

**ANCESTORS
AND
DESCENDANTS
OF
EDWARD WILLIAM
BLAU**

(WILHELM EDUARD LOUIS BLAU)

BY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have shared in the creation of this genealogy. The grandchildren of E.W. Blau: Lucile Vardeman, Lawrence Blau, Ed Norris and Carolyn Neal shared their recollections of him, provided photographs for me to copy and helped identify old photographs that were unmarked. Other family members contributed information about their families.

Unfortunately, I began my interest in the family history a month after Leonora Blau Norris died in 1987 at age 109. She remained lucid to her death and could have provided insights about her father and family. Fortunately she left a legacy of memories in interviews for the oral history project of Columbus College and the transcripts of the interviews are fascinating reading about her family and life in Columbus when she was a girl. She also left a wealth of 19th century family photographs, some marked identifying the persons, some unmarked. She also left E.W. Blau's childhood notebook showing his excellent penmanship and artistic abilities. Carolyn Neal allowed me to copy the photographs and the workbook. Ed Norris allowed me to copy the photographs of E.W. Blau and Leonora Parish Blau, and provided copies of his mother's Bible records. He also provided obituaries and locations of some unmarked graves.

Lawrence Blau allowed me to copy photographs he had and to photograph E.W. Blau's gold pocket watch, and he gave me the original deeds to E.W. Blau's house.

Libraries were also helpful. The Bradley Library in Columbus has many of the city directories of Columbus from 1860 to the present, and most of the Columbus *Ledger* and *Enquirer* newspapers on microfilm. The Austin Public Library has a collection of original drawings by E.W.

Blau's brother Gustav Blau, and they sent me copies of those drawings. The Texas General Land Office has made 65 of F.G. Blau's maps available on its website and offers reproductions for sale. The Georgia State Archives has the old records of Muscogee County on microfilm. The Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints has the church records of the church in Frankenhausen from the 16th century to 1880 on microfilm and the church records of the church in Sachsenburg from 1800 to 1880. They also had the Alabama Confederate Pensions records on microfilm. I had to learn to read the old German script to gain information from the church records. When I got stuck on something I could not make out, Ursula E. Huelsbergen, of the University of Kansas' Max Kade German-American Document and Genealogy Research Center, came though with the needed translations. Kathleen Schroder of Germany saw the Blau family web page and contacted me with documents and information on the Kneisel family and Carl Blau's assistance of his niece Amanda Kneisel.

While Bad Frankenhausen was under the Communist government I did receive some timid response from the church there, but no response from the city archives. After Germany was unified in 1990, the church began to provide more information for the dates after 1880. The church also sent photographs of the three churches and the Strobel organ along with a brief history of the organ. The city archives sent tax documents and other information, at times going out of their way to find information on the Blau family that I did not know to request. The city tourist information office sent photographs, brochures and maps. The church in Bad Frankenhausen put me in touch with Joachim Hetz who provided me with photocopies of the church records of Sachsenburg from 1733 to 1800. He also provided newspaper clippings about the Strobel organ,

maps and books on the history of Frankenhäusen and the surrounding area and photographs of a 17th century Bible with Blau family records found in Sachsenburg.

Without the friendliness and helpfulness of family members, libraries, the church and city archives in Bad Frankenhäusen, my knowledge of the Blau family would have gone back only to my grandfather. I hope this compilation will be of interest to the descendants of Edward William Blau.

A warning: Companies try to sell coats of arms that are bogus. I have found three different coats of arms for families named Blau. None belonged to our Blau family. Some advertise books with information on the Blau family. These books are usually telephone directory listings which are easily available on the internet.

EDWARD WILLIAM BLAU (WILHELM EDUARD LOUIS BLAU)

WILHELM EDUARD LOUIS BLAU was born on October 16, 1837 at 8:00 p.m. in Frankenhausen, a village on the south slope of a small wooded mountain range, the Kyffhauser, in the Thuringia state of Prussia. His penmanship workbook shows that he was educated and had a very clear handwriting as a teenager. The workbook also contains his youthful drawings of animals and of people in typical German dress of the mid nineteenth century, clearly showing his artistic talent. As a youth in Germany he learned his father's trade of linen weaving. Germany was not a unified nation in mid-nineteenth century and there were perpetual military actions between the various German states. It was law that at age 17 a young man went into the military. However, the oldest son in a family was exempt. The eldest son was also the only child in a family who could inherit from the father. Eduard was the third son in the family; however the first born son died at age four months. He told his children that his older brother, Carl, had been in the military. After Carl's military experience, their mother vowed no other son of hers would go into the military. As Eduard was approaching the age of mandatory military service, he and his older brother immigrated to the United States. They went to the northern port of Hamburg and on March 15, 1854 sailed on the ship *Gutenberg*. The Hamburg embarkation list does not show Eduard's name, but does show the names C.J. Blau and Doris Blau from Frankenhausen. Who Doris was is unknown.

The *Gutenberg* landed in New York on May 24, 1854. The list of passengers disembarking does not show Doris Blau, but does show Eduard Blau, linenweaver, age 16 and Johann Blau, linenweaver, age 18, both from Frankenhausen. The disembarkation list shows they had one piece of baggage. Sometime after arriving in the United States he Americanized his name to Edward William Blau. He told his children that he went to Milwaukee upon his arrival in the United States. Railroads were being developed in the 1850s and Wisconsin was a new state, having entered the Union in 1848. A large number of Germans and other northern European immigrants settled there. Edward told his children that while walking down the street he saw a man painting a cow on the side of a dairy wagon. He boldly told the man he could paint a better cow. His boldness was rewarded by his being given the job. He worked in Milwaukee as a sign painter and a piano and organ tuner and technician. No one with the name Blau is listed in the Milwaukee City Directory during the years 1854-1861, nor is there any mention of a Blau in the Milwaukee *Sentinel* newspaper during that time. It is not known how long his brother stayed in the United States. He eventually returned to Frankenhausen where he is found in tax records in 1880.

After the disembarkation list in 1854, the next record of Edward in the United States is the 1860 census of Muscogee County, Georgia taken in July. His marriage license in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia is dated September 13, 1860. Why and when he moved is not known. No one knows how long he was in Columbus before he met **LEONORA PARISH**, who was age 15 when they married. Edward continued his occupations as sign painter and piano and organ technician in Columbus. With his training in linen weaving, he must have made a firm decision to change directions because Columbus was a

center of textile industries. His first child, Ida, was born in 1861. In 1863 his first son, Eddie Otto, was born. Both were born in Columbus. Edward and Leonora lived with her mother **Sarah Parish**.

Ironically, having left his homeland because of unsettled conditions there, he found himself in an area of civil war over issues about which he probably did not have strong feelings. He did not become involved in the Civil War until August 3, 1863 when it was mandated that all able bodied men in the Columbus area contribute to the war effort. He entered into the Confederate Army in Columbus as a private in Company F, 19th Battalion, Georgia State Guard in the Arsenal Division, manufacturing war materials for the Confederate Army. Columbus was one of the major manufacturing centers for the Confederacy, including making boats for the Confederate Navy. Edward was involved in the manufacture of uniforms, no doubt making use of his childhood training.

On September 3, 1863 Edward purchased lot 196 in Girard, Russell County, Alabama, just across the river from Columbus (Russell Deed Book 26, p 216). The lot was on Marshall's Mill Creek on Albert Street (the name was changed to 5th Avenue about 1885). It was a short distance to Bridge Street and a wooden covered bridge over the Chattahoochee to Columbus. The Edward Blau family remained in this house until his death. His son Eddie Otto died in May, 1864 and was buried in a plot owned by Leonora's sister, Isabella Roman, in Linwood Cemetery in Columbus.

The Civil War was coming closer to home as Sherman's army began its approach to Atlanta with the Battle of Rocky Face Ridge, near Dalton, on May 8, 1864. All able bodied men were sent to Atlanta. Edward was sent to General Walthall's Division. He was wounded in the foot on

July 28, 1864 at the Battle of Ezra Church in Atlanta. He was sent to the hospital in Columbus and worked in the shops, until he was sent to join the forces in Macon. The Confederates were in retreat to Thomasville, where his wound bothered him, and then he continued on to Savannah where he was engaged in battle, retreated into South Carolina and was captured. When he was released, Edward walked from Savannah to Columbus. While he was a captive, the Union army in Alabama did not receive notice that the war was over. The Union army came through Girard and on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865, a week after Lee's surrender, captured Columbus in "the last battle of the war." Union troops were right by the Blau house but were unable to cross the river over the Dillingham Street Bridge due to planks having been removed by the Confederates, who then set fire to the bridge.

On August 28, 1866, Edward's younger brother Franz Gustav Blau, age 24, immigrated, arriving in New York on the ship *Teutonia* from Hamburg, and joined Edward in Columbus. The arrival records show Gustav's occupation as "printer." They worked together in sign painting and in tuning pianos and organs. Franz Gustav was known to Edward's children as Uncle Gus. In records he appears as F.G. Blau or as Francis Blau. One advertisement in the Columbus *Daily Sun* (December 4, 1872):

PIANO TUNING.

E. & G. BLAU, Tuners and
 Repairers of Pianos, Melodions,
 Accordions and Organs.
 Orders from the country will be
 attended to at reasonable terms. Orders may
 be left at Pease's Book Store or through Post
 Office. E. & G. BLAU.
 P. S.—Sign and Ornamental Painting done
 in the best of workmanship. not tr

While continuing to live in Girard, Edward was active in the life of Columbus. He purchased lots 46, 47, 56, and 57

in "City Village" on the northern limits of Columbus on August 14, 1867 (Muscogee Deed Book N, p 210). On October 11, 1867 he purchased the north half of lot 48, fronting on Troup Street in Northern Liberties (Deed Book N, page 9). Troup Street was changed to Third Avenue about 1885. On January 11, 1868 he purchased lots 54 and 65 in Northern Liberties, adjoining the north common of Columbus, and adjoining his other lots (Deed Book N, p 205). On May 28, 1868 he sold lots 56 and 57 of City Village (Deed Book N, p 351) and on June 15, 1868 he sold lots 64 and 65 of Northern Liberties (Deed Book N, p 360).

The 1870 census (Russell, p 156) showed the value of his real property at \$2500. His personal property was valued at \$800. The household contained 4 adults and 5 children. His occupation is shown as "painter." Sarah Parish (shown as Sarah "Cornish"), age 56, lived in the household. Ida is 8, Adde is 5, Charly is 3, and Edward, Jr. is shown as 1 and "nameless." Also in his household were Isabella Roman, age 34, with two children: Isabella, age 7, and Daniel, less than a year old.

Isabella Roman was an older daughter of Sarah Parish. She had married Peter Bennck Roman and had a daughter, Sarah Margaret Roman, born on December 23, 1871, who died September 25, 1887. It is not known what happened that Peter was not with his wife at this time, or when he died, though presumably after March, 1871. Isabella, widow of Peter Roman, was born November 13, 1835, and died March 31, 1886. When Eddie Otto Blau died, the Romans purchased a plot at Linwood Cemetery. He was buried in an unmarked grave in their plot. Peter is not buried in the plot, but Isabella and daughter Sarah are.

At the encouragement of other Germans in the community (but without any financial encouragement) Edward and Gustav started Blau's Brewery in Girard in 1870. In

February, 1871 the Germans in Columbus received word of the defeat of France by Germany, beginning the unification of the German states into the German Empire. The Columbus Daily *Enquirer* (February 4, 1871) tells of the celebration of the local Germans at Blau's Brewery on the hill in Girard, with speeches, fireworks, singing, and free flowing beer:

"GERMAN FESTIVAL - The German Sangverein (Glee Club) held a festival at Blau's brewery in Girard Thursday night, the principal object of which seemed to be to give expression to their satisfaction at the capitulation of Paris. There were some twenty-five or thirty persons present. In the course of the evening a very fine display of fire-works was given on the hill; a number of national concert and comic airs were sung; a collation and much lager were disposed of, and several short speeches made....The festival broke up at about 11 o'clock, when the party returned home full of good humor, good supper, and good lager."

Later that month Edward Blau was one of the amateur singers performing at the opening of the Springer Opera House in Columbus:

"THE EPISCOPAL CONCERT - Some six or seven hundred persons were present at the inauguration of Springer's Opera House on Tuesday evening by our Episcopal friends...Messer's Blau, Pond, Wells and Coart very creditably furnished the masculine tones in the several choruses..."

(Columbus *Enquirer*, February 23, 1871)

Newspaper articles in the Columbus *Daily Enquirer* show that Edward and Gustav were involved in the musical life of Columbus after the war. Both led a German chorus, the Gesang Verein. Edward also sang as a solo performer

and was involved in fund raising concerts to benefit Confederate veterans, widows, and orphans:

"THE CONCERT TONIGHT - A number of lady and gentlemen musical amateurs, in conjunction with the Columbus Gesangverein, will give Prof. Chase a complimentary benefit at the Opera House tonight." (Columbus *Enquirer*, April 13, 1871)

"PROFESSOR CHASE'S BENEFIT -...During the evening the audience was favored by two songs from the German Glee Club -'In May,' led by Mr. M.M. Meyer, and the 'Frog Song,' led by Mr. Blau. Both of the choruses were capital, and displayed the fact that many of the most cultivated gentlemen's voices of the city are to be found among our German population. The 'Frog Song' was rendered more amusing by the appearance in frog costume of Messrs. Kaiser and Ilmer, who noted their parts naturally as if they had recently been resurrected from the bottom of one of the brick-yard ponds." (Columbus *Enquirer*, April 13, 1871)

"THE CONCERT MONDAY NIGHT - The concert Monday night, by Prof. Chase and amateurs, in aid of a monument to Confederate dead in Columbus was well attended and complete success....The German Glee Club again sustained themselves well in a couple of choruses." (Columbus *Enquirer*, April 26, 1871)

E.W. Blau may have made a visit to Germany in 1873. The passenger list for the ship *Minnesota*, arriving at New York on May 27, 1873, shows a Wilhelm Blau, age 36. The 1873 City Directory lists "Edward W. Blew, painter".

Things did not go well economically with the brewery. On October 20, 1873, Leonora Parish Blau had Edward deed the house to her, however the deed was not recorded until

1926 (Russell County Deed Book 162, p 43). The Columbus *Enquirer* gave notice that he had painted a sign for them and recommended his work as sign painter and piano tuner:

"Something Nice. Mr. E.W. Blau has just completed for us a neat gilt sign for our agency at Opelika. It is a nice piece of workmanship, and shows that he executes with a masterly hand. We don't know a better man to recommend to our people as a first-class sign painter than Mr. E. W. Blau. Besides he is a deserving gentleman, and worthy of the patronage of the people. Mr. B. is an excellent musician and is prepared to repair and put in tune pianos, organs, &c. We have tried him and know whereof we speak. Our people should give him their work and not to others, who are no better and are not near so deserving. Patronize home folks is a good motto, especially when they are as good, if not better, than strangers." (Columbus *Enquirer-Sun*, December 11, 1877)

In 1878 "the Gesang Verein met every Tuesday in the Gunby Building. Businessman Phil Eifler, a locksmith, was elected president, while Edward Blau the director, tuned pianos for the J.W. Pease Co." (*History of Music In Columbus 1828-1928* by Katherine Hines Mann, 1967, p 169.)

In the 1880 Census of Russell County (ED 151, Sheet 1) he is shown as a painter with eight children, six in school. Also living with them is his mother-in-law, Sarah Parish, age 68. Edward remained in Girard and worked for Pease Book Store and Piano Company at 1140 Broad in Columbus. He sold and repaired pianos and organs.

