



Gustav

Johanne

Gößling

(Goesling or Gossling)

by

Helga von Schweinitz

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by
Helga von Schweinitz

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A Word to the Reader

Originally written 22 August 2012 and is based on my research along with research conducted by other family members. A special thanks to Stacey Ebert Smith who compiled a wonderful book for the family reunion in September 2004. And thanks to many others who helped in providing research, photos, and articles.

This 2018 version has a few corrections and many more photos than the 2012 version.

Helga von Schweinitz

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The Goesling Cousin Reunion

Milwaukee September 2004



Figure 1 Grandchildren of Gustav and Johanne Gößling (Goesling)
Paul Rottmann, Diethard Pörtner, Marlene Ebers, Ralph Bayer, Margret Bruhn,
Werner Bayer, Helga von Schweinitz, Marcia Horngren, Paul Goesling

Not Present: Renate Bittner

Dead as child: Rolf Pörtner

Göbbling (Goesling) Family Reunion 2004

In September of 2004, descendants of Gustav and Johanne Goesling (Göbbling in German) had their first family reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Their own five children had already passed away, but all of their living grandchildren except for one (Renate), and representatives of several generations participated. The youngest one was Jacob Smith, a great-great-grandson, less than a year old.

Of Gustav's and Johanne's eleven grandchildren five were born in the USA, six in Germany. As we mingled and talked and ate, walked in small groups, went to church, ate again, visited a brewery and had a good time together for several days, I realized that we were celebrating two of our many ancestors, yet, we did not really know much about them. The American cousins knew them as different people as the Germans did. Gustav had immigrated to America in 1923 leaving behind his wife and five children. Not until 1928 did Johanne and three of their children (Grete, Otto, and Paul) follow him. The two older girls (Ella and Hilde) stayed in Germany.

What was the story behind the story? What motivated Gustav to leave his family? Why did Johanne spend the entire WWII years in Germany? I knew her as "Oma", and she is a vital part of my early childhood. Why did Gustav serve in WW I all through the war, although he had five children? Did he serve voluntarily? Was Johanne happy living in America?

Several years ago I decided to do some research and to collect anecdotes and memories from those who remembered Gustav and Johanne. This little booklet is the result of my efforts. However, many of the important questions have not been answered. I'll mention them as questions in the text for other people to answer them one day.

During the reunion, Stacey Smith distributed a booklet with a family tree and a lot of information that she had collected in endless hours of work. I referred to it extensively when I wanted to know who is related to whom and why - well, not actually why, but how.

Since this is not a scientific research paper, all "facts" are presented as I know them. I have references and footnotes in my files, of course. "I" means Helga von Schweinitz, born as Helga Pörtner, daughter of Ella Gößling - Pörtner, who was Gustav's and Johanne's eldest daughter. I was born in Herford, Germany, in 1937, and immigrated to the USA in 1957. I am now an American citizen.

Since this is written for members of several generations, I refer to everybody by the first name, sometimes adding the last name. Referring to persons as "Oma" or "Onkel Otto", as I knew them from my place in the family, would confuse many a reader. I also use the German spelling for people when they lived in Germany, because that is how one finds them in German records.

The name Goesling was originally "Gößling". The ö is the same as oe, and the ß is actually ss, but it ended up as one s in our American version of the name. So, the name is pronounced in English almost as it is in German, but the s is just a little sharper in German. The name is rather common in the Herford area. I think it means something like gooseling, maybe somebody who raised or herded geese.

A short lesson in pronouncing certain German letters might be helpful.

ß is pronounce like a sharp s. It can be written as double ss if it is not on the keyboard

ä is an open 'a' like in manner or have - sometimes short, sometimes long, it is often changed to ae in English like the composer Haendel.

ö is often like 'er' in English as in person. Other times, like in Goesling, it is change to oe, and is pronounce more like the way you do it, or like the 'a' in gasoline

ü is pronounced close to 'ee' with the lips puckered a bit; sometimes short, sometimes long. It can be replaced with ue: Fuerstenaustrasse 10.

Gustav and Johanne Goesling (Gößling)

Gustav Goesling was my maternal grandfather, known to me as "Opa Amerika". I never had the chance to meet him. His wife, Johanne, was my "Oma", my maternal grandmother whom I knew very well in my early childhood because she lived with us in Germany from 1938 to 1947.

When I started out writing about Gustav so that we descendants can learn about who he was and why and under what circumstances he emigrated to America, I realized that his story is not complete without telling Johanne's story. She was the mother of his five children. The young family spent many years without him while he was either a German soldier in the war (1914 - 1918) or an immigrant in the USA (1923 - 1928) until she joined him in Milwaukee).

The following narration is based on what I know and was able to find out about them. It is not a scientific work, has no foot notes, and - actually - I now have more questions than I started out with. One could do more research and discover more historical details, but that takes time.

Since I am writing from my perspective, I have to introduce myself to those who don't know me: I, Helga, am a daughter of Gustav's and Johanne's eldest daughter, Ella. I was born in Herford, Germany, in 1937 and immigrated to the USA in 1957.

If you think of a comment to make or if you have something to add to the story, please contact me. We can always print an addendum in later years.

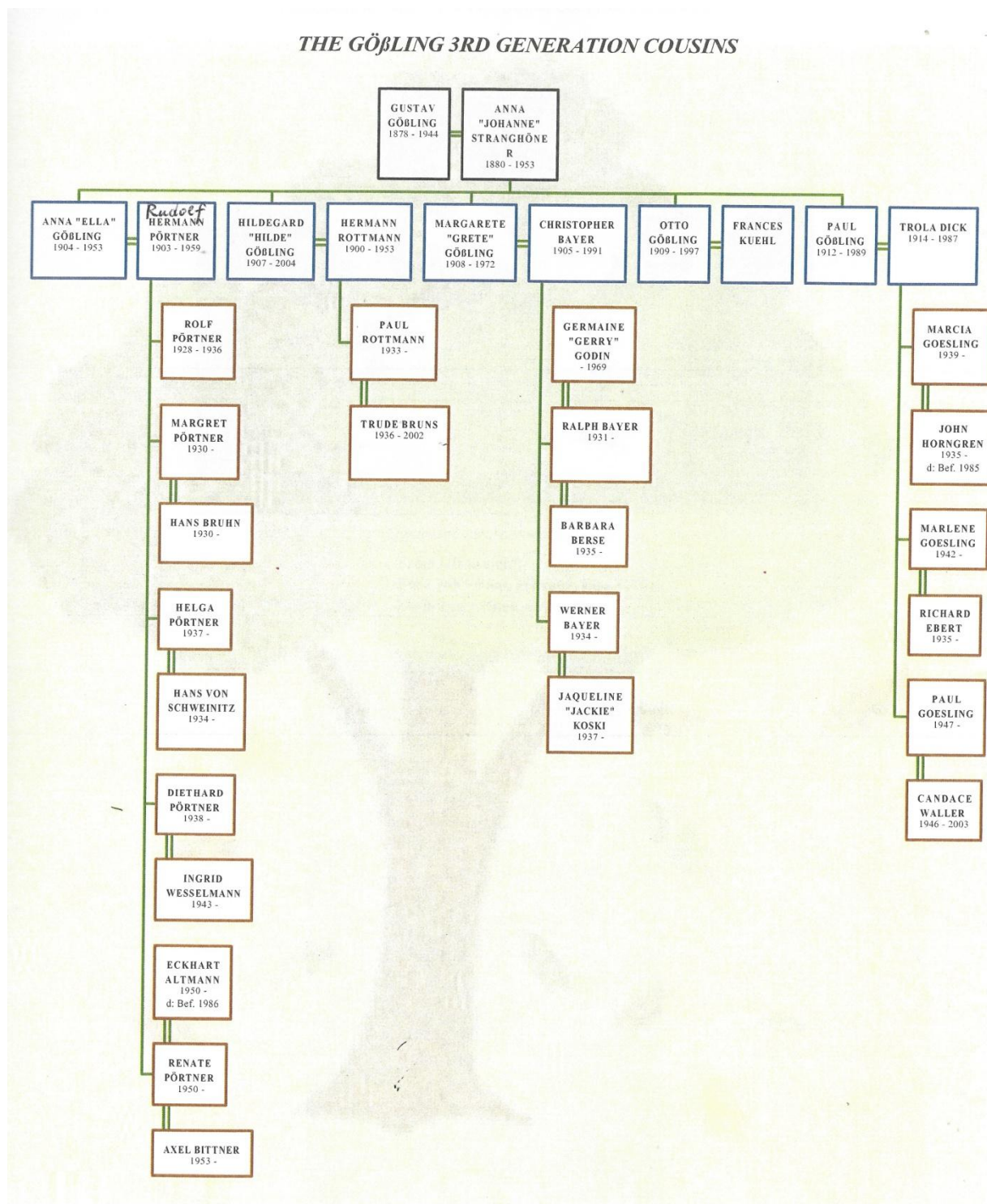


Figure 2 Göbling 3rd Generation Cousins

Nr. 196

Herford am zwanzigsten
November tausend neunhundert drei

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschienen heute zum
Zwecke der Eheverbindung:

1. der Herr Klaus Gustav Adolf Göppling

der Persönlichkeit nach _____

_____ ist,
ausgesprochener Religion, geboren am unten und zwanzigsten
Dezember des Jahres tausend acht Hundert
acht und fünfzig zu Eickum
_____ , wohnhaft in Herford, Altstädter
Feldmark N. 334

Sohn des Kaufmanns Johann Heinrich Göppling
wohnhaft in Herford und seiner Ehefrau
Elise Marie Friederike geb. v. Radenhorst
geb. _____ wohnhaft
in Eickum ;

2. die Mäxlin Anna Johanne Luise Strang-
hörer

der Persönlichkeit nach _____

_____ ist,
ausgesprochener Religion, geboren am unten
Dezember des Jahres tausend acht Hundert
achtzig zu Herford
_____ , wohnhaft in Herford, Radewiger
Feldmark N. 273

Tochter des ausgesprochenen Mäxlin Luise
Stranghörer

_____ wohnhaft
in Herford

Entry in the Herford
Registry of the marriage of
Gustav and Johanne, nee
Stranghörer, on the 20th of
November 1903 (It
mentions that Johanne was
born illegitimate)

Figure 3 Marriage
Certificate of Gustav and
Johanne 20th November
1903

Where Gustav and Johanne grew up.

Gustav and Johanne grew up only a few kilometers apart in the gently rolling hills near Herford in eastern Westphalia. The landscape is a patchwork of fields and small woods with narrow rivers, creeks and roads winding their way through it. Days of misty or strong rain, dark clouds and often a gusty wind blowing in from the North Sea, and the long winter nights and short days have a gloomy, depressing effect on some people in the area. That creates an inborn yearning for the wild blue yonder where "the sun always shines and the living is easy". However, a sunny day in any season and the occasional burst of sunshine on rainy days paint the countryside in such serene beauty, that one has to simply just love living there. It is "die Heimat", home, and will always stay that way in one's heart. When the sun shines, folks go outside, meet with friends for walks, take their meals in the garden, talk over the garden fence for hours or work in the fields, often singing and socializing in simple ways while pitching hay on the wagon. In the olden days in rural areas, many a first born child was conceived on such a joyful day in the field, and the parents' wedding followed two or three months later, but not in all cases, as we see with Johanne Stranghöfner, later Johanne Gößling, the Mrs. Goesling. She was conceived in the spring and born in December of 1880, and there was no know father, nor wedding.

A day in a field with Johanne (my "Oma") and my younger brother, Diethard, is among my fondest childhood memories. It was the late summer of 1945. For a few years after WW II food was difficult to get. Every bite was precious. Oma walked with us to a field where little kernels of grain had fallen on the ground during the harvest. We stooped over and gathered as many as we could into a small bucket. I don't think Diethard and I were of much help, because I know I spent most of the time chasing crickets or other insects. But I remember feeling the straw stubbles and noticing the unique smell of a freshly cut field. If it was a field of barley, the kernels might have served later as the foundation of Oma's famous "tea" which contained alcohol and was much appreciated by American GIs and was bartered for food for our family. She must have acquired this skill when she lived in the USA during prohibition times. We children were happy and lucky to have a bootleggin' Oma.

Oma often took Diethard and me to other places in the country side where we were always rewarded with something special to eat for going along on these long walks. Once, at the "Forsthaus" near Bad Salzuflen, she pulled enough sugar ration cards out of her purse to buy a piece of strawberry cake which the three of us shared. These walks into the countryside must have been physically painful for her because she had corns on her feet. A new pair of her orthopedic shoes had to endure having a hole cut into the upper part to make room for the corns.

Saturday and especially Sunday afternoon visits to relatives in a different part of Herford's surroundings were common. Usually one walked or took the bike or even the electric tram once it was built. There were so many birthdays to celebrate, confirmations, engagements, baptisms, not to forget funerals with that delicious "Platenkuchen" being served after the interments.

The landscape and climate around Milwaukee, Wisconsin, are somewhat similar to eastern Westphalia and attracted quite a few immigrants from there.

In the construction industry one had to figure in the long winters where some types of building have to rest and cure and leave the masons idle.

By the way, Gustav's and Johanne's first child, Ella, was born nine months after one of those probably beautiful days during the September harvest time, and seven months after their wedding.



Figure 4 Landscape near Herford



Early years

Gustav Heinrich Gößling was born on the 29th of December, 1878 as the 1st of 6 children born to Johann Heinrich and Anna Friederike Gößling. His mother's maiden name was Haddenhorst. His siblings were Hermann, Gottlieb, Heinrich, August and Anna. Johann Heinrich, the father, worked as a "landarbeiter", farm laborer.

Gustav's birth certificate gives as place of birth Eickum, Haus Nr. 7. Eickum is a village near Herford; house # 7 is a big farm house, still standing and surrounded by acres of fields, stables, barns and with at least five large cottages placed in different parts of the estate. At the time of his birth everybody who lived somewhere on the farm had the big farm house as address, including the children born to the farm laborers living in the cottages. It must be assumed that Gustav was born in one of those cottages. They were usually occupied by two families. When I visited the place in 2009, the cottages had all been bought up by enterprising folks who had turned them into charmingly rustic yet modern one-family homes. Due to some legal fighting among heirs of the big house, I was not able to look into the old documents to find out in which cottage the Gößlings lived.

One of the major crops in the area was flax. That supported a cottage industry of spinning, weaving, producing linen and then sewing garments from cloth that had been cut out into patterns by the emerging garment factories. Several women in the family supplemented the family income by working in the textile industry, including Gustav's wife Johanne. We have a photo of her with a group of other women, probably colleagues.

Most people in the Herford area are Lutheran, being baptized within a few days after birth and confirmed at about the age of fourteen. Although we have no record of his baptism nor of his confirmation, that does not mean that they don't exist. Gustav's birth certificate lists his father as *evangelisch*, which means as much as protestant, in this case Lutheran.

Herford County being part of Prussia at that time, school was compulsory. Most boys left school at the age of fourteen and were confirmed in their church the same year and began an apprenticeship if family circumstances allowed and if they had the necessary aptitude and attitude. Those who did not want to apply

themselves to the usually rigorous requirements of an apprenticeship lived on as farm hands or worked in the increasing numbers of factories in and around Herford. To attend a "Gymnasium", a college bound school, was the privilege of very few boys and girls and was expensive.

