

# *the Dreves Family*

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## A WORKING HISTORY



Compiled by Rick Dreves  
(with a great deal of help!)

*Volume One* 🌲 *1550-1939*

# *the Dreves Family*

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### » For the younger members of the family...

*While this narrative is great fun for the elders of the family to read, reminisce and enjoy, I hope it will become "required reading" for all younger Dreves family members.*

*Why is it important for you to read and understand the family's history?*

*Simple: You don't know where you're going until you know where you've been.*

*Understanding the lives of your ancestors gives you perspective; it puts your life in context, and offers both guidance and strength for those moments when you find yourself at life's crossroads.*

*[Part of the reason I never hesitated to start my own company came from the knowledge that my grandfather (George August, Sr. -- known to many of us as "Grampy" or "Pop") had been a successful entrepreneur. "If he could do it, I can do it" I reasoned, and so off I went!]*

*Remember, it's also your story -- for better or worse, whatever you do in life becomes a part of Dreves family history, too.*

*So go out and make a great contribution!*

Original hard-copy edition - May 2010  
eRevision 1 - June 2010  
eRevisions 2 through 6 - 2010 thru 2013  
eRevision 7 and Addendum - 2014  
eRevision 8 and consolidation - April, 2020

## Foreword

This effort is dedicated, with deep appreciation, to all Dreves ancestors, living and passed. The struggles they endured and the toil they invested created a foundation that allows both current and future generations to enjoy a higher standard of living; to pursue and achieve great things; and, perhaps most importantly, to live, love, laugh and play along the way.

In this first volume, we follow the Dreves family from as far back as we have knowledge, (currently 1550) up to the eve of World War II -- vast periods of challenge and opportunity. Of course, there is now a second volume, carrying the story from there until the passing of the last of the 'Dreves Kids' in 2019 ... but what a story it is!

I am grateful to everyone who provided recollections, photographs, documents and moral support, but most especially to Aunt Dot (Dorothy Emma) and Dad (Arthur Frederick), who have entrusted me with a great deal of original material, only a small part of which is able to fit in these narratives. While we never had the opportunity to speak at length about his early work to document the family's history (a situation I now deeply regret), I would also like to dedicate this effort to Uncle Bob (Robert George), the original family *research* historian. It is my hope that this narrative does justice to his initial findings, which were painstakingly gathered the "old fashioned way", in the pre-digital, pre-Internet, era.

Much of this first volume was published a decade ago, on May 2, 2010. (As a point of historical interest, its final layout was completed by emergency power, as Nashville was in the midst of an epic flood, and all local power was out). Hard copies were distributed the following week to the "Dreves Kids" (Carl Sr., George, Art and Dot -- the four then-surviving children of George and Emma Dreves) at their reunion in Tennessee -- and yes, the power was back on, and floodwaters were receding! Over the following decade, all of the subsequent revisions -- most driven by the discovery of new information about our early ancestors, or of wonderful photos of our more recent forebears -- were e-published, as online PDF files.

This history should continue to be a **collective work**, and *everyone in the family should feel welcome to critique and add to this record*. With the large volume of data involved, and many family members now gone -- some of you will almost certainly see errors in my interpretation. *Don't be shy*. Let's get it right! Your contribution is important and encouraged. [eMail me](#) if you have *anything* you feel could improve the narrative!

Rick Dreves  
Sewanee, Tennessee  
May, 2020

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The Dreves family crest,  
according to Hans Troebis,  
author of "*Die Chronik Drewes*"  
(see page 11)

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### » There's more, online ...

The underlined red text in this document indicates (in the PDF version) links to websites with more information, including source material I've used in researching that topic.

A large collection of family history resources are also online at [rickdreves.com/dreves-family-history](http://rickdreves.com/dreves-family-history). Here, you'll also find links to PDF versions of this narrative. The gallery of photos at the bottom of that page includes many additional historical images for which there simply wasn't room in this volume.

On an adjoining page are several short videos -- including a 4-minute video tour of the ancestral locations of the Dreves Family in Germany between A.D. 1500 and 1900; a 4-minute 'music video' that chronicles the immigration saga of George August Dreves, Sr; and a 6-minute video tour of the location of George's various businesses and investments in the Greater New York City area, from the time of his arrival in the States 'til his retirement.

Also in this section of the website is a page with various recordings and oral histories, plus photo 'slideshows' from two Dreves family reunions (2010 and 2013). The oral histories are detailed and fascinating; set aside time to watch them if you haven't done so already:

#### **Arthur Frederick Dreves**

Three two-hour "chapters," recorded  
between 2000 and 2006 (ages 77 to 83)

#### **Carl Edward Dreves, Sr.**

May 15, 2013 (age 96)  
[1 hour, 18 minutes]

#### **Dorothy Emma Dreves**

August 8, 2013 (age 88)  
[26 minutes]

#### **George August Dreves, Jr.**

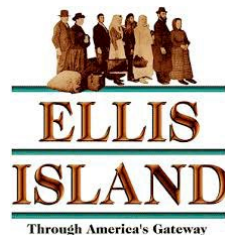
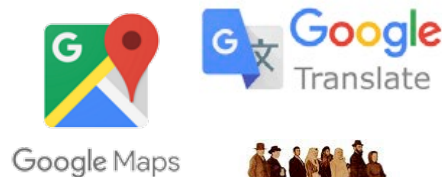
May 15, 2013 (age 93)  
[29 minutes]

And, **all five of the 'Dreves Kids': Bob, Carl, George, Art and Dot**, interviewed at Dot's 75th birthday in 2000 [2 hours]



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## How we know what we know

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It probably comes as no surprise that the Internet has done to *information* what the air travel did to *distance* -- shrinking vast journeys into manageable jaunts; making the inaccessible convenient; and accomplishing what used to take weeks in a matter of minutes or seconds.

Genealogy (the study of family ancestry) is one of the best examples of an undertaking that has been completely transformed by technology. It wasn't so many years ago that the act of locating and analyzing the information in this document would have required transoceanic air travel, a strong working knowledge of the German language, and many, many hours going from church to courthouse, poring over endless pages of archives, and too often, coming up empty, or with little to show for a huge investment of both time and money.

### » The role of the Internet in this project

The originators of these online resources have fused resourcefulness, attention to detail and technology to digitize and organize literally millions of archival records from around the world. The result is made accessible by a set of amazingly sophisticated tools for searching, cross-referencing and identifying the critical points of intersection that distill this vast mountain of data into a relevant and enlightening concentration of clues. When carefully compared to what is already known from our family's own genealogical artifacts and personal recollections, these become the plot-points that extend and deepen the saga of our family's journey through time.

### » Principal Web resources

We owe thanks to six web sites that have proven especially useful: [Google Translate](#) (with a nod to its progenitor, [FreeTranslation.com](#)); the now-retired [EllisIsland.org](#), which digitally cataloged thousands of pages of passenger lists from the immigrant ships which came to New York in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; the [Deutsche Auswanderer Datenbank](#), which mirrored EllisIsland.org from the German emigrant perspective; and the grand-daddy of them all, [Ancestry.com](#), a project of the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, which has proven to be the best at distilling information from myriad genealogical sources, using a web-based system that approaches the level of artificial intelligence, suggesting possible connections and additions to your family tree each time you add a new piece of information, or confirm a prior suggestion made by Ancestry's sophisticated software.

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While none of these sources are perfect, the amount of data online has increased dramatically over the past ten years. They have both confirmed and corrected our conventional "Dreves family historical wisdom," replacing fuzzy, if time-honored recollections with hard proof in the form of immigration, census and other public records. In addition, they have extended the Dreves genealogical trail much further into the past than was already known to us, and in the process, created intriguing new questions for future exploration.

### » The added dimension of mapping

Two other technologies that have played a major role in this work: GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and satellite imaging. These tools come together in two online products -- [GoogleMaps](#) and [GoogleEarth](#). Having the ability to view interactive, highly detailed maps of small rural villages in Germany from the comfort of one's home clearly has its advantages, and makes it possible to corroborate findings from Ancestry.com against high-resolution satellite imagery of the same area.

### » The 'secret weapon' of online research: *People!*

Finally, there is the human dimension. Modern technology may make information search and retrieval less onerous, but at the end of the day, it still takes two eyes, one (or more) brain/s, and a whole lot of context to determine if the information before you is really a part of your family history, or someone else's.

In our case, the Dreves family owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Karl Michaelsen of Oldenburg, Germany, a retired telecommunications/networking engineer who has had a long interest in the genealogy of the Michaelsen family. (The Michaelsen and Dreves families intersect at the marriage of Sophie Dorothea Elisabeth Michaelsen to Jacob Dreves in 1804.)

Ancestry.com has developed an innovative parallel to its data-sifting software, which allows family historians to connect and collaborate when their research paths definitively converge. In that regard, Karl is the keeper of the "Michaelsen Familienstammbaum" (Michaelsen family tree), and yours truly is the keeper of the Dreves family tree. We each had pieces of our family puzzle that the other needed (we were looking for earlier ancestors, and Karl wanted to know what happened to Sophia Dorothea's descendants after they emigrated to America). The Ancestry.com system allowed me to connect with Karl, and in a short time, our acquaintance proved enormously and mutually beneficial.



Karl Michaelsen, our distant cousin in Oldenburg, Germany with whom we've made a connection through *Ancestry.com*.

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### » an eMail from Karl Michaelsen

*Oldenburg, Germany, August, 2010*

*Hallo Rick,*

*Thank you very much for your eMail of the 14th of August with the [First Edition]. The downloads gave me no difficulties. I am looking forward to reading your "book", although [with my limited English] it may be a challenge for me. After reading the first few pages, I believe that I will be able to understand most of it. I am astonished how diligent you were.*

*I think I had written you that my Familienchronik [family history] is as good as finished. I distributed it - because of my age - to interested members of the family. Now I can include new information in my working copy, for example, what you sent to me [about your family]. In addition to you, [in the U.S.] I'm in contact with the Sulzbach branch of my family, which is descended from the youngest sister of my grandfather (who emigrated to the U.S. in 1873). [The Sulzbachs] had a farm in the vicinity of Hemingford, Nebraska. Their descendant, with whom I am in contact, currently lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and also works diligently on the family's genealogy.*

*I hope you and your family are well.*

*Sincerely, Karl*

Thanks to Karl's prior genealogical diligence, we've been able to connect the maternal side of the Dreves tree to his extensive Michaelsen tree, and now, as you will learn in this narrative, we have a reliable pedigree for both of George August Dreves' ancestral branches, which extend unbroken for many generations, all the way back to north-central Europe in 1550.

We last heard from Karl in May of 2012, when he sent a photo of one of his daughters, who was recently married. According to [Karl's family tree](#) on Ancestry.com, his wife, Margret (née Schmale) passed away in December of 2013; and, sadly, we've not heard from Karl since.

The other person to whom we owe a great deal of thanks is Hans Troebbs. After having posted the 2010 edition of the *Dreves Family History* to the web, we were contacted by Mr. Troebbs, who saw the post and shared a scanned (electronic) copy of his exhaustive 1981 volume (in German) titled "*Die Chronik Drewes*" -- "The Drewes Chronicle," encompassing all the spelling variations of the surname. (If you want to see the *full* name of his book, see page 11 ;)

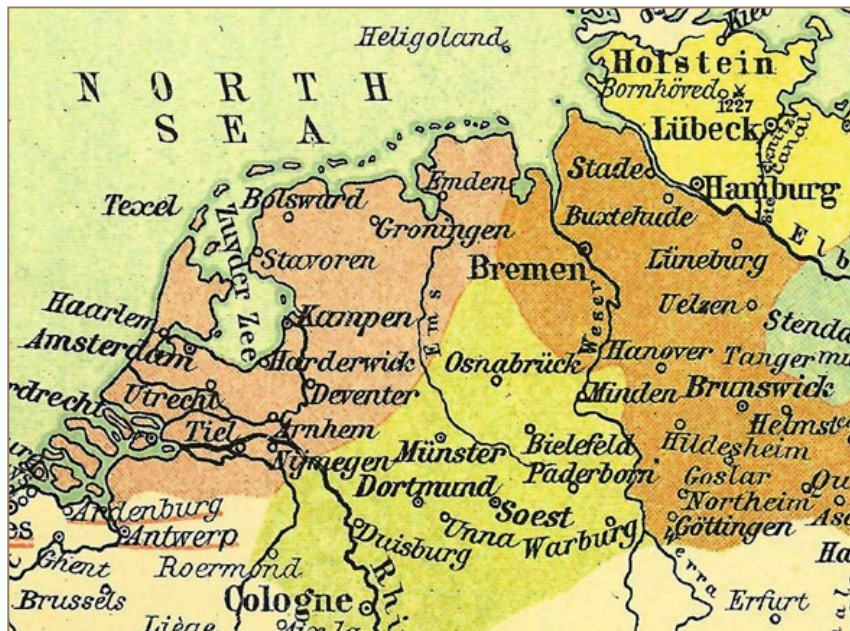
In this nearly 1,300 page reference work, Troebbs has compiled hundreds of thousands of church, census, military and other records relating to this family of surnames. His research helps extend knowledge of our family's paternal ancestry by nearly 150 years, back to 1624, with the birth of our 'first' Jacob Dreves (there are others along the way). And yes, Jacob spelled it D-R-E-V-E-S, although, as you'll see, not all of his descendants chose to do so.

## I :: From the Beginning: the Michaelsens

The Dreves Family History must begin by making a full disclosure: We know our ancestors weren't saints. We have a bit of everything, from eclectic child-naming habits, promiscuity, unwed mothers and divorce, to a wee bit of incest.

Genealogy is invariably a messy business. Sometimes you find out things that upset the apple cart -- documentable facts that require the tossing out of venerable family lore, perhaps information has been cherished for a long time. Sometimes you find pieces that, while plausible, just don't square with other facts you've uncovered. Sometimes you find out things that are, well ... inconvenient. But it's all part of the historical record, and so each nugget of information must be considered, even if it requires an asterisk and a further explanation.

However, on the bright side, there is one shining constant: All evidence points to the fact that our ancestors were, as records indicate, hard-working people, who rarely passed on an opportunity to better their lot in life. And thus it seemed appropriate to name this narrative "A Working History...", both to reflect its unfinished and ever-changing nature, as well as to pay homage to the work ethic that pervades the historical record of our forebears.



### »Act I, Scene I :: The Niedersachsen, 1550

Until we find even earlier ancestors, our Dreves family story begins around 1550, in the *Niedersachsen* -- the area of northern Germany also referred to as "Lower Saxony."

This region is generally flat, and to this day is still used for farming (originally, both farming and cattle grazing; but now, aerial photos indicate almost exclusively agriculture). The cities of this area (Hamburg, Amsterdam, Copenhagen), like most of those flanking Europe's North Sea coastline, are trade and maritime centers; and so the region's history is awash in battles for control over trade.

The French, Danes, British and Dutch all had designs on this area at one time or another. Being less than 100 miles from the Danish border, and so near the sea, there is a clear Scandinavian influence in the area, as evidenced in the spelling of many names you'll find in our Dreves Family Tree.



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It's an [interesting period in history](#): We're only 60 years past Columbus' first voyage to the New World, and 130 years before the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach. Martin Luther's challenge to the authority of the Catholic church has had the region in turmoil for over 25 years, but the 1555 [Peace of Augsburg](#), seems, for the moment, to have quieted things down.

Our saga begins with a fellow named **Drewes Michaels** (don't read anything into the first name "Drewes" -- it is apparently just an interesting coincidence!). The three documented facts we have about Drewes Michaels are that ...

- He was born about 1550 (not sure exactly where, but it was likely near [Bremervörde](#), a hamlet about 25 miles west of Hamburg. In these early generations, information about the mother wasn't often recorded, although that changed in the late 1600s.
- In 1580 he had a son, **Hermann Michaelis**, born in Bremervörde (note the change in last name spelling; remember, most folks were still illiterate at this time, so names tended to be written down rarely, and spelled somewhat phonetically).



- Hermann died about 1647, also in Bremervörde. Essentially, he repeated his father's life, spending all 67 years of it in Bremervörde, and having a son named **Johann Michaelis** in 1620.

By the time of Johann, record-keeping seems to have improved. We know he left Bremervörde sometime before 1645, moving about 15 miles northeast to the village of [Stade](#), near the Elbe River. (But don't think these folks were acquiring a taste for wanderlust; for the next five generations, they stuck with Stade, except for a brief foray around 1800 to [Riensförde](#), which is best described as a 'suburb' of Stade).

### » 150 years in Stade ... and only the name has changed

During this love affair with Stade, the family's surname changes twice -- from **Michaelis** to **Michelsen** to **Michaelsen** (see earlier comment about literacy). Spouse surnames during this period included **Blohm**, **Siebe**, **Jürgens** and **Scharlaken**. 'Scharlaken' shows up several times; twins **Sebart** (boy) and **Alheit** (girl), born 1625, married outside the family, but Sebart's daughter, **Barbara Scharlaken**, married Alheit's son, **Johann Michelsen**, and together had **Hinrich Michelsen**; hence our brush with incest.

**Hinrich** is the great-great-great grandfather of **Sophia Dorothea Elisabeth Michaelsen**, who would marry **Jacob Drewes** in 1844 -- but we're getting ahead of ourselves, here...

The Michaelsen ancestral home and farm at Allwörden, where Sophia Dorothea Elisabeth Michaelsen, a direct Dreves ancestor, was born; it is also possible, though unconfirmed, that her wedding to Jacob Drewes took place here in 1844. This is the same building you see in the aerial view referenced by the [Allwörden](#) link in the narrative (next page).

Photo: Karl Michaelsen



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### » Sophia's Dowry

Karl Michaelsen sent us an image of a court document from 1846, concerning distribution of the estate of Carl Gottfried Michaelsen, who passed in September, 1843. The document is lengthy (image below only shows part of the first page), but Karl indicated that Carl Gottfried's daughter, Sophia, received cash and/or loans totaling 4000 Marks (Hanoverian currency, the common currency of the time; roughly \$2800 in today's money) on July 25, 1844, the day she married Jacob Dreves. The translation, in part, reads:

"They [received] loans and receive cash from Captain Max Hinrich Junge as part of the inheritance of Sophia Dorothea Elisabeth Michaelsen, [who] married Dreves on this day, [amounting to] four thousand marks Hanoverian Courant ..."

Am 1. 12. 46  
Gegenwärtig: Jacob Dreves  
Sophie  
= Frau Jacob Dreves  
Actum Freiburg, beim Gräfengerichte,  
den 5ten Novem. 1846  
Vor dem hiesigen Gräfengerichte erschienen die  
Johann. Max Hinrich Junge, der künftl. = Sohn  
des verl. C. G. Gottfried Michaelsen, = Allwörden,  
als die Mutter des verl. Carl Gottfried Michaelsen, =  
Allwörden, = Carl Gottfried Michaelsen, =  
Allwörden, der verl. Carl Gottfried Michaelsen,  
= Allwörden, = Johann. die verlobte = Sophie  
Dorothea Elisabeth Michaelsen, = Allwörden, =  
Jacob Dreves, = die verlobte Anna Margaretha  
Michaelsen, = Allwörden, = künftl. =  
Michaelsen, = Allwörden.

### » You may owe your existence to Napoleon...

In any case, sometime after 1804, **Carl Gottfried Michaelsen** broke the family's 150-year tenure in Stade, leaving to join the Prussian army in its battles against French forces during the [Napoleonic Wars](#), in an effort to thwart Napoleon Bonaparte's imperialist ambitions.

According to **Karl Michaelsen**, Carl Gottfried Michaelsen spent 1813 and 1814 in the area near the Elbe estuary, running out French troops who had occupied the area. He was billeted (put up in a civilian home) at [Freiburg-Elbe](#), where he met **Maria Haack**, daughter of **Carsten Haack** of Ostercadewisch. A war-time romance quickly flourished, but Carl was soon gone again, and on March 1, 1815, Maria bore an illegitimate son, **Carl Gottfried Haack** (we'll call him "Carl Jr.").

At the end of the conflict, around 1816, Carl Gottfried (Sr.) was released from military service, but Stade no longer seemed like home, as both of his parents were deceased, and his father's second wife -- his stepmother -- had since remarried. So Carl returned to Freiburg-Elbe, taking a job on a farm just south of town, and on November 21, 1817, married his war-time sweetheart, Marie, thus legitimizing the birth of Carl Jr.

After the wedding, Carl and Marie acquired [their own farm at Allwörden](#), and in rapid succession, six more children followed: Sophia Dorothea Elisabeth, Anna Margaretha, Margarethe Marie Rosine, Johann Heinrich, Julie Regine and Claus August Michaelsen.

It is, of course, **Sophia Dorothea Elisabeth Michaelsen** (born 1818) who is in our direct lineage. Here's a scenario that might explain how Sophie ended up in Cadenberge, 14 miles distant, which is likely where she met Jacob Dreves:

You will recall that Sophie's grandfather, Carsten Haack, was from [Ostercadewisch](#), a hamlet about five miles west-southwest of Allwörden and about a mile east of [Cadenberge](#). It is certainly plausible that Sophie would have spent time at her grandfather's (he was only 58 when she was born), including "visits to town" in Cadenberge, where she would have had an opportunity to meet **Jacob Dreves**, born 1804, who was 14 years her senior and, by the time she was of marrying age, would have been well-established in his farm business.

But ... again, we're getting ahead of ourselves. Jacob has his own colorful story, one that played out before he ever met Sophie.

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### » *What's in a [book] name?*

*Troebs' magnum opus may also set a record for "research work with the longest title". The full name of his book (once translated) reads, "The Drewes Chronicle and Dreves, Drews, Drefs, Dreffs, Drebes, Drebs, Dreps, Drewsen, Drewis, Drevsen, Trebes, Trebs, Troebes, Tröbs, Troebs, Tröps, Tröbus, Trebst, Tröbst, Troebst, Trebitz, Tröbitz, Trebesius, Trebus, Trebbus, Trebuss, auch Drees, Drebus, Dröbus, Trebuth, Trebbuth, Tributh, Trips, Treibs, Trebsdorf who, embedded in the general history and in the life of their homeland, suddenly appear with the emergence of their family names from anonymous times and then live on through the centuries to widespread dissemination in the present, with insights into the local chronicles, looking back [through] the earlier centuries, [with] verbal and written overlays, lineage, life histories and dates, as well as coats of arms and pictures of the families, of the places of residence, houses and farms in their diversity researched, presented and edited by Hans Troebs [of] Kaiserslautern [Germany], 1981"*

## II :: From the Beginning: the Dreves *and* Drewes

The story of the paternal side of our Dreves ancestry was proving somewhat more elusive, in part because we had no Karl Michaelsen to step forward with centuries of documented genealogical research -- or so we thought.

Then, we were contacted by author Hans Troebs, who provided a scanned (electronic) copy of his exhaustive 1981 volume titled "*Die Chronik Drewes*" -- literally, "The Drewes Chronicle," taking in all the spelling variations of the surname (see the full title at left!).

It was his research that provided what we needed to extend our knowledge of the family's paternal ancestry by nearly 150 years, back to 1624, and the birth of Jacob *Dreves* (with a V); not to be confused with Jacob *Drewes*, Sophie Michaelsen's love interest!

From early times until around 1870, people in northern Germany generally didn't migrate long distances. Every generation we are about to describe was born and died within a 10-mile radius of [Cadenberge](#), the principal town in the area, living out their lives either in Cadenberge or one of the nearby farm villages of Germany's Lower Saxony region.

»» See the next page for a map showing the location of each village in the following narrative.

Thanks to Mr. Troebs' diligent work, here is what we now know about our ancestors on paternal side of our Dreves family: **Jacob Dreves** was born in 1624 in [Oberndorf](#), about 3 miles southeast of Cadenberge. Local records show him living in there in 1647 "with his own property in the Oberndorfer Moorstrich" (bog-like farmland). Having his own land was unusual, as most land was then owned by nobility. In fact, at the time of Jacob's birth, much of this territory was under the control of King Christian IV of Denmark. (Religious and political wars would create a "tug-of-war" for control over this area for the better part of the next three centuries.)

By 1677 Jacob was listed as the "owner of inheritance and own property", possibly as a result of having "married *nobility Stüvens*" (or *Stevens*; no first name or date of marriage listed; she was said to have been born in 1612). In 1682, Jacob's name appears on a list of *homes with fireplaces* in nearby [Voigt ding](#), about 3 miles northwest of Oberndorf (fire insurance was becoming a "thing" at that time). Jacob and his wife had four children: Otto, **Henrich** (our ancestor), Jacob and Maria. Jacob's wife (the noble lady "Stüvens") died in Voigt ding on April 25, 1698, at age 86. Jacob also died in Voigt ding, on November 29, 1701, at age 77.



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Aerial photo-map showing villages in Lower Saxony, Germany, having a role in our Dreves family history. Note the scale at the bottom; all of these villages are within 10 miles of Cadenberge, the principal town in the region.





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Modern aerial photo of Westercadewisch, Germany. This is the entire village, which suggests that little has changed in 250 years; and that one or more of the buildings you see here are likely to have been ancestral Dreves homes at various times between the late 15th and the early 20th Century, when all of our immediate family came to the United States.

*Photo source: Google Earth*

**Henrich Dreves** was born in Oberndorf in 1650 (some records spell it “Hinrich”). Local militia records showed him in Voigtding in 1691, but the family had apparently already moved to [Westercadewisch](#), sometime before 1687. Henrich married **Anna Wetelers**, and they had six children: **Otto** (our ancestor, born 1687), Clauss (1689), Johann (1689), Beka (1692),

Bartelt (1694), and Hinrich (Jr., 1695). Anna died in Westercadewisch on June 24, 1696, leaving Henrich as a widower with six young children; then Henrich died the next year, at age 47, on November 10, 1697.

Born on October 26, 1687, **Otto Dreves** likely had to grow up and become “man of the household” in a hurry, as both his father and mother had died by his 10th birthday. However, Troebs documents other Dreves/Drewes families living in the immediate area, so it is probable that he and his younger siblings were taken in by relatives.

By 1718, Otto was a working man and now a resident of [Kehdingbruch](#), about 5 miles northwest of Westercadewisch, having married 28-year-old **Margret Meyer** in Kedingbruch on May 2, 1717. They had a daughter, Anna, in 1718, but Margret, who had been born in Cadenberge in 1689, died unexpectedly at the age of 30, on October 30, 1719.

Otto then remarried, taking the hand of **Anna Margaretha Budden**, the 21-year-old daughter of farmer Clauss Budden, on November 14, 1720 in nearby [Bülkau](#) (about 4.5 miles southwest of Westercadewisch). He moved with her to Bülkau, and they had **Hinrich**, our next ancestor, on June 20, 1722. Tragedy struck again, however, as 23-year-old Anna died just three months after Hinrich’s birth, on September 23, 1722 (possibly from complications of childbirth?).

Otto, however, stayed in Bülkau, and was married for a third time, on May 12, 1726, to **Anna Thielen**, the daughter of farmer Hinrich Thielen, in [Oppeln](#), about 2 miles southeast of Bülkau. They had two sons, Otto (Jr., in 1727), and Claus (1729).

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

Otto married for a fourth time, on July 6, 1730, to **Anna Henschen**, the daughter of Peter Henschen of Cadenberge; whether this was the result of Anna Thielen's death (of which we have no record), or a divorce (somewhat uncommon in those days) is unknown.



TAFEL 8 : DAS STAMMHAUS IN WORTH 1915 MIT DER FAMILIE DREVES

The caption of this photo, from "*850 Years in Cadenberge*," describes a "Familie Dreves" in front of their family home, ca. 1915. These may be distant Dreves cousins, descendants of Henrich [1650] or Otto [1687], who both had multiple sons who survived to adulthood. "Dreves" is still a frequently-seen surname in Lower Saxony.

