeth Dettweiler family with the exception of a son and daughter. We did get the information of where they were last heard from so we made a thorough search but were unable to locate the slightest trace of any of them.

We continued our search by checking the Telephone and City Directories of the larger cities for Dahlem names and wrote to each of them, hoping to find some of them to be the ones we were searching for.

A short time before Thanksgiving Day, in the year of 1962, we received a letter from a Daniel Stauffer Dahlem in Los Angeles who proved out to be the first of the Katherine Ruth-Johannes Dahlem descendants we located. It was through Daniel and his cousin, Marie McLaurin, Nee Gedelman, that we received information that enabled us to locate the other members of this family, the only exception being the Susanna Dahlem-Ernest Henneberg and the Katherine Dahlem-Christian Deutsch families, the descendants of which we could not find the slightest trace of.

EARLY ANCESTORS

Through research we found that this branch of the Dahlem family descended from one Valentin Dahlem who moved into the Palatinate region from Switzerland to escape the harsh treatment these people were made to endure during the reformation period.

The family migrated to Hesse in 1702 and lived in that area until in the year of 1711. We now come to a gap in the record until in the year of 1800.

The father of Johannes and Jacob Dahlem was named Jacob and he happened to be one of the eight family

fathers to whom King Maximillian of Bavaria donated 365 acres of timber-land at Neuberg by the Danube in the year of 1800. The group cleared this land, built their homes and called the settlement "Maxweiler" in honor of their benefactor. From a narrative written by Jacob Rupp at Moundridge, Kansas some years ago, we find that the names of these eight family fathers were; Johann Schmidt, Johann Mueller, Jacob Schmidt, another Jacob Schmidt, Jacob Rupp, Christian Dester, Jacob Dahlem and a Mr. Pletscher.

Johannes Dahlem was born in the Palatinate, Jacob was born at Maxweiler. We did not find any record of where Heinrich was born, nor did we find any data on how many sisters and brothers there may have been in this family.

From all indications, the three Dahlem brothers, Jacob, Heinrich and Johannes, grew to manhood in the Maxweiler area. All three of them married and had a family before they came to America.

Jacob married and lived at Maxweiler and left for America from there with his wife and children.

Johannes married and lived at Eichstock where all of his children were born. He moved to Thann shortly before coming to America with his wife and children.

Heinrich is supposed to have left Maxweiler for a chance to make a home in Austria. We do not know for sure when or where he was married. He must have been in touch with his brother Johannes and he must have returned to Bavaria and joined his brother Johannes before coming to America. A check of the emigration permits reveals that Johannes Dahlem, together with his brother Heinrich, his wife and four children and Katherine Dahlem, (wife of Johannes) with relatives, (her children) got their permits to emigrate to Iowa in the year of 1852. They travelled via Le Harve and landed in Baltimore. It is said that very strong and severe head winds delayed their arrival for several days. Evidently, the date of departure of these two families must have been delayed for some time for we

find the following entry in the Ruth Family History;

"On May twenty ninth, 1853 Dahlems came here from Germany. He went to Summerfield, Illinois and on the way to St. Louis, on the steamboat from Keokuk, when they were a few miles from St. Louis, lost their son Daniel, who fell into the river and was drowned."

The history does not mention Heinrich Dahlem, nor any of his family coming to Iowa or to Illinois. The Heinrich and Johannes Dahlem families must have come west together as far as Indiana, where Heinrich made his decision to settle in or near Evansville and his brother Johannes and family continued the journey to Lee County, Iowa, returned to Summerfield, Illinois and then moved to Grundy County, Illinois.

Katherine, the oldest daughter of Johannes Dahlem and Katherine Ruth was married to Christian Deutsch. They made their home in Thann, Bavaria and came over to America from that location.

Christian Deutsch, son-in-law of Johannes Dahlem, together with his wife and children, arrived in Iowa on the sixth day of June in the year of 1854. On the genealogy we find that there are only three children on the list, Barbara, John and Carrie. We found that the European records listed seven children, all born at Thann, Bavaria, listing Barbara as the youngest. John and Carrie were born in this country, probably in Iowa. Four of the seven who were born in Bavaria, died in their infancy and that leaves the two oldest daughters, Catharina and Elizabeth, unaccounted for. From all indications, this family must have remained in Iowa. We did not find any further trace of any of the descendants of this family.

Gerhard and Marie Dahlem came to America in 1852, along with a group of seventy other Mennonites, made up of several families and several individuals. They settled in Lee County, Iowa. Gerhard and Marie must have joined their parents when they came to Iowa and returned to Summerfield, Illinois and then went with them to Grundy County, Illinois near Chicago.

During the summer of 1963, we made a special trip to Joliet, Illinois and visited Oakwood Cemetery and then went to the Channahon Cemetery which is located about two and one half miles from Minooka. We made a visual check of the graves of the descendants of the Katherine Ruth-Johannes Dahlem family. The result of our search is shown in the records of the genealogy. After completing our work in the Channahon Cemetery, we drove to Lockport, Illinois and checked up on the Gordon Leroy Potter family where we heartily enjoyed a most pleasant visit. We derived a lot more data on the Dahlem family from their detailed narratives and from the family records they were able to show us.

We made an effort to obtain some specific data on each of the children of the Katherine Ruth-Johannes Dahlem family but due to the fact that we could find very few written family records from which to work, we were unable to carry out our original plans.

