

Chapter Two

German Regions of Sporleder and Their Spouses Immigration



Grand Duchies of Mecklenburgⁱ

Mecklenburg was culturally separated from the rest of Germany. It was a feudal state with most of the land held by powerful landowners as large estates. They controlled the economy and ruled with absolute authority. The peasants or serfs were indentured to the land in a system referred to as “inherited serfdom” that meant they inherited the obligation of serfdom to the landlord from their ancestors and passed it along to their descendants. The peasants worked the land for the landowners and were allowed a small plot of land for their own food needs. In the late 1700s, the landlords incorporated the peasants’ plots into their estates in an action referred to as the “peasant seizure” to further expand crop production. It is estimated that 10,000 peasants lost their holdings and the number of the peasant vacancies increased from 2,490 to nearly 12,000 by 1800. Leben Steins Pertz described the peasants’ deplorable plight in a letter he wrote during his journey through the countryside in 1802.

I found the aspect of the country as cheerless as its misty northern sky; great estates, much of them in pasture or fallow; an extremely thin population; the entire labouring class under the yoke of serfage; stretches of land attached to solitary ill-built farmhouses; in short, a monotony, a dead stillness, spreading over the whole country, an absence of life and activity that quite overcame my spirits. The home of the Mecklenburg noble, who weighs like a load on his peasants instead of improving their condition, gives me the idea of the den of some wild beast, who devastates everything about him, and surrounds himself with the silence of the grave.ⁱⁱ

The landowner’s callous attitude was also captured by Fritz Reuter (Heinrich Ludwig Christian Friedrich Reuter, 1810-1874) in his book *Ut mine Stromtid* (*Seedtime and Harvest* (1862–1864, translated 1871). “What do they need besides a loaf of bread, a salted herring, potatoes, cabbage, and a small garden to develop? Is not one garment adequate for the most part, and thus they are provided with sufficient.” His political views earned him a death sentence in 1833 that was later commuted to 30 years of imprisonment.

The schoolteachers reinforced the absolute rule of the nobility by educating the children in the need for unconditional obedience. The village pastors were also instruments of the landlords to compel the strict obedience by the peasants and other laborers. If a pastor came forward on grounds of conscience to plead the plight of the underprivileged or mistreated, he was banished as the pastor. Purportedly in the small village of Damshagen, Baron von Plessen directed that the local pastor be beaten with a riding whip before his church door because he fished in a small lake in the parish without the Baron's express permission and consent.^{iv}

Life and the social structure in Mecklenburg did not change appreciatively over the decades as portrayed by Charles E. (Emil Carl) Rothe (1909-1975) in this account he told his son, Charles E. Rothe, about living in rural Damshagen in a *Gut* that was an abbreviated form of the word *Gutshaus*, which means "manor house." The landowner or lord of a manor was known as the *Gutsbesitzer*. The ruling class continued its condescending manner toward the peasants.

They (referring to Charles/Emil Carl and his grandmother) were living on Gut Von Plessen (Damshagen). They lived in a long building with a thatched roof and each family had their own section of the building. Emil Carl and his grandmother had only one small room. Half of the room had a dirt floor and the other half had a raised wooden floor where they ate and slept. The grandmother would sweep the dirt floor and then sprinkle sand on it. Living conditions were grim at best.

Food was very basic, mostly black bread (schwarz brot) with schmaltz (fat) spread on it. There was very little meat. The grandmother would make schwarz brot about once every two weeks. She would always save some of the dough to start the next batch. By the end of the two weeks, the bread would be very hard. Emil Carl always liked hard bread until the day he died in March of 1975. One time the building caught on fire. Emil Carl could hear the sound as the hams and bacon that were hanging in the attic started cooking.

The children had no toys. One of the things that the boys did, when they had time for entertainment, was to throw sharpened sticks into a mud hole in the field. On an occasional Sunday, children might be given one raw egg as a special treat. They made a hole in one end and sucked out the egg.

When Herr Von Plessen and his friends wanted to go hunting, they would round up a bunch of the children and have them go through the woods beating on trees with sticks and making noise. This was to chase all the wildlife out the other end where Von Plessen and his friends were waiting. The forests in that part of Germany were mostly just patches of woods surrounded by fields.

At Christmas time, all of the children on the Gut had to go to the steps of the Gutshaus and sing Christmas carols to the Gnädige Frau. She would then hand out a piece of hard candy to each child. Emil Carl always dreaded this holiday chore. The term Gnädige Frau is not really used much anymore, but it was used in referring to a lady of wealth or stature and meant "gracious Lady."^v

Jürnjakob Swehn described to his son the family living quarters when they lived in Mecklenburg.

Your German *grosspa* and *grossma* and I and my brother lived in a thatched-roof house. It had a low ceiling, but in our village it was the longest house. Inside there were two rooms: a little bedroom and then a big room for the kitchen and for sitting. If you're tall you'd have to keep your head down so's not to bump it on the rafters. That was no house for proud people. But if you stumbled into any of the potholes in the floor then you could hold your head high. That's just how it was. The floor was made of clay that we dug outside the village on the Püttberg (clay pit).^{vi} Oh man, it's just a clay floor always breaks down and you get potholes. But on Sunday, Ma would spread a new layer of white sand over it. So for one day a week, things look pretty descent.

Things were real comfortable for storing potatoes. We didn't have to go down to the cellar or even to the pantry. All winter, we kept 'um under the bed in the sitting room, so's they didn't freeze. Now that bed was even big enough to hide a fair-sized piggy, or just one medium sized. That way we had somebody to wake us up in the morning with a grunt or squeal. Saved us from

buying a clock.

The walls of this house were made of lathe, covered outside and inside with clay. Straw was mixed into the clay. That way it held up better. In spring, we could smell the lilacs through those walls and the sunshine came through, so we didn't have to open the door to let in a warm breeze. That's about how comfortable we were. The heat stove was made of good old bricks and was faced with clay from the Püttberg. The stove was wonderful green. You could ask every potter in all Mecklenburg and not a one could tell you where the green was from, and the President himself doesn't know. That was Pa's secret. He had mixed cow manure in with the clay—that's how the stove got that beautiful green color...*darum sah der Ofen so schön grün aus.*

Letters of a German American Farmer,

Jörn Jakob Swehn Travels to America, pages 48-49

Complicating the domestic neglect and abuse by the nobility, Mecklenburg came under French control from 1806 to 1813. The French occupation was referred to as "*Franzosentid*" with general lawlessness prevalent.

Further compounding the peasants' condition was that in 1820 they were "freed" from their obligation to landowners. Realistically, they were ordered to vacate their homes. Likewise, landowners were relieved under feudal law from providing their former tenants with any means of support. Most peasants became itinerant day laborers, Tagelöhners (*Tagelöhners*), living in abject poverty. They moved from estate to estate when the landowner required their assistance with plowing, planting or harvesting crops. It is estimated that in northeastern Germany states of Pomerania, Upper Silesia, and Mecklenburg about 21,000 peasant holdings were eliminated between 1816 and 1859.

The genesis of the Mecklenburg area's political and religious history was the occupation by the Wends, a Slavic people, in the Sixth Century. The Mecklenburg dynasty was established in the 1100s when the Wendish ruling family accepted Christianity and German domination.

