



*The
Amelung
Saga*

By Kennard
Weddell

The Amelung Saga

An Epic of Your Forebears

1965

This was written in 1965 for Mrs. L. T. Murray and her sister, Mrs. Kennard Weddell, sixth generation descendants of John Frederik Amelung. It is an attempt to portray in readable form, the fabulous experience of that ancestor in attempting to establish the first glass factory in America of any magnitude. Authentic historical documents are commingled with family records and legends to make up the whole story.

THE AMELUNG SAGA

As recounted, in retrospect,

By

Kennard Weddell

There could hardly have been anything inspiring about the Baltimore dockside in the year 1784, despite its vying with Philadelphia and Boston as one of the three great ports of the Colonies. Yet, in the early evening of August 31st of that year, it was the most beautiful sight in the world to the weary passengers and crew of the brig FAME, just pulling in after a harrowing voyage from Bremen of one hundred days' duration, an overlong trip even in those days. What a ship, and what a voyage. In retrospect, we must accept the appraisal of some of the historians of early Maryland, that the cargo and the passengers of the brig FAME made it the most unique ship ever to become berthed at any port in the world, then or since, tho' this may seem an extravagant statement.

This privately chartered vessel, its hatches crowded with machinery, had aboard artisans and common laborers, Germans all, sufficient to establish and operate a first-rate glass "manufactory", the proprietor with his family and multitude of servants, accompanied by a minister of the . Lutheran faith, a physician, teachers and musicians; in sum-total a "compleat" community. This proprietor, a man of considerable presence and great vision, (tho' it later turned out to be ill-fated) was Johan Frederik Amelung, a native of Bremen, your ancestor.

Excitement on board ran high, for a hundred days at sea in such a conveyance and under such conditions as prevailed at the time had been a trying experience. Yet here they were, safe and snug, albeit in a strange land where few spoke their language. Celebrations were in order. One can see the joyous dancing on the deck where sixty-eight of the finest glass craftsmen of Bohemia and Thuringia, with their wives and children, indentured servants and all the ship's company called on the orchestra Johan had so thoughtfully brought along, to give its best. And one can see the more subdued yet equally happy party in the captain's quarters, where, along with the ship's officers, were gathered Johan, just 45 years old, his wife (who bore the redoubtable name of Henrietta Wilhelmina Fredericka Christina Dorothea von Leseburg), their four children and Henrietta's unmarried younger sister Caroline. One can be sure they sang their "Gott ist du Liebe" well that evening under the skies of the Patapsco River.

And it was here that Johan played host to the men of high eminence of the city who hastened aboard as soon as they received the welcome news of Johan's safe arrival, for their anxiety had been great. It had also been justified. Among them was Benjamin Crockett, the foremost merchant and shipowner of Baltimore, who had met with Amelung in Bremen and had there interested him in undertaking this extraordinary project. And there was Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the wealthy landholder of the estates granted his family by Lord Baltimore, and one of

Maryland's most outstanding patriots of Colonial and Revolutionary War days. And there was William Paca, the Baltimore jurist who, along with Charles Carroll, was among the signers of the Declaration of Independence, pledging "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor". They had all been "in" on the project, knew full well its importance to the newly free colonies, and the dangers that would beset its origin.

The discussion and the questioning must have been quite enlivening, and enlightening. Yes, Johan had been successful in interesting the bankers of Bremen into putting ten thousand pounds, a considerable sum in those days, into the venture, to which he had added whatever he himself possessed. Yes, his wife Henrietta and her unmarried sister had sold their inherited properties and invested the moneys with him. Yes, Johan bore with him letters of introduction to important merchants and statesmen in the Colonies from the American consul in Paris, and, more importantly, from John Adams and Benjamin Franklin who were also then in Paris. But the departure from Bremen was the high-light, and as Johan and the captain vied in its recounting, it lost nothing in the telling. And here we need some background.

