

## Jacob and Susanna (Kress) Weber of Plymouth, Ohio: A Family History

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*Weber Family Portrait, taken at home in Plymouth, Richland County, Ohio c. 1910  
Seated: Katherine, Susanna, and Anna Weber; Standing: Jacob, Christian, and Elizabeth*

Jacob Weber, born in 1848, and Susanna Kress, born in 1845, were from small farming communities in Germany. Jacob came from Kollweiler Canton, Wolfstein, Rheinpfalz, Bayern. It is sometimes listed as Kollweiler, Pfalz, Bavaria. Kollweiler is now considered part of the Rhineland-Palatinate of western Germany. Susanna came from Bruchenbrücken, a village near the town of Friedberg and a few kilometers from Frankfurt, in the German state of Hessen. It is now a commuter suburb for nearby Frankfurt. Jacob Weber and Susanna Kress were part of the large wave of German immigrants who came to America in the second half of the nineteenth century. Whatever the forces for pushing them out of Europe, what pulled them to America were the opportunities for success, which Jacob and Susanna found in a small farming community in Ohio.

Jacob immigrated with his parents, Nicklaus and Katherine Weber, and three sisters, Katherine, Charlotta, and Philippina, sometime in the early 1870s. (Different years are given in the census records.) According to his passport application, submitted in 1914, Jacob came to America on a Cunard liner, sailing from Liverpool, England on December 14, 1871. No specific immigration records for the family have been found to date. It should be noted that Weber is sometimes spelled Webber, the German spelling. However, most of the documents for Jacob spell the name as Weber.

Susanna Kress was one of three siblings who together ended up in Louisville, Kentucky, although apparently they immigrated at different times. According to Susanna's grand-daughter Norma Katherine Johnston McNelley, Susanna was from a large family in Germany and they were very poor. She came to Louisville, Kentucky because she had family connections there. Before her marriage, Susanna worked as a maid to a wealthy family in Louisville. In the U.S. Census of 1870 for Louisville, KY, Susanna Kress is listed as a domestic servant in the household of Fred Hoefer, a confectioner. This man must have had a large home and a large business. In addition to the family, there were a couple of bakers, a couple of other confectioners, two men identified as laborers, and another domestic servant listed in this household.

Jacob met Susanna in Louisville and they married on March 7, 1877. From Louisville, the couple moved to New Albany, Indiana, located just across the Ohio River. According to the U.S. Census of 1880, Jacob and Susanna and their one-year-old son Christian were living on a farm there, along with Jacob's parents, Jacob's sister Katherine, her husband, Philip Buhlman, and their children, and Philip and Charlotte Dupre, the young children of Jacob's sister Charlotta (presumed deceased). A household of eleven! Jacob and Susanna's second child, Katherine, was born in New Albany in 1881.

The Weber family moved to Richland County, Ohio as a group. Jacob's brother-in-law, Benedict Dupre (husband of Charlotta) had already moved to Mansfield, in Richland County (U.S. Census Record of 1880). By 1882, Jacob, his parents, two other siblings and their families had all moved to Richland County. Anna, the third child of Jacob and Susanna, was born in Plymouth, Richland County on January 20, 1883. Jacob and Susanna's fourth child, Elizabeth, was born in Plymouth in November of 1884.

Evidently Jacob and his brothers-in-law had decided that money was to be made in the saloon business. According to the City Directory of 1883 for Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio, Benedict Dupre was operating a saloon in Mansfield. The Mansfield City Directory published in 1884, lists Jacob and his sister Philippina's husband, Peter Schuck, as operating a saloon in Plymouth, while Jacob's sister Katherine's husband, Philip Buhlman, had a saloon in nearby Shiloh. (Mansfield City Directories accessed through Ancestry.com in December, 2014)

Jacob, along with his father, Nicholas, and brothers-in-law, Philip Buhlmann and Benedict Dupre, are listed in an article in the *Ohio Liberal* newspaper giving the names of those being naturalized "sometime between the October and November elections" of 1884. (Source: The *Ohio Liberal* newspaper, published on November 5, 1884, Vol. 12, No. 30," Available online under "Select Naturalization Notes, 1884", Immigration/ Naturalization Records, Richland Co. OH GenWeb; Accessed in December 2014.) Jacob stated on his passport application that he was naturalized on November 3, 1884 in the Probate Court of Richland Co. (Source: U.S. Passport Application, dated May 14, 1914; available on Ancestry.com; accessed on December 18, 2014)

