

Our Story Continues . . . The Klitz Family in Nebraska

CHAPTER 9

JOHAN ENGELBERT KLITZ and ANGELA KLUTHE

1849-1900; 1850-1920

Johan was born 23 June 1849 in Schöppingen, Prussia, immigrating to America in 1869. Johan sailed on the ship “Argonaut” arriving in New York on 31 August 1869, 11 days later than the rest of the Klitz family. He was 20 years old. The reason why Johan was separated from his family for the voyage is not known, yet it must have been scary to be separated from your family and sailing by yourself to America. Johan traveled to Quincy, Illinois, and lived there with his family until they made the journey to Nebraska.

Johan’s Homestead Application was No. 773 and the Final Homestead Proof states that he lived on his land beginning 20 August 1871. Johan became a citizen of the United States on 15 January 1876. The Final Homestead Proof, dated 11 March 1878, states he had built a 12x6 frame and sod house with a board roof, one door and two windows. He cultivated 55 acres and built a stable and granary, plus planted a quantity of forest trees. The Homestead Final Certificate is dated 12 March 1878 with the Homestead Approval date of 21 October 1878.

Johan married Angela Kluthe Grovijohn (1850-1920) 13 June 1878 at Sacred Heart Church in Olean, Nebraska. Prior to that Angela married Frederick Grovijohn on 29 September 1873 at Saint Anthony’s Church in Saint Charles, Nebraska. Frederick was born in New Vienna, Iowa, on 11 July 1849, and died in 1876. Frederick and Angela had one daughter, Justina, born on 2 July 1874, at Saint Charles.

Justina Grovijohn married James Leonard Wingert on 20 September 1898 at Sacred Heart Church in Olean, Nebraska. James was born on 26 April 1867 in Barclay Township, Iowa. He died on 23 June 1928. Justina died on 3 November 1947 in Plainview, Nebraska. Both Justina and James are buried in Saint Francis Cemetery, Creighton, Nebraska. There is not much more information about Justina, except for a few news articles. Justina and her half-brother, John Caspar, did visit each other. Additionally, John Caspar and Mary Klitz did travel to Plainview for the funeral of Justina.

It is interesting that Angela was always referred to as Angela Kluthe, not Angela Grovijohn. In fact on Johan and Angela’s marriage license, Angela is listed as Angela Kluthe.

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Johan died on 13 January 1900, at home and is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery at Olean. According to information from Humlicek Funeral Home in Dodge, Mrs. John Klitz was the next of kin and the physician was Dr. Person. John was only 50 years old when he died. His son, John, was 18, and his son Henry was 15. Angela, John and Henry all continued to live on the homestead after Johan's death.

On 8 October 1903 Angela purchased 160 acres (with 1 acre set aside for the cemetery) from Carl and Caroline Retke for the cost of \$9,699.00 and the assumption of two mortgages totaling \$4,100.00. John Casper and his mother, Angela, continued to live on the original homestead while Henry moved to the newly purchased farmstead.

Angela Klitz lived with on the Klitz homestead with John Caspar and Mary Klitz until she died on 18 March 1920. The funeral was held on 20 March 1920. She was 70 years old. She is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Olean. Where is this listed and is it vital? According to the death certificate from Humlicek Funeral Home, the cause of death was lobar [sic] pneumonia. We have a funeral prayer card for John Engelbert Klitz, but we do not have one for Angela Klitz. The only reference to her death is the following published in the *Dodge Criterion*, Thursday, 25 March 1920, page 3:

Resolution of Sympathy

Whereas; The All Wise Father has seen fit to Claim by Death the Mother of Brother's Henry and John Klitz. Therefore; be it resolved; That Brothers Henry and John Klitz have lost a Kind and Loving Mother. Resolved; That as members of the Sacred Heart Court No. 893, C.O.F., we extend the bereaved Brothers and their families our sincere sympathy in this time of their great sorrow. And we Commend them to the Tender Care and Mercy of the Loving Father above, who alone can give everlasting Consolation.

Census Records

1900 U.S. census: Colfax County, Nebraska, Lincoln Pct; Angie Klitz 50; b. Germany [widow] 4 children-3 living; farmer, John 18; Henry 15. (I know of only 3 children-Justina, John Casper and Henry.)

1910 U.S. census: Colfax County, NE. Lincoln Pct; Angela Klitz 60; living with son John Klitz 28; farmer, Mary 25; Frank 3; Alphonse 2. The 1920 census of Colfax County, NE. Lincoln Pct; Angels klitz 69, living with son John c. klitz, farmer; Mary 38; Frank 13; Alphonse 11; Joseph 9; Leonard 6; Katy 4; Rudolph 2.