

GEN
929.2
K876M

Title

MATTHEW KREISLE (1831-1882)

HIS ANCESTORS, DESCENDANTS, AND RELATED FAMILIES

(MAYER, MUELLER, SEIDEL, AND THOMAS)

(Chap Head)

JOHN OR JOHANNES KREISLE

(1827-1882)

(Chapt Head)

THE KREISLES IN AUSTIN (1875)

AND THE FIRST GENERATION OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

III. The Kreisles in Austin (1875) and the First Generation of Their Descendants.

As might be expected, more is known of the Kreisle family in Austin, from 1875 on, than of their previous existence. No doubt, there are more records, documents, etc., to be discovered than those set forth here.

From various sources in Austin, the following might be noted:

Daily Austin Republican, June 11, 1868, an advertisement for J. W. Hannig, successor to England & Hannig, Furniture and Coffins. (A photograph of East 6th Street, dated November, 1868, however, clearly shows a sign for "England & Hannig Cabinet-Makers." [Austin, & Travis County, A Pictorial History, 1839-1939, p. 26]. The date must be a misprint, however, for 1866, which is the date given for the same picture in Waterloo Scrapbook, 1968-70, p. 14, article dated January 11, 1969".)

Daily Statesman, November 7, 1875, an advertisement for Hannig & Kreisle, Furniture, Pecan Street [6th Street].

Austin Weekly Statesman, December 30, 1875, another advertisement for the same firm.

Democratic Statesman, February 16, 1879, an advertisement for "M. Kreisle, Congress & Bois d'Arc [7th Street], Knabe pianos, Undertakers, Furniture."

Statesman's Austin Business Directory of 1882 has the following: "M. Kreisle Co. Undertakers and wholesale and retail dealer in Furniture, Carpets, Musical Instruments, Sampson Building, Congress Ave."

Austin Statesman, February 14, 1882, an advertisement for "M. Kreisle, Pianos, Organs, Dealer in Furniture and Carpets. Lambrequins, Lace Curtains, Window Shades, Sheet Music, Musical Instruments. Undertaker. Metallic, Rosewood & Walnut Coffins, Caskets, Burial Robes, Shrouds. Finest Child's White and Adult Hearses in the City. Prompt Attention to All Orders--Congress Avenue" (Some punctuation added; the advertisement features a two-horse hearse in the

center. This notice is practically identical to the one of February 22, 1882, which follows.)

Austin Statesman, February 22, 1882, an advertisement appearing only a week before the death of Matthew Kreisle: "M. Kreisle, Pianos, Organs, Furniture, and Carpets. Lace Curtains, Lambrequins, Sheet Music, Window shades, and musical instruments. Undertaker. Finest child's white and adult hearses in the city. Prompt Attention to all orders. Congress Avenue."
(Punctuation added)

Austin Statesman, September 28, 1890, an advertisement for M. Kreisle Co., 412-14 Congress, Furniture, with a picture of the store (three stories)

Austin Statesman, June 24, 1891, an advertisement for M. Kreisle, 411 & 413 Congress (the difference in store numbers is puzzling)

Matthew Kreisle's first business associate in Austin was John Hannig, the fourth husband of Susana Dickinson Herring Bellis Hannig, a survivor of the Alamo, and "Mother of the Babe of the Alamo." Susana died in 1883, at the age of 68, and Hannig died in 1890. Both are buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin. (See "Tolbert's Texas," Dallas Morning News, February 28, 1961; also see C. Richard King, Susanna Dickinson, Messenger of the Alamo, Shoal Creek Publishers, 1976.)

Information obtained by Robert Mueller, Jr. from early Austin City Directories provides additional information. The 1872-73 directory, the earliest in the Austin Public Library, lists J. W. Hannig as a furniture dealer on Pecan [East 6th Street] between Brazos and San Jacinto. This was probably the England & Hannig location. In the 1877-78 directory Hannig and Kreisle are listed as furniture dealers and undertakers with two stores, apparently,

824 Congress at the corner of Ash [9th Street] and the Pecan Street store between Brazos and San Jacinto Streets. The directory of 1879 reveals an apparent separation of the business into two firms. Matthew Kreisle appears as a dealer in furniture, pianos, musical instruments on the east side of Congress between Bois d'Arc [7th] and Hickory [8th]. Joseph (sic) W. Hannig is listed as undertaker and house furnishings at 205-207, north side of Pecan Street between Brazos and San Jacinto Streets. (The same directory lists Carl Mayer as a watchmaker and jeweler on the east side of Congress between Bois d'Arc and Hickory, probably the same address as M. Kreisle, and rooming with Jacob Thomas above the furniture store. A later directory, 1885-86, lists Carl Mayer [Heidbrink and Company] at 612 Congress, where the warehouse of M. Kreisle was also located according to an advertisement on the cover of the directory.)

