



Magdalena Schoppa Schulz and Christian Schulz, circa 1918

Christian & Magdalena Christine Schoppa Schulz

This family's story serves as an indisputable link between the Wendish people of the "Old-Country", and those of the "New-World" communities of Fayette County, Texas. Christian Schulz was born October 4, 1862, the eighth child of Hans Schulz (also known as Scholta), and Johanna Mojsass Schulz, in a little home in Spreewitz by the village of Zerre, Prussia (Germany). He was baptized in the Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Spreewitz, and also confirmed there on March 18, 1877. His father died in 1872, of smallpox, while serving in the military and an older brother was also killed while in military service. Like

virtually all of the young men from his area, Christian also served in the Prussian Military. With all of the turmoil, political and religious oppression, Christian and his older brother, Traugott, came to America seeking a better life, arriving in Galveston, Texas in November of 1879. Two year later, after these two young men had established themselves in the Serbin area, their widowed mother, Johanna, sister, Magdalena, brothers, Johann and Gottlieb, and their widowed sister Maria Schulz Domel and children came to join them, arriving in October of 1881. Once together in this new land, the family settled near Warda, in Fayette County, and joined Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Magdalena Schoppa was also born in the Wendish village of Spreewitz on February 1, 1886, and baptized in the same church. Her parents were Michael Schoppa and Maria Zoch Schoppa. When Magdalena was only two years old, her family immigrated to America, arriving at the port of Galveston on October 19, 1868, and traveling overland to the Wendish community at Serbin, in Lee County. In 1871, her father purchased land approximately three miles southwest of Warda, in Fayette County. The family became members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in 1875, two years after the congregation was formed. Magdalena was confirmed on April 10, 1881, one of seven in Pastor Gottfried Buchschacher's first Confirmation Class.

Christian Schulz purchased property just across the road from the Schoppa's in 1881, and four year later, November 10, 1885, Christian Schulz and Magdalena Schoppa were married at Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Warda, two families from Spreewitz, united in the new world.

The Schulz family lived on the same farm in Fayette County all of their lives. They established a dairy which Magdalena supervised while Christian did the farming. During any slack times in farming, Christian also worked at the cotton gin, the saw mill, and also did carpenter work. Stories all abound in Warda about "Barefoot Schulz", as Christian was called, because of his preference for going without

shoes, and about his black dog that always came to Warda Store, running under the wagon to stay in the shade on hot summer days.

Over the years, as the sons grew to manhood they traveled to other areas of Texas, where the boll-weevil had driven other farmers from this area; working on various farms, especially during harvest time. Herman, Gerhard, and Paul apparently all liked Wilbarger County, as they all established homes near Vernon. The eldest son, John, followed Anna NAACO of Winchester to Albany, where following their marriage they resided for a few years until the lure of the "oil-patch" led John and his family to Burkburnett and on into Oklahoma, following the "oil-booms". When John's mother-in-law became ill and Anna was forced to return to Albany, he continued to follow the "booms" until his untimely death on a sandy road between Andrews, Texas and Hobbs, New Mexico. The car became stranded and he died of carbon-monoxide poisoning on March 16, 1931.

The oldest daughter, Martha Pietsch, lived all of her life in Fayette County, as did the youngest daughter, Emma Heune, who lived on the Schulz's homeplace. Edwin and his family lived on a farm near Northup, in Lee County.

In 1935, Christian and Magdalena celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with the usual Fayette County barbecue with family and friends in attendance. Magdalena's health was failing and she suffered for several years before a peaceful death on January 23, 1943. At her funeral, Pastor Paul C Eifert, used her Confirmation Text, Psalm 23:1-4, for his text, speaking of the Lord as her "Good Shepherd". He also quoted Magdalena's often spoken words: "We don't understand God's ways - but He brings us on the way of faith, and in the end, to eternal life".

Slightly more than one year later, on February 26, 1944, Christian prayed: "Dear God, because of the blood of my Savior, give me a good death", and the prayer was answered. Pastor Eifert referred to his Confirmation Text as being the "motto" of the deceased, that being Galatians 3:26-27 - "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

The mortal bodies of both Christian and Magdalena rest in Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery, awaiting the "resurrection of all flesh".

On Sunday, June 26, 1944, it was the author's privilege to worship at the Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche, in the village of Spreewitz, in essence retracing that link between those who came to the new world, and those who remained to maintain the old one ...

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written by: Georgie Bernstein Boyce