

CHAPTER EIGHT

Conrad Schwab Family History

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On April 15, 1868 Conrad Schwab (son of Johann Gedeon Schwab), his wife Gertrude (Fackelman) and (5) sons left Astheim, Bavaria, Germany. Conrad had just sold his inheritance share of the Schwab Karthause property in Astheim.

The family arrived in Custar, Ohio on May 22. They purchased 80 acres just east of the Jackson cutoff ditch on the south side of Route 281 for \$3850. The northwestern corner of this 80 acres is now the site of the St. Louis Cemetery.

The family had left a relatively prosperous life in Astheim for a harsher existence in the mosquito-infested Black Swamp of Custar, Ohio. They lived in a log cabin in the location where the Louis Finnegan family presently resides. Gertrude's single brother, Peter Fackelman, lived near Milton, Ohio. Peter Fackelman moved to America prior to his sister and may have influenced Conrad and Gertrude to move to Custar due to the abundant, fertile and inexpensive farmland. Peter is buried in St. Louis Cemetery in Custar.

It is unknown how much of the 80 acres was tillable or how successful was their farming. It is known that six years after arriving in Custar, Conrad and Gertrude sold the 80 acres for \$4600 on March 9, 1874 and moved to Iowa. They purchased 160 acres for \$800 near Dunlap. The deed was signed on July 11, 1877, so they may have been living with Conrad's brothers, Louis or Valentine, for awhile. In February 1882, they purchased 48 more acres and another 160 acres in January 1883 near Dunlap, Iowa. Gertrude died in December 1896 and Conrad died in 1900. They are buried in Dunlap Cemetery.

CONRAD AND GERTRUDE'S CHILDREN

Conrad and Gertrude's sons were Jakob, John, Peter, Casper, and Frank.

John was 8 years old when the family migrated to America and 14 years old when they moved to Iowa. In 1888, John returned to Milton, Ohio to persuade Margaret Konrad to be his bride. Their families had known each other in Germany, as Astheim and Margaret's town of Dimbach are about 3 miles apart. Margaret's parents, Joseph and Barbara (Bohnlein), her (2) sisters and (2) brothers immigrated to Milton, Ohio (approximately 1½ miles from Custar) in March 1881.

John and Margaret married in Dunlap, Iowa in February 1889. He was 29 and she was 17. They lived near Dunlap where **Frank** (1889), **Anna** (1891), **Joseph** (1893), and **Rose** (1899) were born. Conrad may have lived with John's family in his final years after his wife, Gertrude, died.

Conrad's death in 1900 may have precipitated the decision for John to move back to the Custar, Ohio area in 1902 with Margaret and their 3 sons and 2 daughters. They purchased their homeplace farm in Henry County on Route 281. In 1906, **John, Jr.** was born in this house. About 1909, John purchased a 93-acre farm on Cygnet and County Line Road in Wood County. John's son Frank, in 1913, married and moved to this farm.

Prior to 1917, John bought the farm across the road from the homeplace on Route 281 and his son, Joseph (Joe), married and built a house there. In 1919, Joe's wife, Elizabeth, died after their first child, Marcella, was born. Marcella went to live with her grandparents across the road.

In 1920, Mike married and moved into Joe's house, Joe may have lived the homeplace with his parents and family.

About this same time, Anna married and moved to a farm on Maplewood Road in Wood County near County Line Road that John had previously purchased. John also purchased a farm a mile south and east of the homeplace along the County Line Road. This farm later belonged to Rose although she never lived there.

In March 1922, John bought a house and about 30 acres just west of Custar on Route 281. John & Margaret, daughter Rose, son John Jr. and granddaughter Marcella moved into this house. On March 14, 1928, Frank's wife, Mary, and their infant son, James, died. Their 2-year-old daughter, Mary Jane, went to live with grandparents, John & Margaret in Custar.

Joe had remarried and now lived in the homeplace. In February 1935, Joe was killed in an auto accident in Bowling Green, Ohio. John Jr. was to be married and needed a home so it was decided that Joe's widow, Teresa, and 4 daughters would move into a house south of Custar that was purchased. In 1936, Nola died and Marcella moved in with her uncle, John Jr. as a housekeeper. In 1939, Marcella married.

John Jr. married a second time to Gertrude Miller in 1939. They lived in the house on Cygnet road until John Jr.'s death in 1985 and Gertrude's moving into a nursing home in 1986. Frank's great-grandson, Mike Maas, purchased the house and 2 acres in 1987 and has made many improvements.

John & Margaret both died in 1942 and the house and 30 acres were purchased by John Jr. & Gertrude. The house was rented out to several families from 1943 on. In 1971, John Jr.'s son, Tom and wife Vivien purchased the house and 1-acre and have many improvements.

Anna's son, Edwin, now lives in the house on Maplewood Road.

Mike's son, Clarence and his wife Regina moved into the house after Mike and Helen moved to a house in Custar. Clarence died in 1992 and Regina died in 1999. Clarence & Regina's son, Dan, may move into the house.

Frank's son, Bill and family lived with him at the homeplace until about 1962 when Bill and his wife Lois built a house just east of the homeplace. Frank went to the Rest Home around 1967. Bill's son, Steve, now lives at the homeplace.