In 1348 while Mecklenburg was a part of the Holy Roman Empire, Emperor Charles IV promoted the Mecklenburg princes to the position of dukes of the empire. In 1549, Mecklenburg accepted Protestantism and the Evangelical Lutheran Church became the official state religion. In 1621, Mecklenburg was divided into two duchies; Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Güstrow. As a result of the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, Sweden controlled the coastal Wismar District located on an inlet of the Baltic Sea. In 1695, the Güstrow family line ceased and Mecklenburg was temporarily reunited.

In 1701, Mecklenburg was again divided as Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Mecklenburg-Strelitz was located on the east and west sides of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Mecklenburg-Strelitz consisted of the Stargard District of the Duchy of Güstrow on the eastern side of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and the Principality of Ratzeburg on the western side of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Mecklenburg-Schwerin consisted of the Duchy of Schwerin, the Principality of Schwerin, Wenden District of the Duchy of Güstrow, the Lordship of Wismar, the Rostock District, and Domain of Scattered Convents. As mentioned, Sweden gained Wismar and the surrounding area in 1648. It remained with Sweden until 1803.

During French control from 1806 to 1813, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz were forced to join the Confederation of the Rhine under Napoleon's directive. More than 2,000 men were conscripted to support Napoleon's ill-fated Russian invasion with less than 100 returning. With Napoleon's defeat in Russia, they renounced the alliance with France. In the War of German Liberation (1813-1815) that followed, they played a significant role in finally defeating Napoleon and liberating Germany from France. In 1815 as a result of the Congress of Vienna, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz were elevated to the status of Grand-Duchy and, as just reward for helping to defeat France; the dukes were promoted to Grand Dukes. In 1867, Mecklenburg became part of the North German Confederation and in 1871 a member of the German Empire.

After World War II, Mecklenburg came under the jurisdiction of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). With Germany's reunification in 1990, Mecklenburg is now a part of the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Today, Mecklenburg continues as a historic region of Germany located along the Baltic Sea coastal plain. It is a farming region with generally level land and some low hills along with

numerous small lakes.

The Boell (*Böll*), Jonas, and Berens (*Behrens*) families came to America from the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg.



Kingdom of Hanover (*Hannover*)

Initially, most of the Kingdom of Hanover's territory was included in the Duchy of Brunswick. With several divisions of Brunswick by the ruling Guelphs family among its various branches, there was created Brunswick-Lüneburg that supported the Protestants in the Thirty Years War (1618–48). In 1692, Duke Ernest Augustus of Calenberg achieved the rank of elector and his holdings became recognized as the Electorate of Hanover. His marriage to [Sophia](#), granddaughter of James I of England, brought the English throne to his son, Elector George Louis, who became King George I of England. Sophia (1630–1714) was the daughter of [Frederick, the Winter King](#), and [Elizabeth](#) of Bohemia (later Czechoslovak, now the Czech Republic and a part of the Slovak Republic), who was the daughter of James I of England. In 1701, the English Parliament bestowed upon her and her issue the succession to the English throne. In 1714, her son, [George I](#), became the King of England.

During the Napoleonic Wars, the Electorate of Hanover was controlled by France and assigned to Prussia in 1805, but in 1807 part of Hanover was assigned to the Kingdom of Westphalia under Napoleon's brother, Jérôme Bonaparte. The remainder was divided in 1810 between France and Westphalia. In 1813, Great Britain regained possession of Hanover, and in 1815 the Congress of Vienna elevated Hanover to kingdom status with membership in the [German Confederation](#).

Hanover's new status was in recognition of its contribute to the alliance that finally defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. All of the Hanover militia should not have shared in the glories of victory. On Sunday, June 18th, the outcome of the fray was still very much in doubt. By 4:00 p.m. that afternoon, the English under Wellington were desperately awaiting the arrival of the Prussian Army under the command of Blücher because the French cavalry was about to win the day. "An English officer, Colonel Gould, concluded, 'I'm afraid it's over.' A Hanoverian regiment at this point deserted and fled to

Brussels, shouting to all, ‘The battle is lost, and the French are coming!’” In fact, Blücher and his Prussian Army were who were coming and Napoleon was defeated.^{vii}

With the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne in England in 1837, Hanover was separated from the British crown because its government followed the Salic Law or Rule of Succession that prohibited a female from ascending to the throne as the head of the kingdom.^{viii} [Ernest Augustus](#), son of George III, became the King of Hanover and rescinded the Hanoverian Constitution of 1833 that was fashioned to move the kingdom toward a more democratic form of government similar to France. His revocation was in the face of protests by the university community at Göttingen including the Grimm brothers (Jacob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm (1786-1859)) who gained fame for their collection of German folk stories published as *Kinder-und Hausmärchen* (*Grimm Fairy Tales*, 1812-22).^{ix} The effect on the peasants was described as follows:

The post-1814 recasting of Hanoverian politics represented a major victory for the aristocracy, which proceeded to administer Hanover as though it were little more than a congeries (collection) of strictly personal domains. Peasants still laboured to meet a wide range of semi-feudal payments. Poverty was endemic. There was much in Hanover that invited criticism.^x

Similar to the feudal systems in other countries, the peasants’ status was dependent upon their relationship with the land and its ownership. They had hereditary leases with an annual payment to the landlord and church. The land was laid out in long strips of half of a mile or more and about 30 feet in width. Pasture land was used for the village herds although the animals were individually owned. *Gemeinheitstetung* was common land of forest and pasture available to all. *Vollmeyer* was a full sized farm of about 116 acres. *Großkötherstelle* was about 60 acres. *Kleinköthner* was about 14.4 acres. *Brinksitzer* was a small holding of about 10.6 acres. An *Anbauer* had three to five acres. The two smallest farms had to supplement their income with craft work.^{xi}

Those with land were required to pay rent, assessments and taxes to the landlord. *Meierzins* was the general rent to the landlord and could be paid in grain and livestock. *Rauch-hühner* was a special contribution of one hen for each dwelling defined as a building with a fireplace. *Brinksitzer* and *Anbauer* were required to supply wine for the church and governmental officials on certain formal occasions.

The class of people who had no land interest was referred to as *Häuslings*. They were the “houselings” or village poor. Land was inherited by the eldest son unless there were no sons and then the land was inherited by the eldest daughter and her husband. Often the husband even took his wife’s surname.^{xii} As a consequence, the younger brothers and sisters held no land. With income tied to the land, they became the village poor. The young men were either farmhands or joined the military. With the growth in population and a fixed amount of land, some were able to rent land from the family and lived in an outbuilding or shed. In parts of Hanover, the majority of the village population was *Häuslings*. They were entitled to poor benefits. Many became artisans in such trades as tailor, wheelwright, shoemaker, wood lathe operator, glazier, mason, blacksmith and cabinetmakers.

Beginning in the mid-1700s, the hereditary lessees could buy out their feudal obligations (redemption) at about 25 times the annual amount of rent, assessment and taxes—*gutsherrschäftlich*. Even though this was considered expensive, the hereditary lessee became an owner. While the hereditary lessee or owner was normally a male, there were incidents in which their widow was allowed to continue with the arrangement if she had sons capable of helping with the farm work. If a man was not the eldest son, he could obtain land by marrying a woman who received land as the eldest daughter.

