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An American Pioneer from Bavaria: The George Schramm Story

*In commemoration of the 100th anniversary
of George Schramm's death and dedicated
to his great-granddaughter Carol Thomason*

“There is probably no more impoverished region than this one where people strive so hard just to earn their daily bread under such bitter conditions,” declared Evangelical Lutheran Pastor Wolfgang Ludwig Munzert of the Upper Franconian market-town of Plech in 1833. At the same time he expressed “the wish that the young people of the region consider traveling to other areas to profit by associating with educated and religious people, and that many would even consider emigrating entirely in order that the population, and with it the poverty, should not get out of hand and thereby adversely affect morality.”¹



Fig. 1. The market-town Plech as it appeared in the 19th Century.

Only a few years before, Munzert had given Latin and Greek instruction to six boys including two of his sons and an intelligent, alert boy from Plech, Georg Schramm. Georg was born on 12 February 1816 to Johann Christoph Schramm, a general merchant, and his wife Margaretha Barbara² (also called Anna³), nee Kießling, from Plech. Georg was

the fourth of their ten children who grew to adulthood. He was a boy of many varied talents. His mother taught him to read when he was five years old. As the offspring of a musical family—his father was an excellent violinist—Georg played the “clarionett” and flute and was a soloist in the boys’ choir where Pastor Munzert compared his voice to a “silver bell.”⁴ So it goes without saying that Georg’s family, which was composed of devout, exemplary members of the Evangelical faith, “always furnished instrumental music at Church festivals.” It was not surprising that the boy, who from “early infancy, as a sort of prophecy, [was] called the little parson,” had a heartfelt desire to continue his education at the “Gymnasium” in Bayreuth and eventually to study theology.⁵ However, a catastrophe happened in the winter of 1829-30 just as this goal was within reach. Fourteen-year-old Georg and some of his fellow Munzert Latin scholars were returning home from ice skating. In a spirit of “boyish bravado,”⁶ Georg jumped over a small barrier at the shore of a pond, stumbled, fell, hit the back of his head hard on the ice and lost consciousness. He suffered a fractured skull which was not treated medically, and he was robbed of his splendid memory. Then Georg, originally among the top pupils, found himself struggling along at the bottom of the class. This ultimately forced him to abandon his beloved studies. As a result of his serious accident he suffered from vertigo for over fifty years. Not long after this catastrophe, Georg began a five-year apprenticeship as a merchant with a tradesman of Kulmbach named Gummi, where his eldest brother, Johann Georg, was employed. Johann Friedrich Gummi was also the Mayor of Kulmbach. Georg exchanged his Latin exercises for French lessons, which now would be of greater practical benefit to him.⁷

Everything changed when in 1835 Georg’s father, Johann Christoph Schramm, decided to take his entire family away from Plech and try his luck in the New World.⁸ Plech was a small market-town, through which ran the ancient road leading from Nuremberg to Eger⁹ and continuing to Prague in Bohemia. Since the Middle Ages the road was certainly, on the one hand, a lifeline for the locality; on the other hand, it was a constant source of affliction as Plech was regularly inundated by enemies and a variety of other riffraff. So it was the fate of Plech, which belonged to the Franconian Principality of Brandenburg-Kulmbach-Bayreuth since 1402, to be marked by continuous ups and downs. Severe devastation followed times of peace during which the oppressed people could recover somewhat; modest improvements in living conditions were followed by reverses due to new calamities: As early as 1402, Plech was burned to the ground by the Free Imperial City of Nuremberg, then in 1430 by the Hussites, and in the First Margrave War in 1449 again by the Nurembergers.¹⁰ However, the people of Plech did not allow themselves to become disheartened, and by 1436 had already constructed a new stone church.¹¹ An enormous relief for all inhabitants was provided by a town well, dug in 1539-40, which supplied long-wished-for well water. In the Second Margrave War, Plech was once more set on fire by Nuremberg in 1553, then anew by the Blacksmith Rübner in the first months of 1606. The latter was to blame that the entire lower market went up in smoke. Plague raged in the years 1627 and 1628; in 1627 alone it took 168 lives in Plech. To fill the cup to the brim, in 1628 fire broke out in the house of the barber-surgeon and the entire Bath Lane was consumed by flames. During the Thirty Years’ War it was the Swedes in 1634 that plundered and reduced Plech to ashes. The list of fire catastrophes continued, as in 1673, evidently through the carelessness of the imperial troops who were staying in Plech, 40 homes of citizens and 33 harvest-filled barns burned, and, in addition, during the fire the soldiers looted the poor inhabitants.

Thirty years later, Plech was so destroyed during the War of the Spanish Succession that even the Pastor and his family could no longer live in Plech but had to stay in the neighboring little town of Betzenstein until better times returned. However, even in these times there was progress. In 1740 the present parsonage was built;¹² in 1747 the Nuremberg businessman and native of Plech, Conrad Lothes, established a school endowment—Johann Christoph Schramm was Secretary and Treasurer of this fund for many years¹³—and in 1770 fire insurance was introduced. In the years 1770-71 failed harvests caused famine and an extremely high cost of living, and also in 1816-17 poor harvests caused unheard-of price increases which resulted in hunger, misery and illness.¹⁴ Yet, Plech experienced an indisputable highlight during the time of the Margraves—the construction of its impressive new church nave from 1779 to 1782.¹⁵



Fig. 2. The home of Georg Schramm's parents in Plech in a photograph of about 1910 (the second house on the right side of the street).

The Margraves of Brandenburg ruled in Plech for almost four centuries. In 1791 the last Margrave, Alexander, abdicated to Prussia's benefit. The reasons for this action were summed up briefly and precisely by the well-known German historian Golo Mann:

Through Hohenzollern family contracts . . . it had long been decided that the lands of the childless Margrave [Alexander] would pass to Prussia after his death. . . . It is a certainty that he was weary of ruling . . . , Lady Craven [Lady Elizabeth Craven was Alexander's life partner, whom he married after the death of his wife] supported him in his inclination. In addition, and this may have been the deciding factor for his choice of the moment, he was deeply shocked by the French Revolution, whose far reaching consequences he foresaw, as did few others, even though it was still in its comparatively harmless beginnings. With the glory of the Reich, and so also with its princes, most certainly the smaller and smallest, there would soon be an end; in any case a

mighty kingdom such as Prussia would still be able to protect his principalities Ansbach-Bayreuth and what he had done for them. He considered it better to leave voluntarily instead of allowing himself to be ignominiously driven out, and to leave under as favorable conditions as he was able to obtain from a voluntary abdication.¹⁶

The protestant Principality of Kulmbach-Bayreuth finally, in 1810, was annexed to the Kingdom of Bavaria.

The main reasons for Johann Christoph Schramm's emigration were the gloomy prospects for the future of his children¹⁷ and the oppressive poverty which surrounded him. The residents of Plech were poor and therefore could purchase only the most essential products. As a result, merchants had to endure drastic sales problems. As early as 1832 there were complaints that only a few items could be sold, and then with great difficulty. In addition, the old connecting road to Eger no longer enlivened trade. Over time it had become so unimportant that in 1838 a new road from Plech to Neudorf was laid out.¹⁸ For the Schramms, however, this promising development came too late. How difficult it was at that time for a merchant in Plech to earn an income and maintain himself financially is brought out in Georg Schramm's "Autobiographical Reminiscences":

To furnish my progeny . . . an idea to what diminutive dimensions trade was reduced in Germany I will give you an example: a girl, about four years old opens the door and addressing Father, say[s]: "Herr Sram . . . for a penny sulphur, for a penny onions, for a penny snuff and a penny in change." The coin she had offered was a Kreuzer, worth two thirds of an American cent. It took six of these pennies to make one cent.¹⁹

