

Schild-Schild Family Reunion

**Sunday, August 11, 2002
Dysart, Iowa**

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The Schild Family from Bellenberg, Lippe, Germany to America

I'd like to tell you a story about a small part of time in our Schild ancestry. It will connect the two Schild lines given in the manuscript "Our Ancestors" written by Arlene Schildroth on July 20, 1959 and some explanation of how it came to pass that Schilds are in America.

Let's go back to a small farming community called Bellenberg where Schilds have been found from 1707 until the 1940's. There were only about 40 houses in the whole town and the Schilds lived in House #29 as far back as 1790 (generally house numbers were not part of the public record until 1790's).

Now, let me introduce our common ancestor and start our story. His name is Johann Simon Heinrich Schild, whom I just call Simon Heinrich, and he was born in 1766 in Bellenberg. He is an only child because his older sister died just 10 months earlier at the age of four and a half years. No other brothers or sisters could be found in the records.

The German society that existed at that time was a feudal society with aristocrats, nobles and serfs. These serfs either lived off the land, which was generally owned by someone else, or they belonged to artisan guilds with its masters and apprentices. Schild may have belonged to the artisan class because the name "Schild" referred to a painter or maker of shields.

Twenty-two years later, on 16 November 1788, Simon Heinrich married Anna Louisa Charlotte Mentzen, who I'll just call Anna Louisa. Then, just after their first anniversary, Simon Heinrich and his 29-year-old wife are enjoying the birth of their first child, a girl, who they named Ernestine Charolte Lousie Schild. Remember the name, Ernestine, because she will become very important as to maybe why you and I are here.

But happiness for Simon Heinrich would be hard to come by. They buried their second child, another daughter, in 1794, after only 16 months of life. Much to their joy they had a son the very next year but Anna Louisa was dying. Knowing that she would be leaving to her husband a six-year-old daughter and a four-month-old son to care for by himself, she became part of an arrangement that, upon her death, her younger sister would marry Simon Heinrich.

Anna Louisa passed away in September of 1795. Five months later Simon Heinrich married Anna Margareta Ilsabein Mentzen or, simply, Anna, age 18. But hard times were still ahead. A year-and-a-half later Simon Heinrich buries his only son shortly after the boy's second birthday leaving no male heirs and only one child left out of the four that he has fathered. Who is the only child left? Whose name was it you were supposed to remember? Ernestine, that's right.

Finally, in October of 1798, Simon Heinrich and his new wife have their first child together, a son named Johann Berend Christoph Simon Heinrich Schild. Let me take a moment to tell you about the naming customs in this part of Germany. Godparents, usually three to five of them, were always present at christenings. The child's Christian name could include parts of all of their names. If it was a son then, generally, a Johann was placed on the front for good measure. What you were called, as you walked down the street, would be a lot shorter, otherwise, you would be gone before anyone could finish saying your Christian name of, for example, Johann Berend Christoph Simon Heinrich Schild.

Now back to our story. Tragedy strikes Simon Heinrich twice, first with the death of his infant son in October 1800 and then a second time on the December 27, 1800 when his 70-year-old mother dies.

Now for a short review – over the last dozen years, Simon Heinrich has 1) seen his mother die, 2) watched his first wife pass away along with two of their three children, and 3) married the sister of his first wife and seen their first child die. Thus leaving him with Anna and one child named what? Ernestine.

I think it is time to have some cheerful events.

First event – the date is 14 September 1801 and their first son, Johann Jürgen Simon Friedrich Anton Schild, is born. He will marry and have a son on the 14 of August 1829 who will be named Simon Anton Schild. This Simon Anton Schild is at the head of first group of Schild's in the manuscript "Our Ancestors".

Second event – Simon Heinrich and Anna Schild have their second son on the 18 of January in 1804 named Johann Bernhard Friedrich Christoph Schild. This is the head of the second group of Schild's, known as "John

Schild I", in "Our Ancestors". Therefore, Simon Anton's relationship to John Schild was that of a nephew to his uncle. John Schild would eventually marry Amailia Sophia Holsta of Billerbeck, Lippe, Germany on December 18, 1831.

Happy event #3 and #4 – Simon Heinrich and Anna Schild had two more children – a son, born in 1807, and a daughter born in 1811.

I got so carried away with the cheerful events that I failed to mention that Simon Heinrich's father passed away in 1806 at the age of 75.

