

Carl Crede's Trip to America in 1855
Translated from the original German by A. E. Schroeder
March, 1989

Albert Carl Crede, the third son of Karl Friedrich Heinrich Crede and his wife Clothilde Maria Schröder, was born 25 April 1840, started on his voyage to America in 1855, a month before his fifteenth birthday, to join his two brothers, Hermann and Wilhelm, who, two years earlier, had emigrated to Westphalia, Osage County, Missouri. Carl was killed in battle in Jasper County, Mo. on 15 March 1863.

On the inside, facing the title page, which is badly torn, Carl's father had written some instructions pertaining to the manner in which mail was to be sent. He particularly requested that in the beginning at least Carl should write every 6 to 8 weeks.

Then follows the address of his grandmother Schröder:

Mrs. John Classen
Westphalia Settlement
Osage County
of the State of Missouri
United States of North America

Underneath K.F.C. Crede wrote the the address of Carl's cousin:

Wm. Albert Harnickell
c/o C. W. Faber, Esqu.
New York

The father finished the page with the request:

I wish to be informed regarding the mailing and receipt of the individual letters.

THE DIARY

Thursday, 29 March 1855

I am leaving my home. Good-bye.

Departed Kassel by bus at 7 o'clock in the evening. At 10:15 arrived in Münden. At 4 o'clock in the morning arrived in Göttingen. At 9:30 left by train.

Fri, 30 March

We were in Hannover 1 hour and 15 minutes later. We stayed here until 4 o'clock when we departed by train for Bremen.

We are staying at the Stuttgarter House.

Sat, 31 March

In the morning we went to the Agency office and paid the boat fare. Then we went back to the railroad station to get the baggage, which, however, had not yet been unloaded.

Palm Sunday, 1 April

In Bremen

Mon, 2 April

In Bremen

Tues, 3 April

We went aboard a steamboat to Bremerhaven and took a room at the "Stadt Wien." [Carl's father, H.C.F. Crede, took leave from him and returned home to Kassel on this day. AES]

Wed, 4 April

All day in Bremerhaven.

Thu, 5 April

In Bremerhaven. We sleep aboard the ship.

Good Friday, 6 April

Beginning with the noon meal we get ship's food.

Sat, 7 April

On this day I wrote to my father.

Easter Sunday, 8 April

All day aboard the ship. We have rainy weather, lots of wind.

Easter Monday, 9 April

Rainy weather.

Tues, 10 April

Bad weather. Stormy. This evening the big steamboat "Hermann" arrived from New York.

Wed, 11 April

The wind has changed. It is now favorable.

Thur, 12 April

This morning at 8 o'clock we set sail and headed for the sea. We have favorable wind. We saw several ships which had departed ahead of us. We passed the island of Wangeroog. Today I became quite seasick. I could hardly sleep all during the night, but the other passengers did not fare any better. The weather was pretty calm.

Fri, 13 April

We have beautiful weather, but little wind. I am still very seasick. Today a baby boy was born in steerage.

Sat, 14 April

We have rainy weather and fog, and for this reason the ship's bell had to be rung. Mild wind. I have a little relief from the seasickness. In the afternoon we had beautiful weather and favorable wind. We saw several ships.

Sun, 15 April

We have unfavorable wind. I am getting more seasick again. This noon a pilot came from the Dutch coast who inquired where we were going and from where we were coming. In the afternoon the wind became somewhat more favorable.

Mon, 16 April

We still have unfavorable wind. The ship is tacking near the English Channel. Today the weather is very beautiful. I am completely without seasickness. We saw many pilot boats and also other ships.

Tues, 17 April

Today we have favorable wind but much fog. This afternoon, however, the fog dissipated and we finally have the coast of England in front of us. Then we will be entering the Channel! I also could see the French coast. Nearby on the English coast we saw the fortress "Tower," and several war ships. We overtook the ship "Fides" which had set sail ahead of us. Today we sailed 8 miles in 4 hours.

Wed, 18 April

Today we have very beautiful weather and the wind is also favorable.

Thu, 19 April

Today we have beautiful weather; we have left the English

Channel, and the wind is still very favorable.

Fri, 20 April

We have very favorable wind; we travel 5 miles per hour. Many people are seasick again. In the afternoon we had rain and we saw the Dutch ship "Henriette" returning from America to Hamburg. In the afternoon I went on deck, but because it rolled so heavily I had to tie myself to the railing with rope.

Sat, 21 April

We have nice, warm weather and a good wind. Today the ship did not roll so heavily as yesterday. Again we saw a ship.

Sun, 22 April

Today we had a southern wind. The weather was very beautiful and warm. This afternoon we saw a big English ship, which, by signaling us, inquired about the name of our ship and to which our captain answered also through signals. This evening it was dark, and we saw some phosphorescence of the sea.

