

THE KORRA-MAHRDT
CONNECTION

A
FAMILY HISTORY

BY

HERBERT MAHRDT KORRA

@ 1987

CONTENTS

Author Page

Dedication

Introduction: Why a Family History?

- I. Origin of German Names
- II. German Immigrant Life in America
- III. Coat of Arms
- IV. Korra Family Home 1900 in Kiel
- V. Family History: Korra-Wilhelmine Mahrdt, Etc.
- VI. The German Family--World War II
- VII. List of Family Sayings--Traditions
- VIII. Family Lineage Charts
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Picture Section
- XI. The Towns & Final Statement
- XII. Bibliography

RESEARCH

BY

HERBERT MAHRDT KORRA

BEGUN 1970

COMPLETED TO DATE 1987

DEDICATION

"When a society or a civilization perished,
one condition can always be found.
They forgot where they came from."

Carl Sandburg

This is true also for the family. This
work is therefore dedicated to the
Korra/Caro-Mahrdt families.

INTRODUCTION

Why a Family History

Why a history of anything--school, city, state, country, or family? We study and learn from history and, as a result, progress. We, as a civilization would not be where we are today if we did not learn from the past. It is also true with families.

In our case, the Korra and Mahrtdt families are located on both sides of the Atlantic.

As a child I spent many days in and out of sick bed. During these long days, Mother, Wilhelmine Mahrtdt Korra, told me about the grandparents I was never to know, about aunts and uncles and cousins--just names at that time. Never really believing the opportunity would come to meet our family, I saw many pictures of people--if only pictures could talk!

Years later, while serving with the United States Army, I was to be stationed in Germany. Now those pictures could come to life. During my stay there, Mother and Richard came for a visit and we began to meet the family and friends of our parents.

As a history teacher, I became interested in family history and tradition. One person, more than any other, helped to spike this interest--Roger von Gustedt.

I did finally begin to assemble the information, Dad was deceased. We taped many hours with Mom. Those tapes served as the basis for the family history.

After years of delay and assembling, that history is mostly on paper. Many people helped me assemble the information: Heinz Mahrtdt, Lieselotte Reuter and Margaret Mahrtdt. Special thanks to Don Korra and Rhonda Scott for drawing the charts for the family tree. The whole project would never be finalized if not for Debee Meyer--typist.

"Lives are made of chapters. After one is written it cannot be revised, but we can write a new chapter each day"--Philip Brook

An old Chinese proverb says "Teachers open the door, you enter by yourself.

With this history, the door is opened--use it as you see fit.

Herbert Mahrtdt Korra

I. ORIGIN OF GERMAN NAMES

I.

Until the late 1800's there was no united Germany. There was only a group of thirty or more separately governed and rather fluid states, duchies, principalities, and independent cities. Conflicts among these were frequent. Religious persecution was by no means rare, and a sect accepted in one place might be jailed a few miles away.

Some Germans were among the Dutch and Swedish settlers in the middle of the seventeenth century in the new world. In fact, the German Peter Minuit was the first Director General of New Netherlands and a leader in the founding of New Sweden a few years later.

Quaker William Penn, of England, as early as 1671 traveled in Holland and Germany preaching about the "inner light". Among those who heard him were some of the Mennonites, a soft-spoken religious group who believed almost literally in beating swords into plowshares and who tried to reduce or "eradicate all temptations of the flesh." For a century and a half, they had been forced to flee up and down the Rhine, and the peace-loving Penn, in 1671 but especially later, gave them hope of asylum in America.

One group of German Mennonites, led by Jacob Telner of Grenfeld, on the Rhine, made a preliminary visit to Pennsylvania between 1678 and 1681, and in 1682 Telner and other Mennonites bought a sizable plot of land near Philadelphia.

Followers of Telner joined the next year with Francis Daniel Pastorius (shepherd, pastor), a scholar who knew several languages but was not too proud to live in a cave until houses could be built. The small contingent of refelders arrived on October 6, 1683, on the Concord, subsequently nicknamed the German Mayflower.

Most Germans adhered rigidly to a work ethic unsurpassed by any other group in America. They labored long hours uncomplainingly. They were extremely well disciplined, often with iron-willed family heads who were strongly supported--physically and morally--by their fraus. Some of them, such as the Mennonites and the Amish, belonged to religious sects that reinforced the discipline of the home by strict codes of dress, speech, and unfrivolous behavior. Unlike some other settlers, most Germans took good care of their land, working to prevent erosion, manuring their fields, and even rotating their crops before that became a widespread practice. They protected their land, as Handlin says, "because they expected to stay where they were forever".

Some of their descendants are indeed still there, fields still neat, fat Holstein cattle grazing on the still-rich pastures or clustering outside bank barns that may have stood for a century or much more. But other descendants pushed on, of course, partly because they were adventurous, partly because the lessons of Europe had taught them what happens to farms too often divided and subdivided among heirs. So they moved south, and as the prairies and the Farther West became open, they moved there, sometimes living in Dakota or Kansas sod shanties until there was time to construct more substantially.

So the Germans moved to the New World, they brought their names with them. Some family names go back to the early Middle Ages (1000 A.D. on). These families were major land owners and leaders in their localities. A few of these families came down to current times (example Roger von Gerstedt). Most family names developed later as the population began to grow and the need to be identified grew.

Until about 1100 AD, most people in Europe had only one name (still true today in some primitive countries). As the population increased, it became awkward to live in a village wherein perhaps 1/3 of the males were named John, another sizable percentage named William and so forth.

And so, to distinguish one John from another, a second name was needed. There were four primary sources for these second names. They were: a man's occupation, his location, his father's name, or some peculiar characteristic of his.

Occupation: The local house builder, food preparer, grain grinder, and suit maker would be named respectively John Carpenter, John Cook, John Miller, and John Taylor.

Location: The John who lived over the hill became known as John Overhill, the one who dwelled near a stream might be dubbed John Brook or perhaps John Atbrook.

Patronymical: (Father's name) Many of these surnames can be recognized by the termination--son, such as Williamson. Some endings used by other countries to indicate son are: Armenian--ian; Dane's--sen; Fin's--nen; Greek's--pulas; Pole's--wicz.

Characteristic: An unusually small person might be labeled: Small, Short, Little, or Lytle. A large man might be named Longfellow, Large, Lang, or Long. Many persons having characteristics of a certain animal would be given the animal's name. Example: a sly person might be named Fox; a good swimmer--Fish; a quiet man--Dove, etc.

Perhaps the German respect for work helps to account for the

fact that in name-giving periods of seven or eight hundred years ago many persons were named for their occupations. These names represent occupations not only prominent in the Middle Ages, but still vital at the time of German emigration, although it must be remembered that an eighteenth century Schmidt was no longer necessarily employed as a smith or a Seyler as a rope maker.

Among other occupational names of these early Pennsylvania Germans and their successors were the following:

Bauer	farmer
Fischer	fisherman
Gerber	worker with leather
Jager	hunter
Kauffman	merchant, peddler, tradesman
Kramer	shopkeeper, or perhaps sometimes a peddler who purchased farm produce for resale in a town, hauling it in a Kram, a small cart that served as his shop
Metzger	butcher
Muller	miller
Schaffer	shepherd
Schneider	tailor
Schreiner	cabinetmaker
Schultz	overseer or sheriff
Schuman, Schumacher	shoemaker
Schuster	shoe repairman
Schutz	watchman
Spengler	tinsmith, timker
Wagner	wagonmaker or carter
Weber	weaver
Ziegler	maker or user of brick and tile
Zimmermann	carpenter

Spellings for these and other German names might vary considerably, as these eighteenth century variants of Schultz illustrate: Shilt, Shiltz, Sholes, Sholtz, Shoults, Shoultz, Shults, and Shulz (as well as eleven others in the Pennsylvania records).

Surnames taken from places might refer to a landscape feature. For instance, Bachman lived close to a brook (Bach), Wald in or near a forest, Bruck close to a bridge. Hoff might come from a courtyard or from Hof (farm), the name of many German villages. Baum (tree) may have lived at or near an especially conspicuous tree, or worked with trees or resided at or near a shop or tavern that had a tree on the sign which welcomed possible customers. Schaub (sheaf) was also associated with a shop sign, or may have earned the nickname from work in the field of grain. Some surnames from places identified the city or other area from which a person had come. Thus Berlin or Berliner may have come from Berlin, Swabia, a medieval duchy in Southwestern Germany, Schlesigner was from Silesia, and Schweitzer had come to

Germany from Switzerland or had some other association with the Swiss.



A few German patronyms, such as Johannes (John) and Karl (Charles), indicate a simple descendant of someone named John or Karl or the like. Many more patronyms, however are dithematic; that is, they are combinations of two themes, or words, usually with a militaristic suggestion. Thus Conrad combines the meanings of bold and counsel, and Reichmann is powerful man. Such names should be interpreted in the way the comma suggests: as two separate meanings not a unity like bold counsel or powerful man. Here are other examples:

Fredrich	peace, rule
Gebhart	gift, brave
Ludwig	fame, warrior
Rudolph	fame, wolf
Seiberth	victory, bright
Ulrich	wolf, rule

The smallest number of German surnames are those suggesting a physical or other description. Thus Lang was long (tall). Kraft was strong, Weiss had white hair or a pale complexion and Schwartz was sark and Roth was ruddy and Braun had brown hair, Gross was big and Klein was little. Funch or Funk was a lively person, and Vogel could either be birdlike or have lived at the sign of the bird.

As is often true of names from other countries, German surnames may have more than a single origin. Thus some Baumgartners worked at tree gardening (orchard growing) to earn a living, buy others simply lived close to an orchard. The name has to be classified, then, as both an occupational and a place name. If your name is Baumgartner, you are unlikely ever to find out which it is, except in the improbable event that you have access to clear family records dating back to the name-giving period.

Some Mosers were vegetable sellers, but others lived near or in a swamp. Some Kuhns were sharp, keen people; others were descended from Kunrat-Conrad. Kesslers could come from Kessel (castle) or could have mended kettles. Rauchs may have smoke meat or may have been unusually hairy. Stumpfs perhaps lived near a stump or a large number of stumps, but other Stumpfs simply looked like stumps--short and broad. Brunner or Bruner, when his was an occupational name, dug wells, and when it was a patronym, he was decended from Brunheri (brown, army). Hummel may have come from a town called Hummel (bumblebee), or may have been a person as excitable as a bee, or may have been descended from Humboldt (bear cub, bold)¹

The alteration of German names to English or English sounding

¹Hook, Family Names

forms was frequent. Edgar Allen Poe's paternal ancestors may have been Palatine Germans name Pau. Many a present Green had ancestors names Gruen or Grun and so on.

In the Korra case, we have discovered when the name was changed, but not why it was changed. We now know the name was originally spelled KARO (means diamond in card playing). We believe this spelling to be of Wendish origin.

The Wends were a Salvic group that located in a narrow band from Prague to the Baltic Sea. The Wenden names always place an accent mark on the second syllable CARO (Sometimes spelled with a "C" in church records). The Wenden people were mainly farmers or fishermen. They were not a major group in ancient European history but seemed to be content to remain in one place and tend to their lives. The KORRA-KARO line has been determined (see family chart). We can only trace back to the mid 1700's. The KARO name is still to be found in the Baltic area.

II. GERMAN IMMIGRANT LIFE IN AMERICA

II.

More than 25 million Americans are of German ancestry. This is far more than for any other ethnic group except descendants of people from the British Isles, who originally colonized the country and who now number 29 million. Germans are the largest group to immigrate to America. They have played important roles in American history, and not merely because of their numbers. American industry, education, military defense, eating and recreational patterns all reflect the contributions and influence of German Americans. The very language of the country reflects that influence, in such words as kindergarten, delicatessen, frankfurter, and hamburgers. The conestoga wagons, in which American pioneers first crossed the great prairie, were created by Germans. So was the Kentucky rifle of the frontiersman. The Christmas tree was a German tradition that became an American tradition. The leading American optical firm--Bausch and Lomb--was created by Germans, as were all of the leading brands of American beer. Suspension bridges and the cables that hold them were created by a German-American engineer. Iron, steel, automobiles, pianos, lumber, chocolate bars, and petroleum are among the many products in which Americans of German ancestry were pioneers and dominate figures.

The German military tradition gave the United States some of its leading generals down through history--including those generals who led American armies to victory against Germany in W. I and W. W. II--Pershing and Eisenhower.

Large scale immigration from Germany to the United States has not been concentrated in a few decades, like immigration from other countries, but has occurred in many different communities in colonial America, and Germans were a significant proportion of all immigrants to the United States throughout the nineteenth century. More than 1,000,000 people emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1852 and 1952, and in many other years in between. There were fluctuations in the size of the immigration--varying with conditions in the United States and in Germany--but the flow has remained substantial for nearly two centuries. At various periods of history, the flow has been predominantly immigrants, at other times refugees. Sometimes the immigrants have been predominantly Catholic, sometimes predominantly Protestant, and sometimes predominantly Jewish. The regional origins of this emigration in Germany have also differed. The net result is that German Americans have been a highly diverse group--not only by such usual indications as class, religion, or region, but also differing greatly by how many generations they have been American.

A very substantial portion of the German immigration to

America occurred when there was no Germany. It was not until 1871 that, Prussia, Bavaria, Baden, Mecklenburg, Hesse, and other Germanic states were united by Bismarck to form the nation of Germany. However, the German language is recorded as far back as 750 AD and Germanic peoples--who do not include the Huns--as far back as the first century BC. In the early days of the Roman Empire, the Germans were among the Barbarian warriors on the northern frontier described by Julius Caeasar. Over the centuries, through the shifting fortunes of war and politics, as well as migrations, some Germanaia people acquired the civilization of the Romans and ultimate influence in the Roman Empire. In the later empire, German soldiers replaced Romans in the Roman legions, which were now often commanded by German generals, who were sometimes de facto rulers behind figurehead Roman emperors. At the same time, other German peoples on the northern frontiers of the empire continued to be a major menace to its existence. Many of the great battles in the declining phase of the Roman Empire were battles of Germans against other Germans. Within the empire, Germans were never fully accepted or fully assimilated. Intermarriage between Romans and Germans was forbidden. The Roman aristocracy referred to Germans as "blond barbarians" and denounced them for "the nauseating stink of their bodies and their clothing." To some extent, Germans themselves were apologetic about their racial origins. For example, a tombstone among the Germans buried in Gual referred to their ancestry as "part of the stain that baptism has washed away." Other Germans simply returned the resentment and hatred Romans felt toward them.

Mid-century America had 27 daily German-language newspapers in 15 cities, and well over two-hundred other publications in German. Cincinnati alone had four German newspapers.

German-Language publications continued to flourish on into the early twentieth century, when there were nearly 3.5 million readers for 49 monthly publications, 433 weekly publications, and 70 daily publications.

Many features of the German culture, besides language, were brought to America. With the passing generations, as the German language slowly faded away, many of the cultural features of German-American life became features of American life in general. Along with the Christmas tree, the frankfurter, the hamburger, and beer became fixtures of the American way of life. Like many ethnic foods, the hot dog was an improvisation in America (like chop suey and chow mein among the Chinese), rather than a direct import from the homeland. German street vendors selling cooked wieners in nineteenth-century Cincinnati produced the combination roll and frankfurter that became famous as the all-American hotdog. Oatmeal was also created by a nineteenth century German American and was perhaps as widely used although not nearly so popular as the hotdog.

German urban workers in the nineteenth century brought many

skills with them. They were carpenters, bakers, blacksmiths, butchers, shoemakers, printers, and tailors among their many skilled occupations. Half or more of all employed Germans were skilled manual workers in mid-century Milwaukee, St. Louis, Detroit, New York, Jersey City, and Boston. A substantial additional number were in nonmanual occupations. Very few were unskilled laborers--less than half the proportion found among the Irish in the same cities. In mid-nineteenth-century Philadelphia, only 14 percent of the German workers were day laborers, the occupations of from one-half to two-thirds of the Irish in the same city.

Many German immigrants brought with them skills required for brewing beer--and the concentrated German population provided a large market for it. American brews did not satisfy them. In Milwaukee, where more than one-third of the population was German around the middle of the nineteenth century, German breweries began appearing in the late 1840's. Like other new businesses, they went through financial difficulties at first, but by 1860, there were a number of successful German breweries in Milwaukee, bearing such names as Pabst, Schiltz, Blatz, and Miller. The heavy concentration of Germans in and around St. Louis likewise provided a market for the establishment of a German Brewery there by Anheuser-Busch, producers of Budweiser beer.

The German head start in such activities as music and gymnasium sports continued to be reflected in many ways, long after these became general American activities. It was perhaps significant that one of America's first Olympic swimming champions (in the 1920's) was of German ancestry--Johnny Weissmuller, later better known for playing Tarzan in the movies. The first woman to swim the English Channel was also a German American--Gertrude Ederly. While these were individual achievements of a later era, they were also products of a long tradition that Germans brought to the United States in the nineteenth century. German traditions also produced many prominent American musical figures. These include Walter Damrosch and Bruno Walter and the famous composer of march music John Philip Sousa. Germans were also prominent in the manufacture of musical instruments, especially the piano.

Education was another area in which Germans made contributions that helped shape American institutions. Both the kindergarten and the university originated among the Germans in Europe. German immigrants created the first kindergartens in America. A kindergarten established in a small Wisconsin community in 1855 has been credited as being the first in the United States. In 1873, the first American public school system to have a kindergarten was in St. Louis--a center of German population--and nearly all the early kindergarten teachers were German. Germans also actively promoted the introductions of physical education and vocational education into American schools.

Both German Lutheran and German Catholics established their own parochial schools in the 19th century America. Other Germans established their own private schools as well. These were pioneering efforts at a time when the idea of universal education was by no means universally accepted. Even after public schools emerged, the most education-conscious ethnic groups, although German farmers--like farmers generally--sometimes had their doubts about "book learning."

A unique series of language schools was created in the 19th century by Professor Maximilian Berlitz. An immigrant who arrived in the United States in 1869 with little money, Berlitz opened his first language school in 1878. His method of teaching language was so successful that he was soon establishing Berlitz Schools throughout the United States and eventually hundreds around the world.

The Germans were organizers--whether of lodges, bowling clubs, labor unions, businesses, singing groups, orchestras, schools, theater groups, or churches. They organized gymnastic clubs called Turnvereine--or Turner Societies--throughout the United States, stressing athletic activity, patriotism, and mental development. Germans did little political organizing, however. Politics never became a consuming interest of German Americans. They were among the targets of nativist political attacks during the Know-Nothing era of the 1820's, but these attacks centered on the Irish, and the whole episode was relatively short-lived. Germans were also actively opposed to the laws and campaigns to outlaw drinking--being allied with the Irish on this issue--and were opposed to Sunday "blue law" that forbade many innocent pastimes. But aside from such issues, Germans were not heavily involved in politics--certainly not on the scale of the Irish, nor with anywhere near the success of the Irish.

By the beginning of the 20th century, German Americans were in an enviable position. They were, by and large, a prosperous people and to some extent an accepted and respected people--becoming more Americanized and at the same time seeing much of their culture adopted by other Americans. Frankfurters, German chocolate cake, beer, kindergarten, gymnasiums, and universities were now all American institutions, and the German language was widely taught in American schools. These happy developments were rudely changed by the anti-German feelings that swept the United States when World War I began.

Even before America became directly involved as a combatant in 1917, the United States was flooded with anti-German propaganda, especially from Britain, which had the advantage of presenting its viewpoint in the language used by most Americans. Anti-German feelings among Americans was not confined to Germany, but extended quickly to the whole German culture and to German Americans, many of whom were sympathetic to their former homeland. German books were removed from the shelves of

American libraries, German-language courses were canceled in the public schools, readers and advertisers boycotted German-American newspapers. Wedding marches by Mendelssohn and Wagner were removed from marriage ceremonies. The term "Hun" was applied to all Germans (although the Huns were not, in fact, a Germanic people). President Woodrow Wilson spoke disparagingly of "hyphenated Americans" with supposedly divided loyalty--a uttering remark affecting many American ethnic groups and leaving a legacy of emotional response to the use of hyphens in designating them.

