

**Family Histories**  
**of**  
**Lloyd Ollie Croft**  
**and**  
**Gertrude Kathlena Koenning**

**Written and compiled by**

**Lucy Ann Nance Croft**

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# Dedication

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

Lloyd Koenning Croft

Cynthia Elaine Croft LeBleu Wood

Leslie Elaine Croft Martinez  
Daniel Croft Martinez

Thomas Lloyd LeBleu  
Danielle LeBleu  
Travis LeBleu

Lyle Allen Croft  
Bennett Ross Croft  
Camille LeeAnn Croft

Sabrina LeBleu  
Caroline LeBleu

Lloyd Bryan Croft  
Lloyd Jeffrey Croft  
Philip Bryan Croft

Laura LeBleu Ficarra  
Cody Ficarra

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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.

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# 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

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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.

Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2014.

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*You don't choose your family. They are God's  
gift to you, as you are to them.*

*~Desmond Tutu*

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# PART ONE

LLOYD OLLIE (OLIE) CROFT

FAMILY HISTORY

---

## William and Alice Croft Family



(Seated R to L) William and Alice Croft; Oscar Croft, Paul Harold Croft, Vede Weaver Croft, George Allen Croft, Edna Ruth Croft Durfee.  
(Standing R to L) Fred "Fritz" Dewey Croft, Frank Monroe Croft, Floyd Ward Croft, Grace Irene Croft Montgomery, Blanche Marie Croft Mumford, Hope Cansada Croft Thompson, and Russell William Croft.  
Photo taken in 1935.

## 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, Krafft 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.

\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania\\_Dutch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Dutch)

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

PART ONE - Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft Family History

# Chapter One

## Lloyd Ollie Croft



**Pedigree Chart for  
Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft**

**Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft**

b: 09 Feb 1913 in Fairfield, Clay,  
Nebraska, USA  
m: 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin,  
Guadalupe, Texas, USA  
d: 05 Jan 1987 in San Antonio,  
Bexar, Texas, USA

**Oscar Cameron Croft**

b: 19 Jun 1887 in Fairfield, Clay,  
Nebraska, USA  
m: 05 Oct 1910 in York,  
Nebraska, USA  
d: 19 Apr 1952 in San Antonio,  
Bexar, Texas, USA

**Ethel Mae Mohler**

b: 10 Aug 1891 in Orion Twp.  
Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois,  
USA  
d: 30 Jun 1989 in San Antonio,  
Bexar, Texas, USA

**William Teeter Croft**

b: 26 Apr 1857 in Unionville,  
Appanoose, Iowa, USA  
m: 12 Nov 1885 in Clay,  
Nebraska, USA  
d: 11 Jan 1942 in San Antonio,  
Bexar, Texas, USA

**Alice Madora Caulk**

b: 26 Jul 1867 in Litchfield,  
Montgomery, Illinois, USA  
d: 08 Oct 1947 in Kansas City,  
Jackson, Missouri, USA

**Thomas Jefferson "Jerry"  
Mohler**

b: 14 Apr 1851 in Hanover Twsp.  
Janesville, Ashland, Ohio, USA  
m: 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton,  
Illinois, USA  
d: 28 Dec 1937 in York,  
Nebraska, USA

**Mary Emma Bowton**

b: 23 May 1857 in Glasford-Orion  
Twshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois,  
USA  
d: 12 May 1945 in Orchard,  
Antelope, Nebraska, USA

**John Hipple Croft**

b: 30 Mar 1819 in Bedford, ...  
m: 20 Nov 1840 in ...  
d: 19 Aug 1892 in Clay, ...

**Elizabeth Teeter**

b: 18 Apr 1824 in Buffalo Mills,  
Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA  
d: 02 Nov 1890 in Fairfield, Clay,  
Nebraska, USA

**Allen Monroe Caulk**

b: 11 Nov 1831 in Litchfield,  
Montgomery, Illinois, USA  
m: 06 Sep 1866 in Montgomery,  
Illinois, USA  
d: 03 Dec 1913 in Fairfield, Clay,  
Nebraska, USA

**Cansada Jones**

b: 26 Oct 1842 in Jackson,  
Tennessee, USA  
d: 24 Dec 1930 in Fairfield, Clay,  
Nebraska, USA

**John Adam Mohler**

b: 09 Mar 1810 in Buffalo,  
Washington, Pennsylvania, USA  
m: 09 Jun 1835 in Richland, Ohio,  
USA  
d: 25 Oct 1894 in Hamilton,  
Hancock, Illinois, USA

**Lydia Ann Shambaugh**

b: 28 May 1816 in Center Twsp.,  
Union, Pennsylvania, USA  
d: 29 Jan 1861 in Spring Grove  
Twsp., Monmouth, Warren,  
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 Orion, Fulton,  
Illinois, USA

**Rebecca Kirkpatrick**

b: 03 May 1828 in Ohio, USA  
d: 02 Mar 1919 in Fulton, Illinois,  
USA



## Lloyd Ollie (Olie) 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

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.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.

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## Lloyd's Life in Pictures



Lloyd Croft at about 1 year old.

## Lloyd and Keith Croft, 1925 or 1926



## Lloyd and Gertrude Croft

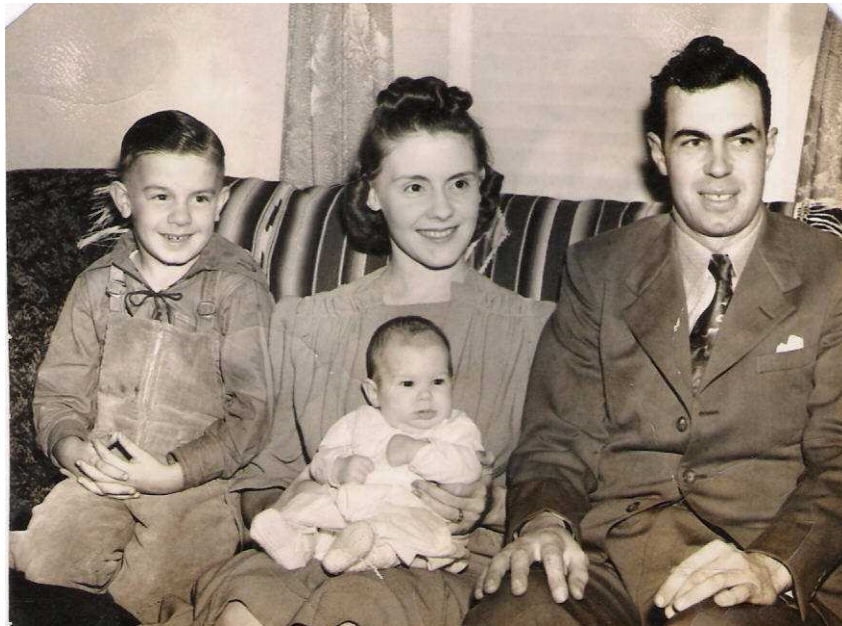


This photograph was taken about 1935.

## 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 Croft

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.

*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.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.

## 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.

## 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

**Business  
Pioneer Dies**



**O. C. CROFT**  
Started trailer rents

Funeral services for O. C. Croft, 64, of 1423 N. Flores st will be held at 2 p. m. Tuesday at Roy Akers Funeral home. Rev. Sam Terry officiating.

Croft pioneered the trailer rental service business in Texas. His businesses are presently operating in Houston, Dallas, Corpus Christi and numerous smaller cities throughout the state.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. O. C. Croft; two sons, Lloyd and Keith Croft, all of San Antonio; brothers, Vida Croft and Frank Croft, Glen Aubrey, N. Y.; Paul Croft, Tacoma, Wash.; George Croft, Kansas City, Mo.; Florence Croft, Portland, Ore., and Russell Croft, Dallas; sisters, Mrs. Ruth Durfee, Mrs. Alfred Montgomery Winthrop, both of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Blanche Muford, Longmont, Colo., and Mrs. Hope Thompson.

San Antonio Express News, April 20, 1952

**Pedigree Chart for  
Ethel Mae Mohler**

**Ethel Mae Mohler**

b: 10 Aug 1891 in Orion Twp.  
Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois,  
USA  
m: 05 Oct 1910 in York,  
Nebraska, USA  
d: 30 Jun 1989 in San Antonio,  
Bexar, Texas, USA

**Thomas Jefferson "Jerry"  
Mohler**

b: 14 Apr 1851 in Hanover Twsp.  
Janesville, Ashland, Ohio, USA  
m: 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton,  
Illinois, USA  
d: 28 Dec 1937 in York,  
Nebraska, USA

**Mary Emma Bowton**

b: 23 May 1857 in Glasford-Orion  
Twshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois,  
USA  
d: 12 May 1945 in Orchard,  
Antelope, Nebraska, USA

**John Adam Mohler**

b: 09 Mar 1810 in Buffalo,  
Washington, Pennsylvania, USA  
m: 09 Jun 1835 in Richland, Ohio,  
USA  
d: 25 Oct 1894 in Hamilton,  
Hancock, Illinois, USA

**Lydia Ann Shambaugh**

b: 28 May 1816 in Center Twsp.,  
Union, Pennsylvania, USA  
d: 29 Jan 1861 in Spring Grove  
Twsp., Monmouth, Warren,  
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 Orion, Fulton,  
Illinois, USA

**Rebecca Kirkpatrick**

b: 03 May 1828 in Ohio, USA  
d: 02 Mar 1919 in Fulton, Illinois,  
USA

**John Adam Mohler**

b: 17 Feb 1789 in Washington,  
Pennsylvania, USA  
m:  
d: 28 Apr 1872 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:  
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 1798 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 Ireland  
131 Jan 1876  
d: 31 Jan 1876 in Indiantown,  
Bureau, Illinois, 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.

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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.





## Thomas Jefferson Mohler

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.

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## 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 Ewort (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.

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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 Donnelson, 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!

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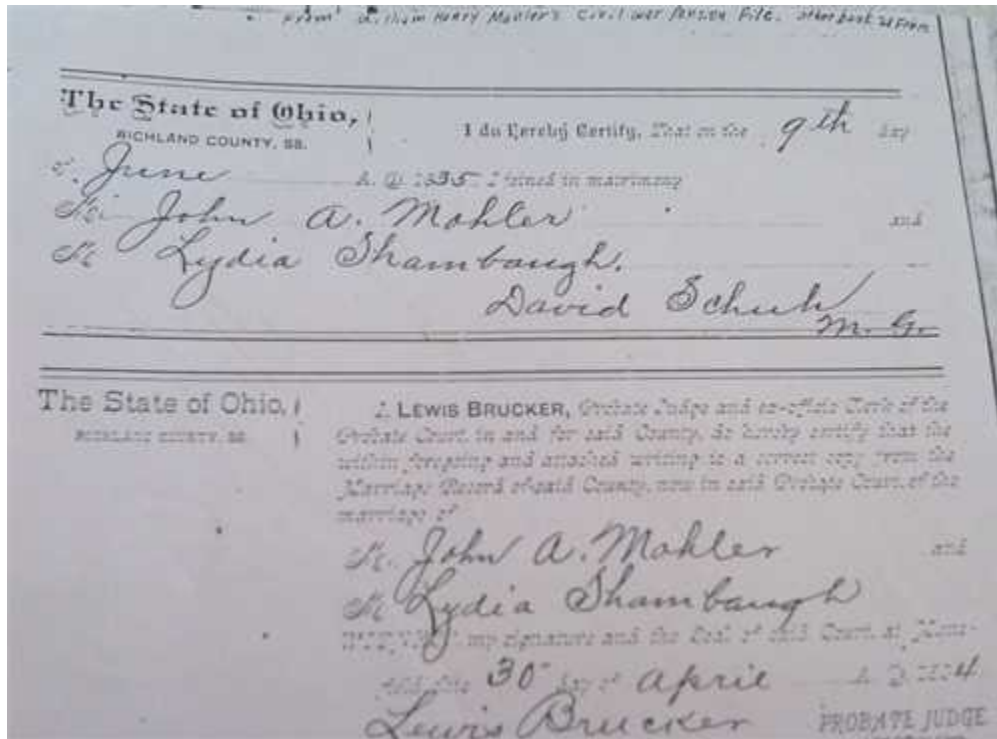
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Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.



