

The original newspaper article does not have the year of publication. Ruth Meeker (1916-2008), outlined in RED below, attended this reunion as a young girl and placed the year in the mid 1920's. Based on the attendees, and the years that August 25th fell on a Saturday (as stated in the article), we believe the reunion occurred on August 25, 1928.

Aufranc Family History Recounted At Reunion; 112 Are At Sharonville

TYLERSVILLE, O.—On Saturday, August 25th, the descendants of Charles Augustus Aufranc held their first reunion at the Runyan school, one mile north of Sharonville with 112 members of the family present. About 10 a. m. the various families began to arrive with well filled baskets. At noon the contents of the baskets were spread on tables and everyone gathered about to enjoy a most bounteous repast.

In the afternoon a brief business session was held at which it was decided to make this an annual affair and the following officers were elected: Mr. Ed. Phalen, Jacksonville, Ill., Pres.; Philip Kretz, Mason, O., Vice Pres.; and Augustus Kloman, West Chester, O., Secretary and Treasurer. Mrs. Clarence Johnson read a poem entitled "Mother" which was written by Mrs. Moody Kinikin of Hamilton in memory of Elizabeth Flickinger Aufranc. Mr. Augustus Kloman then read a history of the Aufranc family which was intensely interesting. The history of the family as prepared by Mr. Kloman is in part as follows:

The name Aufranc is the French-est of the French and altho attempts have been made to anglicize it, the English pronunciation does not sound well.

Charles Augustus Aufranc, the founder of the family in America was born in Canton Bern, Switzerland, Nov. 27, 1788. He descended from a long lived, sturdy well-educated French family of the ruling class in Switzerland. His grand uncle lived to be 102 years of age and worked daily up until the time of his death. There were lawyers and other professional men in his immediate family. Charles Augustus was able to converse freely in five languages namely, French, Italian, Spanish, German and English. His brother Jonas was able to converse in seven languages. When they were young, about 1807, the brothers migrated to Cuba. A few years later probably about 1810 the brothers left Cuba and came to New Orleans, then the most nearly French city in U. S. We are not able to tell just when they came to New Orleans, but we do know they were there Jan. 8, 1815 when the American army under Jackson defeated the English under Pakenham. Charles Augustus found employment on a sugar plantation and Jonas secured a position on the police force as watchman or marshal as they were variously called at that time. He was well fitted for such a position with his handsome appearance, cultured manners, fine voice and ready command of the various languages used by the people of the city. It was customary for the watchman, to call the watches of the night so that the inhabitants might be assured that all was well or be warned of any approaching danger. At that time the city was in constant danger of being attacked by an English fleet. Spanish raiders or pirate marauders. He was serving as marshal when the English army and fleet under Sir Edward Pakenham appeared in the harbor of the city. Captain Benedict, a French army Engineer was Jackson's advisor as to the best method of defending the city and drew up the plans of defense. The Aufranc brothers witnessed the battle, as a city officer Jonas helped remove the inhabitants to places of safety. When Pakenham decided to land his army and attack the city he rushed to the front, sword in hand, leaped on a tier of cotton bales and commanded "Come on boys, the day is for us." These were his last words for he had no sooner uttered them than a volley from Jackson's men laid him low. The English army was defeated and the city was saved from the invaders. Jonas always maintained that Captain Benedict deserved more credit for the defeat of the English than did General Jackson. The Aufranc brothers continued in their respective positions until 1822 when Charles Augustus married.

