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19th Century German Immigration to America: Paul Müller's Search For a Better Way of Life

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Emigration - departing from one's native land in search for a better way of life. Could that be what most emigrants in the 19th century were looking for -- a better way of life? Perhaps emigration was an escape from political struggles, religious persecutions, and economic hardships; perhaps it allowed a growing family a sense of well being or stability and room for expansion; or maybe emigration merely satisfied an individual's curiosity or need for a change in life. Whatever the reason, the 19th century served as an important period for massive emigration with Germany being one of the leading contributors.

From the 17th century up until 1890, individuals of German ethnic origin outnumbered immigrants from any other country to America. These immigrants to the United States had contributed greatly to the economic growth of this country and to many of the traditions and customs still celebrated today. One emigrant of German ethnic origin, Paul Müller, chose to seek this land of new opportunity in 1862 with his large and growing family. As a descendent of Paul Muller, I have taken an interest in his life in the Old Country and in America, including the area he finally chose to call "home" -- Belleville, Illinois. He was born and raised in Alsace-Lorraine, France, and emigrated before

Germany took over (See Appendix A for map of Alsace-Lorraine). His language and customs were more German than French and so therefore I have researched the German as well as the French background in order to better understand the circumstances surrounding Paul Müller's life. What were the conditions of his life in Alsace-Lorraine: his childhood, his marriage, his family, and his career? Why would he consider immigrating to the United States especially in the time of the American Civil War, and what finally drove him to do so? What was it like for him and his family to pull up their roots and transplant themselves in a foreign land? Why did they choose to settle where they did and how had the family gotten to its present state? The answers to these questions and many others similar have been researched in an attempt to discover some of the unknown factors in Paul Müller's life beginning with his youth in Alsace-Lorraine, France.

Alsace is a beautiful tract of land descending from the Vosges Mountains, which are located to the west running in a northerly direction and boarded by the Rhine river on the east. The fertile plain of Alsace between the Vosges Mountains and the Rhine is well irrigated by several streams all draining into the Ill river. This river is responsible for the naming of this territory originally, Ill-sass, Ellsass, Elsass all meaning the seat of the Ill. Northwest of Alsace is a curved plateau descending gradually in the

west to a valley nearly co-extensive with Lorraine. In the Northeast and East, Alsace is bounded by the Bavarian Palatinate, Rhenish Prussia, and Luxemburg. The west side is bordered by France and the south by Switzerland. In May of 1871, the territory of Alsace-Lorraine was transferred from a French territory to a German territory at Frankfurt and became part of the German Empire as a "Reichsland" - formally designated "Elsass-Lothringen". (Phillipson, 37; Putnam, 3, 173, 174)

Alsace is a beautiful country with mountains and hills, valleys, rivers, plains, lakes and forests. A walk through any forest would reveal luscious greenery of fir, beech, and oak. The land of Alsace varies from mountain, plateau, and plain land thereby providing opportunity for pastoral grazing and agricultural occupations. The climate of Alsace-Lorraine is temperate and rather moist due to the many streams. The temperature varies according to the various altitudes and because of the snow that lies on the summits of the Vosges Mountains for about half the year. The provinces of Alsace possess rich soil - one of the most fertile in central Europe - with great mineral wealth. The plains of Lorraine are less fertile than the soil of Alsace but are also rich in minerals such as coal, iron, and salt mines. (Phillipson, 36, 37; Putnam, 174)

Many of the agricultural products such as potatoes, cereals, sugar beets, hops, tobacco, flax, and hemp are

valuable to Alsace, but the greatest profit comes from grapes and fruit for which the uplands of Alsace are particularly advantageous. Other products include wheat, barley, rye, oats, pulse, dairy produce especially cheese, and timber. More commerce exists in Alsace due to the fact that its cities lie on the great railways and water passages between North and South and are natural trade centers for an abundant territory. The principal industries include spinning and weaving with the greatest output in cotton cloth. Many other industries that exist are dyeing, the manufacturing of tanning and leather goods, along with the manufacturing of silk, lace, machinery, glass, china ware, and many other household objects. The amount of textile goods such as cotton, linen, and woollen produced in Alsace-Lorraine alone equals a quarter of the total produced in all of France. (Phillipson, 42, 44)

In order to feed the cotton manufacturing industry back in the hills of Alsace with raw cotton from the Southern states of America two routes could be taken. One route was to utilize the Rhine. This route was the more natural route except for the fact that tariffs heightened the cost and so therefore a second route was most often used. This route was to import bales through LeHavre and then transport them overland. The second route also proved to be advantageous to the citizens of Alsace-Lorraine when it came time to

emigrate due to its location and the cheaper cost of traveling on a cargo carrying ship.

Many of the citizens of Alsace were Catholic with the remainder being primarily Jews and some Protestants. The native speech for the majority was German. The German language and culture was adopted mainly when Germanic tribes occupied Alsace in the 5th century and also due to the close proximity of the two regions. The Alsace region of Alsace-Lorraine was strongly French in sentiment and national pride following the French Revolution. Throughout the 19th century Alsatians spoke both French, mainly concentrated in the upper class, and German which was preferred by the majority. The Lorraine region held some German traditions but fewer German speakers than Alsace. There appeared to be more of a friction between Germans and Alsatians than between Germans and Lorrainers probably due to the fact that Germans and Lorrainers engaged in mines, iron-works, and factories. (Phillipson, 38; Thernstrom, 29)

It was in this German-influenced portion of Alsace-Lorraine where my great-great grandfather Paul Müller was raised. He was born on February 5, 1813, in Wiesviller Village, Bitche, Lorraine, France, along the German border, to André Müller and Elisabeth (Arnoldy) Müller and was baptized on the same day in the Catholic church in Wiesviller by Father Greff. He was the sixth of eleven children growing up in a quaint and picturesque village (See

Appendix B for Paul Müller's brothers and sisters).

Wiesviller was primarily an agricultural community located within rolling hills and mountainous slopes. André Müller was a farmer (cultivateur, laboureur), as noted in the birth records of his children, following in the footsteps of his father, Jean M. Müller. His mother was Anne Marie Hellinger of Guising, canton of Rohrbach. In later years André Müller became an innkeeper probably leaving the farm to his eldest sons. Traditional to both French law and German culture was that farmers were known to divide the family farm so that each son would get a fair share. Often one or two of the older brothers would buy out the others and then have the younger ones farm for them. Being the second to the last son, Paul Müller may have possibly visualized a vast amount of land available in America which would not be at home. He did not, however, rush to America.

At the age of 21, Paul Müller married Reine Miszler daughter of Pierre and Reine (Liedmann) Miszler on January 10, 1835. Seven children blessed this marriage: Catherine, born November 17, 1835; Paul, born February 19, 1837; Marie, born March 15, 1838; Reine, born December 22, 1841; Josephine, born October 11, 1843; Adam, born July 9, 1846; and Engelbert, born February 28, 1848. Paul Müller probably farmed, but may not have had enough land to support his growing family, or may have had to lease land from others. During this time, he may have been facing some harsh weather

which may have effected the land causing crop failures, or possibly he was realizing that the life he was living was not going to be able to support his family the way he would have liked to. Conditions such as these were experienced by many and became a major reason for emigration. For Paul Müller, however, emigration would have been out of the question at this time due to the death of his wife Mrs. Reine Müller on June 22, 1848. Six months after his wife's death, Paul Müller met and married Elisabeth Gangloff, daughter of Nicholas and Catherine Schouber Gangloff (See Appendix C for marriage certificate).

Elisabeth Gangloff was born on September 19, 1825 in Woelfing, Wiesviller Village, Lorraine, France, the fifth of eleven children (See Appendix B for list of sisters and brothers). Her father Nicholas was a farmer and the son of Charles G. Gangloff who was also a farmer and Elisabeth Kouhn. Elisabeth's mother, Catherine Schouber, was the daughter of André S. Schouber, who was an innkeeper and merchant, and Catherine Auer. At the age of 23 she became the bride of Paul Müller, who was then 35 and already had seven children, the youngest only months old.