## John A. Mohler and Lydia Shambaugh Marriage Record



John Adam Mohler and Lydia Ann Shambaugh were married  
June 9, 1835 in Richland County, Ohio.







## 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 coryza (?) 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 Twp., 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.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.



## Chapter Three

William Teeter Croft

and

Alice Madora Caulk Croft

Includes Allen Monroe and Cansada Jones Caulk

---



**Pedigree Chart for  
William Teeter Croft**

**William Teeter Croft**

b: 26 Apr 1857 in Unionville,  
Appanoose, Iowa, USA  
m: 12 Nov 1885 in Clay,  
Nebraska, USA  
d: 11 Jan 1942 in San Antonio,  
Bexar, Texas, USA

**John Hipple Croft**

b: 30 Mar 1819 in Bedford,  
Pennsylvania, USA  
m: 20 Nov 1840 in Martainsburg,  
Huntingdon (now Bedford),  
Pennsylvania, USA  
d: 19 Aug 1892 in Clay,  
Nebraska, USA

**Elizabeth Teeter**

b: 18 Apr 1824 in Buffalo Mills,  
Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA  
d: 02 Nov 1890 in Fairfield, Clay,  
Nebraska, USA

**Daniel R. Croft**

b: Abt. 1783 in Pennsylvania,  
USA  
m: Abt. 1815 in Bedford,  
Pennsylvania, USA  
d: Abt. 1851 in Pennsylvania,  
USA

**Anna Margareta "Margaret"  
Hipple**

b: 1795 in Woodberry Twp.,  
Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA  
d: 1861 in North Woodbury, Blair,  
Pennsylvania, USA

**David Teeter**

b: Abt. 1785 in Bedford,  
Pennsylvania, USA  
m: Abt. 1812 in Bedford,  
Pennsylvania, USA  
d: 02 Jan 1859 in Libertyville,  
Jefferson, Iowa, USA

**Mary Agley**

b: Abt. 1795 in Switzerland or  
Germany  
d:

**George or Daniel Croft**

b: Bef. 1756 in Pennsylvania or  
Maryland, USA  
m:  
d: Maryland, USA

**Unknown Brolliard, Brollier,  
Brallier**

b:  
d:

**John Hipple**

b: 10 Mar 1759 in Pikeland,  
Chester, Pennsylvania, USA  
m: Abt. 1782 in Bedford,  
Pennsylvania, USA  
d: 27 Dec 1841 in Woodbury,  
Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA

**Ann Dilts**

b: Abt. 1760 in Hunterdon, New  
Jersey, USA  
d: 27 Dec 1841 in Woodbury,  
Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA

**Name:**

b:  
m:  
d:

**Name:**

b:  
d:

**Conrad Agley**

b: Switzerland  
m:  
d:

**Barbara Unknown**

b:  
d:



## 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

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](http://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.*

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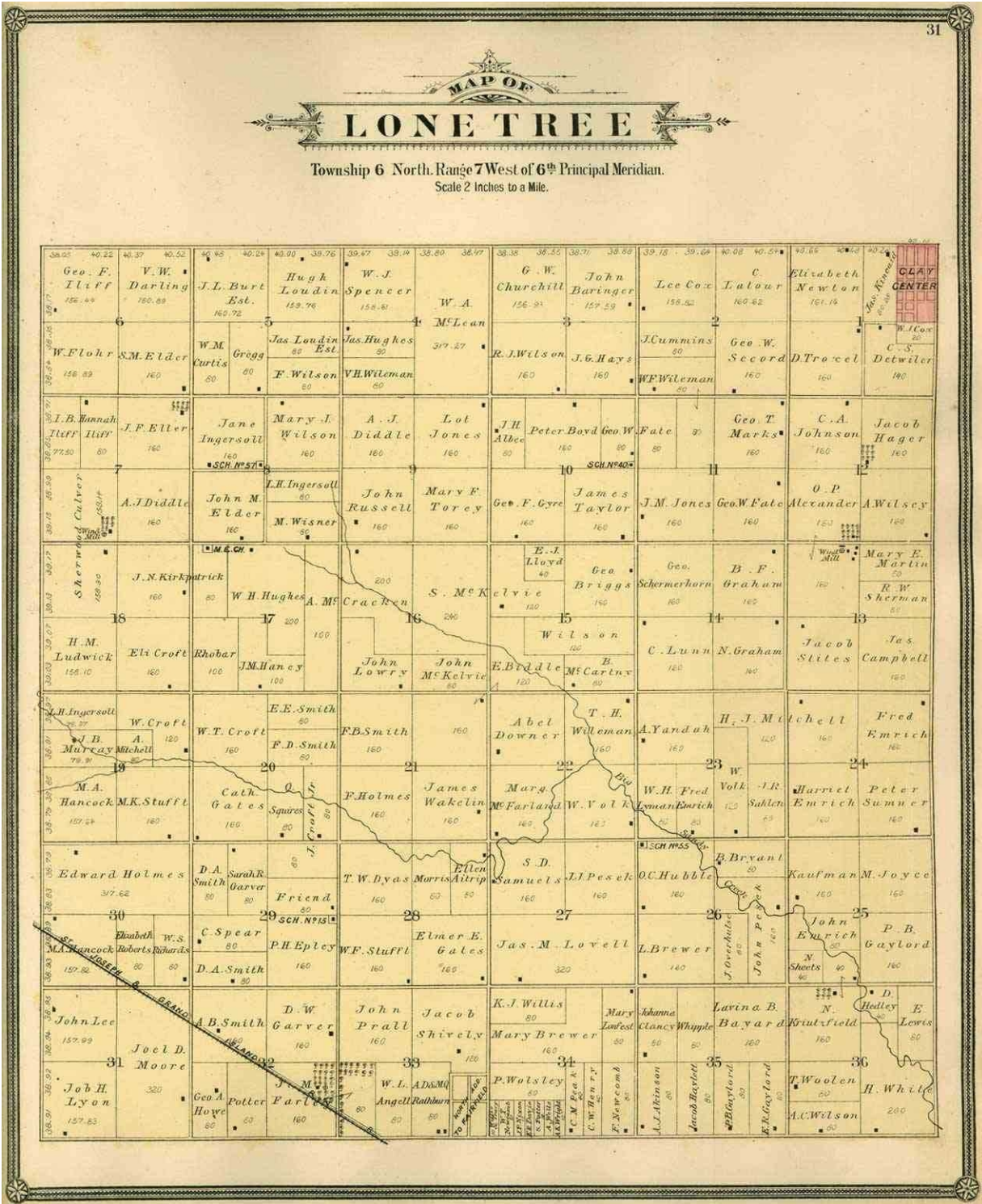
Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.



## 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.)



## 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.*  
[\(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska>\)](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!

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*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."

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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.

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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.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.



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

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

The State of Nebraska, } ss.      The State of Nebraska to any Person Legally Authorized to Solemnize Marriages, Greeting:

*Clay* County.

You are hereby Authorized to join in the holy bonds of matrimony, and to celebrate within said County the rites and ceremonies of marriage between Mr. *William T. Croft* and Miss *Alice M. Caulk*

The father's name of the said *William T. Croft* is *John H. Croft* and the maiden name of his mother is *Elizabeth Peters* and the father's name of the said *Alice M. Caulk* is *Alan Caulk* and the maiden name of her mother is *Rensala Jones*

The said *William T. Croft* resides in the County of *Clay* and State of *Nebraska* is aged *27* years, was born in *Nebraska* and is a white person. The said *Alice M. Caulk* resides in the County of *Clay* and State of *Nebraska* is aged *18* years, was born in *Missouri* and is also a white person.

And these presents shall be your good and sufficient warrant, and you are required to return this license to me within three months from the celebration of such marriage, with a certificate of the same appended thereto, signed by you, under the penalty of five hundred dollars.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the County Court of said County *Clay* this *9<sup>th</sup>* day of *November* A.D. 18*85*

*S. P. Burnett* County Judge.

And be it further Remembered, That afterwards, and on this *12<sup>th</sup>* day of *November* A.D. 18*85* there was filed and recorded herein Certificate and return in the words and figures following:

---

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

The State of Nebraska, } ss.      Be it Remembered, That at *Fairfield* in said County of *Clay*

on the *twelfth* day of *November* A.D. 18*85*, Mr. *William T. Croft* and Miss *Alice M. Caulk* named in the foregoing license, were legally united in marriage by me in the presence of *Miss Hattie McCreau* residing in the County of *Clay* and State of *Nebraska*, and *J. M. Seico* residing in the County of *Clay* and State of *Nebraska*

Witness my hand this *twelfth* day of *November* A.D. 18*85*

*R. J. Squiers*

William and Alice were married November 12, 1885 in Fairfield, Clay County, Nebraska.

## 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.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.

## Military Record for Allen M. Caulk

**CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS**  **JESSE WHITE**  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
AND STATE ARCHIVIST

ISA HOME CONTACT DATABASES ISA HOLDINGS IRAD HOLDINGS RECORDS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENTS

### ILLINOIS CIVIL WAR DETAIL REPORT

Name	CAULK, ALLEN M				
Rank	WAG	Company	D	Unit	7 IL US INF

#### Personal Characteristics

Residence	LITCHFIELD, MONTGOMERY CO., IL	Age	29	Height	5' 6 1/2	Hair	BROWN
Eyes	BLUE	Complexion	RUDDY	Marital Status	SINGLE	Occupation	TEAMSTER
Nativity	MACOUPN CO., IL						

