

DITTER FAMILY HISTORY

(Compiled by Caroline Ditter Henderschiedt, great-grand-daughter of Andrew Ditter,
grand-daughter of Thomas Ditter and daughter Of Edward Ditter. 1982-1983)

The Ditter immigrant ancestors had lived in Gamburg and Baden, Germany before sailing the Atlantic to make a new life in America. Either my parents didn't reminisce much or we just didn't absorb the family history as I had very little information until recently. I have compiled what information that I found and I feel it is a good start on the early family history. With this book I hope to preserve this and maybe we can add more pages as the research goes on in finding our "Roots".

The Ditter cousins decided to have a Re-Union on June 24, 1979 in Worthington, Minnesota. Sixty-nine came to St. Mary's cafeteria for a one o'clock dinner and an afternoon of reminiscing. In 1980 on June 8th we again got together at the same place with forty-two present. Thirty-four attended another Re-Union on September 13, 1981 at the Town and Country Cafe. September 12th, 1982 at the same place forty-five gathered. September 11, 1983 there were forty-two and we met at St. Mary's cafeteria. Ditter descendants have come from South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and the Twin Cities area and Nebraska to attend these Re-Unions.

At first no one had any information about our great-grandparents and very little about Grandpa Thomas Ditter or his wife Rosa Adelman. My brother L.J. (Lawrence) said he thought that Grandpa was the "black sheep" as he didn't have anything to do with his family. Almost a year later we met John Ditter of Wayzata who is a great-grandson of Amor Ditter and is a distant cousin to us. John had done some research on his ancestors and having made three trips to Germany, he had names and information that helped me very much. My sister, Doris Baker and I had an enjoyable visit with him and his wife in Wayzata. He laughed at the "black sheep" story so we decided that distance had kept the relatives apart.

This past year (1983) I found out that Andrew Ditter had come to the U. S. on the same ship as Amor. He had seven children in Germany, including Thomas, and six more after he settled in Wisconsin. Thomas went to live in Hennepin County and in Minneapolis but I have no information that any of the others did. I assume that it was distance that kept them apart.

At last I found out who my great-grandfather and great-grandmother Ditter were and that my Grandpa Thomas had twelve brothers and sisters. They had all settled in Wisconsin when they came to America. This information was given to me by Mary Ditter Martin, Madison, Wisconsin who is a great-grand-daughter of Amor Ditter and she is also researching the Ditter history.

The Ditter family history has been traced back to the early 1800's in Gamburg and Baden, Germany. Dates, names and ages have often been changed so one cannot always be certain on exactness. As to the best of my knowledge, I have come up with the following information on my immigrant ancestors, taking it from a ship's passenger list, church and cemetery records, death certificates, census and war records, newspaper clippings and the information of my relatives.

I have traced the Ditter family back to Germany when Andrew and Amor Ditter were born. Dates are conflicting as the ship's passenger list states that Amor was the oldest but their death certificates reverse that and state that Andrew was born in 1806 and Amor in 1807. Andrew was born in Baden and no other information is known of him. Amor was born in Gumbach and later became the Burgermeister in the village. He married Maria Josephina (no maiden name known). We are not certain if Andrew and

Amor were brothers but they were related.

The following is taken from a "History of the Ditters of Minnesota" written by John Ditter, a great-grandson of Amor Ditter, and now resides in Wayzata, Minnesota. "In search to find the remnants of the Ditter ancestry, some information has been uncovered. This information consists of some people now living in West Germany: some sights in Germany and the descendants of the Ditters. There are no Ditters living in Gumbach now, but in Würzburg, near by there are two by the names of Simon and Helma. In Heidelberg, there are two Ditter families. One of these is Walter and Dagny and their son Wolfgang. The other is Walter's father and mother, Ludwig and Theresa. Ludwig is Simon's brother. Walter is a chemist.

East of Schweinfert there is a village on the map called Ditterswind. Its a small farming village about twenty-five miles from the east German border. Also, there are seven other towns on the maps with the name Ditter in them. Three are called Ditterbach and four called Dittersdorf. Back around the end of the eighteen century, 1785 or so, there was a famous music composer by the name of Carl Ditter. It is believed that one of the Dittersdorf villages was named after him. In the town of Glashoffen, about eighty miles east of Heidelberg, there is an old house that's called the "Ditter Haus" and a hill near the town called the "Ditter Hill". The Ditters who live in this town farm in the area. There is a nice restaurant in Glashoffen owned by Gebhard Bundschul, who's mother was a Ditter and a sister to Ludwig. Also, one of Ludwig's aunts, married a Herst and they moved to the U. S. and live in the San Francisco area. They are in the Publishing Business.

There is some resemblance in the features of Ludwig and Walter that remind me of some of the Ditters in the Minnesota area."

The famous composer and musician, Karl (Carl) Ditter who could be one of our ancestors lived from 1739 to 1799 in Germany and Italy. He performed also in some of the surrounding countries. He played in some palaces and for royalty and was given the royal title of Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf. His compositions can be heard to-day. He dictated a book to his oldest son before he died entitled "The Autobiography of Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf". This was translated to the English language in 1970 and can be found in the bookstores and libraries.

The ship passenger list of the Steamer Belgigne that sailed from Antwerp, Germany with Captain M. J. Franzen and arrived in the Port of New York on June 20, 1852, had the names of Amor and Andrew Ditter and some family members.

Andrew Ditter was my great-grandfather. He was listed as 42 years old, from Baden, Germany and his new wife, Veronica age 27, from Bavaria. Also his oldest daughter, Regina age 23. They settled near the Town of Forest in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. There is no record of Andrew buying property in those early years. Six other children were born in Germany, including Thomas. He came to the U. S. by himself in 1859. I have no information on the others coming over but they were also listed on the 1860 Census of Wisconsin, Town of Forest and County of Fond du Lac.

The 1860 Census also stated that Andrew Ditter's personal property was \$20.00. Regina was not living at home with them but the other six were listed and also a daughter one year old born in Wisconsin. The 1870 Census listed five more children, making a total of thirteen children in the family.

The records from St. Michael's Catholic parish at Dotyville, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, show that Andrew Ditter was buried in the cemetery in 1871. His wife, Veronica buried in 1889 and an infant daughter, Josephine in 1880. Dotyville is about ten miles from Fond du Lac.

