

SCHLENSKER FAMILY

The Henry SCHLENSKER family came from Bremen, Germany in 1850. They sailed on the Ship Columbia and landed at the port of New Orleans, LA on Jan. 12, 1850. From there they went by boat on the Ohio River to Evansville, IN. The family included: Johann Heinrich, born 1807, Wilhelmine (WEHMER), born 1811; children: Elisabeth age 17, Frederick 10, Caroline 7, Louise 4 & Wilhelmine 9 mos. old.

The family settled in Scott Twp. in northern Vanderburgh Co., IN. Henry bought a farm on the road that became known as Schlensker Rd. Henry, Wilhelmine and family attended services at Trinity Lutheran Church in Darmstadt, IN. They had two more children after they immigrated to the US: Henry, born late 1850 & Friedericke, born 1854 & died in 1871.

Their daughter, Elisabeth who was born in 1833 died before 1860. The remaining five children lived to adulthood. Heinrich Frederick married Henrietta KAHLE on Mar 18, 1859, Caroline Maria Louisa married Gerhardt Heinrich BOSSE on May 26, 1859, Christina Louise married Jobst Frederick NIEDERHAUS on 7 Jun 1864, Marie Justine Wilhelmine married Otterman REININGA on 18 Apr 1866 & Heinrich Ernest married Wilhelmine Louise Bussman on Dec 8, 1870. They were all married in Vanderburgh County, IN.

Heinrich Frederick's grandsons (two sets of brothers): Alvin & Walter and John & Theodore, started Schlensker Brothers Auto Dealership around 1915. They suspended their business when WWI began, they all served during the war.

Alvin Schlensker as president of Schlensker Bros. took out loans to supposedly buy more automobiles, but he used the money to pursue personal enjoyment. His two cousins, John & Theodore covered up for Alvin's embezzlement.

Alvin's father, August put the family farm up as collateral to repay the money Alvin had borrowed. Walter, Alvin's brother, worked for years to pay off the money owed on the family farm. He had his own business, The Letter Shop. In 1925, Alvin went to Detroit, MI & married his girlfriend, Loraine Schnake. They moved to Chicago, IL and Alvin worked at a furnace company. The other two brothers, John & Theodore, lived, married & worked in Evansville.

Caroline & Henry Bosse's son, Benjamin was the owner of Globe Furniture Co. & then Boose Furniture. He became mayor of Evansville, IN from 1914 to 1922, when he died in office, during his 3rd term in office.