

William Schwartz

1831-1888

Spouse:

Anna Margaretha Müller 1839-1906

Children:

Rudolph Schwartz 1863-1946

Parents:

Christian Schwarz 1797-1857
Carolina Krell 1801-71

Siblings:

“Karl” Franz Christian Gustav 1823-1910
Louise Christine Sophia Helene 1827->71
Elise Johanna Sophia 1829->71
Friederike Dorothea Caroline 1834->71
stillborn son 1836-36

Half-sister:

Wilhelmina Warnke 1820

Occupation:

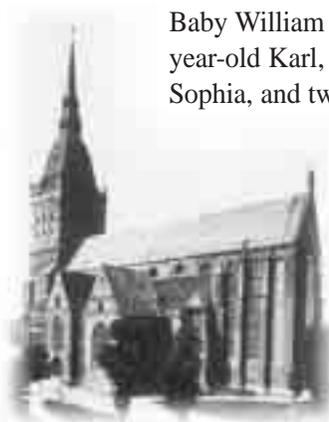
Grocer, saloon keeper, and collector

Born 6 May 1831 in Rostock, Germany, Carl Johann Wilhelm was the fourth of six children born to Carolina Krell and Christian Schwarz. Four-day-old William’s baptism took place at St. Jacobi’s Protestant church, one of Rostock’s five medieval churches. His baptism was witnessed by his grandmother Sophia Reyer Schwarz.



Interior of St. Jacobi Church, built in the 12th century.

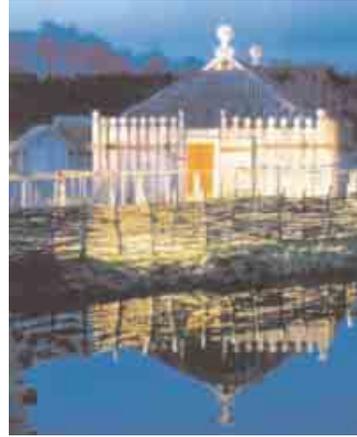
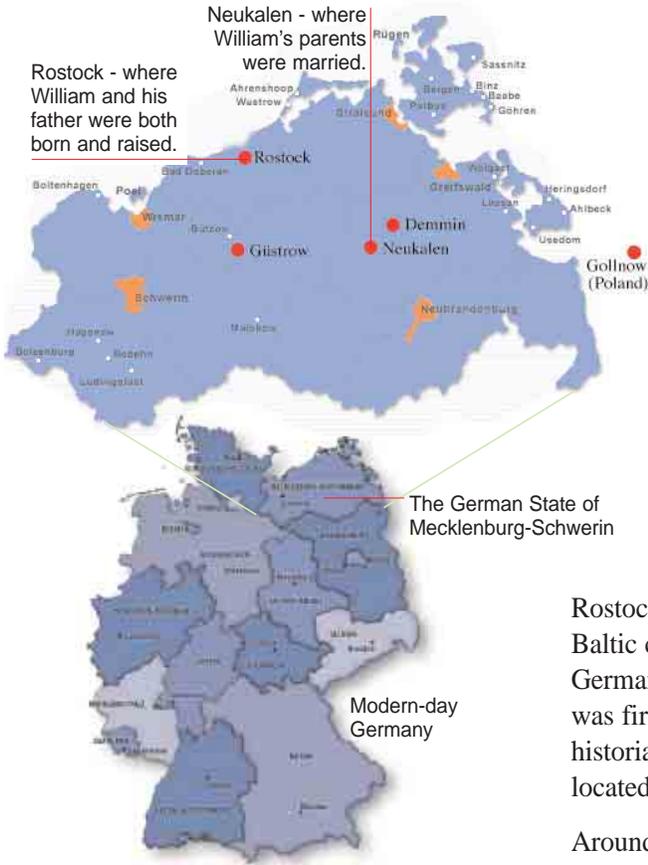
Baby William joined seven year-old Karl, four year-old Sophia, and two-year old Elise in the growing Schwarz family. Three years later Dorothea was born. The youngest child was stillborn in 1836.



St. Jacobi Church in Rostock

William’s half-sister, Wilhelmina Warnke, was born in 1820 to William’s father, Christian, and Anna Maria Warnke, who died on the day of the child’s birth.

