

The Socolofsky Family
AN UPDATE

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BY

HOMER E. SOCOLOFSKY

November 15, 1986

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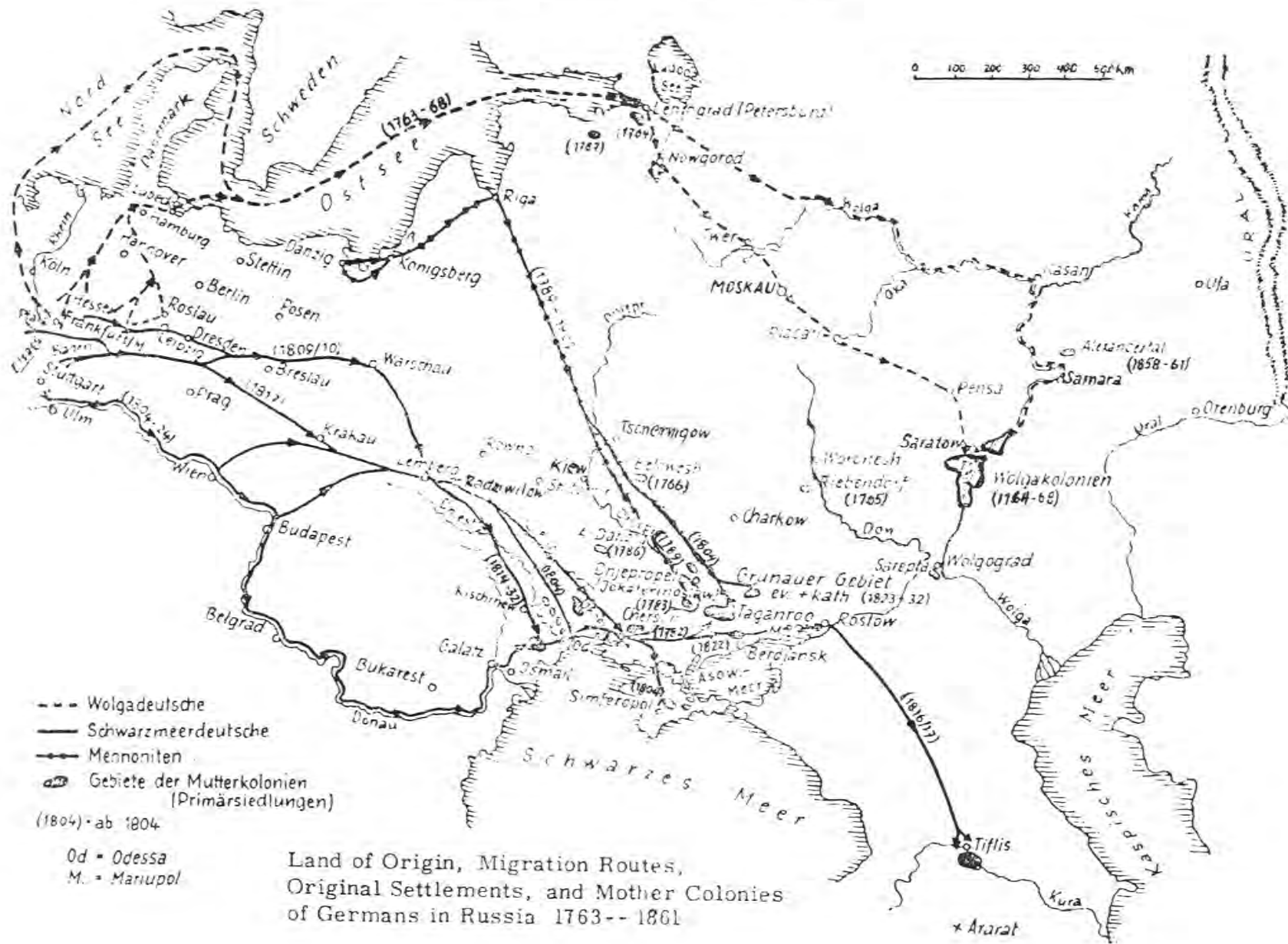
Many people have helped with this new history of the Socolofsky family. They include Clara Quigley, Kent Schneider, Al Socolofsky, Melvin Lemmon, Guy Willis, Richard Schott, Virginia Socolofsky, James and Joanne Peay and the many people who have supplied new pictures not used in The Socolofsky Family: A History. Especially important has been the support provided for obtaining names for the Family Roster that appear at the end of this book. That list is double that appended to the earlier family history and the information is now more complete and has greater accuracy. Family members can begin to fill in the ties of relationship that are still obscure on many members of the Socolofsky family who came to the United States from Dreispitz, Russia, after 1877.

Finally, it is appropriate to remember all those family members who have gone before. Many of their names appear in the family roster. It is impossible to fully express the gratitude and respect due them by us their descendants. We simply quote *Exodus* 20:12, "Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

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Herkunftsländer, Wanderwege und Ansiedlungsgebiete der Wolga- und Schwarzmeerdeutschen
In den Mutterkolonien (Primärsiedlungen) 1763-1861



I. MORE ON RUSSIA AND THE SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY

1. THE CZARINA'S APPEAL FOR FARMERS

EMPRESS CATHERINE II, Czarina of all the Russias, was anxious to settle well-equipped farmers on vacant lands on her southeastern frontier. Formerly a German princess, she had been a member of the Russian court since age fourteen. She believed that by importing foreign farmers she would advance the cause of Russian agriculture and that a large colony along the lower Volga River would serve as a barrier to the nomadic tribes of Kirghiz and Tatars, the descendants of Batu Khan's Golden Horde. Twenty-one days after she was crowned absolute ruler in 1762 she issued a ukase to the Russian senate authorizing them to admit "all persons who wanted to settle in Russia--except Jews." Late that year she added a brief, general royal manifesto which had a disappointing response. Czarina Catherine persisted and on July 22, 1763 (Russia was still using the old-style calendar) she issued a new manifesto detailing the privileges and benefits for such immigration. Included was permission to settle anywhere, freedom of religion, tax exemption for 30 years for those settling in undeveloped areas, exemption from military and civil service forever, interest free loans for 10 years to build homes and to acquire tools and implements, free transportation to the new homes and money for a living allowance while traveling. New settlers were assured that there was adequate land or factory sites for their use in Russia.

2. DETAILS OF THE COLONIAL LAW OF 1764

IN 1764 A COLONIAL LAW was promulgated which allocated about 80 acres of land to each family and provided other benefits, such as local autonomy for immigrants settling in colonies. The colonizing decree was printed in several languages and published in newspapers throughout Europe without much response even though the entire Russian foreign service in German states tried to recruit settlers. So Catherine hired French administrators who employed field agents, known as "*Menschenfaenger* (people catchers), or *Seelenverkaeuser* (soul sellers)," who swarmed over the German countryside seeking immigrants.¹ Another recruiting campaign was organized in 1765 which concentrated on the German Hessian states of Kassel and Darmstadt and neighboring territory.

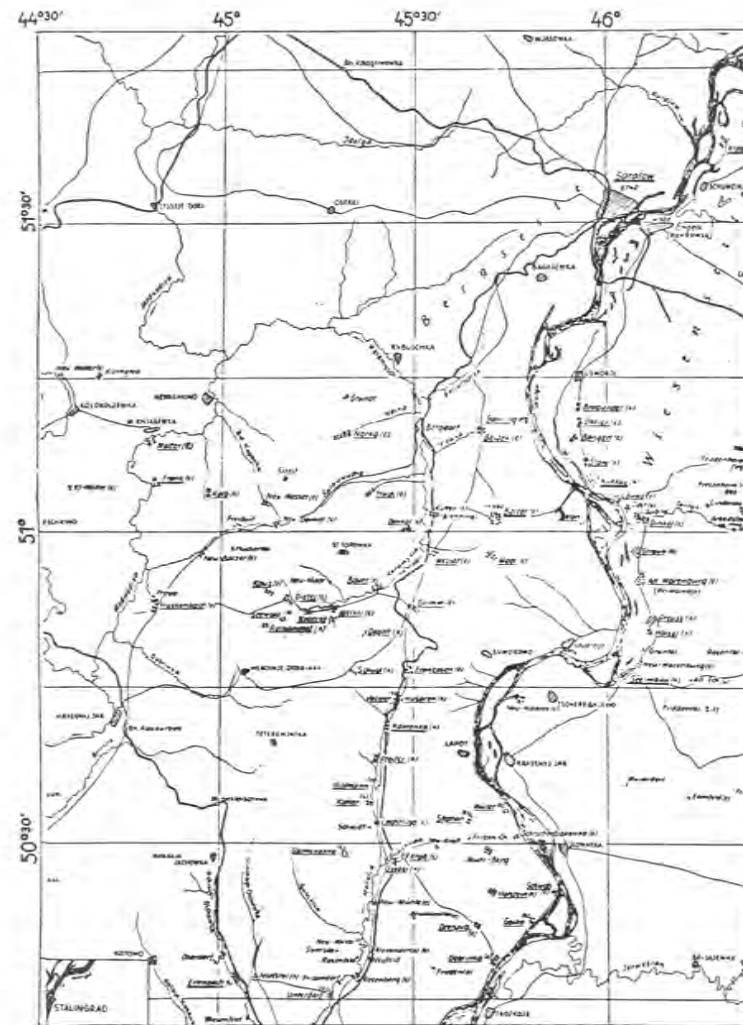
¹ Three books provide much of this early information. They are: Fred C. Koch, The Volga Germans: In Russia and the Americas, from 1763 to the Present (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1977); Adam Giesinger, From Catherine to Khrushchev: The Story of Russia's Germans (Battleford, Saskatchewan: Marion Press, 1974); and Karl Stumpp, trans. by Joseph S. Height, The German-Russians: Two Centuries of Pioneering (New York: Atlantic Forum, 1967, 1971).

3. HESSE GETS ATTENTION OF THE CZARINA'S AGENTS

THIS AREA FOR 150 YEARS had suffered wars and civil strife. Peasants there had widespread grievances and were vulnerable to the enticements of the new land. They were heavily taxed, forced to provide free labor for the nearby princelings, and they could not interfere with a system which furnished sport for royal hunting parties by coddling and deliberately overstocking wild game, which ate peasant crops. Thus, Hessian peasants were unusually responsive to the Czarina's offer. Between 1764 and 1767 there were 104 "mother" colonies, made up of about 8,000 families, totaling around 27,000 people, mostly from west-middle Germany (Hesse, where Frankfurt-on-Main is the metropolis and capital), who were settled on the lower Volga River.

4. DREISPITZ FOUNDED

THE FINAL MOTHER COLONY among the original 104 was Dreispitz ("Three points" because of the shape of its land between two streams), established on September 16, 1767.² Its Russian name was *Verkhnaya Dobrinka*, and it had a population of 151 in 1773 which grew to 3,700 by 1912. Located about a hundred miles downstream from Saratov, the capital of that Russian province and administrative headquarters of the German colonies, Dreispitz was several miles west of the Volga on the Bergseite or hill side of the river in rolling, grassy countryside. The eastern bank of the Volga, known as the Wiesenseite for meadow or plains side was less suitable for cultivation. Because it was one of 42 colonies created by the government it was called a



Dreispitz is in square 50°30' north, 45°30' east

² With one or two exceptions Dreispitz was the most southern of the Volga German colonies and its belated settlement suggests that its land was not as desirable as earlier settled areas. The closest village to Dreispitz was the first mother colony, Dobrinka, established more than three years earlier. Its Russian name was *Nizhnaya Dobrinka*.

crown colony, while the 62 established by the French contractors were known as private colonies. Dreispitz was the colony which the Socolofskys left more than a century later in 1876 and 1877 to come to Kansas. Other Socolofskys followed them in later years. Research carried out in Germany has identified 3,000 names of families and single persons, with their geographical origin, who made the trek to the *Wolgakolonien* (Volga colonies).³ Sources may exist in the U.S.S.R. to link the emigrants' names with their destination on the Volga. It would be interesting to find out whether there was a **Socolofsky** family in this original migration--or a **Klohs**, or a **Schroek**--all names in the Socolofsky ancestry; or a **Dick**, a **Quindt**, a **Dahlinger**, an **Ehrlich**, a **Schulz**, a **Dinkelacher**, or a **Friesen**--all names in collateral lines.

5. MORE ON DREISPITZ

DREISPITZ WAS IN THE DISTRICT of Kamychen in the province governed by Saratov. The first statistical report of the Volga colonies, made to Czarina Catherine II on Feb. 14, 1769 has interesting data. For Dreispitz the report said that it was settled by 31 families, 28 of whom were considered suited to agriculture. The total population of 124 was predominately male, with only 53 females in the village at the time. The first livestock listed in this census showed that the village had 65 horses, 22 work oxen, 112 cows and calves, no sheep, and 19 swine. There were 26 houses, 16 granaries and 13 stables. The lack of early harvest success can be seen from the report of grain harvested the previous fall, 785 chetvert or 6 chetverik, the equivalent of 2,160 pounds. Fall rye sown for next summer's crop was 1,800 pounds.⁴

6. COMPOSITION OF GERMAN VOLGA COLONIES

MOST OF THESE EMIGRANTS to the Volga area were German--one group of 716 had 63 people from Holland and Belgium, 17 from France, 16 from Austria, 7 from Switzerland, 4 from Luxemburg, 4 from Denmark, 2 from Baltic areas, only 1 from Hungary and 602 from Germany. There were also people from England, Sweden, Scotland, Italy and perhaps other places involved in this colonizing venture. Except for one colony of Frenchmen, "the non-Germanic stock was assimilated with the Germanic in the second and third generation."⁵ German language variations in the Volga German colonies prevailed by the second generation and depended on the dialect of the dominant group making the settlement.

³ Dr. Karl Stumpp, Stuttgart, Germany, was born in Alexanderhilf, near Odessa, Russia, in 1896. He spent much of his life compiling names and native towns of German families who emigrated to Russia. Germans who went to the Black Sea area in the 1780s through the early 1860s have been more thoroughly researched--some 17,000 family and individual surnames have been linked to the place of origin and to Russian settlement.

⁴ "The First Statistical Report on the Volga Colonies," translated by Adam Giesinger, *Work Paper No. 25* of the American Society of Germans from Russia (Winter, 1977), p. 5.

⁵ Koch, *Volga Germans*, p. 32.

7. MIGRATION TO THE VOLGA COLONIES

GERMAN SETTLERS GOING TO the Volga colonies went down the Rhine to North Sea ports or overland to Hamburg, then across the Baltic Sea to St. Petersburg (present-day Leningrad).

From St. Petersburg, through which all the immigrants had to pass, the contingents were rafted up the 45-mile Neva to Lake Ladoga and thence to the mouth of the Volkhov river. They then coursed southward up this 130 mile stream into Lake Ilmen. From here most of the parties portaged 200 miles or more to the navigable headwaters of the Volga, down which they then floated and sailed more than 1,100 meandering miles to their distant destination: Saratov.⁶

Shortly after the final mother colony, Dreispitz, was established the Russians abruptly curtailed further colonizing--the budget for this enterprise had been expended. Other settlers came individually or in family groups. With the exception of Mennonite colonies established nearby in 1854, all future German villages in the valley of the Volga were "daughter" colonies, formed as a result of expansion of the population there. Other colonies of German-speaking settlers along the Black Sea and in the Ukraine were organized over a period of 50 years after 1782.

