

A Family History
By Bill Schwartz
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Beginnings

My name is William J. Schwartz, 6867 Stoll Lane, Silverton, Cincinnati, Ohio. The purpose of this story is to provide some history of my ancestors. I'll talk about the Greenwalds, the Schwartzes, the Breitenbachs, and the Andarys. The Andarys are the family of my deceased wife, Genevieve. I will start with the Greenwalds.

The Greenwald Family

The Greenwalds were my mother's father's family. They came to this country--we think--from Switzerland about 1800 to 1820. We are not sure of the precise time, but we know there were Greenwalds in Maryland in the 1820's and 1830's. One of the Greenwalds was an itinerant preacher traveling around Maryland. My sister had a Greenwald family Bible. One of the Greenwalds, we know, was an itinerant preacher, traveling through Maryland in the 1830's. Somewhere in the 1830's to early 1840's two Greenwalds, brothers Isaac and Ezra Greenwald, came to Cincinnati. Cincinnati at that time was a boomtown-- the Queen City of the West-- and growing rapidly. In 1847, the two brothers, who were machinists and founders, established a machinery business--the I & E Greenwald Machinery Company at Pearl and Ecklestone Avenue in Cincinnati. They were builders of stationary steam engines used primarily to power saw mills and flour mills. The business prospered. They became one of Cincinnati's affluent, upper class manufacturing families.

The business continued until 1905 when a bitter dispute within family members over the direction of the business, plus a financial problem created by a professional manager--member of the firm who was outside the family, but was hired to run the business--borrowed money against the business, pledging the assets of the company as collateral for the loan. He converted the money from the loans to his own personal use. This was a bitter situation that extended over two or three years of numerous court cases and created extreme financial difficulty for the business. The business was liquidated as a result. My grandfather, William E. Greenwald, filed numerous lawsuits and filing criminal charges against the person who had arranged the loan, forcing him to serve a sentence for his actions and liquidating the business.

My grandfather, William E. Greenwald, was born in the 1860's. His family had a home and after he married my grandmother, Amelia Breitenbach, they lived at the home on West Fourth Street. This was an upper class, affluent neighborhood in Cincinnati at the time. The entire area has since been obliterated for urban renewal. My grandmother, Amelia Breitenbach, and my grandfather were married, I guess in the 1880's--middle to late 1880's. My mother, Ethel Mae Greenwald, was born in 1898. There was a sister before her, but the child did not survive.

My grandmother, Amelia Breitenbach, was one of, I think, five children of Ben Breitenbach. The Breitenbachs came to Cincinnati from around Athens, Ohio sometime before the Civil War. My grandmother's father was a horseman. He spent some years as a professional firefighter on the Cincinnati Fire Department, when the Cincinnati Fire Department was probably the first professional fire department --that is, paid firemen--in a major city. He was well known for his daring horsemanship and his skill in handling horses. It is claimed he never used a whip on his horses. He talked and yelled at them. After spending time on the fire department, he founded a livery stable and drayage business.

My grandmother had a sister Ida, a sister Carrie, a brother Bill and another brother or sister--and I don't remember whether it was a brother or sister, and I don't remember the name. After my grandfather and my grandmother married and lived on Fourth Street, they moved to Linwood and from Linwood they built a house on Evanston Avenue at Evanston and lived there for many years. When my mother and father married, they lived with my grandparents on Evanston Avenue and my sister and I were both born at Evanston Avenue.

From Evanston Avenue, we all moved to a large apartment on Smith Road and Norwood, next to the Schwartz homestead at 4211 Smith Road. There I attended Sharpsburg School for kindergarten, first grade, and I think, part of the second grade. We then all moved to a new house in Kennedy Heights on Kennedy Avenue. There my sister and I attended Kennedy Grade School. While at Kennedy Grade School, the teacher I had recommended to my parents that I skip the third grade and that she would tutor me during the summer. We did this. I hated the tutoring during the summer but we made the change. From my experience with this, I am not in favor of skipping grades, especially very early grades in school. It isn't a matter of the education. It's a matter of getting out-of-step with your peer group.

About 1931 or '32, my mother, father, sister and I had moved to the Schwartz household on 4211 Smith Road. My father's parents had died, both within a year of each other, and my father bought the family household from his brothers and sisters.

