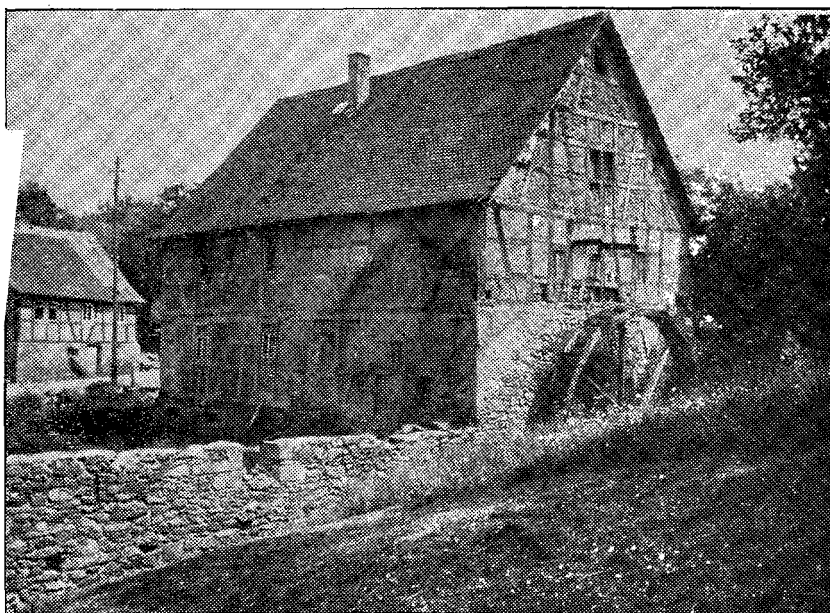


The TRACHT FAMILY TREE



OLD OIL MILL, GADERNHEIM, HESSE, GERMANY

In this old mill, known as the "lower mill" of Gadernheim, the first Tracht was employed. Much of the history of the Tracht family in Germany centers around this mill.

1629 1836

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
THE COMPILERS OF THIS BOOK
acknowledge their indebtedness

To Dr. theol. Ernst Wagner of Bensheim, Hesse, Germany, for his untiring efforts in searching the Reichenbach parish records, without which the accuracy of the Tracht Genealogy could not have been attained. The Rev. Dr. Wagner also supplied the photographs of scenes in Germany, which add immeasurably to the value of the booklet.

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To Mr. L. R. Tracht of Cleveland, Ohio, who assumed the responsibility and expense of having cuts made for the illustrations.

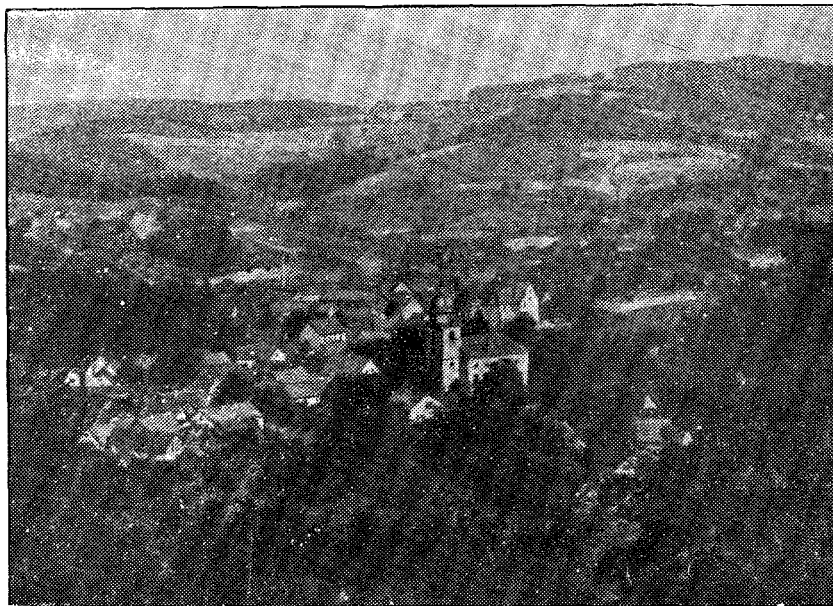
To the Rev. J. E. Albrecht, of Galion, Ohio, for his encouragement and valuable assistance.

To Mr. John J. Schaefer, of Galion, Ohio, who corresponded in the German language with Rev. Dr. Wagner.

Sincere thanks are extended to all who supplied names and dates relative to births, marriages and deaths.

The TRACHT FAMILY TREE

COMPILED BY
MINNIE C. MILLER
AND
ELIZABETH SCHAEFER
HISTORIANS OF THE TRACHT FAMILY
GALION, OHIO, 1935



VILLAGE OF REICHENBACH, HESSE, GERMANY

The Reichenbach parish included also Raidelbach, Lautern and Gadernheim. The residents of these four villages attended the church at Reichenbach, which can be seen near the center of the view. This church built originally in 1426, was rebuilt in 1747. At the horizon above the church steeple lies Raidelbach, hidden behind a rise in the ground.

EXPLANATION OF THE TRACHT GENEALOGY

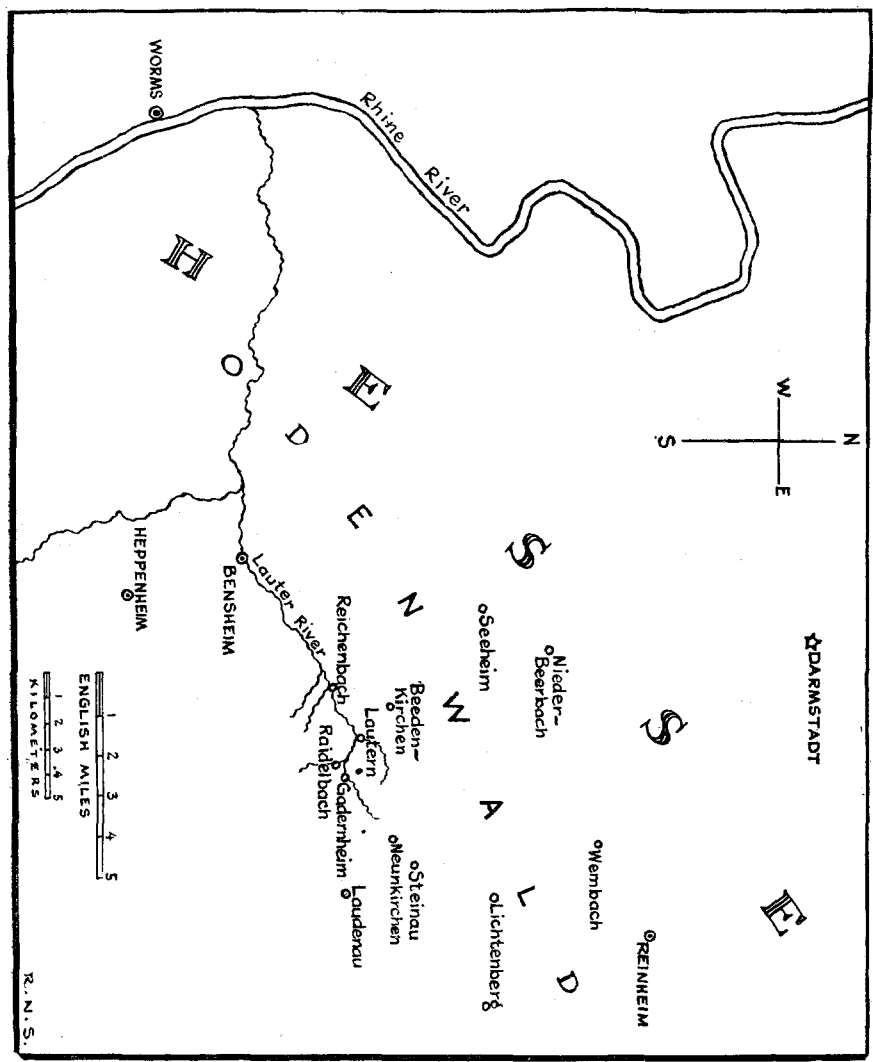
TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF DR. THEOL. ERNST WAGNER
LUTHERAN PASTOR AT BENSHEIM, HESSE, GERMANY, 1934

The name Tracht appears for the first time on Oct. 31st, 1657, in the church books of the Reichenbach parish in Hesse, Germany. Probably the first Adam Tracht came there from another parish. For, from his death record, 1629 certainly can be arrived at as the year of his birth, yet no birth record can be found around this time, in the well kept church books of the parish. There are nowhere any facts relating to his origin. However, the ancestors of his wife, Anna Lutz, continued back to 1583. (See Table 1) The Braurbach-Bauer marriage record is the second one in the oldest marriage records of the parish. They begin in 1581 and extend to 1634 complete. Then the parish, which had suffered severely in the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) was left unoccupied by a pastor until 1669. In the year 1630 the plague had carried off 100 persons, among them whole families in Reichenbach, which numbered perhaps 300 inhabitants. There remains a blank until 1650; from 1650 until 1667 the records are incomplete. A blank in all church records exists also from 1742 to 1748. The task of erecting a family tree is rendered more difficult, as alphabetical records for church books first appeared in 1815. Handwritings are scarcely legible, the forms of the records change with each pastor, the records until 1750 are very brief; for example, in the baptismal register only the first name, but not also the family name of the mother was noted.

Therefore, it was necessary to check record by record, in order to reach the completeness which must be arrived at, in the finished genealogy. Nevertheless a number of dates are still lacking, namely, as they pertain to the female members of the family. In the majority of cases one could decide that a marriage had been celebrated outside the Reichenbach parish, and in what degree also a number of people from outside had married into the parish.