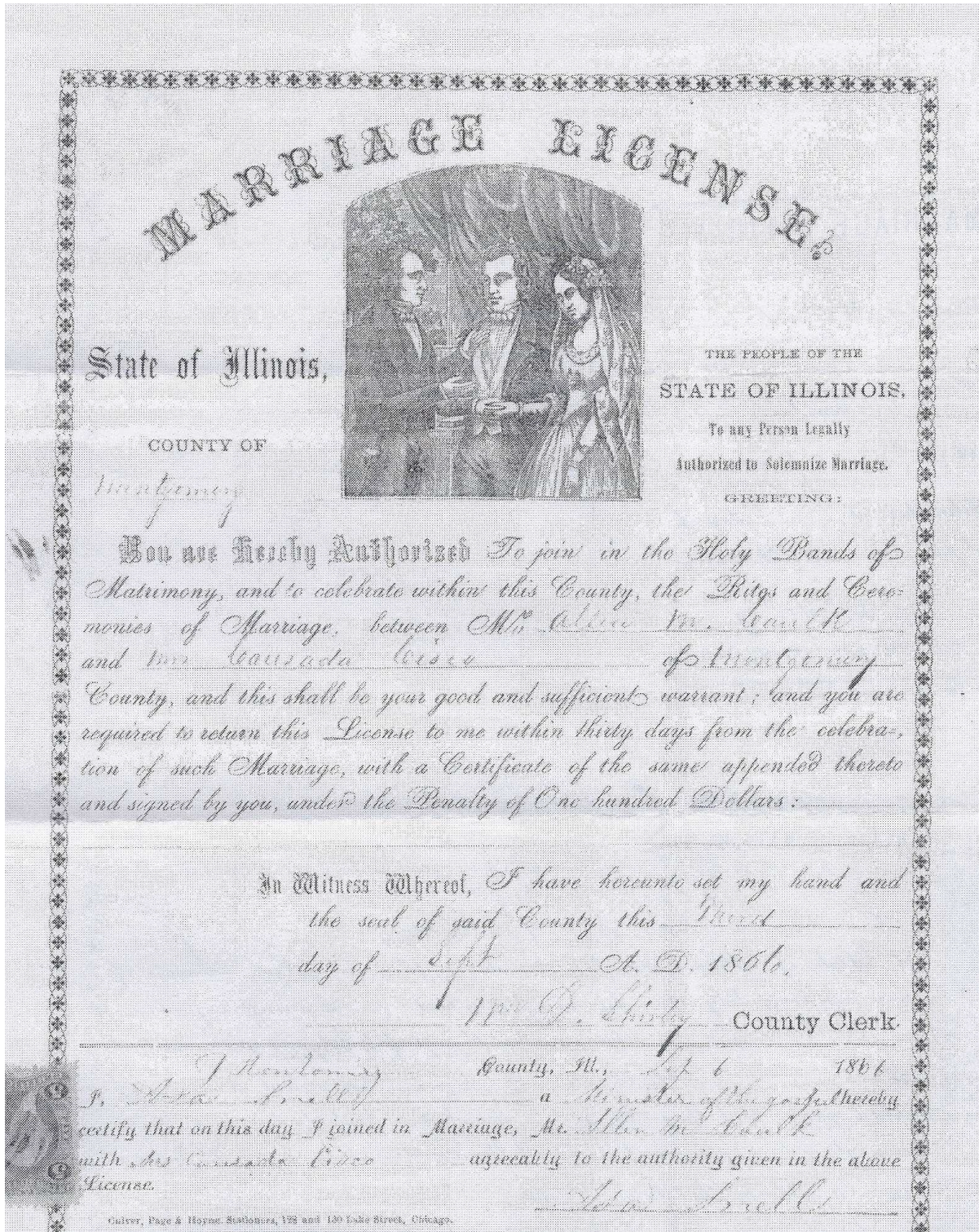
#### Service Record

Joined When	JUL 25, 1861	Joined Where	MOUND CITY, IL				
Joined By Whom	N/A			Period	3 YRS		
Muster In	JUL 25, 1861	Muster In Where	MOUND CITY, IL				
Muster In By Whom	N/A			Muster Out	N/A		
Muster Out Where	N/A			Muster Out By Whom	N/A		
Remarks	DISCHARGED 29 JUL 1864 TERM OF SERVICE HAVING EXPIRED						

[Return to the Search Screen](#)

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 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 "Croff." 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.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2014.

## John H. Croft

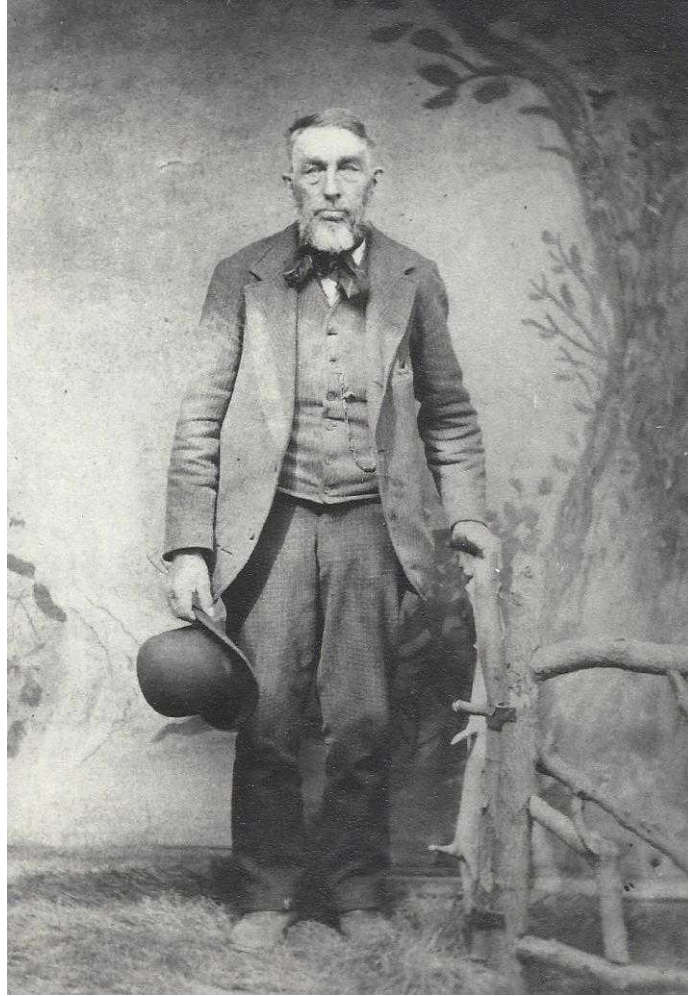


Photo may have been taken in the 1880's.

## 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

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# Ancestors of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

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## Generation 1

1. **Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft**<sup>[1, 2]</sup> was born on 09 Feb 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA<sup>[3, 4, 5]</sup>. 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<sup>[6, 7, 8]</sup>. He married Gertrude Kathlena Koenning on 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA<sup>[9, 10]</sup>, daughter of Adolph Henry Koenning and Marie "Mary" Kram. She was born on 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[11, 12, 13, 14]</sup>. She died on 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[7, 15]</sup>. 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**<sup>[16]</sup> was born on 19 Jun 1887 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA<sup>[17]</sup>. 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<sup>[18, 19, 20]</sup>. He married Ethel Mae Mohler on 05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA<sup>[21]</sup>.
3. **Ethel Mae Mohler** was born 10 Aug 1891 in Orion Twp. Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois, USA<sup>[22, 23, 24, 25]</sup>, died 30 Jun 1989 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[26, 27]</sup>, married 05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA<sup>[21]</sup>. She was the daughter of 6. Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler and 7. Mary Emma Bowton.

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<sup>[3, 4, 5]</sup>, died 05 Jan 1987 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[6, 7, 8]</sup>, married Gertrude Kathlena Koenning 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA<sup>[9, 10]</sup>; married Helen Mary Bippert 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**<sup>[28, 29, 30]</sup> was born on 26 Apr 1857 in Unionville, Appanoose, Iowa, USA<sup>[31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36]</sup>. 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<sup>[37, 38]</sup>. He married Alice Madora Caulk on 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA<sup>[39]</sup>.
5. **Alice Madora Caulk** was born 26 Jul 1867 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA<sup>[40, 41, 42, 43]</sup>, died 08 Oct 1947 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA<sup>[44, 45]</sup>, married 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA<sup>[39]</sup>. 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<sup>[17]</sup>, died 19 Apr 1952 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[18, 19, 20]</sup>, married Ethel Mae Mohler 05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA<sup>[21]</sup>.
  - 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 01 Jan 1913.
  - iii. Vede "Vida" Weaver Croft was born 28 Aug 1892 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, died 25 Oct 1977 in Glen Aubrey, New York, USA, married Opal Jenny Wolford 11 Mar 1916.

## Ancestors of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

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### 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.
6. **Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler**<sup>[46]</sup> was born on 14 Apr 1851 in Hanover Twsp. Janesville, Ashland, Ohio, USA<sup>[47, 48, 49, 50, 51]</sup>. He was the son of 12. John Adam Mohler and 13. Lydia Ann Shambaugh. He died on 28 Dec 1937 in York, Nebraska, USA<sup>[52, 53]</sup>. He married Mary Emma Bowton on 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA<sup>[54, 55]</sup>.
  7. **Mary Emma Bowton** was born 23 May 1857 in Glasford-Orion Twshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois, USA<sup>[56, 57, 58, 59]</sup>, died 12 May 1945 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA<sup>[60, 61]</sup>, married 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA<sup>[54, 55]</sup>. 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 Lauretta "Lottie" Herman 26 Jun 1907.

## Ancestors of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

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### 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<sup>[22, 23, 24, 25]</sup>, died 30 Jun 1989 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[26, 27]</sup>, married Oscar Cameron Croft 05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA<sup>[21]</sup>.
- 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.

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### Generation 4

- 8. **John Hipple Croft** was born on 30 Mar 1819 in Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA<sup>[62, 63, 64, 65]</sup>. He was the son of 16. Daniel R. Croft and 17. Anna Margaretta "Margaret" Hipple. He died on 19 Aug 1892 in Clay, Nebraska, USA<sup>[66]</sup>. He married Elizabeth Teeter on 20 Nov 1840 in Martainsburg, Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA.
- 9. **Elizabeth Teeter** was born 18 Apr 1824 in Buffalo Mills, Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA<sup>[67, 68]</sup>, died 02 Nov 1890 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA<sup>[69]</sup>, 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<sup>[31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36]</sup>, died 11 Jan 1942 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[37, 38]</sup>, married Alice Madora Caulk 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA<sup>[39]</sup>.

## Ancestors of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

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### 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<sup>[70, 71, 72, 73, 74]</sup>. 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<sup>[75]</sup>.
11. **Cansada Jones** was born 26 Oct 1842 in Jackson, Tennessee, USA<sup>[76, 77]</sup>, died 24 Dec 1930 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA, married 06 Sep 1866 in Montgomery, Illinois, USA<sup>[75]</sup>. 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<sup>[40, 41, 42, 43]</sup>, died 08 Oct 1947 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA<sup>[44, 45]</sup>, married William Teeter Croft 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA<sup>[39]</sup>.
- 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.

## Ancestors of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

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### Generation 4 (con't)

- iii. Joseph Caulk was born Abt. 1862 in Illinois, USA.
- 12. **John Adam Mohler**<sup>[78, 79, 80]</sup> was born on 09 Mar 1810 in Buffalo, Washington, Pennsylvania, USA. He was the son of 24. John Adam Mohler and 25. Anney Catherine Irich. He died on 25 Oct 1894 in Hamilton, Hancock, Illinois, USA. He married Lydia Ann Shambaugh on 09 Jun 1835 in Richland, Ohio, USA<sup>[81]</sup>.
- 13. **Lydia Ann Shambaugh** was born 28 May 1816 in Center Twsp., Union, Pennsylvania, USA, died 29 Jan 1861 in Spring Grove Twsp., Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA, married 09 Jun 1835 in Richland, Ohio, USA<sup>[81]</sup>. She was the daughter of 26. John Shambaugh and 27. Catherine Walter.

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 Kankalee, Illinois, USA<sup>[82]</sup>; 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<sup>[47, 48, 49, 50, 51]</sup>, died 28 Dec 1937 in York, Nebraska, USA<sup>[52, 53]</sup>, married Mary Emma Bowton 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA<sup>[54, 55]</sup>.
- 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.

# Ancestors of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

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## 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<sup>[83, 84, 85]</sup>. He was the son of 28. Mark Bowton and 29. Mary Nash. He died on 23 Mar 1903 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA<sup>[86]</sup>. He married Rebecca Kirkpatrick on 15 Jan 1846 in Indiana or Ohio USA.
15. **Rebecca Kirkpatrick** was born 03 May 1828 in Ohio, USA<sup>[87, 88, 89]</sup>, died 02 Mar 1919 in Fulton, Illinois, USA<sup>[90]</sup>, 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-Orion Twshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois, USA<sup>[56, 57, 58, 59]</sup>, died 12 May 1945 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA<sup>[60, 61]</sup>, married Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA<sup>[54, 55]</sup>.
- v. Nancy Bowton was born 1861 in Illinois, USA, died 12 Dec 1943 in Decatur, Macon, Illinois.
- vi. Charles Ellsworth Bowton was born 03 Mar 1863 in Fulton, Illinois, USA, died Aft. 1920 in Illinois, USA, married Olive "Ollie" Parks Aft. 1920; married Susan May Griggs Aug 1882.
- 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.