While still in Wiesviller, Paul and Elisabeth had four additional children: Nicolas, born December 11, 1849; Marie Catherine, born December 10, 1850; Madeleine, born March 12, 1860; and John (Jean), born January 26, 1861. By this time, Paul Müller was probably beginning to dream of a better life

with better employment opportunities for his children and grandchildren. Since both he and his wife came from large families, it is possible that some relatives or friends may have emigrated to the United States and sent word of their life in America. Whatever the reason, in 1862 Paul Müller decided to relocate his wife, who was then pregnant, and his rapidly growing family to America. Economic reasons, such as repeated crop failures, probably also helped influence his decision to emigrate.

The nineteenth century was the century for immigrants searching for economic improvement. During the nineteenth century there were several distinct major periods of immigration. Between 1847 and 1855, German immigrants came in large numbers escaping crop failure -- especially of the potato -- and famine. Many of these same problems effected areas bordering Germany such as Alsace-Lorraine. Export of food in Germany was forbidden during 1850-1853, and potatoes were not even allowed to be converted into alcohol. A second wave of immigration was in part due to the German Wars of 1864, 1866, and 1870 which severely injured the economy of Germany and trade with nearby regions. Also influencing immigration at this time was the desire of younger sons for land which might not be satisfied at home, especially if they had several other brothers with which to share the inheritance. Many Alsace-Lorrainers blended into the larger German group and lost their distinctive

characteristics. (Davie, 66; Rippley, 74; Thernstrom, 29, 410)

During the 1850's - 1860's in particular there were ever present reminders of emigration. Many of these reminders were from shipping agencies in the form of handbills distributed at crowd assemblies and sailing notices on bill boards. Other reminders were from personal letters from family and friends that kept the interest alive. At this time some individuals were experiencing a period of higher wages which helped make fulfillment of the dream to emigrate possible. Many individuals in this situation were inclined to believe that if conditions at home were good, elsewhere they were better. While some German-speaking regions were witnessing good times, elsewhere conditions were less favorable, especially for the farming population. (Hansen, 283, 286)

Small farmers and laborers during the mid-19th century were facing economic maladjustments where their credit was under strain and the financial ruin was enough to hurry them out of their homeland. Many of these farmers left in hopes of economic enrichment and also to avoid the pervasive wars in Germany during the early 19th century and France during the mid-19th century which progressively injured the economic and social structure. Several peasant families during these hard times were left landless and economically ruined. Warfare, or fear of it, disrupted business and gave

tradesmen and craftsmen the incentive to leave. (Coggeshall, 90, 154)

Significant push factors causing emigration from Germany and neighboring areas in the nineteenth century derived from the fact that the Industrial Revolution was slow in its progress. Several individuals left these regions due to political instability, economic hardships, and many because of intellectual curiosity. A majority of the emigrants were either political refugees or poorer families who left to get away from poverty, poor harvests and disruption of trade. In the middle of the nineteenth century religious persecutions were occurring in an attempt to suppress the religious differences in Germany. Many catholic and lutheran families found this to be the opportune time to emigrate. Repeated crop failures also took their toll on the agricultural economy along with overpopulation in regions near Germany including Alsace-Lorraine, France. Conditions such as these "heightened" the attraction of America and made emigrating the most logical response for farmers, craftsmen, and small shopkeepers. (Coggeshall, 89, 155; Thernstrom, 410)

Along with the push factors toward immigration, several pull factors also existed. These included the fact that several companies were offering free voyages to America, and Americans were granting access to their ports to ships of all nations since they could use newcomers and workers to

build up their country. Many vessels from America bound for European ports carried heavy freights but on the return trip home held cargo of finer quality and smaller bulk leaving room for many emigrants to fill. European peasants were given the opportunity to emigrate due to the fact that increased shipment of goods such as tobacco, grain, and cotton helped reduce the price of passage to a more affordable level. Another major pull factor according to LaVern Rippley was the Homestead Act of 1862, where a settler could obtain up to 160 acres without charge provided that he bound himself to dwell on the land for a period of at least 5 years and to improve it. Other pull factors were the improved conditions of ocean travel and the many advertisements from railroad and shipping companies which overexaggerated the "good life" in America. Private agencies also were recruiting emigrants to fill empty steamships for the voyage back. The primary influence during the later part of the nineteenth century which instigated immigration, bringing Germans and their bordering neighbors, came from letters of family members, friends, and already established German ethnic societies who were doing well in America. (Hansen, 179; Moltmann, 10; Rippley, 80)

During the mid- to late nineteenth century, observations concerning emigration showed that it was changing in characteristics, no longer consisting mainly of young individuals such as farm laborers, artisans, and

apprentices or young couples. Many of these emigrants were family groups which contained several strong and healthy sons. Mostly, this was probably due to the desire of parents to place their children and capital in a land where both were needed and where a yield from each was assured. Emigration to the United States during this period, for a significant number of people, was determined mainly by the organized groups with which they were traveling. Between 1815 and 1860 Germany contributed greatly to the immigrant number in the United States, with an additional 200,000 listed as Frenchmen, most of whom were German-speaking individuals from Alsace and Lorraine. (Hansen, 163; Jones, 94, 125)

A late nineteenth century emigrant wanting to go to America had to have his passage money ready prior to departure, since there was no longer any contracts being drawn up for one to work for his passage. Because of this, there began to be a change from the poorer individuals to individuals for the most part, not entirely without means and not belonging to the absolutely poor class of society. Often these people were afraid of becoming poor due to unfavorable economic, market, and trade conditions. (Moltmann, 13)

According to Maldwyn Jones, immigration was a traumatic experience for all immigrants usually resulting in a sense of alienation and isolation. He stated, "It was nearly

always the fate of the first generation immigrant to remain a 'marginal man' suspended between two cultures but belonging wholly to neither." (Jones, 127)

This may have been what it was like for Paul Müller and his family, in a sense, since they chose to emigrate when Alsace-Lorraine was under control of France, but shortly after their arrival to the United States, it came under the control of Germany. Their suspension between cultures would be three-way however, trying to balance between France, Germany, and the United States. Facing this type of turmoil along with having to pick up all of one's belongings and migrate onward to an unknown future probably brought about feelings of insecurity and even trauma. Paul Müller himself faced uneasy thoughts and feelings about whether he was doing the right thing for his family. Surely it had to be better in America where they believed they would not be experiencing crop failures or lack of room to expand and grow as a family.

Conditions in Alsace-Lorraine must have been unbearable in order to cause a man to relocate his family to another country that was engaged in war. What influenced their decision to go to New Orleans, a Confederate port, and run the risk of the Union blockade? One possible solution is that they had heard of a colony in Texas already established by many Alsatians and Lorrainers. This colony formed in 1844 by Henri Castro brought several thousand emigrants,

mainly catholic, from France to settle in Medina County. Throughout the 1840's, Castro sent out recruiting forces to Alsace and nearby territories, thereby constantly keeping the public aware of the growing community in America. Knowing that a colony of individuals with the same nationality and customs existed, may have helped ease some fears of emigrating, and instigate a migration to the United States at a time when such a move would not normally be considered. (Thernstrom, 29)

Mrs. Müller had the responsibility of preparing the children and organizing the personal items that would be traveling with them. She also faced leaving many treasured items and comforts that she had already established in her home which made life somewhat easier. This must have been a hard chore for her since she was also contending with pregnancy. For all of them, just the thought of leaving "home" probably brought about feelings of sadness and maybe even a loss of one's sense of belonging or identity, but they knew the hardships they were facing and they all yearned for a better way of life with more opportunities than what they had in their home country.