8. GETTING ORGANIZED IN NEW COUNTRY

SETTLERS IN THE VOLGA GERMAN COLONIES traveled 2,000 miles or more to their destination. Although they were promised a choice where they might settle--the decision on the makeup of each colony was made in Saratov. Also at Saratov the colonists received their supplies and implements. The Russian government provided 15 to 25 rubles in cash to each family, one or two small ponies, a cow or an ox,

parts of a wooden plow, wheels and axles for a wagon, and other paraphernalia which included hand tools, implements and kitchen equipment. In their own wagons and with their own teams they set out in caravan fashion for their village, which in the case of Dreispitz would take about six days. Once there the colonists faced the task of providing durable shelter in the tall grass of the Russian steppe. The first years were exceedingly difficult, colonists went underground for housing. The newcomers were completely unacquainted with the long Russian winter and getting farm land into production took time. They were short on food and malnutrition and epidemics brought deaths to the young and the aged. Other hardships visited on the new colonies in these settlement years included raids by Kirghiz nomads on the east side of the Volga and the Pugachev rebellion which ravaged many of the villages on the west side. For years there were roving bands of thieves in the vicinity who stole horses and other property from the Volga Germans.

9. RUSSIAN POLICY TOWARD GERMAN COLONIES

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICY provided generous assistance to these Volga German settlements. But, seed from the government came too late each spring to take advantage of the region's shortage of rainfall, there were delays in providing materials for housing, and food provided for the settlers was frequently spoiled. Some jobs outside the colonies were made available to the desperate settlers. The seriousness of the situation was evident in the little colony of Galka, on the Volga just east of Dreispitz,

⁶ Ibid., p. 20.

which lost one-fifth of its population during this early period of privation.⁷ For all of the Volga German villages a report to the crown in 1769 showed a head-count of 23,109, whereas a census taken in 1773 showed a total population of 24,479 in 6,247 families. Both figures show a decline of as many as four thousand since settlement days. The drouth cycle for the Volga area was broken in 1775 and thereafter there was no food shortage in this area until 1920 and 1921. Food reserves for two years were stored in this year of abundance. In the words of Fred Koch,

Little by little, in those early years of misery, the rigorous, unrelenting environment was shaping these foreigners physically and mentally into a tough, hardy breed of people. Their developing resilience, character, and aptitude were to qualify them admirably to meet the exhausting demands of this new region in which they and their children's children were to be 'cocooned' for a hundred years and longer before the exodus to the New World began.⁸

10. ROLE OF THE KONTOR

AFTER 1766 THE ADMINISTRATION of these German colonies was placed in the hands of a new agency at Saratov known as "The Kontor of the Tutelary Chancellery for Foreigners." The official language of the Kontor was Russian, however all decrees and instructions were translated into German. This agency was so far from the capital at St. Petersburg that it was able to handle affairs without supervision, thus it gained almost limitless authority over colonists. One example of the corruption and fraud of this official agency, cited by the writer Gottlieb Bauer who wrote in 1907, said that:

Typical was the case of Sokolovsky versus Sinner. The latter contended he had loaned his townsman, a man of

repute, money that had not been repaid, thereby impugning Sokolovsky's honesty. The aggrieved laid his charge against the accuser in the Kontor court, where it cost him 100 rubles to win a judgment that called for the arrest of Sinner. Sinner, however--upon the advice of the Kontor's field officers--appealed the decision, to the same court. He paid 150 rubles, to the same person whom Sokolovsky had reimbursed, whereupon the court set aside the first ruling and fined Sokolovsky--who immediately appealed, at the cost of another 100 rubles. This time both men were threatened with seven days' imprisonment unless they settled their differences--which they did.

According to Fred Koch the "colonists soon learned to understand the Russian proverb: 'Offer a candle to God and a purse to the judge,'" and adages such as "Set foot in court, and your hand goes in your pocket," or "The belly is like the judge--it keeps silent but asks for it."⁹

11. REPAYING THE CZARINA

IN 1782 THE VOLGA GERMAN SETTLERS began paying back the Czarina's enormous investment of 5,200,000 rubles. Czarina Catherine forgave almost half of it. Over the next fifty years the Kontor reported collections of about one-fifth of that amount; apparently the annual payments were not applied to the total debt. A special auditor was sent to Saratov in 1833 to oversee the collections which brought a great difference in the next year when, repayment was about forty times as much as the average of the previous fifty years. Obviously, the

⁷ Ibid., p. 27.

⁸ Ibid., p. 50.

⁹ Ibid., p. 42. Gottlieb Bauer, Geschichte der Deutschen in den Wolgakolonien (Saratov, Russia: 1907, reprinted by the Nebraska Echo, Lincoln.)

There was no indication which colony was involved nor the date of this court case.

Kontor and his assistants had diverted much of the repayment to other uses. In sixty years the colonists repaid more than five million rubles, including interest, on a debt calculated at 2,789,418 rubles.¹⁰

12. STATISTICS ON THE VOLGA-GERMANS

BY 1788 THE VOLGA GERMAN population was placed at 31,000, in 1798 at 39,193, and in 1811 the figure was 55,000. The population from 1775 to 1813 increased 140%, and from 1813 to 1861 by almost 300%. Similar large population increases characterized the Black Sea German colonies. Both groups had a birthrate much higher than the Russian population and about two and one-half times that of people back in Germany. Consequently, there was a substantial reduction in the available land for each male member of each village. The land system in use "pretty well precluded intercommunity population shifts; as a rule one found only widows making such interchanges."¹¹ "Daughter" colonies were formed, in the mid-nineteenth century, by about two-thirds of the original colonies. The government furnished the land and the grandsons and great-grandsons of the original immigrants transported their families to the new colonies.

13. A SUBSTITUTE FOR FIRE WOOD

DWINDLING FORESTS PRODUCED A shortage of firewood after the first twenty or thirty years. Around 1800 a colonist north of Dreispitz developed a new fuel, *Mistholz* (manure wood.) The large accumulations of manure from the barnyards, mixed with the litter of the barn stalls was spread on a hard surface and wet down. Horses were

driven round and round on the mess. After a layer had dried enough to roll, it was tamped firm and flat, then cut into small blocks for further drying. Stacked in the sun all summer, *Mistholz* dried to provide a slow-burning, virtually odorless, fire for use in both heating and cooking stoves.¹²

14. THE SECOND GENERATION ADJUSTS

THE SECOND GENERATION WAS UNAWARE of the unusual demands on their parents from the Russian environment. They were more content with their lot--they adapted to the area and developed a new way of life far removed from the influences of the family homeland while still holding fast to the essential German culture brought into the area. They became the Volga Germans, a *Volksstamm* of a new era, proud of their heritage and distinct from the Germans of Hesse.

15. DENOMINATIONAL ALIGNMENTS

WITH ONLY TWO EXCEPTIONS, each German community on the Volga was made up of either Protestants or Roman Catholics. Dreispitz was one of 65 Protestant mother colonies and was predominantly Lutheran. Most Protestant villages tolerated believers of the Baptist and Reformed view of Christianity. In 1897 when the number of Germans in

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 96.

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 69-73.

¹² Ibid., pp. 77-8. The inventor received a medallion from the Russian government and *Mistholz* was widely manufactured throughout the Russian empire.

all of Russia had grown to 1,790,589, the number who were Lutheran was 76%; Roman Catholic--13.5%; Reformed or Baptist--4.7%; Mennonites--3.7%; with smaller numbers of other groups.¹³

16. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AMONG VOLGA-GERMANS

SINCE THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY in Dreispitz were farmers. Their farming practises and general household tasks as provided by David D. Socolofsky were detailed in The Socolofsky Family: A History, published in 1973. Handicrafts and industries also flourished in these villages of the lower Volga. Most villages had a wheelwright, a blacksmith, and a skilled woodworker from the beginning. Homemade plows, wagons, and other implements were turned out early. Mills for grinding fine flour were developed, powered in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century by windmills, by flowing streams, by horses, or by steam. Dobrinka, near Dreispitz, was the place which produced the burr wheel grinding stones for flour mills and the Volga threshing stone. Commercial sawmills and tanneries came into being throughout the area. By 1850 there were around 6,000 looms in use, one or more in almost every settler's home. Members of the family from the youngest to the oldest shared in many hours at the shuttle every winter. This home weaving industry became an added source of cash income.

17. MODERNIZATION AND REPEAL OF COLONIAL LAW

THE MOST WIDESPREAD NINETEENTH century Russian social reform was the emancipation of twenty-three million serfs by Czar Alexander II in February 1861. This action brought few

immediate social and economic benefits to these deprived Russian peasants. In 1866 the Kontor at Saratov lost its specific functions to deal with the German colonies. Finally, in June 1871 Czar Alexander II revoked the Colonial Law of 1764 and transferred administration of German colonies to provincial and regional governments, ending the special status given these colonists more than a century earlier. It is "somewhat ironic, that the Russian government in a liberal-rational course of modernization after the Crimean War was attempting to treat all people living within the Russian boundaries equally, and the new military reform law, devised to create modern, efficient armed forces and which went into effect in 1874, did propose to make everyone, noble and peasant, Russian or foreign in origin, subject to the draft."¹⁴ German-speaking settlers in Russian were generally in isolated colonies and they did not learn of these changes for several years. Volga Germans, as well as other German-speaking settlers, feared that the new Russification program would deprive them of their religion, their schools, and their language. Also, they would now be liable for military and civil service, the Russian authorities now equating "forever" for these exemptions with a "century." Changes had been made in required military service in the Russian army which was 25 years until 1861, then 16 years until 1874, then shortened to 5 years. Pay began at the rate of one-half ruble per month--about 25 cents, up to one and one-half rubles by the third year, and the family of the recruit if he was the only breadwinner would have to

¹³ Karl Stumpp, German-Russians, p. 20.

¹⁴ Norman E. Saul, "The Migration of the Russian-Germans to Kansas," Kansas Historical Quarterly XL (Spring 1974), pp. 41-2.

fend for itself. Since virtually all chaplains in the army were Orthodox priests it introduced another anxious issue over military conscription. Similarly, promotion could not come in the army without allegiance to the Russian Orthodox Church. The Mennonite colonists, members of a peace church, were exempted from required military service under a law of May 14, 1875. Volga Germans objected to the new requirement for military service "on grounds of abrogation of a written assurance, which they looked upon as a contract."¹⁵ Dropping Catherine the Great's colonization decree served as a catalyst for emigration of the German colonists from Russia.

18. CAUSES OF EMIGRATION FROM RUSSIA

THERE WERE OTHER ISSUES besides the loss of time-honored privileges, which were causing the colonists in the German colonies to consider emigration, including crop failure in 1873, growing anti-Germanism in Russia, and an acute shortage of land. A meeting at the Protestant village of Balzer in 1873 was attended by representatives of villages from both sides of the Volga. After lengthy deliberations a committee of five *Kundeschafter* (exploratory emissaries) was appointed to personally investigate settlement opportunities in the United States.¹⁶ They gave a favorable report and some settlers, including the Mennonite "Gnadenau" colony, which settled in Marion county, Kansas, headed for the United States in 1874. Early in 1874 fourteen exploratory emissaries were sent to the U.S., followed later by other *Kundeschafter*. That year the German-American, C. C. Schmidt, representing the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, went to Russia with offers of cheap railroad lands located in Kansas.

19. PREPARATION FOR THE MOVE

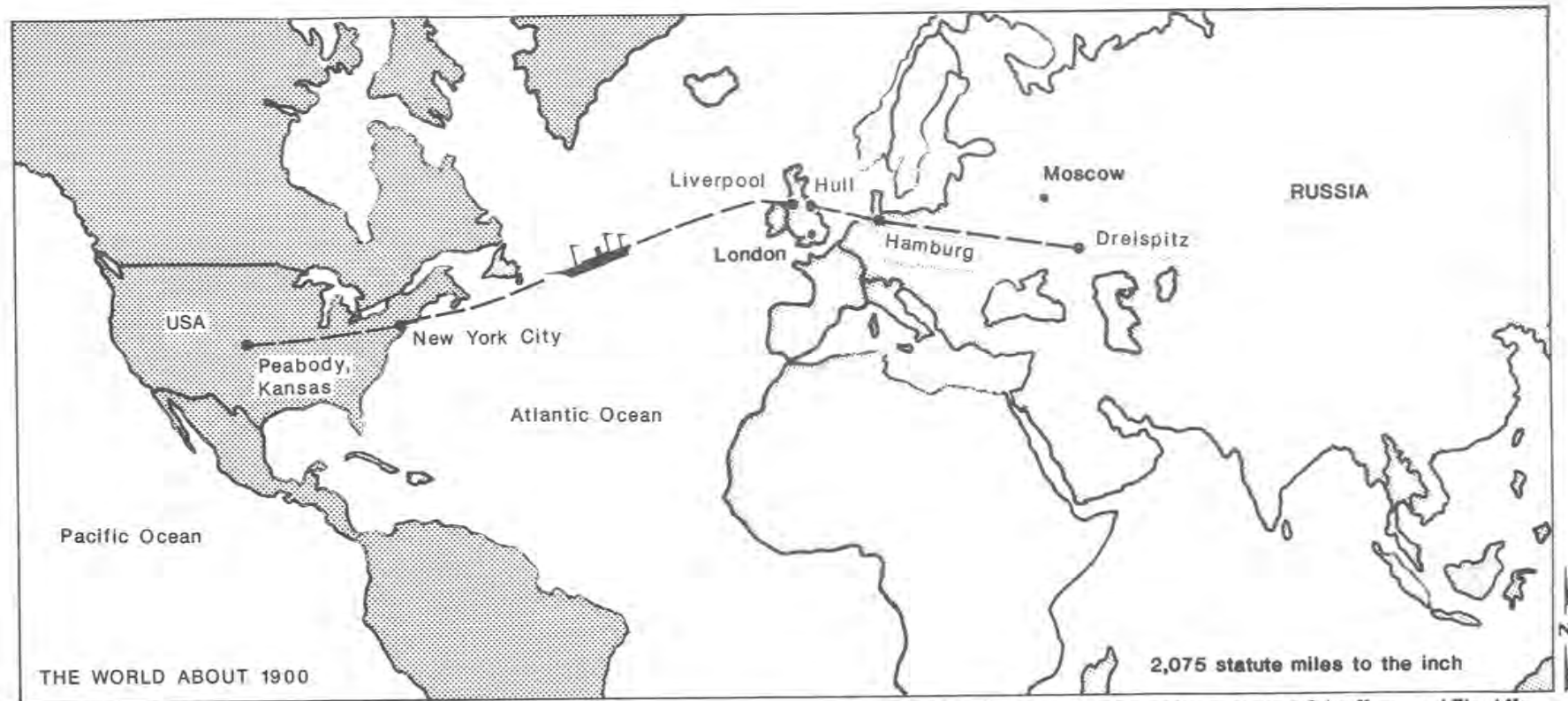
IN 1875 ADDITIONAL EXPLORATORY emissaries were sent to spy out the land in the United States and Canada. The representative for the Protestant villages of Kraft, Galka and Dreispitz, was Gottfried Schneider.¹⁷ Schneider, age 29 years, returned to his Kraft home and his wife and infant daughter with plans to emigrate in 1876. He was joined by his brother David, age 26, with a wife and two children, a distant relative, Gottfried Socolofsky, age 21, with a wife, two small children and his sister and others from the Volga in the big adventure of their lives--migration almost half way around the world to new lands in Kansas, U.S.A. Only a relatively few families had emigrated in 1874 and 1875, but the way was paved. An example of a larger migration in 1876 was the 108 families (containing 1,454 persons) from Roman Catholic Volga German villages, mostly from east of the Volga. They entrained at Saratov on June 26 (July 8 in the new calendar) in seventeen railroad cars bound for Latvia, Germany and Ellis county, Kansas.¹⁸ By that time the party that included the Socolofsky family was already located in Marion county, Kansas. Another author about the German Russian migration says that,

¹⁵ Fred Koch, *Volga Germans*, p. 204.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 206.

