

**George Michael
Schwarz**



**...his life
and his castle**

1845-1909



SCHWARZ CASTLE

*Laketown township
Allegan County, Michigan*



Schwarz Castle

This historical timeline:

GEORGE MICHAEL SCHWARZ ...HIS LIFE AND HIS CASTLE
by Sally Wolters Nye, accompanies a presentation she gave to
the members of the Castle Park Association on 13 July 2013.
Sally is the great-granddaughter of George Michael Schwarz.

You are welcome to share these images and information.
However, please acknowledge the source:

Sally Nye
2160 66th Street
Fennville, Michigan 49408
Tel. 269-543-4755
Sally@FanCarversWorld.com



It was a custom for the bride to save her pennies over the years to pay for her wedding shoes to insure the marriage “gets off” on the right foot.

1835 image of typical pre-wedding scene in Germany

A person’s moral fabric is established at an early age for many reasons ...family lifestyle, childhood events, education, culture, etc. For us to eavesdrop on the life of George Michael Schwarz, we will establish a timeline (as best we can) as it was in his homeland of Germany over one hundred years ago.

When he immigrated at Castle Garden, New York, U.S.A. in 1872, he brought his *baggage* ...his tangible possessions and his German culture.

So let us begin our journey with George Michael’s parents: Johann Georg Schwarz of Urfersheim and Eva Kunigunda Reuter of Marktbergel were united in marriage on 03 May 1835.

Before this marriage could be approved, Johann Georg had to have no less than 200 Gulden in financial property.

The first ceremony was at the Registry Office with the Registrar officiating. A witness was present for each, the bride and the groom.

The second ceremony was after the regular church service. The bride and groom walk together to the front of the church and give three proclamations. The bride carries bread and salt for omen of good harvests. The groom carries grain for wealth and good fortune. Also, a log on a sawhorse awaits the couple as they leave the church. Together, they will saw it in half to demonstrate their first tough task can be accomplished together.



George Michael Schwarz

George Michael's father, Johann Georg, a farmer from Urfersheim, was 33 years old at time of marriage. His wife, Eva Kunigunda Reuter (age unknown) was from Marktbergel, just 4 kilometers south of Urfersheim.

The young couple set up housekeeping at #10 Urfersheim. It is from this marriage that six children were born: the fifth was our George Michael.

George Michael (at left) was born on Friday, 17 Oct 1845 at 1:30 pm in the family home.



www.llesheim.de

Because Urfersheim is a small hamlet, it is found only on local maps. See the "A" pin shown here on the map.

Country ...Germany
State ...Bavaria
Administration ...Middle Franconia
District ...Newstadt a.d.Aisch-Bad Windsheim





Urfersheim is the smallest of the five hamlets that make up the community/parish of Gemeinde Illesheim. You will find Urfersheim in the far left near the horizon in this photo. Storck Barracks in the middle with the tall red and white smoke stack is a U.S.A. military base that came after WWII. The village in center front is Westheim.

The total population for these five villages in December 2011 was 905. In 1840 the total population was 953, much the same in George Michael's youth. The main economic activity of this community/parish (Gemeinde Illesheim) has always been agriculture.

The Gemeinde Illesheim Crest of this area is very meaningful in its symbolism. George Michael would have learned this in his youth.

Center of wheel ...Illesheim. Honors "Knight with the iron hand" ...owned castle.

5 spokes ...represent the smaller hamlets linking to Illesheim.

Cross ...Saint Gumbertus, patron saint of Westheim church.

Knife ...Saint Bartholomew, patron saint of Urfersheim Lutheran church.





Saint Bartholomäus Church
Ufersheim, Germany

The Schwarz family attended the St. Bartholomäus Lutheran church in Ufersheim. Even though it is very small, it stands as a pillar for the people. It was there that George Michael Schwarz was christened.

The church was built in the 12th and 13th centuries and named after St. Bartholomäus (the Apostle Bartholomew) who lived in the 1st century. He is mentioned in the synoptic gospels and was one of the twelve apostles. Bartholomew was flayed and beheaded by King Astyages. Therefore, his symbol was the knife of torture as shown in the Gemeinde Illesheim crest.



Altar of Saint Bartholomäus Church

This is the altar where George Michael, at 5 days old, was christened 22 Oct 1845 ...and was witnessed by Georg Michael Kraft, a carpenter apprentice in Marktbergel. We suggest this witness was either a family member or a close friend because our George Michael was given the same name. Also, his mother, Eva Kunigunda Reuter-Schwarz was from the same village, Marktbergel.



Urfersheim #10

This was the Schwarz home at #10 Urfersheim. It is where George Michael and his siblings grew up. Life could not have been easy for this family. Franconia was hard hit with the severe potato famine of the mid-1840s and since Johann Georg was a farmer, they must have been affected.

The father, Johann Georg, passed on 16 Dec 1856. He was 54 years old. George Michael was only 11 years old at the time. The Schwarz family home no longer exists. Only the water well remains at #10 Urfersheim.

As a young man, George Michael chose to become a Tailor. To learn the Tailor trade, an apprentice would work with a Master of the Tailor's Guild ...perhaps as little as three years or as much as five. It was typical to pay for this training in hours of service ...as an indentured servant to the Master. Typically, the apprentice worked as much as 15 hours a day ...often performing drudgery work such as running errands and doing housework chores along with learning the Tailor trade.



Tailor (1845 German Print)

Over time the Master would graduate the student to go out into the public to earn his way. This time was called a “Walz.” The apprentice would go from town to town seeking Tailor work but could not accept money. He would be paid with food and lodging ...forbidden to return to his hometown. Upon completion of the Walz, he would obtain his “Journeyman” and was allowed to become a Master. German lore refers to the “poor Tailor” ...not earning much of a wage.

This Guild procedure was difficult! The Master, not wanting competition in his business, would put obstacles in the apprentices path to prevent them from advancement.

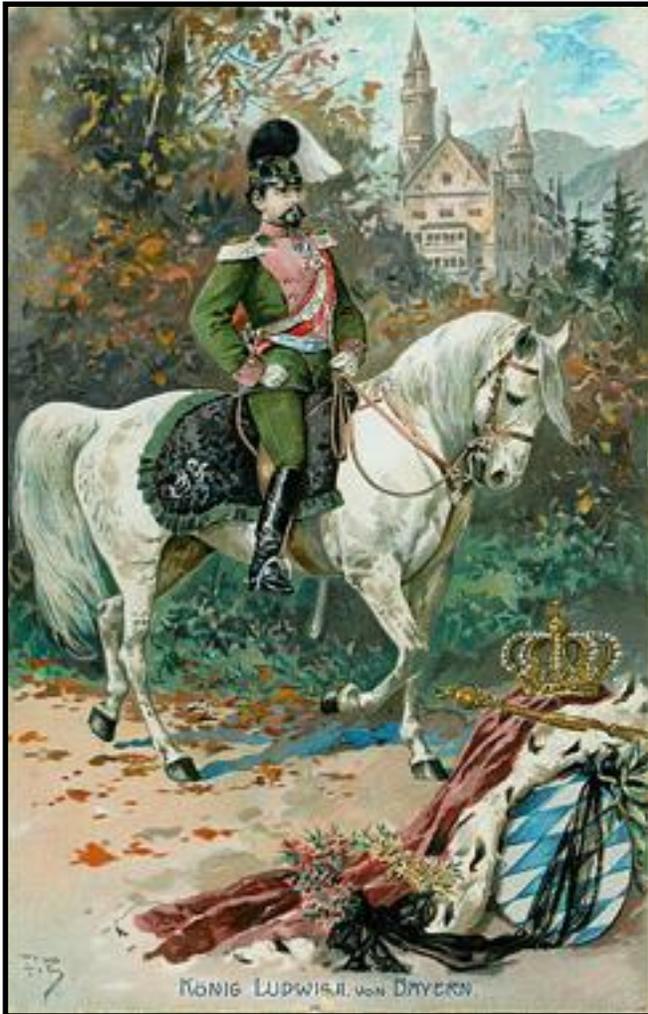
However, it was to George Michael’s advantage to persevere and earn the title of being a Tailor. A title would elevate him to a higher social standing in the community. This title of Tailor or *Craftsman’s honor* meant he:

- a. achieved and maintained a professional skill
- b. was devout and had moral character
- c. held a sense of responsibility to the profession, it’s colleagues as well as the entire community.

It was about this time in George Michael’s life that the Industrial Revolution occurred in Germany (1850-1873). It was a double-edged sword for the Craftsman and Masters. By joining the industrial marketplace (factories), they could earn a better wage ...but they could lose their much cherished “title” which was their honor and identity.

