

## Our Story Continues . . . The Klitz Family in Ohio

### CHAPTER 7a

#### **ALEXANDER ENGELBERT ANTON KLITZ and ANNA MARIA CLARA SEGBERS**

*1789-1859; 1793-1866*

The story of the Klitzes in America does not begin with Herman Bernard Klitz (b.1813) and his family's trip to the United States in 1869. It begins 22 years earlier with his uncle, Engelbert Klitz, and his family.

Engelbert married Anna Maria Clara Segbers (1793-1866) in 1820 in Schöppingen. They had four children, Heinrich, Theresia, Elisabeth and Joseph. The eldest, Heinrich (b. 1821) was the first of our Klitz ancestors to emigrate to America. He did so in 1847 arriving at the port of Baltimore and made his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, a major German immigrant city in the mid-1800's. Two years later, Engelbert, Clara, Theresia, Elisabeth, and Joseph entered the United States through the port of New Orleans on the ship "Schiller". They traveled up the Mississippi River and settled in Cincinnati.

From 1850 until 1900, there were Klitzes in Cincinnati. There is actually more historical information on these Klitzes than exists for our direct ancestors. Engelbert and his family appear in the 1850 U.S. Federal Census. Engelbert and the two sons are listed as tailors in the census, as well as the several Cincinnati City Directories of the second half of the 1800's.

Heinrich married in 1852. He and his wife, Elisabeth Himmelgarn had at least two children, Joseph and Elisabeth. Joseph died in 1882 at the age of 20 from tuberculosis. Elisabeth married John Wissman in 1884 and she died in 1936. There are Wissmans in Cincinnati today.

Engelbert died in 1859 of jaundice. His wife, Clara, died in 1866. We have no information on what became of Joseph, Engelbert's youngest son. Theresia never married and remained a tailor in Cincinnati. It is possible that Theresia took a trip back to Germany in 1885. There is documentation that matches Theresia's biographical information, but it has not been confirmed yet. She died in 1900 from stomach cancer. Her funeral prayer card made its way to the Klitzes in Nebraska. It was discovered in a stack of prayer cards that Gertrude Klitz kept. This suggests that there was some type of communication between the Klitzes in Cincinnati and the Klitzes in Nebraska. Theresia left a last will and testament of

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which we have a copy. In the will, she left \$2000 to her niece, Elisabeth Klitz Wissman.

In 1881, the last Klitz immigrated to America was Gerhard Heinrich Klitz (b. 1844), the son of Johann Heinrich Klitz (b.1810) and the cousin of Theresia. He settled in Cincinnati, worked as a tailor, and lived very near to Theresia. He died in 1928 of cardiovascular disease.



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