

Bernard and Johanna Melies

(With photographs at end of article)

Bernard Henry Melies (1821-1886).¹

Elizabeth Catherine Schwartz (1833-1857).²

Johanna Schwartz (1838-1916).³

In 1846 nearly 200 people from the small areas of Mastholte and Moese, in Prussia in what is now the German state of Nordrhein-Westfalen decided that life in America would be better than the life they knew in Prussia. They came to America. They were neither the first nor the last from Mastholte and Moese to make that move. Starting with one family in 1828 and then beginning in earnest in 1836 and continuing through 1860 nearly every year saw families and individuals from Mastholte and Moese leave their Prussian homeland for the little-known American Midwest including the Missouri, Osage and Maries River valleys of Missouri. The family that departed Mastholte in 1828 was that of August Pickmeyer, his wife and three children.⁴ Those departing in 1836 included four single men and one family. The single men were Franz Otto Heckemeier, Joh. Ferdinand Kustersteffen, Jos. Gerd. Kustersteffen, and Joh. Henr. Joseph Meyerpeter. The family was that of Bernard Linneman, his wife and six children. The single men were all day workers (Tagelöhner); Bernard Linneman had a medium sized farm and was known as a “Halbmeier.”⁵ Only a few people left Mastholte and Moese for America during the American Civil War, but emigration picked up again in the years immediately following the American Civil and continued sporadically until 1895 and beyond.

Among the nearly 200 people making the move in 1846 was Bernard Henry Melies. He is listed as “Mellies, Bernh. Heinr., Ackerknecht, * 1821 < Moese” on the list provided by Bert Bertling.⁶ This means that his name in German was probably Bernhard Heinrich Mellies, he was a farm laborer, the day and month of his birth is not known, but he was born in 1821 in Moese. Like so many people of his time, his name is more closely associated with the land on which he lived than with that of his genealogy. On his father’s side he is descended from the Schultedoinghaus family and the name Schulte may be in his ancestry in the person of Joannes Schulte, born in 1711. His grandfather was Joannes Petrus E Schultedoinghaus. Joannes Petrus E Schultedoinghaus, born in Mastholte in 1752, married Anna Margaretha Melies in 1783.⁷ He took the Melies name indicating that they lived on the land of his wife’s family after their marriage. Little is known of Anna Margaretha Melies except that her father’s name may have been Caspar Melies and her mother’s name Anna Maria Kalefeld. Among the children of Joannes P E Schultedoinghaus and Anna Margaretha Melies is Johann Caspar Stephan Mellies, born in Mastholte in 1795.

Johann Caspar Stephan Mellies married Anna Gertrud Geersmeier on July 16, 1817 in Mastholte.⁸ Her parents were Stephan Geersmeyer and Anna Margaretha Eblenkamp. She was

born in born in Langenberg in 1788. Johann Caspar Melies and Anna Gertrud Geersmeier are the parents of our Bernard Henry Melies who was born in Moese on November 10, 1821.⁹

Several other persons named Melies or Mellies left Prussia for America in the 19th century and settled in Osage County, Missouri. A brother or half brother of Bernard Henry Melies named Joh. Joseph Franz Melies came to America in 1851.¹⁰ The 1860 Federal Census shows him working for Henry Loehner¹¹ and he is listed in the Civil War Draft Registration Records of July 1863 as living in Washington Township of Osage County.¹² He died in 1872 and is buried in the old cemetery in Westphalia, Missouri.¹³ A Mellies who may have been an aunt of these two Melies brothers, Maria Margaretha (Mellies) Reinkemeyer, who was born in Mastholte, arrived in America in 1840 with her husband, Johannes Reinkemeyer and settled in Osage County.¹⁴ Other immigrants to Osage County spelling their name Mellies arrived in 1866, 1868 and 1870, but they originated in Detmold and what relationship they may have had to those originating in Moese and Mastholte is not known.¹⁵

Both the Schultedoinghaus and Melies names have deep roots in the Mastholte-Moese area although there are several spellings of the name “Melies.” Both names are included in the tax lists (Schatzung) of 1498 and 1499, along with other names familiar to today’s inhabitants of the Westphalia area of Missouri: Hakenkamp, Haselhorst, Poppelbaum, and Morvelde (Morfeld?).¹⁶ A few years later in 1554, the names Melies, Nordtholt, Vechteler (related to Fechtel?), Henke, Haselhorst, Morfeldt, Hekenkamp (Hakenkamp?), and Poppelbaum appear on another tax list (Wachtgeldts – Ordnung un Anname).¹⁷

The nearly 200 people who left Mastholte and Moese in 1846 were certainly influenced by those who had preceded them. Millions of letters flowed back and forth between those who had already made the move to America and their friends and relatives remaining in Europe.¹⁸ The people of Mastholte and Moese could have hardly been an exception; however, in 1846, something unusual occurred to cause so many from Mastholte and Moese to make the move to America that year. That unusual occurrence was the return visit of Henry Loehner (Johann Heinrich Loehner). Henry Loehner left Mastholte in 1838 as a 16-year-old illegal emigrant. That is, his departure from Prussia was illegal because he did not have clearance from the Prussian authorities to leave. His entry into the United States was completely legal. That was not uncommon at the time. Many Prussians leaving for America at the time left without permission of the Prussian authorities. They may have numbered as high as 25% of the total.

