

Family History – Occupations

Occupation Data: re: your ancestors

Often in our family research, we learn the date an ancestor was born and when they died. For example – Michael Reising, my 3rd-great grandfather - b1809-d1908. In between the birth year and the death year there is this little “dash”. For Michael Reising, this little “dash” covered nearly 100 years of his life. From his obituary in the Elyria Chronicle, we read a few brief paragraphs about Michael’s life and family, but nowhere do we learn **what** Michael did for a living.

THE ELYRIA CHRONICLE.

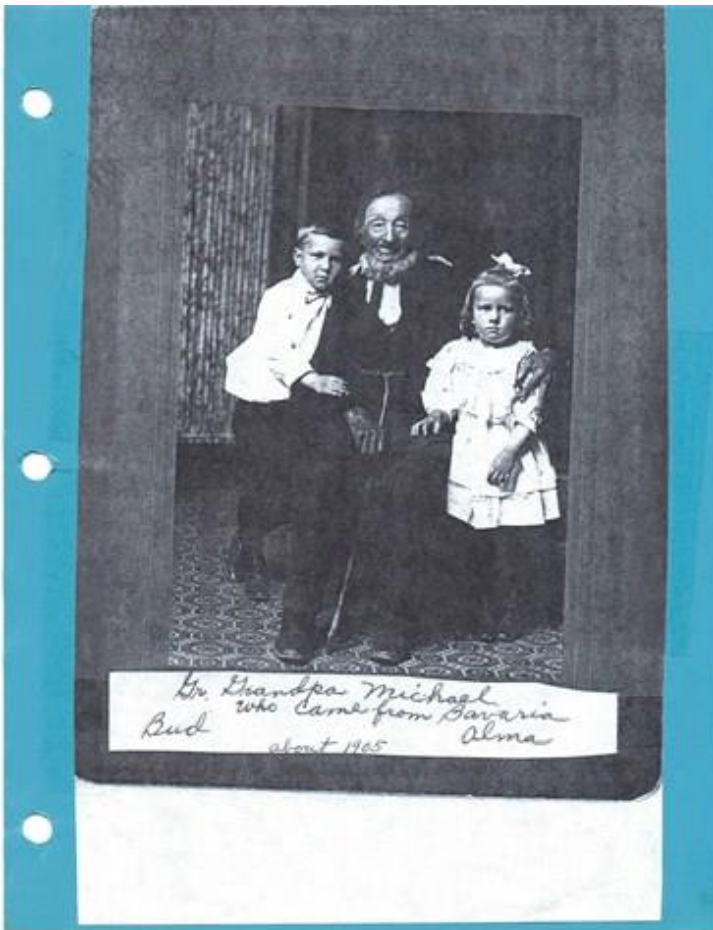
TO PLEASE AS MANY, TO OFFEND AS FEW AS POSSIBLE; TO GIVE MORE THAN WE EXACT; INVITES CONFIDENCE; INSURES SUCCESS.

ELYRIA, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1908.

OLDEST WHITE MAN IN COUNTY

Michael Reising, the oldest white resident of Lorain county, died at his home in Belden Monday night. At the time of his death, he was nearly 100 years of age, having passed his 99th milestone eight months ago. His death was due to infirmities of old age, but up until the very last he retained his faculties.

The aged man was born in Germany and came to Cleveland when 32 years of age. He resided there 11 years, then moved to Lorain and later to Belden, this county, where he has since lived. Five grandchildren reside in this city. They are: E. J. Reising, George Reising, Anton Reising, Mrs. Klein and Joe Reising.



So, what did grandpa Reising do for a living? How did he provide for his family? All census records will list a person's occupation. Here in the 1860 US Federal Census – we see Michael was a “Farmer”.

Page No. *148*

SCHEDULE 1. — Free Inhabitants in *Coafton Township* **in the County of** *Lorain* **State**
of *Ohio* enumerated by me, on the *24th* day of *July* 1860. Asst Marshal
Post Office *Coafton* 6080 7209

Dwelling-house— numbered in the order of visitation.	Family numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age.	Sex.	White, black, or mulatto.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		<i>May L. Davis</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>F</i>		<i>Teacher</i>			<i>England</i>				
<i>1074</i>	<i>1100</i>	<i>Michael Reising</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Farmer</i>	<i>1100</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>Germany</i>				
		<i>Margaret</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>F</i>					<i>"</i>				
		<i>Anthony</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>M</i>					<i>"</i>				
		<i>Catharina</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>F</i>					<i>Ohio</i>				
		<i>Adam</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>M</i>					<i>"</i>	<i>/</i>			
		<i>Conrad</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>M</i>					<i>"</i>	<i>/</i>			
		<i>Jessamah</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>F</i>					<i>"</i>				
		<i>Frank</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>M</i>					<i>"</i>				

But what if your ancestor had been a coper, fuller, lamplighter or even a groom of the stool. Yeah, look that one up!! For a nice **free online index of over 2,000 old occupations**, see Jane Hewitt's website – [Dictionary of Old Occupations: A-Z Index](#).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any family history questions.



Darrell Reising
Family History Consultant
M) 425.445.6767
E) darrell@northbridgefhg.com