

Hinrich Seedorf & Maria Koehnke

*Living in Faith Throughout Their Lives
From Northwestern Germany to Henry County, Ohio*



Henry & Maria Seedorf, about 1915

By: Lori Rabe Esch

December 2017

Acknowledgements

The initial intent was not to do a book at this point on Hinrich and Maria. It started as a short story to be posted on the Henry County Genealogical Society website. However as the writing progressed, there was more information and photos and the writing continued. With the encouragement of Dana Palmer this book was completed. Any errors are mine.

A huge thank you to:

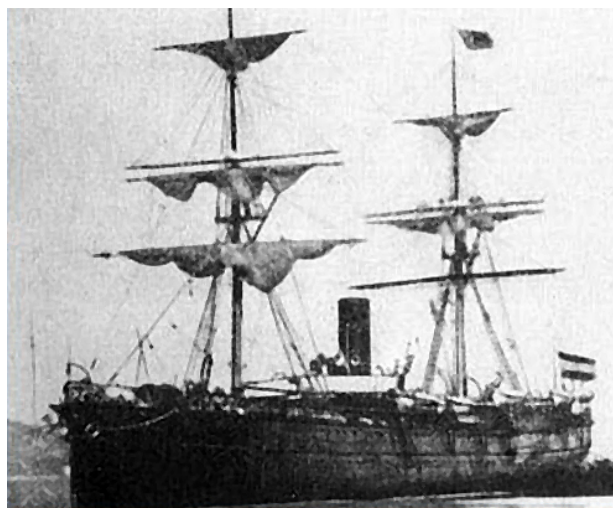
- Dana Palmer, Certified Genealogist, for her formatting skills and expert research collaboration
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- Bob Rau, for the German record translations
- Walter Homann of Germany, for the many hours he spent in research at the German churches and archives
- Larry and Leona Witte, for some of the photos

Lori Rabe Esch
December 2017

Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf

The following is a story about my great grandparents, Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm “Henry N.W” Seedorf and his wife Maria Koehnke who were born in Germany and immigrated to the U.S. and eventually settled in Bartlow Township in Henry County, Ohio. They were the maternal grandparents of my mother, Amanda Ludeman Rabe. Fortunately, my mother saved many newspaper articles and worked on genealogy in the 1970’s. Her efforts and papers have been invaluable to me as I have continued her journey. I have used the spelling as originally recorded in the records.

Hinrich Seedorf departed Bremen, Germany on the *Strassburg* and arrived in Baltimore, Maryland on the 24th of May 1884,¹ which was 2 days after his 27th birthday. His “calling” or occupation was listed as workman. He was in the steerage compartment and had one piece of luggage. Steerage described the part of the ship where most of the passengers traveled. This was an area between decks and the ceiling height was usually 6-8 feet. This area was allotted to those passengers traveling at the cheapest rate.



Strassburg

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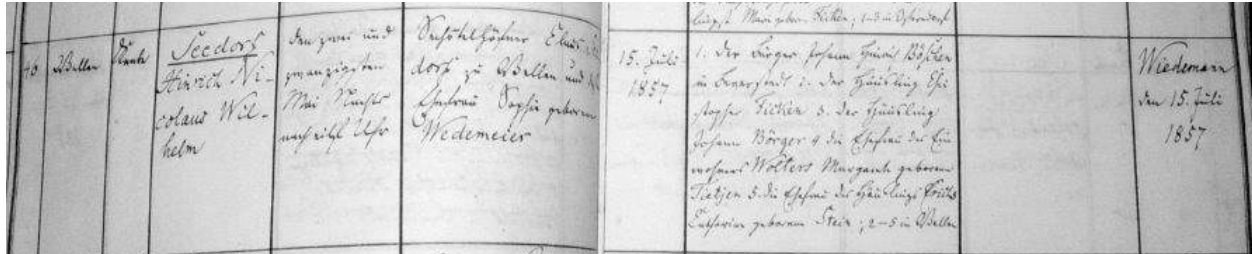
NAME	AGE		SEX	CALLING	The country of which they are citizens	Intended destination or location	DATE OF DEPARTURE	Location of compartment or space	Number of pieces of luggage	Transferred on its health, or whether it contracted epidemic
	Years	Months								
485 Kekyal Peit	20		m	workman	Germany	Baltimore		steerage	1	Baltimore
486 Friedrich Kersal	23		m	dr	"	"		"	1	"
487 Johann Tummel	16		m	dr	"	"		"	1	"
488 Geger Marchel	15		m	dr	"	"		"	1	"
489 Frick Hermann	26		m	dr	"	"		"	2	"
490 Johann Hauschild	26		m	dr	"	"		"	1	"
491 Hinrich Seedorf	27		m	dr	"	"		"	1	"

Hinrich Seedorf ship passenger arrival list,
arriving in NY on 24 May 1884 from Bremen on the ship *Strassburg*

This all sounds fairly straight forward; however, he left behind his fiancée, Maria in Germany. He came to the new world to work and earn enough money to eventually go back to marry her and then to return to Ohio with her. Yet when he departed, Heinrich had no idea how long they would be separated. What a leap of faith and struggle that must have been to leave her behind!

¹ “Baltimore, Passenger Lists, 1820-1964,” database with images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 Nov 2017); entry for Hinrich Seedorf, 24 May 1884, *Strassburg*; citing *Records of the US Customs Service, Records*; National Archives RG36, p. 13.

Twenty-seven years prior, Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf was born in Wellen near Beverstedt in the province of Hannover on 22 May 1857 to Claus Seedorf and Sophia Wedemeier. This area in northwestern Germany is where the majority of Henry county, Ohio ancestors originated. He was baptized on 15 July in the Lutheran faith in Beverstedt and then confirmed on Easter Sunday 1871.²



Baptismal entry for Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf, 15 July 1857

Left side transcription:

Wellen	?	Seedorf, Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm	den zwei und zwanzigsten Mai, Nachts nach eilf Uhr	Sechsstelhöfner(?) Claus Seedorf zu Wellen und dessen Ehefrau Sophie geborne Wedemeier
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Left side translation:

Residence	Sex	Child's Name	Date of birth in 1857	Name, Position and Residence of parents
Wellen	?	Seedorf, Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm	May 22, 11 pm	Sechsstelhöfner Claus Seedorf of Wellen, and his wife Sophie, born Wedemeier

Right side transcription:

15 July 1857	1. der Bürger Johann Heinrich Böhler(?) in Beverstedt 2. der Häusling Chri- stopher Fickler(?), 3. der Häusling Johann Börger, 4. die Ehefrau des Ein- Wohners Wolters Margareta geboren Tietjen, 5. die Ehefrau des Häuslings Priths(?) Catharina geboren Stein(?); 2-5 in Wellen	Wiedemann den 15 Juli 1857
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Right side translation:

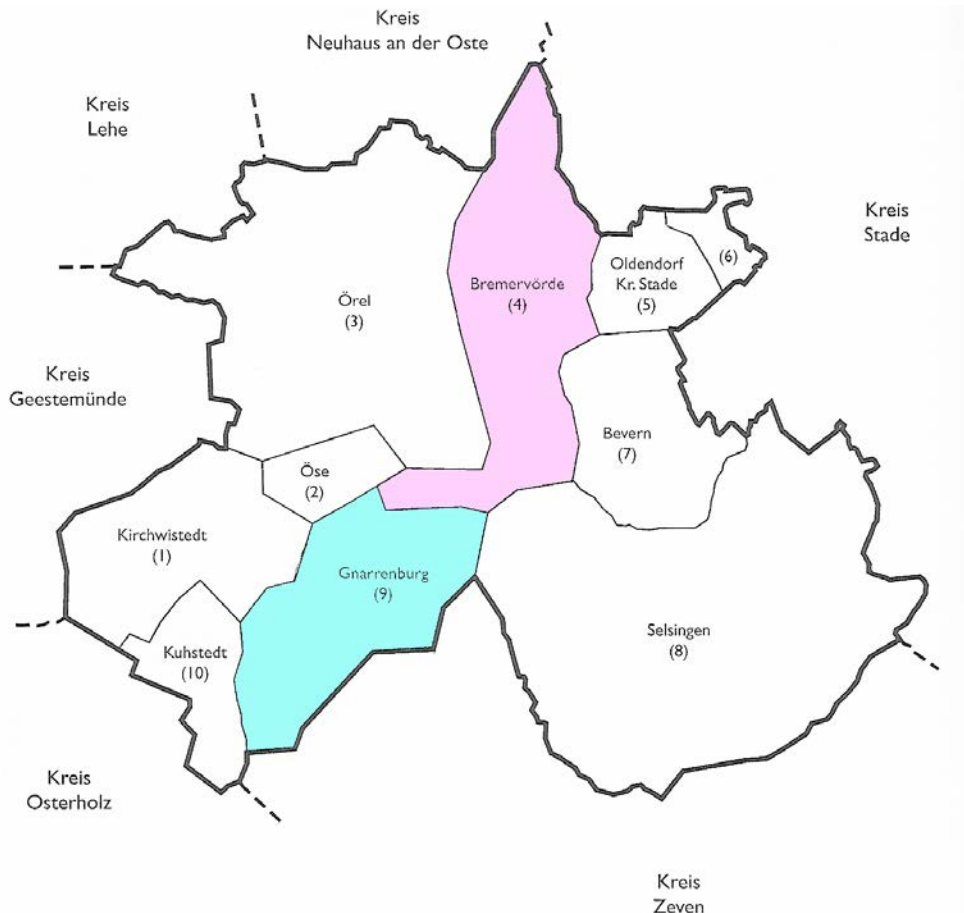
Day of Baptism	Name, Position and Residence of Sponsors	Remarks	Name of Pastor
15 July 1857	1. Citizen Johann Heinrich Böhler from Beverstedt 2. Small farmer Christopher Fickler 3. Small farmer Johann Börger 4. Wife of citizen Wolters, Margareta born Tietjen 5. Wife of small farmer Priths, Catharina born Stein 2 – 5 from Wellen ³		Widemann on the 15 th of July 1857

² Confirmation date was listed in his obituary.

