

THE RIEMENSCHNEIDER FAMILY
IN GERMANY - 1598 TO 1868
AND IN AMERICA - 1868 TO 1976
AND RELATED FAMILIES

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R.R. Riemschneider

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THE RIEMENSCHNEIDER FAMILY
IN GERMANY AND IN THE UNITED STATES

AUTHOR

I was born on a farm in Minerva Township, Marshall County, Iowa, about four miles northwest of the town of State Center. I was christened Ralph William Henry Riemenschneider; the two middle names being those of my two grandfathers. My father was Ernest L. Riemenschneider, and my mother was Emma Henze, both being first generation Americans. I have one brother, Earl George Riemenschneider, two years younger than I.

When I was between five and six years old the family moved to another farm, just outside the northwest corner of State Center, which my father had bought from his father Wilhelm (William), for the price of one hundred dollars per acre.

In the fall of 1907, when I was just short of six, I started in kindergarten in the State Center School, where I received my entire public school education, and graduated from high school in May 1920, in a graduating class of eleven. In 1922 I enrolled in the Chemical Engineering Department of Iowa State, and received my degree in Chemical Engineering in June 1926.

Upon graduation I went to work in New York City and spent nearly all my professional life there or in the immediate vicinity. After some short periods of employment with several companies including duPont and the M. W. Kellogg Company, I went to work for The Lummus Company in New York City on November 10, 1933. The Lummus Company designs and builds petroleum refining and chemical plants on every continent, as well as in many parts of the United States.

On September 1, 1934 I was married to Reona Elizabeth Palmer in New York City. She was born in Princeton, Illinois on September 5, 1915, and graduated from Princeton High School in 1933. We have three children; Ralph Daniel (Dan), Susan Jane and Ann Elizabeth. During the period of our children's growing up we lived in the village of Pleasantville, New York (1939 to 1967).

I worked for The Lummus Company as a full-time employee until I retired on April 30, 1967. I continued as a full-time consultant for about four years, and am still (in 1976) consulting on a part-time basis about one day per week.

Between 1960 and 1966 I made several trips to Europe for my employer for a total of about one year, spending the time mostly in Holland and England. It was during my first trip to Europe that I began investigating the history of the Riemenschneider Family in Germany.

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In the summer of 1967, in order to be closer to the Lummus Company's new offices, we moved to our present location at 95 Renner Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey, where we are living at the present time (1976). It was necessary to be close to the office if I intended to continue working, as I was unable to drive a car at that time because of impaired vision due to cataracts.

SCOPE

This genealogy covers all the known ancestors of my children and grandchildren and my brother's children and grandchildren as far as I could trace old records or get current information. It will be carried to my grandchildren, Kenneth and Jessica Johnson and to my brother's great-grandchild, Stephanie Ann Smith (all data as of December 1976).

Since this genealogy is too large and complex to put on one sheet, it is divided in the following manner: one overall chart which covers only the direct line of descent to the generation of my father, Ernest L. Riemenschneider, and more detailed after that. For simplicity, this overall (Chart XI) has no dates except birth years as far as available. Complete charts of sections of the whole genealogy give as far as possible -- all individuals, their birth dates, death dates, marriage dates, wives' names and their birth and death dates. In the case of old records, dates were not always available, and sometimes christening and burial dates are given instead of, or in addition to, birth and death dates.

All of the information up until 1868 was obtained by correspondence with Niedersächsisches Staatsarchiv (Lower Saxony State Archives) in the town of Wolfenbüttel, a small city a few miles south of Braunschweig (Brunswick). Some of this information was confirmed during my trip to Wenzel (in 1963); the town from which the Riemenschneider Family emigrated to America in 1868. All data later than 1868 is from sources in this country.

INTRODUCTION

I first became interested in my family history from hearing my father and his mother telling of the early days in this country and a few vaguely remembered incidents as being told by my Grandfather Riemenschneider in Germany. One of these recollections is the story of his oldest brother (Heinrich), who had stowed away on a ship to America in the summer of 1867, to avoid reporting for army service. This has been partially confirmed by correspondence with agencies in Germany in 1960. They reported that my great-grandfather (August Ludwig Riemenschneider) and his wife Friederike together with their daughter and five of their sons had emigrated in the summer of 1868 to America. There was no mention of Heinrich in that report, as he had left the year before.

I also remember the story told of my Great-grandfather, August Ludwig. On the way from New York to Iowa by train, as they were crossing the mountains in Pennsylvania, he looked out of the window, shook his fist and said, "If it's all like this, just wait until I get my hands on him (Heinrich)!"

