Selected Biographical Sketches

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SELECTED BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Samuel Strasser Rickly, Columbus

The venerable banker, is one of the familiar figures in Columbus and one of the city’s most prominent citizens. He is the son of John and Anna Rickly, neé Strasser, and was born January 2, 1819, in Bützberg, Canton Bern, Switzerland, where the name was spelled Rickli. He is the only survivor of a family of eighteen children. His grandfathers, on both sides, were extensive grain merchants, doing business during the French Revolution, and his father, although by trade a saddler (at which trade Mr. Rickly was required to work from the time he was 12 or 13 years old), also followed the grain business.

His father was postmaster of the parish, and from the time Mr. Rickly was twelve years old until he left Switzerland, he acted as letter carrier, often exposed to great hardships on account of the distance he had to travel.

He attended very indifferent parish schools from the time he was old enough until he left the old country, being allowed to learn nothing except reading, writing, and arithmetic, and committing to memory the Heidelberg catechism and other church literature.

Mr. Rickly’s parents emigrated to America in 1834, locating at Baltimore, Fairfield County, Ohio. Here the entire family of sixteen took sick, except John Jacob and John, the eldest sons, and within four weeks nine of their number died, including the five youngest children, the parents, and the father’s sister and mother. The cause of this fatality was attributed mainly to change of climate and diet. The survivors, except John Jacob and John above mentioned, found homes in different families, Mr. Rickly being indentured, against his will, to learn the carpenter’s trade.

His father brought with him from the old country a considerable amount of money, consisting of five-franc pieces put up in rolls of twenty-five each, but never informed any of his children where he kept it. There was, however, an administrator appointed, and when the children arrived of age, each received what was represented to them to be its respective share.

Although apprenticed to learn the carpenter’s trade, he was compelled to do farm work of the roughest kind, working at the trade only when there was no farm work to attend to. Being then eighteen years old, and inhumanly treated, he gathered his little belongings in a handkerchief and went to Newark, Ohio, where his two older brothers were then living. After working there for a few months he came to Columbus in 1836, on a canal
boat loaded with highwines, being the only passenger, the chief cook, and driver of the only mule belonging to the craft.

Soon after this Mr. Rickly returned to Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, where he was freed from his former boss.

For a year or more he worked at the carpenter’s trade and cabinet-making, and in the spring of 1838 found employment as a clerk in a dry goods store. This position afforded him a better opportunity than he had heretofore had of learning English.

In the spring of 1839 his employer removed his goods to an eastern State, and Mr. Rickly was left to close up the business. During this spring he attended school for a few weeks, after which in June, 1839, he went to Marshall College, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, which he entered in the autumn, and from which he was graduated in the autumn of 1843, delivering the first German oration that had been delivered up to that time in the institution, his subject being “The Scenery of Switzerland”; but the custom then inaugurated has ever since been continued. Hon. James Buchanan, afterwards President of the United States, then president of the college trustees, sat, dressed in elegantly fitting garments with snow-white cravat, on the stage.

After studying theology for a short time and teaching in several private families in Maryland, and Alexandria, Virginia, Mr. Rickly was married in 1845.

His health failing from hemorrhage and other causes, he came to Columbus in 1847, was examined as a teacher, and commenced the German-English schools here at the corner of Mound and Third streets.

The schools rapidly grew and prospered, in spite of the opposition in many quarters against the establishment of German schools in connection with our union schools, but their success has proven the wisdom of the course then adopted. In the spring of 1848 Mr. Rickly was made principal of the Columbus High School, then started in the building now owned by Mrs. Ferson on East Town Street, between Fifth and sixth. The late Doctor A. D. Lord, then school superintendent, and his wife, both took part in teaching. Many pupils of that time have since become prominent and useful citizens, some of them distinguished in State and National affairs.

On the breaking out of the cholera in the spring of 1849, Mr. Rickly established an academy at Tarlton, Pickaway county, Ohio, which was adopted in the spring of the following year, by the Synod of the Reformed Church as the nucleus of a church institution, and named Heidelberg College.

In the autumn of the same year the institution was permanently located at Tiffin, Ohio, and in the summer of the following year Mr. Rickly was elected superintendent of the Tiffin Union schools, removing there July 4,
1851. He was also elected Professor of the Theory and Practice of Teaching in Heidelberg College (now Heidelberg University), to which institution he has recently contributed liberally in money, furnishing and decorating the chapel which is now named after him, “Rickly Chapel”. In 1853, having lost a much loved daughter, he returned to Columbus and opened a select school in the basement of what was then the First Reformed Church on Town Street, between Fourth and Fifth.

In the following winter without any solicitation on his part, he was elected Journal Clerk of the Ohio House of Representatives. He also became secretary of the Ohio Manufacturing Company then repairing Sullivant’s Mill, since known as Rickly’s Mill, and erecting a large stone building for the manufacture of hubs and bentwork. Subsequently Mr. Rickly devoted his time to milling and manufacturing, selling large quantities of flour in Central and Northern Ohio. In 1857 he and his brother John Jacob, under the name of Rickly & Brother, began the banking business. In 1870 he bought out his brother and continued in business alone until the panic of September, 1873, when on account of heavy losses sustained by the failure of Jay Cooke & Co. and others, he found it advisable to make an assignment for the benefit of his creditors as well as for himself, knowing that he had abundant resources to meet all his liabilities if reasonable time was allowed to convert his assets into money. As soon as sufficient time had elapsed for advertising notices to his creditors, he was released from the assignment, and his assignee retransferred the assets back to him. Having paid all his creditors in full, he in 1875 organized the Capital City Bank, which has continued to the present time.

During the State Fair of 1879 the bank was robbed of $20,000 in broad daylight, only $1,000 of which was ever recovered. On July 13, 18880, Mr. Rickly was shot through the eyes by a man named Eichenberg, and became totally blind, notice of which appears in the chapter on Banking in Volume I [of the History of Columbus].