¹⁷ Letters from Kent C. Schneider, Boulder CO, June 29, and December 20, 1983. Schneider used the Hamburg Passenger Lists, Jan-June, 1876, microfilmed by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, #1049019 Bd 30.

¹⁸ Fred Koch, *Volga Germans*, pp. 206-7.



By 1876 the movement from the Volga region became general and assumed substantial proportions. Many of the immigrants came first to Lincoln, Nebraska. . . . Others moved on to other parts of Nebraska: some Norka colonists to Sutton, Kolb colonists to Hastings and to Campbell. But the largest numbers that year went to Kansas: small groups from Strassburg to Marion, from Dreispitz to Lehigh, from Moor to Otis, and from Dreispitz and Tscherbakawka [also known as Deutsch-Shcherbakavka] to Dorrance and Wilson; and a larger group of 74 families from Eckheim, Kratzke, Jagodnaja Polyana and other Volga villages to Barton and Russell counties. . . .¹⁹

¹⁹ Adam Giesinger, *From Catherine to Khrushchev*, p. 345. Norka, the biggest of the Volga German colonies, started out with more than 900 settlers and even after establishing a daughter colony it had a population of more than 14,000 in 1912; The 1982 supplement of the *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*, edited by P. William Filby and Mary K. Meyer (Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1983), p. 789 lists the small Socolofsky family, as reported by Emma Schwabenland Haynes, "Passenger Lists," *Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia*, vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 1978), pp. 76-78.

20. HOW LONG DID THE TRIP TAKE?

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PARTY which included the small Gottfried Socolofsky family was near the geographical center of the United States, about 8,000 miles to the west of their departure point and more than 800 miles south. The initial part of their journey would take them farther north in the beginning before heading west and south. Years later a portion of this route was described as taking forty-two days. A careful analysis shows that this migration could have taken forty-two days, all the way from Dreispitz, Russia, to Peabody, Kansas. Since we know that they arrived in New York City on June 25 and in Peabody, Kansas on July 4, and that departure from Liverpool came on the 15th and they left Hamburg, Germany for Hull, England, on June 10, we can see that this portion of their trip took 25 days. From Hull to Liverpool was a railroad trip of less than a hundred miles which could be completed in four or five hours. (One Mennonite group in 1874, lacking money to pay railroad fares, had walked across England from Hull to Liverpool in four days. Some of the Mennonite groups that year spent only five weeks on the journey.) The route from Dreispitz to Saratov was by cart or wagon--probably taking a minimum of 6 days. From there they went by rail across Russia and Germany to Hamburg which could have taken the other 11 days. If this hypothesis is accurate, the departure from Dreispitz when family and friends gave a tearful farewell to the *Ausziehende*, because some would never see each other again, came in the Russian spring time, perhaps on May 23.

21. NEW INFORMATION ON THE MIGRATION ROUTE

THE NORTH SEA CROSSING--almost directly west from Hamburg to Hull, on England's east coast--was on board the iron steamship Empress in a party of about 240 passengers from "Russland." This journey could have taken several days. The Empress, completed at Hull in July, 1868 by C. & W. Earle., and owned in 1876 by W. Liddell, had a port of registry at Hull. It was under the command of Captain William Northard, who received his master's certificate at Hull in 1867. It was a screw driven steamer of 1047 gross tonnage and 873 net tonnage, driven by 125 horsepower engines built by Amos & Smith. The overall length of this ship was 236 feet, 5 inches, its breadth was 31 feet, 7 inches, and depth was 16 feet, one inch.²⁰ The names of most of the 240 passengers on this ship show up on the passenger register of the City of Berlin, the ship used on the Atlantic crossing from Liverpool to New York City. Their identification as "Mennonites" in the country of origin column on the passenger list of the City of Berlin may have been due to the discount fare for both the ship and rail portions of this trip, which was arranged by Mennonites, probably including a Mr. Funk, organizer of the Mennonites already living in the United States to provide grants and loans to assist the immigration from Russia. The entire cost for a family traveling from Russia to Kansas was around 250 rubles

²⁰ Letter from Miss J. M. Wraight, Principal Reference Librarian, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, City of London, July 30, 1986; Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, 1877-79, pp. EMM-EMP. Northard's name here was printed Northam, a name that was not registered.

or about \$200.²¹ Since details of this crossing are in The Socolofsky Family: A History, they will not be repeated here.

22. DEBARKATION AT HULL

HULL, ENGLAND, HAD BEEN INVOLVED in handling immigrants bound for the United States for many years. As early as 1850 many German and Scandinavian immigrants used Hull as a way-station on their journey to Liverpool. The British government recognized this enterprise by providing regulations to protect travelers. Emigrants coming into Hull were generally aboard single-funnelled vessels with a capacity very much like the Empress. "When disembarkation came, baggage was inspected, then transferred to railway trucks, while stevedores unloaded cargo, and hawkers tried to sell refreshments. Liverpool agents sorted emigrants into parties, took them for a meal to houses which were under contract, then put them on board special trains [for] the four-hour rail journey [which] cost 6s. 6d."²²

23. RELIGIONS ISSUES IN DREISPITZ AND IN KANSAS

THE RELIGIOUS ISSUES IN THE Volga German villages were somewhat complicated. Dreispitz as a Protestant village was listed officially as Lutheran. Families such as that of Peter Dick, father of Katharina Elizabeth Dick Socolofsky and the village clerk and schoolmaster, were Lutheran--in a sense his job depended on it. The Socolofskys were Lutheran also when Gottfried and Katharina were married on January 1, 1873. Most Volga German colonies were Lutheran, but an isolated non-Lutheran Protestant village located

far to the south, a distance of a four or five days journey by horse and cart, from Dreispitz, Dobrinka, and Galka was Sarepta. It was twenty miles below Tsaritsyn, currently known as Volgograd and earlier Stalingrad. Sarepta's colonists were Moravian Brethren from Herrnhut, Saxony, and they received special privileges from Catherine the Great. An early motivation of colonists at Sarepta, to evangelize the non-Christians in the area, met with notable lack of success. The pietistic Brethren were treated by the Russian government as a "show colony" and were visited by many high public officials, writers, and educators." Sarepta became known for *sarpinka*, a choice gingham cloth and "a mustard condiment of such high quality that it gained widespread demand." The failure of the Brethren among nearby non-Christians caused them to send missionaries into the German Protestant villages where they gained some followers. However, they were compelled by the government to withdraw after they had awakened a desire in places such as Dreispitz for "a personal and individual religion that developed into the widespread institution of prayer meetings" without support or approval of the clergy.²³ As mentioned on page 8 of The Socolofsky Family: A History,

about 1874 the Socolofsky family was converted, through the influence of Rev. Frederick Dahlinger, to the idea that they should be baptized by immersion as adults. Thus, they left the Lutheran church, were all immersed, and with others formed a congregation, described as

²¹ Letters from Kent C. Schneider, Boulder CO, June 29 and December 20, 1983; Saul, "The Russian-Germans to Kansas," p. 48.

²² Philip Taylor, The Distant Magnet (New York: Harper & Row, 1971), pp. 146.

²³ Fred Koch, Volga Germans, p. 33.

Anabaptist. Because they had no church building or any other special place to meet they convened in private homes. Anabaptists have been associated with the Mennonites, Amish, and Hutterites, but the group with which the Socolofskys allied themselves was a somewhat different pietistic belief which led eventually to the German Baptist fellowship.

There were no organized churches for them in the places they lived in Marion county until the Tampa German Baptist Church was organized and a building program got underway about 1900. Soon after Gottfried's parents and his brothers arrived in Marion county the Socolofskys were identified with a group known as the *Bruder Gemeinde* which worshipped in a stone school house located on the corner of the John Ehrlich farm. This group "at first affiliated with the Ebenfeld Mennonite Brethren Church. Members had such names as Socolofsky, Kraus, Fromm, Spohn, Mohn, Klaiber [Kleiber], Rhode, Schreiner and Popp." There were differences in religious opinions "and in 1889 Brother Ehrlich left the Mennonite Church. In 1900 he and his group joined the Southwestern Association of German Baptists"²⁴ The Kansas state census of 1895 listed religious affiliation. For Clark township in Marion county, the residences of most of the Socolofskys, The Brethren German with 25 members were second only to the Methodist Episcopal which claimed 27. The first trustees of the German Baptist Church in Tampa, as listed in April, 1903, were Nicholas Spohn, John Mohn, Gottfried Socolofsky, W. J. Gutsch, Conrad Kleiber, Henry Fromm, and D. D. Socolofsky.

²⁴ Emma Schwabenland Haynes, "Progress Report on the Coming of Volga German Protestants to the United States," Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans From Russia, vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 1978), pp. 73-4.

SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY

Centennial Reunion



July 4, 1976

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
McPherson, Kansas

Cover of the 1976 Socolofsky Centennial Reunion church service folder with a sketch of the Tampa German Baptist Church--by Mary Jennifer Socolofsky Sims

II. A PIONEER CHURCH

This church was described in The Socolofsky Family: A History, published in 1973. Leona Kleiber Holecek has the following remembrance for the Tampa church, which was published on page two of the Kanhistique in September, 1976.

A Pioneer Church

Many of the early Kansas pioneers were strong and devout Christian men and women as were my maternal grandparents, Gottfried and Katy Socolofsky. They had been converted and baptized into the Baptist faith before leaving the settlement of Dreispitz in the Volga River valley.

There were no organized churches available to them in the area where they first located in Marion County in 1876 and presumably religious worship was maintained in the home. However, later my grandparents and their relatives moved to northern Marion County where they established a German Baptist Church in Tampa, Kansas in 1900. The church was built on three lots which had been purchased for \$150 and was considered a "beautiful and well designed" building. It was paneled with varnished grooved boards, but did not have electricity until 1919. The pulpit was on the west end of the structure and a Sunday School room occupied the east end of the building, beside the entrance hall. Many years have elapsed since then, but I can clearly see that small building where we met every Sunday to worship God.

It didn't matter whether the weather was pleasant or unfavorable--my father hitched the horses to the lumber wagon, sleigh, or carriage and we made the five mile trip to church. Often we heated bricks for our feet and covered our knees with buffalo robes. We were

always happy to arrive because Grandpa Socolofsky would have a roaring fire in the pot-bellied stove. He and Grandma were not only the founders and leaders of the church--they were the custodians as well. Our congregation was always small and as the older members died or moved away it became still smaller. Finally after the death of my grandparents the small group disbanded in 1938. Many of the families, including ours, transferred their memberships to other churches, but the little church in Tampa will always remain in my memory as a very precious and special place.

Our grandparents and parents were very devout Christians, but as children we weren't too serious about religion. The services were almost all in German so we didn't listen carefully. However, some of it must have soaked in because I can recall some of the German hymns and Scripture verses. Church was sort of a social affair to us cousins and we all sat together in a giggling, whispering group. One of our favorite pastimes was popping our wide black elastic garters because that sounded like corn popping. Many Sundays we were punished for our behaviour, but it never really reformed us.

It would be impossible to tell of our church activities without describing our annual Christmas programs which we children openly declared a "pain in the neck". However, I believe we secretly enjoyed them and were proud of our perfect performances. These programs were directed by Anna Popp who had been a school teacher. Since we were few in number we were given many different parts--songs, "pieces", dialogues, drills, etc. These were all in German and had to be perfect or we incurred the double wrath of our director and our parents. My cousin, Virginia Socolofsky, played

the old-fashioned organ and accompanied our songs. On the first chord we stood, on the second we turned, and on the third we began marching onto the platform. My cousin, Clinton Socolofsky, was rather small and, as he put it, usually the "lead horse", sometimes with disastrous results.

As I said before, nothing but perfection would do so we had endless practices on Sunday afternoons preceding the big night. Our poor mothers prepared delicious basket dinners which we ate in the back room of the Church. That part we loved best of all. After the dinner we tore out to play until the church bell summoned us grudgingly to the dreaded practice. I'll never forget the Sunday that my cousin, Charles Socolofsky, fell down and tore his new Christmas suit. His parents were *not pleased*.

Finally, the big night arrived and the church was beautifully decorated with a huge tree decked with candles. Our performances were always good and went as planned with the exception of one that stands out in my memory. One year several small trees were placed around the platform and my dad, Henry Kleiber, persuaded my cousin, Clinton Socolofsky, to leave the platform after his "piece" by jumping over a tree instead of going down the steps. I don't believe an atom bomb would have caused more consternation. I'm sure poor Clinton was punished when his uncle should have been.

After the performance the candles on the tree were lighted while our fathers stood by ready to extinguish any fire. I really can't describe the thrill and beauty those trees brought to the occasion. We were each given a sack of candy and nuts and also an orange and apple. How we enjoyed and looked forward to that treat! Somehow, all the weeks of practice and scoldings

we received seemed to fade into the background as we revelled in the true meaning of Christmas. I'm sure that we should have often begged Anna Pope's forgiveness for our naughtiness and I'm positive that she has been rewarded for her truly dedicated life. That little church and most of the members are long gone, but the memories will always remain in our hearts.

THE MEANING OF THE NAME

SOCOL, SOKOL = FALCON

SOCOLOF, SOKOLOF, SOKOLOV, SOKOLOV = FALCONER

SOCOLOFSKY, SOKOLOFSKY, SOKOLOWSKY, SOKOLOVSKY,
SOCOLOFSKI, AND OTHER VARIATIONS = FROM THE LAND
OF THE FALCONS

SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY MEMBERS FROM DREISPITZ, RUSSIA, EMIGRATED IN 1876, 1877, AND 1885. WHEN A DREISPITZER WITH THAT NAME EMIGRATED IN 1900 IT WAS IDENTIFIED AS SOCOLOFSKI AND IN 1908 IT WAS LISTED, SOKOLOWSKY. COMING FROM A VOLGA-GERMAN VILLAGE OF LESS THAN 3,000 POPULATION IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT THE DREISPITZ BACKGROUND WOULD MAKE ALL OF THESE PERSONS COUSINS OR MORE DISTANTLY RELATED. USUALLY THE "Y" ENDING INDICATES GERMAN CULTURAL CONNECTIONS, BUT MOST OF THE SIMILAR NAMES IN BIG CITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES WOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS RELATIVES OF THE DREISPITZ SOCOLOFSKYS.