It was less than a year since the Treaty of Paris had ended the Revolutionary War, making the Colonies independent, politically, from Great Britain. But there was no industrial independence whatever, there being no industries in the Colonies. 'Every home needed glass for its windows, tho' in the outlying settlements window panes were considered an impossible "luxury". But no glass was being produced in the Colonies, and, with virtual control of the sea-lanes, England was determined to maintain its monopoly in filling this need, as well as mirrors, goblets and other glassware. It could charge its own price which was naturally high, not only because of the lack of competition but also because breakage was severe in transit.

When England had received word from the continent of Amelung's project, it had set the wheels in motion to interfere with his recruitment of artisans, and, failing in that, to prevent their getting to the port of Bremen from which Amelung's privately chartered ship, the brig FAME, was scheduled to sail. In all these hostile measures, England had the active connivance of the ruling princes of Hanover, Brunswick and Hesse, whose coffers and policies she controlled. Many artisans were turned back, and those who made it to Bremen with their families only did so by unusually circuitous routes. One of the most important artisans related the circumfuge used in his getting alongside the docks of Bremen and aboard the ship: by being smuggled aboard in a hogs-head, the top of which was covered with various utensils to make the deception complete!

This harassment of Amelung and his agents continued, and when he got word that English naval vessels and Crown-controlled merchantmen were laying plans to intercept the brig FAME on the high seas, he decided to circumvent this plot

by sailing ahead of schedule. In so doing he had been forced to leave behind about a score of artisans much needed for the success of the manufactory. (The "lost" number managed to work their hazardous way across Europe to Amsterdam where they were able to take ship, and arrived safely in Baltimore late in November). Aboard the brig FAME however, with Amelung and his initial entourage were three of the most modern glass ovens. The captain's lurid stories of his outwitting and outmaneuvering the English ships on his way through the North Sea and across the Atlantic may have been somewhat embellished, sea-faring men being as they are, but Johan's recounting of his adventures before sailing fitted the pattern of those days, and can well be accepted.

Now that they were here, further planning had to be carefully accomplished to get this imaginative and promising operation in motion. Although the Colonies had achieved independence from the Mother Country, they were still thirteen separate and sovereign Colonies, held together somewhat tenuously by a Continental Congress. It would be another two years before the delegates from Maryland and four of her sister Colonies were to meet in Annapolis to draft a resolution calling upon that Congress to set up a special convention to write a hitherto unthought of Constitution. Still three more years were to transpire before the first election would be held and a duly established national Congress would hold its first session.

Coal had not yet been discovered in the Colonies, and aside from furniture-making in Massachusetts and some silver smithing in Baltimore and Alexandria, Virginia, there were practically no industries. The only land transportation was by wagons and coaches, the building of canals still being but a gleam in the eye. The few colonists of wealth were widely scattered in the cities and plantations along the eastern seaboard, and many of these were "land-poor". George Washington himself, reputedly the wealthiest man in the Colonies, was to find himself in such dire straits insofar as cash was concerned that he had to borrow money from the newly established bank in Alexandria to drive to his own inauguration in New York City! Such were the conditions of life obtaining in the Colonies at the time our Amelung was to start his great venture.

With the help of Charles Carroll who knew Maryland thoroughly, Johan located and bought three thousand acres of land in Western Maryland, on Bennett's Creek where it flowed into the Monacacy which in turn emptied shortly into the Potomac. This was well above the point where the Potomac was navigable, but the site was chosen because it contained silica, required in glass-making, and because of the abundance of timber. This latter was essential not only for the construction of the manufactory and homes for the workmen, but also for the vast amount of fuel that would be needed for the glass-ovens. The spot was originally known as "Fleecydale", but as construction of the three glass-houses and the many homes for the artisans and others neared completion, Johan named the community New Bremen.

As planned from the very beginning it was a self-contained community, boasting everything except a general store, the nearest being in Fredericktown some 10 miles distant. (it is this Fredericktown that was later to become famous as the home of Barbara Fretchie).