As mentioned, *Gemeinheitstetung* was the common or village lands including pastures, meadows, woodlands, swampy wastes, peat bogs or digs, and other scrubland or wasteland that were not subject to ownership of a hereditary lease by any of the peasants. Beginning in 1822, laws were passed to encourage the division of these lands among the peasant landowners. This process was referred to as *Verkoppelung* and continued over an extended period of time by villages. This land was divided among the peasant landowners and not the *Häuslings* (houselings) with dire consequences for the latter.

Division of the common lands robbed the houselings of several privileges important for their subsistence. Before the division of the commons, the resident houselings could use the common pasture for a cow and perhaps a few sheep by paying a small grazing fee. They could usually gather firewood in the village forest and fatten a butcher hog on forest acorns in the fall. They might be allowed to cut grass in the swamp for winter hay and gather leaves and moss. All these opportunities were lost when the common lands were divided, since the houselings received no share of the commons.^{xiii}

Between 1814 and 1866, about 20 percent of the male peasants were selected by lottery at age 20 to serve in the military. Church records were used to determine when a young man reached the age of 20 based upon his dates of birth and baptism.^{xiv} Most drafted or conscripted soldiers served in the infantry units because members of the cavalry and artillery units were voluntaries. Draftees served one year of active duty and several months of training for the next five years. Heirs to the larger farms and those studying for the clergy were exempt. Draftees could pay a replacement.

The Revolution of 1848 forced the king to allow a more liberal constitution. His son, [George V](#), succeeded him in 1851 and mistakenly supported Austria in the [Austro-Prussian War](#) (1866). As a consequence, he lost his kingdom, which was incorporated into Prussia in 1866 as a province in the new German Empire.

After World War II, the province was incorporated into the current German state of [Lower Saxony](#). Located in northwest Germany, Hanover reaches from the Dutch border and the North Sea in the northwest to the Harz Mountains in the southeast.



The villages of Dassel and Sievershausen were not a part of Hanover until 1813 and their histories require further explanation. Dassel and the area around it, including Sievershausen, was a part of the Hildesheim FBM (*Kurfürstentum*) and the area was geographically separate from the Hildesheim area. Dassel is about 40 miles south of Hanover. It is about ten miles west of Einbeck. The community of Hildesheim was the main city and capital. In 815, Emperor Louis I made Hildesheim the seat of a bishopric, which means its religion leader was a bishop for this area. Later, the bishops were also made territorial princes of the Holy Roman Empire. In 1249, Hildesheim was officially chartered as a city. In 1801, the bishopric was secularized which means that the area was no longer

under the authority of the Catholic Church with both Lutheran and Catholic religions allowed. The area was given to Protestant Prussia in 1803 and incorporated into the Kingdom of Westphalia in 1807 before finally passing to the Kingdom of Hanover in 1813. As noted, in 1871 the Kingdom of Hanover, along with the Hildesheim area, was incorporated into Prussia.^{xv}

The Sporleder and Buckendahl families came to America from the Kingdom of Hanover. The Sporleder heritage is traced to the villages of Dassel and Sievershausen.



Schlesien (Silesia)^{xvi}

Silesia was colonized by German settlers during the time period between the 11th and 14th Centuries when the Prince-Bishops (*Fuerstbischoefe*) and other Silesia rulers encouraged Germans to migrate to this area. By the end of the 13th Century, Silesia was mostly German settlements with the entire country ruled by German law.

In 1335 under the Peace Treaty of Wissegrad, King Kasimir III of Poland renounced his claims to the Silesian areas, which were under Bohemian feudal sovereignty. Silesia came under Bohemian rule and indirectly under the Holy Roman Empire because the King John of Bohemia was a member of the empire. In December 1740, Friedrich II of Prussia invaded and occupied Silesia. His actions instigated the Silesian wars with Austria during the period of 1740 to 1763. The struggle personally pitted Maria Theresa of the Austrian Empire against Friedrich II. It also took on a religious edge with two-thirds of the Silesians faithful to the Protestant creed favored by Friedrich II versus the Catholic Austrian Empire. Catholic France supported Prussian to curtail the might of the Hapsburgs ruling family in Austria.

As is normal in long and protracted combat, both Prussia and Austria achieved battlefield victories, but the first contest ultimately went to Friedrich II in 1744 and he maintained control over Silesia. *Oesterreichisch-Schlesien* (Austrian-Silesia) remained with Austria after the Breslau Peace Treaty of 1742. The final conflict was the Seven Years War (1756-1763). Thereafter, Schlesien was a Prussian province with Breslau as its capital.

Schloss or Gutshaus



In the 16th to 18th Centuries, much of the land in Schlesien was owned by the large noble (*adelig*) landowners. The villages of Ober-Schönfeld and Nieder-Schönfeld and the surrounding lands also belonged to such noblemen. The landowners employed farmers and workers living in their villages. The farmers who lived on farms (*Bauernhof*) were allowed a certain amount of land for their own use. They paid the landowner compensation with money or *Naturalien* such as grain and other farm produce. They also worked for the landowner a

certain number of days each year. The farms were hereditary and generally not transferable beyond family members. The landowner usually kept a larger part of land on which he lived and which he farmed with the help of his own workers (*Tagelöhner, Kätbner*) and the farmers. This property was called the *Gut* and if the landowner was of nobility, the holding was the *Rittergut*. The landowner's buildings for his family and servants were the *Schloss* or *Gutshaus*. It normally was surrounded by large stables, barns, and other buildings on one side with a formal garden on the other side.

With the beginning of the 19th Century, the farmers were given the opportunity to purchase their independence by acquiring their farms as free property (*Bauernbefreiung*). The nobleman kept his *Gut*, which he farmed with the help of workers. During 19th Century, agriculture was not a very prosperous enterprise as farming methods and the economy changed. Many noblemen were forced to sell their property.

The *Evangelische* (Lutheran) *Kirche* (Church) at Nieder Schoenfeld, (*Schönfeld*), Kreis Bunzlau, *Schlesien* (Silesia) Germany (ca. 1920s-1930s)



In the Schlesien area, Catholicism was the official religion and Lutheran churches were even forbidden until 1742. Afterward, the Lutheran inhabitants were allowed to establish parishes and erect churches, but with restrictions. The church buildings could not be built of stone or have a belfry. Because the parishes were very large, the Lutheran buildings erected were wooden barn-like structures called *Bethaeuser*.

The *Bethaeuser* displayed that was located in Nieder-Schoenfeld was completed in 1744 and purportedly had 1,460 seats with double galleries on both sides. The Poles who were settled in Silesia after 1945 were Catholic and did not have any use for this building. The building decayed and was torn down sometime in the 1960s or 1970s and no longer exists.

By 1895, the total population of 4.4 million was comprised religiously of about 1.97 million Evangelicals (Lutherans) and 2.38 million Catholics. Ethnically, it was predominately Germanic with the addition of about .99 million Poles and 47,593 Jews.

