

Old Franklin Township Historical Society Newsletter

June 2016 - Volume 9, Issue 1

Are the Kraemers of Wisconsin and Minnesota related? By Kenneth L. Kraemer and Debra Blau, February 2016

In the December 2015 issue of the OFTHS Newsletter, a description of the book *Kraemer in Amerika* published in 2014 mentions the Minnesota Kraemers were "distantly related" to the Wisconsin Kraemers. How distant were they? We will show the two branches of Kraemer families are more closely related than many people may realize.

Who are the "Minnesota Kraemers" and who are the "Wisconsin Kraemers"? The Minnesota Kraemers are three brothers (Michael, Georg and Nikolaus) that emigrated from Tiefenbach, Bavaria to settle in Stearns County, Minnesota. The Wisconsin Kraemers refers to the Paul and Walburga (Stangl) Kraemer family that emigrated from Irlach (in the parish of Tiefenbach) to settle in Sauk County, Wisconsin.

The two branches stem from the same father, but different mothers. The common father was Johann Sebastian Kraemer who was born in Tiefenbach in 1701 and died about 1760. Like the Kraemers before and after him, he was a weaver.

Johann Sebastian and his first wife, Barbara [surname unknown] were married in Tiefenbach but lived in the suburb of Altenschneeberg, a small village with a castle, located on the top of a

scenic hill overlooking Tiefenbach. Barbara was the mother of the Wisconsin Kraemers line. There is a pew in St. Vitus Church today that bears the nameplate "Barbara Krämer." The descendants of Paul Kraemer of Plain, Wisconsin, are from this branch (shown in blue in the family tree on page four of this newsletter). Johann and Barbara had at least three children. She died in 1758.

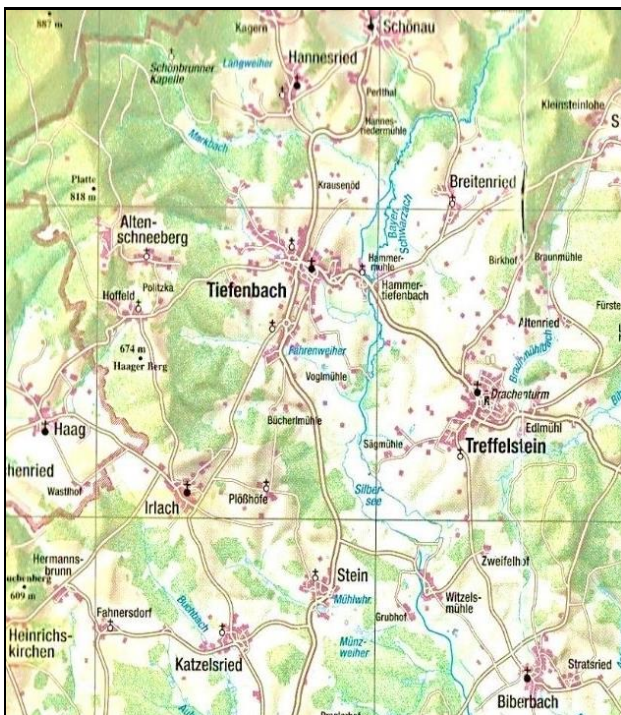
The second wife of Johann Sebastian was Margaretha Schmid; they were married in 1759. She was a 40-year-old widow (wife of Mr. Fischer) who owned a house further south down the hill in the village of Haag. Sebastian moved into Margaretha's house after their marriage. This move enabled his eldest son, Johann "Michael" Kraemer, to take over the family property in Altenschneeberg and to start his own family. In 1790, Michael moved his family to house number 27 in Irlach – the house where Paul Kraemer would be born in 1828.

Johann Sebastian and Margaretha Schmid had one son, Anton Leopold. Anton lived only 31 years; his progenies are shown in green in the family tree on page four of this newsletter. From that line, it was Michael and Georg who immigrated to America 1852 and settled in Stearns County, Minnesota. Younger brother Nikolaus immigrated

to St. Cloud, Minnesota, in 1862; then in 1891 he moved to Los Angeles, California.

