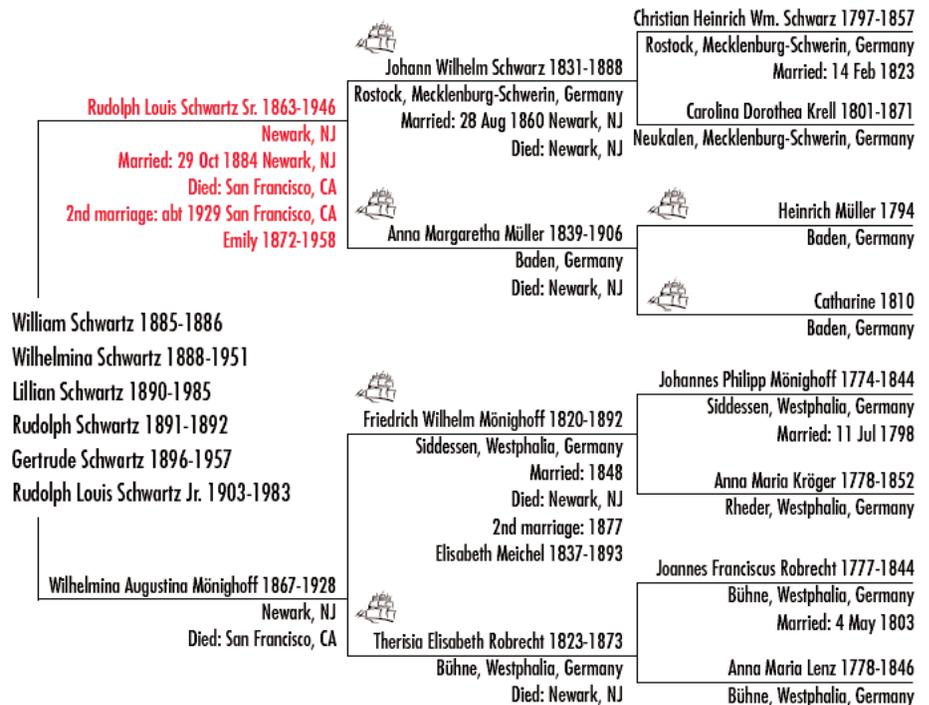




Five year-old Rudolph Schwartz  
Photographed in 1868 in Newark, NJ.



# Rudolph Schwartz Sr.

1863-1946

**Spouse:**

Minnie Mönighoff 1867-1928

**Children:**

William Augustine 1885-86  
Wilhelmina 1888-1951  
Lillian 1890-1985  
Rudolph 1891-92  
Gertrude Violet 1896-1957  
Rudolph Louis Jr. 1903-83

**Parents:**

Anna Müller 1839-1906  
Wilhelm Schwarz 1831-88

**Siblings:**

None

**Occupation:**

Plumber

Born 17 September 1863 in Newark, NJ, Rudolph Louis Schwarz was the only child born to German immigrants Anna Margaretha Müller and William Schwarz. Rudolph’s Protestant parents immigrated to the U.S. in the 1840s and 50s. William sailed to the U.S. at age 23, joining his older brother Carl who lived in “Germantown” Newark with his wife and five children. William and Carl Schwarz were born in Rostock, a large seaport near the Baltic coast.

Anna Müller was a child when she and her family immigrated from Baden, the Black Forrest region of south west Germany. Anna grew up in the large “Germantown” community of Newark, NJ, where thousands of German immigrants perpetuated their old-country culture and language.

Rudolph’s parents were married in Newark on 28 August 1860 and settled in “Germantown” Newark, where they raised their only child.

Rudolph’s father, William, changed the spelling from Schwarz to Schwartz sometime between September 1863 and August 1864.

## The Schwartz Family History

Rudolph was baptized 11 August 1864 in the German Evangelical Protestant Church in Newark, NJ when he was 11 month old. Schwartz was the spelling used on Rudolph's baptism certificate, but in his September 1863 Newark civil birth record, it was Schwarz.

Another Rudolph Schwartz\* is our Rudolph's first godfather; but he was not present at the baptism as indicated by the word *abwesend* - absent. Louis Aurehammer is Rudolph's second godfather. This is how Rudolph acquired his middle name.



Rev. Lehlbach

Rudolph's baptism certificate was issued by Reverend Friedrich A. Lehlbach's independent German Evangelical Protestant Church. The original baptism certificate survived with other family documents; unfortunately Rev. Lehlbach's church record books were lost.

## The Schwartz Family History

NAME OF CHILD	SEX OF CHILD	NAME OF FATHER	OCCUPATION OF FATHER	RESIDENCE IN PARISH	TIME OF MAKING RECORD
Rudolph	Male	Schwarz			

Rudolph's one-line city of Newark birth record. Most of the columns are left blank. More complete information is generally contained in baptism records kept by local churches.

