

**Benitz, Wende,
McKittrick, Kiley, Kretzer**

Early Doniphan County, Kansas
Families

Janette Anderson Brown

August 2009

Introduction

Family history has always seemed to be a part of my life.

My sisters and I grew up in a small farming community in northeast Kansas. Our parents had also grown up in the area; and grandparents, great-grandparents, and most aunts, uncles, and cousins lived nearby, not only in proximity, but also in involvement. Family members often visited together, sometimes stayed for several days or more (especially in earlier years), helped each other in farming/ homemaking activities, and shared important family events, school, and church activities together.

Several sets of double cousins were in our families. In the early 1900s and before, when transportation was not as convenient and speedy as it is now, it was common for young people to marry someone living nearby. When brothers and sisters from different families married, their children were “double cousins”—they shared the same two sets of grandparents—and even closer family ties.

Sunday was the day of rest, and families regularly shared Sunday dinner together after church, sometimes at a park/playground. Big extended family reunions were held yearly with the Anderson/Lieneman families and not as often with the Benitz families. Those reunions were usually on hot summer Sunday afternoon, with everyone bringing food (and their own tableware—no disposables then) to share. Early reunions were at a family home; later, when the families had expanded, the reunions were at one of the churches, such as Christ Lutheran near Wathena, or at a county lake, such as the Hiawatha Lake. While adults were readying the food for serving, the children ran around playing and getting reacquainted. After dinner, when the families’ births, weddings, and deaths in the past year were announced, there was plenty of time for more playing, visiting (especially for older family members and mothers of young children), and often a ball game for any men, women, or younger ones wanting to participate. Adults kept an eye out for the safety of all the little ones, and those reunions provided many happy memories.

So we grew up with the privilege of knowing of our first cousins and many extended cousins, and participating when the families were together for births, baptisms, graduations, marriages, deaths, and other important life events. Our parents, grandparents, and other relatives shared with us family connections and stories, and where everyone “fit in” on the family trees. There was an interest in—and also some accountability to—many families and individuals other than just our immediate family. It was a good thing to know family stories and how everyone was connected!

Inevitably, however, there weren’t as many people left who knew and could tell those original family stories first- or second-hand. Families were becoming more scattered. Earlier family members had recorded a few things, but other also interesting and important stories were gradually disappearing, and it would become more difficult, if not impossible, for upcoming generations to be able to appreciate the strength and the lives of those who lived, worked, and cared for their families in earlier years.

In the late 1970s, I began talking more intentionally with my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members about family history and stories, with the goal of writing it in a reasonably clear, concise manner to share with our families. Little did I know then (probably fortunately), how much wonderful family information was available; how challenging I’d find it to write it in a manner I felt was easily understandable, hopefully interesting(!), and as accurate as possible; or that it would be decades before I was close to my original goal of sharing all those written family stories with other family members, as well as my own children—who are now mostly launched and on their own!

The final two parts of our Family Histories—the Kiley/Kretzer connection, and the Benitz/Wende connection—are written primarily from the earlier information gathered about our families' first generations in America. Included are my handwritten family group records which helped organize the family information, and the family line graphs that help quickly locate where individuals are located in their families.

Pictures—many not as clear as I wish—are also included in these family histories. My great-grandparents are Peter and Mary (Kiley) McKittrick, and Albert and Mary (Wende) Benitz; consequently many photos are of those families. The pictures are included to give a representation of our extended families, and the times in which they lived. Undoubtedly, each person reading this has access to old pictures of their own families that can be added to their family history information.

Much gratitude and love goes to Dorothy Benitz Anderson, who was instrumental in helping me gather most of the family information. Her knowledge of family historians and resources was invaluable; and her encouragement and patience—including helping me research dusty records at the Doniphan County Courthouse—provided much support in the Family History projects.

There's much more information available now, especially through Internet resources. Already, a Benitz cousin, Beth Harkins Shields has begun recording an amazing amount of family information on the Ancestry.com website, which is more accessible and manageable than handwritten records. However, I'm content now to share this older information gathered, with the hope it may provide clues for those wishing to do more research; and especially with the hope that it will further enhance an appreciation for how our families are still blessed by the strength and courage of those family members who came before us.

May these pages help remind each one of us that we are part of something greater and more important than just our individual selves.

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August 2009



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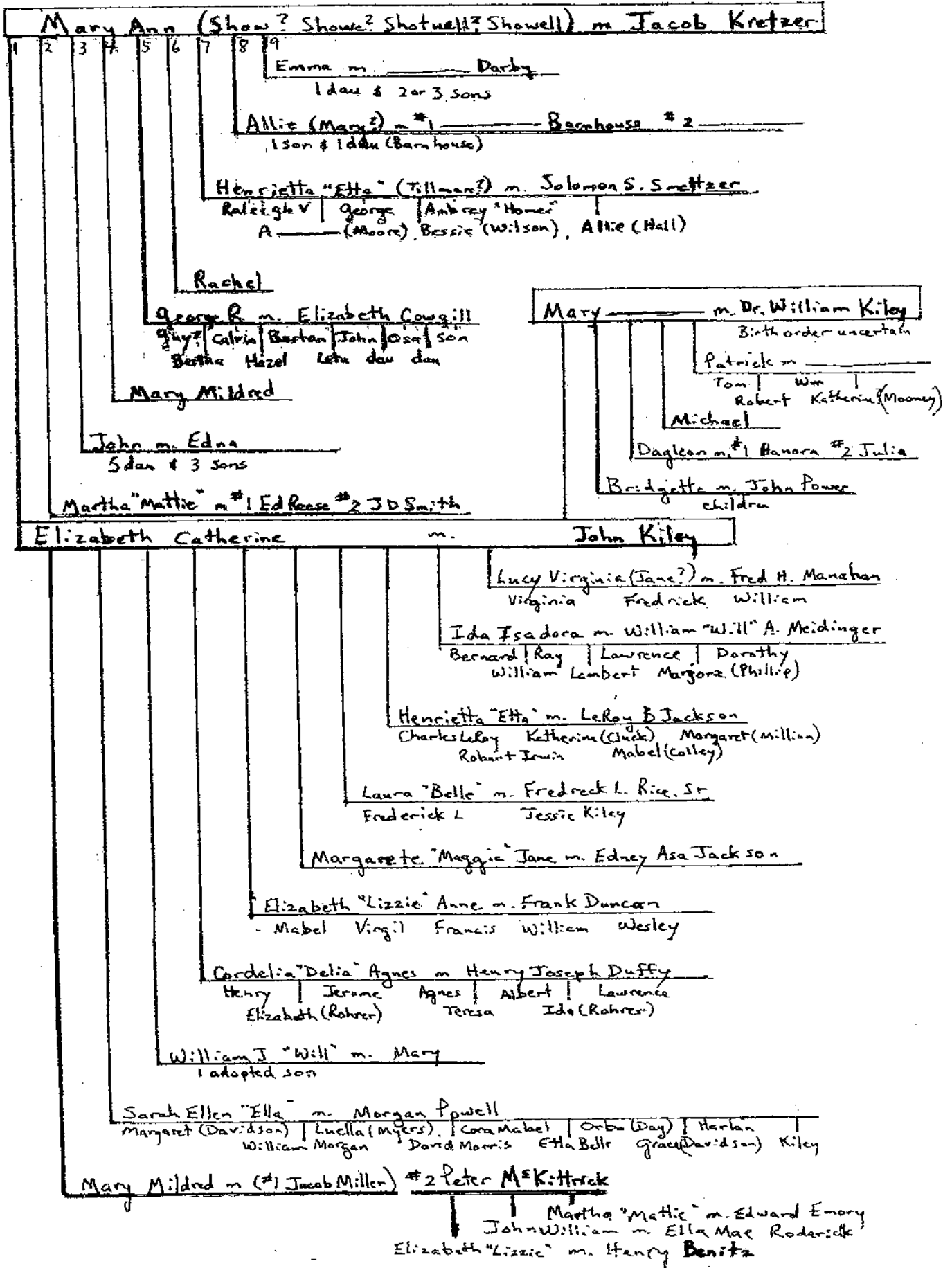
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Kretzer and Kiley Families



KRETZER and KILEY FAMILIES

Our Kretzer and Kiley families came to America during the challenging and exciting times of establishing a new country (in the case of the Kretzer branch), and at the time of western expansion (the Kiley's and McKittricks). They are believed to have emigrated from Europe to Pennsylvania and Virginia before the 1861 Civil War, and perhaps the 1776 Revolutionary War, started. Information about our earliest immigrants is yet to be discovered.

It is known that in 1852, Elizabeth Kretzer married John Kiley in Virginia. From Virginia, in the mid-1850s, the Kretzers and Kiley's traveled to the newly opened Kansas Territory. They were among the people following the ideal and dream of the American way of living as self-reliant, thrifty, honest, and energetic individuals.

This three-generation section of family history is about those families who are **Elizabeth "Lizzie" McKittrick Benitz's** 1) mother, 2) maternal grandparents and 3) great-grandparents:

- 1) **Lizzie McKittrick Benitz's mother: Mary Mildred Kiley Miller McKittrick, who married Peter McKittrick.** (*Peter McKittrick's family history is in the May 2003 booklet "McKittrick, Early American Families from Ireland."*)
- 2) **Mary...Kiley...McKittrick's parents: John Kiley and Elizabeth Catherine Kretzer Kiley.**
- 3a) **John Kiley's parents: Dr. William and Mary Kiley** (or possibly Kiely); they didn't leave Ireland.
- 3b) **Elizabeth...Kretzer Kiley's parents: Jacob and Mary Ann Show** (or possibly Showe, Showell, or Shotwell) **Kretzer.**

Much of the following Kretzer and Kiley family information is from Morgan Powell's family research prior to his July 1978 death. Morgan Powell was a Kiley cousin of Lizzie McKittrick Benitz, and generously shared the Kiley and Kretzer family information he'd gathered; in this Kretzer & Kiley family history, Morgan Powell's information is in this "Georgia" font. Laura Duffy Gipson, another Kiley relative, provided information through her beautifully illustrated family book, "The Doniphan Duffys;" and Mabel Jackson Colley, another Kiley relative, cheerfully shared her extensive collection of newspaper clippings about the Kretzer and Kiley families. To better understand the world and first years of our nation in which our early families lived, brief information about those times is also provided.

Kretzer family

The Kretzer family of Virginia is the first known American relatives. Morgan Powell said his mother, Sarah Ellen Kiley Powell, always claimed to be Pennsylvania-Dutch on her mother's Kretzer side. It is believed the Kretzer family was among the 40,000 people who emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania in late 1600s and early 1700s, when colonial America was being settled by European immigrants.

Pennsylvania Dutch Background

The term, "Pennsylvania-Dutch," refers to the American culture and language which grew from a combination of Palatinate German and English cultures and words. Original German settlers to Pennsylvania became known as the Pennsylvania Dutch people, probably because "Deutsch" (the German word for German) was often misunderstood and mispronounced in America. However, a Wikipedia internet encyclopedia source claims the term "Dutch" owes its origin to an

archaic meaning where the Dutch people were generally regarded as one of several German groups.

The Pennsylvania Dutch people, once called Palatineates or Palatines, are descendents of German immigrants who came to Pennsylvania before 1800. They originated from the Rhineland-Palatinate district in central southwest Germany near current Wiesbaden. The beautiful area had once been quite rich and productive. However, after many years of European battles across the German lands in the 1600s, the region was plagued by depression, crop failure, famine, and high taxes. By the early 1700s, French expansionism forced many Palatineates to flee as refugees.

In the late 1600s, William Penn had traveled through the Rhineland area telling of the wonderful opportunities overseas in his new American colony where people could settle and live together in peace. Penn was an English-born Quaker who wanted to settle his North American colony of Pennsylvania; he encouraged non-English settlers, especially farmers and artisans from Germany who were Pietists with religious views similar to Quakers. Soon Germans from the Rhineland-Palatinate area, mostly poor farmers, were among the immigrants taking the risky long voyage across the Atlantic completely at the mercy of the winds and the ship's crew. They poured into the Pennsylvania colony around Philadelphia, the town of "brotherly love," with its easy ocean access through the Delaware Bay. Germantown was established a few miles north of Philadelphia.

Wikipedia provides information about German immigrants: The first emigration of Germans to America resulted in the founding of the Borough of Germantown in northwest Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania in 1683-1685. Mass emigration of Palatines began out of Germany in the 1700s. In the spring of 1709, (England's) Queen Anne granted refuge to about 7,000 Palatines who had sailed the Rhine (River) to Rotterdam (Holland). From there, about 3000 were sent to America either directly, or through England, bound for William Penn's colony. The remaining refugees were sent to Ireland to strengthen the Protestant presence in the county. By 1710, large groups of Palatines had sailed from London, the last group of which was bound for New York. There were 3200 Palatines on 12 ships that sailed for New York; approximately 470 (15%) died en route to America. In New York, under the new Governor, Robert Hunter, Palatines worked for British authorities and produced tar and pitch for the Royal Navy in return for their safe passage. They also served as a buffer between the French and Natives on the frontier and the English colonies. In 1723, some 33 Palatine families, dissatisfied under Governor Hunter's rule, migrated from New York to Pennsylvania where other Palatines had settled. Although most Germans moved away from the cities, some stayed in the cities like Philadelphia marrying mostly Irish and Germans.

Around 1730, Pennsylvania Dutch immigrants began leaving the Philadelphia area for the western edge of American settlement where land was undeveloped and cheap. They traveled across the Blue Ridge Mountains into the fertile Shenandoah Valley of Berkley and Jefferson counties in Virginia, near present day Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. (*West Virginia separated from Virginia after Virginia seceded from the Union prior to the 1861-1865 Civil War.*) Harpers Ferry is located where the Potomac River flows through the Blue Ridge Mountains; since travel by water was one of the better methods of travel for early settlers, that area was a logical area for seeking a better way of life. (*Additional information about Harper's Ferry: Robert Harper settled there in 1747, and established a ferry across the Potomac River. Harper's Ferry was one of the first sites of hostility in the Civil War, when John Brown, in 1857, seized the US arsenal located there. In 1796, President George Washington had chosen the strategically located Harper's Ferry area as the site for the US arsenal and army.*)

American Westward Expansion

After the Revolution ended in 1783, the American frontier extended past the Appalachian Mountains into the Mississippi Valley and beyond; King George III of England had previously barred that expansion. There were opportunities for everyone from rich to poor, and people were eager to enter the new frontier.

Construction began on the National Highway in 1811; it was also known as the Cumberland Road, as it began in Cumberland, Maryland. Eventually the road went through West Virginia to Wheeling on the Ohio River, and on through Ohio and Indiana before construction ended in Vandalia, Illinois in 1852 because of the increasing importance of railroads in the westward migration. Perhaps the Kretzer and Kiley families used part of that road on their journey to Kansas.

Kretzer Family Information

It is not known when the Kretzers came to America; however the name does appear in early records. There are two known early mentions of the name Kretzer in Virginia records: Records of the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) show: James A Kretzer, a private from Berkley County; and the book Historic Shepherdstown by Danske Dandridge, lists on page 139 "Kretzer, James A. A private in the Revolution from Shepherdstown," and on page 243, quoting a column in the Charlestown Free Press, "Shepherdstown in the Olden Time," dated 29 Jan 1850: James Kretzer is listed as a private in the Continental Army.

The 1840 census (The first American census was taken in 1790.) for Jefferson County, Virginia, lists a Henry Kretzer family with the following members and their ages: 1 male 70-80, 1 male 40-50, 1 male 20-30, 1 female 70-80, 1 female 15-20. Possibly this was Jacob Kretzer's family; however that has not been confirmed. (Remember, census records are only as accurate as the information given, and as written by the best of the census takers' ability to write and to locate people. Many people in newly settled areas or back county were probably missed.)

Jacob Kretzer

Family records list Jacob Kretzer's birth date as 1811, so he would have been 29 when the 1840 census was taken; however his name first shows up in the 1850 census for Jefferson County, when the family is listed as having seven children—although their ages were incorrect: Elizabeth (m. Kiley), Martha "Mattie" (m. Reese, Smith), John, Mary M., George, Rachel, and Henrietta "Ettie" (m. Smeltzer). The census record lists Rachel and George's ages the same—it is not known if they were twins. Two more daughters, Allie (M. Barnhouse) and Emma (m. Darby) were born after the 1850 census. (More details about the family are provided in the Kretzer family group chart.)

Little is known of Jacob Kretzers's wife Mary Ann(e) Show (or Showe or Showell), and her parents. Mary Ann's birth date is listed as 1813. The 1840 Jefferson County, Virginia, census shows a George Showe family living in the same area as the Henry Kretzer family. The Showe family listed: male 50-60, male 15-20, female 40-50, and two females 15-20. It's not known if this family was related to Mary Ann, who would have been about 27 in 1840. Until further records are located, we are left wondering if Jacob and Mary Ann were born in America, or if they, with their families, immigrated later, perhaps after hearing about the opportunities from relatives or friends who came to America earlier.

The following is known from family records: Jacob Kretzer was born in 1811, probably in Virginia. He married Mary Ann Show/Showe/Showell, probably about 1834 or 35, but the marriage record has not yet been located. It is believed that they had the nine children previously listed; birthdates and places are known for some of the children: Elizabeth Catherine (Kiley) was born 26 Aug 1836 at Shepherdstown, Berkley County, Virginia. Martha ((Reese, Smith) was born 12 June 1838; Mary Mildred was probably born in 1842, died young, and was buried in Virginia. George was born 19 Jan 1845 in Jefferson County, Virginia; and Henrietta was born 1847 at Hagerstown, Maryland.

Jacob and Mary Ann Kretzer and their family immigrated to Kansas before the Civil War, possibly about 1854 or 1855, when their daughter, young Elizabeth Catherine Kretzer Kiley came to Kansas to join her husband John Kiley, who had come earlier to file for homestead land. Apparently, after moving to Kansas, the families keep in contact with people from their West Virginia home: a son, George Kretzer, served with the Co. G 54 Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers from August 1863 to May 1865 during the Civil War, was living at Troy Junction, Kansas in 1871, married Elizabeth Cowgill in West Virginia in 1877, and then returned to northeastern Kansas.

Jacob and Mary Ann farmed and lived the rest of their lives in Kansas. (It is not known if they homesteaded land.) Mary Ann died in 1875; and Jacob, after many months of feeble health, died 22 Sept 1877; both are buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery, Troy, Kansas.

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ **Husband's Full Name** Jacob Kretzer

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband	
1) Records of Morgan Powell 1978 with info from Lizzie McK. Hrick Benitz	Birth	18	Feb	1811		?? Jefferson Co?	Virginia	The 1840 Jefferson Co Census lists a Henry Kretzer family - ?	
2) Obituaries & News articles	Death	22	Sept	1877				?	
Notes: Shepherds town, Virginia is near historic Harper's Ferry, in the far eastern part of what is now West Virginia which separated from Virginia during the Civil War. (1861-5)	Burial	"Sunday"			(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	Jacob's parents?	
	Places of Residence	Virginia; Kansas		Education					
	Occupation	Farmer		Church Affiliation		Prot. Meth Military Rec.			
	Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.								
	His Father	?? Henry ??		Mother's Maiden Name					
	Wife's Full Maiden Name <u>Mary Ann Show (Showe, Showell)</u> ^{Shotwell}								
	Wife's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife	
	Birth			1813				The 1840 Jefferson Co. Virginia census lists a George Showe Family - ?	
	Chr'nd								
	Death			1875					
	Burial				(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	Mary Ann's parent?	
Compiler <u>Janeth Anderson Brown</u>	Places of Residence	Virginia; Kansas		Education					
Address	Occupation	Homemaker / Farmer		Church Affiliation Prot. Meth					
City, State	Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.								
Date <u>1990's / 2009</u>	Her Father	?? George ??		Mother's Maiden Name					
Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
F	1 Elizabeth Catherine Full Name of Spouse John Kiley	Birth	26	Aug	1836	Shepherds town	Berkley?	Virginia	Mary (McK. Hrick) Sarah Ellen (Powell)
		Mar.	10	June	1852	Harper's Ferry		Virginia	3/Will 4/ Cordelia
		Death	1	Aug	1925	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	(Duffy) 5/ "Lizzie"
		Burial	4	Aug	1925	(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	(Duncan) 6/ "Maggie"
		Occupation	Homemaker / Farmer		Education				
		Children, cont	7/ (Jackson) 8/ "Belle" (Rice) 9/ "Etta" (Jackson) 10/ Ida (Meidinger) 11/ Lucy (manahan)						
F	2 Martha "Mattie" Full Name of Spouse #1 Ed Reese #2 J. D. Smith	Birth	12	June	1839				No children
		Mar.							
		Death	18	Nov	1898				
		Burial							
		Occupation			Education				
		Was living in Atchison, Ks in 1858 & running a boarding house.							
M	3 John Full Name of Spouse Edna	Birth			? 1840				5 daughters & 3 sons
		Mar.							
		Death	13	April	1905	Firth		Nebraska	
		Burial			Firth		Nebraska		
		Occupation			Education				
F	4 Mary Mildred Full Name of Spouse	Birth			? 1842				
		Mar.							
		Death	"young"						
		Burial					Virginia		
		Occupation			Education				
		Died before family came to Kansas.							
M	5 George R Full Name of Spouse Elizabeth Cowgill long time residents of Mayberry, NE	Birth	19	Jan	1845	Jefferson		Virginia	6 sons: 9 girls, Calvin, Burton, John, Osa, ? 5 Daughters: Bertha, Hazel, Leta, ?, ?
		Mar.			1877			West Virginia	
		Death	26	July	1912	Independence		Kansas	
		Burial	28	July	1912	(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Occupation			Education				
		Was living at Troy Junction, Kansas in 1871. Served with Co. G, 54th							

Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers from Aug 1863 to May 1865 during Civil War
 This Jacob & Mary Ann Kretzer family very possibly came from the Pennsylvania-Dutch (german) families that moved to Virginia about 1730.
 Jacob & Mary Ann emigrated to Kansas before the Civil War, possibly in 1854 when Kansas was opened to settlement: 24. Mar. 1854.

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name Jacob Kretzer

This Information Obtained From:		Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
		Birth			1811				
		Chr'nd							
		Mar.							
		Death			1877				
		Burial				Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Places of Residence			Education				
		Occupation			Church Affiliation			Military Rec.	

Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.
 His Father _____ Mother's Maiden Name _____

Wife's Full Maiden Name Mary Ann Show (Shotwell Showe, Showell)

Wife's Date		Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth				1813				
Chr'nd								
Death				1875				
Burial					Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	

Compiler Janette Anderson Brown
 Address _____
 City, State _____
 Date 1990; 2009
 Her Father _____ Mother's Maiden Name _____

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
F	<u>6 Rachel</u> Full Name of Spouse	Birth			?? 1845??	Mentioned only in 1850 census for Jefferson Co., Virginia, with same age as George. Twin?			
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation	Education						

F	<u>7* Henrietta "Ettie" Tillman</u> Full Name of Spouse Soloman S. Smeltzer (died before 1918 when Ettie moved to Kansas City)	Birth	14 Feb	1847	Hagerstown		Maryland	3-4 sons: Raleigh V. W. Virginia	
		Mar.			Westminister		W. Virginia	George & Aubrey Homer	
		Death	18 April	1929	Kansas City			2-3 dau: A. (Moore)	
		Burial	20 April	1929	(Mt Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	Bessie (W. Hon)	
		Occupation	Education						

Came to Troy Junction in 1878, then to ^{Fable Rock} Steinauer, NE, then Plains, Ks. where husband died

F	<u>8? Allie</u> Full Name of Spouse #1 Barnhouse #2	Birth						1 son & 1 dau (Barnhouse)	
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation	Wyoming Education						

Buried in Wyo.

F	<u>9? Emma</u> Full Name of Spouse Darby	Birth						1 dau & 2-3 Sons	
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation	Education						

Living in Colo when last heard of

	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation	Education						

* Ettie Schmelzter's obit. suggests she didn't come to Troy Junction, Ks until after she and Soloman were married. Soloman died "in the Plains"

Kretzer relatives

[Elizabeth Kretzer (b 1836) m. John Kiley]



(John Kretzer and Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley) brother & sister

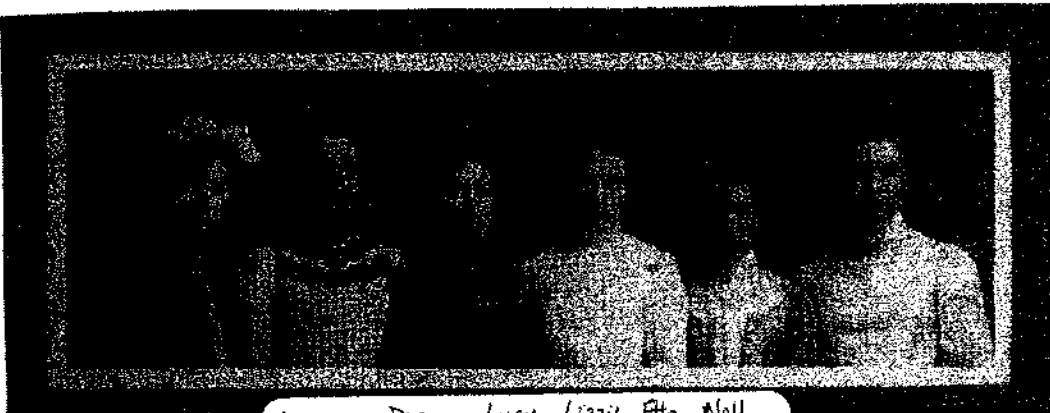
Uncle John & Aunt Mary Kretzer family
 Standing: George, Frank, Minnie, Nell
 Seated: Harry, Uncle John, Ida, Aunt Mary, Dora
 Grandma Kiley's brother's family



Cousins:
 Standing: Ida Kiley, Minnie, Nell, Dora, Harry Kretzer
 Seated: George Kretzer, Lucy Kiley, Frank Kretzer
 Grandma Kiley's brother's children



Mattie MSK Hrick
 Belle Smith
 taken Aug 18, 1910



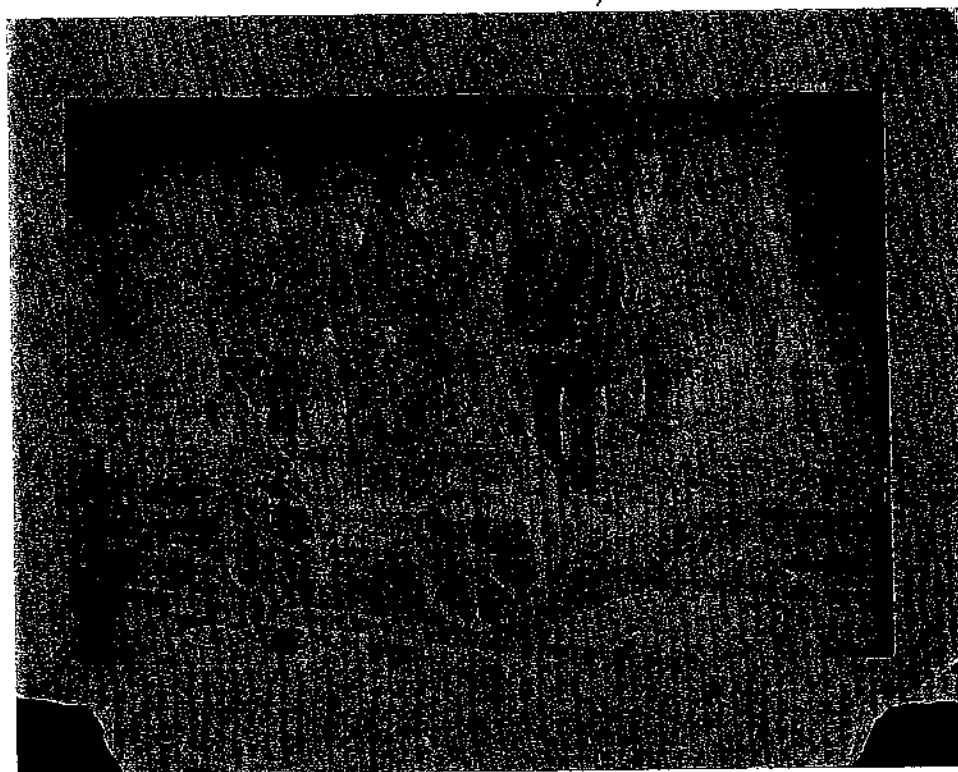
Lizzie, Dora, Lucy, Lizzie, Etta, Nell
 MSK Hrick Kretzer Kiley, Duffy Kiley, Kretzer.
 Age 26 + 20
 Taken by W.C. Howard, Troy, Kans K-K, p 7



the Iron Elevator

grandpa McKittricks

Section crew at Troy
Ed Reese m. Mattie Krotzer,
Sister of Elizabeth Kiley



Kiley (Keily) family

It's been challenging gathering information about the original Kiley family members that emigrated from Ireland to America. Records located thus far have been sparse and sometimes confusing—several newspaper articles (some with known errors), a Civil War letter, an obituary for Dagleon Kiley, and Doniphan county Register of Deeds records. Some older records have the last name spelled Keily, however “Kiley” seems to be the spelling that prevailed, so it is used in this history.

In the 1960s or 70s, Lizzie McKittrick Benitz wrote a note about the Kiley family, perhaps in response to an information request when her Kiley cousins were gathering family history information. Some of the information from that interesting hand-written note is included in this history; a copy of the entire note—in her good school-teacher writing—is included.

Most information available suggests that the Kiley family was from Dungarvan Gates-Old Parish, County Waterford, Ireland. Dungarvan is a seaside town located by Dungarvan Harbor on the southeast section of Ireland. It is across the St. George's Channel from Wales and England. Peasants from west England, Scotland, and Wales had immigrated to the area in the 1100s; however, Irish is the native tongue in County Waterford. (Lizzie McKittrick Benitz claimed her background was Irish, a little Welsh, and German.)

The Kiley parents' names are believed to be Dr. William and Mary Kiley, and there are five known siblings in the family; four brothers—Patrick, Michael, John, and Dagleon (Daglin) (Deglin); and one sister, Bridgette, believed to have married a John Powers. It is not known what the family's occupation was. More details about the family are provided in the William Kiley family group chart.

The four brothers are believed to have come to Virginia about 1851-2 at the end of the Great Potato Famine which lasted from 1846 to 1851, when more than a million Irish people emigrated overseas. It is not known if they if the Kiley brothers immigrated voluntarily after hearing about American opportunities, or were among the Irish tenant farmers who were evicted from their small farms, and virtually deported by distant English landlords. Some of the ships that sailed with those Irish immigrants had an extremely high death rate.

The Kiley family may have had more resources than some during the Great Famine; Dagleon's September 1914 obituary lists his father as *Dr. John Kiley*. However, the parents apparently died some time before the Great Famine, as Dagleon's obituary in the *Troy Chief* stated, "*He (Dagleon) was left an orphan when very young. His mother, Mary Kiley, died when he was but a month old. His father, Dr. Wm Kiley, died when he was 5 years old. He was raised by his cousin, Miss Hanna Whalen. Mr. Kiley lived in Ireland till the age of 18 then drought and starvation set in and he came to Virginia, where he lived four years, then moving to St. Joseph, where he lived til 1906. Since that time he has made his home with his niece, Mrs. (P.J.) McKittrick. ...He was stricken with paralysis August 11, and was helpless til the time of his death. He (Dagleon) was the youngest of five children all now dead. The late John Kiley, who died in 1906, was his youngest brother.*" The obituary also states Dagleon Kiley "*was born August 15, 1824 at Dungarvin, Gates Old Parish, Waterford Co. Ireland.*" If that date was correct, and Dagleon immigrated to Virginia when he was 18 years old, he would have immigrated in 1842, which was *before* the Great Potato Famine. Perhaps Dagleon's birth year was 1834.

It is not known if all four brothers came at the same time, or separately. However, one of the brothers, John married Elizabeth Kretzer 10 June 1852, and left for Kansas Territory in January 1854. Deglin may have come to America between that time, and when John's wife, Elizabeth left in June 1854 to join her husband on their Doniphan County farm: Although the dates don't concur with the obituary information, Lizzie McKittrick Benitz's note states, "Deglin, *who in the meantime had come to America*, came with her (Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley), and settled in St. Joe—always worked on the section (railroad) as far as I know."

Regarding the occupations and marriage status of the Kiley brothers: Railroads were greatly expanding across Kansas and the nation at that time, and Deglin apparently was a railroad section crew worker. John was a farmer, as it is known that John Kiley, with his wife Elizabeth, homesteaded in northeast Kansas in what is now Doniphan County. His brothers farmed on a place near John and Elizabeth's homestead. They later moved away to different locations in Kansas and Missouri. All were married (*See following paragraph*); Dagleon twice, but they had no children. It is uncertain whether Bridget came to America, although there is some evidence to indicate that she might have. John Kiley had only one son, who in turn had no children, although he adopted a son.

