

Schauwecker

The first mention of the origin of mid-Missouri Schauweckers is of one unknown Schauwecker, a leather tanner by trade, in 1710. A child by this unknown Schauwecker, Matthias, was born November 12, 1758, in Stuttgart, Germany, died May 21, 1832 in Widenbrueck.

Matthias married Catharina Wilhelmina "Anna" Moritz July 14, 1816, in Evangelistic Lutheran Church. Of their children, Heinrich Ludwig "Ludwig" Schauwecker, born 1814 in Widenbrueck married Katharine Krueger November 26, 1839 in St. Aegidius Catholic Church in Widenbrueck. Katharine was the daughter of Christoph Krueger and Maria Henkerode. She was born 1803 in Lintel Parish, Widenbrueck and died July 20, 1884 in Westphalia, Osage County, Missouri. Am unable to find record in St. Joseph, Westphalia, of Ludwig's death and burial. Perhaps he may have been of the Lutheran faith and may be buried in one of the neighboring Lutheran burial grounds.

The Matthias Schauwecker ancestors from Widenbrueck, settled in Osage County, near Westphalia, in 1852. They built a log house about 3 miles from the town on the farm purchased from Joe Arens and his wife. It is believed this is the Herman Schauwecker/Lonnie Nilges farm. Ludwig arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana December 25, 1852; and then on the John Schmid Steamer traveled up the Mississippi to St. Louis, Missouri and then to Westphalia. He was a stonemason and farmer. He deceased prior to 1860.

In the 1860 census Catherine is listed as being 48 years of age; August Schauwecker, 20 and the notes indicate he disappeared and was never heard from again; however, the St. Joseph death records show an August Schauwecker died October 6, 1865 at age 26. The census also indicated a Joseph Schauwecker, 9 years of age as being blind. He later lived in Koeltztown, Missouri. A sister of Catherine was married to Joseph Arens.

Children of Heinrich (Ludwig) and Catherine Krueger included Judge Gerhardt H. Schauwecker, born March 9, 1836, Widenbrueck, died January 27, 1928, Westphalia, married Marie Heckemeyer. Theodore, born October 24, 1841, Widenbrueck, died October 4, 1916, Westphalia, married Christine Reckgerd. Joseph Bernard Schauwecker, born June 1849, Widenbrueck, died June 8, 1925, Koeltztown, married Mary.

Children of Theodore, born October 24, 1841 and Christine Reckgerd were as follows:

August Gerhard born November 18, 1867, married Maria Elizabeth Krautz from Loose Creek, with descendants in Los Angeles, California.

Henry born December 23, 1869, married Mary Anna Buersmeyer from Westphalia. Their children being Steve, Pauline Wegman, Martina Holterman.

Theodore, Jr. born September 20, 1872, married Anna Winkel in Westphalia and found his way to British Columbia, Canada, deceased in 1962.

Louis "Ludwig" born January 5, 1876 married Angela Heckemeyer.

Christopher born 1878, never married, deceased October 27, 1961 in San Antonio, Texas.

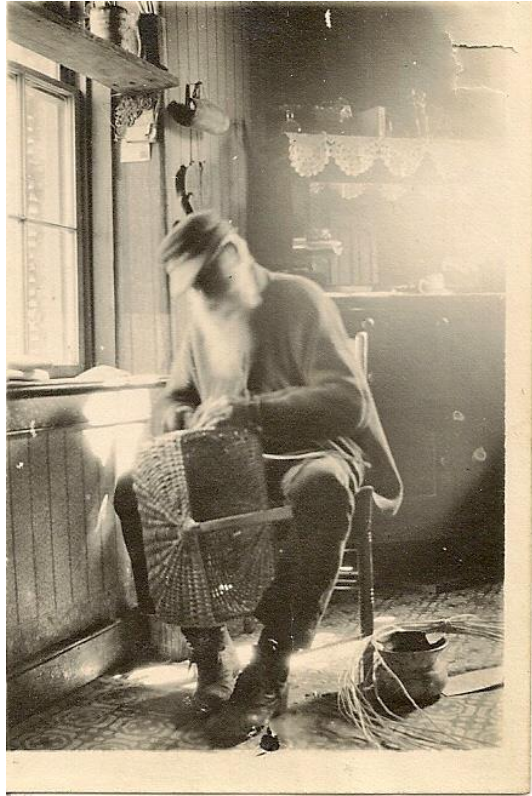
William, born October 4, 1880, married Maria Catherine Hoer. Descendant being Art Schauwecker.

Bernard Dave "Ben" born March 30, 1883.

John born July 20, 1885, deceased Chicago, Illinois.

Adolph John born February 12, 1889, married Elizabeth Luetkemeyer, deceased August 2, 1968, Chicago, Illinois.

Judge Gerhardt H. Schauwecker, married Mary Heckemeyer, daughter of Henry Heckemeyer and Angela Maria Peitzmeyer. He was listed as illegitimate on the immigrants to Westphalia, Missouri list.



