Photo Collection of Bryan Brost

When I was quite young I remember looking through my grandparent’s photo album and photos displayed on the wall as they informed me who every person was. How unfortunate it is that these identities were never recorded on the back sides.

This collection of photographs is associated with the life and marriage of my grandparents Daniel and Martha Maria (nee Kalmbach) Brost.

Unknown family member surnames for the photographs may be any of the following:

On the Bross side:
(uncle/aunt)
Mogck/Bross, Mogck/Kalmbach, Brosz/Dittus, Brost/Hoff, Speck/Mogck, Ensslen/Bross
Elhard/Irion, Irion/Mogck, Irion/Schoettle, Irion/Walter
(siblings)
Krause, Heller, Kalmbach, Jauch, Vossler

On the Kalmbach side:
(uncle/aunt)
Kalmbach/Schneider, Kalmbach/Widmer, Mueller/Kalmbach, Kalmbach/Becker, Kalmbach/Keller, Kalmbach/Scherbinske
Widmer/Heller, Speck/Widmer, Widmer/Haag, Haag/Widmer, Widmer/Bross, Albrecht/Widmer, Widmer/Vetter, ---/Widmer,
Widmer/Mogck, Mueller/Widmer, Mogck/Widmer
(sibling’s spouses)
Mueller, Koenig, Sauter, Hinz, Bross, Flaig, Roessler, Schlenker, Finkbeiner, Peuschel

1) Martha, Bryan, Daniel
Daniel was born 17 May 1892 in Alt Posttal, Bessarabia to his parents Friedrich Bross born 13 November 1840 in Alt Posttal and Anna Maria Irion born 22 September 1852 in Alt Posttal. Anna Maria was Friedrich’s second wife. Friedrich’s first wife was Christina Weiss. Of the first marriage, during the short years between 1871 and 1875 only Friedrich the father and two sons Friedrich and David survived. Mother Christina and seven children died. These two brothers emigrated to North Dakota and later moved on to Walsh, Alberta. Friedrich Jr. became well known as a folk healer in North Dakota and Alberta. He returned to Alt Postal. Friedrich Sr. went on to marry his second wife Anna Maria Irion. Ten children were born of this marriage, Regina, Karolina, Christian, Daniel, Christina Salomina, Martha Maria, Jakob, Ottilie, Daniel, and Emmanuel Jakob.

Martha Maria Kalmbach was born 1 January 1895 in Alt Posttal to her parents Adam Kalmbach born 16 September 1854 in Alt Posttal and
Katharina Widmer born 11 January 1858 in Alt Posttal. Twelve children were born, David, Katharina, Mathilda, Christian, Georg, Emanuel, Emanuel, Justina Magdalena, Adam, Martha Maria, Ida Louise, Leopold.

Daniel served in the First World War for the Russian Army as a medic. On 1 May 1918 Daniel and Martha were married in Tarutino. They had four children, Daniel Frederick, Erna, David, and Hugo Clarence. Erna only lived one month and twenty three days. In April 1929 they immigrated to Canada. They stayed in a spare house on the farm of Daniel’s brother Christian Brost south of Walsh, Alberta until land in the Rosebeg district was located where they could begin farming. They later moved north to farm near Seven Persons, Alberta.

2) Daniel Bross/Brost born 17 May 1892 Alt Posttal. Back is illustrated and printed in Russian.
3) Martha Maria Kalmbach born 1 January 1894 Alt Postal (lower left) with brother Adam (?) and sister Ida Louise (?)
On the backside of this photo of my grandmother Martha Maria Kalmbach who is with a sister and a brother I discovered old handwritten German script. It had been covered with a homemade paste which I carefully removed to find the message beneath. I was able to email a scanned copy of it to a good friend who kindly translated it for me. I received the following reply:
I have tried to decipher the old text on the backside of the Martha Maria Kalmbach photo with their siblings. The script on the left side is very faint and hard to read, there seems to be a little part of the card missing (about three letters). The text is divided in a left and right side. The left side seems to be a religious text (from the Bible?), some words I can read from the top to the end: Card, friend, you in God, God with you, whereever you are, you are with me,
The right side is more clear and seems to be a poem:
Es ist (ganz?, hard to read) alt, doch ist es wa(h)r, der Mond scheint für uns Liebespaar. Drum lad ich beim Mondenschein . Auf morgen zum Spaziergang ein.
an Dich Daniel von mir Martha
nur eine liebe nicht .... (unreadible)
Translation:
It is very old, though it is true
the moon shines for us pairs of lovers
Therefore I invite you with the shine of the moon
tomorrow for a walk
to you DANIEL from me MARTHA
only a love not ... (then an unreadible word)
This seems to be a very romantic invitation of your grandmother to your grandfather before they were married. There are only the names Daniel and Martha, not given are the names of her siblings (unfortunately!).

4) Backside note in old handwritten script of photo 3
5) Daniel Bross/Brost and Wilhelm Heller were issued their passports on 3 November 1928 in Bucharest, Romania. On 21 March 1929 Daniel’s
passport was stamped by the German consulate in Czernowitz. These families must have journeyed by train westward through southern Poland as they had a 'wiza tranzytowa' (transit visa), and onward to the port of Hamburg. On 9 April 1929 they and their families were in Hamburg, Germany. From here they travelled across the North Sea to Grimsby, England where they continued overland to the ocean port in Liverpool. Both men and their families travelled together (third class) on the S.S. Cedric. They sailed from Liverpool, England on 13 April 1929 and arrived on 21 April 1929 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Each father landed with $250 in their possession. They travelled on a Canadian National Railway train to Walsh in Alberta where they met with family. The Hellers stayed on the Jacob and Christina Salomina (Brost) family farm while the Brosts stayed on the Christian and Christina (Heller) Brost family farm.

