

The following letter was received in answer to one sent by the family historian August 17, 1930. for family history of the Boss people and progenitors in Switzerland.

Gundlischwand.
January 26, 1931.

Dear brother:

Your letter of August 17, of the past year on hand but I could not answer until today. On account of a setback in my health and other conditions unfavorable, it was hardly possible to write sooner. I am a bit better at this time however, so I shall try and answer your letter as far as I have the desired ~~the~~ information on hand.

Our ancestors always lived here in Gundlischwand. Our great grandfathers name was Ulrich. However, I am unable to state as to the date of his death. He was a farmer with but small possessions, living up in town here in an old wooden house which burned down along with five other homes in August 1854. Grandfather Conrad was married to Margarita Boss. I believe she was a near relative of his. He was born in the year 1798, and was also a farmer. His avocation was cabinet maker (kleinscheiner). He died in 1868 while under an operation. With the advanced skilled surgery of today that does not happen. Grandmother lived over 20 years longer than he. I believe she died in the early 90's. She was a very dear grandmother to us; very devout in her religion, and known for her charity; bigheartedness.

After the fire of 1854 these grandparents left that place and built a new house on the hamlet street which served us as a home until the present. Your nephew, the son of Peter, took a photograph of it and will probably be able to give you a picture of it.

As mentioned before our ancestors always lived here however, there are other families by the name of Boss. Years ago a notary public by the name of Boss in Thun, related to me that he found an account in the "Chronicle Thun" that in the beginning of the sixteenth (16) century, a man by the name of Bossi migrated from Italy, bought his citizenship in that city (Thun). This man had three sons and it is claimed that the different Boss families were of that off spring or posterity. I have stated this but incidentally and should not appear in your manuscript since I could not vouch for its being a fact.

At first our father was engaged in farming on a small scale. Later on he entered the (employ) or (apprenticeship) of B. Bauman, who was master-builder residing in this community. If I remember right he started for himself in mountain homes, stables, and barns, and also, small homes. As far as I know he was highly respected and regarded as a good likable citizen; and was chosen and filled the office of a President (or Mayor) over that municipality. When he was voted into that office I know not.

As (or when) he apostatized from our national church (Luthern) he lost favor and popularity with the people, and I believe it was in the year 1888 when I was elected to take his place; and it fell to my lot to officiate in the capacity for a full twenty-five years. Father was also presiding school trustee (or president of school trustees), but how long I do not know any more. I also had to accept this office at different times.

As you know father immigrated to Utah in the year 1890; and from that time on I continued the building business. I believe that must be approximately 68 buildings I put up since. In the year 1908 my son Hans (John) completed his learning as architect, and has proved himself a great help to me in that capacity.

Father also had two brothers and three sisters. The older Conrad was farming and the younger Christian was a school teacher and had five sons, three of which, also followed that profession. The oldest, Christian, was teacher of the secondary school in Bern. A brother Karl immigrated to America years ago. Whether or not he still lives I know not. The youngest was also a teacher, but has for some time been active as a musician. His brother Ed. (Edward) is a famous artist; established in the city of Bern. Gottfried also ~~an~~ was an artist but met his death in an earthquake on the isle

of Jschia.

My brother Christian, born 1863, was a farmer living in Ct Thurgau where he died, April 12, 1920, as a result of a paralytic stroke (of the brain). He had two sons. The younger of the two died; the elder, Ernest, is an official secretariate of the Department of Agriculture, which is in Bougg, Ct. Argau. His brother Fritz was also an agriculturist and lived in Ct. Argau where he died as a result of an accident. He was only fifty three years of age at the time of his death, June 19, 1918. This berevement was a dolorous one for the family. They are now living in Hinwzl, Ct. Zurich. Agriculture is their means for a livelyhood. The widow of my brother Fred is staying with two daughters and her son Fred. They are running a farm. As far as I know they are getting along alright. I have for gotten to state the widow of the deceased Christian is now with her daughter's family Meier in Lengwzl near Oberhafen, Ct. Thurgau.

