

## Ancestor Profile - Henry Ludwig Schulze

**Henry Ludwig Schulze** was born January 27, 1840 in the town of Isenstedt in Westfalia, Prussia. He was the third of 8 children born to Cord Heinrich Schulze and Sophia Charlotte Vinke. He was well educated for the time, graduating from a "Gymnasium" or high school. Henry immigrated to the United States in 1857 when he was 17 years old. He later said his father had sent his children to the United States for religious liberty. He borrowed enough money to pay for his passage and in September 1857 sailed from the Port of Bremen (today Bremerhaven) on a ship named the *Anna Deluis*, bound for New Orleans, LA.

Henry may have traveled with another family. The arrival passenger list includes a Christian Luecker [Christian Gottlieb Leucker], his wife Sophie [Sophia Charlotte Hagemeyer-Leucker] and 6 children ages 3 months to 16 years. There is also a W. Schlechte, age 36 (possibly Carl Ludwig Schlechte), who had originally immigrated in 1855 and become a naturalized citizen. The passenger list also included 2 sons aged 9 and 7. He may have been gradually bringing his family over as they could afford it. His wife Charlotte Luise Vahrenkamp-Schlechte immigrated in 1860.



**Henry Ludwig Schulze**

Both families were from Isenstedt. Carl and Charlotte's son, Friedrich Wilhelm Schlechte, married Sophia Charlotte Louise Luecker in 1867 in New Gehlenbeck (now Hamel), Madison County Illinois. William and Sophia's son, Edward Frederick Martin Schlechte, married Henry Ludwig Schulze's daughter, Anna, in 1898 in Worden, Illinois.

The *Anna Deluis* arrived in New Orleans, LA on November 6, 1857. Henry then traveled by steamboat from New Orleans to St. Louis, Missouri. He crossed the Mississippi river into Illinois, working as a farm hand on farms in Madison County for \$5.00 a month. In 1858, he moved to Ridge Prairie, Illinois. During this period he may have been joined by a younger brother, Friedrich Wilhelm.

Henry and Friedrich enlisted in the Union Army at Cairo Illinois on August 18, 1861. They were formally mustered in as privates in Company D, 9<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry on August 31, 1861. The 9<sup>th</sup> Illinois was part of the Western Union Army. On February 6, 1862, Henry and Friedrich took part in the attack on Fort Heineman in Tennessee. In order to attack the fort, the regiment waded waist deep through the flooded Tennessee River. Henry contracted rheumatism from which he never fully recovered. Henry and Friedrich also participated in the attack on Fort Donelson. After the fort was taken, Henry was sent to the military hospital at Fort Henry near St. Louis. He returned to his regiment in March 1862.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Illinois also fought at the battle of Shiloh. On the first day, the regiment occupied a key position at the center of the Union line. It bore the brunt of the Confederate assaults for 8 hours. The regiment mustered 602 officers and men at the start of the battle. Eight hours later only 297 men remained. Among those who died was Frederick Schulze. A headstone for Frederick was later placed in the Worden Lutheran Cemetery outside of Worden Illinois. It was still there in 1968, but has since disappeared.

Henry was captured twice during the war. He was first captured on April 17, 1863 during a battle at Cherokee, Alabama. He was imprisoned for 10 days in Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia - from April 26, 1863 to May 5, 1863. He was released at City Point, Virginia, and rejoined his regiment in June 1863.

Henry was captured a second time on the Flint River near Decatur, Alabama - on March 21, 1864. According to the story Henry later told his son John, he was riding a mule while scouting when he suddenly came upon a Confederate patrol. He turned his mule around and rode away with the Confederates in pursuit. When he came to a fork in the road he tried to go to the right. The mule disagreed, and jumped into some scrub trees on the side of the road. Both Henry and the mule were caught in the tree branches until the Confederates pulled them loose.

Henry was held as a prisoner of war from March 21, 1864 until his release at N.E. Ferry, North Carolina on February 27, 1865. He had been held for 6 months in Andersonville Prison in Georgia. Then he was transferred to another prison in Florence, South Carolina. Henry later told his son John about the hardships he endured at Andersonville. The following account is from a letter John Schulze wrote to his grandson Russell Koeneman Schulze II in 1954:

## Ancestor Profile - Henry Ludwig Schulze (continued)

*"The men had very little to eat. They would trade a little tobacco for some flour so they could bake some bread, then trade a little baking powder for something else. Sometimes some of the men would steal from their comrades. Once four or five were caught. A trial was held, and they were sentenced to be hanged. It was done to teach the others a lesson. All the prisoners must have suffered terribly."*

Henry contracted dysentery in Andersonville. He suffered periodic bouts of the disease for the rest of his life. According to the records retained in the National Archives, Henry was discharged on April 14, 1865 in Springfield, Illinois. He returned to St. Louis where he stayed with the Lueckers. He worked at various jobs on farms in the surrounding area.

In 1868, Mrs. Luecker introduced Henry to Johanna Siebrasse. Johanna was born in Bielefeld, Westfalia on May 17, 1847. She had come to America as a "marriage bureau bride" in order to meet and marry a "man with a farm". She had a good education for a girl of middle-class parents, and had been a weaver of damask for the royal house of Prussia. The marriage was arranged through Mrs. Luecker. Henry and Johanna were married after the first service on Sunday, April 4, 1868 in St. John's Evangelical Church located at 14<sup>th</sup> and Madison St. in St. Louis. Witnesses included Freidrich Ebmeier and Henry's brother, Johan Friedrich Schulze. For the next 11 years, he worked on a farm about 3 miles south of Worden, Madison County, Illinois. In 1879, Henry and Johanna purchased a 196-acre farm approximately 1½ miles south of Worden. They worked this farm for 4 years.



**Johanna Siebrasse**



In 1883, Henry sold the farm and purchased a general store in Worden. He later became part owner of a lumber yard. Worden was a town of about 500 people in 1890. By 1910, the village had grown to a population of over 1,100. Originally called New Hampton, the town was renamed in 1870 when the Decatur and East St. Louis Railroad was built through the town. The railroad named the station for John C. Worden, an Englishman who had real estate and other business holdings in the area.

**Left: Worden General store**

**Below: Schulze homestead**

In the late 1800's, the town's principal businesses were the lumber mill and 2 coal mines. The town had a 2-story city hall, 2-story school, and 4 churches - Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran and Christian. At first, Henry and Johanna lived on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the general store. Henry later built a 2-story house with a porch across the front a few blocks away on the corner of West Kell St. and North Lincoln St. They raised 8 children. Minnie, the eldest, who suffered from epilepsy, continued to live with her parents as an adult. Minnie is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery next to her parents. There were 3 other girls - Mary, Anna and Sophia, and 4 boys - William, Henry, Adolph and John. Henry was a staunch Republican who was active in local politics. He died at 12:30 a.m. on June 26, 1910. His cause of death was listed as stomach cancer. He was buried on June 28, 1910 in the Lutheran Cemetery in Worden, Illinois.



*...Submitted by great-grandson, Brother Stephen D. Schulze*