Anna Henschen and Otto were scarcely 6 months into their marriage (with Anna expecting) when Otto, Jr. died in December, 1730, at age two; followed by the death of young Anna, Otto's first child (with Margret Meyer), in March, 1731, at age 11. Mother Anna safely delivered Metta, Otto's fifth child, and their first together, on May 3, 1731. They went on to have two more sons, a second Otto, Jr. in 1732, and Peter, in 1733. Sadly, the second "Otto, Jr." died at age 10, in 1742.

Father Otto was still living in Bülkau, according to a census in 1759; there is no record of Anna (Henschen's) death, but there is an entry stating that Otto died sometime around 1770, which would have put him at 83 years of age.

### » **Hinrich and the spelling change**

**Hinrich Dreves**, Otto Dreves' second child, is consistently recorded as spelling his name 'Drewes', but since the three generations immediately before him were clearly using 'Dreves,' it is safe to assume that this is a transcriptional error, as literacy rates in Germany during the early 1700s averaged less than 60 percent, and likely even lower in the rural farm areas of Lower Saxony (*source: Medieval Studies program, Queens University of Belfast*).

Nevertheless, the 'Drewes' spelling that begins here persists for two more generations, finally ending only around the time Hinrich's great-great grandchildren begin to emigrate to America at the turn of the 20th century, when the 'Dreves' spelling again firmly takes root.

Hinrich, like his father, Otto, has multiple marriages, although records of these unions are sketchy, with dates that overlap and somewhat odd circumstances surrounding them.

According to a 1754 census, Hinrich, age 32, is now living in **Auestade**, about 5 miles northwest of Cadenberge. In 1753, he has married **Catherine Meuts** (also recorded as "Mente").



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

A footnote: There are records indicating this is Hinrich's *second* marriage, the first to a woman named "Salome" [unclear if this is a first or last name], which produced no children.

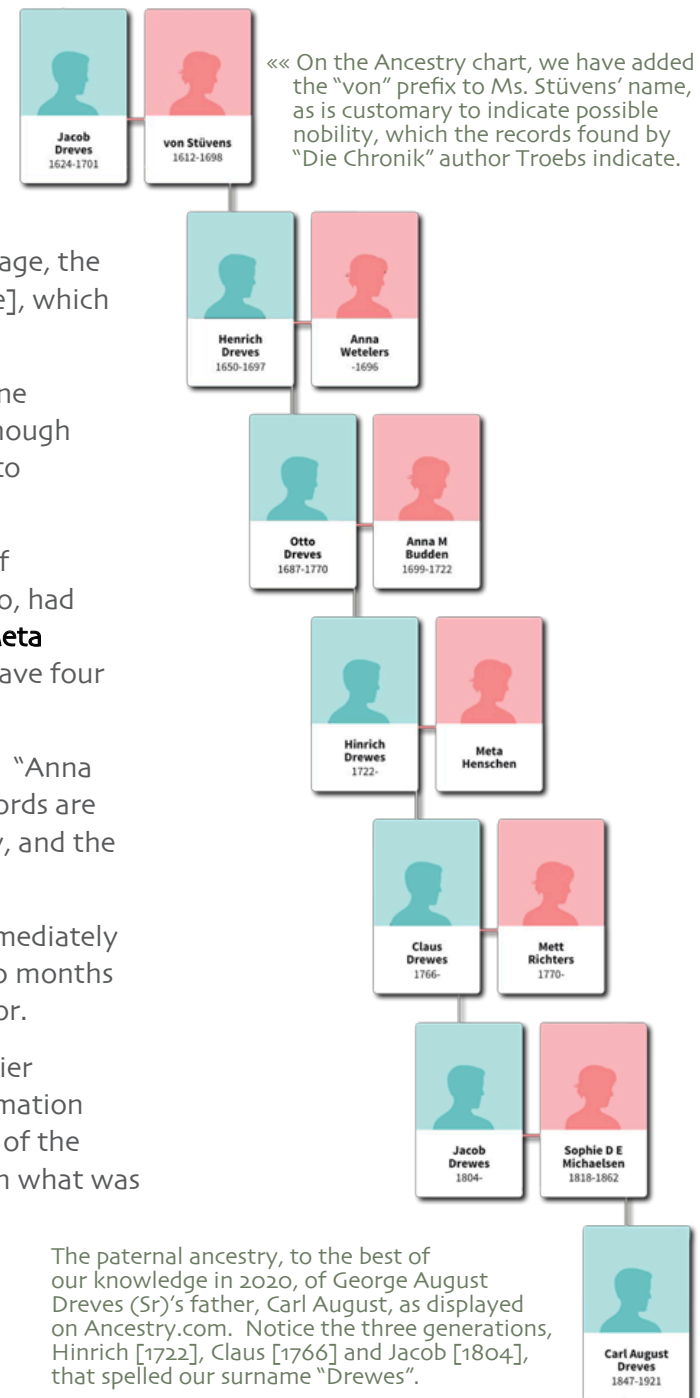
A year after Hinrich marries Catherine, they have a daughter, Catherine Margaetha (1754); followed by a son, Hinrich Christoffer in 1756. Although mother Catherine is recorded as living until 1812 (age 86), she and Otto apparently separate sometime between 1756 and 1760.

Hinrich is married again on November 6, 1760, to *another* daughter of Cadenberge farmer Peter Henschen (you'll recall Hinrich's father, Otto, had married Anna, an elder daughter of Peter's, in 1730), This daughter, **Meta Henschen**, is apparently much younger, as she and Hinrich go on to have four more children.

Curiously, their first and third children together have the same name: "Anna Margaretha"; the first born in 1761; the second, in 1763. No death records are recorded, but it may be that the first Anna Margaretha dies in infancy, and the second is named in her honor.

In between, Meta bears a son, Hellwig, in late 1762, before almost immediately becoming pregnant with the second Anna Margaretha, who arrives 10 months later. But it is Meta and Hinrich's final child, **Claus**, who is our ancestor.

**Claus Drewes** is born on June 7, 1766, in Bülkau. This is where our earlier (2010) genealogical research had come to a dead end. Our best information had placed his birth around 1770; so a four-year differential is not out of the question, particularly where name and geography already line up with what was previously known.



### III :: The Dreves of Westercadewisch

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Claus' Drewes son, **Jacob Dreves**, was born on August 9th, 1804 in [Westercadewisch](#); he apparently grew up and worked there as well. Like generations before him, Jacob was likely a farmer. Even on today's satellite aerial photos, Westercadewisch is clearly a farming community, having scarcely changed from what it must have been like nearly 250 years ago. His birth was apparently the result of a tryst between Claus Drewes and a local woman named **Mett Richters**, about whom we know little else; there is no record that they ever married, nor whether either of them raised Jacob themselves.



The former *Inn on the Canal*, ca. 1922. George Dreves, Sr., is said to have skated on this canal as a boy (ca. 1890s), when it froze over in the winter. A census from the 18th century indicated an innkeeper in Cadenberge was named "Dreves," though he was not tied directly to this particular place.

However, it seems that Jacob was a successful 40-year-old farmer by the time he married **Sophie Michaelsen** on July 25th, 1844; this is where the Michaelsen and Dreves family trees intersect. Karl Michaelsen reports that while Jacob and Sophie were married in Frieburg-Elbe (at or near her parents' home), they immediately came to live on Jacob's farm in Westercadewisch.

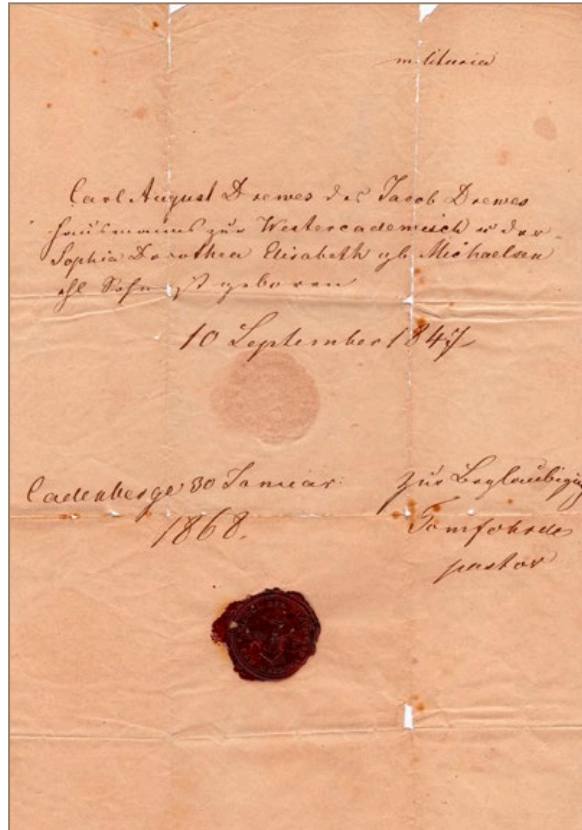
It is important to note that during this period in Germany, common citizens did not have the right to own land; all land ownership rights were vested in the government, but land was now typically leased to commoners on a long-term basis (e.g., 25 years), apparently by negotiation. Still, if Jacob "had a farm," he had likely been successful in negotiating a long-term lease;

the fact that the Dreves clan remained at Westercadewisch -- a very small hamlet -- until most of the family came to America, nearly 100 years later, suggests that is the case.

In any case, Jacob and Sophie apparently did well, and had a daughter and 3 sons: **Johanne Marie Auguste**, born August 31, 1845; **Carl August**, born September 10, 1847; **Claus Heinrich**, born, March 7, 1850; and **Claus Jacob**, born October 31, 1854. We know that Johanne Marie Auguste died in 1870 at Westercadewisch, at age 25; we do not presently know the dates or places of passing for Claus Heinrich or Claus Jacob. Carl August, of course, continues our Dreves lineage; it is his children who initiate the family's emigration to America.

# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY



What appears to be **Carl August Dreyes'** birth and/or Confirmation certificate (above). It shows his birthdate (September 10, 1847), but below, it also shows a date of January 20, 1868, when Carl August was about 20-1/2 years old. The certificate is signed by his church Pastor (to the right of the 1868 date), suggesting this may have codified one or both events. It is unclear if the wax seal pertains to the birth, or to the Confirmation event.

By all accounts, Carl August, along with his brothers and sister, lived and worked on the farm at Westercadewisch alongside their father and mother, until their passing. We do not yet have a date for Jacob's death, though by date extrapolation, we know he was alive until at least 1854, when Claus Jacob was born. We also know that Sophie passed away on December 11, 1862, at Westercadewisch, at the age of 48. (Bear in mind that this was considered a typical life-span in that era, though some lucky individuals, like Hinrich Michaelsen, lived into his mid-90s [1689-1784] without any benefit of modern medicines.)

Westercadewisch must have been an interesting, if small, society; clearly, many individuals lived their entire lives there, and yet the hamlet was home to a number of distinct family groups. In a place as small as Westercadewisch, there is little doubt that children who played together as toddlers had a high likelihood of marrying each other when they came of age.

For example, we know it was there, probably sometime in the 1820s or early 1830s (though we do not have exact dates) that both **Carsten Becker** and **Metta Anna Schmeelcke** were born. They apparently grew up at Westercadewisch, married, and on May 9, 1852, had a daughter, **Margareta** (our ancestor), who also had at least two brothers, **Johann** and **Henry**.

Similarly, August grew up in the familiar confines of Westercadewisch, and though five years older, he probably made **Margareta Becker's** acquaintance at a young age; watched her grow into a fine young lady, and took her hand in marriage on September 29, 1874.

### » The generation that left the farm

Together, August and Margareta had seven children, including twin girls, Anna Johanna and Emma Henriette, known to many Dreves descendants as "Tante Anna" and "Tante Emma":

**Gustave Heinrich** ("Gus," born July 9, 1875)

**Anna Maria Dorothea** ("Marie," born August 22, 1876)

**Anna Johanna** ("Annie," born June 30, 1880; Emma's twin)

**Emma Henriette** (born June 30, 1880; Anna's twin)

**Dora** (born December 8, 1881)

**George August** (born May 11, 1887)

**Nellie Johanne Rebekka** (born November 22, 1889; died sometime prior to 1902; see more about Nellie on page 21)



## IV :: 850 Years in Cadenberge...



Inside front cover of a Bible, in the possession of Emma Adelaide Cordes (Dreves), belonging to "Claus Cordes in Osterbruch, on 26th January, 1863". It is unclear if this belonged to Charles Claus Cordes (father of Emma Adelaide), or perhaps was his sibling's -- or even his father's -- Bible.

In the course of online research, we discovered a great book, *850 Years in Cadenberge: 1148-1998*, written to commemorate the 850th anniversary of the town's founding. After further digging, we located a copy of the book with an online bookseller in London.

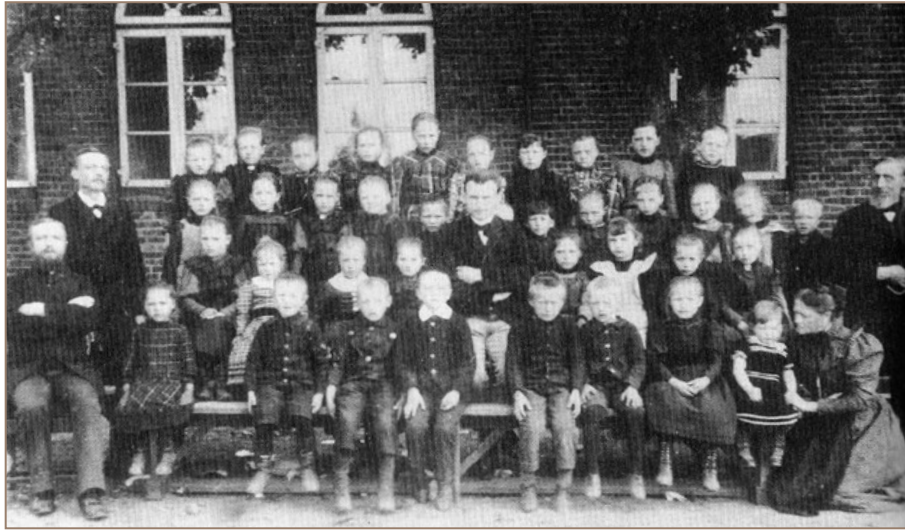
While the book is in German (and we've spent many hours typing German phrases into *Google Translate* to decipher them ;) -- several tantalizing items stood out:

From 1899 to 1910, the organist for the St. Nicholas Lutheran Church in Cadenberge was Johann Cordes, hailing from nearby Osterbruch (6 miles west), who lived from 1875 to 1915. The possibility that he was related to "our" Cordes family is more than just supposition; as you'll learn later in this narrative, it is possible -- even likely -- that Johann's family, like the family of Charles Klaus Cordes [father of Emma Adelaide Cordes (Dreves)] knew the Dreves family in Germany, well before emigration.

In addition, a Cordes (no first name given) is listed as a teacher in a 1900 class photo from the Cadenberge Primary School [next page]; and certificates from the school are also signed "*Dein Lehrer, Cordes*" ("your teacher, Cordes").

This does, of course, raise the question of whether *all* of "our" Cordes family emigrated to the U.S. (beginning with Charles Klaus Cordes in 1866), or whether are still Cordes descendants living in that area of Germany; the Cordes surname, like that of Dreves, is fairly common in that area, and so it would be difficult to discern this without deeper research.

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



Cadenberge school class with (male) teachers (L-R) Cordes, Arp, Lingemann and Poppe.

*850 Years in Cadenberge* provides considerable detail about the various aristocrats who, over the centuries, owned much of the land in this area. As late as 1821, the land was still being handed down from generation to generation, either by aristocratic inheritance or dowry (marriage).

Because the land worked by the Dreves family in Westercadewisch was likely not owned by them (they, like most others in the region, were simply tenant farmers), there was little to hold them in Germany when the promise of a better life in America presented itself.

That said, Cadenberge was a prosperous community, notable for its community mill, powered by a very large, Dutch-looking windmill (photo, next page). The town was also known for its spring and fall harvest markets; for its pottery works; and, for a time, a large orphanage. It had culture, too, including its own “theatergruppe”, gymnastics squad, scout troop, annual carnival and social organizations.

Another interesting side-note is that Cadenberge had “twin suburbs”: Westercadewisch (to the west), and Ostercadewisch (to the east).



1893 diploma from the Cadenberge school, signed by “Your Teacher, Cordes”.



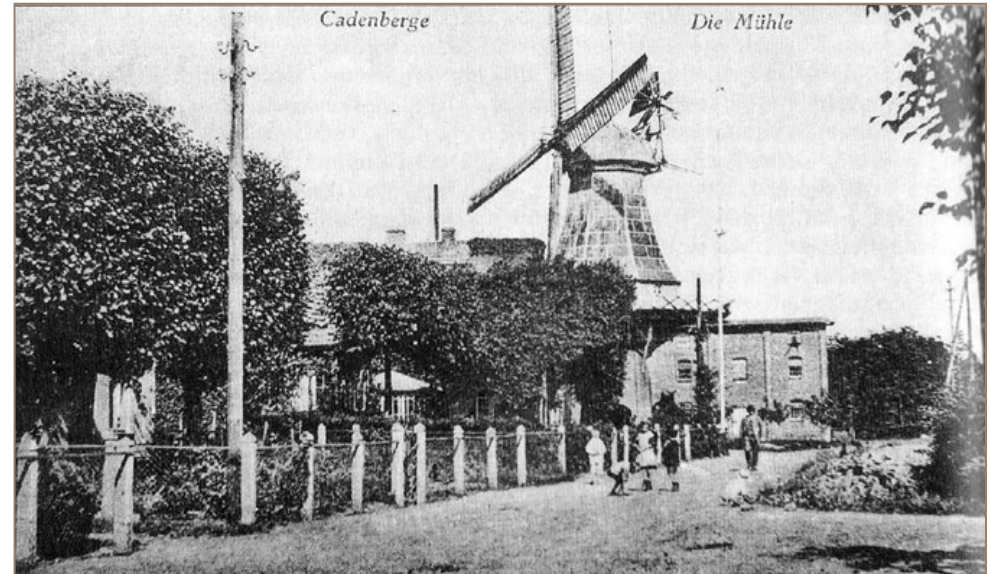
# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

**RIGHT:** The Cadenberge Mill in 1910. Cadenberge was a prosperous regional center for commerce throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** A photograph of the ancestral home of “our” Dreves family, in Westercadewisch, about a mile west of Cadenberge. Behind the house you can see the large barn that was part of every successful farmer’s operation.

**BELOW:** George August Dreves’ Graduation Certificate from grade school in 1901, the rough equivalent of 8th grade in modern American schools. A year later, George was on his way to America.



**Zeugnis.**

*Georg August Dreves,*  
Eigenthümer Konfession,

geboren den 11. Mai 1887 in Westercadewisch,  
Sohn des Hrn. Hülpe, Hülpe, Hülpe  
zu Westercadewisch, Kreis Lüneburg a. d. Oste,

hat die hiesige Volksschule von Ostern 1893 bis Ostern 1901  
besucht und nach Abgabe seiner Kenntnisse und Leistungen folgendes Zeugnis erlangt:

Schulbesuch: regelmäßig.	Ordnung:
Beitragen: sehr gut.	Fleiß und Zuverlässigkeit: gut.
Wärdliche Gewichte: } gut.	Geschichte: gut.
Katechismus und Bib.: } gut.	Naturbeschreibung: } gut.
Lesen: } gut.	Naturkunde: } gut.
Sprachlehre: } gut.	Schreiben: } fast gut.
Rechtschreibung: gut.	Zahlen: } fast gut.
Rechnen: } fast gut.	Zinsen: } fast gut.
Handwerk: } gut.	Zeichnen: }
Gefunde: gut.	Sonderarbeiten: ~

Bemerkungen: \_\_\_\_\_

Cadenberge, den 30. März 1901.

Der Lokal-Schullehrer: *E. Hagen, Pastor.*

Der Lehrer: *W. Hagen.*





# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

George August Dreves' Confirmation certificate from the Lutheran church in Cadenberge, issued the year before George emigrated to America. On all written documentation, even in Germany prior to emigration, George spells his surname D-R-Ë-V-E-S, not Drewes.

The Lutheran church, of course, was a focal point for the community. It is almost certain this is the church that George Dreves, Sr. and his family attended. Below is a photo of the interior of the church, probably not much changed from its appearance in 1901, when George received his Certificate of Confirmation there. *Exterior photos of the church can be found in Appendix E.*

*850 Years in Cadenberge* chronicled numerous events in the town's history, which may have some connection to our family: On April 10, 1880, the Savings Bank of Cadenberge was chartered to serve the municipalities Cadenberge, Wingst and Voightding. The bank opened for business on October 6, 1880; the bank's first depositor was listed as Mrs. Anne Marie Haak; she opened her account with 1.20 Marks. (There is a Marie Haack in the Dreves Family Tree, (born in Cadenberge in 1792); this could have been her granddaughter.)

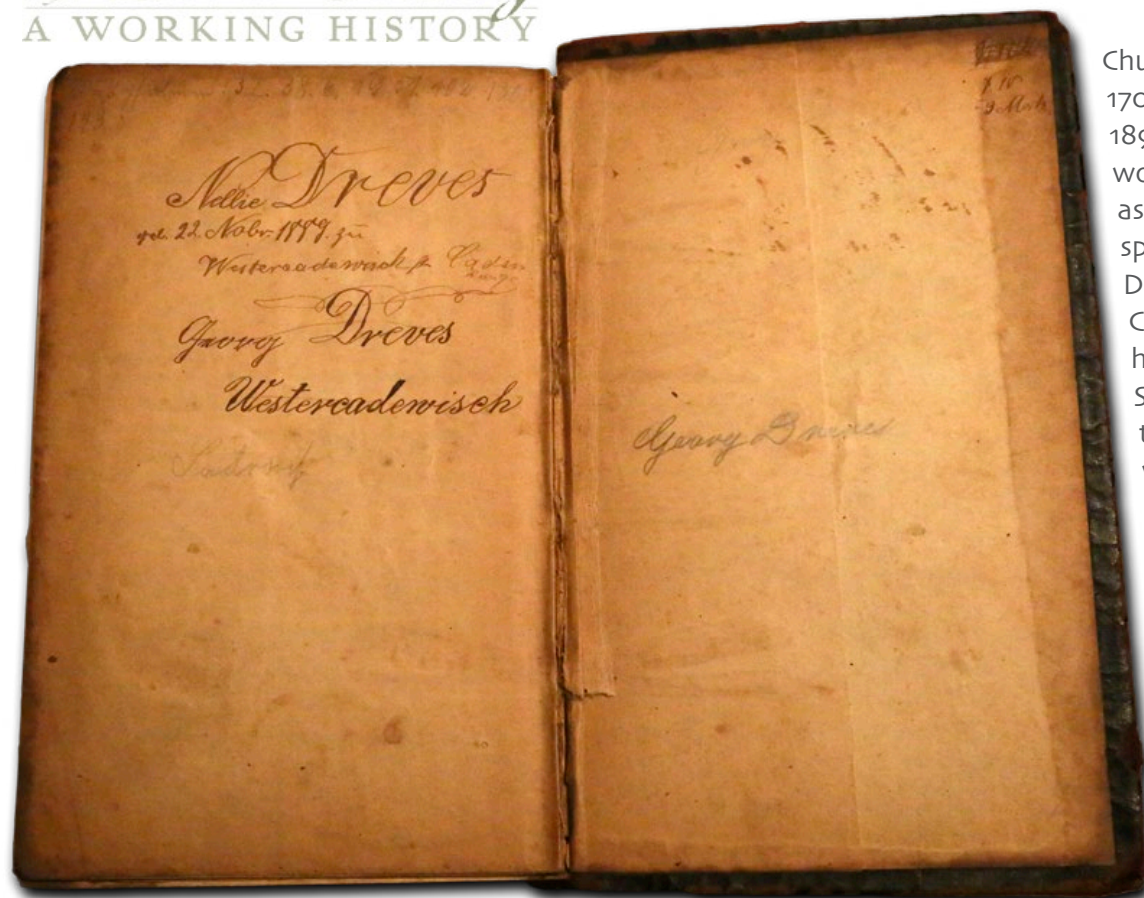


The church interior, before renovations in the 1960s.



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY



George Dreves, Sr.'s boyhood Bible, with his writing as well as that of sister Nellie Johanne Rebekka Dreves, both of whom were signing their names "Dreves"; this was well before George emigrated to America. Nellie, who was two years younger than George, apparently passed away in Germany, and never made it to the States. In the inscription below her name is "geb.", or "born, 22 November 1889, Westercadewisch" (then, in pencil, "Cadenberge"). George then signs his name, followed by "Westercadewisch."

Look carefully, and you'll see that George's name and town are crossed-out, indicating that perhaps Nellie took possession of the Bible from George at some point. Bibles were passed down often; however, George brought this Bible with him when he emigrated to the United States, suggesting he retook possession of it, perhaps when Nellie passed, shortly before George left Germany for America.

If you look closely, you'll see other, perhaps earlier inscriptions, mostly in pencil, at the very top of the left-hand page [appearing to be dates], plus a somewhat illegible one-word name, starting with an "L", below George's inscriptions.

Church records in Cadenberge stretch back to the mid-1700s. One entry indicates the Vicar of the Church, from 1899-1910, was named "Ernst Wilhelm Drewes." This would have coincided with the tenure of Johann Cordes as Church Organist (see page A-7). While there is no specific record that indicates any direct relation to the Dreves family, it is possible the Organist is related to Charles Klaus Cordes, who, gave George August Dreves his "start" in America, with a job at his ice cream shop. Still, it is interesting that Vicar Johann Cordes served at this Church during the exact time George Dreves, Sr. went through Confirmation there.

The book revealed one interesting historical fact that may have had some bearing on the decision of the Dreves family to leave the farm at Westercadewisch for the United States: In 1892 (shortly after Gustave Heinrich Drewes – "Uncle Gus", the oldest Dreves sibling of that generation – left Westercadewisch for New York), there was a severe outbreak of cholera in the Hamburg area, claiming "numerous victims".

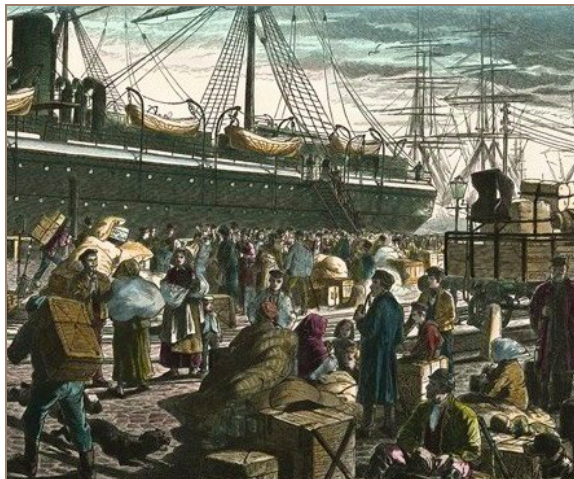
As a precautionary measure, the Cadenberge town leaders created a quarantine facility to accommodate anyone in the Cadenberge area who became sick. However, the book states that the cholera epidemic never reached Cadenberge, and thus the facility was never needed.

Still, Hamburg is only 50 miles east-southeast of Cadenberge, so no doubt the threat of a cholera epidemic weighed heavily on the minds of Cadenberge-area residents, and may have motivated some to leave the area.



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY



Two promotional illustrations from the Hamburg-Amerika Line; the top image is said to be indicative of most of the line's steamships; however, most immigrants, having little cash, made the crossing in steerage, in the lowest levels of the ship, sleeping in bunks and having only limited access to the upper decks, which were reserved for well-to-do patrons.

## V :: Time for a change of scenery...

After Margareta's death (apparently, during childbirth, delivering Nellie in November of 1889), it seems life on the farm at Westercadewisch just wasn't the same. To the best of our knowledge, August never remarried. Perhaps the family's unease was exacerbated by poor farm yields or difficult financial affairs, or by the 1892 cholera epidemic in nearby Hamburg.

