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# **SCHÜRCH MIGRATION FROM SWITZERLAND To NORTHWESTERN UNITED STATES, 1884 - 1964**

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**BY DONNA MARIE (SCHUERCH) LOVE**

**FROM 2025 POWERPOINT BY DONNA**

**FOR THE SCHÜRCH FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

**SYMPOSIUM #8**

**[HTTPS://WWW.SCHURCHFAMILYASSOCIATION.NET/](https://www.schurchfamilyassociation.net/)**



**NOVEMBER 1, 2025**

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## INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 2025, the Schürch Family Association of North America, <https://www.schurichfamilyassociation.net/> asked if I'd like to put together my Swiss family history for their 8<sup>th</sup> Symposium, held November 1, 2025. At that time, Margaret Sherk, who is on the Symposium Committee (and a former president of the Association) knew a little about my family's history. In 2008, for the Schürch Newsletter, Nov. 2008, Volume 26D, I wrote a bit about how my great-grandparents, Johannes Schürch (1841-1915) and wife Magdalena (Leurenberger) Schürch (1843-1922) migrated from Wasen, Switzerland to the United States in 1884. My article was titled, "My Great Big Swiss Family."

Margaret, who lives near Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, with husband, and cousin, Betty Sherk, current association secretary and co-chair of reunion planning, visited Oregon in 2009, where they met Darlene, one of my sisters, who still owns our family home in Willamina, and toured Grand Ronde, visiting the hotel and train station, etc. and drove past the old dairy farm and Spirit Mountain Casino. Their trip also included a stay at the coast in Depot Bay (with dune buggy ride) and near Mount Hood (with rented bicycle trek), and a visit to Multnomah Falls along the Columbia River. Whew, what a remarkable visit!

Fast forward to 2025, when I put together Schürch Family Association Symposium #8, including what I know of our family's history. In doing so, I learned many more interesting facts and stories. This booklet is a paper copy of that PowerPoint with some additional information. (Afterall, the Symposium was only one hour long and needed time for questions and answers, so the PowerPoint couldn't include everything, but I thought the extra info might be of interest, too.)

Further, this booklet is meant to be a stand-alone document. However, if anyone would like to use the early history in this booklet, and then include their family history, they have my permission and encouragement. This booklet is not copyrighted, and Johannes, Sr. and Magdalena had 12 other children besides my grandfather, Johannes, Jr., (John Albert Schuerch, 1881-1948). I hope to share this in that way, and you are free to do so, too. However, if you do, please give a shout out to the Schürch Family Association and me as the source of the information that you use from this booklet.

And please feel free to share further information you know or learn about your side of the family with us. We'd love to hear from you. You can contact me through the Association at their website above.

Thank you,

Donna Marie (Schuerch) Love, Missoula, MT, [donnalove.co](http://donnalove.co)



Our story begins in Wasen, Switzerland  
sometime prior to 1884.



Our great grandfather, Johannes, Sr. Schürch (1841-1915) was born in Rohrbach, Bern, Switzerland.

Our great-grandmother, Magdalena Leuenberger (1843-1922) was born in Luetzelflueh, Bern, Switzerland.

Wedding Photo: February 2, 1866

This photo was taken in the United States circa 1900 when Johannes, Sr., was around 60 and Magdalena about 57.



This 1890 photo of the Johannes and Magdalena Schürch Family was taken after arriving in the United States. (They had 14 children, but two passed before this photo was taken. A 9-year-old daughter in Switzerland died in 1881, and a 5-year-old daughter died in 1884, after arriving in the United State.)



Back Row Standing L-R: Sophie, Gottlieb, Friedrich, Roseta, Maria, Johannes, Jr. (John A. Schuerch)

Middle Row Seated: Analliesabeth, Magdalena (Mother) w/baby Ernest (who she had when she was 46 years old), Johannes (Father), and Marianna

Front Row: Heinrich (Henry), Freida, and Lina (The youngest four were born in the United States.)

I noted some of their names, as we will learn more about these. My grandfather was Johannes, Jr., who later changed his name to John Albert Schuerch.

\*Tony Schuerch (from Alaska) searched the records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Inc. in the late 1970/early 80s and came up with Johannes, Sr's family. See Appendage 1 on page 38-39 to find the two pages that list Johannes, Sr. and Magdalena's children.

Johannes. Jr. had this 8" x 10" photo of Wasen hanging in his home in Oregon. We think his sister, Sophie, gave it to him, as she wrote on the back, noting 7 places she recalls, along with the name of the mountain.



The School house where I was Baptized and went to School 4 years  
 The Satory, in corner where the x is where Bethly lays.  
 2) in Almet where you was born & me,  
 3) where Mother Bächtold was born.  
 4) where John Bachtold was born.  
 5) where Gottlieb Schuerch " "  
 6) Stuttern Place,  
 7) Lugenbach where Uncle Daniel has his Cas hütte  
 - Arni berg the name of <sup>Domi</sup> the mountain  
 Sophie wrote this

Sophie wrote:

(Photo touched up and numbers added for clarity.)



1. The schoolhouse where I was Baptized and went to school 2 years.  
The 3 story in the corner where the X is, is where Bethly lays. (Bethly was her 9-year-old sister that passed away in 1881, when Sophie was 6 years old. The X may be in a cemetery.)
  2. In Abnit where you were born and me. (Johannes, Jr., 1881, and Sophie, 1875).
  3. Where Mother Bachtold was born. (Some Bachtolds were on the same ship to America and daughter Marianna married John Bachtold.)
  4. Where John Bachtold was born.
  5. Where Gottlieb Schürch was born (1868)
  6. Stutters (Stueters?) place.
  7. Lugenbach where Uncle Daniel has his Cas Hutta.
- Arni berg is the name of the Domi (?) mountain.

(We don't know who wrote "Sophie wrote this" on the back in pencil, but perhaps Johannes, Jr. did when he received the photo.)

(See Legacy Photo and Modern Photo Comparison of Wasen with Maps in Appendage 2, Pages 40-44.)

In 1937, Dora Hermann Moul, daughter of Roseta (Schürch) Hermann, asked her Aunt Sophie (Schürch) Knispel to write a little bit about their lives in Wasen. We have Sophie's letter in return that is 5 pages typed. (Passages below are from Sophie's letter. Find full letter at the back of this booklet beginning on Page 45, Appendage 3.)

**Excerpts from Sophie Schürch Knispel April 1937 Letter to Her Neice  
Dora Hermann Moul, daughter of Roseta Schürch Hermann.**

Your grandfather, Johannes (Sr.) (1841-1915), was born in Rohrback, Canton Bern, Switzerland.

His father, Ulrich (1787-1847), was a weaver and worked at his trade in the basement. They went down to get potatoes for supper, and he was under the weaver (the weaver fell on him) and only lived a few moments more, then died. Your grandfather (my father) was only six years old.

Ulrich's father, Daniel (1734-1796) was an alp herdsman. They took in cattle in summer, but also had his own milk, and had a cheese making outfit.

His father, Johannes (1660-?) was a watchmaker. He would work many days making one watch. One that was handed down through the family had no springs. It was wound by a handmade key, which had a handmade chain. It came to be your grandfather's and still worked when your grandfather died in 1915. I don't know who has it now.

Your Grandfather Johannes often told of the hardships of growing up in Switzerland. In times of drought, there was no flour for bread. Other times, too much rain fell, crops molded, and potatoes rotted in the ground.

When grown, your grandfather (my father) managed to save enough to part-pay for a piece of land of 12 acres of hillside on Arni Mountain, which was a little settlement of about ten houses called Adnit, a 20-minute walk to Wasen for church and school. All the children after Marianna, who was born in 1869, were born there.

We had four cows, a sheep, a goat, a few chickens and two to four pigs. We made our living there, but sparingly. The milk was sold to the cheese factory, which my father and brothers carried in milk cans on their backs to the factory. My father used the money from the sale of that land to move his family to America.



Source: [www.norwayheritage.com](http://www.norwayheritage.com)

The family sailed to America on the S.S. Saint Laurent, which was a 355-foot compound steam, meaning it was a steamship with sails. The ship had a capacity of 211 passengers.

They left Wasen by train on February 18, 1884, which took them to Paris, France. From there they traveled to La Havre, France, setting sail for America on March 1, 1884.

Sophie wrote:

*"We were on the water 13 and a half days and arrived in New York on March 13."*

The ship's manifest is a two-page document that lists the names of the Schürch family that sailed on the ship, and the family members ages. Johannes Sr. is 43, and Magdalena, 41. (Last two below. Children are on the next page.)