³ *Kirchenbuch*, Evangelische Kirche Beverstedt, Cuxhaven, Hannover, Germany. Taufen (Baptism), Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf, 15 July 1857, p. 123, no. 46. Copy obtained by Walter Homann from the Landkreis Rotenburg (Wümme) Der Landrat, Kreisarchive in Bremervörde.



Map of Gnarrenburg and Beverstedt in Germany from Google Maps



Lutheran Parish Church Districts in Kreis Bremervörde

The Seedorf settlement existed near Beverstedt in 1845. Today, no Seedorf descendants from this line are living in Germany. In September 2014, my siblings and I visited their house, which is now occupied by non-relatives. German records state that Heinrich was a ‘sechstelhofner’. “Sechstel” means one-sixth, so a sechstelhofner would farm a small, one-sixth sized farm. The exact acreage of the farm is not known because farm sizes varied from place to place in Germany.



Seedorf home in Beverstedt, Germany, 2014

After arriving in the United States, Hinrich worked for 3 ½ years as a hired hand on a farm located where the Filling Home, just outside of Napoleon, stands today. Most likely Heinrich did not know English nor did he have his bride-to-be Maria by his side, so the first 3 ½ years alone in a strange, new country must have felt immensely longer. Finally in the winter of 1887-1888, he had saved enough money to return to Germany and marry Maria Koehnke on 9 March 1888 in Gnarrenburg.⁴

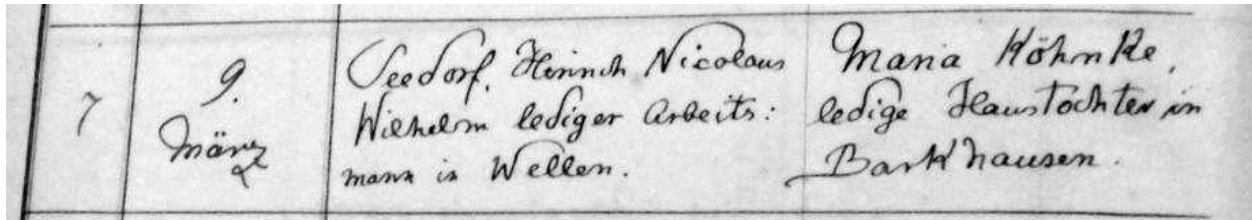


Hinrich Seedorf & Maria Koehnke wedding picture, 9 March 1888

⁴ *Verwaltungsgemeinschaft*, Civil Registration, Heiraten (Marriage), Hinrich Seedorf and Maria Koehnke, 9 March 1888, Gnarrenburg (KreisA ROW, D4, Nr. 19). Copy obtained by Walter Homann from the Landkreis Rotenburg (Wümme) Der Landrat, Kreisarchive in Bremervörde.

Gnarrenburg Church Marriage Record

for Hinrich Seedorf and Maria Koehnke, 9 March 1888



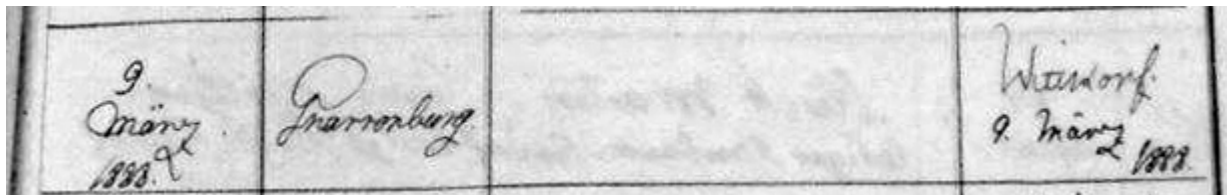
Left side of the church marriage record book:

Transcription:

<i>Nr.</i>	<i>Datum des heirat</i>	<i>Vor und Zuname Stand u Wohnort des Bräutigams</i>	<i>Vor und Zuname Stand u Wohnort die Bräut</i>
7	9. März	Seedorf, Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm lediger Arbeitsmann in Wellen.	Maria Köhnke ledige Haustochter in Barkhausen

Translation:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date of License</i>	<i>Grooms name, occupation and residence</i>	<i>Bride's name, occupation and residence</i>
7	9 March	Seedorf, Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm unmarried working man in Wellen	Maria Köhnke servant girl in Barkhausen



Right side of the church marriage record book:

Transcription:

<i>Datum des heirat</i>	<i>Ort der Eheschließung</i>	<i>Bemerkungen</i>	<i>Pastor und datum of Aufnahme</i>
9. März 1888	Gnarrenburg		Wiesdorf 9. März 1888

Translation:

<i>Date of Marriage</i>	<i>Place of Marriage</i>	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Pastor</i>
9. März 1888	Gnarrenburg		Wiesdorf 9 March 1888. ⁵

⁵ *Kirchenbuch*, Evangelische Kirche Gnarrenburg, Rotenburg (Wümme), Hannover, Germany. Heiraten (Marriage), Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf and Maria Köhnke, 9 March 1888, p. 21, no. 7. Copy obtained by Walter Homann from the Landkreis Rotenburg (Wümme) Der Landrat, Kreisarchive in Bremervörde.

Civil Registration, Gnarrenburg, Hannover, Germany

Marriage of Hinrich Seedorf and Maria Koehnke, 9 March 1888, page 1

Nr. 7

Gnarrenburg am Neun^{ten}
März^z tausend acht hundert achtzig und acht

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschienen heute zum Zweck der Eheschließung:

1. der Haussohn Hinrich Nicolaus
Wilhelm Seedorf

der Persönlichkeit nach

bekannt,
Lutherisch Religion, geboren den zwei und zwanzigsten Mai des Jahres tausend acht hundert fünfzig und sieben zu Wellen
wohnhaft zu Wellen
vordem in Amerika aufenthalthene
Sohn des sechstelhöfners Claus Seedorf
und dessen Ehefrau Sophia,
geb. Wedemann wohnhaft
zu Wellen,

2. die Haustochter Maria Köhnke

der Persönlichkeit nach

bekannt,
Lutherisch Religion, geboren den zweiten December des Jahres tausend acht hundert fünfzig und sechs zu Barkhausen
wohnhaft zu Barkhausen
Tochter des weiland Anbauer Hinrich Köhnke, und dessen nochlebende Ehefrau Anna, geb. Hoppe wohnhaft
zu Barkhausen

Nr. 7

Gnarrenburg am Neunten
März tausend acht hundert Achtzig und acht

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschienen heute zum Zweck der Eheschließung

1. der Haussohn Hinrich Nicolaus
Wilhelm Seedorf

der Persönlichkeit nach

bekannt,
Lutherisch Religion, geboren den zwei und zwanzigsten Mai des Jahres tausend acht hundert fünfzig und sieben zu Wellen
wohnhaft, zu Wellen
vordem in Amerika aufenthalthene
Sohn des sechstelhöfners Claus Seedorf
und dessen Ehefrau Sophia,
geb. Wedemann wohnhaft
zu Wellen

2. die Haustochter Maria Köhnke

der Persönlichkeit nach

bekannt
Lutherisch Religion, geboren den zweiten
December des Jahres tausend acht hundert
fünfzig und sechs zu Barkhausen
wohnhaft zu Barkhausen

Tochter des weiland Anbauer Hinrich
Köhnke, und dessen nochlebende
Ehefrau Anna, geb. Hoppe wohnhaft
zu Barkhausen

Civil Registration, Gnarrenburg, Hannover, Germany

Marriage of Hinrich Seedorf and Maria Koehnke, 9 March 1888, page 2

Als Zeugen waren zugezogen und erschienen:

3. *der Anbauer Georg Seedorf*

der Persönlichkeit nach *be* kannt,

Neunzwanzig Jahre alt, wohnhaft zu *Steden*

4. *der Anbauer Hinrich Köhnken*

der Persönlichkeit nach *be* kannt,

Dreiunddreizig Jahre alt, wohnhaft zu *Barkhausen*

In Gegenwart der Zeugen richtete der Standesbeamte an die Verlobten einzeln und nach einander die Frage: ob sie erklären, daß sie die Ehe mit einander eingehen wollen. Die Verlobten beantworteten diese Frage bejahend und erfolgte hierauf der Ausspruch des Standesbeamten, daß er sie nunmehr kraft des Gesetzes für rechtmäßig verbundene Eheleute erkläre.

