

8th child of Johann Christian SCHUBERT (Johanne Rosina IRRGANG nee KRAUSE)
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## Carl August SCHUBERT

[Known as August]

born: June 17, 1850, Langmeil (Tanunda), South Australia.  
died: August 28, 1916, Langmeil (Tanunda), South Australia.  
buried: Langmeil Lutheran Cemetery, Tanunda, South Australia.  
parents: Johann Christian SCHUBERT and Johanne Rosina IRRGANG nee KRAUSE.

## Beate Louise FIEDLER

[Known as Louise]

born: August 17, 1852, Turkey Flat via Tanunda, South Australia.  
died: February 27, 1913, Langmeil (Tanunda), South Australia.  
buried: Langmeil Lutheran Cemetery, Tanunda, South Australia.  
married: April 16, 1874, Langmeil Lutheran Church, Tanunda, South Australia.

### Children of Beate Louise FIEDLER and Carl August SCHUBERT:

1.	<u>Auguste Hermine SCHUBERT</u>	1877 - 1940
	Carl Gustav BOEHM	1870 - 1938
2.	August Martin SCHUBERT	1876 - 1877
3.	<u>Carl Benjamin SCHUBERT</u>	1878 - 1961
	Ernestine Anna STEINKE	1876 - 1960
4.	<u>Paul Anton SCHUBERT</u>	1880 - 1964
	Agnes Emilie RENNER	1885 - 1967
5.	Louise Martha SCHUBERT	1882 - 1966
6.	<u>Christian August SCHUBERT</u>	1883 - 1957
	Hermine Auguste ADLER	1883 - 1960
7.	Anna Maria Magdalena SCHUBERT	1885 - 1975
8.	Louise Esther SCHUBERT	1887 - 1966
9.	<u>Walther SCHUBERT</u>	1889 - 1961
	Alvina Sarah ADLER	1890 - 1978
10.	<u>Johannes SCHUBERT</u>	1890 - 1971
	Anna Wilhelmine MULLER	1892 - 1971
11.	<u>Franz Waldemar SCHUBERT</u>	1891 - 1971
	Ida Auguste SCHULZ	1892 - 1976
12.	Berthold Oswald SCHUBERT	1894 - 1964
13.	Maria Sabina Louise SCHUBERT	1895 - 1985
14.	Adele Hilda SCHUBERT	1898 - 1986
15.	Leonhard Lothar SCHUBERT	1899 - 1983

**Beate Louise Fiedler** was born at her parent's home, in her father's 56th year. With the subsequent death in infancy of her younger brother, she became the youngest surviving child of her parents. She was baptised by her uncle, Pastor August Ludwig Christian Kavel, at the Langmeil Lutheran Church on August 25, 1852. Her sponsors were Franz Sophius Ferdinand Aldenhoven, Christiane Auguste Rieschick, and her aunt, Beate Kavel, after whom she was almost certainly given one of her names. She was later confirmed by Pastor Kavel's successor at Langmeil, Pastor J. C. Auricht.

Louise's education took place at the Langmeil Lutheran School, Tanunda – the first teacher of which was her uncle, Johann Wilhelm Ferdinand (Ferdinand) Kavel) – and her teacher was G. C. H. Andresen. She was eight years old when Pastor Kavel died at her parents' home. Like her older sister, Anna Auguste (Auguste) she would have been conscious of his, and her father's, prominent roles in the Lutheran emigration to Australia and the local German community, as well as the religious controversy overshadowing their famous uncle's last years, and the huge outpouring of grief when he died. Before her marriage Louise worked on district farming properties and as a domestic in local homes.

The marriage of Louise with **Carl August Schubert** brought together two influential Lutheran families. August's father, Johann Christian Schubert, had also been a leader in the emigration from Prussia, and had sailed on the *Prince George* with his first wife and family. With the Fiedlers, the Schuberts settled at Klemzig, and later Langmeil, where Christian took up one of the original blocks. He was a foundation member and elder of the Langmeil congregation. August, the youngest child of Christian's third marriage, was baptised by Pastor Kavel at Langmeil Lutheran Church on June 30, 1850. His sponsors were Carl Erdmann Jakel, Carl August Franz Krause and Maria Elisabeth Hohnke. Like Louise, he was confirmed at Langmeil, probably by Pastor Auricht.

