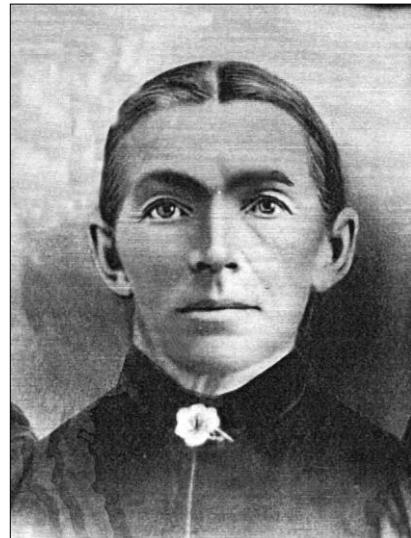


A life sketch of

Eva Dorothea Schwab Osswald

1846 – 1933

Eva Dorothea was born October 14, 1846, at Riederich, Schwarzwald, Wurttemberg, Germany. She was the youngest child in the family of Johann Christoph and Christine Katherine Reiff Schwab. When her brothers and sisters were old enough they worked away from home, which left her with the household duties early in life. Her father's health was poor, and at times he was too ill to work. On these occasions, Dorothea would take over the responsibility of caring for the acreage they cultivated. They raised food for their cows, as well as other crops, and all the work was done by hand. Hay and grain was carried to the barn on their heads or backs having been cut with the sickle or scythe. They also grew flax and made thread, which they then wove into cloth.



Dorothea loved to dance. Their home was near a local tavern where music and dancing were a common amusement, but her father was very strict and did not allow her to attend these dances. Her parents were not aware that she watched the dancing and then practiced it with a broom in the barn. When the family would attend social gatherings, her father was amazed to find that she could dance along with the rest.

Dorothea secretly kept company with a young man she had known since childhood. His name was Ludwig Friedrich Osswald. At times she shared her lunch with him. Her father did not approve of this young man. The Schwab Family was one of the more well to do families in this part of Germany. They owned a vineyard in Metzingen, as well as a lunch house and their farm. Father Schwab was very particular who they associated with. The Osswald's were considered a lower class of people and were not accepted by Dorothea's father. Before his death in 1867, and after much persuasion, he finally agreed to let Dorothea marry Ludwig.

Dorothea and Ludwig were married, November 26, 1867. Ludwig had recently been released from the German Military and they felt the time was right to start their life together. Shortly after they were married the French German War escalated and Ludwig was called back into active duty. They were a very devoted couple and the times they were apart were very difficult for them. They wrote and stayed in touch the best they could. When Ludwig earned leave it was wonderful to have their family together.

On December 28, 1868, Ludwig and Dorothea welcomed their first child, whom they named Dorothea. She lived for two weeks and a day and died January 12, 1869. Fourteen months after the birth of their first daughter, Anna Magdalena was born on February 28, 1870. The Osswald Family was then blessed with Ludwig Jr., who was born January 26, 1871. Then came Sophie Katherine who was born on March 24, 1872.

Wilhelm (William) was the fifth child born on August 14, 1873. A little over a year later, on November 18, 1874, his sister Elisabeth Dorthea was born followed by Anna Maria born on January 10, 1876, and Johann Christopher, who was born June 26, 1877, Pauline Wilhelmine was born on August 30, 1878 and died October 6, of the same year. Elise Babetta was born October 25, 1879 and died on December 8, 1879, Karl Heinrich was born December 5, 1880 and died on March 12, 1881, and on October 1, 1881, Dorothea gave birth to a stillborn daughter. There is no record of this child being given a name. All these children were born at Riederich, Schwarzwald, Wuerttemberg, Germany.

Dorothea was a strict disciplinarian. With Ludwig away much of the time, she was left to help the children with their school and religious studies. She also managed them in their chores.

