

THIS BOOKLET IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF ERNA CLARA
WIEDERAENDERS, FIRST BORN OF EMIL CARL WIEDERAENDERS AND
BERTHA NEE FROELICH, WHO WAS FILLED WITH ENTHUSIASTIC
AFFECTION FOR HER "WONDERFUL COUSINS" AND WHO KNEW NO
GREATER PLEASURE THAN TO VISIT THEM OR HAVE THEM VISIT
HER.

BECAUSE OF HER INTEREST AND ENCOURAGEMENT, THE GATHERING
OF FAMILY TREE INFORMATION WAS BEGUN AND PURSUED.

PREFACE

The original interest of the author was first to gather statistical information on the Wiederaenders family and then at a later time to give the statistical information meaningful significance by writing the family history. Little did he realize the magnitude of the task he set as his goal.

After much and repeated effort the statistical information is sufficiently complete to warrant publication; however, it is still far from complete. The effort to gather complete statistical information will continue, but the intention to write the family history must be modified drastically.

A simple story of how the Carl Gottlob Wiederaenders family left Annaberg, Saxony in 1854 to seek a new home in Texas is told in this booklet for two reasons. First, it is told to give at least a little meaning to the statistical information. Second, it is told to stimulate one or several in each branch of the family to assume the responsibility of gathering information for the telling of the story of his branch.

To become pointed ---. The story of your family should be written. You are the best qualified person to do the writing and now is the best time for the writing to be done. To be sure, you are of the opinion that your family is a rather dull family and therefore uninteresting. You are wrong! In all the world there is not another family such as your family. Is this not sufficient reason for you to write the story of your family ?

Gladly does the author join all who turn the pages of this booklet with pleasure in acknowledging a mutual debt of gratitude to those who contributed towards the gathering-of the information which these pages reflect. Though care was exercised to avoid mistakes, undoubtedly some names and dates are incorrect. If a reader finds a mistake, let him be assured that it was made unintentionally. Also, if he reports the mistake, a correction will be made in the master copy.

The author is personally acquainted with only a very small percentage of the over 1800 whose names are recorded in this genealogy; however, he has a blood interest in each one and herewith extends warm, personal greetings to all.

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FAMILY
OF
CARL GOTTLÖB WIEDERAENDERS
JOHANNA ZEIN
JOHANNA DOROTHEA ELEONORE WENZEL

The Wiederaenders family stems from Annaberg, Saxony, a part of Germany now behind the Iron Curtain. There the family tree can be traced in the ancient records of the beautiful St. Annenkirche as far back as the Thirty Years War. (1)

The men of the Wiederaenders family were craftsmen. Carl Gottlob Wiederaenders, born December 23, 1790, with whom our story begins, was a master cooper. So was his father, his brother John who lived in Chemnitz and his brother Christian who lived on Garden Street in Annaberg.

Upon the death of his parents, Carl Gottlob, who apparently was the youngest son, inherited the paternal home. However it was required of him to pay his brothers John and Christian their fair share of the inheritance in cash. (2)

Because Carl Gottlob did not have cash with which to meet this obligation, he was forced to borrow and thus placed the house under a heavy mortgage. To qualify for a loan of this proportion, it was legally necessary for him to be married. This he did in 1824 by being united in wedlock with Johanna Zein. The names of her parents as well as the date and place of her birth are unknown. The only other event in her life which can be established is that she died on January 9, 1825, at the birth of her first child, named Carl Gottlob after his father. (3)

The young widower with a newborn son needed help, so he called on his sister to keep house for him and to care for the baby. It soon became evident, however, that the task was too great for her. As he cast about for a mother for his child and a capable house-keeper, his attention and affection were drawn to Johanna Dorothea Eleonore Wenzel.

Johanna was born September 20, 1805, at Freiberg in the Kingdom of Saxony. She was the daughter of a miner, Johann Salomo Wenzel, and his wife Johanna Dorothea nee Ott. As pious Christians they saw to it that she was baptized soon after birth and then brought up in the fear and love of God and her Savior Jesus Christ. The seed of a godly life which was planted in her heart during her childhood sustained her throughout her troubled life.

Unfortunately, she did not enjoy the blessing of god-fearing parents very long. At the age of seven she lost both of her parents in rapid succession. During the War of 1812, a serious epidemic swept the country, apparently caused by large military concentrations quartered in the area or marching through. Mostly adults and older people died in great number. As a result, the orphans became so numerous that the city of Freiberg found it impossible to care for them all. Some of the orphaned children were taken out of the stricken area in wagons to find shelter and care for them elsewhere. Among these was Johanna Wenzel. Though the move was a traumatic experience, it fortunately removed her from the gruff treatment of the matron of the Freiberg orphanage.

In the industrial city of Annaberg she was received into the house of a silk merchant and lottery agent by the name of Johann Korb, not for adoption but with the understanding that the Korb family would bring her up and care for her. Her foster parents were strict but not unjust or harsh. In keeping with the times she received a good education, but without a trace of spiritual care in the home. According to custom she was confirmed, all the while helping her foster parents with whatever work she could do to compensate for her keep.

Adjacent to the Korb home lived Carl Gottlob Wiederaenders who needed a mother for his son and an efficient house-keeper. He chose Eleonore Korb, the name Johanna Wenzel had assumed while living with the Korbs. They were married in 1827. Their marriage was happy; however, the mortgage on their home was a heavy burden, also her sister-in-law caused her much grief. Throughout her life the blessing of her pious parents remained with her and buoyed her up so that with firm confidence in her God and Savior she could bear the burdens placed on her.

On November 29, 1828, Carl and Eleonore were blessed through the birth of a healthy and robust son who in baptism was given the name, Carl Anton. On September 18, 1831, another son, Carl Gustav, was born. A third child, Carl Ernst, was born June 29, 1833, who was a weakly child from birth. Their troubles multiplied with the arrival of the fourth child and first daughter, Johanna, who in early infancy became so crippled as the result of a serious illness that she never learned to walk. Their burdens increased through the birth of another sickly child, Carl Hermann, so that they now had three children who required constant care. That Eleonore did not break under the excessive strain during this time, she attributed to the special grace and help of God of which she often spoke, referring to the Bible passage, "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Herman and Johanna died in short succession and Ernst's condition gradually improved. On April 10, 1839, another daughter was born, a strong, healthy child, who was named Eleonore Wilhelmine. Carl Emil, their seventh child and fifth son, was born April 8, 1841, and Carl Edward on November 30, 1842. Theresa was born in 1846 but died in early infancy. Thus Carl Gottlob Wiederaenders (1790) was blessed with seven sons and three daughters of whom one son and two daughters died in early infancy. All of his sons were given "Carl" as their first name; however, all were called and consequently were known by their second names.