The saloon was Jacob's livelihood. The U.S. Census of 1910 for Plymouth, Ohio, lists both Jacob and his son Christian as saloon-keepers. The saloon business must have been profitable. The Webers had a comfortable life in Plymouth. Jacob owned his own home. According to his descendants, Jacob invested in real estate in Louisville, Kentucky; Plymouth and Willard, Ohio; and in Indianapolis, Indiana. Jacob helped to found the Plymouth National Bank and owned an

interest in the bank. His 1/25th share of the bank was still in the family at Anna Weber Johnston's death in 1974. There are also a number of property transactions on the record books of Richland County. Among them: In November of 1889, Jacob Weber bought property (lot 2969) in Mansfield Township, Richland Co, OH. from William Foss for \$1,206. In 1890, "Jacob Weber and wife" transferred the same property to his wife for \$1. (Source: "Land Records: Real Estate Transfers, November, 1889 and July, 1890" . Pub. The Mansfield Herald. Available on Rootsweb.com, Richland Co. OH and downloaded 2/13/2008)

It appears that Jacob Weber intended to travel abroad in 1914. He completed a U.S. passport application on May 14, 1914, stating that he intended to leave on July 4, 1914 and return within 3 months. It is not known where Jacob intended to travel, but he probably intended to return to Germany. There is also no family story regarding a trip abroad, so it is doubtful that he went. World War I broke out in August of 1914. The passport gives other details, such as date and place of birth, emigration and naturalization details, as noted above. It also states that Jacob was 5 feet, 6 1/2 inches tall. (Source: Passport Application, downloaded from Ancestry.com on 1/27/2011)

By 1920, Jacob had retired from the saloon business and his son Christian had established a restaurant in Plymouth which he would operate for close to forty years. The tavern was noted for its food. Susanna and her three daughters cooked and baked. Susanna died on July 9, 1923 and Jacob died on October 6, 1924. Both are buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Plymouth, Ohio. Even after Susanna died, Elizabeth and Katherine continued to cook and bake. Christian ran the restaurant until about 1960, when he could no longer work. Christian died in 1963. Katherine

died in 1955 and Elizabeth in 1966. Elizabeth's death marked the end of the Weber family presence in Plymouth, Ohio. They had been there for some eighty-four years.

#### **More on Jacob and Susanna's children:**

**1. Christian Weber:** born on January 6, 1879 in New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana. Christian Weber died on November 4, 1963. His obituary in the Mansfield New Journal, dated November 5, 1963, read in part, "Christian Weber, 84, of 89 Trux Street, Plymouth, [died] yesterday in Shelby Memorial Hospital following a short illness. He was the owner of Weber's Cafe in Plymouth for many years, a Director of the Richland County Auto Club, member of Willard Elks, Mansfield Eagles, and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce." Five months later, on April 13, 1964, the following short article appeared in the Mansfield News Journal: "The late Christian C. Weber of Plymouth, who died last November 5, left an estate valued at \$101,596, according to an inventory filed in probate court. The bulk of Mr.



*The children of Jacob and Susanna Weber c. 1887  
L to R: Katherine, Elizabeth, Anna & Christian.*

Weber's estate, \$80,447, was in stocks and securities, with the rest in accounts and debts receivable, \$16,548, and \$4,500 in real estate. The estate was left to a sister, Elizabeth Weber.” When Elizabeth died, she left the estate to her sister Anna, who in turn, left her inheritance to her children upon her death. Much of this wealth eventually went to the great-grandchildren of Jacob and Susanna Weber.

2. **Katherine Weber:** born in August of 1881 in New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana.

Katherine never married. She died in Plymouth, Richland, County, Ohio in 1955 and was buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Plymouth. The month and day of her death is unknown.