Lizzie McKittrick Benitz also thought the brothers owned a farm near John's homestead at one time, although they eventually seemed to live in nearby St. Joseph, Missouri. Of the four Kiley brothers, "Lizzie" thought only her grandfather, John, and Dagleon married: "Daglin was married twice, but had no children. His first wife's name was Hanora. She was typically Irish as was the Kiley family. After she died, he married again; her name was Julia.....they raised a boy...he may have been her boy...he went by the name of Frank Kiley."

It's believed that at least Michael Kiley served in the Civil War. Lizzie McKittrick Benitz saved a letter sent from Michael to John Kiley in June 1863, which indicates Michael was in Arkansas serving in the Civil War; a copy of the letter is included. Michael's occupation after the war is unknown.

For some time, it was thought that a Patrick H. Kiley, who died in St. Joseph in 1917, was the brother to Michael, John, Dagleon Kiley and Bridgette Keily Power. However, that has to be an error as Patrick H. Kiley was reported being 66 years old in 1917, which would have made his birth year around 1851---about the time the four Kiley brothers immigrated to America from Ireland. It is not known if or how Patrick H. Kiley was related to the four brothers who immigrated to America.

Records from the Doniphan County Register of Deeds show that (the brother) Patrick Keily evidently died prior to 1859, which would have been a few years after the brothers are believed to have moved to Doniphan County. Patrick most likely immigrated to Doniphan County, Kansas Territory, and had at least partial ownership of a quarter section of land near John and Elizabeth (Kretzer) Kiley's farm prior to his death. A handwritten document in the Doniphan County Register of Deeds office dated **18 Oct 1859** includes the following:

*By Bridget Power, widow of County Waterford living at Gates in the old Parish and Barony of ?Deisis? within Dunn in the County of Waterford sister to **Patrick Keily**, deceased, who lived in America for nine years and received a letter from my Brother **John Keily**, who is now living in America, that my said Brother, Patrick died without making a will, and that I am entitled to a portion of his property. I hereby further most solemnly declare that I am only sister of the aforesaid Patrick Keily, deceased and do consent and agree that my aforesaid brother John Keily, shall sell out to the best advantage my proportion of the property left by my said brother Patrick Keily for my use and benefit. And I make this*

solemn declaration _____ believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provision of and _____ passed the 6th year of the Reign of his late Majesty King William the 4th chapter 62 for the abolition of the unecessar_____, Signed Bridget Power. Made and subscribed before us this **18th day of October? 1859.** Deposited for the record in Doniphan County, Kansas Territory on **20 Feb 1860.**

Also in the Register of Deeds' records, there is a document, dated **13 Feb 1860**, between **Michael Keily, John Keily, Dieglan Keily, Elizabeth Keily, wife of John Keily, and Hanora? Keily, wife of Dieglan Keily;** and Louis ?Wamburg? all of the County of Doniphan and Territory of Kansas; selling to Louis Wamburg for \$600, the Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty six in Township Three of Range Twenty one East. (Note: Each woman was "examined separate and apart from her husband to verify the sale was her own decision without compulsion or under influence of her husband.") (This document was notarized on **14 Feb 1860** in the State of Missouri, County of Buchanan, where St. Joseph is located; and deposited for Record in Doniphan County, Kansas Territory on **20 Feb 1860.**)

Michael Kiley is believed to have died 10 Jan 1905, and is buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri. John Kiley died 17 Sept 1906, and is buried at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Troy, Kansas. Dagleon Kiley died 26 Sept 1914, and is buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri. No information has been found on Bridgette Kiley Power.

Wills of Michael and Dagleon Kiley, which Laura Gipson originally obtained, showed: Michael Kiley willed the bulk of his estate to Dagleon Kiley with bequests of \$1 to his brother John and to his sister Bridget Power, wife of John Power—the will was proved 17 Jan 1873. Dagleon Kiley willed the bulk of his estate to Mary McKittrick with mention of his other nieces and nephew. There is no mention of Patrick in either of those wills.

* Dr. Wm. Kiley Family information very incomplete.

FAMILY GROUP No.		Husband's Full Name <u>Dr. William Kiley* (Kiely)</u>								
This Information Obtained From:		Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband	
Lizzie M ^s Kittick Benitz		Birth								
Newsclippings from Mabel Jackson Colley		Chr'd								
St. Joseph newspaper & public records		Mar.								
		Death								
		Burial			1829			Ireland		
		Places of Residence	Ireland				Education			
		Occupation					Church Affiliation			
		Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.								
		His Father			Mother's Maiden Name					
		Wife's Full Maiden Name <u>Mary</u>								
		Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife	
		Birth								
		Chr'd								
		Death			1824?			Ireland		
		Burial								
Compiler <u>Janette Anderson Brown</u>		Places of Residence			Ireland					
Address		Occupation			Church Affiliation					
City, State		Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.								
Date <u>1992 / 2009</u>		Her Father			Mother's Maiden Name					
Sex	Children's Names in Full & Arranged in order of birth	Order unknown	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
M	John Full Name of Spouse m. Eliz Kretzer		Birth	15	May	1829	Dungarvin, Gates Old Parish, Waterford Co.		Ireland	1) Mary (MS Kittick) 2) Ellen (Powell)
			Mar.	16	June	1852	Harper's Ferry	Jefferson	Virginia	3) Wm. "Della" Duffy
			Death	17	Sept	1906	Troy	Daniphan	Kansas	4) Lizzie Duncan
			Burial	18	Sept	1906	(Mt. Olivet) Troy	Daniphan	Kansas	5) Maggie Jackson
			Occupation	Farmer			Education			7) "Bell" Rice 8) Etta Jackson 9) Edna Meidinger 10) Lucy Menchen
F	Bridget Full Name of Spouse m. John Power		Birth						Ireland	yes
			Mar.						Ireland	
			Death							
			Burial							
			Occupation	? Remained in Ireland?			Education			
M	Daglean (Daglin?) Full Name of Spouse #1 Hanora Grady d. 3 May 1859 #2 Julia (not mentioned in obit)		Birth	15	Aug	1824?	Dungarvin, Gates Old Parish, Waterford Co.		Ireland	?
			Mar.	10	Jan	1858				(Raised by cousin, Miss Hannah Whalen)
			Death	26	Sept	1914	Troy	Daniphan	Kansas	
			Burial	28	Sept	1914	(Mt. Olivet) St. Joseph	Buchanan	Kansas	
			Occupation	Worked on railroad section crew			Education			
			?(mother) Mary died when Daglean 1 month old. Dr. Wm. died when Daglean 5							
M	Michael R Full Name of Spouse ? Not married?		Birth						Ireland	
			Mar.							
			Death	10	Jan	1905				
			Burial	12	Jan	1905	(Mt. Olivet) St. Joseph	Buchanan	Kansas	
			Occupation	Served in Civil War with 35 th Mo volunteer company in Helena Arkansas			Education			
M	Patrick H Full Name of Spouse * Inaccurate date -> This person not a sibling to the above children. * Patrick Kiley who was a sibling to Daglean, John, Michael, and Bridget died before 1859, probably in Daniphan County, Kansas Territory		Birth			? 1851			Ireland	1) Tom 2) Robert 3) William 4) Mrs. Wm. Mooney ? Katherine Lind in Wash. Me. Tenn.
			Mar.							
			Death	14	May	1917	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
			Burial	16	May	1917	(Mt. Olivet) St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
			Occupation	Died at son Tom's home 116 Fauran St. St. Joseph, MO			Education			
			Notes: Katherine Kiley Mooney bought Lot 103 Mt. Olivet Cemetery 13 Nov 1850 - There is a Rev. D Kiley buried in 1929 - Related? Daglin's obituary said he was "youngest of 5 children" Daglan & Julia raised a boy (born about 1850 or earlier) - called Frank Kiley - maybe Julia's son. They lived in St. Joseph. Daglin's estate went primarily to Mary M ^s Kittick. Michael's estate went to Daglin with #1 to John and Bridget							

as far as I know the Kiley family consisted of four boys (John my grandfather) Michel, Patrick & Deglin and one girl Bridget, all born in Ireland. The four boys came to America but Bridget didn't. She married & stayed in Ireland - I don't know what her name was but she had some children - I don't know how many - heard my grandfather speak of her often. Patrick & Michel never married that I know of - I never remembered them - all I know is what I have heard said about them. At one time they owned the Frank Loroff place - so I think - probably took it as a claim - as my grandfather did the old Kiley place. From this letter Michel fought in the Civil War but I don't know about Patrick. I never heard that either of them ever married - they probably are buried in St Joe unless they were killed during the Civil War. Deglin was married twice but had no children. His first wife's name was Hanora she was typically Irish as was the Kiley family. After she died he married again - her name was Julia I don't know the last names of either of them. They raised a boy - if living I think he would be about my age - maybe older. He may have been her boy - I don't know - but he went by the name of Frank Kiley. Last I heard of him he was living in

St Joe but that has been a good many years ago.

Grandpa + Grandma Lily (Kretzer) were married June 10, 1852 in Harper's Ferry Virginia. As I remember hearing he came to Kans not too long after they were married + homesteaded the place where they always lived + about two years later she came. Came all the way by boat of some kind starting down the Ohio River + getting off at what is now St Joe I think. Deglin, who in the meantime had come to America came with her and settled in St Joe - always worked on the section (rail road) as far as I know Grandma was married when she was 16 and was 19 when mamma their oldest, was born.

Written by Elizabeth "Lizzie" McKittrick
Benitz

probably in the 1960's or 70's

1863
June the 18th

Helena, Arkansas

Dear Brother:

I received your letter yesterday and I am very glad that (you) are doing well and that your family is well. i am well at present. Tell me how John Shea and his Family gitting along. i am very glad you got News from my sister. Let me know if her children gitting along, and if they are hear or in Ireland. Let me know in your next letter what you think about it, in regard to let them come to this Country or not. i would furnish the money. I wrote several letters and never git no answer. i nearly give up intirely. The first chance i git i will send a likeness. A good many men are dieing hear. tell me in your next letter the best way to send the money, in letters or Express them. i could at once but i fear you won't git my letters. My letters be lost to much, i send my Brother Delgin a letter 4 weeks ago, and told him to bring at to you. in my next letter i will write you more all about this country. the half of Stock you buy for me shall belong to your son, Billy. Write a letter as quick as you get this. i send my best Respect to you and your wife.

Michel Kielly to
John Kielly

Direction

Michel Kielly, Helena, Arkansas 35th _____ (? Mo.)

Volunteer Company H care of Capt. Hyde

Jim (/) Bristney was glad to hear from you.

*letter from Michel Kijey & memories of Elizabeth M. Benitz
(photo copies from Dorothy Benitz Anderson)*

1862

Bellevue children, June West 8th

Dear Mr. Wm.

I recd. your letter yesterday and I am very glad that you are all well and that you are all present. I am very glad that you are all well and that you are all present.

Mr. and Mrs. Family getting along in an very good way. I wish from my sister at one time I had children, my wife and I are of that age. I wish you were all well.

Yours truly
I wish the other, wrote
I wish you were all well and happy
at once nearly give up

The first chance I
will send a

many more
me in next

away for some
letters or by

and at once
arent get my

of at all
or course or course

particular person or letter
and I will write him to

at to you, in any way
I will write you

about this
of the stock

me, I shall
son Billy, with a few as

quick as you get this
I send you Best Respects to
you and
Michael Murray
John Wicely!

Section Helena
The Family Helena

Chickens 3 1/2 Mr. Volante
company of care of Cape
Hyde.

Them. They was glad
to hear of you.

Love
Dorothy J. H.

Love
Dorothy J. H.

FAMILY GROUP No.

Husband's Full Name John Kiley

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
1) Morgan Powell	Birth	15	May	1824	Dungarvin gates	Old Parish, County of Waterford	Ireland	
2) Elizabeth M ^{rs} K. Hricks Benitz	Chr'nd							
3) Dorothy Benitz Anderson	Mar.	10	June	1852	Harpers Ferry	Jefferson	Virginia (now W. Virginia)	
4) Obituaries & news articles	Death	17	Sept	1906	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
5) "The Doniphan Duffys" by Laura Duffy Gipsen	Burial	18	Sept	1906	(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Places of Residence	Ireland		Virginia		Kansas		Education
	Occupation			Church Affiliation		Catholic		Military Rec.
	Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.							
	His Father <u>Dr. William</u>				Mother's Maiden Name <u>Mary</u>			

* Note: Arrived in KS 24 mar 1854 from Harpers Ferry VA to Kiley homestead 4 miles SE of Troy on the National Rd. Celebrated 50th wedding Anniversary 10 Jun 1902

Wife's Full Maiden Name Elizabeth Catherine Kretzer

Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	26	Aug	1936	Shepherdstown	Jefferson	Virginia (now W. Virginia)	
Chr'nd							
Death	1	Aug	1925	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
Burial	4	Aug	1925	(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
Places of Residence	Virginia		Kansas		Education		
Occupation	pioneer home maker		Church Affiliation		Methodist		
Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.							
Date	1990's / 2009			Her Father <u>Jacob Kretzer</u>		Mother's Maiden Name <u>Mary Ann Show (Showell)</u>	

Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
F 1 Mary Mildred Full Name of Spouse #1 Jacob miller m. April 1877 b. Aug 1849 . d. 20 April 1879 #2 Peter M ^{rs} K. Hricks Catholic	Birth	19	Aug	1856	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1) Elizabeth (Benitz)
	Mar.	25	Feb	1884	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	2) John
	Death	2	Feb	1936	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	3) Martha "Mattie" (Emory)
	Burial				(Mt Hope) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
F 2 Sarah Ellen "Ella" Full Name of Spouse Morgan Powell m. at residence of E. Reece Methodist	Birth	15	April	1858	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1) Wm. Morgan
	Mar.	30	Aug	1877	Atchison	Atchison	Kansas	2) Luella (Meyers)
	Death	19	Mar	1935	Albuquerque		New Mexico	3) David Morris
	Burial							4) Cara Mabel
M 3 "Will" William J. Full Name of Spouse Mary	Birth	15	May	1860	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1) Harlan 2) Kiley
	Mar.							3) Adopted son
	Death			1936 or 7	Centralia		Kansas	
	Burial							
F 4 "Delia" Cordelia Agnes Full Name of Spouse Henry Joseph Duffy Brook Scotland Catholic	Birth	14	July	1862	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1) Henry 2) Elizabeth
	Mar.	12	April	1882	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	3) Jerome
	Death	26	Aug	1943	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	4) Agnes 5) Teresa
	Burial							(Died in WWI) 6) Albert 7) Ida (Rehrer)
F 5 "Lizzie" Elizabeth Anne Full Name of Spouse Frank Duncan	Birth	31	Aug	1864	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1) Mabel
	Mar.	12	Dec	1905	maybe before 1900			2) Virgil
	Death	27	Mar	1953	Troy?			3) Francis
	Burial							4) William
Occupation			Education		5) Wesley			

John & Eliz Catherine also raised Henry Stewart who was living in St. Joseph Mo in 1925 - John & Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley were early pioneers in Doniphan County during the Civil War. Elizabeth lived on the home place until she was 77 years old - in 1913.

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name John Kiley

This Information Obtained From: _____

Husband's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth			1829			Ireland	
Chr'nd							
Mar.							
Death							
Burial							
Places of Residence				Education			
Occupation				Church Affiliation		Military Rec.	
Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.							
His Father				Mother's Maiden Name			

Wife's Full Maiden Name Elizabeth Catherine Kretzer

Wife's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	26	Aug	1936			Virginia	
Chr'nd							
Death							
Burial							
Places of Residence				Education			
Occupation				Church Affiliation		Military Rec.	
Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.							
Her Father				Mother's Maiden Name			

Compiler Janette Anderson Brown

Address	Occupation	Church Affiliation
City, State	Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.	
Date	1990 - 2009	

Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)

Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
Birth	28	Feb	1867	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
Mar.	3	Sept	1895	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
Death	12	Jan	1932	Sparks	Doniphan	Kansas	
Burial	15	Jan	1932	(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
Occupation				Education			

Children: "Maggie" Margaret Jane Edney Asa Jackson d. 17 April 1959 Methodist

Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
Birth	16	April	1869	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1/ Frederick L
Mar.				Before 1900			2/ Jesse Kiley
Death	1955			Doniphan or Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
Burial							
Occupation				Education			

Children: Laura "Belle" Frederick L. Rice Sr. died at age 75

Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
Birth	8	April	1871	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1/ Ches LeRoy
Mar.	12	Dec	1905	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1/ Robt. Irwin
Death	29	Dec	1951	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	2/ Katherine (Cluck)
Burial							3/ Mable (Colley)
Occupation							4/ Edna Margaret (Millon)
Education							

Children: Henrietta "Etha" LeRoy B. Jackson Methodist

Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
Birth	15	Oct	1873	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1/ Bernard 2/ Wm (died at
Mar.	15	Oct	1899	Troy (parents home)	Doniphan	Kansas	3/ Ray 4/ Lambert
Death	12	Jan	1917	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	5/ Lawrence
Burial				(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	6/ Margorie (Phlipp)
Occupation	school teacher before marriage						7/ Dorothy
Education High School							

Children: Ida Isadora Isadora "Ida" Will Meidinger (William A) Methodist
w: ill. Wathena mail carrier P (Hewins) 8/ Hazel Agnes - died 17 Jan 1917 - age 2

Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
Birth	8	April	1876	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	Virginia
Mar.	5	Nov	1905	Troy (etha home)	Doniphan	Kansas	Frederick
Death	23	Dec	1962	Bellingham		Washington	William
Burial							
Occupation	School teacher before marriage (at Leona)						Education High School

Children: Lucy Virginia * Fred H. Manahan * Parents arrived in KS 24 Mar 1854

John and Elizabeth Catherine Kretzer Kiley

John Kiley (1829-1906) was born 15 May 1829 at Dungarbin Gates Old Parish, Waterford County, Ireland, the son of Dr. William Kiley and wife, Mary. He came to America either during or immediately after the great potato famine in Ireland which lasted from 1846 to 1851. He came, it is believed, with his brothers in 1851 or early 1852.

Elizabeth Catherine Kretzer (1836-1925) was born in Shepherdstown, Berkeley County, Virginia on 26 Aug 1836 to Jacob Kretzer and his wife, Mary Ann. She was the oldest of nine children, seven daughters and two sons.

John Kiley married Elizabeth Catherine Kretzer 10 June 1852 at Harpers Ferry, Virginia when he was 23 and she was 16. They were married by Father Talty (one source says at St. Peter's Catholic Church, which was built in 1830. Another source said, "They got married in a Catholic way up on a hill in Virginia. There were blue and brown rivers that came together there, and the waters mixed. The Army's store was there").

Lizzie McKittrick Benitz wrote about her grandparents: "*Grandma and Grandpa Kiley (Kretzer) were married June 10, 1852 in Harper's Ferry, Virginia. As I remember hearing, he came to Kans not too long after they were married and homesteaded the place where they always lived and about two years later she came. Came all the way by boat of some kind starting down the Ohio River and getting off at what is now St. Joe I think.....Grandma was married when she was 16, and was 19 when Mamma, their oldest, was born.*"

The Kansas Territory was opened to settlement in 1854, and John left Virginia 1 Jan 1854 to seek his fortune in the new land. He arrived in Northeast Kansas 24 March 1854, 61 days before the Kansas-Nebraska Act (which left the question of slavery up to each territory) was passed by Congress. He pre-empted 160 acres of land three and a half miles southeast of Troy, paying the government \$1.25 per acre, as this was several years before the passage of the Free Homestead Act. The farm was the southwest quarter of Section 27, Township 3, Range 21, with the Pottawatomie road on its north border. This road was a very important thoroughfare for the Pony Express and stages going west from St. Joseph, Missouri. The creek that runs through the Kiley homestead flows southeasterly, and although the land is not as productive as some of the farms surrounding it, it was chosen because it had a good spring on it. He received a patent on it 1 May 1860 signed by President James Buchanan.

John's bride, Elizabeth, (possibly traveling with her parents and family) joined him in June 1854, and they lived on this farm until his death. The (original Kiley) farm is still owned (in 1978) by a grandson, Jesse Rice, and is farmed by Mr. Rice's son.

The Doniphan County Register of Deeds shows the following regarding a land grant (in Doniphan County) to **John Kiely** as assigned by Elizabeth Dodd (connection to John and Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley unknown):

(Xeroxed Handwritten Document record difficult to interpret)

*The United States of America To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting
Whereas, In pursuance of an act of Congress approved March 13 1853 entitled an act in
addition to certain ?acts? granting Bounty Land to certain officers and Soldiers who have
been engaged in the Military Service of the United States there has been deposited in the
General Land office, Warrant? No 67.764 for 160 acres in favor off Elizabeth Dodd?, widow
of Joseph N? Dodd? Private Captain Bush's Company South Carolina Militia, War 1812,*

with evidence that the same has been duly located? upon the South West quarter of section twenty seven in Township three of Range Twenty one in the District of Lands subject to sale? at Kickapoo Kansas Territory containing one hundred and sixty acres according to the official plat of the Survey returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General. The said Warrant having been assigned by the said Elizabeth Dodd to John Kiely in whose favor said tract has been located.

Now know Ye: that it here is therefore granted by the United States unto the said John Kiely assignee as aforesaid and to his heirs the tract of Land above described To have and to hold the said tract of land with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said John Kiely as assignee as aforesaid and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I James Buchanan President of the United States of America have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the city of Washington the **first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Sixty** and of the Independence of the United States the eighty fourth.

By the President James Buchanan

By J. B. Lenord? Secy

By J. N.? Granger?

Recorder of the General Land office

Recorded Vol 369 page 352} E

Filed for Record **27 Dec 1869?** At 11 ___ A.M.

The Doniphan County Register of Deeds records also shows in a **29 Nov 1860** document that John and Elizabeth Kiley sold a parcel of land in Section 27, Twp 3, Range 21, in Doniphan County, Kansas Territory to Hamilton D. Kent for \$150.

According to family sources, John Kiley was physically handicapped, and it was a struggle to keep the farm going until his only son, Will (born in 1860) was old enough to take over the farm work. As was customary in the earlier years, there was probably, at least periodically, a relative or an additional "hired man," living in the Kiley home to help with the labor-intensive farm work.

The years after John and Elizabeth Kiley arrived in Kansas were turbulent ones. Because of its geographical position, Kansas was particularly caught in the grip of fiercely opposed factions of the Civil War. With neighboring Missouri a slave state, the tug of war between Slave states and Free states was bitter, and seven years later in 1861, the same year Kansas was admitted to the union as a Free State, the Civil War broke out. These were trying times for John Kiley, physically unfit to go to war, he was reviled by both sides, and guerilla raids into the area were a constant threat. John had a retreat hollowed out in a haystack and when he heard of a raid coming, he would hide out there. Many are the tales told by members of the family of the hardships and hunger and danger they underwent with raiders taking food, livestock and other valuables they could lay their hands on.

John and Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley had ten children: Mary (Miller, Benitz), Sarah Ellen "Ella" (Powell), William, Cordelia "Delia" (Duffy), Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Duncan), Margarete "Maggie" (Jackson), Laura "Belle" (Rice), Henrietta "Etta" (Jackson), Isadora "Ida" (Meidinger), and Lucy (Manahan). Elizabeth's obituary said they also raised a boy, Henry Stewart. Education was important to the family, and at least two of the daughters were school teachers prior to their marriages. More details about the family members are provided on the John Kiley family group chart.

Not a great deal is known of the personality and character of John Kiley except that he was a good quiet citizen. He apparently had the proverbial Irish temper, for he disinherited his daughter, Sarah Ellen, for marrying outside the Catholic Church against his wishes. This is surprising since his wife, Elizabeth, was Methodist, and apparently remained a Protestant until her death. He also was apparently a person to not hold a grudge, as he later became reconciled with her and his son-in-law, and although it was never accomplished, planned to have a new will made to restore her share of the estate. John Kiley died at his home on their farm on 17 Sept 1906; he is buried in the Mt. Olive Cemetery near Troy.

An undated newspaper clipping from the (Troy) *Kansas Chief* also gives a picture of John Kiley:

A Good Record

John Kiley, who lives two miles southeast of Troy, gave The Chief a pleasant call Saturday. Mr. Kiley came to Doniphan county in 1854 and pre-empted his present home, and paid the government \$1.25 per acre for the land. This farm has never changed hands since. Mr. Kiley has lived on the place continuously since that time and he has not been 20 miles away from his home in all these years. He cast his first vote in Wathena. The election was held in a wigwam. James Whitehead was a candidate for county clerk that year. Mr. and Mrs. Kiley raised a family of ten children, consisting of one boy and nine girls, all the family are living and in good health. The children are all married with the exception of the two youngest girls who are at home. Lucy Kiley, the youngest daughter of this worthy couple has taught the last two terms of school at Leona. This family is a sample of the sturdy people who made Doniphan county the best place in the state to live in.

Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley had joined John at their Kansas homestead in June 1854 and made her home on the Kiley homestead for 69 years. She endured the hardships that were the lot of the pioneer woman, with the added vicissitudes brought about by the War Between the States. She was a resourceful woman of sternest fiber, the only kind that could have survived under the conditions she had to face. The story is told of how she helped her husband hide in a haystack when bands of guerillas raided the farm, how she once took a shotgun and defied the raiders to take their only horse, and successfully protected her property. Once, when she saw raiders approaching as she was cooking a chicken, a rare treat for her little ones standing around in anticipation, she quickly gathered the kettle of food and hid it under a loose floor board in the kitchen, picked up a stool and sat above the board with her long skirt covering it and thus saved the meal. When the war broke out she had three babies aged five, three, and one, and during the four war years gave birth to two more daughters.

There is an interesting sidelight about her. In later years, she always combed her hair with long bangs over her forehead to cover a deep dent caused when she was struck by a buggy shaft. She was approaching a spring wagon when the horse reared and pushed the wagon tongue into her forehead.

She bore John Kiley nine daughters and a son, the last daughter born 8 April 1876. Her husband died in 1906, but she continued to live on the family farm until 1913, when she moved to the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Peter McKittrick. Even after that, she returned to her old home to plant a garden and do her canning. She died 1 Aug 1925 and was buried beside her husband in Mt. Olive cemetery at Troy, Kansas. As late as 1975, silent evidence of Elizabeth's handiwork could be seen as old rose bushes, iris, and the giant fir that stands like a beacon on Pottawatomie Road, continued to flourish albeit without, and in need of her care.

Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley also was featured in the (Troy) *Kansas Chief* newspaper: in the 1916 *Illustrated Doniphan County* supplement, in the article "A Sure Enough Pioneer" on p. 297; and

when her obituary was published in the 6 August 1925 issue. Copies of those articles are included.

A family story says the picture of Elizabeth and her daughter Mary Kiley McKittrick published with those newspaper articles (A family story said the picture was also on an oval pin.) was taken in St. Louis, Missouri, at the 1904 World's Fair and Olympic Games; it was also known as the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. *(Additional information about the 1904 [St. Louis] World's Fair from the May/June 2004 Nebraska AAA travel magazine Home and Away: Nearly 1500 buildings—almost all easily removed after the Fair—were built on 1,200 acres in the Forest Park area; eight of the buildings were grand palaces. The magnificent event lasted for 184 days, and included entertainers, athletes, representatives from 62 nations showcasing their country's art, culture, and wares; and new inventions—such as the automobile, baby incubators, flying machines, electric lights and clocks. Over 19 ½ million people from around the globe came to the Fair and the Olympic Games which took place throughout the entire Fair time.)* It seems a spirit of adventure was another of Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley's (and her daughter, Mary's) characteristics.

A SURE ENOUGH PIONEER

Mrs. John Kiley Came to Doniphan County a Young Bride in 1854 and Has Lived on the Same Farm Ever Since—Reared a Family of Ten Children, Nine Daughters and One Son.

No mention in this issue of the Chief of personalities and conditions in Doniphan County since the pioneer days, would be complete without including the name of Mrs. John Kiley, who resides about four miles southeast of Troy.

Mrs. Kiley is sure enough one of the

The members of the Kiley family are as follows: Mary K., Mrs. Pete McKittrick; Sarah E., Mrs. Morgan Powell; Delia D., Mrs. Henry Duffy; Elizabeth A., Mrs. Frank Duncan; Margaret J., Mrs. Ed Jackson; Laura B., Mrs. Fred Rice; Etta, Mrs. Leroy Jackson; Ida L., Mrs. William Medinger, and Lucy V., Mrs. Fred Mana-



*Mrs. Henry Brown's
grandma*

*Mrs. Henry Brown's
mother*

Mrs. John Kiley and Mrs. Peter K. McKittrick.

landmarks of Doniphan County, having come here on March 24, 1854, when she was a young bride. She had been married less than a year when she made the journey with her husband from the East, and they settled on the farm where Mrs. Kiley now resides.

The Kiley family was a large one, Mrs. Kiley being the proud mother of nine daughters and one son. All the children received their education in the public schools and are highly esteemed by their friends and acquaintances. All the nine girls are married and have good husbands. The son, William J., resides in Nemaha County, near Centralia.

han; and the son, William J.

Mrs. Kiley is an interesting member of the remnant of the old settlers, and is hale and hearty, notwithstanding her sixty-one years of residence in Doniphan County. Her intellect is still clear, and she remembers distinctly many of the important events that transpired during the early days of her residence in the county.

They were married in the old historic town of Harper's Ferry, Virginia, June 10, 1852, where John Brown was hanged, December 2, 1859. After a useful and commendable life of fifty-two years in this county, Mr. Kiley died September 17, 1906.

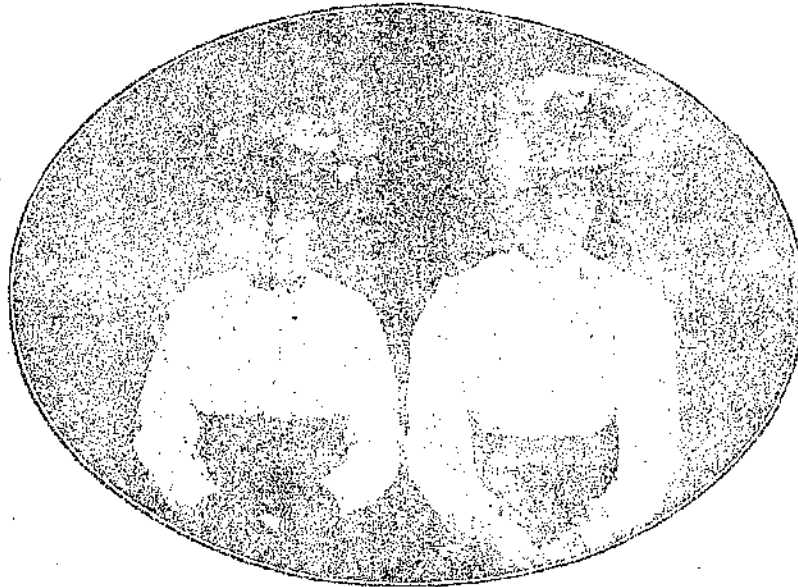
The city windmill, an old landmark, was torn down and replaced by a gasoline engine pump. The old windmill was bought and placed over the well by Cyrus Leland about 1885. There are now two wells and the pump is placed in an excavation so as to

be out of sight and the pumping can scarcely be heard.

The old Methodist Church building was sold at public auction May 17, 1909. Charles E. Brown bought it paying \$925.00.

*Doniphan County History
Published about 1914*

MRS. JOHN KILEY, PIONEER WOMAN OF DONIPHAN COUNTY, IS DEAD



Mrs. John Kiley, and her daughter, Mrs. Peter McKittrick.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kretzer-Kiley, a resident of Doniphan county, for over seventy-one years, died at the home of her daughter's, Mrs. Peter J. McKittrick, in Troy, Kansas, late Saturday afternoon, August 1, 1925. Mrs. Kiley, despite her mature age, was fairly well, able to be up and around, and did not take her bed from which she never arose until on Tuesday before her death. In the passing of this good woman, Doniphan county has lost indeed a pioneer who has helped to make her history complete.

Mrs. Kiley was born in Shepherds West Virginia, August 26, 1836 and at the time of her death was 88 years 11 months and 6 days old.

