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25th April 1972.

Dear Mr Grasmeder,

We have pleasure in sending you the results of our further investigations into your ancestry. We have discovered some new and interesting facts about your family, and have found that two of the witnesses who appear on the marriage certificates of your great grandfather, Martin and his sister Ann Katherine, as collateral ancestors. We experienced a certain amount of difficulty in locating the family at the time of one of the decennial census returns, but were finally able to do so, and have thus discovered that your great grandfather was born in Germany.

You will recall that your great grandfather Martin, when he married in 1869, stated that he was then aged 22, which would mean that he was born around 1846/7. We first of all carried out a search for his birth in the indexes at Somerset House. As the result of an examination of these, checking under all variant spellings of the surname, we found no references at all in the period from 1845 to 1849. From this, we assumed that the family were not in England at this time, and therefore decided to endeavour to locate the family in the census returns, and also to see if we could find any record of them in the Naturalization and Denization records. In fact, we found no reference of anyone of this surname in the Naturalization etc. indexes - it is not unusual to find that the family had not applied to become British subjects, and we were not therefore all that surprised when the search gave us a negative result.

We therefore turned our attention to the census records. Although these were never compiled for the benefit of genealogists, the later ones do contain information of considerable value in the tracing of family histories. At various times in the history of this country, population surveys have been carried out

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for statistical purposes to evaluate the taxable or military strength of the nation, but these were estimates based on parish register entries. A census of the whole of Gt. Britain was first taken in 1811 and in every tenth year since then, with the exception of 1941. The first three censuses were numerical only and consequently are of no particular genealogical value, but in 1841 the names of every person in every household were recorded, together with approximate age, occupation and whether or not they had been born in the same county as they were then living in. In 1851 and subsequently, the censuses were more detailed and gave sex, exact age, marital condition, relationship to the head of the household, occupation and precise place of birth if in the same Kingdom. Later censuses gave more information which is of social and historical importance, but it is this detail of place of birth which enables the genealogist to bridge the gap between the records of the Registrar General of registered births, marriages and deaths, and those of the parishes held by upwards of 12,000 incumbents throughout the Kingdom. Of course, as regards your own family, we did not expect a result which would show an English parish of origin, but tell us from what country your ancestors originated. The census enumerator was only obliged to put the country of origin, but on some occasions, the exact town is shown. This, I know, from my own personal experience, for by coincidence my father's and my mother's families came to England from Germany about the same time as your own family. On one of these lines, the family were of middle-class status, and when locating them in the census, the town of origin in Germany was shown. On the other family, who were illiterate, very poor and living in Whitechapel, only the country, i.e. Germany, was shown.

From the work carried out at the previous stage, we had details from the two marriages in 1869 of addresses that we could have searched in 1871, and also the address in Bethnal Green shown on the birth certificate of your grandfather. Addresses given on marriage certificates are usually very unreliable, for quite often the couple are living in temporary accommodation, perhaps to establish residence within the parish in which they intended to marry. For this reason we did not search either of the addresses shown on the 1869 marriage certificates. We did however, search the 1877 address, namely 52 Cranbrook Street in Bethnal Green. However, the family were not living there in 1871, and we extended the search to the area around, but once again found no trace of anyone of the surname.

We therefore next decided to try and locate the birth of a child to your great grandparents around the time of the 1871 census. In searching in the birth indexes, we found in the June quarter of 1873, a George Martin Grasmeder in the registration

district of West Ham. This was two years after the taking of the census, and we therefore decided to see if we could find an earlier reference. We located one in the year 1870. This was the birth of John Adam, who was born on the 10th of April 1870 at 7 Bandon Road, in the sub district of Green, registration district of Bethnal Green, in the county of Middlesex. The child was described as the son of Martin Grasmeder, a baker, and Annie Grasmeder, formerly Berchmann. It was the mother who registered the birth on the 13th of May 1870. She signed the register by mark in the presence of Thomas Frederick Bradbrook, the Registrar.

We next turned to the appropriate census bundles to look for 7 Bandon Road, and we eventually located this address but unfortunately the family were not living there in 1871. It was apparent that there was probably no child born to this couple between John Adam in 1870 and George Martin in 1873 - in fact we have not checked the parentage of this latter child, but presumably from the given names, he was an elder brother of your grandfather.

