

HERMAN AND PAULINE BOSSHARD

In Canton Thurgau in the town of Turbenthal, Switzerland lived the Johannes and Catherina Egli Bosshard family. Johannes was born in Rümlang, Zurich, on 26 December 1826 and Catherina in Hächsdorf. In Turbenthal, Johannes farmed as did most of his neighbors. Over the years eleven children were born to Catherina: Susannah (Susetta) (6 January 1841), and Paulina (18 October 1843), in Turbenthal; Johannes the first (18 July 1844 who when nearly 10 died in Switzerland); Hermann (6 July 1846) in Remismühle;¹ and Jacob (9 June 1849); an unnamed female (6 August 1851 and died the same day); Mina (21 September 1852), Hermina (19 December 1856); and Johannes the second (15 June 1858); Lina (12 May 1860 who died on 27 December 1861); and finally Emma (12 July 1863 who died on 11 March 1864.

When Mormon missionaries, preaching the restored Gospel, came into Turbenthal the older three children were touched in their hearts by the message and desired baptism. The two daughters, both born in Turbenthal, were the first to be baptized in the Bosshard family. Susetta, (14), was baptized in the River Sihl on 11 May 1855 by Daniel Bonelli,² and was confirmed by him and Pauline, (13), was baptized and confirmed by Bonelli the same day. It was not until five years later when Herman was 14, that he was baptized and confirmed on 25 May 1860 by Christian Moosman in the Toess Stream.

The three older children, Susetta, Pauline, and Herman were anxious to follow the missionary's admonition to gather to Zion. After discussions with their parents it was decided that they would be allowed to make the journey to Zion and that the parents and remaining children would follow later when they had sufficient funds for the journey.

The following spring (1861) the three older children, Susetta, Paulina, and Herman came to the New World from Switzerland. They traveled from Turbenthal to Zurich and then by rail to Basel and via river boat to Amsterdam, Holland. There they boarded a steamer and traveled to Hull, England, and from hence to Liverpool by rail. Boarding the sailing vessel *Monarch of the Sea* they became a part of some 960 Saints who were coming to America. The Saints were placed under the charge of Jabez Woodard who had been a mission president in Switzerland the past four years and with whom the children were well acquainted. Ignaz Willie was placed in charge of the Swiss Saints who were assigned to the eleventh ward. The Saints left Liverpool on 16 May and arrived at Castle Garden, New York, on 16 June.³

Leaving Castle Garden they traveled by river steamboat and rail to Florence, Nebraska. There they are said to have joined an Unidentified Company.⁴ However the author would suggest that they most likely joined the Swiss Saints in the Sixtus E. Johnson Wagon Train. This train left Florence, Nebraska on 14-15 July and arrived in Great Salt Lake City on 27 September. Interestingly none of the children were helped by the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company,

¹Record of Members Collection, Reel 6818, LDS Church Archives, Family and Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, hereafter LDS Church Archives or Family History Library. It should be pointed out that Herman was born in Remismühle according to his baptismal record but a family group record lists his birthplace as Turbenthal, the same as all the other children. There is also a conflict in his birth date it being listed on his baptismal record as 6 July 1846 and on the Family Group Record as 7 June 1846. These birthdates, except for Herman are from the Family Group Record.

²Bonelli was baptized on 19 August 1854, and became one of the leading baptizers in Switzerland. He would later lead the Saints from Great Salt Lake City, to Santa Clara and was the presiding elder there until Edward Bunker was called to be the bishop over these Saints.

³*Monarch of the Sea*, 1861, Mormon Immigration Index, Family Resource File, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, hereafter cited as Mormon Immigration Index.

⁴Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868.

indicating that they had sufficient funds to make the journey without any outside help. There the three children, Susetta, 20, Paulina, 19, and Herman, 15, were befriended by their fellow Swiss Saints as John G. Hafen had met Susetta earlier when as a local Swiss elder he went on a proselyting mission to Canton Zurich.

At the October General Conference of the Church where Swiss Saints were called to the Southern Utah Mission to settle in Santa Clara, the three Bosshard children were among those called.