Henry Loehner made his way across the Atlantic to New Orleans and up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to what was then known as the Westphalia Settlement. He did not travel alone. Others from the Mastholte and Wadersloh area such as the Willibrands, Meierpeters, and Holtermans traveled with him on the George Washington.¹⁹ Within a few years he had established himself as a farmer along the Maries River some six or seven miles south of Westphalia along what today is State Highway P. He must have been in communication with many of his friends and family in Prussia, because in 1846, he made a return trip to Mastholte

and many of his friends and neighbors decided to follow his example and make the move to America. That is why the number emigrating in 1846 is so high compared with that of other years.

It seems unlikely that so many people could have made all the arrangements to make the move to America during the short time of Henry Loehner's visit even if he stayed several months. At least 14 of the men making the move were landowners. They must have sold their land or made arrangements to sell it before Henry Loehner's visit. Also, during his time in Mastholte in 1846, Henry Loehner acquired a wife, Gertrude Grossehakenkamp. One has to wonder if that may have been the primary reason for his return visit to his old Prussian home. They must have been married in St. Jacobus Church in Mastholte. She is listed as "Loehner, gt. (Known as) Grossehakenkamp, M. Gertrude, * 1826 > Moese" on the list of those from Mastholte and Moese emigrating in 1846.²⁰ and as Gerts Lohner, age 20 on the passenger list of the Elizabeth Denison that arrived in New Orleans on 23 December 1846. Traveling with her was her husband listed as H. Lohner, age 23 and a Cath Lohner, age 14.²¹

As far as is known, Bernard Melies left no written record of the reasons for his decision to move to America. We do know, however, that the area around Mastholte and Moese was known as the "Mastholte Schlüssel" that is the Mastholte Depression. Most of the area was lower than the surrounding countryside with some islands of slightly higher ground. This made the water level very close to the surface and made agriculture difficult except to a limited degree. Also, the changing economic conditions in Europe forced small cottage industries such as linen weaving out of business. At times conditions became so bad that the surrounding communities had to come to the help of Mastholte and Moese.²² Bernard Melies may also have seen little prospect of making a profitable marriage in his homeland.²³ A profitable marriage probably meant a marriage to a woman who owned land. In Prussia at the time, land was generally inherited by the youngest child, even if female. Also, a widow who owned land was sought after by the young men. In many cases such a marriage was the only prospect a man had to acquire ownership of land, so if those prospects seemed dim, he may have looked to America as more promising. Of course, he was no doubt influenced by Henry Loehner and may have had a good case of "immigration fever." In any case, he left Moese in 1846.²⁴

Bernard Melies probably departed from Bremen and probably arrived in New Orleans, but no reliable record of his travels has been located thus far. The passenger list of the ship Soldan which arrived in New York on July 12, 1847 lists an E.H. Miles, age 26, from Germany who was traveling to the USA.²⁵ Could this have been Bernard Henry Melies? It seems very unlikely, but could be possible. The Soldan departed from Liverpool, but many of the passengers are listed as coming from Germany. While this E. H. Miles is the closest we have to the name Bernard Henry Melies (B. H. Melies), there is no confirmation. There are other faint possibilities. A Henrich Malles arrived in New York on the Johann George on December 20, 1846 and a Meiles with no first name listed arrived in New Orleans on the George Schofield on December 23, 1846. While it also seems unlikely, he may have traveled under a different name. Others such as the

Winkelmans who also left Mastholte in 1846 travelled under different names. The Winkelmans traveled under the name Huecker, probably because they lived on the land of the wife's family at the time they left Prussia.²⁶ (The Winkelmans are listed as Lutkewinkelman by Bert Bertling in his list of families leaving Mastholte in 1946 included in his book on the history of Moese and Mastholte.)²⁷ Until 1863 in the part of Prussia including Moese and Mastholte, a husband took the last name of his wife if the family lived on land owned by the wife.²⁸ It is interesting to note that they continued to use the name Huecker in the 1850 United States federal census,²⁹ and it appears in the burial records of St Joseph Parish of 1855 and 1873.³⁰ Of course, the name Melies may have been misspelled or the handwriting of the passenger list may have been illegible. Bernard Henry Melies is not even listed under the name "Melies" in the immigration records of the National Archives.³¹

