

Composed by:

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Great Granddaughter of Theodor Kleinsorge

A BIT ABOUT THEODOR KLEINSORGE

FROM WESTFALEN, GERMANY and WESTPHALIA, KANSAS

In September 1879, Smith P. Cornell settled on a farm one and one-half miles from the Coffey County line at the head of Thomas Creek. J.C. Merrill and Smith P. Cornell plotted a town site on forty acres on the Cornell farm. The original town site was six square blocks. The Cornell farm was located on the route of the St. Louis, Kansas and Arizona railroad. A post office was established in the home of Mr. Cornell. On January 2, 1880, Mr. Cornell and Mr. Merrill filed a town plat. In April of 1879, bonds were passed in Anderson County, Kansas to build the railroad St. Louis, Kansas and Arizona. It was to follow closely the old railroad grade of Paola, Garnett and Fall River railroad. By the end of November the track had been laid to the Coffey County line. A station was located on the Cornell farm and given the name of Cornell. The railroad consolidated with Missouri Pacific and from 1880 was known as such.

The Flusche Brothers, German immigrants, founded Westphalia, Iowa in 1872. They were encouraged by the success and decided to venture forth with another town. The two brothers, Carl and Emil, arrived in Cornell, February 1880. They decided, as the site looked promising to invest and thus started the town of Cornell.

March 12, 1880, August Flusche, Carl Flusche and family, Emil Flusche, August Hendrichs, John Rueschenberg and others left Westphalia, Iowa, for Cornell, Kansas. Three days after their arrival, Emil and August Flusche bought the Cornell 160 with the half built roomy residence adjoining the

town site on the east together with the eastern half of the town site itself.

From Germany, in June, came William Blaufuss and wife, Matthew Rath and family, and Theodor Kleinsorge and family. Matthew Rath's wife Gertrud and Theodor Kleinsorge were brother and sister. They arrived aboard the SS Herman from Bremen, Germany, June 16, 1880 in the Port of Baltimore, Maryland. The families were listed on the passenger list as Mathias Rath, 31 years old from Prussia, Gertrud, age 31 from Prussia, Marie, 4 years Prussia, Joseph, 3 years Prussia and Anna, 10 months Prussia, Theodor Kleinsorge, 27 years Prussia, Karoline, 24 years Prussia, Anton, 11 months Prussia, Wilhelm Blaufuss 31 years Prussia, and Sophia Blaufuss, 25 years Prussia.

They arrived in Westphalia, Kansas on June 20, 1880 as quoted in Westphalia, Kansas - The First 100 Years.

From the History of Anderson County' Harry Johnson, published 1936 it states in the summer of 1880 the first blacksmith shop was started by Theodor Kleinsorge, who also built the first Westphalia residence. It is said that Theodor and his family lived in a barn after their arrival from Germany.

On April 12, 1880, the Very Reverend Anatasius of Scipio said the first mass. Fourteen adults and several children attended it.

On June 11, 1880, Cornell railroad station changed their name to Westphalia and the postal department adopted the name on July 1, 1880.

In 1881, among the new arrivals were Johann and Marie Anna Eickhoff and her family. Her children as listed on the 1918 Alien Record is Katherine Eickhoff, Mary Plain, and Tony Eickhoff, being born in Germany. Later Elizabeth and Sophia Leib were born in Westphalia.

Theodor was born July 7, 1852 in Heiminghausen, Westfalen, Germany, to Johann Frederick Anton Kleinsorge (born Tompe) and Mary Anna Koene. He married his first wife Karoline Baldina Voelmer. (Born ca1856) in Germany.

To this union were born:

1. Franz Anton (Frank Anthony) b. July 9, 1878, Heiminghausen, Westfalen, Germany. He married Eleanor Heim, February 1, 1907, in Westphalia, Kansas. To this union ten children were born: John Theodore, George Adam, Amelia, Leo Antone, Theresa Margaret, Aloysius, Martin, Clara, William Lawrence, Rita. Tony passed away February 25, 1959, at Leoville, Kansas and Eleanor, April 4, 1935 at Dresden, Kansas

2. Mary Ann or Marian Elizabeth - born November 6, 1880 at Westphalia, Kansas. She was christened November 20, 1880 with Anton and Annette Flusche as godparents. She died as a small infant and is buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Scipio, Kansas.

