

## Pölking Emigration from Südlohne

According to "Lohner-Familien" the farm of Zeller Pölking in Südlohne was first mentioned in 1291 as Lefhardi in Sutloh, and then in 1504 as Gerd Lefferding. In the book " Die Bauernhöfe im Amte Vechta " there appears: 1545 Hermann Polkink, 1549 Jacob Polking, 1664 Gerd Polkingk. The later generations can be tracked in the Lohne church records.

In the 5th generation starting from Gerd Pölking, the family of Johan Herman Pölking and Gertrud Krimpenfort is listed with nine children. Their son Clemens had a child and another son Johann had two children who emigrated before 1870. It is believed that after the untimely death of Anna Maria Möhlenstedt, the wife of Clemens Pölking that their five year old daughter Elisabeth and three year old son Anton were included in the family of his brother Johann Pölking and Maria Elisabeth Möhlenstedt, and Clemens became a fram workerat his brother Johann's Möhlenstedt Kotter in Südlohne. Accordingly, the emigrant Anton Pölking and his emigrant cousins Clemens and Franz grew up together. It is possible that the three sailed on the same ship, but that cannot be verified.

Already in 1834 an uncle of these three, the 24-year-old Joseph Pölking, a twin brother of the Clemens Pölking emigrated. He was a priest and teacher in Kentucky (s.u.)

### Lohne church record:

Clemens Pölking

b 01/07/1810 Südlohne,

d 28/10/1882 Südlohne, accident with horse

Parents:

Johan Herman Pölking

b 06/12/1764 Südlohne, Zeller in Südlohne, d 03/02/1850 Südlohne

Married: 12/11/1793 Lohne

Maria Gertrud Krimpenfort b 27/11/1769 Lohne d 30/12/1831 Südlohne

Married: 30/07/1845 Lohne - Anna Maria Clementina Möhlenstedt b

19/03/1816 Südlohne d 24/09/1854 Südlone/

Heuerleute at Zeller Pölking and a sailor

Children born in Südlohne:

b 30/05/1846 a stillborn boy

b 07/31/1849 Anton Pölking >> emigrated according to

Census in 1868

b 23/01/1851 Elisabeth d 1922 - Married 02/11/1879 - Heinrich

Rolfes b 01/08/1843 Südlohne

b 13/07/1854 Josephine d 09/17/1854 Südlohne

Anton Pölking

b 31/07/1849 Südlohne

d 02/02/1927 Breda, Carroll, Iowa<sup>1</sup>

Married: 26/01/1875 Petersburg, Iowa -/ Maria Wördehoff b 01/26/1853

Erwitte, Westphalia d17/04/1935 Breda, IA<sup>1</sup>

Farmer in Breda, Carroll County, Iowa/ The couple had six children there/<sup>2,3</sup>

- Maggie b 1876 Frank b Mar/1880, Clara b Dec/1882, Anton b Jun/1885,

Mary b Jan/1889, Clemens b Jan/1992

- Clara in 1903 became Sister Mary Mildred, a Franciscan nun and died on

06/10/1946

According to the "Polking History" by John C. Polking, Anton Pölking reported on the occasion of his golden wedding anniversary in a newspaper interview that he left his home on April 3, 1868 and arrived in Baltimore in early June 1868 after 65 days on a sailing ship.

However, a passenger list has not be found. In addition there is no exit permit at Pass Register. Maybe he emigrated illegally under another name, because at 18 years of age he would have been subject to military service.

After landing in Baltimore, he went to Cincinnati. He remained there for some time and then moved to Delaware County, in eastern Iowa. The census of 1870 shows him as a 19-year-old farm worker at the farm of William Nothe near Petersburg, Iowa.

On March 30, 1872 Anton bought 120 acres of land in Carroll County, Iowa, for a price of \$ 7.00 per acre. He made a deposit of \$ 247.80. This was undeveloped prairie land and was about 300 km west of Petersburg, Delaware County. He built a house on the farm and in 1875 founded a family and had eight children. The mortgage was paid off in 1882 and in 1888 Anton was able to buy an additional 120 acres of land. A new larger wooden house was built in 1892.

In the census of 1900 he is listed as a farmer with his wife and five children. It is also recorded that he immigrated in 1868.<sup>3</sup> His wife Mary is reported to have immigrated in 1852. The Chronicle says that Anton always had contact with his sister Elisabeth Rolfes in Südlohne until she died in 1922. He was said to be very upset when he learned that his aunt and "Stepmother" Maria Elisabeth Pölking-Möhlenstedt 1894 passed away.

Anton Pölking died after a short illness at his farm in Breda on 02/02/1927, at the age of 77. An obituary in "The Carroll Times" from 16/02/1927 mentions that there were present at his funeral in addition to his wife Mary, five surviving children

with spouses and 16 grandchildren. He is described as a Christian man of fine character.

