

THE
GENEALOGY
of the
Stix Family

Compiled by
AURELIA STIX RICE
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Solomon and Deborah Stix

P R E F A C E

Feeling assured that all who will read the following pages are interested in the STIX family, I take pleasure in presenting to them a few facts concerning their early history.

Coshman (Charles) and Relia (Aurelia) were the parents of Solomon Stix. They lived in Demmelsdorf, Bavaria, one hour's distance from Bamberg, where, on November 2, 1788, said Solomon was born to them. They came of a sturdy, honorable race, of which their son gave ample evidence. In fact, his life of independence and his outspoken nature gave rise to many little characteristic scenes, a number of which are still lovingly recalled by his numerous progeny.

Up to the time of his death, which followed an accident while out driving in Westwood, Ohio, on July 22, 1865, he had always enjoyed robust health. Long after his sons had met with gratifying success in the commercial world, and in spite of their repeated requests that he desist from his labors and permit them to care for him and their mother in their declining years, the old gentleman had but one answer: "As long as I have the strength, I shall support my wife and myself." And he was as good as his word. When death called him hence, he left enough of this world's goods to render his wife financially independent. And how royally the dear old lady dispensed her charities and gifts to all around her, we, who remember her so fondly, will testify.

In 1813, when Napoleon Bonaparte commanded that all Jews choose family names, Solomon took the name of Stix. On November 2, 1815, he was married to Deborah Cohen of Schneidach, Bavaria, who was born there January 18, 1795. Her maternal grandfather was Michael Moses of Glensdorf, Bavaria, whose daughter, Caroline, married Moses Cohen of Schneidach, a well known cloth merchant, who lived to be almost ninety years old. Moses Cohen's greatest pride was that he was a descendent of the family from whom the High Priests in Israel were always chosen—the historic family of Cohen, ever privileged to have the priestly insignia engraved on their tombstones. His son, Aaron Cohen, born at Schneidach in 1750, was educated at the University of Prague, Bohemia, As the well beloved Rabbi of Demmelsdorf, he was much esteemed for his great learning and piety. On the day of his death in the home of his daughter, he said: "Deborah, do not go far away from me today; I feel so strangely. Who knows but that this may be my last day on earth!" And verily, as the shades of evening fell, the Angel of Death came to take him hence. He had fallen asleep in his chair to awaken no more. His wife, Conendal Moses, born at Glensdorf in 1752, died in Demmelsdorf in 1827. She was a most estimable woman, and was lovingly remembered by the older children of Solomon and Deborah Stix.

Of the union of Solomon and Deborah Stix, ten children were born: Charles, Herman, Louis, Henry, Aurelia, Caroline, Sarah, Aaron, Nathan and William. Times were hard in Germany and there was a constant struggle with poverty, for ten children made many mouths to feed. Charles, the eldest of the family, soon learned a trade, and, an opportunity presenting itself to travel with neighbors to the great new world of America, he came to the United States by way of New York, which place he left for Cincinnati about 1834. Being successful, he soon helped his brothers, Louis and Henry, to emigrate, and when they, too, found success was coming fast, they felt that father, mother, sisters and brothers should also come to this land of the free, where every one has equal opportunities. A few months before the family was reunited, death claimed Carl, the eldest son, and—as if

fate wanted to make the blow doubly hard—on the very same day (February 9, 1844), in far-off Demmelsdorf, Sarah, then in her twelfth year, died of the same malady (smallpox) that carried off her brother in Cincinnati.

On a day in August, 1844, Solomon and Deborah Stix, with Caroline, their only surviving daughter; Aaron, Nathan and William, landed in Mason, Ohio, a little town near Cincinnati, where Louis and Henry were established in business. Later the family came to Cincinnati to live. Here Caroline was married to Joseph Louis Swarts, who, with Louis Stix, founded the well-known dry goods house of Louis Stix & Co. Henry associated himself with Jacob Krouse in the wholesale clothing firm of Stix, Krouse & Co., which partnership lasted for over fifty years.

Aaron, Nathan and William enjoyed the advantages of Cincinnati's excellent schools, and, later on, Aaron associated himself with Stix, Krouse & Co.; Nathan with Louis Stix & Co., while William settled in the South and became one of the founders of Rice-Stix & Co., at Memphis, Tennessee, during the Civil War.

Much could I write about these splendid men, who created enviable places for themselves in the communities where they lived, and of their estimable wives, Yetta Hackes, Lena Thurnauer, Ricka Iglauer—all of Burgkundstadt, Bavaria; Hannah and Dinah Rice, sisters, of Bamberg, and Fannie Troy, of Memelsdorf, afterwards of Kissingen; but they need no words of praise from me. Beloved and respected, they have taken high places in their home communities, and the name of STIX is a synonym for all that is noble and just. A distinguishing characteristic of the Stix family is the perfect harmony that exists among its various branches. No quarrels or disagreements are ever permitted to make inroads into their amicable relationships, and the deep respect of the children for their elders has always been a marked trait, continuing up to the present generation, the fifth in America—the seventh of this record.

AURELIA STIX RICE.

KEY

The ten children of Solomon and Deborah Stix marked with capital letters—A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J.

Their children with numerals—1, 2, 3, 4, etc.

Their grandchildren with small letters—a, b, c, d, e, etc.

Their great-grandchildren thus: One, two, three, etc.