

The Beck Family Immigrates
From Germany
to South Manitou Island

1860

By Mrs. Irwin Beck Jr

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The appended page, illustrating the building of the stove wood barn foundation, created by Lillian Beck and published in July of 2001, was not part of the original essay.

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David and Elizabeth Beck



and Son



August

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David Beck

David Beck was born as Johann Wilhelm David Beck, in Cattenstedt, Germany on November 4, 1812. He was confirmed on November 22, 1827, also in Cattenstedt. His parent's names were Johann Ernst Jacob Beck and Johanna Wilhelmine Caraline Auguste Schroeder. They too were born, married, and died in Cattenstedt.

David had three brothers and sisters; Johann Heinrich Jacob, born 1810, Johann Heinrich Gottfried, born 1815, and Henriette Frederike Elizabeth, born 1825.

David's mother died in Cattenstedt in 1825. When David was about twenty-four, his father committed suicide.

At the age of twenty-eight, David met Elizabeth (Dorothe Elizabeth Rindert.) She was born in Hedereleben, Germany on November 17, 1813. Her parents were Johann Andreas Rindert, who was a customs officer in Derenburg, and Mase (or Marie) Immenroth. It isn't known if she had any brothers or sisters. Nothing else is known about her parents.



Elizabeth Beck

Elizabeth married David Beck on April 26, 1840 in Cattenstedt, Germany. They had seven children; Johann Gottfried Elias Theodor Beck (known as Theodor), born July 15, 1841; Johanna Friederike Margarete Elizabeth Beck, born November 5, 1843; Christian David Albert Beck (known as Albert), born September 28, 1845; Johanna Elizabeth Dorothe Auguste Beck, born July 13, 1847, and who died in October 1847; Alvine Frederike Louise Dorothe Beck (known as Dora), born August 21, 1848; Friederike Dorothe Wilhelmine Beck, born February 17, 1851; and Gustav George Elias August Beck (known as August), born December 1, 1852; – all of these born in Cattenstedt, Germany.

The revolutions of 1848-49 caused unrest in all of Europe. Those who looked toward the weakening of autocratic controls and possible unification of the state under some form of republican government were disappointed. The economic conditions, where were bad in all of Europe, showed no sign of improvement, no future for anyone – so David and his wife said they would try their luck in America.

Whole villages in Germany were immigrating to the United States – after hearing of the opportunities in America. American agents traveled throughout Germany. States like Michigan sent agents of their own, with booklets printed in German telling of the advantages of settling in their particular state.

David and Elizabeth Beck and three of their children; Albert, Dora and August, came to the U.S. in 1860. They left behind three of their daughters; Johanna Friederike, Margarete Elizabeth, and Friederike Dorothe Wilhelmine Beck. One of the daughters may have been married, and the other is thought to have been a school teacher.



Many Europeans wishing to go to America had to wait months. It was mid-winter which



caused them to cross the North Atlantic in a sailboat. Having booked passage on the Yankee clipper, they bade farewell to their parents and friend, and set out for Hamburg, Germany by coach.

It was difficult to leave a small village like Oberkrumbach. It was hard leaving friends and family. The last Sunday in church the minister asked God's blessing on the departing families, and the congregation sang heartily, *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, which means "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."



In leaving Hamburg, Germany by a sailing ship, the most direct wind would be sued to steer the ship through the English Channel.



Finally, after three months, the Yankee clipper arrived in the new world; New York in 1860 from Germany.

The Beck's proceeded by means of the Buffalo and New York City Railroad, to Buffalo by the Erie Canal, and the Great

Lakes landing at Glen Haven, or Glen Arbor. The small boat, the Manitou Isle, that was carrying the Beck family to South Manitou island had to go past "the





Crib," which was used by the Coast Guard until about twelve years ago, when it was converted over to automatic control.

The Beck family arrived on the island in 1860. Their neighbors were George and Marie Haas, from Bavaria. The all became good friends in Buffalo, before coming to the island.

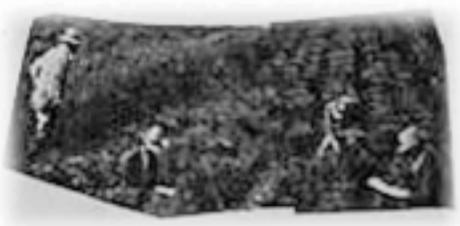


August Beck, Arrived on South Manitou Island at age 12, with his parents, David and Elizabeth, who was an immigrant farmer, helped on the farm.

His dad used two horses to plow the field to plant corn and potatoes. The hardest job on the farm for a child of twelve was planting the potatoes b hand,. After the older



people had dug the holes, then we would drop the potatoes. The potatoes were planted thirty inches apart, to keep the weeds down.



At the age of fourteen, August Beck helped his dad David work on the same farm, until turning fifteen years old. Then, along with his father, he helped build the lighthouse on the South Manitou Island in 1880.



South Manitou Island Lighthouse and Fog Signal. The building was always kept clean and shipshape, as they never knew when the lighthouse tender would come with supplies and inspections.

David and Elizabeth Beck lived on the island until their deaths, about 1900 – no one really knows for sure – but they both are buried on the South Manitou Island.



*Sept 17, 1911. Grave site
of David & Elizabeth Beck
& their 6 sons - Pompey*



At the age of twenty-one years old, August Beck met and married Elizabeth Haas, seventeen years old, daughter of George and Marie Haas, on June 28, 1875, in Glen Arbor, Michigan.