Leonora Parish Blau died in childbirth on June 23, 1881. Edward bought a plot at Linwood Cemetery in Columbus

where she was buried. The plot has no number as it is in the "Old Cemetery" portion.

Their children:

1. **Ida Eugenia Blau**, born December 29, 1861 in Columbus; married John Poitevent Golden on October 31, 1882; died July 13, 1939.
2. **Eddie Otto Blau**, born February 14, 1863 in Columbus; died as an infant in Girard on May 22, 1864.
3. **Ada (Addie) Bertha Blau**, born April 4, 1865 in Girard; died December 21, 1873.
4. **Charles Herman Blau**, born July 16, 1867 in Girard; married Isabel (Belle) Eva Gaither on November 7, 1892; died February 5, 1962.
5. **Edward William Blau, Jr**, born October 31, 1868 in Girard; married Mattie Love Gaither in 1887; they were divorced about 1902; died October 9, 1945.
6. **Tina Belle Blau**, born September 26, 1870 in Girard; died May 17, 1889.
7. **Lorenz Gustav Blau**, born November 9, 1872 in Girard; married Montarie Elizabeth Coulter on June 19, 1907; died July 31, 1954.
8. **George Gafford Blau**, born December 26, 1873; married Ola Castleberry on January 24, 1894; died February 12, 1957.

9. **Effie McDougall Blau**, born January 3, 1876 in Girard; married Lorenzo Garland Biggers on August 10, 1904; died March 18, 1967.
10. **Leonora May Blau**, born March 18, 1878 in Girard; married Dr. John Pickney Norris on July 8, 1903; died September 6, 1987.
11. **Richard Ernst Blau**, born November 23, 1879 in Girard; married Ramoncita del Escobel on November, 1905; died November 14, 1928.

Edward married a young widow neighbor, **EMMA COBB MASSEY**, on July 1, 1883 (Russell Marriage Book 1872-1886, page 388). She was born in Chattahoochee County, the daughter of Savannah House and Isaac Cobb. Edward's youngest sister had married a piano and organ builder. When his father retired, he apparently joined his son-in-law in building pianos and organs. As a wedding present, they sent Edward a family made piano from Frankenhause. It was an upright with 85 keys.

[In 2002 the case is in good condition and has no name on the fallboard. It has a carving of two cherubs, one playing a wind instrument and the other playing a stringed instrument. On each side of the carving is a silver candle holder. Attached to the top back of the piano is a carved eagle. In 1990 the piano is not functioning and it is not economically feasible to have it repaired. The piano action (typical of the period: being "birdcage" style) was manufactured by L. Isermann and bears the serial number 4046. Isermann opened the first piano action factory in Germany in 1842 in Hamburg, and was in business until his death in 1898, about which time his grandson merged the company with F. Langer & Company in Berlin. When Edward William Blau died, the piano went to his oldest child, Ida Blau Golden. It passed

to her daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Golden Skardon, who gave it to her son, John Norton Skardon, who upon moving to Japan in 1989 gave it to George G. Blau, III.]

When his father died in 1890, the family in Germany sent Edward five pianos as a token of his inheritance though German custom was that younger sons did not have inheritance rights. No trace of those pianos has been found, presumably they were sold. He may have returned to Germany in 1892. There is an Eduard Blau, age 56, on the passenger list of the ship Dania which arrived in New York on July 9, 1892.

The 1900 Census (ED 140, Sheet 19) shows he has four daughters still at home. In 1906 he applied to the State of Alabama for a pension for his Civil War service. Included is his affidavit telling what he did after his service had been questioned because he gave his unit as Company B, Arsenal Battalion and his name did not appear as in that unit. In the 1910 Census (ED 182, Sheet 21) Lorenz, Montie and their daughter Leonora were in Edward's household along with his daughter Agnes. In 1914 he was a tuner with Arthur Piano and Organ Co., 1209 First Avenue between 12th and 13th streets in Columbus.

Edward William Blau died in Girard on May 6, 1924 at age 86 (Columbus *Enquirer*, May 7, 1924, p 6). Emma Cobb Blau then lived with her daughter, Roseline, until her death in Columbus on December 13, 1937 at age 79 (Columbus *Enquirer* December 14, 1937). Both were buried in the Blau family plot in Linwood Cemetery. Their children:

12. **Roseline Henrietta Blau**, born October 7, 1887 in Girard; married Harry Lee Garrett on June 30, 1909; died August 25, 1987.

13. **Agnes Bertha Blau**, born August 15, 1892 in Girard; married Ralph E. Moseley on August 15, 1911; died February 16, 1920.

Other References

Mahan, Katherine: *Showboats To Softshoes: The Musical Development of Columbus 1828-1928*. pp 43, 67.

Martin, John: *History of Georgia, Columbus, Georgia, Part 2 1845-1865*, pages 125, 172.

EXCERPTS FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF LEONORA MAY BLAU NORRIS

(Leonora May Blau Norris was interviewed on audio tape for oral history projects in Columbus. The transcripts of the interviews are in the archives room of the library of Columbus College. The transcripts total 57 pages in question and answer form. This is a summary of the interviews as they relate to the Blau family. For the most part this summary is in her own words with minor editing to combine statements regarding the same facts. The interviews were made in 1978.)

IMMIGRATION

My father was from Germany. He was an artist in drawing. He had natural talent as well as studying it in school. The war business (in Germany) and the military training was so severe that after his older brother had been through it, his mother said not another one of her boys was going through it. His older brother married and lived in London. My father's mother sent him and his younger brother to the United States. When my father came over he was about fifteen years old. It took him a month or two to get over here at that time.

IN MILWAUKEE

He went to Milwaukee and couldn't speak a word of English. I believe a lot of people in Milwaukee must have spoken German because a lot of people from Germany went there. Papa said he was walking the street and this man was hollering, "Glass put in! Glass put in!" He was just beginning to learn English and thought the man said "Glass pudding." He told a lot of funny things about how he

misunderstood people. As he was walking the street in Milwaukee, he came to a butcher shop and a man had a covered wagon to deliver beef. The man had just finished painting a cow on the canvas of his wagon. Papa went in and asked the proprietor, "Are you going to accept that painting of that cow? I know a plenty and if you'll let me paint one for you, I'll paint it for nothing if you don't like it. If you don't like it I won't charge you a cent." He was a young boy and didn't know how much to charge for anything. So he painted the other side of the canvas. The man was so delighted that he paid him for it. That was his first job.

MARRIES IN COLUMBUS

I don't know how or why he came to Columbus. I don't know where my mother and father were married. My grandmother lived in Columbus where they were married, I guess. Papa never kept up with things like that, so I don't know where they were married, at home or in a church, but they were married in Columbus. My grandmother was from North Carolina. She was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She came to Columbus in a covered wagon. In those days they had iron hammers stuck down in the hubs of the wheels to use if anything went wrong. Grandma had one of those hammers for years and years. I don't know when she came to Columbus from North Carolina. I heard Grandma tell about how the water froze over and they would break the ice and store it in sawdust for the summer. When they cracked the ice the fish would come up and they would scoop the fish out. Papa and my mother lived with her mother in Columbus until they moved to Girard. Grandma moved to Girard with them.

CIVIL WAR

Papa was in the Civil War. He got his little toe nearly shot off. He didn't tell me what happened. Mr. I.I. Moses told him he ought to apply for a pension. He did and got a little cash out of it years and years after the war. Papa and a Mr. Williams, who was from London and lived in Columbus, got together and made this undomesticated material. They put paste and glue on it, flour and water, stuff like that with some kind of mixture that water wouldn't go through. They made squares for the soldiers to put around their shoulders and tie around their necks, and little things to put over their heads to protect the soldiers and keep the cold and rain out. That's what they did for the war. It was just plain old domestic cloth, unbleached.

I've heard Papa say that the northern soldiers had good clothes and the southern didn't. They just wore rags and old ragged shoes. He said they were so glad when they killed a Yankee. All the boys that were close to him would run to get the boots that he had on. They had to tie on their shoes, they were so ragged. Papa said they'd just put them on whether they fit or not, they were so glad to get some good shoes.

BLAU'S BREWERY

After the Civil War, he started Blau's Brewery in Girard. These Germans that came over here persuaded him to go into business. He was doing well and furnished the money for it. When they didn't contribute, he couldn't go on with it by himself, so it broke him. I never heard Papa say much about it. It was up on the hill, they call it Brittingham hill now. I think it must have been a shack of a thing. There's no sign of it now. You see, the Germans made beer different from the way it was made here; they didn't like

the American beer, so they got together and wanted to have beer made like they-liked it. They did it for a little while, but after Papa found out the burden was going to be on him, he had put everything he had except a small amount; my mother told him that he had to buy a house. She made him buy, not a nice house, just a little ordinary place to raise all those children. She said, "It's going to be in my name." Now that is what Papa told me, "Going to be in my name and you can't sell it without my consent." He didn't have enough money to buy it anywhere else but Girard, and that's when he bought the house I was born in.

PIANOS AND MUSIC

Papa worked for Pease Book Store and Piano Company. They had pianos in the back and he had charge of the pianos and sold them. He was a musician and played piano. I wish you'd heard him play. It was a beautiful thing. I never heard anyone play like him before. His father and brother-in-law were in the piano and organ manufacturing business in Germany. They manufactured pipe organs for churches, reed organs and pianos. When Papa married the second time, they sent a piano from over there for a wedding present. It had silver things on the side and in the center it had an ebony design of a little boy with a horn and silver candelabra on the side of that. When he died (Papa's father), they sent three or four pianos over here as part of his estate. I learned to play on it. Everybody in my family was musical. I played a little by ear and by note too. Papa had music in Germany. He played at the Springer Opera House in Columbus. He and his brother (Gustav), my uncle, sang a duet at the Springer Opera House. The Springers and the Schomburgs were all Germans and came over about the same time. They were friends of Papa. Papa didn't teach us music or German. He was busy making a living.

THE BLAU FAMILY

I was born at the house which was down on the sand bed at the end of Fifth Avenue in Girard. The older children were born in Columbus, but after Papa lost all that money in the brewery business, we didn't have any money left. I was next to the baby. I was the tenth child. Mother had eleven children and was just thirty-five when she died. She married when she was fifteen. I had five brothers and six sisters. The oldest child died in infancy. He was a boy, Otto. Then my sister Ida and Addie, a brother Charlie. Brother Ed was next. There was sister Tiny, brothers Lorenz, called Lawrence, and George, sister Effie me and brother Richard. Then my mother had a miscarriage and died. Papa and my mother lived with Grandma in Columbus until the brewery business came up, then she moved to Girard with them. She and my older sister took care of us after my mother died. My oldest sister was engaged to be married and the date was set. Papa told her to go ahead; he wasn't going to stand in her way. So they, Ida and Mr. Golden married. She moved across the street from us after her first child was born. She looked after us a whole lot, she and my grandmother, until Papa married the lady next door to us who had come from Cusseta with her sister and brother-in-law.

My step-mother Emma Cobb came from Cusseta. She married a Massey. He lived a month after they were married and I believe he died from typhoid fever. Then she came to Columbus with her sister Lula and her sister's husband, Jim Jones. They moved next door to us.

HER LIFE AS A CHILD

When I was a big girl, we had a colored family; we called her Aunt Cilly and her husband Uncle Bob. Aunt Cilly used

to come and scour the kitchen. In the Springtime we had Spring cleaning, We would take the mattress out and clean the bed and wash the slats. We'd do general housekeeping and Aunt Cilly did most of it. We had a scouring mop. It was a wooden frame and had holes all in it. They put corn shucks in it. That's the kind of mop everybody had then. We had to make our own stuff. Every Saturday, Aunt Cilly would come and scour the kitchen. She'd sprinkle sand on the floor, take pot ash and water and go to work. We had a brass fender in front of the fireplace in what we called the parlor. Everytime that got sort of dull looking, my sister and myself would have to scour it. My father knew a lot of things to do that he learned in Germany. He would take a piece of brick, break that and beat it up real fine, put it in vinegar and mix it into a paste. We'd take a cloth and dip it in that and shine the brass. We did hate it because we had to fix it and keep it shiny. Papa was very particular about everything being clean and nice. We had cedar water buckets that had brass hoops around them, and we'd have to scour them too. We did hate for Saturday to come. I went to a three room school and learned my ABC'S. We had homemade wooden benches; The lower grades were in one room, the higher grades in another. The principal taught in the big room where the big boys and girls went. We had to go in the big room every morning and have prayer and a song, then go back to our room. I think he read something from the Bible and had a Prayer. They taught spelling, arithmetic, history, reading and writing. We had a bench to sit on and then they had a desk in front of us with a little ink well right in the center. Every Friday afternoon we would have to say a speech. We had to go to the rostrum and stand before the whole crowd in our room and say a speech. My father always wanted to provoke us in those things He wanted to sort of show us off. He was very ambitious about everything. It was a good world we lived in.

AUSTIN, TEXAS AND UNCLE GUS

When I was a little girl, I went to Texas. My father's brother (Franz Gustav Blau) came over from Germany after my father did. He married and moved to Texas. They didn't have any children when my mother died. They wanted to take me home with them and raise me. They said Papa had eleven children to raise and no mother. Papa said he didn't have any more than he could take care of and said I couldn't go. But, when I was eleven years old, I went out there. I wanted to go. I wanted to ride on the train and go to Texas. My brother was a telegraph operator. He wired to New Orleans and asked the conductor to take care of me. So, I got on the train and went to New Orleans, a little girl, all by myself. I stayed there until the train went across the Mississippi River.

My aunt and uncle were supposed to meet me in Texas. I got there and everybody on the train was looking at me. I was just a little girl. I didn't see anybody I knew when I got off the train. I got on a bus. After everybody got off but me, I was scared to death. I told the driver the number of the house and he carried me right there. They lived on a corner. Instead of driving to the front, he drove around to the side. The lady next door came up and I told her who I was, and she took care of me until they got home. She said her two children had gone with my aunt and uncle to the train station to meet me. My aunt had a little rocking chair for a child four years old and a little iron bed with sides to it. She never thought that I had grown up. All the neighbors teased her to death about it. I stayed with them in Austin, Texas for eighteen months. I went to school out there. We lived near the capitol. I used to go through the capitol yard or the capitol building to school. There was a governor at that time named Hogg. They said he had two daughters. One was named Eula and one named Ima. I

don't know if it's true or not. Those school children that I went to school with every morning, they said it was true. Of course, they may have been joking. *(Governor Hogg did have one daughter: Ima became a social figure and philanthropist who helped organize the Houston Symphony Orchestra)*

My aunt had plenty of money, and Papa didn't have enough to have anything fine with eleven children. My aunt never had any children and she had plenty of money. She bought me a doll with a kid covered body and a disc head and pretty hair. I was just in heaven. She bought me a pair of shoes that cost \$5.00 and I had never had a pair of shoes that cost that much before. I was so afraid I'd wear them out before I got home. I just thought I was rich with those shoes and that doll.

**FAMILIES OF THE
CHILDREN
OF
EDWARD WILLIAM BLAU**

**CHILDREN
OF
EDWARD WILLIAM BLAU
AND
LEONORA PARISH BLAU**

IDA EUGENIA BLAU AND THE GOLDEN FAMILY

IDA EUGENIA BLAU

Ida was the first born child of Leonora Parish and Edward Blau. She was born on December 29, 1861 in Columbus, Georgia. She was probably named after Edward's sister who died in 1849. Ida married John Poitevent Golden on October 31, 1882. John Poitevent Golden was born on September 1, 1857, in Columbus, Georgia the son of Sarah Caroline Poitevent and George Jasper Golden. The Golden family had been engaged in manufacturing. George Jasper Golden was director of the Confederate States' Naval Iron Works in Columbus. He was also the inventor of the first commercial ice making machine. John Poitevent Golden founded Golden Brothers with Theodore Ernest Golden. Golden Brothers became the Golden Foundry and Machine Company. He was chairman of the board at his death. He was also a director on the board of Lummus Cotton Gin Company. Edward Blau's sons, George Gafford Blau and Charles Herman Blau worked most of their lives at Golden's Foundry. George Blau was a supervisor machinist. Charles Blau was a pattern maker.