She was married to John Kiley, June 10, 1852, by father Talty, in the old historic town of Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Mr. Kiley came west January 1, 1854, arriving in Kansas March 24 and pre-empted 160 acre track of land, three and one half miles southwest of Troy. In June, following, Mrs. Kiley joined her husband in their new home where they lived happily together for more than fifty-two years. Ten children were born on this place, nine daughters and one son. Mr. Kiley died there September 17, 1906. After his death Mrs. Kiley still resided at the old home, as it had now become, until the year of 1923 when she came to Troy to live with her daughter, Mrs. McKittrick. However she still loved her old home, would frequently return to it and sometimes stay there for a week or so when death claimed her

she passed the land that was taken up by her husband when he settled in Kansas.

When but a girl she was converted to the Christian faith and united with the Methodist Episcopal church of which she always remained a member. Thus when she went to join the church triumphant she was a member of the Troy Methodist church. It was always a delight to Mrs. Kiley to attend public worship and she availed herself of every opportunity to go to God's house. Now she belongs to the Company of Heaven where she shall forever be with the Lord.

The deceased is survived by eight daughters, one daughter, Mrs. Ida McJinger of Wathena having died in 1917, who are Mrs. Mary McKittrick, Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, Mrs. Margaret Jackson and Mrs. Etta Jackson, all of Troy; Mrs. Ella Powell of Hardy, Nebraska; Mrs. Deba Duffy and Mrs. Laura L. Rice of Wathena, Kansas; and Mrs. Lacy Manahan of Glane, Washington; one son, William J. Kiley of Centralia, Kansas; forty grand-children; sixty-six great grand children; a sister, Mrs. Etta Smeltzer of Kansas City, Kansas; other relatives and a host of friends. She also raised a boy, Henry Stewart, who resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

The funeral was held at the First Methodist Episcopal church of Troy, Kansas, Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock the Rev. J. W. Campbell, the pastor, officiating and interment was in Mt. Olive Cemetery.

The John and Elizabeth (Kretzer) Kiley family



(Back row) Etta (Jackson), Lucy (Manahan), Delia (Duffy), Ella (Powell), Belle (Rice), Lizzie (Duncan)
(Front row) Mary (McKittrick), John & Elizabeth (Kretzer) Kiley, Margaret (Jackson), Will, Ida (Meidinger)

Additional family info:

Mary m. Peter McKittrick
Will m. Mary
Elizabeth m. Frank Duncan
Laura Belle m. Fred Rice
Isadore "Ida" m. Will Meidinger

Sarah m. Morgan Powell
Cordelia "Delia" m. Henry Duffy
Margaret m. Edney Jackson
Henrietta "Etta" m. Leroy Jackson
Lucy m. Fred Manahan



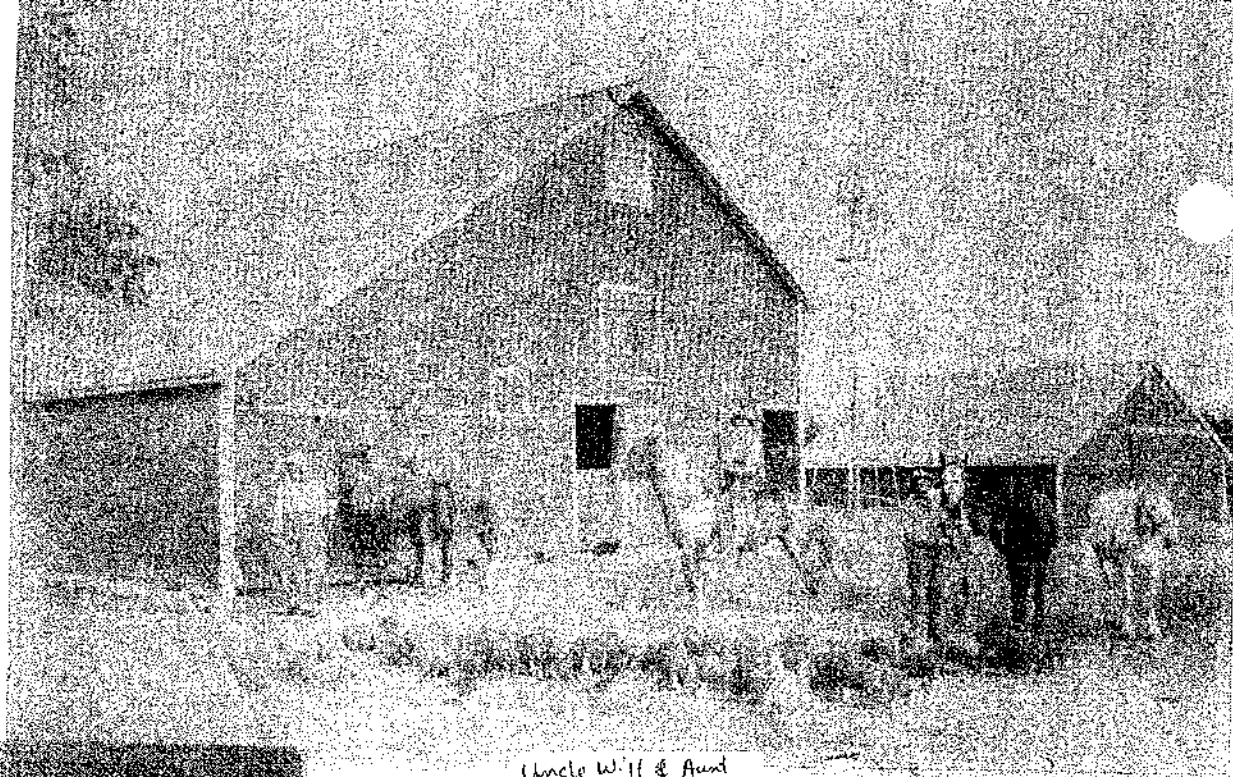
The old Kiley home. Grandma in door
Grandpa Kiley holding horse
George Newmish - Hired man by Grandpa
Ethel & Lucy Kiley by flowers

Henry Stuart - boy they
raised
John Kiley Meindinger
& Benard



Four generations: Maggie
Powell Davidson & Emma
Ella Powell, John & Eliz. Kiley

Kiley
Relatives



Uncle Will & Aunt
Mary Kiley &
Oscar Newton, whom
they raised



Will Kiley
"grandma's
brother"

uncle will Kiley



B. J. Rice. Beulah, Ark. Kas.

Uncle Will & Aunt
Mary Kiley &
Oscar Newton that
they raised.





Aunt Ella & Uncle Morgan Powell Family
Back: Will, Luella, Orba, Maggie, Morris
Front: Harlan, Morgan, Kiley, Ella & Grace

(Kretzer) Smetzer
Powell



Sarah Ellen (Kiley)
Morgan Powell
home, Hardy, Neb



Etta Kretzer Smetzer &
Morgan Powell, Aug 2, 1925
Same age, same birthday



Aunt Ella & Uncle Morgan Powell & Maggie, Will, Luella, Morris, & Mable

Grace, Harlan, Orba, Powell



Morgan & Ella (Kiley) Powell's children standing: Morris, Maggie, Will, Luella Seated: Grace, Orba



Willie (Jennie Clark) Powell (1st) m. 16 Mar 1903 Hershel b. 23 Aug 1906

Lee & Luella (Powell) Myers (Rt) m. 25 June 1903

K-K, p. 30



Dunham Mrs. Aurand & Harlan Powell

REPUBLIC CITY

KANSAS

Luella Powell

Luella Powell Meyers first children
Note the fashions.



Dale Myers
Hardy, NE



Dale, Helen, Orpha Lee
Myers Hardy, NE
Luella Powell's children



Dale Myers

Dale Myers
POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE

NAME AND ADDRESS



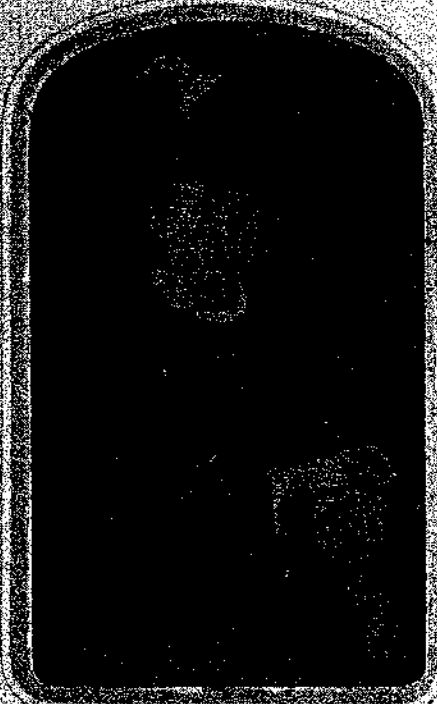
Dear Grandma
This is Dale isn't
he a big boy now
you call the new baby Orpha Lee
How are you
when are you coming
up to see all these
new grand children
Luella

Mrs Geo Kiley

Troy
Kansas

K-K, #31

Henry & Cordelia
"Delia" Kiley
Duffy
Family



"Delia"
Kiley
Duffy



Ambrose & Lucy
Duffy



Henry & "Delia" (Kiley) Duffy
taken by W.F. Rice Central
Gallery, St. Joseph, Mo

Albert, Ida, Terrance
Duffy



Henry & Delia Duffy
Harry, Lizzie, Agnes, Jerome K-K, p 32

W.F. Rice

Central Gallery



W. C. Elwood,

Uncle Ed & Aunt
Margaret (Kiley)
Jackson wedding pic



Ed Jackson



Margaret (Kiley) & Ed
Jackson



Ed April 11, 1914 510 cts. Taken by Mill
E A Jacksons Residence
Sparks, Ks
Ed & Margaret Jackson
Uncle Ed & Aunt Margaret

K.K. p33

(Kiley) Rice



Belle Kiley Rice
Luella Powell Meyers
Jennie Clark Powell



Etta & Belle Kiley (Jackson) (Rice)



J.W. Souder

Fred & Belle (Kiley) Rice
Wedding Photo



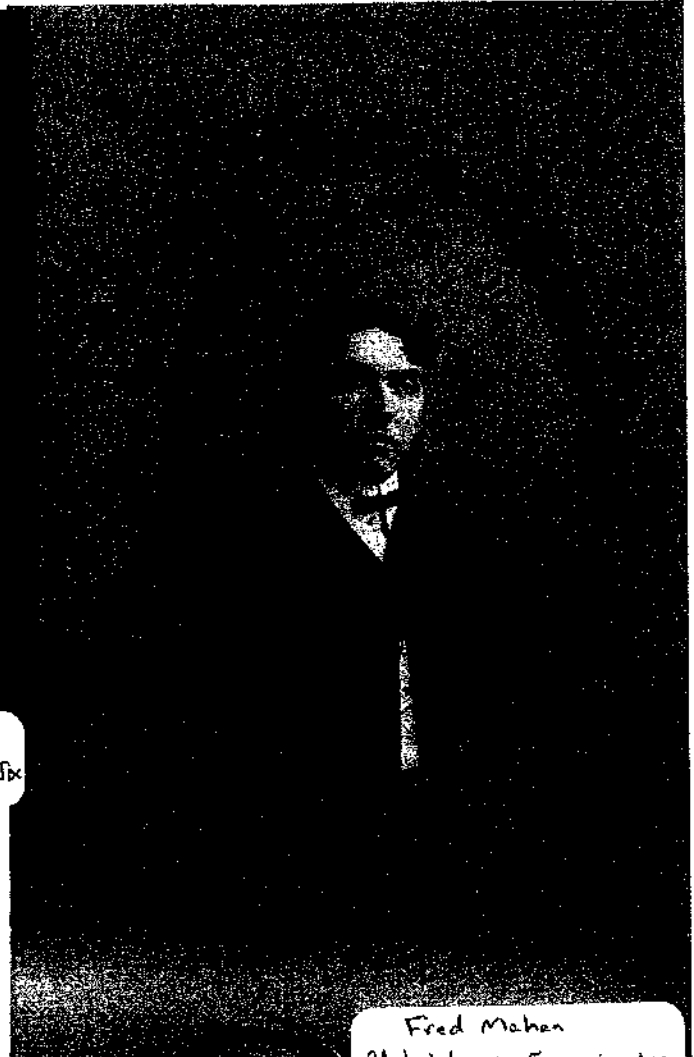
Frederick Rice



Jesse Kiley Rice
b. May 14, 1909
taken Aug 18, 1909



Lucy Kiley (Manahan)
Oct 19/1905. Taken in St. Joe



Fred Mahan
Photo taken in Emporia, KS



Fred & Lucy (Kiley)
Manahan
Wedding photo in K.C.



Lucy Kiley Manahan's children
Virginia - 5y. 0. May 9, 1917
Frederick "Freddie" James - 2 y. 0. Dec 30, 1916
taken April 24, 1917

(Kiley) Duncan



"Lizzie" (Kiley) Duncan

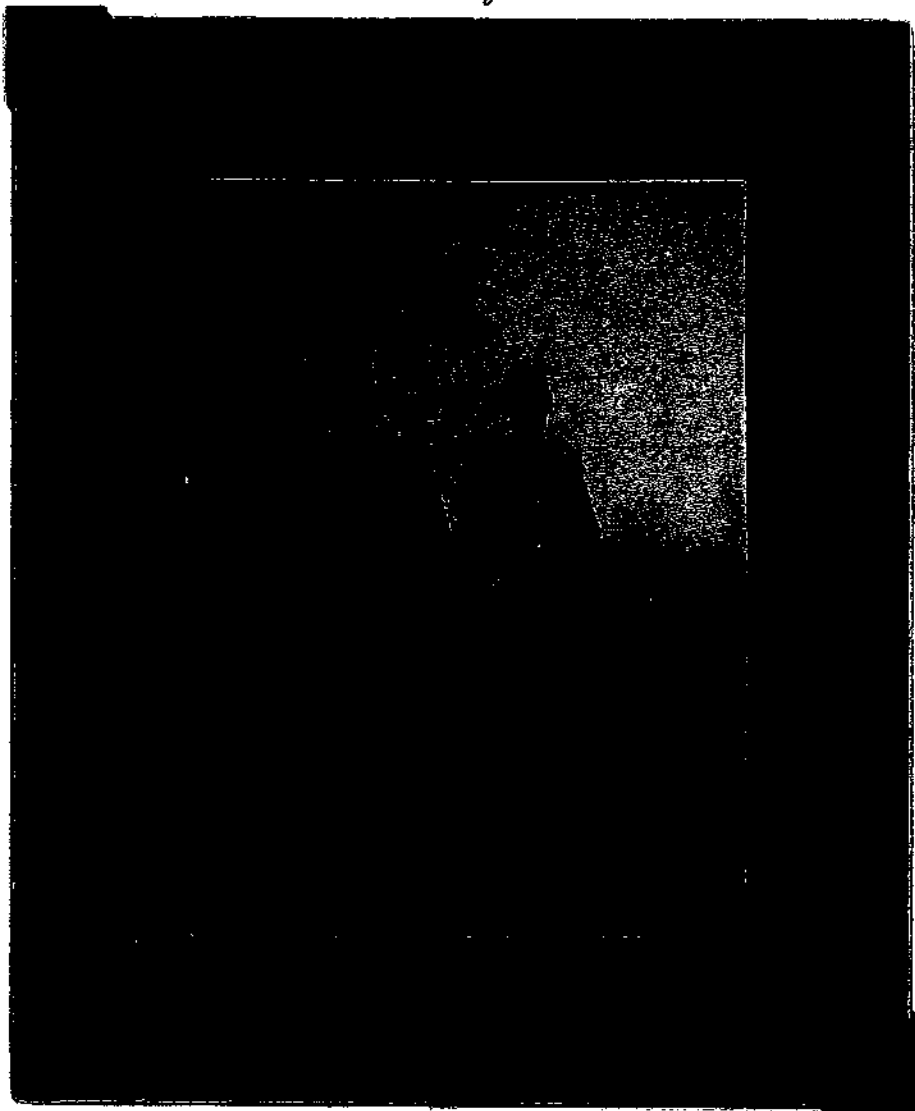


"Lizzie" (Kiley) & Frank
Mabel
Duncan



William Duncan
Son of "Lizzie" & Frank
Duncan

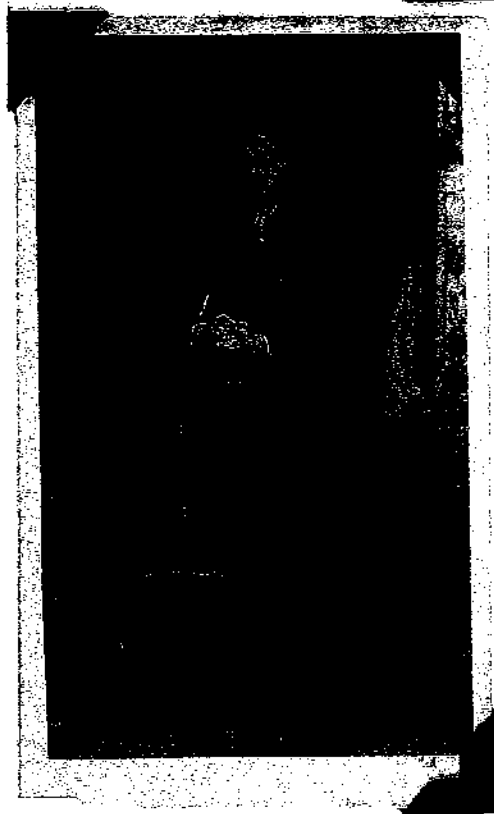
K.ley



John Kiley &
Elizabeth Kretzer K

FROM
Central Gallery,
 Cor. 4th and Edmond Streets,
 ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

J. W. SOUDER Photographer.
Grandma Kiley



Elizabeth
Catherine
Kretzer
Kiley

Kiley



John Kiley &
Lucy Kiley Manahan
daughters

SCHRODER-FOTOGRAFEN
1809-811-313 FELIX ST. ST. JOSEPH MO.



Seven Kiley sisters
back row: Margaret Jackson,
Belle Rice, Etha Jackson
front row: Mary M. K. Hick,
Etha Powell, Dalia Duffy,
Lizzie Duncan



Elizabeth Catherine
Kocher Kiley

"Grandma Kiley
in her casket" K-K, p 38

FAMILY GROUP NO. _____

Husband's Full Name **Peter J. M^sK:Heick**

This Information Obtained From:	Event's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Precinct, etc.	State or Country	ADD. INFO. ON THIS EVENT
Dorothy Benitz Andersson	Birth	12 May 1860	Manchester	Delaware	Iowa	
Census records & other info from M.E. Queen	Chr'nd					
Obituaries	Mar.	27 Feb 1884	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
Tray Chair	Death	17 Jan 1939	Denton	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Burial	19 Jan 1939	(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Places of Residence	Iowa, (Delaware Co.), Kansas			Education	
	Occupation	Farm labor, laund			Church Affiliation Catholic	Military Rec.

His Father **Thomas M^sK:Heick** Mother's Maiden Name **Elizabeth ?Manchan??**

Wife's Full Maiden Name **Mary Mildred Kiley**

Event's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Precinct, etc.	State or Country	ADD. INFO. ON THIS EVENT
Birth	19 Aug 1856	Centre Twp	Doniphan	Kansas	"one of first white children born in Center Twp"
Chr'nd					
Death	2 Feb 1936	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
Burial	5 Feb 1936	(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
Places of Residence	Doniphan Co. Kansas			Education	
Occupation	Home maker			Church Affiliation Catholic	

Compiler **Jan. A. Brown**

Address _____

City, State **Scottsbluff, NE**

Date **1996**

Her Father **John Kiley** Mother's Maiden Name **Eliz. Catherine Kretzer**

Sec	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Precinct, etc.	State or Country	ADD. INFO. ON CHILDREN
F 1	"Lizzie" Elizabeth Catherine Full Name of Spouse Henry Albert Phillip Benitz	Birth	8 Mar 1885	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1/ Milton
		Mar.	28 Feb 1911	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	2/ Clarence
		Death	24 May 1981	Hiawatha	Brown	Kansas	3/ Dorothy (Anderson)
		Burial		(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Occupation	Teacher Homemaker			Education	Normal school
M 2	John William Full Name of Spouse Ella Mae Roderick Parents: David Alexander & Martha Pfenning Roderick	Birth	12 Feb 1887	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1/ John, Jr.
		Mar.	2 Aug 1920	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	2/ Jesse Mic
		Death	12 May 1945				3/ Richard
		Burial					
		Occupation	Telephone switch board operator in Banden			Education	
			? John had ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)?				
F 3	"Mattie" Martha Henrietta Full Name of Spouse Edward C. Emory d. 1943	Birth	13 Aug 1892	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	1/ John Edward
		Mar.	10 Nov 1912	Marysville	Nodaway	Missouri	2/ Ilene (Jansen)
		Death	27 Jan 1976	Alexandria		Virginia	
		Burial	3 Feb 1976	(Mt. Olive) Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Occupation	Troy Ice House - bought sold eggs cream			Education	
4	Full Name of Spouse	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
		Occupation					
5	Full Name of Spouse	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
		Occupation					

Mary Mildred Kiley Miller McKittrick

Mary Mildred Kiley was born 19 Aug 1856 to John and Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley who homesteaded land in Kansas Territory, near the current town of Troy. She was the oldest of their family of nine daughters and one son. United States Civil War conflicts near their home were a part of her life when she was a young girl.

Mary must have inherited her pioneer parents' strength of character. Her first brief marriage was in 1879, when she married Jacob Miller, who perhaps was farming near the Kiley farm. Jacob had been born 12 Aug 1849 in Greene Township, Hamilton County, Ohio; it is not known when he immigrated to Kansas. Jacob and Mary had planned to marry when Jacob became ill and death was imminent; he wanted Mary to have his inheritance so they married in April 1879 shortly before his death 20 April 1879. Apparently some of Jacob's money and/or possessions disappeared after his death, and/or there were questions about land he was hoping to buy, or money owed to Jacob; evidently, Jacob's parents and brother were the suspects. Mary took Jacob's parents and brother to court to resolve the issue. In a copy of the court deposition, the parents and brother repeatedly said they "didn't have a nickel" of Jacob's money. The results of the case were not included with the deposition.

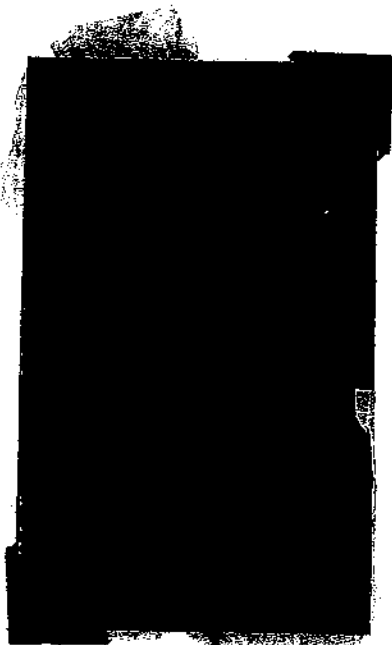
Mary Kiley Miller and Peter McKittrick married 27 Feb 1884. Although he had lived in Iowa for much of his life, the 1880 census for Doniphan County showed Peter as a laborer at the John & Elizabeth Kiley home. Peter and Mary began their married life in farming, but eventually they moved into the town of Troy, where, in 1906, Peter became the first janitor at the new Doniphan County courthouse.

Mary and Peter had three children: Elizabeth "Lizzie" (b. 8 Mar 1885, m. Henry Benitz), John (b. 12 Feb 1887, m. Ella Mae Roderick), and Martha "Mattie" (b. 13 Aug 1892, m. Ed Emory). They shared their small home with other family members who lived with them on a short or long term basis. The 1885 census showed Mary's sisters, Ida and Louise were with them then, as well as Peter's orphaned nephew 12-year old Peter Manyon, who lived with them for much of his youth. Mary's uncle Dagleon Kiley lived with them after 1906 until his 1914 death, and her mother, Elizabeth came to live with them in 1913.

Peter and Mary's granddaughter, Dorothy Benitz Anderson recalled that Peter always had a little moustache, and had Buerger's disease which caused circulation problems in his extremities. Dorothy also recalled that Mary always had a big garden—undoubtedly a good and necessary thing for providing food for the family in their home!

Mary died 2 Feb 1936 in Troy; and Peter lived with his daughter, Lizzie McKittrick Benitz and her family until his death 17 Jan 1939. Both are buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery near Troy, Kansas. There is more information about Peter and Mary Kiley McKittrick's family in the Peter J. McKittrick family group sheet, and the 2003 booklet, "McKittrick, Early American Families from Ireland."

(Kiley) M^s K. Hrick



Mary Kiley M^s K. Hrick



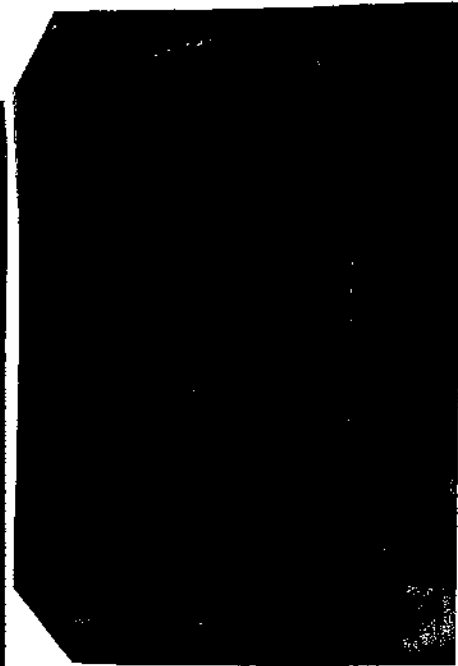
Peter M^s K. Hrick



Peter M^s K. Hrick



Peter M^s K. Hrick (checked)
& Tom M^s K. Hrick
(Brothers)
K-K, p42



Siblings of Mary (Kiley) &
Peter M^s K. Hrick
Margaret Kiley m. E.A. Jackson
Tom m^s K. Hrick m. Mary McCormick



Mary Kiley McKittick by garden
in backyard of their home in
Troy, KS 1930's



with her hollyhocks
↑
Mary Kiley M^S K: H: r: ck and
Grand daughter Ilerne Emory



Mary Kiley M^S K: H: r: ck



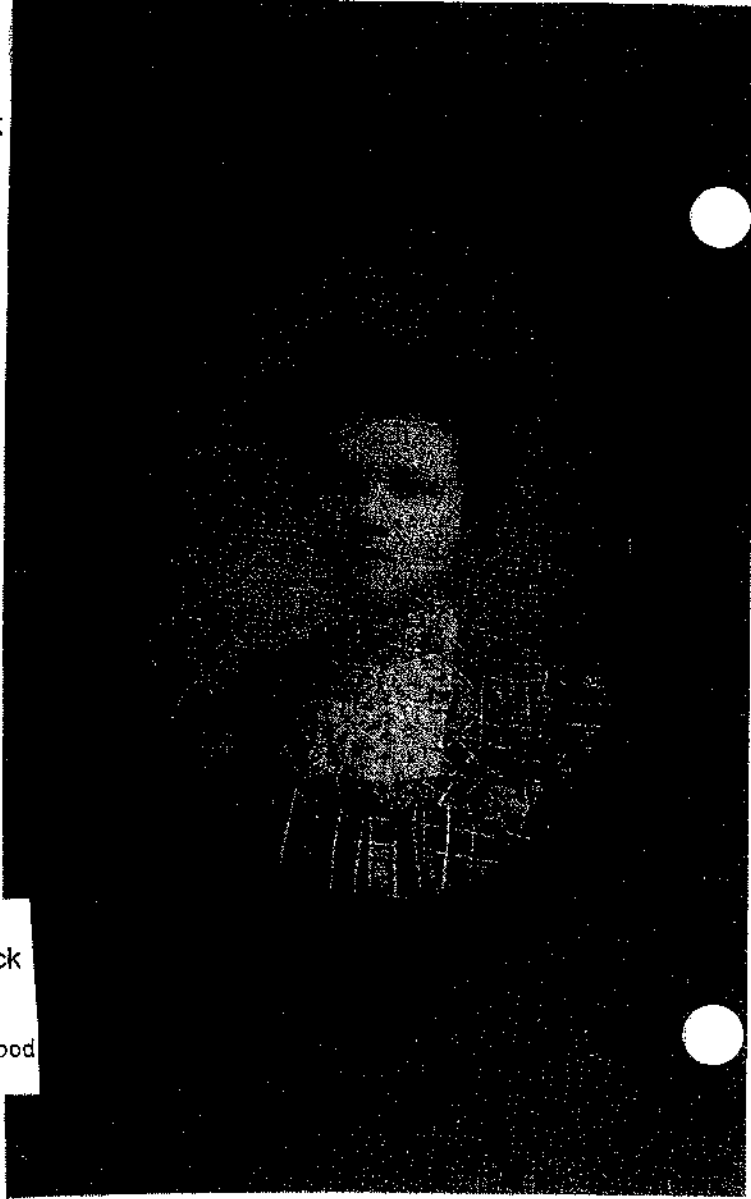
*More pictures and info
in M^S K: H: r: ck Family Booklet

Elizabeth
"Lizzie"
McKittrick
(m Henry
Benitz)



Lizzie
McKittrick
May 1903

Lizzie
McKittrick
Age 20
Photo by
WC? Elwood
Troy, KS



Mrs. Lizzie Benitz

Belmont School
Lizzie McKittrick
Teacher



K-K, p44

McKittrick Relatives



Back row: Ella Mae McKittrick, Lizzie (McKittrick) Benitz, Mattie (McKittrick) Emory
 Front row: Jr McKittrick, Dorothy Benitz (Anderson)

Back row: Elizabeth McKittrick Benitz, Sylvia Manyon, Elizabeth Kretzer Kiley, Della Manyon, Mary McKittrick
 Middle row: Pete Manyon, Jack Manyon, _____

 Children in front: Milton & Clarence Benitz, John Henry Manyon



Lizzie (McKittrick) Benitz
 on Anderson place



Lizzie (McKittrick) Benitz
 Dec 3, 1950

MARTHA "MATTIE" MCKITTRICK
(M. JOHN EMORY)



Mattie McKittrick

August 18, 1910

Mattie (McKittrick) with granddaughters
Cheryl Ileen and Sharon Gayle
1958



Ileene and John Edward
Emory



K-K, p46

JAN # 59

Information sources

Kretzer and Kiley Family members

* indicates deceased

- Dorothy (Benitz) and *Oscar Anderson (Daughter and son-in-law of Henry and Elizabeth "Lizzie" [McKittrick] Benitz), Everest & Hiawatha, KS. Conversation, correspondence, newspaper clippings, pictures, encouragement.
- *Elizabeth "Lizzie" McKittrick Benitz (Granddaughter of John and Elizabeth Catherine [Kretzer] Kiley of Doniphan County, Kansas, daughter of Peter and Mary [Kiley] McKittrick), Everest & Hiawatha, KS. Correspondence, pictures, and conversations.
- *Ray Meidinger, MD (Grandson of John and Elizabeth Catherine [Kretzer] Kiley, son of Will and Ida [Kiley] Meidinger), Hiawatha, Kansas. Conversation.
- *Laura Duffy Gipson (great-granddaughter of John and Elizabeth Catherine [Kretzer] Kiley, granddaughter of Henry and Cordelia "Delia" [Kiley] Duffy, daughter of Henry and Laura [Landis] Duffy), Boise, Idaho. Correspondence and illustrated family history book "The Doniphan Duffys and others."
- *Mabel Jackson Colley (Granddaughter of John and Elizabeth Catherine [Kretzer] Kiley, daughter of Leroy and Henrietta "Etta" [Kiley] Jackson), Hiawatha, KS. Newspaper clippings and conversations.
- *Morgan Powell (Grandson of John and Elizabeth Catherine [Kretzer] Kiley, son of Morgan and Sarah Ellen "Ella" [Kiley] Powell), Grand Junction, CO Correspondence and pictures

Wende and Benitz Families

Anna Rosina Schiller m. Johan Michael Wende

Anna Mary Geppart m. George Naschke

Maria Elizabeth Naschke m. Johann "John" Gottfried Wende

13) Frank m. Nellie (Coolie)
 Clarence Mae (Covert)
 Elsie (Elliot)

12) Emma m. Henry Scheuerman

11) Henry

10) Baby ? Paul

9) Amelia "Melie" m. Fritz Benitz
 5 children →

8) Johanna "Jennie" m. Fritz Benitz
 4 children →

7) Marie "Mary" m. Albert H. Benitz
 10 children →

6) Karoline "Carry"

5) William "Bill" m. Tina (Groenke)

4) Anna Pauline "Lena"

3) "Rose" m. Wm. Phillip Mack
 Anne (Thompson) | Clare (Green) (Fisher)
 Henry

2) John Gottfried

1) Carl m. Carrie Dischner
 infant son

Wilhelmine "Minnie" Groenke m. Heinrich "Henry" Benitz

5) Emil m. Augusta (Loroff)
 Frances (Penker) | Arthur | Herbert
 William | Irvin | Gertrude
 Martha (Gaul) | Ernest | Gerhart

3) Fritz — Amelia (Wende)
 Fred, Carl, Arnold
 Clara (Inselman)
 Marie (Bachelor)

Johanna (Wende)
 William
 "Hannah" (Meyer)
 Edna (Hartman)
 Laura (Gutzman) (Shultz)

4) Albert Herman m. "Mary" (Wende)
 Ida (Shields) | Albert J. | Frank
 Elizabeth (Shields) | Anna (Loroff) | Herbert
 Frieda (Gaul) | Robert
 Henry | Oscar

2) Lena m. Karl Fichtel
 Emil | Albert | Carl
 Tillie (Wampler) | Marie (Hobson)
 Lillie (Tuck) | Esther
 Edith | Amanda (Wiesenberg)

1) Wilhelm m. Sally (Sinke) m. #2 Karl Wolnick
 Julius | Theresia (Wied) (Kael) | Marie
 Alto | Stella (Green) (Lynn) | Robert
 Pearl (Rubinke) | Bertha (Abbot)
 George | Minnie (Pape) | Henry

Benitz and Wende families

Among the German people who immigrated to America from Prussia in the mid-1870s were the Benitz and Wende families. They settled on Doniphan County farmland in northeastern Kansas, south of the towns of Wathena and Troy.

