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THEISEN  
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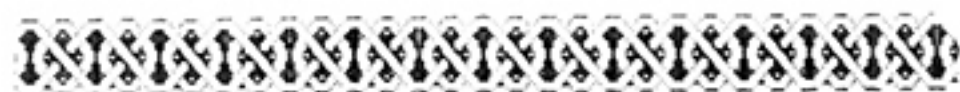
A German  
Chronicle

\*\*\*\*\*



Theisen





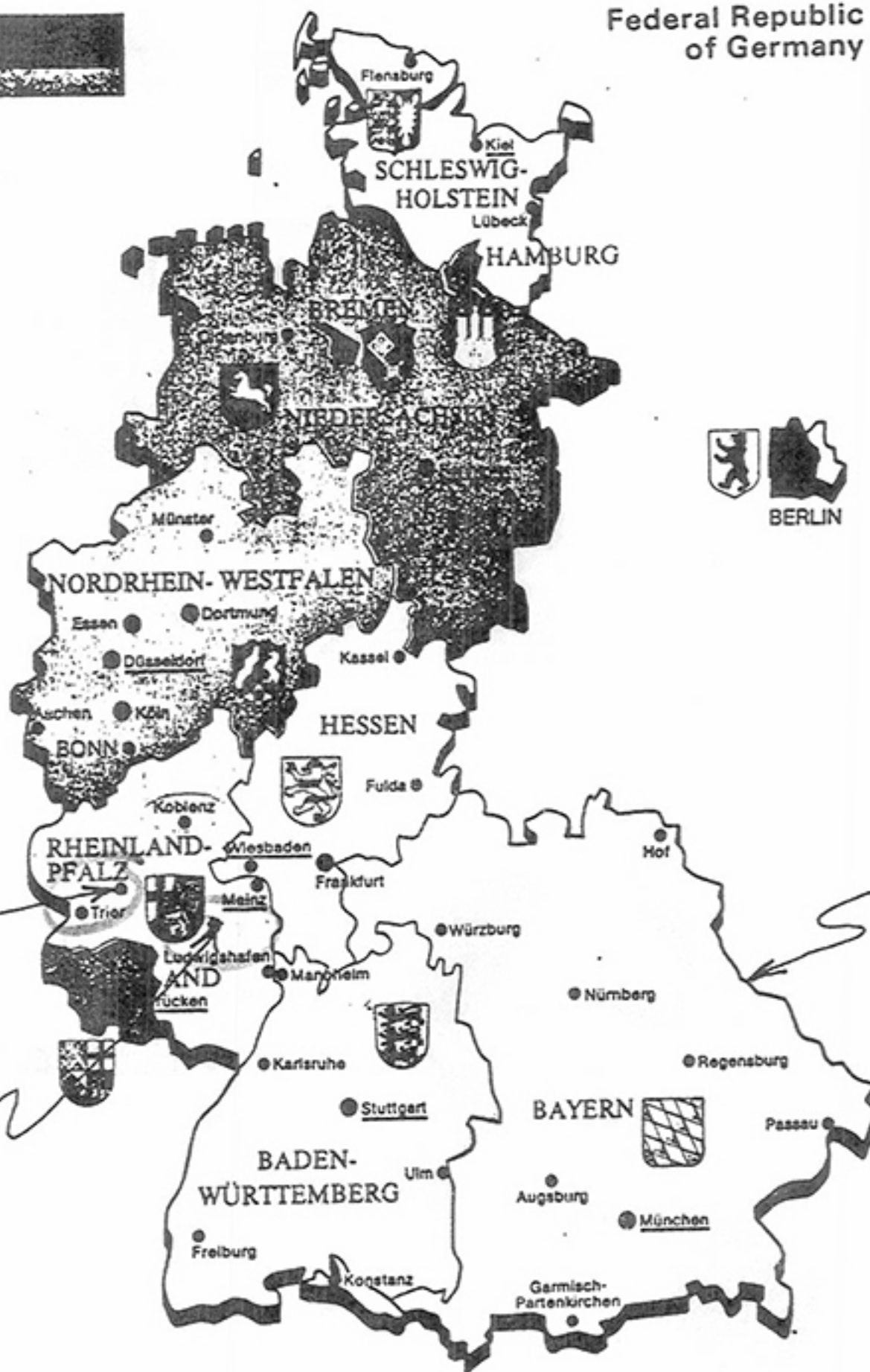
A Story Of Four German Families  
Who Emigrated To Wisconsin  
In The Nineteenth Century

THEISEN  
KRAUS  
FRIESS  
STROMM



*Prepared by Grace and Don  
Erickson of Glen Rock NJ  
with invaluable help from  
Marie and Donald Roth of  
Brookfield Wisconsin.  
1990*

