

Grandmother and Grandfather Schmalz

author unknown

Christena Schmalz was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, June 10, 1828, and died at Freedom, Indiana on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1902.

Grandmother died at Elizabeth McIntosh's in Freedom. She was a Croft. Rev. L. Coffman of Patricksburg conducted Grandmother's funeral.

Her husband, John Schmalz with whom she united in marriage on June 17, 1847, preceded her in death some 18 years.

To the couple were born 9 children: Barbara, Christena, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Emma, Frederick L. George W., John A., and Charlotte. She had six sisters and two brothers. There were 20 grandchildren. Elizabeth Yeager McIntosh (a granddaughter) was reared by Grandmother Schmalz.

Grandmother Schmalz was a constant member of the Lutheran Church from her girlhood days. She came from Ohio and is of Dutch descent. She wore a black silk bonnet (made like a sun bonnet) to church until she visited your mother and father when they lived in Waynesburg, Ohio. Then she had a small straw bonnet

(black) like old ladies were wearing at that time. Her dresses were very plain. The waist was caught with buttons down the front. She was a splendid common cook. I can still see the mush and sausage she fried, every piece browned the same.

John Schmalz was born at Wurtemberg, Germany on June 12, 1823. He came to this country as a young man. He never forgot his love of the Fatherland. He loved to dwell on the grand names that have made history. Among these, the name and work of Martin Luther.

Grandfather Schmalz passed away very suddenly on Feb. 16, 1884. He had been to town, stopped to see my mother and father, then went home. He lay across the bed and in a short time he was gone. It was a heart attack. He seemed to be in the best of health.

Ed. Note: The entire article, clipped from an old newspaper, can be seen in the Schmalz family file in the Owen County Public Library Genealogy Room.

Page 913 in *History of Owen County, Indiana 1884* has a brief biography of John Schmalz.

"John Schmalz, merchant, is a native of Germany, born June 12, 1823. He served an apprenticeship to the shoe-making trade, afterward spent five years in traveling through France and Switzerland, and before he became of age emigrated to this country, landing at New York in 1845, whence he moved to Bedford, Ohio. June 17, 1847, he married Christina Croft, a native of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Schmalz have six children, Mary Ann (Mrs. Geckeler), Emma L. (Mrs. Wark), Frederick L., George W., John A. and Charlotte C. After marriage, Mr. Schmalz continued to work at his trade, and in 1850 moved to Vandalia, in this county, for five years, whence in 1855 he came to Patricksburg. In 1878, he purchased an interest in the business of Frederick Coats, under the firm of Coats & Schmalz. He still labors somewhat at his trade, and spends much of his time on his farm of 400 acres in Owen and Clay Counties. Mr. Schmalz is a staunch Democrat, and cast his first ballot for Franklin Pierce in 1852. He was County Commissioner for three years, and is a very liberal, genial gentleman, as well as a much esteemed citizen. He and his wife are consistent and honored members of the Lutheran Church."

Page 274 in *Owen County, Indiana: a History 1994* has still more data on this John and Christena (Croft) Schmalz family. Marriages of their children are detailed: Fred Schmalz married Alice Hunt; John A. married Emma Vliet; Emma married George Wark; Elizabeth married Rev. T. H. Jaeger; Charlotte married Rev. Wm. Price; Mary Ann married Mike Gehler. Christena Schmalz died in infancy in 1855; Barbara Schmalz (no record); and George Schmalz (1862-1911) married Anna Gochenour (1862-1962). The submitter of the story also states that Christena Croft's father was John Frederick Croft, born in Wurtemberg, Germany. There is much more to this biographical sketch submitted in the name of David W. Schmalz.

The first Owen County Agricultural Fair was held at Gosport in 1850