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und *von beiderseits*
Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf
Maria Seedorf
Georg Seedorff
Hinrich Köhnke

Der Standesbeamte.
Wieschen

Als Zeugen waren zugezogen und erschienen:

3. der Anbauer Georg Seedorf

der Persönlichkeit nach

bekannt,

Neunzwanzig Jahr alt, wohnhaft zu Steden

4. der Anbauer Hinrich Köhnken

der Persönlichkeit nach

bekannt,

Dreiunddreizig Jahr alt, wohnhaft zu Barkhausen

In Gegenwart der Zeugen richtete der Standesbeamte an die Verlobten einzeln und nach einander die Frage:

ob sie erklären, daß sie die Ehe mit einander eingehen wollen. Die Verlobten beantworteten diese Frage bejahend und erfolgte hierauf der Ausspruch des Standesbeamten, daß er sie nunmehr kraft des Gesetzes für rechtmäßig verbundene Eheleute erkläre.

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben

Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf

Maria Seedorf

Georg Seedorff

Hinrich Köhnke

Der Standesbeamte.

Wieschen



St. Paul Church in Gnarrenburg, Germany where Maria Köhnke was baptized and confirmed
 Photo taken by Amanda Ludeman Rabe, 1973

Civil Registration, Gnarrenburg, Hannover, Germany

Marriage of Hinrich Seedorf and Maria Koehnke, 9 March 1888, page 1

Nr. 7

Gnarrenburg am Neun^{ten}
 März^{en} tausend acht hundert achtzig und acht^{und}

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschienen heute zum
 Zweck der Eheschließung:

1. der *Herr Hinrich Nicolaus
 Wilhelm Seedorf*

der Persönlichkeit nach _____

_____ in kannt,
 Lutheran Religion, geboren den *zweizehnten
 Mai* des Jahres tausend acht hundert
fünfzig und sieben zu *Wellen*
 , wohnhaft zu *Wellen*
worden in Amerika aufaufstehen
 Sohn de *sechstelhöfners Claus Seedorf*
und seiner Ehefrau Sophia
geb. Wedemann wohnhaft
 zu *Wellen*,

2. die *Fräulein Maria Köhnke*

der Persönlichkeit nach _____

_____ in kannt,
 Lutheran Religion, geboren den *Zwölften*
Dezember des Jahres tausend acht hundert
fünfzig und sechs zu *Barkhausen*
 , wohnhaft zu *Barkhausen*

*Tochter de ~~deceased~~ Bauers Hinrich
 Köhnke, und seiner noch lebenden
 Ehefrau Anna, geb. Hoppe* wohnhaft
 zu *Barkhausen*

No. 7

Gnarrenburg on ninth of
 March one thousand eight hundred eighty-eight

Before the undersigned civil registrar appeared
 today for the purpose of marriage:

1. The farm laborer Hinrich Nicolaus
 Wilhelm Seedorf

of known personality

Lutheran Religion, born on the 22nd
 of May in the year one thousand eight hundred
 fifty-seven at Wellen

living at Wellen

previously staying in America
 son of the sechsstelhofner Claus Seedorf
 and his wife Sophia,
 born Wedemann, living
 in Wellen

2. The servant girl Maria Köhnke

of known personality

Lutheran Religion, born on the 2nd of
 December in the year one thousand eight hundred
 fifty-six at Barkhausen

, living in Barkhausen

daughter of the deceased small farmer Hinrich
 Köhnke, and his still living
 wife Anna, born Hoppe living
 in Barkhausen

Civil Registration, Gnarrenburg, Hannover, Germany

Marriage of Hinrich Seedorf and Maria Koehnke, 9 March 1888, page 2

Als Zeugen waren zugezogen und erschienen:

3. *der Au bauer Georg Seedorf*
 der Persönlichkeit nach
31 Jahre alt, wohnhaft zu *Steden*

4. *der Au bauer Hinrich Köhnken*
 der Persönlichkeit nach
33 Jahre alt, wohnhaft zu *Barkhausen*

In Gegenwart der Zeugen richtete der Standesbeamte an die Verlobten einzeln und nach einander die Frage: ob sie erklären, daß sie die Ehe mit einander eingehen wollen. Die Verlobten beantworteten diese Frage bejahend und erfolgte hierauf der Ausspruch des Standesbeamten, daß er sie nunmehr kraft des Gesetzes für rechtmäßig verbundene Eheleute erkläre.

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und *von beidseitigen*
Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf
Maria Seedorf
Georg Seedorff
Hinrich Köhnke

Der Standesbeamte.
Wieschen

As witnesses, were drawn together and appeared:

3. The small farmer Georg Seedorf

 of known personality

29 years old, living at Steden

4. The small farmer Hinrich Köhnken

 of known personality

33 years old, living at Barkhausen

In the presence of witnesses, the civil registrar directed to the engaged couple individually and together, the question: whether they declare that they wish to go into this marriage with each other. The engaged couple answered this question affirmatively, and then followed the pronouncement of the civil registrar that on the strength of the law he henceforth declares them to be a lawfully bound married couple.

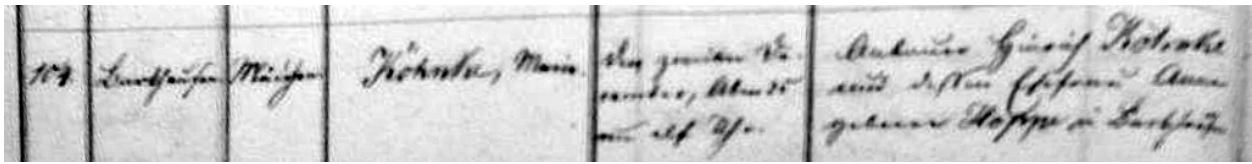
Read aloud, approved and signed
 Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf
 Maria Seedorf
 Georg Seedorff
 Hinrich Köhnke

The registrar.
 Wieschen



A more current photo of the St. Paul Church in Gnarrenburg

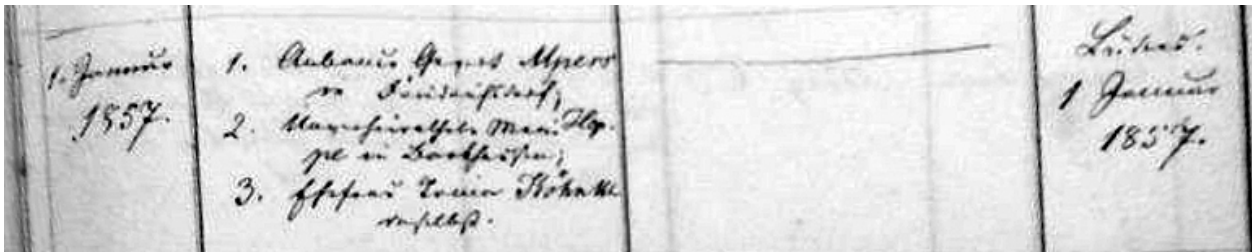
Maria Köhnke was born 2 December 1856 in Barkhausen in the Hannover province to Hinrich Köhnke and Anna Hoppe and baptized in the St. Paul Lutheran church in Gnarrenburg on 1 January 1857.⁶ When she was 15 years old she was confirmed.



Left side of page

Nr	Ort des Geburt	Geschlecht des Kindes	Voller Namen des Kindes	Tag und Stande der Geburt in Jaher 1856	Namen, Stand und Wohnort des Eltern
104	Barkhausen	Mädchen	Köhnke, Maria	den zweiten De- cember Abends um elf Uhr	Anbauer Hinrich Köhnke und dessen Ehefrau Anna geboren Hoppe zu Barkhausen

No.	Place of birth	Sex of child	Name of the child	Date and Month of birth in 1856	Names, position and residence of the parents
104	Barkhausen	Girl	Köhnke, Maria	December 2 11 PM	Small farmer Hinrich Köhnke and his wife Anna born Hoppe in Barkhausen



Right side of page

Tag der Taufe	Namen, Stand und Wohnort in Taufzeugen	Bemerkungen	Namen des Pastors
1. Januar 1857	1. Anbauer Ernst Alpers in Friedrichsdorf 2. Unverheirathete Maria Hop- pe in Barkhausen 3. Ehefrau Louise Köhnke dasselbst		Lührs 1 Januar 1857

Date of Baptism	Name, Occupation and Residence of Sponsor (godparents)	Remarks	Name of Pastor
1 January 1857	1. Small farmer Ernst Alpers of Friedrichsdorf 2. Unmarried Maria Hop- pe in Barkhausen 3. Married Woman Louise Köhnke herself		Lührs 1 January 1857

⁶ Kirchenbuch, Evangelische Kirche Gnarrenburg, Rotenburg (Wümme), Hannover, Germany. Taufen (Baptism), Maria Köhnke, 1 Jan 1857, p. 68, no. 104. Copy obtained by Walter Homann from the Landkreis Rotenburg (Wümme) Der Landrat, Kreisarchive in Bremervörde.