In his later life August would recount how, as children, he and his siblings were locked in the house while their parents went out working in the fields. On occasions they would be frightened by wandering Aborigines from the north who would come begging, and push their noses up against the windows. These natives, from around the Murray River, camped in what became the Tanunda Council Reserve, and came south following the water, and handouts. Part of August's schooling corresponded with Louise's years at the Langmeil Lutheran School; but it is believed that he also attended the Bethany Lutheran School under the teacher Friedrich Topp.

Christian Schubert died when August was three, and his mother remarried Christian Rothe, another Langmeil pioneer. Rothe moved into the Schubert home and eventually bought the property from George Fife Angas (all these blocks had originally been rented from Angas by the German settlers, with an option of buying after a given period). Family tradition has it that friends of the Schubert family prevailed upon Rothe to transfer the land to his step-son, and this was done in 1866, when August was only 15 years old, and after Rothe himself had owned it for less than six months. August undoubtedly worked on the family block in his early years, but it is also understood that he went to Western Australia for a period before his marriage, prospecting for gold.

Louise and August were married by Pastor Auricht at Langmeil Lutheran Church on April 16, 1874. Witnesses to the marriage were E. Rieschick (saddler, Saddleworth), G. Arnold (farmer, Schonfeld) and C. J. Rechner (shopman, Nuriootpa). We know from the Bible presented to them that day by Pastor Auricht that the wedding text was Exodus 33: 13 - 15, and that the wedding hymn was "Jesus Lead Thou on". August was aged 23 years, and Louise 21 years at the time of their marriage.

In the early years of their marriage Louise and August probably lived in the original Schubert dwelling with its wattle and daub walls and thatched roof. Schubert's land consisted of 43 acres, stretching like the other original holdings at Langmeil, in a narrow strip eastwards from the North Para River to where the railway line was later built (Part Sections 21 and 37, part Allotment V, Hundred of Moorooroo, County of Light). August also acquired some 64 acres west of the Para River, in the Marananga district, which he used for grazing. This land, Section 287, which he probably purchased from Rothe and had originally been owned by the Fiedler's, Louise's family, held several fine ironstone deposits, and stone was

quarried there from early times. There is also evidence that August bought and sold other parcels of land during his lifetime. August used stone from Section 287 to build a new house, *Pine Home (Fichten Heim)* on his original holding. He built the house in stages, from back to front, and this remained Louise's home until her death.

In early records August is listed as a vine grower. While he grew some grapes for sale, it is known that he ran a small winery on his property, possibly inheriting it from his parents. Initially August manufactured the wine - probably clarets and dry white wines - for his own use; but as production increased he bottled and sold it in wicker-covered demijons of varying capacities, but without a label or distinction. From all accounts his wine became very popular, even rivalling his well-known, and later very successful, contemporaries. August built a three-storied winery at *Pine Home*. The bottom level was a large underground cellar where two rows of hogsheads sat on benches. Above that was a large storeroom (later converted into two living quarters) and a loft.

Despite its success, however, August closed the winery business himself. He felt under a moral obligation when the wives of a number of his customers, several relatives included, persistently complained to him about their husbands' drunkenness. It was not a responsibility he could dismiss lightly, and he subsequently stopped producing wine for sale, although he continued to maintain a vineyard. As their family grew, some of August and Louise's older sons later lived in the old winery. Later still, August made the building available as rental accomodation for poor farmers from the Murray Flats who came to the Barossa Valley looking for work at vintage time. The winery was also used for fruit storage for many years.

August had always grown some fruit on his property, and it was to the orchard trade that he turned after the winery business was closed. August developed an extensive orchard of several acres, growing many varieties of apples and pears, as well as plums, apricots, peaches and figs. The trees near the river developed to a great size, because of the high water table. The success of this business was based on his fruit sales at Kapunda, north of the Barossa, and then at its height as a copper-mining centre. With a covered van and two horses, August carted to Kapunda once or twice a week during the fruit season, January to April, each year. The van would be loaded with kerosene cases of fruit stacked three boxes high, and each trip would take two days. August sold the fruit in private homes and to some shops; he was one of the first Barossa fruit growers to cart to Kapunda, and one of the last to finish.