Spelling of names was first of all, purely phonetic; that goes entirely according to the accent of the local pronunciation. So the name Tracht was altered variously. In the first record, 1657, one reads Tracht, in the next generation Drach was written, then followed Dracht and then about 1750 it became Tracht again. The given names Nickolaus, Heinrich, Johannes, Georg, were written for the time being also: Nickel, Hennrich, Hans and Jeorg.

So far as the descent from the daughters can be traced (as above remarked many doubtless married outside the parish) their children too are mentioned in the genealogy. In the progeny belonging to the female line, the family certainly still lives in the parish of Reichenbach, namely in Raidelbach, Lautern, Gadernheim, Reichenbach and other nearby villages. However, the name Tracht no longer exists in the parish. It seems to have disappeared almost as suddenly as it appeared back in 1657. From 1831 on, all the male members of the Tracht family went to North America.



MAP: REICHENBACH AND NEIGHBORING VILLAGES

The Trachts and the families with whom they intermarried lived in the little villages which lie among the wooded hills of the Odenwald (forest of Oden) near the Rhine river. The scenery in this locality is said to be unsurpassed in beauty anywhere else in the world.

EXPLANATION OF THE TRACHT GENEALOGY

An important part in the history of the Tracht family is played by the "lower mill" in Gadernheim. Here the first Adam Tracht (born 1629) was employed and doubtless also many of his descendants. Though it has been abandoned, the old mill still stands, and an aged man (no relative) lives there alone. This mill was used for extracting oil from a variety of nut which is peculiar to the region. About 1822, Johann Georg Tracht (see Table 21) added saw milling to the other work of the mill.

The homestead which Johann Adam Tracht (see Table 19) left in 1831, still exists and is occupied as a dwelling. The writer supplied the compilers of this book with photographs of the homestead, the old oil mill and Reichenbach village. The Reichenbach church was erected in 1747 on the site of the old church built in 1426. Here the Trachts were baptised, confirmed and married; here they heard God's word every Sunday and in the churchyard they lie buried. However no tombstone with the name Tracht exists, since as far as up to the middle of the last century, they placed almost universally wooden crosses on the graves. In 1540 the Reformation after the manner of Luther was introduced. Today the parish has 1715 Protestants in 286 homes.

Raidelbach has lived entirely by farming for 300 years. Linen weaving long since has disappeared as a trade. Gadernheim and Reichenbach have many men employed in stonecutting. About 1875 they began to utilize the excellent granite in the hills, and stone-cutting became the principal industry.

Reichenbach and neighboring villages lie in the valley of the Lauter river amid beautiful surroundings, 380 meters above sea level in the Odenwald forest, 220 meters below the Neunkirchen height which arises in the near neighborhood. The distance between the villages of Gadernheim and Raidelbach is a kilometer, about five-eighths of a mile.

TRACHT GENEALOGY

Table 1.

OLDEST ANCESTORS

BRAUERBACH, Nickolaus, son of Peter Brauerbach of Staffel (branch of Beedenkirchen parish) and

BAUER, Anna, daughter of Adam Bauer of Gadernheim (branch of Reichenbach parish) were married on Apr. 2, 1583, in the parish church at Reichenbach. To this marriage was born on March 15, 1590

BRAUERBACH, Else. She was, on May 24, 1614, married to

LUTZ, Philipp, born on Feb. 18, 1593, son of Instad Lutz and his wife Anna (family name not stated). To this marriage was born

LUTZ, Peter, on May 23, 1619, in Gadernheim. His daughter

LUTZ, Anna (mother and date of birth not recorded) was married to TRACHT, Adam, on Oct. 31, 1657. (See Table 2).

NOTE: The 26 Tables of the Tracht Genealogy, erected by Dr. theol. Ernst Wagner and the "Explanation of the Tracht Genealogy" were translated from the German by Miss Hilda B. Miller and Mr. Robert N. Schaefer of Galion, Ohio.

Table 2.

TRACHT, Adam (origin and date of birth not recorded, born 1629 and died July 14, 1715, aged 86) resided in Gadernheim, finally a vestryman, was likely a miller, since he was the son-in-law of the miller, Peter Lutz. He was married on Oct. 31, 1657, to Anna Lutz (See Table 1).

Children: all born in Gadernheim

1. Johannes, born May 27, 1659 (godfather from Neunkirchen, whose name is illegible) nothing further known.
2. Hans Peter, born Dec. 29, 1660, died Feb. 3, 1661.
3. Elisabeth, born Apr. 16, 1662 (in 1696 called "the unmarried daughter" of Adam Tracht) nothing further known.
4. Johann Adam, born June 22, 1664 (See Table 3).
5. Peter, born Mar. 6, 1666. Godfather was his grandfather Peter Lutz (See Table 4).
6. Anna Katharina Barbara, born Sept. 12, 1670 (see Table 4) nothing further known.
7. Hieronymus, born 20th Sunday after Trinity, 1672, nothing further known.
8. Hans Peter, born Mar. 8, 1674, nothing further known.
9. Hans Martin, born Nov. 17, 1676 (See Table 5).
10. Anna Elisabeth, born Oct. 27, 1678, died before 1682.
11. Margarete, born June 19, 1681, nothing further known.
12. Anna Elisabeth, born July 16, 1682, unbaptized and probably still born.

Table 3.

TRACHT, Johann Adam, born June 22, 1664, in Gadernheim, son of Adam Tracht and his wife Anna, born Lutz (see Table 2, No. 4) was a common man and vestryman of Gadernheim and died Aug. 14, 1726. He was married (marriage date not known) to

ZIEGENFUSZ, Anna Barbara, born Nov. 1, 1666 at Raidelbach (branch of Reichenbach parish) the daughter of Hans Ziegenfusz, common man of Raidelbach and his wife Anna (family name unknown). Anna Barbara Tracht died Oct. 4, 1736, in Gadernheim following a fall from a tree.

Children: are not entered in the parish register. The marriage was certainly childless, since no entries are found later in the marriage register.

Note: "On Jan. 31, 1724 died Valentine Vetter, a poor boy eighteen years old, whom Johann Adam Tracht had adopted. His father, a soldier from Darmstadt, had died at Bessungen."

NOTE: From their earliest history to the present time it is characteristic that in every generation there are Trachts who are childless while others are the parents of numerous children. Likewise every generation of Trachts produces one or more members who are red-heads, which fact has won for them the appellation der Rote or Red.

Table 4.

TRACHT, Peter, born in Gadernheim, Mar. 6, 1666, the son of Adam Tracht and his wife Anna, born Lutz (see Table 2, No. 5) the godson of his grandfather the miller, Peter Lutz of Gadernheim; he was designated in the parish register as the "lower miller" and common man of Gadernheim. He died on Dec. 11, 1735 in Gadernheim. He was married to

First marriage: AGATHE (family name, birthplace and date unknown); she died in Gadernheim in Jan., 1704 (day was not stated). The marriage surely took place before 1701. No children are entered. The marriage was perhaps childless.

Second marriage: DEGENHARDT, Anna Appolonia, born on Jan. 13, 1685, in Gadernheim, the daughter of a future schoolmaster of Reichenbach, Hans Jacob Degenhardt; (as a second godmother, Anna Katharina Tracht, daughter of Adam Tracht of Gadernheim was specified (see Table 2, No. 6) therefore the sister of the future husband; the marriage took place on Feb. 3, 1706 in Reichenbach. Anna Appolonia Tracht died on Nov. 16, 1759 at Gadernheim. This marriage was likely childless also.

Table 5.

TRACHT, Hans (also Johann) Martin, born Nov. 17, 1676, the son of the member of the tribunal, Adam Tracht, and his wife Anna, born Lutz, of Gadernheim (see Table 2, No. 9) was a common man of Gadernheim, and died there on May 19, 1735. He was married to

ZEHFUSZ, Anna Ursula, born in Raidelbach in 1670 (day and month were not stated) the daughter of Hildebrandt Zehfusz and his wife Margarete (family name was not specified). Anna Ursula Zehfusz in her first marriage was married to Johann Adam Lutz, common man of Gadernheim, born on Mar. 25, 1670, the son of the future mayor Johannes Lutz of Gadernheim. From this marriage resulted Anna Elisabeth Lutz, born Nov. 2, 1697, died Aug. 12, 1718; Johann Joerg Lutz, born Nov. 7, 1701, drowned in a pool on Dec. 14, 1704.

Children: all born in Gadernheim

1. Hans Peter, born Feb. 6, 1705. (See Table 6)
2. Johann Heinrich, born May 17, 1707. (See Table 7)
3. Anna Margarete, born July 5, 1709. (See Table 8)
4. Anna Appolonia, born July 14, 1713. Nothing further known.

Table 6.

TRACHT, Johann (also Hans) Peter, born Feb. 6, 1705, in Gadernheim, the son of Johann Martin Tracht of Gadernheim, and his wife Anna Ursula, born Zehfusz. (See Table 5, No. 1). He

perhaps became a common man of Raidelbach through his marriage. He fell from a cherry tree and died several days afterward, on Aug. 27, 1742. He was married on Jan. 22, 1726, to

ZIEGENFUSZ, Elisabeth Margarete, born Apr. 8, 1705, in Raidelbach, the daughter of the mayor, Hans Jacob Ziegenfusz. (Hans Jacob Ziegenfusz died Dec. 9, 1724. He went to Neunkirchen on the first Sunday in Advent; the next morning he was found lying in the woods, dead of a broken neck). The date of her death is not recorded.