The City Directory of 1881-82 continues the Kreisle address as the east side of Congress Avenue, however, in the 1883-84 edition, the address is 620-22 Congress Avenue [the Sampson & Henricks building], and this address is continued in the 1885-86 and 1887-88 editions.

A photograph of the Sampson & Henricks Building before the Kreisle business located there may be seen on page 24, Austin & Travis County, (op. cit.), while on page 55 there is a photograph of the same building after the Kreisle firm occupied it. The undertaking aspect of the business is emphasized by the horse-drawn

hearse in the front of the building, while furniture delivery wagons are relegated to the 7th Street side of the building. Some details of the building's history were included in an article by Katherine Hart when the photograph was printed in the column, "Waterloo Scrapbook," October 21, 1972 [reprinted in Waterloo Scrapbook, 1972-73, page 3]. In the article, Mrs. Hart states that the store of M. Kreisle occupied the building from 1881-88, however, the 1879 advertisement clearly contradicts the 1881 date given by Mrs. Hart. The photograph of the building has been preserved in a family collection (HM), as well as in the Austin-Travis County collection.

The 1889-90 directory gives the firm's address as 412-414 Congress, and the same address appears in the 1891-92 directory. In the directories of the 1880's and 1890's each of the Kreisle sons appears in connection with the business. William and Louis are listed in 1881-82, 1883-84, 1885-86, and 1889-90 editions, and Arthur appears in the 1891-92 edition. The last noted advertisement for the store was in 1891, with a puzzling change of street numbers (see above). The firm's name is missing in the 1893-94 directory, which may indicate the store was sold or went out of business at that time. The 1895-96 directory lists William C. Kreisle as general manager of N. V. Dittlinger, 418 Congress, with a similar line of merchandise, and perhaps Dittlinger purchased the furniture store and William became manager. Other indications of the end of the M. Kreisle Co. are the changes in occupations of the

Kreisle sons, as shown in the directories of the 1890's and 1900's (see below).

The movement of the furniture business from East Pecan Street to one side of Congress Avenue and then the other may be an indication of an improvement in the fortunes of the business, or possibly a disagreement between Hannig and Kreisle about the operation of the business. The move from 7th and Congress to the 400 block may have been the result of a desire to own their own building, since the Sampson & Henricks building has been held by the same family since the time of Matthew Kreisle.

In any case, whatever reasons there might have been for the moving and subsequent closing of the firm, the building in the 400 block remained in family hands, and the building was the location of a spectacular fire that occurred on July 23, 1916. (See p. 125, Austin & Travis County, which gives the date as "June, 1916," also Waterloo Scrapbook, article by Audray Bateman, publication date unknown.) In the photograph the name of M. Kreisle is not visible; it appears to be occupied by "Saxon Motor Cars" and another firm. However, on the second floor appear the words "lenoleum" and "draperies," signs perhaps left over from the furniture business. After the fire the building was rebuilt, and it stands today (1981) at 412 Congress Avenue.

The Kreisle family residence was built at 7th (Bois d'Arc) and Trinity during a period when many fine Austin mansions were being erected. The actual date of construction is not known, however,

the residence of M. Kreisle was given as Trinity and Bois d'Arc (southwestern corner) as early as the directory of 1877-78, which also shows Matthew associated with Hannig & Kreisle.

In Waterloo Scrapbook, 1971-72, p. 9, an 1873 map by Augustus Koch shows the 7th and Trinity site vacant. A later map by Koch, in 1887, shows the residence (Ibid., p. 10, December 4, 1971). The Castleman/Bull mansion, still standing today, was across 7th Street, facing south. The Kreisle home faced east to Trinity Street. In a way, the Kreisle neighborhood encompassed most of the family's activities; the business firm was three blocks away, the Southern Presbyterian Church was also three blocks away, the Millet Opera House, opened in 1883, was also within easy range. Nearby was St. David's Episcopal Church, built at least by 1869, and St. Mary's Academy, founded in 1874, on a site between Brazos and San Jacinto Streets on 7th Street. The 1880 Census, Travis County, Roll #1329, page 269, lists the Kreisle family on Trinity Street, with the notation that the houses are not numbered. Matthew is listed as a "furniture dealer," Carl W. as "Clerk in store," and Arthur is listed as "Otto." National origin of the parents is given as "Hanover," although "Germany" was originally written and lined out. No servants are enumerated, although two are listed for the Castlemans.

The Kreisle residence at 7th and Trinity Streets was located on almost a quarter of a block and included a hearse-house, as well as a stable and yard for the horse(s). The house was a two-story

dwelling, with mansard roof, bay-window, porch, and balcony. Servants' quarters or a maid's room, pantry and kitchen were provided for by an extension to the rear, which overlooked the latticed well-house. On the main floor were the parlor, separated by a narrow butler's pantry from the dining room, and across the long hall-way were two bedrooms and a bathroom. The bedrooms may have been originally planned as drawing rooms. Upstairs were three or four bedrooms, while, below, was a large basement, at ground level at one point because of the slope of the lot.

