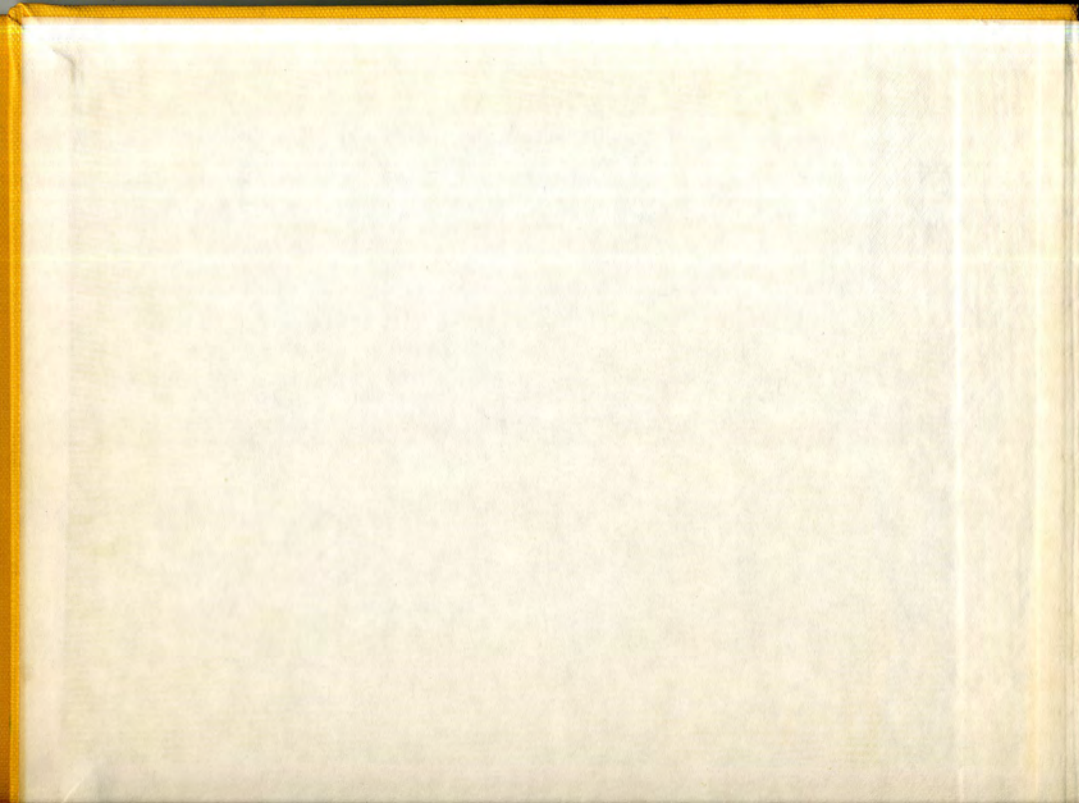


THE SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY

# THE SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY

A HISTORY





# the Socolofsky family

A HISTORY

To Ted

BY

*Homer E. Socolofsky*

**HOMER E. SOCOLOFSKY**

Spring, 1973

## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the younger Socolofskys and those of Socolofsky heritage. Since it concentrates on the eleven Socolofskys who arrived in Kansas in 1876 and 1877, and their immediate descendants, it is hoped that the fourth and fifth generation can gain some understanding and appreciation of their family heritage.

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth forever."

Ecclesiastes I,4

"Every generation revolts against its fathers and makes friends with its grandfathers."

Lewis Mumford, The Brown Decades

"See how the generations pass  
Like sand through Heaven's blue hourglass."

Vaschel Lindsay Shantung

"Books are the legacies . . . , which are delivered down from generation to generation, as presents to the posterity of those who are yet unborn."

Joseph Addison, The Spectator (No.166, Sept. 10, 1771)

"There are secrets in all families."

George Farquhar (1678-1707)

The Beaux' Strategem I,iii

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Manhattan, Kansas AG Press

1973

A SPECIAL DEDICATION

TO

*A. L. Socolofsky*

Whose long-time interest in all of his relatives, his photographing of their activities, and his preservation of family lore, inspired the preparation of this book.



A FALCON ?

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To the many who have contributed information for use in this book, I send my hearty thanks. Especially helpful for material on the Gottfried Socolofsky branch of the family were Sadie and Virginia Socolofsky, Ruth Socolofsky, Leona Holecek, Lowell Socolofsky, and many others who contributed essential bits for the larger history. Eva Peay contributed anecdotes about the Andrew Socolofskys. Gaps were filled in for the other brothers and the sister of the first generation. Important was the reminiscence of D. D., supplied by his son, Edwin Socolofsky. Mildred Lindholm was of immense assistance in typing the manuscript in preparation for printing.-----H.E.S.



Golden Wedding picture, February, 1923

Katy and Gottfried

Pictures throughout the book came from Sadie Socolofsky, Ruth Socolofsky, Leona Holecek, and Homer Socolofsky.

The family names came from various members of the family and especially Edwin Socolofsky, Sadie Socolofsky, Ruth Socolofsky, Eva Peay, Ella V. Socolofsky, Lola L. Suter and Ezra Haas.

## I. RUSSIA AND THE SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY

Dreisnitz, Russia, was the birthplace and early home of Gottfried Socolofsky (1854-1934) and Katharina Elizabeth Dick (1852-1934). Located near the west bank or hilly side of the Volga River, Dreisnitz was 98 miles downstream from Saratov the governmental headquarters for that province of Russia. Dreisnitz is the German "three points" referring to the triangular shape of the townland between the junction of two streams.



### 1. German "Colonization" in Russia

During the years 1764 to 1767 the Russian government under the leadership of the Czarina Catherine II, a former German princess, located about 8,000 families containing 27,000 persons on unsettled lands along the lower Volga. Most of these settlers were German farmers who came from almost every German principality and kingdom. Only a small fraction of the inhabitants of these new German colonies in Russia were non-German and by the second generation they were completely Germanized. Dreisnitz was colonized by 151 people in 1767 and grew to about three thousand in 1870. Through the years other German-speaking settlers immigrated to Russia. One large area of settlement at some distance from the Volga was the Crimea region just north of the Black Sea. Other regions received small numbers of settlers.

Many inducements were offered to attract German

farmers and others with skills to settle permanently in Russia. Grants of land were made to each male settler. The use of the German language was assured and property was not to be taxed for up to fifty-two years. Colonies were permitted limited self-government, they could control their own educational and religious institutions, and their menfolk were granted exemption from military service "forever."

Gottfried II, the oldest son of a farmer, Gottfried I, was born about 1825. He married Maria Elizabeth Klohs who was born April 3, 1828. When he was about 29 years of age and his wife 26 their first son, Gottfried III, was born. His birth date was October 19, 1854. Their other children and their births were Andrew, November 22, 1857; Katharinne, also known as Johann, about 1860; George, 1865; Rhinehardt, 1868; and David Daniel, born May 24, 1870.

### 2. Precise Origin of Family Name in Doubt

Socolofsky is a Slavic rather than a German name with an origin in the area of Upper Silesia near the common late twentieth century border of Poland, East Germany and Czechoslovakia. The first Socolofsky in Dreisnitz (Gottfried I)



was presumably a former member of the conscripted Prussian Army who was under orders to kill all people in an occupied village. Unwilling to take the life of an infant he deserted and fled to Poland and eventually to Russia. The name may have been Falke or Sokolowski (falcon trainer) before the move to Russia. There is some reason to believe that he arrived in Dreispitz in 1824, a few years after the completion of the Napoleonic wars. The German kingdom of Prussia, under Frederick the Great, became an important European military power several generations earlier about the time of the settlement of Dreispitz and other German language colonies. In general German monarchs opposed emigration of their people to other lands.

### 3. Life in Dreispitz

#### a. the land system

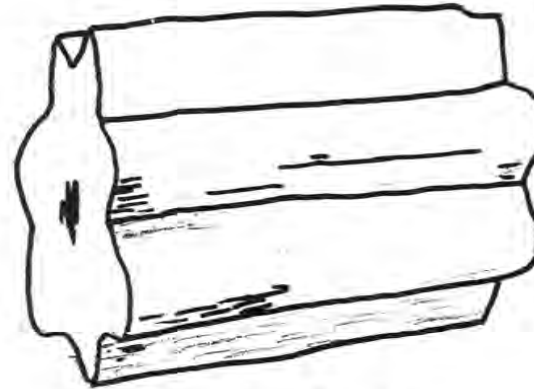
The land system along the Volga encouraged the development of large families. Sons were a valued asset in German-Russian towns such as Dreispitz because farm land was allotted on the basis of the number of males in a family. Gottfried Socolofsky II, with five sons, was entitled to six allotments. Farm and meadow lands were in small tracts amounting to a few acres each and they were located at distances from three to fifteen miles from the village of Dreispitz where everyone lived. No one received the same allotted land each year. As the soil was very productive, crops were nearly always good in spite of the kinds of farming practiced by the previous user.

#### b. the common pasture

The common pasture for Dreispitz was a mile or more out of the village. At sunrise each day a herder gathered all milk cows in the colony to take them to pasture. Cows were turned out the front gate into the herd to be returned in the evening. The ox-herder took the work oxen to pasture in the evening and brought them back in the morning. Horses were put to pasture by their owners and were usually hobbled to prevent them from straying too far away.

#### c. individual threshing yards

Much closer to Dreispitz were the grain stacking and hay and straw yards belonging to each farmer. Enclosed by a willow braided fence the center of each yard was a dirt threshing floor, some 125 feet in diameter, which was maintained as smooth and level as possible. Here the sheaves of ripened wheat, or rye, or barley, or kasha (a kind of buckwheat) were laid on the threshing floor and a team of horses or oxen would pull a heavy threshing stone, weighing 500 pounds or more, over the bundles to knock or beat out the kernels. Threshing in this age-old manner was time-consuming as an hour and a half was usually the minimum period to beat the grain from each layer of sheaves. Additional time was needed laboriously to winnow the grain from the straw and chaff. The straw and chaff were stacked for winter feed and the grain was placed in sacks.



A Threshing Stone

#### d. gardens

Vegetable gardens, usually irrigated from nearby streams, were between the threshing yards and the village. Contrary to the usual custom, which looked upon gardening as woman's business, Gottfried Socolofsky II assisted his wife in caring for the preparation, cultivation, and harvesting of their garden. Usual vegetables that were well-known in America were raised, except for corn and tomatoes which would not ripen on account of the short season and cool nights. Watermelons, muskmelons and cantaloupes, root crops, cucumbers, cabbages, pumpkins



and gourds were grown by the acre and consumed by both livestock and people. Noteworthy were the uses made of watermelons. In addition to the ripe melon in season, a fine syrup was made from the juice, oil was obtained from the seeds, and the whole melons were preserved in a brine. The syrup-making process was simply to split a melon, scrape the pulp into a vat, extract the juice and boil it down to a desired consistency. Melon seeds, as well as those from pumpkin and sunflowers were saved and taken to a local mill where oil was extracted making shortening for use in pastries or in baking buckwheat cakes. The Socolofsky family prepared as much as 150 gallons of watermelon syrup in one season and had seeds for seven gallons of oil. Watermelons, as well as apples, were preserved in brine in large vats. During the long winter pickled watermelons and apples were used for salads and were relished by the family.

#### e. housing

**H**ouses in German-Russian villages such as Dreispitz were made of timber with a roof thatched with long slough grass that was tied in bunches. The yard, or hof, of the Socolofsky home in the early 1870s was enclosed within a high wall made up of buildings and the walls of the house. A large German police dog, named Bless, patrolled the hof and sounded the alarm when any stranger appeared. The barn, granary, poultry coop, cow barn, and pig sty made up the outbuildings with a large duplex house nearby. Trees yielding pears, plums, and filberts, grew behind the house. The Gottfried Socolofsky II family occupied one side of the duplex and a brother (Jacob) and sister-in-law lived in the other side. Shared by the two families were a large summer kitchen, another regular kitchen, and the hall. The summer kitchen had large-scale facilities for cooking, baking and boiling and here the annual butchering took place. The kitchen contained the oven doors to the two large dutch ovens, one in each duplex which provided heating and cooking uses. The kitchen chimney was about six feet square and was used for smoking sausage and other meats, including fish.

#### f. special activities

**B**utchering day at the Socolofsky household each winter was remembered as a jolly time for all in spite of the demanding job lasting from five in the morning until midnight. Favored friends shared in the butchering responsibility in exchange for help when they butchered at another time. Usually four to six hogs of a lean, two-to-three-hundred-pound razorback variety and as many sheep were butchered on these special days. The mutton was hung up in the granary where it froze; pork was cleaned, brined, and smoked, with much of the work coming after butchering day. Sufficient pork, sausage, lard, and mutton was put up to last the household for the year. Some of the meat was kept in frozen condition in a "deep-freeze" basement about 14' x 20' x 8' located at the edge of the house lot. During the long winters in this part of the world (Dreispitz was located 51° north of the equator) this basement was packed full of snow which settled to form a solid mass almost like ice. In addition to meat, other foods such as milk, butter and cheese were preserved in this primitive refrigerator.

#### g. other food preparation

**T**he food preparations shown above give some idea of the meals at the Socolofsky household. Kasha, a kind of gruel, made from almost any grain, but most likely buckwheat, was used to make mush that was eaten three times a day. A humorous jingle about kasha was remembered years later:

Kasha, soucha meine güte  
Ach vas bin ich dich so müde  
Kasha morgen in der früh  
Kasha mittags in der brei  
Kasha abends in der zeit  
Kasha bis in ewigkeit.

(Kasha, soucha my goodness  
Oh I'm so tired of you  
Kasha early in the morning  
Kasha at noontime in the gruel  
Kasha evenings all the time  
Kasha 'til eternity.)

## h. clothing

Dreisnitz was large enough to have available the ordinary products found for sale in mercantile establishments of that day. However, many of the clothing needs of the family were met by the itinerant artisans who came around once a year to provide their special services for the family. For example, tailors would come to the house to make the heavy winter clothing for the men. Sheep pelts used in making overcoats had been tanned in preparation for the coming of the tailor. Similarly, a cobbler or two came into the home to make needed shoes for the family and they used the leather provided by the household. Wool and flax were spun in the home but weavers were employed to prepare the cloth. Further manufacture of clothing was largely the work of the women of the household. In case a desired clothing material was not available in Dreisnitz the purchaser would have to go to Saratov or Kammeshinka, the larger cities in that part of the Volga region.

## i. religious patterns

Three dominant religious patterns shaped the life of the German colonies in Russia: Lutheran, Mennonite, and Roman Catholic. Villages along the lower Volga represented all of these types of religious organizations. Dreisnitz was styled as a "Lutheran" village and the colony church was large and roomy. About 1874 the Socolofsky family was converted, through the influence of Rev. Frederick Dahlinger, to the idea that they should be baptized by immersion as adults. Thus, they left the Lutheran church, were all immersed, and with others formed a congregation, described as Anabaptist. Because they had no church building or any other special place to meet they convened in private homes. Anabaptists have been associated with the Mennonites, Amish, and Hutterites, but the group with which the Socolofskys allied themselves was a somewhat different pietistic belief which led eventually to the German Baptist fellowship.

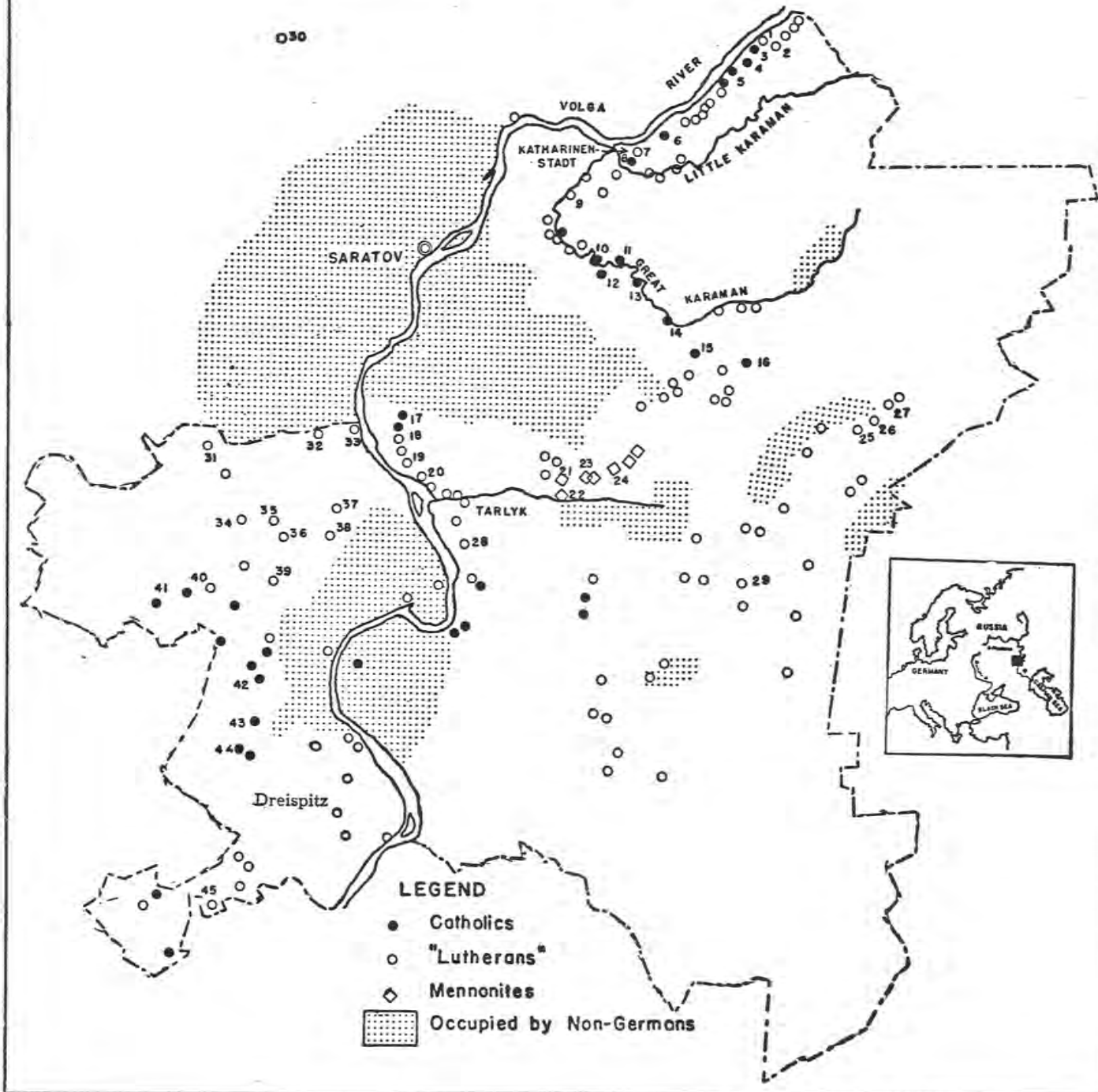
## j. schools

Education in Dreisnitz was limited, being carried on by the Lutheran parochial school and by the colony school. A child of five years of age could attend the parochial school where first instruction was in reading and writing. School sessions usually lasted four months. Arithmetic was taught to older students in the colony school and most students did not go to school very long. The brother of Gottfried II, whose name was said to be Jacob, had excelled in his education so that he was accepted into a crown-sponsored medical school. When he completed his training as a doctor he was stationed in a much larger community than Dreisnitz which did not have anyone specially trained for medical or dental care. Home remedies, often of a superstitious nature, were employed in case of illness or injury.

## k. children's activities

With only one third of each year devoted to school the children of Dreisnitz in the 1870s still had much with which to occupy their time. Many of the small tasks of preparing wool for spinning, such as carding the wool, could be done by a child. There were animals around the farm and some were pets. Toys were almost nonexistent; one member of the Socolofsky family remembered a little handmade cart, his only toy when he was four years of age. Little girls might have a rag doll but other toys were virtually unheard of in that period. A child of the time would spend many hours with adults, going to the pasture, going to the allotment for sowing grain, going to the meadow to cut hay, or just observing the development of the natural beauties to be found in the steppe land along the Volga. Little time was spent by the Socolofsky family in cultivating flowers in gardens near the house, but flowers were abundant in the countryside. Remembered were lilies of the valley in the meadow, wild roses along the roadside, tulips along the way to Saratov, and the fact that some of the neighbors did spend time in growing flowers. Wild strawberries were prized and gathered when they were ripe. Most of the youth of Dreisnitz learned how to swim in a dammed up fresh water pond about five feet deep. All up to sixteen years of age swam in the swim suits they were born in, but the older Socolofsky children did not take part in these swimming parties.

# GERMANS ON THE VOLGA



Dreispitz and other German colonies on the Volga in Russia.

### l. getting a bride

**B**y the time Gottfried III was eighteen years of age, the household chores had become overwhelming for his mother. With five growing sons and a single daughter there was far too much work for the mother. Hired help was not considered practical because it was too expensive. Instead, the solution was found in getting a wife for Gottfried. "The choice of the bride was not left to him, but fell upon the shoulders of his father and uncle who went into the village to find a suitable girl. Since the village clerk who was a man of some importance, had a daughter of that age she was looked over by the men and the marriage was arranged and carried out very shortly without any fanfare and without a romantic courtship."

### m. marriage for Gottfried and Katy

**K**atharina Elizabeth Dick, who became Gottfried's bride on January 1, 1873, was from a family of German heritage and background. Her father, Peter Dick, was a village teacher for Dreispitz, in addition to serving as town clerk. Her mother's maiden name was Quindt. Born April 26, 1853 (or 1852 if her gravestone is accurate) Katharina Elizabeth, usually known as Katy, was a year or two older than Gottfried. Only four feet nine inches tall, she brought to this marriage a willingness to work hard and to complete assigned duties rapidly. Her education was meager but she could read and write German. Her understanding of Russian was limited to a few phrases needed for shopping or trading.

## 4. Privileges for German Colonies Abolished

### a. ukase of 1871

**T**he special privileges granted to German settlers in Russia were ended in an imperial ukase of 1871 in which Czar Alexander II sought the Russification of all of his people. In many ways the position of the German-speaking colonists of the Volga and Crimea, their separate status within the empire, was an anomalous situation. The growing nationalism of the time, apparent in most industrialized

nations, along with a growing spirit of militarism, required of all people within a nation their complete loyalty. German settlers in colonies a century old had maintained their separate status which served as a barrier between themselves and native Russians. They retained their own language, religious beliefs, educational patterns, and a sense of superior culture and racial pride. The Russification process would place all German schools under direct imperial control, abolish special governments, and end the exemption from military service formerly granted to German colonists. Kaiser William II of Germany got the Russian Czar to agree that German colonists might have ten years to decide on emigration without loss of any of their property. The German emperor believed that the Germans in Russia would return to the Fatherland, but very few did. Instead, about one-third of the Germans living in Russia emigrated, from the land in which they had lived for several generations, to the New World, especially the United States and Canada.

### b. memories they would take with them

**I**n planning to leave the land of their fathers they would recall the stories of that country which only a few years earlier was over-run by wolves as large as yearling calves. When driven by hunger in the long winters these wolves would venture into the village of Dreispitz and carry off lambs, pigs, or calves. Domestic watch dogs sometimes fell prey to marauding wolves and residents of the country used care when traveling from colony to colony during the winter. As dangerous as the wild beasts was the menace of organized bands of robbers. Numerous were the stories of thievery and atrocities they committed.

Also there were stories of witchcraft and witch activities which were considered real by a large number of the people. Neighbors of the Socolofsky family reported that haunted houses were plentiful in the area and almost everyone had a ghost or witch story to tell, but such was not the case with the Gottfried Socolofsky II family. The parents did not tell witch or ghost stories and from an early age the children failed to find these stories attractive.

**T**he younger Gottfried Socolofsky (Gottfried III) was almost seventeen years of age when the ukase ending the privileges for German colonists was issued. Some time passed before these colonists understood the nature of the edict. Gottfried was eighteen when he was married to Katy. Their first son, Godfrey George (Gottfried IV), was born September 16, 1873. Two years later on the day before his twenty-first birthday his second son, Frederick William, was born on October 18, 1875. By then the young family must have been well along on their plans to emigrate to the United States because their move came as soon as the baby and mother were able to make the long, tiring trip.

Why did Gottfried Socolofsky III and his young family emigrate to the United States and what caused them to head for Kansas with their specific destination the Santa Fe railway town of Peabody? Evidently they corresponded with relatives or friends, such as members of the Dahlinger or Ehrlich families who emigrated a short time earlier. There is little that remains as direct evidence, but the stories that have been repeated provide some information to give a reasonably accurate picture of what happened. The trail sometimes is dim, the surname is often misspelled, and gaps unavoidably enter the story, but the outline is clear. Available documentary materials add to oral tradition so that written and unwritten sources support each other.

## II. EMIGRATION FOR GOTTFRIED AND KATY

**E**arly in the spring of 1876, Gottfried III and Katharina Socolofsky, with their two sons, ages two and one-half years and six months, left their native village Dreispitz for the last time: their destination--Marion County, Kansas. To ride the railway to their embarkation port of Hamburg, Germany, it was necessary to go to Saratov, then across European Russia and Germany. At Hamburg they put out to sea on a sailing ship which took them to Liverpool, the great English port city. The only ship out of Hamburg to Liverpool during the entire period which fits this time pattern was Ann Jane, an English wooden schooner of 109 gross tons. This could have



FORE-TOPSAIL SCHOONER

been the wooden sailing ship which provided part of the transportation for the young Socolofsky family and from evidence in Liverpool newspapers it could have easily consumed thirty-five of the forty-six days which were spent on the water crossing to the New World. Actually, the Ann Jane, only 79.2 feet long, 21.3 feet wide and possessing a depth of 10.8 feet was a small ship by the standards of the 1870s. Built in 1858 it had undergone repairs in 1871 and 1875. Its timbers were spruce and red pine and it was fastened together with iron bolts. The Ann Jane was in-bound on the river leading to Liverpool's harbor for more than a month and was probably at anchor most of the time. This could have been the time that the infant Frederick William was ill. Such is the speculation involving this period in the trip to America, but the Ann Jane was real and its movements fit the itinerary of the Socolofsky family.

### 1. The Steamer, City of Berlin

**T**he next leg in the trip to America has a much more solid factual basis, for this young family boarded the City of Berlin which departed Liverpool for New York City on Thursday, June 15, 1876, and put in to New York harbor on June 25, 1876. In the passenger list of the City of Berlin dated June 26, 1876, (a Monday for such lists were not drawn up on Sundays), are their names: Gottfried (III), Catherine, Gottfried (IV), and Frederick with ages respectively 21, 22, 3 and infant. The family name, as taken down by the English speaking crew of the City of Berlin, was spelled Salonske. This misunderstanding or error is easily understood when one realizes that no one in the Socolofsky family spoke English. Also listed with this family was Johann Salonske, age 12, shown as a female child. Apparently this was Katherinne who also went by the name, Johann. However, later census reports would show her four or five years older than the age recorded here.

Ann Jane ?

Gottfried Salonde	21	M	Laborer	4	73
Catherine	22	F	Wife	5	
Gottfried	3	M	Child	6	
Adelbert	Infant	M	Infant	7	
Johann	12	F	Child	8	

(Copied from Passenger List)

In stark contrast to the wooden, sail-propelled Ann Jane, the City of Berlin, an English steamer, was one of the newest iron ships afloat. Built in 1875 this ship established a record crossing of less than ten days from Liverpool to New York that year. With a gross tonnage of almost fifty-five hundred, it was 488.6 feet long with a breadth of 44.2 feet and a depth of 34.9 feet. The weight and dimensions of the City of Berlin show that it was six times as long as the Ann Jane and had a gross tonnage more than fifty times larger. Moreover, it was propelled by two 850 horsepower compound steam engines while the Ann Jane relied on sails alone. In addition the steamer could carry merchandise and more than nine hundred passengers which was a sizable increase over the capacity of the sailing ship. The following advertisement appeared in a Liverpool newspaper the day the Socolofsky family departed for New York City:

THE INMAN LINE

City of Berlin for NY Thurs. June 15  
& Thurs. July 20

Steerage Passage at reduced rates, with full supply of Provisions, cooked and served up by the Company's Stewards.

From Liverpool via Queenstown  
Passengers booked to all parts of the  
United States and Dominion of Canada  
at low through rates.