“Montevina”

With construction proceeding apace on the glass-houses, the homes of the artisans and the smaller houses for the servants, work was started to build the Big House, the mansion for Amelung and his family. In the designing and construction of this Mansion, Johan went all out, for his prestige and that of the entire transplanted community was important to the success of his venture. It took seven years to complete, enduring in the process a bad fire which took toll of parts of New Bremen, and had a serious effect on Amelung's financial strength. When finished it is said to have not been surpassed by the home of any of the prestigious men in the Colonies, barring Mt. Vernon, and was probably the furthest west of any of them. Built of brick imported from England, the mansion was two and a half stories high, and contained two wings which have since been destroyed. Johan named it “Montevina”.

The Patriotic Marylander, a quarterly publication of the Maryland Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, described it in these words:

"Standing upon the pinnacle of a beautifully sloping hill, the remains of the Terrace still being visible, it fronted 75 ft. with a depth of 60 ft; and although both wings have been in the course of time removed, it still boasts twenty rooms or more, and all the halls and parlors, reception and banquet rooms are wainscoted in white wood, hand carved. Above the window seats and around the huge mantelpieces

woodwork and carving look as perfect as the day when first created, and delight the eye by the beauty of the design.



“Montevina” - Different view

"The real treasure of the whole architectural triumph is the ballroom, 25 by 40 feet on the third floor of the house, paneled almost to the ceiling in the same rare design of white carved wood. The old colonial stairway still delights us with its grace and beauty. At one end of the ballroom is the orchestra room, where in the 'long ago' the colonist orchestra played the sweetest strains, and the harp and violin made rare melody which was caught up and reechoed in the hills and hollows of the 'Sugar Loaf', the while the powdered ladies and their cavaliers kept time with prim precision to the strains of the stately minuet. In the spacious dining hall were built beautiful old china closets, which, with the wine cupboards in the sides of the deeply recessed windows, still delight the eye of the visitor. On one side of the mansion house proper was the kitchen, and there was a chimney so large and square that two persons could sit within its spacious sides and turn the spit which hangs on an angle of the wall, a solitary reminder of the days when the old darkies, with their bright red bandanas and their weird folk-lore held high carnival whenever the ball or the hunting dinner was well over."

(Since the above account was published, the old mansion came into the possession of successive families of little means who sold off most of the ballroom paneling to well-to-do people in Westchester, New York, where it is recorded that "it graces a room built to fit them". Later owners of the mansion with a historical outlook and exquisite taste have restored the interior of the building with great authenticity, and take pride in showing the occasional visitor through it.)

Johan Frederik Amelung had need for such a mansion, for he counted among his close friends and associates many of the great merchants and statesmen of the Colonies, among them Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Lafayette and George Washington himself, many of whom were entertained at Montevina. Johan established the Fleecydale Lodge, one of the earliest Masonic lodges in the country; the great ballroom was used as a lodge-room, and the first Master of the Lodge was Abraham Faw of Fredericktown, one of Maryland's delegates to the Constitutional Convention, who was also the Amelung agent in Fredericktown.

While the "Big House" was being constructed, no time was lost in getting the glass-houses into production, and within a year after he had landed in Baltimore, Johan was able to advertise in such few newspapers and journals as existed in the colonies, that the glass manufactory was ready and able to handle orders and commissions for window glass, table glass, optical glass and looking-glass. He had established agents in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Frederick. He stressed the quality of his wares, and insofar as his table glass at least was concerned the craftsmanship of his artisans was outstanding. This is born out in many pieces of correspondence between Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison and Washington, and experts on the subject to this day declare his tableware was unsurpassed even in the old countries. Nor was Amelung slow to publicize their quality. He was the promoter de-lux of these wares.