Furnishings of the house that have been preserved hint of some degree of elegance: marble top tables, Victorian bedroom suites of walnut, probably commercial stock from the store, marble or alabaster busts of Goethe and Schiller, a Mason & Hamlin reed organ (with the original guarantee of 1885) that stood in later years in the butler's pantry, a music case of spool-like posts and open shelves, a music box, family Bibles, as well as other items. Other furnishings that can be recalled include an upright piano, large steel engravings in the 19th-century style, and the usual glass case of stuffed birds. The upright piano may have been added in the 1900's, possibly to replace an earlier square piano. In early 1911, Leona and Emily Mayer were seeking and receiving recommendations regarding pianos from their former teachers. Two large oil portraits of Matthew and Sophie Kreisle in large gilded frames, which later hung in the Robert Mueller residence, as well as two oval pastels of the pair, are recalled, but their present location

is unknown. Elegant gold watches were presented to at least two of their daughters, as well as other jewelry to others in the family.

Two hymnals that have been preserved indicate that they were frequently used. One has the inscription "Sophie K." on the title page. This book, Choral-Buch für die Orgel, or Chorale Book for the Organ, a compilation of chorales for the "Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States," was edited by Landenberger, and published in 1868 by I. Kohler in Philadelphia, according to the title page (in German). The other shows much heavier use, and bears Louisa Kreisle's name, the very popular New Carmina Sacra, published by Lowell Mason and the Boston Academy of Music, copyright, 1850. (The original edition of 1841 had sold 400,000 copies, according to the Publishers' Notice.) Louisa Kreisle probably used the Mason in playing for the church services of the Southern Presbyterian Church. A letter addressed to "Miss Lou Kreisle," dated December 26, 1879, was found in a wicker sewing basket in 1973 in her daughter's (Leona Mayer Mueller) possessions, and the letter expresses appreciation for "furnishing that essential in Worship, nice music." It was signed by Calvin McCorkle, for the congregation. It is not known how long Louisa served as organist (she was 25 at the time), perhaps not too much longer, for she was married about 14 months later. In Waterloo Scrapbook, 1973-74, p. 32, May 11, 1974, a photograph of the choir of the Southern Presbyterian Church as the "turn of the century" may include her daughter, Leona Mayer. The tradition of service

playing was continued in the next generation; her daughter, Leona, served as organist for St. Martin's Lutheran Church for many years.

There is evidence of a very active musical life in the Kreisle family, judging from the music that has been passed on, and a hint that M. Kreisle might have considered himself more of a music merchant than a furniture dealer. Many of the advertisements mention music and musical instruments for sale; much of the Kreisle music is stamped with the name of the firm.

M. Kreisle published at least one musical composition, "The Last Farewell," for which his son, L. H. Kreisle, wrote the words and a Prof. C. M. Stephani wrote the music. The song was dedicated to Miss Kate Upshaw of Hillsboro, Texas, "Published by M. Kreisle Co., Austin, Texas, copyright 1882 by M. Kreisle Co." It is difficult to tell to whom some of the music belonged; several copies bear Sophie Kreisle's name, but this could mean either the mother or daughter. A piano composition of Weber's, published by B. Schott, "Mayence," clearly has the name "Mrs. S. Kreisle" on it. The music also has the stamp of two New Orleans firms, T. E. Benoit and Louis Grunewald. Some music is stamped with one of the Kreisle's names and "Goliad, Texas," indicating musical activity prior to coming to Austin. There are several compositions by a "Chas. J. Young," including "The City of Cairo Schottish," which is inscribed "Compliments of the author, June 8, 1868." The work was published in St. Louis by R. J. Compton, entered 1865 in the clerk's office, Eastern District of Missouri. A lithograph of the City of

Cairo, a sternwheeler, appears on the cover. Another piece by Charles J. Young, in manuscript, "The Mistick Krewe Polka," dedicated to the "Mistick Krewe" of Comus, New Orleans, entered (for copyright), 1866, has the stamp, "L. Kreisle, Goliad, Texas" on it. At the bottom, "Manuscript Copy Presented to Miss Louisa Kreisle by the Author." Another beautifully detailed manuscript, "Mocking Bird Potpourri, Composed for the Piano, by Charles J. Young, Goliad, Texas, Juny 22, 1868," suggests that Young visited the Kreisles in Goliad. Louisa Kreisle herself appears to have composed "The Evening Gun," a sentimental song typical of the time, for her name appears on the beautifully written manuscript in the place of the composer. A bound volume of instructional violin duets has the inscription, "C. W. Kreisle, Presented by his father, M. Kreisle." (Maza's Violin Method, with Pleyel's Violin Duets, J. L. Peters & Bro., St. Louis & A. C. Peters & Bro., Cincinnati, no date). There are also violin sonatas by Handel and Mozart in the best German editions of the time (Peters). Many copies of the typical household sheet music may be seen, as well as many volumes, often in elegant editions of German Lieder, as well as folk and religious music. There are numerous copies of compositions of Hans Harthan, some published in Europe. Harthan was one of the teachers of Leona Mayer and was organist at her wedding in 1912. (Harthan is described in Baker's Dictionary of Musicians, 6th edition, 1978, as a "German composer and pianist," 1855-1936, who taught in Odessa, Russia, and Santiago, Chile, before coming to the U. S. in 1903.