German Americans responded in many ways to these attacks. Some defended themselves and their loyalty to the United States. Some changed their names. Some German-American organizations dropped all reference to Germany in their titles. "German-American" banks became "North American" banks. The Germania Life Insurance Company of New York became the Guardian Life Insurance Company. German-American newspapers began to die out.

When the United States entered World War I against Germany, German Americans evidenced no divided loyalties. Thousands fought in the American Army against Germany--armies led by General John J. Pershing,³ a German whose family name had once been spelled Phoerschin.

³ Sowell, Ethnic America

III. COAT OF ARMS

A. History

B. Korra Coat of Arms

III.

COAT OF ARMS

Greeks used distinguishing marks on their shields centuries before the Christian era, and African warriors painted hereditary designs on their hide-and-wood shields. But it was in medieval Europe that this form of military decoration reached the kind of flowering that has come to be known as heraldry.

Heraldry probably began among the English in the early 1100's and came about because, during the Crusades, men from many countries were thrown together and needed quick, nonverbal ways of identifying each other--a problem accentuated by the fact that armor had, by then, become so sophisticated that closed helmets prevented facial recognition during hand-to-hand combat. English knights gradually added other identifying marks to their armor, and their fashions were soon adopted by most of the rest of Europe. Distinguishing crests were placed atop helmets, because the shield was not always visible in battle, a cloth coat (surcoat) on which the knight's arms were sewn was worn over the armor, becoming literally a coat of arms.

During the 13th and 14th centuries, coats of arms became more elaborate and numerous, so much so, in fact, that they created the need for heralds, experts who memorized the arms of each man. Heralds acted as "masters of ceremonies" during knightly tournaments and announced each contestant by name as he rode into the arena.

Of course, each knight tried to make his arms unique, but duplications inevitably occurred, resulting in court battles and some bloodier fights as well. In 1418 it was apparent that some kind of royal regulation was necessary. In 1419 Henry V of England forbade anyone to assume arms unless by right of ancestry or as a gift from the crown. Later in the century, Richard III sent heralds, now royal authenticators of arms, into the shires on what is called "visitations". These visitations were held about once every generation for almost two centuries for the purpose of officially verifying, listing, or denying arms in use.

Heraldry early developed its own language--largely Norman French; the court language of the time--which is still in use. A description of a coat of arms is called a "blazon" and is written in the same way as it was 500 years ago.¹

¹ Westin, Finding Your Roots

In addition to needing an extra name for identification, one occupational group found it necessary to go a step further. The fighting man: the fighting man of the Middle Ages wore a metal suit of armor for protection. Since this suit of armor included a helmet that completely covered the head, a knight in full battle dress was unrecognizable. To prevent a friend from attacking a friend during battle, it became necessary for each knight to somehow identify himself. Many knights accomplished this by painting colorful patterns on their field shields. These patterns were also woven into cloth surcoats, which were worn over a suit of armor. Thus the birth of "Coat of Arms".

As this practice grew more popular, it became more and more likely that two knights, unknown to each other, might be using the same insignia. To prevent this, records were kept that granted the right to a particular pattern to a particular knight. His family also shared his right to display these arms.

This is true among people who have a measure of family pride and resent attempts of our society to reduce each individual to a series of numbers stored somewhere in a computer. In our matter-of-fact day and age, a "Coat of Arms" is one of the rare devices remaining that can provide an incentive to preserve our heritage.

THE KORRA COAT OF ARMS

This coat is registered in the name of Johnnes Karl Fredrick Korra and his descendants. Any male descendant can wear the "Coat" unchanged. His grand-daughters can wear the "Coat" unaltered.

THE MEANING OF THE COAT

1. Boat The ancient boat found on the city of the flag of Kiel. Dad and mother met in Kiel. In addition, the families affiliation and history relate to Kiel and the maritime history of both families.
2. Border The Karo family comes from the town of Grossenbroder in Northern Germany. This illustration is featured using the heraldic large border to surround the arms. The border is charged with diamond shape checks aluding to the meaning of the family name (Karo in German = diamonds in cards).

Also the basic color of red and white come from the City of Kiel.

Arms are used here again intertwining the symbolism of the origin of both the Korra and Mahrtdt families--since both have a common destiny.

3. Blue The color of the sea in which the livelihood of ancestors was made. Also the red, white, and blue background alludes to the new homeland in America.
4. "T" Cross Has two allusions: one alludes to the Christian faith of the family while the second alludes to Dad's basic tool in designing a "T-Square" which is used in technical drawing.
5. Sail
Drape Remembers Grandfather Korra, the Sailmaker, forms the letter "M" as on the ancient door mantle of the Mahrtdt home, and thirdly is the great Christian Symbol of hope for a cloth is hung over the cross in most Christendom as Easter as a sign "He is Risen Let All The World Rejoice." The sail drape is thus a symbol of faith and a symbol of ancestry.

It is indeed hoped that the Coat of Arms will serve as a link to the past and a link to the future. Our goal is to have a symbol to identify our heritage. This whole project has been intended to preserve a wonderful heritage. Our sincerest hope is that future generations will maintain the link with our European family.

Herbert Mahrtdt Korra

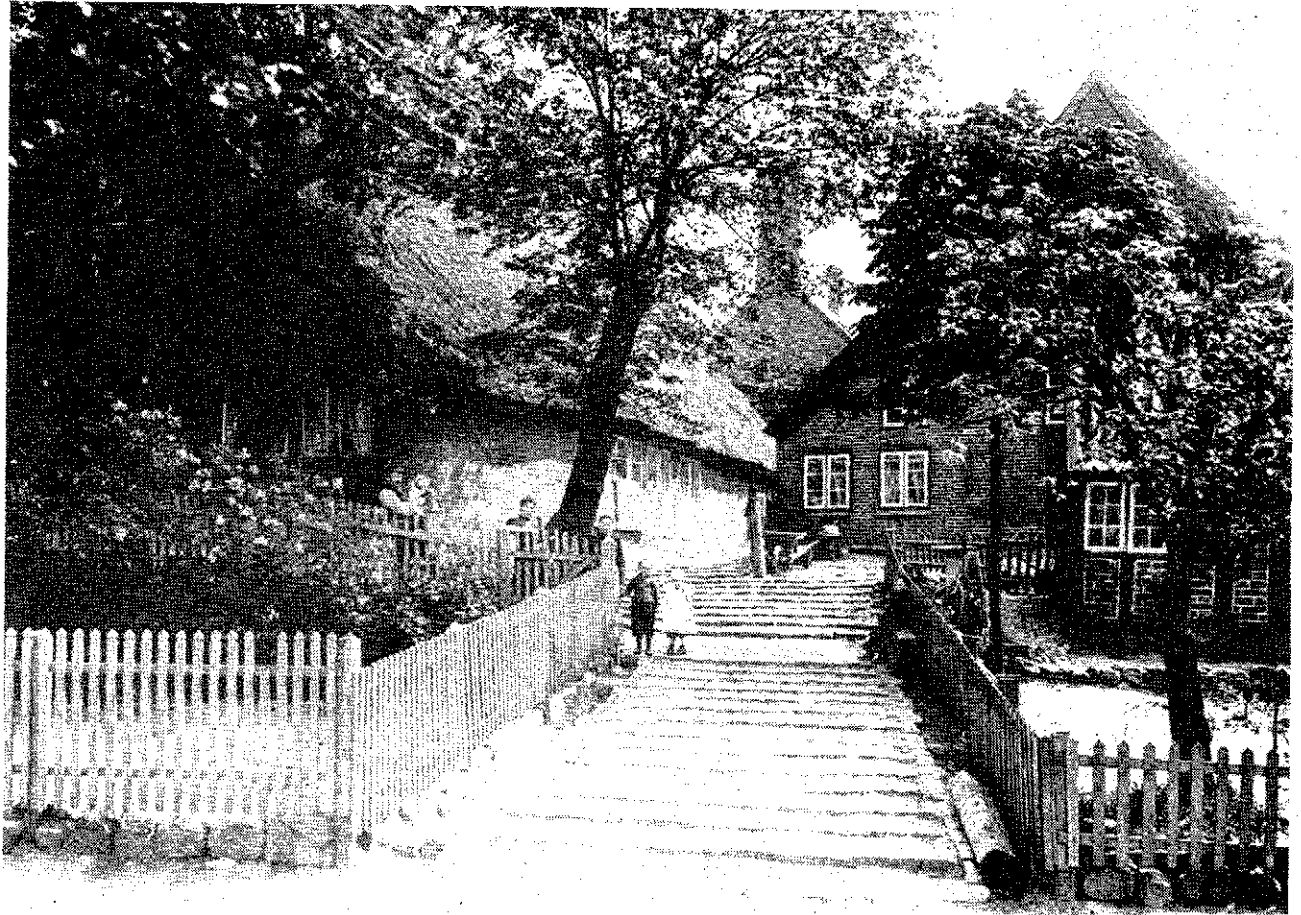


IV. KORRA FAMILY HOME--1900 KIEL GERMANY

IV.

THE KORRA FAMILY HOME--1900 KIEL, GERMANY

This house was purchased by the shipyards and became part of Deutsche Werke in 1904.



The house pictured on the previous page shows the straw roof, which was typical of homes in Kiel that were built in the 60's. The people in the picture are from left to right: Johann Christian, Frederick Emil Korra, next to him is a neighbor's daughter, Paula Hinz, Marta Prinz, the daughter of the salesman Prinz, Maria Johanna Korra, and Johannes Korra, who was about 5 years old at the time the picture was taken (1904).

In 1904-1906, this house, along with others, was purchased so that a museum could be built there.



Johann Christian
Fredrick
Emil Korra

For Don, Dick,
Herb Korra, and
Hans Eckardt--
Grandfather

Though ~~we~~
never knew him,
we have a few
bits of his life
to treasure. He
worked in the
shipyards as a
sail maker.

We know very little of the Korra family up to this point. There were three children--Anna, Frieda, and Johannes. We know that Johannes Christian worked at the shipyards as a sail maker. The house had a garden and the family had a cat. Grandfather Korra was born in Heiligenhafen on May 31, 1864 and his last name was Karo.

FATHER'S

Grandfather Korra played a number of musical instruments as a hobby. He also played in local band concerts.



Aus Alt-Ellerbek.

KORRA-HOME 1900--HISTORY

The history of the Korra family is, at very best, sketchy. We know very little about the early history. We first know something about the origin of the name from Johannes Korra. He said he was told by a professor at the University of Kiel that the Korra name came from Wenden origins.

The Wendens were a tribe of people that settled in a narrow band of land stretching from Prague to the Baltic Sea. They were mostly farmers and did not make an impact on European history.

In pursuing this idea, we asked Frieda Korra what she knew about the family history. She told us the family name changed spelling during the mid 1800's. She thought it had been Carrow and that the people came from Denmark to the island of Fehmarn.

We wrote to the University in East Berlin asking if the Korra name was in the book of Wenden names. The answer was "no". In Slavic, "Korra" was an ending like "ly".

We had help in Hamburg, as Peter Reuter searched for information on the Wendons. But no luck.

Finally, shortly after Frieda Korra died, information was forthcoming. We discovered that a direct connection to a family could be made. The Korra name came when Don, Dick, and Herb's grandfather Korra was born in Grossenbrode. Grandfather Korra, however was raised by his mother, who later on married someone else. Grandfather's name was registered in the church records as Korra rather than Karo. Whether this was a mistake by the church or grandfather's mother is not known.

We do know that grandfather Korra, who began the family name, grew up in Heilegeharfen with his mother and eventually his stepfather. Grandfather Korra's father went back to his home town of Grossenbrode and married. He raised a family of five children--one who still lives in Grossenbrode (1987). The Karo family then are cousins of ours. It is our fond hope that we will have an opportunity to meet with this family sometime.

Research often leads to very interesting stories. This story certainly was a surprise. One can only guess at what happened. But further research in the area may open more doors. History is fun. Of the Korra family, we know that Grandfather Korra went to Kiel early in his life and, at some point, became a sail maker. He met and married his wife and raised 3 children; Anna, Frieda and Johannes.

Anna became head of a business school; later married and their union produced Hans-Eckhardt.

Frieda never married, but became a top secretary to several

professors at the University of Kiel. She worked as a typist until she was 90. Frieda had a good sense of humor and was liked by those who knew her.

One would assume their childhood was not much different than that of the Gustav Mahrtdt family. Each family had certain traditions, customs, and understandings. Though the Korra family had their customs, etc. We did not begin our research prior to John Korra's death. Frieda Korra was reluctant to pass on this information--and now she too has passed on.

We know during the Nazi era that on several occasions, Grandfather Korra received police orders to display the Nazi flag but instead he would have the Schleswig-Holstein flag. He was not arrested because of his age. He died in 1940.

Though we cannot know more about the lives of the German Korras, we have traced the origin of the name and found a whole new branch of the family there. The purpose of this project has been successful.



Anna-Maria-Frieda
Johannes



FRIEDA

V. FAMILY HISTORY

- A. Wilhelmine Helene Mahrtdt
- B. Johannes Fredrich Karl Korra
- C. Various Other Family Members

CHRISTOPH HEINRICH MAHRDT



Father and Mother of
Christian, Karl, John
Jurgen, and Sophie Mahrtdt--
lived on the island of
Arnis.

Christoph had a fleet of
ships, which carried
freight from Arnis and
Kiel, to the Copenhagen--
Oslo area. On one trip he
and his son, *Gustav*, saw
the city of Oslo burn.
Another time the fleet of
ships were lost in a
storm.



After the loss, Christoph
and his wife moved to
Kiel. He opened a store
at this time. Soon after
moving and establishing a
store Christoph died. His
wife remarried a man named
Rix. Wilhelmine Mahrtdt
recalled going to visit
her step-grandfather and
that he often gave her
spending money to attend
festivals or fairs that
were available to see in
Kiel. The Bartels family
was related to
Wilhelmine's step-
grandfather. Many
pictures still exist of
the various members of the
Bartels family. They seem
to have developed a
fondness for Wilhelmine.

Wilhelmine's father grew up in Arnis. He was sent to private schools. As a young man, he was selected to serve in the Kiser's horse guard. He was tall and slender. The horse guard, called the Husar, often were part of official parades. He later was trained as a machinist and this required him to travel to various towns to learn his trade. We will learn more about him later.



WILHELMINE HELENE MAHRDT

The Early Years

Gustov Heinrich Mahrtdt, Wilhelmine's father, was born in Arnis--a small island community, which hasn't changed much through the centuries. Gustov married Amanda Friedricke Eveline Kruse in Kiel on July 16, 1882. Gustov had three brothers and a sister.

Christian Mahrtdt was a sailor. He intended to make a living, as many in the Mahrtdt family had, from the sea. However, he soon found he had severe problems with several of the officers. He deserted his ship while in Kiel. Christian went to his father, who took him to Hamburg. Christian could not remain in Germany as he would be shot for desertion. Christian left and never was heard from again. Some family friends reported having seen Christian in another country. Years later his youngest brother, John Mahrtdt, who had moved to the United States, placed ads in newspapers and, as they traveled, always sought to find some information on him but to no avail.

Karl, a seaman, was in the service during World War I. He was captured and held by the British on the Isle of Mann. Wilhelmine remembered sending packages to him. After the war, he was returned to Arnis. He continued to serve in the Navy. He died and whether in Kiel or at sea is not known. It was thought he died after a heavy drinking bout.

Sophie, a twin sister of one of the older brothers, died at the age of 12.

John Jurgen was the youngest of the Mahrtdt family. He came to the United States at the age of 16--first going to Iowa. He worked for several years in a distant relation's grocery. Later he moved on, eventually remaining in Indianapolis. It was John Jurgen Mahrtdt who arranged for Wilhelmine and John Korra to come to Indianapolis to live.

Wilhelmine was the youngest of 4 children. She was born when her mother was 40 and her father was 43. Her brother Willi and sisters Frieda and Agnes were 14-18 years older. Wilhelmine was sent to a girls middle school. She attended a new school and was excellent in math and science areas. Also, she was very fond of gym class.

Wilhelmine was known to, on occasion, have livened up things in class when she got bored. Once she and another student locked a teacher out of his room--a typical childhood prank--though she claims she got 1's in citizenship--that was tops!

After school, she attended gym classes, where she became a leader and developed many friendships that were to last a

lifetime.

Birthdays were always celebrated in the morning--a birthday table with cake, candles, and presents was ready. In the afternoon, friends would come over and help celebrate.

Christmas was always important in Wilhelmine's youth. Some days prior to Christmas, a tree was selected--it had to be perfect. Her father would even drill holes and place additional branches on the trunk. The tree must go from floor to ceiling and every branch had a candle. Each branch had a piece of marzipon candy as part of the decorations. The living room (Gute Stube) was off limits until Christmas Eve. Brother Willi would often encourage Wilhelmine to go into the Gute Stube to get something for him and then both would be in trouble! Perhaps Wilhelmine didn't need too much encouragement. Before the presents were opened, Wilhelmine had to say a verse. On one occasion, as she was eyeing the gifts and reciting her verse, she saw a doll house and in the middle of the verse said, "It even has a clock." Her sister, Frieda worked in a toy shop and Wilhelmine benefited from this. Through the years Wilhelmine had a large collection of dolls. Her father made the doll house.

In the summer the children played in the area. The Gustov Mahrtdt family had purchased one half of a double. The house had a long backyard. Fruit trees were planted as well as flower gardens. A sand box and swing were there also. They raised geese and chickens. In addition, they purchased a garden plot in which to raise vegetables. That plot is still in the Mahrtdt family in Kiel.

Typical children's games were played. The summer evenings could be quite cool. But once in a while the neighborhood children would get together in the evening and, with lanterns, go around singing folk songs.

"Lantern, lantern, sun, moon, and stars
light burn, light burn"

Wilhelmine's father belonged to several clubs. Once each summer the clubs would organize a large party or picnic. The older children would make an archway of flowers and the youngest children would walk under the archway till they got to the park. Here games were played, prizes given, and a good time was had by all.

While Wilhelmine was very young, her grandmother Kruse lived with the family. Wilhelmine did not remember much about her except she was very old and feeble. Her mother's family lived near a town called Schinkle. They had a farm and a large wooded area. Wilhelmine got to visit them on several occasions. Two uncles of Wilhelmine's mother lived for a while in the area. One Kruse brother owned his own blacksmith shop. The other brother, well educated, took his family to Russia to live. During World

War I, this Kruse fought for Germany. When he returned to visit his family--all were sent to Siberia. Once the war was over, this family returned to Kiel, where family members tried to help them get re-established.

As a youth, any trip outside Kiel was a big adventure for a young girl. It usually meant a train trip and/or boat trip. Places that were enjoyed were: Arnis, the old Mahrtdt homestead, or the town of Itzehoe, where Frieda Mahrtdt's in-laws had a restaurant. Wilhelmine would get an opportunity to stay there. She even got to help wait on tables--this was great fun except she didn't get any tips.

Her sister, Agnes, was a governess and often traveled. Wilhelmine has a large collection of postcards sent to her during Agnes' absences from Kiel. Agnes married Nicholas Klein. Uncle Nicholas taught Wilhelmine to play several games--chess--scot. Wilhelmine played chess on and off the rest of her life.

Frieda worked in a toy shop. Eventually she married Dedreich Radlein. It was the Radlein's who lived in Itzehoe.