In the early 1950's (as part of the Experiment in International Living) Günther Bareiss, a Fulbright Student from Germany, stayed with us for month in the summer before going to school at Wichita University in Kansas to do graduate work in Aeronautical Engineering. Günther had done his undergraduate work in Stuttgart, his home city in Germany. He told us a good deal about Tilman Riemenschneider, the Wood Carver of Würzburg, who was born in 1460. When writing home he asked his parents to send us a copy of the German Blauenbuch (Blue Book) that had been published about Tilman's work.

By this time I had developed considerable interest in the origin of the Riemenschneider Family -- so when I was sent to Holland by Lummus in the summer of 1960, it was a good opportunity to do some investigating.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Correspondence

The trip to Holland appeared to be the best chance I would ever have to find information on the family in Germany, and also further information on Tilman Riemenschneider; I wanted to find out if there was any connection between him and my ancestors. This seemed rather doubtful as he had been born in 1460, and although he had been born in Osterode, a small city about twenty-five miles southeast of Wenzel, it was unlikely that any records of that area had survived the Thirty Years' War which ended in 1648.

Knowing nothing of how to go about such a search, I consulted a German engineer in The Hague office of Lummus, and he suggested that I write to the Protestant Church Authorities in the cities of the most likely area. Since I knew the family had come from somewhere near Braunschweig, we decided to write there and also to Osterode and Hildesheim. We composed a letter and he translated it into German, as we felt that by doing this we would get a better response.

Soon I began to get responses, mostly telling me that my letter had been forwarded to someone else who might be able to help me. From the letters I received it soon became evident that all trails led to the Staatsarchiv at Wolfenbüttel, a small city south of Braunschweig, not far from the present East German border. After my letters had passed through several hands, one of them reached Fritz Gruehne, a retired engineer who wrote me that he had access to the Staatsarchiv in Wolfenbüttel, where all the old church records of that area (presumably all of Lower Saxony) had been collected.

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This was all written in German and had to be translated. The letter had been written on August 21, 1960 in answer to one of the copies of my letter to the Church Authorities on July 25, 1960 that had been forwarded to him. He wrote that, in a preliminary search, he had found the record of my Great-grandfather August Ludwig Riemenschneider's request for permission to emigrate to America with his wife and family. At this time he was forty-eight years old, rather late in life for a man to emigrate to another country. In this letter, Fritz Gruehne gave my Great-grandmother's maiden name -- Friederike Ernestine Momeier from Andershausen. This name had not been mentioned in my correspondence, which led me to believe that he had access to legitimate records. He also gave the name of the village from which they had come as Wenzen, which I later confirmed in conversation with one of the Riemenschneiders in State Center, Iowa. In this letter of August 21 he offered to make a complete search for a nominal fee of three marks (seventy-five cents) per hour.

I immediately wrote back to Herr Gruehne telling him to go ahead with the search. I soon received a letter dated September 5, 1960. In this he gave the birthdates and full names of all of August Ludwig's children, and enclosed a tabulation of earlier ancestors from Zacharias Riemenschneider, who was buried on September 9, 1678 at the age of "approximately" eighty years, which indicated that he had been born about 1598, to August Ludwig, born 1820. This tabulation was signed by a J. Küster, (probably an employee of the State Archives). Thus, from one source I had received birth or christening dates, death or burial dates, names of most of the wives, and most of the marriage dates for six generations earlier than any information that I had up to that time. All of these people were reported to have lived in the village and parish of Wenzen.

At a later date, March 1974, I decided to try to trace the ancestry of Christian Riemenschneider to see if I could establish his relationship, if any, to my ancestors in Germany. I wrote to the Niedersächsisches Staatsarchiv in Wolfenbüttel, and after several exchanges of letters I was able to establish that his ancestry went back to a Hans Heinrich Riemenschneider, born in 1686, who was also an ancestor of my branch of the family, thus establishing a common ancestry.

Very recently I decided to try to trace my mother's family further back in Germany. Up until then I had only their birth and emigration dates and approximate place of origin. So again, I wrote to the Niedersächsisches Staatsarchiv in Wolfenbüttel. They sent me information on my Grandmother Wilhemina Miller's parents and grandparents and some information on my Grandfather Henze. Also, I found that both families lived in Wenzen, the same village from which the Riemenschneiders had come. Thus far I have covered the correspondence resulting from my letters to Germany sent out at various times and a confirmation that the family had come from Wenzen, but was unable to locate the place on any map that I could find.

Trip to Germany

In July of 1963 I was again sent to Holland by my employer, and shortly after I arrived there I bought the largest and most detailed map of Germany that I could find, hoping to locate Wenzen. In the information I had received from Wolfenbüttel I found that August Ludwig had been married in Einbeck, which I easily found on the map. On the assumption that people did not travel very far in those days, and that therefor Wenzen should be near Einbeck, I started looking around Einbeck and soon found Wenzen just about five miles to the northwest of Einbeck and about twenty-five miles south of Hannover.