Seven weeks after Heinrich and Maria's marriage, they made the final and permanent trip from Germany, arriving in Baltimore on the ship *Main* on 28 April 1888 from Bremen.⁷ For some unknown reason, she was listed separately on the ship passenger list as Maria Koehnke.⁸

NAME	AGE		SEX	CALLING	The country of which they are citizens	Intended destination or locality	DATE OF DEPARTURE	Location of embarkation or point of origin	Number of pieces of baggage	Whether or in transit, or whether intended to remain
	Years	Months								
192 Carl A. H. W.	..			Prussia, V.D.		Mass		00.		
201 Julius Kettel	18		m						1	
2 Carl Truppel	28		m						1	
3 Heinrich Seedorf	30		m			Ohio				
4 Georg Brunk	17		m			Winn.			1	
5 Mich. Kohnke	28		m							

Heinrich Seedorf ship passenger arrival list, leaving Bremen and arriving in Baltimore on the ship *Main*, 28 April 1888

NAME	AGE		SEX	CALLING	The country of which they are citizens	Intended destination or locality	DATE OF DEPARTURE	Location of embarkation or point of origin	Number of pieces of baggage	Whether or in transit, or whether intended to remain
	Years	Months								
252 Dorothea Kohnke	18		f	servant	Bohemia	Phillips, Ohio		Saloon, Compl. 20.		Out for 100.
3 Anna Kohnke	28		f	wife						
390 Dorothea Kohnke	18		f	wife						
1 Josef Pechac	18		m	servant	Bohemia					2-1-1-4
2 Barbara Kohnke	24		f	wife						22-6-2-5
3 Josef	2		m	child						
4 Joh. Kohnke	27		m	child					2	
5 Franz			m	child		Ill				
6 Maria Kohnke	18		f	servant						
7 Anna Kohnke	21		f	wife	Germany	Ohio				
8 Maria Kohnke	28		f	wife	Bohemia	Ohio			1	
9 Maria Kohnke	25		f	wife	Germany	Ohio				
100 Carl Brunk	17		m							

Maria Kohnke ship passenger arrival list, leaving Bremen and arriving in Baltimore on the ship *Main*, 28 April 1888

The couple brought a simple wooden chest containing all of their belongings and measuring only 29 inches long, 15 inches wide and 14 inches deep. Today, this chest is in my possession; one side of the chest still retains a partial label that says "Bremerhaven" which was their departure port of Bremen.

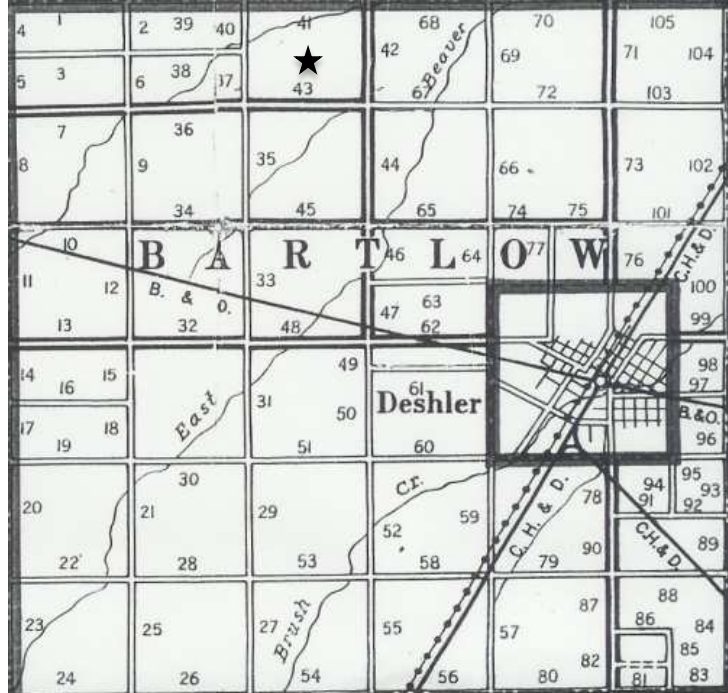


Seedorf wooden chest brought from Germany to Ohio

⁷ "Baltimore, Passenger Lists, 1820-1964," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 Nov 2017); entry for Heino Seedorf, 28 Apr 1888, *Main*; citing *Records of the US Customs Service, Records*; National Archives RG36, p. 4.

⁸ "Baltimore, Passenger Lists, 1820-1964," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 Nov 2017); entry for Maria Kohnke, 28 Apr 1888, *Main*; citing *Records of the US Customs Service, Records*; National Archives RG36, p. 7.

Now the two newlyweds were finally able to begin their new life together. Initially they lived in Flatrock Township and then moved to Bartlow Township where they rented a farm for 10 years. Finally after a decade, they had the resources to purchase their own farm in 1899 on County Road F between State Route 65 and County Road 3. They worked the fields and raised their family; Anna Maria, Christ, Sophia, William, Mary and Henry. Today, Seedorf descendants still reside on this farm. From a single wooden to chest to their own farm, Henry and Maria were able to build a home and life for their family for generations to come.



Map showing Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio
The Seedorfs lived in property #43

For family history researchers in the United States, the U.S. federal census is the principal record type for research because it puts people in a certain place at a certain time. Enumerations were mandated by the Constitution and have taken place in all states and territories since 1790. With the exception of the loss of the 1890 records in a tragic 1921 fire, the collection of original pages is virtually complete.

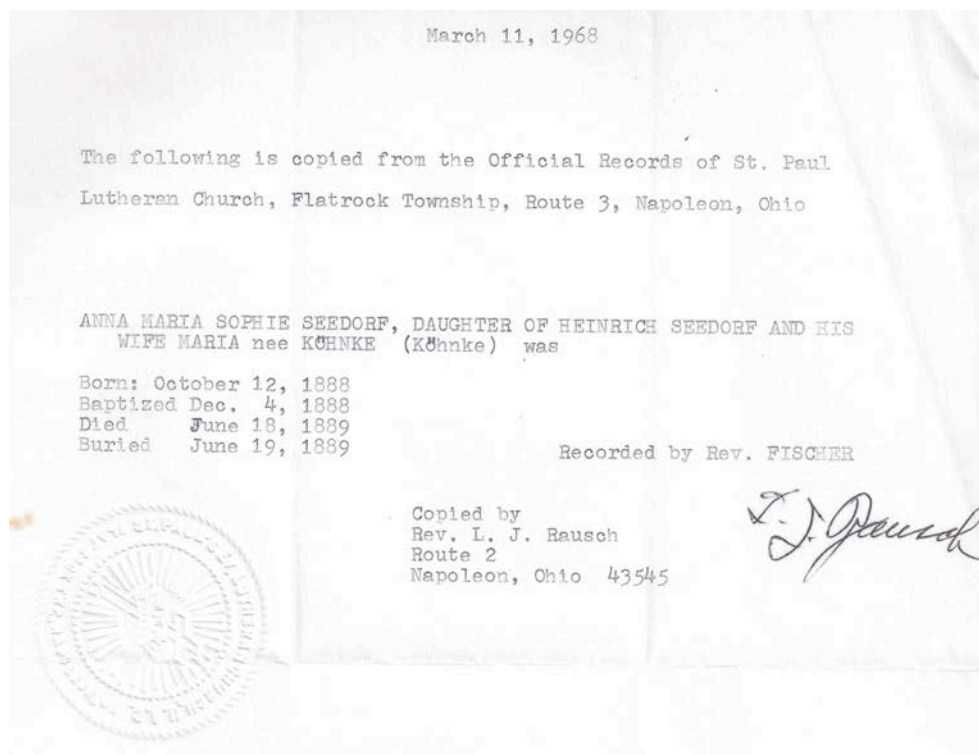
Therefore, the 1900 census is the first census we have of Henry and Mary Seedorf who were both 43 years old at the time. Other family members recorded were Christopher, age 10; Sophia, age 8; William, age 6; Mary M, age 3; and Henry, age 1. Additional information in the census stated Mary was the mother of 6 children with 5 still living. In addition, the 1900 census stated that the children, Christopher and Sophia, attended school. Henry gave his occupation as a farmer and said he owned the farm with a mortgage.⁹

1900 US Census, Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio

58	58	Seedorf, Henry	Head	M	43	May 1857	43	7	19	Germany	Germany	Germany	1874	16	na	Farmer
		Mary	Wife	F	43	Dec 1856	43	7	12	Germany	Germany	Germany	1875	12		
		Christopher	Son	M	10	May 1890	10	8		Ohio	Germany	Germany				at school
		Sophia	Daughter	F	8	Apr 1892	8	8		Ohio	Germany	Germany				at school
		William	Son	M	6	Nov 1894	6	8		Ohio	Germany	Germany				
		Mary M	Daughter	F	3	Feb 1896	3	8		Ohio	Germany	Germany				
		Henry J	Son	M	1	June 1898	1	8		Ohio	Germany	Germany				
		Robert	Daughter	F	22	Nov 1877	22	8		Germany	Germany	Germany	1874	5	al	Farm Laborer

⁹ 1900 U. S. Census, Henry County, Ohio, population schedule, Bartlow, Enumeration District [E.D.] 20, p. 3B, dwelling 58, family, 58, Henry Seedorf, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 4 Nov 2017); citing National Archives microfilm publication T623, roll 1285.

