

CHARLES EDWARD GRUNOW

Pioneer, Civil War Veteran, and Astronomical
Instrument Maker who started the GRUNOW
emigration to America in 1848.

CHARLES EDWARD GRUNOW, (1828-1905) second son of KARL
GOTTFRIED FERDINAND GRUNOW, was the first of the GRUNOWS,
included in this history, to leave Berlin and come to
America.

Born July 19, 1828 CHARLES, like his brothers JULIUS
and WILLIAM, received a good education in Germany and
became maker of philosophical and astronomical instruments
like his father and brothers. He reached New York City in
May 1848 and his example was soon followed by other members
of the family, JULIUS GRUNOW being the next of the family
to come here.

After having been employed in New York City, CHARLES GRUNOW,
after his brothers JULIUS and WILLIAM and their father had
moved to New Haven, proceeded in 1854 to Canastota, New York,
where he went to work for Charles A. Spencer, an optician
of considerable prominence.

By the time the Civil War broke out in April, 1861, CHARLES
GRUNOW had established his own optical business in Canastota
with a partner.

President Lincoln's call for troops to save the Union aroused
CHARLES GRUNOW'S enthusiasm and he was among the first to
respond. He became Captain of Company E of the 101st New
York Volunteers. Gov. E. D. Morgan of New York gave him his

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WILLIAM GRUNOW AND HIS DESCENDANTS

WILLIAM GRUNOW, the last of KARL GOTTFRIED FERDINAND'S children to wed, married Miss MARIA WILLIS, of Wimbledon, England, in New Haven, on April 6, 1859. He had become acquainted with her while she was his neighbor in New Haven, to which city WILLIAM GRUNOW'S brother, JULIUS A. E. GRUNOW, had moved in the latter part of 1853.

Miss WILLIS, who was born Oct. 18, 1830, was living with a friend in New Haven, when she met her future husband. Both this friend and WILLIAM GRUNOW'S mother had favored the match and had, in their quiet way, conspired to facilitate the courtship.

But it was a love match too, and the union that crowned the brief courtship in New Haven was unmarred by strife or dissension and made joyous two lives that seemed to be most happily matched and beautifully suited to each other.

WILLIAM GRUNOW, after his arrival in this country from Berlin in 1850, and after a short stay at Benjamin Pike's optical works, 166 Broadway, New York, had associated himself in business with his elder brother, JULIUS, who was also an optician. In New Haven JULIUS and WILLIAM were in business jointly for several years, and then conducted business separately.

Later on WILLIAM GRUNOW returned to New York City and resumed business there while he lived in New York, or in Hoboken, or in College Point. When Columbia College was still located on the old site at Madison Ave. and 50th St., New York, WILLIAM GRUNOW became optician for that institution and conducted his

shop in one of the buildings of that university. He lived on east 51st Street, north side, just east of Park Ave. about this time.

It was while Mr. GRUNOW was stationed at Columbia College that he became acquainted with General Peter Smith Michie who in 1871 had been appointed Professor of Philosophy at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. Gen. Michie induced Mr. GRUNOW in 1884 to come to West Point. There he was placed in charge of work connected with the Observatory and the astronomical department of the Academy. A residence was built for him by the Government on the brow of the mountain overlooking West Point and in close proximity with the Observatory which had been reared just below Fort Putnam, alongside the reservoir. Gen. Michie whose interest in Mr. GRUNOW had turned the latter's steps to West Point died in 1901. Mrs. GRUNOW died August 20, 1905 after a brief illness. In the beautiful cemetery at West Point a tombstone covered with ivy and cared for for many years by a loving husband bears this simple inscription:

Maria Willis
wife of
William Grunow
born Oct. 18 - 1830
at Wimbledon, England
died August 20 - 1905
at West Point, N. Y.

In 1917 Mrs. GRUNOW'S husband was buried alongside her grave.

In the West Point Cemetery near the GRUNOW plot is the tombstone over the grave of the man who had induced WM. GRUNOW to locate in West Point. The tombstone has this inscription:

JULIUS A. E. GRUNOW COMES TO AMERICA

FOLLOWS HIS BROTHER CHARLES TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1849 -

RECORDS HIS FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE NEW WORLD -

THE VOYAGE OF THE HIRAM

JULIUS Adolf Eberhard Grunow, who followed his brother CHARLES to New York in 1849 and who was the second GRUNOW to come to America, was born in the home of his father, KARL GOTTFRIED FERDINAND GRUNOW, in Berlin, March 22, 1822. He secured a good education and made a commendable record in Herr. Blentz's school in Berlin.