Frieda and Dedi had planned a church wedding, but World War I had broken out and Dedrieck was in the navy so a hasty wedding was planned. Frieda was to stay home until Dedrieck returned after the war.



Amanda Mahrtdt

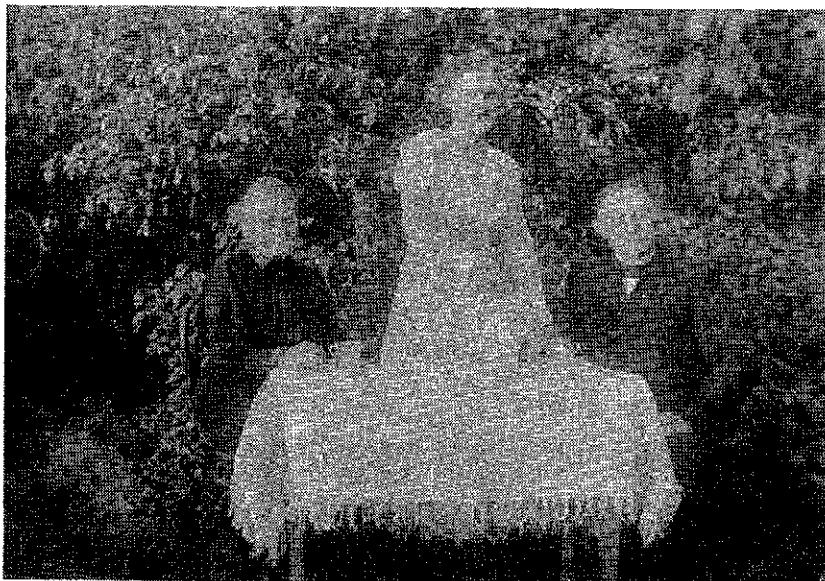
Wilhelmine
Helene Mahrtdt

Gustav Heinrich
Mahrtdt



Home of Wilhelmine Mahrtdt in Kiel

Wilhelmine attended business school after having completed regular high school.



Amanda-Wilhelmine-Gustav Mahrtdt

Wilhelmine Mahrtdt as a child.



World War I, or as known in Europe, The Great War, began in late summer of 1914. When word of the outbreak reached Wilhelmine and her school chums, all started crying. They were afraid. Soon the private school they attended was taken over to provide a training camp for the navel personnel.

The war soon had an effect on the lives of all the families in Kiel. Mother's brother, Willi, worked near the Danish border as a tailor. Diede Radline, who was in the navy and recently returned from a two year stay in China, was sent briefly back to Germany. While on a brief leave, Diede and Frieda Mahrdrdt were married.

By 1916, Wilhelmine had completed school and went to work in the office of the U-Boat Center as a typist. When the war ended in 1918, all employees of the U-Boat Center were pleased as the Britons took over the ship yards.

During the war, many women knitted sweaters and socks and sent them to the soldiers on the front line. The navel officers often sent captured food packages home as food was in short supply in the cities during the war.

Wilhelmine's parents had a garden plot, where many vegetables were grown. In addition, their back yard contained fruit trees and chickens were raised there. Therefore, they were able to supplement the meager food supply. There were allowed only 1/2 liter of skimmed milk and roughly 1/2 pound of meat per person per week. Even though they raised their own chickens, they had to give the government a portion of their egg supply. Wilhelmine even remembers a Sunday dinner when a knock on the door caused the family to place food out of sight. Their usual Sunday visitors would have to share if food was in sight. It was even said food was so scarce that people would stick the potatoes on a fork and let the overflow from the gutter provide the gravy! This was a common folk tale--even published in histories of that time period. It was not uncommon for Wilhelmine and Hannes to go the country to try buy fresh vegetables and butter from the farmers.

A brief revolt took place among the sailors in Kiel. Wilhelmine remembered some shooting in the streets. However, the revolt was put down--all part of the failure of the new government to be able to control the country. Much unrest developed in these parts of Germany in the next few years.

Wilhelmine went to live in the country and worked as a household servant for about six months. This was a job and she was able to get food to send to her family in Kiel. The shortage of food after the war was due to the continued allied blockade of German ports until 1920.

Wilhelmine was called home as her father, Gustov, was near death. After Gustov's death, Wilhelmine was asked to work in the shipyard where Gustov had been supervisor. She took a test and was accepted. She first worked in a typing pool. But she became the typist for the main supervisor because she could speak English.



ENGAGEMENT PICTURE
JOHANNES KORRA
TO
WILHELMINE HELENE MAHRDT
KIEL
1923

By the time Wilhelmine was employed, she became engaged to Hannes Korra. They had both applied for visas to go to America. John Jurgen Mahrtdt had written his niece, Wilhelmine, asking her to come and live with them. Wilhelmine said she would if Hannes could come also. After 18 months, Wilhelmine and Hannes received permission to sail to America. There were many farewell parties. Hannes' mother became very ill. Wilhelmine spent many nights sitting with Maria Johanna. Maria died just a few days prior to Hannes's leaving for America. During the two years before departure for America, severe inflation developed in Germany. In 1920 one American dollar equaled four German marks. By 1924, one dollar often equaled 4,000,000,000,000 German marks. People were paid as often as once a day. As soon as people were paid they went out and spent their money. The beautiful white mocha set was one item brought to America.

After the many goodbyes, the pair sailed on the Thuringia. This ship was on its maiden voyage. Hannes had designed the electrical aspects of the ship because he had been employed by the shipyard. The boat trip took 14 days instead of the normal 10 days of that time. Wilhelmine spent most of the time during the crossing inside. The last night on a ship crossing is always special. Wilhelmine did come up for the dinner dance.

Hannes and Wilhelmine arrived in New York and went through customs quickly. They did not go through Ellis Island--at that time first and second class passengers did not pass through the Ellis facility. They took a cab to the train station. It was a hot humid day. Once on the train, Hannes went to change clothes and removed his "long johns". The first summer was very difficult for them getting adjusted to warmer summers over here.

Wilhelmine had never met her Uncle John because John Mahrtdt had left Arnis at the age of 16. They arrived in Indianapolis 4 days later than expected. They hailed a cab and fortunately the driver knew the Mahrtdt's were expecting visitors from Europe. Upon arrival in Woodruff Place, no one was home. The tired travelers waited on the porch. As the Mahrtdt's drove to their home, they saw two people waiting on the porch. Otto Mahrtdt said, "It must be Wilhelmine and Hannes--look at the clothes they are wearing."

The early years were sometimes painful as Wilhelmine and Hannes learned new ways. Wilhelmine stayed with Uncle Hannes and Tanta Clara. Hannes rented a room. During the year or so that they adjusted to America, they both learned English by reading the newspaper and going to the movies. Wilhelmine worked and learned. She learned to cook from Tanta Clara. Hannes found a job at Vonnegut's and later began his life long job at Link Belt.

After several months, they began to adjust and make plans for marriage. They were married at Zion Church on October 16, 1926, Tanta Clara's friends had gathered flowers for the fall wedding, and the reception was held at Uncle John's and Tanta Clara's.

Many of the Woodruff friends helped to set up the reception. Hannes and Mimi (short for Wilhelmine) found a place to rent on Sheffield Street, not far from Link Belt--Hannes could come home for lunch. Not long after moving to Sheffield Street, Mimi received a telegram from Kiel, telling her of her mother's death. The lady next door brought the sad news as it first came through the phone. Mrs. De Turk and her husband became good friends of Hannes and Mimi after that first meeting. Mimi was soon expecting her first child, as she was ill much of the time, Uncle Hannes and Tanta Clara wanted them nearby so they could help and, as a result, Hannes and Mimi moved into an apartment in Woodruff Place. John Donald Gustov was born on December 5, 1927. The Woodruff Place neighbors were proud of the new addition to Woodruff Place, West Drive. He was much admired.

As Donald began to walk, he, like any child, was into things. Two stories about his adventures still come to mind. On one outing to Charles Mayer Co., a very famous silver and china store, Donald got to wandering and found his way into the display window, which soon set off the alarm system. On another occasion, at a church outing, Donald saw a card table, which had many stacks of coins on it, so of course, he shook the table leg and coins went everywhere. There are other tales but certainly he was active and interested in all aspects of life.

Soon apartment life was not considered suitable, so with the help of Constantine Becherer, who cosigned the mortgage note for Hannes and Mimi, a house on Strum Avenue was purchased. Donald had playmates and one was to become a great friend, Bobby Donohue. Don's playing with Bobby helped Hannes and Mimi to meet their neighbors. It was at this point in time they met Martin and Pearl Donohue and other neighbors Eva and Pat Tyner. These people introduced the German couple to a widening circle of friends. These friends played cards--Hannes and Mimi learned to play Bridge. In addition, both Hannes and Mimi took classes so they could become American Citizens. Hannes at Tech and Mimi at Manual. Mimi, as Donald grew, got more involved in neighborhood, and, eventually, school activities. Donald began his educational process first at the Fresh-Air School and then at School 14. About at this time, a brother, Herbert Mahrtdt Korra--February 23, 1934, came on the scene. A difficult birth was experienced by mother and child. Herbert had a very difficult time--the early years were spent in and out of hospitals. New treatments such as X-rays, etc. were tried. Finally, after three or four years, Herbert seemed to respond. During 1935, Tanta Frieda Korra, from Kiel, came to visit. She arrived by ship and friends of Hannes and Mimi met her at the dock and put her on the bus to Indianapolis. She and Hannes spent the whole first night talking and making up for lost time.

When Frieda arrived, it was late at night, but she came into Herbert's bedroom and Herbert opened his eyes and said "Guten tag", which so please Tante Frieda. Eventually the black smoke from Tech's smokestack became too much, so Hannes and Mimi

started looking for a new place to live. In 1939, they bought a house with two acres near Southport on Orinoco. Uncle Hannes just shook his head when he heard they would have two acres. He said you have not even a quarter of an acre on Strum, who will care for two acres.

The new house on Orinoco did not have inside plumbing. The first day at the new house, Herbert found a brush and started to clean the "three seater" but somehow the brush got away and fell into the hole. Hannes soon got books from the library and figured out how to plumb the house. Once the house and plumbing were done, a garden was started. In the meantime, the next door neighbor, Edith Butsch, suggested Hannes and Mimi needed a larger home and that they should buy her place at 6116 Orinoco. After a year, the Butsch house was purchased. The downpayment was the house on Strum, which had been rented, and \$3,000. Harry, Elmer Butsch's brother, stayed in his small home and helped with the chores such as milking the cow. It was fun growing up in the then country. Soon many of Hannes' and Mimi's friends began to move south.

The war years began and on January 19, 1942 Richard Carl Korra joined the household. At that time, a colored maid by the name of Lillian White came to help Mom for a while. Dick and Harry became fast friends and Dick spent many hours with Harry. Dick was the only one who could get entrance to Harry's house. During the war years, the overseas family was not heard from. At this time Herbert became ill again with Scarlet Fever. He had to spend many days in bed. It was during this time he was told many stories of his "family" overseas. Perhaps that was when the seed was planted to do a family history. As the war years came to an end, there was uncertainty as to what had happened to the family overseas. The uncertainty finally ended as letters began to arrive. During the next 3 or 4 years, Dad and Mom gathered food, clothing, and anything they could and sent packages to Germany. Every Saturday morning two sometimes three packages were taken to the post office. The packages went to relatives and friends. When Mom and Dad had extra money, they would send CARE packages to their families.

School years began and before long--high school and college years seemed to pass by so quickly. Don had graduated from Purdue and married and began his family. Herbert completed his studies at Indiana University and was drafted into the service. The army sent him to Germany, and, at long last, he could meet the overseas family he had heard so much about. Dick began Purdue and married and began his family. He began working for Western Electric. I began my teaching career after another stint of college work at Butler University.

Dad became ill and soon had to quit work. He died during the Thanksgiving holiday in 1967. Bob Mahan was the first person, besides Dick, to be with Mom. Don was living in Cincinnati and I was in Seattle attending a convention for school. Mom had

finally learned to drive and, after Hannes' death, she sold her home on Orinoco and moved to Crestwood. Relatives from Germany began to come to visit and how quickly time flew. Mom had many friends through church and card playing. Her last years she enjoyed her grandchildren, when she got the opportunity to visit with them. She also had numerous opportunities to travel. One of the nicest trips was going back to Germany with John, Betsy, Mary Elizabeth Mahrdt, and Herb. Another great trip was with friends and neighbors in two vans driven by Donald and Herb. But perhaps the most meaningful trip was when Mimi and Dick came to visit me while I was in the army. That was her first return trip and Dick and I got to meet the entire family and friends (1957).

What can be said of life? What can be said of a "family"? There are so many events and people with whom one comes in contact with during a life time. This is merely a summary of a host of things that occur in any life.

The adventure of a young couple to begin a new life in a new land is a tale very familiar in America. The values and contribution made may not have been large, but they were positive. They worked hard and never were given anything. They were honest and they were good friends. They contributed to their new country in many positive ways. Yet they did not forget their loved ones in Germany during their difficult times.

They were good Christain people. What finer tribute can be made?



WILHELMINE'S KITCHEN

A number of Christmas cookies were made each year. Beginning on Thanksgiving weekend, when a white fruit cake was made. Once the cakes had been baked and cooled, they were wrapped in a "cheese-cloth" and soaked in wine. They were off limits until they had absorbed the wine flavor--at least 2-3 weeks.

Another Christmas tradition was the baking of the Christmas Stollen. This marvelous bread was a great way to begin the day--with just a tad of butter on top!

Cakes, breads, and cookies make excellent gifts for friends and relatives.

CHOCOLATE SHELLS

3 egg whites
1/2 lb of ground almonds
1 tablespoons cinnamon
2 1/2 tablespoons cocoa
1 lb powdered sugar
1/2 teaspoon lemon peel

Beat egg whites stiff, but not dry
Add shifted sugar slowly
Beat with beater 20 minutes longer
Add almonds, cinnamon, cocoa, and lemon peel
Fold in gently, don't let air out of egg mixture

Put dough in refrigerator for 1/2 day or over night

Cut shells using cookie mold
Bake on greased cookiesheet
325 to 350 degrees for 15 minutes

Must be made when air temperature is below 50 degrees.

Several other favorites were Pecan Kisses, Brownie Kuchen, Cinnamon Stars, the Christmas "S".

1 lb butter (real unsalted)
2 lb flour
3/4 lb sugar
9 egg yokes
2 whole eggs
the rind of 1 lemon

Mix on a board with knife until a smooth dough--place in cool spot.

Cut small portion and roll in palm of hand on a flowered board.
Cut into pieces 3.5 inches long and a finger thick and shape into

an "S". Lay on wax paper and put in cold room over night. Next morning, take each one and dip first into egg white and then into granulated sugar. Bake in oven until light brown.

There were date bars (Honig), lemon bars, and various butter cookies and seldom seen today Lebkuchen. As a child, it was a great time of year when all the "goodies" were made. It was great to help because you always got the first samples.

In addition to cookies, many other well known dishes came through-out the year. Sauerbraten with spatzle, and red cabbage, which was cooked with red wine and apples. This was a favorite meal with the family.

Veal stew with spatzle was another favorite meal. Tongue smoked, or sometimes fresh, fixed lemon sauce was always appreciated. A great favorite among the German was Herring salad. This was an all day project. The herring had to be deboned and that was a difficult task. Boiled new potatoes with soup meat and a mustard sauce was a simple meal, but always enjoyed.

Always at Thanksgiving Mother began at 6 a.m. She roasted a goose, made fresh raisin-apple dressing, red cabbage, and mashed potatoes. Until I went to school, I never had turkey. On Christmas Eve we had a white fish. Dad would go to the city market and buy the holiday specials. The white fish was poached and served with salad and buttered potatoes. New Year's Eve required cooked cabbage. Mother never made a pie, only cakes and cookies.

DAD'S GARDEN

When we moved to Orinoco, Dad's project was to plant a garden, all done according to the books on gardening from the library. Once the harvest began, we all had to help prepare the vegetables for canning. The first year hours and hours of work went into preparing the "vegies" for winter consumption. The complete project produced 5 or 6 shelves full of canned foods. They looked so great, everyone was so proud until the first jars were opened--ruined! It was a sad day--much bemoaning. Finally the problem, whatever it was resolved from advice from Ray and Ethel Everson. We canned and later froze produce, but never again a major problem as in that first year 1939 on Orinoco.

We raised various fruits, i.e.: cherries, grapes, apples, pears, and berries. Various jams and jellies and cakes were made from these. Also, as we usually had an abundance, so we sold cherries and grapes. I remember spending many hours using the pronged cherry seeder. While we had a cow, I churned milk and made butter.

The geese we raised usually graced our table sometime during

the year. However several stories came to mind. These geese were in a fenced "foul" yard. The fence was old and easily shaken. Along the fence was a strand of white grapes. On one occasion, the geese were gathered at the fence; the gander took a piece of wire in his bill and shook the fence so that the vine-ripe grapes came down and they could eat them! The gander also kept the chickens from eating them. One had to see this to believe it could happen!

DAD'S WINERY

For a number of years, we--namely Don and Dad--made wine. I remember picking grapes and cherries for the wine but it was Don who had the honor of preparing the grapes for the casks. The white wine from the grapes was good, but the beautiful rose that came from the cherries, was out of this world--my first sip came when I was confirmed--then I could have wine and/or beer. One of Dad's cohorts at Link Belt would stop by on occasions to sample the wine. The wine was powerful and smooth so that when it "hit", it hit hard. Fred Neuman ended up in the ditch--the wine got to him! The wine was used also to soak the fruit cakes--the final touch to an excellent fruit cake!

As transplanted "city folk", it was necessary for us to fit into our rural community. Also, with 3 acres of land, it would be a crime not to properly use the land. When we purchased 6116 Orinoco, the land had a detached garage, a brooder house, a barn, a chicken house, a feed house, and a small house lived in by Harry--an old bachelor. He helped us farm, in fact, if it were not for Harry, the hard work attached to all the acreage would never have gotten done.

For some years we raised cows. The cow was pastured on 2 acres and had her own barn. Bessie was her name. Harry's responsibility was to care for the cow. Bessie was a constant delight to the city folk visitors to the "Korra Estate". Milking came twice a day and Harry did it--Don tried but never seemed to catch on to Bessie's timeschedule. I was, thankfully, too small, but loved to go out and get a squirt of warm milk every now and then.

Bessie usually produced more milk than we could use, and so we sold milk. The Breitz's used to buy milk from us. Also, I got to churn for butter. As Don was in his early teen years, he consumed great quantities of rich, full, milk.

Don contributed to the menagerie. In addition to dogs and cats, Don, known as the wheeler-dealer, was employed part-time in Kurt's bank. In a moment of spare time Don bartered with a co-worker and was able to acquire a goat. The goat's arrival was quite an event. We were told the goat would eat everything including cans and the hen yard had a small dump which was to be cleaned out--ha ha--the goat's job. Out came the books and it

was decided we could sell the goat's milk or make cheese. It was about a week before we found out not anyone could get close enough to determine if this goat gave milk! The goat did eat cans, but much preferred the limbs of the trees in the hen yard. The goat didn't stay around long enough to acquire a name.

One acre was separate from the estate and we pastured Bessie there during the summer. Adjoining Bessie's pasture was a huge farm. One summer day an auction was held on the farm. Mom and Harry went to see what this was all about. After a span of time, one of the bulls got away from the auction and headed in Bessie's direction. Mom and Harry were between the bull and Bessie--a hurried retreat and a difficult climb over the fence--but escape from the bull. One day Bessie disappeared and we had just acquired a new freezer. Suddenly it was full of beef!