Andrew Ditter	Baden	1860.....	1871	married Veronica
Veronica	Bavaria	1830.....	1889	married Andrew Ditter

CHILDREN OF ANDREW DITTER

Regina	Baden	Feb. 1833.....	Nov. 22, 1902	married Lawrence Blatz
Ferdinand	Baden	1835 or 38		living 1870, not married
Kenrose (Rosa)	Baden	1839		living 1870, not married
George	Baden	Jun. 1, 1842.....	Feb. 24, 1921	married Margaret Sabel
Thomas	Baden	Dec. 16, 1846.....	Jan. 9, 1919	married Rosa Adelman
Agnes	Baden	Sep. 13, 1848.....	Feb. 27, 1930	married Andrew Weber
Mary A.	Baden	1851		
M. Josephine	Wisc.	1859.....	1880	
Anna	Wisc.	1861		married James H. Shannon
Veronica	Wisc.	Jan. 1863.....	Jul. 4, 1921	married John Kurz--William Mader
Andrew	Baden	Sep. 12, 1864.....	Jul. 12, 1920	married Emma Lange
Max (Marcus)	Wisc.	Feb. 25, 1866.....	Dec. 11, 1943	married Katherine Wirth
Louis	Wisc.	May 1870		living 1906 in Racine, not married

Thomas Ditter was born in Baden, Germany on December 16, 1846. He was six years old when his parents and oldest sister immigrated to the U. S., leaving him and his two brothers and three sisters in Germany. Mary A. was a tiny baby born in 1851 and the parents landed in New York June 20, 1852. We may never know but can only wonder why they were left behind and with whom. Perhaps because of the limited number of passengers, lack of money or maybe it was feared the trip would be too much of a hardship or to get a new home and get settled.

Thomas chose to immigrate to the U. S. and started on the long journey alone in 1859. On board ship he was befriended by the Lorenz (Lawrence) Adelman family. The wife was the former Margaretha Gillig (Gelieh). They were both born in Bavaria, a southern state of Germany and also married there. They lived in Ziegler and Kulshiem, Germany. Lorenz was a small landowner and a brickmaker. Because of financial problems, the entire family including six children, moved to America and settled in Minnesota. They lived in Jordan and Young America before homesteading on a farm in the woods near Waconia. The children were Mary, Rosa, Mary Frances, Martin, Caroline and Frank. Rosa later married Thomas Ditter and became my grandmother.

Thomas lived with his family, according to the 1860 Wisconsin Census, Town of Forrest and County of Fond du Lac. He was fourteen years old that year. Three years later on December 1, 1863 and at the age of seventeen Thomas enlisted from the Town of Taycheedah, Wisconsin, in the War of the Rebellion or the Civil War. His brother, George, age twenty-one, also enlisted and both were Privates in Co. A. 18th Infantry Wisconsin. Phillip Ditter, son of Amor Ditter enlisted and he was a Corporal in Co. K 35th Infantry. Benedict Adelman also enlisted and was a Corporal in Co. A. 18th Infantry. They mustered out July 18, 1865.

Ben's mother was Anna Maria Ditter, born in Baden, and first married a Mr. Blatz, had three children and then married Francis Joseph Adelman and they had six children (only two lived). They came to the U. S. about 1849. The Adelmans stayed in the East for awhile, then bought land in the Town of Taycheedah, Fond du Lac County, near St. Peter. Lorenz (Lawrence) Blatz lived very near Adelmans and he is the son of Anna Blatz Adelman and sometime before 1860 he married Regina Ditter, daughter of Andrew Ditter.

Thomas was later a member of the Jacob Schaefer Post No. 163, Department of Minnesota G. A. R. On March 18, 1916 he was entitled to an increase in his pension at the rate of twenty-one and one-half dollars per month from December 16, 1915 and twenty-seven dollars per month from December 16, 1920. A Resolutions of Respect

In Memory of Comrade Thomas Ditter stated that during the war of the Rebellion he was a tried, true and faithful member of the Jacob Schaefer Post and was called by our Great Commander to the Grand Army above on January 9, 1919.

"Sleep on ye fallen Comrade, the victory you have won,
You've served the nation's banner, your task has been well done.
Rest under wreaths of laurels by grateful people given,
We strew your grave with flowers, the sweetest gift of heaven".

Thomas mustered out of service in the Civil War on July 18, 1865 and went to the Minneapolis, Minnesota area to look up the Lorenz (Lawrence) Adelman family. The 1870 Minnesota Census, Town of Richfield in Carver County listed a Lawrence Adelman with a daughter Rosa as a domestic servant for a Ervin Everett and his wife Martha. We are not certain if this is the same family as there were many Adelmans and with the same name.

"Love bloomed" with the little girl Thomas had met on the ship some years before and on January 30, 1873 Thomas Ditter and Rosa Adelman were married in Minneapolis. They lived there for ten years. One address was 1880 N. 8th Street.

I remember of my father telling that Grandpa Thomas had been a mason worker. He also did carpentry. In those days mason and cement work went along with building. Thomas and his partner Mr. Kees owned a livery barn in Minneapolis.

Five children were born in the city. In 1883 Thomas purchased a farm in Plymouth Township and the family moved there where six more children were born, Making eleven in all. They were Edward Joseph (my father), William Anthony, Margaret Caroline, John Thomas, Jacob Bernard (Ben), Elizabeth Rosa, Albert Mathias (Matt), Frank Carl, George Reinard, Mary Christina and Katherine Antonette.

After living on the farm for twenty-five years Rosa Ditter passed away at their home on September 13, 1908 at the age of fifty-seven years. The death certificate states the cause of death was Hypertrophic Cirrhosis. She was buried in the Medicine Lake Cemetery near St. Joseph's catholic church.

Thomas Ditter retired from farming in 1908, the same year his wife died. His son Matt and new bride, Barbara Adams, took over the farming. Thomas lived until January 9, 1919. He was ill one year and six months and death was caused from Hypertrophy of prostate and retention of urine. Contributory Secondary cause was removal of prostate, Gangerine of bladder and senility. Twenty-one days was the length of this illness. These medical reports were taken from the death certificates. Thomas was also buried from St. Joseph's catholic church and in the Medicine Lake Cemetery.