## THE CARROLL TIMES

CARROLL, IOWA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1927.

Section Two

### ANTON POLKING WAS BURIED SATURDAY

Had Been Resident of Carroll County  
for 50 Years—Born in Ger-  
many in 1849.

Anton Polking, one of the early settlers and highly respected citizens of this county, died at his home on the farm west of Breda early Wednesday morning, February 2, after a short illness. He contracted a cold about two weeks before his death, but was up and around every day. He ate a hearty supper the evening preceding his death, and retired as usual, but shortly after retiring became very sick. Medical aid was immediately summoned, and he rallied for a time and said he felt better and went to sleep. But he soon lapsed into unconsciousness and he died peacefully and quietly without suffering, at 6:30 o'clock the next morning.

Deceased was born at Oldenburg, Germany, July 31, 1849, being 77 years, 6 months of age, at the time of his death. He was the youngest of a family of two children, his only sister passing away many years ago. He came to this country at the age of 18 years and first located at Cincinnati, O., later going to Delaware county, Ia. On January 26, 1875, he was united in marriage to Mary

Woerdehoff at Petersburg, Ia. The following March they came to Carroll county and located on the farm west of Breda, having lived there continuously for 52 years.

Surviving Mr. Polking are his wife and five living children, Mrs. Margaret Feldman of Omaha; Clara, now Sister Mary Mildred of Eau Claire, Wis.; Frank, Anthony J., and Clem, of Breda. A daughter, Mae, passed away in 1918. Sixteen grandchildren also survive him.

Deceased was a man of fine character and esteemed by all who knew him. His pleasing quiet and unassuming disposition won for him many friends and he will long be remembered. He was industrious and strove valiantly and successfully to make for his family a home in the fullest sense. He patiently bore with all, loved his family and home and feared and served God while here. His life was a noble example, his friendship deeply prized. His counsel and sympathy will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

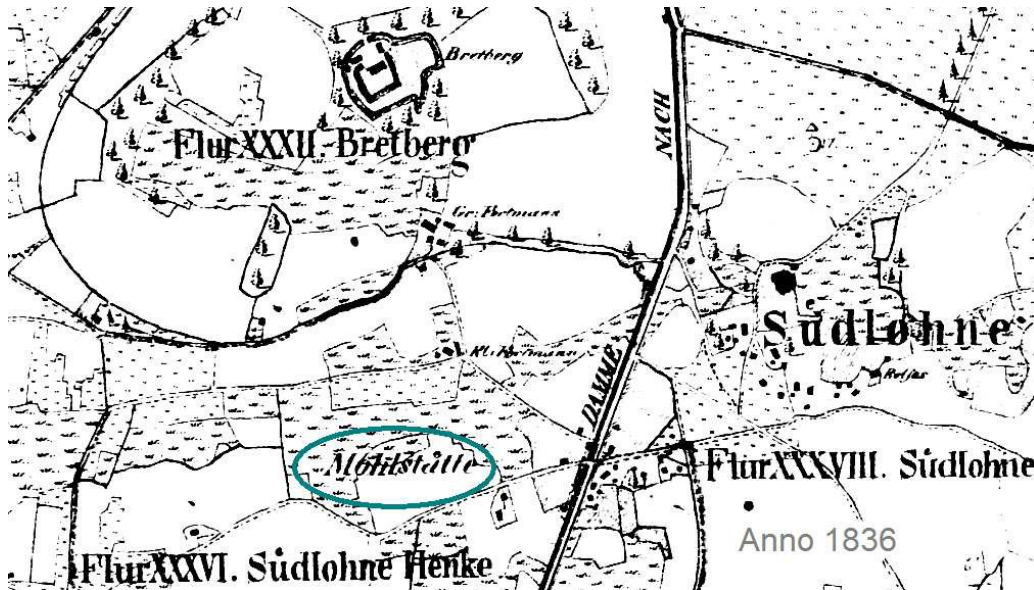
The funeral services were held on Saturday morning at 9:30 at St. Bernard's church of which he was a devout member, and after a requiem high mass the remains were laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery. The large number in attendance at the funeral bore silent testimony of the high regard in which he was held by the entirely community.



St. Boniface church in New Vienna (New Wine - New Vienna) was founded in 1845 by natives of south Oldenburg. In 1868 the first church was built in the neighboring Petersburg.

Carroll was founded in 1867 on the railway right of way of the former Chicago and North Western Railway. The railroad company sold cheap land nearby in the undeveloped prairie.

Around the same time as Anton Pölking two of his cousins also emigrated. These were Franz and Clemens Pölking, sons of the Kötter Johann Pölking and Maria Elisabeth Möhlenstedt called Kötter Möhlenstedt in Südlohne. Johann Pölking had married into the Kotten Möhlenstedt, hence the family is also called Pölking-Möhlenstedt. Upon the marriage of Johann Pölking into the "Mollenstede Kotten" the male line of the Möhlenstedt family in Südlohne died out (see Lohner Familien).