Once I had located Wenzen on a map, I determined to visit it. I expected to be through with my assignment in Holland late in August, and after that our people in London wanted me to come there for a few weeks, so I decided to take a week off between the two assignments and visit Germany. As well as going to Wenzen I wanted to make some additional stops in other places in that country.

On the last Saturday in August I went by train from The Hague to Munich in Bavaria in South Germany. For quite a distance after leaving Bonn the train ran along the west bank of the Rhine which is a very beautiful sight. In Munich I spent the weekend with Günther Bareiss and his wife Bettina.

I wanted to get information on Tilman Riemenschneider as well as visit Wenzen, and Günther and Bettina were able to give me some pointers on where to look for his works. In The Hague it had been suggested that I visit Rotenburg, between Munich and Würzburg, to see the altar in St. Jacob's Kirche, and also that I go to Würzburg to see the Riemenschneider Museum, in the old fortress (Festung) across the river from the main part of the city. There is also a large altar by Tilman, at Creglingen, west of Rotenburg, but since it would be time consuming to visit both cities, I chose Rotenburg, as I had heard more about it and also as it was easier to get to.

On Monday I took the bus from Munich to Würzburg which was scheduled to make a two-hour stop at Rotenburg, which is an old walled city and worth seeing for that alone. There I saw the Altar in St. Jacob's Kirche, the first of Tilman's work that I had been able to see. It was very impressive, not only for its size but for the great detail and lifelike appearance, all done in wood. Across from the church there is a small shop dealing mostly in pictures and other items of interest concerning Tilman. I bought some pictures and color slides.

Then on by bus to Würzburg, where I arrived about six in the evening. The bus stop was near the railway station, and I went to the 'Werkerverein' (Travel Agency) to see about a hotel for the night. I had decided to travel as most

Europeans do, second class on the railroads, and hotels with 'Zimmer ohne bad' room without bath. So that is what I asked for and was directed to a small hotel within walking distance, for the price of 12 marks, which at that time was equivalent to three dollars, plus a charge of one mark by the agency for service. I found that in most German cities there is an agency like this usually situated near the railway and bus stations.

When I arrived at the address given me I found a building that showed no sign from the outside that it might be a hotel. Just inside the door there was a registration desk. The clerk immediately recognized the name and spoke of Tilman Riemenschneider, suggesting that if I had a car I could go to a neighboring town and see the Tilman work that had been stolen and recently ransomed. I had read of this incident and told him that I was travelling by train and was there to see the Tilman Riemenschneider section of the Mainfrankisches Museum in the Festung Marienburg in Würzburg.

The next morning I crossed the river and climbed up to the old fortress which had been converted to a museum. I went to the entrance, paid my fee, and told the attendant that my name was Riemenschneider. This immediately got me the red carpet treatment. He called one of the guides and told him to conduct me through the "Riemenschneider Wing" of the museum. The guide spoke no English and I spoke very little German but I did get some information on Tilman. He had come to Würzburg about 1484 at the age of about twenty, from Osterode which is twenty-five miles southeast of Wenz. He became a citizen of the city and later Burgomeister. He had married and had two sons, one of them becoming a painter, and the other a woodcarver like his father. As well as many carvings in wood there are some in stone, particularly those of Adam and Eve at the entrance to the Riemenschneider section of the museum. In his later years Tilman ran a school. There are a number of pieces by his students and one carving by one of his sons.

Late in life he seems to have backed the losing side in a Peasants' War and was thrown in jail. Some accounts say that he was tortured but this is not certain; at this time his sons went to Switzerland.

While it is probable that he came from the same family as my ancestors, as the name does not seem common in Germany, it is almost certain that he was not a direct ancestor. He left Osterode about 1484, and as far as I have been able to determine, never returned. The earliest ancestor that I have been able to trace is Zacharias Riemenschneider, who was born about 1598 -- over a century later than Tilman. So any connection would be before Zacharias' time.

The afternoon after my visit to the museum I left for Kassel,

7 which I had chosen as the place near Wenzen to stay overnight since there was little chance that there would be a hotel in Wenzen. In Kassel I stayed in the Hotel Reis facing the Platz in front of the railway station. The only thing that I found of particular interest in Kassel was "Die Treppenstrasse" a terraced street for pedestrians only, with small shops on both sides.

The next morning I left Kassel for Wenzen. I had to travel on three rail lines to get there, but I had no trouble making the necessary connections, as I found that the trains always ran on time. In fact I made one connection where there was an allowance of only five minutes between trains. I left Kassel at seven in the morning and arrived at the Wenzen station at about ten.

As the train came into the station the local Station Agent came out to meet it. The conductor, to whom I had tried to talk without much success, said to the station agent "hier ist Auslander" (here is a foreigner).