St. Joseph's church still stands to-day and this was the place of worship for the Thomas Ditter family and is now for some of the descendants. One of the beautiful stained glass windows was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ditter and is still there with the names on the lower portion.

One child died in infancy in 1892 and named George Reinard. John Thomas died in 1917 four months after his marriage. He was involved in an accident with a horse. There is one living member to-day and that is Katherine. She and her husband, Bartholmew Ackerman are living in their own home in Foley, Minnesota and at the age of 87 and 88, they are in good health. Aunt Katherine still drives their car. The nine brothers and sisters were all to-gether April 14, 1946 to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Margaret Ditter Mengelkoch and her husband William. Two months later on June 9th Edward Ditter passed away.

Five members of the Thomas Ditter family had gone west to make their homes. Edward and Frank farmed near Spencer, South Dakota. Ben farmed near Twin Falls, Idaho. Elizabeth married Samuel Grismor from Buhl, Idaho and they farmed near there. Mary married Simon Scherer and they farmed near Timber Lake, South Dakota. The rest of the family members farmed in the Minneapolis area except Katherine who lived

near Foley.

A place of great interest to the Ditter and Schiebe (my Mother's family) descendants is the Old Town Hall that stands at 3605 Fernbrook Lane, Plymouth, Minnesota. This is a suburb of Minneapolis. The Plymouth Historical Society is restoring and furnishing it with artifacts. It was built in 1885 and is on the original ground which is adjacent to the old Thomas Ditter farm. The Schiebes also settled nearby in Plymouth Township. This Town Hall was built by Clem Mengelkoch and Thomas Ditter with Thomas doing the lathing and plastering. This building is in very good condition including the plastered walls, ceiling and the chimney with the original wooden pedistal on which it stands. The original front door is there and also the windows with some still holding the first glass panes. A portion of the original siding has been left exposed at one end to show the twenty inch boards that were cut with a straight saw. Mark Eckes did much of the renovation and remodeling. A basement was added with a meeting room, kitchen and rest rooms. Also an addition was added to the back of the Hall. My sister, Doris Baker and I visited this building in 1980 and were very interested and enthused with the Old Town Hall as this is where some of our "Roots" started.

FAMILY OF THOMAS AND ROSA ADELMANN DITTER

Thomas Ditter

Dec. 16, 1846.....Jan. 9, 1919

Married

Jan. 30, 1873

Rosa Adelmann

Sept. 29, 1852.....Sept. 13, 1908

Children

EDWARD JOSEPH DITTER was born November 7, 1873 and died June 9, 1946. He married Annie Schiebe February 13, 1900 in Minneapolis. She was born September 8, 1876 and died September 15, 1927. Both were buried at the Lakeside cemetery near Spencer, South Dakota where they farmed. They had six children:

Myrtle Margaret was born February 1, 1901 and died March 2, 1961. She married Mathias Schneider April 12, 1921. He was born March 25, 1899 and died July 24, 1973. They had seven children: Norbert, Bernadine, Roland, Darold, Roderick, Marilyn and Eugene.

Clara Rosalie was born November 13, 1903 and died January 20, 1979. She married John Fritschen February 8, 1927. He was born January 17, 1894 and died April 12, 1934. They had three children: Carol Ann, Rose and Darlene.

Lawrence James was born June 24, 1906 and died June 11, 1982. He married Ellen Lloyd July 5, 1938. Divorced. She was born April 28, 1919. They had three children: Edward (dec.), Larry and Rose.

Florence Adeline (Adeline) was born February 16, 1908 and died April 24, 1947.

Doris Irene was born August 12, 1909. She married Wilbur Baker May 26, 1927. Divorced. He was born September 8, 1905 and died May 6, 1970. They had six children:

Charles (dec.), Dolores, Duane, Allen, Patricia and Joan (dec.).

Caroline Grace was born June 11, 1914. She married Roy Henderschiedt June 11, 1932. He was born December 23, 1899 and died Alril 29, 1959. They had four children:

Jo Ann, Roger, Rodney and Allen.

WILLIAM ANTHONY DITTER was born July 8, 1875 and died December 1, 1960. He married Annie Marie Mengelkoch April 21, 1903. She was born September 1, 1881 and died December 31, 1950. They farmed near Minneapolis and had five children:

Eldena Katherine was born August 10, 1904 and died May 29, 1921.

William George (George) was born June 8, 1906.

Delrose Katherine was born April 29, 1908 and died May 22, 1942. She married John Wascheke June 6, 1933. He was born December 25, 1898. They had three children:

THE DITTER HISTORY

Last year in America (1986) we celebrated the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty and we read and watched on television much of history and stories about the immigrants coming to America and Ellis Island. We wonder if any of our ancestors had some of those problems and how they coped with them. I'm sure that life wasn't easy for them coming to a strange country and many did not speak the language or have much money. They worked hard, saved their money and they did build a good life for themselves and a place for the future generations, and for this we are thankful.

I have written the Ditter history three times but have discovered that some of the information was incorrect. I hope the former histories will be discarded or marked incorrect so there won't be confusing or conflicting records.

This is an update on the Ditter history, besides correcting the false records. To the best of my knowledge, these facts and dates should be correct or close to it. Much of the data is what I collected over the past six years. The names, ages and dates are not always the same and sometimes are very conflicting and confusing to get everything in the right places and maybe we just hit a blank wall. This may be due to poor writing, spelling and reading, the language barrier or that false names, ages and dates were given. Some dates, etc. are missing from records as the people did move to other towns or Provinces to make their homes. Some data may be recorded but could be missed in the research because of the translation or the papers did not make good copies. I am sure that more information will be coming and it can be added on. In tracing ancestors, there is never an ending. I have compiled what information that I could find as it is quite complete on the early history of our ancestors. I hope to preserve this for our future generations that they will know who they are and where they came from.

We do know that Andrew (Andreas) Ditter was my Great-grandfather and was a brother to Amor Ditter. I compiled the records up to Andrew but beyond that, the information that I have was given to me by Amor's family decendants as they have researched extensively. My gratitude goes to them as without their help, I wouldn't have found our lineage. They are John Ditter, Wayzata, Minnesota; Mary Ditter Martin, Madison, Wisconsin; Mary Lou Ditter Williams and Marlene Ditter McAuliffe, both from Seattle, Washington.

