

Samuel and Magdalena Stettler Stucki Family

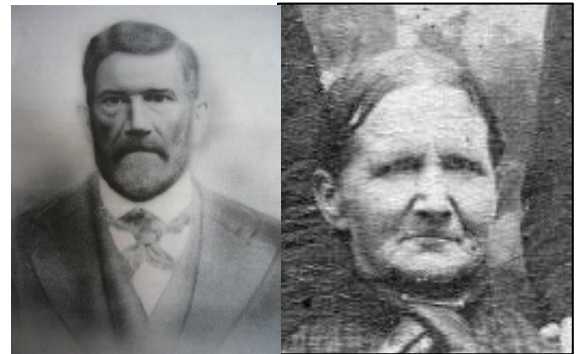
- John S. Stucki
- Anna Maria (Mary Ann) Stucki (Hafen)
- Rosena Stucki (Blickenstorfer Hafen)
- Christian Stucki

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Swiss Company – Santa Clara, November 1861

Samuel Stucki was born in Signau, Bern, Switzerland on January 18, 1824, a son of John and Elizabeth Schenk Stucki. He married Magdalena Stettler on 8 Mar 1859. She was born 15 March 1823 in Biglen, Bern, Switzerland to Johan and Elizabeth Burki Stettler. To them were born 8 children (six in Switzerland and two in Santa Clara). Twins that were born in Switzerland died in infancy as did the two born in America.



Samuel and Magdalena Stettler Stucki

Samuel was mainly a turner, a worker in wood who used a lathe to make curved objects, and a farmer, but he had many kinds of tools so that he could do almost any kind of work. He repaired wagons for other people and was a good carpenter, also a cooper. In Switzerland he and his family lived in a small home on a mountain slope, surrounded by a

small farm, consisting of some hay land and a little garden. They raised grain for bread, hay to feed a cow, what potatoes they needed, and timber to furnish them with wood. They also raised flax and hemp and in the long winter evenings, Magdalena would spin these and make cloth. While she did this, Samuel would spend his time making spinning wheels, scythe-snaths, hay rakes and forks.

When the right season came, he would take cartloads to market. They raised or made nearly everything they needed for their use. They were very religious so that when they heard of the Gospel of the Latter-day Saints, it was no t hard for them to understand it. As soon as they accepted the Gospel, their neighbors and friends turned against them. Samuel and Magdalena and their four children immigrated to Utah in 1860. They sailed on the ship, William Tapscott in 1860 and came across the plains with the Stoddard Handcart Company

After they arrived in Santa Clara, Samuel, using a borrowed shovel, for he had no garden tools nor machinery of any kind, spaded a garden plot and planted the seeds they had carefully carried from Switzerland. (The story of their conversion, their immigration to Utah and being called to southern Utah and their early years of struggle and poverty have been recounted in the stories of John S. Stucki and Christian Stucki.) Samuel married a second wife, Barbara Nuchly (Nussli) who died not long after they were married. He then took a third wife, Anna Mary Reber who was born in Bern, Switzerland. They were married July 27, 1881. To them were born two daughters, Mary Elizabeth and Esther. Samuel was 57 years old at the time of his third marriage and was “an old man” of 62 when Esther was born. Esther supplied part of the following information.

After this third marriage, his first wife, Magdalena, never lived with him again but visited with her often. Samuel started going blind about the

time Esther was born and continued to get worse. At one time a man stopped in town and professed to be a doctor and said he could cure Samuel. He was paid \$4, an enormous sum, to give him the treatment. The “quack” doctor poured some medicine into Samuel’s eyes, which caused terrible pain, and after this all was dark.

Blindness was a trial for Samuel, but he did not give up and kept on with many of his activities. Although he lost his sight, he never lost his faith. Even after he became blind, he still continued to try to garden, but others had to do the main part of it. He took his cane in hand and felt his way around. He continued to take care of his four stands of bees. He would take the tops off the hives and feel in to see how the honey was coming and when the honey was ready he put on his bee cap and took out the honey. The bees never seemed to mind, and he didn’t get stung. They kept a cow and pig in their corrals to the northwest of the house. The clothesline was fastened from a corner of the porch to a corner of the shed, and after Samuel became blind, he’d take hold of this line and follow it to the corral when he fed and milked the cow. Samuel learned to know every fence post and seemed to see with his fingers. He would take his sickle and proceed to the lot at the south where he sickled Lucerne from along the fence lines and around the beehives where others would have left it. He tied the Lucerne into bundles and then carried to the cow. He also continued to saw his own firewood. He had a rack he had made to lay the logs in so he could cut them.

They owned a field about a mile out the lane to the east of town where they had a peach orchard. They dried many tons of peaches throughout the years, cutting and drying most of them on scaffolds right in the fields. One time, after Samuel was blind, he got up on the east roof of the house to sweep it clean, so they could dry their peeled peaches there. The lower section of the roof was a few feet shorter at one end

than the upper section. Samuel misjudged the distance and stepped off the upper section just above the short end and fell onto the wagon tongue. He shook himself up quite badly and frightened his family.

In the wintertime Samuel made baskets for their peaches from the white willows that grew along the creek bed. He wove them into round, durable baskets with handles on the sides. He also made a cider press, consisting of two rollers which, when turned, pressed the juice from the apples. They used what cider they needed and sold or traded the rest for other things they needed. Samuel also made the barrels the cider was kept in. During Samuel's last year of life, he lost his memory and at times was hard to handle. They had to have one of John S. Stucki's (the oldest son from the first marriage) boys come and help take care of him. Toward the end of life, Samuel contracted dropsy which caused his death at Santa Clara, Utah on March 6, 1910

John S. Stucki

John S. Stucki was just a boy of nine years old when he crossed plains and came to Santa Clara with the Swiss Company of 1861. In his 80th year he wrote a wonderful, extensive history of his life. A

condensed version of his writings is included in this book in the "John S. Stucki Chapter". John S. Stucki was the son of Samuel and Magdalena Stettler

Stucki. He was born December 13, 1850 in Helstatten, Bern, Switzerland. He was oldest of six children born in Switzerland. The four who lived and came to Utah were John S., Mary Ann, Rosina, and Christian.

After the family embraced the Gospel, John saw a miraculous manifestation of the power of the Priesthood in the healing of his uncle, John Reber who was so badly crippled that he walked almost



John S. Stucki

doubled over, using two stout sticks as canes. On a cold December night axes had to be used to chop through the thick ice to prepare for their baptism. John's parents and others were baptized first, then John Reber who had to be carried to the water. He was blessed for the restoration of his health. When the men went to help him after his baptism, John Reber said he thought he could walk home without help. He threw away his two short sticks and walked home without a bit of help. After that Uncle John walked tall and straight. After the family was baptized, John S. had to be taken out of school because other schoolchildren were so mean and cruel to him. They threw rocks and sticks at him.

The Stucki and Reber families and other Swiss converts made preparations to come to America. Samuel Stucki made two big wooden chests which they filled with warm clothing and bedding to use when they came to Zion. They sailed on the ship William Tapscott, in May 1860. They joined the Stoddard handcart Company of 1860. John S. walked all the way and helped push the handcart. There was only room on the handcart for a little clothing and bedding and the youngest children. They couldn't take the two chests of clothing and bedding. Samuel tried to sell them, but not being able to speak the language, he was unable to and they just had to leave all behind that they would so desperately need later. They were on half rations and so hungry all the time. John wondered why they didn't shoot more buffalo as they passed big herds of them. The men didn't dare shoot into a herd for fear of stampeding them, as they might run over the whole company or anything that was in their way. John's shoes were worn out, and he walked through some nettles which caused his feet to blister and swell. He begged for a ride in the supply wagon, but was refused as only the sick and the old were given that privilege. They all looked forward to the end of their long journey.

They arrived in Santa Clara 28 November 1861 with the rest of the Swiss Company. John told of how narrow the Santa Clara Creek was. They could easily step over it in some places before the big flood of 1862. John told of one time when President Brigham Young came to Santa Clara and the people made a big arch over the street with flowers and shrubs. The Santa Clara Brass Band played to welcome President Young. Most of the settlers had no shoes and went barefoot while working and to Church and school. John's father earned a pair by herding sheep for Jacob Hamblin for two weeks.

When John was still quite young, he got a chance to work for his board at an Iverson's couple's home in Washington. On Sunday morning he would walk back to Santa Clara and this dear lady would give him quite a big bunch of pancakes to take home to his family. He also found a place for his sister, Mary Ann, to work for her room and board. John S. Stucki and Barbara Baumann were married 10 December 1875. They built their own home; and even made their own adobe. It wasn't long until they had a family of five children.

Then John S. was called to go on a two year mission. At the time he was afflicted with rheumatism and was in debt for \$200. He sold his only horse, a black stallion for \$300 which paid off his debts and gave him enough money to get to his mission in Switzerland. Barbara rented their land to someone else and took care of herself and family. When he got home, Barbara was very ill, but she got well and gave birth to seven more children. Their children were:

- Barbara Rosina (Tobler)
- John Martin
- Mary Magdalena (Tobler)
- Bertha (Graf)
- Hulda Amelia (Wittwer Peterson)
- Herman Wilford
- Samuel Adolph
- Saraphina

- Elmira
- Ernest Edward
- William Theophil
- Leona (Ray)

John S. married Caroline Heinberg, a convert of his from Switzerland on 2 May 1889. They had four sons and then Caroline died 16 February 1898. Barbara raised these as her own, the youngest being just a baby. They were

- Samuel Benjamin
- Joseph Ernest
- John Alfred
- Ferdinand Karl

John S. was one of the best farmers in the country. He raised every kind of fruit, vegetables, berries and nuts that could be raised in Dixie. He kept bees and they extracted honey about four times each summer, getting around 90 gallons each time.

They homesteaded a ranch on the Cedar Mountain and the family spent part of the summer there. They made cheese and butter to last during the winter months. When they went to the ranch in the spring, the boys drove the cattle a day or two ahead of John S. and Barbara and the rest of the family who followed in a covered wagon. They came back in the fall for school.

Later John S. sold the ranch to the Cedar Sheep Association for a substantial sum, and this money helped in temple work in his later years.

After 46 years of marriage, Barbara passed away on 22 March 1922. John S was very lonely and married a woman by the name of Wursten. She was a convert of his in Switzerland and later came to America with a family of eight children. She was a widow and lived in Logan, Utah. He lived there with her for eight or ten years. He was very happy, working in the Logan temple with his good wife.

After his wife died, John S. came back to Santa Clara to live in his own home which he helped to build as a young man. His youngest daughter, Leona and her husband, Joseph Ray, took care of him the last seven months of his life. In closing his book which he wrote in his 80th year, John S. said to his family: "When you read these things in this little family history journal, read them carefully, and I hope it will encourage you to draw near to your Heavenly Father. By pondering over these things, your faith may be strengthened to trust in God. The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but to those who hold faithful to their God, faithful to the end of their lives, and they may gain Eternal Life, which is the greatest gift of God." John Stettler Stucki died 26 March 1933 in Santa Clara, Utah and was buried in the Santa Clara Cemetery.

Anna Maria Stucki (Reber Hafen)

Anna Maria Stucki, also known as Mary Ann Stucki, was born in the valley of Rotenback, near Bern, Switzerland on May 5, 1854 to Samuel and Magdalena Stettler Stucki. Soon after their conversion to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, her parents sold their home and set out for Zion in America. They journeyed across Holland to England and embarked on the sailing vessel, William Tapscott at Liverpool on May 11, 1860. The weeks of monotonous sailing were varied by a terrible storm that broke a mast and sent the passengers below deck. They arrived safely in New York on June 16 and entrained for the overland journey in Florence, Nebraska. Here they joined a handcart company of 126 persons led by Captain Oscar Stoddard.



Anna Maria Stucki

They were among the Swiss called to Southern Utah in 1861. The family lived for some time in a dugout. Mary Ann learned to work in the home, gardens and farms. She used the sickle to help her father and brothers cut their grain. They would cut for others on shares, receiving four bushels of grain per acre. She made hats from the clean white straw and sold them to buy necessities. She learned to spin and weave on a loom her father had made.

Mary Ann had boyfriends, but none appealed to her like jolly Uncle John Reber who was already married to her Aunt Barbara and had several children. Plural marriage was then practiced in the Mormon Church, and the leaders advised those men able to support more than one family to remarry. When Mary Ann was nineteen years old, she married John Reber in Salt Lake City on August 4, 1873. The day after they arrived home from Salt Lake, John Reber was killed in an accident. Mary Ann returned to live with her parents.