Salon Passengers for the Steamer,  
City of Berlin, will leave the North-end  
of the Landing Stay by the Company's Tender  
punctually at Four o'clock  
afternoon, this day (Thursday) the  
15th June 15 Guineas  
18 & 21

Ninety-five of the more than eight hundred passengers registered on the City of Berlin paid the higher rate, \$75 or more, to occupy the cabins as salon passengers in the trip to America. Homelands of passengers on the ship's roster included England, Ireland, United States, Italy, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, as well as Russia. The large bulk of the passengers, some seven hundred and twenty-five, including the young Socolofsky family, spent the eleven days in crossing the Atlantic in the steerage compartment. The cost of traveling steerage was not indicated in the advertisement but it could have been as little as one-fifth of the cabin rates. It is likely that the total cost for the five-member Socolofsky family to travel from Liverpool to New York was between \$75 and \$100, an amount which would have seemed a large sum in 1876. Other points noteworthy from the passenger lists were that most adult males in steerage, including Gottfried Socolofsky, were listed as laborers, and that three hundred and fifty of the people in steerage, including the Socolofskys, were identified in the "country of origin" column as coming from "Mennonites."

2. Newspaper Comments on that Day of Landing

The New York Sun, June 26, 1876, reported in its Marine Intelligence column: "arrived - Sunday, June 25" the "Steamship City of Berlin, Liverpool, mdse. and pass." Editorials that day reported that:

Yesterday was the hottest day thus far of the season, ninety-eight in the shade. But even at that temperature the sea air of New York has some vitality in it, furnishing something to breathe and to live on. It is very different from the dead, close air which the Centennials have to inhale in Philadelphia.

Another editorial on the same day commented that:

War in the Black Hills country has begun in interest. One of our columns of troops struck the savage foe last Wednesday, and though it may have worsted him it only retired

from the battle field with a loss of ten killed and twenty wounded, in return for a larger number of losses among the redskins, who were in superior force.

Gen. Crook had 1,300 mounted soldiers and for five hours they fought their Sioux antagonists under Sitting Bull, on Rosebud creek, with honorable courage. . . .

It is not strange that after so many years of dealing with the Indian question we find no other way of settling it than that of brute force; . . . These ten killed and twenty wounded are merely the advance guard of casualties there.

Also in the news was a report of the Democratic national presidential convention to begin Tuesday, June 27 in St. Louis. The New York governor, "Uncle Samuel" Tilden, was considered "The Strongest of all the Candidates," and he did win nomination. Later the Republican convention nominated Rutherford B. Hayes who won in a disputed electoral vote contest.

### 3. The Rail Trip Ended July 4, 1876

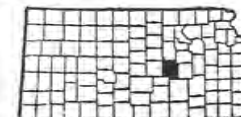
It was into this strange New World that the Socolofsky family came on the eve of the centennial celebration of independence of the United States with its huge Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. While these activities, if they came to the attention of the immigrants at all, may have provided only passing interest, it is obvious that their real purpose was to reach their destination half a continent away. Castle Garden at the south tip of Manhattan Island was the landing place for immigrants in 1876 as Ellis Island and the increasingly complex immigration system for the United States had not yet come into being. From there they probably stayed briefly in one of the nearby immigrant hotels, then headed west by rail for Kansas. About a week later



this long trip was completed to Peabody, Marion County, Kansas. The date was July 4, 1876, the centennial day of the nation's independence. There was no mention of their coming in the Peabody press but the nation was alerted on that celebrated day that "Custer's Last Stand" had taken place in Montana and that five companies of troopers had been "annihilated by the Sioux." On June 20, 1876, the Peabody Gazette reported on the plans of the Grand Army of the Republic for the afternoon of the Fourth. This paper also remarked that "Another invoice of Mennonites to the number of sixty reached here on Monday," which would have been June 26. A further comment disclosed that "Our Mennonite neighbors will receive an addition to their forces of two hundred within a day or two."

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KANSAS!  
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Marion County in Kansas



### III. DESTINATION: MARION COUNTY

Marion County in 1875 had a population of 5,907 which more than doubled in the next five years. The 12,000 acres of winter wheat harvested in 1875 grew to more than 21,000 in 1876. The year, 1876, was not a particularly auspicious time to arrive in the United States as an immigrant because the nation was still in the depths of economic upheaval following the Panic of 1873. But if the move were made there were few places better to go to in 1876 than the farm lands of the recent frontier such as Marion County where there were 74 residents in 1860, 162 in 1865, and 768 in 1870. An experienced farmer, who possessed great physical strength and a quick mind, and who was willing to use his assets, would be able to grow as Marion County would grow.

#### 1. What Immigration in the 1870s was Like

An examination of immigration records shows that Gottfried Socolofsky III and his young family, as well as his parents and the remainder of the family, came to the United States dur-

ing a period when the numbers of immigrants were well below the totals that had come earlier or the rates of the 1880s and later. Immigration figures show a response to economic conditions in the country which receives the immigrants. From 1873 to about 1878 or 1879 the hard times in the United States made a move from overseas less attractive. Some potential immigrants did not leave home at all and others may have delayed their travels. Those who did take the big step of severing ties with the land of their fathers found that the scantier numbers of immigrants caused the newly developing iron steamship and expanding railroad companies, as well as land agents and others, to compete vigorously driving down the costs which immigrants had to pay for transportation and for other services. The following chart shows a kind of lag in total immigration numbers responding to poor economic conditions. A single country, such as Russia where other factors were causing residents to want to emigrate, did not show an identical response.

IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES  
1871-1880

Year	From Russia	Total Immigration from all lands
1871	673	321,350
1872	1,018	404,806
1873	1,634	459,803
1874	4,073	313,339
1875	7,997	227,498
1876	4,775	169,986
1877	6,599	141,857
1878	3,048	138,469
1879	4,453	177,826
1880	5,014	457,257
TOTALS	39,284	2,807,191
Average per year for this decade	3,928	280,719

These figures show that immigrants to the United States from Russia were relatively few during this decade, averaging each year less than one and one-half per cent of all immigrants. Due in part to drastic reductions in total immigration in 1876 and 1877, the Russian proportion of the total climbed to almost three and almost five per cent. Five of the 4,775 Russian immigrants in 1876 were Socolofskys and six Socolofskys the next year were a part of the 6,599 figure. These eleven Socolofskys, accounting for one-tenth of one per cent of the Russian emigration to the United States in two years, are the ones on whom this story will concentrate.

The immigrants arriving on American shores in the 1870s were no more numerous than those coming in the 1850s when the national population was considerably smaller. While the number of foreign-born in the United States was increasing, so was the total national population. Thus the proportion of native-born Americans remained relatively the same. Of course, many of the newly arrived immigrants, like the Gottfried Socolofsky III family, were young adults and they were soon contributing to the increase in native-born Americans. The chart for the late nineteenth century shows these trends:

SOME LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY USA  
POPULATION FIGURES

Year	Foreign born	Total Population	Percentage native born
1860	4,100,000	31,400,000	87
1880	6,600,000	50,100,000	87
1900	10,300,000	76,100,000	86.5

This chart fails to indicate that most of the immigrants to the United States settled in the region east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio Rivers. Even in the late nineteenth century when farming was the major occupation of Americans most of the immigrants of this period settled in the growing cities and gained employment in factories, mines, railroad



enterprises, and in mercantile establishments. While immigrants had been farmers or peasants in the old country, in the United States many were forced to change their line of work.

## 2. Immigration, a Product of Push and Pull Factors

Naturally, the migration of people from one country to another with the intention of permanent residence did not come without friction. There were the repelling factors that caused them to leave the homeland and the attracting features of the new country, but they were not clear-cut with the disadvantages entirely on the side of the old country. Immigrants had helped to build the United States, but with the passage of time the people who had arrived on American shores earlier began to look-down on later arrivals. Intolerance directed toward immigrants was more often attributed to the fact that they spoke a language other than English, held a religious belief other than Protestant Christianity, or were willing to accept lower pay for work than would native American workers. Perhaps, due to their choice of residence, the Socolofsky family was subjected to little intolerance.

## 3. Immigration and Kansas

In Kansas the proportion of foreign-born in the total population reached almost fourteen per cent in 1870 and declined with the rapid development of the state. Most foreign-born who came to Kansas were attracted by the free or cheap land and they sought to become farmers and land-owners. Urban areas also attracted some immigrants, but in Kansas in the 1870s these areas were few and relatively small.

## IV. RELOCATING IN MARION COUNTY

During the early years in Marion County the Socolofsky family moved at least three times in half a dozen years before locating in the boundary area of Clark and Colfax Townships in the north central part of the county. These early moves can be reconstructed, in general terms, from the oral

15  
traditions handed down within the family. In addition, certain public records available in later years, help to amplify the stories that are recalled.

### 1. Near Peabody

Soon after their arrival at Peabody the Gottfried Socolofsky III family, consisting of his wife, Katharina Elizabeth (Katy), his small sons Godfrey George (Gottfried IV), and Frederick William, and his sister, Johann, moved to a nearby farm owned by a Dane who was named Petersen. The specific location is in doubt (probably northeast of Peabody) but the Petersens were remembered as fair employers. It is likely that Gottfried III, who was paid twelve dollars a month by Mr. Petersen, did not work there very long.

### 2. Near Lehigh

Sometime before August, 1877, Gottfried contracted for the rent or purchase of an eighty-acre tract of land that was located fifteen miles north and west of Peabody. No deed was ever recorded in the Socolofsky name for this eighty acres. This land was located very near the Marion-McPherson county boundary, probably in northwest Menno Township. The future town of Lehigh would be about four miles northeast of this land. Lehigh, established in 1879, was developed when the Marion-McPherson branch of the Santa Fe railroad was completed in this section of the country.

## V. EMIGRATION FOR GOTTFRIED'S PARENTS AND FAMILY

Apparently the folks back in Russia were told through letters sent to them of developments, for they were making plans to follow the younger Gottfried. David D. Socolofsky, seventy-six years later, recalled this trip as follows:

In 1877 I came to America with my parents. I well remember my father's saying that when we got to America we would have to give two for one, meaning that we would have to give two rubles for

one dollar. From Drei Spitz [Dreisnitz] to Saratov, a distance of 50 American miles, we traveled by covered wagons. There were seven families in the caravan. It was in the month of August [probably June or July] and there were flowers on the steppes (prairie) along the way. We children often dropped off the wagons to pick flowers and then ran to catch up with the respective wagons. At Saratov, my parents, at the age of 57 years, [according to scant records his father would have been 52, his mother 49] saw the [ir] first railroad train. I remember that I watched the train move up past the depot platform and I plainly remember that the front of the engine, the part called the cow catcher, was of wood. From Saratov our whole company went by train to Bremen, Germany, where we took a boat. The trip must have taken several days. On this trip we stopped overnight at Liverpool, England. We arrived at Liverpool in the evening. Our boat must have taken on a lot of cargo and more passengers here. When our boat approached the dock at Liverpool all passengers on board stepped to the side of the boat toward the dock, which overbalanced the boat to such an extent that we were worried about the boat staying right side up. After the completion of the boat's mission at Liverpool we were all set for the 3,000 mile trip to New York. The motor power of our boat was a combination of sails and steam; either was used, according to the condition of the elements. The trip across the Atlantic required 16 days. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the time the weather was favorable. We encountered some very severe storms and came nearly being sunk by a boat that had failed to take in its sails before the storm struck it and was now unable to direct its course; consequently it was driven by the storm, coming directly toward our boat and nosed, with its front end, over the iron rail and back end of our boat, laying flat the heavy iron railing and the back mast of our boat. The officer of our boat, at the helm, saw this boat so that the collision was just a strafing [glancing blow] and not a direct hit. Had it been a direct hit I would not be writing this story, as we all would have been drowned. After the above excitement all went well the rest of the way. Just before reaching the harbor at

New York we met the Goddess of Liberty, [D.D. must have seen it some other time as the statue was given to the United States in 1884 and not erected until 1886] which I remember noticing and admiring. Here our boat cast anchor and we were set for quarantine. After the time of quarantining, a pilot came from New York harbor by a rowboat, who piloted our boat into the docking berth and we all disembarked into Castle Garden. Here we remained, a day or two and then boarded a train for Peabody, Kansas, where we arrived about the middle of August, 1877. I well remember that father had 50¢ left out of all his life's savings to date. For this 50¢ he bought a 50-lb. sack of flour. Three years previous [it should be one year] he had paid the fares to come to America for Uncle Godfrey, George, and Aunt Kate and children, [D.D. was writing for his children, thus the use of "Uncle" and "Aunt"] also the living for them on the trip as well as all clothes and shoes for them. Now he did the same for six of us: father, mother, Uncle Andrew, Uncle Rhine, Aunt Kate (later Mrs. Friesen), and last but not least myself. The living on a trip of that kind was not too expensive, as we lived very simply. I remember my mother had prepared a 50-lb. sack full of well-toasted bread for the trip, as that kept and was fine for toast soup, for dunking, or for eating dry. We also brought some meat prepared so we could carry it on the trip. We arrived at Peabody, Kansas, in the evening. We all put up for the night on the floor of the depot waiting-room, using our immigrant parcels for bed comforts. We had notified Uncle Godfrey when we would arrive. I well remember him coming into the depot waiting room and looking to see when he could locate us. He must have started from home early in the evening, as he was traveling by a yoke of oxen and large wagon, a distance of about 15 miles, and arrived in Peabody about 4:30 a.m. Uncle Godfrey and family and Uncle George had come over three years [one year] previous to our coming and had obligated himself for an 80-acre farm, had acquired a white ox and a red spotted ox and a white cow with a red head. The white ox was called Ross and the spotted one Ben. He had also a wagon, was really well started for a beginner in a new country. The location was four

miles southwest of Lehigh, Kansas. We loaded all our belongings into the wagon and started out on our 15-mile trip. We urged Ross and Ben all day long and arrived at Uncle Godfrey's place about 5 p.m. and were all happily united after three years one year of separation. Uncle Godfrey and family lived with some neighbors in pioneer style.



In later years a Socolofsky cousin, Fred, made his way, with his family, from Russia to Marion County. Katy's aged parents (her father and step mother) came, as did a half sister (Mrs. Gottfried Schick) known to everyone as "Aunt Schick," a sister Mrs. David Meier, and a step sister, Mrs. Frederick Dick. But many others among the relation, including one of Katy's sisters, a Mrs. Steinle, stayed in the land of their birth.

With much more manpower available and many more people to shelter the reunited Socolofsky family built a sodhouse, eighteen by thirty feet in size. The ground floor was divided into two rooms and the attic, under its roof of thatched slough grass, was used as sleeping quarters for many of the members of the three-generation, eleven-person family. The cost of this house was said to be \$200, well above the cheapest sodhouses constructed in Kansas, where the cash outlay was as low as \$2 or \$3. The money probably bought additional wood and glass windows, and other refinements used in construction. This house was remembered as warm and adequate for the whole family. It provided an auspicious beginning for the growing family.

On this eighty-acre farm in western Marion County, Gottfried III and Katy's third child and first daughter, Maria Elizabeth, was born August 14, 1878. Stories of hardship in this period are rare. Instead it was remembered that Gottfried worked in the harvest near Lindsborg, tying bundles behind a cutter and stacking wheat for 27¢ per day. He was fed well and housed by his Swedish employers. He worked after the harvest was completed in a quarry for the same wage. Since he was working six full days each week with only Sundays off and his family was about twenty-five miles away, he had difficulty getting home to see them. He did not have a horse and walking was the only form of transportation available to him. On one occasion he bought a sack of flour--either 48 or 96 pounds--and carried it home on his shoulders.

## VI. REMOVAL TO CENTRE TOWNSHIP

Oral reports, in this period, provide the basic information. Sometime in 1879 or 1880 the eighty acre farm was disposed of and the family moved to the extreme northern extension of Centre Township. They located about four and one-half miles north of the county seat of Marion County, then known as Marion Centre. They must have been established on an unimproved tract of 152.52 acres, part of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe land grant even before agreement was made on the purchase. The federal census, taken in June, 1880, located the entire family in Centre Township and the purchase from the railroad company came on October 13, 1880. This land was the Southwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 19 South, Range 4 East of the Sixth Principal Meridian and cost \$6 per acre, a total of \$915.12.

### 1. Building Another House

In their new location the Socolofsky family again had to build a house and other buildings. Because construction rock was plentiful it was used for the new house which was about twenty by thirty-two feet. This stone house was one story with an attic and covered with a thatched roof. The lower floor was divided into a large kitchen with

a dining nook and a large room where all the married couples slept. Sleeping quarters for everyone else were in the attic on the floor. A barn, made of straw was also quickly erected to provide shelter for livestock. Nearby a granary was built of wood frame construction.

## 2. Planting Trees

**S**eedling trees, especially cottonwoods, were brought from a nearby stream and a grove was started along a winding creek near the farmstead. Frederick, who was four years of age in 1880, remembered helping to set out these trees. An orchard and vineyard were also started near the house. With four grown men around, changes could take place rapidly and additional land was rented from neighbors.

## 3. The 1880 Federal Census

**I**n 1880 the federal census taker came by to take the enumeration and another way of spelling the Socolofsky name slipped into official government documents. The following is a copy of the manuscript census taken in 1880:

### ENUMERATION FOR DWELLING HOUSE #38, AND FAMILY #39 VISITED FOR CENTRE TOWNSHIP, 1880, FEDERAL CENSUS

Family Name	Personal Name	Age	Occupation
Sogloskey,	Godfrey	54	Farmer
-----	Marie	50	Wife, keeps house
-----	Godfrey	25	Son, Farmer
-----	Andreas	22	" "
-----	John [George]	17	" "
-----	Rhinehardt	12	" "
-----	David	10	" "
-----	Catherine	26	Daughter-in-law, keeps house
-----	Godfrey	6	Grandson
-----	Frederick	4	" "
-----	Marie	2	Granddaughter

**B**oth Rhinehardt and David had a check in column headed "Attended School last year, cannot read or write." Only the two-year-old Marie [Mary] had Kansas listed as a birthplace. For all others Russia was the birthplace as well as the birthplace of both father and mother. Again the spelling of the name can be attributed to an English speaking person taking down the name as given to him in German. It is not difficult to see the spelling of Gottfried, Maria, and Andrew handled as they were, but how did George get identified as John? Katherine in 1880 had been married to Abraham Friesen a year or more. They were recorded in the census report for Liberty Township, ten or more miles to the southwest. Her age was shown as twenty-one and her husband as twenty-eight. Their first child, Marie, was shown as two months old.

## VII. DEATH OF GOTTFRIED II AND DISPOSITION OF HIS ESTATE

**H**appiness and tragedy struck the Socolofsky family in the months following the visit from the census-taker. Lydia, Gottfried and Katy's second daughter, was born July 25, 1880. About a year later the elder Gottfried (II) suffered a stroke and died. There was no mention of his death in the newspapers of Marion Centre but comments were frequent about the heat and the dryness that summer. The body of Gottfried Socolofsky II was buried in a pasture some two miles west of the farm north of Marion. His son, Andrew, planned to put a fence around the grave. In later years this burial place was in the middle of the pasture where the Strassburg Baptist Church was located, and no trace of either the grave site nor the fence could be seen.

## 1. The Farm near Wren School

**F**or several years the family stayed on the farm north of Marion. Because a country school, known as the Wren School, was located nearby, this place was later referred to as the

farm near the Wren School. Gottfried and Andrew farmed the quarter section, George was hired out to neighbors and Rhinehardt and David attended the four month school term held each year. Katharinne does not enter the stories of these years for she had her own family to care for. Abraham Friesen, her husband, was a farmer and a teacher of a German private school that was located at some distance from the Wren School farm.

was assumed that his primary possession was the farm north of Marion. John Aumann, F. R. Krueger and Isaac Good were appointed by the court to appraise the property and Jacob Ehrlich was appointed as administrator of the estate. A \$2,000 bond was posted with Jacob Ehrlich as principal and Heinrich Mohn and Johannes Ehrlich as sureties. The private sale of the quarter-section farm was made on March 3, 1883, to Andrew Socolofsky for \$1,000, and he subsequently sold to

The Five Socolofsky  
Brothers in the Late  
1880s



(l. to r. George, Andrew, Rhinehardt, Gottfried, David D.)

## 2. Disposition of the Estate of Gottfried II

On April 1, 1882, the probate of the estate of Gottfried Socolofsky II, deceased, was initiated in the Marion County Probate Court. Interestingly and unusual, there was no date of death shown on any of the papers connected with this case. Since he had died without making a will it

Gottfried Schneider. A short time later the \$10 court costs were paid and the final settlement was made July 7, 1883. One place in this court record has the family name spelled Sucolovfske, an accurate rendition of the German pronunciation of the name.

No doubt there were expenses over and above the court costs. David D. Socolofsky indicated that his share, "principally through the courtesy" of his older brothers was \$125, payable when he reached the age of

twenty-one. His guardian until then was Jacob Ehrlich. Apparently there was no provision in this court settlement for either the widow or the daughter, because the male members of the family privately agreed to care for them. Katharinne had her own husband and family and during the remaining twenty years she was to live, Maria K. Socolofsky made her home with one of her sons. One state census record shows her living with Rhinehardt, and for a number of years in Marion she kept house for D.D. When he married she moved back to the home of her eldest son, Gottfried, where she died October 24, 1901.



Maria's grave marker in Mohn Cemetery

### 3. The Daughter Objects

**K**atharinne Friesen had not participated in the settlement of her father's estate and the court was negligent in considering her rights. Because she had failed to present her own case for a share rightfully hers, she harbored deep resentment which was disclosed thirty years later in a pathetic letter to the Marion County Probate Judge. She requested advice on the procedure she should take to claim her share of the estate. She stated that her brothers had appointed Jacob Ehrlich as administrator

and that he had divided the property in the old country way, meaning, that the division was made among the sons with nothing for the female heirs. In any event she believed that her share was \$225 and that her oldest brother, Gottfried, now had it. She further suggested, in the letter to the judge, that she should be able to get her share plus interest at the rate of ten per cent. The amount of the estate received by the older brothers was not shown in the probate court records, but it seems obvious that Katharinne's estimate of an individual share was too large.

### VIII. RE-LOCATION TO THE MUD CREEK FARMS

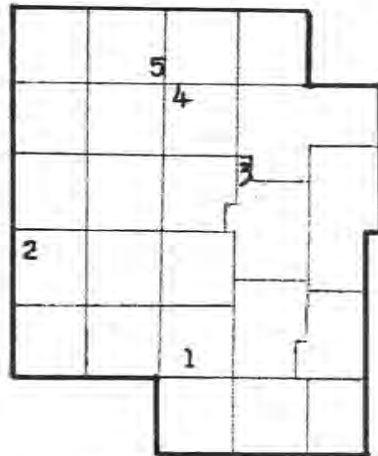
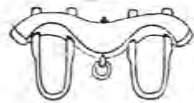
**M**any years later David D. Socolofsky wrote that the "system we operated under on the Marion farm was not very satisfactory so the folks agreed to sell this farm and go out further and each of my three older brothers bought a farm; also my brother-in-law bought 160 acres in the immediate neighborhood." The new farms were located ten miles northwesterly up the valley of Mud Creek and again the Socolofsky family was facing the job of carving a farm out of virgin prairie. The contracts for buying the land were entered into early in 1883, but with crops to harvest on the farm near the Wren School, the move to the new location by all members of the family did not take place until late that year. David D. Socolofsky recalled that Gottfried III "built a partly



finished house on his farm and my mother and I became the vanguard of our settling there. Our nearest neighbor was a mile away and we considered ourselves rather isolated and were never appreciative of the nightly coyote choruses which made shivers run up our spines." David's time from early spring through sum-

mer until after corn harvest was spent herding 150 head of cattle on "the wide open range adjacent to our farm."

Marion County showing township boundaries

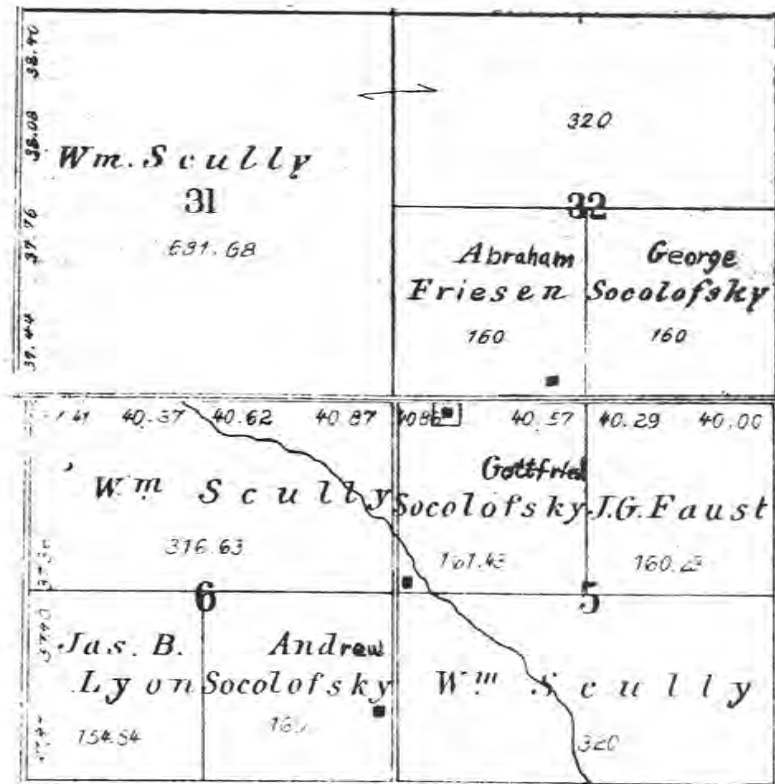


The map above shows the township boundaries in Marion County and the numbers indicate the various moves for Gottfried and Katy Socolofsky until they were located in their retirement home in Tampa. 1-Petersen's; 2-near Lehigh; 3-near Wren School; 4-the Mud Creek locations; and 5-Tampa.

Since Jacob Socolofsky, the third son of Gottfried and Katy, was born on February 3, 1883, it is reasonable to assume that his birthplace was the stone house on the farm north of Marion. The move north must have come either in late summer or after the first killing frost. For Gottfried and Katy this would be their last major move of residence. For Andrew, George, Katharinne and their families the Mud Creek locations proved only another way-stop on the path of later moves of great distance from Marion County.

The four quarter-sections acquired by the three brothers and their brother-in-law were located on three adjacent sections along the upper reaches of Mud Creek. The previous owners had held this unimproved land from eight to thirteen years. These people had acquired the land from the federal government for one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre or they had paid private owners a little more. A brief description of these unimproved farms is as follows:

New Owner	Description	Acres	Date	Seller
Gottfried Socolofsky	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 5-18-3	161.43	1/3/1883	Thomas Moonlight
Andrew Socolofsky	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 6-18-3	160.00	1/3/1883	Jas. B. Lyons
George Socolofsky	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 32-17-3	160.00	5/1/1883	J. M. Estep
Abraham Friesen	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 32-17-3	160.00	1/20/1883	Alex E. Case & Levi Billings



From 1885 Marion County Atlas

Costs of this land varied from \$620 for Gottfried to \$860 and \$900 for George and Andrew. Each new owner mortgaged his property for amounts far greater than the cost of the land at interest rates as high as twelve per cent. Improvements were quickly added to each farm. The 1880s were generally an optimistic time for the economy and for Kansas agriculture which was booming. The state census taken in 1885 certainly shows this optimism for each of these quarter-section farms was given a present cash value of \$3,500 to \$4,000, a sizable increase in two years. The value of implements and machinery for the brothers was \$200 each while Abraham Friesen's value was placed at \$500.

**C**rop acreage for each farm, as listed in 1885, provides evidence of many months of hard, physical labor in the first years to get these farms into production. Gottfried had 55 acres in winter wheat that year and the other farms each had 50 acres. Gottfried and Andrew planted 50 acres to corn that year, while George had 20 and Abraham 30. Abraham also sowed 30 acres to oats while Gottfried had 16, Andrew 10, and George, with no oats, had 6 acres in barley. Both Gottfried and Andrew cut 25 tons of prairie hay that year, while Abraham put up 15 tons and George 2 tons.

**T**he livestock numbers on these 1885 quarter-section farms also provides information for that early farming period. Horses numbered 6 for Andrew and Abraham, 7 for George, and 8 for Gottfried. Milch (or milk) cows were 9 for Gottfried, 4 for Andrew, 6 for George, 3 for Abraham, and other cattle numbered 16, 11, 7, and 2. Swine in the same order totalled 16, 21, 10, and 30. Only George had sheep--a total of 22, although Andrew reported 3 sheep killed by dogs. Each family had at least one dog.

All of the new farm owners, except George, had orchards planted in 1885. Apples, peaches and cherries were the preferred fruit trees, but pear and plum trees were also planted. Only Gottfried showed any artificial forest that year with one-half acre of cottonwoods.

Other economic data from the 1885 census shows some garden produce sold, the sale of about \$10 per

farm for poultry and eggs, and about one hundred pounds of butter produced on each farm. The value of animals slaughtered ranged from nothing for Andrew, \$50 each for Gottfried and George to \$86 for Abraham.