Now, in 1812, Simon Heinrich was the patriarch of the family living in House #29 consisting of his daughter Ernestine (by his first wife), his second wife, Anna, and their four children consisting of three sons and a daughter. Life was good as he had male Schilds who would get the family house when he died.

But life around him was in turmoil, in that same year, 1812, 4/5's of the men belonging to the Soldiers of Lippe died in Napoleon's Russian campaign. By October 1813 Germans would rise up to kick the French out. For the next 35 years there would be strife, as Germans would try to form a succession of stable unified German governments.

On a personal basis, Simon Heinrich would experience sorrow with the passing away of his second wife of 18 years, Anna, in October of 1813. Now alone at age 47 with his 23 year old daughter, Ernestine, and four children under the age of 9 he must have felt the need for another wife. So, three months later he married for the third time. I know the question on your mind and the answer is "no" - it wasn't to another sister. By May of 1815 he and his new bride gave him a son. Although this son died two weeks before his first birthday, I do know that they had at least one other son.

Now for the crux of this story – what happened for the oldest male, Johann Bernhard Friedrich Christoph Schild, otherwise know as John Schild, age 44, to board the ship 'George Washington' in Bremen, Germany on the 14 of June in 1848 and sail to America leaving behind the family house?

Have you ever asked yourself, if the oldest male in the family inherits the house what do the other male children in the family get? And what if the oldest child is a female what happens to her?

Do you remember Ernestine? Well, in May of 1815 she was 25 years old and still unmarried. The next oldest was her half-brother, John Schild, who was only 14 years old and potential heir to the house upon her father's death. Or was he?

What is known is that on December 21, 1817, at the age of 28, Ernestine Charlotte Louise Schild married Johann Berend Christoph Blanka. He then changed his name to Schild thus making him the oldest male Schild and new heir to the family house. The records show that each of their six children will be named Schild.

Finally, in 1845 the Schild patriarch, Simon Heinrich, passed away at 79 years of age leaving Ernestine's husband, Johann Berend Christoph Schild, formerly Blanka, as the new ranking Schild.

Also of great importance was that the German Revolution of 1848 failed. This revolution was all about German Nationalism. For the people in Western Germany, there wasn't a need for an aristocracy, hey, the Germans in America were doing quite well without one. But the Prussian Germans, who represented the majority of Germans, did not feel a need for change and thus the Revolution for Nationalism failed.

If John Schild were a Nationalist or wanted his own house or just a better life, then he would have to leave. So, at age 44, he boarded that ship bound for New York with his family and others in the summer of 1848. From there he traveled to Stephenson County, Illinois to settle. Why Illinois? It is reported that some states, Illinois, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Iowa, were offering 160-acre homesteads. In 1852, he and his family moved to Benton County, Iowa.

Nine years after John Schild left Germany, his nephew, Simon Anton Schild, now age 28, left in the spring of 1857 to settle in Stephenson County, Illinois. Finally, he too moved to Benton County, Iowa in 1868.

Their reunion was short as John Schild died at the age of 65 in 1869. Simon Anton lived on until 1905 when he too passed away at age 75. Both are buried in the Irving Cemetery just east of the town of Irving in Benton County, Iowa.

As far as I know, there were still Schilds in Bellenberg into the 1940's but my letters have yet to find any living descendents.

And that, friends and family, is end of that story of the Schild's coming to America.

I'm very excited to tell you that I'm going to Germany this September in hopes of finding distant relatives, doing further research and to take pictures of the area. In preparation for this trip many, many hours were spent looking at microfilms of German Church records covering the time period of 1735 - 1863, correspondence with Schilds in Germany and with an Evangelic church official in Horn, Germany who was extremely helpful. In addition, a Professional Genealogist was used to review the work as well as extend the Schild line back to 1707 when the first record of a Schild appeared in the area. Of special interest is that there is a large town nearby, Detmold, that has a Schild genealogy going back into the 1400's that we may, or may not, connect to.

