

Summary of Johann Karl KÖHLER

13 Mar 2005

Name: Johann Karl KÖHLER¹
Sex: Male

Individual Facts

Birth	12 Aug 1810	Saxony DEU ^{2,3}
Religion	bet 1810-1854 (age 0)	Lutheran ⁴
Orphan	1816/17 (age 7)	Germany DEU ²
Illness	abt 1828 (age 18)	smallpox ⁵
Residence	bet 1838-1852 (age 28)	Gebstedt (Gebsted), Weimar, Saxony (now Weimarer Land, Thuringen) DEU ⁶
Occupation	bef 1852 (age 42)	tailor; Germany DEU ⁷⁻⁹
Emigration	1852 (age 42)	Bremen ⁹
Residence	bet 1852-1854 (age 42)	Manitowoc, Manitowoc Co. WI ¹⁰
Immigration	13 Aug 1852 (age 42)	New York, NY ^{9,11}
Residence	1854 (age 44)	Manitowoc/Two Rivers, Manitowoc Co. WI ¹²
Religion	aft 1854 (age 44)	Evangelical; Two Rivers, Manitowoc Co. WI ¹³
Death	7 Mar 1898 (age 87)	Mishicot, Manitowoc Co. WI ¹⁴

Marriages/Children

1. Christiana Maria SCHWARTZ¹⁵

Marriage	1838 (age 28)	Gebstedt (Gebsted), Weimar, Saxony (now Weimarer Land, Thuringen) DEU ²
Children	Karl Ferdinand KOEHLER (24 Aug 1839 - 1863) Lena KOEHLER (bet 1839 and 1845 - 1922) Louis KOHLER (bet 1839 and 1845 - bef 1852) Robert KAHLER (25 Dec 1845 - 1907) Theresa KOEHLER (1 Mar 1848 -) Anna KOEHLER (1850 -) Louis Carl KOEHLER (17 Sep 1853 - 22 Jul 1941)	

2. Mrs. Karl KÖHLER

Marriage bef 1838 (age 28)⁵

Notes (Individual)

General: "Very little is known of the parents of Carl Koehler. He was born Aug. 12, 1810, and at the age of six was left an orphan. His mother died when he was three years of age, his father followed three years later, and after that he was reared by various charitable people but had no definite home. While still quite young he was apprenticed to a tailor. Later, when he was about eighteen years old, he had a serious attack of small pox which left permanent scars on him. After serving his apprenticeship he married his first wife, but her maiden name and the date of their marriage is not known. She died after they had been married about a year and left no children." (Ben Koehler)

(NOTE: "Köhler" means "charcoal burner," presumably a former occupation of the family (jwilkins 1996).)

"Grandfather kept quite well and helped to look after grandmother as long as he was alive. For many years he had nursed an open sore on one leg. About a year before he died this sore healed. Years previous to this a doctor had told him that if the sore ever healed he would not live long after that. He became weak minded during the last few months, but was confined to his bed only about a month before he died. He died March 7, 1898. On his next birthday he would [have been 88 years old]." (Ben Koehler)

Residence (bet 1838 and 1852): Ben spelled the name of this town "Gebsted." Internet lookup (Arthur Teschler) indicates correct contemporary spelling is "Gebstedt," so I have used that. Reference follows:

Subject: Re: _GEO_
Date: Thu, 02 May 1996 07:12:41 +0200
From: Arthur.Teschler@Informatik.med.uni-giessen.de (Arthur Teschler)
To: jwilkins@InfoAve.Net

Prefix: Gebstedt

Gebstedt
GKZ : 16 0 12 070
County : | +---- Apolda {APD}
Land : +----- Th"uringen
ZIP : 99510
Popul : 325

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Locat : (Apolda) 51d02m N 11d29m E
Maps : TK25 4934 Weimar Nord
TK50 L4934 Apolda
Euro Mc42

Emigration (1852): "Germans to America" lists last residence as Rudersdorf; ship's name, Adelheid; captain, Spille; mode of travel, steerage; manifest ID number, 00008055.

Immigration (13 Aug 1852): Age: 42
Country of Origin: Germany
Arrival Date: Aug 13, 1852
Final Destination: United States
Last Residence: Rudersdorf
Port of Embarkation: Bremen
Ship's Name: Adelheid
Occupation: Tailor
Gender: Male
Captain's Name: Spille
Purpose for Travel: Staying in the USA
Mode of Travel: Steerage
Manifest ID Number: 00008055

Notes (Family #1)

General: "At the age of twenty-eight he married Maria Schwartz. They lived in Gebsted for fourteen years where my grandfather continued to practice the tailoring trade. They managed to save a little money with which they bought some land.