The first record of Bernard Melies in the US is the 1850 Federal Census in which he is listed as a farmer;³² however, he did not actually buy land until 1852. In that year he bought 164 acres in section 25 of Township 42 North Range 10 West from Franziska Neidecken, the widow of Peter Jos. Neidecken for \$600.³³ Peter J. Neidecken bought this land from the government in 1846, 1848 and 1849.³⁴ It is not clear that the Neideckens ever lived on the land because Franziska lived in St. Louis at the time of the sale, and the sale was made by Hermann Niedecken as her agent. He lived in Illinois at the time. The land purchased by Bernard Melies lies along the Maries River about five miles south of Westphalia off of what is now County Road 521. It was about 1 ½ miles north of Henry Loehner's farmhouse. The earliest available records of his purchase of government land are in 1856 and 1858 when he purchased land in sections 25, 26, and 35 also in Township 42 North, Range 10 West.³⁵ Some of his land was located near and some of it adjacent to land owned by the Loehner family and that of William Schwartz, who became his brother-in-law. In 1876 he bought 7.5 acres from Henry Holterman.³⁶

On September 27, 1853 Bernard H. Melies and Elizabeth Schwartz married at St. Joseph Church in Westphalia, MO.³⁷ Elizabeth Schwartz was born on 9 July 1833 in Oelde, Prussia to Gottfried and Gertrude (Kramer) Schwartz and traveled with them to the Westphalia Settlement in what is now Osage County, Missouri in 1836.³⁸ Bernard and Elizabeth probably lived in a small log house on their farm. They had three children. Marie Gertrude born on 19 December 1854, died just six months later on 29 July 1855.³⁹ Gertrude, their second child was born on 8 December 1855. She married Henry Lehman, probably in Sacred Heart Church in Rich Fountain, on November 28, 1876.⁴⁰ Caspar, the third child of Bernard Melies and Elizabeth Schwartz, was born on 25 November 1857.⁴¹ He lived just nine years.⁴² Just 4 days after Caspar's birth, on November 29, 1857, Elizabeth died after only four years of marriage.⁴³ This left Bernard to care for an infant and a two-year-old. No doubt, he had help from neighbors and maybe from Elizabeth's family. Almost exactly a year after Elizabeth died, Bernard married her younger sister, Johanna, on 16 November 1858, also at St. Joseph Church in Westphalia, Missouri.⁴⁴

The family, now consisting of father, two small children and step-mother, continued to live on the farm Bernard had begun to develop. At some time they built a large frame house on a bluff

overlooking their bottom fields and the Maries River. They probably raised several types of crops. Nicholas Hesse lived along the Maries River near what became Westphalia between 1835 and 1837. He returned to Prussia in 1837 and wrote about his experiences. He observed that the settlers grew a variety of crops including wheat, rye, barley, oats and potatoes even though they required continuous care.⁴⁵ But corn must have been a major crop because Hesse goes into the details of the planting and harvesting of corn. The plowing of the fields for planting was itself arduous work. Controlling the oxen and constantly changing the position of the plow so as to avoid roots of trees that had not yet been removed and navigating between old tree trunks and withered trees was hard work.⁴⁶ After the field was plowed, they plowed furrows about four feet apart the length and width of the field. They then planted the corn at the intersections of the two furrows.⁴⁷ This allowed plowing the corn in two directions so as to better plow under the weeds and keep the field clean. This had to be done as often as five times during the summer before the corn ripened.⁴⁸ Sometimes the settlers planted beans and pumpkins in the corn rows.⁴⁹ The corn stalks then served as a pole for the beans with the pumpkins growing between the rows of corn. Where they planted pumpkins, the settlers must have used hoes to cultivate the fields because a horse or ox-drawn plow would have destroyed the pumpkin plants. In the early years of planting, the corn stalks would have provided strong poles for the beans for Hesse describes seeing corn stalks growing as high as twenty feet in Missouri River bottoms.⁵⁰

Squirrels were a major nuisance to the early settlers trying to raise corn. After the corn sprouted, squirrels would descend on the fields and dig up the tender shoots. Farmers and their families spent the early morning and evening hours shooting and chasing squirrels from the fields. The same applied in the fall as the corn began to ripen. One German writer describes what he called a “plague of squirrels” along the Missouri River. We don’t know if the farmers along the Maries River had the same experience, but certainly they had to contend with an abundance of squirrels. In one year squirrels were so numerous along the Missouri River that hordes of them swam the Missouri River with thousands dying in the river as they tried to climb out on the opposite bank. The problem became so bad that the local governments offered bounties on squirrels with the hunters bringing in the scalps of the squirrel by the bushel to claim their bounty.⁵¹

