Family Histories

of

Lloyd Ollie Croft

and

Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Written and compiled by

Lucy Ann Nance Croft
Dedication

Dedicated in memory of Lloyd and Gertrude Koenning Croft and to their progeny.

Lloyd Koenning Croft
Leslie Elaine Croft Martinez
Daniel Croft Martinez

Lyle Allen Croft
Bennett Ross Croft
Camille LeeAnn Croft

Lloyd Bryan Croft
Lloyd Jeffrey Croft
Philip Bryan Croft

Cynthia Elaine Croft LeBleu Wood
Thomas Lloyd LeBleu
Danielle LeBleu
Travis LeBleu
Sabrina LeBleu
Caroline LeBleu

Laura LeBleu Ficarra
Cody Ficarra
Acknowledgments

During the last years spent researching the Croft and Koenning family histories, I have gleaned information from family members and fellow researchers via emails, websites, online chats and message boards. Though it is impossible to express my appreciation to each of these people individually, there are several persons who deserve my special thanks.

Special posthumous thanks go to two family members, Mel Koenning and Mildred Shields Croft, who passed along family notes and lore that were of great value. Also, I appreciated the research information shared by Linda Hughes Croft, widow of Keith Richard Croft, and Wes Mohler, great grandson of Thomas Jefferson Mohler.

In hopes of finding information about the illusive ancestor, Daniel Croft, I engaged the services of a professional genealogist in Pennsylvania, Valerie Metzler. Even though she was unable to discover information about his ancestry, she did uncover some clues that will inspire future investigation. I appreciate the part she played in researching the Croft family.

LaRhee Montgomery Lewis, daughter of Grace Croft Montgomery, wrote a wonderful family memoir/biography. After several email exchanges and a phone visit, she graciously sent a copy of "LaRhee's Legacy." These personal accounts are so important in family research and I applaud her work.

As mentioned, online associations were very beneficial. My email correspondence with another Croft family researcher, Mary Bardell, was invaluable and enjoyable. Chad Whitesel, a volunteer in the Blair County Genealogical Society (Pennsylvania), performed several “look-ups” and sent some of the few documents we have for Margaret Hipple Croft. Keith Bruns, another volunteer in the Hancock County Historical Society (Illinois), sent information about John Adam Mohler. Sincere thanks to my dear friend, Joyce Barton, for editing my manuscript. I believe it was a labor of love on her part!

Last, but by no means least, I thank my husband, L.K. Croft. Even though he does not share my interest in genealogy research, he shows his appreciation for my favorite pastime by lending his support and encouragement.
# Table Of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>..................................................................................................................</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART ONE - Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft Family History</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancestry of Lloyd Ollie Croft</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter One - Lloyd Ollie Croft</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedigree Chart for Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd's Life in Pictures</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd and Keith Croft, 1925 or 1926</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd and Gertrude Croft</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd and Gertie with children</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Generation of Croft Men</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd and Gertie Through the Years</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd and Helen</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>..................................................................................................................</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Two - Oscar Cameron and Ethel Mohler Croft</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar Cameron Croft</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar and Ethel Newlyweds</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar standing by Croft airplane</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar, Ethel, Lloyd and Keith Croft</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Generations</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar C. Croft Obituary</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedigree Chart for Ethel Mae Mohler Croft</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethel Mae Mohler Croft</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethel Mohler Croft</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandmother with Family Members</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethel at L.K. and Lucy's Wedding Reception</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandmother &quot;Gee Gee&quot; in 1966 and 1983</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grave Marker for Ethel and Oscar</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>..................................................................................................................</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethel's Father - Thomas Jefferson Mohler</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas and Mary Mohler Family Portrait</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethel's Mother - Mary Emma Bowton Mohler</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas and Mary Mohler Grave Marker</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethel's Paternal Grandparents - John Adam Mohler and Lydia Ann Shambaugh</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John A. Mohler and Lydia Shambaugh Marriage Record</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethel's Maternal Grandparents - William and Rebecca Jane Kirkpatrick Bowton</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Three - William Teeter Croft and Alice Mendora Caulk</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedigree Chart for William Teeter Croft</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Teeter Croft</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Croft with sons on Nebraska farm.</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Tree, Nebraska Land Platte</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William T. Croft Grave Marker</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Madora Caulk Croft</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Records for William T. Croft and Alice M. Caulk</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croft Family Reunion</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice M. Croft Grave Marker</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice's Parents - Allen Monroe and Cansada Jones Caulk</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Record for Allen M. Caulk</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Record for Allen M. Caulk and Cansada Jones Cisco</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life on the Nebraska Plains</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen and Cansada Caulk Grave Marker</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Four - John Hipple Croft and Elizabeth Teeter Croft</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hipple and Elizabeth Teeter Croft</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H. Croft</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John and Elizabeth Croft Grave Marker</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Five - Simple Ahnentafel Report for Lloyd Ollie Croft</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Ahnentafel Report for Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART TWO - Gertrude Kathlena Koenning</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancestry of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter One - Gertrude Kathlena Koenning</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedigree Chart for Gertrude Kathlena Koenning</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertrude Kathlena Koenning Croft</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertrude with brothers, Victor and Melvin</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mel, Gertie and Vic</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertrude, Lloyd and L.K.</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertrude with L.K. and Cynthia</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertie with L.K. and Cynthia</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That winning smile!</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Moments</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life is good!</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Two - Adolph Henry and Marie &quot;Mary&quot; Kram Koenning</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolph Henry Koenning</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolph with sons, Mel and Vic</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolph with granddaughter, Cynthia</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolph Koenning Grave Marker</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie &quot;Mary&quot; Kram Koenning</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Record for Adolph Koenning and Mary Kram</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grave Marker for Mary Koenning</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary's Parents - Joseph and Anna Margaretha Klüch/Kluck Kram</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trave Passenger Ship</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grave Marker for Joseph and Margaret Kram</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Three - Joachim and Helen Catherine Wemken Koenning</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joachim &quot;Joe&quot; Koenning</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturalization Record for Joe Koenning</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helene Catherine Margaretha Wemken Koenning</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grave Marker for Joe and Helene Koenning</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helene's Parents - Alderd and Caroline Wilhelmse Stratmann Wemken</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application for Naturalization for A.H. Wemken</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Four - Johann &quot;John&quot; Friedrich Koenning and Anne Dorothea Elisabeth Berger</td>
<td>.................................................. 189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johann &quot;John&quot; Friedrich Koenning and Anne Dorothea Elisabeth Berger Koenning</td>
<td>.................................................. 191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Five - Simple Ahnentafel Report for Gertrude Kathlena Koenning</td>
<td>.................................................. 195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Ahnentafel Report for Gertrude Kathlena Koenning</td>
<td>.................................................. 197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART THREE - Croft Family Group Sheets</td>
<td>.................................................. 205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft</td>
<td>.................................................. 207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Oscar Cameron Croft</td>
<td>.................................................. 209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for William Teeter Croft</td>
<td>.................................................. 211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for John Hipple Croft</td>
<td>.................................................. 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Thomas Jefferson &quot;Jerry&quot; Mohler</td>
<td>.................................................. 215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for John Adam Mohler</td>
<td>.................................................. 217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for William Bowton</td>
<td>.................................................. 219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Allen Monroe Caulk</td>
<td>.................................................. 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART FOUR - Koenning Family Group Sheets</td>
<td>.................................................. 223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Adolph Henry Koenning</td>
<td>.................................................. 225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Joachim &quot;Joe&quot; Koenning</td>
<td>.................................................. 227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Johann &quot;John&quot; Friedrich Könning or Koenning</td>
<td>.................................................. 229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Joseph &quot;Joe&quot; Kram</td>
<td>.................................................. 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken</td>
<td>.................................................. 233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART FIVE - Simple Register Report - Descendants of Lloyd and Gertrude Koenning Croft</td>
<td>.................................................. 235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Register Report for Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft</td>
<td>.................................................. 237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>.................................................. 241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

In 1999 a curious thing happened - I was bitten by the “genealogy bug.” I did not realize it at the time, but its bite can be quite serious! As other victims might attest, you may not feel its effect immediately, but gradually over a period of time, you begin to experience the consequences. Let me tell you a little about how this occurred and then resulted in my developing a fascinating new hobby.

After retirement in 1998 we moved from Dallas to the Boerne, Texas area. As my husband, L.K., and I settled into our new life we began making friends and discovering all sorts of things about our new community. There was a notice in the newspaper about a seminar in family history research sponsored by the local genealogy society. We noted that it was for beginners and that definitely included us. Neither of us knew much about genealogy and thought it might be an interesting endeavor. We attended the classes, held once a week for eight weeks, and found them very informative. By the end of the seminar L.K. had already realized this type of pastime was not his bailiwick, but it appealed to me a great deal. I did not know it right away, but I had been bitten by the “genealogy bug.”

Like other budding genealogists, I wanted to get the ball rolling and find information to fill in those pedigree charts and family group sheets. In a very short time I came to the realization that I had a lot to learn about this new hobby along with a vast amount of researching ahead of me - but I was hooked!

As I embarked on this new journey of seeking my roots, I realized that my primary goal was not merely to satisfy my curiosity about my ancestors. I had the desire to pass on a legacy to my children and grandchildren. This meant my research would expand from “my family tree” to “our family tree” and would include the Nance, LeBus, Croft and Koenning family histories.

During these last years, I have spent countless hours clicking into various websites or in the library perusing books that might have information about our ancestors. Our family trees have gradually filled with more and more names. Communicating with others with whom we share ancestors is particularly enjoyable because so many of these folks have been at this task much longer than I and are very willing to share information. An invaluable source has been my membership in the world’s largest family history resource – Ancestry.com. And yes, I attended seminars where I met other people involved in family history research. It is obvious that I have found genealogy to be a fun and challenging hobby!

One way I hoped to bring our ancestors to life for our descendants was to write narratives using the data I have gathered. Along with records, I have included some historical information about the regions in which they lived or events that occurred during their lifetimes. When it has been near to impossible to find good documentation on an ancestor, I have tried to “read between the lines” of some of the facts, such as dates of births, marriages and deaths or family lore passed down from generation to generation. I felt compelled to make an educated guess about how circumstances may have affected their life. At the same time, I have tried to make sure the reader understands this is undocumented information. Some purists might say that mixing a bit
of fiction with the facts is a “no-no,” but I imagine that even historians make assumptions from time to time.

Even though my family history research is not complete, I have reached a point where I want to move beyond the pedigree charts and family group sheets and bring my research on several generations together in a meaningful way. Hopefully, this book will serve that purpose. At the same time, I want to make clear that this is not an exhaustive family history. Hopefully our family trees will continue to grow as others join me in researching our common ancestors and add new information. It is definitely true that our genealogy work is never done. “Brick walls” are tumbled and there is always another ancestor or another generation to research.

Spending time delving in our family histories and searching to verify what the facts are and what they are not is both interesting and challenging. As I look back on our ancestors and their lives and accomplishments, I see they were a strong and courageous lot. Life is so vastly different today that glimpsing into the lives they led has been fascinating, and at times, almost beyond belief. Genealogy is certainly an eye-opening endeavor and amid the facts and figures there is always the possibility of a surprise or two. Along with the surprises come a myriad of unanswered questions. It is my hope that this family story will interest those who follow me so they will understand this is their story, too - but an unfinished one. It is my dream they will be inspired to keep adding to and telling the story.

You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.
~Desmond Tutu
PART ONE

LLOYD OLLIE (OLIE) CROFT

FAMILY HISTORY
William and Alice Croft Family

Ancestry of Lloyd Ollie Croft

Four generations of the family line of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft are well documented. Unfortunately, we reach a “brick wall” when get to his great, great grandparents, Daniel and Margaret Hipple Croft. Even though there are several records for Margaret, only one has been found for Daniel. Because of this lack of documentation, I have not been able to verify the ancestry of Daniel Croft or his country of origin. However, I am inclined to think, that like Margaret, he was of Germanic ancestry.

John Hipple Croft was born March 30, 1817 in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. There is family lore this Croft line was Dutch which certainly may be the case. Many German immigrants settled in this area and became known as “Pennsylvania Dutch.” *This was a “cultural group formed by early German-speaking immigrants to Pennsylvania and their descendants.”

**Croft is also an “English surname of pre 6th century origins. These included a nickname surname for a smart, cunning person, deriving from the pre 7th century word ‘craeft’ meaning craft or skill. Secondly, it may be topographical for someone who lived by a "croft". This described a piece of enclosed land used for tillage or pasture. Thirdly, there are several places in England called Croft and the surname may equally be locational from any of them.”

Did this Croft family line originate in Holland, Germany or the British Isles? More research needs to be done before this can be determined.

Note: Lloyd Koenning Croft, son of Lloyd O. Croft, had an autosomal DNA test which shows DNA inherited from the autosomal chromosomes of both parents. This test shows his ethnicity estimate to be 50% Great Britain; 36% Europe West; and 5% Italy/Greece. He also had the YDNA test, showing the chromosome passed only from father to son. His greatest number of matches are from England, Ireland and Germany. Neither test shows matches of people with the surname of Croft, Kroft or any variations of the name. As more people get tested, other matches will be made, and hopefully, this will help in the search for Lloyd Croft’s elusive ancestors and their country of origin.

Variations in the spelling of this surname include Croft, Crofts, Craft, Crafft, Cruft, Kraft, Krafft, Kraftt and Krafter.

The focus of this book is on Lloyd and Gertrude Koenning Croft; Oscar and Ethel Mohler Croft; William and Alice Caulk Croft; and John Hipple and Elizabeth Teeter Croft.

Other related surnames are Bowton, Caulk, Jones, Kirkpatrick, Mohler, Shambaugh and Teeter.

** [www.surnamedb.com/Surname/croft](http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/croft)
Chapter One

Lloyd Ollie Croft
Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft was born February 9, 1913 in the prairie town of Fairfield, Nebraska. He was the first child of Oscar Cameron and Ethel Mohler Croft who were part of a large wheat farming family in Clay County Nebraska. In fact, Oscar was the
eldest child of William and Alice Croft who had a family of thirteen children, all living in the area at the time their son Lloyd was born. Family lore says the family formed a kind of commune, all assisting in various capacities on the farm.

Note: Lloyd's middle name was spelled "Olie" on his birth certificate, but family members always spelled it "Ollie." I found no other documents with his middle name spelled out.

On the 1920 United States Federal Census Oscar, Ethel, and Lloyd are living in Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska. It is interesting to note that Oscar is no longer farming, but is recorded as an automobile salesman. Later in that same year on November 15, the Crofts had another son, Keith Lyle.

During the latter part of the 1920's into the mid 1930's, William and Alice's large family began to disperse with each family group moving in a different direction. Some traveled northwest, others east, some to the southwest, and a few to Kansas. It is surmised that the reason for the dispersion was the combination of the terrible drought and the historical United States depression. We know that Nebraska was one of the states that felt the brunt of the Dust Bowl that occurred in the early 1930's, so it is entirely possible the Crofts were feeling the early effects of it in their area. If that was the case, we can understand their need to seek "greener pastures."

On the Adam County (Nebraska) Historical County website there is an article entitled the "Dust Bowl Years" by Dorothy Creigh and it gives us some insight into the prevailing catastrophic conditions. Here is an excerpt:

_It was darkness at noon-impenetrable clouds of red, or yellow, or brown gritty dust swirling across the countryside, carrying with it topsoil, seed, and the hope of the Great Plains farmers. It was inescapable heat in mid-summer; it was parching drought, furnace-like winds. It was the Dust Bowl of the 1930's. Whereas the Great Depression of the early 1930's affected almost all Americans in one way or another, the Dust Bowl years that followed were the affliction of the Great Plains, a phenomenon peculiar to that geographic area. That the people were able to survive the twin calamities of the Depression, then the Dust Bowl, is a measure of their vigor, tenacity, and strength._

Like other family members, Oscar and Ethel decided “to pull up stakes” in Nebraska and move to San Antonio, Texas in 1929. Lloyd was 16 years old. We do not know what drew his parents to this part of the country, but it was probably the promise of better employment opportunities and living conditions. Oscar, Ethel, Lloyd, and Keith are recorded on the 1930 United States Federal Census and resided at 1625 Broadway. This residence must have been a rooming house because five other individuals are recorded at this same address. Ownership of the house is not indicated. The census also gives the information that Oscar’s occupation is District Representative in the automobile industry.

Upon arrival in San Antonio, Lloyd enrolled in Thomas Jefferson High School. His high school transcript shows that he had average scores in math and mechanical drawing and below average in English and physical education. His best subject was music and
Chapter One - Lloyd Ollie Croft

he participated in both the Glee Club and Orchestra. Knowing that later in his life he found great success as a businessman building and renting out utility trailers, this seems a bit ironic. However, we do know that as an adult he enjoyed music and had a beautiful singing voice. He also loved ballroom dancing and acting in a local theatre group, so his talents did not go to waste! Lloyd was in the first graduating class at Thomas Jefferson High School, June 1, 1932.

While in high school Lloyd met a very lovely girl named Gertrude Koenning. They began dating, and as the saying goes, “the rest is history.” During the next few years, the relationship grew more serious. A year after Gertrude (Gertie) graduated from Jefferson High School, they married. The ceremony took place on February 9, 1934, at the Austin Street Methodist Church in Seguin, Texas, with the Reverend L.J. Rode officiating.

Later in life both Lloyd and Gertie shared stories about the difficult economic times they experienced during their early married life. Gertie’s brother, Mel Koenning, was a photographer with the San Antonio Light (newspaper) and helped Lloyd get a paper route. For several years he delivered newspapers to residential customers and Gertie worked as a clerk at Woolworth’s.

One year after they married, Lloyd and Gertie had their first child, Lloyd Koenning Croft, born February 12, 1935. They used the nickname, “L.K.” One time Lloyd told L.K. that his birth was their first wedding anniversary gift.

In 1937 Lloyd embarked on a new venture, and though he did not know it at the time, his life and fortune were about to change. With his parents, O.C. and Ethel Croft, they founded the Croft Trailer Company at 1423 North Flores Street in San Antonio. His daughter, Cynthia Croft Wood, tells how the story unfolded in this personal account.

Croft Trailer got its start because of Dad. He was delivering papers at the time, and someone on his route knew that he was a good auto mechanic and asked if he would make a trailer for him. Dad went to a junk yard, got a car axle for almost nothing, and figured out how to put sides on and a make-shift hitch. Instead of selling the trailer to the man, Dad rented it. It seems the guy was moving, as so many did during the depression, and after he moved, he brought the trailer back. Someone else wanted to rent it immediately. Pop (O.C. Croft) funded the purchase of more axles and lumber. The Crofts had scattered to the four winds--Kansas City, West Coast, New York--and Dad got them to accept a trailer coming to their area and then returning it with a rental.

Initially the company manufactured trailers and hitches. During World War II, it was considered an essential business supporting agriculture, particularly the cotton and cattle industries. Later they developed a trailer rental business and became a part of the Nationwide Trailer rental chain. Lloyd served as president of the Nationwide for several years. His uncle and aunt, George and Lena Croft, lived in Kansas City, Missouri and founded a branch Croft Trailer Company there, too. The company was quite successful and the San Antonio branch continued in business for over 70 years. In its 70th year L.K. Croft submitted an article to the San Antonio Express News and it was published on July 10, 2007.
Happy 70th anniversary to Croft Truck Equipment and Accessories

The company began in 1937 when Lloyd O. Croft and his parents, O.C. and Ethel Croft, founded the Croft Trailer Company at 1423 N. Flores Street.

It originally focused on making trailers and hitches. Later as the trailer rental portion of the business grew, it became part of the Nationwide Trailer rental chain. The part of the business specializing in custom truck accessories also grew.

In 1972, a cousin, Mary Ann Balzer, and her husband, Harvey Balzer, purchased the company. The rental portion of the business stopped a decade later as the company moved into selling trailer hitches and truck accessories. In 1991 the Balzer children, Mike and Sandra, became president and vice president of the company.

Now at 1503 N. Brazos, the company has 135 employees, with a distribution center in Houston.

Note: At this time, the Croft Truck and Equipment Accessories is no longer in business.

Just as the San Antonio business developed and expanded, Lloyd and Gertie’s family life also blossomed and changed. To their delight Lloyd and Gertie became parents again when their daughter, Cynthia Elaine, was born on October 17, 1940.

During the next years much of Lloyd’s time and energies were consumed by his business while Gertie tended to their home and the needs and interests of L.K. and Cynthia. Normally as children grow and mature, there is an increased involvement in school, church, and community activities, and that was certainly true for the Crofts. Both Lloyd and Gertie did their part in assuring that L.K. and Cynthia lived a full life in a healthy and wholesome home environment.

Lloyd was so proud of his children, L.K. and Cynthia. Even though he worked long hours seven days a week, he would always make time for them. When they were teenagers he enjoyed meeting their friends and attending various school or community activities in which they were involved. L.K. shared that as he matured he looked a great deal like his dad. Lloyd teased and said he welcomed the opportunity to introduce L.K. as his younger brother!

In her autobiography Lucy Ann Nance Croft wrote about her father-in-law, Lloyd Ollie Croft.

Father owned the Croft Trailer Company in San Antonio, Texas. His company was a part of the Nationwide Trailer Rental chain that rented utility trailers and built and installed trailer hitches. He enjoyed success in his endeavors but had enormous responsibilities as the owner of a business. He worked long, hard hours for many years. I think of him as the ultimate small business owner, not only because of his personal involvement in his company, but also because of his participation in the San Antonio business community and the Nationwide organization. In fact, he served on the board of directors and as president of Nationwide. Father was an outgoing, likable person and this complimented his professional demeanor and contributed greatly to his success and acceptance in the community.
Even though most of Father's life revolved around his work, he made time for an active social life. He was as devoted to his many friends as they were to him. One particular organization that brought him great pleasure and satisfaction was the Masonic Lodge along with the Shrine and Jesters groups. Their community service and social aspects appealed to him and served as a kind of fraternity.

Being a people person, Father loved music and dancing. He and Mother were members of at least two dance clubs. The Shrine and Jesters groups also had dances from time to time. I remember photos of them attractively dressed in formal attire and heard them tell of the enjoyment that it brought them. Father was quite comfortable in a tuxedo and very handsome, too.

L.K. shared with me that as a young man his father did some acting in the community theater of San Antonio. He remembered Father memorizing and practicing his lines with Mother as his coach. I recall hearing him sing hymns at church worship—he had a very nice voice. But he was quite modest about that, believe it or not, since modesty was not one of his virtues! Another little talent was his ability to whistle beautifully. You would more than likely hear him whistle a tune than sing it, even though he could have done each well.

Formal education, reading, and study were not of great interest to Father. He would joke that Reader’s Digest and National Geographic were good enough for him. But he had great common sense gleaned from experience and example. I believe he did know the importance of education because he continually encouraged and supported L.K. and Cynthia in that respect.

I guess it is not surprising that, being in the trailer business, Father loved to travel. Even though he and Mother took a number of trips in the United States, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Europe via the airlines, Father’s favorite mode of travel was by auto pulling his Air Stream trailer. I think it was getting to the destination and socializing with other “Air Streamers” that most appealed to him. He loved meeting people from all over who shared his interest in trailer travel. Perhaps having the trailer offered a certain feeling of being “at home” that hotels did not. Later in his life when he no longer had his Air Stream, he continued to enjoy travel via tours with friends and was an ardent armchair traveler. He loved watching television shows that featured travel or geography.

Father impacted my life in many ways. But it was his sense of humor that I loved the most. Perhaps his showmanship revealed itself in his humor, or maybe it was his way of showing affection. He loved to tell jokes, some silly, some a little off-color. He could be quite a tease, too. Telling family stories was one of his talents, and some were hilarious and quite embellished, I’m sure. We wish now that we had recorded some of those old family tales.

His children and grandchildren were his pride and joy. He loved to brag about their accomplishments. He always introduced L.K. as “my son, Dr. L.K. Croft.” When we visited their home, we knew that at some point he would take our children to visit his friends so that he could show off his grandchildren. This also became a forum for his storytelling. He had great pride in his family, and I adored this about him.

A responsibility that Father took quite seriously was caring for his mother. Even though she was a very independent woman and lived alone until her death at the age of ninety-seven, he called or saw her almost every day. He was so thoughtful where she was concerned and made sure her home was secure and her car in good repair. He did not hover, primarily because she would not put up with it, but he was there for her when she needed him. His devotion to his mother impressed me greatly.
I have such fond memories of Father and the part he played in all of our lives. His great smile, teasing manner, eagerness to help, and practical, down-to-earth way of dealing with things all made a lasting impression on me. He could be a lovable clown or a rock of strength, depending on the situation. (Croft, 38-40)

Life for Lloyd was extremely good, but as with most people, it was not without troubles and grief. Following his retirement from his business in 1972, his health began to fail and he tried unsuccessfully to deal with his alcoholism. In addition, Gertie had a recurrence of mental illness that had plagued her in the 1950’s. Undoubtedly, the greatest sadness he had ever experienced occurred on January 5, 1977 when his beloved Gertie took her life.

Following Gertie’s death, Lloyd grieved, but with the help of family and friends he adjusted to his life situation fairly well. His friends stayed in close touch and included him in regular social gatherings. It was at one of these occasions that he renewed a friendship with a former acquaintance, Helen Cochral. Following a brief courtship, they married April 17, 1978 in Richardson, Texas in the presence of his children and grandchildren.

Helen brought a great deal of joy and comfort into Lloyd’s final years. She was totally embraced by his mother, children and grandchildren and they grew to love her dearly. She had no children, but Lloyd’s family became 100% hers. Her large family of siblings, nephews, and nieces adored him, too. Even though he had many good days, Lloyd’s health issues continued to worsen over the next years. Helen lovingly cared for him to the last days of his life. He died of congestive heart failure on January 5, 1987 in San Antonio, Texas. He was buried in the mausoleum at Mission Burial Park North next to his dear wife, Gertie.

Sources


Creigh, Dorothy, “Dust Bowl Years,” Adam County (Nebraska) Historical Society.


Guadalupe County, marriage record, Guadalupe County Clerk’s Office, Sequin, Texas.

Lloyd Olie Croft birth certificate no. 2940, State of Nebraska, Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of Census, Lincoln, Nebraska.


Lloyd O. Croft, death certificate no. 00190, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.


Wood, Cynthia Croft, “Personal Recollections of Croft Family,” clebleuwood@gmail.com

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.
Chapter One - Lloyd Ollie Croft

Lloyd's Life in Pictures

Lloyd Croft at about 1 year old.
Chapter One - Lloyd Ollie Croft

Lloyd and Keith Croft, 1925 or 1926
Lloyd and Gertrude Croft

This photograph was taken about 1935.
Lloyd and Gertie with children

Lloyd, Gertie & L.K., 1935; Lloyd, Gertie, L.K. & Cynthia, 1940
Four Generations of Croft Men

(Standing) Lloyd, Oscar "O.C." (Seated) L.K., and William, 1937

Croft Nationwide Trailers

Photo taken at Croft Trailer Company, San Antonio, Texas, 1958
Lloyd and Gertie Through the Years...

1940's

1950's

1960's
Lloyd and Helen

Lloyd and Helen were married April 17, 1978. This photo was taken about 1980.
Chapter Two

Oscar Cameron Croft

and

Ethel Mae Mohler Croft

Includes Thomas Jefferson and
Mary Emma Bowton Mohler
John Adam and Lydia Ann Shambaugh Mohler
William and Rebecca Kirkpatrick Bowton
Oscar Cameron was the first of thirteen children born to William Teeter and Alice Caulk Croft, on June 19, 1887 in Fairfield, Clay County, Nebraska. The first time Oscar appears on a United States Federal Census record was in 1900 (The 1890 census record is not available). He was 12 years old and living with his family in Lone Tree, Clay County, Nebraska. The township’s name certainly describes the landscape of this part of the United States. At the time the Crofts lived in the area it was a sparsely populated prairie land in south central Nebraska, and a major industry was corn and wheat farming.

By the time the 1910 United States Federal Census was taken, the Croft family had grown by leaps and bounds. Recorded are William and Alice with their twelve children – Oscar C., Paul H., Vede W., George A., Fred D., Frank M., Grace I., Blanche M., Hope C., Russell W., and Ruth E. A son named Elmer died in 1897, the same year he was born. This was a formidable household, to say the least!

In so many historical accounts of that era, we read that the children were engaged in the work on the farm and was a major reason for such large families. They provided a type of workforce. Since Oscar was the oldest, undoubtedly his parents expected a great deal of him. More than likely, he and his brothers began at an early age helping their father in various capacities on the wheat farm. In fact, there is family lore that the Croft’s formed a type of family “commune.” Here is the story as related by Oscar's granddaughter, Cynthia Croft Wood.
Chapter Two - Oscar Cameron and Ethel Mohler Croft

*Their dad never voted for a winning politician - always for the socialist candidate. Hence this was his desire to implement the communistic concept of "each contributing according to his ability and each taking according to his need". It was Oscar that decided that they "needed" an airplane to dust the crops. I recall Dad saying that the rest of the family wasn't consulted and this decision caused a rift within this "utopian" commune.*

Sometime in 1908 or 1909, Oscar met a girl named Ethel Mae Mohler. She was the daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Mary Mohler and her family lived in nearby York County. We do not know how they met, but evidently they were attracted to each other and courted for a time. On October 5, 1910, they married in York County, Nebraska.

It is likely that after their marriage, Oscar and Ethel lived on or near the family farm land. Ethel’s father was also a farmer so she was familiar with the lifestyle. While still living in Fairfield, Clay County, Nebraska, their first child, Lloyd Ollie, was born February 9, 1913.

During the years between 1914 and 1918, all the world’s great powers were engaged in the First World War, sometimes called “The Great War.” In 1917 and 1918, all men between the ages of 18 and 45 were required to register for the draft. Oscar fell in this category and he did his duty by registering June 5, 1917. It is interesting to note that he claimed two disabilities - weak eyes and a heart ailment.

