

## The Christian & Emil Zoch Families

(The following traces the history of Johann Sr.'s son Christian Zoch as recounted by my uncle Herbert P. Zoch (with some editing by Erwin J. Zoch). Herbert P. Zoch is the son of Carl Emil Zoch of Winchester, Texas, the son of Christian Zoch of Spreewitz, Germany, son of Johann (Hans) Zoch, Sr. of Spreewitz, Germany. Spreewitz is located in an area of Germany then known as Upper Lusatia, which was located in both Prussia and Saxony, Germany. It is approximately 75 miles southeast the present-day cities of Berlin and approximately 40 mile northeast of Dresden and approximately 15 miles west of the Germany-Poland border.)

On June 6, 1869, Christian Zoch (Johann Zoch, Sr.'s son) married Magdalena Grosa in Spreewitz, Pruessen (or Prussia), Germany. Approximately 3 months later on September 15, 1869, they boarded the *S.S. Frankfort* at Bremen, Germany and sailed to Texas to start a new life in a new country. After being on the ocean for 3 weeks, they landed at New Orleans, Louisiana.

According to immigration records at New Orleans, they went through US Customs on October 9, 1869. There were 352 passengers on this ship. Among them were the following:

1. Johann (Hans) Zoch, Sr. (age 55) and wife Anna (Schneider) Zoch (age 54)
2. Johann (Hans) Zoch, Jr. (age 26) and wife Hanna (Kowall) Zoch (age 27)
3. Johann Jr.'s and Hanna's son Traugott (age 11 months)
4. Christian Zoch (age 23) and wife Magdalena (Grosa or Jacob) Zoch (age 22)
5. Johanna Zoch (age 19)
6. George Zoch (age 16)
7. Gottlieb Zoch (age 9½)
8. Marie Doman (age 28), Magdalena (Grosa) Zoch's sister
9. Marie Doman's husband Matthes Doman (age 29)
10. Matthes and Marie Doman's children Christian (age 4) and Hanna (age 11 months)

After clearing customs at New Orleans, the Zochs along with many other German immigrants, continued their voyage to Galveston, Texas. According to an article in a Galveston German newspaper written in October 1869, the name of this ship was the *S.S. Josephine*. From Galveston, the Zochs and Domans traveled to Houston, Texas on a smaller ship and from there, they traveled by ox wagon to Lee County, Texas.

It is said that they immigrated to the US because of their desire for religious freedom. However, it is likely that other reasons for leaving Germany included the desire to preserve their language and culture, the opportunity to participate in the tremendous liberty existing in the US, including the separation of church and state, and the opportunity to participate in land ownership in Texas. One can assume that they knew of these opportunities from relatives who had already come over to Serbin, Texas with Pastor Johann Kilian and the 500+ Wendish immigrants on the *Ben Nevis* in 1854.

Christian's and Magdalena's first home was a one-room log cabin with a dirt floor. In 1875, Christian bought 193 ¾ acres of unimproved land from John Wuensche for \$1200 out of the Calvin Chaney Survey, Lee County, Texas approximately 4 miles south-southwest of Giddings, Texas. Twelve years later (1887), he sold this land to August Kasper for \$1325. That same year he bought 146 acres of land in Fayette County near Winchester, Texas from George Waitman in

the John F. Berry League for \$2500. (His youngest son Carl Emil Zoch was 9 months old at the time.) Later, he bought additional tracts of land in Fayette County near Winchester. Christian and his wife Magdalena lived on the farm the remainder of their lives. (The farm is located about 1½ miles north-northwest of St. Michael Lutheran Church.) The Christian Zoch had 7 children: Anna, Maria, Magdalena, August, John, Emma, and Carl Emil. Maria and August died as infants. John died when he was nearly 21 years old. The other 4 children lived to be over 80 years old.

