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COUNTY

## RECORD

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Williamsport, Dakota Territory

## Pfeifle ancestors emigrated from Bessarabia to farm in the Dakotas

By Allen L. Thunberg

Peter and Katharina (Deuschle) Pfeifle immigrated to America from Friedenstal in the Akkerman District of Bessarabia.

They traveled from Bremen to Baltimore, Md., on the ship Berlin, arriving on Nov. 13, 1876. From Baltimore they continued to Columbus, Platte County, Neb. In 1883, they moved to Scotland, Hutchinson County, S.D., in 1889 to McPherson County, S.D., and in 1901 to a farmstead near Wishek, McIntosh County, N.D.

Peter and Katharina had nine children:

- Johann (John) Pfeifle was born Feb. 18, 1877, at Columbus, Neb., and died Dec. 13, 1946, in Great Falls, Mont.
- Maria Pfeifle Pritchard was born Aug. 12, 1878, in Humphrey, Neb., and died Feb. 25, 1973, in Great Falls.
- Andreas (Andrew) Pfeifle was born March 22, 1880, in Platte County, Neb., and died Oct. 29, 1906, at Wishek.
- Lydia Pfeifle Aldinger was born Aug. 6, 1882, at Lincoln, Neb., and died Aug. 14, 1983, in Terry, Mont.
- Elizabeth Pfeifle Welsh was born Jan. 22, 1884, at Tripp, S.D., and died Oct.

14, 1977, in Turlock, Calif.

• Christina Pfeifle Wolf was born April 28, 1885, at Tripp and died May 18, 1918, at Wishek.

• Katherina Pfeifle Herr was born Oct. 22, 1888, at Eureka and died Nov. 9, 1978, at Wishek.

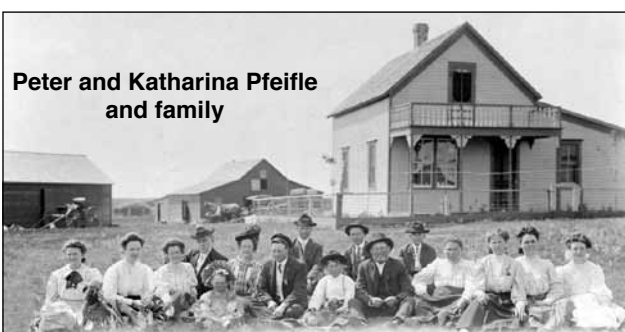
• Emelia Pfeifle Wolf was born Feb. 8, 1891, at Eureka and died May 28, 1981, in Robbinsdale, Minn.

• Edward P. (E.P.) Pfeifle was born May 26, 1894, in Eureka and died Nov. 25, 1981, in Wishek.

E.P. was about seven years old when the family moved to North Dakota. He married Lydia Wolf in Wishek on Jan. 1, 1916. They lived in Wishek and became partners in the Wolf and Pfeifle General Store.

E.P. and Lydia had eight children:

- Vera Pfeifle, 1916-1917.
- Armand Waldron Pfeifle, 1918-2010.
- Raymond Pfeifle, 1922-1984.
- Luetta Pfeifle, 1924-2015.
- Floyd Pfeifle, 1929-2013.
- Myron Pfeifle, 1930-1973.
- Delano Pfeifle, 1934-



Peter and Katharina Pfeifle and family

2015.

• Marlene Pfeifle Okeson, 1935-

The April 27, 1916, edition of *The Bismarck Tribune* reported: "Auerbach Bros. have sold their store complete to Messrs. Fred Wolf and Ed Pfeifle."

In 1918, E.P. began selling cars as a "sidewalk dealer" in Wishek. He constructed a wood frame building on Main Street in 1919 and became a franchised Chevrolet dealer on July 24, 1920.

He built a larger brick and cement building on Beaver Avenue in 1926 and 1927 and added a Buick franchise in the 1930s.

In the early 1930s, E.P. started a trucking firm to haul cream and freight to the Twin Cities. In 1932, he started a gasoline and bulk oil distributorship handling

Pure Oil Products.

E.P. was Mayor of Wishek from 1950-1954, helped to make Wishek Community Hospital a reality and served as president of the hospital board. He operated the Chevrolet-Buick dealership until he sold the business to his son Armand in 1956.

E.P. and Lydia retired to Scottsdale, Ariz., in 1957 and moved to Tucson, Ariz., in 1976.

They made frequent visits back home to Wishek and stayed in the original dealership building on Main Street which E.P. converted to living quarters.

After E.P. died in 1981, Lydia remained in Tucson until 1994 when she moved back to Wishek and resided in the Wishek Living Center until her death in 1999.

*Armand and Elsie*

Armand graduated from Wishek High School in 1936, attended North Dakota Agriculture College (North Dakota State University) in Fargo. He served in the U.S. Army for four years during World War II. Armand married Elsie Moench on Aug. 28, 1943, in Sparta, Wis.

Armand and Elsie had four children.

• Terrence Pfeifle, 1946-1946

• David Pfeifle, 1947-

• Barbara Jane Pfeifle Thunberg, 1950-

• Robert Armand Pfeifle, 1958-

They spent several years at Army posts, including Detroit, Mich., and Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

He was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant.

Armand spent most of his working life in Wishek in the Pfeifle dealership, which he acquired from his father, E.P., on July 5, 1956.

He added a Pontiac franchise to the existing Buick and Chevrolet franchises in 1963 and built a new steel dealership building on Highway 13 East in 1976. Armand retired in 1984 and sold the dealership to his son, Robert.

Elsie graduated from Ash-

ley High School in 1940 and attended Interstate Business College in Fargo. Prior to her marriage, she worked at Warner Insurance in Fargo and at McIntosh County Bank in Ashley.

Armand was commander of the American Legion, president of the Wishek Lions Club, helped organize the Wishek Development Company in 1989 and served as its first president. He was co-chairman of the Wishek Diamond Jubilee Committee and a member of the Wishek School Board.

Elsie served as president of the Wishek Civic League.

Following their retirement, Armand and Elsie moved to the Southwest. They spent a few winters in San Diego, Calif., and Phoenix, Ariz., prior to acquiring a home in Mesa, Ariz.

When Rob and his wife, Kathy (Sayler), took over the dealership in 1984, Rob was the youngest Chevrolet dealer in the United States. Today, Pfeifle's is the oldest Chevy dealership in the U.S.

Rob and Kathy have three sons:

- Brad, 1987-
- Brett, 1988-
- Preston, 1994-

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