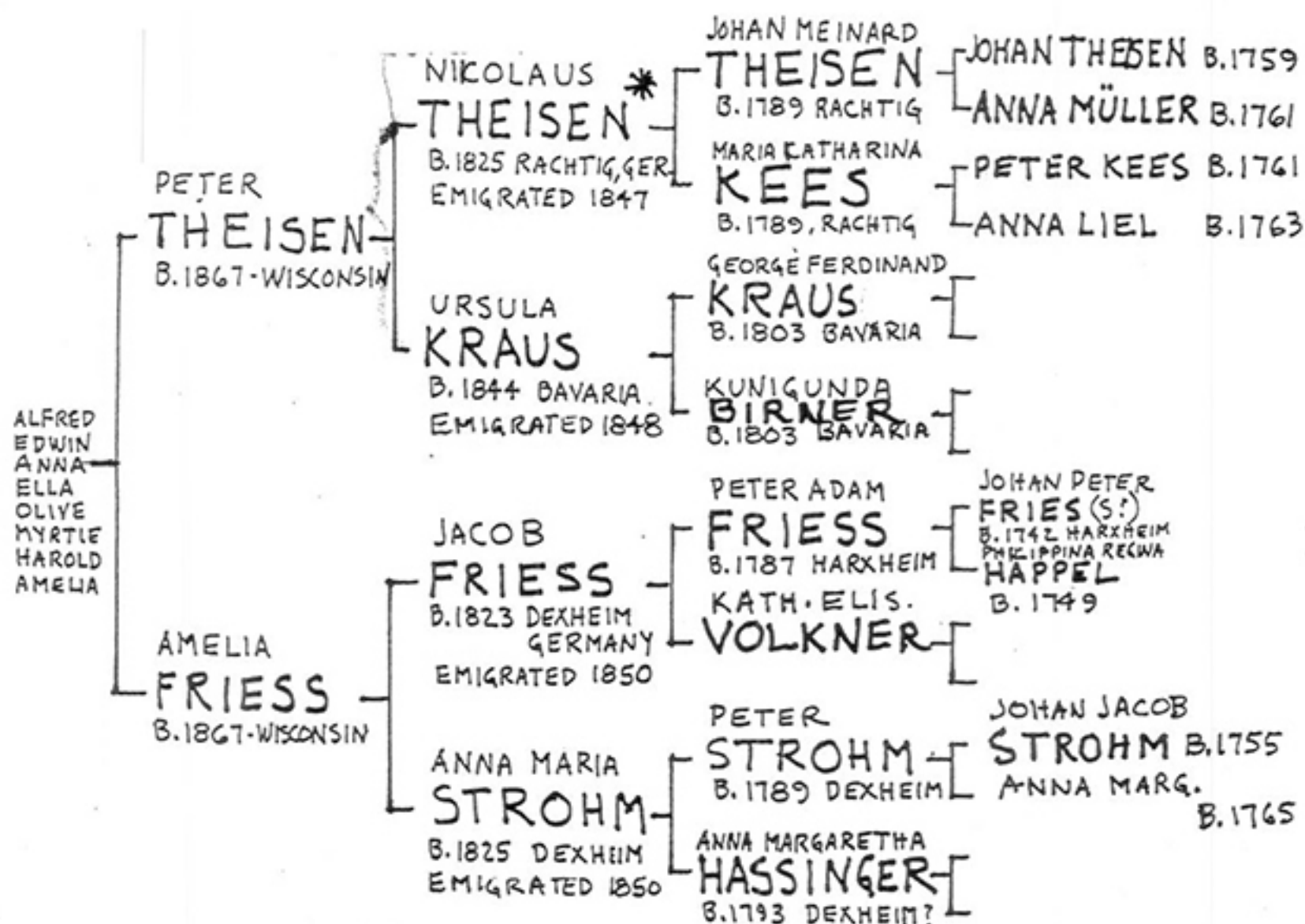
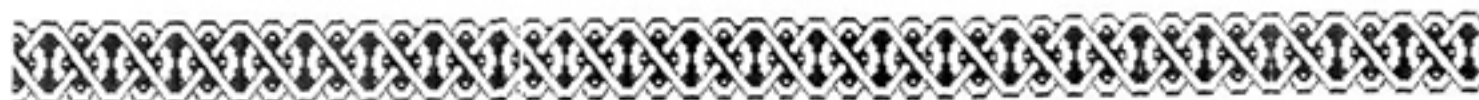
Federal Republic  
of Germany



THEISEN  
EMIGRATED  
1847  
RACHTIG

KRAUS  
EMIGRATED  
1848  
HOCHSTADT  
(HOEDESTA)  
BAVARIA

FRIESS  
STROHM  
EMIGRATED  
1850  
DEXHEIM



\* Nickolaus had 14 children, the first 5 with Magdalena Licht (died 1859). The fate of these 5 children was not determined. After marrying Ursula Kraus in 1861, Nickolaus had 9 more children in the following order. Number 6 on the list, Margaret Theisen, married John V. Starzl and was Dr. Thomas Starzl's paternal grandmother. Number 5 was Peter Theisen, the father of Harold Theisen, a Cleveland surgeon (born in 1900) who sent the family genealogy study to Dr. Starzl in 1991.