It was required that every German male serve time in the Military. We don't know when George Michael enlisted, but we know he would have celebrated his 25th birthday in 1870 while serving in the Franco-Prussian War 1870-71. His uniform confirms his status as a chevauleger, light cavalry regiment of the Royal Bavarian Army ...a most honorable position.

During this time, his homeland was the Independent German State of Bavaria. So when Bavaria joined Prussia in 1870 to defeat France, George Michael was serving King Ludwig II under Kaiser Wilhelm I.



King Ludwig II

This postcard shows King Ludwig II of Bavaria in the uniform of the 4th Light cavalry regiment. ...note the similarities between the uniforms worn by King Ludwig II and George Michael.



George Michael Schwarz

Family lore says that he was a "picked" horsemen and rode bodyguard to Kaiser Wilhelm I. In that capacity he would have seen several castles throughout the Rhineland which enhanced his dream of having his own castle.

Franco-Prussian War 1870-71:



The Franco-Prussian War 1870-71 was considered the most bloodiest and ruthless war as it was the first purposeful bombardment of civilians, women and children in warfare. Otto von Bismarck had strategically prepared to overthrow the French Empire for years, such as building 25000 kilometers of railway to move supplies from one point to another in a timely manner. The French were ill-prepared for such maneuvers and attacks.

War Timeline:

19 Jul 1870 ...France declared war

02 Sep 1870 ...Napoleon III surrendered sword to Prussia at Sedan

06 Sep 1870 ...Jules Favre continues to defend France's honor and fight

18 Jan 1871 ...German Empire declared

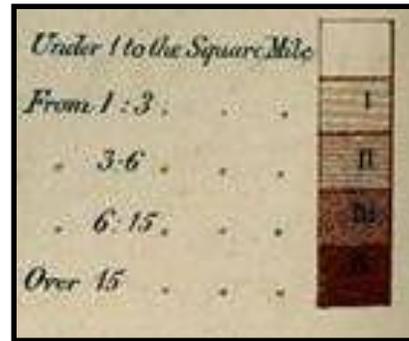
28 Jan 1871 ...Favre and Bismarck sign armistice at Versailles, France

The end result was:

- a. the defeat of France as a European power.
- b. formal unification of all German states into a German Empire dominated by Prussia.

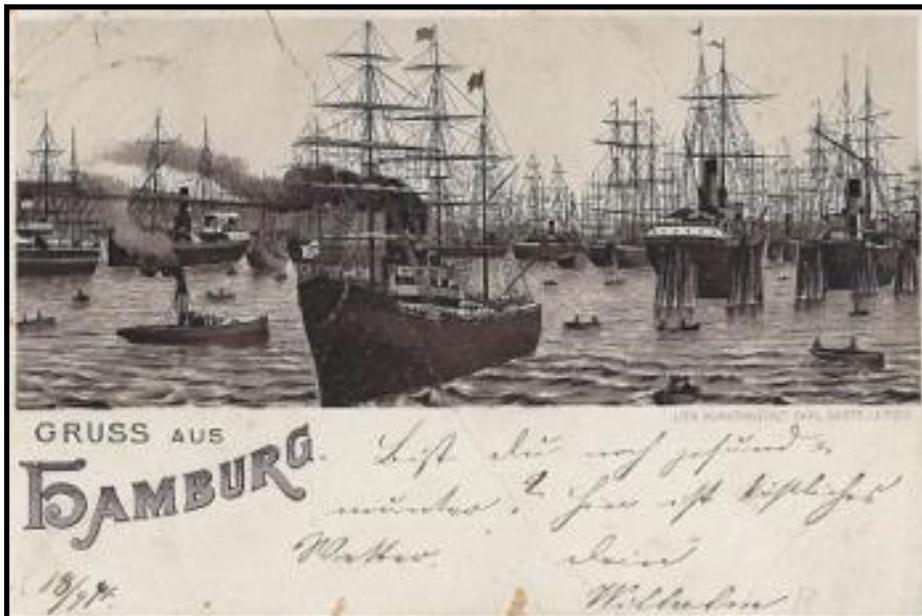
George Michael had to have seen some very disturbing scenes during this time. Surely, this must have been a difficult part of his life.

Before he could gain permission to emigrate, he had to serve in the military. With that requirement now fulfilled, he turned his thoughts to the U.S.A. Some influencing factors could be ...his Bavarian homeland was no longer an independent state ...his livelihood as a tailor was gloomy with the industrial revolution in the garment industry ...and if he stayed, he had to gain financial property of 200 Guldens or more to be approved for marriageable status.



German population in the United States in 1872. You can see in this chart that Illinois and Wisconsin had a very large concentration of German immigrants by 1872.

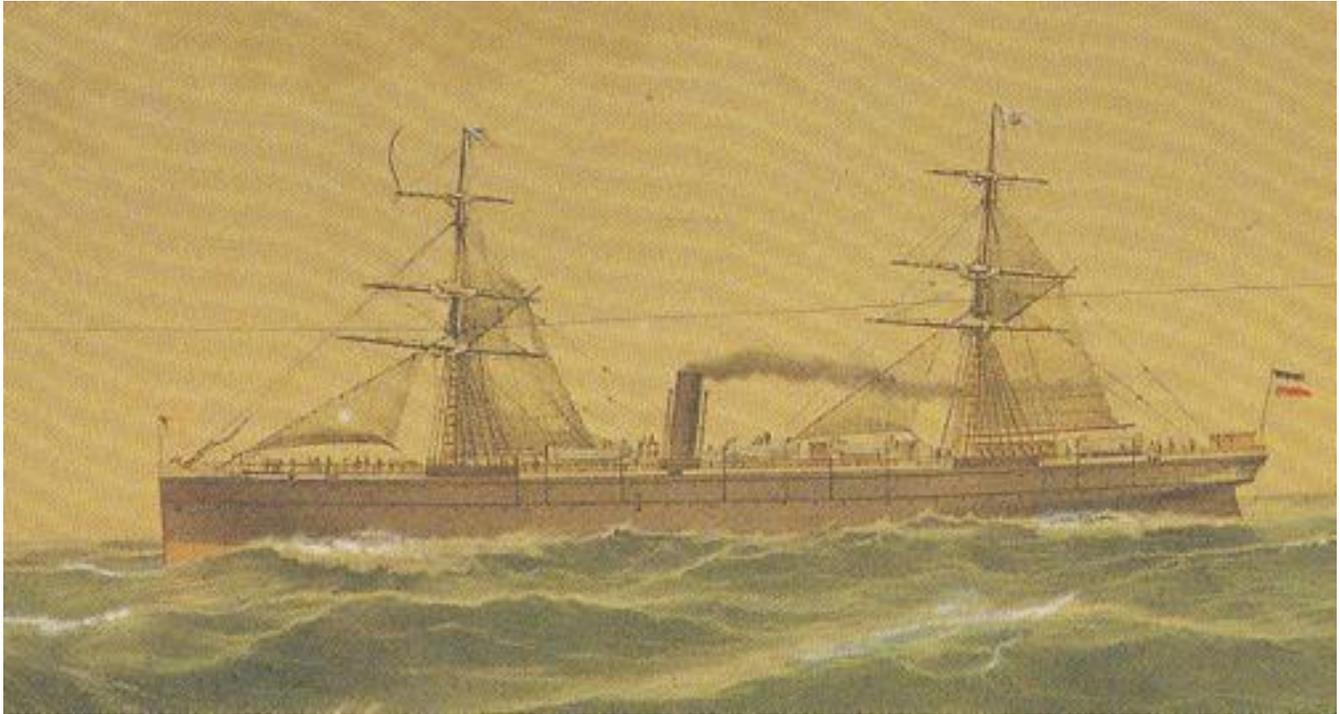
To further George Michael's decision to emigrate was the very large number of German people who had already done so. He could have had friends or family already in the United States.



Postcard showing Hamburg's busy port in 1894

In any case, he chose to emigrate in 1872. He was 26 years old. It is through the Port of Hamburg, Germany, that he boarded a ship for the United States.

George Michael boarded the ship Vandalia on 04 May 1872 in Hamburg, Germany. Hamburg lies 454 kilometers from his birth place, Urfersheim, Franconia, Bavaria, Germany. One can imagine his thoughts during this journey ...happy to embrace the future and face it's challenges ...sad with leaving his native land, friends and family.



The "Vandalia" (shown here) was built in 1871 by Caird & Co, Greenock for the Hamburg-America Line. She was a 2,810 gross ton ship, length 330ft x beam 39ft, one funnel, two masts (rigged for sail), iron construction, single screw and a speed of 11 knots. There was accommodation for 150-1st, 70-2nd and 150-3rd class passengers.