Ida was a member of the Oglethorpe Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She had been vice president of the Goodwill Community Center and was a charter member of the Free Kindergarten Association. She

and her husband were members of St. Luke Methodist Church.

Ida Eugenia Blau Golden died on July 13, 1939 at age 77 (Columbus *Enquirer* July 14, 1939, p 7). John Poitevent Golden died on April 7, 1940 at age 82 (Columbus *Enquirer*, April 2, 1940, p 1). Both are buried at Linwood Cemetery in Columbus, GA. in the Golden family plot, lot 210, section A.

Their children:

1. **LUCILE GOLDEN** (1884-1961)
2. **SARAH FRANCIS GOLDEN** (1886-1972)
3. **GEORGE JASPER GOLDEN** (1888-1956)
4. **KATHLEEN ILLGES GOLDEN** (1890- ?)
5. **VERA GLOVER GOLDEN** (1892- ?)
6. **LEONORA GOLDEN** (1894- ?)

CHILDREN OF LUCILE GOLDEN

LUCILE GOLDEN born February 19, 1884 in Girard, Alabama; died July 4, 1961. She married Benjamin Hill Fletcher on December 22, 1903. He died on January 29, 1922. Their children:

a) **James Monroe Fletcher** born October 9, 1904 in Columbus; married Lois King Clark on April 4, 1946; died May 30, 1981

b) **Poitevent Golden Fletcher** born August 23, 1907 in Columbus; died May 17, 1909

SARAH FRANCIS GOLDEN

SARAH FRANCIS GOLDEN, born May 13, 1886 in Girard, Alabama; died January 18, 1972. She did not marry.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE JASPER GOLDEN

GEORGE JASPER GOLDEN born August 28, 1888 in Girard; died October 18, 1956; married Lyra Hatcher Swift on April 26, 1915. She died February 28, 1974. Their children:

1. John Poitevent Golden, II (1917-)

2. Charlotte Hatcher Golden (1919-)

3. Unnamed Son (1923-1923)

4. Sarah Elizabeth Golden (1926-)

JOHN POITEVANT GOLDEN

John Poitevent Golden, II born June 10, 1917 in Columbus; married Shirley Timewell (born August 13, 1925) on May 14, 1944. Their children:

a) **Mary Timewell Golden** born October 2, 1946 in Columbus; married Jon Stephen Boyce on June 14, 1968. Divorced. Their children:

1) **Joan Elizabeth Boyce** born April 7, 1972 in San Antonio, Texas.

2) **Jon Stephen Boyce, Jr.** born May 2, 1976 in Charlotte, NC.

b) **Margaret Elizabeth Golden** born December 13, 1949 in Columbus; married James Glen Hutto on March 4, 1972. Their children:

1) **Ashley Elisabeth Hutto** born April 29, 1976 in Abilene, TX.

2) **James Glen Hutto, Jr.** born August 17, 1979 in Memphis, TN.

3) **John Poitevent Hutto** born May 13, 1983 in Memphis.

c) **Lyra Swift Golden** born August 19, 1954 in Columbus; married Hubert Gregory Veal, Jr. on September 3, 1977. Their children:

1) **John Gregory Veal** born December 20, 1983.

CHARLOTTE HATCHER GOLDEN

Charlotte Hatcher Golden born May 15, 1919 in Columbus married John Thomas Boyd on April 16, 1940. Their children:

1) **John Thomas Boyd, Jr.** born August 26, 1942; married Celia Gary on June 8, 1968. Their children:

a) **Charlotte Golden Boyd**, born August 5, 1969 in Columbus.

2) **George Golden Boyd** born October 30, 1944 in Columbus; married Mary Pickering Sprouse on June 16, 1966. Their children:

a) **George Golden Boyd, Jr.** born August 3, 1971 in Columbus.

b) **Edward Sprouse Boyd** born November 5, 1973 in Columbus.

c) **John Thomas Boyd II** born December 8, 1976 in Columbus.

3) **Charlotte Golden Boyd** born September 11, 1946 in Columbus; married Eugene Parris Nottingham, on September 21, 1968. Their children:

a) **Charlotte Boyd Nottingham** born January 17, 1974 in Atlanta, GA.

b) **Rachel Nider Nottingham** born February 28, 1977 in Atlanta.

UNNAMED SON

Unnamed Son born May 26, 1923; died May 27, 1923 in Columbus.

SARA ELIZABETH GOLDEN

Sara Elizabeth Golden born October 6, 1926 in Columbus; married Beverly Norton Skardon on June 14, 1947. Their children:

1) **Sara Golden Skardon** born November 2, 1948 in Queens, New York; married Theodore Ravenel Smith on June 17, 1972. Their children:

a) **Clara Ravenel Smith** born April 23, 1975 in Spartanburg, SC.

b) **Benjamin Skardon Smith** born January 20, 1978 in Spartanburg.

2) **Beverly Ann Skardon** born July 13, 1950 in Richmond, NY; married James Craig Hardin on May 8, 1971. Their children:

a) **Thomas Covie Hardin** born July 25, 1977 in Orlando, FL.

b) **James Craig Hardin** born October 27, 1979 in Atlanta.

c) **Alvin Wilson Hardin** born November 27, 1983 in Snellville, GA.

3) **John Norton Skardon** born December 25, 1953 in Columbus; married Mariko Suzuki Maclin.

4) **Charlotte Golden Skardon** born July 3, 1957 in Nuremburg, Germany; married Richard Wayne Raburn on April 23, 1983. Their children:

a) **Caroline Elizabeth Raburn** born May 23, 1986 in Greenville, SC.

CHILDREN OF KATHLEEN ILLGES GOLDEN

KATHLEEN ILLGES GOLDEN born October 23, 1890 in Columbus; married William Clarke Pease, Jr. Their children:

- a) **William Clarke Pease III** born August 14, 1914 in Columbus.
- b) **Poitevent Golden Pease** born June 14, 1918 in Columbus.
- c) **Ida Eugenia Pease** born February 3, 1925 in Columbus.

VERA GLOVER GOLDEN

VERA GLOVER GOLDEN BORN September 19, 1892 in Columbus; married Richard Dawson Gay (d. November 15, 1947) on November 19, 1919.

CHILDREN OF LEONORA GOLDEN

LEONORA GOLDEN born September 22, 1894 in Columbus; married Henry Gaillard Smith on November 14, 1917. Their children:

a) **Henry Gaillard Smith Jr.** born March 27, 1919 in Columbus

b) **Poitevent Golden Smith** born September 13, 1922 in LaGrange, GA.

c) **Whiteford Smith** born November 3, 1924 in LaGrange; died August 19, 1925.

d) **Eugene Begg Smith** born January 2, 1928 in LaGrange.

EDWARD OTTO BLAU

Edward Otto Blau was born on February 14, 1863 in Columbus. His middle name was probably after Otto von Bismarck who was becoming a strong political leader in Prussia at the time. He died on May 22, 1864 in Girard (John Martin: *History of Columbus, Part 2: 1846-1865*, page 172). He is buried in Linwood Cemetery, in a lot that was owned by Julia Parish Roman, sister of his mother. The grave is unmarked and does not appear on the cemetery records, but is in lot 565, section 2. Also in the lot are the graves of Isabel Francis Roman, died April 1, 1886, age 50, and Sarah Margaret Roman, daughter of Isabel and Peter Bennock Roman, died September 25, 1887, age 14. There was a Peter B. Roman in the Columbus City Directory in 1873, 1878 and 1880 listed as a molder; in 1884 he is listed as a farmer and does not appear in subsequent issues. In the 1870 census, Isabel Roman is listed immediately after E.W. Blau, thus a neighbor.

ADA BERTHA BLAU

Ada (Addie) Bertha Blau was born on April 4, 1865 in Girard, Alabama. She was probably named after her father's youngest sister. She died of typhoid fever at age 8 on December 23, 1873, and is buried in Linwood Cemetery in Columbus in the Blau family plot.

CHARLES HERMAN BLAU

Charles was born on July 15, 1867 in Girard, Alabama. He was probably named after Edward's older brother Carl. As a boy he delivered newspapers (Columbus *Enquirer*, October 4, 1957). In the 1880 Census, living in his father's home, he was a clerk at J.W. Pease Company, book and piano seller. He married Isabel (Belle) Eva Gaither on November 7, 1892 (Russell Marriage Book 1886-1895, P 295). She was born on September 9, 1872 in Iola, Texas, the daughter of Georgia Phillips and Edward Henry Gaither. Her sister, Mattie Gaither, married Charles' younger brother Edward.

Charles was employed in 1884 as a pattern maker at Golden's Foundry, owned by his oldest sister's husband. In 1904 he was a foreman. He was a Mason. Charlie, having a keen sense of humor, was the "character" of the family. An example exists in an article that appeared in the Columbus *Enquirer* (November 7, 1955) on his 63rd wedding anniversary:

"As the reporter prepared to make her departure, the still-flirtatious Blau asked her name again and learning it was preceded with a "Mrs." chuckled disappointedly and grinned, 'Oh well, I was about to ask you for your telephone number.' Mrs. Blau wagged a shaming finger and blinked an amused wink."

Charlie worked for a while in Dayton, Ohio and traveled from there by stage coach to Durango, Mexico where he worked for a year with a foundry before returning to Columbus to work at Golden's (Columbus *Ledger-Enquirer*, October 4, 1957).

The Blau family in Germany sent Charlie a piano around the turn of the century, which is marked on the fallboard as follows:

**Wilh. Schimmel & Co.
Leipzig
Gross Sach Hollieserant
Goldmedialle Brux 1898 est. 1885**

Upon the death of Evelyn Blau, the piano went to her cousin on her mother's side, Georgia Whittaker Blackmon. Upon her death it went to her nephew Wilson Blackmon of Columbus. Belle and Charlie Blau were members of Rose Hill Methodist Church. Their children were:

1. **VIRGINIA MYRL BLAU** born May 19, 1895; died September 25, 1968. She never married (Columbus *Enquirer*, September 27, 1968, p 2).
2. **FRANCIS G. BLAU**, born about September, 1897; died June 30, 1899, age 21 months. He was apparently named after his father's uncle Gus. He is buried in lot 891, section 2, Linwood Cemetery.
3. **EVELYN GAITHER BLAU** born January 31, 1900; died June 20, 1973. She never married (Columbus *Enquirer*, June 22, 1973, p 36).
4. **NAME UNKNOWN** died as an infant.

Charles Herman Blau died on February 5, 1962 at age 94. (Columbus *Enquirer*, February 6, 1962, p 2). Isabel Eva Gaither Blau died on December 16, 1960 at age 88. (Columbus *Enquirer*, December 16, 1960, p 37). They are buried at Linwood Cemetery in Columbus. Their daughters

are buried in the same plot in the Old Cemetery section of
Linwood.

EDWARD WILLIAM BLAU, JR,

Edward William Blau, Jr. was born on October 31, 1868 in Girard, Alabama. He was a carrier for the Columbus *Enquirer-Sun* in 1880. In 1884 he began as a telegraph operator. In 1886 he was in Chattanooga with the Southern Express Company, and was there when the river flooded. He married Mattie Gaither on December 3, 1889 (Russell Marriage Book 1886-1895, p 142). She was born June 6, 1871, probably in Texas. She was the sister of Charles Blau's wife. In 1891 he was telegraph operator for T.D. Huff in Columbus and in 1896 with Ingram Company. They divorced in _____. He is shown as a cotton broker in Columbus in 1906 and living at the Hotel Racine. He moved to Luling, Louisiana in 1910 and worked there for 25 years with the Texas and Pacific Railroad. Mattie lived in the homes of Edward W. Blau, Sr. or in the neighborhood at least through 1923. At some time she moved to Birmingham, remarried, divorced and resumed the Blau name. She returned to Columbus and lived with her daughter Mattie Love Blau Smith. Their children:

1. **MATTIE LOVE GAITHER BLAU**, born February 1, 1891, married Clifford Donaldson Smith (born May 12, 1882; died November 13, 1965); She died October 17, 1966. They had no children.

2. **EDWARD GAITHER BLAU**, born March 15, 1893; married Alma Agnes (b. June 25, 1900; d. September 27, 1981) on _____. He worked for the Texas-Pacific Railroad and lived in Bunkie, Louisiana. He died December 15, 1983. Their child:

- a) **Mary Gaither ("Gay") Blau**, born March 5, 1921; married James Joseph Henry (Born August 1,

1920, died December 14, 1974) on August 20, 1941. After his death, she married Mike Jennings in February, 1976. He died in 1986 and Gay died July 16, 1986. Their child:

1) **Mary Gaither (“Gay”) Henry**, born September 29, 1948; married Stephen Michael Shephard (born August 23, 1944) on March 27, 1971. Their child:

a) **Stephanie Laird Shepherd**, born January 1, 1973.

3. **PORTER GOLDEN BLAU**, born July 10, 1897; never married; died May 17, 1965 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Edward William Blau, Jr. died on October 9, 1945 in Luling, Louisiana at age 68 (Columbus *Enquirer*, October 10, 1945, p 9). He is buried in Linwood Cemetery in Columbus in the family plot. Mattie Love Gaither Blau was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church. She died in Columbus at 9:10 a.m. on May 28, 1964 and is buried at Parkhill Cemetery.

TINA BELLE BLAU

Tina Belle Blau was born September 26, 1870 in Girard, Alabama. She may have been named after Isabella Roman. She did not marry and died of dysentery on May 17, 1889. She is buried at Linwood Cemetery in the family plot.

LORENZ GUSTAV BLAU

Lorenz Gustav Blau, known as “Lawrence” was born November 9, 1872 in Girard, Alabama. He was named after Edward’s father and brother. He was a moulder at Golden Foundry in 1891 (City Directory). Around the turn of the century, Lorenz made several trips to Germany to visit his father’s family, paying his passage by playing piano and accompanying singers on board, including Lillian Russell. In 1904 he is shown in the Columbus City Directory as a piano tuner. On June 19, 1907 he married Montarie Elizabeth Coulter (Muscogee Marriage Book P, p 299). She was daughter of Lucinda Driggers and Pierce Coulter. Lorenz was an excellent pianist, reputed to be able to play anything upon hearing it once. He accompanied many singers who appeared at the Springer Opera House and at other performances in Columbus (*Showboats To Softshoes: Musical Development of Columbus 1828 -1928*, p 87). In 1910 he was a salesman for Arthur Piano and Organ Company. Like his father, he was a master piano and organ technician. Lorenz and his family were members of St. Luke Methodist Church. Their children:

1. **Unnamed**
2. **LEONORA LARNED BLAU**
3. **LAWRENCE ARTHUR BLAU**
4. **JACK LIONEL BLAU**

1. **Unnamed** died as an infant; dates unknown.

LEONORA LARNED BLAU AND THE SPEISS FAMILY

LEONORA LARNED BLAU, born July 4, 1909, married Col. Frank Spiess on August 2, 1932. They visited Frankenhausem in 1972 trying to obtain information on the Blau family. The Communist government was very uncooperative and nothing was obtained. Col. Spiess said there was a Blau lady still in Frankenhausem who operated a bookstore. She complained the Communist government would not even let her pick apples off the tree in her yard. They found the church in Frankenhausem boarded up. Their children:

a) **Leonora Ann Spiess**, born May 25, 1934.

b) **Frank G, Spiess, Jr.** born October 27, 1937.

