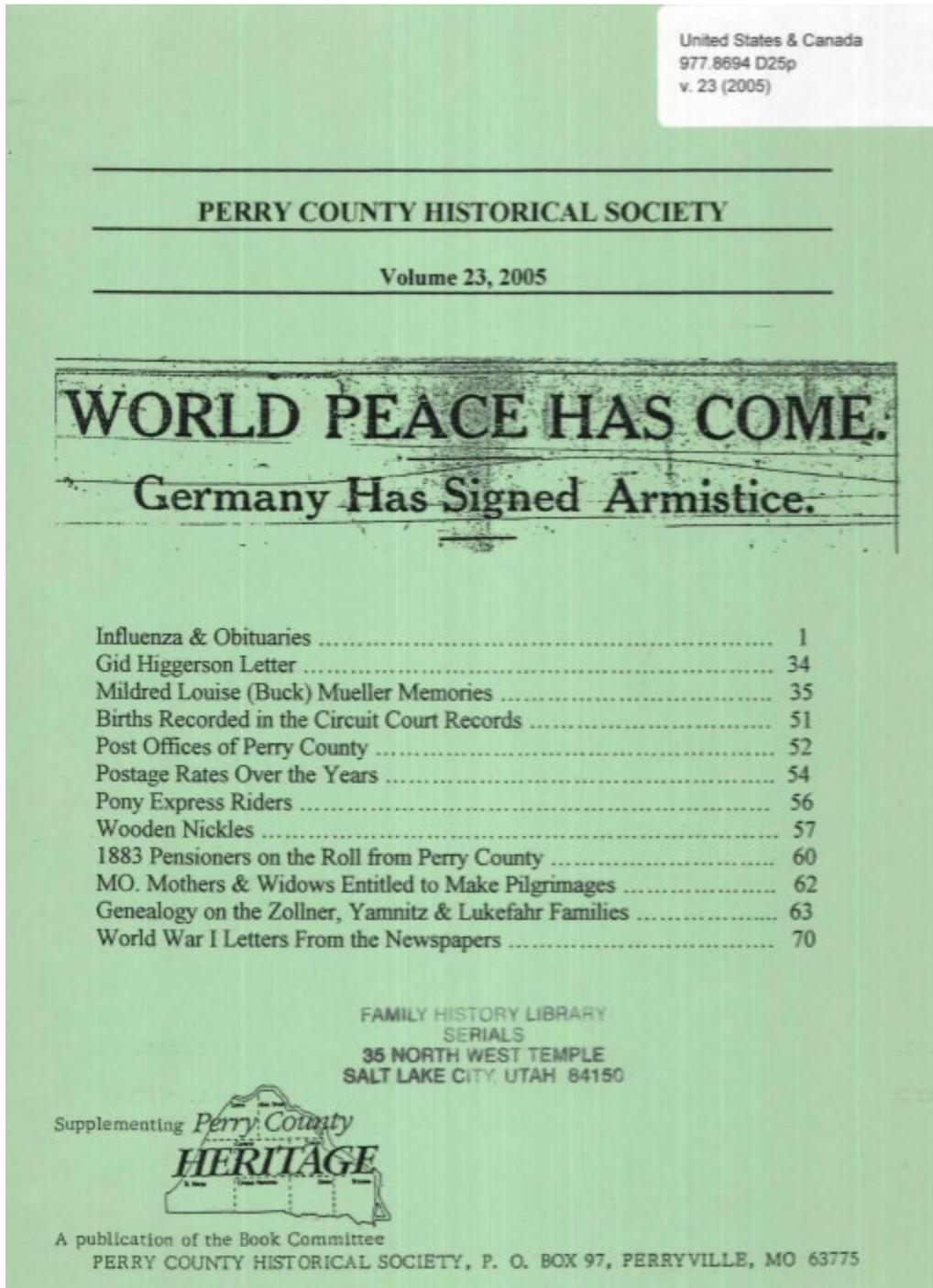


Excerpted from:



https://dcms.lids.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE87105

The loose files in our Genealogy Library have many useful and interesting items for the researcher. The following is one example.

218 Pheasant Run
Hendersonville
North Carolina 28739
April 27, 1992 (crossed out)
Nov. 7, 1992 (handwritten)

Perry County Historical Society
P. O. Box 97
Perryville, Missouri 63775

RE: Information for publication and for archives -
LUKEFAHR and ZOLLNER

Permission has been given by Arlene K. Bennett for the printing in the HERITAGE her information on the Sylvester Lukefahr Family. (which also includes information on his half-brother, Casper Lukefahr – whose mother was Wilhelmina Zollner), as written for the publication, "Historic Matagorda County (Texas), Volume III".

I am also enclosing a one-sheet outline of the Henry Casper ZOLLNER family, who lived in Perry County, St. Mary's Township. He was known as Casper. His family is not known to be related to the ZOELLNER families that lived in Perry County, Cinque Homme Township. Henry Casper Zollner was the grandfather of Casper Lukefahr.

Also enclosed is a letter of September 5, 1988 to Clyde Lukefahr, Perry County, from the Heinz Lukefahr family of Bad Laer, Hannover, Germany.