04 May 1872:

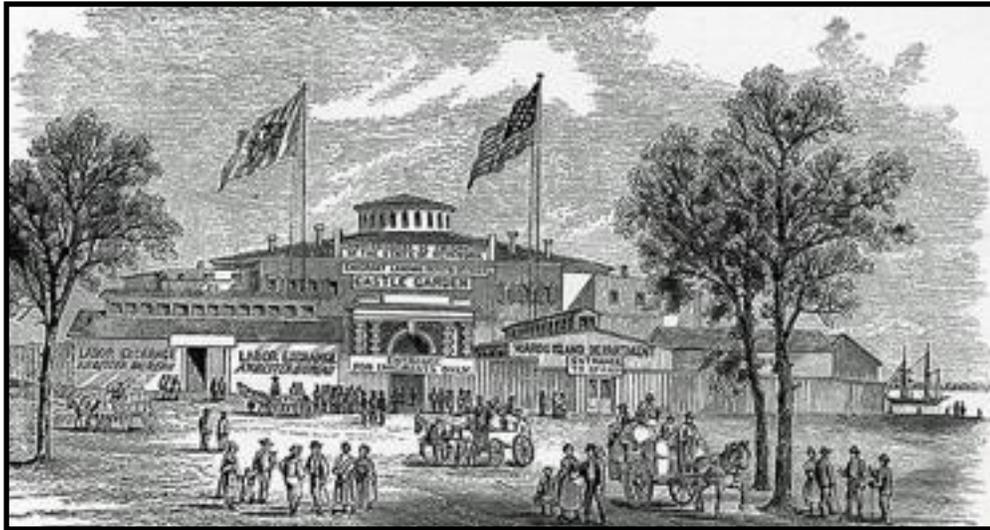
Michael Schwarz age 26

04 May 1872 ship Vandalia NY film A page 463: Hamburg, Germany
Listed as Tailor on the passenger list.

Germany's Hamburg-Amerika Line was the leading steamship company operating out of the port of Hamburg. New York was the most prominent destination.

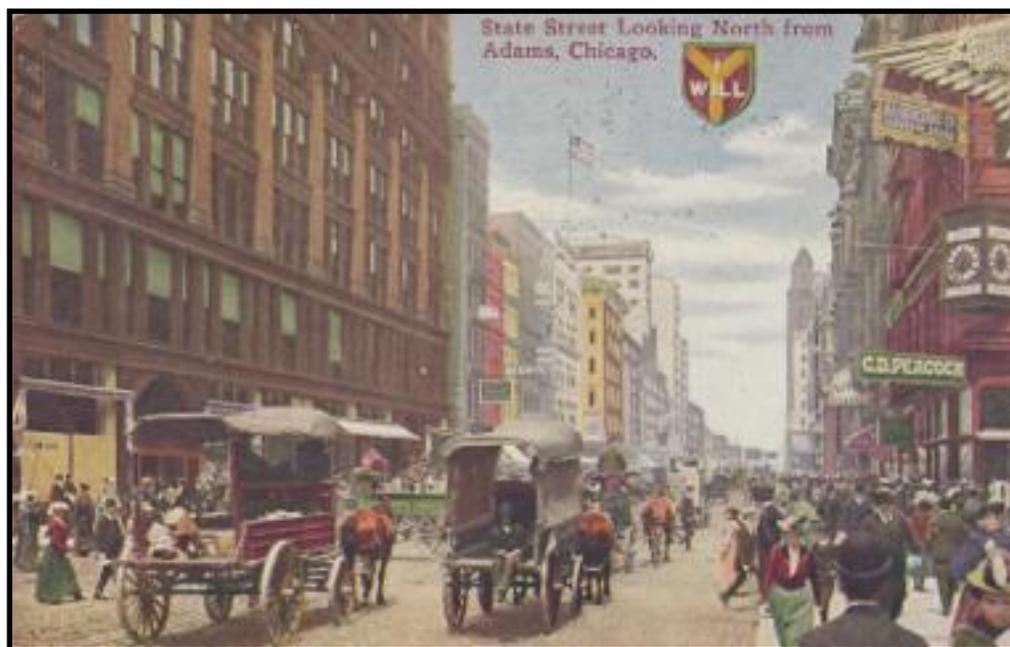
George Michael arrived 20 May 1872 at Castle Garden, New York. His journey was just 16 days after departure from Hamburg, Germany.

Castle Garden achieved fame and legendary status in Europe as the immigrants wrote to their homeland about their experiences while being processed through the facility. Journalists began to write human interest stories about those first impressions and adventures at the Castle Garden Emigrant Landing Depot.



State Emigrant Landing Depot, Castle Garden, New York, from *Immigration and the Commissioners of Emigration*, by Fredrich Kapp (New York: Arno Press and the New York Times, 1969 (originals ca. early 1880's).

Family lore: George Michael looked at a map of the U.S.A. and saw Chicago as the “crossroads of America.” Therefore, he made his way to Chicago, Illinois.



Chicago
“Crossroads of America”

Postcard showing a very busy State Street, (looking North from Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois)

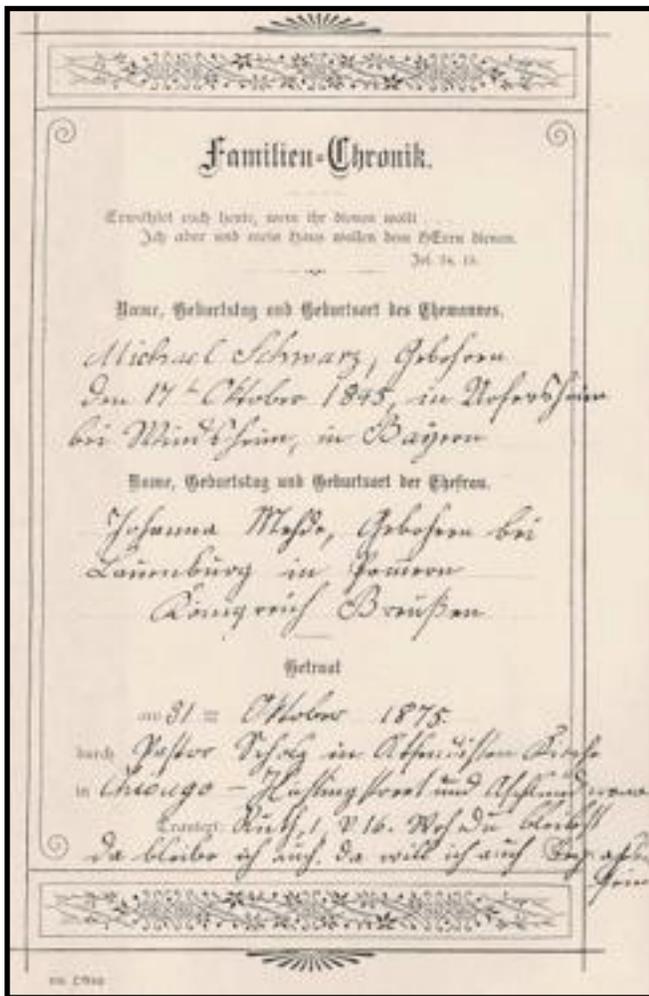
Upon his arrival in Chicago, George Michael soon opened a Tailor shop. There were opportunities! ...because of the Fire of 1871, the public spirit to rebuild and make Chicago better than ever, enhanced his chances for success.



Johanna Mehde

One day, Johanna Mehde walked into his Tailor shop to apply for a position as “buttonholer” which was considered a highly skilled trade.

George Michael was smitten. According to family lore ...*“She was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen.”* Of course she was hired. Even though he was 13 years her senior, she accepted his courtship.



On 31 October 1875 George Michael Schwarz and Johanna Mehde were married. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Scholz in the Zion Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois (Hastings and Ashland Avenue).

Johanna Mehde was born on 14 Sept 1858 near Lauenburg in Pommerania, Prussian kingdom. We are not sure when she immigrated to the United States nor what year she settled in Chicago, Illinois.

However, we know that Johanna's mother Charlotte Perlick Mehde, was listed as a widow in 1892 and living in Chicago ...so Johanna was not alone.

Zion Lutheran Church at West Hastings and South Ashland Avenue in Chicago, Illinois where George Michael and Johanna were married.

Today, it is the Saint Stephenson Missionary Baptist Church, 1319 South Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60608.



From the time of the Schwarz wedding on 31 Oct 1875 to the time George Michael purchased the land for the Castle, 12 Oct 1889 (approximately 15 years), his business interests and his family grew. Family lore tells that George Michael made uniforms for the Chicago Police Department as well as prominent men of the area.

The 09 Jun 1880 Census of Chicago, Cook County states that George Michael (Tailor) is age 34 with wife, Johanna (keeping house), age 21 with daughter Bertha age 3. By 12 Oct 1889 his family included six living daughters.

