

## Notes on Catherine Elisabeth Bernhardt

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### Generation 1

1. **CATHERINE ELISABETH<sup>1</sup> BERNHARDT** was born on November 27, 1829 in Wunderthausen. She died on August 27, 1915 in Crofton, Knox, Nebraska (Beaver View Cemetery). She married (1) **JOHANNES MÖRCHEN**, son of Johann Franz Mörchen and Anna Wilhelmine Althaus, on August 10, 1851 in Wunderthausen. He was born on August 14, 1820 in Wunderthausen. He died in 1877 in Tipton, Cedar, Iowa. She married (2) **CLAUS HEINCHS**, son of Peter Heinchs and Catharina Remer, on November 09, 1882 in Tipton, Cedar Co., Iowa. He was born about 1827.

Notes for Catherine Elisabeth Bernhardt:

Known as Catherine. Born in the house called Schneidemühle in Wunderthausen. Came to America on the ship "Johann Schmidt" out of Bremen, landing in New Orleans on June 1, 1857. After being widowed in 1877, she apparently moved to Wheatland from Cedar County, and then she and several of the children moved to Knox County, Nebraska near Crofton. The children apparently all used the spelling "Merchen." She was living with her son Henry in 1900.

She bore 11 children, 9 of whom were alive in 1900, and 10 of whose names we know. I have seen a listing for a Joseph Merchen born in 1872, but that is the same year as Henry F. was apparently born. Perhaps they were twins. There was no living Joseph in the 1880 Census. Perhaps there are mistakes.

Notes for Johannes Mörchen:

The American spelling of the last varied (Merchen, Merchan, Murchen) though he was more consistently known as John. Born in the house Am Gefälle in Wunderthausen. Came to America on the ship "Johann Schmidt" out of Bremen, landing in New Orleans on June 1, 1857. Information about his children is inconsistent. I have not seen any one definitive source. Before his death, he farmed 120 acres in Cedar County/Springfield Township/Section 13.

Johannes Mörchen and Catherine Elisabeth Bernhardt had the following children:

- i. **INFANT<sup>2</sup> MÖRCHEN** was born on October 27, 1852 in Wunderthausen. Infant died on October 27, 1852 in Wunderthausen.
- ii. **JOHANN GEORG MÖRCHEN** was born on December 10, 1853 in Wunderthausen. He died before 1920 in Probably Colorado. He married (1) **CAROLINA WETTER**, daughter of Johann Georg Wetter and Sophia Müller, on July 19, 1882 in Glidden, Carroll, Iowa. She was born on November 13, 1862 in Sherrill, Dubuque, Iowa. She died on October 08, 1882 in Glidden, Carroll, Iowa. He married (2) **ELIZA FORD** on September 13, 1876 in Carroll County, Iowa. She was born in May 1857 in Indiana. He married (3) **ALICE FLOY IRWIN**, daughter of James Henry Irwin and Martha Jane Robinson, on July 25, 1883 in Sac, Iowa. She was born about 1861 in Ohio. She died after 1930 in Probably Colorado.

Notes for Johann Georg Mörchen:

He was known as George Merchen. Born in the house known as Am Gefälle in Wunderthausen. Came to America on the ship "Johann Schmidt" out of Bremen, landing in New Orleans on June 1, 1857 with his family. Caroline (Wetter) died shortly after they were married. After marrying Alice, they moved on to Denver, Colorado where he was a carpenter.

- iii. **LUDWIG HEINRICH MÖRCHEN** was born on February 25, 1856 in Wunderthausen. He died before 1870.

Notes for Ludwig Heinrich Mörchen:

Born in the house "Am Gefälle" in Wunderthausen. Came to America on the ship "Johann Schmidt" out of Bremen, landing in New Orleans on June 1, 1857. Nothing more is known.

- iv. **J. FRANCIS MÖRCHEN** was born in April 1858 in Cedar County, Iowa. He died on May 03, 1922 in Crofton, Knox, Nebraska (Crofton Cemetery). He married Katherine Van Meter, daughter of Thomas Van Meter and Elizabeth Ann Kinkaid, in 1897 in Knox County, Nebraska. She was born on August 27, 1878 in Shelby County, Indiana. She died on March 17, 1927 in Nebraska.

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## Generation 1 (cont.)

Notes for J. Francis Mörchen:

As of 1920 they were living with her father at Crofton. Also known as Frank and as Merchen.

- v. SUSANNA MÖRCHEN was born on April 07, 1860 in Cedar County, Iowa. She died on August 11, 1948 in Moore, Cleveland, Oklahoma (Smith Cemetery, Moore). She married Johann Georg Riedesel, son of Georg Gabriel Riedesel and Elisabeth Amalia Knoche, in Clinton, Iowa. He was born on November 27, 1844 in Wunderhausen. He died on December 18, 1932 in Moore, Cleveland, Oklahoma (Smith Cemetery, Moore).