The parents, without a doubt, spent the remaining years of their life in Minooka. As the children grew up and married, they began to move elsewhere to make their homes and it did not take too long for them to be located in all parts of the country.

Gerhard seemed to be the exception. Not counting the time he served his country during the Civil War as a Sergeant in Company E., 4th. Regiment, Illinois Cavalry, he lived in Minooka from 1855 until the day of his death in 1884. We found some evidence that he might have lived in Chicago for a little while, just prior to the disastrous fire, but nothing to give us the actual proof that he did. Gerhard was the owner of a General Store and the Postmaster in Minooka for several years. He was a Freemason and was the first Master of Minooka Lodge at Minooka, Illinois. He was also a Knight Templar.

John Lewis Dahlem also served his country during the Civil War but we were unable to locate the data in what capacity and in which unit he served. No one was able to give us any information other than this.

An unusual incident which occurred at the time we were searching for descendants was that we located a granddaughter of Katherine Ruth and Johannes Dahlem right here in Saint Louis, which happens to be where the compiler lives. She is a daughter of John Lewis Dahlem and Augusta E. Sans.

She married George Watson in 1898 and the couple is still living on Meramec Street as this is being written on February 25, 1964. Mr. George Watson is a Freemason and Knight Templar. He is a Past Commander of the Commandery in which he holds membership.

Their youngest daughter, Ruth Elizabeth, married Raymond Ronald Crandell. They make their home in the same house in which her parents live. A part of this house is rented out to other tenants.

Mrs. Watson and her daughter Ruth Elizabeth, were indeed a great help to us, for they supplied us with a lot of historical data and gave us the information where we could locate additional descendants of this family about whom we had but little or no knowledge.

Such is the history and record of this branch of the Dahlem family compiled from what we were able to fit together, much like a jig-saw puzzle, from data found in the Ruth Family Histories, records of vital statistics, short stories and anecdotes from people who knew some of the family and information and data received from cooperative descendants of the family.

The record is not a complete one, but taking into consideration the time required to compile the data, plus the research work required to locate so many of the descendants, it is an exceptionally good one.

It remains an open challenge to anyone who may be interested enough to do some research work, over and beyond that which has now been placed on record.

Thus ends the history of one branch of the family with the hope in mind, that it may some day lead one of the younger generation to bring the history down to their time.

February 25, 1964.

By Albert J. Ruth.

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
JOHANNES RUTH-ELIZABETH DETTWEILER FAMILY

We made a very thorough search and inquiry in the hope of finding a Johannes Ruth-Elizabeth Dettweiler family history from which we could obtain some early data on the family. If there is one in existence, we failed in our endeavor to locate it so we had to use the information that appears on our family tree as a reference and starting point for our records.

We tried to find a Dettweiler family genealogy to supply the early data on their family but our effort was fruitless. We did find one but it was made up in such a way that it was useless. It consisted only of a list of names, without dates, making it impossible to pick out any certain generation, or the family to which any individual name belonged.

Johannes Ruth, son of Gerhard Ruth and Elizabeth Rupp, was born in Harxheim on the Pfrimm, Palatinate on January the twenty second in the year of 1801. He was eighteen years and eleven months old at the time the Gerhard Ruth family migrated to Eichstock, Upper Bavaria. Johannes Ruth and Elizabeth Dettweiler were married in Eichstock on April the fourth in the year of 1833 and made their first home in Hammerhof, near Dachau and lived there until after his father passed away on the second day of March in the year of 1834. Eichstock was deeded to Johannes and David in equal shares so Johannes moved back to Eichstock, made his home there and operated his share of the estate.

The Ruth family tree shows seven children for the Johannes Ruth-Elizabeth Dettweiler Union. Their date of marriage was given as April the fourth, 1836. The date of birth for their first child is given as, May the twenty third in the year of 1837.

A study of the birth rate pattern of the families on the tree showed that the four year space between Katherine and Daniel on the Johannes Ruth branch was very irregular and caused me quite a bit of concern. About a year after we began working on the genealogy we located the history written by David Ruth and one entry states; "John Ruth's oldest son of seven years died", the entry being for the year of 1843. If the boy was seven years old in the year of 1843, he must have been born in 1836. Since we were given the year of 1836 for the marriage of Johannes and Elizabeth, we were sure that there was an error in the records, our job was to find and correct it, if possible.

During the second year of our work we located the history "Remembrances from 1807, By Barbara Strohm." In it we found two references in connection with the children of Johannes Ruth. The first one states that Jacob, three years old, died in February of the year of 1842. The second one states that Johannes, seven years and five months old, died in the year of 1843. We now had two children of Johannes Ruth for whom we had no records. Jacob, three years old in 1842, must have been born in 1839. This would place him between Katherine and Daniel, thereby reducing the four year gap to make the birth rate pattern normal. It really is the correct place for Jacob, as you will see when you check the birth records of the Eichstock Church. The fact that the two family histories gave no dates of birth for any of the children in question but did give approximate ages and incomplete dates of death, we found that our problem was now in a more perplexing state than it was when we started checking up on the records of this family. Since the histories show that Johannes and Jacob Ruth passed away, we know it is an actual fact that they were living and since we know they were living, they certainly must have been born. There was but one thing left to do, go back to our research work, begin where we left off and leave no stone unturned until we found the birth records.