Children: born in Raidelbach

1. Eva Maria, born Feb. 20, 1727, died Nov. 25, 1727.
2. Hans Georg, born Oct. 1, 1728. (See Table 9)
3. Anna Margarete, born Dec. 16, 1730, died unmarried May 11, 1788.
4. Elisabeth Margarete, born Nov. 27, 1733, nothing further known.
5. Eva Maria, born Mar. 23, 1735. (See Table 10)
6. Johann Leonhard, born Jan. 21, 1738. (See Table 11)
7. Anna Ursula, born June 18, 1740, nothing further known.
8. Johann Peter, born posthumus Jan. 14, 1743, nothing further known.

Table 7.

TRACHT, Johann Heinrich, born May 17, 1707, in Gadernheim, the son of the common man, Johann Martin Tracht and his wife Anna Ursula, born Zehfusz (see Table 5, No. 2) was a common man of Gadernheim, and died there on Nov 8, 1741. He was married on May 5, 1735 to

ZIEGENFUSZ, Anna Margarete, born Jan. 8, 1717, the daughter of Johann Nikolaus Ziegenfusz and his wife Ursula (family name unknown) in Raidelbach. Anna Margarete Tracht died on Oct. 14, 1741, in Gadernheim.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Johann Georg, born July 17, 1738, died July 17, 1738.
2. Johann Nikolaus, born Sept. 5, 1740. (See Table 12)

Table 8.

TRACHT, Anna Margarete, born in Gadernheim on July 5, 1709, the daughter of Johann Martin Tracht and his wife Anna Ursula, born Zehfusz (see Table 5, No. 3) was married on Feb. 28, 1730 to

HOCHGENUG, Hans Peter, born on June 20, 1706 in Reichenbach, the son of the carpenter, Andreas Hochgenug. Anna Margarete Hochgenug, born Tracht, died in Reichenbach on June 8, 1783. Hochgenug was a common man and assessor of

Reichenbach, and died there in 1776.

Children: Hochgenug, born in Reichenbach

1. Johann Nikel, born Oct. 28, 1731, died June 13, 1803, in Reichenbach, married Dec. 19, 1755, to Eva Elisabeth Keil, daughter of the common man of Laudenau, Johannes Keil. She was born Sept. 19, 1729, died in Reichenbach July 17, 1787.
2. Anna Elisabeth, born June 24, 1734, died Oct., 1734.
3. Johann Georg, born Oct. 13, 1735.
4. Johann Christian, born Oct. 31, 1737.
5. Johann Peter, born Nov. 25, 1739; because of an infirmity, he was baptised by the schoolmaster. He died in Reichenbach, Oct. 28, 1785.
6. Anna Margarete, born Oct. 20, 1741, died Jan. 12, 1742.
7. Anna Margarete, born Jan. 24, 1743, died Nov. 15, 1759.
8. Margarete, born Jan. 24, 1743.
9. Anna Katharina, born Feb. 18, 1744, married July 25, 1776, to Johann Heinrich Essinger (a soldier in the Infantry Regiment of the Dutch Count Rechter) son of Wendel Essinger of Reichenbach.

Note: Descendants live even now in Reichenbach.

Table 9.

TRACHT, Johann (also Hans) Georg, born Oct. 1, 1728 in Raidelbach, son of Johann Peter Tracht, common man of Raidelbach and his wife Elisabeth Margarete, born Ziegenfusz (see Table 6, No. 2) was a common man of Raidelbach, and died there on Sept. 24, 1781. He was married on May 7, 1750 to

KARMAN, (also Karrmann) Anna Katharine, born on May 2, 1729, in Seeheim on the river Bergstrasse, the daughter of the common man of Seeheim, Johannes Karmann. Anna Katharine Tracht died in Gadernheim Jan. 10, 1810.

Children: born in Raidelbach

1. Johann Adam, born Mar. 5, 1752. (See Table 13)
2. Johannes, born Nov. 16, 1754, was a master cabinet-maker of Gadernheim. He died unmarried on Nov. 18, 1807.
3. Johann Georg, born May 22, 1758, died unmarried on Nov. 26, 1781, in Raidelbach.
4. Eva Maria, born Oct. 6, 1761, nothing further known.
5. Johann Peter, born Oct. 15, 1769. (See Table 14)

Table 10.

TRACHT, Eva Maria, born Mar. 23, 1735, the daughter of Johann Peter Tracht, common man of Raidelbach and his wife Elisabeth Margarete, born Ziegenfusz (see Table 6, No. 5) was mar-

ried on May 15, 1759 to
 GASZMANN, Johann Freidrich, born in Gadernheim, Sept. 24, 1734, the son of Alexander Gaszmann, common man and master linenweaver and finally vestryman of Gadernheim, and his wife Anna Margarete, born Morgenroth in Langen-Brombach. Johann Freidrich Gaszmann was a master tailor of Gadernheim, and died there on Mar. 18, 1796. His wife preceded him, but no record of her death can be found.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Anna Margarete, born April 7, 1760, died unmarried Apr. 22, 1788.
2. Johann Adam, born June 23, 1762, died Mar. 7, 1803.
3. Johann Nikolaus, born Dec. 15, 1764.

Table 11.

TRACHT, Johann Leonhard, born Jan. 21, 1738, in Raidelbach, the son of Johann Peter Tracht, common man of Raidelbach, and his wife Elisabeth Margarete, born Ziegenfusz (see Table 6, No. 6) was a common man, retailer and master tailor of Gadernheim, and died there on Aug. 8, 1821. He was married on Sept. 28, 1769 to

WIENER, Anna Elisabeth, born Jan. 26, 1740, the daughter of the mayor of Gadernheim, Johannes Wiener and his wife Anna Margarete. Anna Elisabeth Tracht died in Gadernheim Sept. 13, 1783.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Anna Elisabeth, born July 18, 1773. (See Table 15)
2. Johann Adam, born May 9, 1776, died Mar. 30, 1777.
3. Eva Maria, born May 9, 1776, died May 21, 1776.

Table 12.

TRACHT, Johann Nikolaus, born Sept. 5, 1740, the son of the common man of Gadernheim, Johann Heinrich Tracht and his wife Anna Margarete, born Ziegenfusz (see Table 7, No. 2) was a common man of Gadernheim and died there Nov. 28, 1781. He was married Jan. 3, 1760 to

SEIBERT, Anna Margarete, born Oct. 2, 1737, the daughter of the common man of Neunkirchen, Johann Georg Seibert. She died in Gadernheim on Jan. 17, 1791.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Anna Eva, born Apr. 15, 1761. (See Table 16)
2. Anna Dorothea, born Aug. 6, 1765, died Mar. 30, 1766.
3. Anna Margarethe, born Aug. 20, 1768, died Mar. 1, 1776.
4. Ernst Ludwig, born Dec. 31, 1771, died Dec. 31, 1771.
5. Anna Elisabeth, born June 16, 1774, died Mar. 8, 1776.
6. Johann Peter, born Mar. 10, 1776. (See Table 17)
7. Anna Maria, born Mar. 19, 1781, married Nov. 17, 1803 to Leonhard Rheinheimer of Wembach near the Lichtenberg castle; died Nov. 26, 1845. (See Table 25)

Table 13.

TRACHT, Johann Adam, born Mar. 5, 1752, the son of the common man of Raidelbach, Johann Georg Tracht and his wife Anna Katharine, born Karmann (see Table 9, No. 1) was a common man of Raidelbach; he died there Mar. 24, 1823. He was married on Feb. 23, 1783 in Reichenbach to

SCHNEIDER, Anna Elisabeth, daughter of the common man of Gadernheim, Johann Peter Schneider. She was born May 10, 1762, and died in Raidelbach, Mar. 12, 1822.

Children: born in Raidelbach

1. Johann Peter, born Apr. 30, 1784. (See Table 18)
2. Johann Adam, born Dec. 31, 1785. (See Table 19)
3. Anna Elisabeth, born Nov. 21, 1787. (See Table 20)
4. Johannes, born Nov. 13, 1789, emigrated to N. America in 1831. (See "The Frankensteins.")
5. Johann (der Rote) Leonhard, born July 11, 1792, emigrated to Slavonia, where he married and reared a family.
6. Johann Georg, born Feb. 19, 1795. (See Table 21)
7. Elisabeth Katharine, born Feb. 22, 1797. (See Table 26)
8. Johann Nikolaus, born Sept. 12, 1799; attended college and became a professor; died in 1823, unmarried.
9. Johann Peter, born Mar. 8, 1802. (See Table 20-B)
10. Eva (die grosze) Katharina, born July 20, 1806, emigrated to N. America in 1831. She never married.

THE TRACHT HOMESTEAD IN GERMANY

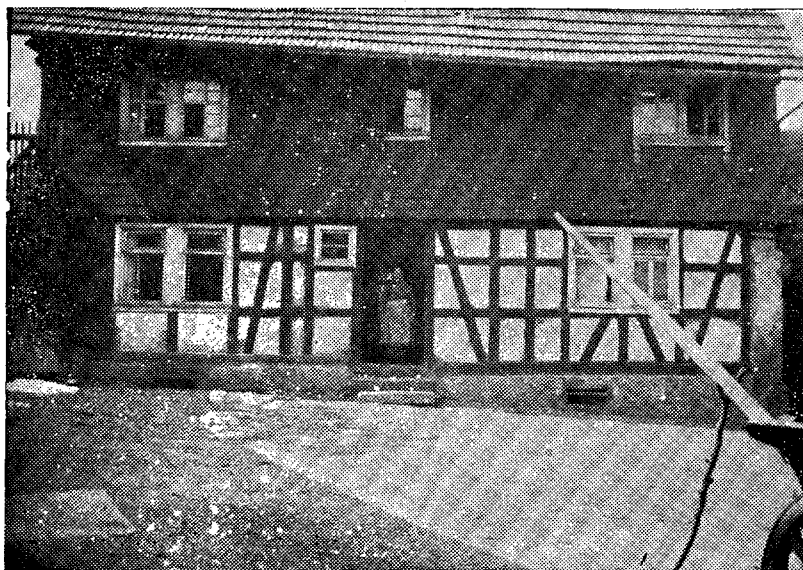
Johann Adam Tracht (see Table 13) and Anna Elisabeth Schneider were married in February of the year 1783. They were probably the first Trachts to live in the homestead, which had been built in Raidelbach about 1750.