While he mainly sold fresh fruit, August later purchased a small sulphur box and dried plums, figs and apricots. He also grew and sold some vegetables, including tomatoes and turnips. August went on to develop a mail order service, sending both fresh and dried fruit to Kapunda by train, and to Gulgin's store in the thriving river town of Morgan. Each season August gathered thousands of cases of fruit, storing them in layers in the old winery loft, and in another building which was originally a hayshed. Several of August and Louise's older sons later assisted with the fruit delivery, extending the route to Point Pass, Tarlee and Stockport, an even longer trip, and making deliveries to private farms.

The *Pine Home* property became a prosperous establishment. Apart from the homestead, winery and hayshed, there was an underground cellar and water tank, brick horse stables and a split slab cow shed, most built by August. The homestead, winery and cow shed all fronted onto Langmeil (Bilyarra) Road. The farmyard was completed by "die altestube" (the old room), the original Schubert dwelling, which later served as a workshop and storeroom for many years. The pine trees which became synonymous with the property had been obtained as seedlings from a Kapunda nursery, and planted by August. The rest of the land, not used for orchard, was kept for cropping and grazing, while August also kept cows, pigs and a variety of poultry.

Both August and Louise were devoted and pious members of the Lutheran Church, and like his father, August was to play an important and influential role in the church throughout his life. A man of considerable ability, he was a trustee of the Langmeil Church (probably from 1875) and a member of the Langmeil School Committee (c1873 - 1877). It is possible that he was involved in the joint Langmeil - St. John's Lutheran Sunday School (established 1874); and there is also a record that August and his

brother, Johann Gottlieb (Gottlieb) Schubert, helped build the new St. John's Lutheran Church in Tanunda in 1868, although they were members of Langmeil at that stage.

In about 1884 or 1885 August and Louise did transfer their membership from Langmeil to St. John's. Concerns over their children's christian education, as well as other personal dissatisfactions, led to the subsequent break with the congregation their parents helped to found. In 1884 also, theological questions saw the division of Langmeil and St. John's into separate synods, and a number of people transferred from Langmeil to St. John's. It is possible that the Schuberts left Langmeil at that time; in any event, their decision resulted in considerable and on-going bitterness.

August threw himself into the work at St. John's, a commitment which only ended with his death more than three decades later. He became secretary and spokesman for the new break-away synod, Immanuel a G (Immanuel on the Old Basis), which soon joined with the Victoria Synod to form the General Synod. August regularly attended the South Australian synodical conventions, and it is known that in later years he was a delegate to the Victorian Synod at least once, he and Louise staying with relatives at Murtoa.

August was a trustee of St. John's (from 1886 until his death), an ordained elder, lay reader (25 years), chairman of the congregation, trustee of the Hallett's Valley Cemetery, and superintendent of the Sunday School, another position he held for many years. August donated the ironstone for the new St. John's Sunday School which was dedicated in 1896, his sons Carl Benjamin (Ben) and Paul Anton (Anton) quarrying, dressing and carting the stone. When August was 40, the church seriously considered sending him overseas to study for the ministry. August conducted devotions with his family every morning; and it is remembered that before daybreak on Easter Sunday he would take his family up onto the hill beyond the North Para River. There they would watch the sunrise while he instructed them on the significance of the Resurrection.

August's obituary, written by Pastor J. A. R. Held, appeared in *Der Australische Christenbote*, September 5, 1916. In translation, Pastor Held wrote:

Since it was his greatest desire to increase faith and to plant it in other hearts, so he worked with this in mind. That he often gave cause for criticism with this work was due not so much to what he said, but more to the manner in which he said it. And if he had a number of opponents, that is understandable when one considers that everyone who appears in public has to face a time of crisis and alienation, but especially when he shows slight tendencies to extreme, and thus appears unapproachable...It is to be regretted that these views he held so strongly, by virtue of the authority delegated to him, led to some unpleasantness.