The Benitz family emigrated from Zeman (Zemmen), Pomerania area near the present-day Germany/Poland border; and the Wende family from the Laven, (Germany) or Hroschitz, Prussia area, perhaps just west of Pomerania. It has been challenging gathering the "Old Country" information due to national border changes, city, town, and land name changes, and old handwritten immigration and legal records, some with known spelling errors; several spelling variations are evident in these histories. Since our families originated from western Pomerania and Prussia, brief information about those areas is included.

Prussia

Prussia is probably best known as a state in the North German Confederation military alliance that became a part of the German Empire established in 1871. The earliest known Prussian land is in northern Europe on the southeastern Baltic Sea coast; in the Middle Ages (AD 500-1500), that area came under Polish and German rule.

In 1701, Prussia became the Kingdom of Prussia. Shortly after, Frederick William I began developing the military and bureaucratic character of Prussia, and a strong army was created to deal with the frequent wars. Half of the Prussian army consisted of hired foreigners, the other half was recruited from young men of the lower classes—mostly peasants—who were all liable for military service. Nobles were under a moral obligation to serve in the officers' corps; and the Prussian soldiers soon became the best educated and best trained of any European army. By 1871, Prussia had become the most powerful military nation in Europe, covering most of the northern two thirds of Europe, including much of current-day Germany and Poland.

During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1, under the leadership of King Wilhelm I and his chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, Prussia achieved the unification of Germany. The German Empire was established, and King Wilhelm I (also known as King William) of Prussia was proclaimed German Emperor. The North German Confederation's flag and most of its constitution were adopted for the German Empire; the Prussian army absorbed most of the other German states' armed forces; and Prussia's history merged largely into that of the German Empire.

World War I began on 4 Aug 1914, when Germany invaded Belgium. In 1918, World War I ended and resulted in the overthrow of the German Empire and the Prussian monarchy, and the end of Prussia's supremacy. After defeat in World War II in 1945, Germany came under the control of victorious Allies, and Prussia was officially obliterated in 1947.

Pomerania

Pomerania, meaning "land by the sea," was a district of Prussia in far northern central Europe. Pomerania ("Pommern" in German) curved around the southern Baltic Sea coast in areas that are now part of Germany and Poland. Extending along the Baltic Sea from Stralsund in eastern Germany to the Vistula River in Poland, at various times Pomerania had been part of the Holy Roman Empire, Poland, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and Prussia. It is in the area that links

central and eastern Europe, and also Europe and Scandinavia, and also was desirable because it contained Stettin, one of the great ports from the Baltic Sea to the lands of northern Europe.

Before the year 1000, Pomerania was inhabited by Pomeran Slavs from Slavic tribes; they were referred to as Wends. After 1100, Pomeranian Dukes invited German settlers into their sparsely-settled area—the Germans supplied skills and the tools needed to clear the forests, drain the marshes, build dikes and roads, and farm their lands; they also introduced the iron plow, and three-field rotation system of farming. Thousands of people came to Pomerania, mostly from northern Germany, where German tribes were frequently warring and where, because of the increasing population, farms had been subdivided to the point that it was getting difficult to survive.

German settlers built villages next to Pomeranian villages; that led to melding of the nationalities. Within 200 years, Pomerania was dominated by German language and culture—a culture that tended to be authoritarian and regard peasants as upper class members' personal property. By the 1400s, as a result of intermarriage, the Wends of Pomerania disappeared; and in the 18th century, the Pommern language died out.

Pomerania's western part (where the Benitz family lived) was one of the flattest parts of northern Europe, with many small lakes, and several rivers flowing north to the Baltic Sea. At one time it was German in culture, although the area is now primarily part of Poland. The soil is mostly thin and sandy; however in the 1800s, well over half of the land was farmland and pastures, with farming a major occupation. Life was generally hard, especially for the peasants, and young children were often sent from home to work. It wasn't until 1839 that the Prussian government set the minimum age of nine for working children. Some Pomeranians did live in towns—craftsmen and people involved in a trading association. With its long Baltic Sea coast and lakes, fishing also was an important industry.

An important part of Pomeranian history is religion. People living in eastern Pomerania in the 18th century were Polish-speaking, partially Catholic, while the western part was practically all German-speaking and Protestant. Lutheranism had taken root in Pomerania in the 1500s, and in 1534, the Lutheran Church of Pomerania was established. Hostility developed between the Catholics and Protestants; and in 1618, the Thirty Years War began primarily as a civil war between the two religious factions. The war took a heavy toll in Pomerania with possibly one third of its people killed; whole villages and farms were completely destroyed. In 1817, the government ordered the Lutheran Churches and Calvinist Reform Churches of Pomerania to merge and form a single State Church. Staunch Lutherans revolted and in 1830, many "Old Lutherans" chose to emigrate rather than comply.

Pomerania, in the early and mid-1800s, saw crop failures, falling grain prices due to high English tariffs, potato blight, disastrous weather conditions, and rapid industrialization; and workers began leaving the farms. America beckoned with its bright promises, and many Pomeranians immigrated—especially to midwest USA—in the second half of the 1800s and the early 1900s; the peak year was 1889. The Benitz and Wende families immigrated in the early to mid-1870s, around the time the German Empire was established.

Pomeranian land was devastated when World War II ended in 1945. Much of Pomerania was given to Poland, and the rest absorbed by the Allied Forces in Germany. There was a general German exodus from Eastern Europe, and the German people sadly left the Pomeranian area to the Polish people. With its white sandy beaches, Pomerania now is a popular vacation area of northern Europe.

FAMILY GROUP No.

Husband's Full Name **Heinrich "Henry" Benitz**

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
1) Benitz Reunion Info 1976	Birth	1	Oct	1824	Zeman	Pomerania	Prussia (Germany)	
2) Dorothy Benitz Anderson	Chr'd							
3) Phil Benitz, Shawnee, Ks.	Mar.			1852			Prussia	
4) Doniphan Co. Citizenship records	Death	19	April	1900	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Cause of death "old age"
5) Doniphan Co. Marriage Records	Burial				Christ Luth. Cemetery - Wathena, Doniphan - KS			
6) " " Probate Court "	Places of Residence				Zeman, Germany; Wathena, Ks			Education
7) " " Death "	Occupation				Farmer	Church Affiliation	Lutheran	Military Rec.
8) Christ Lutheran 100 th Anniversary Book	Other wives, if any, No. 11, 12, etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.							
9) Linda (Ransel) (Mrs. Ron) Benitz	His Father							Mother's Maiden Name
10) Alvin Elliott	Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
11) Clarence Benitz	Birth	23	Feb	1820		Pomerania	Prussia	
Note: A source said Heinrich "Henry" Benitz "left a brother in Germany"	Chr'd							
Compiler Jamette Anderson Brown	Death	13	Feb.	1907	Center Township, Doniphan	Kansas		Cause of death "senile disability"
Address	Burial				Christ Luth. Cemetery - Wathena - Doniphan - KS			
City, State	Places of Residence							Education
Date 1990's	Occupation				Home maker	Church Affiliation	Lutheran	
Sex	Other husbands, if any, No. 11, 12, etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.							
	Her Father							Mother's Maiden Name

Wife's Full Maiden Name **Wilhelmine "Minnie" Caroline? (Grönke) Groenke**

Children's Names in Full (Average in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
1) Wilhelm Full Name of Spouse: William "Bill" Albert Sarja Sinke (piece of Karl Beckel) #2 Husband: Karl Wolnick Children: Marie, Robert, Henry	8 children Birth	24	July	1853	Zeman (near Klein Tuchen)	Pomerania	Prussia	George, Alto, Julius, Carl (Rubinke), Minnie (Pape), Bertha (Abbott), Estelle (Greer) (Lyon), Theresa (Peel) (Witzig) (Birth order unknown)
2) Genoveva Full Name of Spouse: Lena Maria Charles Karl Fitchel	9 children Birth	?	July	1857			Prussia	Lillie (Tuck), Edith (or Ida), Tillie (Wampler), Em. Amanda (Wiesberger), Marie (Hudson), Albert, Carl (Ester)
3) Friedrich "Fritz" Fred Charles Full Name of Spouse: m. Marie "Mary" Wende * Sisters	9 children Birth	23	Feb	1860	Zeman	Pomerania	Prussia	Henry, Elizabeth (Shields), Robert, Oscar, Annie (Loroff), Frieda (Gaul) (Shields) + 3 who died in infancy (9 living)
4) Emil Karl Charles Full Name of Spouse: m. August Loroff "August"	9 children Birth	31	March	1858		Pomerania	Prussia	Laura (Schulte), Edna (Hartman), Johanna "Hannah" (Meyer), Marie (Bachelor), Fred, Carl, Cora Clara (Eisele, Mann)
5) Emil Karl Charles Full Name of Spouse: m. August Loroff "August"	9 children Birth	30	Aug	1866	Zeman	Pomerania	Prussia	Arnold, Birth unknown, Martha (Gaul), William Frances (Plecker), Ernest, Irvin, Arthur, Gerhart, Gertrude, Herbert
Immigration Story in Emil's Family:	<p>In 1870's maybe 74 or 75, The four brothers came here together & lived near Geary (north of Atchison) Bill might have come over first. There was already an aunt (sister of their father) & uncle here - Wilhelmine (Beig) Karl & John & Wilhelm (Kühnhoff) Keshhoff. Later the parents "Henry" & "Minnie" and sister Lena came. They bought a farm 5 miles S.W. of Wathena. All are listed on the 1880 census of Doniphan Co. All of the children when married lived near the parents. Emil remained with the parents on the farm after his marriage - & raised his family there.</p>							
Kienhoff's were married in Germany, & came from Bensdorf & Klein Tuchen	<p>Henry's brother, August Benitz, also immigrated to Doniphan Co.</p>							

The Benitz family **Moving from Pomerania to America**

Around 1874, **Heinrich "Henry"** and **Wilhelmine "Minnie" Groenke Benitz**, and their family of four sons and a daughter—**Wilhelm/William Albert "Bill," Lena (Fichtel), Friedrich/Fred "Fritz," Albert, and Emil**—emigrated from Zeman (Zemmen), Pomerania, Prussia to the Wathena (Doniphan County), Kansas area to farm.

Finding the exact location of Zeman (Zemmen) in the original Pomerania area has been challenging: Phil Benitz, a grandson of Emil, said there were several towns in Germany (now Poland) with the Zeman/Zemmen spelling. It is known that Heinrich Benitz's sister Wilhelmine, married in Pomerania, to John Kiehnhoff (Keinhoff), who was possibly from the nearby town of Bernsdorf—and there were several of those in Germany. It's also known that John and Wilhelmine resided for a time in Klein Tuchen—and there was only one of those known in Germany. There was a Klein Tuchen located in the Butow district of Pomerania, it is now known as Tuchomoko in the Bytow district of Poland.

The family stories say the Benitz's came to the Wathena area for new opportunities, and because there was already a German settlement there. The area is in the hills and river bluffs near the Missouri River, and has rich black farmland which produces good pastures, grain and hay crops, grapes, and orchards; and garden crops in the flat land nearer the river.

Some relatives, including John and Wilhelmine (Benitz) Kienhoff, were already living in Doniphan County when Heinrich and Wilhelmine and their family arrived. It appears other Benitz and Groenke relative also came to the area: Naturalization and Intent records include the names of August Benitz (age 67 in 1896) and Henry Chas. Benitz (age 47 in 1896); their records have no immigration date or port of entry information. August Benitz is believed to be a brother to Heinrich, and Henry Charles a son of August Benitz. A mid-1960's letter from Henry Benitz (son of Albert and Mary [Wende] Benitz), to his cousin, Lillie (Fichtel) Tuck, also mentioned a daughter of August Benitz, who married a Gutzman.

There are several different family stories about the Benitz family's immigration to America: Emil Benitz told his family that (in Pomerania) they lived 35 miles from the Baltic Sea, but had to travel 135 miles to board a ship at Hamburg (Germany), and arrived at New York, 16 July 1875. Though one family story says the family immigrated together and arrived in New York City on 16 July 1875 aboard the Steam Ship California, other family stories say some of the sons came separately. One family story is that the brothers came to America without the parents, perhaps staying with their Aunt Wilhelmine (Benitz) and John Keihnhoff, or living near Geary, Kansas north of Atchison until the parents arrived. Another story is that the oldest son "Bill," almost 20 years old, arrived first, perhaps with 13-year-old Albert in June 1873.

Phil Benitz, a grandson of Emil Benitz shared this Benitz family history: "In 1874, Heinrich and Wilhelmine with daughter Lena (*approximate age 18*) and youngest son Emil (*age 11*) came to Wathena, Kansas. They bought a farm 5 miles southwest of town. The whole family lived at this farm then, but the older boys soon stayed with other families doing farm work. Ronald Benitz and family live now on this (*original Benitz*) farm."

Around 2000, for a school research project, Jake Benitz (son of Ron & Linda Benitz—great-grandson of Emil Benitz) shared these family stories:

Emil left Germany with his parents and sister arriving at New York, July 16, 1875. Three of Emil's brothers, who were of draft age left Germany separately, two before Emil, and

one, Fred, maybe shortly later. Prussia had been dissolved a few years before and their land became Germany. With their beloved Prussia gone and living under a new flag, I imagine their nationalism was a very low—weakening a desire to remain in their homeland. Also the German draft at that time was something to stay clear of, as being in the German army was worse than facing the enemy. The brothers had an aunt already here, (John and) Wilhemine Kiehnoff (Kienhoff). Wilhemine was a sister to Heinrich Benitz. What is interesting to me about this migration is that many of their neighbors from Germany immigrated here and became neighbors once again, this time out from under the yoke of the Kaiser. The names I can recall from a German church record book are Bahr, Gaul, Ruhnke, Schmitke, Schmolt, Peuker, Groenke, Doro. They started a Lutheran church and school with a half day German and a half day English, not wanting to give up the German until World War I, when it ceased.

In 1990, when he was nearly 89 years old, Ernest Benitz, son of Emil Benitz, shared Benitz family stories. He also said that “the three oldest Benitz sons (*Albert, Fritz, and Albert*) came over to get out of the army.”

The trip over must have been quite an adventure, especially for the young folks. It is believed the older sons did not travel when their parents did, and a family story told by Gerhard Benitz, is that one of the Benitz sons, possibly Albert, wanted to know some English and how to greet the captain, so asked a cousin(?) Reinhold Priebe(?), also on the ship and who'd learned some English, to teach him. Obliging, he taught him English—very rude words.... When Albert greeted the captain with his newly learned greeting, he was *not* amused and threatened to throw him off the ship in the middle of the ocean! Fortunately, that did not occur and he made it safely to America—probably being much more careful about knowing the real meaning of the new words he was learning!!

It is not known how the family came from New York to Wathena in the 1870s, although both river travel and trains were in use at the time. One family story is that at least some of the sons landed (perhaps on a steam-powered paddle boat) at the old boat landing in Gerry—an early Missouri River town six miles north of Atchison. However, railroads had expanded to St. Joseph, Missouri by 1859, and the first railroad in Kansas had been built between Elwood (across the river from St. Joseph) and Wathena by 1860. Work on the railroad was discontinued until after the Civil War, but by 1868, the St. Joseph and Denver City railroad (St. Joseph and Grand Island) was extended as far west as Troy and then on to the Brown County line. Kansas City built the first railroad bridge across the Missouri in 1869, and St. Joseph completed a railroad, wagon, and foot bridge across the Missouri River in the 1873.

Legal records help some in determining when the family arrived in America, but they may not be totally accurate, and are not complete. Doniphan County handwritten Naturalization Records, which are based on information provided by the petitioner, show: **Albert Benitz** emigrated from Hamburg, Germany to New York in June 1873 (age would have been 13); **Fred Benitz** emigrated from Hamburg on the “California” vessel to New York July 1875 (age would have been 17); and **Emil Benitz**'s port of entry was New York 16 July 1875 (age would have been 11). There is a “**William A Benitz**” noted in the records, with no birth date or age; and a **Henry Benitz** (age 63 in 1885), but no details about immigration date or port of entry are noted on their records. There were no female applicants for naturalization; however names of the wife and children were listed on some applications.

HEINRICH "HENRY" AND WILHELMINE "MINNIE" GRÖNKA (GROENKE) BENITZ

Heinrich "Henry" Benitz was born 1 Oct 1824 in Zeman, Pomerania, Prussia; and Wilhelmine "Minnie" Grönka was born 23 Feb 1820 also in Pomerania. Their parents' names are unknown. Their marriage date and place is also unknown, although it is possible they were married in the early 1850s in Zeman.

Little is known of their home and life in Pomerania, except that their country had just become part of the new German Empire. It seems the family was concerned about the sons being drafted into the German army, as some of the sons apparently did not come to America at the same time as their parents. Since they came to America to farm, they probably also were farmers in Pomerania.

Heinrich and Wilhelmine had five known children, all born in Zeman: Wilhelm/William "Bill" (b July 1853, m "Sally" Sinker), Lena (b 1855?, m Charles Fichtel—uncle to Sally Sinker), Freidrich/Fred "Fritz" (b March 1858, m Johanna Wende, Amelia "Melie" Wende), Albert (b Feb 1860, m Mary Wende), and Emil (b Aug 1864, m Augusta "Gustie" Loroff).

Although life expectancy was shorter in the 1800s than now, both Heinrich and Wilhelmine were in their 50s when they and their five children ranging in age from about 20 to 11 years old, left Pomerania to immigrate to America. On 16 July 1875, Heinrich and Wilhelmine, with their daughter, Lena, and youngest son Emil, arrived in New York from Hamburg, Germany. Their three older sons apparently arrived in New York at different times; Wilhelm and Albert probably in 1873, and Freidrich "Fritz," about two weeks later than the parents in 1875. There is a picture of the four Benitz brothers that appears to have been taken shortly after their arrival in Kansas, or perhaps for a wedding—they are all neatly groomed and dressed in fine clothing.

It's believed the family moved to a farm about five miles southwest of Wathena when the parents arrived. Ernest Benitz (son of Emil) shared in 1990, his family's story of the Benitz's arrival in Kansas, part of which was: "When the folks got here, the grasshoppers had just left; they ate all the leaves of the trees and everything was bare; there wasn't anything left. But they had a big potato crop."

Approximately two years after their arrival in America, Heinrich/Henry and Wilhelmine/Minnie purchased land: Doniphan County land records for 27 Aug 1877 show: For \$660, "H. and W. Benetz....(bought) the South two thirds of the South half of the South East quarter of section 33 in Twp 3 South of range 21 east, containing fifty three (53) and 1/3 acres," and a house from the Duffy family—who continued to live north of the Benitz farm. Phil Benitz [great grandson of Henry and Wilhelmine Benitz] wrote on 15 Oct 1987, "The farm that [old] Henry Benitz bought in the 1870s was part of the Duffy place. The house that Benitz's moved into was built by Peter Duffy and with him being a stone mason, he left evidence of his trade by the stones he cut for the foundation. His masterpiece was a smokehouse that is still standing."

On 15 Nov 1881, Henry purchased forty acres in the "East half of the South half of the South West quarter of Section 35, Twp 3 South of Range 21 East" of Doniphan County for \$500. Henry purchased more land on 24 June 1888: For Nineteen hundred (\$1900) dollars, he bought the "North part of the North East fractional quarter (1/4) of Section 2 in Twp 4 of Range 21 containing seventy four (74) and sixty eight 68/100 one hundredths acres more or less." The document was filed in the Doniphan County Register of Deed's office for record on 17 June

1889. (Great-grandson, Ron and Linda Benitz currently own, farm, and live on the original Benitz farm.)

When Heinrich "Henry" was 63 years old in August 1885, he filed Intent for Naturalization. All of Henry and Minnie's sons, and their son-in-law, also at some time, filed Intent for Naturalization. Doniphan County records show William A., "Fred," Albert, and Emil Benitz did become citizens, but Henry apparently did not complete the citizenship process prior to his death.

All of Henry and Minnie's children married and lived near their parents in the Wathena area. Henry and Minnie lived on the original farm the rest of their lives; Emil also lived with them on the farm, and after his marriage, raised his family of nine there.

Heinrich/Henry died at age 76 on 19 April 1900; his cause of death was listed as "old age." Wilhelmine/Minnie died at age 86 on 13 Feb 1907; her cause of death was listed as "senile disability." Both are buried at Christ Lutheran Cemetery in rural Wathena.

Heinrich/Henry had his will (hand) written in Doniphan County in June 1886; it (with the incorrect Benitz name spelling) reads:

Will of Henry Bennets

Know all men by these presents that I, Henry Bennets of Center Township Doniphan County State of Kansas, am of sound mind and make this my last will and testament to wit: I will and bequeath to Wilhelminnie Bennets my wife all of my property of whatever kind, both real estate and personal property wherever found: to have and hold as her own so long as she shall survive me. But if the above named Wilhelminnie Bennets does not survive me (Henry Bennets), then all property shall remain in my possession until my death. And I will and bequeath, all my property to my wife Wilhelminnie so long as she shall live after my death: and then all property of whatever kind and wherever found in her possession, I will to my son Emil Charles Bennets to hold and do as he sees fit to do with. And it is required of said Emil Charles Bennets to pay to the rest of my heirs hereafter named the sum of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) said from to be paid to the following named persons in six months after he shall come in possession of said property: To Wilhelm Albert Bennets Twenty five dollars (\$25.00), to Lena Maria Fiechtel Twenty five dollars (\$25.00), to Frederick Charles Bennets twenty five dollars (\$25.00) to Albert Rudolph Bennets twenty five dollars (\$25.00). I also chose as my executor my son Emil Charles Bennets. In witness where of I have hereunto set my hand this fifth (5) day of June AD 1886. Signed Heinrich Bennitz

Signed and delivered by the above named Henry Bennets to be his last will and testament in the presence of us who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses here to this fifth (5) day of June AD 1886.

Witnesses: Peter Mohr, Gottfried Meidinger, H.N. Winn

The fifth (5) day of June AD 1886 before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for Marion Township personally appeared Henry Bennets who is personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument of writing and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed for the purpose therein mentioned.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and official seat the day and year last above mentioned.

C. N. Winn Justice of the peace

Probate court 9 Dec 1908 shows that Emil Benitz paid \$25.00 each to Lena Fichtel and Albert Rudolph Benitz, and they executed and delivered to Emil Benitz a quit claim deed to all

the land devised Emil Charles Benitz, by his father, Henry Benitz; that said Emil Charles Benitz, on the 5th day of November, 1908, paid to George W. Kinkead, County Treasurer of Doniphan County, Kansas, the sum of \$25.the said Frederick C. Benitz, having refused to accept said \$25.00.

That William Albert Benitz, deceased intestate, in Doniphan County, Kansas, prior to the death of Henry Benitz, that he left as his heirs and only heirs at law, Sarah, his widow, who is now Sarah Wolnick, and the following children: Bertha Benitz, Estella Benitz, Minnie Benitz, Pearl Benitz, now the wife of Albert Ruhnke, Julius Benitz, Tessie Benitz, George Benitz and Alto Benitz..... Sarah Wolnick received \$12.50, and each child \$1.57; Julius and Alto refused to accept their share of said \$25.00.

Children of Heinrich "Henry" and Wilhelmine "Minnie" (Groenke) Benitz



Lena Benitz Feichtel (with daughter),



Fred, Albert? Emil?, "Bill" Benitz

Additional family information:

The family immigrated in the 1870s to the Troy, KS area from the Pomerania area of Prussia, now part of Germany near the Polish border.

Wilhelm "William" "Bill" m. Saria "Sally" Sinke (niece of Karl Feichtel)

Lena Mariah (Maria) m. Karl Feichtel

Friedrich "Fred" "Fritz" m. Johanna Wende, Amelia "Emily" "Melie" Wende

Albert Herman m. Marie "Mary" Wende

Emil m. Augusta Elizabeth Loroff

Christ Lutheran Church

A significant part of the Benitz family's life was their Lutheran faith and church activities. The family helped establish Christ Lutheran Church in rural Wathena during the 1880s; they were charter members. The 1984 Christ Lutheran Church (100 year anniversary) Directory provides some details of the church's early years:

In 1881, several German families which had settled in that portion of Doniphan County situated south of Wathena and Troy began gathering in their respective homes or in the school house for the study of God's Word and for Christian fellowship. By the year 1884, this group of Christians realized that they needed a minister to enhance their worship. The group dispatched Mr. August Kienhoff and Mr. John Scholz to Atchison, Kansas for the purpose of seeking the assistance of Reverend W. Zschoche, who served as the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. Rev. Zschoche quite willingly agreed to minister to those who had sought him out and for the next two years spent one weekend a month in Doniphan County for instructing the young on Saturday and preaching on Sunday.... The congregation prospered and grew.....

(On) July 20, 1894, the congregation bought ground from Frederick Sinke on which they intended to build a church and in this same year formed a building committee. Members of the building committee were W.F. Kienhoff, Ludwig Nitz, August Ruhnke, Albert Benitz, and Frank Loroff..... Many of the materials necessary for constructing the church were donated, thus reducing the cost of building the church to approximately Twenty-four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400). In 1894, construction of the church building was completed and the structure was dedicated..... Building a parsonage was approved the following year.

The church saw changes (paraphrased) throughout the years:

- *A school building was added to the north end of the church in 1908; building committee members included Albert and Alto Benitz. Around 1920, the parochial school ceased to function.*
- *English worship services were added to the German worship services by 1915. World War I undoubtedly hastened the decrease of German language services and business, as the war was against Germany. German church services were discontinued in 1941.*
- *From its early days through the 1930s, it appears the church regularly exercised church discipline. For example, in 1915, a number of members were excommunicated from the congregation for lack of attendance and failure to support the church.*
- *In June 1925, during an electrical storm with 10 inches of rain, lightning struck the church, and it burnt to the ground. The church was rebuilt and dedicated 18 April 1926; the building committee included Alto Benitz and Henry Kienhoff.*
- *A tornado struck the church and parsonage on 26 May 1955, but both were repaired and services continued in the rural church. However, increasingly, church growth was affected by the roads to the rural church: the roads were common Doniphan County roads—seemingly bottomless after a good rain....*
- *Relocating the church was considered in 1958, and after several votes through the years, the members voted in May 1969 to relocate. Committees' members involved with the relocation included Henry Kienhoff, Richard McKittrick, Robert Boeh, William Kienhoff, and Raymond, Leonard, and Victor Gaul. After considering possible sites in Troy and Wathena, the current site in Wathena was selected and a new church was built; it was dedicated in April 1972. The old church was torn down, materials and furnishings sold, and the parsonage, church basement, and also the ground was sold. The bell was moved to the new church.*

Today, Benitz family descendents and relatives still remain active in Christ Lutheran and its beautiful brick church building on the west edge of Wathena. The church has seen many family gatherings over the years, including Baptism, Confirmation, and Graduation celebrations;

weddings, funerals, and family reunions. There have been several big Benitz—and related Wende—family reunions, with descendents of all five of (old) Henry and Minnie Benitz's children attending. Although the earliest known bigger reunion was in 1926 at Lena (Benitz) Feichtel's home, the last ones were at Christ Lutheran Church. The summer 1976 Benitz reunion was at the "county" Christ Lutheran church southeast of Wathena; 186 relatives were there to enjoy being family. The last big reunion was 19 Aug 2007 at the "new" church in Wathena; over 130 relatives/friends enjoyed the pot-luck dinner, "catching up" and visiting with relatives both familiar and newly discovered, and looking at family pictures.

William Albert and Sarah Julia "Sallie"(Sinker) Benitz

William (Wilhelm) "Bill" Albert Benitz was born 24 July 1853 in Zemmen, near Klein Tuchen, Pomerania in Prussia. He was the oldest son of Heinrich and Wilhemine Caroline (Gronke) Benitz. He immigrated to the rural Wathena, Kansas area in the mid-1870s, when he was about 20 years old and thus very eligible for serving in the unpopular Prussian army. Possibly, his younger brother, Albert immigrated with him.

William filled a Declaration of Intention (for American citizenship) on 27 June 1876; the Declaration became invalid after seven years. A Second Declaration was filed and Bill was granted American citizenship 5 Oct 1888.

William married Sarah Julia "Sallie" "Sally" Sinker (Sinke) (Zinke), probably in the mid 1870s; the marriage certificate has not yet been found. Sallie was born 18 June 1858 or 9 near Wathena in Doniphan County, which was then part of the Kansas territory; her father's name was possibly Fred.

William and Sallie farmed near his parents: they had eight children: George William (b 25 Nov 1878), Pearl Emma (b 18 Oct 1880?, m Albert Ruhnke), Alto Richard? (b 11 Feb 1882, m Nellie Willard), Julius Wilhelm? (b 1883, m _____), Wilhelamine "Minnie" Johanne?(b 26 Jan 1886, m Christ Pape), Bertha Augusto (b 18 July 1887, m John Abbott), Estelle "Stella" Fredericke? (b 1890, m _____Greer, James Lynn), and Theresia Johanne (b 19 Mar 1892, m George Wiatt, Frank Peel).

William died on 26 Oct 1892 in an accident with run-away horses. He is buried in Cordiner/ Rosedale Cemetery in rural Wathena (Christ Lutheran Church Cemetery may not have been established yet). A bill dated Nov 28, 1892 from Peter Miller, Furniture Dealer and Undertaker in Wathena, show his final expenses and that Sarah's parents helped make the arrangements. Sarah "Sallie" was left a widow with eight young children age six months to 14 years. Even with family living nearby, this must have been a very difficult time for the young family.

On 26 Nov 1892, Sarah appeared in Doniphan County probate court to request "Letters of Administration" for William's estate, which consisted of "3 wagons, 4 mules, 5 cows, 3 hogs, 400 bushels wheat, 30 acres growing wheat, all of said estate being estimated to be worth about four hundred and fifty dollars." William did not have a will, and appraisers were appointed in January 1893 by Doniphan County to evaluate the estate. On 17 Feb 1893, the appraisal showed: Articles allowed without appraisement: "All household goods of every description, one pair mules and harness, one red and white cow, six hogs, one spring wagon, one farm wagon, and all farming utensils on the place." The necessary food chosen by said widow for the support of said stock, for one year, to wit: "All corn and hay on the premises." Other (taxable)

property was 96 acres of land, four cows valued at \$15 each, one red heifer valued at \$10, five calves valued at \$6 each, one pair black mules valued at \$200, and Three hundred bushels wheat valued at \$100.

Wathena Kansas Nov 28 1879		
Mrs. Fred Linker sen		
BOUGHT OF		
Peter Miller,		
FURNITURE DEALER AND UNDERTAKER.		
Picture Frames, Oil Paintings, Chromos, Etc.		
Oct 28	For his son-in-law Bill Beckert Coffin & Box Shroud Embroid Horse	28.00 2.25 9.00 <u>\$39.25</u>
Nov 28	Recd Sarah Benitz by Fred Linker Sen in full Peter Miller	

In 1894, Sarah married Karl (Henry?) Wolnick at Christ Lutheran Church. They had three children: Alma "Marie" (b 5 Mar 1895, m _____ Smith), Robert (b 1899, m?), and Henry (b 1904, m?). Sarah and Karl Wolnick divorced in _____.

August B Gutzman and Sarah later married. August died in 1933, and Sarah Sinker Benitz Wolnick Gutzman died 13 Oct 1943 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Theresa Peel, after being bedfast about a year following a hip fracture. Both August and Sarah are buried in Belmont Cemetery near Wathena.