In order to get the correct data in this case, we contacted Dr. Fritz Braun of Kaiserslautern, Germany with whom we had been corresponding for a number of years. Knowing he had access to early records of the people of the Mennonite Faith through his connection with "Palatinate Families and Coat of Arms Heraldry" we felt sure that we would get the information that we were looking for. We received the following data in answer to our query.

Johannes Ruth; born 1-22-1801, in Harxheim in the County of Kirchheimbolanden.

Married in Eichstock, County of Dachau, in Upper Bavaria on April the fourth in the year of 1833, to; Elizabeth Dettweiler; born on May 31, 1812, in Langenberg by Kandel, County of Germersheim, the daughter of Jacob Dettweiler of Haftelhof by Schweighofen, and Barbara Stauffer of Guntersblum by Worms.

Children; 2 to 9; born in Eichstock.

- (1) Elizabeth; born 4-7-1834 in Hammerhof by Dachau. Died 6-29-1834. Buried in Wagenried, Bavaria.
- (2) Johann; born 8-8-1835. Died 1-2-1843.
- (3) Katherine; born 5-23-1837.
- (4) Jacob; born 5-7-1839. Died 2-9-1842.
- (5) Daniel; born 5-24-1841.
- (6) Susanna; born 5-20-1843.
- (7) Barbara; born 3-31-1845.
- (8) John A.; born 4-16-1847.
- (9) Henry Benjamin; born 10-2-1849.

The tenth child, Elizabeth Augusta, being born in West Point, Lee County, Iowa, does not appear on the birth records of the old Eichstock Church.

The Eichstock home of Johannes Ruth was built the same as the home of his brother David except that it did not have as many buildings. These two homes were built in reverse order, placed back to back, forming a large hollow court or square. A description of the home is given in detail in the article "A Supplement to Remembrances from 1807, By Barbara Strohm."

Since the family lived in Eichstock from 1835 to 1852, Johann and Jacob are undoubtedly buried in the Eichstock Church-yard Cemetery at Eichstock. Because of the fact that our chief interest was to establish the number of children and their dates of birth, the dates of death are not given for any children other than Elizabeth, Johann and Jacob, who passed away in their infancy. The data on the other children can be found on the charts in the genealogy section.

This data, together with that on our own records, has made it possible to establish the correct number of offspring born to the union of Johannes Ruth and Elizabeth Dettweiler. In addition, it has given us a record of the date of their marriage, authenticated the entries in the two family histories which refer to the sons of Johannes Ruth and gave us the correct place of birth for Elizabeth Dettweiler. This, after more than a century and one quarter of elapsed time, we have been able to get a correct family record for Johannes Ruth and Elizabeth Dettweiler.

Johannes Ruth, together with his wife and family, came to America from Eichstock, Upper Bavaria in the year of 1852 on the Ship "Samuel M. Fox", landing at Port of New York on the fourth of August. His family was a part of a group of seventy Mennonites who came to America on that same ship. His brother David and his family were in this group. Since the story about the trip is given in detail elsewhere in the history section, it is not repeated here.

In addition to the personal property Johannes and David Ruth brought with them, packed in large wooden trunks or chests, each of them had a total of 10,000 Florin. (This was an amount somewhere between 2,360 and 2,800 Dollars in United States Currency, depending upon whether it was the Dutch Florin, sometimes called Guilder, Gilder or Gulden, worth .263 cents, or the English Silver coin worth two shillings.)

From New York, the group traveled as a unit until their arrival at Peoria, Illinois where they divided

into three separate groups, one group, went overland to Fort Madison, Iowa by stage coach, a second group continued on by boat, down the Illinois River to the junction of the Mississippi and then up the River to Keokuk, thence overland by wagon to West Point, Lee County, Iowa. The third group, partly made up by the families of David and Johannes Ruth and a number of close relatives, traveled overland by stage coach to Burlington, Iowa where the group dispersed. The Ruth families and their close relatives, hired farmers to take them to West Point, Lee County, Iowa in wagons, arriving at their destination on Monday evening the twenty third day of August in the year of 1852. Soon after they found a house in West Point in which they could live, they hired a wagon and teams to drive to Peoria, Illinois to pick up and take back the chests they stored there after deciding to make the trip to Burlington, Iowa by stage coach. (There were a dozen or more chests, two by two by five feet, undoubtedly stored because of their inability to have them taken with them on the stage coaches.)

On the twenty seventh day of December in the year of 1852, Johannes Ruth bought a farm on the Franklin Prairie nine miles from West Point for \$2,355.00. It consisted of 172 acres of land and contained several buildings and a house. A month later, on the twenty-seventh day of January in the year of 1853, he moved onto it with his wife and family.

Johannes Ruth did not have the privilege to enjoy his new home in this country for long. He contracted an illness which the Doctors termed a combination of Typhoid Fever and Pneumonia to which he succumbed on the twenty sixth day of November in the year of 1855 and his earthly remains were interred on the twenty-eighth in the Zion Cemetery at Donnellson, Iowa. His age at the time of passing was fifty four years, ten months and four days. His untimely passing is one of the reasons we do not have a more comprehensive and detailed early history of this family.

Several of the younger generation have supplied a short synopsis of their individual family history in answer to our request. They appear in the genealogy section in their proper place and order.