The one-room school in Eickum had a very effective teacher. His name was Friedrich Wöhrmann. He used the older children to teach the younger one in a way that benefitted both groups. It is therefore no wonder that little Eickum produced several men who made a name for themselves. One of them is the sculptor Prof. H. Wefing who designed and created the war memorial which used to stand in the Old Market Square to remind everybody of the fallen soldiers of the wars of 1864, 1866, and 1870/1871. It shows an angel with big wings holding a dying soldier in his (her?) arms. It was erected just two months before Gustav was born, so he saw it every time he went to downtown Herford. (I, personally, was so upset whenever I looked at that monument which seemed to glorify young men dying in a war, that I organized protest gatherings in front of it. It was eventually moved to a peaceful little park near the Old Cemetery). The other monument Prof. Wefing from Eickum created shows the thirsty Duke Wittekind on a horse which moves a big stone and frees a spring of water to flow. That miracle turns Wittekind into a Christian and a loyal vassal to Charlemagne. The "Wittekind Denkmal" is a symbol of Herford's history, a few minutes' walk from Firstenaustraße 10 on the way to the town center. Visitors should sit and rest on one of the benches nearby under the old trees and connect to centuries past.

Eickum is not a village with a square in the center and an old lime tree in front of the village inn with a bench underneath for the old folks. It is more an area of widely spread-out farms with little opportunity for young people to learn a trade. To be accepted as an apprentice to become a mason, Gustav most likely had to apply with a construction company in Herford. We don't know if he walked to work, rode the bicycle, or lived with relatives or in a rented room in town.

For an ambitious, intelligent young person, the German apprenticeship system offers classes to obtain a solid knowledge of practical math, bookkeeping, making business decisions, writing business letters and making cost estimates in addition to the manual skills. Gustav must have taken advantage of his opportunities because while on his marriage certificate issued in 1903, he is (24

years old), a "Maurer", a bricklayer, his profession is "Bauunternehmer", the owner of a construction company or contractor, in the registry of 1911/12. He is the only Gößling in the citizen's registry of Herford of 1914/15 who has a phone, although there are 65 Gößling household registered. Johanne, his wife, is not listed, neither are any children. At that time he lived on Goltzstraße 17, and the phone number was 373.

The registry of 1920/21, shortly after WW I, does not show a phone number. That probably was a sign that business was not doing well. However, when the family had moved to Fürstenaustraße in 1922, their phone number was 1117 which was still registered in 1924-25, when Gustav had already left for America. That year it was listed under the name of Johanne Gößling, and her profession was "Ehefrau", meaning wife. It was still the only telephone connected to a Gößling. Their daughter Ella was by then 21 years old and was also listed as living at that address; Her profession was "Bankangestellte", bank employee, which showed that she had some higher education.

This is the place in our research where we have to investigate how many houses Gustav actually built as the owner of a construction company. We may never know that because the research would take a lot of time and documents might no longer exist. But I would at least like to know how many houses he owned and had title to at the beginning of WW I in 1914 and if they were heavily mortgaged or not. Remembering some of Hilde's remarks but not spending much thought on it at the time I heard the, I had the impression, which is shared by her son Paul, that in the initial enthusiasm for the Kaiser's ambitions which gripped millions of Germans, Gustav pledged his properties to the Kaiser's war efforts. That could have been done in several different ways, one of which was to put a lien on the properties and to buy war bonds with that money.

However, during my last visit to Herford in 2012, I spent several days in different archives and municipal offices trying to find the facts by checking on the files on different properties. That would have been a time consuming yet possible thing to do there in the gold olde United States. In German, privacy laws have overrun common sense, and I could not get access to any files without the written consent of the present owners of the properties. I managed to obtain it from the very friendly present owner of the house on Fürstenaustraße, but that building did

not yet exist in 1914. I did not have the time to search for the owners of other properties he might have had in 1914 and also would not have had the time to talk them into giving me that written consent.

So, we don't know right now if he pledged properties to the war effort or not. I had a glimpse at a document in an unsupervised moment concerning the house on Goltzstraße 17 where the family lived. It showed that the house was sold to an investor (a "Privatier") on 1 April 1920 for 40 000 Marks. That was about the time the house on Fürstenaustraße was built. The transaction shows, that in 1920 that the house at Goltzstraße 17 was still his to sell, although it might have been mortgaged.

We have documents which show that in 1910 he owned the house on Weststrasse 675 (later numbered 11). In 1914 he owned Goltzstrasse 17 and maybe other houses on the same street. Maybe he owned quite a few houses in 1914. Did he have mortgages on them? Were they his major investment for the future?

According to other remarks from family members who are no longer alive, Johanne and the children lived on the rent from rent houses during the years from 1923 to 1928 while Gustav tried to establish himself in America.

Running a construction company and being whisked away on short notice in 1914 and drafted into the military must have caused trouble, worries and financial hardship for the family. Literature shows that families of soldiers did not receive the necessary financial support from the government. When Gustav returned from the war in late 1918, there was no job, no construction business waiting for him. The youngest child, Paul, was six years old; the eldest, Ella, was 14. His houses now belonged to the British, so there was no rental income.

He may have worked as a bricklayer or mason in those bad years. We have no record of him working for somebody else. In 1920 he built (?) the house on Fürstenaustraße 10 for his family. As a child I heard stories how difficult it was for our grandfather (Gustav) to get material to build with. One of the beams in the attic had the place of origin written on it, a house that he had torn down.

A letter handwritten on paper with his letterhead on it (at least in the form of an ink stamp) rests in the Archives of Herford. In this letter he offers his services to tear down the old chimney of the slaughterhouse in Herford in exchange for keeping the material. The letter is dated 2 January 1923. The stamped-on-letterhead says G. GÖSSLING BAUGESCHÄFT HERFORD i. W. This shows that he had a construction business in Herford at that time, but we don't know how much business he had. Construction had almost come to a standstill in Herford.

Another document in the archives shows that his "Maurerbetrieb" , masonry business, was officially terminated on 21 Feb. 1924, a time when he was already in the US. No employees, apprentices or helpers were listed, and there was no capital to report.

There was a lot of political turmoil, social unrest, famine and an insanely fast growing inflation making life difficult in those years. The dates and facts I dug out in the archives say nothing about the Gößling's every day and every night worries and sufferings and hopes in the early 1920s in Germany.

In a later chapter I'll continue to follow Gustav's professional career in America.



Goltzstrasse 17, Herford
Johanne (Oma) Gößling
3 children
Paul Reuter (Oma's brother-in-law)

Figure 5: Goltzstrasse 17

103. Unter großer Beteiligung der Bevölkerung wurde am 28. Juni 1899 das Wahrzeichen Herfords, das Wittekinddenkmal, eingeweiht. Es zeigt das Quellwunder, das den Sachsenherzog zum Übertritt zum Christentum und zur Unterwerfung unter Karl den Großen veranlaßt haben soll (785 Taufe in Attigny). Das Denkmal wurde von dem aus Herford-Eickum stammenden Bildhauer Prof. H. Wefing (Berlin) geschaffen. Im Kriegsjahr 1942 schmolz man das Reiterstandbild ein. Auf Initiative der Herforder Bürgerschaft konnte es 1959 durch den aus Herford stammenden Bildhauer Kruse (Bochum) neu geschaffen werden.



Figure 6 Both monuments were created by the sculptor Prof Wefing



Um 1900 stand nicht nur das Kriegerdenkmal, das von dem Bildhauer Wefing geschaffen worden war, auf dem Alten Markt, sondern auch Bäume umgaben den Marktplatz in der Altstadt.

G. GÖSSLING
BAUGESCHÄFT
HERFORD I. W.

Herford, den 2. Januar 1923

an
den Marktbauamt
Hier

Ist hier bereit, den alten Gefertigten das
Küchenschiff zu kaufen für das gesamte Material
abzugeben, und zu verkaufen, und zwar in einem
Stück bis zu 1000 Stücken der Gefertigten das gesamte
Maffianfundament. Gefertigt verfertigt ist
hier, die Arbeiten zu den Arbeiten, jedoch die
Küchenschiffen zu den Gefertigten arbeiten.
Auch hier ist bereit bei den Arbeiten, die sich
Maffian zu verfertigen, welche für die Arbeiten
verfertigt sind die Arbeit in Frage kommen.
Auch hier ist bereit auf wohl. Gefertigt das Gefertigte
2-3000 gute und verfertigte Gefertigte
Gefertigte für das Maffianfundament zu verkaufen
das Gefertigte für man, zur Verfügung zu stellen.

Küchenschiffen
Gustav Gössling

Herford, den 2. Januar 1923

C 1157

Figure 7 Gustav applying for a project to be done in January 1923

Gößling, Anna, Näh., Diebrockerstr. 100	
— Aug., Tischler, Heidestr. 25	
— " Arb., Diebrockerstr. 98	
— " Eimterstr. 134	
— " Tischler, " 134	
— " Schneider, " 142	
— Auguste, Arb., Diebrockerstr. 98	
Gößling, Caspar, Arb., Heidestr. 45	
— Christine, Pflegerin, Kennstr. 3	
— Elise, Näh., Heidestr. 45	
— Emil, Handl.-Geh., Diebrockerstr. 100	
— Ernst, Postauskäufer, 94	
— Fritz, Weber, Göbenstr. 59	
— " Tischler, Heidestr. 85	
— Friederike, Wwe., Ahmserstr. 122	
— " Jöllenbeckerweg 110	
— Gottl., Tischler, Altensannerweg 59	
— Landwirt, Maschstr. 53	
— Gust., Tischler, Auf dem Mielchen 23	
— " Bauunternehmer, Goltzstr. 17, F 373	X F = Fernsprecher =
— " Landbriefträger, Kochhauserstr. 40	telephone
— " Arb., Jöllenbeckerweg 110	
— " Kiebitzstr. 2	
— Hanne, Wwe., Am Jönriet 10	
— Heintz, Maurer, Altensannerweg 12	
— " Tischler, Am Jönriet 10	
— " Arb., Heidestr. 25	
— " Juv., Langenbergstr. 65	
— " Tischler, Eimterstr. 130	
— " Juv., " 142	
— " Briefstr., Engerstr. 128	
— " Kfm., " 37	
— Herm., Arb., Feldstr. 8	
— " Maurerpolier, Altensannerweg 69	
— " Schneidernstr., Borriest. 5	
— " Schuhm., Lessingstr. 16	
— " Gärtner, Heidestr. 85	
— " Arb., Jöllenbeckerweg 108	
— " " Langenbergstr. 65	
— " Weber, Diebrockerstr. 94	
— " Weichensteller, " 100	
— " Zusan., Eimterstr. 65	
— " Tischler, Elverdifferstr. 159	
— " Arb., Engerstr. 144	
— Jobst, Juv., Stiftsstr. 8	
— Joh., Maurer, Diehtriftenweg 14	
— Karl, Aufseher, Göbenstr. 59	
— Kaspar, Maurer, Diebrockerstr. 98	
— Eina, Näh., Langenbergstr. 65	
— Luise, Arb., Schulze-Dehlschstr. 4	
— Marie, Wwe., Jöllenbeckerweg 108	
— Minna, Arb., Ahmserstr. 122	
— Pauline, Näh., Jöllenbeckerweg 110	
— Rudolf, Maler, Heidestr. 85	
— Wilh., Arb., Oetinghauserweg 78a	
— " Schlosser, Göbenstr. 59	
— " Kommis, Heidestr. 45	
— " Landwirt, Im Heidstet 128	
— " Schlosser, Jöllenbeckerweg 4	
— " Tischler, Kiebitzstr. 2	
— " Arb., Mindenerstr. 120	
— " Eimterstr. 130	
— " Weber, Engerstr. 91	
— Wilhelmine, Wwe., Johannisstr. 36	

Figure 8 Herford Registry of 1914/1915

Of 64 Gößling household listed in the Herford Registry of 1914/1915, only Gustav has a phone

Historical Environment

Besides looking at documented dates and events, we have to consider other circumstances of Gustav's life. What was the historical environment that probably influenced him in his childhood and as a young man?

In 1871, after winning a war against France and about eight years before Gustav was born, Germany had become one nation, formed from many small kingdoms and duchies and other entities. The King of Prussia, Wilhelm I, became the emperor of Germany, "der deutsche Kaiser". Otto von Bismarck was the powerful Chancellor.

A wave of patriotism grabbed the population. It is almost unbelievable from today's point of view when we see on old pictures and in literature what forms that enthusiasm and adoration of the Kaiser and later his successors took. Herford built a tower on a small mountain near the town and called it "Bismarckturm". To this day it is a popular attraction for a nice walk through the woods. A day trip from Herford is the "Kaiser Wilhelm Denkmal" near Minden, a monumental statue of the first Kaiser Wilhelm. It is still the focal point for a comfortable day's excursion. In San Antonio, Texas, German immigrants at that time built a long street with fancy villas and called it "Kaiser Wilhelm Strasse". It is now called King William Street. And then there is the "Hermann's Denkmal", an hour's train trip from Herford, a statue of a Germanic hero by the name of Hermann, who stopped the advancing Romans in the year 9A.D. not far from Herford. A smaller version of the Hermann's Monument was erected by German settlers in New Ulm, Minnesota. German immigrants also founded the insurance company "Sons of Hermann".

I assume that Gustav, obviously a man of opinion and initiative, participated in this glorious feeling of Germany having a great past and future, and that loyalty to the Kaiser was taken for granted except by people with communist or very socialist leanings. Industry was developing fast and furious. Many merchants and manufacturers became wealthy and had impressive villas built in Herford and in surrounding areas that were opened up for residential neighborhoods. German colonies in Africa provided exotic food and fostered a general idea about spending

a few years abroad. It was a good feeling to be German, the future of the German "Kaiserreich", the empire, looked promising.

It was therefore not unusual for a young man to join the military reserve or to enter into one of the organizations of a military nature. After all, Germany was surrounded by many countries with often threatening attitudes.

According to his "Militärpaß" (Military Pass-book), Gustav joined the "1. Hannoversche Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 74, 5te Kompagnie" as a "Ersatz-Rekrut" on 14 October 1898, a few weeks before his 20th birthday. As far as I know, that was something like a Reserve. The photo showing him in uniform, which some of us thought was taken in WW I, was most likely taken during his time as young recruit in Hannover and not in the war, when he was already the father of five children. More research about the uniform he is wearing can give us better information.

On April 1911 he transferred to the "Landwehr", something like a home guard. During these years he had exercises, but it was not a full time profession. Being in the Landwehr, he was automatically drafted in the Army on 20 Sept. 1914. at the beginning of the war which later became known as World War I.

According to his registry book of military service, he was probably not an enthusiastic fighter. He served for four years without any recommendations, promotions, medals, or disciplinary action. He was wounded in France when his chest caved in under pressure from a pile of dirt. Although he had five children at home, he served all through the war. It is not likely that he did that voluntarily, because the adoration of the Kaiser and the faith in Germany's invincibility did not last that long with most soldiers once reality set in. Ralph Bayer said, that one day Gustav talked about a situation when he had the opportunity to shoot a French soldier, but he didn't do it and shot in the air instead to shoo the Frenchman away. His pass-book lists seven battles in which he participated in 1916 and 1917 in France.

Some American family members have seen a medal looking like an Iron Cross, "das Eiserne Kreuz", which he supposedly was awarded in the war. There is nothing in the pass-book about any medal being awarded to him. In the house of Otto Goesling I saw a medal once which looks similar to an Iron Cross. My research indicates, that in 1934 Gustav was awarded the "Ehrenkreuz für

Frontkämpfer", the Cross of Honor for Fighters at the Front . It was designed to look very similar to the Iron Cross and was given to all soldiers who had fought in WW I to make them feel good and proud about their military service. This medal was created by the Nazi regime, and since the German government did not know that Gustav Gößling was by then the American citizen Gustav Goesling, the medal and a frameable certificate were sent to the house on Fürstenastr. 10 which he still owned.