Harthan was one of several distinguished musicians with whom Leona Mayer studied. Others were Eric De Lamarter, organist and composer, and Julia Rivé-King, an American pianist, who was a pupil of Franz Liszt; both are listed in Baker's Dictionary. Harold von Mickwitz, Leona and Emily's piano teacher at Kidd-Key in Sherman, Tex., and Bush Conservatory in Chicago, was a pupil of Rimsky-Korsakov and the legendary Leschetizky. According to a fairly-well documented account, Paderewski and Mickwitz were both pupils of Leschetizky in Vienna when Mrs. Key selected a piano teacher for her school, and Mickwitz was chosen rather than Paderewski.)

Many of the musical textbooks have Emilie Kreisle's name in them. Where the Kreisles studied music, or, indeed, where they acquired their education, is not known. Matthew Kreisle provided a special bequest in his will of \$1000 to provide for the education of his youngest child, Arthur, who was eight years old at the time the will was written. At some point the Kreisles bought property on Lake Austin and built a house or cabin of some type, later swept away in one of the floods on the Colorado, perhaps in 1900 or later.

All considered, a very cultivated style of living may be envisioned, in the best traditions of the 19th century. The Kreisles, although originally Lutherans, were members of the Southern Presbyterian Church (membership records there might be searched for verification), possibly because of the lack of a Lutheran church in Austin at that time. The nearness of the Presbyterian church might also have been a factor. Leona Mayer Mueller

once commented that she attended the German Methodist Sunday School (Rev. R. Brueck was apparently close to the family) and the Presbyterian Church. The strong religious feeling of the Kreisles is also suggested by the fact that both Matthew and Sophie begin their last wills with the words, "In the name of God, Amen." Emilie Kreisle (or "Big Aunt Emilie," as she was known, to distinguish her from her niece) is remembered in her late years (1920-30s) as much for her severe dresses (from neck to floor) as for her probing her grandnephews with questions about praying and Bible reading.

When the achievements of the Kreisles are considered as a whole, it is quite remarkable that they were able to attain such a level in so short a time in a country to which they had immigrated from rural, small town backgrounds in Germany.

Matthew Kreisle died on February 27, 1882, barely past his 51st birthday, and a resident of Austin for not quite seven years. The Austin Statesman of February 28, 1882, in the notice of his death, described him as a "prominent business man, respected for his sterling qualities of integrity and honor.... He was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, Odd Fellows, Knights of Honor and other societies." The Austin Statesman of March 1, 1882, carried a biographical sketch of his life, previously referred to, and announced funeral services for the next day from the Southern Presbyterian Church. Copies of his funeral notice have been preserved. The inventory of the estate of M. Kreisle, filed July 22, 1882, shows an appraised value of \$52,166.67, a sizable fortune

for the time. Of this amount, net capital in the store amounted to \$26,433.92, and the remainder in Travis County Road and Bridge Stock, insurance and real estate.

Sophie Thomas Kreisle survived her husband by over 20 years, and died suddenly on May 3, 1903. The notice of her death appeared in the Austin Statesman of May 4, 1903, where she is described as "one of Austin's pioneers, having lived in Austin for 28 years... She was born in Prussia, and would have been 69 years of age next July. She was very well known and had a large circle of friends in Austin." Another obituary of May 4, 1903, states that she died of apoplexy on May 3, 1903, and had been an invalid for a long time. Dr. Vincent [Vinson?] of the Seminary officiated at her funeral in the absence of Dr. Smoot, who was sick. She had published poetry in the Apologete and the Texas Stern, two German language publications of the time.

Matthew and Sophie T. Kreisle are buried in a large vault in a family plot on the main street in Austin's Oakwood Cemetery. All of their children are buried on the plot, except for Louise K. Mayer and Louis Kreisle, who are buried in their own family plots.

Emilie Sophie Kreisle lived in the family residence until her death in 1937. During her last years, her niece, Emilie Mayer, lived with her. After the deaths of the Kreisles of her generation in the 1930's, the furnishings of the house were disposed of, and the residence vacated. During World War II the building served as Military Police Headquarters or Provost-Marshal's office for the

Austin area. (See 1947 photograph in Austin-Travis County Collection, reprinted in the Statesman or American of Wednesday, November 16, 1977, "The Way We Were.")

The eldest child of Matthew and Sophie Kreisle, Louise M., was married only a year before the death of Matthew. A copy of their wedding invitation has been preserved. The Austin Statesman of February 25, 1881, reported the event as follows:

"Matrimonial.

