

PRESENTATION ABOUT GEORGE JACOB AND CHRISTINA ZEISSET (and their children)  
for 2014 Zeisset Reunion  
dmp 8/8/2014

Number indicates related powerpoint slide.

1. George Jacob Zeisset was born December 31, 1873, at 10p at the Zeisset home in Kreuzfeld (Germany). He was baptized January 8, 1874, at the home. His sponsors were Georg Seiffert of Kreuzfeld and Daniel Zeisset of Menzingen.

He is pictured in the top row, left, of this photo with his four sisters and one brother who emigrated to the US after both of their parents died. When his mother, Margaretha Mueller Zeisset, died in childbirth in 1881, Jacob was seven years old. When their father died in 1884, he and his older sister, Lisette, were taken in by their uncle Isaak and aunt Bertha Zeisset who lived at Eichenau (located 13 miles south of Kreuzfeld).

Jacob was confirmed at nearby Lendsiedel in April of 1887. He chose Jeremiah 29, verses 13 and 14, as his Bible verse: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

In February of 1888, the Isaak Zeisset family moved to Darstadt. In 1890, Jacob left Germany to join his three older sisters in Kansas. He traveled on the SS EMS, arriving on February 26, 1890, at Castle Garden. He was listed as a 16-year old clerk. His sisters Bertha (Nanninga) and probably Louise (Swart) paid his passage. The entire voyage was rough. Loretta found this account in a newspaper:

#### PERILS OF THE DEEP.

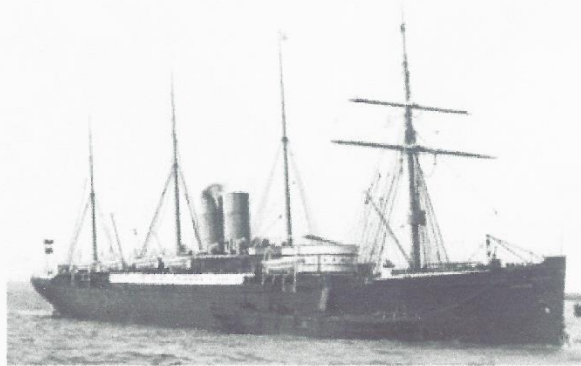
An Atlantic Steamer's Vain Attempt to Rescue Men from a Helpless Ship

New York, February 26th. — The steamship Ems, which arrived to-day, encountered fierce gales and heavy seas on Friday and Saturday last. On Saturday a wrecked sailing vessel was passed. All of her masts were broken off, and she floundered around as though she could not obey her rudder. Nine men were seen upon the wreck. Despite the terrible seas, Captain Jungs had a boat lowered, and an officer and five men entered it to attempt a rescue. The boat immediately capsized, and one of the crew was lost. Captain Jungs thought it madness to make another attempt, and proceeded on the voyage. . .

Gay found this document in her library research:

**EMS (1884)**  
**LAKE SIMCOE [1901]**

Photograph of the *EMS*.  
Source: Clas Broder  
Hansen, *Passenger liners  
from Germany, 1816-  
1990*, translated from the  
German by Edward Force  
(West Chester,  
Pennsylvania: Schiffer  
Pub., c1991), p. 34. To  
request a larger copy of  
this scan, click on the  
picture.



The steamship *EMS* was built for Norddeutscher Lloyd by John Elder & Co., Glasgow (yard #284), and was launched on 27 February 1884. 4,730 tons; 135,50 x 14,32 meters (length x breadth); straight stem, 2 funnels, 4 masts; **iron** construction, screw propulsion, 3-cylinder, double-expansion engines, service speed 16.5 knots; accommodation for 194 passengers in 1st class, 134 in 2nd class, and 876 in steerage; crew of 156 to 184.

4 June 1884, maiden voyage, Bremen - Southampton - New York. 1892, major rebuilding; 5,129 tons. 1894, stern broken in a storm; towed to the Azores, and from there to Southampton for repairs. 1895-96, funnels lengthened and masts reduced to two. 14 March 1896, last voyage, Bremen - Southampton - New York. 16 April 1896, first voyage, Genoa - Naples - New York. 1899, intended sale, along with the *FULDA* and *WERRA*, to the Beaver Line falls through. 25 October 1900, last voyage, Genoa - Naples - New York. 1901, purchased by the Elder Dempster Line and renamed *LAKE SIMCOE*. 20 August 1901, first voyage, Liverpool - Quebec - Montreal. 4 March 1903, last voyage, Liverpool-St. John, New Brunswick. 18 August 1903, 1 roundtrip voyage, Liverpool - Quebec - Montreal, chartered by Canadian Pacific. September 1905, sold to Genoa for scrap for £14,000. 23 October 1905, arrived at Genoa for scrapping.