THE HEN YARD

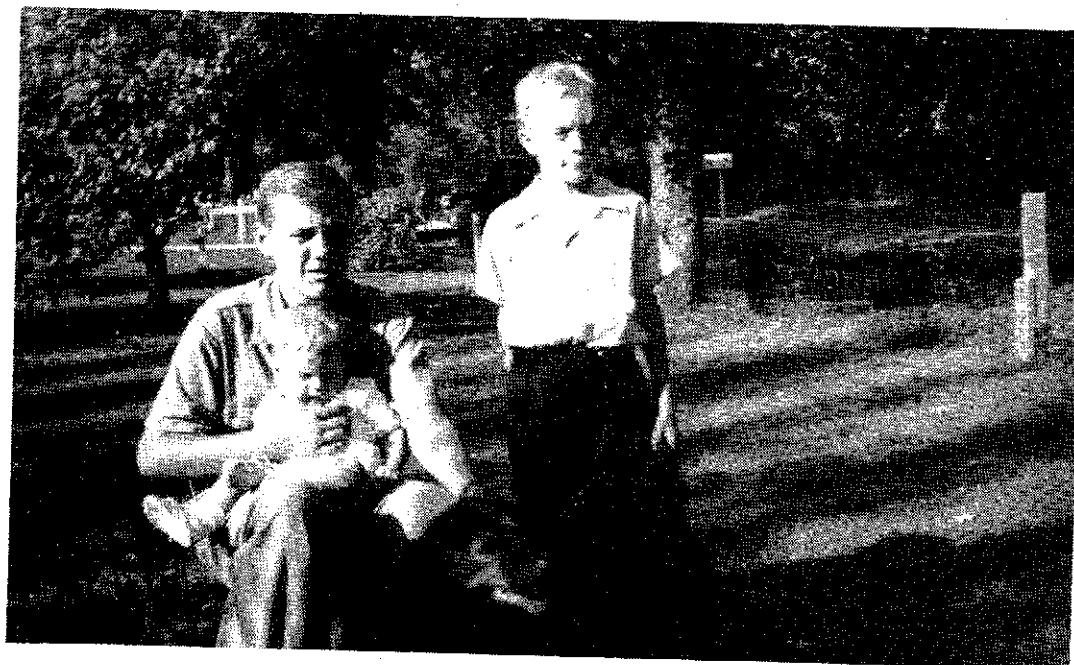
One of the out buildings was a brooder house. Here young chicks and geese were hatched--all by the book. We received much information from a gentleman farmer by the name of Roy Everson. The Eversons were like grandparents to us. They had a huge farm in Acton, Indiana. We loved to go there. Mr. Everson was the editor of the Farmers Guide. In addition, he did experimental farming for Purdue University. Whenever a problem developed, the Eversons would help out with an answer. They gave us information on how-to and where-to get the things the city folks needed for their projects.

A red hen was born and that hen became my favorite. So she grew and I watered her and fed her. After many months, "Red" disappeared and that Sunday we had chicken. From that day to this day, chicken is not a favorite food of mine.

The geese were fun to watch. They ruled the hen yard or at least the gander did. The gander and the rooster held their own territories. Dad did not get along with the rooster or the gander. Dad would only enter the hen yard to inspect or, on occasion, to gather eggs. The geese were seemingly always able to elude the fence and get into the estate property. Dad was on his way to the garage one morning when he noticed the gander hissing at him. Dad immediately stuck out his leg to kick the gander, but lost his balance and landed on his bottom. The gander was as surprised as Dad and flapped his wings and honked in great joy. Dad regained his dignity and went on to work with the gander still ruling the estate.

Another occasion, Mom was in the back yard resting--she was carrying Dick at the time--and all of a sudden a great noise arose from the back yard. Our dog, Rex (a collie), was chasing one of the geese. The goose sought a safe haven and came running to Mom and flopped on mom's lap. Rex was told to leave Susie alone and all was peaceful again. On a hot summer day, life was

pleasant under the persimmon tree. Orinoco was a good place to grow up--it was not necessary to lock the doors.



DONALD DICK HERBERT 1942

THE GARAGE

Johannes Karl had been trained in Kiel as a tool maker and then went to the University of Kiel, where he also learned electrical engineering. He was to design the electrical works for the ship Thuringia. This was the ship Mom and Dad eventually came to America on in 1925.

Dad's first love was cars. Dad's first dream was to work at Ford in Detroit. The first car he purchased was a Chrysler, which, according to Mom, must have been a taxi. It had so many miles and was always needing repairs. It was a very common sight to see Dad under the car or bent over the fender. He learned the workings of the auto engine.

Dad could seem to get the cars repaired. Though one occasion come to mind when he was "taken" by certain mechanics. We had a black and white Mercury as a second car. It had began to rust. One hot Sunday, a knock on the front door. Several Mexican men were looking for work and were willing to paint the rusty car for \$50. Whenever someone went out to see how they were doing, one of the Mexicans came out before we could get close and ask for something i.e.: drinking water. At least they finished and upon inspection the car looked okay. Several days later it rained and repair work disappeared! The mend used to patch the rust spots disappeared.

Cars were Dad's passion until television and pro football attracted his attention.

Mother began to learn to drive while Don and Herb were still very young. Wilhelmine had a difficult time getting the clutch and shift to work smoothly. Dad frequently said "give it gas-- give it gas". Finally he thought he would refrain from his advise. I, who was about 2 1/2, was sitting on Dad's lap when Dad didn't say anything I piped "give it gas". Mom said no more! She did take up driving in her later years and seemed to enjoy the opportunities driving afforded.

VI. THE GERMAN FAMILY DURING WORLD WAR II

1940-1945

- A. CHRISTA MAHRDT'S STORY
- B. HEINZ MAHRDT'S STORY
- C. LIESELOTTE REUTER'S STORY
- D. HANS J. KLEIN

Those of us living in America during the years 1940-1945 can't know and understand what war is really like. Many American soldiers' experiences were first hand in Europe or the Pacific.

But war on the home front was so different in Germany than what we were to experience in America. We had rationing of gasoline, meat, some types of food, and we also had air raid drills. We bought savings bonds and, as children, we helped to collect cans and scrap metal to help the war effort. We knew friends who lost sons, fathers, and brothers to this war but that was the extent of our contact with the war.

However, in Europe, it was different. I have asked Heinz Mahrtdt to explain his experiences as a soldier during the war and his capture by the Russians after the war. Christa Mahrtdt has written about her times. Lieselotte Klien Reuter tells us about life in Hamburg in the 1940's. Each family member has a different story, but my hope is that from these 3 life stories, we can get an understanding of the German family during those most difficult years.

I remember Dad and Mom both being concerned about their brothers and sisters. Little or no contact was possible after 1941. Letters that came prior to the United States entry to the war, were often censored. We had no idea what had happened to the family in Germany. Finally in 1945 the war ended. Bob Mahan was with the American army and Dad and Mom asked him to look up the family in Berlin. He found that they had all survived. He also provided some help for them.

Later on in the fall of 1945, letters began to arrive from Nicholas Klein telling of their great need. At this point, Dad and Mom began to send packages of food and clothing. There were many restrictions, but in spite of all the roadblocks, packages were sent to family and friends for three years after the war. Seldom a week went by that at least one package was not sent. Though Mom had been chided by Uncle Nicklas "to remain in her land" when she left for America, neither Dad nor Mom forgot their families at a time of great need.

The following sections are the personal stories of some of the European cousins. We wanted to show how World War II had an effect on the personal lives of the European Family. Each person has a story to tell, each person a history; we have looked at only a few. This history is not an attempt to have a complete history, but an overview. These stories then are but a small part in the lives each represented here.

Christa Mahrtdt tells of her flight from the Eastern front to Kiel. This type of story has been seldom told in published histories.

Lieselotte's story of her time in Hamburg during the war.

Heinz tells about his years as a prisoner of war in Russia.

Hans J. Klein tells of his struggle after the war and his job as overseer of the port of Hamburg.

A most moving life--that of Eli Paulsen and the loving letter she received from her foster mother.

Heinz and Christa



Heinz & Christa Wedding



Willi Mahrtdt



CHRISTA'S STORY

KIEL

When I was born in 1917, it was war and my father was serving in the army. He was an officer in the Leibhusaren-Regiment No. 1 that was under the leadership of the last German Crown-Prince Wilhelm. My mother was something like a maid of honor or a playmate of the crown-princess. The crown-princess became my godmother and as a present, I got marvelous jewelry, most of which had been stolen from our flat at the town of Konigsbert/Eastprussia after the war had finished.

The last Deathhead bracelet--my father's regiment was called: Deathhead Regiment--got lost during our flight (to the west).

For a long time I lived in my stepfather's house in the countryside, and I liked very much living in the countryside as there were so many animals around. Horse riding became a passion with me, and we had marvelous horses. My brother trained horses and rode them in tournaments. He has been an active officer in the army and later on had been in the diplomatic service, and had been an ambassador in foreign countries for a long time. My father also was a well-known jockey. He won a lot of prizes and his race horses were famous. Until 1943, he took part in the second world war in Russia and then retired as a general.

As I lived in the countryside, I got private lessons during my first school years together with other children. When I had to visit a grammar school later, my godmother, the crown-princess, helped me to get a scholarship in the famous Empress Augusta School in Potsdam. There was a strict discipline, nearly as strict as prison. But we learned a lot there. We had to wear uniforms, and there the well-known film, "Girls in Uniform", was made. Several times the crown-princess appeared and we had to bow - according to court etiquette. She often asked me to give her regards to my parents. Later, as a young girl in Berlin, I took part in many official balls and often the crown-princess was there and had me come for a talk.

My Flight From the East to the West in 1945

The Great War was in its 6th year and the Russians approached more and more and so in the beginning of January, 1945, we had to start our long journey traveling always west!!

We prepared for a long journey in horse drawn carriages. We women were alone the men were all serving in the war.

Without waiting for a government order any longer, we decided to leave the 19th of January when the front came nearer and nearer. Although we hoped to be back soon, we did not really believe in having the chance to return. We took the most

important things with us. Most important was to have food for men and animals. Some of our Polish workers accompanied us. So in the end, we started with 8 horse drawn carriages and 20 horses. It was winter and cold.

We also had 4 dogs with us. The first day we did not make many miles. Carriages of fleeing people arrived from all directions and nobody really knew which way to take for the west; so for the first night we stayed in a dairy farm that was not used any more. In the next morning, 3 carriages with their drivers and passengers were no longer there. It was said Polish people had decided to return. They preferred to stay at home, come what may. So only 5 carriages continued traveling west, one of them driven by my mother and one each by 2 young Polish men, one by a Frenchman, who worked with us, and I, myself, drove another boxcar; in the second evening we arrived at the river Weichesel. It was ice cold and snow was there; we did not know how to continue our journey. We were not able to use the bridges. There was a traffic jam and it was a real chaos. There were many desperate people. Small children became ill and were bitterly crying for cold. On the frozen fields cattle cried that had been taken out of the stables. Nobody was there to milk the cows and many soon died.

It had become late in the evening, and we stood at the banks of the river and noticed that many carriages came to the river and tried to cross it. Although the river was frozen, at many places the ice was not strong enough to carry carts and horses. It was cruel to see how many carriages sank into the river with their crying passengers. We were not able to help. For a long time we considered what to do. Then--I don't know if it was luck or instinct--I drove down to the river at a certain place and succeeded in crossing it. I was followed by more carriages. It was an inexpressible feeling to have got away once again. I praised our horses, and it was as if they understood what I was saying.

Not far from the river, we arrived at the estate of a relative. Finally we had a roof above our heads again, and the horses were taken care of. We had intended to stay there over night but the inspector, who had not yet left the estate, recommended us to go immediately because the Russians would be so near that in the next morning we might not have any chance to get away. So we decided not to stay. We could not take with us our stallion that was too wild.

Only five carriages and 12 horses had remained. The inspector warned us because partisans were hiding in the Tucheler Heide. Nevertheless we traveled during the night at moonshine keeping quiet as possible. After 8 hours we arrived at Tüchel without having had any problems. From now on it was somewhat quieter. Now we traveled north spending the nights in barns or in our carriages. The horses needed a rest from time to time, and I had to see for food and water for the animals. They were

most valuable and absolutely necessary for continuing our travel.

Often it was terribly cold, and we were desperate when considering our situation. We were dirty and ill and so on, but had to go on. We were happy that the frontline wasn't any longer so close.

It took us nearly a month to get to the estate of a good friend, who had not yet left. It was so good to have a hot bath again, to be clean, to have good meals, etc. Our horses were looked after. I was happy. We were invited to stay for a few days to recover, and we did so for 3 days. But then we decided to leave as our friends also had to start preparations to move westward themselves. They gave us food that otherwise they would have had to leave back!!

We took the Autobahn for the city of Stettin. Two horses went lame from walking too much on paved roads. We succeeded to treat them properly and did not have to leave them back. But after having passed Stettin we had to leave back a white horse. This was very sad. We traveled to Mecklenburg without being able to take our Arabian mares with us because they fowled. They had been used as horses to draw carriages. We also left back our carriages. For somebody who loves horses, it was a sad event indeed. Our Polish boys stayed with us and I used to care for them as far as was possible, and they appreciated it.

Now more and more refugees and carriages appeared from all directions, and I remember that at one place we passed lots of dead horses and poor human figures sitting around everywhere on cold roads. They did not want to live anymore, they were just waiting to die from the cold. How could we help? There were also dead children lying around. Sometimes deep snow prevented us from going on--and that at night! It took us hours to get free. Our good horses kept still inspite of the terrible cold. I wonder why we were not frozen. But we got louses etc. caused by that great dirt. Very often we only could use snow to wash ourselves.

Our aim was Holstein as my husband's home was in Kiel. The only chance to meet him again would be to go to Kiel. Not far from the town of Lubeck, we suddenly were bombed from British airplanes. We hid behind our heavy carts and were lucky that no one was hurt. They disappeared as quickly as they had arrived. After 3 more nights that we partly spent in barns, we arrived in Kiel on the 26th of March, 1945.

Translation of letter from Wilhelmine Wehle to Karl & Eli Paulsen
Paulsen:

Arnis--August, 1940

My loves Karl and Eli:

I am alone at home and so, I recall, in my old age my whole life. First heartfelt thanks for the love you have given me during all the years we have been together.

Now, I shall make a short course of my life. I was born June 1, 1853 in this house. I have had with my parents and brother, a very nice childhood and fine youth. In 1875 I was married and had a very happy marriage with my husband and children. Our son died at the age of 11. It was a very sad time for us. My marriage was far too short for me. After 22 happy years, my dear husband died--1/6/1898.

Now, as I write in 1940, I am a widow 42 years and have become very old.

I have lost much money through the inflation and become poor. I have had to live from a bank trust account. This came from the interest and money exchange during the inflation.

In the 40 some years I have lived without a husband, I have lived without fault--always able to pay my way what I needed for daily living.

What is left when I am gone, I give to a loving Eli and Karl Paulson. In a 1933 will, I leave everything to you dear Eli and Karl for all you have done.

Heartfelt thanks and greetings in my love to Eli.

Wilhelmine Wehle

As of this writing, August 6, 1987, Eli Paulson still lives in the home. Eli was given to Wilhelmine at an age of 6 days to be trained for a short time--but the family Mattheism was never able to reclaim her and she had acquired a fine and loving home.

Kiel

At last, after 4 1/2 years as a prisoner of war in Russia, I arrived back home. Happy! Even though it is not the homeland I left behind, we hope that better days are in the future. Reporting in Kiel, where I am under medical care, I am compelled to shuttle between Blissdorf, where Tutt's folks live and Kiel, because we are unable to find living quarters there at present.

The 4 1/2 years in Russia were the most terrible in human endurance. Hunger was our constant companion. Morning, noon, and evenings our meals consisted of a watery soup with a few cabbage leaves and 200 garm bread. Clothed in rags for months without shoes or even rags to cover our feet. Those of us able to read English noticed that packages sent by the Red Cross and from America containing shoes and clothing were sold to the nation.

We were forced to do 8-10 hours of hard labor, thousands died of hunger and exhaustion. Thousands were sent to Siberia for 20-25 years because, driven by hunger, they would steal a piece of bread or potato.

I was in a different camp consisting of 1,500 men. The cemetery of each camp was never under 2,000 graves. In the years 1945-1947--18-25 died every day.

As an officer, I did not work until 1946.

That year we were sent to cook in a lumber camp near Archangelsk. For many months the temperature goes down to 50 below and for 3 months it gets extremely hot.

Under these starvation conditions, I was unable to holdup. My weight got down to 75 pounds. I was sent to a hospital and later to a convalescent camp.

From there, because I disappointed the Russians in clinging to dear life, they put me to work in a coal mine.

For me, this was work I had only read about. We worked in a shaft 600 meters down on a ledge of 60cm. After 10 hours labor, many days not even water to wash and a clean shirt once a month.

I worked there until April, 1949 when I was unable to go on, I was given work on top. It sure was a welcome change to work under free skies. Later on, until my final discharge--October 31, 1949--I worked as a brick mason. You can imagine the kind of houses we built!

Worst of all we went through the terrible suspense of not hearing from home. The first word I had was in the fall of 1946.

Lieselotte KLEIN Reuter

Hamburg, July, 1987

I, myself, Lieselotte Reuter, geb Gillein, was born in 1919 in the house of my father's parents in Kiel. My father, Nikolaus Klein, was displaced to "Reichshahn-Direktion" in Hamburg-Seton. Till then he had worked as an engineer at the Imperial Howaldt-Werft. In consequence of the lost first world war--1914-1918, there was no work for the dockyards. Commercial life was broken down. Most people lost their work. Only some could get a new work place. At that time there also was a big housing problem. There were too little apartments. So my father had to live alone for two years in (1) one room in Atlanta before he could get an apartment for his family. During the inflation time, my mother and we children were fed by my grandparents, because the money lost its value in a very short time, often one day to another day. My father had to try at once, when he got his profit, to buy things my parents must have for a bigger apartment. We lived in Hamburg since 1925, my two brothers and I went to school in Hamburg and studied there.

When in 1939 the second world war began, the studying of my brothers and husband at the university were stopped sharp, they had to be soldiers and had to take part at the whole war, which at last was finished in 1945. Therefore they lost eight and a half years (half year Labour Conscription, two years military service before the war and six years during the war). Hans Joachim and Helmut, my two brothers, took part in the war as officers in the Marines. Helmut on a torpedo boat, in later time on a submarine boat, and Hans Joachim in the Marines artillery in Germany at last in Norway. My husband, Dr. Wilhelm Reuter, had to take part at the whole military campaign in France and Soviet-Russia as an officer in a horse artillery regiment. The three had to have good luck to overcome the terrible war and to escape war imprisonment. After the war they could bring their studies to an end on hard terms. Hamburg was a very hard district, whole streets were swept away, only rubbish and ash. There were big housing problems and hunger. It took many many years until Hamburg was built again. Today Hamburg is again one of the most beautiful towns of Germany.

I studied before war and in war and did my examination as a teacher in October 1940. I became a teacher at a school in Hamburg. Only one month I worked in Hamburg; one day I had to teach and sometimes a week I had to do brand watch in school in the night. From November 1940 through August 1941 I was engaged as a teacher in the "KLV" (Kinderlandnennung). In the meantime, it was too dangerous to live in Hamburg because of the bombing raids. Children and old people were brought to an area which was less dangerous. The teachers had to be soldiers and the female teachers had to go into the "KLV" to have the care of the children and to teach them. For example, we were sent to

Bavaria and Poland. My first office of a teacher in the "KLV" I have had in Bayneuth in Bavaria. I had to take parents place and teach. The teacher lived together with the children in one house. August 1941 I fell ill and got pneumonia and Pleunitis. March 1942 till November 1943 I had to work again in Bavaria. December 1943 till the beginning of 1944 I was sent to Poland and had to teach there near Krakun. When it also became too dangerous there, all children and teachers were brought back to Hamburg. March 1944 children were evacuated to south Germany, I was sent that way together with twenty girls and stayed there till April 1945. At that time I was replaced and came back to Hamburg. My follower was bombed out and so she got a new lodging. The apartment of my parents had been spared. Therefore, I was in Hamburg when the capitalization came in August of 1945.

