

THE LEGACY OF JOSEPH KINIKE (born SALOMON KATZ)

In 1836, Salomon Katz, a Jew, emigrated to America from a rural German village, Erklen, Westfalen. Arriving in Philadelphia, he began an amazing adventure as Joseph Kinike.

Joseph mailed an 1876 book, *Geschichte der Deutschen Gesellschaft von Pennsylvanien* (*History of the German Society of Pennsylvania*), inscribed "To my good friend and brother Bernard Bode (signed) Joseph Kinike."

Bernard had emigrated from Erkeln to Osage County, Missouri.

The book became the possession of Margaretha Bode (1837-1882) of Osage and Cole counties, Missouri.

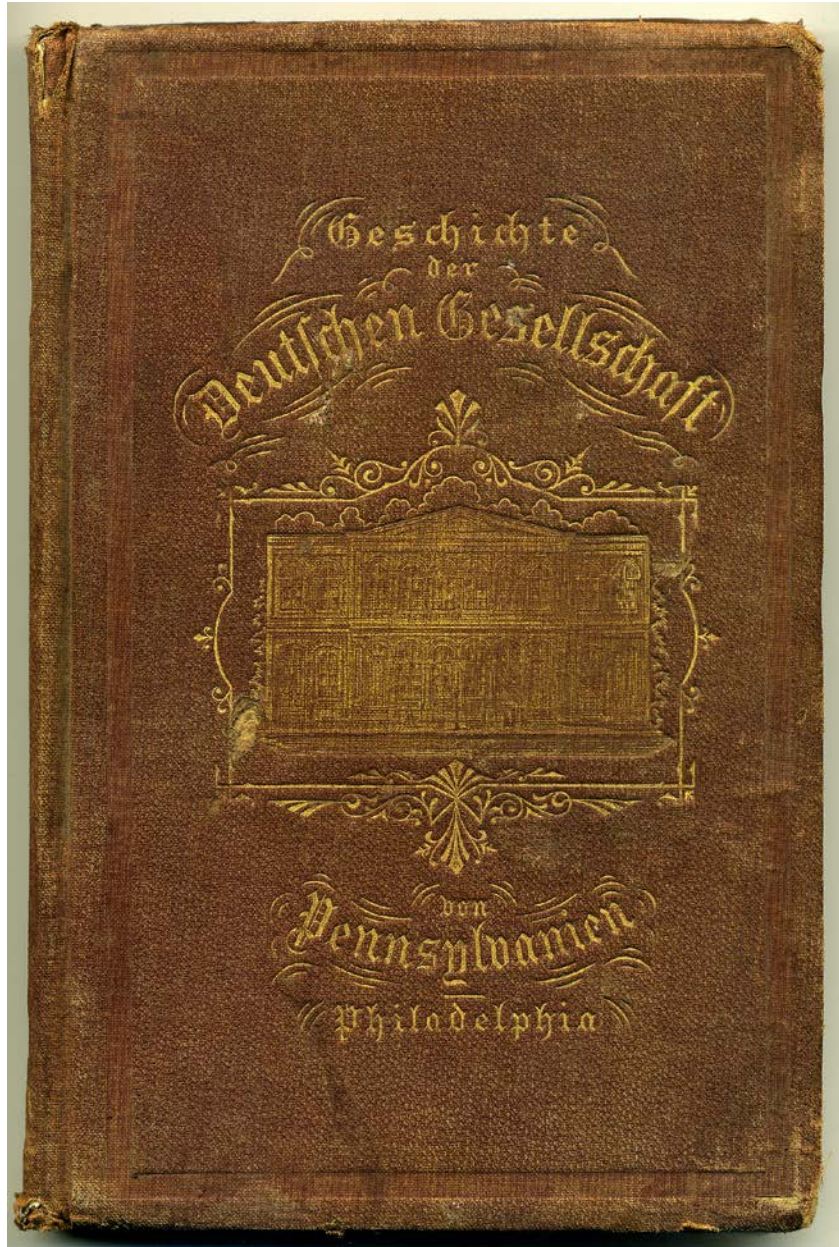


Margaretha Bode Winkelmann Plassmeyer

Margaretha, daughter of Bernard Bode (1808-1879) and his wife, Mary Clare Ries (1809-1858), married Gerhard Winkelmann (1833-1865) and after his death, Joseph Plassmeyer (1841-1930). Margaretha died in the cholera epidemic of 1882 to leave her husband Joseph with five children. Joseph later married Elizabeth Morfeld and to this union a son Joseph (1884-1977) was born. Joseph graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, 1909 and served with the Army cavalry in France during World War I. After the death of the retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, the book was among his possessions. His great nephew, Colonel Martin Plassmeyer, a 1959 graduate of West Point, received the book.

In 2013, Martin, unfamiliar with German in antique print, sent the book to Edward Bode. Edward, a second-great grandson of Bernard, researched the surprising saga of Joseph Kinike.

