

*The Story
Of Our
Family*

by
JoAnn Motsch Salkeld

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With special appreciation to:

*Mary Clute Ray,
Jim Moody,
Bill Motsch,
Loretta Huelsman Lucas
&
Bernie Huelsman*

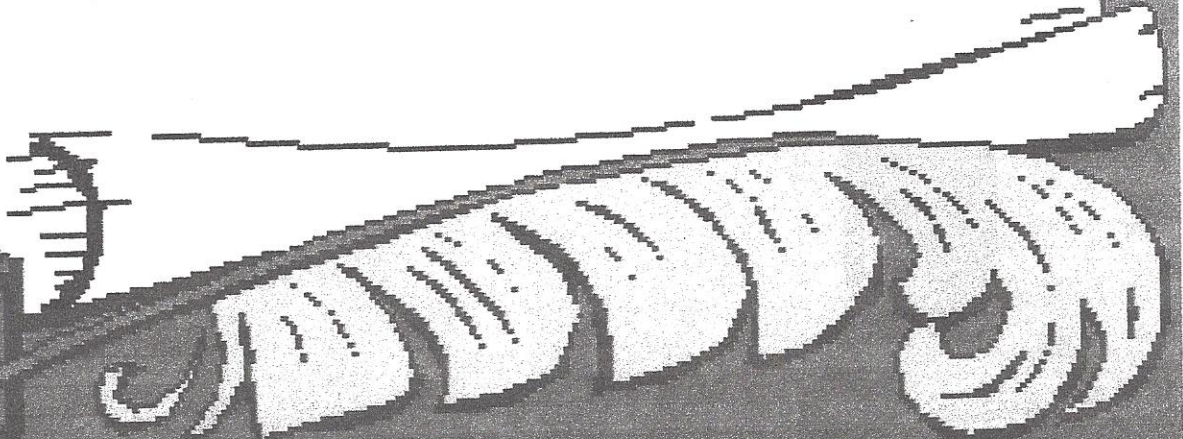
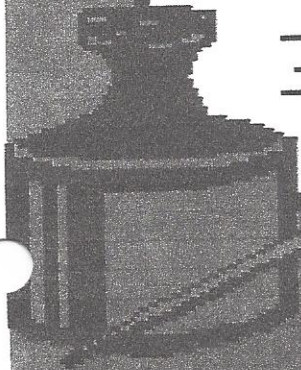