Little information is available about Carl Gottlob (1825) the first born son of Carl Gottlob (1790). This, however, is known: For over 7 years he served in the Royal Saxon Army. During this time he participated in the campaign of 1849 in Schleswig Holstein. A release with the citation that he was a Rifleman of outstanding ability was granted him on April 12, 1854. (4)

A letter which he wrote to his father and step-mother while in the military reserves indicates that he had artistic ability. (5) Across the top of the page on which the letter is written he sketched in minute detail the castle at which he was stationed. Furthermore, a letter which he received in 1873 from his "faithful, old friend" Anton Zschinschke, gives some information about his childhood. (6) In this letter Anton refers to Carl as "the old true friend of my youth, whose artistic nature delighted and amazed me many a time."

That he married Johanna Dorothea Zaun from Mittelhaide, a short distance from Annaberg and that they had a daughter, Amalia Augusta, born December 20, 1847, is attested to by an official document which he obtained shortly before leaving for America. (7)

In 1854, in agreement with all members of the family, Carl Gottlob Wiederaenders (1790) decided to emigrate to America. Because Carl Gottlob (1825) had almost completed his tour of duty in the military, it was not too difficult to receive an honorable release for him. However a military release for Carl Anton had to be purchased at the price of 100 Thaler so that he could go along.

The difficult and wearisome journey began on April 11, 1854. There were eleven persons who made the journey: Carl Gottlob (1790) and his wife Johanna Dorothea Elenore nee Wenzel and their six children (Carl Anton, Carl Gustav, Carl Ernst, Eleonore Wilhelmine, Carl Emil, and Carl Edward) and Carl Gottlob's firstborn son, his wife Johanna Dorothea nee Zaun, and their daughter Amalia Augusta, who was seven years old at the time. They traveled by bus from Annaberg to Chemnitz, then by railway over Leipzig and Magdeburg to Bremen, from there by sailing vessel to Galveston, Texas - a rough, tiresome voyage which lasted six weeks and four days. From Galveston to Houston the family traveled by steamship and from Houston to Round Top by oxcarts. They left Houston on June 14 and arrived at Round Top on July 7, traveling approximately 200 miles by oxcart in 23 days. Thus the entire journey from Annaberg to Round Top took about 13 weeks.

It is interesting to note that Round Top was a thriving community in 1854 with a blacksmith shop, a saddle shop, a doctor, a general merchandise store, a cigar factory and a livery stable. The story is told that the round roof of the livery stable barn gave the name "Round Top" to the community. On the outskirts of Round Top was St. John's Lutheran Church, the Reverend A. Neudhardt, Pastor. Both the church and the pastor exerted a lasting influence on the Wiederaenders family. Later, when the Texas Synod was organized, the church joined this Synod. Through the Texas Synod, the church first became a member of the Iowa Synod and then a member of the American Lutheran Church. St. John's Lutheran Church still serves the Round Top community.

This too, should be added: In 1854 Galveston with a population of 4,177 was the largest city in Texas. Houston was a city of 2,396. The total population of Texas was 212,292. In the entire state there were only thirty-two miles of railroad.

Upon landing at Galveston, Carl Gottlob (1825), with a wife and child to support, sought work while waiting for transportation to Houston. Carrying his heavy tool chest he walked the streets and said over and over again to prospective employers, "Want job! What will you pay? I do it for fifty cents cash." Though he was skilled at making wooden buckets, tubs, cisterns, wagon wheels, plow boards and ox yokes, he could not find employment in Galveston.

When the family reached Houston his financial plight became even more desperate. He attached himself to a plantation owner who had hauled cotton to Houston and was loading his wagons with supplies to take back to the Nobs Hills settlement in Bastrop County. For the transportation of his wife, child and meager possessions he agreed to work for the plantation owner for a year. Included in the bargain was shelter and food for himself and his family plus a horse and a cow at the end of the year. After a year of hard work, the man gave him an old horse with one blind eye, a cow with a "knocked-down" hip and two young but stunted steers. When his wife Johanna saw this menagerie of nondescript animals, she wept.

Thereupon, Carl and Johanna found work with another plantation owner near Paige, Texas, who, in addition to shelter and food offered them a small field to cultivate with the promise that they could keep whatever they would grow. The ground assigned to them was an old, abandoned field of poor sandy soil unfit for cultivation. As Carl worked for his master, Johanna took over the cultivation of the field. Under her direction her husband made a small yoke for the young oxen they had received from their previous employer, fashioned a small plow, and built a small two-wheel cart. Before planting time Johanna asked the landowner for permission to clean out the pig pen which was piled high with manure. Permission was granted. Forthwith she hauled a generous spreading of pig manure to "her farm." Then with the help of her husband, who was permitted to work for himself on Sundays, a crop of corn, beans, turnips, sweet potatoes and cotton was planted.

The plantation owner thought that he had driven a hard bargain and, indeed, he had for the land was worthless for cultivation; however, because of the manure and hard toil Carl and Johanna harvested a crop the like of which the landowner had not seen. When he asked Carl why his field produced so much better than the other fields, Carl replied that the Lord placed a special blessing on his field because he worked it on Sundays.

In addition to his other work, Carl repaired the cotton gin on the plantation. For this the two bales of cotton he and Johanna harvested were ginned free of charge. The cotton was hauled to Houston where supplies were purchased and the remainder realized from the sale of the cotton was brought back in cash. On the return trip rain overtook the wagon train while crossing the salt flats between Houston and Hempstead. Carl well nigh despaired of returning home alive.

With the money received from the two bales of cotton Carl and Johanna bought a small farm for 50 cents an acre in the Rabbs Creek Community near Serbin, Texas.

There was much work to do: Trees to cut, land to clear, a crop to plant and cultivate, and fences to build. There was no time to build a house; in fact, little thought was given to providing even the simplest of comforts. At first they lived on the side of a haystack with boards leaned against the stack for protection against rain. Meals were cooked under the sky. On very cold days the family remained in bed and munched kernels of corn. Later, after the corn tops were cut and blade fodder was made these were staked in such a way that Carl and Johanna and their two children, Amalia Augusta and Bertha Amalia, born near Paige; Texas, who was only eight months old, could find shelter. A log cabin measuring 10x14 feet was built in the winter of 1857.

Carl continued his trade as cooper and wheelwright. Frequently he exchanged his services for hogs and cattle. The children had to herd the cattle to keep it out of the fields, for few fields were fenced. Johanna took the lead in clearing additional land for cultivation. Because Carl was too easy going, she took over the selling and trading of livestock. They lived from the land as much as they could for there was little cash for the purchase of supplies.

One year there was a severe drought. Cotton planted in spring did not come up until in August. After the rain in August, Johanna broadcast turnip seed in the field. The seed came up and produced a heavy crop of turnips which sustained them during the winter. The turnips, prepared in a variety of ways, were supplemented with rabbit meat as often as these were caught in snares carefully set and watched from day to day.