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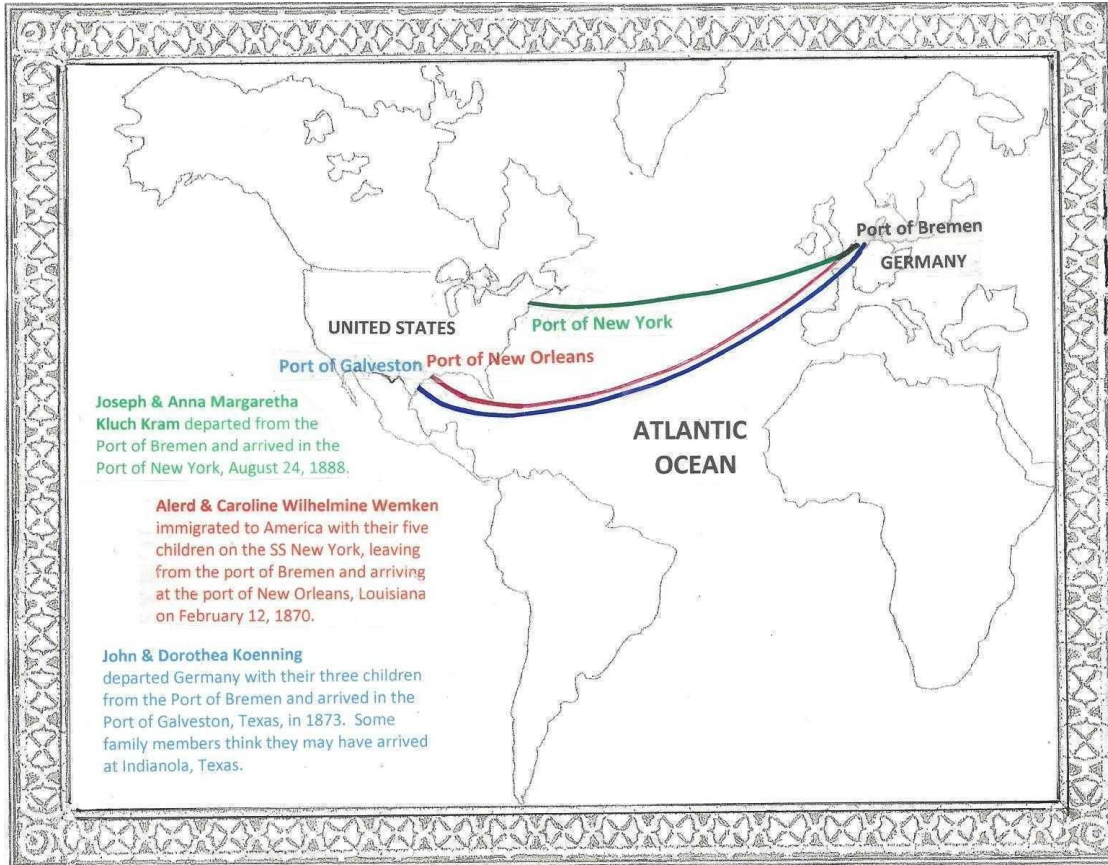
# PART TWO

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/Koenning 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, Koenig, Köning and Könning. The meaning of the name is probably a respelling of Dutch Koenig, either from koning 'king' or a derivative of Koen, or of German Könning.

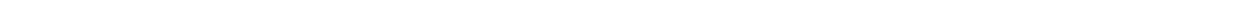
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# Chapter One

Gertrude Kathlena Koenning



**Pedigree Chart for  
Gertrude Kathlena Koenning**

**Gertrude Kathlena Koenning**

b: 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
 m: 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA  
 d: 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA

**Adolph Henry Koenning**

b: 03 Oct 1882 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
 m: 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
 d: 28 Nov 1948 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA

**Joachim "Joe" Koenning**

b: 17 Sep 1857 in Brandenburg, Germany  
 m: 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
 d: 01 Oct 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA

**Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken**

b: 27 Apr 1861 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany  
 d: 30 Sep 1936 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 1920 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA

**Marie "Mary" Kram**

b: 01 Sep 1886 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany  
 d: 30 Apr 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA

**Anna Margaretha Kluch or Kluck**

b: 13 Jan 1860 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany  
 d: 08 Dec 1921 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA

**Johann "John" Friedrich Könnig or Koenning**

b: 12 May 1817 in Germany or Prussia  
 m: 05 Jun 1854 in Tuchen, Reckenthin, Ostprignitz, Brandenburg, Germany

**Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger**

b: 10 Nov 1821 in Prussia  
 d: 07 Aug 1892 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA

**Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken**

b: 10 Sep 1826 in Borbeck, ...  
 m: 25 Jun 1855 in Wiefelstede, ...  
 d: 10 Dec 1897 in Lavaca, ...

**Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann**

b: 14 Feb 1829 in Blasheim, Niedersachsen, Germany  
 d: 14 Dec 1912 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA

**Name:**

b:  
 m:  
 d:

**Name:**

b:  
 d:

**Name:**

b:  
 m:  
 d:

**Name:**

b:  
 d:



## Gertrude Kathlena Koenning Croft

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 gracefulness 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)*

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.



## Gertrude's Life in Pictures



Gertrude with brothers, Victor and Melvin.  
Photo taken about 1916.

## Mel, Gertie and Vic



Photo taken about 1923.

## Gertrude, Lloyd and L.K.



Photo taken in 1935.



## Gertrude with L.K.



## Gertrude with L.K. and Cynthia

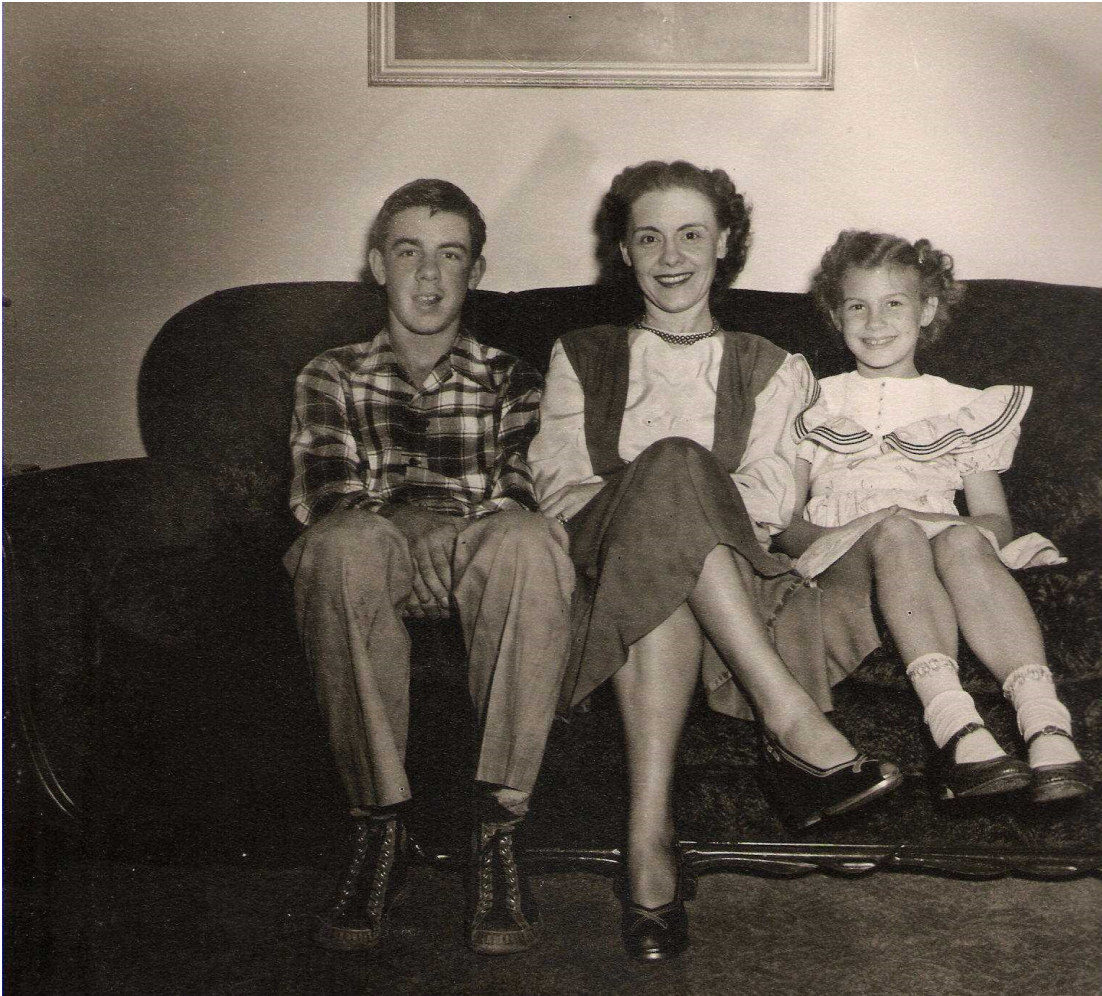
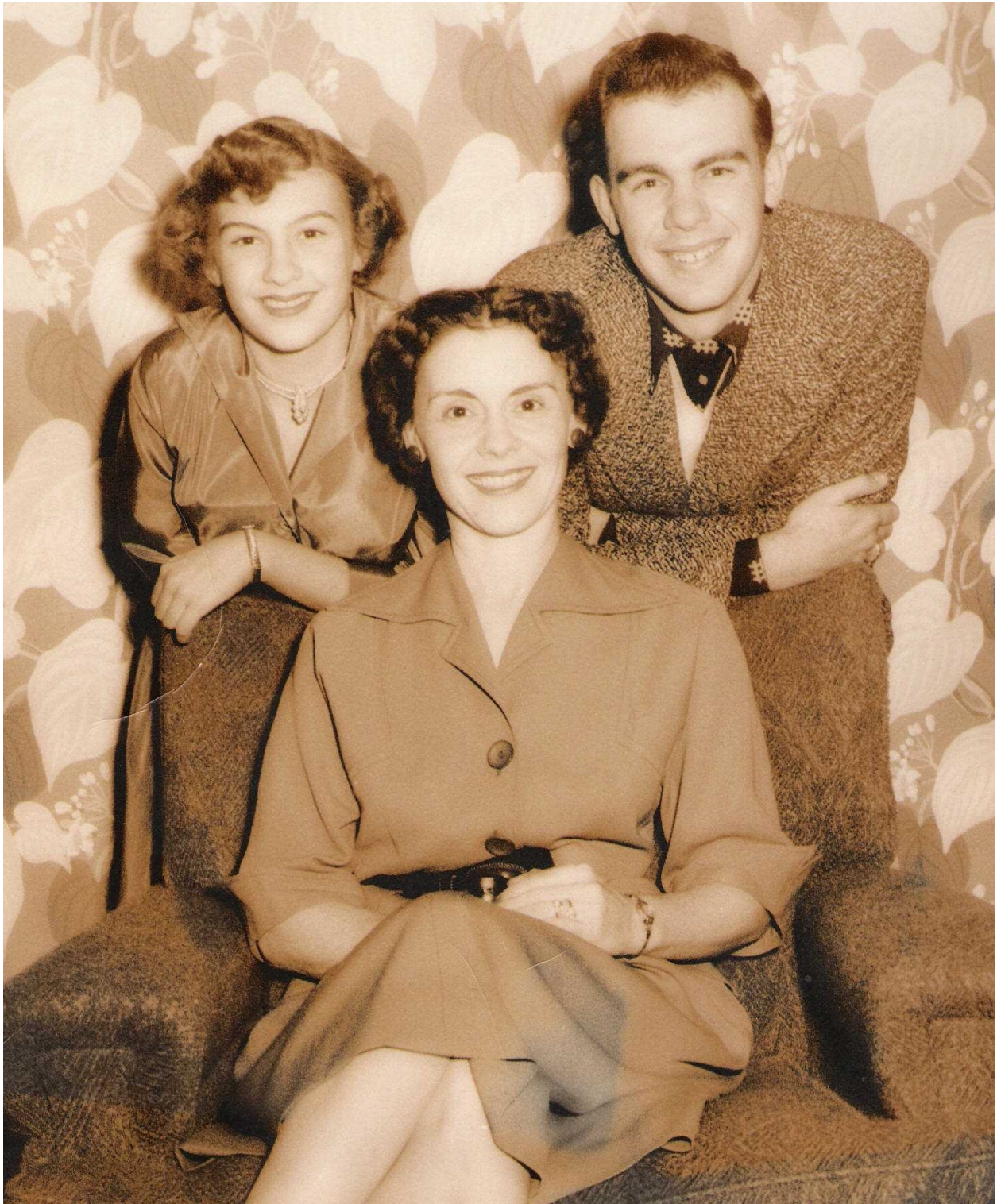


Photo taken about 1949.