The Schwartz Family History



Slavic tribal people worshiped a pantheon of gods in structures similar to this one. This reconstructed temple sits on the site of a restored 1100 year-old fortified Slavic castle compound at Gross Raden, thirty miles southwest of Rostock.



Slavic tribal dwelling

Rostock, a large seaport near the Baltic coast and the largest city in the German State of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, was first mentioned in 1161 by a Danish historian. At that time a Slavic castle was located there.

Around 600 AD nomadic Slavic tribes began populating the heavily forested Mecklenburg-Schwerin, a low coastal plane dotted with lakes and hills. Around 1200, German merchants and craftsmen began settling Rostock after Slavic tribal leaders accepted German rule and Christianity. German culture, politics, and religion came to dominate Mecklenburg-Schwerin although much of the population remained Slavic.

Carolina Krell, William's mother, was born in the lakeside village of Neukalen, Germany, where she married William's father on 14 February 1823. The newlyweds then traveled 37 miles northwest to make their home in Rostock, home to three generations of her husband's family.

William's father supported his wife and six children as a day laborer and carpenter. Day laborers existed at the bottom of the economic ladder in Germany, a position offering a life of grinding poverty. William's older brother, Karl, lived with his grandparents in Neukalen, where his confirmation took place in 1838.

Under earlier Slavic tribal rule, this area was known as Vandalia and later as Wendenland.



Typical day laborer's rented cottage of the early 1800s in Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

The Schwartz Family History



Rostock, the walled medieval Baltic seaport where William Schwarz was born in 1831, is shown in this 1683 illustration. St Jacobi Church is far right center. The University of Rostock campus is above the Church.

Rostock, Queen of the Baltic, reached her apex of prosperity in the 1400s during which time Baltic and North Sea trading routes were primary highways of northern European commerce. This status declined over the next four centuries due to the ravages of two wars, shipping blockades, fires, and foreign occupation. Rostock then fell into an economic decline from which it never recovered.

William's birth year marked a milestone for the city of Rostock; the population outgrew the town wall, and the city expanded to the surrounding countryside.



The Rostock skyline much as it looked in William's youth.

The Schwartz Family History



Modern-day Rostock with "old town" in the foreground and the Warnow River flowing north to the Baltic Sea.



Early 1800s painting of Rostock's St. Nicoli Church. Built in 1300, Nicoli is Rostock's oldest church and was built on the site of early Slavic settlements. The nave is now used as a concert hall.



Koepeliner Tor is one of four surviving gates in the old stone wall that protected Rostock during the middle ages.



Contemporary photo of Rostock harbor with St. Mary's church in the background.



1968 German postage stamp commemorating the establishment of Rostock harbor in 1228.

The Schwartz Family History



Inside cover of the St. Jacobi Church parish record book that holds three generations of Schwarz birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage, and death records.

The Schwarz family was Protestant, as were most Christians living in Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The Catholic clergy was ousted in 1549 when most of the state of Mecklenburg-Schwerin became Protestant by decree.



1850s drawing of emigrating Mecklenburg-Schwerin peasants saying farewells to loved ones.

William's confirmation took place in Rostock's St. Jacobi Church in 1847, on the eve of the failed German revolution. Brother Karl's involvement in this political upheaval forced him to leave Germany in 1850.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin suffered a higher rate of emigration than any German state due to overwhelming poverty, repressive political conditions, and no hope for an improved life. America offered political and religious freedoms, plus economic opportunities never dreamed of in Germany.



Rostock's St. Jacobi Church fell victim to the bombs of WW II. The Neptune Shipyards and two aircraft factories were located several miles north of Rostock. In 1942 the RAF bombed those military targets along with a large part of Rostock, which was a civilian target.



This 1848 drawing depicts open revolution in the streets of Berlin. The revolutionaries were fighting for democratic freedoms similar to those won in the United States and France. The powerful Prussian Army put down the revolt, forcing the freedom fighters to flee the country. William Schwartz and his brother, Karl, were among the many who fled.

The Schwartz Family History



This ship is similar to the one on which William Schwarz sailed to America.

William was 23 years old in 1854 when he left Germany. At that time, Atlantic crossings to the United States could last up to 90 days, and conditions on the old three-mast sailing ships were more than



An 1859 illustration of a German beer garden.

bad; very few immigrants had beds and many people were piled in tiny cabins underdeck. Food was in short supply, especially toward the end of the journey.