"Our Parents," wrote Minna, the second child born in America, "were very poor. For a long, long time they ate corn bread baked from corn meal they ground themselves. We children were well grown when wheat flour bread was eaten only on Sundays. We ate it as though it was cake. During the week we had bread which was baked from a mixture of corn meal and wheat flour - mostly corn meal." Another letter, the writer unknown, states, "Our parents were frugal, hard working people; though life was never easy for them, yet it was much easier than it had been in Germany. When we children complained to mother, 'We are hungry,' she replied, 'No, you are not hungry; you have a good appetite. In Germany we had only potatoes to eat; there we were hungry.' "

Carl was not a robust person; he weighed less than 150 pounds. Though he was a master in his trade as cooper and wheelwright, he was an impractical farmer. His wife Johanna, on the other hand, loved the land. She was a tireless worker who had a winsome way in encouraging the children to follow her lead. There was no task she was unwilling to undertake. In the evening when the children were tired and wanted to quit, she said to them, "See how low the sun is; soon it will set and then we can quit."

Both Carl and Johanna were devout Christians. After they moved to Rabbs Creek in 1856, they attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Serbin, The Reverend John Kilian, Pastor. At first German services were conducted on the fourth Sunday of the month; on the other Sundays services were conducted in the Wendish Language. In addition, German services were conducted on the third holiday of Christmas and Easter.

Because of friction between the Wends and the Germans, a group of St. Paul's congregation, mostly German, broke away and organized St. Peter's congregation in 1870. Carl and Johanna joined this group. It was in St. Peter's Lutheran School that their children received their education. Because of work at home, they were able to attend school only a few months of the year.

The Reverend C. L. Geyer, third pastor to serve St. Peter's, exerted a lasting influence on the family, partly because of his faithful ministry and, no doubt, partly because of circumstances attending his death. Holy Communion was being celebrated on a Sunday morning. Johanna was at the communion table. Just as Pastor Geyer gave her communion wine she noticed that he was swaying as though about to fall. Instinctively she reached for the chalice and held it as Pastor Geyer fell to the floor and died from a heart attack. Johanna was a timid person and under normal circumstances would not have dared to touch the chalice, least of all while in the hands of her pastor. Later in life she marveled many times what gave her the courage to take the cup out of her Pastor's hand. She felt that it was God who directed her to do so.

Though Carl and Johanna lived several miles from Serbin, their children walked to school and at first they and their children walked to church. After they trained an ox to pull a gig between shafts, they would ride on the gig with the youngest child on Johanna's lap while the other children walked. Because the ox had no water from the time they left home and the time the church service was over, he was thirsty. He knew that about half way home they would pass through a creek where he could get a drink, so as he drew near the creek he would run as fast as he could. The road took a sharp turn as it entered the creek bed. Had it not been for the fact that the shafts on the sides of the ox kept the gig from tipping, they would never have made that bend in the road without a spill.

It was on this little farm near Rabbs Creek that the following children were born: Minna Pauline - 1860, Edward George - 1862, Lydia Marie - 1864, Johann Andreas - 1866, Emil Carl - 1869, Anna Maria - 1871, and Emma and Linna who died in early infancy.

Their father, Carl Gottlob fell asleep while taking a nap in his favorite chair on the porch. His son Emil found him and picked him up to place him on a bed. Many years later he stated that he was amazed how light he was. Johanna lived until 1899 when she died in the home she had helped her husband build in the wilderness on Rabbs Creek, Bastrop County.

We return to the story of Carl Gottlob (1790-1855) and his wife Johanna nee Wenzel. Their only daughter, Eleonore Wilhelmine, married John Renker who staked out a homestead on Rabbs Creek in 1854. Her parents and their youngest son, Carl Edward, joined them to help clear the virgin forest. It was hard work to prepare the land for cultivation because it was over-grown with trees, thick underbrush and tangled with creeping vines.

In 1855 Anton and Gustav hired out as renters at Cunningham, the Post Office near the Serbin Community, for a percentage of the crop as wages. Anton developed a serious infection in his hand which prevented him from working. Edward, only 12 years old, now living with his parents on the Renker farm, was asked to help Anton and Gustav. After Anton's hand was healed and Edward's help was no longer needed, he accompanied a man, Mr. Sive by name, to Cedar Creek to teach German to his sons. The trip was made on horseback with Mr. Sive in the saddle and Edward riding behind him. All went well for some seven weeks, when a siege of homesickness overcame Edward. Mr. Sive diagnosed Edward's sickness correctly and took him home. His parents were very happy to see him; however they had sad news for him, for while he was gone, on August 29, 1855, Anton had died from a siege of high fever (probably malaria). A month later on September 28, his father weakened by a fever and old age died of a stroke.

In 1857 a farmer near Round Top hired Ernst and Edward for a year with the understanding that they could occupy a vacant house on his land so that their mother could keep house for them. A year later Gustav and Ernst agreed to rent land from this same farmer with the understanding that Emil and Edward were to help them with the work. Thus, the four brothers were happily reunited in the same home with their mother. But the joy of their reunion was of short duration. Their mother became seriously ill with rheumatism. Edward came down with typhoid fever and was near death. Ernst died of inflammation of the bowels (probably a ruptured appendix). When the year was up, Gustav purchased land at Rabbs Creek and built a house. His mother joined him in his new home. Emil went back to Round Top and Edward took quarters with the pastor to be confirmed. After his confirmation, he stayed with his mother and brother, Gustav for awhile and then went back to Round Top and worked for different farmers by the month.

In 1861 Pastor A. Neudhardt, who served St. John's Lutheran Church three miles east of Round Top plus three other congregations, decided to establish a theological seminary. Emil and Edward enrolled as his first students. The arrangement was that while he would guide them in their studies of theology, they in turn would assist him with the instruction of children in his schools. Emil was put in charge of the school in one of the congregations while Edward helped the pastor at home.

Then the Civil War broke out. The year 1861 passed without conscription because enough volunteers were available, but in the spring of 1862 a law was passed requiring the conscription of all able-bodied men between the age of 18 to 35, excluding only clergymen and school teachers. This law determined the fate of Gustav who had to report at the recruiting office and was sworn in at La Grange in Fayette County, Texas, on June 18, 1862, as a member of Captain Alexander's company of the Texas Infantry. He was given until August 1 to report at Camp Larrige near Austin.

In the meanwhile, Pastor Neudhardt succeeded in obtaining exemption for Edward because he was engaged as a teacher in a school of one of his congregations to which he assigned him when the teacher of that school voluntarily enlisted for military service. However, the exemption was later revoked because he was assigned to that school after the law had taken effect.