Karoline died November 12, 1880 at Cornell (Westphalia) Kansas. She was buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Scipio, Kansas. Her death was the first death listed in the town of Cornall.

It is said that Theodor immigrated to the United States because he did not want to be forced into the German army during the Prussian War. In Germany, he was a shoe cobbler. In this job he placed the leather against his leg to hammer nails into it. His leg got sore so he feigned a limp during the induction period. He was put through many tests among them was walking for many miles limping all the way. Thus he was able to avoid the draft and bring his young family to the United States.

Theodor purchased property from August Flusche on June 1, 1882. It was located at Lot 2 in Block 13 in the town of Westphalia. At a later date he purchased a farm approximately one mile south, one mile west and one mile south of town. He rented a farm one mile north, one mile west for a little while prior to buying the farm.

On May 23, 1884, Theodor married Caroline Rapp, born ca1856 on May 29, 1885; Theodor sued Caroline for dissolution of marriage. In the petition, Theodor stated from May 23, 1884, until July 30, 1884, he was a faithful and dutiful husband. On this date, he found that Caroline had become

pregnant by another man prior to their marriage. The divorce became final, September 15, 1885.

On August 16, 1886, Theodor wed Catherine Kloer, daughter of Wilhelm Kloer and Frances Sickman of Montrose, Missouri. Catherine was born June 26, 1867 in Germantown, Henry County, Missouri. A lawyer in Garnett, Kansas married them. Later, approximately twenty years, they were married in St. Theresa Church, Westphalia, Kansas, after the death of Caroline Rapp Kleinsorge.

To the union of Theodor Kleinsorge and Catherine Kloer were born seven children:

1. Matthew Vincent, born July 19, 1887, Westphalia, Kansas. He married Mamie May Westhusing, daughter of Anthony Westhusing and Catherine Sickman, on January 11, 1916, Germantown, Missouri. To this union six children were born - Carl Theodore, Earl William, Ruby Ethel, Inez Anna, Paul Henry and Edna Fern. Matthew Vincent passed away May 26, 1962, Germantown, Missouri. Mamie May was born August 18, 1891, Germantown, Missouri and died June 5, 1952 at Germantown. Both Vince and Mamie are buried at St. Ludgers cemetery in Germantown, Missouri.

2. Jacke - born June 14, 1888 and died the same day. He is buried in St. Theresa Cemetery, Westphalia, Kansas.

3. Mary Anna - born December 28, 1889, Westphalia, Kansas married Henry Frank Lohkamp, son of Henry Lohkamp and Mary Watowa, February 3, 1908, Westphalia, Kansas. To this union two sons were born - William Henry and Anthony Theodore. Henry Frank was born July 14, 1883 at Atchison, Kansas and died January 30, 1961 at Garnett, Kansas. Anna died July 12, 1979 at Garnett, Kansas. Both Henry and Anna are buried at St. Theresa Cemetery, Westphalia, Kansas.

4. Herman William - born April 10, 1894, Westphalia, Kansas He married Philomena Bettels, daughter of August Bettels and Theresa Cook, June 3, 1919, Germantown, Missouri. To this union six children were born - Joseph Theodore, Catherine Theresa, Marie Anna, Mark Henry, John

William and James Joseph. Herman William died April 11, 1962, Westphalia, Kansas. Philomena was born November 15, 1896 in Germantown, Missouri, and died June 8, 1984 in Kansas City, Missouri. Bill and Minnie are both buried in St. Theresa Cemetery, Westphalia, Kansas.

5.Mary Rose - born June 1, 1897, Westphalia, Kansas married Joseph August Bettels, son of August Bettels and Theresa Cook, February 10, 1920, Westphalia, Kansas. To this union three children were born: Laura Theresa, Florence Catherine and Robert Anthony. Joseph August Bettels was born May 30, 1889 in Montrose, Missouri and died February 7, 1975, Montrose, Missouri. Mary Rose died February 9, 1986, Montrose, Missouri. Joe and Rose are both buried in St. Ludgers Cemetery, Germantown, Missouri.