He first produced a beautiful pokal, exquisitely engraved, which he sent as a grateful presentation to the city of Bremen in Germany. It carries, along with the coat of arms of old Bremen, the inscription "Old Bremen Success, and the New Progress". This ceremonial pokal was acquired from Bremen by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 1928, and is shown today as one of its prized possessions. Another early piece known as the "Boston Flip" was presented to the first elected mayor of Boston with the copper-wheel engraving "Our best wishes for every Glass Manufactory in the United States", and was later acquired "at great cost" from the family of the original owner by Yale University. Another goblet bearing the arms of the State of Pennsylvania was presented to Thomas Mifflin on the occasion of his election in 1791 as the first Governor of that State. Mifflin had been president of the Continental Congress, and was one of those to whom Amelung had brought letters of introduction from Benjamin Franklin in Paris. This goblet also was later acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Very few pieces of authentic Amelung glass are in existence today. All are museum pieces except for a few privately owned, which are trotted out for display on special occasions. Quite a quantity of New Bremen glass adorned the table at Mt. Vernon, a few pieces of which may still be seen at the Old Masonic Lodge In Alexandria, Virginia. Most importantly, there are the few rare pieces which graced Amelung's own table and were handed down through successive generations of direct descendants; but more about these later.

For a few brief years everything seemed to give promise of a successful

future. Amelung enjoyed not only the patronage but the friend-ship of the most influential men of that time. There is a fascinating account in Lossing's "History of Mt. Vernon" of the first visit made to Mt. Vernon by Amelung, who carried with him in his coach and four a very fine piece of blown and engraved glass as a present and a token of neighborly esteem to our first President, whom he was to meet for the first time. It was in late March of 1789, shortly after Washington's unanimous election and before his inauguration. Accoutered in his best finery, as befitted the occasion, Johan, upon nearing the mansion house, approached a man working in the field and asked him if he could give him any information as to just where and when Mr. Washington could be interviewed. Raising his hat, the President revealed his identity, and the presentation was made then and there in the field!

The two became close friends, and among the family memoirs is the account written by one of Amelung's daughters of Washington's return visit as President to New Bremen. Johan arranged a great ball to honor his distinguished guest, and with his own coach rode out several miles to meet the coach bearing the Father of his Country, driving him back in the Amelung coach. One can imagine the ceremonies and festivities that followed in the great ball-room.

By this time New Bremen had between three and four hundred German inhabitants, plus ninety-nine slaves owned by Amelung who worked in the fields, for Johan supported the entire community out of his own purse. There was a physician to care for the sick, a Dr. Messing who had come over on the brig FAME. There were blacksmiths, bakers, tailors and shoemakers. A school had been built, instruction being given in English and German, writing and ciphering. Lessons also were given on the harp, the harpsichord, flute and violin, for Amelung was determined that his colonists would have as many if not more of the advantages and comforts they had relinquished on setting their faces toward the New World at his urging. He himself became a naturalized citizen in 1790 and saw to it that his compatriots took the same action.

By now financial clouds had become extremely serious, despite the good long-range prospects of the venture. Accounts receivable could not be readily collected; credit almost everywhere in the new States being notable for its absence. Cost of production and transportation mounted, prohibiting adequate profits, and Amelung exhausted every possible means of obtaining the financial assistance needed. The State of Maryland made him a grant of one thousand pounds and a five-year moratorium on taxes. At the urging of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a member of the newly elected Congress, the very first tariff act under the United States Congress had been passed in 1789 for the benefit, primarily, of the Amelung Glass Manufactory, with some other newly founded industries included. It provided a 10% ad valorem duty on all imported glass. This had been a help, but Amelung contended it was not high enough and on several occasions he petitioned Congress to raise it, pointing out the much higher tariff rates used in European countries to protect their glass manufactories. He also petitioned Congress for a loan of eight thousand dollars to help offset the loss incurred by a disastrous fire in New Bremen.

The loan was approved by the Congressional Committee (of which Carroll was chairman), but was defeated in a full vote of the Congress on the grounds that the Constitution did not authorize such individual financial assistance.