A rather crude method of conscription was practiced in Texas at that time. The Government offered a price for every man brought in and recruiting agents known as "head hunters" working in pairs would go and at gun point compel men wherever they could find them to accompany them to the recruiting office where they were sworn in. Pastor Neudhardt was celebrating a mission festival at Round Top, and Edward served as organist. Morning and afternoon services were scheduled for the day. At the conclusion of the morning service conscript officers were outside the church to take Edward away, but yielded to the plea of Pastor Neidhardt to wait at least until after the second service as Edward was needed at the organ. They lounged in the shade under the trees beside the church until the service was over, then took him away. He served with the Texas Infantry three years and six months. Because of the hardships he endured, he was never in good health the rest of his life.

Captain Alexander's company together with another was assigned to a camp for a period of rigorous training and maneuvering. In the spring of 1863 they were transferred to Brownsville near the Mexican border, where this company joined the Third Texas Infantry Regiment. The regiment was moved from place to place along the gulf coast until it took quarters for a longer period at Galveston. Up to that time the regiment had been reasonably well provisioned, but here the men were made to subsist on wormy cornmeal, sour molasses and tough blue beef which nobody cared to eat. The result was an epidemic of diarrhea, yet they were required to drill four hours each day and do heavy guard duty. Complaints were made, but obviously these did not reach the proper authorities. As more and more men became ill, their duties were added to those still able to work until their lot became unbearable.

Finally the entire regiment refused to drill until these conditions were rectified. Every evening before sundown the soldiers were lined up for inspection. One evening when inspection was to take place the regiment was suddenly surrounded by cavalry. A battery of four cannon, loaded with live ammunition, was planted before the regiment. The commander of the fort, General Dubray, stepped forward to address the regiment. He emphasized that their attitude and actions amounted to rebellion and that he had the authority and the power to destroy them all if they further refused to submit to his orders. Then came the command, "Stack arms!" "About face!" "Forward march!" The regiment was disarmed and restricted to quarters. After a week of arrest, the soldiers received their weapons again and the regiment was given decent provisions. But from that time the regiment was on the black list with the result that at the first opportunity it was moved to the front and into active contact with the enemy.

At this time General Banks (Federal) was operating in Louisiana and General Steele (Federal) in Arkansas. Their intention was to join forces at Shreveport and then with united strength to march into Texas. Confederate General Kirby Smith was ordered to meet General Banks and Confederate General Price and Lieutenant Marmetuk were to meet General Steele. The Third Texas Infantry joined General Kirby Smith's army at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, but arrived a day too late to participate in the action in which General Banks was defeated, hence could only participate in his pursuit. Through clever maneuvering General Banks succeeded in retreating without being molested; however, he was pursued as far as Alexandria, Louisiana. Then General Kirby Smith received orders to discontinue the pursuit and meet General Steele who was advancing from Little Rock, Arkansas. General Steele had advanced as far as Compton, Arkansas (probably Camden is meant) where he learned that General Banks had been defeated, whereupon he immediately retreated toward Little Rock.

The Confederate army was close on the heels of General Steele and hoped to engage and capture his army at the Saline River which was flooded as the result of torrential rains. General Steele succeeded in crossing the river, but his rear guard was engaged in a hot skirmish of small arms fire which cost both sides many casualties. The Third Texas Regiment lost approximately 25% in dead and wounded, among them was Gustav. Edward learned that after Gustav was wounded, his captain and a sergeant took him out of the line of fire and laid him behind a large tree. That is how Edward found him when he looked for him on the battlefield before the dead were gathered for burial. He noted to his comfort that Gustav evidently did not suffer long, for he had not changed position. Three bullets had pierced his body. All Edward could do was to take Gustav's blanket from his pack and cover him with it. One may easily imagine with what emotions he left him lying there. A detachment of men were detailed to bury the dead; the rest were ordered to retreat to Camden.

From that day the army was on the march almost constantly. Hardly had they made camp when orders came to march again. It did not require much effort to make camp, for the soldiers had no tents and whoever had no blanket had to get along without. At Camden the soldiers were given several days of rest. Here Edward became ill as a result of fatigue, hunger and constantly being wet. It rained continuously. Rations for two days had to be stretched over four days. The knapsacks were not waterproof so the cornbread in them became like mush. Hunger drove Edward to steal ears of corn out of the mule's feed bags and chew the raw corn. After his recovery, Edward wrote home that Gustav had been killed in battle and was buried on the battlefield. He also wrote that he had been ill but had recovered. His mother feared that he had been wounded but out of consideration for her feelings had not reported the full story. She asked in her reply that he give her the full truth and not leave her in painful suspense. Her worries were dispelled through his positive assurance in his next letter.

After the brief rest at Camden, the division was divided and the several detachments traveled along different routes. This made it less difficult for the soldiers to find provisions. In the fall of the year, Farney's Brigade in which Edward now found himself, received orders to build winter quarters at Minton, Arkansas where a beautiful pine forest had been selected as campsite. Trees were felled and made into lumber and all the wood not fit for building

purposes was heaped in large piles to be burned. When the barracks were built, the order came to vacate the camp and turn it over to General Price's army. Farney's Brigade marched to Shreveport, Louisiana, where the regiment camped on a bare knoll, without tents or even sufficient firewood, while the officers reveled in the city.

Then early in 1865 the order came to move each regiment as near home as possible. This indicated that the war was nearly over. The Third Texas Infantry marched back to Texas, but Edward's health was such that he was unable to march. He traveled with the wagon train for awhile. When he could no longer endure even this, he was left in a hospital. After several weeks of hospital care he recovered sufficiently to rejoin his regiment, now in camp at Hempstead, Texas.

On May 18, 1865, the army was dismissed. Each soldier was given a certificate of discharge (without seal) and ordered to return home the shortest route. Edward was only 80 miles from Round Top and arrived there during the second night after being discharged. In order not to disturb anyone, he remained in a haymow until morning. His brother, Emil, was the first to be surprised at his appearance. That his return was a total surprise can be well understood. At that time, the convenient telegraph and telephone system we now take for granted had not as yet been established and mail service was pitifully slow.

The next day Emil took Edward to their mother and sister. At the time their mother was staying at the home of her daughter Eleonora Wilhelmine, whose husband, John Renker, had died during the war, leaving her with four small children. Three different stories are told about the circumstances which attended his death. 1. It was reported that he was conscripted during the Civil War and died of fatigue and privation near Laredo where his detachment was on patrol duty along the border between Texas and Mexico and that he was buried where he died in an unmarked grave. 2. The story is also told that after having been conscripted he was released from the army because of ill health and that he died near Laredo while on a journey to Mexico where he planned to purchase supplies for his family - supplies difficult to obtain in Texas during the Civil War. 3. Finally, the story is told that he was killed by bandits near Laredo while in charge of a wagon train which hauled cotton to Mexico and returned with much needed but difficult to obtain supplies. Earlier on the afternoon of his death, the men operating the wagon train had killed a beef. After Renker's death they were eager to move on lest the bandits return, so they wrapped his body in the raw skin of the beef and buried him. As they were about to leave, they noticed that Renker's dog was lying on his master's grave whimpering with his head between his fore paws. They tied the dog to one of the wagons but the next morning they noted that the dog had chewed himself free from the rope and was gone. Suspecting that the dog had returned to the grave, they sent one of their company back to find him if possible. The man found the dog lying on his master's grave in the same position as the evening before. Lest the dog starve to death, the man shot him and returned to his wagon train companions.