In Bavaria, Paul Kraemer and his cousins Michael, Georg and Nikolaus were not distant from one another. They lived in Tiefenbach or one of the towns nearby within 2-3 kilometers – an easy walking distance. As weavers and small farmers, they were all at the same economic level. They were close socially. Life revolved around the church, and all of the Kraemers belonged to the same parish - St. Vitus Catholic Church in Tiefenbach - so they knew each other well. They served as witnesses at one another's weddings, were baptism sponsors for each other's children, and attended funerals of relatives and friends.

The map shows Tiefenbach and surrounding towns and villages where Kraemers lived. West of Tiefenbach is Altschneeberg, then south of that is Haag and Irlach. These are villages in the County of Cham (formerly the county of Waldmuenchen).



Source: Bayerischer Wald, Waldmünchener Urlaubsland, Ihre Gastgeber 2008, pp.25-25.

Paul Kraemer and his family did not immigrate until 1866. Given that Paul (born in 1828) and

Nikolaus (born in 1832) were close in age, it is likely that Paul heard some news from cousin Nikolaus about Michael and Georg's experiences in the ten years they lived in Minnesota. The relationship between Paul and the three "Minnesota" brothers was "second cousin once removed." Some may consider a second cousin as distant and unrelated. The seven married children of the Paul Kraemer family produced generations of descendants which today now extend to at least fourth cousins. They may not all know each other, but they are related.

We have no indication that once in America, did Paul and the three Minnesota brothers ever meet again or know of each other's location. It was a 325-mile trek from Stearns County, MN, to Sauk County, WI. Transportation and communication in America was primitive outside the major cities, and pioneers mainly followed the rugged dusty trails of Native Americans.

Many of the early Kraemers could sign their name, but we don't know if they could read and write. If they or their wives could write, they would have corresponded in German language. No letters from or to the Minnesota or Wisconsin Kraemers have been found. We'll never know if Paul Kraemer wrote to his cousin Nikolaus in Minnesota to say, "Dear Cousin, we made it to Amerika! The ship voyage was rough, and Walburga gave birth to a baby girl while crossing the Atlantic Ocean. We stopped in Fredonia, Wisconsin, for a short time, then found a farm in the beautiful hills of Plain, Wisconsin! It reminds me of "home!" Keep in touch!"

Over time, as the Tiefenbach cousins began to eke out their livelihoods in their new surroundings and raise families, they lost their connection with each other. Telephones were non-existent in the early villages and didn't become common in homes until the late 1920s or later, and by then, the Tiefenbach cousins that immigrated to America had long since passed away.

As in most families, children often moved off the farm and into other cities and states. Some of the

Wisconsin descendants of Paul Kraemer (children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Sylvester Kraemer, for example), moved to Minnesota, unaware of their Minnesota Kraemer cousins.

As the years went on and searching for one's roots became popular, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Kraemers came into contact again. It was a memorable day in September 2014 when "sixth cousins!" (a great-great-granddaughter of Nikolaus Kraemer and a great-great-grandson of Paul Kraemer) climbed the bell tower of St. Vitus church in Tiefenbach at high noon to search for the bell donated by Katharina Hermann Kraemer in 1911. Unfortunately, the bell was not found, and it is believed it was melted down to make bullets for German soldiers in World War I or II.

We hope this answers the question, "Are the Kraemers of Wisconsin and Minnesota related?" and that you are curious to learn more. The two Kraemer branches are related as they all have the same ancestor in common. People may think of Paul Kraemer as the head of the Kraemers in Wisconsin and don't look beyond to his roots. Yes, he paved his way to America to begin anew. But Paul had his roots in Bavaria - in Irlach and Tiefenbach - where his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins all lived.

The *Kraemer in Amerika* book explains in great detail about the beginnings of all these Kraemer families in Tiefenbach, Germany. We think this is a "must have" book for anyone with ties to any Kraemer that originated from the Tiefenbach area - both the Wisconsin and Minnesota families.

This book and others about the Kraemers can be ordered by writing to:

OFTHS (Old Franklin Township Historical Society)
P. O. Box 218
Plain, WI 53588

Please include your check for \$50 for black and white or \$75 for a color copy of the book, plus \$8.00 for shipping and handling per book.