The extent of this alienation and unpleasantness is demonstrated by an incident in 1911. Late in March that year August received an anonymous typed letter from an organisation which called itself "The Yellow Hand Society", informing him that 500 "English pounds" had been offered for his death within six weeks! Although August did not take the matter seriously at first, and other threatening letters were received in the Tanunda district at that time, Louise was in great fear over the letter, and insisted on accompanying August on his fruit deliveries. On one occasion travelling to Kapunda they heard a gun shot in the paddocks, and Louise was terrified, thinking August might be in danger. The family later attributed Louise's early death to the anxiety of this time.

Eventually the Adelaide Police were called in to investigate the matter and the letter was traced to a small faction in St. John's Church which wanted to remove August from his position as trustee. A subsequent disturbance in the congregation led to the resignation of the pastor, Anton Hiller, and August later refused to press charges when the youthful perpetrator of the incident was discovered. Once again August's religious zeal had embroiled him in controversy!

August's talents also manifested themselves in the public sphere. He was active in local affairs, and was widely regarded as an intelligent and capable member of the community. It is on record that he was a member of the District Council of Tanunda sometime before 1890, although this has yet to be

substantiated. He was a co-founder and first vice-chairman of the Tanunda Kranken-Verein, a district medical benefit society established in 1898. Subsequently he was chairman of the Kranken-Verein from 1907 until his death. Several of his sons were also members. August was often consulted for counselling, and in legal matters. He was a signatory to many wills, and often acted as a crown trustee, a position appointed when the original trustee to a will had died. In one record August's political outlook is described as "Inter-colonial Freetrader"!

August was an early member of the Tanunda Town (Brass) Band (also called the Trombone Band in some references). It is known that he was called from the fields to play in the local celebrations which marked the Prussian victory at the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1871 (a "General Jubilee Thank Festival" was held in Tanunda, attended by 6,000 - 8,000 people). It is also believed in the family that August was conductor of the band for a period about 1880. August's B flat cornet (along with a number of other items) was later donated to the Tanunda Museum by his son Leonard Lothar (Lothar). August was a competent writer, in both English and German. He was the Tanunda district correspondent for the German-language newspaper *Australische Zeitung* ("Australian Newspaper"), published in Adelaide by Basedow, Eimer and Co. He also wrote articles for the Lutheran Church paper *Kirchen und Mission Zeitung* (Church and Mission Newspaper).

Within the family August was an amusing orator and poet, writing occasional verse for birthdays and weddings. When Louise turned 60 in 1912 her health was already failing, but a small family celebration was held at *Pine Home*. She was presented with a sofa and a glass-fronted sideboard, while August marked the occasion with a poem recited by different members of the family. Despite the severity of his disposition, and his uncompromisingly German outlook, August was long remembered for his positive characteristics. He and Louise were well known for their hospitality, often entertaining two or three families for dinner on Sundays. Beneath his stern bearing, those of August's grandchildren who lived in the district saw evidence of his ready smile and sense of humour. They remembered for a lifetime the attention he lavished on their birthdays.

Louise's life was not to be a long one. A tiny, thin woman, her constitution had been weakened by 15 pregnancies and almost 25 years of child-bearing (their youngest child, Lothar, was born after their 25th wedding anniversary). Her health gradually deteriorated during the last 11 months of her life and, nursed by her daughters, she suffered from senile dementia, as well as a stomach ailment which resulted in her wasting away. Louise died at Langmeil on February 27, 1913, aged 60 years and six months. She was predeceased by an infant son, August Martin (Martin), and two infant grandsons. She had lived to see four of her children married and the birth of 10 grandchildren (another grandson was born a week after her death); she was survived by her sister Anna Hoff. Louise was buried beside her son Martin in the family plot at Langmeil Lutheran Cemetery on February 29, 1913, Pastor Held officiating. She was followed to her last resting place by a large procession, and a service was held at St. John's Church after the burial. Louise and August had been a loving and devoted couple all their married life, and August was never to recover from his wife's premature death.

