

Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Edited by Newton Bateman, LL.D. Paul Selby, A.M. and History of Peoria County Edited By David McCulloch. Illustrated. Volume II; Chicago and Peoria: Munsell. Publishing Company Publishers, 1902

Eberhard Godel was born in Feuerbach, Württemberg, Germany, May 26, 1836. **Mr. Godel** came with his mother and younger sister to America in 1850. He was for four years apprenticed to a hatter, learning the trade. In 1854 he came to Peoria with his mother and sister and learned the trade of a butcher, as it was then called, as the business at that time was conducted very differently from the present. He continued with **Charles Breier** in that business for about two years. He then removed to Burlington, Iowa, and engaged in the business of slaughtering and vending meat. From there he went to Monmouth, Illinois, in 1857, engaging in the same business, and in May, 1858, removed to Peoria. After returning to Peoria he engaged in the business of buying and selling stock for about nine years, in which business he was successful and accumulated a sufficient amount to establish him well in business. In 1867 he bought an interest in the firm of **Ullman & Gebhardt**. The firm then became **Godel & Gebhardt**. **Mr. Godel** purchased his partner's interest in the business in 1877, and from that time enlarged and added to it, establishing a pork-packing business in connection with his business of slaughtering and vending meats.

In 1882 his son, **George G.**, entered into partnership with him, the firm name being changed to **E. Godel & Son**. In 1885 **Frank G. Godel** also became a member of the firm, the business being conducted thereafter as **E. Godel & Sons**, which was incorporated in 1888. **Frank G. Godel** is now the only male representative of the family connected with the firm. **Mr. Godel** was a success in his chosen business and became the leading slaughterer and vendor of meats in the city of Peoria, and so continued for many years. He was fairly successful in his business and accumulated a fair fortune, which, with his good name, he left to his family as their inheritance. In 1882 **Mr. Godel** built a brick block on North Adams Street which bears his name, and in which the office and retail department of the business is located. He was recognized as an authority in his business, and always regarded as an honorable, upright, honest dealer. He was a temperate, industrious man and a consistent member of the Methodist Church.

In politics he was a Republican. On June 8, 1857, he was married at Burlington, Iowa, to **Elizabeth Renz**, who was born September 15, 1832, in Liverpool, Perry County, Pennsylvania. Her father **John Renz**, was born in Schoendorf, Württemberg, Germany, June 9, 1782, came to Peoria in 1858 and died the same year. Her mother, **Mary Elizabeth (Smith) Renz**, was born in Liverpool, Perry County, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1804, came to Peoria in 1858 and died in 1880. Seven children were born to **Mr. and Mrs. Godel**: **George G.** (deceased), **Frank G.**, **Henry** (deceased), **Henry E.**, **Albert** (deceased), **Theodore A.** and **Louisa**. **Frank G. Godel** married **Amelia Thieme** in Peoria, in 1883. Six children have been born to them: **Walter**, **Edna**, **Emma**, **Olga**, **Alma** and **Martha** deceased.

Eberhard Godel was killed in the Chatsworth wreck, which occurred on the 10th of August, 1887. **Mr. Godel** was a man of quiet, unostentatious manners, diligent in business, a faithful, devoted friend, honorable and upright in all his dealings. He left an example worthy to be followed by his family, who have so far followed closely in the footsteps of the father.