Dorothea was physically strong and worked hard. She grew flax in a swamp close to the River Erms. She then processed and spun threads from the flax, which was then woven into cloth. She made some of her own clothes from that cloth. The family had a plot of land where Dorothea grew vegetables for her family, as well as other crops, which they used or sold. They raised pigs and calves, which in the winter were kept in the barn. The barn was the lower part

of the house. In front of the house was the traditional, pungent smelling ‘straw pile’, which grew bigger as the barn was cleaned.

Dorothea was a very accomplished woman. She knitted stockings in the evenings after the day’s labor. She could do the finest of needle work, make clothes by hand, and sew on the sewing machine. She could manage any work in the house, as well as swarm bees and extract their honey. The honey was extracted by heating the combs on the stove then skimming off the wax. This wax was often used to make string stronger, especially when making rugs or sewing shoes.

After the war was over, Ludwig picked up his trade as a stone mason. He worked very hard and was often gone taking masonry contracts out of town. Collecting his pay for his work was not always easy, which left them in a constant financial crisis. Their creditors were seldom satisfied and would take liens on their home for the differences owed. In spite of their efforts to work hard, the Osswalds were constantly in debt. They became very discouraged at times when their creditors were constantly threatening to take their home. These creditors would often take their young pigs and calves.

On one occasion, when Dorothea was seven months pregnant, she told the creditors that they were to leave and that they could not take the animals. One of the men struck her with his cane. She took the man by his collar and choked him, then hit him with his own cane and threw him out of the gate, tossing his hat and cane after him.

At this time missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were laboring in their community. Members of their families became very interested in the beliefs they taught. They were often forced to hide the missionaries in their homes when people became hostile. These missionaries encouraged them to turn over all they had to their creditors and start a new life. As Dorothea and Ludwig did not want their boys to grow up under the German Military they secretly made plans to immigrate to America. They worked even harder and started to save all they could spare.

After dark on the evening of August 25, 1881, Dorothea, Ludwig and other members of their family met on the banks of the River Erms. They did not want to cause suspicion as to their intentions and so very quietly, they were baptized members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The next day, August 28th, Ludwig was laying the bricks of a chimney on a new house in Reiderich. That evening he laid down his trowel and told the owner he would finish when he came back. He walked away from the home and never returned. They had saved enough money for his fare and he left Germany for America. Since passports were not required in Europe at the time, he found his way 35 miles northward to Stuttgart. There he went by train and riverboat to Holland, where he crossed the North Sea to England and from there he went by steamship to New York City. From New York he took the train to Chicago, Omaha and finally Salt Lake City, Utah.

Meanwhile, Ludwig's family was left without husband and father. At first, no suspicion of his permanently leaving the country was aroused. Ludwig had often been away for extended periods of time while doing his masonry work. Creditors continued to hound his family. With the onset of fall and winter, the authorities became quite concerned when Ludwig did not return home. German authorities were called in to try and find him as his creditors wanted him found and he still had obligations to the Confederation. The longer Ludwig was gone, the more those who sought him suspected he was in hiding, or had left Germany. They placed a price on his head and ordered him executed when found.

The responsibilities mounted for Dorothea as she was left alone to manage their home, the farming, the care and raising of their animals, and the needs of their family. She struggled to save money and make ready to go to America. The preparation had to be in secret because of the search for Ludwig. Had the German Army officials known she was planning to leave they would have prevented that, hoping to lure Ludwig back into the country. Correspondence with Ludwig in America was delivered through the Church missionaries.

After arriving In Utah, Ludwig found jobs doing masonry work and also worked in the Park City Mines of Utah. He had sent what money he could to Dorothea, but it was not enough

to pay the fare for her and the children. The situation was becoming desperate due to the family constantly being watched and questioned. Dorothea's mother and sister advanced additional funds to Dorothea, which would allow her to buy the necessary passage that would allow them to leave Germany for America.

On May 11, 1882, eight and a half months after Ludwig had left Germany, his family was on their way to find him. This quiet, carefully thought through escape placed a huge worry upon Dorothea as she, with her children, left their homeland and family members. She was in constant fear of being caught and returned for punishment, as well as placing consequences on their friends and family.

