



Madison County Genealogical Society



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Some Early Residents of the Kalamazoo Area

Abstracted from the Newman Grove and Madison Centennial Books by Nancy Zaruba

The Kuchar family Wenzel and Marie Kuchar, their daughter Barbara and their son Joseph and his wife Kathryn (Koryta) Kuchar, and Joseph and Kathryn's children Vaclav (Jim), Joseph, and Frank came to the US in 1880 from Bohemia. The family settled first at West Point but felt uncomfortable in the German Community. Frank drowned at the age of 9 in 1885 and is buried at West Point. Wenzel died in 1887 and was buried beside Frank. The remaining family moved to Schoolcraft and Kalamazoo to join the large Czech and Bohemian community already settled there. Joseph died of pneumonia in 1889. He was buried in the Iowa Valley Cemetery. His grave was the third grave in this cemetery. At the present time there are five generations of Kuchars buried there.

The Kohl family Edward and Margaret (Boysen) Kohl had thirteen children and their descendants, some seven generations, are scattered throughout Madison County. They were successful farmers and at one time had a Methodist Church located on their home place. They also donated land for a cemetery named after their family.

The Finkral family John and Mary Finkral were natives of Bohemia and came to the US in 1866 with their four children to Lennox, Iowa. John died in 1867 and Mary in 1888. After seventeen years, in 1883, they came to Madison County and purchased land. Joseph Finkral was a prominent farmer and stockman. He married Mary Witt on June 13, 1866, at Baltimore, Maryland. (They met on the ship coming over.) Joe and Mary had three children.

The Dvorak family John Dvorak and his wife Katrina Halik were born in Czechoslovakia and came to America, originally locating in LaCrosse, WI, for a short time and later came to Wilber in Saline County, NE. Not satisfied there, they migrated to Madison County to the Kalamazoo precinct with their few possessions in a wagon with a team of horses. Their money was stashed in a tin pail fastened under the wagon to keep from being robbed by the Indians. They had five children all going to District 36 school.

Reverend and Mrs. John Hotskin

In the spring of 1873, John Hotskin with his wife and several children left Harrison County, Iowa for a homestead on the NE ¼ of section 4, Township 21, North, Range 3 West of the 6th prime meridian in Kalamazoo Township of Madison County, Nebraska. It was a hard trip over muddy and bridgeless roads in bad weather. A short distance south of Madison they encountered the terrific blizzard of Easter Day, April 14, 1873 but were lucky to find shelter at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Horsham. This storm lasted three days and nights. After the storm they continued on to the wild, unimproved prairie homestead. They found temporary shelter with a neighbor while preparing a dug out on their own land. Mrs. Cynthia Hotskin's brother, a Mr. James and his family came out at the same time and located on a nearby homestead.

In September of 1873, a son, Marion Hotskin, died after a protracted ailment. His father set apart a tract in the North East corner of his farm for a cemetery, now the Iowa Valley Cemetery, and Marion was the first one buried there.

John Hotskin was an ordained United Brethren church minister and a leader, not only in the religious activities, but also in promoting the social and material welfare of the Iowa Valley community. He was an eloquent speaker and a fine singer. His wife was Cynthia Ann James an accomplished woman with a soprano voice. They held revival services, preached in homes, school houses and churches in (Burnett), St. Clair, Walnut Grove, Fairview, Looking Glass and other frontier localities. He had the ability to inspire hope and cheer where he appeared – a great benefit to depressed settlers during the grasshopper years in the middle seventies. He promoted the building of the Iowa Valley church. His social service among the young people on the frontier effectively established a higher standard of morality in business and civic behavior.

The most lasting monument to Rev. Hotskin's memory was the founding of the Iowa Valley Cemetery Association on August 17, 1912. The incorporators were F. K. Panek, James Adamek, Tom Panek, F. A. Franek, F. G. Dvorak, C. Olson and F. K. Pospisil. It is one of the prettiest country cemeteries.

Rev. John Hotskin was born in Sweden, became a sailor in his teens and located in Harrison County, Iowa, after the Civil War. In early manhood he became devoted to Christian work and was ordained minister of the gospel in the United Brethren church. In 1884, he moved with his family to Rock County, Nebraska, where he continued his Evangelistic work on a new frontier as long as his health held out. At the age of 89 he died in Rock County. Funeral services were held at the home in charge of the Methodist minister of Bassett. He was buried in the Iowa Valley cemetery, where services at the grave were conducted by Rev. C. W. Clifton of Meadow Grove, Nebraska. Mrs. Cynthia Ann Hotskin moved to Long Pine, Nebraska and lived there with her son, until her death in 1917. She too was buried in the Iowa Valley Cemetery. Their daughter Mary Hotskin married Charles Olson on December 8, 1878.