"Most of the various professions who still were part of the 'propertied class' emigrated when things were going badly for them; those without possessions left when things were going well, that is, when they had the necessary means for the journey."²⁰ The consideration rather to emigrate than sacrifice property would certainly have influenced the decision of Johann Christoph Schramm as well.²¹ Also, the regimentation and constrictions in the old homeland must have been unbearable in the long run for such a many-talented, well-educated and cultured man.²² Thus, this citizen born on 10 May 1782—whose male ancestors are documented to have resided in Plech at least since 20 November 1731,²³ who served as Mayor of Plech several terms, and who fought with the Prussians against Napoleon at Jena on 14 October 1806—was a loyal Prussian who made no secret of his republican convictions. Moreover, he held a basic antipathy for the ruling Bavarian King Ludwig I. Georg at first was firmly opposed to leaving his native country and only changed his mind after a conversation with a business friend of his father's in Nuremberg. Georg's position is understandable when one knows that he was madly in love with Otilie Loewel from Kulmbach, the young sister-in-law of his eldest brother, Johann Georg. Otilie's farewell greeting, to which she had attached a lock of her hair, was regarded by Georg as a valuable treasure throughout his life.²⁴ In May of 1837 his father sent him by stagecoach to Bremen to book a ship for the crossing for his own and a few other families. The carefully planned emigration of Johann Christoph Schramm and his wife and his children was approved on 24 June

1837 in the name of His Majesty the King by the government of the “Obermainkreis”²⁵ (now Upper Franconia). The father had to pay a bill of “two hundred florins (Gulden)” for “a substitute in the army” for Georg.²⁶ The two-story dwelling with its store—today Hauptstraße 16 in Plech—had already been sold on 13 January 1837 to Johann Meyer for 1,875 Gulden.²⁷



Fig. 3. The route from Plech to Cuxhaven which the Schramm Family traveled during their emigration in 1837 and which lasted one month.

On Monday, 10 July 1837, nearly everyone in Plech who could walk accompanied the Schramms to the edge of Veldensteiner Forest where the final, tearful farewell took place. They traveled in a wagon especially designed for the long journey in order that, from town to town, only the coachman and the draught animals had to be changed. The details of the family’s journey indicate that with this method of forward movement an average of 50 kilometers per day could be covered: the first stops on the trip, which Georg Schramm meticulously noted in a travel diary,²⁸ were Pegnitz (10 July) and Kulmbach

(11 and 12 July). In Kulmbach they stayed at brother Johann Georg's home (he did not depart for America until 1841²⁹). Then the journey continued through Lichtenfels-Karolinenhöhe to Coburg-Ketschendorf (13 and 14 July), through Hildburghausen and Schleusingen to St. Kilian-Erlau (15 July), through Suhl, Zella-Mehlis, Oberhof, Schwarzwald and Ohrdruf to Schwabhausen (16 July), through Gotha, Westhausen and Bad Langensalza to Mühlhausen-Ammern (17 July), through Dingelstädt, Leinefelde, Breitenbach, Worbis, Wintzingerode and Teistungen to Duderstadt (18 July) and through Katlenburg-Lindau, Hammenstedt and Northeim to Einbeck-Salzderhelden (19 July). Thus followed one stopover after the other—the last stretch from Bremen on the Weser River on Master Krell's ship—until the emigrants finally arrived in Cuxhaven on 10 August at about six o'clock in the morning. There on 14 August 1837, when towards nine o'clock in the morning a favorable wind arose, the *Cacilie & Sophie* put out to sea. She was a Danish ship more than 30 years old, a poor sailer with two masts instead of the originally promised year-and-a-half-old three-master.³⁰ Moreover, Georg reported in his "Reminiscences" that the ship broker Traub's clerk previously had attempted to cheat the emigrants out of "eight Thalers per head" additional pay: "On my threatening that I would return to Bremen and prosecute Traub for extorting, this demand was abandoned."³¹ The brig was commanded by Captain Thomsen, whose crew of ten included a first and a second mate. On 18 August 1837 Georg mentioned in the first English entry in his "Diary" that the captain, though "yet a young man of about 36 years of age," seemed "to be a very experienced seaman."³² On board, according to the passenger list handed down to us, were 98 German emigrants.³³ Among them was Friedrich Messerer from Plech, a shoemaker, whose wife, Elisabeth, gave birth to a daughter at 4 A.M. on 17 September during a heavy storm,³⁴ and who later became a preacher. Also on board from Plech were Georg Herzog and Vitus Tauber, a weaver, and Johann Kemmater, a farmer from "Attenhof" (Ottenhof is now a section of Plech), as well as from Betzenstein a citizen named Köchel—all with their families, and, like the Schramms, all had given their travel destination as Missouri. Johann Georg Albrecht Köchel, a cooper, evidently took the forename of his first child who had died at the age of twelve days on 10 July 1832,³⁵ as he is listed as "Bernhard Koekel" on the passenger list. The crossing subjected these people to not only many severe storms, strong contrary winds and barely edible food which was spoiled due to the putrid or sour (acidic) water, but also, once the seasickness finally subsided, there was hardly a day without quarreling among the passengers. The crew's nerves were likewise on edge: Georg related in his "Reminiscences" that on 10 October 1837 the

second mate, of brutal appearance, and brutal acting, commenced a quarrel with the cook (an innocent looking and feeble young fellow), after striking him several times in the face, knocked him down. This happened on the forepart of the deck. The Captain, standing in the door of his cabin, noticed this, ran to the scene, and without waiting for an explanation, took hold of a cable (they called "Brambrass") and mercilessly belabored the poor, no doubt innocent, cook. What was our surprise to see an old tar, of small stature, about fifty years old, run to the scene, tear the rope from the hand of the Captain and tell him to go to his cabin, and to see the Captain do as ordered by the old sailor. This sailor's name was Nöls. He was an uncompromising enemy to the ruffian, the second mate, who, though almost twice the size of Nöls, seemed to

be mortally afraid of him; Nöls having once threatened to knife him for some of his brutalities.³⁶

To crown it all, about noon on 16 October, a fire broke out. From the chimney of the passengers' kitchen a flame had already shot up man-high: "Many of the male passengers began to rush up to aid in extinguishing the flames; but the ship's crew forbid [*sic*] them, as they would only be in their way. Although the fire had made considerable progress, it was extinguished without doing much harm, after causing much alarm among the passengers."³⁷ But the journey also had its beautiful aspects. On Friday, 25 August 1837, Georg—using English, which for him was still an unfamiliar language—confided in his "Diary":

A very fine day; the sun shines laughing upon our deck; Neptun[e] and the children of Aeole [Aeolus] favour our passage; nearly all enjoy the bestest [*sic*] health. Thank to the highest being [*sic*], which has again given us this day. . . . During the mid-day we had a very pleasing spectacle; a society of more than twenty fishes, the most springers [flying fish] and some sea-swines [porpoises] came near our ship and danced about her; we regretted that they soon disappeared.³⁸

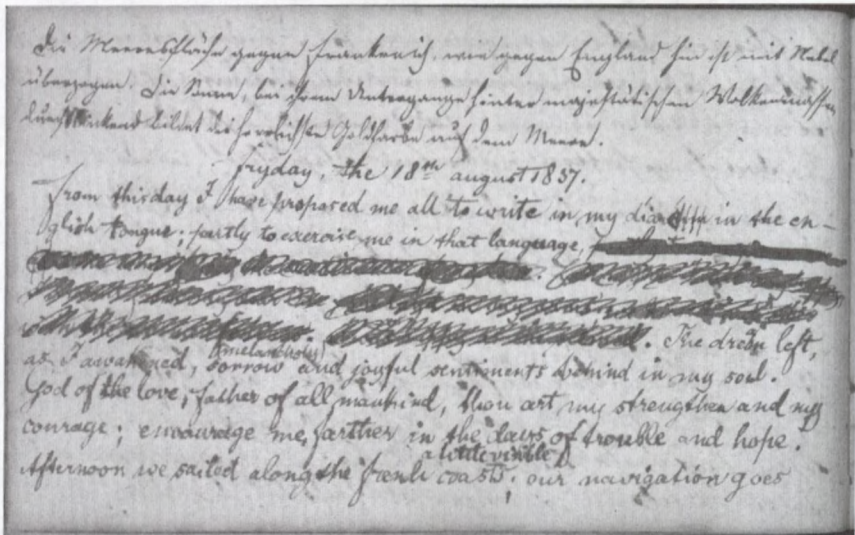


Fig. 4. On 18 August 1837, Georg began to write in English in his "Diary."

