

Some Descendants of Ludwig Wagenknecht (Louis Wagner)

Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

This is not meant to be a comprehensive family history but it's information I found after communicating with Crys Weiss Burrall, a descendant of Ludwig Wagenknecht.

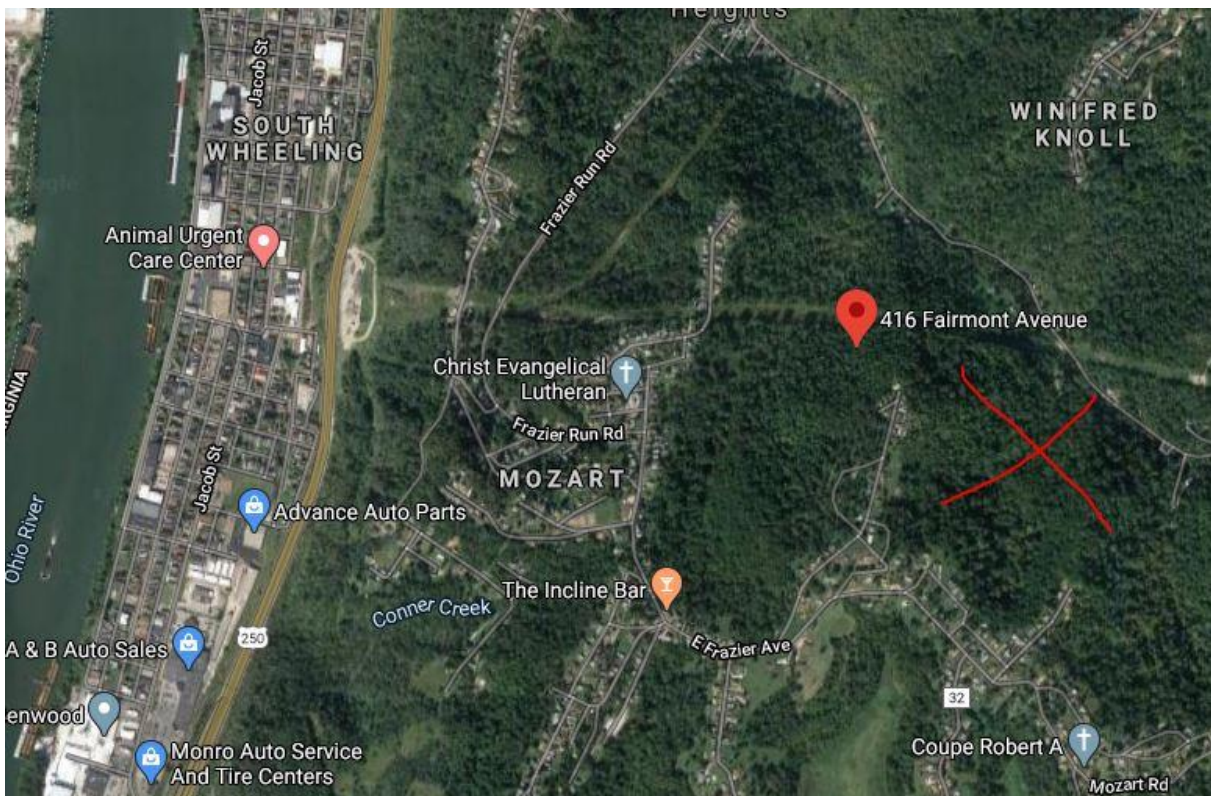
Census records indicate that Ludwig Wagenknecht, his wife, known to be Katherine/Katrina Seamon, and some of their children, were born in *Hesse-Darmstadt*, Germany. They immigrated in 1850 and are found in Wheeling at the time of the 1860 Federal Census.

Without the details contained in deeds, at some point, before 1860, Ludwig Wagenknecht purchased land "about a mile up Caldwell Run" and he operated a dairy farm there.