So here I was at last at the Wenzen station about a mile from the village with a station agent who knew only three words of English -- "prisoner of war" from his experience in World War Two. It had occurred to me that if anyone in the village could speak English it would be the minister of the local church. I managed to get this across to the station agent and he got the minister on the telephone. To my great relief he spoke English, a bit haltingly, as he had little practice since studying for the ministry in Wolfenbüttel some years before.

I told the minister, Pastor H. A. Knüppel, why I was there and asked him if I could come to see him. I then walked down to the village and had no trouble finding the church and Parish house as there was only one church in the village.

He got out some of the old church records and found the entry giving the date of my grandfather's Christening in 1850, thus confirming what I had received from Wolfenbüttel three years earlier. In talking with Pastor Knüppel I found that the community was about the same as that described to me by some of my older relatives. The farmers lived in the village and went out to work their farms every day. This is probably a holdover from the time when they all lived together in villages as a matter of mutual protection. The houses are mostly of red brick with red tile roofs, and the total population is about six hundred.

After leaving the minister I took some pictures of the church and then took the train back to Kassel. On the way back to The Hague I stopped in Bonn to spend a day with Ernst Lipinsky, another Fulbright student in Pleasantville with the same group as Günther Bareiss. From The Hague I went to London where I stayed a few weeks before returning home.

Information Gathered in the United States

Information about the Riemenschneider and Miller Families after 1868 and the Henze Family after 1866 was obtained from many sources in the United States. These were: my own knowledge from growing up and living to the age of twenty-five in the State Center area, where most of the Henzes and Riemenschneiders lived, obituaries in old copies of the State Center Enterprise, conversations with older members of the family, and dates on tombstones, particularly in Hillside Cemetery just north of State Center.

For a good deal of information I am indebted to my brother Earl and his wife Ethel, who supplied detailed information on their descendants and on the Goodman Family. My brother also supplied data from relatives still living and many dates from the State Center Cemetery. I am also indebted to Jo Ann Riemenschneider, a great-grand daughter of August and Josephine Wantz Riemenschneider. She contributed particularly the obituaries of George and Ann Mary Wantz, and dates on members of the Riemenschneider Family not in my direct line of descent, and confirming data on some of my aunts and uncles. Some of this information is from copies of the State Center Enterprise which are on file at the State Historical Society in Des Moines back to 1901. Obituaries of my parents and all my grandparents except William Riemenschneider, I had found in the State Center Enterprise, copies of which are available at the office of the Enterprise in State Center back to 1916 only, earlier copies being destroyed during a fire in that year.

My wife, Reona Palmer Riemenschneider, has provided all the information on her ancestors from the time of the American Revolution to the present. This has come mostly from family bibles, The Bureau County, Illinois History, and correspondence with other members of the Palmer and Swan Families. She also prepared the write up covering these families.

In addition to the data shown on the charts and in the write ups, I have accumulated considerable information about the later generations which has not been included in this genealogy, as it would make it too complex. For instance I have not included mates and descendants of my cousins.

CHARTS AND FAMILY HISTORIES

FAMILY HISTORIES

Preceding each genealogical chart is a short family history of the family or part of a family covered on the chart following. This is necessary in order to give available information which cannot be shown on the charts, such as, places of birth, where they lived most of their lives, occupation, when they may have moved from one place to another, and any other pertinent data.

CHARTS

Charts have been prepared for various sections of the overall genealogy so that they could be made as complete as possible without becoming too complex. For each of the sectional charts, birth, marriage, and death dates are given, as well as husbands' and wives' birth and death dates, as far as information is available.

The system used in setting up these genealogy charts is my own, and will not agree in some ways with those used by others; but I believe that is the best that I could devise for this particular family setup. I believe, that with the following notes, the charts will not be difficult most of the time to follow.

All names except that of 'Riemenschneider' are spelled in full, but in order to conserve space I have most of the time, used the capital letter 'R' followed by a dash instead of spelling the whole name. Thus, Zacharias R- instead of Zacharias Riemenschneider.

I used capital letters on all of the charts as they will be more legible on a chart that will be reduced in size.

In a number of instances, names are spelled differently when obtained from more than one source, and in such cases, I have used the one that seemed most logical to me.

German names are often spelled differently in English. For such cases I have used the German spelling on Charts I, IA, and IB, which are made up of data obtained in Germany and these names would be the German form, thus Heinrich (Henry). The charts made up covering the families in this country will have the English spelling. When a person has more than one given name, underlining one of them indicates that that is the one by which he or she was generally known.

Parentheses around a date indicates that the date is estimated or that it is the most logical of different data from different sources.

When complete data is available for a couple, it is shown thus, with the marriage date between the two names and birth and death dates shown:

WILHELM (WILLIAM) R-
6/4/1850-6/11/1911

M. 4/27/1870

MARY ANN WANTZ
3/6/1855-3/11/1944

The husband's name will usually be placed at the top, except when the chart can be made simpler by placing the wife's name at the top.

