

The stony path to prosperity and freedom.

Family

Pankrätius Boll & Veronika Jehle

from Riedern a. W.

—
the story of a

German refugee family

from the middle of the 19th century

an inquiry by
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1.1 edition

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Only gone!

To begin with, what made the young couple in their 5th year of marriage turn their backs on the Southern Black Forest with their three children is not mentioned in any of the documents that have appeared so far. It was taken for granted in this country in the middle of the 19th century, to leave behind the misery of rural poverty or political bondage by following the auspicious call to the West, which, constitutionally guaranteed, promised the inalienable right to life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness. However, if one studies the circumstances of the couple living in Riedern am Wald before emigrating to the „New World“ and considers the historical background of that time, it becomes clear beyond doubt that the family was forced to leave from both, poverty and from the bondage of the Grand Duchy of Baden.



Abb. 2: Battle of Kandern 1848

Source: Wikipedia

When Pankrätius Boll and Veronika Jehle founded a family in 1849 with their marriage, the „Badische Revolution“, which was to win democracy and equal rights, was just failing in the Grand Duchy. A few years later, the last optimistic hopes that even the failed revolution could bring about noticeable reforms were replaced by a disillusionment. If, as already mentioned, the documents never expressly refer to an escape from political tutelage, they still report, as this research will show, the opposite, a flaming commitment in the democracy of the new homeland, the USA.

Despite the lack of direct evidence of economic reasons for flight, can be seen here by reading between the lines and the consideration of the economic conditions in the home country that this young family from this secluded place in the Grand Duchy had no real perspective to live in reasonably decent economic conditions. Although the Grand Duchy prospered in the course of industrialization, this increase in wealth was far from finding its way into the out of the way corners¹ of the country. Neither to the learned breadwinning nor to legacies of their ancestors, the couple could make any economic hopes.

¹ The road through the „Schlüchtal“, Schlücht-Valley, had reached Riedersteg not until the early 1870s, when the Boll family had already achieved considerable wealth in the United States.

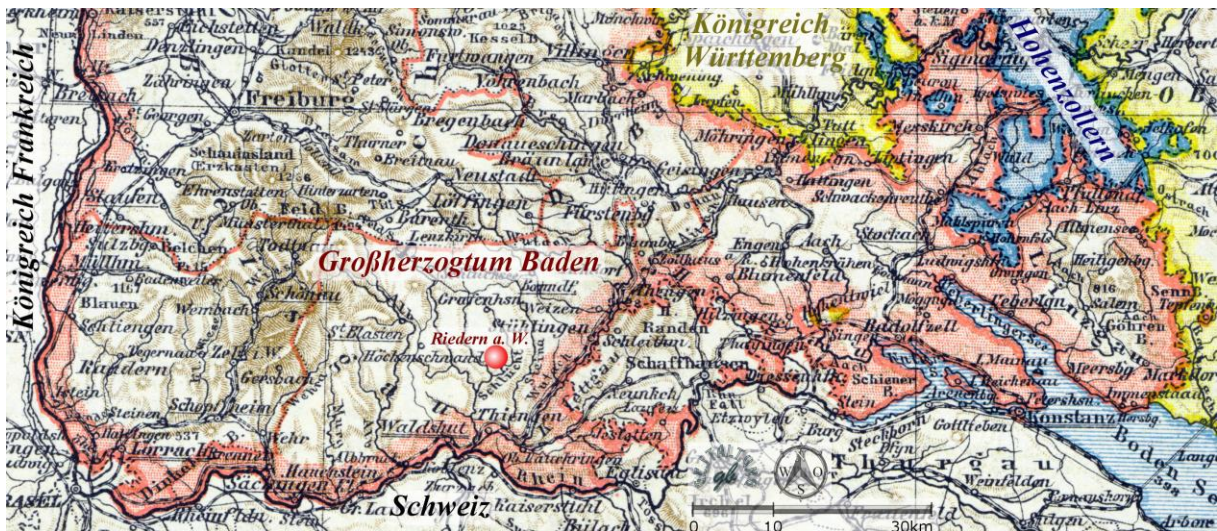


Abb. 3: Location of Riedern a. W. in the Grand Duchy of Baden; The map section shows southern Baden with the Kingdom of France in the west, the Kingdom of Württemberg and Lake Constance in the east, Switzerland in the south and in northeast Kingdom of Württemberg and Hohenzollern. Source: Base map: Brockhaus, 14. edition.

Origin and family circumstances

Feudal state and monarchy

Both spouses came from families in Riedern am Wald(at the forest). A place that at the time of their birth for over 20 years had become a part of the extensively sovereign state of Baden, a Grand Duchy of Napoleon's² Grace, by exchange with the Kingdom of Württemberg. The parents of the spouses were born into quite different political circumstances. The male ancestors from the Pankrätius lineage had been resident in Riedern for three generations, a place that would have had almost formed an enclave in the area of the St-Blasien dominion Bonndorf if it

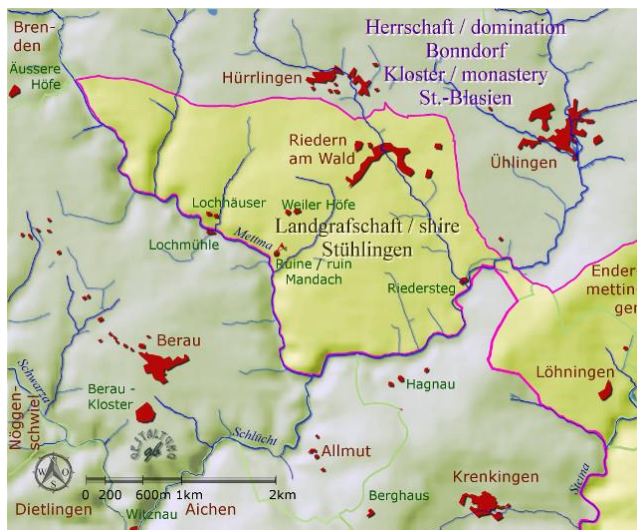


Abb. 4: Riedern am Wald and surroundings - territorial conditions before 1803. Source: own graphic

would not have had a narrow passage through the Emishart forest above Riedersteg to the fürstenberg-stühlingischen village Löhningen. The great-great-grandfather, paternal, of Pankrätius came from Aichen, i.e. the dominion Bonndorf, where he married Helene Amman von Riedern in 1688 and, usually after obtaining the Manumissions³ permission from the feudal lord, here also sovereign, and pay the due transfer fee, relocated in the stühlingisch abroad to Riedern am Wald.

Lorenz Jehle the father of the wife was still born in Brenden, dominion

² Napoleon had initially intended this area to the Kingdom of Württemberg, here too a king of Napoleon's Grace, which took his gain of area for about half a year formally in possession and then offered it to make round the newly formed states.

³ Change of the place of living to an other dominion.

Bonndorf, but when he married into the in Riedern resident family Schildknecht, both places were already absorbed in the Grand Duchy and a certain freedom of movement was guaranteed.

Economic circumstances

In order to get an idea of the economic situation of the couple and their parents, one must know how the asset structure in the young Grand Duchy was represented. At the time of feudalism, there was virtually no private property in land. In the local villages, there was usually a handful of "Bauern". As "Bauer" the farmers were called, what they would be called today, who had the absolute largest part of the agricultural village area, which they managed with a certain number of servants. This right of use was usually guaranteed with entail certificate and came closest to the concept of ownership of today. These farmers were very wealthy compared to the rest of the village population. A "Bauern"-family, the Kromer family, was sitting at the Weilerhof in Riedern am Wald at the time of our emigration couple. This family became known through one of their sons, Dorus Kromer⁴, who also translated to the United States at the time of the emigration of the Boll family, but these drove the adventurous and not the economic hardship to the New World.

The domestics of a farmer family, farmhands and maidservants, were socially not allowed and economically not able to found a family. The village population, who did not belong to a farmer family, usually had to earn something with a craft or work as a day laborer. Both purchases were not sufficient, so that these families had to maintain small-scale farms on land leased mostly by the feudal lord, in order to produce the essentials for survival. These peasants or sideline farmers were called "Thauner" or "Dauner".

In the transition of the feudal economy to the Grand Duchy of Baden, the feudal fief conditions were converted into property, whereby most inhabitants from serfs became "citizens", but the unequal distribution of wealth was transferred unchanged into the new political system.

The parents of our emigrant family definitely did not belong to the wealthy families. The father of Veronika, Lorenz Jehle, was master glazier, who would have benefited from the industrialization, if it would have arrived in Riedern and not have confined to the Rhine Valley. But from a predominantly poor population with glazing could not be achieved any wealth. In addition, the family of the bride had usually "ransomed" with a dowry from any further monetary responsibility for the future of the daughter's family. Finally, the family Jehle had to marry off two daughters and three sons.

The breadwinner of our emigrant family also comes from very modest financial circumstances. His ancestors holded, since they were married from Aichen to Riedern, one of the two "Lochhäuser" above the mill "Lochmühle" in the Mettma valley. In the church books, the father of Pankratius Boll, Johannes (John), is referred to as a "Thauner", where nowhere a craft as a sideline is specified. A thauner who did not do any crafts could only have worked as a day laborer to get through a family. A possible indication of the precarious economic conditions of the Boll family is the high infant mortality rate. Pankratius was the only surviving

⁴ The travelogues of Dorus Kromer were published by his son, Heinrich, in the book „Die Amerikafahrt - Aus dem Goldgräberjahren eines Schwarzwälder Bauernsohnes.“(The America Journey - From the gold digging years of a Black Forest farmer's son). (See website www.G-Boll.de - german only).

of three children from his father's first marriage to the biological mother Liberata⁵ Weigerle. His half-brother, Ferdinand, from his second marriage to Helene Amman, the daughter of the teacher of Mauchen, also fell victim to infant mortality.