The homestead and lands descended from father to son. Johann Adam Tracht (see Table 19), leader of the expedition to North America in 1831, and his family were the last Trachts to live in this house, in which it is likely, he and all of his brothers and sisters were born. His elder brother, Johann (der Blaue) Peter, had married the widow Dingeldey and was living on the Dingeldey farm in Gadernheim.

The view was taken in the court around which the homestead is built. The dwelling can be seen in the picture. Opposite it are barns for storing hay and grain. On either side are stables.

The buildings are of stone, but the upper part of the house is shingled. The shingles and window frames have, of course, been replaced many times since the building was erected.

NOTE: Nicknames borne by the Trachts, appearing on this and succeeding pages were added to the manuscript of the Tracht Genealogy by the compilers.



THE OLD HOME

Table 14.

TRACHT, Johann Peter, born Oct. 15, 1769, son of the common man of Raidelbach, Johann Georg Tracht and his wife Anna Katharine, born Karmann (see Table 9, No. 5) was a village citizen and master linenweaver of Gadernheim, and died there on Feb. 4, 1830. He was married on May 1, 1798 to

WEBER, Anna Elisabeth, born June 8, 1777, in Gadernheim, the daughter of the innkeeper and master linenweaver, Johann Philipp Weber and his wife Anna Margarete, born Wiener. She died April 16, 1847.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Anna Margarete, born May 8, 1799, died Aug. 2, 1800, of smallpox.
2. Johann Philipp, born June 17, 1802. (See Table 22)
3. Johann Jacob, born Sept. 17, 1804. (See Table 22-B)
4. Anna Elisabeth, born Sept. 29, 1806. (See Table 23)
5. Eva Elisabeth, born Jan. 9, 1809 (See Table 24)
6. Anna Margarete (die Anna Grete) born Jan. 31, 1811, emigrated to N. America, year not known. She never married.
7. Johann Peter, born April 28, 1813. (See Table 23-B)

Table 15.

TRACHT, Anna Elisabethe, born July 18, 1773, the daughter of Johann Leonhard Tracht, common man, retailer and master tailor of Gadernheim, and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Wiener (see Table 11, No. 1) was married on Mar. 20, 1793 to

BINAU (also Buenau and Bienau) Johann Georg, born on Nov. 22, 1767 in Gadernheim, the son of the innkeeper, Johann Adam Binau and his wife Katharina Barbara (family name not known). Johann Georg Binau was a glazier and innkeeper of Gadernheim and died there on July 2, 1819; his widow died on Mar. 18, 1840.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Johann Leonhard, born Sept. 27, 1794, died unmarried June 7, 1821.
2. Ernst Gottlieb Christian, born Oct. 28, 1796.
3. Johann Peter, born April 26, 1799.
4. Georg Adam, born July 23, 1801, died in childhood.
5. Anna Katharine, born Mar. 22, 1804.
6. Anna Margarete, born Apr. 17, 1806, died Feb. 23, 1881 in Reichenbach.
7. Johann Blasius, born Feb. 29, 1808, died Mar. 20, 1814.
8. Johannes, born June 24, 1810, died Nov. 19, 1813.
9. Anna Elisabeth, born Aug. 28, 1813.
10. Johann Philipp, born Dec. 12, 1815, died Aug. 12, 1862.

Table 16.

TRACHT, Anna Eva, born in Gadernheim Apr. 15, 1761, the daughter of Johann Nikolaus Tracht, common man of Gadernheim and his wife Anna Margarete, born Seibert (see Table 12, No. 1) was married on May 16, 1782 to

HELDMANN, Johann Adam, born on Jan. 15, 1758, in Steinau, the son of Leonhard Heldmann, assessor of that place. Johann Adam Heldmann was a common man of Gadernheim, and died there on Mar. 25, 1825; his wife died on Feb. 22, 1821.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Johannes, born Aug. 10, 1783.
2. Anna Elisabeth, born June 30, 1785.
3. Johann Peter, born May 3, 1788.
4. Johann Adam, born Jan. 8, 1791, died Dec. 5, 1867.
5. Maria Barbara, born May 17, 1793, died Jan. 24, 1794.
6. Anna Barbara, born Feb. 2, 1795, died Jan. 24, 1796.
7. Johann Georg, born Nov. 2, 1796, died Apr. 11, 1806.
8. Anna Maria, born Dec. 6, 1799, died in Auerbach, in Feb., 1864.

Table 17.

TRACHT, Johann Peter, born Mar. 10, 1776, in Gadernheim, the son of the common man of Gadernheim, Johann Nikolaus Tracht and his wife Anna Margarete, born Seibert; (see Table 12, No. 6) he probably passed away at Nieder-Beerbach. He was married on Dec. 20, 1798 to

FRIEDRICH, Luise, of Nieder-Beerbach, further statements absent.

Child: born in Gadernheim

Anna Katharine, born Dec. 22, 1799, nothing further known.

Table 18.

TRACHT, Johann (der Blaue) Peter, born Apr. 30, 1784, in Raidelbach, the son of Johann Adam Tracht and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Schneider (see Table 13, No. 1) was a village citizen and farmer of Gadernheim, and emigrated in 1834 to N. America. In 1823 he had been designated adjunct of Gadernheim. He was married Dec. 17, 1814 to

ZIEGENFUSZ, Eva, born July 7, 1780 in Raidelbach, the daughter of the common man Johann Peter Ziegenfusz and his wife Katharine, born Marquardt. In her first marriage, Eva Ziegenfusz was married to Johann Philipp Dingeldey, common man and farmer of Gadernheim. (See Table 21). In 1834 she emigrated to N. America with her husband and children.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Johann Georg, born Jan. 29, 1816, died Jan. 31, 1816.
2. Anna Elisabeth, born Apr. 24, 1817, emigrated to N. America in 1834; married William Metzger.
3. A still born son, Jan. 14, 1820.
4. Johann Adam, born Nov. 30, 1820, died Dec. 29, 1820.
5. Johann (der grosze) Adam, born May 29, 1823, emigrated to N. America in 1834, married (1) Ann Beach, (2) Mary Wonnetiel.

Table 19.

TRACHT, Johann Adam (der alte Soldat) born Dec. 31, 1785, the son of the common man of Raidelbach, Johann Adam Tracht, and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Schneider (see Table 13, No. 2), was in 1815 and 1816 a Grand Ducal Hessian guard in the 3rd Company in Darmstadt, and emigrated in

NOTE: The names of children born in America to parents who were married in Germany were added by the compilers, who also added names of husbands and wives acquired in America.

1831 to N. America. In 1818 he was a village citizen and farmer of Raidelbach; in 1829 a church warden. He was married to

DINGELDEY, Anna Elisabeth, born in Gadernheim Mar. 8, 1797, the daughter of the common man Johann Philipp Dingeldey and his wife Eva Elisabeth, born Schneider. After the death of her mother in 1798 she made her home with an aunt, in a village about twelve miles distant from Gadernheim. She emigrated with her husband and children to N. America in 1831.

Children: No. 1 born in Gadernheim, the others in Raidelbach

1. Elisabeth Katharine, born Oct. 14, 1815, died Nov. 13, 1815.
2. Elisabeth Katharine, born Dec. 14, 1816. (See Table 23-B)
3. Leonhard, born Oct. 1, 1818, died Dec. 18, 1818.
4. Anna Margarete, born Dec. 14, 1819, emigrated in 1831 to N. America, married Frederick Rindfusz.
5. Eva Elisabeth, born July 11, 1821, emigrated in 1831 to N. America, married Philip Dapper.
6. Johann (der kleine) Peter, born June 21, 1823, emigrated in 1831 to N. America, married Mary Jane Johnson.
7. Anna Elisabeth, born Aug. 9, 1825, emigrated in 1831 to N. America, married Henry Patterson.
8. Elisabethe, born May 8, 1827, died Feb. 22, 1828.
9. Elisabeth Margarete, born June 18, 1828, died Feb. 21, 1829.
10. Eva Marie, born Sept. 26, 1829, died Mar. 14, 1831.
11. Johann Michael, born Oct. 8, 1830, died Dec. 3, 1830.

Children: born in America

12. John Adam (plaster Adam) born Feb. 10, 1832, married Elizabeth Christman.
 13. Anna Barbara, born Feb. 28, 1833, married John Uhl.
 14. John Philip, born Apr. 1, 1834, married Lucinda Keil.
 15. John, born Feb. 12, 1836, married (1) Matilda Keil, (2) Otillia Veith.
 16. Elisabethe, born April, 1838, died Sept. 14, 1842.
 17. Anna Maria, born Feb. 12, 1839, married Noah Finical.
 18. John Michael, born Mar. 3, 1840, married (1) Mary Jane Traul, (2) Ina Royer.
 19. Caroline, born 1841, died 1843.
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THE SHIPWRECK

In recognition of his long military service, Johann Adam Tracht (see Table 19), was known as 'der alte Soldat'. He served three years in the regular army of the Fatherland and was a member of the body-guard of Prince Ludwig of Hesse-Darmstadt. In the year 1807 he was drafted



JOHANN ADAM TRACHT
1785-1877

into the Grand Army of France, and a year later went with Napoleon into the Spanish campaign where he spent five hard years. In 1815 and 1816 he was a grand-ducal Hessian guard at Darmstadt, returning to his home in Raidelbach when Napoleon surrendered to the British government. He served ten years as a soldier and was imprisoned twice. He was a God-fearing man and attributed the fact of never having been wounded to his faith in the 91st Psalm, which he offered daily as a prayer—at dawn and at sunset.