Hafen, who had met Susetta earlier, became much better acquainted with Susetta on the journey from Switzerland to America, and across the plains and had fallen in love with Susetta. When Brigham Young suggested to the Swiss Saints that any of them contemplating marriage should go to the Endowment House where they could be eternally sealed to each other, Hafen and Susetta (pictured left) went to this house where they were sealed by Daniel H. Wells on 18 October 1861.⁵ Susetta will be discussed later when John G. Hafen's history is written and will now be

discussed only in her relationship to her siblings.

Shortly after this marriage, on 28 October, Susetta and John G. Hafen with Hafen's extended family and Susetta's two younger siblings in tow began the difficult and arduous journey to Santa Clara. Arriving there on 28 November they settled around the fort and made temporary shelters. Their furniture consisted of homemade chairs and a bed and tables. They later settled about a half-mile southeast of the fort. There the land was surveyed by Israel Ivins of St. George and the land dedicated by Daniel Bonelli on 22 December. Lots for a home and for farming were drawn from a hat and each of the Swiss Saints received their property.

The industrious Swiss, including the Bosshards immediately went to work and began to construct dams and irrigation ditches. They also cleared the land of rabbit brush, sagebrush, creosote, and sunflowers, and began to plant gardens, grains, and fruit trees and vineyards. Many of the settlers found that their land was impregnated with alkali which was a great deterrent in raising crops. Food was scarce and their mettle was tested when they were forced to eat pigweed greens, the bulb of the sego lily and any other edible greens which they could find.

While living there storms began and the rain started to fall – gently at first, but then in torrential downpours. The Hafen's and Susetta's siblings watched with joy as the rains began, as now they would have ample water for their crops. Their joy turned to horror when the peaceful Santa Clara River turned into a raging flood sweeping everything before it. The fort, schoolhouse/meeting house, seven homes and Walter E. Dodge's beautiful nursery were all destroyed by the raging waters on 19 January 1862.⁶

We would assume that Paulina and Herman would be watched over and perhaps lived with Susetta and her husband, John G. Hafen. In 1862, Paulina, now 19, had for the past two years been

⁵Endowment House, Record of Sealings, 18 October 1861.

⁶Daniel Bonelli to Brigham Young, 19 January 1862.

noted by Ignaz Willi who was married to Susetta's sister-in-law, Barbara. Willi had become acquainted with Paulina on traveling from Switzerland to Liverpool and then on the ocean voyage where Paulina was in the eleventh ward over which Willi presided. If the assumption that both were in the Sixtus E. Johnson Wagon Train is correct, then on the journey west they would have become even better acquainted. Willi began to court Paulina and when their courtship turned to love, with his wife Barbara's consent, the couple journeyed to Great Salt Lake City where they were married in the Endowment House on 4 October 1862. Paulina was two weeks shy of her 19th birthday while Willi was 25. Unfortunately Willi died less than a year later on 24 July 1863. With Willi's death a great void was left in Paulina's life and many tears were shed. She was delighted when sometime in 1864 a child, Paulina, named after herself was born.⁷ Paulina was left with her infant, grieving about having so little time with her husband. Her sadness turned to joy when her parents arrived in Santa Clara with their four younger children sometime in late 1864.⁸ At that time the Bosshard family moved into the Willi home.

Tragically, after being in Santa Clara for just a year, Father John Bosshard died on 21 December 1865 when only 39 years of age. His passing left Catherina, a widow with four unmarried children to raise in a very unprepared position. The children were Hermann, 19, Jacob, 16, Mina, 13, Hermina, 9, and John, 7. Herman now became the man of the family and faced the difficult task of supplying the family with a place to live and with food, clothing, and all the other things which a growing family would require. The years following the elder John's death were most difficult and the family struggled greatly. Santa Clara had little to offer in the form of employment or job opportunities.

Apparently things did not go well with the family as they struggled to survive. Some members were bitter at losing their father at so young an age and others felt that Joseph Smith and his descendants and not Brigham Young were the rightful heirs to lead the Church. Polygamy was another concern. Perhaps Paulina's polygamous relationship with Ignaz Willi in which Willi died before their child was born left her with unpleasant feelings regarding the practice which were readily conveyed to her mother and siblings.