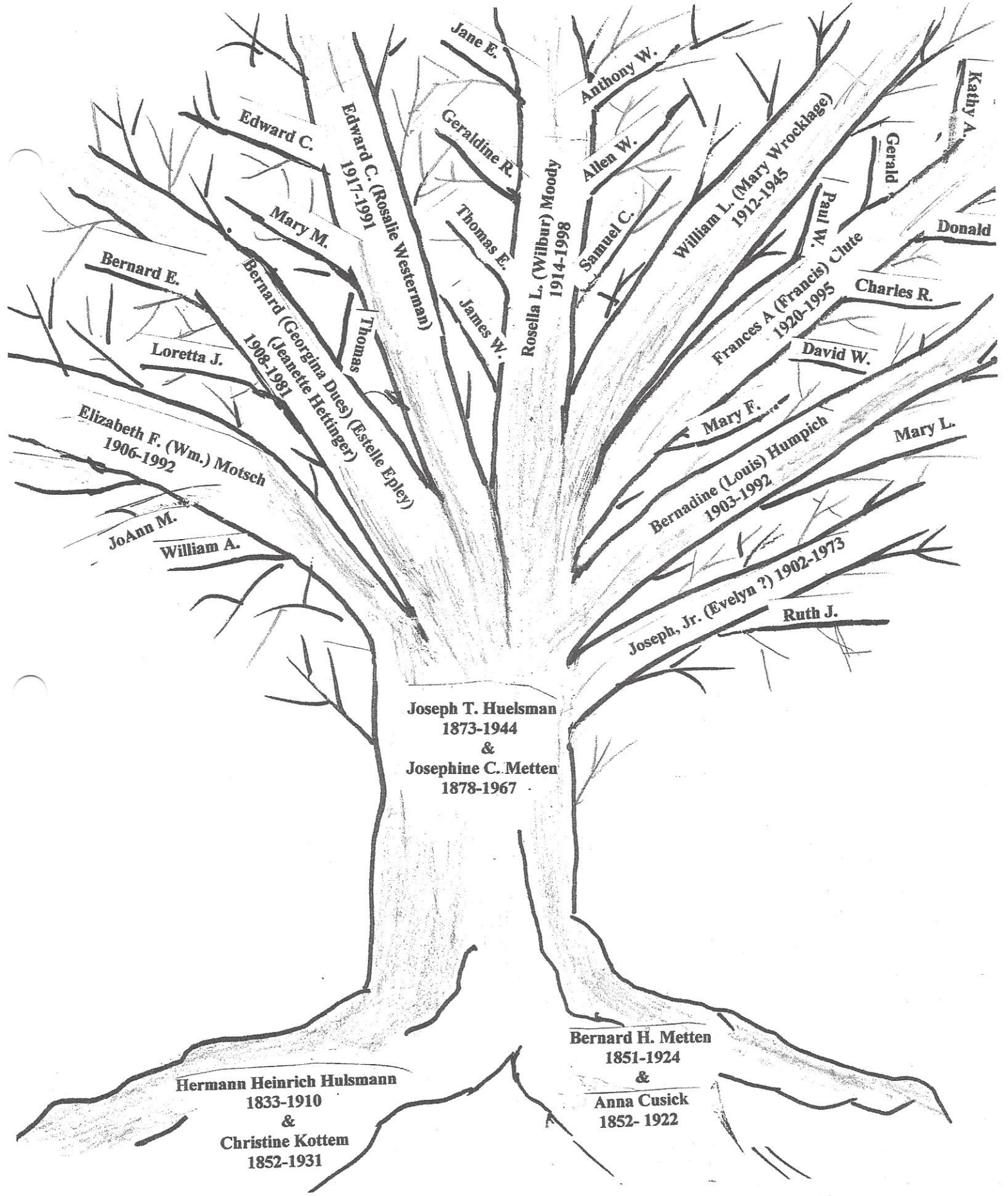
This book is dedicated to:

*My Brother Bill,
My Children, Jim, Jeanine and Lisa
My Grandchildren Erika and Tyler
And to all of my many cousins.*

Contents:

- I. *Introduction*
- II. *Coming to America*
 - A. *Immigration*
- III. *Louisville*
 - A. *Journey from New Orleans*
 - B. *Civil War*
 - C. *Henry's First Family*
- IV. *Schnitzelburg*
 - A. *Henry's Second Family*
 - B. *World War I*
- V. *Metten*
- VI. *Joe & Josephine*





"Not only the trees have roots"

INTRODUCTION

HUELSMAN OR; HULSEMAN, HOLSMAN, HOLTZMAN, HULSMAN, HULSMANN, HOLZMAN ?

According to United States' census information, the surname that we know as **Huelsman**, was spelled many different ways, at least six, that I have found. These variations make our genealogy very difficult to research. However, with a little patience, a bit of ingenuity, and a whole lot of luck, it has been possible to put at least a few pieces of the puzzle together. However, if one would add an "E", "N" or "Z" here or there, they may find even more historical facts about the Huelsman clan.

The name most likely grew from the surname *Hulse*, which was once thought originated only in England. Researchers, though, have discovered that the surname is also German and Dutch, and could even have Irish and Scottish origins. *Hulses*, however, appears to originate only from Germany. Families using the spelling Huls have immigrated from both Germany and Belgium.

From stories handed down through the years, we know that our ancestors all came from Germany. The surname may stem from the town Huls, from where they most likely originated.