Be that as it may, this can be stated with reasonable certainty. John Renker died during the Civil War. His remains lie buried in an unmarked grave near Laredo, Texas. After his death his widow, Eleonore Wilhelmine, with four small children lived on the farm her husband had bought near Rabbs Creek. After Gustav, and Edward left for the war, their mother joined her widowed daughter on the farm.

In 1866, Eleonora Wilhelmine married Emil Leopold Burgdorf, a widower with three children. The first year of their marriage they lived in Llano, Texas, but on the following year they moved to Paige, and from there to the farm on Rabbs Creek. Their move from Llano to Paige was made in a covered wagon. Because of excessive rain they had to lighten the wagon by getting out and walking. They walked knee deep in mud and water part of the way.

Information about the Renker - Burgdorf family is incomplete. The date of the death of Eleonora Wilhelmine is unknown. This, however, is known: she died in Paige, Texas, and her remains lie buried in Grassville, Texas.

Because there was no Lutheran Church in or near the Rabbs Creek settlement (the Wends who established St. Paul's Church at Serbin under the leadership of the Reverend Johann Kilian did not arrive until January, 1855), the Renkers joined a German Methodist church. When Eleonore's father protested, Eleonore showed him the hymn book used in the Methodist Church. It was a Lutheran hymn book, so her father consented to their action. This explains, in part at least, why many of the Renker - Burgdorf descendants were members of the Methodist Church down through the years.

During the Civil War, Emil was permitted to keep his school but the seminary established by Pastor Neudhardt had to be discontinued. Consequently, soon after Edward's return from the war Emil went to Iowa to complete his theological studies at Wartburg Theological Seminary at St. Sabald, Iowa. His first charge was at or near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

The full story of Emil's ministry is intensely interesting. At this writing, notes filed on this phase of his life remain unorganized, hence the telling of the full story must wait until another time. In summary this must be stated: In 1869, he married Gertrude Otto who was born on May 1, 1843 in Kursk, Russia. To this union the following children were born: Emil - 1870, Lydia - 1872, Otto - 1873, Gustav - 1875, Carl - 1878, Bernhardt - 1880, Martin - 1882, Hannah - 1884 and Ernest - 1887. Emil's first wife, Gertrude, died in 1887 at Guthenburg, Nebraska. In 1889 Emil married Elise Caroline Otto, Gertrude's sister, who was born August 5, 1844 also at Kursk, Russia. From this union one child was born, namely Elizabeth Olga - 1890. Emil's second wife, Elise Caroline, died September 9, 1932 at Lake Oswego, Oregon. Emil died February 12, 1923 also at Lake Oswego, Oregon.

After his return from the War, Edward worked on the Renker farm for a year and then when his sister, Eleonore Wilhelmine, married Emil Leopold Burgdorf, he rented the farm. When his sister returned to the farm with her second husband, Edward decided to accompany his mother north to join Emil who was now a minister at or near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. They journeyed by buggy from Round Top to Brenham, from there by rail to Galveston, and then across the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans by steamboat. At New Orleans they were detained for three days until the riverboat was ready to leave, but were permitted to remain on the boat while waiting. The journey was made without incident, and on arrival at Prairie du Chien, Emil met them at the pier. They left Round Top on April 10, and arrived at their destination on May 7.

Now Edward hoped to complete his theological studies which had been interrupted by the war. From Prairie du Chien to St. Sabald, home of Wart :r 6

Seminary, was only a day's drive. Having made all arrangements in advance by mail, Emil took Edward to the seminary with his own rig. Edward was received cordially and with great dedication began to pursue his studies. However, it soon became evident that because of his impaired health he was unable to bear up under the strain. Finally, his health deteriorated to such an extent that he was advised to discontinue his studies, at least temporarily. For awhile he sold religious books from house to house in Iowa City. This, however, was too strenuous for his weakened condition. Because he could not bear being idle, Pastor J. Hoerlein, who was planning to open a bookstore, provided Edward with the necessary tools and material to build bookshelves, cupboards, and drawers. The following summer he did carpenter work for a building contractor. That fall he returned to Prairie du Chien where he found employment in the car shops of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad. There he • lived with his brother Emil, who had married in the meantime, but who still had their mother with him. He often accompanied his brother on his trips to outlying congregations. On one of these trips he met and fell in love with a maiden whom his brother had confirmed by the name of Louise Trautsch. They were married June 2, 1872. She was a virtuous and faithful **companion**.

When the car shops laid off many laborers and among them Edward, he moved to nearby Boscobel where he purchased two city lots and built a home. In 1882 the shops at Prairie du Chien offered to receive him back, so he returned to Prairie du Chien. When in the fall of 1884 the shops closed entirely, he filed a claim to a homestead in Dawson County, Nebraska, and moved there with his family in February 1885. He made this move in part because his brother Emil had assumed charge of a parish there. Unfortunately, all his land was virgin prairie; none of it had been plowed, hence he had no crop to harvest that year.

Since he had not yet acquired draft horses, he hired a neighbor to plow a portion of his land. He, in the meanwhile, sought employment as a builder. Prospects for the building trade were favorable because most of the homesteaders still lived in sod huts. But these prospects soon dwindled because a drought set in.

The purchase of horses and farm tools caused debts. And when the drought continued year after year Edward was compelled to seek employment elsewhere. He found work in Iowa in 1890, while his family stayed on the homestead in ✓ Nebraska. During a so-called "boom" which brought the little town of Gothenburg into the limelight, he had opportunity to sell the homestead and moved his family to Grand Island, Nebraska where he found employment in the car shop of the Union Pacific railway.

The sale of the homestead gave Edward the opportunity to pay all his debts with a few hundred dollars left over, which he deposited in a bank. But his troubles were not over. The bank in which he had deposited his money failed and the Union Pacific Railroad went bankrupt causing him to lose his job. For awhile he tried raising sugar beets. Then he sought employment as a carpenter in a railroad shop which the Chicago Great Western Railway was building at Oelwein, Iowa. Through a loan from a friend he purchased a home near town. A principle which he tried to follow was to live near town if possible, but not directly in town, so that the children would not be exposed to bad company, also so that there would be useful work for them to do in their spare time. In October, 1899, he moved into his new home.