Carl Emil Zoch was born in Winchester, Texas on 3/23/1887. In 1910, Emil (as Carl Emil was known) married Lydia Kasper at Serbin, Texas. They too lived on the Christian & Magdalena Zoch farm and eventually took over the operation of farm. Emil bought several additional tracts of land and on April 8, 1918, he bought 106 acres from his father. On September 2, 1919 he bought 41-4/5 acres from Sam Drake and J. G. Trausdale. Emil and Lydia had 8 children as listed below who grew up on this farm and attended school at St. Michael Lutheran School and then at Winchester public high school.

1. Eldor Zoch (b. 3/17/1912, d. \_\_\_\_\_) married Clara Mitschke
  - a. Elmo Zoch (married Angeline Lehmann)
  - b. Claren Ruth Zoch (married Robert Dunk, Jr.)
2. Edna Zoch (b. 12/29/1913, d. \_\_\_\_\_) married William Lehmann
  - a. Charles Lehmann (married Rose Petrosh)
  - b. Linda Lehmann (married \_\_\_\_\_ Mertink)
3. Helmuth (b. 1/25/1916, d. 10/10/1964) married Dessie Fisher
  - a. Carole Ann Zoch (married Mike Gann – died, then married Robert Sandoval)
  - b. Mary Louise (married Stan Rech)
4. Fred Zoch (b. 4/10/1917, d. 9/16/1980) married Edith Walther
  - a. Donnie Ray Zoch (married Judy Steglich, married Judith Lynn)
  - b. Delphine Zoch (married Paul Michna)
  - c. David Zoch (married \_\_\_\_\_)
  - d. Debra Zoch (married Ted Poskey, Jr.)
5. Herbert Zoch (b. 12/3/1919) married Lorine Krause
  - a. Robert J. Zoch (married Diana Schramm)
  - b. Kathryn Zoch (married Arthur Wright)
  - c. Shirley Zoch (married Larry Melcher)
  - d. Cynthia Zoch (married David Carter)
6. Erwin T. Zoch (b. 6/21/1923, d. 12/13/2011) married Alice Ruth Dunk
  - a. Erwin J. Zoch (married Vicki Clifton)
  - b. Edward Zoch (married Jane Krause)
  - c. Sherry Zoch (married Boykie Murphy)
  - d. Patricia Zoch (married Daryl Schulze)
  - e. Rodney Zoch (married Susan Ender)
7. Mildred Zoch (b. 12/30/1924, d. 1/13/2013) (married Walter Kilian)
  - a. Albert Kilian
  - b. Allen Kilian
  - c. Daniel Kilian (married Karen Mawara)
8. Lillian Zoch (b. 12/12/1928, d. 4/7/2013) (married Kliment Kocurek)
  - a. Karen Jean Kocurek (married John Brown)
  - b. Lloyd Kocurek (married Tina Laurie)
  - c. Kenneth Kocurek (married Christie Lee, married Belinda Ann)
  - d. Dean Kocurek (married Diane Marie)

In 1925 Emil became Commissioner of Precinct 2 in Fayette County, Texas. He served as County Commissioner from 1925 to 1928. During his tenure as Commissioner, the Texas Highway Department built the US Highway 77 bridge across the Colorado River in La Grange, Texas. In 1963, Emil's youngest son Erwin purchased the farm from his father. The Texas Department of Agriculture, under the Farm Heritage Program awarded Erwin Zoch with a certificate recognizing the farm belonging to the Zoch family for at least 100 years of continuous operation in 1987. Today, the farm is owned by Erwin T. Zoch's 4 surviving children and is operated by his daughter Sherry (Zoch) Murphy and son-in-law Boykie Murphy.

[This write-up was compiled by Erwin J. Zoch (July 12, 2013) based on information from several different sources including listings of the Johann Sr. and Anna (Schneider) Zoch family provided at past reunions, The Zoch Family History by Herbert P. Zoch, and The Zoch Family by Susie Heimbach of Tiki Island, Texas. Please notify Erwin J. Zoch of any needed corrections at [ejzoch@cox.net](mailto:ejzoch@cox.net) or 225-200-5335.]