After World War I, Schlesien lost some areas to Poland and Czechoslovakia. After World War II, the dividing boundary between East Germany and Poland was the Oder River. The terms *Niederschlesien* (Lower Silesia) and *Oberschlesien* (Upper Silesia) refer to the lower and upper regions in relation to the Oder River. Schlesien was given to Poland and cleansed of its ethnic German population by relocation and death. Breslau was renamed Wroclaw.

Edward Fredrick and Maria (nee Landek) Klausch's daughter, Hulda Louise Klausch, who was born in Schlesien married Wilhelm (William) Fred Henry Jonas.



East Frisia (*Ostfriesland*)^{xvii}

The history of East Frisia (*Ostfriesland*) begins after 1000 A.D. when the Normans settled on the Frisian coast. The agricultural land with some little towns was ruled as old Germanic communities and tribes by Chiefs. These Chiefs later became the second class of nobles (*nobiles*). Before the Cirksena Chiefs overtook after the end of the Middle Age, the area was ruled by local Chiefs (*Häuptlinge*) during the Middle Age together with the second class which at that time was referred to as the Free Landowners (*Housemen*). The Free Men later separated into three classes: (1) the Count, (2) the Chief (lower nobility) and (3) the third class free men who needed to own a *herth* (Herd) which had to have a certain size to allow him to be a Houseman (*stede*) and to have a vote in the parliament (*Ostfriesische Landschaft*).

Political rights went with the land. A Chief could own land and be a *herschop* who was a leader of a community. Houseman had to possess a full *herth*. Nobody could be a Judge unless he was at least a Chief or Houseman. If someone conveyed his *herth* to another person or family, he lost this specific right.

In 1430, the Frisian League of Freedom (*Friesischer Bund der Freiheit*) was formed. By 1464, the leader of the League took the title of *Graf zu Norden, Emden und Emisgonien in Ostfriesland* with the the abbreviation *Graf von Ostfriesland* (Count of East Frisia).

During the Middle Age, the region was isolated from other areas of commerce and developed into a county ruled by the Count of East Frisia and after 1662, the Prince of East Frisia (*Fürst von Ostfriesland*) until 1754, when the last prince died without a male heir. In 1754, the King of Prussia succeeded the last Prince. Due to an agreement between Brandenburg and the Frisian Prince, East Frisia became a part of Prussia. The Prussians administrated the area in an absolutistic fashion. They also started redevelopment of the country including the initiation of turning marshes and moors into fertile land.

For the short period of 1807 to 1810, the area was incorporated into Kingdom of Holland and then France. East Frisia was part of the French Empire because of Napoleon's successes on the battlefield. This period was referred to as the *Franzosenzeit* with French administrations by mayors (*maires*) that initiated a more modern administration. People were required to take distinct family names to end the old East Frisian tradition of patronymical names in which the second name of the children was the father's name in genitive form, e.g. Johnson, son of John.

The next political change occurred after the Liberation War against Napoleon (1813-1815), when East Frisia was temporarily transferred to Prussia in 1813 and ultimately the Kingdom of Hanover in 1815. During this time, emigration to the United States started to increase with many East Frisians mistakenly

reported to have come from Hanover. As discussed, the Hanover rule ended in 1868 because Salic Law did not allow a female to become queen.

The Wittmund District (*Kreis*) was created in 1885 from the Amt Wittmund, the Amt Esens, and the City of Esens. All were previously part of the District Aurich. East Frisia again became part of Prussia until 1945 when it became part of Lower Saxony (*Niedersachsen*). Today, East Frisia continues as part of Lower Saxony between the border of The Netherlands and Oldenburg, south to about Papenburg and including the isles in the German Sea between the Dutch border and mouth of the Weser River. It is not a province or governmental unit, but simply a region or area.

Religiously, Charlemagne (742 or 747-814) introduced Christianity to the area. After the Reformation, there was some separation with the south northern most area regained by the Catholic Counter Reformation. The southern part of the Krummhoern (*Krummhörn*) and the City of Emden were strongly Calvinistic. Menso Alting (1541-1612), Dutch vicar and reformer, sought to make East Frisia part of the new Netherlands. The rest, under the rule of the Cirksena and the Grafs families, were Lutheran. However, there was never a defined structure dividing the various creeds. With the end of World War II, East German refugees settled all over Western Germany and changed the religious dynamics for many areas.

Gretchen (nee Faber) Sporleder, wife of Arnold Sporleder, and the Heuton family from which Charles Heuton married Clara Sporleder came from the East Frisia area.

Pomerania^{xviii}

Pomerania or Pommern originally extended along the Baltic Sea from Mecklenburg on the west to almost the seaport of Danzig (now Gdańsk, Poland) on the east. Pomerania was divided into Vorpommern west of the Oder River and Hinterpommern east of the Oder River. It was surrounded by Mecklenburg-Schwerin on the west, Brandenburg on the south, and West Prussia on the east. It had a land area of 11,654 square miles, roughly the size of Delaware and Maryland combined. Stettin (now Szczecin, Poland), a port city 40 miles inland on the Oder River, was the capital of Pomerania.

The earliest inhabitants of Pomerania were Germanic tribes that migrated southwards from Scandinavia prior to 100 B.C. By the Fifth Century A.D., the Goths, Vandals, Germanii and Teutoni had migrated westward and the area was settled by Slavic tribes that entered from the east. The Slavic tribes included the Pomerani and Polani, who settled in the areas that became Pomerania and Poland.

The German name Pommern comes from the Slavonic word, Po, meaning “along the sea.” The Pomeranian Slavs were later referred to as the Wends (or Venedi). In about 995, Pomerania was conquered by Boleslaus I, the King of Poland. Wars between the Poles, Danes, and Germans for possession of the area were fought for more than a century with varying results. In 1122, the Poles were victorious over the pagan Wends and Duke Boleslaw III introduced Christianity to Pomerania. He also invited the first German settlers into the area. By 1128, it was the official religion under the leadership and guidance of the missionary Bishop Otto of Bamberg. Paganism continued among the peasants for an extended period after Christianity became the official faith.^{xix}

Pomerania became a Duchy of the Holy Roman Empire in 1181 when Bogislaw I swore his allegiance to Frederick I (Barbarosa), the German King and Roman Emperor. This began a Griffin (*Greif*) dynasty that continued for the next four centuries. The last Pomeranian Duke was Bogislaw XIV who reigned until his death in 1637. With no one to inherit the crown, the electors of Brandenburg assumed control of Pomerania.

In 1181, the German nations put Pomerania under their protection in exchange for allowing them to send more settlers into the sparsely settled land. In the 12th and 13th Centuries, tens of thousands of immigrants from the Rhineland, Westfalen (Westphalia), Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony), Holstein, Mecklenburg and Holland colonized Pomerania. They established German villages among the Wend inhabitants and introduced trade.

The immigrants were welcomed by the Pomeranian ruling families because they provided the necessary skills and tools to clear the forests, drain the marshes, build dikes and roads, and farm the land. The Dutch and Frisians¹ were skilled at building dikes and draining lands. The settlers introduced the iron plow and the three-field rotation system of farming. The soil was good for grains, especially rye. Grain was exported to northern Germany, the Netherlands, and England as early as the 13th Century.