On 25 July 1868 Herman married Jane Garner in the Endowment House.⁹ Apparently Herman's childless marriage to Jane Garner was short lived as she died a year later on 23 July 1869. Seeking better opportunities for their family, Herman made a trip to California. He spent time in Los Angeles where jobs were more plentiful and opportunities greater than in Santa Clara. He felt that the family had a much better chance of making a living there than in Santa Clara where all of the best farming land was taken and there was little left. He was also discouraged by seeing many Santa Clarans barely able to make ends meet despite intensive labor to succeed.

On returning to Santa Clara he informed his family of his findings and counseling together they agreed to leave. Later that year, the entire family pulled up roots and made the difficult

⁷No date of the birth of Paulina has been found. However in the 1880 United States Census of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, taken on 11 June by George H. Pike, Pauline is living with her brother Herman.

⁸Johann and Catherin Egli Bosshard came to America on the sailing vessel *Hudson* with their four younger children, Jacob, 15, Mina, 11, Hermina, 7, and Johannes, 6, in 1864. This vessel with Captain Isaiah Pratt, a cousin of Elder Parley P. Pratt, was one of the few vessels carrying Saints which left from London, not Liverpool, England, 3 June 1864 and arrived in New York on 19 July. The Saints with the Bosshard's then journeyed by rail to Wyoming, Nebraska, the outfitting station that year for the Saints. The rail journey was very difficult as the Civil War was ongoing and the Saints had to travel in filthy cattle cars and in several places the bridges had been burned. At Wyoming, after waiting two weeks, they joined the William Hyde Wagon which left Wyoming on 9 August and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on 26-30 October. On 31 December, John was debited \$340.80 by the Perpetual Emigrating Company indicating he had insufficient funds for himself and his family to make this overland journey.

⁹New Family Search.org.

journey to Los Angeles, California where they settled.¹⁰ After the Bosshard family left Santa Clara and most likely in absentia, John Bosshard (17), was cut off from the Church for apostasy on 9, August 1875. The following year (December 1876), Mina, (24), and Hermina Bosshard, (20), were cut off for apostasy.¹¹

Arriving in California the Bosshards welcomed the opportunities available and began anew to try and make a comfortable life for the entire family. Widowed mother Catherina Bosshard (51) is mistakenly listed by the 1870 census taker as Catherina Bertholde. Is it possible that she married a man named Bertholde or is this a case where the census taker did not understand her thick Swiss accent and assumed the name she gave him was Bertholde? She is living in Los Angeles, California, with sons Herman (24), Jacob (21), and John (12); daughters Paulina (27), Mina (17), Hermina (13), and granddaughter Paulina (6).¹² Where the census taker has given wrong ages the author has corrected these ages. The Bosshards are listed as farmers with Herman and Jacob being workers on the farm. They are living next door to Conrad Hafen who left Santa Clara in 1868. Conrad is also listed as a farmer and his son Louis (17), works on the farm.

In 1880 Catherina Bosshard (61) is still living in Los Angeles with sons Jacob (31), and John (22), and with daughter Paulina Willi (37) and granddaughter Paulina Willi (16). Catherina's last name in this census is correctly listed as Bosshard instead of Bertholde. Mina is not living with them and her whereabouts is a mystery. If living, she is now 27 years of age. Did she marry someone in California sometime before 1880? If so with no identifiable husband it has not been possible to find her in California. An alternate possibility would be that she died sometime before 1880.

Living next door to the Bosshard family is Herman (34), a single carpenter. Herman is found in the Los Angeles City Directory of 1888 living at 330 South Olive, rear, where he is listed as a musician.¹³ He is again found at age 52 in Los Angeles in 1900 with wife Marie. They were married in 1884. Apparently this is his first marriage since the death of his first wife, Jane Garner. Herman's sister Paulina is living with them but not Paulina's daughter. It is likely that her daughter married and moved out of the home or that she passed away. Herman's vocation has changed from carpenter, to musician and now finally to police officer. Herman is found in Los Angeles in 1920, now 73 and living with his wife now listed as Maria, not Marie. He mistakenly lists his year of immigration as 1862 being off one year.¹⁴ This is the last information that we have on Herman.