Upon his arrival in America, William traveled to Newark where his brother Karl lived. William's parents and three sisters remained in Germany.



New York Harbor as it appeared when William Schwarz arrived in 1854. The round building (lower left) was to become Castle Garden, predecessor to Ellis Island. Castle Garden opened in 1855. Prior to that, there was no immigrant processing center. The shipping company presented a passenger list to the collector of customs, and the immigrants made whatever customs declaration was necessary and went on their way.



Many German immigrants began arriving in Newark in the late 1840s, and they mainly settled in a wooded region lying to the west and northwest of downtown.

This area (Germantown) was recreated as a German village, including beer gardens, singing societies, and turnvereins - athletic clubs - as shown above.

By 1865, one third of Newark's population was either from Germany or of German heritage.

The Schwartz Family History



Anna and William Schwartz
photographed in Newark, NJ.
about 1871.

Below is the 1860 marriage certificate for the Newark, NJ wedding of William Schwarz and Anna Müller. Witnesses to the marriage were Karl Schwarz, William's brother and Peter Müller, brother of the bride. The pre-printed portion of this document is written in Old German script. The Certificate was printed in Philadelphia for the many German speaking communities in the U.S.



The Schwartz Family History

MARRIAGE

William Schwarz and Anna Margaretha Müller were married in Newark's First German Presbyterian Church on 28 August 1860. The Reverend Guenther officiated at the marriage and he later established Newark's first German-English day school in 1854.

Anna's family came to the U.S. about 1844 from Baden, Germany, and like the Schwarz brothers, settled in Newark.

Twenty-nine year-old William and twenty-one year-old Anna made their home on South Orange Avenue in the large "Germantown" community of Newark, NJ, where thousands of German immigrants perpetuated their old-country culture and language.



Brother Karl and his German-born wife lived a few blocks away.

William and Carl kept their old-country connection to at least one expatriate German freedom fighter – Rev. Frederick Lehlbach. He was a well-known German pastor who fought with the revolutionary forces in Germany. He was caught and sentenced to 15 years in prison, escaped his sentence, and fled to Newark, where in 1861 he formed the independent German Evangelical Protestant Church. Rev. Lehlbach baptized baby Rudolph in 1863. Fortunately, Rudolph's baptism certificate survived with other family documents; Reverend Lehlbach's parish books were lost.

William Schwartz worked as a grocer from 1862 to 1875 at various Newark locations. For the next five years he was a wine and liquor dealer. In 1880 he worked in a saloon for two years, all according to Newark City Directories. After 1882, the City Directory simply gives his home address as Wallace Place. William's profession is listed as "Collector" on his 1888 death certificate.

William Schwartz
photographed in Newark.



Rev. Lehlbach

Some answers / questions:

By the summer of 1849, Prussian troupes crushed the German revolution and routed armed insurgents from most cities. After the revolutionary government was dissolved in Frankfurt, the rebels ran south to Stuttgart where they planned to regroup and continue fighting. But the revolt ended there.

William likely fled to Stuttgart with the revolutionaries, and later left Germany from Stuttgart.

William was 18 years old in 1849 when the revolt ended. By 1850, most freedom fighters had escaped Germany. However, it was another four years before William came to the U.S.

Where was William during those four years? Was the teenager imprisoned for his revolutionary activities? Did he return to Rostock and blend back into German society? Did he flee Germany, live in another country, and then come to America? Did he stay in Stuttgart and work to earn passage to America?

The Schwartz Family History

William and Anna's only child, Rudolph, was born 17 September 1863 in Newark. The following year William declared the family name 'Schwartz' when he filed his U.S. naturalization papers.

Alien Wilhelm Schwarz became William Schwartz, a free citizen of the United States, on 7 October 1864. Brother Karl also opted for the 't' in Schwar(t)z and put a 'C' in Carl.



The old Essex County Courthouse in Newark where William Schwartz was granted U.S. citizenship in 1864. This illustration was created in 1855.



The October 1864 U.S. Naturalization document issued to William Schwartz.