The Germans built their villages next to the Pomeranian villages already in existence. Eventually, the German language and culture dominated the country. By the 1400s, the native Wends disappeared completely as a result of intermarriage. Finally, even the Pommern language died out in the 18th Century.

Pomerania, like the other German states, was greatly affected by the Reformation with Lutheranism first established in Pomerania in 1525. Nine years later, the Lutheran Church of Pomerania was officially established with the Diet at Treptow on the Rega. A Low German (*Plattdeutsch*) language Bible was printed the same year. By 1536, the dukes of Pommern accepted the Lutheran faith. Nonetheless, the hostility between Catholics and Protestants continued even with the Peace of Augsburg (1555), which was meant to resolve territorial religious issues between the two religions.

In 1618, the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) began as a civil war between these two religious factions. In the summer of 1630, the war took on political overtones when Sweden, under the leadership of Protestant King Gustavus Adolphus, entered the fray. The war continued until 1648 when the Treaty of Westphalia was signed. As compensation for its role in the war, Sweden was awarded control over Stettin

¹ Friesland was a region of northern Europe on the North Sea between the Scheldt and Weser Rivers. The people were of Germanic heritage.

and Vorpommern while Brandenburg retained control of Hinterpommern.

In 1637, the Duke of Pomerania died without an heir. Pomerania then came under control of the Elector of Brandenburg through marriage to the Bogislaw family. The Elector of Brandenburg also inherited the lands of the Teutonic Knights in East Prussia. The Elector assumed the title of King of Prussia, and Pomerania became part of Prussia.

In the early 1700's, Pomerania again became the battleground for conflicts between Russia and Sweden. It ended in 1720 with the Treaty of Stockholm, which ceded part of Hither Pomerania as far as the Peene River to Brandenburg-Prussia. Following the defeat of Napoleon, the Congress of Vienna gave the remaining part of Swedish Pomerania to Prussia in 1815.

In 1740, freedom of worship was decreed in Prussia. In 1817, a consolidation of the various Lutheran faiths into an official state church began and was enforced by 1830. By 1837, Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia combined the Lutheran and Calvinist churches, *Evangelische Kirche*, and required attendance at the closest church. By merging the two religions, there necessarily were compromises by both sects. Many of the "Old Lutherans" of Pomerania objected to any changes in their creed and formed their own churches. When forced to comply with the single church concept, many Old Lutherans emigrated to America and other countries in the years 1837, 1839, and 1843.

Agrarian reforms from 1808 to 1816 changed life on the landed estates. Peasants were allowed to marry without the permission of the landowner. Peasants could move to another Junker estate or work in town as day workers. Nonetheless, their living standard did not improve. The estate owner no longer had to care for his tenants and could evict them. If the farm worker moved to town, the pay for his labor was small. The peasant could own land, but only for as long as he lived. Afterward, it reverted to the state. A few landowners treated their tenants with respect. However, the German upper class continued to be authoritarian and regarded the peasants as their personal property.

There were agricultural disasters in the 19th Century. Pomerania always produced an abundance of grain, especially rye. In 1825, crop failures caused such marked drops in land values that even manor houses on the estates were put up for sale. In the 1830s, England exacted a high tariff on the rye grain causing the price to fall. The sandy soil of Pomerania was good for growing potatoes, and they were the main staple of the Pomeranian diet. There was a potato blight in the 1840s. There were disastrous weather conditions in the years from 1853 until 1856. There was rapid industrialization from 1850 until 1857 and many workers left the farms and the price of land fell. Steep declines in grain prices in the years 1880-1886 were caused by imports of cheap cereals from America and Russia. A drop in wool prices severely reduced farm revenue. In 1882, 88 percent of the livestock were sheep for meat and wool while only six percent were cattle, three percent horses and three percent swine.

As a result of these events, many Pomeranians immigrated to the United States in the second half of the 19th Century. This peaked around 1880. Most Pomeranian immigrants were of the Lutheran faith and settled in the upper Midwest with the largest percentage locating in Wisconsin.

Concerning day-to-day life of the serfs and peasants, their living conditions depended upon the dictates of the noble lords and ruling class. Much of the land was under the control of the Junkers, the landed gentry of Prussia's eastern provinces. The Junkers lived on and farmed the estates (*Ritterguts*) with the help of peasants. They exercised nearly absolute power over their lands. Moreover, they were a powerful political force who dominated both state and society. Over time, many large estates were subdivided into smaller ones as a result of inheritance, partitioning, and sales. By the year 1816, there were 1883 Junker knight estates (*Ritterguts*) in Pomerania.

Beginning in the 15th Century, the peasantry began to lose their rights and freedom. Peasants were evicted en masse from their land and were forced to provide services of labor, horses and tools to the noble landlords. Their situation became worse in the 16th Century when serfdom was imposed. In 1616, the Peasant Ordinance declared that all peasants in Pomerania-Stettin were serfs. They were no longer free to leave their master's estate. Their land became the sole property of their master denying their descendants their hereditary rights. All were subject to unlimited labor services. Children had to serve the manor as unskilled workers. The plight of the peasants remained basically unchanged for the next 200 years.

Peasants were provided housing, small garden plots, a few animals, and a share of the surrounding fields in return for their labors. These commoners generally were three economic categories: (1) those who occupied enough land for their personal needs and supplied both horses and laborers to the landlord, (2) those whose land was insufficient to sustain them and were compelled to provide manual service, and (3) those without any land who served the manor lords directly and lived on his premises. Life was difficult for the peasants because they had no say in their destiny and were exploited by the nobles. Workers were required to work six days a week, basically from sunup to sundown.

Conditions in Hinterpommern began to change for the better in the mid 18th Century. Friedrich the Great (1740-1786) recognized the contribution of the peasants and took steps that markedly improved their lives. He reduced the labor obligation of the peasant from six to three days a week. Peasants were allowed to complain against the landlords and were given recourse against injustice. Education was mandatory for all children between the ages of five and 14. As noted, freedom of worship was decreed in 1740 throughout Prussia. However, these and later reforms did not become effective in Vorpommern until 1815 when Sweden relinquished control of the territory.

Friedrich the Great also actively promoted immigration into the less populated areas with the goal of increasing agricultural production. The population of Pomerania grew from 309,700 to 438,700 during his reign. He offered special privileges to the settlers and tried new methods of land sharing and distribution. In 1745, he introduced the potato and forced its production upon the farmers. Although it wasn't widely accepted until the 1800s, potatoes eventually became one of the major crops in Pomerania.

Unfortunately, Friedrich the Great was succeeded in 1786 by his nephew, Friedrich Wilhelm II (1786-1797?), a weak ruler who undid many of his uncle's progressive improvements. Friedrich Wilhelm II opposed the agrarian reforms and nearly doubled the number of nobles who seized much of the peasants' land. At the beginning of the 19th Century, the commoners owned less than ten percent of the land and in most cases the amount of land owned by individual families was inadequate to support their family. Moreover, the peasants could own land only during their lifetime and afterward it reverted back to the state.