His enforced military service and the economic conditions prevailing in Germany, aroused Johann Adam Tracht to seek freedom in the new world, as America still was considered at that time.

He urged his friends and relatives in Raidelbach and neighboring villages, to embark with him in this adventure. Very few of those in his financial standing cared to go to America, but many in meager circumstances manifested eager interest in his enterprise. The result was that he paid the passage to North America for eighteen adults who, with their children thus were given an opportunity to become citizens of a land where they might enjoy social and political liberty, and where it is possible for sons to rise above the status of their fathers. The summer of 1830 was decided upon for the voyage; but due to unavoidable circumstances it was twice postponed. However, a sister Elisabeth Katharina, her husband Johann Peter Pfeifer and their four children (see Table 26) joined a party that left Germany in 1830. They settled in Hamilton county, Ohio, and in 1834 migrated to Windfall, Crawford county, Ohio.

Elisabeth Katharina Tracht Pfeifer was the first Tracht to come to America. Johann Adam Tracht and his party, numbering one hundred and fifty men, women and children sailed from Bremen July 14, 1831

NOTE: It is worthy of mention that in 1862, Princess Alice, a daughter of Queen Victoria of England, was married to Prince Frederick William of Hesse-Darmstadt. In 1894 their daughter, Princess Alix of Hesse-Darmstadt, married Nicholas II, last Czar of Russia; they and their children were murdered in 1918 by the Bolsheviks.

on the British vessel the Famous Dove, which was bound for Baltimore, Maryland. A passenger list is not extant but it is known that the Trachts on board were: Johann Adam Tracht, his wife and five children (see Table 19), his brother Johannes (Frankenstein) Tracht, his wife and six children; their sister Eva (die grosze) Katharina (see Table 13, Nos. 4 and 10), their cousins (the three brothers) Johann Philip, his wife and two children (see Table 22), Johann Jacob (see Table 22B), and Johann (der grosze) Peter (see Table 23B).

Other families in the party were named Arras, Bosse, Essinger, Gaszmann, Heldman, Luniack, Preisz, Schaller, Wilch and others. A youth named Peter Bietsch joined the party at Bremen.

The Famous Dove sailed on peacefully and the voyage was uneventful until land was sighted on the sixty-fifth day. The end of the journey, despite inferior food and the usual hardships of ocean travel in those days, found every one in good health. There had been one death, an infant (not a Tracht) whose remains were buried at sea.

Near midnight of September 16th a storm arose and drove the ship off its course. It struck a sand reef a short distance from the coast of Virginia and was badly wrecked. Hours of terror bordering on the verge of despair followed for passengers and crew; a watery grave for all seemed inevitable. Some horror stricken souls gave utterance to praying, others to cursing. A little girl named Margarete Arras in childlike faith exclaimed, "God can still perform miracles." One of the ship's mates rudely declaring her to be an ignorant child, shouted that all was lost and every one on board was doomed to die.

The Captain having been under the influence of liquor from the time the ship left Bremen, became sober in the face of disaster and ordered the mates to launch a lifeboat in which he intended to escape from the sinking vessel. But the leader of the expedition was inured to danger; he had not campaigned with the mighty Napoleon for naught! He was the owner of seven guns which he was bringing to America—not for the purpose of shooting Indians but in anticipation of hunting game; a pleasure which was 'verboten' to the common people of Germany. Perceiving that the Captain intended to abandon the ship and leave the passengers to their fate, he armed six men of his party, keeping a gun for himself. His orders were to shoot either Captain or sailor who tried to go over the side of the boat. None tried.

The pumps were manned and the ship was kept afloat. The storm subsided toward dawn of September 17th; the clouds rolled away, the skies cleared and as the day began to break it was discovered that the wreck had occurred only a short distance from land.

Cables were fastened to the wrecked vessel and taken to the shore by means of a boat where they were fastened to trees, thus uniting land and ship. All on board with practically all of their belongings were saved. The unmarried men remained aboard the wrecked ship until the parents and their children were landed. Johann Jacob Tracht was the

NOTE: Some versions of the shipwreck give the name of the ill-fated boat, the Famous Dove, while others refer to it as the Famous Pigeon. It is impossible at this late date to ascertain which name is the correct one.

last man to leave the sinking vessel. Negroes, ready to render assistance, gathered about the scene. The sight of these colored people—the first the German emigrants ever had seen, caused no small amount of uneasiness on their part. Grateful that their lives had been spared they thanked God on bended knees for their deliverance, and made a vow that every recurring 17th day of September, throughout their lives would be kept sacred by them as a day of fasting and prayer.

They established a camp near Norfolk, Virginia, where they remained for a week or ten days, until a ship from Baltimore arrived to transport them to that city, which was their port of entry to this country and where their German guelden were exchanged for American dollars. From Baltimore they proceeded by ox-cart and on foot to Washington county, Pennsylvania. Johann Adam Tracht, his wife and five children, his sister (die grosze) Katharina, and his young cousin (der grosze) Peter Tracht continued their journey to Jefferson county, Ohio, where they located near the village of Richmond. Here they resided until the autumn of 1833 when they migrated to Crawford county, settling in Windfall near Galion, Ohio. The other members of the band remained in Pennsylvania until the spring of 1832 when they migrated to Hancock and Henry counties, Ohio, where many of their descendants are now living. Johannes (Frankenstein) Tracht, his wife and six children probably went direct from Baltimore to Cincinnati, where they remained until 1849.

Johann (der Blaue) Peter Tracht, his wife and two children (see Table 18) and his brother Johann Georg (der Jeorg) Tracht, his wife and four children (see Table 21) came to America in 1834 and located in Windfall near Galion, O. The youngest brother Johann (der Heiste) Peter Tracht, his wife and one child (see Table 20B) came to America in 1831 but did not sail on the Famous Dove. They made the voyage in company with the Heist family and located in Pennsylvania, migrating to Ohio in 1834. They settled on a farm near Windfall, Crawford county, where the four brothers and their two sisters lived within a radius of a mile and a half.

About the time of the Civil War, Heiste Peter, his wife and their unmarried children moved to Defiance county, locating on a farm near Hicksville, Ohio, where many of their descendants are living.

A sister Anna Elisabeth (die Rettig's Bas), her husband, Johann Philipp Rettig, and their two children (see Table 20), came to America in 1836 and located in Medina, Ohio. A cousin Anna Margarete (die Anna Grete) was the last Tracht to come to America. She was the youngest sister of the three Tracht brothers who came to this country on the ill-fated Famous Dove. She lived with the family of her brother (der grosze) Peter Tracht on their farm in Windfall.

Numerous descendants of the Trachts who settled in the counties of Hancock, Crawford, Medina, Defiance, Wyandot and Henry, still are living in those and other counties of Ohio. Many descendants of this hardy, pioneer family reside in other states of the Union and a few have emigrated to Canada and other American countries.

THE FRANKENSTEINS

Among those aboard the wrecked Famous Dove was one Johannes Tracht (see Table 13, No. 4) with his wife and six children.

In his youth Johannes Tracht learned the trade of cabinetmaker in Raidelbach. Becoming proficient in languages and voice at college, he secured a position as schoolmaster, choir leader and church organist in a neighboring parish, where he married and reared a family. His office as schoolmaster included the rendering of aid to the pastor of the parish; but with his inherent domineering spirit, he in time assumed the role of dictator to his superior. One of his duties as minister's helper was to place the hymn numbers chosen by the pastor, on the hymnboard of the church. On one occasion he had the temerity to select hymns which he, Herr Johannes Tracht, considered more suitable to the pastor's chosen text and placed their numbers on the board.

Although surprised at the "wrong numbers", the pastor let the incident pass as an oversight on the part of his assistant, and it might have ended there; but several weeks later Johannes again placed before the congregation hymns of his own choice. This time the pastor asked for an explanation, and Johannes nonchalantly told him that the hymns which he, the pastor, had selected had no bearing whatever on the text of his sermon! The church board accordingly relieved Herr Tracht of his parish duties, including that of schoolmaster, which position ordinarily was retained for life by the incumbent.

He returned to Raidelbach, neither sadder nor wiser as subsequent events prove, and secured work as a carpenter and cabinetmaker. During his spare time he painted landscapes in oil and was awarded first prize for an oil painting of the ruins of Frankenstein castle. Naturally of an arrogant disposition, this circumstance so puffed him up with pride that he assumed the name of Frankenstein, which was carried by him and his children thenceforth. Apparently he had not taken the name legally, as he emigrated to this country under the name of Johannes Tracht. The names of his wife and children do not appear on the records of the Reich-enbach parish, as he was married and the children were born in a neighboring parish.

He was forty-two years old when he emigrated to America with his family in 1831, settling at Cincinnati, Ohio, near which place his sister, Elisabeth Katharina Pfeifer, her husband and children had located in 1830. The field of teaching languages and music not being very remunerative in America in those days, Johannes Tracht (alias Frankenstein) turned to cabinetmaking for a livelihood. He originated his own designs and was a finished artisan. The six children, John, Godfrey N., Marie M. C., George L., Gustavus and Elisabeth all became artists, the two older boys especially famous ones.