- |                                 |                  |                |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. 1861 John                    | 4. 1865 Amelia   | 7. 1874 Emma   |
| 2. 1863 Anna                    | 5. 1867 Peter    | 8. 1880 George |
| 3. 1864 Peter (died as a child) | 6. 1870 Margaret | 9. 1884 Joseph |





Nickolaus Theisen



Ursula Kraus



## Nickolaus Theisen - Ursula Kraus

IN 1847 A BOATLOAD OF GERMAN EMIGRANTS LANDED IN NEW YORK CITY. AMONG THEM WAS NICKOLAUS THEISEN, TWENTY TWO YEARS OF AGE. HE AND THREE OF HIS BROTHERS, FERDINAND, FRANK AND PETER, HAD LEFT THEIR BIRTHPLACE, THE TOWN OF RACHTIG, WHICH WAS IN THE PRUSSIAN PROVINCE OF RHEINLAND-PFALZ, TO COME TO AMERICA. RACHTIG WAS LOCATED DOWNSTREAM ON THE MOSEL RIVER ABOUT 70 KM EAST OF TRIER, ONE OF THE OLDEST CITIES IN EUROPE. (IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE THEISENS ORIGINALLY CAME FROM THE AREA AROUND TRIER). RACHTIG WAS SURROUNDED BY VINEYARDS AND ITS CHIEF INDUSTRY WAS THE PRODUCTION OF WINE. SEVERAL BAD CROP YEARS, THE CONSTANT THREAT OF CONSCRIPTION INTO THE ARMY, AND A LARGE FAMILY, ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECISION TO LEAVE FOR THE UNITED STATES.

THE BROTHERS WORKED THEIR WAY TO MILWAUKEE WHERE NICKOLAUS LEARNED THE TAILORING TRADE. HE SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED TO SCHLEISINGERVILLE (SHORTENED TO SLINGER AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR), WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN, WHERE HE BECAME ACTIVE IN TOWN AFFAIRS, SERVING AS TOWN MARSHALL AND AS TRUSTEE. HE DIED IN 1896 AT AGE 70 AND IS BURIED IN ST. PETER'S CEMETERY IN SLINGER.

NICKOLAUS' FIRST WIFE WAS MAGDELENA LICHT. THEIR CHILDREN WERE:

FRANZ (FRIEDRICH), B. 1852  
FERDINAND, B. 1854  
NICKOLAUS, B. 1855  
ANNA MARY, B. 1857  
ELIZABETH, B. 1859

AFTER MAGDELENA'S DEATH NICKOLAUS MARRIED URSULA KRAUS IN 1861 AND THEY HAD NINE CHILDREN:

JOHN, B. 1861 - MARR. A. ADLER  
ANNA, B. 1863 - MARR. J. TREITZ  
PETER, B. 1864, - DIED AGE 5 MONTHS  
AMELIA, B. 1865 - DIED AS CHILD BEFORE 1874  
PETER, B. 1867 - MARR. A. FRIESS  
→ MARGARET, B. 1870 - MARR. J. STARZL John Starzl  
EMMA, B. 1874  
GEORGE, B. 1880 - MARR. PEARL (SURNAME UNKNOWN)  
JOSEPH, B. 1884 - MARR. E. KAISER

URSULA, B. 1844, WAS THE DAUGHTER OF GEORGE FERDINAND KRAUS AND KUNIGUNDA BIRNER. THEY EMIGRATED FROM THE TOWN OF HOCHSTADT (OR HOEDESTADTES), BAVARIA, IN 1848. GEORGE WAS A WAGON MAKER AND FARMER. HE DIED IN 1899 AND HE AND KUNIGUNDA (D. 1879) ARE BURIED IN UNION CEMETERY, SLINGER. URSULA DIED IN 1907 AND IS BURIED WITH NICKOLAUS IN ST. PETER'S CEMETERY.

# Johan Meinhard Theisen - Family

THEISEN, Joannes Meinhard  
(natus 6.7.1789)



KEES, Maria Katharina (1st wife) cop. 8.1.1810  
natus 17.03.1789  
obitus 03.06.1827

1. THEISEN, Joannes Jodocus, natus 07.11.1810
2. THEISEN, Carolus, natus 12.07.1812  
emigratus anno domini 1854
3. THEISEN, Sebastianus natus 08.01.1814
4. THEISEN, Barbara nata 06.05.1816
5. THEISEN, Petrus natus 15.09.1818  
emigratus anno domini 1847
6. THEISEN, Elisabeth nata 02.04.1820
7. THEISEN, Joannes natus 13.02.1822
8. THEISEN, Franciscus natus 12.08.1823  
emigratus anno domini 1847
- 9. THEISEN, Nicolaus natus 26.01.1825  
emigratus anno domini 1847
10. THEISEN, Ferdinand natus 06.04.1826  
emigratus anno domini 1847

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HEMIGHAUSEN, Anna (2nd wife) cop. 22. 1. 1828

1. THEISEN, Josephus, natus 14.02.1829  
emigratus 06.04.1854
2. THEISEN, Anna Maria, nata 15.07.1830  
emigrata 06.04.1854
3. THEISEN, Joannes Petrus natus 10.02.1832  
emigratus 06.04.1854
4. THEISEN, Hermann Joseph natus 06.07.1834  
obitus 17.04.1837
5. THEISEN, Elisabeth nata 05.12.1838  
emigrata 06.04.1854



STATE OF WISCONSIN, }  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY, } ss.

Nicholas Thiesen

personally  
appeared before the subscriber, the Clerk of the Circuit Court for said  
County, being a COURT OF RECORD, and made oath that he was born in  
Germany

on or about the year Eighteen hundred and twenty five that he  
emigrated to the United States and landed at the port of New York  
on or about the month of September in the year eighteen  
hundred and forty Seven; that it is bona-fide his INTENTION  
to become a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and renounce forever all  
allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or  
Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Frederick William  
King of Prussia

whereof he is a subject.

Subscribed and sworn to, the 1<sup>st</sup>  
day of November A. D. 1848

Nicholas Thiesen

Henry White Clerk.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, }  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY, } ss.