For almost two years circumstances seemed favorable when disaster struck again. In June, 1901, a large scaffold collapsed and nearly crushed him to death. All summer he was bedfast. When he returned to work after eight months, he found that because of failing health he must give up working altogether.

In December of 1912, Edward and his wife went to Chicago to visit three of their daughters living there. While in Chicago he had to submit to surgery which was not successful and left him an invalid the rest of his life, though not always bedfast. He sold his home at Oelwein and he and his wife made their home with their daughters in Chicago.

Edward died October 21, 1926 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. His wife Louise Alvina Trautsch died December 11, 1941 at Humboldt, Iowa.

Nine children were born to Carl Emil Wiederaenders and his wife Louisa Alvina nee Trautsch: Gertrude - 1873, Minna - died at the age of 8 years, Ottilie - 1877, Bertha - 1881, Magdalene - 1883, Edward - 1885, Carl - 1887, Eleonore - 1890, and Minna - 1895.

The following tribute is paid to Edward and his wife Louisa by their son Carl: "Through all these difficult years despite tribulations and many disappointments father never lost hope or became disgruntled. With staunch Christian fortitude he trusted implicitly in the wisdom and mercy of his God who always showed the way and provided help when needed most. And by his side stood brave mother to help him bear the burden, unflinching and undismayed. Though often able to supply only the barest necessities of life, they made for their children a truly Christian home, radiant with happiness and contentment. The earliest memories of my life are among the most precious: never was the day begun or ended without family devotions and prayer. The youngest on mother's lap and all the family attentive while father read from the Book and led in prayer. Though unable to understand what was being read or said, the impression of the sacredness of those moments with God went deep and cannot be erased. Thus, early in life all the children were given a solid foundation on which to build their own Christian lives, the most precious heritage any parents can leave their children. Thank God for Christian parents!"

APPENDIX

- (1) Annaberg and the St. Annenkirche.
Das Christliche Denkmal - Heft 7 by Werner Lange
- (2) The Wiederaenders home in Annaberg: Diary of Carl Emil.
- (4) Military release of Carl Gottlob (1825).
- (5) Letter of Carl Gottlob written to his parents while serving in the Saxon Army.
- (6) A letter to Carl Gottlob from a friend in Annaberg.
- (7) Document which establishes:
 - a. Name and place of birth of Johanna Dorothea Zaun.
 - b. Date and place of marriage of Carl Gottlob and Johanna D. Zaun.
 - c. Birth date of Amalia Augusta.

- (1) In 1492 rich veins of silver ore were discovered. in the region of Poehlberg in Saxony. On September 1, four years later, Count George the Bearded permitted a settlement to be established at the base of the northern slope of the mountains. Soon the community grew sufficiently to be given the rights of a city and was named "Neustadt am Schreckenberg" after a nearby peak by that name. It was laid out with a marketplace, a courthouse, and a wall with five gates and nineteen fortified towers for protection.

The city soon became famous for its wealth and magnificent buildings. In 1498, upon direction of the Count George, a small church was constructed of wood on ground overlooking the marketplace. In honor of the mother of the Virgin Mary, the church was dedicated to Saint Anna who soon became the patron Saint of the city. On March 22, 1501 Emperor Maximilian I changed the name of the city to Annaberg because "Neustadt" was considered too common a name.

The small wooden church was scarcely completed when in 1499 the decision was made to build a large Gothic church of stone. Under the direction of the Bishop of Meintz, John V. Schleinitz, ground was broken on April 25. The new church, 210 feet long, 90 feet wide, and 75 feet high was built around the wooden church.

In 1507 the foundation for the nave and tower was finished. The walls were finished in 1512. As construction on the roof began, the wooden church which had been used for worship all these years was torn down. In 1519 the building was dedicated by the Bishop of Meintz, John VII. The church, however, was not completed until 1525 after 25 years, 5 months, and 4 days. The cost was 209,000 Gulden or 5,000,000 Mark according to the value of the mark in 1927.

Down through the centuries repeated fires in the city of Annaberg (1604, 1630, 1731, 1837) damaged the church building but never destroyed it. After each fire it was restored but not always in keeping with its original grandeur. In 1884 work was begun to restore the building to its original beauty with added touches of wood carving and paintings. This work was finished in 1927. The church was spared during World War II and reflects today the full glory of its medieval grandeur with modern refinements.

- (2) The Wiederaenders home in Annaberg was situated at 419 Wolkensteiner Strasse. This part of the city was built on the side of a steep hill, hence the streets which followed the contour of the hill were terraced. The house stood above the level of Wolkensteiner Strasse. A retaining rock wall was built in front of the house parallel to the street. To enter the house from the street it was necessary to climb stone steps which were built into the wall. Because of this stone wall, Carl Gottlob was affectionately known as "der Steemauer Korl" (Stonewall Carl).

The house was built of rock. On the ground floor was a large work room, living quarters for the parents and in the back a small apartment in which an elderly couple lived. In the workroom were high stacks of lumber, a large work bench on which the lumber was prepared for the construction of barrels, kegs, cisterns, tubs and buckets.

On the second floor lived the Steinerts (a stocking weaver), the Franks (a maker of lace and fringes), and a widow by the name of Zienert.

The journeymen receiving training in the shop and the boys of the family slept in the attic. Emil, second youngest son of Carl Gottlob wrote in his diary "Every night cats would make a terrible noise (Skandal) between the attic ceiling and the roof. One night brother Anton grabbed one of the cats by the tail and threw it out of the window. The distance between the window and the pavement below was about 65 feet. We thought for sure that the fall would kill the cat, but it landed on its feet and as a dog charged it, the cat ran away."

The house had four dorm windows in the front and two in the back. The attic had only two windows in the front and none in the back.

Behind the house was a shed once used as a work area, also a pigsty. In the garden were pear, apple and plum trees - two of each. Along the back side of the garden was a retaining rock wall twenty feet high. Beyond the wall was the next street overlooking the back yard.

The school was three streets down and two streets over near the church. The school and church were above the Potters Market. Beyond the Potters Market and at the end of the street stood the Catholic Church. Behind the Catholic Church was a street leading to a Bohemian settlement. Along this street Bohemian farmers would drive their geese to market with long sticks, each one with a hook at the end. "I think of this," wrote Emil many years later, "when in fun I catch little children with the crook of my cane and say to them, 'Thus the Bohemians caught their geese in Annaberg.' "

- (3) For the sake of identification, the father, will henceforth be referred to as Carl Gottlob (1790) and the son as Carl Gottlob (1825)

(4) Military Release

Rifleman, First Class, Company 2, 4th Infantry Battalion --- Karl Gottlob Wiederanders (soldier of outstanding ability) native of Annaberg, 27¼ years of age, Evangelical Religion and married, is herewith by ministerial decision of January 2, 1854, separated from the Royal Saxon Army and credited with 7 years, 3½ months of excellent service, 6 years, which includes 1 campaign-year during which he participated in the field-action of 1849 in Schleswig Holstein, in the active army, and 1 year and 3½ months in the military reserves, and thus in keeping with received dispensation, he is released from the remainder of his legal time of service because of immigration to America.