## Gertie with Cynthia and L.K.



That winning smile!





## Special Moments



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



Spring 1975.



Life is good!



Mother with Cynthia.



Trudy striking a pose!



## Chapter Two

Adolph Henry Koenning

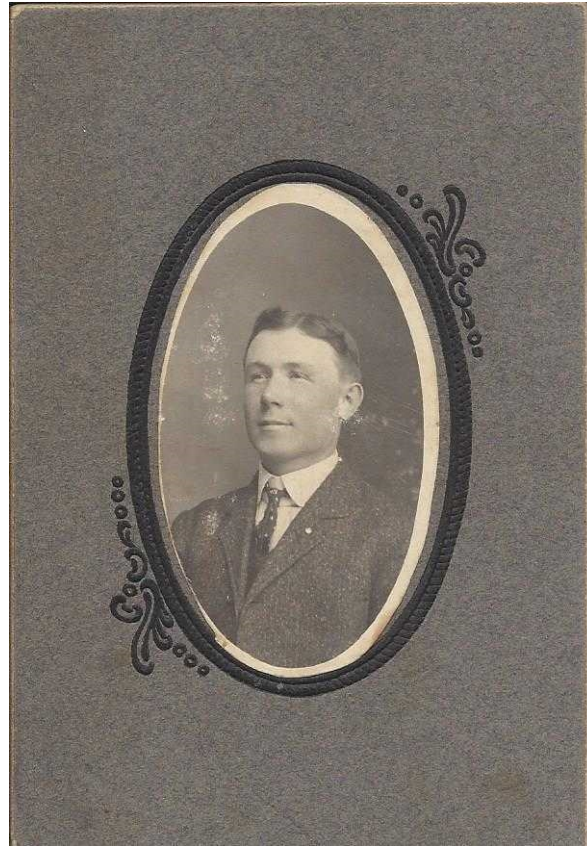
and

Marie "Mary" Kram Koenning

Includes Joseph and Anna Margaretha Klüch/Klück Kram

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## 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 Hoening (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.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft 2011.

## 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!*

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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](http://www.shinertx.com/facts.htm)

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011.

# Marriage Record for Adolph Koenning and Mary Kram

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WED. G. BARRETT & CO., ST. LOUIS

The State of Texas,  County of Lavaca.

To any Regularly Licensed or Ordained Minister of the Gospel, Judge of the District or County Court, Justice of the Peace or Jewish Rabbi, in and for the State of Texas:

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE ANY ONE OF YOU to celebrate the RITE OF MATRIMONY between Adolph H. Koenning and Mary Kram and the return of your proceedings hereon to me at my office, make, within Sixty days, of the law directs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, John Ruschman Clerk of the County Court of Lavaca County, hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of said Court, this 12 day of Dec. 1911.

John Ruschman Clerk  
County Court, Lavaca County.  
By.....Deputy.

**RETURN.**

The Rite of Matrimony, between the above named parties, was duly celebrated by the undersigned on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. 1911.

Returned and filed for record on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. 1911.

John Ruschman  
Clerk County Court, Lavaca County.  
Deputy.

Adolph Koenning and Mary Kram were married  
December 19, 1911 in Shiner, Texas.

## Grave Marker for Mary Koenning



Mary Kram was buried in the Park View Cemetery located in San Joaquin County, California. The death year differs on her grave marker and her death certificate.

## Joseph and Anna Margaretha Klüch/Klück Kram



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, Josipha 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.

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

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

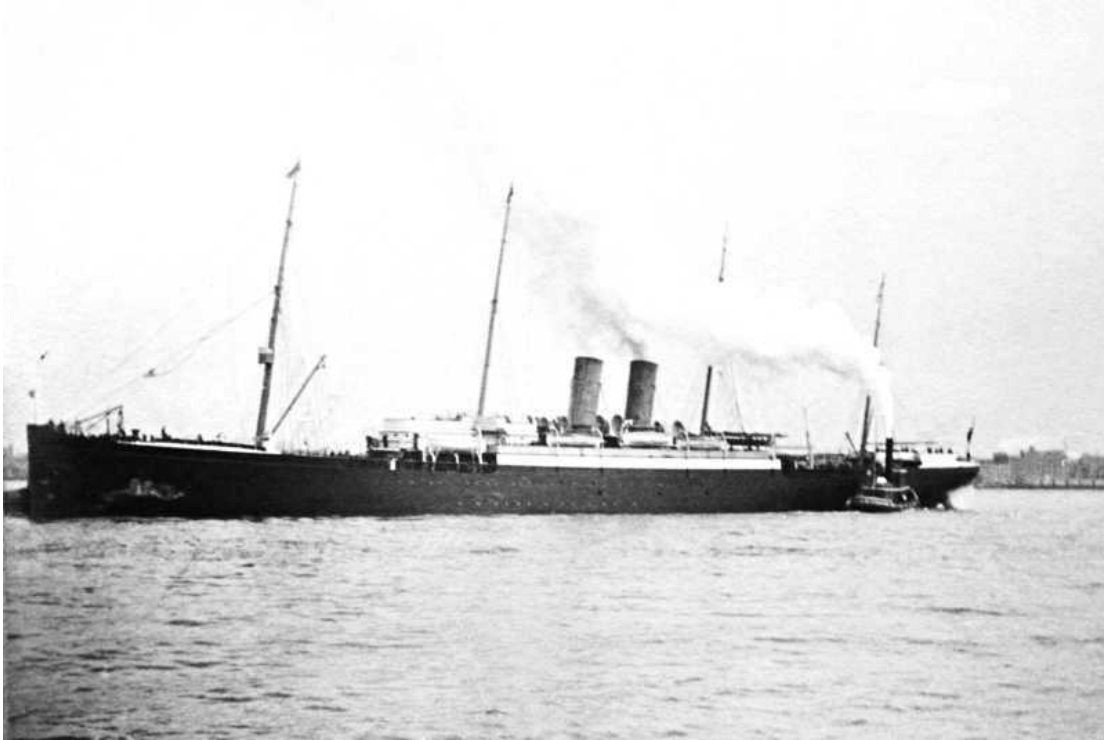
Margaret Kram, death certificate number 21-049958, State of California, Department of Public Health, Sacramento, California.

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

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.



## Trave Passenger Ship

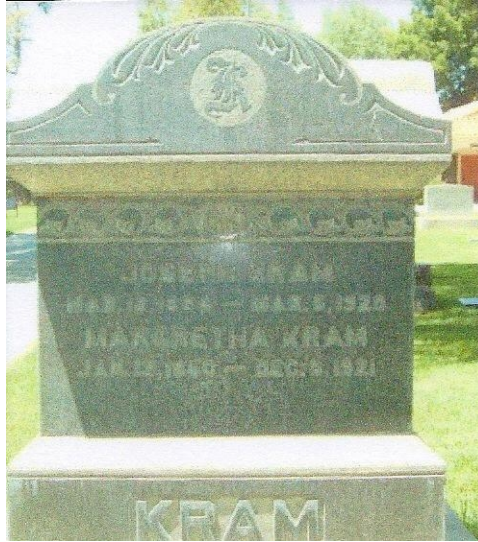


Joseph and Margaret Kram and five children came to America on the Trave arriving at the Port of New York August 24, 1888.

### 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



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

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## 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 "Hoening" as were several of the given names, but this was our ancestor. Listed with Joachem and Helena Hoening 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.

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

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Joe Koenning, death certificate number 48151, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.

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U.S. Citizenship Info, <http://www.uscitizenship.info/ins-usimmigration-insoverview.html>

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011 and updated 2015.

MINUTES OF NATURALIZATION.

DISTRICT COURT, LAVACA COUNTY, August TERM, A. D. 1892

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 Klueke 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 Constitu-
tion 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 this 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
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.

The foregoing Minutes were read, approved and signed in open Court, this 22 day of Aug A. D. 1892

ATTEST:

Clerk District Court, Lavaca County.

District Judge,
Judicial District, Texas.

Naturalization Record for Joe Koenning

Recorded August 11, 1892, Lavaca County, Texas District Court



## Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken Koenning

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 "Hoening" as were several of the given names, but this was our ancestor. Listed with Joachem and Helena Hoening 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."

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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

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

*Minutes of Naturalization*, District Court, Lavaca County, State of Texas.  
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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.

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U.S. Citizenship Info, <http://www.uscitizenship.info/ins-usimmigration-insoverview.html>.

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 Bruggemann 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:

<i>A.Wemken,</i>	<i>age 43,</i>	<i>shoemaker,</i>	<i>Oldenburg,</i>	<i>destination Galveston,</i>	<i>steerage</i>
<i>Marg [arethe]</i>	<i>age 38</i>	“	“	“	“
<i>Johann</i>	<i>age 14</i>	“	“	“	“
<i>Helene</i>	<i>age 8</i>	“	“	“	“
<i>Heinr.</i>	<i>age 3</i>	“	“	“	“
<i>Marie</i>	<i>age 3</i>	“	“	“	“
<i>Anna</i>	<i>age 11 months</i>	“	“	“	“

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.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.



# Application for Naturalization for A. H. Wemken

Van Beek, Barnard & Tinsley, Printers, Stationers, Lithographers and Blank Book Makers, St. Louis.

**APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION.**

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }  
COUNTY OF FAYETTE. } County Court, July Term, A. D. 1887

A. H. Wemken, a native of Oldenburg,  
in the Empire of Germany, aged 61 years, and bearing  
allegiance to the Emperor of Germany, who emigrated from the port of  
Bremen on or about the 12 day of Jan 2, 1870,  
and arrived at the port of New Orleans in the United States, on or about the 20  
day of Feb, 1870, makes report of himself for NATURALIZATION, and on oath solemnly declares that it is, bona fide,  
his intention to become a citizen of the United States of America, and to reside within the Government and under the Jurisdiction of the  
same, and to renounce and abjure all allegiance to every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particular his allegiance to the  
Emperor of Germany of whom he was before a subject.

A. H. Wemken

SWORN to and subscribed before me, this the 25 day of  
July, A. D. 1887

Joseph Ehlinger  
Clerk of the County Court of Fayette County.

*(L.S.)*

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



## Chapter Four

Johann "John" Friedrich Koenning

and

Anne Dorothea Elizabeth Berger

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## Johann "John" Friedrich Koenning and Anne Dorothea Elisabeth Berger Koenning

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 townfolk; frugal, honest folk and ax murderers."  
([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_American](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 Könning/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, Ostprignitz, 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 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."

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.*

*My Dad, William Koenning, May 11, 1860, Died August 31, 1945.*

*My Dad's Half Bro. and sisters. Oldest sister remarried in Germany. No name remembered. Bro. John Koenning. Do not remember. Sister married Shultz. They lived in Shiner. I called her Aunt Shultz by her married name. I never saw her.*

*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.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2015.

# Chapter Five

Simple Ahnentafel Report

for

Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

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# Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

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## Generation 1

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

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## Generation 2

2. **Adolph Henry Koenning**<sup>[16]</sup> was born on 03 Oct 1882 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22]</sup>. 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<sup>[23, 24]</sup>. He married Marie "Mary" Kram on 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[25]</sup>.
3. **Marie "Mary" Kram** was born 01 Sep 1886 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany<sup>[26, 27, 28]</sup>, died 30 Apr 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA<sup>[29, 30]</sup>, married 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[25]</sup>. 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<sup>[31]</sup>, 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<sup>[3, 4, 5, 6]</sup>, died 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[7, 8]</sup>, married Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA<sup>[9, 10]</sup>.
- iii. Melvin H. Koenning was born 30 Sep 1915 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[32]</sup>, died 08 Mar 1983 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA, married Elizabeth (Betty) Roseyn Roberts 16 Sep 1936 in Boerne, Kendall, Texas, USA.