The ancestry of members of the Krehbiel family is taken from the "Krehbiel Genealogy by J. J. Krehbiel of Moundridge, Kansas, March 1903." It begins with a Jost Krehbiel, born in Switzerland, some time before the year of 1670. At that time the name was spelled; "Crayenbuehl". In the year of 1671 and ensuing years to 1709 a persecution of the Mennonites broke out in Switzerland. Because these people would not recant, many were killed, others were thrown into prison and others were driven out and banished from the country they loved. Jost Krehbiel's father was thrown into a prison and kept there until he died. After his death the sons sold the "Crayenbuehl" estate and emigrated to the Palatinate where Jost bought the Pfrimmerhof. It was here that they changed their name to Krehbiel from "Crayenbuehl" as it was spelled in Switzerland.

The ancestry of members of the Eymann family who have married into the Ruth family is traced back to Christian Eymann, born in Switzerland in the year of 1701, married in 1724 to a woman named Gerber, born in 1706. The exact year in which the Eymanns moved to the Palatinate is not known, but records bear out the fact that it was in the early 1700's.

The ancestry of members of the Schowalter family who have married into the Ruth family is traced back to three branches of the Schowalter family, namely; The Johannes Schowalter-Barbara Neff branch. The Abraham Schowalter-Elizabeth Leisy branch. The John William Showalter-Mary Elizabeth Schoonover branch. The last mentioned branch dropped the "C" in Schowalter and have spelled it Showalter.

A check of the records show that practically all persons connected with the family before the year of 1875 were of the Mennonite Faith and that mostly all of their early ancestors came from the same area in

Switzerland. The Mennonites were a close knit group, each of their separate Congregations were even more so. A check of the records will verify this and also the fact that early history of these families runs a close parallel. Books such as "Smith's Story of the Mennonites" will most certainly enlighten you on the early history of these people in connection with the hardships our early ancestors had to endure in order to be able to Worship God according to their belief and conscience.

By 1873, most all of the Johannes Ruth family was living in the Summerfield area. Barbara, who married Daniel Eymann, remained in Iowa with her family and moved to the Halstead, Kansas area from there in the year of 1880.

The migration to Kansas began in the year of 1875 and the last of our group to go, left Summerfield in the year of 1885.

Members of the Johannes Ruth family who migrated to the Halstead, Kansas area were as follows;

In February of the year of 1875

Daniel Ruth and Family.

Henry B. Ruth; Single.

Elizabeth Ruth, widow of Johannes Ruth.

In the year of 1880

Daniel Eymann and Family. From Iowa.

In the year of 1884

John A. Ruth and Family.

A number of years later, most of the descendants of the Johannes Ruth family who moved to Kansas, and those who remained in the Summerfield area, moved to California and settled in Upland and Reedley.

From this location the family began to scatter to various States of the Union, depending entirely upon their choice of employment or location they accepted as being the most suitable in which to live and earn their livelihood.

January 12, 1965

By Albert J. Ruth.

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
DAVID LEHMANN-BARBARA RUTH
FAMILY

In an effort to locate the early ancestors of the Lehmann family, we did considerable research work to try to find their genealogical relationship with the Strohm family, who, in like manner, are also related to the Ruth family.

The earliest Lehmann data we found was in a short account entitled "Strohm Family History", written by Johannes Strohm, father of Barbara and Katherine who married Jacob and David Ruth, respectively. He wrote that he married Barbara Lehmann, born in Heppenheim by the meadow near the Mill by the willows and that his younger sister Magdalena married Michael Lehmann of Heppenheim by the meadow, son of Johannes Lehmann living at the Mill by the willows. Indications point out that Barbara and Michael Lehmann were sister and brother. It is unfortunate, that Johannes Strohm did not record their relationship in his history.

We did not locate any data on the Michael Lehmann who married Susanna Krehbiel. Family records show he was born in Heppenheim near Worms. Since all of the Lehmanns mentioned above were born in the same area, all other facts considered, they all must have been closely related to one another.

David Lehmann who married Barbara Ruth, was a son of Michael Lehmann and Susanna Krehbiel. The Lehmann family lived in Heppenheim in the District of Worms in the Palatinate and Susanna Krehbiel's folks lived in Weierhof. The Lehmann and Ruth families have one thing in common in that they are both related to the same branch of the Strohm family.

Michael Lehmann was born in Heppenheim near Worms in the Palatinate on February the eighth in the year of 1804 and died in Halstead on the twenty fourth of March in the year of 1879. His earthly remains lie buried in the Halstead Cemetery at Halstead, Kansas.

Susanna Krehbiel was born in Weierhof the seventh day of March in the year of 1810 and died in Summerfield, Illinois on the third day of December in the year of 1867. Her earthly remains lie buried in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

Michael Lehmann and Susanna Krehbiel were married in January of the year of 1829. This union was blest with twelve children of which David was the fifth.

This Lehmann family migrated to the United States from the Palatinate in the year of 1845, settling in Ashland County, Ohio, twelve miles from Ashland and two miles from Savannah located in the north central part of the State. John Albert Lehmann gives a vivid description of this home in his charming little book "Home and Country Verse", written in 1906. A picture of this home as it was at that time, appears on page twenty three. Most of the Lehmann children attended school in an Academy in Savannah.

From their Ohio location the Lehmann family moved to Summerfield, Illinois where Mrs. Susanna Lehmann, Nee Krehbiel, passed away a short time thereafter on the third day of December in the year of 1867. We do not have the exact date when the Lehmann family came to Summerfield but according to Ruth family history, the family was living in Ohio as late as October, of the year of 1858. It probably was a short time after their son David and his bride made their home in the Summerfield area that the family made their decision to move there too.