245	Mrs. Mar. Schürch	41	f	Swiss	Switzerland	Altona	Middleton	3	Altona	
246	Mrs. Mar. Schürch	41	f							
247	M. Johann Schürch	9	m							
248	Mrs. Anna Schürch	4	f							
249	Mrs. Maria Schürch	40	f		France	New York		2		
250	Mrs. Maria Schürch	inf	f							
251	Mrs. Elise Schürch	32	f							
252	M. Maria Schürch	52	m							
253	Mrs. Cath. Schürch	52	f							
254	Mrs. August Schürch	35	f							
255	M. Maria Schürch	51	m							
256	Mrs. August Schürch	50	f							
257	Mrs. Maria Schürch	35	f							
258	Mrs. Maria Schürch	11	f							
259	M. Maria Schürch	17	f		Switzerland					3.8
260	M. Maria Schürch	32	f		Altona	Kontich				
261	M. Maria Schürch	38	m			New York				
262	Mrs. Maria Schürch	37	f		Italy					
263	M. Maria Schürch	35	f							
264	M. Maria Schürch	24	m							
265	M. Maria Schürch	17	m		Altona					
266	M. Maria Schürch	18	m		Altona					
267	M. Maria Schürch	19	m		Altona					
268	M. Maria Schürch	22	m		Altona					
269	M. Maria Schürch	31	m		Altona					
270	M. Maria Schürch	38	m		Altona					
271	M. Maria Schürch	24	m		Altona					
272	M. Maria Schürch	43	m		Altona					
273	M. Maria Schürch	80	m		Altona					
274	M. Maria Schürch	30	m		Altona					
275	M. Maria Schürch	33	m		Altona					
276	M. Maria Schürch	38	m		Altona					
277	M. Maria Schürch	24	m		Altona					
278	M. Maria Schürch	43	m		Altona					
279	M. Maria Schürch	80	m		Altona					
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288	M. Maria Schürch	38	m		Altona					
289	M. Maria Schürch	24	m		Altona					
290	M. Maria Schürch	43	m		Altona					
291	M. Maria Schürch	80	m		Altona					
292	M. Maria Schürch	30	m		Altona					
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315	M. Maria Schürch	80	m		Altona					
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317	M. Maria Schürch	33	m		Altona					
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347	M. Maria Schürch	33	m		Altona					
348	M. Maria Schürch	38	m		Altona					
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371	M. Maria Schürch	33	m		Altona					
372	M. Maria Schürch	38	m		Altona					
373	M. Maria Schürch	24	m		Altona					
374	M. Maria Schürch	43	m		Altona					
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392	M. Maria Schürch	43	m		Altona					
393	M. Maria Schürch	80	m		Altona					
394	M. Maria Schürch	30	m		Altona					
395	M. Maria Schürch	33	m		Altona					
396	M. Maria Schürch	38	m		Altona					
397	M. Maria Schürch	24	m		Altona					
398	M. Maria Schürch	43	m		Altona					
399	M. Maria Schürch	80	m		Altona					
400	M. Maria Schürch	30	m		Altona					

305	M. Fred Schürch.	17	m	Switzerland	Torra	dist. 100	Alien	✓
306	M. Gott. Schürch	15	m	"	"	"	"	✓
307	M. Mar. Schürch	14	f	"	"	"	"	✓
308	M. Anna Schürch	11	f	"	"	"	"	✓
309	" Rosa Schürch	9	f	"	"	"	"	✓
310	" Sophie Schürch	8	f	"	"	"	"	✓
311	" Marie Schürch	6	f	"	"	"	"	✓
312	" Anna Schürch	4	f	"	"	"	"	✓
313	M. Joh. Schürch	2	m	"	"	"	"	✓
		0	3	6				

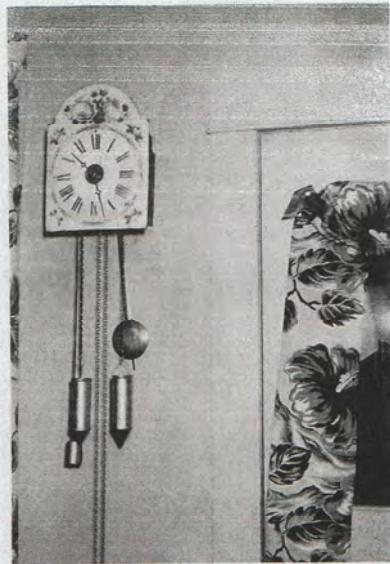
Nine children are listed on second page, starting with Fred, 17, Gottlieb, 15, Marianna, 14, Analliesabeth, 11, Roseta, 9, Sophie, 8, Maria (Aunt Marie), 6, Anna, 4 (1879-1884), and Johannes, Jr., my grandfather, the 313th passenger, is listed last, at age 2.

\*Magdalena was 8-9 months pregnant with baby Lina when they sailed, and she was born 8 days after they arrived in America.



Photo of Johannes Schürch trunk that traveled on the ship with them. (We do not know where this trunk is now.)

This Swiss clock was a wedding gift to Johannes, Sr. and wife, Magdalena in Switzerland in 1866. It may have come over on the ship with them. (Page and Information from another family history that Donna made for her father. Some of the caption on the back of the photo was written by Verna (Schuerch) Kanelis, her father's sister.)



### Swiss Clock

Copy of original photo taken in August, 1955. This clock hung in Elmon and Mabel Schuerch home in Valley Junction, Oregon.

It is now in Sandra (Schuerch) Moore's home in Salem.

Caption on back: This clock is over 100 years old. Given as a Wedding gift to Grandpa G.ma Schuerch 1866 in Switzerland

Upside down on back: 1995 Sandra has the clock and had it repaired and runs real good.

Circled in Middle: Taken 1955 Our dear Home

*This clock is  
over 100 years old  
Given as a wedding  
gift to Grandpa G.ma  
Schuerch 1866  
in Switzerland  
Our dear Home*

*1955*

*Taken*

*1995 Sandra has the clock  
& had it repaired & runs  
really good*

Magdalena's brother owned 80 acres of land in Palmer, Polk County, Iowa, a town which no longer exists. They raised corn on their land. The Schürch family arrived there March 17 and stayed in Iowa with them for about one year.

Sophie wrote of this time:

*"There were fine folks there who helped us as we had the luck of all getting Typhoid Fever. Mother didn't get it, and neither did baby sister, Lina, a baby born 8 days after we arrived in Iowa. Father was nine weeks in bed, and most of us all down with it. Sister Anna (1879-1884) died of it and is buried there in Polk County."*



Again, this photo was taken about 1890, and sister Anna died of Typhoid Fever in 1884, so she is not in this photo.

The four youngest children were born in the United States: Lina born in 1884, 8 days after arriving in America (seated in front row far right), Heinrich born in 1886 (seated in front row at the far left), Frieda born in 1888 (middle child seated in front row) and Ernest, the baby on Magdalena's lap, was born in 1889.



**Sophie wrote further about this time in Iowa:**

*“In the fall (1884) Father came to Dakota and filed on a homestead where Brother Ernest is still where he was born.”*

(So, in 1937, when Sophie wrote her letter, Ernest, the baby, still lived on the farm.)

*“We moved to the farm in March of 1885, which was 5 miles west of Zell, South Dakota, and we settled into our new home.”*



*“Once there, we bought 2 horses, 2 cows, 30 chickens, 2 pigs, and a wagon and harness, and a few household goods.”*

The photo caption notes, “Frieda feeds turkeys, while Magdalena and Fred look on.” (*Frieda looks to be in her teens now.*)

The caption also notes: “The barn was added later.”

Later, in Aunt Sophie’s Letter to Niece Dora, Sophie writes that her grandfather on her mother’s side had eleven brothers, all in carpentry, contracting, or architecture. So, perhaps Magdalena’s family helped build the barn, and Johannes, Jr. may have learned how to build from them.

Also, notice the three horses hitched up in the lovely barn. It’s nice to think about and know that the family was doing well.

This photo is in Post Card format and was one of the photos that Johannes, Jr.'s, daughter, Verna (Schuerch) Kanelis, had and gave to her daughter, Karen (Kanelis) Prince, who handed it down to Donna (Schuerch) Love.



From Back of Photo as best as we can figure out:

On Left: Rosetta & George Hermann with 3 young children.

Left to right standing: Fred (Friedrich), Henry (Heinrich), Lina, Frieda, and Gottlieb (with arms folded)

(The two young boys standing are not named.)

Seated in middle: Grandpa and Grandma (Schuerch) Schürch



One remarkable story comes from another family member that tells of the first winter in South Dakota, 1885-86, which was a very hard winter.

Johannes, Jr. driving a six-horse team pushing a “push binder,” a type of hay mower that is pushed from behind, so the horses don’t trample the hay before it is mowed. As the push binder mows, the hay is pushed out the end into rows of mowed hay that will be picked up later.



### **First Winter in South Dakota (1885-1886)**

During the late winter/early spring of 1885-86, Magdalena’s brother-in-law in Iowa sent a boxcar full of corn to Johannes and Magdalena. Johannes and his family collected what they needed and took it home to their homestead west of Zell. He told the train master that the townspeople could have the rest. People came from miles around. One widowed woman walked miles with a washbasin to carry corn back to her children. When spring arrived, Johannes met the woman and saw she was missing several fingers and asked what happened. She told him that she lost her fingers to frostbite carrying the corn. Johannes felt awful and exclaimed in horror, but the woman told him not to mind. The corn had saved her family from starvation.

But the story doesn’t end there. At the bottom of the corn, Magdalena’s family had sent plows and other farm implements that the townspeople also took. Johannes and his sons had to load up the wagon and go around to the various farms and ask for the equipment back. Not only that, but Johannes also found out that the corn wasn’t for eating. It was seed for his first crop.

However, after that, many of the town’s people helped them since the corn had saved so many lives that hard winter.

**A passage from Sophie's 1937 Letter to Niece Dora explains this time better:**

*"But we had good friends there (in Zell). Mother often said they must have thought us real foolish. But they understood. They helped us like one does a baby to walk."*



**Sophie wrote on the back of this 8" x 10" photo:**

*"Zell's First Band. I noted John, Sophie and Rosie (Roseta), and I know Gottlieb and Father are in picture but can't find them even with glasses."*



### Through this time the children were growing up.

The next largest town was Redfield, SD, which was 15 miles from the farm. Redfield was at the crossroads of two railroads, the Chicago/Northwestern and the Milwaukee, so in 1886, it became the county seat for Spink County. The family often traveled there for supplies.