Now that it has become clear that Pankratius was the sole heir to the parental estate, there is still the question of whether this could not have been at least an economically satisfactory starting capital? But here, too, can be out of the badisch land register, which began about the birth of our protagonists, for similar properties hold the following: On the one hand, the ownership of a family was synonymous with pensions. Anyone who took over a real estate property always had to guarantee the owners pensions, which means that with modest ownership for the young family, as much as nothing was left. On the other hand, the real property guaranteed in the Grand Duchy, as opposed to the feudal state, also provided the possibility of indebtedness. Although the specific circumstances of Johannes and Liberata or Helene have not yet been worked out from the historical Riederer land registers⁶, it can be said for the Thaurer estate that they did not come across without indebtedness.

Pankratius and Veronika before departure

Documentary traces of our later married couple before their wedding, apart from the entry in the baptismal register, practically none are known. Veronika, like all girls, was certainly educated about the role of a wife and, like Pankratius, had a helping hand in the family. We know from Pankratius that he lost his mother at the age of two after the deathbirth of his unnamed brother in the puerperium. In its place came a good two months later his stepmother Helene. After his childhood, a shoemaker's apprenticeship was made possible, bearing in mind that apprenticeship usually had to be bought at the time. Where exactly he completed this apprenticeship is not documented, but his birth mother came from a shoemaker family, which may have taken care of the young lad.

Later we get indications from American sources that Pankratius was trained in music and with higher degrees. However, this can hardly be confirmed by the documents available in Germany and by the usually expected biography of a local village cobbler. It is not unlikely, however, that Pankratius, at a young age, has access to and instruction in an organ, e.g. in the Riederer monastery "Chorherrenstift", which enabled him to gain a certain amount of attention and success by playing piano in the New World.

⁵ *Liberata*, "the liberated", was a popular name at the end of the feudal system and served as a "silent" protest against the centuries-long bondage.

⁶ The first badisch land registers begin in the 1820s, but are no longer available on the spot and lie now in Kornwestheim in Stuttgart.



Abb. 5: Canonical abbey St. Marien as (upper) provostry of the Augustinian abbey Kreuzlingen, Thurgau, CH; secularized 1806. Source: own picture

Wedding and the leap into the unknown

A drastic change in people's lives in the 19th century was the wedding, which made them full members of society, the husband a citizen. Veronika and Pankrätius made this step in August 1849 in Riedern and had, as usual in most marriages, a good year later their first child, Emma, after an interval of the same length Wilhelm was born and finally after another 17 months August was added.

Voranschauung
für das

Jahr-Abonnement . . . 40 Schweizerbän.	<p style="text-align: center;">Neue Allgemeine</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Auswanderungszeitung.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Einschreibungsgebühren.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Der Raum einer Zeilzeile 1 Bogen. Wiederholt die Hälfte. Unentgeltliche Anzeigen werden erlassen. Wiederholt enthält unentgeltlich Anzeigen die Subskription und Expedition dieses Blattes</p>
Halbjahr-Abonnement . . . 20		
Vierteljahr-Abonnement . . . 10		
Nummernpreis . . . 4		

Nach Ankaufgebühren und Bräutaluren werden
genommen.

Schweizerische
Bern und Nubigen
N^o 1.
1. Januar 1851.

Das Auswanderungsschiff
zum Neujahresgruß an die Leser.

Bald rauschen frisch des Meeres freie Wellen,
Der Frühlingwind wird meine Segel schwellen,
Und tausend Kranke, die genesen wollen,
Und Tausende, die mit dem Schicksal grollen,
Versammeln sich von Nord und Süd,
Und hören meinem Frühlingssied.

Land ist, wenn man es in solchem Maße vom Staat kauft, billig;
es kommt der Aker des besten Landes nicht auf einen halben
Dollar. Da jedes Jahr, nur wenig angenommen, im Kanton
Bern gegen 500 Familien auswandern, worunter ein Theil un-
bemittelt ist, die Andern jedoch soviel besitzen, um sich Etwas
anzukaufen zu können, würde dieses Land bald vergriffen sein. Da
die Schweizer überhaupt noch keine geregelte Auswanderung haben,
sondern Viele auf Gerathewohl da oder dort hingehen, allzuoft
auch leichtsinnigen Irrthum folgen, somit nicht selten blühende

Abb. 6: "Neue Allgemeine Schweizerische Auswanderungszeitung" (New general Swiss emigration newspaper), one of numerous publications on the subject of emigration from the time of the departure of Pankrätius, Veronika and children. Source: Aargau Digital

In the run-up to their departure, travel reports and reports about new settlement areas in the USA must have been circulated in Riedern, as everywhere in the

country, by people from our region who had packed their suitcases in the past. Also people who had left before were partly personally known or even relatives. In our case, as we know from later reports, the destination of our emigrants, Highland⁷ in the state of Illinois — a German-speaking village settled and founded by Swiss people with a scottish name— was already known on departure. Moreover, according to Pankrätius in a travel report, his brother-in-law had emigrated there before him. This brother-in-law, an organ builder from Donaueschingen, has not yet been identified. According to today's understanding of the term brother-in-law, since the postillion (or stage-coachman in german also called "Schwarger" english brother-in-law) cannot be meant, only one of his wife's brothers, Ferdinand, Franz-Xaver or Lorenz Jehle, could be considered.

⁷ The first European settlers in the Highland area appeared around 1830 and were Swiss called Suppinger and Knöpfli. The city was founded seven years later, when it became known that the railway line was to be planned there. The city was founded by Mr Semple, who wanted the name "Highland" because of his origin from Scotland.

Journey to the New World

The crossing



Auswanderer und Güter
 expedire regelmäßig mittelst der besten
Post-Dampf- und Segelschiffe
 über
**Bremen, Hamburg, Antwerpen, Liverpool,
 Rotterdam und Havre**
 nach allen größeren Häfen
Amerikas und Australiens etc.
 und sichere unter billigsten Preisen die beste Beforgung zu.
 Da ich viele Jahre in Amerika war und die Reise sehr oft gemacht, bin ich im
 Stande, die genügendste Auskunft zu geben und den besten Rath über das Verhalten im
 Seehafen, auf dem Schiffe und bei Ankunft in Amerika zu ertheilen.
Randau. **Friedrich Schmidt,**
 6 Köllischeaße Nr. 62.

Abb. 7: Example of a newspaper advertisement for the switching of crossings for emigrants; here: "Germersheimer Anzeiger" from 1873.

Source: Die Rheinpfalz

In which harbour Veronika and Pankratius boarded the ship "Forest City" at the beginning of September 1854 with their three children is as much in the dark as the ship, mentioned in the travel report, could not yet be identified in any online accessible ship register. Bremerhaven, but also Hamburg, was a frequent port of exit in the German-speaking countries. As one learns about the American voyage of Dorus Kromer, other European ports, in his case Le Havre, also come into question. After all, the consign, a designation that is appropriate to our case, of Europeans to foreign countries, especially to the USA, was a flourishing business for many decades to come. In the middle of the 19th century, the ports were not reached either just that easy. The railway lines were piecemeal, in German-speaking countries everywhere national borders and the roads often still bad bumper routes. The already mentioned report by Dorus Kromer gives an impression of how one had to imagine a journey to a port of exit.

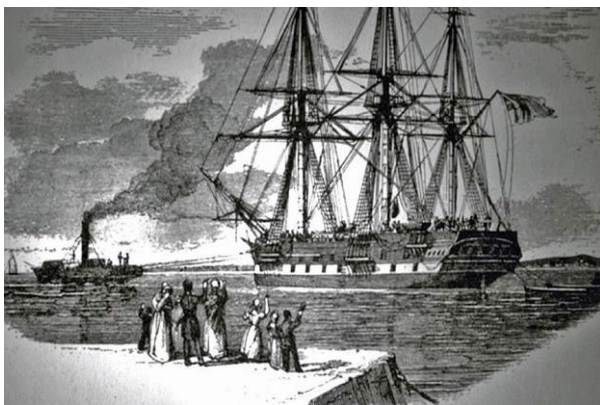


Abb. 8: Abschiedswinken für die Auswanderer nach Amerika.

Source: Historical engraving of unknown origin, taken from Altkreis-Blitz

Pankratius reports of the worst conditions on the three-master with which they were sailed to America. "No friendly memory, no friendly thought linked us to this ship and its crew. The treatment was rough and brutal, the ship bad and overcrowded, the rooms dirty and not ventilated at all. It was worse than a prison in a barracks, and we had to endure it for 50 days in this Noah's box,"⁸ he writes, hiding the worst from the reader. You get a first idea of what may have happened if you look for the family in the Census of the USA. The youngest son of the family never appears in the statistics of the

USA, which gives rise to the suspicion that this 18-month-old child is one of the

⁸ Travelogues in "Albbote", written down by Pankratius Boll about 1871, published about 1877; as a copy on the website www.g-boll.de.

28 people mentioned by Pankrätius who never entered the New World. Pankrätius did not have the heart to articulate this incident for decades until his short biography of 1892⁹ explicitly confirmed this assumption.

