

# A Branch of the Eberle Family.

A German, by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Eberle, came in his traveling years into Bohemia and settled in the neighborhood of Prague, the capital city of Bohemia. He was a lock or whitesmith by trade, and was born about the year 1595. This \_\_\_\_\_ Eberle was my great-great-great-grandfather.

Said Eberle had a son, by the name of Cassimir, who was apprenticed to a gunsmith in Prague to learn that trade. After he had finished his apprenticeship he went traveling (as was customary) through Germany, Switzerland and France, and worked in many places, in particular in Paris, for several years. In leaving France he came to the city of Deuxponte, the capital and residence of the Duke of Deuxponte, where he was induced to settle and marry. There he carried on the business of a gunsmith, and worked a good deal in the cutlery and surgeons' instrument-making line, which he acquired in France, as, also, in silversmithing. He died there, at the age of about seventy-three years. This was my great-great-grandfather.

Said Cassimir Eberle had several sons and daughters. One of the sons, by the name of Peter, learned, like all his brothers, his father's trade, and received, besides, a good education. He also went from home and traveled through Switzerland and France to improve himself in his business. After his return from abroad he settled and married in a town called Sanot-John, a place opposite Saarbruck, on the river Saar. While there for a while he was elected a teacher to the Lutheran school and Cantor in the church. Besides his engagement in the school,

which was only kept during winter time, and between school hours, he worked at his trade (cutlery and surgical instrument-making, silversmithing, etc). Said Peter Eberle had twelve sons and one daughter. All the sons received, according to those times, a good education and learned their father's trade. During a great war which waged in Germany about that time they dispersed. Some settled in Denmark, some in Sweden, some in Switzerland, and it may be that some came to America, for I saw an old, little book, printed by one, Christopher Eberle, in Philadelphia. From those settled in Copenhagen there were letters in existence among our family. Peter Eberle died at the age of some seventy years, and is buried in Sanot-John. This was my great-grandfather.

Of these twelve brethren, only the youngest two, Henry and Andreas, remained in that country. Henry, who also learned his father's trade, and acquired a good education, went traveling, and worked in particular many years in France—Marseilles, Lyons and Paris. After his return he settled in Meisenheim, a town on the river called Lauter or Nah, where the Duke of Deuxponte had a summer residence. There he married a Miss Dorothea Lauckhard, the daughter of a Lutheran minister by that name. In Meisenheim he lived and carried on his trade in the cutlery and instrument-making line, and silversmithing, for about fifteen years, when he was elected and received a call as school teacher to the Lutheran congregation in Dalheim, near Oppenheim, on the Rhine, a village belonging to the Reichthgrafshafft Falkenstine, subject to the Emperor of Germany. To said Dalheim he moved about 1732.

Besides keeping winter school and being Cantor, etc., in the church, he

had the office of Clerk of the Council and Principal Scrivener to the inhabitants of the village. He also carried on his trade, like his father, between school hours and during the summer season. He died in 1761, in his seventieth year, and his wife about seven years after him. They are buried alongside of each other in the burial place of Dalheim, on the south side of the church. Their graves are marked with two white gravestones. This Henry Eberle was my grandfather and Dorothea Eberle my grandmother.

This Henry Eberle had five sons and two daughters. The names of the sons were John Cassimir, John Frederick Lawrence, John Anton, John Henry and John George. The daughters, Anna Elizabeth and Anna Magdalena. The sons were all instructed in their father's trade and received besides a good education. To improve in their metier or art, they all traveled in foreign countries. Cassimir, after coming home again, fell sick and died when about twenty-eight years old. (Frederick see below). Anton settled in Meisenheim, was afterwards selected General Assayer of the Mint of the Chur, and also Rhenish Circles, and was to reside in Frankfort on the Mayne. He died when about sixty years of age, with consumption. Henry settled and lived for a while in Guntersblum, but afterwards removed to Dalheim, where he died also of consumption, when about fifty years old.