### 1. Stories of These Early Years

**H**ere in the Mud Creek house in Clark Township, Katy gave birth to her youngest four children, all boys; Daniel born on June 3, 1885; Abraham, November 23, 1887; Benjamin, May 10, 1890; and William Frederick on January 26, 1893. All of her nine children were born at home without a doctor's assistance. No children were lost through injury or disease, an unusual situation for a family of nine children in the late nineteenth century. There were countless small accidents and a few big ones, but the family thrived even without the kind of care that could be given by modern medical science. Others were not so fortunate. For instance, Andrew and Mary Socolofsky, neighbors and close relatives of the Gottfried Socolofskys, lost four children in infancy.

The farm near the Wren School and the farm along Mud Creek were easily recalled by the older members of the Socolofsky family. David remembered a personal injury while still living near Wren School. Frank, a horse they owned, bit off his right index finger. It may have been at that place or along Mud Creek that Fred was bitten by a rattlesnake when he, with his older brother Godfrey, was taking lunch to his father who was working in the field. The father quickly cut the wound deeper and made it bleed freely. Then he dug a hole deep enough for Fred's foot, poured water in it to make a slushy mud and had Fred keep his leg in the hole until the swelling from the snake bite had gone down. Abe remembered how the end of his ring finger on his right hand, from about the base of the nail, was chopped off in a feed chopper and he was startled to see a chicken making off with the little piece of finger. Dan remembered that William was kicked in the face by a colt when he was about three years old. William carried the scar from that injury all his days.

There were many other stories about the farm along Mud Creek for here, for only a little while, all of



the nine children were together with their parents. Almost nineteen years separated the eldest from the youngest and by the time William was born in 1893 the older children were about ready to leave home. According to Dan the original house on Mud Creek faced east and there was a lean-to on the west. This time the house was made of wood as rock was distant from the Mud Creek farm. Apparently the downstairs rooms were finished inside but upstairs in the attic the rafters were exposed. This area was used as sleeping quarters for many in the family and to keep warm in winters they slept under featherbeds. This house was located in the southwest corner of the quarter section and was separated from most of the rest of the land by Mud Creek. Andrew's house was not far away as it was on the northeast corner of his quarter section which cornered on the one acquired by Gottfried.

## 2. Gottfried and Andrew

**G**ottfried III and Andrew, as the two oldest brothers with only three years between them in age, were close friends who liked to do things together. They were separated during the year that Gottfried had gone ahead to Kansas, but after that they farmed together, and made decisions affecting their respective families after consultation. For ten years on the land beside Mud Creek, their farms were adjacent and their houses were near. Their wives noticed that they did everything together and that even their orchards were almost identical in number and variety of trees. Mary Catherine, Andrew's wife, humorously said that Andrew and Gottfried "ought to get married. If one went to town the other had to go too."

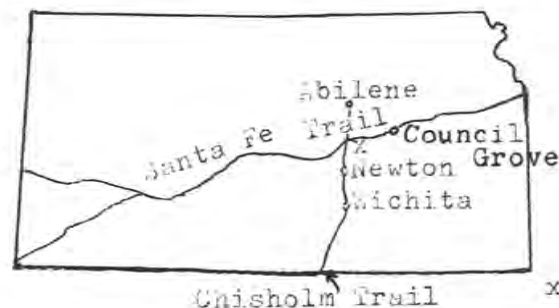
## 3. Mud Creek

**M**ud Creek was an attractive place to play as it was generally a small stream with minimal dangers. As the older children were assigned the care of the younger ones it was surprising that injuries were not more numerous. For instance, Fred, Mary, and Lydia were given the task of taking care of the infants Jacob and cousin Solomon, who was the eldest of Andrew's children. They wanted to go swimming in Mud Creek so they took the babies along in a tub and took them into the water. The stories that are recalled do not usually say whether the parents were informed of such escapades.

Mud creek was a source of fish in that period and many in the family enjoyed catching bullheads, sunfish, and some larger fish. The water ran clear and there were a few deep holes especially attractive for fishing. The fish which were caught and cleaned were cooked by the children over a fire in an outdoor stove. With the plowing of the virgin prairie along the upper limits of this stream the deeper holes began to fill in, the water became cloudy from silt and the larger fish in the creek were gone. Fishing in later years was of little attraction in this area of Mud Creek.

## 4. Location Near Famous Trails

**T**he well-defined route of the Santa Fe Trail used regularly after 1820 crossed northern Marion County. Lost Springs, Tampa and Durham were situated almost on the trail, and the Mud Creek farms were only a few miles south of this significant and widely used thoroughfare. However, the Santa Fe Trail, in this region, was little used after 1870 when the railroad was completed from Kansas City to Denver. Another nationally-known route, the Chisholm Trail, had an even shorter life history. This trail, used to drive Texas longhorns to Abilene and other Kansas cattle towns, was a north-south path through western Marion County. Abandoned in this county in 1872, when Abilene's cowtown days were over, this route was some five miles west of the Mud Creek farms.



The Chisholm and Santa Fe Trails within the State of Kansas

x - Mud Creek Farms

## 5. Leasing Scully Land

**S**oon after the Socolofsky brothers located beside Mud Creek, George and Gottfried rented additional land from William Scully who

owned a large amount of Marion County property. Scully made his first purchases in Kansas in 1870 and at first his land was idle and unused except for wild animals and half-wild cattle that pastured in that region of the county. With the arrival of large numbers of settlers Scully's land became desirable. Scully refused to sell but he was willing to rent his land. On March 25, 1884, George Socolofsky made an agreement with A. E. Case, of Marion, who was acting as Scully's agent, to rent the southwest quarter of section 33-17-3, which was located across the section line east of his farm. The five year lease required payment of taxes and rent on November 1 each year. In return for the use of the 160 acres, which was probably virgin land when he got it, George was obliged to pay the taxes in 1884 and in 1885. In 1886 he was to pay taxes plus \$40, in 1887, taxes plus \$100, and in 1888, the taxes plus \$120. On March 31, 1884, Gottfried made a similar arrangement for the use of the northeast quarter of section 6-18-3 which was located just west of his own farm. His rental for this land was identical to that agreed to by George except that he paid \$22.85 on signing the lease. In both cases these leases spelled the family name, Socolofski.

5. SUMMARY OF IRREGULAR  
SPELLINGS OF SOCOLOFSKY

Salonske	As passengers on the <u>City of Berlin</u> , June, 1876
Sogloskey	On Federal census, 1880
Sucolovfske	One place in probated estate records for Gottfried II, 1883
Socolosky	Sale of farm near Wren School to Andrew, 1883
Socolofski	On first Scully lease, 1884

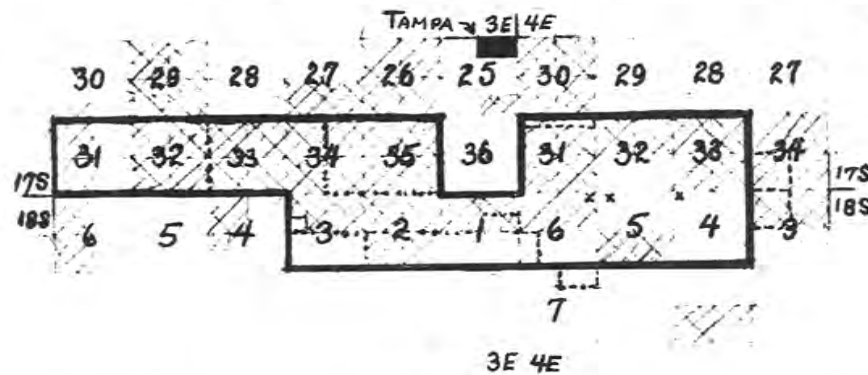
6. School District #91

The same month that the leases for Scully land were signed by George and Gottfried formal plans were initiated for a new school district in the area. Rural schools had already been developed in Clark township and one, the Belton School, was located about two and one-half miles southeast. David had gone to school there the first year the family settled along Mud Creek but a school near to the growing Socolofsky families was considered appropriate. The twenty day notice for the formation of School District number 91 was issued March 15, 1884, with another notice posted March 22. The county superintendent declared the district formed on April 26, 1884 and the notice of the first school district meeting, to be held June 7, 1884, was posted May 28. It is not illogical to consider the formation of this school district to be closely related to the leasing of Scully land by George and Gottfried Socolofsky, because ten and fifteen-sixteenths sections of the original fourteen sections in this district was owned by William Scully. Three quarters of one section of the remaining three and one-sixteenth sections was Socolofsky land and a brother-in-law, A. B. Friesen, was located on another quarter section.

a. district boundaries

When the first official meeting of Marion County's School District number 91 was held on June 7, 1884, the organization of the district was perfected through the election of officers. The three-member school board was director, Gottfried Socolofsky; clerk, A. B. Friesen; and treasurer, Andrew Socolofsky. The post office for these school patrons was listed as Galle, actually Gale Post Office which existed from November 8, 1883, until it was closed on August 9, 1887. The original boundaries of District #91 are shown on the map below. Tampa came into existence early in 1888 in anticipation of the construction of the Rock Island. A new district school located there resulted in detaching some of the land from District #91 and in later years there were other changes. The shaded land on this map was owned by William Scully.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #91, Marion County



Boundaries as formed April 24, 1884

Changes:

- E $\frac{1}{2}$ 34 & all 35 (T17S-R3E) detached on 7/20/88
- All 31 & 32 (T17S-R3E) detached on 12/15/88
- S $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 & SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 1 (T18S-R3E) detached on 8/20/92
- N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 7 (T18S-R4E) added 2/13/93

Areas detached later:

- S $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 & NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 1 & S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 1 (T18S-R3E)
- & W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 (T18S-R4E) & N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 31 &
- N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 31 (T17S-R4E)

Areas added later:

- SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 34 (T17S-R4E) & NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 3 (T18S-R4E)

Schoolhouse locations: X

Original map says it was NE corner, Sec. 6, but it was actually about 40 rods east of NW corner of Sec. 5. Later it was moved to NW corner of Sec. 4.

Twenty scholars were reported on September 1, 1884, and these could legally include all persons in the district between the ages of 5 and 21. Six Socolofskys were registered: Gorch [George], Reinhart, Got[t]fried IV, Friedrich, and Mari. The six other family names were Da[h]linger, Dinkelaker, Schneider, Trieber, Duobald, and Katzlof.

b. expenditures in the early years

The first teacher for District 91 was Charles Brewer and the initial year's expenses were high, largely because of the cost of the new

building and its furniture. The expenses as reported August 13, 1885, were:

For Teacher	\$ 180.00
Rents, Repairs, Fuel, etc.	10.85
Books	38.40
Globes, Maps, etc.	189.82
Sites, Buildings & Furniture	800.00
Total	\$1,219.07

As the receipts in 1885 were \$1,222.91, the district had a slight balance for its first year of operation. The budgets in subsequent years give a better idea of school costs in the 1880s and later. The first year the school was open for four months in accordance with state law. Although Kansas law increased the minimum school term to five months in 1903, District #91 usually did better. For example, six months was more typical in the 1880s and 1890s and was reflected in the larger pay for the teacher. The annual report for 1889 showed that school was held seven months that year.



District #91, 1911. Virginia #9; Kathryn #18

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #91

Year	Receipts	Expenditures	Teacher's Salary
1886	\$463.36	\$240.00	\$240.00
1887	454.03	345.98	240.00
1888	410.93	333.40	270.00
1889	527.27	442.15	350.00
1890	541.38	511.29	300.00
1891	482.00	469.60	282.00
1892	unlisted	unlisted	330.00
1893	485.03	390.55	330.00
1894	444.23	419.06	330.00
1895	392.13	359.01	252.00
1896	429.00	412.42	252.00
1897	448.53	329.00	228.00
1898	400.18	387.06	270.00
1899	607.22	356.75	255.00
1900	320.00	325.13*	240.00
1901	363.31	338.12	256.00
1902	360.13	361.03	240.00
1903	433.00	433.00	270.00
1904	358.00	357.01	300.00
1905	404.00	404.00	322.50
1906	387.15	382.15	382.15
1907	678.24	270.91	245.00
1908	518.00	390.37	276.00
1909	328.35	374.69	374.69
1910	-----	-----	-----
1911	1,954.45	1,873.35**	168.00

\* \$5.13 overpaid by District Treas.

\*\* Moved to new site and built a new building--total cost \$1,559.07

Sample teacher salaries in later years were \$65.75 per month in 1901, the highest to that time \$60 per month for twenty-seven and three-fifths weeks in 1913; \$100 per month in 1923; and down to \$80 per month in 1931. A listing of the teachers to 1933 is as follows:

c. teachers to 1933

1885	- Charles Brewer
1886	- Abraham Hall
1887	- Eva A. Brown
1888-89	- Pauline Rausch
1890-91	- David D. Socolofsky
1892	- E. E. Shaver
1893-94	- David D. Socolofsky
1895	- Jacob B. Ehrlich
1896	- Solomon Meyer
1897	- N. J. Meyer and Solomon Meyer
1898	- Solomon Meyer
1899	- A. E. Welsh
1900	- G. J. Huenergardt
1901	- E. A. Spody
1902	- Amy E. Shaver
1903-06	- T. J. Noone
1907	- Nellie Kraus
1908	- M. E. Beisel
1909	- Harvey Manahan and Phoebe Peterson
1910-11	- Phoebe Peterson
1912	- Mary Beisel
1913-14	- Wm. R. Frazer
1915	- Ellis G. Christensen
1916	- Isador Sklenar
1917-18	- Beth Frazer (Wm's sister)
1919	- Mildred Bowlby
1920-21	- La Venia F. Simmons
1922-23	- Helen Jacobs
1924	- Mary B. Thies
1925	- Wm. A. Krch
1926	- Frank W. Pecinovsky
1927	- Frank E. Duggan
1928	- Emil R. Schwemmer
1929-30	- Irene Pospisil
1931-33	- Phyllis Fowler



## d. Socolofskys in district #91

Name	Other names used	Child of	Years registered and ages
George Rhinehardt	Gorch Reinhart, R.H. Reinhard	1 1	1884, age 19 1884-90; 15-20
David	D. D.	1	1884-88; 13-18
Godfrey G.	Gottfried G.	2	1884-94; 9-20
F. W.	Friedrich W.	2	1884-98; 7-20
Mary	Maria E., Mari	2	1884-98; 5-19
Julia	Juli, Jullie, July, Julie	3	1885-90; 15-21
Lydia	Liedea, Lidia, Lidy	2	1885-98; 5-18
Amelia		3	1888-92; 12-15
Jacob		2	1888-98; 5-15
David		3	1888-92; 5-8
John	Johannes	4	1888-98; 5-15
Solomon	Sallomon, Sal- mon	5	1889-95; 5-10
Hannah	Hanna, Hany, Hana	4	1891-98; 6-13
Leah	Lea	4	1892-98; 6-11
Daniel	Danial	2	1892-98; 6-13
Karl		5	1892-94; 6-8
Abraham	Ab, Abe	2	1893-05; 6-17
Alexander	Alex	4	1895-01; 5-11
Benjamin	Ben, Benny, Bennie	2	1895-09; 5-19
Paulena	Paulina, Lena	4	1897-01; 6-9
William	Wilhelm, Willy, Willie	2	1899-13; 6-20
George		4	1899-01; 5-7
Emmanuel		4	1901; 5
Virginia		6	1908-19; 8-19
Kathryn	Catherine, Katherine	6	1908-23; 6-19
Edna		6	1912-25; 5-20
Charles		6	1918-33; 5-20

Also---

Maria Friesen		7	1886-92; 6-11
Lydia	" Lidi	7	1888-92; 5-10
Sally	"	7	1892; 6

1 stands for child of Gottfried II; 2 - Gottfried III; 3 - Cousin Fred; 4 - George; 5 - Andrew; 6 - Godfrey G.; and 7 - Katharinne Socolofsky Friesen.



Interior, Comet School, about 1909

**B**y 1888 the only family names for the twenty registered students were Socolofsky, Friesen and Mohn. Other names on the class roll through 1909 were Hiebert, Michel, Zimmerman, Schneider (Snyder), Ebel (Obl or Ebel), Held, Fromm (From), Beisel, Krautz, Kraus, Steinly, Schultz, Eitel, Safarak, Grenz (Grantz), Laphoff, Hauser, Kastelo (Costello), Sappington, Stenzel, Muller (Miller), Schwien, Vogel, Kraft, Reh, Goodwin, Morlong, Rhode, Young, Popp, Holub, John and Bruner. Since many of these names appeared for only one or two years it seems that they were from families that did not stay long in the neighborhood.

e. changes in governing board for the district

The three-man school board, according to Kansas law, was elected to three year terms, staggered so that one member was replaced each year. The Socolofskys and their relatives made no effort to retain the monopoly shown by the board in the first few years. The first change came in 1892 when Jacob Michel replaced Abraham Friesen who moved from the district. The following year G. G. Socolofsky became director, replacing his father and Henry Grentz took over Andrew's treasurer position. In the next few years the board had John Yakel, Henry Fromm, J. Henry Mohn, and other Socolofskys--George, Frederick W., and Lydia. In addition Gottfried and Andrew served in subsequent years in different positions. Lydia's election as treasurer of the school board for district 91 was not typical of this period when male dominance was expected in all public positions, but it was perfectly in accord with Kansas school law. Moreover, students in this district school were generally well-behaved. Women teachers were employed and their salary was much the same as that paid men teachers. This equality was unheard of in many school districts in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. At the same time it must be admitted that males were favored by society of that time and that such was likely in the case of the Socolofsky family. Male chauvinism? Yes--some, but it did not get strenuous support.

f. D. D. as teacher

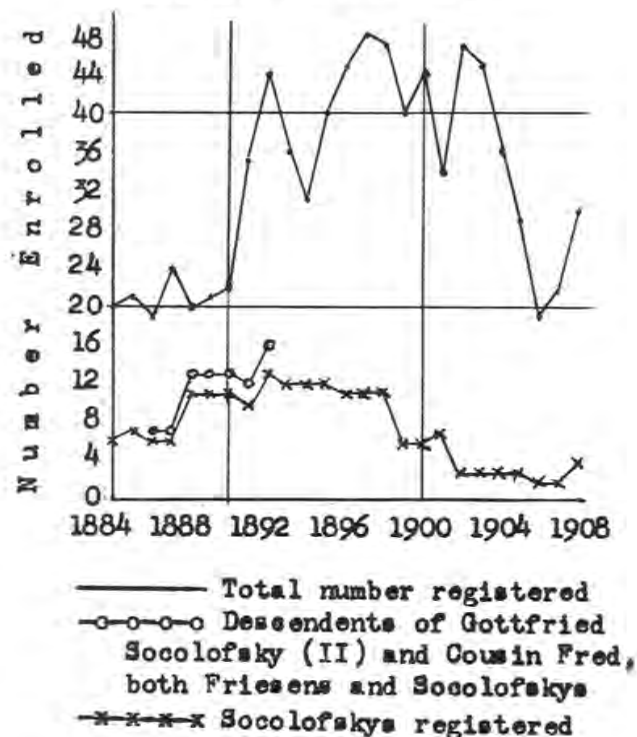
David D. Socolofsky was greatly admired as a teacher by his nephews and nieces and he had fond memories of teaching in his home district. After completing the final grades at district 91 he attended a German parochial school at Canada, sponsored by the Ebenfeld Mennonite Brethren Church. He then worked for the Rock Island and later the Missouri Pacific out of Herington at \$1.40 a day which was three times what he could get as a farm worker. In the fall of 1887 he enrolled at the Kansas State Normal School at Emporia, where his expenses for the year took \$120 of the \$200 he had saved. He taught school in 1888-89 and then was invited to return to the home

district, where he taught a total of four years.

In 1890 at the completion of a twenty-four week session in District 91 taught by D. D. Socolofsky, the annual report to the County Superintendent was as complete as any turned in from this school. The value of the buildings had increased to \$1,375 and the report included the names of the texts in use in this school. Since Kansas schools were somewhat limited in their choice by action of a state agency, the texts used in District #91 are of interest. They were Appleton's Chart, Spencerian Writing, Barnes, first, second, third and fourth readers, Montieith Geography, Ray's Arithmetic, Barnes Physiology & Hygiene, Monroe Speller, and Green's Introduction of Language.

Attendance from Registration

Lists for District #91



**M**ost of the teachers in this district in the early days had second grade teaching certificates, and had completed a normal training program in a high school. A few had third grade certificates which was a poorer level of preparation, and several had first grade certificates. Teacher certification changed greatly after World War I and placed more responsibility for proper credentials on a state certification board.

School district number 91 had an important Americanizing influence upon the Socolofskys. For many the Public School provided their first lengthy contact with the English language, the required language of instruction in Kansas schools. Some knew no English when they started to school and in the second generation there were persons who never quite made the transition to English. Their spoken English was flavored with their native language--German.

Although state law permitted registration of scholars through age 21, the registrants during a school term might be far different from those actually in regular attendance. Compulsory school attendance laws were laxly enforced. The rigorous farming schedule in the early years did not permit much time for formal schooling and among the older members of the family some did not receive a full term of school attendance in any of their years of residence in district 91. For example, prior to his decision to enter the ministry in the late 1890s, Frederick W. Socolofsky's formal schooling was limited to brief attendance, carrying through the fourth reader.

David D. Socolofsky completed his work at district 91 in 1886, probably the first member of the family to go that far in an American school. He recalled that he worked for his brother Gottfried III for his board and room during his last few years in the district school. His regular schedule began each day at 4:30 a.m. when he was awakened by his mother. He studied for an hour, did chores until 8:00 a.m., ate his breakfast and ran the half mile to school. His chores included feeding stock and on some freezing winter days he not only had to break ice so that the cattle and horses could drink, but he also lifted heavy shocks of fodder onto a wagon with snow getting

inside his clothes. His mittens and socks almost seemed to freeze solid. In spite of such hardships he felt "lucky to be able to . . . attend school."

**I**n later years students who completed the work offered in the district school were required to complete satisfactorily a county examination to be counted as a graduate of the country schools. When Abraham Socolofsky successfully passed the county examination in 1905 his teacher T. J. Noone wrote him a complimentary letter saying, "I am glad that I had one scholar who stood up for Dist. 91 to the last. . . .I hope the three who failed will not be discouraged and quit school. . . . and I assure you that it is quite an honor to be the only graduate in your Dist."

g. the land for the school

**G**ottfried Socolofsky III provided one acre for the school house site for district number 91 along the north boundary of his quarter section. There is no deed record indicating the transfer of this land to the school and it is generally believed that the land was given without compensation. During the years that the schoolhouse was located at a point just east of the road through the northwest quarter of section five the annual expenses ranged from a low of \$240 in 1885 to a peak of \$511.29 in 1890. In 1911 a new schoolhouse, at a cost of \$1,559.07 for building, site, and furniture, was erected on the northwest quarter of section four, about one mile east. By that time the extensive Socolofsky involvement with district 91 had been reduced to a single family, that of G. G., although it was true that his brother William was registered for a few more years.

**I**n the early years most of the work in this and other country schools was ungraded--a scholar progressed through a series of increasingly difficult readers and other texts. The district in 1905 had five grades plus a group of students who prepared for the county examination. However, unlike later grade levels, the beginning class was "Grade V" from which a scholar advanced through grades IV, III, II and eventually to "Grade I." After that he spent his time preparing for the examination

given by the county superintendent. A few years later the familiar grade organization, beginning with first grade and going through the eighth grade was in use for district number 91.

h. teacher souvenirs

The next few pages show some examples of souvenirs given by teachers to their students at the end of the year. Of interest, is the fact that this district had been identified since its organization by the number 91, which was derived from the fact that it was the ninety-first district organized in the county. In reporting the annual meeting



1896 Solomon Meyer Teacher

Pupils.

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| F. W. Socolofsky    | Alexander Kraft      |
| Maria E. Socolofsky | Samuel Mohn          |
| Jacob Schnieder     | Mary J. Miller       |
| Karl R. Mohn        | Amelia E. Mohn       |
| Gottfried Schnieder | Anna Kraft           |
| Conrad Stenzel      | John Socolofsky      |
| Jacob Socolofsky    | Jacob Mohn           |
| Emanuel C. Mohn     | Leah Fromm           |
| Katie Grenz         | Emelia Mohn          |
| Danial Socolofsky   | John Mohn            |
| David Schnieder     | Hannah Socolofsky    |
| Karl Fromm          | Anna C. Mohn         |
| Abraham Socolofsky  | Leah Socolofsky      |
| Jacob Grenz         | Henry Fromm          |
| Danial Mohn         | James Costello       |
| John Costello       | Willie Costello      |
| Lydia Mohn          | Alexander Socolofsky |
| Benjamin Socolofsky | Danial Grenz         |
| Emma Fromm          | Hannah Kraft         |
| Henry Grenz         | Isaac Kraft          |

School District No. 91

Tampa, Marion Co., Kansas.

PRESENTED BY

S. Meyer,

TEACHER

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

G. G. Socolofsky      John Yakel  
Henry Grenz



on a form supplied by the county superintendent there were blanks to fill in for dates of the meeting and for other data unique to a single district. One line of the annual report was as follows: "of \_\_\_\_\_

School District No. \_\_\_\_\_, State of Kansas." On one report in the early 1900s the first blank was filled with the word "said"--earlier that blank was generally ignored. In the reports



Souvenir

Pupils.

PUBLIC SCHOOL.

District No. 91.

Clark Township  
Marion County, Kas.

1899 & 1900.

Compliments of

G. J. Huenergardt,  
TEACHER

SCHOOL BOARD:

F. W. Socolofsky, Henry Fromm,  
John Yakel.

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| John Socolofsky      | Jacob Socolofsky   |
| Daniel Socolofsky    | Leah Socolofsky    |
| K. R. Mohn           | Karl R. Fromm      |
| Jacob Mohn           | Emanuel Mohn       |
| Fred Meier           | Amelia Mohn        |
| Leah Fromm           | Abraham Socolofsky |
| Benjamin Socolofsky  | Anna Mohn          |
| David Schneider      | Daniel Mohn        |
| Henry Fromm          | Lydia Mohn         |
| Lena Socolofsky      | John Mohn          |
| Theodore Fromm       | Emma Fromm         |
| Jonas Mohn           | George Socolofsky  |
| Martha Yakel         | Benjamin Mohn      |
| Anna Reh             | Ferdinand Mohn     |
| Willie F. Socolofsky |                    |
| Alexander Socolofsky |                    |

for 1905, 1906, and 1907, the blank was filled with the name, "Socolofsky." No doubt there was some opposition to the use of a family name for this district school because in 1909 the annual report began the use of Comet School as the district's name.

i. district #91 disorganized

After 1933 no further Socolofsky names are found in the registration lists for District #91. As a matter of fact, some of the Socolofskys found on this list did not attend this rural school because they transferred to Tampa or elsewhere. In later years G. G. Socolofsky appeared in the annual report a number of times because he was asked to audit the treasurer's account at the meeting. On January 16,





Annual reports for District #91 in 1905, 1906, and 1907 used the name Soccolofsky or Soccolofsky's School.

1950, a special meeting of the voters of School District #91 was convened to disorganize this school district, which had operated as a separate taxing unit for seventy-four years. The nine voters present unanimously approved the following:

Motion was made by I. W. Sklenar & seconded by Alvin Novak That we disorganize Dist. No. 91 and annex to Dist. No. 110 all of Dist. No. 91 except the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34-17-3 in Colfax Twp. and the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 3-18-3 in Clark Twp. which voted to annex to Pilsen School Dist. 115.

The Office of County Superintendent has been eliminated in Kansas and school reorganization has vastly altered the pattern of administration. Whereas,

## SOCOLOFSKY'S Public School

DISTRICT No. 91.

CLARK TWP., MARION CO., KANSAS.

T. J. NOONE, TEACHER.

### Pupils

Abe Socolofsky	Emma Fromm
Henry Fromm	Benny Socolofsky
Daniel Mohn	Karl Fromm

#### GRADE I.

Dave Schneider	Adam Miller
Theodore Fromm	Benny Mohn
Lena Socolofsky	Willie Socolofsky
Ferdinand Mohn	Alexander Socolofsky

#### GRADE II.

David Schultz	Emanuel Fromm
Anna Reh	Andrew Schultz
George Socolofsky	Eva Fromm

#### GRADE III.

Lydia Miller	Charles Schultz
--------------	-----------------

#### GRADE IV.

Abraham Mohn	Willie Bertram
Mary Miller	Amelia Moorlong
John Young	Mary Meier

#### GRADE V.

Lydia Young	Willie Schultz
Emanuel Socolofsky	Ella Fromm
Mary Schultz	Elizabeth Reh

#### SCHOOL BOARD:

Henry Fromm,	John Mohn,
Lydia Socolofsky.	