The Schwartz Family History



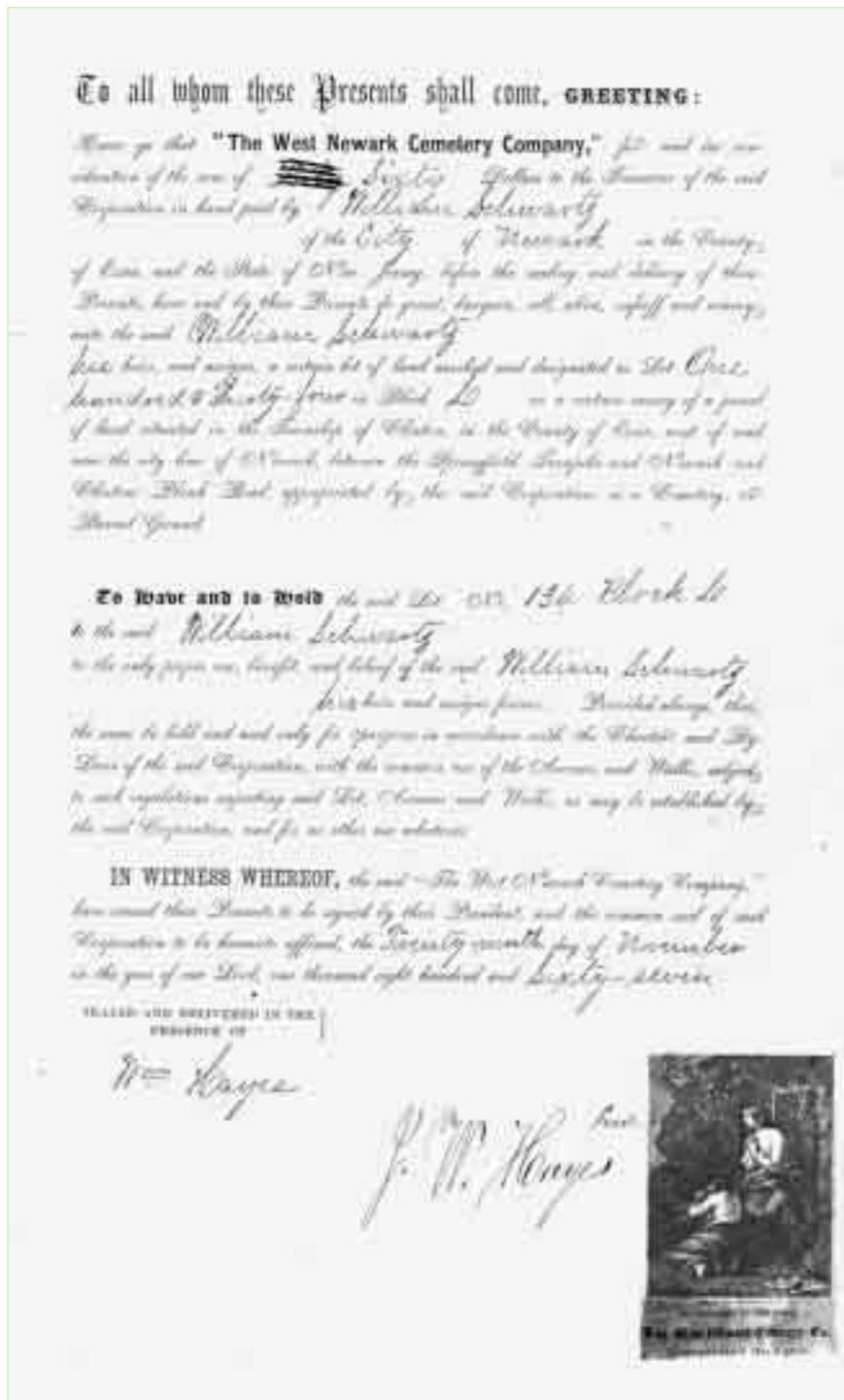
William Schwartz photographed in Newark, no date.

In 1857 William's father died in Rostock, Germany at age 59. William's mother died at age 70 in 1871, also in Rostock

William died in his Newark home at 134 South Orange Avenue on 23 November 1888 at age 58. He lived to see two of his six grandchildren and lived 34 years (more than half of his life) in his adopted America.