After we moved from Kennedy Heights to Norwood, I attended St. Matthew Catholic School for grade school, through the 8th grade. I graduated from St. Matthew's in 1934 and entered Norwood High School. I graduated from Norwood High School in 1938. I was graduated with honors as a member of the National Honor Society, much to my pleasure and total surprise, because my educational achievement while in grade school was very dismal. Somehow in high school I seemed to get myself together. I guess I liked high school or I didn't like grade school.

The Schwartz Family

Now let's talk a bit about my father's family, the Schwartzes. The information I have I got from my Aunt Mildred, my father's sister, and the sole surviving member of his family. In my father's family, there were five girls and two boys. My father was the fourth in line. According to Aunt Mildred, my Grandmother Schwartz came to this country as a single young girl from Germany sometime in the later 1800's. We would guess around 1880. My Grandfather Schwartz came to this country from Prussia about the same time. The two of them met in Cincinnati, were married, lived in Cincinnati for a short time, and then moved to Hamilton, Ohio. To the best of our knowledge, all of the children in the Schwartz family were born--my father's brothers and sisters--were born in Hamilton, Ohio. My father was born in 1895. After the disastrous 1913 flood which devastated Hamilton, my Grandfather Schwartz bought the house at 4211 Smith Road, and the family moved from Hamilton to 4211 Smith Road, Norwood. They moved overnight in horse drawn wagons conveying their furniture.

As mentioned, my grandparents, the Schwartzes, died within less than a year of each other. I don't know the exact time and my Aunt Mildred is not sure. But, we're guessing about 1930. It would have to be around that time, because shortly after that in 1931 or possibly '32--I think in '31--my mother, father, my sister and I moved from Kennedy Heights to the house at 4211 Smith Road.

My father was an electrician. He was a man very good with his hands. He could do anything mechanical. He spent 37 years as an electrician at American Laundry & Machinery Company. I worked there for a brief time on two different occasions myself. I worked there the summer of 1937 as a junior in high school, bucking rivets in the basement factory for the summer. Then in 1940, '41 I worked there in the mechanical and drafting room running the blueprint machine.

I really didn't know my grandparents, the Schwartzes. We had very little direct contact with them and I was very young when they passed away.

The Andary Family

The Andarys are my first wife Genevieve's family. The Andarys came to this country from Lebanon, Asia. Eli Andary, Genevieve's father, and Marina, Genevieve's mother were married in Lebanon. Sometime about 1923, they came to the United States. Genevieve and Tony, her brother, were born in Lebanon. Genevieve was four years old when the family made the move to the United States. They settled in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Probably one reason was that the area was booming with the iron ore and the lumber trade at the time. Eli's father, John Andary, had been in the Soo and I think he may have permanently located there as a merchant because he had a history of traveling back and forth between the Soo and Lebanon. Eli worked at a lumber mill and a chemical plant for a year or two, put together some money and started his own business-- a general store and clothing store catering to the needs of working people, especially the people working on the locks and the seamen from the ships--the Great Lakes vessels--traversing the locks at the Sault Falls Canal.

After several moves, he kept upgrading the store and eventually ended up with a men's clothing store and handling upper price bracket items of men's clothing, such as Hart, Schaffner & Marx suits, Stetson hats, Florsheim shoes, Arrow shirts, Beau Brummel ties, Pendleton woolens-- all good quality merchandise.

They continued the business for approximately sixty years. It was slightly over sixty years when Genevieve's brother, Paul, who had taken over the business, sold the business and retired in the mid-1980's.

This pretty well gives a brief sketch of the background of the family.

Bill Schwartz' Life

I will now give a brief history of my own personal life and activities. I'll pick it up upon my graduation from high school in 1938.

After graduating from Norwood High School in 1938, I was employed by Palm Brothers Decalcomania Company as a flyboy. A flyboy in the lithographic trades was an apprentice--a pressman's helper in a printing plant. It was an entry position into the printing industry. Palm Brothers was one of the leading manufacturers of decalcomanias and we printed decalcomanias from lithographic stones on flatbed presses. This was the origin of the lithographic form of printing. It has been totally replaced technically and is now only used by artists for artistic work and to maintain some contact with the past. There are no more commercial applications.

Palm Brothers was a union shop. After being employed, you had thirty days to join the union or get fired. I spent two and a half years there when I left and went to work at American Laundry & Machinery Company and ran the blueprint machine in the drawing room, with the idea of becoming a mechanical draftsman. I went to night school four nights a week for about ten months, studying mechanical drawing. I never really liked it.