Mon, 23 April

We had a good wind and sighted again a big ship. This evening the wind turned toward the west, and for this reason we had to furl the sails. But afterwards the wind was again favorable. We again saw the phosphorescence of the sea, and then we had rain.

Tues, 24 April

During the night a child died. The wind is very favorable, but the weather is unfriendly.

Wed, 25 April

The wind is pretty bad. The weather is warm.

Thu, 26 April

Today a child died. The wind is pretty favorable. We sighted several ships.

Fri, 27 April

We have unfriendly weather and a bad wind. Very close by we again saw a ship.

Sat, 28 April

Today we have a weak wind. In the afternoon we sighted the Island of Corvo, a high island belong to the Azores, which was 11 German miles away from us. We have almost no wind. Again we sighted a ship.

Sun, 29 April

We have very beautiful weather, but it is calm. The sun is already pretty hot. We were able to recognize the island of Corvo very clearly. Seagrass, mussels and sea animals were drifting toward us. We saw a big ship.

Mon, 30 April

We again have favorable wind, but the weather is unfriendly. We saw a lot of ships. In the afternoon one ship came very close to us and then furled its sails, which is a sign that it wanted to talk to us, but soon it spread the sails again and went on. Our captain explained that the fellows were drinking rum for they had not set their sails correctly toward the

wind. We saw a lot of young fish which followed our ship. Now and then they jumped high out of the water.

Tue, 1 May

The wind is no longer so good and we have very unfriendly weather. There is high sea; in the evening we had a thunder storm and heavy rain.

Wed, 2 May

The wind is bad and we have rainy weather.

Thu, 3 May

Bad weather, wind from the south. Again we saw some dolphins, which are sign of impending storm. The air is very muggy. This evening at 11 o'clock we had a very heavy thunderstorm. Lightning struck the foremost mast, knocked off a piece, then went down the mast to the steerage. A sail nearby was blackened. Several sailors were stunned by the tremendous blow and fell down. A short time later a big ship passed us. The lightning was a cold one, and otherwise did not cause any damage.

Fri, 4 May

Bad weather.

Sat, 5 May

Very warm. Bad weather.

Sun, 6 May

Today we have very beautiful weather but unfavorable wind.

Mon, 7 May

Bad weather and equally bad wind. It tore a big sail. This evening it rained very heavily. The wind is getting a little more favorable.

Tue, 8 May

Very beautiful weather, but almost complete calm.

Wed, 9 May

It is very warm; favorable wind. We see seagrass swimming toward us. Sea swallows.

Thu, 10 May

The wind is still pretty favorable. The weather is very warm. Flying fish.

Fri, 11 May

In the morning we had a good wind and sailed 9.5 miles in one hour.

Sat, 12 May

Nice weather, the wind is subsiding. This evening the wind increased, and we sailed very fast. Today a child was born.

Sun, 13 May

Very nice weather and excellent wind. We travel 5 miles in one hour. This morning sails were torn. We sighted a big ship.

Mon, 14 May

We have a good wind. We again sighted a ship.

Tues, 15 May

The wind is favorable.

Wed, 16 May

Very warm. we saw flying fish, seagrass, sea swallows, sea eagles.

Thu, 17 May

Very nice weather but warm. This evening the captain sighted land, but I could not see it with my bare eyes.

Fri, 18 May

This morning I could clearly recognize land. There are high mountains. The land is the island of St. Domingo. This afternoon an orange tree came swimming toward us. Seagulls. We saw a ring around the sun. Fish. This evening we saw a big steamer.

Sat. 19 May

We can still see St. Domingo and again other ships. The weather was very warm, but the wind is weak. Today again another child was born. Toward evening we were able to have a view the island.

Sun, 20 May

This morning we could clearly see Cuba. It is quite mountainous. The wind is pretty poor.

Mon, 21 May

We have almost complete calm. We can still see Cuba and ships are sighted. Cuba is an island with lots of mountains. The weather is very warm

Tue, 22 May

Still bad wind. Toward evening we came in sight of Jamaica.

Wed., 23 May

There is no breeze. We still are within sight of Cuba. We were so close that we could recognize the trees. Again many ships.

Thu, 24 May

The wind is favorable. Cuba again in view.

Fri, 25 May

Almost no wind. Very warm.

Sat, 26 May

The wind is somewhat better.

Pentecost, 27 May [the right side of the page is torn off]

Very hot. The wind is good. Today we again saw Cuba. Toward evening we saw the lighthouse on Cape Antoin, the extreme tip of Cuba.

Pentecost Monday, 28 May

Great.... The wind pretty.... From here to the mouth of the Mississippi we still have 122 German miles. We can no longer see Cuba.

