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By Helen M. Martin :

Glimpses into the Life of Carl Ludwig Rominger

By Robert V. Kesling :

The Rominger Biographies -- Editor's Comments

Carl Ludwig Rominger, M. D.

Rominger Genealogy

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by

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(20 Nov 1889 to 28 Apr 1973)

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Fossils were Carl Ludwig Rominger's delight in life.

Glimpses into the Life of **CARL LUDWIG ROMINGER**

Helen M. Martin

My earliest recollections of the Rominger family stem from my student days in Ann Arbor. Oftentimes as I was making for an "eight o'clock," I'd meet the graybearded, rather chunky gentleman with those all-seeing blue eyes returning across the campus from his early morning walk with his two dachshunds walking sedately on either side. At times, off-campus, the dogs were not so sedate and scampered ahead of their master. When Professor Rominger raised his stick, however, in command both little dogs obediently and quickly returned beside him and resumed the walking position and pace. Many times I saw him meet and heard gay greetings to him from another old gentleman - President Angell. I often wished I might listen to those chats and conversations which seemed at times to be serious and at others to be quite gay when Dr. Rominger would slap his knee or clap President Angell on the shoulder, and both burst into peals of laughter. Perhaps the gay chats came as President Angell repeated an encounter he had with Marie, Rominger's younger daughter, who delighted the President with her quick, witty sallies as they met at the market or butcher shop.

The day of Rominger's death was a sad one for the large German population in Ann Arbor and for many students at the University. In our geology classes we had been introduced to Professor Rominger's papers, especially to his monumental monograph on Michigan corals. Even though we had only read what he had written and listened to a few lectures, we could understand the great loss felt by the scientific world.

My more intimate acquaintance with the Rominger family came early in 1941. For years I had projected a series of biographies of all seven State Geologists before Allen (1909-1919). Although absent from Michigan for several years, I had added to my notes and information from time to time. I was certain that data about both Douglass Houghton (the first State Geologist) and Alexander Winchell (the second State Geologist) could be found in the Rominger papers. So one day I took courage and wrote Miss Marie Rominger for an appointment. In her mannish costume and high-button shoes, she seemed quite a formidable person to me then - but a more lovable friend could scarcely exist. The outcome of that first call was a deep friendship, cherished until her death nearly fifteen years later. During my many visits in her home, Marie (Rominger's younger daughter), told me many incidents of their family life. She continued to

live in her father's old house in Ann Arbor, a one-story cottage grown to a three-story mansion by remodeling within but quite unpretentious without, which was still filled with mementoes and memorabilia of the old Professor and State Geologist.

It was a family of deep but seldom-expressed affection. Each member knew of the love of the others but only to Mrs. Rominger was that love fully expressed, especially from Dr. Rominger after Julie, Louis, and Marie had grown to adulthood. Julie was never very strong and her father looked after her with tender care - but it was to "meine Frau" that he entrusted medications and confided his concern. Marie was of a stronger mold, both in physique and in temperament. She inherited her father's talent for exquisite drawings; she drew the originals of the maps for the reports by Pumpelly and by Brooks on the copper and iron regions of the Northern Peninsula in Volumes I, II, and III of the Michigan Geological Survey Reports. Later she took up wood carving and pyrography, an art form now almost disappeared, burning intricate designs - even pictures - in wood with especially heated small tools. It was always a pleasure to see this art work in her home, embellishing all wood - chairs, cabinets, etc.

But Marie wanted to earn her own living to her father's complete objections; so cutting her hair short and wearing as mannish clothes as possible in that day, she obtained a position as bookkeeper for one of her father's business friends. This meant freedom for Marie, and knowing and mingling with more young people. It also meant adventuring in the business world and following in her father's footsteps in real-estate ventures - buying and clearing woodlots; (Dr. Rominger thus increased his quite small income from his medical practice as he seldom collected bills). One lot remains almost intact. Once it was known as Rominger's Woods. Now it is the University's Forestry Park. Professor Roth, Chief of the University Forestry Department, persuaded Rominger to sell, and the University to buy, the woods. Much of the Rominger furniture was made from walnut and maple from this woodlot.

Though out of home social life increased and friendships were many, no courtships developed. Did a young man come to call on one of his daughters, their father seemed to think he was the attraction and would take the caller into his office-laboratory for "ein gute talk and instruction." Years later in a report to the Board of Geological Survey Rominger wrote that he was constantly searching for young men to train and become his assistant geologists.

This outside employment of Marie brought on bickering quarrels between Marie and her father. When Dr. Rominger won his point, all quieted down and Mrs. Rominger sang. But when Marie won the argument, 'twas anything but serene and for days, or even weeks, father and daughter did not speak to each other. Nevertheless, the Doctor knew of everything Marie did. Once she planned a trip to Germany, telling Julie and her mother of her plans just a few days before she was to leave. Both were pledged to secrecy but on the eve

before the scheduled departure, Dr. Rominger thrust a well-filled purse into Julie's hand and said gruffly, "Here, give her this. I don't know how much she has," and returned to his sancrosanct office. The purse held more money than she needed for the journey.

Often Friedericke's patience was near an end. Her "grosser Mann" would bring a sheaf of half-finished drawings and say, "Tell her to finish them, make them right." Mrs. Rominger would say, "Mein Karl, you don't speak to her yet you ask her to work for you. You can do them yourself." And his reply, "Gott im Himmel, I want them right; she can do better than I." Then father and daughter would talk over the drawings. No matter how long the silence between them, it ended at once when one or more of the great men of the day visited the Romingers -- Louis Agassiz, Raphael Pumpelly, James Hall, Major Brooks -- professors from other American universities, or occasionally a European man of distinction. Then would Rominger proudly show off some of Marie's art work -- illustrations for his papers, the maps she had made for Brooks and Pumpelly, a carved candelabrum, or a tooled leather book binding.

A flinty-hearted father? No, but a stubborn one, with an equally stubborn daughter. Marie once told me she was certain her father resented his children growing up. She stated that he loved "die Kinder" and in his walks and drives in the German colony he surrounded himself with children, and that on his horses and dogs he lavished affection that he did not choose to or could not express for his grown children. Despite his admiration for Marie's talents, disregarding his acknowledged dependence upon her assistance at times, and notwithstanding his concern that his children have care when sick and financial security at all times, Rominger appears to have lived in defiance of his inner sentiments and with a self-imposed detachment.

Nevertheless, there were light and happy times in the Rominger household, especially the Sunday "sings" when many of the German colony of Ann Arbor would gather in the Rominger's large, central living room -- from the first Sunday after the cottage had a roof! They sang the old Swabian songs and Carl and Friedericke relived the days in their homeland when so many musicians and poets gathered for similar "sings" in the Mayer home. A most welcome guest who became a lifelong friend was Henry Frieze, a Latin scholar and musician who came to Ann Arbor in 1854. Frieze established a conservatory of music in Ann Arbor. His pupils, mainly of Swabian descent, included the Romingers. Friedericke loved music and had a fair voice which Henry tried to encourage to full tone but Friedericke would sing only to her babies and when happy. Professor Frieze did manage to tone Rominger's reedy tenor so that he could and did sing in local oratorios and take full part in the "sings."

In 1918 R. C. Allen, State Geologist, wrote a brief history of the Survey in his annual report to the Board, which was published as a part of the Board's report to the State Budget Commission. Of Rominger Allen wrote,

After the publication of Volumes I and II the Survey lapsed into a period of comparative inactivity. Dr. Rominger was retained as State Geologist and continued his labors rather desultorily in connection with his engagements at the University of Michigan. That Rominger's administration of 12 years' duration was not more productive of results is due partly to his eccentricities and partly to the Board acquiescing in the leisurely manner in which Rominger proceeded with the duties devolving upon him. It is said that Rominger never had nor desired an assistant even in the clerical work of his office. He did not know how to utilize the labors of others much less how to direct them. The Survey therefore was reduced to the acceptance of such work as he desired to perform.

But Allen couldn't quite believe such hearsay reports, denied by men of science: his predecessors, State Geologists Hubbard and Lane.

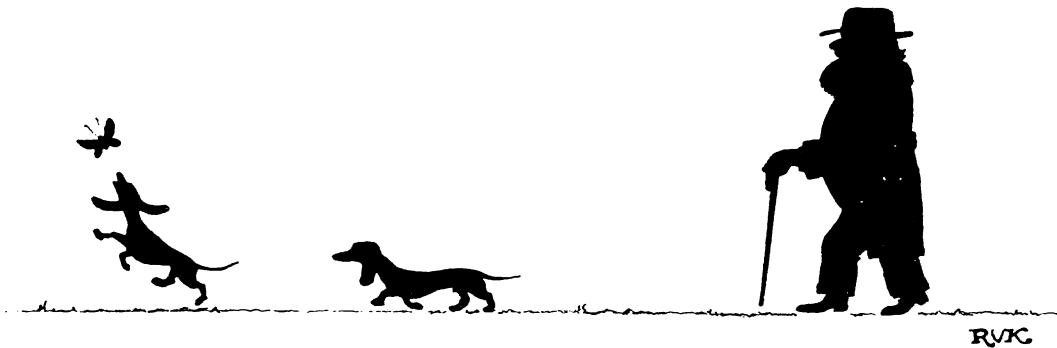
In the same report Allen wrote,

It must not be inferred from this that Rominger was not a competent geologist -- quite the contrary. His work was fully equal to that of the best geologists of his time. By 1876 he had produced Volume III, a study of the succession, distribution and structure of the rocks of the Southern Peninsula. In this work Rominger confirmed the conclusions of Houghton and Winchell concerning the Michigan Basin and added enormously to the information which those geologists were able to acquire. Rominger was first of all a lover of pure science. It is not strange therefore that the most important part of Volume III, the work on which his reputation as a scientist chiefly rests, should be a carefully elaborated monograph on the fossil corals of Michigan. This work remains to this day a classic in the literature of geology and a standard of reference.

Of Volume V Allen wrote, "...was written wholly by Rominger and should have been published 10 years earlier..... delay was most unfortunate. . . . economic value was in a measure lost to those engaged in developing the mineral industries of the State." Many years later Allen stated that he regretted including the first lines in his report to the Budget Commission, saying he could never reconcile the hearsay told him by seemingly reputable observers with the Rominger responsible for "the Corals" and the other reports.

After Rominger's death, controversy arose over his place among scholars. Newcomers almost dismissed him from the ranks. But his friends, almost legion among geologists, took up cudgels for Rominger, even though they could not gainsay that there were no field records to prove his work except the briefs in the Board of Geological Survey. The field notebooks were essential in establishing what he did in the field, how he did it, and what he had observed and studied and examined - no results recorded. THEN during one of my weekend visits with Marie she brought me a battered old copper breadbox sadly packed away when he was no longer State Geologist. THERE were the lost field notebooks with their curious mixture of German and English words and script. Their value can scarcely be estimated in establishing the extent of Rominger's geological travels, his unpublished observations, and his description of the

State before changes that were wrought by miners and woodsmen. Box and all were deposited with the Michigan Historical Collections after the notebooks had been translated so far as possible, and transcribed, and can there be used to set at rest any misgivings about Carl Ludwig Rominger's scholarship, high status as a geologist, and geological acumen.



A familiar figure crossing the University of Michigan campus, always accompanied by his two dachshunds.

This remarkable man, Carl Ludwig Rominger, the third and most dedicated State Geologist of Michigan, was born in December 1820 to Ludwig and Johanna Dorothea Hoecklin Rominger in Schnaitheim, Germany, a little village on the Brenz, a tributary of the Danube in southeastern Wuerttemberg, once the western half of the Duchy of Swabia. Little is known about his early boyhood, other than that he was very studious, observant, and "reverent in all churchly duties" at the time he was confirmed in 1833. By that time the family had moved to Waiblingen and it was there that he met the one love of his life -- the little girl across the park -- Friedericke Mayer, daughter of a grade school teacher who later became a judge.

Carl earned his living by working in a drug store in Bofingen where he laid the foundation of his medical career. He studied not only chemistry but the use of drugs in curing human ills. The fascination of cures with chemicals determined at that time his choice of a career - Medicine.

Rominger presented the first money he earned -- a 1-kreutzer coin -- to his favorite sister. She kept it for many years before presenting it to Dr. Rom-

inger's younger daughter. The coin is now in the Rominger collection in the University of Michigan Libraries. According to Marie's understanding, the coin was a payment from the government but just when it was received is not known. It could hardly have been payment for extended services, for the old copper coin had then a value of only about half a cent.

The family Rominger must have been of some prominence, if not of means, for Carl Ludwig was accepted as a student at the University of Tuebingen in the fall of 1839. While an undergraduate, he won a prize for a paper he wrote on the circulation of sap in plants. Another prize, won in 1842, was for a thesis on the geology -- complete with map -- of the neighborhood of the University and Town of Tuebingen. The "motto" won in competition for this paper was: "Only through detailed investigation does it become possible to establish general laws." This motto was prophetic. It applied to all his thorough investigation of details; it entered into his proud triumphs and some difficulties. The faculty of the University praised the detailed and exhaustive character of the paper and his assured mastery of the difficult points. They also said that the paper was so weighted with instructive observations that the picture of the whole was not too clear. It was always difficult for Rominger to refrain from including instructive elements in his many papers. Lights burned late in his laboratory as he wrote in English and struggled and struggled with the problem.

Before receiving his degree in medicine in 1842, Rominger's interest had focused on geology as a profession. He made intensive field investigations of the Swabian Alb, a range of the Jura Mountains, which developed into the topic of his doctoral dissertation. Years after Dr. Rominger's death Professor Frank Leverett of the USGS, glacial geologist of the USGS and employed in mapping the surface geology of Michigan, followed in the footsteps of Rominger in his study of Jura glaciation. In his report, Leverett marvelled at Rominger's meticulous accuracy in describing even the smallest detail. Here, as from later reports, what Rominger saw, Leverett saw except where erosion had altered the surface -- and even such changes Leverett found Rominger had predicted.

In his last student days, Rominger was an assistant in the laboratory to the famous German chemist and physician, Carl Gmelin, thus completing the chemical studies begun in Bofingen as a druggist's clerk.

Also Gmelin introduced him to the famous Professor F. A. Quenstedt, who taught mineralogy, geology, and paleontology. They became lifelong friends. Because of his excellent paper for which he won the prize -- a substantial monetary award -- the government of Wuerttemberg granted Rominger a scholarship of 400 gulden a year (1845-48) for geological travels. These study-collecting travels with Quenstedt took them, mainly on foot, through Germany, Bohemia, Switzerland, the Tyrol, northern France, and Belgium collecting minerals, rocks, and fossils (1845-48). Brief notes on these travels were published in

the Geologic Year Book of Wuerttemberg. They made Rominger an even more avid geologist and paleontologist.