Marion County at one time had about one hundred-twenty districts the entire State of Kansas has reorganized into about three hundred unified school districts. Most of the records of the disorganized districts, such as Marion County's School District No. 91, are retained in the court house of their home county.

### IX. NATURALIZED CITIZENS

About the same time the Socolofsky kin were getting established on the Mud Creek farms, various male members of the family took their first step toward citizenship. To obtain American citizenship a foreign-born resident was required to file in a designated court a formal document known as a "Declaration of Intention" to become a citizen.

Abe, Jake and Dan about 1895



ship of the wife. But children born in the United States to resident aliens automatically gained American citizenship. Until 1917 Kansas granted voting rights to aliens who had taken out their first citizenship papers.

Gottfried and Katy with Bill and Ben, about 1896



After waiting, usually five or more years, the court held a hearing and granted a "Certificate of Citizenship."

In the period when the Socolofsky kin were gaining citizenship the country of citizenship of the husband determined the citizen-

On July 16, 1883, Abraham Friesen became the first of the immediate relationship to file his declaration of intention. Gottfried III and Andrew followed on May 27, 1884. Then on November 3, 1891, David D. took out his first papers. Other brothers apparently did not initiate their citizenship process in Marion County. Cousin Fred, at the age of 46, took out his first papers September 5, 1892. Because they were foreign-born Godfrey George (Gottfried IV) and Frederick William had to wait until they were at least twenty-one years of age to declare their intention to become citizens. They acted October 28 and 31, 1896.

Generally there was no hurry to complete the citizenship procedure. Frederick W. received his "Certificate of Citizenship" from the Marion County Court on September 6, 1900. Later he learned that his naturalization process was incomplete and his wife who had never been outside the United States was distressed to learn that she had become a Russian citizen. Finally Frederick's certificate of naturalization was obtained from a Wisconsin court on January 9, 1911. David D. received his "Certificate of Citizenship" from the Marion Court on February 10, 1902. Gottfried III was his only brother to complete his citizenship in Marion county, in a hearing held March 4, 1904, with Eli Good and John W. Gardiner as his witnesses. Godfrey George filed for a final certificate on February 24, 1907, which was "dismissed without prejudice" because of his lengthy absence from the state in the years after 1900. He filed another declaration of intention on February 28, 1907. In a petition, dated July 14, 1909, he requested a hearing and citizenship was granted June 20, 1910. This time the action of the court on May 1, 1911, revoked Godfrey's citizenship because his witnesses lacked personal knowledge of his whereabouts during the previous decade. Finally, in a new declaration, dated January 26, 1915, and a final hearing May 3, 1915, Godfrey obtained his citizenship papers.

#### X. CHANGES ON THE MUD CREEK FARMS

The boom times found in Kansas agriculture and in the general economic situation of the mid-1880s were displaced rather abruptly in the late 1880s by a series of unusually dry years and

by hard times. Unfortunately, for the farmer, poor crop years were also accompanied by low prices for agricultural products.

#### 1. The Friesens Move

The family of Abraham and Katharinne Friesen was the first to leave, breaking up the close-knit Socolofsky kinship which had clustered around rural school #91. The last year the Friesen daughters were registered in the school was



Sarah Friesen

1892, an indication that this was the year of their move to another farm half-way to Durham. In the 1895 census the family was listed as follows: A.B., age 45; Catherine, age 35; Mary, age 15; Lydia, age 12;

Sarah, age 10; Abraham, age 7; Annie, age 4; and Pauline, age 2.

The economic data on the Friesen farm for 1895 suggests that this family had faced many adverse conditions for their new farm was valued at only fifty per cent of the figure shown in 1885. The value of implements and machines had slipped to twenty per cent. Corn acreage, however, was greatly increased, the value of poultry and eggs sold was increased to \$50, but most other economic factors were down.



Lydia and Maria Friesen

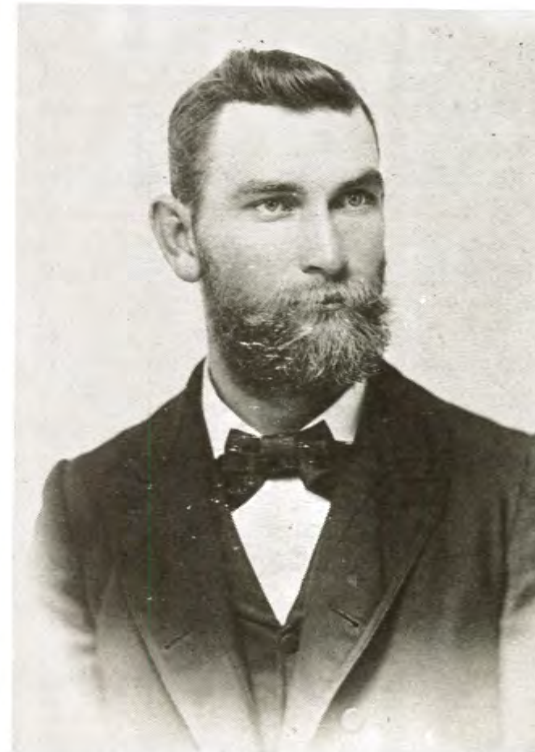
More Friesens



Shortly after the turn of the century the Friesens were living in Pueblo, Colorado, where A. B. was working as a carpenter and a contractor. From there one of the daughters, Mary, became a missionary to India. In the second decade of the twentieth century the Friesens had moved west again: to a location in Huntington Beach, California.

## 2. David Moves to Marion

After he had taught in his home district school for four years, D. D. Socolofsky was in a pivotal point in his career as a teacher. He realized that to advance in his field he would have to return to college and obtain a degree. In a practical way he concluded that a full course of four years at the State Normal School would cost a thousand dollars and his year at Emporia had advanced him only a little way toward a degree. Not possessing the money D. D. decided to leave teaching.



David D. Socolofsky in the early 1890s

D. D.'s guardian, Jacob Ehrlich, helped him get a job in the dry goods department as one of the twenty-one clerks in the Loveless and Sackett Mercantile Company in Marion at a beginning salary of \$25 per month. His mother, Maria K. Socolofsky, moved to Marion to keep house for him. Two years later, with his salary increased to \$40 per month, he married Anna Elizabeth Ehrlich. Their wedding date was October 28, 1895. Later his mother moved back to Gottfried's home where she spent the rest of her days.

**B**y 1901 D. D., who was the only German-speaking clerk and had a fine sales record, had worked his way to the second highest paid clerk in the store, at \$50 per month. But S. J. Sackett dropped out of the mercantile partnership and D.D. felt that there was little future for him on that job. So at the age of thirty-one he decided to go into business for himself.

### 3. Rhinehardt Becomes a Baker

**R**hinehardt Hosea, born March 13, 1868, usually identified as Rhine or Uncle Rhine, had an attractive disposition and probably possessed the greatest amount of personal "charisma" of any of the brothers. Little is known of his activities, as he left few records and he enters little into oral accounts, other than the fact that he had an ox-yoke fall on his head. Some stories suggest that he learned his trade as a baker in Tampa, an occupation he followed in Abilene and possibly Starbuck, Washington for many years. Some of his nephews remembered that he had a 38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver and he was an ardent hunter. One nephew regarded him as a



Rhinehardt and Elizabeth Socolofsky

vulgar man. By the end of World War I, Rhinehardt, who was married in Dodge City to Elizabeth Schultz, had three daughters, and was living near Haun, Texas. In later years he resided in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where he died April 10, 1955. His wife preceded him in death on February 3, 1948.



Andrew and Mary Socolofsky

#### 4. Andrew Leaves his Farm for Town Life

The low agricultural prices of the early 1890s, a desire to locate closer to his wife's relatives, and a feeling that schools in Marion would offer better education for his children, prompted Andrew to relocate his family there in 1894. Previously, Andrew's farming operations had been limited to the quarter-section, for he did not rent additional land like his brothers Gottfried and George. Instead, in the early 1890s, Andrew operated a skimming plant for a man named Ahlers to supplement his income. This plant, located on Gottfried's land near the creek, provided an economical means for neighboring farmers to have cream separated from milk. Once a week, Andrew, or one of his sons, hauled the cream to Marion where it was put on a train bound for a Colorado Springs creamery.

Andrew had great mechanical skills and he obtained a job in a hardware store in Marion. On January 23, 1896 he sold his farm to Gottfried for \$3,400, more completely severing his family's tie to the area they had called home for slightly more than a decade. Solomon, his oldest son, obtained a clerical position in a Marion department store, and a little later Karl left school to work in the shoe department of the same store.



Eva, Solomon and Karl Socolofsky

## 5. Gottfried's Farm Developments

**B**y 1895 Gottfried III was operating a farm of 620 acres, of which 390 acres were under cultivation. Most of this land was rented but early in 1896, Andrew sold him the quarter-section from which he had moved, making Gottfried's owned land a total of one-half section. The 1895 value of Gottfried's quarter section was \$9,800 and his implements were worth \$125.

The entire family, including all nine children, were recorded in the 1895 state census. Godfrey (IV) and Fred, at 21 and 19 years of age, had done a man's job on the farm for many years. The five younger boys from Jacob, age 12, to William, age 2, also had their farming duties and chores, as did their teenage sisters.

Gottfried's crops in 1895 included winter wheat, 100 acres; corn, 175 acres; rye, 25 acres; oats, 50 acres; sorghum forage, 5 acres; millet or Hungarian, 18 acres; and artificial woodland, 4 acres. That year Gottfried and his family put up 80 tons of prairie hay for consumption by 15 horses, 16 milk cows and 75 other cattle, and 11 swine.



Mary and Lydia Socolofsky, about 1895



Abe, Bill and Ben, about 1900

The value of poultry and eggs sold during the previous year was \$25, and the family had made 500 pounds of butter. The value of animals slaughtered in one year was \$500. A severe loss of the previous year, when six horses died, was accompanied by the cause of death--"hydrifobia."

**G**ottfried's farm was taking on a different appearance by the mid-1890s because the county built a bridge over Mud Creek and built the road through his original quarter section. Mud Creek meandered along the west section-line of the original farm. A road built along the section line would have necessitated three or more bridges in half a mile. On July 8, 1895, the county obtained a forty foot strip of land through Gottfried's land for the road and only one bridge was needed.

When Andrew's farm was purchased the house on Andrew's land was moved behind Gottfried's house, and attached on the west side. The two houses were thus joined together greatly adding to the space and comfort for the family.

Another deed record of the mid-1890s shows Gottfried's role, along with Heinrich Grentz, as a trustee for accepting one acre from Heinrich Stenzel for cemetery purposes. This cemetery was carved out of the extreme southeast corner of the quarter-section owned earlier by A. B. Friesen. Because the adjoining land was later owned by the Mohn family this cemetery was known as the Mohn Cemetery.

#### 6. George's Farm Developments

George, like Gottfried, was operating a sizable farm in 1895--720 acres, of which 385 were under cultivation. His present cash value of the quarter-section which he owned, dropped to \$1,800, about half of the 1885 figure, but the value of his implements had increased slightly. Less than half of George's farm was under fence, and about one-fifth of that was board rather than wire.

The crop production on this farm in 1895 was winter wheat, 125 acres; corn, 85 acres; rye, 15 acres; barley, 16 acres; oats, 40 acres; sorghum forage, 10 acres; and millet or Hungarian, 10 acres. George had 300 acres of prairie under fence, but his livestock numbers seem small by comparison--13 horses, 12 milk cows and 6 other cattle, and 80 swine. The value of animals slaughtered was \$621, poultry and eggs sold were worth \$25, and 150 pounds of butter were produced that year.

In 1901, after Maria his wife died, George moved to a farm near Durham. He later remarried and in 1908 he moved his family to the Fort Collins area in Colorado, where he died the next year.

#### 7. Cousin Fred

Cousin Frederick, born in Dreispitz on December 23, 1845, to George Adam and Katherine Elizabeth Socolofsky, emigrated from Russia to Kansas, with his family in July, 1885. By August of that year Fred had settled on rented land near George and in school district #91. Fred's family consisted of his wife Julia (Langhofer) born February, 1850, and four children, all but the youngest born in Russia. They were Julia, born November 2, 1870; Amelia, March 27, 1877; David, June, 1884; and Anna, born



George Socolofsky, about 1900

December 23, 1888, her father's forty-third birthday.

School records show Cousin Fred's children registered in district #91 until 1892 when he relocated on another piece of rented land a mile southwest of Andrew's place and just outside the borders of the district. According to the county atlas for 1902 he still lived there--on the N $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  12-18-2, which was three miles south of Tampa. He also acquired a lot in the middle of Tampa's main street business section which he sold February 12, 1906, for \$400. By that time Fred had interests elsewhere as he had moved his family to a newly-opened area near Davidson, Saskatchewan, in April, 1905. In later years his address was



Elbow, Saskatchewan, on the South Saskatchewan River, but both Fred and his wife, Julia, died at Durham, Kansas, and are buried there--she in January, 1913, and he in September, 1934.

#### 8. D. D. Goes into the Mercantile Business

**W**hen D. D.'s position in Marion with Loveless and Sackett was altered by the dissolution of the partnership, he felt the time had come to make another move. He wanted to start a mercantile business of his own in Tampa and his older brother, Gottfried, agreed to put up \$2,000, an amount which was matched by D. D.

"J. J. Berry, a very kind-hearted Irishman, who was very kind and helpful," went to Marion to see D. D. and suggested three things; that he rent D. D. a store building, and also a house, and that he would work for D. D.'s appointment as postmaster at Tampa. D. D. later reported that, "All three suggestions became a reality. Mr. Berry was very influential, and through our United States District Attorney, John S. Dean, who lived in Marion and knew me well, I was recommended to Teddy Roosevelt who was then President of the United States, for the postmaster at Tampa and was appointed."



During the eleven years that D. D. was Tampa's postmaster, the post office was a fourth class office. There was no rural delivery in 1902, but three rural routes were established during his tenure. Revenue from the post office amounted to \$60 per month, \$20 of which was for the responsibility as postmaster, and the rest went to D. D.'s business for office rent.

No doubt the location of the post office in D. D.'s store was a boon to business, because most patrons needed to come to the post office to pick up mail. Among the Socolofskys who worked in D. D.'s mercantile establishment were Lydia, Abe, and for some time, Alex, as well as various members of D. D.'s family.

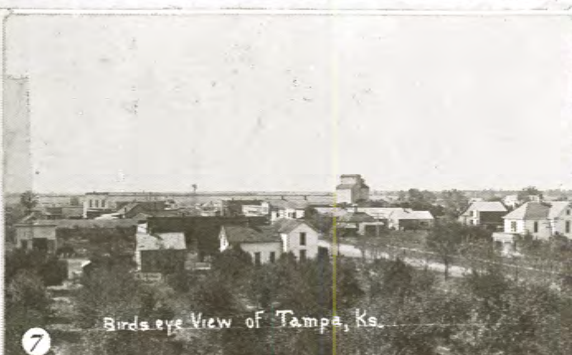


Fob of key ring used by Assistant Postmaster Abraham Socolofsky, in 1904



Lydia in D. D.'s store

Interior of D. D.'s store, Abe on left



**1-7 TAMPA SCENES**

- 1-Tampa Mercantile-D. D.'s Store
- 2-Store on left-D. D.'s house on right
- 6-D. D.'s house on left-German Baptist Church on right

**8-11 MARION COUNTY FARM SCENES**

- 10-Butchering time-Charles, Sadie, G. C., Ben, Gottfried

In 1910 the credit business which had been offered to customers was placing D. D.'s business in jeopardy. One family, whose name is well-known to Socolofsky kinfolk, had an unpaid balance of \$800, which was never collected, and there were other sizable accounts. A new company, known as the Home Mercantile Company, was organized to take over D. D.'s assets. Both D. D. and Gottfried received shares of stock in the new enterprise, in exchange for their equity in D. D.'s store.

**T**he post office was relocated in a small frame building at the south end of the west side of Main Street, and D. D. then acquired the Upland Mutual Insurance Company agency. He also bought and sold milk cows, sold milk, and served as a real estate agent. A fire in late 1910 which leveled the Tampa Mill also burned down D. D.'s insurance and post office. Since insurance covered most of his loss, he relocated in the west end of the brick Tampa State Bank building.

When Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated as president in 1913, D. D.'s days as postmaster were numbered in spite of the Civil Service status of the job. He had been appointed by a Republican and the new Democratic administration insisted that all fourth class postmasters must be reexamined. D. D., a Republican, and two others, both Democrats, took the examination. Unable to learn what his examination score was, he finally wrote the Post Office Department and received a scrap of paper in an official envelope saying, "You stand at the head of the list, grade 94%." But someone else was appointed postmaster.

Then D. D. moved his business to another location and concentrated on his insurance and real estate agency. The real estate venture included the organization of "home-seeker's excursions to Texas," and his brother, Gottfried, was one of his buyers, when he acquired land that Ben later farmed.

In 1916 D. D. decided to move to Oregon, although he knew little about the area. So he sold his Tampa business and his properties there. D. D. went directly to Oregon, while the rest of his family traveled by way of the homes of their Canadian relatives. They were together again in Salem, Oregon, on September 16, 1916.

## SQUARE DEALING

D. D. Socolofsky sells earth in slices,  
Desirable real estate low in the prices.

Superior farms, that cannot be beat,  
Of soil to raise corn, alfalfa or wheat.  
Come and see his list of town property, too,  
Of location and value to interest you.

Look him up if desiring a loan on your land,  
On terms the fairest to suit the demand.

Fire, lightning and storm insurance he writes,  
Safe and sure companies, rates that are right.

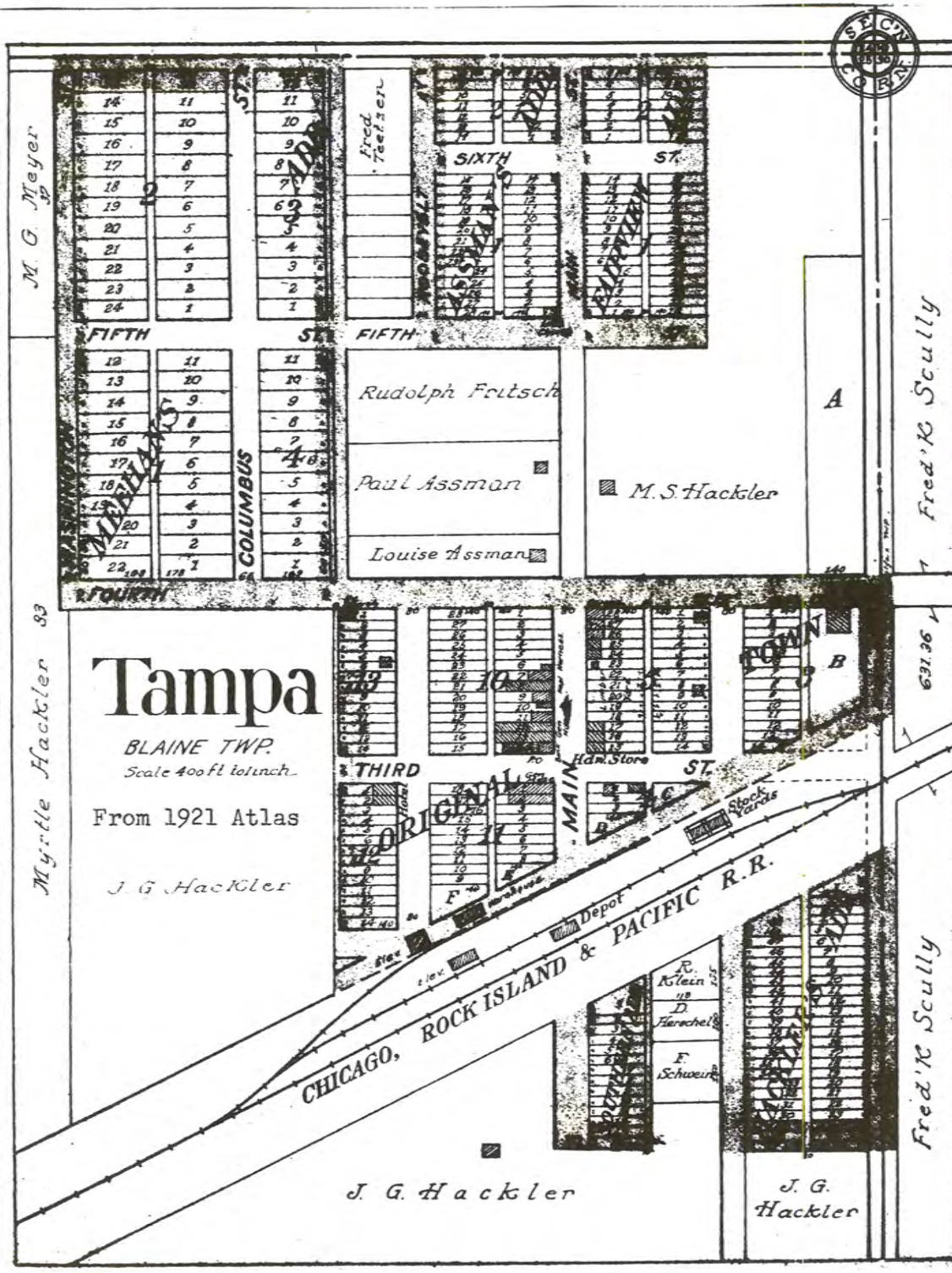
Keep in mind that his methods always are fair,  
You get from this agent a deal on the square.

Tampa Star,  
8/15/1912

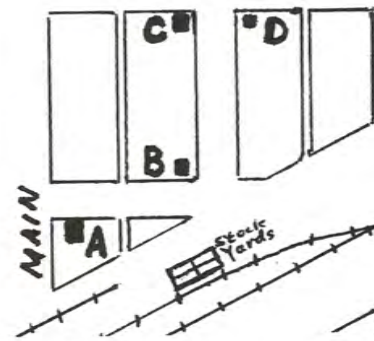
### 9. The German Baptist Church in Tampa

**S**ocolofsky family tradition recalls the conversion of many of the family while still in Dreispitz, through the ministry of the Rev. F. Dahlinger. There were no organized churches available to them in the area where they first located in Marion County and presumably religious worship was maintained in the home. When the farm near the Wren School was acquired the Socolofskys were moving into a neighborhood among other Volga-born German-Russians, and many of these people professed the same religious belief. The Strassburg Baptist Church which was established in this area had resulted from the efforts of local German-speaking people who met in each other's homes for worship services from 1876 to 1892 when a building program got underway. But Gottfried III and his brothers and sister had moved too far away from the Strassburg site to partake in the development of that church. The census for 1895 listed religious groups in Clark township as follows: Methodist Episcopal - 27, Free Methodist - 10, Adventists - 10, and The Brethren German - 25.

No doubt, the influence of the Rev. John Ehrlich, of Marion, the guardian and later father-in-law of D. D., was felt on the Socolofsky family, for some professed the faith under his guidance in the late 1890s. The Marion church, with a station in Tampa, was admitted to the Kansas German Baptist Annual Conference on August 26, 1900. On April 6, 1903, the



German Baptist Church, Tampa



East of Main Street of original town of Tampa

- A - D. D.'s store
- B - D. D.'s house
- C - German Baptist Church
- D - Gottfried's house

trustees of the "first German Baptist Church of Tampa, Kansas," identified as Nicholas Spohn, John Mohn, Gottfried Socolofsky, W. J. Gutsch, Conrad Kleiber, Henry Fromm, and D. D. Socolofsky, purchased three lots in Block 5 in Tampa at a cost of \$150. That year a "beautiful and well designed building" was erected and on March 8, 1904, the American Baptist Home Mission Society of New York City contributed \$300 toward the construction. The interior of the white wooden church was completely paneled with well-varnished grooved boards. The pulpit was on the west end of the structure and a Sunday School room occupied the east end of the building, beside the entrance hall.

**B**y 1906 there were about 40 members: D. D. Socolofsky was the Sunday School Superintendent, and the newly-ordained Rev. F. W. Socolofsky was the pastor, where he served a church in Durham, as well as Tampa, until March, 1908. At that time he was called by a Wisconsin congregation. In 1907, D. D. was both the church clerk and the superintendent and G. G. took over as clerk in 1910. This small congregation, with German as the language in use, had difficulty in attracting and keeping a pastor. Records, located in the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, show the following pastors:

- 1906-Mar. 1908 - F. W. Socolofsky
- 1908-1909 - No pastor, served monthly by J. Sievers, and at other times by Br. Wedel and P. Geisler of Durham.
- 1910 - P. Geisler
- 1911 - No pastor, served monthly by J. Kohrs of Hope.
- 1912-April 1913- G. Bornschlegel, Tampa and Herington.
- 1913 (summer) - Peter Salit, seminary student from Rochester, N.Y.
- 1914-1918 - J. A. Pankratz of Marion
- 1918 - Infrequent services, Br. Tiemann
- 1919-1920 - W. H. Bünning, Herington
- 1921-1922 - G. M. Pankratz
- 1923-1926 - R. Klitzing
- 1927 - No pastor
- 1928 - F. W. Socolofsky for a short time.

Following the departure of D. D. and his family in 1916 the membership declined to 22. Electric lights were installed in the church building in 1919. During the 1920s and 1930s the Sunday School continued the most active role for this small congregation.

There is no doubt that Gottfried and Katy provided much of the devotion and energy which kept this small group going. G. G. served faithfully as church clerk from 1910 to 1936 and also as the Sunday School Superintendent from 1932. But older members were dying off, families were moving away, and other members were transferring to neighboring churches.

There are no formal records showing the disbanding of this church. But the small mortgage on the property, held by the Kansas Baptist Convention, of Topeka, from January 20, 1922, was marked "Satisfied" on November 22, 1938, which might be taken as a termination date of the building being used as a house of worship. For a short time thereafter the interior of the building was converted to living quarters and later the structure was torn down. With better cars available, and all-weather roads in existence, many members of the former German Baptist Church in Tampa began attending the Strassburg Church.

#### 10. Andrew Moves to Canada

**I**n 1896 the vast sea of grass of the Canadian Prairies was almost empty. The development of railroads and the opening of the area to settlement attracted more than a million people, including 590,000 American residents to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan by 1914. This "last plains frontier" drew most heavily from the northern states, bordering Canada, but Kansans like Cousin Fred, got the message of fresh, cheap land in 1905 and moved his family there.

About the same time a long-time friend of Andrew's heard that Canada was opening up new land districts so Andrew made a trip north to investigate. He "saw the land, also the Saskatchewan river, and decided" to take advantage of the Canadian homestead law, which required a \$10 payment and six-month's residence out of each year to acquire a quarter section in five years. Also, his sons, Solomon and Karl, were

old enough to file on a homestead claim, enabling the family to acquire 480 acres with small payment required as the filing fee for the land.

**A**ndrew returned to his home in Marion to make preparations for the move to Saskatchewan, more than a thousand miles away. The family home was sold. Furniture needed to outfit the new home was picked out, including a couch that had been a wedding present and Eva's piano, a Wegman costing \$500 which was a gift from one of her brothers. Farm implements were purchased, along with a team of mules and four horses.



Main Street, Marion

The move to Canada for Andrew's family began in the spring of 1906. Travel was made by way of railway lines and a Rock Island freight car was obtained to move the family's goods. The furniture, implements, and animals filled the car and Solomon and Karl traveled with it to care for the animals. The remainder of the family rode on the same train in a tourist car, similar to a Pullman but not as well padded.

Their route of travel took them through Kansas City then north to Saint Paul, Minnesota. At that point they transferred to the Soo Line which took them to Moose Jaw, and finally to the jumping-off place, Davidson, Saskatchewan, which was forty miles from the site of the homesteads. Cousin Fred had been alerted of their coming; he met them at Davidson and Andrew's



Home of Sol Socolofsky, June 1919

family lived at Fred's place until shelter could be erected on the new homesteads.

The first building put up by Solomon, Karl, and their father, Andrew, was a granary which served at first as living quarters for the family. Later other buildings were erected, the country built up rapidly and crops were good for which excellent prices were received. Many visitors came to Andrew's new home--the piano was regarded as a drawing card. Other families had pump organs but few had a piano, and young folks gathered to sing in Andrew's house.

**G**ottfried (III) bought a half section near his brother's homestead. Almost every year, at first, he made the long trip north to visit at the time of wheat harvest or threshing. Over the years others in the family visited Andrew and his family. New rail lines were constructed and the new town of Loreburn was established twelve miles away. Visitors in those later years did not need to make the forty-mile horse-and-carriage trip from Davidson after Loreburn came into being.