Previously, the eldest child, Anna Maria Sophie Seedorf, died on 18 June 1889 at the age of 8 months and 6 days due to unknown causes. She was buried the next day at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery in Flatrock Township, Henry, Ohio.¹⁰



Unfortunately they lost another child when Heinrich Johann “Henry” Seedorf, the youngest child died on 27 August 1900¹¹ at the age of 2, just 11 weeks after this census was taken.¹² He was buried on 30 August 1900 in the Saint John Lutheran Cemetery in Deshler, Henry, Ohio.¹³ In the loose papers and files of my mother, Amanda Ludeman Rabe, she wrote that Henry died when he was 2 years old from summer complaint. Merriam Webster defines summer complaint as diarrhea most common in children that is prevalent in hot weather; it is usually caused by ingestion of food contaminated with various microorganisms responsible for gastrointestinal infections. The culprit very likely could have been spoiled milk.



Tombstone for Heinrich Seedorf Jr.

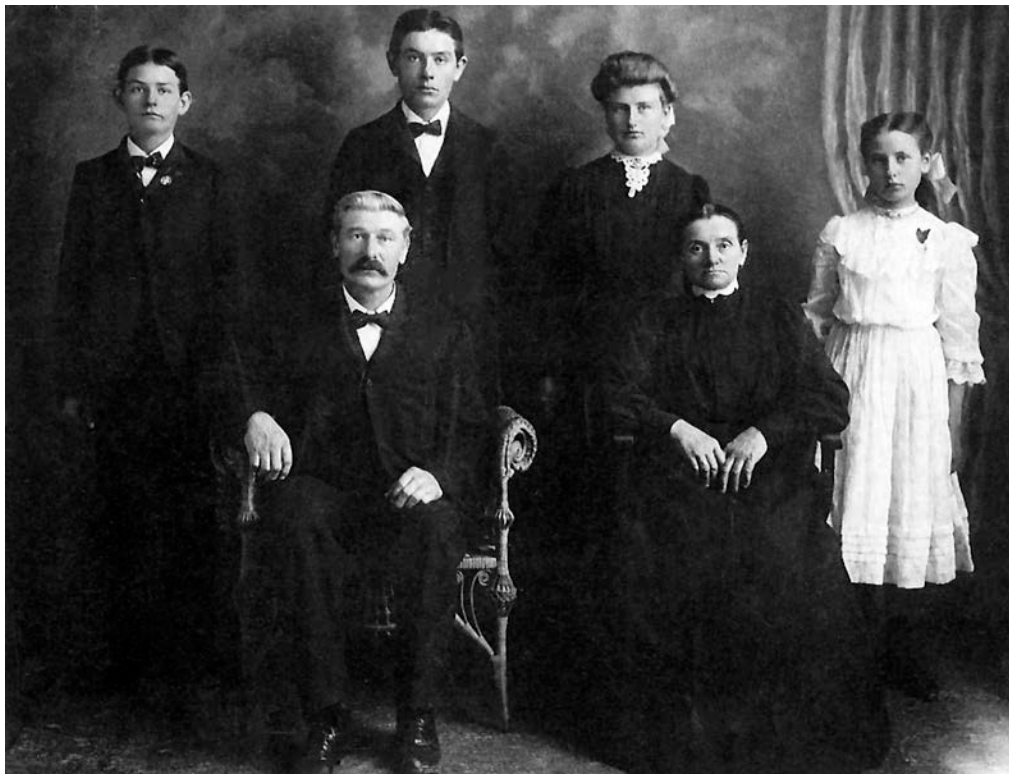
¹⁰ St. Paul Lutheran Church in Flatrock, Henry, Ohio. *Official Church Records*. Letter dated 11 March 1968 about Anna Maria Sophie Seedorf’s birth, baptism, death and burial. Copy now in possession of Lori Esch, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], Lebanon, Ohio, 2017.

¹¹ “Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F6XQ-7L3> : accessed 18 Nov 2017), Henry Seedorf, 27 Aug 1900; citing Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio, reference ID v. 5 p. 472, county courthouses; FHL microfilm 423,636.

¹² Find A Grave, digital image and index (www.findagrave.com : accessed 4 Nov 2017), memorial 126566387, Heinrich Seedorf (1898-1900), Saint John Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, Henry County, Ohio; tombstone photo by fly by - sherry.

¹³ Email from Dana Hahn, Secretary of the St. John Lutheran Church to Lori Rabe, dated 1 December 2017.

Although Henry and Mary were well on their way to building a new life and fulfilling the American dream, life did not come without its challenges. Life would have been lonely at times and the heavy burden of grief from losing two children as infants was a weight the family would always bear.



Heinrich & Maria Seedorf Family, about 1905

Back row: William Seedorf, Christ Seedorf, Sophia Seedorf, Mary M Seedorf

Front row: Heinrich & Maria Seedorf

In 1910, they resided with four of their children in Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio. He was employed as a farmer. They had been married 22 years at this time and had six children but only four were still alive.¹⁴

1910 US Census, Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio

191/198	Kochutka, John H	Head	M	41	32	241	6			Ger. German	Ger. German	Ger. German	1844-1847
	— Sophie	Wife	F	32	241	6	3	3		Ohio	Ger. German	Ger. German	
	— Christ H	Son	M	17	0	5				Ohio	Ger. German	Ohio	
	— Carl J	Son	M	12	3	5				Ohio	Ger. German	Ohio	
	— Clara J	Daughter	F	11	12	5				Ohio	Ger. German	Ohio	
198/199	Seedorf, Henry M. H.	Head	M	34	53	141	22			Ger. German	Ger. German	Ger. German	1851-1851
	— Mary	Wife	F	22	33	141	22	2	4	Ger. German	Ger. German	Ger. German	1838-1841
	— Robert H F	Son	M	11	20	5				Ohio	Ger. German	Ger. German	
	— Sophie M	Daughter	F	11	18	5				Ohio	Ger. German	Ger. German	
	— Elizabeth H	Son	M	11	16	5				Ohio	Ger. German	Ger. German	
	— Mary M	Daughter	M	11	14	5				Ohio	Ger. German	Ger. German	
49200	Seedorf, Henry K	Head	M	24	34	241	9			Ger. German	Ger. German	Ger. German	1851-1851
	— Nell M	Wife	F	24	33	241	9	1	1	Ger. German	Ger. German	Ger. German	1851-1851
	— Helen M	Daughter	F	11	6	5				Ohio	Ger. German	Ger. German	
	— Schuler Henry	Head	M	11	17	5				Ohio	Ger. German	Ger. German	

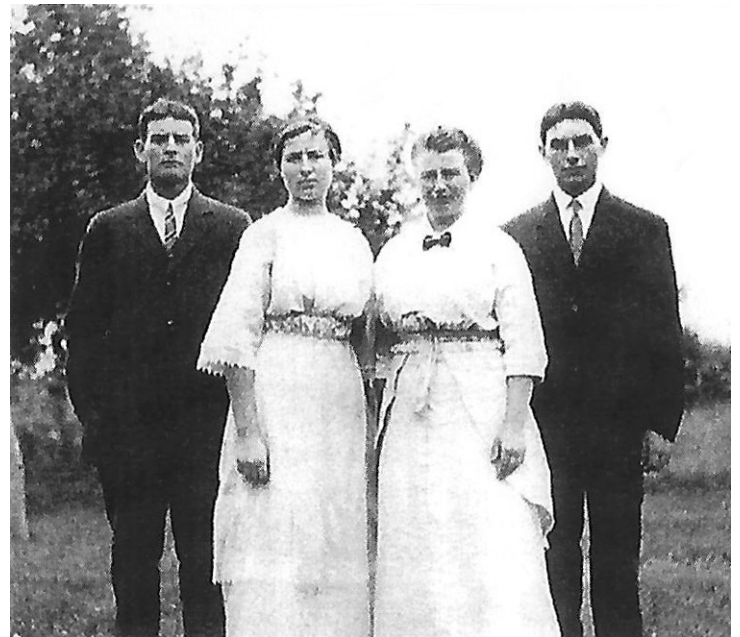
¹⁴ 1910 U. S. Census, Henry County, Ohio, population schedule, Bartlow, Enumeration District [E.D.] 22, p. 10B, dwelling 198, family, 199, Henry N W Seedorf, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 4 Nov 2017); citing National Archives microfilm publication T624, roll 1198.