Rudolph was baptized by Reverend Lehlbach. Fortunately Rudolph's baptism certificate survived with other family documents; Reverend Lehlbach's parish books were lost.

\* Carl Rudolph Theodor Schwarz 1801-27, was Rudolph's great uncle (his father's father's brother).

When Rudolph was a youngster, mortality rates were very high because people often died of today's easily treated illnesses and preventable infectious diseases.

It's unknown how much Rudolph's parents worried about the survival of their only child, however, three photo portraits survive of the well-dressed, well-nourished young Rudolph.



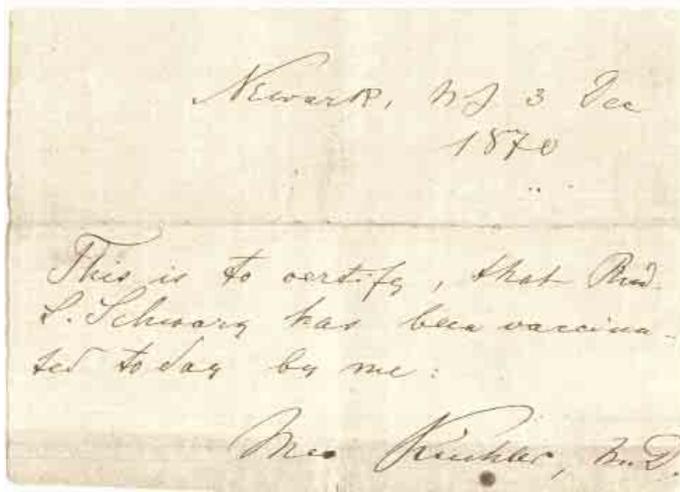
Rudolph at five years old. Photographed in Newark.



Issued in 1863 by the city of Newark, this five-cent note was legal tender. At the time of Rudolph's birth, money was minted by municipalities and private banks and not by the federal government.

## The Schwartz Family History

---



December 1870 note (presumably written to the local grammar school) certifying that seven year-old Rudolph had been vaccinated against small pox.



Rudolph about age 15. According to the 1880 federal census, 15 year-old Rudolph worked as a plumber in Newark, where major public and private sewer construction projects were underway.

*The following article, which was printed in Harper's Magazine in October 1876 when Rudolph was 13 years old, describes life in Newark's "Germantown".*

### **We find an interesting picture of German life in Newark.**

A wondrous tide of Germans has flooded Newark, dropping into all vacant lots and spreading itself over the flats to the east and the hills to the south and west, until it numbers one-third of the voting population. The German quarter on the hill is one of the interesting features of the city. A section nearly two miles square is a snug, compact, well-paved city within a city, giving evidence of neither poverty nor riches.

The Germans who dwell here are chiefly employed in factories and nearly all own their own houses.

They live economically and save money. German habits and German customs appear on every side. The women carry heavy bundles, great baskets, and sometimes barrels on their heads. Wherever there is room the Germans have gardens and raise vegetables for Newark Market. At early morning the women may be seen driving their one-horse wagons into town.

In 1833 there were 75 known Germans living in Newark and by 1835 the number was 300, probably hearing of the place by letters home.

## The Schwartz Family History

---

### PLUMBING AND SANITATION PROBLEMS IN OLD NEWARK

In the 1830s, after the completion of two railroad lines to Newark, the city swelled from a compact village into an industrial center. By the 1860s, when Rudolph was born, Newark was the principal industrial center in the United States.

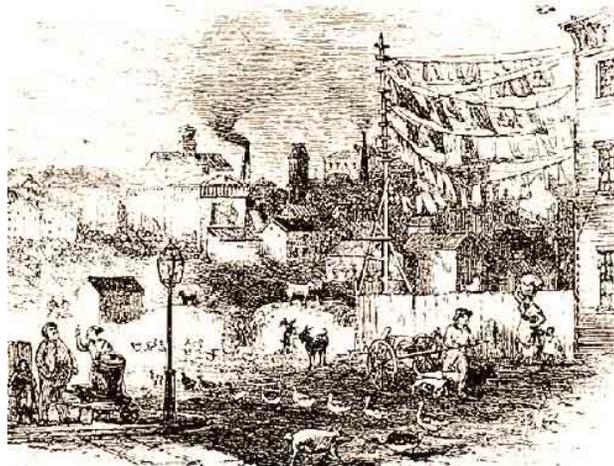
Factories producing cabinets, carriages, pottery, shoes, and soap, were established alongside breweries, tanneries, and mills. Numerous Irish immigrants went employed in Newark's factories after the completion of their work on the Morris Canal, followed shortly by many German immigrants.