In the late summer as the corn ripened, the lower leaves up to the ear were cut off, bundled and stored for fodder for the winter. Then the top of the stalk above the ear was also cut and stored for fodder, leaving a bare stalk with only the ear of corn remaining.⁵² This was hot work as anyone who has worked in Maries River bottom corn fields in late summer would agree. Even though some domestic animals were fitted with devices to keep them from jumping or burrowing under fences,⁵³ the fields had to be strongly fenced to keep cattle and hogs from invading the growing crops. The animals were allowed to run loose to forage for themselves except in the winter when they were given protection in stables if any had been built. They were encouraged to return to the enclosures at the farmstead by the salt that the settlers provided for that purpose.⁵⁴ Sometimes cattle were controlled by keeping the unweaned calves in pens at the

farmstead so the cows would return to nurse their offspring.⁵⁵ Despite these precautions, the settlers still risked the loss of animals due to weather. Settlers lost both cows and hogs during the severe winters of 1835-1836 and 1836-1837.⁵⁶ Henrietta Bruns mentions that Gottfried Schwartze lost pigs during the winter of 1839-1840.⁵⁷

Bernard and Johanna must have done reasonably well on their farm for they contributed toward the cost of one of the bells of St. Joseph Church in Westphalia in 1883.⁵⁸ Perhaps they were following the example of Johanna's mother who contributed the cost of one of the bells.

As Bernard and Johanna developed their farm, their family grew. They had 10 children between 1859 and 1879. Tragically, only five would live to adulthood, and only three lived longer than 26 years. Joseph, their first child, was born on August 22, 1859. He grew to adulthood and married Maria Luebbert in Westphalia on 5 June 1883.⁵⁹ Maria was the widow of Henry Kemna, a neighboring farmer⁶⁰ and they had two daughters. They were both named Anna Margaretha because the first who was born in 1879 lived only three months.⁶¹ The second daughter was born in 1881.⁶² She lived to adulthood and married William Winkelman, a son of Stephan and Angela (Heckemeyer) Winkelman.⁶³ Joseph and Maria (Luebbert, Kemna) Melies became the parents of one child, John C. Melies. He is familiar to the Westphalia community as the Rev. John C. Melies who was the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in the 1920s and 1930s. Joseph died suddenly on August 18, 1885, aged 26, after only two years of marriage making Maria a widow for the second time in less than 4 years.⁶⁴

Their second child, William, was born on May 15, 1861. He died on January 5, 1882 probably of the typhoid that swept through the Maries river valley in the winter of 1881-1882. He was home from St. Mary's College in Kansas at the time.⁶⁵ Their third child, Gerhard Stephen, was born on December 9, 1862. He died aged 10 on December 20, 1872.⁶⁶

The third child to die before his father was Henry, born on January 16, 1867. He died on 23 January 1873. Mary (or Maria) Gertrude was born on February 3, 1871 and died at age 4 in 1875. An infant, possibly named Anna, was born in 1877. No date is given for her birth or baptism, but she died on September 5, 1877, so she may have died immediately after her birth. Francis John was born on December 9, 1879 and died three years later on January 4, 1882. Like his older brother, William, he was probably a victim of the typhoid epidemic of the winter of 1881-1882.

The only three children of Bernard and Johanna who lived longer than their parents were Johanna, Bernard and Gottfried. Johanna, their third child, was born on November 20, 1864. She married Herman Winkelman, the son of John Gerhard and Margaretha (Bode) Winkleman, in 1888.⁶⁷ They lived on a farm along the Osage River in Cole County, a few miles from Wardsville and at some distance from Herman's home in Osage County. Despite the distance, the families remained close. Herman is the baptismal sponsor of his nephew, Paul Herman Plassmeyer.⁶⁸ who was born in 1912, the son of Martin S. and Anna Plassmeyer. Martin S.

Plassmeyer and Herman Winkelman were half-brothers. Herman and Johanna had ten children with one dying in infancy.⁶⁹ Johanna died in 1933; Herman died in 1946. Both are buried in St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Wardsville, MO.⁷⁰

Bernard, born on January 19, 1868, was the sixth child.⁷¹ While all of the other children are listed in the transcribed birth and baptism records of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia, Bernard is not. He may have been baptized in St. Boniface Church in Koeltztown or his absence from the records may simply be an error. Probably when he was about 12 years old, he injured his left arm in a farm accident, and it had to be amputated at the elbow. The story told in the family is that he injured his arm in the gears or blades of a haxel cutter. A haxel cutter was a hand-powered machine used for cutting up bundles of oats for feed for horses and mules, although larger versions were used for cutting up bundles of corn. As early as 1893 he operated a store in Koeltztown with a partner named Matthew Hausner.⁷² He also had Henry Westerman as a partner for some time, but that partnership also dissolved. He married Anna Woehr, the daughter of Joseph and Wilhelmina (Utrecht) Woehr, of Koeltztown on May 4, 1897.⁷³ He and his wife operated the store for over 50 years until sometime in the middle to late 1940s. They had six children, but two died early, one in infancy and one, Agatha Johanna, in her early teens.⁷⁴ Anna died in 1947 and Bernard in 1955.⁷⁵ They are both buried in St. Boniface Cemetery in Koeltztown.