I, Henry White Clerk of the Circuit  
Court, in and for said County of Milwaukee, do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a copy of a record now in my office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and  
affixed the Seal of the said Circuit Court, this 1<sup>st</sup>  
day of November A. D. 1848

Henry White Clerk.



Jacob Friess - Anna Maria Strohm

## Jacob Friess - Anna Maria Strohm

DEXHEIM, GERMANY, 50 KM WEST OF DARMSTADT, WAS THE HOME OF JACOB FRIESS, B. 1823, AND ANNA MARIA STROHM, B. 1825. THEY WERE MARRIED IN 1849 AND EMIGRATED IN 1850 TO THE TOWN OF POLK, WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN, WITH BABY SUSAN, ONE YEAR OLD, VIA ROTTERDAM AND NEW YORK. JACOB WAS A STONEMASON AND FARMER. HIS MOTHER, KATHARINA VOLKNER, AND BROTHER HENRY FOLLOWED TWO YEARS LATER.

JACOB AND ANNA MARIA HAD SEVEN CHILDREN:

SUSAN, B. 1849 - MARR. A. OTTO

JACOB, B. 1851 - MARR. M. MOELER

MARY, B. 1853 - MARR. J. BRECKLE

JOHN, B. 1855 - MARR. J. McQUACKER

ELIZABETH, B. 1858 - MARR. A. RUMPEL

PETER, B. 1861 - MARR. E. FEILBACH - E. RUMMEL

ANNA, B. 1863 - MARR. T. STROHM

AMELIA, B. 1867 - MARR. PETER THEISEN

ANNA MARIA STROHM LIVED TO AGE 68. JACOB LIVED TO BE 82. THEY ARE BURIED IN THE CEDAR PARK EVANGELICAL CEMETERY IN RUGBY JUNCTION (AT PIONEER ROAD NEAR RICHFIELD).

Brother  
of my  
Grandmother  
G.D



Peter Theisen

Amelia Friess



## Peter Theisen - Amelia Friess

PETER WILLIAM THEISEN WAS BORN IN 1867, SON OF NICKOLAUS THEISEN AND URSULA KRAUS. HE WAS RAISED IN SCHLEISINGERVILLE (LATER SLINGER), WISCONSIN, AND WORKED FOR THE SOO LINE RAILROAD AS A SECTION FOREMAN.

IN 1889, AT AGE 22, PETER MARRIED AMELIA FRIESS, AGE 21. THEY HAD EIGHT CHILDREN:

ALFRED NICKOLAUS, B. 1889 - MARR. M. SCHODRON  
EDWIN JACOB, B. 1891 - MARR. M. PLISKA  
ANNA SUSAN, B. 1893 - MARR. C. ROTH  
ELLA MARY, B. 1895 - MARR. E. STUESSER  
OLIVE EDITH, B. 1897, D. 1898  
MYRTLE JULIANA, B. 1901 - MARR. L. BULL  
HAROLD JOSEPH, B. 1904 - MARR. M. RICHBOURG, M.

RIDINGS

AMELIA ELIZABETH, B. 1906

PETER DIED IN 1927 AT THE AGE OF 60 AND IS BURIED IN ST. PETER'S CEMETERY, ALONG WITH HIS PARENTS AND HIS WIFE, AMELIA, WHO PASSED AWAY IN 1939 AT THE AGE OF 72.

ENGRAVED ON THE TOMBSTONE ARE THE WORDS:

NICKOLAUS - URSULA - PETER - AMELIA

IM MORGENGLANZ IM ABENDSCHEIN  
WERDEN SEGNE SIE AUS HIMMELSHOHN  
HERAB AUF IHRE KINDER SEHEN  
DASS STREBET FROMM, WIE SIE ZU SEIN

WHICH TRANSLATED (WITH POETIC LICENSE) READS:

IN MORNING LIGHT IN EVENING SHINE  
BLEST BE THEY IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE  
WATCHING OVER THEIR CHILDREN  
AND WISHING THEM TO BE AS DEVOUT AS THEY

