

The following information about the Hosch Family is based on a recorded conversation between Louise (Alosia) Hosch Boedeker (at 84) & her daughter Juanita Boedeker Taylor.

Louise said that according to her mother, the Hosch family lived in Austria-Hungaria, in Schwansdorf. Other towns that her mother mentioned were Bautsch and Kreichburg.

The Hosch family lived in a small village. They owned a little house and had a small strip of land outside the town limits. They mostly planted potatoes and beets and other food for the family. They sold everything they had for the ship passage for Louise's mamma [Alosia Zopp Hosch 1853-1927], daddy [Anton Hosch 1851-1914], brothers Joe [b.1878] and Rudolph [1883-1960], and sister Mary [d.1892]. Louise's father followed the harvest at certain times of the year.

The Hosch's had high taxes, and they were told by a Mr. Ernst that they would have no taxes to pay in America. Mr. Ernst was responsible for a lot of German people immigrating to America.

When asked about the Hosch family immigration, Louise related that when her father came back from one of the harvesting trips "Mamma told him that they were going to America. And he said: 'What? What's that you're talking about?' So she told him what she had heard, what Mr. Ernst said. He said 'No'. There was no way they could undertake going to America. But mamma said that fellow [Mr. Ernst] talked a whole lot to her about how it is here, of course it wouldn't be easy." In an earlier conversation Louise told her daughter that her mother told her father "If you won't go, I'm taking the children and go by myself".

The Hosch family came by ship from Bremen, Germany to New York. The Michalka family was on the same ship. When asked what the family took with them, Louise responded "Mamma brought bed clothes with them. Back then they used nothing but feather beds and feather pillows. She had several pillows. They were square, about this big [15 inches]. That's what they put their heads on when they slept. The feather beds were all in one. There were no partitions in them. They were good and we slept under them for a long time."

The children that came over on the ship were Joe (about 7), Mary (younger than Joe), and Rudolph (a "puny baby"). Louise's brother Joe was crippled from sores on his ankle due to an accident and had to be carried on his father's back for the whole journey. According to Louise a "jewish fellow" wanted to buy Joe, but his father refused. His father carried Joe on his back and a "coufer" in his hand. It was a wooden box about 2 feet with a handle and held papers and valuables.

The Hosch family took the train from New York. When they got to Texas they stayed with the Bernhauer's on Elm Creek, toward the Marak community. They also stayed with a family named Hartmann on the old Hannock place, west of

Cameron. They also rented some of the river bottom land south of Cameron. Louise said that "Mary Hertenberger's (later Mrs. Antone Hosch) daddy helped out. See we didn't have a stove. ... Mr. Hertenberger said to daddy: 'Hosch, I'll lend you some money. You go to town and get a stove and heat those children more.' So daddy did. He got a stove, but how he got it home I don't know. Maybe they got a hack second-hand or a wagon. And teams (horses and mules) were cheap. They lived down on that river bottom, along where the Rogers people lived, and the Nesbitts....Of course, people would helped each other out....Grandma Seidler then lived down that way, too, somewhere. There must have been a few of the old settlers, the Rogers, and I can't think of other names. They must have had lots of land there and rented it out. Daddy said they were good people to rent from. They were good to mamma and daddy."

In Texas, a set of twins, a boy and girl, were born dead. Antone Hosch [1890-1969] was born about 2 and a half years before his sister, Louise (Alosia) Hosch, who was born April 29, 1893, in Ad Hall. Louise's grandmother [Philopine or Philomena Zopp, 1827-1897] came over after the Hosch family, probably with the Jistels in early 1893. She lived with the Hosch's for a while when Louise was a baby. Louise's sister Mary died from lock-jaw when about 13. She stepped on a nail around Christmas time 1892.

On the rest of the tape Louise talked more about a head injury she received when she fell off a horse when she was about 6 years old.

Submitted June 2009, by Denise Michalka Schuler,
Louise's granddaughter.