

## Kaspar Von Arx and Family

Extract of a letter from his daughter Theresia (Wagner) written the 18th of March 1908 to the (author)? of the following text:

In 1861, 21 January, my father and his five daughters travelled from (Olten?) Basle, Paris to La Havre. There, the 2nd February, we went aboard a sailing vessel. After a journey of 7 weeks, we disembarked at New Orleans. First, the crossing was very stormy, cold, and disagreeable, but whether our father was, we girls had to bear the coldness, but we all had to suffer under the sea sickness. However, we found a very good guardian in our fellow traveller, Anna Maria Heiss, called Ameili, who first was servitor in the house of Jacob Rauber. She received the money for travelling from the municipality. Fortunately, Ameili was preserved from sea sickness and so could take care of us like a sister.

Every morning, each family received enough water, potatoes, smoked meat, white beans, and sugar. Twice a week we obtained some coffee and tea. It was Ameili, too, who has taken care of our meals. Each passenger had his own place on the cooking stove, and a cook was charged with the (control?). When we

Heiss  
Heiss  
Heiss

recovered health again, it was wonderful to go on the deck. The passengers made acquaintance, and Ameili, with her good-humour, let us forget our home sickness.

From New Orleans, we travelled on the Mississippi River to the west. After one month we arrived at St. Joseph to the great gladness of our relations, who before were afraid we got with the blockade which was decreed over all ports. Our ship was one of the latest to which the landing was allowed.

Three weeks after our landing at St. Joseph, Ameili married Johann Zeltner of Niederbadsiten(?) (near Neuendorf). Our father went with us to his brother Peter at Kansas, where the latter possessed a farm.

Uncle Peter, <sup>von der</sup> the brothers Buttker (Philip, Johann, Christian, and Joseph, were allowed to get a land part of the government. Each immigrant who carried a gun for the "UNION" against Mexico or the Indians and has taken part in a battle (or not) received a part of land.

Uncle Peter died 10 years ago at the age of 45. After a two years staying at Kansas, our father went again to Missouri, first to the country, and after, to St. Joseph. There he died in 1883. He left all his daughters in a good position.



Unfortunately our younger sister died  
 before him. At her death, in 1870, she left  
 her husband a little son. <sup>Philip</sup> ~~Sator~~ Sator on, the  
<sup>Sever</sup> young widower married our sister Amelia.  
 They are in good position, have a great (?) family,  
 and intelligent children. Our brother-in-law  
 is a joiner (carpenter - ~~planner~~ of bottom boards  
 cylinder in it that spins - or fancy fittings maker)

The husband of our sister Lena is a  
 blacksmith. They too have a beautiful family.

My husband is a baker <sup>unqu</sup> and we have a great  
 lucrative commerce, and a nice hotel. ~~From~~ Since  
 18 years, we have our private life. From our  
 five in-town living daughters, two have married  
 jan-keepers, two others bank clerks, and the fifth  
 an inspector in one of the greatest biscuit and  
 sugar factories of the whole West.

Our (unique?) (one) son is revenue official  
 of one of the greatest factories of salted meat in  
 Los Angeles. The position is very good, but the  
 distance so far... more than 2000 miles.  
 My husband paid him a visit last summer  
 (California is a veritable paradise).