Seedorf Home in Henry County, Ohio



Sophia Seedorf in front of the Seedorf home



Seedorf Siblings

L to R: William Seedorf, Maria Seedorf Tietje,
Sophia Seedorf Ludemann, Christ Seedorf

Seedorf, Chris (Margaret) farmer T 40a
 2h 1c R3 Deshler Bar 43 Ind tel.
 Seedorf, Henry (Mary) farming O 120a
 4h 8c R3 Deshler Bar 43 Ind tel.
 Seedorf, Henry K. (Kate) 1 ch farmer
 O 20a 2h 1c R3 Deshler Bar 47.
 Seedorf, William (Mada) 5 ch farming
 R3 Deshler Bar 43.

Henry and Maria Seedorf were listed in the 1916 farmer's directory for Henry County, Ohio. They were farmers and had 120 acres of land with 4 horses, 8 cows and resided at R3 Deshler Bartlow Township 43. They had an Indiana telephone number.¹⁵

Seedorf entries from the 1916 Farmer's directory



Seedorf family photo, about 1918

Back row: William Seedorf, Meta Seedorf, Charles Meeker, Meta Koehnke Hogrefe, Anna Koehnke Norden, Christ Koehnke, Clara Koehnke Mahlman, Carl Koehnke

Middle row: Henry Meeker, Martha Seedorf Fetter (d/o Wm & Meta), Adelaid Koehnke Meeker, Maria Seedorf Tietje, Olga Tietje (baby), Edna Tietje Witte (little girl), J. Henry Tietje, Sophia Seedorf Ludemann, Alma Ludemann Witte (little girl), William Ludemann, Margaret Peterson Seedorf, Emma Seedorf Rettig (daughter), Christ Seedorf, Walter Seedorf (son standing in front of Christ)

Front row: Anna Binger Koehnke, Henry Koehnke, Anna Koehnke Schmidt and son Harley Schmidt, Marie Koehnke Seedorf, granddaughter Ida Kudemann Meyer, Henry Seedorf, granddaughter Amanda Ludemann Rabe, Sophie Benien Koehnke, John Koehnke

¹⁵ Wilmer Atkinson Company. *The Farm Journal Illustrated Directory of Henry County, Ohio, 1916-1921*. Google Books (<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015068803652> : accessed 25 Nov 2017), p. 174.



Believe these are family members from Germany visiting the Seedorf's in America

Front row: fourth person from the left with her hands on child's shoulders is Sophie Seedorf Ludemann;
the last person in front row is Marie Koehnke Seedorf

Second row: second last person is Christ Seedorf, last person on right is Henry Seedorf



Seedorf & Koehnke Families, about 1920

Back row: John Koehnke, Marie Seedorf Tietje, William Seedorf, Sophia Seedorf Ludemann, Christ Seedorf, Henry Koehnke

Front row: Adelaide Koehnke Meeker, Anna Koehnke Schmidt, Marie Koehnke Seedorf, Hinrich Seedorf



Henry & Maria Seedorf, about 1910

During the 1920 census Henry and Maria Seedorf lived in Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio by themselves but surrounded by two of their married sons and many grandchildren. They stated they were naturalized back in 1889.¹⁶

1920 US Census, Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio

7-9-163	159	Kohrke John	Head	1	67	M	42	1874	1897		Hanover	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Germany
✓		Sophie	Wife			F	41				Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Germany	
✓		Christ	Son			M	14			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Ohio	
✓		Carl	Son			M	12			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Ohio	
✓		Clara	Daughter			F	10			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Ohio	
7-9-163	159	Seedorf Henry	Head	1	26	M	63	1857	1889		Hanover	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Germany
✓		Mary	Wife			F	63	1825	1889		Hanover	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Germany
7-9-163	160	Seedorf William	Head	2	R	M	25			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Germany	
✓		Mary	Wife			F	24			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Germany	
✓		Martha	Daughter			F	3			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Ohio	
✓		Ruth	Daughter			F	1			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Ohio	
7-9-163	161	Seedorf Albert	Head	1	R	M	30			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Germany	
✓		Maria	Wife			F	31			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Germany	
✓		Walter	Son			M	3			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Ohio	
✓		Emma	Daughter			F	1			yes	Prussia	Germany	Naturalized	Ohio	

At this time a woman could not file for naturalization. Citizenship was granted under a husband's petition. There are three steps to the naturalization process: declaration of intent, petition for naturalization, and the final papers granting citizenship.

Henry Seedorf appeared on 30 May 1887 before the probate court in Henry County and declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States.¹⁷ On 5 November 1889, he again appeared before the court and to petition for naturalization citizenship. Two individuals appeared with Henry in front of the judge to vouch for him—Fred Brinkmann and August Hinseland. They swore they had been acquainted with Henry for five years and that “*during the time of their acquaintance with Henry Seedorf he has behaved as a man of good moral character attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America and well-disposed to the good order and happiness of the same*”. Henry forever renounced allegiance to William, Emperor of Germany and was admitted to be a citizen of the United States. Five years after he first stepped foot on American soil in Maryland, Henry became an American citizen.¹⁸

¹⁶ 1920 U. S. Census, Henry County, Ohio, population schedule, Bartlow, Enumeration District [E.D.] 48, p. 8A, dwelling 164, family, 159, Henry Seedorf, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 4 Nov 2017); citing National Archives microfilm publication T625, roll 1398.

¹⁷ Henry County, Ohio. *Naturalizations*, Henry Seedorf, 30 May 1887, Vol. 3, p. 108. (Henry County Probate Court: Napoleon, Ohio).

¹⁸ Henry County, Ohio. *Naturalizations*, Henry Seedorf, 5 Nov 1889, Vol. 3, p. 154. (Henry County Probate Court: Napoleon, Ohio).

Naturalization Petition for Henry Seedorf, 30 May 1887

UNITED STATES



The State of Ohio,
HENRY COUNTY, SS.

PROBATE COURT.

NAPOLEON, O., May 30th 1887

Henry Seedorf a native of Hanover in Germany
aged about 35 years, bearing allegiance to William Emperor
of Germany

who emigrated from Germany
and arrived at Baltimore

and who intends to reside within the jurisdiction and under the government of the United States, to wit: Napoleon Henry County Ohio

makes report of himself for **NATURALIZATION**, and declares on oath that it is **BONA FIDE** his intention to become a citizen of the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, and renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to William Emperor of Germany

according to the several acts of Congress made and provided.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature and the Seal of said Court at Napoleon, this 30th day of May

A. D. 1887

David McKison
Probate Judge.

Naturalization Citizenship of Henry Seedorf, 5 November 1889

THE STATE OF OHIO,
HENRY COUNTY, SS. } PROBATE COURT.

Personally appeared in open Court Henry Seedorf an alien
who being duly sworn, says: I reside at No. Blatt Rock Street, in
Henry County, and State of Ohio, and I am a native
of Germany and came to the United States on or about the 26 day
of May 1857 bearing allegiance to the Emperor of Germany
That the paper I now present to the Court, purporting to be the certificate of declaration of intention of
Henry Seedorf to become a citizen of the United States of America is the
certificate of my declaration of intention, and that I am the identical Henry Seedorf
therein described, that I declared my said intention before the Probate Court of
Henry County, in the State of Ohio on the 30
day of May 1857 and I do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United
States of America and that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to all
and any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to
William, Emperor of Germany
Sworn to in open Court before me by said Henry Seedorf and by him
subscribed in my presence, this 5 day of Nov 1889
By Michael Donnelly Probate Judge.
By Nell Brown Deputy Clerk.

THE STATE OF OHIO,
HENRY COUNTY, SS. } PROBATE COURT.

Personally appeared in open Court August Hisselaud residing at No. _____
Street, in Napoleon Henry County, Ohio, and
Fred Brinkmann residing at No. _____ Street,
in Napoleon Henry County, Ohio, who being duly sworn, say, that they are
citizens of the United States of America, and are and for five years last past have been well acquainted
with Henry Seedorf now present; that said Henry Seedorf
has resided within the United States for five years at least last past, and for one year last past within
the State of Ohio,
and that during the time of their acquaintance with said Henry Seedorf
he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the
United States of America, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.
August Hisselaud
Fred Brinkmann
Sworn to before me by said August Hisselaud and
Fred Brinkmann
and by each subscribed in my presence, this 5 day of Nov A. D. 1889
See Journal page _____
M. Donnelly Probate Judge.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



The State of Ohio, } PROBATE COURT.
HENRY COUNTY, SS.

NAPOLEON, O. Nov. 5 1889

Be it Remembered, That Henry Seedorf
a native of Germany and now a resident of this County, has this day
come into Court, and made application to be fully naturalized and to become a citizen of the United States
and it appearing to the satisfaction of this Court, that the said Henry Seedorf
did, on the 30 day of May A. D. 1857 declare his intention to become a citizen
of the United States;
And this Court being satisfied by the oaths of August Hisselaud
and Fred Brinkmann
that the said Henry Seedorf
has resided within the United States five years, that he is of good moral character, that he is attached to
the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of
the same, and the said Henry Seedorf being admitted by this Court, took
the oath to support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that he now doth absolutely and
entirely forever renounce and abjure all ALLEGIANCE AND FIDELITY TO EVERY FOREIGN
PRINCE, POTENTATE, STATE OR SOVEREIGNTY whatever, and particularly to
William, Emperor of Germany
THIS IS THEREFORE TO CERTIFY, that the said Henry Seedorf
has complied with the LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, in such
case made and provided and he is therefore admitted to be a **CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.**
In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto affix my signature and the Seal of said Court, at Napoleon,
this 5 day of November 1889
Michael Donnelly
Probate Judge.