Heading west



Abb. 9: New York 1854 from a bird's eye view "Panorama of Manhattan Island, City of New York & Environs, 1854, John Bornet" Source: Battlemaps

On Sunday, October 29, 1854, the surviving emigrants landed in New York. The impression the city must have made on the emigrants must have been overwhelming. At this time, the southern half of the Manhattan peninsula was

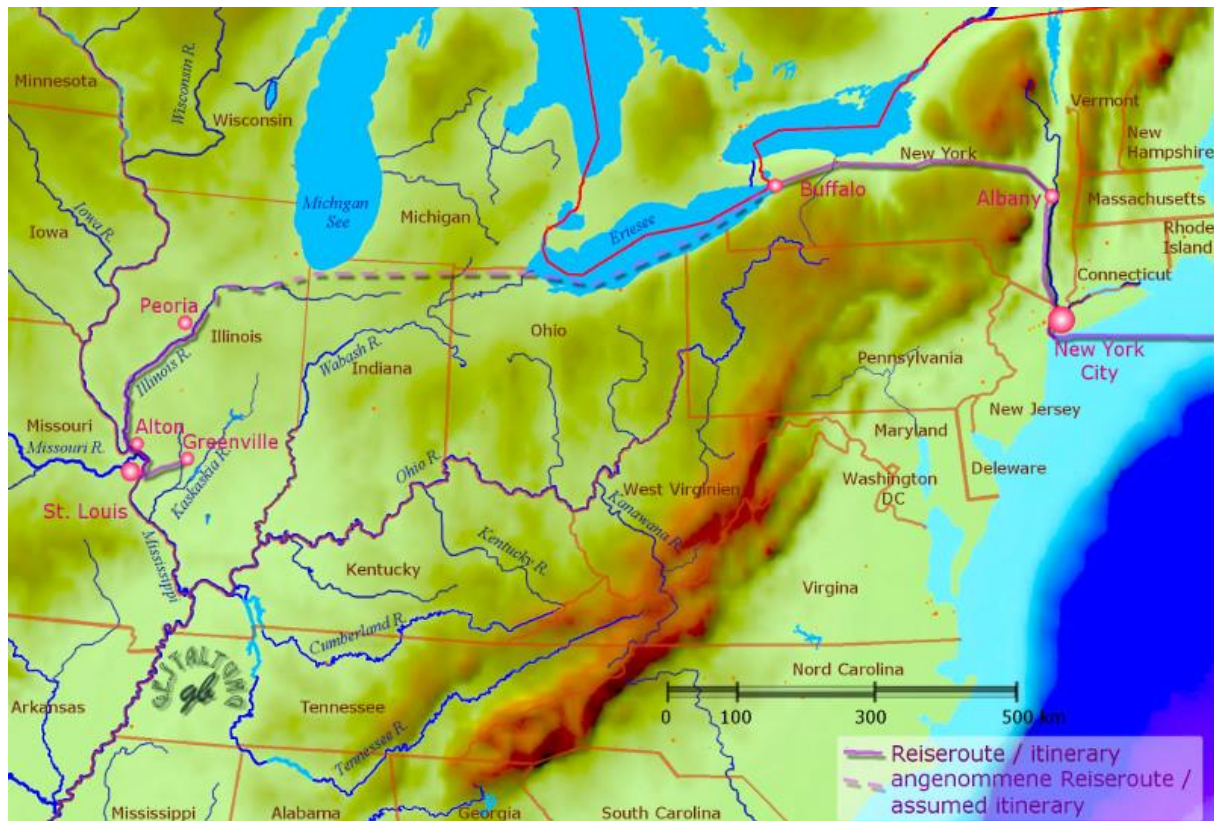


Abb. 10: Itinerary from New York City to Greenville, Il.

Source: own graphic

⁹ „Record of Montgomery and Bond counties, Illinois, containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, ..." Chicago, Chapman Bros. 1892.

already impressively built-up. The northern half was already largely a land expected to become a built-up area, due to the exorbitant growth rates, but at that time it was still used agriculturally by the last farms.



Abb. 11: St. Louis stage finish; engraving from 1859.

Source: American library

For getting to know this young metropolis there was no time for our now 4-members emigrant family. Up to their goal still approx. 2000 km were to be mastered. Already in the evening of the same day they took the train north to Albany, NY, and then west to Buffalo, also NY, at Lake Erie. Pankrätius does not tell us in his travel report from the Alb-Bote, how the journey was further mastered, however, since also the railway was at that time in the USA in the beginnings and roads were too arduous, one will, where it went, on the water have dodged. But first the family had to overcome a first problem in the New World. Their luggage had not arrived with them in Buffalo. Investigations, a return journey of the head of the family to Albany and waiting for days did not bring any success. Pankrätius complained about the German-speaking "compatriots", who organized the overland trip and who easily won even later because of the well-known language the trust of the emigrants, about unrestrained fraud. Despite all the trouble, Pankrätius took advantage of this unplanned delay to make a detour to Niagara Falls.

From Buffalo the journey now had to continue without the basic equipment from the homeland, which he mentions in his biography with a value of 300 dollars. A ship on Lake Erie was used for the onward voyage, as the railway connection from New York to the Mississippi was not open until the end of the 1850s. At the western end of Lake Erie, a section of the railway line under construction may already have served the overland journey to the west of Lake Michigan. Finally, the last big stage of the journey was continued via the next convenient waterway, the navigable part of the Illinois River, which then flows into the Mississippi River at Alton, Il., directly to St. Louis, Mon. The dates Pankrätius gives are contradictory. On the one hand one calculates from his data that the journey in Buffalo went on only on 14 November, on the other hand he gives to have arrived already in the middle of November in St. Louis and in the biography even a two-week stay in this metropolis is indicated.



Abb. 12: Travel group with two covered wagons,
ca. 1859. Source: Caitlin Murray ED 225

St. Louis, the gateway to the West, was at that time, like New York, an extremely fast growing city, which in the recent past can only be compared to the growth of some cities in China. Accordingly, our emigrants are also impressed by the city and its hustle and bustle. However, the further way did not lead to the west, but from St. Louis to the east. With one of the ferries, which were still necessary twenty years for the crossing of the Mississippi, the emigrant family from Riedern crossed to the eastern shore. Now the goal was within reach, about 50 km with the covered

wagon through the prairie were still to be overcome, past St. Jakob, a city that was not yet a city, in order to be able to look at and enter the adopted home, Highland.

Home in a foreign country

Difficult start

Now the family was there, in the land on which their hopes for a better future rested, and was faced with the challenge of putting the pursuit of happiness into action. After their departure cash was running out, they had to earn a living, although nothing was more obvious than their learned profession. In Highland, where he had initially rented a house, however, the prospects for adequate income were not rosy, which is why he moved to the neighbouring village of Pocahontas after three or six months, depending on the source. As the only shoemaker in the village, business seemed to be better here, although this English-language settlement was also a great challenge for the newcomers. This first ray of hope, however, was deceptive, not only because of the low shoe prices.

Remittent fever

During this time, when the family lived in Pocahontas, their disease must have fallen to a fever of alternating cycles. All members of the family lay down, which remained undiscovered for the first few days, and they could hardly provide themselves with what they needed, as Pankratius later reports: "The thirst often almost ate us ...". A culture lived very intensively in the USA was of benefit to the bedridden, as soon as they were discovered by neighbours. They immediately found helping hands that provided the family with the most important things and helped them through this difficult time. This illness, which is said to have lasted about half a year, seemed at its peak, as Pankratius reports, when he himself as the breadwinner of the family threatened to succumb to it. At this time his wife's fever disappeared, which was then overcome by the whole family in May 1855. Here, after the time thread had torn before, we can set a time mark again from his records since Pankratius reports of the news that his father had died. His date of death, May 18, 1855, is known to us from the local church records. About the end of May this message should have reached him.

Gaining ground

Despite the difficult trials and the support the family received from his former homeland at the beginning and which they urgently needed, it was important to use the time in Pocahontas to find a place in the multicultural society with which he was faced in his new homeland and to be noticed at least once by proof of his abilities. In addition to his shoemaking craft, which was now not so lucrative, so he gave it up after a year, there were other potential skills to develop and sell. Pankratius claims to have made a living through German lessons, piano playing and tuning as well as agricultural activities. The mood of the family at that time was anything but lucky, because for them the American dream was more like a nightmare at that time.

Greenville, the chance

Very flowery, Pankratius describes in his travelogue, the time when he notices that he had a foot in the door that gave him access to a decent income and social recognition. Pankratius dates the elation in which he indulged to the exact day of February 26, 1858. The reason for this might have been the, according to his biography at the end of the previous year, preserved position in the shoe and boot production of Col. John B. Reid¹⁰, in the biography "Reed". At the end of February or beginning of March the family was then "emigrants for the third time" by moving to Greenville. He was able to repay the debts he had to make in Pocahontas very soon and profited not only from the fact that he was known as a piano player because of the remuneration, but also got access to the American upper class of the Bond County through engagements and piano tuning.



Abb. 13: John Barclay Reid, Shoe and boot manufacturer in Greenville, Il.