These travels were cherished memories when Rominger settled in America, and were referred to many times in his lectures. His listeners were always highly entertained by stories of these travels. One of his favorites which he recounted with eyes sparkling gleefully, was of the day both he and Quenstedt, at the same moment, saw a particularly beautiful and perfect ammonite weathered from the rock. Both scrambled for it and Rominger, bumping the older man, grasped the fossil. Quenstedt was very downcast. Knowing that the bumping was not entirely accidental, Rominger gave the fossil to his mentor friend. Dr. Rominger's voice would quiver as he told his audience how, eight years later, Quenstedt sent the ammonite to him as a wedding present. The fossil held a place of honor -- not in his collection -- but on the mantel in the living room during his lifetime, and after. The long friendship ended only with Professor Quenstedt's death in 1889.

With the 1840's came troublous times to western Europe, and especially to the German States. Demands were made to abolish the last vestiges of feudalism, to inaugurate religious tolerance, to grant freedom of the press, to establish ministerial responsibility to a democratic assembly, to unite the German people in a stronger state -- in short, liberalism and nationalism were promoted at many levels and in many ways, and Carl Ludwig Rominger was in full accord. The startlingly sudden French revolution of 1848 spurred action in the German state from which Rominger -- then an assistant professor in the University -- could hardly remain aloof. He so informed the Cultus Ministerian, the Minister of Education. Perhaps because he secretly sympathized with the young doctor's radical views, the minister granted continuance of the scholarship (salary) held by Rominger on one condition: that he go to America and never come back. And so another talented Swabian joined the ranks of German emigrants to a land of freedom. He regretted leaving Germany and interrupting his geological studies. As he said much later, "I was not yet fully equipped to set myself up as a geologist."

Early in 1848 Rominger sailed from Bremen in a small sailing vessel for his new life. After a stormy voyage of fifty days he arrived in New York with so little knowledge of English that he could not understand or be understood. He had planned to work his way south to North Carolina to visit relatives, descended from two distant uncles who had settled many years before. These plans were suddenly abandoned a few days after landing when he was robbed of most of his money. He was forced to practice medicine in order to live. Instead of heading south, he sought out German settlers and made his way northward to Albany and then on west to Buffalo -- noting the geology and learning English as he went -- on foot, by river boat, and in canal barges -- through the coal fields of Virginia and Kentucky. At the end of the year he arrived in Cincinnati.

As a large percentage of the town's inhabitants spoke German, and welcomed the young physician, it was not too long before Rominger had set up what promised to be a flourishing medical practice. But the bedrocks of the Cincinnati region are a geologist's -- and especially a paleontologist's -- paradise and the fish and shells of the rivers and streams are almost as intriguing. Fossils and fish lured him from his practice day and night and lost him some patients. "My hands were too dirty," he said. Fossils did not supply food or shelter so Rominger removed himself from temptation, moving to Chillicothe, Ohio, where he set up a fair practice and built a small brick house, and where he could "buy food and care for my patients away from daily temptation." Then over twenty-seven years of age, Rominger became Chillicothe's kindly, considerate physician to the sick, but a bitingly irascible man to all malingerers. One is reported to have said, "If the doctor is cross and cusses, you aren't sick."

However, he did not give up one hobby but continued for a time catching, and then making exquisite - almost photographic - drawings (one geologist said almost microscopic reproductions) of the fish. These drawings were sent to biologists here and also in Europe.

By 1854 Dr. Rominger had become sufficiently affluent to afford marriage -- he had built a small brick house -- and no one could accuse him of having more interest in the dowry than in the girl. He returned to Tuebingen where, although she had twice rejected him, Friedericke Mayer had patiently awaited his return through six long, lonely (?) years -- knitting, sewing, weaving, filling great arks of trunks with household necessities for the new home to be.

They were married November 30, 1854. During the days of wedding festivities, Rominger was reminded of all he had missed in the six years -- the gracious hospitality of the Mayers, the hosts of guests: scientists, musicians, poets, artists -- a scientific, literary, artistic world. He knew how Friedericke would miss all this and vowed to have a similar home. He renewed his earlier acquaintance with Louis Agassiz and through him learned of the progress in geology, especially glacial, in the Alps.

On June 29, 1855, Carl Ludwig Rominger renounced allegiance to the King of Wuerttemberg and became Charles Louis Rominger, citizen of the United States. On receiving his citizenship papers, Dr. Rominger said proudly, "I am an American now, by choice not by birth!" He was always fiercely proud of his Americanism although he never fully mastered the English language. Friedericke never acquired any fluency in English conversation and Swabian German was the language of the household. When Friedericke suggested that they send their children to Germany to be educated, Rominger shouted, "No!" -- then calmly said "Meine Frau, why did we come to America? They are Americans, they will be educated here, here in this University. But der music? Ja the music -- but we have music here!"

Hard times came to the country in the mid 1850's. The doctor had a flourishing heavy practice but failed, notoriously, to send or collect bills. So the Romingers had little money. To obtain cash they resorted to selling articles of Friedericke's craftsmanship: knitting, weaving, quilting. The best selling was a curious glass decorated with a fillet net Friedericke crocheted or knitted of coarse cord and glued on to the glass.

By 1859 the Romingers decided they required a larger income than Chilli-cothe afforded, that their children should grow up where a good education could be obtained -- remembering his vow, and that they would enjoy with fellow Swabians occasions similar to the hospitality of Friedericke's old home. Correspondence with old friends who had similarly emigrated from Germany, settled the matter -- they would move to Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Doctor drove his little black horse to Ann Arbor. In Ann Arbor the Lateinische Bauern or southern Wuerttembergers who never forgot their Swabian ancestry, were men of rank, education, and means. Like Rominger, they had left Germany because their sympathies were with free institutions and liberalism, and they welcomed him. Soon his medical practice was underway and in 1860 he brought his family to the cottage he had built in the town they were to call home.

The Ann Arbor area was a new field, a new type of geology for the doctor but he soon found that the surface deposits of glacial gravels and soil were similar to those at the base of the Jura Mountains, and when he shoveled into the gravels and discovered fossils, his joy was great. Again came the temptation to geologize at the expense of his practice. He had never lost interest in geology during the Ohio sojourn; whenever possible he had collected fossils from rock outcrops and living shells from streams, keeping up his collections, exchanges, and correspondence. Hence, by the time he reached Ann Arbor he was widely known as a geologist and paleontologist among men of science in this country and abroad. Searching in the beds of streams for rock containing fossils, he became interested in the fauna of the local streams. He could not make collections or exchanges of fish, insects, or amphibians, but he could and did make exquisitely detailed drawings of them -- almost photographic in their delineation. These were sent to fellow scientists who were interested. His precise drawings of fossils were sent to fellow paleontologists; only a few were kept for himself. "The original fossils, those I keep," he said. "They will do me."

When Professor Leverett started work on the surface geology of Michigan, he caught rides with Rominger returning or going to a patient in the country, or on one of his own personal investigations. Or he would seek Leverett and ask to be shown "another heap of nice gravel with fossils in it." Leverett used to wonder at an odd quirk in Rominger's ordinarily astute mentality. To Leverett's replies to some of the questions he asked, Rominger would reply, "Ja, Ja.

That might be true as you say it is but it is not what Louis [Agassiz] said." It was several years before he fully accepted the differences between Alpine and Continental glaciation.

The cottage at 315 South Fifth Avenue in Ann Arbor was his home until his death. Remodeling increased its size to a three-story house to provide for all the family activities. Fine stables were built some distance back of the house for his beloved driving horses. For Friedericke he built a small greenhouse on one side of the house and for himself a laboratory on the other. Between was the family living room, which frequently served as a large music room. The laboratory was equipped with a microscope, grinding equipment, test tubes, reagents, and medical supplies. It was his workshop and apothecary shop -- and let no one interfere with the work going on there!

The separation of functions seems to have been one-way, however. He often boiled fossils on the stove, and worked on cleaning them wherever he happened to be. Mrs. Rominger missed her steel knitting needles -- he had found them ideal tools for prying matrix from fossil corals. Rominger also kept up his medical and chemical studies at home, reading all reports of new discoveries and trying experiments on his own, using whatever materials were at hand. One day Mrs. Rominger missed one of her silver spoons and, suspecting where it might be, she entered the sacred laboratory and asked her husband if he knew what had become of it. "Ja, Ja, meine Frau," he told her, "I needed pure silver in my experiment. I had none, and you have plenty of spoons!" When Marie remonstrated because her mother was too easy with her father, Mrs. Rominger would gently reply, "Ja, but he is ein grosser Mann."

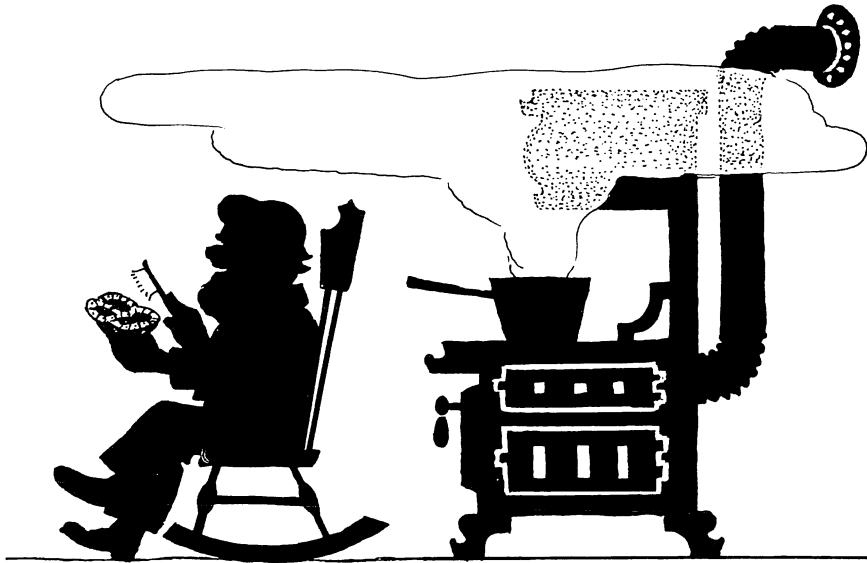
On another occasion Professor Louis Agassiz, then of Harvard College, visiting Ann Arbor, was a guest of his old friend of Wuerttemberg days. One morning he told his host that he evidently mislaid his toothbrush. Replied Rominger, "Nein, you left it out. It is of the correct softness and I have used it to brush out the dainty Halysites. This morning I will buy for you another."

On January 5, 1863 Dr. Rominger received his official license to practice medicine in the State of Michigan, having paid therefor ten dollars in conformance with "An act to provide internal revenue to support the government and pay interest on the public debt, approved July 1862." His practice flourished so that he was soon able to clear more than \$2000.00 a year, to profitably buy and sell real estate, and to invest in mortgages.

His ventures in mortgages were not always profitable. Of one such experience (and several others reported), it was told that a young couple could never reduce the mortgage and seldom pay even part of the interest. They came finally and in tears to the Doctor -- they could pay nothing. Rominger gave them one of his terrific lusty tongue lashings. Then when all had calmed a bit, he tore up the mortgage and said gently, "You are foolish, but you are good parents. You haf eight Kinder, das ist genug."

Although Dr. Rominger never neglected a patient or failed to respond to an emergency, he limited his practice to allow time for his paleontological studies and correspondence, cutting and polishing thin sections of fossils to disclose minute structures. For ten years he divided his time between his profitable medical profession and his more fascinating excursions to collect fossils, traveling as far as Canada, New York, the Ohio and lower Mississippi Valleys, Illinois, and distant parts of Michigan.

Rominger's excursions out-of-State were not solitary collecting excursions, many were made on suggestions or by requests of educators and other scientists in the regions he visited. Collections were made for, and given to



Fossils had to be carefully cleaned, even at the expense of the family cooking utensils or the guest's toothbrush.

local schools and universities and for exchange. These trips resulted not only in enlarging his collections but also in adding to his wide -- and growing wider -- acquaintance with scientists of the United States and from Europe. He never came home empty-handed so far as fossils were concerned. On one occasion, when State Geologist, he bought a collection of crinoids for \$160.00 and then stopped smoking to pay for the "extravagance."

Returning from his patients in the country, he managed to weight down his buggy or sulky with additions to his collection. He rode in the cab with the engineer of the first train from Grand Rapids to Petoskey some years later, and persuaded the engineer to stop the train before reaching the station, so that he might study the fossil stromatoporoids in a limestone outcrop along Bear Creek.

The lure of fossils was irresistible to Rominger and he never stopped collecting. Sets of fossils were given to local schools and colleges, some were traded with other paleontologists, and others were so precious that he could not bear to part with them. As he added to his collection, he also added to his wide and ever-widening acquaintance with geologists, paleontologists, and educators.

His was a constitution of iron and he could walk great distances without tiring. He bought deer skins from the Indians, had them tanned under his personal direction, and then found a complaisant cobbler to make boots that



With his hiking boots of deerskin, Rominger declared, any man could be a good walker. On foot he traversed nearly all the counties in Michigan.

fitted. After they were tried, there were many argued fittings, but all alterations were made under the Doctor's personal direction. Such boots, he averred, would make anyone a good walker. His daughter, Marie, attested to the fact, for she wore a pair of them when she made a hiking trip across Norway and Sweden a few years after her father's death.

All equipment was given special attention. Collecting was made easier and his loads lighter by the special hammers he used to break the country rock away from the desired fossils. These hammers were designed by Rominger and forged by an Ann Arbor blacksmith, in many sizes, from a large sledge hammer to a little inch-long head for a hammerette. They were so balanced, that a single blow dropped from the wrist could crack the rock in just the right place.

On coming to Ann Arbor, Rominger was delighted to find in the University a scientist with background similar to his own: Alexander Winchell, Professor of Geology, Mineralogy, and Botany in the University. Together the two geologists planned excursions and Rominger gave some lectures in the University. The two differed, even though both were stubborn. Winchell was exasperated with Rominger's methodical work and his passion for accuracy in even the smallest detail. Rominger thought Winchell was too unwilling to take a second look at his interpretations, too easily satisfied with cursory examination of problems. At times their arguments were strong and heated.