Author's note: their first child named Clara born 18 Aug 1876 died 18 Aug 1877.

Along with the Tailor business, George Michael invested in real estate. Family lore tells that he bought land in South Chicago which he later sold to the steel companies. It was through real estate transactions that he made his fortune. He prospered since he arrived in Chicago ...as did most everyone else.

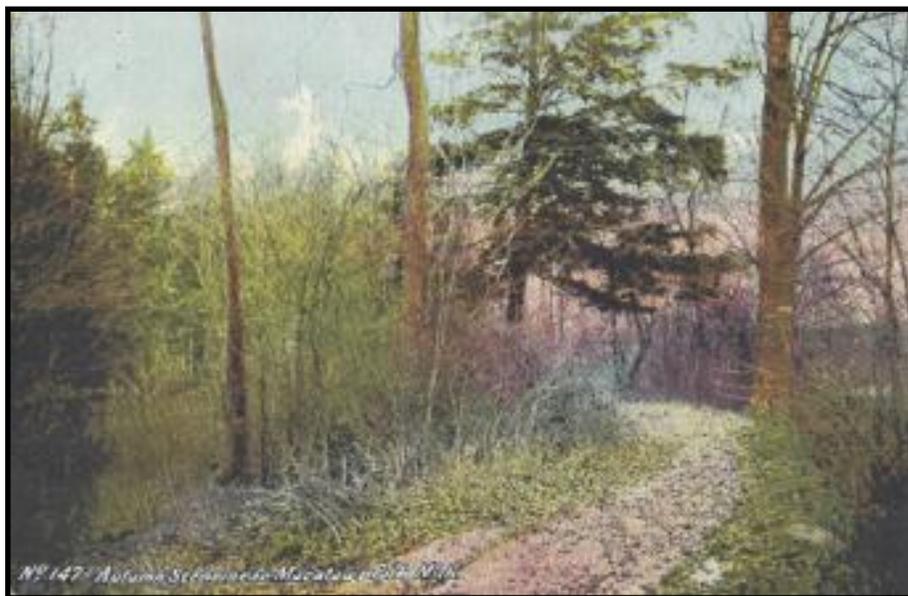


State Street, Chicago, Illinois

After the fire of 1871, Chicago was quickly rebuilt and as each year passed, it prospered. New businesses were established and the city grew into one of the most economic and influential cities of the United States.

During this *boom time*, George Michael even bought land in Michigan ...in Laketown Township, Allegan County along the shores of Lake Michigan. He purchased forty acres for \$850.00 from Emil Peiler of Chicago on 12 Oct 1889. He paid cash! In order to have a clear deed, he borrowed \$750.00 to be paid back in three years at 6% interest ...he paid it off 22 July 1890 ...just 6 months later!

It was on this land that George Michael would build his Castle ...a three story family residence. At the time of this land purchase, he was soon to be 44 years old and Johanna was 31 with six living daughters.



Early postcard showing an “autumn scene near Macatawa Park, Michigan.” This area is near where the castle was built, so the vegetation must have been similar to his original land purchase.

Children of George Michael and Johanna Schwarz

(Birth dates from the Schwarz Family Bible):

Clara Schwarz ...18 Aug 1876
Died 18 Aug 1877

Bertha Schwarz ...15 Jan 1878

Adeline Schwarz ...07 Jan 1882

Clara Schwarz ...23 Feb 1883

Rose Schwarz ...24 Jul 1885

Marie Schwarz ...27 Nov 1887

Freida Schwarz ...12 Aug 1889

Age of the Schwarz children at time of castle land purchase on 12 Oct 1889:

Bertha: 11

Adeline: 7

Clara: 6

Rose: 4

Marie: 2

Freida: 2 months

With his latest daughter Freida, born in August, 1889, and two months later, George Michael purchases land for a future castle in Michigan ... one wonders what was going on in Chicago to prompt him to make such a decision. What were the “conditions” like in Chicago in the late 1880’s and early 1890’s?

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION!

TRADE UNIONS!

STRIKES!

Up and foremost for George Michael, major changes were taking place in the Tailor trade. The Industrial Revolution was dramatically changing how clothes were being made. The garment industry was now manufacturing clothes in factories to be sold to the public in stores. The Tailor who made clothes specifically fitted to his customers was losing business and the usual “respect” for a Tailor was diminishing.

Workers in most trades in Chicago and other major cities throughout the nation were forming or joining Unions. Workers in unionized trades were striking for higher wages and shorter work hours. The life of the entrepreneur was changing.

Surely, this new business environment affected George Michael. As a businessman, as well as a father with the responsibility of providing for and protecting his family, it had to be a difficult time for him. He chose to stay in South Chicago until August, 1894.

According to the 1892 Lakeside City Directory of Chicago, George Michael and his family were living at 7632 Bond Avenue ...and he is listed as a tailor. A few blocks from their home, the children attended the Duncan Avenue School (renamed the Myra Bradwell Elementary School in 1894).



For the 1890-91 school year at Duncan Avenue School (Chicago, Illinois): Report of the Scholarship, Attendance and Department of Bertha Schwarz (eldest daughter age 13) had Mrs. S.A. Davis as her teacher.



Adeline Schwarz (age 11) is one of the students in this photo, but we don't know which one. The placard states Duncan Ave. School, Chicago, Ill. Sept 18, 1893.

George Michael
builds his castle!



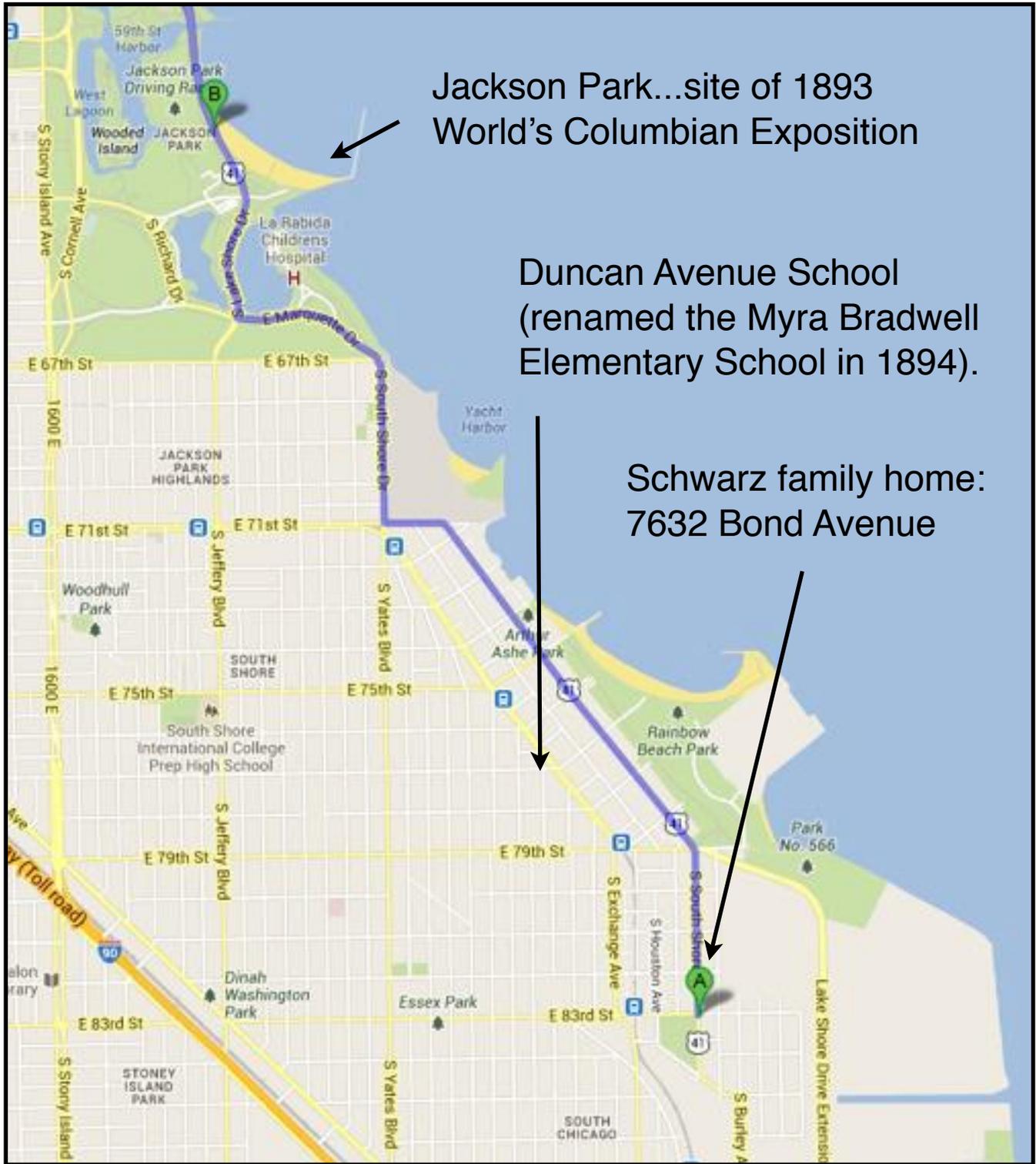
According to the 1890 Census, the entire population in Laketown Township (where the castle was to be is located) was 905 residents, whereas, in 1880 it as 910....a loss of five residents. *The national trend was towards urbanization...as Holland and other cities were growing by leaps and bounds.* Nevertheless, George Michael decides to build his castle on the Michigan shoreline.