"Yesterday morning, at the Southern Presbyterian Church, Rev. Smoot officiating, married: Mr. Carl Mayer and Miss Louise M. Kreisle.

"Mr. Mayer is a gentleman of Culture, and one of our prominent businessmen.

"After the ceremony the couple, accompanied by friends, went to the H. & T. C. depot and took the train for New Orleans."

The return of "Mr. Carl Mayer and bride" from New Orleans was an item in the Austin Statesman of March 15, 1881.

Carl Mayer's entry into business on his own was announced in the Austin Statesman of November 22, 1877:

"C. Mayer, jeweler and watchmaker, formerly with A. Bahn, has bought the entire stock of diamonds, watches, clocks, jewelry, solid silver and plated ware of B. Schumann, on very advantageous terms, and can sell the same lower than any other house in the city.

"All goods and work warranted."

Carl Mayer was born in Reiselfingen, Amt Bonndorf, Baden, on December 29, 1847 (according to church records; he apparently understood December 26th to be his birthdate). His parents were Johann Mayer and Maria Agatha Vogt Mayer (the 1969 German excerpt

from the Baptismal Book uses the spelling Mayer). He was baptized in the parish church [Catholic] of Reiselfingen on January 1, 1848, with Johann Vogt Landwirt (farmer), and Sebastian Mayer, a Sacristan, as witnesses. Little recent information is available on Carl Mayer's brothers and sisters, although one brother lived on the Carl Mayer farm in the 1800's in the area of Austin's present Hancock Center and later moved to San Antonio. Some of his family remained in the Reiselfingen area after World War I, and contact with them was resumed after World War II. The Reiselfingen area is south of Winterlingen, near Neustadt, and south of the Danube River. The area is very close to Winterlingen, both now in the state of Baden-Württemberg. Doubtless, Matthew Kreisle and Carl Mayer must have felt a common bond of origin.

The death notice of Carl Mayer in the Austin Statesman & Tribune of January 7, 1916, provides what sparse details are known about Carl Mayer's early travels. From his notice, he left home at the age of 16 [1863] to go to London, where he learned the trade of watchmaker. (It seems ironic that someone born in the Black Forest area, near Switzerland, would have to go to London to learn the trade!) After four years in London, he went to St. Louis [1867], then New Orleans, then Austin, where he entered business in 1877. The business was first located in the Avenue Hotel Building, later the southeast corner of 7th and Congress, later 612 Congress, then to 618 Congress, where he remained, according to his death notice (1916). Some confusion exists concerning the location and founding

date of the jewelry store. A letterhead from the store for use in the 1900's carries the words "Established 1865," and this date is generally used in naming the store as one of Austin's oldest business establishments. The date probably refers to the start of the Bahn/Schumann firm, later the Schumann firm, which Mayer bought. Leona Mayer Mueller frequently stated that "Papa was never in business with Bahn," however, she may have been unaware that Carl Mayer worked for Bahn before buying out Schumann, which is clearly stated in the advertisement (above).

An advertisement for Bahn & Schumann appeared in the Daily Austin Republican of June 11, 1868. In the "Statesman's Austin Business Directory" of 1882, the notice appears, "Carl Mayer carries the largest stock diamonds, watches, clocks, silverware, etc., in the city. 613 Congress Avenue." The same publication lists A. Bahn under jewelers, at 619 Congress. A photograph of the Carl Mayer firm (as well as Bahn's, and another jewelry store, B. C. Wells) appeared in the American-Statesman of January 10, 1970, with the familiar clock, known to generations of Austin residents. The article by Katherine Hart states that the clock was placed on the store top when the business was on the east side of Congress. "In 1882, the clock was moved to crown a new building on the west side. In 1939, when Carl Mayer moved into a location in the 800 block, the three-sided clock was given a simple modern exterior." (See Waterloo Scrapbook, 1968-70, p. 64, also reprinted September 28, 1976, under "The Way We Were." In the photograph the Wells street

number appears to be 615; the advertisement gave the Mayer number as 613. Apparently the photo dates from 1882.)

The same Waterloo Scrapbook, p. 52, has a photograph of the Bahn & Schumann jewelry store sign in 1869 at 7th and Congress, and cites the notice appearing in 1869 regarding the firm. The article, from October 4, 1969, states that the Bahn & Schumann firm had broken up by the time of the first city directory (1871-72).

Austin City Directories, from information provided by Robert Mueller, Jr., supply some information on the locations of the Carl Mayer Co. The first appearance, apparently, is in the 1879-80 edition, in which he is listed as a watchmaker and jeweler on the east side of Congress, between Bois d'Arc and Hickory, presumably the same location as the Kreisle firm, above which he and Jacob Thomas were living. The 1881-82 directory lists Carl Mayer as watchmaker and jewelry dealer in diamonds, watches, clocks, jewelry, silver, and plated ware at the southeastern corner of Bois d'Arc and Congress Avenue. In 1883-84, Carl Mayer, Watchmaker and Jeweler, is listed at 810 Congress. The 1885-86 edition has an entry for Carl Mayer (Heidbrink & Co.), watchmaker, jeweler, dealer in watches, clocks, jewelry, diamonds at 612 Congress. Heidbrink & Co. (Bernard Heidbrink, Carl Mayer) is listed as pawnbrokers, 519 Congress. The Carl Mayer address changes to 618 Congress in the 1887-88 directory and continues in later editions.