1876 Centennial Book Reveals Surprises in Missouri, Pennsylvania and Germany

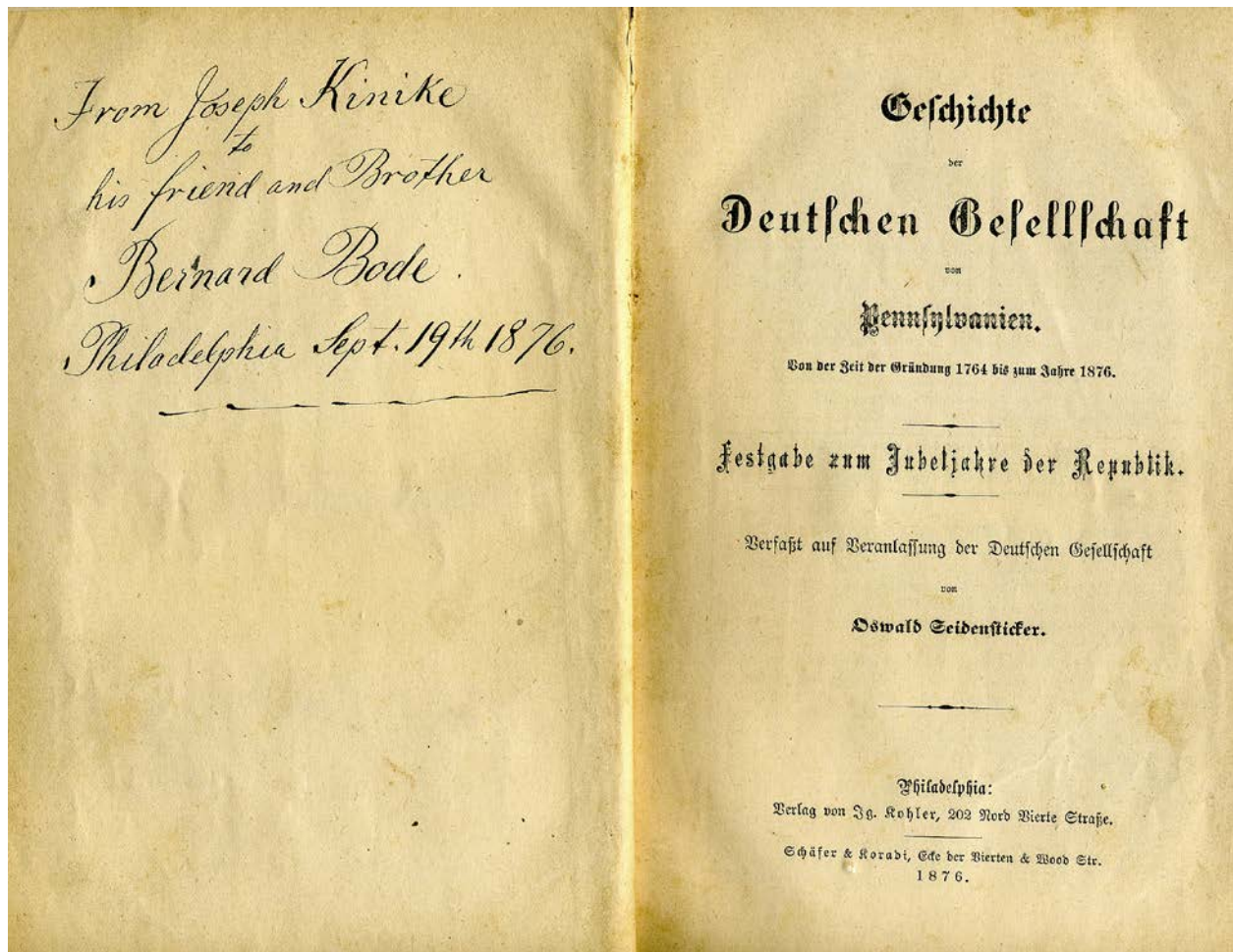


In spring 2013, Edward Bode in Missouri received a book published in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the national centennial year of 1876.

Geschichte der Deutschen Gesellschaft von Pennsylvanien (History of the German Society of Pennsylvania) was preserved among the family heirlooms of the Bode family, who at the time lived in Osage County, Missouri.¹

¹ The book appears almost the actual size of 6 by 9.3 inches. The image on the cover was the society's building. In

Opposite the book's title page was an inscription.



Who was Joseph Kinike and why did he call Bernard Bode (Edward's great-great grandfather) his friend and brother?

The 366-page book was among the possessions of Margaretha Bode of Osage and Cole counties. Margaretha (1837-1882) married Gerhard Winkelmann (1833-1865) and after his death, Joseph Plassmeyer (1841-1930). Margaretha was the daughter of Mary Clare Ries (1809-1858) and her husband, John Bernard Bode (1808-1879).

Bernard came to America in 1834 from Erkeln, Germany. He married Mary Clare, a German immigrant, in Rochester, NY, 1836. In 1845, the family homesteaded land near Westphalia in Osage County, Missouri.

