

THE SPECK FAMILY

from 1794 to 1900

From writings of Isaac G. Speck, Dupont, Ohio, 1900. Recorded by C. L. Speck, Job Printer, Dupont, Ohio.

Those thanked for their cooperation included J. A. Speck, Pittsburg, Kans.; Sarah Bowers of Antrim, Ohio; Sarah Belle Jones, Antrim, Ohio; James R. Smith, Decatur, Ind.; and Prof. George Hastings, Winchester, Ohio.

Godfrey Augustus Speck was born in 1754 in Germany, State of Saxony, City of Dresden (then the capital of Saxony.) Godfrey, as was a custom of his country, learned a trade and, also, as was the custom, was compelled to travel for a year to gain information to help him in his trade, and was called a traveling journeyman.

This was at the time of war between the United Colonies and King George III of England, who contracted with the Hessian King for soldiers at \$35 per head. A man came up to him and asked if he was going to stop at the inn. He proved to be a recruiting officer and he decoyed Speck to the wharf to see a big vessel; they then ran Speck up a plank and on board and by some means unknown he was landed in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1774.

He settled in Baltimore and married in 1779 to Sarah Townsend, born in Virginia, Sept. 10, 1763. They lived in Baltimore until their fourth child, Augustus Speck, was born December 13, 1787. A year later they moved farther south in the state. Speck moved his effects on a wheelbarrow while his wife carried their youngest child, Augustus, over a hundred miles and walked over mountains while the older children kept up with them on foot the entire journey.

They moved to Virginia; then to Ohio on Cross Creek in 1800. Next they moved to Westchester, Ohio; where he died Dec. 24, 1828, leaving the following children (of Godfrey Augustus and Sarah Speck);

Susan, b. 2/12/1781, date of death unknown; Frederick, b. 4/20/1783, date of death unknown; Samuel, b. 11/23/1785, d. 1849; Augustus, b. 12/13/1787, d. 6/12/1870; Elizabeth, b. 12/20/1789, death date unknown; Mary, b. 5/4/1792, d. 1793; Annie, b. 12/7/1794, d. 10/1866; Sarah, b. 10/7/1796, d. 2/1887. Susan, Frederick, Elizabeth and Mary were married, but the name of their spouses is unknown. Augustus m. Sarah Reed; Samuel m. Jan Leach; Annie m. Benjamin Cramer; Sarah m. Samuel Dix.

The mother, Sarah Speck, wife of Godfrey A., died 12/13/1815, and Godfrey Augustus Speck died 12/24/1828, interred at Freeport.

The more detailed genealogy of the Speck family belongs to an uncle of Mrs. Gordon Bishop of Santa Ana, but may be in the possession of his eldest son, who lives in a trailer park in Orange, and the genealogy is said to be complete up to the fourth child of Mrs. Bishop's grandmother. However, it is being completed up to the present time (1969) by a cousin of Mrs. Bishop's mother, a cousin who lives in Loveland, Colorado.

Mrs. Bishop's great uncle, Arch, was one of the two doctors in the early 1900s in

his Illinois hometown. Her grandfather Speck had the first automobile in Loveland, Colorado; his name was Charles Boyd Speck and he built a home at 432 Campus Ave., Upland, California, when the family came there from Loveland, in 1904. He was a plasterer, Charles Boyd Speck m. Nellie May Beatty. She died in a rest home in Upland in 1954. Nellie May Beatty's mother, was a frequent visitor to the home in Covina of Mrs. Gordon Bishop's family.

Of interest is an account of the first Pioneer School House in Washington Township, Guernsey County, Ohio, known as the Powel Schoolhouse. The names of the teachers that taught and the scholars who attended is of record as written by Prof. George Hastings, Wm. H. Speck, Sarah B. Jones and Sarah Bowers.

About 1825 the people of District #1 of Perry Township decided to erect a school. As built the school contained round logs, the floor was made of split logs, the loft likewise, the chimney of sticks and clay. The fireplace would take a back-log six or seven feet long, the windows were on the side and end and the "glass" was made of greased paper. The seats were of split logs with sticks for legs, no backs. The roof was made of clapboards kept in place by poles; and the structure was built by the citizens of the district.

Close by was a spring of clear water running from under a large hill. A house (presumably for the teacher) was built on the southeast corner of Abel Powell's farm, owned in 1900 by Jacob Owens. It faced the public road that led from Westchester to Winchester. The first teacher was Lewis B. Kingsberry, in 1826. He kept a beech rod six or seven feet long to tickle the boys on the head. The teachers were paid by subscriptions of the public. John O. Cory taught in 1828; Eli V. Dunaway was the first one to study grammar; Ilija Scotts taught in 1830; Jonathan Willison in 1832; David Spencer in 1834; George Doozenberry in 1835; Samuel Larkin in 1836; William J. Willison in 1838, assisted by his uncle when he was absent hauling wood, hay etc.

Children would run in and out of doors when they chose, talk out loud, read out loud, John Busstler taught in 1838.

Some of those who attended school in the old log school house included: G. W. Ripley; Samuel, John, Elizabeth, Sarah, Wm. B., Silas and I. G. Speck; Catherine, Sarah & John Spencer; John and Amos Bishop; Thomas Boyea, Eli V. Dunaway; Peter, Elizabeth, Mary, Lucy, Nelson, Warner, Cornelius, Nancy and Jessee Longworth; Henry and Ezekial Ripley. And 130 more that are on the list.

An unusual circumstance is that Amos Bishop (of the above students) was the father of Clyde, Roy and Holmes Bishop. Clyde became a leading attorney in Orange County, California. Roy was the first Agricultural Commissioner in the county. Holmes was a leading citrus grower along with his brothers, was prominent in other fields and was the father of Gordon Bishop and Noble and Velma. Mrs. Gordon Bishop is the one responsible for these notes about her Speck family. Noble is a citrus farmer in Central California and Velma conducts a newspaper clipping service in Santa Ana, California, and is the recently widowed wife of John "Sky" Dunlap, Santa Ana. Gordon is an executive in California's State Government, having charge of licensing and regulating divisions. The "unusual circumstance" is that, within the walls of this log cabin schoolhouse were the progenitors of both Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bishop, a fact only recently discovered.

Courtesy of G. J. Marks