At last on Friday, 20 October 1837, a relieved Georg could write in his "Diary": "Early morning land sighted, the pilot arrived . . . ; after several gentlemen had been on our ship we reached New York before evening, this fine city with its many sea-going vessels, steamboats, towers and beautiful buildings."³⁹ Only three days following their landing, the Schramms left New York where they had lodged with a German and where one of Georg's trunks was stolen: "The Germans are the greatest swindlers; Kranz, a landlord, one of the same."⁴⁰



Fig. 5. George Schramm at about 30 years of age.

On their way up the Hudson River and then through the Erie Canal, the family passed Albany (23 October), Schenectady (26 October), Utica (27 October), Rochester (30 October) and Black Rock⁴¹ (31 October 1837) to Buffalo. From there, after about a two-week stay, they continued their journey by steamer across Lake Erie to Cleveland. They were to go via the Ohio Canal to Portsmouth and on to St. Louis, but, because the canal was freezing over, the master of the boat could not be induced to go further and broke off the trip for the winter in Circleville, Ohio. Johann Christoph Schramm and Georg Herzog, a carriagemaker, stayed with their families in Circleville, where employment opportunities existed and where the Schramm Family's band, the so-called "Mozart Band,"⁴² held performances and also played in the Lutheran Church. George, as he now called himself, was even "elected a Deacon" of the church, and the Council elected him "as their secretary."⁴³ For nearly two years after arriving in America, George was homesick, even though the whole family was present. But he spent a happy time in Circleville where he became an American citizen. After almost eight years⁴⁴ George responded to the call of his brother Johann (John) Siegmund Schramm who had been living in Burlington, Iowa, since 1841.⁴⁵ George, now the young head of his own family, with his wife and daughter, Paulina, arrived there by Mississippi steamer on 19 July 1845. On 4 May 1843 he had married Isabella Christ(y), who bore him eight children.⁴⁶ She was a descendant of Pennsylvania Germans (Pennsylvania "Dutch") who came from the Canton of Basel, Switzerland, in 1740.⁴⁷



Fig. 6. Isabella Christ(y) Schramm (*27 January 1826 - †31 May 1900), wife of George Schramm, who gave him eight children.

Siegmund had already, as the first advertisement of 19 April 1845 in the *Iowa Territorial Gazette and Advertiser* shows, established a retail store with the name "J. S. Schramm Company," later "Schramm's Department Store." This store existed over 150 years until 11 January 1997⁴⁸ and it "is believed that this store had the longest continuous operating record under one family of any store west of New England."⁴⁹

At the suggestion of Siegmund, George subsequently decided to establish a general store in Farmington, Iowa, first in a rented store but as early as 1848 in his own three-story brick building. After a difficult beginning, George Schramm was a successful and an assertive businessman. However, his partner, Elijah Gallagher, because of his disappointment "at the small profits,"⁵⁰ left the business as early as 1846 and went back to Circleville, and Charles Frederick (Carl Friederich Theodor) Schramm⁵¹ hurried to Farmington to help his brother. Charles F. Schramm "remained in Farmington until 1853, when he returned to Burlington, and entered mercantile life on his own account with J. S. Schramm as a partner, this continuing until 1859."⁵²

George Schramm's writings present valuable historical sources which until now have not been publicly accessible. For this reason it is essential that he be allowed to have his say when his eyewitness reports of the times are of general interest. Thus George

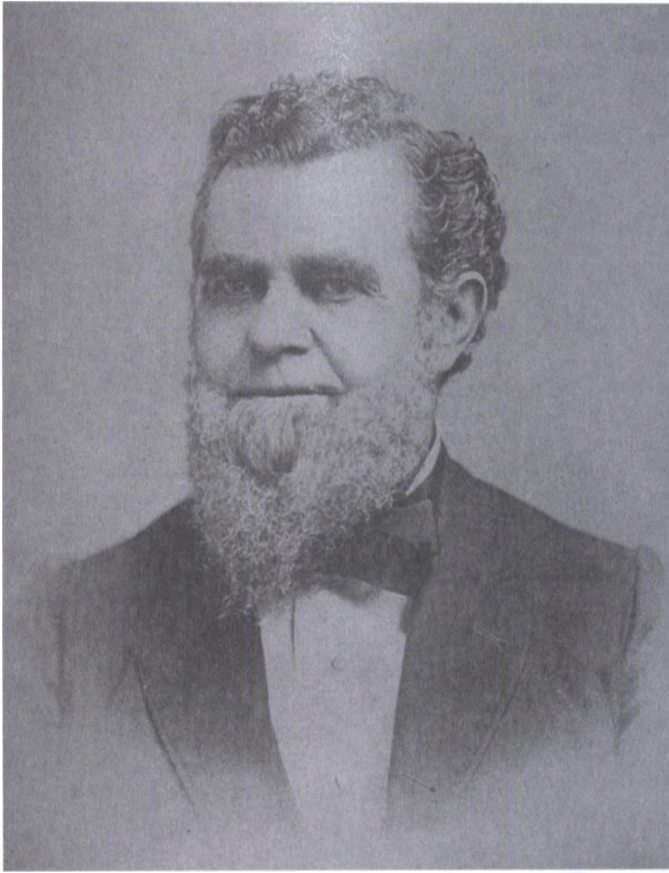


Fig. 7. Johann (John) Siegmund Schramm (*31 March 1818 - †17 February 1898), who was part of the 1837 emigration and also composed a travel diary.

wrote in his "Reminiscences" that he had the Mormons to thank for some of his first good business during these early years:

I think it was in the summer of 1846 that they passed through Farmington by thousands, in all kinds of conveyances, on horseback and on foot. Brigham Young and his wife, escorted by a bodyguard of fifty Danites [members of "an alleged, secret Mormon organization, supposed to have been formed about 1837"⁵³], rode in a sumptuous carriage and held for a short time before our store. [White] goods were in demand. They were needed for what they called sealing robes for the maidens, to wit [to] become plural wives, as no woman, according to Mormon doctrine, can enter heaven, unless, sealed to a man. Our white goods were at a low ebb.⁵⁴ . . . Mormonism was very unpopular among the masses, as no doubt it deserved to be; but occasionally cruelties were committed against individuals, for which there was no excuse. In passing through the county, [there were] many [who] were very poor, and [who] were anxious to perform labor for any one who might need their services; and many

persons were glad to avail themselves of the opportunity. Many of these poor Mormons were apparently honest and sincere and found ready employers. But it was really somewhat dangerous to employ them. Any one doing so was at once termed a Jack Mormon and belittled by a class who were really no better than the worst Mormons.⁵⁵

Considering the prevailing spirit of the age, which was anything but well disposed towards the Mormons,⁵⁶ it is noteworthy how well George Schramm speaks about them. His attitude is a shining example of a benevolent disposition and strength of character.

Over the years, George made money in various ways such as by pork packing, stone quarrying, and even by oil prospecting, but he was struck by bitter reverses as well, which he did not gloss over: According to George's "Funeral Sermon" by the Reverend John A. Wirt, the

necessity of building a bridge across the Des Moines river [at Farmington] was discussed for years, our main support coming from Western Iowa and Missouri. In 1860 I called a meeting and formed a bridge company of which I was elected president, secured subscriptions for \$18,000.00, one-fourth of which I furnished. The bridge was built, the pride of Farmington and the envy of surrounding towns, and we expected great profit therefrom. It was in operation for months; the toll keeper was instructed to prevent droves of cattle from passing in larger numbers than twelve at a time. One day while standing in front of my door I saw a large drove of big cattle on the opposite shore approaching the bridge. To my horror I saw the whole drove of over two hundred stampede on to the bridge, and by the time the first were nearly across and the last on the bridge, the center of the bridge gave way. No one could imagine my grief over this catastrophe.