In April of 1869 Professor Winchell was appointed State Geologist in the reorganization of the Survey after the Civil War, the so-called third Michigan Geological Survey. The governing board of the Survey: The State Governor, Chairman; State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary; President State Board of Education, Treasurer. The Board appointed the State Geologist,



Using his specially made hammers, Rominger reduced his burden of fossils by trimming away the unnecessary matrix.

who selected his assistants. He appointed Rominger assistant to survey the Southern Peninsula, the eastern half of the Northern Peninsula, known as Ste. Marie's Peninsula, to be included as its rock outcrops are basal Paleozoic and slope under the formations exposed in the Southern Peninsula. Winchell staunchly shared the then common contention that only through the study of fossils could Paleozoic formations be placed in proper position, and therefore included a paleontologist on his staff list. He invited James Hall, famous New York geologist, to accept the position. Hall's reputation was firmly established in America, even before Rominger had emigrated here. Two easterners were added to the staff: Professor Raphael Pumpelly to survey the Copper Country, and Major T. B. Brooks to survey the iron ranges.

Hall replied that he would not presume to accept the post in Michigan when in Ann Arbor lived a man far better qualified for the job. So Winchell per force invited Rominger to be paleontologist for the Michigan Geological Survey. Winchell offered a salary of \$1,000.00 a year, which Rominger refused. Why should he lay aside a thriving practice that netted more than \$2,000.00 a year, he asked; but he would take the position for \$1,500.00. So with this compromise Rominger began his connection with the Michigan Geological Survey which lasted until 1885. Beginning in the spring of 1871, Rominger pursued this assignment with his noted dedication and vigor. The results were published as Part III of Volume I of the Michigan Geological Survey Reports.

In the fall of 1871 Winchell gave up his position in the University and also as State Geologist. Pumpelly and Brooks had completed their assignments -- but not a complete survey and Rominger was left in complete charge. He completed his assignment and then on being appointed State Geologist the following spring, he began reconnaissance of Pumpelly's and Brooks' areas and detailed investigations of areas missed by the two geologists.

Having proved in his early work in Ste. Marie's Peninsula, that it is not the highly mineralized region Winchell believed it to be but is an area of highly fossiliferous Paleozoic rock formations -- having located and partially mapped the boundary between the Paleozoic and the metallous formations -- and having traversed the copper and iron formations with Pumpelly and Brooks -- Rominger, now as State Geologist, began his own arduous, meticulous -- despite troubles of all sorts -- survey of the Northern Peninsula. "I decided to go on with my own work -- the location of the boundary between the Paleozoic and Precambrian -- and to prepare detailed descriptions of the rocks..."

Beginning in March, the field season of 1873 was spent in the study of everything of any geological import. No county was missed and scarcely a county but had something of geological significance to him. Now he became more of a bureau of information and introduced more of the economic and valuable aspects of a geological survey and, like Winchell, produced a geological map of Michigan. Some of the advice he gave resulted in the enmity of Southern Peninsula quarrymen. They proposed that the new Capitol should be built of Michigan sandstone and that the stone in the Flushing and Corunna quarries, Genesee County, was quite suitable in color and strength; likewise the stone at Napoleon and Marshall, Jackson County.

The State Geologist stated flatly that this stone was not of good color, nor strong enough (by experiment he proved the crushing strength of the stone), and stated also that it was not extensive enough and that no builder would undertake a building like the Capitol unless quarries of greater extent could be found, which Rominger knew from that season's work was not likely. He said the only stone in Michigan suitable for the Capitol is the brownstone of the Northern

Peninsula. He recommended the Amherst (Berea sandstone) of Ohio, of which the Capitol was built.

The results of this season's work were published as Part I of Volume III of the Survey publications, accompanied by a map which with the text confirmed the conclusions of his predecessors, Houghton and Winchell, of the basin character of the rock formations; but Rominger enlarged the basin to extend from Lake Superior to central Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio -- and from Wisconsin to Ontario West, Canada. What became of all the specimens of rocks and fossils -- some fossils new to Rominger? All were labeled, carefully and neatly wrapped and packed in boxes and stored in the basement of the new Capitol; "available," as Rominger said sarcastically, "to nobody."

Rominger returned to the Northern Peninsula in 1877 to work on the survey of the Menominee Iron Range. This survey was speeded by the assistance Rominger received from mining men, principally transportation and location of outcrops, and by suggestions made by Wisconsin geologists mapping the southern end of the range. They all worked in all kinds of weather, climbed steep hills in rain, slept in wet or damp clothing. Although he had suffered brief illnesses before in the field, Rominger now contracted his first long illness -- pneumonia. He also became lame "by climbing up hills when thoroughly chilled and completely wet in all my clothing." He never quite recovered from the lameness but walked with a slight limp. The Menominee survey was completed, the report written and published as Part II, Volume IV, Michigan Geological Survey.

By 1884 the Board of Geological Survey was spurred to notice the work of the State Geologist (Politics? Requests for information from state, nation, Canada?), and issued instructions that in bad weather he was to label fossils, describe, and distribute them (to the State collections, University, and schools). They ordered that specimens stored in the basement of the Capitol be placed in the Board room -- a room next to the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, set aside for the Board of Geological Survey, and requested the Secretary of State to provide suitable cabinets. This Board also authorized Rominger to employ two assistants at \$300.00 each for the summer's work, and to buy a microscope to be used in the Capitol office. This Board of Geological Survey also objected to Rominger's bookkeeping -- salary so much, expenses so much. When a Board member asked how he could know the expenses when nothing was itemized, Rominger replied, "Very simple. When I start I put so much money in my pocket," (usually \$400 of his own money), "and when I come back I have so much, the rest are expenses!" Sarcasm? Probably, as the field books show that he kept very strict accounts of even the most trifling amount and noted it at the time of spending. He was not extravagant and each year turned back a goodly share of the expense money allowed him. He just did not keep two sets of account books or get a voucher for every 50¢ purchase of berries from an Indian.

Were all these belated instructions and interest in the State Geologist rumblings of the impending storm? What politician was behind it?

The Menominee Range work completed, Rominger eagerly turned his attention to the Copper Country. There the work was less arduous. Pumpelly had paved the way and he had Marie do fine maps, as well as better county and township maps. More test pits and underground shafts had opened much underground, and the mining fraternity were interested and friendly, hospitable and free in offering information and services. They eagerly awaited publication of his report and were sadly disappointed when it was not published at once. He traveled west as far as Duluth and located the boundary of the copper rocks. He sailed to Isle Royale -- the phenomenon of that expedition is that his report of it is the only non-geological report known to have been made by Rominger. They had landed in the dense forest and could not geologize on account of wood-falls and so made a raft and went fishing for the trout that abounded in the creeks.

At the close of the field season in the Copper Country, the State Geologist returned to Ann Arbor anticipating a winter of content; winter days from daylight to dark and far into the night, following the pattern of previous inter-field seasons, he cut, studied, and described thin sections of rocks and fossils; bound his field notebooks and diaries in red, brown, or black soft leather; writing his final report on the Copper Country which was to be the last of his reconnaissance reports covering Michigan; planning the next season's field work to be of a different character than reconnaissance; how he would begin work and research on specific areas, economic rocks and minerals other than iron and copper research; to put his knowledge of rocks and minerals and their positions in the State to the benefit of all the people. Occasionally he was heard singing to his saws and test tubes. He sorted, studied, labeled the barnful of specimens, preparing and distributing the several sets of rocks and fossils the Board of Geological Survey had instructed him to do. Rominger had carried out all the instructions given him by the five Boards of Geological Survey who had appointed him, as well as all the geological investigations he knew were essential, writing a report for each Board and explaining to them plans for the future.

He met with the Board in Lansing March 11, 1885. The chairman, Governor Alger, was not present (the first absentee chairman of the several Boards). The State Geologist presented the manuscript for Volume IV ready for the printer, with a report on the summer's field work and presented plans for future work. All were gravely accepted. Later at this meeting (the chairman was still absent) the Board discussed the advisability of a "change in State Geologists!" Mr. J. M. Longyear, one of the most politically influential of the iron mining fraternity, and who had not succeeded in convincing the State Geologist that his work should be concentrated in the iron regions, told Governor Alger

that he had heard that Dr. Rominger had said that the geological survey of Michigan was now complete. Years later Mr. Longyear stated, "So I got busy with Governor Alger, Chairman of the Board, and Mr. Rominger was not re-appointed." Longyear knew Dr. Rominger would not spend all his time, and the taxpayers' money, in the iron regions, the domain of the Cleveland Cliffs, Longyear's Company. He wanted as state geologist, a man whom he could control. He wanted the Commissioner of Mineral Statistics in the post and he, Charles L. Wright, was duly appointed State Geologist by Governor Alger.

What Dr. Rominger had actually said was that when he completed the summer's work in the Copper Country the whole State would have been reconnoissanced -- "we have pointed out," he wrote, "work far into the future; reconnoissance, it is now done, we know what we have. It is now time to go into the details in the areas to find minerals and find more of what is under the surface."

Far from saying the survey was completed, the State Geologist reported to the Board,

I am convinced that years of research are necessary to complete the geological examinations as far as possible and that even then many points concerning the history of the formations of the earth's crust will remain unsolved problems because nature has in part destroyed her own vestiges by building up new structures from their materials.

Regarding continuance of the Survey, Rominger wrote the Board,

good examinations cannot be made with expedience, accuracy and a due economy unless advantage is taken of the work done by private exploration which afford information not otherwise to be had without great expenditure of time and money... the best encouragement for the development of the mineral resources of the state is by averting fruitless expenditures in futile exploration.

He believed that advice he had given some test pitters had saved many times the cost of the survey and the "best encouragement for the development of the mineral resources of the State is by averting fruitless expenditures in futile exploration." He also stated he believed it would be well for the State Geologist to be on hand to give advice on new ventures involving mineral resources.

DID GOVERNOR ALGER OR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
READ THIS REPORT???

Governor Alger had obeyed Mr. Longyear and knew the Commissioner of Mineral Statistics was willing to accept the post of State Geologist. Heeding the absent governor, the Hon. B. W. Jenks of the State Board of Education and Secretary of the Board, informed Rominger of the discussion; his dismayed consternation was eloquent. "But we have only just begun for all the State," he protested, "the outline we know, yes, of the iron and copper we now know a

little more and we have so much yet to know. Gott im Himmel, train men to find out we must do. We must MAKE geologists.... We must...." He was amazed, hurt, very angry. Mr. Jenks did not tell Rominger that the Survey was to continue, and he couldn't bring himself to tell Rominger that he was not to be reappointed; he left that unpleasant task to the man who profited by it and was Chairman of the Board.

March 31, 1885, Rominger wrote the Governor and Board:

As today my term of office as State Geologist expires, I take the liberty to ask the remittance of my last quarterly salary. Collections handed over to the University 50 boxes of specimens, 400 micro sections delivered. I also politely enquire whether the Geological Board has made any arrangements for printing of my report. I would like to have my report published as soon as possible and think to have a just claim to have the printing done under my direction.

At the meeting of December 1885, the Governor -- tired of the scathing remarks heaped on the Board by the copper mining interests for failing to publish Rominger's report -- proposed that the Board secretary be directed to communicate with Dr. Rominger, get his report and manuscript, and submit the manuscript to State Geologist Wright as to advisability of publication. This is the manuscript rescued in 1893 and published as Volume V of the Michigan Geological Survey.

January 18, 1886, Rominger sent the manuscript requesting that he be permitted to read proof. He also sent a microscope, a scale for chemical analyses, and a barometer to the Lansing office. In March he wrote the Governor that he would be pleased to send to Mr. Wright certain geological specimens as he could spare. But "what had become of the properly labeled collections that had been stored in basement of the Capitol?"

Some insights into the turmoil and politics of the time can be gained from the Report of the State Board of Geological Survey for the Years 1891 and 1892, published in 1893. They seem to have felt that an assessment was overdue, since they could find no report made since 1881. They called attention to the lack of publications, and said (p. 4):

The only criticism to be made is that it seems very unfortunate that these results were not published as they were obtained. As above intimated the reason for non-publication existed in the fact that no portion of the work attempted was completed and made ready for publication except that which Dr. Rominger prepared showing the progress of the work from 1881 to 1884. This should have been published at that time, and why it was not is difficult to conceive. This manuscript was placed in the hands of the Board March 11, 1885...

The Board in this Report also had correspondence which Mr. Wright, Rominger's successor, had written to the Board on February 12, 1885, just a few months before he supplanted Rominger. In part Wright had stated:

Since Messrs. Brooks', Pumpelly's and Rominger's Report of 1869-72 the Geological Survey has been continued in a very limited way... At that time the Geological Survey was leading the way, but now, I regret to add, it is far behind the development and discoveries made by individuals and corporations... In the above comments on the Geological Survey it is not intended to criticise Dr. Rominger's work, but rather to call attention to what needs to be done. There can be no question but that the work should have been prosecuted more vigorously.

The Board of 1892 had its own opinion of State Geologist Wright's accomplishments before his death three years after taking office. They reported (p. 5):

Not long after writing the above Mr. Wright was appointed State Geologist, and the natural inference would be that the remedies pointed out by him would have been adopted and enforced by the Board. But such was not the case. While Mr. Wright may have done his share of the work, there was, as is above intimated, no definite conclusion to any portion thereof, and for three years the bulk of his work was known only to himself, and upon his death was almost entirely lost to the State...

Regarding the destruction of records, the Board stated (p. 6) that of 2000 copies each published of the first four volumes of the Survey, "there is now in the possession of this Board no complete set of the reports." They added (p. 7):

A careful investigation shows that the Survey has owned considerable other property, but it appears that upon the death of Mr. Wright no property could be found belonging to the Survey except the manuscript of Dr. Rominger, to which reference was made above; one old microscope, Mr. Wright's field and note books, and a few ore and rock specimens and such published reports as were left. Diligent search has not discovered the whereabouts of the lost property... The whole business of the Survey, unless looked after more closely in the future than in the past, is apt to be prolonged to unreasonable length.

After a careful review of the Survey's history in recent years, this active and serious Board concluded (p. 9):

In submitting this report to the Legislature we do not wish to be understood as passing an adverse judgment upon the action of our predecessors; we have stated the facts as we find them. Such records as were kept disclose that the gentlemen who at different times have been members of the Board have felt that matters were not progressing as they ought, and have always seemed anxious to put the survey upon a better basis. But all their efforts seem to have ended in calling before them whoever occupied the position of State Geologist, and after listening to what he had to say, dismissing him with the advice to push the Survey as vigorously as possible. Of course the result was that they gained no personal knowledge of the work being done, and possibly having no definite knowledge of what ought to be done, believed that nothing better could be done... Unnecessary delays should be rendered impossible. Persons employed to do the work of the Survey should not be permitted to occupy themselves with other interests which concern them more than do those of the survey.

One is tempted to speculate that had Dr. Rominger been dealing with this Board instead of the Board of 1885, he would have been retained and encouraged.