And, undoubtedly, from beyond the confines of the farm came word of remarkable progress and opportunities. The 1870s and 1880s were headlined with unprecedented technological achievements from both German and American inventors: the telephone (Bell, 1876); the microphone (Edison and Berliner, 1878); practical incandescent lighting (Edison, 1880); internal combustion engines (Benz, 1885, and Diesel, 1892); the phonograph (Edison, 1887); modern photography (Eastman, 1888); the automobile (Daimler, 1889); and more -- all promising to revolutionize daily life.

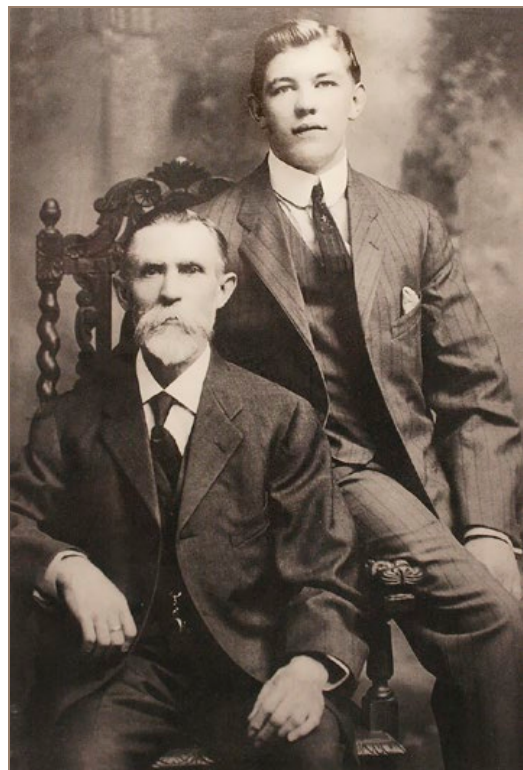
So, it is not surprising that about a year after Margareta's passing, in December of 1890, Gustave ("Gus") Dreves, the oldest child, left Westercadewisch for the allure of new opportunities and a better life in America. Over the next 17 years, Gus was followed by nearly all of his surviving siblings, and ultimately, by his father in 1907. They joined millions of other European emigrants heading west, part of one of the largest mass emigrations in history.

Carl August finally emigrated to the U.S. in September of 1907 with Anna Johanna. In terms of our immediate Dreves ancestors, as best we can tell, they were the last ones to leave Westercadewisch. There are indications they sold the house and barn to a family named Heinsohn. Having concluded his affairs at the farm, Carl August, in effect, 'turned the key and locked the door' on a lifestyle they all felt no longer met their needs.

It is worth noting that the process of documenting their emigration has proven surprisingly vexing. While there are millions of emigrant and immigrant ship passenger records now available online, there are also vast numbers of people with identical or confusingly similar names; "Dreves" isn't quite as unique a surname as we might have thought. *See Appendix U for more about the distribution of the Dreves surname, both in the U.S. and worldwide.*

That said, what follows is a summary of what we know about our direct Dreves ancestors' emigration. Having pored over many, many records, including possibilities that, after analysis, didn't quite square with other known facts (i.e., dates of birth, what they were likely to have listed as their place of origin, or their final destination, etc.), we can say with a reasonable degree of confidence that these findings are accurate:

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



**Carl August**, seated, and **George August**, shortly after Carl August's arrival in the United States in 1907.

### » Ellis Island photos

**Appendix F** shows photos from the Ellis Island National Monument, where all of the Dreves siblings, except Gustav Heinrich, immigrated to the United States. (Ellis Island was not in operation as an immigration center until 1892).

	Arrival date	Age on arrival	Ports (dep-arr)	Ship name	Source verification (or comment)
<b>Gustave Heinrich</b>	Dec. 1890	15	Hamburg/NY	Taormina	CastleGarden.org (pre-Ellis Island)
<b>Anna Maria</b>	Sep. 1895	19	Hamburg/NY	Dania	CastleGarden.org, Ancestry.com
<b>Emma Henriette</b>	May 1897	17	Hamburg/NY	Furst Bismarck	CastleGarden.org, Ancestry.com
<b>George August</b>	1902	15	Cuxhaven?/NY	unknown	Date per 1910 US Census; no ship's record
<b>Dora</b>	1902?	21	Cuxhaven?/NY	unknown	Oral history: 'may have come with George'
<b>Anna Johanna</b>	Sep. 1907	27	Cuxhaven/NY	Patricia	EllisIsland.org (with father, Carl August)

**Appendix C** of this narrative contains digital images of the original passenger lists which most likely identify "our Dreves" in this westward-flowing sea of humanity.

### » The matter of Dora and George

Obviously, we know George August Dreves came to the United States. George's entry in the 1910 U.S. Census is clear, listing his year of immigration as 1902 (see **Appendix G**).

Now that we have documentation for the emigration of George's other siblings, the absence of any ship's record for him or his sister, Dora, becomes even more of an enigma. Several family sources have told me, on different occasions, that they thought George "came with someone" when he emigrated. If, indeed, these oral histories are correct, and since we now have written records which show that Gus, Marie, Emma came alone; and that Anna came with George's father; this would suggest Dora to be George's logical traveling companion.

However, finding either George or Dora on any passenger list, either at the point of German embarkation or on arrival in the U.S., has thus far proven elusive.



German emigrants waiting to get tickets, or for their boat to board, outside the Hamburg-Amerika Line office in Cuxhaven. Most of our Dreves ancestors came through this location.



## VI :: Dreves or Drewes...?

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'The Change in the Spelling of the Name' is one of the enduring legends in the Dreves family. There has been much speculation over the years on this matter, generally boiling down to two questions:

### » 1. Did "our" Dreves ancestors spell the family surname with a V or a W?

Answer: Both. As you've seen, even as far back as the 1600s, our ancestors spelled the surname D-R-E-V-E-S. It was only in the mid-1700s that the 'Drewes' spelling crept into our family's lexicon. But that change stuck for over 150 years. Until the early days of the 20th century, some of our ancestors continued to spell it with a W.

Gustave Heinrich Drewes ("Uncle Gus") was the first of our paternal ancestors to arrive in America, in 1890. If you examine the ship's passenger lists in Appendix C, you'll see that nearly ALL of the Dreves siblings who came to the United States spelled their surnames "Drewes". Only Carl August and Anna Johanna who, emigrated in 1907, were already listed as "Dreves."

However, there were other signs of change: George August's Birth and Confirmation certificates, as well as August and Annie's passenger log entries (1907, **Appendix C-4**) represent the first written evidence of a modern change to the V-spelling. Significantly, the 1910 U.S. Census (**Appendix G**) clearly shows George August spelling Dreves with a V; and thereafter, we find no references to ancestors spelling the surname with a W.

### » About that "Ellis Island name change" thing...

*While the "Ellis Island name change theory" is a plausible explanation, an article written by Marian Smith, the senior historian for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, for Immigration Daily, rather convincingly debunks that notion, and supports the idea that many families simply decided to amend the spelling of their names in order to better "fit in" in America. You can read the full article in **Appendix T**.*

### » 2. ... If they *did* spell it with a W, why did it change?

Many theories have been advanced, including the tale (shared by many American families) that the name was involuntarily changed by U.S. Immigration officials at Ellis Island, who wrote it down as they heard it (because in the German language, the "w" is sometimes pronounced like a "v", as in the authentic German pronunciation of "Volkswagen").

In an article she wrote for *Immigration Daily* (see sidebar at left), Marian Smith, senior historian for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service argues it was *not* likely a phonetic misinterpretation on the part of Immigration officials; more likely, it was a *conscious* choice, a simple matter of "when in Rome, do as the Romans do..."

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

### » About the Dreves Family Tree on Ancestry.com

As part of this project, and with the invaluable assistance of Karl Michaelsen, we now have a Dreves Family Tree on Ancestry.com.

NOTE: This is a subscription service which requires a fee for log-in. However, if you have a membership, you can view the tree by [clicking here](#).

There, for consistency with previously-published genealogical information, we have retained the “Drewes” spelling for all persons born in Germany who spelled it that way; but for all descendants born in America, the updated “Dreves” spelling is applied.

In other words, when the emigrating Dreves siblings got to the States, they voluntarily chose to “Americanize” the surname, substituting the V for the W, rather than having to explain themselves every time someone needed to write down the name (remembering, again, that the authentic German pronunciation of “Drewes” would actually *sound* like “Dreves”).

### » Wasn’t there a big fuss about this long ago, in Germany...?

Yes, there was. This was explained in a 1911 German treatise, “*Die Veddel in Wort Und Bild*” by Pastor Paul Ebert of the Immanuelkirche auf der Veddel in Hamburg (pp. 81-85). (The Veddel, by the way, was an island village in the Elbe River, in what is today the industrial center of Hamburg; we’ve found nothing in our lineage that suggests any of our direct ancestors had relocated to the Hamburg area). In part, it reads:

*“The name Dreves was written both with a “V” and a “W”. For decades, the archivers of the church books of St. George were not too particular with the spelling of the name. They probably wrote the name, not by copying another document, but by how they understood its pronunciation.*

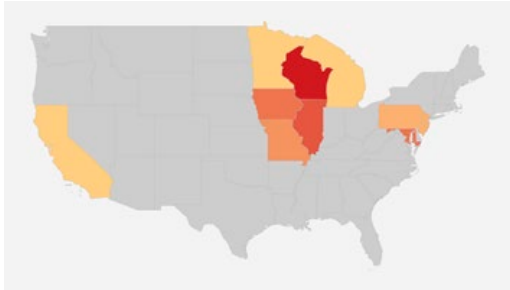
*So, by order of the local governor, the Regent of Marshlands, on November 25, 1845, it was required that all descendants of Hein Diedrich Drewes should write their name with a “V”. All registers of baptism from 1826 to 1842 were to be corrected, as required by this order...”*

All that said, the fact that our ancestors, as far back as the 1600s, were already spelling the surname with a “V” suggests that this proclamation was not directed at our branch of the family. You might say, “we were ‘V’ before ‘V’ was cool!”

### » So, two take-aways:

1. Until literacy became widespread in Germany, phonetic and spelling errors were almost inevitable.
2. When our Dreves family emigrated to America, they, like thousands of other immigrant families, simply chose to “Americanize” the spelling of our surname in a way that was easiest for Americans to understand -- hence, we’ve come full circle, *back to how our surname was spelled in the 1600s*, but for reasons of modern American convenience.

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



Distribution of the Dreves surname in the U.S., by state, in 1880, based on data on [Forebars.io](https://forebars.io). For more about the distribution of the Dreves name, see Appendix U.

## VII :: The 'Midwest Dreves' connection...

We have long known that there are significant numbers of Dreves in the U.S. Upper Midwest, presumably tracing their ancestry back to the same part of the world as we do. However, there has never been established any direct connection with our immediate ancestors.

However, with the availability of increasingly sophisticated online genealogical research tools, and exponentially more genealogical data being available online, it seems almost inevitable that a documented connection eventually will be established. In fact, it may *already* have happened:

As we know, Carl August (born 1847) had an older sister, Johanne (born 1844), and two younger brothers, Claus Heinrich (born 1850) and Claus Jacob (born 1854). Johanne, we know, died in Westercadewisch in 1870, at age 25. However, there are passenger records in Ancestry.com which match both name, age and likely port of departure for both Claus Heinrich and Claus Jacob Drewes (the family was still using the “w” spelling at that point in time).

According to these records, Claus Jacob, then 37, arrived in New York on the S.S. Eider on October 6, 1891, about nine months after his nephew, Gustave (“Uncle Gus”). His occupation is listed as ‘grocer,’ but because these are early (pre-Ellis Island) records, there is no record of his intended destination in the U.S.; and from there, the trail on Claus Jacob goes cold; we have not found him in any subsequent U.S. Census data.

Claus Heinrich Drewes, on the other hand, sailed for New York from Cuxhaven on the S.S. Pennsylvania on October 23, 1912, at the age of 62. The Pennsylvania’s passenger list identifies Claus Heinrich as a farmer from Isensee, a hamlet just 9 miles east of Westercadewisch – thus, name, age and geography are plausible factors supporting the notion that this is “our” Claus Heinrich.

However, his final travel destination is listed as [Brockport, \(now “Brookport”\) Illinois](#) – *not* New York, as was the case with all other Cadenberge-area Dreves – perhaps for reasons explained by the presence of his traveling companion, a 9-year-old girl, Elsie Anna Hattie Drewes (listed as “Else” on the passenger record, and identified as Claus Heinrich’s daughter).



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

## This return is to be carefully filled out and returned to the Clerk of the District Court within fifteen days after marriage. This return does not take the place of the Certificate which comes attached to the License, but is IN ADDITION THEREUNTO. Sections 2146 and 2147, Supplement Code of Iowa, 1913--The person solemnizing Marriages shall forfeit the sum of \$50 unless, within fifteen days after the ceremony, he makes return hereof to the District Court.

**IOWA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH** 237  
RETURN OF A MARRIAGE TO THE CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT 70-12524

- By whom affidavit, if any, was made \_\_\_\_\_
- By whom consent to marriage is given \_\_\_\_\_
- Full name of GROOM Louis C. Slater
- Place of residence Muscatine, Iowa
- Occupation Butler's worker
- Groom's age next birthday 22
- Color White
- Race American
- Number of Groom's marriage First
- Groom's place of birth La Grange, Mo
- Groom's Father's name George Slater
- Groom's Mother's full maiden name Martha M. Allen
- Full name of BRIDE Elsie Anna Hattie Dreves
- Bride's maiden name if a widow \_\_\_\_\_
- Bride's place of residence Muscatine, Iowa
- Bride's age next birthday 22
- Color White
- Race German
- Number of Bride's marriage First
- Bride's place of birth Isen, Germany
- Bride's Father's full name Claus Dreves
- Bride's Mother's full maiden name Metta Schmoldt
- Where and when married Muscatine, Iowa, the 25th day of June, A. D. 1924
- Witnesses Carl M. Dierck, Pastor John A. Slater
- By whom married, name and office R. C. Lucke, Pastor Evangelical Prot. Church

N. B.--At Nos. 9 and 19 state whether 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, etc., marriage of each. At 24 give names of subscribing witnesses to the Marriage Certificate. If no subscribing witnesses, give names of two persons who witnessed the ceremony. No. 25 refers to the present contracting parties.

We hereby certify that the information above given is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Louis C. Slater (Groom)  
Elsie A. H. Dreves (Bride)  
(Bride's Maiden Name)

I hereby certify that the above is a correct return of a marriage solemnized by me.

Dated at Muscatine, Iowa  
this 25th day of June 1924

R. C. Lucke  
Pastor

## To be returned to the Clerk of the District Court within fifteen days after Marriage.

**CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE**

To the Clerk of the District Court of Iowa, in and for Muscatine County:

This Certifier, That on the 25th day of June A. D. 1924  
at Muscatine in said County, according to law  
and by authority, I duly--

JOINED IN MARRIAGE

Mr. Louis C. Slater and Miss Elsie A. H. Dreves  
Given under my hand this 25th day of June A. D. 1924

R. C. Lucke  
Pastor Evangelical Prot. Church

We have no independent information on Claus Heinrich's wife, but we do have a copy of Elsie's marriage certificate (at left), filed in Muscatine, Iowa in 1924, showing Metta Schmoldt as Elsie's mother, and Claus Dreves of "Isen, Germany" (Isensee) as Elsie's father.

We also have a separate Ancestry.com record listing the name of Claus Heinrich's wife as Metta Schmoldt -- which corroborates the information on Elsie's marriage certificate.

So we are relatively certain Elsie is related to "our" Claus Heinrich, George August Dreves' great uncle. But why was Claus bringing a 9-year-old girl to America (particularly when no records have been found to indicate that Claus stayed in America with Elsie...)

Was Metta, Claus' wife, the reason for the trip to Illinois? She is definitely *not* listed as traveling with Claus when he and Elsie made the trans-Atlantic crossing. Absent any other information, we wonder if she had come to the U.S. at an earlier date; or was she to follow Claus and Elsie soon after? Or perhaps, had Metta passed away, and Claus -- possibly because of his advancing age (he was 53, and might not have been in good health) -- had decided to take Elsie there, to be raised by other relatives?

Even without answers to Claus and Metta's whereabouts, it seems fairly certain that Elsie Anna Hattie Dreves, who, 12 years later, became "Elsie Slater" by marriage, is a reasonably firm connection between our Dreves ancestors and the American Midwest. (I will leave it to the next generation of Dreves genealogists to follow the trail of other Cadenberge-area Dreves who may also have "gone west" in America!)

Elsie Anna Hattie Dreves'  
Muscatine, Iowa marriage  
certificate, from 1924

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



A young Charles Klaus Cordes, George's future employer and father-in-law, probably taken shortly after his arrival in America, in 1866.



Charles Klaus Cordes and Anna Margaretta Welp, about the time of their marriage in 1872, roughly six years after his arrival in New York.

## VIII :: George, the Entrepreneur

Immigrant America, in the latter days of the 19th Century, was rich with the traditions recent arrivals brought with them from the "Old Country." While there was a natural tendency for immigrants of common ethnicity to stick together and take care of their own, the singularly unique thing about being in the United States during this time period was a shared sense of optimism and opportunity.

Though living conditions in their immigrant neighborhoods were far from elegant, the bustling cities of the eastern U.S. seaboard had 'potential' written all over them. Of the millions of western European immigrants who came to America, most had an expectation that they would find better opportunities here than back home.

America was – and still is, to this day – an economy whose engine is fueled by small business. In the immigrant neighborhoods that comprise New York City, the pervasive sense of optimism that came ashore with each new arrival created a uniquely level playing field, where hard work equalled currency, and entrepreneurial moxie was golden. As you will see, George August Dreves had that entrepreneurial gift.

### » Charles Klaus Cordes and the Cordes Family

Almost as soon as he landed in New York, George August Dreves found work in the confectionery shop at 87 Eighth Avenue, owned by Charles Klaus Cordes. In a classic case of "small world, isn't it?", Charles, like George, had emigrated from Germany as a teenager (though Charles made the voyage in 1866, 36 years earlier); and in Germany, Charles' home town, Osterbruch, was only 4-1/2 miles from Westercadewisch.

It well may have been that George's father, Carl August, grew up knowing Charles Klaus, since they were only three years apart in age, and probably attended the same school. Perhaps Carl had made prior arrangements, or at least had encouraged George to "look Charles up" when he arrived in New York.

In 1872, six years after he arrived, Charles Klaus married New York-born Anna Margaretta Welp (who went by her middle name). From what photographic and anecdotal evidence we have, the Welp family was already fairly prosperous, having arrived in America somewhat earlier; immigration records indicate her mother, Katrina Feltmann, arrived in New York about 1845, and married her father, August Welp, a tailor, in 1850, shortly before Margaretta was born.

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



Portrait of Edward August and Emma Adelaide Cordes, ca. 1900. Note the photographer's address – just up the street from the first Cordes Ice Cream Shop.

After he and Margaretta were married, Charles Klaus opened a confectionery shop at [105 Eighth Avenue](#), in what is now the Greenwich Village section of Manhattan. As was common in New York in those days, the proprietors often lived above their stores; sons Charles Henry (1875) and Frederick (1876), as well as daughter Emma Adelaide (1890) and son Edward August (1893) were all born above that store.

In her memoirs, Emma Adelaide Cordes recalls the confectionery business at that time:

*"All the candy and ice creams were made on the premises. Eight-ounce sodas were five cents and a large dish of ice cream was ten cents. A quart of ice cream was 30 cents. As I remember, there were only four flavors of ice cream: Vanilla, Chocolate, Strawberry and Lemon, plus Orange and Lemon Ices. Moxie was five cents a glass, and was as popular a drink then as Coca-Cola is now."*

Charles Klaus apparently took his profession, and his community, very seriously. He was active in the New York Confectioners' Guard, even serving as its president, and chairing its Golden Jubilee Celebration (more on that in a moment); as well as being a Freemason, and a member of the New York Protection Corps [an early version of what we know today as a neighborhood watch association].

Some time in the late 1890s, Charles Klaus, perhaps having outgrown his original store, opened a new location, at [87 Eighth Avenue](#), just a couple of doors down the street from the first (you can compare the two in [Appendix H](#)).

Emma, in her memoirs, recalled life at the second store at 87 Eighth Avenue:

*"We had a nice store there. It was a brick, 4-story house and we lived over the store. I remember a large kitchen where my mother did all the cooking, washing and ironing, too. We even boarded the help. The third floor was where the help slept. The second floor was rented out. When my grandfather (Augustus Welp) died [in 1902], my grandmother (Katrina or 'Catherine' Welp), being alone, came to live with us. The tenants had moved from the second floor, so we fixed that up for my Oma. As I grew up, I got my own bedroom in Oma's apartment."*

When George arrived in New York in 1902, the Cordes confectionery business was prospering. Charles Klaus was 52, already well-respected in the confectionery trade, and this provided a terrific opportunity for George to 'cut his teeth' in the confectionery business.



## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



Ex-Kapitän  
CHAS. CORDES  
Vorsitzender des Jubiläums-Comités  
("Chairman of the Anniversary Committee")

--from the program of the Confectioners' Guard Golden Jubilee



Charles K. Cordes, on right, with his Anniversary Committee.

### » Apprenticing with New York's "Head Confectioner"

After he saw the first edition of this narrative online, Bill Oelkers, who was working on an article for the May, 2019 newsletter of the German Genealogy Group of New York, made contact with us, and shared some excellent information. We'd known that Charles Klaus was very involved in the "New York Confectioner's Guard" [Guild], and that Charles chaired the group's 1912 Golden Jubilee Celebration committee, but until Bill contacted us, we weren't aware that Charles Klaus had also been *Kapitan* (president) of the group, from 1895 to 1897.

So when 15-year-old George Dreves, fresh off the boat from Germany, began working for Charles in 1902, was he aware he was apprenticing with the recent *Kapitan* of the Confectioner's Guard? Whether he knew it or not, it seems George had gotten himself into something of a high-stakes audition... in more ways than one, as we shall see.

Here are some excerpts from Bill's excellent article:

*Beginning in the mid 1850's, a group of mostly German ice cream, candy, and confectionery businesspeople began meeting informally. They talked over the daily events, how business was going and helped new arrivals from the "old country" find jobs and get established in the trade. One of the earliest functions of the group was to hold an annual shooting contest at Hamilton Park in New Jersey. When the Civil War began, the target practices were discontinued primarily because many young Germans already had enlisted and were serving in all-German units in the Union Army. Then, the group's meetings became a place to share news about the fallen.*

*As the group became more organized, under the leadership of William Arend, they selected the name New York Confectioner's Guard, effective December 12, 1862. Claus Henry Gruber was elected as first Kapitän (Captain) of the Guard. Soon after, shooting practice had resumed at Hamilton Park, since the Union Army was in great need of sharp shooters. They even hired an instructor, Shooting Master Hahn, to train sharp shooters. After the war, the yearly sharp shooting contests became an annual tradition, to find out who would be 'king of the sharp shooters'.*

Fast-forward 100 years: Arthur Frederick Dreves recalls his father talking about going to the "shooting club" on many occasions (by then, he says, they even had an indoor range in Manhattan). Apparently, George Dreves had done well on his 'audition'; he not only learned the trade, but, like his mentor, also went on to be active in the Confectioner's Guard.

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



Charles Klaus & Anna Margareta  
[Welp] Cordes, about the time of  
his retirement (1907)

But, back to Bill Oelker's story about the Guild...

*The Guard also hosted an annual grand ball for members and friends; it was both a social club and a political organization. It was typical of the numerous fraternal, benevolent and mutual aid societies that flourished in the area east of the Bowery and north of Division Street that became known as Little Germany, or Kleindeutschland.*

*Shortly after its founding, the Guard formed the United Confectioner's Association—a co-op that purchased supplies for the candy and ice cream businesses in bulk and passed the savings on to the members. (This group later became the Confectioner's Supply Company, in which George Dreves owned stock; see **Appendix M**). Meanwhile, the Guard's political arm was working to remove trade barriers. In the 1800s in New York, it was against the law to sell sweets, ice cream, or newspapers on Sundays. The Guard was instrumental in lobbying the state legislature in Albany, and succeeded in having the law rescinded.*

Some time around 1907, Charles Klaus decided to retire and move to an apartment on [Theriot Avenue](#) in Westchester (now known as the Bronx). The 1910 U.S. Census confirms that Emma (then 19) and brother Edward (then 17) moved with them. Eldest son Charles Henry, meanwhile, had married Caroline Reis and moved to 31 Chester St. in Brooklyn, but upon Charles Klaus' retirement, he came back to Manhattan to run his father's store.

Perhaps as a result of Charles Henry's decision to come back and run the Eighth Avenue store, George felt it was time to move on, and opened *his* first confectionery store around 1908 on [Hancock Street](#) with a partner, Fred Buck, in what were then the New York "suburbs" of Brooklyn. (The 1910 U.S. Census shows George's sister, Anna Johanna, living on Hancock Street as a housekeeper for butcher Christian Kronke, whom she would soon marry; this may have had something to do with the location of George's store.) However, the 1910 Census indicates George was still living as a lodger above the Cordes family's confectionery store on Eighth Avenue in Manhattan, and "commuting" to work at his store in Brooklyn.

George kept the Hancock Street store for about four years. Sometime early in 1912, he and Fred Buck sold the store, apparently at a profit, after which George quickly bought or started a second store at [1302 King's Highway](#), also in Brooklyn. Curiously, an exterior photo of the King's Highway store (**next page**) shows an awning over the doorway with the name "Cordes" on it. We know this was George's shop, so why was "Cordes" on the awning? Perhaps Charles Klaus was Pop's silent partner in that store, but insisted on keeping his name on the awning until Pop retired the \$22,000 note he obtained in order to acquire or start up at that location.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

**RIGHT:** Exterior view of the King's Highway store (on the corner); notice the unpaved street! Also notice the slightly beveled front facade of the building, which is still evident in modern photos of the location (**Appendix K**), despite the addition of a fourth floor and extensive exterior renovations.

**BELOW:** Enlargement of the same photo, showing the "Cordes" name on the doorway awning. Perhaps Charles Klaus was George's silent partner in that store, but insisted on keeping his name on the awning until George retired the \$22,000 note he obtained in order to purchase or start up that location.



**RIGHT:** Interior view of the King's Highway store; this appears to be a marketing photo, taken about the time of the store's opening in 1912. In the photo, (L-R): George Dreves, Sr., Ernest Diehl, Dick Peaters, Anna Burdewick, Gus Dreves, and Emma (Cordes) Dreves.





## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



Gus Dreves, Ernest Diehl and George Dreves just outside George's King's Highway store, ca. 1911. George has the extremely confident look of a budding entrepreneur.

### » Emma and George Strike a Spark

Emma Adelaide Cordes was still a school-girl when George arrived, but she didn't care for school. She went as far as the 8th grade, and recalled her father saying that if she did not finish high school, she would have to work in the store, which she did as a teenager – seven days a week, with Sunday afternoons off to go to Sunday School, and then church.

Around the time she turned 20 (1910), Emma took a job as an 'examiner' (what today we'd call a quality control officer) at the Herzoc & Hamer Dress Company factory in Manhattan, commuting from her family's Theriot Avenue home in the Bronx each day by rail.

One day, about 1911, Emma recalls, she was visiting her brother, Charles Henry, at his apartment above the Cordes Eighth Avenue store. George, who was apparently in the process of moving out of the Cordes household to his own place, above his new store in Brooklyn, happened to be there, and, perhaps sensing he might not have another opportunity to do so, asked Emma for a date:

*"[George] asked me to go out with him. On our first date, we went to the Grand Opera House on 23rd Street and 8th Avenue and saw the operetta 'May Time'..."*

The courtship began, blossomed quickly, and George and Emma were married in her father's home in the Bronx on June 5th, 1912. In her memoir, Emma recalls:

*"We were planning an October wedding, but we married early, in June, because [George's] brother Gus [Gustave Heinrich], who had been helping him in his store, had left, as had his sister, Emma [Emma Henriette], and her children, who had gone to join Emma's husband, John [Hess] in California. Because of this, [George] needed a housekeeper, so we married early. The wedding was at our house in the Bronx. My mother prepared a big dinner and just a few relatives were invited. We had no honeymoon; there was work to be done. My first ride in an automobile was going to my new home on King's Highway after the wedding..."*

Indeed, there was work to be done. Business was good, and life was busy for the young couple. On October 24th, 1914, their first child, Robert George, was born at home, in their apartment above the store at King's Highway. Carl Edward followed on August 20, 1916, as did George August Jr. on August 31, 1919. George and Emma's two youngest children, Arthur Frederick (November 2, 1923) and Dorothy Emma (March 23, 1925) were the first Dreves to be born outside of the home, at the nearby Prospect Heights Hospital.