Another initiative which was named "The Iowa and Missouri State Line Railroad" led to the next disaster: It was called into existence in 1859 to make Farmington the initial point for a railroad through the states of Iowa and Missouri.⁵⁷ George Schramm, Treasurer and Secretary of the newly formed company, was in Washington where Representative James Faulkner Wilson⁵⁸ promised that the Bill for the necessary land grant, then on its third reading, should be passed in the Senate. George watched hopelessly as the Bill was not called up; Wilson let it go by default—and the project was defeated. George's deep dismay was revealed by the Reverend Wirt: "Our astonishment and disappointment were great when we learned next morning that he [James F. Wilson] had failed to do so, thus ending the whole enterprise, about twelve years' work."⁵⁹

George also was not spared involvement in the Civil War, and gave in his "Reminiscences" this eyewitness report concerning the battle of Athens, Missouri, which occurred "about four miles south of Farmington" on 5 August 1861:

For some time previous to this conflict-in-arms, rumors were rife that the rebels would cross the Des Moines river about half a mile above town. One day it was confidently asserted that about two hundred rebel cavalry had been seen a short distance west of Farmington and [it] was surmised that they would cross on a shallow, as above indicated. Our Mayor had procured about



Fig. 8. George and his wife Isabella in their midlife with their children Schiller (*1847 - †1925), Herder (*1849 - †1916) and Alice (*1852 - †1916).

seventy-five muskets from the Government. General Swacey, our spokesman on public occasions and also a kind of a military genius, enlisted as many men as we had arms [for] and, late in the evening, at the head of his little army, [he] proceeded to the place of the expected conflict. Taking about a dozen of us apart, and placing us behind a huge felled tree, being on the high banks of the river, he told us in subdued tones that he placed little confidence in the greater part of the young men who were with us. "I fear," said he, "that the most of them would take to their heels as soon as they would see the hostile cavalry crossing the river; but, Gentlemen!," added he, "we, a baker's dozen, can defeat the rebel cavalry by taking it cool[ly]." . . . We waited patiently, when about two o'clock A.M., we heard the tramping of hoofs, as they passed over a small bridge directly opposite to where we were stationed. It was pitchy dark, and the objects moving could not be seen. But we were quite sure that the enemy was coming. I never was a fighting character, but I felt it within me, that I would not run but stand to my post. By the bye the darkness gave way a little and I detected that the supposed enemy across the river were only cattle crossing the bridge. Soon everybody could see them. Remaining [for] a reasonable time we finally returned home, well satisfied that the rebel cavalry kept on the Missouri side.⁶⁰ . . . Just now [Tuesday, 8 April 1902] one incident comes to my mind, which I will relate in as few words as possible. It was in the second year of the Civil War when, about noon, a Mr. Gill—John, I think, was his Christian name—met me alone at the store. He was a man of means and had bought five hundred dollars worth of U. S. Bonds. He came in, looking very much dejected, so much so that I asked him if anything untoward had befallen him. "That's what's the matter," said he. "This war has cost the United States already five hundred millions; we are ruined! Our country will fall to

pieces, four republics will issue from it and our money [will be] lost forever.” “My dear Mr. Gill,” I replied, “if we allow this country to fall to pieces and form four republics, there will [be] as many independent republics formed as we have States, and in that case I would as [lief] live in Mexico, or Turkey, as in one of those republics. We cannot allow this Republic to be torn to pieces; every drop of blood and every dollar in money necessary must be spent to avert this calamity. Five hundred millions in money are a bagatelle for this nation; we must preserve it if it should cost ten thousand millions (\$10,000 millions) and the Republic preserved will be able to pay for it.”⁶¹

Finally something quite special filled George with great and life-long pride. In the fall of 1852, he was a candidate of the Whig Party for the Iowa State Senate.⁶² He was elected for a term of four years⁶³ and was one of the Senators who in 1855 voted for Des Moines to become the new capital of Iowa.⁶⁴ George moved to Des Moines on 18 October 1867,⁶⁵ mainly—according to his “Reminiscences”—because of the failure to raise three thousand dollars as a first step for establishing a college in Farmington. Everyone who was asked—George included—was to pay one hundred dollars but, unfortunately, half of the required pledges came from Whigs. Therefore the Democrats

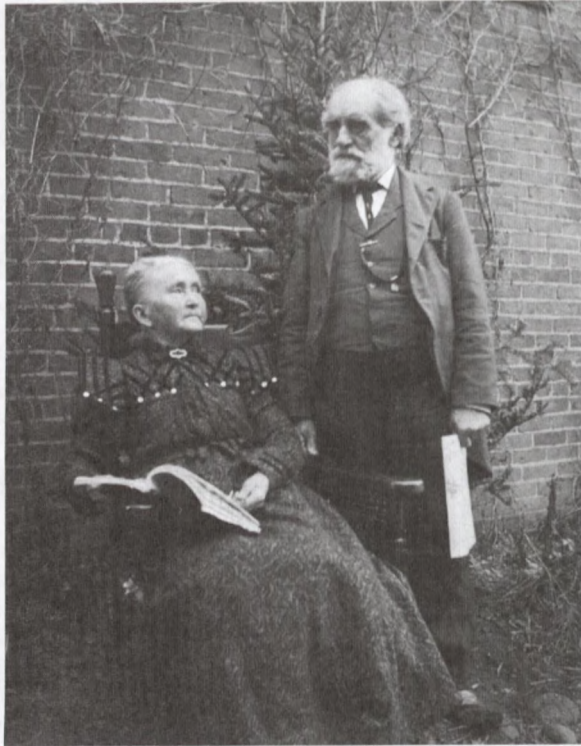


Fig. 9. George Schramm and his wife Isabella about the end of the 19th Century.

in Farmington claimed this would be a scheme of the Whigs to fortify their party and so the necessary thirty pledges could not be obtained. The reason George joined the Whig Party, with whom many of his friends sympathized, can also be found in these notes:

It may be worth mentioning that, during the Presidential canvass in 1840, it was asserted by the Whigs, that the then party in power in the United States had entered into a secret treaty with Bavaria to encourage the emigration of Catholics, whose votes could be and were controlled by the priests, who were in favor with the administration of Martin van Buren. Father's experience with the American Consul at Bamberg confirmed him in his suspicion, and me in attaching myself firmly to the Whig party. The Consul doubtlessly was a Catholic.

George stated in this context that it "took Father nearly two years to get permission to emigrate, while some Catholic families in our neighborhood got ready in a few weeks."⁶⁶ This aversion towards Catholics stems from the time of the protestant Margraves, when wars and violent rivalries with the neighboring Catholic territories were a part of daily life. George is only showing himself here as a genuine Evangelical "Plecher" and as a child of his time. Indeed, in this case a bitter injustice was done to Catholics because the American Consul, Louis Mark, who lived in Bamberg since 1823, was—a Protestant!⁶⁷

From 1862 to 1864 George served in the Iowa State House of Representatives,

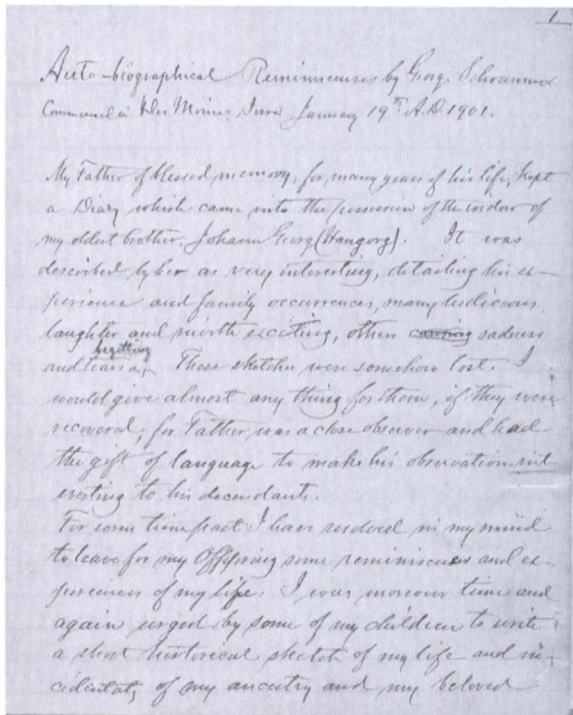


Fig. 10. The first page of George Schramm's "Autobiographical Reminiscences."