Paging through the book quickly answered the question about friendship. A section of the publication contains biographies of the society's officers since its founding in 1764. Pages 280-281 contain an account of Joseph Kinike, "born in Erkeln near Brakel, Westfalen, and came to America in 1836."² Since Erkeln was a small rural village of a hundred or so homes, Joseph and Bernard would have known each other there. So, Bernard was a friend.

2014, the society notes its 250th anniversary.

² Archives of the German Society [GS] note that Joseph was President of the society 1878-1883. He also chaired the committee begun in 1869 to distribute Christmas gifts [*Weinachtsbescherung*] to poor children. In 1884, the society honored Joseph with special resolutions for his services. When Joseph died, the German Hospital issued a resolution honoring him for his service to the hospital.

Was “brother” only a sign of a friendship or a relationship?

An extended search of records in Germany and Pennsylvania revealed that the two men have a brotherhood relationship. Joseph’s wife, Theresa Kuhlmann (1824-1890), was the daughter of the widow of Bernard’s father. After the death of her first husband, Johann Jürgen Bode (1772-1818), Anna Catharina Legge (1789-1845) married Kilian Friedrich Wilhelm Kuhlmann (1782-1840).

Three surprises!

First, probably when leaving for America, Salomon Katz changed his name to Joseph Kinike. The Kinike family³ of Erkeln lived a few houses from the Katz family and near the Bodes. The Erkeln website [www.heimaterkeln.de] contains extensive records of Salomon’s family and descendants. The father, Abraham Katz, was born circa 1783 in nearby Bruchhausen and at age 69 died in Erkeln 17 May 1853. He had married Esther Frosinn in Bruchhausen circa 1808. Esther, born March 1780, died at age 77 in Erkeln 9 January 1858. In Erkeln, Abraham and Esther were parents of a son Salomon born 3 March 1811, and a daughter Hanne born 31 August 1813. The Katz family was the lone Jewish family in Erkeln in the early 1800s. The website continues the Katz family history of Hanne through the 1940s. During World War I, three grandsons were killed while fighting in the German army: two in France (1914, 1917) and one in Poland (1915). During World War II, descendants were taken to Nazi concentration camps: one was executed at Theresienstadt and seven in Auschwitz after being deported to the Warsaw ghetto in 1942. Three died for their country; the Nazis executed eight.

Second, since Kinike left Erkeln in 1834, when Theresa Kuhlmann was 10 years old, he must have invited her to come to Philadelphia. The 1870 census records that they married in 1842, lived at 1006 Race Street, and were the parents of Caroline Magdalena⁴ and Albert.⁵ Daughter Emma had died in 1862.⁶ Joseph became a wholesaler of wines and liquors. He died 22 July 1887 in Asbury Park, NJ.⁷ When Theresa died 16 January 1890 at home in Philadelphia,⁸ she had left a trust for her granddaughter, Theresa Weikel. The son and the daughter, not mentioned in her will, most probably had died previously. The bodies of Joseph and Theresa were buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery, 225 Belmont Ave., Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

Third, a German newspaper [*Westfälisches Volksblatt*] reported that at the death of Theresa, her estate was valued at \$300,000. A clause in her last will directed executors to establish a \$30,000⁹ [120,000 Mark] legacy for “support of the destitute poor (*Unterstützung der hilflosen Armen*) in my husband’s and my birthplace, the village of Erkeln in the Diocese of Paderborn, Province of Westfalen, Germany.”

The Archives of Brakel contain records about the “Kieneke’sche Stiftung” [Kieneke’s Foundation]:

The Catholic pastor in Erkeln, Father Anton Fecke, wanted to build a home for the poor and the sick and for children. However, the mayor’s council and citizens determined that the foundation was a secular matter under the village’s authorities. Mrs. Kieneke willed that the executor was to arrange a \$30,000 foundation with civil authorities in Germany. The named authority should deposit the funds in legitimate securities, and use the increase and yield for the support, maintenance, and assistance of old and weak poor-people in Erkeln. The executor had full power to determine the authorities and explain the foundation to them. The executor, Charles Woerwag,¹⁰ identified

³ Franz Bernhard Kineke (1782-1855) was mayor of Erkeln 1829-1843.

⁴ Born circa 1849, she married Peter G. Weikel 23 January 1873 in Philadelphia. They were the parents of Theresie Caroline born 17 November 1873 and Carolina Magdalena [8 November 1875- 21 May 1876]. Both daughters were christened 19 December 1875.

⁵ He was born circa 1853; buried in West Laurel Hills Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, PA.

⁶ Born 1849, she died 12 December 1862; buried in West Laurel Hills Cemetery.

⁷ Death certificate lists “fatty degeneration of heart” as the cause; burial was in West Laurel Hill Cemetery. Asbury Park is about 75 miles east of Philadelphia on the Atlantic coast.

⁸ The Philadelphia Inquirer, edition of 18 January, page 3, records that she died “suddenly” and was the “relict” of Joseph Kinike.

⁹ Ten-percent [a tithe] of the estate.