As there are many Lukefahr's living in Perry County, I am certain that the publishing of this information would be of great interest. If not published, please save in your archives (even IF publisher.!)

Arlene K. Bennett asks that acknowledgement be given to the Matagorda County publication when her information is published.

(I have not asked Clyde for permission to have his letter and information published.) I received a copy through Earl Lukefahr (of Marie and Earl) But, I don't expect that Clyde would object. How wonderful for the Lukefahr's that there has been a present-day connection made with those still living in Bad Laer!

Yours truly,

Frances Yamnitz Gadd
(Mrs. Charles W. Gadd)

Handwritten – Great-grand-daughter of Henry Casper ZOLLNER (1819-1896)

The following article mentioned in the letter from Frances Gadd, written by Arlene (Kemp) Bennett, 310 14th Street, Bay City Texas 77414, was in the Matagorda County Texas Genealogical Society, publication Historic Matagorda County, Volume III, dated 1988

SYLVESTER LUKEFAHR FAMILY

The history of the Lukefahr and Kemp families in Matagorda County began with the marriage of Sylvester (Sylveris) Lukefahr and Elizabeth Selbach on April 21, 1881, at St. Libory, Nebraska. Seven children were born of this union: Elizabeth (Lukefahr) Barth, John J. "Jack", Kathryn Anne (Lukefahr) Parsons, Edgar Louis, Marie Josephine (Lukefahr) Kemp and two children who died in childhood, Anthony and Harry.

Sylvester, born on December 31, 1860, in Perryville, Missouri, was the fourth son of Anton "Anthony" Lukefahr and Elizabeth Asgot Lukefahr. At the age sixteen, Anton and his family left their home in Bad Laer, Hannover (sic), Germany, and sailing from Bremen, arrived in New Orleans in 1836. Anton's father died and was buried at sea on his second crossing to America. The family moved up the Mississippi and settled in Perryville, Missouri. For a time, they farmed land belonging to the Catholic seminary, and some of the Lutheran family embraced the Catholic faith. A family story, which has been passed down is that upon arrival in New Orleans, one of Anton's brothers headed west to Texas to join in the fight for independence from Mexico and was never heard from again.

As a young man, Sylvester left Perry County, Missouri, and joined a group of people going west. He homesteaded land near Grand Island, Nebraska, naming the town St. Libory. It was here that he met and married Elizabeth. In 1891 he sold or traded his homestead for a ranch in the sand hills of Wheeler County, Nebraska, and joined by his half brother, Casper or "Capp" son of Anton's second wife (surnamed Zoellner), who helped him operate the ranch. In 1897 Sylvester sold the ranch and bought two farms, one east and one north of Greeley Center, later called Greeley, Nebraska, and he grew corn, oats, barley and wheat. Later he bought another farm in Nebraska.

Shortly after their youngest child, Marie, was born in 1905, Elizabeth developed tuberculosis. Seeking a milder climate for her and drawn by reports of rich, abundant farmland for sale, Sylvester traveled to Matagorda County in 1906. In the summer of 1907, he shipped mules, wagons and farm equipment by boxcar and moved his family to the Bay City area.

Between 1907 and 1910, Sylvester purchased nearly 500 acres of farmland in Matagorda County and built a home and farm buildings just across the Missouri-Pacific tracks on the Sargent Road. Casper and his wife, Minnie, joined him in Texas, also purchasing farmland in the county, later deeding an acre for the construction of the Lukefahr School, where many early Matagorda Countians were educated to the eighth grade. Casper later settled in Kirbyville, Texas, with his family and he was buried there. There is also a Lukefahr School in Crossroads, Missouri.

Sylvester was one of the county's early rice farmers, planting on his farm just outside Bay City and obtaining the needed water from a canal north of the Missouri-Pacific tracks, which was extended under the tracks to the Lukefahr farm. His son, Edgar, recalled riding the lead mule of a team of eight mules pulling a "binder" which formed "bundles" (combines were not developed until later). The farm hands made "shocks" out of several bundles, leaving the rice standing in the field to "cure in the shock" as there were no dryers at that time.

Elizabeth died on January 4, 1910, in Bay City and was buried in St. Libory, Nebraska. In 1912 Sylvester married Susan Callahan McElwee in Greeley, Nebraska. His sixteen-year-old daughter, Kathryn Anne, served as maid of honor. They returned to Matagorda County that same year. In 1915 Sylvester turned his farm over to his oldest son, John "Jack" Lukefahr, who tried his hand at cotton, corn and watermelons, instead of rice.

Until his death on July 4, 1940, in Greeley, Sylvester and "Susie" alternated residences, spending most winters in Palacios at Allen's Tourist Court so he could take care of farming business in Bay City and summers at his permanent residence in the town of Greeley, Nebraska. His son Edgar and family lived on one of the Nebraska farms close to Greeley and his daughter Kathryn Anne Parsons and her family lived on the other. In 1918 he leased the Matagorda County farm to Asa "Smith" Johnson and his wife, Roxie Neel, and they farmed the land until 1939. He sold his other Matagorda County properties.