elected as a candidate of the Republicans.⁶⁸ The Reverend Wirt documented George's opinion of America which was expressed in an impressive speech he gave at the Semicentenary of the "Pioneer Lawmakers' Association of Iowa"⁶⁹ which took place on 12–13 February 1902⁷⁰ in Des Moines: "Before leaving the fatherland I made to myself a vow that I would retain everything that was laudable or praiseworthy in the German character, and that I would receive and adopt everything I found laudable or



Fig. 11. George Schramm's stores and residence.

praiseworthy in the American character." George's closing words were like a personal testament: "The German fatherland is ever dear to my heart, but, the remains of my parents of blessed memory being safely imbedded in the sacred soil of Iowa, I feel a pleasant satisfaction in calling America my true fatherland:—the more so that I love it, its people and its institutions."⁷¹ At the end of a long road there was only one homeland for George Schramm—America, into which he had become intimately bound and where he belonged.

As one of the famous and highly regarded pioneers of the State of Iowa, George Schramm, who was known everywhere simply as "Father Schramm,"⁷² died at the blessed age of 90 years on 26 July 1906 in his summer home on Lake Okoboji.⁷³ That he was always proud of his German birth and also never forgot the well-rounded education which he enjoyed in his youth, is evidenced by his naming the first two of his sons after two great German poets and thinkers: "Schiller" and "Herder."⁷⁴

Plech (Upper Franconia), Germany

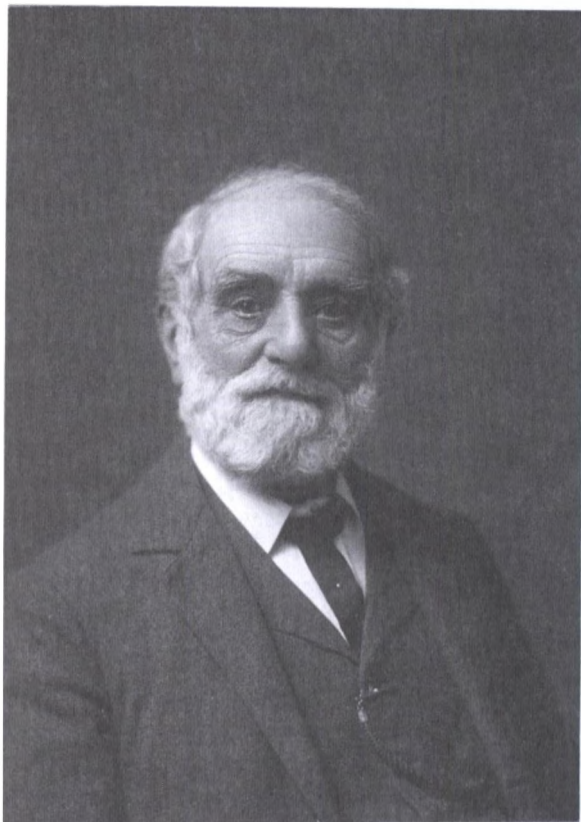


Fig. 12. George Schramm (*12 February 1816
- †26 July 1906) at the age of 85.

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Notes

¹ Translated from the German: Quoted in Heinz Stark, *Zur Geschichte des Marktes Plech* (Simmelsdorf: Altnürnberger Landschaft, 1994), 26.

² The further account essentially follows the four-volume "Autobiographical Reminiscences" of the Nineteenth Century (during the period 1820 through 1868) by George Schramm, in all 573 pages handwritten in English (commenced on 19 January 1901—last entry on 6 January 1904) and his 1837 "Diary" (in all 173 and X pages) handwritten partly in German and partly in English during his journey to America (both in possession of his great-granddaughter Carol Thomason, West Des Moines, IA); further, the travel journal of his brother Johann (John) Siegmund Schramm (* 31 March 1818—† 17 February 1898), "A Short Description of my Voyage from Plech to Bremen and America 1837," trans. Erich Funke, *The Palatine Immigrant* 26, no. 4 (September 2001): 209-30 (part I), and 27, no. 1 (December 2001): 24-45 (part II); see also the original in German "Kurze Beschreibung meiner Reise von Plech nach Bremen" about the voyage to Bremen and America: Manuscript Ms S3768, Special Collections, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City; as well as the "Funeral Sermon of Father [George] Schramm" by the Reverend John A. Wirt (in possession of Mrs. Carol Thomason, West Des Moines, IA).

For a general report on emigration from the Kingdom of Bavaria see Georg Krieg, "Entwicklung und gegenwärtiger Zustand des Auswanderungswesens im Königreich Bayern," in Eugen von Philippovich, ed., *Auswanderung und Auswanderungspolitik in Deutschland: Berichte über die Entwicklung und den*

gegenwärtigen Zustand des Auswanderungswesens in den Einzelstaaten und im Reich (Leipzig: Schriften des Vereins für Socialpolitik LII, 1892), 1-96. For a broad survey on emigration from Upper Franconia to America, see: Hans Schaub, "Auswanderung aus Oberfranken nach den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika im 19. Jahrhundert" (diss., Universität Bamberg, 1989); Hans Schaub, "Hintergründe der Auswanderungen aus Oberfranken nach Nordamerika," *Heimatbeilage zum Amtlichen Schulanzeiger des Regierungsbezirks Oberfranken* 206 (Bayreuth, Januar 1994). A recent overview is also Klaus Guth, "Wanderungsbewegungen in und aus Franken im 19. Jahrhundert," *Jahrbuch für Fränkische Landesforschung* 49 (1989): 109-33. For biographical essays and sketches on members of the Schramm Family, see: Augustine M. Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County, Iowa and its people*, vol. II (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1915), s.v. "F. [Frederick] W. Schramm" (a grandson of Charles F. Schramm), 284-86, and s.v. "Charles E. [Eugene] Schramm" (a son of John Siegmund Schramm), 394-95; *Biographical review of Des Moines County, Iowa: containing biographical and genealogical sketches of many of the prominent citizens of to-day and also of the past* (Chicago: Hobart Publishing Company, 1905), s.v. "Charles F. [Frederick] Schramm," 148-50, and s.v. "John Siegmund Schramm," 220-22; Johnson Brigham, *Iowa, Its History and Its Foremost Citizens*, vol. I (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1915), 238-39; Joseph Eiboeck, *Die Deutschen von Iowa und deren Errungenschaften: Eine Geschichte des Staates, dessen deutscher Pioniere und ihrer Nachkommen* (Des Moines: Druck und Verlag des "Iowa Staats-Anzeiger," 1900), s.v. "Johann Sigmund Schramm," 358-62; Frank H. Schramm, "The Schramm Family" (October 1973), 1-40 (in possession of Mrs. Carol Thomason, West Des Moines, IA).

³ See the tombstone of "Anna B. Wife of John C. Schramm" (* 11 October 1786–† 11 July 1850) at the Aspen Grove Cemetery in Burlington, Iowa. She married Johann Christoph Schramm on 28 February 1808. Her husband (* 10 May 1782) died on 10 May 1849 and she was buried beside him. They both died of cholera.