Missionaries helped the Osswald family and other Latter-day Saint immigrants as they gathered together at Stuttgart. Other people of their faith joined them from Switzerland. They traveled by train to Mannheim, located on the Rhine River and stayed that night in a hotel. The next day they traveled on a riverboat to Rotterdam, Netherlands. That evening they went aboard a large steamer ship to cross the North Sea to Hull, England.

A terrible storm at sea delayed the travelers making them later than usual in reaching their destination. All the passengers were ordered to go below deck where there was straw on the floor and a lantern strapped to a pole in the center of a large room. People huddled together and hour after hour listened to the roaring sound of the engines. Everyone was frightened that the ship would capsize. Some were ill from the dashing of the ship and soon leaned what the straw was for. The conditions were very poor. They had paid for first class accommodations, but soon found out that first was the same as second class. Their restroom was under the straw and the only place to sit or sleep was on top of the straw.

During one of the violent storms, Ludwig Jr., who had decided he would not use the straw and went up on deck to use the restroom. When he did not return his family set out to find him. When they found him he was trying to hold on to a door that was throwing him one way and then another. His arms were injured and hurt for sometime after that. Some of the people were so frightened that all they could do was cry. The missionaries comforted the people and told them to pray and not worry as they had never known of a ship being wrecked when there were 'Mormons' on it.

From Hull, England the Osswald Family went by train to Liverpool and boarded the ship that would take them across the Atlantic Ocean. This ship was called the 'Nevada'. It was several days before the ship was loaded and ready to leave. More missionaries and members of the Church came from England, Denmark and Sweden to join those already waiting to cross the ocean. Each group could speak to those from their own countries, but the communication between the entire group was a real challenge. The missionaries were the only source of interpretation for the people as they tried to work together. There were 1200 people who boarded the ship, representing 6 different languages. Dorothea and her family were among this group

The Church leaders got busy and held meetings to organize their people. Their decision was to have each of the different speaking groups use and cook their meals in the ship's kitchen. Then the next group would use it and they would continue to rotate until all had a turn to eat. This way they could understand each other and fix the food they were accustomed to.

The missionaries often helped interpret for different groups so they could communicate. In this way they found out each one had their troubles and concerns. Most of the immigrants started to learn English. Some were sick all the way across the ocean and did not participate much.

The missionaries held meetings in the different languages and would often close by singing, "Oh My Father". This hymn had been translated into the different languages so all sang the same song, but in their own language. It was inspiring and did much to bring the different groups of people together.

While traveling across the ocean they approached 2 large icebergs. They were so large the ship was stopped until the icebergs had moved past. The travelers saw bear on one of the icebergs. They also saw whale spouting water in the air. Although most days were long and monotonous, some of their experiences added real excitement to the adventure.

The first hint of land was the sighting of a seagull bird. Ludwig Jr. said to Annie, "Look at the big woman." It was the statue of Liberty. Once they docked and went ashore a man

with a tall hat and a cane in one hand opened all their belongings, mixed everything up and called it an inspection. None of the emigrants liked the man, but the inspection was necessary before they could leave the ship. They landed in New York in the evening, stayed there two days and then took the Immigration Train. The train stopped often for supplies. These stops allowed the people to stretch their legs and let the children play.

When Dorothea's family got to Chicago, Illinois, they were told to stay in this state for if they went to Salt Lake they would become slaves. Dorothea stood up to the men and their foolish tactics and said, "No!" She had bought her ticket for Salt Lake and to Salt Lake she was going.

After crossing the Missouri River, many on the train became ill. Measles had broken out among the children, but there was no doctor available. They placed their faith in the blessings the missionaries offered and saw the illness through.

Ludwig was aware of his family's plan, but he did not know of their welfare once they left Germany. All he could do was wait for word and hope they were successful in their journey. According to plan, Ludwig met the train in Salt Lake on June 4, 1882. There he met his family and could hardly believe they were together again. What a happy reunion it was!