If a person has been married more than once and there are children from both marriages, it is shown thus:

FRED HILLEMAN

HERBERT HILLEMAN

EMMA R-

WALTER BORISCH

MARTIN BORISCH

One date followed by a dash (6/4/1850-) indicates that the death date is not known or that the person is still living at this time (end of 1976). If there is only one date preceded by a dash (-6/4/1850) it indicates that the date of birth is not known. There will be cases where only names and no dates are known, shown thus:

WILLIAM SWAN

MARTHA GILLESPIE

If either name is missing, it indicates that only one name is known (-----Gillespie). This also indicates that there were children of the marriage. If it is at the right side of the chart these children may have been carried forward on another chart.

JOHN HALL

When names are shown thus: MARY SWAN it indicates man and wife, and that there were no known children or there are as yet no children.

When there are several children in the family, they may not be in chronological order, either because of lack of information or to make the chart more concise.

On all charts except Number XI, all known brothers and sisters are shown, but it is certain that some are missing.

Chart XI shows only the direct line of descent, without brothers and sisters, except some in the later generations. The extra names in these later generations were included to show the coming together of the two Riemenschneider Families in the persons of Mark and Becky Riemenschneider, who were married January 1, 1969. For simplification, the only dates shown are birth years.

On Charts III and VI, all the names of my generation, except for my brother and me, without marriages, dates or children, as I did not want to carry them any further. The names listed thus on Charts III and VI are my first cousins, the total being between eighty and ninety.

There are possibly some mistakes in the information that I have received from Germany, as some of the material was not very legible. Also some mistakes may have come about in this country as different sources do not always agree. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who comes across such errors.

THE RIEMENSCHNEIDER FAMILY
IN GERMANY

The earliest record of my ancestors in Germany was obtained by correspondence with the State Archives in Wolfenbüttel. Apparently, the old records had been gathered from the churches in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) and stored in Wolfenbüttel. These included those from the Parish of Wenzen. A copy of the record of the Riemenschneider Family in the State Archives has been obtained by correspondence with a Fritz Gruehne of Wolfenbüttel, who had access to the Archives.

The earliest recorded date for any of my direct ancestors was that of the birth of Hennig Riemenschneider (sometimes referred to as Henni) on 4/27/1649, the year after the end of the Thirty Years War. During that war nearly all the church records had been destroyed. The death of Zacharias Riemenschneider, Hennig's father, was recorded as 9/9/1678 at the approximate age of eighty years. From this we get an estimated date of birth as about 1598, which I have used in parentheses on the genealogy charts. All dates, except that of the birth of Zacharias were taken directly from the records in the Archives, and are historically reasonably correct.

Both villages of Wenzen and Hallensen were in the Parish of Wenzen. The church records of Wenzen no doubt referred to the Parish of Wenzen and records on individuals sometimes indicate Wenzen, sometimes Hallensen. Before emigrating, August Ludwig was a resident of Wenzen and it is assumed that most of my ancestors lived in Wenzen although the record indicates that Henni Riemenschneider (1649-1726) died in Hallensen.

The other branch of the Riemenschneider Family, the ancestors of Christian Riemenschneider, (born 1832), lived in the village of Hallensen which was in Wenzen Parish, from the time of Hans Heinrich (born 1702). In 1855 Christian and his older brother Heinrich came to America. This branch of the family had a common ancestor with my branch of the family in Hans Heinrich (born in 1686). Both branches of the family are included in this genealogy. All those listed in the genealogy, from Zacharias to August Ludwig and Christian, were "Small Farmers" or "Middle Farmers," and came from Wenzen Parish.

Chart I covers the names, marriage dates, birth and death dates, when recorded, for both branches of the family from Zacharias to August Ludwig and Christian.

August Ludwig's children were:

Heinrich Wilhelm Ludwig - (came to America in 1867)
Karl Heinrich Ferdinand - (sometimes called Fernand)
Wilhelm Heinrich Carpatius - (my grandfather)
Heinrich Christian August
Christian Ernst Herman
Ernestine Adolphine Karoline
Albert Gustav Adolph

The underlined names are the ones by which they were generally known. In the original document received from Wolfenbüttel birth dates or christening dates (or both) are given; the same is true as to death dates and burial dates. Whether birth or christening date or death or burial date, I have used the one given in the document which must be checked to determine which it is in any particular case.

References to "Wenzen" in some cases means the village of Wenzen, and in other cases, the Parish of Wenzen. Wenzen Parish included the villages of Hallensen, Voldagsen, Eimen, and Bartshausen as well as the village of Wenzen.