Leonora Larned Blau Spiess died October 4, 1985 in New Orleans, LA. Frank Spiess died in August, 1991.

LAWRENCE ARTHUR BLAU

LAWRENCE ARTHUR BLAU, born May 29, 1911; married Dorothy Clark on September 28, 1933. He died on August 7, 1994. They had no children.

JACK LIONEL BLAU

JACK LIONEL BLAU, born September 14, 1914; married Kathleen Elizabeth Newsome, who was born May 19, 1914, on March 15, 1935. Their children:

a) **Charles Edward Blau** born May 4, 1938; married Mary Sallie Payne on November 20, 1965. She was born on February 22, 1944 in Pittsburgh, A. Their children:

1) **Eric Charles Blau** born January 8, 1969 in Chicago, IL.

2) **Melissa Anne Blau** born January 9, 1973 in Chicago.

3) **Sallie Kathleen Blau** born September 7, 1983 in Columbia, SC.

4) **Caroline Rebecca Blau** born December 6, 1986 in Columbia.

b) **Jack Lawrence Blau** born December 13, 1942; married Jennifer Lee Mills on April 12, 1966. Their children:

1) **Mark Lawrence Blau**, born November 19, 1966.

2) **Bruce Michael Blau**, born September 18, 1969.

Jennifer and Jack Lawrence Blau divorced and he married Victoria Jewell Vannoy Cauthion on August 19, 1984.

c) **William David Blau** born July 4, 1948; married Linda Carol Downing on July 10, 1971 Their children:

1) **David Brent Blau**, born April 27, 1975 in Augusta, Richmond County, GA.

2) **William Daniel Blau**, born February 26, 1978 in Augusta, Richmond County, GA.

Jack Lionel Blau died on November 11, 1977 (*Columbus Enquirer*, November 12, 1977, p B-6). Kathleen Newsome Blau died on February 9, 1973. They are buried at Riverdale Cemetery, lot 104, section 13. (Russell Will Book 24, p 247, 251).

Lorenz Gustav Blau died on July 32, 1954 at age 81. Montarie Elizabeth Coulter Blau died on June 13, 1962. They are buried in Riverdale Cemetery in Columbus, lot 104, section 13.

GEORGE GAFFORD BLAU

George Gafford Blau was born on December 26, 1873 in Girard, Russell County Alabama. It may only be coincidence that his first name is the same as his great-great grandfather. It appears likely he was named after a friend of his father. There was a George Gafford who was a sign painter (same occupation as his father) in Columbus and Girard, and who died August 3, 1879. As a child he attended school. He began working at Golden's Foundry in Columbus, Muscogee County, at age 15 in 1888 as a machinist. The foundry was owned by his brother-in-law, John Poitevent Golden. In 1893 he was a member of the Dixie Brass Band of Columbus:

"A NEW BRASS BAND.

The Dixie Brass Band of Columbus is the name of the latest musical organization. It is at present located in Girard, and is composed chiefly of young men living across the river. Last night they complimented the Enquirer-Sun office with a delightful serenada. The young men composing the band are...Richard Blau, cornet, George Blau, baritone, and Martin Blau, snare drum."

(Columbus *Enquirer-Sun*, February 75, 1893)

He met Ola Castleberry of Cusseta, Chattahoochee County, and carried on a romance by mail. They were married in Cusseta on January 24, 1894 (Chattahoochee Marriage Book A, p 438). In 1896 they lived at 1324 4th Avenue in Columbus. By 1900 they moved to 1110 11th Avenue. From 1902-1908 they lived at 1728 18th Avenue. In 1910 they moved to 643 20th Avenue. The 1910 Census (ED 112 sheet 12) shows Ola's mother, age 67, in their home. She began living with them shortly after Ola's father died. In 1918 they moved to 1945 Oak Avenue. The 1923 City Directory shows

him as assistant foreman at Golden's Foundry. In 1928 they moved to 1945 7th Avenue. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 24, 1944 (*Columbus Enquirer*, January 25, 1944, p 8). He started work at Golden's Foundry when he was 14 and worked 58 years as a machinist and supervisor, retiring at age 72 on April 15, 1946. He was well known in Columbus and when he would go down town to walk he could not go a block without meeting several friends. He was characterized by his brother, Charlie Blau, as "the only gentleman in the Blau family." He was not the only gentleman but he was a man of gentleness and kindness. They were both active members of Rose Hill Methodist Church.

Ola Castleberry Blau was also well known in Columbus. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was active in civic affairs. She traced her ancestry for DAR purposes through her mother to Alexander Carswell, apparently not having the knowledge that her great grandfather, John Castleberry, also served in the Revolutionary War. She died on March 13, 1950 at age 74. Her death was reported on the front page of the *Columbus Enquirer* on March 15. She was buried in the Blau family plot at Linwood Cemetery.

After his wife's death, George Blau remained in Columbus but made frequent visits with his children. He died on February 12, 1957 at age 83. His death was also reported on the front page of the *Columbus Enquirer* on February 13. He is buried next to his wife. His will was signed September 15, 1947, probated February 15, 1957 (Will Book K, p 227).

Their children

- 1. MABEL ELIZABETH BLAU**
- 2. TINA BELLE BLAU**
- 3. LUCILE GERTRUDE BLAU**
- 4. GEORGE GAFFORD BLAU, JR,**

MABEL ELIZABETH BLAU AND THE DUFFER FAMILY

MABEL ELIZABETH BLAU was born on December 21, 1894 in Cusseta, Chattahoochee County, Georgia; married Luther D. Duffer (born January 2, 1887) on June 3, 1916 (Marriage Book S, p 427). Their children:

a) **Unnamed** died an infant, buried Blau family plot, Linwood Cemetery.

b) **Henry Gafford Duffer**, born July 29, 1931; married Emma Jean Etheridge on March 21, 1955. Their children:

1) **James Clifton Duffer**, born July 9, 1956.

2) **Michael Henry Duffer**, born February 17, 1958.

3) **Catherine Elizabeth Duffer**, born March 24, 1962; married Terry Harold Keith on May 17, 1983.

4) **Amanda Lee Duffer**, born August 22, 1965.

5) **Brent David Duffer**, born February 5, 1969.

Mabel Blau Duffer died March 13, 1986 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and was buried next to her husband, who died January 18, 1972, in College Park, Fulton County, Georgia.

TINA BELLE BLAU AND THE SLIDER FAMILY

TINA BELLE BLAU was born January 2, 1896 in Columbus; married Evan Slider on October 16, 1920 (Marriage Book V, p 128). She died on January 13, 1972 in Lake Worth, Florida. Their children:

a) **Evan Fort Slider, Jr.**, born May 21, 1924; married Carolyn; died July 10, 1965.

b) **George Thomas Slider**, born March 25, 1930; married Beverly Mae Nelson on December 22, 1951. Their children:

1) **George Thomas Slider, Jr.**, born February 19, 1953; married Rose Marie Petak on May 29, 1976. Their children:

a) **Michelle Marie Slider**, born August 27, 1977.

b) **Katheryn Ann Slider** born February 25, 1980.

c) **Joseph Bernard Slider** born December 21, 1983. George Thomas Slider, Jr. was also married to Roxanne Lynn Scott with no children born.

2) **Richard Alan Slider**, born April 30, 1954; married Sandra Gayle Johnson on November 7, 1981.

3) **Beverly Diane Slider**, born March 28, 1955;
married James Clark Purnell on February 9, 1974.

4) **Carole Leslie Slider**, born July 25, 1958;
married Gene Ray McDonald on June 25, 1983.

5) **Nancy Lea Slider**, born October 9, 1959;
married Jose Guadalupe Alonzo on November 24,
1984.

George Thomas Slider was also married to Viola
Beatrice Czuprynski with no children born.

**LUCILE GERTRUDE BLAU
AND
THE VARDEMAN FAMILY**

LUCILE GERTRUDE BLAU was born December 6, 1901 in Columbus; married Frank Burton Vardeman on March 19, 1921. She died November 12, 1992. Their children:

FRANK BURTON VARDEMAN, JR

Frank Burton Vardeman, Jr., born February 2, 1925; married Martha Hay on June 8, 1948. Their children:

1) **Francis Hay Vardeman**, born September 24, 1950; married Peter Cameron Carruthers on December 30, 1972. Their children:

a) **Courtenay Sheldon Carruthers**, born April 11, 1977.

b) **Meredith Cameron Carruthers**, born June 29, 1980.

c) **Dalton Clarke Carruthers**, born May 15, 1986.

d) **Kennedy Kyle Carruthers**, born May 15, 1986.

2) **Frank Burton Vardeman III** born January 19, 1953; married Heidi Jean Hilf on May 20, 1978. Their children:

- a) **Ann Hilf Vardeman**, born February 22, 1983.
- b) **Jane Hilf Vardeman**, born November 15, 1986.
- 3) **Cile Clarke Vardeman**, born August 22, 1955.
- 4) **Marty Hay Vardeman** born February 26, 1961; married William Scott Tomlinson on April 20, 1985.

ROBERT EDWIN VARDEMAN

- b) **Robert Edwin Vardeman**, born February 26, 1931; married Elouise Acree on June 23, 1962. Their children:
 - 1) **Robert Edwin Vardeman, Jr.**, born June 3, 1964.
 - 2) **Holli Cile Vardeman**, born December 19, 1972.

WILLIAM GEORGE VARDEMAN

c) **William George Vardeman**, born July 28, 1933; married Elizabeth Brooks on July 20, 1957. Their children:

1) **Mary Elizabeth Vardeman**, born May 23, 1958; married Steven Brown on July 6, 1980. Their children:

a) **Zachary Steven Brown**. born June 19, 1967.

b) **Stephanie Elizabeth Brown** born August 19, 1988.

2) **William George Vardeman, Jr.**, born April 18, 1960.

3) **Harold Brooks Vardeman** born June 8, 1967.

JOHN ROSCOE VARDEMAN

d) **John Roscoe Vardeman**, born February 18, 1935; married Margaret Elsworth on June 23, 1956. Their children:

1) **John Roscoe Vardeman Jr.**, born November 1, 1957.

2) **Kirkwood Frank Vardeman**, born October 15, 1958; married Susan Grimaud on September 12, 1981.

3) **Jennifer Louise Vardeman** born December 20, 1972.

GEORGE GAFFORD BLAU, JR

George Gafford Blau, Jr., born January 31, 1908; married Mary Elese Cornett on September 4, 1931 in Seale, Russell County, Alabama. He was an architect in Atlanta, designing churches, schools, public housing, and houses. His primary work, the Chapel of Peachtree Christian Church, is included in the National Register of Historic Buildings. Other notable works are the First United Methodist Church and the Methodist Student Center, Auburn, Alabama, the Christian College of Georgia in Athens, Colonial Homes Apartments, Continental Colony Elementary School, and Carver Homes in Atlanta. and numerous homes in the Buckhead area of Atlanta. He died on October 18, 1963 in Opelika, Alabama and is buried in Arlington Cemetery in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. Elese Cornett Blau worked as a real estate agent with Northside Realty and Jim Royer Realty in Atlanta. She died on October 4, 1987 in Atlanta and is buried at Arlington Cemetery. Their children:

GEORGE GAFFORD BLAU, III

George Gafford Blau, III, born April 10, 1936 in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia; married Mary Elizabeth Keen on June 4, 1959 at Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta; he was minister of education at Glenn Oak Christian Church in Peoria, Illinois before moving back to Atlanta where he started the Atlanta Lay School of Theology; they were divorced in 1972. He worked with teenagers for the Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters producing a talk show on Saturday mornings on WRNG and assisting

with Sound Of Youth on WSB-TV. Later he became a probation officer, supervisor, Intake Attorney and Associate Judge of the Juvenile Court of Fulton County. Their child:

a) **Margaret Linn Blau**, born June 24, 1965 in Bloomington, Indiana; married Bill Naylor on August 28, 1993; divorced 1998.

ELIZABETH LEE BLAU

Elizabeth Lee Blau, born April 1, 1946 in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia; married Robert Carmaker at Peachtree Christian Church on June 7, 1969. They moved to Anna, Illinois. Their children:

a) **Kim Erin Caraker**, born April 20, 1974 in Anna, Illinois; married John Lee Duckworth on June 6, 1992.

1) **Shelby Marie Duckworth**, born December 29, 1992

b) **Lori Ann Caraker**, born September 14, 1976 in Anna, Illinois.

c) **Brian David Caraker** (adopted) born October 10, 1985.

EFFIE McDOUGALL BLAU

Effie McDougall Blau was born on January 3, 1876 in Girard, Alabama. It is not known who she was named after. She married Lorenzo Garland Biggers (born c. 1877) on August 10, 1904. Lorenzo Garland Biggers was publisher of the newspaper of West Palm Beach, Florida. He was a charter member of the Southeastern Chamber of Commerce and was its secretary. He was elected mayor of West Palm Beach in 1922. Effie and Lorenzo Biggers had no children.

He was a Mason, active in the Shriners, the Kiwanis, YMCA and the Mayors Club. They were members of the Union Congregational Church in West Palm Beach. Lorenzo Garland Biggers died August 31, 1965 at age 88 (*Palm Beach Post*, September 1, 1965). Effie McDougall Blau Biggers died on March 18, 1967 at age 91 (*Palm Beach Post*, March 19, 1967, p A-13). They are buried in Royal Palms Cemetery, Division B, Section 4, Block 5, and Lot 17, in West Palm Beach, Florida.

LEONORA MAY BLAU AND THE NORRIS FAMILY

Leonora May Blau was born March 18, 1878 in Girard, Alabama, and named after her mother. She married Dr. John Pickney Norris on July 8, 1903. John Pickney Norris was born on October 30, 1864 in Quitman, Georgia, the son of Margaret Adaline O'Brian and James Pickney Norris. Dr. Norris was a physician and surgeon in the Columbus-Phenix City area for 35 years. After his death, Leonora continued living in the home until she fell and broke a leg at age 98. She spent the next 11 years at Pine Manor Nursing Home in Columbus. She remained intellectually sharp until her death at age 109. She was visited frequently by reporters and by Columbus College students interested in the history of Columbus. She made several tape recordings for the oral history project of Columbus College. See appendix for transcripts of her recordings (*Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, July 19, 1981, Section F, p 1). Their children:

JAMES EDWARD NORRIS

JAMES EDWARD NORRIS born January 16, 1911; married Jeanne Bruce Freeman (b October 16, 1916) on September 12, 1935. Their children:

- a) **Jeanne Patten Norris** born January 2, 1937; married Joseph Richardson Walters, Jr. on February 2, 1957.

1) **Jeanne Patten Walters**, born December 21, 1960; married Joe Frank Mingledorff on April 15, 1989.

2) **Leonora Ashley Walters**, born December 22, 1965; died October 16, 1983.

3) **Laura Richardson Walters**, born November 6, 1969; married William Newton Byrd, Jr on August 24, 1996

a) **Ashley Redding Byrd**, born December 20, 1997

b) **William Newton Byrd, III**, born November 17, 1999.

b) **James Edward Norris, Jr.** born February 4, 1940; married Ann Williams. Their children:

1) **James Edward Norris, III.**

2) **Tracey Norris.**

3) **Charleton Norris.**

CAROLYN NORRIS

CAROLYN NORRIS born July 14, 1913; married Prentiss Danforth Neal (born January 6, 1906, died December 24, 1986) on December 16, 1937. Their children:

a) **Prentiss Danforth Neal, Jr.**, born October 29, 1941; married Peggy Lorene Barbee. Their children:

1) **Prentiss Danforth Neal, III** born May 22, 1972.