This picture, provided by Crys Weiss Burrall, is a view from the foot of the Wagenknecht property, according to a note on the back of the image.



1871 Property Owners



The Frederick Bromer family lived near the Wagenknechts on Caldwell Run, Ohio County. The Bromer house, built in 1850, is still standing at 416 Fairmont Avenue, although it is not exactly pinpointed on this map. Based on that general location, off Fairmont Avenue, the Wagenkencht Farm was likely in the area marked with the red X, above.

1860 Census, Wheeling, Ohio County, (West) Virginia

WAGONER (874)

Lundwig Wagoner...47...m...Laborer....b Germany

Katherine...46...f...b Germany

Elizabeth...15...f...b Virginia

Mary...12...f...b Virginia

Caroline...10...f...b Virginia

Kate...8...f...b Virginia (b Jan 1853 per 1900 census)

Mena...6...f...b Virginia

Charles...22...m...Laborer...b Germany

Wheeling Daily Register, May 27, 1868: "Philip Hanstein to Charles Wagenknecht, 62 acres of land on McKinley's Run, adjoining the lands of Z. Jacob and John White; also, 6 acres, 3 roods and 7 poles of land on the waters of Caldwell's Run, and adjoining the above tract of 62 acres. Dated May 23, 1867. Price, \$3500." It would seem this is Ludwig's son, Charles.

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, May 27, 1867: "A Deed of Trust, made May 3d 1867, by Charles Wagenknecht to W. P. Hubbard, trustee for Philip Hanstein, on 6 acres, 3 roods and 7 poles of land, for part of purchase money."

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, May 3, 1869: "Trustee's Sale. By virtue of a deed of trust made to me by Charles Wagenknecht bearing date May 23, 1867, and recorded in the office of the recorder of Ohio County, in Deed Book No. 52, to secure to Philip Hanstein the payment of six notes of the same date, each for \$162.50, with interest from February 8, 1865, payable on the 1st day of February in the years 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1873 respectively, I will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the front door of the Court House of Ohio County, on Saturday, May 29, 1869...."

1870 Census, Ritchie Township, Ohio County, West Virginia

WAGONER (67)

Charles Wagoner...35...wm...b Hesse D

Catherine Wagoner...50...wf...b Hesse D

Louis Wagoner...60...wm...\$4000 Real Estate... \$1500 Personal... b Hesse D

Elizabeth Wagoner...24...wf...b Hesse D

Caroline Wagoner...21...wf...b Hesse-Nassau

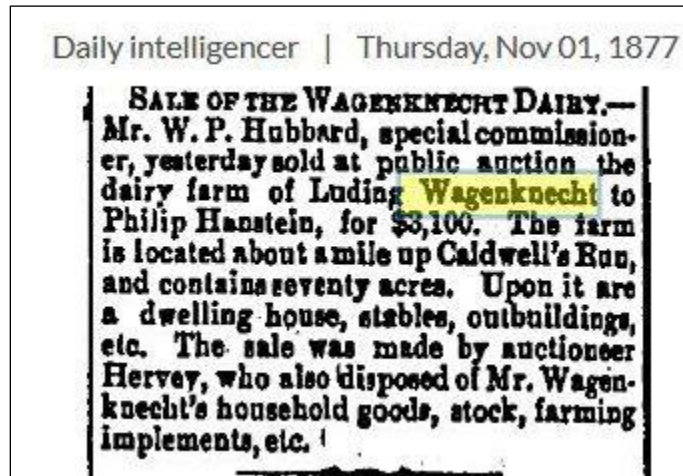
Kate Wagoner...17...wf...b Hesse-Nassau

Amelia Wagoner...13...wf... b Virginia

Matilda...10...wf...b Virginia

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, September 3, 1875: "Philip Heinsteins was appointed Guardian of Emilie Wagenknecht and Matilda Wagenknecht. Bond \$150, with H. F. Behrens as security."

