

ROSENBAUM

By Ronnie Dale Rosenbaum
And Debra E. Beach

Grover Lee Rosenbaum was born March 27, 1892, in Ansted, Fayette County, West Virginia. In July 1916, he united in marriage with Grace Davis Swift in Fayette County. This family was residing in Raleigh County, West Virginia, in the 1930 federal census.

A self-published manuscript of Clifford R. Canfield titled The Rosenbaum-Rosenbalm Family of Southwest Virginia; Frankfurt, Germany, 1963, found on microfilm at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort Kentucky, is 726 pages of many known ancestors and descendants of this surname family. "They were hurriedly brought from Germany to London and then placed in camps outside the city where they had to wait until enough ships were available to take them to the colonies. After their arrival in America, in the summer of 1710, they were again placed in camps along the Hudson River, probably near New York City..." Mr. Canfield sites the Simmendinger Register by Ulrich Simmendinger (Reutlingen, Germany, ca. 1717) and the Hunter Subsistence Lists, 1710-1712 (N.Y Palatine Subsistence Lists of Governor Robert Hunter 1710-1712, Public Record Office, London, England). Bernhard Rosenbaum is #614 on The Hunter Subsistence Lists. It has yet to be proven that Bernhard Rosenbaum is our direct ancestor. A two-volume works titled The Palatine Families of New York by Henry Z. Jones Jr., Picton Press, gives many early details of the 847 families listed on Governor Hunter's subsistence records.

Marriage records of early itinerant Lutheran Minister, Rev. John Caspar Stoeber, Jr., arriving in the Swatara Region of Pennsylvania about 1729, is the first mention of Anthony Rosenbaum, our proven ancestor. Anthony wed Barbara Baumann of Earltown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1737. Anthony and Barbara Rosenbaum were parents to at least five children, including son Alexander, born about 1742. Canfield's manuscript cites a record in the Lancaster County Court House dated March 26, 1776, which states that Alexander, son of Anthony Rosenbaum, wanted a settlement of his father's estate. Anthony had recently died intestate. The petition stated there were four daughters of Anthony besides his son, Alexander. Settlement of the estate was to be completed in April 1776. Anthony Rosenbaum was probably buried at Hanover Township; wife Barbara was living in March 1776, but her death date is unknown.

The United States Census of Rowan County, North Carolina, for 1790 mentions Alexander Rosenbaum and his family. Besides Alexander and wife Charaty, listed is one son over sixteen years of age, two sons under sixteen years of age and two daughters. Probably two older sons, Anthony and John, were away from home and already married. Anthony married Elizabeth_____, and John married a daughter of Christopher Spraker. The Sprakers lived in Rowan County, also, and had gone into Montgomery County, Virginia, prior to 1790. John may have gone with them. One older daughter, Mary had

been married earlier in 1790, prior to the taking of the census record. The son over sixteen years of age in 1790 could have been Mathias or George. Adam was under sixteen, but there is much uncertainty as to the ages of the others as there are no known accurate birth dates. The two daughters still at home were Eve and Charaty/Catherine.

Between November 1791 and 1793, Alexander and his family must have moved to Washington County Virginia, as he is mentioned on the personal tax list for the year 1793. His sons, John and Anthony, were already residents there; and younger sons, Mathias, George, and Adam were living in Wythe County, Virginia, by 1795. Adam Rosenbaum, born 1775, married Susanna, November 27, 1796, daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth Spraker. On February 10, 1806, Adam bought 455 acres in the Cripple Creek area for \$1,900 from William Sanders and his wife Polly. Later in 1814, Adam sold 35 acres in Cripple Creek to Hezekiah Jones. On May 18, 1820, Adam purchased 400 acres on the south side of Lick Mountain on the waters of Cripple Creek for \$400 from Stephen Sanders, Sr. In 1829 and again in 1836 Adam and Susanna sold land to their son, John. In June 1830 Adam bought 100 acres of land for \$350 from Valentine Worley and his wife Barbara, in the Cripple Creek area. Mr. Canfield wrote, "For many years the old log home where Adam and Susanna probably raised their children stood near the present home of Mr. Floyd Jonas near Cripple Creek" Adam and Susanna were the parents of 11 children. Adam died November 6, 1848, with Susanna's death following on September 5, 1849, near Cripple Creek. The will of Adam Rosenbaum and inventory, appraisement, and settlement of the personal estate of Susanna Rosenbaum is recorded in the Wythe County Courthouse.

From Wythe County, Virginia: A Bicentennial History by Mary B. Kegley, page 215 regarding formation of the first Lutheran churches, "St. Peter's was formed in 1830 and the first church was built in 1839 on the land of Adam Rosenbaum." Many Rosenbaum family members, including Adam and Susanna Rosenbaum, the great-great grandparents of Grover Lee Rosenbaum, are buried at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Cemetery located in Cripple Creek.