2) **Julie Lorene Neal** born June 6, 1985.

b) **John Norris Neal** born April 14, 1943; married Janice Lynne Smith. Their children:

1) **John Turner Neal** born July 24, 1978.

2) **David Fortson Neal** born June 24, 1980

c) **Charles Augustus Neal** born April 9, 1945; married Elizabeth Kennedy Smith. They have had no children.

d) **William Edward Neal** born August 20, 1949; married Edith Diane Psalmonds. Their children:

1) **Joanna Hope Neal** born June 22, 1980.

2) **Jessica Faith Neal** born May 28, 1983.

3) **Julia Elizabeth Neal** born December 22, 1985.

4) **Josiah William Neal**, born April 11, 1994.

Leonora May Blau Norris died on September 6, 1987 at age 109 (Columbus *Enquirer*, September 7, 1987, p 1). Dr. John Pinkney Norris died on July 21, 1925 at age 60. They are buried in Linwood Cemetery.

RICHARD ERNST BLAU

Richard Ernst Blau was born on November 23, 1879 in Girard, Alabama, named after Edward's brother. He married Ramona del Escobal in November, 1905. She was born on November 11, 1872. Richard Ernst Blau was a telegraph operator for the New Orleans Associated Press. He also was a paid singer at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans where his wife was the organist and choirmaster. He contracted tuberculosis and moved to Tucson, Arizona for his health. Their children:

HELEN BLAU

HELEN BLAU, born August, 1906; died at age 9 months.

CITA MARY BLAU

CITA MARY BLAU, born August 24, 1908; married Paul Lee on August 17, 1935. He was a pattern maker and died on June 2, 1952. She died on February 22, 1994. Their children:

a) **Mary Diana Lee**, born August 2, 1935; married Robert Charles Fore in August, 1957. Their children:

1) **Paul Raymond Fore** born June 10, 1958; married Teresa. Their children:

a) **Cari Marie Fore**

b) **Katelyn Fore**

2) **Robin Sue Fore**, born March 13, 1960; married Keith Lloyd Fite. Their children:

a) **Keith Lloyd Fite, Jr.**

b) **Britni Fite**

c) **Justin Fite**

3) **Kerry Lee Fore**, born May 10, 1967; died at age six following open heart surgery.

4) **John Eric Fore**, born January, 1970.

b) **Weldon Andrew (Bo) Lee**, born November 21, 1937; married Jean Laurette Sims. Their children:

1) **William Albert Lee**, born married Blair Simpson.

2) **Michael Sias Lee**

3) **Andrea Jean Lee**

He married second Patsy Pearson. They had no children.

c) **Susan Mae Lee**, born April 23, 1939; married John Lohmann, III on January 25, 1958. Their children:

1) **John Lohmann, IV**, born December 8, 1961; married Marcella Jane Miles on June 30, 1984.

2) **Keith Lee Lohmann**, born June 7, 1964.

3) **Kurt Randall Lohmann**, born October 19, 1965.

4) **Drew Lohmann**, born July 10, 1967.

ASUNCION LEONORA BLAU

ASUNCION (SUNNY) LEONORA BLAU, born July 20, 1909; married Sam Hendrix. Their child:

a) **Charles Richard Hendrix**, born March 17, 1941. Not married.

RICHARD ERNEST BLAU, JR

RICHARD ERNEST BLAU, JR., born September 8, 1911; died February, 1968; no children.

Richard Ernst Blau died of tuberculosis on November 14, 1928 at Diebert Memorial Hospital in New Orleans and is buried in a Catholic cemetery in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. As he was a Methodist, not a Roman Catholic, there is no marker and no cemetery records. Ramona del Escobal Blau died on December 15, 1938 in Harris County, Texas,

**CHILDREN OF
EDWARD WILLIAM BLAU
AND
EMMA COBB BLAU**

ROSELINE HENRIETTA BLAU AND THE GARRETT FAMILY

Roseline Henrietta Blau was born on October 7, 1887 in Girard, Alabama, named after Edward's sister. She married Harry Lee Garrett on June 30, 1909. Harry Lee Garrett was born December 7, 1881, the son of John R. Garrett and Ellen Melissa Gifford. Roseline Blau was a teacher in 1908. She was a member of the Lizzy Rutherford Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy. They were members of St. Luke Methodist Church. Their children:

ADYLISE GARRETT

ADYLISE GARRETT born September 8, 1910; married Andrew Thomas Phillips (born September 2, 1901; died February 6, 1989) on November 27, 1929; she died April 7, 1993. Their children:

a) **Andrew Thomas Phillips, Jr.** born October 3, 1930; married Dorothy Crandall (born April 4, 1929).

Their children:

1) **Andrew Thomas Phillips, III** born November 1963.

2) **Amy Crandall Phillips** born November 4, 1968.

b) **John Lee Phillips** born July 23, 1937; married Betty Gibson (born February 10, 1930). Their children:

1) **Ann Gibson Phillips** born May 29, 1978.

c) **Harry Garrett Phillips** born November 4, 1941; never married; died September 4, 1991.

ROSEMARY GARRETT

ROSEMARY (PATSY) GARRETT born January 8, 1916; married Christian Edwin Cooper (born June 20, 1913). They had no children.

ELEANOR GARRETT

ELEANOR GARRETT born October 29, 1913; married Oscar Clyde Tigner (born December 4, 1903; died November 5, 1992) on September 12, 1936; she died July 13, 1993. Their children:

a) **Will Lee Tigner** born November 22, 1939; married. Their children:

1) **Caroline Brooks Tigner**, born March 26, 1969.

2) **William Lee Tigner, Jr.** born January 12, 1976.

b) **Alan Clyde Tigner** born December 13, 1947; married. Their children:

1) **Alan Travis Tigner** born October 25, 1971.

2) **Patricia Ann Tigner** born May 15, 1977.

Roseline Henrietta Blau Garrett died on August 25, 1987 at age 99 (Columbus *Enquirer*, August 26, 1987, p B-2). Harry Lee Garrett died on March 16, 1961. They are buried at Riverdale Cemetery in Columbus.

AGNES BERTHA BLAU AND THE MOSELEY FAMILY

Agnes Bertha Blau was born on August 15, 1892 in Girard, Alabama, named after Edward's sister Bertha. She married Ralph Ellington Moseley on August 15, 1911 (Russell Marriage Book June 6, 1906-January 15, 1923, p 223).
Their children:

RALPH MOSELY, JR.

RALPH E. MOSELEY, JR. born November 4, 1911;
married _____ . Their children:

a) **Ralph E, Moseley, III**

b) **Terry Sue Moseley**

2. **UNNAMED** child died an infant.

Agnes Bertha Blau Moseley died of influenza during the epidemic of 1920 on February 20, at age 27 (Columbus *Enquirer*, February 17, 1920, p 2). She is buried in the Blau family plot at Linwood Cemetery.

BLAUS WITH SIMILAR NAMES ELIMINATED AS POSSIBLE RELATIONS

Other than Edward William Blau, Franz Gustav Blau, and Johann Carl Blau, no other members of Edward's family in Germany with the surname Blau are known to have immigrated in the United States. It is known that Franz Gustav Blau had no children. It is not known how long Johann Carl Blau remained in the United States before returning to Germany. No evidence has been found that he married or had children in the United States.

A listing of graves at Linwood Cemetery in Columbus by the LDS shows a *Rev. Benjamin Blau*, born July 5, 1824, died August 22, 1887. The listing is incorrect. The correct name as shown in Linwood Cemetery card file and on the marked grave is *Rev. Benjamin Blow*, no relation.

The card index of graves at Linwood Cemetery in the cemetery office at Riverdale Cemetery shows a *Robert Blau*, date of interment February 24, 1898 in lot 202 of section A, age at death: 16. The lot was found to contain two graves marked by bricks with no names and a grave marked Florence Bush. Research in the Columbus newspapers around February 24, 1898 showed the correct name is *Robert Blow* whose parents were not noted, but he lived with his grandfather, Joe Bush.

In Texas there were several Blau's who died there prior to 1940 whose names are common to the Blau families of

Frankenhausen and Columbus, though probably not related:

1. *August Blau* was born in Germany, location not known, in April, 1839. He immigrated to the United States in 1846 and lived in Harris County, Texas where he was a butcher. His wife, Mary Nitze was also born in Germany. Their children, as listed in the 1880 and 1900 U.S. Census records were:

- a) *Caroline Blau* born in 1869 in Houston, Texas.
- b) *Herman Blau* born June 17, 1872 in Houston; died November 9, 1926.
- c) *Augustus Blau* born 1875 in Houston, Texas.
- d) *George G. Blau* born April 1, 1884 in Houston, Texas; died December 9, 1935.
- e) *August F. Blau* birthdate not known; died June 2, 1914.

August Blau died on June 2, 1921. Mary Nitze Blau died before 1900.

2. *Charles A. Blau, Jr.* was born on January 27, 1861 in Galveston, Texas the son of Henrietta Duebnert and Charles A. Blau, both of whom were born in Germany, the exact place being unknown. Charles A. Blau, Jr. was not married. He died in Galveston on September 18, 1926.

3. *Freida Blaw* died in El Paso, Texas on October 1, 1918. She was born in Russia. It is not known to whom she was married. She was not related.

**THE
BLAU FAMILY
OF
GERMANY**

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THURINGIA

FRANKENHAUSEN (BAD FRANKENHAUSEN)

Frankenhausen is a small town in central Germany on the south slope of a small wooded mountain range, the Kyffhauser. It is located about 25 miles north of Erfurt and approximately 60 miles west of Leipzig at 51° 22' North, 11° 07' East.

The area was settled by the Franks in the 6th Century. The town was in existence by the 9th Century. Frankenhausen was property of Otto I "The Great" in 952. The oldest structures remaining in Frankenhausen are the Hausmannsturm (lookout tower) which is first mentioned in records in the year 998, and remnants of the old city wall. It then passed through ownership by the Count of Rothenburg in the 12th Century, and other counts through the 14-16th Centuries. It was mostly destroyed by fires in 1689, 1759, and on February 15, 1833. The population was decimated by bubonic plague in 1348, 1591, 1626, and 1639. Some buildings constructed in the 17th century were still in use in 1994.

The first church in Frankenhausen was built about the year 1000, and is known today as Altstadter Kirche (Old City Church)

A Roman Catholic Cistercian nunnery (Klosterkirche) was built in Frankenhausen in 1215 by Count Friedrich III. It was in the area of Germany where the Protestant Reformation began under Martin Luther in the 16th

century. The cloister was abandoned in 1551 and was taken over as a Lutheran school in 1552. The church was reconstructed in 1596-1598. It burned to the ground in 1689 and the current building was constructed in baroque style in 1690-1703. It is now known as the Unterkirche. An organ was built for the church in 1703 by Johann Nordt. The first German Music Festival was held in the Unterkirche in 1804. Other national music festivals were held there in 1810 and 1811. In 1843 a larger organ was built by Julius Strobel. In 1884, his sons Reinhold and Adolf expanded the organ. It became recognized as the best organ in Thüringen and among the best in Germany. The organ had 49 registers (about 3400 pipes), three manuals and pedals. The organ was restored in 1956 and in 1994. Organ concerts continue in the Unterkirche.

The Oberkirche was built in 1382. The salt under the building slowly washed away causing the steeple to lean 3.20 meters from the perpendicular. The roof had to be removed in the 1970's for safety. Efforts began in 1993 to raise funds for restoring the church. The church has no records of it having an organ.

During the Reformation the town was the site of the Battle of Frankenhausen in May, 1525, where the Peasant's Revolt was ended with the defeat by the princes of the peasants led by Thomas Munzer. The revolt was inspired by misinterpretation of Martin Luther's preaching and was denounced by him.

In 1854 when Edward William Blau emigrated, Frankenhausen was in the independent state of Thuringia within Prussia. In 1871 it became incorporated into the German Empire. In the early part of the 20th Century the name was changed to Bad Frankenhausen, indicating a spa area. After World War II, it fell into the eastern sector of

Germany under the Communist German Democratic Republic (DDR) in the district of Halle. In 1970, Bad Frankenhausen had a population of less than 10,000. After the reunification of Germany in 1990, Bad Frankenhausen was placed in the province (lander) of Sachsen-Anhalt. It is in a salt and potash mining region and also has such industries as sugar refining, leather, buttons and tobacco products. The area still has the remains of the castles of Rothenburg (7th Century) and of Kyffhausen (12th Century).

The 1883 tax records for Frankenhausen show that the town was originally named Bärenklau (Bear-claw). In 1883, Frankenhausen had 698 residential buildings, 1157 households and 4985 inhabitants. There were three churches, a seminary for school teachers, a boys' school, a girls' school and a secondary school. It had a telegraph station and a first class post office. There were several kindergartens and a children's hospital. Among the industries listed were brewery, tannery, organ building, and a button factory. The nearby agriculture produced tobacco, flax (from which linen is made), and vineyards from which vinegar was made, and salt mines... The town had four markets, including a flax and yarn market.

PRONUNCIATION AND SPELLING OF THE BLAU NAME

The word “blau” in German means “blue”, and is a slang word meaning “drunk”. In standard German the word is pronounced so as to rhyme with “cow”. The Blau family of Columbus-Girard has always pronounced the name so as to rhyme with “law”. In Germany, as in the United States, there are regional dialects. It would be expected that the regional dialects would be more pronounced in the middle of the 19th Century before radio and television lessened the differences in pronunciation. When Edward William Blau left Frankenhause in 1854 there was no united Germany and no uniform German language. It was only after 1871 that Germany became a unified nation and the regional dialects began to fade. Among the regional dialects was the Thuringian dialect. Being in the hill country, the Thuringian dialect was probably different from the more populated areas such as Erfurt. When Edward William Blau’s son Lorenz visited the family in Germany in the 1890’s he found the portion of the Blau family which had moved to London sometimes changed the spelling to “Blaw” so it would be pronounced correctly.

The name is said to have come from a description of typical clothing worn by the person when surnames came into use. The name is also said to have been applied to a person of light skin or blond hair. In this family of linenweavers, the name may have some connection to the cloth produced by an early Blau. Though it has been reported found as early as 1282, Blau is not a common name in Germany. The name is reported to have variations in spelling, such as Blaue, Blaus, Blawe, Blohose, Blohut, and Blaauw. The name in Frankenhause is found as Blaue in the 18th Century records, changing to Blau in the early 19th

Century. It was also common to add “in” to the last name of females, so that in the records Blau females are usually spelled “Blauin”.

PARISH REGISTERS OF FRANKENHAUSEN

Being in the central area of the Protestant Reformation, Frankenhause's religious community was protestant. The Evangelische Kirche of Frankenhause kept records of the births, christenings, marriages and deaths beginning in 1586. In 1972, Leonora Blau Spiess visited Frankenhause in hopes of learning about the family history. She found the church closed and boarded up. The local government officials had no interest in assisting her. At that time the Communist leaders of the DDR were hostile to genealogical research. About 1980 a governmental benefit was found and the government opened a central officer for genealogical research in Leipzig, and encouraged district and city archives to cooperate with persons seeking information on their ancestors. The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons or LDS) was allowed to extensively microfilm genealogically significant records in the state archives. The Lutheran Church has not been as open to the LDS, but many old church parish registers are preserved in state archives. The parish records of the Evangelische Kirche of Frankenhause from 1586 to 1879 were in the Staatsarchiv of Rudolstadt, under the DDR, and the LDS microfilmed them on twenty reels.