The peasants fared better under the leadership of his son, Friedrich Wilhelm III (1797?-1813), who became King in 1797. Between 1808 and 1816, agrarian reforms were once again instituted that provided even greater freedoms to the peasants. On September 14, 1811, serfdom in Pomerania was abolished and the serfs who had been under hereditary bondage to the estates were now free to move from village to village, choose their own trade, and marry a spouse of their choice. However, tenants were still responsible for rent or labor services to the estates. To become free owners of their land, they had to cede part of the land to their masters. In the case of hereditary holdings, one-third was ceded and one-half if they had no hereditary rights to the land. Nonetheless, many peasants were unable to survive after relinquishing part of their land and often were forced to sell the remaining land and become day laborers. Furthermore, landlords were no longer obligated to support peasants who were no longer in their servitude and could evict them at will. Nevertheless, after the Prussian reforms, many knight's estates were acquired by commoners and by 1868 they owned nearly 40 percent of them.

In the rural countryside, everyone lived in small villages often centered on the landed estates (*Guts*). The *Guts* generally consisted of a large manor house, several huge barns and stables and often a flour mill or distillery. A majority of the villages had one church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, with an adjoining cemetery. Most had less than a few hundred inhabitants living in a few dozen houses or households. In some villages, homes simply lined both sides of the road as done by the Wends. In others, homes were clustered around a central commons with the manor house at one end and the church at the other as done by the Germans. These communal villages not only provided protection for the residents, but facilitated easy access to the fields that radiated outward from the village or along the roadside.

Houses were generally constructed of a framework of posts and beams that were filled in and plastered with a mixture of clay and straw. Roofs were thatched with a thick layer of reeds and floors were packed clay. The house and barn were connected with only a wall between them. The peasants' homes were barren with few furnishings.

In *Our Forgotten Past* (1982),^{xx} Jerome Blum described life in the villages. Their social activities centered on family, church and community. They worked, played, celebrated and worshiped together. There is little evidence that they ever ventured very far from their villages. Their daily activities were consumed by long hours of hard work. Even children were required to work at an early age. In 1839, the Prussian government set a minimum age of nine for working children. After religious confirmation, lads usually left their homesteads to work elsewhere as depicted by Charles John Ludwig Karnopp who was born in 1842. His recollection of life as a youth was published in *Die Pommerschen Leute* (1991).

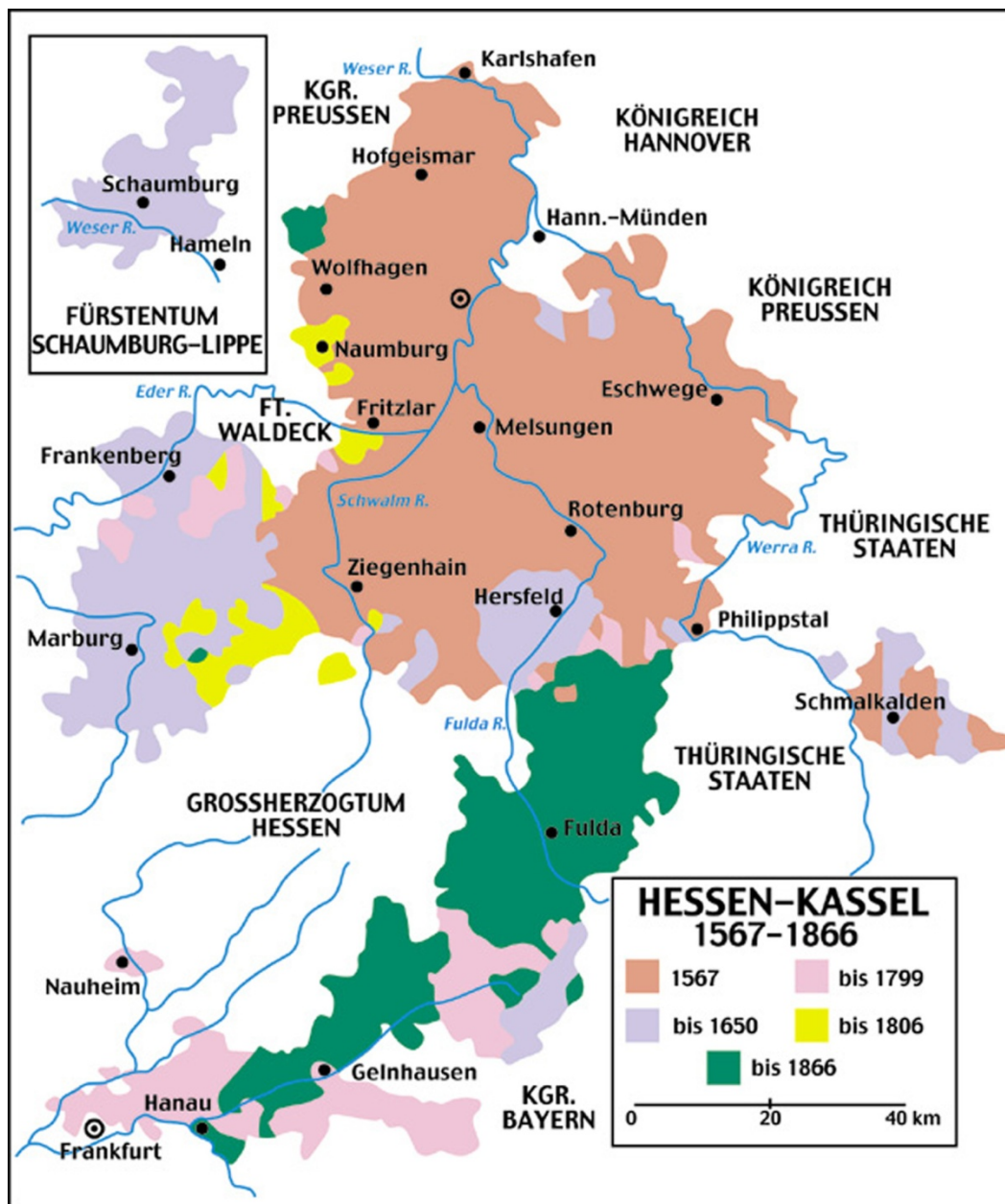
At the age of nine years I was obliged to leave home to herd cattle in the wilderness for four families. I became very homesick and prayed to God that I might find a way to get home to see my folks. One evening I went home but my father, not knowing the intensity of my homesickness, sent me back the same evening. My wages were five dollars for the summer. That fall, my father bought my first boots. The next summer my father had me work for a butcher, watching cows and sheep; this was five miles from our village. My wages were a complete outfit consisting of coat, vest, trousers, two shirts, cap, stockings and one pair of boots. The next summer I did the same work for which I received the same wages. I was now twelve years old. At this age all children were required to go to the pastor for religious instruction. Our pastor lived five miles away from our village where I hired out to watch cows and went to the pastor for religious instruction. My wages were the same as before. During the winter I was at home, but in the spring I went back to the same place. At this time I was fourteen years of age and was confirmed. The pastor made a great impression upon my young mind; I thought I could stay with him and it would be easy to live a Christian life. Then I hired out to another farmer for one year. During the winter, I had to feed the cattle and sheep and during the summer watch the sheep. I had a little hut to sleep in at night and how frightened I was at times. I had a sheep dog and a bayonet for a weapon. One night the dog barked fearfully. I sat up in my bed with fright and in my great fear, I imagined I saw a man near the sheep fold. I was too frightened to investigate, but in the morning I found all of my sheep there. I arose at four in the morning without being called to move the sheep to another place so that the land might be evenly fertilized. while tending sheep I knit mittens and stockings, which I sold; this gave me a little spending money. I could knit as fast as any woman.