One of his early desires was to study theology and become a clergyman, but his uncle, Rev. Mr. GRUNOW, who was pastor of the Jerusalem Church in Berlin, advised against such a course, and the young man was induced to change his mind.

Then he had an idea that the artillery branch of the military service would be to his liking, and he made preparations to join that department of the Prussian army, his hope being to become identified with the ordnance bureau. He went thru a course of special study and even secured part of the necessary outfit when, to his great dismay, he was rejected by the examining official on the ground of physical objections.

It was then that young GRUNOW decided to become an optician like his father, and he proceeded to learn that business thoroughly. In 1840, at the age of 18, JULIUS GRUNOW left home to see something of Germany. He tramped thru Saxony and also visited Switzerland. He expected to secure employment

He returned home and resumed work in Berlin, only to start out on another journey in 1842. This time he made a tour of Hessen and stayed awhile in Cassel, where he found employment. He also was located for a time at Breithaupt. During these tours GRUNOW explored some of the beautiful sections of Germany and increased his store of practical knowledge considerably. He journeyed many miles on foot, viewing the delightful country by day and stopping over night in wayside inns.

In July 1849 he left home once more, this time to journey to the United States for which his republican ideas had made him long. His younger brother CHARLES had left for New York in May of the same year. It was in July, 1849, that JULIUS GRUNOW left his home in 50 Kommandanten Strasse, Berlin, and started for Bremen where it had been planned to embark for the new world. He arranged to sail on a sailing vessel on which passage had been engaged thru the agency of Pokram & Co., but a blockade at Bremen made it necessary to sail from Leer and under a Russian flag instead of under the Prussian ensign. Leer is on the Ems river, while Bremen is on the Weser. The blockade at Bremen was due to the war then going on between Germany and Denmark over Schleswig-Holstein - a war that ended in Schleswig being added to Germany. This change of plan caused a delay and GRUNOW had time to visit the East Friesland section and become acquainted with Bremen, Oldenburg, Falkenburg, and other places in this western corner of Germany before the ship Hiram finally set sail about August 2nd with Captain Grabau in command. The vessel reached New York September 21, 1849 after a seven weeks trip.

In a letter written by JULIUS GRUNOW October 5th, 1849 to his father KARL GRUNOW in Berlin, Mr. GRUNOW gave this description of his voyage and arrival in New York:

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICA

"On September 21st at eight o'clock in the morning we saw the first outlines of America, the coast of New Jersey. At about 2 o'clock in the afternoon we were about 200 ft. from the Staten Island shore, and a beautiful view was afforded of the land, covered with oak and beech trees, dotted with many villas and large dwellings, and with here and there a factory. Greater than all was the thought in my mind that these were the homes and habitations of free citizens and only free citizens, and that no nobleman or prince was living here in castles or mansions at the expense of poor, half starved workmen, toiling by the sweat of their brows. This thought moved me so mightily that I confess tears gathered in my eyes.

As we finally at four o'clock approached New York City by steamboat and caught sight of the formidable fortifications protecting the harbor, I was filled with admiration and wonder, and I was seized with a desire to become a part of this great commonwealth, controlled and governed by free citizens.

At four o'clock, or rather 4:30 o'clock I stepped from the Staten Island ferryboat and set foot on American soil. We walked in company with our Captain, thru Battery Park, passed Castle Garden, and walked along the North River shore to the tavern Zum Hambacher Schloss on Liberty Street. After we had refreshed ourselves here I went with Mr. Mertens to hunt up brother Charles (who had come to America a few months before) but we were unable to locate him that evening because Charles had not given his address entirely correctly to Mr. Kaufmann. After awhile we were led to a tavern where I learned that Charles, according to the proprietor, had his noon day meals regularly. As I now felt certain of meeting Charles the next day, we returned for the night to our quarters in Liberty Street. In the evening I accidentally met Mr. Burich who lives diagonally across the street on Greenwich Street. As the charge in the Liberty Street place was fifty cents a day for board and lodging, and as I regarded that too high a price, I devoted the next day, or rather forenoon, to an effort to hunt up a more suitable boarding place, while Mr. Mertens returned to the ship Hiram to look after our baggage. I soon found a new boarding house, where I secured board and lodging at \$2.50 a week, and I am provided for in a way far more satisfactory than we are accustomed to have things in Germany. Charles is now living here with me since last Friday. We have both one room.