George Dreves  
and Emma Cordes

Wedding photo  
June, 1912

# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY



George became U.S. Citizen in 1917, completing the immigration saga and establishing firm roots for the Dreves family in the United States of America.

naturalized U.S. citizen on June 12, 1917, and was excused from military service in World War I on August 21, 1917 “due to being a married man with wife & children dependent.”

### » George Spreads his Entrepreneurial Wings

In spite of the growing numbers of family members under his wing, George maintained a remarkable focus on his business. As we’ve already seen, he started his first confectionery shop when he was just 20 years of age; sold it, and started a second one before he was married. George seemed to have a knack for finding opportunity. It was probably no accident that he decided to go into business in booming Brooklyn, rather than staying in Manhattan. After all, this was *America*, about to enter the “Roaring 20s.”

In a business journal she kept for many years, beginning at the time of their marriage, Emma Adelaide recorded many of George’s business transactions (a summary is in **the table on the next page**). It chronicles the acquisition of at least six different confectionery businesses in various locations on Long Island ([King’s Highway](#), [Greenpoint](#), [Flatbush](#), [Richmond Hill](#), [Cedarhurst](#), [Little Neck](#)), as well as several pieces of residential and commercial real estate – some for use by George and his family; others, apparently, as investments. It also documents the issuance and carriage of mortgages, stocks and other notes for various parties, including the Lutheran Church of the Advent and the United Confectioners’ Association. (**On page 37 is a map** of the properties; Google street-views of these properties, today, can be found in **Appendix K**.)

In November of 1915, Charles Henry died suddenly at the age of 40, and one year later, in November of 1916, Charles Klaus passed away at age 66. Margaretta left the Bronx and moved to [Egg Harbor, New Jersey](#), to stay with her brother, Theodore Welp, who ran the Welp Family Fruit Farm (see postcard, **Appendix I**). Charles Henry’s widow, Carrie, and her three girls, Marie (14), Marge (10) and Bea (8) came to Brooklyn to live next door to George, Emma, and their growing family. Carl August (George’s father), by now in his late 60s, also came to live at George’s, after having stayed with Anna Maria and her husband, Fred (Burdewick) for several years.

Along the way, George August Dreves became a



Emma, George and infant Robert Dreves on an outing to Coney Island Amusement Park, 1914.

# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Business Transactions of George August Dreves | 1908 – 1929

Links in the first column take you to modern Google Street Views of each store's location (where they're known)

Property or Asset	Date	Amount	Down	Pmt.	Type of Transaction	Partner or Financier	Disposition	Profit (Loss)	
<a href="#">Confectionery business, Hancock Street, Brooklyn</a>	ca. 1908	unknown	–	–	–	Purchase, partnership [financing uncertain]	Fred Buck	Sold w/profit ca. early 1912	unknown
<a href="#">Confectionery business, 1302 King's Hwy@E.13th St., Bklyn.</a>	1/7/1912	\$ 22,000	–	–	–	Purchase; some equity [financing uncertain]	possibly Charles Cordes?	"Note retired 1/1920"	unknown
<a href="#">House, located at Avenue I at East 12th St., Bklyn.</a>	7/9/1919	\$ 33,500	\$ 5,500	ea.	Purchase w/mortgage (speculative?)	Fred Burdewick 50/50	Sold apx. 7/1921 \$ 41,000 cash	\$ 7,500	
<a href="#">Lutheran Church of the Advent Avenue P at East 12th St., Bklyn.</a>	ca. 1919	\$ 5,500	–	–	–	Mortgage note (loan)	–	–	–
	ca. 1919	\$ 700	–	–	–	2nd Mort on Parsonage	–	–	–
United Confectioners' Association	ca. 1919	\$ 500	–	–	–	Held stock in the U.C.A.	–	–	–
<a href="#">House, located at 1734 E. 13th St.. Brooklyn</a>	4/12/1920 NOTE: This is for family members.	\$ 10,500	\$ 3,500		Purchase w/mortgages 1st Mortgage (\$ 5,000) 2nd Mortgage (\$ 2,000)	Mrs. Reig (seller financed) Herman Hundemann	Sold 5/1923 for \$10,125	(-375)	
<a href="#">"T.N.F." Moving Picture House, Newkirk Av. (Av. E) &amp; 16th, Bklyn.</a>	10/1/1920	\$15,000	cash in full		Purchase of theater 1st Mortgage (\$ 9,000)	Tillie La Roache 50/50 Fred Burdewick	Sold apx. 3/1921 for \$18,000	\$ 3,000	
<a href="#">Confectionery business, 645 Manhattan Ave., Greenpoint</a>	4/5/1921	\$50,000	\$ 3,000	ea.	Purchase w/mortgage George & Fred carried the note	Fred Buck	Sold 4/4/1922 for apx. \$ 60,000	\$ 10,000	
Studebaker "Special 6" automobile	8/4/1921	\$ 1,700	cash in full		Also needed \$ 1,860 in repairs.		–	–	–
<a href="#">Confectionery business, 1124-26 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn</a>	6/7/1922	not known	\$ 6,000		Purchase w/mortgage Sale; rec'd \$5K cash, the rest in notes for another store in <a href="#">Cedarhurst</a> [disposition of interest in Cedarhurst store unknown]	Mr. Ahrens (seller financed)	Sold 10/28/1922	not known	
<a href="#">New house located at 1417 Ave. P., Brooklyn</a>	4/29/1923	\$ 19,500	\$ 7,000		1st Mortgage (\$ 8,500) 2nd Mortgage (\$ 4,000)	Title Guarantee Co. Fred Burdewick	Sold 5/18/1925	not known	
<a href="#">Confectionery business, 114th St. &amp; Jamaica Av., Richmond Hill</a>	11/24/1923	\$ 22,500	\$ 3,500	ea.	Purchase w/mortgage (passive investment?)	Herman Hundemann 50/50	not known	–	–
<a href="#">Bldg., store below w/apt. above, 253-24 Northern Blvd., Little Neck</a>	2/25/1925	\$ 30,000	\$ 5,000		Purchase of building containing new store	1st mort \$9K (Trust Co.) 2nd mort \$16K (F. Burdewick)	–	–	–
<a href="#">New confectionery business, 253-24 Northern Blvd., Little Neck</a>	6/24/1925	\$ 10,000			Loan: Start-up capital for new store	Fred Burdewick	–	–	–
4-car garage in back of new bldg.	5/1929	\$ 1,350	\$ 650		New construction	Work by Mr. Greb	–	–	–
Four residential building lots, Little Neck Hills subdivision	ca. 1927	\$ 4,200	cash in full		4 lots @ \$1,050 each	–	–	–	–





## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



The Dreves Kids in Brooklyn (clockwise from left): Carl, Robert, and George Jr., likely in front of the 1417 Avenue P house.



George's first car, a Studebaker "Special 6," loaded with family, on a road trip to see his sister, Emma (Dreves) Hess, in Poughkeepsie, NY.

In November, 1923 – about a year after the sale of the Flatbush store – two things happened: George and Emma's fourth son, Arthur Frederick was born; and George acquired yet another confectionery business, this one in the Richmond Hill area of Queens, at 114th Street and Jamaica Avenue – in what were then the "new suburbs" for a rapidly-growing city. The Richmond Hill shop was George's sixth, including Cedarhurst and the Hancock Street store in Brooklyn (the one not recorded in Emma's journal, but which she mentions in her memoirs). George was clearly enjoying "flipping" these ice cream stores, and was apparently making good money on these transactions, too.

Along the way, George was buying and selling houses, as well (see the second page of **Appendix K**). Shortly after the sale of the King's Highway store, he moved the family from the apartment above the shop to a house a half block away at 1734 East 13th Street. Three years later, George moved the family again, to 1417 Avenue P, only a few blocks away. It was here that they stayed until the move to Little Neck, in June of 1925.

### » Clarifications on "Pop's" Stores

In response to questions about exactly how many confectionery stores George Dreves, Sr. ("Pop") bought and sold, here is a clarification Rick wrote for family members in 2011:

*"Yes, six stores for sure, and possibly a seventh.*

*After Charles Klaus Cordes retired in 1907 and moved to the Bronx, his son (and Emma's brother), Charles Henry, came back to run his father's store on Eighth Avenue. Since Charles Klaus was truly Pop's "mentor," Pop may not have had the same allegiance to Charles Henry -- and beyond that, by then Pop had five years of "apprenticeship" under his belt -- so, being both smart and entrepreneurial, Pop probably was ready to venture out on his own.*

*So Pop, in partnership with Fred Buck, either bought or started the store on Hancock Avenue in Brooklyn, around 1908. We don't know exactly when he sold Hancock, because this happened before Emma ("Grammy") began keeping her journal of Pop's business transactions.*

*We know he had the King's Highway location before his June 5th, 1912 wedding, because, in Emma's [written] memoir, she says that "my first automobile ride was going to my new home on King's Highway after the wedding..."*



## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

### More about Pop's Business Partners

The chart on page 35 shows all of George Dreves, Sr.'s business transactions between 1919 and 1929. In the column titled "Partner or Financier," there were several people whose names kept coming up. We asked the "Dreves Kids" for clarification; here is what we learned from Dorothy Emma and Arthur Frederick:

*"Dot and I remember 'Uncle Hundemann', as we called him. [Herman Hundemann held a second mortgage on George's house at 1734 East 13th Street in Brooklyn; and later, was George's 50/50 partner on the purchase of the Jamaica Avenue confectionery store.] He was a good friend of Fred Burdewick [who helped finance many of George's acquisitions]. Whenever they came to Little Neck, Uncle Hundemann and Uncle Fred used to come over and visit with Mom and Pop [Emma and George]. He had money, too, and financed Pop on a couple of his stores."*

(See the **photo of Burdewick and Hundemann in George's Little Neck store**, on page 76.)

George, however, wasn't Fred Burdewick's only 'investment'; an ad in the Confectioners' Guild Jubilee program names Burdewick as the owner of a "Hotel Monopole" at 78 Eighth Avenue (corner 8th and 14th Street) in New York.

Because Burdewick was married to George's sister, Marie, there were family ties, as well as money to be made, as a result of George's, Fred's and Herman's association.

*Pop took on a \$22,000 note to acquire the King's Highway location. Because Emma's journal doesn't specifically identify the investor, it may well be that it was her father, Claus Cordes, who provided Pop with that financing, perhaps because he saw in Pop the entrepreneurial talent his own son may have lacked; and perhaps because he felt badly that he wasn't able to offer Pop the opportunity at his own Eighth Avenue store.*

*There is another mystery, too, surrounding Pop's interest in the ice cream store out in Cedarhurst, in eastern Brooklyn, which he acquired sometime in late 1922. Emma's journal says he sold the Flatbush Avenue store in October, 1922, receiving \$6,000 in cash and the rest in notes on the Cedarhurst store from a fellow named Louis Campagna. There is no further entry in the journal about whether Pop was actively or passively involved in the Cedarhurst store, but the deal must have gone well, because by the spring of 1923 (having presumably exited or knowing he was about to exit the Cedarhurst deal), Pop had put \$7,000 down on a new house at 1417 Avenue P in Brooklyn. This is the house, we believe, in front of which the photo [preceding page] of Carl, Bob and George, with George "smoking" a pipe, was taken.*

*What Pop was doing during most of 1923 (beyond welcoming Arthur Frederick Dreves to the world in November) is a bit of a mystery. He was either working on (or in) the Cedarhurst store; or was taking a "break from the action." According to Emma's journal, he owned no other confectionery store, other than his brief interest in Cedarhurst, between October, 1922 and November, 1923, when he bought the Jamaica Avenue store. But yes, he definitely had his hand in at least six or seven stores during the 1920s..."*

### » George and the Moving Picture House

Perhaps one of the more interesting investments George made was in a "moving picture house," or movie theater, in the fashionable Flatbush section of Brooklyn. Moving pictures were a new and hot item in those days, and instead, George apparently found the idea of owning a motion picture house to have a strong entrepreneurial appeal.

On October 1, 1920, George purchased the T.N.F. Theater [according to several sources found online, "T.N.F." stands for "The Newkirk Flatbush"]. George's partner in the \$15,000 investment was a woman named Tillie LaRoache. As was the case with many of George's investments, his brother-in-law, Fred Burdewick, provided additional financing.



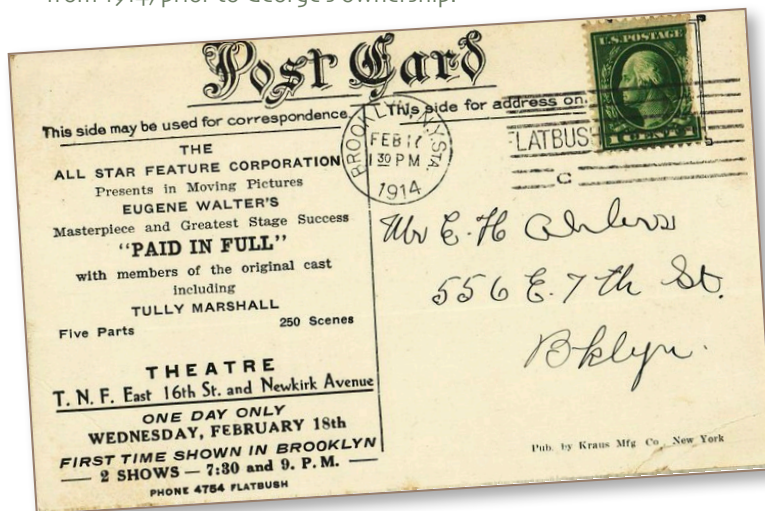
## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



THE "T. N. F." THEATER IN THE CENTRE OF ARISTOCRATIC FLATBUSH.

Exterior and interior views of the T.N.F. Theater, in which George Dreves was part-owner between October, 1920 and April, 1921, courtesy of the Brooklyn Theater Index.

Promotional postcard for the T.N.F. Theater, dating from 1914, prior to George's ownership.



INTERIOR "T. N. F." THEATER.

*Brighton Line, building much of its present right of way ... The last major addition was the opening of a new subway tunnel, August 1, 1920, under Flatbush Avenue, connecting the Brighton Line at Prospect Park with the 4th Avenue Subway at DeKalb Avenue, thus providing the Brighton Line with a connection to the Manhattan Bridge and Montague Street tunnel lines, and the Broadway (Manhattan) subway..."*

T.N.F. was located near the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company's Newkirk Avenue train station, a strategic location. According to the website [NYCsubway.org](http://NYCsubway.org), the BRT was instrumental in the construction of a new subway tunnel – the final piece of a rail link between Manhattan and the Brooklyn beaches – which opened for service on August 1, 1920,— *just 60 days before George bought the theater:*

*"Between 1905 and 1908, the BRT performed a major upgrade to the*

In fact, [NYCsubway.org](http://NYCsubway.org) says the Newkirk (now 'Plaza') station is still in use today:

*"Newkirk Plaza (East 16th Street between Newkirk and Foster Avenues) opened 8/23/1907. This station sits in the middle of an outdoor pedestrian mall.*

*The station was renovated in 1986, while the mall sidewalks were renovated in Spring 2004. A few of the stores along the mall have been in existence for nearly 90 years; one of them, a hardware store, pre-dates the opening of the current Brighton Line ... The station is four tracks along two island platforms, with a beautifully restored 1907 station-house..."*

According to [CinemaTreasures.org](http://CinemaTreasures.org), T.N.F. had 574 seats; in 1907, the theater building had been moved back one block from the station to make way for the lowering of the railroad grade. Still, it enjoyed excellent proximity to the rail station, listed as one of the few express stops between Brighton Beach and

# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

On Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 1920  
 Tillie LaRoache and  
 George bought mor-  
 ing picture house on  
 Newkirk Av. Bklyn.  
 (Ex 6<sup>th</sup> St.) "T. N. F." (name)  
 Paid \$15,000 cash Mrs.  
 Fred Burdwick holds  
 mortgage of \$9,000 to  
 be paid in about 1 1/2 yrs.  
 Sold picture house  
 for \$18,000 cash money  
 F. Burdwick receiving  
 his money in cash \$9,000  
 with interest.

A page from Emma Adelaide's business journal, which documents George's acquisition of the T.N.F. in October of 1920. Emma's other entries chronicle George's numerous business transactions, including the purchase and sale of at least 6 different confectionery businesses, as well as various pieces of residential and commercial real estate, mortgages, stocks and other notes.

Manhattan; it is reasonable to believe that figured into George's decision to get into the moving picture business at this particular location.

On pages 16 and 17 of his [autobiography](#), Joseph Gaus, a Flatbush resident born in 1901, recounts how he spent many days of his youth at the T.N.F. :

*"The first movie I ever went to was at the T.N.F. Theater. This stood for The New(kirk) Flatbush. [They] charged only ten cents, if my memory is correct. They had the "Perils of Pauline", where Pearl White was always hanging from a cliff or something else and then "Continued Next Week"! The suspense was terrible, but we never missed an episode if we could help it.*

*Before they depressed the tracks into the "cut," as it was known, T.N.F. had to be moved a block over to East 16th St. [Relocating a building] was quite a common occurrence in those days. Labor was cheap and plentiful and there was no traffic problem to speak of, as few people had automobiles at that point ..."*

During the early part of the 20th century, the motion picture theater business was in transition, trying to distance itself from its sometimes seedy, Vaudeville-era roots. In the book, *"The Transformation of Cinema,"* author Eileen Bowser specifically identifies T.N.F. as an example of how enterprising theater owners like George worked to develop a more polished image:

*"Automobiles, not yet in the possession of every family in America, were a sure sign of 'the better classes' . . . Automobiles were a mark of high-class customers if they parked in front of your theater. When the new T.N.F. Theater opened in 'aristocratic Flatbush,' it had to overcome neighborhood resistance in the exclusive Midwood residential section. Here, the owners offered claim-check parking for the automobiles, and this met with great success."*

Throughout his career, George demonstrated the entrepreneurial skills of a very observant and market-savvy businessman; not bad for a kid who grew up in a decidedly non-urban, agricultural area of northern Germany. In this instance, it would seem George's business calculation was to buy a hot property, and perhaps to find out if he liked the theater business any better than the confectionery trade.



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### THE BROOKLYN THEATRE INDEX - VOLUME I

## EAST 16TH STREET

### 597 East 16th Street

#### T.N.F. THEATRE

August 17, 1910-1923

Seating Capacity: 300

Proprietors: Benjamin Title and Henry F. Newberry

These were likely the original owners of the theater; George purchased his stake in the facility in 1920.

*The Moving Picture World*, September 17, 1910, described the T.N.F. as “a model picture house.” Its exterior “not over decorated” but “simple in its cream, gold and silver as possible” and “harmonizing with the surrounding green lawn.

“The interior is finished in varying shades of green with gold and silver trimming. The seating capacity is 300 and there are aisles running down each side, five feet in width. The ceiling is 25 feet high and has four large skylight ventilators. There are six electric fans placed on the side walls at regular intervals, and these with the ventilators keep the hall always filled with fresh pure air.

“There is a decided pitch to the floor and the seats are so arranged that every person has a full view of the screen. There is a pit at the foot of the screen, the same as the orchestra pit in a regular playhouse, surrounded by a brass rail from which was draped a heavy velvet curtain and in there is the piano as well as several hundred dollars worth of mechanical effects. On both sides of the screen are imitation boxes beautifully draped and filled with palms. The floor is heavily carpeted and exquisite clusters of electric lights throw the place into instant and brilliant illumination. There are six exits and they are equipped with exit bar locks usually seen only in the large playhouses where the fire law requires them.

“A dainty dressing room with every accessory is at one side for the ladies and there is another opposite for the men. Uniformed ushers are in attendance and refreshments such as ice cream and cake are served to patrons in their seats or in annexed parlor.”

In a reference book called *The Brooklyn Theatre Index*, authored by Cezar Del Valle (ISBN #0982772408) is a detailed description of “Pop’s Theater” which provides some interesting details about the place.

Whether he found it was not to his liking, or simply saw the opportunity to turn a quick profit, we do not know. George and Tillie did not keep the theater for long; Emma’s journal indicates they sold it not long after, with George pocketing a \$3,000 profit. While we don’t have a precise date for the sale of T.N.F., it seems more than a coincidence that the very next journal entry (April 5, 1921) lists a cash down payment of \$3,000 for George’s stake in a confectionery shop on Manhattan Avenue in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn.

The profit – and perhaps the decision to sell quickly – may have been indicative of the frenzied interest in “moving pictures” during this time period, which coincided with the release of D.W. Griffith’s *Dream Street*, the first short film featuring sound. (*The Jazz Singer*, with Al Jolson, was the first *full-length film* with sound, but that film didn’t appear until 1927).

What became of T.N.F.? According to the *Brooklyn Theatre Index*, by 1940, newer, bigger theaters only a few blocks away ultimately spelled the doom of T.N.F., was closed and demolished. (For a contemporary Google street-view photo of the theater site, as well as other images of period theaters in Brooklyn, see **Appendix L**.)

For most of his acquisitions, George tended to have different business partners. The only person with whom George had ‘repeat business’ was his brother-in-law, Fred Burdewick. To this point, Fred had provided capital for two of George’s residential purchases, as well as for the T.N.F. Theater.

According to Emma’s journal, George always made good on his financial dealings with Fred, and so it is not surprising that George and Fred struck yet another deal in February of 1925, this time to have Fred build a new confectionery store, in what were then the far suburbs of New York...



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

Form 1 *16 Benedict St*  
REGISTRATION CARD No. *252*

1 Name in full *William August Dreves* Age, in yrs *25*  
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address *633-25 8th Ave* *Brooklyn*  
(No.) (Street) (City)

3 Date of birth *January 14 1895*  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? *Natural Born*

5 Where were you born? *Brooklyn* *1895*  
(Town) (State) (Year)

6 If (1) or (2), of what country are you a citizen or subject? ☒ *German*

7 What trade, occupation, or profession? *Lawrence Prospector*

8 By whom employed? *Woodman*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? *Wife*

10 Married or single (which)? *Married* Race (specify which)? *Caucasian*

11 What military service have you had? Rank *Private 1st* branch *Marine*  
years *3-6 months* Nation or State *Brooklyn Navy Yard*

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *Support*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

*Wm A Dreves*  
(Signature or mark)

*1394* REGISTRAR'S REPORT *31-9-180-A*

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? *5-11"* Slender, medium, or stout (which)? *Medium*

2 Color of eyes? *Blue* Color of hair? *Brown* Build? ☒ *Well*

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? *Disabled Right*

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

*16/3* *Edward Shaffer*  
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct *283*

City or County *Queens*

State *New York*

*June 5, 17*  
(Date of registration)

The draft card of Gus Dreves' son, William.

## IX :: Snapshots of Dreves Family Progress in America

Before we move forward, let's back up just a bit, and thread together what the U.S. Census records from 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 tell us about the condition of the Dreves family in America. The Census Bureau's 10-year "snapshots" provide an interesting overview of how, for the most part, the family bettered their lives during the first third of the Twentieth Century:

### » The 1900 U.S. Census

- **Gus Dreves**, now 25, was married in 1894 to Meta "Mamie" Hein; born 1873; she, like Gus, had emigrated from Germany around 1891. They have a son, William August, born January, 1895; and daughter, Marie, born November, 1896. Gus and Mamie are living at 76 Myrtle Avenue in Brooklyn. His occupation is listed as *Peddler*. (It's worth noting that the census-taker recorded "Dreves" as "Deeves" and "Gustave" as "Agustave" -- the phonetic faux pas clearly indicates Gus was, by then, using "Dreves" -- not "Drewes" -- as his surname).
- **Marie Dreves**, now 24, is also living with Gus at 76 Myrtle Ave. in Brooklyn. Her occupation is listed as a housekeeper. (Again, the census-taker misspelled "Dreves" as "Deeves" and recorded "Marie" as "Mary.")
- **Emma Dreves**, now 20, is living at 633-25 8th Avenue in Manhattan, as a boarder in the Herman Lohman household. Her occupation is listed as "cashier".
- **Other Dreves family members** are still in Cadenberge.

### » The 1910 U.S. Census

- **Carl August**, now 64, is living with Marie and her husband, Fred Burdewick, at 122 8th Ave.
- **Gus**, now 35, is a grocery clerk, lodging – along with five others – in the home of Clara Ely and her two children at on West 129th Street. Gus is listed as a widower; Mamie had died in 1907, at age 34. William is now 15; Marie, 14; but there is no record of them being with Gus in 1910; he may have given them up, and/or they were put in foster homes. Contrary to what we had been told by family members (that William had died in infancy), we did find a draft registration card for William, dated June 5, 1917 (at left), which shows him married, living at 16 Benedict Street, and working as a fireman in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. He requested draft exemption due to a wrist injury, and to being sole family support.

# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY



The first Cordes home and confectionery store at 105 8th Avenue has long since been replaced by what was originally the New York Port Authority building. (The Port Authority is now located in 4 World Trade Center.) Ironically, the current occupant of the building is Google, the company that makes these modern-day street views possible!



The building that was the second Cordes home and confectionery store, at 87 8th Avenue, just one block south of the first store location, is now a much newer apartment building, in this 2019 Google Street View.

According to family sources, Gus' daughter, Marie, became a stage performer, marrying (and subsequently divorcing) John "Jack" Hunt, another performer, after having one son (Jack, Jr). We also found records indicating that Gus' Marie eventually married into the Harms family, and lived to be 94, passing in 1990.

- **Marie**, now 34, is now married to Fred Burdewick, and living at 122 Eighth Ave. They have two daughters, Anna, age 6, and Marie, age 4. Carl August, now 64, also is living with them.
- **Emma**, now 30, has married John Hess. They have a son, John, now 9, and an infant daughter, Dora. (While the Hess family does not appear in the 1910 Census, perhaps because they were en route to California at the time, this information is extrapolated from both the 1920 and 1930 U.S. Censuses, which found them back in Poughkeepsie, New York.)
- **Anna**, now 30, is boarding with Christian Kronke (a butcher) and Christian's sister, Emma, at 1333 Hancock Street in Brooklyn. (Anna would soon marry Christian and bear a son, Walter.) Her occupation is listed as a nurse.
- **George**, now 23, is a lodger in the Charles H. Cordes household at 87 Eighth Avenue, and is listed as a laborer in Charles' confectionery business. (George, of course, would soon marry Charles Henry's sister, Emma Adelaide, in 1912).
- **Dora**, who would have been 29 in 1910, never appears in a U.S. Census. However, her husband, Preben J. Peaters, a theatrical scenery artist, and their son, Carl (born 1904) are shown in the 1910 Census as living at 285 Monroe Street, North Bergen, New Jersey. If, as we strongly suspect, Dora emigrated with George August Dreves from Cadenberge (via Cuxhaven) and arrived in New York in 1902, she would have missed the 1900 Census.

*(NOTE: Neither Dora nor George appear in any passenger ship records, but we have multiple other sources which point to George's arrival in New York in the fall of 1902.)*

Presumably, Dora met Preben shortly after her arrival (Preben's brother, Dick, worked in George's King's Highway store; **see photo, page 33**). Dora is said to have married Preben ca. 1903; and had Carl in 1904. According to an oral history from Dorothy Emma ("Aunt Dot") in 2010, Dora contracted tuberculosis shortly after giving birth to Carl and was sent to Texas to recuperate, where she apparently passed away ca. 1909. (Preben later remarried, but remained in touch with the Dreves family 'til his death in 1959 at the age of 100.)