Gottfried was the eighth child of Bernard and Johanna. He was born on November 22, 1874. He married Catherine Winkelman, the daughter of Stephan and Angela (Heckemeyer) Winkelman and a first cousin to the Herman Winkelman who married Gottfried's sister, Johanna. While their baptismal names were Gottfried and Catherine, they were always known as Fritz and Katie. They were married at St. Joseph Church in Westphalia on 27 October 1903.⁷⁶ and had seven children. One named Norbert died in infancy in 1915 and is buried in St. Boniface Cemetery in Koeltztown.⁷⁷ They lived on the farm with Gottfried's mother and expanded it over time. In 1904, less than a year after Gottfried and Catherine married, Johanna sold the farm of a little over 480 acres to Gottfried and Catherine for \$2,600, reserving to herself the north room on the ground floor of the house for her natural life.⁷⁸ In 1907 Gottfried and Catherine bought 280 acres in section 35 from Gottfried's uncle and aunt, William and Anna Schwartze for \$1,200.⁷⁹ William and Anna Schwartze had a farm in the neighborhood just to the north of the original Henry Loehner farm. A 1913 plat book shows Gottfried owning land, but there is no indication of his mother continuing to own land.⁸⁰ However, she did continue to live with him until her death in 1916.⁸¹ In 1920 Gottfried and Catherine sold their farm, now of a little over 760 acres, to Henry J. Loehner for \$16,000.⁸² Most of the land is described in terms of 40- and 80-acre parcels; however, sometimes the land did not conform to the survey lines of the 40- and 80-acre parcels, and the surveyor resorted to describing the land in terms of stumps, trees, streams and other geographical features. The 7.5 acres Bernard Melies acquired from Henry Holterman in 1876 and included in the land sold to Henry Loehner is described as,

part of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast qr. of section 25 Township 42 Range 10 W described as follows: commencing at what is supposed to be the Northwest corner, of the aforesaid Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast qr, this being a white oak stump about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter standing about 6 yards North of a little branch. Thence south along the Subdivisional line between the NorthWest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast qr. aforesaid and the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest qr. in the aforesaid Section, Township and Range 224 yards to a corner, on the top of the Bluff and in sight of the Maries Creek. Thence in a northeasterly direction 222 yards to a white oak tree for a corner about 2 feet in diameter. Thence Northeast 121 yards to a slough of the Maries Creek. Thence down said slough 39 yards to the Subdivisional line between the aforesaid Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast qr and of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northeast qr of the aforesaid Section, Township and Range. Thence along said line 308 yards to the place of beginning, Containing 7.5 acres, more or less.

The Henry Loehner who purchased the Melies farm from Gottfried and Catherine was a grandson of the Henry Loehner who had been so instrumental in influencing his Prussian friends and neighbors to move to the U.S. in 1846. Shortly after the sale of their Osage County farm, Gottfried and Catherine with their six surviving children moved to a farm at Malta Bend near Marshall in Saline County, Missouri.⁸³ They appear in the 1930 Census for Saline County.⁸⁴ Their oldest child, Alfred, married Delphine Schlueter in Freeburg, another small town in Osage County, in 1929.⁸⁵ He and his family are shown as living in a separate household in Saline County in the 1930 census, but may have actually lived on the farm with his parents. Gottfried died in 1961 and Catherine in 1970. Both are buried in Marshall in Saline County, Missouri.

Bernard Henry Melies died on August 12, 1886 at age 65.⁸⁶ With the possible exception of a few years immediately after his arrival, he lived all of his life in the United States on his farm along the Maries River. In his 39 or 40 years in the United States, he witnessed the death of his first wife, Elizabeth, and all three of their children and the deaths of seven of the ten children of his marriage to Johanna. Twenty-three of his twenty-seven grandchildren were born after he died. He is buried in the old St. Joseph Cemetery in Westphalia.⁸⁷ Elizabeth is listed in the 1857 record of deaths at Westphalia, but there is no record of where she might be buried. She may have been buried in an earlier cemetery in Westphalia that predated what is now known as the old cemetery. Johanna lived for 30 years after Bernard's death. She probably lived all of those 30 years on the farm she and Bernard developed along the Maries River; however, an 1888 letter written by her son, Bernard, hints that they may have lived elsewhere, perhaps Westphalia, for part of that time.⁸⁸ She is listed as a farmer in Washington Township in a 1915 Osage County Directory as is her son, Gottfried. She continued to live with Gottfried and his family until her death in 1916.⁸⁹ She is buried in St. Boniface Cemetery in Koeltztown, Missouri.⁹⁰

Martin L Plassmeyer

Colorado Springs, CO, January 2, 2012.