Sources: Arnold Kludas, *Die Seeschiffe des Norddeutschen Lloyd*, Bd. 1: 1857 bis 1919 (Herford: Koehler, c1991), pp. 32-33 (2 photographs); Edwin Drechsel,

<http://www.geocities.com/mppraetorius/com-em.htm>

6/21/2014

Palmer List of Merchant Vessels - Em#ems1884

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*Norddeutscher Lloyd Bremen, 1857-1970; History, Fleet, Ship Mails*, vol. 1 (Vancouver: Cordillera Pub. Co., c1994), pp. 89-90, no. 56 (photograph); Noel Reginald Pixell Bonsor, *North Atlantic Seaway; An Illustrated History of the Passenger Services Linking the Old World with the New* (2nd ed.; Jersey, Channel Islands: Brookside Publications), vol. 2, p. 552. Also pictured in Clas Broder Hansen, *Passenger Liners from Germany, 1816-1990*, translated by Edward Force (West Chester, Pennsylvania: Schiffer Publishing, c1991), p. 34.

Voyages:

1. Norddeutscher Lloyd steamship *EMS*, Capt. Leist, arrived at New York on 9 August 1884, from Bremen 31 July, and Southampton 1 August.

[16 Aug 1999]

Jake's arrival was noted in the local (Leonardville) newspaper:

March 13, 1890 – "Jakob Zeisset, a brother-in-law of John Swart, arrived here last Thursday from Germany to make his home in glorious Kansas, under the grand old flag of freedom."

He may have stayed briefly with the Swart family (sister Louise).

September 7, 1921 – Jake was naturalized with Chris and Rudolph Baer as witnesses. Jake's naturalization was later than that of many German emigrants.

1895 census – Jake is listed in the M. H. Russell home. Myron H. Russell was from Ohio, lived in Kansas since the mid 1880s. Married to Mary Viola who died in 1898. They had two daughters, Blanche and Bessie. Jake's brother, Henry, came to Kansas in 1893 and also worked for the Russells.

2. Christina Bohnenblust is born in Kansas on July 31, 1876. A baby sister also named Christina was born in 1874 but died in 1875 at the age of 8 months. Nellie's daughter, Marlaine, says she remembers that her mother, Nellie (Christina's daughter) always thought of her mother when the locusts started to sing in the summer evenings as they always start singing around the time of her mother's birthday.

3. Christina's parents were Johannes and Maria (Rickli) Bohnenblust who emigrated in 1869 from Bannwil, Canton Bern, Switzerland. Their four oldest children (Fred, John, Roman and Arnold) were born in Switzerland.

4. The Bohnenblust family settled on a farm 12 miles west of Alida (in Dickinson County, west of Junction City and Milford Lake). The family eventually had a total of 12 children, with 11 living to adulthood (four girls and seven boys). In 1884, the parents and the eight younger children moved to a farm 2 ¼ miles west of Riley (south side of Highway 24/77; farmstead no longer exists, is in a field).

5. Christina is second from left in this photo, taken in 1899. In 1900, the parents and three youngest children (sons) move to a farm ¼ mile west and 1 mile south of Leonardville (1 and ¼ mile west of the Bertha and Juergen Nanninga farm). The father, John (Johannes) died on June 2, 1900. The mother, Mary, died on May 24, 1910. They are buried in the Leonardville UMC Cemetery just to the south of where Jacob and Christina are buried. Several of Christina's brothers are also buried just to the east.

6. According to the Bohnenblust family history, while living west of Riley, the family would travel nearly five miles in a spring wagon to attend church at the German Evangelical Church (later, the Zion Church of the Evangelical Association) in Leonardville. Organized in 1880, the church was built in 1884, the same year the Bohnenblusts joined the congregation. Another church building was moved and added to this building to form a single building located in the parking lot south of the current church. The church made of two joined buildings burned to the ground in November of 1958. A new church building was

erected in 1960-61 just to the north of the site of the burned building as the Evangelical United Brethren Church and is now the Leonardville United Methodist Church (which contains Zeisset Hall, site of all the Zeisset reunions through the years). The burned church sat in the parking lot of the current church building.