# Nickolaus Theisen - Ancestors

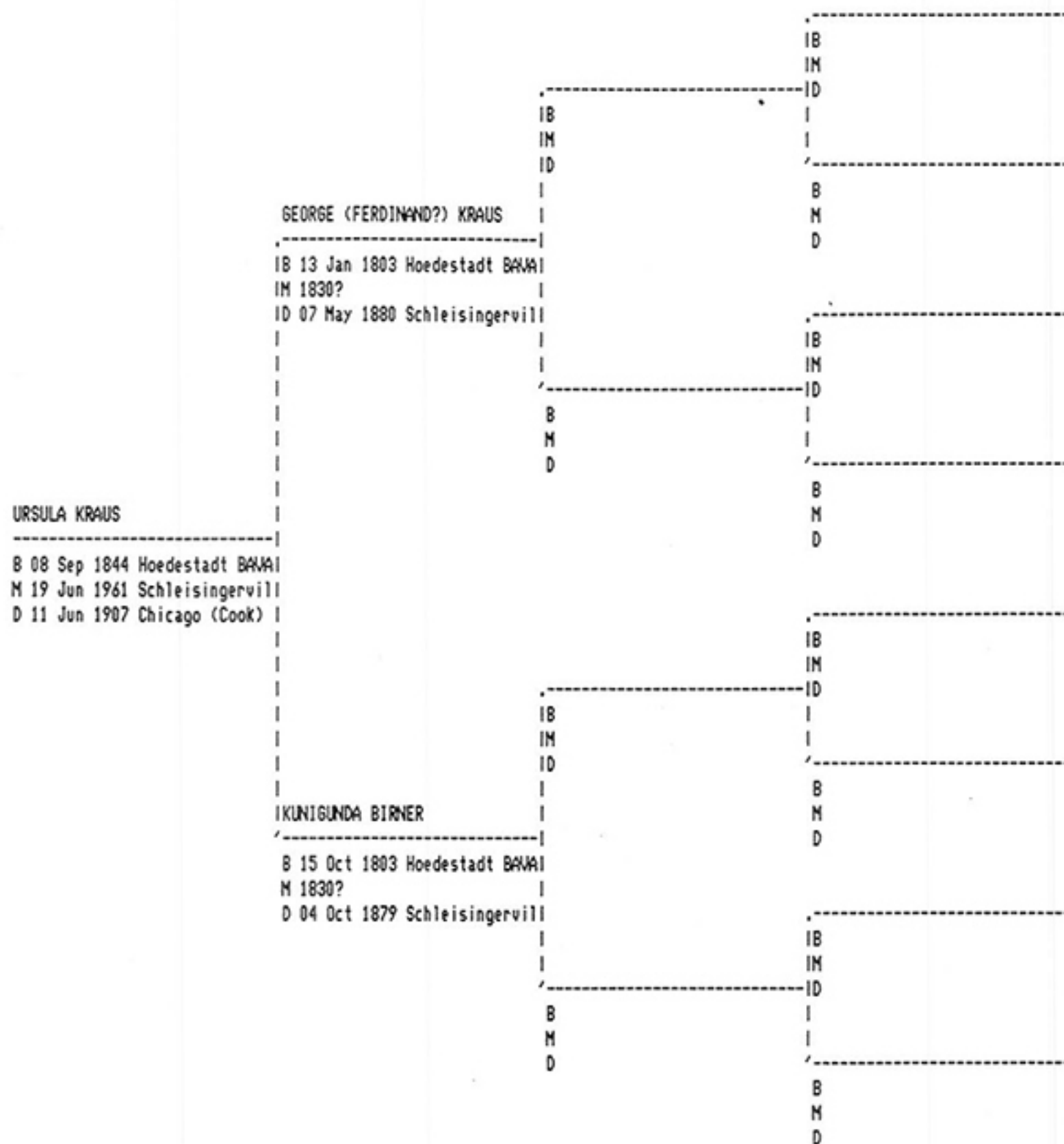
			JOHANN THEISEN
		FRANZ JACOB THEISEN	
		IB 12 Nov 1722 Richtig GER	ANNA MARIA FINCK
	JOHANN THEISEN	IM 07 Feb 1747 Richtig GER	
		ID after 1765	
	IB 21 Sep 1759 Richtig GER		CORNELIUS WEBER
	IM 22 Oct 1782 Richtig GER	IMARIA MAGDALENA WEBER	
	ID 06 Jan 1835 Richtig GER		
		B 08 Mar 1723 Richtig GER	ISUSANNA LEYS
JOHANN MEINARD THEISEN		M 07 Feb 1747 Richtig GER	
		D	
		JOHANN PETER MULLER	MATHIAS MULLER
IB 06 Jul 1789 Richtig GER			
IM 08 Jan 1810 Richtig GER		IB 20 Jun 1732 Richtig GER	ANGELA MORBACH
ID 11 Apr 1842 Richtig GER		IM 05 Feb 1760 Richtig GER	
	ANNA MARIA MULLER	ID	
		B 04 Feb 1761 Richtig GER	PETER HAUBS
		M 22 Oct 1782 Richtig GER	
		D 15 Dec 1809 Richtig GER	
		B 02 Aug 1735 Richtig GER	MARGARET LINNES (or TINNES)
NIKOLAUS THEISEN		M 05 Feb 1760 Richtig GER	
		D	
IB 26 Jan 1825 Richtig (Mosel)			LOTHAR KEES
IM 24 Apr 1850 Milwaukee		MATHIAS KEES	
ID 11 Mar 1896 Schl. WI			
		IB 19 Nov 1723 Richtig GER	ELIZABETH MARTINI
	PETER KEES	IM 07 Feb 1747 Richtig GER	
		ID	
	IB 15 Oct 1761 Richtig GER		JOHANN THEISEN
	IM 13 Feb 1787 Richtig GER	IMARIA A. JOSEPHA THEISEN	
	ID 29 Mar 1803 Richtig GER		
		B 19 Mar 1725 Richtig GER	ANNA MARIA FINCK
IMARIA KATHARINA KEES		M 07 Feb 1747 Richtig GER	
		D 26 Sep 1794 Richtig GER	
			FRANZ LIEL
B 17 Mar 1789 Richtig GER		JOHANN CHRISTOPH LIEL	
M 08 Jan 1810 Richtig GER			
D 03 Jun 1827 Richtig GER		IB 29 Oct 1719 Richtig GER	ANNA OTTER
	ANNA JACOBIA LIEL	IM 16 Feb 1751 Richtig GER	
		ID 25 Feb 1797 Richtig GER	
			JOHANN OTTER
	B 21 Nov 1763 Richtig GER	IMARIA BARBARA OTTER	
	M 13 Feb 1787 Richtig GER		
	D	B 30 Jul 1724 Richtig GER	AMALIA DUSEMONT
		M 16 Feb 1751 Richtig GER	
		D 23 Dec 1803 Richtig GER	

INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON  
FURTHER GENERATIONS

13



Ursula Kraus - Ancestors



## Jacob Friess - Ancestors

[illegible]

## Anna Maria Strohm - Ancestors

	JOHANN JACOB STROHM	B M D
	IB ca. 1755	I
	M	I
	ID D Harxheim GER	/
PETER JAKOB STROHM		B
		M
		D
IB ca.1789 DEXHEIM?		
M 1820's		
ID		
		B
	ANNA MARGARETHA ----?	M
		ID
	B ca.1765	I
	M	I
	D	/
		B
ANNA MARIA STROHM		M
		D
B 17 Nov 1825 Dexheim GER		
M 20 Jan 1849 Dexheim GER		
D 04 Apr 1894 Richfield Washil		
		B
		M
		ID
	IB	I
	IM	I
	ID	/
		B
ANNA MARGARETHA HASSINGER		M
		D
B 1792 Dexheim GER?		
M 1820's		
D D Dexheim GER		
		B
		M
		ID
		I
	B	I
	M	I
	D	/
		B
		M
		D

# Peter Theisen - Descendants

ANNA THEISEN M. CHARLES ROTH	GRACE ROTH B. 1916 M. PAUL KOENINGS B. 1916 M. DONALD ERICKSON B. 1916 DONALD ROTH B. 1918 M. MARIE MERCURY B. 1926 CARL ROTH B. 1920 M. JEANETTE B. 1923 EDITH MAE ROTH B. 1923 M. ROBERT AGARD B. 1923	CHARLES ERICKSON (1935) CHRISTOPHER (1946) - KARIN (1950) - AMELIA (1954) CATHERINE (1952) - CHARLES (1955) JOANNE (1959) - NANCY (1965) ROBERT & PATRICIA (CHILDREN OF PHYLLIS) STEVEN (1945) - ANN (1946) - TIMOTHY (1948 - 1968) MARTHA (1949) - ROGER (1952) - DOUGLAS (1953) THOMAS (1956) - MARGARET (1960) - ROBERT JR (1963) KRISTINE (1965) - BARBARA (1968)
ALFRED THEISEN MOLLY SCHODRON	EVA THEISEN B. 1916 MARGARET THEISEN B. 1917 M. JOHN JANES B. 1917 JAMES THEISEN B. 1919 M. MARY GEREND B. 1919 DAVID THEISEN B. 1922 M. RITA MONTAG B. 1925 THOMAS THEISEN B. 1925 M. MARY RYAN B. 1929	SUZANNE (1943) - CHRISTINE (1944) DANIEL (1948) - JOHN (1951) - JOSEPH (1954) MARGARET (1956) NICHOLAS (1947), TIMOTHY (1949), TONY (1951) ROBERT (1952), JOSEPH (1955), FRANK (1958) JANE (1965) LAURA, KEITH, JEFFREY, LYNN SCOTT, NEIL, ELLEN, SANDY GARY (1954) - DALE (1956) VICTORIA (1957), COLLEEN (1961)
EDWIN THEISEN MARTHA PLISKA	RICHARD THEISEN B. 1927 M. BEVERLY DODDS B. 1932	RICHARD, GREGORY, CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL, MARY, ELIZABETH
E LLA THEISEN EUGENE STUESSER	EUGENIE STUESSER B. 1923 M. WILL. LOHR M. EUGENE BERNSTEIN 1941 EDWARD STUESSER B. 1921 M. BURDELLA KEELER RALPH STUESSER B. 1924 M. ANTOINETTE PANEK B. 1925 M. SUE ADAMS 1974 GLEN STUESSER B. 1926 M. JOAN WOLF B. 1931	JOHN (1944) - KATHLEEN ROBERT, LISA RICHARD, JAMES, GARY, JANE, MARY, MARK, GAIL, CONNIE, BRIAN BARBARA, JUDY, SHARON, MARY LOUISE LINDA, LAURA, LISA, ANN, WILLIAM BETSY, KARIN, MARY
OLIVE		
MYRTLE THEISEN M. LONEL BULL		
HAROLD THEISEN MAVIS RICHEBOURG	PETER THEISEN B. 1944 D. 1988 WILLIAM THEISEN B. 1948 M. REGINA B. 1951 PATRICIA THEISEN B. 1945 M. EDWARD CORNELL	DEREK, LISA JOSEPH, CARL, PAMELA
AMELIA THEISEN		