Evidently Oscar made the decision to leave farming because on the 1920 United States Federal Census, he, Ethel, Lloyd, and Keith are living in Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska. It may have been a family rift that caused him to leave the farm, or perhaps it was the realization that he was not cut out for the farming life. Nevertheless, the census recorded his occupation as automobile salesman. Later that year, their second son, Keith Lyle, was born November 15, 1920.

Sometime in 1929, Oscar and Ethel opted to leave Nebraska. Family sources indicate that during the latter part of the 1920’s into the mid 1930’s, the large Croft family began to disperse with each family group moving in different directions. Some traveled northwest, others east, some to the southwest, and a few to Kansas. It is surmised that the reason for the dispersion was the combination of the terrible drought and the historical United States depression. We know that Nebraska was one of the states that felt the brunt of the Dust Bowl that occurred in the early 1930’s, so it is entirely possible the Crofts were feeling the early effects of it in their area. If that was the case, we can understand their need to seek “greener pastures.”

Oscar and Ethel moved to San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas in 1929. We do not know what drew them to this part of the country, but perhaps it was the promise of better employment opportunities and living conditions. Oscar, Ethel, Lloyd, and Keith are recorded on the 1930 United States Federal Census and are residing at 1625 Broadway. This residence must have been a rooming house because five other individuals are recorded at this same address. Ownership of the house is not indicated. The census also gives the information that Oscar’s occupation is District Representative in the automobile industry.
1937 was an important year for Oscar and Ethel Croft. They embarked on a new venture with their son Lloyd when together they founded the Croft Trailer Company at 1423 North Flores Street in San Antonio. Later they developed a trailer rental business and became a part of the Nationwide Trailer rental chain. Oscar’s brother and sister-in-law, George and Lena Croft, lived in Kansas City, Missouri and founded a branch Croft Trailer Company there, too. The company was quite successful and the San Antonio branch was in business for over 70 years. In its 70th year Oscar and Ethel’s grandson L.K. Croft submitted an article to the San Antonio Express News and it was published on July 10, 2007.

Happy 70th anniversary to Croft Truck Equipment and Accessories...

Seventy years in business is always worth noting.

The company began in 1937 when Lloyd O. Croft and his parents, O.C. and Ethel Croft, founded the Croft Trailer Company at 1423 N. Flores Street.

It originally focused on making trailers and hitches. Later as the trailer rental portion of the business grew, it became part of the Nationwide Trailer rental chain. The part of the business specializing in custom truck accessories also grew.

In 1972, a cousin, Mary Ann Balzer, and her husband, Harvey Balzer, purchased the company. The rental portion of the business stopped a decade later as the company moved into selling trailer hitches and truck accessories. In 1991 the Balzer children, Mike and Sandra, became president and vice president of the company.

Now at 1503 N. Brazos, the company has 135 employees, with a distribution center in Houston.

Note: At this time (2011) the Croft Truck and Equipment Accessories is no longer in business.

In the years following the founding of Croft Trailer Company, Oscar was very involved in developing the business. Though it was no surprise to family members, Ethel worked right beside him assisting with the bookkeeping and other office tasks. It was a team effort. Eventually they even moved into a house next door to the company.

When asked to describe his grandfather, L.K. Croft shared that he remembers him as having a light-hearted demeanor. In fact, he added that his grandfather’s brothers were also very outgoing and fun-loving.

In the late 1940’s Oscar developed heart disease causing a gradual decline in his health. He died in San Antonio on April 19, 1952 and was buried at Mission Burial Park South.
Sources


Clay County, marriage record, Clay County Clerk’s Office, Fairfield, Nebraska.

Oscar Cameron Croft, death certificate no. 16167, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.
Chapter Two - Oscar Cameron and Ethel Mohler Croft

Oscar and Ethel as newlyweds

Oscar and Ethel married October 5, 1910.
Oscar standing by Croft crop duster

It was Oscar that decided that they "needed" an airplane to dust the crops. I recall Dad saying that the rest of the family wasn't consulted and this decision caused a rift within this "utopian" commune. (Comment as recalled by Cynthia Croft Wood, Oscar's granddaughter)

Photo taken in about 1927 or 1928 on Croft farm in Clay County, Nebraska.
Chapter Two - Oscar Cameron and Ethel Mohler Croft

Oscar, Ethel, Lloyd and Keith Croft

This photo was taken Christmas 1933.
Four Generations of Croft Men

William, Oscar, Lloyd and L.K. - 1937

Oscar and Ethel

Photo taken in late 1940's
Oscar C. Croft Obituary

San Antonio Express News, April 20, 1952
Pedigree Chart for
Ethel Mae Mohler

John Adam Mohler
b: 17 Feb 1789 in Washington, Pennsylvania, USA
m: 24 Feb 1823 in York, Morgan, Ohio, USA

Anney Catherine Irich
b: 11 May 1784 in Nottingham, Washington, Pennsylvania, USA
d:

John Shambaugh
b: 
m: 
d:

Catherine Walter
b: 
m: 
d:

Mark Bowton
b: 1795 in England
m: 31 Oct 1816 in Maldon, Essex, England
d: 19 Sep 1834 in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn, Indiana, USA

Mary Nash
b: 28 Feb 1795 in England
d: 18 Apr 1871 in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn, Indiana, USA

Hugh Kirkpatrick
b: 17 May 1795 in Harford, Maryland, USA
m: 
d: 1833 in Pike, Knox, Ohio, USA

Nancy Baird
b: 12 Mar 1797 in Ireland131 Jan 1876
d: 31 Jan 1876 in Indiantown, Bureau, Illinois, USA

Rebecca Kirkpatrick
b: 03 May 1826 in Ohio, USA
d: 02 Mar 1919 in Fulton, Illinois, USA

William Bowton
b: 02 Aug 1819 in Maldon, Essex, England
m: 15 Jan 1846 in Indiana or Ohio, USA
d: 23 Mar 1903 in Onon, Fulton, Illinois, USA

Mary Emma Bowton
b: 23 May 1857 in Glasford-Orion Twp., Over, Fulton, Illinois, USA
d: 12 May 1945 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA

Lydia Ann Shambaugh
b: 28 May 1816 in Center Twp., Union, Pennsylvania, USA
d: 25 Jan 1867 in Spring Grove Twp., Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA

Ethel Mae Mohler
b: 10 Aug 1851 in Orion Twp., Breed Station, Fulton, Illinois, USA
m: 05 Oct 1876 in York, Nebraska, USA
d: 30 Jun 1898 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA

Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler
b: 14 Apr 1831 in Hanover Twp., Janesville, Ashland, Ohio, USA
m: 27 Jan 1876 in Onon, Fulton, Illinois, USA
d: 28 Dec 1877 in York, Nebraska, USA
Ethel Mae Mohler Croft

Ethel Mae Mohler began what would be a very long life in Orion Township, Illinois on August 10, 1891. Her parents were Thomas Jefferson and Mary Bowton Mohler and she was their sixth child. They were one farming family among many in this part of Illinois. Three more children were born in this family before they left Illinois and moved to Nebraska in the late 1890’s. I cannot imagine the ordeal of moving a family of eleven people.

When the 1900 United States Federal Census was taken, they were living in York, York County, Nebraska. T.J. Mohler is recorded along with his wife, Mary, and their children, Charles, Lena, Ethel, Darrel, David, and Ewort. Thomas and Mary had another son, William, born in 1885 in Illinois, but he was not residing with them. The two older children, Flora and Ellsworth, were no longer living with the family. Information from the census shows that the family is living in a home which they owned and was not on a farm. The enumerator’s handwriting is difficult to read but it appears that Thomas is working as a carpenter.

Unfortunately we have no diaries or recorded family stories to help us better understand Ethel’s youth. Thanks to the U.S. census records we do get a glimpse of her family’s life. The 1910 census shows that Thomas was farming and his younger sons were helping him on the family farm. Ethel and her sister, Lena, were teaching school. With seven mouths to feed and the same number of bodies to clothe, undoubtedly the days were long and arduous for all members of the Mohler family.
A young man named Oscar Croft lived in nearby Clay County, Nebraska. Though we do not know where or how, he and Ethel met sometime in 1908 or 1909. Evidently they were attracted to each other and courted for a time. On October 5, 1910 they married in York County, Nebraska.

It is likely that after their marriage Oscar and Ethel lived on or near his father’s family farm land in Clay County. Since Ethel’s father was also a farmer, she was familiar with the lifestyle. While still living in Fairfield, Clay County, Nebraska they became parents when their first child, Lloyd Ollie, was born February 9, 1913.

Evidently Oscar made the decision to leave farming because on the 1920 United States Federal Census, he, Ethel, Lloyd, and Keith are living in Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska. It may have been a family rift that caused him to leave the farm. However, he may have felt he was not cut out for the farming life. Nevertheless, the census recorded his occupation as automobile salesman. Later that year they had their second son, Keith Lyle, born November 15, 1920.

Sometime in 1929, Oscar and Ethel opted to leave Nebraska. Family sources indicate that during the latter part of the 1920’s, the large Croft family began to disperse with each family group moving in different directions. Some traveled northwest, others east, some to the southwest, and a few to Kansas. It is surmised that the reason for the dispersion was the combination of the terrible drought and the historical United States depression. We know that Nebraska was one of the states that felt the brunt of the Dust Bowl that occurred in the early 1930’s, so it is entirely possible the Crofts were feeling the early effects of it in their area. If that was the case, we can understand their need to seek “greener pastures.”

Oscar and Ethel moved to San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas in 1929. We do not know what drew them to this part of the country, but perhaps it was the promise of better employment opportunities and living conditions. Oscar, Ethel, Lloyd, and Keith are recorded on the 1930 United States Federal Census and are residing at 1625 Broadway. This residence must have been a rooming house because five other individuals are recorded at this same address. Ownership of the house is not indicated. The census also gives the information that Oscar’s occupation is District Representative in the automobile industry.

1937 was an important year for Oscar and Ethel Croft. They embarked on a new venture with their son Lloyd when together they founded the Croft Trailer Company at 1423 North Flores Street in San Antonio. Later they developed a trailer rental business and became a part of the Nationwide Trailer rental chain. Oscar’s brother and sister-in-law, George and Lena Croft, lived in Kansas City, Missouri and founded a branch Croft Trailer Company there, too. The company was quite successful and the San Antonio branch was in business for over 70 years.

Family members recall that Ethel was involved in the Croft Trailer Company from its very beginnings, working right along with her husband and son. Her role was assisting in the business office. She was quite serious-minded, and it is likely she ran a “tight
ship.” At some point, she and Oscar moved next door to the business, so more than ever, she was on the job 24/7.

When Ethel became a grandmother, they called her “Grandmother.” However, her first great grandchild called her “Gee Gee” and that stuck for the rest of her days.

In her autobiography, Lucy Ann Nance Croft shares her memories of “Gee Gee.”

In looking back on the people who have gained my deepest respect, I would put Grandmother Croft at the top of the list. Because she lived in San Antonio, L.K. was able to spend a great deal of time with her as a child and they developed a close relationship. Consequently, it mattered a lot to Grandmother who he married. Fortunately for me, she let me know from the beginning that she approved of his choice.

When L.K. and I married, Grandmother had been widowed for a number of years (Oscar Cameron Croft, 1887–1952), and I realized right away that she was a fearlessly independent woman. Perhaps it was just her nature, but I believe it had a lot to do with the fact that she had worked at the Croft Trailer Company handling properties, investing her money, and planning her life in all respects. Father and Mother watched out for her and included her in their life as much as possible, but Grandmother had a mind of her own. She died on June 30, 1989, in San Antonio, Texas. She was ninety-seven years old and still lived alone.

Ethel Croft was a person of deep Christian faith. She was an active member of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. Because she had a commitment to its work and worship, the church played a major role in her life. Some of her lasting friendships were with people she met there and with whom she served over the years. She exhibited her spirituality in numerous ways. Though a frugal person, she was also generous in her giving, to both the church and to individuals who needed her assistance or encouragement. She was faithful in the reading and study of her Bible and made its truths a part of her daily thinking and living.

Though conservative in dress and demeanor, Grandmother was an attractive woman and took pride in her appearance. Perhaps her good health and longevity could be attributed to her good genes, but she knew the importance of staying fit and healthy by eating well and exercising. Even in her later years, she would walk in the neighborhood—sometimes to the beauty salon to have her hair done.

When the family got together for dinner or a celebration of some kind, Grandmother, or “Gee Gee” (the name given to her by her great-grandchildren), really enjoyed herself. She was reserved and quiet, but she listened intently to the talk going on around her. It pleased me that in her later years, if someone engaged her in a conversation she responded very enthusiastically. It is wonderful that our children were able to know their great grandmother. That’s not true for many of us. Each of them went to Trinity University in San Antonio and would see her from time to time.

One thing that concerns me as I grow older is staying mentally alert. Gee Gee was role models to all of us. We were constantly amazed at her sharpness and continued interest in the world around her. When we would think of the changes she had experienced in her lifetime, it astounded us that she could cope so well. L.K. would phone her each week and she would remember things he had told her the week before, such as our plans for a trip, our recent activities, or an item of news about our children. Her interest and curiosity were
admirable and impressive. L.K. would often compliment her on her abilities and her longevity. She surprised us when she said that living a long time was not something we should be impressed by. She felt that she was no longer contributing to the world and was a worry to those who loved her. As I reflect on that, perhaps in some respects that may have been true. However, even up to her last days, we respected her wisdom, her caring manner, her encouragement, and her constant support and love for us and our family. In those ways, she was still giving of herself.

Ethel Mae Mohler Croft died on June 30, 1989 in San Antonio, Texas and was buried at Mission Burial Park South next to her husband, Oscar Cameron Croft.

Sources


Clay County, marriage record, Clay County Clerk’s Office, Fairfield, Nebraska.


Ethel Mae Mohler birth record, State of Nebraska, Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Ethel M. Croft death certificate no. 060184, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.
Ethel Mohler Croft

Photograph may have been taken in late 1940's or early 1950's.
Grandmother with Family Members

Gee Gee with Lloyd and L.K. in about 1959.

Gee Gee with daughters-in-law, Gertie and Mildred, and granddaughter, Cynthia, in about 1958.
Ethel at L.K. and Lucy's Wedding Reception

L.K. and Lucy are pictured with Grandmother (Ethel) and Mama Nance, July 12, 1958, First Presbyterian Church, Kerrville, Texas
Grandmother "Gee Gee" 1966 and 1983

Birthday celebration at Lloyd and Gertie's home

Gee Gee at age 92
Grave Marker for Ethel and Oscar

Ethel and Oscar are buried at Mission Park South, San Antonio, Texas. Grave located at Block 8, Lot 119, Space 2.
The Mohler family in America was made up of some folks with very distinguished names, one being our ancestor Thomas Jefferson Mohler. He was born April 14, 1851 in Hanover Township, Ashland County, Ohio and was the tenth child of John Adam and Lydia Ann Mohler. Ashland County, in the north central part of Ohio, is on the dividing ridge, or watershed, between Lake Erie and the Ohio River. As you might expect, the primary industry for the settlers in this part of the country was agriculture, with corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, hay and maple sugar being the major crops.

When the 1860 United States Federal Census was enumerated, the Mohler family had moved to Spring Grove, Warren County, Illinois and had increased in size with the addition of three more children. Records indicate that they also had another son, Martin Luther, who either died at birth or the same year he was born. The 1860 census records the following fifteen members of the John Mohler household: John A. Mohler, Lydia, Levi, Martha J., Roda A., Wm. H., Geo. W., Jeremiah, John, Thos., J., Franklin P., Isaac N., Oliver, Catharine and Mary. Martha was Levi’s wife and their child was Roda.
Note the complete names the Mohler’s gave their sons – George Washington, Jeremiah, John Wesley, Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Pierce, Isaac Newton, Martin Luther, and Oliver Cromwell. Naming their sons after historical figures appears a phenomenon and begs the questions – why did they do it and how much did they know about these men in history?

The American Civil War broke out in 1861 and Illinois was one of the twenty-five states that was a part of the Union. Like other families in this place and time, the Mohler’s must have experienced the agonies of this tragic war. Thomas was a small child, but it is likely his older brothers were enlisted. I found enlistment records for several men in Warren County, Illinois by the same names, but more research would be required to verify that the records match Thomas’ brothers.

Though no major battles were fought in Illinois, it was a primary source of troops for the Union army and of military supplies, food, and clothing. Also, any history buff knows about the two Illinois men who became prominent in the politics and the army during this time – Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant.

Unfortunately I have not found the Mohler family on the 1870 United States Federal Census so I have no information about their location, but sometime after the Civil War Thomas met his future wife, Mary Emma Bowton. Evidently her family lived in Fulton County, Illinois which is adjacent to Warren County (southwest). They married on January 27, 1876. Mary was the daughter of William and Rebecca Bowton.

Thomas and Mary remained in Fulton County, Illinois and set up their household on a farm. On January 11, 1877 they had their first child, Flora Rebecca. About two years later on October 11, 1879 a son, Lorain Ellsworth arrived. This family of four was recorded on the 1880 United States Federal Census. On this census record, we discover that Mary’s father was from England and her mother from Illinois.

Since there is no longer an 1890 United States Federal Census, we leap to the 1900 United States Federal Census to find our next record for Thomas Mohler and his family. In those intervening twenty years, they had moved west and were found in York County, Nebraska. Their two oldest children were no longer living with them but their family had definitely grown. Six children are recorded – Charles, Lena, Ethel, Darrel (Dara), David and Ewort (Ewart). We know another son named William was born in 1885 when they were in Illinois, but he was not residing with them. The last three children were born in Nebraska, so this meant they moved to York County sometime between 1891 and 1896. Thomas and Mary’s family was a large by any standard of measurement.

An interesting note – the enumerator’s handwriting was not very decipherable, but it appears Thomas gave his occupation as “Clergyman.” I thought this might be the enumerator’s error or my inability to read the handwriting. However, one of the Mohler’s grandsons named Wes Mohler gave us some interesting information about this.
You were correct in listing Thomas Jefferson as "Clergyman." He was a self-educated pastor/preacher and VERY involved with the United Brethren (In Christ) Church (Denomination). You are probably aware of this, but the United Brethren and Evangelical Denominations merged and were called the Evangelical United Brethren Church (Denomination). In 1968 (?) the EUB merged with the Methodist Church (Denomination) and is today called The United Methodist Church (Denomination). Thomas Jefferson was actually "licensed" to Preach (on a yearly basis) through the United Brethren Church. We have some documentation that he was a "Circuit Rider" Preacher here in Western Nebraska (Sheridan County - Near Hay Springs, Nebraska.) He was also in South Dakota (farming and preaching or preaching and farming) before the family moved to York, Nebraska.

Thomas and Mary settled into life in York County, Nebraska. By the 1910 United States Federal Census, their household had grown smaller with only five children residing with them. Their two oldest daughters, Lena and Ethel, were school teachers, and the three sons were working with their father on the farm. By the time the 1920 United States Federal Census was enumerated, the family consisted of Thomas, Mary, Dara, Ewart, and a family friend by the name of Anthony Rivera. In the 1930 census, Thomas and Mary had a completely “empty nest.” Undoubtedly there were children and grandchildren near by.

The 1920’s and 1930’s were hard years in America and folks living in the Great Plains experienced more than their share of those difficulties. On the website for Wessel's Living History Farm, York County, Nebraska there is an article entitled “Who Lived in York County in the 1930’s?” This excerpt gives a bit of insight into how the Mohler family may have endured very tough times.

The Great Plains region has always been known for unpredictable weather and natural disasters – tornadoes, hail storms, blizzards, floods, drought, summer heat and winter cold. Farming on the Great Plains has always been a battle against the weather. But the weather during the 1930s was far beyond the natural cycle of seasons. The weather during the Dust Bowl days set records that still stand in Nebraska history and still stand out in farmers' memories.

Farms in the 1930s were diversified, growing a variety of crops in the fields, vegetables in the garden and fruit in the orchard. Small farms usually raised chickens, eggs, hogs, and cattle, as well as keeping horses and mules for work, and sometimes sheep for wool and meat. Some farmers kept bees and harvested the honey. Women baked their own bread.

During the Depression, this self-sufficiency carried over into their social life. One-dish suppers and church potlucks were important ways to have fun and share food. On radio and in women's magazines, home economists taught women how to stretch their food budget with casseroles and meals like creamed chipped beef on toast or waffles. Chili, macaroni and cheese, soups, and creamed chicken on biscuits were popular meals.

The Apetz brothers hunted rabbits to put more meat on the dinner table. Delbert Apetz says, "We had a brooder house [for chickens]. My uncle and dad, they'd go out rabbit hunting (now this is in the winter time). Be rabbits hanging there, dressed all the way through that and any time you wanted something to eat you'd cut the string on the rabbit and bring it in the house, fry it or cook it and make soup or whatever you want...Still, it was a constant work to put food on the table, and sometimes the food was covered with dust when the wind blew dust through the cracks in the house.
Thomas Mohler lived out his days in York County, Nebraska. He and Mary moved there with six children between 1891 and 1896 where their family grew, and not only endured, but thrived during some of Nebraska’s darkest days of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Like other courageous pioneers of those days, they exhibited strength and fortitude when they moved into new territories to face the uncertainties of Mother Nature. From this vantage point in year 2011, they appear to have been truly remarkable folk.

Thomas Jefferson Mohler died December 28, 1937 in York County, Nebraska and was buried in the Greenwood Cemetery. He was survived by his wife of sixty-one years – Mary Emma Bowton Mohler.

Sources


“Historical Sketch of Ashland County,” http://ashlandcounty.org/commissioners/file


Thomas Mohler death certificate no. H12847, State of Nebraska, Department of Health, Lincoln, Nebraska.

“Who Lived in York County in 1930?” Wessel’s Living History Farm, York County, Nebraska, http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30slife

Thomas and Mary Mohler Family Portrait

(Front Row) Floa, Thomas J. Mohler, Mary Mohler and Lora. 
(Back Row) Ethel, David or Dara, Lena, William, Charles, 
David or Dara and Ewart. The picture was taken about 
1909 in York County, Nebraska.
Mary Emma Bowton Mohler

Mary Emma Bowton’s life began in Fulton County, Illinois on May 23, 1856. She was the fifth child of William and Rebecca Kirkpatrick Bowton. As we might expect, they were a farming family. When the 1860 United States Federal Census was enumerated the Bowton family was living in Orion, Fulton County, Illinois. Their name was spelled incorrectly as “Boton.” Nevertheless, I think this was our Bowton family. William and Rebecca were recorded with their children William (12) John Taylor (8) Hugh Taylor (5) Mary Taylor (3) and Nancy Taylor (1 month). Also listed was a “Farm Hand” by the name of Washington Beadso. (I have not determined where the name “Taylor” originates.) William gave his place of birth as England.

The American Civil War broke out in 1861 and Illinois was one of the twenty-five states that was a part of the Union. Like other families in this place and time, the Bowtons must have experienced the agonies of this tragic war. William would have been in his early 40’s so it is possible he was enlisted. I found several Civil War military records on Ancestry.com for a William Bowton or Booten. Further research would be required to determine if any of these records were for our William Bowton. The Bowtons’ sons would have been too young to serve. Whether or not William was in the military, the Bowton family would have been impacted by the Civil War. Communities and families around the country suffered the brunt of this terrible conflict when all were called on to contribute in some way to the war effort in manpower, goods, services, and lives.

Even though no major battles were fought in Illinois, it was a primary source of troops for the Union army and of military supplies, food, and clothing. Also any history buff knows about the two Illinois men who became prominent in the politics and the army during this time – Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant.

William, Rebecca and children were still living in Orion, Fulton County, Illinois when the 1870 United States Federal Census was taken. They were recorded with their children, Henry (22) John (18) Mary (13) Nancy (10) Charles (7) and Andrew (5 mo). Note that two more children were born since 1860. However, as I read the census record I also noted that their sons William and Hugh were no longer with them and that a son Henry was listed. It raised two questions in my mind. Where was Henry in 1860 and where were William and Hugh in 1870?

Sometime in the early 1870’s, Mary met a young man by the name of Thomas Jefferson Mohler. He was from a farming family in Warren County northwest of Fulton County. More than likely, after they met, there was a period of courtship. There must have been a mutual attraction because they were married on January 27, 1876.

Thomas and Mary remained in Fulton County, Illinois and set up their household on a farm. On January 11, 1877 they had their first child, Floa or Floa Rebecca, and on October 11, 1879 a son, Lorain Ellsworth, arrived. This family of four was recorded on the 1880 United States Federal Census.
Since there is no longer an 1890 United States Federal Census, we leap to the 1900 United States Federal Census to find our next record for Thomas and Mary Mohler with their family. In those intervening twenty years they had moved west and were found in York County, Nebraska. Their two oldest children were no longer living with them but their family had definitely grown. Six children are recorded – Charles, Lena, Ethel, Darrel (Dara), David and Ewart (Ewart). Thomas and Mary also had a son named William, born in Illinois in 1885, but evidently he was not residing with them. The last three children were born in Nebraska, so it meant that they moved to York County sometime between 1891 and 1896. The Mohler family was large by any standard of measurement.

Thomas and Mary settled into life in York County, Nebraska. When the 1910 United States Federal Census was taken, their household had grown smaller with only five children residing with them. Their two oldest daughters, Lena and Ethel, were school teachers, and the three sons were working with their father on the farm. By the time the 1920 United States Federal Census was enumerated, the family consisted of Thomas, Mary, Dara, Ewart, and a family friend by the name of Anthony Rivera. In the 1930 census, Thomas and Mary had a completely “empty nest.” Undoubtedly there were children and grandchildren near by.

The 1920’s and 1930’s were hard years in America and folks living in the Great Plains experienced more than their share of those difficulties. On the website for Wessel’s Living History Farm, York County, Nebraska there is an article entitled “Who Lived in York County in the 1930’s?” This excerpt gives a bit of insight into how the Mohler family may have endured very tough times.

*The Great Plains region has always been known for unpredictable weather and natural disasters – tornadoes, hail storms, blizzards, floods, drought, summer heat and winter cold. Farming on the Great Plains has always been a battle against the weather. But the weather during the 1930s was far beyond the natural cycle of seasons. The weather during the Dust Bowl days set records that still stand in Nebraska history and still stand out in farmers' memories.*

*Farms in the 1930s were diversified, growing a variety of crops in the fields, vegetables in the garden and fruit in the orchard. Small farms usually raised chickens, eggs, hogs, and cattle, as well as keeping horses and mules for work, and sometimes sheep for wool and meat. Some farmers kept bees and harvested the honey. Women baked their own bread.*

*During the Depression, this self-sufficiency carried over into their social life. One-dish suppers and church potlucks were important ways to have fun and share food. On radio and in women's magazines, home economists taught women how to stretch their food budget with casseroles and meals like creamed chipped beef on toast or waffles. Chili, macaroni and cheese, soups, and creamed chicken on biscuits were popular meals.*

*The Apetz brothers hunted rabbits to put more meat on the dinner table. Delbert Apetz says, "We had a brooder house [for chickens]. My uncle and dad, they'd go out rabbit hunting (now this is in the winter time). Be rabbits hanging there, dressed all the way through that and any time you wanted something to eat you'd cut the string on the rabbit and bring it in the house, fry it or cook it and make soup or whatever you want. We ate a*
lotta, lotta rabbits. But that's what we had to eat." Still, it was a constant work to put food on the table, and sometimes the food was covered with dust when the wind blew dust through the cracks in the house.

When I read an account such as this, it is astounding how people survived under such dreadful circumstances. Mary Mohler can certainly be counted among those women of great strength who worked along side her husband to provide for their family as Mother Nature wreaked havoc during those terrible days of drought and dust storms.

On December 27, 1937 Mary’s husband Thomas Jefferson Mohler died at the age of 86. They had been married sixty-one years. During those years, they had moved from Illinois to the plains of Nebraska and raised a family of nine children. Their life together was probably not ever easy, but I imagine their children and grandchildren brought them a great deal of comfort and joy. It is certainly indicated that the Mohler’s strong religious faith was a basis for their strength during the good and the not-so-good times.

We do not know how Mary spent the final years of her life, but since she had children living in Nebraska and it seems likely they cared for her during that time. She died on May 12, 1945 in Orchard, Antelope County, Nebraska and was buried beside her husband in the Greenwood Cemetery in York County, Nebraska.

Sources


Mary E. Mohler, death certificate no. R4217, State of Nebraska, Department of Health, Lincoln, Nebraska.

“Who Lived in York County in 1930?” Wessel’s Living History Farm, York County, Nebraska, http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/life


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.
Thomas J. Mohler Grave Marker

Thomas and Mary Mohler are buried in Greenwood Cemetery, York County, Nebraska
Thomas died December 28, 1937
Mary died May 12, 1945
John Adam and Lydia Ann Shambaugh Mohler

John Adam Mohler was born March 9, 1810 in Washington County, Pennsylvania. There is some information indicating his parents, John Adam and Anney Irich Mohler, were also born in this beautiful part of western Pennsylvania. John, Sr. was a Lutheran minister and a farmer.

Sometime before 1820, John Adam, Sr. and his family migrated to Ashland County, Ohio. Though it was quite a long journey, history tells us that his family was among many Pennsylvanians who moved to Ashland County in north central Ohio. This was an area of lakes and forests on the dividing bridge, or watershed, between Lake Erie and the Ohio River. Eventually, farming became the primary industry. John, Sr. was both a minister and a farmer, and a land record dated December 1, 1830 showed he purchased 80 acres of land, transacted April 24, 1820.

As fate would have it, there was another family living in Ashland County which had migrated to Ohio from Pennsylvania whose daughter met and married John Adam Mohler, Jr. The young woman was Lydia Ann Shambaugh and her parents were John Philip and Catherine Walter Shambaugh. She was born May 28, 1816 in Union County, Pennsylvania.