At noon on the day following my arrival I went to the designated place where I met Charles, who was naturally very glad to see me. The first six days I did not look for employment at all because I wanted to get an idea of the ways and

I also wanted if possible to learn a little English. I had decided not to apply to Germans (in seeking employment). My first trip in search of employment was on Sept. 28th, when I went to Pike & Son, 166 Broadway, and there I applied for work in English, and I spoke English in a way that must have made the angels in Heaven laugh. But I accomplished my mission, for I was engaged at once, and since last Monday I have been working there.

I have found conditions here just as I pictured them to myself. Things are here as they would be in Germany if the people there would exercise more common sense, and if they were allowed to rule themselves. Here, without severe laws or stern regulations, the people live in liberty, which we daily learn to value more highly, and there is order and peace and business prosperity here to an extent that we know not in Germany."

Under the same date, October 5, 1849, Mr. GRUNOW advised his relatives in Berlin to learn English and to learn it as quickly as possible in anticipation of their coming to America.

Concerning the voyage to America, JULIUS GRUNOW wrote:

"Our voyage was, on the whole, a pretty comfortable one. We did not have one real storm. So in spite of contrary winds, we were able to keep our course. Seasickness did not bother me at all, excepting one half day on which occasion I forced vomiting by sticking my finger down my throat. The Captain had told us that a good vomiting would do us good. The thought of danger on the ocean vanished as soon as we stepped on the ship, and I must confess that I consider an ocean voyage much safer than a trip by railroad. Our ship was a pretty small one. Its length from bow to stern was 85 feet, while its greatest width was 20 feet. But the ship proved a fine sailer. We easily passed other sailing vessels going in our direction."

MORE ARRIVE FROM GERMANY

In 1850 more GRUNOWS, attracted by the accounts of the pioneers, came to New York.

In the GRUNOW party of that year were the parents, KARL GOTTFRIED FERDINAND GRUNOW and his wife, and their youngest son, WILLIAM, their daughters, PAULINE, OTTILIE, and MATTHILDE, and MATTHILDE'S husband, THEODORE HEINTZMAN of Berlin and this couple's three children, ANNA LOUISE, who later on married CHARLES BENDER, and MARY and CHARLES, who died in infancy. This party reached Pier 8, foot of Rector St., New York, North River, in the brig Perseverance on May 18, 1850, after a voyage of seven weeks. It was by no means an easy voyage. The passengers often endured great hardships. When the ship Perseverance brought these members of the GRUNOW family, JULIUS and CHARLES, who had been in New York since the year before, had prepared for the combined GRUNOW family a home which JULIUS had rented for them on Vestry Street near Hudson Street, New York. The apartments were in a house on the north side of Vestry Street, a few yards from Hudson St.

In close proximity on the east side of Greenwich Street on the same square, near Vestry Street, the HEINTZMANS located.

Vestry Street at that time was considered a little up-town. The Hudson River was only two blocks to the west, and from the foot of Vestry Street a good view of Jersey City and Hoboken could be obtained, while West Hoboken on the Heights behind Hoboken stood out in bold relief.

AMERICA IN 1850

When the GRUNNOWS came to the United States in 1849 and 1850, the war with Mexico had just ended in the triumph of American arms, and much territory had been added to the United States. The slavery question which was to precipitate the Civil War in 1861 was looming up ominously and was the theme of stirring debates in Congress and out of it. Gold had been discovered in California late in the autumn of 1848 and was causing many to emigrate to the new gold fields on the Pacific coast. The first Atlantic cable had not yet been laid. Steamships crossed the Atlantic Ocean but only in limited numbers, and thousands of immigrants were coming over every week in sailing vessels, often amid indescribable hardships and suffering.

The presidential election of 1848 had resulted in the election of "Old Rough and Ready" Zachary Taylor of Mexican War fame for President and Millard Fillmore for Vice President. They had been the candidates of the Whig Party. It had been an exciting canvass with the Democratic Party divided and wrenched by factional strife so serious as to cause the nomination of a so-called Free Soil Party ticket, with Martin VanBuren for President, and Charles Francis Adams for Vice President. This ticket, while it received the support of many old Abolitionists, Anti-Slavery Whigs, and Barnburners, or Anti-Slavery Democrats, was not able to affect the Whig ticket disastrously, especially when Daniel Webster, Horace Greeley, William Seward, and Thurlow Weed were ardent in their advocacy of Taylor and suspicious as to the anti-slavery sentiments of VanBuren.

presidential and vice presidential candidates who went down to defeat before Taylor and Fillmors. Taylor died in 1850 while the slavery question was becoming more serious and Fillmore became President.