Note: Although many in all the Benitz families were involved in the hard work of challenging, frustrating, rewarding farm life; there are other family members with equally interesting successful careers. Nelita "Nicki" Benitz Allen Scheffler (daughter of Alto and Nellie Willard Benitz) shared information about some of the children and grandchildren of William & Sally Benitz, and Sally & Karl Wolnick, known to have found success in areas outside farming: Son George Benitz was a physician in Puerto Rico before returning to practice in St. Joseph, Missouri. Grandson Max Benitz (son of Alto and Nellie Willard Benitz), was a Washington State Representative from 1968-74 and State Senator from 1974-90; he was instrumental in the State Energy Code and the Higher Education System. Shelby Smith (son of _____ and Marie Wolnick Smith), served in the Kansas legislature, was Lt. Governor in 1976, and Chief Administrative Aide to Governor Hayden.

FAMILY GROUP NO. _____ Husband's Full Name William Albert Benitz

This information Obtained From: Records of Nelita (Nicki) Benitz Allen 1987
daughter of Alto & Nellie Willard Benitz

Husband's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info on Husband
Birth	24	July	1853	Zemmen (near Klein Tuchen)	Pommern	Prussia (Germany)	
Chr'nd							
Mar.				Rural Wathena?			
Death	28	Oct	1892				
Burial				Rosedale Cemetery - Rural Wathena - Doniphan Co.		Kansas	

Places of Residence Zemmen, Prussia & Rural Wathena Education _____
 Occupation Farmer Church Affiliation Lutheran? Military Rec. _____
 His Father Heinrich Benitz Mother's Maiden Name Wilhemine Caroline Gronka

Wife's Full Maiden Name "Sallie" Sarah Julia Senke (r) (Zinke)

Wife's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info on Wife
Birth	18	June	1858	Near Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas Territory	
Chr'nd							
Death	13	Oct	1943	St. Joseph at Teresa (Benitz) Peel's Home	Buchanan	Missouri	Bedfast about a year after hip fracture
Burial	17	Oct	1943	(Belmont) Wathena (Doniphan)		Kansas	

Compiler Janette Anderson Brown Date 1990's
 Address _____ City, State _____
 Occupation _____ Church Affiliation 2 Karl Wolnick (div) #3 August B. Gutzman
 Her Father Fred? Mother's Maiden Name _____

Seq	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info on Children
M 1	<u>George William</u> Full Name of Spouse Confirmed 1894	Birth	25	Nov	1878				
		Mar.							
		Death	15	Nov	1947				
		Burial							
		Occupation	Physician in Puerto Rico before returning to practice in St. Joseph, MO						Education Med school - Dallas Tx
F 2	<u>Pearl Emma</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>Albert Ruhnke</u> Confirmed 1896	Birth	18	Oct	1881	1880?			
		Mar.	4	Nov	1903	(Christ Luth) Wathena Doniphan		Kansas	Vernon, Albert Alto, Roy, Clarence Myrtle
		Death	6	June	1949				
		Burial							
		Occupation							Education _____
M 3	<u>Alto Richard (?)</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>Nellie Beatrice Willard</u> Confirmed 1897	Birth	11	Feb	1852				
		Mar.			1909				Grand Earl, Maxine Lucille (Jorgensen), David, Donald, Helen (Peters), Nelita (Allen)
		Death	15	Nov	1959				
		Burial							
		Occupation	Farmer						Education _____
			Also a dau, Maxine, who died in 1916 - age 3 - drowned in abandoned well						
M 4	<u>Jubins Wilhelm (?)</u> Full Name of Spouse Confirmed 1899	Birth			1883				William Joseph
		Mar.							baptized 1894
		Death			1945?				
		Burial							
		Occupation							Education _____
			Not mentioned in survivor in "Sally's 1943 obituary"						
F 5	<u>"Minnie" Wilhelmine Johanne (?)</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>Christ Pape</u> Confirmed 1901	Birth	26	Jan	1886				Justine (Snyder) Verna (Gambrell) Genevieve (Fulson) Christdot.
		Mar.							
		Death	24	Jan	1952				
		Burial							
		Occupation							Education _____

Alto Benitz family history says William arrived in America about 1870 and settled in rural Wathena Kansas. He was killed in 1892 in a tragic accident with run-away horses.

Husband's Full Name William Albert Benitz

FAMILY GROUP No. _____

This Information Obtained From:		Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Records of Nels (Nick) Benitz Allen 1989 - daughter of Alto & Nellie (Willard) Benitz		Birth			1853			Prussia	
		Chr'nd							
		Mar.							
		Death			1892			Kansas	
		Burial							
Places of Residence		Occupation			Church Affiliation			Education	
Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.		His Father			Mother's Maiden Name			Military Rec.	
		Wife's Full Maiden Name <u>"Sallie" Sarah Julia Sinker</u>							
Wife's Date		Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife	
		Birth			1885			Kansas	
		Chr'nd							
		Death			1843			Missouri Kansas	
		Burial			1843				Education
Compiler <u>Janette Anderson Brown</u>		Places of Residence			Church Affiliation			Education	
Address		Occupation			Church Affiliation			Military Rec.	
City, State		Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.			His Father			Mother's Maiden Name	
Date <u>1990's</u>		Her Father			Mother's Maiden Name			Education	
Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
F	<u>Bertha Augusto</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>John Abbott</u> Confirmed 1901	Birth	18	July	1887				Clarence, Richard Viola Letha Roy, Ernestine John Henry
		Mar.							
		Death	26	May	1931				
		Burial							
		Occupation				Education			
F	<u>Estelle "Stella" Fredericka(?) Greer</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>James Lynn</u> Confirmed 1901	Birth			1890				James Jack
		Mar.							
		Death			1945				
		Burial							
		Occupation				Education			
F	<u>Theresia Johanne</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>George W. Watt (m 1924 Christ Luth)</u> <u>Frank Peal</u> Confirmed 1909	Birth	19	Mar	1892				
		Mar.							
		Death	3	May	1947				
		Burial							
		Occupation				Education			
	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation				Education			
	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation				Education			

#2 Marriage Sallie married Karl Wolnick on 26 Mar 1894 at Christ Luth, Waltham. Divorced

children: Alma Marie (m. Smith) b. 5 April 1894

Robert (Wolnick) b. 1902 m. d. 1982 S. Carolina

Henry b. 1904 m. d. 1925 buried Belmont

#3 husband August "Gus" B. Gutzman (1858-1933) buried in Belmont Cemetery Waltham

Family of William Albert & Sarah "Sallie" Sinker Benitz
 About 1897 or 8



Back row: Julius, Wilhelmine (Lipe), Alto, Bertha (Abbott)
 Front: George, Stella (Lynn), Sarah Sinker Benitz (Wolnick) (Guteman), Theresia (Paul), Pearl (Rubinke)
 Note: William Albert Benitz died in 1892 in a wagon accident.



Easter 1988, St. Joseph, Mo.
 Several children of Alto & Nellie Willard Benitz:
 Max Benitz, "Pet" & "Nick" Benitz Allen, Earl "Bud" Benitz
 (Mrs Max) Marie Wilson Benitz



Children of Alto & Nellie (Willard) Benitz
? Grant, Earl, Maxine, Lucille ?
Grand-children of William "Bill" and Sarah (Sinker) Benitz

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name Charles (Carl Karl) "Charlie" ^(Fitzel) Fichtel

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Citizenship application	Birth	12	April	1843	Prenavia	Prussia	Germany	Emigrated from Hamburg on Germanic to New York Sept 1869
Phil Benitz	Chr'nd							
Alvin Elliott	Mar.							
Ron + Linda Benitz	Death			1936				
Billie + Carol Higginbotham (Lena Benitz Fichtel descendant)	Burial				(Christ Lutheran) Wathena, Doniphan Co. KS			
Places of Residence		Occupation		Church Affiliation		Education		Military Rec.
Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.		His Father		Mother's Maiden Name				

Wife's Full Maiden Name [?] Caroline "Lena" ^{"Marie"} Mariach Benitz

Wife's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	27	Aug	1854	Pommern		Germany	
Chr'nd							
Death			1933	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
Burial				(Christ Lutheran) Wathena, DP		Kansas	
Places of Residence		Occupation		Church Affiliation		Education	
Prussia, Rural Wathena, Ks		Homemaker		Lutheran			
Her Father		Mother's Maiden Name					
Heinrich Benitz		Wilhelmine Groenke					

Compiler Janette Anderson Brown
Address _____
City, State _____
Date 1970-12-2009

Children's Names in Full (arrange in order of birth)

F 1 Edith Ida "Eda" Full Name of Spouse	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
	Birth		Dec	1877				
	Mar.							
	Death			1955				
	Burial				Christ Lutheran	Doniphan	Kansas	
Occupation		Education						
Housework in St. Joseph, Mo								

F 2 Lillie L "Stella" Full Name of Spouse David P. Tuck (policeman in St. Joseph)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
	Birth		Jan	1879				
	Mar.	24	Dec	1902	(Christ Luth)	Wathena Doniphan	Kansas	1/ Marie Aileen (Hawking) 2/ Leona 3/ David
	Death							
	Burial							
Occupation		Education						
Housework in St. Joseph, Mo								

F 3 Mathilda "Tillie" Full Name of Spouse Wampler (Separated)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
	Birth		July	1880				
	Mar.							
	Death							
	Burial							
Occupation		Education						
Housework in St. Joseph, Mo								

M 4? (Amel) 5? Emil Carl Full Name of Spouse Gertrude Eberle	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
	Birth	?	June	1854				1/ Lena (King) 2/ June
	Mar.			1913	(Christ Luth)	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas
	Death			1966				
	Burial				Mt. Olive Cemetery	Doniphan	Kansas	
Occupation		Education						

F 5? "Mandy" 6? Amanda Caroline Full Name of Spouse Herman Wiesenberger	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
	Birth		Oct	1885	Baptized 1886	Doniphan	Kansas	1/ Helen 2/ Norman
	Mar.	29	Dec	1909				
	Death	8	July	1961	Dallas		Texas	
	Burial				Kansas City		Missouri	
Occupation		Education						

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name Charles Fichte (Fitchel)

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
<u>Phil Benitz</u>	Birth			<u>1843</u>			<u>Germany</u>	
<u>Alvin Elliott</u>	Chr'nd							
<u>Ron & Linda Benitz</u>	Mar.							
<u>Bobbie & Carol Higginbotham</u>	Death			<u>1935</u>			<u>Kansas</u>	
	Burial							

Places of Residence	Education
Occupation	Church Affiliation
	Military Rec.

Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each wife.

Wife's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
	Birth						
	Chr'nd						
	Death						
	Burial						

Compiler <u>Donna Anderson Brown</u>	Places of Residence	Education
Address	Occupation	Church Affiliation
City, State		

Date 1962 / 2007 Her Father _____ Mother's Maiden Name _____

See	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
-----	--	-----------------	-----	-------	------	---------------------	--------------------------	------------------	------------------------

<u>6?</u>	<u>Osta</u>	Birth			<u>April 1873</u>				
<u>4?</u>	<u>Esther</u> Full Name of Spouse	Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation	<u>Housework in St. Joseph Mo</u>						

<u>7</u>	<u>Mary Agathe</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>William Hudson</u> cleaner in St. Joe	Birth			<u>Aug 1884</u>	<u>Baptized 1888</u>			<u>No children</u>
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation	<u>Owned Hudson Cleaners in St. Joseph Mo</u>						

<u>8</u>	<u>Albert Johann</u> Full Name of Spouse	Birth			<u>Aug 1899</u>	<u>baptized 1890</u>			
		Mar.							
		Death			<u>Aug 1965</u>				
		Burial							
		Occupation	<u>Military Service in WW I</u>						

<u>9</u>	<u>Carl Adolph</u> Full Name of Spouse	Birth			<u>27 Jan 1892</u>				
		Mar.							
		Death			<u>Feb 1975</u>				
		Burial							
		Occupation	<u>Military Service in WW I</u>						

<u>5</u>	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation							

"Lena" (Benitz) and Charles "Karl" Fichtel (Feichtel)

Lena Benitz was born in Pommern (German name for Pomerania), Prussia in July? of 1855 or 1857. Her full name may have been Caroline Mariah (Marie) Benitz. She was the second child and only daughter of Heinrich Benitz and Wilhilmine Groenke Benitz. When she was about 18 years old, she immigrated to America with her parents and youngest brother Emil, arriving in New York on 16 July 1875. Her other three brothers also came to America around the same time. The family settled on a farm southwest of Wathena. Not as much information has been located for Lena as has been for her parents and brothers.

Lena was about 19 or 20 when she married Charles (Carl) "Karl" "Charlie" Fichtel, a neighbor around 13 years older. County records show Charles was born 12 April 1843 in Prenovin, Germany, and had emigrated from Hamburg on the "Germamio" to New York in September 1869.

Charles and Lena lived on a farm near her parents. Charles apparently owned land; a Doniphan County land record shows that on 16 Oct 1873, Abe M. Saxton and wife sold to Charles Fichtel the east ½ NE ¼ sec 19, Twp 4, Range 21 for \$800.

Charles and Lena had nine children: Edith Ida "Eda" (b 1877), Lillie L (b ?Jan 1879, m David Tuck), Matilda "Tillie" (b ?July, m _____ Wampler), Emil (Amel) Carl, (b ?June 1884?, m Gertrude Eberle), Amanda "Mandy" Caroline? (b Oct 1885, m Herman Wiesenberger), Osta? "Ester" (b ?April 1883?), Marie Aguste (b ?Aug 1886?, m William Hobson), Albert Johann (b ?Aug 1889), and Carl Adolph (b 27 Jan 1892). A cousin, Ernest Benitz, commented in 1990 the Fichtel "girls" were all good workers who worked in St. Joseph, Missouri doing housework.

Citizenship records for Doniphan County show a Carl Fitchel listed on 5 Feb 1918, perhaps for a Declaration of Intent, as citizenship isn't indicated. The record also lists his age as 74, his birthdate and place, and describes him as "White, dark complexion, 5'3" 140 lbs. dark brown hair, blue eyes. ... Wife Lena, 60 years. Born in Germany."

Lena died in 1933, and Charles in 1935; both are buried in the Christ Lutheran cemetery in rural Wathena.



Ida Fichtel



Aleene Tuck (Hawkins)
Daughter of David and Lillie (Fichtel) Tuck



Amanda Fichtel (Wiesenberger)



Matilda "Billie" Fichtel (Wampler)



Albert Johann Fichtel



Served in
World War I

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name Friedrich "Fritz" "Fred C." Charles Benitz

This information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Edna (Mrs. Arnold) Ruhnke	Birth	31	Mar	1858	Zeman	Pomerania	Prussia	
Benitz with information from Marie Benitz	Chr'nd							Became citizen
Bachelor	Mar.	27	May	1885	(Christ Luth) Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	10 Jan 1923
Ron & Linda Benitz	Death	15	April	1934	"	"	"	Date of intent 27 Aug 1918
	Burial							

Places of Residence Zeman Prussia; & Wathena, KS Education
 Occupation Farmer Church Affiliation Lutheran Military Rec.
 Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. #2 Amelia "Melie" Louise Wende
 Make separate sheet for each mar.
 His Father Heinrich Benitz Mother's Maiden Name W. Helmine Groenke

Wife's Full Maiden Name Johanna "Jennie" Wende

Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	19	Jan	1869	Laveon		Prussia	Died from measles
Chr'nd							
Death	30	April	1894	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
Burial				(Ordinary)		Kansas	

Compiler Janette Anderson Brown
 Places of Residence Prussia & Wathena, KS Education
 Address _____ Occupation _____ Church Affiliation _____
 City, State _____
 Date 1990 & 2009 Her Father Johann Wende Mother's Maiden Name Marie Nauschke

Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
F	1 Laura Wilhelmine Full Name of Spouse #1 Paul Gutzman m 7 July 1909 Christ Luth. Died of heart attack may 1910 #2 Gustav F. Shultz	Birth	14	June	1887	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Gustav (Shultz)
		Mar. #2	19	June	1920			Oregon	Froze in trenches
		Death	31	Dec	1971	Rockford		Illinois	in WW II Italy
		Burial				Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	? Dorothy (Andis)
		Occupation			Homemaker			Education	8 th grade

gus had 3 dau who were already raised when he married Laura
 F 2 Edna B? Marie
Full Name of Spouse
August A Hartman
b. 21 Aug 1891 d. 11 Mar 1957
 Birth 28 Jan 1889 Wathena Doniphan Kansas
 Mar. (Christ Luth) Wathena "
 Death 2 Nov 1951 Near Wathena "
 Burial (Christ Luth) "
 Occupation Homemaker Fruit farmer north of Wathena Education 8th grade

F	3 "Hannah" Johanna Amelia Albertine Full Name of Spouse Merritt Harry Meyer b. 26 July 1892 d. 10 Jan 1968	Birth	3	July	1891 or 2	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	1 Frederick 2 Kenneth
		Mar.				(Christ Luth) Wathena	"	"	3 Dannie
		Death	26	June	1966	St Joseph (Home)	Buchanan	Missouri	
		Burial				St Joseph	"	"	
		Occupation			Homemaker			Education	8 th grade
		Harry was a printer in St. Joe							

M	4 "William" Wilhelm Albert Full Name of Spouse	Birth	17	Dec	1893	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Mar.							
		Death	1	May	1894	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Burial							
		Occupation						Education	
		Died of measles							

	5	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation						Education	

Notes: Always farmed same farm
 Education important in family - Had all children go to school,
 Family charter members of Christ Lutheran, Wathena, KS

Friedrich "Fred C" "Fritz" and Johanna "Jane" "Jennie" (Wende) Benitz

Friedrich "Fred C" "Fritz" Charles (Carles) was born 31 Mar 1858 in Zeman, Pomerania, Prussia. He was the third child and second son of Heinrich and Wilhelmine (Groenke) Benitz. When he was 17, Friedrich emigrated from Hamburg, Germany on the "California" vessel arriving in New York July 1875. His parents, sister and youngest brother also immigrated in July 1875, but they may not have traveled together. The family settled on a farm in the Wathena, Kansas area, and as was customary then, Fritz probably "boarded out" and worked for neighboring farm families before beginning his own farm.

When he was 27, Fritz married 16 year old Johanna "Jane" "Jennie" Wende on 27 May 1885 at the new Christ Lutheran Church. Johanna was born 19 Jan 1869 in Laven, Germany, the eighth child and fifth daughter of Johann "John" Gottfried and Marie (Naschke) Wende. Johanna was about 16 months old when she and her family (of 10) emigrated from Hamburg, Germany to New York, then to the Wathena area.

Fritz and Jennie were parents of four children: Laura Wilhelmine (b 14 June 1887, m Paul Gutzman, Gustav Shultz), Edna B? Marie (b 28 Jan 1889, m August Hartman), Johanna "Hannah" Amelia Albertina (b 2 July 1891[2], m Mertain Harry Meyer), and Wilhelm "William" Albert (b 17 Dec 1893).

Tragedy struck the family in the spring of 1894, when 25-year-old Jennie died 30 April 1894, and their baby, 4-month-old William died 1 May 1894; both died of measles. In addition to farming, Fritz now had the responsibility of their three young daughters, all under age 7. Fortunately, both the Benitz and Wende families lived in the same community.



Hannah
Benitz

Picture
notation:
Frederick
Mertain
Meyer.
Age: 4 mo
3 days
Taken
Oct 13,
1917



(Carlos)

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name Friedrich "Fritz" "Fred C" Charles Benitz

This Information Obtained From:							
Edna (Mrs. Arnold) Ruhneke Benitz with info from Marie Benitz Bachelor	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country
	Birth	31	Mar	1858	Pomerina	Prussia	
	Chr'd						
	Mar.	14	Sept	1898	Atchison	Atchison	Kansas
	Death						
	Burial				(Christ Luth) Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas
	Places of Residence			Education			
	Occupation Farmer			Church Affiliation Christ Luth Military Rec.			
	Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar. #1 Johanna "Jennie" Wende						
	His Father Heinrich Benitz			Mother's Maiden Name Wilhelmine Groenke			

Wife's Full Maiden Name Amelia "Melie" Louise Wende

	Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
	Birth	20	Dec	1871	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Chr'd							
	Death	4	April	1943	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	kidney ailment & pneumonia
	Burial				(Christ Luth) Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	

Compiler Janette Anderson Brown	Places of Residence			Education			
Address _____	Occupation Homemaker			Church Affiliation Lutheran			
City, State _____	Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.						
Date 1990s/2007	Her Father Johann Wende			Mother's Maiden Name Marie Naschke			

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
F 1	"Marie" Bapt 1900 Marie Pearl Elizabeth Full Name of Spouse Joseph Oliver Bachelor b. 22 April 1899 d. 1 Sept 1956	Birth	6	Jan	1900	(Rural) Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Prémie twin
		Mar.	8	Feb	1922	(Christ Luth) "	"	"	day - died at birth
		Death	11	Feb	1981	St Joseph (home)	Buchanan	Missouri	
		Burial	14	Feb	1981	(Memorial) St. Joseph	"	"	
		Occupation Homemaker			Education 8th grade				
		Joseph worked at Tablet Factory							
F 2	Bapt 1901 Clara Emma Full Name of Spouse Erwin Inselman d. 16 April 1927	Birth	19	May	1901	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Mar.	14	Nov	1942	Omaha (eloped)	Douglas	Nebr	
		Death	1	Nov	1970	St. Joseph (Nursing Home)	Buchanan	Missouri	
		Burial							
		Occupation Homemaker			Education (maybe) 1 yr. H.S.				
		Erwin worked at Tablet Factory							
M 3	"Fred" Bapt 1903 Friedrich Phillip Emil Full Name of Spouse Clara Wehking b. 16 June 1902	Birth	24	Mar	1903	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	1 Phyllis
		Mar.	6	April	1932	Nortonville?	"	Kansas	2 Doris (m. Bud Harris)
		Death	22	Oct	1995	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
		Burial							
		Occupation Farmer near Wathena; then Furnace Company			Education 8th grade				
		In later years, lived with Phyllis in St. Joseph							
M 4	Bapt 1904 Carl August Albert Full Name of Spouse Hilda Ramsier	Birth	2	Nov	1904	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	1 Bernard
		Mar.	12	Aug	1925	Atchison	"	"	2 Robert (faded)
		Death	7	Nov	1955	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	3 Melvin (lawyer)
		Burial							4 Carl Jr. died July 1990
		Occupation Farmer near Wathena, then Armor Packing			Education 8th grade				
		Lives in St. Jo.							5 Darlene (Trea)
									6 Betty (Gilpin)
M 5	Bapt 1906 Arnold Otto Full Name of Spouse Edna Ruhneke b. 7 Mar 1911 near Troy Lives in Hiawatha	Birth	5	Feb	1906	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	1 Charlotte (m. Jay Campbell)
		Mar.	16	June	1934	(Christ Luth) Wathena	"	"	2 Geneva (m. Wm Adkins)
		Death	29	April	1989	Hiawatha (Hosp)	Brown	Kansas	3 Edna Mae (m. Dick Evans)
		Burial	1	May	1989	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Occupation Farmer then Hiawatha water meter reader			Education 8th grade				
		Edna was Dr's Nichols & Duckett's office nurse							All three dau - RW's
M 6	male (Op. Co. records)	b. 28 Aug 1907 - Op Co records said a male was born to Fred & Melie no further records							
F 7	Rosie	1908 - died at birth & buried at Condover Cemetery							
	Note:	Note: Arnold & Edna lived with & took care of "Melie" after Fred "Fritz" death. Fritz died at night with only "Melie" there & after that was scared at night. Arnold always farmed on the home place & looked after the parents; the siblings appreciated that & also helped out. Sometimes Fred & Clara had "Melie" in their rooms for a week or so.							

Friedrich "Fred C" "Fritz" and Amelia "Melie" (Wende) Benitz

On 14 Sept 1898, widower Fritz Benitz married 27-year-old Amelia "Melie" Wende at the German Evangelical church in Atchison, Kansas. Amelia was born 20 Dec 1871 in rural Wathena, Kansas, the ninth child and sixth daughter of Johann "John" Gottfried and Marie (Naschke) Wende; she was the first child of their German immigrant family to be born in America. Melie was a younger sister of Jennie (Wende) Benitz, and after Jennie's death helped in Fritz's home caring for the three young girls.

In addition to Fritz and Jennie's three daughters, Fritz and Melie also had five children of their own that lived beyond infancy: Maria "Marie" Pearl Elizabeth (b 6 Jan 1900, m Joseph Bachelor), Clara Emma (b 19 May 1901, m Erwin Inselman), Friedrich "Fred P" Phillip Emil (b 24 Mar 1903, m Clara Wehking), Carl August Albert (b 2 Nov 1904, m Hilda Ramsier), and Arnold Otto (b 5 Feb 1906, m Edna Ruhnke). *(Note: Some families gave their children three names; one possibly was a church name.)*

Fritz farmed the rest of his life on the same farm. About 1990, Edna (Ruhnke) Benitz shared that her husband Arnold (Fritz and Melie's youngest son), had also farmed on the home place and helped "look after" the parents, especially in their older years.

Fred C. Benitz filed a Declaration of Intention to be a United States of America citizen on 27 Aug 1918, shortly before the end of World War I. His age was listed as 60, occupation farming, personal description was: Color White, complexion Dark, height 6' or 5'6," weight 150 pounds, color of hair Black, and color of eyes Blue. Fred Carles Benitz was granted citizenship on 1 Jan 1923 at the Doniphan Courthouse in Troy, Kansas. The naturalization record shows that he emigrated from Hamburg, Germany in July 1875, arrived at the port on New York in July 1875 on the vessel "California," had resided continuously in the USA since 30 July 1875, and in the State of Kansas since 3 Aug 1875.

"Fritz" (Edna Benitz called him "Fred C") died of a heart attack Sunday night 15 April 1934. Edna Benitz related that Fred C "read his prayer book and went to bed and died suddenly at age 76. His funeral sermon was based on John 14: 1-10." Before moving to Hiawatha in 1941, Arnold and Edna lived with and took care of Melie; Fred C. had died with only Melie at home with him, and after that she was scared at night.

Melie died of "chronic kidney ailment and pneumonia" at the home of her son Fred P. in the morning of 4 April 1943. Both Fritz and Melie are buried at Christ Lutheran Cemetery in rural Wathena.

FAMILY GROUP No. Husband's Full Name **Albert Herman Benitz**

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Member
Henry & Lizzie (MSKittick) Benitz	Birth	23	Feb.	1860	Zeman	Pomerania	Prussia	(Germany)
Dorothy Benitz Anderson	Chr'nd							
Clarence Benitz	Mar.			1886	Christ Luth. - Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Emigrated
Phil Benitz	Death	13	July	1937		Doniphan	Kansas	From Hamburg?
	Burial				Christ Luth Cem. - Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	to N.Y. in June 1873.
Places of Residence					Pomerania, NE Kansas			Education
Occupation					Farmer	Church Affiliation	Lutheran	Military Rec. Citizen
His Father					Heinrich Benitz	Mother's Maiden Name Wilhelmina Groenke		

Wife's Full Maiden Name **Marie "Mary" Elizabeth Wende**

Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife	
Birth	29	Oct	1866	Staling		Germany		
Chr'nd								
Death	20	Oct	1908	Wathena			died following	
Burial					Christ Luth Cem. - Wathena	Doniphan	KS	child birth

Compiler Janette Anderson Brown	Places of Residence	Education
Address	Occupation Home maker	Church Affiliation Lutheran
City, State	Other husbands, U.S. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.	

Date **1990's / 2009** Her Father **Johan Wende** Mother's Maiden Name **Maria Elz. Neschke**

Sec Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)

Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children	
1 Heinrich "Henry" Albert Phillip Full Name of Spouse m. Elizabeth Catherine b. 8 mar 1885 MS Kittick d. 24 may 1981	Birth	16	May	1887	Rural Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	① Milton
	Mar.	28	Feb	1911	Christ Luth. Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	② Clarence
	Death	5	Feb	1978	Hiawatha	Brown	Kansas	③ Dorothy (Anderson)
	Burial				Mt. Olive Cem. Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
Occupation					Farmer	Education 5th grade plus few months "College" in Kansas City		
2 Elfrieda "Frieda" Marie Full Name of Spouse Carl or Charles Frederick Gault	Birth	31	Oct	1888-89		Doniphan	Kansas	① Virginia (Ayres)
	Mar.			1923	Christ Luth. Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	② Leonard
	Death	16	May	1967				
	Burial				Mt. Olive Cem. Troy - Doniphan	Kansas		
Occupation					Home maker / Farmer	Education		
Also raised step children: ① Raymond ② Doris (Myers) ③ Bernice (Kaufman)								
3 Elizabeth "Lizzie" Pauline Full Name of Spouse Ezra E Shields b. 30 Aug 1893 - Suerance d. 16 Jan 1975 - St. Joe. Hosp. Officer WW I	Birth	28	May	1890				① Beulah (Boch)
	Mar.	30	Jan	1920	Christ Luth. Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	② Ezra W. Jr.
	Death	10	June	1986	St. Joseph (Hosp)	Buchanan	Missouri	
	Burial				Edmont Cemetery Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
Occupation					Homemaker	Fruit, grapes truck farm Education		
4 Ida Johanne Full Name of Spouse Ezra E. Shields Christ Luth records show name as Terezia Johanne	Birth	22	April	1892				
	Mar.			1914	Christ Lutheran - Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Death	29	April	1916				
	Burial							
Occupation					Home maker	Education		
Died following birth of 1st child, dau who died May 2 at 10 days old								
5 Oscar Franz Full Name of Spouse #1 Agnes Zoschke 3 children div. #2 Pearl A. no children	Birth	24	July	1894				① Mildred (Staudenmaier) ② Lorene (Gibson) ③ Gordon
	Mar.			1919	Christ Luth - Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Death	2	Oct	1975	Colonial Manor Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Burial				Christ Luth - Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
Occupation					Farmer	Education		
Oscar & Agnes may have had another son, Albat Otto, who died in 1921								
Approximately 1973 or 4, Lizzie (Benitz) Shields wrok Nelita (Benitz) Allen that her father came to America with his parents at age 14.								
Albert's Petition for Naturalization said he came from Hamburg to New York in June 1873								
Albert was good friends with Gustav Phillip, father of nephew Arthur "Art" Benitz's wife, Anne (Art's parents were Emil & Justie Benitz)								

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name Albert H. Benitz

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Henry & Lizzie M.K. Heick Benitz	Birth							
Oscar & Dorothy (Benitz) Anderson	Chr'nd							
Clarence & Mary (Toenjes) Benitz	Mar.							
	Death							
	Burial							

Places of Residence	Education
Occupation	Church Affiliation
Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.	Military Rec.
His Father	Mother's Maiden Name

Wife's Full Maiden Name <u>Marie "Mary" Wende</u>		Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Wife's Date	Birth							
	Chr'nd							
	Death							
	Burial							

Compiler <u>Janette Anderson Brown</u>	Places of Residence	Education
Address	Occupation	Church Affiliation
City, State	Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.	
Date <u>1990/1/2009</u>	Her Father	Mother's Maiden Name

Sec	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
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6	<u>Robert Friedrich?</u> Full Name of Spouse Minnie V. Risner B 22 Oct 1899 Anyville, Ky D 15 Dec 1988	Birth	17	May	1876	Rural Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	① Harold ② Kenneth
		Mar.			1919	Christ Luth Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	③ Opal (Her pol)
		Death	28	Jan	1984	Wathena (Wrong Home)	Doniphan	Kansas	④ Virginia (Lawrence)
		Burial				Mt. Olive Cem. Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	⑤ Eula Glee (Patt John)
		Occupation	Farmer		Served in WWI		Education		⑥ Roberta (Lange)
Also had son who died as infant 30 Jan 1921									

7	<u>Anna Mathilde</u> Full Name of Spouse William M. Loroff B 13 Nov 1893 D 5 Feb 1967	Birth	1	April	1898	Rural Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	① Wilbur
		Mar.			1919	Christ Luth, Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	② Irene (Jones)
		Death	2	Nov	1973				③ Lawrence
		Burial				Mt. Olive, Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	④ Verda Glee (Gaither)
		Occupation	Homemaker / Farmer				Education		

8	<u>Albert Wilhelm Jr.</u> Full Name of Spouse Was killed in car-train accident near Troy	Birth	5	June	1900	Rural Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Mar.							
		Death	17	March	1928	Troy	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Burial	20	Mar	1928	(Christ Luth) Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Occupation	Farmer				Education		

9	<u>Herbert Otto</u> Full Name of Spouse	Birth	3	Mar	1903	Rural Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Mar.							
		Death	As infant		Rural Wathena?		Doniphan?		Kansas
		Burial							
		Occupation					Education		

10	<u>Franz "Frank" Paul</u> Full Name of Spouse Minnie Ramesier	Birth	16	Mar	1904				① Floyd
		Mar.			1923	Christ Luth, Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Death	8	June	1948				
		Burial							
		Occupation					Education		

Another daughter died as an infant. Last child was a premie son b. 7 Jan 1907, who died 2 hours after birth

Albert Herman and Marie "Mary" (Wende) Benitz

Albert Herman Benitz was born 23 Feb 1860 in Zeman, Pomerania, Prussia to Heinrich and Wilhelmine (Groenke) Benitz; he was their fourth child and third son. The Benitz family emigrated from Prussia to America in the mid-1870s.