The nearby Saskatchewan river was a veritable fisherman's paradise. People came from town and camped on its banks. The ease of catching large numbers of big fish was always exhilarating and was often a highlight of family visits.



On the Socolofsky ranch  
in Saskatchewan



Good times in the Canadian wheat country, as experienced in the first few years, continued through World War I. By 1919 wheat prices declined worldwide and Solomon, for one, was ready to sell out. He later moved into Loreburn where he ran an implement business. World-wide depression of the late 1920s eliminated virtually all of the rewards for farming on the Canadian prairies. Andrew's family was caught in the same sort of economic squeeze as his farmer-relatives elsewhere.



From postcard of River View, Sask., 1908, a new RR and town 12 miles from Andrews, and better than the 40 miles' trip to Davidson.

#### XI. FINAL YEARS ON THE FARM FOR GOTTFRIED AND KATY

By 1905 Gottfried (III) farmed 720 acres with all but 80 acres under fence. His farm and improvements (320 acres, while 400 acres were rented) was valued at \$22,000. His buildings were worth \$1,500 and his implements and machinery were valued at \$200. Crop production had not increased greatly and was less diversified than ten years earlier. Winter wheat was again sown on 100 acres; corn acreage was down to 115; oats 80 acres; and sorghum forage 8 acres. Alfalfa was grown on 17 acres, whereas no alfalfa was grown on this farm ten years earlier.

The increased draft power for Gottfried's farm can be seen in the doubling of the number of horses to 31. Milk cows, when the census was taken, numbered only two but 200 pounds of butter were made that year. The value of animals slaughtered was \$1,400 and poultry and eggs sold brought \$100. Other cattle in 1905 numbered 105 and there were 42 head of swine on the farm. That year the family cut 60 tons of prairie hay and alfalfa hay production was 50 tons.

Several years earlier, at the same time the lots were bought for the German Baptist Church in Tampa,

Gottfried and Katy must have been thinking of moving into Tampa. They were almost fifty years of age; they had had a long life of labor together. A suggestion of this plan for moving to town can be seen in the purchase in 1903 of three lots directly across the street from the church. The price was \$150 and sellers were Mary A. and J. J. Berry. Five years later Gottfried and Katy must have changed their minds about leaving the farm as the lots were sold on November 16, 1908, to David Schwartzman for \$250.

Instead, plans were developed for a beautiful two story frame house on the land acquired from Andrew. Much of the work on excavating the basement and on other tasks in construction was performed by the grown sons still at home. Completed in 1909 this house was quite a showplace in its day and featured a big front porch and a slate roof, both still there more than sixty years later. Carbide tanks were located in the cave for providing gas to fuel the acetylene lights in the house which also had inside plumbing.

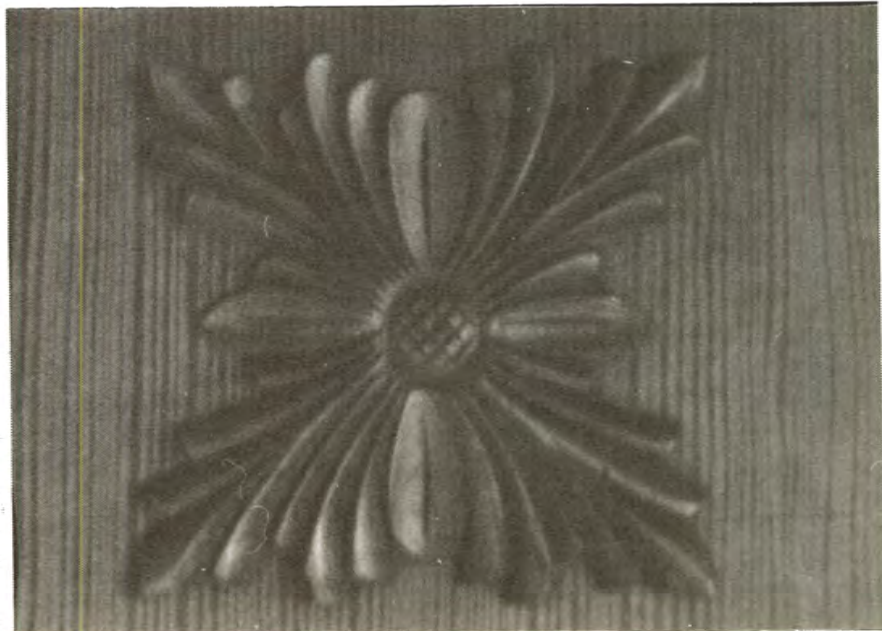


With more room than she ever had before Katy entertained a growing group of grandchildren, their fathers and mothers, and other relatives. Sunday dinners for family featured Katy's specialty, homemade chicken noodle soup with "butter glaze." When grandchildren arrived from church they'd make a beeline to

the pantry to sample the uncooked butter glaze. Other foods included home butchered meat, home canned fruits and vegetables, delicious homemade bread and pies and homemade apple butter from the fruit of the home orchard.



Farm home built by Gottfried in 1909.  
Front - left; back - above; medallion  
on newel post of front stairway - below.





There were two stairways to the second floor and the grandchildren later recalled their mischievous behavior when outside the supervision of their elders. There were wild rides down the long upstairs hallway in an old baby buggy, or they used sheets or quilts taken from the beds for hammock-type swings. A favorite pastime was rummaging through the trunk of a favored uncle. Another lively sport was sliding down the bannisters in the front hall. Grandpa Gottfried sounded threatening when he put an end to such games, but he was actually concerned about the dangers involved. The back stairs had a door at top and bottom and when both were closed it was a dark and spooky place. There the grandchildren, amidst shrieking and laughter, listened to spine chilling ghost stories.

Gottfried always wore a beard and by the time his grandchildren were around the beard was white. Most of the time he seemed quite stern but he laughed and joked with them and trotted them on his knee to a German song which began, "Hop, hop, hop, Pferd laufen galop." Then after "über stock und uber steine" he'd carefully dump the grandchild off his knee. As a treat for his grandchildren Gottfried always had white peppermint candy in the house.

By 1915, Gottfried had greatly contracted his farming operation and only his youngest son, Will, was still at home. The census taken that year shows the farm size to be 160 acres, all fenced, but 45 acres were in pasture. Winter wheat, corn, oats and rye were raised on 35, 40, 25, and 10 acres respectively. Ten tons of prairie hay, 150 pounds of butter, milk valued at \$75 and poultry at \$100 were other items produced that year. Gottfried had eleven horses, four mules, three milk cows, five other cattle and one dog. Answers to additional questions, asked by the census taker in 1915, show a windmill for a 40-foot water well and a cream separator on the farm.

Finally at age sixty-two Gottfried decided to slow down and move into town. David Schwartzman, then a widower, was ready to sell the town lots that he had gotten from Gottfried a dozen years earlier. The cost was then \$2,000, including the house which Schwartzman had built, and the purchase was made November 7, 1917. Later on May 1, 1918, Gottfried bought three more lots

south of his original town lots from his brother D. D.

The move to town must have come in the spring of 1918. About that time the quarter section farm which had earlier belonged to Andrew was sold to James Rudolph at a price of \$16,500, an amount slightly over one hundred dollars per acre.

Gottfried was fortunate in the timing of his farming operations and in the year of his retirement. All through the years the value of his land increased even though he was forced to rely heavily on borrowing for most of the nineteenth century, while his children were growing up. For example, a check of the deed records shows that his purchase of the quarter section in Clark township in 1883 was supported by a four-year mortgage for \$620 which was discharged several years early on May 19, 1884. By that time Gottfried had arranged for another mortgage from the firm of Crippen, Lawrence and Company of Concord, New Hampshire for \$1,300. Interest rates were twelve per cent per year. Early in 1887 this note was paid off and three new notes, one from Isaac Good of Marion for \$400, and two from E. Heliker of McPherson for \$2,300 and \$230, brought the total mortgage to \$2,930. Three years later a promissory note was signed because of a loan of \$1,000 from E. M. Donelson of Sioux City, Iowa. In 1896 Gottfried bought Andrew's land and there was no mortgage recorded as a result of this purchase. Finally, on January 1, 1902, Gottfried borrowed \$2,600 from Joel Good of Waterloo, Ontario, supported by a mortgage on his entire half section.

The period from about 1897 through 1917 is often labeled the "Golden Age" for American agriculture because farmers, in general, fared better in this period than previously. Gottfried had heavy encumbrances on his land at various times, but he and his family lived frugally and worked hard. Gottfried organized the efforts of his children as well as his own work and eventually his obligations were paid off. Then he turned to construction of a finer home, the purchase of land in both Texas and in Canada, and finally the acquisition of a place for his retirement years in Tampa.

## XII. DISPERSAL OF GOTTFRIED AND KATY'S CHILDREN

## 1. Godfrey George (Gottfried IV)

As the eldest child in the family, much was expected of Godfrey George. He was almost three years of age when the family moved to Kansas. He had very little schooling while the family was living on the farm near the Wren School and little opportunity in later years. He was registered as a student at School District #91 for eleven years, but he was never able to attend regularly. When the fall farmwork was completed he would have a few weeks for school before the spring activity around the farm picked up. There was usually something to keep him busy and away from school. When Andrew and his family moved to Marion G. G. ran the skimming station which had been built on Gottfried's land by a man named Ahlers. This work caused him to become interested in the creamery business and he enrolled for two different short courses for "Dairy Students" offered at Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan. During one of these years the average age of the 26 students



G. G.  
about  
1895

in this special course was almost 23 and G.G. was older than that. In 1900, G.G. completed a short course in buttermaking at the Iowa State Agricultural College, in Ames.

G. G. was then employed as a buttermaker in a creamery in Westphalia, Kansas. From there he returned to Marion County to marry Sadie Frick on June 22, 1900. In Westphalia the newly-married couple lived in



G. G. &  
Sadie  
Wedding

"a lovely rented house" with "many fruit trees and flowers." After Virginia was born in the summer of 1901, Ahlers, then in partnership with Lennox in a Colorado Springs creamery, contacted G. G. with a job offer which was accepted. So G. G. moved his family to Colorado in September, 1901, only to have Ahlers sell out to Lennox in 1903. Additional daughters, Kathryn and Edna were born in Colorado Springs to G. G. and Sadie. Following a visit back to the home



Virginia, the first grandchild

place during the Christmas season of 1907 plans were initiated to return G. G. to farming. In March, 1909 (most changes of farm occupancy were made in March) G.G. moved his family back to the Clark township farm. That year he farmed the old home place and rented Scully land in partnership with Daniel. Their parents moved that year to the quarter section originally developed by Andrew, but for several months the family of G. G. and Sadie were under Gottfried and Katy's crowded roof along with the four younger brothers of G. G.

The second year of G. G.'s return to the home place he farmed the home quarter and Daniel rented the Scully land. In 1911 and later, G. G. had all of this 320 acres alone, although he



Winter, 1913-14  
Front - Edna, Kathryn,  
Virginia  
Back - Charles, Sadie,  
Godfrey G.

often had hired help. Charles was born on this farm. In 1919 G. G. and Sadie purchased the home place from Gottfried. About 26 years later G. G. retired from farming. Sadie and G. G. then moved to San Leandro, California, where they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1950. In 1973 Sadie still retained the ownership of this quarter section of Marion County land purchased by her father-in-law ninety years earlier.

## 2. Frederick William

Like G. G., Frederick William was born in Russia and was brought to Kansas as a very young child. Even in boyhood and adolescence, his hands and strength were needed on the farm. Fred was enrolled as a student at district 91 from



Fred

ages seven to twenty but irregular attendance denied him the opportunity of advancing past the fourth reader. In March, 1896, at age twenty, Fred was converted and baptized by Rev. Jacob Ehrlich and he felt a call to the ministry. But first it was necessary to prepare himself with further education. When G. G. departed for the short courses in Manhattan and Ames, Fred operated the skimming station. Later his management was not needed and in 1899-1900 he spent a term at Penner's Academy in Hillsboro acquiring additional skills in the German language. For three years he was a preparatory student at the academy of the German Baptist Seminary in Rochester, New York, followed by three years in the seminary.

During the five summer vacations from school in Rochester Fred earned some of his expenses by serving as a colporteur, selling Bibles and religious books. During that period he also assisted with the worship services at his home church in Tampa. When he completed his seminary training he was called as the first pastor to his home church and for one in nearby Durham. On June 2, 1906, Fred was ordained in the Tampa church in an impressive ceremony with a presbytery made up of fifteen ministers and three seminary students.

About the same time Fred met Clara Grau in Higginsville, Missouri. A whirlwind courtship was followed by their wedding on August 30, 1906, officiated by Rev. William Frederick Greife, grandfather of the bride. In March, 1908, Fred received a call to a church in Pound, Wisconsin, but first there was a brief stay in Higginsville where Ruth was born. Three years later Angeline was born in Pound. About 1912 the family moved to another parsonage in Wausau, Wisconsin, Dorothy's birthplace, where they spent three years. The cold northern winters aggravated Fred's bronchitis and he received medical advice to move to a warmer climate, thus a return to Higginsville, where Kathryn was born. Anti-German prejudice during World War I was probably felt more directly by Fred and his family than by others in the relationship because of his profession as a pastor of a German-speaking congregation and the place of his residence. As might be expected in such a situation "Those who were loudest in their verbal avowal of patriotism and were most zealous in persecuting others, also had German names." Fred and his family were subjected to "terrifying times in Higginsville." The preacher's "life was threatened . . . because German was spoken in his home, because his church services had been conducted in German, because he spoke German with the elderly members of his congregation and because his speech was tinged with a slight German accent."

It was almost a relief to receive a call from a church in Creston, Nebraska, where Fred moved his family on October 31, just before Armistice day in 1918. The severe influenza epidemic that fall had limited school in Higginsville to a mere



Fred, Angeline, Dorothy, Ruth and Clara three weeks. Flu outbreaks in Creston caused deaths, also, for Fred conducted three "funerals before he had a Sunday service in his church."

The Creston area was like home to Fred's family. He served on the school board nine of the dozen years spent there. But the severely cold winters again brought on attacks of bronchitis for Fred. Kathryn, because of other illness, died there in 1929. For a short time in the late 1920s Fred served churches in the Tampa area, then he moved his family to Oklahoma, where he was a pastor at Bessie, at a church in rural Gotebo while living in Cordell, and in Shattuck. In the closing days of his ministry the elderly members of his congregation still preferred sermons in German but many younger persons in his congregation knew little German. So Fred gave some sermons in English.

In moving from Kansas to Wisconsin, Missouri, Nebraska, and finally to Oklahoma, Fred carried with him a warm interest in people. His churches were generally small and his congregations supported him financially the best they could, but the total each year was limited. Nevertheless, the family did not feel short-changed. Fred was a skilled gardener, he loved flowers, and he took a personal interest in the activities of his growing family. He maintained a fine small library, was an avid reader, and at times he was inspired to compose poems.

A strange set of circumstances brought Fred into contact with gypsies of the Mason Tribe. The king of the tribe, John Mason, died in June of 1902 or 1903, while Fred was home on a school vacation. Mason was a Christian and members of the tribe wanted Christian burial rites for him. They learned that Fred was receiving ministerial training and they asked him to perform the burial ceremony. Even though he was not yet ordained and "he had never conducted a funeral service" he told the gypsies he would "do his best for them." Mason was buried in the corner of Gottfried's pasture. In 1922, Fred met members of the same tribe in a winter camp between Creston and Leigh, Nebraska.

### 3. Maria Elizabeth (Mary)

As the eldest daughter and the first child of Gottfried and Katy to be born in Kansas, Mary was less aware than her elder brothers of the complex changes that had come to her family. Her first few months were spent in the sodhouse in western Marion County, and then the family moved to the Wren School farm and built a stone house. Most of Mary's memories of the family were from the Mud Creek farm.

Mary was registered as a student at School District #91 from the year it opened, when she was age five, through her nineteenth year. Through all of these years she helped her mother and grandmother with the necessary duties around the house.

On November 24, 1901, Mary was married in the family home to Jacob Frederick Major, a young farmer



Wedding picture for Mary and Jake  
November 24, 1901

from Dorrance in Russell County, Kansas. Jacob was born in Grimm, Russia, and had been brought to Russell County as a child. When he reached the age of twenty-four he decided to look for a wife. Possibly he heard of the Socolofsky family in Marion County because many of the German-Russian settlers in both Tampa and Dorrance had come from the Volga village of Tscherbakawka, located near Dreispitz and not too far from Grimm. The story of Mary's acquaintance and eventual marriage to Jacob is reminiscent to the manner in which her own father and mother's marriage was arranged. But there was a difference. Both Mary and

Jacob were in their twenties, and Jacob initiated the search for a bride rather than leaving that task to his father and uncle.

Jacob's farm was located about one mile southwest of Dorrance in the Smoky Hill Valley. This was short grass country, and the fences were unusual because the posts were cut from stone. Jacob and Mary lived on this farm together for forty-nine years and they had seven children, two of whom died in infancy. Their surviving children were Salome, Ella, Benjamin, Esther, and Herbert.

Located in the midst of a productive wheat area, Jacob's farming operation provided amply for his family. He was an ordained minister of the Brethren in Christ Church and he regularly served a small rural church located about two miles east of his farm. Jacob was the first member of the immediate relationship to own an automobile, and visitors always enjoyed the player piano and the pump organ in the Major home. Mary's cooking ability, especially her chicken pie, cooked cheese, and other German dishes, was famous among the relationship.



Lydia visiting Mary, Holidays, 1913  
l. to r. Jacob, Ella, Salome, Ben,  
Mary, Laura, Leona, and Lydia.



Russell County harvest scenes on the Major farm. Top - header, header barge, and stack. Bottom - threshing rig.

#### 4. Lydia

Lydia, born just before Mary's second birthday, was always closely attached to her older sister. She was registered in the district school a year after Mary's first registration and the last year Lydia's name appeared on the roll was 1898, also the last year Mary was listed. For a number of years Lydia worked as a clerk in the store owned by Gottfried and D. D. Perhaps this experience was responsible for Lydia's ease in dealing with other people while Mary had more of a tendency to shyness.

On February 5, 1905, in the Tampa German Baptist Church, Lydia was married to Henry Kleiber in a lovely double wedding in which Lydia's brother, Jacob, and Henry's sister, Christina, were the other couple. Thus, the children of these two couples were "double cousins" and theoretically were as closely related as brothers and sisters.

*Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Kleiber*

*request your presence*

*at the marriage of their children*

*Henry*

*to*

*Miss Lydia Socolofsky*

*and*

*Christina*

*to*

*Mr. Jacob Socolofsky*

*Sunday February the fifth One Thousand*

*Nine Hundred and Five*

*at 2:30 o'clock P. M.*

*German Baptist Church Tampa, Kansas.*

*Reception from 4 to 7 P. M.*

**S**oon after their marriage, Lydia and Henry set to work to develop their farm just south of Henry's boyhood home and some three miles north and east of the home Lydia had known so long.

While their house was being built they set up house-keeping in the corn crib. Henry was born in Narka, Russia, and while an infant his family had immigrated to Nebraska and then in 1884 to Marion County.

**L** Lydia and Henry's children, all born on this farm were Laura, John, Leona, and Ellamae. John died before his second birthday and was buried in the Mohn Cemetery where his grave marker says:

Johannes D.  
sohn von  
Heinrich & Lydia  
Kleiber  
1908-1909  
Wiedersehen



Nov. 1913  
Lydia with  
Laura and  
Leona



Double Wedding  
picture, Feb.  
5, 1905. 1. to  
r. - Henry, Lydia,  
Jacob, Christina

Lydia, like her sister Mary, was an outstanding cook, famous for her baked chicken, roast goose, rye bread, molasses bread, apricot bread and other products of her culinary skills. The speed with which Lydia could behead a chicken, dunk it into boiling water, strip off its feathers, and dress it for frying was phenomenal. She preserved many foods and kept them in storage in the cave built to one side of her front yard. She usually grew flowers on the other side of the fenced-in yard. Outside the fence chickens and other fowl were free to roam in search of an extra meal.

#### 5. Jacob

Jacob was born after the purchase of the Mud Creek farm but before the move from the Wren School location. He was registered as a student at District 91 from ages five through fifteen

and from most accounts he did not care for formal schooling. Through many of these years he had little opportunity for regular attendance as he had farm duties to take care of.

Just before his twentieth birthday, Jake attended Kansas State Agricultural College in Manhattan, for a short course known as an "Apprentice in Shops." Woodworking was featured in this course and such training paid off in buildings on his farm.

On February 5, 1905, Jacob was married to Christina Kleiber in the double wedding in which Lydia and Henry Kleiber were the other couple. Jake had earlier rented a farm belonging to the Stenzel family. Jake and Christina set up housekeeping on their own farm located about a mile north of her parents and two miles north of Lydia and Henry's farm. Before the house was ready they lived in a hen house.



It was on this farm that their children, Clara, Clarence, Clinton and Lorene, were born and reared. The children had many cousins nearby. Christina's sister Mary (Mrs. John Heiser) lived on the next farm and Lydia and Henry's family was not far. Both sets of grandparents and other relatives were close.

Jake had good buildings, with a large silo, and extra-tight fences on his land. He served on the board of Lincoln School, located on the corner of his land, and on the board of Ramona High School.

Later when his sons took over more of the farm work, Jake turned to his skills in working with wood. After World War II Jake and Christina moved to Ramona. Jake had a well equipped shop behind his house. In August, 1947, Jake had a severe compound fracture of his leg. When it failed to heal properly the leg was amputated in February, 1948 and he later was fitted with an artificial limb.

Jake and Christina had almost fifty-nine years of married life together. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1955.

#### 6. Daniel

Daniel was born in the house on the Mud Creek farm. Like Jake, Dan preferred activities around the farm, especially work with horses, to going to school. He was registered in school for the years 1892 through 1898 when he was ages six through thirteen, the shortest time of any of the family. Dan enjoyed hunting and frequently he had a shotgun with him while he was on some farming task.

Until he was twenty-one, Dan worked for his father. Then he made arrangements permitting some income for himself.

During the early part of the twentieth century the feud between the Socolofsky and Stegeman boys became a feature of Saturday nights in Tampa. The feud erupted when Dan went into a Tampa pool hall and played some pool with Fred Stegeman who was angered when he lost. Jake would not frequent such a place but when he saw Fred he taunted him and stirred up a

fight between Fred and Dan. Later Emil Stegeman<sup>55</sup> and Jake and Ben all got involved in the excitement of fighting. On later Saturday nights Jake, an expert in the art of "needling" an opponent, would start a fight with the Stegemans and Dan and Ben would happily join in. This feud produced lots of talk and some excitement.

When G. G. returned to the home place in 1909, Dan shared in the farming operations on 320 acres. Late that year Dan married Clara Propp, of rural Marion, on December 16, in a ceremony performed by Dan's brother Fred. The following year Dan had the Scully land alone and G. G. farmed the home place.



Wedding picture, Dan and Clara, Dec. 1909

Helen was born there near Tampa in mid-1911. About that time Dan moved his young family to a farm one mile south of Antelope, very near Clara's parents. This location was about six miles northeast of Marion and only a few miles east of the old Wren School farm. Albert, Arthur, and John were born on the farm near Antelope.

Dan had a special interest in horses. Once he bought a team of horses, Jennie and Duke, and he always had horses for sale. Nellie, a sorrel mare, had seventeen or eighteen colts, and was 22 when she died. Duke died in harness, hitched to a binder.

In 1928 Dan moved his family to a large Missouri River bottom land farm in extreme northwestern Missouri, with a mailing address of Hamburg, Iowa. Popcorn and watermelon were some of the specialty crops which Dan raised on this farm, which was primarily a producer of corn and livestock. Some livestock were kept on an island, ordinarily reached by boat. Old man river invaded low-lying parts of Dan's farm all too often.

Dan had a battery-operated electrical system on this farm before such equipment was usual. In 1939 he sold the farm to Al but he continued to live there until after Clara's death in 1941. Tragedy again struck Dan's family when his daughter, Helen, died in 1942, leaving her husband and a four-year-old daughter.

On September 10, 1942, in Odessa, Missouri, Dan married Grace Kite. She died after about eight years of marriage. Dan married for the third time to Althea Helm in Odessa on December 2, 1951. They moved to Marion, Kansas, where Althea died after almost eleven years of marriage. Most of the remainder of Dan's life was spent in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

## 7. Abraham Lincoln

Abraham, like Dan was born on the Mud Creek farm. But, Abe, who started his formal education under the direction of his Uncle D. D., liked school in contrast to Jake and Dan. From about 1901 to 1904 Abe worked in D. D.'s store, then he went back to school full-time for a year and successfully passed the county examination. There was no

high school near and Abe wanted to continue his education. So he attended McPherson College and in 1908 he graduated from the "Commercial Department" gaining an equivalent of a high school diploma.

During the next nine years Abe taught school at Sunnyside and Lincoln rural schools, traveled over the county during summer vacations selling newspaper and magazine subscriptions, and attended Kansas Normal School at Emporia. Some of his brothers believed his teaching salary, which began at \$55 per month and rose in three years to \$90 per month, was really outstanding. In 1915, with his cousin Edwin, he visited the San Francisco Exposition. He also spent some time during most summers at a YMCA camp in Estes Park, Colorado.

Abe traveled around the local area by horse and buggy, but in 1916 he traded for a little red, chain-driven Buick. Near the end of World War I, when he lacked about as much work for a degree at Emporia that could have been completed in a summer session, he was offered a job in the Tampa State Bank and he left teaching.



Abe's 1916 Buick

On June 30, 1919, Abe was married to Mary Reneau at Florence, Kansas. Mary had taught school nine years and had attended KNS during summer sessions. They took a two month honeymoon trip to Canada, where they visited Andrew's family,



Abe and Mary's wedding pictures

and to Oregon, where time was spent with D. D. and family. Abe and Mary lived in a small house, near the residence of Aunt Schick and across the street from the location later used by Tampa High School. Homer was born in that house.

In 1923, the Marion County Clerk died. Abe was appointed to the unexpired term and he moved his small family in May to a house in Marion at 319 South Cedar Street. Mildred was born in this house and Dorothy and Marion in the Marion Hospital.

**A**be knew almost every family in Marion County and he was reelected as county clerk twice. In 1928 he entered the Republican primary for Secretary of State, coming in fourth in a field of seven. No doubt, he proved that Kansans were not ready to elect a person to a state-wide office having a name like Socolofsky. During the next few years he sold real estate and insurance, lost a race for county commissioner, and worked as a documents clerk in state legislative sessions. Then he was appointed to a position with the



**A. L. SOCOLOFSKY**  
Marion, Kansas

**Republican Candidate for Secretary of State**

Born and raised on a farm in Marion county.  
Clerked in postoffice five years.  
Took academic work at McPherson College.  
Taught school four years.  
Attended Kansas State Teacher's College at Emporia three years.  
Six years' bank experience as an assistant cashier and cashier.  
Appointed County Clerk in June 1923.  
Elected twice without opposition on either ticket.  
Endorsed for Secretary of State by the Marion Co. Republican Committee, the Fourth District Republican caucus at Topeka, and by the State Association of County Clerks.

Because—

**"ABE IS ABLE"**

—From the Marion Record.

Kansas Highway Commission, to return money to land owners, who had been taxed during the 1920s to build state highways. This position led to a job with Samuel Dodsworth Stationery Company, selling supplies to counties, cities, and banks in the eastern counties of Kansas. Abe could maintain his residence virtually anywhere in the eastern third of the state. So, when the eldest son was ready for college in 1940, Abe and Mary moved to Manhattan, relocating the family home at 520 North Eleventh Street.

#### 8. Benjamin Harrison

**B**enjamin was born on the Mud Creek farm in 1890. He was enrolled as a student in the district school from 1895 to 1909. Ben learned Kansas farming techniques from his father. Gottfried bought land, sight-unseen, as a result of one of D. D.'s Texas land buying tours. The land was in Wharton County, near Haun, and with its owner so far away there was very little income coming in from the land. Some stories have Ben volunteering to go to Texas at age seventeen to farm this land, but it seems



Ben's rice well

more likely that he was nearer twenty-one. The Tampa Star, in 1912, reported Ben as a visitor from Haun, Texas.

Ben went to Texas by train with his mule and some supplies. His mother loaded him down with various foods to help him on his way. He got off the train at El Campo, and rode his mule out to the land. "He built a shed on the barn and lived there. He made a very good profit the first year and sent it" home to his father. To further develop this land Ben drilled water wells so that he could irrigate rice.

In 1915 on return from the San Francisco Fair,



Ben and Violet



Edwin spent a week on Ben's farm. Edwin remembered two things about this visit--he got bedbugs, and that Ben was a great hunter with his shotgun always with him. Ben shot a prairie chicken (it was out-of-season and illegal) so he hid it in his rubber boot, took it home and made rice soup with it.