Like most emigrants from their region, they would have started their travel from the German-French border with other families in long caravans of covered wagons. These wagons would probably have been arched with sailcloth and inside would be the women, children, and baggage while the

men and older boys would lead the horses by walking outside the wagons. At night they would have probably camped and sparingly consumed the supply of food they brought to support them across the Atlantic. Most would travel by road directly to LeHavre and others may stop in communities along the way where they would rest up in preparation for the long traumatic experience that lay ahead. Once at LeHavre, the reality of what was happening became more certain. Some families may have sold their wagons along the way to obtain extra money for travel expenses and possibly a little start in their new life. (Hansen, 187)

Several shipping lines in existence during the nineteenth century helped maintain a somewhat steady flow of immigrants to America. Early emigrants utilized the Dutch ports by way of the Rhine river which was an easily accessible, efficient, and more affordable passageway for emigrants to get to the ports on the North Sea. European emigrants up until 1819 were often transported as "redemptioners", meaning that able-bodied men were sold to bidders in America provided that the purchaser reimbursed the shipping company. The purchaser would himself be paid off through emigrant labor. After 1819, with the end of redemptioning, Dutch shipping companies lost most of their business because they lacked regular commercial products to trade with America. LeHavre in France began to take over some of the Dutch shipping business by setting up a route

from Alsace to New Orleans using cotton ships with cotton for the Alsatian Mills. An important port for emigrants from Germany was Bremen, which became the main port for American tobacco. Here, emigrants were taken to Baltimore in tobacco ships. Once in America these immigrants would travel inland to the Mississippi, Ohio, and the Missouri valleys. (Moltmann, 71; Rippley, 31; Thernstrom, 411)

Throughout the nineteenth century, sailing vessels became faster and better equipped for emigrant transport on the westerly route to America. A later transition from sail to steam, becoming dominant after the end of the American Civil War in 1865, would mean larger ships that were primarily passenger vessels, but for the early 1860's the primary transportation was by sail. On a sailing vessel, the trip across the Atlantic could take somewhere around one to three months depending upon the weather. Many of the conditions faced on a sailing vessel included hunger, disease, lack of privacy, and sometimes death. Both British and American laws in 1848-1849 and again in 1855 tried to reduce some of the discomforts, inadequate spacing, and unsanitary conditions, but hardships still remained. Many of the ships were basically designed for cargo carriage and were quite hazardous. The steerage accommodations were very small, quite dark, and poorly ventilated with restricted access to the deck and overcrowding was a definite problem. (Hansen, 300; Jones, 184; Taylor, 116)

With the increased interest in emigrant travel came stiffer competition between the shipping industries. The competition became a battle between agencies in that they tried every incentive to lure emigrants to their ships. Many adopted a system of couriers to guide the emigrants through the most difficult stage of the journey -- from their villages to the ports. The construction of railways also helped facilitate the journey within France and Germany to the ports. Utilizing these railways in the early 1850's, agencies at LeHavre and other ports would grant reduced fares of 1/3 - 1/2 of customary charge to emigrants for the state railways and some agencies even ran special trains during the spring season in order to lure emigrants to their port. (Hansen, 290, 291)

Once the emigrant reached his port of destination, whether by rail or caravan, his journey across the Atlantic was only a short time away. Many emigrants such as Paul Müller and his family huddled together not knowing what to expect or what to do next. After boarding what was probably a French cotton ship at the port of LeHayre, they found a place for themselves in the dimly lit steerage area and settled in as best they could in what was going to be their home for the next month or longer.

As they made their way to America they did their part by helping out when needed. Several of the women would help in the cleaning, cooking, and serving of the meals while the

men including older boys of the family would help out on deck, especially during a storm. One such terrible storm at sea which called for every able-bodied man to be on deck took the life of Paul Müller's fourth son Nicolas, the first-born of Elisabeth, who was about 13 at the time. When Nicolas went to help, he was washed overboard by the huge waves. Losing a teenage boy must have been a hardship to the parents, especially since he was undoubtedly expected to help the family in the planting and harvesting of crops in the new country. To Paul Müller, who needed all the assistance he could get in starting over in America, a big asset was lost. Elisabeth Müller who was pregnant and already upset by the turbulent ocean, probably suffered great grief over this loss. As the excursion continued on, no more hardships came upon the Müllers as they made their way to America except upon arrival.

As the ship neared the port of New Orleans, they had to run the blockade and face the turmoil that New Orleans was in at that time. On May 1, 1862, Union forces of the American Civil War had claimed New Orleans and were in the process of driving the Confederate army completely out of the Mississippi Valley region. The Mississippi Valley was completely held by Union forces in July of 1863 after defeating the Confederate army in Vicksburg and at Fort Hudson. Before July of 1863 it was highly unlikely that any travel up the Mississippi River was allowed and so many of

the immigrants' plans were already having to be adjusted or completely altered.

New Orleans was the important cotton port and LeHavre's principle article of transatlantic commerce was cotton so therefore thousand of German and French emigrants landed at New Orleans annually. The majority of French immigrants in the decade before the Civil War at Louisiana were Alsatians who probably traveled on cotton ships from LeHarve. New Orleans became the second-largest port of immigration in the United States before the Civil War. Due to the fact that many German-speaking immigrants landed in New Orleans, a German Society was formed in 1847 which supplied information from their bureau in New Orleans, met incoming ships, and helped immigrants for being victims of fraud. The German Society would help secure food and shelter to the German-speaking immigrants and on occasion they would supply small sums of money for steamboat passage on the Mississippi. Mainly, the German Society was just eager to get the immigrants out of the unhealthy quarters of the city and speed their departure north or elsewhere. Neither the climate nor the economic life of the lower South appealed to the peasants whose home land was Germany or neighboring borders, and so most of them went either further inland or North. (Hansen, 301; Taylor, 125; Thernstrom, 30)

Since the Civil War was being fought in America in 1862, many German-speaking individuals who were against

slavery travelled North to look for a place to live. German emigrants viewed the North as a haven for the down-trodden immigrant. According to LaVern Rippley, they felt it represented democracy and offered equal opportunity for the little person thereby not classifying man in a certain station or class. Germans and German-speaking individuals favored these beliefs of liberty and equality. Before the American Civil War, thoughts of traveling north were also highlighted by the fact that passage up the Mississippi was relatively cheap and there were excellent steamboat services. It became a great travelway and easy means of reaching St. Louis, Cincinnati, or getting to the Ohio river bound for Pennsylvania, all of which were "strongholds of German culture". (Jones, 119; Rippley, 58)

During the American Civil War years many immigrants had to change their plans and either reside in New Orleans or find some other means to get North. By the time the Müllers arrived in New Orleans, the Union forces had a hold of the city and choices for travel were limited. Proof has been shown that another Müller child was born in Pennsylvania in 1863, so some way or another they must have made their way up North. A highly unlikely means for the Müllers to get North would have been to travel up the Mississippi, run Confederate and Union battles, and continue on into Union territory. This expedition, though travelled by many before the American Civil War, would have been impossible due to

the fact that no travel was being conducted up the Mississippi. A more reasonable means for the Müllers to get North would be that they might have been shipped up sea to New York, Boston, Baltimore or Philadelphia and there they would have travelled inland before settling. A second situation that may have occurred is that Mrs. Müller may have had a miscarriage and they remained in New Orleans until the Mississippi Valley was free to be travelled upon, thereby allowing enough time for her to get pregnant again and have a child by the time they arrived in Pennsylvania.

Although there is no documentation yet discovered, I tend to believe that the family was shipped by sea up North. Before embarking for their trip, Paul Müller, now Mueller, and his family faced yet another situation which would change their lives together. One of Paul's older daughters, Reine Mueller, now of age to start her own family chose to part from the others and remained to settle in New Orleans. This fact seems to indicate that either the family spent some time in New Orleans before traveling up North or else Reine Mueller met her significant other on the ship ride to America. Also, Paul's oldest son Paul enlisted in a Michigan regiment to fight for the Union forces in the Civil War in May of 1862. Now, three members short of their original group, the Muellers began their passage to a new life.

