

THISTLES AND LACE A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

Part II. The Webers

By Martha Nill Weber,
as told to Marion Lacher

Heinrich Weber, also known as Henry Weber, was born on December 12, 1866 at Crimea, Russia. He died on March 20, 1916 in Ashley, North Dakota.

His father was Johannes Weber, born on August 9, 1834 at Worms, Russia. Heinrich's mother was Elizabeth Jacobine Metz, born on February 5, 1840 at Bessarabia, Russia.

Johannes and Elizabeth had the following children: Louise (Mrs. Christ Zimmerman), born on April 19, 1862 at Crimea, Russia; Heinrich, born on December 12, 1866 at Crimea, Russia; Christian, born on November 2, 1874 at Crimea, Russia; Regina, born August 23, 1878 and died December 1, 1878 in Russia;

Pauline, born on May 10, 1880 and died August 29, 1880; Margaretha, born on December 13, 1881 and died in January 1882; Elizabeth (Mrs. Math Hafner), birthdate unknown; and Mary (Mrs. Wilhelm Huber), birthdate



Wedding picture of Johannes Weber and Elizabeth Metz. This photo is very old, taken in Russia in the early 1860s.

unknown. Mary died of pneumonia in 1891, within a year after she was married.

Johannes and Elizabeth came to Hutchinson County in present-day South Dakota, after leaving their homeland in Baden, Russia, in 1880.

They endured hard times. Winters were extremely cold with severe blizzards. They had to struggle to have shelter and enough food for the family.

There was also a bad flu epidemic, during which many people died.

Johannes had two brothers, Peter and Michael Weber. They were members of Ebenezer Reformed Church in Freeman, South Dakota.

Johannes's wife, Elizabeth, died at Freeman, and he later married Emilie Huber on March 15, 1889 at Freeman. They had a son, Jacob, who was born on January 13, 1890. Later, Jacob was killed in Belleau Woods in France during World War I. Jacob was a half-brother of Heinrich.

Emilie died at Freeman in 1899. Johannes married Christina Will on June 7, 1900 at Freeman. They were members of Salem Reformed Church. After Christina died,



Henry Weber and his wife, Johanna Huber Weber. Henry was born in 1866.



Ready to build new ways of life in America! Photo taken in Menno, South Dakota, in 1890. Henry Weber is on the right side, Christian Weber on the left. Seated man is unidentified, but may have been a teacher at Freeman, South Dakota.



Lydia Weber Schaeffer Roth. Photo taken in 1908. She taught rural schools for many years, was active in homemakers' club and the Ashley Women's Club, and was a piano music teacher. She played the church organ for many years, sang in the church choir, and was a Sunday school teacher,



Jaunty young men without a care in the world. Photo taken by W.C. Miller Studio in Ashley in 1910. Edward J. Weber (left) and John J. Schaeffer.



The early 1900s: the women wore long, pretty dresses; men's faces were often tanned and rugged from working outside in the sun and wind. Ed. J. Schaeffer with his beautiful wife, Lydia Weber (at left) and the lovely Lydia Ensslen (at right). Photo taken in about 1909.



The Edward Weber farm by Ashley: house was painted light blue with white trim, and barn was painted red with white trim. The windmill was an important "laborer," pumping water for the family and the livestock. Photo was taken in 1914.



Pride and joy of John J. Schaeffer, his fancy EMF Studebaker-built touring car. Note that there are no doors for the people riding in the front seat. Behind the driver's wheel is John Schaeffer. Beside him is Richard Schaeffer. Edward J. Weber is sitting in the back seat (at left). Other man is unidentified.



Showing everyone the marvels of the new horseless carriage! Same Studebaker car as shown above, except that now it has a windshield and license plate. Photo taken in 1912 at the Henry Weber farm. Henry and Johanna Weber standing beside the car, and John Schaeffer driving it, accompanied by some excited passengers.



