

**THE DESCENDANTS OF FRED KEECHLER  
AND CLARA BOWMAN**

by

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## INTRODUCTION

The basis for the outgrowth of this book was the Keechler information collected by Kay Puttergill Horst as a requirement for a college course which she took while attending Kearney State Teachers College at Kearney, Nebraska. Much of the information came from the Keechler Family Bible.

No family history has ever been published without mistakes. I am sorry if mistakes were made in your family. Only by sending me the changes, corrections, and additions can I pass the information on to others. Finally, to those who contributed to this book, a special thank-you.

In typing the genealogies of the descendants of Fred Emil Keechler who married Anna Clara Bowman, I used an outline form, giving an individual number to each person, indenting for each younger generation and double spacing between generations. The numbering system works in the following way. Each of the children of Fred Emil Keechler who married Anna Clara Bowman was given a letter of the Alphabet. Fannie Anna Keechler who married William August Bellin was given the capital letter "A" to designate their order of birth. Each of their children in turn and so on down the line to the last descendant contained in the book would add the number necessary to designate their order of birth into their family. Starting with the last letter or number in a given series, take off the last letter or number, one at a time, and you can trace any one person back to one of the children of Fred Emil Keechler who married Anna Clara Bowman.

### Example:

A - Fannie Anna Keechler, first child of Fred Emil Keechler who married Anna Clara Bowman.

A-1 Walter August Bellin, first child of Fannie Anna Keechler.

A-3 Louleen M "Lula" Bellin, third child of Fannie Anna Keecher.

Etc.

If a direct descendant was married more than one time, their spouses are given the small letters of a, b, c, etc., in order of their marriage to the direct descendant. The numbers given to the children resulting from these marriages would show which spouse these children came from because this small letter would precede their individual number.

Histories, brief sketches, or any other information of interest received on the life of a direct descendant is given just after their vital statistics.

The following abbreviations were used consistently throughout the typing of the genealogies of the descendants of Frederick Emil Keechler who married Anna Clara Bowman.

All states used.

All months of the year.

b. means born.

d. means died.

md. means married.

bd. means buried.

Co. means county.

ca means about.

twp. means township.

## CHAPTER I

### PRE-1890 HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF BUFFALO COUNTY

The first settlers who entered central Nebraska in the 1850s and 1860s saw the country in its almost primitive state, and gazed with their own eyes on the enchanting picture presented by the poet when he directed the eyes of the beholder on these lines:

“Behold the prairie, broad and grand and free;

“This God’s own garden, unprofaned by man.”

Central Nebraska was considered the heart of what was once considered as the “Great American Desert.” The country presented a wild and forlorn appearance. The Union Pacific railroad had not then been projected, this part of the great public domain had not been surveyed, and the country at large was considered worthless except as a hunting-ground for the Indians. There were no regularly laid out roads in these days and every traveler selected his own rout. These early settlers found the country sparsely settled and neighbors were few and far between. They always lived in sod houses or dugouts until they could manage to build a wood frame house.

The Cheyenne, Sioux and Pawnee Indians roamed over this part of the country then, and they not infrequently left the evidences of their savagery in murdered men and women and in desolated homes. Occasionally as many as 500 to 2000 Indians were seen in one body going to and coming from their hunting expeditions. It is hard to convey an adequate idea of the terror which these prowling bands of savages spread through the country and the constant strain which the settlers labored under. The air was often full of rumors, and occasional outrages were committed in the settlement, but no organized forays were made against the whites as far east as Buffalo County. Indian scares occurred frequently, and even if they were not prompted by an real danger, the danger, never-the-less, seemed imminent to the settlers, and they were for the time being exceedingly serious affairs. The greatest of these scares occurred in August, 1864, during the Indian outbreak, which culminated in the Plum Creek massacre. That scare temporarily depopulated the country.

In 1870, Buffalo County was organized with the temporary county seat at Wood River Center (now Shelton). With the railroad completed, the land was undergoing its first major changes. An occasional buffalo was to be seen grazing on the plains. Deer and antelope roamed at will and furnished the principal meat for the few settlers at that time. Herds of deer and antelope could be seen in almost any direction. Some elk were still to be found. Jack-rabbits and prairie-chickens were also shot. There were hundreds of wild-cats and beaver along the creeks, and hunting and trapping constituted the chief occupation of several of the early settlers. Beaver and otter skins were tanned and found a ready market.

There were few a Pawnee Indians along the Platte and Wood rivers. These Indians were engaged in trapping and hunting. The Indians were quite numerous, and were a constant annoyance to the settlers on account of their habit of begging and stealing.

Indians often called and asked for food, flour and meal or feed for their ponies. Occasionally one would call in an exceeding bad humor and would not be extended the hand of friendship. They were always armed to the teeth, and strenuously objected to the whites killing any wild game. Fortunately they never molested anyone.

Beginning April 15, 1873, occurred the worst wind, sleet and snow storm ever experience. The storm began on Sunday and for three days the wind and sleet came with such terrific force as to render it unsafe for anyone to leave his door. People tied clothes line or rope to themselves when they went out to the wood-pile. A great many head of stock perished during the storm. In 1873 the crops, on account of excessive drought, were almost a total failure. 1873 was a year of major settlement in Buffalo County. Many of these early settlers were Civil War veterans who filed homestead claims.

In July, 1874, the grasshoppers made their first appearance and destroyed everything that was green. Crops were completely destroyed three years, 1874 through 1876, in succession by the grasshoppers which subjected the settlers to great inconvenience and suffering. Many settlers came near starving to death. These were trying times, and the courage of men was put to the severest test.

In early August, 1876, the festive grasshoppers rose in numerous black clouds in the distant northwest horizon and descended wherever a green blade of anything was visible, and before night of the same day not a vestige of anything green could be seen. Fields of waving corn which gave every promise of an abundant crop in the morning, would be stripped of every vestige of life by nightfall. The grasshoppers flew in such drives that they fairly darkened the sun and made a roaring noise similar to a moving train of freight cars. When the grasshoppers arrived they would strike the house like descending hail. They fell like lava thrown from the crater of a volcano. The grasshoppers in those days were almost as thick as snow flakes in a blizzard. They were three inches thick, they didn't seem to smother each other either. They even ate holes through the blankets which were spread over vegetables and ate the cabbage roots in the ground. Many settlers came near starving to death. These were trying times, and the courage of men was put to the severest test.

From 1874 to 1876, farmers survived by selling butter and eggs, eating wild game and practicing the most rigid economy. Many resorted to hunting and trapping to gain a livelihood. Many settlers also gathered buffalo bones from the prairie and marketed them to get money to supply themselves with the necessaries of life. They lived on corn bread, a few potatoes, with an occasional jackrabbit sandwiched in, and boiled wheat. During the grasshopper times, provisions and clothing were sent from all over the East to the unfortunate settlers. Many, disheartened and on the very verge of starvation, returned back East to their former places of habitation. Fortunately this was the last year of the grasshoppers.

Another trying period for settlers occurred a few years later. There was no rain to speak of from September 1, 1879, to June 8, 1880. In the fall of 1880, prairie fires destroyed many crops. The winter of 1880-1881 was the longest and severest, and a great deal of suffering was experienced, principally among the new arrivals. The severe storms

and deep snow began the season on the fifteenth of October and continued until the next April. The scarcity of fuel was cause for a great deal of inconvenience and suffering, and some were even without the actual necessities to sustain life during so long and disagreeable a winter and were in measure dependent upon their more fortunate neighbors. Many had to grind corn with their coffee-mills for food and burn wet hay, straw and cornstalks for fuel.

In spite of these hardships, many settlers maintained faith in the land, and today have transformed central Nebraska into one of the major food producing centers of the world. Today Interstate 80 rolls out through the flat, monochromatic landscape. There is little to catch the eye but sagging electrical lines, rolling meadows, pasturing cattle, askew fence posts, and cornfields. Occasionally there is an abandoned farmhouse decaying amid the fields. The musty smell of grain still lingers in the abandoned barn. Crossing Nebraska is still like a little slice of heaven. Sometimes home to generations remains, an abandoned garden with a few onion bulbs and rhubarb stalks, surrounded by weeds with grasshoppers. A thick ribbon of cottonwoods still lines the Platte River along Interstate 80, hiding the broad, warm sandbars and shallow rapids and the songs of morning doves and meadowlarks.

## CHAPTER II

### THE ERNEST W. BORMAN FAMILY

Ernest W. Bormann was born about 1829 in Saxony, Germany. He was the son of Gottlieb and Johanna (Daunn) Bormann. About 1851 he married in Germany and a daughter Clara Anna Borman was born October 25, 1852. After the death of Ernest's first wife he remarried Mary Anna Black in Germany. From this union two children, Frederick "Fred" E. Bowman (2May1872 - 1955) and Marie "Mary" Bowman (married Tim Ryan) were born. Ernest's second wife likely died in Germany, after which Ernest and his children immigrated to America in 1875 with Frederick Emil Keechler's family. Fred Bowman married Ella V. Godfrey, February 26, 1902, in Buffalo County, Nebraska.

On February 8, 1876, (license applied for December 16, 1875), Ernest Bormann married for the third time to Juliana Carolina Swartz. Although Caroline is listed as Ernest's wife on the ship passenger list, this marriage was probably to provide formal U.S. documentation. On the passenger ship in 1875 with Ernest were Ernest's wife Caroline, Ernest's stepchildren (Caroline's children) Ann (later md. \_\_\_ Rowell), Minnie (md. Charles Gumprecht), and Randolph, and Ernest's children Frederick and Marie, from his previous marriage to Mary Anna Black. Juliana Carolina Swartz was the daughter of Johann and Christian Schwarz, From this union a son, William "Willie" E. Bowman, was born in 1879 and a child which died at infancy. Willie Bowman was known as the town drunk during the later years of his life and died August 2, 1974 at

Kearney, NE.

When Ernest Bormann came to America in 1875, he lived on homesteads northwest of Shelton. Ernest filed for a homestead claim with the U.S. General Land Office, Grand island, Nebraska, May 3, 1875. The 80 acres of land was located in the North ½ of the Southeast ¼, Section 10, Township 10 North (Sharon Twp.), Range 13 West, Buffalo Co. On December 31/1879, Ernest died of typhoid fever at Shelton, Nebraska. Traditions says that he was buried next to an infant deceased child on the homestead along a branch of Prairie Creek. Upon his death, he possessed the following property: real estate; one cow; two ponies; household goods, grain and provisions; wagon, plow, harrow and other agricultural implements. The following is a translation of the will of Ernest W. Bormann (original will was written in German script):

“I the undersigned hereby make known my last will, and it is true that my wife Juliane Karoliene Bormann nee Schwarze, receives her inheritance according to the law of this place, and that the remaining shall be equally divided among my children, Clara Kiichler nee Bormann, Fredrick Bormann, Marie Bormann (*Willie Borman was not listed, but was born 3 months after Ernest died*); my stepchildren Anna Schwarze, Minna Schwarze, Rudolph Schwarze. With the observation however that since my daughter Clara Kiichler has already received from her paternal inheritance of one hundred twenty dollars, the rest of the children shall first receive the same part before the former shares with them. Each child can only with the completion of the twentieth year of its life lay claim to their inheritance, which during this time to usury belongs to the mother. (*signed*) E. W. Borman, Shelton, the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1878. As witnesses (*signed*) G.A. Blume, R. Otto Gumprecht, August Kappler.”

On August 20, 1881, a patent record (homestead Certificate No. 3928, Application 6066, recorded Vol. 8, page 221) was issued to Juliane C. Bormann. When Ernest Bormann settled on his homestead in May 1875, he built a sod house, 16' x 24', a sod stable, 12' x 40, two granaries, a well, and other small buildings. About 50 acres of the land was cultivated. They raised wheat, rye, corn and potatoes.

Juliana Caroline Bormann was naturalized in Hall Co. in October 1880. In 1880, Juliane Caroline Bormann remarried John Gottlieb Daudt. From this union, a daughter, Lida Brenninger as born. Carolina Daudt died at Shelton, Nebraska, March 24, 1932. She is buried in the Shelton Cemetery. She was known to the family as Grandma Daudt. She claimed all of Ernest Bormann's children as her children although most were stepchildren.

Charles G. Henry Bormann (12Nov1825 - 15Sep1904) who likely was a brother of Earnest W. Bormann, also settled in Shelton, Buffalo Co., Nebraska, in 1883. Henry also was born in Saxony, Germany, He died at Sioux City, IA, and is buried in the Shelton Cemetery. Among his children were Mary Bagley and Heinrich Max Borman (15Mar1863 - 19May1922).