We do not know when or where they met, but after a courtship, John and Lydia married on June 9, 1835 in Richland County, Ohio which is adjacent to Ashland County.
By the time the 1850 United States Federal Census was taken, John and Lydia lived in Hanover, Ashland County, Ohio. In the fifteen years since their marriage, their family had grown by leaps and bounds. As unbelievable as it may seem, they had nine children – Julia Ann (14), Levi (13), Phoebe (12), William Henry (10), George Washington (8), Catherine Clara (6), Jeremiah (4), Mary Ann (2) and John Wesley (1). John Adam was farming.

Sometime between 1850 and 1860, the Mohler family moved to Spring Grove, Warren County in eastern Illinois. I do not know the reasons for their migration but traveling from north central Ohio would not have been an easy journey, particularly with such a large family. By the time they reached Warren County, the population had begun to grow, two reasons being the arrival of the railroad and the proximity to the Mississippi River. Evidently, John Adam was drawn to this area seeking a better life for his family.

The 1860 United States Federal Census reveals the family had continued to grow during the intervening years. Children listed on this census are: Levi (21), William Henry (19), George Washington (17), Jeremiah (13), John Wesley (12), Thomas Jefferson (7), Franklin Pierce (5), Isaac Newton (4), Oliver Cromwell (9 mos), Catherine (16) and Mary Ann (13). Both Julia Ann and Phoebe had married. We know that John and Lydia had one other son, Martin Luther, who died shortly after his birth in 1857. Levi’s wife, Martha, and daughter, Roda, are also included in this census record.

No death record or burial location has been found for Lydia, but I think she died sometime between 1860 and 1866, probably in Warren County, Illinois. She would have been in her late 40’s and had given birth to fourteen children.

The lives of John Mohler and his children must have been greatly disrupted by Lydia’s death, and at the same time this occurred, the country became engaged in war. The American Civil War broke out in 1861, and Illinois was one of the twenty-five states that was a part of the Union. Like other families in this place and time, the Mohlers experienced the agonies of this tragic war. Though John was not in the military, his son Levi was enlisted.

No major battles were fought in Illinois, but it was a primary source of troops for the Union army and of military supplies, food, and clothing. Also, any history buff knows about the two Illinois men who became prominent in the politics and the army during this time – Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant.

Following Lydia’s death, John Adam Mohler married Ida Jane Bellis Voorhees, in about 1866. Like John, she was widowed and had two sons, James and George, and a daughter, Sadie (Sallie) Voorhees. Between 1867 and 1876, they had three more children, Alexander Hamilton, Ida May Bell and Charles Edwin. Though I was not able to find them on the 1870 census, when the 1880 United States Federal Census was taken Oliver, Sadie, Alexander, Ida and Edwin were listed. The family was located in Logan, Peoria County, Illinois.
John Adam Mohler died October 25, 1894 at home in Hamilton County, Illinois and was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery, Montebello Township, Hancock, Illinois. His obituary was found in Carthage Gazette, November 2, 1894.

_A Good Man Gone_

_John Adam Mohler, native of Washington County, PA, and the son of a Lutheran minister, died near Hamilton, Ill., on last Thursday, aged 84 years, 7 months and 16 days. He has lived in Ashland Co., Ohio, Warren, Fulton, and Peoria counties, Ill. The last six years, he lived near Hamilton. He was married in 1835 to Miss Lydia Shambaugh by whom he had 14 children. One died in infancy, another at the battle of Fort Donelson, and two daughters after their marriage. Again he was married to Mrs. Ida J. Voorhees, of Peoria county, who bore him 3 children, all of whom, with their mother, are living. Thus he has 13 children living._

_In early life he united with the Lutheran church: later with the U.V. and finally, with the Congregational church of Hamilton._

_His remains were interred in the Oakwood cemetery on Sabbath morning, funeral services being conducted by Revs. J.H. Rose, of Hamilton, and H.M. Brewer, of this city._

John Adam’s obituary mentions he had lived near Hamilton, Illinois the last six years of his life. Both a land plat and the Petition for Letters of Administration by his widow, Ida Mohler, following his death show he owned land in near Hamilton, Hancock County, Illinois.

The death of a son in the Battle of Fort Donelson near the Tennessee/Kentucky border February 11-16, 1862 is also mentioned in John’s obituary. I have not been able to determine which of his sons this might have been. Levi was enlisted in the military during the Civil War, but I found information of his death June 14, 1909.

In my research of John Adam and Lydia Shambaugh Mohler, two things greatly impressed me - the number of children and the names of their sons. In their twenty-four years of marriage, John and Lydia had fourteen children. John and his second wife, Ida, had three more children. With the exception of Martin Luther, all lived to adulthood. Naming their sons after historical figures appears a phenomenon and begs the questions – why did they do it and how much did they know about these men in history?

When reading accounts of lives of pioneers during 19th and early 20th centuries in the United States, I am always astounded by their abilities to confront many difficult circumstances of life – physical, emotional and cultural. Their pioneering spirit drove them to move west in crude wagons over rough roadways. They bought and farmed land to establish a means of livelihood, settling where they could set up households in largely undeveloped areas. Like others, John and Lydia carried out the daily tasks of feeding and clothing their families while participating in community life with other dauntless folks.
I am particularly impressed by the strength of women during those times. Many, like Lydia and Ida, gave birth to numbers of children when medical attention was primitive by today’s standards. The manner in which they attended to the daily, and sometimes tedious, tasks of cooking, sewing, and nurturing of their families in very hard, rustic conditions is unbelievable to us. Paying tribute to these courageous souls seems the right thing to do!

Sources


Carthage Gazette, obituary for John Adam Mohler, November 2, 1894.

Hancock County, Illinois, Petition for Letters of Administration, Estate of John A. Mohler, 24 Nov 1894.


Richland County, marriage record, Richland County Clerk’s Office, Mansfield, Ohio.


John A. Mohler and Lydia Shambaugh
Marriage Record

John Adam Mohler and Lydia Ann Shambaugh were married
June 9, 1835 in Richland County, Ohio.
Chapter Two - Oscar Cameron and Ethel Mohler Croft

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 66
William and Rebecca Kirkpatrick Bowton

William Bowton was born August 3, 1819 in England. Some family researchers believe the location was Essex County, northeast of London. He immigrated to America with his parents, Mark and Mary Ann Nash Bowton, when he was nine years old (1828). William’s obituary states that upon arrival, the family moved to Dearborn County, Indiana.

By the time the Bowton family arrived in Dearborn County, Indiana in about 1829, it was a thriving center of agriculture and business. Following both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, people migrated into the area in large numbers seeking cheap land, many building homes along the Ohio River on the southeastern border of county. (McHenry)

I have not been able to discover how or when they met, but William and Rebecca Jane Kirkpatrick found each other. She was the daughter of Hugh and Nancy Baird Kirkpatrick. She was born in Ohio, but evidently her family had moved to the Dearborn area. William and Rebecca married January 15, 1846 in Dearborn, Indiana.

There are no family letters and diaries to lend “color” to the Bowton story, but other information tells us they moved from Indiana to Illinois (via Ohio) sometime between 1852 and 1855. I imagine they traveled by wagon, perhaps with others going west. This description gives us a picture of life on the wagon train.

_The pioneers from Pennsylvania, Ohio and the southern states betrayed their nativity and prejudice in the schooner-shaped wagon box, the stiff tongue, the hind wheels double the size of the forward ones and closely coupled together, the whole drawn by a team of four or six horses guided by a single line in the hands of the teamster riding the nigh wheeler…_
The contents of the immigrant wagons were astonishing indeed in amount as well as variety of articles. A glance under the canvas covering disclosed a startling array of baggage if ‘women, guns, rifles, boys, girls, babies and other nick-nacks’ may be called baggage. Below on the axles of the wagons dangled pots and kettles of all forms and sizes. Sometimes dogs and even cats were included among the movables of the immigrating families. To the Yankee mover, a plough, a bed, a barrel of salt meat, a supply of tea and molasses, a Bible and a wife were the indispensable articles. (Pooley)

I found very little reliable information about William until I located him on the 1860 United States Federal Census as William Boton. He, his wife, Rebecca (36), and their five children were living in Orion, Fulton, Illinois. The children listed on this census are William (12), John Taylor (8), Hugh Taylor (5), Mary Taylor (3) and Nancy Taylor (1 mo.). I do not know why four of the children have the “Taylor” name. This particular census does not give the relationship to Head of Household, but I am reasonably sure they are William and Rebecca’s children. William is farming and has real estate valued at $2000 and personal estate valued at $500.

Note: The misspelling of names on the census was not uncommon. Enumerators often spelled phonetically – they wrote down what they heard. Those giving the information may have had a foreign accent, such as the case of William Bowton (British). Also, those taking or giving the information may have had limited education.

It is helpful that the 1860 census gives a place of birth for each person. From that, we find that Rebecca was born in Ohio; William and Rebecca’s oldest son, William Henry, was born in Indiana; their son, John, was born in Ohio; and Hugh, Mary and Nancy were born in Illinois. This information sheds light on William’s whereabouts during his earlier years. The travel pattern was somewhat confusing, but perhaps the moves went something like this:

1828 - Bowton family immigrates and settles in Indiana.
1846 - William and Rebecca marry in Dearborn, Indiana.
1846 - William Henry is born in Indiana.
1852 - John is born in Ohio.
1855 - Hugh is born in Illinois.
1857 - Mary Emma and Nancy are born in Illinois.

Though we have little information about William and Rebecca’s life during the 1860’s, we do know that the United States became embroiled in the Civil War. Illinois paid allegiance to the Union. I found no military record for William, and his sons would have been too young to serve. Nevertheless, it goes without saying, the Bowton family must have felt the impact of the war on their lives and livelihood. It is likely they had friends and neighbors who enlisted, and perhaps some of these men gave their lives for the Union cause.

When the 1870 United States Federal Census was taken, the Bowton family was still residing in Orion, Fulton County, Illinois. It is not a surprise to find the family had grown with the birth of two more sons. The name is misspelled as Bonton. Listed are: William (51), Rebecca (42), Henry (22), John (18), Mary (13), Nancy (10), Charles (7) and
Andrew (5 mos). Note that William Henry was listed as “Henry.” Other information given in this census was the value of real estate ($5000) and value of personal estate ($1000). William is still farming and his older sons are farm laborers.

Note: We know from information given on the 1900 United States Federal Census, William and Rebecca had nine children. Two of the children are not enumerated on any census record. Due to the distance in ages between Charles and Andrew, I think the two children may have been born between 1860 and 1870 but did not survive. Some Bowton family researchers think their names were Albert and Cynthia.

William and Rebecca’s family had changed a lot when the 1880 census was taken. They were still farming in Orion, Fulton County, Illinois, but the older children had married and established their own homes. The three youngest children, Nancy (19), Charles (16) and Andrew (10) are still residing with William and Rebecca. One new bit of information found on this census was the fact that Rebecca’s mother was born in Ireland and her father in Ohio. However, I have not determined the names of her parents.

Note: Land records for 1871 and 1895 show that William Bowton owned land in Orion, Fulton County, Illinois.

Since the 1890 United States Federal Census is not available (much of it destroyed or badly damaged by fire, water and smoke), twenty years had lapsed before finding William (80) and Rebecca (72) on the 1900 census. This census confirms they had been married fifty-five years and had nine children. It states that only six of the children are still living. This means they had experienced one of life’s most difficult circumstances – the death of children. As best as I was able to determine, those who died before 1900 were Hugh, Albert and Cynthia. The 1900 census also asks questions about immigration to the United States. William says his year of immigration was 1828 and that he had been in the U.S. for 72 years.

William Bowton died on March 23, 1903 and was buried in the Brunswick Cemetery, Trivoli, Peoria County, Illinois. Here is a transcription of an obituary that appeared in the Glasford Gazette, Glasford, Illinois, April 3, 1903.

*The subject of this sketch was born in England August 2, 1819 and came with his parents to America when he was 12 years old.*

*They soon after moved on to a new farm in Miller Township, Dearborn County, Indiana, when the father died leaving a wife, four boys and one girl. William, then fourteen, being the oldest, was called upon to face the real battles of life in taking the lead in sharing the burden of the family.*

*He was married to Miss Rebecca Kirkpatrick, January 15, 1846. To this union 9 children were born, 3 girls and 6 boys, six of whom with the mother survive him.*

*In 1854 he came from Indiana to Illinois and settled in Fulton County on the farm where he lived ever since.*
Of the children John T. was born in Ohio, Hugh K., Mary E., Nancy E., Cynthia, Charles E., Albert and Andrew were born on the old homestead in Orion Township.

Many years of faithful toil had made for himself a comfortable home.

Mr. Bowton had been suffering with the grippe and crysiplas (?) but did not consider himself seriously ill. A physician was called just a week before the end came which was March 23, 1903. His age being 83 years, 5 months and 21 days.

Funeral services were held in Brunswick, Wednesday at 1 PM by Rev. Verlander. Buried in Brunswick Cemetery.

Mr. Bowton was held in high esteem by all who knew him as an honest, industrious, upright man and a loving husband and father.

Besides his widow he leaves 6 children, Mrs. Henry Echols of Glasford, Mrs. Mary Mohler of Orchard Township, Charles of Trivoli Twsp., and John of Sheldon, IL, besides a host of friends to mourn his loss.

Glasford Gazette, April 3, 1903

Note: Some of information given in this obituary differs from data found in my research.

Sometime following William’s death, Rebecca went to live with her son, Charles, his wife, Olive, and five year old daughter, Zelma. They were found on the 1910 United States Federal Census living on a farm in Trivoli, Peoria County, Illinois. Several of her children and their families lived in counties nearby, so I imagine she enjoyed their love and support during her late years.

Rebecca Bowton died on March 2, 1919 and was buried beside her husband in the Brunswick Cemetery, Trivoli, Peoria County, Illinois.

Sources


*Glasford Gazette*, Obituary for William Bowton, April 3, 1903.


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.
Chapter Three

William Teeter Croft

and

Alice Madora Caulk Croft

Includes Allen Monroe and Cansada Jones Caulk
William Teeter Croft

John Hipple and Elizabeth Teeter Croft can certainly be counted among the pioneer folk who traveled long distances to set up their homesteads in early settled territories. They moved their family across three states from Pennsylvania to Monroe County, Iowa sometime between 1847 and 1860. Their first three children were born in Pennsylvania and the last six children were born in Iowa.

When John and Elizabeth’s eighth child was born on April 26, 1858, they were living in Appanoose County, Iowa. They named him William Teeter. Note the use of his mother’s maiden name. This county borders both Monroe County and the state of Missouri. Frank Hickenlooper wrote poetically about the landscape of this prairie land.

In 1896 Frank Hickenlooper wrote *An Illustrated History of Monroe County Iowa* and his words set the scene for us.

*The old settlers whose faith in the future of Monroe County was unshaken by the midnight chorus of the wild wolves, the sting of the winter frost creeping through the “chinking” of the cabin walls, the sweep of the prairie fires, the depleted meal-chest, the stroke of the prairie rattlesnake, the pall of the “deep snow,” and the loneliness of the prairie cabin – husbands and wives, youths and maidens, whose brave, true hearts and willing hands defied the wilderness; and in after years made it to blossom as the rose, this volume is most sincerely dedicated....*
It will seem strange at this day that the beautiful prairies (the word "prairie" in French means "meadows") of Monroe County, growing in grass and studded with wild sweet Williams, asters, and golden rod, and a profusion of other flowers, should for several years remain untenanted by those who had come here to acquire homes.

Our southern neighbor, Appanoose County, with her wooded ridges and brushy pastures, may be said to define the physical limits or mark the boundaries, in a physical sense, of the North and South.

Note: William's death certificate gives Keokuk, Iowa as his place of birth. Since his father is listed in the Iowa, State Census Collection, 1836-1925, living in Appanoose County in 1856, I think the information on the death certificate may not be correct.

At the time of the 1860 United States Federal Census, William was 2 years old. The Croft family was living in Monroe County. Recorded on the census were John H. (41) Elizabeth (34) Mary A. (18) Margaret (15) Barbary (12) John (10) Caroline (7) Eli (5) and William (2). John H. recorded his occupation as “Gunsmith.” Other interesting bits of information were given on this census. Value of Real Estate - $400; Value of Personal Estate - $150; Occupation of daughter, Mary Ann – School Teacher; and Person over the age of 20 years of age who cannot read and write – Elizabeth.

Aside from the difficulties that the Croft’s faced in settling in new territories and providing for their family, it was a tumultuous time in the history of the United States.

As we know, the Civil War broke out in 1861 and lasted until 1865. Along with all people in that time and place, they must have been greatly impacted.

Iowa was the 29th state to join the union in 1846 and sided with the North in the Civil War. As a part of the Union, it played an important role by providing food, supplies, and troops for the troops. In the 1850’s, the Illinois Central and the Chicago and North Western Railway developed, and this meant Iowa’s fertile fields were linked with the Eastern supply depots during the Civil War. Manufacturers in eastern Iowa, as well as farmers, could get their products to the Union army.

Again I turn to Frank Hickenlooper to provide insight into this tragic time. Even though he wrote about Monroe County, the situation was much the same for all in the southern counties of Iowa.

On the breaking out of the Civil War, Monroe County, from her close proximity to the pro-slavery border, was one of those new counties upon which the evil stroke of war fell with a heavy hand. She was ill prepared at the time to make the great sacrifice, but the record of her soldier boys, and of her fathers, upon whose locks time had left its frost marks, shows that they not only took their lives in their own hands, but bowed to a still greater sacrifice, in leaving behind, in privation, their wives and little ones, to battle with hunger and possibly to suffer at the hands of guerrilla hordes from across the Missouri border.

William was only 3 years old when the Civil War began, but his father and older brothers may have been called on to serve in some capacity. I have not located military records for them at this time. Though it is only a supposition on my part, it is possible
Chapter Three - William Teeter Croft and Alice Mendora Caulk

that as a gunsmith, John Croft provided his services to the army in some way.

In 1870, John and Elizabeth Croft and their family were recorded on the United States Federal Census. Their name was misspelled, but this was not uncommon. We also discover that two more children had been born since that last census was taken. Listed are John Croff (53) Elizabeth (48) Caroline (14) Eli (12) William (11) Edward (8) and Isabel (6).

At some point in the next ten years, the Croft family headed to Nebraska. When the 1880 United States Federal Census was taken, they were living in Lone Tree, Clay County, Nebraska. The township's name certainly describes the landscape of this part of the United States. It was a sparsely populated prairie land in south central Nebraska, and a major industry was corn and wheat farming. The census records John and Elizabeth and their four youngest children – Eli (22), William (21), Edward (19) and Isabel (16). The enumerator recorded John’s occupation “Not at home” and the sons’ “Working on farm.” It was recorded that Elizabeth can neither read nor write.

Evidently, when John and Elizabeth migrated to Nebraska, four of their older children also moved. Evidence gleaned from census records show that Jacob and Margaret Croft Hager; Andrew and Barbara Croft Clark; John and Dora Croft; and Nathaniel and Caroline Croft Graham lived in Clay County.

A young woman named Alice Madora Caulk also lived in Clay County. Her parents were Allen Monroe and Cansada Caulk. Like the Crofts, they were a farming family. Sometime in the early 1880’s, she and William met. After a courtship, they married November 12, 1885.

There is not an 1890 Federal census available, but from family records, we know that William and Alice started their family in 1887. Their first child, Oscar Cameron, was born on June 19 in Fairfield, Nebraska. During the next thirteen years, Alice would give birth to six more children – Paul Harold, Vede Weaver, George Allen, Edna Ruth, Elmer Glenn, and Fred Dewey. Along with Oscar, all except Elmer, were recorded on the 1900 United States Federal Census. Shortly after the census was taken, their eighth child was born and named Frank Monroe. Elmer was the only child of these eight who died within his first year. We know that Croft family would continue to grow, so they were certainly on their way to becoming a dynasty!

By 1910, William and Alice Croft were parents of twelve living children. During the years since the last census, Floyd, Grace, Blanche, Hope, and Russell were added to the fold. All were recorded on the 1910 United States Federal Census. The five oldest sons ranging in ages 11 to 22 were assisting their father William on the family farm.

Having such a large family seems unbelievable to us today, but it was quite common in earlier times. There is family lore that William wanted to form a type of family commune with each son or son-in-law helping in a certain capacity on the farm. I have read the commune idea was often utilized in remote farming areas, so perhaps his idea was not unique. Not everyone had farming skills but could assist in other ways such as
carpentry or machinery repair. Cynthia Croft Wood is William’s great granddaughter and shared this family story passed along by her father Lloyd Ollie Croft.

Their dad (William Croft) never voted for a winning politician - always for the socialist candidate. Hence this was his desire to implement the communistic concept of "each contributing according to his ability and each taking according to his need". It was Oscar that decided that they "needed" an airplane to dust the crops. I recall Dad saying that the rest of the family wasn't consulted and this decision caused a rift within this "utopian" commune.

During the years between 1914 and 1918 all the world’s great powers were engaged in the First World War, sometimes called “The Great War.” In 1917 and 1918, all men between the ages of 18 and 45 were required to register for the draft. Several of William and Alice’s sons fell in that category, and their World War I Draft Registration Cards are provided on Ancestry.com. I have not checked other records for them, but I do not think any of them served in the military. Nevertheless, with America engaged in a world war, it must have affected their lives and the farming industry.

When the 1920 United States Federal Census was taken, William, Alice, and seven of their children were still living in Lone Tree Township. Fred D., Frank M., Floyd M., Grace X., Blanche M., Hafe (Hope) and Russel W. were listed with their parents. Several names and initials are incorrect, but as mentioned, this often occurred. The sons were working on the farm with their father.

History tells us that many folks began to experience hard times in Nebraska during the 1920’s. A reason is stated in this excerpt from an article entitled “Nebraska – History” found at www.city-data.com/states/Nebraska-Hist.html.

Tilling of marginal land to take advantage of farm prices that had been inflated during World War I caused economic distress during the 1920’s. Nebraska’s farm economy was already in peril when the dust storms of the 1930’s began.

It was quite likely that the farming Croft family was impacted by these circumstances. Family sources indicate that beginning in the latter part of the 1920’s and into the 1930’s, the large Croft family began to disperse with each family group moving in different directions. Some traveled northwest, others east, some to the southwest, and a few to Kansas. It is surmised that the reason for the dispersion was the combination of the terrible drought and the historical United States depression. We know that Nebraska was one of the states that felt the brunt of the Dust Bowl that occurred in the early 1930’s, so it is entirely possible the Crofts felt the early effects of it in their area. If that was the case, we can understand their need to seek “greener pastures.”

The 1930 United States Federal Census tells us that William and Alice were still living in Lone Tree Township, Nebraska. The household included only William, Alice, Russell and his wife, Mary. Some of the Croft children and their families were still living in the area but began leaving in 1930’s. Some traveled to Washington and others to Kansas, Oregon, Texas, and New York. Family stories indicate that it took them a while to reach their destinations. As we know, the nation was in the midst of the Great Depression.
When reading his obituary, I found it interesting that William taught school in Lone Tree for many years. It does not mention what grade he taught, but it is likely the school was small and a class may have included several grades.

Even though we have no records or written stories to guide our thinking, William and Alice must have endured some terrible experiences when Nebraska and other plains states were being besieged by the horrendous Dust Bowl. The description written by Dorothy Creigh gives us a glimpse of what people experienced.

*Some of the beginning of the Dust Bowl went back to the time of World War I, when marginal land was plowed to produce $2 wheat, for in years to come when the rains stopped, that land lay bare, despoiled, and eroded. But most of the origins of the Dust Bowl years came from the geological and climatically characteristics of the vast inland area bounded by the Gulf of Mexico on the south, the Rocky Mountains on the west, and what geographic barriers existed on the east and north. The land of high winds and sun, intense temperature extremes, and cyclical patterns of rainfall had known dust storms before; archeological excavations show that almost 500 years earlier, a heavy mantle of dust had driven off the semi-nomadic people who then populated the area. In the early 1930's, drought, heat, and high winds combined in such a way as to produce a similar dramatic natural catastrophe. Although the semi-arid region had known drought and heat before, when seeds could not germinate or develop, and had known wind for most of its existence, it was the coming together of several forces that created the incessant dust storms of the 1930's.*

William Teeter Croft lived with his wife Alice on their Nebraska farm through many very tough years. Their pioneer stock was tested mightily when the country went through war and depression and the land was crippled by drought and dust storms. If he had hopes for a large family farm commune, those hopes were not fully realized. Nevertheless, through the years, they were able to witness their children develop successful livelihoods. It is likely they were well acquainted with many of their grandchildren and great grandchildren which must have brought them great satisfaction and pride.

When the 1940 United States Federal Census was taken, William and Alice were retired and living on South Railroad Street in Port Isabel, Cameron County, Texas. Perhaps the cold Nebraska weather or ill health was the reason for their move to a warmer climate. Their oldest son, Oscar, and grandson, Lloyd, lived in San Antonio, so they had family for occasional visits.

On January 11, 1942, William and Alice were visiting family in San Antonio, Texas when he died at the age of 84. He was buried in San Antonio at the Mission Burial Park, South. William was survived by his wife of 57 years, Alice M. Caulk Croft, their twelve children and numerous grandchildren. Here is his obituary, transcribed from photocopy of a newspaper clipping by Mildred Croft (wife of Keith Croft, grandson of William Teeter Croft).

*Funeral services for William Teeter Croft, 84, of Fairfield were held in San Antonio, Texas, Wednesday, Jan. 14. Mr. Croft passed away Jan. 11, 1942, after a short illness in San Antonio at the home of his son, 1616 North Flores, where he had been for the last two months.*
Mr. Croft was born April 26, 1857, in South Central Iowa, coming to Clay County in 1872, where he homesteaded five miles northwest of Fairfield. Here, he spent the rest of his life, except for the last few years which he spent traveling and seeing the country.

He married Alice M. Caulk on October, 1885. To this union, thirteen children were born, twelve surviving him.

He taught school at Dist. 15, Lone Tree a number of years and [was] well thought of [as] a man during his life time.

Those surviving him are: his wife, Mrs. Alice M. Croft of San Antonio, Texas; daughters, Mrs. Ruth Durfee, of Washington, Kansas; Mrs. Grace Montgomery, of Prosser, Wash.; Mrs. Blanche Mumford of North Port, Nebr.; Mrs. Hope Thompson of North Platte, Nebr.; sons, O.C. Croft of San Antonio, Texas; C.H. Croft and Frank Croft, both of Los Angeles, Calif.; V.W. Croft and Fred Croft, both of Glen Aubrey, N.Y.; G.A. Croft of Kansas City, Mo.; Floyd Croft of Fairfield, Nebr.; and Russell Croft of Dallas, Texas; thirty-four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren; and a host of friends and other relatives.

Sources


Clay County, marriage license, Clay County Clerk’s Office, Clay Center, Nebraska.

Hickenlooper, Frank, “An Illustrated History of Monroe County, Iowa – 1896,” www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/historical/Monroe/Monroe_1htm


William Teeter Croft, death certificate no. 397, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.

Wood, Cynthia Croft, Personal Recollections of Croft Family, clebleuwood@gmail.com

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.
Croft Nebraska Farmers

Pictured are William Croft with six of his sons. Photo taken in 1920's on the Croft Nebraska farm.
Lone Tree, Nebraska Land Platte for W.T. Croft
(Land located is on left and center of platte.)
Chapter Three - William Teeter Croft and Alice Mendora Caulk

William T. Croft Grave Marker

William T. Croft's grave is located at Mission Park South, San Antonio, Texas. Block 8, Lot 119
Alice Madora Caulk Croft

Alice Madora Caulk’s life story began July 26, 1867 in Litchfield, Montgomery County, Illinois. Her parents, Allen Monroe and Cansada Caulk, had children from previous marriages, but Alice was their first child together. The country was still recovering from the Civil War; so undoubtedly, folks in this small farming community were continuing to put their lives back together.

The first record I found for Alice was on the 1870 United States Federal Census. Along with her parents, Allen and Canzada (misspelled name) are her step-brothers, Jasper and Joseph, younger brother, Albert, and Allen’s mother, Sarah. The family is living in Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Illinois.

During the following ten years, the Caulk family expanded “its ranks.” By 1880 the census shows they have five more children. The name on the census is mistakenly recorded as “Cork.” Listed are: A.M. Cork (48), Cansada (37), Joseph W. (16), Alice (13), Albert (11), Theodosia (9), Arthur (7), Rosette (4), Lillie (2) and Sarah (8m). The family resided in Seminary, Fayette County, Illinois, northwest of Montgomery County.
Sometime before 1885, Allen and Cansada left Illinois and moved west to Nebraska. He was located on the Nebraska State Census, 1885, in Lone Tree, Clay County. Lone Tree was a prairie town located in the south central part of the state. I do not know their reasons for the move with their large family, but it could not have been an easy journey. Following is a bit of information that lends some insight into the reasons people were drawn to Nebraska.

During the 1870s to the 1880s, Nebraska experienced a large growth in population. Several factors contributed to attracting new residents. The first was that the vast prairie land was perfect for cattle grazing. This helped settlers to learn the unfamiliar geography of the area. The second factor was the invention of several farming technologies. Agricultural inventions such as barbed wire, wind mills, and the steel plow, combined with good weather, enabled settlers to make use of Nebraska as prime farming land. By the 1880s, Nebraska's population had soared to more than 450,000 people. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska)

Shortly after arriving in Lone Tree, Alice met a young man by the name of William Teeter Croft, the son of John and Elizabeth Croft. They were a large family who were also farmers in the Lone Tree Township area. William and Alice courted and then married on November 12, 1885.

There is not an 1890 Federal census available, but from family records we know that William and Alice started their family in 1887. Their first child, Oscar Cameron, was born on June 19 in Fairfield, Nebraska. During the next thirteen years Alice would give birth to six more children – Paul Harold, Vede Weaver, George Allen, Edna Ruth, Elmer Glenn, and Fred Dewey. Along with Oscar, all except Elmer, were recorded on the 1900 United States Federal Census. Shortly after the census was taken, their eighth child was born and named Frank Monroe. Elmer was the only child of these eight who died within his first year. We know that Croft family would continue to grow, so they were certainly on their way to becoming a dynasty!