The World War I tune, "Over There," had special meaning for the Weber family. Reinhold Weber was a veteran in that war. Later, he was also a Sunday school teacher and rural mail carrier for many years.

Johannes lived with his daughter, Louise, and her husband, Christ Zimmerman in Eureka, South Dakota. Johannes died in Eureka in May 1919.

Heinrich's wife, Johanna Huber Weber, was born on April 2, 1867 at Crimea, Russia. She died on April 5, 1916 in Ashley. She came to America on September 19, 1887.

Her father was Philip Huber and he was born in 1840 in Heilbrunn, Crimea, Russia.

Her mother was Emilie Huber,



Natty-looking with their caps, ties, and crossed legs, the McIntosh County Seven. Front row (left to right): Edward J. Weber, Jake Harter, Jake Roeszler, Jake Becker.

Back row: Simon Babitzke, Joe Tschetter, and Fred Harter.

born in 1844.

Philip died in Russia in 1882, shortly before his last son, Philip Jr., was born.

Emilie came to America on September 19, 1887 with her children.

Johanna had five sisters, two brothers, and one half-brother. Her sisters were Christina Huber Kilber, Katherina Huber Huber, Christiana Huber Ellwein, Maria Huber Ulmer, and Emilie Huber Kaul.

Her brothers were Philip Huber Jr. and Wilhelm Huber, and her half-brother was Jacob Weber. Her brother Wilhelm came to America

in the early 1880s. Johannes Weber was her step-father.

Johanna's sister, Katherina Huber, was married to Jacob Huber and they lived in the Zealand, North Dakota, area.

Their children were Mary, who was married to Henry Reiner (she died in 1945); Gust Huber, who married Elizabeth Oschner; Reinhold, who married Pauline Martell (he died in 1982); and Jacob Huber, who married Emma Pfeiffer (he died in 1954).

Heinrich and Johanna Huber Weber were members of the



Photo taken in 1916: front row (left to right): unidentified girl wearing bonnet, Clara and Ella Schaeffer, Rosie Gehring (wearing dark scarf), Raymond Weber (wearing hat), Lena Schaeffer holding Mildred Schaeffer (Harsch), and Mildred's mother — Lydia Schaeffer (Roth). Four girls in back are unidentified.

Reformed church in Ashley.

They had eight children:

• Lydia was born at Menno, South Dakota, on October 14, 1891 and died on March 5, 1980 in Ashley. She was married to Edward J. Schaeffer. He died on May 7, 1935. She then was married to John Roth on February 22, 1943. Lydia and Edward Schaeffer had seven children: Mildred Harsch, Florence Nies, and Elvida Fischer. Henry, John, Velma Mae and Marie Joan died.

• Edward Johannes Weber was born at Menno on March 4, 1894 and died on August 22, 1954 in Wishek, North Dakota. He married Martha Nill. They had five children: Irvia Lenora Paslak, Raymond Wilbur Weber, Marion Naomi Lacher. Ellis Harold Weber and Myron Wenzel Weber died. They were members of the Reformed church at Danzig and Wishek. Martha now is a member of Salem Reformed Church in Ashley.

• Reinhold Weber was born at Menno on January 3, 1896 and died on September 18, 1960 in Ashley. He married Emma Hoffman. They had four children: Douglas Weber, Melvin Weber, Sharon Ann Weber, and Richard Weber.

• Lena Weber was born at Menno on December 5, 1898 and died on January 27, 1951 in Fargo. She was married to Christian J. Schaeffer. They had three children: Rev. Clarence Schaeffer, who is at present the pastor of the United Methodist church in Milnor, North Dakota (he has been a pastor for 41 years, and he and his wife, Frieda, reside in Milnor); Robert Schaeffer; and Wilbur Schaeffer. Wilbur died.

• Wilhelm (William) Weber was born in Menno on June 15, 1900 and died on October 9, 1947 in Ashley. He married Ida Miller. They had four children: Clarence Weber, Eunice Schnathorst, and Gladys Kelly. James Weber died.