Source: Reid Biografie

After a short time the family was able to buy their own house with a garden. In addition, Pankratius was able to prove himself professionally when his boss, Colonel Reid, entrusted him with the management of the company at the time of the Civil War. In the spring of 1865, Pankratius made an attempt to visit his stepmother, who had been a widow in Germany for 10 years, by seeking a job as an immigration agent with the re-elected president, Abraham Lincoln. From this time it can also be proven that Pankratius was politically engaged, which will be described in a separate section. After the War of Secession in 1866, Pankratius managed his business mainly independently by buying and trading shoes and boots from his former employer, as well as by pursuing his craft. In this time, an exact dating is not possible here, also would have to be dated the acquisition of a considerable piece of land in the middle of the city, which must at that time have risen constantly its value because of the enormous growth.

Postmaster

In the meantime he must have gained some reputation in Greenville and surroundings, since he was sent in May 1868 also as a delegate to the nomination meeting of the Republicans on the occasion of the governor elections, Republican State Convention. The relationships he had built up over the past few years began in the early 1870s with the acquisition of a position as Postmaster in August 1870 with an official "Nomination Certificate" from US President Ulysses S. Grant. The sources give the dates. Sept. 17, 1870 and Dec. 09, 1872, whereby it is not obvious whether e.g. the first appointment was limited, a promotion or

¹⁰ Lieutenant Colonel John Barclay Reid, (*Aug.08,1830 - †Dec. 25, 1907) also came to Greenville in 1854 from Woburn, Massachusetts, to participate in the boot and shoe factory of his brother-in-law C. W. Holden. One year later he took over the management of the factory alone, in addition to his duties as postmaster. From 1861 he worked in the administration of Presidents Buchanan and Lincoln.

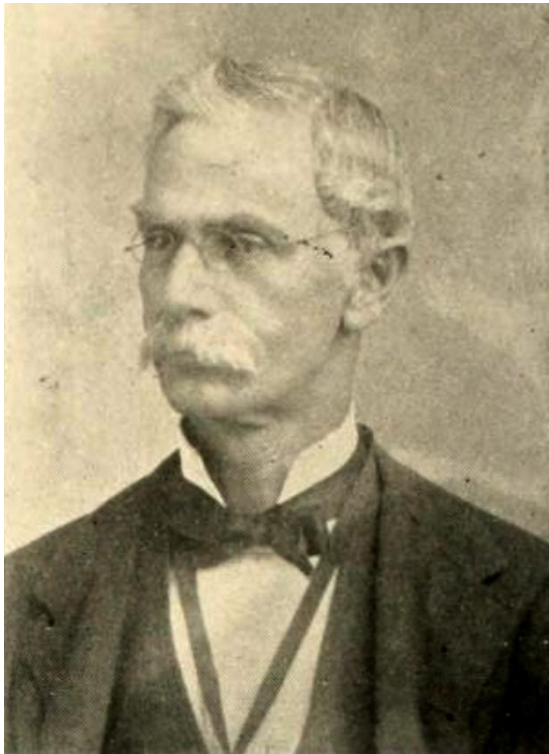


Abb. 14: Photo of Pankratius Boll - not dated, presumably taken at the end of the 19th century.

Source: Historical Souvenir of Greenville

similar is the reason for it. Now he was in any case a permanent employee of the state, whose employer even operated the post office he mastered for a certain time on his valuable inner-city property.

At the beginning of the position in 1870 the post office was a 4th class post office, one year later it was a 3rd class post office. When it was taken over, the post office was housed in its own frame building and moved several times during Pankratius's term of office.¹¹ On February 5, 1882 he was replaced in office by Lemuel Adams.

Now the breakthrough to prosperity, influence and prestige had been made in the new home USA, an American dream had come true.

Trip to Germany

As a made man Pankratius, whether with wife or alone is not known, in 1873 started a first trip to Germany, the state of his birth, the Grand Duchy was now part of the second German Empire. The list of

stations he had visited is long and leads from Cologne to Riedern am Wald, where Pankratius stayed for 14 days. He then travelled throughout German-speaking Switzerland, where he stayed in Lucerne for 14 days to attend the confederate singing festival. However, the trip was not just a holiday trip, as our multi-talent also practiced a profession that has not yet been addressed. Pankratius not only wrote a unique travel report for the Alb-Bote in his old homeland, but was also active as a journalist for several newspapers of his homeland. During this first trip to Germany Pankratius wrote for the German-language newspaper of his first residence, the "Highland Union".

Die zweite Deutschlandreise

In 1882 Pankratius Boll travelled again to Germany, this time, we know, with his wife Veronika. We only can tell about this trip, about which surely reports can be found in the German-language and probably in the meantime also in native-language newspapers in his American homeland, that the couple stayed in the

¹¹ In the writing "Historical Souvenir of Greenville, Illinois". this reads as follows: "Pangratz Boll was postmaster from September 17, 1870, until 1882. It was a fourth class office in 1870, but in a year Mr. Boll made it a third class office. He first had the office in his frame building, where the Schott building now stands on Second street. After seven years he moved it to the building where F. E. Watson's drug store now stands and after two or three years moved it to the frame building south of J. M. Hawley's jewelry store. A year later he moved it to the building now used as Joy's cloakroom and kept it there until he resigned and Lemuel Adams was appointed his successor February 5, 1882." (Will C Carson, Historical souvenir of Greenville, Illinois: being a brief review of the city from the time of its founding to date, Effingham, Il., 1905)

noble "Bad Buckhaus" in Gurtweil. From there the hometown Riedern had become quite "comfortably" attainable by the building of the road through the Schücht vally for scarcely ten years, since the draught animals with the carriages did not have to be tortured any longer over the mountain ridge between Schlücht and Steina river.

Journalism

The trigger for this research is the travel report of Pankratius Boll about the emigration of his family in the newspaper of his old homeland from 1877. This report was written already 6 years earlier and probably at that time already published in the German-language newspapers of his new homeland. "Der Erzähler", later called "Highland Bote" and finally "Highland Union"¹³, was a newspaper in which articles by Pankratius must have appeared. The travelogue of 1871 will have been published here for the first time. It can be assumed that Pankratius had also written articles in the context of his political activities and we know that he later also wrote for other newspapers, namely the "Greenville Sun" and the "St. Louis republican". The latter is not particularly surprising when one knows that two of his children were also associated with journalism and even with the publication of newspapers. It is possible that Pankratius had only reached this activity through his children. It will only be possible to say more about this when the newspaper archives in the USA make this small and foreign-language newspapers accessible by the internet. This source is still completely untapped.



Abb. 15: Printing house of the "Highland Union", a German-language newspaper. Facade sign under the gable: „Buch und Accident Druckerei“. ¹²

Source: Belleville News-Democrat

¹² Buch- und Auftragsdruckerei, im Webseiten-Artikel des „Belleville News-Democrat“ irrtümlich gelesen als Bäckereischild: „Burh & Arriden’s Baucherri (bakery)“

¹³ "Der Erzähler" (The narrator) 1858 to at least 1859; then "Highland Bote" ca. 1859 until the civil war, because of publications with southern sympathies finally "Highland Union" until ca. 1913.

Land ownership

Greenville, a town founded in Bond County, Illinois, is just 10 years older than Pankratius. The city, like the surrounding county, was simply marked out like a tile in the prairie and the land was sold to interested settlers, including many speculators.¹⁴ When Pankratius and Veronika arrived in the area in 1854, the settlement had only slowly gained momentum. With each further settler the prices rose and an end was not in sight. Pankratius is also said to have acquired a piece of land in the inner city in the 1960s, which later brought him a certain prosperity through sale or rent.

Traces of Pankratius's property can also be found on the Internet. In a map of Greenville from the year 1875 he is listed by name with the initials "P. B." on a plot of land with a house in a favourable location between the "Old Town" and the connection to the railway network added in December 1869. The plots of the "Old Town" itself are only provided with house numbers and anyway he will have already converted earlier land purchase from this area into cash again. That the initials "P. B." mean Pankratius is confirmed by the fact that he was later able to buy neighbouring areas to this property. In addition the proximity to his former employer "J. B. Ried" is characteristic.

In a map of the city area from 1900 one finds the entry "P. Boll" at the same place, now

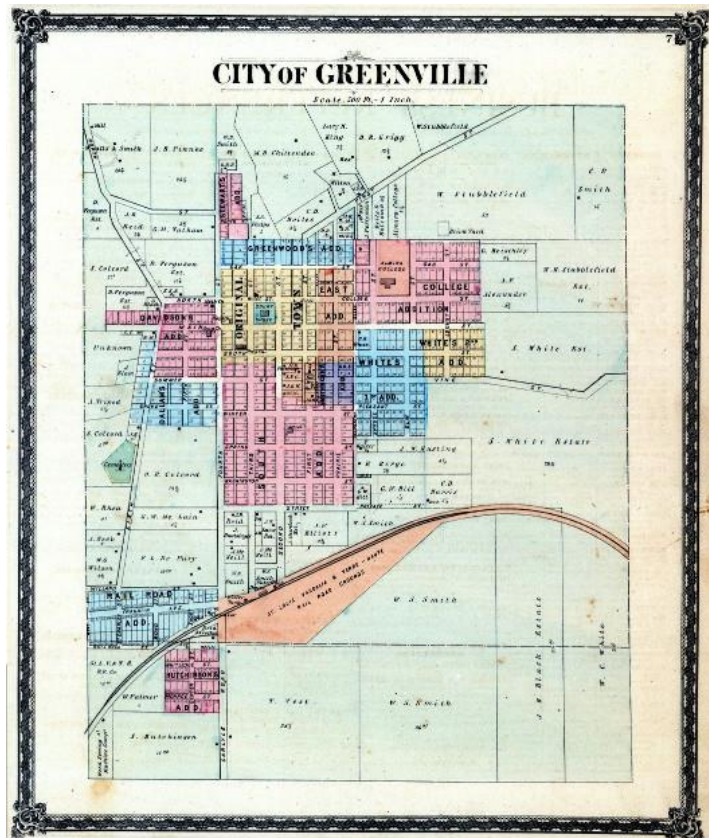


Abb. 16: City map of Greenville from 1875 with the name of the property between the railway line and the old town in the north; here registered with P.B.