By 1910, William and Alice Croft were parents of twelve living children. During the years since the last census Floyd, Grace, Blanche, Hope, and Russell were added to the fold. All were recorded on the 1910 United States Federal Census. The five oldest sons ranging in ages 11 to 22 were assisting their father, William, on the family farm.

During the years between 1914 and 1918, all the world’s great powers were engaged in the First World War, sometimes called “The Great War.” In 1917 and 1918 all men between the ages of 18 and 45 were required to register for the draft. Several of William and Alice’s sons fell in that category and their World War I Draft Registration Cards are provided on Ancestry.com. I do not think any of them served in the military. Nevertheless, with America engaged in a world war it must have affected their lives and the farming industry.

When the 1920 United States Federal Census was taken William, Alice, and seven of their children were still living in Lone Tree Township. Fred D., Frank M., Floyd M., Grace X., Blanche M., Hafe (Hope) and Russel W. were listed with their parents.
Several names and initials are incorrect, but as mentioned, this often occurred. The sons were working on the farm with their father.

History tells us that many folks began to experience hard times in Nebraska during the 1920’s. A reason is stated in this excerpt from an article entitled “Nebraska – History” found at www.city-data.com/states/Nebraska-Hist.html.

Tilling of marginal land to take advantage of farm prices that had been inflated during World War I caused economic distress during the 1920’s. Nebraska’s farm economy was already in peril when the dust storms of the 1930’s began.

It was quite likely that the farming Croft family was impacted by these circumstances. Family sources indicate that beginning in the latter part of the 1920’s and into the 1930’s, the large Croft family began to disperse with each family group moving in different directions. Some traveled northwest, others east, some to the southwest, and a few to Kansas. It is surmised that the reason for the dispersion was the combination of the terrible drought and the historical United States depression. We know that Nebraska was one of the states that felt the brunt of the Dust Bowl that occurred in the early 1930’s, so it is entirely possible the Crofts felt the early effects of it in their area. If that was the case, we can understand their need to seek “greener pastures.”

The 1930 United States Federal Census tells us that William and Alice were still living in Lone Tree Township, Nebraska. The household included only William, Alice, Russell and his wife, Mary. Several of the Croft children and their families were still living in the area but began leaving in 1930’s. Some traveled to Washington and others to Kansas, Oregon, Texas, and New York. Family stories indicate it took a while from them to reach their destinations. As we know, the nation was in the midst of the Great Depression.

Even though we have no records or written stories to guide our thinking, William and Alice must have endured some terrible experiences when Nebraska and other plains states were being besieged by the horrendous Dust Bowl. The description written by Dorothy Creigh gives us a glimpse of what people experienced.

Some of the beginning of the Dust Bowl went back to the time of World War I, when marginal land was plowed to produce $2 wheat, for in years to come when the rains stopped, that land lay bare, despoiled, and eroded. But most of the origins of the Dust Bowl years came from the geological and climatically characteristics of the vast inland area bounded by the Gulf of Mexico on the south, the Rocky Mountains on the west, and what geographic barriers existed on the east and north. The land of high winds and sun, intense temperature extremes, and cyclical patterns of rainfall had known dust storms before; archeological excavations show that almost 500 years earlier, a heavy mantle of dust had driven off the semi-nomadic people who then populated the area. In the early 1930’s, drought, heat, and high winds combined in such a way as to produce a similar dramatic natural catastrophe. Although the semi-arid region had known drought and heat before, when seeds could not germinate or develop, and had known wind for most of its existence, it was the coming together of several forces that created the incessant dust storms of the 1930’s.
William Teeter and Alice Croft lived on their Nebraska farm through many very tough years. Their pioneer stock was tested mightily when the country went through war and depression and the land was crippled by drought and dust storms. As a mother myself, I cannot help but wonder how Alice endured the birthing of thirteen children; dealt with the grief of losing a child; and managed during the children’s growing up years! She must have been a woman of incredible strength.

Nevertheless, through the years William and Alice were able to witness their children develop successful livelihoods. It is likely they were well acquainted with many of their grandchildren and great grandchildren, so that must have brought them great satisfaction and pride.

When the 1940 United States Federal Census was taken, William and Alice were retired and living on South Railroad Street in Port Isabel, Cameron County, Texas. Perhaps the cold Nebraska weather or ill health was the reason for their move to a warmer climate. Their oldest son, Oscar, and grandson, Lloyd, lived in San Antonio, so they had family for occasional visits.

Alice lost her husband of 57 years on January 11, 1942. We do not know the circumstances, but they were in San Antonio, Texas when he died. Their oldest son, Oscar, lived there, so perhaps William and Alice were there for a visit. He was buried at the Mission Burial Park, South in San Antonio.

Following William’s death Alice moved to Kansas City, Missouri to be near her son George and his wife, Lena. She died on October 8, 1947 and was buried beside her husband in the Mission Burial Park, South in San Antonio.

Sources

Alice C. Croft, death certificate no. 34427, State Board of Health of Missouri. Kansas City, Missouri.


Clay County, marriage license, Clay County Clerk’s Office, Clay Center, Nebraska.


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.
Chapter Three - William Teeter Croft and Alice Mendora Caulk

Marriage Records for William T. Croft and Alice M. Caulk

William and Alice were married November 12, 1885 in Fairfield, Clay County, Nebraska.
Chapter Three - William Teeter Croft and Alice Madora Caulk

Croft Family Reunion

This photo was taken at the home of William and Alice Croft, Fairfield, Nebraska in 1935.

Pictured Left to Right Back Row: Unknown, Donna Durfee, Merle Durfee, Lena Croft, Opal Croft, Marie Croft, Ethel Croft, Keith Croft, Lloyd Croft, Isabel Croft, Gladdys Croft, Erma Croft, Alfred Montgomery, Fred Mumford, William Thompson, Unknown, Mary Ann Croft, Mary Croft, Unknown, Unknown. Middle Row: Doris Durfee, Helen Stelle-Ferguson, Edna Ruth Croft, George Croft Sr., Veda Croft, Paul Croft (holding Lois Croft), Oscar Croft, Alice Madora Croft, William Teeter Croft, Fred Croft (holding Betty Croft), Floyd Croft (holding Shirley and Thelma Croft) Grace Croft (holding Alton Montgomery), Blanche Croft (holding Darlene Mumford), Hope Croft (holding Muriel Thompson), Russel Croft, Lewis Croft, George Croft Jr. Front Row: (Unknown order) Duane Croft, Harold Croft, J.R. Croft, Mildred Croft, Edwin Thompson, Virgil Thompson, LaRhee Montgomery, Willis Dean Montgomery, Myron Montgomery.
Alice M. Croft Grave Marker

Alice died October 8, 1947 in Kansas City, Missouri. She was buried at Mission Park South, San Antonio, Texas, Block 8, Lot 119, Space 8.
Allen Monroe and Cansada Jones Caulk

Allen Monroe Caulk was born November 11, 1831 in Macoupin County, Illinois. He was the sixth child of James Patterson and Sarah Powers Caulk. This large pioneer family migrated from Tennessee to Illinois about 1829.

I first located Allen Monroe Caulk on a marriage record showing that he and Rachael Sackett wed on September 5, 1850 in Montgomery County, Illinois (adjacent to Macaupin County). A son, George Washington, was born October 13, 1835, but their marriage must have broken up after time. The 1860 United States Federal Census shows Allen living in the household of James Kykendoll and working as a farm laborer. Also, when he enlists in the Union army, July 25, 1861, he states he is single. I have found no divorce record.

As previously stated, Allen enlisted in the Union army July 25, 1861. He was in the 7th Regiment, Illinois Infantry, Company D and was ranked as private. He served three years and was discharged July 29, 1864 when his term of service had expired.

After his time in the military, Allen remained in Montgomery County, and during that time, he met a widow named Cansada Jones Cisco. She had been widowed twice, once in 1861, and again, in 1865. Her first husband was Samuel Stokes and her second was William Cisco. She had one son with each husband, Jasper Stokes and
Joseph Cisco. Allen and Cansada married on September 6, 1866.

Cansada Jones was born October 12, 1842 in Tennessee and was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Sneed Jones. Like the Caulk family, they migrated to Illinois, probably in the 1850’s.

When the 1870 United States Federal Census was taken, Allen and Cansada are living in Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Illinois. Along with Cansada’s two sons, Jasper and Joseph, they have two more children, Alice (5) and Albert (2). Allen’s mother, Sarah, was also living with them.

During the following ten years, the Caulk family expanded “its ranks.” By 1880 the census shows they have five more children. The name on the census is mistakenly recorded as “Cork.” Listed are: A.M. Cork (48), Cansada (37), Joseph W. (16), Alice (13), Albert (11), Theodosia (9), Arthur (7), Rosette (4), Lillie (2) and Sarah (8m). The family resided in Seminary, Fayette County, Illinois, northwest of Montgomery County.

Sometime before 1885, Allen and Cansada left Illinois and moved west to Nebraska. He was located on the Nebraska State Census, 1885, in Lone Tree, Clay County. Lone Tree was a prairie town located in the south central part of the state. I do not know their reasons for the move with their large family, but it could not have been an easy journey. Following is a bit of information that lends some insight into the reasons people were drawn to Nebraska.

_During the 1870s to the 1880s, Nebraska experienced a large growth in population. Several factors contributed to attracting new residents. The first was that the vast prairie land was perfect for cattle grazing. This helped settlers to learn the unfamiliar geography of the area. The second factor was the invention of several farming technologies. Agricultural inventions such as barbed wire, wind mills, and the steel plow, combined with good weather, enabled settlers to make use of Nebraska as prime farming land. By the 1880s, Nebraska’s population had soared to more than 450,000 people._

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska)

By 1900, Allen and Cansada’s household had greatly diminished. The census record shows they have only two children living with them, a son, Henry (19), and a daughter, Bertha (15). However, I think the ages are incorrectly recorded. Later census records for them give their birthdates as – Henry, 1881 and Bertha, 1884. Evidently, the ages on the 1900 census should be Henry, 9 and Bertha, 5. All of the older children had married and established homes of their own.

Note: On the 1900 census, Cansada gives information that she was mother of twelve children and only eleven were living. I was not able to determine who the twelfth child was or when he or she was born. There was an Edna Pearly Caulk, born November 23, 1886 in Fairfield, Nebraska and died October 20, 1895 in Benton County, Arkansas. Her grave marker in the Decatur, Arkansas Cemetery has the inscription which says she was the daughter of A.M. and C. Caulk. Could this be the unidentified daughter? If so, what was she doing in Arkansas?
Allen farmed for many years, but by 1910, he was retired, and he and Cansada lived in the town of Lone Tree. The 1910 United States Federal Census shows they were living in a house with two boarders, John and Jamas Bell, and a servant, Ena Jones. At this time, several of their children were also living in Clay County, so they had family to keep them company. Their daughter, Alice, and her husband, William, had thirteen children, so there were many grandchildren nearby.

Allen Monroe Caulk died on December 3, 1913 in Fairfield, Clay County, Nebraska. His death certificate gives the cause of death was acute bronchitis. He was survived by his wife of 47 years, Cansada, ten children and one stepson. Allen was buried in the Fairfield Cemetery.

Following Allen’s death, Cansada remained in Fairfield. The next year she married her fourth husband, a widower named Michael Sweeley. He also had a number of children; so undoubtedly, they enjoyed and shared their sixteen years of marriage surrounded by their large families. Cansada died December 24, 1930 in Fairfield, Clay County, Nebraska and was buried beside Allen Monroe Caulk.

Sources

Allen Monroe Caulk, death certificate no. 10509, Nebraska Health and Human Services System, Lincoln, Nebraska.


Montgomery County, marriage license, Montgomery County Clerk’s Office, Hillsboro, Illinois.


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.
Military Record for Allen M. Caulk

Allen Caulk was a private in the Union army from July 25, 1861 until his term of service expired July 29, 1864.
Marriage record for Allen M. Caulk and Cansada Jones Cisco.
September 6, 1866, Montgomery County, Illinois
Life on the Nebraska Plains

This photo was found among old family pictures and had no information written on back. The group may have included Allen, Cansada with children and grandchildren. It may have been taken near Lone Tree, Nebraska about 1900.
Allen and Cansada Caulk Grave Marker

Allen and Cansada were buried in the Fairfield Cemetery, Fairfield, Nebraska
Chapter Four

John Hipple Croft

and

Elizabeth Teeter Croft
John Hipple Croft and Elizabeth Teeter Croft

John Hipple Croft was born March 30, 1819 in Bedford County, Pennsylvania and was the fourth child of Daniel and Margaret Croft. Bedford County is located in the south central part of Pennsylvania, bordering the state of Maryland. Its lush farmland and woodlands made it a very attractive site for a farming family like the Crofts.

Though much research has been done, little documented information about Daniel and Margaret Croft has been uncovered. There are 1820 and 1830 census records for Woodbury, Bedford, Pennsylvania. One records a Daniel Kroft and the other a Daniel Croft. Census records before 1850 record only the head of household and age ranges for members of the family and this makes it difficult to determine if either of these men was “our” Daniel Croft.

From estate information for Margaret Croft, I found that Daniel and Margaret Croft had seven children – Ann, George, John, Jacob, Catherine, Elizabeth and Daniel. Further research on each of the children verified this information. All the children were born in Pennsylvania.

While living in Pennsylvania, John met his future wife, Elizabeth Teeter. She may have been the daughter of David and Mary Agley Teeter, also spelled Teater. I have not located an official marriage record for them, but later census records indicate they were married about 1840 in Pennsylvania, probably Bedford or Huntingdon County.
In my endeavor to uncover information about John and Elizabeth following their marriage, I wandered into lots of blind alleys! They would eventually end up in Nebraska, so I asked myself these questions – “When and why did they leave Pennsylvania? How long did it take for them to get there?” From census records, I found that their first two children, Mary Ann and Margaret were born in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania (1841 and 1845). Their third child, Barbara, was born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (1847). When John, Jr. was born in 1850, they were in Van Buren County, Iowa, so the move west had begun.

We pick up on the life of John Hipple Croft in 1856. He was living in Appanoose County, Iowa and was listed in the Iowa, State Census Collection, 1836-1925. From this record, we find he was 37 years old, was married and had lived in the state eight years.

Evidently, John, Elizabeth and their children were a part of a large migration from the east to the state of Iowa during the 1850’s. Excerpts from Iowa Journal of History & Politics provide a glimpse into this event and how it may have influenced John and Elizabeth’s decision to move there.

The decade beginning in 1850 was to witness a migrating tide which was to sweep over the waste places of the State and to inundate the valleys and hills with more than sufficient human energy to build up a Commonwealth of the first rank.

There were several things which encouraged migration during this period. Railroad lines had been completed to the Mississippi, and so the eastern border of Iowa was easily reached. It was during this decade also that the railroads began advertising western lands. Land speculators and land companies offered inducements which appeared most alluring to the land hungry men of the more densely populated areas farther east. Guides for emigrants were published in great quantities, and articles containing glowing accounts of the beauty, advantages, and fertility of the Iowa country appeared in hundreds of Eastern newspapers until the name ‘Iowa’ became a household word…

Immigration to Iowa is astonishing and unprecedented…For miles and miles, day after day, the prairies of Illinois are lined with cattle and wagons, pushing on toward this prosperous State. At a point beyond Peoria, during a single month, seventeen hundred and forty-three wagons had passed, and all for Iowa. Allowing five persons to a wagon, which is a fair average, would give 8715 souls to the population.

These people came into Iowa by the hundreds of thousands during the decade ending in 1860. The majority passed on through the settled area to the frontier; others moved into the intervening spaces between the older settlements; themselves joined the canvas-covered trains that were traveling toward the West.

When the 1860 United States Federal Census was taken, John and Elizabeth had moved to Monroe County, Iowa and had a family of seven children – Mary A. (18), Margaret (15), Barbary (12), John (10), Caroline (7), Eli (5) and William (2). John’s occupation was recorded as Gunsmith. Other things interesting to note: John owned real estate valued at $400; Elizabeth could not read or write; Mary Ann was a School Teacher; and Margaret was a Domestic Worker.
As we know, America was embroiled in the Civil War between 1861 and 1867. Undoubtedly, along with other folks in Monroe County, Iowa, the lives of John, Elizabeth and their children were affected by this conflict. Information from the US GenWeb Archives gives us insight into how this war impacted people living in this area.

_The outbreak of the Civil War did not disturb the settlement and prosperous growth of Monroe County, although many volunteers from the district served in the Union forces. Some were vigorous young farmers and mechanics; most of them were sons of the settlers who had been cultivating the region since the early 1840’s._

_In Monroe County, as in general throughout Iowa, popular sentiment upheld the Union and the North, but a few families were known to have sympathized with the southern cause. No conflicts or hostile incidents have been recorded, however, possibly because the men who were of military age are said to have ‘skipped to the far west’ to avoid the draft. The quota of volunteers requested from the State of Iowa was listed at 49,405, of which Monroe County’s share was 617._

In 1870, John and Elizabeth still lived in Monroe County and were recorded on the United States Federal Census as “Croft.” They had two more children, Edward (8) and Isabel (6). The older children, Mary, Margaret, Barbara and John, were no longer living in this household. Because the digital quality of this census reproduction was very poor, I could not read what occupation was recorded for John.

After living in Iowa over twenty years, John and Elizabeth made the decision to move to Nebraska in the mid 1870’s. They settled in Lone Tree, Clay County. The township’s name certainly describes the landscape of this part of the United States. At the time, it was a sparsely populated prairie land in south central Nebraska, and a major industry was corn and wheat farming. John, Elizabeth and their children, Eli (22), William (21), Edward (19) and Isabel (16) are listed in the 1880 United States Federal Census. A biographical sketch of John published a history of Clay County indicates that he was engaged in farming.

John and Elizabeth, along with five of their children, would live out their days in Clay County, Nebraska. I found two different written accounts that shed light on the man, John H. Croft. LaRhee Montgomery Lewis, great-granddaughter of John, wrote a family history which included this bit of information shared by her mother, Grace Croft Montgomery.

_The reason my grandfather (William Teeter Croft) did not have an education was because of the alcoholism of his father. My great-grandfather’s name was John Henry (incorrect) Croft, and my great-grandmother’s name was Elisabeth Teeter Croft. My mother (Grace Irene Croft) often told us the stories her father used to tell. My great-grandfather would come home drunk. If the table was set ready to eat, he would upset the table. My great-grandmother used to say to my grandfather and his brothers, ‘Well, boys, see what alcohol does.’_  

_Because of his childhood experiences, my grandfather was very intolerant of alcohol. He passed the feeling down to his children, and my mother was also very intolerant of alcohol. I admit, my mother had an influence upon me, also._
The biographical sketch included in the *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Adams, Clay, Webster and Nuckolls Counties, Nebraska* gives this account of John H. Croft:

> He has always identified himself with all feasible enterprises, and has contributed liberally of his means in their support. Although formerly a Whig in his political views, he has been a Republican since the organization of the party, and his first presidential vote was cast for William Henry Harrison. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church, and their union has been blessed in the birth of nine children.

Though very different accounts, they offer us both the private and the public persona of John Hipple Croft.

After over fifty years of marriage, John’s wife, Elizabeth, died on November 2, 1890. Fortunately, he had many family members living in the area to lend support and comfort. Since 1890 census records are not available, we have no information about him and whether he continued to live on his farm.

I discovered that John remarried on March 6, 1892, to a widow named Rebecca A. Scott Rush in Thomas County, Nebraska. Their time together was cut very short when John died on August 19 of the same year. He was buried next to his wife, Elizabeth, in the Clay Center Cemetery, Clay County, Nebraska.

**Sources**


Biographical and historical memoirs of Adams, Clay, Webster and Nuckolls counties, Nebraska, Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.


“History, Monroe County.” [http://files.usgwarchives.net/ia/monroe/history/monroewpa.txt](http://files.usgwarchives.net/ia/monroe/history/monroewpa.txt)

Lewis, LaRhee Montgomery, “LeRhee’s Legacy.”

John H. Croft

Photo may have been taken in the 1880’s.
John H. and Elizabeth Croft Grave Marker

John and Elizabeth Croft are buried in the Clay Center Cemetery, Fairfield, Nebraska
Chapter Five

Simple Ahnentafel Report

for

Lloyd Ollie Croft
Ancestors of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

Generation 1

1. **Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft**[^1, ^2] was born on 09 Feb 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA[^3, ^4, ^5]. He was the son of 2. Oscar Cameron Croft and 3. Ethel Mae Mohler. He died on 05 Jan 1987 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[^6, ^7, ^8]. He married Gertrude Kathlena Koenning on 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA[^9, ^10], daughter of Adolph Henry Koenning and Marie "Mary" Kram. She was born on 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA[^11, ^12, ^13, ^14]. She died on 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[^15, ^16]. He married Helen Mary Bippert on 17 Apr 1978 in Richardson, Dallas, Texas, USA, daughter of Max Henry Bippert and Mary Elizabeth Franger. She was born on 03 Jan 1910 in Castroville, Medina, Texas, USA. She died on 15 Feb 2005 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA.

Generation 2

2. **Oscar Cameron Croft**[^16] was born on 19 Jun 1887 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA[^17]. He was the son of 4. William Teeter Croft and 5. Alice Madora Caulk. He died on 19 Apr 1952 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[^18, ^19, ^20]. He married Ethel Mae Mohler on 05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA[^21].


Children of Oscar Cameron Croft and Ethel Mae Mohler are:

+ 1. i. Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft was born 09 Feb 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA[^3, ^4, ^5], died 05 Jan 1987 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[^6, ^7, ^8], married Gertrude Kathlena Koenning on 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA[^9, ^10]; married Helen Mary Bippert on 17 Apr 1978 in Richardson, Dallas, Texas, USA.

     ii. Keith Lyle Croft was born 15 Nov 1920 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 22 Dec 1997 in Houston, Harris Co, TX, married Mildred Margaret Shields 10 Aug 1941 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA.

Generation 3

4. **William Teeter Croft**[^28, ^29, ^30] was born on 26 Apr 1857 in Unionville, Appanoose, Iowa, USA[^31, ^32, ^33, ^34, ^35, ^36]. He was the son of 8. John Hipple Croft and 9. Elizabeth Teeter. He died on 11 Jan 1942 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[^37, ^38]. He married Alice Madora Caulk on 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA[^39].

5. **Alice Madora Caulk** was born 26 Jul 1867 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA[^40, ^41, ^42, ^43], died 08 Oct 1947 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA[^44, ^45], married 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA[^39]. She was the daughter of 10. Allen Monroe Caulk and 11. Cansada Jones.

Children of William Teeter Croft and Alice Madora Caulk are:

+ 2. i. Oscar Cameron Croft was born 19 Jun 1887 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA[^17], died 19 Apr 1952 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[^18, ^19, ^20], married Ethel Mae Mohler 05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA[^21].

     ii. Paul Harold Croft was born 20 Jun 1890 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 08 Mar 1971 in Tacoma, Washington, USA, married Marie L. Lewis on 01 Jan 1913.

Generation 3 (con't)

iv. George Allen Croft was born 20 Mar 1894 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 21 Apr 1979 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA, married Lena Esther Houston 15 Mar 1916.

v. Edna Ruth Croft was born 27 Oct 1895 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 29 Dec 1985 in Washington, Kansas, USA, married Merle Durfee 22 Sep 1915.

vi. Elmer Glenn Croft was born 11 Mar 1897 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 1897 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA.

vii. Fred Dewey "Fritz or Doc" Croft was born 27 Jul 1898 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 14 Nov 1988 in Glen Aubrey, Broome, New York, USA, married Isabel Roth 19 Aug 1925.

viii. Frank Monroe Croft was born 21 Oct 1900 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 16 Mar 1952 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA, married Gladys Scott Bef. 1926.

ix. Floyd Ward Croft was born 02 Jan 1903 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 07 Jan 1963 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA, married Erma Woolen Bef. 1929.

x. Grace Irene Croft was born 02 Jun 1904 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 19 Sep 1990 in Prosser, Benton, Washington, USA, married Alfred Montgomery 11 Jun 1924 in Julesburg, California, USA; married Francis Kelly Oct 1972.

xi. Blanche Marie Croft was born 17 Mar 1906 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 2000 in Longmont, Boulder, Colorado, USA, married Fred Mumford 02 Jun 1928.

xii. Hope Cansada Croft was born 20 Mar 1907 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 03 Nov 1996 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA, married William Edwin Thompson 16 Apr 1927.

xiii. Russell William Croft was born 11 Dec 1908 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 31 Jan 1980 in Arlington, Dallas Co., TX, married Mary Ann Ross 20 Feb 1930.


7. Mary Emma Bowton was born 23 May 1857 in Glasford-Orion Twshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois, USA[56, 57, 58, 59], died 12 May 1945 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA[60, 61], married 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA[54, 55]. She was the daughter of 14. William Bowton and 15. Rebecca Kirkpatrick.

Children of Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler and Mary Emma Bowton are:

i. Floa Rebecca Mohler was born 11 Jan 1877 in Illinois, USA, died 28 Dec 1955 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA, married J.P. Lautenschlager 05 Sep 1894 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA.

ii. Lora "L.E." Ellsworth Mohler was born 11 Oct 1879 in Farmington, Fulton, Illinois, USA, died 24 Sep 1966 in Eddyville, Dawson, Nebraska, USA, married Mary Frances Woodruff 14 Aug 1907.

iii. Charles Ira Mohler was born 31 Mar 1881 in Farmington, Fulton, Illinois, USA, died 03 Dec 1956 in Barstow, Fresno, California, USA, married Laurenta "Lottie" Herman 26 Jun 1907.
Ancestors of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

Generation 3 (con't)

iv. William B. "Will" Mohler was born 05 Jan 1885 in Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois, USA, died 24 May 1941 in York, Nebraska, USA, married Edith Estelle Holm 14 Aug 1908.

v. Lena Marie Mohler was born 18 Oct 1888 in Illinois, USA, died Jul 1978 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA, married Lee Gilbert 07 Jun 1911.

+ 3. vi. Ethel Mae Mohler was born 10 Aug 1891 in Orion Twp. Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois, USA, died 30 Jun 1989 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA, married Oscar Cameron Croft 05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA.

vii. Dara S. Mohler was born 15 Jan 1896 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA, died 15 Jun 1935 in Sun City West, Maricopa, Arizona, USA.

viii. David M. Mohler was born 15 Jan 1896 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA, died 26 Jul 1935 in York, Nebraska, USA, married Jessie Melton 1917 in York, Nebraska, USA.

ix. Ewart G. Mohler was born 13 Jun 1899 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA, died Jun 1965 in Lincoln, Lancaster, Nebraska, USA, married Stella McCraig 23 Aug 1921 in Lincoln, Johnson, Nebraska, USA.

Generation 4


9. Elizabeth Teeter was born 18 Apr 1824 in Buffalo Mills, Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA, died 02 Nov 1890 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, married 20 Nov 1840 in Martainsburg, Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA. She was the daughter of 18. David Teeter and 19. Mary Agley.

Children of John Hipple Croft and Elizabeth Teeter are:

i. Mary Ann Croft was born 24 Nov 1841 in Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA, died 18 Apr 1909 in Union Twp., Appanoose, Iowa, USA, married Solomon Lyndon Coltrain 06 Aug 1861 in Appanoose, Iowa, USA.

ii. Margaret "Peg" Croft was born 21 Mar 1845 in Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA, died 12 Aug 1934 in Clay Center, Clay, Nebraska, USA, married Jacob W. Hager 17 Mar 1861.

iii. Barbara "Barb" Ellen Croft was born 02 Apr 1847 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, USA, died 1928 in Clay Center, Nebraska, USA, married Andrew Jackson Clark Bef. 1865.

iv. John Hipple Croft was born 16 Mar 1850 in Van Buren, Iowa, USA, married Isadora "Dora" Francis Masterson 14 May 1868.

v. Caroline "Carrie" Minerva Croft was born 26 Mar 1853 in Morovia, Appanoose, Iowa, USA, died 17 Feb 1930 in Clay, Nebraska, USA, married Nathaniel Graham 21 Nov 1875.

vi. Eli Croft was born 1855 in Iowa, USA, died Aft. 1940, married Emma Robar Abt. 1897.

+ 4. vii. William Teeter Croft was born 26 Apr 1857 in Unionville, Appanoose, Iowa, USA, died 11 Jan 1942 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA, married Alice Madora Caulk 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA.
Ancestors of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

Generation 4 (con't)

viii. Edward Croft was born 1861 in Iowa, USA, married Emily Hager Bef. 1886.

ix. Isabel "Belle" Croft was born 1863 in Appanoose, Iowa, USA, died 1953 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA, married John Squires Kirkpatrick 08 Dec 1881 in Clay, Nebraska, USA.

10. Allen Monroe Caulk was born on 11 Nov 1831 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA, He was the son of 20. James Patterson Caulk and 21. Sarah Powers. He died on 03 Dec 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA. He married Cansada Jones on 06 Sep 1866 in Montgomery, Illinois, USA.

11. Cansada Jones was born 26 Oct 1842 in Jackson, Tennessee, USA, died 24 Dec 1930 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, married 06 Sep 1866 in Montgomery, Illinois, USA. She was the daughter of 22. Joseph Jones and 23. Elizabeth Sneed.