7. This church was also attended by the six Zeisset emigrant children and their families. Jake and Christina must have met at this church. They were married on February 27, 1896, at the Bohnenblust home by Pastor Schmidli.

Loretta has found the following about Jake in various newspapers and other documents/records of the day -

1898: Ad in newspaper says a cow strayed from their home 3 miles west of Riley

In 1900, 1905, 1910 census: the family lived in the Monitor and Arbor school districts in Bala Township, Riley County

In December 1900: Jake bought homestead near Alva, Oklahoma

In January 1901: auction 1 mile west, 2 miles north of Leonardville

In March 1901: Jake moved to west of Alva, Oklahoma

In July 1901: R. Nanninga and Jake Zeisset came back from Oklahoma

In August 1901: moved onto the Lee property (currently unknown where this was)

In September 1901: Jake was employed by William Uhlenhop (property probably in first mile north of Leonardville, past the current golf course and before the current city cemetery)

In November 1901: Jake bought the Mrs. Lee property

In April 1902: the family moved onto the Thompson farm northeast of Riley

In September 1902: Jake rented the Victor Hadin property 1 ½ miles north and 1 ¾ miles west of Leonardville

1905 Ag Census: Jake farmed 240 acres

On September 9, 1911: Jake purchased an 80-acre farm from Walter Bohnenblust (one of Christina's brothers) for \$3700 (see slide 11)

In December 12, 1912 local newspaper: "Jake Zeisset has bought the Sam Goodin home in the east part of town and is moving it to his farm five miles southwest of town."

On February 27, 1913: "Jake Zeisset, 1 mile north of the Rock Island school, is nicely settled in his new home."

In 1915 Ag Census: Jake owned 240 acres

In 1925 Ag Census: Jake owned 160 acres

The family doesn't know a lot about this time, but obviously Jake and Christina were busy moving around, making a living, and having children!

8. and 9. Here are Jake and Christina's Children and Birthdates:

Emma Marie	December 17, 1896
Bettie Margaret	January 5, 1898
George Jacob	October 2, 1899
Earl John	September 15, 1903
Nellie Christina	February 21, 1907
Roman Bohnenblust	February 18, 1910
Arnold H	July 25, 1911
Sophia E	February 20, 1913
Jacob William	December 30, 1915



1907-1911 Arbor School

Photo from 1911 – can we find any Zeisset children?

The following report is required under the provisions of the annex law (Section 92, School Laws 1907)

How - Read name in substance who has not with surname

NAME OF Pupil	DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	CITY	NAME OF SCHOOL OR CLASS
Bohnemuhl, Walter	30 Jan 1897	M	Lemondville	A. Bohnemuhl
Boyle, George	18 Jan 1898	M	"	Boyle, G. H.
Boyle, John	21 Aug 1893	M	"	Boyle, G. H.
Boyle, Clarence	20 Jan 1899	M	"	Boyle, G. H.
Boyle, George	20 Feb 1899	M	"	Boyle, G. H.
Schwartz, Betty	1 Jan 1898	F	"	Schwartz, John
" Ralph	3 Apr 1898	M	"	Schwartz, John
Olson, George	" 1898	M	"	Olson, P. E.
Witch, George	20 Dec 1895	M	"	Boyle, G. H.
Zeisset, Emma	2 Dec 1898	F	"	Zeisset, Jacob
" Earl	10 Apr 1898	M	"	Zeisset, Jacob
Arvid, Emma	18 Apr 1898	F	Lemondville	Arvid, George
" John	9 Apr 1898	M	"	"
Bohnemuhl, Walter	30 Jan 1897	M	"	A. Bohnemuhl
" Amanda	12 " 1898	F	"	"
" Martha	6 Feb 1899	F	"	"
" Anna	6 Jun 1899	F	"	"
Bohnemuhl, Walter	30 Jan 1897	M	"	Bohnemuhl, Walter
Boyle, George	21 Aug 1893	M	"	Boyle, G. H.
" John	21 Aug 1893	M	"	Boyle, G. H.
Hadine, George	21 Jun 1898	M	"	A. L. Hadine
" Walter	20 Dec 1898	M	"	"
Lind, George	15 Dec 1899	M	"	Lind, C. F.
Larson, Edith	10 Jan 1899	F	"	Larson, G. D.
" George	20 " 1898	M	"	"
Smith, Alice	10 Jan 1898	F	"	Smith, John
Thorp, Emma	20 " 1898	F	Bala	Thorp, George
" Anna	10 Dec 1898	F	"	"
Zeisset, Emma	2 Dec 1898	F	Lemondville	Zeisset, Jacob
" Betty	5 Jan 1898	F	"	"
Bohnemuhl, Walter	30 Jan 1897	M	"	Bohnemuhl, Walter