However, we knew that your grandfather's sister had married in 1869, and we therefore decided to endeavour to find the birth of a child to Ann Katherine and her husband, Peter Arloff (or Horloff). We found no likely reference under either of these spellings, and we therefore bore in mind that they were both probably variant spellings of the surname Orloff, or Orlov. When we in fact checked the birth indexes, we found several references in the registration district of Bethnal Green, for children of the surname Orlopp, which is a further variant spelling of the surname! We applied for the certificate of a child born in 1870. This was the birth of George Peter, who was born on the 5th of March 1870 at 46 Royston Street, sub district of Green, registration district of Bethnal Green, and he was described as the son of Peter Orlopp, a walking-stick maker and his wife Anna Catherine Orlopp, formerly Grasmeder. The mother registered the birth, doing so when she signed the register by mark, on the 8th of April 1870. Our reason for endeavouring to locate your collateral ancestress in the census returns was that this would have answered our purpose, just as well as locating your great grandparents, in as much as if we knew where she came from, this would tell us where your great grandfather, Martin, originated from also.

To locate this address in the census took a fair amount of time, but when we finally did so, the results were surprising, for in 1871, Peter Orlopp and family and Martin Grasmeder and

family were both living there at 46 Royston Street. The details obtained were as follows:-

	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Born</u>
Peter Orlopp, Head, married,	36,	Umbrella stick dresser,	Germany.
Katherina " wife, "	30,	" " "	"
Henry E " son,	4,		"
Christian Sproyer, visitor, unmarried,	21,		"
Martin Grasmeder, Head, married,	24,	baker,	"
Anna " wife, unmarried,	24,		"
Adam " son,	1,		Middlesex, Bethnal Green.

You will see that unfortunately the census enumerator merely gives the country of origin. This was shown as Germany for all individuals found at this address, with the exception of the child Adam. From this it seems likely that the child, George Peter Orlopp, born in 1870, died in infancy; alternatively of course, he may have been staying with relations at the time the census was taken. One very interesting fact emerges, and this is that we have found a child, Henry E. Orlopp aged 4, shown as born in Germany around 1866/7. Since Peter stated that he was a bachelor when he married Catherine, it seems possible that the child was perhaps born to this couple out of wedlock prior to their coming to England. This would mean that Catherine was still in Germany in 1866. Alternatively, it may be that this child was in fact born in England, but that the census enumerator has incorrectly shown Germany instead of the appropriate birthplace in England.

Having thus discovered where your ancestors originated, we decided to see if we could discover details of any other members of this family in England in the mid-nineteenth century. When we carried out a search at the last stage, for the marriage of your great grandparents, we had noted down details of two other marriages of individuals of this surname. These marriages were registered in Whitechapel in the 1860's. We decided to apply for copies of the marriages.

On the 14th of August 1864, in the registration district of Whitechapel, at the German Protestant Reformed Church, George ~~Reis~~ married with Catharina Elizabeth Grasmeder. The groom was then aged 26 years, a bachelor and by occupation a sugar baker, and was then living at 56 Church Lane, Whitechapel. He was the son of Peter ~~Reis~~, a labourer. The bride, Catherine Elizabeth was aged 23 years, a spinster, living at 6 Chapel Place, Mile End Old Town, and was the daughter of Johannes Grasmeder, a labourer. In spite of the difference in occupation, i.e. labourer and not carpenter, it seems that Catherine Elizabeth was the sister of Annie Catherine Grasmeder and Martin Grasmeder, your great grandfather. You will note that when your great

grandfather married, one of the witnesses was George Reis, similarly when Annie Catharine married, one of the witnesses was C. Reis - this was probably his sister, Catharina.

Both parties to this marriage in 1864 signed the register in the presence of Heinrich Böttner, Elizah Dunn, Doctor Joseph Overbeck, the Minister and Thomas Copley, the Registrar. Since the marriage took place at the German church, the information entered on the marriage certificate was for the most part apparently entered in English script, however it seems probable that the signatures of the parties, and probably the witness Heinrich Bottner were written in high German. The copy of the certificate issued to us was not a photostat of that actually in the records at Somerset House, but a copy made by a clerk there. The attempt to copy the name Catharina Elizabeth Grasmeder as entered by the Minister in high German, has to be seen to be believed - for this reason I enclose a photostat copy of the marriage certificate.