Notwithstanding his blindness, Mr. Rickly has continued his business, and has taken an active part in the proceedings of the Board of Trade, advocating the improvement of our streets in the central and business portions of our city, and lighting it by electricity, and as early as January 6, 1885, he introduced in that body a resolution to hold here, in the largest city in the world bearing the name of Columbus, a world’s exposition commemorating the Fourth Centennial of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. Mr. Rickly was therefore the originator of this gigantic enterprise, which Chicago subsequently secured through various causes, and which is being celebrated not only in the United States but on the whole American continent.

On September 21, 1886, he also introduced into the Board of Trade the following resolution which was adopted:
Resolved, That the directors of the Board be respectfully requested to take into consideration the propriety of purchasing a suitable lot, and the erection thereon of an edifice adapted to the uses of this Board, and also containing accommodations for large conventions and other gatherings.

Subsequently the directors reported favorably and the result is seen in the elegant Board of Trade building on East Broad Street.

During the early part of the late war, Mr. Rickly was a member of the School board; he has also been a member of the City Board of Equalization, Trustee of the Public Library, and foreman of the United States Grand Jury at Cincinnati. At the time he was hurt, and for several years previous to that time, he was President of the Board of Trade. He was also a delegate appointed either by the Governor or the Mayor to six National Commercial Conventions, held respectively at Louisville, Baltimore, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Chicago and New Orleans. He was a stockholder in the first street railway built in the city of Columbus, know as the High Street Railroad, was a member of the syndicate which purchased, in about the year 1870, the old lunatic asylum grounds, and subdivided it into city lots, calling it East Park Place, and he also aided in the organization of the East Park Place Railway (Long Street) of which he was treasurer from the beginning, holding the office until its consolidation with other street railways, called the Columbus Consolidated Street Railroad, of which latter he continues to be a stockholder and director to the present time. He also assisted in the organization of the Glenwood and Greenlawn Street Railway company, of which he was also a treasurer, and has continued as a stockholder until now. Mr. Rickly has been interested as a stockholder and director in three of the Turnpike Companies (toll roads) of this county, and continues to be such in two of them to the present time. He is a member of the syndicate which purchased a large tract of land on the West Side, subdividing it into some eight hundred city lots, and called West Park Place. This is now the most lively part of the city.

Mr. Rickly’s brother, John Jacob, was a contractor on the Mercer County Reservoir, kept the principal hotel in St. Mary’s, Ohio, for a number of years, was Treasurer of Auglaize County, was a member of the Legislature, was one of the legislative committee men, to honor Governor Louis Kossuth, and after removing to this city was a member of the city council, delegate to the State Constitutional Convention, and filled many other positions of trust in the city and county. He died in April 1877. He and Ralph G. Graham laid out Rickly and Graham’s addition to Columbus.

Mr. Rickly’s second brother, John, aided in the improvement of Columbus by building many houses, notably one called the Bull’s Head Tavern, at the northwest corner of Main Street and Grant Avenue; also one at the southwest corner of Main Street and Parsons Avenue. He laid out an addition to the city between Main and Mound streets, west of Parsons
Avenue, called John Rickly’s addition, also an addition north of Main Street and east of the Blind Asylum.

In 1856 he removed to Columbus, Nebraska, where he died at the age of 74 years, after filling many positions of trust, including the mayoralty. He was the principal manager of the finances of the city and the county. A younger brother (Rudolph) came to Columbus about 1842 and was in the slaughtering business. At the outbreak of the war, he organized a cavalry company and was elected captain, but before entering the service he died. Mr. Rickly had three sisters who survived the terrible calamity of 1834, and grew to womanhood. The oldest one married Conrad Born, the wealthy brewer of this city, and died about the year 1880. The next one lived and died in Illinois, and the youngest in Fairfield County, Ohio.

Mr. Rickly is the father of four children, two daughters who died in infancy, and two sons, the youngest of whom died August 1, 1882, aged twenty-six years and two months. He was, at the time of his death, teller in the Capital City Bank, and being a musician was organist in the First Congregational Church here, and also for Mount Vernon Commandery Number One, Knights Templar. He was also superintendent of the City Union Mission Schools and almost idolized by the pupils.

The portrait accompanying this sketch is that of Mr. Rickly’s son Ralph Reamer Rickly, who was born in Tarlton, Pickaway County, Ohio, January 20, 1851. After attending Columbus schools and being graduated from High School in 1868, he entered Yale College, where he was graduated in 1872. Since that time he has been cashier in his father’s first bank, and afterwards in the Capital City Bank.

Mr. Ralph Rickly is a prominent Mason, and in 1891 took the thirty-third degree in that order. He is also secretary and treasurer of the Glenwood and Greenlawn Street Railway Company, and now president of the Bank of Corning, at Corning, Perry County, Ohio.

Alps that rise into the skies, glaciers frozen in permanent ice, lovely valleys, splendid lakes, beautiful towns and friendly villages make Switzerland a place to which during the nice season tourists from all over the world are flocking. Although nature may have showered this piece of earth with its most beautiful gifts from its horn of plenty and may have made it the worthy abode of a noble, freedom-loving people, all this vanishes in comparison with the deeds of the heroic ancestors whom the annals of world history preserve as radiant examples for the most distant times. Inhabited by three different nations who otherwise often meet on the battlefield, here they are cemented into a unity by love of freedom and common heroic deeds, [a foundation] which is firmer than granite on which the Alps rest. Times change and people in them change, or as the old Roman observed: “Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.” The Swiss of today are no more the bareheaded and barefoot ancestors who broke the fortresses of their oppressors and destroyed the powerful Burgundian armies in open battle, but the love of freedom of the ancestors has endured, and although they have changed the sword into the plow, they are nevertheless able by their excellent people’s army to protect their independence from hostile attacks. Now Switzerland is a state based on culture, progress is the watchword and battle cry; the Swiss Cross is the symbol of humanity and Swiss institutions of higher learning breathe the spirit of rational progress. Commerce and the trades flourish, agriculture and wine-growing have reached a high degree of perfection, and on the meadows numerous cattle herds are grazing, the products of which benefit far away lands. The Swiss is active, industrious and enterprising and since his fatherland is too small for its people and does not own colonies to which its sons can transplant their activity, they are forced to emigrate to where they can hope for success. One may find Swiss in all parts of the world, and to wherever they have moved or to wherever fate has driven them, there their national virtues have been proven. The sister republic of the United States was for many

