

March 10, 1974

The following was taken from hand written notations on two old framed slates in the possession of Mrs. Estelle Hanna of Yoakum, Texas. These were found in the boxes of some of the Smith belongings. They were written by Alice Smith-great aunt of Mrs. Hanna and James W. Boyd. These were written prior to 1937 since that was the year of Miss Smith's death. Not all the writing was legible so there are skips in the article.

"I hear there were 3 Johann Smiths in the ancestry of Grandpa's father was Johann the 3 and is John four generations. They left from Bedesheim Germany November 1845. Landed at Indianola either same year or 1846. I imagine as at that time taken so long to make the trip. Grandpa's father had so much good home made wine to bring over when he got on the ship with it th V ed not allow him to bring it along so had to give it away and he drank a good deal of it to keep it from wasting more than he should have drank so he got lively and started to run and jump from one ship to the other. They caught him and held him and he seemed to be all right and said he wouldn't run away again so they turned him aloose and he ran again and a little later he fell between 2 ships as they were nearly ready to leave so delayed leaving to get him but never did find him. So came on and enquired after they got over here. If he was found over there but they don't think they ever found him. So it was Grandpas mother and her family of three girls and 2 boys came over with lots of other people on the ship. Grandpa was a boy about 16 years old when they came out. They lived at Old Town and his mother froze to death the 29th of Dec. 1849. Was an awful warm day. She was thinly dressed and the calf got out with the milk cow so she taken a little rap and went out to get the calf and got so far out to get it and all of a sudden it came up a fog and cold freezing norther a regular blizzard and she got lost out over the se high ridges. So where they found her she was lying there with a little hole dug in the ground and her head in it for protection and she was frozen stiff. Was so terrible cold they took a wagon out to get her but couldn't stand it so had finally taken blankets out there to wrap her in and bury her right out there. Grandpa was born March 1, 1829 Germany died May 22, 1907 Grandma's Father, Christopher Ludwig and Ludwig and three boys left Hessin, Germany ;Sept. 1845. Therey was one of Grandmas Aunts was a 11 yr. old when they came over. Bord the ship taken sick and died on the way over and was buried at sea. I think was about 300 grants aboard the ship, they encountered a storm in the English Channel and had to be locked in the cabin for 3 days. They was so crowded had to set up and sleep- was delayed a week. They carried burning Tar Pots through the ship to fumigate after the storm and dropped one of the pots and liked to have had a big fire. I think it taken 160 days to make the trip over. Landed at Indianola 1846. Grandpa Ludwig died with Cholera a year or so after coming over."

This article could have been copied down by a neice or nephew of Alice Smith- the reason for her calling her own Mother and Father, Grandpa and Grandma. The slates did have the name Alice Smith on them as if they were hers.