1. The Bernard H Melies family in about 1881-1882. Seated left to right, Johanna, Bernard, Gottfried; standing left to right, Bernard, Joseph, Johanna.



2. About 1886-1888, the three surviving children of Bernard H and Johanna Melies.
Left to right, Johanna, Bernard, Gottfried



3. May 4, 1897. Wedding picture of Bernard H. (Ben) Melies and Anna Woehr, Koeltztown, MO.



4. About 1908 – Bernard H (Ben) and Anna Melies at the front of their store in Koeltztown.



5. Bernard H (Ben) Melies family at front of their house in Koeltztown in 1912. Left to right, Bernard, Victor, Anna holding Monica with Agatha standing in front of her and Herbert.



6. About 1917-1919. Four of the children of Bernard and Anna Melies at the house in Koeltztown. Left to right, Agatha, Erharda, a visitor, Monica and Victor.



7. 1905 – Frank Lehman and Elizabeth Hoelscher wedding in Wardsville, MO. Frank Lehman is a son of Henry von Lehman and Gertrude Melies and a grandson of Bernard H and Johanna (Schwartz) Melies



8. Bernard H (Ben) and Anna Melies, mid – late 1930s, maybe 40th wedding anniversary



9. 1903 – Wedding of Gottfried Melies and Catherine Winkelman



10. 1928 - Gottfried and Catherine Melies 25th Wedding Anniversary. Left to right, Catherine, Joseph, Robert, Rose, Agnes, Marie, Gottfried, Alfred



11. Catherine and Gottfried Melies 50th Wedding Anniversary 1953



99 • 030

12. 1966 - Catherine Melies and children at her 90 birthday. Left to right, Joe, Agnes, Marie, Alfred, Catherine, Rose, Robert



13. 1888 – Herman Winkelman and Johanna Melies wedding picture.



14. Melies farmhouse in Osage County about 1930 after the farm had been sold to Henry Loehner. A daughter of Henry Loehner feeding a lamb.



15. 1913 - Herman and Johanna (Melies) Winkelman family at Wardsville farmhouse, maybe 25th Wedding Anniversary. Front Left to right, Clementine, Edmund, Herman, Geraldine, Johanna, Otto, Zita. Rear left to right, Ben, Bernadine, Marie, Johanna.

¹ I use the English spelling of his first and second name of “Bernard Henry” even though his first and second names as spelled in German were probably “Bernhard Heinrich.” The last name is spelled in various ways in the records, and I use the spelling for the last name as it appears in the record at hand. For example, it appears as “Mellies” in Bertling’s list (See endnote 4, below), as “Melies” and “Milius” in some of the census forms. It is also mistakenly transcribed as “Williers” in the 1860 Federal Census for Washington Township, Osage County, MO. This is probably due to the transcriber’s lack of familiarity with the German handwriting of the time. It is spelled “Melus” in the Osage County record of the marriage of Gertrude Melies and Henry Lehman and as “Melleas” in the 1876 Federal Census for Washington Township, Osage County, MO. Despite these variations in spelling in official documents the family almost always used the spelling “Melies.”

² The last name of Elizabeth Catherine and Johanna is spelled in various ways in the records. I use the spelling that appears in the record at hand. For example, it is spelled “Schwartz” on the Schwartz family Prussian Passport, and it varies between “Schwartz” and “Schwartz” in the records of St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, Missouri and other Missouri Marriage Records.

³ The birth and baptismal records of St. Joseph Parish show her name in the Latin as Joanna Henrica Georgia. She is known as Johanna in most other records, except that the transcribed records of burial of St. Boniface Cemetery in Koeltztown, MO list her as Maria Johanna, and the name on her tombstone is Maria Johanna Melies.

⁴ Bertling, Bert, Mastholte Die Geschichte zweier Gemeinden: Moese und Mastholte, Rietberg, Rehling, Graphisher Betrieb BmbH & Verlag, 1997, p. 231.

⁵ Bertling, p. 243.

⁶ Bertling, p. 247.

⁷ Haselhorst, Sabine. Genealogy of Bernhard Heinrich Mellies provided by Sabine Haselhorst in 2009. It is consistent with the Ancestry.com genealogical chart developed for Bernhard Heinrich Melies.

⁸ Haselhorst.

⁹ Gentges, Margaret H., IMMIGRANTS to OSAGE COUNTY MISSOURI and their IMMIGRANT SHIPS, Second Edition, 1995, p. 70. See also Haselhorst.

¹⁰ Gentges, p. 70. See also, Bertling, p. 250 and Joh. Joseph Franz Melies as listed in Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s -1900s from Mueller, Friedrich, “Westphaelische Auswanderer im 19. Jahrhundert-Auswanderung aus dem Regierungsbezirk Minden, Part 1: 1816-1900 (Erlaubte Auswanderung).” *Beitraege zur Westphaelischen Familienforschung*, vols. 38/39 (1980-1981), pp. 3-711. p. 480.