Source: H. Halderson, Tri-County Pioneers: A Frontier Days History of Boone, Madison & Platte Counties. Rpt 1940. 146-151.

A History of the Johann Treinies Family of Green Garden, Kalamazoo and Shell Creek Townships

Submitted by Linda Wiedman

Johann "John" Treinies was born 8 Nov 1819 in Prussia. Both his father and mother were also listed as coming from Prussia. He married **Anna Kraefs** and they had five children: Leopold, Johanna Rosina, Johann (died as an infant about 1848), Amalie, and Mary (or Marie). He came to the US later in his life, exact date unknown, but all of the family was here by 1880. Census records listed Johann living with Leopold. His wife Anna was living with Mary who lived next door to Leopold. In 1910 Johann is living with Ewald and Anna is not listed. Johann could not speak or write English. Johann died 22 Aug. 1914 in Newman Grove, NE. He was found in a field. He had been visiting and was walking home when he was taken. He was buried at Green Garden (Schmitt/Rottler) Cemetery in Green Garden Township. Anna refused to be buried in a "weed patch" as she called that cemetery and her grave has not been located.

Leopold Treinies was born on 5 Jan 1845 in Mehlauken, E. Prussia. He was the first-born son to Johann and Anna (Kraefs) Treinies. As a young man he participated in the Austrian Prussian War of 1866 and the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. He met and married **Hennrietta Preukschat** in 1872. In 1874 he, with his family, came and settled in New York State. After a return visit to Germany he moved to Grand Prairie, an early settlement in Platte County about 1875. Census records show that the Treinies family lived in Stearns Twp. in Platte Co., NE in 1880. They were farmers and had ten children, seven of which lived. They were: Anton, Otto, Olga, Ewald, Amanda, Charles, and Emma. The 1900 census shows the family had moved to Grand Prairie, Platte Co., NE. In 1910 they had moved to Shell Creek Precinct, Madison Co., NE. Hennrietta died 17 Jul 1903, of unknown causes. No newspaper exists for her date of death because of a fire. She is buried at Green Garden (Schmitt/Rottler) Cemetery. Leopold died 18 Jul 1929 at the home of his son, Otto, from a lingering illness. He was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery. I think when Johann died in 1914 they didn't have a plot for him and they buried him beside Hennrietta where Leopold should have been.

Johanna Rosina Treinies was born on 1 Jan 1847 in Mehlkemen, East Prussia to Johann and Anna Treinies. Rosina emigrated to the US from Konigsberg with her husband, Otto Carl Kallweit in 1870. They lived in New York for one year and then moved to Omaha for three years. From Omaha they moved to Platte County and homesteaded in Grand Prairie township where they lived their entire married life. She and Carl had eight children: Alma N. born 4 Jan 1866, E. Prussia; Anton, born 11 May 1870 in E. Prussia; Otto Carl Jr., born 16 Apr 1873, Omaha, NE; Wilhelm, born 12 Jul 1878; Heinrich, born 2 Feb 1880; Martha, born Jan 1882; Edward, born 1885 in Grand Prairie, NE; and George, born 30 Jun 1887, all in Platte County, NE. Edward died at age six of an unknown cause. It was winter time and they had to put his body in a snow bank until the ground thawed enough to bury him. Two other sons died unexpectedly early; Anton at 27 and Wilhelm at 29, both of a ruptured appendix. All of the family is buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery except for Otto who was buried at Humphrey, NE. Rosina never did read or write English and never attended church with her husband. Johanna Rosina died 20 Oct. 1927. Otto Carl died 9 Apr. 1927.

Amalie Treinies was born about 1850 and married into the Pelkes family. I have no other information about her.

Mary Treinies was born about 1855. She arrived in New York on 23 Feb 1872 with her older sisters, Amalie and Johanna "Anna" Rosina, and two of Johanna's children Anton and Aline Kallweit. It must have been quite a trip in the middle of winter

with small children. Mary married William Steinbeck on 10 Apr. 1877 at Columbus, NE. She married his brother Frank first, he died or left and a year later she married William. Mary and William had six children: Willie L. who died 28 Feb 1879, at the age of 1 yr. 7 mo. 19 days old, buried at Streeters Cemetery; Elizabeth Alleen born Apr. 1880; Ellen born 1883; Henry born Oct 1884; Huldah born Feb. 1888; and Clara born Nov. 1890, all in Platte Co. I have no further information on this family.