One day, while he was in El Campo, Ben was approached on the street by a young lady who was entered in a contest selling subscriptions to the Houston Post. Ben bought a subscription and that was how he met Violet Ricks. Violet won a trip to Colorado in the contest. Later Violet taught elementary school at Haun and they saw each other regularly. On June 11, 1919, in San Antonio, Ben and Violet were married. When Violet first visited Kansas relatives with Ben her biggest surprise was to learn that he could converse with them in German, as she had not known earlier that he spoke German.

Ben and Violet established their home in El Campo where Isabel was born. Ben bought real estate there and in the Rio Grande Valley near McAllen and retired early from farming. In later years he served on El Campo's city council, on the school board, and for many years on the selective service board. Ben died suddenly on his thirty-ninth wedding anniversary, having survived a serious heat stroke seven years earlier.

## 9. William Frederick

**W**illiam Frederick, the youngest of Gottfried and Katy's children, had the same names as his second eldest brother, except that they were reversed. Willie or Bill, as he was called, was the baby of the family, a fact that he was rarely allowed to forget. At age three, barely out of his toddling days, Willie received a kick in the face from a colt which left him very ill and recovery came slowly. The long days of special treatment which he received from members of the family, because of this injury, had a profound affect on his life. Moreover, the blow from the colt left a permanent scar on his face.

Bill's enrollment in the district school covered the years from 1899 through 1913, although in 1911 he attended Lincoln School taught by his brother, Abe. He was the only one of Gottfried's children to attend the school after it took the name Comet School.

**O**n April 17, 1917, Bill was married to Martha Hein. Martha was born in Russia and she was not quite twenty years of age at the time of their wedding. Bill's entire training and experience was as a farmer so he rented a farm near Hillsboro, where Alice was born the following year. Bob came along a year and one-half later. By the time Violet was born in late 1921 Bill had moved his family to another farm near Ramona. A short time later Bill got a job in Marion, where he worked for a company which processed chickens, so another move for his family was made. Doris was born in Marion. Two years later Bill got a better job with the Wolf Flour Mill in Ellinwood where his family lived from 1926 to 1934.

After many years of marriage and many moves in search of better paying jobs and many frustrations because the ambitions for the family could not be realized, Bill and Martha got a divorce. While not nearly as common in the mid-nineteen thirties as forty years later, divorce was becoming an accepted pattern in American life. However, such action was comparatively rare among the members of the Socolofsky family or their personal acquaintances.

Martha took the children with her and moved to Clearwater. Bill worked at various jobs in many different places, finally settling down in Hutchinson. Both Martha and Bill later found someone with whom they could share their lives and they remarried.



Bill and Martha's wedding picture

## XIII. GOTTFRIED AND KATY IN TAMPA

When Gottfried and Katy moved to town they were living by themselves for almost the first time in their lives. Leona wrote later that Gottfried felt Katy "deserved a long rest, he did most of the work and no queen ever had a more loyal and devoted subject. Her throne was an easy chair with a pillow behind her back, under each arm, and her little feet on a footstool. Grandpa would sit beside her and together they would chat or read to each other from their German newspapers. When I was thirteen, this looked very dull to me, but as I look back on it now I know that these were two happy old people, who were still very much in love."

Gottfried, and especially Katy, kept in close touch with their family by frequent telephone calls over the rural party line, by visits to their children and other relatives, and by correspondence. Gottfried never owned a car and he did not learn to drive one so when travel was for greater distance than a horse-and-buggy trip he depended on others. For longer trips they went by railway.

During this period, or earlier, Gottfried and Katy, either together or separately with other members of the family, visited outside Kansas in the states of Texas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Colorado, and Nebraska, and outside the country in Saskatchewan. Once Gottfried visited the State Fair in Hutchinson with his son, G. G. He spent most of his time watching the harness-horse races, rather than visiting the displays of farm products and purebred livestock.

Gottfried and Katy had a well-kept house in Tampa with a fine woven-wire fence around it. They planted a garden in back of the house. In addition to all kinds of vegetables Gottfried raised old-fashioned varieties of flowers; roses, phlox, iris, lilacs, and Madonna lilies. He also provided shelves in the bay window of the dining room which Katy "kept filled with house plants. Above them hung a cage with a singing canary and nothing could have been cosier than this room."

Katy was remembered by most of her grandchildren as "Grossmutter" or more intimately as "Klein Mutter" because she was so small. Her fondness for coffee caused her grandchildren to tease her about stunting her growth. Her erect, short, and plump figure and her old fashioned clothing styles were a source of embarrassment to some of her granddaughters, but nothing they said about her clothing made any difference. "The one style she always wore whether it was blue calico or her 'Sunday' black silk" was a "plain buttoned-down-the-front shirtwaist with a little round collar and long sleeves."

Gottfried at his  
back door

Katy and Gottfried

Across the street  
at the church



Although Katy did not use cosmetics, she could never turn down a child who was selling door-to-door. These young salesmen and saleswomen knew she was an easy mark. With little cash available she would buy their products anyway. If it was something like face powder, which she didn't use, she paid for such wares and promptly tossed them into the stove. Katy's hands were calloused and work-worn, but soap and water was her limit on cosmetics. Leona remembered seeing her grandfather pat those little hands lovingly and tell Katy "how much he appreciated the many years of labor they represented."

**G**ottfried developed a kind of routine in his day-to-day life in Tampa. He would drop by the post office for the mail, visit with people on the street and obtain needed groceries. He would watch some of the activities of the local school children, especially the practice of sports teams. He especially followed the sports career of his grandson, Charles. However, he rarely saw Charles play baseball, since most of the games were played on Sunday. But he never failed to inquire about who won.

Sunday was a "day of rest" for Gottfried and Katy. They attended Sunday school and church in the church they helped to build. Only regular chores, requiring daily work, were attended to on Sunday. Visiting, reading, writing letters, and other such activities occupied a large part of each Sunday for Gottfried and Katy and the people they knew best.

Leona recalled the importance of that little German Baptist church where Gottfried, Katy, and all the relatives attended in the following way:

Grandma and Grandpa were very devout Christians as were our parents also. As children I'm afraid we were not that serious about religion but as adults we remain true to our faith and convictions. The services were almost always in German so we didn't listen too carefully. However, some of it must have soaked in because I can recall some of the German hymns and scripture verses. Church was sort of a social affair for us kids and we all sat together in a giggling, whispering group. One of our favorite pastimes was popping our wide black elastic garters because that sounded like corn

popping. Many Sundays we were punished for our behavior, but it never really reformed us much . . .

**I**t would be impossible to tell of our church activities without describing our annual Christmas programs which we children declared a "pain in the neck." However, I believe we secretly enjoyed them and were very proud of our perfect performances. These programs were directed by Anna Popp who had been a school teacher . . . . Since we were few in number we were given many different parts--songs, "pieces," dialogues, drills, etc. These were all in German and had to be perfect or we incurred the double wrath of our director and our parents. Virginia Socolofsky played the old-fashioned organ and accompanied our songs. On the first chord we stood, on the second we turned, and on the third we started marching onto the platform. Clinton was rather small and as he put it usually the "lead horse," sometimes with disastrous results.

. . . nothing but perfection would do so we had endless practices on Sunday afternoons preceding the big night. Our poor mothers prepared delicious basket dinners which we ate in the back room of the church. That part we little gluttons loved. After the dinner we tore out to play until the church bell summoned us grudgingly to the dreaded practice. I'll never forget the Sunday that Charles S. fell down and tore his new Christmas suit. His parents were not pleased.

**F**inally, the big night arrived and the church was beautifully decorated with a huge tree decked with candles. Our performances were always good and went as planned with the exception of one that stands out in my memory. One year several small trees were placed around the platform and my dad, Henry Kleiber, persuaded Clinton to leave the platform after his "piece" by jumping over a tree instead of going down the steps. I don't believe an atom bomb would have caused more consternation. I'm sure poor Clinton was punished when his uncle should have been.

After the performance the candles were lighted while our fathers stood ready to extinguish any fire. I really can't describe the thrill and beauty those trees brought to the occasion. We

were each given a sack of candy and nuts and also an orange and an apple. How we enjoyed and looked forward to that treat! Somehow, all the weeks of practice and the scoldings we received when we goofed seemed to fade into the background and we revelled in the true meaning of Christmas.

#### XIV. THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

Gottfried and Katy were married on January 1, 1873, but their Golden Wedding Anniversary was celebrated on February 10, 1923, with all of their children, spouses, and grandchildren present. This crowd numbered forty-six, which with Gottfried and Katy, totaled forty-eight. All but half a dozen of their grandchildren were born by that time. Instead of an open house planned for all relatives and friends, the highlight of the Golden Jubilee celebration was a program in Gottfried and Katy's honor, presented by the children and grandchildren in the little white church. Leona recalled that she was horrified when informed that she was to recite a German poem. "Tears and pleading did no good and she mounted the 'platform' in the church to recite with rather a grudging attitude which gradually turned to remorse as she saw the quiet tears slip down the furrowed cheeks of her grandparents." Leona's poem was:

Heur' sind es gerade Fünfzig Jahre,  
Seitdem du, Herr, dies Jubelpaar vereint;  
Gebleicht sind ihre Dunkle Haare,  
Und manche Tröne haben sie geweint;  
Doch deine Lieb' und Gnade bleichte nicht,  
Du warst in jeder Finsternis ihr Licht.

Heut' sind es grade fünfzig Jahre,  
Seit euch das schöne Eheband umschloz;  
O preiset Gott, ihr Jubilare,  
Dasz solche Segensfülle auf euch floss;  
Was venigen auf Erden wird zuteil  
Das seht ihr Heute an als Gottes Heil.

heut' sind es grade fünfzig Jahre,  
Seit euch die Wolkensäule zog voran;  
Es gibt nicht viele Ehepaare,  
An denen Gott so groszes hat getan,  
Er hütet euch als sein Eigentum,  
Und Ihm gebührt daher auch aller Ruhm.

[By W. Haupt]

Helen was another participant in the Golden Jubilee celebration. Her poem, like the one recited by Leona, made use of terminology which translated more easily into the English "Golden Jubilee" rather than golden anniversary. Helen's poem was sent by her Uncle Fred to her Uncle Abe, who gave her only about a week to commit it to memory. It was:

#### EBENEZER

Freudig erhoben, selig bewegt,  
Ja, unser Herze jubelnd heut' schlägt;  
Denn wie so sehr gab unser Herr  
Euch, ihr geliebten, Segen bisher!

Wohl gabs' auch Leiden, doch an den Schmartz  
Denket vor Freude nicht euer Herz;  
Denn wie so treu stand Jesus bei,  
Half aus den Nöten immer aufs neu!

Ein Ebenezer setzen wir heut'  
An dieser schönen Jubelhochzeit,  
Wo so beglückt und so entzückt  
Auf fünfzig Jahre ihr blickt!

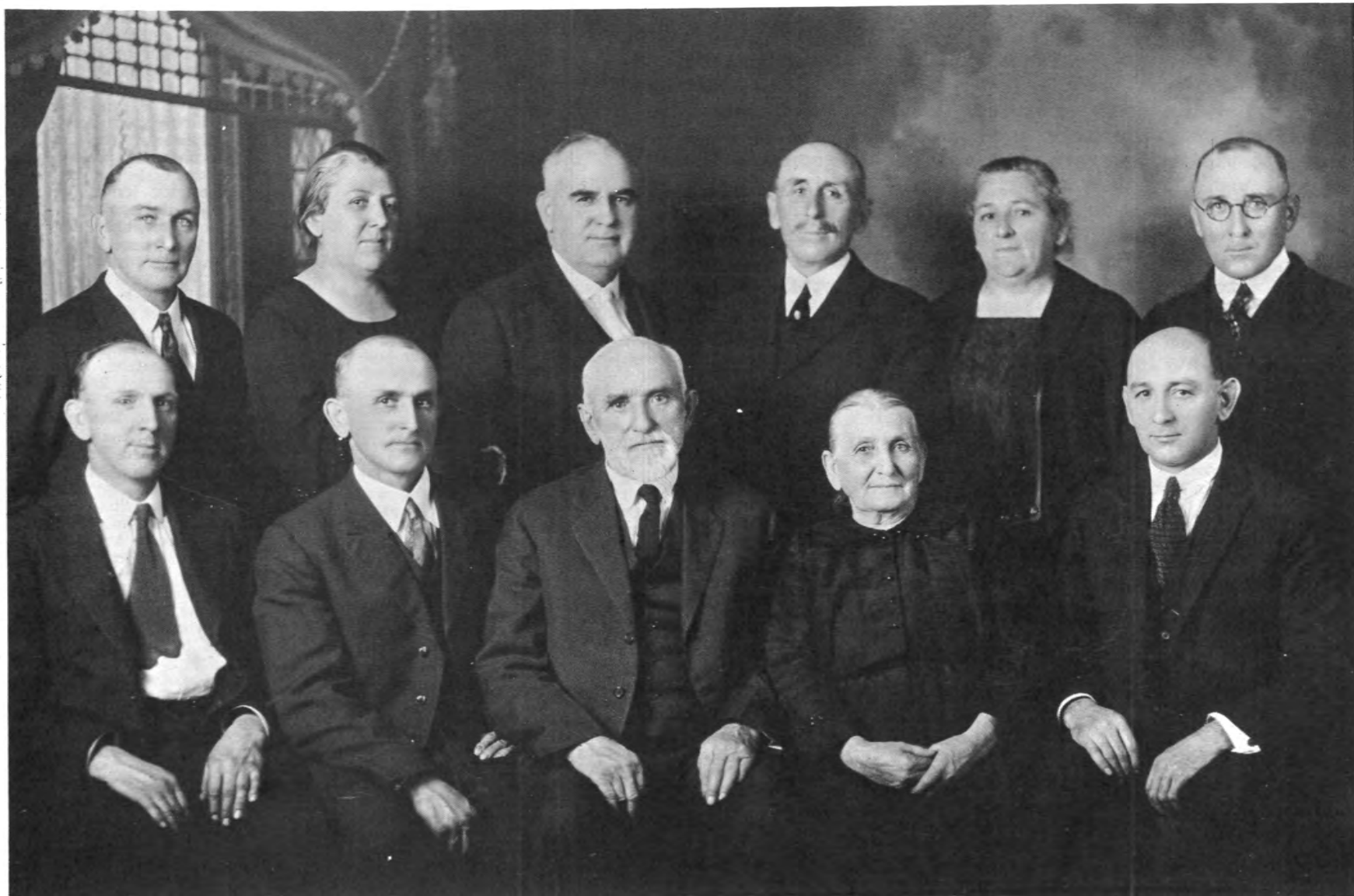
Brüder und Schwestern, nahe und fern,  
Kinder und Enkel flehen zum Herrn:  
Möge die Hand, die euch eins hand,  
Knüpfen aufs neue das eh'liche Band!

Doch da auf Erden alles geschwind,  
Freude und Leid, wie Nebel zerrinnt,  
Bitten wir heut': Herr, mach bereit  
Uns zu des Lammes Jubelhochzeit!

[By E. Gebhardt]

A lovely silver coffee urn was given to Gottfried and Katy at the Golden Jubilee celebration and excellent pictures were made of the eleven members of Gottfried and Katy's immediate family. Clara Socolofsky Hein now has the coffee urn.





Golden Wedding picture, February, 1923

Back - Jake, Lydia, Fred, Godfrey, Mary, Ben

Front - Bill, Dan, Gottfried, Katy, Abe

## XV. GOTTFRIED'S FINAL YEARS

Gottfried's health began to slip in the late nineteen-twenties. By mid-summer, 1931, one of his sons notified Gottfried's brothers and sister that his days were numbered and if they wanted to visit him again they must do so soon. Their response was that they wanted to visit their brother but the world-wide depression left them with no cash and they could not afford to travel from Canada, or Oregon, or California, back to Kansas, so none of them were able to make this final trip to see Gottfried. He passed away on November 17, 1931. The following obituary was printed in both English and German newspapers in Marion County.

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**Gottfried Socolofsky.**

Gottfried Socolofsky was born October 19, 1854 in Dreispitz, Russia, and departed this life at his home in Tampa, Kansas, on Nov. 17, 1931, aged 77 years and 29 days. He was united in marriage in Dreispitz to Katharina Dick on January 1, 1873. Mr. Socolofsky is survived by his wife, nine children, 32 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, three brothers, one sister and a number of nieces and nephews. The children are: G. G. of Tampa; Rev. F. W. of Bessie, Okla.; Mrs. J. F. Major of Dorrance, Kansas; Mrs. Henry Kleiber and Jacob Socolofsky of Ramona; Dan of Hamburg, Iowa; A. L. of Marion; Ben H. of El Campo, Texas; William, Ellinwood. His brothers are: Andrew of Loreburn, Sask. (Canada); Reinhart of Austin, Texas; D. D. of Salem, Oregon; and his sister, Mrs. A. B. Friesen of Monterey Park, Cal. One brother George preceded him in death in 1908.

Not being satisfied with conditions and opportunities in Russia, Mr. Socolofsky with his wife and two small children emigrated to America in 1876, arriving at Peabody on July 4th. They lived near Lehigh and Marion for several years, locating finally 3 miles southeast of Tampa 50 years ago, and there resided until 1918 when they retired from the farm and moved into Tampa.

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**Socolofsky.** — Vater Gottfried Socolofsky wurde geboren am 19. Okt. 1854 in Dreispitz, Rußland, und starb selig im Herrn am 17. Nov. 1931 in Tampa, Kans., und hat somit sein Alter gebracht auf 77 Jahre und 19 Tage. 1873 reichte er Katharina Elisabeth Dick die Hand zum Ehebunde in Dreispitz, Rußland. Diese Ehe wurde mit 9 Kindern gesegnet, 7 Knaben und 2 Mädchen, welche alle am Leben sind. Neben seiner treuen Gattin und Kindern überleben ihn 32 Großkinder und 2 Urorenkinder, sowie 3 leibliche Brüder und 1 Schwester. Ein Bruder, Georg Socolofsky, ging ihm 1908 im Tode voran. Vater Socolofsky war nicht zufrieden mit den Verhältnissen in Rußland, somit ergriff er den Wanderstab und kam mit seiner I. Gattin und 2 Kindern in dieses Land und landete am 4. Juli 1876 in Peabody, Kans. Die ersten Jahre wohnte er in der Nähe von Lehigh, Kans., bis er sich dauernd auf einer Farm niederließ in der Nähe von Tampa, Kans.; daselbst wohnte er, bis er sich 1918 in Ruhestand setzte und in der Stadt Tampa, Kans., wohnte. In seiner Jugend, noch in Rußland wohnend, wurde er zu Gott bekehrt und von Dr. F. Darlinger auf seinen Glauben getauft. Er war ein treuer Nachfolger Jesu Christi; es war ihm darum

In early life while still in Russia Mr. Socolofsky was converted and united with the church. He was a charter member of the German Baptist church at Tampa, and always took a great interest in the various church activities. One of his chief delights was regular attendance at all divine services. He loved the Bible and the House of God above everything else, and gave of his time and talents without reservation. He never turned a deaf ear to any worthy cause, nor failed the needy when within his power to help.

Knowing the conditions in Russia and the hardships of friends and relatives there, Mr. Socolofsky assisted no less than twenty-five families to come to this country, furnishing passage and helping them establish themselves here. It afforded him great pleasure to hear of any success or honor that touched any of these families he had thus helped.

Mr. and Mrs. Socolofsky enjoyed a long life together, having been married almost 59 years. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1923, at which every member of the family was represented. Mr. Socolofsky's passing marks the first break in the family circle. The community has lost a most respected citizen, the church an ardent supporter and the family a devoted husband and father. He lived a life full of usefulness. Of him also can be said, as we find in II Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day."

The funeral services were held in the high school auditorium at Tampa, Kansas, Friday, Nov. 20, at 1:30 p. m. in charge of Rev. G. M. Pankratz, who spoke in German. He was assisted by Rev. Arthur Sandow speaking in English. Interment in Highland cemetery, Marion, Kansas.

## XVI. KATY'S FINAL YEARS

Katy decided to move out of the Tampa house after Gottfried's death. She spent most of her final years in the homes of her daughters, Mary and Lydia. The loss of her husband of fifty-nine years left an aching void in her life. Her

zu tun, Jesus zu ehren durch ein gottgeheiltes Leben; er war ein treues Mitglied der Baptistenkirche in Tampa, Kans.; er bewies ein reges Interesse an der Gemeindegemeinschaft; er liebte Gottes Wort und das Haus Gottes über alles andere; ja, wimmer er konnte, reichte er eine helfende Hand dar und gab sehr gern für Missionszwecke. Da er nun die Zustände in Rußland gut kannte, hat er auch nicht weniger als 25 Familien dazu verholfen, in dieses Land zu kommen, und freute sich stets, wenn sie Fortschritte machten und es ihnen wohl erging. Er und Schm. Socolofsky hatten die seltene Freude, 59 Jahre Hand in Hand durchs Leben zu pilgern. 1923 feierten sie das Fest der goldenen Hochzeit. Bei dieser wichtigen Gelegenheit waren alle ihre Kinder zugegen. Durch das Hinscheiden des I. Vaters Socolofsky entstand der erste Bruch in der Familienkette. Die Umgegend hat einen treuen Bürger, die Gemeinde einen fleißigen Mitarbeiter und die Familie einen liebevollen Vater und Gatten verloren. Möge es nun auf ähnliche Weise von seinem Leben gesagt werden können, wie es in 2 Tim. 4, 7, 8 heißt: „Ich habe den guten Kampf gekämpft, ich habe den Lauf vollendet, ich habe Glauben gehalten; hinfort ist mir beigelegt die Krone der Gerechtigkeit, welche mir der Herr an jenem Tage, der gerechte Richter, geben wird, nicht mir aber allein, sondern auch allen, die sein Erscheinen lieb haben.“ Die Begräbnisfeierlichkeiten fanden am 20. Nov. 1931 im schönen Auditorium der Hochschule zu Tampa, Kans., statt. Dr. A. R. Sandow von der Ebenezer-Gemeinde sprach in der Landessprache über Hiob 19, 26, 27; Unterzeichneter redete über Ps. 116, 15 und Kol. 1, 12 in der deutschen Sprache. Ein Männerquartett von der Durham-Gemeinde diente bei dieser Gelegenheit so schön. Dann wurde die Leiche von Tampa aus nach Marion gefahren und auf dem schönen Friedhof dort zur letzten Ruhe gebettet bis zum großen Auferstehungsmorgen. G. M. Pankratz.

existence had been so interwoven with his that she was lonely in spite of the good companionship she had in her daughters' homes. Her death came after an illness of three weeks at Lydia's home on June 26, 1934. The following obituary appeared in county newspapers.

**Mrs. G. Socolofsky.**

Marion Record: Katharina Elizabeth Socolofsky, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dick, was born in Driespitz, Russia, on April 26, 1853. She departed this life on June 26, 1934 after an illness of three weeks at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Henry Kleiber, Ramona, Kansas, having reached the age of 81 years and 2 months.

In the year 1873 she was united in marriage to Gottfried Socolofsky and this union was blessed with nine children, all of whom are living. They are: G. G. Socolofsky, Tampa; E. W. Socolofsky, Bessie, Okla.; Mrs. J. F. Major, Dorance, Kansas; Mrs. Henry Kleiber, Ramona; Jacob Socolofsky, Ramona; Dan Socolofsky, Hamburg, Iowa; A. L. Socolofsky, Marion; Ben Socolofsky, El Campo, Texas; Wm. Socolofsky, Hamburg, Iowa.

Besides the above named children, she is survived by 32 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, 1 half sister, Mrs. Gottfried Schick of Tampa and one step sister, Mrs. Frederick Dick of Bessie, Okla., and a host of other relatives and friends.

During the year 1876 she and her husband, being dissatisfied with conditions in Russia, emigrated to America with two small children, arriv-

ing in Peabody, Kansas, on July 4th of that year. For a number of years they lived in the vicinity of Lehigh and Marion and finally settled on their farm near Tampa. They lived there until 1918 when they retired and moved to Tampa where they resided until 1931, at the time of the passing of Mr. Socolofsky. She then made her home with her daughters, Mrs. Henry Kleiber and Mrs. Major. Mother Socolofsky was converted while living in Russia and was baptized by Rev. F. Dahlinger. She was a true and consistent Christian and was faithful to her confession during her entire life. She loved the Word of God and God's house above all and was a loyal member of the German Baptist church during her Christian experience. She had the special privilege of a blessed marriage union of 59 years. Their golden wedding anniversary was celebrated in 1923, at which all their children were present.

It could be truly said of her as in II Timothy, 4: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith."

Funeral services were conducted in the Tampa German Baptist church in charge of Rev. G. M. Pankratz and Rev. L. Hoeffner and interment made in the Highland cemetery, Marion.

seven sons and two daughters, "share-and-share-alike," or to their children should they not be alive.

Copies of the signatures of Gottfried and Katharina Socolofsky from his Will, dated September 24, 1927

Much of Gottfried's property, at the time of his death, was in a form not easily divided and transferred to his heirs. The house was closed down and a public sale held on December 19, 1931. Following Katy's death in 1934, an estimate of the worth of the estate was divided among (1) Personal Property--\$601.80; (2) Promissory Notes owed to the estate--\$8,615.65; (3) Real Estate Mortgage owed to the estate--\$7,600; and (4) Real estate in Texas and Tampa--\$6,000, for a total of \$22,817.45.

In the 1930s a distribution of a full share in the estate amounted to \$520, but the assets of the estate grew in the 1940s and it was easier to convert them into cash. Some compromises were made in order to work out the intent of the will. The amount received for a full share in the 1940s was \$2,506.68, and the case was discharged December 6, 1948. By that time Fred and Lydia had died so their children directly shared in the division of the estate. As is the case in the settlement of so many family estates, there was some disagreement about how things should be handled but this time there was no denial of rights to the widow and to female heirs, as was the case with Gottfried's father fifty years earlier.

XVII. SETTLING THE ESTATE

On September 24, 1927, Gottfried Socolofsky prepared his will, which was duly read and consented thereto by his wife Katy. Their signatures were witnessed by J.F. Rhodes and Gus Ihde. Briefly, the will provided that within a reasonable time after Gottfried's death his just debts be paid and his property bequeathed to his wife, Katy. Upon her death, the residue of the estate was to go to the

XVIII. THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS

When Gottfried Socolofsky died in late 1931 his survivors included his wife, nine children, thirty-two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, three brothers and a sister. Five grandchildren had preceded him in death, and Marion, his youngest grandchild at three months, was to remain the youngest of that generation. By 1973, the great-grandchildren numbered fifty-four,

the fifth generation had grown to thirty-six, ranging in age from twenty-one to infants of less than one year.

The Socolofsky name, especially when considered as a possession of the male members of the family who transfer it to their offspring, has shown only a slight increase in this century for the descendants of Gottfried and Katy. As might be expected the paternal name, Socolofsky, would be the family name of a smaller and smaller portion of the relationship with each new generation. Between them, the seven sons of Gottfried and Katy had sixteen daughters and nine sons. These nine Socolofsky males of the third generation also had nine sons. Five of the fourth generation Socolofsky males, who range in age from forty to eighteen, are married and they have fathered eight children, of whom three are boys.

There are many ways in which the members of the Socolofsky family conform to the trends and patterns shown by Americans in general. Whereas, six of the nine children of Gottfried and Katy followed the vocation of their parents in agriculture, only two of the thirty-two in the next generation stayed in agriculture. The pronounced exodus from agriculture, especially in the period since World War II, has been evident in this family.

A far better education for the younger generations, than was provided for their parents, had broadened opportunities and opened the door to occupations inconceivable to Gottfried and his family. Only D.D. of the first generation, gained any kind of college education. In Gottfried's family, Fred graduated from college, Abe completed most of his college work, and G. G. and Jake took some of the specialized short courses offered on college campuses. College training for later generations became the established pattern rather than the exception, although some gained their education in the "School of Hard Knocks." An examination of the records of the family discloses an unusually large number who attained superior scholarship records in both high school and college. Salutatorian and Valedictorian roles have been the normal for many of these in later generations.

Generally, education received support and teaching became the career objective for many of the grand-

children of Gottfried and Katy. Others went into business, engineering, into service-oriented careers, the ministry, or similar occupations. This trend continues in the fourth generation. The number of graduate or advanced degrees among the third and fourth generations shows that their educational opportunities were far above those of their ancestors. This family truly believed the idea that "education can make a difference." Excellence is noteworthy here. For example, Ruth was recognized as one of the outstanding Master Teachers of Kansas in 1961.