## CHAPTER III

### THE FERDINAND “FRED” EMIL KEECHLER FAMILY

Frederick (Ferdinand) “Fred” Emil Keechler (Kiichler or Kuhler) was born October 8, 1850, in Saxony, Germany. Family stories say he was a German Army deserter who immigrated to America in 1875 under his brother’s name. Passenger ship records reflect that he used the name “Emil Kuchler” was a farmer, and with him traveled his wife Clara, son Emil, age 1, and Ernest Bowerman, his father-in-law and Ernest’s family. Their journey originated from a Denmark port. They took a passenger ship, “The City of New York (2)” (renamed Norwegian in 1883 when sold to the Allan Line), from Liverpool, England, to Queenstown, Ireland, and finally on a transatlantic trip the New York City. Their steam ship was owned by the Inman Line and was built in 1865 in Glasgow. The ship was 375.2 feet by 39.6 feet and carried 400 3rd Class steerage passengers. Sailing time was approximately twelve days. During their trip, their child Emil died and was buried at sea. They arrived in New York April 7, 1875. The family chose to immigrate to America because the Providence of Saxony was densely populated with poor living conditions and low wages. By immigrating to the United States, the family hoped to improve their financial condition and to be with neighbors which had immigrated earlier to the United States. On December 18, 1882, in Buffalo Co., Nebraska, Fred became an U.S. citizen, and this broke his allegiance to the King of Seponici.

On June 25, 1876, in Grand Island, Hall Co., Nebraska, Fred Keecher married Anna Clara Bowman (Bormann), probably to provide formal U.S. documentation of the marriage. She was the daughter of Ernest W. Bormann, and she was probably Ernest’s first child. Clara’s mother is unknown.

Frederick Emil Kiihler filed for a homestead claim, March 26, 1878. The 80 acres of land was located in the south ½, southeast ¼, Section 32, township 11 north (Gardner Twp), range 13 west, Buffalo County. On September 10, 1883, a patent record (Homestead Certificate No. 4851, Application 7461, Recorded Vol. 10, page 211) was issued to him. When he settled on the land in April 1878, he built a sod dwelling, 10’ x 20’, a frame granary, 12’ x 16’, a stable, and water well. About 60 acres of the land was cultivated. This land was sold to Thomas Turney in November 1899 for \$700.

Fred and Clara Keecher had 13 children: Emil Art Keechler, Fannie Anna Bellin, John Keechler, Anna Clara (Poffenberger) Anderson, Lena Minnie Pope, Mary Augusta Deeter, Henry Keecher, Lizzie Marie Willey, Emma Ashburn, Minne Anderson, Laura (Oliver) Hunsberger, Bertha Alma Fuller, and Edna Mae Sherard. Art was the oldest child and died young. He is believed to be buried on the “old crick place” because a branch of Prairie Creek runs through the land. Fred Keechler built a two-story house on the farmland and many of his children and grandchildren remember growing up and visiting there. Henry and Lena Keechler Pope later farmed the land.

In the 1885 Nebraska agricultural census, Gardner Township, Fred Keechler lists his farm possessions as \$50 worth of equipment, 4 horses, 2 milk cows, 2 other cows, 9 hogs, and 12 poultry. The milk cows supplied butter and the chickens supplied eggs. Other food was provided by 25 acres of corn (800 bushels), 5 acres of oats (148 bushels), 50 acres of wheat (407 bushels) and  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of potatoes which produced 90 bushels of potatoes.

Fred Keecher had a brother, Fredriech Emil Keechler, who lived in Denver, Colorado. His brother was called "Dutch Uncle" by Fred's children. His brother came to America after 1875, was short, never married, and worked at a sugar factory. He often came back from Colorado to Nebraska to visit the family.

Since Clara Keechler could neither read nor write, Fred would read the German newspaper to Clara. Fred also could not read English. Fred was considered very set in his ways, particularly when it came to spelling his last name, which he insisted be spelled "Kiihler". However, when his daughter, Edna Mae, attended high school, Edna realized that his English translation of the name was not spelled the way it was pronounced. His son, Henry, is considered to be the one responsible for changing the spelling to "Keechler".

Mary Augusta Deeter, Fred's sixth child, characterized her father as a stubborn, lazy, mean man. He made the children work at an early age, kept the wages they earned, and used the money for maintaining the family's needs and alcoholic drinks. Fred always complained that he had a bad back. Clara took in washing and cleaned houses to earn extra money. John Keechler, the oldest son, ran away from home at an early age because his dad always took the wages he earned.

Ferdinand Emil Kiichler's U.S. citizenship papers were issued December 18, 1882, country of birth Saxonia, Naturalization Record Vol. 1, p.57, Declaration of Intention filed with Clerk of District Court, Hall County, Nebraska.

Of the twelve children who lived to adulthood, Edna Mae Sherard was the youngest child and the only one to graduate from high school. Following her graduation as Valedictorian of her class from Shelton High School, she taught a year at Box Elder School and taught a year at Antelope School. The country schools were located northwest of Shelton. While teaching school, Edna boarded with the Wrinkle family who operated a country store at Sometown, Buffalo Co., NE. On weekends Edna would travel by horse and buggy to stay with her sister, Lena Pope.

In March 1903, Fred and Clara Keechler moved to the town of Shelton, NE. On April 2, 1924, Fred Keecher died from a stroke.

Clara Keechler continued to live in Shelton until she died of cancer, May 30, 1931. She was baptized in Germany when a young girl and joined the Presbyterian Church in Shelton. She maintained her Christian faith through life and was kind and loving mother, being attached devoutly to her family and friends. Both Fred and Clara Keechler are buried in the Shelton Cemetery, Hall Co., NE. They left an open space in their cemetery plot for their son Emil who was buried at sea.

Frederick Emil "Fred" Keechler b. 8Oct1850, Saxony, Germany, Hall Co., NE. d. 2Apr,1924, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. md. 25June1876, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, Clara Anna Bowman. b. 25Oct1852, Saxony, Germany. d. 30May1931, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cemetery, Hall Co., NE. dau. Of Ernest W. Bormann.

Children of Fred Keechler and Clara Anna Bowman:

Emil Arthur "Art" Keechler, b. ca1874, Germany. Died ca1877, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE.

A - Fannie Anna Keechler  
B - John Keechler  
C - Anna Clara Keechler  
D - Lena Minnie Keechler  
E - Mary Augusta Keechler  
F - Henry Keechler  
G - Lizzie Marie Keechler  
H - Emma Keechler  
J - Minnie Keechler  
K - Laura Keechler  
L - Bertha Alma Keechler  
M - Edna Mae Keechler

The remainder of the book will be devoted to the above descendants. However, each of the above children will be treated separately.

## CHAPTER IV

### KEECHLER CHRONOLOGY

1850 Fred Keechler born in Saxony, Germany.

1852 Clara Anna Bowman born in Saxony, Germany.

1875 Fred Keechler immigrated to America.

Ernest W. Borman immigrated to America and filed Buffalo County homestead claim.

1876 Fred Keechler married Clara Anna Bowman in Hall County, Nebraska.

Fannie Anna Keechler born.

1878 John Keechler born.

Fred Keechler filed Buffalo County homestead claim.

1879 Anna Clara Keechler born.

1881 Lena Minnie Keechler born.

1882 Mary Augusta Keechler born.

Fred Keechler became U.S. Citizen  
1885 Henry Keechler born.  
1887 Lizzie Marie Keechler born.  
1889 Emma Keechler born.  
1890 Minnie Keechler born.  
1892 Laura Keechler born.  
1893 Fannie Anna Keechler married William August Bellin.  
1895 Bertha Mae Keechler born.  
Anna Clara Keechler married Sherman T. Paffenberger.  
1896 Edna Mae Keechler born.  
1899 Lena Minnie Keechler married Henry Pope.  
1900 John Keechler married Mary Etta Deeter.  
1901 Mary Augusta Keechler married Sylvester Martin Deeter.  
1903 Anna Clara (Keecher) Paffenberger married Fred Anderson.  
1904 Lizzie Marie Keechler married George Washington Willey.  
1905 Henry Keechler married Mary Helen Pope.  
1906 Minnie Keechler married William Leroy "Bill" Anderson.  
1907 Emma Keechler married Harry Brown Ashburn.  
1911 Laura Keechler married Howard Leroy Oliver.  
1913 Bertha Alma Keechler married Louis Tidous Fuller.  
1918 Edna Mae (Keechler) married Louis Tidous Fuller.  
1924 Ferdinand Emil "Fred" Keechler died.  
1929 Minnie (Keechler) Anderson died.  
Mary Augusta (Keechler) Deeter died.  
1931 Anna Clara (Bowman) Keechler died.  
1941 Laura (Keechler) Oliver married Edwin Hansberger.  
1952 Fannie Anna (Keechler) Bellin died  
1963 Lizzie Marie (Keechler) Willey died.  
1966 Anna Clare (Keechler) Anderson died.  
1967 Henry Keechler died.  
1969 John Keechler died.  
1974 Lena Minnie (Keechler) Pope died.  
1979 Bertha Mae (Keechler) Fuller died.  
1987 Edna Mae (Keechler) Sherard died.  
1992 Laura (Keechler) Hunsberger died.

## CHAPTER V

### FANNIE ANNA KEECHLER

A - Fannie Anna Keechler b. 6Mar1876, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 30 Nov1952, Oshkosh, Garden Co., NE, bd. Evergreen Cem., Garden Co., NE. md. 19Apr1894, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE, William "Billy" August Bellin. b. 19Apr1869, Germany. d. 30 Nov1931, Lisco, Garden Co., NE, bd. Evergreen Cem., Garden Co., NE. son of August and Wilhelmina Bellin.

William Bellin's death was believed to have been the result of infected teeth, and just prior to his death he suffered a paralytic stroke. Billy was born in Germany and came to the United States with his parents when a small child. The family first located in Wisconsin and after a residence there of a great many years they moved to Nebraska in the 1880s, locating in the Shelton community. They lived on a farm north of Shelton. In 1910, Billy and Fannie moved to Lisco. They often visited family in the Shelton area.

A-1 Walter August Bellin. b. 1Mar1896, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 26Jun1923, Lisco, Garden Co., NE. bd. Evergreen Cem., Garden Co., NE. md. Marie Margaret Schlicker. b. 1897Aug20, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE. d. 1952, bd. Evergreen Cem., Garden Co., NE. dau. of John Frederick and Anna Schlieker.

A-2 Clifford Martin Bellin b. 25Apr1898, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. Jun1972. bd. Saint Elizabeth Cem., Garden Co., NE. md. Margaret A. Dailey.

A-2-1 Clifford Robert Bellin b. 1932Sep19, Lisco, Garden Co., NE. d. 2012Jan28, Cheyenne, Laramie Co., WY, bd. Saint Elizabeth Cem., Garden Co., NE. md. Donna Dee  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

A-2-1-1 Marc Bellin.

A-2-2 Mary Margaret Bellin b. 1927Apr26, Bridgport, Morrill Co., NE. d. 2014Aug8, Gering, Scottsbluff Co., NE, bd. Lisco Memorial Cem., Garden Co., NE. md. Delbert L. Custer, b. 1927Apr25. b. 1985Sep10, bd. Lisco Memorial Cem., Garden Co., NE. son of Seeman and Edith L. Custer.

A-3 Luella "Lula" M. Bellin b. 25Dec1902, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. md. Dan Cunningham, b. ca1895, NE.

A-3-1 William A. Cunningham, b. ca1924.

A-3-2 Lettea W. Cunningham, b. ca1925.

A-3-3 Jess E. M. Cunningham, b. ca1926

A-4 Richard Walkins Bellin b. 28Jul1904, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 13 Dec1899. md. Clara Dailey.

## CHAPTER VI

### JOHN KEECHLER

B - John Keechler b. 10Feb1878, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 25May1969, Upland, San Bernardino Co., CA. md. Mary Etta Deeter, 20Aug1900, Cheyenne, Laramie Co., WY. b. 3Sep1880, Baxter, Jasper Co., IA. d. 13Apr1981, Pomona, Los Angeles Co., CA, bd. Ontario, San Bernardino Co., CA. dau. of Augustus William Deeter (or Dieter) and Lydia Jane Kline. Dieter spelling was incorrectly recorded when the family passed through Ellis Island.

John left home with a fourth grade education when he was twelve years old and went to work in a train yard in the Chicago area. He worked the turntable in the roundhouse. He also did this type of work in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Finally, he homesteaded finally in California. His orange orchard was very successful.

B-1 Rose Marie "Anna Mae or Rosa" Keechler. b. 16Jun1901, Cheyenne, Laramie Co., WY. d. 20Jan1993, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, CA, bd. Ontario, San Bernardino Co., CA. md. (1) 1927Sep25, Ontario, San Bernardino Co., CA, Donald Floyd Myrick. Divorced ca1936. b. 27Sep1899, Martinsville, Morgan Co., IN. d. 15May1950, Ontario, San Bernardino Co., CA. (2) ca1942, Ralph R. Garrison, Marriage annulled after two years.

B-1-1a Gloria Ann Myrick. b. 1Feb1931, La Habra, Orange Co., CA. md. 1952Jun16, San Bernardino, CA, William Duane Beck. Gloria lives in Atascadero, CA in 2010.

B-1-1a-1 Carrie Christine Beck. md. John Eugene Boyd.

B-1-1a-2 Kandis Lynn Beck. md. Randall Lee Brown.

B-1-1a-3 Colleen Janette Beck. md. Stewart Norman Taft.

B-1-1a-4 Cynthia "Cindy" Ann Beck. md. John Alexander McCandlish.