• Edwin Weber was born in Ashley on August 28, 1902 and died on October 2, 1956 in Ashley. He had no family.

• Arthur Weber was born in Ashley on December 28, 1904 and died on August 9, 1976 at Bridgewater, South Dakota. He had no family.

• Raymond Weber was born in



Planning to take a Sunday afternoon's ride in a horse and buggy: some of the young men in this photo are John Schaeffer, John Eisenbeis, Fred Breitmeyer, Fred Eisenbeis, John Straub, and Christ J. Schaeffer.



Edwin Weber was a cream buyer from 1924 to 1956 in Ashley.

Men frequently wore high-laced boots in the 1920s. (Left to right): Arthur Weber, Clarence Schaeffer, and Fred Saylor. Art was a great trapper and iron buyer.



The family of William and Ida Weber. Left to right: William Weber, Eunice, Clarence, Ida Weber, and on her lap is Gladys. The Webers had another son, James, after this photo was taken, who has since died. When the children grew up, Eunice was married to William Schnathorst, Clarence to Leona Klein, Gladys to Thomas Kelly, and James to ArvaDell Wetzel. William and Ida farmed 7½ miles northeast of Ashley, and Clarence and Leona now farm the homestead.

TOP PHOTOS, LEFT and RIGHT:

Edward J. and Martha Weber farmed 3½ miles northeast of Ashley from July 2, 1916 until March 22, 1922, when they moved to a farm 7½ miles northeast of Danzig, North Dakota.

They moved to Wishek on June 22, 1954. They were members of the Reformed church.

Edward J. died on August 22, 1954 at Wishek. Martha resides at the Intermediate Care Facility in Ashley.

They had five children: Ellis Harold died on March 10, 1964 at Wishek; Myron Wenzel died on May 7, 1981 at Wishek; Lenora Irva Paslak resides in Whittier, California; Raymond Wilbur lives in Lodi, California; and Marion Naomi Lacher lives in Ashley. Photo was taken in August 1952.



Gottfried and Mildred Harsch: Mildred was employed at the Triple A office in 1930, and also worked at the county agent's office. She was employed in the county judge's office for 20 years as a deputy clerk of court and deputy county judge. She was a Sunday school teacher for many years at the Methodist church, sang in the church choir, was active in women's organizations and homemakers' club, and was a den mother for Cub Scouts and a 4-H Club leader.

Gottfried worked for Ashley Implement and for Kessel Implement, Inc. He now is retired, but is a part-time partsman at Kessel Implement. He is a member of the American Legion, and has held various offices. He has been a city council member in Ashley, has served on various committees of Zion Lutheran Church (of which he is a member), and sings in the church choir. He is also active in bowling, and is a member of two bowling teams.



David Harsch's graduation photo from Ashley High School in 1966. He was valedictorian of his class, and was the son of Gottfried and Mildred Harsch.



Clarence and Freda Schaeffer. Clarence and Freda were married on June 1, 1943. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and his 40th year in the ministry on May 28, 1983.



Confirmation picture of Class of 1919 at Reformed church in Ashley. The pastor is the pioneer preacher and author, Rev. H.W. Steineker.

Front row (left to right): Magdalena Schaeffer, Magdalena Feichert, Lydia Dockter Mehlhaff, Pastor Steineker, Ella Schaeffer, and Maria Baumann Nill.

Back row: Johann Flemmer, Arthur Wacker, Art Laemmler, Fred Herbold, and Arthur Weber. Photo by E.A. Bjur Photography in Ashley.

many blessings. Most of them were Sunday school teachers.

When Grandfather and Grandmother Johannes and Elizabeth Weber came to America, they went through difficult times. It was their faith and strength in God that helped them through their

hardships.

Similarly, Martha Nill Weber, looking back over her long and productive life, has found comfort and direction from these words:

In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

and

*From the rising of the sun
to the going down of the same,
the Lord's name is to be praised.*