Here, four of the middle children pose for a photo at Andersen Photography in Redfield.

Seated, Johannes, Jr. and Sophie  
Back, Standing: Maria (Aunt Marie) and Heinrich (Henry)

(No date on photo – Johannes looks to be about 14, so maybe 1895?)



Johannes, Jr., now John Albert Schuerch,  
Age 21, 1902

### Verna, Johannes Jr's daughter, told us this story concerning the spelling change of Schürch to Schuerch.

My father, Johannes, Jr. loved to travel and enjoyed construction work. But he was having trouble with people mispronouncing his last name.

Redfield College was established in 1887. Perhaps it was there that the German College Professor told him to drop the two dots over the U in Schürch, so they wouldn't be mistaken for two "I's."

He was also told to add an "e" making it "Schuerch," so the pronunciation would remain correct. This wasn't totally true as the pronunciation of Schuerch was lost on most Americans, so it came to be pronounced "Shirk."

Johannes was also told to change his name to John, and that he had to have a middle initial, which he said was "A." Still later, others told him he had to have a middle name, so he said the "A" stood for Albert.

In 1907, John Albert, age 26, married Frieda Neuhring, age 18, who was known as “the prettiest girl in all of South Dakota.”

(Later, Henry, John Albert’s younger brother married Frieda’s sister, Helena, called Lena. One of their daughter’s, Mabel, married one of John Albert’s sons, Elmon. Their last names were spelled differently - Schuerch and Schurch – so they were allowed to marry.)



John Albert and Frieda had one child, Walter Willie, born in 1908.

Photo Caption: John A. Schuerch and first wife Frieda with Walter Willie, Gottlieb Schurch’s House.

(Perhaps John A. built this house, too, so that’s why they had this picture taken with them sitting in front of it.)



John Albert's first wife Frieda died in 1913, when Walter was 5 years old. (The reason is unknown to us.)

The caption on the back of the photo simply states:

*Dakotas - 1913  
John and Walter*

Perhaps John built this home for Frieda, but now it was just the two of them.

Older sister, Marianna, had married John Bachtold, who had been born in Wasen, Switzerland, too. They moved to Walla Walla, WA.

After his wife's passing, John A., with Walter in tow, visited his sister in Walla Walla. There he met Anna Frieda Jahn, who went by her middle name, Frieda.



Photo Caption: Mr. and Mrs. Bachtold (John and Marianna) with Ida (daughter, seated), Anna (standing) and boy, Ed.  
(Anna could be Analliesabeth)  
Walla Walla, Washington.

**1914 Wedding Photo of:**

John Albert Schuerch, age 33  
and  
Anna Frieda Jahn "Frieda," age  
18.

Walla Walla, Washington, May  
13, 1914



Johannes, Sr. (John Albert's father) passed away in 1915 at the age of 74. Magdalena died in 1922 at the age of 79. Both are buried in the Rockham, S.D. cemetery. (It is our understanding that many other family members since have been buried in this family plot, too.)

Perhaps with his brothers running the farm, John Albert felt he could move on.

## What became of the South Dakota Schürch Farm?



We know from Aunt Sophie's letter that Ernest (1889 – 1964) farmed the family homestead.

Kevin Schurch, the grandson of Henry (Heinrich), said that after Ernest passed away, the homestead was sold, so it is no longer in the family and has changed hands several times.

Mabel (Schurch) Schuerch visited the homestead in 1971 and shared this photo with Verna (Schuerch) Kanelis, saying that only the windmill and few sheds were left standing.

However, one nearby farm in South Dakota is still owned by a Schürch. Heinrich (Henry) Schürch married Helena (Lena) Nuehring in 1909. Helena was the sister of John Albert's first wife, Frieda Nuehring.

Henry and Lena purchased a nearby farm. Kevin Schurch, Henry's grandson, still owns his grandfather's farm. He is presently putting it into a conservation easement to return the farm to native prairie.



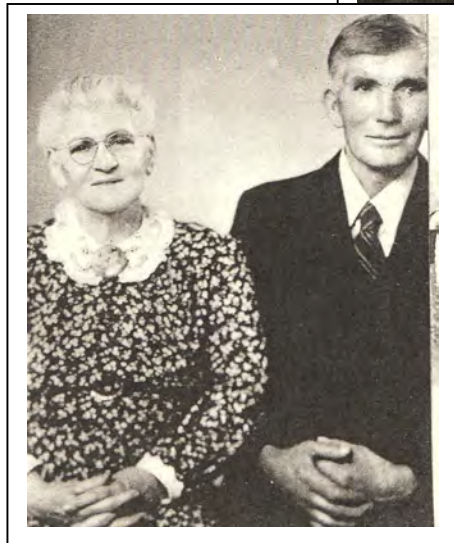
Photo Caption: Henry (Heinrich) Schurch and wife, Lena, with second child, daughter Mabel Magdalena (Schurch) Schuerch on their farm. (Mabel was born in 1911, so perhaps this is a photo from when they first purchased their farm.)



John Albert's older sister, Maria (Aunt Marie) married Traugott (T.J.) Werth, who ran a dairy in Valley Junction, Oregon, called Sunny Bank Farm (Established 1910). At Aunt Marie's urging, John moved with his new wife and son, Walter, to Oregon.

Photo Caption by Verna Schuerch Kanelis: "The Sunny Bank Farm (T.J. Werth Place, 1 mile west of Valley Junction) Polk County Oregon. I have recently been told (1994) that my papa (John A.) built this beautiful barn."

The barn in later years and newer house with cars parked nearby. We all feel sure that John Albert built this new house, too. The house was painted yellow. (Today, the house is not in the family, and the barn no longer exists.)



T.J. Werth and Aunt Marie: from a newspaper clipping about their wedding anniversary, but not enough of the story was included to learn what anniversary or what year this was.

When John Albert and second wife Frieda (with Walter), arrived in Oregon Cir. 1915, they bought the farm next door to Sunny Bank that already had a house and barn.



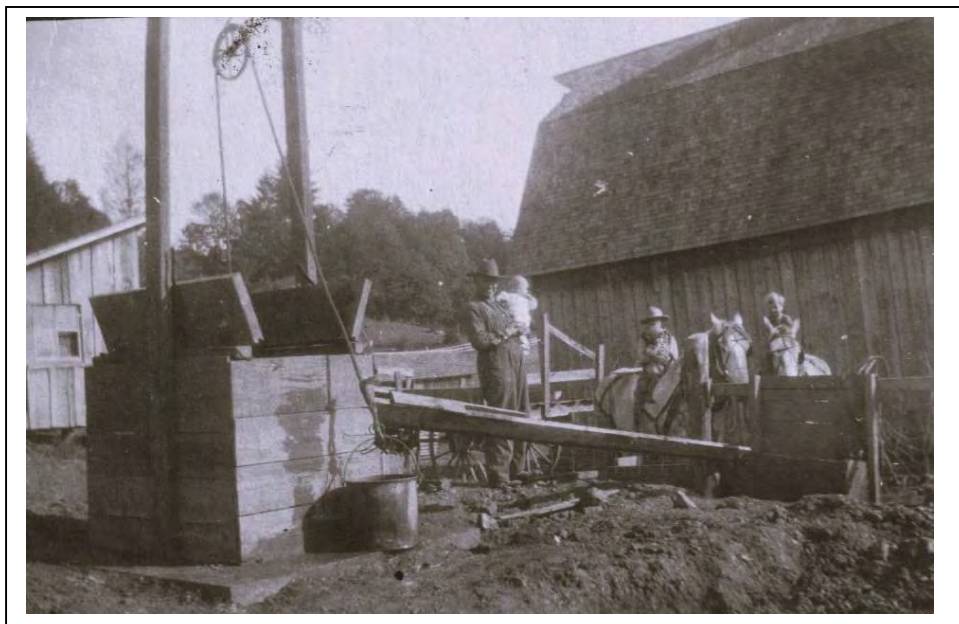
Photo Caption by Verna (Schuerch) Kanelis, John Albert's second daughter: Home! John A. Schuerch farmhouse. Elmon John, Lorenz Otto, Hilda Frieda, Verna Lena, and John Robert all born in this house. Valley Junction, Polk County, OR (Valley Junction was not a town yet. My father, John A. always called it Valley Junction and that became its name.)



John Albert's barn when they first moved in. Morning and evening, the cows were milked, and the milk was placed in milk cans and set on a platform near the highway to be picked up by a delivery truck.

The dairy barn in later years. They had a herd of about 30 dairy cows. Each little window provided light for the milking stalls.





John A. Schuerch digging a well for the barn, baby Hilda in his arms.  
Walter and Elmon on well-trained team of horses, Queenie and Prince.



John A. Schuerch Family, 1921.

Back Row: Frieda, Walter, John A., Verna (baby)

Front Row: Hilda, Elmon, Lorenz.

(Johnnie Robert was born in January 1922, so Frieda may be expecting him in this photo.)

### **A Little History of Grand Ronde, Oregon**

The area was an Indian Reservation from 1857- 1908. Then it became an "Open Reservation." In 1918, a lumber mill town was built by a lumber company. Grand Ronde Agency was north of this town and mill. The lumber mill needed a train to it, which was the end of the line, where a "grand round" was built to turn the train engine around.