Source: Historic Map Works

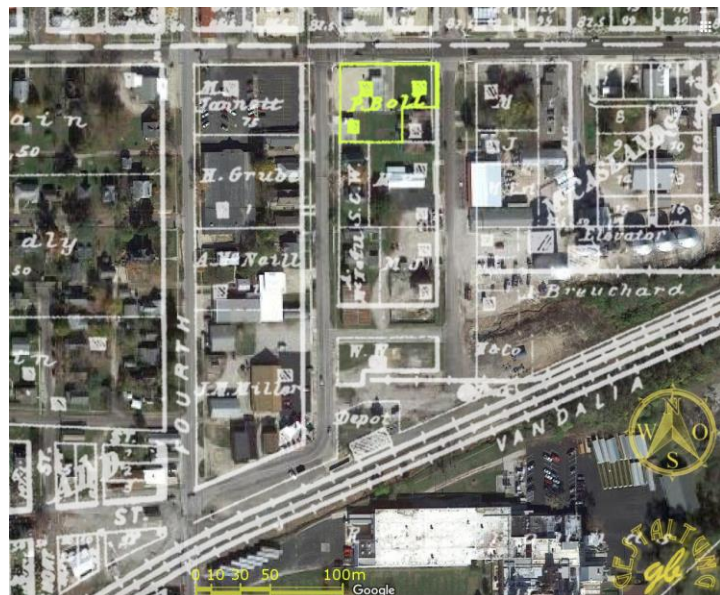


Abb. 17: Property of the Pankratius Boll in Greenville Illinois according to a city map of 1900.

Source: Aerial photo: Google Maps
Historic Map Works

¹⁴ Jacob Eggen describes how a city developed at that time for his hometown Highland, IL.

however on a clearly enlarged property, which is built up with three houses. This property covered an area of approx. 2500m² and is today located south of Harris Ave. and between 2rd - and 3rd Street. The value of the property, however, is certainly not comparable with the one it had at the time of Pankrätius after the decline of the railways in the USA in the middle of the last century, which is why there is no high-quality building today.



Abb. 18: The property of Pankrätius Boll as it presents itself today. View from the corner West Harris Ave. and South 3rd Street.

Source: Google Street View.

Descendants

As we already know from the time in the Grand Duchy, the first three children of our married couple were born in Baden. Three more children followed, who were born in the USA.

Emma

*Sept. 10, 1850, Riedern a. W., Baden – †n.n. USA: She is the firstborn of the family who had her fourth birthday when the family started the crossing on the sailing ship to the USA. We only know the exact date of Emma's birth from the local church book and that she appears in the censuses in the USA. When searching for further information in Dollaria, as Einstein called the USA, one comes across paid pages that pretend to have information. However, the trade with the data of the ancestors should not be supported and anyway the result to be expected is meager. In the short biography about Pankratius from 1892, when Emma had just passed the age of 40, she is only mentioned casually, which indicates that she was not married at that time and therefore less appreciated.

Wilhelm

*Oct. 02, 1851, Riedern a. W., Baden – †Aug. 31, 1915, Illinois, USA: The second child of the family had just turned three when he entered the USA. At the age of 27 on March 30, 1879 he married K. Blatter, the daughter of a Swiss immigrant born in Geenville in 1858. It is said that he was publisher and co-owner of the "Sun", a newspaper published in Red Oak, Montgomery County, Iowa and together with Charles Clark also launched "The Sun" of Greenville.

August I.

*March 20. 1853, Riedern a. W., Baden – †Sept./Oct. 1854, on the Atlantic Ocean: The youngest descendant who was still born in Baden died at the age of 18 months 1854 on the high seas during the crossing to the USA and did never reach the foreign continent.

Julia Henrietta

*March 10, 1857, Pocahontas, Illinois, USA – †June 12, 1937, (Denver?), USA: She married Frank Heger, who was at that time a cashier at "Hoile's Bank" and later became chief accountant at a bank in Denver.

Fannie

*about 1858, Greenville, Illinois, USA – †May 09, 1892, n.n., USA: She married Theodor Roth, a merchant of Smithborough.

August II.

*about 1861, Greenville, Illinois, USA – †n.n., USA: So far the only known thing about him is that he was involved in the newspaper "St. Louis Republic".

Political commitment

Traces of his work

The earliest news of his political involvement can be found in a letter Pankratius wrote to the re-elected President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, in March 1865. In it, he declares that he had had the image of the president hanging in his room since his first election in 1860, the year of his naturalization to the USA, and that in 1864 he had actively campaigned for re-election by writing newspaper articles and participating in election events.

Letter to Abraham Lincoln

The underlying reason for the letter Pankratius wrote to Abraham Lincoln was that Pankratius saw a chance to see his stepmother by having himself sent to Germany as an agent for emigration to the USA. The fact that Lincoln saw the immigration of Europeans as a great opportunity for development for the USA had been the subject of his election campaign, and thus addressed a concern of our new citizen. In later years, Pankratius was also interested in the fate of immigrants, which is why he continued to support them.

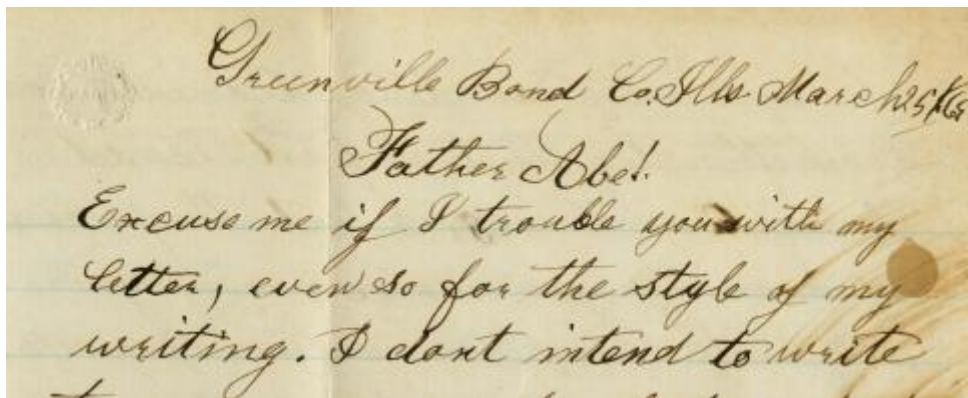


Abb. 19: Letter to Father Abe (Abraham Lincoln) of March 1865

Source: Presidential collections

What is tragic about the letter dated, March 25, to Lincoln is that he was murdered three weeks later and that Pankratius's request was probably not even answered. [The original letter](#) itself is available on the Internet, but its date is incorrectly indicated as March 05. The Portrait of himself he attached to the letter is, if still existing, not yet available. The text of the letter can also be found in the appendix with translation.

Delegate in Peoria

The travelogue of Pankratius mentions that he travelled to Peoria in 1868 as a delegate to make a nomination for the office of Governor of Illinois. Although Peoria is 150 km north of Greenville, they chose the route, which was almost twice as long but the easiest to follow, and on which he had arrived 14 years earlier. First the delegates way led to St. Louis to reach the Mississippi river, then by steamboat to Alton and from there up the Illinois River to Peoria. The goal of the trip was the nomination event of the Republicans, at that time a progressive party for which Lincoln had also previously stood, at which John McAuley Palmer was nominated, who had finally defeated his opponent from the Democratic Party by ten percent-distance in the election in November of the same year. Pankratius also praises the important political personalities he was

able to get to know and in particular the nomination of the editor of the "Deutsche Zeitung"(German newspaper) in Peoria as State Secretary, more precisely Interior Minister of Illinois. Edward Rummel, who was later elected to the office but not mentioned by name, can still be identified today as Edward Rummel, who moved to the capital Springfield to take up his post.

Petition on immigration policy

After his function as a delegate, we find in 1869 in the transcript of the meetings of the Congress and its Committees, "The Congressional Globe", a motion by Pankratius Boll, which was introduced through the deputy Trumbull and referred to the Economic Committee. The competent committee agreed to the request of Pankratius Boll to increase the funds for strengthening emigration and further protective measures for emigrants.

Letter to President Grant

From 1872 an undated letter from Pankratius Boll to President Ulysses S. Grant is known, in which he again advocates the recruitment of emigrants.

"The wise and beneficent policy of the Government in providing for the construction of Continental lines of Railway to the Pacific Ocean, and the consequent rapid reduction of our American Wilderness to a condition of Civilisation, has rendered it imperative that increased facilities shall be afforded to promote emigration to and the settlement and development of our rich agricultural and mineral lands which are thus brought into market. ... The People of Europe are men of education and means, industrious and intelligent, skilled in agriculture, manufactures, & the Arts and Sciences. These germs of foreign industry can with safety be engrafted upon our New' World. Your Memorialist therefor hopes That this important matter will meet with the careful consideration and earnest support of your Excellency" ALS, DLC-Carl Schurz. Governor John M. Palmer of Ill. endorsed this letter. "Mr P. Boll of Bond County the writer of the within is well known to me as an intelligent and honorable man who is worthy of the fullest confidence and I cordially sympathize with his views and commend him to the consideration of the governmt" AES (undated), ibid. On Dec. 9, 1872, USG nominated Boll as postmaster, Greenville, Ill.