Following is a brief account of the life of the girl, whom he married, Elizabeth Flickinger was born in Alsace, a small province, north of Switzerland, April 12, 1807. Alsace being along the French and German boundary line has been during the past two centuries controlled by the French government part of the time and by the German part of the time. The people are French, German or a mixture of both. At the time of Elizabeth Flickinger's birth, Alsace was under French control. The family was in humble circumstances and she was the youngest of five children—three boys and two girls. Her father died during her early childhood years. She was gifted with remarkable

memory altho only five years old she remembered distinctly when French officers came to call her oldest brother, Ludwig, to the French colors, for the Russian campaign under Napoleon I in 1812. She told how her mother was paring cucumbers for dinner when the officers appeared and when they made known their mission how she dropped the paring knife as grief and fear overcame her. Ludwig was one of the few survivors of Napoleon's disastrous campaign and when the great commander was banished to the Island of Elba, the son returned home and the widow and children were again united, but for a brief time only as Napoleon returned to France early in 1815.

The French army eagerly rushed to his support. He soon had a powerful army of 200,000 men at his command, nearly all veterans who had seen service under him before. Ludwig was a grenadier in his army and a member of the famous old French Guard, that had never known defeat. After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in June 1815 and his exile to St. Helena the soldiers were once more allowed to return to their homes and Europe was again at comparative ease. But Mrs. Flickinger feared another outbreak and her two younger sons would soon be of military age. So she decided to seek peace and safety in America like so many oppressed Europeans have done. She sold all but a very few personal belongings, the proceeds of which was converted into coin and placed in a wallet attached to a belt and fastened around her waist under her outer garment. By this time Ludwig was married thus adding one more to the family. The family of seven left their old home in Alsace early in April, 1817, when Elizabeth was ten-years old. They went down the river Rhine to Rotterdam, which was then the chief port for emigrants from north-western Europe to America. Here they purchased passage to America and embarked on a vessel bound for New Orleans.

Owing to unsettled conditions in Europe at that time the vessel was unable to obtain clearance. The vessel was thus delayed until it was too late to start that spring, as vessel owners and seamen hesitated to risk starting across the Atlantic except in the spring and fall. Those were the days of sailing vessels and their progress depended on the ways of the wind, April and October, being the most favorable months for starting. The family was detained on board the ship in the port from April until October, 1817. A child was born to Ludwig and his wife on shipboard. Both mother and child died for want of proper care and were buried on a small island in the North Sea. In October the ship left Rotterdam for New Orleans. The journey was one of storms and many hardships—food and water became scarce and had to be purchased at a high price. Every time the mother reached for a coin to pay, her hand trembled and her body quivered with fear, at the thought that her small sum might not last until they reached their destination. When the vessel reached the Gulf of Mexico, but before arriving at New Orleans, the Mother worn with grief and disappointments, weakened and died. She was placed in a wooden box and according to the rules of the sea at that time, shoved overboard into the Gulf of Mexico.

On arriving at New Orleans the vessel was quarantined and not allowed to land its passengers. Some time in March, 1818, the passengers were permitted to land, after being on shipboard for eleven months. Elizabeth was then almost eleven years old. The boys got employment as best they could and Salome the older girl acted as housekeeper and mother to the family. Fortune seemed more favorable. The family soon formed the acquaintance of the Aufranc brothers. Then misfortune overtook them, again—that terrible scourge of the South in those days, yellow fever, took a dreadful toll of life in the city. All three of the Flickinger brothers fell victims—two were buried in the same grave with little preparation and no burial ceremony. The Aufranc Bros. were especially kind and sympathetic. Under these circumstances sympathy and friendship ripened into love on the part of two and Elizabeth Flickinger, then 15 years of age, and Charles Augustus Aufranc were married in the spring of 1822. Charles Augustus was at that time thirty-three years of age. Salome Flickinger married also and went to Philadelphia seeking a more healthful climate—here we lost trace of her. The newly married Aufranc's then

began a strenuous but happy life together. The husband was a good provider, kind, indulgent and considerate toward his young wife. He encouraged her to dress well and mingle in the best social life of the city. She often said these were the happiest and most care-free days of her life. They attended many evening social gatherings but he was always very strict about being in their own home by ten o'clock. She never neglected her home duties and was always known as a good cook and housekeeper. The husband had a good position as foreman on a large sugar plantation. His brother Jonas, who lived with them, continued in his capacity as policeman but his duties were exacting and often required long hours on duty with little chance for rest and comfortable sleep. He often slept on bales of cotton with nothing more than a damp dripping sky to cover him. The climate of New Orleans was ill-suited for a native of high and healthful Switzerland. Under these circumstances Jonas contracted a cold from which he never recovered.