David, eldest son of Adam and Susanna Rosenbaum, married Hannah Dutton (or Dutting) on January 12, 1826, in Wythe County. They reared 12 children on their plantation home near Cripple Creek where David farmed. The 1870 Wythe County census shows David as age 70 and Hannah's (Anna's) as age 63. Five daughters, ages ranging from 24 to 39, are still living at home, as are the two youngest sons Hezekiah and David. On March 18, 1876, David Rosenbaum passed away near Cripple Creek. His wife Hannah died on January 31, 1879. They are buried next to each other at St. Peter's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Wythe County census of 1860 shows Adam, oldest son of David and Hannah Rosenbaum, born November 26, 1826, and wife Nancy (Vaughn) living next door to his parents. Adam and Nancy were married about 1856 in Wythe County and lived at Henley near Cripple Creek in Speedwell Township. Adam was a farmer and had a mill. Four known children were born into this small family, two daughters and two sons. Alice Catherine, born September 4, 1867, married Simon David Steffy and lived near Crockett,

Virginia, where Simon farmed. Barbara Ellen, born June 1873, who never married, raised two children in Cripple Creek.

Andrew Jackson Rosenbaum, only surviving son of Adam and Nancy, was born March 1, 1869, near Cripple Creek, Virginia. Raised on the family farm, Andrew grew into adulthood and left the Wythe County area, arriving in Fayette County West Virginia, in late 1890. In 1891 Andrew married Lillian, daughter of Joseph Wesley and Ida (Jordan) Nuckles. Lillian, born August 7, 1873, in Richmond, Virginia, is living with her parents and many siblings in Dover, Goochland County, Virginia, in 1880. Andrew and Lillian Rosenbaum are residents in Ansted, Fayette County, when son Grover Lee enters the world in 1892. Gaynell, eldest daughter was born in 1896 in Mount Hope, Fayette County; sister Lena was born in 1901 in Elkhorn, McDowell County, West Virginia. Three other siblings died in infancy. By 1920, Andrew, Lillian, and daughters Gaynell and Lena are living on Paint Creek Road in Raleigh County, West Virginia. Andrew was a laborer in local coal mines and was also self-employed throughout his life. In June 1931, while living in Charmco, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, the life of Lillian Rosenbaum was cut short. Arriving home one evening from mid-week church services, Lillian was struck down by a hit and run driver. She died June 25, 1931, and was buried in the Westlake Cemetery in Ansted next to her three infant sons, her parents, and other family members. Andrew Jackson Rosenbaum passed away in 1944 and was buried next to Lillian. In the late 1970's, Andrew, Lillian, and the infant sons were removed from Westlake Cemetery and reinterred in Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery in Beckley. Lena and Gaynell are also buried in the family plot.

Grover Rosenbaum began work as a trapper at Stanaford when he was 13 years old, getting 20 cents a day for 10 hours. On his application for Social Security account number, dated December 2nd, 1936, Grover indicated his employer was Price Hill Colliery Company, Price Hill, West Virginia. Employed by the New River Company for many years, he worked as a cutting machine operator at the Skelton mine. Featured in Coal Age Magazine on how coal miners throughout the world live and work, Grover's working conditions, wages and lifestyle were compared to that of miners around the world, to include Poland, France, and Australia.

The ancestors of Grace Davis (Swift) Rosenbaum, wife of Grover, are documented and published in the book Henry Duke, Councilor, His Descendants and Connections Comprising Partial Records of Many Allied Families, compiled from Reliable Genealogical Sources, Family Bible Records, and Authentic Information by Walter Garland Duke; Richmond, Virginia; The Dietz Press, Inc. 1949.

Grace was born August 6, 1891 to William Winston and Elizabeth (Hughes) Swift in Fayette County West Virginia. She had an older sister, Mary, two younger brothers, William and Charles, and foster brother Calvin "Jack" Swift. Her father died when Grace was barely eight years of age, leaving Grace to help her mother with household tasks associated with the operation of a boarding house for coal miners in Quinimont and to help care for her younger brothers.

Grover and Grace raised four children, George, Viola, Lucille, and Alfred. Lucille married Clarence Catlett and moved to Milan Michigan, where Clarence worked for Ford Motor Company. Employed by Howard Johnson Motor Inns, Lucille started out as a waitress and worked her way up to a position in management. Lucille and Clarence also operated a family farm of over 200 acres. They were blessed with three sons, two daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. A copy of the Rosenbaum manuscript, to include ancestor's handwritten notes is in the possession of the Catlett family. Viola married James Lenard Davis and moved to Akron Ohio, where Lenard was employed by Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. Alfred, the youngest, was also a coal miner. He married first Ann Meadows and second Laura M. McGuffin. Grace Swift Rosenbaum died in May 1960. She is best remembered for her stern hand but compassionate nature. She enjoyed gardening and was well known for her "angel-wing begonias." Grover passed in September 1966. Both are buried in the Prosperity Cemetery, next to their granddaughter, Viola Joan Rosenbaum, and not far from them is their son Alfred.

George William Rosenbaum, eldest child of Grover and Grace, was born May 1917. As a young man, George followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, going to work in local mines. He also helped at home on the small family farm, and worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps after the Great Depression. He married pretty Irene Mary Watson in Bristol, Tennessee, on February 10, 1941. Her parents were Foy and Diana (Tolliver) Watson of Wyoming County, West Virginia. Irene put herself through nursing school while raising two daughters and four sons in the Cherry Creek area. In the late 1950's the family moved to Whitesburg, Letcher County, Kentucky. Three of their sons and two grandsons served honorably in the military, combined service of over 60 years. Honesty, hard work, and a good education were the guiding values that George and Irene instilled in their children. Irene died in April 1974 and George passed away in April 1982. They are buried in the Green Acres Cemetery in Ermine, Kentucky.