Leipzig, April 12, 1854

Commander of the Royal Saxon 4th Infantry Battalion

St. Heinrich, Ordens

Louis Hans von Haerenstein, Correspondent

In addition to giving information relative to Carl Gottlob's (1825) military service, this document establishes the correct spelling of the family name. The correct spelling is "Wiederanders" which is the same as "Wiederaenders".

- (5) Though the following letter bears no date, it was written, no doubt, either in 1852 or 1853 as Carl Gottlob (1825) was in the military reserves.

(A very exact pencil sketch across the entire page)

This is the Rocksburger Castle

Dear Parents,

I continue to feel well **in** Wechselburg.

Time hangs heavy for me. I would rather work than sit around. Please send me the brushes and brush-sticks which I placed behind the mirror, also the little "Behr" which I bought and which must be lying in the workbench cabinet, so that I can pass the time with it. Please pack it well, so that the parcel does not become too large. Until now I do not know anything new.

I would however, like to know how you, dear mother and brother, got home.

Carl Gottlob Wiederaenders

As you **see** above, as during my school days, I took my lead pencil with my hand and drew the castle because I did not know what to do with the time.

This letter is of special interest because Carl Gottlob (1825) brought it with him to America. Since the content of the letter is not important, I take it that the letter was brought to America to preserve the pencil sketch of the Rocksburger Castle.

The following comment is added for the benefit of those who are acquainted with the difficulty Saxons experience in distinguishing between "d" and "t", between "p" and "b". In true Saxon fashion Carl Gottlob (1825) writes "Arbeiden" instead of "Arbeiten"; he writes "backt mir es huepsch ein" instead of "packt mir es huepsch ein"; yes, he writes "von einem Bilte" instead of "von einem Bilde".

- (6) This letter addressed to Carl Gottlob (1825) by his friend Anton Zschinske is here given in full chiefly because of its human interest content. Though it reports trouble and disappointment, parts of it sparkles with fun. You can hear the laughter of two little boys at play.

One sentence above all others interests me: "---- there is something my stomach would like to experience again - dunk doughnuts in coffee with you as I did untold times at your good parent's home."

Excellent fellow this Anton! He recognized and appreciated the delight of dunking doughnuts. And where did he learn this? In a Wiederaenders home! The art of dunking has a long and glorious history in the Wiederaenders family. Let no one discourage the development of the finer techniques of this art in our time.

Annaberg, Saxony,
October 13, 1873

My dear Carl, my faithful old friend -

You have had to wait a long, long time for a letter from me, my dear Carl, but circumstances did not permit an earlier message, therefore please forgive me, and allow me to call upon your own rich experience to make you understand how so many interruptions interfere with good intentions, most unexpected interruptions, yet because of their apparent importance, the previously planned is postponed, yes, at times even cancelled.

One time it was indisposition which kept me from writing - for some time now I have been troubled with hemorrhoids, an ailment which many men in their 40's are bothered with, especially those with desk jobs. This ailment has not effected me in the usual way with small protruding lumps and hemorrhages, but is effecting my nervous system, causing constipation and stiffness in my joints, particularly in my right arm, which because of my profession, naturally receives the maximum use, causing the blood to feverishly rush through by body, during which time my arm becomes stiff for quite a while, and this together with the trembling caused by extreme weakness, makes writing very, very hard. When one has had to force oneself to keep going all day in this fashion, you can readily understand why one would want to throw the pen aside at the end of the day, and the very thought of picking it up again in the evening would be horrible. Judging by the irregularity of my handwriting, you can see that this trouble is extra severe at the present time, having started after the heat of last summer, but I just couldn't make you wait for a letter any longer for fear you will get the idea that because of infrequent messages and great distances between us, my friendship for you is cooling off, but God forbid!! Friends who have shared both joy and sorrow during the greater part of their youth carry such deep rooted mutual love in their hearts that only death can sever such a relationship. This love blazed high when I saw the fulfillment of my long nursed wish - your portrait! Yes, I shouted, that is the old true friend of my youth, whose artistic nature delighted and amazed me many a time; with whom I sanded many a bundle of hoops in the shady yard, rolled the little men, women and soldiers in and out of the cave; tried out my knife to see if I could whittle my finger, and as a result the scar on my left forefinger is still quite sensitive; took an unexpected bath backward into the water barrel, altho it was not intended as a bath for me but to soften the hoops. These last two episodes still give me a laugh, altho, in the first case I presented my bleeding finger at home with a strained, yet smiling face, while in the second case my body closely resembled that of a drowned mouse. I would hate to have to go through all this again now, but there is something my stomach would like to experience again - dunk doughnuts in coffee with you as I did untold times at your good parents' home, and had the good fortune of being included in your family circle around the table. Oh lovely, beautiful childhood days, where have you gone? Into the sea of eternity! The memory of you is as a brilliantly colored butterfly!

Yes, dear Carl, you are right when you write that we have become men and fathers, fathers with worries. Your responsibilities as father of your large family are indeed great, but God's grace will be with you in the future as it was in the past, so that your burdens will not only grow lighter, but that your enjoyment of your children will increase until, in your old age, you and your dear wife will have the assistance you will need. I trust by this time your wife has safely accomplished childbirth, with the merciful help of God. Your God, who until now has so graciously led and sustained you and your loved ones, who

even in the strange new world has helped you establish a new home, provided food, shelter and live stock, may He give you and your dear wife strength and endurance, and health and everything good to your dear children. You are right, here in Germany you would hardly have been able to acquire such possessions, for which you, and we, are so happy. Rearing so large a family would have caused much care and trouble, therefore we praise the Lord with all our heart and soul for all His goodness. I too will raise my prayers to Him for your and your family's welfare. Oh, dear old friend, I beseech you to also perform this act of love for me and my loved ones! For altho we are living in customary German circumstances and so far, with thrift and the help of God, have been able to get by and help my two boys to attain their desired goal - the teaching profession - my anxious father heart has turned to our almighty Lord in heaven each morning and evening to grant me relief for my ailment and eventually to conquer the trouble in my arm, in order that I might continue to carry out the obligations of my job. May He grant my two boys - the 18 year old one is preparing for his final examinations and his entry into his profession as assistant teacher in 1874, while the 16 year old one expects, with God's help to achieve the same goal two years hence - may God grant these two young people the necessary perseverance, desire for learning, modesty, and above all, the conviction that they must keep their eyes firmly on God and conform their lives according to His holy word, so that they may not be tempted to follow the evil example of many of our pleasure seeking young folks and be induced to leave the straight and narrow path and thus be lost, but that they may serve God as true children of His kingdom and useful members of society in the capacity of faithful and esteemed guardians in the garden of humanity. May our merciful God grant that you and I may some day spend the evening of our lives not with regrets but with joy - and please God - with our faithful wives, the mothers of our children, at our sides.