According to the German Dictionary of surnames, *Hulse* and *Huls*, stem from a plant. To be exact, a German Rhineland swamp thistle of the "carlina vulgaris" variety. Both names are found in the Niederrhein region of Germany. There are four German towns named *Huls* - two in the Rhineland and two in the north. George F. Jones, in the 2nd edition of his book, *German-American N-A-M-E-S*, says that *Huelsmann* means - "swamp dweller among the hollies".

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr. of New Hampshire edits a website, HULSE Family Network, Immigrant Ancestors. In it he states that, "There is a Hulse Coat of Arms - Argent, three piles sable, one in chief, the others reversed in base - but unless you can show a direct link with Sir Edward Westrow Hulse of Breamore, Hants, you have no claim to it." It is important to note that none of his family ever immigrated to America. He warns us not to be taken in by offers to purchase this coat of arms, and suggests that since there seems to be no other, we might want to create our own.

COMING TO AMERICA

Virtually all Americans are immigrants or descendants of immigrants. The rate of immigration rose sharply after the invention of the steamboat in 1819, which cut the length of an ocean crossing from two or more months to one or two weeks. Those who had resisted the notion of traveling for months in miserable conditions over dangerous seas on a sailing ship were much more inclined to take a one- or two-week trip on a heavy steamship. Most ship captains also required that passengers supply their own food, and more people could afford to buy one or two weeks' worth of meals than two or more months' worth. Conditions on the new steamships were still overcrowded and unsanitary, and many immigrants continued to become seriously ill or even die en route. However, the ocean voyage had to be horrific in those days. Most immigrants found their conditions as human cargo aboard oceangoing ships less than desirable. But overall, the risks were fewer and the costs much less, and the number of immigrants increased rapidly.

Joseph Eder, who immigrated from Germany to New Orleans in 1854 wrote about the hardships of his trans-Atlantic journey:

This water stinks like the pest, and in the end one could no longer drink it. Many a person there would have given a Thaler for a drink of fresh water, but we had to be glad to get the stinking water. Even that was not available in sufficient quantity, for through the heat and the salted meat we suffered such thirst that we would gladly have drunk the water in spite of the stench.

Even though, the discomforts were at times unbearable, Eder adamantly believed that the rewards outweighed the risks of immigration:

"If perhaps one of you wants to come to America, let him by no means be deterred by the many hardships of travel that he must endure. Once you are here all that is forgotten and you certainly do not regret it."