Albert Benitz's Doniphan County, Kansas 1913 Petition for Naturalization, states he emigrated from Hamburg, Germany in June 1873 to New York; he would have been 13 years old at that time and rather young for traveling alone; it seems quite probable he immigrated with his oldest brother, William, who would have been about 20 then.

Albert's Naturalization Petition also shows that he'd been a Kansas resident since 29 June 1885. However, that date appears incorrect, as all family stories indicate he lived with the rest of his family near Wathena, when his parents and the rest of his siblings arrived in the rural Wathena area in July or August 1875. Perhaps the 1885 date comes from the date he'd earlier filed an Intention to become a United States citizen petition. Albert Herman Benitz became a USA citizen on 26 Sept 1913.

Albert helped with the family farm, and probably at neighboring farms during his youth, before beginning his own farming operations in rural Wathena and Troy. In 1886, 26-year-old Albert married 20-year-old Marie "Mary" Elizabeth Wende at Christ Lutheran Church in rural Wathena. Albert's brother Fritz had married Mary's younger sister Jennie in the previous year.

Marie Elizabeth Wende was born 29 Oct 1866 in Slaling, Germany. She was the seventh child and fourth daughter of Johann "John" Gottfried and Marie (Naschke) Wende. In 1870, when she was 3 ½ years old, the family emigrated from Hamburg, Germany to New York, then to the Wathena area where the family settled and began farming.

Albert and Mary farmed in the Wathena and Troy areas of Doniphan County. It is not known if they owned farmland, however it is known that from 1889 to 1896, Albert was superintendent of the Doniphan County Infirmary (which operated until about 1948). The Infirmary was also known as the "County Poor Farm," and provided "a good, comfortable home for the unfortunates ... whose circumstances and health do not permit them to earn their own living. ... The grounds surrounding the infirmary comprise two hundred and forty acres of fine farming land, under the supervision" of the superintendent. The information in quotes is from the 1916 Illustrated Doniphan County, which also noted that Albert and Mary's oldest son, Henry Albert Benitz, was born in 1887 on a farm near the county infirmary.

Albert and Mary had 12 children: Heinrich "Henry" Albert Phillip (b 16 May 1887, m. Elizabeth "Lizzie" McKittrick), Elfrieda "Frieda" Marie (b 31 Oct 1888, m Charles Gaul), Elizabeth "Lizzie" Pauline (b 28 May 1890, m Ezra Shields), Ida Johanne (b 22 April 1892, m Ezra Shields), Oscar Franz (b 24 July 1894, m Agnes Zoschke, m Pearl _____), Robert ?Friederich (b 17 May 1896, m Minnie Risner), Anna Mathilde (b 1 April 1898, m William "Bill" Loroff), Albert Wilhelm, Jr. (b 5 June 1900), Herbert ?Otto (b ?Mar 1903, died as infant), and Franz "Frank" Paul (b 16 Mar 1904, m Minnie Ramesier). Another daughter died as an infant; their last child was a son born premature, who died two hours after birth on 7 Jan 1907.

Mary Wende Benitz died 20 Oct 1908 in rural Wathena at the age of 42. The family story said she died following childbirth. She is buried in Christ Lutheran cemetery in rural Wathena.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Department of Commerce and Labor
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
DIVISION OF NATURALIZATION

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

In the matter of the petition of Albert H. Benitz District Court of Worthham to be admitted a citizen of the United States of America.
To the District Court of Worthham County, Kansas;

The position of Albert H. Benitz respectfully shows:
First, My full name is Albert Hermann Benitz
Second, My place of residence is number 1111 street, Worthham, Kansas
State of Kansas

Third, My occupation is Farmer
Fourth, I was born on the 23 day of February anno Domini 1868 at Gernsheim, Germany
Fifth, I emigrated to the United States from Gernsheim, Germany on or about the 1st day of June anno Domini 1873 and arrived at the port of New York in the United States, on the vessel Prinz Alexander

Sixth, I declare my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the 29 day of August anno Domini 1913 at Worthham in the District of Worthham County, Kansas
Seventh, I am married. My wife's name is Mary E. Benitz Court of Worthham County, Kansas She was born in Germany and now resides at Worthham, Kansas I have 9 children.

The names, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:
Ray J. Benitz born May 16, 1891 at Worthham, Kansas
John J. Benitz born April 22, 1892 at Worthham, Kansas
Anna M. Benitz born April 10, 1895 at Worthham, Kansas
Michael C. Benitz born 1904 at Worthham, Kansas
Elizabeth P. Benitz born May 27, 1890 at Worthham, Kansas
Robert H. Benitz born May 17, 1894 at Worthham, Kansas
Frank P. Benitz born June 5, 1900 at Worthham, Kansas
All of said children, born in Worthham County, Kansas and reside in said County

Eighth, I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliates with any organization or body of persons teaching disloyalty in organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and it is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to William Second, German Emperor of which at this time I am a subject, and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States.

Ninth, I am able to speak the English language.
Tenth, I have resided continuously in the United States of America for a term of 40 years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since the 29 day of June anno Domini 1873 and in the Territory of Kansas for one year at least next preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since the 29 day of June anno Domini 1885

Eleventh, I have not heretofore made petition for citizenship to any court.

Attached hereto and made a part of this petition are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States and a certificate of landing from the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Therefore your petitioner prays that he may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America.
Date September 26 1913.
Albert Hermann Benitz (Signature of petitioner)

State of Kansas
Worthham County
Albert Hermann Benitz being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the petitioner in the above entitled proceeding; that he has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof; that the same is true of his own knowledge except as in matters therein stated to be on belief and information and belief, and that as to those matters he believes it to be true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26 day of September anno Domini 1913
W. H. Strabman Clerk

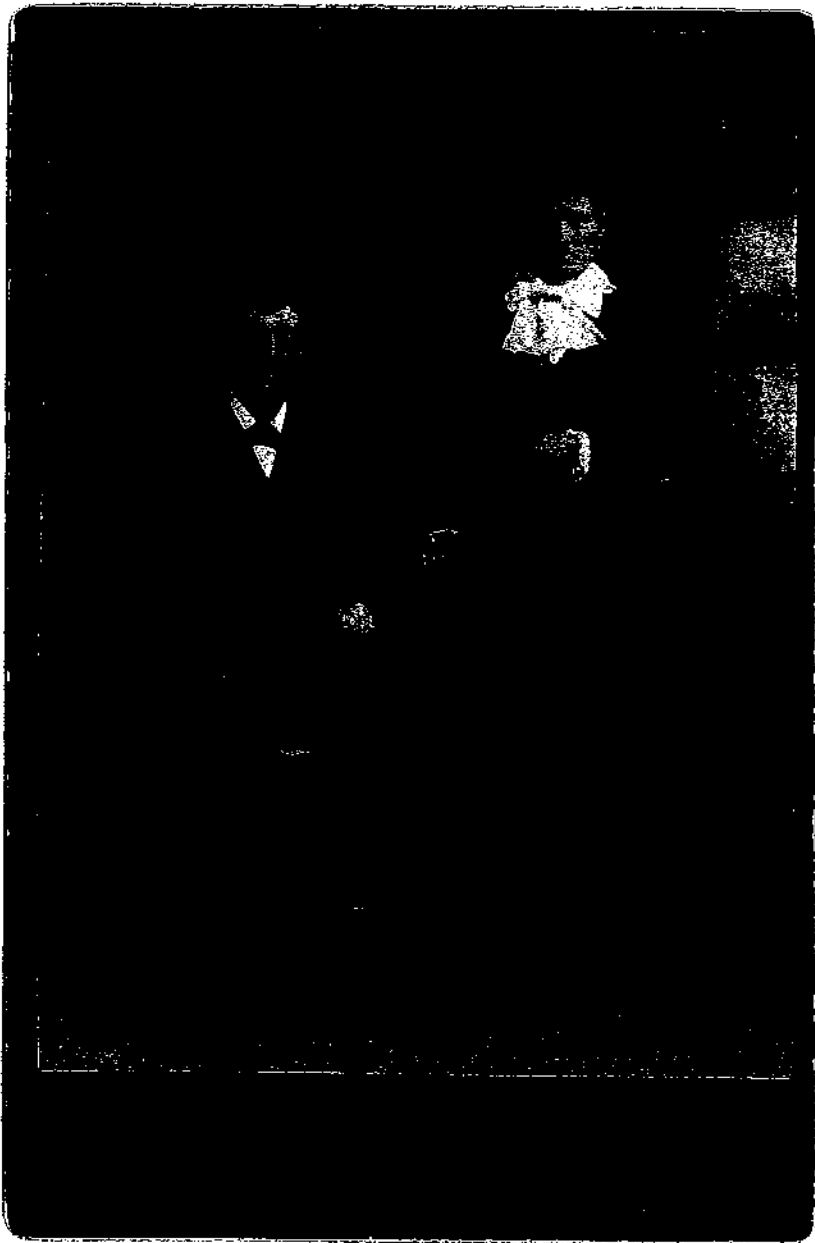
Declaration of Intention and Certificate of Landing from Department of Commerce and Labor filed this 26th day of September 1913.
W. H. Strabman Clerk

Albert and his children continued to live and farm in Doniphan County. In 1911, he was living in the Mt. Airy district. After reapplying for citizenship on 26 Sept 1913, Albert became a US citizen on 5 Jan 1914. It's interesting to note that on Albert's 1913 Naturalization Petition, there is a listing of all of his children; as well Mary E. Benitz listed as his wife. The children were all listed as living in Doniphan County.

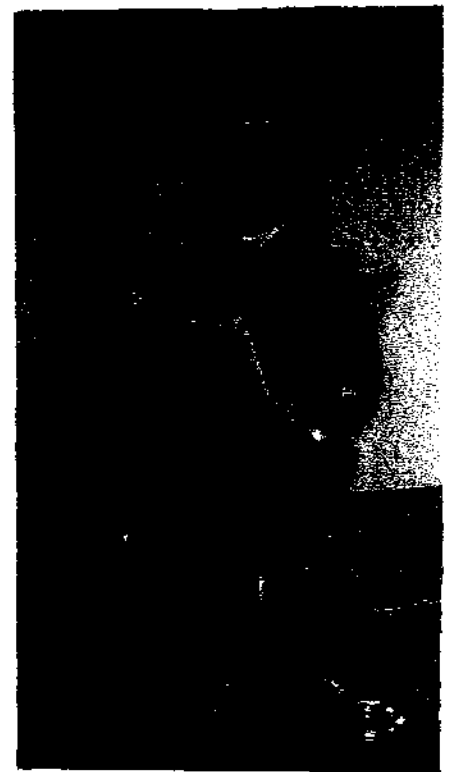
Later in his life, Albert suffered a stroke which paralyzed his right side and affected his ability to talk. Albert had no difficulty understanding people though, a fact some relatives didn't immediately recognize... After the stroke, he lived with his daughter, Anna (Benitz) Loroff and her family. Albert's granddaughter, Dorothy, and his nephew, Ernest Benitz, recalled Albert spent much time sitting in a rocking chair (a picture of him shows a spittoon sitting close to the left side of the rocking chair), listening to a radio next his chair. They also recalled the radio was one of the first and few radios in the country.

Albert died 13 July 1937. He, too, is buried in Christ Lutheran cemetery, the cemetery of the church he helped establish.

Albert Herman and Marie "Mary" Elizabeth (Wende) Benitz



1886 Wedding Picture



Albert H. Benitz



Albert H. and Marie "Mary" Elizabeth (Wende) Benitz family
Oscar, Elfrieda (Gaul), Ida (Shields), Henry, Elizabeth ((Shields), Robert
Albert H., Albert W, Frank, Mary, Anna (Loroff)
Approximately 1908



Albert H. and Marie "Mary" Elizabeth (Wende) Benitz family
Oscar, Elfrieda (Gaul), Ida (Shields), Henry, Elizabeth ((Shields), Robert
Albert H., Albert W, Frank, Mary, Anna (Loroff)
Approximately 1908

Additional Albert H. and Marie" Mary" Elizabeth (Wende) Benitz family information:

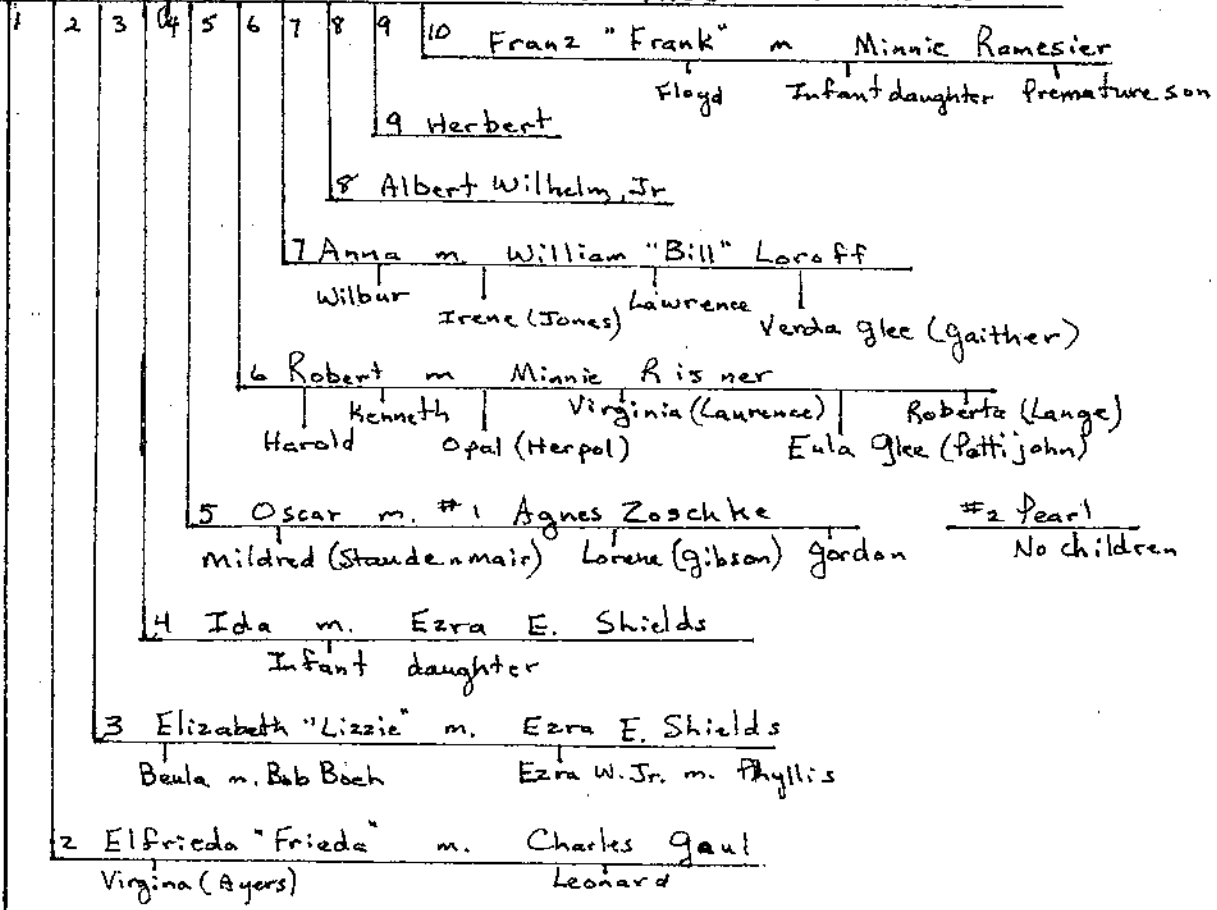
Heinrich "Henry" Albert Phillip m. Elizabeth Catherine McKittrick
Elfrieda "Frieda" Marie m. Charles Frederick Gaul
Elizabeth "Lizzie" Pauline m. Ezra E. Shields
Ida Johanne m. Ezra E. Shields
Oscar Franz m. Agnes Zoschke, Pearl
Robert Friederich? m. Minnie V. Risner
Anna "Annie" Mathilde m. William "Bill" M. Loroff
Albert Wilhelm, Jr. died in car-train accident
Herbert Otto? died as an infant
Franz "Frank" Paul m. Minnie Ranesier

Mary died 20 October 1908 following childbirth

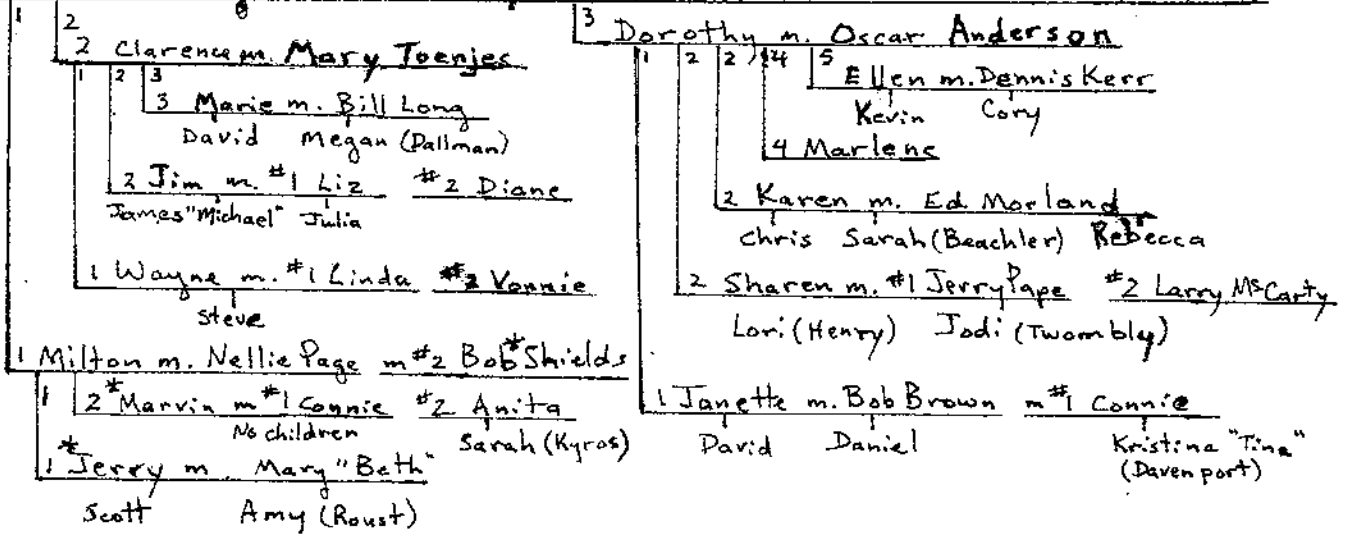
Albert & Mary (Wende) Benitz and Henry & Lizzie (McKittrick) Benitz Families

Marie Elizabeth Noschke m. Johan Wende
Wilhelmina Groenke m. Heinrich Benitz

Marie "Mary" Elizabeth Wende m. Albert Herman Benitz



Heinrich "Henry" Albert Phillip m. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Catherine McKittrick



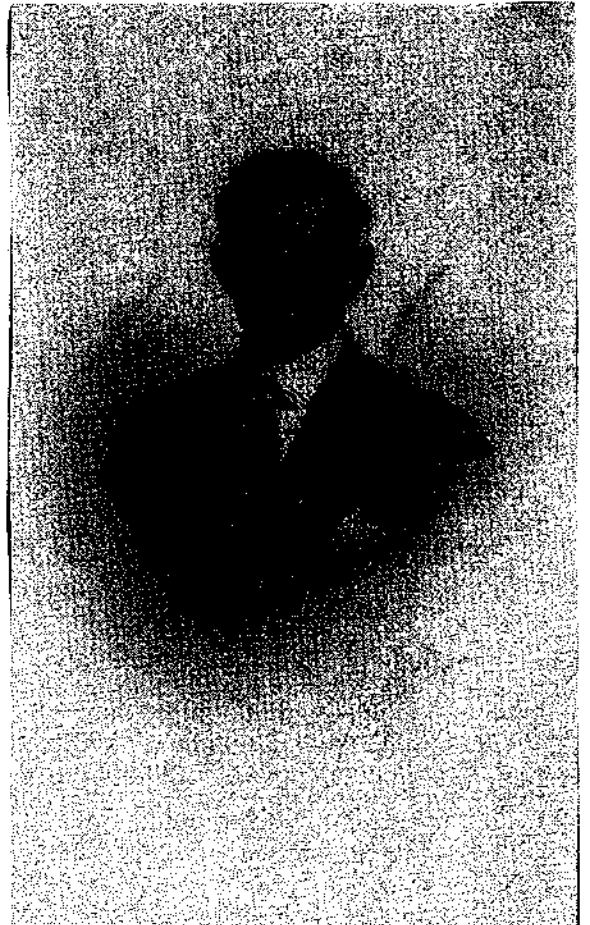
* Bob Shields adopted Jerry & Marvin

Henry Albert Phillip
Benzitz



P. Smith,
PHOTOGRAPHER

101 N. Commercial St.
ST. JOSEPH, MO.



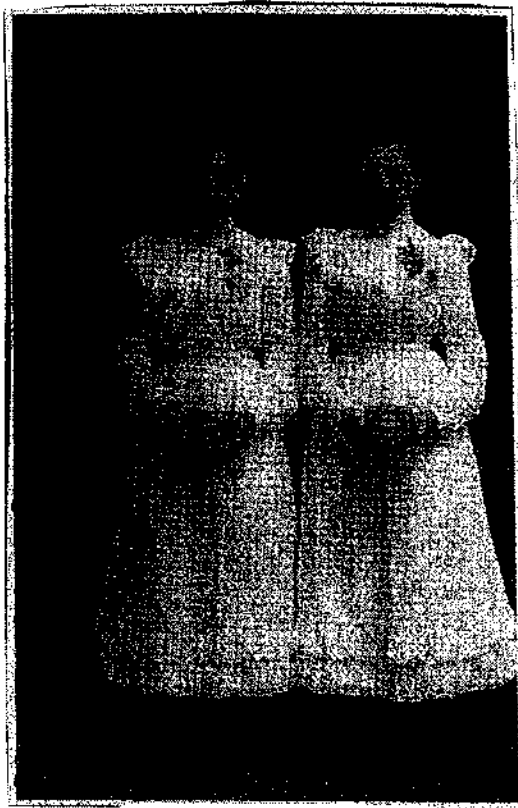
"Frieda" Benitz



Charley & "Frieda" (Benitz)
Jan 1923



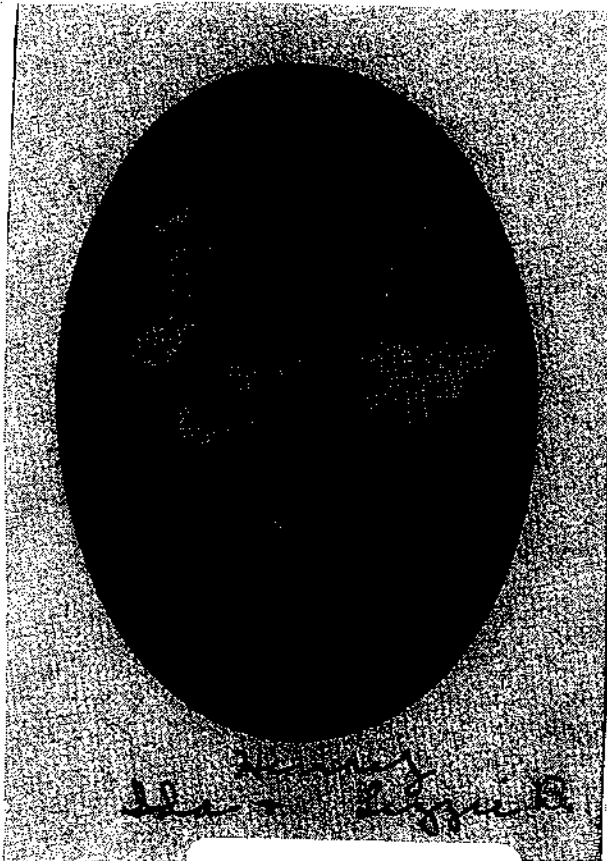
"Frieda" Benitz



Frieda & Lizzie
Benitz



Frieda & Oscar Benitz
(Siblings)

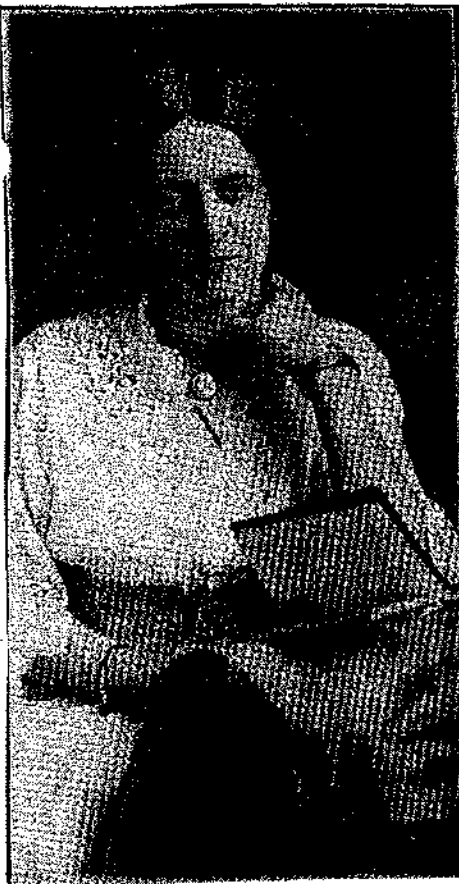


Benitz



Ezra Benitz, Jr., Lizzie
Shields

"Lizzie" & Ida Benitz



"Lizzie" Benitz

Ezra & "Lizzie" (Benitz) Shields 1920

Ezra & Ida (Benitz) Shields 1914

Ida Benitz



Ida died in 1916



Robert & Oscar
Benitz

Robert & Minnie (Kisner)
Benitz 1919

Oscar & Agnes (Zoschke)
Benitz 1919



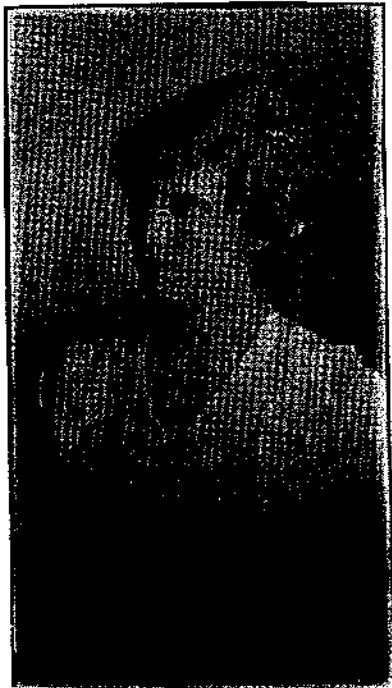
Anna "Annie" Benitz
Loroff



Anna "Annie" Benitz



"Bill" & Annie (Benitz)
Loroff 1919





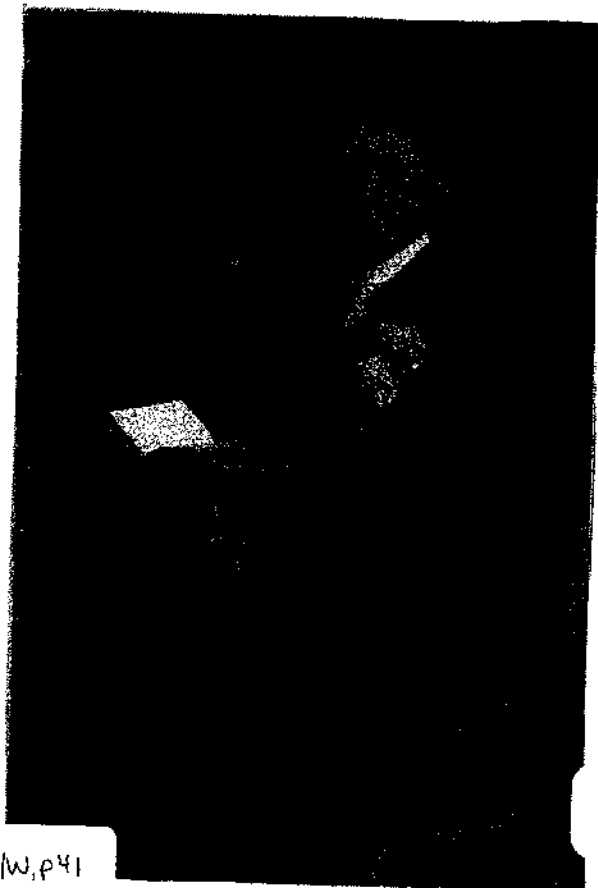
Frank Benitz



Frank & Minnie (Reesier)
Benitz & son
1935



Frank Benitz



Albert W. Benitz, Jr.

BW, p41



Henry A. (son) + Albert H.
Benitz

Albert H. Benitz family
in wagon. Elizabeth
(MSK. Trick) standing





*Albert Benitz and sons
left to right:
Albert, Henry, Oscar,
Robert, Albert (son),
Frank*



*Back row:
Albert, Henry & wife,
Lizzie, Albert (son),
Agnes (Oscar's wife),
Fred, Oscar, Frank
holding Harold
Front/sitting:
Dorothy, Robert holding
Kenneth, Mildred,
Milton, Raymond
(Gaul), Clarence
Photo taken on Acker
place 1924*



*Family dinner at
Charles Gaul home NW
of Troy in early 1930s
Back row:
Albert, Agnes, Oscar
Benitz
Front row:
Mildred (Staudenmaier),
Gordon, Lorene
(Gibson)*



"Papa's" 61st birthday
Albert Benitz
Feb 23, 1921

Celebrating Albert Benitz's
61st birthday
23 Feb 1921
"Albert, his sister Lena
Feichtal, brother Fred,
& Alto's family"

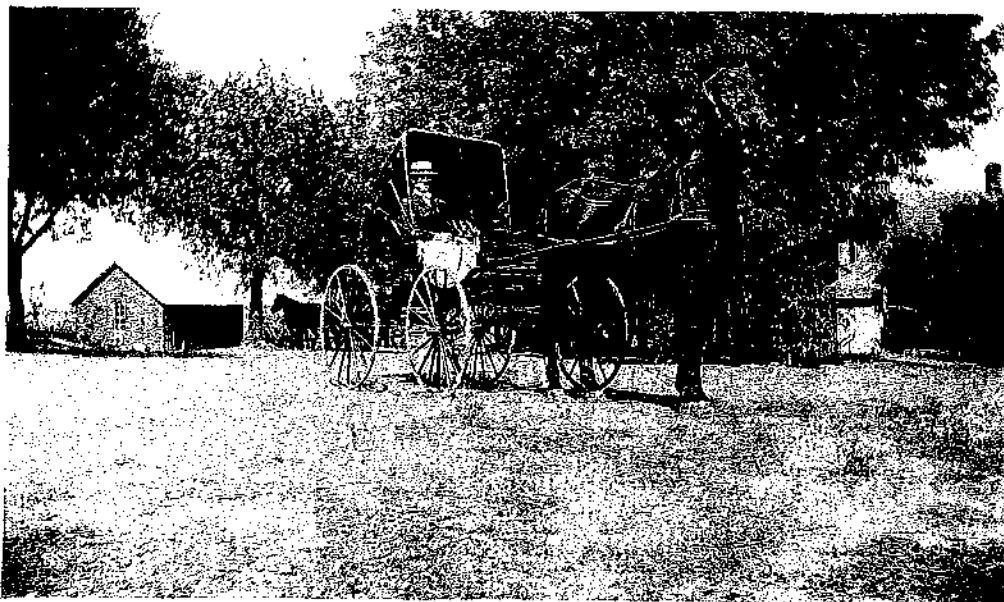




Albert Benitz & daughters
Frieda Lizzie
Albert Fida

Anna, Albert, Frieda





Oscar Benitz



Frieda, Lizzie, Ida
Benitz



Albert Benitz, Frieda, Anna
with Mrs. Win Schwapp &
grand daughter

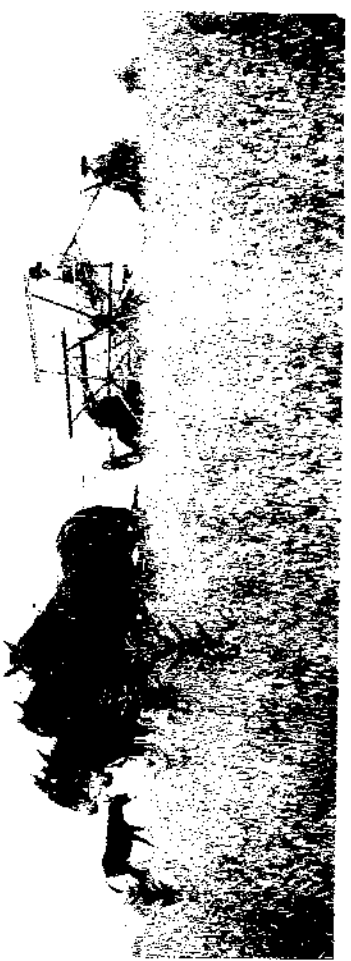


Henry, Fred, Albert Benitz, Henry Duffy
(son) (brother) (Father) (Neighbor related through Kiley's)



Picture taken at Albert Benitz's, probably between 1900-1910
Back row: Anna, Elfrida, Ida, Agnes, Lizzie
Front row, includes: Henry, Clarence, Mildred?, Oscar, Kenneth,
Frank, Oscar, Robert, Albert.