Tue. 29 May

We saw several ships. The wind is good.

Wed, 30 May

The wind is very favorable. ... several ships.

Thu, 31 May

The wind is good. We are still 15 miles from the mouth of the Mississippi. This evening the wind became adverse. Thunderstorm.

Fri, 1 June

This morning we saw a steamboat and many other ships. Soon afterwards the steamboat came closer and a pilot boat. The pilot is on board and the steamboat is taken us in tow. This happened at 10 o'clock. At 12 o'clock we saw land. The steamer took us a piece up the

Mississippi where we then dropped anchor. We also saw the ship "Fides" and nameless other emigrant ships. In the evening we had another thunderstorm. Many steamboats. A beautiful moon delighted us.

Sat, 2 June

This morning the steamboat returned and towed us together with two more ships up the river. In the afternoon a doctor came on board.

Sun, 3 June

This morning at 8 o'clock we arrived at New Orleans. I went ashore in order to mail my letters, but I was not able to do so.

Mon, 4 June

This morning at 7 o'clock the steamboat "Columbus" arrived and soon began to load up. At 6 o'clock we shall leave with it.

Wed, 6 June

I did not feel well.

Sun, 10 June

This morning we passed Memphis.

Wed, 13 June

We arrived in St. Louis.

Thu, 14 June

Today I left St. Louis on the boat "Tropu".

Fri, 15 June

We often ran aground.

Sat, 16 June

I left the boat at King's Landing and walked to [illegible] Sunday, 17 June 1855

I arrived here this afternoon.

On the page facing this last entry is a pencilled sketch of the Crede farm on the Maries River in Osage County, Missouri indicating the fields surrounding the house, a tobacco shed, stables for the horses, a sheep barn, corn crib, and other outbuildings.

This is the end of Carl's Diary.

Apparently he never used the book again as a diary even though facing the November page there is another German entry which reads:

Diary started on 1 November 1856.

Saturday, 1/11, I did not work.

From 23 September 1856 on I worked

1 week = 3 days

2 " = 5 "

Opposite page, Thu, 1 November. All Saints' Day.

This entry: Balance = cash \$8.75

outstanding 3.--

" 45

" 25

Total \$12.45

There are random notes about his work and the amount of money earned. One page has the following in English:

January 1857

lost 1/2 day about sick
26 1/2 day work
26

32 per day
52

78
8.32

1/2 day 16
8.48

I earned 8 Doll. 45 Cents
for the month of Jan.

An otherwise, blank page in January has these notes:

1857

Working for Mr. zur Megede

December, 7/12/57	Monday	1
8/12		1
9		1
10		1
11		1
12		1
13		1

14 Lost one day corn shocking at black Bill's

A few pages later the notes are in English:

January lost 1/2 Day about sickness.

February full time.

March full time.

4 months work except 6 Days at 6 Doll per month makes

24 Doll

6 Days 1 -- 35 C

22 -- 65

In a box at the bottom he has:

Comming to me

22 Doll. 65 Cents

On the next page he continues:

April full time

received 2 plugs tobacco,
a paar shoes soled.

Mai full time

June full time

July, lost 1/2 day about sickness

August lost 1 Day

September lost to 1, 2, 3, 4,

worked the 5,6,7,8,9,

lost 10, 12, 13.

received in cash the 3//4 Doll. [sic]

On one of the next pages, written sideways:

Coming to me from Mr. zur Megede in all till this day, the

13th of September 1858,

59 Doll 45 Cents.

Other similar notes refer to his days worked or lost February
1859 through December 1859.

A summary without date reads:

December	15 days	4 Doll.	80 C.
January	26 1/2	8 -	45 -
February	23 -	7 -	35 -
March	26 1/2	8 -	45 -
April	25	7 -	80 -
May	25 1/2	8 -	15 -
June	26	8 -	20 -
July	27	8 -	45 -
August	22	7 -	10 -
September	17	5 [?]	45 -
October	26	8 -	35 -
November	24	7 -	55 -
December	6	1 -	90 -
	298 1/2	89 -	80 -

H. K.

81 - 80 -

On the next page is the following note:

Coming to me 81 Doll. 80 Cents

lost 2 day work

81 Doll. 15 C.

3 weeks board [he writes "borden"]

at 1 1/2 Doll

4 1/2 Doll

Another blank page facing September, Thursday, 27.
contains this entry:

I went from Westphalia to Marinatown, from there to the
Osage, from there to Jefferson City, from there to Westphalia,
from there to Jefferson, from there to Leavenworth City, from
there to the Osage, from there to St. Louis, from there to the
Osage, from there to the gold mines of Pikes Peak.