Wedding picture from Higginsville MO (Aug 30, 1906), containing fifty guests, shows the bridal couple, Fred and Clara Socolofsky, on the second step in the center of the picture. Dan Socolofsky was the best man at this wedding and is standing at Fred's right elbow. Can you see the chicken in the foreground?



Abe called his first car, "The Little Red Imp." It was a chain-drive Buick, vintage 1916.



Rhinehardt and Elizabeth Socolofsky of Hahn TX, with their three daughters, 1921.



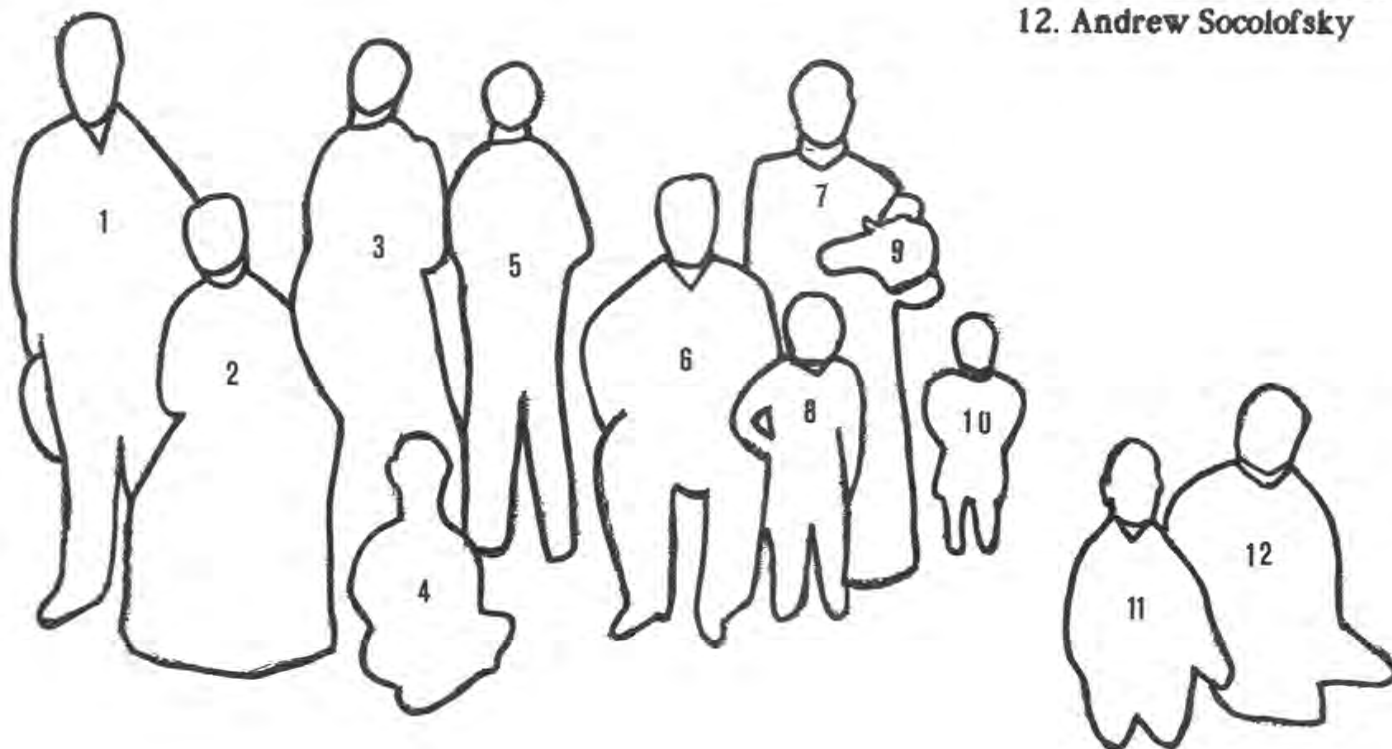
A Sunday afternoon in front of Godfrey's house, late 1916, with G.G.'s family (Charles is the smallest and youngest in the picture), G.G.'s parent, Sol, his wife Louisa, Clara Metcalf, Willie, Alex and Ella, and one other.

Family Portrait

by Mary Jennifer Socolofsky Wolfe Sims, May 1976

THE SETTING FOR "FAMILY PORTRAIT" is an 80-acre farm, located some four miles south and west of the future site of Lehigh, Marion County, Kansas. The time is in the Fall of 1878, after living in the sodhouse for a year. Its size was a relatively large 18' x 30', divided into two rooms and an attic, under its roof of thatched slough grass. This house was said to have cost \$200, far more than a typical sodhouse. The family has been reconstructed in the fashion of early day photographs on the Sodhouse Frontier. This picture was used for the cover of the Kansas State Historical Quarterly, Winter, 1977.

1. Gottfried Socolofsky [III]
2. Maria Elizabeth Klohs Socolofsky
3. Katharinne (Johann) Socolofsky
4. David Daniel Socolofsky
5. George Socolofsky
6. Gottfried Socolofsky [III]
7. Katharina Elizabeth Dick Socolofsky
8. Godfrey George Socolofsky [IV]
9. Maria (Mary) Elizabeth Socolofsky
10. Frederick William Socolofsky
11. Rhinehardt Hosea Socolofsky
12. Andrew Socolofsky





I Remember Well

by Eva Socolofsky Peay

[Eva wrote this in 1975 at age 82 and dedicated it to the memory of her parents and her brothers Solomon, Karl and Paul. She was bothered by arthritis but remembered that her ancestors "were a non violent Christian Folk--always ready to go the second mile when help was needed." She wrote that "the older I grow, I realize what a wonderful heritage" the Socolofskys have.]

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE to repeat a story my mother told me about her life in Russia. This particular incident has always intrigued me. Her family consisted of father, Frederick Dahlinger, mother, Catherine Dahlinger nee Ehrlich, sister Lydia, an older sister Eva, whom I was named for had died in childbirth and twin brothers Jacob and Immanuel. Her father was an itinerant Baptist minister, also a lover of fast horses. Consequently, when he made his preaching rounds he always rode a fast horse. They lived not too far from the "Turkish" border where an outlaw band, she called them "Tartars," made their living stealing fast horses and selling them. She said that often he was chased by these men, but always managed to reach home safely.

THEY DECIDED TO COME TO America in 1876, because of a Russian law, that every male, at age eighteen, must serve a year in the army. Russia had a treaty with Germany, signed by the highest authority in the land that this would never happen to German-Russian sons. They broke that treaty many years ago. When they left Russia, mother was ten years old, Lydia about two years older and the twin brothers



Eva Socolofsky Peay's last picture, about 1975

four years of age. They were allowed to take only a small amount of money, just enough to get them to America. The rest was confiscated by the government. They must have traveled overland by rail from Saratov to Hamburg, crossed the North Sea to England, thence from Liverpool by steamship to America. Mother often spoke of the rough crossing, but never mentioned the

name of the ship they sailed on. Her uncles, the Ehrlich brothers, Jacob, John and Karl came at the same time. Jacob's wife was Anna; John's Lydia. I think they were distantly related--fourth cousins, perhaps. Karl was the youngest brother. His wife was Marie Pauls. I knew her personally, as well as Aunt Anna and Aunt Lydia.

THEY CAME TO MARION, KANSAS, because it was good wheat country, also it lay between two rivers, the Cottonwood and Mud Creek. (When I went to school I was taught the proper name was Luta.) Since they were millers by trade, they needed to build a mill and a dam. A short distance away, they built a church, small, but adequate. All this was built of native rock. Sad to relate, mother's father died during the first year in America and I don't know where he was buried.

IN FEBRUARY 3, 1883, MOTHER married Andrew Socolofsky. The ceremony was performed by Uncle Jacob Ehrlich in Marion. Her sister Lydia was married later to Henry Fromm. He was an orphan and we never knew what part of Russia he came from. Since we were their only relatives, we have always kept in close touch with them. One son and two daughters still live around Hutchinson, Kansas. Their youngest daughter was married to Otto Pauls.

OF COURSE, I KNOW ALL THE children in our family, except for Clara and Paul, were born on the farm near Tampa, Kansas. When we moved to Marion, I assume it was to give us the opportunity for a better education, and I personally remember the events occurring from the time of that move. Certainly, I have lived in a most interesting era.

There were two schools in Marion, the Valley School, where I studied reading, writing and arithmetic, nine months of the year and the High School, where I studied German the remaining three months. The High School on the top of the hill was built of native rock. I have many fond memories of that school, of adjoining Central Park with its band stand, etc.



Central Park, Marion KS. (from Atlas of Kansas, 1887) showing the stone arch bridge over Mud Creek and on the Hill at left the school, considered in 1986 as the oldest public school in Kansas still used for school purposes

ONE OF MY VIVID MEMORIES of those years is "The Oliver Bros. Revival Meetings." A tent was put up across the street from Central Park and all the churches in town took part. All the young people sang in the choir. Each choir had a special seating place on the platform. I remember so well that our own German Baptist choir sat on the extreme left. Sol and Karl were there. One of the Brothers was music director. I can still see him, standing on a chair waving his baton. The other Brother did the preaching. The pianist was Miss Thorpe, from the Presbyterian Church. She later married one of the Brothers. I assume it was

the music director. However, the point I want to make and this is important, my parents, and my brothers were all converted at these meetings.

THERE WERE TWO RAILROADS going through town, the Rock Island, north and east to Kansas City and the Santa Fe, west to McPherson. There was a junction of these railroads a short distance from our home, which I had to cross on my way to school. One morning, while running across my foot got caught between the rails. I sat there screaming at the top of my lungs, because I could hear the train coming. A neighbor, Mr. Dockstater, heard me, came running, unlaced my shoe, and I pulled my foot out. Think I forgot to say, "Thank you" and I ran on to school. Also, I remember when another area in Oklahoma Territory was opened by the president in 1896. My father was there. I remember, quite vividly, when President McKinley was assassinated in 1901, by an anarchist named Czolgosz.

UNCLE JOHN EHRLICH, HIS WIFE Lydia, and daughter Emma, went to Russia in 1901. Uncle John hoped to collect some of grandmother's money. We all walked along the railroad track to Peabody to see them off to New York. I don't recall how long they were gone, but we met them the same way, when they came back. Incidentally, Uncle John was able to get only \$700, a very small portion of her fortune. The Ehrlichs of my generation I knew very well. We played together, went to school together, to church and Sunday school in the little rock church.

IN THE MEANTIME, MOTHER'S TWIN brothers, my Uncles Jake and Immanuel, had grown to manhood. They, together with help of the

Ehrlichs, built a large frame house for my grandmother, on the street near us, just back a little. It had a large side porch. She often sat on this sunny porch, and I would comb her hair at her request. I remember that she wore her hair in braids, pinned up in back.

IN 1905, MARY PAULS, nee Ehrlich, mother's cousin, and her husband Bernhard, moved to Daysland, Alberta. They had quite a large family, one daughter Alma, and six of seven boys. They lived in Lehigh Kansas where we visited them frequently. Two of the older boys served in the Canadian Army during World War I.

WE ALSO MOVED TO CANADA, to Saskatchewan in 1906. The land my father chose was on the south bank of the Saskatchewan River, with Solomon and Karl's quarter sections adjoining. There were other settlers there, some from the U.S., from Ontario, from Sweden, England, Finland and elsewhere. Clara and I attended a country school, Bonnie View



Taken after Clara Socolofsky was married to Donald Metcalf, showing other members of Andrew and Mary Socolofsky's family

District, and the building also served as a church, where I played the organ from the time of fourteen years of age until I was married. We soon had many friends among the young people. Because my piano was the only one around in our neighborhood, our home soon became a gathering place for Sunday afternoon "Sing Outs." When Loreburn, the nearest town, came into being, we were often invited to sing at different functions. We had formed a Literary Society, where some of the members would recite poems or give short plays and guests were always welcome. Sometimes a guest wanted to sing a solo, but lacked accompaniment. Because of my ability to improvise or transpose music I was often asked to accompany strangers whom I did not know, and soon I was known as "That little Socolofsky girl."

DURING THIS PERIOD OF MY LIFE we often saw the Aurora Borealis, better known as "The Northern Lights." They were unbelievable and I also remember seeing "Halley's Comet," streaking across the western sky and I thought I felt the earth tremor because of the comet. In 1913 I went to Oklahoma to study music for a year. On the way I stopped in Marion to visit with some of the Ehrlich cousins. While staying with Uncle Karl and Aunt Marie I met her sister Lena, who was married to a Russian Prince. During the Red Revolution they lived through terror after terror before they finally escaped to America.

IHAVE MANY MEMORIES OF my mother--she was a clever person. In Canada the Methodists and Presbyterians (there were no Baptists) had united and called themselves "The United Church." Mother had learned to speak English very well, but she never attended church, because she



On Solomon Socolofsky's farm in Saskatchewan.

could not understand English sermons very well. But she entertained the "Ladies Aid Society" just like it was her own home church. When she was no longer able to do things, they would come and visit with her and bring her flowers. She was lovingly referred to as "Aunt Mary" by all her friends. Brother Solomon was also very clever. He designed and built a small brick church on the spot of the Bonnie View School. He was an elder in the church. When Clara and I, with our children, went home on summer vacations, we attended this church. Now our children are grown and Clara and I have only fond memories of those wonderful years.



Paul Socolofsky and his "wireless" -- note the hat on the cow

THE CITY OF BERLIN WAS A rather famous ship in its day. Powered by two new style 850 horsepower compound steam engines, it established a trans-Atlantic record, Liverpool to New York City, of less than ten days in the first year of its operation, 1875. Numerous pictures of the City of Berlin and this ship under later names are available through the Peabody Museum of Salem, Massachusetts, or the Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic Connecticut. There was at least one painting of the City of Berlin, painted sometime in the 1880s by Danish-American artist Antonio N. G. Jacobsen (1850-1921).¹ The long career of the City of Berlin ended in 1921 when it was scrapped in Philadelphia. This passenger liner could hold about twice as many passengers as the number aboard when it took young Gottfried Socolofsky's family to the United States. At that time there were something more than eight hundred passengers registered for that crossing of late June 1876, which included about 350 others from Russia and more than 450 passengers from England, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Italy, and the United States. Recent published material on this ship is as follows:²

City of Berlin (1875) Inman Line.