¹⁰ Charles [1842-1902] was a bookkeeper, a native of Germany, and a veteran of the Civil War. He was an employee of Drexel and Company, 1327 Jefferson Street, Philadelphia. Another executor, Mayer Eichholz of 534 Spruce Street, had died in the interim. Theresa described both as “friends.”

in writing 12 September 1891 the community council of Erkeln as the correct authority to implement the foundation. The council had decided on 25 October 1890 to accept the endowment. His Majesty Wilhelm, King of Prussia, by a decree of 9 July 1891 had approved the acceptance. Difficult and time-consuming formalities¹¹ had to be overcome before payment of the endowment. A court in Philadelphia turned down a challenge to the will by the granddaughter. To represent the municipality of Erkeln in Philadelphia, the German consul, Charles Meyer, acted on order of the Kaiser. Gustavus Remark, a lawyer, assisted him. Also, S. Flechtheim of Brakel from his home in America constantly and appropriately informed clerk Thüsing in Brakel about the state of matters in Philadelphia. There were still discrepancies about the commissions, etc. Local persons were also anxious about items in the will:

- 1) I[sack] Hakesberg, Erkeln, \$10,000¹²
- 2) Widow Charlotte Kuhlmann, Servinghausen, \$2,000¹³
- 3) Charlotte Kuhlmann-Brockmann, Driburg, \$3,000¹⁴
- 4) Wilhelm Kuhlmann, Wilhelmshöhe, \$3,000¹⁵
- 5) Philippina Hecker, Erkeln, \$3,000¹⁶

Other allowances were made to persons in the district of Warburg.

Records of the foundation indicate that the funds were first deposited in several savings banks on 10 August 1892 with an interest rate of 3.5 percent.

Among the earliest distributions, funds were paid to:

The Geseke Provincial Institution for Maria Ulsas accommodated there from Erkeln;

The Brakel Hospital for Anton Hohlenberg of Erkeln, and for continuing care of Josef Kleibrink [1854-] of Erkeln; they were accommodated at the hospital;

Dr. Bartels and Dr. Sarrazin for care of poor persons.

Eight citizens of Erkeln, including Father Fecke, attested the first financial report in February 1893.

The foundation continued to distribute funds for such items as accidents in the forest, house rental, transportation home to/from a hospital (sometimes with a sick child), support for poor persons (including a cowhand), clothes for a child's First Communion, and "*Holzgeld*."¹⁷ Other than for direct support of the poor, funds went to hospitals, pharmacies, and physicians.

The inflation of German currency after World War I brought serious financial problems as did currency regulations and reforms after World War II. Finally in May 1950, a court ordered that all debts of the foundation had to be paid. As a result, all funds had been spent. The foundation closed.

The society's 1876 book describes Joseph, a member of the society since 1864:

Kinike, Joseph, Vice-President 1876, member of the Board of Directors since 1866, was born 1811 in Erkeln, near Brakel, Westfalen, and 1836 came to America. Here in the beginning, he had to struggle with all the difficulties presented to an "unbefriended" immigrant in a foreign country. However, before any work, even the most coarse, and not shying away, he overcame all hardships and after various experiences, he was able in 1845 to become owner of a lucrative wholesale business in wines and alcoholic spirits.¹⁸ In 1867, he sold his business and since then has dedicated his leisure to the exercise of systematic charity. He belongs to the German Hospital Association since its

¹¹ Including a trip to Berlin by the mayor of Erkeln.

¹² He [1844-] was a son of Joseph's sister, Hanne Katz; Isack had a son, Hermann [1893-1914], who was killed in France with the German Army in World War I; Isack also had a son Siegmund [1890-] who with his wife Margaretha and son Günther died at the Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz.

¹³ She [1819-1883] was the widow of Theresa's brother, Franz Joseph Kuhlemann

¹⁴ She [1855-] was a daughter of Franz Joseph Kuhlemann

¹⁵ He [1849-] was a son of Franz Joseph Kuhlemann

¹⁶ She [1853-1916] was a daughter of Theresa's sister, Friederika Kuhlemann Hecker

¹⁷ *Holzgeld* ["wood money"], not real money, refers to obtaining wood -- a permit or a certificate [*AHolzschein*@] for wood. *Holzgeld* from the foundation allowed a poor person to buy wood for cooking and heating. Owners of wood/forest lands sold wood by the cubic meter [35.3 cubic feet or 0.28 cord] to inhabitants of villages and towns. People often had a *Holzschein* valid for a week or a month to harvest dry branches and dead trees.

¹⁸ According to McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory for each year 1856 through 1866, Joseph Kinike's business was originally located at 328 Vine St. and in 1858 moved to 904 Vine.

formation.¹⁹ He has zealously worked for the best of this institution as a member of the administrative council and was treasurer and secretary until 1875. For several years, he is president of the secondary-school association, and a life-member of the Northern Home for neglected children.²⁰ For a rather long time, he was vice-president, and since 1873, the president of the young male-voice choir. He is a member of the Humboldt Association.²¹ Since 1868, he is a director of the society that makes prisoners and the prison system the object of their human endeavors. In this undertaking, he has cared to give love to unhappy persons, particularly Germans, who are locked in the cells of the Moyamensing Prison,²² first helping them to regain their freedom and good names, and then, after their dismissal, offering a hand to honest advancement (See the segment about legal protection). In the German Society, Mr. Kinike has worked in the administrative council with suitable proposals; as a director, most beneficially by conscientious exercise of his obligations, as well as by taking over voluntary duties. As chairman of the committee for Christmas distribution of presents to poor German children (in 1870-1874), he has contributed very much to the success of these charitable achievements.”