B-2 Ernest "Ernie" Lloyd Keechler b. 13Aug1903, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 12Feb1986, Hemet, Riverside Co., CA, bd. Bellevue Memorial Park, San Bernardino, CA. md. (1) Mildred Pearman. (2) 8Oct1943, Blythe, Riverside Co., CA, Selma Mae "Sally" Lewis. b. 20Mar1908, Butte, Silver Bow Co., MT. d. 17Nov1991, Helmet, Riverside Co., CA, bd. Bellevue Mausoleum, Ontario, San Bernardino Co., CA. dau. of \_\_\_\_\_ Lewis.

B-2-1b Jill Ernestine Keechler. b. 1944, Los Angeles, CA. md. 1969May14, San Bernardino, CA, Robert "Bob" Jones Elliot.

B-2-1b-1 Dawnelle Elliot. md. Kenneth Ronald Roth.

B-2-1b-2 Scott Christopher Elliot.

B-2-2b Jack Lewis Keechler. b. 1945, Ponomo, Los Angeles, CA. d. 23Jan1958, San Francisco, San Francisco Co., CA, bd. Bellevue Cemetery Mausoleum, Ontario San Bernardino Co., CA

Jack was born with Downs Syndrome. He also had a heart condition for which e underwent surgical procedures at Stanford Hospital in California..

B-3 Lester John Keecher b. 28Jul1905, Ravenna, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 21Sep1993, Riverside, Riverside Co., CA. md. (1) Marie Axley. (2) Betty J. \_\_\_\_\_. b. 9Jul1928, CA. d. 18NOV1981, El Dorado, El Dorado Co., CA. (3) 11May1946, Evelyn Mary Wurtz. b. 1924Dec12. AK. d. Quartzsite, AZ.

B-4 Ora Augustus Keecher b. 14Jan1910, Ontario, San Bernardino Co., CA. d. 6Jan1995, Escondido, San Diego Co., CA, BD. Oak Hill Memorial Park, San Diego, CA. md. 1935Nov16, Ruth Elizabeth Hargis. b. 1916Sep12. d. 2002Aug2.

## CHAPTER VII

### ANNA CLARA KEECHLER

C - Anna Clara Keechler b.11Sep1879, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 7Dec1966, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. md (1) 11Nov1895, Sherman T. Pffenbarger. b. 23Feb1870, IL. d. 5Dec1900, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. (2) 3Aug1903, Fredrick "Fred" Anderson. b. 8Dec1863, Denmark. d. 12Mar1918, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Gibbon, Buffalo co., NE. son of Paul Anderson and Jensenna Christensen.

Fred Anderson was born in Denmark, the first-born child of Paul and Jensenna Anderson. The family came to the United States in 1865. They lived in Savannah, Illinois for about 3 years before moving to Wisconsin. In 1878 the family was living in Smith County, Kansas, where Fred married Lydia Pearson. About 1887, the family moved to Kearney, Buffalo County, Nebraska. Fred and Lydia were the parents of seven children. Lydia died 1898 and is buried in the Gibbon, Nebraska Cemetery. Fred second married Anna Poffenbarger on August 3, 1903. They spent their lives on the farm in Kearney, Buffalo County, NE.

C-1a Charles E. Poffenbarger b. 9Mar1897. d. 22Feb1952, bd. Riverside Cem, Buffalo Co., NE. md. (1) Ruth Barrett. (2) Dolly May Barrett. (3) Gertrude C. Howard.

C-2a Mabel Pearl Pffenbarger b. 11Jan1901, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 22Mar1986, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. md. (1) George Warren Douglas md. (2) Otis Dewey Applegate, b. 1898May18, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 1982Jun11, bd. Riverside Cem, Buffalo Co., NE.

## CHAPTER VIII

### LENA MINNIE KEECHLER

D - Lena Minnie Keechler b. 5Aug 1881, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 13Nov1874, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem. Hall Co., NE. md. 7Mar1899, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, Henry Pope. b. 2Mar1874, Neenah, Winnebago Co., WI. d. 2Jun1941, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. son of Herman Pope and Mary Demand.

D-1 Clarence Henry Pope b. 18 Feb1900, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 21Dec1969, Wood River, Hall Co., NE. bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. 27Dec1920, Ethel May Book, b. 1901Sep13. D. 1996Dec30, Hall Co., NE.

D-1-1 Dorothy LaVaughn Pope b. 16Aug1922, NE. d. 2017Aug10, Prescott, Linn Co., KS, bd. Shawnee Mission Gardens, Johnson Co., KS. md. 11Apr1944, Dale Largent, b. 1921Apr13, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 2000Mar23, Overland Park, Johnson Co., KS, bd. Shawnee Mission Memory Gardens, Johnson Co., KS.

D-1-1-1 Larry Dale Largent b. 1947. md. (1) Larada Kichoaser

D-1-1-2 Patricia Diane Largent b. 1949.

D-1-1-3 Rodney Duane Largent b. 1950. md. Cathy Marie Claiborne.

D-1-2 Ila Marie Pope b. 5Apr1924. md. 3May1951, Ben Woods.

D-1-2-1 Michael L Woods b. 1952. md. 2Jun1973, Patricia Noble.

D-1-2-2 Timothy Woods b. 1954.

D-1-3 Virginia Ann "Sis" Pope b. 22Jan1927. md. 28Ju1947, Elton Leubs.

D-1-3-1 Ellen Louise Leubs b. 1952.

D-1-3-2 Gary Wayne Leubs b. 1954.

D-1-3-3 Kent Eugene Leubs b. 1958.

D-1-4 Glenn Clarence Pope b. 1930. D. 2000Mar28, bd. Shelton Cem, Hall Co., NE. md. Caroline Repp. b. 1938. Dau. of Frank and Opal Repp.

D-1-5 Loma Lee Pope b. 1934. md. 10Mar1952, Harold C. Campbell. b. 1932.

D-2 Nellie Irene Pope b. 6Jun1902, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 1Apr1996, Shelton, NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. 13Jun1922, George Hadenfeldt. b. 6Jun1898, St. Michael, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 19Jan1966, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. son of Claus & Mary Hadenfeldt.

D-2-1 Myrl George Hadenfeldt b. 22Feb1923, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 2014Oct18, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Sheton Cem., Buffalo Co., NE. md. Marcella Richards.

D-2-1-1 Marilyn J. Hadenfeldt b. 1945. md. 26Jun1966, Dale Bockman.

D-2-1-1-1 Melina Bockman b. 1968.

D-2-1-1-2 Brad lee Bockman b. 1971.

D-2-1-2 Marcia Hadenfeldt b. 1948.

D-2-1-2-1 Kyle Berzina b. 1971.

D-2-1-3 Mark Allan Hadenfeldt b. 1953.

D-2-1-4 Todd Douglas Hadenfeldt b. 1956.

D-2-2 Wanda Pauline Hadenfeldt b. 9Oct1924. md. 8Aug1948, William Fredrick Hess.

D-2-2-1 James Fredrick Hess b. 1949. md Margaret Plank.

D-2-2-2 Jerold Jerry Hess b. 1952. md. Linda Gatewood, b. 31Aug1974.

D-2-2-3 Jill L. Hess b. 1952. md. 1May1971, Bruce Dietz.

D-2-2-4 Jeffery P. Hess b. 1956.

D-2-3 Dolores Leone Hadenfeldt b. 14Sep1928. md. Frank J. Williams. b. 10Apr1925. d. 7Nov1972, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. son of Gussie Franklin & Louise Earline Williams.

D-2-3-1 Sharon Louise Williams b. 1946.

D-2-3-2 Sandra Kay Williams b. 1948, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. dau of Frank Williams and Dolores Leona Hadenfeldt. md. 21Jul1973, Robert Lee Sherard, Sr. b. 1950, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE. son of Howard Laverne Sherard and Sylvia Gertrude Hurlbert.

Robert Lee Sherard (nick name Bob) was a very fun and active child. He was very pleasant to be around. He was liked by everyone in the community. Evan as a child he

was a very hard worker and wasn't afraid to roll up his sleeves and get the job done.

He quit high school in 1966 and went to work for his father in the Sherard Gas Station in Gothenburg, Dawson Co., NE. In 1968 he went to work for the Monroe Plant in Cozad, Dawson Co., NE, and worked there for a year. In 1969 he went to Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, and worked in the hay mill for Consolidated Blenders, first as a driver and then as a hay cutter. In 1977 he went to work for the Monroe Plant in Cozad, first in the shipping department (one year), and then he went to work in the tubing department making casings for shock absorbers where he has worked for 19 years. Bob demonstrated that he is a very hard working, dedicated and stable individual.

His favorite sports are hunting and fishing. His hobby is wood working.

D-2-3-2-1 Tracy Sue Sherard b.1976, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE. md. (1) 25Jan1996, Lexington, Dawson Co., NE, Randy Underwood. div. 1997 (2) 1997, Paul Ugg.

D-2-3-2-1-1a Tayler Lee Underwood b. 1996, Gothenburg, Dawson Co., NE.

D-2-3-2-2 Kimberly Kay Sherard b. 1980, Gothenburg, Dawson Co., NE.

D-2-3-2-3 Robert Lee "Bob" Sherard Jr. b. 1983, Gothenburg Dawson Co., NE.

D-2-3-3 Susanne Marie Williams b. 1950. md. 23Jul1971, Alan Carlson.

D-2-3-3-1 Lisa Carlson b. 1974.

D-2-3-4 Shelia Williams b. 1955.

D-2-3-5 Stephanie Williams b. 1961.

D-2-4 Carl Sue Hadenfeldt b. 1941. md. James Hansen b. 31Aug1939.

D-2-4-1 Scott James Hansen b. 1961.

D-2-4-2 Kevin Lee Hansen b. 1966.

D-2-4-3 Daren Patrick Hansen b. 1971.

D-3 Melva Mae Pope b. 2May1904, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. md. 6Aug1924, Richard Herman Ohlman. b. 26Jul1899, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 1976Dec18, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. son of Friedrich and Clara C. Ohlman.

D-3-1 Wilma Jean Ohlman b. 10Nov1925. d. 24Jan2008, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. 24Apr1944, Robert "Bob" L. Rima. b. 28Jan1922, Shelton, NE. d. 9Jun2006, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. , son of Vern Rima and Helen Humiston

Bob Rima grew up south of Shelton and received his education at Denman Elementary and Shelton Public Schools. He was a farmer, was a member of the United Methodist Church, and was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason.

Jean received her education in various country schools north of Shelton and graduated from Shelton Public Schools in 1943. Jean and Bob husband made their home on a farm south of Shelton before moving to their home southeast of Shelton in 1982. Jean worked as secretary at the school until the late 1960s when she began her long career as an insurance agent,

D-3-1-1 Helen L Rima md. David Landell.

D-3-1-1-1 Nate Landell

D-3-1-2 Richard "Dick" Rima b. 26Sep1947, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE. d. 20Mar2006, Brisbane, Chuwar, Australia. md. Lorreta \_\_\_\_\_ .

D-3-1-2-1 Bobbie Rima.

D-3-1-2-2 Matthew (stepson)

D-3-1-2-3 Vance (stepson)

D-3-1-2-3 Clayton (stepson)

D-3-2 Donald Richard Ohlman b. 3Jan1928, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 2018Sep7, Hastings, Adams Co., NE md. Verna \_\_\_\_\_

D-3-2-1 Sandra Ohlman. md. \_\_\_\_\_ Luther

D-3-2-2 Donald Richard Ohlman, Jr.

D-3-2-3 Janice Ohlman. md. \_\_\_\_\_ Allen

D-3-2-4 Peggy Ohlman. md. \_\_\_\_\_ Crawford

D-3-2-5 Richard Donald Ohlman.

D-3-3 Clayton Earl Ohlman b. 4Dec1929, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 1995Feb22, bd. Greenwood Cem., Sedgwick Co., KS. Navy 1948Jan19-1951Dec18. md. Gladys Clabaugh, b. 1928Jan28, Garfield Co., NE. d. 2012Jul18, bd., Greenwood Cem., Sedgwick Co., KS. Dau. of John Wesley and Arle Merle Clabaugh.

D-3-3-1 Gary Ohlman

D-3-3-2 Kent Ohlman

D-3-3-3 Cheryl Ohlman. md. \_\_\_\_\_ Biles

D-4 Clara Ann Pope b. 1Apr1906, Shelton, NE. d. 24Feb2000, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. 4Mar1931, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE., Floyd Burton Hogg. b. 31Aug1907, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 2003Jan26, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. sonof Floyd Cleveland and Elizabeth Virginia Hogg.

Clara grew graduated from Shelton High School in 1925. She attended Kearney Normal School, now the University of Nebraska - Kearney, and earned her teaching degree. She taught in a rural school north of Shelton for four years. Her and Floyd lived on a farm north of Shelton before moving into Shelton in 1982. She was a member of the Buffalo County Extension Club for more than 50 years.

D-4-1 Beth Lean Hogg b. 1932. md. \_\_\_\_ Fox.

D-5 Infant Pope b. 26Dec1908.