George settled himself at Dusseldorf, a fortified city on the river Rhine. He lived to a good, old age. Elizabeth was married to John Henry Uhl, and Magdaline to Mr. Laum, teacher of the Lutheran school in Hillesheim. A son of his, named Charles August Laun, was a celebrated Surgeon and Medicus in Guntersblum.

John Frederick L. Eberle, after he had learned his father's trade, received

a good education and studied music, in particular the playing of the organ, with an excellent organist named Helf, in Schornssheim. He went traveling and worked in Hesscassel, Smalcalden, Dresden and Leipsig, in Saxony; Prague, in Bohemia; Pest, in Hungary, and at last in Vienna, the residence of the Emperor of Austria, where he remained about three years. After an absence of seven years, he returned home to his parents in Dalheim. He was at home but a short time when he received a call from the Lutheran congregation of Hahnheim to become their school teacher, which he accepted. Being there for a while he married a Miss Mary Sneider. With her he had two children, a daughter, called Mary Eve, and a boy, who died in his infancy. Having lived several years in Hahnheim he, with his family, moved to Hahnsulzen, a place belonging to the same Government as Dalheim, where he was elected as teacher in their Lutheran school. Shortly after his removal there he lost his wife, Mary. After having been a widower for a good while he was married to Miss Sophia Catharina Neumann, late a teacher at the Lutheran school in Nierstein, on the river Rhine, near Oppenheim. The marriage ceremony was performed in Dalheim, on the 9th of July, 1758. This J. F. L. Eberle was my father, and S. C. Eberle (born Neumann) my mother. I will from now mention them as father and mother.

After my father had resided in Sulzen, after his second marriage, for about three years, his father, Henry Eberle, died, in 1761, and he was selected to become his successor. He accepted the call and moved, with his family, to Dalheim.

Being now schoolmaster to the Lutheran congregation, his duties consisted in teaching the children reading, writ-

ing, arithmetic, singing and particularly to instruct them in religion; also attend to divine worship, playing the organ, etc., etc. Besides this, he was elected Clerk to the Council of the village and scrivener to all the inhabitants, writing deeds, wills, etc., and, in general, every kind of interesting writings. He paid much attention to gardening, the vineyard, and raising all kinds of vegetables, grain, etc.

My father was born on the 24th of June, in the year 1721, in Meisenheim, and he died on the 7th of May, 1794, in his seventy-second year, and my mother was born on the 16th of March, 1734, in Nierstein, on the river Rhine. Her father was Louis Neumann, schoolmaster to the Lutheran congregation, and her mother, Elizabeth, born Kramir. She died on the 26th of December, 1827, here in Philadelphia, in her ninety-fifth year.

Said Frederick L. Eberle and Sophia Catharina (my parents) had eleven children, eight sons and three daughters. They came in the following order: Wilhelmina Dorothea, Frederick Adam, Anna Gertrude, Henry Louis, Charles Louis, John Frederick, George Andreas, Henry Jacob, Maria Henrietta, Philip Peter and Charles Philip.

Frederick Adam, Henry Louis and Charles Philip died in their infancy; Wilhelmina D. was married to Mr. John C. Mattis, teacher in Boland. Anna Gertrude was married to Mr. Martin Meng, also a teacher, and assistant in my father's school. All the boys were brought up and learned their father's trade, cutler and surgeons' instrument making. Frederick worked for a while with Uncle George Eberle, in Dusseldorf; went from there to Holland, married and settled in The Hague. George Andreas traveled for some time in different places, and settled at last in Oppenheim, but was not married.