All correspondence with German agencies indicate Wenzen as the home of the Riemenschneiders (as well as that of the Henzes and Müllers). Most of the old records in this country indicate that these ancestors came from "Brunswick." One letter from Fritz Gruhne speaks of emigrants from the "Dukedom of Braunschweig." This indicates that Wenzen was in what at that time was called the Dukedom of Braunschweig. Since my correspondence was mostly with the "Niedersächsisches Staats Archiv," Lower Saxony State Archives, at Wolfenbüttel, the indication is that Wenzen is in what was called the Dukedom of Braunschweig, now part of Lower Saxony.

ZACHARIAS R-
(1598)-9/9/1678

1613-2/1/1668

HENNIG R-
4/27/1649-
1/19/1726

M. 11/16/1680

TRINE HENNE
1652-
11/6/1693

HANS HEINRICH R-
4/18/1686-
9/23/1736

M. 9/21/1706

ANNA MARIA
KAHLEN
1670-
11/17/1742

JOHANN
HEINRICH R-
9/30/1710-
4/14/1774

ANNA TILSA
WEIBERG
1/ /1716
8/4/1773

JOHANN CHRISTOPH
SCHULZEN
M. 11/25/1748

ANNE MARIE
SCHLIEKER

JOHANN
CHRISTIAN R-
10/10/1753-
12/26/1819

M. 11/28/1771

ENGEL CHRISTINA
SCHULZEN
13/16/1750-
5/30/1784

ERNST DANIEL R-
6/17/1776-
9/20/1843

M. 6/ /1805

JOHANN
KUMLEHN

AUGUST LUDWIG R-
1/19/1820-
11/30/1897

M. 12/28/1843

FRIEDRIKE
ERNESTINE
MOMETER
7/12/1823-
5/18/1882

THE RIEMENSCHNEIDER FAMILY IN GERMANY 1598 TO 1868

HANS HEINRICH R-
9/27/1720-

HEINRICH
ANDREAS R-
11/29/1751-
10/15/1827

HEINRICH R-
7/13/1825-

CHRISTIAN HEINRICH
LUDWIG R-
6/ /1832-
6/13/1885

HEINRICH
ANDREAS R-
12/20/1792-
1/3/1865

JOHANN
DOERNEKE

GEORGE
CHRISTOPHER
EISENMENGER
1801-1855

M. 1828

SUSAN ZORTIOW
1802-1858

FREDERICK KARL
EISENMENGER
1774-1853

M. 1801

CHRISTINA
ROSINA GRAMLICH
1783-1834

LOUISA KATHERINE
EISENMENGER
5/10/1838-
10/19/1921

THE HENZE, AHRENS, AND MÜLLER FAMILIES IN GERMANY

The earliest known members of all of these families lived in Wenzen, the same small village in north central Germany from which the Riemenschneiders emigrated to America. From there they all came to Marshall County, Iowa and settled in or near the small town of State Center.