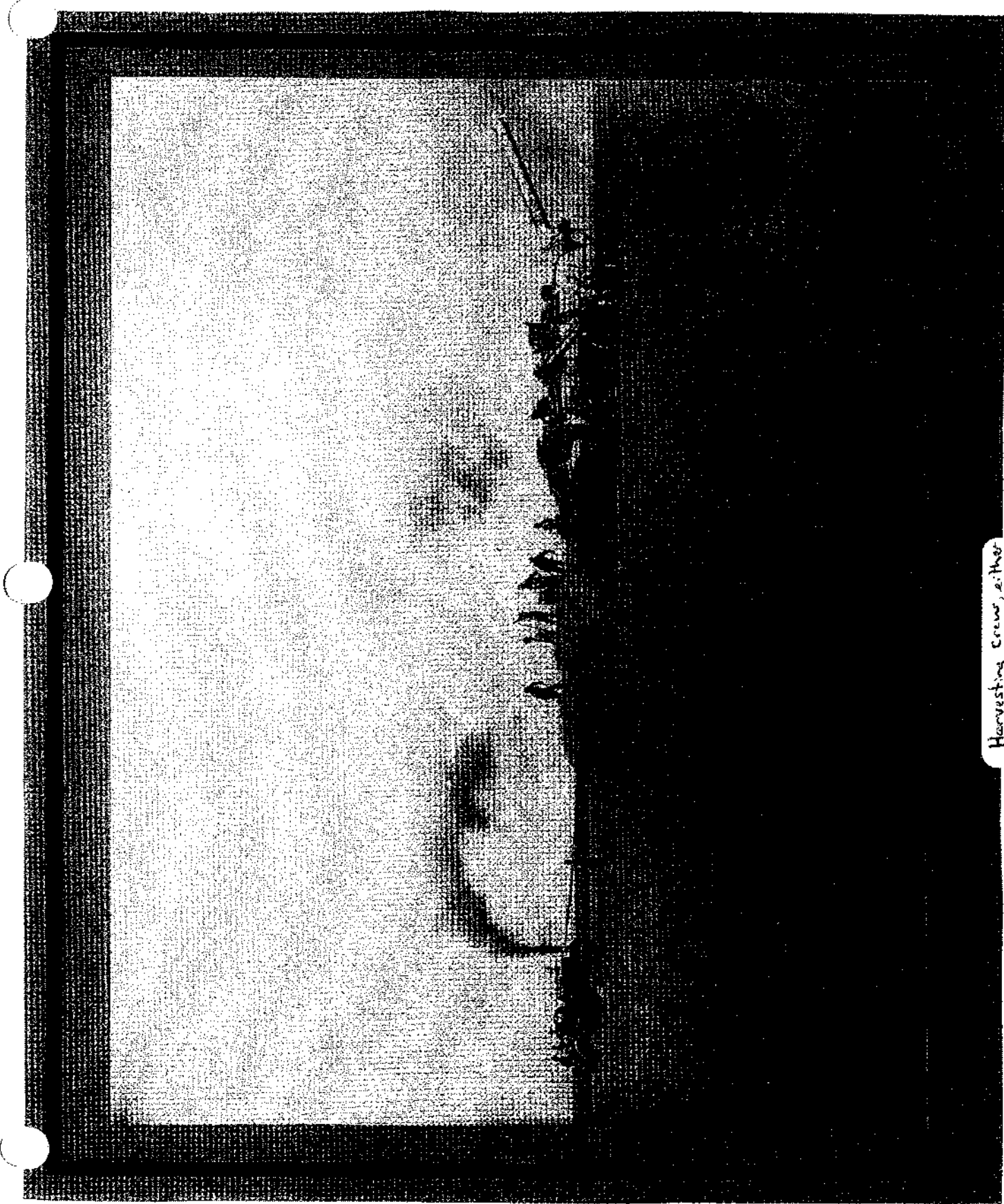
B/W, p47



B/W, p 48

Harvesting at
Albert H. Bant's place

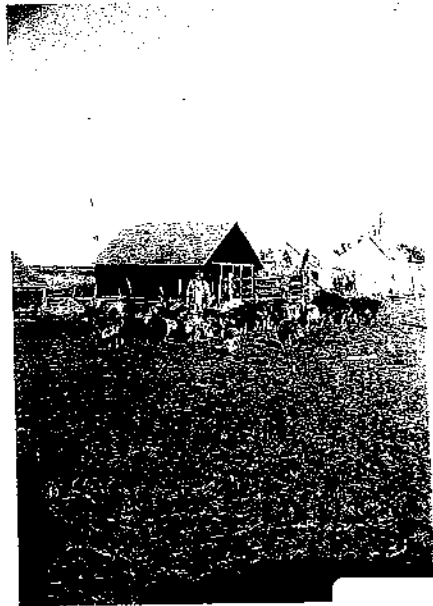




Harvesting crew, either
Lee Myers, Haddock, N.E. or
Tom McKelrick, W.S.



← Henry A.
Bewitz
↓



Early 1900's Farm
Scenes. Uncertain who
farmers are



B/W, p50



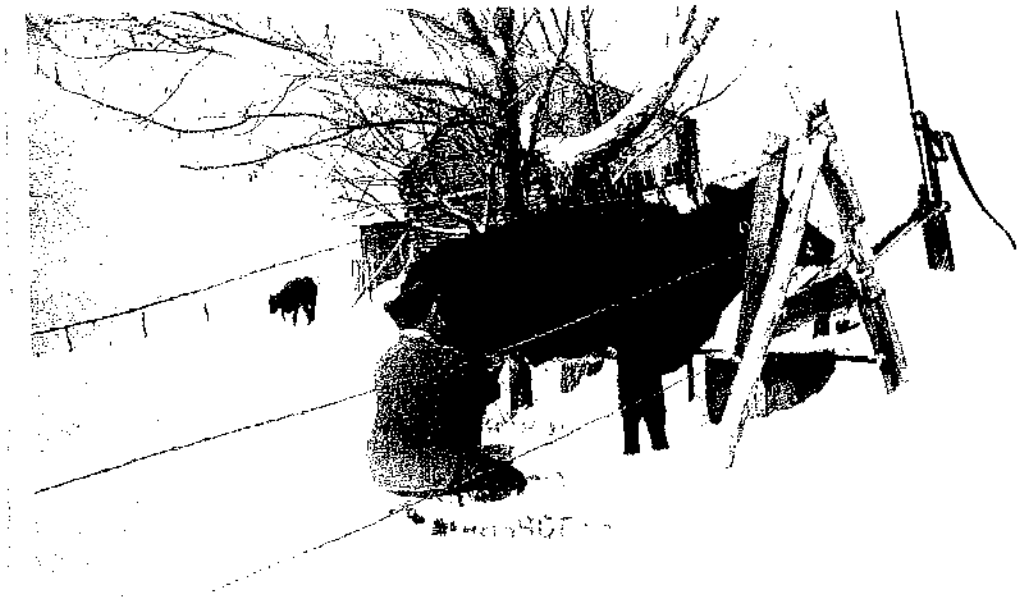
Henry picking fruit

Henry A. & Lizzie Benitz
first home. 3mi. SE of
Troy

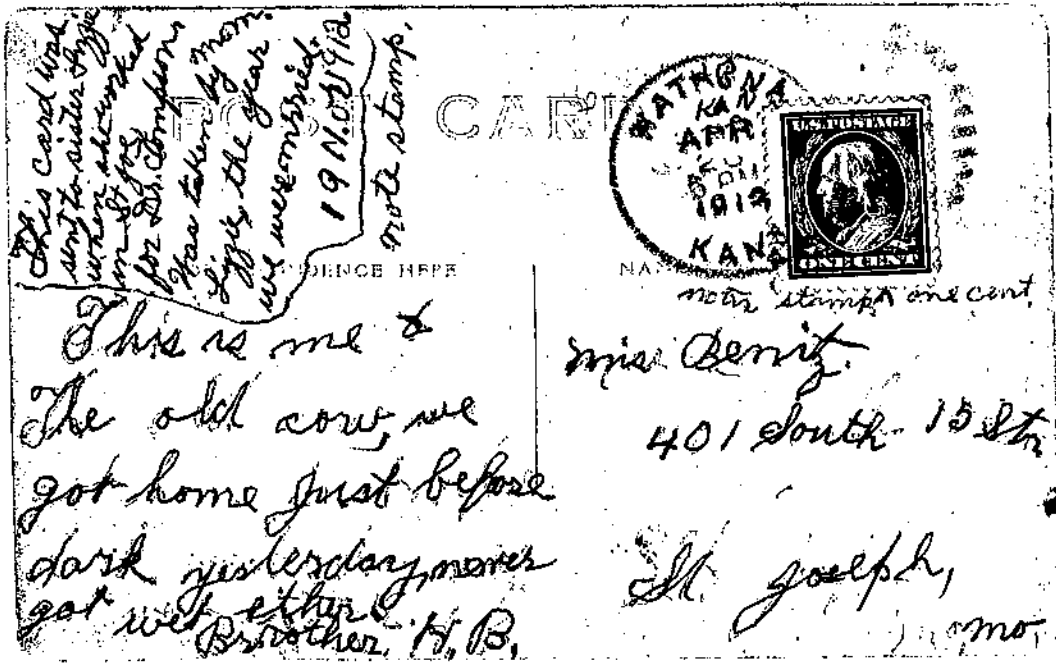
Henry Chopping wood



B/W, p 51



Farm
Scenes
on
the
Henry &
Lizzie
(MS Kidrick)
Farm

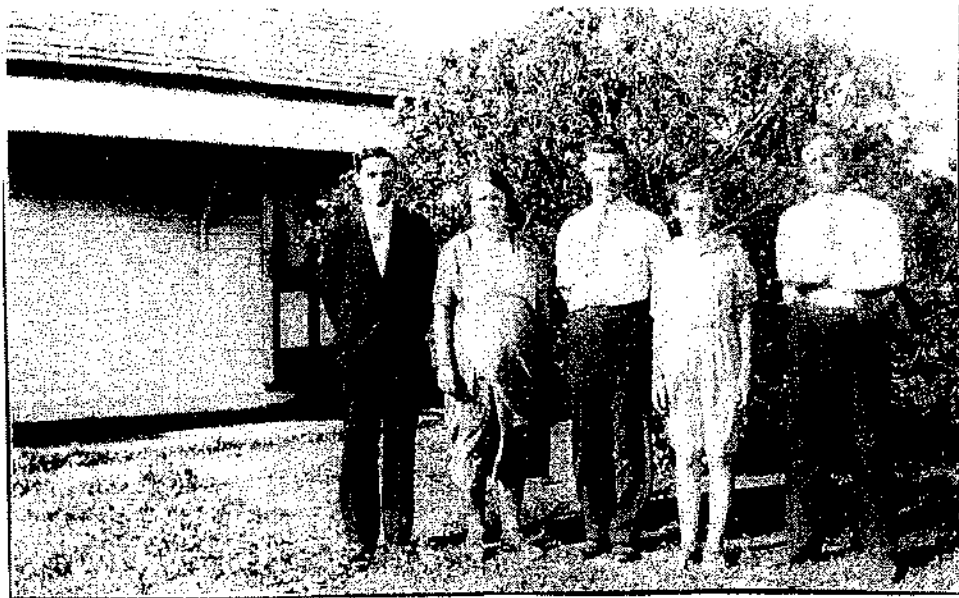




Henry Benitz (U.S. side),
Monaghan with inmates
at D.C. "Floor Room"



Annie (Benitz) & Bill Loroff, Virginia (daughter)
& Frieda (Benitz) Gaul, Lizzie &
Henry Benitz



Clarence, Lizzie, Milton, Dorothy, Henry
1935

Henry & Lizzie
(McKittrick) Benitz family

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name Emil Karl Benitz

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
1) Ernest Benitz in Feb 1990 - age 88	Birth	30	Aug	1864	Zeman		Prussia	
2) Citizen ship records	Mar.		Aug	1894	(Christ Luth) Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
3) Phil Benitz	Death	29	April	1935	Wathena		"	
4) Ron & Linda Benitz	Burial						"	
5) Jake Benitz	Places of Residence	Zeman, Prussia; & Wathena, K.		Education				
	Occupation	Farmer		Church Affiliation		Lutheran Military Rec.		
Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.								
His Father Heinrich Benitz				Mother's Maiden Name Wilhelmina Groenke				

Wife's Full Maiden Name Augusta Elizabeth Loroff

Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	20	Mar	1874	Waldo		Prussia Germany	
Chr'nd							
Death	10	Oct	1959				
Burial							

Compiler <u>Janelle Anderson Brown</u>	Places of Residence	Education
Address	Occupation	Church Affiliation
City, State	Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.	
Date <u>1990's / 2009</u>	Her Father <u>Joachim Loroff</u>	Mother's Maiden Name <u>Alberting</u>

See Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)

Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children	
F 1 Martha Full Name of Spouse Herman Gaul Bapt 1895	Birth	17	May	1895	near Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Norman m Kay
	Mar.		1918	(Christ Luth) Wathena		"	"	Edgar m Erselen Rawles
	Death	27	Nov	1965				Lorene m Gerald Rawles
	Burial							Eunice m Dr. Diet. Weller
Occupation		Education						
M 2 "William" Wilhelm Albert Full Name of Spouse Esther Fechtner Bapt 1896	Birth	14	Aug	1896	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Roger m Shirley
	Mar.		1929	(Christ Luth) Wathena		"	"	
	Death	11	Feb	1980	Wathena			
	Burial							
Occupation		Education						
F 3 "Frances" Franciska Matilde Full Name of Spouse Herman Peuker Bapt 1898	Birth	3	Oct	1898	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	1) Elaine (Stanley)
	Mar.		1929	(Christ Luth) Wathena		"	"	2) Henrietta (Kiefer)
	Death	11	Feb	1990	Wathena (Nursing Home)		"	3) Elmer
	Burial	13	Feb	1990	(Christ Luth) Wathena		"	4) Vernon
Occupation Home maker		Education						
M 4 Ernest George Adolph Full Name of Spouse Leona Benningfield Bapt 1901	Birth	29	Mar	1901	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Paul m Glenda
	Mar.	28	Oct	1937	(Greek Meth) St Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	Zouchar Fischer
	Death							Virginia m
	Burial							Robert Jetter
Occupation		Education						
M 5 "Irving" Irwing Karl Full Name of Spouse Carmilite Ruhake (D.V.) Bapt 1903	Birth	27	Dec	1902	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Marvin m. (2 times)
	Mar.				St Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
	Death							
	Burial							
Occupation		Education						

Note: Emigrated from Hamburg, Germany 1 July 1875. Entered at New York 16 July 1875 from Bremen on an English ship. Emil citizen 20 Oct 1922. Date of Intent 2 Mar 1918

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name Emil Benitz

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
1) Ernest & Leona (Banningfield) Benitz	Birth							
2) Citizenship records	Chr'nd							
3) Phil Benitz	Mar.							
4) Ron & Linda Benitz	Death							
5) Jake Benitz	Burial							
Places of Residence					Education			
Occupation					Church Affiliation		Military Rec.	
Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mat.								
His Father					Mother's Maiden Name			

Wife's Full Maiden Name Augusta "gustie" Loro ff

Wife's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife	
Birth								
Chr'nd								
Death								
Burial								
Places of Residence					Education			
Occupation					Church Affiliation			
Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mat.								
Her Father					Mother's Maiden Name			

Compiler Janette Anderson Brown Date 1990's / 2009

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
M	Bapt 1905 <u>Arthur Heinrich</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>Anne Phillip</u> or <u>Phillip</u>	Birth	16	Feb	1905	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Phillip
		Mar.	23	April	1933	(Christ Luth) Wathena	"	"	
		Death	30	Jan	1991	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	Daniel m
		Burial				Rosedale Cem	Doniphan	Kansas	Pat Walters
		Occupation Farmer							Education
		Also had daughter, Ileen Ann, born & died 8 Oct 1935							

M	Bapt 1908 <u>Gerhard Armond</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>Irene Engemann</u>	Birth	19	Feb	1908	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Shirley (m Paul Howard) 2 Ronald m Linda Engeman (Hoffman) 3 Linda (m John Keegler) 4 Gary
		Mar.				(St. Paul's) St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
		Death	28	Mar	1956				
		Burial							
		Occupation Construction?							Education

F	Bapt 1910 <u>Gertrude Elsie</u> Full Name of Spouse	Birth	29	Nov	1909	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Mar.							
		Death	21	Mar	1986	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
		Burial				Christ Lutheran	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Occupation							Education

M	Bapt 1914 <u>Herbert Edwin</u> Full Name of Spouse	Birth	13	Aug	1914	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Mar.							
		Death			1954?				
		Burial							
		Occupation							Education
		Died in auto accident at age 40							

	Full Name of Spouse	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation							Education

Emil Karl and Augusta "Gustie" (Loroff) Benitz

Emil Karl Benitz was born 30 Aug 1864 in Zeman, Pomerania, Prussia to Heinrich and Wilhelmine (Groenke) Benitz; he was their fifth and youngest child, and fourth son. In July 1875, when he was almost 11 years old, Emil, with his parents and sister, Lena, immigrated to America. They arrived in New York 16 July 1875, and then traveled to settle on a farm near Wathena, Kansas. Emil's 8 April 1922 Petition for Naturalization states he had resided in Kansas since 19 July 1875, so possibly the family traveled to Kansas by train. Emil's three older brothers, who apparently traveled separately, also settled with the family on their farm.

In ?Aug 1894, Emil married 20-year-old Augusta "Gustie" Elizabeth Loroff at Christ Lutheran Church. Gustie had been born in March 1874 in Waldo, Prussia or Germany, the daughter of Joachim and Albertina Loroff; it is not known when the Loroff family immigrated.

Emil and Gustie and their family lived with and farmed with his parents the rest of their lives. Emil and Gustie had nine children: Martha (b 17 May 1895, m Herman Gaul), Wilhelm "William" Albert (b 14 Aug 1896, m Esther Fechtner), Franciska "Francis" Matilde (b 3 Oct 1898, m Herman Peuker), Ernest George ?Adolph (b 29 Mar 1901, m Leona Benningfield), Irwing "Irvin" Karl (b 27 Dec 1902, m Carmilita Ruhnke), Arthur "Art" Heinrich (b 16 Feb 1905, m Anne Philipp), Gerhard Armond (b 29 Feb 1908, m Irene Engemann), Gertrude Else (b 29 Nov 1909), and Herbert Edwin (b. 13 Aug 1914).

Near the end of World War I, when he was 58 years old, Emil filed for citizenship. The 2 Mar 1918 Petition listed his occupation as farmer, and his personal description as: Color White, complexion Dark, height 5'8", weight 155 pounds, color of hair black, color of eyes light blue. The vessel on which he emigrated was listed as "English ship, can't remember name." Emil renounced his "allegiance and fidelity" to William II, German Emperor. Emil became an American citizen on 2 Oct 1922.

Emil died 29 April 1935, and is buried at Christ Lutheran Cemetery. Gustie continued living in their eight room home with her children who weren't married. Eventually, Emil and Gustie's daughter Gertrude, and sons Irvin (after his divorce) and Herbert were the adult children remaining at home where Gertrude "kept house" for her brothers and mother. Two other sons, Gerhard and Art, and their families lived about ¼ mile away across the road from each other. Gustie died 10 Oct 1959, and is also buried at Christ Lutheran Cemetery.

Daughter Gertrude, who shared old Benitz family stories with other family members, was the last of Emil and Gustie's children to live in the family home. However, the Benitz home and farm did not leave the family. Around 1985, before moving to a nursing home in St. Joseph, Gertrude sold the farm to Gerhard's son, Ron and Linda Benitz, and they remodeled the home and moved their family there. Ron had been farming the ground for several years before buying the farm. Ron and Linda continue to live on the original Benitz family homestead; where there are still some old family items and a trunk believed to have come with the Benitz family from "the old country."



Emil and Augusta (Loroff) Benitz

Emil Benitz family.
Picture notation said "Emil with
hat, standing. Augusta-plaid dress"
(Identity of others uncertain)



B/W, p58



standing L- R
Gertrude, Ernest, Herbert, Frances, Gerhart
Martha, Art
Seated Augusta, Bill



Gerhart, Augusta, Gertrude, Ernest, Martha
Art, Herbert.

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name **Johann "John" Gottfried Wende**

This Information Obtained From:	Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on husband
Alvin Elliott - grandson of Frank & Nellie Coolie Wende	Birth	9	Jan	1828	Laven	Prussia	Germany	Maybe 1826
Public Records	Chr'nd	31	Jan	1928	Strokswitz		Germany	
Dorlene Wende Campbell	Mar.	26	May	1853	"	"	"	
g. daughter of Wilhelm & Albertine Gronke Wende (Sabatha Ks)	Death	1	Jan	1879	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	cause?
	Burial				Cordinier (Rosedale Cemetery)	Wathena	Kansas	
	Places of Residence				Education			
	Occupation				Church Affiliation Lutheran			Military Rec.
	Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.							
				His Father: Johann Michael Wende			Mother's Maiden Name: Anna Rosina Schiller	

Note: Mary Naschke Wende's will dated 25 July 1895 left all of estate to Charles except \$100 to each of rest of children

Wife's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Wife's Full Maiden Name	Marie Elizabeth Naschke (maria?)						
Birth		Sept	1836		Prussia		
Death	16	March	1899	Palermo	Doniphan	Kansas	Death due to cancer of stomach for 1 year
Burial				Cordinier (Rosedale Cemetery) Wathena, Ks			
Places of Residence				Prussia, Germany; Wathena Ks			Education
Occupation				Housekeeping			Church Affiliation: Evangelical Lutheran or Hilsberg
Her Father	George Naschke			Mother's Maiden Name: Anna Mary Geppert			

Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
1 Charles	Birth	5	Jan	1855	Laven		Germany	Son who died at 4 days
"Carl" Henry	Mar.	26	April	1905	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	11 Oct 1906
Carrie Dischner (b. 1871) Married for 3 years before Carl's death	Death	30	Oct	1908	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Burial	2	Nov	1908	Cordinier Cemetery	or Christ Lutheran Cem		
	Occupation				Farmer			Education
	*Death probably was in St. Joseph, Mo.							
2 John Gottfried	Birth	12	April	1857	Laven		Germany	
	Mar.							
	Death	19	Feb	1930	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Burial	22	Feb	1930	Cordinier Cemetery			
	Occupation				Farmer			Education
	Head injury that led to seizure disorder							
3 Anna Rosina "Rose"	Birth	22	Oct	1858	Laven (Dorsten?)		Germany	1/ Anna (Thompson)
Wm Phillip Mack Arrived in us by 1880	Mar.	6	Oct	1878	St. Joseph	Buchanan Co	Missouri	2/ Henry P
	Death	23	Nov	1913	St. Joseph			3/ Clara (Geer?)
	Burial	25	Nov	1913	(Ashland) St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	(Fischer)
	Occupation				Homemaker / liquor salesman			Education
	Lived in St. Joe through much of life. Funeral services St. Paul Lutheran							
4 Anna Pauline "Lena"	Birth	8	Sept	1862	Laven		Germany	
Lived on farm with brothers until their deaths, then moved to St. Joe. Died in nursing home	Mar.							
	Death	31	Dec	1953	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
	Burial	2	Jan	1954	Cordinier Cemetery	Wathena	Ks	
	Occupation				Homemaker			Education
	Immigrated at age 8 with family.							
5 "Bill" m? Had stroke William Frederick	Birth	12	Aug	1862	Laven		Germany	Albert, Maria, Amelia (Tartar), Elsie, Emma (Nicholas), Antone "Tony", Clara (Larkin) + 2 more dau & 1 son
* Albertina "Tina" Gronke	Mar.	24	July	1896	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
	Death	14	March	1928	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
	Burial	17	Mar	1928	Christ Luth. Cemetery - Wathena	Kansas		
	Occupation				Farmer			Education
	Immigrated at age 6 with parents. Physical description on naturalization record							

25 May 1870 Immigrated to the Port of New York on the S.S. Holsatia from Hamburg & Havre (?) with first 8 children. Were from Hroschitz Prussia. Port of vessel occupied between decks. "John" listed as Gottfried Wende on passenger list. Bought land when arrived. John (father) died before youngest child, Frank, born.

* One source said "Tina" had a daughter Augusta (m. Otto Schultz) who was three when immigrated from Germany. Not sure when "Tina" immigrated, she was about 3 years younger than "Bill".

FAMILY GROUP No. _____ Husband's Full Name "John" Wende

This Information Obtained From:		Husband's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth		1826	11 28	Laven	Prussia	Germany	
Chr'nd							
Mar.							
Death		1 Jan	1879	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
Burial							
Places of Residence				Education			
Occupation				Church Affiliation		Military Rec.	
Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.							
His Father				Mother's Maiden Name			

Wife's Full Maiden Name Marie Elizabeth Naischke

Wife's Data		Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth		Sept	1836		Prussia	
Chr'nd						
Death		16 March	1899	Polemo	Doniphan	Kansas
Burial						

Compiler <u>Janette Anderson Brown</u>		Places of Residence		Education		
Address		Occupation		Church Affiliation		
City, State		Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.				
Date <u>1990's / 2009</u>		Her Father		Mother's Maiden Name		

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
F	6 "Carry" Karatine (Caroline) Full Name of Spouse	Birth	31 Oct 1864	Laven		Germany	
		Mar.					
		Death	7 Aug 1880	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Burial		Cordinier			
		Occupation					
		Died of "congestive chills" age 15. Buried next to Father					

F	7 Marie "Mary" Elizabeth Full Name of Spouse Albert Herman Benitz (immigrated age: 4)	Birth	29 Oct 1866	Laven? Slating?	Schlesian	Germany	Henry, El Frieda (Gaul), Eliz. (Shields) Ida (Shields)
		Mar.	17 Mar 1886	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	Oscar, Robert, Anne
		Death	20 Oct 1908	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	(Loroff), Albert Jr., Herbert, Frank
		Burial	22 Oct 1908	Christ Luth - Wathena	"	Kansas	
		Occupation		Home maker / Farmer			
				Education			

F	8 "Jane?" Johanna "Jennie" Full Name of Spouse Fred C. Benitz	Birth	19 Jan 1869	Laven		Germany	Hannah (Meyers), Edna (Hartman)
		Mar.	27 May 1885	(Christ Luth) Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Laura (Schultz)
		Death	30 April 1894	"	"	"	William
		Burial	2 May 1894	Cordinier Cemetery, Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Occupation		Home maker / Farmer			
				Education			
		Jennie and 4 mo. old William died of measles					

F	9 Amelia "Melie" Louise Full Name of Spouse Fred C. Benitz	Birth	20 Dec 1871	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Fred, Karl (Carl), Arnold, Marie
		Mar.	14 Sept 1898	Atchison	Atchison	Kansas	(Bachelor), Clara
		Death	4 April 1943	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	(Inselman)
		Burial	6 April 1943	Christ Luth - Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Occupation		Home maker / Farmer			
				Education			

M	10 Baby Boy (Paul?) Full Name of Spouse	Birth	10 Oct 1873	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Mar.					
		Death	1873				
		Burial					
		Occupation					
				Education			

FAMILY GROUP No.		Husband's Full Name "John" Wende							
This Information Obtained From:		Husband's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
		Birth	1826	18	28			Germany	
		Chr'nd							
		Mar.							
		Death	1879			Wathena		Kansas	
		Burial							
		Places of Residence			Education				
		Occupation			Church Affiliation			Military Rec.	
		<small>Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.</small>							
		His Father			Mother's Maiden Name				
		Wife's Full Maiden Name Marie Elizabeth Naschke							
		Wife's Date	Day <td>Month <td>Year <td>City, Town or Place <td>County or Province, etc. <td>State or Country <td>Add. Info. on Wife</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Month <td>Year <td>City, Town or Place <td>County or Province, etc. <td>State or Country <td>Add. Info. on Wife</td> </td></td></td></td>	Year <td>City, Town or Place <td>County or Province, etc. <td>State or Country <td>Add. Info. on Wife</td> </td></td></td>	City, Town or Place <td>County or Province, etc. <td>State or Country <td>Add. Info. on Wife</td> </td></td>	County or Province, etc. <td>State or Country <td>Add. Info. on Wife</td> </td>	State or Country <td>Add. Info. on Wife</td>	Add. Info. on Wife
		Birth	Sept		1836			Prussia	
		Chr'nd							
		Death							
		Burial	March	1899		Polema	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Places of Residence			Education				
Complier <u>Jarrett Anderson Brown</u>		Occupation			Church Affiliation				
Address		<small>Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.</small>							
City, State		Her Father			Mother's Maiden Name				
Date 1990's / 2009									
Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
m	1 Henry E or J <small>Full Name of Spouse</small>	Birth	7	Sept	1874	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	
		Mar.							
		Death	3	Aug	1926	St Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
		Burial	7	Aug	1926	Cordinier/Rosedale Wathena (Op.Co.)		Kansas	
		Occupation			Farmer				
		Died of peritonitis. Kicked in head by horse. "Never right after that"							
F	2 Emma C <small>Full Name of Spouse</small> Henry Schewerman of Cornelius, Oregon (died after Emma)	Birth	27	Feb	1877	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	(No children)
		Mar.	6	June	1923				
		Death	15	March	1950	St. Joseph	Buchanan	Missouri	
		Burial	18	Mar	1950	Cordinier+Wathena		Doniphan Kansas	
		Occupation			Homemaker Farmer				
		Lived in Cornelius, Ore in 1943							
m	3 Frank Albert <small>Full Name of Spouse</small> Nellie May Coolen (27 June 1886 - 23 Jan 1971)	Birth	15	Jan	1879	Wathena	Doniphan	Kansas	Clarence, Elsie
		Mar.	23	Oct	1907	Robinson	Brown	Kansas	(Elliott), Mae
		Death	15	Dec	1935	Hiawatha	Brown	Kansas	(Covert)
		Burial	8	Dec	1954	Mt. Hope - Hiawatha			
		Occupation			Education				
	4 <small>Full Name of Spouse</small>	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation			Education				
	5 <small>Full Name of Spouse</small>	Birth							
		Mar.							
		Death							
		Burial							
		Occupation			Education				



Marie "Mary" Elizabeth (Naschke) Wende

JOHANN "JOHN" GOTTFRIED AND MARIE "MARY" ELIZABETH (NASCHKE) WENDE

Johann "John" Gottfried and Marie "Mary" Elizabeth Naschke Wende and their family were early German settlers in Doniphan County, located in northeastern Kansas. Three Wende daughters married two Benitz brothers. Great-grandson, Alvin Elliott, and great-granddaughter Darlene Wende Campbell, as well as family members also related on the Benitz side, generously shared information they gathered about the Wende family.

Family stories say that in 1870, Johann and Marie Wende, with their first eight children, ages 13 years to 16 months old, immigrated to the Port of New York on the SS Holsatia from Hamburg. The ship's record shows they left Hamburg, Germany on May 1870 and arrived in New York on 6 July 1870. *(Can you imagine trying to keep track of eight children on a probably crowded ship for a month and a half?!)* The passenger list showed they were from Hroschitz, Prussia; that location has not yet been found; and the fifth child/third son, six-year-old William, is not listed with the family. It is believed he traveled with another family on the same ship. The passenger list also showed the "part of the vessel occupied (was) between decks," probably very minimal accommodations for family of ten.