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1 This is a translation, made by Leo Schelbert, of the biographical sketch of Ritchie by the German immigrant Armin Tenner, the author of *Cincinnati Sonst und Jetzt. Eine Geschichte Cincinnati’s und seiner verdienstvollen Bürger deutscher Zunge, mit biographischen Skizzen und Portrait Illustrationen* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Druck von Mecklenborg & Rosenthal, 1878), 402-404. It is of interest not only for its data, but also its idealizing sensibility relating to Switzerland as well as Ritchie.
years the point to which Swiss turned their attention for emigration. Switzerland gave it not only a statesman like Gallatin, a naturalist like Agassiz\(^2\), but also a large number of citizens who brought honor to their country of origin, and we are pleased to present in the following sketch the life of a honored co-citizen who, although transplanted to here in early youth, has nevertheless faithfully in word and deed preserved the noble traits which adorn a true Swiss, as they had already characterized his father to such a high degree. He is a man whom not only the old homeland can consider with justified pride as one of its best sons, but also the new may praise as one of its best citizens. This honorable man is the Swiss Consul JACQUES RITCHIE.\(^3\)

Jacques Ritchie was born December 15, 1829 in Zürich, Switzerland, and came in 1833 with his parents at age 4 to America. Ritchie’s father Caspar Ritchie had originally decided to locate permanently in St. Louis, yet after several months in what is now the metropolis of the

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\(^2\) Albert Gallatin (1761-1849) who hailed from Geneva formulated Thomas Jefferson’s economic program in the late 1790’s, was Secretary of the Treasury from 1800 to 1813, US Ambassador to France from 1816 to 1823, a scholar, and co-founder of New York University. - Louis Agassiz (1807-1873) from Môtier, Ct. Fribourg was professor of natural history at the University of Neuchâtel, after 1846 at Harvard University. He was a leading anti-Darwinian and published numerous works in geology and zoology and promoted the establishment of the study of natural history at American institutions of higher learning.

\(^3\) Armin Tenner’s introduction, the German author of *Cincinnati Sonst und Jetzt*, published in 1878, reflects not only the ornate style of the era, but also a form of ethnic patriotism, which in Tenner’s case, as evident in introductions to other biographical sketches, had three dimensions: pride in the German nation, pride in everything Germanic beyond national boundaries (thus including German-speaking Switzerland), and pride in the rising United States. The claim that overpopulation necessitated emigration, though false, is also noteworthy.
Midwest climatic conditions caused the family to move again and to settle in Cincinnati. Meanwhile Jacques had turned five; his father sent the boy who had a vigorous constitution immediately to school so that he attended public schools for 5½ years, then High School (Woodward College) where he received instruction for two years. His father decided that the son was to receive a solid education, and since he knew and valued the advantage of European higher education from experience he sent Jacques to the Realschule [University?] in Zürich for further education where he studied law under the professors Fröhlich, Keller, and Zehnder.

After he had absolved six years of courses and having received excellent grades, Ritchie left the institution and returned to his second homeland. He arrived in Cincinnati July 15 and, after some wavering concerning a career, his brother Caspar, who had the position of a Commis in a drygoods store, finally convinced him also to devote himself to commerce. In 1851 he became an “Ellenritter” [haberdasher?] in the establishment of a certain Maxwell. After he had gained experience there for a time, he became an associate of his older brother Caspar and both founded the haberdashery firm C. & J. Ritchie at No. 65 and 67 Untermarkt. Until 1874 the two brothers managed the business together until it was owned exclusively by Jacques Ritchie due to the retirement of the older brother, and since then has been managed by him as the firm J. Ritchie.

Jacques Ritchie’s reputation as a businessman, his formal education, and his public activities in social causes, benevolent undertakings etc. soon had become extensive so that the Swiss Federal Council entrusted him in the year 1866 with the Swiss Consulate for the 6. District of the United States, which includes the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. The tasks of this position are more important than is generally assumed since, although Ritchie devoted all his free time to the fulfillment of his duties as Consul of the Swiss Republic, he felt nevertheless the need to engage a secretary.

Ritchie was one of the few who already in the year 1849 promoted here the founding of a Singing League, and the first German Singing Festival, which was held in Cincinnati, was one of the fruits of the efforts of Ritchie and of the little band of valiant singer brothers. For three years he held the post of secretary of the Central Committee of the 1. North American Singing League. Also the now flourishing Swiss Benevolent Society, which was founded in 1874, owes its origin to Mr. Ritchie.

Among the German-speaking immigrants of his time Ritchie’s father was an exception in that he brought to this country not only a solid fund of knowledge, but also a significant capital in cash. Although he had been involved in his homeland with the so-called multicolor textile printing
[Bunndruck-Färberei], his knowledge was in no way limited to this special branch of the industry. He became especially knowledgeable here in machine construction and has given proof of his solid specialized expertise.

The older German immigrants might perhaps also remember the fact that the first canon produced in the Niles' iron foundry in Cincinnati was the work of Ritchie. In the garden of Feine, which at that time covered a lot between Liberty Street and Hamilton Road, this canon, made a gift to the Germans, had been dedicated with the proper pomp on July 4, 1837.