The society’s Christmas gift program received renewed prominence with the efforts and the leadership of Joseph Kinike, especially from 1870 though 1874. In summer 1869, the society had formed a committee to aid poor children. The committee received contributions for presents to applicants: items included such gifts as shoes, material for clothes, caps, socks, stockings, jackets, shawls, books, writing materials, dolls, toys, bread, apples, nuts, and candy. Women prepared a card with a package for each family. The gift-giving took place between Christmas and New Year in the society’s festively decorated hall, which included a tall Christmas tree with many ornaments and chorus sang in the gallery. Mothers gave thanks with “words or tears.” In 1869, about 500 children received gifts totaling circa \$1,700. After the smallpox epidemic of 1871, Kinike gathered many gifts and \$275.50 in cash for 114 families with 394 children. In 1872, gifts worth \$2,000 were distributed to 277 families with 703 children. The next year, 497 families with about 1,700 children received gifts worth \$3,000. By 1875, the gifts for about 2,000 children in 643 families were worth \$4,000.²³

After retirement, Joseph devoted much time to a panoply of civic activities in addition to the ones mentioned in the association’s book. In 1879, he was a member of the Philadelphia Society for Organizing Charitable Relief and Depressing Mendicancy. In May 1980, Joseph was among the members of the National Republican League who attended a meeting in New York City. The same month, Kinike wrote a letter to the Pioneer Society of Cincinnati



Humboldt Statue

¹⁹ The original German Hospital, founded in 1860, became Lankenau Hospital in 1917. It is now a large medical center located in Wynnewood, Lower Merion Township, PA.

²⁰ Northern Home for Children opened 3 August 1853 on Buttonwood St. and then was incorporated as “Northern Home for Friendless Children.” Relocated 1923 to 5301 Ridge Avenue, it remains in service.

²¹ In 1859, the society started an association to honor Alexander von Humboldt [1769-1859], a famous German naturalist, geographer, and explorer. On the hundredth anniversary of his birth, the group held a two-day celebration, which included a parade to Fairmount Park to lay the foundation stone for a bronze statue of the scholar by Johann Friedrich Drake [1805-1882] of Berlin. Eight states have towns named Humboldt.

²² Opened in 1835 on Morris St. and then at the intersection of Passyunk Ave. and Reed St., the prison was demolished in 1968. A low masonry stonewall remains on Reed St. The eclectic, romantic structure with an Egyptian Revival wing was built to house 400 inmates. A separate attached wing as a debtors’ prison was in 1868 combined with the main prison to house women. Edgar Allen Poe wrote that on 1 July 1849 he was detained for public drunkenness and imprisoned for one night in the prison.

²³ Current equivalent now is at least \$104,100 (see footnote 24).

that other obligations kept him from attending that organization's convention.

When Joseph died, the German Hospital Association sent a letter of recognition to the German Society. "History of the German Hospital," a booklet published in 1895, contains many mentions of him: In the seventh annual report (1866), he appears in a list of "lebenslängliche Mitglieder" (lifelong members). He served on the standing committee for "Mittel und Wege" (ways and means). He was treasurer (1866-1867) and secretary (1873-1875). He provided a bequest to the hospital.

Theresa Christina Kinike left a last will and testament of eleven pages with three codicils. The executor submitted an appraisal of the estate: \$250,000 personal property and real estate of \$50,000.²⁴ Theresa specified \$234,500 in bequests;²⁵ the executor was to give any remaining funds to charity. The named bequests provided \$74,000 [24.7% of the estate] to charities and \$144,000 [46.3%] for twenty-two persons related to Joseph and Theresa.²⁶ Of these two totals, \$76,000 [25.3%] went to Germany, including the \$30,000 [10%] Erkelin charitable foundation fund.²⁷ Also included was \$10,000 to a niece, Katharina Kuhlmann, whom Theresa brought from Germany to live with her. Bequests of \$3,000 each went to four children of Peter Bode (1812-1875), who was a son of Theresa's mother by her first marriage.²⁸

On 19 February 1890, George Hill and Charles Sayre, "well and truly and without prejudice or partiality, value and appraise the Goods and Chattels, Rights and Credits" of the estate at \$174,773.25.²⁹ They list twenty-three stocks, bonds, mortgages, and notes; most were railroads, including Northern Pacific, Pennsylvania, Baltimore & Ohio, Lehigh Valley, and Philadelphia Germantown & Chestnut Hill. Bonds from the city of Philadelphia totaled \$9,710.

²⁴ Current equivalent of \$300,000 is at least \$7.8 million.