⁴ George Schramm, "Autobiographical Reminiscences," 88 [page in the typed copy: 45]: All the quoted texts out of the "Autobiographical Reminiscences" are according to the handwritten original by George Schramm. But it was very helpful to work with an interpretation of his handwritten manuscript which was edited with changes as a typed copy (in all 268 typed pages) by George Robert Killen (* 11 July 1897–† 11 January 1981; see "California Death Records," <http://vitals.rootsweb.com/ca/death/search.cgi?surname=Killen&mlast=Schramm>), Capitola, California, and which is also in possession of Mrs. Carol Thomason. To facilitate research, citations from the "Reminiscences" will be given the page numbers of the handwritten original and [in brackets] of the typed copy. "George Killen writes that his mother [Jessie who was a daughter of Schiller Cyrenus Schramm, the eldest son of George Schramm] used to tell him that her grandfather [George Schramm] was a striking looking man in spite of his rather short stature" (quoted by Frank H. Schramm, "The Schramm Family," 14). George Schramm himself said ("Reminiscences," 203 [99]) that he was only five feet six inches tall.

⁵ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 120 and 210 [62 and 102]. "George... (born in 1816) was by all accounts the best educated member of the family" (Frank H. Schramm, "The Schramm Family," 13).

⁶ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 120 [62].

⁷ *Ibid.*, 125 and 131-32 [63 and 67-68]; see also Reverend John A. Wirt, "Funeral Sermon of Father [George] Schramm."

⁸ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 52 [27]. The application to emigrate of Johann Christoph Schramm and his wife (who signed as "M. B. Schrammin") on 13 January 1837 states specifically: "Wir wiederholen daher unsere Bitte um baldige Erlaubniß zur Auswanderung nach Nordamerika über Bremen" (Bavarian State Archives of Bamberg, Signature K 17 no. 3389, 5'). Thus, Johann Christoph Schramm actually must have tried to obtain permission to emigrate at an earlier date.

⁹ Heinz Stark, "Ritter, Burgstall, Wirtschaftshof und Altstraße im Gebiet des Marktes Plech," in Gustav Voit, Heinz Stark and Volker Alberti, *Burgen, Ruinen und Herrensitze der Fränkischen Schweiz: Edelfreie Geschlechter im Mittelalter*, 2nd ed. (Simmelsdorf: Altnürnberger Landschaft, 1998), 48-49; see also Karl-Heinz Betz and Heinz Stark, "Geschichte einer Hofanlage: Plech, Neuhauser Straße 3," in Helmut Gebhard and Bertram Popp, eds., *Bauernhäuser in Bayern: Oberfranken* (München: Heinrich Hugendubel Verlag, 1995), 119.

¹⁰ Stark, *Geschichte*, 20.

¹¹ Heinz Stark, *Plecher Kirchengeschichte im Mittelalter: Zur kirchlichen Entwicklung im Nürnberger Umland* (Simmelsdorf: Altnürnberger Landschaft, 2002), 28-29.

¹² Stark, *Geschichte*, 20.

¹³ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 45-46 [23-24]; see also Heinz Stark, "Conrad Lothes aus Plech—Kaufmann, Nürnberger Marktvorsteher und Mäzen," *Archiv für Geschichte von Oberfranken* 87 (2007).

¹⁴ Stark, *Geschichte*, 20 and 22.

¹⁵ Heinz Stark, "Ein Plecher Baumeister: Friedrich Prey (1700–1784)," *Mitteilungen der "Altnürnberger Landschaft e. V."* 43, no. 2 (1994): 261 and 264, note 15.

¹⁶ Translated from the German: Golo Mann, *Der letzte Markgraf von Ansbach: Seine Zeit, sein Land, seine Bank und er selber* (München, 1980), 24.

¹⁷ The following reasons for the emigration of the Schramm Family to America were brought forward in the application of 13 January 1837: "Von unseren 10 lebenden Kindern ist, wie schon angegeben, ein einziges ansäßig und verheirathet [Johann Georg in Kulmbach], zwei Söhne sind Handlungs Commis [Georg und Johann Siegmund], die kein Unterkommen hier finden, ein Sohn ist Buchbindermeister [Johann Michael], welcher ebenfalls keinen Verdienst findet, weil zu viele Buchbinder in der Nähe sind. Wir haben auch keine Aussicht zur Unterkunft für die übrigen Kinder, weil alles hier übersetzt ist. Ueberdieß habe ich einen Verwandten Namens Konrad Schramm von Eschenbach, L[and]G[er] [ich]t Hersbruck, welcher als Hopfenhändler nach Nordamerika reiste, sich dort in dem Staat Indiana ansäßig machte, dort wohlhabend ist

und uns versicherte, für unser Unterkommen dort zu sorgen" (Bavarian State Archives of Bamberg, Signature K 17 no. 3389, 4'-5'). In the report of 14 January 1837 of the royal district court Pegnitz in Schnabelwaid to the royal government of the Upper Main Circle in Bayreuth, the royal district Judge Ertl expressed his reaction to the application very ungraciously: "Alle Belehrungen von diesem Vorhaben abzugehen waren vergeblich, weil die Familie überspannt ist und in ihrer vorgefaßten Meinung großes Vermögen zu erwerben hofft" (Bavarian State Archives of Bamberg, Signature K 17 no. 3392). Thus, the so-called "push factors" (in this case finding work for the children) and the "pull factors" (in this case becoming wealthy like Konrad Schramm) came together. The names of the children who emigrated with their parents Johann Christoph and Margaretha Barbara were (see their Baptismal Entries in the Register of the Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Plech): Johann Michael (* 1809), Friedrich (* 1814), Georg (* 1816), Johann Siegmund (* 1818), Margaretha (* 1823), Carl Friederich Theodor (* 1825), Margaretha Mathilda (* 1827), Elisabetha (* 1832) and Georg Wilhelm (* 1834).

¹⁸ Stark, *Geschichte*, 26 (see also Schaub, "Auswanderung," 85, and *ibid.*, 80: "Die Menschen brachten die Geldmittel nicht mehr auf, um die teuren Waren kaufen zu können") and 113, note 156. See also Heinrich Bauer, *Geschichte der Stadt Pegnitz und des Pegnitzer Bezirks*, 2nd ed. (Pegnitz, 1938), 452, note 14.

¹⁹ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 47-48 [24-25].

²⁰ Translated from the German: Marianne Wellhausen, "Über deutsche Auswanderung nach den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika im 19. Jahrhundert: Unter besonderer Berücksichtigung Mittelfrankens" (diss., Universität Erlangen, 1949), 81.

²¹ The Schramms at the time of the family's emigration (father, mother and nine children) were able to prove assets of 4,000 Gulden (florins), which, in fact (even for eleven people), was a relatively high amount. However, this included proceeds from the sale of their home with its contents and all their agricultural real estate (see Bavarian State Archives of Bamberg, Signature K 17 no. 3389, 2-4). Also, since previously, no or only a small amount of cash assets were on hand, the family—without sufficient income—probably had to live on their capital. Since the Schramms were among the early emigrants (statistics indicate the first official Upper Franconian emigration to America was in 1833) they still obtained good prices from the sale of their possessions. Later the increasing numbers of emigrants caused the prices to decline (see Schaub, "Auswanderung," 50 and 84).