These parish records are written in the old German script, which has a number of different lettering styles from the script now used. The problem in reading and translating the old German script is that it has not been in use since the early 1930s. Hitler found the use of the old German script to be an economic hindrance to Germany. He outlawed the script and put in its place the Roman script used by western Europe and the United States. As a consequence, few Germans can read the old script today. The parish registers are, of course, written by various people through the years, each with his own individual

variations in handwriting style. Some are relatively easy to read, others are very difficult to transliterate. In general, dates and times are easily readable without knowledge of German. The names of the child and father in birth records are usually written in Roman script and thus are easy to read. The same is true for the bride and bridegroom in marriage records. The names of mothers, godparents, and listing of occupations are in the old German script. The death records sometimes give the cause of death.

In 1990 when Germany began reunification, the city government and the church became more responsive to requests for information, sending tax records, picture postcards, including a photograph of the Strobel organ, and other information, seemingly going out of their way to find material on the Blau family.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE BLAU FAMILY IN GERMANY

The parish records show the primary occupation of the Blau family of Frankenhäusen as linenweavers. It was common practice in Germany that the oldest son followed in the father's occupation and inherited his business. Other sons could stay with the family work or could go into other occupations. Generally a child would learn the father's business, trade or craft very early and could be granted favorable treatment by the local guild. A person would begin as an apprentice to a Meister (master of the trade or craft). When he had learned the trade he was then sent out to travel to other towns and villages to practice as a journeyman. After completing this phase he could be eligible to apply to the guild for the title of Meister. To obtain the title Meister, he had to show that he was a legitimate child and that his ancestors for several generations were legitimate. He had to be a citizen of the town, active in the church and otherwise of good moral character as well as highly skilled in his trade. The guilds were powerful organizations in the social and political lives of the town. The guild would approve or disapprove of a member's choice of a wife. If the member married after the guild's disapproval, his trade could be boycotted by other guild members and suppliers. When a man reached the level of Meister his name appears in the records with the title, for example: Meister Johann Lorenz Blau. All of Edward William Blau's direct paternal ancestors were linenweavers with standing as Meister. His father and uncle progressed beyond being craftsmen to being merchants, probably of textiles and patterns. His uncles and cousins had such occupations as tailor, locksmith, barrelmaker, organist and choirmaster. A brother-in-law

was an assistant in the tax office and was a son of the mayor of Frankenhäusen. Among Edward's cousins one, Victor Blau was a teacher and was director of the choral society for two years; one, Rudolph Blau, owned a stationary and book store, and was director of the choral society for twenty years; and one was a book binder. Another brother-in-law, Reinhold Strobel, was an organ builder. Edward's father, after retiring as a merchant may have joined that son-in-law in building pianos and organs. The church organ rebuilt and enlarged by Reinhold Strobel in 1884 is still in use in the Unterkirche of Bad Frankenhäusen. There may have been a Strobel organ in the Oberkirche, which has a leaning steeple which was in danger of collapsing causing the officials to remove the roof of the church for safety reasons. In 1993 the church began a project to repair and restore the Oberkirche. The church has no records concerning the organ in the Oberkirche.

CHILDREN OF JOHANN LORENZ BLAU

JOHANN LORENZ BLAU was born in Frankenhausen on April 17, 1806 at 6:00 a.m. He married **JOHANNE CHRISTIANE SOPHIE SIEBERT** in Frankenhausen on May 13, 1832 when he was 26 and she was 22. The parish records show his occupation first as “Lein und Baumwollenweber” (linen and cotton weaver). He then was able to pass the strict requirements of guild to earn the title “Meister” (master of his craft). Later his occupation changes to “Kauf und Handelsmann” (tradesman and merchant), showing a progression in his status from weaver to master weaver and to a merchant, possibly with his brother Johann August Gunther Blau. While the parish records do not mention the type of merchant, it is likely that he became a merchant of textiles. In the tax records of Frankenhausen for about 1870 and for 1876 he is shown as a merchant of cut goods (schnitthandler). He was shown in that tax record as a class 2 taxpayer. There were three classes of taxpayers. The class determined the amount of tax to be paid and the strength of his vote. The class 2 taxpayers represented 13.9% of the population and elected 33% of the House of Representatives. Toward the end of his life he may have joined with his youngest daughter’s husband in building pianos and organs. It is family tradition that they built the organ for the church in Frankenhausen. Johanne Christiane Sophie Siebert Blau died on May 31, 1866 at 3:00 a.m. at age 56, of stomach disease. Their children:

1. **Henriette Frederike Eleonore Blau**
2. **Fredrich August Emil Blau**
3. **Johann Carl August Blau**

4. **WILHELM EDUARD LOUIS BLAU**
5. **Christian Ernst Theodor Blau**
6. **Johanne Caroline Henriette Blau**
7. **Albinus Franz Gustav Blau**
8. **Franz Emil Blau**
9. **Minna Ida Emilie Blau**
10. **Friedrich Hermann Wilhelm Blau**
11. **Dorothee Linna Minna Bertha Blau**

HENRIETTE FREDERIKE ELEONORE BLAU AND THE KNEISEL FAMILY

Henriette Frederike Eleonore Blau, born September 7, 1832 at 10:00 p.m. At age 24 she married Friedrich August Theodor Kneisel (b June 30, 1821) on January 26, 1856. He was an assistant in the office of the Frankenhäuser's board of revenue, (Fürstlicher Kassenrendant), and was the second son of the second marriage of the mayor of a part of Frankenhäuser called Bärenklau, Christian Jakob Kneisel. Their children were:

a) **Johanna Friederike Amanda Kneisel**. Amanda Kneisel went to the United States and lived in Chicago before moving to Austin then Fort Worth, TX. She is mentioned as a daughter of A. Kneisel and the niece of Carl Blau in an estate paper dated July 2, 1910 in Frankenhäuser. In the United States she married a man named Hoppe. Their children:

1) **Nora Hoppe** married Mr. Wright a much older man and horse trader in 1908 in Texas.

b) **J. Selma Christiane Kneisel**, born March 6, 1859; died October 27, 1863 at 1:00 p.m. at age 4.

c) **Friederike Ida Ernestine Kneisel**, born May 18, 1860; died October 28, 1863 at 10:00 p.m. at age 3.

d) **Otto Friedrich Max Kneisel**, born August 23, 1864 at 12:30 p.m.; died February 23, 1865 at 11:00 a.m. at age 6 months.

Henriette Frederike Eleonore Blau Kneisel died on January 14, 1865 at 6:30 a.m. at age 32. He remarried Marie Henriette Hirschfeld (born May 121, 1855 in Rotleben) in 1873. A story about him from his family: "And then (a very popular story in our family) he fell in love in a very young girl from Frankenhause. He saw her, and then she was fifteen! So he asks the father of her, that he will marry her. But he has to wait until she was eighteen! So they married in 1873 in Frankenhause. He was an old man and she was a very young woman and she was not very happy about it. But in fact, about this time he was very rich and popular, because ha was working for the office of Frankenhause and for the prince. I don't know how to translate the title, but it was called "Fürstlicher Kassenrendant" he was the administrator of the money." They had children including:

e) Artur Kneisel, born August 3, 1887.

Friedrich August Theodor Kneisel died November 15, 1909.

FREDRICH AUGUST EMIL BLAU

Fredrich August Emil Blau, born July 10, 1834 at 11:00 a.m.; died December 3, 1834 at 8:00 p.m., age 4 months.

JOHANN CARL AUGUST BLAU

Johann Carl August Blau, born November 1, 1835 at 1:00 p.m. He went to the United States with his younger brother, Wilhelm Eduard Louis Blau, in 1854. The passenger list of the ship *Gutenberg* shows him as a weaver. It is not known how long he stayed in the United States. He probably went to Milwaukee with his brother. He did not go to Columbus, Georgia with his brother and probably returned to Germany before 1860. Leonora Blau Norris, in her recollections, said Carl went to London. He may have lived in London after leaving the United States and prior to returning to Frankenhäusen. There is a birth and death record of a child Charles Philip Blau, born March 1870, died March 1871 in Holborn. The church records of Frankenhäusen do not show a marriage or birth of children to Carl. References to him are found in the tax records of Frankenhäusen in about 1870 which shows him in the age group of between 16 and 60, a saddlemaker (sattler), and a class 1 taxpayer. The class 1 taxpayers represented 3.8% of the population and elected 33% of the House of Representatives. In the 1876 tax record he is listed on the page between his father and his brother-in-law Reinhold Strobel. The church records of Frankenhäusen show his wife as Christiane Emilie Luise Laura Blau (Born about 1840; died January 31, 1890 at 5:45 a.m.; the cemetery record shows her as age 50). The church records do not show the date of marriage, nor information concerning children, indicating the marriage was someplace other than Frankenhäusen. Her death record shows Carl's occupation as "Schnittwarenhändler (Cut goods merchant). Carl is shown a "Privatier" in the 1810 Adressbüchern (City Directory) probably meaning a retired person. There is also a record dated July 2, 1910 concerning the estate of

A. Kneisel and mentioning Carl's niece Amanda Kneisel Hopp of Fort Worth, TX. The church records show he died on November 5, 1914 and was a widower.

WILHELM EDUARD LOUIS BLAU

WILHELM EDUARD LOUIS BLAU, born October 16, 1837 at 8:00 p.m.; died May 6, 1924 at age 86. Immigrated to the United States in 1854 and changed his name to **EDWARD WILLIAM BLAU**. See above.

CHRISTIAN ERNST THEODOR BLAU

Christian Ernst Theodor Blau, born September 13, 1839 at 6:00 a.m. He emmigrated to London.

a) **Bertha Lucy Blau**, born c. 1870; married Arthur Charles Eckner, confectioner, on February 6, 1898 at St. Michael's Church, Church of England in Edmonton. The marriage certificate shows her father as Ernest Blau, gentleman. Ernest Blau and Linna Blau witnessed the marriage. (Vol 3a, p 442)

b) **Sarah Linna Margareta Blau**, born 1872; married William Thomas H. Young, bank clerk, on November 24, 1898 in Edmonton. (Vol 3a, p 761)

There are two photographs marked "our cousins in London" and were probably his children, though one or more of them may be children of Carl.

c) **C(hristian/ Carl?). E(rnst ?). L(ouis?). Blau**

d) **Gladys Blau**

e) **Alice Blau**

JOHANNE CAROLINE HENRIETTE BLAU

Johanne Caroline Henriette Blau, born March 28, 1841 at 11:00 p.m.; died April 28, 1841 at 3:00 p.m. at age 1 month.

ALBINUS FRANZ GUSTAV BLAU

Albinus Franz Gustav Blau, born July 28, 1842 at 6:00 a.m. He immigrated to the United States on the ship *Teutonia*, arriving in New York on August 28, 1866. The records show him as a printer. He joined his older brother in the Columbus-Girard area. On September 25, 1867 he purchased 29 acres in Muscogee County (Deed Book N, p 247). He, along with his brother, was a musician involved in the cultural life of Columbus. He was involved with the Gesang Verein, a German choral group, and was associate musical director of Edward Mollenhauer's Monster Orchestra in Columbus in 1869-1870 (*Showboats To Softshoes: Musical Development of Columbus*, p 58). He Anglicized his name to "Francis" as early as 1869, or as "F.G." His marriage license in Muscogee County on October 7, 1869 shows Francis G. Blau married Henrietta A. Owens, the daughter of Martha E. and Richard A. Owens of Columbus. He sold his 29 acres on January 5, 1870 (Deed Book O, p 645). On May 4, 1870 Henrietta Owens Blau and Francis G. Blau sold one third of lot 327 on Early St. (now 6th St. at the corner of Broad St.). This apparently was the residence of her parents which she was selling as her portion of their estate. He joined with his brother in piano tuning and in operating a brewery in Girard for the German community in Columbus in 1871. After Germany defeated France and began the united country. He left Columbus to return to Frankenhausem for a short visit:

"OFF FOR 'SHARMANY' - Mr. F.G. Blau, leader of the 'Gesangverein' and 'Turnverein,' who has achieved considerable notoriety in our city as a fancy painter and public-spirited musician, will leave for Europe today on a visit to 'Faderland'. It is his purpose to return in August.

We wish the young gentleman a pleasant trip and safe return." (Columbus *Enquirer*, April 13, 1871)

He apparently returned on schedule:

MORE ABOUT THE CONCERT -About 250 persons were present at the Bent Club's Concert Thursday night...Messrs. J. W. Smith, F.G. Blau, B.H. Hudson and W. C. Coart, added much to the effect of the several choruses..." (Columbus *Enquirer*, September 30, 1871)

In the 1872 Columbus City Directory, Francis "Blew" is listed as a weaver in Girard. He left Columbus and appears to have gone to St. Louis as there is a business card indicating he worked for St. Louis lithographer August Gast Company. By 1877 he and his wife moved to Austin, Texas where he was a draftsman and cartographer for the Texas Land Office:

"LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS: ...The map of the capitol lands, now in the Governor's office, is a beautiful one and reflects credit upon the general land office. It was compiled and drawn by F.G. Blau and A.B. Langermann." (Austin *Statesman*, December 12, 1880).

He also was a lithographer and music teacher. He is found in the City Directory from 1877 through 1910. In 1891-1892, his niece, Leonora Blau, lived with them. He was known to the Columbus Blau family as "Uncle Gus". He died in Austin on May 9, 1910 at age 67. (Austin *Daily Statesman* May 10, 1910). His death certificate in Texas is incorrectly filed under "Blaw". Henrietta Owens Blau died on August 4, 1915 at age 72 (Austin *American*, August 5, 1915). They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, section 3, lot 874, NE 1/4. His tombstone shows his full German name and place of birth.

The Texas General Land Office Archives has 65 maps credited to F. G. Blau. The Austin Public Library's Austin History Center has some of his original drawings. One auction in Austin in 2001 listed his memorabilia, including 425 engravings, pencil, ink and wash art works. The bid estimate was \$3,000-\$6,000. The collection included drawings of places in Germany, England and Texas; business cards he designed for wine merchants, inns and hotels, clothiers, piano manufacturers and sellers, photographers; labels for toothpaste, cigars, and apothecaries; dance cards, invitations to dances, balls and concerts; illustrated horticultural catalogs; Texas Masonic items; a manuscript map of Kimble County, Texas. The listing in the auction catalog says: "Like Blau's other manuscript maps in the Texas General Land Office, this Kimble County map is characterized by Blau's customary precision, neatness, clarity and expert draftsmanship...The county maps that Blau created represent a new era of Texas cartography, following the great general maps of De Cordova and others in which the overall picture of Texas finally evolved. It fell to cartographers like Blau to document the individual carving up of the geography of Texas into private and public land holdings.

They had no children.

FRANZ EMIL BLAU

Franz Emil Blau, born September 13, 1844 at noon; died February 9, 1850 at 4:30 p.m. at age 5.

MINNA IDA EMILIE BLAU

Minna Ida Emilie Blau, born June 8, 1846 at 6:00 p.m.; died July 9, 1849 at 9:00 a.m. at age 3.

FRIEDRICH HERMANN WILHELM BLAU

Friedrich Hermann Wilhelm Blau, born May 8, 1848 at 10:00 a.m.; died July 8, 1853 at 4:00 p.m. at age 5.