Rominger's completed report on the Copper Country was eagerly awaited by mining men and bankers. But owing to difficulties with the Board, it was left to moulder. Ten years later it came to the attention of a new State Geologist, Lucius Hubbard, who had it published in 1895 as Part I of Volume V of the



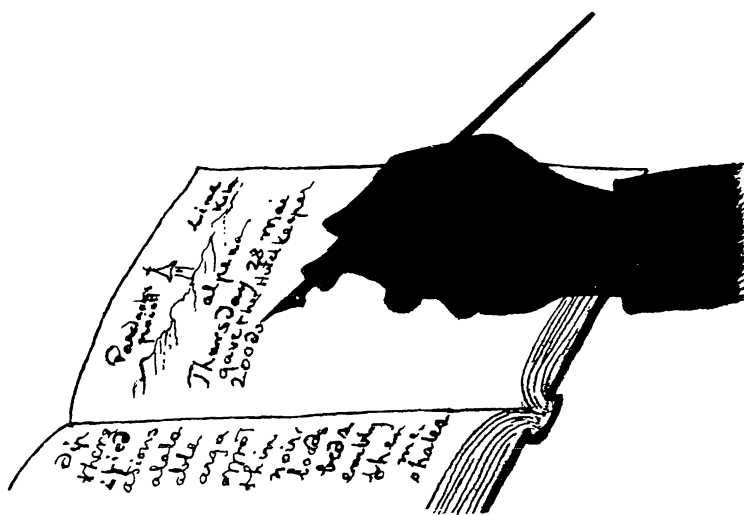
Knee-deep through mosquito-infested swamps, Rominger searched for outcrops in the Northern Peninsula.

Survey publications. Geologists as well as mining men praised Dr. Hubbard for the final publication of the report, and Dr. Rominger, then 75 years old, said, "The good Doctor Hubbard, Gott danke, he vindicates me." In 1907 Governor John T. Rich stated that Dr. Rominger's report, Volume V, met with a royal welcome from all who had an interest in the geology of the Copper Country.

During the 14 years he was State Geologist, the field season began early in May. A map of his travels would be a network covering the State. He used whatever transportation was available: wagons, canoes, with and without sails, sail boats, rafts, but mainly on foot. As he collected specimens, he made notes of them in the famous notebooks -- he did not wait till a rest time to write up his notes; they were done on the spot. When his knapsack was over-filled, he cached its contents with a friendly settler or Indian, or piled them in

a safe but readily located situation. As aids, he secured Indians preferably, or men selected by agents; men to drive the wagons, paddle the canoes, manage sail and pole rafts, and later to collect the scattered loads of specimens which were hauled to a shipping point where they were labeled, carefully examined, then carefully wrapped and packed in boxes and barrels and shipped to Ann Arbor.

Some of Rominger's descriptions of rivers and their surrounding territories gave valuable clues to later geologists who were deciphering the glacial history of the State. The upper reaches of the Tahquamenon puzzled and exasperated the State Geologist: The current was so weak that even with a rigged sail of birchbark the raft they were using had to be poled. At times the raft



Rominger's field notebooks, written partly in English and partly in German, recount his daily experiences as State Geologist.

moved, propelled by the sail, but it moved westerly with a westerly current. Rominger decided that the lakelike quiet upper reaches were once the headwaters of a stream flowing westerly.

It was not his prestigious work as a geologist that brought Rominger the fame that will long endure. It was his work and writings as a paleontologist. During his enthusiasm in the early days in Cincinnati about the aquatic fauna of the local streams and rivers, Rominger considered writing a book on "Aquatic Fauna of Inland Streams and Rivers," but soon decided he did not have or ever would do enough research for such a book. He considered a monograph on the fossils of the Cincinnati, Mississippi valleys, and Michigan regions, encouraged by the reception that his several papers published by the eastern Silliman's Journal (Yale) had been accorded. He had experimented in photography as a

means of illustration, faster than his meticulous drawings. Some of his original glass negatives now stored in the Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan, are of a quality equal to negatives made with modern cameras and film.

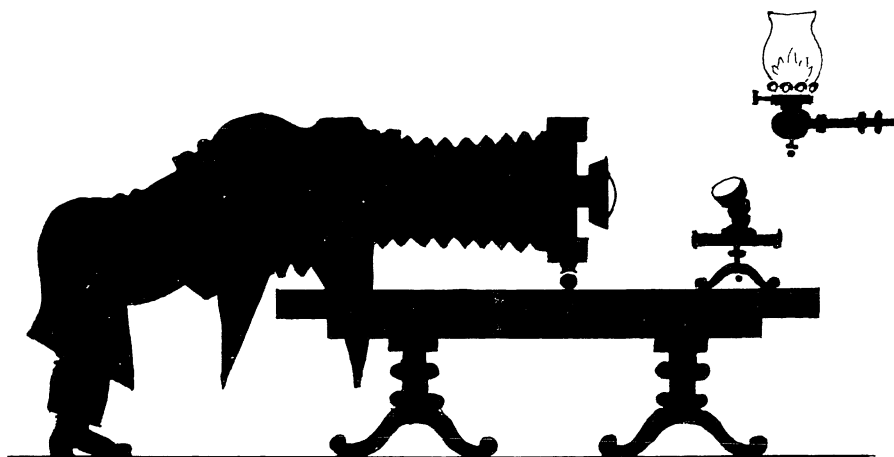
The 1873 Board of Geological Survey was interested in and appreciative of the work and plans of the State Geologist. So when he showed the Board 40 of his photographs of fossils, they considered that as the law provided that "due attention shall be paid to the description and figuring of new or imperfectly known specimens of fossils," they gave the State Geologist permission to carry the project to completion. Knowing it would be a prodigious task and very expensive to use all the species he had collected, Rominger said: ". . . .with the consent of the Board I decided on corals as they had had comparatively little attention, notwithstanding that they belong to forms most significant of the age of the strata." He hoped the reader would prefer a carefully elaborated monograph of this class (corals) instead of "wonderful descriptions of species from all classes." No one has ever been disappointed.

Several paleontologists had published classifications of corals. Rominger considered the classification of the English naturalist Milne-Edwards to be the best and, therefore, followed it "with important rectifications" in the text describing the corals which were illustrated with 57 photographs. The printing company of Louis Bein of New York had printed some Michigan State papers and to them Rominger took his manuscript with his "Geology of the Lower Peninsula" in late 1873. The Bein Company was especially interested in new printing and publishing processes. It was finally decided that the text should be illustrated with photographic figures printed by the then-new Albertotype process invented by the Austrian photographer, Joseph Albert. After experiments and failures, Bein successfully reproduced the 57 photographs Rominger had submitted.

Rominger had made several trips to New York to watch and check as the manuscript and photographic reproductions went through the press and was horrified to see that the photographs were all printed "backward." Rominger has to his credit the first scientific book illustrated by actual photographs. It met acclaim from the scientific public and remains a classic in scientific literature. The Geology and the Corals were published in 1876 as Volume III Publications of the Michigan Geological Survey.

Michigan is particularly interested in Fig. 1, Plate XXXVII, Vol. III, of the Corals, as it is the first published picture of Michigan's State Stone: the Petoskey Stone. The polished specimen illustrated, however, is of the coral in Thunder Bay, not Petoskey. It is now named "Hexagonaria." An edition of 500 copies was soon distributed and so Rominger at his own expense had an additional 200 copies, of the "Corals" only, printed and issued by the Survey to scientists here and abroad.

In his field work, so well depicted in his diaries or notebooks, Rominger persevered against severe difficulties. His method of surveying took him over all the wagon roads, hiring wagons and horses to carry his massive collections, with knapsack along Indian trails, by canoe or barge up and down rivers, and by sailboat to more distant points along the shores of the Great Lakes. Mostly he tramped alone, through swamps infested with mosquitoes, often in cold driving rain, through thunderstorms, enduring the heat of midsummer, laden with specimens of rocks, minerals, and fossils. It was said that the Rominger horses had to be put out to pasture at times in order to make room in the stables for the specimens he shipped back with each season. Some he kept for himself, but in accordance with his instructions, he gave equal amounts to the three designated institutions.



Rominger was the first paleontologist to illustrate fossils by photography in his famous monograph on Paleozoic corals. Today, his negatives are still considered to be of excellent quality.

Rominger was criticized for not employing helpers to speed the work. As his detailed accounts -- written in his notebook at every stop -- abundantly prove, he tried many young men. They could not keep up for very long the strenuous pace he maintained. They fell behind on the trail, they failed to rendezvous and he had to wait for them. They became ill on the field fare, they became demoralized, they had to be helped with their share of the packing. With each new candidate, Rominger soon found him to be a hindrance to his progress and in exasperation sent him home by boat as soon as they made their way to the next lakeshore port.

When winter prevented field work, Rominger retired to his laboratory to clean and identify fossils, grind thin sections, or prepare maps based on his field notes.

Letters expressing shock at the action of the Board of Geological Survey came to Rominger from scientists, surveys, mining men and universities through the United States and Canada. The letter from Major J. W. Powell, Director of the United States Geological Survey, is typical: ". I am pained to hear of your dispossession. Your work was so accurate and so thoroughly scientific and satisfactory in every respect that its discontinuance must be a matter of regret among geologists everywhere."

Notes for papers yet unwritten were packed away with completed manuscripts on phases of Michigan geology (later given to the University of Michigan Library), with his medal from the Royal Bavarian Academy of Literature and



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No longer State Geologist, Rominger returned to his medical practice, often returning from the countryside with his buggy laden with rocks and fossil specimens.

Science. The diary-notebooks of the Michigan field surveys were left to moulder in an old copper breadbox, packed away and forgotten -- with 106 township maps and 36 notebooks. He never considered such notes the property of the survey, and the survey possessed his finely executed original copies of the maps made in the field, field maps often blurred when torrential rains soaked the pack he carried, then patiently dried and partly restored by campfire light while fighting hordes of terribly abominable mosquitoes.

Sixty-five was considered old in 1886 -- but not for Rominger. He resumed his medical practice mainly among the older people of the German community, resumed his lectures and his travels. In the summer of 1886, the blow of his dismissal was lightened as a friend sent him a package of fossil trilobites from Mt. Stephen in British Columbia. In the package he discovered

several species then unknown. He rushed to Mrs. Rominger, slapped her on the back, drew her close and waving a trilobite shouted, "Ach, meine Frau, life is again worth living." Forthwith he began a systematic description of the fossils beautifully illustrated with his own drawings, and early the next summer he and his family set forth to British Columbia and Mt. Stephen to study the geology of the formation in which the trilobites were found. On the way to British Columbia they stopped to visit the Yellowstone National Park and frequently when viewing the geysers Rominger would shake his head murmuring "What a waste of heat, what a waste of power; something could be done with this for mankind." The collection, 150 mid-Cambrian fossils, descriptions and drawings are now in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington (Accession 25325).

A field trip with geologists of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri when State Geologist, interested Rominger in the lead and zinc deposits of the Mississippi Valley and now his interests led him there. In some quarters he is best known from his reports on those areas. A year and a half before his death he made a long collecting trip in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama, making collections of Silurian fossils near Louisville for presentation to the colleges of those states. In 1882 collections with descriptions had been sent to the American Museum of Natural History, New York; to the Geological Society of London; the Chicago Academy of Science; and others.

For 47 years Carl Ludwig Rominger had been a familiar figure in Ann Arbor, his chunky figure (he was five feet nine inches in height), covered by a floppy gray coat with voluminous usually well-filled pockets, walking along the streets or examining the trees in his woodlot, with his two faithful and beloved dachshunds trotting at either side or well within call, or driving his favorite horse in a sulky ready for a race on the roads about Ann Arbor, or driving into town with a heavier horse and his buggy or wagon filled with vegetables, rocks, and more often than not -- happy children, "die Kinder." He had suffered a few illnesses during the Northern Peninsula explorations, mainly from wrong foods, "too many blueberries and milk," or chills and ills resulting from walking in cold chilling rains that caused fevers in his body, and a lameness from which he never quite recovered. But his strong, vigorous constitution did not fail until the early fall of 1906 and he died April 22, 1907, after 87 years 3 months and 22 days of vigorous living.

Another remarkable man who gave to Michigan far more than he received.

"Ein grosser Mann," indeed, as attested by the huge volumes of letters and cables of condolences from neighbors, friends and scientists in the United States, England, France, Germany, and Switzerland. He rests with his wife and family in Forest Hills Cemetery, Ann Arbor.



A remarkable man, who gave to Michigan far more than he received.

The Rominger Biographies -- Editor's Comments

In 1971, when Mrs. Edward P. Wright inquired about a project for investigation, I suggested the life of Carl Ludwig Rominger, for to my knowledge no good biography of this remarkable paleontologist existed. The obituaries and short summaries scarcely indicated the dedication, hardships, and perseverance which were hinted at in his scientific writings. From the records he had left behind and which were still preserved in our Museum of Paleontology, I was convinced that Rominger was indeed a man whose experiences were worthy of research and record.

Imagine my surprise when, two years later, Mrs. Wright told me of another biography of Rominger, written many years ago by Miss Helen Martin but never published. Suddenly, instead of no biography, I was confronted with two!

I read both with great interest. As I anticipated, the two accounts overlapped in some episodes. I found that both ladies had drawn upon the same sources: Rominger's field notebooks, the existence of which I was unaware when I made my initial suggestion. And yet the two biographies were written from different viewpoints. This was not wholly unexpected, confirming my belief that a man of Rominger's diverse interests and abilities must also have possessed varied traits of character.

As a matter of fact, in a way I was quite prepared to accept the different viewpoints. During my nearly quarter of a century in the university town that had been home to Rominger for most of his long adult life, I had gathered some impressions from the apocryphal, often ribald, stories told about him by the older residents of German descent. One, handed down perhaps several times before Mr. William H. Buettner, our fossil preparator, told it to me in the early 1950's, concerned Doctor Rominger and his light springboard wagon drawn by a pair of spirited ponies. Returning from a trip to the countryside one pleasant autumn afternoon, the good doctor noted some ripe hickory nuts on a branch overhanging the road. Finding them of unusually good quality, he decided to shake the branch so that the nuts would fall into the wagon bed. Unfortunately for his plan, the falling nuts also struck the backs of the ponies, whereupon they dashed forward with the wagon and left Rominger hanging from the hickory limb. Dropping to the road, he chuffed after them -- right down the main street of this otherwise quiet little university town. It was in the closing years of last century, and downtown Ann Arbor was liberally supplied with saloons, where the elderly men of the German community took their ease and their beer. Hearing the commotion, they poured forth from these meeting places to witness the chase. In discussing it later, all agreed that the Doctor had sworn at the ponies in German every step of the way, and never once repeated himself!