Because all schools were closed, I had to do work in the "Wirtschaftsamt" to give out delivery orders and Lebensmittelkarten. My school was bombed out totally. After the war I was displaced to another school. To begin teachers to clean stones and rubbish away.

When existence nearly was normal again, children and adults had returned, schools were opened anew. I had to give education in the morning and in the afternoon because there were less schools, a lot of them were bombed out or had damage. So children had to go to school one week in the morning and the other week in the afternoon. For the same reason, children could not get full educations. Housing conditions were very bad, small and after the war when hunger was extremely great, Sweden helped and took care of children at school. They sent them at school a warm meal: milk, soup or a one dish meal. Soon after war, construction of town had started and was going on emergency. Everyone had to help on building up.

September, 1950 my colleague and our pupils were able to move into our hard damaged but a new built school. But also now it must give education in shifts for some years.

I got married in 1948 and still taught for two and one-half years. Only now my husband had ended his studies and had got a permanent place. So only now we could begin to organize our existence new and to save for an apartment for our own. Finally in 1955 we could move in our own house. We had had to live together with my parents in their apartment for seven years because all our savings had gotten lost through currency reform and we must help ourselves. Also, Peter, my eldest son, who was born 1949, still had to go at school in shifts when he had been a pupil in the first school class. But then second school life began to normalize.

HANS J.

From February, 1951 until August, 1980, I was employed at the AMT Fur Strom and Hafenbau, part of the Hamburg "Behorde Fur Wirtschaft".

It consists of 4 main departments, which consisted of engineering and harbour railway.

There are 2,550 employees--330 of them are working as engineers, technicians or workers. It has to do with planning, construction and main eva manning of plants in the Hamburg Harbor. These are within the responsibility of MD Machinery and electric equipment, mainly crows, etc. heating, and ventilation, electric energy, radio and television technics.

MB is running mainly the St. Pauli tunnel underneath the river Elbe. Three backwater locks and 11 movable bridges, 11 on shore radar septenes and a central office (from 1079) telephone lines for all boards within the harbor. Unique in its construction, it, the Elbe tunnel with its 8 lifts to bring up and own cars a remarkable building, is the Kattwyu bridge for railway and road traffic. It can be lifted up to 45.70 m (unique to the world).

At the beginning of my time there, I was the director of the underdepartment "Betriebe" and during the last 12 years of all MD.

Besides that, as the highest ranked civil servant in the engineering level within in the Hamburg administration. I have been working as an expert in cranes in different organizations... H. J. Klien.

When Dick and I were given a tour of Hamburg Harbor in 1957, we had the opportunity to ride with the cars on the Elbe tunnel elevators. We also got to ride the lift bridge and saw all the autos wait while we took our ride up, and what a view of the harbor!

In addition, the wonderful boat tour of the huge harbor and watching ships come and go--a tour one will never forget.

VII. LIST OF FAMILY SAYINGS--TRADITIONS, ETC.

SPRICHWORTER

1. Die Axt im Hause erstetzt den Zimmermann.
2. Der Spatz in der hand ist besser als die Taube auf dem Dash.
3. Morgenstund hat Gold im Mund
4. Je spater der Abend je schoner die Gaste.
5. Fruende in der Not gehen 1000 auf ein Lot.
6. Wer geld hat schickt seine Frau in Bad, werkein's hat schrubbt sie selber ab.
7. Wasser hat keine Balken.
8. Ein Ungluck kommt selten allein.
9. Wer sich selbst erhoht soll erniedright werden.
10. Ein Schwalbe macht noch keinen Sommer.
11. Der Mensch denkt Gott lenkt.
12. Klein aber oho.
13. Wer anderen eine Grube grabt fallt selbst hinein.
14. Reden ist Silber Schweigen ist Gold.
15. Man soll den Tag nicht vor den Abend loben.
16. Wo man singt da lass dich nieder, bos Wenschen haben keine.
17. Lieder. Lasst Blumen sprechen.
18. Hab Sonne im Herzen und Swiebeln im Bauch, dann kannst du but scherzeen und Luft hast du auch.
19. Wer im Glashaus sitzt soll nicht mit Steinen werfen.
20. Bellende Hunde beissen nicht.
21. Wer schlaft, sundigt nicht.
22. Der Herbst had auch schone Tage.
23. Wenn die Frauen Verbluhen verduften die Manner.
24. Wer den Pfennig Nicht ehrt ist des Telers nicht wert.
25. Wer nicht liebt, Wein, Weib und Gesang, bleibt ein Trottel sein Leben lang.
26. Man soll den Tag nicht vor den Abend loben.
27. Das letzte Hend hat keine Taschen.
28. Einem nackten Mann kann keiner in die Tasche greifen.
29. Der Prophet gilt nichts im eigenem Land.
30. Kleine Kinder Kleine Sorgen, grosse Kinder grosse Sorgen.
31. Viele Koche verderben den Brei.
32. Liebe geht durch den Magen.
33. Salz auf Brot macht Wangen rot.
34. Arbeit macht das Lebern suss, Faulheit starkt die Glieder.
35. Der Krug geht solange zu Wasser bis er bricht.
36. Wer nicht horen will muss fuhlen.
37. Jeder Topf findet seinen Deckel.
38. Wenn der Han kraht auf dem mist, andert sich das Wetter oder es bleibt wie es ist.
39. Wer nicht kommt zur rechten Zeit, muss nehmen was ubrig bleiht.
40. Der dummste Baure hat die grossten Kartoffel.
41. Probieren geht uber studieren.
42. Es trinkt der Mensch, es sauft das Pferd, bei manchen ist es umgekehrt.
43. Wo die Weisheit wachst müssen die Haare weichen.
44. Es wird nichts so heiss gegessen als es gekockt wird.
45. Sich regen bringt Segen.
46. Wie man in den Wald hereinrufst, so schallt es hinaus.
47. Ist der Chef nicht zu Haus, tanzen die Mause auf dem Tisch.
48. Wer schreibt der bleibt.
49. Messer, Schere, gabel, Licht, ist fur kleine Kinder nichts.

THE COUSINS

<u>Kiel</u>	Heinz Mahrtdt Elfrieda Mahrtdt Lattwesen Irma Mahrtdt Kiel* Hans Eckhardt	Mahrtdt Mahrtdt Mahrtdt Korra
<u>Hamburg</u>	Helmut Klein Hans J. Klein Lieselotte Reuter	Mahrtdt Mahrtdt Mahrtdt
<u>Berlin</u>	Lieselotte Picker	Mahrtdt
<u>Reutlingen</u>	Karl Heinz Radl	Mahrtdt
<u>Indianapolis</u>	John Donald Korra Herbert Mahrtdt Korra Richard Carl Korra	Korra Korra Korra

*deceased

As of December of 1987, with parents in all cases deceased, the relationship of the two families is 1st cousins. The children of the 1st cousins are therefore 2nd cousins.

The Karo family in Grossenbroder are 2nd cousins to, John Donald, Herbert Marhdt, Richard Karl Korra and to Hans Eckhardt.

A Grossenborder

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous

The miscellaneous section contains information about the first transatlantic family gathering in Arnis Germany. Heinz Mahrtdt, after hearing about our Thanksgiving family gatherings in Indianapolis, thought it would be possible for the family to hold a meeting to honor the founder of the Mahrtdts. The summary of that meeting--June 20 1982--is from Heinz Mahrtdt.

Included in this section is a letter with reference to the Karo family.

Also included are some copies of the major documents relating to the family meeting to be in the Hartz Mountain region of West Germany. This meeting will take place in the summer of 1988.

It is a goal that this family history will be distributed to all family members by that time.

The first family gathering took place in Arnis on June 20th 1982. Thirty-one attended a first ever meeting. The original invitation was issued by Heinz Mahrtdt and is reproduced here in German. (pp. 117 B, C, D, E)

The second gathering to take place has been set up for June 24th 1988 in Central Germany. The invitation has been translated on page 117-117A

We believe there, family gatherings are quite unique in the history of trans-atlantic families.

"Translation of Letter from Heinz Mahrtdt for the next family meeting in Germany in 1988"

Date: Friday, June 24-26, 1988

Meet: June 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Waldhotel-Aschenhute in Hartz Mountains

6:00 p.m. Cocktails

6:30 p.m. Dinner-which will include soup, dessert, and choice of meat from the menu.

Sat.: 7:00 a.m. Full breakfast with juice, eggs, etc.

Tour: 9:30 a.m. by bus--from Aschenhutte through the beautiful Siebertal to Clausthal-Zellerfeld where a bronze age museum can be visited. Further on to Goslar to visit a castle and then on to Bad Harzburg, a small town on the northern edge of the Harzs. Next on to Torfhaus and a view of the highest mountains in Harz (in East Germany)--on to Braunlage and here it is possible to take a ski lift to the highest point in Western Hartz--where one should be able to see the German border. Return to hotel about 5:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. A traditional farmer dinner with music, dancing, and Sun--Late Breakfast.

Price includes--per person single room with meals listed above 150 DM and double per person 160 DM--does not include drinks.

Tour bus will cost 250 DM--about 6-8 DM per person depending on how many sign up.

Note: Please notify Heinz Mahrtdt by Christmas 1987 of your room requirements (note a 1.5 oz letter to Germany airmail cost 44 cents). In case of illness, you may cancel your room.

In case you do not like the plan, feel free to suggest another.

Many Greetings

Heinz

In addition, a map is included--please save it to use if you intend to go. General directions--take Autobahn (4?) from Frankfurt direction Kassel. Follow Autobahn past Kassel, past Gottinaen to Northeim. Follow exit road Katlenburt Wulften and on to Aschenhutte. At this point in time 26 of the German family intend to be there. That's about 90%. Hope to see you there--Herb.

Heinz Mahrdt
23 Kiel 14
Werftstraße 73
Tel.: 0431/724313

Kiel, Juli 1987

R u n d s c h r e i b e n !

Betr.: Familienteffen 1988

Das Datum für ein Treffen 1988 steht fest:

Es ist der 24.6. - 26.6.1988!

Eintreffen also am 24.6.88 bis 18 Uhr abends im Waldhotel Aschenhütte.

Ca. 18,30 Empfangsgetränk, danach Abendessen mit
Suppe, Hauptgang und Dessert.
Gedeckauswahl nach Karte.

Sonnabend: Ab 7⁰⁰ Uhr grosses Frühstücksbuffet mit
Fruchtsäften, Ei usw.

Ca 9³⁰ Uhr grosse Harzrundfahrt:

Aschenhütte, Herzberg durch das schöne Siebertal nach
Clausthal-Zellerfeld, dort Besichtigung des Bergwerkmuseums.
Weiterfahrt nach Goslar mit Besuch der berühmten Kaiserpfalz,
von hier aus geht es weiter nach Bad Harzburg, eine Klein-
stadt am Nordrand des Harzes. Von hier aus geht es weiter
nach Torfhaus mit Blick auf den Brocken, der höchsten Erhe-
bung im Harz in der DDR, mit Weiterfahrt nach Braunlage.
Hier besteht die Möglichkeit zur Fahrt mit der Seilbahn
auf den Wurmberg, der höchsten Erhebung des Harzes auf der
Seite der Bundesrepublik; weiter nach Hohegeiß zur Grenzbe-
sichtigung der DDR. Von dort über Zorge, Walkenried (Kloster-
besichtigung), Bad Sachsa, Bad Lauterberg, Herzberg zurück
zum Hotel. - Ankunft im Hotel ca. 17,30 Uhr.

Ca. 19³⁰ Uhr Rustikales Fuhrmannsessen mit Verlosung eines
wertvollen Harzer Talers, mit Musik und Tanz.

Sonntagmorgen: für alle (vielleicht auch Spätaufsteher nach
einer langen Nacht)
ab 9,30 Uhr Brunch (breakfast und lunch)
Also Frühstück und Mittag zusammen!

Anschliessend Abreise

Der Inklusivpreis (ausser Getränke) beträgt pro Person DM 150,-
Einzelzimmer DM 160,--.

Der Preis hat sich erhöht, weil er das Essen am Freitag a la
carte und Sonntag Brunch beinhaltet. Ich glaube, dass wir
mit diesem Preis gut bedient sind.

Der Bus für die Rundfahrt wird 250,-- kosten, also je nach
Teilnahme 6,-- bis 8,-- DM pro Person.

Ich bitte, mir bis Weihnachten 1987 betr. Teilnahme und
Zimmerwünsche Nachricht zu geben!

Ausfälle durch Krankheit usw. können leider nicht voraus-
gesehen werden.

Sollte der eine oder andere noch Vorschläge haben,
bitte ich um umgehende Nachricht.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Heinz

R u n d s c h r e i b e n
.....

an alle Nachkommen des Christopher Hinrich M a r t h
(ab 1814 - Mahrt, ab 1825 - Mahrtdt) geb. 11.12.1784-Arnis.

Betrifft: Familientreffen 1987.

Auf Wunsch mehrerer Familienmitglieder ist wieder ein Treffen geplant. Ich hatte gedacht, dasselbe auf einer Burg an der "Romantischen Strasse" in der Nähe von Würzburg abzuhalten. Die Besitzer der Burg - Verwandte von Christa - haben jahrelang hierfür ihre Räumlichkeiten zur Verfügung gestellt.

Seit 1986 sind aber alle Räume an Dauergäste vermietet und so fällt leider dieser Ort aus.-

Ich schlage nun wieder Kiel oder Arnis vor.

Eventuell Kiel oder Umgebung und ein gemeinsamer Ausflug auf dem Wasser. Auch jeder andere Ort könnte in Frage kommen. Ich wäre für dementsprechende Vorschläge dankbar. Als Monat würde wohl wieder der Juni oder Juli in Frage kommen.

Allerdings ist immer um den 20. Juni herum der Beginn der "Kieler Woche" und daher hier sehr schlecht ein Hotelzimmer zu bekommen.

Vorerst bitte ich folgende Punkte baldmöglichst zu beantworten:

- 1.) Besteht Interesse?
- 2.) Wäre der Zeitpunkt Juni oder Juli 1987 passend?
- 3.) Wenn nicht, welcher andere Termin käme dann in Frage?
- 4.) Anregungen und Vorschläge für dieses Treffen werden erbeten.
- 5.) Tagesablauf usw. später.
- 6.) ~~Bei Beantwortung bitte ich um einen Porto-Unkostenbeitrag von 0,80 DM in Briefmarken.~~

Antwort erbitte ich bis Ende April 1986 an mich.-

Ich wünsche allen ein recht schönes Frühjahr nach diesem kalten Winter und hoffe, niemanden wegen einer Antwort mahnen zu müssen. Mit den besten Wünschen

Heinz

Heinz Mahrtdt
Werftstrasse 73

2300 Kiel 14 , den 23. Februar 1986
Tel.: 0431/724313

1ST GERMAN-AMERICAN
MEETING — ARNIS 1982

1. Familien-Treffen der Nachkommen der Brüder
John und Gustav M a h r d t am 20.6.1982 in Arnis.

Anwesend waren:

1. Kurt Mahr^Adt I
2. Margret Mahr^Adt
3. Kurt Mahr^Adt II
4. Linda Mahr^Adt
5. Kurt Mahr^Adt III
6. Caroline Mahr^Adt
7. Betsy Mahr^Adt
8. Margie Mahr^Adt
9. Herbert Korra
10. Karla Korra
11. Elfriede Lattwesen
12. Christoph Lattwesen
13. HÄns-Joachim Klein
14. Traudl Klein
15. Kirstin Klein
16. Helmut Klein
17. Charlotte Klein
18. Lieselotte Reuter
19. Peter Reuter
20. Michael Reuter
21. Karl-Heinz Rädlein
22. Burghilt Rädlein
23. Helmut Rädlein
24. Marianne Rädlein
25. Bettina Rädlein
26. Henning Rädlein
27. Heinz Mahr^Adt
28. Christa Mahr^Adt
29. Bob Mahan als Gast
30. Ted Mahan als Gast
31. Elli Paulsen.

Auf Anregung von unserem Vetter Hans-Joachim und Überschlafen dieses Gedankens wurde ein Treffen, zunächst der in Deutschland lebenden Mahrdrtschen Nachkommen geplant.

Da so etwas in unserer Familie noch nicht stattgefunden hatte und keinerlei Hilfsmittel vorlagen, wurde zunächst ein Anschreiben gemacht, um die Reaktion der Einzelnen zu prüfen. Als dann spontan von Kusine Lieselotte (Hamburg) und Vetter Karl-Heinz positive Antworten kamen, ging es ans Nachdenken und Planen. Als Treffpunkt wurde Arnis, der Geburtsort unseres Großvaters Gustav Mahrdrdt, gewählt. Nun kam der Ablauf! Mir fiel nicht sehr viel ein!! Also erstmal Pause ----. In der Pause ein Sprung über den Ozean, denn da wohnen ja auch Mahrdrts. Dass von ihnen sofort Antworten und 12 Zusagen kamen - trotz erheblicher Unkosten - zeugt von der Verbundenheit zur Familie und der Liebe zur Heimat der Eltern. Nun gab es kein Zurück mehr. Der Termin wurde in Absprache festgelegt und ein Tagesprogramm entstand.- Für Christa und mich begannen die Überlegungen: Wie bringen wir die 4 Amerikaner und 6 Reutlinger unter? Es kam aber noch schlimmer, denn am Mittag vor dem Treffen kamen die letzten 8 Amerikaner und wussten nicht, wo sie ihr müdes Haupt betten konnten. Wir hatten angenommen, sie hätten von Amerika aus Hotelbuchungen vorgenommen. Etliche Telefonate brachten keinen Erfolg, da in Kiel ja gerade die 100. ste "Kieler Woche" anlief. Dann kam der rettende Gedanke: wir haben ja noch eine Verwandte auf dem Lande, 20 km entfernt - und tatsächlich, es klappte. Die Familie Kurt Mahrdrdt, nachdem sie sich an Christa's Suppe gestärkt hatte, (immer noch ein Schuß Wasser dazu, damit es reicht) wurde von mir dorthin geleitet und kam später zum Bratwurstgrillen zurück. Herbert musste umziehen, damit Ted und Bob in seinem Zimmer unterkamen. Betsy kam bei Frau Schwichtenberg (eine Nachbarin) unter. Bettina, Karla und Margret bei uns auf dem Boden. Ich habe das nette Gekicher des abends vorm Schlafengehen noch in den Ohren. Karl-Heinz und Burghilt wohnten bei Maritta (Christa's Schwester), Helmut und Marianne bei Frau Schwichtenberg und Henning bei uns im Vorderzimmer. -

Der Rest, alle über 30 Jahre alt, versammelte sich zum Grillbratwurstessen und gemütlichem Zusammensein und Erzählen. Steaks wurden abgelehnt, aber der Bratwurst wurde fleissig zugesprochen. Dann führte ich den Film über meine Russlandreise vor und auch den Film über unseren Aufenthalt 1980 in Indianapolis und Florida mit Tante Mimi.

Nachdem die Jugend von der "Kieler Woche" zurück war, ging es gegen 24 Uhr ins Bett, um uns am nächsten Tag zeitig in Arnis zu treffen.