Ludwig had acquired a two-story home in Salt Lake City, Utah. He and Dorothea lived on the main floor and Dorothea's sister and her family (Hauber Family) moved into the upstairs. Dorothea and her sister shared in the housework and daily chores while living under this arrangement.

Ludwig worked on the Salt Lake Temple, made several homes in the area, and made gravestones. They decided to buy a farm at West Jordan, where they lived in a small house that Ludwig built. In April 1883, while living on this farm, Ludwig went hunting ducks with a muzzle-loaded shotgun. The powder backfired and blinded him. For weeks Dorothea took over the duties around the farm in addition to nursing Ludwig back to health. It took months for his eyes to heal. It was a relief when he was able to return to work.

After Ludwig's accident, the doctors said the mountain air would be good for his eyes. They sold their farm in West Jordan and purchased nine acres east and south of Salt Lake, at a place called East Canyon.

Ludwig built a large two room stone house on this farm. The children enjoyed their new home because there was a stream of water nearby that they could go swimming in. Ludwig put a rope across this stream where it was deeper and the children loved to swing over the water. This was a pleasant place to live, although it had its challenges. There were no schools closer than Park City. Education was a priority in this family and although it was difficult to come by they made it happen. They lived on this farm for five years and had many wonderful times together.

Ludwig Jr. worked in a brewery while Anna worked in a bakery. Dorothea always drove the horse and buggy to market on Saturday to sell or trade butter and eggs. The manager of the bakery where Anna worked often told her to make sure her mother got plenty of bread and rolls. Sometimes they got cakes, which were a real treat. Anna and Ludwig Jr., helped pay for the family's first horse and cart. They also paid for the first cow.

While in Salt Lake City, Dorothea gave birth to three more children. Babetta was born June 3, 1883 and died August 10, 1883. On July 18, 1884 they had a stillborn daughter. Another daughter was born July 20, 1886 and died September 10, 1886. She was named Louisa Sophia. A son, Gotthilf August, was born August 5, 1887 in Payson, Utah.

One Saturday Dorothea drove to Salt Lake City for supplies and left William to care for the home while she was gone. Soon after, Indians came, which frightened William. He could not run and hide because he knew the Indians had seen him so he thought he would do the best he could to please them so they would not scalp him. They got down from their horses, took out their tomahawks and knives, and said something he could not understand. Then what appeared to be the chief helped William understand that he wanted their tomahawks sharpened. When William understood, he peddled the grindstone for them until they got their equipment sharpened. As Dorothea arrived home, she could see the Indians from a distance.

She stopped and waited, wondering what had happened to William. When the Indians saw her they left. She rushed to the house relieved to find that her son was not hurt.

During the winter of 1888, Ludwig and Dorothea learned about homestead property that was available in Idaho. Their future son-in-law, Abe Gneiting, was determined to check it out. He and Ludwig left their families and traveled north. Upon their arrival and after a quick survey of the area, Ludwig filed for 320 acres. He was anxious to return to the Salt Lake Valley and bring his family to this new frontier.

When the furniture and other belongings were packed and all was ready to go, Dorothea did not feel well. It was determined she should not make the trip. She stayed with friends in Salt Lake. Two months later she was able to travel by train and joined her family at Eagle Rock (later named Idaho Falls). She stayed with family members in Eagle Rock until Karl (Carl) Heinrich was born on December 1, 1889. This child was the second son named Karl Heinrich and was also known as Carl. He brought the total number of children for Dorothea and Ludwig to seventeen.

During this time, Ludwig stayed in Poverty Flats (later named Coltman) where he continued to build their home and out buildings for the cattle. He also took mason contracts for various projects in the area. When he had a few days off he would quarry rocks and gather materials for their home. Though busy and faced with hard work, Dorothea was excited and hopeful for this new life. She revealed her hopes when she recorded in her Bible, "The Lord may give us a lasting homestead here."