Another Rominger story relayed by Mr. Buettner was about his famous little dachshunds. A student stopped him on campus and asked the Doctor why he kept such useless animals -- too small to pull a cart, legs too short to catch game, performing no service whatever for him or the world at large. I am sure the young man was taken aback by the vehemence and by the language of Dr. Rominger's reputed reply. It does not bear exact repetition here, but it was strong and clear, to the effect that the only two functions he required of the little dogs were very basic to their metabolism.

Upon hearing these and other anecdotes about Rominger, I wondered: Why should they still be preserved and circulated half a century after his death? The answer seemed to be that the man was beloved by nearly all the large German population as well as by many in the university section of the town, but probably for different reasons. To the Eberbachs, Fiegels, Gaertners, Laubengayers, Rauschenbergers, and other west-siders, Rominger was the respected physician who cured their ills and the lender of money that financed many of their homes. To the professors on the campus and to other east-siders, he was the noted man of science. In my opinion, the little tales about him had a strong appeal simply because they were so out-of-character for the honored old gentleman. Nevertheless, they reveal a shortness of temper that could be very real. Not all Rominger's time was spent in serene composition of scientific descriptions or in sedate pursuit of higher knowledge.

There were other indications of the kind of life led by Rominger. More recently, I had read Lela Duff's delightful little book "Ann Arbor Yesterdays" (1962, Friends of the Ann Arbor Public Library), in which she recounted details set forth by Marie, the younger Rominger daughter. From it we learn (p. 70) that the Romingers possessed a bathtub, made to order by a local tinsmith and situated in a back yard shed; water was carried by hand, but the contraption was "conveniently connected with a cesspool." In a chapter on "The Old Rominger Home" (p. 149-151) Miss Duff tenderly describes the Rominger's gracious residence, with oriental rugs, flowered wallpaper, books, music, and Old World bric-a-brac. The dining table and chairs were made from a walnut tree on Rominger's land, later the University Forestry Farm, with a basswood panel in the back of each chair bearing a burned-in picture to illustrate a quotation from one of the German poets. The latter originated in the studio of Marie; her pyrography extended to the picture frames and her wood carvings embellished the woodwork throughout the house. From Miss Duff's lucid little chapter, one is led to the conclusion that each of the Romingers had a touch of romanticism: Mrs. Rominger treasured the great ark-shaped chest in which she brought her linens to America, each of the bedrooms had abundant paneled cabinets of fine bird's-eye maple to house the owner's collections, and Dr. Rominger planted an elm on his extension on July 23, 1863, the day Marie was born, the tree out-living Marie, who died at the age of 92. There were parties of distinguished guests, as many as fourteen seated at table set with rare china and fine ware,

provided with sumptuous meals and sparkling conversation. Halcyon days of good living. Originally, Miss Duff was told (p. 150), the area behind the house was a flower garden in the midst of which "... a little round 'belvedere,' or summerhouse, gave an old-world atmosphere for a 'Kaffee-klatsch.'" All-in-all, it seems to have been a household of cherished possessions and memories.

This brings me back to the two biographies. In number 4 of this series, Mrs. Wright has presented the accomplishments of Rominger as scientist and state geologist, the meticulous worker, the energetic investigator, the pioneering paleontologist. On the other hand, Miss Martin has written of his "human" side, the man given to outbursts which he quickly regretted, the man who felt deeply about virtues, the man strongly sentimental but afraid to show his feelings, the man with triumphs and disappointments. Yet Rominger was all these in one.

I made up my mind to undertake the necessary editing of Miss Martin's manuscript and notes, avoiding wherever possible repetition of the material already recorded by Mrs. Wright. It is significant and important, it seems to me, to preserve the little accounts and details gained from Rominger's daughter. I have often wished that I had availed myself of the opportunity to interview Miss Marie Rominger, the last surviving child of the famous paleontologist.

For illustration, after looking at several photographs and reading Miss Martin's description, I prepared some simple silhouettes to show events in the life of Carl Rominger. I do not claim artistic talent; but after traversing some of the same areas where Rominger worked nearly a century before, I have some feeling for the hardships he overcame. And after studying some of Rominger's specimens and his descriptions of them, I have a sincere appreciation of his unending enthusiasm for well-preserved fossils. If any of my admiration for Rominger and his accomplishments could be translated into my sketches, they would be masterpieces indeed. Miss Martin was highly pleased with the one of Professor Rominger and his two dachshunds, for it seemed to capture her memory of what he looked like on the campus.

Notes taken by Miss Martin in her interviews with Marie Rominger contained bits of information not incorporated in her original manuscript. However, some of them reinforced and confirmed episodes in his life, such as the hard times in Chillicothe, which had been hinted at and suggested in other sources. Rominger's granddaughter, Mrs. Alice R. Covell, of St. Louis, Missouri, supplied accurate dates on family members and events. Certain of these were used in my tentative revision.

There followed a number of telephone conversations with Miss Martin, as she patiently and cleverly brought the whole Rominger story into a consistent presentation and into her individual style. We enjoyed some stimulating discussions, putting together pieces of information that each had gathered. There was a certain urgency, because Miss Martin was scheduled for exploratory surgery

on April 25th. She wrote detailed letters on some plans for her manuscript on April 17th and 22d. At the time she was very enthusiastic about finally getting to publication. She died April 28th.

It is somehow appropriate that Miss Martin's final concern should have been the memory of another geologist. We shall remain in her debt, not only for undertaking the task of establishing the Rominger story by interviews with those who knew him best, but also for preserving the invaluable notebooks which he made during his geological excursions by placing them in the Michigan Historical Collections. Without her efforts, valiant at the last, the world would be denied these insights into the life of an exceptional man.

Robert V. Kesling

Carl Ludwig Rominger, M. D.

Robert V. Kesling

Carl Ludwig Rominger, as already suggested in this series, was a man of three vocations: physician, investor, and geologist. It was as a geologist that he achieved eminence, undoubtedly the direct result of his enthusiasm for the study of fossils and rocks. Throughout his adult life he steadfastly maintained a high regard for the science of geology. Financially, however, he was equally successful as a practicing doctor and as an investor in real estate and mortgages. Indeed, one can safely say that the majority of his neighbors regarded him as the doctor who, for reasons not readily fathomed, chose to spend an inordinate amount of his time traveling hither and yon searching for fossils. Many knew him in two capacities, for Dr. Rominger often loaned his patients the money to finance their homes or businesses.

Before he fell under the persuasive spell of Professor Quenstedt at the University of Tuebingen, Rominger had planned a career in medicine. To that end he studied at the university. Thrown upon his own in America, it was as a physician that he was able to make a living. As a general practitioner in Ohio, he saved enough money to return to Wuerttemberg for his bride. In the same profession in Ann Arbor, he amassed enough to settle his family quite comfortably, to put the surplus income to work at profitable interest rates, and to buy desirable property. He lived well as a doctor, but it was not his favorite vocation.

The field of medicine, which could easily have been the whole structure of his life, was only a stepping stone. It was a very necessary stepping stone. By the time he was offered a post in geology, he had made enough money so that he could afford to accept, at a reduced income, the career for which he yearned. Then, when he was no longer State Geologist, he returned to his medical practice in Ann Arbor, for reasons that can only be guessed at -- for a steady income, for a job to occupy his time, or for a change from the profession which had not treated him as kindly as he deserved. At any rate, Carl Rominger was at the first and at the last a doctor, even though he is best remembered for the intervening years of his life.

Some of his ledgers, preserved in the Museum of Paleontology at The University of Michigan, contain a variety of information, reflecting his different vocations. Lists of the fossils in his collection are still important sources of reference. A few pages contain his unpublished observations on certain Paleozoic species. Other pages are accounts connected with loans. A long section of one ledger concerns his medical accounts in 1869-1871. This covers the time when his practice was thriving and increasing.

Aside from the identity of the ill and afflicted in Ann Arbor a century ago, the ledger presents a penetrating picture of general medical practice and the economic tenor of the times. Doctor Rominger cleared \$2000 a year then, twice what he was first offered as a professional paleontologist by the Geological Survey. From this income he was able to loan money to less affluent members of the German community (at 10% interest, secured by mortgage), so that his success was great for those times. In the ledger pages, the doctor entered 81 heads of families in the period from "1869. 1. Mai," when the ledger was initiated, until the end of that year; 96 other heads of families were added during 1870, and 9 more early in 1871. Carl Rominger, M.D., therefore, was responsible for the health and well-being of 186 families when he quit his practice to become a full-time geologist.

Should any physician well versed in German care to study the ledgers further, they are available at the Museum of Paleontology. Unfortunately, I found the entries difficult to decipher, even with the expert assistance of Joachim Kneuppelholz of the Exhibit Museum, who generously gave of his time in their study. Doctor Rominger sometimes wrote in German script and sometimes in English script, using German words or English words at will, penning his entries clearly at times and in evident haste at other times. The translation would have been much simpler had he stuck to German in German script. In addition, many words are abbreviated, and I suspect that some are in pharmacists' shorthand.

Despite the fluctuations in language, script, and penmanship, the arrangement of each page is orderly. The top line bears the name of the head of family, usually followed by the given name and/or a notation. The latter sometimes identified the profession of the head of family, but in other cases it established his kinship to persons better known, or stated his residence, or reminded the doctor of the distance to be traversed by horse and buggy in making his house calls. Charges were itemized on each ledger line, the date for treatment entered at the left, followed by a short description, and the fee at the right. The short description might be simply "Ord." for a single visit, or it might identify the disease, or it might be a memorandum of the medication administered, or, in case of injury, it might give some particulars of the injury. The last line of every account is marked "Zahlt" ("Paid in full"), and the dates show that Rominger insisted on prompt payment. In one case he collected only after a law suit. Most medical bills were paid in cash by the head of the family, but not infrequently various relatives contributed amounts to meet the debt. For those unable to pay, Dr. Rominger accepted settlement by a note at ten percent; and for one family in the country, their medical expenses were all financed by potatoes (credited at 50 cents a bushel), corn, vegetables, and wood.

By present standards, the charges seem ridiculously low. One needs to consider that the medical profession was relatively as lucrative then as it is

today. Rominger's entries show that the standard fee for a visit was 37 cents or 50 cents; presumably the former was for an office visit and the latter for a house call. Some of his patients lived miles away, for he wrote after the name the distance in miles (evidently when it exceeded 8 miles), and their charges were somewhat higher. When medication was dispensed, its cost was sometimes entered separately and at other times included in the billing for that date. Morphine injections were expensive items, costing from \$1 to \$3 each. For services connected with a birth the standard fee was \$5, although one difficult and complicated case was charged \$10. One family living a mile from town contracted smallpox, which required 10 visits from June 18th to July 10th; for these, the head of the household was billed \$15.00, the highest entry in the ledger. Apparently no extra charges were made for minor surgery, except the cost of the chloroform.

The following list of his patients has local historical value in general. For those who are descended from these Ann Arborites of a century ago, it may hold added personal interest. Insofar as Dr. Carl L. Rominger is concerned, the list shows that his clients were almost exclusively German, that a great many families depended upon his services and respected his proficiency, and that he was a very busy man.

Ackerknecht	Behr, Chs. ⁵
"Armenrechnung" [Visits and treatment of poor people, ordered by "Mr. Lenard, superintendent of the Poor," and by "Squire Roth, Postmaster."]	Beilhals, Andr. (farm hand for Schlee)
Aichele (lives with Birk)	Binder (at Bach's)
Alber, Michael	Binder, Jacob (livestock dealer)
Almandinger, David (organ-maker) ¹	Birk, Andr. (soap-boiler) ⁶
Andres, Gottlob	Bischoff
Andres, John	Bless (farmer) ⁷
April (senior) ²	Bless, Albert ⁸
April, Wilhelm ³	Bonet (of Kemper's farm)
Baesler (farmer)	Braendle (over Huss' store)
Bass, Peter (13 miles)	Brehm, Peter ⁹
Beck, Jacob ⁴	Bross, Cathar. ¹⁰ (over Huss' store)
	Bushenberg (son-in-law of Mr. Laubg.)
	Cohen (son-in-law of Werls)

- De Ville, Nicol. (brewer)
 Dewes (Prussian)
 Diehl, John (restaurant owner)
 Dieterle (barrel-maker)
 Dupslav
 Duttonhofer (tanner)
 Eberbach, Christ.¹¹
 Eiding, Phill.
 Eisele, John
 Fay (jun. deceased)
 Fiegel, John (Pittsfield)¹²
 Felkamp (junior)¹³
 Fischer (butcher)¹⁴
 Fischer, Henry (Partridge's saw mill)¹⁵
 Fischer, Jacob (in Hitchcock's addition)
 Fischer, Joseph (railroad worker)
 Frey, Gottfried (day farm laborer)
 Fuchs (works at Delhi)
 Fuchs, Franz (in Reyer's brewery)
 Gaertner (organ-maker)¹⁶
 Gaus, Fried. (shoemaker)¹⁷
 Gerner, John
 Goetike
 Graf (lives with Wiedenman)¹⁸
 Groetzinger (bricklayer)
 Gross, Friederich (opposite Kallembach's)
 Grosshaus (9 miles)
 Grossman, Mich.
 Grossman, Weber
 Gwiner, Albrecht¹⁹
 Gwiner, Fritz
 Haupt
 Haus, John (next to Mich. Kaercher)
 Hauser (beer brewer)²⁰
 Hausler (above Gaus' butchershop)
 Heintzman, Stephan
 Heinzman, Jacob and his brother²¹
 Herman (Prussian)
 Herz, Andreas (previously a worker with Eminger)²²
 Heuser (mason with Horn)
 Hirt, Simon (8 miles)²³
 Hoffstedter (grocer)²⁴
 Horn (stone-cutter)
 Hornung, Fritz²⁵
 Huss, Georg
 Jedele, Georg
 Jedele, Jacob (7 miles)²⁶
 Jedele, Joseph
 Jedele, Martin (shoemaker)
 Jetter, John (died at Seifried's)
 Jungfer, Ehrenfried
 Kaercher, Gottlob (lives below Schlan's & Armbruster's)
 Kajuschki, John
 Keck (cabinet-maker)²⁷
 Keck, Martin²⁸