8/90  
4/86  
10/82

CHANGES TO: GRACE ERICKSON  
40 RIDGE RD. GLEN ROCK NJ 07452  
TEL. 201 445-1245

### George and Kunigunda Kraus

One ancestral branch of the family in the United States dates back to the immigration of George Kraus. George, born Jan. 13, 1803 (date on tombstone, Union Cem., Slinger, WI) in Bavaria and his wife Kunigunda (or Cunigunda), born Oct. 15, 1803 (date from tombstone as above) also in Bavaria, entered the United States Sept. 15, 1848 arriving aboard the Brig Frau Charlotte from Hamburg. They were accompanied by five children. Their family group was listed in a group of eight people from Bavaria on the passenger list between families from other parts of Germany; these included George (48), Cunigunde (39), George (17), Franziska (14), Anna (12 - maybe Anna Katharina, since later records give the third child as Katharina), Ursula (4) and Anna (1/2) followed by an Anna Pfaffenzeller (36). Since she was included right after George Kraus and his family, it is possible that Anna Pfaffenzeller could be a relative, maybe even a cousin of Cunigunde. There is no indication in this record of where in Bavaria these people came from. In the record of Ursula's marriage in 1861, her parents are listed as George Kraus and Kunigunde Birner from Hoedestattes, Bavaria, but no town with this exact spelling has been located. There are, however, two or more towns named Hochstadt! The surname Kraus is not uncommon in Bavaria and tracing the source of this family is nearly impossible. With Kunigunde's maiden name and the thought that Anna Pfaffenzeller may have come from the same town, however, it may be possible to track down a town in Bavaria through the combination of Kraus with a more unusual surname.

By mid-1850, according to the U.S. Census for that year, the family was living in the Town of Polk, Washington County, Wisconsin where the census listed George as Joseph Crouse, age 40, a wagon-maker with wife "C.", age 45 and children George (10), "Francis (female)" (9), Catherine (6), "O." (5) and Anna (1). Since there was often much difficulty in communication between the immigrants and the census takers who very often were of a different ethnic group, the misspelled entry of George Kraus as Joseph Crouse is very probable and the census taker just gave up on hearing the German names, Cunigunde and Ursula. The ages of the parents are a little strange but those of the children are more likely correct than those given on the passenger list. Perhaps the information was given to the census taker by one of the children who did not know the exact ages of the parents but did know those of the siblings.

The next documentation for this family was the purchase on Aug. 7, 1852 by G. Kraus(s) of the Town of Polk for the sum of \$80. from Nicolaus Gerber and his wife, Marie, of land in the village of Schleisingerville, Wisconsin. This consisted of lot 5 in block 5 including a certain log house 18'x20' as well as the lot behind it, lot 11, block 5. This property had been purchased the preceding year by Nicolaus Gerber for \$120. The adjoining property, lots 4 and 12 in the same block 5 of the original plat (1846) of Schleisingerville were purchased by George Kraus(e) on Sept. 1, 1852 from J. Schleisinger and his wife, Pauline and B. S. Weil and his wife, Elisa Adelaide. Lots 4 and 5 faced the main street of the town, currently E. Washington Street, on the southwest side and were the fourth and fifth lots southeast of the main intersection in the village. The rear lots 11 and 12 faced on Hill Alley. (This was the location remembered by Anna Theisen Roth Gundrum as the place where her grandmother Ursula had lived as a child.) With the exception of a small amount of land along the main road in the northeast corner of lot 4 which was sold to John Schuck in 1868 and 1869, this real estate was held by George Kraus during his lifetime.

George Kraus also owned 40 acres of land in Section 7 of the Town of Polk which he purchased Oct. 13, 1853.



George Kraus declared his intention to be a citizen of the United States in Washington County on Oct. 27, 1855. Here his birth year was listed as 1807!

The 1860 Census listed George Kraus as a farmer, 54, with wife Kunigunda, also 54, daughter "Ursala" 16 and son John 8. The older children apparently were by this time living elsewhere, either where employed or married. (In fact, records at the time of the sale of the family property in 1885 indicated that "Franzis" had married Nicholas Hassemer and was living in Red Wing, Goodhue County, Minnesota; Katharina had married B. F. Elliot and was living in New Frankford (New Frankfort?), Saline County, Missouri. No further information is available on any descendants of these two women.) Since Anna who would have been 11 or 12 years old in 1860 is also not mentioned, it is possible that she died during the decade 1850 to 1860.

Daughter Ursula Kraus was married in 1861 to the widower, Nicolaus Theisen, a neighbor and tailor in the village. She had been helping him take care of his young children after the death of their mother, Magdalena Licht Theisen in May 1860.

Son George Kraus was called up in the first call of 1862 for 807 men from the Town of Polk for military duty in the Civil War. He was mustered in Sept. 17, 1862 at Milwaukee, credited to Fond du Lac, Ward 3. According to records of the U.S. Adj. Gen. Office and the Wisconsin Adj. Gen. Office Regimental Muster and Description Rolls ("Red Books"), George Kraus was a private in Company E, 26th Infantry (Fond du Lac). He was described as 23 years old, with blue eyes, dark-brown hair, fair complexion and 5'8 1/2" in height, single, a wagonmaker from Schleisingerville, Washington County, Wisconsin. Private Kraus was wounded in action in the campaign at Atlanta and died in the hospital May 26, 1864.

The 1870 Census listed George Kraus(e) 66, wagonmaker, and his wife, Cunigunda 66, (ages that agree with those on their tombstones); son John lived at home with them and worked for a wagonmaker (his father?). George Kraus was listed as having real estate worth \$1500 and personal estate of \$500.