Gerhard Schauwecker

If the information I have is correct they were the parents of twelve children. Upon his death in 1928, the following obituary appeared in the *Unterrified Democrat*.

60 YEARS AGO
UNTERRIFIED DEMOCRAT
Thursday, February 2, 1928

Former judge Gerhard H. Schauwecker died at the home of his son, Joseph Schauwecker, a few miles north of Westphalia, January 27, 1928, at the age of

nearly ninety-two years. Mr. Schauwecker was born in Heidenbruck, Germany, March 8, 1836, and came to America on a sailing vessel, landing in New Orleans on Christmas Day in 1852. The ship was on the ocean fourteen weeks in making the voyage.

On October 25, 1859, Mr. Schauwecker and Miss Mary Heckemeyer were united in marriage and in 1861 Mr. Schauwecker purchased the farm on the Linn-Westphalia road where he, his wife and children spent so many years and which was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Schauwecker when they departed this life. Something like 50 years ago Judge Schauwecker erected a large stone dwelling house on the farm which even yet evokes words of admiration from those who may pass that way. It is an ideal country mansion.

Judge Schauwecker taught school for many years and was a well educated and forward looking man. From September 1865 to December 1873 he was judge of the county court and served two terms as collector of Osage County, 1875 to 1879. The people of Linn have good cause to remember Judge Schauwecker with pleasure and gratitude, for it was due to his efforts and vote, along with Judge William Davies's that Linn was retained as the county seat of Osage County and a magnificent courthouse erected here in 1873 and '74.

Among the **children of Gerhardt** and Anna were Christina Maria, Anna Katherina, Judge John Bernard “Ben, Angela Clara, Stephan Christ (a Catholic priest), Anna Maria and Joseph.

Christina Marie, born August 1860, married Conrad Stuckenschneider and is buried in Argyle. They had 9 children which includes the Argyle Verhoffs and the Westphalia Stuckenschneiders.

Anna Katherine married twice. First to William Radmacher, which descendant would be Alice Heisler. Second marriage was to Henry Stegeman, descendant being Ella Stegeman, Stanley Cassmeyer.

Judge Ben married Maria Anna “Mary” Hoer November 26, 1889 in Westphalia, daughter of Adam Hoer and Maria Christina Fechtel. Their children being Gerhard, Hermann, Marcella Luebbert – descendant Lonnie Nilges. The following article appeared in the Kansas City Star Newspaper, June 7, 1931 which really does tell it all concerning life in Westphalia at that time.

“In the Quaint Old German Community of Westphalia, MO, Dwell Fine Citizens and Devout Catholics Who Insist on Having Their Beer and Wine and Whisky, and Look Upon Prohibitionists as “Wicked Fanatics” – Banker and Former Mayor Recently Was Released From Penitentiary, Where He Served a Sentence for Liquor Selling – Denies He Did Anything Wrong.”

“Westphalia, MO, June 6, 1931 – The 500 people of Westphalia, MO, are all church members and go faithfully to church, and they respect all laws except one, the prohibitory law. That law they openly flout”.

“The leading citizen of Westphalia, and the richest man there, is Ben Schauwecker, bank president, former mayor, county judge and twice a candidate for state treasurer. When he was sent to the penitentiary for one year and a day for selling beer and wine and whisky, 300 of his 500 fellow townspeople escorted him to the railroad station in Jefferson City, seventeen miles away. In their motor cars, with flags and banners flying, they formed a procession more than a quarter of a mile long. That was their protest against prohibition and its enforcement laws”. “Schauwecker had been back from the penitentiary only a few weeks when I visited him last Sunday morning. He was getting ready for church. He lives in the biggest house in Westphalia, a house with its long side right up against the sidewalk. Along the outer edge of the sidewalk is a railing of iron tubing.”

From Prison With Clear Conscience

““Since I came back from the penitentiary I’ve been fixing up the house,” said Schauwecker, and he proudly showed how he had painted this railing with blue enamel and gilded the tops of the iron posts. He had painted the house a shining white, and had spent \$100 in making a flower garden in his back yard.”

“In an alcove in the street side of his house is a tall windmill with an ancient grape vine clambering to its top, way above the roof of the house, and covering it with green. Later in the summer clusters of purple grapes will hang from every cross bar.”

““Last fall I gathered three wash tubs full of grapes from that old windmill vine,” said Schauwecker, and then he winked, clucked his tongue and added, “They made me some fine wine.””

““How did you get along in prison?” I asked him.”

“Fine. They treated me well. I gained in weight and came out in better health than when I went in.”

“You didn’t worry then?”

“Worry? What about? I hadn’t done any wrong. I had a clear conscience. I sold wine and beer and whisky, yes, but that’s not wrong. We don’t respect that prohibition law. Our forefathers in Prussia made and drank their beer and wine and schnapps for 1,000 years without harm to themselves or anyone else. It’s been ninety-six years since our people came from Westphalia and settled here, and after they had built log cabins to live in the next thing they did was to build a church and brewery.”