In 1795 Johan had to advertise his entire property for sale. Several personal bankruptcies resulted (these were in the days of debtors' prisons) and there was such a maze of partial sales of properties, mortgage foreclosures and other litigation that it took ten years before the last bugle. The glass-blowers and artisans moved to various other sections of the county and of the country, some migrating to Ohio to establish the first glass factories in the Northwest Territory under the influence of Albert Gallatin. Johan's only son moved one of the glass-houses to Baltimore in 1799 where he formed a partnership with a Baltimore man of means, and this factory eventually prospered. But Johan Frederik Amelung, the pioneer with a vision, died a broken man at the home of one of his married daughters in Baltimore, 1798.

And how does the blood of this stalwart come down to you?

Fredericka Amelung, 1767-1838, was Johan's eldest child and daughter, being seventeen years old when she came over on the brig FAME. A year later she married in New Bremen one Andrew Keener, a son of a German merchant in Baltimore who was one of Amelung's agents. They lived in New Bremen where Andrew was his father-in-law's chief book-keeper. Andrew died seven years later, leaving Fredericka with one child, Charles Frederick Keener.

Five months later, Fredericka married again, this time to a German from Philadelphia, Dr. Philip C. Sommerkamp, and they later moved to Baltimore. They had three daughters, Louisa, Amelia and Matilda, and one son, Edward. The second daughter, Amelia Caroline Sommerkamp, 1800-1845, married in Baltimore Frederick William August Ernest Bredemeyer, 1800-1850, a tobacco exporter who had, at the age of 14, come alone from Germany. A very successful businessman, he had organized a company of sailing vessels which became then, by merger, the North German Lloyd, and he on Its first Board of Directors. Amelia died in 1845 leaving but one child, Helena Fredericka Bredemeyer. Frederick Bredemeyer was married again, this time to Amelia's older sister, Louisa, and she survived him by 17 years. Amelia's younger sister, Matilda, married a Baltimore German by the name of Huntmuller. (The Kirks, of kirk silver fame, are descendants of this union).

Amelia's only child, Helena Fredericka Bredemeyer, 1837-1900, was married at 17 years of age to her first cousin, H. F. D. Huntmuller, who died a year later of a self-inflicted accidental gunshot wound. She next married a Baltimore German, Thomas Mason, who died shortly thereafter of typhoid. Her third husband was Dr. Francis W. Patterson, a noted surgeon of the Confederate army, whom she married in 1865, a few months after the Civil War ended. (The colorful life of Helena will be taken up in another chapter). They had three sons, and two daughters: Amelia Phoebe Patterson and Ethel Patterson. Ethel Patterson married Donald McCallum,

and is living today, widowed, in Penticton, British Columbia. Amelia Phoebe married in Tacoma, a Philadelphia gentleman, one Melbourne Bailey, by whom she had two daughters, Helen Patterson Bailey and Ethel Field Bailey. The latter married Joseph Kennard Weddell in Tacoma; they have no children. The elder daughter, Helen Patterson Bailey, married Lowell Thomas Murray in Tacoma, and they have three children: Amy Lou, Ann, and Lowell Thomas; Jr.

That brings us up to date as to your Amelung background, but no recounting would be complete without the story of the most famous and priceless piece of Amelung glass In the country, the personal goblet of Johan Frederik Amelung.

THE AMELUNG GOBLET

Authentic pieces of Amelung glass are, as has been noted above, few and far between. All are rare pieces of beautiful and artistically engraved workmanship. Several pieces of an extraordinary nature have been handed down in the family, from the Amelungs, the Sommerkamps the Bredemeyers and the Pattersons, which are in the possession of Helen B. Murray in Tacoma. The crowning gem, the personal Goblet of Johan Frederik Amelung, that pioneering emigrant with the outstanding vision, has also been preserved, never leaving the family. Given by Ethel Patterson McCallum to her namesake and niece, Ethel Bailey Weddell, it is now on display as a loan in the Baltimore Historical Museum, and has recently been given for safe-keeping in the family to Mrs. Weddell's niece, Ann Murray Barbey of Astoria, Oregon. This goblet, in perfect condition today, is the one with which Johan, in his most glorious days, used to toast the great and the near-great during those founding years of the Republic.