The Ditter cousins had the first Re-Union on June 24, 1979 in our city of Worthington, Minnesota and we have met every year since. The date has been set for the second Sunday in September and they come from Wisconsin, Nebraska, Michigan, Iowa, South Dakota, Minneapolis and Worthington. Information and pictures were exchanged.

I didn't find any skeltons in the closets but I did discover that our Great-grandfather, Lorenz (Lawrence) Adelman supposedly hung himself

in the woods. As the story goes, that would explain why he was buried with some infants in the Catholic cemetery in Waconia, Minnesota. The ruling of the Catholic church was that unbaptised infants and suicides were buried in unconsecrated ground. I visited the grave and found that he lies under a large chestnut tree.

As for royal and famous Ditters, the only one I have information on was the famous composer and musician born in 1739 in Vienna (probably the town or city in Germany) and his name was Carl Ditter or Karl Ditters. In his early life he was given the royal title of Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf as he played and composed for royalty in some of the palaces. He led an interesting life and dictated his autobiography to his oldest son, finishing it two days before his death. The book was published in Germany and in 1970 was translated in English. It makes very good reading about the life styles of the 1700's. I haven't confirmed any relationship.

Then read on to the next paragraph which is interesting but I found no evidence of the story as you will find in the pedigree chart later on.

Anthony L. Ditter, Wayzata, Minnesota and a grandson of Amor Ditter, wrote a "History of the Ditters" and dated June 5, 1957. He had an interesting paragraph about his Great-great-grandfather who was a Frenchman, which through unofficial tracing of the Family Tree, he spelled his name Ditt're. After the Germans took over the French territory, he became a permanent German citizen and changed the spelling to Ditter.

The next incorrect information was from a micro film that listed Andrew Ditter coming to America with his brother, Amor. This information was given me by Mary Ditter Martin and later she corrected it that Andrew was not a passenger. Veronica 27 and Regina 23 were listed with him and possibly they did come with Amor. This passenger list is not on record with the National Archives, Washington, D. C. and I do not know how it got on the micro film. The ship was the Steamer Belgigne with Captain M. J. Frantzen and left Antwerp, Germany and landed in the New York Port June 2, 1852. Amor's age was given as 45, his wife, Josepha Kappes 50 and the children Franz 19, Johan 7, Phillip 6, Mariann 4 and Maria 5. Regina was Andrew's daughter and records show she was in Wisconsin before her father. Veronica was not a daughter of Andrew but listed as a Ditter. Later the records lead us to believe she married Andrew when he arrived in Wisconsin.

Another correction has to be made on Grandfather Thomas Ditter coming to America. My first information was given me by Louise Scherer Hensel as she was telling the cute romantic story her Mother had told her. It stated that Thomas had come on the same ship as Lorenz Adelman and his wife, Margaretha Gillig and their family, including a young daughter, Rosa who later married Thomas. She gave Thomas's age as 17 and that in no way corresponds to a Census Record in the 1860 Wisconsin town of Forrest, Fond du Lac County where his age was given as 14. According to the ship's passenger list that I obtained from the National

Archives, Thomas Ditter immigrated to the U. S. in 1859 at age 11.

I believe that to the best of my knowledge, these corrections are accurate and I hope the former Ditter histories that I wrote will be destroyed or marked incorrect in these parts so there will be no confusion.

Now to get on with the new information.

My Great-great-grandfather Franz Joseph Gillig was a "Landwirt and Glasermeister" from Kulsheim, Germany. That meant that he was a worker or owner of the land and worked with glass. I found this information on a copy of a baptismal certificate for his grandson, Franz Joseph Adelman, and dated August 27, 1861. Franz Gillig's daughter, Margaretha married Lorenz Adelman and they also lived in Kulsheim and were the parents of baby Franz Joseph. Lorenz had "Kath Ziegler" after his name and his wife Margaretha had "Kath" after hers. Kath means Catholic and Ziegler was the name of the town where they lived. Lorenz and Margaretha had a daughter, Rosa who later married Thomas Ditter and was my grandmother. Lorenz and Margaretha both were born in Bavaria, a southern state of Germany and were married there. They lived in Ziegler and Kulsheim. Lorenz was a small land owner and a brick maker. Because of financial problems, the entire family, including six children, immigrated to America and settled in Minnesota. They lived in Jordan and Young America before homesteading on a farm near Waconia. The children were Mary, Rosa, Mary Frances, Martin, Caroline and Frank.

All that I had about Andrew Ditter, my Great-grandfather, was what I wrote in the preceding paragraphs and that he and his brother, Amor lived in Germany in the village of Gamburg. Amor was the Burgermeister. Either my parents, aunts and uncles didn't reminisce much or we didn't absorb the family history as I knew nothing of the early life of the Ditters, except that some by that name lived in Wisconsin but not knowing if they were related to us. What I did learn was that Grandpa Thomas gave little or no information about his family. In fact, on his death certificate it stated parents unknown. My brother once said he thought that Grandpa was the "black sheep" of the family as he was the only one to settle in Minneapolis. We decided it was the distance from Wisconsin where the family settled, that kept them apart.

Three weeks before I left on a trip to Germany this past June (1987) I received a packet in the mail from Marlene McAuliffe with a pedigree chart listing seven of my grandfathers in the Ditter lineage. Starting with Thomas and going to Peter Ditter born in 1656, all were born in the little village of Steinfurt, Germany. Also all married and died in the village except Andrew and he died in Wisconsin and Thomas was married and died in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Steinfurt was and still is a small village near Gamburg and they did not have a church until 1901. The records have been kept all these years

at the St. Alban's Catholic church in Hardheim, which is a short distance away. These records have survived the wars and time and are still intact with dates and not only the years but the months and days on almost every one. The spouses' names, her parents and some grandparents and with dates are also there. I have copies of marriage and baptismal records. It is a wealth of information that has been kept for hundreds of years. I don't know if it goes back beyond Peter Ditter born in 1656, but this will be checked out. This church was where the Seattle cousins obtained their information. My son, Roger, grandson Gregg Henderschiedt and myself stopped at the church, which is large with four rows having thirty-three pews in each. Also a beautiful pipe organ and statues. I picked up a Sunday church bulletin and it also listed services at the Steinfurt church. Our time was short so we left after a noon lunch.