Children of Allen Monroe Caulk and Cansada Jones are:

+ 5. i. Alice Madora Caulk was born 26 Jul 1867 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA, died 08 Oct 1947 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA, married William Teeter Croft 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA.

ii. John Albert Caulk was born 18 Apr 1869 in Lone Tree, Illinois, USA, died Jan 1936 in Hennessey, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, USA, married Effie Trussell Abt. 1891.

iii. Theodoisa Abigail Caulk was born 18 Feb 1871 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA, died 15 Mar 1947 in Grainfield, Gove, Kansas, USA, married Frank William Embree Bef. 1888.

iv. Arthur Monroe Caulk was born 04 Apr 1873 in Mulberry Gove, Bond, Illinois, USA, died 24 Dec 1940 in Lawrence, Douglas, Kansas, USA, married Myrtle Thompson 06 Dec 1894 in Benton, Arkansas, USA.

v. Telitha Rosa "Rosetta" Caulk was born 10 Sep 1875 in Fayette, Illinois, USA, died 18 Sep 1959 in Lander, Fremont, Wyoming, USA, married Frank Clark 11 Mar 1895 in Clay, Nebraska, USA.

vi. Lillie Elizabeth Caulk was born 16 Dec 1877 in Mulberry Gove, Bond, Illinois, USA, died 09 Dec 1959 in Fall River, Greenwood, Kansas, USA, married Franklin Luther Grites 1898.

vii. Sarah Susanna Caulk was born 19 Oct 1879 in Illinois, USA, died 14 Jul 1962 in Imperial, Chase, Nebraska, USA.

viii. Henry Chester Caulk was born 11 Feb 1881 in Illinois, USA, died 13 Dec 1963 in Pleasant Hill, Cass, Missouri, USA, married Isabel "Belle" Unknown Bef. 1910 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA.

ix. Bertha Lavinia Caulk was born 16 Apr 1885 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 28 Apr 1968 in San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA.

Children of Allen Monroe Caulk and Rachel Sackett are:

i. George Washington Caulk was born 13 Oct 1855 in Nokomis, Montgomery, Illinois, USA, died 04 Dec 1935.

ii. Jasper Caulk was born Abt. 1860 in Illinois, USA.
iii. Joseph Caulk was born Abt. 1862 in Illinois, USA.


Children of John Adam Mohler and Lydia Ann Shambaugh are:

i. Julia Ann Mohler was born 11 Mar 1836 in Ohio, USA, died 25 Dec 1869 in Trivoli, Peoria, Illinois, USA, married Obediah Rusk 05 Jan 1858.

ii. Levi Mohler was born 05 Jun 1837 in Ohio, USA, died 14 Jun 1909 in Kankakee, Illinois, USA[82]; married Martha J Bevins 26 Jan 1858.

iii. Phebe Mohler was born 30 Sep 1838 in 14 May Greensboro, Summit, Ohio, USA, died 14 May 1931 in Kaw, Jefferson, Kansas, USA, married John Thomas Ritchey 06 Oct 1858 in Hanover, Warren, Illinois.

iv. William Henry Mohler was born 07 Jul 1840 in Ohio, USA, died Aft. 1920.

v. George Washington Mohler was born 23 Apr 1842 in Ohio, USA.

vi. Catherine Clara Mohler was born 26 Feb 1844 in Londonville, Hanover Twsp., Ashland, Ohio, USA, died 18 Jun 1901 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA, married James B. Clements 09 Oct 1864 in Warren, Illinois, USA.

vii. Jeremiah L. Mohler was born 08 Jan 1846 in Mansfield, Ohio, USA, died 08 Nov 1918 in Red Oak, Montgomery, Iowa, USA, married Amanda Unknown Bef. 1870.

viii. Mary Ann Mohler was born 1847 in Richland, Ohio, USA, died 11 Sep 1873.

ix. John Wesley Mohler was born 06 Jul 1849 in Hanover Twsp. Ashland, Ohio, USA, died 30 Mar 1929 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, USA, married Mary Katherine Seaton 14 Sep 1876 in Cuba, Lake, Illinois, USA.

+ 6. x. Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler was born 14 Apr 1851 in Hanover Twsp. Janesville, Ashland, Ohio, USA[47, 48, 49, 50, 51], died 28 Dec 1937 in York, Nebraska, USA[52, 53], married Mary Emma Bowton 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA[54, 55].

xi. Franklin "Frank" Pierce Mohler was born 1852 in Hanover Twsp. Ashland, Ohio, USA, died 1923 in Des Moines, Polk, Iowa, USA, married Parrish Eva Estella 12 Jun 1879 in Polk, Iowa, USA.

xii. Isaac Newton Mohler was born 17 Sep 1854 in Spring Grove Twsp., Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA.

xiii. Martin Luther Mohler was born 1857 in Spring Grove Twsp., Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA, died 23 Sep 1857 in Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA.
Ancestry of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

Generation 4 (con't)

xiv. Oliver Cromwell Mohler was born Dec 1859 in Illinois, USA, died 1951 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA, married Ida May Confer Bef. 1898.

Children of John Adam Mohler and Ida Jane Bellis are:

i. Sallie or Sadie Mohler was born 1867 in Illinois, USA.

ii. Alexander Hamilton Mohler was born 1869, died 1915 in Chico, Butte, California, USA.

iii. Ida May Bell Mohler was born 22 Aug 1874 in Trivoli, Peoria, Illinois, USA, died 22 Sep 1964 in Hamilton, Hancock, Illinois, USA.

iv. Charles Edwin Mohler was born 16 Oct 1876 in Illinois, USA, died 18 Feb 1970 in Carmel, Monterey, California, USA.

14. William Bowton was born on 02 Aug 1819 in Maldon, Essex, England[83, 84, 85]. He was the son of 28. Mark Bowton and 29. Mary Nash. He died on 23 Mar 1903 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA[86]. He married Rebecca Kirkpatrick on 15 Jan 1846 in Indiana or Ohio USA.

15. Rebecca Kirkpatrick was born 03 May 1828 in Ohio, USA[87, 88, 89], died 02 Mar 1919 in Fulton, Illinois, USA[90], married 15 Jan 1846 in Indiana or Ohio USA. She was the daughter of 30. Hugh Kirkpatrick and 31. Nancy Baird.

Children of William Bowton and Rebecca Kirkpatrick are:

i. William Henry Bowton was born 02 Jul 1847 in Indiana, USA, died 07 Dec 1921 in Canton, Fulton, Illinois, USA.

ii. John T. Bowton was born Abt. 1852 in Ohio, USA, died 1924 in Sheldon, Iroquois, Illinois, USA, married Josephine Kelley 1876.

iii. Hugh Bowton was born Abt. 1855 in Illinois, USA.

+ 7. iv. Mary Emma Bowton was born 23 May 1857 in Glasford-Onion Twpshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois, USA[56, 57, 58, 59], died 12 May 1945 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA[60, 61], married Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA[54, 55].

v. Nancy Bowton was born 1861 in Illinois, USA, died 12 Dec 1943 in Decatur, Macon, Illinois.


vii. Cynthia E. Bowton was born Abt. 1868.

viii. Albert Bowton was born 1868 in Illinois, USA.

ix. Andrew Bowton was born 1870 in Illinois, USA, died 1924, married Margret "Maggie" Mills Bef. 1898.

Sources

1 Lloyd Ollie Croft birth certificate no. 2940, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Llcoln, Nebraska.

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 120
### Sources (con't)

3. Lloyd Ollie Croft birth certificate no. 2940, Nebraska Health & Human Services System, Lincoln, Nebraska.


7. Lloyd O. and Gertude Croft, grave marker (photo), Mission Burial Park Mausoleum, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.


10. Guadalupe County, Texas, marriage record, Guadalupe County Clerk's Office, Seguin, Texas.


21. York County, marriage certificate no.11499, County Clerk's Office, York, Nebraska.


### Sources (con't)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Repository</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William T. Croft, death certificate no. 397, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William T. Croft, grave marker (photo), Mission Burial Park South, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay County, marriage record, bk. 3, p. 34, Clay County Clerk's Office, Clay, Nebraska.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Croft, death certificate no. 34427, State Board of Health of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Croft, grave marker, Mission Burial Park South, San Antonio, Texas.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas J. Mohler, grave marker (photo), Greenwood Cemetery, York County, Nebraska.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas J. Mohler, death certificate no. 112847, State of Nebraska, Department of Health, Lincoln, Nebraska.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Emma Mohler, grave marker (photo), Greenwood Cemetery, York, Nebraska.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Emma Mohler, death certificate no. R4217, State of Nebraska, Department of Health, Lincoln, Nebraska.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


81  Richland County, marriage record for John A. Mohler and Lydia Shambaugh, Richland County Clerk's Office, Richland, Ohio.


PART TWO

GERTRUDE KATHLENA KEONNING

FAMILY HISTORY
Gertrude's Ancestors Come to America

Map by Joyce Taylor Barton, 2015.
Ancestry of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

The great grandparents and grandparents of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning were German immigrants. Both Joachim and Helene Wemken Koenning emigrated from Germany with their families, the Koenning's in 1873 and the Wemken's in 1870. Joseph, Anna Kluch Kram and children arrived in the United States in 1888.

As a novice family researcher, I realized early on I would need assistance researching their German ancestry. In 2007, I engaged the services of Suzanne Bettac, a professional genealogist and specialist in the German ancestry research. With the assistance of Suzanne Bettac, other family researchers and my own delving, I have documented four generations of Gertrude’s ancestry. There are certainly areas that need further study, but this book is my “report” on work accomplished, as of 2015.

Using christening records for Joachim, William and Caroline, as well as the naturalization records of two of their sons, John and William, we determined that Johann and Dorothea Könning/Koening lived in Brandenburg, Germany. Though we have no immigration record, it is believed they departed Germany with their three children from the Port of Bremen and arrived in the Port of Galveston, Texas in 1873. Some family members think they may have arrived at Indianola, Texas.

Note: Due to the hurricane of 1900, there are no passenger lists for the Port of Galveston before 1892. The same is true of Indianola. The town was never rebuilt following a hurricane in August 1886.

Alerd and Caroline Wilhelmine Wemken immigrated to America with their five children on the SS New York, leaving from the port of Bremen and arriving at the port of New Orleans, Louisiana on February 12, 1870.

Joseph and Anna Margaretha Klüch Kram departed from the Port of Bremen and arrived in the Port of New York, August 24, 1888. By 1900, they were living in Lavaca County, Texas.

The focus of this book is Lloyd and Gertrude Koenning Croft; Adolph and Mary Kram Koenning; Joachim “Joe” and Helene Wemken Koenning; and John F. and Dorothea Berger Koenning.

Other surnames include: Berger, Kluch/Kluck, Kram, Stratmann and Wemken.

Variations in the spelling of Koenning include Kenning, Koenig, Koening, Könning and Könning. The meaning of the name is probably a respelling of Dutch Koening, either from koning ‘king’ or a derivative of Koen, or of German Könning.

(www.ancestry.com/name-origin?surnames=koenning)
Chapter One

Gertrude Kathlena Koenning
Chapter One - Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Pedigree Chart for Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Joachim "Joe" Koenning
b: 17 Sep 1857 in Brandenburg, Germany
m: 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
d: 01 Oct 1938 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA

Adolph Henry Koenning
b: 03 Oct 1882 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
m: 15 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
d: 28 Nov 1948 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA

Helene Catherine Margaretha Wemken
b: 27 Apr 1881 in Birbeck, Oldenburg, Germany
d: 30 Sep 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA

Johann "John" Friedrich Koenning or Koenning
b: 12 May 1817 in Germany or Prussia
m: 05 Jun 1834 in Tuchen, Rockenulin, Ostprignitz, Brandenburg, Germany

Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Borgen
b: 10 Nov 1821 in Prussia
d: 07 Aug 1892 in Gasado, Jackson, Texas, USA

Alfred or Albert Hausmann Wemken
b: 10 Sep 1826 in Birbeck
m: 25 Jun 1855 in Wiefelslede...
d: 10 Dec 1897 in Lavaca...

Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann
b: 14 Feb 1829 in Elshain, Niedersachsen, Germany
d: 14 Dec 1912 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA

Gertrude Kathlena Koenning
b: 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
m: 03 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA
d: 03 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA

Joseph "Joe" Kram
b: 12 Mar 1854 in Ebersberg, Hesse, Germany
m: Bef. 1880 in Germany
d: 06 Mar 1928 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA

Marie "Mary" Kram
b: 01 Sep 1885 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany
d: 30 Apr 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA

Name:

b:
m:
d:

Name:

b:
m:
d:

Anna Margaretha Kluch or Kluck
b: 13 Jan 1868 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany
d: 06 Dec 1921 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA

Name:

b:
m:
d:

Page 130

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 130
Gertrude Kathlena Koenning's story begins August 17, 1913 in the little town of Shiner, Texas, located in Lavaca County. Both of her parents, Adolph Henry and Marie “Mary” Kram Koenning, were of German ancestry. Gertrude or “Gertie” was their second child,
born about one year after her brother Victor. After the little burg of Shiner got its start in 1887, it soon became the home of many German and Czech immigrants with farming and ranching the primary industries. Of course, today it is well known for Shiner Bock Beer produced by the K. Spoetzl Brewery.

The Koenning family stayed in Shiner for about 7 more years. During that time they had their third child, Melvin, on September 30, 1915. As a boy, Adolph helped on his father’s farm, but evidently he did not continue in farming. On his World War I Draft Registration Card, he gives his occupation as “Merchant.” This is only a supposition, but perhaps he felt he could not provide for his wife and three small children by working as a farm laborer.

When the 1920 United States Federal Census was taken, the Koenning family lived in the town of Taylor in Williamson County. They resided in a rental home and Adolph recorded his occupation “Auto agent.” History tells us that the years following World War I were difficult for many people in America. We do not know why Adolph and Mary chose to move to this area, but more than likely, it was because that is where he found work.

As an adult Gertie shared memories of her youth with her children, L.K. and Cynthia, and many of these memories were about the dire circumstances in which her family lived during the 1920’s. She spoke of how her family “picked up stakes” and moved to California. We know from family data that Gertie’s maternal grandparents, Joe and Margaretha Kram, and eight of their children, moved there before 1920. It is likely that having family out west drew them in that direction. More than anything else, I think it was the hope for better employment opportunities.

Unfortunately, life did not get much better in California for the Koenning family. It became even more difficult and sad with the death of Gertie’s mother, Mary, on April 30, 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus County, California. This had a terrible impact on Adolph, Vick, Gertie, and Mel. Here are some of Gertie’s recollections of that time and shared by her daughter, Cynthia.

Mom's mom (Mary) died of uterine cancer when Mother was only 15. Little granddad (Adolph) was a carpenter who hauled the 3 kids from California to Texas and back to California again several times. Mother did all the cooking and house work. Once she was old enough, she canned spinach in a California factory. She would never eat canned spinach after that!

By 1930, Adolph (46), Gertie (17), and Mel (14) were living in New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas. According to the 1930 United States Federal Census they resided in a rental house on East San Antonio Street. Adolph’s occupation was given as “salesman” in retail industry, general merchandise.

Evidently they did not live in New Braunfels for any length of time. Gertrude enrolled in Thomas Jefferson High School in May 1930. This high school is located in San Antonio, Texas. Her high school transcript shows they received her records from schools in both Modesto, California and New Braunfels, Texas. The transcript also gave her address as
1924 Magnolia Street, San Antonio and her father’s occupation as “coffee salesman.” Gertie graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School on June 1, 1933. Gertie’s daughter, Cynthia, shared this anecdote about her mother during this time.

During the depression, when she was a student at Jefferson, she was elected cheerleader but had to bow out because they couldn’t afford the uniform. She was a real looker – nick-named “Venus” by one of her boyfriends.

Speaking of boyfriends – it was at Thomas Jefferson High School that she met a very special boy named Lloyd Croft. They began dating, and as the saying goes, “the rest is history.” During the next few years the relationship gradually grew more serious. A year after Gertie graduated from Jefferson High School, they married. The ceremony took place on February 9, 1934 at the Austin Street Methodist Church in Seguin, Texas with the Reverend L.J. Rode officiating.

Both Lloyd and Gertie grew up in quite modest homes, so having to eke out a living those first few years of married life was not new to either of them. Gertie’s brother, Mel Koenning, was a photographer with the San Antonio Light newspaper and helped Lloyd get a paper route. For several years he delivered newspapers to residential customers. Gertie worked as a clerk at Woolworth’s. Those were meager times, indeed.

Nevertheless, Lloyd and Gertie had many joy-filled times, too. One very happy occasion was the birth of their son, Lloyd Koenning, on February 12, 1935. They decided to call him by his initials – “L.K.” One time Lloyd told L.K. that his birth was their first wedding anniversary gift!

In 1937 Lloyd embarked on a new venture, and though he did not know it at the time, his life and fortune were about to change. He and his parents, O.C. and Ethel Croft, founded the Croft Trailer Company at 1423 North Flores Street in San Antonio. Through the next years, the company became quite successful and eased the family’s financial stress.

Just as the San Antonio business developed and expanded, Lloyd and Gertie’s family life also blossomed and changed. To their delight, Lloyd and Gertie’s became parents again when their daughter Cynthia Elaine was born on October 17, 1940.

During the next years, much of Lloyd’s time and energies were consumed by his business while Gertie tended to their home and the needs and interests of L.K. and Cynthia. Normally as children grow and mature, there is an increased involvement in school, church, and community activities, and that was certainly true for the Crofts. Both Lloyd and Gertie did their part in assuring that L.K. and Cynthia lived a full life in a healthy and wholesome home environment.

In her autobiography Lucy Ann Nance Croft wrote about her mother-in-law and the impact she made on her life.

I have known few people who had as captivating a smile as Mother. Of all her endearing qualities, her smile revealed her scintillating personality and inner-loveliness. She was a
loving and lovable woman.

When I joined the Croft family, I immediately felt Mother’s warmth and charm. As a new daughter-in-law, I found it comforting to be so well accepted. For the most part this was because of Mother. Also, I knew that L.K. and his mother had an unusually close mother-son relationship, and for many this might have presented problems. I can honestly say that this was never a threat to me.

Another astounding aspect of Mother’s personality was her openness and honesty. I had come from a reserved family, and sharing feelings was (and still is) difficult for me, so to be around a woman who was comfortable doing that was a new experience. In fact, if I ever envied anything it was her ability to “bear her soul” with such ease.

Like Father, Mother was very outgoing and friendly. With that contagious smile and her sparkling dark eyes, she found that people gravitated to her. I am sure, however, that it was more than her amicable manner that attracted those around her. It had to be her warmth and sensitivity that made everyone feel comfortable, accepted, and safe. She was never intimidating in any way. Family and close friends were most important to her, and she was forever doing considerate things for them. She was particularly thoughtful of other people’s birthdays and anniversaries and loved sending a card or a personal note. I think that there is an art to writing a good letter, and Mother had mastered it. When you received a letter from her, you felt as if she was right there talking to you. Little did she know she was practicing what has almost become a lost art—particularly in this age of e-mail and cell phones.

Looking good was important to Trudy Croft. She was not a vain person, but she worked on maintaining both good health and appearance. Her lovely smile and dark eyes, a slim figure, and her graceful loveliness contributed to her beauty. But she liked to “help nature out” with her great sense of style and flair in her choice of clothes, the way she wore her hair and applied makeup, and how she carried herself. There was an air of youthfulness and energy about her. A habit she maintained throughout her life was an afternoon nap. Undoubtedly, that daily routine revived her and helped preserve her natural loveliness.

I suppose we all think that our own mother’s cooking was the best. But when L.K. brags about his mother’s culinary skills, it is definitely the truth. I came to marriage knowing my way around the kitchen, but I learned so much from Mother. Perhaps it was because I knew L.K. had certain favorites and I wanted to learn her little “tricks,” but nevertheless I really enjoyed her sharing ideas and recipes. Her Germanic heritage probably inspired her love of baking. L.K. recalls that two of his favorites were Boston cream pie and her chocolate sheet cake, which is, as they say, “to die for.” Of course, she made all her family’s favorites, but she also enjoyed trying new recipes and always seemed to have one to share. One thing I admired was the way she organized her meals by cooking ahead and freezing certain dishes. She was able to enjoy the fun of a dinner or celebration without a lot of hassle.

Since I have become a grandparent, it has made me think back to the time when our children were born and how much it meant to have the support and love of our parents. During those years, we were not living close to either of our families, so we had to travel to see each other. I realize now how difficult it must have been for them to visit their grandchildren so infrequently. Because of this, Mother gave us a movie camera (this was before the days of video cameras) and encouraged us to document all the children’s ages and stages.
Our daughter, Leslie, was Mother and Father’s first grandchild, and how they adored her. Mother was not the hovering type, nor was she one to give a lot of advice unless asked. In her gentle, quiet manner, she bonded with Leslie, and then later with Lyle and Lloyd. When we would visit, she would have little gifts or treats for each of them. One thing Leslie loved was sitting on the vanity stool beside Grandmother to play “makeup.” Mother gave her a little bottle or would let her powder her face or put on some lipstick. Leslie loved it—and Mother did, too. You would hear them giggling and having a wonderful time.

Mother was born on August 17, 1913, in Shiner, Texas, and was of German heritage. I remember how proud she was of that. There had been only a limited amount of research into her family’s genealogy, but she liked to remind us that one of her ancestors was a German baron. She got a kick out of that. Roots were important to her.

Mother’s early life had been a struggle. She was only fifteen years old when her mother died. As it turned out, she became a surrogate mother for her two brothers, Vic and Mel. It all happened during the Depression of the 1920s, so times were very hard for her family. This impacted her life in many ways. In fact, as a consequence she developed insecurities and emotional problems that she had to deal with her entire life. On the other hand, she also had a great strength of character that was demonstrated in her life as a wife, mother, and friend.

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.
~ Romans 5:3-5

It seems to me that how one lives their religion is a real measure of their spirituality. This was made real to me as I shared in Mother’s life. How she treated people and responded to their needs with sincerity and sensitivity, and how she grappled with life and its overwhelming obstacles was unmistakable evidence of a deep faith. Her kind, gentle, unselfish ways made an indelible impression on me. I cherish my memories of this loving, lovable woman. Mother died by her own hand on January 5, 1977. (Croft, 40-42)

Sources


Gertrude Kathlena Koenning, birth certificate no. 9235, Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
Gertrude Kathlina Croft, death certificate no. 00250, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.


Guadalupe County, marriage record, Guadalupe County Clerk’s Office, Seguin, Texas.

Mary Koenning, death certificate no. 29-024325, State of California, Department of Health Services, Sacramento, California.

“Shiner, Lavaca County, Texas,” http://www.txgenweb2.org/txlavaca/shiner.htm

Wood, Cynthia Croft, “Personal Recollections of Croft Family,” clebleuwood@gmail.com

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.
Gertrude's Life in Pictures

Gertrude with brothers, Victor and Melvin.
Photo taken about 1916.
Chapter One - Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Mel, Gertie and Vic

Photo taken about 1923.
Chapter One - Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Gertrude, Lloyd and L.K.

Photo taken in 1935.
Gertrude with L.K.
Chapter One - Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Gertrude with L.K. and Cynthia

Photo taken about 1949.
Chapter One - Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Gertie with Cynthia and L.K.
That winning smile!
Special Moments

Lloyd and Gertie celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary, February 9, 1974.

Spring 1975.
Chapter One - Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Life is good!

Mother with Cynthia.

Trudy striking a pose!
Chapter Two

Adolph Henry Koenning

and

Marie "Mary" Kram Koenning

Includes Joseph and Anna Margaretha Klüch/Klück Kram
Adolph Henry Koenning

When Adolph Henry Koenning was born in Shiner, Lavaca County, Texas, he was among many first generation German-Americans in this small town in south central Texas. He made his appearance on October 3, 1882 and was the first child of Joachim and Helene Wemken Koenning. Shiner was a ranching and farming community and a draw for German and Czech immigrants in the late 19th Century.

Since the 1890 United States Federal Census is not available, the first time we find a record for Adolph was on the 1900 census. Joachim and Helene had added considerably to their family since his birth in 1882. Beside Adolph, they had six more children. Their name is spelled incorrectly on the census, but I feel certain that Joachem Hoenning (42) was our ancestor. Listed with him are: Helena (39) Aolf (17) Frieda (15) Heinrich (13) Louis (11) Olga (9) Minnie and (8) Rudolph (5). Joachim and his son, Adolph, recorded their occupations as “Farmer” and “Farm laborer” respectively. Even though the other children were in school, it is likely they helped with the farm chores at an early age.

By the time the 1910 United States Federal Census was taken, Adolph was continuing to live with his parents on the family farm and working as a “Farm laborer.” Two of his sisters, Frieda and Olga, were not listed since they had married and begun households of their own. Along with Adolph, the other children listed are Henry A., Louis J., Minnie, Rudolph W., and another son named Walter P., age 9. More than likely life on the
family farm for this immigrant family was a hard scrabble one with full participation of all the children.

At some point, Adolph met an attractive German-American girl named Marie or "Mary" Kram. Her parents were Joseph and Anna Margaretha Kram. She and her family emigrated from Germany to America in 1888 when she was only 2 years old. Adolph and Mary courted for a time and married December 19, 1911 in Lavaca County. We have a wedding photograph of them, and Mary wore a lovely dress and veil. The marriage record was signed by an Evangelical Lutheran pastor. (His signature is not legible.) The record does not indicate if the ceremony was in a church.

We are not certain if Adolph continued working on his father’s farm immediately after his marriage. Chances are he did. Nevertheless, they did not wait long to start a family. In 1912 they had their first child, Victor, and one year after that Gertrude Kathlena was born on August 17, 1913. Another son, Melvin H., was born September 30, 1913.

Adolph’s World War I Draft Registration Card shows that he was no longer farming when he recorded the information in 1918. He gives his occupation as “Merchant.” This is only a supposition, but perhaps he could not provide for his wife and three small children by working as a farm laborer.

When the 1920 United States Federal Census was taken the Koenning family was living in the town of Taylor in Williamson County, Texas. They were residing in a rental home and Adolph recorded his occupation as “Auto agent.” We do not know why Adolph and Mary chose to move to this area, but more than likely it was because Adolph was able to find work there.

As an adult Adolph’s daughter, Gertie, shared memories of her youth with her children, L.K. and Cynthia, and many of these memories were about the dire circumstances in which her family lived during the 1920’s. She spoke of how her family “picked up stakes” and moved to California. We know from family data that Adolph’s father-in-law and mother-in-law, Joe and Margaretha Kram, moved there before 1920, so perhaps having some family out west drew them in that direction. However, more than anything else it was probably Adolph’s hope for better employment opportunities.

Unfortunately life did not get much better in California for the Koenning family. It became even more difficult and sad with the death of Mary on April 30, 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus County, California. This had a terrible impact on Adolph, Vick, Gertie, and Mel.

By 1930, Adolph (46), Gertie (17), and Mel (14) are living in New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas. According to the 1930 United States Federal Census they resided in a rental house on East San Antonio Street. Adolph’s occupation was given as “Salesman” in retail industry, general merchandise.

Evidently they did not live in New Braunfels for any length of time. From Gertrude’s high school transcript, we find that she enrolled in Thomas Jefferson High School in May
1930. This high school is located in San Antonio, Texas. The transcript also gave her address as 1924 Magnolia Street, San Antonio and her father’s occupation as “Coffee Salesman.” Adolph and his children must have liked San Antonio because his traveling days were over. He stayed here for the rest of his life.

Family anecdotes are always treasured. Adolph’s son, Mel, wrote this about his father.

Adolph Henry Koenning was born on a farm near Shiner, Texas. He had reddish-auburn hair and green, hazel eyes that crinkled when he smiled. He loved sports and watched soft ball games every night at San Pedro Park, San Antonio, during the season. He always hid gum in his pockets for the grandchildren to find when he visited.

When asked about his grandfather, Adolph Koenning, L.K. Croft shares these few memories.

Because he was small in stature, we called him ‘Little Granddad.”…He was a man of quiet demeanor…Little Granddad must have cared about his appearance because I recall he always dressed nice - especially when he joined us for Sunday dinner…I remember that he was a carpenter and kept his tools organized and placed on his garage wall…His oldest son, Victor, took Little Granddad ‘under wing.’ In fact, he lived in a small apartment behind Victor’s house.

Adolph Henry Koenning died on November 30, 1948 in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. He was buried in Mission Burial Park South.

Sources

Adolph H. Koenning, death certificate no. 46011, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.


Croft, Lloyd Koenning, Personal Family Recollections, lkcroft@gvtc.com
Koenning, Melvin, *Personal Family Recollections*.

Lavaca County, marriage record, Lavaca County Clerk’s Office, Hallettsville, Texas.

Mary Koenning, death certificate no. 29-024325, State of California, Department of Health Services, Sacramento, California.

“Shiner, Lavaca County, Texas,” <http://www.txgenweb2.org/txlavaca/shiner.htm>

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft 2011.
Chapter Two - Adolph Henry and Marie "Mary" Kram Koenning

Adolph with sons, Mel and Vic

Photo taken about 1943-1945.
Adolph with granddaughter, Cynthia

Photo taken about 1945 in
San Antonio, Texas
Adolph H. Koenning Grave Marker

Adolph Koenning was buried at Mission Park South, San Antonio, Texas
Marie "Mary" Kram Koenning

Fräulein Marie Kram was born in Germany on September 1, 1886. She was the fifth child of Joseph and Anna Margaretha Kram. There is some information that indicates the family lived in Eichenzell, Hesse, which is located in central Germany.

When Marie or "Mary" was two years old, her family joined many other German immigrants and sailed for America. The New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 record Jos., Marg., Wilh., Emil, Carol., and Maria. They departed from Bremen, Germany on August 1, 1888. Southampton, England was also given as a Port of Departure, so they must have stopped there before heading to the United States. They arrived in New York on August 24, 1888. The ship name was "Trave."

Unfortunately, we have no diaries or family records that shed light on Joseph and Margaretha’s reasons for leaving Germany and coming to America, but sometime after their arrival, they headed to Texas. It is likely there were other kin that had settled there. By the time the 1900 United States Federal Census is taken, they are living near Shiner in Lavaca County, Texas and they have two more children. Recorded on the census are: Joseph (46) Anna Margaret (40) Anna (20) William (17) Emil (15) Carolina (14)
Marie (13) Charles (11) and Ida (8). Joseph's occupation was “Farmer” and he indicated he owned the land.

Shiner, Lavaca County was in a part of Texas where numbers of German and Czech immigrants settled. This excerpt from an article entitled “Shiner Facts, Figures and History” gives insight into what was occurring around the time the Kram family settled there.