Following a number of different illnesses, Hinrich Seedorf died at the age of 64 years, 10 months and 10 days on 4 March 1922.¹⁹

The translation of his German obituary states, “The deceased was a faithful member of the Lutheran church and a committed Christian. Since he knew that he was saved by his Redeemer, he went to his death without fear and had prepared himself through prayer and sacrament. Along with his bereaved widow, mourning at his coffin are his 2 married sons and 2 married daughters, 2 sons-in-law and 2 daughters-in-law as well as 11 grandchildren. Also surviving him are 6 siblings, of who 1 brother and 1 sister are here in America and 4 brothers in Germany. May he rest in Peace.”²⁰

He was buried on 7 March 1922 in the Saint John Cemetery in Deshler, Henry, Ohio.²¹



Tombstone of Hinrich N. W. Seedorf

PLACE OF DEATH		BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS	
COUNTY OF <u>Henry</u>		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
Township of <u>Bartlow</u>	Registration District No. <u>568</u>	File No. <u>13453</u>	Registered No. <u>13453</u>
Village of _____	Primary Registration District No. <u>4833</u>	If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the NAME (number of street and number)	
City of _____	(No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____)		
FULL NAME <u>Henry Seedorf</u>			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
SEX <u>Male</u>	COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	10 DATE OF DEATH <u>March 4, 1922</u>	11 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Feb. 17, 1912</u> to <u>Mar. 2, 1912</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ m.
12 DATE OF BIRTH <u>May 22, 1857</u>	13 AGE <u>64 yrs. 9 mos. 12 ds.</u>	14 CAUSE OF DEATH* <u>Varicella poisoning</u>	15 CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES <u>Bright's Disease</u>
16 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>Farmer</u>	(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) <u>on farm</u>	(Signed) <u>R. L. Davis</u>	(Address) <u>Deshler, O.</u>
17 BIRTHPLACE (State and country) <u>Germany</u>	18 NAME OF FATHER <u>Charles Seedorf</u>	*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.	
19 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State and country) <u>Germany</u>	20 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Sophia Wadsworth</u>	19 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.	
21 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State and country) <u>Germany</u>	22 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>Christ Seedorf</u>	Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? _____	
23 (Address) <u>Bartlow Township</u>		18 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>St. Johns</u>	
24 (Address) <u>March 4, 1922</u>		DATE OF BURIAL <u>March 7, 1922</u>	
25 (Address) <u>Deshler, Ohio</u>		TO UNDERTAKER <u>W. W. Stewart</u>	
26 (Address) <u>Deshler, Ohio</u>		ADDRESS <u>Deshler, Ohio</u>	

Henry Seedorf death certificate, 4 March 1922

¹⁹ “Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953,” database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X85Q-B6X> : accessed 18 Nov 2017), Henry Seedorf, 4 March 1922; citing Bartlow Twp, Henry, Ohio, reference fn 16453; FHL microfilm 1,991,914.

²⁰ “Bekannter Farmer in Bartlow Tp. gestorben: Heinrich Seedorf,” obituary, undated newspaper clipping for Heinrich Seedorf, about March 1922. From the files of Amanda Ludeman Rabe now in the possession of Lori Esch. Translation done by Ken Thompson of St. Louis, MO. Lori Esch Family Record Collection, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], 2017.

²¹ Find A Grave, digital image and index (www.findagrave.com : accessed 4 Nov 2017), memorial 114981839, Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf (1857-1922), Saint John Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, Henry County, Ohio; tombstone photo by Calling~All~Angels.

Well Known Farmer in Barlow Twp. Died Heinrich Seedorf

Heinrich Seedorf was born on the 22nd of May 1857 in Wellen by Beverstedt, Province Hannover. Shortly after his birth he was taken into the state of God's grace through Holy Baptism. He was confirmed in Beverstedt on Easter 1871. Up until his emigration to America he remained in the parental home. At the age of 28 years he came to America for the first time and worked here for 3 ½ years. Thereafter he returned to Germany in the winter of 1887-88, there to marry his bride. On the 9th of March 1888 he entered into holy matrimony with his now sorrowing wife, Maria, born Koehnke. The young couple traveled to America shortly after the wedding and landed here in May 1888. Their marriage was blessed with 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls. Two of the children died in early childhood.

The couple resided first for a year and a half in Flatrock Twp., from there they moved to Bartlow twp., where they ran a farm for 10 years, to then move to their own farm in the same twp., on which the deceased resided until his death. About 4 years ago he had retired from farming and lived with his wife in retirement.

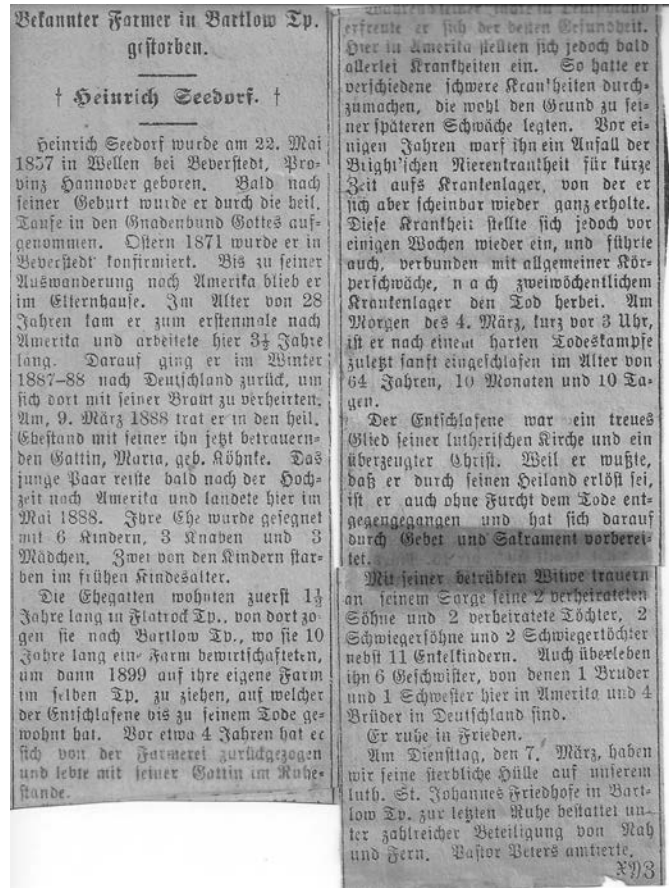
During his years in Germany he enjoyed the best of health. Here in America however he fell victim to all sorts of illnesses. He endured so many severe illnesses, which may have been the reason for his later weakness. A few years ago an attack of Bright's kidney disease put him in the hospital for a short period, from which he appeared to completely recover. But his disease occurred again a few weeks ago, and in conjunction with his general physical weakness, led to his death after a two week long confinement. On the morning of the 4th of March, shortly before 3 o'clock, after a difficult struggle he finally passed away in his sleep at the age of 64 years, 10 months and 10 days.

The deceased was a faithful member of the Lutheran church and a committed Christian. Since he knew that he was saved by his Redeemer, he went to his death without fear and had prepared himself through prayer and sacrament.

Along with his bereaved widow, mourning at his coffin are his 2 married sons and 2 married daughters, 2 sons-in-law and 2 daughters-in-law as well as 11 grandchildren. Also surviving him are 6 siblings, of who 1 brother and 1 sister are here in America and 4 brothers in Germany.

May he rest in Peace.

On Tuesday, the 7th of March, we took his mortal remains to our St. John's Lutheran cemetery in Bartlow Twp., to his final resting place with numerous attendance from near and far. Pastor Peters officiated.²²



²² "Bekannter Farmer in Bartlow Tp. gestorben: Heinrich Seedorf," obituary, undated newspaper clipping for Heinrich Seedorf, about March 1922. From the files of Amanda Ludeman Rabe now in the possession of Lori Esch. Translation done by Ken Thompson of St. Louis, MO. Lori Esch Family Record Collection, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], 2017.

Mrs. Maria Seedorf, born Koehnke, deceased

On Thursday, the 18th of the month, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a quiet death ended the life of Mrs. Maria Seedorf, born Koehnke. She was born on the 2nd of December 1856 in Barkhausen, province of Hannover. On the 1st of January, 1857 she was received into the state of grace of the triune God through holy Baptism and confirmed on the 2nd of April 1871 in Gnarrenburg. After her confirmation she went into service and led for a time the household of her brother and cared for his orphaned children in maternal fashion.

In the year 1898 [sic] on the 9th of March she entered into the state of holy Matrimony with Heinrich Seedorf and shortly thereafter left with him for America, where they landed in May of the same year. Their marriage was blessed with 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls. Two of the children died in early childhood.