When Dorothea came to live in her new home the area was known as Poverty Flats. Later the area was divided into the communities of Grant, Coltman and Garfield. The Osswalds, like most people at that time, were grateful to have one room for a shelter, sagebrush to burn and candles for light. Ludwig worked until they had a four room house closed in. The home had a part basement and front porch.

With Dorothea's knowledge of farming and with the help of her boys they tilled the land and prepared it for planting. She had four to five acres of orchard trees, berries and flowers.

Dorothea had many fruit trees, English and native currants, gooseberries and raspberries. People came long distances to pick berries and fruit she grew. One plant she grew was called Vetch, which she planted for sheep and cows. She also grew asper and grass peas from seed she brought from Germany. She took pride in growing many different kinds of apples and flowers, especially the American Red Rose. One year she took fifteen prizes at the county fair for her produce and flowers. She also had bees that she swarmed and extracted their honey.

Dorothea was a good cook and could make the most meager of supplies into a tasty meal. A favorite family recipe was Grandma Dorothea's grass peas and ham. Her family often requested grass peas and ham or her famous lentil soup.

She managed her house and kept it neat and clean. She made different kinds of wine, raised pigs and chickens, milked cows and could harness a horse as well as many men, including her husband. One Saturday, while Dorothea was getting ready to take her produce to town, Ludwig wanted to help her so he harnessed the horse and hitched it to the cart. Dorothea took the lines and started for the gate Ludwig had opened for her. She hadn't driven to the gate before the horse walked right out of the shafts and was free from all attachments. The only thing holding him was the lines Dorothea was driving with. That experience became quite a joke among the family and Ludwig often said, "If only I knew harnessing horses as well as I know mason work."

One day, Dorothea was returning from Eagle Rock after trading her eggs and cream for supplies. She carried cash money and her groceries, as well as items needed for the next week. It was getting late as she neared Willow Creek. She saw a man in the brush getting on his horse. She suspected that she was in trouble so she drove her horse faster. The man set out after her and tried to get hold of her horses' bridle. She urged her horse on and out rode the rider. She was extremely relieved to arrive home that night.

Water was not always available for the Osswald's new orchard or for their many household needs. Several times a week Dorothea hauled water from the Burgess Canal. It was dipped out of the canal in buckets and poured into large barrels. The barrels were then hauled in wagons to the farm. The first few years, water was hauled in barrels for winter use too.

Ludwig was concerned about his family's health, knowing this was not a very healthy way to use water. Because of his concern, he made a filter to purify the water. It was a large white rock about two and one half feet square on the outside with a rounded bowl on the inside. The water was put in this bowl shaped rock and it dripped out of the bottom where it was caught in a pan for drinking water. It was an ingenious invention they were proud to share with their family and friends. Still they were grateful for the day when they had a well of their own, fully equipped with pull buckets. It was conveniently located at the east corner of the orchard, which made life much easier for Dorothea.

One of Dorothea's favorite spots was a duck pond east of the house and next to the road. It was about ten to twelve feet in diameter, and about 5 to 6 feet deep with rocks around the edge. It was fenced with netting wire and was landscaped with trees and shrubs. The pond was managed by an irrigation stream that came in on the east end and overflowed into the garden. Ducks migrated to this pond year after year and were a highlight for the family as they watched them come and go.

As the children married, Ludwig and Dorothea gave each of the boys forty acres. This was an advantage to them because it kept their children close by. They loved to spend time with them and took advantage of the opportunities they had to be close to their grandchildren.

Ludwig worked away from home during the week, but when he came home on Saturday evenings Dorothea was always pleased to tell him of the latest family news. On Sundays, she loved to show him the different flowers, berries and fruits growing on the farm. At one time she even grew watermelon, which she was especially proud of. One of them was ripe earlier than the others. She believed this success was due to it having been watered with separated milk. One day, when she arrived at their watermelon patch, she was very upset to find it was gone. Upon investigating the situation she found that it had been taken by some of her grandchildren, who apparently liked watermelon and did not realize how much she valued that particular melon. Although she was very disappointed in its early harvest, all was worked out and the children stayed out of grandma's watermelon patch after that.