The WAGENKNECHT DAIRY FARM was sold in November 1877 to Philip Hanstein.



Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, November 21, 1877: "Search Warrant Issued – Justice Schultz yesterday issued a search warrant for Fred. Schocke, of South Wheeling. It appears that Philip Hanstein had a deed of trust upon some property belonging to Ludwig Wagenknecht, including a valuable cow, which was missing when Hanstein claimed his property under the deed of trust. This cow, it is alleged, was afterwards found in a stable upon Schocke's premises. Schocke gave bond in the sum of \$1000 for his appearance on Thursday at 2 P.M. to answer the charge."

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, March 6, 1878: "Municipal Court, Judge Cranmer – Court was in session yesterday, and transacted the following business: Philip Hanstein vs. Ludwig Wagenknecht and Mary S. Thomas; in debt. Judgement in favor of plaintiff for \$250."

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, June 3, 1879: "Phillip Hanstein, who for almost the past quarter of a century, has been employed at Wheat & Son's tannery, left yesterday morning for Germany, where he will join his family, from whom he has been absent all this time. He expects to remain the balance of his days in his Vaterland."

1880 Census, Marshall County, West Virginia
WAGNER (29) (Appears to be in North Benwood.)
Lewis...70-wm...farmer...b Hesse Darmstadt
Cathern...60-wf...labor?... b Hesse Darmstadt

Charles...46-wm...laborer Iron Mill... b Hesse Darmstadt
Caroline...30-wf...at home...b Hesse Darmstadt
Cathern...25-wf...at home... b Hesse Darmstadt
William...10/12-wm...Jun...grandson...b WV... father b Ohio...mother b Hesse
Lena...2-wf...granddaughter...b WV...parent b Hesse

In the house just before the Wagners was daughter, Amelia:
Ernest Busenberg...32...Iron Worker...b Hanover
Amelia Busenberg...23...Keeping House...b WV
Edward Busenberg...b WV Dec 1879

THE FAMILY

Ludwig Wagenknecht, spelled “Ludirck Wagonot” on his death record, died of a “Bad Cold” on April 21, 1886 at Benwood, Marshall County. His age is stated as 77 and the information was provided by Charles “Wagonot”. The death record of his wife, **Katherine/Katrina Seamon**, has not been located. They are last found in the 1880 census of Marshall County at which time they were residents of North Benwood. Ludwig is named in the find-a-grave list for Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Marshall County but their gravestones were not apparent when this writer indexed the names and photographed the gravestones there in 2000. Some stones washed over the hill during storms and others are badly deteriorated and illegible.

Charles Wagenknecht is the oldest child named in census records, and he appears with family as late as 1900, at which time he lived with his sister, Caroline Wagner. He apparently bought and lost property, mentioned above, and he worked in the Iron Mill.

Elizabeth Wagenknecht, 28, married Henry Seamon, 27, in Wheeling, Ohio County, on March 5, 1874. Elizabeth died on November 10, 1911 and Henry died in 1924. Both are buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery. In the 1900 census, Elizabeth stated she had given birth to 7 children & 4 were living: Louis (b May 1874), Henry (b June 1877), Charley (b Apr 1879), Christina “Tena” (b Dec 1885). Three babies died before 1900.

Maria “Mary” Wagenknecht, 19, married Herman Dietrich, 29, in Wheeling, Ohio County, on April 14, 1867; her parents stated as Ludwig & Katrina. Herman served in Civil War regiments in both Pennsylvania (14th Inf.) and West Virginia (2nd Inf. which was subsequently the 5th Cavalry). He died in 1903. Maria Dietrich, born November 26, 1847 in Hesse Damstadt, Germany, died December 7, 1913; both are buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling. Her parents are stated as Louis Wagenknecht and Catherine Seamon, both born in Germany. Maria and Herman had a daughter, Lena, born in 1868, and she married Robert Campbell.