On November 3, 1853 Jacques Ritchie married Miss Marie Moore, a Scotswoman, and they had meanwhile six children, five of whom, that is three boys and two girls, are alive.

**Johann Edward Frey**

(Summary)

Born in Stäfa, Canton Zürich, October 20, 1841. Parents emigrated in 1847 to Cincinnati, leaving their two daughters and son in the care of grandparents. The father, who died in 1862, first worked as a tailor, then opened a restaurant at No. 428 on Main Street which he named Schweizerhalle. It became a favored meeting place of Swiss and Germans. “In the Schweizerhalle,” Tenner claims, “were founded the men’s choir, the Liedertafel, and the singing League, and also the idea was conceived and brought into the proper form of creating the settlement of Tell City” (130).

The son Johann Edward meanwhile went to school in Oetwil until 1853, then he and his two older sisters joined their father in Cincinnati. After some further schooling he worked as a “huckster” in the Cincinnati market, then moved to Lexington, Kentucky where he established with a Mr. Hays a fishmarket which

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4 See Tenner, ibid.,129-132; in the quite lengthy entry hard data are relatively sparse.
flourished, but collapsed in the Civil War. Frey returned to Cincinnati and established there a seafood store, first in partnership, since 1872 as sole proprietor. After three difficult years due to the panic of 1873 the establishment flourished, and by the late 1870's it had 18 employees and 8 wagons in operation. In December 1870 J. E. Frey had married Wilhelmine Boesel. His half-brother Theodor was a painter, his half-brothers Albert and Emil were employees of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Johann Anderegg

(Summary)

Johann Anderegg was born in February, 1811, at Regoldswyl [Reigoldswil], Canton Basel, where his father had a butcher shop. He went to school until the age of 13, then worked for four years in his father’s business. On May 1, 1828 he emigrated and arrived in New York in mid-September. (Later he twice visited Switzerland, and his last return trip was to take only 13 days.)

J. Anderegg first went to Buffalo, then to Pittsburgh where he married Felicitas Renner in 1833 and there established his own business. In 1844 he served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and was a Major in the Pennsylvania Volunteer German Battalion. In 1846 he moved to Memphis, Tennessee, then to St. Louis, and in 1847 to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, where he opened a butcher shop. He became a Town Trustee, County Commissioner, and in 1860 a delegate to the Charleston Convention. In Lawrenceburg he had a small vineyard, was a member of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture and of the Dearborn County Agricultural Society.

In 1863 he moved his business to Cincinnati, establishing the firm Anderegg & Roth, Beef Packers, which by 1874 had become the large establishment at No. 321 and No. 323 on Freeman Street. He commuted to work by railroad from Lawrenceburg until 1872.
Johann Martin Henni (1805-1881) was born in Misanenga, part of Obersaxen at the foot of Piz Mundaun above Ilanz, the first town on the Rhine River in the Canton Graubünden. He received his schooling in St. Gallen and Luzern in Switzerland, then in Rome, and he completed his theological studies at the Roman Catholic Seminary at Bardstown, Kentucky. He was ordained on February 2, 1829, taught for a time at Cincinnati’s Atheneum, a minor seminary, but soon became a traveling missionary to the German-speaking immigrants of Ohio. In 1834 he was appointed vicar general of the diocese with residence in Cincinnati where he continued his work with immigrants. He wrote a children’s catechism in German, promoted the teaching of English, and the creation of bi-lingual schools, if desired by a given community. In 1835 he went to Germany to gain support for the diocese where he published in 1836 *Ein Blick in’s Thal des Ohio* [A Glance at the Ohio Valley] in Munich that centered on the emergence of the Catholic Church in the region. In 1837 he began publishing *Der Wahrheitsfreund* [The Friend of Truth] which was appeared continuously until 1907. The publication opposed slavery and prohibition, but advocated the American liberal tradition. His career in Ohio ended in 1843 when he was appointed bishop of the new diocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he became archbishop in 1875 and continued his vigorous leadership of the German American Catholic community in a spirit of tolerance as well as denominational commitment.
Some Cleveland Swiss

Friedrich Muhlhauser

On the first of November is has been four years since the founder of one of the most important branches of industry in the state, Mr. F. Muhlhauser, died of a chronic throat complaint after vainly seeking relief or healing in Germany. Mr. Muhlhauser’s parents lived in the lovely city of Bern, where Friedrich first saw the light of day on 9 March 1842. When he was nine years old, the family – father, mother and three children – came to New York. Here Fred attended public schools until he was 14 before returning to the old homeland and settling in Basel, where his mother still lives at the age of 83. Immediately after his return he became a student at the famous monastic school of Besançon, where he completed his education and thoroughly learned French. Then he went to his uncle, S. Ullmann, in Schloss Herdem near Wangen, to learn the making of recycled wool, then one of the large ribbon weaving plants in Basel. After completing his apprenticeship he received the post of technical leader of the woolen factory of the Jandorf Brothers in Frankfurt am Main, and he held it until 1860, when he emigrated again. His first steps were to his uncle, who was working in the Patent Office in Washington. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Muhlhauser entered the ranks of the three-month volunteers, a sort of militia intended to defend the capital. Later he was recruited into the 3rd Maryland Volunteer Regiment, and after a short time he was promoted to captain of Company E for his valor on the field of battle. A proof of the esteem of which his men held him was the gold medal presented him on 10 May 1863, by the company engraved with the name of the battles the company had fought under his direction – Cedar Mountain; Beverly Fort; Antietam; Winchester, Va., and Chancellorsville. For three years he served in the ranks of the warriors to preserve the Union, and after the end of the war he visited his parents in Switzerland. He remained there until 1867, and on return went directly to Cleveland.