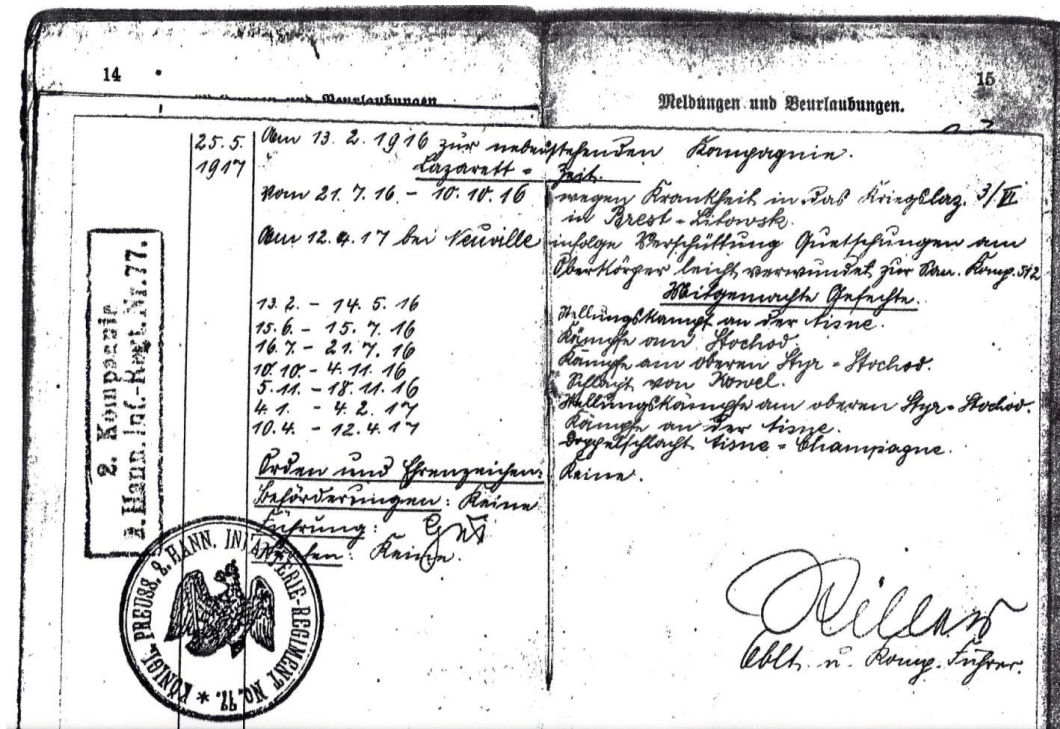
On his death certificate is a place where one fills in whether the deceased was a veteran. It was filled in with *none*. Having survived four years and seven battles in a vicious war does not count when one fights on the other side.

Family rumor has it, that he owned several houses at the beginning of the war, and that he pledged them to the Kaiser for the war effort. One expected the war to be over in a few months by the end of 1914. When Germany lost the war after four long years in 1918, these houses were lost. What emotional turmoil Gustav must have suffered at that time! Four years away from home, no business waiting for him, all assets lost, and a wife and five children to feed and shelter.

In 1928, the Gößling children were between 16 (Paul) and 24 (Ella) years old. Life in Germany was no longer just a struggle for survival. The economy was picking up in spite of the stringent obstacles that the Treaty of Versailles had created to keep Germany impotent. I heard my mother and father talk about parties they had in those years, dancing the Charleston, celebrating victories of soccer games, going on hikes through the woods singing and stopping in restaurants for refreshments. The runaway inflation of the early 1920s was a matter of the past. French and Belgian occupation troops had been withdrawn from the industrial areas, the Ruhr District. There were still reparation payments to be made to the victors of WW I (the Great War), draining capital from the German economy. Adolf Hitler made his voice heard promising to find a way of bringing relief from all the burdens placed on the country by the Treaty of Versailles, but he was only one voice, he did not come to power until 1933. He was not even a German citizen at that time, he was Austrian. The government, known as the "Weimarer Republik", was not functioning well, communism seemed attractive to some, nationalism to others. The population in general was becoming optimistic about the future, art and literature blossomed. The number of emigrants was rather low,

even among the Jewish Germans, some of whom were enthusiastic supporters of Hitler at that time. Yet, there were people who thought that the grass was greener in other countries like Australia, South America, Canada and the USA. Gustav must have been one of them. He had spent three years in Milwaukee and thought he knew what he could expect there. After spending almost two years in Herford, he decided to return to the Milwaukee area and have his family follow him. Little did he know in 1928 that a year later the American economy would crash and many years of depression were ahead of them.

Unfortunately, when America was struck by the Depression, there was certainly no boom in the housing industry, so Gustav was again working against odds to cover the basic needs of his family, just like in the years right after WWI.



List of times spent in hospitals
also
Medals and Awards: none
Promotions: none
Conduct: good
Punishments: none

List of battles in which
he participated

Figure 9 Page 15 of Gustav's German Military Passbook during the 1914-1918 war



Gustav and Johanne Gößling family

From left to right:

Back row - Paul, Johanne, Ella, Gustav

Front row - Hilde, Grete, Otto

Figure 10 Gustav and Johanne Gößling Family



Gustav Gößling during WWI

This photo was most likely taken when Gustav signed up as a recruit in the Reserve in 1898

Figure 11 Gustav Gößling during WWI

Im Namen des Führers und Reichskanzlers



Dem Bauunternehmer Gustav Gößling,

Herford, Fürstenastraße 10,

ist auf Grund der Verordnung vom 13. Juli 1934 zur Erinnerung an den Weltkrieg 1914/1918 das von dem Reichspräsidenten Generalfeldmarschall von Hindenburg gestiftete

Ehrenkreuz für Frontkämpfer

verliehen worden.

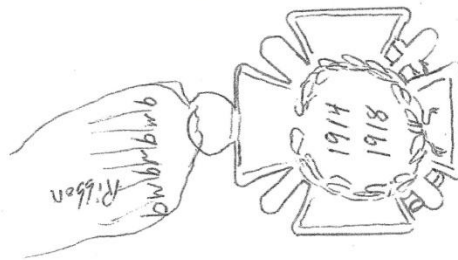
Herford, den 5. März 1935.

Der Oberbürgermeister.

Nr. 1864 / 35.



Heilmann



Images for Ehrenkreuz fuer frontkaempfer



Images for eisernes kreuz



For comparison: the real Iron Cross looked similar to the "Ehrendreuz"

Figure 12 Gustav received this medal during the "Third Reich"

Being a Successful Business Man

It is important to examine Gustav's very successful professional story as it played out in Germany before he left for the USA.

The end of the 19th and early years of the 20th century brought industry to Herford, most prominently furniture, textile and chocolate manufacturing. Along with it grew the demand for houses. Most residential homes had at least two stories and were of solid brick construction. The building trade was going strong. As far as I know Gustav's brothers became carpenters, house painters and maybe another bricklayer, all working in construction. After WW II some of them helped rebuild our bombed house on Fürstenaustraße 10.

Yet it takes something more than being skilled in a trade to start your own contracting business like Gustav did. It takes, above all, a willingness to take risks and the confidence in being able to determine one's own destiny.

As far as I know, all of the houses he built are still standing proud, most of them in a then developing neighborhood north of the railroad tracks, just outside of the old town limits. We have a photo of the one on Goltzstraße with Johanne standing on the sidewalk holding a baby and another child and a man with a bicycle (her brother-in-law Paul Reuter?) standing there as well. The house looks dark gray on the old photo, but nowadays it is painted white. According to family lore, he also built several other houses on that street and on another street around the corner. Only a time consuming title search can confirm that.

In 1920 he built the house on Fürstenaustraße 10 for his family and their dog to live in. The main reason for doing so was probably the fact that they had to leave the house on Gotzstraße because it had become the property of the allied Forces, most likely British. Fürstenaustraße 10 was built partially with material he salvaged from other torn down houses as I discovered as a child from the writing on some of the beams in the attic. The two story house was originally designed for one family with a toilet half way up the staircase. There was no real bathroom. The weekly baths were taken in tin tubs, usually in the wash kitchen in the basement which also had several other rooms for storage and a coal bunker. The basement could flood when nearby rivers were above normal and the ground water came up like it did in early 1947.

While he was running his construction company before 1914, he was a founding member, of the "Radewiger Schützenverein". The "Radewig" refers to the part of town they lived in. A "Schützenverein" is a shooting club, but since its origin in Napoleonic times it has developed into a Society whose members belong to the respected class of citizens like masters of their trade, successful business men, lawyers and other professionals. As a member of that group, Gustav, the contractor, was well connected, and his family could socialize in "better" circles than the family of a farm hand or an ordinary mason. It was expected that his children would attend schools above the basic requirements.

The better social standing of the family was probably the reason why he built a house for them on the town side of the railroad tracks. It was so much easier to get to good schools and cultural and social events from there. From their former home they had to walk through a spooky tunnel under the train tracks to get into town. A historic magazine now refers to Fürstenaustraße 10 as a town villa.



Postkarte zum Kaisermanöver 1898, Sammlung Pöhler

Figure 13 Kaiser Wilhelm 1st inspired German Patriotism



52 Ansichten gestern und heute



Hermann
stopped the
advancing Romans
not far from
Herford in AD 9.
He became a
celebrated hero in
the late 19th and
early 20th century,
a symbol of
German patriotism.

Figure 14
Hermanns
Denkmol Detmold

Johanne

We can't paint a picture of Gustav's life without giving his wife, Johanne, a prominent place.

Anna, Johanne, Justine Stranghöner was born on the 13th of December, 1880 in Diebrock near Herford. Her mother, Luise Stranghöner, was a maid, not married, who lived in her father's house. A midwife, Anna Bexter, was present at the birth and registered the birth with the authorities. The identity of Johanne's father is unknown. Family lore says he was a Frenchman. What was a Frenchman doing in the little village of Diebrock? Was he working on the railroad? Was he a travelling musician? Was he one of the French Huguenots who had settled not too far from Herford? Many of them worked as travelling salesmen offering haberdashery and - maybe - other things. People referred to them as "Franzosen", Frenchmen. We can only speculate and hope that Johanne was born out of a romantic love relationship. Her son Otto told the version that says that his grandfather was a Frenchman working on the railroad. That should be accepted as the true family history.

Children born out of wedlock were usually not received with great joy by the family in those days, neither by society in general. The children bore the brunt of those standards. We don't know anything about Johanne's childhood, but her relationship to cousins and a half-sister and other relatives of her own age and generation was very close when I knew her, while their talk about some of the older men in the family was worse than unpleasant. With her black hair and blue eyes and slim figure she looked different from most people in her North German environment. The few photos we have of her as a young woman show her as beautiful and very attractive.

Like many women around Herford she worked in the textile industry. I know from one of those factories near our house on Fürstenaustraße when I lived there, that the seamstresses enjoyed their work. They often sang while sewing, had long breaks in a big garden and joked and teased each other and threw apples or pears to us children from the trees in that garden. Although I observed that in the 1940s and 1950s, I assume that in the late 1800s and early 1900s the working

conditions in the small factories in Herford were not like we know them from the sweatshops in New York's garment industry.

Johanne was 22 years old when she married Gustav Adolf Gößling on the 20th of November, 1903. Seven months later, on the 12th of June, 1904, she gave birth to a healthy child, a daughter they named Ella - my mother.

By the time Ella was born, they had moved to Hellerweg 464, a house Gustav owned.

Within the next eight years, four more children joined the family: Hildegard called Hilde (1907), Margarete called Gretel or Grete (1908), Otto (1909), and Paul (1912). At some time in those years they moved to Goltzstrasse 17, also built by Gustav.

It seems that the children grew up to expect a life in well educated circles, or at least above the working class. Otto wanted to become an architect, Paul showed great talent with the violin, Hilde learned office skills and was very good with the piano. Ella also learned home making in a special school and secretarial skills and studied English and later Esperanto. Their father must have been very busy with his construction business and other involvements. He must have been very successful financially as a contractor to get all of his five children to aim for a good education. The influence of their mother must also have been important, because the father was not around very much.

Then came the First World War and crushed all those dreams. Gustav was called to arms and left for France, Johanne was left alone to raise the five children.

Since the Kaiser, his advisors and many of the citizens expected the war to end after a few months, no plans had been made to give the families of the soldiers financial support. Johanne took up some sewing which she did at night at home. There was some rental income, but living became a struggle. The youngest child, Paul, was only two years old when the war broke out; Ella, the eldest, was twelve. Not enough has been written about the hardships of young mothers with husbands off to war. The children may be hungry at times and cold, but I remember from the years in my childhood during and after WW II, that it was my mother who had to do all the worrying about the next meal or where to find coal for the stove or get

shoes for us growing kids. Mothers carry most of the burden of war, just as they carried the greatest load of the hardships which early settlers in America endured.

The children grew up without a father during these important years. Then, after returning from the war and trying to make a living for three or four years during those times of unimaginable inflation, Gustav left for America. Hilde told me once, that they hardly knew their father.

Johanne again had to fill so many roles. She must have been very strong not to show lasting signs of distress. I know of women who took to drinking or drugs which were easy to come by, but she didn't.

The situation in Germany was unbearable for many folks in the early 1920s when the galloping inflation set in. Food was precious, a loaf of bread cost millions of Marks - if you could get one. Actually, if you want to know the price of bread in 1923, for example, you have to specify the day and the hour of the day you talking about, because inflation ran beyond imagination. Otto once told his nephew Ralph Bayer one time he saw a boy eating a sandwich: "How much would I love to have a sandwich like that when I was a boy!

For relaxation - if or when she had time for that - Johanne loved to play cards, simple games, not bridge. She also knew how to crotchet and knit, which looked awkward, since she was left-handed. She tried to teach me how to knit during the anxious hours in bomb shelters, because I was always fearful, and she wanted to get my mind to concentrate on knitting. I knitted the crookedest pot holders because I had to transfer every one of her moves to my right - handed mind. I don't know at what age she began having corns on her feet, but I saw her cut a hole in a good shoe to make room for a corn which bothered her. I loved to watch her brush her long black hair, which made her so different from everybody else's grandmother. She saved the hair that came out because one did that and sent it off for insulation for submarines.

Johanne was very close to her side of the family. There were always birthday celebrations, visits without reasons, funerals and weddings, more Sunday afternoon visits for cake (when available) or to celebrate the slaughtering of a pig. It must have been hard for her to give all that up to move to America with only three of her children to join Gustav. Gustav could not have left his family in 1923

and settle in Wisconsin if he hadn't been sure that the children were in good hands. He must have had great confidence in Johanne. She was very level-headed and headstrong, as I remember her, and always protective of us children.

If she was very religious in her heart, I don't know. She did not make a big show of it, but she did go to church, in Herford as well as in Milwaukee or West Allis. In Herford she attended a women's group at our church which did good deeds while they all talked a lot.

During the years of WWII which Johanne spent in Herford, she was awarded the "Mutterkreuz", a Mother Cross, by the German government. Expecting Germany to rule the world eventually, the Hitler regime thought it wise to promote having a lot of children. With that in mind, they presented all mothers of five or more children with a medal. Johanne was one of them. I don't know where her medal and the accompanying certificate are now, but I photographed one of those medals in an antique store. Maybe one of you has it in an old box somewhere., Maybe she bartered it for food after the war, because American GIs loved to have them as souvenir. Maybe she destroyed it when the American troops swooped into town, because possessing anything with a swastika on it could get you into serious trouble.