Immigration picture.
Top standing left to right: Unknown, Wilhelm Heller, Daniel Brost, Unknown
Bottom sitting left to right: Nathalie Esslinger (daughter of Daniel and Barbara (Heier) Esslinger) with Wilhelm Heller (son of Wilhelm Heller) on her lap, Martha (Esslinger) Heller with son Oskar sitting on her lap and standing before her are daughters Maria (left) and Elsa (right), Martha Maria (Kalmbach) Brost with son Daniel Friedrich on her lap, Unknown lady with children.

6) Daniel and Martha Maria (Kalmbach) Brost family of Seven Persons, Alberta. Left to right: Daniel, Martha, Hugo, Daniel, David
8) Christina and Christina (Heller) Brost
10) Unknown family, “Mutter Bross” written on back which may refer to Anna Maria (Irion) Bross born 22 September 1852, died 6 December 1922 Alt Posttal.
11) Kalmbach funeral including my grandmother Martha which I believe is of her mother Katharina (Widmer) born 11 January 1858 died 22 June 1911 buried 24 June 1911, all in Alt Posttal. Standing by Katharina’s head is who I believe to be Adam Kalmbach born 16 September 1854, died 25 November
1930, all in Alt Posttal. Numerous unnamed family members are in the picture. Martha is on the bottom row, third lady from the right.

12) Funeral of bearded man, unknown, of the Friedrich Bross family, perhaps of Friedrich Bross himself, who was born 13 November 1840 died 15 August 1910. Daniel Brost is in the centre of the picture. “Mahria Bross” is written on the back of the picture.
13) Funeral picture of the same bearded man alone in coffin.
14) Friedrich Bross had been an oberschulz (district mayor) whose picture is
in Herbert Gaeckle’s Heimatbuch Alt Posttal on page 230. I have seen the original picture many years ago in my grandparent’s photo album of which the picture is now in the possession of one of my cousins.

Oberschulz Friedrich
Brot sen. mit Amtskette

15) Two unknown boys.
16) Albert Kalmbach born 21 October 1900 in Alt Posttal and Hilda Krause

17) Unknown wedding couple.
18) Unknown wedding couple
19) Adam Kalmbach born 10 April 1892 in Alt Posttal and Maria Schlenker
born 5 March 1899 in Alt Posttal. Married 3 February 1921 in Tarutino.

20) Leopold Kalmbach born 29 August 1898 in Alt Posttal and Maria Pueschel born 6 October 1903 in Alt Posttal. Married 8 February 1923 in
21) Leopold Finkbeiner born 21 September 1897 in Alt Posttal and Ida

22) Two young soldiers unidentified, may be Adam Kalmbach born 10 April 1892 Alt Posttal and Leopold Kalmbach born 29 August 1898 Alt Posttal.
23) Young woman, may be Kalmbach, back is printed in Russian in Tarutino.
24) Unknown soldier.
25) Unknown family, “Adam and Katharina Kalmbach” noted on back in Old German. Photo courtesy of Connie (Brost) Cash
26) Martha Maria (Bross) Krause, born 23 May 1885 in Alt Posttal, died 24 August 1964 Wuerttemberg, Germany. Photo courtesy of Ewald Kalmbach
27) Friedrich Bross Jr. with wife Barbara (Jauch) and adopted daughter Rosina (born Albrecht). Friedrich was born 30 June 1861 in Alt Posttal and
died 11 April 1940 in Alt Posttal. Barbara was born 5 February 1863 in Alt Posttal and died 9 September 1918 in Alt Posttal.
Farmer, Natural Healer, Animal Doctor
Emigrated in 1893 from Alt Posttal to Kulm, North Dakota.
In 1905 moved to Irvine, Alberta.
In 1913 went back to Alt Posttal.
Photo is from Herbert Gaeckle’s book Heimatbuch Alt Posttal page 149.

28) Kalmbach brothers? Photo courtesy of Connie (Brost) Cash
29) Unknown soldiers. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau
30) Bessarabian Musicians. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau. Left to
right: Unknown, unknown, Daniel Brost. When my young Dad (Daniel Frederick) was yet living at home with his family my grandfather (Daniel Sr.) used to tell his sons that he used to play music in a band. They always thought he was telling them a mythical story. On day young Dan came home after doing some trading and one of the things he brought home was a button accordion. When grandpa Brost saw it his eyes opened wide and his whole face lit up. He snatched it out of young Dan’s hands and immediately began to skilfully play it. Brothers Dan, David and Hugh were astounded as they watched him play.

31) Unknown young man. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau
32) Unknown wedding couple. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau
33) Unknown wedding couple. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau
34) Unknown wedding couple. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau
35) Unknown wedding couple. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau
36) Unknown man. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau
37) Unknown soldier. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau
38) Unknown boy. Photo courtesy Vonda (Brost) Moreau