"After hearing many good reports about the prosperity in the United States they sold their property in Weimer [sic] and took a ship for New York. This was in 1852. After sailing for several weeks they encountered a fierce storm which beat their vessel back till they could again see the white chalk cliffs of France. After sailing thirteen weeks they came to New York. Before entering the harbor the captain called all the emigrants on deck and gave them some advice about what they should do after landing. One of his points was that they should trust no one but regard every stranger as a thief." (Ben Koehler)

"In the 1850's Bremen and Hamburg began to predominate [as ports of departure]. The bulk of the German immigrants came from Wurttemberg, Baden, and the Palatinate while the number of immigrants from the Rhineland and northwestern Germany was steadily increasing. Emigration from northeastern Germany remained small in the first half of the nineteenth century." (Holborn, p7)

"Not only the political refugees but also the masses of the immigrant Germans embraced American democratic ideals with remarkable alacrity. But the major cause of the emigration was economic and social. The majority of these people were farmers and artisans from southwestern Germany (Wurttemberg, Baden, Palatinate, Hesse-Darmstadt, and Hesse-Kassel), the Rhineland, and northwestern Germany (Hanover, Oldenburg, Schleswig-Holstein, and Mecklenburg), all of them regions in which agrarian overpopulation had become particularly pressing. In some cases the local communities helped to finance the emigration of the poor as being less expensive than lifelong relief. But though occasionally groups of indigent Germans were dropped on the threshold of the United States, the German immigrants as a rule arrived in the new country with some savings of their own, and most of them without great difficulties were settled as farmers in the new midwestern states. The artisans were easily absorbed into the growing American industries, although many suffered severe reverses in the economic crises of 1857." (Holborn, p123)

"From New York they went by rail to Centerville, near Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where they had a friend who had come to this country a year earlier. The same year, however, they moved from there to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, where prospects seemed to be better.

Their five children who were born in Germany came with them, but their sixth, my father, was born in this county.

"At that time Manitowoc was very small. It contained two saw mills, several tanneries, and a few stores. Much wood was shipped from here and my grandfather immediately found employment in loading vessels. During their stay of two years in Manitowoc he engaged in whatever work he found handy.

"During their first year in Manitowoc on Sept. 17, 1853 my father, Louis Carl Koehler, was born.

"In 1854 they bought a forty acre farm located about four miles from Manitowoc and three miles from Two Rivers. Here they

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lived for several years in a hastily built shanty before they could build a good log house. The entire forty was covered with forest and for years their only income came from the sale of cord wood and tanning bark. Some years later they could also sell fence posts and railroad ties, and then they bought an eighty acre tract in addition to what they had.

Up to this time they were members of the Lutheran Church but now they came under the influence of the Evangelical Society which had a church in Two Rivers. Peter Held was the pastor at that time and he did a good deal of missionary work. Seeing a much greater zeal and Christian spirit in the Evangelical Church than they were accustomed to see the entire family joined the church." (Ben Koehler)

"Grand-father and Grand-mother Koehler lived for quite a while in Two Rivers, but they spent the last part of their lives in our home at Mishicot, Wis." (Ben Koehler)

Sources

1. Benjamin Koehler, A History of the Koehler Family; 1798-1983 (Privately published, 1983), pp. 3, 9a.
2. Ibid., p3.
3. [to be added].
4. Benjamin Koehler, A History of the Koehler Family; 1798-1983, p.6.
5. Ibid., p. 3.
6. Ibid., pp. 3-4.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid., p.3.
9. Glazier, Ira A. and P. William Filby, CD version of Germans to America, 1850-1874 (Family Archive CD #355) (Broderbund/The Learning Company, 1999+).
10. Benjamin Koehler, A History of the Koehler Family; 1798-1983, p. 4-5.
11. Ibid., p.4.
12. Ibid., p. 5.
13. Ibid., p. 6.
14. Ibid., p9a.
15. Holborn, Hajo, A HISTORY OF MODERN GERMANY, 1840-1945 (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1969), p7 (footnote).
16. Ibid., p123.
17. Benjamin Koehler, A History of the Koehler Family; 1798-1983, pp. 3-5, 9a.

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