Somewhere between the three year span of the land purchase in Laketown township 12 Oct 1889 and 20 Feb 1892, the Castle was brought forth on paper. It was designed similar to the castles George Michael saw in the Rhineland and the architects were Diethelm and Roy of Chicago (Titus Diethelm and Franz Roy, 12, 13, 14 Winnipeg blk., South Chicago, Illinois).

Once that part was approved, the project moved into the building phase. James Huntley of Holland, Michigan, was hired as contractor to built the structure which would become the Schwarz family home.

20 Feb 1892 (The Holland City News): correct spelling of last name in ()

M. Schwartz (Schwarz) of Chicago has arranged with Jas. Huntley for the construction of a residence which for its quaint architecture will be unique in this region. The style will be that of a castle, with tower and port holes. It will be built of brick and stone, 28 x 36 feet, and very substantial, the contract price being about \$4000. The site for this picturesque structure is on a forty-acre tract owned by Mr. Schwartz (Schwarz), lying between Kelly's Lake and Lake Michigan in Laketown, about one mile south of Macatawa Park.



Jackson Park...site of 1893 World's Columbian Exposition

Duncan Avenue School (renamed the Myra Bradwell Elementary School in 1894).

Schwarz family home: 7632 Bond Avenue

While the Castle was under construction, the family remained in their home on Bond Avenue, South Chicago, Illinois and the children attended the Duncan Avenue School.



Not far from the Schwarz home is Jackson Park ...the location of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. It was also known as The Chicago World's Fair. It encompassed 630 acres and was open to the public from 01 May 1893 to 30 October 1893.

Of the many World's Fairs that have taken place since 1893, the Columbian Exposition holds the prestigious title of being the grandest of all. It marked the dawn of America's role as leader in the new industrial age.

More than 27 million people attended the World's Fair. They were eager to see the latest innovations in technology and development in urban America. For instance, electricity was seen by most for the first time ...along with other modern conveniences and fresh ideas.

Evidently, the Schwarz family attended the World's Fair as represented by this vase (at right) with "Johanna" on one side and "Mother / World's Fair / 1893" on the other.



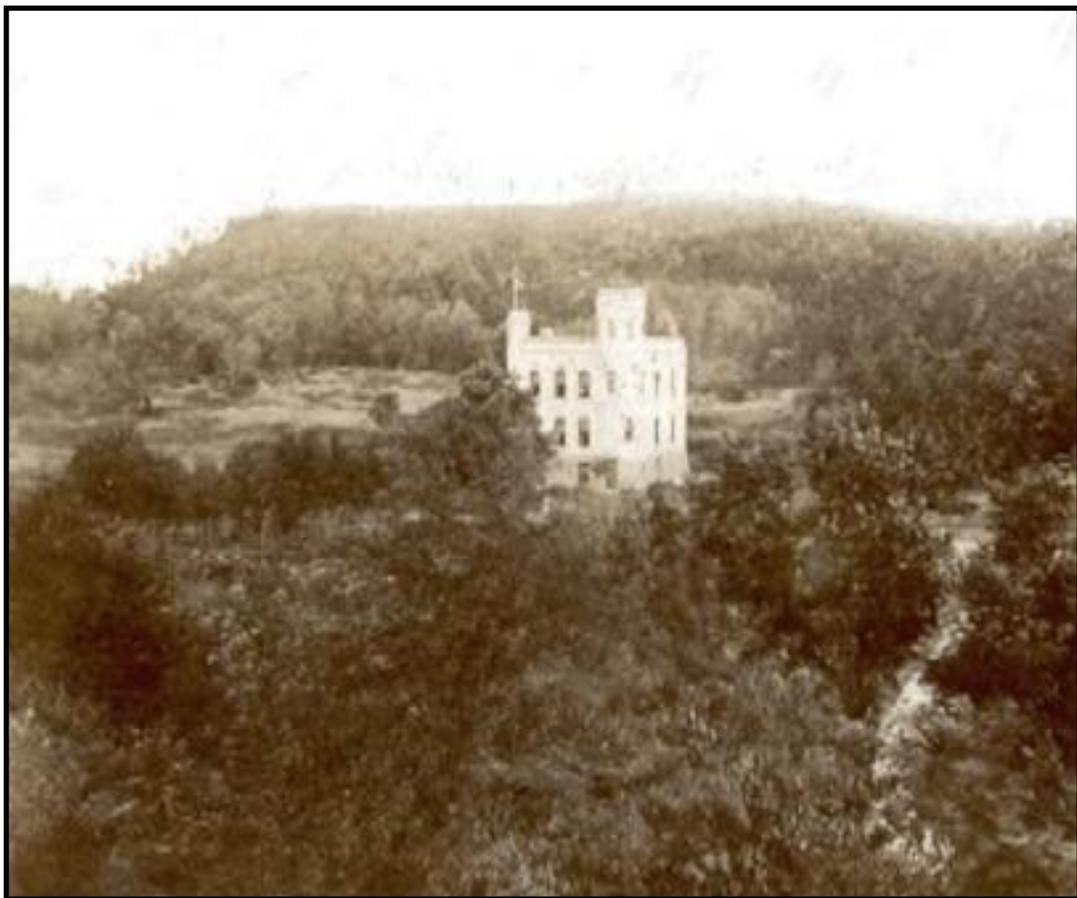
Most interestingly, coinciding with the magnificent Fair in 1893 was a major economic crisis that affected the entire nation. Because Chicago was a major focal point (second only to New York City) the Schwarz family surely felt the impact of the Panic of 1893.

To add to that, George Michael and Johanna found themselves burying their second child. Little Emma was born 31 Mar 1892 and passed on 16 Aug 1893. She lived just one year and five months.

And ...on the heels of the Panic of 1893, came the organization of the Union's. It affected almost every industry/business including the Tailor. However, the most notable was the American Railway Union (ARU) in 1894 when it mounted a boycott of the nation's Pullman railway cars.

With much of the nation's transportation at a standstill, a federal court granted the railroads an injunction declaring the strike illegal, and President Grover Cleveland dispatched 2,000 federal troops and over 5,000 U.S. marshals to Chicago to quell precipitating widespread violence. Despite a general strike by 25,000 Chicago unionists, the ARU was crushed.

Is it any wonder, why anyone would question George Michael on his motives to move his family out of Chicago! He had arrived in Chicago in 1872, a year after the Great Chicago Fire had destroyed much of the city and in 1893, Chicago shows the world that it has risen from the ashes by hosting the World's Columbian Exposition ...but in George Michael's mind, Chicago had returned to ashes and it was time to move. *...but there were problems.*



George Michael Schwarz's Dream Home

Even though the contract price for building the castle was about \$4,000, the actual cost may have been closer to \$8,000 for various reasons...

29 Jan 1892 (Ottawa County Times), article entitled *Real Estate and Building* ...it is stated:

...Unless all signs fail, an activity will prevail in the building trade of Holland during the year 1892, such as it has never in its previous history experienced. ...The cost of building will, however, be materially increased owing to a combination of circumstances. Shingles, always considered as the criterion of prices in this branch of industry, have advanced from ten to fifteen per cent. ...a general advance in building material may be expected.

The organization of trades unions in this city must also be counted upon to exert an influence in advancing the cost of building. Already the Bricklayer', Plasterers', and Masons' Union is out with a circular to the bosses, in which a scale of prices has been adopted and the hours of labor defined.

...Dealers in real estate in Holland also anticipate a brisk trade on the opening of the spring season.

