

N<sup>o</sup> 182.

# Heirathschein

für unverheirathete Personen.

Wir Ammann und Rath der Gemeinde *Lob/Rein Engel Lühthal*  
Kantons St. Gallen, attestiren hienüt, daß *der* *f. Samuel Graf*  
*geb. am 17. März 1800 in Lob/Rein Engel Lühthal*  
ledigen Standes, 27 Jahre alt, unser wahre Gemeindegänger sei, und Wir  
als solche zu allen Zeiten anerkennen werden, mit der feierlichen Versicherung,  
daß besagte unser Mitbürger zu allen Zeiten und Umständen in unserer  
Gemeinde wieder Aufnahme finden solle; mit der weiteren Erklärung jedoch, daß  
gegenwärtiger Schein nur zur Beförderung *Samuel* auswärtigen Aufent-  
haltes, und nur nachzu *Samuel* allfälliger Verheirathung *Samuel* anzuwenden  
werden, indem zu *Samuel* Regulation eine besondere Einwilligung von hiesiger  
Regierung erforderlich ist.

Attestirung dessen ist gegenwärtiges Zeugniß nach Hievors genossener Uebung  
und Form unterschrieben, bezeugt und ausgefertigt worden.

Ergeben in *Lob/Rein* den 10<sup>ten</sup> Febr. 1828

Der Ammann der Gemeinde

*Georg Rofner*

Im Namen des Gemeinderathes,

Der Secretär des Rathes

*Georg Rofner*

Nach angelegentlicher Einsehung zu guter Aufnahme und Angelegenheit obzig:  
seitlichen Schutzes, bezeugen die Richtigkeit obiger Unterschriften und des Sigills,  
wie auch, daß obbenannte *Samuel Graf* unser Kantons-  
bürger und seit 10 Jahren ein Schweizerbürger sei.

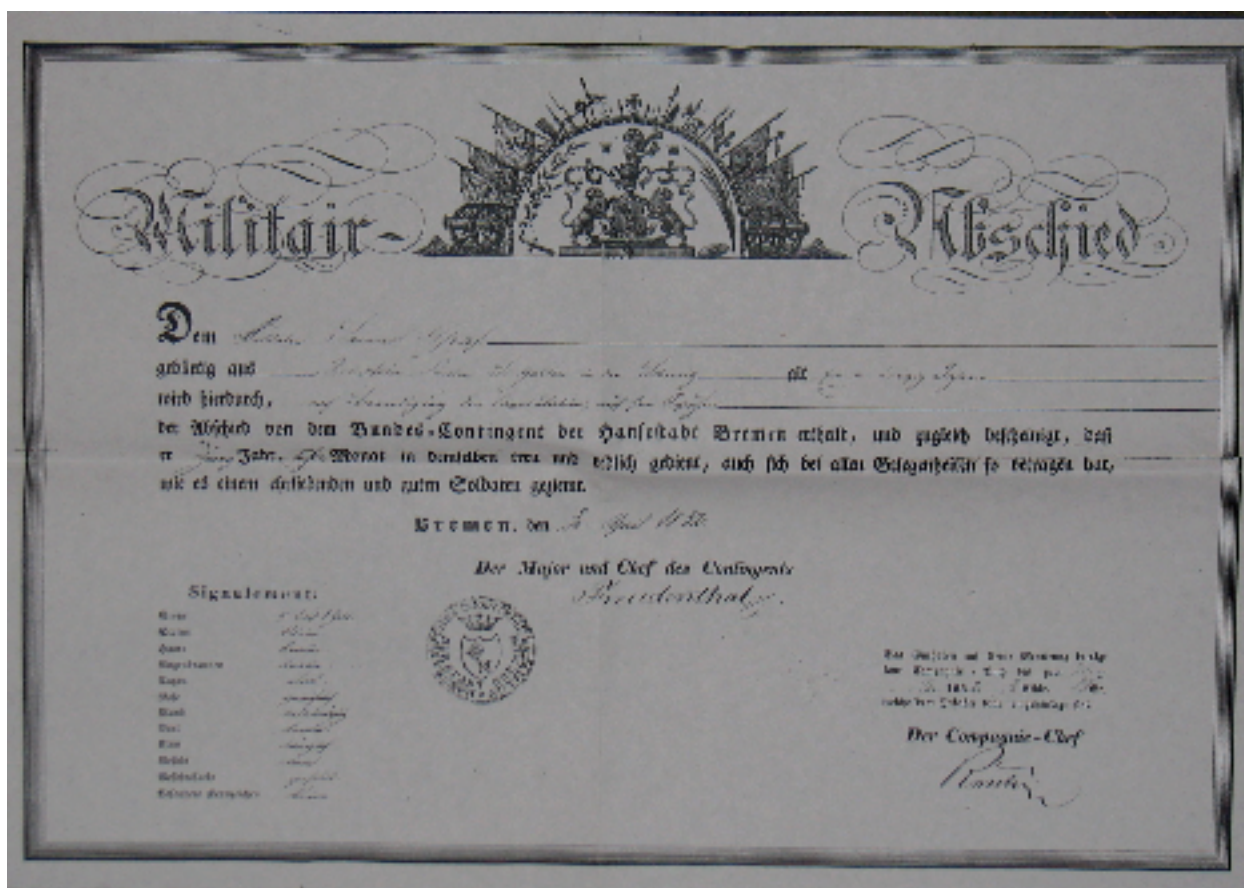
St. Gallen, den 15<sup>ten</sup> Febr. 1828

Kanzlei des Kantons St. Gallen.

Der erste Secretär

*Samuel Graf*

*Handwritten note: Nach Uebung 16 J. am 10. Febr. 1828  
Z. Rofner Graf*



With the computer enhancement it is almost possible to see the height notation - it appears to be five feet seven inches.

Evidently, shortly after his military discharge Samuel decided to emigrate to America because the next record is his arrival in New York City with only 50 cents to his name. Later, his wife Louise-Anna, asked him if he had not felt desparate. He replied that he looked confidently to the future. He soon found work learning to tailor in a New York shop. In about a year he had moved to Somerset County, Pennsylvania.<sup>31</sup>

He used his tailoring skills in later years to make each of his sons a wedding suit. He also sewed the buttonholes for all the clothes made in his family, which must have been considerable since ready-made clothing was not available in the few shops of that day.

<sup>31</sup> Op. Cit. Manuscript Mary Graf Hess





The photo above, taken in the 1970s, is of Meyersdale, a village in southwestern Pennsylvania where present-day Amish live. It is the area of Somerset County where Samuel settled. We know from his obituary and daughter Mary's record that he lived nearby and have correspondence to him from a settlement named Meyers Mills in that vicinity.<sup>32</sup>

There he met Margarete Finly and they were married in July of 1834. They soon left for the West, following the rivers. When they came up the Illinois River to LaSalle, the rapids upstream stopped river transport and they took a stagecoach to Ottawa. They stayed in Ottawa that first year and their first child, Anna Barbara was born there. Though Samuel did not know much about agriculture, they decided to farm. They like the prospect of land in the north end of LaSalle County, so they loaded up in 1835 and took the wagon trail (which became "the State Road" in 1841) that is now named Hoxsey Road. It led through the settlement of Northville and to the area that would become the town of Somonauk in the 1850s. They chose a spot near the trail and not far from Somonauk Creek, built a two-room log cabin, and the family of three took up life there in the wilderness.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Copies of Letters from Abraham Buechley to Samuel Graf

<sup>33</sup> Op. Cit. Manuscript, Mary Ann Hess