No Lack of Liquor Now

“The brewery is gone. The law wiped that out, but we’ve got our beer and wine and whisky, and we’ll have it in spite of that law. Come here I will show you something. He took me into the parlor of his home and pointed to a motto on the wall, worked in colored yarns and framed:”

GOD BLESS OUR HOME

““There’s a motto like that in every home in Westphalia, and if there is a home without its wine or beer or whisky I don’t know it,” he said. We are all Christians, and every man, woman and child of the 500 in this town, except two Protestant families, is a member of the big church across the street. Those two families are fine people, too, and we respect them as much as if they were Catholics. There’s no religious prejudice in Westphalia. You’ll not find better citizens anywhere than we are here. There isn’t a pauper nor a dependent in this town. There isn’t a loafer, a criminal or a drunkard here, and never has been. Oh, of course, someone will take a little drop too much once in a while, but he doesn’t want to fight, he always begins to sing.”

“We live right and love God and obey His laws, everyone, he went on. Christ turned water into good wine, and I’ll bet He drank His share of it, too, and St. Paul advised a friend to take a little wine for his stomach’s sake. That’s all in the Bible and we believe in the Bible here. If wicked fanatics pass laws to take away our wine and beer and whisky, we simply refuse to obey such laws. We prefer to follow in God’s way. But, come on, or well’s be late for church.”

“It was not yet 8 o’clock, but on this Sunday morning sixty-eight of the children of the community were to take their first communion in the big church, and already the one wide graveled street of the village was lined on each side with cars as closely as they could be wedged in together, and the narrow sidewalks were crowded. From quaint old houses all along the street and from cars that came in from this country, little girls in white, with

veils of white lace from head to feet, with white stocking and shoes, were coming out and going toward the ancient grove in which stood the school and church. There were other groups of boys, all in their best suits, each with a flower on his coat. Every house I saw in Westphalia had a flower garden.”

A Town of Fine Housekeepers

“In two days in Westphalia I was in twenty different houses, talking with people, old and young and I never before saw so many houses in one place that were so immaculately clean. Westphalia is a real “spotless town.” Those German women are wonderful housekeepers. A man who was with me in a dozen houses there said as we came out of each. “You could eat off the floor of that house.””

“The streets and sidewalks are as clean, almost, as the floors. The women keep them spotless. The Saturday I was there a dozen women were sweeping the sidewalks in front of their homes, and picking stray pieces of paper and leaves from the street. And these women of German descent are famous cooks. They generally bake on Saturday enough bread to last through the week. The Saturday I was there the whole village was fragrant with the rich, nutty scent of bread baking in ovens. In one house I saw twelve loaves freshly baked, lying on a table to cool.”

“An odd thing about Westphalia is that every house in the town has a “tin roof.” They call them tin roofs, but in reality they are galvanized sheet iron. “We put on tin roofs as a protection again fire,” a man explained.”

Founded Nearly a Century Ago

“Westphalia will be century old in 1935. Ninety-seven years ago a neighborhood of farmers in Westphalia, Prussia, decided to emigrate to American. It sent two men to look for a place in which to settle. They came up the Missouri River from St. Louis and entered the Osage. There they found a hilly, picturesque country that was like their own Westphalia. The land was rich. They selected it as a site for the colony and returned to Prussia. The following year thirty-five families came out and homesteaded the land.”

“They were all educated Catholics. Their first houses and first church were of logs. The men and women of the community worked hard and were thrifty. They used to float their farm products down the Osage to the Missouri. Now they drive it by trucks over a fine state highway to Jefferson City.”

“There has never been a public school in Westphalia. Inclosed by a stone wall is a large tract of land upon which is the big stone church and the parochial school. The teachers are sisters of the order of Notre Dame.”

“Men and women live to a ripe old age in Westphalia. One of its citizens, giving a reason for so many very old persons, quoting from Longfellow’s Evangeline, said they were:

Men whose lives glided on like rivers that water the woodlands, darkened by shadows of each, but reflecting an image of heaven.”

“In this peaceful village are no distractions, no excitements, no picture shows, no noises of clanking, pounding street cars or other sounds in the city. The village is “remote, secluded, still.” The primeval forest comes up close to it. Herds of deer are often seen in the farmers’ fields. One Sunday last spring a deer trotted leisurely down the whole length of the village street and disappeared.”

“James H. Wiegers is 90 years old. His whole house is sheathed with galvanized sheet iron, which he says is warm in winter and cool in summer. He fought in the Northern army all through the four years of the Civil War and knew Grant and Sherman. He was

in the siege and assault against Vicksburg and marched with Sherman to the sea. Telling me about it he struck up, in a quavering voice, "As we go marching through Georgia."

How to live to be 100

"If people would live sober, God-fearing lives as we do here, just drinking enough good beer and wine to keeping good health and cheerful, working steadily and keeping away from foolishness, they could live to be a hundred," he said."

"Other old persons in this village and the years they have attained are: Henry Willibrand and his wife, both 71; Herman Hoer, 79, and Mrs. Elizabeth Redel, 81."

"The Rev. J. G. Melies is pastor of the church in Westphalia. He was born there.