

Carl Wilhelm Bergann

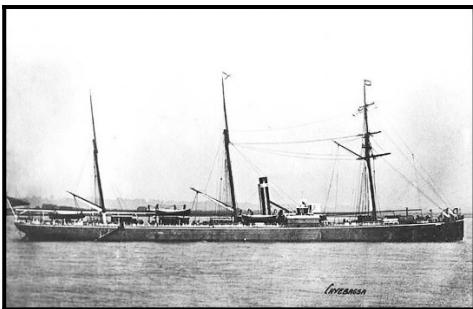
1884-1941

Known as Carl or Charles, he arrived in Brisbane as an infant and spent most of his life in Teutoburg (name changed to Witta in 1916).

At his death, he was a well-to-do farmer of Witta.

Birth

Carl Wilhelm Bergann was born on 13 June 1884 in the small village of Sassin, Kreis Lauenberg, Pommern, Preussen (now Sasino, Poland). He was a son of Auguste (nee Raddatz) and Ludwig Bergann who had married several years earlier in the same village.



Arrival in Queensland

At 5 months of age, Carl travelled with his parents and 2-year-old brother, Otto, from their village in Pommern to London, England. There, they joined over 300 immigrants on board the *Chyebassa* which sailed on 18 November 1884, arriving in Brisbane on 13 January 1885. It was a healthy voyage with only one adult death reported.

Left: The steamship Chyebassa.

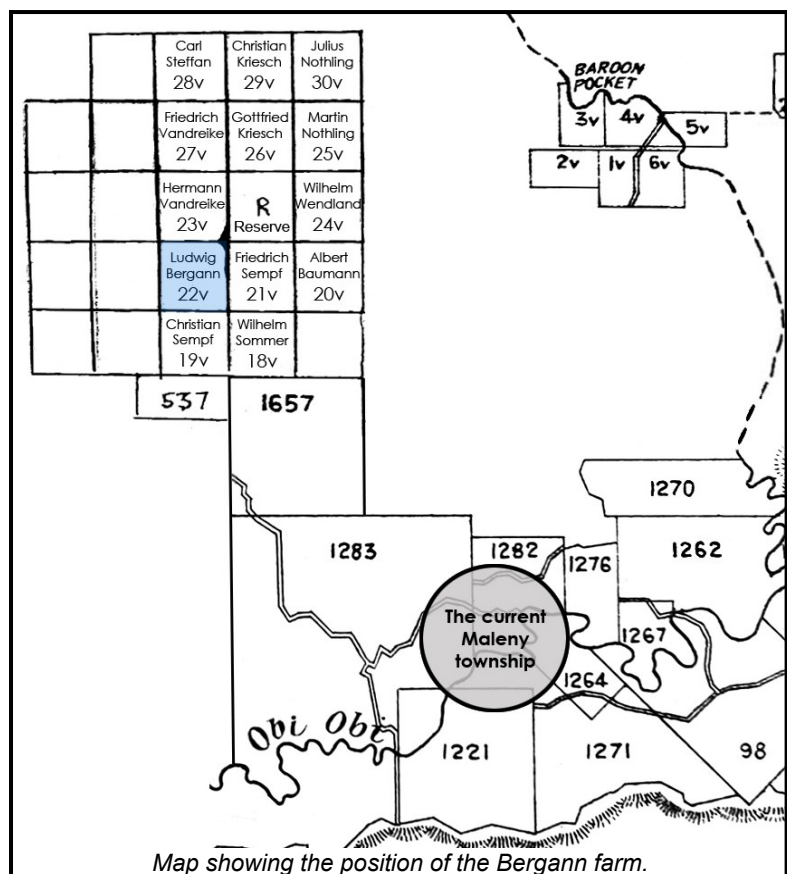
To the Logan District, then the Blackall Range

Carl's maternal aunt, Hermine, and her husband, Albert Noffke, had immigrated to Queensland in late 1882, settling in Waterford in the Logan District south of Brisbane. After disembarking the ship, the Bergann family joined the Noffke family in Waterford.

When Carl was 3 years old, his father became one of the original thirteen selectors of land in October 1887 in the area now known as Witta. Ludwig started clearing Portion 22v, Parish of Maleny a year later and took up residence in March 1889.

Carl, and the rest of his family, stayed in Waterford until early in 1890 as Ludwig had not wanted to bring his family to the Blackall Range any earlier due to the "impossibility of the roads" and the lack of a local school.