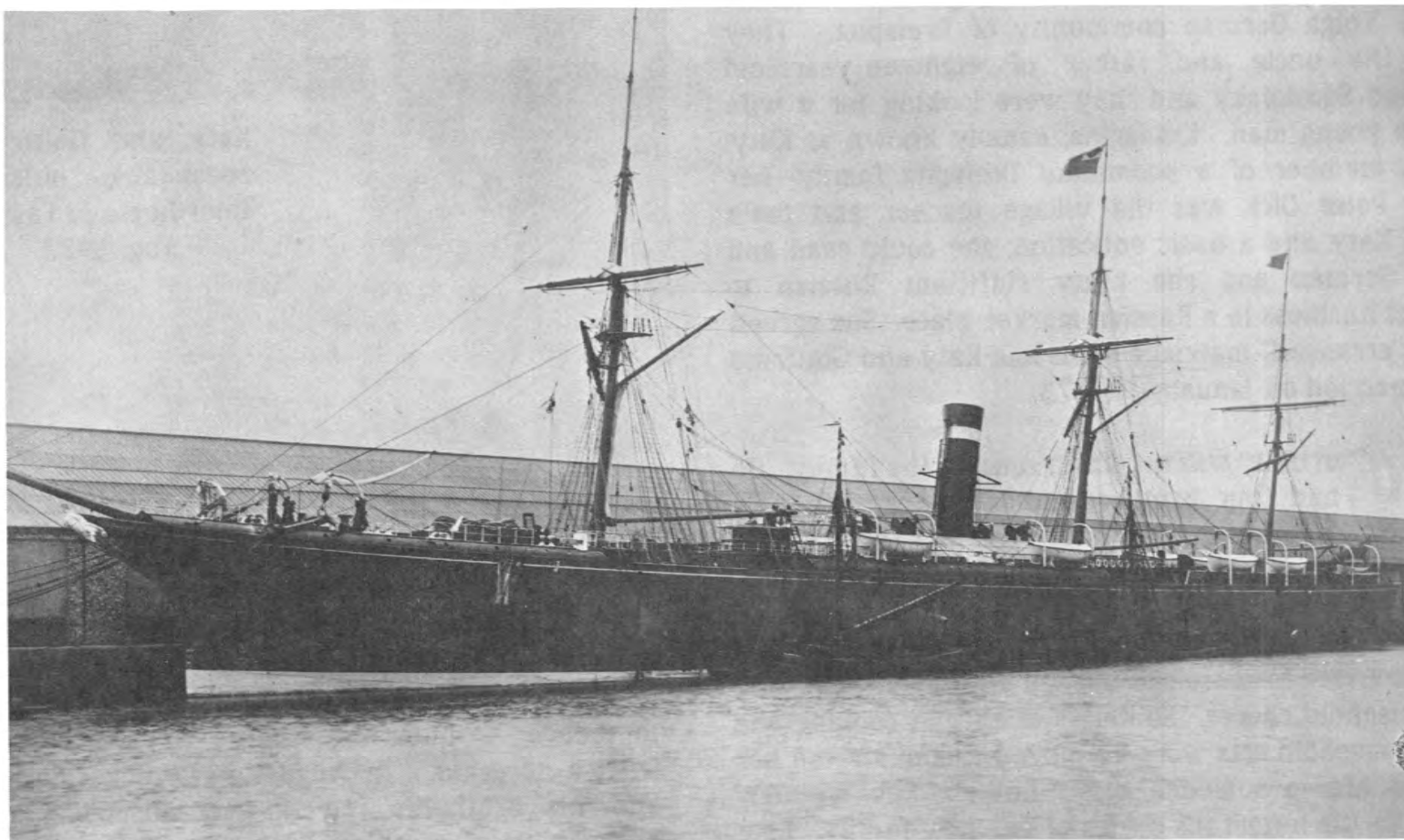
Built by Caird & Co., Greenock, Scotland. Tonnage: 5,491. Dimensions: 488' x 44' (513' o.l.). Single-screw, 16 knots. Compound engines. Three masts and one funnel. Iron hull. Launched October 27, 1874. Dining saloon measured 44' x 43'. Coal consumption was 120 tons per day; 12 boilers; 36 furnaces. New triple expansion engines in 1887. Passengers: 202 cabin, 1,500 third class. Maiden voyage: Liverpool-New York, April 29, 1875. Renamed: (a) **Berlin** (1893). (b) **Meade** (1898) United States Government. In transport service to the Philippines. Nearly destroyed by fire in 1906. Rebuilt and used as a training ship at Boston. This trans-Atlantic record-breaker was scrapped at Philadelphia in 1921.



The *U.S.S. Meade*, after 1898, formerly the *S.S. City of Berlin*. Obviously this picture was made after the U.S. Navy began to paint ships white, for instance, battleships and cruisers were painted white in 1907 for the voyage of the "Great White Fleet" around the world. Courtesy of the Mystic Seaport Museum.

¹ Letters from Philip D. Budlong, Registrar, Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, Connecticut, October 3, 1986 and Kathy Flynn, Photographic Assistant, Peabody Museum of Salem, Massachusetts, July 30, 1986.

² Eugene W. Smith, Passenger Ships of the World: Past and Present (Boston, MA: George H. Dean Co.).



The *S. S. City of Berlin*, courtesy of the Peabody Museum of Salem

A Tiny Pioneer Mother

Based on material prepared
for Kanhistique in 1976

TINY KATHARINA ELIZABETH DICK, four feet, nine inches tall at age nineteen years was interviewed late in 1872 by two townsmen in the Volga German community of Dreispitz. They were the uncle and father of eighteen-years-old Gottfried Socolofsky and they were looking for a wife for the young man. Katharina, usually known as Katy, was a member of a prominent Dreispitz family--her father Peter Dick was the village teacher and town clerk. Katy had a basic education; she could read and write German and she knew sufficient Russian to conduct business in a Russian market-place. She agreed to the "arranged" marriage plans and Katy and Gottfried were married on January 1, 1873.

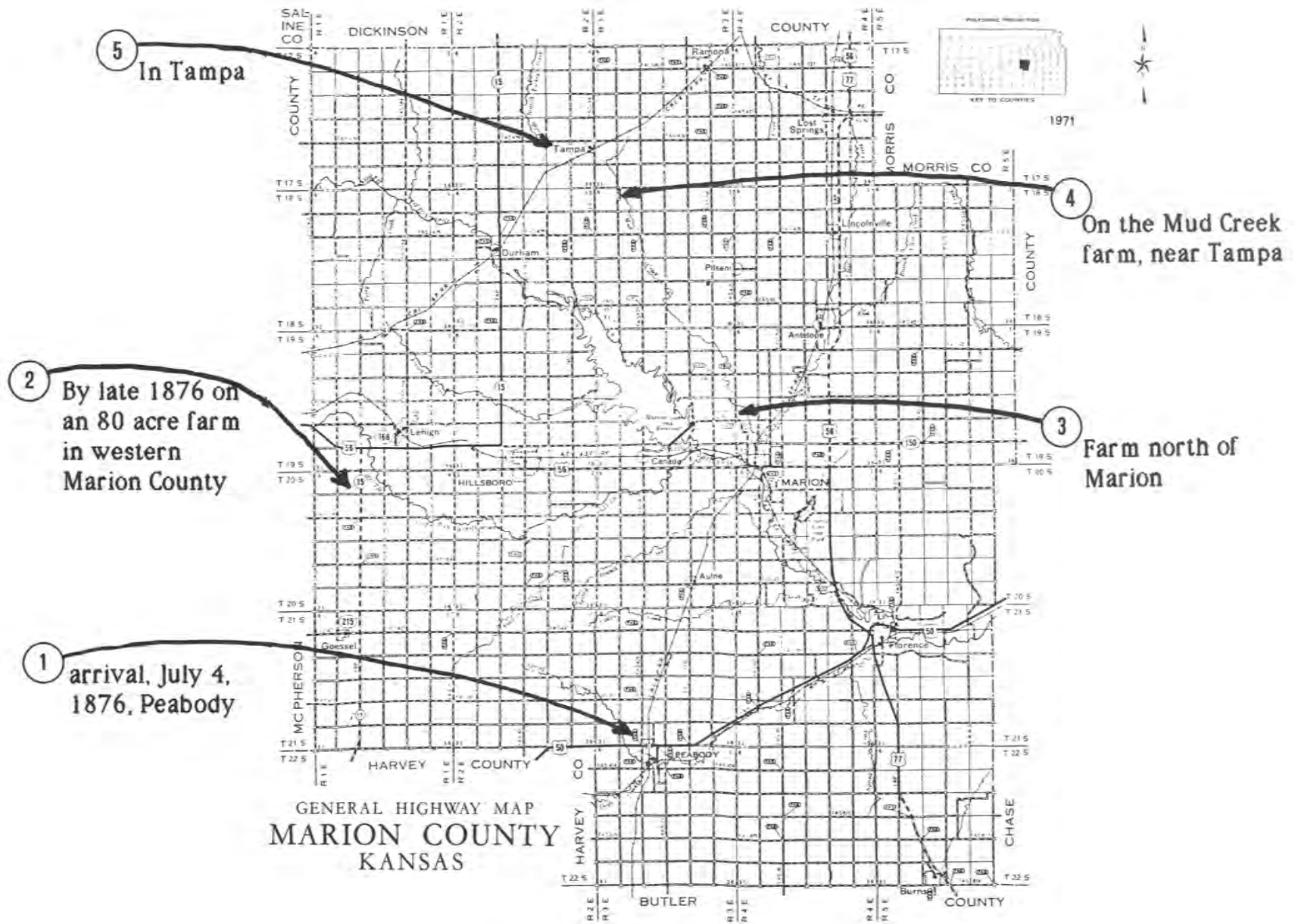
GOTTFRIED WAS THE OLDEST CHILD in the family. He had four brothers and one sister. The male members of the family contributed substantially to the family resources because they received a proportional share of the farm land around Dreispitz. Nevertheless, Gottfried's mother wanted him to get married because she needed additional help with the household chores. So Katy's talents in cooking and other household arts were employed as she started her wedded life in someone else's home. She willingly shared in the numerous duties of her new family. Late in 1873 and late in 1875 she bore her first two children, both sons. The family by that time had developed plans to emigrate from Dreispitz to the United States and young Gottfried was to take his young

family and his sister and go first. He was eligible for military service and because his property holdings were scant, it was easier for him to leave in 1876, shortly after the infant reached six months of age. They got to Peabody, Kansas, on United States' centennial day, July 4, 1876.



Katy and Gottfried
Socolofsky, outside
their home in Tampa,
Aug. 1927

FOR A SHORT TIME IN THE NEW land, Gottfried worked on a nearby farm for a Dane, named Petersen. Then they located eighty-acres on unbroken prairie near the western Marion county boundary, southwest of the future site of Lehigh, where in pioneer fashion they shared a primitive dwelling with a neighbor. In August 1877 Gottfried's parents and his brothers arrived after disposing of what property they could in Dreispitz. They then built a large sodhouse to provide shelter for the eleven members of this three generation family. Katy's third child, a daughter, was born there. Within a short time they relocated again to another unimproved piece of



All of Katy's residences in the US were in Marion County, Kansas

land four and one-half miles north of the county seat of Marion Centre. This quarter section, bought from the Santa Fe railroad, became home after a stone house, and other buildings were completed, ground was broken and trees planted. Katy's next three children, a daughter and two sons, were born there.

AFTER KATY'S FATHER-IN-LAW DIED suddenly from sunstroke, this farm was sold to settle the estate and Katy's husband, and three of her brothers-in-law relocated on four unbroken quarter-sections some ten miles up the valley of Mud Creek, just three miles south of the well-known Santa Fe Trail. Katy's household was growing. In addition to her husband and five small children, it was frequently enlarged with her widowed mother-in-law and two teenage brothers-in-law. There was no problem with food--there was always enough--but space in their quickly built, uninsulated house was lacking. Much money had been borrowed to buy the new land, prices for farm goods were low and it was difficult to pay the mortgage, but somehow Gottfried and Katy managed. This poorly built house was where Katy's four youngest children, all sons, were born. Katy was helped by neighborhood women at the birth of all of her children. In no case did she have the assistance of a doctor. She was a good and careful mother because all of her children were healthy and all of them were alive at the time of her death at the ripe age of eighty-one years. However, the death date for each of her children was at a younger age than eighty-one.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF GOTTFRIED and Katy's farm was filled with relatives and very quickly a new public school was opened so that their

German speaking children could get the rudiments of an education. Public education was in English, but German remained the language in use around the Socolofsky house and barn. Katy knew almost no English but she could participate, according to Kansas law, in selecting a school board; the first board was made up of her husband and two brothers-in-law. For awhile this school was known as the Socolofsky School. Later with a decrease in the number of Socolofsky patrons the name was changed to the Comet School, selected in part because of the public acclaim of Halley's Comet.

WITHIN A FEW YEARS KATY'S oldest children began to leave this home and the close-knit family community began to spread out to new areas. The family of Gottfried's sister departed within six or seven years. Another of Katy's sisters-in-law, who also had nine children was distressed to lose four in infancy, so they moved to the county seat to further their children's education and Gottfried was able to buy that brother's farm. Another brother-in-law was widowed and he moved to Durham and eventually to Colorado. Even in these trying years Gottfried and Katy were helping others, such as families who immigrated from Germany or Russia, or in church mission activities.

KATY BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL in the early 1900s. The long days of burdensome hard work were catching up with her. Gottfried was willing to retire to town but Katy got well. So instead of moving Gottfried had a pretentious, new, two story, slate-roofed house built in 1909, when only the three younger sons were still at home. Katy now had all the space she had dreamed of, but instead of worrying about what might have been she entertained the

enlarging number of grandchildren and other relatives. Frequently after church and before Sunday dinner eager grandchildren would be seen making a beeline to Katy's pantry to sample uncooked butter glaze or to eat bags of cut-and-dried apples, peaches or other fruits, laboriously prepared for schnitzel. Katy's table for these Sunday dinners groaned under its load of home butchered meats, home canned fruits and vegetables, delicious homemade bread and pies, and homemade apple butter.



Distant view of Katy and Gottfried Socolofsky's house on the land purchased from Andrew, with the road just out of the picture on the right

IN 1915, JUST AFTER WAR broke out in Europe, Gottfried reduced his farming operations and in 1918, at the age of 63, he retired from farming. Katy and he moved into another home three miles away in Tampa, where for the first time in 45 years of married life Katy and her husband were alone in their own home. But grandchildren were frequently in the house and some of them lived there during the

week while attending the Tampa High School. One granddaughter later said that because Grandpa felt that Grandma:

Deserved a long rest, he did most of the work and no queen ever had a more loyal and devoted subject. Her throne was an easy chair with a pillow behind her back, under each arm, and her little feet on a footstool. Grandpa would sit beside her and together they would chat or read to each other from their German newspapers. . . . as I look back on it now I know that these were two happy old people, who were still very much in love.

TELEPHONE LINES HAD BEEN in existence in the Tampa area for sometime and both Gottfried and Katy kept in close touch with the family by frequent calls over the rural party lines, by visits to the children, to other relatives and by correspondence. Katy continued to write letters to a sister who was still in Russia. She kept the bay window of her cozy dining room, well filled with plants and there was a singing canary in a cage. Her grandchildren called her "Grossmutter" or more intimately "Klein Mutter" because she was so small and in turn she used endearing diminutives with her children and grandchildren.

BUT KATY'S ERECT, SHORT, PLUMP figure in her old fashioned simple buttoned-down-the-front shirtwaist, with its little round collar and long sleeves, in either her every day blue calico or Sunday black silk was a source of embarrassment to some of her granddaughters. They tried to get her to change to new style clothing but she would have none of it. Neither would she use cosmetics, although she was a ready purchaser of goods that neighborhood children sold door-to-door, even if it was face powder, which she had no use for. Soap was all she needed for her own personal use.