David Ruth, father of Barbara who was married to David Lehmann, passed away on March the third in the year of 1867, survived by his widow, Katherine Ruth, the daughter of Johannes Strohm and Barbara Lehmann, and their eight children, five of whom were married.

Some time after his wife's death, Michael Lehmann married a second time to Katherine Strohm Ruth, the widow of David Ruth. Since the Lehmanns, Strohm and Ruths are all related by marriage, this creates some complicated family relations. Anyone who cares to do so can spend a lot of time figuring them all out.

David Lehmann was born in Heppenheim, Palatinate, on November the twenty first in the year of 1837. He came to America with his parents in the year of 1845 and lived in the State of Ohio for a few years.

Barbara Ruth was born in Eichstock, Upper Bavaria on November the thirteenth in the year of 1841. She came to America with her parents in the year of 1852 and lived in Lee County, Iowa until her marriage.

On February the twenty sixth, 1860, David Lehmann and Barbara Ruth, a distant cousin, were married at Donnellson, Iowa.

On the thirteenth day of March of this same year, David Lehmann and his bride, together with Christian Krehbiel and his family, left their homes in Iowa to go to Summerfield to take possession of the new farm David Ruth, their father-in-law, had bought in March of the year of 1859. In the early part of the month of March in the year of 1864, David Lehmann bought a farm near Summerfield, Illinois. It was in this area that eleven of the fifteen children of David Lehmann and Barbara Ruth were born. The remaining four, were born on a farm six miles north of Halstead, Kansas.

Everything was peaceful and serene in the Summerfield area until about the year of 1870 when many of the people began to discuss the great opportunities offered to new settlers by the State of Kansas that had been admitted to the Union in the year of 1861. The Rail Roads encouraged this westward move, not so much from the standpoint that they would get most of these people as revenue paying passengers, but for a more important reason; to get buyers for their lands and colonists to develop the country they served and in turn, create more business for the Rail Roads.

The first of our group to go to Kansas to work on their farms on the virgin prairie in the vicinity of Halstead were John W. Ruth and Daniel Haury who went there in the fall of the year of 1874 to build themselves small houses and to break some of the prairie land on their property. They returned to Summerfield near the close of the year, placed their business in order and moved their families to Kansas in February of the year of 1875 along with the families of Jacob Ernest Ruth, Daniel Ruth, Valentine Krehbiel and the following individuals; Elizabeth Ruth, widow of John Ruth, Henry B. Ruth and Reverend Christian Krehbiel.

The next group left in March of the year of 1879. It consisted of the families of David C. Ruth, David Lehmann, Katherine Ruth Krehbiel, widow of Johannes Krehbiel, and her children, Mrs. Christian Krehbiel and her children and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lehmann.

The women and children made the trip by passenger train which with the steam locomotives and the coach cars of that day were a far cry from the present day streamlined and air conditioned trains drawn by high powered Diesel engines. The greatest of evils of the old coal burning locomotives was the flying soot and cinders that came in through the open windows of the coach cars. Some time prior to the time that Diesels came into being, the coal burner was converted to an oil burner which was a great improvement. Only those who have ever made a trip on an old style train with a coal burning locomotive used as a motive power are in a position to tell you how serious this condition of flying soot and cinders really was.

Due to his advanced age, Michael Lehmann made the trip on the train along with the women and children, arriving at their destination on March the sixteenth in the year of 1879. Michael Lehmann was not granted the privilege of enjoying his new location for long, he caught a severe cold on the train which developed into pneumonia which proved fatal. He passed away on the twenty fourth day of March in the year of 1879.

The men-folks rode on the freight trains on which they shipped their farm implements, household goods, live stock and poultry to enable them to take proper care of the animals and poultry while enroute. Since a freight train traveled much slower and made longer and more stops, especially when carrying live stock, the women and children were the first to reach their destination so they stayed at a Hotel until the men-folks arrived on the freight trains.

The farm that David Lehmann purchased was located in Harvey County, Garden Township, Kansas, six miles north of Halstead. The first building he erected was a granary which they used for living quarters during that first summer while their house was being built. The house was a spacious two story frame structure, built square, with a central hall. It was one of the finest and most comfortable homes in that area.

It took a lot of planning and hard work to make a home on the barren prairie. After they completed the house, barn and necessary outbuildings, they dug the wells, planted trees for shade and others along with some hedges to serve as wind-breaks. The love of the pines and cedars manifested itself in a long line of cedars planted near the house. They thrived for many years but finally succumbed to disease and had to be taken out a few years ago.

The Ruth family has an inborn love of flowers and this trait manifested itself in all of their gardens where one always found a flower bed in which flowers of most every description bloomed in profusion. Most families had some flower beds in their yard and also adjacent to the sunny sides of the house. During the time when the outside temperature was too cold, they kept their flowers and plants in the house. The home of Barbara Lehmann was no exception.

Through untiring effort and prudence, the Lehmann family enjoyed wealth and happiness. They tilled the soil, grew wheat and corn and some pasture, raised a good many cattle and horses and some hogs. The young

men helped with the chores, outside work and farming and the mother and older daughters took care of the housework, sewing, garden and chickens plus the care of the younger children. In due time, they augmented their acreage and improved it, increasing it's value many times over the original cost. It has brought in some additional revenue through oil leases and from oil producing wells drilled in the year of 1937.