After twelve years of married life the first child, Louise was born to Charles Augustus and Elizabeth Aufranc. This brot a change—new plans for the future were thot of and discussed. They longed for a home of their own and greater opportunities to secure it.

They also wanted a more healthful and invigorating climate. Ohio was then a booming state in the Union. Many French settlements were in the southern part. Cincinnati was rapidly becoming the greatest pork-packing center in the country. For the sake of the health of their brother Jonas, a more healthful climate for their family and for the sake of improving their financial condition the Aufranc family turned their eyes northward toward Ohio. They traveled up the Mississippi by steambot and landed in Cincinnati in 1835. Soon after arriving there the husband suffered an attack of Cholera, which well nigh proved fatal. Fortunately he recovered and after looking about for a suitable location the family decided to locate on a small farm in Blue Ash near the present site of the Plainfield school. The climate, drainage and market facilities were good, but the soil rather poor. Inspired with new ambitions and energy by the northern climate they went to work in earnest. Besides her regular household duties, the wife and mother milked cows, raised chickens, cared for her invalid brother-in-law, carried her butter and eggs to Montgomery, a distance of three miles and brot back the weekly supplies of groceries for the family.

The husband and father cultivated the small farm thoroly, raised cows and hogs in addition to field crops of corn, wheat, potatoes, hay and oats. His keen natural insight into nature and nature's ways made him well fitted to succeed as a farmer. He was an excellent judge of livestock, especially horses. He hauled his surplus crops and dressed hogs to the Cincinnati market. He also did teaming and assisted in building the old Montgomery pike and other much needed roads leading into Cincinnati. This the family improved their financial condition from year to year. His brother Jonas gradually grew weaker and passed away. His body now lies in the old Plainfield cemetery.

The family was increasing rapidly; during the eight years they lived at Blue Ash, four children were born, Mary Justine, January, 1837; Elizabeth, August 9, 1838; Augustus, October 1840; Esther, February, 1843; More and better land was needed to keep up with the growing family. On one occasion Aufranc mentioned this to Bohn, the leading pork merchant of Cincinnati. Impressed by the superior quality of pork annually delivered by Aufranc his well kept team of horses, and general thrifty appearance of Aufranc, the great pork merchant offered to let him have money to buy 1000 acres of land in the rich bottoms around Port Union. This land could then be purchased from the government for two dollars and acre. Aufranc refused the offer however, replying that he would never buy goose ponds and ague and that what he bought he wanted to be sure he could pay for with his own money and that he wanted the best land obtainable in a healthy location. After some prospecting he decided to buy about fifty acres of land near Tylersville, Union Twp. Butler County, Ohio. To this place the family moved in 1843. This became the Aufranc homestead. To this farm he added from time to time until the time of his death, October 3, 1862, when he owned eighty acres of well-improved, productive land.

At the Tylersville home three more children were born; Magdaline, February, 1846; Sarah, May, 1848; Amelia, January, 1850. In all there were eight children, seven girls and one boy. All grew to maturity and raised families—two

died unmarried. Amelia, the youngest, was the first to go in August, 1873, at the age of 23 years and Magdaline next in December 1879 at the age of 33 years. After the death of Magdaline, Sarah the youngest surviving child moved with her family to the old homestead to be with her mother. Years later Grandma Aufranc gave up her residence and moved to the house nearby with her son and his family. Here she spent the last years of her life passing into Eternity June 30, 1898, aged 89 years, 2 months and 18 days. She had been a widow almost thirty-four years. She was survived by four children, twenty-four grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren. Her remains were laid to rest by the side of her husband in Union Township cemetery at West Chester. All of the children except Louise, the oldest, rest in the same burial grounds.