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



George Dreves, Sr., and Emma Cordes (Dreves) portraits, likely taken sometime in the 1930s.

### » The 1920 U.S. Census

- **Carl August**, 74, is now living with George, his wife, Emma, and their growing family in Brooklyn (more on that in a moment).
- **Gus**, now 45, is living at 1313 Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn, with a new wife, Anne, and her three children, Augusta (age 17) Lillian (age 11) and Frank (age 8), last name Oelerich. He is listed as a clerk in a confectionery store (quite possibly George's, as we know he worked for George for a time).
- **Marie**, now 44, and Fred Burdewick have moved to 69 Eighth Avenue with their teenage daughters, Anna, now 16, and Marie, age 14.
- **Emma**, now 40, and John Hess have left the city and moved to Poughkeepsie, NY with their son, John Jr. (19) and daughter Dora (11). (Perhaps Dora was named after Emma's sister?)
- **Anna**, now 40, has married Christian Kronke and has a son, Walter (age 7). They still live at 1333 Hancock Street in Brooklyn.
- **George**, now 33, has married Emma Cordes. They're living at 1734 East 13th Street in Brooklyn, around the corner from George's store King's Highway store. At this point they have three sons, Robert (6), Carl (4) & George (1). George's father, Carl August (now 74) is also living with them, along with a 65-year-old cousin, Wilhelmina Rasmussen.

### » The 1930 U.S. Census

- **Carl August** passed away in 1921 at the age of 75.
- **Gus**, who by now would be 55, is not listed in the 1930 Census; nor could we find any record of his two children; his second wife, Anne; nor of her three children from a prior marriage. Gus was known to have struggled with an alcohol addiction. According to Carl Edward, in his later years, Gus lived at the Salvation Army in Manhattan and drove a collection pick-up truck for the organization; it is presumed he died around 1929.
- **Marie**, now 54, and Fred Burdewick have moved to 43-16 Westmoreland Avenue in Little Neck, out on Long Island. Anna, now 26, has married Henry Hildebrandt, a confectionery salesman who came to the U.S. in 1922; the newlyweds still live with Marie and Fred. The Burdewick's younger daughter, Marie, is now 24, also married, and lives next door with her husband, Elmer Cornell, a bank cashier, and their one-year-old daughter, Margaret.



## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



**ABOVE:** Henry Hildebrandt was an avid student of George Dreves, and after working in George's Little Neck store, struck out on his own, setting up shop in suburban Williston Park, about 6 miles east of Little Neck. Henry, like George, put an emphasis on great location, good marketing, and great ice cream. This photo dates from the late 1940s.

**BELOW:** As of 2020, Hildebrandt's is still in operation, retaining Henry's iconic neon-lit sign. The store has been written up in the *New York Times* and has become a bonafide example of Americana in suburban Nassau County, New York.



- **Emma**, 50, and John Hess live on East Main Street in Poughkeepsie, with daughter Dora, now 21, and son, John Jr., who is now 29 and married. John Jr., his wife, Audrey (23), and one-year-old child, Shirley, all live in Emma and John's house.
- **Anna** is now 50, and her son, Walter, is now 17. According to Dorothy Emma, Christian Kronke, Anna's husband, who by then would have been 66, had badly cut himself in his butcher shop, developed blood poisoning, and passed away in 1922.
- **George**, now 43, has moved his family to Little Neck – what was then the “far suburbs” of New York, and opened his seventh confectionery store at 253-24 Northern Boulevard. They have four sons, Robert (16), Carl (14), George (11), Arthur (7) and a daughter, Dorothy (5).

### » The 1940 U.S. Census

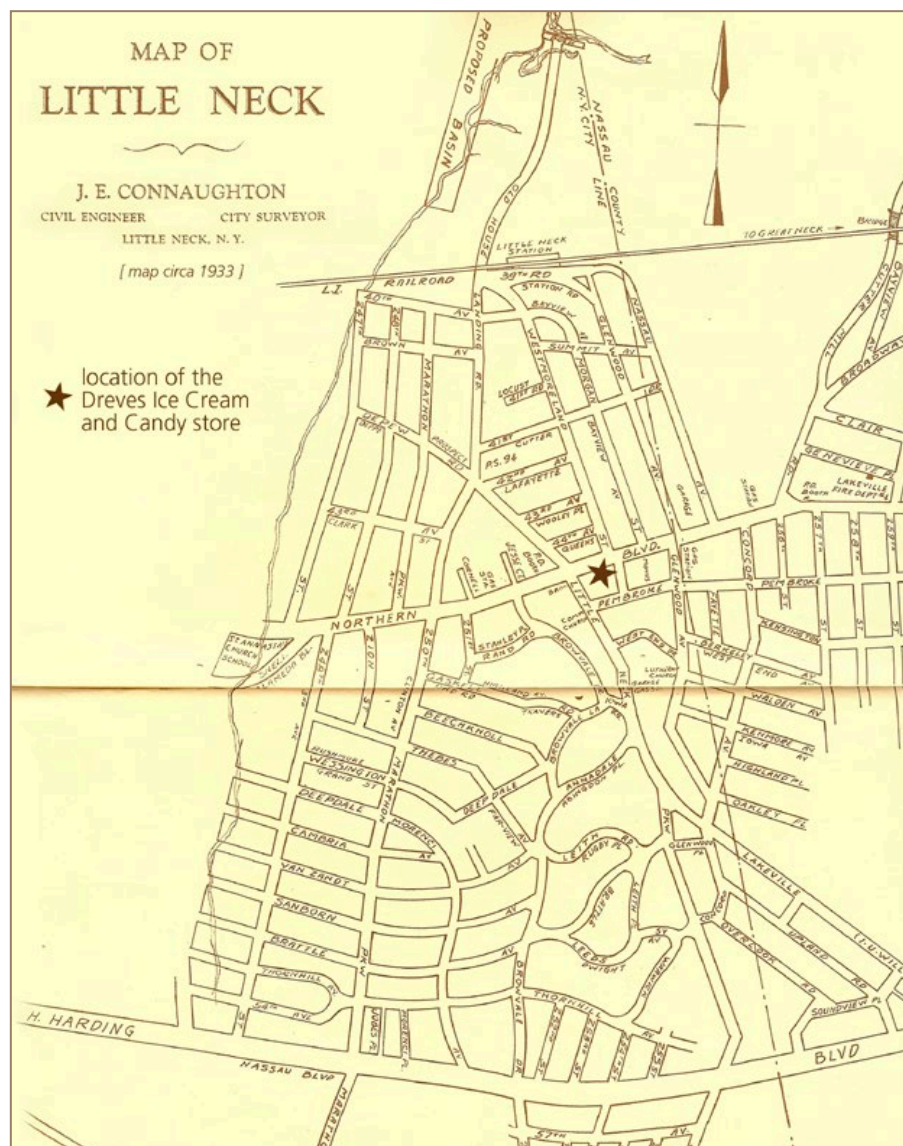
- **Marie**, now 64, and Fred Burdewick have moved to Williston Park, out on Long Island, near her daughter, Anna, now 36. Anna has married Henry Hildebrandt, a confectionery salesman who came to the U.S. in 1922; they had already moved to Williston Park, where Henry has established his own confectionery shop. The Burdewick's younger daughter, Marie, is now 34, also married, and lives with her husband, Elmer Cornell, a bank cashier, and their ten-year-old daughter, Margaret.
- **Emma**, now 60, and John Hess are still on East Main Street in Poughkeepsie, with their daughter, Dora, now 31, and son, John Jr., who is now 39 and married. John Jr., his wife, Audrey (33), and 11-year-old child, Shirley, all live nearby.
- **Anna** is now 60, and her son, Walter, is now 27. Walter is living with his mother in an apartment on Little Neck Parkway, and is beginning a career in finance in New York City.
- **George**, now 53, sold his confectionery store in Little Neck, after suffering a stroke in 1937. He and Emma have retired, and moved to a house on Van Nostrand Court, one block behind the Little Neck store. Two sons, George (21) and Arthur (17) and a daughter, Dorothy (15), are still at home. Robert (26) has married Emily Swan and is working for Sperry Gyroscope in Lake Success, on Long Island. Carl (24) has married Doris Booth and is working for the Standard Oil Company in New York City.

*NOTE: As of this writing (2020), U.S. Census records for 1950 and beyond have not yet been released for genealogical research; 72 years must pass before U.S. Census information can be released to the public.*

# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### X :: Little Neck



In 1925, an area that had caught George and Fred's attention was a small, recently rural, but growing and increasingly upscale community called Little Neck. Northern Boulevard (also known as State Route 25A), an early principal highway between the city and popular get-away places on Long Island's North Shore) bisected the village, and offered prime real estate, ready for development.

In fact, Fred Burdewick thought so much of the potential of this area that he had acquired several lots on Northern Boulevard, just east of Little Neck Parkway. The building he built for George's new store was just one of a series of units he constructed on that block. (Amazingly, they stood until 2010; see **Appendix N.**)

As had been the case with the King's Highway store, this building was designed to include upstairs living quarters for George, Emma and their (by now) five children. Dorothy Emma, the youngest, was born on March 23, 1925, in Brooklyn, just three months before the family moved into their new quarters in Little Neck.

In 1925, times were still good; Little Neck prospered, and George and Emma built their new business. There was always hired help, for whom Emma traditionally prepared dinner, as the prime hours for the Ice Cream store tended to be in the afternoon and late into the evening, until after the last show let out at the Little Neck movie theater, only a few doors down Northern Boulevard from the store (see map at left).

George and Emma's older children also worked in the store; Carl recalls a stout Dutchman who worked seasonally for George and, despite his imposing size, had the softest, smoothest hands because he was the 'chocolate expert' – the fellow who, from scratch, made all the highly decorated Christmas, Easter and other holiday treats. Other specialized tradesmen were hired in on occasion, especially around the holidays, when candy became a big part of the business.



## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY



Dorothy Emma and Arthur Frederick, taken on a family trip to the shore of Long Island, possibly near Little Neck (circa 1931)

George Jr. recalls that they had an early tube-type radio in the store:

*"The radio, of course, was downstairs, but we also ran a wire to a speaker upstairs in our living room, which had a knife switch on it, so we could cut the speaker in and out when we wanted to listen to the radio upstairs, too. We also liked to have the radio on late in the evening, down in the store. There was a music program on at that hour that we named "music to mop by," because it was always on about the time we were closing up for the evening and we always had to go down and mop down the floors before we could go to bed."*

Being near the "fashionable North Shore," the area around Little Neck had its share of celebrity residents. Carl recalls some of the biggest names in entertainment from those days would either stop by the store in the evenings, on their way home from performing on Broadway, or would place orders for delivery to their homes:

*"We had a delivery truck (seen on the cover of this narrative). I recall taking orders out to Eddie Kantor's place; he was a famous Broadway performer of the day. Of course, I never saw him – usually just his hired help. But I know we had a number of famous people among the store's customers."*

Fortunately, the Dreves Ice Cream and Candy business was well-established by the time the Roaring Twenties came to a close. George briefly dabbled in some speculative real estate ventures after arriving in Little Neck (investing in a few residential building lots in a new Little Neck subdivision, not long after the store opened), but the onset of the Great Depression in late 1929 signaled the end of George's frenetic entrepreneurial phase.

However, it didn't signal the end of his eye for a good business opportunity, and during much of the Depression, George supplemented the store's income by adding side-ventures, such as the rental of 'camp chairs' (folding, cloth-seat chairs) for parties and other social events of the well-to-do on the North Shore. (A reference to the camp chair business can be seen in a copy of the store's menu, which is shown in **Appendix O**).

Carl recounts being sent out, the morning after one such event, to collect the camp chairs and bring them back to the store. He arrived to find a substantial number of rather hung-over party-goers, some still sprawled across the chairs he needed to collect; he recalls finally getting all of them, but not without some interesting words with the hung-over patrons.



## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

### » Tales of Mischief and Fun

Stories of life in Little Neck have become well-known family lore, as George and Emma's children have enjoyed passing on those tales to younger generations of Dreves. By all accounts, Little Neck was a wonderful place to grow up – a growing, thriving area that was still sufficiently rural to give the "Dreves kids" plenty of room to explore and make mischief.



Dorothy Emma, George Jr., and Arthur Frederick, playing on a dirt pile behind the Little Neck store (circa 1934)

Arthur recalls clandestine 3 a.m. expeditions with Dorothy, sneaking downstairs, to the darkened store, to make ice cream sodas:

*"We were both so short that I had to boost up my sister so she could reach the soda fountain. I'd have to tell her what to do, but I couldn't see what she was doing – 'Hey, Dottie – first the syrup, then the ice cream...' – and then the local foot-patrol policeman, Mr. Shoemaker, would come by and shake on the doorknob, to be sure it was locked, and we'd have to duck down behind the counter, quickly, so we wouldn't be caught."*

*Dorothy adds: "Then we'd go over to the candy-counter side of the store to get the packs of gum that came with Cowboy and Indian cards, and we'd sneak back upstairs to our living room, hide behind the sofa, and he'd teach me how to blow bubbles with the gum."*

*Arthur also recalls another occasion, around Halloween, when "we snuck down to the store in the middle of the night to sneak some Black Cat licorice caps from the front display window. The display area was separated from the rest of the store by a big sash-style window. I'm reaching in to pluck some of those licorice caps off a glass pedestal in the display case when the window comes crashing down. We both skedaddled upstairs and jumped into bed as fast as we could!"*

Arthur also recollects sneaking into the store's cellar on afternoon during Prohibition to sample some of their father's home-made wine:

*"We had watched Pop siphon wine out of these barrels, which were up on a rack, into a gallon jug. We wanted to see if we could get the siphon to work for ourselves. Well, we did, but then we couldn't figure out how to turn it off – it didn't occur to us to just pull it out of the barrel – and we didn't want to spill the evidence on the floor, so we just kept passing the siphon hose back and forth between us. After about a half an hour our mother called us up for dinner, but by that point neither of us could*

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

*walk! We literally crawled up the stairs. Our mother told us to stand up; we tried to tell her we were pretending to be dogs, but that didn't work. We were snockered!"*

Being just a mile or so from Little Neck Bay, a part of Long Island Sound, the kids also contemplated adventures of a sea-going nature. Carl recalls the time he and his friends decided to rescue some old telephone poles from the phone company, in hopes of building a seaworthy raft:

*"We had to drag each of them a considerable distance to Little Neck Bay, then lash them together. We finally got all of the poles down to the bay, but ran out of daylight. We figured we'd resume work in the morning. Unfortunately, over night the tide came in and took them all out to sea. We wonder if the phone company ever missed all those poles..."*

George Jr., recounts the time Carl had to rescue him after he accidentally set fire to a pile of trimmed tree branches:

*"About the time this happened, they were widening a lot of the roads and cutting down large oak trees. They'd left a huge pile of trimmed branches, which had sat for quite some time, in a lot behind the store. One day I was being a fire-bug, like boys do, setting paper plates from the trash on fire. I was trying to toss the flaming plates over this wood pile, but sure enough, one landed right in the middle of the pile, where I couldn't get to it. But that didn't stop me from trying, and pretty soon I was stuck among all the tangled branches."*

Carl then picks up the story: *"I hear George yelling, and of course I couldn't let my little brother burn, so I had to race over and rescue him before he became toast!"*

Bob was active in their Lutheran church group, the Luther League, and one evening was helping a friend move an upright piano to another room in the church:

*"It was an old wooden floor, somewhat uneven, and we're pushing this piano as hard as we could but one of the wheels jammed and all of a sudden the piano starts to go over – so I race around the other side to try to catch it, which was a bad idea. It came crashing down on my foot and broke all five toes. That was about the most trouble I ever got into – I guess I was the saint of our bunch!"*



Dorothy Emma and Arthur Frederick, behind the store in Little Neck, showing off both their fancy Indian headgear and their newest four-wheeled invention (circa 1932)

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

### » Pop's Stroke

*In 1937, George Dreves, Sr. suffered a stroke that effectively eliminated his use of his left arm and hand. This made it difficult for George to continue the frenetic pace and workload required to operate the Little Neck store. According to Arthur, "Dot and I recall that Pop had his stroke when he was 50 years old. We lived over the store at that time and about a year or so later (i.e., 1938-39) he sold the store to Herman Meyer. After the sale, we all moved to 18 Van Nostrand Court, a block behind the store..."*



(L to R): Arthur, Dorothy, George Jr., Walter Kronke and Carl, ca. 1929

The 'Dreves kids' had plenty of other kids to play with in Little Neck, many of whom became life-long friends. One was **Richard ("Dick") Schmehl**, who "hung out" with all four of the Dreves Boys at one time or another. (Dick was introduced to, and eventually ended up marrying Nancy Johnson, the best childhood friend of Elsie Helen Meissner ("Elly"), who married Arthur Frederick Dreves).

Carl and Dick shared a love of aviation, and many years later, co-owned a biplane which they proudly refurbished and flew together for a time. Carl says they bought the plane, hoping to start a crop-dusting service (which never materialized).

Carl and Dick (and later, Arthur and Dick) also shared a love for the outdoors. It was as a result of Carl and Dick's search for a suitable place to start an outdoor boys' camp in New York's Adirondack Mountains that, instead, resulted in the discovery of the old Whitman Farm in Wells, the centerpiece of which was a 100-year-old log cabin, which became the Dreves Family's now-legendary getaway place for many years in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Walter Kronke** was also extremely close to all of the "Dreves Kids". Walter's father, Christian, was a butcher who married Anna Dreves (George Dreves Sr.'s sister).

After Christian's untimely death due to an accident in the butcher shop, Walter (who was only about 10 years old at the time of the accident, circa 1922) and Anna became very close to George and Emma and their family; Walter essentially became the sixth "Dreves Kid", spending much time in his youth with Bob, Carl, George, Arthur and Dorothy.

Christian's father, Henry (according to the U.S. Census, a laborer), was born in Germany in 1825 and married Catharine M. Krueger (born 1834) before emigrating to the U.S. in 1852, so all of their children were born in the States. Christian (born 1862) had a brother, Albert (born 1867), and sister, Emma (born 1873). On [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), descendants of Albert can be traced to the present day.

Walter served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and went on to a successful career, retiring as chief financial officer and treasurer for Consolidated Natural Gas in New York City. He died on February 20, 2011 at the age of 98.

*This narrative continues in **The Dreves Family: A Working History, Volume II: 1939–2019.***



*the Dreves Family*  
A WORKING HISTORY

# *Appendices*

# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix C-1

Passenger List from the S.S. Taorina, 1890, showing Gustav Dreves ('Drewes') [second to last line, right side]

**Verzeichniss**

der Personen, welche zur Auswanderung nach Amerika durch Unterschriften eingetragt sind, und mit dem Dampfschiffe Taorina abgehen werden.

Abgang des Schiffs am 17. November 1890

Nr.	Zuname	Vorname	Geburts- ort	Geburts- jahr	Häufiger Wohnort	Im Staat resp. in der Provinz	Häufiger Stand oder Beruf	Ziel der Auswanderung (ist mit Land be- zogen)	Dazu sind:		
									Erwachsene mit Kinder	Erwachsene ohne Kinder	Kind
1	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
2	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
3	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
4	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
5	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
6	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
7	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
8	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
9	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
10	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
11	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
12	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
13	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
14	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
15	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
16	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
17	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
18	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
19	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
20	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
21	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
22	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
23	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
24	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
25	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
26	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
27	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
28	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
29	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
30	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
31	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
32	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
33	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
34	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
35	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
36	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
37	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
38	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
39	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
40	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
41	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
42	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
43	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
44	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
45	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
46	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
47	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
48	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
49	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
50	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
51	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
52	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
53	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
54	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
55	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
56	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
57	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
58	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
59	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1
60	Thompson	Charles	11	1871	England	Arbeitler			1	0	1

**Recapitulation**

Conjunkte	54	43 37 3 3
Zwischenstück	33 10	52 46 3 3
	38 14	

Ich erkläre hierdurch an Eidesstatt, dass sich nach meiner gewissenhaften Untersuchung unter den obgeführten Verzeichnissen befinden, dass ich gewissenhaft Sorge getragen habe, um das Schiff nach Maasse der gesetzlichen Vorschriften, mit der vorgeschriebenen Quantität frischer Nahrungsmittel, Wasser und sonstiger Ausrüstung auf 60 Tage zu versorgen;

dass ich den Besatzung über die etwa an Bord befindlichen alten Ausrüstungsgegenstände wahrheitsgetreue und genaue Auskunft erteilt habe;

dass sich unter der Ladung des Schiffes keine Gegenstände befinden, deren Mitnahme nach § 34 des Gesetzes vom 11. Januar 1887, betreffend das Auswanderergesetz, verboten ist;

dass ich überhaupt den dem Expediten eines Auswandererschiffes nach diesem Gesetz und den auf Grund desselben erlassenen Verordnungen obliegenden Pflichten in allen Stücken gewissenhaft nachgekommen bin.

Hamburg, den 16. November 1890.

Unterzeichnet der Expedit: *Gustav Dreves*

PASSAGIER-EXPEDIT des  
Hamburg - Börsenverkehrs  
Gesellschafts

Statarchiv Hamburg, Auswandererlisten VIII A1 Band 69



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix C-2

Passenger List from the S.S. Dania, 1895, listing Marie Dreves ('Drewes') [line 25, right side]

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Die in diese Familie geborenen Personen sind hier einzeln zu verzeichnen und nach der Nummer in chronologischer Reihenfolge zu bezeichnen.										Die in diese Familie geborenen Personen sind hier einzeln zu verzeichnen und nach der Nummer in chronologischer Reihenfolge zu bezeichnen.									
Namen		Geburts- datum	Geburts- ort	Mütterlicher Vorname	In diese Fam. geb.	Ziel der Auswanderung (in und Land in angabe)	Zahl der Kinder im Jahr	Zahl der Kinder im Jahr	Zahl der Kinder im Jahr	Namen		Geburts- datum	Geburts- ort	Mütterlicher Vorname	In diese Fam. geb.	Ziel der Auswanderung (in und Land in angabe)	Zahl der Kinder im Jahr	Zahl der Kinder im Jahr	Zahl der Kinder im Jahr
1	Korn	1871	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	Wagner	1872	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	Wagner	1873	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	Wagner	1874	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	Wagner	1875	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6	Wagner	1876	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7	Wagner	1877	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8	Wagner	1878	17	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	Wagner	1879	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	Wagner	1880	19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11	Wagner	1881	20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12	Wagner	1882	21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
13	Wagner	1883	22	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14	Wagner	1884	23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
15	Wagner	1885	24	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16	Wagner	1886	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
17	Wagner	1887	26	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18	Wagner	1888	27	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19	Wagner	1889	28	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
20	Wagner	1890	29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
21	Wagner	1891	30	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
22	Wagner	1892	31	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
23	Wagner	1893	32	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
24	Wagner	1894	33	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
25	Wagner	1895	34	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
26	Wagner	1896	35	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
27	Wagner	1897	36	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
28	Wagner	1898	37	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
29	Wagner	1899	38	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
30	Wagner	1900	39	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
31	Wagner	1901	40	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
32	Wagner	1902	41	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
33	Wagner	1903	42	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
34	Wagner	1904	43	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
35	Wagner	1905	44	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
36	Wagner	1906	45	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
37	Wagner	1907	46	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
38	Wagner	1908	47	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
39	Wagner	1909	48	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
40	Wagner	1910	49	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
41	Wagner	1911	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
42	Wagner	1912	51	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
43	Wagner	1913	52	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
44	Wagner	1914	53	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
45	Wagner	1915	54	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
46	Wagner	1916	55	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
47	Wagner	1917	56	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
48	Wagner	1918	57	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
49	Wagner	1919	58	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
50	Wagner	1920	59	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
51	Wagner	1921	60	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
52	Wagner	1922	61	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
53	Wagner	1923	62	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
54	Wagner	1924	63	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
55	Wagner	1925	64	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
56	Wagner	1926	65	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
57	Wagner	1927	66	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
58	Wagner	1928	67	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
59	Wagner	1929	68	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
60	Wagner	1930	69	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
61	Wagner	1931	70	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
62	Wagner	1932	71	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
63	Wagner	1933	72	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
64	Wagner	1934	73	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
65	Wagner	1935	74	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
66	Wagner	1936	75	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
67	Wagner	1937	76	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
68	Wagner	1938	77	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
69	Wagner	1939	78	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
70	Wagner	1940	79	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
71	Wagner	1941	80	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
72	Wagner	1942	81	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
73	Wagner	1943	82	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
74	Wagner	1944	83	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
75	Wagner	1945	84	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
76	Wagner	1946	85	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
77	Wagner	1947	86	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1







# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix C-4

Passenger List from the S.S. Patricia, 1907, listing August and Annie Dreves (lines 21-22)

Form 200-A  
Statement of documents and other  
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

9 LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

S. S. Patricia sailing from Cuxhaven Sept 28th, 1907

No. on List	NAME IN FULL		Age	Sex	Marital or Single	Calling or Occupation	Able to— Read Write	Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	Race or People	Last Permanent Residence		The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came	Final Destination	
	Family Name	Given Name								Country	City or Town		State	City or Town
1	Brehmman	Vasoline	17	f		none	yes	yes	German	Germany	Waldau	Mother: Anna Brehmman	Ny	Ny
2	Luscher	Margaret	27	f										
3		Kathleen												
4	Mrs	Carl	59	f		mother								
5	Reiner	Emma	26	f		cook								
6	Glade	Georg	19	m		farmer								
7		Pauline	47	f		now								
8	Anton	Antonin	42	m		carriage								
9	Chancellor	Frieda	27	f		now								
10	Anderson	Louise	16	f		now								
11	Pietra	Kette	23	f		cook								
12	Lauritzen	Lusine	32	f		now								
13	Hahl	Anna	53	f										
14	Kelona	Olmy	27	f		now								
15	Ligda	Amalie	27	f		now								
16	Linnemann	Anna	25	f		now								
17		Lara	27	f										
18	George	Carl	47	m		now								
19	Nohr	Phanna	27	f		now								
20		Anna	27	f										
21	Stones	Kathleen	40	f		now								
22		Anna	27	f										
23	Fricka	Kathleen	40	f		now								
24	Kajepnik	Franklin	40	m		now								
25		Marie	27	f										
26		Pegina	27	f										
27	Berzowala	Alexandra	27	f		now								
28		Anna	27	f										
29	Sandkornala	Anna	27	f										
30	Duty	Clara	68	f										

830

Justification of showing occupation of tourists and aliens in transit, state in column 6 whether they are "tourists" or "in transit."

"Race or People" is to be determined by the stock from which aliens sprang and the language they speak. List of races will be found on back of this sheet.