The American

At the latest a letter to the editor of the German newspaper "Alb-Bote" from 1885 reveals that the blood of Baden, which Pankratius carried in his sight from birth, had become American. About his son-in-law, who came from Meersburg on Lake Constance, he received two editions of the "Konstanzer Zeitung", in whose entertainment paper a report about America had appeared. Our emigrant from Riedern, who in his reports also describes deviant habits in the New World, but always meets them with great openness and weighs them up impartially, now resists the crude and undifferentiated criticism of the culture of his new homeland. But this dispute has not completely fallen out of time. Right at the beginning of the article a criticism of bread in the USA is quoted, "... a gypsy-white, spongy product, without salt and sourdough, 'allegedly' made from wheat flour, is quickly stale and chokes when eaten in the throat, satisfies hunger only a little ...". This is already reminiscent of our current view of the (North-)American foam rubber Hamburg bread culture, of chicken with chlorine, gene food and suchlike. Nevertheless, Pankratius' criticism of the article published in Constance was more than justified. This was obviously inflammatory and completely undifferentiated. At the same time, Pankratius speaks of the feelings of an offended American and the disappointment of the intellectual low flight of a former compatriot.

Death

Pankratius Boll died on Aug. 21, 1907 in Greenville and is buried on the Montrose Cemetery, Greenville, a cemetery in the north of the city.

On the date of his death and the place of his wife's last rest, Veronika Jehle, no data have yet been found.



Abb. 20: Gravestone of Pankratius Boll on the Montrose Cemetery in Greenville

Source: Find a grave; picture: ReddTopp

Post mortem

Image cultivation

In the lifetime of Pankratius one could leave the old, unloved life behind by emigrating to the USA - one could come closer to who one wanted to be. At that time it was inconceivable that a "data comparison" between the old and the new world would ever be as easy as it is today and that one day one or the other beauty correction in the curriculum vitae could become known. In the meantime it can be said that Pankratius, or at least his biographer, has polished up his image a little already during his lifetime.

In the short biography for the prominent or at least representative citizen of Bond County from 1892, there are three passages from his old life that do not correspond to the data here:

On the one hand, Pankratius is depicted as the son of "an extensive farmer", one as he always had in sight in his young years in the neighbouring "Weilehof", although he actually came from a very poor "Dauner" estate.

On the other hand, his family origin is decorated with fantasy siblings, writing that he was one of five children, actually Pnakratius had two brothers and a half-brother, one of whom was born dead, another become two and the third brother only 3 weeks old.

In the finale, it is stated that Pankratius had graduated from high school and had even acquired a high level of music and literature education. This statement cannot be correct either, since he contradicts the apprenticeship as a shoemaker and no trace of a higher education can be found in the documents. However, this can only diminish his reputation a little, since he must have acquired a certain degree of self-education in the training that he could not obtain at a young age.

One mistake that is not among the cosmetic aspects of the short biography is the statement that the couple, Veronica and Pankratius, had five children instead of six. Children who died as babies were also usually simply ignored in our regions, as if the mother had never been pregnant with them for months, which probably also helps those directly affected to suppress the blow of fate.

As far as biographical manipulations are concerned, however, in order to relieve those who had used them, it must be said that they are probably also due to a certain bigotry of the "better" American society.

Memorabilia

On a website "[Curriculum materials](#)" the cobbler "Pancratz Boll" and his legacy of cobbler's utensils are thematized. It reads: "A set of iron shoes lasts, used for making or repairing shoes, sold for 65 cents in the Montgomery Ward catalog of 1895. Wooden lasts were much less durable and sold for only 30 cents. Catalog advertising for a set of lasts read, 'No family should be without one as it saves time and money.' They were sold along with items such as a cobbler's hammer, sewing awl, leather, and oak soles. These lasts belonged to Pancratz Boll, a shoemaker who immigrated from Germany to settle in Greenville, Illinois, in 1856."

The "Montgomery Ward & Co.'s Catalogue No. 57" from 1895 can be found today on the Internet. On page 525 there is also the questionable passage from which the Curriculum materials website used itself. How the connection with Prakračius Boll came about and in particular whether the photo of a young man on the website even shows our Pankratius and if so, where it comes from, could not be determined despite an attempt at contact. Contacts with institutions in the USA are not particularly suitable for success stories.

M. W. & CO.'S
Family Outfit.
Weight, 18 1-2 pounds.
Every Man His Own Cobbler.

MONTGOMERY WARD & CO
THE ORIGINAL
WHOLESALE GRANGE SUPPLY HOUSE
CHICAGO

52748 A complete set of shoemakers' tools and all the necessary articles for general shoe repairing. No family should be without one as it saves time and money. Every article contained in same is of the best. We do not try to deceive you; we give you good value for your money. We give below a complete list of tools contained in outfit:

1 Iron Stand.	1 Package Brass Clinch Nails, 4.
1 Large Iron Last.	1 Package Brass Clinch Nails, 2.
1 Medium Iron Last.	1 Peg Awl Handle.
1 Small Iron Last.	2 Peg Awl Blades.
1 Dozen Good Tap Soles.	1 Sewing Awl Handle.
1 Harrington Shoe Knife.	2 Sewing Awl Blades.
1 Ball Shoe Thread.	1 Hammer.
1 Ball Wax.	1 Dozen Pair Star Heel Plates.
1 Bunch Bristles.	
1 Can Rubber Cement.	
1 Bottle Leather Cement.	

The above outfit, complete, for \$2.00.
Special discounts on dozen and half dozen lots.

Abb. 21: Sales advertisement for shoe-maker utensils allegedly of Pankratius Boll

Source: s. Text

Appendix

Pedigrees

The Boll's

Parents and stepmother of Pankratius			their children		
Johannes Boll (Thauner/Halbbauer) * 09.06.1788 † 18.05.1855	⚭ 08.05.1822	Liberatha Wiegerle * 24.01.1785 † 09.04.1828 (im Wochenbett)	Josef *30.9.1823 - † 14.10.1823		
	⚭ 23.06.1828	Helene Amann * 05.05.1798 in Mauchen † ?? nach 1869 u./o. in den USA??	Pankraz Boll (Schuster) *10 Mai 1826 in Riedern am Wald † 21.08.1907, Greenville		
			n. m. *04.04.1828 - † 04.04.1828		
Grandparents paternal			Grandparents maternal		
Rochus Boll *16.08.1739 Lochmühle † 24.08.1818	⚭ 16.04.1780	Theodora Vesenmayer *16.02.1752	Stefan Wiegerle (Schuhmacher) * 29.12.1754 † 21.03.1834	⚭ 09.11.1782	Agatha Bucher *06.02.1760 ex Hürllingen (lt. Ehebuch) † 1833
			Grandparents on stepmother's side		
			Michael Amann Schullehrer v. Mauchen	⚭ 23.06.1828	Katharina Preiser
Great-grandparents paternal			Great-great-grandparents paternal		
Bernhard Boll * 16.08.1695 † 08.07.1756 Alter 63 J. Tympanitide	⚭ 16.08.1722	Anna Schneider * um 1698 † 27.12.1760 Lochmühle Witwe, Alter 62 J.	Adam Boll * in Aichen	⚭ 1688 in Aichen	Maria Amman * in Riedern

The Jehle's

Parents of Veronika			their Children		
Lorenz Jehle (Glasermeister) * 27.12.1783 in Brenden † 20.07.1842	♂ XX.XX.18XX	Magdalena Schildknecht * 28.03.1793 in Riedern † ??	Ferdinand *25.10.1818		
			Franz Xaver *02.08.1820		
			Franz Xaver *25.09.1821		
			Lorenz *25.10.1823		
			Lorenz *01.02.1826 † 18.08.1826		
			Veronika Jehle *08 Mai 1828 in Riedern am Wald		
			Karolina * 06.08.1836 † 10.11.1836		
Grandparents paternal			Grandparents maternal		
Lorenz Jehle v. Brenden * 10.10.1743 † 07.03.1796	♂ 22.08.1764	Kunigunde Hupfer aus Brenden Äußere Höfe * 22.02.1742 † 16.02.1795	Josef Schildknecht, Schreiner	♂	Fides Morath
Great-grandparents paternal			Great-grandparents mater-paternal		
Lorenz Jehle (jele)	♂ 10.09.1731	Maria Cimel † 30.01.1764	Jakob Hupfer * 09.07.1719	♂ 13.11.1740	Katharina Wachter aus Lenzkirch † 01.04.1785
Great-great-grandparents paternal			Great-great-grandparents peter-mater-paternal		
n.n. Jehle	♂		Michael Hupfer		Maria Schwarz

Church book entries

Baptismal register entries:

Baptismal register of Riedern a. Wald

Pankratius Boll



Abb. 22: BOLL, PANKRATIUS (exactly: Pancratius, *lat.*), Pankratz (*ger.*), Pangratz, Pancratz usw. (*us.*)