I asked for a transfer to the experimental room. This was a room where prototype models and new design equipment was constructed. There was nothing open at the time, so I quit the job December 5, 1941. Japan bombed Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. I was 21 years old that December 9, 1941. Between Christmas and New Year's, I enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard and left Cincinnati January 10, 1942 for Buffalo, New York.

The Coast Guard

I spent three months in training at Buffalo, New York when I was in a group transferred from Buffalo to the St. Mary's River Patrol, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. I loved it up there. I loved the North Country and I still like it. My first year in the Soo, 1942, my duty was as a watchman on a look-out tower where we monitored the flow of traffic of the ore carriers up and down the St. Mary's River Patrol.

In 1943, I ran a 45-foot patrol boat out of Nebish Island, patrolling, and monitoring traffic in the up-bound channel of the St. Mary's River. In 1944, I ran a patrol boat out of the Soo base in town, Sault Ste. Marie, patrolling the upper part of the river--the area right below the locks. In September 1944 I was transferred to Key West, Florida to Sound School at the Navy Base in Key West. My hearing was found to be deficient. I cannot tell tonal differentiations between pings and pongs on the SONAR. This is essential in SONAR work, because the difference in tones indicates the direction and travel of the object.

I was transferred from Key West to New York City and I attended over the next seven months, several service schools, including navigation and seamanship schools, cargo handling, gunnery schools and surf handling--handling of small boats in surf. The first week of January 1945, I was transferred to the USS Joyce--a destroyer escort. I boarded the ship in Brooklyn Navy Yard about 9:00 o'clock at night and we headed out to sea, by midnight that night to pick up a convoy and took the convoy to England. Our port in England was Falmouth, England.

We returned to New York, spent about seven to ten days in New York, left again on another convoy. We took a convoy across the North Atlantic to Southampton, England. From Southampton back to New York, we picked up another convoy and took a convoy to Liverpool, England. On the way back from Liverpool, about fifteen hundred

miles off from the U. S. coastline, we got the message that the war in Europe had ended. We returned to Brooklyn Navy Yard, re-worked the ship, and left for the Caribbean--the Virgin Islands and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

After a couple of weeks there, we took the ship through the Panama Canal, up the Pacific Coast of San Diego. From San Diego to Hawaii and spent about six to seven weeks--eight weeks in Hawaii. When the war in the Pacific ended as a result of the dropping of the atomic bomb, we were in Pearl Harbor awaiting further orders. When we heard the war in the Pacific had ended, we thought we'd be returning to the States, but instead we were given orders and sent to Saipan. At Saipan, we picked up a convoy and took the first occupation troops into Japan. We were at Sasebo, Japan on the China Sea side of Japan.

From Japan, we went to the Philippine Islands and spent about seven weeks in the Philippine Islands, in Manila. From Manila, we were sent back to the States via Hawaii, San Diego, Panama Canal, and New York. We then took the ship from New York to Green Cove Springs, Florida, which is on the St. John's River, about 15 miles south of Jacksonville, Florida and deactivated the ship in Green Cove Springs. I was discharged from the service February 12, 1946.

Back to Cincinnati

I returned to Cincinnati, took some weeks off, then took a job as a mechanic with Complete Auto Transit, a trucking company that hauled new Chevrolet trucks and new Chevrolet automobiles out of the Norwood Assembly Plant. I worked there until September, taking some time off while there to go fishing in Canada with Bob Meagher.

During the time I was working at Complete, I decided to go to college and I enrolled at Salmon P. Chase College because I had a chance for an accelerated program. I took advanced placement tests at Salmon P. Chase and earned 21 credit hours out of a possible 24, which gave me an advanced standing and permitted me to earn my degree and graduate in two calendar years. I was graduated from Salmon P. Chase in 1948. with honors, a member of the Scholastic Honor Society.

Bill and Genevieve/ Early Career

In the meantime, during my time at Chase, Genevieve and I had resumed contact and our relationship developed. After graduating from college, I went to Sault Ste. Marie. Genevieve and I were married in Sault Ste. Marie November 25, 1948--it was Thanksgiving Day. I looked for a job at the Soo and gave up any idea of locating there because of business conditions in the area.