¹¹ 1860 Federal Census for Washington Township, Osage County, MO.

¹² Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863-1865 record for Joseph Milies.

¹³ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Burial Records of 1872.

¹⁴ Extract from 1860 Federal Census, Washington Township, Osage County, MO and the Passenger List for the ship Alexander, New Orleans, February 1840. See also Gentges, p. 70.

¹⁵ Gentges, p. 70.

¹⁶ Bertling, pp. 163-164.

¹⁷ Bertling, p. 166.

-
- ¹⁸ Kamphoefner, Walter, Wolfgang Helbich, and Ulrike Sommer, eds. Translated by Susan Carter Vogel. News from the Land of Freedom German Immigrants Write Home, Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 1991. p. 27.
- ¹⁹ Passenger List for the George Washington for its arrival at New Orleans on 2 January 1839.
- ²⁰ Bertling, p. 247.
- ²¹ Passenger List for the Elizabeth Denison for its arrival at New Orleans on 23 December 1846.
- ²² Bertling, Bert, Kleine Mastholte Ortsgeschichte, found at <http://www.mastholte-online.de>.
- ²³ Bertling, p. 229.
- ²⁴ Bertling, p. 247 and Berh Hein Mellies as listed in Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s -1900s from Mueller, Friedrich, "Westphaelische Auswanderer im 19. Jahrhundert-Auswanderung aus dem Regierungsbezirk Minden, Part 1: 1816-1900 (Erlaubte Auswanderung)." Beitrage zur Westphaelischen Familienforschung, vols. 38/39 (1980-1981), pp. 3-711., p. 477
- ²⁵ Passenger List for the Soldan for its arrival at New York on 12 July 1847.
- ²⁶ Passenger List for the Elizabeth Denison for its arrival at New Orleans on 23 December 1846. Joh. Heinr. Hucker as listed in Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s -1900s from Mueller, Friedrich, "Westphaelische Auswanderer im 19. Jahrhundert-Auswanderung aus dem Regierungsbezirk Minden, Part 1: 1816-1900 (Erlaubte Auswanderung)." Beitrage zur Westphaelischen Familienforschung, vols. 38/39 (1980-1981), pp. 3-711., p. 475.
- ²⁷ Bertling, p. 247.
- ²⁸ Ruge, Nicolas, Hardissen History of a Village in Lippe, 2nd ed., Copyright 2006 by LIPPE VERLAGE, Hellweg 72, D-32791 Lage, Carol A. Devore, trans., p. 40
- ²⁹ 1850 Federal Census for Washington Township, Osage County, Missouri.
- ³⁰ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Burial Records, 1855 and 1873.
- ³¹ Form 81 Passenger Arrival Records – Research Ticket for Bernard H Melies, U.S. National Archives Administration, Service Ticket #: B11-101969601E, Order Date : 08/19/2011
- ³² 1850 Federal Census for Washington Township, Osage County, Missouri.
- ³³ Indenture dated September 20, 1852 conveying land from Franziska Neidecken to Bernard Melies. Recorded in Osage County on September 27, 1852.
- ³⁴ Land Patent Details for Peter J. Neidecken in 1846, 1848 and 1849 from BLM Land Records for the St. Louis Land Office from the BLM website. Note that "Neidencken" is spelled "Niedecken" on the 1848 Land Patent Details form.
- ³⁵ General Land Office Records from the St. Louis Land Office dated 1856 and 1858 conveying land in Osage County to Bernard Melies.
- ³⁶ The 7.5 acres is referred to in the 1904 indenture dated June 15, 1904 conveying land from Johanna Melies to Gottfried Melies.
- ³⁷ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Marriage Records, 1853

-
- ³⁸ Gentges, p. 99 and “Godfrey and Gertrude Schwartz,” St. Joseph Sesquicentennial 1835 – 1985, Mary Ann Crede Klebba, ed. p. 216.
- ³⁹ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Baptism Records, 1854 and Burial Records, 1855.
- ⁴⁰ Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002 record for Gertrude Melus.
- ⁴¹ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Baptism Records, 1857
- ⁴² St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Burial Records, 1866.
- ⁴³ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Burial Records, 1857.
- ⁴⁴ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Marriage Records, 1858.
- ⁴⁵ Bek, William G., trans., “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” Missouri Historical Review between 1946 and 1948, p. 43.
- ⁴⁶ Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” p. 42. 37.
- ⁴⁷ Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” p. 42. 37.
- ⁴⁸ Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” pp. 42-43.
- ⁴⁹ Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” p. 181.
- ⁵⁰ Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” p. 27.
- ⁵¹ Bek, William G., “The Followers of Duden,” Missouri Historical Review, July 1922 (Vol XVI, No 4) p. 548.
- ⁵² Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” p. 42-43.
- ⁵³ Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” p. 41.
- ⁵⁴ Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” p. 165.
- ⁵⁵ Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” p. 165.
- ⁵⁶ Bek, “Nicholas Hesse, German Visitor to Missouri, 1835-1837,” p. 167.
- ⁵⁷ Schroeder, Adolf E and Carla Schultz-Geisberg, eds., Hold Dear as always: Jette, a German immigrant life in letters, The Curators of the University of Missouri, The University of Missouri Press, Columbia, MO 1988. p, 104.
- ⁵⁸ History of the Founding of the Parish and Town of Westphalia Missouri from Aug 6, 1835 to Aug 6, 1935, Melies, Rev. J. C., ed., p. 22.
- ⁵⁹ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Marriage Records, 1883.
- ⁶⁰ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Marriage Records, 1878 and 1880 Federal Census for Washington Township, Osage County, Missouri (Kemna, Melies and others).
- ⁶¹ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Burial records, 1879.
- ⁶² St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Baptism Records, 1881.