²² See for an obituary on Johann Christoph Schramm *Des Moines County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. II, no. 3 (1977): 46: "Died in this city [Burlington] on the 10th, Mr. John Christopher Schramm, a native of Bavaria, Germany and recently from Circleville, Ohio, aged 67 years. The deceased had but 4 days before his death, rejoined several of his children, at this place, who had receded [preceded?] him here as residents, and among whom he had come to spend the evening of his life. The fatigue of the journey, it is supposed, brought upon him the illness which at his advanced age, proved so suddenly fatal. He was a gentleman of education and most exemplary character, and in all respect worthy of the sympathy which has been manifested by the public here on the occasion of the peculiarly mournful circumstances attending his death. (May 24, 1849 *Wisc.[onsin] Terr.[itory] Gazette & Burlington Advertiser.*)"

²³ Marriage Entry in the Register of the Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Plech: Wedding of Johann Georg Schramm and Anna Büttner on 20 November 1731 (these were George Schramm's great-grandparents). Actually the Schramms were millers at the Stone Mill at Pittersdorf, Gemeinde Hummeltal, near Bayreuth. Georg Schramm (the father of the said Johann Georg) then accepted a position as choirmaster and court clerk first at Lindenhart and then at Kasendorf, while his son Johann Georg, who practiced the same profession, came to Plech. For further details on the Stone Mill see Annemarie Leutzsch, "Die Mühlen im Gemeindebereich Hummeltal," *Hummeltauer Heimatbote* 32, 9. Jahrgang (März 1996): 7: "Dazu schreibt Lehrer Heerdegen, der von 1853-1858 in Pittersdorf unterrichtete, in seinen Aufzeichnungen: 'Zur Gemeinde Pittersdorf gehört auch die Steinmühle, welche ¼ Stunde von hier entfernt ist. Geschichtlich läßt sich von derselben angeben, daß sie auch im 30-jährigen Kriege ihre Zerstörung gefunden haben mag. Ihr früherer Standort soll um mindestens 80 Schritte weiter oben an der Mistel, näher an Pettendorf gewesen sein. . . . Sie befand sich bis zum Jahre 1765 in den Händen einer gewissen Familie Schramm, kam durch Verheiratung im genannten Jahre in die Hände eines gewissen Lorenz Ruckriegel von Pettendorf. . . .'"

²⁴ Otilie's greeting was even presented by Dr. Margot Hamm, Center of Bavarian History, in a report on Bavarian Television relating to the exhibition "Good Bye Bayern—Grüß Gott America" (see the Website of the Center of Bavarian History which provides in English a broad survey over the exhibition and the related topics, including photographs not shown before in Europe: <http://www.hdbg.de/auswanderung/english/index2.htm>). The sheet with the attached lock of hair was shown in the exhibition as a part of a small chest with farewell letters from Georg's friends from the years 1836-37 (in possession of Mrs. Carol Thomason, West Des Moines, IA). Georg met Otilie once again in Kulmbach on the way to America, where she wrote these lines on 12 July 1837: "Muthig verlaße das Vaterland, die Hoffnung, die süße Gefährtin Unserer Wünsche, Beflügele Deine Schritte. Und will das Schicksal uns günstig sein, so sehen wir gewiß uns wieder, bis dort hin lebe wohl,—und gedenke Deiner Otilie." Georg and Otilie never met again.

²⁵ Bavarian State Archives of Bamberg, Signature K 17 no. 3392.

²⁶ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 195-96 [95A-96A]. At this time, a family having a son between the ages of 17 and 21 whom they wished to take to America had either to find a substitute who would serve in the army for him (Krieg, "Königreich Bayern," 15-16, note 2) or redeem him for the sum of 800 Gulden or later 1,500 Gulden (see Schaub, "Auswanderung," 96). Therefore it was good fortune that a discharged soldier, namely the 28 year-old Heinrich Brendel from Schnabelwaid, could be found as a substitute for Georg (Bavarian State Archives of Bamberg, Signature K 3 A no. 2488'). From the files in the Bavarian State Archives of Bamberg it is not clear if Brendel actually received 200 Gulden.

²⁷ Stark, *Geschichte*, 49; see also note 21.

²⁸ In his "Diary," Georg even broke down the family's expenses for the entire journey: The costs of the

trip as far as Bremen amounted to 91 Gulden and 34 ¼ Kreuzer; ship broker Traub was paid 140 Gulden earlier, and on 27 July 1837 Traub again received 688 Gulden and 40 Kreuzer. The total cost of the journey, including the Atlantic crossing, therefore came to 920 Gulden and 14 ¼ Kreuzer (George Schramm, "Diary," VIII).

²⁹ On 22 July 1841 the merchant Johann Georg Schramm from Kulmbach (* 2 March 1807), with his wife Amöna (Carolina Friederike Georgina Louise Amöna), nee Loewel, and his three children Oskar Heinrich Clotar Otto (* 24 August 1837), Selma Emma Julia (* 14 October 1838) and Hugo August Friedrich (* 29 January 1840), was granted permission to emigrate to North America. This permission only became valid after he had satisfied all his creditors (see Bavarian State Archives of Bamberg, Signature K 3 A I no. 2407^{II}, 27).

³⁰ George Schramm, "Diary," 67 (Friday, 18 August 1837). Georg's brother Johann Siegmund, who also composed a travel diary (Manuscript Ms S3768, University of Iowa Libraries), gave this information on the *Caecilie & Sophie* (Thursday, 7 September 1837): "[Um] 3 Uhr morgens stürzte durch den heftigen Wind der über der Kajüte hinterliegende Mast unter furchtbarem Getöse auf das Vordeck; o du alte Brigg[,] wie werden wir mit dir nach Neuyork kommen! Hier sieht man deutlich[,] was für ein schlechtes Herz unter manchem Prachtgewande schlägt, ohne eine Zeitlang bemerkt zu werden; das Schiff innen u[nd] ausen [*sic*] bei den wichtigsten Stellen mit schöner Oehlfarbe [*sic*] bestrichen, mußte man den Worten der Betrüger glauben, es wäre erst 9 Jahre auf der See gegangen; allein deutlich sieht man jetzt, daß der eine Matrose, der mit den Pasagiren [*sic*], die sich jetzt sehr getäuscht finden, Mitleiden zeigte u[nd] mir selbst versicherte, daß es schon 30 Jahre auf dem Meere geht, dieses die letzte Fahrt ist, u[nd] zu einem Kaufahrtschiff [*sic*] für untauglich erklärt wurde; o ihr Betrüger[,] für Menschen ist es gut, mit ihnen verliert [*sic*] ihr, wenn es scheitern sollte[,] kein Kapital. . . von einer Untersuchung, ob das Schiff tauglich zur Abfahrt ist[,] war keine Rede; auch war bei der Abfahrt von Cuxshafen [*sic*] niemand, als [der] Kapitän, ein Kauf[m]ann, der aus Hamburg ist u[nd] Schiffsseigner ist, zugegen; diese, mit Traub [the ship broker], spielten nach meiner Ansicht mit uns einen Schleichhandel, auf einem höchst mangelhaften Schiffe." I am grateful to Mrs. Kathryn J. Hodson, Special Collections Department Manager of the University of Iowa Libraries, for obtaining a copy of the original of Johann Siegmund Schramm's "Diary."

³¹ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 221-23 [108]. Presumably the person mentioned is Carl Traub, Bremen, for whom agents worked in Bamberg and Bayreuth beginning on 17 May 1842 (see Schaub, "Auswanderung," 294 and 313).

³² George Schramm, "Diary," 67 (Friday, 18 August 1837).

³³ Mr. Jack R. Raum, Winchester, Virginia, I thank for procuring the passenger list of the *Caecilie & Sophie* (1837) from the U. S. National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.

³⁴ George Schramm, "Diary," 81 (Sunday, 17 September 1837), and the passenger list of the *Caecilie & Sophie* (1837).

³⁵ Baptismal Entry of Bernhardt Köchel (* 28 June 1832-† 10 July 1832) in the Register of the Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Betzenstein.

³⁶ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 238-39 [115-16].

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 241 [117].

³⁸ George Schramm, "Diary," 73 (Friday, 25 August 1837).

³⁹ Translated from the German according to George Schramm, "Diary," 165 (Friday, 20 October 1837): "Früh Morgens Land erblickt, den Lotsen bekommen . . . ; nachdem mehrere Herren auf unserem Schiffe gewesen waren, erreichten wir vor Abends Neuyork, diese feine Stadt mit ihren vielen Seeschiffen, Dampfbooten, Thürmen & schönen Gebäuden." A consulate of the Kingdom of Bavaria existed in New York since 1834 (Krieg, "Königreich Bayern," 71).

⁴⁰ Translated from the German according to George Schramm, "Diary," 168 (Tuesday, 24 October 1837): "Die Deutschen sind die größten Betrüger; Kranz, ein Wirth, einer derselben."