I remember several occasions where she displayed unusual courage and took risks to help other. One situation came about when our neighbors, the Jewish family by the name of Spanier, were told by the authorities not to sell any more hats from their milliner's shop in town. They lost their income and a hard time buying groceries. One night, while pretending to sleep, I saw Oma sending a basket of food to the Spanier along a rope to their window or into the yard next to our house. That could have led to life threatening consequences. Ella, my mother, had been arrested shortly before then for buying a hat in Spanier's forbidden store. Somehow my father managed to get her released.

I remember Johanne, my Oma, as a woman who was always there for us and for others who needed her, including gypsies who needed a hand-out of food when they knocked on the door. She had a sense of the demands of reality being stronger than philosophical moral standards. She, a German, called herself an American citizen which saved two old uncles from being arrested and dragged off

when American soldiers wanted to search the house we lived in at the time. The soldiers were looking for nay men who could be Nazis. She had the stuff that heroes are made of, but she was a woman.



Johanne Gößling

Figure 16 Johanne Goesling in West Allis holding up a laundry pole. She is not holding up the US flag as some cousins thought.

A.

Nr. 543.

Westph., am 16. November 1888.

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschien heute, der
 Persönlichkeit nach _____, *Ich* kannt,

Johanne Anna Becker

wohnhaft zu *Diebrock N. 9.*

evangelischer Religion, und zeigte an, daß von der
evangelischen Glaubensart *Leipziger Str.*
her,

evangelischer Religion,
 wohnhaft *Leipziger Str.*

zu *Reckewitz Feldmark N. 1*

am *Leipzig* im *November* des Jahres
 tausend acht hundert achtzig *November*
 um *11* Uhr ein Kind *weiblichen*
 Geschlechts geboren worden sei, welches *in* Vornamen
Anna Johanne Justine
 erhalten habe. *Ich* bestätige, daß für die
bei *der* *Minuten* *der* *Leipziger* *Str.*
gegen *gegeben* *sei.*

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben.
Anna Becker

Der Standesbeamte.
Cottmann

Figure 15 Johanne Birth Certificate



Figure 17 Group of women making shoes
Possible charity work for the church Johanne is on far right

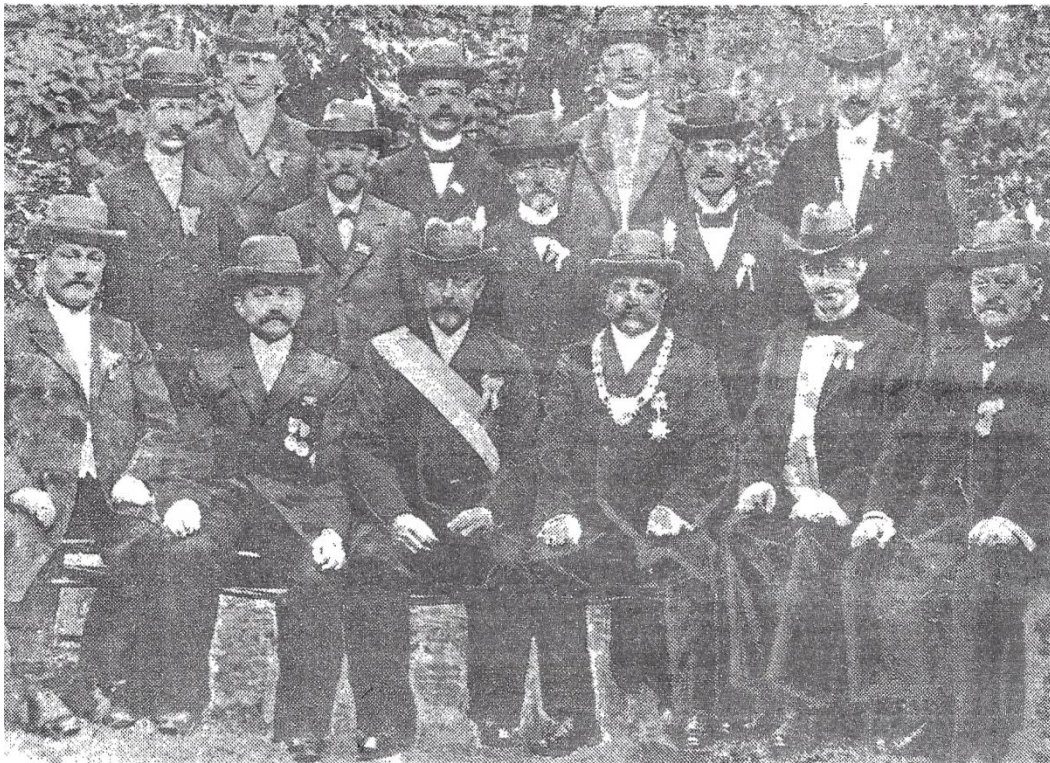


Figure 18 Radewiger Schützenverein
Gustav (back row 3rd from left, tallest) was a founding member of the prestigious "Radewiger Schützenverein"



Figure 19 Five Million Mark note "Money" in 1923

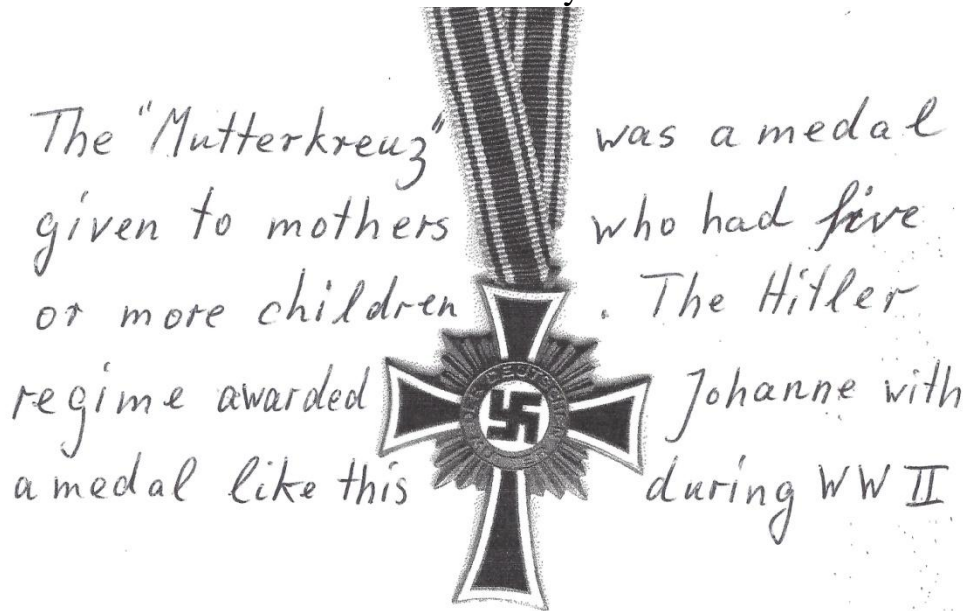


Figure 20 Mutterkreuz

About Emigrating

Gustav Gößling was 44 years old when he left Germany in 1923 to build a future in the United States of America. He had been married for 20 years; the eldest of his five children, Ella, was 19; he had built a successful construction company; he had served four years as a musketeer in the Kaiser's army during WW I; he was a respected citizen of Herford; he had no criminal record.

Since my generation – his grandchildren - missed asking our parents about what they thought his motives might have been, we can only take educated guesses.

Emigrating, leaving Europe for expected greener pastures in the Americas, Africa or Australia, was not a rare enterprise in those years after the war and during the inflationary, hungry years during the early twenties. In many families letters from former neighbors or relatives from abroad were suggesting: come and join us, we'll help you. 1923 was the worst year of the inflation. If you want to know the price of a loaf of bread during that year, you have to specify the day and the time of the day you are asking about. For him to emigrate in 1923, he had to think about it and plan for it at least a year ahead, because of the paperwork and correspondence involved. We can assume, that the major factor that made him do it was his own character. He was probably fed up with the way things were going in Germany, especially the chaotic, unpredictable government, and he decided to act, to determine his own destiny. None of his siblings left Germany.

Gustav had at least one cousin in Quincy, Illinois. His mother, nee Anne Friederike Haddenhorst, had a sister there. Most likely his aunt's married name was Niekamp. Books on Quincy's history list other Goesslings as immigrants.

We have notes from Otto saying that his father actually first went to New York in 1921 where he knew one of his former tenants. However, so far no ship list has been found to support that. Research gets confusing, because another Gustav Gößling from Herford immigrated to America just a few years before our Gustav did, and both crossed the Atlantic several times. There is a business letter in the County Archive in Herford with our Gustav's handwriting, dated January 1923.

The first ship list found with his name and estimated year of birth as 1879 on it is from the “Bremen” which landed in New York on the 26th of June, 1923. Amazon.com has his name as Gustav Goessling (with 2s's) in the listing. It is possible that he stopped in New York for a while before he continued to Illinois and that Otto remembered the year incorrectly.

In Quincy he found not only relatives but also many other people from Herford and their descendents. Today Herford and Quincy are sister cities.

Yet, Gustav did not settle there. A plaster contractor by the name of Dussmann got him to move to Milwaukee. This information and details about Gustav as a private person which will be told later, come from Ralph Bayer, Gustav’s eldest grandchild in America, who remembers him well since they lived in the same house on 84th Street in West Allis for years, and who was 13 when his grandpa died in 1944. Werner Bayer, about 4 years younger than Ralph, also contributed some of his memories.

Working as a mason, Gustav must have earned enough money to save for tickets for trips home to Germany, but we don’t know if he sent money home for his family to live on. He had an account with the Commerzbank in Herford, but records of the 1920s are archived or no longer accessible for other reasons. Most likely, Johanne had some rental income if they still owned a house or two on Goltzstrasse other than Nr. 17 which was sold in 1920 for 40,000 Mark to an investor. There are stories about Johanne, his wife, having to work into the night mending and sewing for other people. Yet, all five children attended schools above the normal level and which charged tuition.

On the 25th of March, 1925, he again arrived in New York on the “Stuttgart” according to a ship list. That means, that he had been home for a while. Hilde mentioned to me once that the family never knew when he was coming. All of a sudden he was there, and he usually left just as unexpectedly.

I suppose that from 1923 to 1925 he did not build up a substantial business, of his own. One aspect of American life in those days which made it unpleasant for some Germans to work in the construction business, was prohibition. They were used to washing the dust of their trade down with a good glass of beer. As a child I met friends of Gustav's who also worked in construction, who had returned

to Germany for good because they did not want to spend the rest of their life suffering from a dusty throat and thirst. I don't know how it affected Gustav. I assume that his returns to Germany had nothing directly to do with it, but I know that in later years when Johanne, his wife, lived in the States, she must have learned to concoct something desirable, because after WWII, when American troops occupied Herford and had their alcohol rationed, she had a contraption in our basement and could soon exchange her "tea" for bread, corned beef or other badly needed food. We children were very grateful for having a bootleggin' Oma. Of course, it was illegal, but when you have hungry grandchildren, laws become of questionable value.

He arrived in New York for a third time on the 6th of October, 1927, on the "Reliance". This time he had departed from Hamburg instead of Bremen. Otto said that his father had actually arrived in Herford in 1926 and worked there. With his brothers being in the local construction business, he probably had little trouble finding short term work as a bricklayer.

On this visit it was somehow decided that the rest of the family would follow him to America in a few months, except for Ella, who was already married to Rudolf Pörtner. Ella, my mother, told me that if she had been given the opportunity to go to America a few years earlier before her marriage, she would have welcomed it, because she always wanted to see the world. Her sister Hildegard (also known as Hilde), however, had no desire to leave Herford. Born on February 17, 1907, she became of legal age in 1928 and decided to get married to avoid joining her father in America. She married Hermann Rottmann, a colleague whom she had known for a while. They married on the day on which the others left from Bremen.

Johanne and her three minor children, Otto, Margarete and Paul, crossed the Atlantic in February of 1928 on the Columbus. Otto later (8-10-93) writes about that trip: "Johanna Goesling who spoke only German was 'tagged' with destination, number of children accompanying her. A traveler's aide lady met them in NY - gave them \$1.00 to pay for cab to the train station. At the train station cabbie asked for \$5.00. Otto with his limited English tried to argue 'only \$1.00' without success. Eventually they paid \$5.00."

They took the train to Milwaukee, then a cab to 1031 N. 33 St.. where Gustav, who was waiting for them on the porch, was renting the upper flat from some Hungarian.

The first house that Gustav and Otto designed together for the family, one with very expensive round windows, was not to Johanne's liking, so they moved.

In November of 1928, Johanne and Gustav celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and had a picture taken to remember it by.

In a letter Otto mentions that "Johanna was never happy in the U. S.. Couldn't find as good of women friends or as educated as the ones in Germany, plus she didn't speak English". I personally heard her communicate successfully with American soldier in 1945 in English. Her English must have been good enough to get her point across.

Otto, who had started an education in the School of Architecture in Detmold, Germany, was 18 at the time, still a minor according to the laws of the time.. He told me that he had to give up his dream of becoming an architect and began working with his father as a mason.

In 1929 or shortly thereafter, building houses almost came to a halt in Milwaukee due to the depression, and the two went to Florida for a while and found work there. Paul was of high school age and later became a bookbinder. He also played in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra part time later on. Margarete (Grete) soon found employment with a German family in Milwaukee and was very happy with her situation. She married Christoph Bayer in October of 1930.

Otto probably worked either for or with Gustav until the elder's death in 1944. There is letterhead paper with both names on it. They built mainly in Milwaukee and West Allis. Gustav also built a grocery store on 81st and Nashville.

Gustav never drove a car and used public transportation. Speaking English might not have been critical for success in Milwaukee with so many German speaking residents, but from what I heard, his English was much less than fluent. In 1957 while in Germany, I met an elderly black gentleman who had worked for Gustav many years ago. "Mr. Goeslin", he spoke in tongues", he told me.

It must have been difficult to adjust to American business practices after more than twenty years of running a respected company in Germany. There is a letter on file with the history of the house he built on Fürstenaustraße, in which he asks the city for permission to begin construction in December of 1919 rather than in January of 1920 as was already approved, because he wanted his bricklayers to have work. This loyalty towards employees and also in reverse could not always be practiced in the USA where those relationships are more project oriented. I know he had several of his friends from Germany working with him in Milwaukee for a while, all in construction. One of them, Udo Göring, helped repair the house on Fürstenaustraße 10 after bombing damage of 1944. He told me that he could not live in America in the 1920s because people were not allowed to drink, not even beer, so he came home to Herford, where – I could always smell it – his work was executed with the proper spirit (and with a frightening amount of swearing). There may have been others who felt obliged to leave the promised land to avoid getting in legal conflict with the revenueurs.

Page 1 of 1

1938 Census, Milwaukee

[illegible]

Figure 21 Milwaukee 1930 Census

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO BE GIVEN TO
THE PERSON NATURALIZED

No. 3322632

ORIGINAL

Petition No. 23092

Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization: Age 51 years; sex Male; color WHITE
 complexion Fair; color of eyes Blue; color of hair Blonde; height 5 feet 7 1/2 inches;
 weight 150 pounds; visible distinctive marks None.
 Marital status Married; race German; former nationality German

I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.