THERE WERE FORTY-EIGHT PEOPLE, SONS and daughters with their spouses and children, at Gottfried and Katy's Golden Wedding celebration in 1923. Later grandchildren numbered only half a dozen and Gottfried and Katy saw them all. Gottfried died after 59 years of marriage and Katy died three years later on June 26, 1934. She is fondly remembered. She little knew in 1872 what her willingness to marry a unknown young man would bring her. The long migration from Russia to the United States, followed by opening three new farms in early day Marion County, was challenging and difficult. She was proud when Gottfried became an American citizen, because she became a citizen too. Later she accepted the responsibility which went with the privilege of voting. She was the kind of pioneer mother who asked for little and she gave much in return. Those who knew here were blessed by her generosity.

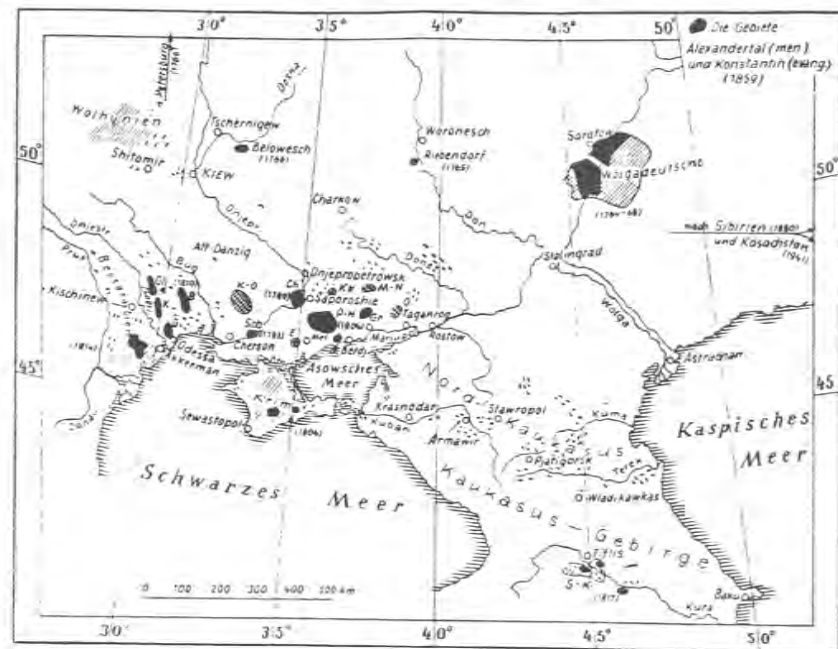
Life Sketch of Gottfried Socolofsky

prepared in January, 1975 for the
Marion County Historical Society

THE ELDEST CHILD OF Gottfried Socolofsky, [II], and Maria Elizabeth Klohs, was Gottfried Socolofsky, [III], born October 19, 1854, in the German-language community of Dreispitz, Russia. The family name was of Slavic rather than German origin, and could have come from the region near the common late-twentieth-century border of Poland, East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Dreispitz was a farming community near the west bank of the Volga River and the family occupation was farming. Other children were Andrew, Katharinne, George, Rhinehardt, and David.

ON JANUARY 1, 1873, GOTTFRIED was married to Katharina Elizabeth Dick, born April 26, 1853. Her father was Peter Dick, a Dreispitz village teacher and town clerk. Her mother's maiden name was Quindt. Following the birth of their first two children, Godfrey George and Frederick William, the young family departed for America, also taking with them Gottfried's sister, Katharinne. Their route, via Hamburg and Liverpool, brought them into New York

INDEX MAP OF GERMAN SETTLEMENT AREAS IN USSR



EXPLANATION OF THE MARKING AND ABBREVIATIONS: The closed main settlement areas are marked with a closed circle (●) = Mother-, a circle with a dot (◐) = Daughter colonies) and indicated by the first letter, which are explained in the index below. The scattered colonies are marked with short strokes. The settlements at Petersburg (Leningrad) and Siberia could not be considered on this map, their location is indicated by arrows.

ABBREVIATIONS: Mother Colonies: G=Grossliebentaler, K=Kutschurganer, B=Beresaner, GI=Glueckstaler, Ch=Chortitzaer, P,H=Prischib-Halbstaedter, Sch=Schwedengebiet, Gr=Grunauer (Planerkolonien), S-K=Sued-Kaukasus.

Daughter Colonies: K-O=Kronau-Orloffter, E=Eugenfeld-Darmstaedter (Taurien), O=Ostheimer (Dongebiet), M-N=Memrik-New-Yorker, Kk=Kankriner (Schoenfeld), Mel.=Melitopol, Berdj.=Berdjansk.



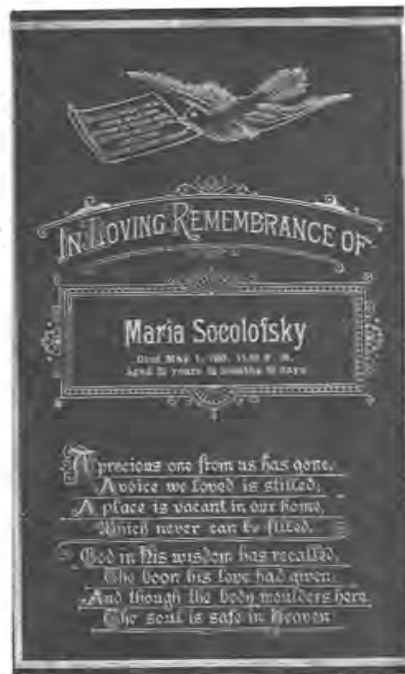
Daughter Colonies distributed in larger areas.

(1804) = 1804) = settled since 1804.

City on the City of Berlin on June 25, 1876. Little more than a week later, on July 4, they arrived at Peabody, Kansas, where Gottfried found employment on a neighboring farm.

A SHORT TIME LATER GOTTFRIED moved his family to an eighty-acre farm along the western border of Marion County, not far from the site of Lehigh. His parents and brothers immigrated in 1877. A sod house, eighteen by thirty feet, was built to shelter the family. In 1879 or 1880 the entire family, with the exception of Katharinne who married Abraham Friesen, moved to the SW quarter of 7-19-4, north of Marion in Center Township, which was purchased from the Santa Fe at \$6 per acre. The new land was put into cultivation, out-buildings were erected, and a stone house, with dimensions about twenty by thirty-two feet, with a thatched roof, was provided for the family.

Katy and Gottfried Socolofsky



By that time Maria and Lydia had been born to Gottfried and Katharina and some time later, Jacob, their third son.

ON THIS FARM THE ELDER GOTTFRIED [II] died of sunstroke, either in 1880 or 1881, and the farm was sold in 1883. The three eldest brothers, along with brother-in-law Abraham Friesen, then purchased four quarter-sections in the border area between Clark and Colfax townships. On this land near Mud Creek they built wooden houses. Four other sons were born to Gottfried and Katharina on that farm, NW quarter 5-18-3, and they all had many cousins on nearby farms. The younger sons were Daniel, Abraham, Benjamin and William Frederick.

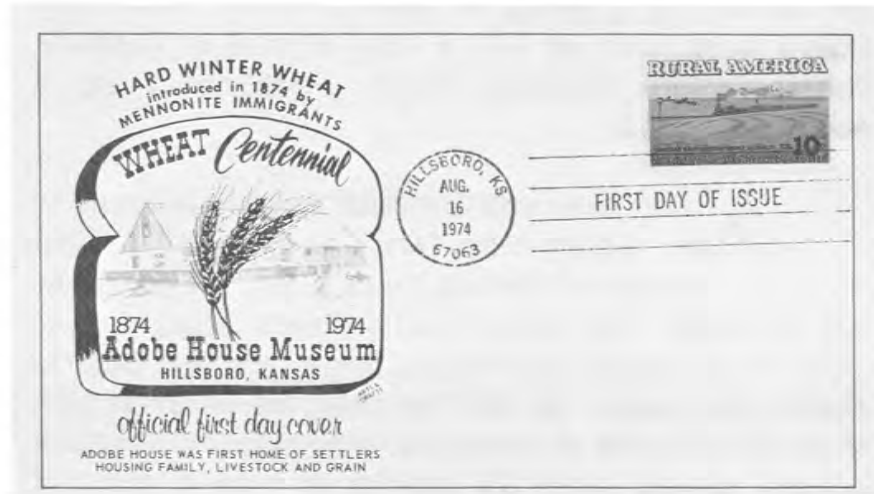
SCHOOL DISTRICT #91 WAS formed largely through the interest of these families on April 24, 1884. Through its 74 years as a taxing unit there were 28 Socolofskys and three Friesens enrolled there. In 1892 the close-knit Socolofsky family ties began to loosen; the Friesens moved to a farm near Durham and later to Colorado and California. About the same time David, the youngest brother moved to Marion to clerk in Loveless and Sackett's store. Later, he returned to his own mercantile store in nearby Tampa, and in 1916 he moved to Oregon. Rhinehardt, the next older brother became a baker in Tampa, moved to Abilene, then to the state of Washington and to Texas. Andrew, the next to the oldest son, moved his family to Marion in 1894, where he worked in a hardware store. In 1906 he moved his family again, which included two grown sons and three younger children, to Saskatchewan where they homesteaded three-quarters of a section. George,

Gottfried's remaining brother in the district #91 neighborhood, departed after his wife's death in 1901 and he eventually moved to Colorado.

GOTTFRIED ADDED TO HIS LAND holdings, in spite of the difficult times of the 1890's, so that by 1905 he farmed 720 acres, 400 of which was rented from William Scully. Thereafter, his farming



Maria Elizabeth Klohs Socolofsky (Apr. 3, 1828--Sept. 24, 1901) in a picture taken in the early 1890s



activity declined as he disposed of some of his land to sons. In 1909 he built a large farm home and in the winter of 1917-8, Gottfried and Katharina moved into Tampa, where for the first time in their married life they lived by themselves. During these years Gottfried aided the immigration of 25 or more German-speaking families with financial assistance.

DREISPITZ, THE TOWN OF THEIR birth, was officially Lutheran, but the elder Socolofskys had been converted to a pietistic belief before their departure from Russia. For awhile they were known as The Brethren German, but in 1900 Gottfried helped organize the German Baptist Church in Tampa. Gottfried generally voted the Republican ticket and he had been elected as director of School District #91 before he gained citizenship.

FOR GOTTFRIED AND KATHARINA, AN outstanding event of their later years was their fiftieth (or jubilee) wedding anniversary held early in 1923. The remainder of their years were spent

quietly, visiting with their friends and their children and enjoying their thirty-three surviving grandchildren. Gottfried died November 17, 1931, and Katharina on June 16, 1934. They were buried in the Highland Cemetery in Marion. None of their direct descendants lived in Marion County in 1975 [changed later with the return of James L. Socolofsky and his family after service in the Air Force], although Janice (Mrs. Rosse Case) is a granddaughter of Gottfried's brother George.

IN 1975, THE CHILDREN AND THEIR spouses, of Gottfried and Katharina are all deceased, with the exception of Sadie Frick, widow of their eldest son, Godfrey George. She lives in Oakland, California, near her three daughters, Virginia, Kathryn (Mrs. Robert Travis); and Edna. Her son, Charles, lives in Scott City. Frederick William married Clara Grau and they had four daughters, two surviving in 1975. They are Ruth, living in Manhattan; and Dorothy (Mrs. Clare Erickson) of Billings, Montana. The other daughters were Ann (Mrs. Richard Erbe); and Kathryn. The five children of Maria, who married Jacob Major, were Salome (Mrs. Francis Steckel) and Ella (Mrs. Herbert Oliver) both of Denver, Colorado; Ben of Dorrance; Esther (Mrs. Charles Hill), Rialto, California; and Herbert, of Monroe, Washington. Lydia, who married Henry Kleiber, had three surviving daughters; Laura (Mrs. Gale Safford), Shawnee Mission; Leona (Mrs. F. W. Holecek), McPherson; and Ellamae (Mrs. Don Fore), Mission. Jacob married Christina Kleiber. Their children were Clara (Mrs. Bill Hein), McPherson; Clarence, deceased; Clinton, Eureka; and Lorene (Mrs. Marvin Bostow), Tuscon, Arizona. Daniel, whose wife was Clara Propp, also had four children; Helen (Mrs. Loren Goings), deceased; Albert, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Arthur, Shaker Heights,

Ohio; and John, Glassboro, New Jersey. Abraham married Mary Reneau. Their children were Homer, and Mildred (Mrs. John Lindholm), both of Manhattan; Dorothy (Mrs. James Graham) of Claremont, California; and Marion of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Benjamin married Violet Ricks and their daughter, Isabel (Mrs. Wilson Rutherford), lives in El Campo, Texas. William Frederick and his wife, Martha Hein, had four children; Alice (Mrs. Hugo Epp) of Mission; Robert, Mapleton; Violet (Mrs. John Peterson) of Clearwater; and Doris (Mrs. Delbert Wolf) of Angleton, Texas. There are fifty-eight persons in the next generation. A Socolofsky Centennial Family Reunion is planned for July 4, 1976 in McPherson.



Train Time, Tampa KS with freight engine #1923 from a postcard mailed in 1907. The Rock Island came through the area in the late 1880s and created Tampa and other small towns. After the Rock Island's bankruptcy in the 1970s this line through Tampa was taken over by the St. Louis Southwestern Railway Co.

THE FIRST FOUR GENERATIONS

Gottfried [I] m ca 1824 to _____ SCHROEK

Gottfried [II] b ca 1825, m ca 1853 to Maria Elizabeth KLOHS, b 3 JAN 28, Dreispitz, Russia. Immigrated 1877. He d ca 1880, Marion Co., KS. She d 24 SEP 01, near Tampa KS and was bur. in Mohn Cemetery, near Tampa.