Of clear, non-lead glass with slightly grayish tone, on an inverted baluster stem with tear and domed foot, it has on one side a copper-wheel engraved flower, leaf and grain wreath enclosing "J. Amelung" in script. On the reverse side there is inscribed the Amelung family motto:

"Suche Tugend und wann du die findest, so
uberlasse alles ubrige Vorsehung."

(Seek Virtue and when you find Her, leave
everything else to Providence.)

Amy Lou Murray Young, Lowell Thomas Murray, Jr., and Ann Murray Barbey, this was your great -great -great-great -grandfather, Amelung

The personal goblet of John Frederick Amelung was given
to his daughter Fredericka Amelung Sommerkamp, thence
to her daughter Amelia Sommerkamp Bredemeyer, thence
to her daughter Helena Bredemeyer Patterson, thence

to her daughter Ethel Patterson McCallum, thence
to her sister's daughter Ethel Bailey Weddell, thence
to her sister's daughter Ann Murray Barbey.

18 BREMEN, den 7. Juli 1969
RICHARD-STRAUSS-PLATZ 5
FERNRUF: 443970

WOLFF-HUBERTUS IHSEN
PASTOR

For

Mr. & Mrs. Kennard W E D D E L L
110 Country Club Drive
T A C O M A, Washington, 98498
U. S. A.

Dear Mrs. and Mr. W e d d e l l !

We thank you so much for your X E R O X !

We hope, that we can help you with these fotokopies . They are unfortunately not so good like yours. But it dured a long time till we found a XEROX for books (not only for pages).

You see, that the AMELUNGS had been a very honorable old family in Germany. The brother of the founder of NEW BREMEN near BALTIMORE is my ancestor, and the father of him Johann Friedrich Magnus AMELUNG, born 1706, is our common ancestor. (Look page 10 and. 11 in: AUS DER GESCHICHTE DER AMELUNGS (Out of the history of the AMELUNGS) and page 74 and 75 in: FAMILIENNACHRICHTEN der Franciska Amelung (Family-records)).

F.L.E. AMELUNG, the nephew of J.F.W. AMELUNG, born 1772, followed also to BALTIMORE (page 74 and 75).

The most important notice you find on the page 267 of the FAMILIENNACHRICHTEN, that J.F.W. Amelung went to Baltimore.

In this days we make holidays in DOHNSEN, HAUS v. LENGERKE, near Grünenplan, build in 1786. Here was living my ancestor, the daughter EMILIE of Minna Amelung, married LUTTERLOH (born 1770). Her father was minister at the prince of Brunswick. Emilie Lutterloh married a rich merchant from Bremen, JOHANN ABRAHAM VON LENGERKE. You can see the old house at DOHNSEN on the postcard, we add.

I shall send a copy of the XEROXs also to my son in law, Dr. Erhard KLAR, and my daughter. Perhaps they can translate in the English language, if you wish it.

Sincerely
Yours *Wolff und Käthe Ihssen*
(Wolff und Käthe Ihssen)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION CONCERNING
JOHANN FRIEDRICH AMELUNG AND HIS GLASSWORKS OBTAINED
SINCE THE FOREGOING CHAPTERS WERE WRITTEN.

For most of the following information I am indebted to Wolff and Käthe Ihssen of Bremen, she a great-granddaughter of Anton Amelung, Johann's brother, who sent me in July, 1969, pertinent portions of the published family records, a very honorable and distinguished family in Germany. Anton's and Johann's lives were closely knit, as were their families, their fortunes, and sadly enough, their misfortunes.

Their father was Johann Friedrich Magnus Amelung, named after his own father and his grandfather on his mother's side, was born in Hameln in 1706. At the age of 27 he leased an estate in Heitlingen, a little north of Hannover, and a year later married Friederike Bartheldes, a pastor's daughter. Among their children were Anton Christian Friedrich, their first-born, Johann Friedrich Wilhelm, and Catherina Dorothea, all of whom were closely involved in the ensuing events.