To compare the value of \$300,000 wealth in 1890, there are three choices. In 2012 (latest complete 12-month year), the relative amounts are:

\$7,810,000 according to the **Historic Standard of Living**, which measures the purchasing power of wealth in its relative ability to purchase a (fixed over time) bundle of goods and services such as food, shelter, clothing, etc., that an average household would buy. This bundle does not change over time. This measure uses the Consumer Price Index.

\$64,200,000 according to economic status or **Contemporary Standard of Living**, which measures using the relative cost of the amount of goods and services such as food, shelter, clothing, etc., that an average household would buy. This bundle has become larger over time as households have bought more over time. This measure uses the Value of the Consumer Bundle, which is only available after 1900.

\$320,000,000 according to economic power or **Economic Status**, which measures the relative "prestige value" of an amount of wealth between two periods using the income index of the per-capita Gross Domestic Product. Source: www.measuringworth.com. This site "makes available the highest quality and most reliable historical data on important economic aggregates with emphasis on nominal measures. The data have been created using the highest standards of economics and history, and are rigorously refereed by the most distinguished researchers. The emphasis on nominal measures is important because to comprehend a past transaction or asset, one must begin with the contemporary value of the item. To make this valuation meaningful, it must be measured against the value of the appropriate economic indicator in that year. To understand the valuation from another year's perspective, one must carry that measure forward against the changing value of the indicator."

²⁵ Current equivalent: now at least \$6.1 million.

²⁶ Current equivalents: \$74,000 now at least \$1.8 million; \$149,000 now at least \$3.7 million.

²⁷ Current equivalents: \$76,000 now at least \$1.9 million; \$30,000 now at least \$781,000.

²⁸ Theresa (1847-1934), William (1848-1929), Herman (1853-1938), and Louis (1859-1929) had emigrated to the United States.

²⁹ Current equivalent: now at least \$4.5 million.

Here is a summary of the bequests compiled from Philadelphia Probate Court records.³⁰

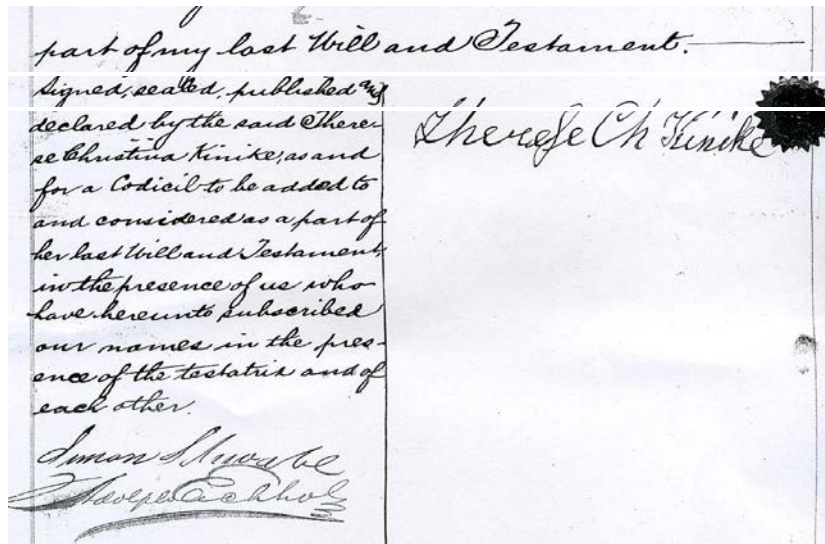
Last Will of Therese Christina Kinike,

Widow of Joseph Kinike	Amount	Charity	Germany	Family
Trust fund for Erkeln, Westfalen, Germany	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Philadelphia charities:				
German Society relief of Germans	\$5,000	\$5,000		
German Hospital	\$5,000	\$5,000		
Jewish Hospital Assn.	\$3,000	\$3,000		
St. Mary's Hospital	\$3,000	\$3,000		
City of Philadelphia:				
Wills Hospital indigent blind and lame	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Old Man's Home	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Union Benevolent Society	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Home for Aged Couples	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Southern Home for Children	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Northern Home for Friendless Children	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Pennsylvania Society protect children	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Home for Free & Accepted Masons of PA	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Young Männerchor (Men's Choir) Society	\$5,000	\$5,000		
Orphans Home & Asylum for Aged & Infirm of				
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germantown	\$2,500	\$2,500		
St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum at Tacony	\$2,500	\$2,500		
Above for permanent funds with only interest for current expenses				
Theresa Weikel Trust, granddaughter administered by executors codicil 2	\$50,000			\$50,000
Peter Weikel of Lancaster, Pa., son-in-law	\$3,000			\$3,000
I. Hakesberg, Erkeln	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$10,000
Lina Kuhlmann Krüger, New York City	\$10,000			\$10,000
Flora Rosenmyer Krüger, NYC	\$10,000			\$10,000
Charlotte Kuhlmann, widow, Servinghausen	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
Charlotte Kuhlmann Brockmann, sister-in-law, changed in codicil 2: \$2,000	\$3,000		\$2,000	\$2,000
Fritz Kuhlmann, Servinghausen changed in codicil 2: \$3,000 removed in codicil 3, due to his death, \$3000	\$5,000			
Wilhelm Kuhlmann, Servinghausen changed in codicil 2: \$3,000	\$5,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
Katharina Kuhlmann, Servinghausen	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
Maria Ellebrecht, widow, Bühn	\$5,000		\$5,000	\$5,000
Hubertus Ellebrecht, Bühn	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
	Amount	Charity	Germany	Family

³⁰ The will refers to the will of Joseph. However, no record of his will exists in the Office of the Register of Wills in Philadelphia. Probably his will was not probated as Theresa received control of the entire estate and knew of his intended bequests as evidenced in her will.