Source: Baptismal register Riedern

„7. Pankratius Boll: Im Jahr 1826 den Zehnten Mai wurde Morgens acht Uhr geboren und am nemlichen Tage um 11 Uhr getauft Pankratius ehelicher Sohn des Johannes Boll Bürger und Thauer und der Liberatha Wigerle. Taufzeugen waren: Johann Boll Soldat u. Schuster, ehelicher Sohn des Jakob Boll Thauer et Leodegan Kern, Thauer et Agatha Wigerle Ehegattin des Bürgers Leodegan Kern — Pfarrer Joh. Bat. Haag zu Riedern“

„7th Pankratius Boll: In 1826 the tenth of May was born in the morning of eight o'clock and baptized on the same day at 11 o'clock, Pankratius, legitimate son of Johannes Boll citizen and Thauer and the Liberatha Wigerle. Baptism witnesses were: Johann Boll soldier and shoemaker, conjugal son of Jakob Boll Thauer et Leodegan Kern, Thauer et Agatha Wigerle wife of citizen Leodegan Kern - priest Joh. Bat. Haag at Riedern

Veronika Jehle

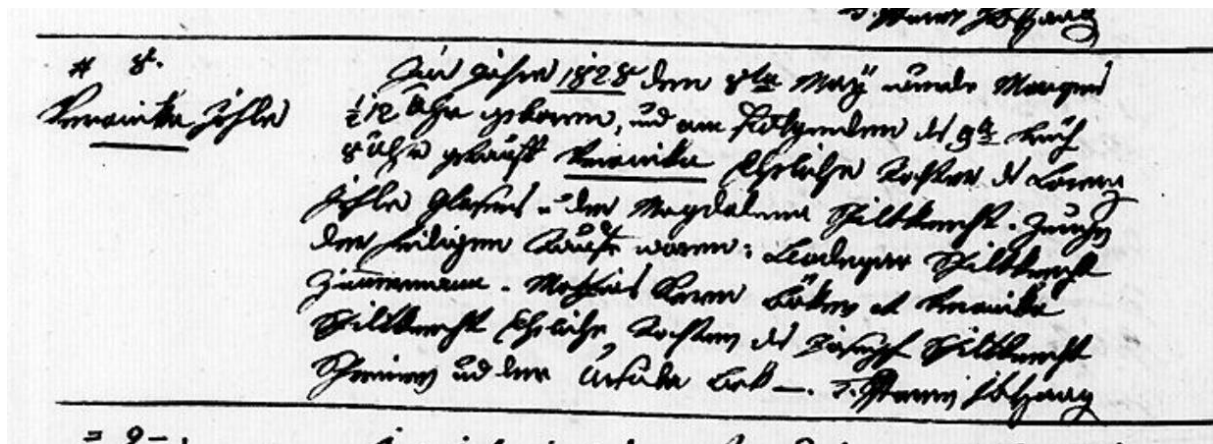


Abb. 23: JEHLE, VERONIKA (ger.), Verona, Verena usw. (us.)

Source: Baptismal register Riedern

„#8. Veronika Jehle: Im Jahre 1828 den 8^{te} Mai wurde Morgens 1/2 12 Uhr geboren, und am Folgenden des 9^{te} früh 8 Uhr getauft Veronika eheliche Tochter des Lorenz Jehle Glaser u. der Magdalena Schildknecht. Zeugen der heiligen Taufe waren: Leondegar Schildknecht Zimmermann, Mathias Kern Bäcker et Veronika Schildknecht, eheliche Tochter des Josef Schildknecht und der Ursula Beck — Pfarrer Jo. Haag.“

„#8. Veronika Jehle: In 1828 the 8th of May was born in the morning 1/2 12 o'clock, and at the following of the 9th early 8 o'clock baptized, Veronika, legitimate daughter of Lorenz Jehle, glazier, and the Magdalena Schildknecht (shield servant). Witnesses of the holy baptism were: Leondegar Schildknecht Zimmermann, Mathias Kern baker et Veronika Schildknecht, married daughter of Josef Schildknecht and Ursula Beck - priest Jo. Hague.

Marriage register entries:

Marriage register of Riedern a. Wald

Pankrätius Boll & Veronika Jehle

Im Jahre achtzehnhundert, neun und vierzig, den Drei
 und zwanzigsten August, Vormittags um neun Uhr, wurden mit
 Consens Großherzoglichen Bezirksamtes Bonndorf, datiert
 den neunten August dieses Jahres, Nummer sechzehn tausend
 ein hundert drei und sechzig, und nach voraus ergangenen
 gesetzlich geschehenen öffentlichen Verkündigung, als am
 zwölften und neunzehnten August laufenden Jahres - in der
 Pfarrkirche dahier von Unterzeichnetem kirchlich und bürgerlich
 getraut: der ledige Pankratz Boll, seiner Profession ein
 Pfister, geboren den zehnten Mai, achtzehnhundert
 sechs und zwanzig, adelicher Vater der Johann Coll, Bürger und
 Bauer von Riedern und der verstorbenen Liebhaberin Maria
 Jakob, mit der ledigen Veronica Jehle, gebornen den
 ersten Mai, achtzehnhundert, sechs und zwanzig, adeliche Tochter
 der verstorbenen Lorenz Jehle und Magdalena Pfisterherrschaft
 Bürgerin und Ehefrau des hier. Jungers Johann: David
 Pfisterherrschaft, Zimmermann und Johann Coll, Pfister, beide von
 Riedern.
 Kindern, den Drei und zwanzigsten August, achtzehnhundert
 sechs und zwanzig.
 J. J. J. Pfisterherrschaft

Abb. 24: BOLL, PANKRATIUS, & JEHL, VERONIKA

Source: Marriage register Riedern

„No. 4.:

Im Jahre achtzehnhundert, neun und vierzig, den
 dreiundzwanzigsten August, Vormittags um neun Uhr,
 wurde mit Consens Großherzoglichen Bezirksamtes
 Bonndorf, datiert den neunten August dieses Jahres,
 Nummer sechzehn tausend ein hundert drei und
 sechzig, und nach voraus ergangenen gesetzlich
 geschehenen öffentlichen Verkündigung, als am
 zwölften und neunzehnten August laufenden Jahres -
 in der Pfarrkirche dahier von Unterzeichnetem
 kirchlich und bürgerlich getraut: der ledige
 Pankratz Boll, seiner Profession ein

Schuster, bürger von hier, geboren den zehnten Mai achtzehn hundert sechs und zwanzig, ehelicher Sohn des Johann Boll, Bürger und Bauers von Riedern und der Verstorbenen Liberata Wigerle, mit der ledigen *Veronika Jehle*, geboren den achten Mai achtzehnhundert acht und zwanzig, eheliche Tochter des verstorbenen Lorenz Jehle und der Magdalena Schildknecht, Bürgers und Glasers dahier. Zeugen waren Leodegar Schildknecht, Zimmermann, und Johann Boll, Schuster, beide verheiratete Bürger von Riedern.

Riedern den drei und zwanzigsten August, achtzehnhundert neun und vierzig.

T Fr. Hausehl, Pfarrer"

"No. 4.

In the year eighteen hundred, forty and nine, the twenty-third of August, morning at nine o'clock, was married with Consens Grand Ducal District Office Bonndorf, dated the ninth of August this year, number sixteen thousand one hundred three and sixty, and according to previous public proclamation done by law, as on the twelfth and nineteenth of August current year - in the parish church here signed ecclesiastically and civilly: the unmarried Pankratz Boll, his profession a shoemaker, citizen of here, born the tenth May eighteen hundred twenty and six, legitimate son of Johann Boll, citizen and farmer of Riedern and the deceased Liberata Wigerle, with the unmarried Veronika Jehle, born the eighth May eighteen hundred twenty and eight, legitimate daughter of the deceased Lorenz Jehle and the Magdalena Schildkecht, citizen and glazier there. Witnesses were Leodegar Schildknecht, carpenter, and Johann Boll, shoemaker, both married citizens of Riedern.

Riedern the twentieth and three of August, eighteen hundred forty and nine.