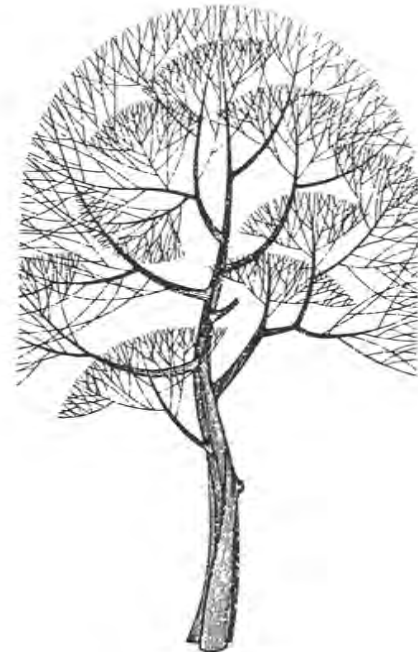
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| (1) GOTTFRIED SOCOLOFSKY [III]
KATHARINA ELIZABETH DICK | (2) ANDREW SOCOLOFSKY
MARY CATHERINE DALLINGER | (3) KATHARINNE (JOHANN) SOCOLOFSKY
ABRAHAM B. FRIESEN |
| (4) GEORGE SOCOLOFSKY
MARIA DINKELACHER | (5) RHINEHARDT HOSEA SOCOLOFSKY
ELIZABETH SCHULZ | (6) DAVID DANIEL SOCOLOFSKY
ANNA ELIZABETH EHRLICH |
| (11) GODFREY GEORGE SOCOLOFSKY [IV]
SARAH SADIE FRICK | (12) FREDERICK WILLIAM SOCOLOFSKY
CLARA MARY GRAU | (13) MARIA (MARY) ELIZABETH SOCOLOFSKY
JACOB FREDERICK MAJOR |
| (14) LYDIA SOCOLOFSKY
HENRY KLEIBER | (15) JACOB SOCOLOFSKY
CHRISTINA KLEIBER | (16) DANIEL SOCOLOFSKY
CLARA PROPP, GRACE KITE, A. HELM |
| (17) ABRAHAM LINCOLN SOCOLOFSKY
MARY BELLE RENEAU | (18) BENJAMIN HARRISON SOCOLOFSKY
VIOLET BRAXTON RICKS | (19) WILLIAM FREDERICK SOCOLOFSKY
MARTHA HEIN |
| (21) SOLOMON A. SOCOLOFSKY
LOUISE MCKAY DODDS | (22) KARL SOCOLOFSKY
unm. | (23) EMANUEL SOCOLOFSKY [1ST]
d infancy |
| (24) ANDREW SOCOLOFSKY
d infancy | (25) EMANUEL SOCOLOFSKY [2ND]
d infancy | (26) EVA MARY SOCOLOFSKY
HORACE PEAY |
| (27) CLARA SOCOLOFSKY
SCOTT METCALF | (28) ISAAC SOCOLOFSKY
d infancy | (29) PAUL SOCOLOFSKY (VAR)
FAY GOSS |
| (31) MARY FRIESEN
CHARLES CONNOLLY | (32) LYDIA (RUTH) FRIESEN
____ SOMMERS, ____ JOHNSON | (33) SARAH FRIESEN
____ NICHOLS |
| (34) ABRAHAM FRIESEN | (35) ANNA FRIESEN | (36) PAULINE FRIESEN |
| (41) JOHN SOCOLOFSKY
ANNA MARGARET STROH | (42) HANNAH SOCOLOFSKY
ABRAHAM A. FRICK | (43) LEAH SOCOLOFSKY
JOHN J. STROH, JR. |
| (44) ALEXANDER SOCOLOFSKY
ELLA V. POPP | (45) PAULINE SOCOLOFSKY
CHARLES GIST | (46) GEORGE SOCOLOFSKY
unm. |
| (47) EMANUEL SOCOLOFSKY
KATIE BOTT | (48) BENJAMIN SOCOLOFSKY
DOROTHY (PEGGY) LAWRENCE | |
| (51) BERNADINE SOCOLOFSKY
HENRY RUTZ | (52) LOLA SOCOLOFSKY
WILLIAM L. SUTER | (53) LUCILLE SOCOLOFSKY
HARRY SIVLEY |
| (61) SALOME ADELINE SOCOLOFSKY
ROY M. SMITH | (62) EDWIN DAVID SOCOLOFSKY
VEONA WILLIAMS, MARGORIE LIMBOCKER | (63) HERBERT GOTTFRIED SOCOLOFSKY
RUTH____, IRENE WOLFE |
| (64) HAROLD JACOB SOCOLOFSKY
MARGARET MUMAW | (65) WALTER ANTHONY SOCOLOFSKY
ALICE MCKINNON | |

COUSIN FREDERICK SOCOLOFSKY (F1) SON OF GEORGE ADAM AND KATHARINE ELIZABETH SOCOLOFSKY WAS b 23 DEC 45, DREISPITZ, RUSSIA; m THERE TO JULIA LANGHOFER; AND CHILDREN-- JULIE (F11) b 2 NOV 70 WHO m TO CASPER HAAS; AMELIA (F12) b 27 MAR 77, m TO E. FRANKLIN GANT; DAVID (F13) b JUN 84, m TO MARY STEINLE; AND ANNE (F14) b 23 DEC 88, m TO BEN C. FRICK. ONLY ANNA IN THIS FAMILY WAS b IN THE U.S.

ANOTHER ANNA SOCOLOFSKY (K1) b IN DREISPITZ, RUSSIA JAN 82 IMMIGRATED IN 1900 WITH HER BROTHER DAVID AND SISTERS. MOST OF THE FAMILY RETURNED TO RUSSIA AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF ONE OF THEM BY FIRE.

ANNA m GEORGE G. KOCH IN LA JUNTA CO 8 JAN 02.

ALEXANDER SOKOLOWSKY (J1) b IN DREISPITZ, RUSSIA, 1 OCT 84 TO JACOB SOKOLOWSKY AND KATHERINE BERTRAM IMMIGRATED TO THE U.S. IN 1910. THREE OF HIS BROTHERS SETTLED IN ARGENTINA. A SON VICTOR (J11) LIVES IN BREMERTON WA.



George's Story

WHEN MARIA, WIFE OF GEORGE SOCOLOFSKY, died in 1902, she left eight children in need of a mother, the oldest nineteen and the youngest two years of age. George first moved his family to a farm near Durham. Later he married Eva Weinmeister, who was called "step-mother" by all of his children. She had relatives in Fort Collins, Colorado and about 1907 she convinced George to sell out in Kansas and move to Colorado. The family moved in two or three railroad cars, taking with them everything that could be moved,

Funeral cards, usually gold on black such as this one, were provided on heavy photograph cards in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



including livestock, farm equipment and household goods. On January 18, 1908, George bought an irrigated farm north of Fort Collins and they began farm work immediately. They planted crops and that fall part of the sugar beets froze in the ground. George became ill just before Christmas in 1908 and died January 8, 1909.

Wedding picture for
George Socolofsky and
Eva Weinmeister,
about 1904



One account said that his cause of death was "stomach cancer," another "ruptured appendix." He was forty-five years of age and his youngest children were Benjamin age ten years, Emanuel who was thirteen, George [III] sixteen, Pauline eighteen and Alexander twenty years of age. Colorado law did not protect minor children at that time--all the property went to the surviving spouse, and "step-mother" felt no responsibility toward these young children. She sold all of the stock, machinery and household goods that she did not want, went to Kansas for a visit, then moved to eastern Colorado where she had two brothers named Henry and George. The land north of Fort Collins was rented out and remained in George's name until August 25, 1954, with the income certainly going to the "step-mother" who lived to a ripe old age. What happened to George's abandoned children? Alexander went back to Kansas. He had earlier met Ella V. Popp who had told



George Socolofsky's home north of Ft. Collins, Colorado, 1908--l. to r. Pauline, Emmanuel, Leah, George II, "Step-mother," Benjamin, and George I, with Alexander on the roof

Leah Socolofsky, Alex's older sister, "I'm going to marry him." George [II], Emanuel and Benjamin lived with Leah for awhile. Pauline cooked, nursed and did housework for other people before she was married in 1915. About that time George went to work for his Uncle Andrew Socolofsky near Loreburn, Saskatchewan, Canada, and he lived in the Loreburn community the remainder of a long life. The name "step-mother" does not have a fine odor in George's family and their descendants.



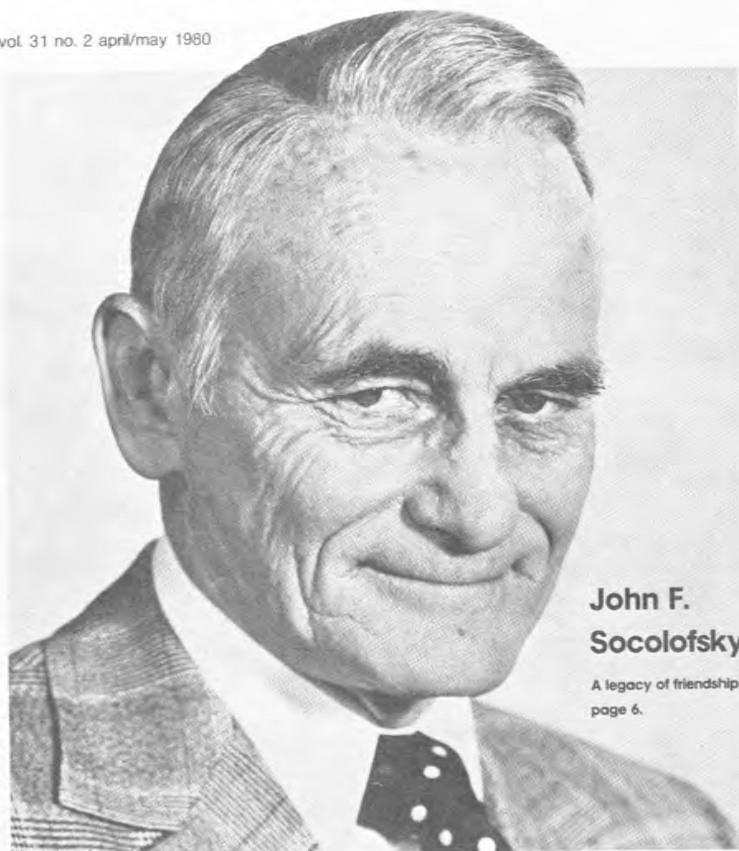
Wedding picture for Hannah Socolofsky and Abraham A. Frick, Aug. 25, 1906



Wedding picture for Leah Socolofsky and John J. Stroh, Jr.--l. to r. Anna Stroh Socolofsky, Leah, John Socolofsky, John J. Stroh, Jr., and Pauline Socolofsky. The young man behind the groom is unidentified.

Mobil Researcher

vol. 31 no. 2 april/may 1980



**John F.
Socolofsky**

A legacy of friendship
page 6.

After John Socolofsky's sudden death, May 1, 1980, his 38-year career with Mobil Oil Co., culminating in the position of manager of the Products Research and Technical Service Division was featured in the Mobil Researcher. John also served on committees coordinating technical information on fuels and lubricants for the American Petroleum Institute, the Coordinating Research Council and the Society of Automotive Engineers.



These "cowboys," near Antelope KS in 1927, are Albert and Clinton Socolofsky



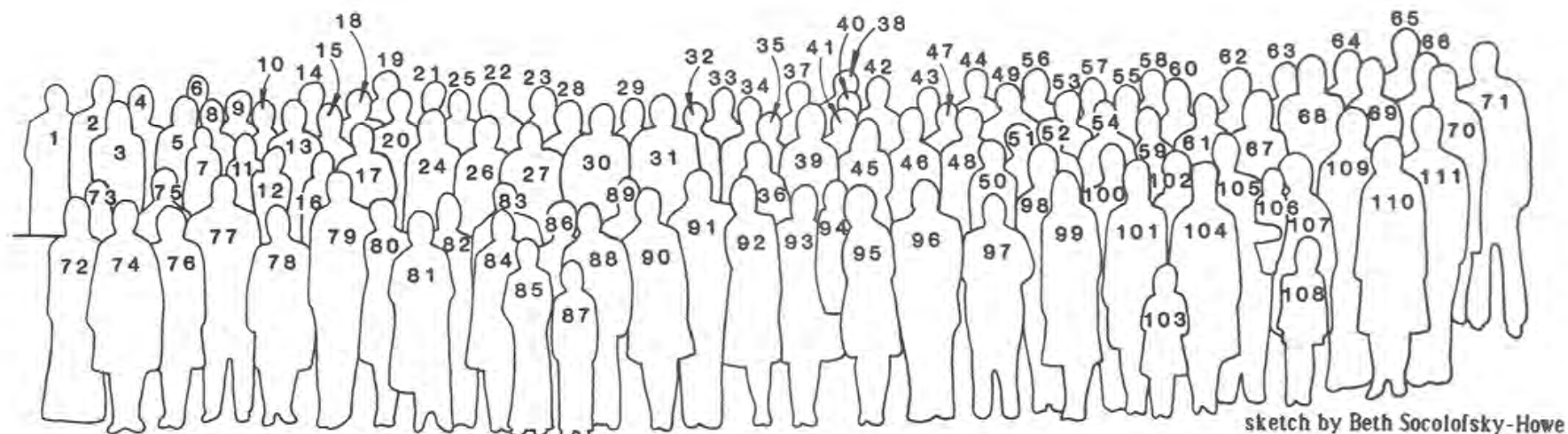
Herb and Ben Major having fun with a tame steer--about 1922



Godfrey and Sadie Socolofsky at the time of their 50th wedding anniversary, June 22, 1950.



The Socolofsky Family Reunion Picture, July 4, 1976



Identification of persons in the Family Reunion picture, taken July 4, 1976 beside the First Baptist Church, McPherson, Kansas

1..Donald Wilhelm 2..Benjamin Major 3..Pamela Steinle 4..Mary Jane Major Steinle 5..Joan Steinle 6..Darwin Steinle 7..Lisa Wilhelm 8..Barbara Major Wilhelm 9..Diane Major 10..Freda Major 11..Jennifer Wilhelm 12..Sam Oliver 13..Ella Major Oliver 14..Charles Hill 15..Esther Major Hill 16..Joshua Oliver 17..Jon Larrance 18..Salome Major Steckel 19..Marc Hill 20..Stephanie Oliver 21..Allan Oliver 22..Ruth Hill 23..Rosemary Steckel Larrance 24..Kathryn Erickson 25..Clare Erickson 26..Dorothy Socolofsky Erickson 27..Ruth Socolofsky 28..Josephine Frick 29..Clinton Frick 30..Isabel Socolofsky Rutherford 31..Stephen Rutherford 32..Byrnina Socolofsky 33..John Socolofsky 34..Albert Socolofsky 35..Naomi Socolofsky 36..Laura Szalay 37..Daniel Socolofsky 38..Arthur Socolofsky 39..Esther J. Socolofsky 40..Sandra Socolofsky 41..Ella Socolofsky 42..Helen N. Socolofsky 43..Elaine Socolofsky Szalay 44..Thomas Szalay 45..Denise Socolofsky 46..Clara Socolofsky Hein 47..Karen Socolofsky 48..Velma Socolofsky 49..James Socolofsky 50..Debra Socolofsky 51..Frank Szalay 52..John M. Socolofsky 53..Patricia Socolofsky 54..David Socolofsky 55..Lowell Socolofsky 56..Kathleen Socolofsky 57..Esther G. Socolofsky 58..Marion Socolofsky 59..Rita Socolofsky 60..Mary Sue Socolofsky 61..James Graham, Jr. 62..Dorothy Socolofsky Graham 63..James Graham 64..Rebecca R. Welch 65..John Lindholm, Jr. 66..Michael Milleson 67..Carol Graham 68..Barbara Lindholm 69..Martha Lindholm Milleson 70..Mildred Socolofsky Lindholm 71..John Lindholm 72..Susan Ohmart 73..Carol Ann Socolofsky Ohmart 74..Caroline Socolofsky 75..Dean Ohmart 76..Virginia Socolofsky 77..Charles Socolofsky 78..Kathryn Socolofsky Travis 79..Gale Safford 80..Laura Kleiber Safford 81..Barbara G. Holecek 82..John Holecek 83..William Hill 84..Kathryn Holecek Hill 85..Jeffrey Hill 86..Leona Kleiber Holecek 87..Andrew Hill 88..Wayne Holecek 89..Donald Fore 90..Jane Fore 91..Warren Fore 92..Ellamae Kleiber Fore 93..Alice Socolofsky Epp 94..Angela Peterson 95..Violet Socolofsky Peterson 96..John Peterson 97..Robert E. Socolofsky 98..Thomas Socolofsky 99..Iris Socolofsky 100..Homer Socolofsky 101..Helen W. Socolofsky 102..William Sims 103..Kirsten Wolfe 104..Mary Jennifer Socolofsky Sims 105..Robert M. Socolofsky 106..Sarah Socolofsky 107..Marilyn Socolofsky 108..Susan R. Socolofsky 109..Theodore Socolofsky 110..Elizabeth Socolofsky 111..Edward Socolofsky

Forty-two persons registered at the reunion but were not in the picture. They were Earl Baumgartner, Jean Socolofsky Baumgartner, Howard Berglund, Edythe Berglund, Rosse Case, Janice Socolofsky Case, Brad Case, Teresa Case, Lanette Ellis, Richard Epp, David Frantz, MaryAnn Frick Frantz, Monte Frantz, Tondalayo Frantz, Ben Frick, Don Frick, Betty Frick, John Frick, Robbie Frick, Bryan Frick, Curtis Frick, Clara Frick, Monroe Frick, Alice Frick, Harry Heiser, Erma Heiser, Walter Kaufman, Lena Kaufman, Alvin Novak, Irene Novak, Cathi Peterson, John R. Peterson, Audra Peterson, Dan Peterson, Betty Peterson, Milton Schlehuder, Naomi Schlehuder, Autumn Schlehuder, Ezra Schimpf, Katheryn Schimpf, Wiley Simpson, and Berniece Simpson

Accolades and Applause

Charles Socolofsky and his horse, "Raise a Secret"

Charles Socolofsky got more than the usual number of telephone calls and letters in the summer of 1985. He and his wife, Caroline, were on national television.