1918 railroad track being built in front of Sunny Bank Dairy to complete the line from Salem to Grand Ronde called the Willamina Short Line.



1921 - First Log Haul from Grand Ronde, Oregon to Willamina, and perhaps on to Salem or Portland.





In 1918, the railroad company hired John A. Schuerch to build the Grand Ronde train station. Donna took this photo in 2004 when it was being used for a community center. Notice the air conditioner in the window. It was being well maintained at this time.



Donna took this photo in March of 2025, and, sadly, this is what it looks like today. She hopes someday someone can pick it up to use for a museum or library, etc.

(It is on the National Register of Historic Places, but that does not provide funds to preserve it.)

The lumber mill also needed a hotel and again hired my grandfather, John Albert Schuerch, to build one. He built this 17-room hotel in a Swiss fashion in 1920-21.

Not only was the train important for the lumber mill, senators and statesmen from the Oregon State Capitol in Salem took the train to Grand Ronde to stay in the hotel and then take a stagecoach over the Coastal Range to the Oregon Coast. (The train line was never completed over the Coastal Range to the coast. It stopped at the mill.)

It has served as a hotel, lumber mill offices, a nursing home, the offices of the Confederated Grand Ronde Tribes, and a bed and breakfast.

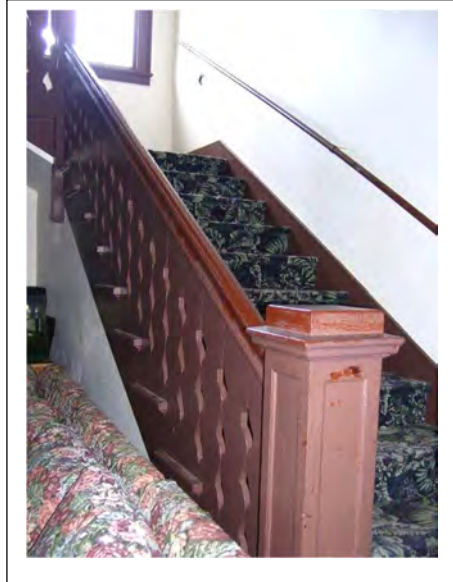


The Grand Ronde Hotel in 2004 when it was the "Grand Bed and Breakfast" run by a family that lived there.



How the hotel looked in March 2025. Presently it is a home to a family, who also uses it for offices.

In 2009, Margaret Sherk and traveling buddies had a chance to go inside the motel, and took these photos of the great room, the main area of the house, including the front foyer, the grand staircase, the river rock fireplace, and an original dining room light fixture.



Photos taken in 2009 and provided by Margaret Sherk.

John Albert Schuerch was also hired to build the Grand Ronde Methodist Church and many other homes and buildings in the area that have a Swiss flare.



Another story that comes to us via Verna (Schuerch) Kanelis concerns the Oregon State Capital.

The Oregon capital building burned down in 1935. It was rebuilt in 1938. The 22-foot-tall statue at the top of the capital, "The Oregon Pioneer," was designed by a German sculptor, Ulric Ellerhusen in New Jersey and shipped to Oregon via the Panama Canal.



1950 Post Card of the Oregon State Capital



While they installed the statue, Verna said her father, John Albert, would take the train to Salem to visit with the sculptor and his team, so he could talk in German and discuss construction and building.

Donna's father, Johnnie Robert Schuerch, was born January 4, 1922.

His mother, Frieda (Jahn) Schuerch, passed away of pneumonia in March two months after his birth.

John Albert asked Aunt Marie if she could raise the baby. T.J. said she could if Johnnie worked for him when he was older.

With the two houses about a half mile apart, Johnnie always said he had two homes.

Photo caption: Aunt Marie and Johnnie, May 1937  
Aunt Marie, 61, Johnnie Robert, 16.



Aunt Marie, (Maria Schürch Werth 1877 – 1961), Johnnie Robert, Diana (standing) Darlene (seated), Donna, and baby Delana. Aunt Marie passed away when Donna was five. Donna remembers her singing and playing her autoharp.

(These photos are captured from a silent home movie taken in 1959, so that is why they are blurry.)





## Valley Junction 1937

Verna wrote on the back of this photo,  
 “We knew everyone that lived there, and they knew us. We were known as “The Swiss Yodelers” because we could all yodel.”

Donna recalls several songs that they sang and yodeled. One was about hunting in the forest, which she recently found on-line at <https://youtu.be/6dULDb4tsek>  
 And another version at: [https://youtu.be/IdDzOnHpz\\_Y](https://youtu.be/IdDzOnHpz_Y)  
[https://youtu.be/IdDzOnHpz\\_Y](https://youtu.be/IdDzOnHpz_Y)

**Im Wald und auf der Heide** (Words by Johann Wilhelm Bornemann in 1816. Music Attributed to Ferdinand Ludwig Gehricke, 1827)

Im Wald und auf der Heide, (In the forest and on the heath,)  
 da such ich meine Freude; (There I search for my joy.)  
 ich bin ein Jägersmann, yah, (I am a huntsman.)  
 ich bin ein Jägersmann. (I am a huntsman)  
 Halli hallo, halli hallo, (Hi lee, Hi low, Hi lee, Hi low)  
 mein' Lust hab ich daran. (My pleasure lies therein.)  
 mein' Lust hab ich daran. (My pleasure lies therein.)  
 Halli hallo, halli hallo, (Hi lee, Hi low, Hi lee, Hi low)  
 mein' Lust hab ich daran. (My pleasure lies therein.)

Donna's family sang the song this way, but other versions exist. (Find Music and Complete Words in Appendix 4, on page 50 and 51.)

Donna also recalls, “Snyder, Does Your Mother Know You're Out So Late Tonight.” After the PowerPoint presentation, a relative Seth Stachlowski, a great-great grandson of Analliesabeth (Schürch) Robinson, found this link to an 1899 recording of this song. Find it at: <https://youtu.be/Z7Yhn5fGZcU?list=RDZ7Yhn5fGZcU>

Another song was about being let into heaven, words in English mean: “Yes, Yes, Let me in Heaven, Yes, Yes, release me from sin. Yes, Yes, Let me in heaven, you know how good I've been.” We sang it in both German and English.

A recording of John Albert's children singing and yodeling was made on an old reel to reel recorder (one generation before cassette tapes). Family recalls that Uncle Walt last had it in his possession, but no one knows what happened to it.



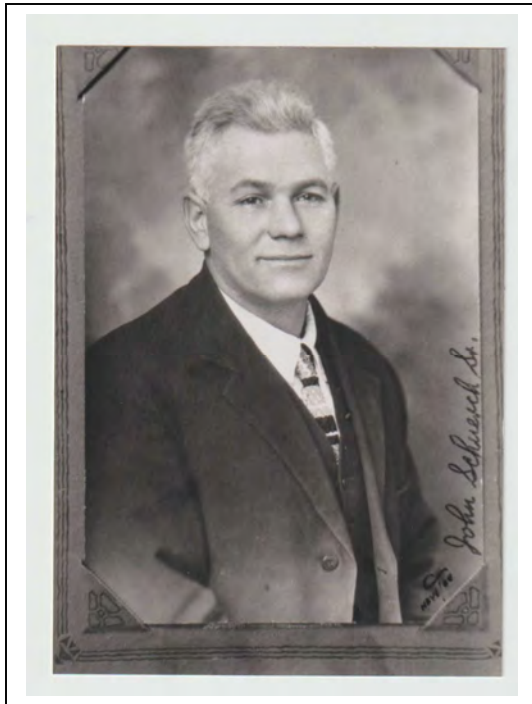
Well, like everything, things change. Spirit Mountain Casino now sits in my grandfather's and Great Aunt Marie's dairy pastures. (The river in the background is the South Yamhill River.)

The casino opened in 1995 after the lands were returned to the Grand Ronde Tribe in 1988.

A great-grandson of T.J. Werth and Aunt Marie still owns the farmhouse on the hill. It isn't in this photo, but it sits on the hill just out of view on the right-hand side of this photo. He still owns the farmland at the top of this photo.

In addition, a great-granddaughter of John Albert, the granddaughter of Elmon and Mabel Schuerch, still owns her parents' home that was also built on the original property. That home looks out from the hillside onto the casino, too.

## Continuing the Story of John Albert Schuerch...



Verna wrote on the back of this photo:

John Albert Schuerch (1881-1948),  
1926 at Age 45.

Then she added a personal note:

“This is how I best remember my papa.”

John Albert married again in 1930 to a widow, Carolyn Flanery, who had three grown children. Shortly after, he retired, and son Elmon took on the dairy farm. Aunt Verna wrote on the back of this photo: “Date unknown, but maybe 1940 for their tenth anniversary, when John Albert was 59.”

John Albert died of a stroke (his third) at age 67 in 1948. He is buried in the Willamina Cemetery next to his second wife, Anna Frieda (Jahn) Schuerch.



## What became of the spelling of the last name Schuerch from John Albert Schuerch?



1964 Photo, L. to R.: Brothers Johnnie, Walter, Elmon and Lorenz

Johnnie Robert Schuerch had four daughters, Diana, Darlene, Donna and Delana. They have different married names.

Walter never married.

Elmon married first cousin, Mabel Schurch, and they had three daughters, Vada, Janet and Sandra.

(We'll discuss Lorenz on the next page.)