Original plans for this family may have been to travel to Castro's Colony in Texas, but since the Union army had a hold on New Orleans they would not be able to travel to Confederate lands. Other Alsatian settlements which they may have considered were areas along the Mississippi River a few miles upstream from New Orleans, areas near Belleville, Illinois, possibly St. Louis, Missouri, and maybe even further inland in Illinois. These areas also would have been limited in travel due to the battles on the Mississippi. Most of the Alsations settled in eastern Pennsylvania where, because they lacked sufficient numbers to organize their own social, cultural, and economic institutions, they usually joined existing German or French organizations. This was the fate of the Muellers as they tried to build a new life in Pennsylvania.

Settling down to start all over would have been quite a hardship. For Elisabeth Mueller, who was nearing her due date, the household chores and duties required to organize a home would not have come easily. Paul Mueller, now left with three boys of whom only two were old enough to work, was now confronted with searching out land or a job. In 1863, within the first year of their life in Pennsylvania, Elisabeth gave birth to another son, whom they named Nicolas. Between 1863 and the middle of 1865, the family did not prosper as they had hoped. Maybe they never found a community that offered security or a feeling of home.

Perhaps the work opportunities were not plentiful or maybe progress was slow and leaning toward failure. Whatever the reason, Paul Mueller again packed up his family and made his way down South possibly to an establishment of families similar to the Muellers or to an area more similar to their homeland. This area of familiar customs and life styles is Belleville, Illinois, where several other emigrants from Alsace-Lorraine were settling and farming the land.

German-speaking farmers were among the first pioneers who settled and farmed large areas of the United States both during and before the nineteenth century. Many of these early settlers lived in German neighborhoods and continued to speak, preach, and teach in German. Later in the nineteenth century, many of the German-speaking immigrants who came to America were well trained and experienced farmers, or skilled craftsmen. Many of these immigrants were hard working, peace-loving individuals with a large majority utilizing skills learned in the Old Country for occupations such as baker, carpenter, and brewer. Several immigrants, propelled by social forces in both Europe and the United States, were attracted to the American industrial boom. It was also comforting for immigrants to know that communities already existed in the United States with individuals of similar backgrounds and customs. A deep attachment to the land was shown by many of the immigrants and they tended to live in groups sharing a similar

religion, language, and economic bond. This stability allowed the children to have not only the family, but also a whole community to rely on when it came time to go out on their own. (Billigmeier, 31, 45; Coggeshall, 151; Moltmann, 153; Thernstrom, 413)

These ethnic communities offered self-protection and self-help in the form of clubs and societies. The many societies guaranteed their members economic security and helped them fit into the social environment. As the push for urbanization increased, however, this community strength somewhat diminished. With the onset of the Civil War, the ideals of immigrants changed, centering more on their future than on their homeland. Parents thought more about the land of their children than the land of their fathers. By the end of the war, foreign language and customs though they did not disappear, changed in a way that Americans became one whether they were native or foreign born. (Hansen, 306; Moltmann, 155)

Even with the strive toward Americanization and unity of the country as a whole, many German customs and lifestyles valued by Germans and German-speaking families survived. Foods of German custom that prevailed include such items as pork in the form of pork sausage, liver sausage, blood sausage, and "head cheese" and they would save the lard from the pork to seal storage crocks. Chicken was always baked and rabbits were skinned and soaked in

vinegar and other spices making Hasenpfeffer. Potato pancakes called Kartoffel Kloss was a favorite, along with homemade sauerkraut, German potato salad, and "stink beans", which were green beans preserved like sauerkraut. Bread was served at every meal. Homemade coffee cake (cinnamon or brown sugar) and cookies such as springerlies or lebkuchen were always a delightful dessert. Along with contributing many food items to the American way of life, Robert Billigmeier brings up the fact that,

the Germans introduced certain traditions that were destined to spread rapidly among the Anglo-Americans and transform the celebration of the two most important events in the Christian calendar. A profound change in the celebration of Christmas was wrought with the introduction of the Advent wreath and the Christmas tree with its colorful decoration as well as the tradition of Christmas singing, cooking, and baking. Also, the Germans brought the Easter festivities associated with the Easter rabbit and Easter eggs (Billigmeier, 36).

The German lifestyles included a love for nature, comfortable picnics, and Sunday strolls -- an overall delight in relaxation. They were also known, however, for their consumption of beer, wine or schnapps at high spirited family visits consisting of dancing, singing, and public feasts. The tavern became the center for social meetings in the German community. (Coggeshall, 194; Thernstrom, 414)

One German community attracting considerable numbers of Germans after 1829 was Belleville, Illinois, located in St. Clair County. Early St. Clair records are in French, since

the first settlers were French. It became the first county organized in the present state of Illinois. German-speaking immigrants arrived early in its settlement and comprized a large majority of the population. Many of the Germans in Belleville were first attracted to St. Louis and settled close to the river. Belleville ("beautiful city" in French) started out as a one-acre plot in the middle of a cornfield in 1814. The first school in Belleville was the private Sinclair School which opened in 1815, four years before Belleville was incorporated as a village. Schooling was very important to the Germans and by 1844, Belleville had four schools, one of which taught German. In 1836 the first library was organized and by 1840, stagecoaches were picking up and delivering mail and passengers along the "Great West Mail Route." In the early years individuals of English, French, German, and some Gaelic descent comprized Belleville's community. Farming and trade were the first immigrant occupations in Belleville, followed by coal-mining after the discovery of coal resources in St. Clair County. (Bateman, 498; Hawgood, 125; Belleville News Democrat, 9/14/89; Coggeshall, 97; Hawgood, 128)

The following information researched by Dr. Kay Carr of the History department at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale indicates that: In 1850, forty-nine individuals from Alsace resided in Belleville, with twenty-three of them being adult males twenty-one years of age or older. Two of

these men were listed as professional men, two were skilled craftsmen, three were unskilled laborers, three were transportation workers, and one was a government official. By the standards of employment, it can be hypothesized that these individuals of Alsatian descent possibly had money. By 1860, 217 individuals from Alsace resided in Belleville, with ninety-two of them being adult males twenty-one years of age or older. The occupations of these individuals included: four commercial workers, twelve proprietors, six worked at top level manufacturing positions, twenty-one craftsmen, two involved in new or technical fields such as photography, nine transportation workers, one unskilled worker, 28 day laborers, eight miscellaneous, and one unknown. No professionals are noted at this time. These occupational descriptions signify that on the average this growing group occupied a more modest occupational status than in 1850.

Business in Belleville soared in 1846 when Main Street was macadamized becoming the first "paved" road in the state allowing easier travel and trade down to the Mississippi River. In 1850, Belleville, having a population of 6,000, received a city charter from the state. During this same year beer-brewing industries in Belleville experienced a sudden rapid growth with about eight brewers known in the city. By this time a majority of the distillers, brewers, and other skilled craftsmen such as tailors, carpenters and

bakers in Belleville were German-speaking. Literary societies were established, along with musical societies, gymnastic societies, and sports clubs, all exemplifying the German ideals of physical fitness and mental development. This rapidly growing city received its first taste of culture in 1864 with the first concert of the Belleville Philharmonic. (Belleville News Democrat 9/14/89; Coggeshall, 98, 102)

The year 1865 was the start of great expansion for Belleville, with the next 50 years witnessing the introduction of electricity and street lights, a hospital, breweries and foundaries. Changes in transportation also occurred with improved streets, railroads, and the first automobiles. The first free public school was opened in April of 1865 and the next year, Belleville opened the first high school in St. Clair County. Work opportunities became more plentiful with the introduction of stove and iron foundaries, the first of which was built in 1873 and another in 1885. By this time Belleville had attracted more citizens due to coal-mining industries, the Belleville Oil Works which turned castor beans into oil, and shoe manufacturers. It was in this developing city of Belleville that Paul Mueller decided to settle. (Belleville News Democrat, 9/14/89)

Paul Mueller and his family made the move from Pennsylvania to Belleville, Illinois, sometime between the

years of 1863 and 1865. No specific date or month can be determined at this time, but it is known that one child was born in 1863 in Pennsylvania and another was born in Belleville, Illinois on July 31, 1865. At this particular time, there was a shortage of labor due to the American Civil War, but shortly after the end of the war in 1865 there were more jobs available. The Mueller family more than likely sought work in farm labor since that seemed to be their tradè. Shortly after moving to Belleville, Elisabeth gave birth to another daughter named Mary, born July, 31, 1865. Following Mary came Charles, born January 15, 1868, and Katherine (Kate), born January 10, 1875. According to the 1870 census, Paul Mueller was listed as a laborer. By the 1880 census, he was still listed as a laborer, his son John who would then have been nineteen, was a worker in a flour mill, and Nicolas who was then sixteen, was listed as a carriage painter.