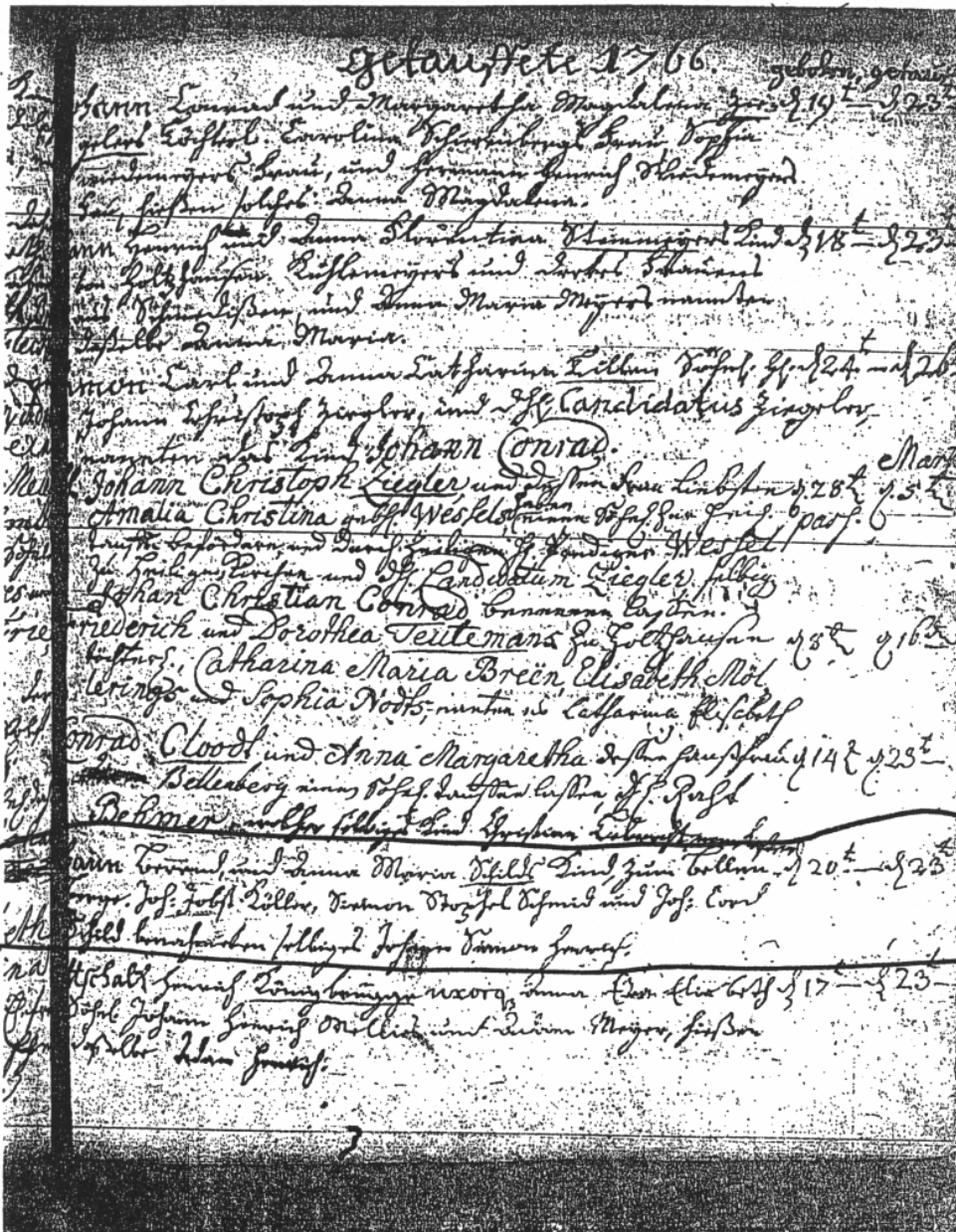
In doing this research, it became quickly apparent as to how much support is needed to complete each step. Thanks to my wife, Barbara, for enduring many lonely days and nights as I poured over microfilms; to my German friends and neighbors, Ernie and Gudrun, for the translation work and to my parents for instilling me with a "love of family" spirit.

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If you are looking for more detailed genealogical information on the Schild's in Germany, then contact Michael Schield, 8705 Meadowlark Circle, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126-2146 or email me at mfschild@hotmail.com with your request.

One of my projects is to post this information to the World Connect Project at www.rootsweb.com so that everyone can have access.

Another project would be updating "Our Ancestors" – any volunteers?