6.Frank - born July 2, 1903, Westphalia, Kansas. He married Fern Elizabeth Hildebrand Wright, daughter of Fred Hildebrand and Cora Clara Johnson July 5, 1926, at Garnett, Kansas. To this union three children were born-Frances Catherine, Eugene Henry, and Clara Ann. Fern Elizabeth was born September 24, 1905.

7.Johne - born March 26, 1906, Westphalia, Kansas. He died April 5, 1906 at Westphalia, Kansas and is buried in St. Theresa Cemetery, Westphalia, Kansas.

On November 2, 1922, Theodor filed a Declaration of Intention to become a U.S. citizen in Garnett, Kansas. He never took the oath of allegiance. The researcher of this book has never been able to find out why he never took the oath. Theodor was a blacksmith and farmer by profession in Kansas. He died from a stroke March 17, 1932, at his home in Westphalia, Kansas. Catherine lived another six years, dying July 30, 1938, at Germantown, Missouri. Both Theodor and Catherine are buried in St. Theresa Cemetery, Westphalia, Kansas. The Theodor Kleinsorge family has been found living in the St. Cyriakus Parish of Westfalen, Germany as early as 1626. St. Cyriakus Parish includes Arpe, Heiminghausen, Mailar, Berghausen, Niederbernforf and Oberbernddrf, Westfalen, Germany. They were not a people to move from place to place like the Americans have done. Some

of our family was and probably still are strong Lutherans. This is reflected in the family crest.

Theodor's parents and family is as follows:

Johann Frederick Anton Kleinsorge born Tompe - born 17 May 1801 in Fredeberg, Westfalen, Germany. He was the son of Franz Kleinsorge and A. Gertrud Gobel. He married (1) Maria Franziska Noelleke on November 22, 1831, in St. Cyriakus Parish. Maria Franziska was born 1807 and died May 18, 1841. She was the daughter of Mathias Noelleke. Franz and Maria's children were:

1. Johann Kleinsorge - born January 7, 1833

2. M. Josephine (Gustine) - born May 5, 1834, Fredeburg, Westfalen Germany. She married Johann Fabre November 22, 1869 in Berghausen, Westfalen, Germany. They were living in Mailar, Westfalen, Germany in 1918.

3. Antonius- born November 6, 1836, Berghausen, Westfalen, Germany. He died April 16, 1837 in Berghausen, Westfalen, Germany.

4. Mary Anna - born October 3, 1838, Fredeburg, Westfalen, Germany. She married Johann Eickhoff and later immigrated to the United States. To this union was born five children: Catharine, Mary, Anton Peter, Sophia, and Elizabeth. Johann Eickhoff was born 1826 and died August 16, 1881 in Westphalia, Kansas of a sunstroke. Mary Anna died in 1919 and both Johann and Mary Anna are buried at St Theresa Cemetery in Westphalia, Kansas

5. Thersia - born February 8, 1841, Berghausen, Westfalen, Germany and died November 17, 1841, Berghausen, Westfalen, Germany.

Johann Frederick Anton Kleinsorge born Tompe married secondly Maria Anna Koene (sometimes found spelled Kohne). Maria Anna Koene was born January 25, 1812 in Berghausen, Germany, the daughter of Wilhelm Frederick Kohne and Anna Maria Helena Schauerte. Maria Anna died January 21, 1874 at Berghausen, Germany. To this union were born five children.

They were:

1. Franz Anton - born February 3, 1843 in Fredeburg, Westfalen, Germany. He married Gertrud Stute September 15, 1869 in Fredeburg, Westfalen, Germany. He was found living in Germany in 1918.

2. Elisabeth- born April 13, 1845, Fredeburg, Westfalen, Germany. She married Joseph Grothof. They had children.

3. Justina - born February 7, 1847, Fredeburg, Westfalen, Germany. She married Franz Anton Fabri September 16, 1873, Fredeburg, Westfalen, Germany. They had children.