We spent the afternoon in Steinfurt and found only two Ditter families. We visited with the family of four generations and found them to be very friendly and delightful people. Werner is researching his family tree and I left copies of my pedigree chart and the records. His wife is Venessa and daughter is Evi. His father is Hugo and mother is Kathanna but I don't remember the grandmother's name so I'll just call her Oma as all grandmothers are called that, including me while I was in Germany.

The Ditters live in a three story house with each having a floor. A metal plaque above the door has "G D 1854" but they didn't know who G D was. We walked around some of the village which has about 120 people and visited the small Catholic church. We estimated that Hugo's farm is about 15 acres and we walked to the end where a monument stands for Amor Ditter 1865. They did not know which Amor it was for. We saw the old cemetery from a distance which had been leveled with only one marker standing. We looked over Hugo's hay barns and the stable with a dozen cows. (Gregg told Roger and I not to report to the Customs in Minneapolis that we had been in the stables and barns as sometimes they keep the shoes.)

Werner could not find a link to our ancestors when we were there but recently he sent information that he is a decendent of my Great-great-great-great-grandfather, John Adam Ditter born February 18, 1719 and died May 27, 1799.

Visiting Steinfurt, the place where my roots started as far back as we have found, makes us wonder how much more re-searching we can do as perhaps there are more records. I had a peaceful and rewarding feeling come over me while I was there walking the grounds of the little village where so many of my anceastors trod, worked, raised their families and buried their dead. Their ROOTS went deep and all their BRANCHES and TWIGS spread far and wide, and surely they were the SALT OF THE EARTH.

The following is taken from a "History of the Ditters of Minnesota" written by John Ditter, a Great-grandson of Amor Ditter, who resides in Wayzata, Minnesota.

"In a search to find the remnants of the Ditter ancestry, some information has been uncovered. This information consists of some people now living in West Germany: some sights in Germany and the descendants of the Ditters. There are no Ditters living in Gumbach now, but in Wurzburg, near by there are two by the names of Simon and Helma. In Heidelberg, there are two Ditter families. One of these is Walter and Dagney and their son Wolfgang. The other is Walter's father and mother, Ludwig and Theresa. Ludwig is Simon's brother. Walter is a chemist.

East of Schweinfert there is a village on the map that is called Ditterswind. It's a small farming village about twenty-five miles from the East German border. Also, there are seven other towns on the maps with the name of Ditter in them. Three are called Ditterbach and four are called Dittersdorf. Back around the end of the eighteen century, 1785 or so, there was a famous music composer by the name of Carl Ditter. It is believed that one of the Dittersdorf villages was named after him. In the town of Glashoffen, about eighty miles east of Heidelberg, there is an old house that's called the "Ditter Haus" and a hill near the town called the "Ditter Hill." The Ditters who live in this town farm in the area. There is a nice restaurant in Glashoffen owned by Gebhard Bundachul who's mother was a Ditter and a sister to Ludwig. Also, one of Ludwig's aunts married a Herst and they moved to the U. S. and live in the San Francisco area." (None of these names are confirmed relatives.)

Information for the following was taken from the Pedigree Chart, records, marriage and baptismal certificates that was obtained from the St. Alban's Catholic church in Hardheim, Germany.

Andreas(Andrew)Ditter	Feb. 1, 1804--	1871	married	Feb. 1830
Francis Joseph Ditter	Feb. 4, 1779--	1814	"	Aug. 2, 1801
Francis Joseph Ditter	Sep. 8, 1752--	Jan. 18, 1786	"	Jun. 20, 1775
John Adam Ditter	Feb. 18, 1719--	May 27, 1799	"	Oct. 12, 1745
John George Ditter	Sep. 4, 1683--	May 10, 1762	"	Jul. 21, 1710
Peter Ditter	1656-1657--	Jul. 28, 1709	"	Jun. 1676

I have copies of the baptismal certificates for Great-great-grandfather, Francis Joseph Ditter for February 2, 1779 and a marriage certificate for August 2, 1801 to Anna Maria Lutz in the St. Alban's Catholic church in Hardheim.

I have copies of the baptismal certificates for Great-grandfather Andreas Ditter for February 1, 1804 and for his wife, Regina Ditter for July 19, 1809. Also for their marriage certificate for February 1830. There was a notation that a special dispensation was granted by the church for them to marry as they were first cousins. Regina was the daughter of Sebastion and Anna Maria Schlund Ditter. Maria Eve Heuster was Sebastion's first wife. I have a copy of the marriage certificate for Sebastion and

Anna Maria Schlund Ditter and also a death certificate for Anna Maria on March 1834.

I have copies of the following baptismal certificates for the Andreas Ditter family except Francis Joseph. Also recorded death dates.

Andreas Ditter	Feb. 1, 1804
Regina (Andreas's wife)	Jul. 19, 1809--Jun. 7, 1858
Maria Karolina	Dec. 1830--Feb. 1831
Eva Regina	Jan. 1, 1832
Francis Joseph	Jul. 1834--Sep. 1834
Margaretta	Sep. 28, 1835--Feb. 18, 1836
Ferdinand	Jan. 1837
Gerorose	Feb. 12, 1840
M. M.	May 1842
Thomas	Dec. 17, 1845
Agnes	Sep. 14, 1848
Maria Anne	Oct. 19, 1851

From the National Archives, Washington, D. C., I obtained the list of passengers on the ship Geo. Hurlbut that sailed from Havre, Germany and landed in the New York Port on February 2, 1859. There were 115 adults, 19 children and 3 infants on board making a total of 137 heads. All were listed from Germany with the exception of 16 from France and all were farmers, with one having a railroad ticket for the West.

Among the passengers listed were Andreas Ditter age 40 and a farmer. His children were Ferdinand 20, Geromona 18, Geo. Joseph 16, Thomas 11, Agnes 9 and Maria 7.