D-6 Floyd Fredrick Pope b. 7Jan1910, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 1979May25, bd. Zion Luthern Cem., Buffalo Co., NE. md. 3Feb1943, Ruby E. Hongsermeier. b. 21Nov1918. d. 2000Jun2, bd. Zion Luthern Cem., Buffalo Co., NE. dau. of Henry W. and Alvena A. Hongsermeier.

D-6-1 Joyce Elaine Pope b. 1944. md. Orin Vogt.

D-6-1-1 Lane Michael Vogt b. 1972.

D-6-2 Rick Jerome Pope b. 1948. md. Cynthia Baker.

D-7 Harvey Elwin Pope b. 29Aug1913, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 13Jun1993, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. 20Feb1941, Vivian Iona Dubbs. b. 2May1919, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 2011Oct18, Riverside, Riverside Co, CA. bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. dau. of Marion Francis and Alma Dubbs.

D-7-1 Nancy Louie Pope md. 17May1973, Philip Burbach.

## CHAPTER IX

### MARY AUGUSTA KEECHLER

E - Mary Augusta Keechler b. 1Nov1882, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 12Sep1929, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Riverside Cem., Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. md. 30Jan1901, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, Sylvester Martin Deeter. b. 1Dec1867, Baxter, Jasper Co., IA. d. 2Jun1958, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Riverside Cem., Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. son of Augustus William Deeter and Lydia Jane Kline.

Immediately after Mary and Sylvester got married they along with John and Mary (Deeter) Keechler went to Denver to live. They lived in the same apartment house where they had many good times together. After work Sylvester and John would take turns and

buy a medium size bucket of beer for 25 cents. Both men had good jobs with good pay in the railroad roundhouse. However, Mary had nose bleeding and fainted all the time due to the high altitude. For this reason, Sylvester and Mary bought a farm north of Gibbon. Sylvester farmed in the Gibbon area for about 50 years before moving to Kearney, NE. He died of liver cancer. Sylvester's sister, Mary Etta Deeter, died April 13, 1981, at Pomona, Las Angeles Co., CA.

E-1 Glenn K Deeter b. 29Jul1902, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 16Feb1997, Lincoln, NE. bd. Lincoln Memoria Park, Lancaster Co., NE. md. 30Jan1926, Grace Lucille Brown. b. 2Mar1904. d. 4Jun1978, Sacramento, Sacramento Co., CA.

Glenn Deeter founded the Deeter foundry which made manhole covers and other gray iron castings in Lincoln, NE. See [www.deeter.com](http://www.deeter.com)

E-1-1 Eugene Deeter b. 1931. md. Jacqueline M. Wightman.

E-1-1-1 Douglas Deeter md. (1) Leslie Pegler.

E-1-1-1-1 Carrie Deeter

E-1-1-1-2 Trent Deeter

E-1-1-2 Jane Deeter md. Craig Pohlman.

E-1-1-3 Carol Deeter b. 1951. md. Mike Campbell.

E-1-1-3-1 Sarah Campbell

E-1-1-3-2 Christy Campbell

E-1-1-3-3 Amaria Campbell

E-2 Emmet Deeter b. 25Apr1904, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 16Apr1989, Portland, Multnomah Co., OR. md. Margaret Richleft. b. 2Apr1903. d. 16Jun1978.

Emmett Deeter worked for General Electric and was an Army Reserve officer in New Jersey and Washington, D.C.

E-2-1 Peggy Deeter b. 1939. md. \_\_\_\_\_ McComb.

E-2-1-1 James McComb b. 19oct1962, OH. d. 26Aug1981.

E-3 Roy James Deeter b. 16Jun1908, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 30Oct1967, Lexington, Dawson Co., NE. bd. Greenwood Cem., Dawson Co., NE. md. 22Jan1930, Grand Island, NE, Edith Garnet Carlson. b. 1908Jan29, Minden, Kearney Co., NE. d. 15Oct1996, Lexington, Dawson, Co., NE. bd. Greenwood Cem., Dawson Co., NE. dau.

of Charles P. Carlson & Anna Rodine.

Roy Deeter owned a machine shop in Lexington, NE.

E-3-1 Donald Dean Deeter b. 13Feb1936. d. 27May1958. bd. Greenwood Cem., Dawson Co., NE. md. Loretta Ann Haban

E-3-1-1 Debbie Deeter b. ca1957, NE. d. Seattle, King Co., WA.

E-3-2 Velma Royce Deeter b. 13Nov1939. d. 13Nov1939. md. 2Aug1959, Lexington, Dawson Co., NE, William Leslie Dunlap. b. 28Dec1939, NE.

E-3-2-1 Kevin Leslie Dunlap. b. 1960, Lexington, Dawson Co., NE. md. (1) Robin r. Bartlett. (2) 1985Mar15, Gallatin, Gallatin Co., MT, Kathern Sue Hadwin. b. 1960, Great Falls, Cascade Co., MT. dau. of William James Medved and Beverly Jean Erdman.

E-3-3 Marylin Ann Deeter b. 1942. md. James Crawford.

E-3-4 LeRoy E. Deeter b. 5Oct1944, Lexington, Dawson Co., NE. d. 15Jul1999, Lexington, Dawson Co., NE. md. 21Oct1967, Elwood, Cass Co., NE, Karen Weissert.

E-3-4-1 Michael Deeter.

E-3-4-2 Stacie Deeter.

E-4 Irene May Deeter b. 27Feb1914, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 9Dec1996, Saint Helens, Columbia Co., OR. bd. Willanette National Cem., Multnomah Co., OR. md. (1) 1Jun1935, Franklin, Franklin Co., NE, Fay Laverne Bartlett. b. 30Dec1913, Newark, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 17Dec1984, Vancouver, Clark Co., WA. Son of George Elmer Bartlett and Elsie Otealia Anderson. (2) 15Apr1967, Astoria, Clatsop Co., OR, Harold Humpla. b. 2Jan1920, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR. d. 19Dec1999, Portland, Mulnomah Co., OR, bd. Willamette National Cem., Multnomah Co., OR. son of Charles Humpla and Jenny Puma. Navy 1940Jun10-1946Jun12.

E-4-1a Wayne Lee Bartlett. b. 1936, Minden, Kearney Co., NE. md. 11Jul1958, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR, BetteLynn Kumpula. b. 1936, Clatskanie, Columbia Co., OR. dau. of William A. Kumpula and Elma Jackson.

E-4-1a-1 Lynn Marie Bartlett b. 1959, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR. md. 12Aug1978, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR, Kenneth Dean Riley. b. 1959, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR.

E-4-1a-2 Craig Lee Bartlett b. 1961, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR. md. 21Jul1984, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR, Lila Rae Grover. b. 1960.

E-4-1a-2-1 Brittany Raelynn Bartlett b. 1985, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR.

E-4-1a-2-2 Megan Irene Bartlett b. 1987, Portland, Multnomah Co., OR.

E-4-1a-2-2-1 Dakota Raelee Harris b. 2006.

E-4-2a Cynthia Faye Bartlett b. 1939, Minden, Kearney Co., NE. md. (1) 28Jun1958, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR, David Harvey Olson. b. 1939, Ogallala, Keith Co., NE. Son of Harold E Davis and Ruth Marie Holdman. md. (2) 4Mar1983, Allan Jones. b. 14Mar1926.

E-4-2a-1a Kelly Jeanette Olson b. 1959. md. (1) 20May1977, Ed Briggs. (2) 27Apr1979, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR, Gary Mitts. b. 1954, Trenton, Grundy Co., MO.

E-4-2a-1a-1b Randall "Randy" Fay Mitts b. 1975, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR. (father unknown; adopted) md. 20Mar1994, Linda Malee Sakultarawattn. b. 1974, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR.

Staff Sargent Randy Mitts, a member of Second Battalion, 162<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment in Corvallis, OR, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, October 15, 2005. Deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, from March 2004 until March 2005, Randy served with the Battalion as a scout sniper with the Oregon Army National Guard. He led a five man team around Baghdad, observing the battle field and shooting the enemy "when necessary." The most rewarding aspects of his time in Iraq were "getting all of my immediate squad members home alive," and "securing the first free election in Iraq."

E-4-2a-1a-1-1 Cody James Mitts b. 1995, Fort Belvoir, VA.

E-4-2a-1a-1-2 Chelsea Malee Mitts b. 1997, Fort Belvoir, VA.

E-4-2a-1a-2b Lindsey Rose Mitts b. 1983, Klamath Falls, Klamath Co., OR. md. 2002, James Kramer.

E-4-2a-2a Patrick DeAnn Olson b. 1961, St. Helens, Columbia, Co., OR. md. (1) Byron Eidem. (2) Rodney Lyle Sperr.

E-4-2a-2a-1a Jason Eidem

E-4-2a-2a-2a Andrea May Eidem.

E-4-2a-2a-3a Travis Morris Eidem.

E-4-2a-2a-4b Jason Oliver Speer b. 1979, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR.

E-4-2a-2a-5b Andria May Sperr b. 1980, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR.

E-4-2a-2a-6b Travis John Sperr b. 1984, Morris, Sevens Co., OR.

E-4-2a-3a David Harvey Olson, Jr b. 1964. Md. (1) before 1983, Roxanna Payne. (2) after 1992, Kathy Marie Kelleher. b. 1963, Portland, OR.

E-4-2a-3a-1a David Gerald Olson b. 1983, Portland, OR.

E-4-2a-3a-2a Jessica Marie Olson b. 1987, Portland, OR.

E-4-2a-3a-3b James Daniel Olson b. 1993, Portland, OR.

E-4-3a Wilbur Allen Bartlett b. 20Jun1944, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR. d. 2017Aug5, Clarkston, Asotin Co., WA, bd. Normal Hill Cem., Nez Perce Co., ID. md. 12Mar1965, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., ID, Dana Lee Brackenbury. b. 1949, Lewiston, Nez Perce Co., ID.

E-4-3a-1 Tonia Elaine Bartlett b. 1971, Lewiston, Nez Perce Co., ID.

E-4-4a Keith Dale Bartlett b. 1945, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR. md. (1) 10Jan1969, Linda Snider. b. 15Nov1951. (2) 27Apr1985, Columbia Co., OR, Dana Eidem. b. 1960.

E-4-4a-1a Jeffrey Dale Bartlett b. 1969. md. Natalie Munson.

E-4-4a-1a-1 Nicholas Grant Bartlett b. 1996, Portland, OR.

E-4-4a-2a Christopher Lee Bartlett b. 1970. md. Shelly Johnson.

E-4-4a-2a-1 Trevor Ryan Bartlett b. 1995.

E-4-4a-3a Shawna Lynn Bartlett b. 1975. md. 22Jul1995, Neal Justin Saats. b. 1972.

E-4-4a-3a-1 Kirsten Lynn Staats b. 1995.

E-4-4a-3a-2 Jessica Marie Staats b. 2001.

E-5 Lois Margaret Deeter b.20Jan1918, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 26Feb2006, Arvada, Jefferson Co., CO, bd. Riverside Cem., Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. md. 27Sep1935, Smith Center, Smith Co., KS, William A. Wright, Jr. b. 30Oct1915. d. 17Jun1985, Arvada, Jefferson Co., CO, bd. Riverside Cem., Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE.

E-5-1 Jack G. Wright b. 1936, Kearney, Kearney Co., NE. md. before 1957, Markene Rainer. (2) 7Aug1957, KS, Judith Kay Brown. b. 1940, Alamosa, Alamosa Co., CO. (3) 31Dec1997, Amanda \_\_\_\_\_ . b. 1977, Halloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

E-5-1-1a Chris Darnell Urban b. 1955.

E-5-1-2a Kelly Colene Urban b. 1957.

E-5-1-3b Layne Brady Wright b. 1958, Denver, CO.

E-5-1-4b Tampa Jo Wright b. 1960. md. 1Jul1986, Michael L. Rhodes

E-5-1-5b Jaclyn Wright b. 1963, Denver, CO. md. 8Feb1985, Scott Z. Martin. b. 10Feb.

E-1-5b-1 Samuel Cody Martin b. Denver, CO.

E-5-1-6c Austin Harley Wright b. 1997, Denver, CO.

E-5-2 Constance Luree “Connie” Wright b. 1937. md. Lawrence Eugene Smith. b. 25Dec1937.

E-5-2-1 Lori Ann Smith b. 1957, Denver, CO. md. (1) before 1987, Maurice Gribble. (2) 24Oct1987, Michael Edmund Cutunilli. b. 1954.

E-5-2-1-1a Shannon Lynn Gribble b. 1981.

E-5-2-1-2b Travis Allen Smith b. 1976. md. Charlene \_\_\_\_\_.

E-5-2-1-2b-1 Alexander Michael Prewitt Smith b. 2001.

E-5-2-1-3b Cody Dee Cutunilli b. 1988.

E-5-2-1-4b Kelsey Luree Cutunilli b. 1990.

E-5-2-2 Teri Lynn Smith b. 1959, Dallas, TX. md. 12Jul1997, Frisco, Summit Co., CO, Joseph Earl Dismont, Jr. b. 1959.