August and Elizabeth Beck had four boys – George; Robin, who died at four-months; Harley; and Irwin Beck, Sr, born June 11, 1887 and died at age one-hundred-one on August 23, 1988. They had five daughters – Mary; Josie, Alvina; Mathilda; and Hattie, born September 11, 1883 and dies February 8, 1988 at age one-hundred-two.

August Beck and other homesteaders cut and burned trees to clear the land. There was a gravel pit, lumber mill on the island,



August had men logging and hauling his logs from the island to Milwaukee in the year 1908.



The Becks and Hutzler families all came over from Germany in the 1860's, and soon became neighbors on the South Manitou Island.

Mrs. August Beck (Elizabeth Haas) was the only sister of great Grandfather Joseph Haas.



Joseph Haas

August and Elizabeth Beck's daughter Josie married George Conrad Hutzler ...



Geo. Conrad Hutzler

... first cousin of Grandfather Louis Hutzler.



Louis Hutzler



Mother - Jessie Hutzler

Only one surviving child of Mary (Beck) Morris – daughter of August and Elizabeth Beck.



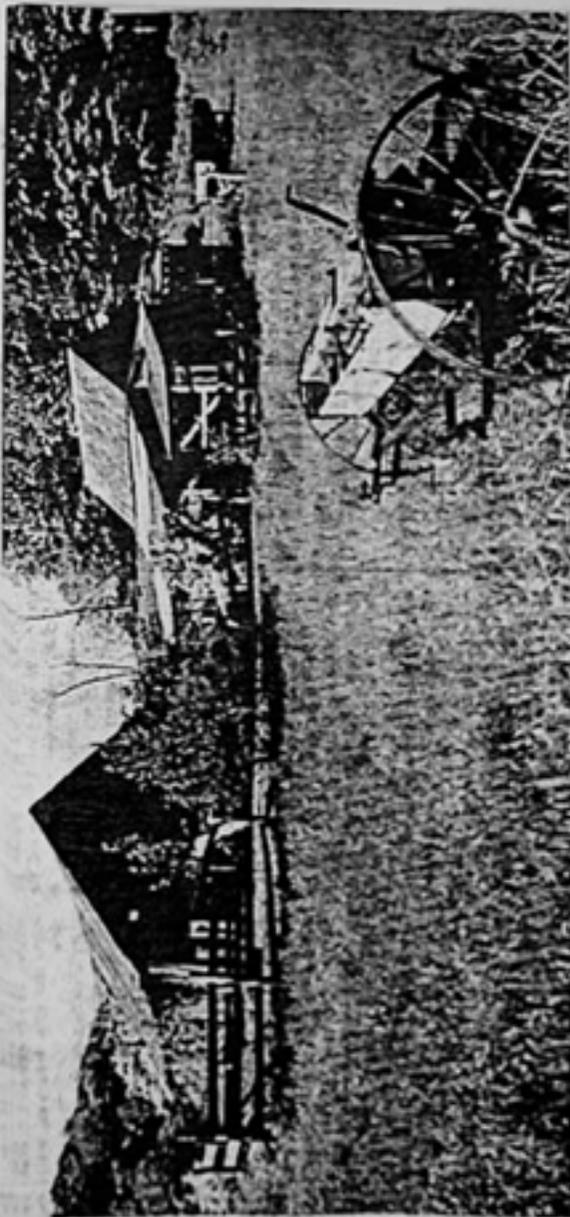
Grandmother – Mary (Beck) Morris

Mother, Beatrice Thompson, and Grandmother, Hattie (Beck) Barnhart, daughter of August and Elizabeth Beck.



Beatrice

Hattie



The Beck farm was established in 1880 on the south island.

August Beck farm



August and Elizabeth Beck's farm, showing the orchards, on south Manitou



Above are two pictures of August and Elizabeth Beck's farm and house in the year 1910. The pictures show how large the farm was – shows the windmill which pumped water for the house and barns. The house was set in a low area between two small hills. These pictures have the Park Service numbers on the back and were given to us by Kim Mann of the Park Service.



1994
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE
6622 FRONT ST. BENTON
EMPIRE MICHIGAN

The above picture of August and Elizabeth Beck's house on South Manitou Island shows it being restored during the summer of 1994 by the National Park Service, and shows two workmen doing some work. These pictures were also given to Irwin and Lillian Beck Jr. of Empire, Michigan by Kim Mann of the Park Service, and have numbers on them. The house is a two-story building, with two screened porches, tall narrow windows, and a foundation built on concrete blocks.



The above picture of August and Elizabeth Beck's house shows the back of the house. A workman is at the side of the house doing some work. This also was given to Irwin and Lillian Beck Jr. by Kim Mann, and has numbers on it.

APPENDIX

HOW AUGUST AND ELISABETH BECK'S BARN WAS BUILT.

1910

BY: MRS. IRWIN BECK, JR.



MEN USING CANTROOP TO LIFT LOGS.



HORSE DRAWN SLED TO HAUL LOGS



MEN PUTTING WOOD SHINGLES ON ROOF



GRAVEL ROAD TO GET SAND TO MIX IN CEMENT



SCREEN TO SIFT SAND



PUTTING MORTAR ON THE FOUNDATION

NOTE: THE LOGS AT EACH END



MIXED CEMENT BY HAND



WHEELBARRROW USED TO CARRY CEMENT

August + Elisabeth Beck barn on foundation.