Ferdinand Ellebrecht, Bühn	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
Rosalina Ellebrecht, Bühn	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
Maria Ellebrecht, widow, Bühn	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
Philiphina Rosenmyer, wife of Johannes Hecker, changed in codicil 2: \$3,000	\$5,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
Philip Rosenmyer, son of William, Erkeln	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
Theresia Rosenmyer, Drankhausen	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000
Antonia Ellebrecht, Philadelphia, residing with changed in codicil 3 \$5,000	\$10,000			\$5,000
Wilhelm Bode, Atlanta, IL	\$3,000			\$3,000
Herman Bode, Atlanta, IL	\$3,000			\$3,000
Louis Bode, Atlanta, IL	\$3,000			\$3,000
Theresa Bode, Nebraska	\$3,000			\$3,000
Rose Reukauf, my servant removed in codicil 1	\$500			
Total	\$224,500			
codicil 2: March 1889				
Pennsylvania Widows Asylum, Philadelphia	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Katharina Kuhlmann, niece living with me,	\$7,000			\$7,000
Louise Elzner, Baltimore, or surviving daughter	\$1,000			
Grand Total	\$234,500	\$74,000	\$77,000	\$144,000

compiled from Philadelphia Probate Court records



Appendix



Contemporary Photos³¹

Kinike Monument

Monument column reads:

K

MY BELOVED HUSBAND
JOSEPH KINIKE
BORN AT
BRAKEL WESTPHALIA
MARCH 3 1811
DIED JULY 22 1887

THERESA CHRISTINA
WIFE OF
JOSEPH KINIKE
NATIVE OF ERKELN
WESTPHALIA GERMANY

BORN OCTOBER 24 1824
DIED JANUARY 16 1890

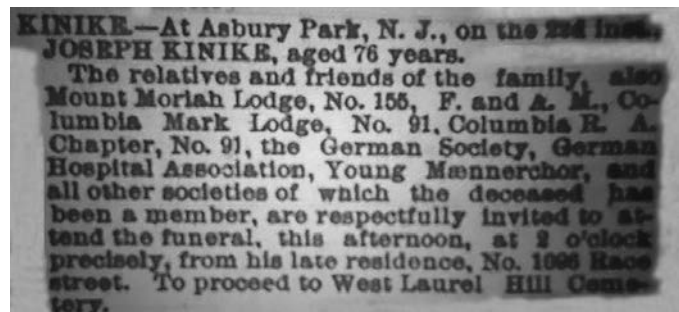
KINIKE

The Kinike plot in West Laurel Cemetery, Merion Section Lot 259, also contains the graves of Albert, Emma, and Hannah Kinike, Caroline Weikel (children) and Magdalena Weikel (grandchild), and Louis Kass .

Louis (1841-1874) in McCoy's City Directory 1861 is a clerk, 904 Vine Street, the address of Joseph Kinike's business; death certificate lists Louis, born Germany, age 33, single, liquor salesman living at 1016 Race St.)

Obituary of Joseph

appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer
26 July 1887, page 5.³²



³¹ Courtesy of Jerome and Christopher Oidtman

³² "KINIKE – At Asbury Park, N.J., on the 22nd inst.
JOSEPH KINIKE, aged 76 years.

The relatives and friends of the family, also Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 155, F. (Free) and A.M. (Accepted and Masonic), Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91, Columbia R. A. (Royal Arch) Chapter 91, the German Society, German Hospital Association, Young Maennerchor (Male Voice Choir), and all other societies of which the deceased had been a member, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this afternoon, at 2 o'clock precisely, from his late residence, No. 1006 Race street. To proceed to West Laurel Hill Cemetery."

Microfilm. The first three societies are Masonic organizations of Philadelphia.



**Site of Kinike Home at 1006 Race Street
(now a Chinese restaurant)**



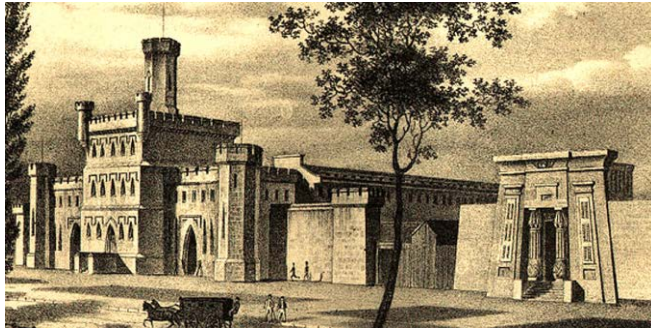
**Site of Joseph Kinike's Business
(Vine Street buildings razed to allow elevated freeway)**

Legal Work of Joseph Kinike

Joseph's biography in the centennial book refers to a segment on "legal protection" with detailed activities of the Committee for Legal Justice. The account, pages 127-138, begins with the observation that not every person behind bars is a law-breaker, a dangerous person, or an offender of the law. "The issue is more difficult for strangers unfamiliar with the language and the local laws and often without a friend to help. As a result, one may not be able to explain the circumstances. Who will speak for the friendless stranger?"