Then came a change in my life. My father was a laborer in Koldemanz, Greifenberg who had to provide for a helper. My oldest sister did this work for my father for two years. Then I took her place. I was now seventeen years of age; then I hired out to work for Herr Gloxin to work on his farm. I was young but almost full grown: we were obliged to carry sacks of grain containing 160 to 200 pounds up to the second story which made me tremble so that I could not sit still. This work I did for three years receiving \$28 per year. At the end of three years, I had saved \$75 of my earnings. At this time I was called to be examined for the military service found to be sound and chosen for the heavy cavalry class.

At the end of World War II, much of Pomerania, including Stettin (now Szczecin), and other German lands were given to Poland. Vorpommern became part of East Germany and Hinterpommern became part of Poland. Two million Germanic Pomeranians in the new Polish territory were evicted and most left with what they could carry. Most went to the British zone of Germany. Later they were absorbed into West Germany or emigrated to Brazil, Australia, the United States, and other places. In 1990 with the reunification of East and West Germany, Vorpommern became part of the reunified Germany and is included in the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Most of Pomerania is relatively flat although hills as high as 838 feet are found along the eastern border. The glacial terrain varies from level land to gently rolling hills that are interspersed with numerous woodlands and shallow lakes. Rivers, which begin in the highlands of southern Germany, flow to the north emptying into the Baltic Sea. About 55 percent of the land is cultivated, 20 percent is meadows and moorland, and about 25 percent is covered in forests and lakes. Crops included rye, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, sugar beets and tobacco. The white sandy beaches along the 340 mile long Baltic coastline are popular tourist destinations for the Germans and Poles. Numerous shallow lakes are scattered among steep, tree-covered slopes connected by a network of swift-flowing streams.

The Koehler (*Köhler*), Lempke, Manske, Buske and Freitag families were from Pomerania.



In the heart of present-day Germany, the historic formation of Hesse-Cassel (*Kassel*) was an episode of ever changing borders based upon religion intrigue with political ramifications. The changing boundaries and entry and exit of territories are demonstrated by the above map illustrating the shifting borders from 1567 to 1866 when the area finally became a part of the German Empire.

The line of Hesse-Cassel was founded by William IV, the Wise, eldest son of Philip, the Magnanimous. On Philip's death in 1567, William received one half of Hesse with Kassel as his capital and this formed the landgraviate of Hesse-Cassel. His son, Maurice, the Learned (1592-1627), turned Protestant in 1605 and supported the Protestant cause in the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). Lacking success, Maurice was forced to cede some of his territories to the Darmstadt line. As a result, he abdicated in favor of his son William V (1627-1637).

With William V's demise, his widow, Amalie Elizabeth (1637-1650), was the regent for their son William VI (1637-1663). She reclaimed the country and with the support of the Catholic French and Lutheran Swedes, Amalie was able to remain in authority in the position of Landgravine and even secured a part of Westphalia.

In 1640, Schaumburg-Gehmen was divided between Hesse-Cassel and Lippe-Alverdisen. The two regions were designated as Schaumburg-Hessen and Schaumburg Lippe. Later, they became a county independent of Lippe. At the Peace of Westphalia (1648), Hesse-Cassel gained the larger part of Schaumburg and the Abbey of Hersfeld.

While Amalie Elizabeth was in control, she introduced the rule of primogeniture in which the eldest son inherited the entire landgraviate and the practice of dividing it among all the heirs was discontinued. This was done to curtail the constant splintering of governmental units with the death of the ruling head of the family.

William VI came of age in 1650 and was an enlightened patron of learning and the arts during his reign until 1663. He was succeeded by his son William VII, an infant, who died in 1670, and was succeeded by his brother Charles (1670-1730). Charles's chief claim is he was the first ruler to adopt the system of hiring his soldiers out to foreign powers as mercenaries as a means of improving the national finances, *Soldatenhandel*. Frederick I, the next landgrave (1730-1751), had become King of Sweden by marriage. With his death, he was succeeded in the landgraviate by his brother William VIII (1751-1760), who fought as an ally of England and Prussia during the Seven Years War. His successor, Frederick II (1760-85), lent 20,000 Hessian troops for hire by England for about £3,191,000 to assist in the American Revolutionary War.

When the next landgrave, William IX (1785-1821), ascended the throne, he took part in the war against France a few years later. In 1795, peace was arranged by the Treaty of Basle in which his loss in 1801 of his possessions on the left bank of the Rhine was compensated in 1803 by some of the former French territory around Mainz. Also, he was elevated to an Elector (*Kurfurst*) as William I. In 1806, he made a treaty of neutrality with Napoleon. After the Battle of Jena, Napoleon suspected William's nefarious designs and plots. Napoleon occupied William's country and expelled him. Hesse-Cassel was then added to Jérôme Napoleon's (Bonaparte's brother) new Kingdom of Westphalia. During French rule, various progressive reforms were instituted. After the Battle of Leipzig in 1813, the French were driven out and on the 21st of November the Elector William I returned in triumph to his capital.

A treaty between William I and the anti-Napoleon allies on December 2nd stipulated that he was to receive back all his former territories, or their equivalent, and the antique authoritarian constitution was reinstated. The territories were restored by the Congress of Vienna. However, William's request to be recognized as King of the Chatti (*König der Katten*) was rejected at the Conference of Aix-la-Chapelle (1818). He retained the meaningless title of Elector with the title of "Royal Highness."

William I immediately abolished all the reforms introduced under the French regime and governance was restored to the same status as of November 1st, 1806. Attempts for democratic reforms failed. William I died on the 27th of February 1821 to be succeeded by his son, William II. Under him, the constitutional crisis in Hesse-Cassel came to a head. He was arbitrary like his father. Also, he shocked

public sentiment by his treatment of his wife, a popular Prussian princess, along with his relations with his mistress, Emilie Orlopp. He created for her the title of Countess of Reichenbach. With civil discontent spreading in his kingdom, William I resigned and appointed his son, Frederick William, as regent.

Unfortunately, Frederick William temperament was similar to his father's. Continued opposition to the constitutional changes toward a more democratic government finally resulted in the Revolution of 1848. By then, Frederick William had become elector on his father's death on November 20, 1847. Under pressure by the Frankfurt National Parliament, he was forced to dismiss his reactionary ministry, Hans Daniel Hassenpflug, and tentatively agreed to a comprehensive program of democratic reform.

By early 1850, Frederick William regained control with the assistance of the Austrian government. On the 23rd of February 1850, Hassenpflug was reinstated and he led the struggle against constitutional reforms and outside opposition by Prussia. On the 2nd of September, the legislative branch (*Diet*) was dissolved and the country was placed under martial law. Fearing open rebellion, an Austrian and Bavarian military force entered the country on November 1st.