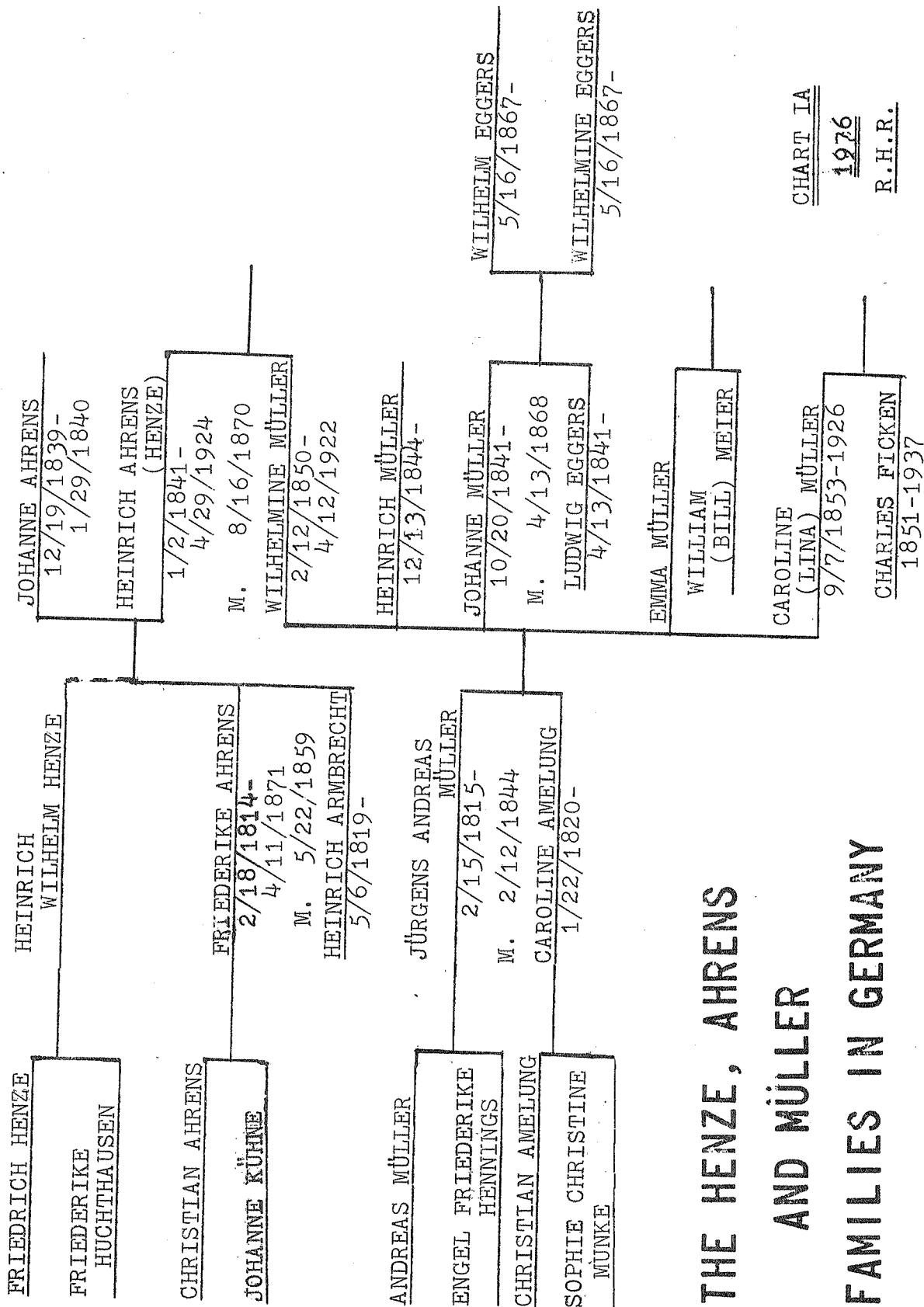
Information received from the State Archives in Wolfenbüttel by correspondence indicates that Heinrich Wilhelm Ahrens was born January 2, 1841, son of Engel Friederike Hedwig Ahrens, born February 18, 1814. Her parents were Christian Phillip Ahrens, night watchman, and Johanne Friederike Katherine Kühne. She had previously given birth to a daughter, Johanne Wilhelmine Caroline Ahrens in December of 1839. The father of this child, not married to the mother, was Heinrich Wilhelm Henze. The church record of the birth of Heinrich Ahrens does not give the name of the father, but it is probable that it was the Heinrich Wilhelm Henze who was the father of the daughter born in December of 1839. Since it is recorded that a Heinrich Wilhelm Ahrens, born January 2, 1841 emigrated to America in 1866, it is apparent that he went by his mother's maiden name.

Heinrich Wilhelm Henze, servant at Voldagsen in Wenzen Parish, was born at Avendshausen near Einbeck. He was the son of Friederich Henze, Small Farmer, and Friederike Huchthausen.

The history of the Müller Family goes back to the grandparents of my grandmother Justine Wilhelmine Friederike Müller, born in 1850. The birthdates of these grandparents are not known, but they were born in the late seventeen hundreds. The paternal grandfather was Andreas Müller, and his wife was Engel Friederike Hennings.

The father of my grandmother was Jürgen Andreas Müller, forest worker, married to Engel Caroline Hedwig Amelung, daughter of Small Farmer Christian Amelung. Andreas and Caroline emigrated to America with their several children in 1868, the same year that August Ludwig Riemenschneider and his family came over from the same village in Wenzen. The oldest daughter, Johanne married Ludwig Eggers and they also emigrated with their two twin children, Wilhelm and Wilhelmine. There is no way of knowing whether they were ancestors of a number of Eggers families whom I knew as I was growing up.

Chart IA gives the data on the Henze, Ahrens, and Müller Families and my best judgement of the connection of the names of Henze and Ahrens. On this chart I have connected Heinrich Wilhelm Henze to Friederike Ahrens with a dotted line, as he was the father of her first child and probably of the second, Heinrich Wilhelm, altho not married to her. This son was apparently called Ahrens, his mother's family name, with the given name of Heinrich Wilhelm. This is further evidence that Heinrich Wilhelm Henze was his father. Thus he came to America as Heinrich Wilhelm Ahrens and later changed the last name to Henze. The circumstances which led to this change are covered in the writeup of the Henze and Miller Families in America.