E-5-2-2-1 Jorden Tevo Dismont

E-5-2-3 Kevin Ray Smith b. 1961. md. Carrie June Pearman.

E-5-2-3-1 Branden Paul Smith

E-5-2-3-2 Winter B. Smith

E-5-3 Trudy Eileen Wright b. 1945. md. (1) Robert Eddy Cooper. (2) George Ray. (3) Steve Kinion. (4) 27Dec1979, Denver, CO, Richard LeRay Smith. b. 1942, Golden, Jefferson Co., CO.

E-5-4 Harold Martin Wright b. 1958.

## CHAPTER X

## HENRY KEECHLER

F - Henry Keechler b. 1Jan1885, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 13Apr1967, Hastings, Adams Co., NE, bd. bd. Floral Lawns Memorial Gardens, North Platte, NE. md. 3Jan1905, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, Mary Helen Pope. b. 19Jan1885, Neenah, Winnebasgo Co., WI. d. 9Dec1966, North Platte, Lincoln Co., NE, bd. Floral Lawns Memorial Gardens, North Platte, NE. dau. Henry Herman Pope and Mary Demand.

Henry Keechler is considered to be the one responsible for changing the spelling of the family name to Keecher from Kiichhler or Kuchler with the umlaut over the "u". He lived on a farm until he moved to Tryon, NE, in 1909. According to his death certificate, Henry died after 20 days at the Ingleside - Hastings State Hospital from bronchial pneumonia.

On February 1, 1913, Henry Keechler was issued a homestead claim for 628.5 acres in T20N, R30W, McPherson Co., Nebraska, by the Broken Bow Land Office (Patent No. 04047, Accession/Serial No. 312814, Bureau of Land Management Serial No. NEBB0004047).

F-1 Ervin E. Keechler b. 5Jul1905, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 9Feb1889, Lincoln, Benton Co. MO, bd. Floral Lawns Memorial Gardens, North Platte, NE. md. 26Feb1927, North Platte, Lincoln Co., NE, Flossie May Hutches. b. 19Dec 1902, Custer Co., NE. d. 22Mar1997, Lincoln, Benton Co., MO, bd. Floral Lawns Memorial Gardens, North Platte, NE. dau. of James Hutches and Amanda Spence.

Ervin Keechler ranched 15 miles northwest of North Platte, NE, until 1979 when they moved to Benton County, Missouri. Flossie died at the Lincoln Community Nursing Home in Lincoln, MO. She graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in teaching. She taught in country schools in and around North Platte, NE, from 1926 until her retirement. She was an active member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and in her community all her life.

## CHAPTER XI

### LIZZIE MARIE KEECHLER

G - Lizzie Marie Keechler b. 1Jan1887, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 31Mar1963,

Stapleton, Logan Co., NE, bd. North Platte Cem., Lincoln Co., NE. md. 14Nov1904,  
Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, George Washington Willey, b. Mar1877, WI. d. 1953, bd.  
North Platte Cem., Lincoln Co., NE. son of Henry N. Willey and Mary Elizabeth Hoyis.

G-1 Arthur Henry Willey b. 1907Jun21, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 1973Jun21, bd.  
McCain Cem, Logan Co., NE. md. Marie E. Elliot.

G-2 Annabelle Elizabeth Willey b. 1913Jun14. D. 2003Feb28, bd. Yankton Cem.,  
Yankton Co., SD. md. Laurence Reynolds Taylor b. 1912Jul13, Mason City, NE.

G-2-1 Ann Karen Taylor. md. \_\_\_\_\_ Joyner

G-3 Pauline Eugenia Willey b. 1918Oct16, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 2003Jun7, San  
Diego, San Diego Co., CA, bd. Greenwood Memorial Park, San Diego Co., CA. md.  
Melvin Barbee.

G-3-1 Dennis Gene Barbee

G-3-2 Kenneth Melvin Barbee

G-4 Georgetta "Georgia" Marie Willey b. ca1924.

## CHAPTER XII

### EMMA KEECHLER

H - Emma Keechler b. 19Apr1889, Shelton, NE. d. 11Dec1978, North Platte, Lincoln  
Co, NE, bd. Riverside Cem., Gibbon, Buffalo Co., EN. md. 1Jun1907, Gibbon, Buffalo  
Co., NE, Harry Brown Ashburn. b. 21Jun1875, Omaha, Douglas Co., NE. d. 22Oct1942,  
Alliance, Box Butte Co., NE, bd. Riverside Cem., Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. son of  
Dillon Prosser Ashburn and Emily Amanda Brown.

Henry Ashburn worked as a miller in a grain mill in Gibbon, NE. The following is from  
the book from *WHO'S WHO in NEBRASKA*, published by Nebraska Press Association,  
Lincoln, Nebraska 1940:

ASHBURN, HARRY BROWN: Secretary - Treasurer Roller Mills; b Omaha, Neb June  
21, 1875; s of Dillon Prosser Ashburn-Emily Amanda Brown; ed Gibbon HS 1890; Conn  
Brothers Priv Sch, Gibbon; m Emma Keechler June 1, 1907 Gibbon; s Joseph Nelson,  
Nell Prosser; 1893 with father Neb Dairy Exhibit, Chicago World's Fair; 1895-1902 &  
1905 with I N Davis Milling Co. Gibbon; 1902-04 with W H Buck Lbr Co, Gibbon; 1906  
with Creamery Package Mfg Co Omaha; 1907-09 with Bradford-Kennedy Lbr Co  
Omaha; 1909-14 mgr lbr yard of Imperial Elevator :Co of Minneapolis Minn at Maxbass

N D; 1915- with brother in Gibbon Roller Mills at Gibbon, 1919- secy-treas; past mbr Gibbon twp bd, past city treas Maxbass N D; Prot; hobby, hunting; parents mbrs of original Soldiers Free Homestead Colony settling in Gibbon in 1871; father estab 2nd creamery in Neb; past pres Neb Dairymen's Assn; with old Pacific Express Co, Omaha two years; mbr Neb legislature defeated William F Cody "Buffalo Bill" at elections; also in grain bus; past Gibbon P M; res Gibbon.

H-1 Joseph Nelson Ashburn b. 7Feb1912, Maxbass, Bottineau co., ND. d. 1974May1, Omaha, Douglas Co., NE, bd. Riverside Cem., Buffalo Co., NE. md. Vera Elizabeth Haybecker.

H-1-1 Erich Harry Ashburn b. 1940Oct19, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 2002Oct12, Waterville, Kennebec Co., ME, bd. McPherson National Cem., Lincoln Co., NE. Navy service.

H-2 Neil Prosser Ashburn b. 8Aug1914, Maxbass, Bottineau Co., ND. d. 1970Feb28. bd. Riverside Cem., Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. md. Marjorie Berneda Winchester. d. 1970. Dau. of \_\_\_\_\_ Nye

H-2-1 Rhett Ashburn b. 1946Dec25. d. 1946Dec29, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Riverside Cem., Buffalo Co., NE.

## CHAPTER XIII

### MINNIE KEECHLER

J - Minnie Keechler b. 24Aug1890, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 18Mar1929, Wilton Village, Beltrami Co., MN, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. 24Aug1906, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, William Leroy Anderson. b. 27Apr1884, Smith Center, Smith Co., KS. d. 21Apr1968, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. son of Paul Anderson and Jensesa Christine (later changed to Christensen).

Minnie died possibly from the result of an attempt to abort pregnancy. After Minnie died, William and the children returned to Buffalo Co., NE. Evangeline was the only one to inherit William's brown eyes. In 1936, William married Cora Adams who had a daughter from a previous marriage. The Anderson's farmed in the Wood River and Shelton communities until retiring in 1947.

J-1 Evangeline Willametta Anderson b. 10May1909, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 1984Feb4, Beltrami Co., MN, bd. Poney Lake Cem, Beltrami Co., MN. md. Arnold Wilton Hall. b. 1904Dec7, MN. d. 1995Dec14, Beltrami Co., MN, bd. Poney Lake Cem,

Beltrami Co., MN. Son of Erick William & Agnes Olena Hall.

J-1-1 Leland Hall md. Patricia Alice McGarry.

J-1-1-1 Curtis Lee Hall.

J-1-1-2 Roberta Lynn Hall.

J-1-1-3 Calvin Wayne Hall.

J-1-1-4 Leanne Marie Hall.

J-1-1-5 Sharon Elizabeth Hall.

J-1-2 Owen Arnold Hall md. Helen Marie Jackson.

J-1-2-1 Gregory Owen Hall md. Barbara \_\_\_\_\_.

J-1-2-1-1 Becky Hall

J-1-2-1-2 Tony Hall

J-1-2-2 Timothy Alan Hall md. Dorothy \_\_\_\_\_.

J-1-2-2-1 Allison Hall

J-1-2-2-2 Andrew Hall

J-1-2-2-3 Arron Hall

J-1-2-3 Steven Wayne Hall md. Kathy \_\_\_\_\_.

J-1-2-3-1 Sara Hall

J-1-2-3-2 Mandy Hall

J-1-2-3-3 Jason Hall

J-1-2-4 Kendall Lane Hall

J-1-2-4-1 Jennifer Hall

J-1-2-4-2 Heather Jennifer Hall

J-1-2-4-3 Michael Hall

J-1-2-4-4 Lacey Hall

J-1-2-5 Keith William Hall b. 1957. d. 1988.

J-1-2-6 Brian Lee Hall md. Jeanette \_\_\_\_\_.

J-1-2-6-1 Justin Hall

J-1-2-6-2 Brandon Hall

J-1-2-6-3 Nichole Hall

J-1-3 Joyce Hall md. David Leroy Vogel.

J-1-3-1 Gary Lee Vogel

J-1-3-2 Karen Joyce Vogel

J-2 Beulah Bernadine Anderson b. 31May1913, Wood River, Hall Co., NE. d. 1997Jul20, Wilbur, Douglas Co., OR, be. Roseburg Memorial Gardens, Douglas Co., OR. md. Harvey Daniel Carey b. 1908Aug7. D. 1983Aug5, Douglas Co., OR, bd. Roseburg Memorial Gardens, Douglas Co., OR. son of W Harmer and Etna E. Carey

J-2-1 Marlyce Elaine Carey b. 1937, Wood River, Hall Co., NE. md. 1956Nov21, Wilbur, Douglas Co., OR, Jerald Allen Holmes. b. 1935, Des Moines, IA. son of Marshall Holmes and Wilma Ridgeway.

J-2-2 Lois Jean Carey b. 1942J, Rosburg, OR. md. 1960Sep16, Wilbur, Douglas Co., OR, William Lewis Gilbert. b. 1941, Lakeview, OR, Son of eugene V. Gilbert and Ethel Widner.

J-3 Colene Mildred Anderson b. 2Jul1920, Wilton, Beltrami Co., MN. d. 22Oct2002, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Wood River Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. Karl Erhardt Opp. b. 1918Jul22, Wood River, Hall Co., NE. d. 1995Jul18, bd. Wood River Cem, Hall Co., NE. Son of Frank H. Opp & Elizabeth L. Huebner

J-3-1 Karlene Emma Opp md. Victor Allen Lambrecht.

J-3-1-1 Victoria Ann Lambrecht md. (1) Pat Lantz. (2) Jeff Grell. (3) Dan Gellespie.

J-3-1-1-1b Brook Nicole Grell

J-3-1-1-2b Amber Dawn Grell

J-3-1-2 Valorie Jean Lambrecht md. (1) Jerry Brandt. (2) Mark Swartz.

J-3-1-2-1a Courtney Jean Brandt

J-3-1-2-2b Taleigh Cara Swartz

J-3-1-2-3b Austin Marcus Swartz

J-3-1-3 Kirk Allen Lambrecht md. Gail \_\_\_\_\_.

J-3-1-3-1 Garret Lambrecht

J-3-1-3-2 Hope Danielle Lambrecht

J-3-2 Lloyd Franklin Opp md. (1) Janice Joyce Parmely. (2) Jan Fenster.

J-3-2-1a Lori Lee Opp md. (1) Rick Neeman. (2) Roger Combs.

J-3-2-1a-1a Brittany Neeman

J-3-2-1a-2a Kyle Neeman

J-3-2-2a Staci Jo Opp md. Wes Bass.

J-3-2-2a-1 Justin Wesley Bass

J-3-2-2a-2 Courtney Nichole Bass

J-3-3 Judy Lorraine Opp md. (1) David Clement Cole. (2) Robert John Baker.

J-3-3-1a David Thomas Cole

J-3-3-2b Tara Leigh Baker

J-3-3-3b Robert John Baker md. Dawn Snell.