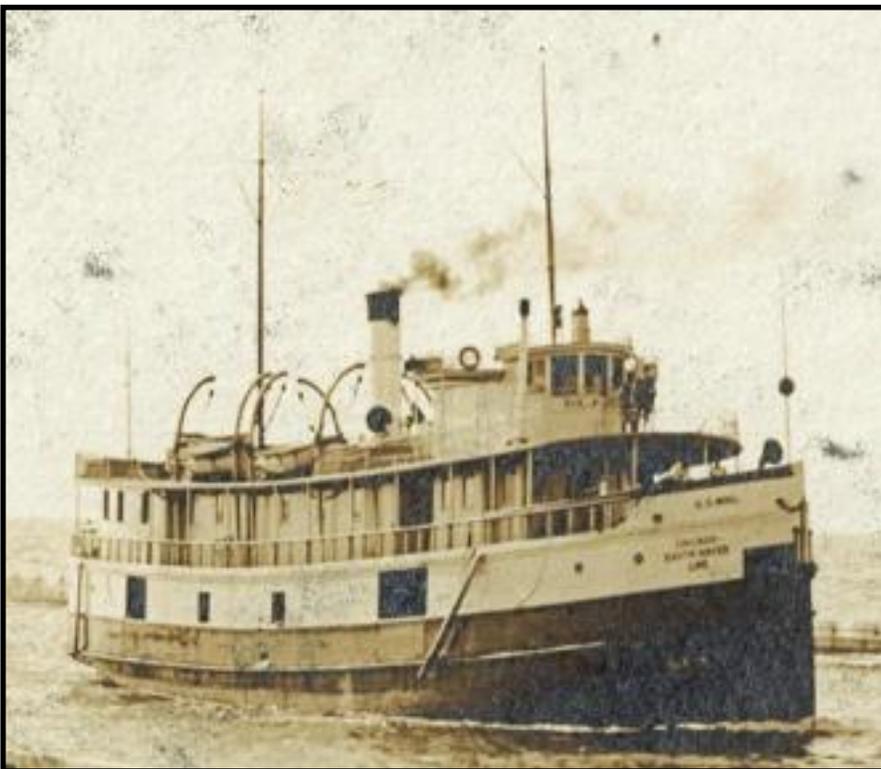
Higher cost for constructing the Castle may have contributed to the Mechanic's Lien of 22 Nov 1892 James Huntley vs. Michael Schwarz. Also, it has been reported that a P. Oosting was not paid for his services in building the castle.

Then, of course, there was the Panic of 1893! ...which was the worst economic depression the United States had ever experienced. Stock prices declined and as the economy worsened, there were "runs" on the banks. The credit crunch rippled through the economy. As a result, 600 banks closed, 15,000 businesses failed, and numerous farms ceased operation. The unemployment rate in Pennsylvania hit 25%, in New York 35%, and in Michigan a huge 43%.

Perhaps George Michael found himself caught up in the financial chaos of the times and could not meet his obligations ...but he was already into the throes of building his castle.



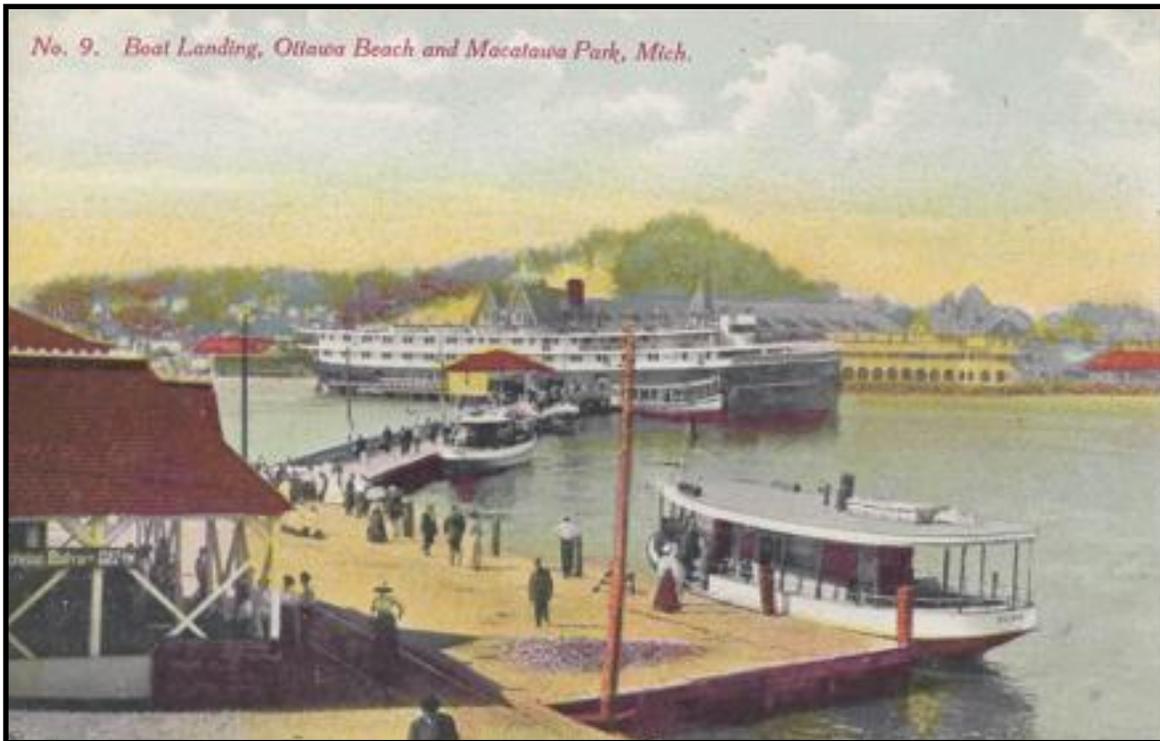
The Castle was completed for occupancy! In August, 1894, the Schwarz family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Schwarz, the later's mother, Charlotte Perlick Mehde and six daughters boarded the old steamer "GLENN" at a dock in Chicago. With their furniture, household goods and personal belongings stowed in the hull of the ferry, they made their way from Chicago to Macatawa.



Steamer Glenn

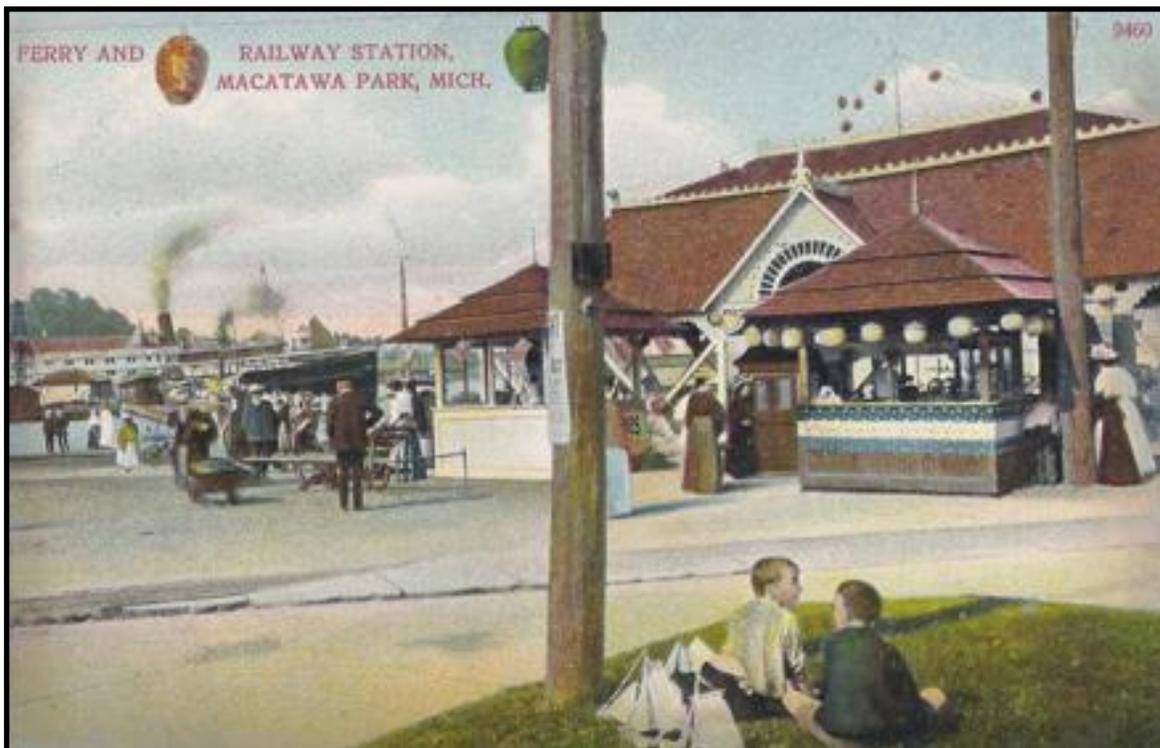
The steamer Glenn was built in 1889 by Hancock of South Haven, Michigan for H. W. Williams. This wooden steamer called Glenn, was named for the small community north of South Haven, Michigan.

It was built as a steam barge and was modified to full passenger configuration in 1901. It was one of three steamers of the H.W. Williams Transportation Company brought into Dunkley-Williams in the merger of 1902.