After 1870 increasing numbers of Central European immigrants began to settle in the county, displacing many of the original American planters. Over the course of the next two decades many of the county’s large land grants were divided into smaller, self-sustaining units; between 1870 and 1880 the number of farms grew from 905 to 1,925, and by 1890 the figure had risen to 3,062. The new immigrants worked without hired labor, relying on the aid of their families, which made production of cotton-and farming in general much more profitable than it had been previously. As a result, cotton production increased steadily, from 3,528 bales in 1870 to 9,976 bales in 1880; by 1890 the number had risen to 26,842 bales, and in 1900, 38,349 bales came from the gins. During these years production of many other crops increased similarly, including corn, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, honey, sugarcane, and molasses.

The next record we have of Marie is on the 1910 United States Federal Census. She was still living with her family in Lavaca County. Her oldest sister and brother, Anna and William have left but the Kram family had three more children. Recorded are: Joseph (56) Margstha (50) Emil (20) Caroline (24) Marie (23) Ida (18) Herman (14) Josepha (13) Christina (12) and Louise (8). Note that Margaretha was spelled incorrectly.

A young man by the name of Adolph Henry Koenning lived with his family in Lavaca County, and like Mary he lived on a farm. At some point, he and Mary met and there was a mutual attraction. They began courting and married December 19, 1911 in Lavaca County. We have a wedding photograph of them and Mary is in a lovely dress and veil. The marriage record was signed by an Evangelical Lutheran pastor. (His signature is not decipherable.) The record does not indicate if the ceremony was in a church.

We are not certain if Adolph continued helping on his father’s farm immediately after he and Mary married. Chances are he did. Nevertheless, they did not wait long to start a family. In 1912 they had their first child, Victor, and one year after that Gertrude Kathlena was born on August 17, 1913. Another son, Melvin H., was born September 30, 1915.

Adolph’s World War I Draft Registration Card shows us that he was no longer farming when he recorded the information in 1918. He gave his occupation as “Merchant.” This is only a supposition, but perhaps he felt he could not provide for his wife and three small children by working as a farm laborer.

When the 1920 United States Federal Census was taken, Adolph, Mary, and their three children were living in the town of Taylor in Williamson County. They were residing in a rental home and Adolph recorded his occupation as “Auto agent.” History tells us that the years following World War I were difficult for many people in America. We do not
know why Adolph and Mary chose to move to this area, but more than likely it was because that is where Adolph found work.

As an adult, Adolph and Mary’s daughter, Gertie, shared memories of her youth with her children, L.K. and Cynthia, and many of these memories were about the dire circumstances in which her family lived during the 1920’s. She spoke of how her family “picked up stakes” and moved to California. We know from family data that Mary’s parents, Joe and Margaretha Kram, moved there before 1920, so perhaps having some family out west drew them in that direction. More than anything else it was probably Adolph’s hope for better employment opportunities.

We have heard from family lore that life did not get much easier for Adolph and Mary in California. Information gleaned from census records indicates that other Koenning and Kram family members were living in California, so perhaps having a large extended family was a support and comfort during hard times. Nevertheless, life circumstances took a bitter turn when Mary became quite ill and died at the young age of 42 on April 30, 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus County, California. She was buried in Park View Cemetery in Manteca, San Joaquin County.

Note: The death year differs on Mary’s tombstone and her death certificate – The tombstone reads 1928 and the death certificate states 1929. I opted to use the date on the death certificate. Perhaps the tombstone was placed at a much later time by a relative and the death certificate was not available.

Mary’s son Melvin shared this memory of his mother and might serve as her obituary.

Even though she was German, she had an Irish temper, mad as a hornet one minute and laughing the next!

Sources


Koenning, Melvin, Personal Family Recollections.
Chapter Two - Adolph Henry and Marie "Mary" Kram Koenning

Lavaca County, marriage record, Lavaca County Clerk’s Office, Hallettsville, Texas.

Mary Koenning, death certificate no. 29-024325, State of California, Department of Health Services, Sacramento, California.

“Shiner Facts, Figures and History” www.shinertx.com/facts.htm

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.
Chapter Two - Adolph Henry and Marie "Mary" Kram Koenning

Marriage Record for Adolph Koenning and Mary Kram

Adolph Koenning and Mary Kram were married December 19, 1911 in Shiner, Texas.
Mary Kram was buried in the Park View Cemetery located in San Juaquin County, California. The death year differs on her grave marker and her death certificate.
Joseph Kram was born March 12, 1854 in Ebersberg, Germany, and Anna Margaretha Klüch/Klück was born January 13, 1860 in Eichenzell, Germany. Both municipalities were in the state of Hesse, located in the central part of the country. (Place of birth was given on the passenger list when the Kram family immigrated to America in 1888.)

Joseph and Anna Margaretha married sometime before 1880. Between the years 1880 and 1888, they had five children – Anna Margaretha (1880), William Frederich (1882), Emil (1884), Carolina (1885) and Marie (1886). They were all born in Eichenzell.

During the 19th century, thousands of Germans left their homeland and came to America. However, the 1880's was the decade of heaviest immigration when nearly 1.5 million Germans immigrated and settled in the United States. Joseph and Anna Margaretha Kram and their family were a part of the vast group. They departed from the Port of Bremen and arrived in the Port of New York, August 24, 1888. The name of the passenger ship was the Trave.
By 1900, the Kram family was living in Lavaca County, Texas. The 1900 United States Federal Census lists Joseph, Anna Margaret and their ten children, so during the twelve years since their immigration, they had five more children. Added to the "fold" were Charles, Ida, Herman, Josiopa and Christina. Anna indicates on the census record she had given birth to eleven children and ten were still living. The name of the deceased child was Emma who was born April 3, 1894 and died September 12, 1894.

Joseph and Margaret were still living in Lavaca County, Texas when the 1910 United States Federal Census was taken. As might be expected, the family had undergone some changes. Anna, William and Charles had married and established their own households. Another daughter, Louise, was born in 1901. Those children listed on the census were: Emil (25), Caroline (24), Marie (23), Ida (18), Herman (14), Josepha (13), Christina (12) and Louise (8). One interesting bit of information given on this census was language spoken. Margaret indicates she spoke German and all other family members spoke English.

In 1919, Joseph and Margaret decided to leave Texas and head west to California. We do not know if they lead the way or followed other family members in this decision to make this big move. Nevertheless, four of their older children also made the move.

The 1920 United States Federal Census was enumerated on February 20. Sadly, one month later on March 20, Joseph Kram died. The family lived in Woodland, Yolo, California. This must have been a devastating occurrence for his family, particularly for Margaret. Being new to the area, they probably had few acquaintances other than family. I was not surprised to find Margaret died about one and a half years later, December 8, 1921. Both were buried in the Woodland Cemetery in Yolo County, California. Joseph’s obituary in the Woodland Daily Democrat on March 6, 1920 and reads as follows:

Joseph Kram, ten months a resident of this county and formerly a resident of Texas, died at noon today at his newly purchased home place three miles northwest of Woodland, at the age of 65 years. He is a native of Germany and leaves three sons, Emil, W.F., and Herman Kram, all of Woodland; and six daughters of whom Tena and Louise reside here and Mrs. Lena Ehlers, Mrs. Mary Koenning, Mrs. Ida Koenning and Mrs. Josie Behin reside in Texas. The Krellenberg Company has the case. There are no arrangements for the funeral.

Sources


Chapter Two - Adolph Henry and Marie "Mary" Kram Koenning


Joseph Kram, death certificate number 1043, State of California, Department of Public Health, Sacramento, California.

Joseph Kram obituary, Woodland Daily Democrat, Woodland, California.

Margaret Kram, death certificate number 21-049958, State of California, Department of Public Health, Sacramento, California.

Norway Heritage Collection, [www.heritage-ships.com](http://www.heritage-ships.com)

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.
Chapter Two - Adolph Henry and Marie "Mary" Kram Koenning

Trave Passenger Ship

Joseph and Margaret Kram and five children came to America on the Trave arriving at the Port of New York August 24, 1888.

Trave Information

The "Trave" was built by Fairfield & Co, Glasgow in 1886 for Norddeutscher Lloyd [North German Lloyd]. She was a 4969 gross ton vessel, length 438ft x beam 48.1ft, two funnels, four masts, single screw and a speed of 17 knots. There was accommodation for 150-1st, 90-2nd and 1,000-3rd class passengers. Launched on 18/2/1886, she sailed from Bremen on her maiden voyage to New York on 5/6/1886. In 1896/7 she was refitted and two of her masts removed and on 29/1/1901 she left Bremen on her last voyage to New York. She was then transferred to the Genoa - Naples - New York run on 20/3/1900 and commenced her last voyage on 23/4/1903. Between 1903-1906 she was laid up and on 11/3/1906 resumed the Bremen - New York service. She made nine round voyages on this service, the last one commencing 26/10/1907 and was then sold and scrapped in 1909. (http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/descriptions/ShipsT-U.shtml)
Grave Marker for Joseph and Margaret Kram

![Image of the grave marker for Joseph and Margaret Kram]

Joseph and Margaret were buried in the Woodland Cemetery, Woodland, Yolo County, California.
Chapter Three

Joachim "Joe" Koenning

and

Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken

Includes Alerd Heinrich and
Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann Wemken
Joachim "Joe" Koenning

Fayette County is located in the Blackland Prairie region of south central Texas. In the 1870’s and 1880’s, this area attracted German immigrants seeking rich farm land. One such family was that of John Friedrich and Dorothea Berger Könning. When they emigrated from Germany, they were accompanied by their children, Joachim, William, and Caroline. Our ancestor, Joachim, was about 16 years old upon arrival to America. All three children were christened in Brandenburg. Also, William gave Brandenburg, Germany as his birth place on his naturalization papers, so I am fairly certain, it was where the Könning family lived.

Note: The family surname was spelled Könning on Johann and Dorothea’s marriage record so the change to Koenning must have occurred after arriving in the United States. Johann was anglicized to “John.”

In 2008 we employed Suzanne Bettac, professional genealogist, to research the Koenning family. Here was information she reported concerning their emigration from Germany.

No passenger list can be located but based on the naturalization of his siblings John Jr and William, it can be assumed correct that he traveled from Bremen to the port of Galveston.

Note: The majority of arrivals from Germany to Galveston left from the port of Bremen. The passenger lists for Bremen were destroyed during WW II and there are no passenger lists for the port of Galveston before 1892, due to the hurricane of 1900. It is not possible to identify the name of the ship the family arrived on.

Although “Joe” Koenning is never located in the household of his parents on a census, his obituary did establish that his siblings were William Koenning and Mrs. Helen (note name) Rhode and was the link to locating his parents. (Bettac Report, 2008)
Joachim or Joe was the oldest son of Johann and Dorothea Könning. (John, Jr. was the son of Johann and his first wife.) Joe was born in Brandenburg, Germany on September 17, 1857. The first time he was found on the United States Federal Census was in 1880. He was living with the Christian Reinecke family in Fayette County and was recorded as a “Boarder” and “Farmhand.” His parents and younger siblings, William and Lena, were also recorded on this census as well as his older step-brother John, Jr. and his family. Though in separate households, all were living in Fayette County.

During the same period of time, there was another German immigrant family by the name of Wemken living in Fayette County. The oldest daughter of Alerd or Albert and Wilhelmine Wemken was Helene Catherine Margarethe. She and Joachim met sometime in the late 1870’s, were attracted to each other and began courting. They married on November 12, 1881 in Lavaca County, Texas. Joe’s grandson, Melvin Koenning, said he heard the story that his grandfather drove a horse and wagon to Lavaca County and bought a 750 acre farm at 25 cents an acre. Joe and Helene would call this area of Texas home for many years.

Within the first year of their marriage, Joe and Helene were expecting their first child. On October 3, 1882 a son was born in Shiner and they named him Adolph Henry. In the following years, their family grew to a household of ten people. The children were born in this order – Adolph (1882) Frieda (1884) Henry (1886) Louis (1889) Olga (1891) Minhelda or Minnie (1892) Rudolph (1894) and Walter Paul (1900). All were born in Shiner, Lavaca County, Texas.

For immigrants to the United States, the naturalization process was an extremely important event in their lives. The laws have changed significantly since Joe Koenning gained his United States citizenship through naturalization, but nevertheless, it must have been a big day for him. At that time, the duty was assigned to Congress by the Constitution but was carried out by “any court of record.” For Joe that was the Lavaca County District Court and the day was August 22, 1892. I thought the wording of the naturalization document was significant enough to include.

_The State of Texas, County of Lavaca, Be It Remembered, that on this the 22 day of Aug. A.D. 1892, personally appeared in open Court Joe Koenning, an alien and subject of the Empire of Germany, and made verbal application to the Court to be admitted to become a citizen of the United States of America; and in support of said application, he produced to the Court the declarations on oath of A. Fahr and Aug Kuekne, Sr., both citizens of the United States of America, that said Joe Koenning has resided within the United States five years at least, and within the State of Texas one year at least and that during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same._

_And the said Joe Koenning having shown to the satisfaction of the Court that he has faithfully complied with all the requirements of the Naturalization Laws of the United States Congress and is entitled to the benefit of the same; And he having also made oath in open Court that he will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that he absolutely and entirely renounces and abjures all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign_


prince, potentate, State or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Emperor of Germany William 2nd of whom he was a subject.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court, that the said Joe Koenning be admitted, and he is accordingly admitted, a citizen of the United States of America, and that Letters of Citizenship issue to him.

Note: To become a citizen of the United States, Helene Koenning was not required to go through the naturalization process. Until 1922, women were not naturalized through court action; instead they acquired citizenship by right of their husbands’ or fathers’ naturalizations.

When the 1900 United States Federal Census was enumerated, the Koenning family was still located in Lavaca County. The surname was transcribed incorrectly as “Hoenning” as were several of the given names, but this was our ancestor. Listed with Joachem and Helena Hoenning as well as their children Aolf (Adolph) Frieda, Heinrich (Henry) Louis, Olga, Minnie and Rudolph. Walter Paul was born in 1900 but after the census was taken. Joachim was farming and his oldest son Adolph was assisting him as a “Farm Laborer.”

The Koenning family had been living in Lavaca County twenty-nine years when the 1910 United States Federal Census was taken. Six of their children continued to reside with them – Adolph, Henry, Louis, Minnie, Rudolph, and Walter. Their two oldest daughters, Frieda and Olga, had both married and established their own households. Joachim continued to farm with his five sons assisting him on the home farm.

During the years between 1914 and 1918 all the world’s great powers were engaged in World War I, sometimes called “The Great War.” This conflict involved most of the world’s great powers and was centered on Europe. In the United States, men between the ages of 18 to 45 were required to register for the draft. Even though Joe did not fall in this category, his sons did, and World War I Draft Registration Cards were located for them. None of them was called to serve, but nevertheless, like all people in America, the Koenning family must have been impacted by this terrible world conflict.

When time rolled around for the 1920 United States Federal Census, Joe and Helene’s household had changed considerably. Only their daughter Minnie was living with them. Their name is incorrectly transcribed in the census. Listed are “Joseph Kockning, Helana and Minnie Kockning.” It was interesting to note that in answering the question on the census record concerning professions Joe, Helene and Minnie all answered “None.”

By 1930, Joe and Helene were living in San Antonio, Texas and had been located there about four years. On the 1930 United States Federal Census, they are listed with their daughter, Minnie, and three grandchildren, Ellry (Ellery), Maurine, and Victor, and they resided at 1934 West Magnolia Street. Again the name was incorrectly transcribed as “Koennig.”
We do not know why Joe and Helene decided to leave their Lavaca County farm and move to San Antonio. Their son, Adolph, lived there along with some grandchildren, so perhaps they wanted to be near family to lend or receive support. The 1930’s were difficult times for many folks in America and families were called on to help each other in whatever way they could.

Joe Koenning died in San Antonio on October 1, 1936. Coincidentally and sadly, this was one day following Helene’s death. Both were buried in the Mission Burial Park, South, San Antonio, Texas.

Sources


Koenning, Melvin, Personal Family Recollections.

Lavaca County, Marriage License file number 497, Lavaca County Clerk’s Office, Hallettsville, Texas.

Minutes of Naturalization, District Court, Lavaca County, State of Texas. August 22, 1892.

Joe Koenning obituary, San Antonio Express, October 2, 1936, San Antonio, Texas.

Joe Koenning, death certificate number 48151, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
Chapter Three - Joachim and Helen Catherine Wemken Koenning


Naturalization Record for Joe Koenning

Recorded August 11, 1892, Lavaca County, Texas District Court
Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken Koening

Helene Catherine Margaretha Wemken was one of our first generation German immigrants. She was born on April 27, 1861 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany and was the second or third child of Alerd or Albert Heinrich and Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratman Wemken. These people believed in long given names!

The Wemken family emigrated from the port of Bremen, Germany on January 12, 1870 arriving in the port of New Orleans, Louisiana on February 12, 1870. The name of their ship was the SS New York. Their destination was listed as Galveston, Texas. At the time of their arrival the family consisted of Alerd, Caroline, Johann, Helene, Heinrich, Anna Marie “Sophie,” and Anna Wilhelmine. Helene would have been about 7 or 8 years old.

Note: Oldenburg is both a city as well as a German State. Oldenburg residents had the option of using either the port of Bremen or the port of Hamburg. Both were equal distance for this German state. It was the first port of debarkation that recorded the arrival, and therefore the port of New Orleans was checked as well. (Bettac Report)

Alerd Wemken was a farmer and, like many other German immigrants coming to Texas, he sought out good farm land. Fayette County located in the Blackland Prairie region fit the bill. We do not know when they moved to this area, but the Wemken family was living in Fayette County when the 1880 United States Federal Census was enumerated. In the decade since they arrived in Texas, their family had grown. Recorded on the census were A.H. and Wilhelmine Wemken and their children Lene (Helene) Heinrich, Sophie (Anna Marie Sophie) Wilhelmine (Anna Wilhelmine) Johanne (Johanna “Hannah”) Willy (Wilhelm Charles) and Lily (Lilly or Lillie). Their oldest son
Johann Wilhelm or John had married and established his own household.

Sometime in the late 1870’s, Helene was introduced to a young man by the name of Joachim or Joe Koenning. Like her, he came from a German immigrant farm family in Fayette County. They began courting and married on November 12, 1881 in Lavaca County, Texas. Their grandson, Melvin Koenning, said he heard the story that his grandfather drove a horse and wagon to Lavaca County and bought a 750 acre farm at 25 cents an acre. Joe and Helene would call this area of Texas home for many years.

August 22, 1892 was a very special day for Joe and Helene Koenning because that was the day that he received his United States of America citizenship by means of the naturalization process. At that time the duty was assigned to Congress by the Constitution but was carried out by “any court of record,” and for Joe that was the Lavaca County District Court. Helene also received her citizenship at the same time but was not required to go through the naturalization process. Until 1922 women acquired citizenship by right of their husbands’ or fathers’ naturalizations.

When the 1900 United States Federal Census was enumerated, the Koenning family was still located in Lavaca County. The surname was transcribed incorrectly as “Hoenning” as were several of the given names, but this was our ancestor. Listed with Joachem and Helena Hoenning were their children, Aolf (Adolph) Frieda, Heinrich (Henry) Louis, Olga, Minnie and Rudolph. Walter Paul was born in 1900 but after the census was taken. Joachim was farming and his oldest son Adolph was assisting him as a “Farm Laborer.”

The Koenning family had been living in Lavaca County twenty-nine years when the 1910 United States Federal Census was taken. Six of their children continued to reside with them – Adolph, Henry, Louis, Minnie, Rudolph, and Walter. Their two oldest daughters, Frieda and Olga, had both married and established their own households. Joachim continued to farm with his five sons assisting him on the home farm.

During the years between 1914 and 1918, all the world’s great powers were engaged in World War I, sometimes called “The Great War.” This conflict involved most of the world’s great powers and was centered on Europe. In the United States, men between the ages of 18 to 45 were required to register for the draft. Even though Joe did not fall in this category, his sons did and World War I Draft Registration Cards were located for them. None of them were called to serve, but nevertheless, like all people in America, the Koenning family must have been impacted by this terrible world conflict.

When time rolled around for the 1920 United States Federal Census, Joe and Helene’s household had changed considerably. Only their daughter Minnie was living with them. Their name is incorrectly transcribed in the census. Listed are “Joseph Kockning Helana and Minnie Kockning.” It was interesting to note that in answering the question on the census record concerning professions Joe, Helene and Minnie all answered “None.”
By 1930, Joe and Helene were living in San Antonio, Texas and had been located there about four years. On the 1930 United States Federal Census, they are listed with their daughter Minnie and three grandchildren Ellry (Ellery), Maurine, and Victor and resided at 1934 West Magnolia Street. Again the name was incorrectly transcribed as “Koennig.”

We do not know why Joe and Helene decided to leave their Lavaca County farm and move to San Antonio. Their son Adolph lived there along with some grandchildren, so perhaps they wanted to be near family to lend or receive support. The 1930’s were difficult times for many folks in America and families were called on to help each other in whatever way they could.

Joe Koenning died in San Antonio on October 1, 1936. Coincidentally and sadly, this was one day following Helene’s death. Both were buried in the Mission Burial Park South, San Antonio, Texas.

**Sources**


*Guide to Genealogical Materials in the New Orleans Public Library’s Louisiana Division & City Archives*,

Koenning, Melvin, *Personal Family Recollections*.

Lavaca County, Marriage License file number 497, Lavaca County Clerk’s Office, Hallettsville, Texas.

*Minutes of Naturalization*, District Court, Lavaca County, State of Texas. August 22, 1892.
Joe Koenning obituary, San Antonio Express, San Antonio, Texas, October 2, 1936.

Helene Koenning, death certificate number 43961, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.
Grave Marker for Joe and Helene Koenning

Joe and Helen Koenning were buried in Mission Park South, San Antonio, Texas.
Alerd Heuermann Wemken and Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann Wemken

Alerd Heuermann Wemken, son of Johann and Helene Bremer Wemken, was born September 10, 1826 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany. Borbeck was a farming village located in what was, until 1945, the state of Oldenburg in northwestern Germany. Today this is the German state of Lower Saxony (in German: Niedersachsen), and the capital is the city of Hanover.

Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann, daughter of Johann Hinrich and Anna Marie Sophie Charlotte Bruggermann Stratmann, was born February 14, 1829 in the village of Blasheim, in what was then Prussia, but what is now northern Germany. (http://gausmann.wordpress.com)

We do not know how or when the two met, but Alerd and Caroline Wilhelmine were married June 25, 1855 in Wiefelstede, Oldenburg. In the years preceding their emigration to America, they had their first six children – Johann Wilhelm, Helene Catherine Margarethe, Heinrich, Anna Marie Sophie, Anna Wilhelmine and one deceased child (name unknown).

Sometime before 1870, Alerd and Caroline Wilhelmine made the decision to come to America. Though I do not know their reasons for leaving their homeland, they were among a vast number of Germans who emigrated in the 19th century. In fact, Americans of German or Alsatian descents comprise the largest self-reported ancestry group, and the largest flow of immigration occurred between 1820 and World War I. They were drawn to America for a myriad of reasons. Productive land and political or
religious freedom attracted many people. Others came desiring to make a fresh start in the New World and arrived seeking economic opportunities greater than those in Europe.

Alerd and Caroline Wilhelmine immigrated to America with their five children on the SS New York, leaving from the port of Bremen January 12, 1870 and arriving at the port of New Orleans, Louisiana on February 12, 1870. The SS New York Passenger Manifest has the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Steerage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Wemken</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Oldenburg</td>
<td></td>
<td>Galveston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marg (arethe)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Oldenburg</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johann</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Oldenburg</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helene</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oldenburg</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heinr.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Oldenburg</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Oldenburg</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>11 months</td>
<td>Oldenburg</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: I am confused by the name “Marg” being listed rather than Caroline or Wilhelmine, but do think this was Alerd Wemken and family.

Upon arrival in New Orleans, the Wemken family made their way to Texas. The next record located for them was the 1880 United States Federal Census. The couple and their children were living in Fayette County. Listed were: A.H. Wemken age 48, farmer, born Oldenburg; Wilhelmine age 48, born Prussia; Lene (sic Helene) daughter, age 19, born Oldenburg; Heinrich son, age 15, born Oldenburg; Sophia daughter, age 12, born Oldenburg; Wilhelmine daughter, age 10, born Oldenburg; Johanna daughter, age 9, born Texas; Willy son, age 7, born Texas; and Lilly daughter, age 1, born Texas. In the ten years since their arrival in America, Alerd and Caroline’s family had grown with the birth of their last three children.

Fayette County is located in the Blackland Prairies region of south central Texas. In the decades following the Civil War, this county, like others in this part of the state, had a surge of German and Bohemian immigrants. The development of smaller farms increased dramatically primarily because of the intensive cultivation by the immigrants groups.

On February 25, 1887, A.H. Wemken signed his application for naturalization. Because Alerd Wemken had exceeded the 7 year residency requirement for naturalization, he was not required to file a separate declaration of intent. The male Wemken children were over the age of 21 in 1887, so they had to individually file for their naturalizations. Females could not be naturalized independently of fathers or husbands until 1922 and are not included in any court documents.

There is not an 1890 United States Federal Census available, so I am not certain how long Alerd and Wilhelmine remained in Fayette County. Though their oldest daughter, Helene, was married to Joachim (Joe) Koenning in Lavaca County on November 12, 1881, their other daughters were married in Fayette County – Anna Marie Sophie.
married Adolph Herm on December 12, 1889; Johanna “Hannah” married Robert Charles Herm on December 12, 1894; Anne Wilhelmine “Minnie” married Albert Discher about 1899; and Lillian “Lillie” married Paul Discher in June 1900. Since most marriages were held in the bride’s home or home town, it is likely that Alerd and Wilhelmine stayed in Fayette County.

Alerd died on December 10, 1897 and was buried in the Shiner Cemetery, Lavaca County, Texas. At some point, he anglicized his name because his grave marker was inscribed “Albert H. Wemken.”

For a time following Albert’s death, Wilhelmine chose to live with her children. When the 1900 United States Federal Census was taken, she was in the household of her son-in-law, Robert Herm, daughter, Hannah, and granddaughter, Hedwig.

In 1910, the census showed Wilhelmine, age 79, and was living alone at 151 Avenue E in Shiner, Texas. The record states she owns the home. Another item of information on this census must have been a comfort to her – all eight of her children were still living. Her daughters, Helene, Minnie and Lillie, also resided in Shiner with their families. Wilhelmine had a slew of family nearby to enjoy.

Wilhelmine died in Shiner, Texas on December 14, 1912 at the age of 83. She was buried beside her husband, Albert, in the Shiner Cemetery.

This narrative provides only a glimpse into the lives of Alerd and Wilhelmine Wemken, but even so, I admire the determination and courage it took for them to leave Germany and come to America. Like other immigrants, they faced challenges when settling in an unknown culture, providing for their family, and learning a new language and new customs. At the same time, they, along with other industrious German immigrants, made innumerable contributions to their new homeland and were a powerful influence over the development of our American culture.

Sources

A.H. Wemken, Application for Naturalization, District Court, Fayette County, La Grange, Texas.

A.H. Wemken, SS New York Passenger Manifest, National Archives, Washington, D.C.


Chapter Three - Joachim and Helen Catherine Wemken Koenning


“Fayette County,” http://www.tshaonline.ort/handbook/online/articles/hcf03


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.
Application for Naturalization for A. H. Wemken

Alerd Wemken made application for naturalization February 20, 1870 in Fayette County, Texas.
Chapter Four

Johann "John" Friedrich Koenning

and

Anne Dorothea Elizabeth Berger
Americans of German or Alsatian descents comprise the largest self-reported ancestry group, and the largest flow of immigration occurred between 1820 and World War I. German immigrants were drawn to America for a myriad of reasons. Productive land and political or religious freedom attracted many people. Others came desiring to make a fresh start in the New World and arrived seeking economic opportunities greater than those in Europe.

Texas attracted many Germans who entered through Galveston and Indianola, the peak years of immigration being after the Civil War. “They were a diverse group, including peasant farmers and intellectuals; Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and atheists; Prussians, Saxons, and Hessians; abolitionists and slave owners; farmers and townsfolk; frugal, honest folk and ax murderers.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_American)
John F. Koenning and his wife, Dorothea, and their children were the first generation German emigrants for our Koenning family line. Though we are not sure about their reasons for emigration, it is likely John came seeking productive land on which to farm and better economic opportunity for himself and his children. We think they left Germany from the port of Bremen and arrived at either Galveston or Indianola in December 1873.

Note: “The majority of arrivals from Germany to Galveston and Indianola left from the port of Bremen. The passenger lists for Bremen were destroyed during World War II and there are no passenger lists for the port of Galveston before 1892, due to the hurricane of 1900. It is not possible to identify the name of the ship the family arrived on.” (Bettac Report, 1, 2)

Johann Friedrich Köning/Koenning was born May 23, 1817 in Prussia. His wife Anne Dorothea Elisabeth Berger Koenning was born November 10, 1821, also in Prussia. They were married June 5, 1854 in Tüchen, Reckenthin, Ostiprignitz, Brandenburg, Germany. Before immigrating to America, John and Dorothea had three children – Joachim “Joe” 1857, Wilhelm or William Marion (1860) and Caroline “Lena” (1864). All three children were christened in Brandenburg. Also, William gave Brandenburg, Germany as his birth place on his naturalization papers, so I am fairly certain, it was where the Königning family lived.

Note: The family surname was spelled Könning on Johann and Dorothea’s marriage record so the change to Koenning must have occurred after arriving in the United States. Johann was anglicized to “John.”

John F. Koenning had another son, John Friedrich, Jr, born September 24, 1840 in Brandenburg, Germany, and two daughters, born about 1838 and 1842, names unknown. John and one of the daughters came to America. Evidently, Dorothea was not their mother. “Given the age gaps in the children’s ages, there is no doubt there were children who died or who may have been females who married and are not readily located. It is also possible that John F. Koenning was married more than once, which may account for the gaps in the children’s ages.” (Bettac Report, 1)

After arriving in Texas, John and Dorothea moved to Fayette County located in the Blackland Prairies region of south central Texas. In the decades following the Civil War, this county, like others in this part of the state, had a surge of German and Bohemian immigrants. The development of smaller farms increased dramatically primarily because of the intensive cultivation by the immigrants groups.