ORIGINAL

Gustav Goesling
 (Complete and true signature of holder)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 MILWAUKEE COUNTY ss:

Be it known that GUSTAV GOESLING
 then residing at 1091 - 33rd St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 having petitioned to be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and at
 a term of the CIRCUIT Court of MILWAUKEE COUNTY
MILWAUKEE, WIS. on May 13th, 1930
 held pursuant to law at
 the court having found that the petitioner intends to reside permanently in the
 United States, had in all respects complied with the Naturalization Laws of the United
 States in such case applicable and was entitled to be so admitted the court thereupon
 ordered that the petitioner be admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.
 In testimony whereof the seal of the court is hereunto affixed this 13th
 day of May in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and
thirty and fifty-fourth

[Signature]
 Clerk of the CIRCUIT Court.

By _____ Deputy Clerk.

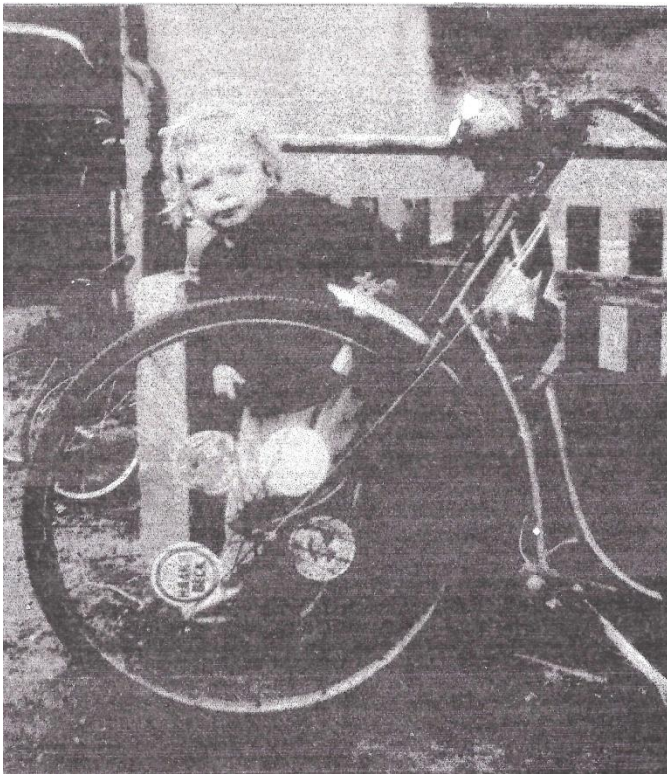
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Figure 22 Gustav US Citizenship Certificate 13 May 1930



Rolf Pörtner, born in July 1928
died in June 1936

Figure 23 The two grandchildren Johanne
never saw.



Renate Pörtner was born in
1950, she was two years old when
Johanne died in America.



Figure 24 Gustav and Johanne Gößling Family 1920s

This photo was probably taken in the mid 1920s in the front yard of Fürstenaustraße 10. It is said that Gustav was not present for the photo and that his image was pasted into the scene later in a photolab.

Visits to Germany

After they had settled in Milwaukee in 1928, the family Goesling had several difficult years to cope with because the US economy collapsed into the "Depression". That will be covered in a different chapter.

If they had any desire to go back to Germany for good or for a visit - I bet they all did occasionally - they could not afford it. However, in 1935, Gustav made the trip - in the winter of course, when the construction business was naturally slow. It had probably something to do with money that Johanne did not go along; but maybe she had to take care of a dog or goldfish or the business. Her two sons were already married. Or maybe Gustav liked to travel by himself.

In Herford, their eldest daughter, Ella, had given birth to a son (Rolf, 1928) and a daughter (Margret, 1930, named after her aunt in America). Hilde had a son (Paul Otto, 1933, named after his uncle in America). In addition to meeting his grandchildren, Gustav probably visited his siblings and other family members and friends, because the ties to those people were also alive. Paul Rottmann, then a toddler, remembers one incident from that visit: his Opa criticized his mother for handling little Paul in a dangerous way when she dressed him standing on a chair.

Johanne did not return to Germany until July 14, 1939, when she landed in Cuxhaven and proceeded by train to Herford. Since Gustav's visit in 1935, Ella had given birth to two more children, Helga in 1937 and Diethard in 1938. The most overwhelming event, however, was that Rolf had died in 1936 at the age of eight during an operation for blocked intestines. Johanne had never held this first grandchild of hers in her arms.

Margret, then almost nine years old in July of 1939, remembers when all Pörtlerns and Rottmanns walked to the railroad station to welcome "Oma". Visitors from "Amerika" made half the town curious in those days. And a visitor she was; she did not intend to move back to Germany, as can be deduced from letters and documents. Discovering this fact during my research was quite a disappointment, because - having been as egocentric as children are - I had always thought that she had come to Germany to help me and Diethard grow up.

Barely two months after her arrival and to the surprise of many Germans, a war which later became known as WW II, began in September of 1939 when German troops marched into Poland to reclaim some of the previously German territory. Johanne was carrying a German passport with a re-entry permit for the United States which would expire within a few months. She tried twice to get on a ship for the return trip, once from Bremen, once from Italy, but for reasons I don't yet know, the boats never left to cross the Atlantic. I heard that the reason for cancelling the journey was that there were too many Jewish people on board, which were not welcome in the US. This was the case with the MS St. Louis which carried almost a thousand Jewish refugees aboard in 1939 and was refused entry by Cuba, Canada and the United States and had to return to Europe.

Johanne finally gave up trying, because the general expectation in Germany was that the war would be over in a short time. She decided to stay for that period. She wrote to the American Consulate in Cologne to have her re-entry permit extended, but that was denied.

The war dragged on, life became difficult in many ways. Rudolf Pörtner and later Hermann Rottmann were drafted, so the women had to fend for the family with little income from their husbands' paycheck. Ella took on an office job. Johanne took on many chores in the household and helped raise the children. She never had her own room, as far as I remember. I do remember sharing her bed many times, especially during cold winter nights, and I also remember sharing her bed together with my little brother, Diethard, who had a kicking-leg-habit. Many nights we children were wearing shoes in order to be ready to run for the bomb shelter when the sirens screamed the alarm.

That 3in1-bed situation arose after the house on Fuerstenaustraße was bombed and we were given two rooms to live in by relatives from my father's side in Bad Salzuflen. Hilde Rottmann with her son Paul moved in with Hermann Rottmann's parents.

"Oma" was very much the center of our life, taking care of our daily needs. She gave Diethard more attention than the rest of us, because he was of delicate health. I realized that he needed that extra care, yet, one of the great moments of

my childhood happened when she managed to grab Diethard, who had one of his wild temper tantrums, and stuffed him in the dark broom closet under the staircase.

When the United States entered the war in 1942, all correspondence between normal residents of Germany and the U S stopped . That must have been hard on Johanne, Ella, and Hilde.

When the war was over in May of 1944 and 1945, Oma lived with us in Bad Salzuflen in those two rooms. She showed great courage when American soldiers entered the house, machine guns at the ready. She welcomed them somehow in English which helped to calm down these young nervous soldiers. Some American soldiers moved in for a short while. They would not let us use the outhouse, and we had to resort to "pisspots" and buckets and the stable for the goats.

Oma soon made the acquaintance of a young black American soldier whose home in Milwaukee was in a neighborhood where Gustav had built houses. That young man smuggled bread and other food to us in the dark of night at great risk to himself.

It was not until this time after the war that we learned of Gustav's death.

We counted ourselves very fortunate in having relatives in America, because they sent us care packages with food and other packages with clothes and even toys. I'll never forget that fancy revolver somebody sent us.

According to letters and other correspondence I found, Johanne tried to return to the States as soon as possible after the war. Her daughter Grete led the effort by writing and pleading and trying different ways to get a re-entry permit for her mother, but without success. Johanne had to apply for a new immigration visa which was eventually granted. She left Germany in late April of 1947 and landed in New York on May. 7. Her long "visit" was finally over.

During the night before she left, she slipped a little silver ring with a coral bead on my finger. I pretended to sleep because I did not want to say goodbye.

I know she must have been happy to be back "home" with three of her children and (then) five grandchildren there.

Being in the "land of plenty" - compared to starving Germany in those four bad years after WW II - gave her the opportunity to send packages to us, because she knew from her own experience that the need was great. Werner remembers that at one time he found his coat missing, and Grandma (Johanne) told him that she had sent it to Diethard, because he needed it more than Werner.

Some packages contained not only food and clothes, but also books and a few magazines with pictures of American landscapes, which I proudly shared with my friends. Although we could not read English, we began to dream of campfires in the Rockies, riding over the open prairie and smoking the peace pipe with Indians, just like our American relatives were probably doing.

Johanne adjusted quite well to her life as a widow in Wisconsin, it seems. But she always worried about Diethard and at some time tried to get him to come to Milwaukee, which, of course, was refused by his father. Johanne never met her youngest grandchild, Renate, who was born to Ella and Rudolf in 1950. When Renate was two years old, her mother, Ella passed away on July 1, 1953. Johanne died of a heart attack on July 6, 1953, when she learned of Ella's death.

It was not until the mid-1950s that one of the American relatives came to Herford for a visit. Ella had already passed away, and Hilde was widowed. Otto was the first one to visit Germany, and he came without his wife, much to the joy of several of his former lady friends who were now widowed. Paul came in the early 1960s with his daughter Marlene.

Otto and Paul renewed not only their ties to other relatives but also to former friends. I remember that they displayed American table manners which upset Hilde, and she scolded Otto for not keeping his left hand on the table while eating. They seemed to enjoy their visits and gave me the impression that they were relaxed, happy folks - just like we thought Americans would be. Greet never has the opportunity to go back to Germany for a visit.

One summer, Hilde got all her courage together and flew for a visit to Milwaukee. From all the family members, I think she was the one who suffered most from her brothers and little sister moving so far away to America. Her experiences in America were overwhelming for a while, but the family gave her much loving attention. She talked and joked about it for years. She told me that

somebody remarked after church, that she was probably one of those wonderful German cooks that all Americans knew about. She said she set him straight and told him: "I am not a cooker, I am a typewriter." Indeed, she loved office work, house cleaning, and playing the piano, but not cooking.

Marcia, Marlene, and Ralph visited Germany, including Herford. Werner married Jackie while he was in the army and stationed in Germany. Otto came to Germany several times, and once when Ralph and his wife Barbara were also there and so to was I with Hans, my husband. That is when Hilde decided to invite quite a few relatives for dinner in a nice restaurant. To impress everybody and to show off how successful her brother had become, she announced that Otto would pay for the dinner for the entire party. That was a surprise to Otto. He paid.

Visits are easier now, but as one generation replaces the other, ties are no longer that close, and visits become fewer. That is nature taking its course.



Figure 26 There were frequent family gatherings



Figure 25 Johanne with Paul, Margret, Helga



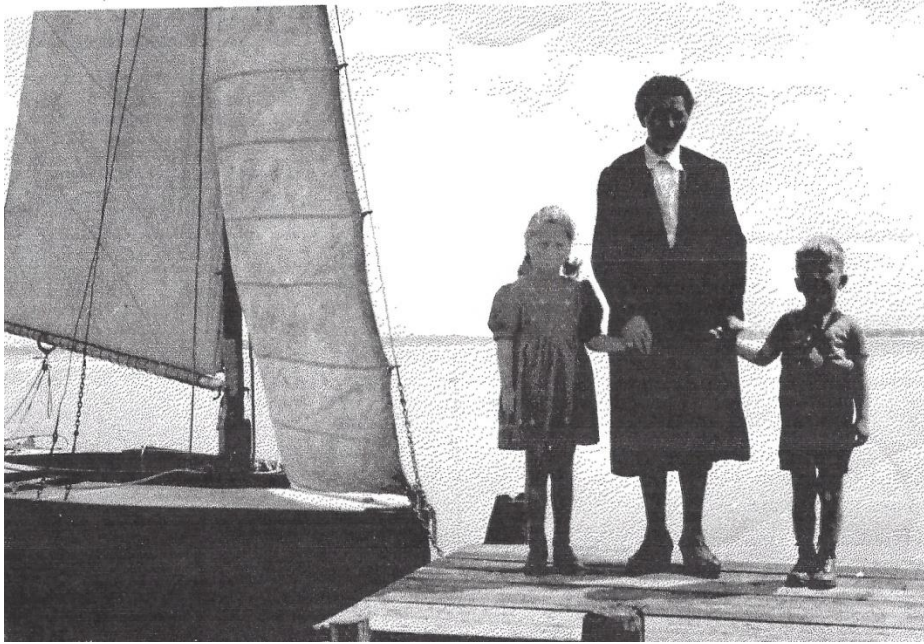
Figure 27 They all lived in Fürstenaustraße 10 about 1939 or 1940



Figure 28 Diethard, Johanne, Rudolph, Hermann, Hilde, Ella



Figure 29 Auguste Altheide, Johanne Gößling, Hilde Reuter



Whenever possible, Pörtner's rented a cottage near the Steinhuder Meer, near Hannover, for a few weeks in the summer.

Figure 30 1943 Steinhuder Meer Helga, Johanne, Diethard



Figure 32 Johanne's half-sister Anna Reuter



Figure 31 Johanne and her grandfather clock which now stands in Pflugerville TX

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										THE UNDERSIGNED ACKNOWLEDGES THE RECEIPT OF THE C. A. R. E. FOOD PACKAGE INDICATED HEREIN.									
										PACKAGE RECEIPT DATE 25. 11. 46 NAME Johanne Goesling OVERSEAS RECEIPT									
NOT NEGOTIABLE																			

Figure 33 Receipt for one of many wonderful care packages

Figure 34 and their happy recipients Hilde, Johanne, and Ella



Gustav Remembered as a Person

Gustav was known as “not taking any crap”, as some of his customers had to find out. One lady complained to him about the driveway he had poured not being white enough. The concrete was still greenish because it had not yet dried. The lady's complaint upset Gustav, and he took the bottle of milk out of the milk shoot and poured the milk on the concrete. "Now it is white, lady", he told her.

Another incident is being told: Gustav was fixing a chimney on a house and told the lady inside not to start a fire in the furnace. Of course, she did just that. So Gustav crumpled up a paper bag and stuffed it into the chimney, thus pushing the smoke into the house.

Ralph and Werner do not remember ever having seen him with an outburst of anger in private life. Ralph says, his Grandpa was very musical and loved music. He taught him to sing “Ich bin ein Musikante und komm‘ aus Schwabenland...”. However, he never joined a choir as many other Germans did.

He was also did not play cards like so many German immigrants did, neither Skat nor Doppelkopf. He probably worked too many hours and did not want to waste time on this type of socializing. Johanne, however, did like to play cards. She spent many hours when she lived with us in Germany during the war playing “66” and Rommee with Diethard and me and with her lady friends.

Johanne attended church rather regularly at the Jordan Lutheran Church in West Allis on 84th Street South of Lapham. The pastor there, the Reverend Reete, preached in German. Gustav did not accompany her. He told Ralph once, that he could not believe in a God who required Abraham to sacrifice his son. While many other people might share this feeling of uneasiness about Abraham's God, Gustav lived according to his own conviction. In a way he was stubborn, he would not go to church just because it was the socially proper thing to do.

Talking about his service in the German army during the First World War, also known as “The Great War”, he did not brag about his achievements in battle. He told Ralph that he once had the chance to kill an enemy soldier, but he chose to shoot his rifle in the air to warn the Frenchman, who then ran for cover.

When not working, Gustav liked to sit in front of the house on 1702 S. 81st Street where he lived downstairs while the Christoph Bayer family lived upstairs. There he enjoyed talking politics with some friends, especially Louis Hicks from England and one Mr. Stern. Mr. Stern was Jewish and had a garment store where Gustav bought his clothes. The three, all of different backgrounds, solved the problems of the world without a fight.

