

Settlers of Lebanon, WI



the invasion of Russia. Under General York this army proceeded to Riga, five hundred miles west of Moscow, where it was to remain and protect Napoleon's flank.

Napoleon with 500,000 men marched on Moscow. When he took possession of the deserted city, the Russians put the torch to it. Napoleon himself slipped away and hurried back to France, leaving his demoralized troops to shift for themselves. Only 7000 men of the advance units and 15,000 who had been stationed nearer home succeeded in reaching Germany, where they were treated most humanely by the sympathetic German people and helped on their way to France.

General York, being a patriotic Prussian, entered into an agreement with General Diebitsch, commander of the Russian armies, to remain neutral. He wrote to King Frederick William, "If I am doing wrong, I will lay my old head without a murmur at your Majesty's feet".

Finally in 1813 the vacillating Frederick William III was persuaded by Baron von Stein and the Generals Scharnhorst, York, and Blücher to join Russia and England in the war which culminated in the defeat of Napoleon, first, at Leipzig in October 1813 and finally at Waterloo in June 1815.

Friedrich Schöfeler, who had served in General York's army, painted vivid word-pictures for his listeners, of what he had experienced or witnessed in the Russian

campaign:

The stronger and physically able soldiers of the French army organized groups of their own and wearily tramped westward. Every day some of them fell behind. When the wind and snow was too fierce, they would stand close together and warm each other with the heat of their bodies. Sometimes they would even tie a rope around the group to enable them to remain standing.

What little food they had was severely rationed. They carried their weapons and as much ammunition as possible. Whenever they were able to bag any kind of wild life, they stopped to prepare food sufficient to keep body and soul together. When they had abundance of food from the game they had killed, they ate more heartily but still rationed it. It is no wonder that so few ever saw their homeland again.

One can capture the emotional intensity of these incidents when one hears a rendition of Heinrich Heine's ballad, set to the stirring music of Robert Schumann, "Die Beiden Grenadier" ("The Two Grenadiers"), or when one hears Tchaikovsky's "Overture 1812". (29)

Friedrich Schöfeler's Prussian passport describes him as having dark blond hair, blond eye brows, a blond beard, and blue-gray eyes. He was six feet two inches in height and powerfully built. In his prime he could take a horse shoe and twist it out of shape with his bare

40
hands. Thruout his life he retained the characteristics of the soldier. (30)

Family 3-2 Ernst Wilhelm Schweffel (Johann, Johann Augustus), son of Johann and Maria (Pfeifer) Schweffel, was born 27 May 1802 at Neu Kietz near Frelenwalde on Oder. He died 10 March 1891 at Lebanon, Dodge Co., Wis., and was buried in the cemetery of Immanuel Lutheran Church at Old Lebanon. He married 30 August 1832 Dorothea Sophie Braemer, widow of Johann Koch, and daughter of the landowner Wilhelm Braemer of Alt Rüdnitz. She was born 19 Sept. 1811 at Alt Rüdnitz on Oder, and she died 21 April 1906 at Lebanon and was buried beside her husband.

The Braemer home in Alt Rüdnitz was located at the west end of the main street, about a half mile west of the home of Christian Dornfeld and his wife Maria Schweffel.

At the age of sixteen Dorothea Sophia Braemer was married (1) to Johann Koch. He died in 1831, leaving her with two children, Friedrich, born 1830, and Marie, born 1831.

About 1838 Ernst Schweffel and his wife joined the Old Lutherans. In 1843 they and their children and relatives migrated to America. They arrived in Milwaukee on 5 October 1843. They bot land in Lebanon, Dodge County, two hundred forty acres, lying on the north side of the road, running east from Old Lebanon Center. After living in a log bldding for som years, they built a fine two



Ernst W. Schweffel F-3

41
story log house in 1851; which they re-
placed in 1871 with an impressiv two and
a half story brick hous.

Across the road to the south, his
brother-in-law, Christian Heinrich Dorn-
feld, built his home. Both were among
the well-to-do members of the Old Luther-
ans group. They not only contributed
generously to a fund to enable poorer
members to migrate, but for some years,
they helpt thelr more needy country-men,
arriving from Germany, to get a start
in Dodge County.

The name Braemer, signifies the per-
son who lives on a piece of land which is
inclosed by a hedge or a line of closely
set trees. The modern German word die
Braeme signifies such a hedge or border.

Wilhelm Braemer of Alt Rüdnitz speld
his name "Braemer". neither Bramer nor
Bremer.

He was the owner of a Freimanns gut
(freeholder's land) in Alt Rüdnitz.

Ernst Wilhelm Schwefel
was a resident of Town Lebanon for fifty
years. He was recognized as a leader in
the community for thirty years or more.
Whenever a state or national election was
approaching, political conferences were
held in his home which were to influence
the German vote in the township and coun-
ty. Naturally he met most of the polit-
ical figures in the state, including
Carl Schurz.



Sophia (Braemer) Schwefel F-3

He encouraged his sons and his nephew to take a part in community and public affairs. Thus his nephew Friedrich Traugott Schweffel early served in the state legislature. He encouraged them to extend their acquaintances and friendships beyond their own German circles.

While he hoped that they would retain an appreciation of their German ancestry, he wanted his children and children's children to be Americans.

Children:

(F4-6) 1. Ernest William, b. 1833

(F4-7) 11. William John, b. 1836

111. Augusta, b. 1842, d. young

(F4-8) 1v. Caroline Wilhelmine, b. 1846.

(F4-9) v. Ernstine, b. 1848.

FOURTH GENERATION

Family 4-1 Friedrich Traugott Schweffel (Friedrich, Johann, Johann Augustus), son of Friedrich and Johanna Catharine (Kirchgarter) Schweffel, was born 23 April 1820 at Neu Kietz, near Frelenwalde on Oder, Prussia. He died 1 April 1894 at Lebanon, Dodge County, Wis., and was buried in the cemetery of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. He was married 5 Jan. 1846 at Lebanon to Friedericka Schoenlike, daughter of Georg and Marie (Leopold) Schoenlike. According to custom their sons

were published in church three times, namely, on the 4th, the 6th., and the 11th of January 1846. The ceremony was performed by his brother-in-law, Pastor Carl Ludwig Geyer. She was born at Posedn, a village in the southern part of the Oderbruch. She died 9 Nov. 1909 and was buried beside her husband.

In 1845 Traugott bot a farm of 240 acres from the United States Government. The Certificate of Sale, bearing the signature of President James K. Polk, is dated 1 Aug. 1946. It describes the land as "the west half of the South East quarter, and the South West quarter, of Section 28, in Township Nine, North, of Range Sixteen, East, in the Milwaukee Land district, containing 240 acres".

The U. S. Census of 1850 distorts his name to "Trugle Swifflie" but gives his age and that of his wife correctly and those of their two living children, Marie, born 1848, and Emilie, born 1850.

From 1855 to 1857 Traugott served in the Wisconsin Legislature, being the first German from Dodge County to have this distinction. (31-33)

Children:

1. Traugott Friedrich, b. 26 Oct. 1846; d. in infancy.

11. Marie, b. 1848 (Schoenlike F5-1) 111. Emilie, b 5 March 1850; d. 27 May 1868, buried in the cemetery of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lebanon.