In 1867, the German Society formed a committee and appointed Joseph Kinike, a member of the Prison Association, as the go-between for the society and the law. In 1868-69, Kinike was the only committee member. In 1870, five additional members joined. Kinike served until 1873. The society president praised Kinike for his "unselfish assistance and untiring zeal."

The legal segment continues with a vast variety of cases in which assistance was given. Here is a selection among the cases:



Moyamensing Prison (early engraving)

In 1868, a young German, who was not knowledgeable in English, without advice or help answered "guilty" to "*Unterschlagung*" (embezzlement, fraud). In prison, "he was forgotten for almost five months." In winter, he slept on a cold floor since he did not have a mattress. He became very sick before Kinike found him. The judge then released the prisoner after one additional day of confinement. Kinike took the man to a hospital where he recovered. The youth became a music teacher.

Kinike, who began visiting the prison twice

a month, commented on 1869, "When I did not succeed in obtaining a release, I was able to relieve prisoners' sufferings. In eleven cases, I obtained a release -- three were important."

A "cause célèbre" involved a Carlisle physician, Paul Schöppe, accused of poisoning a Miss Steinecke, who died suddenly on 3 June. On 20 August, a local court sentenced the doctor to be hanged. Aware of the case, the society consulted eight physicians and a chemist. They became convinced of Schöppe's innocence. Kinike and another member of the society organized a collection of \$250.70 to aid the defense. A meeting was arranged with Gov. Geary, who referred the matter to Carroll Brewster, the attorney general. The sentence was delayed. A massive protest against the sentence took place 4 December. A retrial was set for 22 December. This ended the society's involvement.³¹

In 1870, Kinike reported that he was able to get two men with mental illnesses released from prison. One involved a man disturbed by a death in the family. As did Jesus, the man thought that he could raise the dead and went to a cemetery to dig up the grave of his child. Kinike found the man in prison and got his release to a hospital.

A locksmith was attacked in his neighborhood. He escaped with the help of his wife, went home, got his gun loaded with birdshot, and fired at the attacker. The locksmith received a prison sentence of two years and six months.

Kinike got the judge to reduce the sentence a year.

A man falsely accused of stealing found Kinike, who arranged for a re-hearing on the final day of a court session. That day, the judge did not appear because he was ill. Kinike went to the judge's home, found him sick in bed but obtained a written order for the man's release.

In 1871, the society was involved in 28 cases. A poor mother was helped against a \$250 legal claim of her son-in-law and daughter. A daughter was reunited with her living mother. A man was freed from a ten-year sentence that he received when he was incorrectly identified as a night robber whose face could be seen from the light of a hand-held lantern.

³¹ In 1872, the Pennsylvania Legislature was involved in setting a new trial, which ended 7 September with freedom for the doctor. A few years later, he was sentenced for illegal financial actions in a western city.



In 1872, Karl Schmidt, a German sailor, was condemned to death for murder. The society was able to obtain status before the court through efforts of the German consuls in Philadelphia and New York. A lawyer assisted in the defense. Schmidt received a twelve-year sentence for second-degree murder. In 1873, the committee helped a widow, whose German husband was killed by an explosion of a locomotive on the North Pennsylvania Railroad. An intervention with the railroad company produced an offered recompense of \$2,000 before the case came to court. The committee was not content with the settlement -- insufficient for the widow's loss, which was the responsibility of the railroad. However, the widow was persuaded to accept the settlement.

The account concludes: "The public sympathy ever lurks for people on whom suspicion of a disgraceful action presses; the person of merit saves the innocently-affected person from the pitiful situation. The relief realized in this manner is not to be measured by the number of dollars spent, but by the restoration of life's good fortune after the dried tears of the misfortunate burden. May it be credited to the honor of the German Society, that it

Eilet, wo sie helfen kann.

Hasten, where you can help.

Ob er heilig oder böse

Whether saintly or evil,

Jammert sie der Unglücksman."

Take pity on the unfortunate person.

Moyamensing primarily held people for short periods

Moyamensing Prison [demolition]

of time and people unable to make bail, and fugitive South Philly neighbors gathered November 1967 to watch the start of demolition of the prison.

slaves who were captured before their masters collected them.

Moyamensing was designed by Thomas Ustick Walter, architect for the dome of the national capitol in Washington, DC. Passmore Williamson, an anti-slavery activist, spent time in the prison in 1855 after he helped a slave escape and then was falsely imprisoned for contempt. The prison closed in 1963 because the needed modernization would have cost more than the closing.

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