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## Generation 3

4. **Joachim "Joe" Koenning** was born on 17 Sep 1857 in Brandenburg, Germany<sup>[33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39]</sup>. He was the son of 8. Johann "John" Friedrich Könning or Koenning and 9. Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger. He died on 01 Oct 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[40, 41, 42, 43, 44]</sup>. He married Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken on 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[45]</sup>.
5. **Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken** was born 27 Apr 1861 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany<sup>[46, 47]</sup>, died 30 Sep 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[41, 48, 49]</sup>, married 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[45]</sup>. 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<sup>[17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22]</sup>, died 28 Nov 1948 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[23, 24]</sup>, married Marie "Mary" Kram 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[25]</sup>.
- ii. Frieda Koenning was born Abt. 1885 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA.
- iii. Henry Aloysius Koenning was born 12 Jul 1886 in Schulenburg, Fayette, Texas, USA, died 07 Mar 1966 in Lakeside, San Diego, California, USA<sup>[50]</sup>, married Anna Sabina Ida Kram Bef. 1914.

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## Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

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### 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, San Francisco, California, USA, married Fred "Fritz" Schwab Aft. 1936.
  - vii. Rudolph Koenning was born Nov 1894 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<sup>[51]</sup>, died 10 Aug 1958 in San Antonio Bexar, Texas, USA, married Ida Unknown Bef. 1923.
6. **Joseph "Joe" Kram**<sup>[52, 53, 54]</sup> was born on 12 Mar 1854 in Ebersberg, Hesse, Germany<sup>[55, 56]</sup>. He died on 06 Mar 1920 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA<sup>[57, 58, 59]</sup>. 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<sup>[60, 61]</sup>, died 08 Dec 1921 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA<sup>[62]</sup>, 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<sup>[26, 27, 28]</sup>, died 30 Apr 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA<sup>[29, 30]</sup>, married Adolph Henry Koenning 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[25]</sup>.
- 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

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## 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.
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## Generation 4

- 8. **Johann "John" Friedrich Könning or Koenning** was born on 12 May 1817 in Germany or Prussia<sup>[63, 64, 65]</sup>. He died on 22 Aug 1892 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA<sup>[66]</sup>. He married Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger on 05 Jun 1854 in Tuchen, Reckenthin, Ostprignitz, Brandenburg, Germany<sup>[39]</sup>.
- 9. **Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger** was born 10 Nov 1821 in Prussia<sup>[67]</sup>, died 07 Aug 1892 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA<sup>[68]</sup>, married 05 Jun 1854 in Tuchen, Reckenthin, Ostprignitz, Brandenburg, Germany<sup>[39]</sup>.

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<sup>[33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39]</sup>, died 01 Oct 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[40, 41, 42, 43, 44]</sup>, married Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[45]</sup>.
- ii. Wilhelm or William Marion Koenning was born 11 May 1860 in Brandenburg, Germany<sup>[39]</sup>, died 31 Aug 1945 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA<sup>[69]</sup>, married Emma Redman 29 Dec 1890 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA.
- iii. Caroline "Lena" Koenning was born 09 Jul 1864 in Brandenburg, Germany<sup>[39]</sup>, died 08 Sep 1956 in Schulenburg, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[70]</sup>, married Frederich 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<sup>[71]</sup>, died Texas, USA<sup>[72]</sup>.
  - iii. Unknown female Koenning was born Abt. 1842 in Germany, died Texas, USA.
- 10. **Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken**<sup>[73]</sup> was born on 10 Sep 1826 in Borbeck, Oldenburg (now Niedersachsen), Germany<sup>[74, 75]</sup>. He was the son of 20. Johann Wemken and 21. Helene Bremer. He died on 10 Dec 1897 in Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[76, 77]</sup>. He married Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann on 25 Jun 1855 in Wiefelstede, Oldenburg, Germany<sup>[78]</sup>.
  - 11. **Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann** was born 14 Feb 1829 in Blasheim, Niedersachsen, Germany, died 14 Dec 1912 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[79, 80]</sup>, married 25 Jun 1855 in Wiefelstede, Oldenburg, Germany<sup>[78]</sup>. She was the daughter of 22. Johann Hinrich Stratman and 23. Anna Marie Sophie Charlotte Bruggemann.
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# Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

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## 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 Neuenkrüge, Oldenburg, Germany, died 03 Jul 1927 in Hermleigh, Scurry, Texas, USA<sup>[81]</sup>, 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<sup>[46, 47]</sup>, died 30 Sep 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[41, 48, 49]</sup>, married Joachim "Joe" Koenning 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[45]</sup>.
- iv. Heinrich "Henry" Wemken was born 18 Sep 1864 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany<sup>[82]</sup>, 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<sup>[83]</sup>.
- vi. Anna Wilhelmine Wemken was born 26 Aug 1868 in Oldenburg, Germany, died 23 Mar 1952 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[84]</sup>.
- vii. Johanna "Hannah" Wemken was born 22 Apr 1870 in Texas, USA, died 07 Sep 1939 in Scurry, Texas, USA<sup>[85, 86]</sup>, 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 Girndt Abt. 1906.
- ix. Lillian "Lillie" Wemken was born 17 Oct 1878 in Texas, USA, died 19 Nov 1947 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[87]</sup>, married Paul E. Discher Abt. 1900.

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# Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

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## Ancestors of Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

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## 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

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## Family Group Sheet for Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

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<b>Husband:</b>	Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft
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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

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<b>Wife:</b>	Gertrude Kathlena Koenning
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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

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<b>Children:</b>	
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1	Name:	Lloyd Koenning "L.K." Croft
M	Birth:	12 Feb 1935 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
	Marriage:	12 Jul 1958 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA
	Spouse:	Lucy Ann Nance

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2	Name:	Cynthia Elaine Croft
F	Birth:	17 Oct 1940 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
	Marriage:	02 Sep 1961 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
	Spouse:	Thomas "Tom" Robbins LeBleu

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<b>Notes</b>	
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## Family Group Sheet for Oscar Cameron Croft

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

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<b>Wife:</b>	Ethel Mae Mohler
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Birth:	10 Aug 1891 in Orion Twp. Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois, USA
Death:	30 Jun 1989 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
Burial:	03 Jul 1989 in San Antonio, Bexar Co, TX Mission Park, South
Father:	Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler
Mother:	Mary Emma Bowton

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<b>Children:</b>	
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1	Name:	Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft
M	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
	Spouse:	Gertrude Kathlena Koenning

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2	Name:	Keith Lyle Croft
M	Birth:	15 Nov 1920 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
	Death:	22 Dec 1997 in Houston, Harris Co, TX
	Marriage:	10 Aug 1941 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
	Spouse:	Mildred Margaret Shields

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<b>Notes</b>	
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## Family Group Sheet for William Teeter Croft

<b>Husband:</b> 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
<b>Wife:</b> 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
<b>Children:</b>	
1 M	<p>Name: Oscar Cameron Croft</p> <p>Birth: 19 Jun 1887 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Death: 19 Apr 1952 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</p> <p>Burial: 22 Apr 1952 in San Antonio, TX, Mission Park, South</p> <p>Marriage: 05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Ethel Mae Mohler</p>
2 M	<p>Name: Paul Harold Croft</p> <p>Birth: 20 Jun 1890 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Death: 08 Mar 1971 in Tacoma, Washington, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 01 Jan 1913</p> <p>Spouse: Marie L. Lewis</p>
3 M	<p>Name: Vede "Vida" Weaver Croft</p> <p>Birth: 28 Aug 1892 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Death: 25 Oct 1977 in Glen Aubrey, New York, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 11 Mar 1916</p> <p>Spouse: Opal Jenny Wolford</p>
4 M	<p>Name: George Allen Croft</p> <p>Birth: 20 Mar 1894 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Death: 21 Apr 1979 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 15 Mar 1916</p> <p>Spouse: Lena Esther Houston</p>
5 F	<p>Name: Edna Ruth Croft</p> <p>Birth: 27 Oct 1895 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Death: 29 Dec 1985 in Washington, Kansas, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 22 Sep 1915</p> <p>Spouse: Merle Durfee</p>
6 M	<p>Name: Elmer Glenn Croft</p> <p>Birth: 11 Mar 1897 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Death: 1897 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA</p>

## Family Group Sheet for William Teeter Croft

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7	Name:	Fred Dewey "Fritz or Doc" Croft
M	Birth:	27 Jul 1898 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
	Death:	14 Nov 1988 in Glen Aubrey, Broome, New York, USA
	Marriage:	19 Aug 1925
	Spouse:	Isabel Roth

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8	Name:	Frank Monroe Croft
M	Birth:	21 Oct 1900 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
	Death:	16 Mar 1952 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA
	Marriage:	Bef. 1926
	Spouse:	Gladys Scott

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9	Name:	Floyd Ward Croft
M	Birth:	02 Jan 1903 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
	Death:	07 Jan 1963 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA
	Burial:	10 Jan 1963 in Portland, OR, Lincoln Memorial Park
	Marriage:	Bef. 1929
	Spouse:	Erma Woolen

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10	Name:	Grace Irene Croft
F	Birth:	02 Jun 1904 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
	Death:	19 Sep 1990 in Prosser, Benton, Washington, USA
	Marriage:	11 Jun 1924 in Julesburg, California, USA
	Spouse:	Alfred Montgomery

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11	Name:	Blanche Marie Croft
F	Birth:	17 Mar 1906 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
	Death:	2000 in Longmont, Boulder, Colorado, USA
	Marriage:	02 Jun 1928
	Spouse:	Fred Mumford

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12	Name:	Hope Cansada Croft
F	Birth:	20 Mar 1907 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
	Death:	03 Nov 1996 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA
	Marriage:	16 Apr 1927
	Spouse:	William Edwin Thompson

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13	Name:	Russell William Croft
M	Birth:	11 Dec 1908 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
	Death:	31 Jan 1980 in Arlington, Dallas Co., TX
	Burial:	Oak Grove Memorial Cemetery, Arlington, TX
	Marriage:	20 Feb 1930
	Spouse:	Mary Ann Ross

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### Notes

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## Family Group Sheet for John Hipple Croft

<b>Husband:</b> John Hipple Croft	
Birth:	30 Mar 1819 in Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA
Death:	19 Aug 1892 in Clay, Nebraska, USA
Burial:	Clay Center Cemetary, south side
Marriage:	20 Nov 1840 in Martainsburg, Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA
Father:	Daniel R. Croft
Mother:	Anna Margareta "Margaret" Hipple
<b>Wife:</b> Elizabeth Teeter	
Birth:	18 Apr 1824 in Buffalo Mills, Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA
Death:	02 Nov 1890 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
Burial:	Clay Center Cemetery, Clay Co., NE
Father:	David Teeter
Mother:	Mary Agley
<b>Children:</b>	
1 F	<p>Name: Mary Ann Croft</p> <p>Birth: 24 Nov 1841 in Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA</p> <p>Death: 18 Apr 1909 in Union Twp., Appanoose, Iowa, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 06 Aug 1861 in Appanoose, Iowa, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Solomon Lyndon Coltrain</p>
2 M	<p>Name: Margaret "Peg" Croft</p> <p>Birth: 21 Mar 1845 in Huntingdon (now Bedford), Pennsylvania, USA</p> <p>Death: 12 Aug 1934 in Clay Center, Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 17 Mar 1861</p> <p>Spouse: Jacob W. Hager</p>
3 F	<p>Name: Barbara "Barb" Ellen Croft</p> <p>Birth: 02 Apr 1847 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, USA</p> <p>Death: 1928 in Clay Center, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Marriage: Bef. 1865</p> <p>Spouse: Andrew Jackson Clark</p>
4 M	<p>Name: John Hipple Croft</p> <p>Birth: 16 Mar 1850 in Van Buren, Iowa, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 14 May 1868</p> <p>Spouse: Isadora "Dora" Francis Masterson</p>
5 F	<p>Name: Caroline "Carrie" Minerva Croft</p> <p>Birth: 26 Mar 1853 in Morovia, Apponoose, Iowa, USA</p> <p>Death: 17 Feb 1930 in Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Burial: Clay, NE, Clay Center Cemetary</p> <p>Marriage: 21 Nov 1875</p> <p>Spouse: Nathaniel Graham</p>
6 M	<p>Name: Eli Croft</p> <p>Birth: 1855 in Iowa, USA</p> <p>Death: Aft. 1940</p> <p>Marriage: Abt. 1897</p> <p>Spouse: Emma Robar</p>