William purchased a family burial plot at Woodland Cemetery on 29 Nov 1867 for \$60. William and Anna, who died in 1906, are buried there along with the two infant sons of Minnie and Rudolph Schwartz. The teenage granddaughter of Carl Schwartz and two children of Charles and Mary Schwartz (relationship unknown) are also buried in the plot.

No tombstones were present on the Schwartz plot as of 2003.



Deed to the Schwartz family plot at Woodland Cemetery in Newark.



Carl Schwartz as pictured in his 1910 obituary.

William's brother, Carl Schwartz

1823-1910

Carl Schwartz fled to the U.S. in 1850 after taking part in the failed German Revolution of 1848-9. He was 26 years old when he made his way to NJ, settling in the "Germantown" neighborhood of Newark. William followed Karl to Newark in 1854. Carl, like his brother William, put a 't' in Schwarz and changed Karl to Carl sometime in the 1860s.

Spouse:

Catharina

Children:

Johanna Schwartz 1855
Louisa Schwartz 1856
Franklin Schwartz 1858
Herman Schwartz 1865
Minnie Schwartz 1867

Parents:

Christian Schwarz 1797-1857
Carolina (Livonius) Krell 1801-71

Siblings:

Louise Christine Sophia Helene 1827
Elise Johanna Sophia 1829->71
Carl Johann Wilhelm 1831-88
Friederike Dorothea Caroline 1834
Unnamed stillborn 1836-36

Half-sister:

Wilhelmina Warnke 1820

Occupation:

Jeweler and Insurance Salesman

Family lore has it that our immigrant Schwarz ancestors came from Stuttgart, a large city in southern Germany, and that they participated in the German revolution of 1848-9. However, Carl was born in the northern seaport of Rostock as indicated in his obituary, his brother's marriage certificate, and German birth records.



The German Revolution started in the universities and among the professional ranks of writers, teachers, doctors, and lawyers. The unrest spread to major cities and was most active in the southern part of Germany, accustomed to a parliamentary form of government.

By the summer of 1849, Prussian soldiers crushed the revolution and routed the armed rebels from most cities. After the revolutionary government was dissolved in Frankfurt, the freedom fighters ran south to Stuttgart where they planned to regroup and continue fighting. But the revolt ended there due to the lack of popular support.



1849 Flag of the central revolutionary administration in Frankfurt, Germany.

The United States was the only major nation to officially recognize the revolutionary central administration in Frankfurt, clearly expressing solidarity with German freedom fighters.

The Schwartz Family History



Street fighting in Berlin during the Revolution. Prussian soldiers can be seen in the background and rebels in the foreground.



Carl Schurz, revolutionary and German American hero.

Carl fled to Stuttgart with the revolutionaries, and later left Germany from Stuttgart.

“Carl” Schwartz was born Franz Christian Gustav Schwarz on 28 Dec 1823. He later took the name Carl in honor of the famous German revolutionary leader, Carl Schurz, who was a hero to German-Americans. Carl Schurz also fled Germany and served in the U.S. military as a Civil War General.

In Newark, Carl Schwartz worked as a jeweler and insurance salesman to support his family. He and his German-born wife, Catharina, had five children, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, all born in Newark. Carl’s granddaughter, Minnie Brandt, is buried in the William Schwartz family plot in Woodland Cemetery.

Three generations of Carl’s family lived in his home at 31 Orchard Street, Newark, NJ where Carl’s funeral was held in 1910. He lived to the age of 87 and died of old age.

Carl Schwartz’s 1910 obituary:

Carl Schwartz, who for sixty years had resided in this city, passed away Friday morning at his home, at 31 Orchard street, from the infirmities of old age. Mr. Schwartz was born in Rostocke, Germany, eighty-seven years ago. He came directly to this country after the German political trouble of 1848. Mr. Schwartz retired nearly forty years ago from the employ of the jewelry manufacturing firm of Carter, Howkins & Dodd Company, where he held a responsible position. He was a former member of the Eintract German Singing Society. He held office as Excise Commissioner for several terms. The funeral services will be held today in Mr. Schwartz’s home, and interment will be private in the family plot at Fairmount Cemetery. Mr. Schwartz is survived by three daughters and two sons, Miss Johannes Schwartz, Mrs. Louise Brandt, Hermon and Franklin Schwartz, and Mrs. Frederick T. Greenberg; also a grandson, Walter C. Brandt, all of this city.