A line of continuity between the grandparents and the members of the third generation can be seen in their religious commitment and political preference. Most members of Gottfried and Katy's family were Baptist. Religious affiliation of the third generation has remained dominantly Baptist, but Presbyterian, Congregational, Methodist and similar ties are evident. Many of the members in this generation have aided their church congregations as teachers, church officers, and with long-time service in church choirs and in other leadership roles.

Most German-speaking Protestant immigrants to Kansas, of Gottfried's generation, were recruited by the Republican Party, and their children generally followed this lead. Political ties in the third generation are less binding, and in many ways they are dependent on the place where a person lives. Thus, those who have moved out of Kansas into the South, generally register as members of the Democratic Party and some in Kansas have transferred their allegiance from the Republican Party. Except for Abe, members of the family who served in public office did so in offices of local character where the election was non-partisan. Membership on school boards has been extensive. Also, members of the family have served in other positions of local responsibility, and several have held positions of semi-public nature on statewide agencies.

The fourth generation shows more of a diversity in their view of religion. Evident is reduced attendance at regular worship services than was true of their predecessors. It is harder to generalize about the religious views of this generation. Similarly, they have become more independent in their political ties. The vast mobility for Americans, in general,

has provided fewer ties to a specific area and traditional loyalties to past belief and action have been weakened.

In special fields such as music, art and literature, the younger generations show widespread abilities and training not attainable by their parents and grandparents. The old American adage that suggests that the grandparents must labor at menial tasks, so that their children can gain an education, so that the children of their children will have the leisure to enjoy music, art, and literature, is certainly evident with this family.

Similarly, the affluence of later generations has enabled them to spend much time in travel. The grandparents and their first-born made the long trek from Russia almost a century ago when the total elapsed time for their journey must have been about two months. Later they were to visit such distant points as Canada, Wisconsin, and Texas, but most of their long life was spent within the narrow confines of a few miles near Tampa. Never did Gottfried, Katy, nor any of their brood go back for a visit to the old country and probably none of them used or needed a passport after the long first trip to Kansas.

Members of the second generation did take some time to travel, but generally it was to no point outside of North America. But, the third and later generations have many veteran travelers in their numbers. Some of them have had passports for years and never let them expire. Virginia, the elder member of the third generation, for instance, has been all over the world and she regularly attends cultural events in Europe and Asia. John has seen travel as a consequence of his research position with Mobil. His older brother, Arthur, and cousins, Bob and Homer, saw various parts of the world as pilots, seamen, and marines, in World War II. Herbert and his family spent twelve years as missionaries in the Sudan and Mildred went with her family to Egypt for two years when her husband was there on assignment. One of the most interesting ways to go overseas was the manner in which Albert saw the world in 1936, 1937, and 1938. He was employed by an Omaha mule exporter to help deliver mules to the British army in India. Al was foreman of the crew in 1938 which departed Omaha with 428 mules

and unloaded 427 in Karachi thirty-eight days later. 67  
Leona and her husband have traveled extensively in Mexico and in Europe, and they served as short-term missionaries in Haiti for their church. Ella and her husband have visited South America, and Salome visited Europe.

If the third generation has had it over the second on travel, the younger generations have it over their predecessors. To be sure, much of their travel has been a product of the post-World War II role of the United States in world affairs, for many of the younger generation have visited other areas in the uniform of American servicemen. But others have traveled abroad as missionaries, as businessmen, and for pleasure. If travel conditions continue to improve there is no reason why this trend should not continue.

Gottfried and Katy and their family were totally involved in the matter of making a living and in getting established in a strange land. Family responsibility for most everything was the usual pattern of their day. In later years various organizations to provide service for youth, the aged, the impoverished, the ill, or for other categories of need have been largely the product of the increasingly urban-oriented twentieth century. And these new service organizations are largely staffed by unpaid volunteers. Many of the descendants of Gottfried and Katy can be found in later years assisting through these volunteer groups in an effort to improve the lot of others less fortunate than themselves. Calls for help did not go unheeded by Gottfried and Katy and their offspring. Their children and grandchildren have recognized the need. Not only do they give of their money, but more importantly, they give of their time.

Another area in which opportunities for achievement have developed that were not available to the elder generation has been in the field of sports activity. Abe spent some time on sports teams while in college but he did not letter. Charles, however, lettered in football and track and followed that with a coaching career for fifteen years. Homer also spent more time than was necessary in high school and college on his specialties, football and track. Both Charles and Homer placed in national NCAA track meets.

Sports careers of members of the fourth generation show some outstanding feats. Barbara Socolofsky has eclipsed her father's brilliant athletic career by her role in intercollegiate rodeos. Her three years of competition was climaxed in 1967 by being named top All-Around Cowgirl and her awards included the Helms Athletic Trophy and recognition in Sports Illustrated. After an exciting career in amateur baseball and high school and college football, John Peterson, Violet's son, was listed on All-American NAIA football teams. Later he became a high school coach and teacher. His brother, Dan, was a junior college conference first-team selection, before enlisting in the navy. Young John Lindholm and Warren Fore, still in high school, are actively refining their basketball and football skills and more will be heard from them.



#### MISCELLANEOUS



**G**ottfried and Katy Socolofsky spent much time and money over a period of many years in assisting 25 or 26 families to immigrate from Russia to the United States. The details of this effort are lacking, but a story in the Marion County Record, May 27, 1881, tells of a local bank which served as an agency for the purchase of the "entire railroad and steamship fare from a point on the Russian frontier to Marion Centre." Half-told stories from later years suggest that some of the families aided by Gottfried and Katy resented the help they had received. Gottfried and Katy did not expect payment in kind by these recipients of their bounty, but they were upset by some of the backbiting that came their way. They had worked hard, paid their own obligations, and they expected that others would do so also. They would have been sufficiently repaid had these countrymen shared their resources with others.

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**S**unday School picnics for the German Baptist Church of Tampa gave an opportunity for many of the members of the Socolofsky family to gather and visit. Several of these all day events were held at Amelia Park, near Antelope. A sizable branch of Clear Creek runs beside the park and someone had tied a large rope

to a tree that overhung the creek. Children and young adults got a thrill in swinging out on the rope as far as they could. Usually such play was merely play, but at least once Virginia lost hold of the rope at the peak of its arc over the water and she dropped in to the amusement of her friends and relatives.

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Grandchildren of Gottfried and Katy recall that their grandparents were actively moved by requests for assistance and they responded to such calls. When they were asked what had happened to certain clothing, or food, or some other possession, they frequently got the answer, "Oh, we sent it to the Mission."

On another occasion, Grossmutter was found cooking on an oil stove and her coal range was no where to be seen. When asked where it was, she responded, "Die Meieren" needed it more than do I. Their children gained a sensitivity toward the needs of others from these charitable acts of the parents. Money or goods might be scarce but Gottfried and Katy were willing to share their resources with others.

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**O**ne of the significant reasons for the Socolofsky family leaving Russia was their personal opposition to military conscription. All males in Russia were obligated, after 1871, to serve in the Czar's army in some manner. The first time that the Socolofskys faced military conscription in the United States was during World War I. At that time, none of the seven sons of Gottfried and Katy were drafted. The primary reason was their ages, marital status, and the fact that most of them were farmers. Food producers during that war were exempted from military service. However, opposition to military service was not universal within the relationship for several of D. D.'s sons were on active duty during the war.

The demands for increased food production during World War I, with slogans such as "Wheat Will Win the War!" were responded to by the Socolofsky farmers with unusually long, hard days of work. The idea of using substitutes for wheat flour or for lard, however, was

not readily accepted by the wives. One wife complained, "how can we be expected to feed our men adequately on such stuff?" She continued to use all the wheat flour she could get, but generally she stored it in her kitchen under a layer of oat flour, because she feared that someone would come snooping and check up on her food preparations.

During World War II, many of Gottfried and Katy's eleven grandsons were engaged in farming. Three of them, however, served in various branches of the armed forces and had the war continued longer there would have been others who would have joined them. Spouses, or future spouses, of many of the twenty-one granddaughters also served in the armed forces. In later periods of national military action, an increasing proportion of the male Socolofsky descendants were a part of the nation's military effort.

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**R**ural free delivery came to the Tampa area during the years that D.D. served as the postmaster in Tampa. In earlier years the Socolofsky family went to town to get their mail. Before Tampa was established their nearest post office was at Gale, a location several miles to the east. Rural free delivery was a valued service for the farm family. Not only could they get first class mail and newspapers, but also they could have goods and supplies from mail order companies delivered to their own mail box located near their front gate.

A more rapid means of communication, the telephone, arrived on the Tampa scene in 1900. To provide service throughout the area, the Farmers Mutual Switchboard Association was organized in 1912. The Mutual phone company had about 200 stockholders and served a wide area in northern Marion county. G. G. Socolofsky was one of the five directors of this association. For many years a subscriber to Mutual service could make a call from Tampa to Marion over Mutual wires free of extra charges, while a toll was charged for service by the Bell Telephone Company.

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When grandchildren were to visit the home of Gottfried and Katy for an extended time, they would find special preparations made for them. If the visit was in the summertime there was a swing in the corn crib. In winter there was an occasional opportunity for sledding.

**G**rossmutter Katy took time to play with her grandchildren. She admired their drawings and their playtime activities.

A make-believe type of play in the orchard beside grandfather's house or near the home of Uncle G. G. took hours of time for visiting grandchildren. A surrey might be made of bricks, with poles at the corners to hold up a blanket top. Exciting trips could be made in such a magic vehicle. Playing house involved food preparations. Mudpies were sprinkled with corn, so that the chickens would eat them. Pieces of dishes or pottery were used for small sized plates for this play. Since grasshopper legs reminded the hard-at-work children of chicken drumsticks, they caught grasshoppers as fast as they could, pulled off their legs and piled them high on their make-believe plates.

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**A** visitor, in 1973, to the 64-year-old farm home built by Gottfried Socolofsky as a gift for his wife, Katy, will be escorted around the house by a gracious hostess (Mrs. Albert) Irene Medley Novak. Mrs. Novak and her husband have lived in the house since 1941 and they have completely carpeted, electrified, and refurbished this beautiful home. In the process the bay windows and the pipes for the gas lights have been removed. Outbuildings remain virtually the same, although now covered by sheets of galvanized steel.

This house has a distinctive character, with its sweeping roofline and slate roof, but it was built by unpretentious people. Gottfried and Katy were humble folks. They wore simple clothes, but the house they lived in for almost ten years has grand, large, airy rooms, which on the main floor have ceilings over nine feet high. Heavy floor-to-ceiling sliding doors between the front hallway and the parlor have remained unchanged down through the years.

The newel post and the bannister of the front stairway retain their varnished condition. This stairway is to the right of the front hall. It goes up several steps then left up a long flight, then left again for the final few steps to the long second floor hallway connecting the three bedrooms and a full bathroom. Remembered was the cautionary remark, "Don't flush the toilet unless the wind is blowing." The water pressure for this second floor bathroom, in the years gone by, was supplied by the windmill. The front part of the upstairs hallway has a sizable area about equal in size to the front hall downstairs. There Katy put the cut and dried apples, peaches and other fruits for schnitzel. Grandchildren remembered that Grossmutter spent hours in preparation of this fruit and that they could eat a bagful in one afternoon.

Just outside of one bedroom was the location of Abe's trunk. Visiting nieces and nephews examined fascinating pictures, pennants, postcards, tennis rackets and other memorabilia in this trunk. The back stairs goes down at right angle from the back of the long hall then right down a long flight to the kitchen. The walls of the pantry where Grossmutter kept her butter glaze have been removed and the area incorporated into the kitchen. The dining room, between the kitchen and the front hall was where Grossmutter Katy sorted her clean wash after she had carried it from the back yard clothes line. First removed from the clothing pile were the overalls. Katy folded each one twice and placed it on a chair. When all the overalls were on the chair, she sat on them and laughed with her grandchildren, remarking that she was pressing the overalls. From that position she sorted the remainder of the clothes.

Mrs. Novak remarked that the house was completely insulated a few years ago. A contractor had bid on the job and when they pumped the insulation into the walls it disappeared in tremendous quantities. An examination showed that the dimensions of the lumber of the outside walls was two-by-sixes rather than the ordinary two-by-fours. So the insulation contract was renegotiated. Mrs. Novak has many house plants which remind grandchildren of the abundant plants which Grossmutter Katy had in this house. Recalled, also, was the strong feeling Katy had against mice. She maintained that she could smell mice, and her family

said she could smell them even before mice moved into the house. Detested, too, was the "Fledermaus," a term Katy used to describe a moth or butterfly, and she sought to rid her house of such creatures. [Fledermaus translates literally as "bat."]

It was in this house that many of Gottfried and Katy's grandchildren were introduced to gum, supplied to them by their Uncle Abe. One stick might last a week when carefully deposited on a bedstead before going to bed, or behind an ear, when eating. Remembered was the time Ella Major visited. When she got ready for bed she put her wad of gum on a bedstead which was painted green. When she awoke the next morning she removed her gum along with a piece of green paint and she was ready for a new day.

While living in this house Gottfried and Katy went to church in a surrey "with a fringe on top" pulled by an unmatched team. Gottfried also had a top buggy and a spring wagon as conveyances for family use.

Roads, in 1973, in Clark and Colfax townships are much improved over those of the 1930s and earlier. The fertile black soil of this area makes a tenacious, heavy mud which requires heavy applications of rock and gravel before a road is usable under all weather conditions. Recalled were the problems of travel in this area before the time of all-weather roads. Even buggy or wagon traffic was sorely handicapped after prolonged rain. In a mile of travel wagon wheels could be vastly increased in weight and size because of built-up mud. One solution was to stop, remove as much mud as possible, and go on, repeating the process as needed.

Distances shrink as time goes by and remembrance of the past has a tendency to magnify the size and elegance of buildings, of trees, or other material objects. Rural areas frequently show deterioration and lack of care. But the memories of Gottfried and Katy's house on the farm, when refined by a visit in 1973, provide a kind of fulfillment. The house was beautiful in memories and it carries its elegance in sixty-four-year-old regal fashion.



Generally, the members of the Socolofsky family have been a healthy lot. Their peasant heritage endowed Gottfried and Katy with long lives, lasting until ages 77 and 81. Only Godfrey, Jake and Dan lived more years than their father but none of the children lived as long as their mother. The average age of the nine children was almost seventy years.

As is true of causes of death of Americans, most of the immediate descendents of Gottfried and Katy died from either heart disease in some form, or from cancer. Mary had a recognized case of diabetes during the last twenty years of her life. Enough of the members of the family, including Katy, had cataract operations, to make one wonder whether this serious eye impairment has a genetic involvement. The cause of cataracts, however, is now believed to be related to extensive activity in strong sunlight and is environmental rather than genetic. Thus, the occupation of farmer, in itself, would provide extra hazards for cataract formation. The primary genetic characteristics which members of the family have inherited from their Socolofsky forebears are the components of a sturdy physique with prospects for three-score and ten years. What changes will there be for the younger generations as a consequence of improvement in all kinds of medical and health facilities? What environmental influences will affect longevity?

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The hazards of farming are illustrated by the statement that "the farmer loses his crop nine times before it is in the bin." Serious losses came from too much rain or too little rain, from insects or disease and from a variety of other factors.

Hail damage to ripening grain comes so quickly that such loss seemed especially hard to take. One year G. G. had serious hail losses to his ripening wheat that was almost ready to bind for the harvest. What did G. G. do? He gathered up as much hail as he could and made ice cream.

\*\*\*\*\*

The art of conning a younger person into doing something is illustrated by Laura wanting Leona to move a rat that had been dead long enough to develop a peculiar aroma. It was a distasteful thing to do, but Laura told her all you have to do is pick it up by the tail and you can move it where ever you want. All Leona can remember is that the tail and some of the skin came off when she did what Laura told her to do.

When Marion was quite young and visiting at Uncle Godfreys, Charles was showing him around the barn. A hen had just laid an egg in the manger and Charles took the warm egg and told Marion that if he would swallow the egg without gagging he would give him a nickel. Marion, who must have been about six years of age, agreed to try. Charles tapped a small hole in each end of the egg and told Marion to suck hard. He did and was startled by the results. He made a face, but he didn't gag. The way it is remembered, Charles paid the nickel.

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One of his aunts remembered that the first time she ever met Clinton was just after he had finished skinning a skunk.

\*\*\*\*\*

Al remembered a visit by Uncle Bill's family to Dan's family on their farm near Antelope about 1923 or 1924. Typically, the menfolk would visit around the kitchen table with younger children near but not really taking part in the conversation. Bobby, perhaps three or four years of age, was kneeling on a chair with elbows on the table playing with an empty spool and innocently saying in a lisping way, "sahn of a bitz." He repeated this a number of times before his Uncle Dan asked him what he was saying. Bobby replied, "sahn of a bitz," and Dan asked where he got such language. Bill said it was probably from the new neighbor children, but Bobby said that his dad said words like that. It turned out that these were the words "Dad used when the car don't start."

\*\*\*\*\*

Dorothy Mildred Socolofsky Erickson had severe illnesses, including rheumatic fever, a mastoid, and an infected kidney. She had the required surgery for her mastoid condition and a kidney removal. Also, she lost most of her hearing which has been restored through fenestration, stapedectomy and tympanoplasty. When she was coming out from under anaesthesia she was bothered by horribly loud noises, which seemed to fill her hospital room. She finally realized that the noise was caused by her hands rubbing against the sheets.

\*\*\*\*\*

Incomplete poem memorized in his youth by Fred.

The boy stood on the Kansas fence  
All weary and alone.  
The hoppers flourished 'round about,  
All other lives were gone.

The boy once had a yellar dog  
And thirteen pretty goats,  
But dog and goats all disappeared  
Down those same hopper throats,

Parody of "Casabianca" by Felecia (Dorothea Brown) Hemans, published in 1836. The poem's first line was "The boy stood on the burning deck."

\*\*\*\*\*

Sibling rivalry, in years past, could be seen in the walk to and from school. Parental guidance, notwithstanding, the children were for a time outside the supervision of an adult. Ruth and Angeline had a long walk to get home during the lunch hour and Ruth tried to hurry her younger sister by walking faster. But such persuasion would not work, for Angeline sat down on the sidewalk and would not budge until Ruth promised to go slower. In much the same manner, Laura hurried Leona on the one and one-quarter mile trip to the Highland School. Especially on cold days, Laura wanted to run all the way and Leona would invariably fall behind.

Years later, Leona's five-year-old daughter, Kathy, delayed the wedding of Laura to Gale Safford, which took place in Leona's home. Gale "playfully and

illogically" asked Kathy "if she were ready to give her aunt away?" Kathy "wept loudly, exclaiming she didn't want to give Aunt Laura away." She wailed, "Won't I ever see Aunt Laura again?" When assured that Gale was only kidding, "She tearfully allowed the ceremony to be performed."

\*\*\*\*\*

Charles remembered from his pre-school years, that something was always going on at Grossmutter's house and he wanted to get in on the action. Generally, his mother would not give him permission to go the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile south to Grossmutter's place. So, he watched his chance to go without asking and he usually headed south when his mother went to the outdoor privy.

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Have you ever been concerned about the damage that can be inflicted by a wire clothes line which is just high enough to hit a running person in the neck? If so, you might ask Art how it felt when he was knocked from horseback when he rode through a gate where a relatively low guy-wire was bracing two taller gate posts. Although he was severely cut, Art was lucky that the wire brace, which was made of barbed wire, didn't break his neck.



There was a round iron ball at Grossmutter Socolofsky's house that Charles thought for a long time was a cannon ball. Abe had gotten the ball for some use in his teaching career. Later, Charles was to discover that the "cannon" ball was in reality a shot put [The first shot puts were cannon balls] and he learned what a shot put was used for. Because he came to be the shot put's owner and he had a special interest in putting this shot farther in track and field meets than others in high school, he practiced intently and did improve his record greatly.

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During the 1930s Laura, Leona, and Ellamae had a rat terrier named Patsy. Patsy was an interesting, excitable dog and nice to have around. Patsy dearly loved peanut butter and the girls enjoyed giving her a cracker with lots of peanut butter on it. Peanut butter in the 1930s was a sticky substance and when Patsy got it stuck to the roof of her mouth she practically went into contortions to get that peanut butter licked off with her tongue.

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## Military Leader

## Dead at Age 70

MOSCOW (AP) — Marshal Vasily D. Sokolovsky, who planned the operation for the capture of Berlin in World War II, died Friday after a grave illness, Tass reported. He was 70.

After the war, he held the posts of first deputy defense minister and chief of the general staff.

Sokolovsky was a close associate of Marshal Georgi K. Zhukov, the conqueror of Berlin, and

for a time was his chief of staff.

He was regarded as one of the ablest of Soviet military leaders and demonstrated his skill in World War II. The Defense Ministry in announcing his death called him an outstanding army leader who did much to build up the Soviet armed forces.

Elevated to the rank of colonel general in June of 1942, he became a full general in August 1943.

Sokolovsky was honored in orders for his command and staff work in the capture of Yelnya in August of 1943, of Smolensk in September of 1943, of Krakow in Poland and Berlin.

Vasily D. Sokolovsky was born of peasant parents on July 20, 1897, in the village of Kosliki, located on the plain of the River Neman, south of Vilna, Russia, and west of Minsk, near the present border of Poland. This location is so far removed from the Volga area that it is unlikely that Marshal Sokolovsky, who died May 10, 1968, was a relative, as far as relationships are usually counted, with the Dreispitz Socolofskys.

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One of the main floral displays at the funeral of Frederick Socolofsky, who died in 1942, was a large wheel with nine spokes. One of the spokes was broken, symbolizing the fact that Fred was the first of the nine children of Gottfried and Katy to die.

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A SONG USED FOR TROTTING A LITTLE ONE ON A KNEE  
(Used by Fred when playing with his daughters)

Hoph, hoph, hopf.	(Hop, hop, hop.
Wenn die Kinder kleine sein	When children are small,
Reiten sie auf Steckelein.	They ride on small sticks
Wenn sie grösser werden,	When they grow larger,
Reiten sie auf Pferden.	They ride on horses.
Hoph, hoph, hopf.	Hop, hop, hop.
Alles fällt neider.	All fall down.)

(Here he would dump the child onto the floor.)



## PRAYERS OF SOME OF THE SOCOLOFSKYS

TABLE PRAYERS: (for little ones)

Abba, lieder Vater. Amen (Abba, dear Father. Amen)

------(for older children)

Komm, Herr Jesus	(Come Lord Jesus
Sie unser gast.	Our guest to be.
Und segne alles	And bless these gifts
Was du aus gnaden	Bestowed by Thee.
Bescheret hast. Amen	Amen)

BEDTIME PRAYERS:

Ich binn klein,	(I am small,
Mach mein herz rein.	Make my heart pure.
Soll neimant drinn vennen	No one shall dwell in it
Alls Jesus allein.	But Jesus alone.)

A BEDTIME PRAYER SONG:

Müde bin ich	(Tired am I
Geht zu ruhe.	Go to rest.
Schliesse meine Augen zu.	Close my eyes.
Vater lass die Augen dein.	Father let your eyes
Über meinen Bette sein.	Watch over my bed.)

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## DER YOKEL

Der Herr der schickt den Yokel naus,  
Er soll den Hafer schneiden,  
Der Yokel schneidt den Hafer nicht  
Und kommt auch nicht zu Haus.

Der Herr der schickt den Pudel naus,  
Er soll den Yokel beisen,  
Der Pudel beist den Yokel nicht,  
Der Yokel schneidt den Hafer nicht,  
Und kommt auch nicht zu Haus.

Der Herr der schickt den Briegel naus,  
Er soll den Pudel schlagen,  
Der Briegel schlagt den Pudel nicht,  
Der Pudel beist den Yokel nicht,  
Der Yokel schneidt den Hafer nicht,  
Und kommt auch nicht zu Haus.

Der Herr schickt das Feuer naus,  
Es soll den Briegel brennen,  
Das Feuer brennt den Briegel nicht,  
Der Briegel schlagt den Pudel nicht,  
Der Pudel beist den Yokel nicht,  
Der Yokel schneidt den Hafer nicht,  
Und kommt auch nicht zu Haus.

Der Herr der schickt das Wasser naus,  
Es soll das Feuer loeschen,  
Das Wasser loescht das Feuer nicht,  
Der Feuer brennt den Briegel nicht,  
Der Pudel beist den Yokel nicht,  
Der Yokel schneidt den Hafer nicht,  
Und kommt auch nicht zu Haus.

Der Herr der geht dann selbst hinaus,  
Den Hafer zu schneiden,  
Der Yokel schneidt den Hafer nun,  
Der Pudel beist den Yokel nun,  
Der Briegel schlagt den Pudel nun,  
Das Feuer brennt den Briegel nun,  
Das Wasser loescht das Feuer nun,  
Und sie kommen alle zu Haus.

(Recited by Abe to his children at bedtime.)

## (THE SERVANT OR HIRED HAND

The master sends the servant out,  
In order to cut the oats,  
The servant doesn't cut the oats,  
Neither does he return home.

The master sends the dog out,  
In order to bite the servant,  
The dog doesn't bite the servant,  
The servant doesn't cut the oats,  
Neither does he return home.

The master sends the stick out,  
In order to hit the dog,  
The stick doesn't hit the dog,  
The dog doesn't bite the servant,  
The servant doesn't cut the oats,  
Neither does he return home.

The master sends the fire out,  
In order to burn the stick,  
The fire doesn't burn the stick,  
The stick doesn't hit the dog,  
The dog doesn't bite the servant,  
The servant doesn't cut the oats,  
Neither does he return home.

The master sends the water out,  
In order to put out the fire,

etc.

The master went out himself,  
In order to cut the oats,  
The servant now cut the oats,

etc.

And they all came home.)



BLEIBE BIE UNS  
von Frederick W. Socolofsky

Herr bleibe bie uns, in diesem Erden Leben,  
Wir moegten gehn, an deiner lieben Jesushand,  
Damit wie nie den rechten Weg verfehlen,  
Der uns fuehrt, zum ewigen Heimathland.

Wir sind mur Fremdlinge, auf dieser Erde  
Drehen ist unser Vaterland.  
Wier moegten als ware Pilger erfunden werden,  
Die Segen stiften in diesem suendigen Erdenland,  
Damit sich viehle Menchen sich Dir ergehen,  
Und gemeinsam mit uns wandren,  
An deiner treuen Jesushand.

Bleibe bei Uns, mit deiner Gnaden Fueelle,  
Und mit Deiner Geistes Kraft Uns Umhille,  
Mit Deiner Weisheit und Liebe,  
Und mit Deinem Mut,  
Und deiner Uberwindungs Kraft,  
Damit wir im Kaempfe mie erliegen  
Sondern als ware Sieger stehen da.

Wir fuehlen uns nur gluecklich in deiner Gnadennache,  
In diener Geimindschaft, gediehen und wachsen wir,  
Damit wir werden mih in dein Bild gestaltet,  
Und wir unsere Aufgabe erfuellen  
nach Deinen Geist und Sinn.

**B**eginning with the 50-year Jubilee in 1923, the members of the Socolofsky family gathered from time to time for family reunions. Following the deaths of Gottfried and Katy in the early thirties there were fewer of these important family visits, but occasionally, when a relative from out-of-state was around there would be a family get-together. For example, there was a large crowd at Manhattan in 1948 when at least forty-four people stood up for a picture, and there were other gatherings in Marion and elsewhere.

During the 1950s members of the family were together on a less-planned basis, attending the funerals of some of the older generation. At a visit after one funeral someone suggested that we meet regularly on a

(ABIDE WITH US  
by Frederick W. Socolofsky

Lord, abide with us in this life here on Earth,  
We would be led by Jesus hand,  
That we may not miss the right way,  
That will lead us to the Homeland in Eternity.

We are but strangers on this Earth  
Our Fatherland is up above.  
We would be found to be true Pilgrims,  
Who blessings reap on this sinfilled Earth  
That many souls may give their hearts to Thee,  
To find true communion with us at the  
dear hand of Jesus.

Abide with us, fill us with Your grace (favor),  
And with Thy strength surround us,  
With Your wisdom and Your love, With Your spirit  
And Thy strength which overcomes,  
That we in our struggle may never falter  
But that we may stand as true conquerers.

We feel ourselves happy in the nearness of Thy grace,  
In Thy community we strive and grow,  
So that we may become more like Thee,  
And that we may fulfill our assignment  
in Thy mind and spirit.)

planned basis sometime each year. Thus, in the late 1950s while Dan and Jake and a fair number of the Socolofsky spouses of that generation were still alive, a planned reunion was initiated for the second or third Sunday in June of every year. These reunions have been held in McPherson where local arrangements were taken care of by Leona Holecek, Clara Hein and Velma Socolofsky. Attendance has varied from about thirty-five to almost a hundred. A bigger effort is made to attract out-of-state relatives on alternate, odd-numbered years. Whether there are few or many at these annual gatherings the fellowship and the food are both refreshing and well remembered.