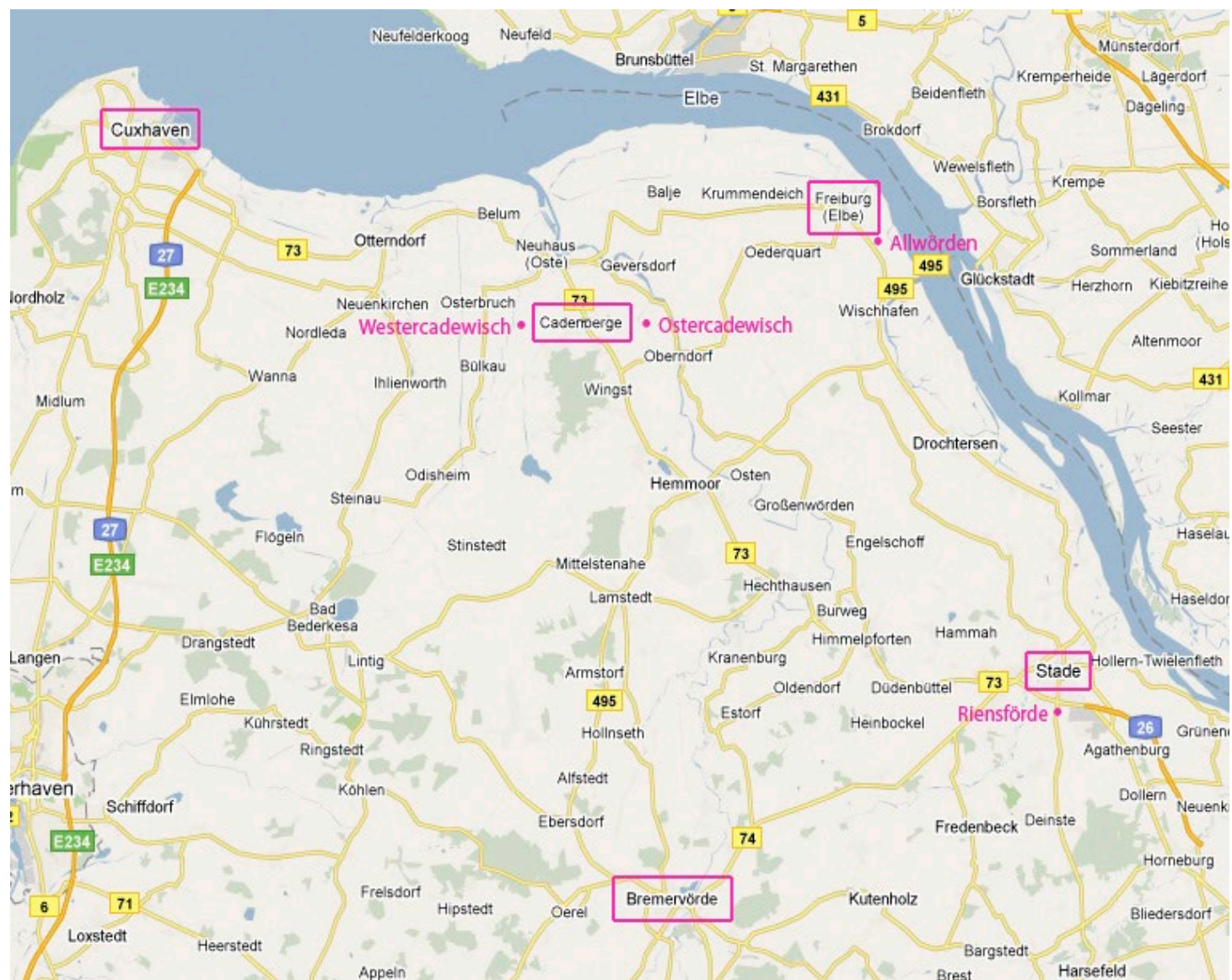


# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix D :: Towns related to the Michaelsen side of our ancestry

This map is a companion to the aerial photo-map on page 12. This is a wider view, showing towns related to the maternal side of the Dreves ancestry, as documented by Karl Michaelsen. See pages 8-10 for the accompanying narrative.





» Appendix E :: Cadenberge Today

photo sources: Google Earth and Panoramio.com



The Balksee Canal, which runs between Cadenberge and Westercadewisch, site of the ancestral Dreves family farm. Arthur Dreves specifically recalls his father, George August (Sr.), describing how, in the wintertime, he and his siblings and friends would ice-skate on this canal.



The Lutheran church in Cadenberge (left and above), likely where George August received his Certificate of Confirmation in 1901 (see page 21), the year before he emigrated to the United States.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix E (continued)



Today's Cadenberge International School, which, 100 years ago, likely served as the local public school; Dreves ancestors may well have attended this school, or one like it, in Cadenberge.

The Cadenberge rail station. Today this is part of a nationwide passenger rail system; in the 1870s, it may have been the way Dreves ancestors left Cadenberge for the port at Cuxhaven, 20 miles northwest, to depart via steamship for America.



Typical street scene in modern Cadenberge.





# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix F :: Ellis Island, New York



William H. Dreves  
The Benjamin Dretzin Family  
Amelia Linker Dreuth  
Henry Dreuth, Jr.  
John Dreuth  
Marie Christine Dreuth  
Anna Drevenak  
Michael Drevenak  
Susan Drevenak  
George August Dreves  
James Henry Dreves  
Amelia Drevisuki  
Eula Whitworth Drew  
Evangeline Mutimer Drew  
Gilbert Drew  
Isabella Sogren Drew  
James H. Drew, III  
James H. Drew, IV  
James H. Drew, Jr.  
Mary Ann Cooper Drew

**LEFT:** The Ellis Island National Monument in New York harbor today includes a wonderful memorial to all immigrants who passed through this facility between 1892 and 1924.

**ABOVE:** Parker and Harrison Dreves, during a 2004 visit to Ellis Island, pointing to the panel displaying the name of George August, Sr., their great-grandfather (see detail, above right). The inclusion of his name on the Immigrant Wall of Honor was arranged by his son, Robert George, and Robert's children, Janet and Don, during the Wall's initial planning in the late 1990s.

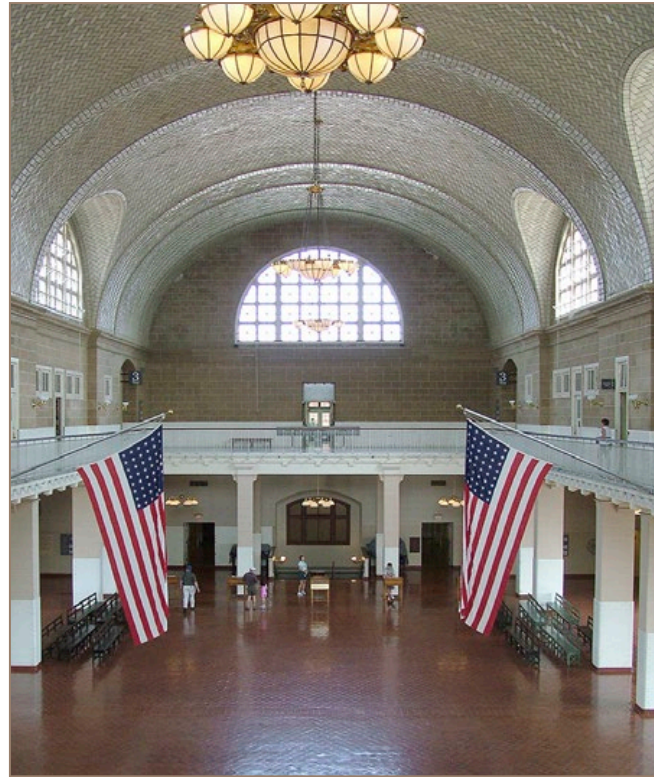


# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

(continued from previous page)

The main immigrant processing center at Ellis Island, as it looked around the time Carl August and Anna Johanna arrived in 1907 (below), and the same room, today (right), now a part of the Ellis Island immigrant museum and memorial.



**ABOVE:** One of the many graffiti-covered columns in and adjacent to the immigrant processing center, hand-drawn by newly-arrived immigrants as they waited to be cleared for entrance to the United States.



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix G :: The 1910 U.S. Census

... listing George August Dreves (line 38) as a lodger in the Cordes household, and also listing George's date of immigration as 1902.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR - BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 POPULATION

250 SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 157 SHEET 5  
ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 265-13 A  
WARD OF CITY  
NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE *Waltham Borough*  
ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE *1st* DAY OF *Feb* 1910 *Under Moses*

LINE	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	SATISFACTORY			OCCUPATION	EDUCATION	REMARKS
				1	2	3			
101	Waltham, William H.	head	M 40 55 100	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
102	Waltham, Mary E.	wife	F 40 55 100	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
103	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
104	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
105	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
106	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
107	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
108	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
109	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
110	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
111	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
112	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
113	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
114	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
115	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
116	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
117	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
118	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
119	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
120	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
121	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
122	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
123	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
124	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
125	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
126	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
127	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
128	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
129	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
130	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
131	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
132	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
133	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
134	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
135	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
136	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
137	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
138	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
139	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
140	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
141	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
142	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
143	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
144	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
145	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
146	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
147	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
148	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
149	Waltham, William H.	son	M 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	
150	Waltham, Mary E.	daughter	F 10 10 20	Eng. Long hair	Eng. English	Eng. English	none	none	



## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix H :: The Ice Cream Shops of Charles Klaus Cordes

**RIGHT:** Charles Klaus Cordes' first ice cream shop was at 105 Eighth Avenue, in what is now the Greenwich Village area of lower Manhattan. This photo, taken around 1890, shows Charles Klaus standing in front of his store.

Notice two children in the deep shadow of the doorway; one standing; the other, an infant, being held by an unseen adult. A third toddler is hiding next door. Emma Adelaide Cordes, who would later marry George August Dreves, was born in the apartment above this store. "Bringing the kids to work" was common practice.

**NEXT PAGE:** It was in Charles Klaus' second shop at 87 Eighth Avenue (next page) that George August Dreves got his first job in America, and his start in the confectionery business. In this photo, taken in the early 1900s, we see Margareta (Welp) Cordes standing on the right with young Edward August Cordes.

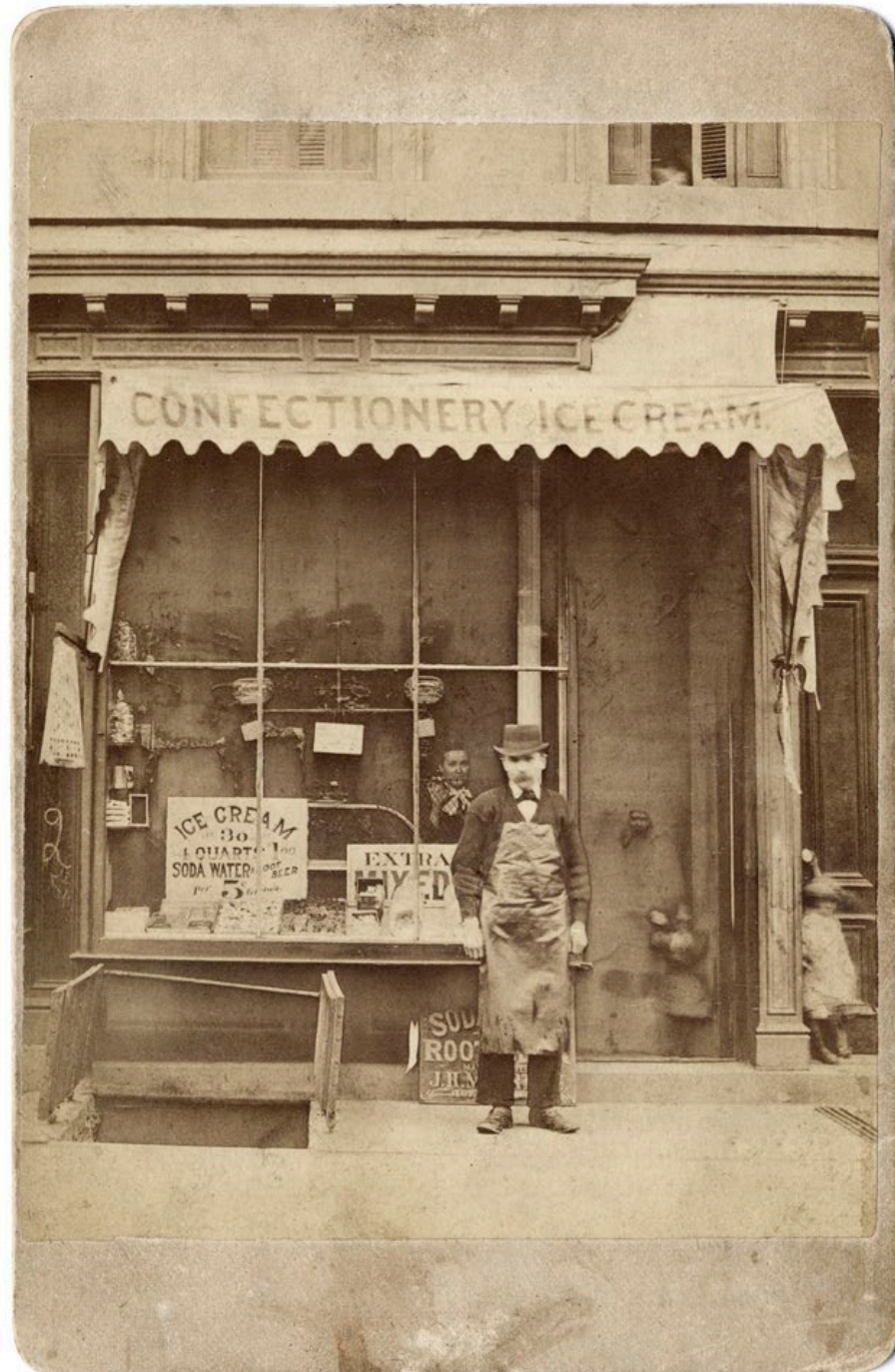
Extrapolating from 1900 U.S. Census data, that may be 29-year-old Charles Henry Cordes, Charles Klaus' eldest son, standing in the steps to the cellar.

In the doorway, we see a very young George August Dreves; the young lady next to him may be Emma Adelaide Cordes, but her head was moving when the photo was being taken, and thus is blurred.

Judging from her stature, the woman in the center of the picture with her hands crossed may be Katrina (Feltmann) Welp, Charles Klaus' mother-in-law (compare to the identified photo of Katrina on page 83).

The store must be new; the lettering for the words "ice cream," in the window, is not yet complete. Also notice the errant apostrophe in the name "Cordes." Apparently the sign-maker didn't understand possessive punctuation very well...

*To see what is on the site of each of these stores today, see the photos on page 44.*





*the Dreves Family*  
A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix H (continued)

Charles Klaus Cordes' second ice cream shop at 87 Eighth Avenue.

(Description at bottom of preceding page)





# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix I :: Life at the the Welp Fruit Farm, Egg Harbor, NJ

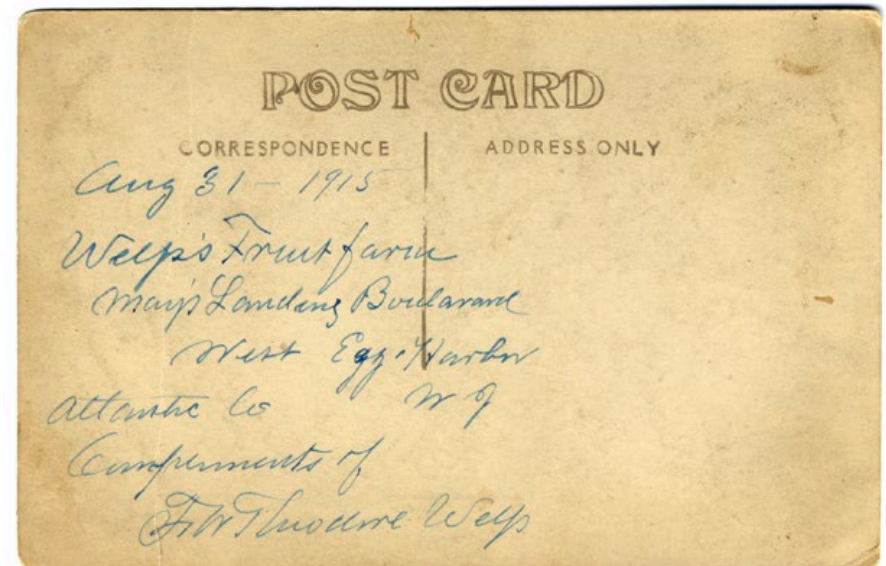


**LEFT and RIGHT:** Photos showing the Welp Fruit Farm, West Egg Harbor, NJ (1915). The photo on the right is the front of a postcard. It was here that Margaretta (Welp) Cordes went to live with her brother, Theodore, after Charles Klaus passed away in 1916.

**BELOW:** Theodore, Martin and Margaretta at the farm, after 1916. Margaretta stayed there until she passed in 1926.



See more Welp Fruit Farm and extended Welp family photos in Appendix Q.





# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix J :: The Breyer Family Connection

Form V. S. No. 1.-50M, 5-30-10.

1. PLACE OF DEATH.

County of \_\_\_\_\_

Township of \_\_\_\_\_

Borough of \_\_\_\_\_

City of \_\_\_\_\_

2. FULL NAME *Caroline Welp*

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

1. SEX *F*

4. COLOR OR RACE *W*

5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED *M*

6. DATE OF BIRTH *4 3 51*

7. AGE *60 4 5*

8. OCCUPATION *Neck*

9. BIRTHPLACE *Pa*

10. NAME OF FATHER *Rudolph Breyer*

11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER *Ger*

12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER *Caroline W. Feldman*

13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER *Ger*

4. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Informant *Martin Welp*

(Address) *313 Somerset St*

5. *M. Welp*

Filed \_\_\_\_\_ 1911

Local Registrar

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.

File No. *81137*

Registered No. *1353*

Primary Registration/District No. *313 Somerset St*

Ward. (If death occurred in a Hospital or institution, give the NAME, initial of street and number.)

16. DATE OF DEATH *8 8 1911*

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 1911, that I last saw him \_\_\_\_\_, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at \_\_\_\_\_ M. The CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows: *Cerebral apoplexy*

18. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents.)

At place of death \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds.

In the \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds.

Where was disease contracted, If not at place of death? \_\_\_\_\_

19. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL *Northwood*

20. UNDERTAKER *P. C. Feldman*

ADDRESS *307 Mc 4 Ave*

The service record of Lewis F. Breyer, whose sister, Caroline, married Emma C. Dreves' uncle, Theodore Welp. Lewis fought in the Civil War for the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

There is an interesting, if somewhat distant, connection between the Dreves family and another, albeit more well-known, family confectionery business:

Emma Cordes Dreves' uncle, Theodore Welp, married Caroline Breyer in 1879; however, they divorced sometime after 1900, but not before having four children: George August Welp; Martin Welp [1880]; Edward B. Welp; and Frederick W. Welp.

Caroline was born April, 1851 in Pennsylvania; and died August, 1911, in Philadelphia. Her son, Martin, was there on the day she passed (note his signature on her death certificate, at lower left).



She was a cousin of William A. Breyer, who founded the Breyer's Ice Cream Company and opened his first retail ice cream shop in 1882. (It was William's son, Henry, who, in 1908, incorporated the business and made it into a national ice cream brand). Most of the Breyer family lived in the Philadelphia area; the Welps had a fruit farm, run by Theodore, about 45 miles east of there, in Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

Interestingly, Caroline's brother, Lewis (born 1845) served with the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry during the U.S. Civil War. He served in Mulvany's (1862) and Murray's (1863) Independent Companies. He enlisted in September of 1862 as a Private; and was honorably discharged in August of 1863 as a Corporal.

(3-2-4)

NAME OF SOLDIER: *Breyer, Louis F.*

NAME OF DEPENDENT: *Widow, Minor*

SERVICE: *M 5 Pa. Cav. Murray's Indpt. Co. Pa. Mil. Cav.*

DATE OF FILING. *1859/mch. 6*

CLASS. *Invalid, Widow, Minor*

APPLICATION NO. *691949*

CERTIFICATE NO. *757112*

STATE FROM WHICH FILED. *Pa.*

ATTORNEY:

REMARKS: *Discharged 7-11*



# *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

## » Appendix K :: Google Street Views of George Dreves' business investments

These 2019 Google Street View images show many of properties in which George August Dreves had an interest or outright ownership during the 1920s, even if only for a short time.

Most of these are still the original buildings (with exterior updates), except for the Little Neck store, which stood until around 2010, when it was demolished and replaced.



**1302 King's Highway (Brooklyn)**

Store with upstairs living quarters, ca. 1911 -1920. It was here that Bob, Carl and George were born. Compare this with the original photos on page 33.



**1124-16 Flatbush Avenue (Brooklyn)**

Confectionery store, held for only a few months, June to October, 1922. George may have liked to "buy fix and 'flip' these stores.



**645 Manhattan Avenue, Greenpoint (Brooklyn)**

Confectionery store, held for about 12 months, between April, 1921 and April, 1922 (his store was in the 'calexico' space. Note that a Baskin-Robbins is now next door :)



**114th at Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill (Queens)**

Confectionery store, held jointly (ca. 1923-25) with Herman Hundemann. George had an eye for high-visibility retail locations, near rail lines, and on corners.



**253-24 Northern Boulevard, Little Neck (Queens)**

The store above which the 'Dreves Kids' grew up, from June, 1925 until 1943. This photo ca. 2009. *More photos, including what's on this site today, are in Appendix N.*



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix K (continued)

Additional contemporary Google Street-View photos (circa 2019) of properties in which George August Dreves had an interest or outright ownership at one time during the 1920s.

A map showing all of these locations can be found on page 37.



**Lutheran Church of the Advent, Avenue P at East 12th Street (Brooklyn)**

George held two notes for this church, ca. 1919.



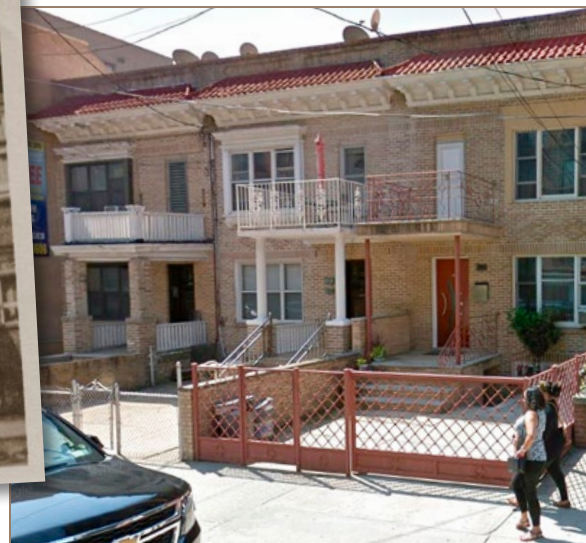
**Avenue I at East 12th Street (Brooklyn)**

Likely an investment property (no record of ever having lived there), purchased 50/50 with Fred Burdewick; sold for a \$7,500 profit in July, 1921.



**1734 East 13th Street (Brooklyn), 1920**

Around the corner from the King's Highway store, this was the family's home from April, 1920 to May, 1923. That's George's father, Carl August Dreves, standing on the balcony. He passed the following year.



**1734 East 13th Street (Brooklyn), 2020**

100 years later, the building at left is still standing, albeit with some modifications. In this photo, the folded red patio umbrella is on the same balcony where Carl August stands, 100 years earlier, at left.



**1417 Avenue P (Brooklyn)**

George bought this house in April, 1923, shortly after selling the King's Highway store, and lived here until selling it and moving to Little Neck in 1925.



## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix L :: George & Tillie's 'Moving Picture House'

As best we can tell, 'T.N.F.' (The Newkirk Flatbush) theater owned by George and Tillie LaRoache in 1920-21 was located near the Newkirk Avenue train station; they sold it for a \$3,000 profit, not bad for an investment held for about six months.



Here are three examples of Brooklyn theaters from the same period. Some of these movie houses began life as Vaudeville (live performance) venues, and were later converted to 'moving picture' theaters. The New Brighton Theater (left) was one such establishment. B.F. Keith's Greenpoint (center) was about two blocks up Manhattan Avenue from one of the several confectionery shops in which George had invested or owned during the 1910s and early 1920s. The Windsor employed a similar marketing strategy as the T.N.F. [note the fancy cars conspicuously parked out front]. Also note the strategically-placed candy store next door.



The Newkirk Avenue stop on the BRT (Brooklyn Rapid Transit) line, which likely played a strategic role in George's decision to buy T.N.F., is still in operation today. The tracks and platform (second photo) are below grade but open to the plaza above (third photo). It is said that building housing T.N.F. was actually moved back a half block from its original location, to 592 East 16th Avenue, when work began to lower the track grade around 1907. Today, T.N.F. is long gone (reportedly having been demolished around 1940), but this Google StreetView image (fourth photo) shows the site, one block behind the shops shown in the third photo; the site is now occupied by a neighborhood market. It is taken from the same angle as the photo on page 40.

# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY



## Appendix M :: Charles Cordes, George Dreves and their Stock Investments

Thanks to Dorothy Emma's careful preservation of historic family documents, we now know that, among their many other entrepreneurial traits, both George Dreves ("Pop"), and his mentor (and later, father-in-law) Charles Cordes were also investors in stocks.

Several investments were related to their profession -- the confectionery business. None of these particular investments ever produced a capital gain (though some may have yielded dividends), as they held the certificates beyond the lives of the respective companies.

Here is a summary of their investments, and their stock certificates:

### » CHARLES CORDES

#### CONFECTIONERS' MANUFACTURING COMPANY

2 certificates, 5 shares each; total 10 shares; face value \$100; total value at issuance: \$1000

According the State of New York, Department of State, Division of corporations and State Records, the Company was dissolved in March of 1926.

### » GEORGE A. DREVES, SR.

#### UNITED CONFECTIONERS' SUPPLY COMPANY

1 certificate for 20 shares; face value \$500.

This company was an outgrowth of the United Confectioners' Supply Association, a trade group that serviced the growing confectionery industry in the New York area.

According the State of New York, Department of State, Division of corporations and State Records, the Company was dissolved in December of 1938.

#### CARBO-FROST, INC.

2 certificates, for 10 and 25 shares, respectively; total 35 shares; no par value.

Carbo-Frost made machines that produced dry ice.

According the State of Delaware, Department of State, Division of Corporations, the Company (incorporated in July of 1929) was dissolved by consent in January of 1942.



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY



### FILMLAND PLAYERS, INC.

1 certificate, for 10 and 25 shares, respectively; total 35 shares; no par value.

This company was formed, apparently, to build and operate a chain of movie theaters. This description of one of their theaters is from the *Brooklyn Theatre Index, Vol. 1* by Cezar Del Valle: "Ground was broken yesterday for the erection of a new \$300,000 motion picture theatre...which will occupy a 100 foot frontage on Church Avenue, is the first of a chain of motion picture places to be built by the Filmland Players, Inc. The funds, according to E.T. Maul, secretary-treasurer of the company, were raised by popular subscription, the majority of the stockholders being Brooklynites..." (It is interesting to note that George purchased the Filmland Players stock in October, 1922, about a year-and-a-half after he sold his interest in The Newkirk Flatbush ("T.N.F.") theater on 16th Avenue in Brooklyn.)



### HEMRICH PACKING COMPANY, INC.

2 certificates for preferred stock, 10 and 40 shares, respectively; face value \$25 per share; total 50 shares; face value \$1,250; (2) certificates for common stock, 5 and 20 shares, respectively; no par value; total 25 shares.

According to the [National Park Service website](#), the Hemrich Packing Company operated clam and salmon canning operations at Kukak Bay, Alaska.

Hemrich Packing Company (incorporated in September of 1921) became inoperative in April of 1930 and dissolved for non-payment of taxes in January of 1931.



### DURANT MOTORS, INC.

1 certificate for 5 shares; no par value.

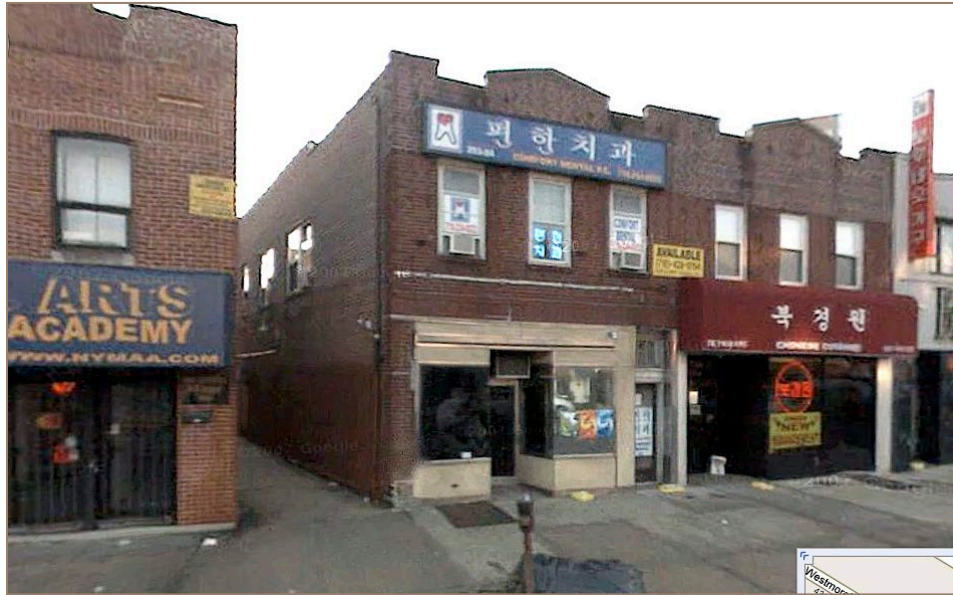
According to [Scripophily.net](#), "The Company was founded by William C. Durant, (1861-1947), the founder of General Motors Corporation. Durant began his career with a horse-drawn carriage company in 1886 and took over Buick in 1904, forming the General Motors (GM) Company in 1908. He lost control in 1910 to Chevrolet but regained ownership in 1915. He was forced out for good in 1920 and founded his own company, Durant Motors, Inc., in 1921."