Catharina “Kate” Wagenknecht, 23, married George S. Rigby, 25, on December 9, 1883 in Marshall County. Their children were George, Carrie, (Charles) Edward, John, Ida, (Kathryn) Hattie, and Harry, per 1900 census of Benwood, Marshall County. Catharina died of Tuberculosis in 1914. - George, Jr. married Martha Myers in 1911 and they divorced. He married his second wife, Martha Roberts Applegarth, also divorced, in 1934. Carrie Rigby married William M. Pennybacker in 1906. Charles Edward died April 11, 1918 after an extended illness, per *Daily Intelligencer* (Wheeling). John, a WWI Veteran, died from “asphyxiation of gas” in 1924. Ida married James Hennen in 1913. Hattie [Kathryn] married Jesse Adolph Wheat in 1916. - According to a news article, Harry Rigby was signed up to leave for training camp in August 1918 during WWI. He apparently didn’t make it there and he died of pneumonia and influenza November 5, 1918 (Spanish Flu pandemic).

Amelia Wagenknecht, 22, married Ernest “Goosenberg” [Bosenberg & various spellings], 28, in Wheeling, Ohio County, on February 2, 1879. Ernest Bosenberg/Busenberg is found in the 1910 census of Seneca, Noble County, Ohio. He had been married to his second wife, Martha J. (Stephens), for 14 years. They were married in Belmont County, Ohio in April 1896, and they are named in the 1924 City Directory of Bellaire. Ernest died in 1934. Amelia Wagenknecht and son, Edward, apparently died because they are not found after the 1880 census. There is an Edward Bosenberg buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Wheeling, on July 30, 1880. The 1880 census was enumerated on June 1, so it is possible that it is baby Edward.

Matilda Wagenknecht, 19, married Adam Diegel, 24, on December 10, 1878 in Wheeling, Ohio County. They had a daughter, Elizabeth Catherine “Lizzie”, born in 1879. “Mathilda” Diegel, born in Wheeling on June 20, 1860, died of cancer on August 12, 1908. Adam died the following year and both are buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Wheeling. Their daughter, the wife of William Kraft, lived on Ridge Avenue, Mozart; she died in 1961. The surname is also spelled in more recent records as Deagel.

Caroline Wagenknecht, 23, married Henry Rover [also Reiver, Riever, River], 20, in Wheeling, Ohio County, on September 15, 1872 at Caldwell’s Run. Ludwig Wagenknecht gave his consent. Frederick Riever, the father of Henry, also consented.

An article in the *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*, dated October 14, 1873, indicates there were domestic issues between Caroline and Henry.

The circumstances of their relationship are not known but Caroline’s son, William Louis Wagner, was born on June 29, 1879. William’s obituary states his parents as William and Caroline Wagenknecht Wagner, but when he was born, Caroline was still legally married to Henry Reiver. Wagner is the name this family used instead of Wagenknecht in some records. Caroline and Henry were officially divorced in December 1879.

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer
October 14, 1873

A BELLIGERENT BENEDICT.—Henry Reiver appeared before 'Squire Clohan yesterday on complaint of his wife Caroline, who testified that he had frequently assaulted and maltreated her. Henry was put under bonds of \$200 to ensure his good behavior in the future. He was also bonded in the sum of \$200 to appear at the next term of Court and answer to a charge of assault upon his wife, and will be before the police court this morning in charge of a city officer because of creating tumult and disorder. Happiness should reign supreme in the Reiver household hereafter.

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer
December 8, 1879

Caroline Rover vs. Henry Rover. Decree for divorce in favor of plaintiff.

Henry Reiver married Hannah Louisa Nolte, about 1883, according to the 1900 census. She was the widow of Louis Helrigle who died of Typhoid Fever on October 7, 1877 at the age of 24. Hannah and Louis had married in Marshall County in 1875 and had a daughter, Emma, born in 1876. Hannah had four children with Henry Reiver: Henry in 1884, Nellie in 1886, Alma in 1891, and Harry in 1893.