**Arbor School District 35**

1910: Emma, Bettie, George, Earl listed in above photo of school roster

**Union School District 39**

Older Zeisset children attended school here

Photo in the *City of the Plains* by Phyllis Swanson has a photo with Emma and George Zeisset at the Union school; 1906 - 1907

School reports have the Zeisset children at both Arbor and Union in 1909 (don't know why)

**Rock Island School District 51**

Zeisset children attended school here from 1913

Jake was on the school board most of the time from 1922 through 1937

Some of the Zeisset grandchildren also attended school here

10. Jake and Christina had two babies that died. Diane (Nellie's granddaughter) remembers her grandmother telling her this story: "I was just a little girl when my baby sister Christina died. It was the winter and very cold, so they laid out the tiny body in the other room which wasn't heated. Even though I'd been told not to go in, I did. I picked up the tiny frozen dead baby's body thinking it was a doll."

11. As previously noted, Jake purchased a farm from one of his Bohnemuhl brothers-in-law, Walter. Diane found the purchase deed at the Riley County Courthouse that clearly shows the \$3700 purchase price.

12. This is the only known photo of the Jacob and Christina Zeisset family, and baby Jakie is not yet born. Pictured left to right: Earl, Emma, Jake, George, Roman, Christina, Nellie, Bettie. Photo taken unknown year and location.
13. In 1915, youngest son Jacob William is born. Jake and Christina have nine children, seven live to adulthood.
14. In January of 1916, daughter Bettie married Gilbert Olson. They farmed in the Olsburg area before moving to Randolph in their retirement.
15. Bettie and Gilbert Olson's Family. Top row, left to right: daughter Emma as a young girl; Emma, Viola, Gilbert and Bettie; Viola as a young woman. Bottom row, left to right: Howard (Bob) and Emma Cook; the Cook daughters Colleen and twins Judy and Janet; Viola and Don Winkler.
16. In March of 1916, daughter Emma marries Martin Hageman. Middle photo shows Mart in what he referred to as his "courtin' buggy." They farmed in the Riley area and retired to Riley.
17. Emma and Martin Hageman Family. To left, son Leo, his wife Eileen, and sons Jerry, Larry and Ron and their wives and children. Bottom left: daughter Bettie, husband Wendell Nelson, and son Billie who died at a young age. At right, daughter Addeline, her son Warren and his family and her daughter Kathryn and her family.
18. In 1928, George married Margaret Crowl of Leonardville; they divorce. George worked at the Leonardville elevator and in other businesses in and around Leonardville. He also apparently was Santa; back in the 1950s and 1960s on a Saturday afternoon in December, Santa would always come to Leonardville riding the fire truck and hand out bags of candy and fruit to all the children, including Diane and Roger. In the aforementioned history of Leonardville by Phyllis Swanson, it is noted by one of those Leonardville children (now all grown up) how disenchanted he was as a young boy when he learned that the December Saturday Santa was really George Zeisset (apparently the Santa costume couldn't conceal George's identity as the young boy got older).
19. George and Margaret have two daughters: Marjorie (left) and Lila (right). Marjorie's two daughters are at bottom left and Lila's extended family (10 children) are at bottom right.
20. In 1927, Nellie married Ernest Lindquist. They were introduced to each other by Nellie's sister Bettie and her husband, Gilbert. Ernest is the son of Swedish emigrants and farmed on the Lindquist family farm south of Waterville.
21. Nellie was a wonderful cook. She might get inspired by a recipe, but her best cooking was done by instinct and taste. Diane took a big box of her recipe books and newspaper clipping recipes from their house after Nellie and Ernie died. In that box was this letter to Nellie from her aunt Perseda Zeisset (Henry's wife) congratulating her upon the creation of her household when she got married. Perseda and Henry lived just part of a mile east of the Potts family (who live on the Bertha and Juergen Nanninga place), and they rode with the Potts family one evening to a revival service. Diane was in the back seat of the car with Henry and Perseda, and Perseda gave her the set of barrettes pictured below.