Here he found his first position in the men’s outfitting business of the firm of Mayer & Habich, and he later became a partner of the firm of Loser & Mayer. The firm delivered rags for a paper mill, and he saw to his great astonishment that the most valuable rags, those of wool, were disregarded and thrown aside, for it was believed that only packing paper could be made of such rags. He managed to persuade his partners that from these rags, hitherto thought worthless, the best recycled wool could be manufactured. A small-scale woolen mill was soon erected. Mr. Muhlhauser designed all the plans for installing the machines from Gäckley and Krieger. The
business quickly grew, and it is today the largest reused wool factory in the world, employing 600 workers male and female. To meet ever-climbing demand for their products, additions have to be built every year, so that the factory building now has a space of 556 feet on Pleasant and 105 feet on Louis Avenue.

In 1872 messrs. Hessenmüller and Beckmann joined the business as partners, calling the firm The Northern Woolen Mill.

After Mr. Mulhauser’s death the business was incorporated as The F. Mulhauser Co. with a stock capital of $600,000. His eldest son Sigmund, now 28 years old, who has been active in the business since he was 16, and who has become an expert under his father’s leadership, is technical leader of the business, while his mother, Mrs. Antoinette Mulhauser [born Kuhnheimer, from Aisenz, Rhenish Palatinate], functions as treasurer of the business and leads the financial side of this extensive establishment with her own practical knowledge of business. At the International Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, the firm received a medal for its outstanding products, the only one among those producing similar wares. At the Atlanta, Georgia, Exposition in 1895 the firm received a gold medal, which was presented to Mrs. Mulhauser in person. A further proof of the prosperity of the Mulhauser business is that the firm pays a dividend of 8 percent, despite bad times. For nine months they have been working day and night, and no workers’ strikes have yet taken place. The firm also has its own fire department, and it is in the position to suppress the worst fire in 51 seconds.

In 1869 Mr. Mulhauser married Miss Antoinette Kahnheimer, from which relationship 11 children were born, of whom 8 still live, 5 sons and 3 daughters. While he was alive, Mr. Mulhauser took a lively interest in social and public matters. For seven years he was an active member of the school board. In his ward he enjoyed the respect of both parties, although he was known as a Republican on national issues. During the years 1885-87 he had a seat in the alderman’s council, where he was vice president and the chairman of the finance committee. He was also one of the founders of the board of trade, the origin of the present chamber of commerce. He was founder of the Central National Bank. At the time of its greatest prosperity he belonged to the Orpheus Singing Society as a very active and capable member, and he was a member of the Social Turner Society.

The premature death of Mr. Mulhauser, who was regarded in all circles as an educated, genial and liberal person and jovial company, was deeply mourned by all.
There are people of whom one says they were born under a lucky star. One such fortunate is certainly our esteemed fellow citizen William Neracher, who first saw the light of day on 2 November 1841 in the Canton of Aargau, Switzerland. When he was barely eight years of age, he came with his parents and siblings to America, to Cleveland, where they settled in to stay. Neracher’s father headed a carpentry works, and he managed to retire young. He has now reached his 80th year, and despite high old age he enjoys complete freshness of body and spirit. The wife of the brave pioneer left this world in 1858.

William Neracher, the object of this review, attended public schools and later undertook at his father’s direction the study of construction. When construction lagged, William grabbed the first available occupation. So we find him as a newsboy, a rag burner, a street worker, always active under all circumstances.

However, when the great Civil War broke out in 1861, Neracher was one of the first to enlist in the Union Army on behalf of the great and noble cause. He entered the 20th Battery of the Ohio Artillery Regiment, fighting under Generals Rosekranz, Thomas, Grant, and Sherman in various great battles. He had his bravery to thank for advancing rapidly to lieutenant, and in 1865 he was the youngest German officer in the state of Ohio. After 3 1/2 years of service Neracher returned home covered with fame and citations to the circle of his loved ones.

Until 1873 Mr. Neracher was independently active in construction. When time permitted he was tirelessly occupied with various patents of high value. Now began that hard struggle for existence for the ingenious inventor, which hardly any inventor is spared. It was a long time until others became convinced of the practical worth of his inventions. Even close relatives had little confidence in his “trifles” and held him to be eccentric. But what did it matter to him? He had a dear wife at his side who understood him and never doubted his eventual success. And success did not fail to come.

It was 1874 when Mr. Neracher founded the Fire Extinguisher Co., to produce his invention, an automatic fire extinguisher. The first of these highly specialized devices was installed and used in the factory of Mr. Theodor Kundtz. In the first year of operation, income amounted to $5000; today this business earns an annual income of several million dollars. The firm employs 1600 workers and now has four factories in full operation, one in Warren, Ohio which serves the Western market; a second in Philadelphia, which supplies the middle states; a third in Providence, R. I., for the eastern
and New England states; and a fourth in Columbia Ga., caring for the South. Branches of the company are to be found in all the larger cities of the United States, as well as in England, Germany, France, Russia and India.

It is worth mentioning that, at the time when Mr. Neracher lacked capital and sought a partner, he thought he had found that partner in former Mayor Rose. Mr. Rose certainly had the capital, but he did not believe in the practical value of the invention. The partnership never took place. When Neracher and Rose met in a hotel years later, the latter said that he had never committed a greater error in his life than passing up Neracher's offer. In 1867 Mr. Neracher married Miss Margareta Kaiser, daughter of the old German pioneer Melchior Kaiser, born in Bensheim on the Bergstrasse, Hesse Darmstadt. Two children were born of the marriage, a son and a daughter. The first is now 29, very capable at business, and leads the factory in Warren. The daughter Clara is married to Mr. Alfred Fritzsche, who is employed in her father's office. Neracher's children are extraordinarily talented: both of them achieved truly extraordinary things in the area of fine painting even at an early age.

So far as his political creed goes, Mr. Neracher is a convinced Republican, and in his views he is quite liberal. He has a large heart and is generous beyond all measure. Various charitable institutions have been repeatedly remembered by him, and he has helped many friends out of difficulties. He is a member of the local Swiss Society and of the German-American Club.