OFTHS receives \$15 for each copy of the book ordered.

The books also can be ordered directly online from CreateSpace:

Wisconsin Kraemers (color):

<https://www.createspace.com/4637999>

Lucy: Lucy Rose Bauer Kraemer (black & white):

<https://www.createspace.com/5519128>

Kraemer in Amerika (color):

<https://www.createspace.com/4638000>

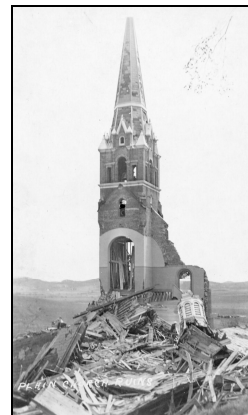
Kraemer in Amerika (black and white):

<https://www.createspace.com/4940220>

"Kraemer history" website by Kenneth Kraemer: <https://kraemerhistory.org>



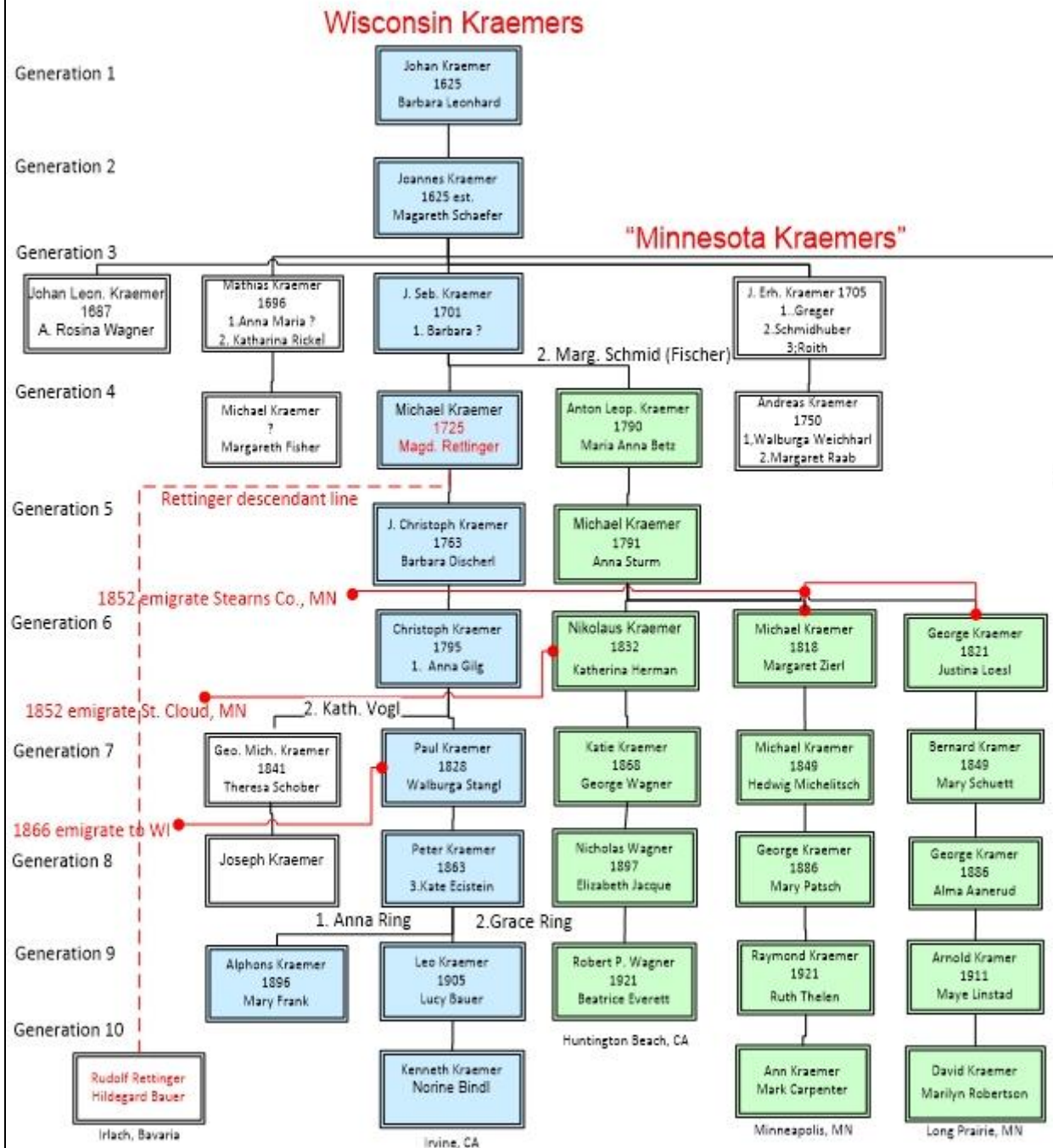
C. & N.W. R.R. Yards Boone, IA



Plain Church Ruins

The above photos are from the 1918 tornado. This tornado traveled from Iowa through the little village of Plain and a large amount of Sauk County. If you are interested in reading the story, see page six of this newsletter to order the society's book, *May 21st 1918 Cyclone ~ A Path of Destruction* + published in 2008 and a complete listing of merchandise that the society has for sale.

Selected family lines of the Tiefenbach Kraemers



Notes:

1. This graphic is based on the tree and data in Appendix A.
2. The different spellings of Kraemer (Kramer and Krämer) reflect the way these families spell their name.
3. Some birth dates are not shown to protect privacy.
4. The Rettinger/Bauer box refers contemporary descendants in Irlach.

Selected family lines of the Tiefenbach Kraemers family tree graphic created by Ken Kraemer, 2016.

Our sponsors

 <p style="text-align: center;">ABLE TREK TOURS 1-800-205-6713</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reedsburg, WI www.abletrektours.com Call us for a FREE Tour Description Catalogue Departures from: Reedsburg, Baraboo, Sauk, LaValle, Lodi. & Waunkee</p>	 <p>150 Viking Dr. Reedsburg, WI 53959</p> <p>OPEN 24 HOURS 7 DAYS A WEEK</p> <p>608-524-6108</p>	<p>RICHARDSON-STAFFORD FUNERAL HOME 780 N. Winsted Street Spring Green, WI 53588 Telephone: (608) 588-2181 Fax: (608) 588-2170 www.staffordfuneralhomes.com</p> 