3. **Anna Philippina Weber:** born on January 20, 1883 in Plymouth, Richland County, Ohio. Anna was the only child of Jacob and Susanna Weber to marry. On August 15, 1906, she married Edward Reymer Johnston, also of Plymouth. By 1910, Anna and Edward were living in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Edward was working as a stock agent for the stock yards. Anna and Edward had four children. Edward Reymer, the oldest, was born about 1908. He is listed in the U.S. Census of 1910 as a two-year-old, born in Ohio. This child died sometime between 1910 and 1913. Norma Katherine was the second child, born in Indianapolis on April 25, 1910. She married Theodore Thomas McNelley on June 24, 1939 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This couple had two children. Norma died on May 24, 1981 and is buried in Fort Wayne. Edward and Anna's third child was Edward Weber, born in Indianapolis, on June 13, 1913. He married Marion Davis McKinley on June 6, 1940 and this couple had three children. Edward served with the U.S. Marine Corps as an aviator in World War II and Korea, eventually achieving the rank of Colonel. Marion died in 1975 in Santa Ana, California. Edward later married Ann Klint of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Edward died on March 8, 2008 at the age of 94. The fourth child of Edward and Anna Johnston was Gerald Robert, born in Indianapolis on January 22, 1917. Gerald never married. He lived with his mother, and later his sister in Fort Wayne. Gerald died in 1986. Anna Weber Johnston spent the last years of her life living with her daughter. She died in Fort Wayne on March 22, 1974. Edward Reymer, her husband, had died in Fort Wayne on December 1, 1950. Anna was buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Fort Wayne, while her husband was buried in the Greenlawn Cemetery in Plymouth, Ohio (where he had been born). Anna, with her children, Norma, Edward and Gerald, spent summers in Plymouth between 1910 and 1924, while her husband, Edward Reymer Johnston, continued to work in Indianapolis. After moving to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Anna and her family still traveled often to Plymouth. It was 150 miles and took about four hours by car. (Source: Family history provided by daughter Norma Johnston McNelley)

4. **Elizabeth Weber:** born on November 19, 1884 in Plymouth, Richland County, Ohio. Elizabeth never married and she never moved from Plymouth. In the U.S. Census record of 1940, Elizabeth and her sister Katherine are living with their brother Christian on Trux Street. She died on November 26, 1966 and is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery, Plymouth. Evidently Katherine and Elizabeth liked pretty china. They had an extensive collection of Haviland Limoges porcelain china which, upon their deaths, was passed to their sister Anna and, later, to Anna's descendants.

## **Ancestry of Jacob and Susanna (Kress) Weber**

The key information providing Jacob and Susanna's place of birth in Germany and a link to identifying other family members was found in their daughter Anna's beautiful baptism record (written in German and found at the end of this article). Fortunately, the church records for the

villages of origin for both Jacob and Susanna have been scanned by the Mormon Church of the Latter Day Saints. The marriage and baptism records for Jacob's family were found online: "Germany Births and Baptisms, 1558-1898", available at Family Search.org and downloaded on January 29, 2011. They are also available through Ancestry.com. Those for Susanna's family were available on microfilm: Kirchenbuch, 1654-1876, Evangelische Kirche Bruchenbrücken, KR Friedberg, FHL INTL Film 1618356.

## **Jacob Weber's Family**

**Jacob's parents** were **Johann Nicholas Weber and Katherine Ruth**. They were married on August 22, 1846 in Jettenbach, Pfalz, Bavaria. Nicholas and Katherine had five children, all born in Kollweiler Canton, Wolfstein, Rheinpfalz, Bayern, Germany. The parents and the youngest four children immigrated to the United States. Jacob stated on his passport that he emigrated in December of 1871. It is likely that the whole family came at that time or shortly thereafter.