Notes for Susanna Mörchen:

She was in the first generation of Wunderthäuser born in America. Though her widowed mother and younger siblings moved on to Nebraska, I believe she lived around Wheatland before marrying George D. Riedesel.

Notes for Johann Georg Riedesel:

Known as George D. Born in Schreiners/Grosseludwigs Haus, Wunderhausen. Arrived in New York on the ship Hansa out of Bremen on October 27, 1865 (Captain H.J. Von Santen). He first lived on the farm of his brother John near Wheatland after coming to the US. Later he owned and farmed land with his other brothers, Louis D. and Henry D. Riedesel. Around 1900, he and his wife moved to Moore, Oklahoma. His tombstone is engraved with the birth date of November 27, 1844 (at odds with the birth record in Wunderhausen) and death date of December 21 (at odds with his death certificate).

Two sons and a daughter, Adele (known as Della), all unmarried, lived on the family farm.

- vi. LOUIS MÖRCHEN was born on May 03, 1862 in Cedar County, Iowa. He died on June 26, 1936 in Rapid City, Pennington, South Dakota. He married Anna McKee, daughter of William J. McKee and Hannah Leona Wells, on July 07, 1890 in Wayne, Custer, Nebraska. She was born on November 19, 1872 in Wheatland, Clinton, Iowa. She died on April 13, 1954 in Rapid City, Pennington, South Dakota.

Notes for Louis Mörchen:

Some family referred to him as "Louis Zeke" Merchen.

Notes for Anna McKee:

Bore six children by 1900, five of whom were alive. One source says she had 13 children in all. Her son Harry's obituary refers to twelve deceased siblings, and one who was still alive in 2003 (making 14, including the nameless infant).

- vii. JOHN MÖRCHEN was born on May 02, 1864 in Cedar County, Iowa. He died on July 14, 1959 in Fresno, California (Belmont Memorial Park). He married Rebecca Mayer, daughter of Gottlieb Jakob Mayer and Justina Litau, about 1896 in Naper, Nebraska, USA. She was born on May 07, 1878 in Russia. She died on November 19, 1966 in Fresno, California (Belmont Memorial Park).

Notes for John Mörchen:

As of 1910 he was a retail merchant and living next to his cousin Henry Fred in the Basin township of Boyd County, NE.

Notes for Rebecca Mayer:

Came to America in 1893.

- viii. KATHRYN MÖRCHEN was born on November 15, 1865 in Cedar County, Iowa. She died on July 25, 1913 in Knox County, Nebraska. She married Adolph Schaller on October 13, 1887 in Audubon, Iowa. He was born in October 1856 in Minnesota. He died on February 07, 1930 in Knox County, Nebraska (Bloomfield Cemetery).

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### Generation 1 (cont.)

- ix. PHILIP HENRY MÖRCHEN was born on June 05, 1868 in Cedar County, Iowa. He died on May 23, 1944 in Crofton, Knox, Nebraska (Beaver View Cemetery). He married (1) DORA ANGIE MCKEE on February 07, 1893 in Crofton, Knox, Nebraska. She was born in March 1873 in Redfield, MN. She died on December 31, 1962 in Creighton, Knox, Nebraska. He married (2) DORA MERCHEN. She was born about 1872 in Nebraska.

Notes for Philip Henry Mörchen:

1900 Census gives his year of birth as 1868 and the 1880 Census implies the same. However, his grave in the Beaverview Cemetery gives it as 1865 (or has been transcribed incorrectly). May have been known as John at some point.

- x. CHARLES ERNEST FREDERICK MÖRCHEN was born on August 16, 1870 in Cedar County, Iowa. He died on August 03, 1944 in Marsland, Dawes, Nebraska. He married Matilda Ulrika Hammerback on December 19, 1895 in Niobrara, Knox, Nebraska. She was born on March 17, 1878 in Rock Island, Rock Island, Illinois. She died on February 05, 1972 in Denver, Colorado.

Notes for Matilda Ulrika Hammerback:

The 1900 Census says that she had borne four children, three of whom were living. However, only John and an unnamed daughter are enumerated. May have been known as Lila.

- xi. HENRY FREDRICK MÖRCHEN was born on November 15, 1872 in Cedar County, Iowa. He died in 1936 in Norman, Cleveland, Oklahoma (Smith Cemetery, Moore). He married (1) UNKNOWN about 1894. She was born in Norway. She died before 1900. He married (2) MAUDE MAY RICHARDSON on August 27, 1907 in Butte, Nebraska, USA. She was born about 1886 in Nebraska. She died about 1922.

Notes for Henry Fredrick Mörchen:

Known as Henry Merchen (or even Merchant). Appears to have been widowed by 1900. The Census shows him living with his daughter and mother. In 1910 he had a young wife, Maud, and a child living with them. His name is listed as "Ray Richardson" and I suspect this was a step-son. This was at Basin, Boyd County, Nebraska.

Notes for Claus Heinchs:

There are a very other instances of the Heinchs name but I strongly suspect this is a misspelling. I can find no other trace of Claus or his parents as named in the 1882 marriage record.