The following are the chief characteristics of Grandfather (Charles Augustus) Aufranc: Faithfulness to duty, tolerance, forbearance, sympathy with a keen sense of duty to home and family, his neighbors, his country and his God. These are the fruits of good-breeding, a refined mind and sincere religious motives. The leading characteristics of Elizabeth Flickinger Aufranc are practically insight, and staunch application of all things to a practical end; extreme economy, industry and thrift. To her the constant practice of making the best possible use of everything Divine Providence gives was Religion. She estimated a person's moral goodness and social fitness according to his or her willingness and ability to work hard and toil willingly to the limit of her strength. To her the lazy, the laggard, the crook were criminals. She esteemed it more honorable to live by the labor of the hands and the sweat of the brow than by the thought of the brain. The characteristics of Grandfather Aufranc are more and more manifest in their descendants and those of Grandmother Aufranc are more and more waning. Whether this is for better or for worse we leave you to judge.

Both had a strong desire to own their own home and secure some of the comforts of life. To that end they toiled and planned constantly. This trait is manifest in their posterity. Although none strive for great wealth, nearly all own their own homes. All follow the saying: "Give me neither poverty nor riches, but enough for comfort and to contribute to the relief of my worthy, distressed fellow men."

This article as prepared by Mr. Kloman was most interesting to all and many of us learned things about our ancestors which we did not know.

Those present at the reunion were: Mrs. Rose Phalen, Miss Olive Phalen, Miss Harriet Phalen, Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Lacey, Ruth, Jane and Paul Lacey all of Lockland; L. P. Kretz, of Mason; Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Walker, Frances, Vincent and Dale Walker, all of Mason; Mrs. Clara Weissinger, Walter Weissinger, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Weissinger and daughter, Marian Fern of West Chester, Mr. and Mrs. Moody Kinikin of Hamilton; Mrs. Ed. Carroll, Irma Delmar and Don Carroll, of Cincinnati; Mr. and Mrs. Adam Diebel, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Diebel and son, David, of Springdale; Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Johnson and sons, James, Thomas and Robert of West Chester; Mrs. Justine Hildebrandt, Mary Hildebrandt, Emerson Hildebrandt, of Cincinnati; Prof. and Mrs. Albert Avey and daughter, Margaret, of Columbus; Mr. and Mrs. Ellis McNelly and son, Justin, of Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hildebrandt and son, James, of Cincinnati; Mr. and Mrs. William Meeker, Cincinnati, Ohio; Dr. Clarence Meeker, Dr. and Mrs. Geo. P. Meeker and daughters, Ruth and Betty, Dr. Winona Kloman, all of Cincinnati; Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Kloman, of West Chester; Mrs. Caroline Aufranc, Mrs. Lou Ella Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bolser and children, Homer, Fern and Wesley, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Aufranc and daughters, Garnet and Beulah, Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Jones and son, Earl and daughter, Cecile, all of West Chester; Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Stout, of Springdale; Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Aufranc, and son, Myron, of West Chester; Mrs. Lulu Shurte, Miss Mabel Shurte, Raymond Shurte, Willard Shurte, Mrs. Murray Kimble, all of Lockland; Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Beekley and Wilbur S. Beekley, of Glendale; Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Hance and children, Roy and Dorothy, of West Chester; W. H. Beekley and Dr. Ferris E. Beekley, of Sharonville; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Beekley, of Cleveland; Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Gregory of Sharonville; Mr. and Mrs. Percy Long and children, Harlan, Richard, Clarice, Mildred and Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Campbell and daughter, all of West Chester, Mr. and Mrs. George Long and children, Alice, Marie, Erna and Ruth, of West Chester; Mrs. Florence Bothe and children, Jeanne and Phyllis, of Franklin.