4. Gertrud - born March 7, 1849, Berghausen, Westfalen, Germany. She married Mathias Rath, June 1, 1874, Berghausen Westfalen, Germany. They immigrated with Theodor to the United States June 16, 1880. Mathias Rath was born February 19, 1849 in Germany and died March 2, 1907 in Westphalia, Kansas. Gertrud followed him in death on December 27, 1931 in Westphalia, Kansas. Both Mathias and Gertrud are buried in St. Theresa Cemetery, Westphalia, Kansas. To this union nine children were born: Mary, Joseph, Anna D., Elizabeth, John, Thresia, Anton (Tony), Joseph, Bernadine (Dena).

5. Theodor - born July 7, 1852 Heiminghausen, Westfalen, Germany. He married:

1. Karoline Baldina Voelmer - to this union two children were born - Franz Anton, Mary Ann or Mariam Elizabeth.

2. Caroline Rapp - married May 23, 1884 divorced September 15, 1885.

3. Catherine Kloer - married August 16, 1886, Westphalia, Kansas. Catherine was born June 26, 1867, Germantown, Henry County, Missouri, the daughter of Wilhelm Kloer and Frances Sickman. To this union seven children were born: Matthew Vincent, Jacke, Mary Anna, Herman William, Mary Rose, Frank, John. Theodor passed away March 17, 1932, Westphalia, Kansas and Catherine followed him on July 30 1938, Germantown, Missouri. Both are buried in St. Theresa

Cemetery, Westphalia, Kansas.

This in no way completes the Theodor Kleinsorge story, but as of this date in 1987, this is all that is known. Research is continuing on into the German records, which is very slow progress. Following is some information received by Catherine Kleinsorge Ohmie from Mrs. William Philip Kleinsorge of Sacramento, California. It is pertaining to the Kleinsorge family.

The first written record is in the cemetery at Lippe Detmold a small principality, about 80 miles southwest of the city of Hanover, Germany. The tombstones in the graveyard bear the date 1215 AD. Also the old town hall carries the Kleinsorge crest and reflects that these men were mayors of the town. Also the crest reflects some members of the family were in the Christian Crusade against the Muslims.

In the period 1560-1701 at Lippe Lemgo, the Kleinsorge's, then von Kleinsorgen's were the political bosses of the area. A Karl Meser of Lemgo, who in 1951 published a history of these individuals, tells their history. Bosendal Verlag CMBH - Rentlin/Weser, published this. It is written in German. One individual, Balazar, was famed because he traveled to an important court in Berlin to defend certain innocent Lemgo citizens of the charge of witchcraft - shades of Salem, Mass. It was not until the arrival of Bismarck and the Prussians we have more information on the family. They evidently lived and died and were respected leading citizens in the areas of Lemgo, Lippe-Ditmold. You can spot the area on a map - about 25 miles west of Hamlin of Pied Piper fame. When the unification of Germany began under the Prussians leaders of small areas lost their power. The sons were conscripted into the army. Several of the Kleinsorge family immigrated at this time - the late 1840's and 1850's.

Many sources of information have been used to obtain the information included in this book.

Among them are the following:

1.The book WESTPHALIA, KANSAS, THE FIRST 100 YEARS 1879-1979

2.A letter from Mrs. William Philip Kleinsorge of Sacramento, California to Catherine Kleinsorge Ohmie.

3.U.S. Government Alien Records of 1918

4.Ship passenger list from the National Archives Washington, D.C.

5.Birth Record from Westfalen, Germany

6.U.S. Federal Census records

7.Anderson County, Kansas court records including wills marriages, divorce, Declaration to Become a U.S. Citizen, land records

8.Henry County, Missouri court records including marriage, death, land deeds, wills

9.Cemetery records including - St. Theresa 5

Cemetery at Westphalia, Kansas, St. Ludger's

Cemetery at Germantown, Missouri and St. Mary S

Cemetery at Montrose, Missouri

10.Various newspapers from Missouri and Kansas

11.The book MONTROSE, MISSOURI CENTENNIAL 1871-1971 by Montrose Community Betterment Club

12.Mormon Genealogical microfilm records of St. Cyriakus Parish, Westfalen Germany church records including births, baptisms, marriages and deaths.

13.Many letters containing family information from the Kleinsorge, Roth and Eickhoff family members

14.Anderson County, Kansas History Book