### Hilda and Verna in 1945

Hilda married Meril Rabuck, so she had a different married name. They had Norman, Carolyn and Joene.

Verna married Tom Kanelis, so she had a different married name, too. They had one daughter, Karen.



Lorenz moved to Alaska and married Pauline, a half Polish/half Inupiaq Inuit who had three sons, Tony, Vincent and Lorry. Pauline's sons took the name Schuerch, and each of them had many boys. So, it came to be that the last name Schuerch is now the name of many Inupiaq Inuit Alaskans.



Lorenz Schuerch in front of his cabin in Kiana, Alaska, (1939) where he owned a sporting goods store.

Pauline Schuerch, picking berries on a wheeled Arctic cat. (Cir. 1940, Alaska).



Lorry and Vincent Schuerch (first two boys) with friends, Cir. 1940.



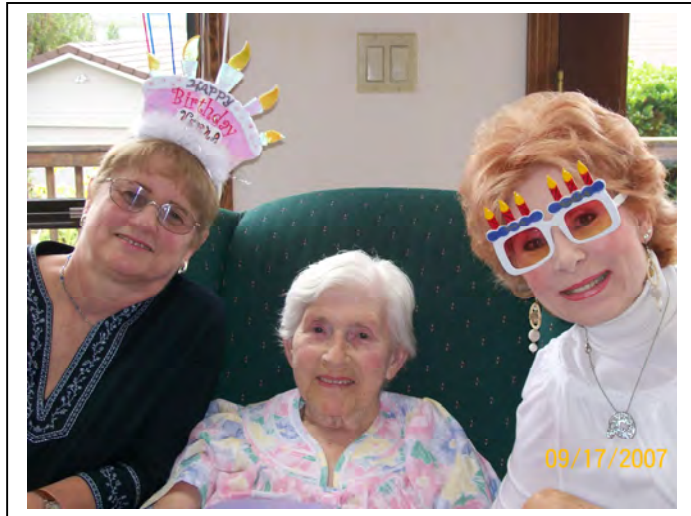
Find more Lorry Schuerch Family Photos at:  
<https://jukebox.uaf.edu/lorry-schuerch-jrs-photo-collection>



Donna's gratitude goes to her Great Aunt Sophie (Schürch) Knispel for being a great family historian. Her letter brings us much joy and understanding.

Sophie (Schürch) Knispel,  
1875-1947,  
Photo: Cir. 1895

Donna also wants to thank her Aunt Verna (Schuerch) Kanelis and her daughter (Donna's first cousin) Karen (Kanelis) Prince for entrusting her with many precious family historical items.



L.-R.: Cousin Carolyn (Rabuck) O'Neil, Aunt Verna (Schuerch) Kanelis (1920-2008) and daughter, Karen (Kanelis) Prince, celebrating Aunt Verna's 87th birthday in 2007

## Appendage 1 – Johannes Schürch, Sr. Family (From page 4)

Tony Schuerch researched the Schuerch family in the late 1970's or early 80's and came up with these documents from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Johannes Schürch's last name is spelled Schuerch in these documents, but the rest of the information appears correct. Tony's records go back to Ulrich (1787-?), Daniel (1734-1796), Johannes (1690-?), Ulrich (1663-?), Peter (1627-?), and Hans (1588-?). The records also include wives and children.

ENTER ALL DATA IN THIS ORDER

GROUP RECORD

DATE: 14 Dec 1984

PLACES SHOWN: KANSAS, VT

TO: MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

1000 NO. 14

Sheet 1 of 2 sheets

**HUSBAND** SCHUERCH, Johannes (Sheet 1 of 2 sheets)

Born 21 June 1841 Place Rohrbach, Bern, Switzerland

Chr. 2 February 1866 Place *Spelled from La Haye France on SS. St. Laurent*

Mari 2 January 1915 Place Zell, Spink, South Dakota *Feb. 19, 1884*

Died 2 January 1915 Place Zell, Spink, South Dakota *Arrived Mar. 13, 1884*

Bur. HUSBAND'S FATHER SCHUERCH, Ulrich

HUSBAND'S MOTHER SCHNEIDER, Elisabeth 44

OTHER WIVES

**WIFE** LEUENHERR, Magdalena

Born 24 August 1843 Place Luetzellfluh, Bern, Switzerland

Chr. 13 May 1922 Place Zell, Spink, South Dakota

Died 13 May 1922 Place Zell, Spink, South Dakota

Bur. WIFE'S FATHER LEUENHERR, Johann

WIFE'S MOTHER HELL, Anna Barbara

OTHER HUSBANDS

SEX	CHILDREN	WHEN BORN	WHERE BORN	DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE	WHEN DIED
1	Use sex and relationship to SURNAME	DAY MONTH YEAR	TOWN	DATE TO WHOM	DAY MONTH YEAR
M	Friedrich SCHUERCH	3 Dec 1866	Rohrbach	Bern Switz	23 Apr 1922
M	Gottlieb SCHUERCH	21 Jan 1868	"	"	11 Oct 1929
F	Marianna SCHUERCH	28 Feb 1869	"	BACHFELD, John	13 Dec 1950
F	Analliesabeth SCHUERCH	4 Aug 1870	"	ROBINSON, Robert J.	13 May 1936
F	Eliesabeth SCHUERCH	18 May 1872	"	"	20 Aug 1881 SWIT
F	Roseta SCHUERCH	11 Jul 1874	"	HERMANN, George H.	11 Jul 1937
F	Sophie SCHUERCH	13 Oct 1875	"	KNISPIL, Herman	17 Aug 1947
F	Maria SCHUERCH	12 Feb 1877	"	WERNH, Traugott J.	16 Dec 1961 Dr
F	Anna SCHUERCH	24 Mar 1879	"	"	16 Dec 1884 TENA
M	Johannes SCHUERCH	28 Oct 1881	"	1907	18 Aug 1948 Ore
F	Lina SCHUERCH	25 Mar 1884	Palmer	NUHRING, Frieda	25 Dec 1894 SD

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Polk Iowa

OTHER MARRIAGES

Walter Schuerch - 1100700

©1972 The Genealogical Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Inc.

<b>WIFE</b>		<b>LEUENHEGER, Magdalena</b>	
Born	24 August 1843	Place	Luetzelfluh, Bern, Switzerland
Chr		Place	
Died	13 May 1922	Place	Zell, Spink, South Dakota
Bur		Place	Rockham, South Dakota
WIFE'S FATHER		LEUENHEGER, Johann	
WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS		WIFE'S MOTHER	
		HELD, Anna Barbara	

[illegible]

OTHER MARRIAGES	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
<p>This family left their home in Rohrbach Switzerland on 27 Feb 1884. They sailed from Le Havre, France on the SS St. Laurent 1 March 1884, and arrived in New York, USA on March 13, 1884. They went to Polk County, Iowa, then within two years moved to Zell, South Dakota.</p>	

## Appendage 2: Wasen Present Day and Legacy Photo Comparison and Maps (From Page 6)

**Johannes Sr. and Magdalena Schürch in Wasen, Switzerland (Cir. 1880)**  
**By Tim Vogt, Sept. 2025**

**Legacy Photo Caption by Sophie Schürch Knispell**  
**and Further Explanations Provided by Donna (Schuerch) Love, Oct. 2025**

Regarding the letter dated April 9, 1937 written by Sophie (Schürch) Knispel to her niece Dora (Hermann) Moul and typed by Anthony A. Schuerch, August 5, 1983.

The letter, the photograph, and the notes with the photograph refer to and describe several locations meaningful to the Schuerch family when they lived in Switzerland. All of the locations are very close to the village of Wasen, which is one of three villages included in the Municipality of Sumiswald.

In addition to Wasen, there are 2 specific locations identified in the letter:

1) Aebnit (Åbnit) and 2) Arni.

Aebnit (Åbnit) is described in the letter as “a 20-minute walk from Wasen”, and the place where “your Mother”, i.e. the Mother of Dora (Hermann) Moul, Roseta Schuerch (later married to Hermann) was born. In German the location name would be “Åbnit” and in English it would be “Aebnit” because we don’t have the “Å” in our alphabet. On the attached modern map (Figure 1.) we can see that there is one house at “Unter Aebnit” or Lower Aebnit and several in “Obere Aebnit” or Upper Aebnit – circled in red at lower right in Figure 1. Google maps calculates that it is a 15-minute walk from the Reformed Church in the village to ‘Upper Aebnit’.

(Latitude N. 47.040951, longitude E. 7.810820).

(<https://s.geo.admin.ch/chocdh905syf>).

Arni Mountain or berg seems less specifically defined on modern maps but seems to be the mountain ridge area that runs from Vorner Arni (Before Arni) to Hinter Arni (After Arni). See the yellow highlights in Figure 2. In the letter, Arni is described as a group of 10 homes by 5 owners, but the map is current and the letter is old and it is not clear if these homes are close together or scattered or where exactly these 10 homes are located.

Figure 3 is an 1864 map showing Aebnit – then spelled ‘Ebnet’ and ‘Arni’ labeling the mountain ridge. This map is most representative of the area when the Schuerch family was in Switzerland.

The old photograph of Wasen was taken looking generally to the East from a location on or near Kleineggstrasse, west and a little south of Wasen. A modern photograph was taken from a similar location (marked on Figure 1 with a blue spot) (N 47.042881, E 7.791706). Some numbers (1, 2, 3, 5, and 7) have been added to the modern photograph so that a comparison can be made.

Some similarities between the legacy photograph and the modern photograph are clear. But there are also differences. The church steeple is in about the same location. But a close look shows that the clock is above the steeple windows in the modern photograph but the windows

are above the clock in the legacy photograph. It seems like there are very similar corresponding buildings in each photograph but also significant differences. *(Donna (Schuerch) Love notes that in a close-up (zoomed in on a computer, which she admits is difficult to see unless zoomed in) of the legacy photo there is a round circle above the two steeple windows, which could be a clock, or perhaps the clock was added later.)*

We had the opportunity to ask our hostess and host at Stegmatt, Doris Rothlisberger and also, I was able to query a local farmer and asked some specific questions about the old photograph. My understanding from these two conversations is that probably none of the labeled buildings in the old photograph are still standing as they were when the photo was taken. In many cases similar buildings were re-built at the location of a previous building but none of the numbered original buildings in the legacy photograph are still standing.

‘Lugenbach’, another small collection of homes, is identified on the photograph notes as “Where Uncle Daniel has his Cas hütta”. See Lugenback circled on Figure 1.

What looks like notes on the back of the photograph identifies several more locations. On the photo, the notes are identified as Sophie’s notes:

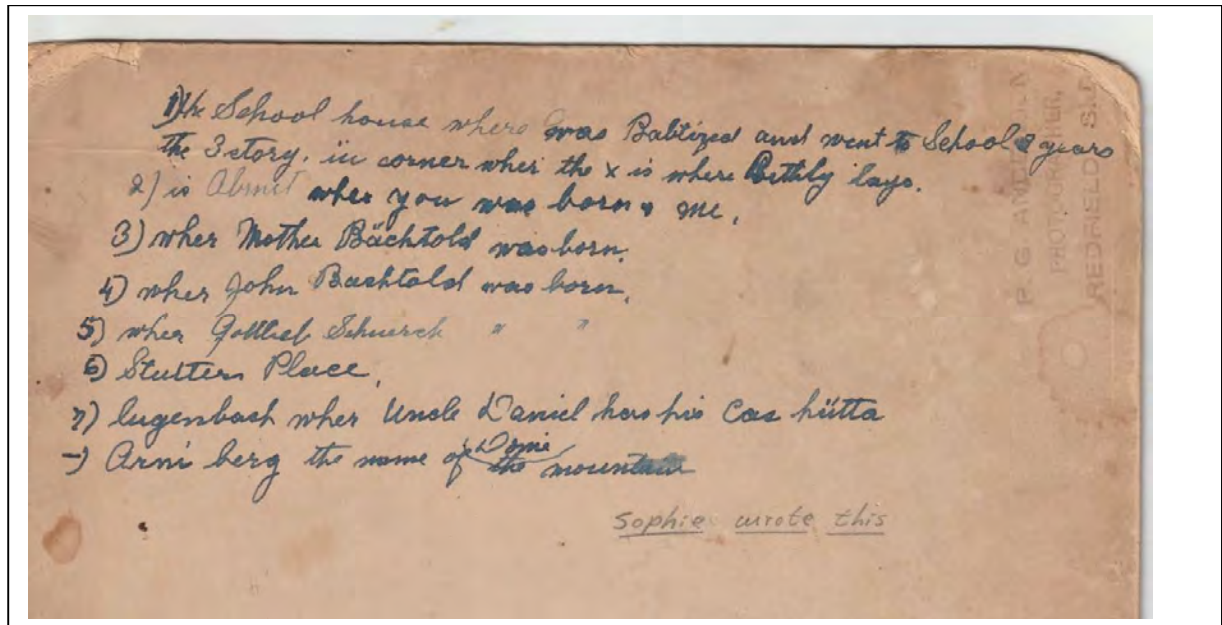
- 1) (cut off – nothing to read)
- 2) Cut off at the beginning ending with: “wher (sic) you were born and me.”
- 3) “wher mother Bächtold was born.”
- 4) “wher John Bächtold was born.”
- 5) “wher Gottlieb Schürch was born.”
- 6) “Stulter?? Place”.
- 7) Lugenbach wher Uncle Daniel has his Cas hütta”
- ) “Arni berg the name of the -Dan’s - mountain.

Donna (Schuerch) Love adds in Oct. 2025 that the words on the back of the heritage photo that are missing include:

- 1) The School house where I was Baptized and went to School 2 years. The 3 story in corner where the X is, (is) where Bethly lays.
- 2) In Abnet wher you were born and me.

On the last point mentioned, which is marked with a dash, Donna also notes that “Dan’s” mountain could be domi, which means home, like saying domain or home mountain. So, the “dash” could be “Arni berg the name of the -domi or home- mountain. *(Again, easier to see when the writing is zoomed in on the computer.)*

Sophie Schürch Knispel listed 7 places on the back of the photo for her brother, Johannes Jr. Schürch (John Albert Schuerch) along with Arni berg being the name of the Domi (?) (home) mountain. This photo was in the possession of Verna Schuerch Kanelis, Johannes Jr' daughter, for many years and passed on to Donna by Verna's daughter, Karen Kanelis Prince.



- 1) The School house where I was Baptized and went to School 2 years. The 3 story in corner where the X is, (is) where Bethly lays. (Bethly was Sophie's older sister, Elisabeth (1872-1881), who died in Switzerland at the age of 9, when Sophie was 6 years old. Perhaps the school playground in the modern photo was once a cemetery.)
- 2) In Abnet wher you (Johannes Jr. 1881-1948) were born and me (Sophie Schürch Knispel, 1875-1947).
- 3) "wher mother Bächtold was born." (Some Bachtold's were on the same ship to America in 1884.)
- 4) "wher John Bächtold was born." (Sophie's sister, Marrianna, married John Bachtold.)
- 5) "wher Gottlieb Schürch was born." (Older brother Gottlieb Schürch, 1868-1929)
- 6) "Stulter?? Place". (Or Stulters?)
- 7) Lugenbach wher Uncle Daniel has his Cas hütta" (Cas Hutta is like saying hunting cabin.)
- ) "Arni berg the name of the -Dan's or Domi (home) - mountain.

We don't know who wrote in pencil, "Sophie wrote this," but perhaps Johannes Jr. (John Albert Schuerch) did when he received the photo from Sophie.

Modern Wasen, Switzerland, Photo by Tim Vogt, September 2025, noting some places (1, 2, 3, 5, & 7) that were numbered on the legacy photo.



Legacy photo, Wasen, Switzerland, Cir. 1880, provided by Donna (Schuerch) Love, from the home of her grandfather, Johannes Jr. Schürch (John Albert Schuerch), that Sophie (Schürch) Knispel, his sister, numbered and gave to him. (Donna added the typed numbers for clarity.)

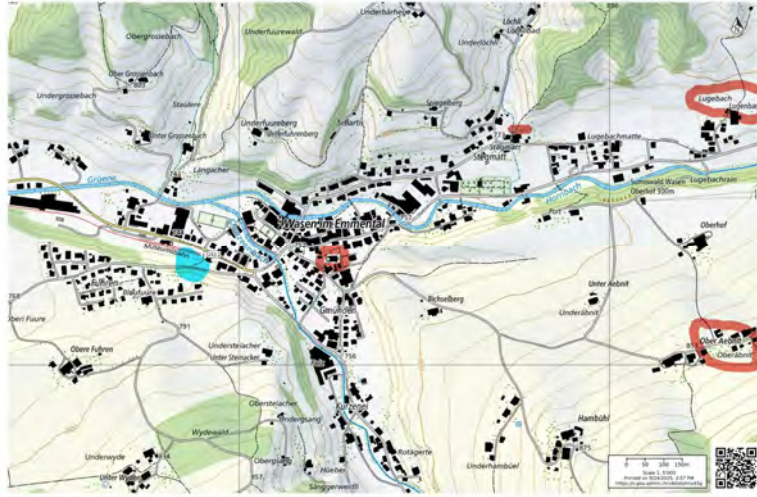


Figure 1.  
Lower  
Aebnit  
and  
Upper  
Aebnit –  
circled.



Figure 2. Modern  
day Wasen,  
noting Aebnit  
(Abnet) and Arni  
Mountain.

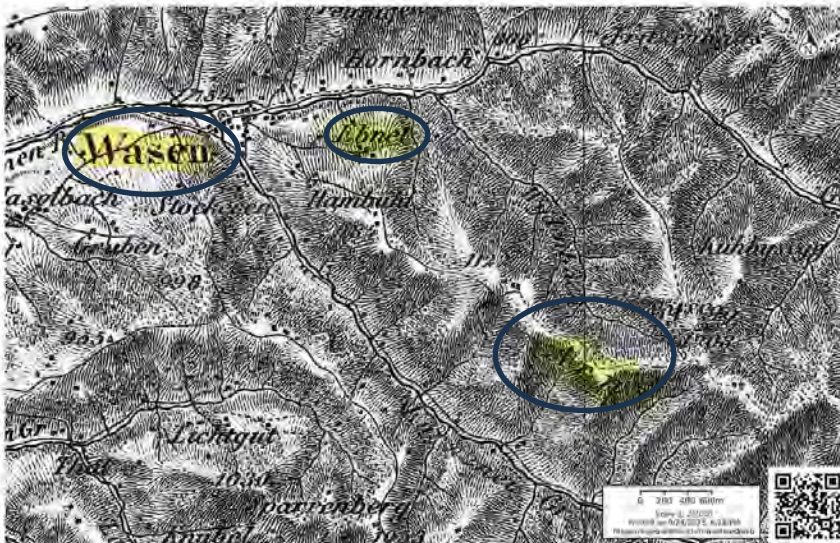


Figure 3.  
1864 Map of  
Wasen,  
Ebnet  
(Abnet),  
and Arni  
Mountain.

Appendage 3: Sophie (Schürch) Knispel 1937 Letter to Niece Dora (Hermann) Moul, daughter of Roseta (Schürch) Hermann. (From Page 8)

The following letter was written to Dora Hermann Moul, daughter of Roseta Schuerch Hermann. It has been typed by me for clarification. However, the grammar and expressions are left as is. It should be noted there are some discrepancies in it, probably due to the fact that the author, Sophie Schuerch Knispel, was relying only on her own memory of the events and people of which she writes. She was 61 years olds at the time. She died ten years later. A copy of this letter was given to me in 1983 by Walter Ray Bachtld, youngest and only living son of Marianna Schuerch Bachtold. This letter is priceless in that it gives some heretofore unknown insights of the family of Johannes and Magdalena Schuerch, who migrated with their ten children (and one soon to be born) from Switzerland to America in 1884. It is well to remember that had they not had the faith and courage to live, to love, to work, and to continue having children in the face overwhelming adversity, some of us would not be here today. We owe our existence to their heroism.

Anthony A. (Tony) Schuerch  
Anchorage, Alaska, August 5, 1983

McIntosh, South Dakota

April 9, 1937

Dear Niece and All;

Your letter I have received and was glad to hear from you Mary. Thanks for the doily. It was very pretty and fits on the bookcase. It's fine, even work. You done a fine job on it. Was glad to hear from sister. I think our winter is over and we will all have a right to respect winter as we know they are cold. Fred came here to see a blizzard. He be going back soon by the 10 or 11 as he has to be in Portland to see the doctor the 20th. All are well here. Sister Mary is getting better. John had a boil on his arm, But I think he be alright now.

Fred drove his Chevrolet Coupe had no trouble. Well I must cut this short. Will tell of Bernard's wife, is in hospital in Mobridge. Was operated on the 4th of April. Have a little girl all doing fine so far. It's getting dinner time will make a little note. I had one written but don't know where it is.

Your mother was born in Abnit by Wasen, Canton Bern, Switzerland. Left Europe 27 of Feb. 1884. Arrived in March 17 at Polk County, Iowa. Post Office Palmer which is no more. We left in March 1885 for Dakota wkere father took up land. Your mother remained there til she was married the 27th March. Then lived N. West of Zell 5 miles from there. Ske moved to Faulkton in March or April 1915 where she is been all these years. Will write some more if I can later of what you asked and hope you will at your own what you know or make a record of all of you as one will forget dates. Love to you all as ever Aunt Sophie Knispel.

\*Please note: Johannes and Magdalena had 14 children in all. One died at age 9 in Switzerland, so "12 children and one soon to be born," not 10 children. Nine children were on the ship with them, and another was born 8 days after arriving. Then one of the children, Anna, age 4, died of typhoid within the first year of arriving in America. Then they had three more children in America.

Will try a little writing down of some of the life of your grandfather Schuerch. He was born in Rohrbach, Canton Bern. His father was a weaver, and one time after a funeral he came home, went to his weaver and worked at his trade in the basement and they were down to get potatoes for supper. He was working and come supper time they called 2 times and he did not come up so they went down and he was under the Weaver and only lived a few moments then Died. Father was 6 years old. Had one younger brother Daniel. Four (4) older sisters, one older brother. His mother and one sister kept the trade so father learned it. His oldest brother Ulrich was a cheesemaker. Their grandfather had Alp was a herdsman (rancher) where they took in cattle in the summer and had his own milk and had a cheese making outfit. So my father started in young. His grandfather was a speculator and so lost nearly all his possessions.

His great Grandfather was a watchmaker and he gave your grandfather a Hand made watch. It had no springs, was wound with a key which had a hand made chain. It was old when he got it and Father had it fixed and it run yet at the time he died. The closed back side cost a hard days work. He'd start at 4 in the morning and by 10 at night be done with Polishing, molting, and shaping with hinges to open to put in the frame. I can't tell how long he worked to make one watch.

Father also remarked of hardships in youth. Of the time when it was dry and there were no railroads when flour has to be hauled in, he walked to 7 bakeries and also 3 mills and could not buy a spoonful of flour, no bread. And another time food was all spoiled by too much rain. It all molded and it was nearly all the crop ruined. Potatoes rotted in the ground so it was another bad time and when roads be bad it be a long while to get flour or grain in and no sooner was it in and it be sold. It took from 3 to 4 months to get a shipment. They used carts with oxen, cows, or anything. Very few horses was used. The wagons were cut out round tree. Wheels were not rimmed with iron just plain. So they began to make them with spokes and rims. They pulled easier and did not make so much trouble. That was in the days of my mother's father. He was a wagon maker and so by their stories I can remember those thing.

He would always say hunger is the best to learn one to eat anything so he started to smoke when he was two years old. He had an uncle which was blind and he was sent to the hearth to light the Pipe. Anyone can tell how it lighted so he stayed by him the Habit. As there were no matches they started to use some kind of oil but not kerosene. Had no lamp chimneys and one had to be careful not to blow on it and it was not a bright light. Some of the richer people used candles. The fire was kept all night and day as if it be out there was something doing to get it started. Newspapers were rare and also writing paper. Letters were folded in envelope shape and sealed with a little sealing wax. Post man all walked all the traveling, very few had wagons and it cost much more than anyone had of the poorer class they could not afford it. Telephone, cars, engines, electric, was nothing heard of. The first train people went far and near to see it. Be like a circus every time it come in. In the years of 1860-1870 between then. Then conditions improved rice, corn and cotton were

shipped in so many other things coal oil matches were welcome. A smoker had his jack knife, a flint rock, a piece of sponge and struck it together til they had a spark. They all have learn a trade. They tan their own leather. The shoe maker makes the shoes up to the laces and the ring in the holes, some one does nothing eles but that so there is work for all.

The ground has to have fertilizer each year or else their crop is poor. Well he managed to save enough to part pay for a piece of land of 12 acres side hill which is called Arni (Arnee) Mountain, a little settlement of about ten houses of 5 owners and the others were all for rent which is about to make enough to pay the taxes and there is just enough one can raise 4 cows and a sheep, a goat, a few chickens, and 2 or 4 pigs. They are fed the little potatoes all cooked. The milk is all sold to the cheese factory. It was all carried on the back in a can with straps over the shoulder of which Fred was the oldest and had to start way to young on the way to school, at 8:00 o'clock started in the winter, 7:30 in the summer so all have to go early. So you can see mother have to be up early, of course men too but it's far less worry for them and it's no different yet.

As far as I know that piece of land was our living but sparingly. It was called Abnit, 20 minutes walk from our town Wasen. The Post Office was school and church, or a village town that's where we were born from Marianna. John was last. We sold there and left for America in Feb 28, 1884. We was in Paris, France, the first of March we left Europe. We were on the water 13 days and a half.

We went to Iowa where mother's brother had a piece of land, 80 acres. Half was swamp, and in the fall father came to Dakota and filed on a homestead where Brother Ernest is yet where he was born. We had an emigrant car where we brought 2 horses, 2 cows, 30 chickens, 2 pigs, a wagon and harness, a little household goods. As there were fine folks there who helped us as we had the luck of all getting Typhoid fever, of which sister Lina, a baby born 8 days after we arrived there in Polk county did not get it. Mother was immune, Sister Anna died, was buried there in a county cemetary. Father was nine weeks in bed there, with the most of us all down. Mary Anna was first and was working out where they had it. We had good friends there, everything was so different. It was just like contrary. One just can't explain it. What a difference. Bake your own bread where we had it baked by a baker. Mother often said they must have thought us real foolish. But they understood, they helped us like one does a baby to walk.

When we came to Dakota had a time of our life. Everybody had work. I was 9, working two miles from home, Rosie 6 miles or rather 8 miles. It was that way in Iowa, all got scattered that mother often wished we were homeland. But at the same time it would than they were used to have very little to do with. Only had a ten acres in wheat the first year. Father built on the house a lean-to which was afterwards the kitchen. For the grain, 100 bushels give us our seed, flour and chicken feed. Mother began to feel better, as she seen it was a far better living than what we had.

You no doubt remember the large picture on the wall which your father; mother had enlarged for her to see it every day was Mother, Father of whom she was very fond of. He was a wagon maker and worked away from home. He would leave by 4:00 in the morning and be home by

10:00 in the evening, eat his supper. Walk to work all his life, except when they kept him for days untill all was done. He take a tree, saw it and make boards to whatever they wanted all by hand.

There was a time like to Father's time where he got \$50 a day, a loaf of bread be \$50 a half-franc is counted like we do here \$50 even if it is less than change. A half dollar stays \$50 here so you know they did not have all they wanted to eat. So her condition was so her stomach had to take what was good for her, so her health was ruined. Early, by doing men's work and hardships were her lot but she learned to trust in God through a good school teacher who taught all the children to a greater land to look ahead. She even went to consult him in years after when they lived in their home. They were robbed by selfish unjust relative who made life miserable for them, even to her brother who stayed with Father til he died. It just can't be written. Grandfather lived to be 84 years old, so you can see they were old. Mother Great Grandmother was 93, 3 years in bed helpless. Her Grandmother got to old too but not so far in the 80's. Her mother died rather young, about 48.

That Bible story book came from that schoolteacher, Weildamiller. Mother's brother which moved from Iowa to Washington, was a carpenter. He worked at that trade til he could no more. He had one Metall for finishing a Plan that the carpenters were puzzled and he was called and finished it. It's the great Marble house in Portland. I have to look up the name of it in the cards. He was 87 years old nearly 9 months when he died. Was helpless and invalid the last year.

The other two brothers, one died before mother, the other in June afterwards. He bought the property what they were robbed of just so he could sell it as no one wanted to live with outlaws after he moved. 3 days later he died. He cleared his family away from them so he went in peace. Left 3 daughters, had been a widower for years. He was 4 years younger than mother. She was born in August 26, 1843, Died May 13, 1922. Her birth register made a mistake that it was the 24th and she it was once her luck as it was that way or else she had to go to school yet she weighs then 180 pounds and she felt to big for 16 years old and it was urgent for her to work out and do the farm work at home as her father had no time or loose a lot of work for money when her brothers were grown up.

She married and lived to enjoy old age and she got her wishes fulfilled to the end so she would not have to be bedridden. Also her youngest brother was gone on ahead. She also felt Fred she did not have to leave him behind. He went 3 weeks before, so Gottlieb was so much lonelier. He felt left and did he get homesick for home. Well this has to cut shorter, as I have much more to write.

Will go back a space to my grandfather. He was the youngest of all if I can remember right. Eight brothers, all in carpentry or contractor or architects. Mother's Aunts would tell of the hardships of 1806-1808 when they had shortage of food most all summer. They lived on spinach and there was so much spinach shopping a game or like in thrashing with flails that it sounded like a melody 3-4-6 all men made it sound to rym. Mother's Aunts were small, something like me on account of not enough to eat they were stunted. Grandfather was tall and had a wonderful sweet temper. He had a great understanding of stars, being out early and late they seemed to be as great a friend, and how he extracted the juice from the plants.

I am writing this because I like to hear of times of old and if you look over the pictures you find one old and they have the same style as that you remarked of having their hair so flat and straight. In the middle is father's sister a widow who lived in our house, the second one in Abnit. Their name is Rupp. It would be well if you care to keep the pictures to write the name on the back of them. It was taken a few years after we left as the youngest was sister Rosetta's age so you can recall about when it was taken.

I have to call a halt as we have company. Fred and his mother Kasalanski and brother-in-law drove from Oregon April second so will write later some. His legs look awful scarred. He can walk, but has to throw his legs forward from his knees and it be hard on him if he has to depend on himself to make a living. He got compensation so far but don't know how much longer he will get it. He was scalded from his hip down. Is not all healed yet. The weather feels like spring now.

Lovingly,

Aunt Sophie Knispel

John Albert Knispel

October 17, 1881 - August 18, 1948

John Albert was born in Schwyz, Canton, Switzerland. He came to the U.S. when he was 3 years old. His family left their home on February 17, 1884. They sailed from Le Havre, France on the SS. Lorraine on March 11, 1884 and arrived in New York on March 13, 1884. They first settled in Holt County, Iowa. Within two years they moved to Tell, South Dakota. John Albert married his first wife, Frieda, living in South Dakota when he was just 18 or 20 years old. She died sometime between 1908 and 1913. John and his son, Walter, moved to Oregon where he met and married Anna Frieda when she was not quite 18 years old. He was now 28. They had 3 children. Frieda died in 1922. He was then 40 with 6 children. They lived on and ran a dairy farm in Valley Junction, Oregon. He was an accomplished carpenter and built many homes. In 1928, John Albert then married Dorothy Stanley in 1928. They had no children. John Albert died in 1948 of a stroke at the age of 67.

Verna Liane, John Albert's 5th born child (Johnnie Robert's sister) writes this about her father's death.

"My Papa died of a stroke - his third. He did not die in a hospital, but at home in their little house in Williams. Not on the farm. They had sold the farm to Oliver and his daughter Teresa (they'd several years before). Right after lunch he told Carolyn (our step-mom) how good her tea tasted and asked for a second cup. While she was making it, he went to the bedroom to his own closet. Mary soon, she heard an intake of air - much louder than usual, and was rushed in just in time to see his fall back - he was already dead. She rushed outside to call someone & her Walter just arriving so incidentally. She was so glad that he never suffer was so suffer - but what a shock."

## Appendage 4: Music to song, *Im Wald und auf der Heide*

and English Translation on Next Page (From page 32)

### Im Wald und auf der Heide

Text: Wilhelm Bornemann (1816)

Melodie: F. L. Gehricke (1827)

$\text{♩} = 120$  C Am G

1. Im Wald und auf der Hei-de, da such ich mei-ne Freu-de, ich bin ein Jä-gers-  
mann, ich bin ein Jä-gers-mann. Den Forst und Wald zu he-gen, das  
Wild-brett zu er-le-gen, das ist was mir ge-fällt, das ist, was mir ge-  
fällt. Hal-li, hal-lo, hal-li, hal-lo, das ist, was mir ge-fällt.

2. Das Huhn im schnellen Fluge,  
die Schnepf im Zickzackzuge  
! : treff' ich mit Sicherheit. :!  
Die Sauen, Reh' und Hirsche  
erleg' ich auf der Pirsche,  
! : der Fuchs lässt mir sein Kleid. :!  
! : Halli, hallo, halli hallo,  
der Fuchs lässt mir sein Kleid. :!

3. Trag' ich in meiner Tasche  
ein Trüklein in der Flasche,  
! : zwei Bissen liebes Brot. :!  
Brennt lustig meine Pfeife,  
wenn ich den Wald durchstreife,  
! : dann hat es keine Not. :!  
! : Halli, hallo, halli hallo,  
dann hat es keine Not. :!

4. Im Walde hingestreckt,  
den Tisch mit Moos mir decket  
! : die freundliche Natur. :!  
Den treuen Hund zur Seite,  
ich nun das Mahl bereite  
! : auf Gottes freier Flur. :!  
! : Halli, hallo, halli hallo,  
auf Gottes freier Flur. :!

5. Und streich' ich durch die Wälder  
und zieh' ich durch die Felder  
! : einsam den ganzen Tag. :!  
doch schwinden mir die Stunden  
gleich flüchtigen Sekunden,  
! : tracht' ich dem Wilde nach. :!  
! : Halli, hallo, halli hallo,  
tracht' ich dem Wilde nach. :!

Diese Noten sind frei kopierbar für jedermann – erstellt für [www.ebersberger-liedersammlung.de](http://www.ebersberger-liedersammlung.de)

### Im Wald und auf der Heide

<https://youtu.be/6dULDb4tsek>

Other versions at:

[https://youtu.be/ldDzOnHpz\\_Y](https://youtu.be/ldDzOnHpz_Y)

[https://youtu.be/ae5xX\\_AwUCs](https://youtu.be/ae5xX_AwUCs)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdssAeilKHc&list=RDgdssAeilKHc&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdssAeilKHc&list=RDgdssAeilKHc&start_radio=1)

### In the Forest and on the Heath

#### (English Translation)

In the forest and on the heath  
I search for my joy  
I am a huntsman  
I am a huntsman!  
To attend to the forests faithfully  
To kill the game  
My pleasure lies therein.  
My pleasure lies therein.  
Hi lee, Hi low, Hi lee, Hi low  
My pleasure lies therein.

In my bag I carry  
A drink in a bottle  
Two bites of dear bread  
Two bites of dear bread  
My pipe burns merrily  
When I go through the forest  
There is no need  
There is no need  
There is no need  
Hi lee, Hi low, Hi lee, Hi low  
My pleasure lies therein.

Sprawled out in the forest  
The table is covered with moss  
The friendly nature  
The friendly nature  
The faithful dog next to me  
I prepare my meal  
On God's wide mead  
On God's wide mead  
Hi lee, Hi low, Hi lee, Hi low  
My pleasure lies therein.

The grouse in a fast flight  
The snipe running zigzag  
I'll surely hit it  
I'll surely hit it  
The sows, the deer and stags  
I kill them when stalking  
The fox gives me his fur  
The fox gives me his fur  
Hi lee, Hi low, Hi lee, Hi low  
My pleasure lies therein.

And when I walk through the forests  
And go over the fields  
Lonely for the whole day  
Lonely for the whole day  
Lonely for the whole day  
As if they were briefly seconds  
I seek for the game  
I seek for the game  
Hi lee, Hi low, Hi lee, Hi low  
My pleasure lies therein.

When the sun comes down  
And the moist mist comes up  
My day work is done  
My day work is done  
I walk from the heath  
To the homey silent joys  
A happy huntsman  
A happy huntsman  
Hi lee, Hi low, Hi lee, Hi low  
My pleasure lies therein.

Also, Link to Song "Oh, Snyder, does  
your mother know you're out so late  
tonight."

<https://youtu.be/Z7Yhn5fGZcU>

**THANK YOU!**



**Johannes and Magdalena Schürch Family, Circa 1890**

Back Row L-R: Sophie, Gottlieb, Friedrich, Roseta, Maria, Johannes, Jr.  
(John A. Schuerch)

Middle Row Seated: Analliesabeth, Magdalena (Mother) w/baby  
Ernest, Johannes, Sr., Marianna

Front Row: Heinrich (Henry), Freida, and Lina (The youngest four were  
born in the United States.)