Andrew Ditter settled near the town of Forrest, Fond du Lac County in Wisconsin. There is no record that we found of Andrew buying property in the early years. The year after they arrived, the following was listed in the 1860 Census Town of Forrest, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin:

Andrew Ditter 56 farmer born Baden
Veronica 33 or 36 Baden
Ferdinand 22 Baden
Kenrosa (Rosa) 21 Baden
George J. 18 Baden
Thomas 14 Baden
Agnes 13 Baden
Mary A. 9 Baden
M. Josephine 1 Wisc.

1021 1021 Town of Taycheedah
Lorenz Blatz 34 farmer from Baden

Regina 28 Baden
 Albert 1 Wisc.
 Ditter, Agnes 11 Baden (this is the same Agnes listed with Andrew)

The Baden listed is not the town or city but the Province of Baden, Germany. Names and dates were often changed as you can see in the records.

1870 Census Town of Forest Fond du Lac County Wisconsin
 Andrew Dider 66 farmer born Baden
 Veronica 42 Bavaria
 M. Josephine 11 Wis
 Anna 9
 Veronica 7
 Andreas 5
 Max 3
 Louis 1/12 born May 1870

Cemetery Records St. Michael's Parish Dottyville (about ten miles from Fond du Lac)
 Andrew 1806 1871
 Veronica 1830 1889
 Josephine 1859 1880

Andrew Ditter was baptised February 1, 1806 and died 1871.
 Regina Ditter was baptised July 19, 1809 and married Andrew Ditter 1830.
 She died June 7, 1858 in Germany.

CHILDREN OF ANDREW DITTER

Maria Karolina	Baden Dec.	1830	Feb.	1831	
Regina	Baden Jan.	1, 1832			married Lorenz Blatz
Francis Joseph	Baden Jul.	1834	--Sep.	1834	
Margaretha	Baden Sep.	28, 1835	--Feb. 18,	1836	
Ferdinand	Baden Jan.	1837			living 1870 not married
Kenrose (Rosa)	Baden Feb.	12, 1840			living 1870 not married
George	Baden May	18, 1842	--Feb. 24,	1921	married Margaret Sabel
Thomas	Baden Dec.	16, 1845	--Jan. 9,	1919	married Rosa Adelman
Agnes	Baden Sep.	14, 1848	--Feb. 27,	1930	married Andrew Weber
Maria Anne	Baden Oct.	19, 1851			
M. Josephine	Wisc.	1859	--	1880	
Anna	Wisc.	1861			married M/ James Shannon
Veronica	Wisc. Jan.	1863	--Jul. 4,	1821	married John Kurz--William Mader
Andrew	Wisc. Sep.	11, 1864	--Jul. 12,	1920	married Emma Lange
Max (Marcus)	Wisc. Feb.	25, 1866	--Dec. 11,	1943	married Katherine Wirth

Louis Wisc. May 1870

living in Racine
not married

Andrew Ditter came to America with his children on February 2, 1859, the year after his wife, Regina died in Germany. His daughter, Regina was married to Lorenz Blatz and they had a child one year old according to the Census record of 1880 Town of Taycheedah. We know that she came to America before Andrew did and possibly the information of coming on the Steamer with Amor and family would be correct and also that Veronica also came then. I can't find who Veronica was but she listed Bavaria as her home. Evidently she married Andrew shortly after he arrived in Wisconsin as a child was born the same year and she was listed with him on the 1880 Census Town of Forest, Fond du Lac County Wisconsin. She was buried with him in the Dottyville cemetery. More re-search will be done on this.

The Andrew Ditter family settled in the Fond du Lac County in Wisconsin in or near the town of Forrest. As of this date I have no information of their early life except the Census records and a copy of the Roster of Civil War Veterans of Wisconsin. They were listed as follows:

George J. Ditter	Private Co. A. 18th Infantry	Son of Andrew
Philip Ditter	Corporal Co. K. 35th Infantry	Son of Amor
Thomas Ditter	Private Co. A. 18th Infantry	Son of Andrew

Residence: Town of Taycheedah. Enlisted December 1, 1863. Mustered out July 18, 1865.

Benedict Adelman also enlisted at the same time. He was a Corporal in Co. A. 18th Infantry. His mother was Anna Maria Ditter, born in Baden but I have no information which family she was from. She first married a Mr. Blatz, had three children and then married Francis Joseph Adelman and they had six children (only two lived.) They came to the U. S. about 1849. The Adelmans stayed in the East for awhile, then bought land at the Town of Taycheedah, Fond du Lac, near St. Peter. Lorenz (Lawrence) Blatz, son of Anna Blatz Adelman, lived near the Adelmans and sometime before 1860 he married Regina Ditter, daughter of Andrew. They had a son, Albert born in 1859 in Wisconsin.

Andreas Ditter applied to become a citizen of the U. S. March 15, 1859. He "renounced all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever and particularly to Frederick William Prince of Prussia, whereof he is a subject." It was signed by David Babcock, Dep. Clerk. State of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac County. I have no further information if this made him a citizen or if he did follow up on it.

Thomas was seventeen when he joined the Civil War army and going on nineteen when he mustered out July 18, 1865. Later he became a member of

the Jacob Schaefer Post No. 163, Dept. of Minnesota G. A. R. I have a copy of his Pension Certificate that states his pension was twenty-one and one half dollars per month from December 16, 1915 and twenty-seven dollars per month from December 16, 1920. This was "given at the Dept. of the Interior this eighteenth day of March one thousand nine hundred and sixteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fortieth." It was signed by the Secretary of Interior.

I have a copy of the RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT "in memory of Comrade Thomas Ditter. Commander: It is our sad duty to report that Comrade Thomas Ditter a late member of Company A. of the 18th Wisc. Inf. during the war of the Rebellion, and who was a tried and faithful member of Jacob Schaefer Post No. 163, Department of Minnesota G. A. R. was on 9th of Jan. 1919, called by our Great Commander to the Grand Army above. Wherefore, We, your Committee, in testimony of his loyalty to his country when her glorious principles of freedom were assailed, of his private character as a citizen, and as a true and loyal member of the Grand Army of the Republic, recommend that a copy of these expressions of our regard for the fallen Comrade be sent to the family." Signed by Committee.

