

Our Story Continues . . . The Klitz Family in Westphalia

CHAPTER 6

CHRISTOPHORUS BERNARDUS KLITZ and ANNA MARIE MARGARETHA KRUDE

1743-1789; 1741-????

Christophorus Klitz was born in the town of Metelen, Prussia, on 18 July 1743.

Christopher married Anna Margaretha Krüde in Schöppingen on 3 March 1773. Margaret was most likely born in Metelen and was baptized on 25 March 1741. Christopher and Margaret had at least 5 children: Gertrud (1774), Elisabeth (1776), Bernard (1779), Elisabeth (1782), Henerich (1785), Anton (1786) and Engelbert (1789). Christophorus died in Schoppingen the same year his youngest son was born. The middle child, Johan Bernard Klitz (1779-1833), is our direct ancestor.

Alexander Engelbert Anton Klitz (1789-1859) began what would become a thirty-plus year period of emigration to the United States for members of the Klitz family. He and his family immigrated to America in 1849, two years after his son, Johan Heinrich Klitz, born in 1821, emigrated. Engelbert and his family entered the United States through New Orleans and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio.

There is a lot of information about Engelbert's family in Cincinnati. We have census records, marriage records, city directories, and, most interesting, the will of Theresia Klitz, daughter of Engelbert. She was born in 1825 and died in 1900. Having her will [both in the original hand-written German and the official translated city version] led to two findings. First, the executor of her will was her cousin, Heinrich. This Heinrich was the grandnephew of Engelbert. He emigrated to the United States in 1881 and worked with his cousin, Theresia. The will and date of Theresia's death explained a funeral card found in Gertrude Klitz's collection after she passed. This is evidence that the Klitzes in Nebraska and the Klitzes in Cincinnati had some level of contact. It is comforting to know that our ancestors were not alone in the vastness of America.