22. Pictured are Nellie and Ernie's family. The top row are photos of children Marlaine, DeWayne and Arnold at various ages. To the left is Marlaine's family. In the center is DeWayne's family. To the right is Arnold's family. Back again to Nellie being a wonderful cook, granddaughters Gay and Diane dug through that box of recipes for some they remembered Nellie making. Gay made up wonderful recipe scrapbooks for family members.

23. In 1928, Earl married Helen Maude White. Maude, as she was known, was very pretty, always smelled nice, and always wore lots of jewelry.

24. In 1934, Jake lost the farm he had purchased in 1911. The mortgage foreclosure shows the amount due and that the 160 acres was sold in 1935 at a sheriff's sale. While the date of the photo of Jake and Christina is unknown, it is likely from around this time.

25. Sometime in the 1930s, Roman marries Dorothy Buseman. They had two daughters, Dorothy and Janice. They were divorced when the girls were young. The girls lived with their mother, and the rest of the family has had little contact with them through the years. Dorothy is deceased; Janice lives in Texas. They both have children and grandchildren, which we know because of Loretta's genealogy research.

26. In 1940, Jacob marries Fern Davidson. Jakie was a wholesale grocery salesman and lived with his family in Manhattan.

27. Jake and Fern had three daughters: DeAnne, whose family is shown at the left, Mary (no photo of Mary or her family was available), and Chris, whose family is shown at the right. The little girl in the top two photos is DeAnne with her parents.



28. At some point, Jake and Christina move to a small house on the east edge of Riley. The exact date of this photo is unknown but it was likely taken during this time.

29. Pictured are some of Jake and Christina's children and grandchildren.

Photo at left-Jacob and Christina with some of their older grandchildren (1=Leo Hageman, 2=Emma Olson, 3-Addeline Hageman, 4=baby Bettie Hageman, 5=Viola Olson).

Photo at center top-from left, greatgrandchilddren Billie Nelson, Kathryn Perea, unknown, unknown, Colleen Cook. Photo taken outside the Lindquist house.

Photo at center bottom-from left, greatgrandson Billie Nelson; grandchildren Arnold Lindquist, DeAnn Zeisset, Janice Zeisset, Dorothy Zeisset; greatgranddaughters Colleen Cook and Kathryn Lewis

Photo at right-granddaughter Lila Zeisset, Christina, granddaughter Marlaine Lindquist

While working on this presentation, Diane asked grandchildren and greatgrandchildren what they remembered about Jake and Christina. Some of these memories have been mentioned elsewhere in this document; here are the rest:

From granddaughter Marlaine Lindquist Potts: Grandpa Zeisset always had a 2-pound wooden box of cheese that he would open up and offer for dinner. He would boil a pan of potatoes for dinner. Nellie's family would often visit on Sundays and would always offer to take them for a ride in the car; Christina rarely wanted to go, and if she did go she needed to have something warm by her feet for the ride (they heated a brick). Grandma Zeisset liked to grow flowers and would always show you her yard and flowers during a visit. She would stand at the window and wave goodbye when they left. She remembers her mother (Nellie) saying that when Jake went to town to get groceries, he would always bring back a sack of hard candy for his children to share. Marlaine also remembers her mother Nellie saying that they would walk to school along a road and a neighbor had a bull that would follow along on the other side of the fence as the children walked along.

From grandson Arnold Lindquist: Grandma always burned incense (or something) on the stove because of her asthma and that it really stunk. He wondered how burning anything indoors would help asthma. They didn't have a lot of money. Grandpa was always very neat and clean and very kind.

From granddaughter Deann Zeisset Bratton: Her family also visited on Sundays. Grandma always sat in a big chair with arms and something was always burning, it smoked a lot, beside her. They didn't have running water, there was a pump in the kitchen. There was a stinky outhouse. There was a sweet dog named Queenie that the children liked a lot. The outside water pump was not far from the door.