Hermina married a man by the name of Willard E. Badham¹⁵. She is in Los Angeles, California with her husband William E. in 1899 at which time she was 43 years of age.

John Bosshard (40) is living in Los Angeles in 1900 with his wife Carrie M. (38) and with their three children: Adolph (15), Catherine (10), and Ruth C. (5 months). Ten years later he is still living in Los Angeles with wife Carrie M. and with their two children Catherine (21) and Ruth (10). Apparently Adolph has married and moved to start his own family. John mistakenly gives his year of immigration as 1861 – off 3 years.

¹⁰Arthur K. Hafen, *A Biographical Sketch of John G. Hafen*, St. George, Utah, 1929, 28.

¹¹Record of members collection (1836 -1970, Santa Clara Ward, LDS Church Archives.

¹²1870 United States Census, Los Angeles, California.

¹³Los Angeles, California City Directories, 1888-1890.

¹⁴1920 United States Census, Los Angeles, California. In this census he is listed as Herman Borschard.

¹⁵This information is found in the Santa Clara Cemetery Records where Susetta lists her siblings. By Paulina's name, (md. Ingas Willi), by Herman's name (Jane Garner), and by Hermina's name (md. Bedham). Actually Hermina's husband is Badham not Bedham.

In 1910, Jacob (60) is living in San Antonio, Los Angeles, California with his wife Marie (47). They were married in 1884. Also living with them are their five children: Olga (24), Hermann (22), Selma (21), Orlo (19), and Arthur (17).¹⁶

What happened to Hermina? The record is silent for many years. Hermina would have been 12 when the Bosshards left for California. In 1899 she is living with her husband, Willard E. in Los Angeles as a 43-year-old housewife. The date of her marriage has not been found.¹⁷ There are two children in this family: Willard E. Jr. and Irma. Irma would marry a man, first name not known, named Spooner. Hermina died on 10 June 1938. Her obituary follows: "Mrs. Hermina Badham, 59 years of age [this death date is obviously wrong as she was born in 1856 which would make her 82 years of age], wife of former Assemblyman Willard E. Badham died yesterday at the family home, 1183 West Thirtieth Street."¹⁸ Her funeral announcement of June 9, 1938 follows: "Hermina Badham, wife of Willard E. Badham: mother of Willard E. Jr., and Mrs. Irma Spooner: sister of Mrs. Charles L. Bogue and Frederick Adams. Funeral Services at the Reorganized Church of Christ. LDS, Thirty-ninth and Grand Ave . . ."¹⁹ In this announcement where Hermina is listed as a sister of Mrs. Charles L. Bogue and Frederick Adams one would assume that her sisters Mina and Paulina were married to these two men. However a search of the census for these two men was fruitless.

Sometime in the 1890's when young Adolph Hafen, son of the Bosshard's sister Susetta, visited California he spent the winter with the Bosshard clan and "learned to love all of them." Later, as he had children of his own he "encouraged them to go to California and become acquainted with these relatives. Some of them did and they learned to love them as well."²⁰

Leaving Santa Clara because of religious differences as well as lessened opportunities to be successful, Hermina and some of the Bosshards joined the Reorganized Church and others joined the Church that they attended in Switzerland. Only Susetta of the Bosshard family was comfortable in Santa Clara where she remained faithful to the Mormon religion she had espoused in Switzerland in 1855. As the first wife of John G. Hafen who later married three additional wives in polygamy, she held a special place in his heart. Hafen was the first native of Switzerland to be called as a bishop in Santa Clara, serving for 28 years. Susetta died in 1914 and Hafen followed her in death in 1928.

¹⁶1910 United States Census, Los Angeles, California, Jacob is listed as Jacob Borchard. He erroneously lists his year of immigration as 1865 instead of 1864.

¹⁷California Voter Registration lists of 1930 and 1932.

¹⁸Historical Newspapers, Births, Marriage, & Death Announcements, 1951-2003, Obituary, Los Angeles, California, 10 June 1938.

¹⁹Obituary, 10 June 1938, Los Angeles Los Angeles Times.

²⁰LeRoy R. Hafen, compiler and editor, *The Hafen Families of Utah*, 38. The Hafen Family Association, Provo, Utah, 1962, copy in author's possession.