The mail to Poverty Flat was taken to the Hanson Store, a few miles north, where people came to get it. Each family had a post with a bag hanging from it. The mailman would carry mail in a large canvas bag and deliver mail to the different bags hanging from the posts. These bags served many purposes. Dorothea found that if she needed something really bad she could put a note in her bag asking the mailman to get it for her. The next day he would deliver it to her and she would have a bag of oats hanging on her mail post for the mailman's horse. It worked out to be a pretty good delivery service for her.

On February 4, 1902, their daughter Catherine passed away at her home in Payson, Utah, leaving five children and one small baby. Dorothea traveled to Utah and brought the two boys home with her. Two years later, their father died and the rest of the children came to live with Grandpa and Grandma Osswald. They raised them as they had their own children and the children were a great help to them. One of the boys, Henry, met an accidental death August 7, 1907 when he was 13 years old.

Ludwig's health began to fail in 1904. He seemed to be short of breath and sometimes had fainting or weak spells. He managed to continue working, but it became very difficult for him. He had all the rocks hewn and ready for their new home, but was frustrated that he was not able to work on it. On July 1, 1907, he became very ill with dropsy and became bedfast. Dorothea tried to help him all she could, but was unable to change the course of events facing them. On September 23, 1907, Ludwig passed away. This was understandably a great loss to Dorothea for she had lost her best friend, the friend she had loved since childhood. Ludwig was buried in the Grant Central Cemetery.

Their daughter, Anna Gneiting, told about an experience she had sometime after her father's death. She related that her father came to her in a dream. He visited with her and told her to tell Dorothea to go to the Temple and have their work done. This was exciting news to this family as their father had been disinterested in the Church for some time. Dorothea had always remained faithful and active in the Church. Upon hearing of this experience, Dorothea made the necessary arrangements and on June 11, 1914, she and Ludwig were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple.

The house that Ludwig had planned to build for Dorothea was completed by his son, Wilhelm (William). It was located on the southeast corner of the Lewisville Highway and the County Line Road in Jefferson County. It remains a landmark in the area.

Dorothea continued farming with the help of her two youngest sons and grandchildren. She found enjoyment in working hard and was always busy doing something.

When her health began to fail, her daughter Anna, who lived nearby, helped her all she could, especially at night when she would walk to her mother's carrying a flashlight to see her way. Quite often she would stay the night with her.

Dorothea stayed on the farm until 1930. At this time she had the misfortune to fall and injure her shoulder. The pain of setting the arm was quite a shock to her and from then on she was unable to stay alone. Her daughter, Dorothea Kedzie, took her into her home in Idaho Falls where she lived until she passed away July 8, 1933. She was buried next to Ludwig in the Grant Central Cemetery.

During her 87 years, Dorothea accomplished more than most men. She left her homeland and never saw many of her family or friends again. She traveled across the ocean assuming the lead role in organizing and caring for her children, as well as other adult members of her family who traveled with them. She pushed onward to the Salt Lake Valley where she and Ludwig began a new life. She worked hard to establish a home and tame the land they lived on. She was determined their homestead in Idaho would be their final home and worked to cultivate, plant and harvest. Alone much of the time, Dorothea faced the elements and challenges of each day with her stubborn German disposition to never give up and her strong faith in God.

Dorothea was forever devoted to her friend and husband. She was continually proud and supportive to her children and grandchildren. Her efforts were many and one can only imagine her rewards will be great.

The author of the original edition of this Life Sketch of Eva Dorothea Schwab Osswald, was Caroline Gneiting Miller in 1962. This is the revised edition with additions made to make it more complete from stories, documents and other records collected and kept in the Family History Library of K. Oswald. Names and vital dates of the Osswald children have been added. Note: The name Osswald is spelled correctly and as it was given for centuries in Germany. In order to become more American, an 's' was dropped and the name was spelled Oswald.