The date of Carl Mayer's entrance to the United States and the location of entry is not known, but he declared his intention to

become a United States citizen October 27, 1877, and was granted citizenship September 23, 1906 (Case No. 26478, District Court of Travis County, Texas).

Carl Mayer and his bride lived in a house at 9th and Trinity Streets, the southwestern corner, now the site of Austin's Federal Building. The 1881-82 City Directory lists Carl Mayer as residing at this location. The brick structure, with stone lintels, resembled the architecture of the Kreisle residence at 7th and Trinity Streets. When the house was built or how long they lived there is not precisely known. They lived there long enough for it to become known in the family as the "up-home place," as opposed to the "down-home place" at 7th and Trinity. The unpretentious house, one-story at street level, included rooms at the lower (ground) level, and remained in possession of the family long after the Carl Mayer family moved to the Kreisle residence. Presumably, this occurred some time after the death of Matthew. According to Leona Mayer Mueller, the Carl Mayer family moved to the "down-home place" after the death of "Grossmutter," which occurred in 1903. The 1905 City Directory lists 616 Trinity as the residence of the Carl Mayers, verifying the general date of the move. The 7th and Trinity Streets residence was left to "Minnie Louise Mayer" and Carl William Kreisle in the will of Sophie Thomas Kreisle. Lot 9, of Block 67, apparently was added to the previously owned Lots 7 and 8, after the death of Matthew Kreisle, whose estate lists only Lots 7 and 8. In a promotional book of pictures of Austin published in

1917, the 616 Trinity residence is shown as the Carl Mayer residence. On the same page is shown the Robert Mueller residence on East 16th Street.

Born to Carl and Louise K. Mayer were the following:

Leona Sophie Albertine Mayer, born March 17, 1883,
died January 27, 1971, married September 25, 1912,
to Robert Mueller, born June 15, 1881, died January
11, 1927

Emilie Louise Mayer, born November 15, 1885, died August
13/14, 1975, unmarried

Carl Matthew Mayer, born January 14, 1892, died March
8, 1968, married September 26, 1916, to Else von
Hagen, born April 6, 1893, died September 11,
1977

(All of the above born and died in Austin, except Else
von Hagen, born in Fredericksburg [?], and Robert
Mueller, born near Cedar Valley, Texas. Else's birthdate
is incorrectly given as 1896 on her tombstone.)

The two daughters of Carl Mayer, Leona and Emilie, are listed in the 1905 Austin City Directory, and Carl Mayer, "Jr." appears in the 1910-11 directory as a clerk in the Mayer firm. (He was not named "Carl Mayer, Jr.," however.) In 1914, the younger Carl Mayer is listed as bookkeeper, and in 1916, he is listed as manager. (He was 24 years old at the time.) Emilie Mayer is listed as a clerk for Scarbrough & Hicks in the 1912-13 directory, in 1914, as a stenographer for E. M. Scarbrough, and in 1916, she is listed as a stenographer for J. Lee Corley.

Some of the possessions of Carl Mayer that have been passed on include a set of four etched wine glasses, his favorite Claret glass, and an incomplete set of carved ivory or bone chess pieces. It would seem that he was fond of his chess, Claret, and children,

although not necessarily in that order. One letter to his daughters, Leona and Emilie, in which he apparently sent them money, admonishes them to "use it carefully, make every cent count, and have a good time, will send you more next week." (Letter dated September 21, 1904, to Leona, in St. Louis). The kind, gentle nature of Carl Mayer seems to have been captured in the pictures of him, as well as in the affectionate references to "Papa" by his children.

Carl Mayer died on January 7, 1916, at the age of 68, after suffering from heart trouble during the last two years of his life. An obituary by W. R. Minter, minister of the Southern Presbyterian Church, appeared in the Austin American of January 15, 1916, where he was described as quiet and unassuming, cheerful and persevering, and with an ever-ready smile. In business, those that knew him spoke emphatically of his probity and sterling integrity. The obituary includes many other glowing comments on Carl Mayer. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, on a family plot that borders the main cemetery road. His estate, when filed, was valued at \$50,000, and Robert Mueller, Louise M. Mayer and Carl M. Mayer were named executors.