John, the eldest child, born in 1817, was considered a prodigy. He drew with pencil and pen and painted portraits in oil from the time he was fifteen, competent judges declaring his choice of coloring to be excellent. He was self taught except for his father's help and the study of

Table 20.

TRACHT, Anna Elisabeth (die Rettig's Bas) born Nov. 21, 1787, in Raidelbach, the daughter of Johann Adam Tracht, common man of Raidelbach and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Schneider (see Table 13, No. 3) was married on May 16, 1811 to

RETTIG, Johann Philipp, born in Gadernheim on Feb. 6, 1789, the son of the master linenweaver Johann Georg Rettig and his wife Elisabethe Margarete, born Baumunk. Johann Philipp Rettig emigrated to N. America in 1836 with his wife and children.

Children: born in Germany

1. Johann Adam, born Mar. 9, 1816, emigrated in 1836 to N. America, married Caroline Case.
2. Johannes, emigrated to N. America in 1836, later went to Evansville, Ind., nothing further known.

Table 20-B

TRACHT, Johann (der Heiste) Peter, born Mar. 8, 1802, in Raidelbach, the son of Johann Adam Tracht, common man of Raidelbach and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Schneider (see Table 13, No. 9) was married to

HEIST, Agnes and emigrated to N. America in 1831, very likely with the Heist family. (They did not sail on the Famous Dove.)

Children: No. 1 born in Germany, the others in America

1. Elisabeth (die Heiste Lissel) born 1828, emigrated to N. America in 1831, married Johann (der dicke) Peter Tracht. (See Table 21, No. 1)
2. Ann, married William Beck.
3. Margaret married George Roszman.
4. John, never married.
5. Caroline, married Peter Hoffman.
6. Eli, never married.
7. Agnes, never married.
8. Kate, married (1) R. A. Hillbert, (2) A. Farnworth.
9. Michael, never married.
10. Mary, married Frank Maxwell.
11. George, married Matilda Hoffmeister.

DIE JOERG'S BAS

Just one hundred and one years ago, Eva Elisabeth Dingeldey Tracht, affectionately known as die Joerg's Bas (the aunt who is the wife of Georg) and her husband, Johann Georg (der Jeorg) Tracht (see

Table 21) together with their three living children, arrived in Windfall, near Galion. Their home in Germany had been at the old mill in Gadernheim, where Johann George Tracht carried on oil and sawmilling. They had left Gadernheim with four children, but a daughter Anna Elisabeth, born the previous January, had succumbed after they reached America and were on the trip west, from Baltimore.



EVA ELISABETH TRACHT
1805-1880

When the child died Mrs. Tracht prepared the body for burial and brought it with them to Windfall, where it was interred on a little hillside. In Germany she had received training in die Geburtshilfe (midwifery) and had been a practicing midwife (eine Hebamme). This training included a course in preparing bodies for burial.

She was eighteen years of age when chosen from her parish by a committee of officials and doctors (as was the custom in Germany at that time) to take a special course of training in midwifery. Only exceptionally apt young women naturally qualified for taking care of the sick, were designated for this training, which was regarded as a branch of medicine in which it was not suitable for male doctors to engage.

After coming to America, Mrs. Tracht continued the practice of her profession among the settlers, giving her services free of charge. She was considered very successful and was held in high esteem by all who knew her, being noted for godliness, housewifery and hospitality. Mrs. Tracht was a good mother and taught her children to do always that which was right. She died Dec. 13, 1880, having almost attained her seventy-sixth birthday.

Table 21.

TRACHT, Johann Georg (der Jeorg) born Feb. 19, 1795, in Raidelbach, the son of the common man Johann Adam Tracht and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Schneider (see Table 13, No. 6) was in 1819 a Grand Ducal Hessian soldier, in 1822 an oil and sawmiller in Gadernheim and emigrated in 1834 to N. America. He was married to

DINGELDEY, Eva Elisabeth (die Joerg's Bas) born Jan. 4, 1805, in Gadernheim, the daughter of Johann Philipp Dingeldey and his wife Eva, born Ziegenfusz.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Johann (der dicke) Peter, born Sept. 1, 1819, emigrated to N. America in 1834, married Elisabeth (die Heiste Lissel) Tracht. (See Table 20-B, No. 1)
2. Johann Adam, born Apr. 21, 1822, died Dec. 11, 1822.
3. Johann Adam, born Aug. 14, 1823, died Aug. 26, 1823.
4. Anna Elisabeth, born June 3, 1824, died June 11, 1824.
5. Georg (der Hann Jeorg) born Dec. 4, 1825, emigrated to N. America in 1834, never married.
6. Johannes, born Dec. 21, 1827, died Feb. 1, 1828.
7. Eva Elisabeth, born Aug. 26, 1829, died Apr. 15, 1830.
8. Katharine, born June 16, 1831, emigrated to N. America in 1834, married Christian Miller.
9. Johann Adam, born Mar. 7, 1833, died Mar. 26, 1833.
10. Anna Elisabeth, born Jan. 30, 1834, emigrated with her parents to N. America in 1834. (She died on the trip overland from Baltimore, Md., to Windfall, near Galion, Ohio.)

Children: born in America

11. John Adam, born Nov. 12, 1835, married Sophia Purkey.
12. Philip, born Aug. 21, 1837, married Sabina Flick.
13. Karl, born Aug. 28, 1840, married Sarah Ann Smith.
14. Margaret, born 1843, married Peter Heis.
15. Still born twin of No. 14, not named.
16. William, born Sept. 9, 1841, never married.
17. Elisabeth, born Oct. 4, 1844, married George Heis.

Table 22.

TRACHT, Johann Philipp, born June 17, 1802, the son of the village citizen and master linenweaver Johann Peter Tracht of Gardenheim and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Weber (see Table 14, No. 2) was a village citizen of Gardenheim and was married (date not entered) to

SCHALLER, Anna Katharina, born May 18, 1801 at Lautern, the daughter of Christian Schaller of Lautern, village citizen and millwright deceased Apr. 3, 1818, and his wife Anna Christina, born Heldmann. The couple emigrated in 1831 to North America.

Children: born in Lautern (branch of Reichenbach)

1. Peter, born May 20, 1827, emigrated in 1831 to N. America.
2. Eva Marie, born Mar. 27, 1829, emigrated in 1831 to N. America, married Huber.

Children: born in America

3. John Philip, born March 22, 1837.
4. Margaret, born Nov. 27, 1839.

Table 22-B

TRACHT, Johann Jacob, son of the village citizen and master linen-weaver of Gadernheim Johann Peter Tracht and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Weber (see Table 14, No. 3) was born in Gadernheim on Sept. 17, 1804. He emigrated as a journeyman linenweaver to N. America in 1831, and was married to _____ born _____ in _____ the daughter of _____ and his wife _____

Children:

- Peter, born 1841.
Adam, born 1849.
Michael, born 1851.

Table 23.

TRACHT, Anna Elisabeth, born Sept. 29, 1806, the daughter of Johann Peter Tracht of Gadernheim and his wife Anna Elisabeth born Weber (see Table 14, No. 4) was married to

WIEHRAUCH, Johann Peter, born Feb. 18, 1805 in Gadernheim, the son of Johann Adam Wiehrauch, inhabitant and master shoemaker of Gadernheim and his wife Anna Elisabeth born Rauch. Johann Peter Wiehrauch died at Gadernheim on Nov. 21, 1846; his wife on Sept. 24, 1849.

Children: all born in Gadernheim

1. Eva Elisabeth, born June 17, 1828, died Mar. 11, 1856.
 2. Elisabeth, born Apr. 1, 1830, died May 28, 1849.
 3. Johann Adam, born June 12, 1833.
 4. Johann Wilhelm, born Feb. 4, 1835.
 5. Anna Margarete, born Aug. 2, 1836.
 6. Eva Katharina, born Aug. 30, 1839.
 7. Johannes, born May 4, 1841.
 8. Johann Phillip, born Nov. 21, 1843.
 9. Johann Peter, born Nov. 12, 1845.
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Table 23-B

TRACHT, Johann (der grosze) Peter, born Apr. 28, 1813, in Gadernheim, the son of Johann Peter Tracht and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Weber (see Table 14, No. 7) emigrated to N. America in 1831, and in 1835 was married to

TRACHT, Elisabeth Katharine, who was born Dec. 14, 1816, in Raidelbach, the daughter of Johann Adam Tracht and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Dindeldey (see Table 19, No. 2) and emigrated to N. America in 1831, with her parents. She died in 1845.

Children:

1. Johann Philip, born May 14, 1836, married Mary Heitzman.
 2. Margaret, born Jan., 1839, married Ernst Kraner.
 3. Elisabeth, born Mar. 24, 1841, married Henry Bohl.
 4. Adam (twin of No. 3) married Eva Gaa.
 5. Peter, born January, 1845, married Catharine Bohl.
- In his second marriage, Johann (der grosze) Peter Tracht was married to

PFEIFER, Katharine, born in Germany, Dec. 4, 1818; died in 1895.

Children:

1. Catherine, born Jan. 3, 1850, married Andrew Nelson.
2. Christian (twin of No. 1) died 1852.
3. Mary, born Nov. 25, 1851, married Philip Heckler.
4. Elisabeth, born July 15, 1854, married George Helfrich.
5. Christopher C., born June 2, 1858, married Mary Heilman.

Table 24.

TRACHT, Eva Elisabeth, born Jan. 9, 1809, the daughter of Johann Peter Tracht of Gadernheim and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Weber (see Table 14, No. 5) died in Gadernheim. She was married to

VOEHL, Johannes, born in Gadernheim on May 1, 1806, the son of the master tailor Johann Peter Voehl and his wife Anna Katharina, born Rettig. Johannes Voehl was a village citizen and master tailor of Gadernheim and died there on Oct. 19, 1872.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Johann Leonhard, born Feb. 26, 1829, died Mar. 12, 1829.
2. Johann Nikolaus, born Nov. 2, 1830, died Dec. 3, 1830.
3. Anna Elisabeth, born Dec. 17, 1831.
4. Anna Margarete, born Jan. 2, 1835, died Jan. 4, 1835.