Boat Landing...Ottawa Beach and Macatawa Park, Michigan

The Schwarz family would have docked at Macatawa ...just 1 1/2 miles north of the castle. Travel by steamer was common on Lake Michigan at that time. It was only a six hour excursion from Chicago to Macatawa.



Ferry and Railway Station...Macatawa Park, Michigan

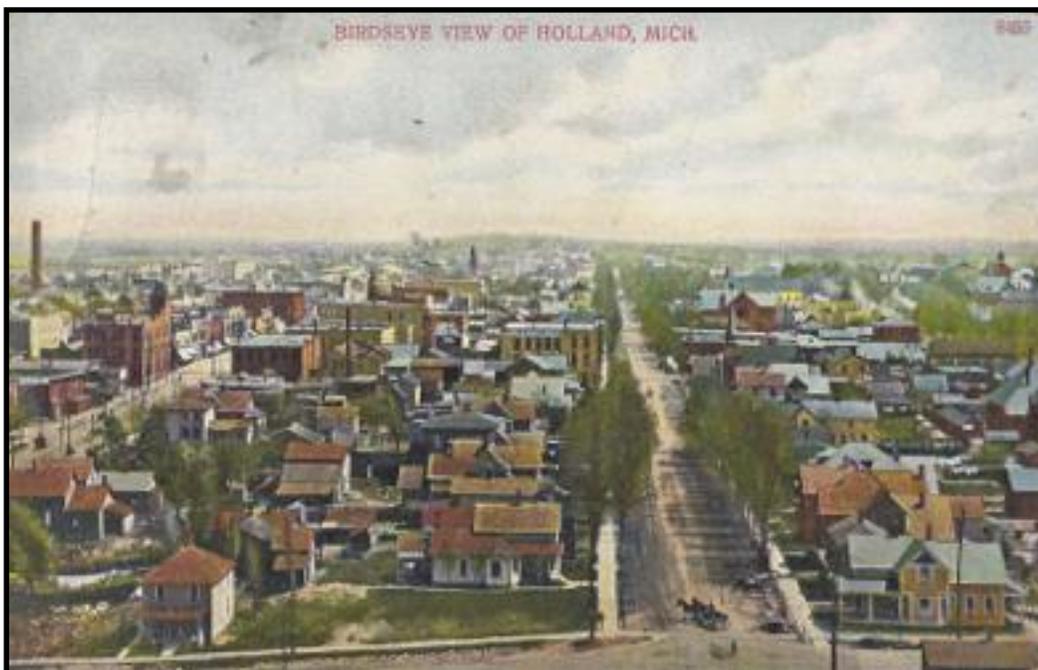
In August, 1894, when the Schwarz family moved into the castle, the children's ages were: Bertha 16, Adeline 12, Clara 10, Rose 9, Marie 6, and Freida 5. ...just two months after they arrived to set up housekeeping, a son, George Schwarz, was born at the castle on 15 Oct 1894! Even though Johanna's mother was there to help, it must have been a difficult winter living there *in the wilderness*.

The author speculates that after spending the winter (1894-95) in the castle, the Schwarz family moved to Holland ...It is stated in John Parr's scrapbook that he discovered the abandoned castle in the Summer of 1895.



Discovery!

In early 1896, John H. Parr of Chicago was interested in buying the Schwarz castle and forty acres to develop it as a resort property. He contacted George Michael and soon James Huntley's Mechanics lien on the property was paid in full (01 Jun 1896) by George Michael. On 25 Jun 1896, George Michael and Johanna sold the property to John H. Parr and Flora Pennell Parr for \$3,000 on land contract. Payment schedule: \$200 down and \$300 due on 01 Nov 1896, and \$500 due each year afterwards to 01 Nov 1901 at 6% interest.

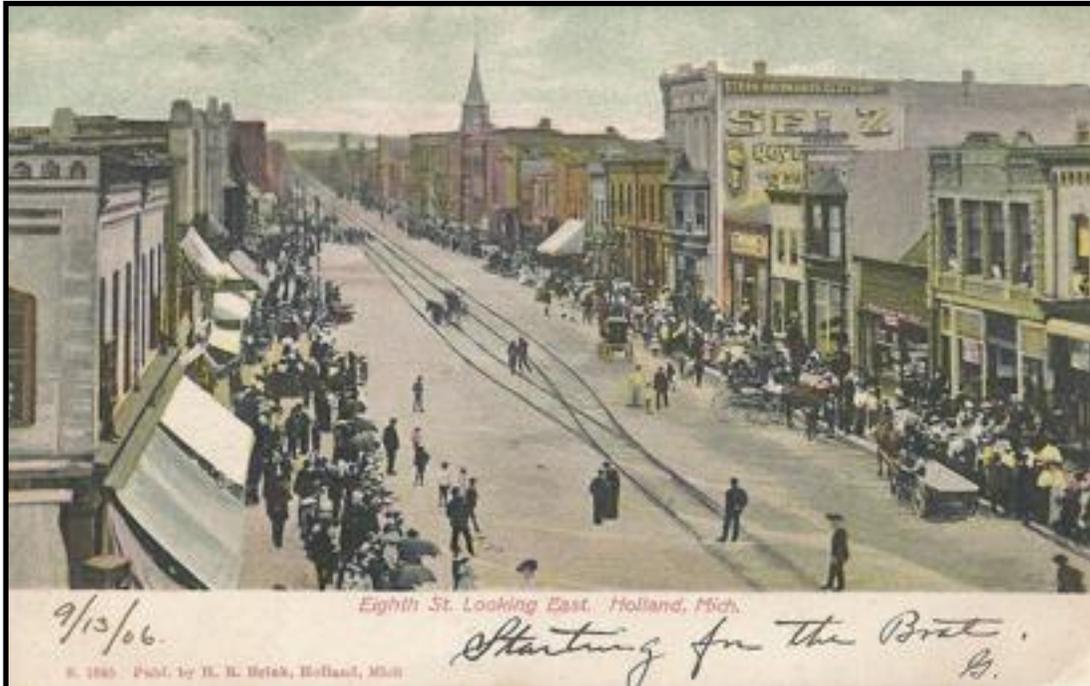


Birdseye view of Holland, Michigan

Most likely, the Schwarz family moved from the castle to Holland (4 miles) in the Spring of 1895.



Schwarz home at 689 Central Avenue...Holland, Michigan



Postcard: Eighth St. Looking East, Holland, Michigan dated 1906



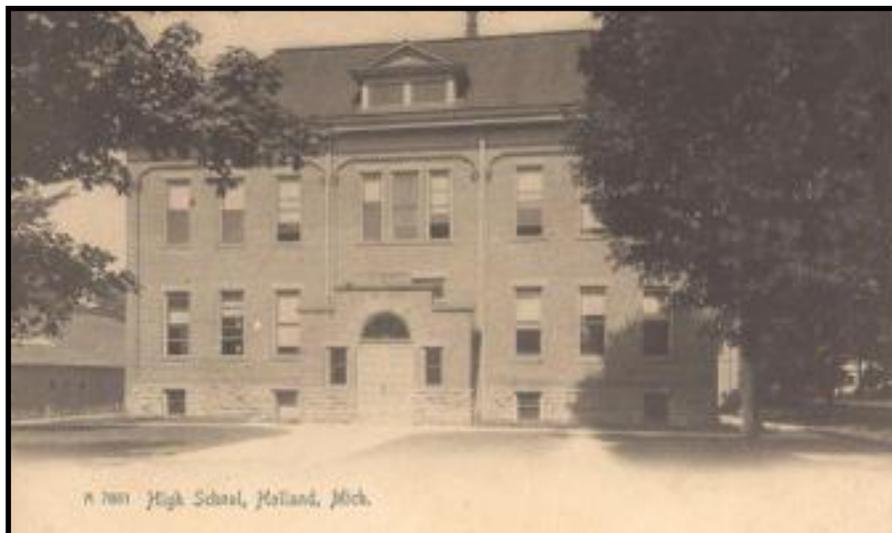
Maple Grove School, Holland, Michigan

The Schwarz children attended Maple Grove Elementary School in Holland and obtained a good education. They all went on to successful careers.



Maple Grove Elementary School (new & old)

The old Maple Grove Elementary School (right) was replaced by the new one at left in 1906 (later renamed Longfellow School).



Holland High School where the Schwarz children attended.

George Michael's wife, Johanna Schwarz, did not have an easy life in Chicago or in Michigan. In 1896, she gave birth to another son. John was born 01 Jul 1896. In all, Johanna had 10 children ...eight living.

Two years later, her mother Charlotte Perlick Mehde died of old age (77) and perhaps heart failure on 30 May 1898. Eleven days later on 10 June 1898, Johanna died at age 39 with immediate cause: *exhaustion, heart failure and bronchitis*. At the time of their deaths, they were residing at 204 W. 9th Street, Holland, Michigan.