10 Uhr war Treffen an der Kirche in Arnis, um gemeinsam den Gottesdienst anzuhören. Hier treffen auch die Hamburger Verwandten ein mit Elfriede und Christoph. Lieselotte (Hamburg) kommt mit 2 Söhnen und Hans-Joachim mit Traudl und Tochter Kirstin. Ebenso treffen Helmut und Charlotte aus Hamburg ein. Es ist garnicht so leicht, alle rechtzeitig in die Kirche zu bekommen, denn alle haben sich lange nicht gesehen und viele kannten sich noch garnicht. Vom Gottesdienst habe ich nicht sehr viel mitbekommen, meine Gedanken schweiften zurück zu den Ahnen und vielleicht hatte gerade auf meinem Platz schon einer gegessen!

Nach dem Gottesdienst wurde dann ein alter Grabstein der Familie aus dem Jahre 1826, der Friedhof und die alte Seefahrerkirche besichtigt. Ich freute mich, dass gerade die Jugend so viele Fragen stellte und Interesse zeigte. Bei dem anschließenden Spaziergang durch die Stadt, eine Straße mit wunderschönen alten Häusern, beschnupperte man sich dann gegenseitig, um sich bei den alten Häusern der Familie wieder zu treffen. Erinnert Ihr Euch noch an den Spion am Fenster? Viele alte Mahrtd's werden dort gegessen haben, - es war der Fernseher ihrer Zeit!!

Zu Elli Paulsen: Wilhelmine Wehle, geb. Mahrtd, Patin von Tante Mimi, hatte keine Kinder. Elli Paulsen wuchs bei ihr auf wie Kind im Hause und war mit Tante Mimi eng befreundet. Sie pflegte Tante "Mine" mit ihrem Mann Karl Paulsen in Dankbarkeit aufopferungswürdig bis zu ihrem Tode, war also immer eng mit der Familie verbunden. Ihr Mann starb 1980.

Der Besuch im Hause wird jedem von uns in Erinnerung bleiben. Nun ging es zum gemeinsamen Mittagessen ins Fischerhaus. Zum Essen selbst möchte ich mich nicht weiter auslassen, ich hatte es mir anders vorgestellt, aber beim ersten mal fehlt eben die Erfahrung, so etwas auf die Beine zu stellen. Nach dem Essen und einem Gewitterguß ging es dann wieder durch die Stadt zum Hause von Elli Paulsen, wo eine Aufnahme vom ganzen Clan an der Schlei gemacht wurde. Ob Henning, trotz 5 oder 6 Fotoapparaten, Mist gemacht hat, weiss ich nicht, denn ich habe noch nichts zu Gesicht bekommen! - Nach Eintragung in das Gästebuch und nochmaligem Bewundern des Kachelofens und der schönen alten Möbel ging es dann an's "Ende der Welt" sprich Strassenmündung Schlei.

Nun musste langsam Abschied genommen werden. Henning fuhr mit Karla und Margret nach Berlin. Die beiden Mädchen kamen dann am Dienstag wieder und waren voller neuer Eindrücke, hatten sie doch die Deutsch-Deutsche Grenze in natura erlebt. -

Bob und Ted fuhren Richtung Heidelberg, um für Kurt und Familie Quartier zu machen, Lieselotte (Hamburg, mit Söhnen Richtung Hamburg, ebenfalls Helmut und Charlotte. Wir übrigen trafen uns zum Kaffee-Trinken in Strande bei Puls. Der Rest, 8 Amerikaner, Karl-Heinz und Burghilt, Helmut und Marianne, Bettina, Christa und ich haben dann in Preetz im Tannenhof zum Abend gegessen, gut und reichlich. - So ging also dieser Tag zu Ende. Für alle, so glaube ich, ein Tag der Erinnerung und des Kennenlernens. Karla und Margret schrieben mir anschliessend, sie hätten neue Freunde gewonnen und ich nehme an, dass wir sie bald in Deutschland wiedersehen werden! Auch Linda wird ihr Deutsch-Studium fortsetzen, welches sie mit Fleiß hier begonnen hat und nicht das letzte mal in Deutschland gewesen sein.

So danke ich allen für ihr Kommen, vor allem der Jugend, und sollte der Wunsch bestehen, dieses Familientreffen zu wiederholen in 2 oder 3 Jahren, so laßt es mich wissen. Es schwebt mir dann ein gemeinsames Wohnen über das Wochenende und gemeinsamer Abend vor.

Ich wünsche allen Gesundheit und ein
Fröhliches Wiedersehen

1175 *flang.*

4. Mädchen-Mittelschule in Kiel.

(9-stufig.)

Als vollausgestaltete Mittelschule nach den Bestimmungen vom 3. Februar 1910 anerkannt durch Ministerialerlaß
vom 8. März 1912.

Abgangszeugnis.Wilhelmine Mahrt

geboren am 14. ten Juli 1901 in Kiel, Kreis Kiel

unverh. ledig. Bekenntnisses, Sohn — Tochter —
des Marina, Oberleutnant Mahrt in Kiel, zuerst eingeschult

am 23. April 1902, eingetreten in Klasse 9 der 4. Mädchen-

Mittelschule am 23. ten April 1903, hat die Klasse 1 besucht

vom 27. ten April 1916 an und wird am 24. ten März 1917

aus dieser Klasse entlassen.

Führung: sehr gut

Kenntnisse und Fertigkeiten:

Religionslehre: 3Deutsch: 3Englisch: 3Französisch: —Geschichte: 3Erdkunde: 3Rechnen und Algebra: 2Raumlehre: —Naturgeschichte: 3Naturlehre: 3Schreiben: 3Zeichnen: 3Singen: 2Turnen: 2Handarbeit: 3Handfertigkeit: —Hauswirtschaft: —Gartenbau: —

Er — Sie — hat das Ziel der Schule erreicht.

Kiel, den 24. März 1917

Der Rektor:

Rathje

D. Klassenlehrer:



Reihenfolge der Urteile:

1 sehr gut, 2 gut, 3 genügend, 4 nicht genügend.

Culturen
 von
 Obst-, Zier- und Allee-
 bäumen
 Coniferen * Sträuchern
 Rosen * Maiblumen
 Wildlingen
 Forst- und Heckpflanzen etc.
 *
 Telegramme:
Husumer Baumschulen
Husum.
 *
 Conto:
 Schleswig-Holsteinische Bank
 zu Husum.

Husumer Baumschulen
 von
W. Matthiessen
HUSUM (Schleswig).

Husum, den 15.8.19.

Z e u g n i s .
 =====

Hiermit bescheinige ich Frl. Wilhelmine Mahrdt, geb. am 14 Juli 01 zu Kiel-Ellerbek, dass sie vom 13 März d.J. bis heute bei mir als junges Mädchen mir in jeder Weise treu, fleissig u. zuvorkommend zur Seite gestanden hat. Sie hat verstanden sich durch ihr freundliches, bescheidenes Wesen in kurzer Zeit in der ganzen Familie beliebt zu machen, sodass wir sie gerne länger behalten hätten. Ihre Stellung verlässt sie, da der Arzt wünscht, dass Ihre Mutter gepflegt werden soll.

Ich wünsche ihr ein ferneres gutes Fortkommen

Frau Ellen Matthiessen:

Deutsche Werke Aktiengesellschaft Werft Kiel

Neubau, Umbau und Reparatur von Schiffen aller Art :: Maschinen :: Triebwagen
Eisenbahnwagen :: Elektrotechnik und Feinmechanik :: Blechwaren

Drahtanschrift: DEUTSCHWERFT

Fernsprecher: Kiel 6120—28

GIRO-KONTO:

Vereinsbank Kiel :: Reichsbank Kiel

Postscheckkonto Hamburg 34157

Kiel, den 11. Mai
Schließfach 55

1922.

Fräulein

Wilhelmine M a h r d t .

Kiel - Ellerbek.

Plönerstrasse 13.

Abtlg.	Verwertung.
Nr.	Hl./Hö.
Vorstehende Angaben sind in der Antwort anzugeben	

Z e u g n i s .

Fräulein M a h r d t ist in unserem Büro seit dem
1. Oktober 1920 als Stenotypistin tätig.

Sie ist perfekte Stenotypistin. In den ersten Monaten
wurde Sie in unserer Kartothek mit der Aufstellung und Führung von
Materiallisten beschäftigt und war dann bis zum heutigen Datum in un-
serer Expedition tätig. Hier lag Ihr u.a. die verantwortungsvolle Ar-
beit der Ausfertigung der Versand-Aufträge, der Ausgangsausweise usw.
ob. Auch zur Korrespondenz wurde sie gelegentlich herangezogen. Sie
zeigte sich bei uns als eine außerordentlich fleissige, gewissenhafte
und zuverlässige Dame, die sich leicht in die ihr übertragenen Arbeiten
hineinfand und sie stets zu unserer Zufriedenheit erledigte. —

Wir wünschen ihr für die Zukunft alles Gute. —

Deutsche Werke Aktiengesellschaft
Verwertungsabteilung Kiel.

Hilber

FROM FRIENDS TO
WILHELMINE MAHRDT
UPON HER DEPARTURE
FOR AMERICA

K i e l , den 15. Mai 1925

Ellerbek's begrünte Pfade
können wenig Menschen tragen
und so kommt es wohl mit vor,
dass aus diesem engen Tor
mit T'schin, T'schin und Bumtrara
Leut' ziehn nach Amerika.

Ja, selbst Leute, die am Tage
spüren wenig Mühsal, Plage
nur weil sie, man kann es glauben,
woll'n den Yankees Dollars rauben,
ziehen schreiend über's Meer
gebt uns eure Dollars her !

Soviel wie Deutschland hat an Fliegen
sollen da die Dollars liegen
auf der Strasse und noch so
brauch man nur zu suchen wo
die da waren, tun's beschwören
und so lässt man sich betören.

Auch vonsensten kommt die Sucht,
dass man so nach Dollars sucht:
man hat doch auf der Schreibmaschine,
Annie oder Wilhelmine,
aufgetippt so wunderbar:
1 Goldmark = Dollar !

Solches tut dann mächtig viel,
fortzugehen hier von Kiel.
Packt die Koffer, steigt zu Schiffe
und umsegelt Felsenriffe.
Wenn man so durchs Wasser drängt,
das Schiff dann an zu schlingern fängt.

Leer und öde ist's bei Tische,
alles steht und spuckt auf Fische,
denn, das ist's ja grade eben:
diese Viecher woll'n auch leben
und die arme Reederei
spart den Proviant dabei.

Eben dann seh'n wir am Deck,
Wilhelmin' aus Ellerbek.
Bald in Luv und bald in Lee
und das Herz tut ihr so weh.
Und die heimischen Penaten,
steht sie nur als dünne Faden.

Aber weiter geht die Reise,
immer nach der alten Weise.
Sei zufrieden liebes Herz,
Dollars lindern jeden Schmerz.
Wenn Du hast genug vom Glück,
kommst Du eben schnell zurück.

Denn sieh', das Land wo Dollars wachsen,
ist nicht gemütlich, so wie Sachsen.
kaum setzt den Fuss Du auf die Strasse,
rutscht du aus, liegst auf der Nase;
ein Auto jagt Dir über'n Bauch,
Dir bleibt nicht Zeit zum letzten Hauch.

Oder, wenn so'n grosser Tiger,
mit der Tatz die Augenlider
reisst bis an den Scheitel auf,
geht das Leben meisten's drauf.
Langsam schlingt er dich hinein:
O, das soll ganz schrecklich sein.

Und die Affen, Wilhelmine,
sind nicht schlimm nach Apfelsine,
alle Köpfe woll'n sie kraulen,
will man's nicht, sieht man sie jaulen.
Ja, es ist fürwahr dort schlimm,
geh' ja nicht nach Amerika hin.

Auch die Indianer wollen,
leben dort stets aus dem Vollen.
Schlachten jeden Deutschen ab,
keiner findet dort ein Grab,
es wimmelt dort von Kanibalen,
täglich sie's von drüben kabeln.

Doch du wirst den Kram schon schmeissen
und wenn alle Stränge reissen,
läufst Du weg wenn jemand kommt.
Diese Art gar manchem frommt.
Wenn Johannes Dich dann küsst,
aller Schreck vergessen ist.

Was wollen wir so ernstes dichten,
das hat, weiss Got, doch keinen Zweck,
wenn wir was heit'res Dir berichten,
kommst Du besser über'n Abschied weg.
Drum fahr mit Gott, er sei mit Dir
er wird Dich führen für und für.

Wir grüssen Dich viel tausend Mal,
wünschen gutes Dir, reich an der Zahl.
Vergesse nicht Dein Vaterland,
solang Du bist am fremden Strand.

Leb wohl, leb wohl, leb ewig wohl,
der Ruf für Dich zum Himmel schwoll.

Unserer lieben Kollegin M i m i zum Abschied aus
D e u t s c h l a n d .

Anne Paßke
Hertha Gössel
Cläre Kiel
Irma Hinz
Emmy Fischer
Gertrud Uebgen.

X. PICTURE SECTION



ORINOCO

The Garden circa 1940

Our first victory garden. We had just moved from the city and acquired two acres of land. The garden was a major undertaking and did produce many vegetables. Much work and effort went into preserving the food for winter.

Kurt and Margaret
Mahrdt's Wedding

The wedding took
place in
Martinsville, Indiana

Friends and neighbors
went to the woods to
gather dogwood for
the wedding.



The Kleins--Hamburg

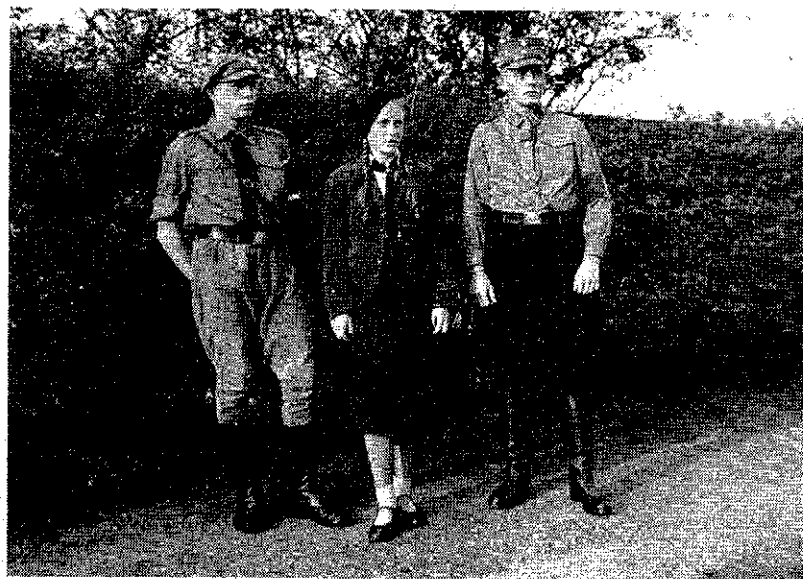
Agnes with Helmut,
Hans-Joachim and
Lieselotte



Helmut, Lieselotte and
Hans-Joachim



Peter Reuter



Lieselotte

Agnes and Nikolaus



Lieselotte



Agnes Klein

Frieda and Didi Radlein



Hans J. Klein and
Family



Gabriele Picker





The Radlines

Frieda and Dedrick
Radline celebrate
their Golden Wedding
Anniversary in Berlin
in 1964.



Dedrick with son Karl
Heinz and Frieda with
daughter Lieselotte
in Berlin.

Mimi and Frieda visit
in 1957 in Berlin.
The two sisters had
not seen each other
for many years.





ORINOCO

The Family Gathering

Back row--left to right

Otto Mahrtdt, Hannes Korra, Donald Korra, Mary Elizabeth Mahrtdt, Julia Becherer, Wilhelmine Korra, Nell Becherer, Margaret Mahrtdt, Kurt Mahrtdt.

Middle row--left to right

Marion Mahan, Mrs. Hollister, Marie Lenoard, Clara Mahrtdt, John Mahrtdt, Julis Becherer.

Front row--left to right

J. Kurt Mahrtdt II, Herb Korra, Dick Korra, Nell Becherer, Midge Becherer, John Owen Mahrtdt.

This family gathering on Orincoc was around 1947. The family gathered for birthdays, holidays, and Thanksgiving.



AUG. 1961
ORINOCO

Otto Mahrdt & family

From left to right

John holding
Margaret, Betsy,
Otto, Mary Elizabeth,
Anne, Holly, and
Emily.

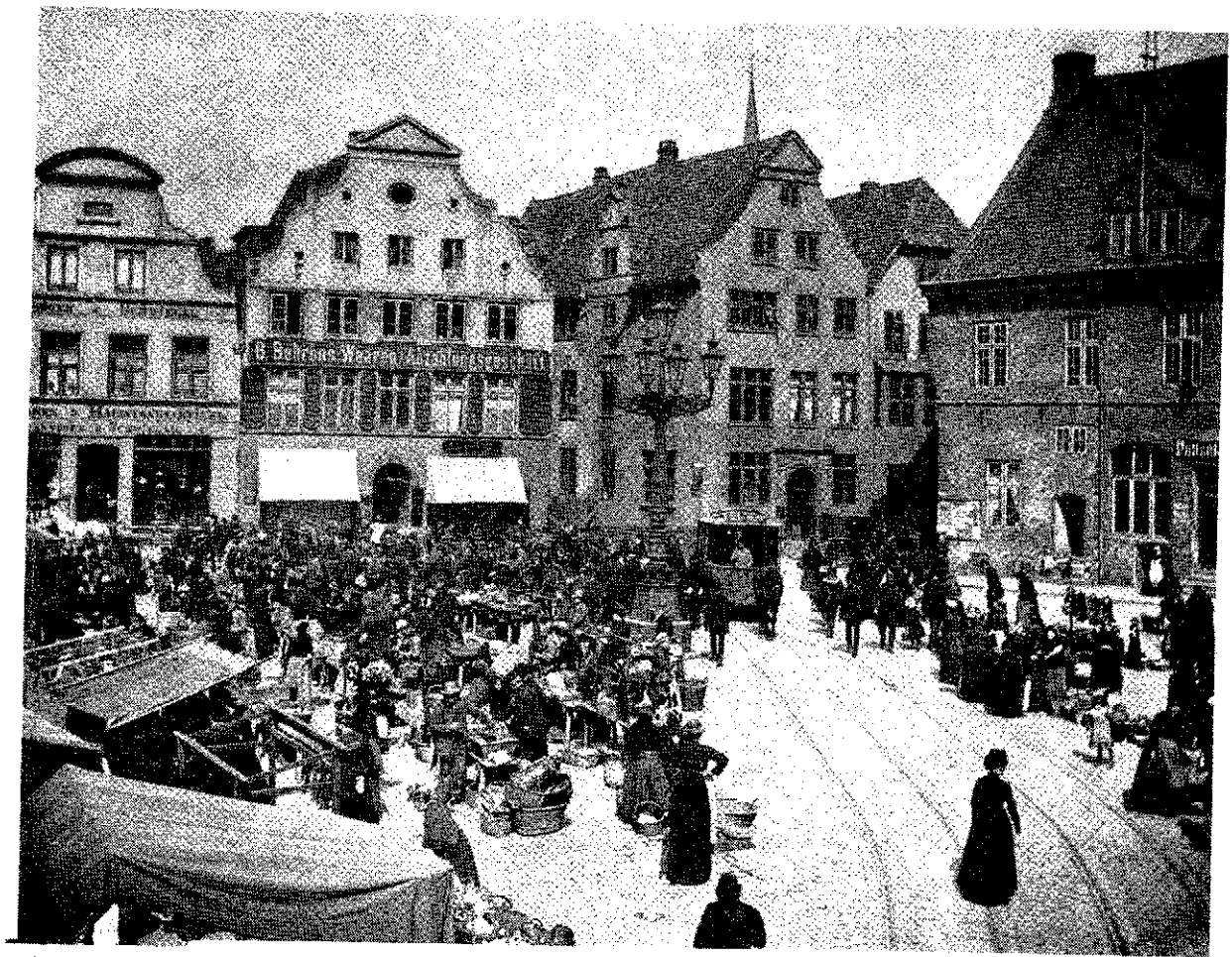
Otto was, for many
years, a buyer for
the dry goods firm of
Hobben-Holleway.