--	---	---

When visiting these sponsors mention that you saw the advertisement in the OFTHS Newsletter.



1955 CENTENNIAL PARADE DVD

The 1955 Centennial Parade is a little known item on the merchandise list (See page 6 of this newsletter). This film was taken by Gerald Lomasney with one of the first movie cameras sold for individual use. The DVD narrated by Maggie Lomasney was donated to the society as a fundraiser. The parade was a really big event for the little village of Plain. Hildegard Thering mentions in her book, A History of Plain, Wisconsin, 1982, pg.132; “On June 4, 1955, on Saturday, the Sauk County ‘June Is Dairy Month’ program opened at the center of an outstanding dairy region. The 83-float parade in which about 450 persons took part, started at 10:30 a.m. The spectators, a crowd of several thousand, enjoyed the slow moving farm machinery of early farming days - farm machinery, horse drawn buggies, wagons, and floats depicting rural life a century ago, with the participants in costumes.”

Who Is On The Film?

American Legion Color Guard
St. Luke's Ag Department Float
Winnebago Chief John White Eagle
Bettinger Hardware and Grocery
Meister's Bar-Harry Diehl Tavern
Jeannette Hetzel-Queen of the Day
Oxen pulling a covered wagon
Tony Brickl-1900 Grain Reaper
Tom Dischler-Dump Rake

Town Chairmen 1914-1931: William Scallon, Alois Beck, Simon Brickl, Herb Liegel
Gerhardt Dischler & boys-milk cans on a wagon
Poplar Grove-Suemnicht-closed milk truck
Town Chairmen Joe Blau & Joe Laubmeier-1932-54
Ed Wittmann-1910 road grader
Horse-drawn beer wagon
Plain Fire Dept.-ladder truck
Town Chairmen: Walter Liegel, Zeno Weiss, Anton “Tony” Blau,