J-3-3-3b-1 Robert Andrew Baker

## CHAPTER XIV

### LAURA KEECHLER

K - Laura Keechler b. 24Sep1892, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 12May1992, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. (1) 26Jul1911, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, Howard Leroy Oliver. b. 14Jul1890, Shelton Twp., Buffalo Co., NE. d. 18Aug1931, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. son of Ephriam Oliver and Dorothy Fieldgrove. (2) 19Oct1941, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, Edwin Hunsberger. b. 28Aug1886. d. 10Jul1948, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Sodtown Cem, Buffalo Co., NE. son of Abraham and Katie Ann Hunsberger

The Mormon Trail: The Oliver Family of Shelton  
by Grace Oliver (Vol. 1, No.2, *Buffalo County Historical Society*, February, 1978)  
[http://bchs.us/BTales\\_197802.htm](http://bchs.us/BTales_197802.htm)

Forced to leave Illinois due to persistent harassment climaxing in the assassination of their prophets Joseph and Hiram Smith, the Mormons decided to leave the United States. Striking westward from Nauvoo in 1846, the lead elements established winter quarters on the bluffs above the west bank of the Missouri River, a site later to become Florence, Nebraska. The ensuing winter caused much suffering and loss of life to the

Mormon vanguard. However, in the Spring of 1847 some 150 persons under the leadership of Brigham Young were selected to find a home for their people. That summer the trail blazers set forth toward an unknown location in Mexican territory. Their course in Nebraska followed the Platte River from Fremont to Columbus where it branched off along the Loup River to the west edge of Merrick County, then south to the Platte, and from there on the north side of the Platte and North Platte Rivers into Wyoming. Later contingents followed a shorter route, taking them along the north side of the Platte Rivers all the way through Nebraska.

The most characteristic way to travel along the Mormon Trail was by covered wagon, although some of the Mormons, too poor to afford wagons, moved all their possessions across the plains and mountains to Utah in two-wheeled carts drawn by hand. To protect themselves from Indians and other dangers, most of the emigrants went west in large companies. Their day's activities began at sun-up or before. The men corralled the oxen, which had been turned out to graze overnight, while the women prepared breakfast over campfires. After breakfast, the men yoked the oxen, hitched them to the wagons, and were ready for the captain's call to march when each wagon took its place in line. With only a brief meal and rest at noon, the wagon train made about fifteen miles a day. At the end of the day, the wagons formed into a great circle, and a guard was posted throughout the night. It was to join in this adventure that the Oliver family came to Nebraska territory on their way to Zion.

Edward Oliver, Sr., his wife Sarah and their seven children, converts to the Mormon faith, left their home in Manchester, England, for Salt Lake City via the Port of Liverpool. Their children were Edward, Jr., age 28; James D., 21; Sarah Ann, 13; John, 12; Eliza, 9; Ephriam, 8; and Jane, a baby. James D. was the only married child, with a wife and one son Harry, 6 months old. They arrived in the United States in April, 1860. At Florence (the old winter quarters) a few miles north of Omaha, the Oliver family purchased a traveling outfit for emigrants, which included two yoke of oxen, a wagon, and two cows. With numerous other Mormon families having the same destination, they took the Mormon Trail up the valley of the Platte River. About the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 1860, the axle of their wagon gave way, and the Olivers were compelled to halt for repairs at a point known as Wood River Center, while their immediate traveling companions continued the journey. The Olivers took their problem to the ranch of Joseph E. Johnson, a resourceful Mormon living in the area.

Joseph Johnson, husband of two or three wives, and father of numerous children, was postmaster, merchant, blacksmith, wagon maker, baker, editor and publisher of a newspaper called *The Huntsman's Echo*. He was very fond of flowers and cultivated a beautiful garden. The wagon shop of Mr. Johnson, contained no seasoned wood suitable for an axle, and so from the trees along the Wood River was cut an ash from which an axle was hewn and fitted to the wagon, and the family again took to the trail.

Ten miles had not yet been traveled when the green axle began to bend under the load, the wheels ceased to track, and the party could not proceed. In the family council which followed, the father suggested that they try to arrange with other emigrants to carry

their equipment and thus continue their journey. The mother, Sarah, thought they should return to Wood River Center (now Shelton) and arrange to spend the winter. Sarah said it was beautiful country with an abundance of wood, good water, grass and hay for the cattle. As all the children agreed with their mother, the family returned to a point about a mile west of Wood River Center, where they constructed a log hut with a sod and dirt roof in which they spent the winter. With the coming of Spring, the father, Edward, Sr., devoted to the Mormon faith, urged that they continue on to Salt Lake, but to this neither Sarah nor any of the children would consent. So the father, with the 22-year-old maid who had accompanied the family from England, in 1861 traveled on to the Mormon Settlement in Utah where they married and had a family of six daughters and one son. Edward, Sr., farmed near Salt Lake City, and family tradition tells us that he founded the town of Bountiful at or near the location of his farm, where he lived until his death in 1876.

Sarah and the remaining family remained at Wood River Center. There are no known pictures of Sarah. Sarah Holland Oliver thus became the head of the family, and the Oliver homestead was established on the banks of the Wood River. She proved to be a woman of energy and force of character and, with her family, was soon engaged in raising corn and vegetables, selling the surplus to the emigrants along the trail, and at Fort Kearny twenty miles distant. She endured all the hardships, privations, work and fear that was the lot of early settlers of the frontier, yet she never turned a hungry emigrant from her humble door. Sarah Oliver, while she had no medical training, was ever ready to go to the help of those in need, and often ministered to the sick, weary and footsore travelers along the trail. When rumor came of Indians on the warpath, her children took turns on the housetop as lookout for the dreaded savages. In the Indian uprising of 1864, many of the people left Wood River Center, traveling as far east as Iowa, and some of them stayed away a year for safety's sake. Many of the men who left returned to harvest crops in the Fall.

In the years to come Sarah witnessed the building of the Union Pacific Railroad past the homestead, the entrance of Nebraska into the union in 1867, and the beginnings of the extensive settlement and development of central Nebraska. Here her family put down its roots.

The eldest son, Edward, Jr., married, and for two years worked for Mr. Johnson in Wood River Center, and later established his own general store when Mr. Johnson moved on to Utah in August of 1861. Edward, Jr., had no children, James D. and his wife and child established their home one mile west of the rest of the family, living in a dugout until they could construct a house. Seven more children were born to him and his wife. Sarah Ann married Joseph Owen, whose family came from England in 1863. They settled in Buffalo County, and were the parents of seven children. Mr. Owen was active in early affairs of the county, and served as treasurer of School District No. 1 for 46 years. John was appointed sheriff when Buffalo County was organized in 1870. He was elected to that office at the first election and lost his life in October of 1871 at the age of 23 in the performance of the duties of that office.

Eliza, at 10 and unmarried, died in 1871, the same year that her mother and her brother John died. All three were buried on the Oliver homestead. Ephriam Oliver, who was eight years old when the family settled here, married Dorothy Fieldgrove, and they raised a family of ten boys and one girl. His son, Dewey S. Oliver, is the only member of this family now living [in 1978]. He resides in Shelton with his daughter Shirley. Jane the youngest, was the only one to leave Buffalo county. She married Jacob Rice and moved to Spokane, Washington, where they reared a family of two girls and five boys.

When Sarah Oliver died, her youngest son Ephraim, who was better known as “Bob”, inherited the homestead. In the 1890’s he built a beautiful farm home where his son’s widow, Mrs. Vernon Oliver, now lives. In early 1900’s the Union Pacific Railroad designated this as “The Typical Nebraska Ranch Home”, and an illustration of it appeared in Union Pacific folders of that day. Many descendants of Sarah Oliver live in Buffalo County today, largely in the Shelton area (caption to picture - Ephriam and Dorothy (Fieldgrove) Oliver and family at their home one mile west of Shelton, taken about 1898. Left to right: Walter, Edward, Chester and Charles (twins), Jack, Ephriam, Howard, Vernon, Dewey beside his mother Dorothy, George, Cora and William). Sarah Oliver is remembered by all as a courageous and persevering, women, who suffered and survived the pioneer hardships, and saw her family grow up in this “beautiful country” on the east edge of Buffalo County.

The Mormon Trail was a terrace road through eastern Buffalo County. The first emigrants traveled the first terrace, only one or two miles from the river. Later higher roads were used until there were many branches paralleling each other. The higher roads were straighter and shortened distances. The Union Pacific Railroad and Highway 30 later followed closely the line of the highest road.

K-1a Florence Louise Oliver b. 11Oct1912, Wood River, Hall Co., NE. d. 20Dec1970, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE.

K-2a Marie Elizabeth Oliver b. 17Feb1915, Wood River, Hall Co., NE. d. 21Oct1989, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Riverside Cem., Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. md. Kenneth Puttergill.

K-2a-1 (son).

K-2a-2 Kay Puttergill b. 1949. md. 1970, Merle Horst, Jr. son of Merle and Imogene Horst.

Kay graduated from Gibbon High School and Kearney State College. For many years, Kay has had a physical therapy business. Merle Horst graduated from Giltner High School and Kearney State College. In college he lettered four years in track. Merle worked for Emedon Corporation, formerly WebMD. Merle and Kay lived in Franklin Lakes, NJ for a while and currently live in San Diego, CA. They attend the Lutheran Church.

K-2a-2-1 Megan Horst md. Jul2002, San Francisco, CA, Helgi Bloom.

Megan graduated May, 1997, from Pomona College in Claremont, California, with a degree in psychology. Her senior thesis was titled “Women’s Persistence in Science Careers & Education & How Their Values Change Over the College Process.” She was also a Pomona Scholar and Mortar Board member. In June, 2005, Megan was awarded a doctorate degree from Harvard University. She is presently working for ABT Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts as a Senior Research Analyst. Helgi Bloom worked at Scansoft in Mergers/Acquisitions many years. His business travels included Israel, Germany and New York. In 2014, he started working as CFO at Other World Computing.

K-2a-2-1-1 Niklaus Horst Bloom b. 2004, Boston, MA.

K-2a-2-1-2 Eleanor “Ellie” Marie Bloom b. 2006, Boston, MA.

K-2a-2-1-3 Erik Horst Bloom b. t2010, Boston, MA.

K-2a-2-2 Adam Horst. b. md. 9Aug2003, Hanover, NH, Kelly Keene.

Adam Horst during his high school years lived in Franklin Lakes, NJ and attended Don Bosco Preparatory High School in Ramsey, NJ. He graduated from high school as valedictorian with awards of: National Merit Scholarship finalist, Edward J Bloustein Distinguished Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar, and New Jersey finalist for the National Association of Secondary School Principals Wendy’s High School Heisman Award. He also was a four-year letterman on the high school track team where he was co-captain and named all-league and all-country. While in high school Adam organized his fellow students to serve as volunteer workers for Habitat for Humanity, volunteered as a camp counselor for underprivileged children, served as a Big Brother (freshman mentor), and was chosen as a “community hero torchbearer” for the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay.

In the June 2000, Adam graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. He was co-captain of the Dartmouth Track Team, competed in track meets in England (Oxford and Cambridge) and Ireland, selected for All-Ivy Academic Honors, named Second Team All-Ivy, and selected as a member of the All-Eastern Championship team by the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America Track and Field Coaches Association. He was fifth on the all-time performance list for the decathlon and fourth in the pentathlon at Dartmouth. While at Dartmouth, he majored in Political Science.

In the year 2004, Adam was awarded a Master’s degree in Political Science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is currently living in Indianapolis, Indiana, and was budget director for the State of Indiana in the Office of Management and Budget. He worked for Governor Mitch Daniels for ten years. In January 2013, he was awarded

the Sagamore of the Wabash honorary award, the highest honor that an Indiana governor can bestow, for his work. He currently is Vice President and Controller at IU Health, plays golf and is a Butler University basketball fan.

Kelly graduated from the University of Indiana medical school and is a radiologist at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

K-2a-2-2-1 Rebecca Ann Horst. b. 2012, IN.

K-2a-2-2-2 Josephine Marie Horst. b. 2014, IN.

K-2a-3 Darlene Puttergill. md. Jim Catlin.

K-2a-3-1 Rick Catlin. b. 28Dec1956, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 18Nov2010. Menomonee Falls, Waukesha Co., WI. md. Lyn Barber, dau. of John and Maxine Barber.

K-2a-3-1-1 Emily Rose Catlin.

K-2a-3-2 Karen Catlin.

K-2a-3-3 Mike Catlin. md. Denise \_\_\_\_\_.

K-3a Arthur Leroy Oliver b. 6Jun1916, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 8May 1924, bd. Shelton Cem, Hall Co., NE. Hit by a car.

K-4a Leland Fredrick Oliver b. 6Feb1920, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 17May1997, Las Vegas, NY.

K-5a Irene Margorie Oliver b. 15Nov1922, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 15Aug2004, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., NE. md. Harland Hunsberger.

## CHAPTER XV

### BERTHA ALMA KEECHLER

L - Bertha Alma Keechler b. 10Jul1895, Shelton, NE. d. 30Jul1979, Martinez, Contra Costa Co., CA, cremated by Pleasant Hill Cem. md. 21May1913, Grand Island, Hall Co., Nebraska, Louis Tidous Fuller. b. 15Jan1891, Fairbury, Jefferson Co., NE. d. 25Aug1963, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE, bd. Riverside Cem., Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. son of Douglas Peter Fuller and Mary Elizabeth Williams.