The other marriage we obtained was a marriage which took place on the 26th of April 1863, again at the German Protestant Reformed church at Whitechapel. The parties were Johann Jacob Grasmeder, he was then aged 28 years, a bachelor and a sugar baker, living at 3 Everard Street, in the parish of St George in the East. He was the son of Johann Melchior Grasmeder, a tailor. The other party was one Christina Ewald, aged 30 years, a spinster, living at 1 Everard Street, St George in the East. She was the daughter of Johannes Ewald, a carpenter. The other details shown on the certificate are the name of the Minister, Theodore Kubler and Thomas Copley, the Registrar. The names of the parties and the witnesses are all written in high German script. One of the witnesses is Johannes Ewald; the christian names of the other witness are A. Maria, but regrettably I cannot decipher her surname. It looks as though the last four letters of the surname are...saas. I enclose once again a copy of this certificate for your general interest.

We do not know as yet whether the Johann Jacob Grasmeder is related to your own family; he may be, but then on the other hand it is quite possible for members of totally unrelated families to have come from Germany to England in the middle of the nineteenth century. We know, however, that probably another member of your family had come from Germany, for at the marriage of Peter Arloff and Annie Catharine Grasmeder, one of the witnesses, was an R. Grasmeder, who we have not as yet identified. You will note that both Johann Jacob Grasmeder and George Reis, when they married, stated that they were sugar bakers. This was a very unpleasant occupation, the men who worked in the sugar refineries literally breathed in sugar while they worked. Their conditions of work were excessively

primitive, and sugar bakers were noted for their very pallid complexions and their insatiable thirst. Apparently, a large number of people emigrated from Germany in the middle of the nineteenth century, possibly many for economic reasons, but some to escape the compulsory military service. The poorer German immigrants apparently often worked at jobs which even the immigrant Irish in London would not undertake.

We now come to the question of further research. There is probably quite a lot of work that we can carry out to expand the pedigree of the family; for example, finding the record of the births of all your grandfather's brothers and sisters, the record of the deaths of your great grandparents, and then carrying out a search to see if either of them left a Will. Alternatively, and perhaps in addition to this, you would like us to try and discover where they come from in Germany. This may be an easy matter, or it may be extremely difficult and hence costly. We have a very good German searcher, and have had a great deal of success on a number of cases where the family have emigrated from Germany to this country. However, in the majority of these cases there has always been some information, however meagre, as to the probable State in Germany from which the family originated. This is not so in your own case, and as you are probably aware, prior to the unification of Germany in 1871, it consisted of a number of separate States, each with their own records. General Registration commenced in Germany in 1876, which is of course some time after your family appear to have come to England. However, if for example, your great great grandfather, John the carpenter, did not come to England and was still alive in 1876 (and of course we do not know if he was still then alive), we might pick up the family by searching the death indexes to find his death certificate. Alternatively, one may often localise a family by extracting all references for a particular surname over a period, and then plotting these references on a map, to see if any clear pattern emerges. We have had many cases where, for example, a family has left England and gone to America, and then a client then writes in, explains that his great grandparents, or whichever ancestor it was, are known to have come from England, perhaps with just an approximate date. Under such circumstances, even with this little amount of information, we have often been able, with just the approximate period and name of the ancestor, to actually locate the family and discover details of remoter generations. Obviously, the more one knows about a family, the easier this can be, and for this reason it might be as well to carry out more research on your own family after their arrival in England.

Another point is of course, the question of the surname itself. If it is a rare surname, then it is obviously easier

to trace. As regards your own name, until we have actually carried out some work in German records, we cannot tell whether or not there are many families of this surname, or not. When you first wrote to us, you made a point of insisting that we did not contact any of your relatives. I do not know your reasons for this, but since it is only just over 100 years since your ancestors came to England, it would seem to us quite probable that one of the older members of your family may have some idea of where they came from. I explained earlier on in this report that one of my own families, only Germany was given as the place of origin (this was in the 1861 census), but even so, there is a "family story", as yet unsubstantiated, that they come from a particular State on the borders of France and Germany. It is obviously up to you to decide precisely what should be done; I wish to make it quite plain that we ourselves have no intention of contacting your relatives, but if you could do so it might help.

We would suggest that if you would like us to carry out further work on the family in England, that we work at the next stage to around £20. to £25. We could also write to our German searcher and ask him to give us a quotation for work to localise the surname in Germany. He may be able to state straight away that it is a rare surname, and perhaps give us some idea of where it occurs. If however, he cannot comment in this way, we will at least be able to give you a firm quotation for work to be carried out in German records.

Our account for the work to date is enclosed, and we look forward to receiving your comments and further instructions to continue in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Anne C Rotter

Miss A.C. Rotter.
Research Department.