JULIUS GRUNOW had hardly been in America a month when on October 3, 1849, he renounced his allegiance to the King of Prussia and in the court of Common Pleas in New York City, took out his first papers, thereby announcing his intention to become an American citizen. On October 29, 1850 he became a full fledged citizen of the United States, and secured his papers from clerk Alfred H. Terry, of the Superior Court in New Haven where the GRUNOWS were living at that time.

From the very outset JULIUS GRUNOW was an emphatic opponent of slavery. The Republican Party which came upon the scene as the successor to the Whig Party in 1856, and which in that year nominated John C. Fremont for President, had Mr. GRUNOW among its humble but staunch supporters. He voted the Republican ticket for a generation thereafter.

The New York that the GRUNOWS saw when they landed in the United States was a city far different from what it is now. The populated section was all in the lower end below Canal Street. Stages took travelers from the vicinity of the City Hall to the uptown sections above Fourteenth Street. It was almost a days journey to go to Harlem and return. Broadway, Pearl, and Wall Streets were among the noted thoroughfares. The village of Greenwich was located in the vicinity of West Eleventh Street. Chelsea village was bounded by what is now 8th Ave. on the east, the North River on the west and 19th and 24th Streets on the south and north respectively. The Bloomingdale Road was one of the highways lead-

ing from the City to the north. The Boston Post road coincided largely with what is now Third Ave. Yorkville was a section at Seventy-fifth Street on the east side. The region north of Yorkville was known as Harlem. The historical old Middle Dutch Church which, during the Revolutionary War was desecrated by the British soldiers who used it as a riding school, had been acquired by the Federal Government in 1844 and was used as the New York Post Office. It was located in Nassau St. The Government employed 76 people and thought it was doing a big postal business. The old church subsequently gave way to the march of progress and the massive new building opposite the City Hall became the New York Post Office building.

There were no horsecar lines, no elevated railroads, no subways, and no telephone service. Automobiles had not been dreamed of even by the most progressive.

At 32 Reade Street, New York, JULIUS GRUNOW and his brother CHARLES had found their first boarding place after their arrival from Germany.

JULIUS A. E. GRUNOW while employed by Benjamin Pike & Son, opticians, worked in the Pikes shop and store at what was then 166 Broadway, New York.

JULIUS A. E. GRUNOW

WEDS

ADELHEID RICHTER

GRUNOWS starting wedded life in Brooklyn, are led to New Haven, back to New York, then to College Point, back to New York then to Hackensack. The lives of their children were shaped by interesting episodes.

Before he started for America, JULIUS GRUNOW, in Berlin, had become acquainted with ADELHEID RICHTER, born in Nordhausen, Saxony, a daughter of Lebegott Leberecht Richter, who had fought in the Prussian army against Napoleon in the latter days of the Napoleonic era. The Richters and the GRUNOWS, while residents of Berlin, had formed quite a friendship. The children, nearly all adults, intervisited frequently.

Little did Miss ADELHEID RICHTER dream, when JULIUS GRUNOW left Germany in 1849, that she was destined to come to America too before long and become the wife of Mr. GRUNOW.

ADELHEID RICHTER had emigrated from Berlin with her father and her youngest brother, Moritz. The Richters stopped for a time with the GRUNOWS, who were then living in Brooklyn, and subsequently established their own home, Miss Richter having secured employment as a milliner at Isaacson's on Division Street in New York. Miss Richter was a favorite with the elder GRUNOWS who loved her for her gracious ways and who had a part in promoting the friendship which had sprung up between JULIUS GRUNOW and Miss RICHTER. In due time they became engaged.

In a letter written by the bride-elect a short time before her marriage to JULIUS GRUNOW, she wrote thus to her prospective

sister-in-law, PAULINE GRUNOW, later to become Mrs. Stradtman;

"Now, dear Pauline, the latest news is that March the 19th is to be our wedding day. We had first decided to be married in May, but as Mrs. Dettman has moved to Hoboken where she has found a very suitable dwelling, and as there is no obstacle in our way, I have decided to go to business this week for the last time. I can hardly tell you how glad I am, and I only wish that you and your dear husband could visit us and be here. Today we secured the furniture and you ought to see our pretty iron bedstead and look at our nice rooms. One has one window, and the other has two windows, they are lovely large rooms. My dear Pauline, Julius would like to have written a few lines to you but you must excuse my dear boy. He is very busy as you may well imagine."