DOROTHEE LINNA MINNA BERTHA BLAU AND THE STROBEL FAMILY

Dorothee Linna Minna Bertha Blau, born July 5, 1850 at 4:00 p.m. On May 15, 1872 at age 24, she married Ernst Wilhelm Reinhold Eduard Strobel, age 26, who was an organ builder (Orgelbauer). He was born April 6, 1846, son of organ builder Julius Alexander Strobel [born October 7, 1814 in Unbertriebel to Pfarrer (pastor) Georg Heinrich Strobel]. Their children:

a) **Ernst Rudolph Carl Franz Strobel**, born February 27, 1873. The 1928 city directory (Adreßbuch) showed Franz Strobel as “Privatier”.

b) **Emil Ernst Strobel**, born April 27, 1874; died May 6, 1874 at 9:00 p.m. age 16 days.

c) **Paul Otto Johann Strobel**, born June 27, 1875; married Anna Elizabeth Lina Lehmann (born December 31, 1878; died January 9, 1963) on May 10, 1902; the 1928 city directory (Adreßbuch) of Frankenhausen showed him as an organ builder; died March 31, 1943. Their children:

1) **May Helene Strobel**, born March 20, 1905 in London; baptized in Frankenhausen on March 26, 1911; married name was Birkicht; died April 12, 1986. One child is known but died at birth:

a) **Franz Paul Birkicht**, born and died April 14, 1967.

2) **Reinhold Heinz Strobel**, born December 13, 1912; married Anna Bertha Margarethe Kitzig (born August 31, 1919; died May 28, 1982); he was an organ builder; died 1945. Their child:

a) **Doris Ursel Strobel**, born June 1, 1943; died February 17, 1944.

d) **Clara Bertha Hedwig Strobel**, born August 16, 1877.

e) **Ehrig Otto Strobel**, born August 17, 1879.

f) **Elsa Strobel**, born August 10, 1881.

g) **Frida Strobel**, born July 18, 1883.

h) **Reinhold Strobel**, born December 6, 1885.

In 1922 the organ and piano builders were known as "Reinhold Strobel GmbH" (Company).

It appears that when her father retired he may have assisted Reinhold Strobel in making pianos and organs. In 1883, when her older brother, Eduard, married his second wife, Emma, a family built piano was sent to them in Girard as a wedding gift. Reinhold Strobel's father died on August 24, 1884 while working on rebuilding the organ of the Unterkirche in Frankenhausen. The work was completed by Reinhold and his brother Adolph Strobel on October 17, 1886. It appears that after her father's death, the Strobels may have briefly moved to Leipzig where Reinhold may have worked for Wilhelm Schimmel, as about 1900 they sent a Schimmel piano from Leipzig to Charles Blau in

Columbus. His organ building firm was “Strobel und Söhne”. Bertha Blau Strobel died in Frankenhausen on November 20, 1902. Reinhold Strobel died on November 27, 1916 in Frankenhausen.

Johann Lorenz Blau died on May 11, 1890 at age 84. Five family built pianos were sent to his son Eduard in Girard as his share of the inheritance.

CHILDREN OF JOHANN WILHELM BLAUE

Meister **JOHANN WILHELM BLAUE**, linenweaver, was born in Sachsenburg, a village about five miles south of Frankenhäusen in August, 1765. On August 4, 1790, at age 25, he married Elisabeth Dorothea Falkenbergin in Frankenhäusen. She was born in Frankenhäusen on September 4, 1764, daughter of Meister Johann Barnhard Falkenberg, linenweaver. With Johann Wilhelm Bläue, the spelling of the name changes, dropping the “e” and becoming the currently used “Blau”. Their children were:

1 Eleonora Christiana Blau

2. Johann Casper Wilhelm Blau

3. Eleonora Wilhelmina Blau

4. Wilhelmina Christiana Blau

ELEONORA CHRISTIANA BLAU

Eleonora Christiana Blau, born June 26 1791 at 11:30 a.m.; died May 31, 1795.

JOHANN CASPER WILHELM BLAU

Johann Casper Wilhelm Blau, born May 23, 1793 at 11:30 a.m. He apparently never achieved the status of Meister, but remained a journeyman linenweaver and wool sorter (Leinwebergeselle und Wollsortirer). In his marriage record the spelling of the name changes from Blaue to Blau. When 22 he married 29 year old Marie Juliane Lösche on January 16, 1816. She was born September 19, 1786, the oldest daughter of Catharine Kirst and Johann Immanuel Lösche, bookbinder (Buchbinders). Their children were:

AMALIE CAROLINE FRIEDERIKE BLAU

Amalie Caroline Friederike Blau, born April 8, 1816 at 5:30 p.m. At age 23 she married 58 year old widower, Meister Heinrich Casper Koch, locksmith (Schlosser), on May 22, 1839. Their children were:

- 1) **Amalie Henriette Friedrike Koch**, born May 17, 1846 at 3:00 a.m.
- 2) **Carl Theodor Lorenz Koch**, born May 2, 1850 at 11:00 a.m.
- 3) **Laura Eugenie Cecille Therese Koch**, born February 11, 1853 at 3:00 a.m.

Heinrich Casper Koch died on April 23, 1855 at 2:00 p.m., at age 74. He had been born August 9, 1780 at

7:30 p.m. Amalie Caroline Friederike Blau Koch remained a widow, but had a child out of wedlock:

4) **Carl Richard Koch**, born September 21, 1859 at 1:00 p.m.

JOHANN LOUISE DOROTHEA BLAU

Johanne Louise Dorothea Blau, born September 21, 1818 at 11:00 a.m.

JOHANN CHRISTIAN FRIEDRICH BLAU

Johann Christian Friedrich Blau, born November 13, 1821 at 5:00 p.m.; died December 4, 1861 at 10:00 a.m. at age 39. He was a barrelmaker (Bottcher). At age 25 he married Johanne Eleanore Kropsch, age 26, about September 15, 1846 in Belgern, northeast of Leipzig. She was born on January 26, 1820. Their children:

1) **Johanne Henriette Sophie Blau**, born August 3, 1847 at 5:00 a.m.; died March 10, 1848 at 6:00 a.m., age 6 months.

2) **August Wilhelm Gunther Blau**, born January 6, 1849 at 3:00 p.m.

3) **Hermann Friedrich August Blau**, born February 9, 1852 at 9:00 p.m.; died December 24, 1876 at age 24.

4) **Franz August Blau**, born December 18, 1855 at 6:00 p.m.; died June 16, 1858 at 10:00 a.m. at age 2 ½.

Johanne Eleanore Kropsch Blau died on March 13, 1857 at 10:30 a.m. at age 37. Johann Christian Friedrich Blau married Emma Dorothee Caroline Bauersfeld, who was born March 12, 1833, on October 7, 1858 in Heldrungen, when he was 37. They had no children before he died on December 4, 1861 at 10:00 a.m. at age 40.

FRIEDERIKE AMALIE HERMINE BLAU

Friederike Amalie Hermine Blau, born February 16, 1824 at 7:00 p.m.

JOHANN AUGUST CHRISTIAN BLAU

Johann August Christian Blau, born August 31, 1826 at noon; died January 17, 1858 at 7:00 a.m. at age 32. He was a journeyman locksmith.

f) **Johanne Caroline Sophie Blau**, born May 28, 1829 at 11:00 a.m. At age 29 she married Meister

Johann Friedrich August Drehsler, tailor (Schneider),
on July 24, 1858.

Marie Juliane Losche Blau died on June 27, 1851 at
3:00 p.m. at age 64. Johann Casper Wilhelm Blau
died after 1879.

ELEONORA WILHELMINA BLAU

Eleonora Wilhelmina Blau, born August 9, 1795 at
9:00 p.m.; died March 27, 1796.

WILHELMINA CHRISTIANA BLAU

Wilhelmina Christiana Blau, born April 23, 1797 at
8:30 p.m. Her godparent is shown as Johann Wilhelm
Blaue of Sachsenburg. She died June 12, 1799 at 7:00
a.m.

Elisabeth Dorothea Falkenbergin Blaue died on May 22,
1798 at 5:00 a.m. at age 33.

Johann Wilhelm Blaue married **JOHANNE ELISABETH
FESTIN**, age 28, on October 17, 1798 when he was 33. She
was born in 1770, the daughter of **GEORG SAMUEL**

FEST, choirmaster and school administrator (Cantor und Schuldiener) in the village of Grossenmonra southeast of Frankenhausen. Their children:

5. **Christian Wilhelm Blau**

6. **Johann Christian Wilhelm Blau**

7. **Johann August Gunther Blau**

8. **JOHANN LORENZ BLAU**

9. **Johanne Christiane Charlotte Blau**

CHRISTIAN WILHELM BLAU

Christian Wilhelm Blau, born November 6, 1799 at 3:00 a.m.; died March 23, 1800.

JOHANN CHRISTIAN WILHELM BLAU

Johann Christian Wilhelm Blau, born July 13, 1801 at 6:00 a.m. He was organist and choirmaster (Cantor) at the church in Seega, about 3 miles southwest of Frankenhausen. He was godparent of Wilhelm Eduard Louis Blau.

JOHANN AUGUST GUNTHER BLAU

Johann August Gunther Blau, born March 17, 1804 at 6:00 a.m. He was a Meister linenweaver and merchant (Handelsmann). In 1848 he is listed as a Schnitthandler, which probably means a merchant of cut textiles or of patterns. Sometimes his occupation is listed as Kauf und Handelsmann which means tradesman and merchant. In November, 1834, at age 30, he married 23 year old Sophie Louise Blattermann, who was born in 1811 in Bilzingsleben, near Frankenhausen. Their children:

a) **Emil Wilhelm Blau**, born November 7, 1835 at 2:00 p.m. A godparent is his uncle Johann Christian Wilhelm Blau of Seega. He was a linenweaver and cut goods merchant (Schnitthandler). At 30 he married Wilhelmine Augusta Petsch on May 27, 1866. Their children:

1) **Alma Martha Blau**, born August 7, 1867 at 6:00 p.m.

b) **Johann Friederich Carl Blau**, born June 2, 1837 at 1:00 p.m.; died December 11, 1859 at 4:00 p.m. at age 22.

c) **Christian Albert Ernst Blau**, born January 6, 1839 at 10:00 p.m.; died October 28, 1864 at age 25. He was found shot near Othmarschen, which is near Hamburg.

d) **August Carl Friedrich Blau**, born April 30, 1840 at 11:00 p.m.; died November 17, 1843 at 8:00 a.m. at age 3.

e) **Wilhelm August Theodor Blau**, born October 17, 1842 at 8:00 a.m.; married Rosa Trubinger. They moved to England. In 1870-1871 they lived at 104 White Lion St., Clerkenwell in the Pentonville sub-district of Holborn, Middlesex County. He is shown as a hairdresser.

1) **Charles Phillip Blau**, born Feb. 9, 1870; died March 30, 1871

f) **Carl Robert Blau**, born May 12, 1844 at 3:00 a.m.; died October 31, 1844 at 6:00 p.m., age 5 months.

g) **Franz Emil Blau**, born February 20, 1846 at 9:00 p.m.; died May 30, 1846 at 5:00 p.m., age 3 months.

Sophie Louise Blattermann Blau died of consumption (Auszehrung) on September 22, 1846 at 8:00 a.m. at age 35. On March 3, 1847, at 42, Johann August Gunther Blau married Dorothee Wilhelmine Louise Aderhold. Their children were:

h) **Henriette Laura Blau**, born February 23, 1848 at 2:00 p.m.; died March 30, 1848 at 5:00 p.m., age 1 month.

i) **Johann Gottfried Oskar Blau**, born March 22, 1849 at 5:00 a.m.

j) **Ernst Rudolph Blau**, born October 28, 1850 at 6:00 p.m. He was a book store owner in 1890 when he became director of the choral society, succeeding his brother Victor. He was director of the choral society for 20 years. He showed in the 1910 and 1928 City Directories as owner of a stationary and book store in Frankenhausen.

k) **Carl Heinrich Robert Blau**, born August 26, 1852 at 3:00 a.m.

l) **Unnamed daughter** died at birth on December 3, 1854 at 3:00 a.m.

m) **Franz Victor Hermann Blau**, born February 22, 1856 at 6:00 p.m. In 1888 he became director of the Arbeitergesangverein (worker's choral society). He was director for the 50th anniversary celebration of the choral society which began in 1838. He had a dispute with the church leaders in 1890 and his brother Rudolph became director. In the 1910 and 1928 City Directories he is shown as a school teacher.

n) **Franz Gustav Blau**, born April 17, 1858 at 5:00 p.m.

o) **August Hermann Blau**, born August 11, 1859 at noon. In the 1910 City Directory he is shown as a book binder.

Johann August Gunther Blau died on November 23, 1861 at age 57.

JOHANN LORENZ BLAU

JOHANN LORENZ BLAU, born April 17, 1806 at 10:00 p.m. See above.

JOHANN CHRISTIANE CHARLOTTE BLAU

Johanne Christiane Charlotte Blau, born May 25, 1809 at 6:00 a.m.; died January 20, 1859 at age 49.

A tax record dated November 21, 1812 carries a note from Johann Wilhelm Blau (the tax record uses the spelling Blau): “My income is uncertain; firstly I am sick in such a way that I do not know if I will be able to take on work again, or if I will find work. Secondly, I have debts of 100 and 25. To support my wife and four children I have nothing else than my profession of being a linenweaver. With this I can hardly think of myself as being on the same level as a day laborer. I do not exclude myself but I leave the decision to His Highness. (signed) Johann Willhelm Blau.” Johann Wilhelm Blau died in Frankenhausen on February 28, 1813 at 8:00 p.m. at age 47. Johanne

Elisabeth Fest Blaue died December 19, 1833 at 8:00 a.m.
of pulmonary disease (Lungenlahmung) at age 63.

**THE BLAUE FAMILY
OF
SACHSENBURG**

The parish records of Frankenhäusen show that members of the family who originally went to Frankenhäusen came from Sachsenburg, a small village about 5.5 miles south of Frankenhäusen. Parish records for Sachsenburg available on microfilm through the LDS Family History Library date from 1800 to 1875. What is known about the 19th Century family in Sachsenburg comes from those records and the parish records in Frankenhäusen. The parish records of the church in Sachsenburg, in 1994, are located in Heldrungen.

CHILDREN OF GEORG WILHELM BLAUE

Meister **GEORG WILHELM BLAUE**, Meister linenweaver of Sachsenburg, was born September 25, 1737 in Sachsenburg. On July 1, 1759, he married **CATHARINA ELISABETH TREÄBNER**, who was born about 1740 in Harras. Their children:

1. **Sophia Eleonora Blauin**
2. **Catharina Elisabeth Blaue**
3. **JOHANN WILHELM BLAUE**
4. **Johann Gottfried Blaue**
5. **Maria Christiana Blaue**
6. **Johann Christian Blaue**
7. **Unnamed Son**

Sophia Eleonora Blauin, born May 15, 1761 in Sachsenburg; married Meister Casper Felix Timner, tailor (Schneider) on January 30, 1793 in Frankenhausen. Their children:

a) **Wilhelmine Christiana Sophia Timner**, born November 6, 1793 at 9:00 p.m.; died July 14, 1796 at age 2½.

b) **Johanna Charlotte Maria Timner**, born June 22, 1795 at noon.

c) **Johann Christian Nicolas Timner**, born May 22, 1797 at 8:00 p.m.

d) **Johanne Sophia Timner**, born March 13, 1799 at 1:00 p.m. Her godparent is shown as Johanna Elisabeth, wife of Johann Wilhelm Blaue of Sachsenburg.

e) **Johann Lydius Timner**, born August 17, 1801 at 3:00 p.m.; died August 6, 1878 at 3:00 p.m. at age 77.

Catharina Elisabeth Blaue, born August 14, 1763; died August 14, 1764, the day after her grandfather died.

JOHANN WILHELM BLAUE, born August 21, 1765 in Sachsenburg; married in Frankenhausen in 1790. See above.