- Kemp (lives next to the observatory)
 Kern, Gg. (next to Fritz Widenman)
 Kirn (brewer)²⁹
 Kirn, Gg. (bricklayer, mason)
 Klais (old, next to Chr. Almandinger)
 Koch (cabinet-maker, next to school-
 master Kürz)³⁰
 Koch (Northfield, Gerner's brother-
 in-law)
 Koch, Heinrich (son of Widow Koch
 living at Mast's)
 Koch, Imanuel
 Koch, Jacob (next to Jim Hirt)
 Kohl, Hafner (Frau)
 Kübler, John
 Kübler, Matt. (lives in school house)
 Kuhn, Wilhelm
 Kürz (schoolmaster)
 Lang (Maurer's widow)
 Lang, Martin (bricklayer)
 Lanz, Joseph
 Laubengaier (Jac. Beck's son-in-law)
 Laubengaier, Jacob, Jr. (above Mich.
 Keck)³¹
 Lutz (city councilman)³²
 Lutz, Christian (Northfield)
 Lutz, Gg. (cabinet-maker)
 Lutz, Mathais (next to Rauschen-
 berger)
 Machelet, Casp. (12 miles)
 Maerklin (shoemaker)
- Mast
 Maulbetsch, Catharine (at David
 Hening's)
 Mayer, Henry (on Schulte's farm,
 14 miles)
 Mayer, John (cabinet-maker, above
 Andr. Hiller)³³
 Mühlich (cabinet-maker)³⁴
 Müller (pump-maker)
 Müller, Georg
 Müller, Jac. (rag collector)
 Nagel (brewer)
 Nagel (laborer for Gottfr. Müller)
 Neeb (farmer)
 Neuhoff (works for Keck)
 Noll (next to Motter)³⁵
 Pfeiffer (California)
 Pfeiffer (next to Schnürle)
 Plate, Aug. (in Fay's house)
 Rauschenberger, John³⁶
 Rauschenberger, Thomas³⁷
 Rayer, Christian
 Recker, David (lives with Kruse)
 Reimold, Michael
 Reule (tailor)³⁸
 Reyer (brewer)³⁹
 Schaeberle (saddle-maker)⁴⁰
 Schaeberle, Cathar.⁴¹
 Schaible (Schmidt's son)
 Schaible (near park)

- Schaible (shoemaker)
- Schaible, John (at Bauernschaible, 12 miles)
- Schaible, Michael
- Schaible, Ulrich
- Schaubel, Christ.
- Scheuer (farmer)
- Scheuer, John (in Weimer's house)
- Schlan, Georg
- Schlanderer, Beck
- Schleede (bookbinder)⁴²
- Schleede, Wilh. (shoemaker)
- Schleicher (brewer with Volz)
- Schmidt (lumberman)⁴³
- Schmidt, Christian (day laborer in Lower Town)
- Schmidt, Fried. (ready-made clothing)⁴⁴
- Schneeburger
- Schneider, John (Delhi, Scheiz' son-in-law)
- Schnürle, Mathais
- Schuhmacher, Christ.
- Schüller, Joh. Gg. (formerly lived with Schlee)
- Schwinder (at Carl Stollz' land, Cornell's factory)
- Seeger (old, lives with W. April)
- Seifried (no. 2)
- Seifried, Sebastian
- Seitz (worker on Wiedenmann's farm)
- Siebke
- Spehr (widow)
- Speier (off of Eisele's yard)
- Stadel, Jacob
- Staebler (lives with Fritz Staebler)
- Staebler (Mast's partner)
- Staebler, Georg (brother of Strohfritz)
- Staebler, Mich. (on old Staebler farm)⁴⁵
- Steeb (works at Cornell's factory)⁴⁶
- Stierle (tanner)
- Stierle (widow at old Hornung's)
- Stoll (farm laborer for Eitelbuss, formerly for April)
- Teufel (saddle-maker)
- Ugele
- Vetter
- Viesel or Visel
- Volz (cooper at Scheh.)
- Volz, Christian (cabinet-maker)
- Wagner (Schmidt's junior)
- Walther (lives with Worl)
- Weil brothers, Solomon and Leopold⁴⁷
- Widenman, August
- Zahn, Chr.⁴⁸
- Zeeb (elder)
- Zeeb (jun., Northfield)⁴⁹
- Zeeb, John (Binder's son-in-law)
-

In the footnotes, abbreviations are used for the following sources of Washtenaw County history:

- HWC - Anonymous, 1881, History of Washtenaw County, Michigan: Chas. C. Chapman & Co., Chicago, 1452 p.
- PBA - Anonymous, 1891, Portrait and Biographical Album of Washtenaw County, Michigan: Biographical Publ. Co., Chicago, 639 p.
- SWB - BEAKES, Samuel W., 1906, Past and Present of Washtenaw County: S. J. Clarke Publ. Co., Chicago, 819 p.
- LD - DUFF, Lela, 1962, Ann Arbor Yesterdays: Friends of the Ann Arbor Public Library, 208 p.
- OWS - STEPHENSON, O. W., 1927, Ann Arbor, The First Hundred Years: Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce, 478 p.

- 1 David F. Allmendinger worked in the organ manufactory of G. F. Gaertner, and later became his son-in-law; when Gaertner retired, young Allmendinger operated the Ann Arbor Organ Works, building large pipe organs for churches and numerous small reed organs for home parlors (LD, HWC).
- 2 Jacob Aprill, born 1808 in Tours, Germany, settled 1833 in section 32 of Scio Twp., shoemaker and farm owner (PBA, HWC).
- 3 William Aprill, Scio Twp. farmer, Justice of the Peace, store owner; son-in-law of Martin Keck (PBA).
- 4 Jacob Beck, from Germany to Scio Twp. in 1832, farmer, later retired to Ann Arbor; his son J. Gottfried Beck, born 18 Mar 1839, married Mary Dorothea Laubengayer (SWB).
- 5 Charles Behr, born 1826 in Wuerttemberg, to Ann Arbor in 1849, tanner, later a grocer, died 1871 (HWC).
- 6 Andrew Birk, born 1818 in Wuerttemberg, to Ann Arbor in 1855, manufacturer of potash, soap ("German mottled soap"), and candles (HWC).
- 7 Probably the Leopold Blaess who was born 1831 in Wuerttemberg, educated at University of Switzerland, to America in 1850, farm of 243 acres in sections 12 and 13 in Lodi Twp.; married 1856 Mery Visel, had 11 children (HWC).
- 8 Albert Blaess, born 1846 in Wuerttemberg, educated as chemist in Switzerland, in 1864 to America, served in U. S. Navy, farmer in Lodi Twp., married Dec 1868 Catherine Baumgartner (HWC).
- 9 Peter Brehm, born 1825 in Bavaria, died 1872 in Ann Arbor, pioneer in the brewery business; in 1861 built a brewery with John Reier (HWC).
- 10 She could be Catherine, the wife of Jacob Bross, carriage-maker, although he did not die until 1875 (HWC).
- 11 Christian Eberbach, born 1817 in Wuerttemberg, to Ann Arbor in 1838, married Margaretha Laubengayer (Margaret Laubengayer); started business as a mail-carrier on an Indian pony, then used his German training as a chemist to start pharmacy, successful and invested in many Ann Arbor businesses, Mayor of Ann

Arbor (LD, HWC).

- 12 John Fiegel, from Germany, excellent farmer in Pittsfield Twp. for over 32 years (SWB).
- 13 Probably John G. Feldkamp, Freedom Twp. farmer (PBA).
- 14 George Fischer, born in Germany, to America in 1855, worked for the Widenmans in the slaughtering business, later bought their meat market (HWC).
- 15 Henry Fischer, born in Hesse-Darmstadt, operated a sawmill for many years in Ann Arbor (SEB).
- 16 G. F. Gaertner, from Stettin, Germany, started organ-making in Ann Arbor in 1867, later with his son-in-law Allmendinger, founder of G. F. Gaertner & Son Organ Works (LD, HWC).
- 17 Fred. Gauss, born 1847 in Wuerttemberg, to Ann Arbor in 1867, cobbler for Mr. Huss in his shoe store, later purchased the business in 1880 (HWC).
- 18 Possibly J. A. Graf, born in Germany, became traveling agent for Eberbach pharmacy, then bookkeeper and partner; later of Slater & Graf, hardware merchants (HWC).
- 19 Probably William Albert Gwinner, from Germany, farm hand for J. C. Mead, served in Civil War, then Gwinner & Sons cutlery business, finally ran opera house, ice-cream parlor, and saloon (SWB).
- 20 Ann Arbor Business Directory of 1860 lists G. F. Hauser & Co., City Brewery, First Street near Liberty. This was Gottlieb Hauser, the brewer (OWS).
- 21 Jacob Heinzmann or Heintzman, born 1814 in Wittenberg, Wuerttemberg, to America in 1846, settled in Ann Arbor in 1851, tanner and founder of J. Heintzman & Son, making principally harness leather (HWC, PBA, SWB).
- 22 Probably Andrew Herz, born 1822 in Magdeburg, Prussia, to Ann Arbor in 1865, carpenter and contractor (PBA, SWB).
- 23 Simon F. Hirth, born 1827 in Wuerttemberg, to America in 1835, owned 354-acre farm in Lodi Twp. (HWC).
- 24 Jacob Hoffstetter, born 1849 in Germany, settled 1854 in Ann Arbor, proprietor of grocery and restaurant (HWC).
- 25 Possibly Charles Frederick Horning, from Germany to America in 1830, large farm in Freedom Twp. (SWB).
- 26 Jacob Jedele, Sr., born 1828 in Germany, to Ann Arbor as a boy, farm of 280 acres in section 29, Scio Twp. (HWC).
- 27 John Keck, born 1839 in Wuerttemberg, to Scio Twp. about 1854, learned cabinet trade in Ann Arbor under F. Muehlig, in 1867 started Keck Furniture Manufacturing Co., in 1879 expanded as a stock company to make furniture (HWC).
- 28 Marten Keck, born 1827 in Germany, to Washtenaw Co. in 1854, farmer in section 33, Scio Twp. (HWC).

- 29 On 8 Feb 1838, A(dolph ?) Kern announced in the Argus that his brewery in the Upper Village would supply "Strong and Table Beer" (OWS).
- 30 John Koch, born 1848 at Wittenberg, furniture maker in Tuebingen, to America in 1866, to Ann Arbor in 1867, employed by John Keck, in 1880 started Koch & Haller, furniture dealers (HWC).
- 31 Jacob Laubengayer, born 1843 in Scio Twp., farmer, later partner in Heinzmann & Laubengayer, dealers in wool, grain, flour, and hides (PBA). Jacob Laubengayer, Jr., born 1840 in Scio Twp., went into the "meat business" (HWC).
- 32 Geo. F. Lutz, born 1821 in Wuerttemberg, to America in 1844, to Ann Arbor 1846, saddler and harness-maker until 1858, then grocer and restaurant owner, twice Constable and three times Alderman of Ann Arbor (HWC).
- 33 John Mayer, from Wuerttemberg to Ann Arbor in 1867, millwright (SWB).
- 34 In 1852 Muehlig Bros. advertized for logs suitable for coffins (LD). Florian Muehlig, born at Wittenberg, Germany, cabinet-maker and furniture dealer (PBA). In 1860, Florian J. Muehlig advertised his undertaking business, started in 1852 (OWS).
- 35 Probably Conrad Noll, born 1836 in Germany, to Ann Arbor in 1856, shoemaker, wounded in Civil War (SWB).
- 36 John Rauschenberger built a furniture manufactory in 1870 (HWC).
- 37 Thomas Rauschenberger & Co. in 1877 bought the furniture factory built by John Rauschenberger (HWC).
- 38 Not the Andrew Reule from Wuerttemberg who became a tailor and clothier in Reule, Conlin & Fiegel, since he came to Ann Arbor in 1879 (SWB); perhaps a relative.
- 39 John Reier and Peter Brehm built a brewery in Ann Arbor in 1861 (HWC).
- 40 Anton Schaeberle, born 1818 in Germany, to Ann Arbor in 1854, harness-maker; married Katherine Voegele (SWB).
- 41 Possibly Mary C. Schaeberle, daughter of Anton who cared for him in his old age (SWB).
- 42 Frederick J. Schleede, born 1842 in Germany, to America in 1857, foreman in Dr. Chase's bookbindery for 13 years, then in the Beal bindery, established his own bindery about 1884 (SWB).
- 43 C. Schmidt, born 1829 in Wuerttemberg, to Ann Arbor in 1851, carpenter, in 1866 opened lumberyard; Alderman (HWC).
- 44 Frederick Schmid, Jr., born 1839 at Lodi, Washtenaw Co., clerk for Mack in dry-goods store, later partner in Mack & Schmid (HWC).
- 45 Michael Staebler, born 1843 in Washtenaw Co., son of Frederick Staebler, farm of 225 acres, livestock producer in Lodi Twp., married 1867 Catherine Paul (HWC).

The "Geburt" attended by Rominger on 19 Jul 1869 was either their oldest son, Jacob F., or the second, Robert E.

- 46 A wrapping-paper mill was operated in Ann Arbor Twp. by the Cornwell brothers, Harvey, Henry, and Cornelius (PBA).
- 47 The Ann Arbor Business Directory for 1860 lists J. Weil & Bros., manufacturers of leather and morocco, dealers in wood and furs, Huron Street near First.
- 48 Possibly Charles G. Zahn, born 1831 in Germany, farmer in Scio Twp (HWC).
- 49 Probably the son of George Zeebe, who was born 1835 in Wuerttemberg, came to America in 1853, and owned a farm in section 35 of Northfield Twp. (HWC).

Most deliveries were recorded simply as "Geburt," but on occasion some details were added. From the scarcity of such services (in comparison to the families he served), the complications attendant to several, and the necessity of medication afterward, one might suspect that the doctor of a century ago was often brought in when midwives could not cope with the difficulties. In Washtenaw County, there were 724 births recorded in 1869, 739 in 1870, and 726 in 1871 (HWC); Rominger attended in these years only 26 births. Furthermore, some of his "regular" patient-families did not call on him for obstetrical services; for example, Albert Blaess, who married Catherine Baumgartner in Dec. 1868, did not call in the doctor when his eldest child Charles was born, nor did Henry Fischer when his son George H. was born 21 Nov. 1868. Entries show the following heads of families had their blessed event assisted by Doctor Rominger:

<u>1869</u>		13 Mar	Schleede
30 Mar	John Rauschenberger	15 Mar	Sebastian Seifried
19 Jul	Michael Staebler	15 Mar	Seifried (no. 2)
15 Aug	Horn (stone-mason)	18 Mar	Georg Müller
6 Sep	Binder (at Bach's)	Apr	Staebler (Mast's partner)
3 Dec	Mathais Lutz	19 Jun	Gottlob Kaercher
11 Dec	Bischoff	25 Jun	Braendle
<u>1870</u>		26 Jun	Georg Schlee
27 (no month entered!)	John Fiegel	19 Jul	Pfeiffer (California)
2 Feb	John Mayer	22 Jul	Hoffstedter
18 Feb	John Zeeb	12 Aug	Georg Huss

15 Sep Joh. Georg Schtler

13 Oct Nicol. De Ville
[his only entry]

19 Dec Jac. Müller

22 Dec Dupslav

24 Dec Phill. Eiding

1871

8 Apr Georg Lutz

Rominger Genealogy

Robert V. Kesling

From various sources, the family history of Carl Ludwig Rominger can be sketched. In the search for Rominger family records I contacted many persons bearing the name, some of whom were able to be very helpful. The old marriage, baptism, and family registers in Wuerttemberg were carefully copied by Herrn Eugen Straessle and forwarded to Mrs. E. P. Wright, who passed them along to me. For assistance in translating some of the unfamiliar German words, such as those for professions now extinct, I am indebted to Mr. Joachim Knueppelholz of the Exhibit Museum and to Prof. Otto G. Graf of the Germanic Languages and Literatures Department at The University of Michigan.

