

# The Schwab Family

*From Astheim, Germany to Mount Angel, Oregon*



And Beyond  
1804-2001

by Louis B. Schwab, Jr.

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## Introduction

About 150 years ago three farmers moved to America from Astheim, a small village in Germany. The brothers, Ludwig, Konrad, and Valentine, settled in America, raised large families, starting the beginnings of a very large family which after only seven generations has over 2,500 living descendants.

The “three brave brothers” left a strife-torn homeland to start a new life in America. In Astheim, their families were prosperous wine makers and farmers with a large family estate that had once been a Carthusian Monastery. But with their father's death the estate would have to be divided five ways – too small for everyone to make a living and raise their families. It is hard to imagine the feelings of the brothers and sisters as they separated, first Ludwig, the youngest, left for America about 1850 on his own. Next Konrad went with his family, then some-time later Valentine along with his family, perhaps encouraged by letters from Ludwig and Konrad.

Leaving must have been very difficult, but for those left behind, the brother Kasper, their sister Dorothea and the family of their deceased sister Ursula, it must have been as difficult to stay. This was not a good time for Germany. During this time, our German ancestors lived through the Revolution of 1848, Bismarck's wars to rid Germany of foreign rule, and his persecution of the Catholic minority; then came the devastation of World Wars One and Two. It is a stark contrast that there are only about 74 living Schwab descendants in Germany, while there are about 2,700 in America.

The American Schwabs' life as immigrants was not easy either. America was going through the Civil War and the Indian wars. But they enjoyed economic growth and prosperity.. Land was cheap in America and apparently the Schwabs had a taste for real estate development and speculation.

This is the genealogy of this family, from today back to Joseph Jörg, born sometime around 1680. It is also a partial narrative of the history of this family and the amazing Carthusian Monastery in Astheim, owned either in whole or part by Schwabs' since 1804. Many have contributed to what we know about our family history, but there is even more we do not know. Our hope is people who read this will continue the effort to fill the gaps.

The genealogy is not perfect. It can never be. Ours is a dynamic family. Births, marriages, divorces and deaths all change the nature of our family's history. Some information did not make it into this version. It is important to help us keep the history up to date. At least now, our history is on computer. We have entered the thousands of records into a program called, “The Family Tree Maker for Windows” by Brøderbund.