

Her father, George Wilhelm Lilly, aka George William Lilli, at the age of 59 years old, published two notices, one in the New Munich newspaper & the other in the Mittelfranken newspaper, on 19 May 1860, that he intended to emigrate to Melburn, Illinois, to join Anna. He boarded the ship "Heinrich" at the Port of Bremen, Germany, as a steerage passenger, and arrived at the Port of Baltimore, Maryland, on 4 September 1860. He joined his daughter and her family at Milburn, Lake County, Illinois, as appears from the 1870 United States Federal Census.

His son-in-law, Joseph Roth, had been with the northern armies in the Civil War for three years, and was allowed, as a veteran, to stake out a 160 acre claim. In November of 1871, to this claim, now a part of Section 30, Dale Township, Lyon County, Iowa, Joseph & Anna Roth brought her father, George Lilli, and their two sons and two daughters. One of the daughters, Sarah Theresia Roth Schmidt, was 4 years old at the time. She remembered that the trip from Illinois was made by train, as far as LeMars. An old friend from Illinois, who had come out to Iowa previously, met the pioneers at LeMars and brought them by team and wagon to Lyon County. During the journey from Illinois, she witnessed the great Chicago fire, an event she could still talk about over 80 years later. The family first settled in a sod house and then later moved in with the Fiihr family who had settled in Lyon County, Iowa previously. They lived with the Fiihrs until their own log cabin was built on their homestead.