In 1937 daughter Marie, her husband Paul Kemp, and their child, Arlene Mary left their home in Lincoln, Nebraska, to live permanently on part of the Lukefahr land near Bay City. A son, Richard Paul, was born in 1940.

In 1939 son Edgar Lukefahr, his wife Elsie Waugh, and their eight children, Mary Elizabeth (Lukefahr) Moore, Harold Anthony, Maurice James, Paul Francis, Thomas Edgar, Dorothy Ann (Lukefahr) Treybig, Teresa Irene (Lukefahr) Lezak and Charlotte Marie (Lukefahr) Parks, moved to Bay City from the Lukefahr family farm in Nebraska to live next to the Kemp family on the Sargent Road. Edgar farmed the Lukefahr property until World War II, and then he helped build Camp Hulen at Palacios, and also helped build the oil refinery at Old Ocean, Texas, working as a carpenter.

Sylvester's widowed daughter, Kathryn Anne Parsons, who graduated from Bay City High School in May, 1911, returned to live in Bay City at various times and is remembered by many as a capable, personable nurse at Matagorda General Hospital during the 1940's and early 1950's. Kathryn Parsons' daughters Elizabeth and Anne, attended Bay City High School from 1939 to 1940. Their brother, Charles Parsons, lived in Bay City for a time after World War II. Later he made a permanent home in Oregon, reared a family of nine, and worked for the railroad.

In 1987 six descendants of Sylvester and Elizabeth Lukefahr live in Matagorda County: Mr. And Mrs. Thomas E. Lukefahr; Mr. And Mrs. Harold Lukefahr; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Lukefahr, Jr; and their children, Amanda and Thomas Jack; and Arlene Kemp and husband William Bennett.

Frances (Yamnitz) Gadd's address on her letter is still her current address.

Do not know if the address for Arlene (Kemp) Bennett is current.

Below is the letter written in German, received by Clyde Lukefahr, who has given permission to use in this publication. Marie, wife of Clyde said that they received a Christmas card from this family for several years but have since lost contact.

Bad Laer, den 05.09.1988

Sehr geehrter

Herr Clyde

Über Ihr Schreiben

haben wir uns sehr gefreut.

Unsere verspätete Antwort bitten wir zu entschuldigen.

Uns ist seit jeher bekannt, daß Angehörige der Familie LückeFahr in Amerika leben. Doch hatten wir bisher keine weiteren Anhaltspunkte darüber, wo sie leben könnten.

Durch verstärkte Nachforschung in den letzten Monaten haben wir einige Unterlagen erhalten, in denen eine erstmalige Namensnennung der Familie LückeFahr bis ins Jahre 1615 zurückreicht.

Eine Fotokopie über die Familienmitglieder Georg, Anton LückeFahr, welche in den Jahren 1837 u. 1839 nach Amerika auswanderten, lasse ich Ihnen mit diesem Brief zukommen. Der Besitz der Familie Georg, Anton LückeFahr ging damals auf Kasper Heinrich Dickmeyer und Frau Maria Elisabeth Kohn über. Mit der Hofstätte wurde auch der Name LückeFahr übernommen.

Nun zur jetzigen Familie LückeFahr-

Helma LückeFahr geboren am 09.07.1940 und Frau Elfriede LückeFahr geb. am 16.07.1939 wohnen mit ihrer Mutter (Schwiegermutter) im Alter von 80 Jahren und ihren Kindern Evelyn 23Jhr., Marita 22Jhr., Ilona 18Jhr. und Hartmut 15Jhr. in Bad Laer, in dem Stammhaus der Familie LückeFahr.

Fir führen neben unserem landwirtschaftlichen Betrieb, den wir seit einigen Jahren verpachtet haben, ein Hotel

Restaurant in 4. Generation und begehen im nächsten Jahr das 125jährige Betriebsjubiläum.

Wir würden uns freuen, mit Ihnen in Briefkontakt zu bleiben.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Familie H.LückeFahr

H. LückeFahr 67

Translation of letter —

Regarding your letter we were made very happy
please excuse our belated answer

We always knew that members of our family Lukefar live in
America. Yet up till now, we had no knowledge, where
they could live.

Through stronger investigation during the last months we received
a number of (unterlager- manuscripts?) in which there
were found names of the family Lukefar, reaching back
to the year 1615.

I am enclosing in this letter photocopies of the Georg
Anton Lukefar family members that emigrated from the years
1837-1839:

The homestead of the George Anton family was taken over
by Kasper Heinrich Dickmeyer and his wife Maria Elizabeth
Hohm, with this homestead the name Lukefahr was retained

Now in regard to the present family Lukefahr
Heinz Lukefahr, born July 9, 1940 and wife Elfriede
Lukefahr, born July 16, 1939 – they live with her
mother (Schwieger) – 80 yrs old, and their children
Evelyn 23 yrs, Marita, 22 yrs, Ilona 18 yrs and
Hartmut 15 yrs in Bad Laer – in the Lukefahr homestead

Besides our farming, we have been running a restaurant
and a hotel – The 4th generation and are able to
observe our 125th anniversary next year.

We would be happy to continue our letter exchange
With friendly greetings