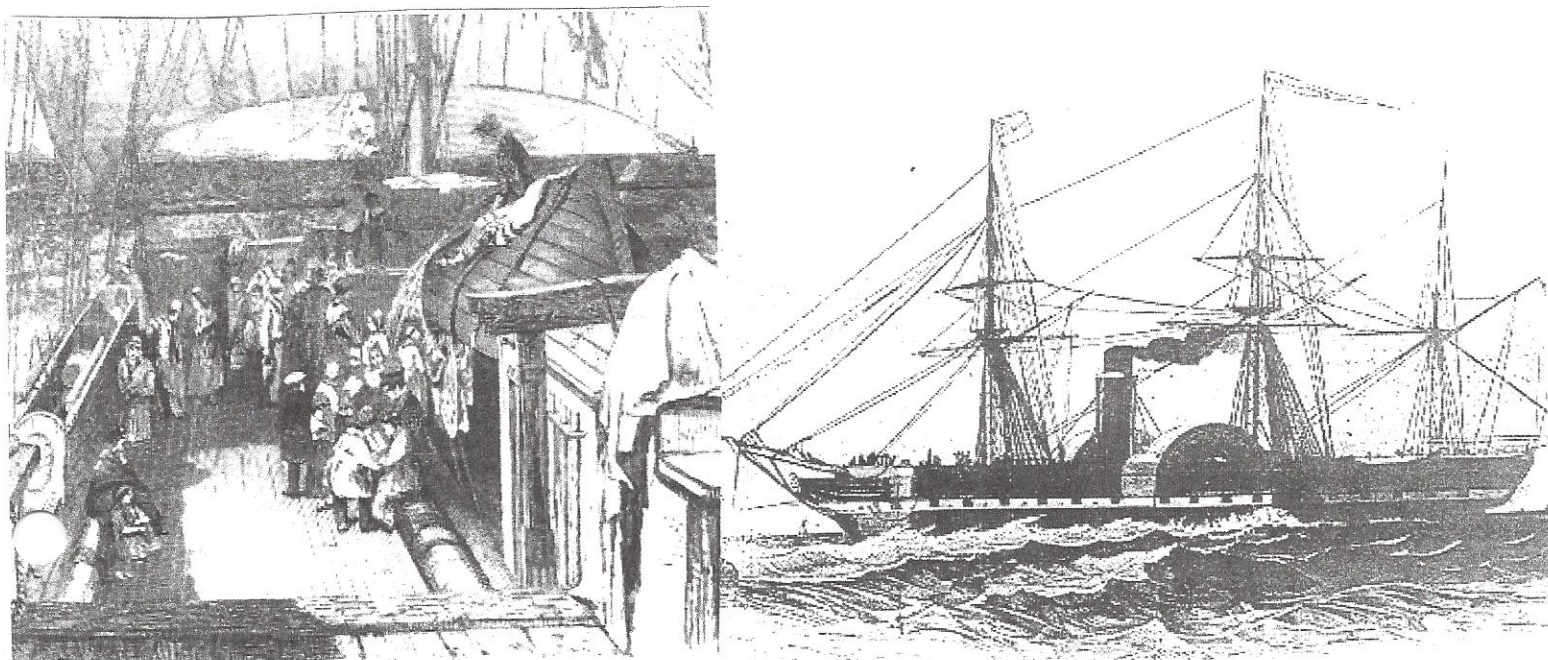
New Orleans was the second leading port of entry in the United States during the antebellum period. Between 1820 and 1860 over 550,000 immigrants came to New Orleans, although the *Crescent City* lagged far behind its top competitor, New York City.

Several factors drew immigrants to New Orleans. European immigrants often found it less expensive to go to New Orleans than to Atlantic ports. The large vessels that carried southern agricultural products to Europe, especially cotton, returned to New Orleans with less bulky manufactured goods and had enough room to offer bargain fares to passengers.

New Orleans was also an attractive gateway to the western interior, made accessible and inexpensive by steamboats that opened inland waterways in the early years of the nineteenth century and offered cheaper passage to the West and Midwest than did overland modes of transportation from the East.

The United States, in the 19th Century, remained a strong magnet to immigrants, with offers of jobs and land for farms. Glowing reports from earlier arrivals, who made good, reinforced the notion that in America, the streets were, "paved with gold," as well as offerings of religious and political freedom.

By the end of the decade, several other factors were encouraging German emigration. Overpopulation and a shortage of cash for trade, combined with the traditional practice of Realteilungsrecht, the division of the family farm among many descendants, created enormous economic pressures. Many families coped with the shrinking farmlands by taking up handicrafts, such as weaving or clock making. After the end of the Napoleonic Wars, however, Germany was flooded with cheap factory made English goods, which brought disaster to the German family industries.



Kingdom Hannover

No. 963

Registered

Passport

**For the Inland
And Foreign Country**

Expires in one year

**Description of the
Beholder:**

Age: 23 years

Height: 5ft. 9in.

Stature: Slim

Hair: Black

Forehead: Rounded

Eyes: Brown

Nose: Plump

Mouth: ?

Teeth: Healthy

Chin: Round

Beard: ?

Face: Long

Color of Face: Healthy

Special Marks:

None

Speaks German

Signature:

Hermann Hulsmann

Paid: 10 marks



To all Civilian and Military Organizations

Hermann Heinrich Hulsmann

**Please allow the person beholder of this
letter - born and living in**

Hollenstede

**on his anticipated travel to emigrate from
here through Bremen
to America, free and uninhibited to travel there
and back and if needed also to give him protection.**

Furstenau - September 10th 1850 and seven (1857)



Royal Office