Durant Motors (incorporated in April of 1921) became inoperative in April of 1934 and dissolved for non-payment of taxes in January of 1935.

# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

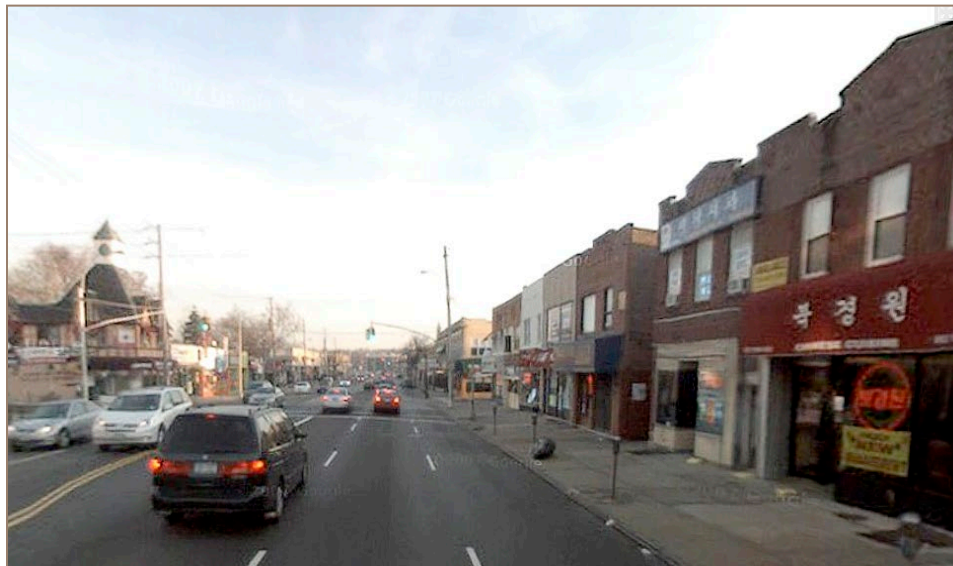
### » Appendix N :: The Store at Little Neck



Built for George and Emma by George's brother-in-law, Fred Burdewick, the building that housed the Dreves Ice Cream and Candy store (left) was just one of a series of units Fred constructed along Northern Boulevard in Little Neck. In these Google Street-Views from 2009 (left and lower left), you can clearly see the similar architecture and upper façades that distinguish the "Burdewick buildings" from the rest of Northern Boulevard's retail establishments. (The Dreves shop is the one with the tan paint flanking the windows.)

According to Arthur Frederick and Dorothy Emma, the address of the Little Neck store was 253-24 Northern Boulevard. Arthur recalls, "the address I remember, because our telephone number at the store was Bayside 9-2534 (229-2534)." (Bayside was a nearby town; in those days, telephone numbers were clustered in "exchanges" that frequently began with the first two letters of a nearby locality or other common name to distinguish them.)

By 2012, however, the Burdewick buildings had been completely replaced by a new structure, home to an Italian restaurant, "Il Bacco" (below; this Google Street View is from 2019). While it is sad to know the original store no longer exists, it is good to see that Little Neck is experiencing something of a real estate renaissance, and is apparently still a desirable place to have a business.



» continued, next page



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix N (continued)

**RIGHT:** George Dreves, Sr's son, Arthur Frederick, standing at the front of the alleyway between the buildings; he is standing roughly where the parking meter is visible in today's photo (see preceding page).

**BELOW:** The photo at left shows Arthur and George Jr. standing directly in front of the store. The building was essentially brand-new when this photo was taken.

**FAR RIGHT:** George Dreves, Sr., circa 1920, outside his Kings Highway (Brooklyn) store with "Zero", the family's adopted dog, so named because that was the outside temperature on the day they found him.





# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### *Appendix N (continued)*

Beatrice Claire Cordes (later Lorenzen), George Sr., and infant Dorothy Emma in front of the Northern Blvd. store, ca. 1926



George Dreves, Sr., in front of the Little Neck store with Dorothy, ca. 1927.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix N (continued)



Henry Hildebrandt with Arthur Dreves, in back of the then-new Little Neck Store, ca. 1925. After apprenticing with George Dreves, Sr., Henry would go on to open his own successful confectionery business around 1935 in Williston Park, NY, which, to this day, still operates under his name.



Arthur, Dorothy and George Jr., in the back yard behind the Little Neck store (notice the rear of the Dreves family sedan in the garage), ca 1928.



Here, Henry Hildebrandt and his wife, Anna (Burdewick; Fred's daughter) are enjoying the sights in Atlantic City, New Jersey. This was taken in April, 1937, shortly after Henry opened his own confectionery business (see more on page 46).

No doubt it took some courage to ask your mentor's financier for the hand of his daughter in marriage!

Can't help but wonder if Fred also financed Henry's foray into entrepreneurship...?



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY



### *Appendix N (continued)*

**ABOVE:** Two views of the inside of the Little Neck store from opposite angles, ca. 1925:

**Left:** Behind the counter at lower left are (L to R) Louis Lohmann, Richard Buck, Paul Lorenzen and George Dreves, Sr.

**Right:** Enjoying a seltzer water in the luncheonette area at the rear of the Little Neck store are George August (Sr.)'s business partners, Fred Burdewick (left), and Herman C. Hundemann. Individually or together, these gentlemen invested in many of George August (Sr.)'s ventures.

**AT LEFT:** Marie (Dreves) Burdewick, Fred's wife, and George's sister; thus, George's brother-in-law was also his financier. This photo was taken in 1938, when Marie was 62.

**AT RIGHT:** The Dreves delivery truck, with Dorothy Emma in the cab and Arthur Frederick walking in the foreground.



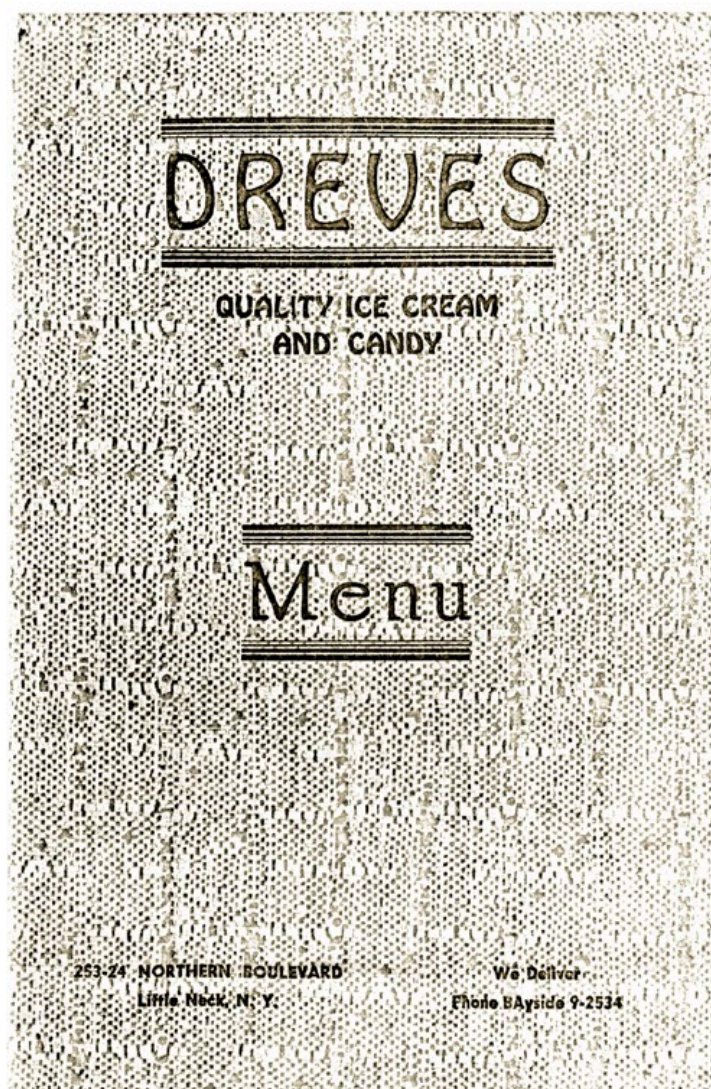


# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix O :: The Dreves Store Menu

This was the Dreves Ice Cream and Candy Store luncheonette menu, circa 1930s.



#### HEINZ HOMESTYLE SOUPS

10 Delicious Varieties — Served at all hours  
LARGE BOWL — 15c

#### SANDWICHES

Ham	.15	Deviled Egg	.15
Ham and Tomato	.20	Chopped Egg	.15
Minced Ham	.15	Chicken Salad	.20
Swiss Cheese	.15	Chicken Salad and Tomato	.25
Swiss Cheese and Tomato	.20	Sliced Chicken	.25
American Cheese	.15	Sliced Chicken and Bacon	.30
American Cheese and Tomato	.20	Sliced Tongue	.25
Cream Cheese	.15	Sliced Tongue & Swiss Cheese	.35
Cream Cheese and Jelly	.15	Deviled Smithfield Ham	.15
Cream Cheese and Nuts	.15	Deviled Smithfield Ham and	
Cream Cheese and Olives	.20	Grilled Cheese	.25
Fried Egg	.15	Deviled Smith. Ham, Peanut	
Fried Ham and Egg	.20	Butter and Jelly	.20
Fried Bacon and Egg	.20	Deviled Smithfield Ham and	
Grilled Cheese	.15	Tomato	.20
Grilled Cheese and Bacon	.20	Peanut Butter	.15
Tomato and Lettuce	.15	Peanut Butter and Bacon	.20
Bacon and Tomato	.20	Peanut Butter and Jelly	.25
Ham and Swiss Cheese	.20	Sardine	.20
Western	.25	Sardine and Tomato	.25
Sliced Egg	.15	Tuna Fish	.25
Sliced Egg and Bacon	.20	Tuna Fish and Tomato	.25
Sliced Egg and Tomato	.20	Liverwurst	.10
Cinnamon Toast	.10	Buttered Toast	.10

Lettuce and Mayonnaise on all Sandwiches

#### SPECIAL CLUB SANDWICHES

1. Cream Cheese, Jelly, Walnuts, Peanut Butter, and Lettuce	.30
2. Chicken, Salad, Tomato, Crisp Lettuce and Mayonnaise	.25
3. Sliced Egg, Bacon, Tomato, Crisp Lettuce, and Mayonnaise	.35
4. Sliced Chicken, Bacon, Tomato, Lettuce and Mayonnaise	.45
5. Ham, Swiss Cheese, Tomato, Lettuce and Mayonnaise	.35

3 Slices of toast on all Club Sandwiches

#### BEVERAGES

Coffee	.10	Hot Chocolate	.15
(with sandwich)	.05	Hot Broth	.10
Pot of Tea	.10	Milk	.10
Hot Milk	.10	Iced Tea	.10
Hot Malted Milk	.20	Iced Coffee	.10

#### DESSERT

Plain Cake	.10	Cup Cakes	.05
Raisin Cake	.10	Pie	.10

Pie a la mode .25

Any one of our Delicious Sundaes will make a Tasty Dessert  
Eat more Ice Cream — It tastes so good — Is so good for you



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix O, continued :: The Dreves Store Menu, circa 1930s

Note the "Camp Chairs" sideline business, promoted at the bottom of the menu.

### WE MAKE OUR OWN ICE CREAM

For Your Selection See Our Flavor List

#### SUNDAES AND SPECIALTIES

Banana Split	.25	Hot Fudge Marshmallow	.20
Banana Royal	.30	Hot Fudge Fudge	.25
Broadway Flip	.20	Marshmallow Sundae	.20
Chop Suey Sundae	.25	Mexican Sundae	.25
Chocolate Sprinkle	.20	Nabisco Sundae	.25
Dusty Sundae	.20	Parfait (any flavor)	.25
Forbidden Fruit	.25	Peach Melba	.25
Fruit Salad	.25	Pecan Sundae	.25
Hot Caramel Sundae	.20	Pineapple Temptation	.25
Hot Fudge Sundae	.20	Walnut Sundae	.25

Sundaes with Whipped Cream 20c

Individual Order of Ice Cream 15c

Plain Sundaes 15c 20

#### DREVES' DELICIOUS ICE CREAM SODAS 20c

Chocolate - Vanilla - Strawberry - Lemon - Pineapple

Cherry - Root Beer - Broadway - Coffee

Chocolate Mint - Tutti Frutti

French Soda .25

#### MILK DRINKS

Frosted Milk Shakes	.15	Egg Malted Mix	.25
Double Frosted	.20	Floats	.15
Malted Milk	.15	Frosted Floats	.20
Frosted Malted Milk	.20	Malted Floats	.20
Milk Shakes	.15		

#### COLD DRINKS AND ADES

Fresh Fruit Lemonade	.15	Coca Cola	.10
Fresh Fruit Orangeade	.15	Root Beer	.10
with Orange Ice	.15	Lemon and Lime	.10
Fresh Fruit Orange Freeze	.15	Ginger Ale	.10
Grapejuice Orangeade	.20	Cherry Smash	.10
Grapejuice Lemonade	.20	Heinz Tomato Juice	.10

#### CAMP CHAIRS TO HIRE

Sandwiches and Beverages put up to take to home or office.  
Make a selection of our individual Ice Cream Forms for  
your next dinner or party.

### WE MAKE OUR OWN ICE CREAM

TASTE ITS GOODNESS IN OUR REFRESHING SODAS AND SUNDAES

OR TAKE SOME ALONG HOME WITH YOU.

**CANDY IS DELICIOUS FOOD**  
ENJOY SOME EVERY DAY

A FULL ASSORTMENT OF DELICIOUS  
HOME MADE CANDIES

ONLY THE PUREST INGREDIENTS ARE USED IN THE  
MANUFACTURE OF OUR PRODUCTS



Phone Bayside 9-2534 for Delivery Service



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix P :: The early adult life of Emma Adelaide Cordes

Here are some early photos, providing a glimpse into the teenage and early adult years of Emma's life...

City of New York.  
No. of Certificate, 31825  
STATE OF NEW YORK.  
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF BIRTH  
of  
Emma Adelaide Cordes.  
31825  
Signature, Dr. G. Francenstein  
Residence, 389 W. 15th St.  
DATE OF REPORT, Oct. 28, 1900  
Name and address of person making this report.

DEPT. OF VITAL STATISTICS  
RECEIVED AND RECORDED  
OCT 28 1900  
NEW YORK

Name	Emma Adelaide Cordes
Sex	Female
Color	Wh.
Date of Birth	Oct. 21, 90.
Place of Birth	105, 8th Ave.
Father's Name	Clara Cordes
Residence	105, 8th Ave.
Birthplace	Germany.
Age	41 years.
Occupation	Confectioner.
Mother's Name	Anna Margarethe
Mother's Name before Marriage	Welp.
Residence	105, 8th Ave.
Birthplace	New York City.
Age	40 years.
Number of previous Children	2.
How many now living (in all)	3.
Date of Record	Oct. 28, 1900.

NO DUPLICATED CERTIFICATE WILL BE RECEIVED.

Emma's birth certificate. Her father was 41 at the time of her birth; her mother, as indicated on this certificate, was 40!



« Emma Adelaide Cordes, ca. 1908 (age 18). Unlike her brothers and cousin, she lived a full and healthy life, passing in 1987 at the age of 97.

### » Emma's BFF

In Emma's memoir, she writes at some length about things she did with her "best friend, Katy Barnable." Turns out Katy, whose family emigrated from Ireland, lived with her family on West 26th Street, about 10 blocks north of Emma. Katy was the same age as Emma, and likely her classmate in school. Over the years, the two had many adventures together.



Katie and Emma (location unknown, but somewhat industrial in appearance). They seem over-dressed for the venue, but perhaps wanted an "edgy" location to set off the outfits they were modeling for the camera...?



## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

**RIGHT:** This photo, which Emma captioned "Boat Ride, 1909," doesn't identify her ship-mate, nor where this apparent day-trip took them, though it may simply have been a sightseeing voyage around the island of Manhattan.

*Appendix P (continued)*



Emma, 1911, visiting the Lutheran Cemetery (a customary family activity, back in the day!) with Christine Zinn, who, in 1918, would marry Emma's brother, Edward August Cordes.



**LEFT, and ABOVE:** Two more dramatic venues for what appear to be "staged" fashion-style photos; in these examples, on the waterfront. Both of these photos are labeled with a date of 1913; by then, of course, Emma was married to George Dreves. Perhaps George took these as mementos of a grand day out with his new bride...?



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix P (continued)



Photography was, by the early part of the 20th Century, available to, and affordable for the masses. George and Emma apparently enjoyed posing for each other, in this case during a walk in the park in 1912.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix P (continued)



Emma and George at the Coney Island Amusement Park, ca. 1913.

Emma and George's marriage certificate, issued by the church where they were wed on June 5th, 1912.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix Q :: The Extended Dreves, Cordes and Welp Families

Early photos of folks in Emma and George's ancestral families  
(Cordes, on Emma's paternal site; Welp, on her maternal side).



The children of Martin Welp, the uncle of Emma Adelaide Cordes, ca. 1898. Elsie, at left, and Richard. Richard also died young, at age 16, in 1908.



**ABOVE:** Elsie Welp, Anna (Welp) Cordes, and Elsie's father (also Anna's brother), Martin Welp, at the Welp Fruit Farm in Egg Harbor, New Jersey, ca 1912. Of Martin's three children, Elsie was the only one who survived to adulthood.



**ABOVE:** Katrina (Feltmann) Welp, mother of Martin, Theodore and Anna Welp, and maternal grandmother of Emma Adelaide (Cordes) Dreves. She was born in 1820, and passed in 1915. This photo was taken in 1914, when she was 94, in front of Charles Klaus Cordes' home on Theriot Avenue in the Bronx.



**LEFT:** Albina (Jamison) Welp and father-in-law Theodore Welp, also at the Welp Fruit Farm, ca 1913. Albina married Theodore's son, George.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix Q (continued)

**RIGHT:** Caroline "Carrie" (Reis) Cordes (mother of "Aunt Bea", "Aunt Marge" and "Aunt Marie") pays a visit to Emma at George's confectionery store on Kings Highway in Brooklyn. Emma was always close to Carrie, who was married to Charlie Cordes (in photo at right), and was widowed at age 33 in 1916, after just 15 years of marriage. This photo is ca. 1917.

**BELOW:** Caroline "Carrie" (Reis) Cordes and Charlie Cordes (both labeled); others unknown; at an outing in Monticello, New York, where the Cordes family went periodically, to get away from the hustle and bustle of New York City.



Photo labeled "Mama and Charlie Cordes, 1915" (mother and son), taken in Monticello, New York, about 90 miles northwest of New York City, where the Cordes family liked to go for a respite from the city. Charlie would pass later that year, at age 40; "Mama" (Margaretta [Welp] Cordes) would be widowed a year later (1916), but would survive until 1926 (age 76), spending her later years with brother Theodore in southern New Jersey.



# the Dreves Family

## A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix Q  
(continued)



**ABOVE:** Five-year-old "Aunt Marge" (Marguerite [Cordes] Durkin), on the front steps at the home of Charles Klaus Cordes, 1363 Theriot Avenue, in what was then referred to as "Westchester," but we now call "the Bronx".



**TOP CENTER:** "Aunt Marge" on her wedding day, July 6, 1934, to Jack Durkin, a newspaperman who did copy proofing for the *New York Daily News*, promoted as "New York's Picture Newspaper," in contrast to the *New York Times*, which, for decades, had a policy of never running photos.

**TOP RIGHT:** Marge, on the left, with family friend Lena Hundemann, on a trip to Virginia with Emma and George in 1939. This photo was taken at a tourist attraction, "Natural Bridge," which is now a Virginia state park.

**RIGHT:** April, 1912. L-R: George Dreves, Hedwig Keuber, May Besch, and a very young Eddie Cordes (Emma's brother). It is unclear who Hedwig and May were, or why they posed for this photo with the gentlemen.





# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix Q (continued)



**ABOVE:** Frederick J. and Charles Henry Cordes, brothers of Emma Adelaide Cordes ca. 1884. Frederick passed at age 29 (1905); Charles Henry at age 40 (1915). Even at the beginning of the 20th Century, a long life was still not an automatic expectation.

**RIGHT:** Marie Emma Cordes in Monticello, NY (1923). Marie's sisters are Marguerite ("Marge") and Beatrice ("Bea"). Marie never married.



**AT LEFT:** (L-R) Edward and Evelyn Cordes; Eddie Cordes (father of Edward and sister to Emma (Cordes) Dreves; and Emma and George Dreves. Photo was taken at May's Landing, New Jersey, in 1938.

**BELOW:** Beatrice ("Bea") [Cordes] Lorenzen, standing, with husband Paul and one of their grandchildren, taken at their apartment in Queens, NY, in April of 1968.





# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix Q (continued)



**ABOVE:** Set of three photos from Christmas, 1967: Eddie Cordes and son, Edward; Edward Cordes with mother Christine (Zinn) Cordes; and Edward with wife Evelyn.



**FAR LEFT:** Edward and Evelyn had a camp on Lake Pleasant, NY, not far from Wells, which many Dreves Cousins recall visiting, if only to do battle with the millions of mosquitos that seemed to surround the place! **At near left,** Evelyn, Christine [seated] and Edward on the front porch of the camp, on what must have been a mosquito-free day!



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix Q (continued)

...and a few from the extended Dreves family:



Marie and Anna Burdewick, daughters of Fred Burdewick and Marie Dreves (George August's sister), ca. 1913. Fred was not only George's brother-in-law, but also his business partner and frequent investor in his endeavors. Anna would later marry Henry Hildebrandt; Marie would later marry Elmer Cornell (no relation to the Charles Cornell who would later marry the grandmother of Dreves Cousin Vera [Ferrer] Willi).



George Dreves' sisters, L-R:  
Marie (Burdewick), Emma (Hess), Anna (Kronke)



Lena Hundemann, wife of Herman Hundemann,  
one of George's investors/financiers, with Emma  
and George at a Civil War site in Virginia, 1939.



George and Emma, during their trip  
to Virginia in 1939. This was a bit  
further than they usually traveled;  
it may have been a celebratory trip,  
of sorts, shortly after they sold the  
Little Neck confectionery business  
to Mr. Meyer.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix R :: The Arrival of the "Dreves Kids"

*...and then two became seven, as the family of George and Emma Dreves grew by leaps and bounds!*



**Can you identify each of the five "Dreves Kids" --**  
the children of George and Emma (Cordes) Dreves  
-- from their baby pictures?

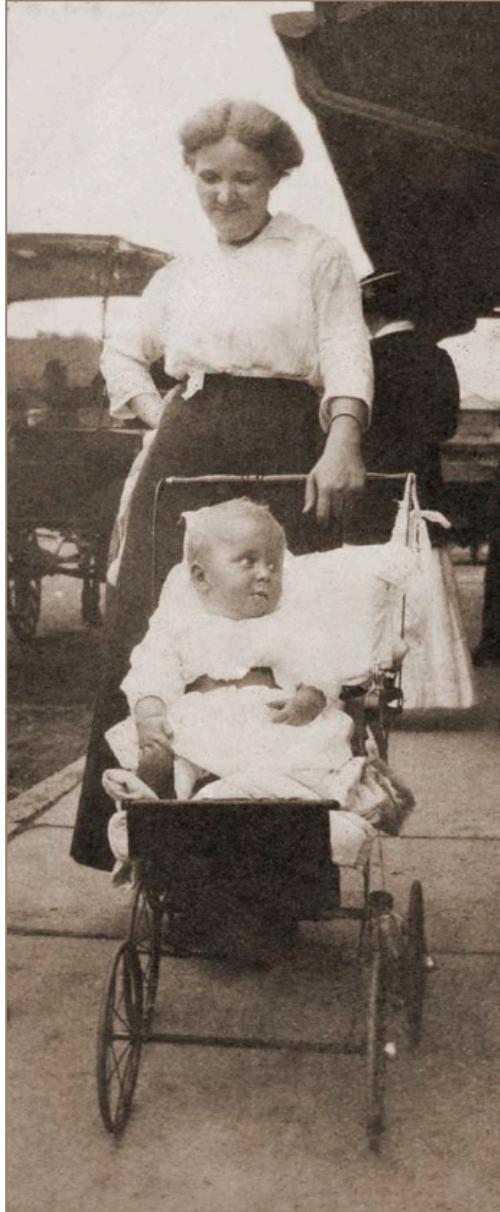
**Bonus Round:** Match the birthdays with the babies!

*Answers below -- cover them up while you're  
guessing, and no cheating!*

October 24, 1914	2 :: Robert Dreves
August 20, 1916	3 :: Carl Dreves, Sr.
August 31, 1919	1 :: George Dreves, Jr.
November 2, 1923	5 :: Arthur Dreves
March 23, 1925	4 :: Dorothy Dreves

# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY



«« A very proud new Mom, Emma takes a wide-eyed Robert out for a springtime stroll in 1915.

### Appendix R (continued)

»»  
Another photo of young Robert, this time in an elegant rattan baby carriage, in front of George's store on King's Highway (notice the sign, partially hidden, behind Robert).



Reprising an earlier photo taken in front of their house on Avenue P in Brooklyn (shown on page 38), the four Dreves brothers pass the pipe to the youngest, Arthur Frederick, for the 1927 re-take. Clockwise from top left: Carl, Bob, George and Art.



Emma C. Dreves, circa 1927, at a German naval exhibition in the New York area (note the German flag in the background)





# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix R (continued)



Dorothy, Emma and George cooling off at Lake Ronkonkoma on Long Island, 1930.

**LEFT AND BELOW:** Bob, Carl and George engage in summer backyard horse-play, ca. 1925.



Robert George ("Bob") Dreves, 1927.



Arthur and Dorothy, ca. 1926.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix R (continued)

Emma at Ausable Chasm,  
New York, ca. 1940



A photo-booth self-portrait by  
Emma, taken in 1940 at the  
New York World's Fair.



»»  
Emma and George, childless  
due to all five kids being away  
in the service of their country,  
taking a picnic trip to Lake  
Ronkonkoma, ca. 1943



**LEFT:** Dorothy Emma, Fall,  
1928.

**RIGHT:** (L-R) Carl Dreves Sr.,  
George Dreves Jr., Walter  
Kronke, George Dreves Sr.,  
Robert Dreves, and (front):  
Arthur and Dorothy Dreves, on  
a family excursion, circa 1929.





# *the Dreves Family*

A WORKING HISTORY



## *Appendix R (continued)*

### **AT THE HESS FARM, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**

**TOP LEFT:** Dorothy Emma in the barn, August, 1928.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Robert sharing a secret with Dorothy, August, 1928.

**ABOVE:** Bob, Carl, holding Dorothy; George and Arthur with the Hess family, ca. 1928.

**LEFT:** George, Sr., putting Dorothy and Arthur up on a cow as George looks on, ca. 1928.



*the Dreves Family*  
A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix R (continued)



At the Hess Farm, Poughkeepsie, NY, ca. 1928. Clockwise from upper left: Arthur; John Hess (behind car); Dorothy; Audrey Hess (in car); Carl; Robert; and George Jr.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix R (continued)



George, Sr., with Dorothy and Arthur, enroute home from a visit to Milford, Pennsylvania, ca. 1927.