The next page reads:

	Pikes Peak	[later crossed out]
underneath is a 4-line German poem:		
An einem schönen Sommertag	On a beautiful summer day	
das Pfäfflein von Westphalia kam	the little priest came from Westphalia	
Zu bringen das Evangelium	to bring the gospel	
den Menschen und die waren	to the people who were as dumb	
teufelsdumm.	as the devil.	

The next entry under Sat, 28 January reads:

Friday the 28th of the month of January my good grandmother
died in the evening at 6 1/2 o'clock in the age of 61 years.
God bless her soul.

On one of the next pages he paraphrases the German folksong,
"Hinaus in die Ferne mit lautem Hörnerklang" (1813):

Hinaus in die Ferne	Out into the distance
Mit lautem Büchsenknall	with loud rifle crack
den Whiskey besinget	singing of whiskey

Mit fröhlichem Gesang...	with happy voice... aches so much
Des Schnapses Hauch	A whiff of whiskey
Steigt duftig durch die Welt	Rises pleasantly through 'the
fein lustiges Saufen uns wohlgefällt.	world,
Doch nah schon dem Ziele	Fine drinking is fun.
Geht uns der Whisky aus.	But near our destination
Was sollen wir beginnen,	Whiskey runs out.
Wir armen Menschen nun?	What should we do,
etc.	we poor people, now?

This version in praise of drinking whiskey while going hunting expresses his somewhat irreverent attitude toward a Christian who imbibes too much as indicated on the next page:

Hoff und vertrau	Hope and trust
O, du frommer Christ	Oh, you pious Christian,
Und falle nicht vom Wege	And fall not from the path
Wenn du besoffen bist	When you are roaring drunk
Und erhoffe einen steifen,	And hope for a strong, firm
festen Glauben.	faith.

The next page contains another parody of F. Silcher's 1835 version of "Ein Sträusschen am Hute, den Stab in der Hand":

Ein Sträusschen am Hute,	Some flowers on his hat,
den Carpetbag in der Hand	A carpetbag in his hand
Reist lustig Graf Carl	Count Carl merrily travels
Von Lande zu Land.	From land to land.
Er sieht so manch Glas Bier,	He sees many a glass of beer,
Her sieht so manchen	He sees many a brandy punch.
Brandypunch,	
Aber fort muss er wieder	But he must leave again
Zu einem bessern Lunch	For a better lunch.

Another page with the heading 1859 has:

Maria Therisa Crede

Wenn Graf Carl heimwärts zieht	When Count Carl homeward goes
Mit wenig Geld im Beutel	With little money in his purse
Dann tut ihm ja das Herz so weh;	Then his heart aches so much
Er weiss nicht, was soll es	He knows not what it signifies.
bedeuten.	

Another page:

Von schön St. Louis muss ich scheiden,	I must take leave of St. Louis
Was gar so lieblich ist und schön.	Which is so lovely and fine.
So leb' denn wohl, du schöne City	So, farewell, you pretty city
Bis ich dich einst wohl wiederseh!	Until I see you some day again

So lebt denn wohl ihr lustgen	So farewell to you, you happy
Kneipen,	taverns
Wo ich wohl gar zu heimisch war.	Where I felt so at home.
So fahrt denn hin, ihr schön Louise	So farewell you pretty Luise
Bis ich euch wiederseh bei	Till I see you again by happy
fröhlichem Punsche.	punch.

The next page:

Amerika, du Land der Freiheit,	America, you land of freedom
Du meiner Kindheit schönster Traum	Most beautiful dream of my
	childhood
Nimm meinen Gruss, du Land der Länder,	Take my regards you best of
	lands
So wie ihn dir mein Herz gebeut.	Just as my heart bids it to you

The next page has another parody of the 19th century folksong
"Als ich an einem Sommertag":

Als ich an einem Sommertag	When long ago one summer day
In St. Louis beim Biere sass,	I sat with a beer in St. Louis
Da tat mir ja das Herz so weh	My heart began to ache so much
Ich musst' einmal auf's Busshaus	I had to go to the house of
geh'n.	penance.

The next is in English:

There was a little blacksmith, in St. Louis he lived
He was a no count fellow, you better believe.
His name was Landgraf Carl, as far as I know.
He had a large overcoat and a handsome long nose.

On one of the last pages in December is this entry in English:

You are welcome, William,
I have lands and gold for my dark eyed sailor,
for my dark eyed sailor, so manly true and bold.

All through the book, whenever some blank space seemed inviting,
he sketched side views of heads, both men and women, as well as
horses, trees and leaves.

The last two or three blank pages are torn out. On top of the
right inside cover, covered with doodling, is the entry, possibly
by Carl's father, in English:

Bremen. Remembrance on the 3. of April 1855.