⁴¹ Mr. Jack R. Raum, Winchester, VA, identified the correct place name "Black Rock" (in George Schramm's "Diary," 171, erroneously "Blackwood"). See also Ronald E. Shaw, *Erie Water West: A History of the Erie Canal, 1792-1854* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1990), 162: Black Rock became "a part of Buffalo by 1853."

⁴² George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 287 [139].

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 338 [164].

⁴⁴ The case of the Schramms and the Herzogs confirmed what Klaus Guth had observed (Guth, "Wanderungsbewegungen," 129), that the immigrant groups remained together when they reached their first goal. And, as well, the weakening of neighborly and family ties ensued already in the immigrant generation (see *ibid.*, 132), in this instance through Siegmund's and George's migration to the interior of America, from Circleville, Ohio, to Iowa.

⁴⁵ Mrs. Pat Latty, Burlington, IA, to whom I am much obliged for information and background data on John Siegmund Schramm. See also: *Biographical review of Des Moines County*, 220-22; Eiboeck, *Die Deutschen von Iowa*, 358-62; Frank H. Schramm, "The Schramm Family," *passim*.

⁴⁶ Isabella Christy Schramm was born on 27 January 1826 and died on 31 May 1900. Her "Funeral Sermon" (in possession of Mrs. Carol Thomason, West Des Moines, IA) was preached by the Reverend John A. Wirt, D.D., on 3 June 1900.

⁴⁷ Margaret E. Birnstiel, "The Story of Johann Christ and Anna Susan Spanhauer and their Descendants" (typed manuscript draft no. 1, 15 December 2006), 1.

⁴⁸ Carolyn Noon, "J.S. Schramm Co.: Department store famous for beautiful fashion," *The Hawk Eye: Millennium Edition*, Saturday, 6 November 1999, <http://www.thehawkeye.com/features/1999/millennium/mm06117.html>.

⁴⁹ Special Collections Department of the University of Iowa Libraries, "MsC 354 - Manuscript Register:

Papers of James S. Schramm, Collection Dates: 1932-1979" (October 2002), http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/MS/ToMsc400/MsC354/MsC354_schramm.html. James S. Schramm (* 4 February 1904–† 23 August 1980) was a grandson of John Siegmund Schramm and the brother of the author of "The Schramm Family" Frank H. Schramm (* 17 January 1900–† 10 November 1995).

⁵⁰ Reverend Wirt, "Funeral Sermon of Father Schramm."

⁵¹ See for further details on Charles Frederick Schramm (* 9 November 1825–† February 1906): Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, vol. II, s.v. "F. W. Schramm," 284-85, and Frank H. Schramm, "The Schramm Family," 16-17.

⁵² *Biographical review of Des Moines County*, s.v. "Charles F. Schramm," 149.

⁵³ *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language* (Cleveland and New York: College Edition, 1959), 372.

⁵⁴ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 415 [199].

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 420-21 [202].

⁵⁶ Even the chapter about the Mormons in *The Encyclopaedia Britannica* of 1890 (*The Encyclopaedia Britannica, A Dictionary of Arts, Sciences, and General Literature*, Ninth Edition: Complete Reprint, vol. XVI, New York, 1890, 825-28) seems not to be very objective.

⁵⁷ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 540 and 542-43 [253-54].

⁵⁸ Brigham, *Iowa*, vol. I. Historical Biographies—XX, 457-68 (James Faulkner Wilson). For a biographical sketch on James F. Wilson, see also: http://all-biographies.com/politicians/james_wilson.htm.

⁵⁹ Reverend Wirt, "Funeral Sermon of Father Schramm."

⁶⁰ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 531-33 [249-50].

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 554-55 [259-60].

⁶² *Ibid.*, 506 [238]; see also Brigham, *Iowa*, vol. I, 238-39.

⁶³ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 126 [in the typed copy erroneously "five years": 64]; see also Benjamin F. Gue, *History of Iowa from the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*, vol. III (New York, NY: The Century History Company, 1903), 462-64.

⁶⁴ Reverend Wirt, "Funeral Sermon of Father Schramm." See also Brigham, *Iowa*, vol. I, 255-56.

⁶⁵ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 568 [266].

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 195-96 [95A-96A]; see also note 8.

⁶⁷ Klaus Guth, "Louis Mark: Konsul der Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika für das Königreich Bayern (1844)," *Bericht des Historischen Vereins Bamberg* 116 (1980): 195-96. For two Prussian Talers, Louis Mark provided confirmation of approval of admission to the United States, which he was forbidden to do since 11 September 1837 as these confirmations were not necessary (see Schaub, "Auswanderung," 158). The Schramms also had paid for such a confirmation: "Nach dem Zeugniß des Consulates der vereinigten Staaten von Amerika vom Dez[em]ber 1836 werden wir zur Reise über Bremen nach Nordamerika dort vorläufig aufgenommen" (Bavarian State Archives of Bamberg, Signature K 17 no. 3389, 4).

⁶⁸ Brigham, *Iowa*, vol. I, 238-39; see also George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 126 [64], and Gue, *Iowa*, vol. III, 474.

⁶⁹ Reverend Wirt, "Funeral Sermon of Father Schramm."

⁷⁰ George Schramm, "Reminiscences," 393 [189].

⁷¹ Reverend Wirt, "Funeral Sermon of Father Schramm."

⁷² See *The Annals of Iowa*, ed. Charles Aldrich, vol. 7, 3rd series, issue 7 (October 1906): 558: "Father Schramm was a member of the Polk County Octogenarian Society, and its president at the time of his death. He also held membership in the Tippecanoe Club, the Old Settlers' Association and the Pioneer Law Makers' Association. He was a member of the Senate in the 4th and 5th, and a member of the House in the 9th General Assemblies, from Van Buren county. While exceedingly quiet and unobtrusive, Mr. Schramm was much more than an average legislator. His services are recalled as those of a man who was always clear in his convictions, whose habit it was to be found on the right side of questions which challenged public attention. His record is one from which nothing need be expunged. Though living to an advanced age, he was blessed not only with health and strength, but with a most happy temperament, which always made him a pleasant man to meet. His smile of cordial greeting was never absent. There are always men in the ranks of a regiment in active service whom their associates will not forget to the last day of their lives. So it is in a legislative body. After forty years the majority of faces will fade from the brightest memory; but those who were associated with Mr. Schramm in those far-off days have ever borne him in kindly remembrance."

⁷³ Frank H. Schramm, "The Schramm Family," 15. Father Schramm is buried in Des Moines, Iowa—a large boulder is the family plot marker in the Woodland Cemetery.

⁷⁴ This detailed biography is the expanded version of two publications on George Schramm in German: Heinz Stark, "Von Plech nach Iowa—Die fränkisch-amerikanische Erfolgsgeschichte des George Schramm: Zu George Schramms 100. Todestag seiner Urenkelin Carol Thomason gewidmet," *Mitteilungen der Altnürnbergers Landschaft e. V.* 54, no. 2 (2005): 15-20; Heinz Stark, "George Schramm—Ein amerikanischer Pionier aus Oberfranken," in Margot Hamm, Michael Henker and Evamaria Brockhoff, eds., *Good Bye Bayern—Grüß Gott America: Auswanderung aus Bayern nach Amerika seit 1683; Katalogbuch zur Ausstellung* (Augsburg: Haus der Bayerischen Geschichte, 2004), 122-23 and 301. Moreover two lectures on George Schramm were given in English by the author for The German Society of Pennsylvania on 2 May 2006 in Philadelphia and for The Society for German-American Studies at the Annual Symposium on 5 May 2006 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. See also Alexander Freund, "Review of Margot Hamm, Michael Henker and Evamaria Brockhoff, eds., Good Bye Bayern—Grüß Gott America: Auswanderung aus Bayern nach Amerika seit 1683," *H-German, H-Net Reviews*, October 2006, <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=117461162826384> (I thank Dr. William Roba, Scott Community College, Bettendorf, IA, for calling my attention to this review).

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Fig. 13. Plech today.