**Christian Schüpbach**

Known in all German circles in Cleveland for his solid, open nature, the honored restaurateur Mr. Christian Schüpbach was born on 6 December 1841 in Signau, Canton Bern, Switzerland. After the premature death of his father, who died when Christian was 3, he passed his youth without any special incidents until he took the position as manager of an educational institution in the district of Konolfingen at the age of 18, which he did for 4 years. He gave up this position in order to take a better paying position from Colonel Möscher of the Swiss cavalry in Brügg to administer his widely scattered properties, a position he held until 1871. In this year Mr. Schüpbach emigrated to the United States. He settled here in 1871, then traveled through most of the eastern and western states, returning to Cleveland in 1872. Here he worked for six years in the old Merchant Foundry, until 1873, when he took over the Swiss Cross Hotel on Bank Street and ran it with great success until 1890. About this time he sold the hotel and lived a private life for two years until he associated with Mr. John
Fell and established the restaurant at the corner of Ontario and Champlain Street, to which he has dedicated his full attention ever since. This has enjoyed an outstanding popularity to the present day.

In 1873 Mr. Schüpbach married a friend of his youth, Miss Lina Meyer, who was born in Brügg, Canton Bern, Switzerland. Two children, a daughter Lina and a son, John Friedrich, have arisen from this happy marriage.

Mr. Schüpbach has always had great interest in German efforts. Over the last 20 years there have been few German general events in which he has not taken an important role, for example the festivities of the 200th anniversary of German settlement in America, the North American singing festival, etc. Mr. Schüpbach is treasurer of the League of German Americans, was president of the local Swiss Society, and since 1885 has been president of the North American Grütli League, an association of about 66 Swiss societies in the United States. He is a member of the D. O. H., the Concordia Support Society and other associations.

Mr. Schüpbach is one of those very jovial and liberal natures that despite little fanfare, are always ready to accomplish noble, ideal goals in social and philanthropic matters. He is beloved and respected not only among Cleveland’s Germans, but also in other circles with which he comes into contact.

Johann Lendy

The manager of the bookbindery known all over Cleveland, the Cleveland Legal Blank and Bookbinding Co., Mr. Johann Lendy, was born on 24 November 1849, in Tamins, Canton Grisons, Switzerland. Through his 16th year he attended the excellent local schools of his place of birth, obtaining a rather good education, and then apprenticed as a bookbinder.

In 1871 he decided to emigrate to America. After a brief residence in Michigan, he came to the Forest City in 1873, settling down permanently and establishing a well functioning business.

On 11 May 1875, he married Miss Margarethe Schneider from Cleveland, daughter of the well known Mr. A. Schneider. Two girls and two boys came from this marriage. A son and a daughter are active in his business. Since 1874 Mr. Lendy has belonged to the congregation Zum Schiffllein Christi as an extremely active member. He was 12 years a

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secretary of the church board and president for the last 8 years. He is also the finance and recording secretary of the control board of the North American Grütli League since its creation. He is a member of the Concordia Support Society and a passive member of the Swiss Mens’ Chorus.

**Johann Müller**

Mr. Johann Müller the noted wagon maker, first saw the light of day on 7 January 1848 in Weinigen, Canton Zürich. After completing the Volksschule, he went into an apprenticeship with his father in wagonmaking. At the age of 18, he accompanied his sister to Cleveland. He found a rewarding and continuing job at once in his profession, and he worked for 17 years for the most important businesses, saving enough means and experience to establish his own wagon and coach business in 1883 at 99 South Woodland Avenue. In the course of years Mr. Müller has made his shop into one of the best wagon and coach making works in the city, fulfilling all modern demands. In 1869 Mr. Müller began his first marriage, with Miss Wilhelmine Hain. After a happy marriage of 22 years, producing three children, he lost her through death in 1891.

Two years later he married a second time, the marriage remained childless, and his wife died after several strokes in September 1897.

Mr. Müller takes an intense interest in society life. Since 1871 he has been a member of the Swiss Society, holding the office of vice president for a year and that of president for a year. He is also trustee of the administrative council of the North American Grütli League and has belonged to the Harugaris for the last 18 years and to the Order of the I. O. F. since 1889. At this moment he is president of the central committee of the I. O. of Foresters of Cleveland. Mr. Müller is generally respected and loved for his dependable nature.

**Arnold Moser**

Arnold Moser, present president of the Swiss Society, Cleveland, Ohio, was born on 16 March 1837 in Burgdorf, Canton Bern, Switzerland. He received his education in the capital city of Bern, where he attended the best schools and received a foretaste of military life as a member of the famous Bern cadets. On arriving at military age he took the first two courses in the Swiss Military School in Thun as an aspirant for an officer’s position in

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\(^6\) Independent Order of Foresters, a fraternal benefit and insurance society; Axelrod, ibid., 89.
artillery, but in the same year (1859) he bade farewell to his fatherland to seek his fortune in the promised land of America.

A remarkable coincidence should be mentioned. He left his father’s house on a Friday, on a Friday his ship took to sea, on a Friday exactly six weeks after his departure he landed in New York, and despite the silly superstition he is still living happily and contentedly.

After working his first summer (1860) on a farm, he found a job in Millersburg, Ohio, working in a grocery and hardware business until the great war agitation left him no peace and he joined up on 13 September 1862. He was recruited into Company C in the 67th Regiment, Ohio Volunteers, where many friends had already gone in December 1861. With his regiment he participated in General Butler’s campaign against Charleston, S.C., trouble and want in the Peninsula and in continuing battles on the south side of the James River until the taking of Petersburg and Richmond, Va.