As far as my family is concerned my wife and I are homw alone since all the children are married. The oldest daughter born 1883 is in St. Dummer, Berner Jura, married to a Mr Arthur Wild, architect. They have five children, two sons and three daughters. The boys are past school age. The older of the two is also to be an architect; the younger however, watchmaker. The daughter has been ill of recent, but is now improving. Son Hans (John) was born 1885. As already mentioned, he is an architect and is in the building business; together with Alfred, since March 1st, 1930. His wife's name is Martha Fluk (maiden name) of Brienz. They have three children, two sons and one daughter, all past school age. The two sons are attending high school in Bern. What their specialty is to be is an yet not known. He is living here in Zweilutchinen. Rosetta my daughter taught school previous to her marriage to Mr. Nicklaus Stuki--teacher of secondary high school. They live in Bumplitz, Ct. Bern, in their own home. Peter's son was with them several times. They have three children still going to school. My daughter Bertha, born 1891, I am sorry to say died March 26, 1928, afflicted with a disease of the heart. For us this was a sore trial since she was a great help to us. Shw always did my office work in spite of her failing health. She was the sunshine of our hearts. Daughter Clara, born 1895, is married to Mr Fritz Gerber, ex-teacher. Now they are attendants in a large county hospital, or asylum, near Zurich. They are kept very busy, but well provided for. They have four children, three girls and one boy. The girls are attending school but not graduated as yet (learning the nursing profession) Daughter Hermine, born 1897, was married to mr Wilhelm Balmer, a hotel proprietor, in Wilderswyl, the nearest town West of us. July 22, of the last year (1930) she also died from paralysis of the brain, she left a baby one and one half years old. It too was an awful stroke for us all. Hermine was quite close to us--came visiting us occasionally. The poor child has no more mother now, however, we must be patient and enduring in all things; it cannot be changed. Nothing can be done but exercise patience and perseverance. Now for the youngest which is Alfred, born 1899, he did not get married until Oct. 22 of last year. He married our lady school teacher, Miss Scharer from Meiringen. He graduated from the agriculture collage recieving the diploma as agriculturist, and upon returning home he took it upon himself to attend to my farming. I had given up farming then, sold my live stock and rented the land. Today he and his brother Hans (John) have the architect business together and engage themselves to continue my business of building. Oviously he will have to learn the trade. Sorry to say there is very little work at hand, but we hope better times are coming. My wife Margarita Weismuller is still in fairly good health, and last September 1930, was seventy years of age, and since October 26 last, I am in my seventy third year. As mentioned in the beginning my health has improved.

As to my mother and her family. Her name was Marianna; her maiden name Gertsch: born 1836 in Wengen and died in the year 1885. Her father Christian Gertsch was a shoe maker by trade and worked a farm of small average. When he died I cannot say. My knowledge of him is very limited. Your grandmother was a sister of my mother. One brother lived in Grindelwald where his wife and his son still employed by the rail road still live. The youngest brother lived in Wengen where his oldest son still lives; he is also employed by the Wengeralp Rail Road, as a machinest. One is a telegraph operator and another is in British columbia, Canada. Their seems to be no photograph of their mother on hand nor from father while in his youth.

I believe I have given about all the information here-in that you asked for. Should there be any desired information amiss, you may write and enquire of me. I suppose you can take this scrambled up matter and extract what pleases you from it, and put it down in

short form.

We have had a very mild winter, almost no snow, since last Sunday it has been snowing and is still snowing, the winter season has been mild. A lot of people from England and America have been here. The summer business has been none too good because of the heavy rains. The larger hotels did very poorly, but in winter times they hope to do much better. The smaller hotels have not got so much business. The farming people and the different business people can feel the hard times. In Switzerland we are suffering less than in other places. In Germany there are close to 5,000,000 people out of work and families are suffering a lot. We hope they will soon have better times again. I will bring this letter to a close and will ask you to give to my relatives our best regards. I remain with best regards,

your brother,

John Boss.

Death of John Boss, Jr.
He died January 29, 1941, at Gundlischwand, Switzerland.