I (Charles L.) left home in my seventeenth year, went down the Rhine

to Uncle in Dusseldorf, worked with him about two years, and, with a view to go on to France, I took lessons in the French language. Leaving Dusseldorf I proceeded to Bonn, on the Rhine, worked there for a while with one, Dassler; then I took the road to France; first, through the Ellsass, worked at Colmar with one Hochstatter; then in Strasbourg with Mr. Bogner; from there I started for Paris. Worked there first with one named Morreaux, principally in fine pocket-knives, scissors and pen-knives. After that I engaged with one named Baumele, mostly in superb table-knives and forks, viroled and capped with gold and silver, ivory handles, rose-wood, ebony, &c.; also, dirk-knives and in scabbards and a number of straight work.

From Mons. Baumele I went to Mons. Cuvier (Rue de Plattriere). There I worked in the plain razor line, but they had to be good and warranted. Now, there was one certain Bridaux in a town five miles below Paris, who worked in the razor line, but all elegantly finished. Razors with many blades to one handle, with silver and gold back and talloons, etc. In his boutique, or workshop, I also worked for a while. Being now pretty well acquainted in the cutlery line, I received a note from one, Mons. Mesnau, a surgical instrument maker (au petit marche proohe Notre Dame), promising me employment only in instruments, which offer I accepted. During my stay with Mr. Mesnau the long-dreaded Revolution broke out, on the 14th of July, 1789. I myself got entangled in that business, was taken out of my rented room and forced to become a volunteer. We first stormed the Hotel of the Invalides, took arms and ammunition, etc. From there we marched to the Bastille and took it in about two hours; left all the prisoners out, hung up the Commander thereof,

and then, towards evening, the mob dispersed. A short, dangerous and disagreeable work; I hate to think of it. A few days after this the multitude went out to Versailles to bring the King to Paris. They were all armed with muskets, guns, pikes, dung forks, hay forks, even scythes straightened and put upon poles, and large knives the same, etc., etc. It looked dreadful. They took the King to the Maison de Ville (State House), where he signed a Constitution, and then returned to Versailles. The military nowhere made any resistance—they all joined the people, a few regiments excepted. After the King had left the city, in the evening, there was a great illumination throughout the whole city; in particular, the Maison de Ville was tastefully decorated. An oblong square showed the following illuminated inscription: "LOUIS XVI. ROI DES FRANCAIS ET PERE DUN PEUPLE LIBRE." The old title of the King was "Louis XVI., Roi de France and de Navarre." For a few days the green cockade was used, afterwards blue, white and red. Then the uproar subsided and some order began to reign again. After running about a week or so, Mr. Mesnau opened his boutique and we all commenced working again, as usual.

Now, in September following, a Government order was published, that all those foreigners who intended to stay in France should swear allegiance to the country or quit it, and passports should be given to them without pay. I chose the latter, took a passport and left Paris about the middle of September, 1789. Several other Germans did the same, and went with me. After a march of ten days on foot, we arrived safely in Strasbourg. Here I tarried about four weeks, worked with Mons. Weber, and made him several sets of obstetrical instruments, accord-

ing to Mons. Baudelouque, the great accoucheur, in Paris. Toward the end of October I left Strasburg, and in a few days arrived safely to my parents, in Dalheim.

During the winter I applied for permission to settle in Kirchheim-Boland, the residence of the Prince of Nassau Weilburg; having received permission, I moved there early in the next spring and on the 18th of May, 1790, was married to Miss Maria Catharina Reuter, daughter of the late Philip Reuter and his wife Elizabeth, born Rossman. Her father was teacher at the Evangelical Lutheran school in Oppenheim. He died in the fall of 1784; her mother left this world when Maria Catharina was but an infant. Peter Reuter was an esteemed friend of my father and a distant relation.

We were established but a short time, when the war commenced between the Germans and the French. The French army came out and took Menz. Our Prince with his whole court left us and crossed the river Rhine. My principal dependence was gone; there was nothing but battles, plundering and quartering troops, German and French. I had never less than two and as many as twenty-one soldiers in my house and other troubles plenty.