From greatgranddaughter Kathryn Lewis Perea: They lived in Riley just east of the city limit on the south side of the road in a two-story white farmhouse. It was great to see them but I always thought how old they were. Greatgrandma was not in good health from having so many children. In the downstairs northeast room by the east window is where she kept a shoebox of her medicines. There were several containers. This was in the 50s. Once in awhile greatgrandpa would give me and my brother Warren each a nickel, and that was a thrill. Greatgrandpa always wore overalls, and his son Uncle Earl looked so much like him. When the families would get together, the fun for me was seeing and playing with Dewayne and Arnold Lindquist, Dorothy and Janice Zeisset, Colleen and twins Judy and Janet Cook, Billie Nelson, and Deann, Mary and Christina Zeisset. Most of us were around the same age. My grandma Emma was the oldest child and almost a mother to the younger siblings as greatgrandma was not well. Grandma Emma wanted to get married to Grandpa Martin (who came visiting in his courtin' buggy), but grandma kept saying she could not leave because of the help needed at home. Grandpa told her that she would never get away as there were always children being born, and she was 19 when the youngest son, Jake, was born. When her sister, Aunt Bettie married Gilbert Olson in January of 1916, Emma and Martin got married in March of 1916.

From great great granddaughter Diane Potts: Grandma was always close to her sisters Emma and Bettie, and less so with her brothers except for her baby brother, Jakie. She referred to them as “sister Emma” or “sister Bettie” or “brother Earl” or “brother George” or “brother Jakie” or “brother Roman.” Seeing how frequently some of the names appeared in the extended family (especially Bettie, Jacob, George, Roman, Arnold) of the Zeissets and Bohnenblusts, I think I now understand why. That’s the only way you could keep straight who you were speaking of! Grandma Nellie’s children and grandchild remember eating something she called pon-haus. It was made after a hog was butchered—the hog’s head was boiled, the meat scraps removed, corn meal was added to the meat and broth, the mixture was chilled, sliced, fried until a crispy brown and served with white Kairo syrup. Yum! We now know that most people call this food scrapple. We don’t know if this came from grandma Nellie’s German/Swiss ancestry or grandpa Ernie’s Swedish ancestry. In more recent years, we also realized we didn’t know what greatgrandpa Zeisset’s correct name was. Apparently his children knew him as Jacob George as that’s how his tombstone (pictured) reads, but Loretta has documentation (birth records) that show his name was actually George Jacob. As Diane was working on this presentation, she was struck by how hard Jake and Christina must have worked in their lives—they moved around a lot and were having children the entire time.

30. Christina died in 1950, not in Leonardville as the slide says but at the hospital in Manhattan (according to her obituary). After she died, Jake made his home with his daughters. He died in 1952 at daughter Nellie’s home south of Waterville. Jake was in the downstairs bedroom when Nellie realized he was fading, so she sent young Arnold out to the field to fetch Ernie. Arnold was in the room when his Grandpa Jake died. Arnold was also present when his Grandma Lindquist died.

31. Remember that earlier photo of the three young sisters? Well, here they are again, quite a few years older. In the photo to the right is the only known photo of Jake and Christina’s children when they were older. Son Roman is in the middle of the back row—this is the only photo Diane could locate that pictures Roman. George is missing from this photo (taken in unknown year and location). So we have no photo of the entire family together—when they were younger or when they were older.

32. The top photo shows some of the Zeisset grandchildren at the 1990 Zeisset reunion (from left: Leo Hageman, Addelene Jones, Dewayne Lindquist, Arnold Lindquist, Marlaine Potts, Mary Nudson, Emma Cook, DeAnne Bratton). The bottom photo shows some of the Zeisset grandchildren and one greatgrandchild at the 2004 Zeisset reunion (Mary Nudson, Janet Johnson [greatgranddaughter], Arnold Lindquist, DeAnne Bratton, Marlaine Potts, Bettie Nelson, Addelene Jones, Chris Nelson).

33. Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2014 reunion a success, as well as to my family members who shared their photos and memories.

#### Sources:

Oral and written memories of grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

Photos from collections of Addelene Jones, Kathryn Perea, Eileen Hageman, Chris Nelson, DeAnne Bratton, Stephanie Gile, DeWayne Lindquist, Marlaine Potts, Diane Potts.

Library research by Gay Stewart.

Research by Loretta Hoerman.

1869-1991 Bohnenblust Family genealogy and history by Mildred (Bohnenblust) Zipse, 1969, and Updated in 1991 by Opal (Bohnenblust) Trumpp.