Wheeling, West Virginia, City Directory, 1886

W.

Waddell Hanson E., sec'y (Central Glass Co.), res. 124 14th.
Waddle Wm. H., Dep'y Sheriff Ohio Co.), office 1208 Chapline, residence Elm Grove.
Wade H. J., cooper, residence 62 Zane.
Wade Miss Kate, domestic, works 133 14th.
Waelchli Jacob, calico printer, residence 1219 McColloch.
Wagener August C., cigarmaker, Centre, Fulton, residence same.
Wagener Charles W., cigars and tobacco, 7 16th, residence same.
Wagener David, manuf'r and wholesale dealer in paper, office and warerooms 1321 Main, residence Poorman, Ohio.
Wagener Wm. C., cigarmaker, boards 7 16th.
Wagenknecht Miss Caroline, bds Water, below Marshall Co. line.
Wagenknecht Charles, laborer, boards s. end Water, near Marshall County line.
Wagenknecht Louis, res. s. end Water, near Marshall Co. line.
Waggoner Miss Mary, domestic, works 63 15th.
Wagner August, residence 60 Zane.
Wagner Miss Carrie, boards 13 35th.
Wagner Casper, shipping clerk, residence 144 30th.
Wagner Mrs. Cathrina, (widow) residence 191 18th, 2d story.
Wagner Chris, baker, boards 3724 Jacob.
Wagner Chris F., saloon, 39 18th, residence same.
Wagner Chris F. Jr., boards 39 18th.

Meanwhile, Caroline Wagenknecht, 38, married August Brandt, 34, in Wheeling, Ohio County, on December 11, 1887. They had one child, a daughter, Margaret Pauline Catherine Brandt - "Maggie" - in 1889.

Apparently, Caroline and "Gus" didn't get along and were estranged. August was murdered in Cheboygan, Michigan on September 8, 1894. The murderer committed suicide while in jail.

A news article about the murder states that the murdered man, Gus, "was married to the divorced wife of a man named Reeder, and they [Gus & Caroline] had one child about six years old. They did not get along well and he left her and she returned to Reeder."

Although Henry Reiver was married to Hannah Nolte in 1894, it seems logical that he is the "Reeder" referred to in the news article.