Certainly the bloodiest and most dreadful experience for him was the nighttime attack on 16 July 1863 on Fort Wagner at the entry to the harbor of Charleston, S.C. The night was totally dark, and the stormers had to steer themselves exclusively by the flashes of the fortress guns. His company received so many losses that only 29 officers and men were capable of taking part, of which only 13 returned uninjured, a loss of over 59 percent dead, wounded and captured. On another occasion at Darbytown behind Richmond, in a failed bayonette charge on the enemy dug in in the woods, he dragged a wounded comrade back from the battle at great personal risk, although the friend died of his wounds shortly after in the hospital at Fortress Monroe.

During the entire three years of war service, despite all the hardships, he was not sick for an hour nor seriously wounded, although he took part in innumerable skirmishes. As a result of being soaked and overstressed, he did lose part of his hearing. After the end of the war he was in an iron goods business in Canton, Ohio, for five years, moving to Cleveland in 1870, where he happened to find an opening as a letter carrier that he held until 1885. He has now been working for seven years as a bookkeeper with the Wagner Manufacturing Co.

As one of the founders of the Swiss Society of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1872, he contributed greatly to the success of the society through restless activity and tenacity, as well as to the flourishing of the local Swiss colony. For 17 years he held the office of recording and corresponding secretary, and for the last 4 years that of president. As a passionate singer he was a member of the Grütli League singing society, which existed before the establishment of the Swiss Society, and since then he has belonged to the
Swiss men's chorus. He is an honorary member of the Swiss Turner Society. He also feels, however, that it is high time to take a deserved retirement and leave the field to younger men.

Mr. Moser has belonged to the Order of Odd Fellows since 1868. He lives in happy marriage with Katharina Simon of Wetzlar, Prussia, and enjoys a family of eight children, all well raised and of which most are already married.

Gottlieb Strasser

Born in 1848, on 25 May, in Wangen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, he came with his parents as a boy of six to America, directly to Cleveland. Here his father established himself on Center Street and was murdered in front of his own door by a bold hooligan.

At the age of 12 Gottlieb entered a cigar factory as an apprentice, and he worked until 1870 as a laborer in various businesses. In that year he received the position of foreman in the important cigar business of F. C. Kelsy, which he held for ten years, then becoming a salesman in a wholesale tobacco business. During the last 16 years he has held the position of a foreman in the Standard Tobacco & Cigar Co. on St. Clair Street. As a child arriving in the country, growing up in a setting in which speaking German was scorned and working continually with non German speaking workers, it was hardly possible for Mr. Strasser to express himself in his mother tongue when he was 20. It was around this time that Mr. Strasser joined various German associations, refreshing his forgotten treasury of language through dealing with other Germans. For many years a member of the Social Turner Society, the German Harugaris and the Order A. O. U. W., he was moved in 1882 to enter the Helvetia Society, which later changed its name to the Swiss Mens' Chorus. His long slumbering national feeling awoke, and Mr. Strasser spared no efforts to help local Swiss organizations to the full extent of his powers. Elected a delegate, he managed to bring together the two associations on the East Side, the Helvetia Men's Chorus and the Grütli Singing Club into the present Swiss Men's Chorus. The fact that he enjoyed the good wishes and friendship of society members was demonstrated by the fact that they gave him as a gift of their respect a walking stick with a gold head.

At the singing festival during the course of this summer of the Swiss American Central Singing Society, which had been founded in Sandusky

7 Ancient Order of United Workmen, a fraternal beneficiary society for white men; see Axelrod, ibid., 249.
on Thanksgiving day, 1896, when Cleveland was designated as the next festival site, Mr. Strasser functioned as festival president.

Mr. Strasser is also honorary member of the Swiss Turner Society. He has been president of the Men’s Chorus for the last four years after being financial secretary for nine years, and each time he was elected unanimously. As a passionate singer he participated in the great singing festivals in Louisville, Cincinnati, Chicago and Pittsburgh. Mr. Strasser also takes an active interest in politics, belonging for the last three years to the Republican County Central Committee of the 36th ward. He has already been a supervisor in his precinct, for two years.

On 2 October 1870, Mr. Strasser married Miss Maria E. Gelb, born in Cleveland to German parents, from which union seven children have sprung, five sons and two daughters. It was granted to Mr. Strasser and his wife to celebrate their silver anniversary on 2 October 1895 in their family circle, surrounded by their children, who all enjoy the greatest well being.

Lorenz F. Wilhelm

The universally praised, accomplished teacher Mr. Lorenz F. Wilhelm, who retired after long and praiseworthy effort in June 1897, was born in 1822 in Schiers, Canton Grisons, Switzerland. He had an education in the elementary school and then attended the teacher’s seminary in Schiers and later the seminary in Zurich, from which he graduated to pursue the profession he had chosen.

His first position as a teacher, in which he did not long remain, was at the school in his place of birth. From there he came to Spitzen, where he taught seven months a year, as the schools were closed during summer and fall. At the same time he held office as a Vermittler, which means the same as justice of the peace, over 17 years. To improve his situation, Mr. Wilhelm emigrated to America, where he first held a position in one of the church schools in Louisville, Kentucky. After a year he moved to Cleveland, receiving a position as teacher in the church school at the corner of Scovill Avenue and Greenwood Street. Here he was active for two years. Then he took a position at the Independent German School Community, which he headed as teacher until 1871. About this time, German instruction became obligatory in the public schools, and Mr. Wilhelm became one of the first teachers of German. During the first six months he taught at the Mayflower School, and he was then moved to the Case Avenue School, where he served profitably until his retirement.
In 1891 he lost his wife, born Barbara Kleiner from Hirtzel, Canton Zürich, from which marriage six children, four sons and two daughters, were born, who are all still alive.

Besides his activities as a schoolmaster, Mr. Wilhelm finds time to make efforts as an author, and several of his pamphlets have been published under his nom de plume of Florwil; Unterschied zwischen den Staatsverfassungen der Vereingten Staaten und der Schweiz [Difference Between the State Constitutions of the United States and Switzerland], Der goldene Mittelweg fürt Temperenzler und Nichttemperenzler [The Golden Middle Way Between Temperance and NonTemperance], and others, have been well received.