Ninth Street, West of Columbia Avenue...Holland, Michigan

George Michael died 11 years later on 22 Aug 1909 at age 63 due to *obstruction of the bowels associated with peritonitis*. His address at that time was 689 Central Avenue, Holland, Michigan. He, his wife Johanna, and her mother Charlotte are all interned at the Pilgrim Home Cemetery in Holland, Michigan.

PHOTO TIMELINE OF SCHWARZ CASTLE:

07 Sep 1944 (The Holland City News)

article entitled *CASTLE 50 YEARS OLD:*

The Castle, vine-covered landmark which is the nucleus of Castle Park, marked its 50th birthday during August.

Designed after a castle in the Rhineland familiar to the late Michael Schwarz as a youth, the structure was built in 1893-4 by Mr. Schwarz as a family home. James Huntley of Holland was the contractor and Diethelm and Roy of Chicago were the architects.

The Castle was completed for occupancy in August, 1894.



Early photo of Schwarz Castle



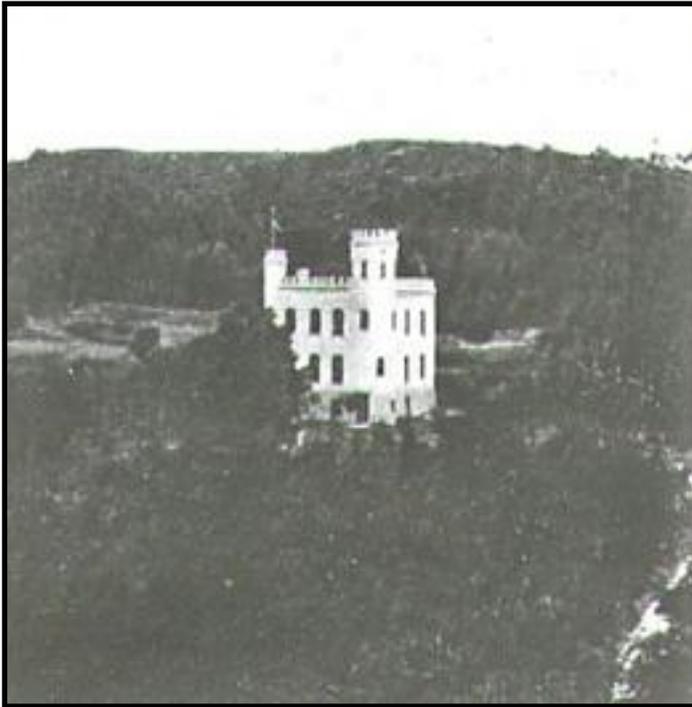
In 1896 the Castle passed into the possession of John H. Parr of Chicago who first developed it as a resort property. He paid \$3,000 for the Schwarz Castle with forty acres of land.



This photo shows the Schwarz Castle in 1902. It was taken by Dr. Vance and shows his children and their grandmother.



After 1902, John Parr enlarged the Castle by adding the brick addition to the south side.



This photo image was used on the backside of the early Castle Park postcards.

This is the backside of a postcard showing the Schwarz era castle in upper left corner. Note says: *Can you and J.E. come down next week be here for Venetian night, July 30? ...Sadie*

The postcard was mailed from Macatawa, Michigan on July 25, 1908.





After the new brick section was completed, John Parr built the wooden addition on the south side.



Mr. John H. Parr was succeeded by Carter Brown (nephew of John Parr). Carter Brown and his wife Marion Brown purchased Castle Park in 1917 and through their energies provided the most wonderful experience a child or parent could have from June to Labor Day (from 1917-1973). ...Even today this energy is present with members of the Castle Park Association.

SCHWARZ GENEALOGY:

Parents of George Michael Schwarz:

JOHANN GEORG SCHWARZ
 b. 04 March 1802
 d. 16 Dec 1856 Urfersheim,
 Germany
 m. 03 May 1835 to EVA
 KUNIGUNDA REUTER
 after three proclamations
 at the local church.

Children from this marriage: 6

Johann Wolfgang Schwarz
 b. 16 Nov 1836 Urfersheim #10

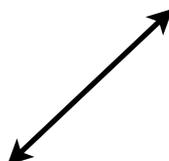
Margaretha Schwarz
 b. 28 Aug 1838 Urfersheim #10

Anna Magdalena Schwarz
 b. 09 Oct 1840 Urfersheim #10

Ernestine Henriette Schwarz
 b. 17 Oct 1843 Urfersheim #10

Georg Michael Schwarz
 b. 17 Oct 1845 Urfersheim #10

Maria Magdalena Schwarz
 b. 05 Oct 1849 Urfersheim #10



Married 31 Oct 1875
 in Chicago, Illinois at
 Zion Lutheran Church



JOHANNA MEHDE

*GEORGE MICHAEL SCHWARZ

b. 17 Oct 1845 Urfersheim #10 at 1:30pm

Christened 22 Oct 1845 at
 St. Bartholomäus Church
 Urfersheim, Germany

d. 22 Aug 1909 (63 years) in Holland, MI.
 Bowel obstruction and peritonitis
 Cemetery: Pilgrim Home in Holland, MI

She was the daughter of Ferdinand Mehde
 and Charlotte Mehde

b. 14 Sep 1858 Pommerania, Prussia

d. 10 Jun 1898 (39 years) in Holland, MI.
 Remittent fever with complications of
 bronchitis, exhaustion and heart failure.
 Cemetery: Pilgrim Home in Holland, MI

Children of George Michael and Johanna Schwarz:

Clara Schwarz

b. 18 Aug 1876
d. 18 Aug 1877

Bertha Schwarz

b. 15 Jan 1878
d. 10 May 1956
m. Benjamin W. Wolters 09 Mar 1911, Holland, MI

Adeline Schwarz

b. 07 Jan 1882
d. 19 May 1959
m. Frank Harkema 23 Jan 1907, Holland, MI

Clara Schwarz

b. 23 Sep 1883
d. 13 Mar 1962
m. George Ellis Daniels 02 Jun 1909, Cleveland, OH

Rose Schwarz

b. 24 Jul 1885
d. 15 Sep 1963
m. Ruel Harry Woodward 17 Jun 1905, Coloma, MI (?)

Marie Schwarz

b. 27 Nov 1887
d. Jan 1956
m. unmarried

Freida Schwarz

b. 12 Aug 1889
d. Apr 1973
m. John H. Whalen 02 Jul 1913

Emma Schwarz

b. 31 Mar 1892
d. 16 Aug 1893

George Schwarz

b. 15 Oct 1894
d. 08 Nov 1952
m. Matilda "Tillie" E. Ahola 20 Jun 1917, Cleveland, OH

John Schwarz

b. 01 Jul 1896
d. no record
m. unknown

Works Cited

Interviews:

Herr Heinrich Förster, Erster Bürgermeister, Illesheim - Urfersheim history
Herr Jan K. Kube, Kunsthandel-Auktionen
Herr Norbert Fiks, Editor/Journalist eine Tageszeitung

Websites:

www.gutenberg.net
<http://www.maggieblanck.com/>
<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>
<http://din-timelines.com/bline.shtml> ...Laketown population census
http://www.norwayheritage.com/p_ship.asp?sh=vanda
<http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/descriptions/ShipsV.shtml>
[steamship: Oceangoing Steamships | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/history/steamship-oceangoing-steamships.html#ixzz2WrwsnSX3](http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/history/steamship-oceangoing-steamships.html#ixzz2WrwsnSX3)
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/96/German_population_1872.jpg
<http://francoprussianwar.com/>
<http://www.oocities.org/fpwar1870/history.html>
<http://2chevauleger.org/Resources.htm>
<http://2chevauleger.org/Resources/German%20Riding%20Manual%201912.pdf>

<http://2chevauleger.org/Unit%20History.htm>

Books:

Hansen, Clas Broder, *Passenger Liners from Germany 1816 - 1990*, Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 1991
Hilton, George W., *Lake Michigan Passenger Steamers*, Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA, 2002
Moreno, Barry, *Images of America: Castle Garden and Battery Park*, Arcadia Publishing Charleston, SC, 2007

Archives:

Herrick Public Library, Holland, Michigan
Holland Museum and Archives, Holland, Michigan
Hope College, Joint Archives of Holland, Holland, Michigan
The Holland City News archives
Ottawa County Times
Allegan County Clerk: registry of titles and deeds, Allegan, Michigan

Private Collections ...photos ...postcards ...documents:

Lynn Anderson
Ken Baumann
Margaret Boyne
Terry Nugent
David and Sally Nye
Carole Wolters
Castle Park Association