Your nephew made a very good impression on me during his visit with us, and I am the happier that he has safely made the trip and reached you in good health, because you can certainly make good use of such a strong, healthy boy, and if he uses his uncle as daily example he will be of great help to others and develop personal satisfaction, for which he can thank you. Such a trip by horse back to the church services in Serbien may at times be somewhat difficult, yet in fair weather I would think it could be most enjoyable. I would really like to see you ride some time! I fear I would lack the courage, and would prefer to sit at table with a good appetite, together with your children, as I used to do with you and your loved ones at home. How is your married daughter, the wife of farmer Pilack, her husband and son? I am still mourning with you over the passing of your dear Carl - but you and all of us will meet some day in a better life, this must ever be our comfort in sorrow, and it must have been this faith which sustained you, even though, as you write, you followed your darling son in spirit, even as I am enjoying your companionship in spirit, together with your dear children Amalia, Bertha, Minna, Edward, Lydia, Johann, Emil, Anna and the little one in the arms of your faithful wife; heartiest greetings from me and my loved ones! May the sun of God's grace ever shine over you!

And now in regard to your dear relatives and friends here in Annaberg: I feel so sorry for your cousin Carl who is greatly concerned with the support of his large family during the frequently recurring shortage of work. How I wish it were in my power to help him bear this burden! At times he has had some very good customers, but generally speaking there is not much need for his type of business in Annaberg, and then too there seems to be a tendency toward having

ready-mades sent in from out of town. He recently confided in me that he would like to move away, but because of his large family he could see no way to carry out this dream - I am sure you can understand why, dear Carl. Perhaps God will see fit to bless him with health to continue for a while until his children are older and can help him with the expenses, then, with God's help, it might be possible. Be assured that if the opportunity ever presents itself I **will** make use of his talents.

If I mentioned your purse strings in my last letter, I did so only in fun. I know only too well that even in your greatly blessed America, food will not fly into the mouth if one is not willing to work hard for it. You belong to the type of people, thank God, who are strong in body, with unlimited ambition, and ~~completely~~ ^{economical} unafraid of privation or hard work, besides being and imaginative. These precious characteristics of yours have helped you acquire what you have, I am happy to say. Naturally one can not speak of a permanently filled purse because wealth depends on converting workable circumstances into useful realities. The fruits of vigorous endeavor can, with God's help, not be harvested until later in life and if you may so be blessed that you will live to reap this vast harvest you will for all time regain your coveted old place in my open arms. Oh, with what longing I am reminded of our dear departed Anton in his heavenly habitation! These gallant men, your dear father and brothers Ernest and Gustav, have already conquered death and entered a happier life where we hope to be reunited with them in a blessed eternity. Their memory will be revered with honor and sincere love, and my tears of Friendship and deepest affection are, in spirit, falling on their distant graves!

We were all amazed at the long life with which our all merciful God has blessed your dear mother, through whose generosity I received many a butter bean. May her old age be crowned with peace and contentment to the last, surrounded by her grandchildren, your children and those of Edward and gallant Minel, who as the wife of farmer Renker was widowed. May the Lord protect her from a similar fate in her present marriage, and grant her a long and happy life with her husband, H. Burgdorf.

I was happily surprised when I read in your letter of the wonderful dispensation of God who led your dear brother Emil to enter the ministry, to preach the Lord's holy word. Who would have guessed this back in the old days in Annaberg - may God's blessing ever be with him to seek and save souls for the Lord's kingdom. We pray that the Holy Spirit may inspire him and thus aid in the beautiful and important, yet often difficult duties of a faithful shepherd of souls, and grant him a most blessed married life. Even though your dear brother Edward was not intended for the ministry, we hope he will, with God's help, be able to fill his rightful niche in life.

In regard to our old school friends, I am sorry I am not able at this time to give you much information. The two Boettcher sons seem to be getting over the siege which seems to have made the rounds.

Everything is so expensive these days that whoever does not gain a modest living through winnings or inheritance would have a hard time - wages surely will not make one rich! The employers are encumbered with high loans, the laborer is faced with the high cost of living and the official is caught in the middle because he is unable to stem the tide of rising prices; he draws his allotted meager salary, and nothing more.

I know nothing further about August Barth, but will make inquiries. Please feel free to ask for whatever you are interested in your next letter, and I will be happy to make the necessary inquiries.

Wilhelm and Carl Steinert are well, but no doubt you have heard from Wilhelm direct.

And now, my dear friend, my time as well as the paper is used up and I must close for this time with this plea that we may keep in touch with one another through further correspondence as long as God grants us life. And now in behalf of my parents, my wife and myself, our special supplication is that God will keep you well, together with your mother and all your brothers and sisters, your good wife and those precious children of yours. May He grant my parents continued good health. Finally, my wife and I send you a thousand greetings. Should you be able to get a message to me before the blessed Christmas festival, which I pray you may be allowed to spend in health and happiness in the circle of your loved ones, it would provide untold joy to all of us here. God be with you all. I greet you in spirit with hand and mouth. Your old friend, Anton Zschinsche.

- (7) For Emigration to America
Amalia Augusta Wiederaenders, daughter of Carl Gottlob Wiederaenders, cooper journeyman in Annaberg, and Johanna Dorothea Zaun, second daughter of the sainted Carl Friedrich Zaun, was born at Mittelhaide in the year 1847, December 20 at 5 o'clock in the evening and was baptized on the 22nd of the same month and year.

Witnesses of the Baptism were:

1. Miss Christine Konkordia Schulze, eldest daughter of Christian Friedrich Schulze.
2. Fuerchtegott Heinrich Glaeser, second son of Wilhelm Fr. Glaeser.
3. Miss Christine Caroline Zelgan, eldest daughter of Johann Gottlieb Zelgan.

The above birth and baptism in the year 1847 is officially verified in Vol. IV, sub. No. 63.

Office of Pastor, Mittelhaide, March 31, 1854
Carl August Jelgner, Pf. Sen.

That the two Christian persons mentioned above as parents of this child were united in wedlock in this church on February 28, 1854, After public prayers were offered both in the church here and in Annaberg is verified in Vol. III, sub. No. 10.

Office of Pastor, Mittelhaide, March 31, 1854
Carl August Jelgner, Pf. Sen.

In this document the correct spelling of the wife of Carl Gottlob (1825) is established as "Zaun" instead of "Zenn" as reported in other records.

Also, this document raises a question, namely the discrepancy between Dec. 20, 1847, the birth date of Amalia Augusta and February 28, 1854 the reported wedding date of Carl Gottlob and Johanna Dorothea.