The work opportunities in Belleville attracted many immigrants and for different aspects. According to Daniel Elzar, the growth of Belleville occurred at basically two different periods with one relying heavily on the diversity of work available.

Belleville's initial boom lasted until 1860, affected less by the technological developments of the land frontier than by the overseas immigration of Germans which was also part of the first frontier manifestation. The development of mining and craft industries tied to the urban frontier, after 1880, led

to a small boom during that decade and steady growth thereafter in a civil community never noted as a center of frontier activity (Elzar, 78).

Belleville by the 1870's had many paved roads thereby eliminating dust and mud of earlier days, and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad connected Belleville and O'Fallon with an eight-mile stretch of track. After the establishment of the railroad network, coal mining became a major industry to Belleville and in southern Illinois. In 1875 three Franciscan sisters from Germany started Belleville's first hospital. (Belleville News Democrat, 9/14/89)

By 1874, there were 12,000 residents of Belleville. It had become quite an industrial society with a major portion of its population consisting of German immigrants who helped establish newspaper presses, schools, and churches. By 1879 the city was supplied by power from a steam-generating plant operating through pipes below the ground. The advent of steam and electricity greatly improved life in Belleville for future generations. (Belleville News Democrat, 9/14/89)

The Belleville Diocese was formed in January of 1887 and most of the parishioners were mainly foreign-born and not very wealthy. Times had been hard during the past few years, due to crop failure and scarce jobs, but the people of Belleville were full of hope for the future. In 1889, the Edwards Law enacted in Illinois requiring children between seven and fourteen to attend public schools or pay a

fine of \$20 per child. Things were looking better for future generations. (Belleville News Democrat, 9/14/89)

There was a strong family bond within the Mueller family as with most other families who value German traditions, and most of the children remained in Belleville or near by communities. Marriage within the community was important, and St. Peter's Cathedral of Belleville appeared to be the unifying church -- the only German Catholic church in Belleville at that time where one could go to confession in German.

By 1900, several of Paul Mueller's children had married and remained in Belleville. Most of the children became laborers and their wives homemakers. John Mueller, 39 at the time, had been married for six years and owned a home at 723 North Jefferson Street. He lived there with his wife, Elizabeth, and three children: John, born February, 1895; Elizabeth, born August, 1896; and Paul, born July, 1898.

Katherine Mueller, 25, had been married for three years to Gustave A. F. Schrader. They rented their house at 205 East E. Street and had one son Herold B. W., born in December of 1898. Gustave was a clothing salesman at that time.

The son, Paul, travelled with the circus after he served in the army. When his career with the circus was over, he finally secured a room at the Old Soldiers Home in

Dayton, Ohio. For a while he corresponded with the family, but as time went on contact was eventually lost.

Charles Mueller, 32 years old, had been married for eleven years and was working as a molder in an iron mill. He owned a home at 713 North Jefferson Street which was sold to him by his brother John with the agreement that Charles would provide a home for their aging mother. Upon Paul's death on July 20, 1893, Elisabeth moved in with Charles and his family until her death on April 11, 1901. Before Elisabeth died she prayed to hear from her long lost son Paul just one more time. Miraculously, Paul must have either heard her plea or had some thoughts of locating his family for he left Ohio and arrived in time to see his mother and fulfill her dying wish. Charles Mueller whom Elisabeth was staying with at the time is my great-grandfather.

As a child, Charles sometimes accompanied his father to Red Bud, Illinois, on a horse-drawn brewery wagon, indicating that Paul Mueller must have eventually gotten into the brewery business. This became a means by which Charles Mueller met Hermina Villiger, who worked at her father's saloon in Red Bud.

Hermina Villiger was the daughter of Nicholas and Anna Villiger. Nicholas was born in May of 1837 and raised in Switzerland somewhere near Canton Aargau, Switzerland - possibly Luzerne. In Switzerland, he married Anna who was

born in February of 1847, and the two of them came to the United States in 1867. When they reached the United States, they settled in Illinois, where they raised six children. Between the years of 1880 and 1890 they settled in Red Bud, Illinois, where Nicholas became a driver of a brewery wagon and an owner of a saloon. By the time she was thirteen years old, her mother was already deceased leaving her in charge of the family and helping her father. Hermina would fry hundreds of hamburgers during the week and fish on Fridays for her father, having to stand on a wooden box to be comfortable.

In their courting years, Charles would hire a horse and buggy to get to Red Bud from Belleville. It would take him four to four and a half hours one way. Once married on February 14, 1889, the couple resided in Belleville on two rectangular lots sold to them for \$200.00 by John Mueller. Charles took up the occupation of molder for twenty-eight years at the Oakland Foundry Company after which he took up the occupation of "shaker-out". Twelve children were born to Charles and Hermina, three of whom died in infancy. They were: Nicholas C., born June 20, 1889; Josephine L., born November 8, 1890, died April 17, 1892; Elizabeth M., born April 8, 1892; Edwin J., born October 8, 1893; Charles A., born July 30, 1896; John G., born December 24, 1897, died January 11, 1898; Matilda H., born November 10, 1898; Hermina J., born August 1, 1900; Catherine M., born February

2, 1906, died February 12, 1906; Bertha E., born July 26, 1907; Edna C., born August 30, 1910; and Frieda M., born July 1, 1913. Most of the surviving children remained at home for a long time. The two lots that Charles Mueller owned were divided such that the one lot contained the Mueller family home, consisting of four small rooms to which was added a small kitchen. It was in this home that the entire family of twelve were born. The remaining lot was divided between Charles and John. Charles and Hermina found it hard but not impossible to take care of the mortgage, their growing family, and their ailing senile mother.

In the early years of this century, houses in Belleville had a separate building, somewhat smaller than the residential one, called a summer kitchen or wash-house where the family's laundry was done. The wash water was heated in a cooper kettle even in the winter, and the washing was done on a wash board. In the hot weather, the meals were prepared in this building, as well as the canning of fruits and vegetables. All families had gardens and grew fresh vegetables in the spring and summer thereby keeping food on the table. The overabundance of fruit and vegetables was canned or preserved for the winter months. Often, there was also a smaller room which was a storage space for coal used in the stoves. There were usually two stoves in the home: one in the kitchen where the meals were made, and the other in the livingroom or parlor. On the

property, there was also a small shed for an outhouse, as well as two pumps -- one to catch and pump out rain water used for washing and cleaning purposes, and the other connected to a deep well and used for drinking and cooking purposes. John Mueller's property had a portion of the wash-house especially built for a large kettle, with space underneath for the hot coals. There were wash lines strung and the wash dried here in bad weather. Three or four irons could be heated near the open kettle. The fire helped to make the building comfortable to work in.

The family was very close and everyone gathered together at Christmas and New Years, participating in all of the old family traditions. Before electricity, the Christmas tree was decorated with wax candles. On the feast of Saint Nick, Saint Nicholas brought the children candy or coal depending on whether they had been good or bad. Any other gifts would be to the entire family, for everyone to enjoy. One Christmas in particular, the family received a victrola.