Birth – 20 March 1766 Christening 23 March 1766
 Parents: Johann Berend and Anna Maria Schilds of Bellenberg.
 Godparents: Joh. Jobst Köllar, Simon Stopfel Schmid and Joh. Cord Schild
 Son: Johann Simon Heinrich

Title	Kirchenbuch, 1657-1969	
Authors	Evangelische Kirche Horn (AG. Horn, Lippe) (Main Author)	
Taufen 1735-1775 Konfirmanden 1735-1784 Taufen 1775-1784 Heiraten, Tote 1735-1784 (page 271)	FHL INTL Film 809905	
Publication	Salt Lake City : Gefilmt durch The Genealogical Society of Utah, 1966-1970	

Jah 1804		Jan 20	
Joh. Bernh. Meier 18.	22	Johann Simon Henrich Schild	97
Friedrich Christoph.		Anna Margaretha Mense v. Bellenberg	104

N. 29	Bellenberg	Joh. Bernh. Meier & Christ. Cötter 3) Christoph Zeise 4) Joh. Friedr. Camper.
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Birth – 18 January 1804

Christening – 20 January 1804

Parents: Johann Simon Henrich Schild Anna Margaretha Mense of Bellenberg.

Godparents: 1) Joh. Bernh. Meier, 2) Christian Cötter, 3) Christoph Zeise 4) Joh. Friedr. Camper

Son: Joh. Bernhard Friedrich Christoph

Title	Kirchenbuch, 1657-1969	
Authors	Evangelische Kirche Horn (AG. Horn, Lippe) (Main Author)	
Taufen 1785-1816 Heiraten 1814-1817 Taufen 1816-1817 Konfirmanden 1785-1817 Tote 1809-1817 Konfirmanden 1817 Heiraten 1785-1814 Tote 1785-1809 verschiedene Akten (pg 259-260)	FHL INTL Film 809906	
Publication	Salt Lake City : Gefilmt durch The Genealogical Society of Utah, 1966-1970	

1831	vermählt und ... bary	
5	Rechtsw. Grosse und Sondrich Milbray und das Lüneburger Meis- und Milbray	Holzhaus No 25 zu Bellenberg L. L.
5 18 Feb.		
6	Johann Benerd Schild und Poggie Julia mit Billerbeck	Feldlager in Bel- lenberg L. L.
5 18 Feb.		

Married – 18 February 1831

Groom: Johann Benerd Schild an Einlieger in Bellenberg (Einlieger = farm laborer without land)

Bride: Sophia Holsta from Billerbeck

Title	Kirchenbuch, 1657-1969	
Authors	Evangelische Kirche Horn (AG. Horn, Lippe) (Main Author)	
Taufen, Heiraten, Tote, Konfirmanden 1818-1839 (Page 507, line 6)	FHL INTL Film	582479
Publication	Salt Lake City : Gefilmt durch The Genealogical Society of Utah, 1966-1970	

Auszug
aus dem Verzeichnis der Getrauten
der reformierten Kirchengemeinde zu Horn in Lippe
Jahrgang 1828 Nr. 16

Tag der Trauung und Wohnung des Ehepaars: 16. August - Bellenberg

Jahr und Tag der bürgerlichen Eheschließung: —

Name, Stand, Herkunft und Geburtstag des Ehemannes: Johann Jürgen Simon Friedrich Anton Schild. Einlieger in Bellenberg

Name, Stand, Herkunft und Geburtstag der Ehefrau: Katharina Ahrens

Bemerkungen:

Es wird beglaubigt, daß vorstehender Auszug mit den Eintragungen im Kirchenbuch wörtlich übereinstimmt.

Horn in Lippe, den 16. Juni 1875

Gebühr M. Pf.

Gebührenfrei!



J. A. Braun
Pfarrer

Hall-Druckerei, Detmold, Hornsche Str. 17
Form. 10c

Married – 16 August 1828
Groom: Johann Jürgen Simon Friedrich Anton Schild. Einlieger in Bellenberg (Einlieger = farm laborer without land)
Bride: Katharina Ahrens

Evangelisch-Reformierte Gemeinde

Geburts- und Tauffchein

Jahrgang: 1829 Nr.: 71

Geburtsort:

Geburtstag: 14. August

Tauftag: 23. August

Name des Kindes:

Simon Anton

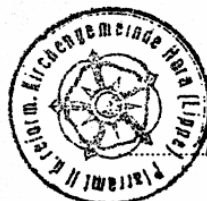
Eltern:

Einlieger Anton Schild und
Katharina Arens

Gevattern: 1. Simon Heinrich Schild 2. Konrad Lieneke
3. Kord Arens 4. Joh. Berend Schild

Bemerkungen:

Gebühr:



Horn den 13. Juni 1975

A. Boen

H + S - Druck, Heldenstedorf

Birth – 14 August 1829

Christening – 23 August 1829

Parents: Einlieger Anton Schild and Katharina Arens.

