

Klammer Family



The Klammer name came to America in 1860 when William Klammer emigrated with his parents and his brother Friedrich. William was born in 1842 in Pulsberg Brandenburg, Germany to Elizabeth nee Krautz (1812-1879 and George Klammer (1809-1890). Both are buried in Westgate, Fayette Co., Iowa.

The family left Germany on a three-mast sailing vessel and, after a six week journey, arrived in New York. They first settled in Defiance, Ohio. After two years there, George, a stonemason, came to Fremont Township, Fayette County, Iowa to look for work.

In 1862, during the Civil War, when President Abraham called for men, William "caught the war spirit" and enlisted in the 36th Iowa Infantry thereby becoming a naturalized citizen. At the close of the war, William returned to Iowa.

In 1870, at the age of 28, William married Sophie Dorothea Knief (1849-1929). They farmed in Fremont Township until 1900, raising their family of five on this farm. Besides raising their own children, Philip, George, Elizabeth, Fred, and Willy, they also raised the five children of William's brother Friedrich.

George Philip (1871-1951) married Lena Zilmer in 1900 and they, like their parents, settled down to farming. Their marriage was blessed with six children: Esther, Oscar, August, Edmund, Leona and Donald.

Edmund grew up on the farm and spent his high school years at Concordia, St. Paul, Minnesota. He then attended Concordia, River Forest, Illinois and graduated in 1929. His first permanent teaching position was a one room school at St. Paul Lutheran, Millington, Michigan.

In 1934, he accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran School at Frankentrost, Michigan where he taught for 21 years. In 1956, he resigned to serve as a photographer for the Rummel Studio in Frankenmuth. He returned to teaching in Millington in 1959. In 1966, he came to St. Lorenz Lutheran School in Frankenmuth and continued teaching there until retirement in 1973.

Edmund married Edna Knief in 1930. Their children include: George Adolph; Kenneth Edmund, a tool and die maker/farmer; Lois Edna Braun, a retail shop owner; and Donald Edward, a school custodian.

Leona Elizabeth (1909), the only daughter of George and Lena Klammer, moved with her parents to St. James, Minnesota. After a year there, she visited her brother Edmund and his wife who were then living in Saginaw. She obtained employment in Saginaw and there met August Scheer, a graduate of Concordia, Seward, Nebraska and Valparaiso University. August (Doc) was a teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran in Millington, Michigan. When Leona and Doc married in 1942, they set up housekeeping in the same house in which Edmund and Edna had lived.

During World War II their salary was \$60 a month plus housing. Congregation members were helpful and brought gifts of food such as 12 chickens and the feed for them. Edna's mother sent a barrel of canned goods and her sister-in-law canned for them from her garden. Electric appliances were almost impossible to purchase during the war. Through some friends they did secure a stove and refrigerator.

Leona and Doc were blessed with two children: Ronald Paul, a former Lutheran teacher and then a Lutheran pastor; and Lana Hoyer, a registered nurse. Leona and Doc lived in Frankenmuth after his 1970 retirement.



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