Most of the children attended grade school at St. Lukes, where they were taught German up until World War I, when it was no longer allowed. Many anti-German sentiments during World War I eliminated most outward expressions of the German language and culture. The two younger Mueller children were not taught German and do not recollect ever having been told to deny a German ethnic background, but

none the less the fear was there. According to John Coggeshall, most Alsace-Lorrainers in Belleville clearly stated that they were not German and some even cheered the fight against the Germans who had taken their homeland in 1871. (Coggeshall, 228)

As the family continued to grow during World War I, they faced the hardship of watching all the boys get called to join the service. Bertha recalls walking with her mother to the Illinois Central Railroad station when Nicholas was going into the army. She remembers seeing the mothers of the young men pushing their way up to the cars and the young men literally draping themselves out the window to touch the hand of their loved ones. Mrs. Charles Mueller was among the women seeing their sons off to war and she held up the youngest, Frieda, at age four for Nick to touch her hand. Nicholas ended up serving in France and in Germany as a member of the Hugo Barracks. Edwin was also drafted but remained in San Antonio, Texas, where he served as a pitcher on the army team travelling around the country raising money for war bonds. Charles quit his job, took his physical, and was prepared to serve his country when the Armistice was signed. After the war years were over, many of the Mueller children got jobs in or around Belleville, married, and stayed in the general vicinity.

Before the war, Nicholas was an apprentice carpenter for a year, which meant that he received no pay at all.

Once he was taken into the Carpenters' Union, he got union wages. Upon returning from the war, his father contracted him to build a new house at 719 North Jefferson, the rectangular lot next to the old house. He was paid for every hour and was helped by Ed and Charlie who were not paid. In 1920 or 1921 the new house was finished with a livingroom, bedroom, diningroom, kitchen, and a bath downstairs; two bedrooms (one for the girls and one for the boys) with three closets upstairs. In the new house, gas lights gave way to electric lights. There was running water, sewer drainage, and the stoves in the old house were replaced by one big furnace which heated the entire home -- the younger children had it a lot easier than the older ones. About nine of the children actually lived in the new house, because Nic was married in 1921.

Elizabeth (Liz) completed the fifth grade and then was expected to help out at home with all the little ones and the household chores. She eventually got work in the factories and continued to work so that the younger ones would have better opportunities than she.

Edwin's first job was counting and separating nails, and his next job was at the Star Brewery. He then received a job at the Oakland Foundry and finally took the Civil Service exam and got a job at the Post Office. Edwin eventually married in 1926.

Charlie went to one day of high school and then was offered a job at Seib Grocery in Belleville where he worked all his life. Charles was married in 1927.

Matilda (Tillie) completed the sixth grade, then worked at Eli Walker Shirt Factory and Meyer Pants Factory. Tillie helped the family out financially during World War I since she and her father were the only ones working at that time. From her experiences, Tillie did not want the younger children to have to work in a factory.

Hermina, Bertha, and Edna completed ten grades including commercial studies, typing, book-keeping, and shorthand at St. Luke's Cathedral School. The younger children received more schooling and therefore got into higher-status jobs than the older children, possibly due to the older children helping the younger ones out financially.

Hermina entered Notre Dame Convent becoming Sister Vincent on August 30, 1924, at the age of 23, after working without pay as a cashier for six months in a meat market, and working at Illinois Power Company. While at the convent, she was considered extremely valuable because of her knowledge in business subjects and spent most of her time teaching those subjects.

Bertha worked at Illinois Power Company, taking Sister Vincent's place for seven years, then for Peoria Life Insurance Company for two years until they hit bankruptcy during the Depression. Her next job was for Dr. C. L.

Martin for six years until her wedding June 21, 1938 to William J. Barbeau.

Edna worked at Retail Merchants Association for ten years and then took Bertha's place at Dr. C. L. Martin until her wedding on August 24, 1948 to Bernard Bauer. She later worked at the News Democrat from 1962 - 1973.

The last of the twelve children born to Charles and Hermina, Frieda M. Mueller, is my grandmother. Frieda Mueller was raised in Belleville and was the only Mueller child to graduate from high school. She graduated fourth in a class of 31 from Notre Dame Academy in Belleville and it was three and one-half years before she could get a job due to the Depression.

During the Depression, prices of items were up and people were working only two or three days a week. Many people even lost their jobs. The only Muellers working were the father and Tillie, and that was only two to three days a week. The Depression hurt the economy of Belleville greatly by causing near shut downs of the foundries and stove factories. Both the Depression and Prohibition had their effects on the brewery business causing even further job loss.

Eventually Frieda began working as a secretary for Attorney Walter Ackerman in February of 1935 for \$25 a month. Later she worked for several other attorneys until she met Joseph A. Meyer from Evansville, Illinois, and the

two were married on October 6, 1942, at St. Luke's Parish in Belleville.

Joseph Meyer is the son of Albin J. Meyer and Barbara (Wunderlich) Meyer. Albin worked as a butcher at Wolff's Grocery Store in Evansville for twenty-eight years and later operated a neighborhood store and a hotel in town. Albin is the son of Joseph Meyer who was born in Alsace-Lorraine, France. Albin's father was one of many first settlers to Evansville, Illinois, and contributed greatly to its growth. Many of the first pioneers to Evansville were from Alsace-Lorraine, France, and they established quite a community along the Kaskaskia River.

Joseph had a rougher childhood than Frieda because at the age of nine years he had to go to work for a local farmer, Vic Wolff, taking care of livestock. He was turned down for the service because of an appendix operation and adhesions, and continued to work for \$75 a month.

When Joseph and Frieda Meyer were married, they chose to reside in Evansville, Illinois, where Joseph worked at the Evansville Feed and Supply making \$100 a month, still under the supervision of Vic Wolff. Eight children blessed this marriage: John C. and James A., born November 23, 1943; Rita M., born March 10, 1945; Joseph V., born July 13, 1948; Mary F., born July 28, 1950; Paul A., born October 11, 1952; Anthony C., born March 26, 1955; and Rose M., born November 14, 1957.

When the twins were young, Joe and Frieda began dressing chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys, and fried chickens for picnics as well as for weddings and other events to make extra money. Life was tougher on Frieda during these first years of marriage than when she lived at home.

All the children attended school at St. Boniface Catholic Grade School and only the youngest two went to kindergarten. It was not until this generation and the generations following that children were able to go to college.

The twins, Jim and John, went to St. Henry's Preparatory college in Belleville for six years. Jim went on to spend one year at Godfrey, Illinois, and several years at Pass Christian, Mississippi. Later he attended Virginia Tech where he earned a doctorate in Public School Administration. Jim was ordained as a priest and stationed in Brazil for a while. In Brazil he met Maria Constance Montenegro and was granted permission to leave the ministry so he could get married. Presently, Jim and Connie live in Virginia with their daughter Kathy.

John spent four years in the U. S. Navy and then four years at Rolla, Missouri, where he obtained a Master's in Electronics. He met Shirley Salger from Red Bud, Illinois, and the two married. Presently, they live in Bloomington, Illinois, and have three children: Lisa, Lynn, and Loreen.

Rita went to four years of high school at Ruma Convent Precious Blood High School in Ruma, Illinois, and then took additional classes in St. Louis before finding work. She would later meet Kenneth Schrader. A more thorough description of Rita's life will be continued below..

Joey spent two years in college at Lockport, Illinois after four years at St. Henry's Preparatory College and then joined the Air Force and went to Vietnam. Presently Joey lives in Joliet, Illinois.

Mary also went to Ruma for three years after which all of Ruma's students were transferred to Gibault High School in Waterloo, Illinois. Mary then met Gary Mulholland and the two lived in Dayton, Ohio, where one daughter was born, Tonya. Mary and Gary got a divorce and Mary moved with Tonya to Steeleville, Illinois. While in Steeleville, Mary met and later married Dennis Mahan. After several years of marriage, the two got a divorce, and Mary now lives in Red Bud, Illinois. Tonya has joined the service and is stationed in Germany.