Daily Intelligencer, October 18, 1894

<p>MURDER OF GUS BRANDT.</p> <p>The Story of the Way a Wheeling Man Met his Death.</p> <p>KILLED BY A TRAMP COMPANION.</p> <p>The Brother of Street Superintendent Brandt Killed Near Cheboygan, Mich.—His Head Pounded Beyond Recognition—The Murderer Commits Suicide after he is Locked up in Jail.</p> <p>The INTELLIGENCER on Monday morning exclusively announced the murder of Gus Brandt, a well known Wheeling man, and a brother of Street Superintendent Rudy Brandt, near Cheboygan, Mich., on September 8, and the suicide of the murderer in the Cheboygan jail last Wednesday. The Cheboygan News, just at hand, contains accounts of the affair. No name was known for the victim except Gus, until the INTELLIGENCER discovered his identity last Sunday. The News says:</p> <p>The unfortunate man met his death about 3 1/2 miles north of the city on the line of the Michigan Central railroad, where the woods on both sides come up to the fences along the right-of-way, and the nearest habitation was the farm house of George Sheehy, about a half mile north.</p> <p>The first intimation that the officers had of the terrible crime was when Sheriff Sullivan received a telephone message from the Michigan Central depot about 2:30 Saturday afternoon saying that the switch engine from Mackinaw City had just brought a man in. The man was still breathing when he arrived here, but before Sheriff Sullivan and Dr. Gerow, who was also summoned,</p>	<p>arrived, the poor fellow had breathed his last.</p> <p>The murdered man was brought down on the foot-board of the engine and laid in the shade at the north end of the passenger station, where he was viewed by scores of people.</p> <p>It was a horrible sight, the poor fellow's head being pounded in a terrible manner. The murderer had divested him of all his outer clothing, and as he lay there had on only underclothing and socks. He was removed to Klow's undertaking establishment, where Dr. Gerow made an examination, and found that his skull was fractured in several places and the wounds had evidently been made by some blunt instrument.</p> <p>In about fifteen minutes after the discovery of the murdered man by the crew of the engine, a man came running up the track. When he got up to the engine, he remarked: "Well, they have done him up. That is my chum." When asked how it occurred, he said that he and the murdered man were tramping along the railroad from Cheboygan to Mackinaw City, when they came across two men sitting near the fence. One he describes as being a slim man about six feet tall with a sandy mustache and had on dark clothes, dark hat, and new shoes; he also had on a light shirt fastened in front with a pink lace. The other man was somewhat shorter and quite stout, with black hair and mustache. His clothes were also dark and his vest was very greasy. Taylor, as that is the name the "chum" of the murdered man gives, claims that they went up to where the two men were sitting, when one of them asked for a chew of tobacco. He (Taylor) gave them what he had, and after helping themselves the man with the sandy mustache asked them if they had any money, to which they both replied in the negative. The big one then said you must have money or you couldn't get tobacco, at which he drew a revolver. At this Taylor and the murdered man became frightened and started to run, but before the latter had taken two steps he was felled by a stone in the hands of the big man. Taylor took</p>	<p>to his heels with the other fellow after him. Taylor says he eluded his pursuer by jumping over the fence and disappearing in the woods, from which he emerged, when he heard the train come along and stop. Taylor came down on the engine and assisted in holding the murdered man on the front of the engine. On the arrival of Sheriff Sullivan, he was taken in charge by that officer, and is still confined in the county jail.</p> <p>In the same paper's issue of October 17 is the following: -</p> <p>George V. Taylor, the young man who was confined in the county jail on suspicion of being the murderer of the tramp known as Gus, committed suicide in the county jail last Wednesday afternoon, as briefly told in the News last week. He ended his life by cutting his throat with a razor, which had been given him to shave with, as had been the custom since his incarceration. He was found in the corridor of the jail a few moments after, but never spoke, as his head was nearly covered by the keen blade. Drs. Gerow and St. Amour were immediately called, but life was extinct before they reached the jail.</p> <p>On a stand in the corridor was found a sheet of letter paper, on which was written a letter, in which he acknowledges murdering Gus, but he does not tell the whole story, not even giving the murdered man's full name.</p> <p>The evidence that the murdered man was Gus Brandt, of Wheeling, is complete. He was a clever fellow, well thought of, and his death causes general regret among those who know him.</p>
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GUS BRANDT MURDERED

A Well Known Wheeling Man
Killed in Michigan.

THE MURDERER COMMITS SUICIDE

Leaving a Confession which Leads to the Identification of the Victim by the Intelligencer—His Family Had not Heard from him and had Become Uneasy—Few Details can be Obtained as Yet.

Through information received by the INTELLIGENCER yesterday it has been learned that a well known Wheeling man, August Brandt, was murdered near Cheboygan, Mich., about a month ago. The facts which led to the identification of the man, however, only came to light last Wednesday, when the murderer committed suicide in his cell, leaving a confession, in which he gave all the information he possessed as to the identity of the murdered man.

The murder occurred about three and a half miles from Cheboygan, Mich. The murdered man had a companion, who was arrested on suspicion and sent to jail. Neither man was known at Cheboygan. Last Wednesday the prisoner succeeded in committing suicide by hanging himself in his cell.

He left a confession, in which he gave his own name as George T. Taylor, of Sandusky, Ohio. He said the only name he had ever heard for the murdered man was Gus. He had stripped all the clothing off his victim, but he told where he had hid it, and in one of the pockets of the clothing the dead man had worn was found a scrap of paper on which was written part of a name, "Paul Kulk-", the rest being torn off, but the address, "3925 Wetzol street, Wheeling, W. Va.," followed.

