

### Charles B. Stephan's Ice Company

The parents of Charles B. Stephan are Bonifaz and Sofie.<sup>1</sup> Bonifaz Stephan grows potatoes on a farm and does business in the coal market.<sup>2</sup> Before these professions, he sails boats on the Rhine River and operates a "Ferry Hotel".<sup>3</sup> In 1877, he passes away at the age of fifty-one.<sup>4</sup> His wife, Sofie, comes from a wealthy family because they possess a large amount of land.<sup>5</sup> Bonifaz and Sofie belong to the Roman Catholic Church.<sup>6</sup> She gives birth to two children, Charles and Franziska.<sup>7</sup>

Samuel Stephan is the father of Bonifaz; therefore he is the grandfather of Stephan.<sup>8</sup> He is the mayor of a town by the name of Rust.<sup>9</sup> During the Rebellion of 1848, Samuel maintains the mayor position.<sup>10</sup> In 1847, as mayor he orders for the construction of the Town Hall. Similar to Bonifaz, he owns many boats and sails them up and down the Rhine River.<sup>11</sup> He is the first person to sail through the Rhine Gap at Bingen.<sup>12</sup> While visiting Bonifaz in 1866, he dies after falling overboard due to a stroke.<sup>13</sup> The situation unravels in front of Stephan, who happens to be ten years old at the time.<sup>14</sup> The Judge of the District of Breisach and Rein awards Stephan a diploma and ten florin for his valiant efforts to save his grandfather.<sup>15</sup>

Charles B. Stephan's reputation revolves around being a produce and ice merchant.<sup>16</sup> He is born on 27 May 1856 to Bonifaz and Sofie Stephan.<sup>17</sup> Originally from Rust Baden, Germany, Stephan does not immigrate to the United States till later in life.<sup>18</sup> He attends a local school in Rust for five years.<sup>19</sup> After, he goes to school at the Citizens College in Ettenheim, a town in Baden, for an additional five years.<sup>20</sup> At the age of sixteen he works as a clerk in a local store.<sup>21</sup> In September 1873, Stephan takes the King William Steamer to the United States of America.<sup>22</sup> On 31 October 1873, Stephan finally arrives to America.<sup>23</sup> Struggling to find employment, someone by the name of Mr. Shloeder employs him at a cigar manufacturing business.<sup>24</sup> In February 1874, he travels to Lancaster County where his aunts welcome him.<sup>25</sup> However, there is no employment there of interest to him.<sup>26</sup> Instead, Stephan sells notions throughout the surrounding counties.<sup>27</sup> During the year 1880, he starts a hotel business in York, PA and runs it for two years.<sup>28</sup> Stephan wants to move back to Lancaster, and he continues to

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<sup>1</sup> John Franklin Meginness, Biographical Annals of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (J.H. Beers & Company, 1903), 1151.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>18</sup> Jean-Paul Benowitz, Historic Elizabethtown Pennsylvania: A Walking Tour (2017), 50.

<sup>19</sup> Meginness (1903), 1151.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid, 1151.

work as a peddler selling notions, wool garments, and shoes.<sup>29</sup> Then, Stephan moves to West Donegal Township and makes money by purchasing poultry.<sup>30</sup> In the spring, he settles in Elizabethtown, Pa. His home is on Washington Street.<sup>31</sup> For thirteen years, finally remaining in one spot, he sells produce.<sup>32</sup> In 1890, Stephan builds the first ice house in Elizabethtown.<sup>33</sup> Along with this, he is the first business to deliver ice in the area.<sup>34</sup> His employees make over 400 trips to local farms every week.<sup>35</sup> Wagons are used to deliver their products to the buyer.<sup>36</sup> Another business he manages deals with eggs and half-dressed cattle.<sup>37</sup> Stephan is the first person to ship half-dressed cattle to the New York area from his location between Harrisburg and Philadelphia.<sup>38</sup> He sells eggs to the New York and Philadelphia markets.<sup>39</sup> In the Atlantic City market, his products are distributed under Anchor Produce Co.<sup>40</sup> Elizabethtown is the seamless location for his businesses because it is between Harrisburg and Philadelphia.<sup>41</sup>

Stephan associates with the Democratic Party and is a member of the Shiller Death Benefit Society.<sup>42</sup> He is the vice president of the National Building and Loan Association located in Lebanon, Pa.<sup>43</sup> In 1880, Stephan marries Anna E. Mork.<sup>44</sup> They have five children together: Sophie, Angelina, Frances, Charles, and George.<sup>45</sup> Charles and Anna are Roman Catholic and members of St. Peter's Church.<sup>46</sup> Also, Stephan is a member of the Catholic Benevolent League.<sup>47</sup> His wife is a Lancaster County native.<sup>48</sup> Anna is born on 26 June 1854 to Frank and Margaretha.<sup>49</sup> In the year 1850, her parents married.<sup>50</sup> In 1830, Frank is born in Freuznach, Germany.<sup>51</sup> He comes to the United States as a child with his parents.<sup>52</sup> Frank's profession lies in the trucking industry.<sup>53</sup> Margaretha is born in Sandhausen Baden, Germany.<sup>54</sup> Both Frank and Margaretha are members of the St Joseph Roman Catholic Church.<sup>55</sup> They have five children together named Anna, Mary, George, Peter, and Lena.<sup>56</sup> Her grandfather, Andrew Morck, helps establish St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lancaster.<sup>57</sup>

Stephan purchases land from C. G. Reese Brick Works to use for his ice making business.<sup>58</sup> He creates Stephan's Ice Pond on the land.<sup>59</sup> Ice cutting is performed through the winter months.<sup>60</sup> Farm boys from the

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>34</sup> Jean-Paul Benowitz, *Images of America: Elizabethtown* (Arcadia Publishing, 2015), 49.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid, 51.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>40</sup> Meginness (1903), 1151.

<sup>41</sup> Benowitz (2015), 50.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>43</sup> Benowitz (2017), 49.

<sup>44</sup> Meginness, (1903), 1151.

<sup>45</sup> Benowitz, (2015), 51.

<sup>46</sup> Meginness, (1903), 1152.

<sup>47</sup> Benowitz (2017), 50.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>49</sup> Benowitz (2015), 51.

<sup>50</sup> Meginness, (1903), 1151.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid, 1151.

<sup>57</sup> Benowitz (2015), 51.

<sup>58</sup> Benowitz (2017), 50.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid, 50.

surrounding area work for Stephan's company to earn money because the farm is inactive at this time.<sup>61</sup> Originally icehouses are in root cellars located close to a farm.<sup>62</sup> The underground room has an opening in order for cool air to fill the room.<sup>63</sup> To make the ice last through the summer, farmers would add meadow grass to the snow mixture.<sup>64</sup> The design of the icehouse advances to have two walls in between hay.<sup>65</sup> The other layout involves building two houses inside of one another with the ice placed inside the smaller one.<sup>66</sup> On 17 October 1905, Stephan passes away.<sup>67</sup> His wife takes over the business after he dies.<sup>68</sup> The ice pond and house are eventually turned into the Elizabethtown Community Park through a project in President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>67</sup> Charles B. Stephan. Find a Grave. Accessed November 7, 2017. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/111977594>.

<sup>68</sup> C. 1909. Untitled. Lancaster Historical Society. Accessed October 31, 2017.

<http://lancasterhistory.pastperfectonline.com/photo/1661DF72-989B-499F-9918-643638233253>

<sup>69</sup> Benowitz (2017), 50