Family records show Johann Gottfried Wende was born 8 Jan or Mar 1826 or 8 in Laven Prussia; his parents were Johann Michael and Anna Rosina (Schiller) Wende. On 26 May 1853, he married 16-year-old Marie (Maria?) Elizabeth Naschke in Strokswitz, Germany. Marie was born Sept 1836 in Prussia; her parents were George and Anna Mary (Geppart) Naschke. In 1996, Darlene Wende Campbell said old parish records in Germany showed that John Wende was listed as a free white farmer; they had property and were not serfs (people who worked for others).

The family was able to buy land when they arrived in the Wathena, Kansas area. On 21 June 1870, they purchased, for One thousand Seven hundred (\$1700) dollars two tracts of Doniphan County land: The east half (½) of the North East quarter of Section 13, Twp 4, in Range 21, and ten acres of land of the South East quarter of Section 19, in Twp 4 of Range 22. The land is reportedly just east over the hill from the old Cordonier School, which is near Rosedale Cemetery, also referred to as Cordonier Cemetery. Some of the Wende family members were later buried in that cemetery, which sets back in a field.

Johann and Marie had 13 known children, the first eight born in Laven, Prussia/Germany, and the last five after they arrived in rural Wathena, Kansas. Their children were: Charles "Carl" Henry (b 5 Jan 1855, m Carrie Dischner), John C (b 12 April 1857), Anna Rosina "Rose" (b 22 Oct 1858, m Phillip Mack), Anna Pauline "Lena" (b 8 Sept 1861 or 2), William Frederick "Bill" (b 12 Aug 1862 or 3, m Albertina "Tina" Groenke), Karoline (Caroline) "Carry" (b 31 Oct 1864), Marie Elizabeth "Mary" (b 29 Oct 1866, m Albert Benitz), Johanna "Jennie" "Jane" (b 19 Jan 1869, m Fred C "Fritz" Benitz), Amelia Louise "Melie" (b 20 Dec 1871, m Fred C "Fritz" Benitz), Paul? (b 10 Oct 1873, died shortly after), Henry E or J (b 7 Sept 1874), Emma C (b 27 Feb 1877?, m Henry Scheurerman), and Frank Albert (b 15 Jan 1879, m Nellie Cooley)

Johann "John" died at age 50 on 1 Jan 1879, two weeks before his last son was born; the cause of his death is unknown. Marie "Mary" (42 years old) and the children evidently continued living on the farm; the oldest sons were both over 20, so were apparently able to keep the farm running despite the death of their father. Johann is buried at Cordonier/Rosedale Cemetery near Wathena. Marie died 20 years later at age 62 on 16 March 1899 at Palermo near Wathena; she also is buried at Cordinier/Rosedale Cemetery. Cause of her death was listed as

cancer of stomach, duration one year/heart disease. The oldest son, Charles Henry, was named executor of Marie (Mary?)'s will which was written on 25 July 1895 at her home. Her will (with spelling errors) reads:

State of Kansas Doniphan County

Know all Men by these presents of whom(?) it may concern that I Mary A Winde of Marion Township and of Doniphan County and State of Kansas, Being of Sound Mind and Understanding Make this My last Will and Testimony to Wit I Will and bequeath to my Son Charles Winde the folling described Real Estate and Persolol Property in Marion Twonship Doniphan County to Wit the N-½-of-the-E-½-of-NE-(?)-of-Sec-13T-4-R-21-E.

And I Mary A Windy Will and bequeath to Each of the folling Heris to Wit John Winde Rose Winde Lena Winde Mary Winde Jane Winde Hears Amelia Winde Henry Winde Henry Winde Emma Winde Frank One Dollar Each.

And also I Mary A Wende also Will and bequeath to Charles Winde the following described personal property to Wit-All Horses Cattle & Hogs and Farming Implements of Whatsoever kind and description. In testimony I hereunto sit my hand seal this 25 day of July 1895. Witnesses H.G. Hermiem(?) W.W.Stiwalt(?), _____ (maybe signature Moria E. Wende)

*Sworn and Subscribed before me the undesign Justice of Peace in and for Marion Township Doniphan County and state of Kansas the day and year above Written
John J Anderson J P*

Most of Johann "John" and Marie "Mary" Wende's children continued to live in or near the Doniphan County area of rural Wathena:

Charles "Carl" Henry Wende was born 5 Jan 1855 in Laven, Prussia; he was the first child and son of Johann and Marie Wende, and was 15 years old when the family immigrated to America. Carl farmed with his parents on their new farm near Wathena, and apparently continued to live and farm on the original Wende farm the rest of his life. When his mother died in March 1899, Carl inherited the farm; it was not uncommon in German families for one child, usually a son, to inherit most if not all of the parents' property, perhaps so the land holdings would remain large enough to be profitable. On 26 April 1905, when he was 50 years old, Carl married 34-year-old Carrie Dischner. They had a son On 11 Oct 1906; he died 4 days later.

Carl died at age 53 on 30 or 31 Oct 1908; his obituaries said he "died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Phillip (Rose) Mack in St. Joseph, where he'd recently gone to be under the care of a St. Joseph doctor. The cause of his death was Bright's disease. Mr. Wenda had been in poor health for several months, but his death was not expected." One of the obituaries also noted his sister, Mrs. Benitz, (*Mary Wende Benitz, wife of Albert Benitz*) "died a few days ago." Charles is buried either in Cordonier cemetery or Christ Lutheran Cemetery.

John C Gottfried Wende was born 12 April 1857 in Laven, Prussia; he was the second child and son of Johann and Marie Wende, and was 13 years old when the family immigrated to America. He also farmed with his parents near Wathena, and apparently lived there the rest of his life. John did not marry. A family story is that he suffered a head injury that lead to a seizure disorder. John died at age 72 on 22 Feb 1930, and is buried in Cordonier cemetery.

Anna Rosina "Rose" Wende was born 22 Oct 1858 in Laven, Prussia; she was the third child and first daughter of Johann and Marie Wende; she was 11 years old when the family immigrated to America. In Oct 1878, when Rose was almost 20 years old, she married **William Phillip Mack**. They lived in St. Joseph, Missouri, where William Phillip was a liquor salesman. They had three children: Anna (m Thomas Thompson), Henry P (m Helen _____), Clara

(m _____ Geer, Edward Fischer). Rose died at age 55 on 23 Nov 1913; she is buried at Ashland Cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Anna Pauline "Lena" Wende was born 8 Sept 1861 or 2 in Laven, Prussia; she was the fourth child and second daughter of Johann and Marie Wende, she was 8 years old when her family immigrated to America. She did not marry. A family story said she lived on the family farm with her brothers until their deaths, and then moved to St. Joseph. However, her obituary said she had been a resident of St. Joseph for 70 years prior to her death in a nursing home on 31 Dec 1953 at age 91. She is buried in Cordonier Cemetery.

William "Bill" M? Frederick Wende was born 12 Aug 1862? In Laven, Prussia; he was the fifth child and third son of Johann and Marie Wende. When he was six years old, he immigrated on the SS Holsatia with his family to America.

On 24 July 1890, when Bill was 28, he married 25? year old **Albertina "Tina" Groenke**. They had 10? children: Albert (b 17 April 1891, m Rose _____), Minnie (b 12 Sept 1892), infant daughter (b 1895), Clara (b 5 Sept 1896), Amelia (b 10 Aug 1898, m Jacob Lakin), Elsie (b 25 Dec 1900), Emma (b 5 Aug 1902, m _____ Nicholas), and Antone "Tony" (b 14 Feb 1905, m Loretta _____). Some records also list another female born 5 Aug 1902, and son born 13 Feb 1905.

On 18 January 1918, when he was 55, Bill filed a Declaration of Intention petition to become a citizen of the USA. His occupation is listed as farmer, and his physical description was: Color White, Complexion Fair, height 5'8", weight 175 pounds, color of hair Dark Brown, and color of eyes Brown. William M. Wende became an American citizen on 4 April 1921.

William/Bill died 14 March 1928; he is buried in Christ Lutheran Cemetery in rural Wathena.

Caroline (Karoline) "Carrie Wende was born 31 Oct 1864 in Laven, Prussia, the sixth child and third daughter of Johann and Marie Wende. When she was five years old, she immigrated with her family to America. She died (probably on the family farm) at age 15 on 7 Aug 1880 of "congestive chills," and is buried at Cordonier/Rosedale Cemetery.

Marie "Mary" Elizabeth Wende was born 29 Aug 1866 in Laven, Prussia; she was the seventh child and fourth daughter of Johann and Marie Wende. She was three years old when she immigrated with her family to America. On 17 March 1886, she married Albert Herman Benitz. There is more information on them and their 12 children in the **Albert Herman and Marie "Mary" Wende Benitz** section on previous pages. Mary died unexpectedly on 20 Oct 1908.

Johanna "Jane" "Jennie" Wende was born 19 Jan 1869 in Laven, Prussia, the eighth child and fifth daughter of Johann and Marie Wende. She was 15½ months old when she immigrated with her family to America. On 27 May 1885, she married Fred C "Fritz" Benitz. There is more information on them and their four children in the **Friedrich "Fred C" "Fritz" and Johanna "Jennie" "Jane" (Wende) Benitz** section on previous pages. Jennie died on 30 April 1894 at age 25 of measles.

Amelia "Melie" Louise Wende was the first child in this Wende family born in America; she was born 20 Dec 1871 in rural Wathena, Kansas, probably on the family farm. Amelia "Melie" was the ninth child and sixth daughter of Johann and Marie Wende. On 14 Sept 1898, she became the second wife of Friedrich "Fred C" "Fritz" Benitz and helped raise his three daughters. There is more information on them and their additional five children in the **Friedrich**

“Fred C” “Fritz” and Amelia “Melie” (Wende) Benitz section on previous pages. Melie died 4 April 1943.

Henry E? J? Wende was born 7 Sept 1874 in rural Wathena, the tenth child and fourth son of Johann and Marie Wende. He farmed, probably on the family farm, all of his life. A family story said he was kicked in the head by a horse, and was “never right after that.” Henry did not marry. He died of peritonitis at age 51 on 3 Aug 1926, and is buried at Cordonier Cemetery near Wathena

Emma C Wende was born 12 Feb 1877? in rural Wathena, the eleventh child and seventh daughter of Johann and Marie Wende. When she was 46, she married **Henry Scheuerman** on 27 June 1923; his occupation is listed as farmer. A family story said they lived in Cornelius, Oregon in 1943; however it is believed Emma died in St. Joseph, Missouri on 15 Mar 1950, and is buried in Cordonier Cemetery near Wathena.

Frank Albert Wende was born 15 Jan 1879 in rural Wathena two weeks after his father died. He was the twelfth child and fifth son of Johann and Marie Wende, and was raised on the Wende family farm. On 23 Oct 1907, when he was 30 years old, Frank married 21-year-old **Nellie May Cooley**. They farmed in Doniphan and neighboring Brown Counties, eventually living and farming in the Willow Grove community west of Hiawatha, Kansas. Frank and Nellie had three children: Clarence Arlo (b 24 Aug 1908, m Viola McLaughlin), Elsie Edith (b 8 Sept 1909, m William Alden Elliott), and Mae Amanda (b 20 June 1912, m George Covert). Frank died 15 Dec 1955 in Hiawatha, and Nellie died 2 Jan 1971; both are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Hiawatha.

Conclusion

This is a brief glimpse of some remarkable pioneer families—the first generations of our early families in America. Although the information is as accurate as possible, given the amount of time since the families first arrived, and the large amount of information, there are probably some errors, hopefully very few.

There is, of course, more information available about these families who started their American lives in Doniphan County, Kansas; and even more information about the family members following. Perhaps the information in this family history book can be a starting point for others continuing the research of our great families. The families, like all families, weren't perfect; even so, the courage, vision, and hard work of those first generations in America have been a blessing to all of our families. Best wishes to further researchers!



Frank Albert and Nellie (Cooley) Wende

Information Sources Benitz and Wende families

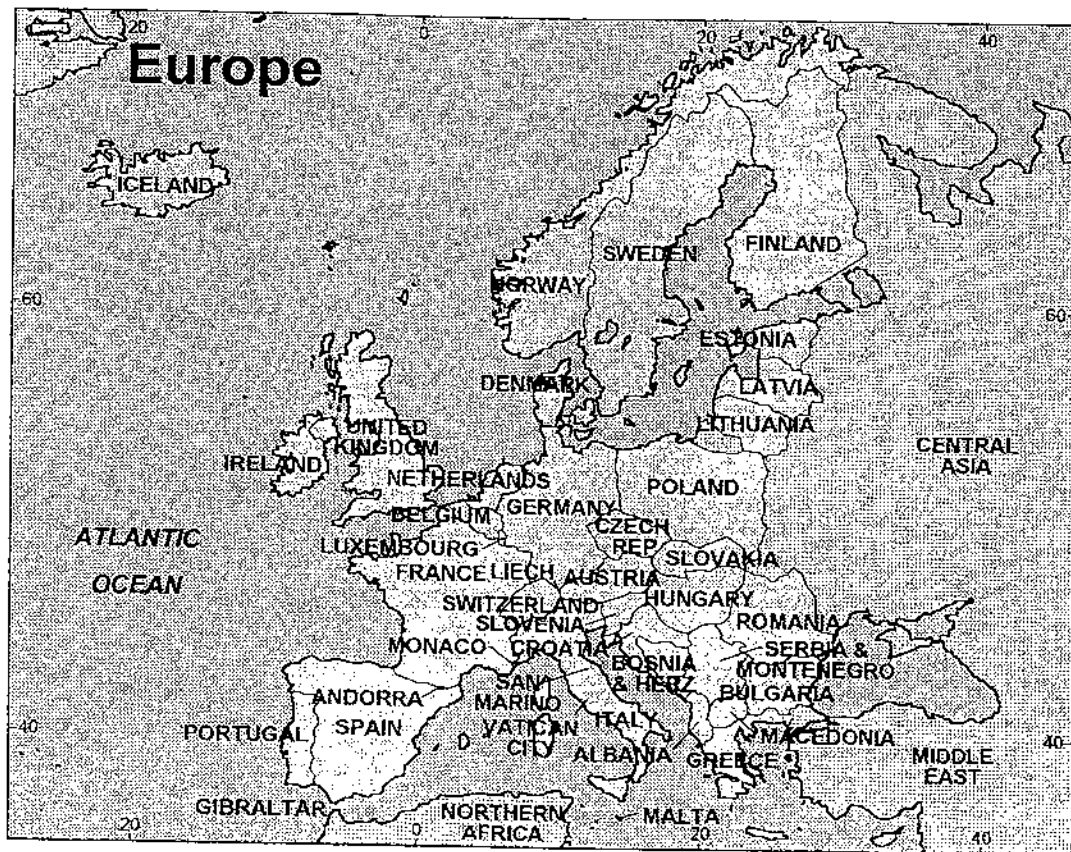
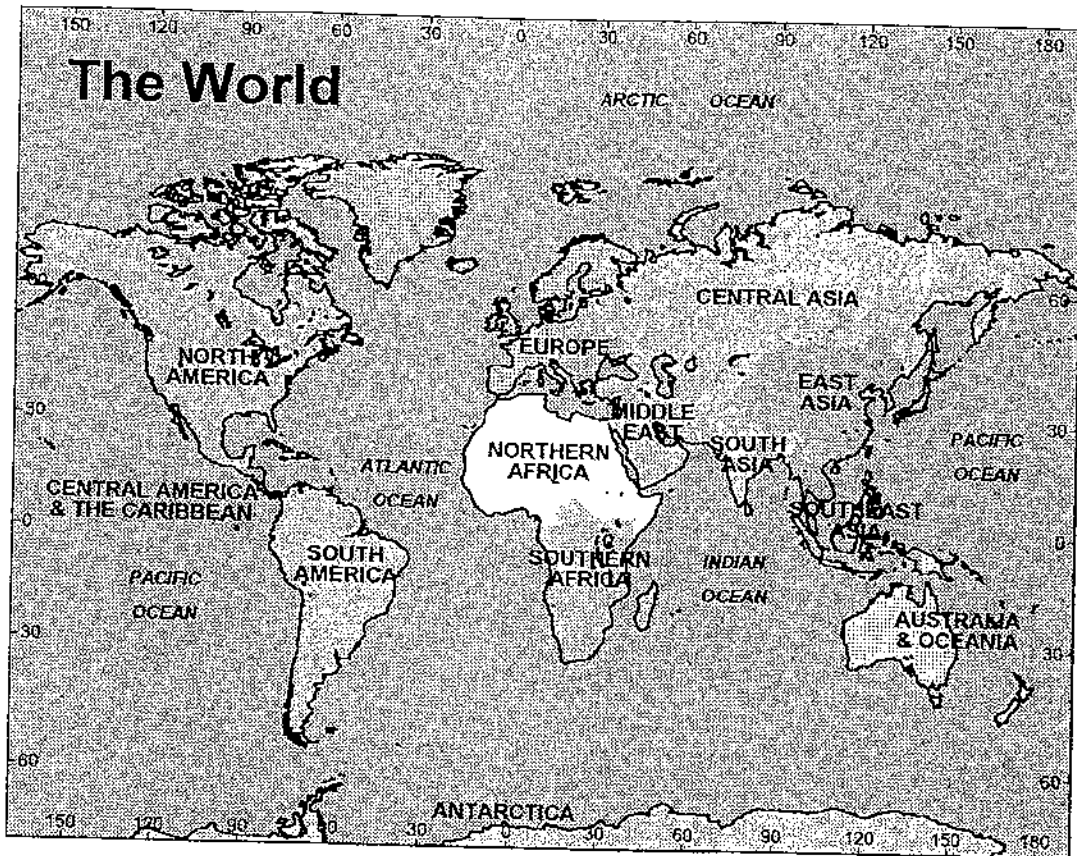
Family members

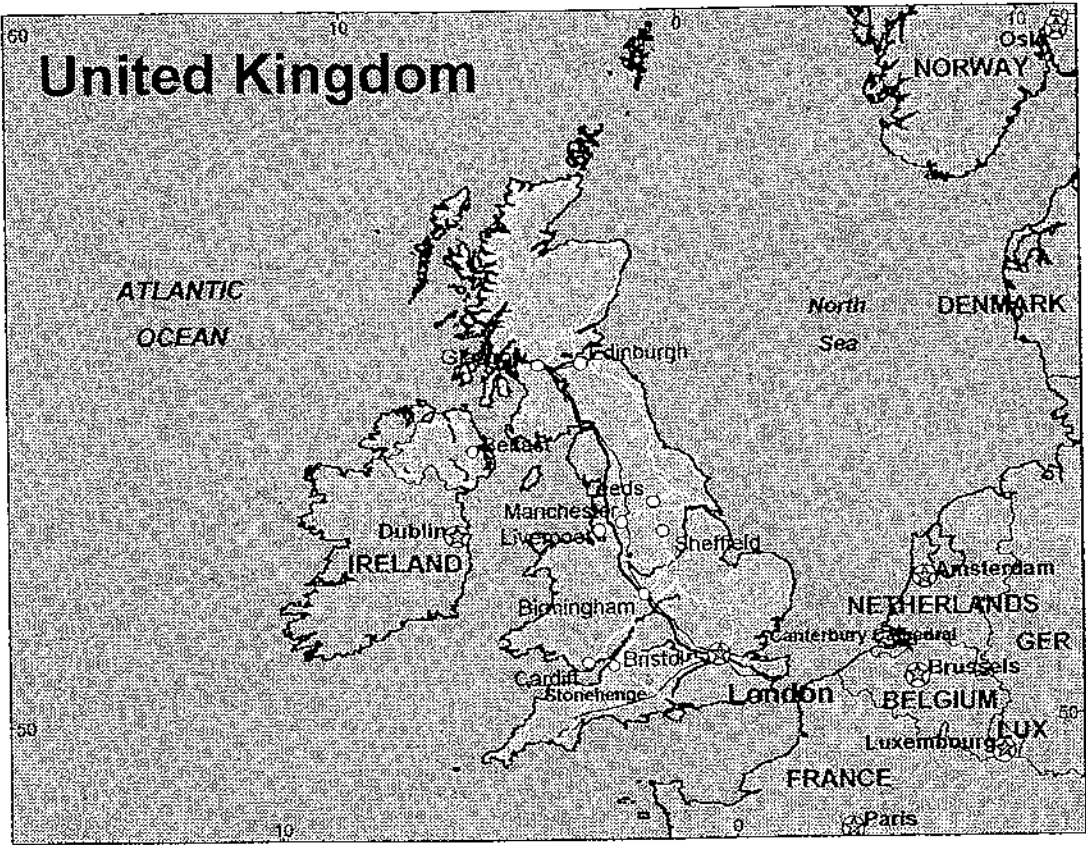
* Deceased

- Dorothy (Benitz) and *Oscar Anderson (daughter and son-in-law of Henry and Lizzie [McKittrick] Benitz, granddaughter and grandson-in-law of Albert and Mary [Wende] Benitz), Everest & Hiawatha, KS. Conversation, research assistance, pictures, encouragement.
- *Clarence and *Mary (Toenjes) Benitz (son and daughter-in-law of Henry and Lizzie [McKittrick] Benitz, grandson and granddaughter-in-law of Albert and Mary [Wende] Benitz), St. Louis, MO. Conversation and pictures.
- *Edna (Mrs. Arnold) [Ruhnke] Benitz (daughter-in-law of "Fritz" and Amelia "Melie" [Wende] Benitz), Hiawatha, KS. Conversation and genealogy records.
- *Ernest and *Leona [Benningfield] Benitz (son and daughter-in-law of Emil and Augusta "Gustie" [Loroff] Benitz), Hiawatha, KS. Conversation.
- *Henry and *Lizzie (McKittrick) Benitz (son and daughter-in-law of Albert and Mary Wende Benitz), Everest & Robinson, KS. Conversation, pictures, and correspondence.
- Phil Benitz (son of Arthur "Art" and Anne [Philipp] Benitz, grandson of Emil and Augusta "Gustie" [Loroff] Benitz), Wathena, KS. Correspondence, maps, pictures, and conversation.
- Ronald and Linda Benitz (son and daughter-in-law of Gerhard and Irene [Engemann] Benitz, grandson and granddaughter-in-law of Emil and Augusta "Gustie" [Loroff] Benitz), Wathena, KS. Conversation, genealogy records, and sharing their son, Jake's school project about the Benitz family immigration.
- Darlene (Wende) Campbell (daughter of Albert and Rose [Chilcoat] Wende, granddaughter of William "Bill" and Albertina "Tina" [Groenke] Wende, great-granddaughter of John and Mary [Naschke] Wende), Sabetha, KS. Conversation and correspondence.
- Alvin Elliott (son of William and Elsie [Wende] Elliott, grandson of Frank and Nellie [Cooley] Wende, great-grandson of John and Mary [Naschke] Wende), Hiawatha, KS. Conversation, pictures, correspondence, ship's records, and other records, some found in his mother's effects.
- Billie and Carol Higenbotham (descendents of Charles and Lena [Benitz] Fichtal), Tipton, MO. Conversation at 2007 Benitz Family Reunion and family records
- Nelita "Nicki" Benitz Allen Scheffler (daughter of Alto and Nellie [Willard] Benitz, granddaughter of William and Sarah "Sallie" [Sinker] Benitz). Pickerington, OH. Correspondence, conversation, pictures, genealogy records.

Other resources and references

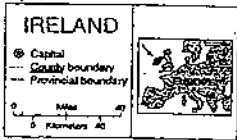
- St. Joseph, Missouri newspaper and public records
- Doniphan County, Kansas court and county records, including: citizenship, land records, birth, marriage, death, and probate.
- Doniphan County Historical Society:
A Brief History of Doniphan County, by Arlyn Parish, c 1981.
- The 1837-1916 Illustrated Doniphan County, printed by The Weekly Kansas Chief, Troy, Kansas, April 6, 1916.
- Christ Lutheran Church, Wathena, Kansas 1984 Church Directory
- Encyclopedia Americana
- Encyclopedia Britannica
- Wikipedia Internet Encyclopedia
- Other internet resources, primarily related to "Old Country" information and locations



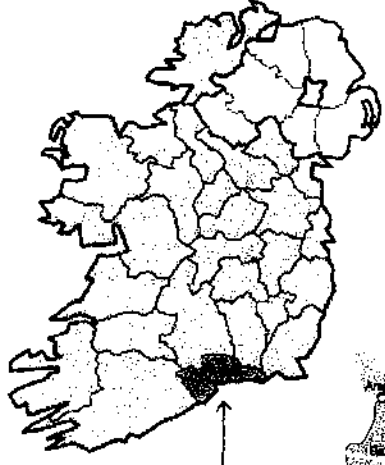


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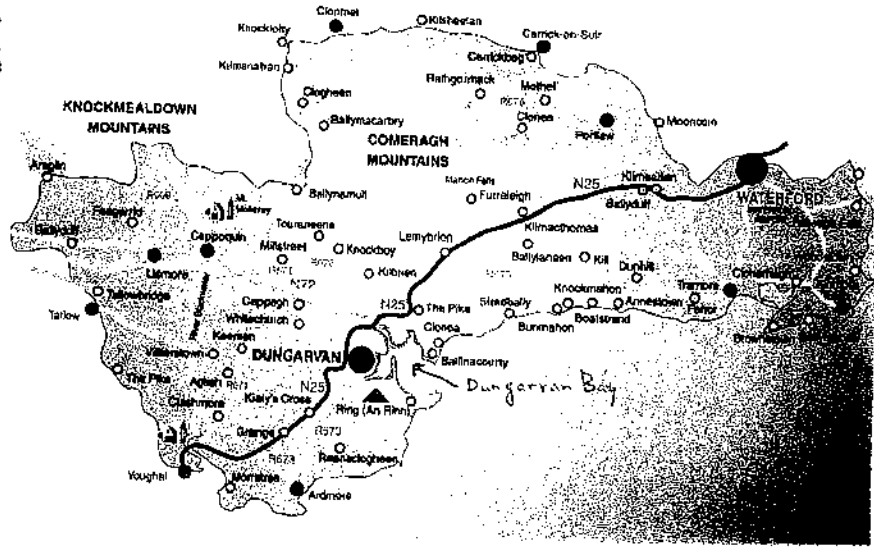
Map of Ireland offered by *World Press Review*.



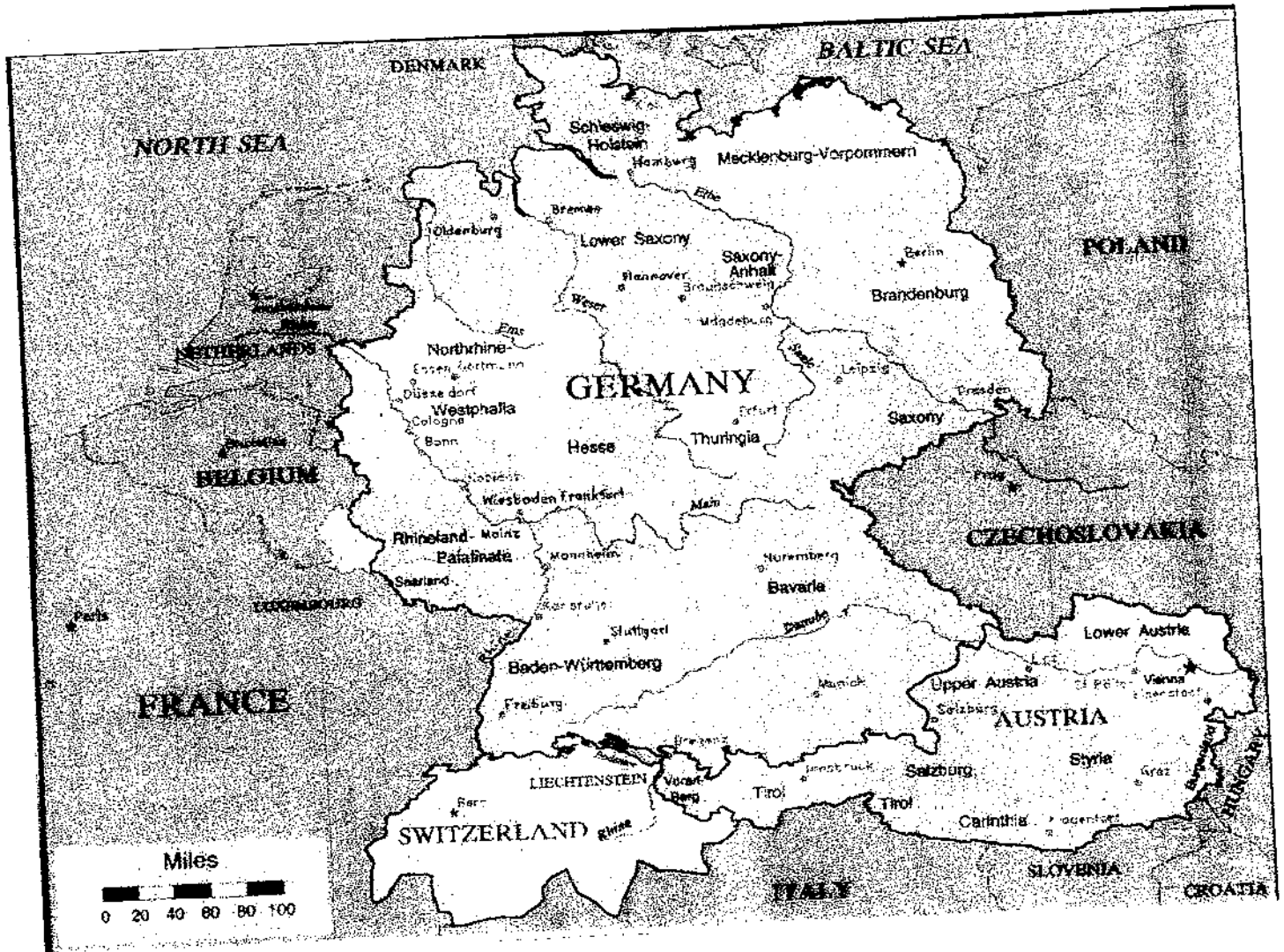
Ireland

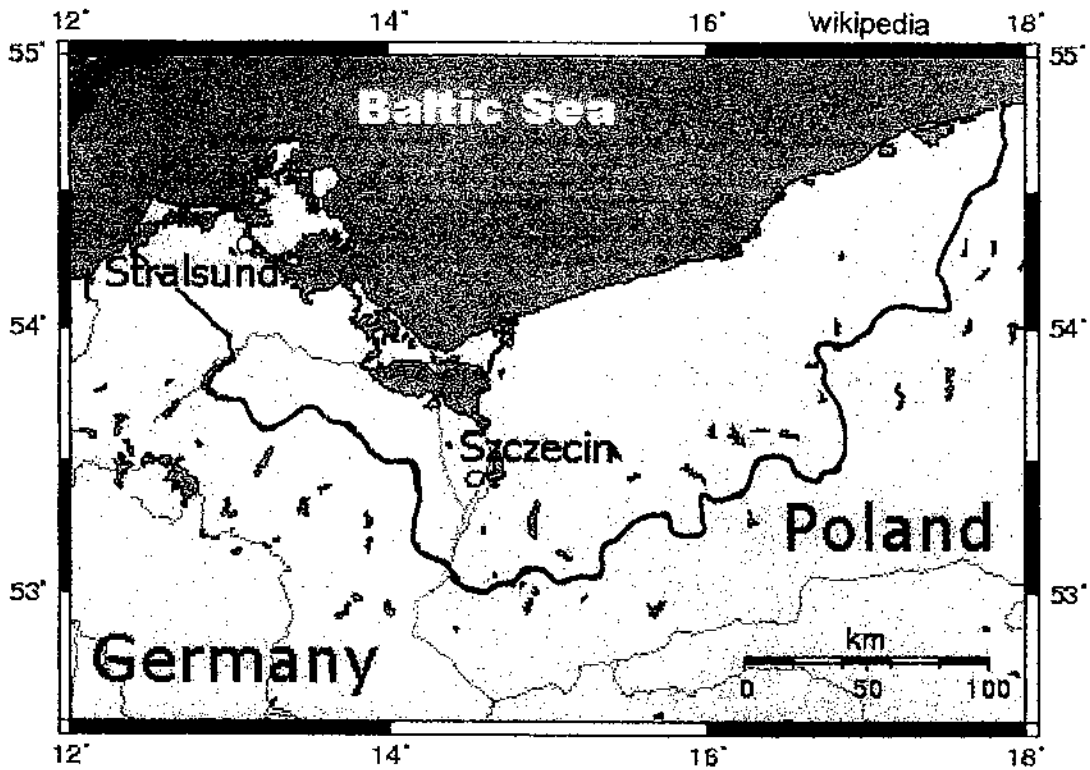


County Waterford →



States of Germany





Pomerania (Pommeran)

Map from Encarta

Prussia