His quarterhorse, "Raise a Secret," was responsible for all of that. This two-year-old horse won the Dash-For Cash at the Los Alamitos track in California on July 13, then on the same track on August 10 he won the Los Alamitos Futurity. These quarter-mile races were covered in about twenty seconds and yielded first place prizes of \$368,220 and \$295,000. The August quarterhorse journal featured "Raise a Secret" on the cover, with a special story inside. Many Kansas newspapers carried the stories of victory for the Socolofsky horse. Subsequently, Charles sold "Raise a Secret" but retained a right to a small percentage of the horse's future purses.

Socolofsky, Edward E 1914- *WhoF&I* 74
 Socolofsky, Homer Edward 1922- *ConAu* 1R,
DrAS 74H, -78H, *EncAAH*,
IntAu & *W* 77, *WrDr* 76, -80
 Socolofsky, J F 1917- *AmM* & *WS* 73P
 Socolofsky, John Frederick 1917-
AmM & *WS* 76P, -79P
 Socolofsky, Marion David 1931-
AmM & *WS* 73P, -76P, -79P, *WhoAm* 74,
WhoS & *SW* 73
 Socolofsky, Ruth Elizabeth 1908-
WhoAmW 64, -66, -68, -70
 Socolofsky, David B 1944- *WhoReal* 81
 Socolofsky, Homer E 1922- *ConAu* 1NR
 Socolofsky, Homer Edward 1922- *DrAS* 82H,
WrDr 82, 84
 Socolofsky, Marion David 1931-
AmM & *WS* 82P

from Biography and Genealogy Master Index, 2nd Edition, publ. 1980. This set indexed 350 current and retrospective biographical dictionaries.

from same set, but 1981-85 Cumulation, publ. 1985.

EL PASO TIMES, Sunday, September 18, 1983

Cruces Realtor honored

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Al Socolofsky of Las Cruces has been honored as the Realtor of the Year by the Realtors Association of New Mexico.

Socolofsky, 71, was recognized Friday as the association closed out its four-day convention.

August 1979

Phi Kappa Phi Newsletter

Page Three

Phi Kappa Phi Family at LSU



Dr. Marion Socolofsky, incoming president of the LSU Chapter, is shown above with his wife, Esther, also a Phi Kappa Phi member, and daughters, Mary Sue, left, and Kathleen. Mary Sue was Freshman Award winner, while Kathleen received honorable mention as first runner-up for the National Fellowship nominee of the Chapter. Kathleen was also graduated summa cum laude and received the University Medal for highest honors at the August graduation.

THE SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY -- A ROSTER

THE NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES HELP TO IDENTIFY LINEAGE. THE FIRST NUMBER REFERS TO THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE CHILDREN OF GOTTFRIED [II] AND MARIA ELIZABETH KLOHS SOCOLOFSKY, ALL OF WHOM CAME TO KANSAS. FOR INSTANCE, JEAN SOCOLOFSKY BAUMGARTNER, JUST BELOW IS NUMBER (441). THE FIRST "4" STANDS FOR HER GRANDFATHER GEORGE, THE FOURTH CHILD OF GOTTFRIED AND MARIA. THE SECOND "4" SHOWS THAT HER SOCOLOFSKY ANCESTOR, ALEXANDER, WAS THE FOURTH CHILD OF GEORGE. JEAN IS THE FIRST-BORN IN HER FAMILY, THUS HER THIRD NUMBER IS "1." HER OLDEST CHILD, JAMES EARL, IS (4411) AND JAMES' SECOND CHILD IN THE 5TH GENERATION FROM GOTTFRIED AND MARIA, JONATHAN DAVID, IS (44112). COLLATERAL LINES, ALL OF DREISPITZ ORIGIN, ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO INTEGRATE. COUSIN FREDERICK SOCOLOFSKY'S LINE OF INHERITANCE STARTS WITH (F1); ANNA SOCOLOFSKY WHO IMMIGRATED IN 1900 WITH (A1); AND ALEXANDER SOKOLOWSKY WHO ARRIVED IN 1910 WITH (J1).



The Janice and Rosse Case family,
summer 1986



The Jean and Earl Baumgartner family, summer 1986

Notice:

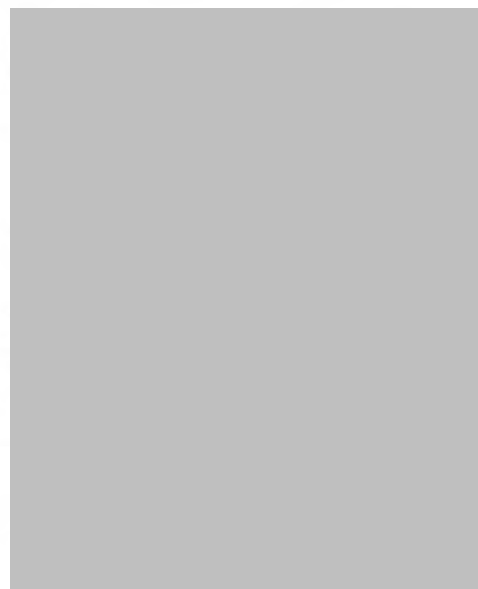
Information about living people has been removed from this family history update to protect their privacy. If you would like the original document, please contact TJ Socolofsky at TJ@Socolofsky.org.



Mary (Friesen) and Charles Connelly



The Jane and Ben Course family, summer 1986





The Monroe and Alice Frick family
at the celebration of Monroe and
Alice's 50th wedding anniversary,
20 SEP 1983



The Dorothy and Jim Graham
family, July, 1983, on the occasion
of Patricia's marriage to Adam



Kathryn Travis with Ezra and Kassia Haas



The Leona and Wayne Holeczek family, 1984



The Mildred and John Lindholm family, 1985



Ben and Freda Major



Mary and Jacob Major with their family



June and Moyne Lichlyter, 1986



Children of Jacob and Mary Major:
Ella, Esther, Herbert, Ben, Salome



Clara Metcalf and her sons, John
and Don, Christmas, 1980



The Joy and Larry Norvell family,
summer 1986





Susan and Dean Ohmart served as attendants at the marriage of their brother Dale to Minnette



The Ella and Herbert Oliver family, about 1973



The extended family of James and Joanne Peay at the time of the marriage of Sue to Paul Neagle, 23 AUG 86



Pamela and Christopher, fraternal twins of James and Joanne Peay, about 4 years of age, b 31 JUL 57



Herbert and Harold, twin sons of D.D. and Anna Socolofsky, about 1911



Twin daughters of Mary and Charles Connelly, about 1911



Dana and James, fraternal twins of Barbara and Gene Hintz, about 3 years of age, b 9 MAR 75

HUMAN TWINS ARE BORN ABOUT ONCE EVERY 87 BIRTHS; TRIPLETS--7,869 BIRTHS; QUADRUPLTS--658,502 BIRTHS.



Isabel and Wilson Rutherford



Sadie Socolofsky on her 95th birthday anniversary, Dec. 14, 1973, with her children, Virginia, Kathryn, Edna, Charles and their families.



Three sisters, Dorothy, Ann and Ruth Socolofsky



The Lowell and Patricia Socolofsky family, 1984



Ruth and Virginia in Egypt



Albert and Helen Socolofsky, about 1920



Naomi and Al Socolofsky with their daughter Elaine and grandchildren Frank and Laurie



Dan, John R. and Sandy Socolofsky, about 1985



Helen and Art Socolofsky



David Socolofsky served as the escort for his sister, Diane, at her wedding 10 AUG 85



David W. and Mary Socolofsky hosting the Abe Socolofsky family in 1939--Homer took the photo



The extended family of Homer and Penny Socolofsky, Aug. 3, 1986, at the reunion accompanying the 90th birthday anniversary for Penny's mother



Sol and Louise



Benjamin and Rebecca Socolofsky on their 60th wedding anniversary, 22 DEC 80 with their children Dorothy Willis and Richard



The extended family of Benjamin and Rebecca Socolofsky, Thanksgiving, 1982



Anna and D.D.



Margory and Edwin



Harold and Peggy Socolofsky

REMINISCING ON MOTHER

By David D. Socolofsky
[in memory of his wife, Anna]

We never called by given names,
It was always Dad or Mother,
And in the middle of the night,
We prayed for one another.

Our guardian angel then was sent
To act as our defender
And when the sun did rise again
Our love was still more tender.

She had memorized the 34th Psalm,
And oft she did repeat it.
She leaned upon its promise
And never was defeated.

Mother was a dear good soul
For Jesus Christ made her whole.
She has gone to her reward
To be forever with the Lord.

When our days on earth are spent
We will go as she has went,
May we all then ready be,
And may the Lord say: Enter Ye.



Walter, early 1930s and Alice C.
early 1930s

Walter A. Socolofsky received from the Department of Commerce, Real Estate Division, State of Oregon, on Sept. 15, 1976 a special resolution signed by the commissioner and members of the real estate board on the occasion of his 50 years in the business of real estate which commended him on "the high standard of ethical conduct" of his business.



Children of W. David and Jean
Socolofsky, May 1986, David,
Kimberly, Michelle, and John



Nine members of the Charles Stroh family, about 1915



Ellie and John Var, Feb. 20, 1985



Kathryn and Bob Travis, 1941, with Isabel, Violet and Ben Socolofsky

Tom, Linda, Laurie and Bob Var



But it opens many doors--the doors to better education, to name just one. It helps keep young people out of trouble, away from temptations and under adult supervision. And, despite obvious hypocracies in many situations, it brings acceptance by others and contributed to harmony in community living."



1986 Liberty
Half-Dollar Coin



1986 Liberty
Silver Dollar Coin

Howard Hamil wrote a series on "The German-Russians" for Farm-land News in 1972, in which he emphasized the hard work of farming for the first generation immigrants from Russia. These new Americans had confidence in the American dream, callously exploited at times. He commented that, "It seems distasteful to many to suggest that the formula of hard work is worth studying. It does bring pain and suffering at times.

The Statue of Liberty celebration over the 4th of July, 1986, and the new Statue of Liberty silver coins commemorated the erection of that symbol of freedom officially dedicated on Oct. 28, 1886. Socolofsky family members who arrived in New York harbor after that time experienced the thrill of seeing Lady Liberty and all it represented.



This picture taken in 1926 shows the Marion County Court House, with the jail on the right. This limestone building was built in 1906 and is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

615 D STREET
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68502

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

1004A NINTH AVENUE - P.O. BOX 1424
GREELEY, COLORADO 80631

In her geneology column, syndicated by the Los Angeles Times, Myra Vanderpool Gormley reported, "The Germans from Russia and their descendants in the United States are now estimated to number 1 million. This group, composed of several religous persuasions, was in Russia for a century. They lived in separate German communities."

Several family members belong to this organization which provides avenues for finding lost elements of family heritage. The top address is for joining the organization and subscribing to its journal; the bottom, its official library housed in Greeley's public library.



Obviously, this German-made, colored, card, postmarked Aug. 3, 1908, is not a Tampa scene, even though "Greetings from Tampa Kans" appears in gold on its face. Tampa celebrates its centennial on Memorial Day weekend, 1987. Ramona and Durham will have centennial activities about the same time. Population, from the newest state highway map for Tampa is 113; Ramona--116; and Durham--130.

This postcard, used in 1913, has an extra message from the McPherson Board of Trade. McPherson has been the site of Socolofsky family reunions for more than 30 years. July 3-4, 1987 will be big days for the Socolofskys in McPherson.



Wheat harvest scenes have been filmed much more frequently than any other Kansas farming activity, perhaps because the bright harvest-time sun lends itself to the use of the early day camera. This Russell County picture, 1914, shows a steam traction engine powering the threshing machine. The sloped ends of the bundle wagons shows that they were header barges, low on one side to receive the wheat heads from a header. There is a bicycle just behind the big steam tractor.

SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY CENTENNIAL REUNION

1876 - 1976

McPHERSON, KANSAS

JULY 3 - 5, 1976

This ribbon attached to name tags in the 1976 reunion was blue with silver lettering.



**OFFICIAL GENERAL
BALLOT**

**.District, County and
Township Ticket**

West Branch Township

MARION COUNTY

GENERAL ELECTION

November 6, 1928

J. L. Socolofsky
County Clerk

James Socolofsky was given this old ballot, which has this printing and writing on the reverse.



Dorothy and Jim Graham on left, Penny and Homer Socolofsky, middle front, John and Mildred Lindholm, middle back, Marion and Esther Socolofsky, right



Carol Graham and Vann Parker in their wedding portrait, Nov. 24, 1984



Your author, Homer Socolofsky and his wife, Penny. The picture was prompted by their 40th wedding anniversary, Nov. 23, 1986

European surnames did not exist until the late 10th or early 11th century, originating in Italy and spreading north along trade routes throughout Europe. The 7,000 most common names in the U.S. come from four sources. They are: 1) **place names or geography** (43%); 2) **paternemics**--the first name of a father, or possibly a mother (32%); 3) **occupation** (15%); and 4) **nicknames** based on physical or personality traits (9%).



There seems to be no adequate symbol to represent the hardy Socolofsky forebears when they arrived in the U.S. Here is a sculpture of a sodbuster--is that an appropriate symbol?

Addenda to *The Socolofsky Family: An Update*

for descendants of A. L. (17) and Mary B. Socolofsky