Mary Elizabeth was a
very special person--
she always made
everyone feel
comfortable and she
never forgot a
birthday.

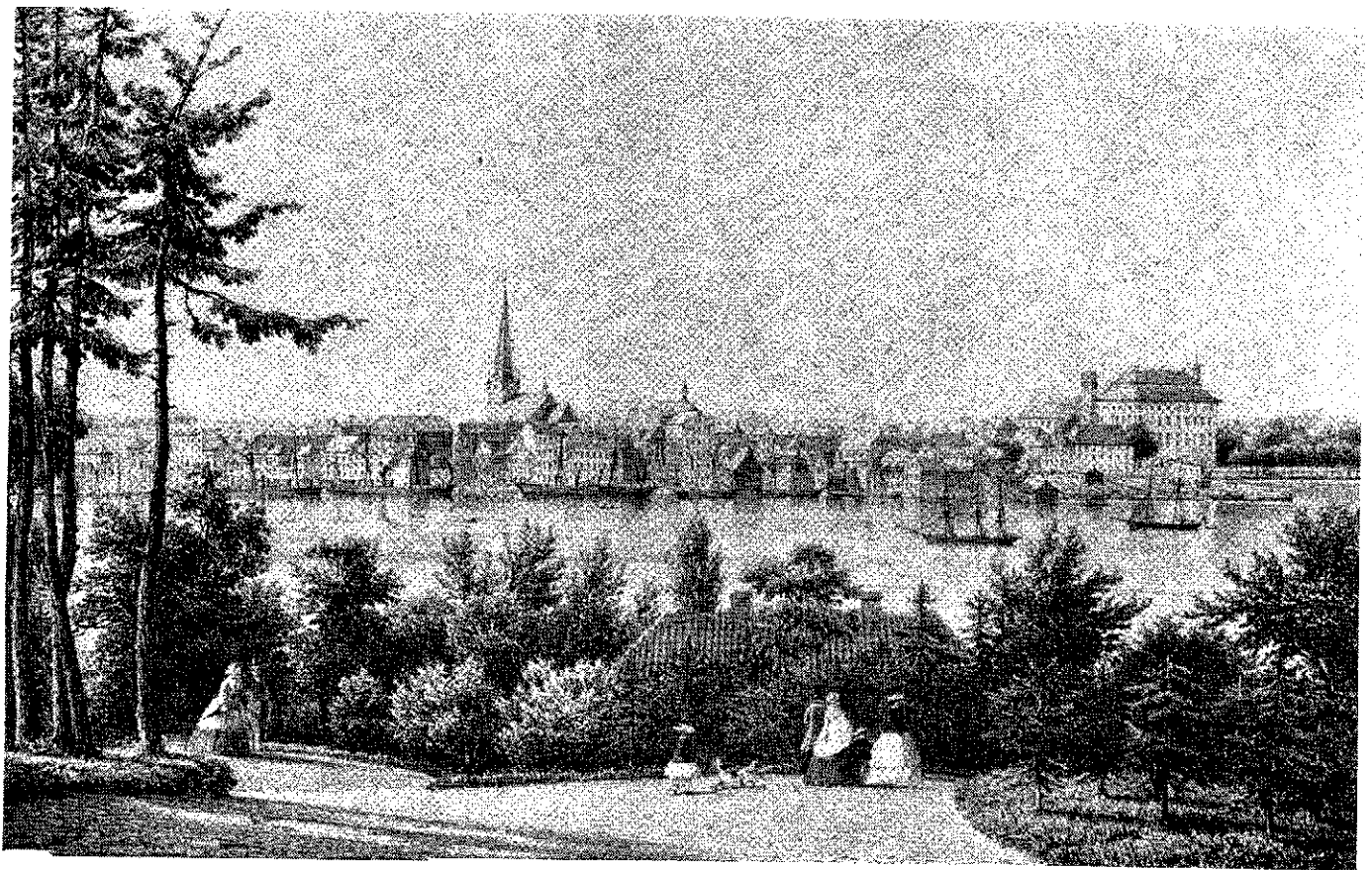
Johnny was a lively
person full of humor
and never knew a
stranger.



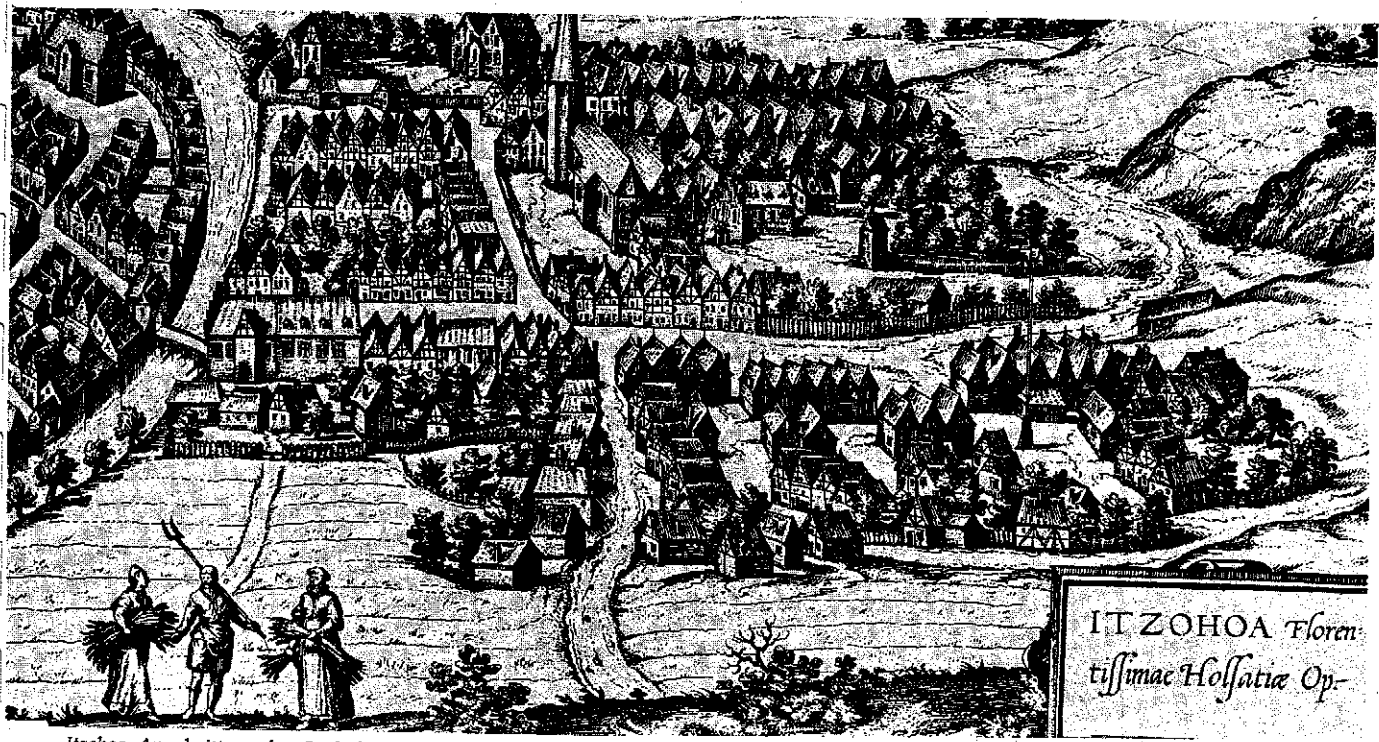
DICK
KORDA



Kiel, Markt (um 1890)



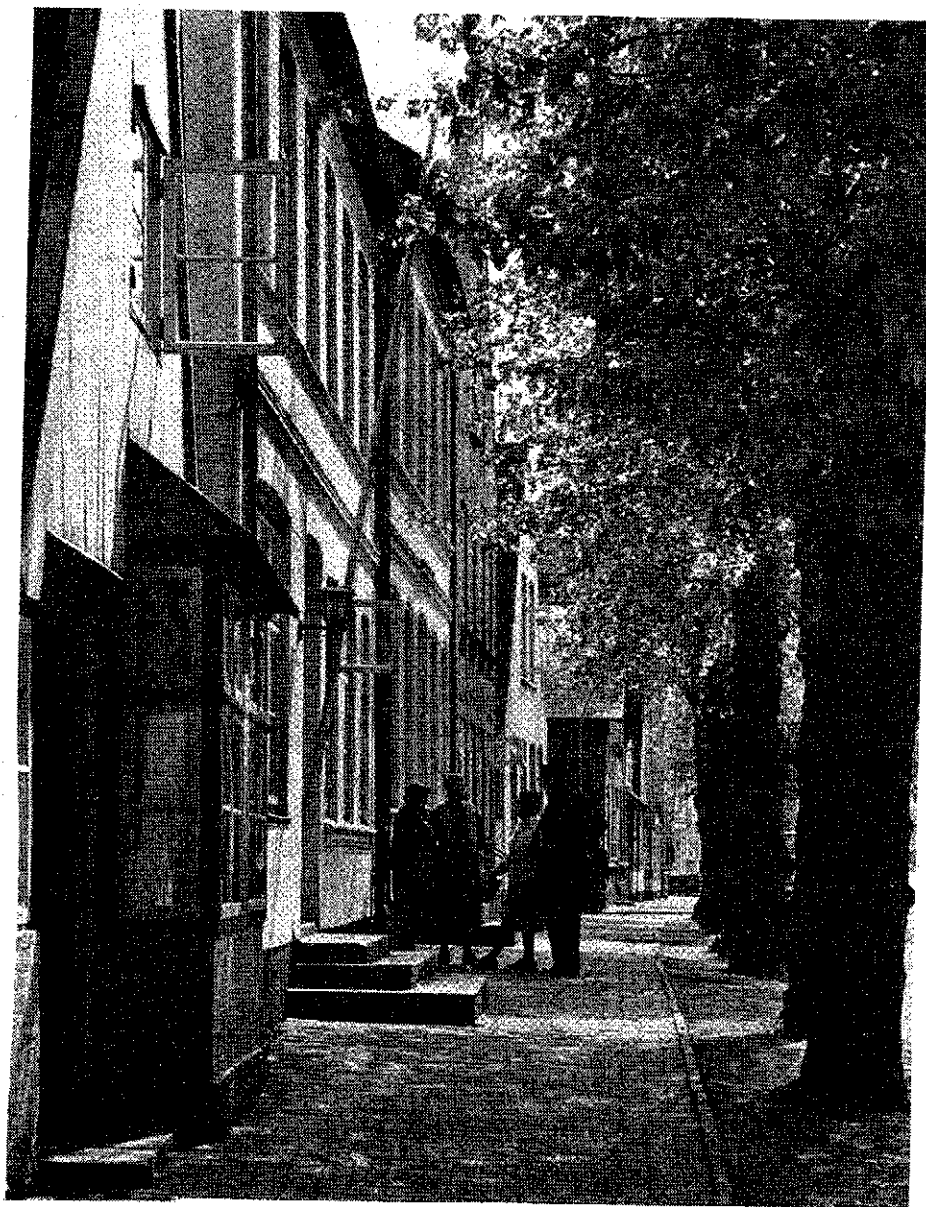
Kiel über den Hafen gesehen, um 1855



Itzehoe, Ausschnitt aus dem Stadtplan von Braun-Hogenberg 1588



Landschaft südwestlich Kiels



Arnis, Lange Straße

On Board S. S. „Thuringia“
Sunday, June 7, 1925.

Farewell Dinner

English Oxtail Soup
Consommé, New Vegetables

Fillet of Halibut à la Richelieu

Tenderloin of Beef Larded à la Forestière

Vol-au-Vent à la Toulouse

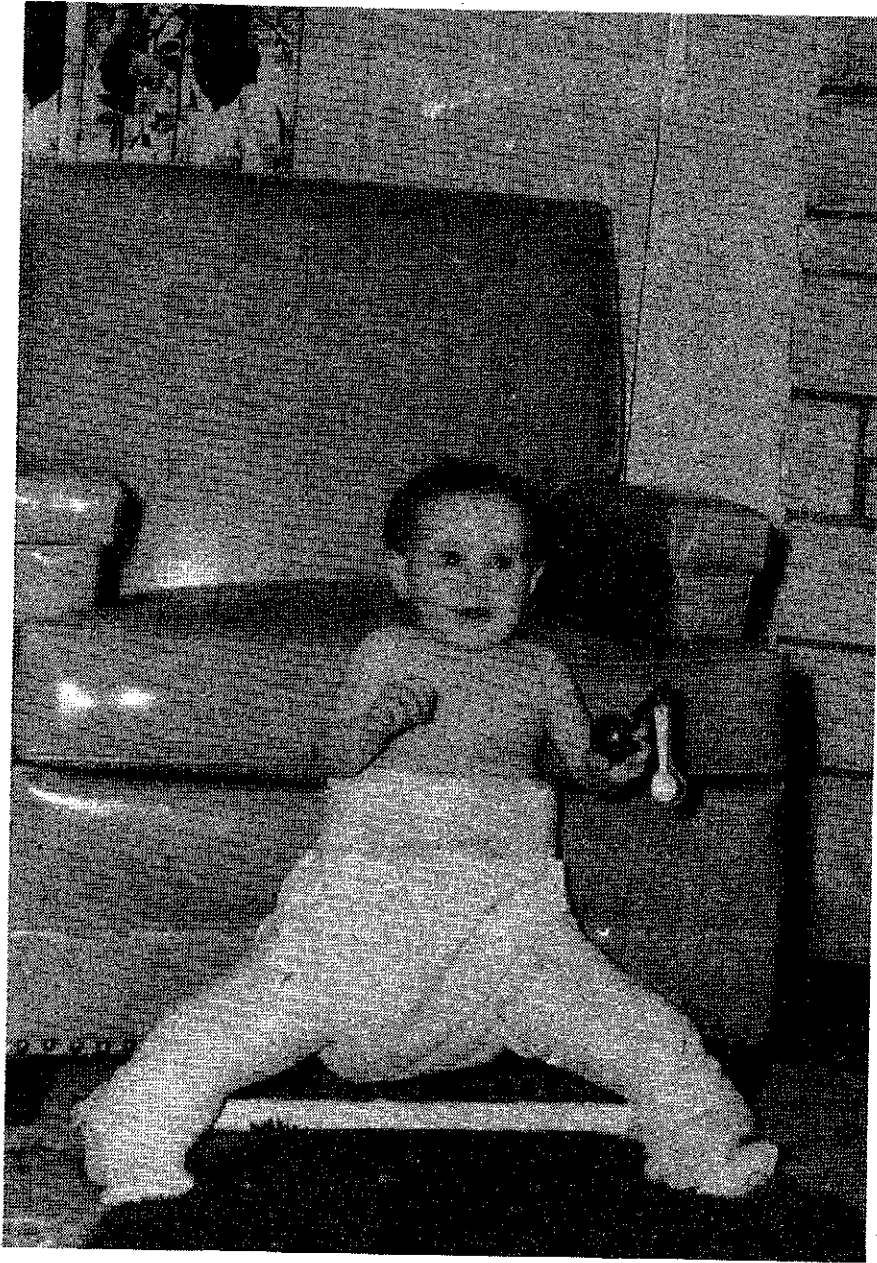
Roast Pullet
Compote of Pine-apples Lettuce Salad

Asparagus, Whipped Butter

Ice Cream en Figures, Cake

Cheese Fruit
Coffee



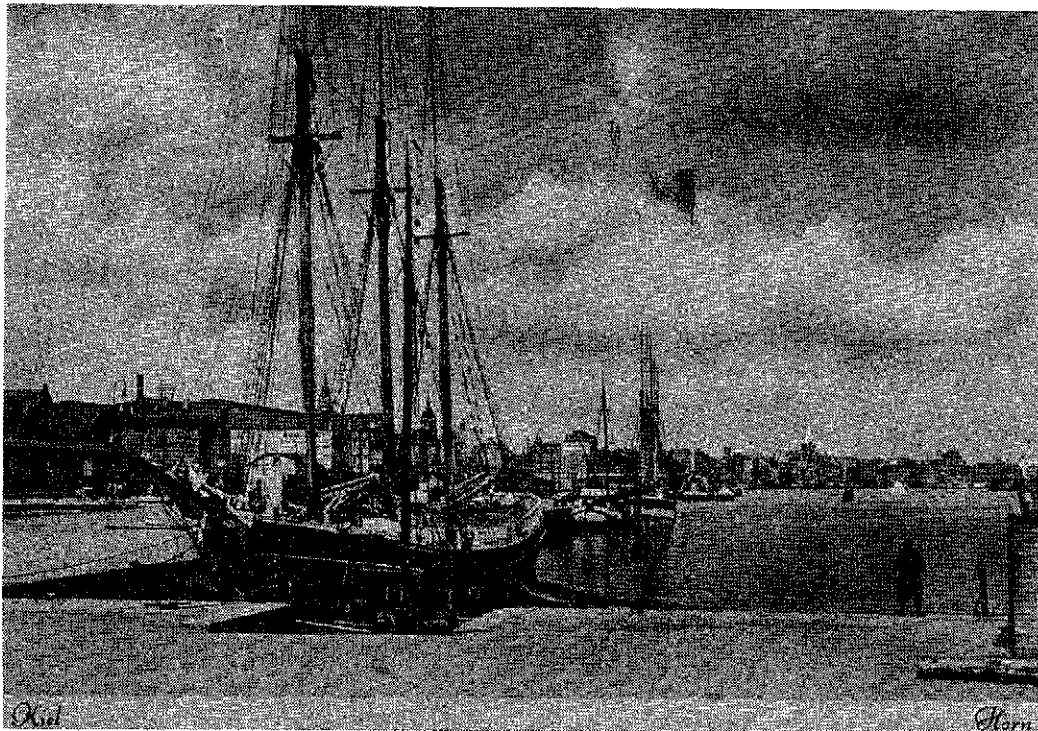
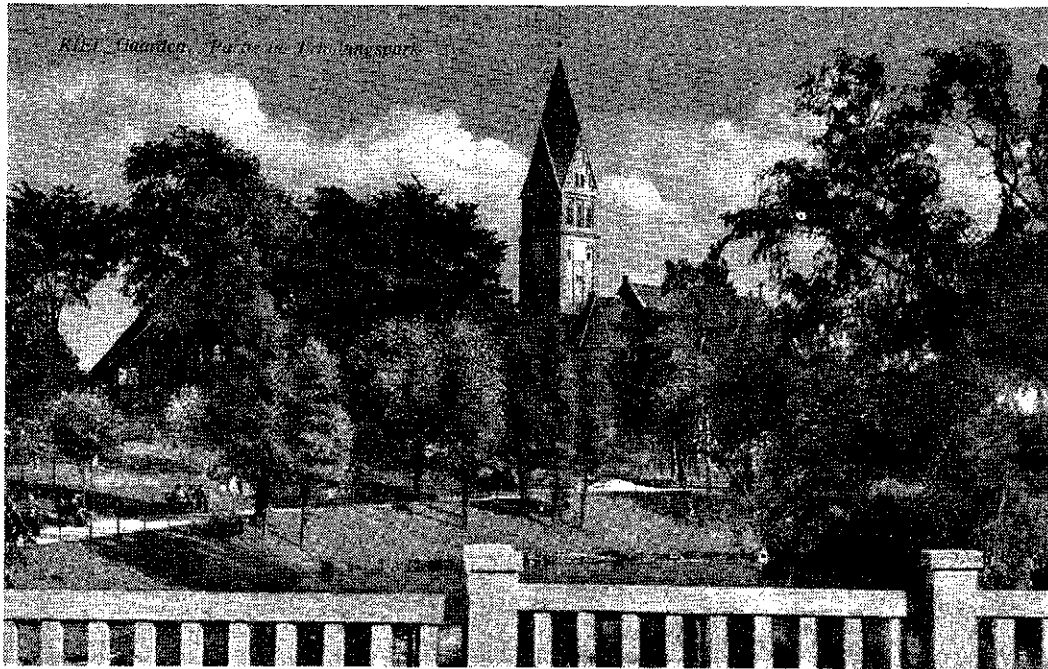