When the 1880 United States Federal Census was enumerated, John, Dorothea and two of their children are listed as follows: John F. Kenning (64), Dorothea Kenning (59), William Kenning (20 and Lena Kenning (17). (Note the misspelling of the name.) Unfortunately, this is the only document found for John and Dorothea.

There is some indication they also lived in Lavaca and Jackson counties before their deaths. Their children and families lived near by – John in Gonzales County; Joe in
Lavaca County; William in Jackson County; and Lena in Lavaca County. Undoubtedly, they maintained a close family connection during their final years.

Bobby Koenning, a descendant, who is also researching the Koenning family, shared a handwritten letter with family information written by Dora Lee Koenning. She was the daughter of William and Emma Redman Koenning and granddaughter of John F. and Dorothea Koenning. She confirms that John and Dorothea “Dora” were her grandparents and came from Germany. Here are some quotes from her letter:

*My Grandpa was John or William Koenning.*


*Dad’s sister Lena Koenning Rhode. She lived in Schulenburg. I visited her several times. She had about 5 children.*

*Dad’s Bro. Joe Koenning. Wife name Helene. They lived in San Antonio. I visited with them a few times.*

*My Grandmother’s name was Dora. They lived near Schulenburg before they moved to Jackson Co. I can’t remember where Mamma came from before she came to Jackson Co…*

*Grandpa Koenning came from Germany. I don’t remember hearing any name spoken but Frankford (Frankfurt), so guess they lived near that town or in the country…*

*Grandpa John Koenning and Grandma Dorothea Koenning landed at old Indianola, TX when they came from Germany to U.S.A.*

A photo of the gravesite for John F. and Dorothea Koenning was located via the internet and the inscription provided death dates. John died August 22, 1892 in Jackson County, Texas. Dorothea died August 7, 1892, also in Jackson County. They are buried together in the Earl-Quinn Cemetery outside Ganado, Jackson County, Texas. The cemetery is located in a wooded area that is on Lavaca Water Authority property.

**Sources**

Bettac, Suzanne, Koenning Report #1, April, 28, 2008.


“Fayette County,” http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcf03

“Germans to Texas,” www.wtblock.com/stblockjr/texas.htm

Koenning, Bobby, Email correspondence and letter written by Dora Koenning, June 29, 2010.

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, "German Americans." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_American

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.
Chapter Five

Simple Ahnentafel Report

for

Gertrude Kathlena Koenning
Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 197

Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Generation 1

1. **Gertrude Kathlena Koenning**\([1, 2]\) was born on 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([3, 4, 5, 6]\). She was the daughter of 2. Adolph Henry Koenning and 3. Marie "Mary" Kram. She died on 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA\([7, 8]\). She married Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft on 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA\([9, 10]\), son of Oscar Cameron Croft and Ethel Mae Mohler. He was born on 09 Feb 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA\([11, 12, 13]\). He died on 05 Jan 1987 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA\([7, 14, 15]\).

Generation 2

2. **Adolph Henry Koenning**\([16]\) was born on 03 Oct 1882 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22]\). He was the son of 4. Joachim "Joe" Koenning and 5. Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken. He died on 28 Nov 1948 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA\([22, 24]\). He married Marie "Mary" Kram on 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([25]\).

3. **Marie "Mary" Kram** was born 01 Sep 1886 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany\([26, 27, 28]\), died 30 Apr 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA\([29, 30]\), married 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([25]\). She was the daughter of 6. Joseph "Joe" Kram and 7. Anna Margaretha Kluch or Kluck.

Children of Adolph Henry Koenning and Marie "Mary" Kram are:

   i. Victor Koenning was born 1912 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([31]\), died 20 Dec 1951 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA, married Mary Goodnight Bef. 1936.

   + 1. ii. Gertrude Kathlena Koenning was born 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([3, 4, 5, 6]\), died 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA\([7, 8]\), married Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft on 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA\([9, 10]\).

      iii. Melvin H. Koenning was born 30 Sep 1915 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([32]\), died 08 Mar 1983 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA, married Elizabeth (Betty) Roseyn Roberts 16 Sep 1936 in Boerne, Kendall, Texas, USA.

Generation 3

4. **Joachim "Joe" Koenning** was born on 17 Sep 1857 in Brandenburg, Germany\([33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39]\). He was the son of 8. Johann "John" Friedrich Köning or Koening and 9. Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger. He died on 01 Oct 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA\([40, 41, 42, 43, 44]\). He married Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken on 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([45]\).

5. **Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken** was born 27 Apr 1861 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany\([46, 47]\), died 30 Sep 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA\([41, 48, 49]\). Married 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([45]\). She was the daughter of 10. Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken and 11. Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann.

Children of Joachim "Joe" Koenning and Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken are:

   + 2. i. Adolph Henry Koenning was born 03 Oct 1882 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22]\), died 28 Nov 1948 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA\([23, 24]\), married Marie "Mary" Kram on 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA\([25]\).

      ii. Frieda Koenning was born Abt. 1885 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

      iii. Henry Aloyysis Koenning was born 12 Jul 1886 in Schulenburg, Fayette, Texas, USA, died 07 Mar 1966 in Lakeside, San Diego, California, USA\([50]\), married Anna Sabina Ida Kram Bef. 1914.
Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Generation 3 (con't)

iv. Louis Koenning was born 03 Apr 1888 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 23 Nov 1914 in Cuero, De Witt, Texas, USA.

v. Olga Koenning was born Mar 1891 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 14 Jun 1959 in San Antonio Bexar, Texas, USA, married Alvin Anton Hirsch Bef. 1916.

vi. Minhelda (Minnie) Koenning was born May 1892 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 14 May 1971 in San Francisco, California, USA, married Fred "Fritz" Schwab Aft. 1936.

vii. Rudolph Koenning was born Nov 1984 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married Vada Maurine Townsend Bef. 1918.

viii. Walter Paul Koenning was born 12 Jul 1900 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 10 Aug 1958 in San Antonio Bexar, Texas, USA, married Ida Unknown Bef. 1923.

6. Joseph "Joe" Kram[52, 53, 54] was born on 12 Mar 1854 in Ebersberg, Hesse, Germany[55, 56]. He died on 06 Mar 1920 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA[57, 58, 59]. He married Anna Margaretha Kluch or Kluck before 1880 in Germany.

7. Anna Margaretha Kluch or Kluck was born 13 Jan 1860 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany[60, 61], died 08 Dec 1921 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA[62], married Bef. 1880 in Germany.

Children of Joseph "Joe" Kram and Anna Margaretha Kluch or Kluck are:

i. Anna Margaretha "Margaret" Kram was born 29 Feb 1880 in Germany, died 16 Dec 1921 in Bexar, Texas, USA, married Fritz Ehler 02 Jan 1921 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

ii. William "Willie" Frederich Kram was born 29 Jul 1882 in Germany, died 18 Feb 1960, married Ida Agust Ruhmann Bef. 1908.

iii. Emil Kram was born 12 Aug 1884 in Germany, died 20 Oct 1971 in Haywood, Alameda, California, USA, married Hilda Unknown Bef. 1918; married Theresa Bayard 07 Jun 1925 in Yolo, California, USA.

iv. Carolina "Lena" Kram was born 02 Oct 1885 in Germany, died 08 Jul 1962 in San Joaquin, California, USA, married Fritz Ehler Bef. 1901.

+ 3. v. Marie "Mary" Kram was born 01 Sep 1886 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany[26, 27, 28], died 30 Apr 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA[29, 30], married Adolph Henry Koenning 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA[25].

vi. Charlie Kram was born 05 Mar 1889 in Texas, USA, married Emma Zander Bef. 1916 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

vii. Anna Sabrina "Ida" Kram was born 22 Oct 1891 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 06 Sep 1937 in Stockton, San Joaquin, California, USA, married Henry Alois Koenning 22 Oct 1912 in Schulenburg, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

viii. Emma Kram was born 03 Apr 1894 in Texas, USA, died 12 Sep 1894 in Texas, USA.

ix. Herman Christian Kram was born 03 Jul 1895 in Texas, USA, died 25 Aug 1981 in Tuolumne, California, USA, married Helen Unknown Bef. 1925.
Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Generation 3 (con't)

x. Josipha "Josie" Kram was born 05 Jun 1896 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 09 Jun 1986 in Stockton, San Joaquin, California, USA, married Otto Behlen Bef. 1919 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

xi. Christina Kram was born 28 Aug 1897 in Texas, USA, died Abt. 1925, married Arthur Dietz Bef. 1925.

xii. Louise Kram was born 05 Jun 1901 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 05 Feb 1980 in Livermore, Alameda, California, USA.

Generation 4

8. **Johann "John" Friedrich Könning or Koenning** was born on 12 May 1817 in Germany or Prussia[63, 64, 65]. He died on 22 Aug 1892 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA[66]. He married Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger on 05 Jun 1854 in Tuchen, Reckenthin, Ostprignitz, Brandenburg, Germany[39].

9. **Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger** was born 10 Nov 1821 in Prussia[67], died 07 Aug 1892 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA[68], married 05 Jun 1854 in Tuchen, Reckenthin, Ostprignitz, Brandenburg, Germany[39].

Children of Johann "John" Friedrich Könning or Koenning and Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger are:

+ 4. i. Joachim "Joe" Koenning was born 17 Sep 1857 in Brandenburg, Germany[33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39], died 01 Oct 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[40, 41, 42, 43, 44], married Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA[45].

ii. Wilhelm or William Marion Koenning was born 11 May 1860 in Brandenburg, Germany[39], died 31 Aug 1945 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA[69], married Emma Redman 29 Dec 1890 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA.

iii. Caroline "Lena" Koenning was born 09 Jul 1864 in Brandenburg, Germany[39], died 08 Sep 1956 in Schulenburg, Lavaca, Texas, USA[70], married Frederick A. Rode or Rhode 19 Dec 1882 in Flatonio, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

Children of Johann "John" Friedrich Könning or Koenning and Unknown are:

i. Unknown female Koenning was born Abt. 1839 in Germany, died Germany.

ii. John Friedrich Koenning Jr. was born 24 Sep 1840 in Brandenburg, Germany[71], died Texas, USA[72].

iii. Unknown female Koenning was born Abt. 1842 in Germany, died Texas, USA.

10. **Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken[73]** was born on 10 Sep 1826 in Borbeck, Oldenburg (now Niedersachsen), Germany[74, 75]. He was the son of 20. Johann Wemken and 21. Helene Bremer. He died on 10 Dec 1897 in Lavaca, Texas, USA[76, 77]. He married Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann on 25 Jun 1855 in Wiefelstede, Oldenburg, Germany[78].

11. **Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann** was born 14 Feb 1829 in Blasheim, Niedersachsen, Germany, died 14 Dec 1912 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA[79, 80], married 25 Jun 1855 in Wiefelstede, Oldenburg, Germany[78]. She was the daughter of 22. Johann Hinrich Stratmann and 23. Anna Marie Sophie Charlotte Bruggemann.
Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Generation 4 (con't)

Children of Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken and Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann are:

i. Johann "John" Wilhelm Wemken was born 02 Oct 1855 in Neuenkruge, Oldenburg, Germany, died 03 Jul 1927 in Hermleigh, Scurry, Texas, USA[81], married Anna Christiana Pietsch Bef. 1881.

ii. Unknown Wemken was born Abt. 1859 in Oldenburg, Germany, died Abt. 1859 in Oldenburg, Germany.

+ 5. iii. Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken was born 27 Apr 1861 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany[46, 47], died 30 Sep 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[41, 48, 49], married Joachim "Joe" Koenning 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA[49].

iv. Heinrich "Henry" Wemken was born 18 Sep 1864 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany[82], married Maria "Mary" Templin Bef. 1887.

v. Anna Marie Sophie Wemken was born 10 Sep 1866 in Oldenburg, Germany, died 04 Mar 1958 in Harris, Texas, USA, married Adolph J. Herm 12 Dec 1889 in Fayette, Texas, USA[83].

vi. Anna Wilhelmine Wemken was born 26 Aug 1868 in Oldenburg, Germany, died 23 Mar 1952 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA[84].

vii. Johanna "Hannah" Wemken was born 22 Apr 1870 in Texas, USA, died 07 Sep 1939 in Scurry, Texas, USA[85, 86], married Robert Charles Herm 13 Dec 1894 in Fayette, Texas, USA.

viii. Wilhelm Charles "Willy" Wemken was born 05 Mar 1873 in Texas, USA, died 12 Mar 1925 in Merced, California, USA, married Lena Gindt Abt. 1906.

ix. Lillian "Lillie" Wemken was born 17 Oct 1878 in Texas, USA, died 19 Nov 1947 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA[87], married Paul E. Discher Abt. 1900.

Sources

7. Lloyd O. and Gertrude Croft, grave marker (photo), Mission Burial Park Mausoleum, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.
10. Guadalupe County, Texas, marriage record, Guadalupe County Clerk's Office, Seguin, Texas.
11. Lloyd Ollie Croft birth certificate no. 2940, Nebraska Health & Human Services System, Lincoln, Nebraska.
Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

Sources (con't)

14 Lloyd O. Croft, death certificate no. 00190, Texas Dept. of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
29 Mary Koenning, death certificate no. 29-024324, State of California, Department of Health Services, Sacramento, California.
30 Mary Koenning, grave marker, Park View Cemetery, San Joaquin, California.
38 District Court, Lavaca County, Texas, Minutes of Naturalization, Lavaca County, August Term, A.D. 1892. State of Texas
40 Joe Koenning, death certificate no. 48151, Texas Dept of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics Certificate, Austin, Texas.
Sources (con’t)

41 Joe and Hellene Koenning, grave marker (photo), Mission Burial Park, South, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.
45 Lavaca County, Joe Koenning and Hellene Wenken, marriage license File no. 497, Lavaca County Clerk’s Office, Hallettsville, Texas.
48 Hellene W. Koenning, death certificate no. 43961, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
49 Hellene Koenning obituary, San Antonio Express. San Antonio, Texas, Thursday, 1 October & Friday 2 October 1936, p. 9, column 4.
57 Joe Kram, death certificate no. 20-15530, state index no 1043, State of California, Department of Public Health, Sacramento, California.
58 Joe and Margaret Kram, grave marker (photo), Woodland Cemetery, Yolo, California.
59 Joe Kram obituary, Woodland Daily Democrat, Woodland, California, 06 Mar 1920.
62 Joe and Margaret Kram, grave marker, Woodland Cemetery, Yolo, California.
64 Koenning, Bobby, email correspondence with letter written by Dora Koenning Clark, June 29, 2010.
65 Bettac, Suzanne, Koenning Report #1, April 28, 2008.
66 John and Dorothea, grave marker, Earl-Quinn Cemetery, Ganado, Jackson, Texas.
68 John and Dorothea Koenning, grave marker, Earl-Quinn Cemetery, Ganado, Jackson, Texas.
69 William Koenning, death certificate no. 35830, Texas Dept. of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
70 Carolina Rode, death certificate no. 49229, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
71 District Court, Lavaca County, Texas, Declaration of Intention no. 455, 07 Apr 1919, Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas.
Sources (con't)

75 A.H. Wemken, Application for Naturalization, District Court, La Grange, Texas.
80 Wilhemine Wemken, death certificate no. 28081, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
81 Bettac, Suzanne, Bettac report on Koenning and Wemken families, April 2008.
82 Bettac report, April 2008 - email from G. Oltmann to Suzanne S. Bettac.
84 Wilhelmine Discher, death certificate no. 13742, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
85 Hannah Herm, death certificate no. 43758, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
86 Bettac, Suzanne, Bettac report on Koenning and Wemken families, April 2008.
87 Lillie Discher, death certificate no. 47394, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
PART THREE

Croft Family Group Sheets

Lloyd Ollie and Gertrude Koenning Croft

Oscar Cameron and Ethel Mohler Croft

William Teeter and Alice Caulk Croft

John Hipple and Elizabeth Teeter Croft

RELATED FAMILIES

Thomas and Mary Emma Bowton Mohler

John and Lydia Shambaugh Mohler

William and Rebecca Kirkpatrick Bowton

Allen Monroe and Cansada Johns Caulk
# Family Group Sheet for Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

**Husband:** Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft  
- **Birth:** 09 Feb 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA  
- **Death:** 05 Jan 1987 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA  
- **Burial:** Mission Park Cem, San Antonio, TX  
- **Marriage:** 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA  
- **Father:** Oscar Cameron Croft  
- **Mother:** Ethel Mae Mohler

**Wife:** Gertrude Kathlena Koenning  
- **Birth:** 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
- **Death:** 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA  
- **Burial:** Mission Park Cem, San Antonio, TX  
- **Father:** Adolph Henry Koenning  
- **Mother:** Marie "Mary" Kram

**Children:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lloyd Koenning &quot;L.K.&quot; Croft</td>
<td>12 Feb 1935 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
<td>12 Jul 1958 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Lucy Ann Nance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cynthia Elaine Croft</td>
<td>17 Oct 1940 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
<td>02 Sep 1961 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Thomas &quot;Tom&quot; Robbins LeBleu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**
# Family Group Sheet for Oscar Cameron Croft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband:</th>
<th>Oscar Cameron Croft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>19 Jun 1887 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>19 Apr 1952 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>22 Apr 1952 in San Antonio, TX, Mission Park, South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>William Teeter Croft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Alice Madora Caulk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife:</th>
<th>Ethel Mae Mohler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>10 Aug 1891 in Orion Twp, Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>30 Jun 1989 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>03 Jul 1989 in San Antonio, Bexar Co, TX Mission Park, South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson &quot;Jerry&quot; Mohler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Mary Emma Bowton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Birth:</th>
<th>Death:</th>
<th>Burial:</th>
<th>Marriage:</th>
<th>Spouse:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft</td>
<td>09 Feb 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>05 Jan 1987 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Mission Park Cem, San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Gertrude Kathlena Koenning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Keith Lyle Croft</td>
<td>15 Nov 1920 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>22 Dec 1997 in Houston, Harris Co, TX</td>
<td>10 Aug 1941 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Mildred Margaret Shields</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Notes

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 209
# Family Group Sheet for William Teeter Croft

**Husband:** William Teeter Croft  
- **Birth:** 26 Apr 1857 in Unionville, Appanoose, Iowa, USA  
- **Death:** 11 Jan 1942 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA  
- **Burial:** San Antonio, Mission Park South  
- **Marriage:** 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA  
- **Father:** John Hipple Croft  
- **Mother:** Elizabeth Teeter

**Wife:** Alice Madora Caulk  
- **Birth:** 26 Jul 1867 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA  
- **Death:** 08 Oct 1947 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA  
- **Burial:** San Antonio, Mission Park South  
- **Father:** Allen Monroe Caulk  
- **Mother:** Cansada Jones

**Children:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Birth Place</th>
<th>Death Date</th>
<th>Death Place</th>
<th>Burial Date</th>
<th>Burial Place</th>
<th>Marriage Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Oscar Cameron Croft</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>19 Jun 1887</td>
<td>Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska</td>
<td>19 Apr 1952</td>
<td>San Antonio, Bexar, Texas</td>
<td>22 Apr 1952</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX, Mission Park South</td>
<td>05 Oct 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Paul Harold Croft</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>20 Jun 1890</td>
<td>Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska</td>
<td>08 Mar 1971</td>
<td>Tacoma, Washington</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>01 Jan 1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>George Allen Croft</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>20 Mar 1894</td>
<td>Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska</td>
<td>21 Apr 1979</td>
<td>Kansas City, Jackson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 Mar 1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Edna Ruth Croft</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>27 Oct 1895</td>
<td>Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska</td>
<td>29 Dec 1985</td>
<td>Washington, Kansas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22 Sep 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Elmer Glenn Croft</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>11 Mar 1897</td>
<td>Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Family Group Sheet for William Teeter Croft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Birth:</th>
<th>Death:</th>
<th>Marriage:</th>
<th>Spouse:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fred Dewey &quot;Fritz or Doc&quot; Croft</td>
<td>27 Jul 1898 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>14 Nov 1988 in Glen Aubrey, Broome, New York, USA</td>
<td>19 Aug 1925</td>
<td>Isabel Roth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Frank Monroe Croft</td>
<td>21 Oct 1900 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>16 Mar 1952 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA</td>
<td>Bef. 1926</td>
<td>Gladys Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Floyd Ward Croft</td>
<td>02 Jan 1903 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>07 Jan 1963 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA</td>
<td>Bef. 1929</td>
<td>Erma Woolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Grace Irene Croft</td>
<td>02 Jun 1904 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>19 Sep 1990 in Prosser, Benton, Washington, USA</td>
<td>11 Jun 1924 in Julesburg, California, USA</td>
<td>Alfred Montgomery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Blanche Marie Croft</td>
<td>17 Mar 1906 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>2000 in Longmont, Boulder, Colorado, USA</td>
<td>02 Jun 1928</td>
<td>Fred Mumford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hope Cansada Croft</td>
<td>20 Mar 1907 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>03 Nov 1996 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA</td>
<td>16 Apr 1927</td>
<td>William Edwin Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Russell William Croft</td>
<td>11 Dec 1908 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>31 Jan 1980 in Arlington, Dallas Co., TX</td>
<td>20 Feb 1930</td>
<td>Mary Ann Ross</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 212
## Family Group Sheet for John Hipple Croft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband: John Hipple Croft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 30 Mar 1819 in Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 19 Aug 1892 in Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: Clay Center Cemetery, south side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: 20 Nov 1840 in Martainsburg, Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Daniel R. Croft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Anna Margareta &quot;Margaret&quot; Hipple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife: Elizabeth Teeter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 18 Apr 1824 in Buffalo Mills, Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 02 Nov 1890 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: Clay Center Cemetery, Clay Co., NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: David Teeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Mary Agley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Children:

1. **F**  
   - Name: Mary Ann Croft  
   - Birth: 24 Nov 1841 in Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA  
   - Death: 18 Apr 1909 in Union Twp., Appanoose, Iowa, USA  
   - Marriage: 06 Aug 1861 in Appanoose, Iowa, USA  
   - Spouse: Solomon Lyndon Coltrain

2. **M**  
   - Name: Margaret "Peg" Croft  
   - Birth: 21 Mar 1845 in Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA  
   - Death: 12 Aug 1934 in Clay Center, Clay, Nebraska, USA  
   - Marriage: 17 Mar 1861  
   - Spouse: Jacob W. Hager

3. **F**  
   - Name: Barbara "Barb" Ellen Croft  
   - Birth: 02 Apr 1847 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, USA  
   - Death: 1928 in Clay Center, Nebraska, USA  
   - Marriage: Bef. 1865  
   - Spouse: Andrew Jackson Clark

4. **M**  
   - Name: John Hipple Croft  
   - Birth: 16 Mar 1850 in Van Buren, Iowa, USA  
   - Marriage: 14 May 1868  
   - Spouse: Isadora "Dora" Francis Masterson

5. **F**  
   - Name: Caroline "Carrie" Minerva Croft  
   - Birth: 26 Mar 1853 in Morovia, Appanoose, Iowa, USA  
   - Death: 17 Feb 1930 in Clay, Nebraska, USA  
   - Burial: Clay, NE, Clay Center Cemetery  
   - Marriage: 21 Nov 1875  
   - Spouse: Nathaniel Graham

6. **M**  
   - Name: Eli Croft  
   - Birth: 1855 in Iowa, USA  
   - Death: Aft. 1940  
   - Marriage: Abt. 1897  
   - Spouse: Emma Robar

---

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 213
Family Group Sheet for John Hipple Croft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>William Teeter Croft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>26 Apr 1857 in Unionville, Appanoose, Iowa, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>11 Jan 1942 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>San Antonio, Mission Park South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse:</td>
<td>Alice Madora Caulk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Edward Croft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>1861 in Iowa, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>Bef. 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse:</td>
<td>Emily Hager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9</th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Isabel &quot;Belle&quot; Croft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>1863 in Appanoose, Iowa, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>1953 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>08 Dec 1881 in Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse:</td>
<td>John Squires Kirkpatrick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 214
## Family Group Sheet for Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband:</th>
<th>Thomas Jefferson &quot;Jerry&quot; Mohler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>14 Apr 1851 in Hanover Twsp. Janesville, Ashland, Ohio, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>28 Dec 1937 in York, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>John Adam Mohler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Lydia Ann Shambaugh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife:</th>
<th>Mary Emma Bowton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>23 May 1857 in Glasford-Orion Twshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>12 May 1945 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>14 May 1945 in Greenwood, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>William Bowton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Rebecca Kirkpatrick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 F</td>
<td>Floa Rebecca Mohler</td>
<td>11 Jan 1877 in Illinois, USA</td>
<td>28 Dec 1955 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>05 Sep 1894 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>J.P. Lautenschlager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 M</td>
<td>Lora &quot;L.E.&quot; Ellsworth Mohler</td>
<td>11 Oct 1879 in Farmington, Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>24 Sep 1966 in Eddyville, Dawson, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>14 Aug 1907</td>
<td>Mary Frances Woodruff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 M</td>
<td>Charles Ira Mohler</td>
<td>31 Mar 1881 in Farmington, Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>03 Dec 1956 in Barstow, Fresno, California, USA</td>
<td>26 Jun 1907</td>
<td>Lauretta &quot;Lottie&quot; Herman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 M</td>
<td>William B. &quot;Will&quot; Mohler</td>
<td>05 Jan 1885 in Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>24 May 1941 in York, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>14 Aug 1908</td>
<td>Edith Estelle Holm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 F</td>
<td>Lena Marie Mohler</td>
<td>18 Oct 1888 in Illinois, USA</td>
<td>Jul 1978 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
<td>07 Jun 1911</td>
<td>Lee Gilbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oscar Cameron Croft</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 215
**Family Group Sheet for Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Birth:</th>
<th>Death:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dara S. Mohler</td>
<td>15 Jan 1896 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>15 Jun 1935 in Sun City West, Maricopa, Arizona, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>David M. Mohler</td>
<td>15 Jan 1896 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>26 Jul 1935 in York, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1917 in York, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse: Jessie Melton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ewart G. Mohler</td>
<td>13 Jun 1899 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>Jun 1965 in Lincoln, Lancaster, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23 Aug 1921 in Lincoln, Johnson, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse: Stella McCraig</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**
**Family Group Sheet for John Adam Mohler**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Husband:</strong></th>
<th>John Adam Mohler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>09 Mar 1810 in Buffalo, Washington, Pennsylvania, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
<td>25 Oct 1894 in Hamilton, Hancock, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marriage:</strong></td>
<td>09 Jun 1835 in Richland, Ohio, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Father:</strong></td>
<td>John Adam Mohler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother:</strong></td>
<td>Anney Catherine Irich</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wife:</strong></th>
<th>Lydia Ann Shambaugh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>28 May 1816 in Center Twsp., Union, Pennsylvania, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
<td>29 Jan 1861 in Spring Grove Twsp., Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Father:</strong></td>
<td>John Shambaugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother:</strong></td>
<td>Catherine Walter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Children:</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 F</td>
<td>Name: Julia Ann Mohler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birth: 11 Mar 1836 in Ohio, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death: 25 Dec 1869 in Trivoli, Peoria, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage: 05 Jan 1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse: Obediah Rusk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2 M | Name: Levi Mohler |
| | Birth: 05 Jun 1837 in Ohio, USA |
| | Death: 14 Jun 1909 in Kankakee, Illinois, USA |
| | Spouse: Sarah J. "Jennie" Stuart |

| 3 F | Name: Phebe Mohler |
| | Birth: 30 Sep 1838 in 14 May Greensboro, Summit, Ohio, USA |
| | Death: 14 May 1931 in Kaw, Jefferson, Kansas, USA |
| | Marriage: 06 Oct 1858 in Hanover, Warren, Illinois |
| | Spouse: John Thomas Ritchey |

| 4 M | Name: William Henry Mohler |
| | Birth: 07 Jul 1840 in Ohio, USA |
| | Death: Aft. 1920 |
| | Spouse: Harriett Unknown |

| 5 M | Name: George Washington Mohler |
| | Birth: 23 Apr 1842 in Ohio, USA |
| | Spouse: Mary A. Stuart |

| 6 F | Name: Catherine Clara Mohler |
| | Birth: 26 Feb 1844 in Londonville, Hanover Twsp., Ashland, Ohio, USA |
| | Death: 18 Jun 1901 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA |
| | Marriage: 09 Oct 1864 in Warren, Illinois, USA |
| | Spouse: James B. Clements |

| 7 M | Name: Jeremiah L. Mohler |
| | Birth: 08 Jan 1846 in Mansfield, Ohio, USA |
| | Death: 08 Nov 1918 in Red Oak, Montgomery, Iowa, USA |
| | Marriage: Bef. 1870 |
| | Spouse: Amanda Unknown |

---

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 217
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mary Ann Mohler</td>
<td>1847 in Richland, Ohio, USA</td>
<td>11 Sep 1873</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>John Wesley Mohler</td>
<td>06 Jul 1849 in Hanover Twsp. Ashland, Ohio, USA</td>
<td>30 Mar 1929 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>14 Sep 1876 in Cuba, Lake, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>Mary Katherine Seaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson &quot;Jerry&quot; Mohler</td>
<td>14 Apr 1851 in Hanover Twsp. Janesville, Ashland, Ohio, USA</td>
<td>28 Dec 1937 in York, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>Mary Emma Bowton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Franklin &quot;Frank&quot; Pierce Mohler</td>
<td>1852 in Hanover Twsp. Ashland, Ohio, USA</td>
<td>1923 in Des Moines, Polk, Iowa, USA</td>
<td>12 Jun 1879 in Polk, Iowa, USA</td>
<td>Parrish Eva Estella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Isaac Newton Mohler</td>
<td>17 Sep 1854 in Spring Grove Twsp., Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Oliver Cromwell Mohler</td>
<td>Dec 1859 in Illinois, USA</td>
<td>1951 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>Bef. 1898</td>
<td>Ida May Confer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 218
# Family Group Sheet for William Bowton