Robert with dog, ca. 1929.



Robert with Dorothy, at home, ca. 1931.



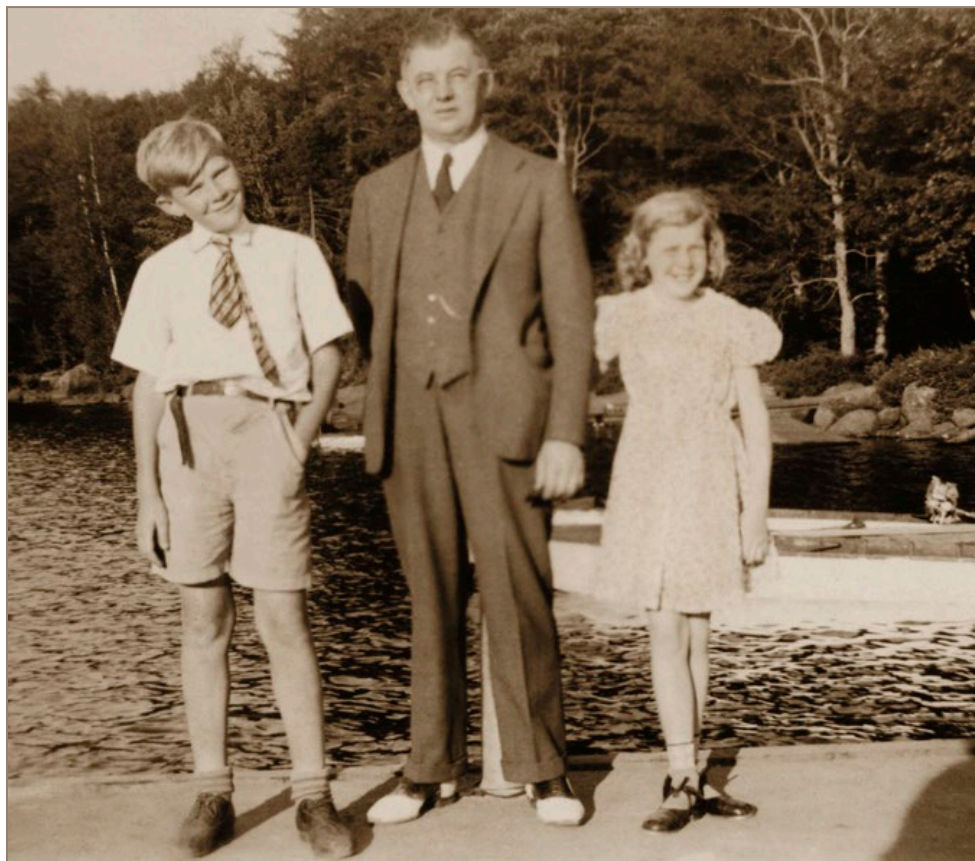
Emma, Dot, George and Art, enjoying a creek swim in Poughkeepsie, New York, ca. 1930.



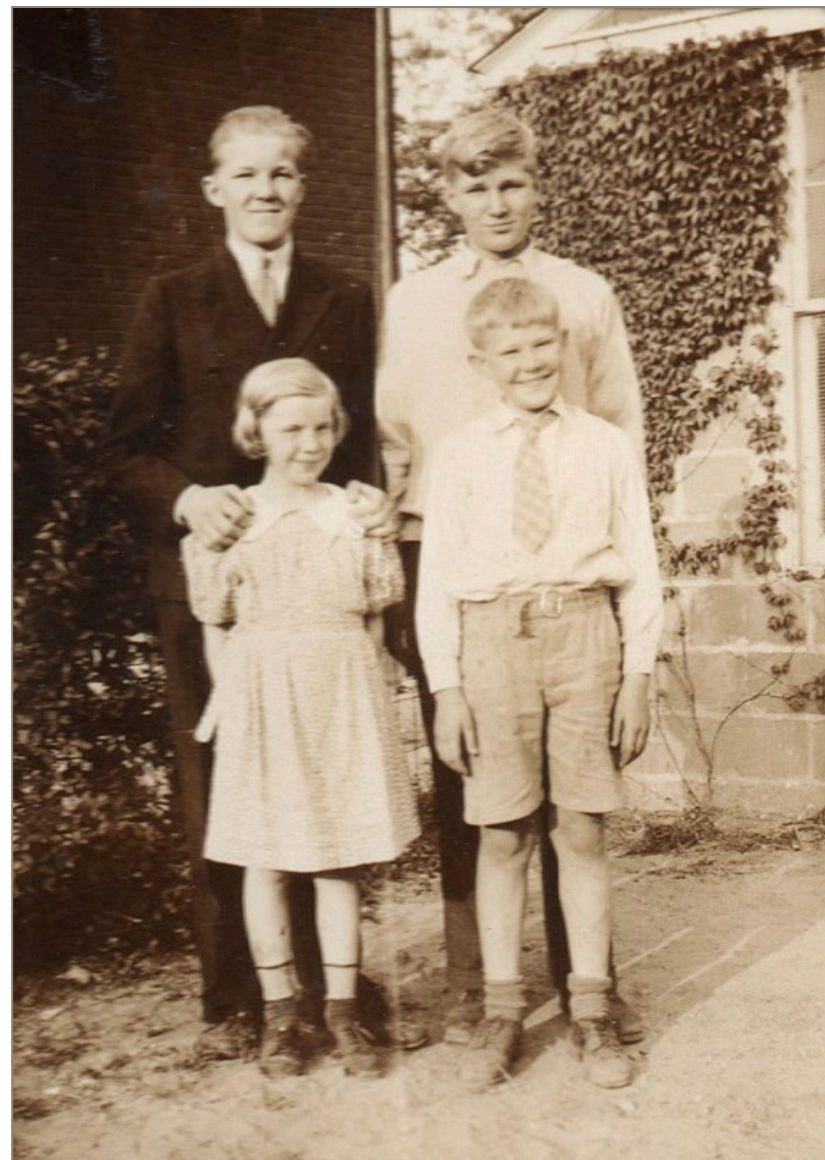
# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### *Appendix R* *(continued)*



Arthur, George Sr. and Dorothy at Long Lake, NY, ca. 1935



Clockwise from top left: Carl, George Jr., Arthur and Dorothy, ca. 1934.



# *the Dreves Family*

## A WORKING HISTORY

### Appendix R (continued)



Robert G. Dreves, high school graduation, 1933.



George Jr., on his confirmation, ca. 1935.



Dorothy, modeling a new dress on the roof of the store in April of 1937.



Emma and the family REO sedan, ca. 1938.

# the Dreves Family

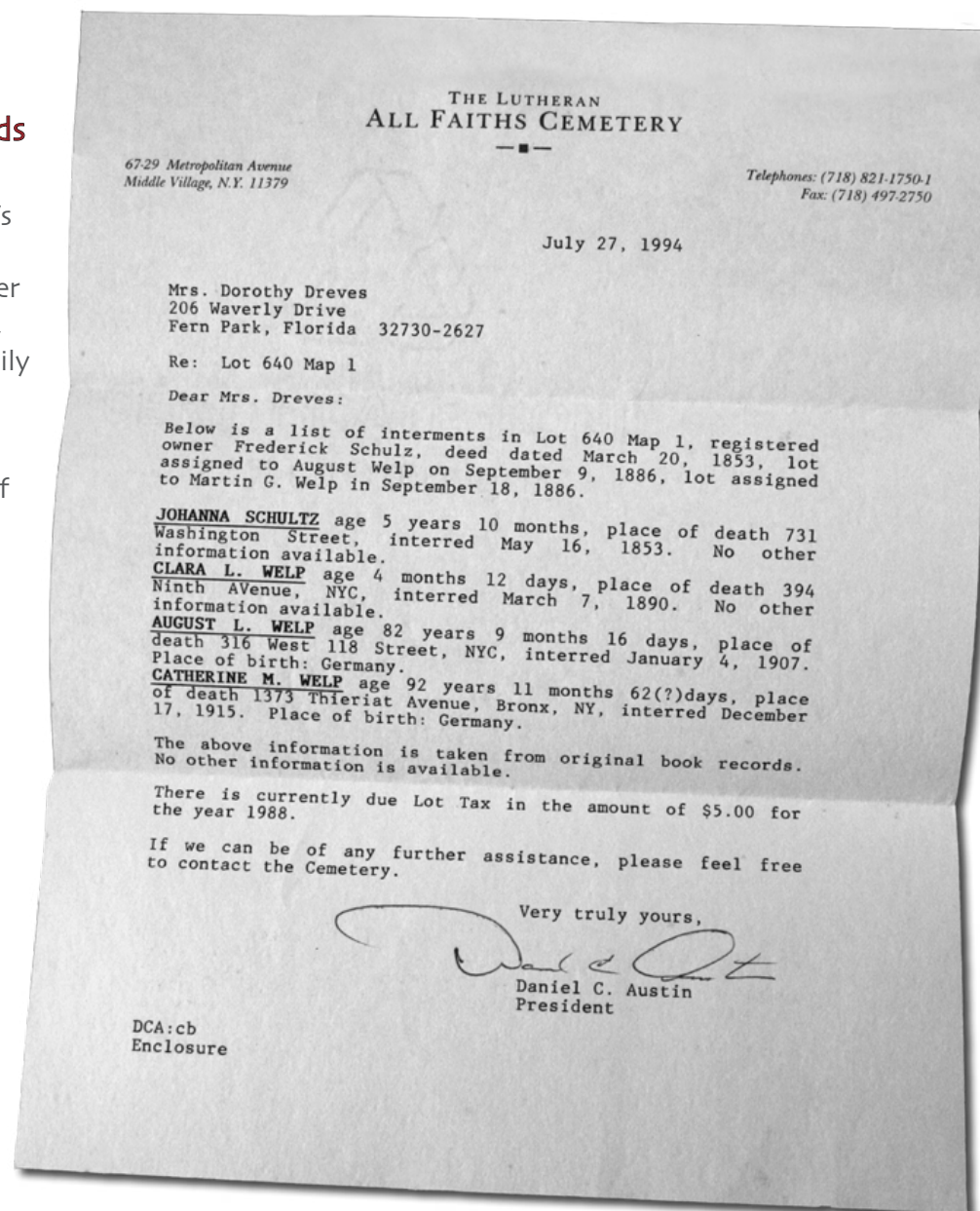
## A WORKING HISTORY

### » Appendix S :: Cordes & Welp cemetery records

Dorothy Emma maintained a significant amount of information about both branches of Emma Adelaide's family (i.e., the Cordes and Welp branches of the Dreves Family Tree). At right, for reference, is a letter she received from the Lutheran Cemetery in Queens, New York (on Long Island), where many Dreves family ancestors are buried, including Emma Adelaide and George August Dreves, Sr.

As you can see from this letter, there are a number of Welp family members interred there, as well.

Anyone interested in researching the gravesites of Dreves, Cordes or Welp ancestors is welcome to contact the cemetery, now known as the "Lutheran All Faiths Cemetery", in Middle Village, New York.





## » Appendix T :: American Names: Declaring Independence

*by Marian L. Smith, Senior Historian for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service*

The following story is a perfect specimen of a peculiar quality of the American mind: I have a friend who tells the story of her ancestor coming from one of the Slavic countries; he, of course, could speak no English. When he was being processed at Ellis Island and any question was asked, he would nod his head and smile. Since all he did was smile when they asked his name, the clerk wrote down 'Smiley' for his surname. That was the family surname from then on.

Whenever I see one of these "name change" stories, I'm reminded of the beautiful creation stories of the Native Americans, "How the Bear Lost his Tail," for example. These stories contain an important truth. They help us understand our world. But we are foolish if we take each one literally, without further investigation. The idea that all bears have short tails because an ancient bear's tail was frozen into the ice is not a very scientific explanation. Similarly, the idea that an entire family's name was changed by one clerk--especially one at Ellis Island--is seldom supported by historical research and analysis.

American name change stories tend to be apocryphal, that is, they developed later to explain events shrouded in the mist of time. Given the facts of US immigration procedures at Ellis Island, the above story becomes suspect. In the story, the immigrant arrives at Ellis Island and a record is then created by someone who cannot communicate with the immigrant, and so assigns the immigrant a descriptive name. In fact, passenger lists were not created at Ellis Island. They were created abroad, beginning close to the immigrant's home, when the immigrant purchased his ticket. It is unlikely that anyone at the local steamship office was unable to communicate with this man. His name was most likely recorded with a high degree of accuracy at that time.

It is true that immigrant names were mangled in the process. The first ticket clerk may have misspelled the name (assuming there was a "correct spelling"--a big assumption). If the immigrant made several connections in his journey, several records might be created at each juncture. Every transcription of his information afforded an opportunity to misspell or alter his name. Thus the more direct the immigrant's route to his destination, the less likely his name changed in any way.

The report that the clerk "wrote down" the immigrants surname is suspect. During immigration inspection at Ellis Island, the immigrant faced an inspector who had a passenger list already created abroad. That inspector operated under rules and regulations ordering that he was *not* to change identifying information found for any immigrant UNLESS requested by the immigrant, and unless inspection demonstrated the original information was in error.

Furthermore, it is nearly impossible that no one could communicate with the immigrant. One third of all immigrant inspectors at Ellis Island early this century were themselves foreign-born, and all immigrant inspectors spoke at least three languages. They were assigned to inspect immigrant groups based on the languages they spoke. If the inspector could not communicate, Ellis Island employed an army of interpreters full time, and would call in temporary interpreters under contract to translate for immigrants speaking the most obscure tongues.

Despite these facts, the Ellis-Island-name-change-story (or Castle Garden, or earlier versions of the same story) is as American as apple pie (and probably as common in Canada). Why?

The explanation lies in ideas as simple as language and cultural differences, and as complex as the root of American culture. We all know names have been Anglicized in America (even the word "Anglicized" has been Americanized!). As any kindergartener learns, we live in a world where people ask our name, then write it down without asking us how to spell or pronounce it. Immigrants in America were typically asked their name and entered in official records by those who had "made it" in America and thus were already English-speaking (i.e., teachers, landlords, employers, judges etc.). The fact that those with the power to create official records were English-speaking explains much about small changes, over time, in the spelling of certain names.

*(continued »)*

## *the Dreves Family* A WORKING HISTORY

Many immigrants welcomed this change. Anyone from Eastern Europe, with a name LONG on consonants and short on vowels, learned that his name often got in the way of a job interview or became the subject of ridicule at his child's school. Any change that might smooth their way to the American dream was seen as a step in the right direction. Perhaps this was the case with Mr. Smiley. It was the case of another family from Russia, named Smiloff or Smilikoff, who emigrated to Canada at the turn of the century. By the time their son immigrated to the US in 1911, his name had become Smiley. But some name changes are not so easy to trace. Rather than a different spelling of the same-sounding name, an entirely new name was adopted. These are the most American stories of all.

"Who is this new man, this American?" asked de Toqueville. He was Adam in the Garden, man beginning again, leaving all the history and heartbreak of the Old World behind. The idea that what made America unique was the opportunity for man to live in a state of nature, a society of farmers whose perception of Truth is unfettered by ancient social and political conventions lies at the base of Jeffersonian democratic theory. The New World became a place for mankind to begin again, a place where every man can be re-born and re-create himself. In such circumstances, the adoption of a new name is not surprising. Nor is it surprising in the cases of immigrants who came to America to abandon a wife and family or to escape conscription in a European army. There were all kinds of reasons, political and practical, to take a new name.

A newspaper in California recently ran the story of a Vietnamese immigrant with a long, Vietnamese name so strange-looking to Anglo eyes. The young man came to this country and began to work and study. He began every day by stopping at a convenience store to buy a "bonus pak" of chewing gum. Chewing all those sticks of gum got him through long days of working several jobs and studying English at night. When he finally naturalized as a US citizen, he requested his name be changed to Don Bonus--the surname taken from the "Bonus Pak" and chosen to signify all his work and effort to become an American. He was a new man.

If not for the newspaper story, we would not understand this name change. Mr. Bonus' naturalization papers would simply record the name change but not the reasons behind it. Had he not naturalized, generations from now his Bonus family descendants would be at a loss to explain the origin of their name.

The documentation of name changes during US naturalization procedure have only been required since 1906. Prior to that time, only those immigrants who went to court and had their name officially changed and recorded leave us any record. Congress wrote the requirement in 1906 because of the well-known fact that immigrants DID change their names, and tended to do so within the first 5 years after arrival. Without any record, immigrants and their descendants are left to construct their own explanations of a name change.

Often, when asked by grandchildren why they changed their name, old immigrants would say "it was changed at Ellis Island." People take this literally, as if the clerk at Ellis Island actually wrote down another name. But consider another interpretation of "Ellis Island": That immigrant is remembering his initial confrontation with American culture. To them, Ellis Island was not only immigrant processing, it was finding one's way around the city, learning to speak English, getting one's first job or apartment, going to school, and adjusting one's name to a new spelling or pronunciation. All these were part of their "Ellis Island experience." When recalling their immigration decades before, many immigrants referred to the entire experience as "Ellis Island."

So, let us welcome Mr. Smiley, Mr. Bonus, and all the new immigrants who will, in the next few years as they become Americans, make changes to their name which will confuse and confound their descendants for generations to come.

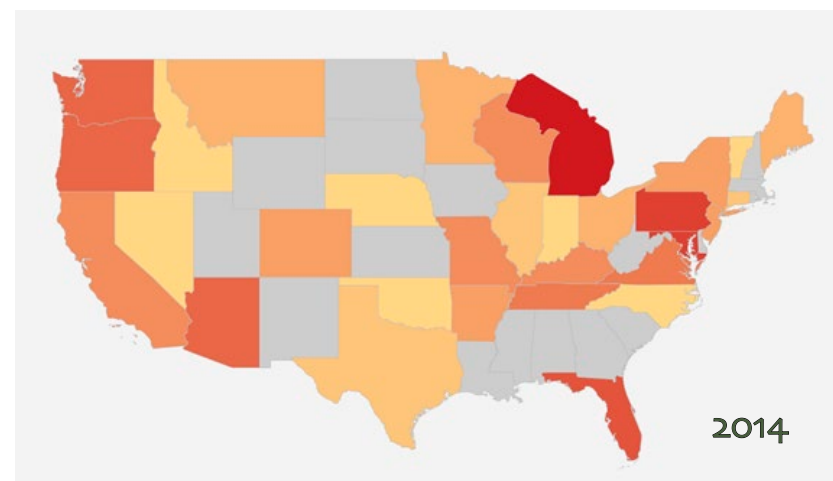
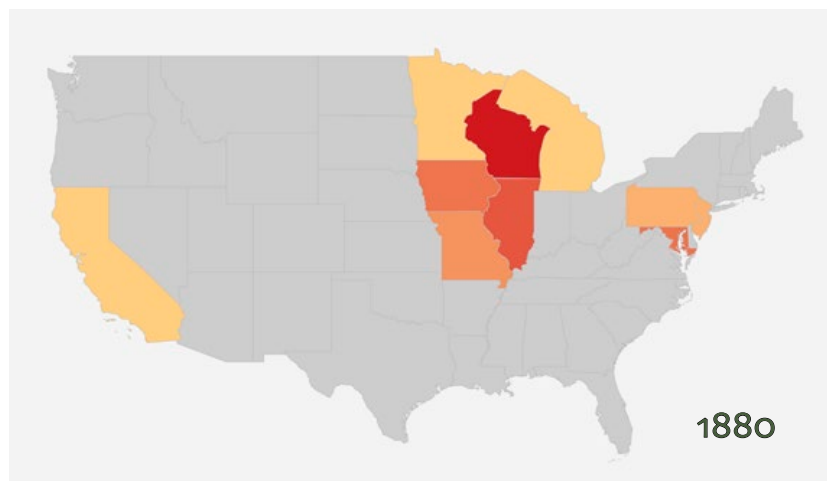
**About The Author** *Marian L. Smith is the senior historian for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. She writes and speaks about the history of the agency.*



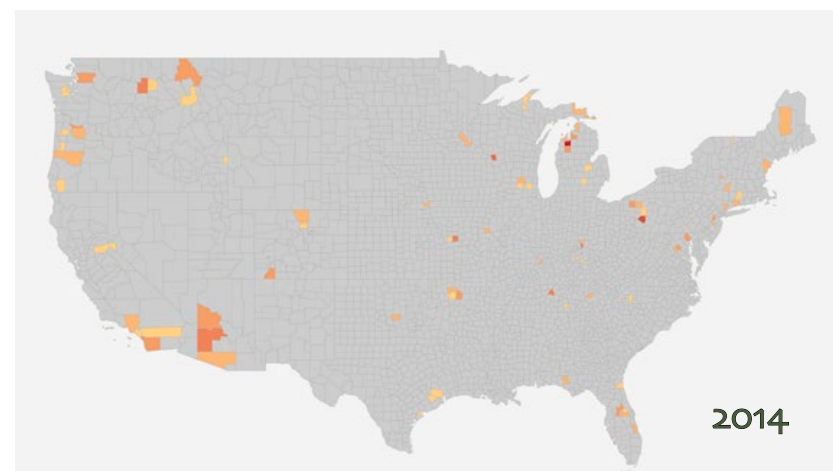
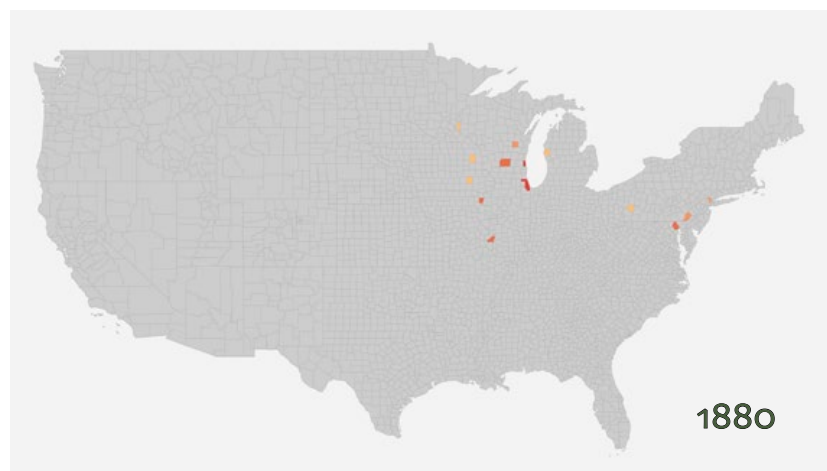
» Appendix U :: Geographic Distribution of the Dreves surname

[Forebears.io](http://Forebears.io) offers these computer-generated maps showing relative distribution of the Dreves surname over time, for various jurisdictions...

DISTRIBUTION OF DREVES SURNAME BY STATE

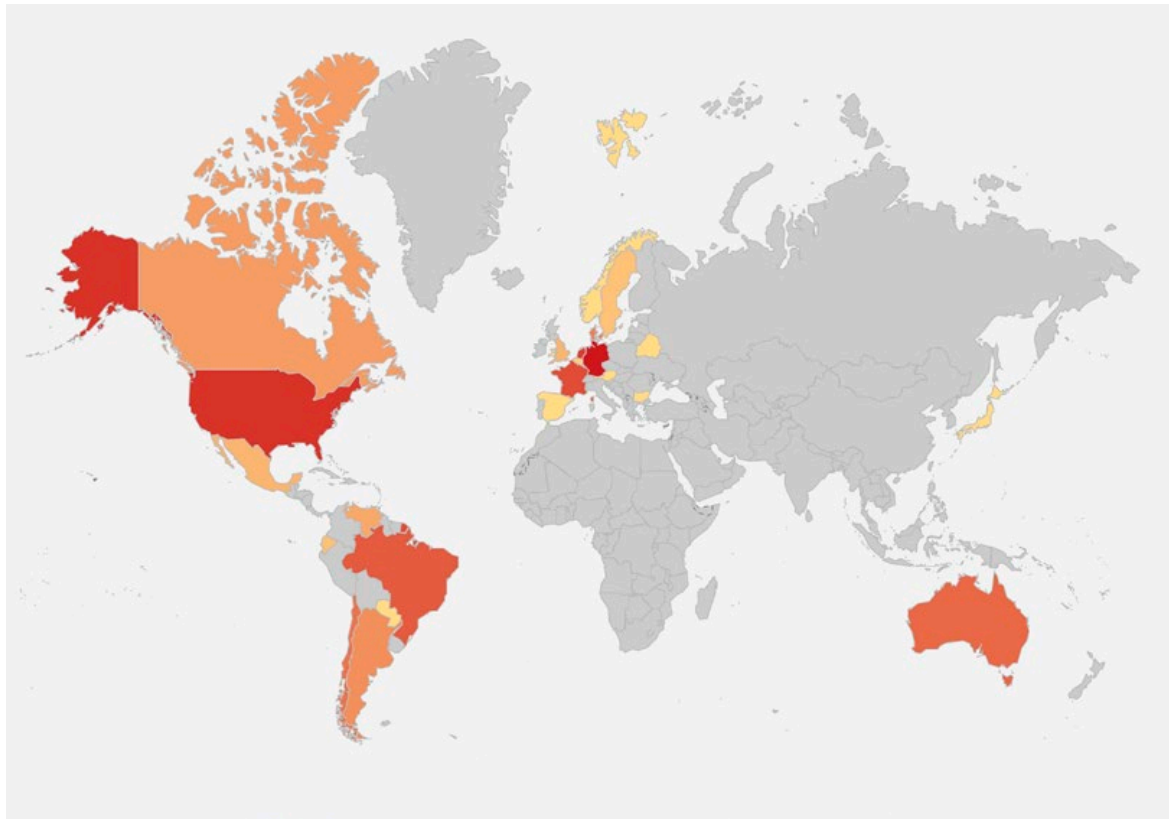


DISTRIBUTION OF DREVES SURNAME BY COUNTY

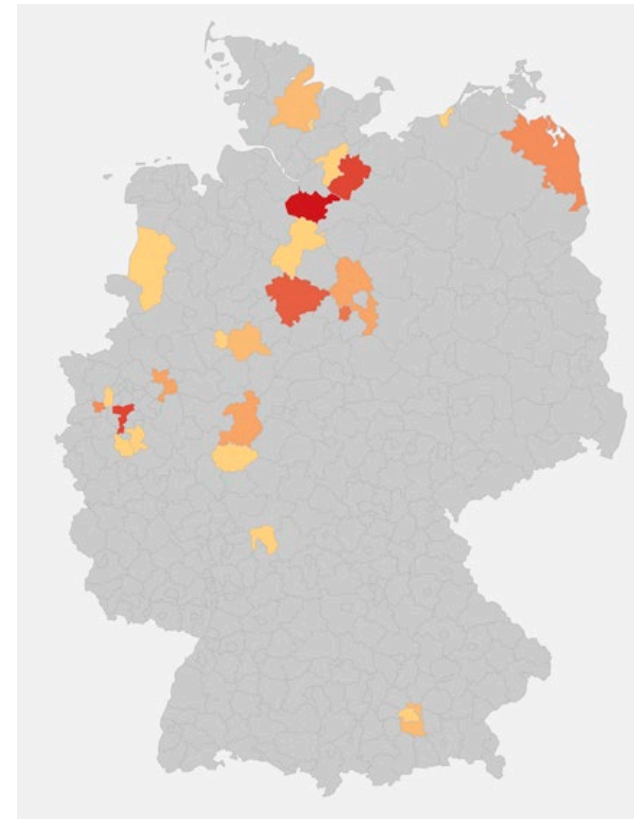


*the Dreves Family*  
A WORKING HISTORY

APPENDIX U, continued



DISTRIBUTION OF DREVES  
SURNAME WORLD-WIDE, 2014



DISTRIBUTION OF DREVES  
SURNAME IN GERMANY, 2014