

Pauline Teuthorn and the Schroter-Teuthorn Family

A summary of two articles from the genealogy blog teuthorn.net

Origins, Emigration, and the Founding of a Family

Origins

Pauline Teuthorn was born on January 11, 1833, in Frankenhausen, the daughter of the local physician Johann Christian David Teuthorn. She thus belonged to the same family as the blog's author, though only as a distant relative (a great-great-grandniece, twice removed). In the genealogical sources consulted – the Frankenhausen family registers and the German Emigrant Database of Bremerhaven – she remained a marginal figure for a long time, until the author uncovered her emigration.

The Journey Abroad

Pauline left Bremerhaven on April 30, 1859, one of 337 passengers aboard the ship “Weser,” and arrived in New York on May 16, 1859. Her reason for emigrating was her fiancé, Gunther C. Schroter, a saddler from Rottleben near Frankenhausen, who in 1851 had traveled to California by ox team along the Oregon/California Trail and had become economically successful in the gold-mining town of Shasta. He sent for Pauline to join him.

Since only six weeks separated Pauline's arrival in New York from her wedding on June 27, 1859, in Shasta, the author rules out the slow overland route via the California Trail as well as the sea route around Cape Horn. The more likely option is the faster Panama route: by ship along the coast, across the isthmus by rail, and on by steamship to San Francisco.

The Founding of the Schroter Family

On June 27, 1859, Pauline and Gunther Schroter were married in Shasta, California. Over the following fourteen years – Pauline was twenty-six upon her arrival and forty at the birth of her last child – the couple had nine children. Gunther Schroter built his saddlery business in Shasta into a thriving enterprise (dealing in sewing machines, hides, and furs; purchasing the Charter Oak Hotel in 1867; later opening a branch in Redding), was a Freemason, and served for several years as a justice of the peace. He died in 1905. In this way the couple founded the Schroter-Teuthorn family in Northern California, whose descendants the author was able to trace with the support of the Shasta Historical Society.

Source: “Pauline and the California Gold Rush – From Frankenhausen to Shasta, CA,” teuthorn.net/feuilleton/?p=10365

Family Cohesion Beyond the Father's Death

A follow-up article added in 2026, drawing on death notices from Find a Grave and an obituary in the Shasta press, portrays the cohesion of the family through the death of Gunther Frederick Schroter on March 15, 1905, and beyond. Of his eight surviving children, six were at his bedside; the remaining two, whose journey took longer, arrived in time for the funeral – all eight attended. Gunther died in the home of his youngest daughter, Augusta Agnes, in Redding, after a hospital

stay in San Francisco for his cancer had offered no hope of recovery; he had asked to be allowed to die in familiar surroundings.

The children remained in the Shasta County / Northern California region for decades, and some followed their father's trade – two sons carried on the family saddlery business. The family also remained closely connected among themselves: two daughters, Amelia and Augusta, married two brothers, John Sale and George Crow Strobe, in the same year. A granddaughter, Nellie Schroter Moore, wrote a biography of her grandfather in 1977, which served as a key source for the family's history.

As a member of Western Star Lodge No. 2, Gunther Schroter found his final resting place in the Shasta Masonic Cemetery operated by that lodge, where several of his children are also buried. The article thus points beyond the original account of his parents' emigration and rise: out of Pauline's risky journey abroad and Gunther Schroter's work of economic advancement grew a family in Shasta whose cohesion – regional, occupational, and through marriage – outlasted their parents' generation.

Pauline herself witnessed only part of this family cohesion: she died suddenly on January 9, 1884 – more than twenty years before her husband – at her home near Shasta. A contemporary death notice records the moment: she was reclining on the lounge at her home when one of her little girls made the discovery that she was dead. “With what sorrow her bereaved family must have received the intelligence of a fond and loving wife and a tender and indulgent mother gone from earth without ever a parting farewell,” the notice continued, adding that “she has finished her labors and her kind ministrations will ever be remembered by her many friends and her admonitions be ever cherished in the hearts of her children.” She, too, was laid to rest in the Shasta Masonic Cemetery – long before Gunther, in the same cemetery where he and several of their children would later be buried. The family's cohesion across more than two decades, through the father's death in 1905 and beyond, thus unfolded already without the mother – whose “kind ministrations” and “admonitions,” as the notice put it, nonetheless remained cherished in her children's hearts.

Source: “The Schroter-Teuthorn Family / California,” teuthorn.net/feuilleton/?p=11649

Compiled from two articles published on the genealogy blog teuthorn.net and a contemporary death notice. This summary does not claim to be complete relative to the original texts.