The photographs of Louisa Kreisle Mayer suggest a rather stern, forbidding personality, and recalled references to her by her children seem to bear this out. She seems to have been the dominating member of the Mayer family. Within a little more than two years after her husband's death, Louisa K. Mayer followed him

in death. Her last years span the involvement of the United States in the war with Germany, a time when the general public shunned or disdained anything Germanic, and a time that doubtless posed difficulties for a family torn between feelings for the two warring countries. The years between her husband's death and her own brought the births of two grandsons, Robert Mueller, Jr. (January 25, 1916) and Louis Mueller (June 26, 1918), whom their grandfather, Carl Mayer, never knew. Louisa K. Mayer had been in poor health for her last two years, according to her obituary, and she died on November 16, 1918, in Battle Creek, Michigan, where she had been taken for medical treatment in August of that year. The notice of her death does not appear, apparently, until November 23, 1918, when the Austin American indicates that her remains were arriving that evening, and that the funeral would be held the next day, Sunday, from her late residence, 616 Trinity, by "Rev. Dr. W. R. Minter." The obituary may have been delayed by the distance from Battle Creek to Austin, as well as by news stories that filled the pages on the ending of the war. There is a discrepancy in the date of death, which family records indicate as November 16, 1918, and the American, which indicates death occurred the previous Wednesday morning, which would have been November 20, 1918. Louisa K. Mayer was described as a lifelong member of the Southern Presbyterian Church. She had been accompanied to Battle Creek "by her daughter, Miss Emily Mayer, her brother, W. C. Kreisle, and sister, Miss Emily Kreisle." (sic) Survivors listed are her three children,

three brothers, and two sisters (Sophie K. Sutor's residence is indicated as Philadelphia, Pa.). Louisa K. Mayer was buried beside her husband in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin.

A photograph of the Carl Mayers, Louise Schirmer Mueller, Sophie Kreisle Sutor, and other relatives, taken at the Mueller residence on 16th Street, probably about 1912/13, has been preserved.

Emilie Sophie Kreisle, born February 22, 1856, was the only Kreisle son or daughter that did not marry. She died on March 18, 1937, and she was buried in the family plot in Oakwood Cemetery.

Carl William Kreisle was born September 5, 1859, and died April 24, 1937, a little over a month after the death of his sister Emilie. He was the last of his generation at the time of his death. In the 1880 census C. W. Kreisle, age 20, is listed as a clerk in the store (M. Kreisle & Co.). The Austin City Directory of 1881-82 lists William and his brother, Louis, as clerks of M. Kreisle, 7th and Congress, while the 1883-84 directory has C. W. and Louis H. Kreisle in charge of M. Kreisle. (Mrs. M. Kreisle, a widow, is listed as living at 616 Trinity and as the owner of M. Kreisle & Co.), and the 1885-86 directory has a similar listing. William Kreisle is listed in directories as living at home until the 1889-90 edition, where his residence is shown as 210 East 4th Street. At one time he was married to Lilly Erwin and later divorced. In the 1893-94 directory he is again listed as living at 616 Trinity. The 1895-96 edition lists him as general manager of N. V. Dittlinger,

as mentioned above. In 1900-01, he is described as manager, Austin offices of Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York, with an office in the First National Bank Building. In 1905 he is listed as a special agent of the same company, and in 1909-10 he is shown as a life insurance agent with office and residence at 616 Trinity. The 1910-11 edition lists him as a supervisor of Reliance Life Insurance Co., Pittsburg, with residence at 616 Trinity. The 1912-13 directory gives his occupation as traveling representative of Kreisle Sales Co., and his brother, Arthur, is listed as manager of the same firm (see below). The 1914 edition shows him as a traveling salesman, boarding at 1509 Congress (the Louis Kreisle residence and boarding house), and in 1916, his residence is given as 810 Trinity (the old Carl Mayer, or "up-home" residence). C. W. Kreisle, or "Uncle Willie," was buried in the Kreisle family plot in Oakwood Cemetery.

Heinrich Lui Kreisle, born August 2, 1861, and died June 13, 1930, at some point reversed the order of his given names, and was known in the family as "Uncle Louie." Louis Kreisle is listed in the Austin City Directory of 1881-82 as a clerk in the M. Kreisle store, living at home. In 1883-84, he and William Kreisle are listed as in charge of the Kreisle Co., as mentioned previously. In 1887-88 he is still listed as with M. Kreisle Co., but with residence at 305 East 4th St. The same address appears in the 1889-90, 1893-94, and 1895-96 directories. In 1898-99 the same residence appears, and he is shown in business selling fruits,

vegetables, confections, newspapers, periodicals, tobacco, and cigars, at 106 West 6th Street. In 1903-04, he is listed as a notary public, residence the same. The residence is changed in 1905 to 1511 Congress Avenue, and two of his children, Edwin C. and M. Ferdinand are listed in 1905 and 1906-07. Louis Kreisle and Louise Kreisle Mayer were the only children of Matthew and Sophie Kreisle to have descendants. Louis Kreisle was married to Lottie Annie Shipman, born December 27, 1867, died June 26, 1922, and their sons and daughters were:

