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THE CURIOUS MYSTERY OF THE SCHANDEIN PICTURES

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Every genealogical researcher dreams of finding a family photograph album containing pictures of ancestors. If such occurs, the researcher must compare the known data with the photographs in the hope of identifying the subjects and extending the knowledge of the family. This situation provides the researcher with a special research challenge. Any identifications must usually be on the basis of circumstantial evidence as, in the case of photographs from prior to the turn of the century, there is usually no one around who can help with the identifications.

In some cases, however, the photographs themselves give the researcher clues he might not otherwise obtain. The pictures must be removed from the album very carefully. During the nineteenth century, photographers frequently printed their name and location on the borders of their photographs. In some cases, especially in Germany and in heavily German-populated cities in the U.S., this information is printed on the back and often includes any exhibit awards the photographer had achieved. The awards information can be helpful in dating the photographs.

In rare instances did the owners of the album feel it necessary to identify the pictures--after all, they already knew who the subjects were. Some albums, however, contained a page at the back on which the subjects could be identified and, if so, the owner might be encouraged to fill in the names of the subjects. Alas, such identifications as are found are all too frequently simply "Grandmother" or "Papa", leaving the researcher uninformed about the identities of both the subject and the owner of the album.

Franz Ludwig Schmid and his twin Georg Ludwig were born 24 Jun 1828 at Worms, Hesse-Darmstadt. Evidently Georg died young as he was not confirmed with his

brother. Upon reaching majority, Franz Ludwig emigrated to the U.S., Anglicized his name to Frank Louis and was naturalized at St. Louis, MO 25 Jul 1856 after the requisite five years' residency. He was married 28 May 1857 to Louise Dorothy Wörner at St. Louis and they became well-known and highly respected members of the German community of St. Louis during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Frank Schmid can be found in an 1860 City Directory listed as a saloon keeper at 71 Carondelet Avenue where the family resided in the rear. Subsequent Directories until 1865 show him operating saloons at various locations in downtown St. Louis. The first four Schmid children were born during this period.

unmarked
Adolf and Emma?



Adolf Schandein



From 1866 to 1872 he does not appear in either the City or Business Directories. In 1873 he reappears in the firm of Schmid & Bicker [Becker], wholesale liquor dealers. It was during this period immediately following the War Between the States that Frank Schmid and his family returned to his native Worms where their last four children were born. Evidence of passport applications indicates that the return to Germany had been intended earlier; however, it seems that the births of the third and fourth children necessitated postponement of the trip.

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Clara Schandein



SHERMAN, MILWAUKEE.

Ella Schandein



SHERMAN, MILWAUKEE.

Emil Schandein



unmarked

Emil Schandein



SHERMAN, MILWAUKEE.

Louise Schandein



SHERMAN, MILWAUKEE.

On 15 Aug 1865, Frank's brother, Johan Friedrich Schmid II, died in Worms where he had followed the family occupation of butcher. Their parents, Friedrich I and Margaretha Elisabetha (Sengeisen) Schmid, daughter of Johan Andreas and Maria Margaretha (Eberts) Sengeisen, were quite elderly and it would appear that Frank Schmid felt an urgency to make the intended trip back to the homeland. His sworn oath is recorded 4 Oct 1865 and it is likely the family left as soon as they could thereafter.

Whether or not they arrived before the death of his father on 10 Mar 1866 is not known; however, the fifth child, Frank Louis Schmid, Jr. was born in Worms 18 Oct 1866. Frank's mother died 20 Mar 1868. On 14 May 1870 Frank filed an application to leave Worms (presumably for return to the U.S.); however, their return was delayed until after the birth of the eighth and last child, August Charles Schmid, 5 Dec 1871.

Husband: Frank Louis Schmid (twin)

b 24 Jun 1828 Worms

m 28 May 1857 St. Louis, MO

d 8 Dec 1908 St. Louis, MO

m Louise Dorothy Wörner

b 31 Jul 1834 Möhringen, Württemberg

d 6 May 1917 St. Louis, MO

Children:

Edward Friedrich Gabriel Schmid

b 24 Feb 1858 St. Louis, MO

Unmarried

d 17 Mar 1934 Chicago, IL

Bertha Caroline Regina Schmid

b 10 Feb 1860 St. Louis, MO

m James C. Fitzmorris

d 19 Nov 1891 St. Louis, MO

Julius Gustav Schmid

b 26 Feb 1862 St. Louis, MO

m 11 Jan 1887 Elizabeth Ann Wenger, Fulton, MO

d 20 Jun 1934 St. Joseph, MO

Emily Margaret Schmid

b 12 Oct 1864 St. Louis, MO

Unmarried

d 19 Jan 1947 St. Louis, MO

Frank Louis Schmid, Pvt. Texas Rangers

b 18 Oct 1866 Worms, Germany

Unmarried

d 17 Jun 1893 Austin, TX

Louise Maria Amanda Schmid

b 27 Jan 1869 Worms, Germany

Unmarried

d 2 Dec 1874 St. Louis, MO

Adolph Emil Theodore Schmid

b 4 Jun 1870 Worms, Germany

Unmarried

d 4 Aug 1937 Bayview, MI

August Charles Schmid

b 5 Dec 1871 Worms, Germany

m Adele Louise Sunkle/Zunkle

d 17 Apr 1953 Maplewood, MO

It should be noted that the elder children were old enough upon their return to St. Louis to have memories of their lives in Worms. Indeed, while the family was in Worms, Frank Louis Schmid had a professional photograph taken which can be found in the surviving photograph albums of his children. Surprisingly, however, along with the Schmid family photographs in these albums, are pictures of the Schandein family of Worms and Milwaukee. No evidence has come to light indicating the relationship between the two families beyond the similarity of names and the fact that both families were in the business of spirituous liquors. It would be most unusual at that time for such a collection of pictures to be included unless the subjects were closely related to the owners of the albums.

Most of the pictures in question are found in the album belonging to Bertha, Frank and Louise (Wörner) Schmid's eldest daughter. There is one identified as Adolf Schandein [as an adult] taken at Worms, one of his brother Emil [also adult] taken at Worms and another of Emil [unmarked] taken at Milwaukee. There are four additional pictures of Emil Schandein's children, all by the same photographer at Milwaukee and identified as follows:

Louise Schandein 6 Jun '77 10 yr old

Clara Schandein 25 Feb '77 8 yr old

Ella Schandein 4 Mar '77 6 yr old

Emil Schandein 27 Oct '77 5 yr old

The dates given are likely their birthdays in 1877, rather than the dates the pictures were taken.