Bertha and Louis moved from Shelton to Gibbon about 1930. Louis and Bertha separated May 1933, but the divorce was not filed until August 27, 1937. After the

separation, Bertha and her daughters moved to Kearney, NE, and lived with her mother and sister. Approximately 1959 or 1960 in Berkeley, California, Bertha had her aorta replaced with an artificial one which was an extremely new medical procedure at that time. Her symptoms were that her legs hurt. It got to the point where she could hardly walk a block. The aorta was swollen with stoppage where it branches off. Doctors thought if surgery was not done the aorta could just fall apart. In 1940, Louis married Ona B. Williams. Louis's death certificate was issued in Minnesota. Upon his death he owned property in Gibbon, Nebraska, which as an undivided half interest in two vacant lots. The lots joined each other and consisted of a square plat 130' by 130' worth about \$200 in 1963.

L-1 Alma Elizabeth Fuller b. 9Feb1914, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 19Sep1990, Oakland, CA, (cremated by Pleasant Hill Cem.) bd. Halstead, Harvey Co., KS. md. (1) 2Mar1940, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., NE, Joe J. Macha. b. 29Feb1916, Spring Grove, IL. d. 27Nov1978, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., KS, bd. Resthaven Cem., Wichita, KS. son of Josef Fredrick Macha and Rosalie Frances Cech. md. (2) 15Dec1979, Leland Koehn. b. 23Oct1928, KS. d. 9Nov1986, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., KS, bd. Halstead, Harvey Co., KS.

L-1-1a Joe Jay Macha b. 1943, Kansas City, MO.

L-1-2a Kenneth Kay Macha b. 1950, Kansas City, MO.

L-1-3a Laurie Elaine Macha b. 2Oct1953, Kansas City, MO. d. Aug2010, CA. md. 10Nov1973, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., KS, David "Dave" Randall Jacobs b. 1949, Wichita, Sedgwick co., KS. son of Henry "Hank" Jacob Jacobs and Madeline Marie Sigg.

L-1-3a-1 Michelle Lynn Jacobs b. 1974, Wichita, Sedgwick, Co., KS.

L-1-3a-1-1 son, b. 2015.

L-1-3a-2 Sean David D. Jacobs b. 1878, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., KS. md. Aug2008, Sarah \_\_\_\_\_.

L-1-3a-2-1 Liam Jacobs b. 2010, CA.

L-1-3a-2-2 Claire Jacobs b. 2014, CA.

L-1-31-2-3 Wyatt David Jacobs b. 2015, CA.

L-2 Lewis Douglas Fuller b. 24Dec1916, Palmer, Merrick Co., NE. d. 24Sep1933, bd. Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. Died while coming home from Co. 763, Civilian Conservation Corp, Damp Fremont, Fremont, NE.

L-3 Maxine May Fuller b. 20May1919, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 8Jan2005, Richmond, Contra Costa Co., CA, bd. Sunset View Cem., El Cerrito, CA. md. 4Jul1942, Reno, NV, Wilford Glenn "Andy" Anderson. b. 31Jan1915, Guide Rock, Webster Co.,

NE. d. 22Aug1961, Monterey, CA, bd. Sunset View Cem., El Cerrito, CA. son of Andrew Zacharias Andersen and May Luella Hiatt.

Maxine was very active in the elementary school where both her daughters, Donna and Kathy, attended. She volunteered as a Girl Scout leader and accompanied Donna's troop when they traveled to Cuernavaca, Mexico. She worked as a secretary for Berkeley Unified School District. Maxine and Laurie Jacobs helped each other through the death of Laurie's mother, Alma, Maxine's sister, in 1990. During their time together, they would spend a day driving across the San Francisco Bay bridges so they could have pizza at Giovanni's in Sausalito, crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, and trying to get lost less than two times in the process. Maxine M. Andersen, of Albany, CA, died at the age of 85.

L-3-1 Donna Lee Andersen b. 1944, Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA.  
md. (1) 13Jul1968, Riverside, Riverside Co., CA, Michael Bennett Vennard. b. 1942, Polson, Lake Co., MT. (2) 20Jun1992, Saratoga, Santa Clara Co., CA, William P. O'Connell, Jr. b. 1936, Seattle, King Co., WA.

L-3-1-1a Suzanne Killeen Vennard b. 1970, Agana, Guam Co., Guam U.S. Territory.  
md. 22Apr1995, Reno, Washoe Co., NV, John Sterling Haberstadt b. 1970, Washington, DC (divorced 2019Aug13) (2) Gregory Jacobson

L-3-1-1a-1a Justine Bullwinkle-Vennard b. 1991, Santa Clara, Santa Clara Co., CA.  
L-3-1-1a-2b Hannah Joy Haberstadt b. 1997, Oceanside, San Diego Co., CA.  
L-3-1-1a-3b Sterling Michael Haberstadt b. 2000, Elk Grove, Sacramento Co., CA.

L-3-2 Kathryn "Kathy" Rae Andersen b. 1948, Albany, Alameda Co., CA. md.  
24Jul1968, Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA, William "Bill" Edward Otterstrom b. 1947, Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA.

L-3-2-1 Karen Christine Otterstrom b. 1969, Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA.  
L-3-2-2 Richard "Rich" William Otterstrom b.1972, Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA. md.  
Oct2005, Erin Elizabeth O'Connell. dau. of William James O'Connell III. div.  
2Apr2010.

L-3-2-2-1 Amanda Noelle Otterstrom b.2006, Redwood City, San Mateo Co., CA.

L-3-3 William "Billy" Anderson. Died ca1952 as infant of heart defect. Cremated and buried  
Sunset View Cem., El Cerrito, CA.

## CHAPTER XVI

### EDNA MAE KEECHER

M - Edna Mae Keechler b. 3Nov1896, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 10Sep1987, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. 21Aug1918, Shelton, Buffalo Co., NE, Oscar Verne Sherard, son of Edward Emerson Sherard and Bernice Mae Rease. b. 7Dec1898, Ravenna, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 1Sep1965, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem, Hall Co., NE.

M-1 Emerson Lavern Sherard b. 17Mar1919, Gibbon, Buffao Co., NE. d. 21Sep2007, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., NE, bd. Giltner Cem, Hamilton Co., NE. md. 21Jan1941, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, Nadine Jenney Becker. b. 6Jan1920, Doniphan, Hall Co., NE. d. 29Jan1992, Omaha, Doulgas Co., NE, bd. Giltner Cem, Hamilton Co., NE.

Emerson Lavern Sherard was the oldest child of Oscar Lavern and Edna Mae (Keechler) Sherard. He was named after his father and grandfather, Edward Emerson Sherard.

In 1935, Emerson and his sister Ethel Mae came down with diphtheria. Even though Emerson came down with the disease first, Ethel Mae died and Emerson recovered. Because of the hospitalization, Emerson missed a year of high school. He graduated from Grand Island Senior High School in the class of 1939. He took college preparatory courses in high school, but because of the Great Depression in the 1930's, he was unable to afford to go to college.

On January 21, 1941, Emerson Lavern Sherard married Nadine Jenny Becker in Hall Co., Nebraska. They had met while attending dances at the Platt Duetsche Society in Grand Island, Nebraska. Nadine was the daughter of William Casper Henry and Elsie Minnie (Schwenk) Becker. Nadine was named after her Aunt Jennie C. Becker, wife of Henry W. Becker. The wedding was held at the Messiah Lutheran Church parsonage in Grand Island with the reception northwest of Grand Island. The best man was Clarence Becker, Nadine's brother, and Ella Jean Sherard, Emerson's sister, was maid-of-honor.

After Emerson and Nadine got married, they farmed briefly northwest of Grand Island. They then moved to a rented farm southeast of Chapman, Merrick Co., Nebraska. Because food production was critical during World War II, Emerson was granted a draft deferment. Tires and farm equipment were difficult to buy during the war. Emerson tells of going to Omaha, Nebraska, and buying a used truck from Rosen-Novack Chevrolet who supposedly was the only dealer between Denver and Chicago who had any trucks for sale.

About 1946, Emerson Sherard bought a 160-acre farm from Bert and Verna Hinrichs southeast of Giltner, Hamilton Co., Nebraska. They did not move from Chapman to Giltner, Nebraska, until Nadine was admitted to the Central City Hospital, and a son Gerald Emerson was born in February 1947. Another son, Dwight Lavern, was

born in 1950 and a daughter, Vickie Kay, in 1956. Vickie was born with birth defects and died in 1958.

Until the early 1950's, the farm home, located 1 mile south and 1/2 mile east of Giltner had no interior bath or permanent electrical system. A wood stove for cooking, kerosene stove for heating, and kerosene lamps for lighting were used. A major advancement was made when the family acquired a television in 1957.

Emerson always drove Chevrolet cars and trucks and used Allis Chalmers farm equipment until the late 1950's when he started using John Deere farm equipment. His farm income was very cyclic. In hard times, Emerson usually milked cows in order to have additional steady income. He raised hogs until the late 1950's when he stopped raising them because of disease problems and extra work involved in keeping them penned up. Chickens and cattle always were present. In the 1960's, he milked as many as 70 Holstein cows. He often would buy extra cattle, which he would feed out (as many as 100) for slaughter. He preferred Hereford livestock to other breeds. He usually trucked the cattle to Omaha where they were sold.

The years 1955 and 1956 were particularly bad with the drought and grasshoppers. Emerson had to sell many of his livestock in order to make it financially. In addition, he always tried to do his own maintenance and repair work including engine overhauling in order to save money.

About 1974, Emerson and Nadine moved from their farm home to a newly built home in Giltner. Over the years, Emerson has served in several community type organizations. These included representative of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for Union township in Hamilton County, Hamilton Co. Extension Board Service, Giltner Co-op Elevator board, and as Worshipful Master of Eminence Lodge No. 223 AF&AM (Masons). He also was a member of the Platt Duetsche Society of Grand Island, the Eagles Lodge of Grand Island, the Greenwood Club, and the Giltner United Methodist Church. The Platt Duetsche Society is an organization similar to the Elks and Eagles. The Greenwood Club was a bi-weekly card party in which neighbors gathered to play an evening of pitch. Nadine not only was active in the Greenwood Club but also was a member of a Birthday Club (consisted of 8 members) and a Giltner United Methodist Church circle.

Emerson and Nadine traveled some. They went to California two times to visit Sherard relatives, Colorado several times mostly to visit Nadine's Aunt Helen Gaby, South Dakota once, and to Knoxville, Tennessee, about 14 times, usually every Christmas to visit their son, Gerald.

Emerson and Nadine enjoyed polka music and playing "pitch" cards. He was the last surviving grandchild of 43 grandchildren of Fred and Emil Keechler.

Nadine died January 29, 1992, at Omaha, Nebraska, from diabetes complications. Emerson continues to live in town at Giltner, Nebraska.

M-1-1 Gerald Emerson Sherard b. 1947, Central city, NE. md. 4Aug1973, Woodbine, Harrison Co., IA, Frances Marie Adams. b. 1941, Woodbine, Harrison Co., IA. dau. of John William Adams and Evelyn Louise Baker.

Gerald Emerson Sherard was born in 1947 at Central City, Nebraska. He was baptized as an infant at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Gerald “Jerry” Sherard was raised to adulthood on the family farm near Giltner (population 367), Nebraska. All his elementary and secondary schooling was at the Giltner Public School. He was born with a knotted muscle in his neck which was corrected with major surgery in 1955. He had his appendix removed in 1958. The farm home where he lived as a child had no electricity, no running water, no indoor toilet, and no television.

While growing up on a farm, there were always chores and things to do. Livestock consisted of cattle, hogs, chickens, and a horse. Crops consisted of wheat, milo, corn, and soybeans. For many years every evening after school Gerald rode “Tony“, a quarter horse, down to the pasture to gather up the milk-cows. Summers were extremely busy because of the crops that needed cultivation and harvesting.

Gerald’s high school years involved the following extracurricular activities: 4-H, vocal music, band in which he played a trumpet, basketball, baseball and track. In his last year as a baseball pitcher, he had a seven win and no loss record with his team winning the conference championship. He lettered one year in basketball and three years in track. He graduated salutatorian in his graduating class of 20. During his high school years he worked three summers as a farm laborer for \$1.00 to \$1.25 per hour, 60 hours per week. Most of this money was saved for a college education. He became a member of the United Methodist Church at Giltner, Nebraska, about 1962.

In the Fall of 1965, Gerald enrolled in the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. His inspiration to go to college was the his insight that there probably was a better way to make a living than milking cows every morning and afternoon year round. During the summer of 1967 he worked as a surveyor for Edwin Benjamin & Associates in Grand Island, Nebraska. During the summer of 1968 he worked as a street construction inspector/traffic-engineering associate for the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was admitted to Sigma Tau and Chi Epsilon engineering honoraries while at the University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1969.

In July, 1969, Gerald reported for duty in the U.S. Army. The Vietnam War was going strong, over 150 American soldiers were dying per week, and it was only a year after the Tet offensive. He chose to enlist for 3 years of service in hopes of receiving some engineering related experience rather than be drafted. Ninety-five percent of his fellow soldiers were draftees or national guard enlistees. He took Basic and Advance Individual Training in Combat Engineering at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He had additional engineering training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Following this training, he was assigned the job title “Civil Engineering Assistant”, Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) 01D20, and deployed to the U.S. Corps of Engineers - Far East District office at

Kwang Ju Air Base, Kwang Ju, South Korea.