Yesterday afternoon an INTELLIGENCER reporter called at 3925 Wetzol street. The family of Paul Kulkright lives there and Mrs. Kulkright is a sister of

August Brandt who is beyond doubt the man murdered near Cheboygan. His old father lives with Mrs. Kulkright. Rudy Brandt, a well known street superintendent for the board of public works, is a brother of the man, who is well known here, having lived here most of his life. He has since boarded and worked with C. M. McCann, at Hilliard's, Ohio, and later at Muncie, Ind. He was married here to the divorced wife of a man named Reeder, and they had one child, now about six years old. They did not get along well, and he left her, after which she returned to Reeder.

Brandt was home in August. His family has not heard of him since, and as he always wrote regularly before, had become uneasy, and Mrs. Kulkright wrote a day or two ago to Mrs. McCann, at Hilliard's. She and her father and brother have no doubt that the murdered man is her brother.

August
The first news the family received of the sad occurrence was from the INTELLIGENCER. They were greatly shocked, but scarcely surprised, as it had been so long since they heard from him. Mrs. Kulkright said yesterday that when Gus was home he told of being robbed some time before, and he remarked when she cautioned him against another occurrence of the kind, that they would never get another dollar from him.

At the time of the 1900 census, Caroline Wagner, 51, a widow, born January 1849 in Germany & immigrated in 1850, was the head of household and resided in Union District, Marshall County. Her son, William Wagner, 20, born June 1879, was a steel worker. Her daughter, Maggie, born in January 1889, was “at school.” Also in the home was Charles Wagner, 66, the brother of Caroline. He was born in Germany in July 1833, immigrated in 1850, and was a naturalized citizen. He worked as a Day Laborer.

Caroline Wagner Brandt died December 13, 1904 and she is buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Marshall County.



Caroline’s son, **William Louis Wagner**, born June 29, 1879, died of cancer on April 3, 1939. He was a mill worker and lived on Boggs Run, Marshall County. On June 11, 1905, he married Edna Carpenter from Farmington, Marion County, West Virginia. They bought the grocery store property, just down from the Lutheran Church, in 1918. Edna’s brother, “Reggie,” came to Boggs Run and helped run the store. Reggie died suddenly of a heart attack in 1935. Edna Carpenter Wagner also died that year. William Wagner married Lillie Tappe in 1937, and she lived on Boggs Run until her death in 1965.

The “store” as it appeared in 2010.



OBITUARY

**W. L. WAGNER
DIED MONDAY**

**RETIRED BENWOOD MILL
WORKER SUCCEMDED TO
LONG ILLNESS.**

William L. Wagner, 59, retired millworker and a life resident of the Benwood vicinity, died Monday evening at 9:30 o'clock at his home on Boggs Run road, following a year's illness.

Mr. Wagner was born in Benwood, June 29, 1879, a son of the late William and Caroline Wagenknecht Wagner, and was educated in the Benwood schools. He had been employed in the Benwood plant of the Wheeling Steel corporation for many years prior to his retirement in 1924. Mr. Wagner was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran church, Benwood.

Surviving are his wife, Tillie Tappe Wagner; a sister, Mrs. Margaret Weiss, of Wheeling; five nephews and three nieces.

The body was removed by the Belwenger funeral service to the Bertschy Memorial mortuary. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Caroline's daughter, **Margaret "Maggie" Brandt**, married Charles Weiss on June 10, 1908 in Wheeling. William Wagner, Guardian, gave his consent. (William was her half-brother.) Margaret and Charles had four children: May Elizabeth, Charles William, Robert Louis, and Edna Margaret. Maggie died in Flint, Michigan on December 8, 1965 and she is buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling.