

## *The Blumenbergs and Herzogs Came to Commerce*

"Blumenberg' or 'Flower Mountain' is the name of two places in Germany" according to Elsdon C. Smith, in his book *American Surnames* (Chilton Book Company, 1969).

Blumenberg is probably a "place name" meaning it originated as "Louis, from Blumenberg". The name Blumenberg is not extremely common in the United States, but there are several. Probably not all are related, but their ancestry may have all originated in one of these two villages in the area of Hamburg, Germany.

### **Louis and Christina (Bartels) Blumenberg**

Ludwig, or Louis Blumenberg, the emigrant was born January 10, 1821<sup>1</sup> in Oldenrod, Germany, near Hanover. He married Christina Bartels, who was born in 1823 in Hanover, Germany. The date of their marriage is unknown, but their first child, also named Louis, was born in 1847, and Henry L. their second, was born March 2, 1849. Both were born in Hanover, Germany.

When Henry was about six months old, Louis and Christina and their two sons, together with Christina's brother Henry, left Germany on the Bark Mississippi and arrived in New Orleans on December 5, 1849. According to Dawn Detring's research, in

“an article about Louis H. Klunder from an 1879 county history, *The Directory of Lee County, Iowa*. It stated that in September 1849, his parents started for the United States and came on to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where they remained until the spring of 1850; then they went to Lee County, Iowa.

What was the connection? I went back to the passenger lists, this time looking for the Kluender/Klunder family. I found them arriving in New Orleans on December 5, 1849 on the ship "Bark Mississippi." Immediately following their names was a dark ink smear. It looked as though the page had water damage. You could barely read the names Henry Bartels and Ludwig Blumenberg! They were three of five families traveling together to the United States from Sehnde, Germany.”<sup>2</sup>

According to the *International Genealogical Index - North America*, a Henry Blumenberg was married to an Augusta Hense on December 4, 1849 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. This would have been the day before Ludwig and his family arrived at New Orleans. I don't have any information on this couple, but wonder if it may be possible that this is a brother to Ludwig, since he named his second son Heinrich or Henry. If this was Ludwig's brother it would give credence to the family story that four Blumenberg brothers came from Germany to the United States. Up until now I have assumed that the four brothers were Ludwig's sons, two of whom were born in Germany and two in the United States, but there may be another generation of brothers that we don't yet know.

Since we know Ludwig and Christina and their two sons came on the “Bark” Mississippi we can get a better idea of what the ship was like from an article entitled “The Voyage By Sailing Ship” taken from the Mecklenburg Vorpommern website by Carol Gohsman (Goosman). She described a “bark” as “a three-masted vessel with foremast and mainmast square rigged and the third mast fore and aft rigged.”

We don't know how long the Blumenbergs remained in Cape Girardeau, but about eleven years later, by the time of the 1860 Census, they were living at Commerce, Missouri, in Scott County. At that

---

<sup>1</sup> Dawn Detring

<sup>2</sup> Detring, Dawn, “But Where in Germany? Or “Out \*\*\*\*\* Spot!” An article from *MISSING LINKS: A Weekly Newsletter for Genealogists* Vol. 2, No. 6, 7 February 1997. Copyright (c) 1997 by Julia M. Case and Myra Vanderpool Gormley.