Meanwhile, living conditions deteriorated. Pigs roamed the streets in search of garbage, animal carcasses littered the streets, and the creeks that traversed the city carried away household wastes for all to see and smell.

Poor and immigrant classes lived in dark, wretched tenements without running water or basic sanitary amenities. Consequently, Newark was plagued by outbreaks of epidemics. Infectious diseases such as cholera, typhoid, yellow fever, dysentery, and small pox, claimed thousands of lives, mostly the poor.

Newark employed scavengers, who drove their wagons through the city at night, removed the contents of outhouses and garbage receptacles. But this only worsened the problem as waste spilled onto streets from the uncovered wagons, and garbage was dumped in vacant lots.

Newark's policy was to keep taxes low to attract capital and labor to the city. This policy had the desired effect of promoting industrial growth, but it bankrupted public sanitation. As a result, property owners had to pay to connect to the new city sewers.



Before 1853, Newark's city "sewers" were merely open ditches dug in the middle of the street. Because the streets were still unpaved, during heavy rains the sewers overflowed their banks creating a quagmire of mud and waste. In some instances, the streets were clogged with household garbage, human waste, and decaying animals, flooding nearby homes and gardens.

While private financing allowed for new sewer construction, it precluded designing an integrated system. It also meant that sewers were built in only the more affluent areas, leaving the poorest and most overcrowded areas without basic sanitation.

When Rudolph was a small boy during the Civil War, Newark's factory waste and raw sewage poured directly into the Passaic River, causing high levels of contamination.

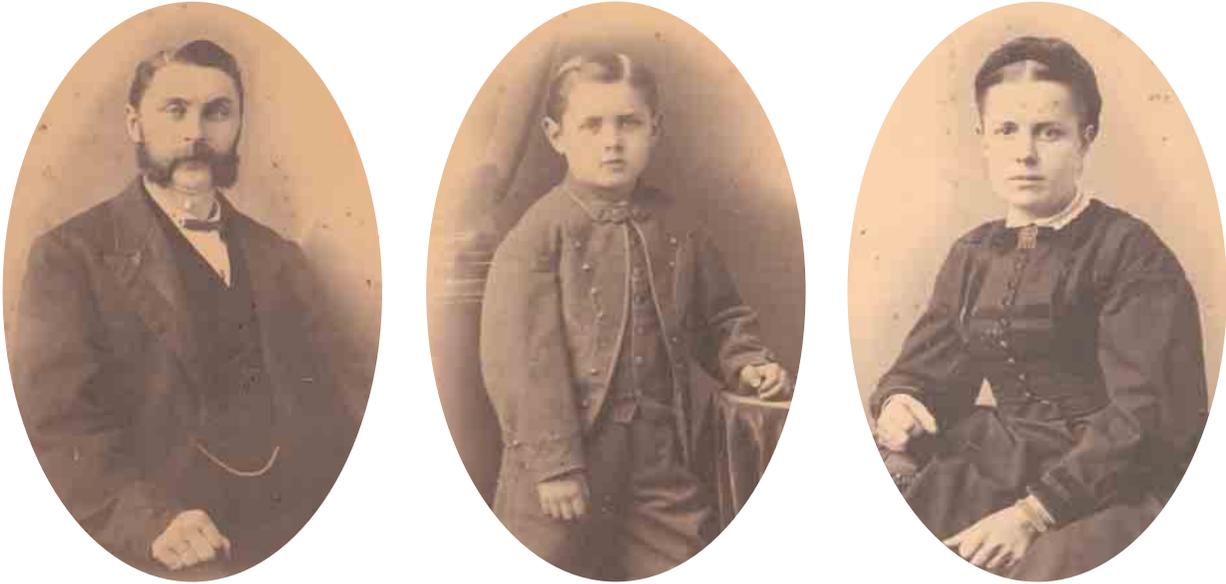
Newark blamed upriver towns for the contamination, but an 1882 study proved that Newark's 60 miles of sewers emptied directly into the Passaic River. Water samples taken from the river showed it to be of dreadful quality: Instead of sweet-tasting water, Newark had a bluish-red liquid, disgusting to the taste and smell. In 1892 Newark found a new water supply, abandoning the Passaic River entirely, using it solely as a repository of sewerage.

Abstracted from  
***The History of the Newark Sewer System***  
by Glenn R. Modica

*In 1890 Newark had the highest mortality rate in the country, over 27 deaths per 1000 population. By 1919 Newark had sewerred over 95 percent of its improved area, and its mortality rate dropped nearly 60 percent.*

# The Schwartz Family History

---



Rudolph Schwartz, center, with his parents.