In 1914 August initiated the construction of what became Bridge Street, Tanunda, a roadway from Langmeil Road to Murray Street. This road was formed along the boundary of the Schubert property, with August giving a little over half of the road width, and his neighbour, Paul Schmidt, giving the rest. Although the land was transferred to the District Council of Tanunda, the council would not accept it, and build a road, unless a bridge was constructed over the small creek (sometimes referred to as Schlinke's Creek) which cut the new roadway at the Murray Street end. Consequently August and his sons, Walde, Jack, Ossie and Lothar built the original bridge free of cost to the council. Bridge Street was opened as a public roadway in 1915.

In 1914 also August decided to build a new house on his land opposite *Pine Home*, across Langmeil Road. August and his sons dug the foundations and carted the stone, while the house itself, costing 800 pounds, was built by contractors Gus Kleemann (carpenter) and Willy Zander (mason). August and most of his unmarried children moved into the new house, *Traut Heim* ("Cosy Home"), while two sons, Franz Waldemar (Walde) and Johannes (Jack) continued to live at *Pine Home* farming the property on shares for their father. More trees were planted between Langmeil Road and Murray Street during this period, in



order to provide additional fruit for the Kapunda market, as well as grape vines. Walde and Jack also farmed August's property in the Marananga district. August retired from active life in 1915.

August was only to live two and a half years after Louise's death. His health began gradually to fail throughout that time, worsening in the last year of his life when he suffered from a prostate dysfunction. Once more August's name was to be embroiled in controversy. During the last week's of his life Pastor Held was a regular visitor, and had given him homeopathic medicines. The local physician, Dr. F.J.E. Juttner prescribed the use of a catheter to relieve August's bladder, but withdrew from the case when August later refused the catheter, preferring the homeopathic medicine. As a consequence, when August died at Langmeil on August 28, 1916, both Dr. Juttner and a locum tenens at Angaston, Dr Oscar Plotz, who attended August the day before his death, refused to furnish a death certificate.

Subsequently, a coroner's inquiry under J.G.Kelly J.P. met the next day, Tuesday, August 29, and ordered a post mortem examination before proceeding further. Initially the family refused permission for Dr. Juttner to perform the operation, but eventually agreed for him to carry it out at *Traut Heim* under the supervision of an Adelaide surgeon. It is believed that August's funeral, on Wednesday, August 30, was delayed while some of the remains were examined in Adelaide. A gruesome postscript to this unfortunate event occurred after August's funeral. His son, Walther, discovered some of his father's organs in a kerosene tin under a bed in the room where the post mortem examination had been made. These had obviously been overlooked by the surgeon, and were subsequently buried in the garden, their discovery being kept secret from August's daughters.

The adjourned inquiry met again that Wednesday evening, and after hearing the evidence of a number of witnesses, including August's children Jack and Maria Sabina Louise (Lieschen), returned a verdict of death from natural causes. The jury also added the rider that in their opinion no unqualified person should undertake the treatment of patients when a qualified practitioner was available. For August's family, the painful and public nature of their father's death left a lasting legacy!

August had reached the age of 66 years and two months, and died six days after his brother-in-law, Bernard Friedrich Carl Hoff. He was buried with Louise in the Langmeil Cemetery, Pastor Held officiating. Apart from his children, he was survived by 15 grandchildren, his brother Johann Gottlieb Schubert and sister Johanne Louise Wilksch, and various Rothe step-siblings.

August gave building blocks of his land to all his sons, while the unmarried daughters inherited *Traut Heim*. Under the provisions of his will the original *Pine Home* property, the land farmed by Walde and Jack, and the land over the river had to be sold by public auction when Lothar turned 21. Although Walde and Jack wished to buy it, when the land was auctioned on November 24, 1921, the prices mitigated against this (Walde did buy his father's land west of the river). Consequently it was bought in its entirety by Montague William Ellis who let the house out for rent and established a fruit preserving factory there. When Ellis died the house was sold privately, while seven acres of the land was sold to build the Lutheran Rest Home in Bridge Street. The farmyard buildings were dismantled and much of the ironstone was used for garden edging around the rest home.