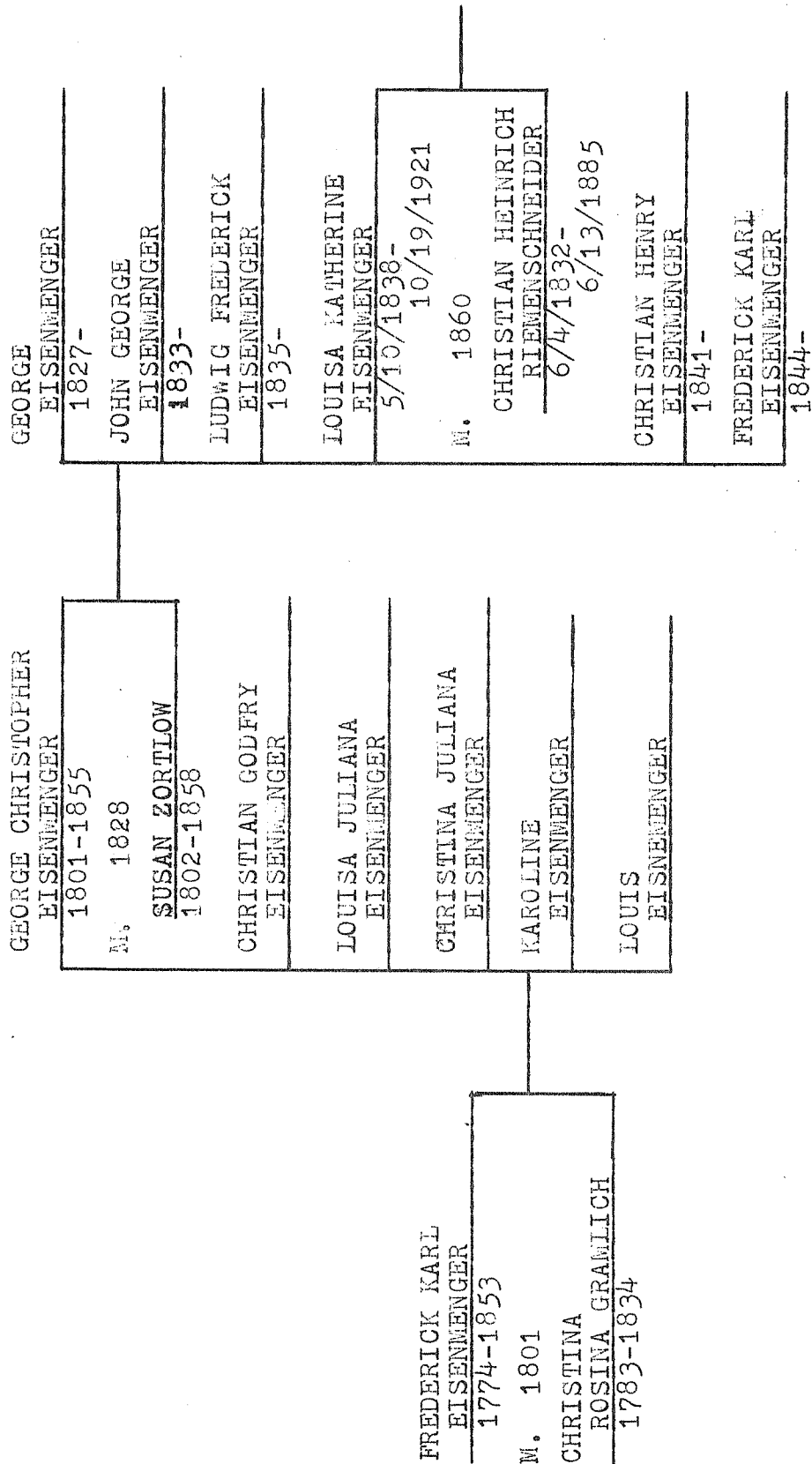
THE EISENMENGER FAMILY
IN GERMANY

The Eisenmenger Family has been traced back in Germany to Frederick Karl Eisenmenger who was born in 1774, presumably in the same place as his granddaughter Louisa Katherine Eisenmenger; the small village of Sindringen in Württemberg, where the family owned and operated a brick and tile factory. His wife, Christina Rosina Gramlich, was probably born in the same town.

Frederick and Rosina had a family of six children. The oldest, George Christopher, born in 1801, was the father of Louisa Katherine Eisenmenger. George and his wife, Susan Zortlow, had six children born at Sindringen, all of whom emigrated either to Australia or to the United States. George, Ludwig, and Frederick went to Australia and John George, Katherine and Christian went to America.

Susan (Zortlow) Eisenmenger sold the factory after her husband died and lived alone in Sindringen until her death in 1858. Katherine had been born in 1838 and came to America in 1857, presumably directly to Illinois, where, in 1860 she married Christian Heinrich Riemenschneider.

Chart IB covers the Eisenmenger Family in Germany. All the information that I have on this family has been contributed by Dorothy Riemenschneider Pickett, the youngest daughter of Henry Riemenschneider (second son of Christian and Katherine Eisenmenger Riemenschneider).



THE EISENMENGER FAMILY IN GERMANY

CHART IB
1976
R.H.R.