"Sleep on ye fallen Comrade, the victory you have won,
You've served the nation's banner, your task has been well done.
Rest under wreaths of laurels by grateful people given,
We strew your grave with flowers, the sweetest gift of heaven."

Thomas was seventeen when he enlisted in the Civil War army and almost nineteen when he mustered out July 18, 1863. According to his wife's obituary some years later, it stated that they had resided in Hennepin County, Minnesota for 42 years so that would be around 1866 when Thomas went there. The 1870 Minnesota Census Town of Richfield in Carver County listed a Lawrence Adelman with a daughter, Rosa as a domestic servant for Ervin Everett and wife Maria. We are not certain this is the same Rosa that Thomas married but we presume it is. There were a number of Adelman families that settled around there.

Thomas and Rosa were married January 30, 1873 in the city of Minneapolis, and lived there for ten years. One address was 1880 N. 8th Street and another place was 2117 - 8th Street. They had five children there -- Edward Joseph (my father), William Anthony, Margaret Caroline, John Thomas and Jacob Bernard (Ben). Thomas and his partner, Mr. Kee owned and operated a livery barn in Minneapolis.

In 1882 Thomas traded the house for a farm owned by Steven Roth and it was between the Perkinville Road and Rockford Road and 12 miles from the city hall. They moved to the farm in the fall of 1882. In 1883 this farm was registered at Plymouth Township. Six more children were born at this place -- Elizabeth Rosa, Albert Mathias (Matt), Frank Carl, George Reinard, Mary Christina and Katherine Antonette. Eleven in all.

The children went to school at District 104.

In the morning of May 8th, 1889 the barn burnt down. It had been built by Steven Roth and the size was 36 by 48 feet. It was rebuilt by Thomas a little farther south and the size was 40 by 60 feet. In 1891 Thomas built a new brick house and they moved in December 1st of that year.

One child, named George Reinard, died in infancy in 1892. John died in 1917, four months after his marriage to Laura Jordan. He was involved in an accident with horses. The nine brothers and sisters were all together April 14, 1946 to celebrate the 50th wedding year of Margaret Ditter Mengelkoch and her husband William. Two months later on June 9th Edward Ditter passed away, at the age of 73.

Five members of the Thomas Ditter family had gone west to make their homes. Edward and Frank farmed near Spencer, South Dakota; Ben farmed near Twin Falls, Idaho; Elizabeth married Samuel Crismor and farmed near Buhl, Idaho; Mary married Simon Scherer and they farmed near Timber Lake, South Dakota and Katherine married Bartholmew Ackerman and they farmed near Foley, Minnesota, and they are the only living members to-day.

After living on the farm for 25 years, Rosa Ditter passed away at their home on September 13, 1908. The death certificate states the cause of death was Hypertroffic Cirrhosis of the liver. She was buried in the Medicine Lake cemetery near St. Joseph's Catholic church.

Thomas retired from farming in 1908, the same year Rosa died. His son, Matt and his new bride, Barbara Adams, took over the farming. Thomas lived until January 9, 1919. He was ill one year and six months. His death was caused from Hypertrophy of prostate and retension of urine. Contributory Secondary cause was the removal of prostate, Gangerine of bladder and senility. Twenty-one days was the length of this illness. These medical reports I copied from the death certificates. Thomas was buried in the Medicine Lake cemetery near St. Joseph's Catholic church.

St. Joseph's Catholic church still stands to-day and it isn't too far from the Ditter farm. This was the place of worship for the family and some members still attend. One of the beautiful stained glass windows was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ditter and their names are on lower portion. The cemetery is along side of the church and a place where many Ditters are buried, including my sister, Adeline Ditter.

I remember my father telling that Grandpa Thomas had been a mason worker and had taught him to do cement projects. In those early years mason and cement work went along with building and Grandpa did that also.

A place that is of great interest to many and especially to the Ditters and Schiebes (my maternal ancestors) is the Old Town Hall that stands at 3605 Fernbrook Lane, Plymouth, Minnesota. This is a suburb of Minneapolis. It was built in 1885 and is on the original ground which is adjacent to the old Ditter farm. The Schiebes had also settled in the

Plymouth Township. This hall was built by Clem Mengelkoch and Thomas Ditter with Thomas doing the lathing and plastering. It is still in very good condition to-day, including the plastered walls and ceiling and the chimney with it's original wooden pedistal on which it sets. The front door is the original one and also the windows with some having the old glass in. A portion of the siding has been left exposed to show the 20 inch boards that were cut with a straight saw. The Plymouth Historical Society has restored and furnished it with artifacts that have been donated from the surrounding area. A back room was built on and a basement which has rest rooms, kitchen and a meeting room. Mark Eckes did much of the work in the renovation and remodeling. Before he died in 1986 he had written, "If you want some one to remember you when you are gone, you've got to leave tracks. These are my tracks."

My sister, Doris Baker and I visited the Town Hall for the first time in 1980 and we were interested and enthused with it as this is where our Minnesota roots started.

In the late 1800's many Easterners were interested with investing money in Dakota Territory land. About 1898 Thomas Ditter had the same idea of "Westward Ho", not for himself but for his oldest son, Edward Joseph who was my father. Thomas purchased a half section of land near Spencer, South Dakota. It was 320 acres and priced at \$3 or \$4.00 an acre. Before he took possession, something in the contract didn't meet his approval so he with-drew from the deal, even though he did lose the \$400.00 down payment. A 160 acre farm several miles south of there was for sale and Thomas decided it was the place he wanted. He was not able to purchase it being that he had defaulted on the other farm. Nothing prevented him from using his wife's name so Rosa Ditter took possession of the farm and an arrangement was made for Edward to buy it from her. Price was \$10.00 an acre, making the total \$1,600.00.

Edward was about 25 years old when he left home and family from near Minneapolis and headed West to South Dakota with a team and wagon, loaded with as much as it would hold to help him get started with a new life. He was a pioneer. One stop that he made was at Wilmont, Minnesota where his Mother Rosa had family members living there, the Slaters and Hartmans.