## Family Group Sheet for John Hipple Croft

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7  
M      Name: 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  
Spouse: Alice Madora Caulk

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8  
M      Name: Edward Croft  
         Birth: 1861 in Iowa, USA  
Marriage: Bef. 1886  
Spouse: Emily Hager

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9  
F      Name: Isabel "Belle" Croft  
         Birth: 1863 in Appanoose, Iowa, USA  
         Death: 1953 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA  
Marriage: 08 Dec 1881 in Clay, Nebraska, USA  
Spouse: John Squires Kirkpatrick

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### Notes

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## Family Group Sheet for Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler

<b>Husband:</b> Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler	
Birth:	14 Apr 1851 in Hanover Twsp. Janesville, Ashland, Ohio, USA
Death:	28 Dec 1937 in York, Nebraska, USA
Marriage:	27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA
Father:	John Adam Mohler
Mother:	Lydia Ann Shambaugh
<b>Wife:</b> Mary Emma Bowton	
Birth:	23 May 1857 in Glasford-Orion Twshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois, USA
Death:	12 May 1945 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA
Burial:	14 May 1945 in Greenwood, NE
Father:	William Bowton
Mother:	Rebecca Kirkpatrick
<b>Children:</b>	
1 F	Name: Floa Rebecca Mohler Birth: 11 Jan 1877 in Illinois, USA Death: 28 Dec 1955 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA Marriage: 05 Sep 1894 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA Spouse: J.P. Lautenschlager
2 M	Name: Lora "L.E." Ellsworth Mohler Birth: 11 Oct 1879 in Farmington, Fulton, Illinois, USA Death: 24 Sep 1966 in Eddyville, Dawson, Nebraska, USA Marriage: 14 Aug 1907 Spouse: Mary Frances Woodruff
3 M	Name: Charles Ira Mohler Birth: 31 Mar 1881 in Farmington, Fulton, Illinois, USA Death: 03 Dec 1956 in Barstow, Fresno, Callifornia, USA Marriage: 26 Jun 1907 Spouse: Laurette "Lottie" Herman
4 M	Name: William B. "Will" Mohler Birth: 05 Jan 1885 in Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois, USA Death: 24 May 1941 in York, Nebraska, USA Marriage: 14 Aug 1908 Spouse: Edith Estelle Holm
5 F	Name: Lena Marie Mohler Birth: 18 Oct 1888 in Illinois, USA Death: Jul 1978 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA Marriage: 07 Jun 1911 Spouse: Lee Gilbert
6 F	Name: Ethel Mae Mohler Birth: 10 Aug 1891 in Orion Twp. Breeds Station, Fulton, Illinois, USA Death: 30 Jun 1989 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA Burial: 03 Jul 1989 in San Antonio, Bexar Co, TX Mission Park, South Marriage: 05 Oct 1910 in York, Nebraska, USA Spouse: Oscar Cameron Croft

## Family Group Sheet for Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler

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7            Name:    Dara S. Mohler  
M            Birth:    15 Jan 1896 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA  
              Death:    15 Jun 1935 in Sun City West, Maricopa, Arizona, USA

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8            Name:    David M. Mohler  
M            Birth:    15 Jan 1896 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA  
              Death:    26 Jul 1935 in York, Nebraska, USA  
Marriage:    1917 in York, Nebraska, USA  
Spouse:     Jessie Melton

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9            Name:    Ewart G. Mohler  
M            Birth:    13 Jun 1899 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA  
              Death:    Jun 1965 in Lincoln, Lancaster, Nebraska, USA  
Marriage:    23 Aug 1921 in Lincoln, Johnson, Nebraska, USA  
Spouse:     Stella McCraig

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### Notes

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## Family Group Sheet for John Adam Mohler

<b>Husband:</b> John Adam Mohler	
Birth:	09 Mar 1810 in Buffalo, Washington, Pennsylvania, USA
Death:	25 Oct 1894 in Hamilton, Hancock, Illinois, USA
Marriage:	09 Jun 1835 in Richland, Ohio, USA
Father:	John Adam Mohler
Mother:	Anney Catherine Irich
<b>Wife:</b> Lydia Ann Shambaugh	
Birth:	28 May 1816 in Center Twsp., Union, Pennsylvania, USA
Death:	29 Jan 1861 in Spring Grove Twsp., Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA
Father:	John Shambaugh
Mother:	Catherine Walter
<b>Children:</b>	
1 F	<p>Name: Julia Ann Mohler</p> <p>Birth: 11 Mar 1836 in Ohio, USA</p> <p>Death: 25 Dec 1869 in Trivoli, Peoria, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 05 Jan 1858</p> <p>Spouse: Obediah Rusk</p>
2 M	<p>Name: Levi Mohler</p> <p>Birth: 05 Jun 1837 in Ohio, USA</p> <p>Death: 14 Jun 1909 in Kankalee, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Sarah J. "Jennie" Stuart</p>
3 F	<p>Name: Phebe Mohler</p> <p>Birth: 30 Sep 1838 in 14 May Greensboro, Summit, Ohio, USA</p> <p>Death: 14 May 1931 in Kaw, Jefferson, Kansas, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 06 Oct 1858 in Hanover, Warren, Illinois</p> <p>Spouse: John Thomas Ritchey</p>
4 M	<p>Name: William Henry Mohler</p> <p>Birth: 07 Jul 1840 in Ohio, USA</p> <p>Death: Aft. 1920</p> <p>Spouse: Harriett Unknown</p>
5 M	<p>Name: George Washington Mohler</p> <p>Birth: 23 Apr 1842 in Ohio, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Mary A. Stuart</p>
6 F	<p>Name: Catherine Clara Mohler</p> <p>Birth: 26 Feb 1844 in Londonville, Hanover Twsp., Ashland, Ohio, USA</p> <p>Death: 18 Jun 1901 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 09 Oct 1864 in Warren, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Spouse: James B. Clements</p>
7 M	<p>Name: Jeremiah L. Mohler</p> <p>Birth: 08 Jan 1846 in Mansfield, Ohio, USA</p> <p>Death: 08 Nov 1918 in Red Oak, Montgomery, Iowa, USA</p> <p>Marriage: Bef. 1870</p> <p>Spouse: Amanda Unknown</p>

## Family Group Sheet for John Adam Mohler

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8 F	Name: Mary Ann Mohler Birth: 1847 in Richland, Ohio, USA Death: 11 Sep 1873
9 M	Name: John Wesley Mohler Birth: 06 Jul 1849 in Hanover Twsp. Ashland, Ohio, USA Death: 30 Mar 1929 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, USA Marriage: 14 Sep 1876 in Cuba, Lake, Illinois, USA Spouse: Mary Katherine Seaton
10 M	Name: Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler Birth: 14 Apr 1851 in Hanover Twsp. Janesville, Ashland, Ohio, USA Death: 28 Dec 1937 in York, Nebraska, USA Marriage: 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA Spouse: Mary Emma Bowton
11 M	Name: Franklin "Frank" Pierce Mohler Birth: 1852 in Hanover Twsp. Ashland, Ohio, USA Death: 1923 in Des Moines, Polk, Iowa, USA Marriage: 12 Jun 1879 in Polk, Iowa, USA Spouse: Parrish Eva Estella
12 M	Name: Isaac Newton Mohler Birth: 17 Sep 1854 in Spring Grove Twsp., Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA
13 M	Name: Martin Luther Mohler Birth: 1857 in Spring Grove Twsp., Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA Death: 23 Sep 1857 in Monmouth, Warren, Illinois, USA
14 M	Name: Oliver Cromwell Mohler Birth: Dec 1859 in Illinois, USA Death: 1951 in Hay Springs, Sheridan, Nebraska, USA Marriage: Bef. 1898 Spouse: Ida May Confer

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### Notes

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## Family Group Sheet for William Bowton

<b>Husband:</b> 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
<b>Wife:</b> Rebecca Kirkpatrick	
Birth:	03 May 1828 in Ohio, USA
Death:	02 Mar 1919 in Fulton, Illinois, USA
Father:	Hugh Kirkpatrick
Mother:	Nancy Baird
<b>Children:</b>	
1 M	Name: William Henry Bowton Birth: 02 Jul 1847 in Indiana, USA Death: 07 Dec 1921 in Canton, Fulton, Illinois, USA Spouse: Lucinda Isabelle Mills
2 M	Name: John T. Bowton Birth: Abt. 1852 in Ohio, USA Death: 1924 in Sheldon, Iroquois, Illinois, USA Marriage: 1876 Spouse: Josephine Kelley
3 M	Name: Hugh Bowton Birth: Abt. 1855 in Illinois, USA
4 F	Name: Mary Emma Bowton Birth: 23 May 1857 in Glasford-Orion Twshp., Civer, Fulton, Illinois, USA Death: 12 May 1945 in Orchard, Antelope, Nebraska, USA Burial: 14 May 1945 in Greenwood, NE Marriage: 27 Jan 1876 in Orion, Fulton, Illinois, USA Spouse: Thomas Jefferson "Jerry" Mohler
5 F	Name: Nancy Bowton Birth: 1861 in Illinois, USA Death: 12 Dec 1943 in Decatur, Macon, Illinois Spouse: Joseph Henry Echols
6 M	Name: Charles Ellsworth Bowton Birth: 03 Mar 1863 in Fulton, Illinois, USA Death: Aft. 1920 in Illinois, USA Marriage: Aft. 1920 Spouse: Olive "Ollie" Parks
7 F	Name: Cynthia E. Bowton Birth: Abt. 1868
8 M	Name: Albert Bowton Birth: 1868 in Illinois, USA

## Family Group Sheet for William Bowton

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

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### Notes

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## Family Group Sheet for Allen Monroe Caulk

<b>Husband:</b> Allen Monroe Caulk	
Birth:	11 Nov 1831 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA
Death:	03 Dec 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
Marriage:	06 Sep 1866 in Montgomery, Illinois, USA
Father:	James Patterson Caulk
Mother:	Sarah Powers
<b>Wife:</b> Cansada Jones	
Birth:	26 Oct 1842 in Jackson, Tennessee, USA
Death:	24 Dec 1930 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA
Father:	Joseph Jones
Mother:	Elizabeth Sneed
<b>Children:</b>	
1 F	<p>Name: Alice Madora Caulk</p> <p>Birth: 26 Jul 1867 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Death: 08 Oct 1947 in Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, USA</p> <p>Burial: San Antonio, Mission Park South</p> <p>Marriage: 12 Nov 1885 in Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Spouse: William Teeter Croft</p>
2 M	<p>Name: John Albert Caulk</p> <p>Birth: 18 Apr 1869 in Lone Tree, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Death: Jan 1936 in Hennessey, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, USA</p> <p>Burial: Hennessey, Kingfisher Co., OK</p> <p>Marriage: Abt. 1891</p> <p>Spouse: Effie Trussell</p>
3 F	<p>Name: Theodoisa Abigail Caulk</p> <p>Birth: 18 Feb 1871 in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Death: 15 Mar 1947 in Grainfield, Gove, Kansas, USA</p> <p>Marriage: Bef. 1888</p> <p>Spouse: Frank William Embree</p>
4 M	<p>Name: Arthur Monroe Caulk</p> <p>Birth: 04 Apr 1873 in Mulberry Gove, Bond, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Death: 24 Dec 1940 in Lawrence, Douglas, Kansas, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 06 Dec 1894 in Benton, Arkansas, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Myrtle Thompson</p>
5 F	<p>Name: Telitha Rosa "Rosetta" Caulk</p> <p>Birth: 10 Sep 1875 in Fayette, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Death: 18 Sep 1959 in Lander, Fremont, Wyoming, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 11 Mar 1895 in Clay, Nebraska, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Frank Clark</p>
6 F	<p>Name: Lillie Elizabeth Caulk</p> <p>Birth: 16 Dec 1877 in Mulberry Gove, Bond, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Death: 09 Dec 1959 in Fall River, Greenwood, Kansas, USA</p> <p>Burial: Fredonia, Wilson Co., KS</p> <p>Marriage: 1898</p> <p>Spouse: Franklin Luther Grites</p>