I returned to Cincinnati and got a job as a management trainee with Equitable Life and was transferred to Cleveland. I spent some months in Cleveland and never liked the type of work, so I quit. Came back to Cincinnati and got a job as a sales agent with Metropolitan Life on an industrial debit in Walnut Hills. I spent a year doing that and decided the life insurance business was not for me and I resigned the job. I resigned the job from Metropolitan the same week the Korean War broke out. Things were very uncertain and unsettled at that time. I had a tough four and a half to five months before I obtained a job at U. S. Spring and Lithograph Company as Assistant to the Director of Purchases. At the end of about eleven months that were there, the Director of Purchases transferred his office to New York and I was named Purchasing Agent for the Norwood Plant. I became active in graphic arts affairs and the professional associations affiliated with the printing industry.

I spent 11 years as Purchasing Agent at U.S. Printing & Litho, left there and went to Dallas, Texas with Pollack Paper Company. Pollack at the time, was one of the country's major manufacturers of flexible packaging, especially for the bakery and frozen food trades.

I was very bored with the job in Dallas and did not like the bloated bureaucracy of the corporation. I had lost interest in purchasing by that time and I resigned with no job in sight, returned to Cincinnati, leaving Genevieve and Susan in Dallas for two months to get Susan through that school year. I joined Keisel Company at that time. Keisel was a manufacturer's agent and chemical distributor. Ted and I knew each other from having been in contact and doing business with each other while I was a purchasing agent at U. S. Printing & Lithographic Company.

With Keisel Company, we sold specialty chemicals to the printing ink, paper, and plastic industries over parts of a four-state area. We had our ups and downs in the business, but on the whole it was very good for me. We had some good years.

After about six years, a change in marketing policies on several of our major principals changed our entire situation and we decided to close the business because the type of chemicals we were selling, the manufacturers were going to direct salary sales forces rather than sales agents. In the meantime, Keisel had retired and moved to Florida. So, we liquidated the business. We converted everything into cash and divided the money.

I joined Schwarm & Jacobus Printing Ink Company and spent two and a half years with them. Schwarm & Jacobus got in bad financial condition because Charlie was overly optimistic and built a very expensive and complex ink plant in Woodlawn without the business to support it. At the same time, the company's largest customer, Inland Container, which represented about 30% of the total volume of Schwarm & Jacobus, decided to manufacture their own printing ink. So, this was a double blow to the company and put them in perilous financial straits. I left the company in June 1970 and

joined Flint Ink Corporation. Schwarm & Jacobus finally went out of business about 18 to 24 months after I left them.

I spent fifteen years with Flint Ink Corporation working out of my home and traveling parts of three states. I retired from Flint Ink in January 1986. While at Flint I sold news inks – black and colors.

I was always interested in professional and business associations during my active work years. I was a member of the Cincinnati Purchasing Agents Association, The Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association, The Paint Technology Society, The Cincinnati Club of the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen. I am a past president of the Cincinnati Club of the Craftsmen's Association.

Genevieve and I were active in civic affairs in the City of Silverton. I served as co-chairman of the Silverton Neighborhood Association, now known as the Silverton Community Council. Genevieve also served as a co-chairman.

Retirement

After I retired, I joined the Kennedy Heights Metallic Club--a retiree's club. I have served on the Education Program Committee, served as first vice president, and served the Metallic Club as president. I still continue to serve on various committees of the Metallic Club.

For about ten years I was a member of the Planning Commission of the City of Silverton. This is a non-pay, volunteer job, responsible for planning real estate development concerning zone changes, types of construction, types of business, et cetera.

I might mention as far as personal interests go and hobbies and sports, I'm really not a hobbyist and my sports were also concerned with outdoor activities. I loved to hunt and fish, especially when I was younger and some of the best times of my life were spent in the mountains of Tennessee with Charlie Schwarm and some other guys, camping out in the mountains, deer hunting and wild turkey hunting. I fish and I've fished in Canada and Florida and fished in Michigan while a member of the Coast Guard in Sault Ste. Marie. I had the time of my life because I had an opportunity to hunt and fish and run a boat and get paid for it.

I also played golf for about 15 or 16 years and played tennis for about 16 or 17 years. I think I like tennis better than golf.

Bill and Dottie

Dottie Dreffer and I married in 1980. We all knew each other from the middle 1960's from activities in Silverton. Dottie has a son, Ron, married to Marge, his wife-- has two daughters, Amy, and Karen. They live here in Cincinnati. She has a daughter, Jenny, married to Mike. They have a son Brian and a daughter, Jamie. They live in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dottie is active in civic affairs in Silverton and very active in the Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church. Dottie is blessed with a beautiful voice and her real love is singing.

I think this is it! I think I've given the basics...given a brief outline of the history of the family and my own history. There are many other stories, but these are the high points.