5. Elisabeth Katharine, born Dec. 25, 1835.
6. Johann Peter, born Aug. 2, 1838.
7. Anna Margarete, born June 18, 1841.
8. Eva Elisabeth, born May 5, 1844.
9. Eva Marie, born Oct. 1, 1847.

Table 25.

TRACHT, Anna Maria, born Mar. 19, 1781, in Gadernheim, the daughter of Johann Nikolaus Tracht, common man of Gadernheim and his wife Anna Margarete, born Seibert (see Table 12, No. 7) was married on Nov. 17, 1802 to

RHEINHEIMER (also Reinheimer) Johann Leonhard of Wembach, near the Lichtenberg castle. He became an inhabitant and master cooper of Gadernheim and died in 1847; his wife died on Nov. 26, 1845 in Gadernheim.

Children: born in Gadernheim

1. Anna Elisabeth, born Jan. 21, 1804, died in Frankfort on the Main, Dec. 30, 1888.
2. Anna Barbara, born Dec. 15, 1806.
3. Johann Michael, born Mar. 26, 1810, died Jan. 5, 1885.
4. Katharina Elisabeth, born Mar. 18, 1813.
5. Johann Adam, born Nov. 3, 1815, died May 17, 1882.

Table 26.

TRACHT, Elisabeth Katharina, born Feb. 22, 1797, in Raidelbach, the daughter of Johann Adam Tracht, common man of Raidelbach, and his wife Anna Elisabeth, born Schneider (see Table 13, No. 7) was married on May 11, 1823 to

PFEIFER, Johann Peter, son of Johann Leonhard Pfeifer, village citizen and master carpenter of Gadernheim and his wife Maria Barbara, born Bessinger. The married couple emigrated to N. America in 1830.

Children: birthdates and place not entered in parish register

1. Elisabeth Katharine, emigrated to N. America in 1830, never married.
2. Johann Peter, emigrated to N. America in 1830, married Susan Helfrich.
3. Leonhard, emigrated to N. America in 1830, never married.
4. Eva Elisabeth, emigrated to N. America in 1830, married Joseph Laughbaum.

Children: born in America

5. Nancy, born 1832, married Henry Laughbaum.
 6. John, never married.
 7. Mary, married Henry Jacobs.
 8. Gottlieb Frederick, married Emma Snyder.
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THE FRANKENSTEINS

(Continued from Page 20)

anatomy, which he mastered at Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati. At eighteen years of age he went to Philadelphia where he painted many portraits. Going to New York he became intimate with the family of William H. Seward, painting Mr. Seward's portrait and making a portrait bust of Mrs. Seward. He returned to Cincinnati in 1843 and a few years later painted two religious pictures which made him celebrated. They were purchased by a Canadian collector.

Godfrey N., born in 1820, the second son, started painting with improvised colors when quite a young lad. At twelve years of age he carried on his own sign painting business. When a young man he opened studios at Cincinnati, Yellow Springs, and on the Little Miami at Clifton, Ohio. In 1849, his father having died in 1842, he moved his mother and sisters to Springfield, Ohio. He spent the greater part of the time between 1844 and 1866 in picturing Niagara Falls on canvas at all seasons of the year, at all times of the day and night, and from every point of view. At the time of his death in 1873 he left the finest collection of oil paintings of Niagara in the world, one of which, and a portrait bust of Judge McLean by John Frankenstein, may be seen in the Cincinnati Museum of Art. Jenny Lind purchased a few of his paintings when she visited Niagara Falls, following her first concert tour in America.

In addition to his landscapes, Godfrey Frankenstein painted oil portraits. Among those who sat for him were John Quincy Adams and William Cullen Bryant. He was president of the Cincinnati Academy of Fine Arts when it was organized. In 1867-69 he visited Europe and painted views of the Alps as they had never before been painted, according to critics.

The Frankenstein sisters were gifted in landscape painting and in depicting flowers and fruit. Marie M. C. was also a successful teacher in the primary department of the Cincinnati schools and later became the first teacher in the German department of the public schools of that city. Gustavus painted pictures of heather in Wales, and George, too, was a painter of merit. The John D. Park collection of Frankenstein paintings, privately owned by a resident of Cincinnati, is not on view to the general public, but information regarding it may be obtained from the Cincinnati Museum of Art.

The children of Johannes (Frankenstein) Tracht never married and their talents as well as the coveted name of Frankenstein, for which their father had discarded the good old name of Tracht, died with them. The late John Adam Rettig of Medina once visited the Frankenstein family in their home. He described them as being of short stature rather stockily built, who dressed and lived very simply. When Mr. Rettig remarked about them having changed their name, one of the Frankensteins exclaimed good humoredly, "Well, haven't you become tired of being a 'Rettig' (German for radish) all your life—wouldn't you like to be some other kind of vegetable for a change?"

NOTE: See "Ohio Art and Artists" by Edna Marie Clark, M. A., and the "History of Clark County, Ohio," published by W. H. Beers and Co., also "Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio," Vol. 1.

CENTENNIAL SERMON DELIVERED IN ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, HANCOCK COUNTY, SEPT. 17, 1931
BY THE REV. J. E. ALBRECHT, PASTOR OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, GALION, OHIO

This sermon was delivered on the One Hundredth Anniversary of the shipwreck,
at the Annual Thanksgiving Service to commemorate the gratitude of the sur-
vivors, and manifest the thankfulness of their descendants. The Rev. Albrecht
is a former pastor of St. Paul's Congregation.

Ps. 107, 23-32.

A century ago, within the confines of the little parish of Reichenbach, in the grand-duchy of Hesse, Germany, the hearts of certain individuals were stirred with a longing and a desire to get away from conditions as they prevailed there both socially and economically: conditions that prevented the son to rise to a higher level than his sire; a longing to set out in quest for a better land. A century ago this desire waxed strong and eventually developed into a craving for that much heralded land, then designated as the "New World"; the land of unlimited material resources; the land of opportunities; the land of religious and political liberties.

A century ago, there in the little villages of Gadernheim, Raidelbach and Lautern, ties were severed. Ties which from childhood up, so intimately join hearts to pastor and teacher, to home and surroundings, to kith and kin, to relatives and friends. With hearts still wounded and bleeding because of severed ties, yet filled with the courage of faith and the hope for betterment in a new home and country, a century ago on the 14th day of last July, one hundred and sixty-two souls boarded a ship to set sail for America. A century ago, a voyage on the high seas was undertaken, not for pleasure but for business. A voyage that brought the ship's passengers in close contact with God's creative wisdom and power; with his creatures in the ocean deep, on it and over it; and even though they were not privileged to behold and study the many and marvelous creatures in the ocean deep, they were made to behold and experience the marvelous manifestations of God's wisdom and power on it and over it. They were permitted to behold and enjoy the quiet calm of the ocean's surface; the cloudless skies above them; the setting sun, dropping as it were like a fiery mass into midocean; the grandeur of the ocean's twilight and the splendor of the moon and all the starry hosts as they poured out their mellow rays upon the ocean's crest. But they were also made to behold and experience the Creator's power and might as it manifested itself in the storm upon the sea, and in her raging billows.

More than nine weeks had already elapsed since the ship had lifted anchor and set sail. Hopes of reaching the desired haven and landing safely within a short time ran high. When lo, on the night following the

NOTE: It is recalled by his granddaughter, Elizabeth Schaefer, that Adam Tracht, leader of the expedition to North America in 1831, invariably gave 150 as the number aboard ship. Peter Arras, Sr., may have included the crew in his record of 162 souls. Some of the passengers probably worked for their passage, which would account for the relatively small crew of 12 men.

sixty-fifth day of that voyage a century ago, at the Eternal's bidding, a storm arose. And the waves tossed with storm soared to heaven, they sank to the depth. The ship became a mere toy for those waves. Within the souls of both crew and passengers all courage melted; they reeled and staggered like a drunken man and were at their wits end. Many of them, if not all, cried unto the Eternal to save them from their evil plight. And, to continue in the language of the Psalmist as found in our text: "He stilled the storm to a whisper, till the waves were hushed; glad were they for the calm."

After some hours of anxiety on board a ship stranded and wrecked on a sand reef, He brought them safely to their longed for haven, America's shores, the land of the free and the home of the brave. In the providence and solely by the power of God deliverance had come.

A deliverance a century ago. And yet this deliverance calls for your attention even at this late date. It also concerns and effects you.

Let us consider:

1. How and in what ways it effected those who were delivered.
2. How it did and still should effect you of the third and fourth generation.

The deliverance of a century ago.

The distress which had come upon them was not without effect. They were at their wit's end. They were made to realize their utter helplessness. Like Israel of old, there was only one direction for them to look: upwards to God. The deliverance at the time it came did not leave them unaffected. It had a far reaching and lasting influence on them.

1. How it effected them then and thereafter is seen from their attitude in the matter.

A. They did not ascribe their deliverance to the pagan god of the ocean's waves; Neptune; nor to the god of chance, fate or fortune, but to the living God; to the omnipotent God whom wind and waves obey, to the God unto whom they had cried in their distress; to the God who sent them deliverance from their evil plight. Before this God they knelt, there on the coast of old Virginia, in the gray dawn of that September morning, a century ago, and poured out their hearts in gratitude. To this God, they then and there on bended knees vowed a vow, that on every recurring seventeenth day of September, as long as the voyage of their earthly life lasted, they would commemorate their deliverance with a public service of special thanksgiving.

