

of a silk company in New York City. Died October 2001.¹²

- VIII 1. HANS KOBELT wed Barbara Netforos
2. WENDY KOBELT

VI 2. ALICE GRAF b. about 1895 wed ___ Fuchs. In 1964 she lived in Rebstein¹³

VII 1. RENEE FUCHS wed ___ Cigunarice, lived in New York in 1964¹⁴ and in San Francisco in 1982¹⁵

VI 3. HEINRICH ROBERT GRAF b. about 1899. Owned or managed an embroidery factory in 1922¹⁶ and became a very successful textile manufacturer.¹⁷ Prior to the two World Wars his father had textile mills in Europe and South America but when major production sites were demolished twice in 25 years, business declined. He turned to other pursuits including breeding thoroughbred horses. In 1964 he lived in Chantilly, France.¹⁸ His brother Max told Burket Graf, "Poor old Robert up there in Chantilly would get married and wait to see if it would work out, and it wouldn't, and he'd get divorced and then do it again. But I got married late, and now I'm surrounded by my wife, children and grandchildren".¹⁹

4. MAX GRAF, wed Ruth Bruggner in his early 50s after a colorful life. In 1982 he was 81. He had lived as a gaucho in Argentina from about 1920 to 1930 and said that

he never worked much of his life but he had fun. He explained that his father died when he was 18 and after that, he had an independent income. In his later years he had a rare book store in Zurich. When Burket Graf visited, Max showed him the 1748 family bible where the children of Hans Jakob and Anna Barbara Graf were listed, including our ancestor, SAMUEL. Max's grandchildren were there when Burket visited, PATRICK and ASTRID KOTTMAN.²⁰

- VII I. EVA GRAF wed ___ Kottman
2. MAX GRAF, JR.

III SAMUEL GRAF (second son of Hans Jacob) b. 14 Jan 1801 wed 13 Jul 1834 Margarete Finly b. 1798, d. 2 July 1840. Wed a second time Louise-Anna Parker b. 23 Mar 1818, d. 6 October 1916) d. 16 Oct 1876. The early 19th Century turbulent years must have been difficult for all the Grfs. Samuel's family would have attended the Swiss Reformed Church founded by Zwingli in Zurich and are reported to have been very faithful and pious. Their food must have been mostly "riebe!l", a dish made of white corn and eaten together with coffee and milk. There were probably potatoes, apples and pears grown by every family.²¹

¹² Letter from Ursula Kobelt to Marilyn Rasmusen 3 Dec 2001

¹³ Op. Cit. Letter Franklin Graf

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Op. Cit. Letter from Burket Graf 1982

¹⁶ Letter from Ruth Hess Barker to Dorothy Graf Warren 11 Oct 1964

¹⁷ Letter from Frank Hess to Alpha Graf dated 5 Sep 1916

¹⁸ Op. Cit Letter from Frank Graf and J. J. Graf manuscript, p. 25

¹⁹ Letter from Burket Graf to Marilyn Rasmusen 3 Apr 1996

²⁰ Letter from Burket Graf to Fordyce Graf 16 Oct 1982

²¹ Op. Cit. Letter from U. Kobelt

Samuel may have worked in the vineyards as a youth. Also, he may have worked in his brother's lace manufacturing business.²² It seems possible that he learned about textiles since he worked at tailoring upon his arrival in New York City and later, in Pennsylvania and Illinois.²³

Dora Graf Suppes told her daughter that her grandfather Samuel sewed all the buttonholes for clothes her grandmother made and that he made a black broadcloth wedding suit for each of his sons. She was sorry her father Franklin's suit had been worn out by his children playing "dress-up".

The photo on the following page is of Samuel Graf's boyhood home in Zeilbach. The photo was brought back to America in 1916 by Franklin Hess, who is believed to be the man pictured - descendant David Hess says it resembles his grandfather's stance.²⁴

The residence was called "the house of many windows".²⁵ It was the home of the Johann Heinrich Graf family in the early 1900s.

Thildi Graf Kobelt remembered visiting her Grandmother Graf at this home, "a very modest old lady living there with her two spinster daughters".²⁶

The house was sold by the Graf family. In 1962 it caught fire and burned down.

²² Op. Cit. J> J> Graf Manuscript p. 17

²³ Manuscript of Mary Ann Graf Hess, 1907

²⁴ Op. Cit. Letter, Franklin Hess, also a letter from Ruth Hess Barker to Dorothy Graf Warren 11 Oct 1964, also writing by Lucille Graf Ochsner on the reverse of photo.

²⁵ Op. Cit letter Ruth Hess Barker

²⁶ Op. Cit. letter from U. Kobelt



Mary Graf Hess writes that the parents of her father, Samuel, died soon after he left home.²⁷ His father died in 1829 and his mother in 1833.²⁸ A citizen's identity certificate exists for Samuel dated 19 February, 1828.²⁹

There is also a certificate bearing Samuel Graf's name which is a release from a military contingent of the State of Bremen; it is dated 30 April 1832 and originally the physical traits 8 noted were legible.³⁰ At the time of this writing Ursula Kobelt tried to decipher these notations and could not, but she says that in past years she had seen a copy held by some other Graf relative that was more legible.

Copies of both documents are shown below. These, together with Mary Hess' statement, would seem to indicate that Samuel left Rebstein in 1828 and was a soldier for Bremen until 1832.

²⁷ Op. Cit. Mary Graf Hess

²⁸ Op. Cit. J. J. Graf ,p. 19

²⁹ Copy of original was held by David Graf

³⁰ Ibid.