Children of Leopold and Henrietta (Preukschat) Treinies, my great great grandfather.

Anton Treinies was born 26 Feb. 1873 in Prussia. He came to the US in 1875. He married **Gensena Meyer**. Anton called her Sena. They had four children: Martha, John Anton born in 1908; Raymond Fred born in 1910; and Edward H. born 1922, probably all in Platte County, NE. Anton was a carpenter by trade. His legacy is the buildings he constructed. Barns and houses were his specialty. Loren Behlen conveyed a story that while Anton was shingling his family's house, his dad (Mr. Behlen) got sick and died that night. Anton stayed with the family because the children were all so small. At this time Anton lived 1 ½ miles east of the Shell Creek Baptist Church, very close to his family. He worked very hard and was buying a farm from the Borchers family. He had a hard time making the payment and lost the farm in the 30s. He died 9 Sep 1952 in Platte Center, Platte County, NE.

Otto Treinies was born 25 Aug 1874 in Prussia. He was the last child born before the family came to the United States. He came in 1875 and was too young to have any memory of the old country. He was a farm laborer and raised sheep. He never married. He died in 1945 and is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery.

Olga Treinies was born 25 Jan 1877 at Humphrey. She was raised on a farm and was taught to be a seamstress. She lived at home, sewing dresses until she married at age twenty five. She married **Gustav C. Gerling** on 25 Feb. 1902 in Newman Grove, Madison Co., NE. Gustav was born 7 Mar 1872 in Pulen, Russia, to **Fredrick and Ernestine Herholtz (Herhold) Gerling**. He came to the US in 1892 and settled in Humphrey. He worked for 10 years before he married Olga. He didn't speak any English when he arrived and worked hard to become a real American. Their first child, Leo, named after his Grandpa, was born in 1903 and died at 9 months. He is buried in Newman Grove Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Their second son, Herbert, was born 16 Apr 1904. Then girls, Alida Lilly, 23 Feb. 1906; Lillian, 21 Jul 1904; and Verona Evelyn, on 1 Aug 1909, all at Newman Grove, NE, on a small farm northwest of town. The homestead house is still standing. Gus and Olga were farmers. They always spoke German at home and the children found it hard in school. They did have a pump organ in the parlor and the kids were encouraged in music. Olga was a heavyset woman in her later years and it was hard for her to get around. She was a loving person and well liked by all. They left the farm in 1934 and moved to Norfolk where Olga had a stroke and never really recovered. She died 26 Jan 1944 as a result of the stroke and is buried at Crown Hill. Gus moved in with his son Herbert for a time and they worked the farm together. After taking a couple of trips to Oregon to visit his brother, Adolf, Gus decided to move to Oregon. There in 1947, he married Mrs. Carl Wittenburg. They had almost ten years together before she died, 3 Jul 1958, at Salem, Oregon. Gus suffered from heart disease and died 24 Oct 1958. He is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Madison next to Olga.

Ewald Treinies was born 7 Jan 1880, in Platte County, NE. His marriage was arranged in the old country, **Louise Stahl** would be his wife. She was born, 1 Apr 1871, in Blumenfeld, Hiemgard, Russia. She arrived in the US in 1900 and lived at the home of Gustav Gerling in Newman Grove, NE. She and Ewald married at Newman Grove, 3

Mar 1910. They farmed fourteen miles west of Madison. They had one son, Law Elton, born 10 Dec. 1910, in Madison. In 1917 they moved to Madison. Louise's father was a revolutionary during the overthrow of the Czar of Russia and often had to hide in the fields to not be discovered. He was a farmer and probably a close buddy of Leopold Treinies. Ewald died 31 Oct. 1920 and is buried at Green Garden (Schmitt/Rottler) Cemetery west of Madison. Louise died 1 Apr 1957 and was buried next to Ewald. She was a long time member of the Trinity Church. Law "Gary" Elton Treinies married **Nelda Christine Johnson Ramsier** on 10 Dec 1937. They had two children: Gary Elton born 29 Jun 1938 and Judy Marie born 6 Mar 1940 both in Madison. Nelda is still living in Madison.

Amanda Treinies was born 18 Sep 1881. She was a dressmaker.

Charles Treinies was born 17 Feb 1883. He lived in Platte Center with his parents until 1902 when the family moved to Newman Grove. He later moved to Madison and lived there until his death in May 1958.

Emma Treinies was born 10 May 1890. Emma never married. She worked as a milliner. She died 23 May 1978 in Oregon.

Anyone wanting sources or anyone who has something to contribute to these stories may contact me at oldmujare@earthlink.net or by mail...
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