Austrian and Bavarian occupation of Hesse created concerns for Prussia because of its need to communicate and support its Rhine provinces. While open conflict between the two major and powerful German states appeared imminent, a diplomatic solution was reached with Hesse remaining under the control of the ruling class—the democratic reforms failed. By 1855, growing agitation caused Hassenpflug to again be dismissed. Five years later, a new constitution was adopted, but restoring the former constitutional changes was difficult to achieve. In 1866, Frederick William joined allegiance with Austria. Prussia reacted by invading Hesse with Kassel occupied by June 20. Frederick William was taken prisoner and removed to Settin. By the Treaty of Prague, Hesse-Kassel was annexed to Prussia and became a member of the German Empire.

From the diverse variations of the Hesse regimes came the Werner family including Franziska Werner who married Fred Sporleder.

Chapter Two Endnotes

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ii *History of Modern Europe 1792-1878* by C. A. Fyffe, M. A., Barrister-at-Law; Fellow of University College, Oxford, Vice-President of the Royal Historical Society, Globus Publishing, © 2003, as retrieved on Feb 24, 2005 22:36:30 GMT, <<http://www.globusz.com/ebooks/Europe/footnotes.htm>>.

iii “Mecklenburg since the Middle Ages” by edited by Carol Gohsman Bowen, as retrieved on Jan 15, 2005 22:22:01 GMT, <<http://blacklake.biz/meck/history.htm>>.

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v “Memories of Life on a ‘Gut,’” by Charles E. Rothe and edited by Carol Gohsman Bowen, as retrieved on Dec 18, 2004 03:16:32 GMT, <<http://blacklake.biz/meck/gut.htm>>.

vi “Zur Bedeutung alter Orts- und Flurnamen in Haan, Hilden und Umgebung,” (“To the meaning of old local and flurnamen in Haan, Hilden and environment”), “Puett - Poett - well. In Bergi a Puett or a Poett is a source well, which supplied usually a whole locality with drinking water. The term is derived from Latin, *puteus*, dug hole. In some places still annually the Poettfest celebrated, so also in long-field-how/as-separate. The Poett was located in former times in the center of the local life. From this etymon the place names Puett, Puettberg, Puetterfeld and Puettdele descend. If the first name designates only the presence of a well, the others betray the situation of the Puetts. Still another interpretation is to be considered: Also a mine, a charring or ore pit, are marked with ‘Puett.’ Where today the manufacturing plants of the company Backhaus are, is to have been dug more than 230 years ago for iron stone, after one had assumed first peat and brown coal there. [Herder S. 13; Lomberg S. 43]” © 2002-2005 Marina Alice Mutz. Alle Rechte vorbehalten. Zeitspurensuche, <http://home.arcor.de/maramut/> 30.12.2002, zuletzt aktualisiert 18.03.2005, as retrieved on Mar 20, 2005 14:57:55 GMT, <<http://home.arcor.de/maramut/02arc/haanflu.htm>>.

vii Howarth, David. *Waterloo: Day of Battle*, page 144

Durant, Will and Ariel. *The Story of Civilization: The Age of Napoleon: A History of European Civilization from 1789-1815*, page 748

viii Salic Law (*Lex Salica*) dealt with inheritance rules for allodial lands (i.e. family lands not held in benefice) concerning salic lands (*terra Salica*) to wit:

“Title LIX. Concerning Private Property.

1. If any man die and leave no sons, if the father and mother survive, they shall inherit.
3. If the father and mother do not survive, and he leaves brothers or sisters, they shall inherit.
3. But if there are none, the sisters of the father shall inherit.
4. But if there are no sisters of the father, the sisters of the mother shall claim that inheritance.
5. If there are none of these, the nearest relatives on the father’s side shall succeed to that inheritance.
6. But of Salic land no portion of the inheritance shall come to a woman: but the whole inheritance of the land shall come to the male sex.”

Clause 6 was the source to claim that land could not be inherited by a woman, but only the male. Feudalism provided that with the inheritance of land also went the title and authority. If a woman could not inherit land, she likewise could not be a ruler.

“The Salic Law” (Gengler, “Germanische Rechtsdenkmaeler,” p. 267), The Avalon Project at Yale Law School, © 1996-2003, The Lillian Goldman Law Library in Memory of Sol Goldman, 127 Wall Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06520. The document was last corrected for conversion errors or the markup was updated on: 02/26/2005 09:51:37, as retrieved on Feb 25, 2005 04:44:56 GMT, <

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^x *German Radicals Confront the Common People: Revolutionary Politics and Popular Politics, 1789-1849* by Karl H. Wegert, page 122

^{xi} *Independent Immigrants, A Settlement of Hanoverian Germans in Western Missouri* by Robert W. Fizzell, pages 13-15, 17 and 21-22

^{xii} *Independent Immigrants, A Settlement of Hanoverian Germans in Western Missouri* by Robert W. Fizzell, page 85, footnote 33

^{xiii} *Independent Immigrants, A Settlement of Hanoverian Germans in Western Missouri* by Robert W. Fizzell, pages 13-14

^{xiv} *Independent Immigrants, A Settlement of Hanoverian Germans in Western Missouri* by Robert W. Fizzell, page 77

^{xv} “Hildesheim,” *The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition*, © 2004 Columbia University Press, as retrieved on Mar 1, 2005 09:32:28 GMT, <<http://www.bartleby.com/65/hi/Hildeshe.html>>

“Hildesheim,” 1911 Online Encyclopedia, © 2003, 2004, as retrieved on Feb 19, 2005 08:56:08 GMT, <<http://31.1911encyclopedia.org/H/HI/HILDESHEIM.htm>>

^{xvi} “General History of Silesia,” as retrieved on Feb 24, 2005 19:04:22 GMT, <<http://members.aol.com/BeallComp/history.htm>>

“A Rendezvous with Glory, the Silesian Wars,” as retrieved on Jan 16, 2005 01:10:36 GMT, <<http://members.tripod.com/~Nevermore/king3.html>>.

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^{xvii} “Ostfriesland,” 7-Mar-98 (Helmut H. Agena(+), Hamburg), updated and modified by Robert Meyer, Leer 26-JUL-2003, as retrieved on Feb 20, 2005 05:46:02 GMT, <<http://www.genealogienetz.de/reg/HIST/ostfriesland-e.html>>.

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^{xviii} “The History of Pomerania” edited by Carol Gohsman Bowen. This history was compiled from the writings of LeRoy Boehlke, President of Pommerscher Verein Freistadt, from the writings of Myron Gruenwald, who wrote several books on Pomerania and from the writings of Larry Jensen in the *German Genealogical Digest*, as retrieved on Feb 25, 2005 16:54:19 GMT, <<http://blacklake.biz/meck/pommhist.htm>>.

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^{xix} *A History of Pagan Europe* by Prudence Jones and Nigel Pennick, pages 169-170

^{xx} *Our Forgotten Past* (1982) edited by Jerome Blum and an English translation of *In Western Pomerania* (1963) by K. Sajsse-Tobiczyk.

^{xxi} "Hesse-Cassel," © 2001 Condottieri Design. The source of the information is the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1905 Edition), as retrieved on Feb 22, 2005 21:54:22 GMT, <<http://www.vondonop.org/hessen-kassel.html>>.

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