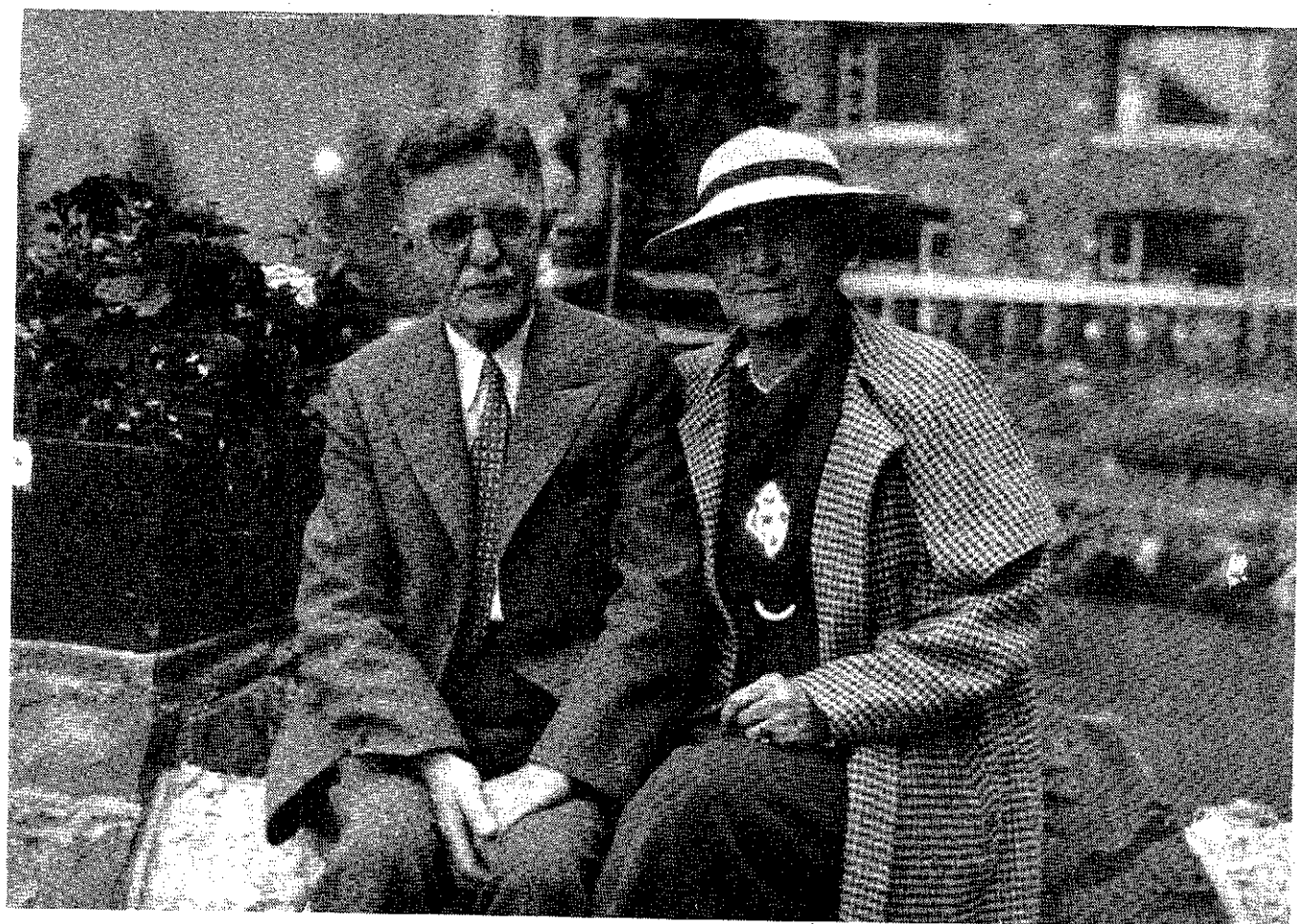
DEBBIE KORRA



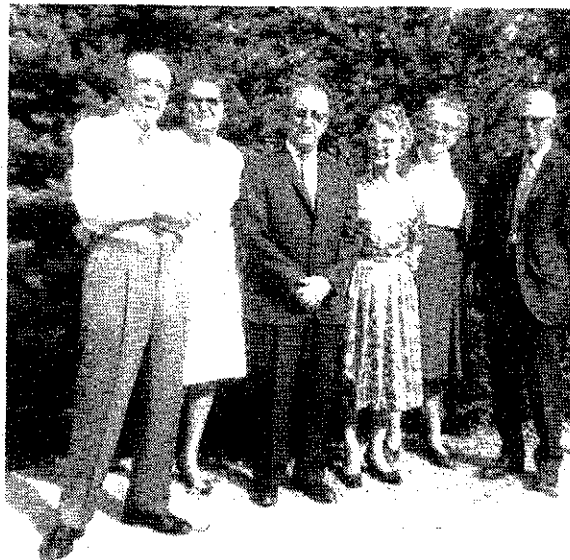
KARL & ELI PAULSEN







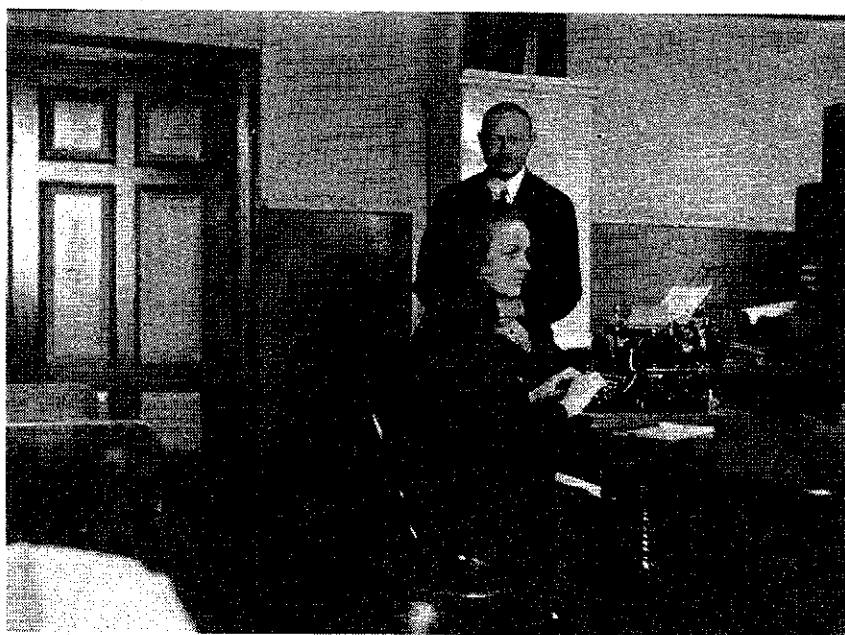
JOHN J. & CLARA MAHRDT



Hannes, Eva+Pat Tyner, Ora Cable, Wilhelmine (mimi), Ross Cable
Long time friends.



Erna Wilroth, Wilhelmine friends from school days till the end



Wilhelmine at work in Kiel
1921



RICHARD CARL KORRA
WITH "FRIEND" REX



HERBERT MAHRDT KORRA

XI. THE TOWNS IN GERMANY
FINAL STATEMENT

XI.

THE TOWNS IN GERMANY FINAL STATEMENT

The towns in Germany, where the Korra-Mahrtdt families began, are in many ways quite similar.

The first town--Grossenbroder, is today a growing resort town on the Baltic. As of the late 1960's, people and developers had found the otherwise sleepy little rural community. In earlier years, the town had much traffic as it served, with its ferry, as a bridge from the mainland to the island of Frehmoru. However, as the demand of heavy traffic and the economic need to connect the island, a beautiful modern bridge was built and the ferry was no longer needed. Cars now could zip by Grossenbroder. The bridge is sometimes closed for short periods of time due to high winds--that did not bring the needed trade into town. Someone did discover the beautiful beach and invested money to build along the beach. Today the economic force for Grossenbroder is the beach area. In years past, most people made their living as farmers or fishermen, some small shops and that was about it. The Karo family, as far as can be traced (1700's) have always lived in this area. Today (1987) Fritz Karo still resided in the home town. Years ago Fritz Karo's great grandfather and Don, Dick, and Herb's great grandfather, Johannes Friedrich Karo, fathered a son--Grandfather to the Indianapolis Korras. The son was raised by his mother in the town of Heiligenhafen--his last name became Korra instead of Karo. We know that Johannes knew of his son and had concern for him but little known contact was made between father and son. Johannes Friedrich Karo went back to his town of Grossenbroder and married Cathrine Ruge. Together they had 5 children. The Karo name remains in Grossenbroder today.

Kiel

Johann Christian Friedrich Emil, at an early age, moved to Kiel. We know that he learned the trade of sail making and made a living in the Kiel shipyards. Here he raised a family. Anna, Frieda, and a son who died 2 years after birth and whose name is unknown today, and Johannes Friedrich. The three children grew up under very similar circumstances as related by Wilhelmine Mahrtdt. Ann eventually became director of a business school. Her marriage resulted in the birth of Hans Echhardt. Frieda, who lived to be over 90 years of age, was a secretary, first in the shipyards and later to several professors at the University of Kiel.

Johannes "Hannes" Korra was educated in the school of Kiel and went on to the University of Kiel where he studied to be an engineer. Upon completion of his studies, World War I had ended

and work in the shipyards was not to be had for several years. Finally he obtained a job and began working in his profession. He worked on design--electrical--for a ship being built in Kiel. By 1920, the government of Germany began a policy of inflating its currency. In 1924, one U. S. dollar = \$4,000,000,000,000 German marks. People got paid twice a day and rushed out to spend their money. Under such conditions, it would be surprising that when an opportunity came to leave Kiel and Germany, Hannes and his bride to be, Wilhelmine Mahrtdt moved to Indianapolis. At this point, the Korra-Mahrtdt families joined and the American Korra's begin their story. Kiel, by any standards, had been a large port town--ships were built, fishing was and still is an important industry. Trade and commerce were important. Kiel was not the small town like Grossenbroder and Arnis.

Arnis

Arnis is not a growing town, it is restricted by the fact it is an island. One street with houses on both sides of the street. The town was hardly disturbed during World War II. Their big war story concerns an airman who parachuted into town. The elders didn't know what to do--the debate lasted 10 days and finally a near-by military base was notified and the airman picked up. Arnis was a shipbuilding and fishing community. The people were both Danish and German. Danish church services are still given from time to time. To visit Arnis is like going back in time. The houses are 100-300 years old, and in many ways, the town life hasn't changed much through the years. Eli Paulsen (August, 1987) is the oldest resident of the town. Today the town's old windmill has been converted into a nice resort town. The town fathers have listed the town as BAD ARNIS, where it is possible to take a cure. Arnis has become known as the smallest town in Germany. It is here the Mahrtdt family has its roots. So far as can be traced (1700's) the Mahrtdt family name has been found in Arnis.

The old Mahrtdt house still has an "M" on the front door. We know that the Mahrtdt was connected to fishing and shipping. In time some of the family left Arnis to go to Kiel and other areas. The Mahrtdt name, as best we can determine, will end with Heinz Mahrtdt, while this name can continue in America, just as the Korra name ended in 1985 with the death of Frieda Korra. The Korra name can continue in America. Eli Paulsen represents the last connection to the family Mahrtdt in Arnis.

FINAL STATEMENT

This has been a labor of love for me. It is not a complete history but an overview of 2 families. Our goal and great hope is that this statement will help keep the two branches of the Korra and Mahrtdt families in contact in the years ahead.

We believe the information is accurate. We followed the guidelines for writing family histories as established by the American Geneology Society.

We received a great deal of help from:

Heinz Mahrtdt
Eli Paulsen
Lieselotte Reuter
Peter Reuter
Geog Laage
Margaret Mahrtdt
Debee Meyer
Donald Korra
Rhonda Scott

We thank those that helped.

We know the project is not perfect, however, many, many hours have been spent researching, writing, and charting. We suggest if you don't like the history--that you spend the time, effort, and money and do a better job!

XII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Heinz D. Mahrtdt
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Frieda Korra

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Arnis
Kiel
Berg
Grossenbroder

Government Records:

Ehe-Erklärung.

Nr. 14

Ellerbach am sechszehnten September tausend acht hundert neunzig und neun

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschienen heute zum Zweck
der Eheschließung:

1. der Frl. Johannes Christian Friedrich Emil
Korra
der Persönlichkeit nach

Er kannt.

evangelischer Religion, geboren den vier und
sechzigsten Mai des Jahres tausend acht hundert

sechzig und neun zu Heiligentrappen
Kreis Wittenburg, wohnhaft zu Ellerbach
Kreis Wittenburg

Sohn des zu Wittenburg wohnhaften evangelischen
Chirurgen Karsten und der unverheirateten
Kaufmanns Johannes Friedrich Korra wohnhaft
zu unbekanntem Ort

2. die Frl. Maria Johanna Holmertz
der Persönlichkeit nach Kind des von dem Standesbeamten

Offizier Karl Kantner unverheiratet kannt.
evangelischer Religion, geboren den zweiten Juli

des Jahres tausend acht hundert

und sechzig zu Baden
Kreis Wittenburg, wohnhaft zu Ellerbach
Kreis Wittenburg

Größtangebotschneidung siehe Seite.....

Erzählungsbeschreibung siehe Seite

[illegible]

am: 27.12.1856 in: Wiesbaden Schinkel

(Mutter von 14) Geburts- ② Name.	Martini
Vornamen Nachnamen geboren am: verstorben am:	Wilhelm Jacob Johann Joseph 5. 7. 1798 in: Kaimhof 5. 8. 1798 in: Gethorff
Tochter des (58): und des (59):	Johann Baptist Johann Baptist 1798 geb. an geb. Ding
Standort: Ort:	Gethorff Gethorff

am 11. 12. 1908	in: <i>Off. v. d. Schinkkel</i>
29 ☐ Nomenen, Name, Alter und Geburtsort: 29 ☐ Nomenen, Geburtsname, Alter und Geburtsort: haben die Ehe geschlossen am..... in: erklärt: als: als: Register Nr. erklärt: als:	
Zugeschikt nach - Kirche - - Wohnort - erklärt..... unterschrieben..... Datum:	am 11. 12. 1908 in: <i>Off. v. d. Schinkkel</i>

(Toter von 15)
 Name: Neve
 b) Name: Neve
 Nachnamen: Spitznagel
 geboren am: 11.7.1789 in: Gosfeld
 gestorben am: 16.7.1789 in: Corby
 Sohn
 bei 100: Triften in Gosfeld
 und
 bei 101: Margaretha geb. Meyer in Gosfeld
 Ehepartner:
 24. Platzamt: Corby 1789
 10.9.1870 in: Gosfeld

(Toter von 15)
 Name: Engel
 b) Name: Engel
 Nachnamen: Engel
 geboren am: 9.9.1784 in: Engel
 gestorben am: 12.9.1784 in: Engel
 Sohn
 bei 102: Engel in Engel
 und
 bei 103: Engel in Engel
 Ehepartner:
 24. Platzamt: Engel 1784
 10.9.1870 in: Engel

(Toter von 15)
 Name: Engel
 b) Name: Engel
 Nachnamen: Engel
 geboren am: 9.9.1784 in: Engel
 gestorben am: 12.9.1784 in: Engel
 Sohn
 bei 102: Engel in Engel
 und
 bei 103: Engel in Engel
 Ehepartner:
 24. Platzamt: Engel 1784
 10.9.1870 in: Engel

(Toter von 3)
 Name: Meyer
 b) Name: Meyer
 Nachnamen: Meyer
 geboren am: 12.11.1857 in: Meyer
 gestorben am: 15.11.1857 in: Meyer
 Sohn
 bei 121: Meyer in Meyer
 und
 bei 122: Meyer in Meyer
 Ehepartner:
 24. Platzamt: Meyer 1857
 10.9.1870 in: Meyer

(Toter von 3)
 Name: Meyer
 b) Name: Meyer
 Nachnamen: Meyer
 geboren am: 12.11.1857 in: Meyer
 gestorben am: 15.11.1857 in: Meyer
 Sohn
 bei 121: Meyer in Meyer
 und
 bei 122: Meyer in Meyer
 Ehepartner:
 24. Platzamt: Meyer 1857
 10.9.1870 in: Meyer

(Toter von 3)
 Name: Meyer
 b) Name: Meyer
 Nachnamen: Meyer
 geboren am: 12.11.1857 in: Meyer
 gestorben am: 15.11.1857 in: Meyer
 Sohn
 bei 121: Meyer in Meyer
 und
 bei 122: Meyer in Meyer
 Ehepartner:
 24. Platzamt: Meyer 1857
 10.9.1870 in: Meyer

(Folter von 14)
 30 Name: W. H. H. H.
 Vornamen: Guineynunt Hieronymus
 geboren am: 11. 7. 1789 in: Geisfeld
 getauft am: 16. 7. 1789 in: Geisfeld
 Sohn von: Anton in Geisfeld Vater: Hans
 und bei (St): Margaretha geb. Meier geb. 1789
 Standort: Geisfeld
 10. Quart: Geisfeld

(Blätter von 15) Gebunden	31) Name:	Traise - Engel	Traise - Engel	Traise - Engel	Traise - Engel
32) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
33) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
34) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
35) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
36) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
37) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
38) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
39) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
40) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
41) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
42) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
43) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
44) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
45) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
46) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
47) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea
48) Name:	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea	Dorothea

30	Namens, Name, Beruf und Aufenthalts: <i>Ungewissener Mann, Verheiratheter Mann, wohnhaft in</i>	Zeugniß nach — Urkunde — — Zeugniß — gelich. <i>Gez. Wt.</i> <i>Gez. Wt.</i> Datum: <i>10. Dec. 1815</i> Ort: <i>St. Petersburg</i>
31	Namens, Geburtsname, Beruf und Aufenthalts: <i>Carl von Suvoroff Dorothea Kruse</i>	Zeugniß nach — Urkunde — — Zeugniß — gelich. <i>Gez. Wt.</i> Datum: <i>10. Dec. 1815</i> Ort: <i>St. Petersburg</i>

(Water von 3) 6	Name:	Marzoff	Maiden	Marzoff	Marzoff	Marzoff	Marzoff	Marzoff	Marzoff
Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden
Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden
Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden
Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden
Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden	Maiden

(Blatt von 3)
 Geburts-
 ① Name: *Fräulein*
 Vorname: *Constance Marie Luise Caroline*
 geboren am: *21. 1. 1861* in: *Schmied-Kistum*
 getauft am: *10. 3. 1861* in: *Gettorf*
 Tochter
 des (14): *Carl Adolf Joseph von Knappe, Schlichtmann*
 und
 des (15): *Helene Marie von Knappe, Schlichtmann geb. von*
 Register Nr. *—*
 Einbinderamt: *—*
 Aufgebotsparant: *Ge. H. 177* — *Gett. v. 1861 Nr. 53*

① Wormianen, Name, Beruf und Vaterland:
Julian Heinrich Moritz, Maschinenbauer.
 ② Wormianen, Ort, Name, Beruf und Vaterland:
Moritz Friedr. Carlina, Kupferw.
 haben die Ure gefolgt
 am: 16. 7. 1833 in: Yalhorf
 e: Yalhorf
 — Yalhorf