The wedding took place in Grace Episcopal Church on Columbia Heights in Brooklyn on the afternoon of March 19, 1853. The marriage ceremony was solemnized in the presence of a limited number of relatives and friends. The Rector of the Church, Rev. Dr. Francis Vinton officiated. He was assisted by the Assistant to the Rector, John J. Elmendorf. The witnesses were CARL GRUNOW, C. R. Gillman, L. Richter, WILLIAM GRUNOW and a Dettmann. After the ceremony the newly married couple and relatives went to the home of the GRUNOWS at 54 Pacific Street between Smith and Booraem Streets in Brooklyn, where the happy couple received the congratulations of their well wishers. There also the wedding supper was served. JULIUS GRUNOW had rented two rooms for himself and bride and the newly wedded pair started housekeeping in these humble apartments. JULIUS GRUNOW'S father and his family occupied other parts of the Pacific Street house. JULIUS and his brother WILLIAM regularly went to work in Pike's place in New York.

From Brooklyn the GRUNOWS in November 1853 moved to New Haven, where JULIUS and WILLIAM had been lead to believe that the professors of Yale College and leading physicians in Connecticut would prove good customers for their optical business. JULIUS GRUNOW first moved to Olive St., New Haven, then to

State St. near East Rock, and later to Chapel Street.

Five children were born in New Haven, including: OGDEN, the first born, EMMA and ADELHEID. One son, MAX, and one daughter, EMMA, died when very young.

From New Haven JULIUS and his family in 1859, after the death of his father CARL GRUNOW, and the dissolution of his partnership with his brother WILLIAM, moved back to New York where he established his family in the Yorkville section at 80th Street and Third Ave. while he carried on his business further down town in 15th Street. After a time the family lived on Fourth Ave. between 26th and 27th Streets.

The Civil War came in 1861 and later the GRUNOWS lived at the southwest corner of Fourth Ave. and 30th Street. This was about 1863.

After the Civil War, Moritz Richter, Mrs. GRUNOW'S youngest brother, who had fought in that conflict on the Union side, and who had been in business for a time in Philadelphia, went to College Point, L. I. and found employment in a rubber factory in that place. He had been attracted to that village by the factory and the prospects of steady employment which was not always to be had in those years of business depression following the Civil War. Mr. Richter was able to hold a good position in the rubber factory and he liked the place so well that he decided to locate permanently there. He invested in land near the Long Island Sound shore front and sold this subsequently to Mr. Poppenhusen, one of College Point's greatest benefactors, who made the newly acquired land the site for the Poppenhusen Institute, an institution where there was provided a kindergarten for children and evening school and other advantages which the public was free to enjoy.

In the summer of 1863, Moritz Richter, who lived in College Point, induced his sister, Mrs. GRUNOW, to spend part of the summer at his home. She liked it in College Point so much and secured so much benefit from the bathing in Long Island Sound that JULIUS GRUNOW moved his family to College Point soon after. They moved to Mr. Braun's house and later lived in the house owned by a Mr. Bonnewitz, on Thirteenth Street.

There on Sunday afternoon, August 2nd, 1868, JULIUS GRUNOW'S son, JULIUS, was born. The family later on moved to Funke's house, and there the twin sister, LAURA and CLARA, were born Nov. 7, 1870. Finally the family moved to Buschkiel's house.

In 1875 the family moved back to New York. ADELHEID GRUNOW had begun to learn the milliners trade at Madame Galoupeau's at 53 East 10th St., New York. She was about fifteen years old at the time and for her convenience she boarded at the house of her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Jeannette Richter, who, at that time a widow, lived in Hoboken. OGDEN, the eldest child of the GRUNOWS had by this time, after attending the College of the City of New York, then located at Lexington Ave. & 23rd St., New York, begun his business career as bookkeeper and salesman.

It was partly to accommodate these older children and to relieve Mr. GRUNOW of the necessity of long daily journeys that the GRUNOWS moved to New York City and located at 336 East 30th Street. Soon after they moved next door to number 338.

When the GRUNOW children moved from the outdoor rural life of College Point on Long Island to the restricted gardenless apartment in East 30th Street, New York, the boy JULIUS was almost heart broken. He threw himself on the bed and wept bitterly.