Johann Pölking

b 28/08/1800 Südlohne

d 06/01/1883 Südlohne

Parents:

Johan Herman Pölking

b 06/12/1764 Südlohne, Zeller in Südlohne,

d 03/02/1850 Südlohne

Married: 12/11/1793 Lohne

Maria Gertrud Krimpenfort

b 27/11/1769 Lohne

d 30/12/1831 Südlohne

Married: 23/01/1833 Lohne - Maria Elisabeth Möhlenstedt b 30/11/1811

Südlohne d 16/12/1894 Südlohne

Kötter Möhlenstedt in Südlohne

Children:

b 20/02/1836 Anton d 05/09/1845 Südlohne

b 09/04/1839 Bernard d 02/22/1840 Südlohne

b 05/11/1841 Henrich d 24/12/1841 Südlohne

b 27/10/1842 Ferdinand Pölking, heir  
Married: 02/19/1878 - Maria Josephine Nordhus b 02/01/1852  
Steinfeld  
b 27/01/1845 Clemens Pölking emigrated around 1870 d where?  
b 12/07/1847 Franz Pölking emigrated before 1870  
Return migration before 1921, d 26/12/1921 Südlohne, single  
b 03/02/1850 Josephine Gertrud Pölking  
Married: 07/18/1867 - Carl Anton Krebeck b 21/01/1831 Lohne  
b 07/05/1853 Elisabeth d 05/10/1853 Südlohne  
b 18/06/1855 Maria Anna d where?

Presumably, these brothers emigrated illegally since neither any emigration approval nor passenger list have been found for them. What is certain is that in 1870 Franz Pölking was living as a farmworker with the family Kokenge from Südlohne in New Vienna, Dubuque County, Iowa<sup>4</sup> (for Kokenge there is a separate report).

Ten years later, in the Census of 1880, he lived with the family of his cousin Anton Pölking in Wheatland township, Carroll County, Iowa.<sup>2</sup> Brother Clemens was reported in the Census of 1880 as a farmworker at the farm of Joseph Klostermann in Liberty township, Dubuque County, Iowa,<sup>5</sup> north of New Vienna. Neither Clemens nor Franz are listed in the Census of 1900. A grave site has not been found. Franz Pölking returned to Südlohne and died as an unmarried son on 26/12/1921.

Different fates of emigrants can run in the same family. One establishes a successful farm, the second returns unsuccessful, and the third is lost.

Previously the uncle Joseph Pölking, a twin brother of Clemens Pölking, emigrated to America in 1834 via Baltimore:

Joseph Pölking

b 01/07/1810 Südlohne, priests,  
d December 1866 Saint Rose, Kentucky

Parents:

Johan Herman Pölking

b 06/12/1764 Südlohne, Zeller in Südlohne,  
d 03/02/1850

Married: 11/12/1793 Südlohne Lohne

Maria Gertrud Krimpenfort

b 27/11/1769 Lohne  
d 30/12/1831 Südlohne

He was ordained as a priest in 1851 in Louisville (Kentucky). He served as a teacher/professor at the parochial school and temporarily priest at St. Andrew

Catholic Church in Potosio, Grant County, Wisconsin. Reverend Joseph Pölking died in December 1866 in St. Rose (Kentucky), a Dominican monastery near Springfield.

See also separate report.

**Sources:**

The History of Anton and Mary Polking Woerdehoff - by John C. Polking, Rice University, Houston, Texas

[http://math.rice.edu/~polking/genealogy/webcards/ap\\_mw.htm](http://math.rice.edu/~polking/genealogy/webcards/ap_mw.htm)

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~maguiggan/grpf1889.html>

<http://www.geni.com/people/Anton-Polking/4136593985290075229>

1 <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=58676390>

2 Census 1880 Wheatland, Carroll, Iowa

Anton Polking 28 (b 1852), Farmer, Mary 26 (b 1854), Maggie 4,  
Frank 3m

in the same house: Frank 30 (b 1850) cousin, Farmer

3 Census 1900 Wheatland, Carroll, Iowa

Anton Polking b July.1849, Farmer, immigrated in 1868, 25 years married to  
Mary b Jan.1853

Children born in Iowa: Frank b Mar.1880, Clara b Dec.1882, Anton b  
Jun.1885, Mary b Jan.1889, Clemens b Jan.1992

4 Census 1870 New Wine, Dubuque, Iowa

Frank Polking 23 (b 1847) farm laborer, from Oldenburg, with the  
widow Kokenge and six children.

5 Census 1880 Liberty, Dubuque, Iowa

Clemens Polking 28 (\*b1852), from Oldenburg, Laborer at Farmer  
Joseph Klostermann

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