Anton was first educated as an apothecary, but the beginning of the Seven Year's War (1756-1763) in which the Kingdom of Hannover participated prevented him from following that highly esteemed profession. He instead served as War Commissioner in charge of supplies, and after the war he became chief forester for the kingdom, and by 1769 became engaged in the lumber business. Four years later he went into the glass business by making an 18 year lease on the ducal mirrorglass factory in Grünenplan, where, with the help of scientific advisors he introduced several technological advances, including the polishing by machine instead of by hand. His brother Johann, then 32, was the chief director of the establishment, and his sister Catherina's husband Harpoke was also part of the management.

The mirrorglass factory at Grünenplan was the love of Anton's life, and for several years was a highly successful enterprise. It employed some 100 skilled craftsmen and the management was responsible for the feeding and lively hood of about 500 persons including women, children and wood carriers. It was customary in those days for the proprietor or liege-lord of a business establishment to be charged with the overall welfare of the employees and their families. (This concept Johann was to bring to Baltimore with him, as noted in previous chapters.)

The sole product was mirrorglass which had to be sent to Petersburg in Russia to be silvered and there sold, many of them in Persia. These were huge mirrors when finished, and of excellent quality. Wars between Sweden, Russia, France and Prussia, together with the ensuing blockade of the Baltic, handicapped all commerce in the area and resulted in a hazardous economy, particularly in Russia. So it came about that in 1784 Johann and Harpoke with many of the best artisans of Grünenplan set off for Baltimore where they believed the opportunity for a successful glassworks

was greater. This was a blow to Grünenplan, but Anton did not give up and he kept on with it until 1790.

Anton's wife, Sophie Meyer, daughter of the court musician of the Kingdom of Hannover whom he had married in 1765, had borne him 17 healthy children. (16 of them are shown together with their parents in the silhouette of the "Amelung family" in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore.) It is an interesting coincidence to note that the first-born child of both Anton and Johann was a girl, was named Frederike, and was born in the same year, 1767. Anton's Frederike married a pastor in Minden about the same time that Johann's Frederike went with him to Baltimore. Anton's fourth child Minna was the grandmother of the Käthe Ihssen mentioned earlier, to whom we are indebted for this information regarding the Amelung Family in Germany.

Anton's fifth child, and second son, born in 1772, was Friedrich Leopold Eberhard, generally called Fritz in the family documents in order to distinguish him from the many other Friedrichs. He is especially interesting to us in that, while he apparently played no part in Johann's venture, he came to America on several occasions and wound up as the third husband of Johann's daughter Sophia, his first cousin!

Of Anton's 17 children, six of the sons became merchants and emigrated to other countries: Karl, August, and Wilhelm to Russia, Anton Jr. to Havana, Freidrich (Fritz) to Baltimore, Ferdinand to New York and Heinrich, who will be mentioned later, to New Orleans.

As to Johann's family which he brought with him from Bremen, his wife's full name was Frederike Magdalena Carolina Lucia von Leseburg, a correction from the name given in the first page of this treatise. (Her sister's name was Wilhelmina, also a correction in the above.) All four of their children were born in Germany: Frederike, Sophia, Johanna, and the youngest, Johann Friedrich Magnus, named after his grandfather. All of his family, including Frau Amelung's sister, Wilhelmina, were living in Baltimore at the time of Johann's death in 1798, the same year in which his brother Anton died across the ocean.

What better benediction can be given to the exceptionally intertwined lives of these two courageous brothers than a quote from a precious poignant letter sent by Johann a few months before his death to Anton's youngest son Heinrich in New Orleans, and which is treasured in the family archives in Germany:

"My eyes are so weak that I can hardly decipher what I have written....recommend me to your dear mother,give my brother an eternal farewell from me. Some year soon we will again see each other in that place where there will be no parting. Soon, soon --- farewell Your loving uncle Joh. Fr. Amelung"