He obviously did not entertain any negative prejudices against Jews as so many other Germans and Americans did in those years. As a contractor in Germany, he obtained loans from Jewish lenders when regular financing from the banks was not granted; that included the house on Fürstenaustraße. The same financial involvement might have been the case when he needed construction loans or second liens in Wisconsin.

Building houses and small stores in West Allis kept him very much in touch with life in the neighborhood. Ralph remembers that one morning his Kindergarten teacher mentioned that they could use some more sand for the sandbox. Ralph said that he knew where to get it, and he walked to a site on 81st and National where his grandfather was building a store. One of the handymen there, Joe Michow, filled a 5 gallon bucket with sand, and 4 or 5 year old Ralph had to carry that heavy load for at least three blocks to his Kindergarten. Memories like this tell of a time when fathers and grandfathers did not just leave for work in the morning, they were there to be seen and contacted during the day.

Gustav Goesling obtained his American citizenship in Milwaukee on May 13, 1930. At that time he was a 51 year old white male of fair complexion with blue eyes and blonde (!) hair. He was 5 feet 7.5 inches tall and married. In 1942, on April 27, bricklayer Gust. A. Goesling registered for Selective Service and presented proof of citizenship at the time of fingerprinting. This happened in accordance with a "Proclamation of the President of the United States".

Shortly thereafter he became ill. The family called it prostate cancer, but on the death certificate it is called Carcinoma of the bladder. The doctor testified that he had treated the patient for 14 months. Ralph remembers that his grandfather suffered a lot of pain. Pain management was poor in those years. Gustav passed away on the 15th October, 1944, at the age of 65.

While he lived through the hardest two years of his life, enduring pain and discomfort, Johanne, his wife of 40 years, was hundreds of miles away trying to survive the terrifying bombing attacks on Herford. Since the US had entered the war in 1942, there was no exchange of letters between the civilian population of the two countries. Johanne did not even know that her husband was sick and suffering – maybe that was a blessing, because she could not help him anyhow. He did not know in his last moments whether his wife was still alive.

Johanne died suddenly on July 6, 1953, of a heart attack. She was 72 years old. When she saw her son Otto approach her home on July 6, 1953 carrying a letter, she knew that it brought the news of the death of her daughter Ella. Johanne collapsed of a heart attack.

In 1947, two years after the end of the war, Johanne had returned to America to be with her three children and by then five grandchildren. She always worried about the part of the family in Germany, and she – as well as other relatives – sent much appreciated CARE packages with food and clothes. Correspondence was possible by airmail then, so she knew that Ella had been in critical condition for months following a gallbladder operation.

Gustav and Johanne Goesling rest side by side in Highland Memorial Park in West Allis, Wisconsin. They had spent many years of their married life separated due to the first and the second World Wars, and also separated as one of the many consequences of emigration – some beneficial, some hard to cope with.

Most likely Gustav, and eventually Johanne, had left Germany having the welfare of their family in mind. All of the American descendants that I know are grateful and appreciative for their sacrifices.

Those who stayed in Germany are also doing fine. Just like their American cousins and the off-spring, they are good citizens with an above average education, warm hearts and with a solid common sense approach to life and a good sense of humor.



Gustav Gößling

Figure 36 Gustav Gößling on front steps



Figure 35 Johanne and Gustav celebrate their Silver Wedding Anniversary 20 November 1928



Figure 37 Gustav and Johanne



Figure 38 Gretel and Christoph Bayer's wedding 1930



Figure 39 Otto Grete Gustav Johanne Paul



Figure 41 Margarete (Grete, Gretel)



Figure 40 Otto and Paul in America

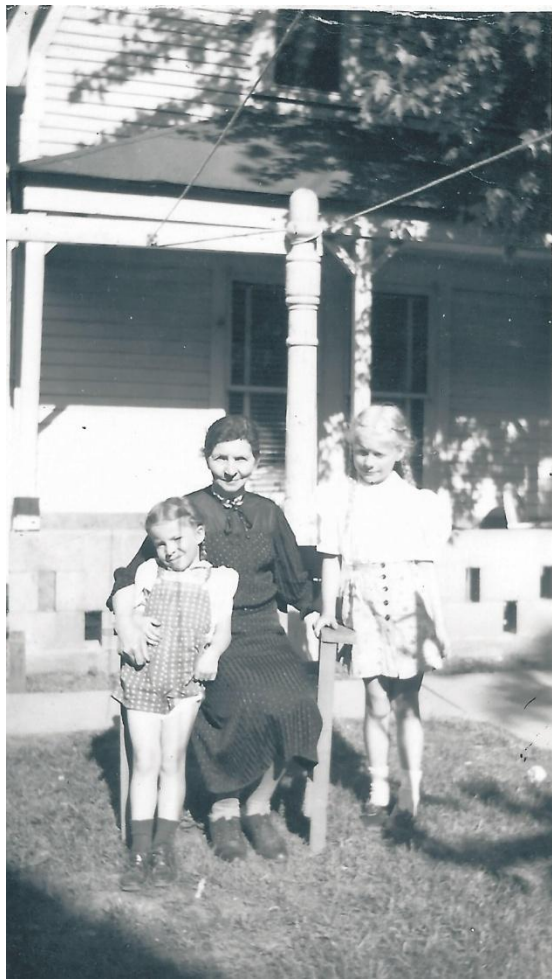


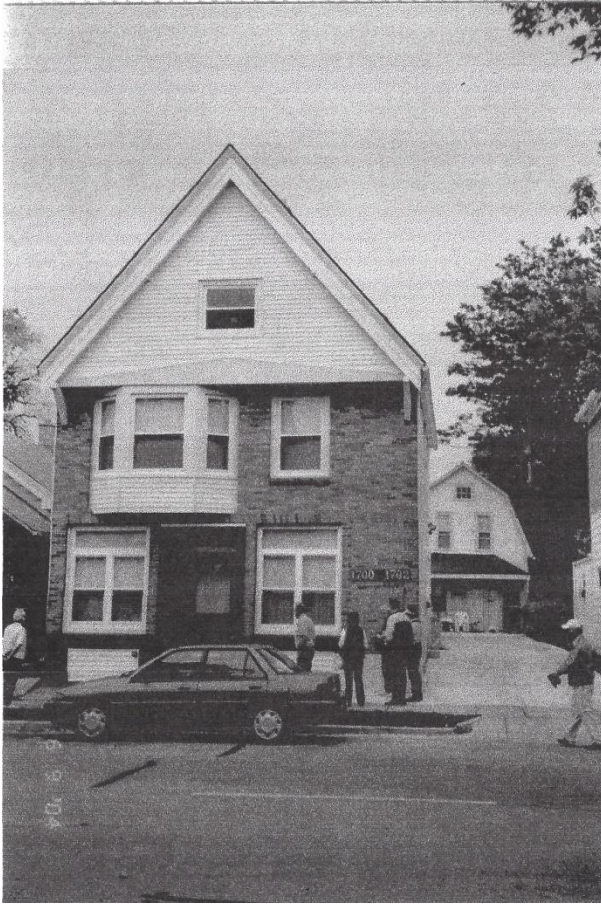
Figure 42 Marlene Johanne Marcia



Figure 43 West Allis House
Gustav



Figure 44 West Allis 3 on door step



Chris, Gretel, Ralph, and Werner Bayer lived upstairs

Gustave and later Johanne lived downstairs

Figure 45 1702S 81st Street West Allis Wisconsin



Paul, Trola, Marcia, Marlene, and Paul Jr Goesling lived here until they built their own house.

Figure 46 back house at 1702S 81st Street West Allis Wisconsin

Herford

When Gustav entered the work force, more and more industry developed in and near Herford: Water Works, electrification, the municipal gas manufacturing plant, small furniture factories, chocolate and candy makers, additions to the railroad system, and the release of rural areas to become residential neighborhoods. All this offered badly needed jobs, because of decreased infant mortality. People moved into town or wanted to. There was a critical shortage of houses. Herford's population grew from 1110 in 1878 to 3300 in 1910. It was therefore a prudent choice when Gustav and his brothers chose careers in the building trade - mason, carpenters, and painters.

Herford also became the place of large, rich, ornate villas for well-off citizens who supported the arts and music and continued to cherish people with imagination and a yearning for the beautiful and the acceptance of out-of-the-ordinary folks, like hundreds of fairground equipment owners who spend the winters in Herford . Even now the town of less than 70 000 residents features one Germany's best known art and design museums, "MATa", which is literally a stone-throw away from Fürstenaustraße 10. It was designed by the American architect Frank Gehry.

The "Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie", an orchestra of international acclaim, is headquartered in Herford and might be the orchestra in which Paul Gößling would have made his career.

The internationally most well-known persons of Herford is the architect Daniel Pöppelmann. During the baroque period in the 17th century, he designed the "Dresdener Zwinger" for the King of Saxony, a jewel of a building which is to this day a major tourist attraction in Dresden. In 2011, Gustav Gößling's house on Fürstenaustraße 10 was awarded the "Daniel Pöppelmann" prize for exemplary restoration by the present owner. Newspaper and magazine articles have been published about this fact.

Another little tidbit: Fürstenaustraße was named after Anton Fürstenau. He was a prominent citizen who saved Herford from being invaded by Swedish troops during the 30-year war (1618 - 1648). He did so by talking and negotiating. He is

immortalized in a strange looking statue in front of the Radewiger Church near the goose market, the "Gänsemarkt".



We have no photo of Fürstenaustraße after the bombing attacks. The photo above shows a street in downtown Herford taken in November of 1944.

onditorei Möllhof, während auf der gegenüberliegende Straßenseite
ihr Bauten der 70er Jahre stehen.

Figure 47 Downtown Herford in November 1944

Fürstenaustraße 10

Fürstenaustraße 10 in Herford has always been a good location. It takes one minute to walk to the train station and to the bus terminal, in about ten minutes one stands smack downtown in front of the "Rathaus", city hall.

The lot (Gemarkung Herford, Flur 26, Flurstück 0390/000), which was originally 943square meters (about 1/4 of an acre) allowed raising chicken, rabbits and a pig or two (the second one secretly and illegally according to city ordinances). Over the years, a few apple trees were planted, there were blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and red currants. And whatever was raised in special beds, like Rudolf's little patch of illegal tobacco plants. There was also a lawn on which linens could be bleached by the sun. A sturdy swing set was strong enough for adults, and a sandbox offered hours of baking cakes and digging ditches.

The front yard was considerably larger than it is now, because after WWII part of it was taken away by eminent domain to widen the road. The old front yard had blooming shrubs and a canopy of bushes under which a table and a garden bench invited you to rest and chat a while with visitors.

Part of the back yard was leased out to Johanne's brother-in-law Paul Reuter. He had a plumbing shop there; he also fixed leaks in pots and pans, sharpened scissors and was very much in demand, so that the place was constantly busy with people coming and going.

People coming and going was also due to the fact, that several doctors had their practice in the neighborhood, and relatives from the countryside who came into town by bus, rail, or bicycle, and those who had walked from other parts of town for medical reasons, stopped by to say hello.

The house itself was built as a two story one-family home. It had a basement with a "Waschküche", laundry kitchen, which also served as the place to take the weekly or so bath in one of the tin tubs. There was no running hot water, but there was a big kettle in which one could boil water and also boil the linen, and after butchering a hog, or something else - I don't remember what - was also boiled in there. Probably the intestines. Other rooms were for storage of potatoes, canned

food, bottled apple juice, coal and bicycles and garden tools. This was a constant temptation for hungry folks near the railroad station to sneak in and help themselves.

During the war, one room in the basement was turned into an air raid shelter, but it was structurally not very solid due to the circumstances under which the house was built right after the first World War. We usually ran for other shelters in the neighborhood when we heard the sirens early enough.

There was or still is one location in the house which is the strongest, and it has a somewhat supernatural story to go with it: Architect Liesel who lived in the neighborhood, had told Johanne, that - should she ever be in the house during an air raid and could not make it to a stronger shelter - she should stay very close to the chimney in the basement. One night in October of 1944, she felt that she did not want to leave the house. She said that her husband, Gustav, had built the house, and she wanted to be close to him in her thoughts, and that she would be safe enough near the chimney. The rest of the family ran to the bunker nearby. That night the US Eighth Air Force flew planes from England over Muenster to Kassel, which meant over Herford. In an Air Force publication I found the passage about the event. Bombs were dropped, but our house was not yet directly damaged that night, however, we had to fear for her life because she was not with us. After the war we found out that Gustav had died that very night, the 15th of October, 1944. At the time we, including Johanne, did not even know that he was sick, because there was practically no exchange of mail allowed during the war years between Germany and the USA with few exceptions. Notification through the Red Cross had not reached us.

This story shows, that Johanne must have been torn between two worlds ever since Gustav left in 1923. When in Wisconsin, she missed her children and grandchildren in Germany; when in Germany, she missed the family that lived an ocean away. Obviously, that night in October of 1944, her thoughts and her longing were with Gustav while he was taking his last breaths without having her by his side.

Back to the rest of the house: As it was built for one family, the toilet was in between the ground floor and the second floor, halfway up or down the staircase.

There was running water to the commode. At night, chamber pots of different sizes were the key to relief and happiness.

There was no central heat. Each room was heated as needed or not heated, when there was hardly any coal or wood to heat with. Most of the time, only the kitchens had the hearth going for cooking and warmth. Arrangements had been made to have two kitchens in the house when the Pörtners and the Rottmanns each needed one. Therefore two separate apartments were created within the house.

For several years after the war, coal was so difficult to come by, that illegal but morally acceptable measures had to be taken for survival. One of them was to secretly cut down a tree somewhere,. The other one was for a group of people to gang up, and while one person jumped on a slow moving train with a cargo of coal and shoved as much coal as he could to the ground, while others run alongside the train with sacks and pick up what they could gather. Then they all run home under the cover of darkness. This was a common practice and even brought forth a popular cartoon image, "der Kohlenklau" , the coal thief. During a bad case of tonsillitis, I really appreciated that an adult member of our family managed to get a fire going in our kitchen where I feverishly slept on the couch. I did not care where that coal had come from.

Bedrooms had no way to be heated, but living rooms had a big stove for evening comfort. In the late 1950s or 1960s, electric heaters or gas heaters were installed in most rooms, doing away with waking up in the morning with icicles on the tip of the nose. However, the original house did not have the luxury of being able to heat all rooms, although most neighbor's houses did have heat in all rooms and took it for granted.

In November of 1944, there were several bombing attacks on the area around the Herford railroad station. On November 26, 1945, the house was heavily damaged by bombs exploding nearby and launching - among other things - half a locomotive through the roof and down to the ground floor. Nobody was in the house. We had already moved out as a precaution, so the family survived. I could not find any photos of this damage to Fürstenaustraße 10.

After the war, surprisingly fast and with the skilled help from other Gößlings and Johanne's friends and relatives, the house was made livable again and turned

into a proper two family home in the process, with one apartment upstairs and one downstairs, and with a bathroom (with a tub) in each of them.

