

# The Studebaker Family in America, 1736-1976

By Walter Carlock, Alvin Girard Faust, E. Irene Miller

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## Book Review

By Milton Rubicam, F.A.S.G., F.N.G.S., F.G.S.P., C.G.

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This is a monumental work. The German and American early generations are heavily documented. The immigrants, the brothers Peter and Clement, and their second cousin once removed, Heinrich Studenbecker (and other variants), came in 1736 from Solingen, located fourteen miles northeast of the Rhine River city of Cologne. Another brother of Peter and Clement came to America, [apparently] dropped the first part of his [sur]name, and called himself Becker.

The clue to the family's origin was contained in a letter written from Pennsylvania by Clement and Peter to their relatives in Germany, and found a few years ago to be still in the hands of descendants at Hagen. The Studebaker family found a highly capable genealogist in Hagen, Bernard Freter, through whose diligent efforts among the church books the family has been traced to 1600. A chart of the German branch, from 1600 to 1762, is on pp. 28-29.

The book is divided into two main parts: I. The Studebaker Family--Facts, Tales, Traditions, and Theories (five chapters), and II. Genealogies--Chapter 6. Peter Studebaker and His Descendants; 7. Clement Studebaker and His Descendants; 8. Heinrich Studebaker and His Descendants; 9. The Long-

Studebaker Connection and Late Received Data; and 10. Unconnected Families.

Much historical information on Germany and Pennsylvania is given in Part I. The 1737 letter of Peter and Clement is published in translation, and makes highly interesting reading for it describes in detail the conditions in the Province as the brothers saw them. On the whole they were favorably impressed with their new home, although they were disturbed by the high cost of living. However, they ended their epistle with "God bless America." A detailed analysis of the letter, by Ford Studebaker, is also given. The original epistle was given up by the owner in Germany and is now a prized possession of the family in America.

The immigrants settled in different places--Peter in Frederick County, Md., Clement in York County, Pa., and Heinrich in Peters Township, Cumberland (now Montgomery, Franklin) Co., Pa. In time the descendants of these men migrated to other parts of Pennsylvania and to Ohio, Indiana, and elsewhere. Clement Studebaker (1831-1901), the builder of the Studebaker automobile, was a member of this family.

**The compilers have done an impressive job of assembling data from a variety of sources.** [emphasis added]