### Korean Combat Experience:

Usually each year our Corp of Engineers office had an outing at some park or beach. One year we went to a distant park, stayed overnight, and the next day I was to leave the group and go south by myself to Kwang Ju in my Army 1/2 ton pickup. In Korea at that time, the common means of transportation were taxi, bus, train, and bicycle. As I was driving along the road to the park exit, there were many Koreans walking along the road to the bus stop outside the park exit. At the park exit, I stopped briefly for a policeman. The next thing I knew all these Koreans walking along the road were climbing into the back of my pickup. There must of been twenty Koreans, men, women, and children crammed into the back of my pickup box and hanging over the sides. I sat there wondering how I was going to get all these people out of my pickup box. The policeman said something to me which I did not understand, then said something to the people which just remained still and looked at him. The policeman could tell that I did not want these people riding with me. Finally the policeman pulled out his gun, pointed it at the people in my pickup, said something to them, and immediately they all jumped out. Once all the hitchhikers got out, I took off.

At that time most of the roads in Korea were gravel or dirt roads with no road signs giving directions to other cities or mileages. Most homes never had a telephone. The trip to Kwang Ju was about 90 miles of dirt roads. I had traveled from Kunsan to Kwang Ju before, but never from this park. Somehow I got lost. Finally, I came to this house with a woman sitting outside. I asked her if Kwang Ju was this direction, and she replied yes. However about a quarter of a mile down the road I came to a large river, a couple of hundred feet across which a few people had walked through knee high water and the people were standing on the near river bank. As I sat there trying to decide whether I should try to cross the river, three Korean men climbed into my pickup box. I immediately took off across the river. I almost never made it, the wheels were slipping in the loose gravel in the river bed, water was flying everywhere, and as I drove up the far bank, one of the men started pounding onto the roof of my pickup. I stopped, and out jumped the three men, and I took off. I don't know what I would of done if my Army pickup would of gotten stuck in the river out in the middle of nowhere.

I had no further problems getting to Kwang Ju, and was on time in meeting Won Bok who I had previously arranged to meet.

His Army service proved to be the most rewarding experience of his professional career. He had a very successful Army career as was evidenced by him being awarded the Army Commendation Medal upon his discharge from the service for the difficult task of teaching 16 year old Korean girls. He also enjoyed working with South Korean

contractors. The citation read as follows:

“The United States Army Commendation Medal is awarded to Specialist Five Gerald E. Sherard, for meritorious service while servicing with the United States Army Engineer District, Far East, Seoul, Korea, during the period 11 June 1970 through 25 January 1972. During his assignment with the Engineer District, Far East, Specialist Sherard has performed his assigned duties in a most exemplary manner. Specialist Sherard was initially assigned the position of Assistant Project Engineer, Kunsan Project Office, which involved monitoring Air Force construction totaling more than six million dollars. In addition, he supervised the completion of a project at Kwang Ju Air Base, and independently supervised the completion of a highly technical electrical utility contract. Specialist Sherard organized and conducted a Field Office Administration and Inspection Procedures Training Course for the Korean National employees. The results have greatly reduced the minor day-to-day problems, thereby allowing more time to be directed to the primary job of construction inspection. In his spare time, Specialist Sherard voluntarily instructed the English Language Course at a local high school. His efforts and endeavors earned him the respect and gratitude of the local community. During the entire period of his assignment to the District Office, Specialist Sherard demonstrated a high degree of technical and administrative proficiency, outstanding professional competence and devotion to duty, and consistently obtained superior results. This exemplary performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the Corps of Engineers, and the United States Army.”

Upon discharge from the Army in 1972, Gerald worked 6 months for Woodward-Clyde & Associates, a soil engineering consultant in Omaha, Nebraska. He performed laboratory testing of soils and pile, pier, and fill construction inspection. This work required travel in South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska. This on-the-job experience proved later to make graduate school easy.

In August, 1972, Gerald enrolled in graduate school at Oklahoma State University. There he majored in soil and foundation engineering. He studied under the famous professors of Halliburton, Parcher, and Moore. He graduated with a 4.0 grade average, the best that could be achieved, in the upper ten percent of his class. He graduated in July, 1973, with a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. His masters report was “The Slurry Trench Method for Deep Foundation Construction”.

In early 1973, he fell in love with a redheaded woman. It was in August, 1973, that a wonderful woman named Fran refocused his life, changed his name to “Jerry” to protect his identity, and took control of his finances. In August, 1973, Gerald married Frances Adams at the First Christian Church in Woodbine, Iowa. Frances was a former farm girl. Fran had been working for National Indemnity Insurance Co. in Omaha, Nebraska, when she met Jerry through a friend. Best man was, Jerry’s brother, and brides maid was, Fran’s sister. Fran who has very high standards always said Jerry was the only man she ever met that she liked. Following their marriage they established their home in

Knoxville, Knox Co., Tennessee.

The Tennessee Valley Authority employed Gerald in Knoxville, Tennessee, as a Civil Engineer in the design of the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant. After working 5 1/2 years as a structural engineer, he then changed to a job title of Project Control Engineer. For the next 10 1/2 years he worked on various hydro, fossil, and nuclear power plants. He rode the bus to and from work daily for 15 years. Also during this period, he taught three engineering courses (Soil Mechanics and Reinforced Concrete) for Rhone State Community College. He became a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Tennessee in January, 1974. A daughter, "Debbie" was born in, 1974. A son, John, was born on Jerry's birthday as scheduled, in February, 1979.

In 1989 Gerald was laid off, officially retired as a Project Control Engineer from TVA on a Friday in June 1989, and began work for the Bureau of Reclamation in Lakewood, Colorado, the following Monday. He applied for a geotechnical engineer vacancy position with the Bureau of Reclamation in Lakewood, was placed in a Structural Engineer position, and worked primarily on metalwork for Hydro projects and switchyards. Some of the major projects he worked on were Minidoka Power Plant, Shasta Temperature Control Device, Block 9 Stages 1 & 2 pumping plants, and Durango Pumping Plant. His favorite work was switchyard oil containments and debris booms for water conveyance projects. He retired from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, April 3, 2003. John Smart, a Division Chief, once told him that he was the only individual he had ever met who had been permanently employed by the big three federal engineering agencies: the Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

While living in Lakewood, he bicycled to work daily, a trip of 1.4 miles one-way. He has been a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Tennessee since 1974, a member of The American Society of Civil Engineers since 1969, a lifetime member of The Nebraska Alumni Association since 1969, a member of Coloradoans for Nebraska since 1989, and a member of the Presbyterian Church USA since 1974. He became an Elder while at Erin Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, Tennessee in December, 1982. Over the years he has served three terms on session. For many years he served on the executive board for the West Hills Community Association in Knoxville, TN.

In August 1989, the family moved to Lakewood, Colorado. Jerry joined Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church in Lakewood in December 1989. Since then he has served on Session two times, on various committees, and headed up the Camera Club from July 1992 to 2003. His musical career reached a peak in 1970 when he sang solo "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" at a Presbyterian worship service at Kwang Ju, Korea. Everyone in the Korean congregation nodded their heads in approval. He has always been a regular church attendee. He also has taught Sunday School classes on marriage and employment.

Jerry's hobbies and interests include: Denver Nuggets basketball, Denver Broncos football, University of Nebraska football, collecting dead relatives (genealogical research), family history, publishing, vegetable and fruit gardening, bicycling (over 750

miles per year recreationally), hiking, NASCAR Cup Racing, photography, and country music. He holds the Colorado State record for the number of bicycle accidents without serious injury at 17. He began his NASCAR Craftsman Truck racing career with five hot laps in Rick Carelli's Re-Max Craftsman Chevy Truck at Colorado National Speedway in 1997. He made his national television debut in 1992 on the show "This Week in NASCAR" with Eli Gold (announcer for Motor Racing Network & University of Alabama football games), Jimmy Spencer "Mr. Excitement", and Bobby Hillen who is the only driver to win Talladega as a rookie. His favorite race track is Darlington, more commonly known as "The Lady in Black" and "The Track Too Tough to Tame". Since about 1990, he has been a volunteer worker for The Nebraska State Historical Society, The Colorado State Archives, and The Colorado Railroad Museum. Books he has published include: *The Descendants of James Sherard and Nancy Cornelison*, published 1984, hardcover 200 pages; *Historical Sketches of Giltner, Nebraska*, published 1985, hardcover 716 pages; *Nebraska Descendants of Russel Lamb*, published 1988, 136 pages; six books on Nebraska; and 32 books on Colorado.

Major databases he has created for The Nebraska State Historical Society are: Nebraska County Atlas & Plat Books Index (416,123 names), Index to Civil War Veterans from Nebraska (45,000 veterans), Nebraska U.S. General Land Office Tract Books Index (430,000 names), 1890 & 1911 Nebraska Gazetteers & Business Directories Index (273,844 names), Nebraska Town-County Index (2040 records), Nebraska Civil War Veterans (34,422 names), Nebraska Prisoners (52,675 records), Seward County Nebraska Probate Records (3775 records), Lancaster County Nebraska Probate Records (5390 records), and Nebraska World War I Draft Registration Cards (275,953 records).

Major databases he has created for the Colorado State Archives and which are available on the Internet are: 1875 Colorado Census & 1885 Fremont Co., CO Census (48,569 records), Pre 1910 Colorado Births (54,472 records), Colorado Deaths (73,877 records, mostly pre1910 deaths), Colorado Veterans (80,000 records), Colorado Teacher Certificates (30,000 records), and Colorado World War I Draft Registration Cards (190,226 records). However, his specialty is mining accidents, over 600,000 records.

He considers his greatest accomplishment in life to be finding his 2nd Great-grandfather Alex Sherard's unmarked grave after digging around in two states and placing a gravestone acquired from the Veterans Administration on the grave in 1981. Alex Sherard died in 1887 and was a Civil War veteran.

M-1-1-1 Debra Marie Sherard b. 1974, Knoxville, Knox Co., TN. md. 30Aug1992, Golden, Jefferson Co., CO, Nandu Prasad Giri. b. 1974, Kathmandu, Nepal. div. Sep2009.

M-1-1-2 John Lavern Sherard b. 1979, Knoxville, Knox Co., TN.

M-1-2 Dwight Lavern Sherard b. 1950, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE.

M-1-3 Vickie Kay Sherard b. 2Aug1956, Grand Island, hall Co., NE. d. 3Nov1958,

Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Giltner Cem, Hamilton Co., NE

M-2 Ethel Mae Sherard b. 3Jan1922, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 23Sep1935, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Shelton Cem, Hall Co., NE.

M-3 Ella Jean Sherard b. 1Jul1923, Gibbon, Buffalo Co., NE. d. 4Dec2006, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Westlawn Memorial Park Cem., Hall Co., NE. md. (1) 8Mar1943, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, Emil Harry Schimmer. b. 28Nov1918, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE. d. 21Jul1973, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, bd. Westlawn Memorial Park Cem., Hall Co., NE. son of Harry W Shimmer. (2) md. 7Aug1976, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, Clarence F. Olsen.

M-3-1 Sharon Kay Schimmer b. 1943, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE. md. (1) John Huston. (2) 19Nov1977, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE, Richard "Dick" Jensen. b. 19Jun1934, Cotsfield, Howard Co., NE. d. 16Jan2009, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE. son of Edwin M Jensen and Gurson "Lila" Mortensen.

Dick grew up in Dannevirke and attended school in Elba. He was the highway mechanic district supervisor in District 4 for the Nebraska Department of Roads for more than 44 years. He retired in 1997.

Dick enjoyed fishing, and he received master angler awards. He also enjoyed hunting with his family and dogs. He was also a gifted woodcrafts man and made beautiful pieces starting with his saw mill. He enjoyed dancing to polka and waltz music, and traveling to Portugal, Italy and Hawaii.

He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where he volunteered driving the Sunday service van.

M-3-1-1 Jennifer Kay Huston b. 1970, Loveland, Larimer Co., CO. md. Jacob Heilveil. son of Pricilla Heiveil and Han Gyan Shin.

M-3-1-1-1 \_\_\_\_\_ Heilveil (a son) b. 2007, Longmont, Boulder Co., CO.

M-3-1-2 Staci Joe Huston b. 1972, Loveland, Larimer Co., CO.

M-3-2 Janice Jan Schimmer b. 1947, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE. md. (1) Gerald Reimers. (2) 31Mar1970, Pat Lundrigan. b. 1946, Ravenna, Buffalo Co., NE. son of Paul Lundrigan. (3) Larry Johansen.

M-3-2-1 Misti G. Lundrigan b. 1970, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE.

M-3-2-2 Kari L. Lundrigan b. 1971, Kearney, Buffalo Co., NE.

M-3-3 Randy Emil Schimmer b. 1958, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE. md. 12Jul1984,  
Brenda Jean Griesman. dau. of Anthony Griesman and Monica Elnore Huhman.

M-3-3-1 Casie Nicole Schimmer b. 1987, Grand Island, Hall Co., NE.