Paul went to public high school for four years at Sparta High School in Sparta, Illinois. He then married Pat Shumway. The marriage ended in divorce and Paul then met and married Cheryl Everding. One child, Bradley, was born to this couple. When this marriage did not work out, Paul and Cheryl got a divorce and Paul later married Geraldine

(Fleming) Zanders who had three children from a previous marriage: Chris, Stephanie, and Jill.

Tony went to public high school for four years at Sparta High School in Sparta, Illinois, also and then went to work at Baldwin Peabody Coal Mine in Baldwin, Illinois. Later he met and married JoAnn Leavitt and the two live in Ellis Grove, Illinois.

Rose spent four years at Gibault High School and then took several classes at Belleville Area College. She finished her school work at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois, in computer programming. Rose met Greg Wright from Sparta, Illinois, and the two were married. Rose and Greg now live in Buchanan, Michigan, where they have two children, Michelle and David.

The third child born to this couple, Rita Marie Meyer is my mother. She married Kenneth P. Schrader from Steeleville, Illinois on August 26, 1967.

Kenneth is the only son of Elmer and Selma (Dierks) Schrader who have an older daughter, Katherine Ruth, born July 8, 1938, and a younger daughter, Donna, born January 6, 1948. The first relative of Elmer Schrader to immigrate to the United States came over from Germany between 1850 and 1860. They settled in Randolph County near Chester, Illinois, and eventually made their way to Pinckneyville, Illinois, and finally Steeleville, Illinois (See Appendix D for a brief Schrader geneology and history). Elmer is the

son of Sigmond and Bertha (Gramenz) Schrader. Selma is the daughter of August and Dora (Brueggeman) Dierks.

Kenneth was born in Steeleville on October 22, 1941. He attended Steeleville High School and served in the Air Force as a military policeman before meeting Rita Meyer.

After their marriage, Kenneth and Rita resided in Chester, Illinois, for one year. Rita worked at the Randolph County Court House in Chester, Illinois, and Kenneth worked at W & C Motors in Chester, Illinois. After the birth of their first child, they moved to Steeleville, Illinois. Kenneth started work at Peabody Coal Mine in Baldwin, Illinois, and since then Rita and he have had six children including myself, Tina M., born February 17, 1968. The other children are: Paul E., born May 18, 1969; Robert D., born January 21, 1973; Ann M., born February 12, 1977; Elizabeth A., born March 24, 1978; and Alisa M., born February 9, 1990.

From the beginning of Paul Mueller's immigration to America, many of his actions characterize those of the European immigrants participating in German-speaking migration, and many are unique. He experienced several hardships similar to other immigrants such as crop failures and economic ruin. He placed his family's growth and well being above any love he may have had for his homeland, and took a risk of starting a new life in America. Like many European immigrants around the early 1860's, he travelled on

a sailing vessel to reach a port in America. Like many Alsace-Lorrainers, who were not of German nationality but spoke German and associated greatly with the German way of life, Paul Mueller and his family assimilated rapidly into the society of Germans with whom they settled.

Immigrants from Alsace-Lorraine were small in number but constituted a major portion of the French immigrants. Paul Mueller having immigrated while Alsace-Lorraine was still under French control would be included in that small portion of immigrants. His decision to immigrate during the American Civil War is quite unusually and leads one to believe that conditions in the Old Country must have been unbearable. Travelling to New Orleans, a Confederate port, was quite a risk, for even though New Orleans was under Confederate control when the Muellers left Alsace-Lorraine, it quickly became Union controlled territory with Union blockades making it nearly impossible for ships to dock.

Once the Muellers were in America, they followed the path of many Alsace-Lorrainers and settled in Pennsylvania in a German or French community. Not completely satisfied with conditions in Pennsylvania, the Muellers made their way back Southwest where they settled in yet another community with Alsace-Lorraine residents, Belleville, Illinois. While in Belleville, the Muellers assimilated well into the German traditions and life-styles. Paul Mueller's children mainly worked as laborers and settled in the Belleville area. It

was not until later generations that jobs would be more economically stable. The Mueller children intermarried with German residents from Belleville or its neighboring areas, and raised families that continued to carry on many German traditions.

Several grandchildren of Paul Mueller attended private schools for a few years, but only the last grandchild was able to complete high school. The Muellers were not a rich family, but they made ends meet and helped each other through tough times. Similar to German tradition, the Muellers were a close-knit family. As the grandchildren married, they too settled near or around Belleville. It was not until the next generation that the children considered college and began to travel further from home.

Paul Mueller's great grandchildren experienced an easier way of life than their parents and grandparents. The American economy had recovered from World War I, the Depression, and World War II by the time most of the great-grandchildren were born. Living conditions were better in the homes in which they grew up than in the homes in which their parents were raised. Many of the great grandchildren were able to go to college or at least take additional classes other than high school. They were given the opportunity to improve their lives. As the great grandchildren of Paul Mueller married and began to start their own lives, many drifted farther from "home". Their

children are attending colleges and obtaining careers that were not even heard of in past generations. With all the advancements and changes that have occurred within the family, they have continued to maintain a close, strong relationship with one another. Even today, many German traditions and customs are still being displayed.

At Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas time the family continues to gather together. At Easter, the German tradition of the Easter bunny hiding Easter eggs is still carried out for the younger children. Christmas is still celebrated with the idea that Santa Claus delivers the gifts, and the Feast of St. Nick is still remembered by filling stockings with coal if the child was bad, or candy if the child was good. Picnics and family outings, another German tradition, are always enjoyed, and family cookouts are many in number.

German foods have not survived the generations with as much success as German traditions, however, sauerkraut is still eaten, occasionally German potato salad will be served, and German desserts and cookies (such as German chocolate cake and Schnickerdoodles) are always a favorite. Also, the German language is no longer used or even known by the members of the Mueller family alive today.

As generations pass, the families assimilate more and more into the American way of life. The Mueller establishment in the new world has resulted in increasing

opportunities for future generations. Paul Mueller's original wish for his children and grandchildren to experience a better way of life has been made possible by his journey across the Atlantic. I have done what I could to reveal some of the unknown behind Paul Mueller's life and my own for that matter, but a lot remains untold. One immigrant's passage to America and the life he establishes in some ways is similar to another's, and in some ways it is different. Today, America exists because of the contributions from different nationalities, all united . . . one nation, under God.

APPENDIX A
MAP OF ALSACE-LORRAINE

APPENDIX B
PAUL MÜLLER'S BROTHERS & SISTERS
ELISABETH GANGLOFF'S BROTHERS & SISTERS

WIESVILLER; Moselle (825 inhabitants, 1962 census)

M. Camillo MAIRE

23, rue Maurice Raval

F. 57120 ROMBAS

FRANCE

Müller

29 ventôse an VIII (=11 March 1800)

André MÜLLER (son of Jean M., farmer and the late Anne Marie HELLINGER, of GUISSING, canton of Rohrbach), 22 years old (born ca. 1778)

marries

Elisabeth ARNOLDY, 19 (daughter of Nicolas A., blacksmith and Marie Catherine ULRICH, of Wiesviller)

Witnesses: Jean Paxe, tanner, of Sarreguemines, 30, uncle of the bride (i.e. married to one of M.C. Ulrich's sisters)-Georges Paxe, tanner, of Sarreguemines, 53, - Pierre Guiller, carabineer, 24 and Pierre Meyger, a former rifleman, friends.

Children:

1. Nicolas: °20.6.1801, +22.3.1805
2. Elisabeth, °9.1.1804
3. Gertrude, °9.5.1806
4. André, °29.6.1808
5. Jean, °19.7.1810
6. Paul, °5.2.1813
7. Catherine, °17.10.1815
8. Catherine, °8.6.1818
9. Barbe, °15.7.1820
10. Marie Catherine, °4.8.1824
11. Nicolas, °11.6.1827

N.B. the death of N° 7 could not be found

In all the birth records the father is said to be a farmer (cultivateur, laboureur), except in N° 11: innkeeper.