Though the family had to endure such hardships as crop failures, dust storms, tornados, drought, grass hoppers and other pestiferous insects, they were not subjected to the severe hardships encountered by the families who were the pioneer settlers in that area.

As their sons married, they settled, at least for a time, on a nearby quarter of land upon which a new cottage was built. This large family, together with their neighbors, enjoyed all of the usual activities that were in vogue at that time.

The generosity, tolerance and hospitality of the Ruth family manifested itself through the many tasks which Barbara Ruth Lehmann accomplished. In addition to rearing her own family of fifteen, she helped out with the rearing of Sara Lehmann, daughter of Tobias and Selma Baer Lehmann who died at the birth of Sara in the year of 1880. Two of their nieces, Gladys and Ardeth, found a home with David and Barbara Lehmann. Proof of her hospitality was taken from a record she kept over a period of one year to show the number of extra meals she served to people who dropped in, the total for the period being one thousand extra meals. No one ever visited Grandma Lehmann that she did not give some little gift such as some flowers, cookies, food or some other small trinket to the youngsters.

One year, the Presbyterian Church decided to give some gifts to the poor instead of to the children of their own Sunday School but still give the Christmas program. At the close of the program Barbara Lehmann was seen to enter the Church with two large baskets, one in each hand, saying that she had a surprise for

the children. The baskets were filled with all sorts of german cookies she had baked. Her comment was; "I could not bear to see the children go home without a little gift of some sort."

The Lehmanns, as far back as we could trace their ancestry, belonged to the Mennonite Faith and all of them were devout members thereof. Many years ago the Church did not allow marriages outside of the Church and considered dancing and the music to dance by, an instrument of the devil. Reverend Christian Krehbiel who served as minister for the Halstead group, was a firm believer in all of the doctrines of the Church, preached them with emphasis and force, particularly the denunciation of dancing. This was not taken very well or so freely by some of the younger generation. Most of the Ruths and Lehmanns were naturally gifted with a talent for music. Daniel C. Lehmann and Henry B. Ruth (Black Henry) played their violin and guitar at a lot of the local social events which brought on the displeasure of the minister and a number of the deacons. Their continued opposition along with other dissension, finally caused the Lehmanns and a few of The Ruths to withdraw from the Mennonite Church. The families of David Lehmann and Henry B. Ruth chose to join the First Presbyterian Church of Halstead which was founded in the year of 1885. The original Church was begun at Fourth and Main Streets in the year of 1886 and completed the following year. Henry B. Ruth served on their building committee and David Lehmann was a member of their session for twenty nine years. Members of the Lehmann family have been quite active in the Church ever since it was founded in 1885.

David Lehmann retired in the year of 1902, moving to Halstead with his wife Barbara and their children who were still at home. They moved into a large home on 413 W. Third Street which they bought from Thomas Burrows, father of Zelta who married Lucas Krehbiel. The house, built in the year of 1887, was one of the finest in it's day situated in an impressive setting

in a grove of pine, cedar, maple and pear tress. The property was one block long, facing Third Street and one half block deep. The house was much like the one on their farm except that it was much larger.

Katherine Strohm Ruth Lehmann, the widow of David Ruth and second wife of Michael Lehmann and also his widow, passed away at Halstead, Kansas on the twenty sixth of October in the year of 1892, having reached the age of seventy six years, ten months and twenty eight days. Her earthly remains are interred in the Halstead Cemetery at Halstead, Kansas. Her body lies at rest in the Ruth Lot, but there is no inscription on the gravestone to indicate that she was the widow of David Ruth before she married Michael Lehmann.

David Lehmann passed away on the sixteenth day of November in the year of 1920. He reached the age of eighty three years. His earthly remains lie at rest in the Halstead Cemetery at Halstead, Kansas.

For eleven years after that, the thin bent figure of Barbara Lehmann lived in their big house on Third Street with her son Menno. She remained quite active and her health was fair up to the last, when she too succumbed to pneumonia on the ninth day of December, in the year of 1931 at the age of ninety years, one month and four days. Her earthly remains lie at rest in the Halstead Cemetery at Halstead, Kansas.

Some of the descendants of David and Barbara Ruth Lehmann are still living in the Halstead area, while others have gone elsewhere to earn their livelihood. They have scattered throughout the various States of the Union. Their vocations are diversified and cover a wide field of classifications and types of work.

Honorable mention is hereby given to Fern Brooks Lehmann (Mrs. Glenn A. Lehmann) who supplied us with a history of the Lehmann family, this, together with the data we had, has made it possible to give you an interesting story of the Barbara Ruth-David Lehmann branch of the Ruth family as compiled by the writer.

January 2, 1963.

By Albert J. Ruth.

A HISTORY OF THE
VERONICA RUTH-JACOB DAHLEM
FAMILY
THE SEARCH FOR ANCESTORS

There are two Dahlem families in the Ruth Family Genealogy, namely the Katherine Ruth-Johannes Dahlem and the Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem families.

When we began to compile the genealogical data on the Katherine Ruth-Johannes Dahlem branch we had the disadvantage of not knowing any of their descendants or any knowledge of where any of them were living at the time we began to work on this branch.

On the Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem branch we had a distinct advantage over the former because we knew a number of the descendants of four of their children.

This union was blest with twelve children, ten of whom married and nine of these ten had seven or more offspring. The family lived in the same community in which we were raised and the descendants of the four children we knew, still live in the Summerfield area or within a radius of fifty miles from there.