T Fr. Hausehl, priest

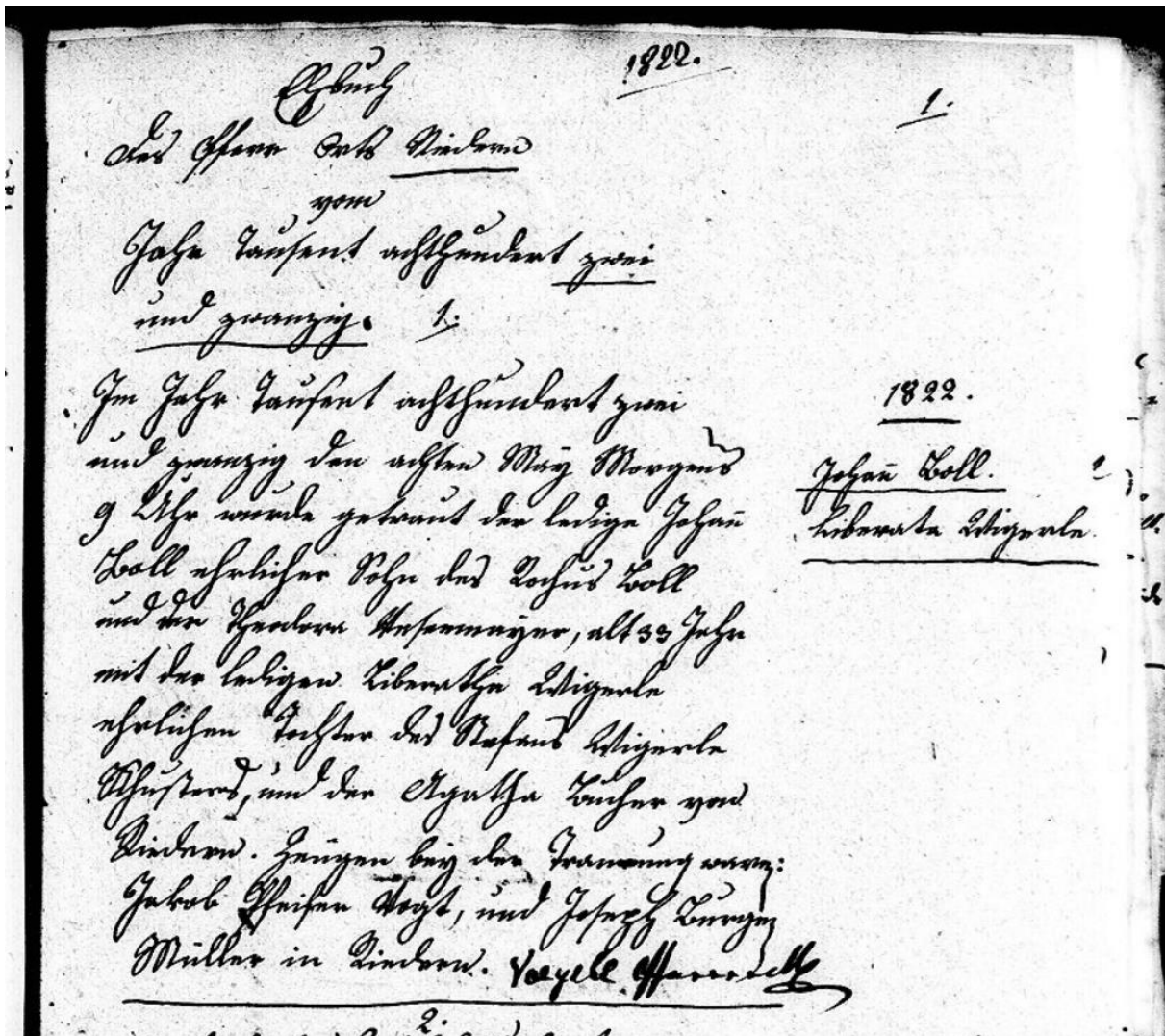


Abb. 25: JOHANN BOLL & LIBERATA WIGERLE

Source: Marriage register Riedern

Texte

Brief an Lincoln

Originalsprache	Übersetzung
Greenville Bond Co. Ill. March 25 /65	Greenville Bond Conty, 25. März 1865
Father Abe!	Vater Abraham!
Excuse me if I trouble you with my Letter, even so for the style of my writing. I don't intend to write to you in a grammatical style; but as a son would speak to his father.	Entschuldigen Sie, wenn ich Sie mit meinem Brief belästige, insbesondere hinsichtlich meines Schreibstils. Ich habe nicht die Absicht an Sie in einem geschwollenen Stil zu schreiben, sondern, wie ein Sohn zu seinem Vater sprechen würde.
I am a laboring man; a mechanic who has to work day by day for the support of a numerus family.	Ich bin ein arbeitsamer Mensch, ein Handwerker, der Tag für Tag arbeiten muss um eine vielköpfige Familie zu unterhalten.
It has been a very hard time for me this winter, as my wife has been sick	Dieser Winter war für mich eine sehr

for nearly four months; but thank the Lord, she is now better again.

Now Father Abe! You have been elected president for four years longer, thanck God, and I am proud of it too; because I can say, that I have done my share in securing your election, not only "an the stump,"¹⁵ but in my writing for some Newspapers.

But you know, Father Abe! Illinois !

For my self I can say that I have

always been an Abolitionist¹⁶, even from the day that I first landed in America. In 1858 I had the pleasure of hearing you make one of your eloquent speeches in our town Greenville,

and I must say, my heard then, bead warmly for you. But Father Abe I dont tell you that, to flater you, nor ded I ever expeact any reward for my Services; because I have dan it for principles sake.

At this time however, I thought I would ask a favor of you. I have an old mother in Germany, whom I have not seen for twelve long years, it would, therefore be an great hap-pines to me to see her once more.

God knows that I am not able to do it; for I have not the means to do it with. On this account, the thought came into my mind, that Father Lincoln might be so kind, to assist me by sending me there as a

Consul, or a Agent to induce emigrati-

harte Zeit, da meine Frau nahezu vier Monate krank war, doch Dank dem Herrn, geht es ihr nun wider besser.

Nun Vater Abraham! Sie wurden als Präsident, Gott sei Dank, für weitere vier Jahre wiedergewählt, und auch ich bin stolz darauf, weil ich sagen kann, dass ich meinem Teil dazu beigetragen habe, ihre Wahl sicherzustellen, nicht nur auf der Wahlkampftour, sondern durch meine Beiträge für einige Zeitungen.

Aber Sie, Vater Abraham, kennen Illinois!

Für meinen Teil kann ich sagen, dass ich

immer schon ein Abolitionist war, sogar schon vom dem Tag an, als ich in Amerika ankam. 1858 hatte ich das Vergnügen, zuzuhören, als sie eine wortgewandte Rede in unserer Stadt Greenville hielten, und ich muss sagen, dass es mein Herz ergriffen hatte. Aber Vater Abraham, ich sage Ihnen das nicht, um Ihnen zu schmeicheln, genauso wenig erwarte ich eine Zuwendung für meine Dienste, da ich es für unsere Grundsätze getan habe.

Jetzt jedoch, dachte ich, würde ich Sie um einen Gefallen von Ihnen bitten. Ich habe eine alte Mutter in Deutschland, die ich seit 12 langen Jahren nicht mehr gesehen habe, weswegen es für mich eine große Freude sein würde, sie eines Tages wieder sehen zu können.

Gott weiß, dass ich nicht die Möglichkeit habe es zu tun, weil ich nicht die Mittel habe, mit denen ich es tun könnte. In dieser Hinsicht, ging mir der Gedanke durch den Kopf, dass Vater Lincoln so freundliche sein könnte, mich zu unterstützen, indem ich dahin als Konsul oder Agent gesendet werde, um

Auswanderer mit diesem Land vertraut zu machen; schließlich weiß ich, dass

¹⁵ „on the stamp“ — auf Wahlkampftour

¹⁶ „Abolitionist“ — Gegner der Sklaverei

on to this country; for I know that, in your message, you recommended this step to be taken. It would be, as you very well know, a fountain of gread prosperity and wealth to the American nation, to get have a gread Emigration in this Country In thinking of this matter, I must say, many doubts and fears ~~of not su~~ arose in my mind, as to the success of my application to you; but, the love of a old Mother, and Considering the good Cause, encouraged me, to write to you and thes subject.

I trust to the kindnes of your heart, that, if I did not succeed you would not make fun of my request.

In regard to said Commission, I would say, that I am well prepared, pos-tet and interested, to cary it aut successfully. As much money as your opponent, Geo. B McClellan

drew in two months as a General, would enable me, to not only make many hearts glad and happy but to doo a gread deal for the Good of auer Country.

In regard to my Character I would say that, Mr. Jo. Gillespi (whom yo know well)

even so the people of the town Greenville

Could give you a good satisfaction.

my best and highest
respekt to you —

— and may God bless you

Your humble servant

P. Boll.

P.B. Father Abe! as I have your Portrait for over four Years in my room, I that I send you myn to. so that you can

Sie in Ihrer Botschaft vorschlugen, dass dieser Schritt unternommen werden solle. Es wäre, wie sie sehr gut wissen, eine Quelle von großem Wachstum und Reichtum für die Amerikanische Nation eine große Zuwanderung in dieses Land zu bekommen.

Beim durchdenken dieser Sache muss ich sagen, wuchsen eine Menge Zweifel und Ängste in meinem Kopf, wie hinsichtlich des Erfolges meiner Bewerbung bei Ihnen, jedoch die Liebe einer alten Mutter und die gute Sache bedenkend, haben mich ermutigt Sie in dieser Sache anzuschreiben.

Ich vertraue auf die Güte Ihres Herzens, dass, wenn ich keinen Erfolg habe, Sie sich nicht über meine Anfrage lustig machen werden.

Bezüglich der besagten Kommission, würde ich sagen, dass ich gut vorbereitet, aufgestellt und interessiert bin es erfolgreich auszuführen. So viel Geld, wie Ihr Gegner, Gen. B. McClellan,

in zwei Monaten als General bezog, würde mich befähigen, nicht nur viele Herzen stolz und glücklich zumachen, sondern auch ein großartiges Geschäft zu Gunsten unseres Landes zu machen.

Hinsichtlich meines Charakters würde ich sagen, dass Hr. Jo. Gillespi (den Sie gut kennen) und genauso die Leute der Stadt Greenville Sie zufrieden stellen könnten.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung
für Sie —
— und möge Gott Sie segnen
Ihr bescheidener Diener

P. Boll

PS. Vater Abraham! da ich Ihr Portrait seit über vier Jahren in meinem Zimmer habe, dachte ich, dass ich Ihnen meines sende, so dass Sie mich gegenwärtig sehen können.

P. B..

see me as present.

Brief-Archivschachtel 85

P. B..

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