Look at the Godparents: 1) Simon Heinrich Schild [grandfather of the child and main character in this story], 2) Konrad Lieneke [don't know who he is], 3) Kord Arens [this is Katharina Arens father], and 4) Joh. Berend Schild [this is the child's uncle – John Schild I from "Our Ancestors"].

Son: Simon Anton

Besuchen Sie unsere deutsche Seite



The Early Years

Edited by Doug Severt

Most emigrants from Germany headed for the German port of Hamburg. Hamburg became a port of emigration because of its competition with Bremen as a seaport for trade. In the early 1830s, Bremen was doing well in its trade with America, while Hamburg trade was mostly with the West Indies and Latin America. When a ship arriving from America was ready for the return trip, Bremen often did not have enough export goods and the ship had to return to America empty. This made the shipping process very expensive. To combat this problem, Bremen began to lure part of the emigration traffic away from other European ports such as Le Havre, Antwerp, and Rotterdam. Its efforts were successful. Hamburg had a decree which forbid group emigration. Only single families or travelers could emigrate from Hamburg.

The collection of emigrants in Bremen caused some problems for the city. Often emigrants were stranded there without food and had to go through the city begging because they did not have enough money for lodging or passage. Unscrupulous ship's agents enticed them to Bremen with a promise to ship them to America and get them a plot of land. Then they took what money the emigrants had. There were many other underhanded deals as well. This left the city of Bremen

responsible for providing financial assistance.

In order to safeguard its emigration business, Bremen passed a decree in 1832 which freed the city from giving financial assistance to emigrants, while making it obligatory for ship owners to certify the seaworthiness of their vessels, to keep passenger lists, and to keep provisions for 90 days on board. This meant that ship's agents had to deliver what they promised.

This policy for protection of emigrants not only made Bremen's America trade more profitable, but brought considerable benefit to the Bremen economy. The emigrants, between their arrival and their departure by ship, had to stay in Bremen lodging houses and feed themselves. Also the emigrant ships had to purchase substantial quantities of provisions in Bremen. The increased shipping trade provided business for sailmakers and all the other trades connected with shipping as well.

In order to keep up with Bremen and reap some of the emigration profits as well, Hamburg finally decided to open up group emigration. The City Council published a decree in February of 1837. It laid out the space entitlement of each passenger, the size of the bunks, and the quantity of provisions that were to be taken on the voyage. Hamburg also established its first liner service between Hamburg and New York to handle the emigration.

Hamburg ships began advertising their crossings. Such an advertisement might read, "The passengers from the day of embarkation to the day of disembarkation at the port of destination receive free board on the scale usual on seagoing ships. This consists of sustaining and nutritious food such as salt beef, salt pork, herrings, peas, beans, pearl barley, oats, rice, sauerkraut, butter, plums, pastries, pudding, etc., all in sufficient quantity and of the best quality. Coffee is served in the mornings, and in the evenings tea and ship's bread with butter. In accordance with the decree of the local authority, the ships are provisioned for 90 days so that the passengers will not lack for anything on the longest voyage."

Hamburg was not a good city for emigrants, however, and there were no regulations about their treatment during their stay in Hamburg. Most emigrants arrived in Hamburg by rail. Every landlord tried to entice as many emigrants as he could to his inn or lodging house. Sometimes the landlords hired "litzer" (runners) who handled this. Runners were also hired by the clerks of shipping lines, by moneychangers, by stores selling utensils for the voyage, etc. The runners were paid a commission on each customer they brought. The emigrants, who were naturally not familiar with Hamburg conditions, were frequently the victims of fraud. They were charged very high prices for board and lodging or were sold unneeded utensils for the voyage. Many lost much of their money before they even left Europe.

In order to stop the "runner's racket", a private association, the Association for the Protection of Emigrants, was founded in Hamburg in 1850. From that date forward, on their arrival at the railroad station, most emigrants received information on the average price of board and accommodation, how to transfer baggage, the necessary utensils for the voyage, the current rates of exchange, and the different types of passage available to America. However, by the year 1854, the emigrants leaving Hamburg rose to nearly 51,000, and the private association could no longer handle the numbers. Finally, in 1855, the City of Hamburg took over the Information Office and its staff. At the same time, the Emigration Office was given the judicial authority to quickly settle disputes between emigrants and landlords or businessmen before the emigrant sailed. This gave another protection to the emigrants that they did not have previously.