A few of the descendants we knew could give us an appreciable amount of data on their own family and a small amount on some of the others. They were unable however, to give us any data on or information where the descendants of the six other children were.

As we located these descendants we found that the members of one branch could give us but very little, or no information on any of the other branches. This was true even in the relationship of first cousins.

Both of these families belonged to the Mennonite Faith and it is rather difficult to tell how many of their earlier ancestors belonged to the same faith. The Johannes Dahlem family left the Church when they moved to Grundy County, Illinois. Their reason might have been due to the fact that there were not enough people of the same faith living in the area to start a Congregation and rather than not go to any Church, they joined one of another denomination.

The Jacob Dahlem family belonged to the Mennonite Church of Summerfield, Illinois. Most of this family left their mother Church and joined the Evangelical Church. Because of the fact that the records of the Summerfield Mennonite Church were destroyed by fire, it is impossible for us to give the dates they left or the reason why. Today, we find there are but only a few descendants of this family who still belong to the Mennonite Faith.

At the time we began working on this project, our information on these two families was limited to the data shown on the original family tree. We searched for some descendants of these two families who could give us some genealogical data and some history.

After four years of work on this project we found David J. Dahlem, a descendant of the Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem branch, through our second cousin, Alta June Eicher and he told us that he had been working on the Dahlem family genealogy for several years.

The earliest ancestors he had on his records were his grandparents. We mailed him a copy of our record and he was quite surprised to see the Katherine Ruth Johannes Dahlem branch on it. He remembered that his grandfather said that there were two brothers beside himself that came over to America from Bavaria. They came over at different times and seemed to have lost contact with one another several years later.

David J. Dahlem did learn that the three brothers were; Jacob, Heinrich and Johannes. Jacob, his grand father, lived in Summerfield, Illinois. Heinrich and

his family lived in Evansville, Indiana and they did not have any definite information on Johannes. David corresponded with many Dahlem families in an effort to find the family ties but he never was successful. He found that the family traits, names and religion fit into the picture but there was so much time lost in the intervening years that many of the old-timers who remembered the family ties, have passed away and since there were no written records, the much needed information and data has been lost.

David worked with us on this project and we were making very good progress when he contracted an illness, went to a hospital for an operation, but never recovered and passed away on May the eleventh, 1958. We now made another attempt to locate someone in the family who would continue to work with us but failed to find anyone who was interested enough to do so.

We knew several of the descendants of the Gerhard Dahlem-Elizabeth Kroll family. (Gerhard was the first child of Veronica Ruth and Jacob Dahlem) who resided in the Summerfield area and made inquiry of them as to the whereabouts of some of the other relatives so we could locate the rest of this family. The Schmutz and part of the Berger branch of this family resided in Kansas in the vicinity of Newton where my cousin, Edith M. Ruth was living. She was working with me on this project so she obtained the data from the group in that area. The Baer, Beutler and the remainder of the Berger branch lived in and about the Summerfield area. My brother Walter and I obtained the necessary data from this group. This was the first one of the branches of the Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem family we were able to complete.

Through Alta June Eicher we obtained the location of descendants of the George Lohman, Jacob Braundel, David Dahlem and a part of the Jacob Dahlem branches of this family. From a descendant of the Marie Ruth-John Weber branch we located the Schoenebeck family. Miss Edna L. Ruth of Halstead, Kansas located Elwood

Dahlem in Wichita, through whom we located the Henry Dahlem branch and a few remaining descendants of the Jacob Dahlem branch.

One of the descendants of the Beutler branch told us that John Dahlem, brother of Gerhard, was married to Elizabeth Dettweiler in Summerfield, Illinois and they went to Mexico, Missouri to make their home.

A trip to Mexico, a search of old records, a few inquiries gave us several leads which we checked out and found them to be the descendants we were looking for. Through the help of William Ernest Flittner and Mrs. Lillie May Piltoski we were able to locate most of the other descendants of the Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem family that we could not locate through Alta June Eicher. We were able to obtain most of the data on the John Dahlem-Elizabeth Dettweiler family with the exception of a son and daughter. We did get the information of where they were last heard from so we made a thorough search but were unable to locate the slightest trace of them.

The Susanna Dahlem-Johannes Weber family data can be found on the Marie Ruth-John Weber family charts.

EARLY ANCESTORS

Through research we found that this branch of the Dahlem family descended from one Valentin Dahlem who moved into the Palatinate region from Switzerland to escape the harsh treatment these people were made to endure during the reformation period.

The family migrated to Hesse in 1702 and lived in that area until in the year of 1711. We now come to a gap in the record until in the year of 1800.

The father of Jacob and Johannes Dahlem was named Jacob and he happened to be one of the eight family fathers to whom King Maximillian of Bavaria donated 365 acres of timber-land at Neuberg by the Danube in the year of 1800. The group cleared this land, built their homes and called the settlement "Maxweiler" in

honor of their benefactor. From a narrative written by Jacob Rupp at Moundridge, Kansas some years ago, we find that the names of these eight family fathers were; Johann Schmidt, Johann Mueller, Jacob Schmidt, another Jacob Schmidt, Jacob Rupp, Christian Dester, Jacob Dahlem and a Mr. Pletscher.

Johannes Dahlem was born in the Palatinate, Jacob was born at Maxweiler. We did not find any record of where Heinrich was born, nor did we find any data on how many sisters and brothers there may have been in this family.