The spouses resided at first 1½ years in Flatrock Twp. From there they moved to Bartlow Twp. where they ran a farm for 10 years, and then in 1890 moved to their own farm in the same township. She had assisted her husband in the hard work of making the fields tillable and stood faithfully at his side in his occupation. In the year 1918 they gave up farming. For only about 4 years she lived with her husband before he preceded her in death. Since that time she had resided with her children as a widow.

During her lifetime the deceased was spared severe illness, until she suffered a stroke about 6 years ago. She recovered in time, but her previous good health was broken. Especially since last Christmas, her strength has ebbed. Around the start of April she was bedridden for a time because of influenza, but she recovered by about Easter time. Then again about the start of May she took to her bed from a loss of strength. Rapidly as the result of a ruptured blood vessel there was internal bleeding and hemorrhaging and the strength quickly ebbed. She was fully conscious up until about 7 hours before her death. She prepared herself for her death through the Word of God, prayer and the sacraments; just as in the days of her health she attended divine worship in God's house.

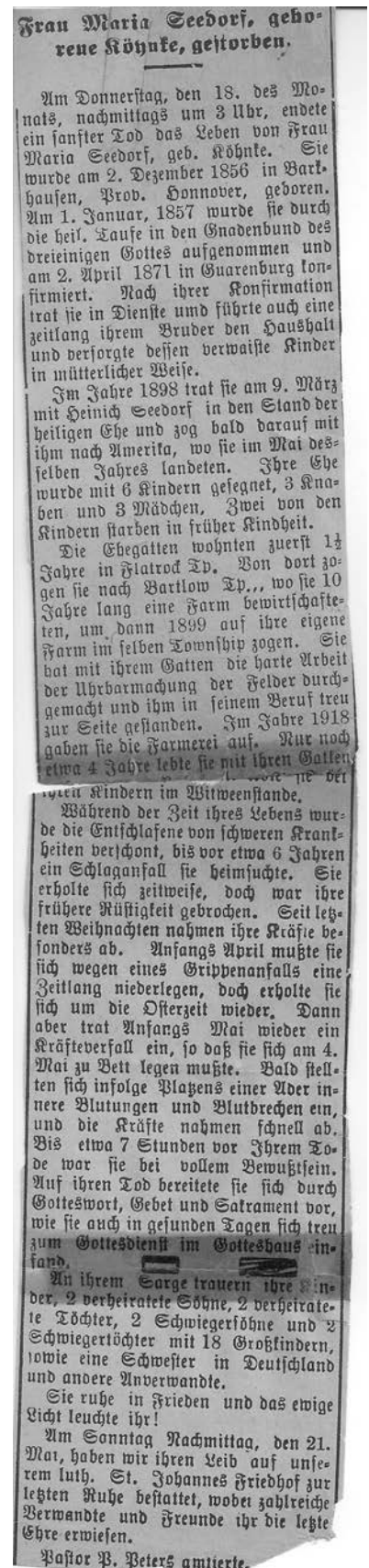
At her bier mourn her children, 2 married sons, 2 married daughters, 2 sons-in-law and 2 daughters-in-law with 18 grandchildren, as well as a sister in Germany and other relatives.

May she rest in peace and the perpetual light shine upon her!

On Sunday afternoon, the 21st of May, we have taken her body to our St. John's Lutheran Cemetery for her last resting place, accompanied by many friends and relatives in her honor.

Pastor P. Peters officiated.²⁷

²⁷ "Frau Maria Seedorf, geboren Koehnke, gestorben," obituary, undated newspaper clipping for Maria Seedorf, about May 1933. From the files of Amanda Ludeman Rabe now in the possession of Lori Esch. Translation done by Ken Thompson of St. Louis, MO. Lori Esch Family Record Collection, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], 2017.



state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Henry Registration District No. 5-18 File No. 28155
Township Barlow Primary Registration District No. 4833 Registered No. 193
or Village No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.
2 FULL NAME Maria Seedorf Did Deceased Serve in U. S. Navy or Army _____
(a) Residence. No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Female 4. COLOR OR RACE white 5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) widowed
5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND (or) WIFE of Henry Seedorf
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) Dec 2, 1856
7. AGE Years 76 Months 9 Days 16 If LESS than 1 day, _____ hrs. _____ or min.
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as housework spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc.
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as home silk mill, bank, etc.
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) _____ 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation _____
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) Germany
13. NAME Kobuke
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) Germany
15. MAIDEN NAME unknown
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) Germany
The Signature of 17. INFORMANT Christ Seedorf and (Address) Dealers Hotel
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place St. Francis Cem Date May 21, 1933
19. UNDERTAKER Hagen & Sons (Address) _____
19a. Was body embalmed yes Embalmer's No. 4060A
20. FILED 6-7 1933 HG Mont Hain Registrar.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) 5-18, 1933
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from May 1, 28 to May 28, 1933
I last saw deceased on May 17, 1933, death is said to have occurred on the date stated above at 3:00 P.m.
The PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF DEATH and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:
General Arteriosclerosis 1925
hemorrhage into cerebrum 1928
820 h.o.
CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES of importance not related to principal cause: 1433
stroke plus - 1433
hemorrhage
Name of operation _____ Date of _____
What test confirmed diagnosis Phys Japan there an autopsy? No
23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:
Accident, suicide, or homicide? no Date of injury _____, 19____
Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, county, and State)
Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.
Manner of injury _____
Nature of injury _____
24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? No
If so, specify _____
(Signed) H. Seedorf D.
Date 5-10 1933 Address Dealers Hotel

Maria Seedorf death certificate, 18 May 1933

After all of their struggles to build a new life and raise a family in a new country, both Heinrich and Maria were able to die peacefully in their new homeland. In addition, their children were faithful and blessed with children of their own. From their small villages and all the way to Henry County with a single wooden chest, Heinrich and Maria not only built a life for their children but also paved the way for generations to come.

Family Group Record of Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm Seedorf & Maria Köhnke

Father Hinrich Nicolaus Wilhelm "Henry" SEEDORF		
Birth	22 May 1857	Vellen Beverstedt, Kreis Geestemünde, Hannover, Germany
Baptism	15 Jul 1857	Evangelical Lutheran Church, Beverstedt, Kreis Geestemünde, Hannover, Germany
Death	4 Mar 1922	Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio
Burial	7 Mar 1922	St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, Henry, Ohio
Marriage	9 Mar 1888	Gnarrenburg, Kreis Bremervörde, Hannover, Germany
Father	Claus SEEDORF (1831-1892)	
Mother	Sophia WEDEMEIER (1835-1892)	
Mother Maria KÖHNKE		
Birth	2 Dec 1856	Barkhausen, Gnarrenburg, Kreis Bremervörde, Hannover, Germany
Baptism	1 Jan 1857	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gnarrenburg, Kreis Bremervörde, Hannover, Germany
Death	18 May 1933	Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio
Burial	21 May 1933	Saint John Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, Henry, Ohio
Father	Hinrich KÖHNKE (1815-1884)	
Mother	Anna Marie HOPPE (1819-1890)	
Children		
F Anna Maria Sophie SEEDORF		
Birth	12 Oct 1888	Flatrock Township, Henry, Ohio
Baptism	4 Dec 1888	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Flatrock Township, Henry, Ohio
Death	18 Jun 1889	Flatrock Township, Henry, Ohio
Burial	19 Jun 1889	St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, County Road K, Flatrock Township, Henry, Ohio
M Christ H. F. SEEDORF		
Birth	31 May 1890	Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio
Death	1 Mar 1952	Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio
Burial	4 Mar 1952	St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, Henry, Ohio
Spouse	Margaret Joanna PETERSEN (1887-1961)	
Marriage	10 Jun 1915	Henry County, Ohio
F Sophia Margaret SEEDORF		
Birth	24 Apr 1892	Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio
Baptism	15 May 1892	Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Henry, Ohio
Death	29 Apr 1968	Deshler, Henry County, Ohio
Burial	3 May 1968	Saint John Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, Henry, Ohio
Spouse	William Hermann Henry LUDEMANN (1884-1962)	
Marriage	7 Apr 1910	Henry County, Ohio
M William Henry SEEDORF		
Birth	10 May 1894	Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio
Death	24 Jan 1980	Deshler, Henry, Ohio
Burial	27 Jan 1980	Saint John Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, Henry, Ohio
Spouse	Meta Wilhelmina TIETJE (1896-1992)	
Marriage	17 Feb 1916	Henry County, Ohio
F Maria Martha "Mary" SEEDORF		
Birth	11 Jun 1896	Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio
Death	17 Apr 1974	Bowling Green, Wood, Ohio
Burial	20 Apr 1974	Saint John Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, Henry, Ohio
Spouse	John Heinrich "Henry" TIETJE (1890-1979)	
Marriage	5 Oct 1916	Henry County, Ohio
M Heinrich "Henry" Johann SEEDORF		
Birth	5 Jun 1898	Bartlow Township, Henry, Ohio
Death	27 Aug 1900	Deshler, Henry County, Ohio
Burial	30 Aug 1900	Saint John Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, Henry, Ohio