The retirement of Wilhelm from teaching was generally regretted by his colleagues, but on the other hand he had deserved a rest after long labors in one of the most difficult and trying of all professions.

While other employees of the municipality may retire and receive a pension after a certain number of years, however, this has not been achieved for teachers so that they might look forward to the evening of life without concern. With his retirement, a part of Cleveland’s school history has been ended.

May the old man long enjoy his life’s evening in the circle of his friends, and may those who enjoyed his guidance always hold him in their good thoughts.

Joseph L. Hitz

In the youthful age of 14, in the company of his parents and siblings, Mr. Hitz left his homeland, lovely, romantic Switzerland, and came with them to America in August 1853 directly to Cleveland. Born on 18 December 1838 in Ober Sackingen, Canton Aargau, he attended the local public schools and received a rather good education. On arriving here he worked for several years in various branches of business, learning wood carving in 1855, and working in this craft until 1862, joining the 103rd Ohio Volunteers as a fighter for the cause of the Union after the outbreak of the war. On 27 June 1864 he was rather seriously wounded by being grazed on the head by a bullet in a picket skirmish near the Battle of Kenessaw Mountain, which caused him to be taken to the hospital in Knoxville, Tenn. The wound was not yet quite healed when he received two months leave, and after the hospital physician had convinced himself that he could bind his wound himself, he was allowed to leave. Unfortunately, although the wound seemed healed, afterpains set in, tormenting Mr. Hitz even now in his advanced age, particularly when the temperature changes.
suddenly. After his discharge in 1865, he returned to his earlier occupation of woodcarving until two years later (1867), when he opened a bakery and grocery store in Newburg in partnership with Mr. John Pfeiffer under the name of Pfeiffer & Hitz. In 1876 Mr. Hitz bought out his partner, and he ran an extended grocery business until 1888, when he passed it to his two sons, A. J. and E. R. The eldest son runs it to the present day with great success. For two years, until 1890, Mr. Hitz rested from his labors and concerns, which is to say he kept to himself. But he could not remain inactive for long, for he had to occupy himself, and so he entered the insurance business of J. L. Rice & Co., corner of Superior Street and Seneca Street, and since then he has been active in this specialty.

In 1886 he made a visit lasting three months to his old homeland along with Mr. Wm. Laub, seeing the greatest cities of Germany and Switzerland. He still likes to tell of the pleasant hours passed there.

Mr. Hitz takes an active role in political and social matters. Although a strict, convinced Democrat, he was elected in 1883 as a member of the city council from the old predominantly Republican 18th ward due to his great popularity. He was one of the founders of the Newburg Men’s Chorus, which used to take a prominent role in social circles in Cleveland. It was, so to speak, the collecting point of Democrats in Newburg. He was one of the first members of the Swiss Support Society and belongs to the German Pioneer Society.

In 1861 Mr. Hitz married Miss Winzenried, from his homeland, born in Canton Bern. Their marriage, darkened by no clouds, produced seven children, of which four sons and two daughters still live.

Mr. Hitz is proud of his origins and through his characteristic conduct has attracted the respect of his fellow citizens of whatever nationality or political party.

Jacob Hirt

In the romantic city of Schaffhausen on the Rhine, Mr. Hirt first saw the light of day on 13 May 1854. He attended the Volksschule and Realschule until he was 14. After an apprenticeship at a mechanic’s shop, in which he dedicated himself particularly to machines, he went on the road for three years, working in the larger places in Switzerland and South Germany. He returned home to do his military service, and after that was completed he pursued his profession in his native city. In 1881 he came with his wife and three children directly to Cleveland and as a well qualified worker immediately found employment in his specialty at Peck, Stowe & Wilcox General Hardware & Tinners Tools, the second largest business of this sort
in the entire country. For years he has held the post of foreman in one of the special departments of the company.

On 7 December 1876 Mr. Hirt married Miss Gisel from Wichingen, near Schaffhausen, and five children were produced by the marriage.

Since 1883 Mr. Hirt belongs to the I. O. F. of Cleveland; for two years he was president of the order and five years secretary of the central committee of the I. O. F. Since 1887 he has been a member of the Swiss Society, of which he is currently vice president, and he has every expectation of becoming president at the next election, as the present president, Mr. Moser, is tired of office. Mr. Hirt is also a passive member of the Swiss Men’s Chorus and a member of the Swiss Support Society.

In the best years of his life, of large stature, with a pleasant, appealing appearance and endowed with a considerable gift for entertaining conversation, it is inevitable that he will win a great number of friends in all circles.

Gottlieb Müller

Gottlieb Müller was born in Niederhipp, Canton Bern, on 3 December 1861. He attended the local Volksschule until confirmation, and he apprenticed as a baker, where he remained for three years. In 1878, immediately after the end of his apprenticeship, he emigrated to America and settled in our city. On his arrival, it was not hard for him to find work in his profession as a capable journeyman baker, but after a year he went to work at the Schüpbach Restaurant on Bank Street as a helper, which position he held for seven years with honor. In 1886 he established his own business, and he has run a very respectable and well run inn combined with a restaurant for the last seven years at the comer of Seneca and Literary Street.

In September 1882 he married Miss Emma Schmidt, born here a daughter of German parents, and he is now father of two nice children.

Mr. Müller takes an intense interest in German societies, which can be seen from the following. He a member of the Concordia Support Society, the Swiss Society, the I. O. F. of Cleveland, the Knights of Pythias\(^8\), the Swiss Men’s Chorus, the Swiss Turner Society, the Germania Turner Society, and the Swiss Aid Society.

Mr. Gottlieb Müller is a very modest man and enjoys the respect not only of his own compatriots but in all circles he encounters.

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\(^8\) Knights of Pythias [Phintias], a secret society for government clerks; see Axelrod, ibid., 153.