From all indications, the three Dahlem brothers, Jacob, Heinrich and Johannes, grew to manhood in the Maxweiler area. All three of them married and had a family before they came to America.

Johannes married and lived at Eichstock where all of his children were born. He moved to Thann shortly before coming to America with his wife and children.

Heinrich is supposed to have left Maxweiler for a chance to make a home in Austria. We do not know for sure when or where he was married. He must have been in touch with his brother Johannes and he must have returned to Bavaria and joined his brother Johannes before coming to America. A check of the emigration permits reveals that Johannes Dahlem, together with his brother Heinrich, his wife and four children and Katherine Dahlem, (wife of Johannes) with relatives, (her children) got their permits to emigrate to Iowa in the year of 1852. They travelled via Le Harve and landed in Baltimore. It is said that very strong and severe head winds delayed their arrival for several days. Evidently, the date of departure of these two families must have been delayed for some time for we find the following entry in the Ruth Family History;

"On May twenty ninth, 1853 Dahlems came here from Germany. He went to Summerfield, Illinois and on the way to St. Louis, on the steamboat from Keokuk, when they were a few miles from St. Louis, lost their son Daniel, who fell into the river and was drowned."

THE VERONICA RUTH-JACOB DAHLEM FAMILY

Through David J. Dahlem we learned that there was a Dahlem Family Bible and the last one of the family to have the Bible was Maria (Mary) who married Jacob Braundel. She donated the Bible to Eden Seminary in St. Louis shortly before her death.

Some of the family were under the impression that there might be a record of the family in this Bible. We visited Eden Seminary to see the Bible but no one could recall a thing about it. They took us into the vault in which they kept the old Bibles and told us; "Here are all of the old Bibles that were donated to us, you can look and see if you can find the one you are looking for." Family Bibles, in those early days were all large so we did not waste any time on small ones, but even then it took us almost an hour before we found it. The Bible did not have a family record, but we found a sheet of paper upon which there was a short memorandum written in the German language. The translation is as follows;

MAXWEILER, JANUARY 29, 1856.

Birth records of the children of the Jacob Dahlem Family, as recorded in the registry of the Mennonite Congregation at Maxweiler, Upper Bavaria.

Then follows a list of the name and birth date of each child, with the exception of Johannes.

(Signed) Reverend Schmidt.

The names and dates of birth of the children are shown on the family charts, so we did not repeat the data in the translation of the memorandum above. The fact that Johannes was not on the list, is difficult to explain, we can only assume that Reverend Schmidt overlooked his name when he copied the data from the Birth Register of the Congregation.

Not having a genealogy record of their own, Jacob Dahlem must have requested this information from the Reverend Schmidt for his own use to help him when he got the emigration permits for the family, for they left Bavaria for America a short time after that.

An entry taken from a Ruth Family History states that Jacob Dahlem came to Summerfield, Illinois from Upper Bavaria on the twenty fourth day of May in the year of 1856.

The family made their first home one and one half miles northwest of the first home of my great grandmother, Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer. In later years, they moved to a home in the northwest corner of the village of Summerfield. The family began to scatter to all parts of the country from this location.

Jacob Dahlem and his wife Veronica, Nee Ruth, are buried in the Summerfield Cemetery. The records show that three of their twelve children are also buried there. One of them was buried in the Pausche Family Cemetery. The youngest son, Christian, died on board the ship when they were coming to America.

Quite a number of the descendants of five of the children are still living within a fifty mile radius of the first home their ancestors lived in when they first came to America. Others are scattered throughout the various States of the Union.

Due to the fact that we found no family genealogy or recorded history of this family, we were not able to give any detailed information other than that you will find on the family charts of the genealogy.

Due to the fact that the several branches of this family had lost contact with one another even though some of them were living in the same area during the time we were compiling the data, we encountered some difficulties while trying to complete this project.

To cite one incident; While compiling the data on the Jacob Dahlem-Maria Schmitt Family, we contacted Harrison (Harry) Benjamin and gave him an outline of the family connections and told him that we were now

bringing the family genealogy up to the present date and requested him to send us the data on his family. He was under the impression that we were not related in any way so we did not get the data we wanted.

My cousin Frieda A. Ruth, told me that when Harry Dahlem was a youngster, he worked for her father and that when she was a little child, he presented her a large doll, almost as large as she was herself, then later on he gave her a small cup and saucer with the inscription "To Frieda from Harry Dahlem" written on the bottom side of the saucer.

While visiting my cousin I mentioned the incident and while we were discussing this matter, she showed me the doll along with the cup and saucer. My memory being refreshed in the matter, I wrote Harry another letter and related this story to him. The letter was instrumental in refreshing his memory and it was but a short time afterwards that we received the data we had been trying to get from him for a long time.

There were other descendants who were also under the impression that they were not in any way related to the Ruth Family. It took a lot of correspondence and explaining to correct this impression before the material we wanted was forthcoming.

The degree of cooperation the descendants gave us is reflected on the family genealogy charts that are used to record the family data of each descendant.

The record is not a complete one, but taking into consideration the time required to compile the data, plus the research work required to locate so many of the descendants, it is an exceptionally good one.

It remains an open challenge to anyone who may be interested enough to do some research work, over and beyond that which has now been placed on record.

Thus ends the history of one branch of the family with the hope in mind, that it may some day lead one of the younger generation to bring the history down to their time.

February 25, 1964.

By Albert J. Ruth.