And then Johanne had another important role to play. The occupation forces - by then the British were in Herford - needed homes for the families of their officers. Usually they knocked on the door and gave people a few hours to vacate the premises. Not many houses near the railroad station were fixed up again. When the British officers came to Fürstenaustraße 10, Johanne faced them and declared, that she was an American citizen and that this house belonged to her husband who lived in America. Of course, she had nothing to prove that she was American, because that would have been a dangerous document to have during the Hitler era. I think that she never took out her American citizenship. (Gustav did in 1930). She may have innocently and naively thought that if her husband Gustav was an American Citizen, then she automatically became an American citizen. Who knows what gave her the courage. The British did not know how to handle that and moved into another house which had just been repaired by the owner. It is true that the house still belonged to Gustav, because his estate had not yet been probated.

Sometime in the late forties and early fifties, buildings were put in the back yard which served as garage, office space and storage rooms for Hermann Rottmann's wholesale business in chocolates and other sweets. From then on, the Rottmann family and the Pörtner family lived one on top of the other until about 1962, when Ella and Rudolf had passed away. Margret, Helga and Diethard had moved out. The new Mrs. Pörtner, formerly Else Berger, moved into a Condo with the youngest child, Renate. Hermann Rottmann had passed away in 1953, so for a long time Hilde and her son Paul lived alone in the house. The Pörtner heirs were paid some money to make Hilde the sole owner. She had to turn the back yard into rentable parking spaces to generate income. The ground floor was also leased out, most of the time to a book club. When Paul Rottmann, and later Hilde as well, moved to Sennestadt, the house had tenants and served to finance Hilde's stay in the nursing home. As was required by German Social Security laws which put an ever increasing lean on her house. It was eventually sold to Wolf Pieper, who had grown up in the neighborhood. He renovated and stabilized the structure and changed the formerly grey stucco to a pleasant antique rose. After he died, the present owner bought it in 2010.

When Wolf Pieper submitted plans to the City for major changes to the outer walls, he found out that he was not allowed to do so because the historical commission of the City had given the house historical status on the 21st of June, 1995. There is no plaque on the house and no certificate hanging on the wall. Somehow it was decided that the house is typical for home built in the early 1920s in that part of town. That historical status was a surprise, because in 1993 or 1994, a potential buyer had applied at the City for the permission to raze the house and to replace it with a building with seven apartments. Permission was given, but the potential buyer for some reason did not buy the house, and the razing did not take place. In May of 1992, the market value of the property was just under DM 500,00.- almost half a million Deutsche Mark, with most of that being the value of the lot. Location, Location, Location.

In November of 2011 a friend of mine sent me a newspaper article and a magazine article with the house Fürstenaustraße 10 as the topic. The present owner, Claudia Plake, had received the precious "Daniel Pöppelmann Award" for restoring the house according to historical guidelines. This award is not given lightly. One of the articles with several photos was published in the distinguished magazine "Der Remensnider". The house is called a town villa, and Gustav Gößling is given due credit for being the "Bauunternehmer", the builder and contractor. This will guarantee him a permanent place in the annals of Herford.

The house is presently not used as a residence, but as the extensive office of the Claudia Plake's business in static engineering. The backyard has a beautifully landscaped "Wellness Garten" where employees can rest among flowers and feel good.

Since most of the front yard and most of the trees and bushes from the front are gone, the house looks a bit naked right now. The backyard looks different from my childhood years, because the entrance to the basement and the staircase leading ödown to the door disappeared. Inside the house a few wall have been removed, making the place very light and airy and friendly.

Once the most modest house in the neighborhood, having no central heating and running hot water and featuring no fancy bay-windows like many of the

neighbor homes, Number Ten Fürstenau Street is now recognized as a valuable addition to Herford's ambiance.

This may be the place to mention something concerning ownership of the house. When Gustav, Johanne and three of their children moved to America, Ella and Hilde stayed in Herford and lived from then on in their father's house with their families. There is a contract between Rudolf Pörtner and Gustav detailing the responsibilities of the tenants. Instead of paying rent, they would make all the payments on the liens which were recorded, take care of all repairs and maintenance, pay the taxes, for Rudolf to keep books on all expenses and a few more points of interest. This situation brought Rudolf into political trouble during the Hitler times. We have a letter from some office in Muenster asking Rudolf, why was he taking care of the property of an enemy of the people, an American. Signed: Heil Hitler, and then a name. Rudolf responded that the American was his wife's father, and somehow the officials accepted that as an excuse and got over that and let the problem rest. It seems that Gustav died intestate, because it took many years into the 1950s before the question of who inherited what and who had to sign papers concerning the house was cleared up.

The house is no longer a "residential villa" (at least as of 2012), but it is home to an office with nice people working in it and a pleasant atmosphere from the ground floor to the tip of the roof with new office rooms in the attic.

I hope Gustav can see from heaven how well his family, as well as his house, are doing.



Figure 48 The present (2012) light color scheme makes the house look friendly



Figure 49 The stucco on the original house was gray and dark



Figure 50 Backyard in 2011 of Fürstenaustraße 10



Figure 51 Backyard in 1939 of Fürstenaustraße 10



Now an underground garage House Bahnhof in background
 Figure 52 Fürstenaustraße 10 location



Figure 53 Historical Detail on house Curls over windows

				Sept. 23, 1927
5.	Fürstenaue = Hr. 10.	Stadthaus Hermann Heinrich <u>Rudolf</u> <u>Pörtner</u> geboren in Herford (Münstergau) am 1. Januar 1903	24 J.	W. Fritz Pörtner M. Christine Karoline Charlotte geb. Finke
		Anna <u>Ella</u> Hildegard <u>Göpsling</u> geboren in Herford (Münstergau) am 12. Juni 1904	23 J.	W. Gustav Adolf Göpsling M. Anna Johanne Justine geb. Strauchhauer

				Aufgab. 11. u. 18. Sept.

Figure 54 1927 Sept survey household Fürstenaustraße 10

15 October

Eighth AF: More than 1,000 HBs attack 9 M/Ys and gas unit plant in and around general area of Cologne, along with several other tgts including oil facilities at Reisholz and Monheim. 3 ftr gps give general area spt while 12 gps provide close escort. 2 P-47 gps attack comm in Hannover and Munster-Kassel areas.

The night Gustav died Johanne did not run for shelter, instead she stayed in the home Gustav built

On their way to Kassel, the planes were flying over Herford and dropped bombs nearby

Figure 55 15 October 1994 bombing



Das Haus kurz nach dem Bau auf einem Luftbild 1920er Jahre (Ausschnitt) sowie auf einem Luftbild (Ausschnitt) von 1968

Fotos: KAH



Figure 56: Aerial Shot of Fürstenaustraße 1920 and 1968

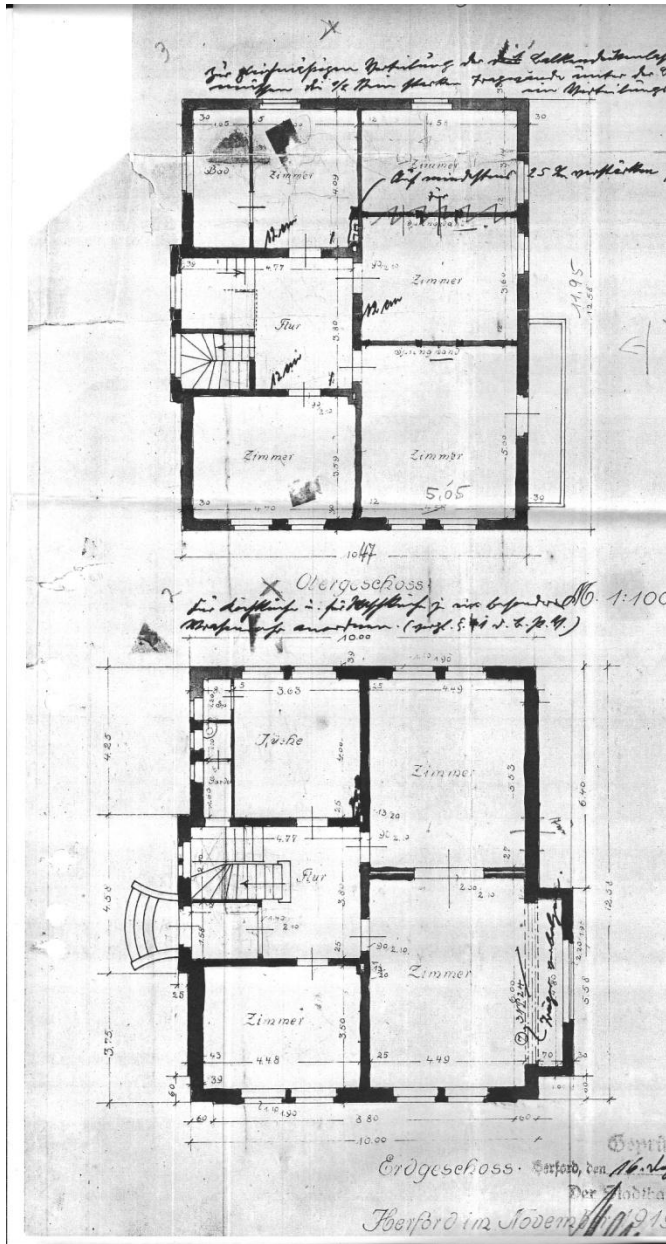
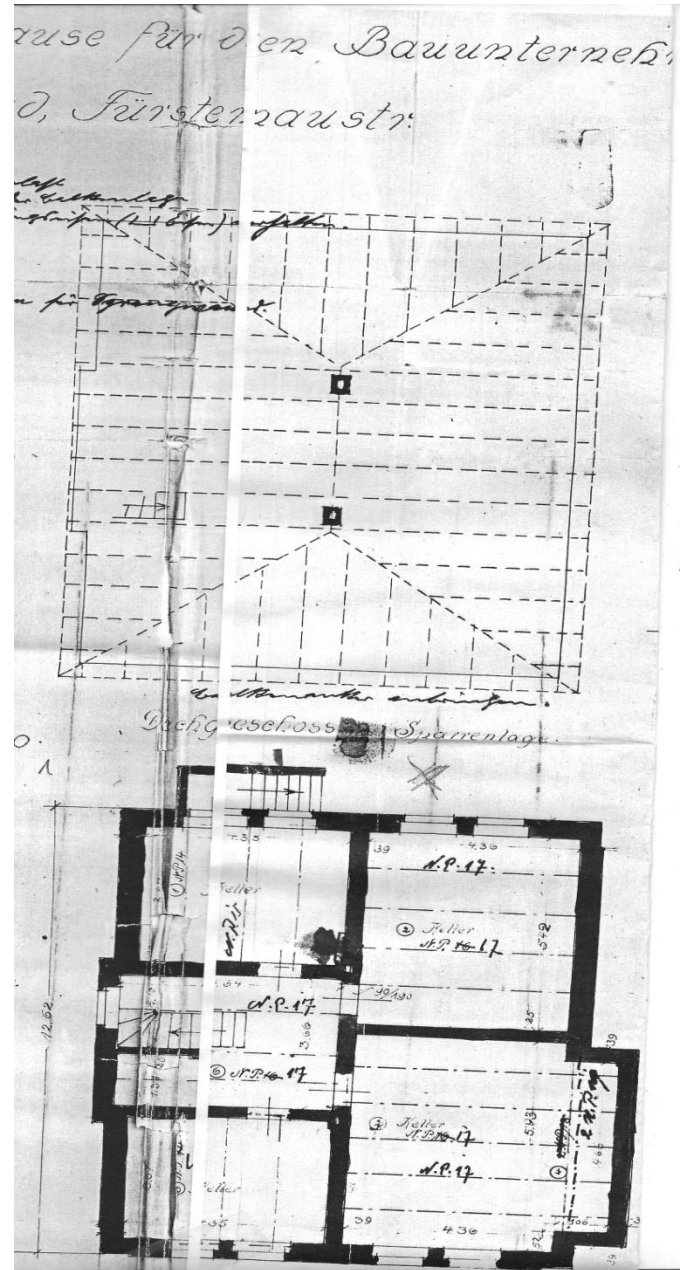


Figure 58 Rest of House plan 1919



Gustav Gößling descendents in Germany

as of 27 Aug. 2004

(1)Johann Heinrich Gößling, farm laborer. married (2) Anne Friederike Haddenhorst.

In their residence in Eickum (near Herford, Westfalen, Prussia) house Nr. 7, was born a son: (3) Gustav Adolph Gößling Born: 29 Dec. 1878 Died 15 Oct 1944

(3) Gustav Gößling, mason, married (4) Anna Johanne Justine Stranghöner
born 13 Dec. 1880 in Diebrock (near Herford).
Died 6 July 1953 in West Allis, WI
Father unknown,
possibly a Frenchman.
Mother: Luise Stranghöner, single

They married in Herford, Westfalen, on 20 Nov. 1903. They had five children:

(5) Anna Ella Hildegard: born on 12 June 1904 in Herford: died on 1 July 1953

(6) Hildegard: born on 17Feb1907 in Herford: died August 2004 in Sennestadt

(7) Margarete (Grete) Else: born 16 March 1908 in Herford: died on

(8) Otto Heinrich: born 13 Sept 1909 in Herford: died on

(9) Paul August: born 13 Jan 1912 in Herford: died on

(5) Ella: married (10) Hermann Heinrich Rudolf Pörtner

born 1 Jan. 1903 in Herford: died 3 Oct. 1959 in Herford

They married on 23 Sept. 1927 in Herford

(6) Hilde: married (11)Hermann Rottmann,

born : died: 1953

They married on 1928

(5) Ella and (10) Rudolf Pörtner had five children:

(12) Rolf: born 26 June 1928 in Herford: died 8 June 1936

(13) Margret: born 10 Sept 1930 in Herford

(14) Helga Johanna Hildegard: born 9 March 1937 in Herford

(15) Diethard: born 13 June 1938 in Herford

(16) Renate: born 7 Aug 1950 in Herford

(6) Hilde and (11) Hermann Rottmann had one son:

(17) Paul Otto Hermann: born 28 Jan. 1933 in Herford

(13) Margret married (18) Hans Gerd Bruhn,
born 14 July 1930 died

They married on in Herford

Margret and Hans Gerd Bruhn have 2 sons:

(19) Andreas: born in Herford

(20) Matthias: born in Herford

(14) Helga married (21) Hans Ludwig von Schweinitz on 1 Nov. 58 in West Allis
WI

born on 26 Oct. 1934 in Liegnitz, Germany

Helga and Hans von Schweinitz have 2 children:

(22) Bettina: born 9 Oct 1959 in Wiesbaden, Germany

(23) Christopher: born 24 Dec 1964 in Roswell NM

(15) Diethard married (24) Ingrid Wesselmann

born 1 March 1943 in Brackwede

Diethard and Ingrid Pörtner have twins:

(24) Ute: born 15 Feb 1965 in Brackwede

(25) Thomas: born 15 Feb 1965 in Brackwede

(16) Renate married 1st marriage (26)) Eckhard Altmann born: 20 May 1950

2nd marriage (27) Axel Bittne: born 27 Oct 1953

Renate and Eckhard Altmann have two children:

(28) Claudia born: 20 Feb 1970

(29) Thorsten born: 23 Aug. 1973

Renate and Axel Bittner have one daughter:

(30) Katharina born: 3 March 1986

(17) Paul married (31) Trude Bruns

born 20 Nov 1936 died 24 Oct. 2003

Paul and Trude Rottmann have one daughter:

(32) Dagmar born: 18. Oct 1963

(19) Andreas married Angelika Sieker

Andrea and Angelika Bruhn have 2 children:

(33) Elisa born: 10 Apr 1983

(34) David born: 24 Nov 1987

(20) Matthias married Rita Franzen

Matthias and Rita Bruhn have two daughters:

(35) Sophie born: 27 June 1996

(36) Clara born: 25 Aug 1999

(23) Christopher married Jill Brown

born 17 June 1967

Christopher and Jill von Schweinitz have 3 children:

(37) Matthew born: 12 June 1993 in Santa Fe NM

(38) Elena born: 3 Nov 1998 in Austin TX

(39) Michael born: 2 Nov 2000 in Austin TX

(24) Ute married (40) Robert Glaub

Ute and Robert Glaub have 2 daughters:

(41) Julia born: 16 March 1991 in Herford

(42) Lena born: 6 March 1994 in Herford

(25) Thomas married (43) Kerstin Scheil

Thomas and Kerstin Pörtner have 2 sons:

(43) Patrick born: 27 August 1991

(44) Sven born: 1 Dec 1994

(28) Claudia married (45) Stefan Kröttsch

Claudia and Stefan Kröttsch have 1 son:

(46) Luca born: 30 Sept 2001

(29) Thorsten married (47) Birgit van Horen

Thorsten and Birgit Altmann have 2 daughters:

(48) Jil born: 9 Dec 2001

(49) Sophie (Zoe) born: 23 May 2003

Research

Nr. 196

Herford am zwanzigsten
November tausend neunhundert neun

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschienen heute zum Zwecke der Eheschließung:

1. der Maurer Gustav Adolf Göppling
der Persönlichkeit nach _____
_____ er kannt,
unverheirateter Religion, geboren am unten und zwanzigsten
Dezember _____ des Jahres tausend acht hundert
acht und fünfzig zu Eickum
_____ wohnhaft in Herford, Altkämter
Feldmark N: 334
Sohn des Maurers Johann Heinrich Göppling
wohnhaft in Herford und seiner unverheirateten
Frau Anna Friederike geborenen Raddehorst
gebürtlich _____ wohnhaft
in Eickum _____;

2. die Märsin Anna Johanne Luise Stranghörer
der Persönlichkeit nach _____
_____ er kannt,
unverheirateter Religion, geboren am zwanzigsten
Dezember _____ des Jahres tausend acht hundert
achtzig zu Herford
_____ wohnhaft in Herford, Redziger
Feldmark N: 273
Tochter des unverheirateten Märsin Luise
Stranghörer
_____ wohnhaft
in Herford _____

Als Zeugen waren zugezogen und erschienen:

3. der Maurer Hermann Heinrich Göppling
der Persönlichkeit nach _____
_____ er kannt,
57 Jahre alt, wohnhaft in Herford, Altkämter
Feldmark N: 334 _____;

4. der Militär Hermann Stranghörer
der Persönlichkeit nach _____
_____ er kannt,
29 Jahre alt, wohnhaft in Herford, Elverdissen
strasse N: 389 _____

Der Standesbeamte richtete an die Verlobten einzeln und nach einander die Frage:
ob sie die Ehe mit einander eingehen wollen.
Die Verlobten bejahten diese Frage, und der Standesbeamte sprach hierauf aus,
daß sie kraft des Bürgerlichen Gesetzbuchs nunmehr rechtmäßig verbundene Eheleute seien.

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben
Gustav Göppling
Johanne Göppling geborene Stranghörer
Heinrich Göppling
Hermann Stranghörer

Der Standesbeamte.
Widmann

Figure 59 Gustav Birth Certificate

The two signatories hereto certify that fingerprints have been sent to U. S. Department of Justice, F. B. I. and that proof of U. S. citizenship was presented at time of fingerprinting.

Trade Bricklayer

Social Security Number 39-0308382

Signature Gust. A. Goessling

Official Signature [Signature]

Notary Public [Signature]
Milwaukee County

My Commission Expires May 26 1946

20

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
This is to certify that in accordance with the Selective Service Proclamation of the President of the United States

Gustav Adolph Goessling
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

1700 South 81st West Allis Wisc
(Place of residence)

(This will be identical with line 2 of the Registration Card)

has been duly registered this 27 day of April, 1942

Wm. H. B. Carr
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for Local Board 28 West Allis Wisc
(Number) (City or county) (State)

THE LAW REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE THIS CARD IN YOUR PERSONAL POSSESSION AT ALL TIMES

D. S. S. Form 2 (Revised 6/9/41) 16-21631

Figure 60 Gustav US Selective Service ID 1942

1

Nationale des Buchinhabers.

1. Vor- und Familiennamen: Gustav
Adolph Goessling

Geboren am 29ten September 1878
zu Erslau

Verwaltungsbezirk: Hersfeld

Bundesstaat: Preussen

2. Stand oder Gewerbe: Mann

3. Religion: evangelisch

4. Ob verheirathet: ja

Kinder: 5 St. S.

5. Datum und Art des Dienst Eintritts: Am 14 October 1897 als Erst-Neut.

6. Bei welchem Truppentheile (unter Angabe der Compagnie, Escadron, Batterie):
1. Hannoverschen Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 74.
5te Compagnie.

Figure 61 Gustav Military Pass 14 Oct 1898 Germany

PRESENT THIS PASSPORT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FOR A NEW PASSPORT

IMPORTANT

The person to whom this passport is issued must sign his name on page three immediately on its receipt. The passport is NOT VALID unless it has been signed.

The bearer should also fill in blanks below as indicated.

Gustav Goesling
Signature of bearer
1700-S 81st Avenue, New York
Bearer's address in the United States

Verford Th. Halen
Bearing's foreign address
Germany

IN CASE OF DEATH OR ACCIDENT, NOTIFY
Mrs. Jennie Goesling
Name of person to be notified
1700-S 81st Ave.
Exact address
Verford Th. Halen

CAUTION


This passport is a valuable document. It should not be altered in any way. Due care should be taken to see that it does not pass into the possession of an unauthorized person. If it is lost or destroyed the fact and circumstances of the loss should be immediately reported to the Passport Division, Department of State, or to the nearest American Consulate, or, in an outlying possession of the United States, to the chief executive thereof, and to the local police authorities. New passports in such cases can be issued only after exhaustive inquiry.

1-1107

No 158530

Passport

United States of America
Department of State



I, the undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States of America, hereby request all whom it may concern to permit safely and freely to pass, and in case of need to give all lawful aid and protection to


GUSTAV GOESLING
a citizen of the United States.

The bearer is accompanied by his

Wife, ☒ ☒ ☒

Minor children, ☒ ☒ ☒

☒ ☒ ☒



Given under my hand and the seal of the Department of State at Washington, DEC. 15TH 1934

Cordeell Hall

2

Description of bearer

Height 5 feet 7½ inches

Hair BLONDE

Eyes BLUE

Distinguishing marks or features:

☒ ☒ ☒

☒ ☒ ☒

☒ ☒ ☒

Place of birth GERMANY

☒ ☒ ☒

Date of birth DEC. 29, 1878

Occupation CONTRACTOR

☒ ☒ ☒

☒ ☒ ☒

Gustav Goesling
Signature of bearer

This passport is not valid unless signed by the person to whom it has been issued.

3

Figure 62 Gustav US Passport 1934 ID and Profile pages

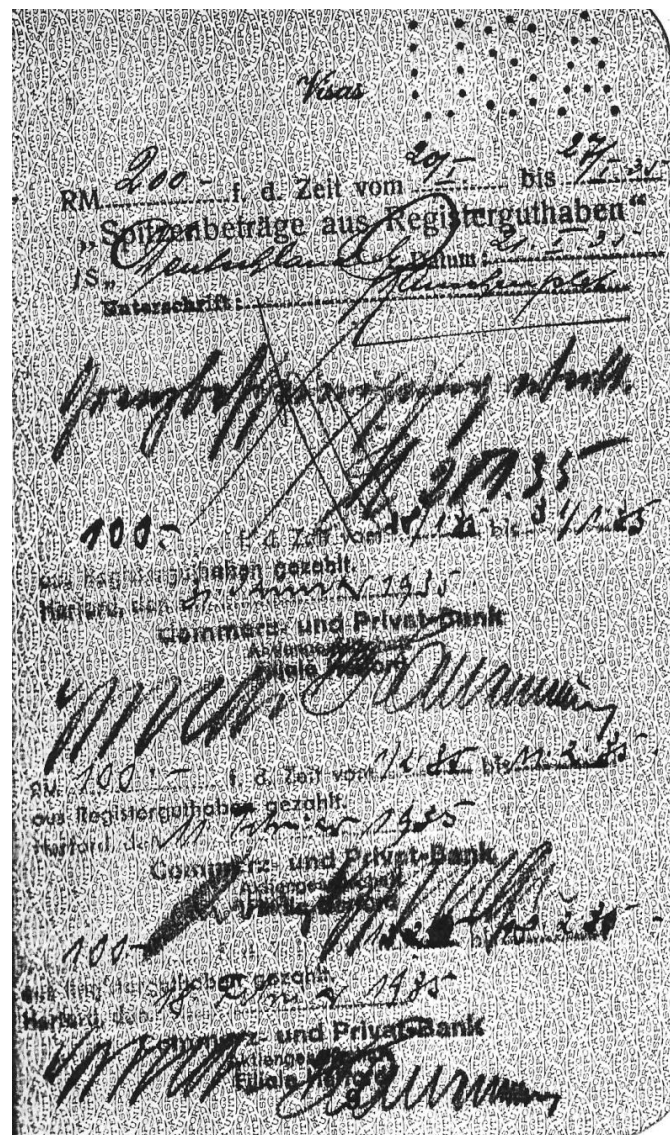
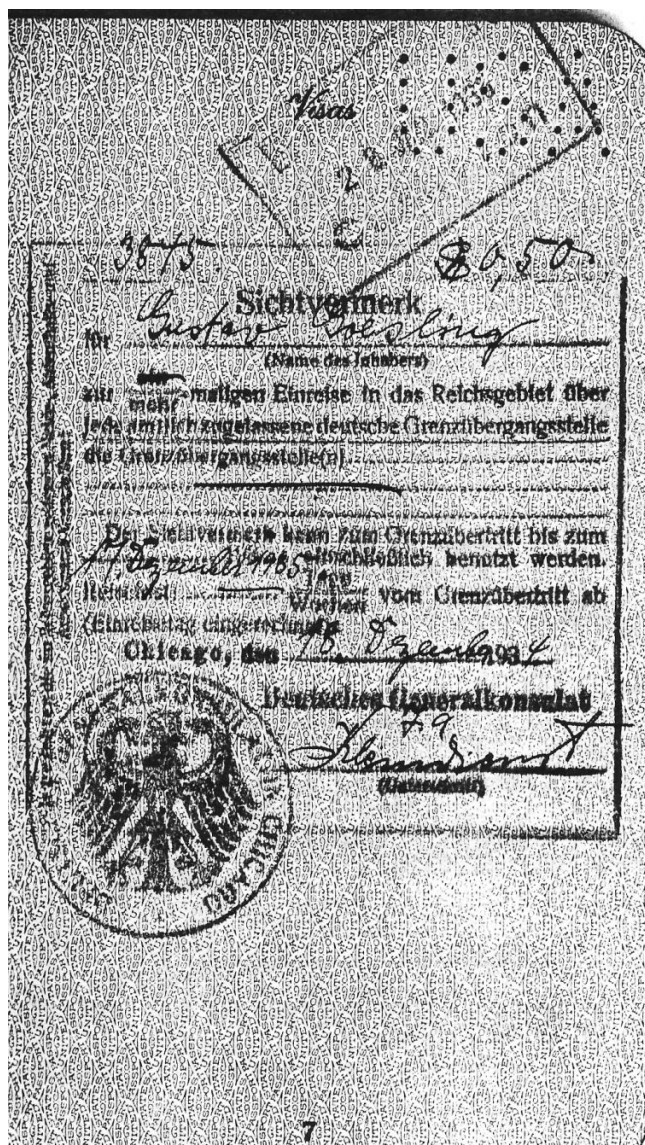


Figure 63 Gustav US Passport German Visa and entry stamps

MILWAUKEE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

Do not write or stamp anything on face of certificate except in answer to questions asked here.

Form No. 206-8-42-100M
Copy Certificate of DEATH

WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
Bureau of Vital Statistics

Local Registrar's No. _____

7167

1. PLACE OF DEATH:		2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:	
(a) County <u>Milwaukee</u>		(a) State <u>Wisconsin</u> (b) County <u>Milw.</u>	
(b) Township _____		(c) Township _____	
or		or	
City or Village <u>West Allis</u>		City or Village <u>West Allis</u>	
(c) Name of hospital <u>1700 South 51st St.</u>		(d) Street No. <u>1700 South 51st St.</u>	
or institution _____		(If rural, give Route No. and Post Office)	
		(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A. <u>40 yrs.</u>	
MEDICAL CERTIFICATION			
3. (a) FULL NAME <u>GUSTAV A. GOSSLING</u>			
Residence _____			
4. (b) If veteran, name was <u>None</u>			
5. (c) Social Security No. <u>348-20-0996</u>			
6. (a) Sex <u>male</u> (b) Color or race <u>white</u> (c) Single, widowed, married, divorced <u>married</u>			
7. (b) Name of husband or wife <u>Johanna</u> (c) Age of husband or wife <u>62</u> years			
8. (b) Birth date of deceased <u>December 29th, 1879</u>			
9. AGE: Years <u>65</u> Months <u>9</u> Days <u>15</u> (If less than one day, hr., min.)			
10. Birthplace <u>Germany</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)			
11. Usual occupation <u>Mason Contractor</u>			
12. Name <u>Unknown</u>			
13. Birthplace <u>Germany</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)			
14. Maiden name <u>Unknown</u>			
15. Birthplace <u>Germany</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)			
16. (a) Informant <u>Otto Gossling</u>			
(b) Address <u>1702 South 51st Street</u>			
17. (a) (b) Date thereof <u>10/18/44</u>			
(c) Place: burial or cremation <u>Highland Memorial</u>			
(d) Signature of funeral director <u>Geo. F. Borgwardt</u>			
(e) Address <u>West Allis, Wis.</u>			
18. (a) <u>10/16/44</u> (b) <u>L. Y. Brumbaugh, M.D.</u>			
(Date received local registrar) (Registrar's signature)			
(c) (d) (Date received sub-registrar) (Sub-registrar's signature)			
20. Date of death: Month <u>Oct.</u> Day <u>15th</u> Year <u>1944</u>			
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from _____ to _____			
that I last saw him alive on <u>10/15/44</u> and that death occurred on the date stated above <u>5:30 A.M.</u>			
Immediate cause of death <u>Carcinoma of the bladder</u> Duration <u>18 mo.?</u>			
Due to <u>DOC No. 7167</u>			
Due to <u>FILED Nov. 8, 1944</u>			
Other conditions (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)			
Major findings: <u>Suprapubic cystotomy</u> Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically.			
Of autopsy <u>10/21/44</u>			
22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:			
(a) Accident, suicide, homicide (specify) _____			
(b) Date of occurrence _____			
(c) Where did injury occur? _____ (City, village or township, county and state)			
23. Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? _____ (Specify type of place)			
24. Signature <u>Geo. F. Borgwardt, M.D.</u> (If attending physician, specify type of injury)			
Address <u>304 East 51st Ave.</u> Date signed <u>10/18/44</u>			

Witness my hand and official seal this

OCT 26 1988

Walter R. Barzak

WALTER R. BARZAK

I, Walter R. Barzak, Registrar of Deaths of Milwaukee County, hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original death record on file in this office.

052774

SEAL

CERTIFICATE NO. _____
STATE OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
OFFICE OF
REGISTER OF DEEDS

Figure 64 Gustav Gossling Death Certificate 15Oct1944