### **The children of Nicolas and Katherine (Ruth) Weber:**

1. **Carl**, born on July 14, 1836. Nothing more is known about Carl.
2. **Jacob**, born on January 8, 1848, and the subject of this history.
3. **Katharina**, born on July 4, 1849. Katharina married Philip Buhlman on May 10, 1875 in Floyd County, Indiana. By 1884, the couple was living in Richland County, OH and Philip was operating a saloon. The couple had 4 children: Charlotte (1875), Charles (1877), Adolph (1879) and August (1881). The three boys died in the summer of 1887, all within a period of 5 weeks. The cause of death is unknown at this writing. Charlotte, the oldest child, never married. She died in 1959 in Richland County. Katharina died at the age of 61, on October 13, 1910 in Huron County, Ohio. Philip died on October 8, 1921 in Shiloh, Richland County, Ohio. Katharina, Philip, and their four children are all buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Shiloh.
4. **Charlotta**, born on December 10, 1850, married Benedict Dupre on February 9, 1876 in Floyd County, Indiana. It appears that Charlotta died sometime before 1880. In the U.S. Census of that year for New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana, Charlotta's two young children (Philip and Charlotte) are living on a farm with her parents, a brother and a sister and their families. As of 2014, no record of Charlotta's death has been found. Benedict stayed close to his wife's family. In 1884, Benedict Dupre was living in Richland County, Ohio, as were Charlotta's parents and three siblings. Charlotta and Benedict's son Philip never married; he lived most of his life in Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio. Philip died there in 1951. There is no record of the daughter Charlotte, other than her appearance as a one-year-old in the U.S. Census record of 1880. Benedict Dupre remarried and had more children. He died in 1923 and is buried in the cemetery in Mansfield.
5. **Philippina**, born on April 13, 1854, married Peter Schuck on May 17, 1877 in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. In the U.S. census of 1880 for Louisville, Peter is listed as a tailor. The couple had three children: Edward Rudolph (1878), Peter William (1880) and Philipina (1882). The first two were born in Louisville; the third was born in Plymouth, Ohio. Their son William died in 1909 at the age of 28. There is no record of the young Philipina, other than her birth record. On the Schuck family headstone in the cemetery in Plymouth, Ohio is the inscription, "Anna Schuck" age 3 months. It is possible that Philipina (the child) was also known as Anna. It appears that Edward Rudolph was the only child to grow up and marry. In November

of 1901, he married Frances Wasson in Ontario, Canada. In the U.S. Census of 1940, his mother Philippina is living with Rudolph, his wife and granddaughter in New Haven, Huron County, Ohio. On the record is the notation that Philippina owned the home they were living in, as well as three other properties. Philippina died on March 20, 1952, at the age of 88; Her husband Peter Schuck had died on November 20, 1892, at the age of 43. Philippina had been a widow for sixty years.

According to the German marriage records, **Jacob's paternal grand-parents** were Nikolaus Weber and Elisabetha K. Riegelmann. His **maternal grand-parents** were Johann Philipp Conrad Ruth and Katherine Philippina (Grün) Gruen, who were married on March 26, 1799 in Neunkirchen (Ba Kusel), Bayern, Germany. Jacob's **great-grandfathers** are listed on this marriage record: Nicolaus Ruth and Georg Grün.

## **Susanna Kress' Family**

**Susanna's parents** were **Johann Wilhelm Kress** and **Anna Dorothea Wölker (also spelled (Völker))**. Johann Willhelm and Anna Dorothea had at least eight children. All are listed in the church archives of Bruchenbrücken, Friedberg, Hessen, Germany, available through the FamilySearch.org, microfilm collection. (The year of their birth is listed; however, the records are in old German and I was unable to make out the month and day of their birth.) Three of their children immigrated to the United States, although at different times: Christian Kress, Susanna Kress, and Katharina Kress. Nothing more is known of the other children.

The children of **Johann Wilhelm** and **Anna Dorothea (Wölker) Kress**:

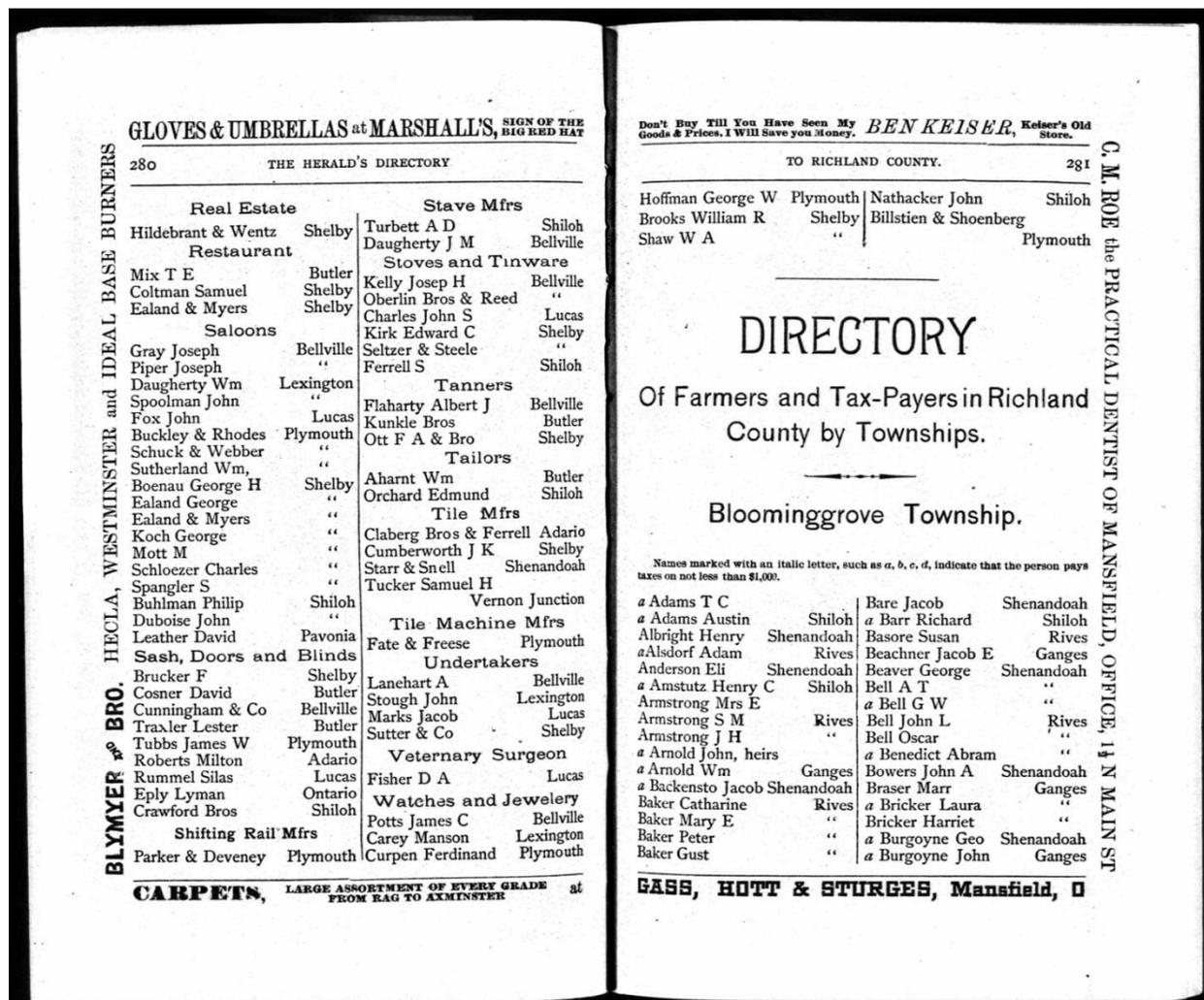
1. **Christian** (1836)
2. **Jacob** (1839)
3. **Maria Katharine** (1841)
4. **Margaretha** (1843)
5. **Susanna** (February 26, 1845) Susanna married Jacob Weber in Louisville, Kentucky and, along with her husband, is the main subject of this family history.
6. **Elizabeth** (1847)
7. **Dorothea** (1850)
8. **Katharina** (May 24, 1857) married George Lambertus, a shoemaker from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on May 2, 1876 in Louisville, KY. According to Diane Hoferkamp, a descendant of George and Katherine Lambertus, George worked for Christian Kress and was married to Christian's sister, Katherine Kress. Katharina and George had eleven children, all born and raised in Louisville. George died on February 24, 1922 and Katherine died on March 21, 1937. Both are buried in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Susanna's paternal grandparents** were **Ernst Jacob Kress** and **Anna Margaretha Hart**. Her **maternal grandparents** were **Heinrich (Völker) Wölker** and **Eva Elisabetha Michel**.



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Baptism Certificate for Anna Philippina, daughter of Jacob and Susanna (Kress) Weber. Godparents were Jacob's sister Philippina and her husband Peter Schuck.



A page from the Mansfield City Directory of 1884 listing Schuck and Webber (Jacob Weber and his sister Philippina's husband, Peter Schuck), as well as Philip Buhlman (his sister Katherina's husband) under Saloons. Benedict Dupre (husband of Jacob's sister Charlotta) was listed as a Saloon-keeper in Mansfield in the previous year's directory. These Mansfield City Directories were accessed through Ancestry.com in December 2014.