

March 1968

History of the Radue Family as remembered by
Helen Maria Radue Truitt

Grandfather Ferdinand William Radue was born in the Kingdom of Prussia (I'm not sure of the town or city) and the story I remember is that his father was a Frenchman who fought in the Napoleonic Wars, was captured and taken to Germany as a prisoner, and after the fighting ceased he remained in Germany and married a German girl. I recall mention of the Riga, or Riiga, or Rega Islands, but I do not know in what connection.



He was an expert tailor and made clothes and vestments for many of the Clergy of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of S.S. Peter and Paul, 18th and The Parkway in Philadelphia. This is one of the largest and most famous Roman Catholic churches in the city and is located very near the former home of the Radue Family at 16th and Race Streets. (230 N 16 ST)

Grandmother Maria Sophia Katrina Schroeder Radue was born in Hannover, Kingdom of Prussia, and was fourteen years younger than her husband. She was the daughter of a well-to-do "Horse Trader" in Germany. I was always interested in tracing the family history and Uncle Herb, (who was quite a comic and story teller) used to advise against it, as he contended, to quote: "I wouldn't trace the family background if I were you, as the "Horse Traders" may turn out to be "Horse Thieves". He was joking - I hope! Grandmother Radue was an accomplished seamstress and helped her husband in the tailoring shop. In fact, she devoted all of her time to this and Aunt Annie, as soon as she was sufficiently grown, took complete care of the house and the younger children.

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Maria Schroeder and Ferdinand Radue were married in New York City, but I do not know whether they knew each other in Germany, or met after they came to this country. They had fourteen children, seven boys and seven girls, and Grandmom used to tell us that seven were blondes and seven were brunettes.

The original spelling of the name was Radue, and my father and uncles were referred to, when they were growing up, as the "Roddy Boys". This very well could have been a version of the proper French pronunciation.

As you will note, I do not know the maiden names of some of the women the Radue men married, and I have taken this record down to the fourth generation.

N.B. Passport states Ferdinand W Radue was born 1830
Wedding certificate states " " " " was 33 in 1868