Johann Gottfried Blaue, born February 18, 1768; died May 13, 1772.

Maria Christiana Blaue, born March 24, 1770; died June 17, 1771.

Johann Christian Blaue, born in May, 1772 in Sachsenburg. He was a journeyman linenweaver (Leinwebergeselle). He is not shown as having married or as having children in Sachsenburg or in Frankenhausen. He is shown as godparent of Johann Christian Blaue, Johanne Christiane Blauin and of Eleonore Christiane Blauin, children of his brother Johann Wilhelm Blaue. It is not known when he moved to Frankenhausen. He died there on March 5, 1830 at 9:00 a.m. at age 58; of apopleptic stroke (Schlagfluss).

Unnamed Son, born January 20, 1775; died January 20, 1775.

Catharina Elisabeth Treäbner Blaue died in childbirth on January 20, 1775 in Sachsenburg. Georg Wilhelm Blaue married second Eleonora Catharina Krämer of Waltersdorf on February 18, 1776. He died February 1, 1789 in Sachsenburg. The death record shows there was a funeral sermon.

CHILDREN OF JOHANN PETER BLAUE

Johann Peter Blaue was born about 1700, but not in Sachsenburg. He may have been born in Kannawurf, just south of Sachsenburg. He married **KATHARINA DOROTHEA VOLK** in Sachsenburg on August 2, 1733. He died on August 13, 1764 in Sachsenburg. She died November 5, 1766 in Sachsenburg. The church records show only two children:

1. **Johann Jacob Blaue**

2. **GEORG WILHELM BLAUE.**

JOHANN JACOB BLAUE

1. **Johann Jacob Blaue**, born January 8, 1735; married Anna Maria Büchner, who was born in 1736 in Gorsleben, on July 27, 1756. He was a Meister linenweaver, general tax sub collector, chairman of the community council and a juror on the jury court. She died July 4, 1798. He died December 29, 1807 and was buried on January 1, 1808. A funeral sermon was given in a public service in the church yard. Their children:

a) **Catharina Magdalena Blaue**, born May 8, 1758; died March 19, 1763.

b) **Johanna Elisabeth Dorothea Blaue**, born November 30, 1761; died May 20, 1762.

c) **Martha Eleonora Blaue**, born December 20, 1763; married Friedrich Christoph Beyer (born about 1757 in Oldisleben), a Meister shoemaker (Schumacher) on January 11, 1784; She died on October 14, 1808. He died on May 16, 1826. Their children:

1) **Johanna Maria Friedericka Beyer**, born January 12, 1785.

2) **Johanne Christiane Henriet Beyer**, born November 1, 1786; died November 7, 1818. Johann Jacob Blaue was a godparent.

3) **Friedrich Christian Ludwig Beyer**, born May 25, 1790. Godparents included Johann Christian Blaue and Sophia Eleonora Blaue, wife of Georg Wilhelm Blaue.

4) **Wilhelm Rudolph Beyer**, born October 17, 1799. Johann Wilhelm Blaue was a godparent.

d) **Johann Christian Blaue**, born March 17, 1766; married Katharina Magdalena Binder (born November 21, 1773 in Bilzingsleben) on November 18, 1798. He was a Meister fabric and linenweaver, small farmer and juror on the jury court. He died February 28, 1842. She died April 3, 1847. Their children:

a) **Johann Jacob Blaue**, born November 28, 1799; died July 14, 1800. Johann Jacob Blaue was a godparent.

b) **Johanna Elisabeth Blaue**, born October 19, 1801; one of her godparents was Johann Wilhelm Blau of Gorsleben, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Sachsenburg; married on November 7, 1824 in Bilzingsleben.

c) **Eleonora Catharina Blaue**, born January 5, 1804; died December 21, 1810.

d) **Christian Gottlieb Blaue**, born March 19, 1807; married Amalie Juliane Henriette Jacobi (born February 5, 1812) on September 30, 1831. He was a linenweaver and a county administrator (Schulze). She died May 10, 1872. He died October 8, 1889. Their children:

1) **Friedrich August Blau**, born November 11, 1832; Johann Christian Blau was a godparent; died 1896 in Reichenbach. He was a merchant (Kaufmann).

2) **Andreas Friedrich Blau**, born June 10, 1834; he was a bachelor, a citizen of Halle, and a corporal (unteroffizier) in the 3rd Company of the Erfurt Battalion, No 36. In June, 1866 the army was in the Battle of Langensalza against the "Hannoveraner". He fought and was not wounded, died of Cholera on August 17, 1866.

3) **Carl Ernst Blau**, born July 9, 1836; a citizen of Sachsenburg, he died October 11, 1888 at Nierenleiden.

4) **Maria Theresia Amalia Blau**, born November 20, 1838; died March 20, 1850.

5) **Emil Hermann Blau**, born April 4, 1841; a godparent was Johann Friedrich Blau, linenweaver of Gorsleben; died July 7, 1842.

6) **Emilius Louis Blau**, born April 25, 1843; married Marie Friederike Straube (born 1849) on March 18, 1872 in Oberheldrungen; he died November 29, 1894; she died March 3, 1915. Their children:

a) **Louise Bertha Blau**, born January 27, 1874; died March 9, 1889.

b) **Friedrich August Wilhelm Blau**, born April 1, 1875; married Anna Emilie Stötzel about 1899; died August 13, 1938; she died June 2, 1943. His children:

1) **Hilda Else Lina Blau**, born November 28, 1899; died December 14, 1899.

2) **Anna Maria Elisabeth Blau**, born February 25, 1901; died January 30, 1978.

3) **Olga Ida Ottilie Blau**, born August 14, 1902; died June 21, 1907.

4) **Friedrich Hugo Arno Blau**, born January 15, 1904; died March 5, 1906.

5) **Hilda Erna Blau**, born January 5, 1906; married Franz Hugo Andrä (born March 19, 1899) on October 17, 1929; he died May 10, 1981. Their children:

a) **Fritz August Franz Andrä**,
born June 10, 1933 in Kannawurf.

b) **Hilde Elisabeth Andrä**, born
October 16, 1941.

6) **Margarete Liddy Blau**. born April
11, 1908; married August Louis Friedrich
Küster; died December 30, 1984; he died
before 1984.

c) **Hermann Friedrich Otto Blau**, born
November 22, 1877; died February 11, 1896.

d) **Carl Christian Hugo Blau**, born May
11, 1880.

e) **Lina Anna Amalie Blau**, born June 3,
1882; died October 27, 1906.

f) **Richard Blau**, born August 19, 1887; died
January 9, 1913.

7) **Auguste Bertha Blau**, born March 10,
1846; married merchant (Kaufmann) Carl
August Jabin (born September 16, 1844) on
June 25, 1871. She died November 28, 1887. He
died April 23, 1913.

a) **Gottlieb August Otto Jabin**, born June
17, 1872; godparents were Gottlieb Blau and
August Blau, merchant (Kaufmann).

b) **Marie Amalie Jabin**, born August 23,
1874.

8) **Emil Eduard Blau**, born May 8, 1847; died December 14, 1850.

9) **Johanna Amalie Blau**, born August 26, 1850; a godparent was Maria Sophia Christiane Blau, wife of Jacob Blau of Gorsleben; married Carl Franz Johannes Richter (born about 1846) on July 17, 1877. Both died after 1900.

10) **Emma Amalie Blau**, born March 9, 1854; married Carl Friedrich Christian Kaufmann (born about 1850 in Kannawurf) on March 2, 1878.

e) **Wilhelmine Caroline Blaue**, born January 31, 1813; died December 5, 1814.

e) **Johann Georg Blau**, born January 5, 1769; died January 20, 1769.

f) **Johann Wilhelm Blau**, born November 15, 1771; married Susanna Martha Eschrig (born in Gorsleben) on November 4, 1799. He died May 28, 1803, probably in Gorsleben. Their children:

1) **Johann Friedrich Blau**, born in Gorsleben.

2) **Friedrich Jacob Blau**, born in Gorsleben.

GEORGE WILHELM BLAUE

GEORG WILHELM BLAUE. See above.

THE BLAU FAMILY OF KANNAWURF

The marriage record of Johann Peter Blau indicates he was from Kannawurf, approximately 4 miles southwest of Sachsenburg. Unfortunately the ink used in early church records of Kannawurf is so faded that it is unreadable.

**OTHER RELATED
BLAU FAMILIES
NEAR FRANKENHAUSEN**

FROM LACHSTADT

Christian Gottlieb Blau of Lauchstadt, located approximately 40 miles northeast of Frankenhausem, and wife Amalie Friederike, had children including:

1. **Amalie Friederike Blau**, born about 1807. She married 28 year old widower Johann Wilhelm Justus Vonnoe, cabinetmaker (Tischler) on February 28, 1830 in Frankenhausem. He was born September 15, 1802 to Meister Christoph Gunther Vonnoe, cabinetmaker. Evidence that she was related to the Blau families of Frankenhausem is she was a godparent for August Carl Friedrich Blau, son of Johann August Gunther Blau. The Vonnoe name changes spelling in the records in 1839 to Vonnoh. Their children were:

a) **Christine Friederike Auguste Vonnoe**, born March 11, 1837 at 11:00 a.m.

b) **Emma Wilhelme Vonnoe**, born June 30, 1832 at 3:00 a.m.

c) **Carl Wilhelm Albert Vonnoe**, born March 4, 1834 at noon; died May 5, 1836 at age 2.

d) **Carl Wilhelm Vonnoe**, born June 22, 1835 at 11:00 p.m.; died March 3, 1838 at age 3.

e) **Adam Louis Eduard Vonnoe**, born March 7, 1838 at 1:00 p.m.; died May 4, 1839 at age 1.

f) **Ida Louise Vonnoh**, born December 5, 1839 at 1:00 a.m.

g) **Christian Gunther Wilhelm Vonnoh**, born February 3, 1841 at 11:00 p.m.

h) **Carl Friedrich Robert Vonnoh**, born February 3, 1847 at 11:00 p.m.; died August 3, 1842 at age 1 ½.

Johann Wilhelm Justus Vonnoe died on July 24, 1842 at age 39. Amalie Friederike Blau Vonnoe died on March 9, 1871 at 2:00 p.m. at age 64.

FROM KINDLEBRUCK

Andra August Blau, citizen and Meister weaver of Kindelbrück, and his wife Johannes Elisabeth Hollman were the parents of:

1. **Friedrich Christoph Carl Blau**, born in 1849, married Marie Rosine Amalie Schoenewerk on March 1, 1874 in Sachsenburg. He is shown as a weaver in Sachsenburg. There is a notation they had twins born on April 7, 1881.

FROM SACHSENBURG

Friedrich Hugo Arno Blau died in Sachsenburg on March 5, 1906.

Olga Ida Ottilie Blau died in Sachsenburg on June 21, 1907.

MATERNAL ANCESTORS OF EDWARD WILLIAM BLAU

CHILDREN OF JOHANN MARTIN SIEBERT

JOHANN MARTIN SIEBERT was born about 1775 at Kelbra, a village about 6 miles north of Frankenhausen. He was a Meister yarn twister (Garndreher). He married **JOHANNE SOPHIE NICOLAI** on August 27, 1800 in Frankenhausen. Their children were:

1. **Johanna Augusta Dorothea Siebert**, born July 19, 1801 at 8:00 p.m.; died August 22, 1882 at age 81.

2. **Maria Friederica Siebert**, born June 16, 1803 at 10:00 a.m.; died September 6, 1825 at 3:00 p.m. at age 22.

3. **Johanna Elisabeth Siebert**, born June 16, 1803 at 10:00 a.m. At 29 she married Meister Johann Reinhold Reiffurth, barrelmaker (Bottcher), on September 12, 1832. Their children were:

a) Johann Carl Friedrich Reiffurth, born May 22, 1833 at 2:00 p.m.; died October 31, 1840 at age 7. Johann Lorenz Blau was a godparent.

4. **August Julius Wilhelm Siebert**, born September 3, 1807 at 9:00 a.m.; died September 29, 1807, age 3 weeks.

5. **Johanna Wilhelmine Christiane Siebert**, born September 3, 1807 at 9:30 a.m.; died November 24, 1807, age 2 ½ months.

6. **JOHANNE CHRISTIANE SOPHIE SIEBERT**, born December 3, 1809 at 7:00 a.m.; See above under Johann Lorenz Blau.

7. **Johann Friedrich Siebert**, born May 18, 1812 at noon. He was a Meister wood turner (Holzdrechsler). He married Catharine Marie Andra in December, 1836. Their children:

a) **Johann Hermann Ernst Siebert**, born February 17, 1843 at 4:00 a.m.; died October 8, 1843 at 10:00 p.m., age 8 months. Johann Lorenz Blau was a godparent.

b) **Friederike Christiane Therese Siebert**, born September 23, 1844 at 2:00 a.m. Johann Lorenz Blau and Johanne Christiane Sophie Siebert Blau were godparents.

8. **August Wilhelm Bernhardt Siebert**, born March 19, 1818; died November 11, 1929 at 6:00 a.m.

Johanne Sophie Nicolai Siebert died April 6, 1841 at 10:00 a.m. Johann Martin Siebert preceded her in death, but his date of death was not found in the records of the church at Frankenhausen.

CHILDREN OF JOHANN DANIEL SIEBERT

JOHANN DANIEL SIEBERT, born before 1754, was a citizen and yarn twister at Kelbra. He was married twice and the children of his second marriage included:

1. **JOHANN MARTIN SIEBERT**, see above.

another child probably was:

2. **Johann Christian Siebert**, basket maker (Korbmacher). He married Marie Dorothee Bachburg. They had one child born in Frankenhausen:

- a) **Johann Friedrich August Siebert**, born February 16, 1832 at 8:00 p.m.

CHILDREN OF JOHANN GEORG NICOLAI

JOHANN GEORG NICOLAI was born April 21, 1752 in Kindelbrück. He was a Meister bag/purse maker (Beutler). He married **MARTHA JUSTINA MULLER** about 1777. Their oldest daughter was:

1. **JOHANNE SOPHIE NICOLAI**, born March 10, 1778 in Kindelbrück. See above under Johann Martin Siebert.

Johann Georg Nicolai died on May 7, 1835 at 10:00 a.m. at age 83; in Frankenhausen of old age (Alterschwache). There is no further information on the parents of, birth of, and death of Martha Justina Muller.

CHILDREN OF GEORG SAMUEL FEST

Georg Samuel Fest was born in Beichlingen, Thuringia, on May 17, 1723. He went to nearby Grossmonra about 1746 as choirmaster (Cantor). He served as choirmaster for 18 years, and then was the schoolmaster for 22 years. He married Anna Barbara Hess of Dermsdorff on February 20, 1748 in Grossmonra. She died on April 26, 1763 at age 43½. In 1764, he married Maria Elisabeth Obstfeld, a widow whose maiden name was Tümler, born in Kölleda. Their child was:

1. **JOHANNE ELISABETH FESTIN**, born on February 23, 1770 in Grossmonra. She married **Johann Wilhelm Blaue** in Frankenhausen.

Georg Samuel Fest died in Grossmonra on January 23, 1786.

CHILDREN OF JOHANN CHRISTIAN FEST

Johann Christian Fest is shown in the church records of Beichlingen, Thuringia, as the father of Georg Samuel Fest. His birth, marriage and death records have not been found. The birth record of his son **Georg Samuel Fest** shows Johann Christian Fest as a castle baker.

OTHER FEST FAMILIES

There are other references to Fest families in the same general area, being in Battgendorf/Ichstedt and Heldrunen. The Fest families are shown as bakers, choir masters and schoolmasters.

Information on the Fest families is from the church records of Beichlingen and Grossmonra.