Ancestors of Carl Ludwig Rominger

The following sources give the data on the ancestors of Carl Ludwig Rominger: (1) Familienregister, Bd. A 3, Blatt 183, Evangelisch Gemeinde, Ebingen, Evangelisches Dekanat, Balingen: grandfather Johann Friederich Rominger and family. (2) Familienregister, Waiblingen: father Ludwig Friedrich Rominger and family. (3) Familienregister, Bd. II, Blatt 165, Grossheppach: father Ludwig Friedrich Rominger and family. (4) Familienregister, Bd. III, Blatt 116, Grossheppach: half-sister Caroline Lisette Eberhardine Mathilde Rominger and family. (5) Familienregister, Nr. 655, Schnaitheim: father Ludwig Rominger and family. (6) Baptismal Register, 1820, No. 54, Schnaitheim: Carl Ludwig Rominger. (7) Kirchlichen Ehe-Register, 1840-1863 (1854, Monat November, ohne Nr., nach Nr. 34): marriage of Carl Ludwig Rominger and Friederike Emilie Mayer.

The lineage of Carl Rominger is somewhat complicated by the fact that two of his great-grandfathers were named Johann Jakob Rominger. One was a Säckler or Sekler, a maker of all sorts of sacks (mostly of leather, such as saddle-bags); the other was a Chiirurgus, a surgeon and doctor.

Great-grandfather Johann Jakob ROMINGER, sack-maker and wine-dealer, city councilman, of Ebingen; m Susanna LANDENBERGER. Parents of Johann Friederich ROMINGER. Romingers were already settled in Ebingen at the beginning of the 15th century. The great-great-grandfather seems to have been a retailer in Winterlingen, whence came the North Carolina branch of the Rominger family. For many generations, the Romingers have been Protestant.

Great-grandfather Johann Jakob ROMINGER, surgeon and doctor; m Anna

Elizabeth HAUX. Parents of Christina Dorothea ROMINGER. The relationship of the two great-grandfathers is not known.

Grandfather Johann Friederich ROMINGER (10 Mar 1769 - 15 Apr 1846), b at Ebingen; sack-maker and wine-dealer, city councilman like his father; m 1st 29 Apr 1789 Christina Dorothea ROMINGER (14 Jan 1769 - 14 May 1834) in Ebingen; she was b and d in Ebingen; 6 children:

1. Jacob Friederich (9 Jun 1790 - 16 Aug 1863), confirmed in 1803; beer brewer and baker; m 16 May 1813. He was the father of the Ludwig Friedrich Rominger who was the grandfather of Hermann Rominger, attorney in Waiblingen.
2. Ludwig Friederich (4 Dec 1792 - 29 Aug 1876), father of Carl Ludwig.
- 3-5. Three sons, d as little children.
6. Maria Christina (2 Feb 1799 - 16 May 1830), confirmed in 1813; m 9 Jun 1819 J. Chr. BECK, tanner.

He m 2d 18 Jan 1835 Maria Elisabetha BAIER (13 May 1756 - 13 Apr 1845), widow of Ferdinand ENGEL (schoolmaster), in Ebingen; she was b in Sulz, the daughter of Johann Ludwig BAIER, who had charge of weights and measures in Sulz, and his wife Johanna FRIEDERICH; her husband survived her by one year and two days; no children.

Father Ludwig Friederich ROMINGER (4 Dec 1792 - 29 Aug 1876), b in Ebingen, d in Grossheppach of old age, bur 4 Sep 1876; confirmed in 1806; schoolmaster in Schnaitheim; dean of girls' school (Mädchenschulmeister) in Waiblingen from 1825, pensioned 23 Apr 1859; to Grossheppach 29 Apr 1859; m 1st 15 Apr 1815 Johanna Gottliebin HÖCKLIN (14 Jan 1792 - 23 May 1827), b in Ebingen, d in Waiblingen; 6 children:

1. Louise Friederike Christiane (16 Jan 1816 - 25 Mar 1849), b in Schnaitheim, d in Waiblingen.
2. Sophia Johanna Dorothea (7 Mar 1817 - 26 Jan 1879), b in Schnaitheim, d in Grossheppach.
3. Maria (4 Dec 1818 - 21 Sep 1890), b in Schnaitheim, d in Grossheppach.
4. Carl Ludwig (31 Dec 1820 - 22 Apr 1907); see below.
5. Hermann Friedrich (9 Sep 1823 - 6 Oct 1823), b and d in Schnaitheim.
6. Wilhelmine (27 Feb 1825 - 3 Sep 1828), b and d in Waiblingen.

He m 2d 15 Jan 1828 Caroline (or Karolina) Rosine (or Rosina) KAISER (21 Nov 1798 - 14 Feb 1840), b in Hegnach, d in Waiblingen; she was the daughter of Ernst Christian Wilhelm KAISER or KAYSER of Waiblingen,

the forester of Hegenach, and Eva Maria SÜLZLIN; 1 child:

1. Caroline Lisette Eberhardine Mathilde (11 Dec 1828 - 28 Mar 1898), b in Waiblingen, d in Grossheppach; confirmed in 1842; m 7 Aug 1851 Carl Eduard SCHWARZ (22 Oct 1825 - 28 Jun 1864) in Waiblingen; he was a merchant in Winnenden; he was b in Winnenden, d in Grossheppach; son of Johann David SCHWARZ, Stadtpfleger or city superintendent, and his wife Christine Elise FISCHER; 6 children, all b in Winnenden:
 - (1) Paul (10 May 1852 - 3 Feb 1893), m Aug 1878 Anna ULRICH in Winnenden; farmer at Evansville, described as in "Staat Kansas, USA" but actually in Indiana.
 - (2) Johanna Sofia Augusta (4 Mar 1854 -).
 - (3) Ludwig David (1 Oct 1855 - 1 Oct 1855).
 - (4) Carl Eduard (9 Oct 1856 -), retailer in Mexico.
 - (5) Ernst Ludwig (13 Apr 1859 -), preacher in Friolzheim 1885-1892, after 1892 city preacher in Möckmühl.
 - (6) Otto (19 Nov 1862 -).

These were the half-nieces and half-nephews to Carl, the children of his half-sister Caroline. As a widow, she moved to Grossheppach in 1885.

Grandfather Johann Caspar HÖKLIN or HÖCKLIN, Präzeptor or teacher in a school with Latin; m Johanna Dorothea KLEMM; parents of Johanna Gottliebin HÖCKLIN.

Mother Johanna Gottliebin HÖCKLIN (14 Jan 1792 - 23 May 1827), b in Ebingen, d in Waiblingen; 6 children. The date of her birth is given as 30 Aug 1792 in the Eheregister at Schnaitheim and in the Familienregister at Schnaitheim; the date believed to be accurate, 14 Jan 1792, is given in the Familienregister at Waiblingen and at Grosshappach.

Carl Ludwig ROMINGER (31 Dec 1820 - 22 Apr 1907), b in Schnaitheim, Wuerttemberg, d in Ann Arbor, Michigan; confirmed in 1834; m 30 Nov 1854 Friederike Emilie MAYER (4 Feb 1826 - 1914) in Tübingen, daughter of Friedrich MAYER, pensioned Ober-Justiz Rath or court judge, and his wife Friederike DRÜCK; she was b in Waiblingen. They were married by Diacon Feuerlein of Herrenberg, and the banns were published November 22, 23, and 24 in Tübingen and Waiblingen. In the Kirchlichen Ehe-Register, Rominger is entered as "Bürger in Ebingen, prakt. Arzt in Chilicote in Nord-Amerika"; in other words, Rominger was still carried officially as a citizen of Ebingen.

The register of baptism gives time of Carl Ludwig Rominger's birth as 11:30 p. m. 31 Dec 1820 and the place as Schnaitheim. He was baptized 6 Jan 1821 by Vicar M. Dinkelacker. There were three witnesses of the baptism: Herr Johann Jacob Maier, mayor and surgeon of Schnaitheim; Jfr. Christiana Clemm of the late H. Clemm, Pastor in Neuhausin, his unmarried daughter out of wedlock; and Jfr. Henriette Vischer of Pastor M. Vischer of Schnaitheim, his unmarried daughter out of wedlock, in her absence the mother of Jfr. Vischer, wife of Pastor Vischer.

Children of Carl and Friederike:

1. Julie (9 Jul 1857 - 12 Apr 1921), b in Chillicothe, Ohio, d in Ann Arbor, Mich.; never m.
2. Ludwig (later Louis) (30 Jun 1859 - 3 Jan 1936), b in Chillicothe, d in Ann Arbor; physician, practicing in Louisville, Ky., until 1912, thereafter in Ann Arbor; m 1st 2 Dec 1885 Ida SCHENK (31 Dec 1861 - 6 Apr 1887) in Louisville; she was the daughter of Jakob SCHENK, Sprachlehrer or language teacher in Marburg, and his wife Betty BENDER; no children of the first marriage; he m 2d 18 Aug 1892 Eva G. MARQUA (26 Jan 1857 - 1929) in Louisville; she was b in Jugenheim, daughter of Peter MARQUA and his wife Katharine LANG; three children, all b in Louisville:
 - (1) Carl Ludwig (27 Sep 1893 - 1919).
 - (2) Louise (16 Jan 1895 -), m, still living.
 - (3) Alice (30 Apr 1896 -), m ____ Covell, living in St. Louis, Mo.
3. Marie (23 Jul 1863 - 7 Aug 1955), b and d in Ann Arbor; never m.

North Carolina Romingers

Herr Straessle commented that "bei uns ginge man am liebsten gleich bis Adam und Eva zurücker." The Rominger family cannot approach this limit in their family history. Nevertheless, the question remains: Who were the Rominger relatives whom Carl wanted to reach in North Carolina when he arrived in America? From the notes of Miss Martin's interview with Marie, we learn only that they were kin and that they came to America about a century before.

I present the following notes gathered from several sources in the hope that sometime, somewhere, someone will succeed in tracing the Rominger family connection. Several persons helped in my research on the North Carolina Romingers. I contacted Dr. James M. Rominger of Flagstaff, Arizona, and received a reply from his father, Maurice Franklin Rominger of Phoenix, Arizona. Although he had never heard of Carl Rominger, he could give a detailed account of his own ancestors in North America. I learned that in 1939 Mr. H. V. Rom-

inger (18 Mar 1854 - 11 Apr 1949) of Underwood, Washington, had compiled a manuscript on "Michael Rominger and His Descendants," a work which (insofar as I can learn) was never published but was preserved as typed copies in the hands of other Romingers. In a letter written 27 Sep 1940 to M. F. Rominger, then of Charleston, Illinois, H. V. Rominger (at that time 86 years of age) mentioned that he had worked on this family record for over 60 years. Through the courtesy of Dr. Joseph F. Rominger, geologist in Scottsdale, Arizona, I have a copy of the first 20 pages of this account, the part concerning the background and origin of the name.

Miss Katherine Rominger, writing in H. V. Rominger's manuscript, Chapter I, speculated that the Romingers were descended from a Roman colony that settled perhaps first in Switzerland, then Wuerttemberg. I quote pertinent parts of her reasoning and support for this belief:

Of the villages on the rolling uplands east and south of the Nagold Thal, a great number have the termination "ingen," as Jettingen, Geckingen, etc. and some in "heim," as Stammheim, Ostelheim. These terminations in "ingen" and "heim" are of peculiar interest since they indicate the earliest Teutonic settlement before the time of the Romans.... During the first century, B.C., the Germans began to pour in from the north and the Romans from the south, but the Romans gained the upper hand and occupied the country until the fourth century A.D., towards the end of which they were finally driven out by the Alamans, or Swabians (Roman Suevi), a branch of the German Franks, who swept in from the north up the valley of the Neckar.

About the same time the Angles and Saxons invaded England and founded numerous settlements with names ending in "ing," "ingham," "ington." The "ing" signifies "colony," "village," or "family," The "ingens" are found scattered very thinly throughout Germany except just in Wuerttemberg, and parts of Baden, Bavaria, and Switzerland bordering on Wuerttemberg, and it is probable that the Anglo-Saxons who invaded England and the Alamans who migrated up the Neckar are of the same stock, not only due to place-names and the common ending "ing," but the family names ending in "ingham" and "inger" are also very frequently alike; too frequently indeed, to make it seem probable that the resemblance is purely accidental.

The Romans invaded Wuerttemberg in the first century B. C. and the Gauls (as the Romans called the people of the nations to the north of them) gave to them the name of Romingens (ingens -- colony of Romans), and the individual citizens were called Romingers. It is a significant fact that the representatives of the Rominger family to this day bear decided characteristics both physical and mental of the old Romans of that day (first century B.C.). They have light skin, piercing blue eyes and delicately modeled aquiline noses... The Romingers have also clung to their Roman names, such as Flora, Cornelius, Romulus, Augustus, etc. occurring consistently among the different branches of the family.

The remainder of H. V. Rominger's account deals with the records of Romingers who emigrated from Wuerttemberg to North America in the 1750's. In general it agrees with the information contained in a communication from Mr. M. F. Rominger of Phoenix, Arizona. The story of these Romingers is worthy

of note because when Carl Ludwig Rominger came to America, as told by his daughter Marie to Miss Helen M. Martin some years ago, he planned at first to travel southward from New York to see his relatives, who had come to America a century previously and settled in North Carolina. His plans were suddenly changed when he was robbed of his money a few days after landing. Although I have not been able to establish the exact family connection, there seems little room for doubt that the Romingers mentioned by H. V. Rominger and by M. F. Rominger are indeed the relatives whom Carl planned to visit.