Gangloff

22 Sept. 1814:

Nicolas GANGLOFF, farmer, born WOELFLING 6 June 1789; resid. Wiesviller (son of Charles G., farmer and Elisabeth KOHNN*, resid. Wiesviller)

marries

Catherine SCHOUBER, 18 years, 1 month, 27 days old (daughter of André S., innkeeper and Catherine AUER, res. Wiesviller)

Witnesses: Pierre Kouhn, blacksmith, 35, brother-in-law of the groom

Antoine Arnoldy, 22, blacksmith, also brother-in-law

Nicolas Weber, laborer, 55, uncle of the bride on her mother's side

Georges Schreiner, laborer, 66, a friend

1. Pierre, °9.7.1815, +3.1.1816
2. George, °18.10.1816
3. Guillaume, °17.5.1819, +21.5.1819
4. André, °13.3.1823
5. Elisabeth, °19.9.1825 ↘

*normal German spelling: Kuhn

Variations in spelling: SCHOUBER, SCHOUVRE, SCHUBER/ARNOLDY, ARNOLDE

(~~Reference to the birth records for N° 11: 1827~~)

24 fructidor anIV (=10 Sept. 1796)

birth of Catherine SCHOUVER (André S., innkeeper and merchant, and Catherine AUER)

6. Nicolas, °23.1.28
7. Magdeleine, °11.4.30, +20.4.30
8. Marguerithe, °23.6.31, +14.7.31
9. Charles, °18.6.32, +28.3.33
10. Marie, °25.4.34
11. Nicolas, °10.10.36

APPENDIX C
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

EXTRAIT D'ACTE DE MARIAGE

COMMUNE: ZETTING et DIDING Département: Moselle

Le 6 Janvier 1835 à 2h

A été célébré le mariage entre:

MÜLLER Paul garçon cultivateur

né à WISVILLER

le 5 Février 1813

fils de André MULLER 56 ans cultivateur

et de Elizabeth ARNOUDY sans profession
 domiciliée à Wisviller

et Regina MISSELER sans profession

née à Diding

le 6 Juillet 1814

fille de défunt Pierre MISSELER cultivateur (décédé le 3 sept 1827)

et de LUDMANN Regina 48 ans sans profession

Contrat _____

Mention marginale Temoins: Julienne SCHMIDT 59 ans aide de la mariée

Jacques MULLER 44 ans " du marié

LUDMANN Valentin et Pierre - sœurs maternelles de la mariée

Pour extrait conforme

17

Le _____

L'OFFICIER D'ÉTAT CIVIL

APPENDIX D
SCHRADER FAMILY HISTORY

JULIUS SCHRADER -- FRED SCHRADER (BROTHERS, BORN AND RAISED IN GERMANY)

CHRISTINA OFFERMAN

HENRIETTA (MRS. HENRY PICK)
ANNA (MRS. FRED LAMPE)
WILHEMINA "MINNIE" (MRS. WILLIAM MOELLER)
CHRISTINE (MRS. HERMAN FASTNAU)
SOPHIE (MRS. CHARLES HERSCHBACH)
THEODORE
FRED JR.

THEODORE MARRIED CAROLINE (MOELLER) SCHRADER
(sister to Minnie's husband)

SIGMUND
THEODORE
ALMA (MRS. HENRY KOOPMAN)

SIGMUND MARRIED BERTHA (GRAMENZ) SCHRADER

LYDIA (MRS. JOHN CAUPERT)
ELEANORE
OLINDA
ELMER

ELMER MARRIED SELMA (DIERKS) SCHRADER
KATHRINE RUTH (MRS. NORLYN SCHNOEKER)
KENNETH
DONNA (MRS. KENNETH KOBER)

KENNETH MARRIED RITA (MEYER) SCHRADER

TINA
PAUL
ROBERT
ANN
ELIZABETH
ALISA

Julius Schrader came to the United States from Germany between 1850 & 1860. He married Dortha Schultz and the two settled in Welge, Illinois, where they raised a family of fourteen, three of which died in infancy. Julius had a brother, Fred, who also settled in Randolph County, but as of yet a place or date has not been found. Fred married Christina Offerman and they had seven children: Henrietta, Anna, Wilhemina (known as Minnie), Christine, Sophie, Theodore, and Fred Jr.

Theodore married Caroline Moeller (a sister to Minnie's husband), and they lived on a farm east of Pinckneyville, Illinois. They were the parents of three children: Sigmond, Theodore, and Alma. Theodore and Caroline died at an early age and research by Lib Spurgeon in the Perry County Court House revealed the following items of interest:

Probate Box #387, Perry County

Theodore Schrader died at Pinckneyville, Perry County, Illinois, the 29th day of July, 1892. He left no widow surviving him, but the following minor children: Sigmond, Theodore, and Alma. His personal property consisted of two horses, one two-horse wagon, harness, household goods, and a cow and calf. No real estate was listed, but had an undivided two-thirds interest in 120 acres of land in Randolph County valued to \$2,000.00

Theodore's wife must have died just a few days before he did as there is a bill in the file from J. C. McDonald (must have been a funeral home director) as follows: 7/21/92 coffin & fluid at \$28.00, 7/30/92 coffin & fluid at \$28.00. Dr. McCandless also turned in a bill for medicine, etc. "for Theodore Schrader and his deceased wife". Henry Pick of Pinckneyville

(husband of Henrietta Schrader--Theodore's sister) was administrator of the estate. He removed everything to his place and the sale was held there. Copy of the sale bill is in the file and mentions Pick as living 1 mile east of Pinckneyville on the DuQuoin road. After the sale and all debts were paid, there was a balance of \$356.33 which amount was paid to Fritz Moeller (maternal uncle) as guardian of the minor children.

It has been passed down to the children that Theodore and Caroline would drive their wagons to buy supplies across the Big Muddy during the winter when there was no ferry system. The story has been told that their wagon broke through the ice and they survived the incident only to catch pneumonia.

Sigmond Schrader married Bertha Gramez and resided in Steeleville, Illinois. They had four children: Lydia (Mr. Johnny Caupert), Eleanore, Olinda, and Elmer. Theodore married Lucretia Roche and they had one daughter, Gladys, who resides in Chicago. Lucretia divorced Theodore and she is presently living in Chicago. Theodore remarried a lady from California and went there to live, where he died and is buried. Alma married Henry Koopman of Chester and had two sons, Arthur and Herbert.

Elmer Schrader married Selma Dierks and the two resided in Steeleville where they raised three children. Their first child, (Katherine) Ruth married Norlyn Schnoeker and they have four children: Stacy (married and divorced with three children: Michelle, Vanessa, Jared), Steven (married with four children, Christine, Stephanie, Heather, and

Danielle), Karla (Mrs. Robert Smith has two children, Robert and Larry D.), and Natalie (attending high school).

Presently they all live in Evansville, Illinois.

Elmer and Selma's second child, Kenneth, married Rita Meyer and they live in Steeleville. They have six children: Tina (attending Southern Illinois University School of Medicine), Paul (working in California), Robert (attending high school), Ann (attending junior high school), Elizabeth (attending junior high school), and Alisa.

Elmer and Selma's third child, Donna, married Kenneth Kober and they presently live in Collinsville, Illinois, where they raise four children: Jennifer (attending Valpraiso University), Aaron (attending high school), Amanda (attending junior high school), and David (attending grade school).

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A really very fine job, during the course of which you have developed into a very competent historian. You have shown good historical imagination in asking yourself the pertinent questions and resourcefulness in seeking out the sources — oral as well as written — to answer them. You write well. That this project has been a real labor of love for you is altogether evident throughout and I imagine it may be an ongoing project for you in the future.

Grade for course and thesis:

A

Good luck, and I will look forward to seeing you next year.

Wearz