Menz was taken and retaken several times and the last time early in the year 1794. As now the river Rhine was cleared by the retreat of the French army and no prospect of peace showing itself I resolved all at once to emigrate with my small family to America. I informed my brother-in-law Mattis, who resolved also to go with me with his family, so did my two brothers, George A. and Henry J. Eberle, when they heard of it. We made ourselves ready and on the 26th of April took leave of our dear parents, shipped down the river Rhine and bid good-bye to our Fatherland. In about a



week we arrived at the Hague, Holland, and put up at our brother Frederick's, who was then living in that city. Here we received news of father's death and remained till the 15th of June, when we went to Amsterdam and thence to the ship Columbia, Captain Malay. On the 5th of July we left the Texel, crossed the Atlantic, and on the 5th of September, 1794, we arrived safely before Philadelphia. On the 12th we left the ship and moved into the city. On July 15, 1795, began to work with Mr. Henry Schively, in Third, below Chestnut street, a cutler and surgeons' instrument maker, and my two brothers found employment at Mr. Eckfelt's, in Fifth street, a first rate smith.

I continued with Mr. Schively until in the spring, 1796, when, in company with my brothers, we undertook a contract with the United States to make as many bayonets and ramrods as we would like to make. We did make in all about 3,000 sets, but did do a good deal of other work in the stove line, etc. Shortly after our arrival here I wrote to my mother and desired her to come to us in America, with the remainder of our family, which she did, and arrived in the month of October, 1796, at Baltimore, from whence I brought them to Philadelphia, namely my mother, sister Gertrude Menz, a widow with two children, Henrietta and Christianna, sister Maria Henrietta, brother Philip Peter and brother Frederick, his wife, and a son Jacob, from the Hague in Holland. Now all the Eberles were in America.

The above was compiled by my father, Charles Louis Eberle, a few days previous to his illness, and given to me on his death-bed a short time before he died, with the request that I continue it for the information of the rising generations to follow.

My father's family, or, I will say our family, consisted of father and mother

and five children, two daughters and three sons. My father was born at Dalheim, on the river Rhine, in Germany, on the 1st of November, 1766, and died at Philadelphia, August 25th, 1845, after a short illness. My mother was born at Nierstein, on the river Rhine, April 1st, 1765, and died suddenly of heart disease, at Lancaster, Pa., February 6th, 1834. She gave birth to sixteen children, and had three pairs of twins. Only five of the children grew to maturity.

My sister, Johanna Fredericka, was born May 9th, 1793, died November 18th, 1853. Sister Wilhelmina Henrietta, born December 2d, 1795, died September 20th, 1837, at Lancaster, Pa., suddenly, of apoplexy. Brother John Frederick, born May 29th, 1798, died March 30th, 1818. William (myself), born September 22, 1802, the only surviving twin left, and the only remaining member of our family now in existence. My brother, Charles Philip, born January 29th, 1805, died February 25th, 1826, in Jefferson county, near La Rayville, New York.

My father was a surgical instrument maker and followed his profession at the corner of Sixth and Commerce streets, until the year 1821, when, on account of ill health and the advice of the doctors, he purchased a fine large farm in Jefferson county, New York, and remained there five years. During that time my brother, Charles, died, after which he again returned to Philadelphia and lived there the remainder of his days.

My sister Fredericka married Jacob Lex, a wholesale merchant at Philadelphia, January 16th, 1812, and my sister Wilhelmina married the Rev. John C. Baker, minister of St. Michael's Church, Germantown, October 27, 1812. Mr. Baker was pastor of that church for seventeen years, and then received a call from the Lutheran congregation at Lancaster, which he ac-

cepted, and resided there some twenty years, and then left to take charge of a congregation at Philadelphia. He was born May 7th, 1792, and died May 27, 1859, at Philadelphia.

Jacob Lex was born May 30th, 1789, died August 18, 1853.

**WILLIAM H. EBERLE,**

In his 84th year.

Germantown, October 1, 1885.

Transcribed by his grandson, William  
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