This, then, is the history of the North Carolina Romingers, as nearly as I can interpret the two accounts. Before the American Revolution three Rominger brothers came to America from Wuerttemberg, Philip, Michael, and David. They came to New England. Philip apparently came first, for his daughter Elizabeth was born 29 Sep 1743 at Broadbay. Michael and David came to Broadbay (in what is now the state of Maine) in 1752 or 1753. Philip died before 1770, and that year Michael, David, their families, and their two nieces, Elizabeth and Juliana, moved to North Carolina, settling at Friedland (about six miles southeast of the present city of Winston-Salem) and joining the Moravian Church there. It is in the church records of the Moravian Church that the history of these Romingers can be found.

I. Philip ROMINGER, came to America before 1743.

1. Elizabeth (29 Sep 1743 -), b at Broadbay, there m 1761 Michael SEITZ, Jr.; 8 children still living in 1805 at Friedland, N. Car.
2. Juliana (23 Sep 1757 - 9 Mar 1805), b at Broadbay, d at Friedland, N. Car.; her father died when she was 5, her mother died when she was 12 and Juliana went to live with her married sister; she went to N. Car. in 1769; m 6 May 1777 Jacob Friedrich LAGENOIR at Friedland; of her 12 children, 5 died before their mother; she was survived by:

(1) Jacob

(2) George

(3) Philip

(4) Joseph

(5) John

(6) Daniel, doctor still living in Easton, Pa., in 1877.

(7) dau., m ____ Motsinger.

II. Michael ROMINGER (1709-1803), b at Winterlingen, Wuerttemberg, d at Friedland, N. Car.; carpenter by trade; Lutheran; m 1740 Anna Catharina ANTON (-1794) at Howetterbach, Baden-Durlach; to Broadbay, New

England in 1752 or 1753; to Friedland, N. Car. in 1770, where wife died;
Revolutionary soldier; 11 children:

1. Elizabeth Barbara (1741-1820), m Jacob REID; 17 children:

- (1) George Michael (1761-1771)
- (2) David (1764-1785)
- (3) Daniel
- (4) Magdalena (1768-1771)
- (5) Frederick (1770-1781)
- (6) Sophia Salome (1771-1776)
- (7) George (1773-1782)
- (8) Christina Magdalena (1776-1778)
- (9) Johannes (1763-)
- (10) Elizabeth (1767-)
- (11) Jacob, Jr. (1774-1818)
- (12) Philip Martin (1778-1882)
- (13) Catharina (1779-)
- (14) Johann Samuel (1782-1813)
- (15) Carl (1783-)
- (16) Christian Ludwig (1785-)
- (17) Mathaeus (1787-).

2. Jacob (1743-1818), m Barbara SEIDLINGER; 12 children:

- (1) Johannes (1769-1784)
- (2) Cornelius (1772-1825)
- (3-4) Twins (1774-1774)
- (5) Anna Maria (1776-)
- (6) Elizabeth (1778-1831)
- (7) Michael (1780-1824)
- (8) Jacob, Jr. (1783-1827)
- (9) David, (1785-1823)

- (10) Magdalene (1787-)
- (11) Joseph (1790-1844)
- (12) Philip (1792-).
3. Johannes (1745-), d in Germany.
4. George Philip (1747-1752), d at sea on voyage to America.
5. Johann Ludwig, d in Germany.
6. Johann Martin (1752 or 1753-1779), m Elizabeth Barbara WOHLFAHRT;
1 child:
- (1) Jacob (1778-1813).
7. Catherine (1755-), m John LANIUS; 10 children:
- (1) Elizabeth (1774-)
- (2-3) John Jacob and John Christian (twins), b 1776
- (4) Heinrich (1778-)
- (5) Catharina Fredrica (1780-)
- (6) Maria Salome (1783-)
- (7) Magdalena (1785-)
- (8) Johannes (1788-)
- (9) George (1791-)
- (10) Anna Rosina (1795-).
- 8 Jacobina, d at Broadbay, New England.
9. Michael II (1759-1818), b at Broadbay, d at Friedland; m 1780 Anna
Maria FISCHER; 12 children:
- (1) Anna Catharine (1781-1860).
- (2) Juliana (1782-).
- (3) Johann Philipp (1784-).
- (4) Anna Maria (1785-1879).
- (5) Johann Martin (1787-1868); grandfather of H. V. Rominger.
- (6) Verona (Freny) (1788-1822).
- (7) Eva (1790-), m 1st ____ SNOW; m 2d ____ SWAIN; from Ind. to Ill.,
there died.

- (8) Benjamin (18 Jun 1792-), m Elizabeth SCHOR; from N. Car. to Hope, Ind., ca 1824; 6 children:
- i. Sanford, d at Hope, Ind., no living descendants.
 - ii. Jonas Martin, d at Hope, descendants in vicinity.
 - iii. Solomon Josiah, d at Friedburg at age 1 year.
 - iv. Simon Franklin (6 Oct 1825 - 18 Mar 1877), b at Hope; 9 children:
 - A. Herman Elijah (7 Apr 1850 - 9 Oct 1905), b at Hope, Ind., d at Wheeler, Ill.; m 6 Dec 1905 Sarah Ellen LOVE of Shelby Co., Ill.; 3 children:
 - a. Donna Mae (24 Sep 1884 - 25 Sep 1884), b and d at Madison, Dakota Terr. (S. Dak.).
 - b. Lloyd McClean (15 Jan 1887 - 11 Nov 1901).
 - c. Maurice Franklin (22 May 1890 -), b at Newton, Ill.; m 1st 26 Jul 1916 Mamie Ethel ASHBROOK of Charleston, Ill. (1 child; she d 14 Nov 1918); he m 2d 8 Jun 1921 Mary Mattie McDONALD of Lerna, Ill. (3 children); present address 1640 W. Glendale Ave., Apt. 42, Phoenix, Ariz. 85021; his children:
 - (a) Jean Ann, b and d 12 Nov 1918.
 - (b) Dorothy Jean, b 18 Aug 1922.
 - (c) Joan Love, b 27 Apr 1925.
 - (d) James McDonald, b 19 May 1928; Ph.D., botany, agrostology.
 - B. Amos Henry (16 Apr 1852 - 29 Nov 1876).
 - C. Thomas Benjamin (13 Jan 1854 -).
 - D. Eugene Simon (13 Feb 1857 - 22 Jan 1881).
 - E. Martin Sanford (29 Jun 1858 -).
 - F. Emma Maria (19 Feb 1860 - 22 Jun 1915).
 - G. Edward Franklin (12 Nov 1862 -).
 - H. George Irvin (7 Mar 1865 -).
 - I. Albert Freeman (8 Feb 1867 -).
 - v. Malvina Catherine, m Ezekiel BARRET in Ind.; 9 children.

vi. Maria Elizabeth, m Michael EVANS; 4 children.

(9) Maria Elizabeth (1794-1830).

(10) George (1795-1843).

(11) Anna Susanna (1798-1877).

(12) Conrad (1800-).

10. Christian (1762-), m Catharine PAGER; 3 children:

(1) Beatus (1783-).

(2) Johannes (1784-).

(3) Elizabeth (1787-).

11. Beatus.

III. David ROMINGER (1716-1771), to America with brother Michael in 1752 or 1753 (one account says they arrived at Broadbay in September, 1753). Wuerttemberg at that time had been blighted by war and heavy taxation. They made their way overland to the Rhine, descended in small boats to Duesseldorf, where they were joined by others (sixty families in all), thence to Amsterdam, and by ship to America. They stopped at Cowes, on the Isle of Wight, where they lost some passengers by death. They had been grossly misled by inducements published in Germany, and soon discovered that they had no provisions and little shelter for the winter. Instead of 100 acres, each family was given one-half acre by their patron, General Waldo. After a severe winter of suffering, in which 17 died of starvation, they started tilling the land. During the next five years, Indian attacks took further toll of the settlers. Yet they established a Moravian church at Broadbay. By 1770, many of the immigrants were anxious to move south. They settled at Friedland, North Carolina. There is today a small village named Rominger in northwestern North Carolina, said to be still inhabited by Romingers and their relatives. The name of David's wife is not known. He had at least one son:

1. Philip (1750-1771), had one daughter, name unknown.

The answer to the family relationship probably lies in Winterlingen, which is not far from Ebingen and Schnaitheim. The North Carolina Romingers came from Winterlingen (where incidentally my great-great-great-great-grandfather, Jakob Kissling, was born only a few years before Michael Rominger). Carl Rominger's great-great-grandfather appears to have been a retailer in Winterlingen. The suggestion is strong that the relatives sought by Carl were the descendants of Michael and David Rominger, but the exact relationships are not now available.

Envoy

The Rominger plot lies near the eastern border of Forest Hills Cemetery in Ann Arbor. Set on a graceful knoll, it is a pleasant, tranquil place. The sounds of busy traffic on Geddes Avenue scarcely reach this far. In the spring-time, birds sing in the University arboretum a few yards away. On summer mornings, small creatures of the wild scurry about in this refuge set within a city. In autumn, the falling leaves open a vista to the north across the valley of the Huron River. In winter, a blanket of snow adds a veneer to the local topography of this glacial moraine. So season follows season, year follows year, and decade follows decade.

The seven graves are designated by uniform low gray headstones, differing only in their inscriptions. They record the end of the Rominger name in this branch of the family, as well as the end of an era. Dr. Rominger was the first to be buried in the plot, his stone marked only with his name and the dates 1820-1907. Seven years later his beloved Friedericke was laid to rest beside him, both far from their childhood fatherland of Wuerttemberg but only a mile from the home they had cherished so many years. Then in 1919 young Carl, the delight of his grandfather and bearing his name, died and was interred in the family plot. Julie, the Rominger firstborn and their "July baby," whose health they had so solicitously guarded through the years, passed away in 1921. The daughter-in-law, Eva, died eight years afterward. Then in 1936 the only son, Louis, the physician like his father, succumbed and with him perished the family name. Marie, the indomitable, who lived each day with the determination and gusto of her father, survived alone for many years. Finally, she too grew old and in 1955 joined the others in eternal rest.

Unlike the German tale of "Germelshausen" or the more recent musical "Brigadoon," the past cannot be recalled for even one day. Yet if it were possible, certainly we would be warmed by the genial pace of those bygone days -- when friendships were precious, delights were simple, and satisfaction came from participation and achievement.

If the Romingers came back to our time, however, would they be content? Would they rejoice at our technology or be disappointed in our ways and values? So much is changed. The physical dimensions of Ann Arbor would be unbelievable, no longer the leisurely village. Their homesite on South Fifth Avenue is now occupied by the City Library. The stately elm, planted tenderly on the day Marie was born, has been gone these many years. The expanding University has spilled over into the farm land across the Huron.

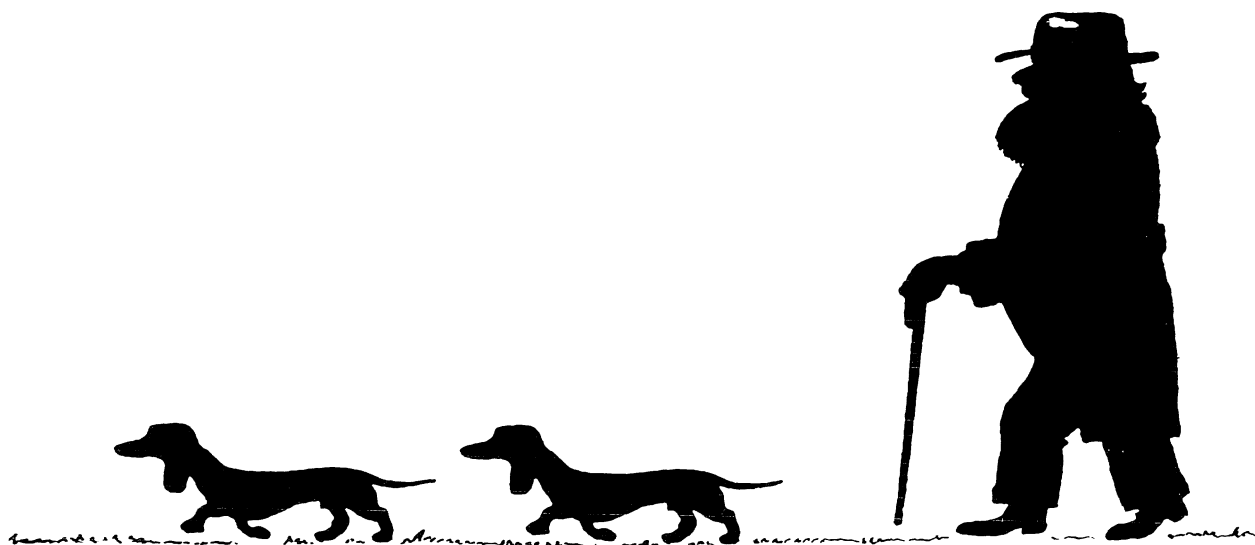
Life is more complex, not necessarily better. Television has supplanted the gatherings of neighbors to sing in the parlor. Indeed, many residents are now unacquainted with the others in their block, and their friends are distribu-

ted far and wide. With each passing year, the west-side concentration of Germans diminishes and the old familiar Wuerttemberg names disappear from the scene, their going unnoticed and unregretted. The ill and infirm are diagnosed in clinics, treated by specialists, cared for by trained nurses, and recuperate or not in huge hospitals; the family doctor calling on his patients is an almost forgotten part of American history.

On the other hand, Dr. Rominger would be amazed to travel to the Northern Peninsula, on four-lane highways and across the Mackinac Bridge, in a few hours instead of sailing for days and hoping for favorable winds. He would also be impressed with modern photographic equipment, replacing his tedious wet-plate process, and delighted with our printing methods, which can provide international journals with clear pictures of fossils -- none of them reversed. And Dr. Rominger would be intrigued with the volume of literature on paleontology which has been published since his day, eagerly searching through the books and journals to see what has been learned, and gathering satisfaction to find so much of his own work still held in high regard. It is my feeling that he would quickly adjust to computer and electron-microscope, exuberant in their potential, and immediately bring his experience and insight to bear on the remaining problems.

Alas, time is irreversible. Dr. Carl Ludwig Rominger is no more. Our consolation is that he left us a clear account of the rocks and fossils which he saw and studied, an understanding of the stratigraphic relationships, and an example of what a paleontologist should be. A rich legacy, rich indeed.

A remarkable man.



In other and better times, she signed herself...

Helena M. Martin

Then, exhausted and suffering greatly, she wrote...

Helena M. Martin

Within a week, she departed this life.

PAPERS ON PALEONTOLOGY



CARL LUDWIG ROMINGER