Otto and Carl Bergann had attended school in Waterford but, once they were on the Blackall Range, had no schooling until a local provisional school opened in October 1892. Carl, Otto, and a younger brother named Wilhelm, all enrolled in the school's first month of operation. The two older boys left



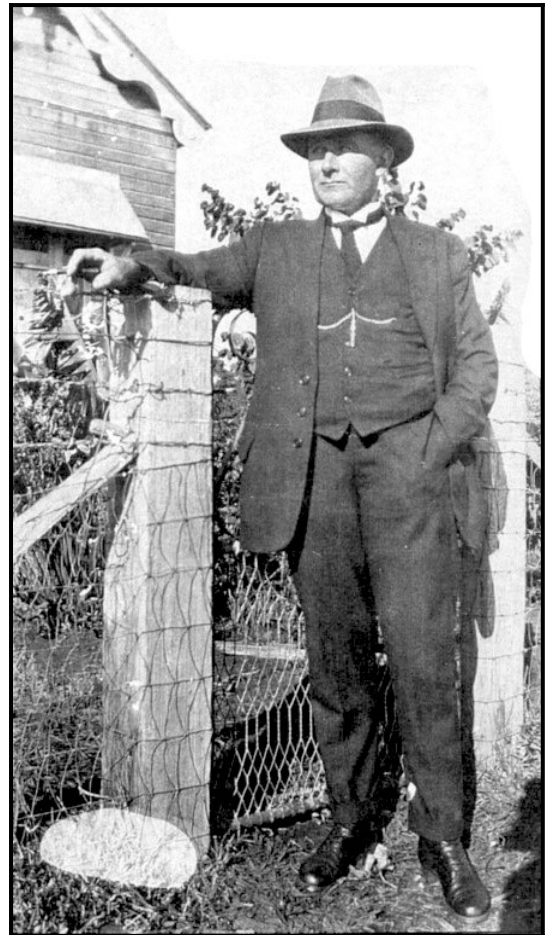
the school in February 1896 when Otto was 14 years old and Carl was 11 years old. This was a year after the death of their father, Ludwig, and it's possible their help was required on the family farm.

Marriage and Children

On 20 September 1916, Carl and Bertha Wilhelmina Noffke (1887-1969) married in Brisbane. They had two children: Evelyn in 1916 and Leslie in 1919.

Life in Witta

- **1904 – Cricket Match.** Playing in a Teutoburg (Witta) cricket team, Carl (as eleventh man) and his brothers, Otto and Wilhelm, won against the team from Kenilworth.
- **1908 – Electoral Roll.** Carl was a labourer in Teutoburg (Witta).
- **1916 – Registration as an Alien in WWI.** Even though Carl had arrived in Queensland as an infant, he hadn't been naturalised and was required to register himself as an Alien at the Landsborough Police Station in 1916 during WWI.
- **1919 – Electoral Roll.** Carl was a dairyman in Witta.
- **1921 – Naturalisation.** An advertisement was placed in Brisbane's *The Daily Mail* to advise that Carl Wilhelm Bergann, Dairy Farmer, of German nationality, residing in Witta, intended to apply for naturalisation.
- **1930 – Car Accident.** Returning home one evening from the Maleny Eisteddfod, Carl skidded and overturned the car. His ten-year-old son, Leslie, received a fractured collar-bone and lacerations. The other occupants were uninjured.
- **1932 – Daughter a Debutante.** Evelyn was one of eight debutantes at the Roman Catholic Ball held in Maleny School of Arts.
- **1934 – Maleny C.W.A. Birthday Ball.** Bertha and their daughter, Evelyn, attended the sixth birthday ball of the Maleny branch of the Q.C.W.A. held in the Maleny School of Arts.
- **1936 – Electoral Roll.** Carl was a farmer in Witta.
- **1937 – A Trip in an Ambulance.** Slipping on the concrete path at his home, Carl broke his right wrist and had to be taken by the Maleny ambulance to hospital.
- **1941 – Death.** At the age of 56 years, Carl died in the Maleny Hospital on 14 January 1941. His death was not straightforward when traces of arsenic were discovered. Brisbane homicide experts investigated but soon established that there was no signs of foul play and that he had accidentally come into contact with the substance in the course of many years of dipping cattle and spraying pigsties on the farm. Carl was buried in the Witta Cemetery.



Carl Bergann, Witta.