Rudolph about age 20. Newark, NJ.



Photo taken about 1884, the year Minnie and Rudolph were married in Newark, NJ.

## The Schwartz Family History

---

### MARRIAGE

Rudolph was 21 years old when he and 17 year-old Minnie Mönighoff were married. The mayor of Newark wed the young couple in a civil ceremony on 29 October 1884. Minnie was raised Catholic and Rudolph was Protestant. Minnie's

brother, Charles, was a witness to their marriage as was Rudolph's father, William.

The newly weds made their home on Wallace Street in "Germantown" Newark, NJ, where they were both born and raised.



*As shown below, Newark's population almost quintupled during Rudolph's 42 years in Newark, NJ.*

1863	68,000
1864	70,000
1865	87,413
1866	94,800
1867	101,100
1869	113,040
1870	105,059
1871	110,000
1872	115,000
1873	118,000
1874	120,000
1875	123,310
1876	123,000
1877	122,500
1878	124,000
1879	125,000
1880	136,508
1885	152,988
1890	181,830
1895	215,806
1900	246,070
1905	283,289

Minnie and Rudolph Schwartz photographed in Newark with their children in 1904, marking their twentieth wedding anniversary. Rear: daughters Minnie and Lillian. Front: Gertrude and baby Rudolph Louis. For details about the children, see Minnie Mönighoff's biography in chapter two.

## The Schwartz Family History

---



Rudolph sporting a Coney Island bathing suit about 1895.

Minnie and Rudolph were the parents of six children, four of whom survived to adulthood. See Minnie Mönighoff's biography (chapter two) for information and photos of the children and the Schwartz marriage certificate.

According to the 1888 Newark City Directory, Rudolph and Minnie lived on Bank Street in "Germantown" Newark, which was Rudolph's first appearance in the city directory as an independent plumber. The following year the family moved to Norfolk Street, next to Minnie's elderly father and stepmother. Several other Newark addresses are listed for the family until 1906 when they left Newark.

Rudolph's father died in 1888 at age 57. His widow Anna lived another 18 years. Her funeral service was held in Rudolph and Minnie's home in February 1906.



Purchased in San Francisco, this type of boot hook was used by Minnie and her daughters to button their high-top boots.



The view from the Newark train station looking toward downtown. The Schwartz family likely travelled by train to California, if so, this was their last view of the city where three generations of the family lived.

## The Schwartz Family History

---



San Francisco street scene photographed just months before the Schwartz family arrived in the mostly destroyed city.

Not in history has a modern imperial city been so completely destroyed. San Francisco is gone ....Within an hour after the earthquake the smoke of San Francisco's burning was a lurid tower, visible a hundred miles away. And for three days and nights this lurid tower swayed in the sky, reddening the sun, darkening the day, and filling the land with smoke.

JACK LONDON,  
*The Fire*, 1906

### THE MOVE TO CALIFORNIA

The Schwartz family moved from New Jersey to California in 1906 shortly after the death of Rudolph's mother, Anna Müller Schwartz. She was Rudolph and Minnie's last surviving parent.

The family first moved to Los Angeles, and then to San Francisco shortly after the devastating 1906 earthquake. Much of San Francisco was destroyed by fire following the huge quake; consequently, work was plentiful for Rudolph Sr. who was a plumbing contractor.

In 1915 Rudolph and Minnie lived at 3428 Sacramento Street when their youngest child, Rudolph Jr., was still living at home. They later moved to 317 Lexington Street and lived there until 1924 when they moved to a small house at 67 Richland Street.

Rudolph's wife, Minnie, suffered from high blood pressure, which was not treatable in the 1920s. This fatal condition claimed her life in July 1928.



Minnie and Rudolph Schwartz photographed in the 1920s.



The Sacramento Street house in San Francisco where Minnie and Rudolph Schwartz lived in 1915. Photographed in 2002, this building is currently a doctor's office.

## The Schwartz Family History

---

A nurse, Emily, was hired to care for Minnie during the last years of her illness. Rudolph and Emily were later married.

Rudolph saw his four surviving children grow up and marry. He also lived to see most of his 13 grandchildren and some of his many great-grandchildren.

Rudolph lived on Richland Street in San Francisco from 1924 until his death in 1946 at age 82. Emily lived there until her death in 1958 at age 86.



Rudolph Schwartz photographed in San Francisco.



67 Richland Street in San Francisco where Rudolph lived from 1924 to 1946. In 1933 Rudolph's phone number was ATwater-1313.



Rudolph and Emily walking in San Francisco.



Emily Schwartz about 1955.