**Husband:** William Bowton  
**Birth:** 02 Aug 1819 in Maldon, Essex, England  
**Death:** 23 Mar 1903 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA  
**Marriage:** 15 Jan 1846 in Indiana or Ohio USA  
**Father:** Mark Bowton  
**Mother:** Mary Nash

**Wife:** Rebecca Kirkpatrick  
**Birth:** 03 May 1828 in Ohio, USA  
**Death:** 02 Mar 1919 in Fulton, Illinois, USA  
**Father:** Hugh Kirkpatrick  
**Mother:** Nancy Baird

### Children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>William Henry Bowton</td>
<td>02 Jul 1847 in Indiana, USA</td>
<td>07 Dec 1921 in Canton, Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>Lucinda Isabelle Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>John T. Bowton</td>
<td>Abt. 1852 in Ohio, USA</td>
<td>1924 in Sheldon, Iroquois, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>Josephine Kelley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hugh Bowton</td>
<td>Abt. 1855 in Illinois, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mary Emma Bowton</td>
<td>23 May 1857 in Glasford-Orion Twshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>12 May 1945 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson &quot;Jerry&quot; Mohler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nancy Bowton</td>
<td>1861 in Illinois, USA</td>
<td>12 Dec 1943 in Decatur, Macon, Illinois</td>
<td>Joseph Henry Echols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Charles Ellsworth Bowton</td>
<td>03 Mar 1863 in Fulton, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>Aft. 1920 in Illinois, USA</td>
<td>Olive &quot;Ollie&quot; Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cynthia E. Bowton</td>
<td>Abt. 1868</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Albert Bowton</td>
<td>1868 in Illinois, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Family Group Sheet for William Bowton

| 9 | Name: Andrew Bowton |
|   | Birth: 1870 in Illinois, USA |
|   | Death: 1924 |
|   | Marriage: Bef. 1898 |
|   | Spouse: Margret "Maggie" Mills |

Notes
Family Group Sheet for Allen Monroe Caulk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband:</th>
<th>Allen Monroe Caulk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>11 Nov 1831 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>03 Dec 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>06 Sep 1866 in Montgomery, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>James Patterson Caulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Sarah Powers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife:</th>
<th>Cansada Jones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>26 Oct 1842 in Jackson, Tennessee, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>24 Dec 1930 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Joseph Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Elizabeth Sneed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Family Group Sheet for Allen Monroe Caulk

| 7 | Name: Sarah Susanna Caulk |
|   | Birth: 19 Oct 1879 in Illinois, USA |
|   | Death: 14 Jul 1962 in Imperial, Chase, Nebraska, USA |
|   | Burial: Imperial, Chase Co.NE, Mr. Hope Cemetery |
|   | Spouse: Edgar Hines |

| 8 | Name: Henry Chester Caulk |
|   | Birth: 11 Feb 1881 in Illinois, USA |
|   | Death: 13 Dec 1963 in Pleasant Hill, Cass, Missouri, USA |
|   | Marriage: Bef. 1910 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA |
|   | Spouse: Isabel "Belle" Unknown |

| 9 | Name: Bertha Lavinia Caulk |
|   | Birth: 16 Apr 1885 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA |
|   | Death: 28 Apr 1968 in San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA |
|   | Spouse: Sanford Lester Steele |

### Notes
PART FOUR

Koenning Family Group Sheets

Adolph Henry and Marie "Mary" Kram Koenning

Joachim "Joe" and Helene Catherine Wemken Koenning

Johann "John" Friedrich and Anne Dorothea Berger Koenning

RELATED FAMILIES

Joseph and Anna Margaretha Klüch/Klück Kram

Alerd Heuermann Wemken and Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann Wemken
**Family Group Sheet for Adolph Henry Koenning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband:</th>
<th>Adolph Henry Koenning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>03 Oct 1882 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>28 Nov 1948 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>30 Nov 1948 in Mission Burial Park, San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Joachim &quot;Joe&quot; Koenning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife: Marie &quot;Mary&quot; Kram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 01 Sep 1886 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 30 Apr 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: Stockton, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Joseph &quot;Joe&quot; Kram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Anna Margaretha Kluch or Kluck</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children:**

1. **M** Name: Victor Koenning
   - Birth: 1912 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
   - Death: 20 Dec 1951 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
   - Marriage: Bef. 1936
   - Spouse: Mary Goodnight

2. **F** Name: Gertrude Kathlena Koenning
   - Birth: 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
   - Death: 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
   - Burial: Mission Park Cem, San Antonio, TX
   - Marriage: 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA
   - Spouse: Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

3. **M** Name: Melvin H. Koenning
   - Birth: 30 Sep 1915 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
   - Death: 08 Mar 1983 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
   - Marriage: 16 Sep 1936 in Boerne, Kendall, Texas, USA
   - Spouse: Elizabeth (Betty) Roseyn Roberts

**Notes**

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 225
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Husband:</strong></th>
<th>Joachim &quot;Joe&quot; Koenning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>17 Sep 1857 in Brandenburg, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>01 Oct 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>San Antonio, Bexar, TX, Mission South Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Johann &quot;John&quot; Friedrich Könning or Koenning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Anne Dorothea &quot;Dora&quot; Elisabeth Berger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wife:</strong></th>
<th>Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>27 Apr 1861 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>30 Sep 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>San Antonio, Bexar, TX, Mission South Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Children:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 M</strong> Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **2 F** Name: | Frieda Koenning |
| Birth:        | Abt. 1885 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA |

| **3 M** Name: | Henry Aloysis Koenning |
| Birth:        | 12 Jul 1886 in Schulenburg, Fayette, Texas, USA |
| Death:        | 07 Mar 1966 in Lakeside, San Diego, California, USA |
| Marriage:     | Bef. 1914 |
| Spouse:       | Anna Sabina Ida Kram |

| **4 M** Name: | Louis Koenning |
| Birth:        | 03 Apr 1888 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Death:        | 23 Nov 1914 in Cuero, De Witt, Texas, USA |

| **5 F** Name: | Olga Koenning |
| Birth:        | Mar 1891 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Death:        | 14 Jun 1959 in San Antonio Bexar, Texas, USA |
| Marriage:     | Bef. 1916 |
| Spouse:       | Alvin Anton Hirsch |

| **6 F** Name: | Minhelda (Minnie) Koenning |
| Birth:        | May 1892 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Death:        | 14 May 1971 in San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA |
| Marriage:     | Aft. 1936 |
| Spouse:       | Fred "Fritz" Schwab |

| **7 M** Name: | Rudolph Koenning |
| Birth:        | Nov 1894 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Marriage:     | Bef. 1918 |
| Spouse:       | Vada Maurine Townsend |

---

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 227
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Walter Paul Koenning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>12 Jul 1900 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>10 Aug 1958 in San Antonio Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>Bef. 1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse:</td>
<td>Ida Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband: Johann &quot;John&quot; Friedrich Könning or Koenning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong> 12 May 1817 in Germany or Prussia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Death:</strong> 22 Aug 1892 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marriage:</strong> 05 Jun 1854 in Tuchen, Reckenthin, Ostprignitz, Brandenburg, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Father:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife: Anne Dorothea &quot;Dora&quot; Elisabeth Berger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong> 10 Nov 1821 in Prussia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Death:</strong> 07 Aug 1892 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Father:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1**
| **Name:** Joachim "Joe" Koenning |
| **Birth:** 17 Sep 1857 in Brandenburg, Germany |
| **Death:** 01 Oct 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA |
| **Burial:** San Antonio, Bexar, TX, Mission South Cemetery |
| **Marriage:** 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| **Spouse:** Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken |

| **2**
| **Name:** Wilhelm or William Marion Koenning |
| **Birth:** 11 May 1860 in Brandenburg, Germany |
| **Death:** 31 Aug 1945 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA |
| **Marriage:** 29 Dec 1890 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA |
| **Spouse:** Emma Redman |

| **3**
| **Name:** Caroline "Lena" Koenning |
| **Birth:** 09 Jul 1864 in Brandenburg, Germany |
| **Death:** 08 Sep 1956 in Schulenburg, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| **Marriage:** 19 Dec 1882 in Flatonio, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| **Spouse:** Frederich A. Rode or Rhode |
Family Group Sheet for Joseph "Joe" Kram

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband:</th>
<th>Joseph &quot;Joe&quot; Kram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>12 Mar 1854 in Ebersberg, Hesse, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>06 Mar 1920 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>Bef. 1880 in Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Wife:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Father:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children:</td>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burial:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Family Group Sheet for Joseph "Joe" Kram

| 7 | Name: Anna Sabrina "Ida" Kram |
|   | Birth: 22 Oct 1891 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
|   | Death: 06 Sep 1937 in Stockton, San Joaquin, California, USA |
|   | Marriage: 22 Oct 1912 in Schulenburg, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
|   | Spouse: Henry Alois Koenning |

| 8 | Name: Emma Kram |
|   | Birth: 03 Apr 1894 in Texas, USA |
|   | Death: 12 Sep 1894 in Texas, USA |

| 9 | Name: Herman Christian Kram |
|   | Birth: 03 Jul 1895 in Texas, USA |
|   | Death: 25 Aug 1981 in Tuolumne, California, USA |
|   | Marriage: Bef. 1925 |
|   | Spouse: Helen Unknown |

| 10 | Name: Josipha "Josie" Kram |
|    | Birth: 05 Jun 1896 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
|    | Death: 09 Jun 1986 in Stockton, San Joaquin, California, USA |
|    | Marriage: Bef. 1919 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
|    | Spouse: Otto Behlen |

| 11 | Name: Christina Kram |
|    | Birth: 28 Aug 1897 in Texas, USA |
|    | Death: Abt. 1925 |
|    | Marriage: Bef. 1925 |
|    | Spouse: Arthur Dietz |

| 12 | Name: Louise Kram |
|    | Birth: 05 Jun 1901 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
|    | Death: 05 Feb 1980 in Livermore, Alameda, California, USA |

### Notes

Family Histories of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Koenning: 232
## Family Group Sheet for Aled or Albert Heuermann Wemken

### Husband:
- **Name:** Aled or Albert Heuermann Wemken
- **Birth:** 10 Sep 1826 in Borbeck, Oldenburg (now Niedersachsen), Germany
- **Death:** 10 Dec 1897 in Lavaca, Texas, USA
- **Marriage:** 25 Jun 1855 in Wiefelstede, Oldenburg, Germany
- **Father:** Johann Wemken
- **Mother:** Helene Bremer

### Wife:
- **Name:** Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann
- **Birth:** 14 Feb 1829 in Blasheim, Niedersachsen, Germany
- **Death:** 14 Dec 1912 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
- **Father:** Johann Hinrich Strattman
- **Mother:** Anna Marie Sophie Charlotte Bruggemann

### Children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>Death Date</th>
<th>Place of Death</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Johann &quot;John&quot; Wilhelm Wemken</td>
<td>02 Oct 1855 in Neuenkruege, Oldenburg, Germany</td>
<td>Hermleigh, Scurry, Texas, USA</td>
<td>03 Jul 1927 in Hermleigh, Scurry, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anna Christiana Pietsch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Unknown Wemken</td>
<td>Abt. 1859 in Oldenburg, Germany</td>
<td>Abt. 1859 in Oldenburg, Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken</td>
<td>27 Apr 1861 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany</td>
<td>San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
<td>30 Sep 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Mission South Cemetery</td>
<td>Joachim &quot;Joe&quot; Koenning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Heinrich &quot;Henry&quot; Wemken</td>
<td>18 Sep 1864 in Oldenburg, Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maria &quot;Mary&quot; Templin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Anna Marie Sophie Wemken</td>
<td>10 Sep 1866 in Oldenburg, Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adolph J. Herm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Anna Wilhelmine Wemken</td>
<td>26 Aug 1868 in Oldenburg, Germany</td>
<td>Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Herbert or Abert Discher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Johanna &quot;Hannah&quot; Wemken</td>
<td>22 Apr 1870 in Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Charles Herm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wilhelm Charles &quot;Willy&quot; Wemken</td>
<td>05 Mar 1873 in Texas, USA</td>
<td>12 Mar 1925 in Merced, California, USA</td>
<td>Abt. 1906</td>
<td>Lena Girndt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lillian &quot;Lillie&quot; Wemken</td>
<td>17 Oct 1878 in Texas, USA</td>
<td>19 Nov 1947 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Abt. 1900</td>
<td>Paul E. Discher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART FIVE

Simple Register Report

Descendants of Lloyd and Gertrude Koenning Croft

Includes Four Generations
Descendants of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

Generation 1

1. **Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft**-[1, 2] was born on 09 Feb 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA-[3, 4, 5]. He died on 05 Jan 1987 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA-[6, 7, 8]. He married Gertrude Kathlena Koenning on 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA-[9, 10], daughter of Adolph Henry Koenning and Marie "Mary" Kram. She was born on 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA-[11, 12, 13, 14]. She died on 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA-[7, 15]. He married Helen Mary Bippert on 17 Apr 1978 in Richardson, Dallas, Texas, USA, daughter of Max Henry Bippert and Mary Elizabeth Franger. She was born on 03 Jan 1910 in Castroville, Medina, Texas, USA. She died on 15 Feb 2005 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA.

Children of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft and Gertrude Kathlena Koenning are:


Generation 2

2. **Lloyd Koenning "L.K." Croft**-[2](Lloyd Ollie (Olie)-1)-[19, 20] was born on 12 Feb 1935 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA-[16, 17]. He married Lucy Ann Nance on 12 Jul 1958 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA-[18], daughter of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus. She was born on 22 Feb 1937 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA-[21, 22, 23, 24].

Children of Lloyd Koenning "L.K." Croft and Lucy Ann Nance are:

4. i. Leslie Elaine Croft, B: 22 Oct 1959 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA, M: Andres Martinez, 21 Dec 1985 in Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA.

5. ii. Lyle Allen Croft, B: 06 Aug 1961 in Tucson, Pima, Arizona, USA, M: Erin Riley Ross, 29 Apr 1995 in Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA.

6. iii. Lloyd Bryan Croft, B: 22 Apr 1964 in Bethesda, Montgomery, Maryland, USA, M: Stacy Jean Ljungdahl, 09 Jul 1988 in College Station, Brazos, Texas, USA.

3. **Cynthia Elaine Croft**-[2](Lloyd Ollie (Olie)-1) was born on 17 Oct 1940 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA. She married Thomas "Tom" Robbins LeBleu on 02 Sep 1961 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA. He was born on 16 Apr 1935 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA. He died on 13 Apr 1973 in OH. She married Wesley Leonard on 16 Sep 1975 in El Paso, TX. She married Robert Wood.

Children of Cynthia Elaine Croft and Thomas "Tom" Robbins LeBleu are:

7. i. Thomas Lloyd LeBleu, B: 26 Sep 1968 in El Paso, Texas, USA, M: Diane Ungers, 02 Sep 1992 in Tacoma, Washington, USA.


Generation 3

4. **Leslie Elaine Croft**-[3](Lloyd Koenning "L.K."-2, Lloyd Ollie (Olie)-1)-[25] was born on 22 Oct 1959 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA. She married Andres Martinez on 21 Dec 1985 in Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA, son of Dario Pimental Martinez and Maria de Jesus Alcala. He was born on 16 Jan 1950 in Galveston, Galveston Co, TX.
Descendants of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

Generation 3 (con't)

Child of Leslie Elaine Croft and Andres Martinez is:
  i. Daniel Croft Martinez, B: 28 Oct 1988 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.

5. Lyle Allen Croft-3(Lloyd Koenning "L.K."-2, Lloyd Ollie (Olie)-1) was born on 06 Aug 1961 in Tucson, Pima, Arizona, USA. He married Erin Riley Ross on 29 Apr 1995 in Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA, daughter of David Garrett Ross and Sara Lee Morton. She was born on 25 May 1967 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA.

Children of Lyle Allen Croft and Erin Riley Ross are:
  i. Bennett Ross Croft, B: 16 Jun 1999 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.
  ii. Camille LeeAnn Croft, B: 17 Jan 2003 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.

6. Lloyd Bryan Croft-3(Lloyd Koenning "L.K."-2, Lloyd Ollie (Olie)-1) was born on 22 Apr 1964 in Bethesda, Montgomery, Maryland, USA. He married Stacy Jean Ljungdahl on 09 Jul 1988 in College Station, Brazos, Texas, USA, daughter of Philip Warren Ljungdahl and Patricia June Woodruff. She was born on 14 Jul 1964 in Austin, Travis, Texas, USA.

Children of Lloyd Bryan Croft and Stacy Jean Ljungdahl are:
  i. Lloyd Jeffrey Croft, B: 23 Nov 1994 in Arlington, Dallas, Texas, USA.
  ii. Philip Bryan Croft, B: 08 Aug 1995 in Richardson, Dallas, Texas, USA.

7. Thomas Lloyd LeBleu-3(Cynthia Elaine-2, Lloyd Ollie (Olie)-1) was born on 26 Sep 1968 in El Paso, Texas, USA. He married Diane Unger on 02 Sep 1992 in Tacoma, Washington, USA. She was born about 26 Jun 1969 in Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA.

Children of Thomas Lloyd LeBleu and Diane Unger are:
  i. Danielle LeBleu, B: 04 Jul 1998 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA.
  ii. Travis LeBleu, B: 03 Feb 2001 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA.
  iii. Sabrina Grace LeBleu, B: 10 Mar 2005 in Austin, Travis, Texas, USA.
  iv. Caroline LeBleu, B: 02 May 2006 in Austin, Travis, Texas, USA.

8. Laura LeBleu-3(Cynthia Elaine-2, Lloyd Ollie (Olie)-1) was born on 28 Nov 1971 in El Paso, Texas, USA. She married John Ficarra on 13 Oct 2007 in New York, New York, USA.

Child of Laura LeBleu and John Ficarra is:
  i. Cody Thomas Ficarra, B: 03 Jul 2010.

Sources

1 Lloyd Ollie Croft birth certificate no. 2940, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln, Nebraska.
3 Lloyd Ollie Croft birth certificate no. 2940, Nebraska Health & Human Services System, Lincoln, Nebraska.
Sources (con't)

6 Lloyd O. Croft, death certificate no. 00190, Texas Dept. of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
7 Lloyd O. and Gertude Croft, grave marker (photo), Mission Burial Park Mausoleum, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.
10 Guadalupe County, Texas, marriage record, Guadalupe County Clerk's Office, Seguin, Texas.
15 Gertrude Kathlena Frieda Croft, death certificate no. 00250, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
16 Lloyd Koenning Croft, birth certificate no. 710, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
18 Kerr County, marriage license, Kerr County Clerk's Office, Kerrville, Texas.
19 Lloyd Koenning Croft, birth certificate no. 710, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
Index of Individuals

A
Agley, Conrad: 74
Agley, Mary: 74, 117, 213

B
Baird, Nancy: 38, 120, 219
Bayard, Theresa: 198
Behlen, Otto: 199, 232
Bellis, Ida Jane: 120
Berger, Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth: 130, 197, 199, 227, 229
Bevins, Martha J: 119
Bippert, Helen Mary: 115, 237
Bowton, Albert: 120, 219
Bowton, Andrew: 120, 220
Bowton, Charles Ellsworth: 120, 219
Bowton, Cynthia E.: 120, 219
Bowton, Hugh: 120, 219
Bowton, John T.: 120, 219
Bowton, Mark: 38, 120, 219
Bowton, Mary Emma: 10, 38, 115, 116, 119, 120, 209, 215, 218, 219
Bowton, Nancy: 120, 219
Bowton, William: 10, 38, 116, 120, 215, 219
Bowton, William Henry: 120, 219
Bremer, Helene: 199, 233
Brolliard, Brollier, Brallier, Unknown: 74
Bruggemann, Anna Marie Sophie Charlotte: 199, 233

C
Caulk, Alice Madora: 10, 115, 117, 118, 209, 211, 214, 221
Caulk, Allen Monroe: 10, 115, 118, 211, 221
Caulk, Arthur Monroe: 118, 221
Caulk, Bertha Lavinia: 118, 222
Caulk, George Washington: 118
Caulk, Henry Chester: 118, 222
Caulk, James Patterson: 118, 221
Caulk, Jasper: 118
Caulk, John Albert: 118, 221
Caulk, Joseph: 119
Caulk, Lillie Elizabeth: 118, 221
Caulk, Sarah Susanna: 118, 222
Caulk, Telitha Rosa "Rosetta": 118, 221
Caulk, Theodois a Abigail: 118, 221
Clark, Andrew Jackson: 117, 213
Clark, Frank: 118, 221
Clements, James B.: 119, 217
Coltrain, Solomon Lyndon: 117, 213
Confer, Ida May: 120, 218
Croft, Barbara "Barb" Ellen: 117, 213
Croft, Bennett Ross: 238
Croft, Blanche Marie: 116, 212
Croft, Camille LeeAnn: 238
Croft, Caroline "Carrie" Minerva: 117, 213
Croft, Cynthia Elaine: 207, 237, 238
Croft, Daniel R.: 74, 117, 213
Croft, Edna Ruth: 116, 211
Croft, Edward: 118, 214
Croft, Eli: 117, 213
Croft, Elmer Glenn: 116, 211
Croft, Floyd Ward: 116, 212
Croft, Frank Monroe: 116, 212
Croft, Fred Dewey "Fritz or Doc": 116, 212
Croft, George Allen: 116, 211
Croft, George or Daniel: 74
Croft, Grace Irene: 116, 212
Croft, Hope Cansada: 116, 212
Croft, Isabel "Belle": 118, 214
Croft, John Hipple (1819): 10, 74, 115, 117, 211, 213
Croft, John Hipple (1850): 117, 213
Croft, Keith Lyle: 115, 209
Croft, Leslie Elaine: 237
Croft, Lloyd Bryan: 237, 238
Croft, Lloyd Jeffrey: 238
Croft, Lloyd Koening "L.K.": 207, 237, 238
Croft, Lloyd Ollie (Olly): 10, 115, 197, 207, 209, 225, 237, 238
Croft, Lyle Allen: 237, 238
Croft, Margaret "Peg": 117, 213
Croft, Mary Ann: 117, 213
Croft, Oscar Cameron: 10, 115, 117, 207, 209, 211, 215
Croft, Paul Harold: 115, 211
Croft, Philip Bryan: 238
Croft, Russell William: 116, 212
Croft, Vede "Vida" Weaver: 115, 211
Croft, William Teeter: 10, 74, 115, 117, 118, 209, 211, 214, 221
D
Dietz, Arthur: 199, 232
Dilts, Ann: 74
Discher, Herbert or Abert: 233
Discher, Paul E.: 200, 234
Durfee, Merle: 116, 211
E
Echols, Joseph Henry: 219
Ehler, Fritz (1): 198, 231
Ehler, Fritz (2): 198, 231
Embree, Frank William: 118, 221
Estella, Parrish Eva: 119, 218
F
Ficarra, Cody Thomas: 238
Ficarra, John: 238
G
Gilbert, Lee: 117, 215
Gimdt, Lena: 200, 234
Goodnight, Mary: 197, 225
Graham, Nathaniel: 117, 213
Griggs, Susan May: 120
Grites, Franklin Luther: 118, 221
H
Hager, Emily: 118, 214
Hager, Jacob W.: 117, 213
Herm, Adolph J.: 200, 233
# Index of Individuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herm, Robert Charles</td>
<td>200,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herman, Lauretta &quot;Lottie&quot;</td>
<td>116,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hines, Edgar</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hipple, Anna Margareta &quot;Margaret&quot;</td>
<td>74,117,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hipple, John</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirsch, Alvin Anton</td>
<td>198,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holm, Edith Estelle</td>
<td>117,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston, Lena Esther</td>
<td>116,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irich, Anney Catherine</td>
<td>38,119,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Cansada</td>
<td>10,115,118,211,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Joseph</td>
<td>118,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelley, Josephine</td>
<td>120,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly, Francis</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkpatrick, Hugh</td>
<td>38,120,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkpatrick, John Squires</td>
<td>118,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkpatrick, Rebecca</td>
<td>10,38,116,120,215,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kluck, Anna Margareta Kluch or:</td>
<td>130,197,198,225,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Adolph Henry</td>
<td>130,197,198,207,225,227,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Caroline &quot;Lena&quot;</td>
<td>199,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Frieda</td>
<td>197,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Gertrude Kathlena:</td>
<td>115,130,197,207,209,225,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Henry Alois</td>
<td>198,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Henry Aloysis</td>
<td>197,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Joachim &quot;Joe&quot;:</td>
<td>130,197,199,200,225,227,229,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Johann &quot;John&quot;</td>
<td>130,197,199,227,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friedrich Könning or:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, John Friedrich Jr.:</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Louis</td>
<td>198,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Melvin H.</td>
<td>197,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Minhelda &quot;Minnie&quot;:</td>
<td>198,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Olga</td>
<td>198,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Rudolph</td>
<td>198,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Unknown female (1839):</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Unknown female (1842):</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Victor</td>
<td>197,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Walter Paul</td>
<td>198,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koenning, Wilhelm or William Marion:</td>
<td>199,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Anna Margaretha &quot;Margaret&quot;:</td>
<td>198,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Anna Sabina Ida</td>
<td>197,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Anna Sabina &quot;Ida&quot;:</td>
<td>198,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Carolina &quot;Lena&quot;:</td>
<td>198,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Charlie</td>
<td>198,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Christina</td>
<td>199,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Emil</td>
<td>198,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Emma</td>
<td>198,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Herman Christian</td>
<td>198,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Joseph &quot;Joe&quot;:</td>
<td>130,197,198,225,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Josipha &quot;Josie&quot;:</td>
<td>199,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Louise</td>
<td>199,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, Marie &quot;Mary&quot;:</td>
<td>130,197,198,207,225,227,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kram, William &quot;Willie&quot;</td>
<td>198,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lautenschlager, J.P.</td>
<td>116,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeBleu, Caroline</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeBleu, Danielle</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeBleu, Laura</td>
<td>237,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeBleu, Sabrina Grace</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeBleu, Thomas &quot;Tom&quot;</td>
<td>207,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeBleu, Thomas Lloyd</td>
<td>237,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeBleu, Travis</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard, Wesley</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis, Marie L.</td>
<td>115,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ljungdahl, Stacy Jean</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martinez, Andres</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martinez, Daniel Croft</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masterson, Isadora &quot;Dora&quot;</td>
<td>117,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCraig, Stella</td>
<td>117,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melton, Jessie</td>
<td>117,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mills, Lucinda Isabelle</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mills, Margret &quot;Maggie&quot;</td>
<td>120,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Alexander Hamilton</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Catherine Clara</td>
<td>119,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Charles Edwin</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Charles Ira</td>
<td>116,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Dara S.</td>
<td>117,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, David M.</td>
<td>117,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Ethel Mae</td>
<td>10,38,115,117,207,209,211,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Ewart G.</td>
<td>117,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Floa Rebecca</td>
<td>116,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Franklin &quot;Frank&quot;</td>
<td>119,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, George Washington</td>
<td>119,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Ida May Bell</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Isaac Newton</td>
<td>119,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Jeremiah L.</td>
<td>119,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, John Adam (1789)</td>
<td>38,119,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, John Adam (1810)</td>
<td>10,38,116,119,120,215,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, John Wesley</td>
<td>119,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Julia Ann</td>
<td>119,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Lena Marie</td>
<td>117,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Levi</td>
<td>119,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Lora &quot;L.E.&quot;</td>
<td>116,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellsworth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Martin Luther</td>
<td>119,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Mary Ann</td>
<td>119,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Oliver Cromwell</td>
<td>120,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Phebe</td>
<td>119,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, Sallie or Sadie</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, William B. &quot;Will&quot;:</td>
<td>117,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohler, William Henry</td>
<td>119,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery, Alfred</td>
<td>116,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumford, Fred</td>
<td>116,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nance, Lucy Ann</td>
<td>207,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nash, Mary</td>
<td>38,120,219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Index of Individuals

Parks, Olive "Ollie": 120,219
Pietsch, Anna Christiana: 200,233
Powers, Sarah: 118,221
Redman, Emma: 199,229
Rhode, Frederich A. Rode or: 199,229
Ritchey, John Thomas: 119,217
Robar, Emma: 117,213
Roberts, Elizabeth (Betty) Roseyn: 197,225
Ross, Erin Riley: 238
Ross, Mary Ann: 116,212
Roth, Isabel: 116,212
Ruhmann, Ida Agust: 198,231
Rusk, Obediah: 119,217
Sackett, Rachel: 118
Schwab, Fred "Fritz": 198,227
Scott, Gladys: 116,212
Seaton, Mary Katherine: 119,218
Shambaugh, John: 38,119,217
Shambaugh, Lydia Ann: 10,38,116,119,215,217
Shields, Mildred Margaret: 115,209
Sneed, Elizabeth: 118,221
Steele, Sanford Lester: 222
Stratmann, Caroline Wilhelmine Luise: 130,197,199,227,233
Strattman, Johann Hinrich: 199,233
Stuart, Mary A.: 217
Stuart, Sarah J. "Jennie": 217
Teeter, David: 74,117,213
Teeter, Elizabeth: 10,74,115,117,211,213
Templin, Maria "Mary": 200,233
Thompson, Myrtle: 118,221
Thompson, William Edwin: 116,212
Townsend, Vada Maurine: 198,227
Trussell, Effie: 118,221
Ungers, Diane: 238
Unknown: 199
Unknown, Amanda: 119,217
Unknown, Barbara: 74
Unknown, Harriett: 217
Unknown, Helen: 198,232
Unknown, Hilda: 198,231
Unknown, Ida: 198,228
Unknown, Isabel "Belle": 118,222
Walter, Catherine: 38,119,217
Wemken, Alerd or Albert Heuermann: 130,197,199,227,233
Wemken, Anna Marie Sophie: 200,233
Wemken, Anna Wilhelmine: 200,233
Wemken, Heinrich "Henry": 200,233