Soon John George Hafen came courting. He had married Susette Bosshard in 1861, but the Church leaders were urging him to marry again. When he proposed, Mary Ann hesitated, partly because she had heard that Susette did not want John to take a second wife, but her parents encouraged her to accept. So, within four months after her first trip to Salt Lake City, Mary Ann again went to Salt Lake City where she and John George Hafen were married on 24 November 1873. Arriving back in Santa Clara, Mary Ann was set up for housekeeping in a two-room adobe house. John stayed with his two wives on alternate days, but polygamy was difficult to live, and he and his wives were not always happy. Mary Ann spent most of her married life in Bunkerville, Nevada where she raised her children. In her later years she sold her house and moved to St. George where she could engage in the Temple work she loved. Her daughter, Mary, who was a widow and, her children were married, also moved to St. George and cared for Mary Ann during her

declining years and last illness. Mary Ann Stucki Reber Hafen died in St. George, Utah on January 16, 1946 and was buried in the family plot in Bunkerville.

Rosena Stucki (Blickenstorfer Hafen)

Rosena Stucki was born in Roethenback, Bern, Switzerland to Samuel and Magdalena Stettler Stucki on April 11, 1857. She came to America with her parents, a sister and two brothers as a little girl of two. She rode in a handcart the thousand miles across the plains. They were sent with the Swiss colony to Santa Clara where they knew extreme poverty. With little schooling, Rosena learned to read well and enjoyed poetry. She was married at sixteen to Gottlieb Blickenstorfer, a Swiss emigrant who had lost his wife through death. Rosena had three children by this marriage: Rosena, John Henry and Barbara Selena. Henry died of typhoid fever when he was twenty-six, Selena died of black canker when about fourteen months old. Rosena grew to maturity and raised a family. Gottlieb died when Rosena was six and Henry four. Rosena remained a widow for four years and then she married John George Hafen as his fourth wife on 28 February 1885. She had two more children, Charles and Ella. Rosena taught her religion more by living it than from the scriptures. She never spoke unkindly of anyone and never refused to help anyone. Rosena was taken ill suddenly in June 1912. The doctor called it "obstruction of the bowels", but today it would be "ruptured appendix". She died on June 12, 1912.



Rosena Stucki

Christian Stucki

I, Christian Stucki, was born in Rotanback, Switzerland, October 7, 1859. My parents were Samuel and Magdalena Stettler Stucki. We came to Salt Lake City in July 1860 and to Santa Clara 28 November 1861. Before we crossed the plains we stayed at Florence, Nebraska, where my father who was a turner and carpenter, made many of the handcarts.



Christian Stucki

My father bought a cow, intending to harness her to the handcart to pull it across the plains. The cow ran away and tipped the handcart over and threw myself and my sister, Rosena who was about three, out of the cart. Father traded the cow to a Danish company in return for which one of the men helped my father pull the handcart. My mother helped also, but her feet got blistered, and although she still had to walk, she couldn't pull the handcart. My brother, John S. age 9, also had to walk as did my sister, Mary Ann who was 6 years old.

After we moved to the present site of Santa Clara, my father built a dugout for us to live in. We were almost destitute for clothes. I had a pair of trousers made out of a canvas tablecloth. I had to go barefooted most of the time. We had no stove. We cooked on the fireplace. We ate pig weeds cooked as greens. We used molasses for sugar and corn for bread. While a boy, I had to herd the town herd of cows. I herded them up the creek and on the sand bench. I had to go all day without water and would get so thirsty I could drink anything. My sister, Mary Ann, helped me. We herded barefooted and had to walk in the hot sand and cactus. Each family had to take a turn at herding. They had to herd one day for each cow.

I married Mary Gubler on May 31, 1883. We had six boys and six girls. We lost two girls. I spent one year at Littlefield, Arizona with Henry Frehner and Traugott Graff. I was president of the Young Men's Improvement Association for eight years; was Ward Teacher for 50 years; was second assistant to the Superintendent of the Sunday School for about eight years, and filled a mission to Switzerland. I left for this mission October 1, 1899 and returned December 5, 1901.

I cut many acres of grain with a sickle. I would cut grain for others and take grain for my pay. I got one bushel for cutting one acre. Later we cut grain with a cradle.

We had many sports and entertainments in the early days. Charles Graff was the leader in these sports. We had dances, played baseball and played many games.

Christian Stucki was still running his farm in Santa Clara at the age of seventy five. He died Marcy 6, 1952 and was buried in the Santa Clara Cemetery