## Family Group Sheet for Allen Monroe Caulk

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7	Name:	Sarah Susanna Caulk
F	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

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8	Name:	Henry Chester Caulk
M	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

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

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### Notes

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# 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

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## Family Group Sheet for Adolph Henry Koenning

<b>Husband:</b> Adolph Henry Koenning	
Birth:	03 Oct 1882 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
Death:	28 Nov 1948 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
Burial:	30 Nov 1948 in Mission Burial Park, San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX
Marriage:	19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA
Father:	Joachim "Joe" Koenning
Mother:	Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken
<b>Wife:</b> Marie "Mary" Kram	
Birth:	01 Sep 1886 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany
Death:	30 Apr 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA
Burial:	Stockton, CA
Father:	Joseph "Joe" Kram
Mother:	Anna Margaretha Kluch or Kluck
<b>Children:</b>	
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
<b>Notes</b>	



## Family Group Sheet for Joachim "Joe" Koenning

<b>Husband:</b> 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
Father:	Johann "John" Friedrich K�nning or Koenning
Mother:	Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger
<b>Wife:</b> Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken	
Birth:	27 Apr 1861 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany
Death:	30 Sep 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
Burial:	San Antonio, Bexar, TX, Mission South Cemetery
Father:	Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken
Mother:	Caroline Wilhelmine Luise Stratmann
<b>Children:</b>	
1 M	<p>Name: Adolph Henry Koenning</p> <p>Birth: 03 Oct 1882 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</p> <p>Death: 28 Nov 1948 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</p> <p>Burial: 30 Nov 1948 in Mission Burial Park, San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX</p> <p>Marriage: 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Marie "Mary" Kram</p>
2 F	<p>Name: Frieda Koenning</p> <p>Birth: Abt. 1885 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</p>
3 M	<p>Name: Henry Aloysius Koenning</p> <p>Birth: 12 Jul 1886 in Schulenburg, Fayette, Texas, USA</p> <p>Death: 07 Mar 1966 in Lakeside, San Diego, California, USA</p> <p>Marriage: Bef. 1914</p> <p>Spouse: Anna Sabina Ida Kram</p>
4 M	<p>Name: Louis Koenning</p> <p>Birth: 03 Apr 1888 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</p> <p>Death: 23 Nov 1914 in Cuero, De Witt, Texas, USA</p>
5 F	<p>Name: Olga Koenning</p> <p>Birth: Mar 1891 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</p> <p>Death: 14 Jun 1959 in San Antonio Bexar, Texas, USA</p> <p>Marriage: Bef. 1916</p> <p>Spouse: Alvin Anton Hirsch</p>
6 F	<p>Name: Minhelda (Minnie) Koenning</p> <p>Birth: May 1892 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</p> <p>Death: 14 May 1971 in San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA</p> <p>Marriage: Aft. 1936</p> <p>Spouse: Fred "Fritz" Schwab</p>
7 M	<p>Name: Rudolph Koenning</p> <p>Birth: Nov 1894 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</p> <p>Marriage: Bef. 1918</p> <p>Spouse: Vada Maurine Townsend</p>

## Family Group Sheet for Joachim "Joe" Koenning

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8            Name:    Walter Paul Koenning  
M            Birth:    12 Jul 1900 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
              Death:    10 Aug 1958 in San Antonio Bexar, Texas, USA  
Marriage:   Bef. 1923  
Spouse:     Ida Unknown

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### Notes

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## Family Group Sheet for Johann "John" Friedrich K nning or Koenning

<b>Husband:</b> Johann "John" Friedrich K�nning or Koenning	
Birth:	12 May 1817 in Germany or Prussia
Death:	22 Aug 1892 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA
Marriage:	05 Jun 1854 in Tuchen, Reckenthin, Ostprignitz, Brandenburg, Germany
Father:	
Mother:	
<b>Wife:</b> Anne Dorothea "Dora" Elisabeth Berger	
Birth:	10 Nov 1821 in Prussia
Death:	07 Aug 1892 in Ganado, Jackson, Texas, USA
Father:	
Mother:	
<b>Children:</b>	
1 M	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 M	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 F	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

<b>Husband:</b> Joseph "Joe" Kram	
Birth:	12 Mar 1854 in Ebersberg, Hesse, Germany
Death:	06 Mar 1920 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA
Marriage:	Bef. 1880 in Germany
Father:	
Mother:	
<b>Wife:</b> Anna Margaretha Kluch or Kluck	
Birth:	13 Jan 1860 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany
Death:	08 Dec 1921 in Woodland, Yolo, California, USA
Father:	
Mother:	
<b>Children:</b>	
1 F	Name: Anna Margaretha "Margaret" Kram Birth: 29 Feb 1880 in Germany Death: 16 Dec 1921 in Bexar, Texas, USA Marriage: 02 Jan 1921 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA Spouse: Fritz Ehler
2 M	Name: William "Willie" Frederich Kram Birth: 29 Jul 1882 in Germany Death: 18 Feb 1960 Marriage: Bef. 1908 Spouse: Ida Agust Ruhmann
3 M	Name: Emil Kram Birth: 12 Aug 1884 in Germany Death: 20 Oct 1971 in Haywood, Alameda, California, USA Marriage: Bef. 1918 Spouse: Hilda Unknown
4 F	Name: Carolina "Lena" Kram Birth: 02 Oct 1885 in Germany Death: 08 Jul 1962 in San Joaquin, California, USA Marriage: Bef. 1901 Spouse: Fritz Ehler
5 F	Name: Marie "Mary" Kram Birth: 01 Sep 1886 in Eichenzell, Hesse, Germany Death: 30 Apr 1929 in Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA Burial: Stockton, CA Marriage: 19 Dec 1911 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA Spouse: Adolph Henry Koenning
6 M	Name: Charlie Kram Birth: 05 Mar 1889 in Texas, USA Marriage: Bef. 1916 in Lavaca, Texas, USA Spouse: Emma Zander

## Family Group Sheet for Joseph "Joe" Kram

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7            Name: Anna Sabrina "Ida" Kram  
F            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

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

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9            Name: Herman Christian Kram  
M            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  
F            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

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

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

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### Notes

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## Family Group Sheet for Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken

<b>Husband:</b> Alerd 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
<b>Wife:</b> 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
<b>Children:</b>	
1 M	<p>Name: Johann "John" Wilhelm Wemken</p> <p>Birth: 02 Oct 1855 in Neuenkruege, Oldenburg, Germany</p> <p>Death: 03 Jul 1927 in Hermleigh, Scurry, Texas, USA</p> <p>Marriage: Bef. 1881</p> <p>Spouse: Anna Christiana Pietsch</p>
2 U	<p>Name: Unknown Wemken</p> <p>Birth: Abt. 1859 in Oldenburg, Germany</p> <p>Death: Abt. 1859 in Oldenburg, Germany</p>
3 F	<p>Name: Helene Catherine Margarethe Wemken</p> <p>Birth: 27 Apr 1861 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany</p> <p>Death: 30 Sep 1936 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA</p> <p>Burial: San Antonio, Bexar, TX, Mission South Cemetery</p> <p>Marriage: 12 Nov 1881 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Joachim "Joe" Koenning</p>
4 M	<p>Name: Heinrich "Henry" Wemken</p> <p>Birth: 18 Sep 1864 in Borbeck, Oldenburg, Germany</p> <p>Marriage: Bef. 1887</p> <p>Spouse: Maria "Mary" Templin</p>
5 F	<p>Name: Anna Marie Sophie Wemken</p> <p>Birth: 10 Sep 1866 in Oldenburg, Germany</p> <p>Death: 04 Mar 1958 in Harris, Texas, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 12 Dec 1889 in Fayette, Texas, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Adolph J. Herm</p>
6 F	<p>Name: Anna Wilhelmine Wemken</p> <p>Birth: 26 Aug 1868 in Oldenburg, Germany</p> <p>Death: 23 Mar 1952 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Herbert or Abert Discher</p>
7 F	<p>Name: Johanna "Hannah" Wemken</p> <p>Birth: 22 Apr 1870 in Texas, USA</p> <p>Death: 07 Sep 1939 in Scurry, Texas, USA</p> <p>Marriage: 13 Dec 1894 in Fayette, Texas, USA</p> <p>Spouse: Robert Charles Herm</p>

## Family Group Sheet for Alerd or Albert Heuermann Wemken

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8  
M           Name: Wilhelm Charles "Willy" Wemken  
              Birth: 05 Mar 1873 in Texas, USA  
              Death: 12 Mar 1925 in Merced, California, USA  
Marriage: Abt. 1906  
Spouse: Lena Girndt

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9  
F           Name: Lillian "Lillie" Wemken  
              Birth: 17 Oct 1878 in Texas, USA  
              Death: 19 Nov 1947 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
Marriage: Abt. 1900  
Spouse: Paul E. Discher

# 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**<sup>[1, 2]</sup> was born on 09 Feb 1913 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska, USA<sup>[3, 4, 5]</sup>. He died on 05 Jan 1987 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[6, 7, 8]</sup>. He married Gertrude Kathlena Koenning on 09 Feb 1934 in Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, USA<sup>[9, 10]</sup>, daughter of Adolph Henry Koenning and Marie "Mary" Kram. She was born on 17 Aug 1913 in Shiner, Lavaca, Texas, USA<sup>[11, 12, 13, 14]</sup>. She died on 05 Jan 1977 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[7, 15]</sup>. 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:

2. i. Lloyd Koenning "L.K." Croft, B: 12 Feb 1935 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA<sup>[16, 17]</sup>, M: Lucy Ann Nance, 12 Jul 1958 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA<sup>[18]</sup>.
3. ii. Cynthia Elaine Croft, B: 17 Oct 1940 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA, M: Thomas "Tom" Robbins LeBleu, 02 Sep 1961 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA.

---

## Generation 2

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

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.
8. ii. Laura LeBleu, B: 28 Nov 1971 in El Paso, Texas, USA, M: John Ficarra, 13 Oct 2007 in New York, New York, USA.

---

## Generation 3

4. **Leslie Elaine Croft-3**(Lloyd Koenning "L.K."-2, Lloyd Ollie (Olie)-1)<sup>[25]</sup> 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 Alcalá. He was born on 16 Jan 1950 in Galveston, Galveston Co, TX.

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## Descendants of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

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### 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 Ungers 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 Ungers 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.

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### Sources

- 1 Lloyd Ollie Croft birth certificate no. 2940, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- 2 Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2009.
- 3 Lloyd Ollie Croft birth certificate no. 2940, Nebraska Health & Human Services System, Lincoln, Nebraska.

## Descendants of Lloyd Ollie (Olie) Croft

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- 5 Ancestry.com. Social Security Death Index. 2935-2014 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2011.
- 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.
- 8 Lloyd O Croft obituary, San Antonio Express News, San Antonio, Texas, 7 Jan 1987.
- 9 Ancestry.com. Texas Marriage Collection, 1814-1909 and 1966-2002 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2005.
- 10 Guadalupe County, Texas, marriage record, Guadalupe County Clerk's Office, Seguin, Texas.
- 11 Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2002.
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- 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.
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- 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.
- 20 Ancestry.com. Texas Birth Index, 1903-1997 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
- 21 Lucy Ann Nance, birth certificate, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
- 22 Ancestry.com. U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 2 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.  
Original data: Voter Registration Lists, Public Record Filings, Historical Residential Records, and Other Household Database Listings.
- 23 Ancestry.com. U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.  
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- 25 Ancestry.com. Texas Birth Index, 1903-1997 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005..





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