This vow was scrupulously kept by a goodly number of the survivors of the wreck. It was in the month of June of this Centennial year while attending the Arras Reunion, that we personally were privileged to lay hands on a family Bible that Peter Arras, Sr., had brought with him on that ill-fated ship. The book is, at present in possession of Henry Arras of Jenera. On the fly-leaf of this Bible Mr. Arras made note of the number of souls, namely, one hundred and sixty-two that boarded the ship; the date when they set sail; the date and time of day when the wreck

occured, and the vow made after having landed.

He gives as the date of the first public thanksgiving service Sept. 17th, 1836, due perhaps to their not having located in this vicinity before that time, or to their not having had a pastor in their midst prior to this time. The name of the pastor who conducted these services is given, namely, Rev. Adolph Attard. Psalm 46 was read as Scripture lesson. The sermon was based on Psalm 107, 23-32. The number of each hymn sung at these services is also recorded.

Yet, would it be likely that during these five years the deliverance was forgotten. From that time forth these services were held annually.

In 1891 the Golden Anniversary was celebrated; ten of the survivors participated in these services.

Rev. R. Graetz, Sr., preached on the same text that was used by the pastor of the first service. Rev. R. G. Graetz, Jr., at the time pastor of St. Paul's Congregation, preached on Psalms 50: 15.

Not only were many of those who suffered that disaster and experienced that marvelous deliverance a century ago, moved to make a vow which they scrupulously kept throughout the residue of their earthly life, but who can begin to give even an estimate of the far reaching influence it had upon them relative to their spiritual and temporal well being.

A. As to their spiritual and soul's well being. Not only did that deliverance prolong their time of grace; it brought them closer to their God and Savior Jesus Christ, who alone could save them from perishing in the fathomless sea of eternal destruction; it made them appreciate their Bibles as never before; it made them feel the need of the Church, with her precious Means of Grace and the keeping one's self prepared at all times to meet his God; it made them to feel the need of God's divine presence every passing hour; it deepened and strengthened their faith and trust in God's Word and promise; it made them appreciate and use their Stark's Prayer Books and other books of devotion as never before; in short, it made better and stronger Christians, children of God of them.

B. And how did it effect their temporal well being?

If it made stronger and better Christians out of them it certainly also made better and stronger men and women out of them. When confronted with the dangers of travel on foot, by ox-cart or by wagon, through the wilds of the dense forests, marshes and swamps and accompanied with the hazards of fording swollen streams whilst migrating from Washington County, Pennsylvania, to Crawford, Henry and Hancock Counties, Ohio, they could not help but feel strengthened and encouraged to press on and forward by the assurance that the God who had preserved and kept them on the high seas and delivered them from that wreck was also with them and protecting them on their perilous journey by land. The same holds true also of their after life.

Friends, can we of our day imagine or begin to estimate the privations, the hardships, the vicissitudes of early pioneer life here in Hancock, as also in Crawford and Henry Counties. Felling the forests, clear-

ing and draining the land, markets far removed, roads impassible the greater portion of the year, failure of crops, milk sickness, and numerous other maladies unknown in our day and by what not?

Yet who will doubt that the knowledge and the experience of God having spared their lives on that eventful September night buoyed them up and filled them with the courage and hope born of a faith that God would also keep and preserve them here in the wilds until their appointed hour had come to be taken out of this world.

2. But now, almost two decades have passed since the mortal remains of the last survivors of that wreck have been laid away. What reason is there for further ado about the deliverance and about the vow on the part of you of the third and fourth generation?

1. That deliverance effected you already at the time it occurred. The special love and mercy shown by God in that deliverance extended not only to the third and fourth generation, but to the thousandth generation. Remember that the child's career and training begin not with the child itself but away back with the great-great-grandparents. Friends, if that deliverance or rescue as we have seen, helped to make better Christians and more devout children of God, stauncher and more heroic men and women out of your ancestors then, it also made better Christians, better men and women of you; better fathers and mothers, better citizens of your nation and commonwealth.

2. How then should it effect you this day and all future days? "O, that men would praise the Lord for his wonderful works to the children of men. Let them extol him in the congregation of the people." Brethren, thank Him with hearts and hands and voices for what He did for you through your parents on that eventful night; thank him for what he did for them here in forest and wilderness enabling them to blaze the way, endure untold hardships while clearing and draining the lands, building homes, churches, schools and roads, that you in your present generation might enjoy the unending riches of the Gospel of Christ and in it the full and free forgiveness of all sin, offered and bestowed through the preached Word and Sacraments and laid hold of in true faith; that you might enjoy material comfort and luxury.

3. And now, as one time pastor of a goodly number of you, I, in conclusion would not merely urge you to have an occasional service or gathering to commemorate the deliverance of a century ago, but I would plead with you and urge upon you in order that said deliverance may also bear its fruitage among your on-coming generations, that you on this centennial day, unanimously and whole heartedly join in making a declaration, or if you choose, a vow to your ancestors of a century ago, and that the declaration read something like this: Dear fathers and mothers of a century ago: Your adopted country shall be, and continue to be our native land, ever loved and cherished by us. Your God, the God of wisdom, power and might; of grace, deliverance and redemption, shall be our God, your Savior and Redeemer, the Christ of Calvary shall be our Jesus. Your Bible, our norm and rule for life and faith. Our high-

est concern and strongest endeavor at all times will be that not one of us may ever suffer total shipwreck of the living faith which trusts solely and alone for salvation in Christ's all-atoning merits. This everlasting Gospel of Salvation through faith in Christ's merits, shall be lived by us, and taught and preached, also to our children and children's children. Holy Spirit, in essential unity with the Father and Son give us and continue in us the desire and power to do it. Amen!! Amen!

NAMES, NICKNAMES AND NUPTIALS

Since the days when the first (Adam) Tracht named five of his seven sons John (Johannes, Johann or Hans) more Trachts have been called John than any other name. The first Tracht named two of his Johns, Hans Peter, one of them, Johann Adam; another one Hans Martin, a great-grandson became Johann Georg. Two of Adam's daughters were Anna Elisabeth, one merely Elisabeth; there was an Anna Katharina Barbara and a Margarete; two great-granddaughters were named Eva Maria. These names and their combinations were used generation after generation, almost to the exclusion of any other names.

Large families and the strange custom of making use of only a few favored names, resulted in many individuals having identical names. We do not know what method was used back in Germany to avoid the confusion caused by this duplication, but in America a unique system of nicknames arose.

With Johann Adam Tracht and family (he was called the old soldier, due to long military service) there came to Windfall his sister Katharina and his cousin Johann Peter. One of his children was named Katharine, and another, Johann Peter; so the older Katharina was known as big (die grosze) Katharina to distinguish her from her niece and likewise the cousin became big (der grosze) Peter and the small son little (der kleine) Peter. Although the boy grew to be a larger man than the cousin, the nicknames remained unchanged, even after time had rendered them inappropriate.

When Johann Adam Tracht's brothers Johann Peter and Johann Georg arrived in Windfall with their families, the elder brother's bright blue overalls accounted for his nickname—blue (der Blaue) Peter. Johann Georg (known as der Jeorg, a German variation of Georg) had a son Johann Peter; this boy was a chubby young fellow "as thick as long" so it was quite natural to refer to him as der dicke (thick) Peter. When another brother, also named Johann Peter reached Windfall, he was nicknamed der Heiste Peter, since his wife's family name was Heist—and his daughter Elisabeth became die Heiste Lissel, to differentiate her from the other Elisabeth Trachts.

Others also bore nicknames, among whom may be mentioned: die Jeorg's Bas (the aunt who belongs to Georg) who was Mrs. Johann Georg Tracht, and die Rettig's Bas who was Mrs. Anna Elisabeth (Tracht) Rettig; butcher Philip, so called because he worked as a butcher in addition to running a farm and a sawmill; his brother, young Johann Georg, called Hann Jeorg to distinguish him from his father. Big Adam, who was a tall man, and plaster Adam, who was a plasterer as well as a farmer.

Three of the Tracht brothers, Johann Peter (see Table 18), Johann Adam (see Table 19), and Johann Georg (see Table 21), contracted marriages in Germany which incident is worthy of note. The eldest brother known in America by the soubriquet der Blaue Peter, married the widow Dingeldey, who was the former Eva Ziegenfusz; Johann Adam, (der alte Soldat) married Anna Elisabeth Dingeldey, her step-daughter; Johann Georg (der Jeorg) married Eva Elisabeth Dingeldey (die Joerg's Bas) who was the widow's daughter. The three brides already related before their marriages became sisters-in-law by marrying brothers! This is a nice problem in relationship with which to while away the long winter evenings.

A FEW WORDS IN CLOSING

Even if the data were available, it would not be possible to print a complete genealogy of the Tracht family, unless a book many times as large as this one were compiled. However, starting with our oldest (Tracht) ancestor, born in 1629, we have traced the Tracht family in Germany down to 1836, when the last members of the family to come to America, left the Fatherland.

Five married sons, one unmarried daughter and two married daughters of Johann Adam Tracht (see Table 13) and one married son, one unmarried daughter and two unmarried sons of Johann Peter Tracht (see Table 14) came to America. Insofar as we were successful in obtaining information, we added the names of wives of the unmarried sons who married in America, and the names of children, if any, born to the above mentioned in America; also the names of persons the German-born and the American-born children married.

The blank pages may be utilized by the owners of the booklets, to record their respective branch of the Tracht family tree from where this narration ends, thereby keeping their records up to date.

THE COMPILERS.