-
- ⁶³ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Marriage Records, 1909 and Missouri Marriage Records 1805-2002, 1909 entry for William F. Winkelman and Anna Kemna.
- ⁶⁴ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Burial records, 1885.
- ⁶⁵ Notes on Bode family by Clementine and Bernadine Winkelman and Edward L. Bode.
- ⁶⁶ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Burial records of 1872.
- ⁶⁷ Missouri Marriage Records 1805-2002, 1888 entry for Herman Winkelman and Johanna Melies.
- ⁶⁸ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Baptism Records, 1912.
- ⁶⁹ Notes on Bode family by Clementine and Bernadine Winkelman and Edward L. Bode.
- ⁷⁰ Death Certificate for Herman Winkelman filed May 17, 1946 and Death Certificate for Johanna M Winkelman filed December 6, 1933.
- ⁷¹ The date of his birth is taken from the Transcribed Burial Records of St. Boniface Cemetery Koeltztown, MO.
- ⁷² Extract of biographical sketch of Matthew Hauser, from Stevens, Walter Barlow, Missouri the center state; 1821-1915, Vol 4 found in Google Books (<http://books.google.com/books?pg=PA169&1pg=PA169&dq=bernard520H520Melies7...>)
- ⁷³ Missouri Marriage Records 1805-2002, 1897 entry for Bernard Melies and Anna Woehr.
- ⁷⁴ Death Certificate for Agatha Johanna Melies, date of death April 3, 1922, no date for filing of the certificate.
- ⁷⁵ Death Certificate for Bernard H. Melies filed August 12, 1955 and Death Certificate for Anna Melies filed March 20, 1947. See also the St. Boniface Cemetery Koeltztown, Missouri Transcribed Burial Records.
- ⁷⁶ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Marriage Records, 1903.
- ⁷⁷ Death certificate for Norbert Melies filed on January 1, 1916.
- ⁷⁸ Indenture dated June 15, 1904 conveying land from Johanna Melies to Gottfried Melies. The indenture was notarized by Hermann Crede, Notary Public on June 15, 1904, but was not filed for record until June 3, 1907.
- ⁷⁹ Indenture dated April 27, 1907 conveying land from William and Anna Schwartze to Gotfried Melies.
- ⁸⁰ Standard Atlas of Osage County Missouri, Geo. A. Ogle and Co, Publishers & Engravers, Chicago, 1913.
- ⁸¹ Obituary of Johanna Melies, 1916. The obituary says that Johanna's husband, Bernard, and three of her children died in 1886. The records of burials for St. Joseph Parish do not substantiate this. Only her husband died in 1886; the others died earlier.
- ⁸² Indenture dated February 11, 1920 conveying land from Gottfried and Kate Melies to Henry J. Loehner.
- ⁸³ Article in Marshall, MO newspaper about 50th wedding anniversary of Gottfried and Catherine Winkelman Melies about October 27, 1953 and obituary for Gottfried Melies about May 15, 1961.
- ⁸⁴ 1930 Federal Census for Grand Pass Township, Saline County, Missouri.

⁸⁵ Alfred Melies marriage record Osage County, MO 1929 and “Anton and Antoinette Schlueter (1883-1960)” Freeburg, MO Holy Family Parish Centennial History 1904 – 2004, compiled by Fr. Joe Welshmeyer in 2004, pp 353-354.

⁸⁶ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Burial Records, 1886.

⁸⁷ St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia, MO Transcribed Burial Records, 1886.

⁸⁸ Letter Bernard Melies to Johanna and Herman Winkelman, September 2, 1888.

⁸⁹ Obituary of Johanna Melies, 1916. This obituary was probably published in the *Unterrified Democrat* in Linn, MO.

⁹⁰ Death Certificate for Johanna Melies filed January 25, 1916. She is listed in the St. Boniface Cemetery Koeltztown, MO Transcribed Burial Records as Maria Johanna Melies.