Aboard at last, the emigrants settled down for a long voyage. On sunny days they crowded on deck, trying to enjoy the fresh air in spite of cinders from the smokestacks. Sometimes there was a moment of excitement; the sighting of a whale or a distant iceberg - but time passed slowly. Occasionally a newborn baby was baptized by the captain; more often, a baby died and was buried at sea with a brief ceremony. A young sport might start a game of cards or dominoes, whirl a girl around the deck, pick a fight, play tunes on a tin whistle or harmonica; single girls giggled at the compliments of the young men who so greatly outnumbered them. Older men sat stolidly smoking pipes; their wives sewed. Mostly the travelers talked of the future, remembered the past, and stared at the sea until bad weather drove them below.

When wind and chilling rain kept them in steerage for several days, the foul air became stifling. Only the newest liners had sitting space or even room in the passageways for more than a few people. A mid-century law decreed that each passenger must have a berth 6 feet by 18 inches. There were too few toilets, no facilities for washing with fresh water. Although the steerage area was whitewashed and disinfected in port, it quickly became filthy, reeking of old food, vomit and unwashed humanity. During the stormy season some passengers lay in their bunks for days (fully dressed under two rough blankets), unable to face meals of stringy boiled beef, salt herring, and thick slices of stale black bread. Children cried incessantly. There seemed to be no room, no air to breathe, no way to fall asleep. The odor- they called it the smell of "ship" permeated every possession; it would last for months.

In the middle 1800's the steam engine began to take over shipping. On May 29, 1850, the first Hamburg steamship sailed over the Atlantic Ocean to America. In 1856 there were two 2400 ton steamships put into service on the direct route from Hamburg to New York. More steamers followed, but the cost of passage was more than that of the sailing ships. The direct voyage between Hamburg and New York, which had lasted 43 to 63 days, was shortened to a maximum of 12 to 14 days. In 1856 only 5% of the emigrants landing in New York came by steamship, but by 1870 it was 88%.

Increased competition pushed fares down so that steamship crossings finally cost less than sailings. In 1879 the last emigrant sailing vessel left Hamburg and the steamship became the sole method of transportation. During the era of the sailing ship (1836 until 1880) Hamburg statistics recorded a total of 1,072,404 emigrants leaving its port. 88% of all of those emigrants chose the United States of America or Canada as their destination, with 5.4% emigrating to Brazil and Argentina, and 4.8% to Australia. The steamship changed the lengthy, tough, unhealthy and dangerous sea voyage of the sailing ship age into a 10 to 14 day episode. The Atlantic Ocean crossing to America changed for the better.

After the endless nights and days, a morning would come when a sudden change in the ship's motion signaled the end of the voyage. If the U. S. Public Health Service cleared the ship, she sailed past the quarantine hospitals on Hoffmann and Swinburne Islands, and the enormous harbor came into view. Other transatlantic ships, small tugs, and paddlewheeled ferries crisscrossed in every direction. As the ship steamed through the Narrows into New York harbor, Albert Severt and family with the other passengers crowded the small steerage deck. Everyone pushed to the rail, straining to see the amazing view. People jostled each other to get a better look, and mothers lifted small children in the air to see. Many on deck broke into tears, crying and laughing at the same time, slapping each other on the back in joy and relief. One word was the same on all tongues: "America!" Passage to a new life cost about \$30 from Hamburg. Hope for success in the new land to which they are voluntary exiles; fear of the unknown future; joy that the long-dreaded voyage is over; and sorrow at the memories tugging at their heart strings.

Many immigrants sailed to America with the dream of working their own farm. Agents in the 1870's and '80's scoured the villages and towns of Europe, seeking passengers for the Western railroads and settlers for states that urgently needed people. A typical recruiter trudged the rounds of Bremen's shipping offices and emigrant boardinghouses, hammering up posters and thrusting rhapsodic pamphlets into any receptive hand. The state authorities of Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Iowa also distributed leaflets describing the free, 160-acre homesteads, the climate, soil, and crop yields the wages. The leaflets told of the railroads built and building, of the schools, churches, and newspapers that would cater to an immigrant in his own language.

Oppressive, corrupt governments aggravated the struggle to earn a living. In Germany the Revolution of 1848 sent to U. S. shores thousands of disillusioned liberals and nationalists.