He "batched" several years and on February 13, 1900 he married Annie Schiebe in the St. Joseph's Catholic church in Minneapolis. She stayed with her family several months before taking the train to Spencer to make the little prairie house her home. There was an artesian well, gravel pit and a cottonwood tree claim. Dad was interested in livestock and planting trees and in the early 1920's the farm was registered as the "Elm Grove Stock Farm E. J. Ditter, Prop." In the southeastern corner of the farm stood a little school house where the Ditter children, except me, had attended school in their early grades.

This little prairie house was where my four sisters, one brother and

myself were born. One of Mother's sisters from the cities always came when a new baby arrived, except for me. Myrtle and Clara were 13 and 11 years old when I was the last baby and they managed the work. I was born June 11, 1914 on Corpus Christie Sunday and my sisters were quite disappointed in missing mass on this special church day. They had put their hair up in curlers the night before.

In 1917 and before the United States became involved in World War 1, and thinking our country wouldn't join, the folks started building a large new house after the little prairie house was moved aside. Before much work was done, the U. S. entered the war and prices soared making the house between \$3,000.00 and \$4,000.00 in cost, which was more than estimated.

Dad liked the prairie land and it was a great change from the wooded and rolling hills of Minnesota. In looking back, I wonder what Mother's thoughts were about living there as she missed her family and homeland. The land around Spencer was just flatlands and the wind would blow for three days and nights with no let-up and then a bad electrical storm would come. This would end the wind--for a few days. It improved after many trees were planted.

My sisters, brother and I received our education in Farmer at St. Peter's Catholic school and the Edgerton Consolidated school. Lawrence, Doris and I graduated from High school there.

Mother died September 15, 1927 after surgery for a lump in the breast. Cause of death was stated as a floating kidney and heart failure. She was 51 years old. Myrtle, Clara and Doris were married. Lawrence and Adeline stayed home for a few years and for this I was grateful as I was 13 years old and just starting high school. They left home to lead their own lives and I stayed on the farm with Dad until 1932 when I married.

The Great Depression and drought began and many farms were lost. Dad gave up his in 1933 and took a well earned rest and vacation in Idaho to visit his brother and sister. He made his home near Medicine Lake, Minnesota where he lived out his life to the age of 73 years. He was found dead June 9, 1946 from an apparant heart attack. Both he and Mother were buried in the Lakeside Cemetery across the road from Lake Eli and near Spencer, South Dakota.

Myrtle was the only one to live out her life near home. She, Clara, Lawrence and Adeline passed away. Doris lives at Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin and my home is at Worthington, Minnesota.

This ends my family history of the Ditters that span 12 generations from Peter Ditter born in 1656 at Steinfurt, Germany down to my Great-grandsons, David Wiertzema born in 1982 and Jeffrey Wiertzema born in 1985.

This touches many lives and we owe much to our ancestors who led the way to a good life. THEY WERE THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

January 7, 1988

Caroline Ditter Henderschiedt
1309 Grand Ave.
Worthington, Minnesota 56187

THOMAS DITTER FAMILY HISTORY

Thomas Ditter was born to Amor and Maria (Josephia) Ditter on December 16, 1845 in Bavaria, Germany. Bavaria is the largest state in the southern part of Germany (Information gotten from Mary (Ditter) Scherer's birth certificate). There is very little information known about his brothers and sisters.

According to Mary (Ditter) Scherer, she told her family that her dad, Thomas came over alone to this country, twelve years after his family or when he was seventeen years old. On the same ship was the Lawrence Adelman Family and they looked after him. Upon his arrival in America he stayed with the Adelman family for a short time. Shortly after he joined the Armed Forces and served in the "War of Rebellion" or the "Civil War". This war was fought between 1860 and 1865. When he got out of the service, he looked the Adelman family up, and love bloomed between him and their daughter Rosa.

Thomas had gotten his apprenticeship in his trade before he left Europe, and because he was not the oldest son, he could not inherit the family trade, whatever that was, so than he came to America. Shortly after getting out of the service, he went into the building trade. Its assumed that some time in 1866, that some of the Ditters and Adelmans moved to Minnesota.

Thomas fought in the War of Rebellion or Civil War, Private Co. A., 18th Regiment of Wisconsin. He was an Infantry member of "Jacob Schaefer Post #163. Dept. of Minnesota. G. A. R.

He married Rosa Adelman on January 30, 1873 and to this union were born eleven children. Later named and a brief history about each one.

Rosa (Adelman) Ditter was born in Bavaria, Germany on September 28, 1852. She was the second daughter of Lawrence and Margarget (Gelich) Adelman.

Thomas was a plaster of homes for many years and lived in North Minneapolis. Eight of their eleven children were born there, in 1892 he bought a farm in Plymouth Township, Hennepin County, or about thirteen miles West of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

From the City of Plymouth History, we know that our Grandfather Thomas Ditter now helped design and built the old Plymouth Town Hall. The first Town Board meeting was held on May 11, 1858 in private homes and after twenty seven years, it was decided that it was time for Plymouth to have their own Town Hall. Thomas Ditter and Clem Mengelkock were delegated to look into the matter, because Clem was a carpenter and Thomas did lath and plaster work. They met in Clems typical farm kitchen, of unfinished table and chairs, light from a kerosene lamp, pail of water for drinking and other uses. Underneath the sink was a bucket to catch the waste water, nearby a pile of wood for the wood stove, which would not last till the next day.

Having agreed upon a location, about in the middle of Plymouth Township, with an abundance of wood nearby, a wood frame structure 26 feet wide, 36 feet long and 12 feet

high was agreed upon. Total cost for material and labor, figured out to about three dollars per square foot, than they wondered if the Town Board could afford or would approve the large sum of \$2,625.00 for the proposed structure.

After due process of a public hearing on the front lawn of Dan Parker, those for the spending of the large sum of money for a Town Hall stood on one side of the driveway, those opposed on the other, with those for a town hall winning. The Plymouth Town Hall was built in 1885 on an acre of land, which is right next to the corner of the old Ditter farm.

In 1980 the Historical Society decided to restore the Town Hall. The chimney and plaster work, that Thomas Ditter did, is still intact in the building. In 1980, it cost them \$30,000.00 just to restore the building.

Rosa Ditter died on the family farm, of an enlarged liver on Sunday morning September 13, 1908. Thomas Ditter died at St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 9, 1919, from an enlarged prostate gland and infection of the bladder.