Kunigunda Kraus died Oct. 4, 1879 and George Kraus died less than a year later on May 7, 1880. They were buried in the Union Cemetery, Schleisingerville (now Slinger). Although Catholic, they were not buried in the Catholic Cemetery in the town, having had, according to a family story, some disagreement with the Church. No death certificates or newspaper obituary notices have been located for either George or Kunigunda. Lots 4,5 and 11 of the Kraus property were sold May 29, 1885 to John Albert of the Town of Addison by the four living heirs of the Kraus family - Francis Hassemer, Katharina Elliot, Ursula Theisen and John Kraus and their spouses.

The youngest child in the family and the only one born in the U. S. was John Kraus. He and his wife Mary were residents of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin in 1885. At the time of the 1900 U. S. Census, they were listed as having had 8 children, of whom 7 were living; from the will of Fr. Francis Kraus, one of their sons, it is apparent that they had one additional child after 1900.

The descendants of Ursula Kraus Theisen and her husband Nicolaus are summarized in the Nicolas Theisen Family Tree. Those of Ursula's sisters, Francis and Katharina, are unknown at the present state of this research. Those of her younger brother, John, are detailed in his separate biographical sketch.



The descendants of Ursula Theisen seem not to have had much family contact except with John's son, Francis J., later Reverend Francis Kraus, who was located at West Bend in 1928. Especially with those who moved out of the state to Minnesota and Missouri the distances involved were enough to cause family members to lose contact. Even Marshfield in 1900 was a long way from Schleisingerville!

Information sources:

U. S. Census 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900  
Land records - Washington Co, WI Register of Deeds  
Union Cemetery, Slinger, WI  
U. S. and Wis. Adj. Gen. records, Wis. State Hist. Lib.  
Quickert, "Hist. of Washington County"  
Naturalization records (Washington Co.), Golda Meir Lib., UW-Milwaukee  
St. Lawrence, Wis. Catholic Church Marr. and Death Records  
Personal recollections of family members

Marie M. Roth  
May 7, 1989  
Revised Aug. 26, 1990

## Zeltingen-Rachtig

### Historical Notes

Zeltingen-Rachtig is a land with an old civilization. Discoveries from the Old and New Stone Ages give evidence of the remnants of early Celtic settlement in the area of Zeltingen. The two village names are of Celtic origin. Zeltingen, in the name of which that of the Celts is contained, is derived from "Celtane". Zeltingen and Rachtig probably were founded during the reign of Archbishop Kunibert (623-63) of the Archdiocese of Cologne, under which both villages, except for countless exchanges in the course of the centuries, remained as independent communities until the end of the Old Reich. The administrative building of the Cologne regime in Zeltingen serves today as the parsonage. Parts of the walls are the only visible remains of the castle built above Zeltingen at the end of the 12th century. Records show that Zeltingen-Rachtig has been the site of various abbeys and cloisters of the Cologne diocese since the year 1057.

On the other side of the Mosel River across from Zeltingen-Rachtig is the property of the Machern Cloister established in 1084. In 1247 the Order of Teutonic Knights was established in Rachtig. Their later headquarters, the Deutscheherrenhaus, although extensively remodeled, is well worth seeing. The rule of the Cologne Curial Office ended with the French Revolution in 1794. Under French occupation the "Mairie Zeltingen" (City Hall) was erected. After the overthrow of the foreign oppressors, it was redesignated under Prussian rule as the "Amt Zeltingen" (Zeltingen civil office), serving also the villages of Rachtig, Erden, Losnich and Wolf until the Administrative Reform of 1971. Approximately 3000 residents make up the wine-area of Zeltingen-Rachtig. 130 wineries are operated on a full-time basis and 190 on a part-time basis. 140 vintners are members of a cooperative and 16 have formed a wine corporation. 285 hectares of vineyards cover the areas of Deutscheherrenberg (15 ha.), Himmelreich (180 ha.), Schlossberg (60 ha.) and Sonnenuhr (30 ha.). Schlossberg, named after the Rosenberg castle ruins, is part of a large area. Sonnenuhr is one of the most well-known peaks on the Mosel. "Zeltinger Sonnenuhr" labeled wine is found among the wine collections of the English royal house and of many wine connoisseurs all over the world.

The traditional wine festival is held in Rachtig on the second Sunday in July. On the first Sunday after the third of August the great public wine-tasting festival of the Middle Mosel takes place in Zeltingen.

For centuries, wine-making has been the main source of livelihood in Zeltingen-Rachtig. From early times the community, blessed by its beautiful pastoral location, has welcomed tourism, and today offers vacationers and recreation seekers 1000 guest beds and an outstanding gastronomy. Swimming pool, tennis, minigolf, open chess, a cleared path and a very large network of walking trails and shelter cabins with grills are available in this beautifully situated woodland area.

The tourist office of the community, Uferallee 13, Phone 06532-2404, is pleased to provide free information. The community of Zeltingen-Rachtig today is becoming one of the most well-known recreation areas on the Mosel; its motto - "Wine, Rest and Recreation".

(Translated by Marie Roth)

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MUCH OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN WAS OBTAINED FROM THE DETAILED COMPUTERIZED DATA RESEARCHED BY MARIE ROTH. DATES AND NAMES OF MANY OF THE THOUSANDS OF THEISEN AND FRIESS DESCENDANTS DOWN TO THE 5TH AND 6TH GENERATIONS, PLUS EXTENSIVE ANCESTRAL INFORMATION, IS CONTAINED IN HUNDREDS OF PAGES OF COMPUTER PRINTOUT IN THIS MOST EXTENSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY THE ROTHs.