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*A Few Württemberg Families*

*of Grafenberg, Kohlberg, Riederich & Tischardt*

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This is designed to be a brief and factual account of four Doster families of the United States of America whose American histories have been set forth in *The Doster Genealogy* by Mrs. Ben Hill Doster which was completed, edited and produced by Wadsworth Doster (The William Byrd Press: Richmond, Virginia, 1945). These four families are considered in Chapters XVII, XXII, XXIII, and XXIV of that work and are numbered as Branches 12, 16, 17 and 18.

In some instances the data given here will correct that of *The Doster Genealogy* but the correction is not an intended commentary on that work. Some variation in names will be observed particularly as I have adhered to the spellings given in transcripts of the parish records of Kohlberg, Tischardt, Grafenberg and Riederich.

The histories of each of these families have been traced back only to the middle of the 18th Century but there is every reason to consider that they are of common ancestry. All four families spring from a region of Württemberg which lies in a small triangle of less than five miles to a side between Tischardt, Kappishäusern and Riederich. This region is just northeast of the small city of Metzingen near Reutlingen.

The first family we shall consider, the forebearer of Branch 12, originates in Kohlberg, a small village only a kilometer from Kappishäusern and scarcely two kilometers from either Tischardt or Grafenberg, which villages lie themselves only two kilometers apart. Either Kohlberg or Grafenberg was probably the original seat of the entire family.

The second family, the forebearer of Branch 16, is from Riederich but originates in Kappishäusern and is therefore probably very closely allied to the Kohlberg family. Also in the female line this family is descended from a family of Grafenberg of Branch 17.

The third family, the forebearer of Branch 17, originates in Grafenberg whence the family emigrated to America with such other old Grafenberg families as Brandstetter, Euchner, Roller and Thüringer.

The fourth family we shall consider, the forebearer of Branch 18, originates also in Grafenberg and in the female line has common ancestry with Branch 17. This family has four Doster lines of descent from families of the villages of Grafenberg and Kohlberg.