Matthew Ferdinand Kreisle, born December 8, 1886, died February 25, 1964, married Margaret Edmonia Hanna on September 5, 1917, born December 5, 1894, still living in 1982

Edwin Clinton Kreisle, born November 23, 1888, died January 2, 1971, married Antonie Marianne Leonardt on August 24, 1909, born August 19, 1887, in Cuero, Texas, died December 21, 1968

Louisa LaTrelle Kreisle, born December 9, 1890, died December 29, 1968, married Alexander Martin Thompson, born September 26, 1886, died June 22, 1926

Laila Mary Kreisle, born August 29, 1893, died June 30, 1981, married Bernard Werkenthin, born June 29, 1888, died May 23, 1967

Eloise Sophie Kreisle, born June 12, 1897, still living in 1982, married William Sylvanus Gatewood on September 21, 1922, born September 27, 1894, still living in 1982

In the 1909-10 directory, Louis H. Kreisle is listed as an assistant clerk, comptroller's office, at the same Congress Avenue residence; his two sons, M. Ferdinand and Edwin, are listed as school teachers. Louis Kreisle's entry for 1910-11 is the same, but Edwin is listed as a math teacher, and Ferdinand as a student. In 1912-13, Louis Kreisle is listed as an assistant pension clerk in the same office, Edwin is listed as an architect, and Matthew

Ferdinand as a medical student. The daughters of Louis, Eloise, Emilie, and Laila, are listed as students in 1914 (the address changes to 1509 Congress), the same address for M. Ferdinand Kreisle, physician. Edwin C. Kreisle, architect, is listed at 103 East 16th Street, which would be next-door.

The Louis Kreisle home, at 16th and Congress, was a two-story residence of red brick, and was torn down in the course of the Capitol campus enlargement after World War II. A 1917 publication, "Austin, Texas," which contains photographs of many residences, shows the L. H. Kreisle residence at 1509 Congress Avenue, "High-class Rooms." Louis H. and Lottie S. Kreisle are buried in the Annex to Oakwood Cemetery, in Section E, Lot 182, Space 4.

Of the remaining children of Matthew and Sophie T. Kreisle, little more remains to be said. Sophie Julia Emma Kreisle, born December 28, 1863, in Goliad, died February 10, 1926, in Austin, was married on March 6, 1907, to Fred G. Sutor, of Philadelphia, and later, they were divorced. In the newspaper account of the wedding, Sutor is described as a former resident of Austin, now successfully engaged in the jewelry business in Philadelphia. The wedding reception was given by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Mayer at their home. A 1909 calendar was kept for many years, seen in 1971, from "Fred G. Sutor/Diamonds Watches Jewelry/106 So. 12th St./Philadelphia". Sophie K. Sutor was visited in Philadelphia by Robert Mueller and his wife, Leona Mayer Mueller, on their wedding trip in 1912. In the 1918 obituary of Louisa K. Mayer, Sophie Sutor's

residence was given as Philadelphia, Pa. (See above.) After her divorce, "Aunt Sophie" returned to the Kreisle home on Trinity Street. A Sutor's Brewery was listed for sale by F. W. Sutor in the Austin Statesman on November 23, 1875; however, it is not known if there was a relationship with Fred. G. Sutor. A Sutor Hotel stood for many years on Congress Avenue near the I. & G.N. station, but, again, no relationship is known.

Arthur Edward Matthew Kreisle, born September 20, 1870, died November 13, 1936, was the youngest of the six children and the namesake of his father; however, he was known by his first name rather than as Matthew or Edward. Arthur Kreisle appears in the 1891-92 City Directory as living at home, 616 Trinity, and working for M. Kreisle & Co. He is listed as a clerk for the Carl Mayer Co. in the 1897-98, 1898-99, and 1903-04 volumes, and in 1905, 1909-10, and 1910-11, he is listed as manager of Carl Mayer Co. In the 1912-13 directory, Arthur M. Kreisle appears as manager of Kreisle Sales Co., distributors for Silver Clean Pans for Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Kansas, and Arkansas, with offices over 618 Congress (the Carl Mayer store), and residence at 616 Congress. In 1914 he is listed as assistant manager of Kreisle Sales Co., boarding at 1509 Congress, the residence of his brother, Louis. In 1916, his residence is given as the same as his brother, William, 810 Trinity, the former Carl Mayer residence known as the "up-home" place. Arthur Kreisle married May Loomis (born April 11, 1873, died July 10, 1939), who was at times employed as a clerk in the

Carl Mayer Co. For a time in the 1930's they lived on 34th Street. They are both buried in the Kreisle family plot in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin. Two toy cannons that are believed to have belonged to Arthur, have been passed on, one a very fine brass model of a naval gun, the other a model field piece. Both bear evidence that they were fired at one time, and both are believed to have come from German sources (now in the possession of Harold Mueller). It is believed that Arthur Kreisle was more closely involved than the others with the property on Lake Austin.

By Harold Mueller

Esther Schwake,
Typist

September, 1983