George Hausladen, Anthony Alt
 “Miss Franklin” Marie Haller, Mildred Haller, Rita Bergman, Ruth Ann
 Neuheisel, Jackie Blau, Elsie Kraemer
 Meadow View Homemakers
 Four Corners 4-H Club
 Umhoefer Lumber
 Clete's Skelly Service
 Kraemer Bros-portable cement mixer
 Ed Kraemer & Sons-1916 Mack
 Spring Green Marching Band
 Baraboo Lions Club
 American Legion Post 398
 Ted Blau with Bidly the goat; Carol Weidner in cart
 Many others-unidentified*

Revised Merchandise Order Form

	List quantity in left column	Price	Shipping & Handling
	“May 21st 1918 Cyclone ~ A Path of Destruction.”	\$30.00	\$5.00
	Wisconsin Kraemers, Part I (200 pages) color only	\$49.95	\$7.00
	Kraemer in Amerika (330 pages) color	\$75.00	\$8.00
	Kraemer in Amerika (330 pages) black & white	\$45.00	\$8.00
	1955 Centennial Parade Video - VHS	\$20.00	\$3.00
	1955 Centennial Parade Video - CD	\$20.00	\$3.00
	The Ghost Village of White Mound “Billytown”	\$16.00	\$3.00
	Index - To Hildegard Thering's Book (Index only)	\$10.00	\$3.00
	The History Of St. Luke’s Parish	\$12.00	\$3.00
	St. Anne’s Hill – The Plain Shrine	\$12.00	\$3.00
	Genealogies of families that immigrated to Sauk County, Wisconsin, from Bavaria Germany - CD	\$20	\$3.00
	Plain, WI 1937 Movie Plus Vintage Still Photos – Movie DVD	\$10.00	\$3.00
Total including shipping & handling			
Name			
Address			
Make check payable to: Old Franklin Township Historical Society			
Send payment to the following address:			
Old Franklin Township Historical Society			
915 Wachter Ave.			
P.O. Box 218			
Plain, WI 53577			



From the President's desk...

The 2016 projects for the Old Franklin Township Historical Society are under way in several areas of focus. One involving the gathering of historical data for the celebration of the Plain Area Fire District 100 year anniversary since their initial organization. Mary Jane Liegel is leading this charge to gather historical documents and photos of the early years of the Fire Department. If you have access to photos or knowledge of stories, please share these documents with Mary Jane.

As we approach the Plain Fire/EMS three-day celebration, the OFTHS looks to the Franklin Township and Plain Community to seek out men and women of the past who have made contributions to the betterment of the Plain Area Community. We would appreciate feedback from the public regarding individuals who have made a difference in the community. Please share this information with any of the board members. As in the past, the OFTHS will conduct an open house after the annual three-day celebration parade on Sunday, July 31st.

During the summer months of June through September, the museum will be open on the first and third Sunday of the month from 1 to 3:00 p.m. We hope you will be able to join us for one of the open house events and view the various artifacts and historical documents available at the museum.

Here is hoping you will enjoy our spring and coming summer.

Until next time..... Eugene Hausner email: hausnergp@gmail.com



*Our museum will be open the 1st & 3rd Sunday,
June through September from 1 to 3 p.m.*

History balances the frustration of "how far we have to go" with the satisfaction of "how far we have come." It teaches us tolerance for the human shortcomings and imperfections which are not uniquely of our generation, but of all time.

~Lewis F. Powell, Jr. (1907 – 1998)

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The OFTHS and/or author copyright © all articles contained in this newsletter; permission must be obtained from them prior to any further use.



Old Franklin Township Historical Society
915 Wachter Ave.
P.O. Box 218.
Plain, WI 53577

<https://www.facebook.com/OFTHS>
plainofths@gmail.com
<http://www.townoffranklinhistoricalsociety.com/>

PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

OFTHS Officers and Board Members

President: Eugene Hausner

Vice President and Treasurer: Mary Jayne Liegel

Secretary: Georgene Hausner

Directors: William Bergman, Marian Burmester & Lucille Herbrand

Honorary Director: Debbie Blau & Kenneth Kraemer

Newsletter Editor and Website Manager: Marian Ruhland Burmester

Newsletter Proofreader: Debbie Blau