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1-5 Members of Andrew's family  
6-12 Members of George's family  
13 Members of Heinhardt's family  
14-17 Members of D. B.'s family



# favorite recipes

## AUNT LYDIA'S RYE BREAD

- 2 C. lukewarm water
- 1 cake or 1 T. dry yeast dissolved in warm water plus 1 T. sugar
- 1/2 C. sugar (scant)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 C. rye flour (or more)
- 3 T. melted shortening
- White flour to make rather stiff dough

Makes 2 loaves. Bake at 340° in a cast iron skillet for about 50 minutes or until hollow when tapped. (Cut with butcher knife sharpened on an ironware crock--holding the loaf on an apron between your knees.)

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## MAMA'S BREAD (From Ruth)

- 1 cake Fleischman's yeast
- 3/4 quart luke warm water
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. shortening
- 1/4 C. sugar
- Flour to stiffen - about 4 small sifters full.

Put yeast in bowl and soften with 1/2 C. of water. When dissolved add salt, sugar and shortening. Mix well, then add the water and then the flour by sifters full. Stir until quite stiff, then knead on well-floured board until dough does not stick to the hands. Knead for quite a few minutes. Kneading makes bread a finer texture. Put in a greased bowl, then set aside to raise in a warm place for several hours. When light knead down and let raise again. Mold into loaves and put into well-greased pans. Let raise again. When light bake in a moderate oven for 45 min. After 15 min. turn fire to low so it will not get too brown. Grease loaves lightly after bread is in pans.

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## SCHNITZ ZUPE AND GREBEL (Aunt Clara)

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Schnitz Zupe (Soup) |                        |
| 1 C. dried apricots | 6 pieces dried apples  |
| 1 C. raisins        | 6 pieces dried pears   |
| 1 C. dried prunes   | 6 pieces dried peaches |

Cook in as much water as soup is needed until fruit is soft. Add a thickening of 1 T. flour mixed with water, 1/2 C. sugar, 1/3 C. molasses. Let boil up and when ready to serve, add 1/2 C. sweet or sour cream. Serve with grebel (krepel).

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Grebel (Krepel)   |                            |
| 2 eggs            | 1/2 C. sweet or sour cream |
| 1/2 C. milk       | 1 tsp. salt                |
| 1/2 tsp. allspice | 2 tsp. baking powder       |

Flour to stiffen as for doughnuts. Twist as pretzels and fry quickly in deep fat. This dough was rolled, cut into squares, slit and the slits hooked over each other. The grebel (krepel) were called verrissene hosen (torn pants). This dish was served for lunch or supper. The soup with grebel (krepel) made a complete meal. It was rich but so good.

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**C**arrot soup and cabbage soup were of German-Russian origin. They were made with beef stock, either carrots or cabbage and onions.

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**M**ilk noodle soup. "Simply salted milk with noodles boiled in it."

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## KASE NOODLE (From Aunt Clara)

1 egg,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. salt and flour. Stir sufficient flour (about 1 C.) into a slightly beaten egg to make a very stiff dough. Add salt, a tiny bit of water, knead and roll as thin as possible.

**Cheese Filling:** Have the cottage cheese as dry as possible. Add salt, not too much, a cupful of dry bread crumbs that have been browned in a little butter. Put in one egg yolk to hold the mixture together. Then cut rolled out noodle dough into squares and fill with cheese mixture--a big teaspoonful in each square. Prick edges very tight to hold in cheese mixture. Have kettle of salted boiling water ready. Put in the noodles and boil 15 minutes. When done--drain noodles and put in bowl. Then pour over them as much cream as you desire. Over this put some browned (in butter) bread crumbs. Very good.

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## KASE NOODLE (From Aunt Sadie)

1 medium onion, chopped	Noodle dough
About 1 C. bread crumbs	Carton sour cream
Carton cottage cheese (small curd)	Croutons

Prepare noodle dough. Brown onion in butter until golden. Add bread crumbs and brown some more. Cool slightly. Stir in cottage cheese. Roll out noodle dough until thin. Cut in 4-inch squares. Put about 2 T. of cheese mixture in center of each square. Moistened edges and pinch firmly. Drop carefully into boiling water and heat until done, being careful not to boil, for they will split open. Place in colander to drain and then roll out into serving bowl. Pour sour cream over all and top with croutons that have been browned in a lot of butter.

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**German Bierocks**

Lightly brown one pound ground beef, stirring constantly, and when all the red is gone, add 2 cups finely chopped cabbage and  $\frac{1}{2}$ -cup finely chopped onions. Stir and cook for about 15 minutes. Let cool to lukewarm.

Roll 8-inch circles of yeast roll dough, or use two of the frozen ones worked together, and then rolled out. Put two or three large tablespoons of the mixture on the center of the circle of dough, then gather and pinch edges to the top. Place in a greased baking pan. Brush with melted butter or oil and bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes or until golden brown. Serves five. Delicious!

## KRAUT BIEROCK (From Aunt Sadie)

1 medium head of cabbage, shredded  
1 medium onion, chopped  
Salt and plenty of pepper  
Bread dough

Prepare bread dough. Brown onion in butter. In separate pan, steam cabbage in butter until just done. Combine. Salt and pepper to taste. Roll out dough until  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick. Cut in 4-inch-squares. Put about 2 T. of cabbage in center of each square. Bring 4 corners together, pinch firmly. Place bierocks in pans and bake at 350° for about 30 min. or until done. Best served while still warm.

\*\*\*\*\*

## GESELTZ KUCHEN (Watermelon Coffeecake from Freda)

1 pt. watermelon jam  
1/3 C. sugar  
1/3 C. flour  
1/3 C. half and half or cream  
(Mix in order given and bring to boil over slow fire, stirring constantly. Cook 3 or 4 minutes till thick.)  
1 pkg. hot roll mix (or other sweet dough) fixed according to instructions on box. When raised roll out and place in 15" x 11" pan (preferably with an edge). Let raise about 30 minutes and place cooked jam evenly on top. Sprinkle with crumbs made of:

2/3 C. flour

 $\frac{1}{4}$  C. sugar $\frac{1}{2}$  C. oleo or butter

(Mix with fork or hands). Bake about 25 min. at 350°.

To cook Geseltz:

Cut red part of watermelon into  $\frac{1}{4}$ " slices or pieces, taking out the seeds. In large kettle or dish-pan bring to boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Boil at least 30 min. and set off to cool. Rub thru colander and put back on fire and cook slowly several hours (most of a day). Watch very closely toward last, it burns very easily as it thickens. An asbestos pad under the kettle helps prevent burning. When thick--almost like jam and very dark red, dip into sterilized jars and seal.

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JACOB SOCOLOFSKY SAUSAGE

Sausage making was an annual affair that took place toward the end of butchering week. Usually the time was right before or after Christmas, depending on when "the animals were ready."

After slaughtering, dressing and readying some meat cuts for other types of preservation, sausage making was the culmination of the week. No exact recipe was used as it was a trial-and-error process to obtain the preferred taste. The meat was ground by hand after trimming off the excess fat. Two parts beef to one part pork was used, enough to fill a large round wash tub, probably about 100 pounds of meat. The men were responsible for the mixing and seasoning, done with hands with sleeves rolled up to the elbows. Salt was measured in two hands held open side by side--once filled and one single handful extra. Small amounts of black pepper, allspice, and garlic juice were added.

After thorough mixing some tasting was done by frying several patties so everyone could have a sample. Any changes were then made as illustrated by Grandpa Jake's saying, "You can add more salt but you can't take it out." When Lowell was still a preschooler Grandpa Jake made him his own small patty which gave him a larger taste than anyone else got!

On the first day of butchering week the intestines of the animals were cleaned, soaked in salt water, then turned inside out and scraped with the back side of a butcher knife or a table knife. They were then put into water until time for stuffing the sausage a few days later.

When seasoned to perfection, the sausage mixture was then put into the hand-turned sausage stuffer. It was Grandpa Jake's self-appointed task to strip the casings onto the spout of the stuffer. The handle was turned slowly and evenly, usually by Clarence. The women completed the task by coiling the sausage into either a single or double loop, crossing the ends and tying them with a single string.

The sausage was then placed in another tub to be carried to the smoke house. The secret of curing was the use of a smoldering fire fueled with corn cobs and a wood such as hickory or cherry for flavor. After only a day of smoking the sausages were then ready for eating and canning. Some were left hanging to dry for late spring eating sliced very thin.

(Compiled by Clara Hein, Velma and Lowell Socolofsky, November, 1972)

\*\*\*\*\*

G. G.'s NUT CANDY

- 2 C. sweet cream
- 3 C. sugar
- 1 C. corn syrup
- 1 lb. English walnuts
- 1 T. vanilla

Cook first three ingredients until test sample rattles against side of cup in cold water. Add extract and beat quickly. When creamy add nuts and stir until it starts to become heavy. Pack quickly in buttered plates. Cut into squares.

\*\*\*\*\*

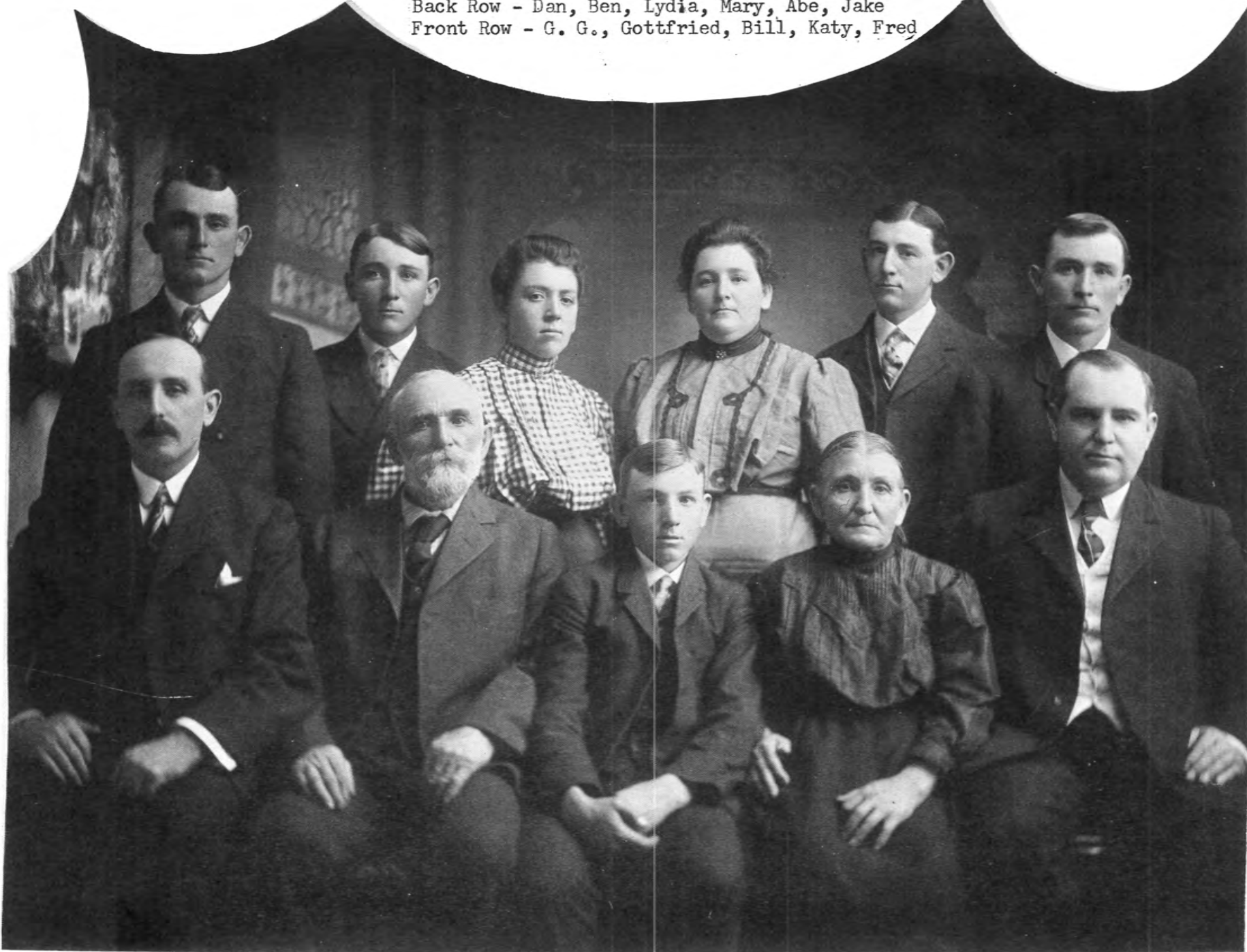
G. G.'s FREEZER VANILLA ICE CREAM

- 1 1/2 C. milk
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2 or 3 beaten egg yolks
- 1 T. vanilla
- 2 C. whipping cream

Over a low flame, scald but do not boil the milk. Stir in the sugar and salt and then pour slowly over the beaten egg yolks. Beat until well blended and then cook in double boiler over low flame until thick and smooth (Do not permit to come to a boil). Chill. Add vanilla and cream that has been whipped. Fold everything together and freeze according to freezer instructions. Makes about 1 1/2 quart. (Half the fun is licking off the dasher!)

## THE GOTTFRIED SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY, early 1900s

Back Row - Dan, Ben, Lydia, Mary, Abe, Jake  
Front Row - G. G., Gottfried, Bill, Katy, Fred



FAMILY TREE		ANCESTRAL PARENTS	
Gottfried Socolofsky [I] m. ca. 1824 to: ( _____ Schroek) and son, Gottfried Socolofsky [II] b. in Russia, ca. 1825. He was m. ca. 1853 to Maria Elizabeth Klohs, b. 1/3/1828 in Russia. He d. ca. 1880 in Marion Co., KS. She d. 9/24/01, Marion Co., KS, buried, Mohn Cemetery near Tampa.			
*****			
1) Gottfried Socolofsky [III] Katharina Elizabeth Dick	2) Andrew Socolofsky Mary Catherine Dahlinger	3) Katharinne (Johann) Socolofsky Abraham B. Friesen	
4) George Socolofsky Maria Dinkelacher	5) Rhinehardt Hosea Socolofsky Elizabeth Schultz	6) David Daniel Socolofsky Anna Elizabeth Ehrlich	
*****			
11) Godfrey George Socolofsky [IV] Sarah Sadie Frick	12) Frederick William Socolofsky Clara Mary Grau	13) Maria (Mary)Elizabeth Socolofsky Jacob Frederick Major	
14) Lydia Socolofsky Henry Kleiber	15) Jacob Socolofsky Christina Kleiber	16) Daniel Socolofsky Clara Propp, Grace Kite, Althea Helm	
17) Abraham Lincoln Socolofsky Mary Belle Reneau	18) Benjamin Harrison Socolofsky Violet Braxton Ricks	19) William Frederick Socolofsky Martha Hein	
*****			
21) Solomon A. Socolofsky Louise McKay Dodds	22) Karl Socolofsky unm.	23) Emanuel Socolofsky (first) d. infancy	
24) Andrew Socolofsky d. infancy	25) Emanuel Socolofsky (second) d. infancy	26) Eva Mary Socolofsky Horace Peay	
27) Clara Socolofsky Scott Metcalf	28) Isaac Socolofsky d. infancy	29) Paul Socolofsky [VAR] Fay Goss	
*****			
31) Mary Friesen Charles Connolly	32) Lydia (Ruth)Friesen ____ Sommers, ____ Johnson	33) Sarah Friesen ____ Nichols	
34) Abraham Friesen ( _____ )	35) Anna Friesen ( _____ )	36) Pauline Friesen ( _____ )	
*****			
41) John Socolofsky Anna Stroh	42) Hannah Socolofsky Abraham A. Frick	43) Leah Socolofsky John J. Stroh, Jr.	
44) Alexander Socolofsky Ella V. Popp	45) Pauline Socolofsky Charles Gist	46) George Socolofsky unm.	
47) Benjamin Socolofsky Dorothy (Peggy) Lawrence	48) Emanuel Socolofsky Katie Batt		
*****			
51) Bernadine Socolofsky Henry Rutz	52) Lola Socolofsky William L. Suter	53) Lucille Socolofsky Harry Sivley	
*****			
61) Salome Adeline Socolofsky Roy M. Smith	62) Edwin David Socolofsky VeOna Williams, Marjorie Limbocker		
63) Herbert Gottfried Socolofsky Ruth _____, Irene Wolfe	64) Harold Jacob Socolofsky Margaret Mumaw	65) Walter Anthony Socolofsky Alice McKinnon	
*****			

Cousin Frederick Socolofsky, son of George Adam and Katharine Elizabeth Socolofsky, was born Dec. 23, 1845, in Russia; married there to Julia Langhofer; and children--Julia, b. 11/2/70, who was m. to Casper Haas; Amelia, b. 3/27/77, m. to E. Franklin Gant; David, b. 6/ /84, m. to Mary Steinle; and Anna, b. 12/23/88, m. to Ben C. Frick. Only Anna, of Fred's children, was born in the United States.

## THE SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY--A ROSTER

The numbers in parentheses help to identify lineage. The first number refers to the chronological order of the children of Gottfried (II) and Maria E. Klohs Socolofsky, all of whom came to Kansas. Jean Socolofsky Baumgartner, the first name below, has the number (441). The first "4" stands for her grandfather, George, who was the fourth child of Gottfried and Maria. The second "4" shows that her Socolofsky ancestor, Alexander, was the fourth child of George. Jean was the first-born in her family, thus the "1". Jean's first-born was James and his number is (4411). Jean's grandchild, Eric, is James' first-born, thus his number (44111).

## Notice:

Information about living people has been from this family history to keep it private. If you would like a document that hasn't been modified, contact TJ Socolofsky at [TJ@Socolofsky.org](mailto:TJ@Socolofsky.org).





















# NOTES

NOTES FOR PAGE 5

Page 5. The basic sources for this page are: "Biography of David D. Socolofsky" prepared at the request of his eldest son, Edwin David Socolofsky, in June, 1953, while he was living at the Methodist Home, Salem, Oregon; "Remarks of Daniel Socolofsky" told to Ruth E. Socolofsky; Socolofsky grave stones in Highland Cemetery, Marion, Kansas; Gottlieb Beratz, The German Colonies on the Lower Volga (Saratow, 1915), 23, 39, 177; J. Neale Carman, Foreign-Language Units of Kansas: Historical Atlas and Statistics (Lawrence, 1962), 72-73; George J. Eisenach, Pietism and the Russian Germans in the United States (Berne, Indiana, 1948), 205; H. A. Munro-Butler-Johnstone, A Trip up the Volga to the Fair of Nijni-Novgorod (London, 1875), 36; C. Henry Smith, The Story of the Mennonites (Newton, Kansas, 4th ed., 1957), 439; "Russia," Mennonite Encyclopedia (Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, 1959), IV:381.

Among the privileges for German colonists which I did not mention were: free board and transportation from the Russian border to the place of settlement; the right to settle in any part of the country and to pursue any occupation; loans for building a house; perpetual exemption from the civil as well as military service; the right to do mission work among non-Christians; the importation of their own possessions free of duty; and the right to buy serfs and peasants for those who established factories with their own capital. Also used were, "The Socolofskys" prepared by Ruth E. Socolofsky; and Federal manuscript census for Centre Township, Marion Co., Kansas, 1880, available at the Kansas State Historical Library, Topeka.

General information on the name is as follows: Johann Christian von Hellbach, Adels-Lexicon oder handbuch (Ilmenau, 1826), 489-90, "Sokolow, Sokolowsker, Sokolowsky. 1) Ein schlesisches Geschlecht, das von den nachbenannten wenigstens d. Wappen nach verschieden ist, Paprocus in speculo Morav. Sinap. I. 917. Bon Meding, III. R. 788. --2) Eine zweite schlesische Familie. Sinap und von Meding, a. a. D. Siebmacher, 1. Th. 76, N. 2." Stammbuch des Adels in Deutschland vols 3-4 M-3, 1865-6, p.



Natural calamities, such as tornadoes, extra heavy snows, hail, violent thunderstorms, or accidents such as fire rarely enter into the stories told by the pioneering Socolofskys or their descendents. However, floods and their opposite--drought conditions--do have a place in the remembrances of this family. The town of Marion, located at the juncture of Mud Creek with the Cottonwood River, channeled flood waters from a large part of the county, and severe floods inundated the valley portion of the town. That was where most of the members of the family who resided in Marion, at one time or another, maintained their homes. At various times the threat of flood or actual high water conditions forced them to leave their homes. On the original quarter-section, purchased by Gottfried, G.G. and his family suffered loss from flooding in the 1930s. They were able to raise the piano above the waters and to retreat to the attic. A large hen-house, just completed, was floated away by the rising waters. Half of it was located on the farm just downstream, but the other half was never located. Conversely, the most severe drought conditions for the Marion County Socolofskys came in 1934 and 1936. The many days of high temperatures, in excess of 100°, during those summers and the lack of rain, greatly reduced crop yields and brought dust storms into the area. The hard times accompanying these climatic abnormalities, added to the problems they produced.

394, "Socolowski. Es gibt 4 Geschlechter dieses Ramens: 1. In Westpreussen mit dem Wappen Pomian; der Güterbesitz ist beträchtlich, auch in Posen'schen. 2. In Ostpreussen mit dem Wappen Korab; auch in Lithauen begütert. 3. In Schlesien mit dem Wappen Kornitz, auf Sokolau im Delsnischen. 4. Auch in Schlesien auf Schieroth, mit dem Wappen Drzewica. [v. Ledebur II. 456. --Paprocius in Spec. Moraviae. --Sinap I. 917. --v. Meding III, n. 788. --Siebmacher I. 76.] Kommen auch unter dem Namen Sokolow, Sokolowsker vor. "Johann Siebmachers allgemeines grosses and vollständiges Wappenbuch (Nurnberg, 1777) in sech Theilen, p. 76, Schlessingische, Die Sokolowsker, shows a shield for this name. Max Gottschald, Deutsche Namenkunde (1954), p. 257, "(Sokol): sl. 'Falke'. Sokol (1), Sockel; Schaukal? Falke: (vgl. FAL Kf. [Kurzform], ON [Ortsname] Grossfalke, Klein-, Wüsten-falke). Falk(e), Falch, Falik, Felchlin, Gilden-, Praun-, Brein-, Boom-, Ast Falk, Heidfalkg, (Aber Kuhfalk s. Kuhfal). In vielen ON. Falken/stein, hegen, (hahn) u. dgl. Falken-, Walken horst. -Falkner, Falgner, Falchner, Fälk(n)er, Felkner (x Felgner), Folkner richtet Jagdfalken ab, holl. Valckenaer (s. Wolke); auch Fal(i)kmann. Der Nestling wurde aus dem Nest genommen (schwäb. Nesckling), ältere vom Ast: Astfal(i)k, Ass falch, fahl, Estling, Nastvogel, Boomfalk. Der flügge Falk war ein Wildfang." P. 543, "Sock: ahd. [althochdeutsch] PN. [Personenname] Sogo, Socco (Lalln. "Saugling"?), Sogel, Sögling; aber ostd. sl. [slawisch] PN. Sock, pruss. N. [hami] Sock; Sockel s. Sokol." P. 507, "Schaukal" s. sokol." Karl Georg Zschaetsch, Uralte Sippen und Familiennamen, p. 45, "Ausser diesen gibt es Namen, die auf ski (polnisch=zki ausgesprochen), ski und wski enden, bei denen die Endung aber nur ein Anheingsel ist. Hier handelt es sich um eine polnische Udjektivendung) welche die Bedeutung der . . . ., sche hat. So 3. B. bedeutet Skielski der Achell=sche, Halanichi der Ulane=sche, Bronowski der Bruno=wache, . . . ."

International heraldic registers by Siebmacher, tome V, noted the following for the name "Socolowsky." "An old Polish family of the 14. century, a native of the

province Galicia . . . in the year 1701 the lieutenant and commander of an infantry-regiment Wladimir Gregor Socolowsky was decorated with the family-seal and the great Coat of Arms . . . from the Polish royal government." His decoration came because of his action near Vienna against Turkish invaders. The description of the decoration is: SHIELD - "A frontal gap shield with a black shield flank. The shield in the color of silver, inside a lion in the color of black with red fights and a red cannon ball as symbolic of the clear character, love to the fatherland and fit of the military services." A shield decoration, dark red, green and gold provided a gothic frame for the helmet and shield. HELMET - "A frontal old gothic helmet in the color of grey with a closed visor, a black visor decoration, a black shoulder-band and a red arm-decoration over a banner in black and silver is of a half lion, black and red, holding a red cannon ball as symbolic of bravery and courage." The Motto: Forti et Fortitudine translates as "Through the force and strength."

The second map comes from Edward J. Linehan, "Czechoslovakia: The Dream and the Reality," National Geographic (Feb. 1968), 164-5. This article mentioned a youthful director of the Mahenovo Theater in Brno, Evžen Sokolovsky, who was reviving a 400-year old Passion play traditionally performed by villagers of Bohemia's Krkonose Mountains. Most definitions of the name, SOCOLOFSKY, say that Socol or Sokol is "falcon" and the ending refers to "from" or "of" the land of the falcons. Some say that the "sky" ending indicates German cultural ties, while others hold that it connotes that some member of the family served as a knight or in some role as a minor noble.

Page 6. "Biography of David D. Socolofsky;" "Remarks of Daniel Socolofsky;" The post office for Dreispitz was Ust [East] Kalalinka.

Page 7. Same as page 6. Later, in the decade before World War I, Jacob and a son visited his nephew Gottfried in Kansas.

Page 8. Same as page 6, and Karl Stumpp, The German-Russians: Two Centuries of Pioneering (Bonn, 1971).

Page 9. The map comes from Carman. Dreispitz was also called Werchnäja Dobrinka.

Page 10. "Biography of David D. Socolofsky," "Obituary of Katharina Elizabeth Socolofsky;" Socolofsky gravestones in Highland Cemetery; The arranged marriage is general knowledge in the Socolofsky family; The Russification program is discussed in C. Henry Smith, The Story of the Mennonites, p. 439, and mentioned in the Mennonite Encyclopedia, IV: 381. According to John Edward Pfeiffer, "The German Russians and Their Emigration to South Dakota," South Dakota Department of History Collections XXXV (1970) 304-21, the Codex of the Colonies, first issued by Czarina Catherine II, July 22, 1763, and reissued on Feb. 20, 1804 by Czar Alexander I, was revoked June 4, 1871, by Czar Alexander II as part of his Russification process for his entire empire. The "Obituary of Gottfried Socolofsky" gives the marriage date.

Page 11. There is much speculation about why the Socolofsky family picked Marion County, how they knew about it, and who they were meeting when they came to Peabody. The material on the ships used is arrived at inversely, that is, the known date, July 4, 1876, for arrival in Peabody gave an idea when the ship the Socolofsky family sailed on came into New York. The National Archives, Washington, D. C. has copies of the "Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1820-1897." The Socolofsky family were found listed as passengers numbers 774-778 on the City of Berlin. The departure of this ship from Liverpool, June 15, 1876, was found in the Liverpool Telegraph & Shipping & Commercial Gazette for that date. Similarly, that newspaper in the previous six weeks reported the Ann Jane out of Hamburg as in-bound on the river. Dimensions, ownership and other ship data comes from Lloyd's Register of Shipping, 1875-76 and 1876-77 editions. The Ann Jane has to remain speculation, but it fits the story that the Socolofskys were on a sailing ship. Moreover, it was the sole ship going from Hamburg to Liverpool in that period.

Page 12. "Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1820-1897: City of Berlin, June 26, 1876;" "Biography of David D. Socolofsky;" Lloyd's Register of



## SOKOLOVSKY

An additional shield decoration for a similar name.

Shipping: The advertisement was in the Liverpool Telegraph & Shipping & Commercial Gazette, June 15, 1876. Further information came from the passenger list for City of Berlin, by computing the exchange rate of an exchange of dollars to pounds which was 5:1, by recognizing that a Guinea was one pound one shilling, or one and one-twentieth pound, and from the New York Sun, June 26, 1876, which gave the arrival time for the City of Berlin.

Page 13. New York Sun, June 26, 1876; Peabody Gazette for June and July, 1876, and especially June 30, 1876; History of the State of Kansas (A. T. Andreas, Chicago, 1883), 1255-66; and general oral accounts in the family.

Page 14. Immigration figures are found in the Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1957 (Washington, 1961), Series C 88-114; Charles and Mary Beard, A Basic History of the United States (Philadelphia, 1944), 297; Samuel Eliot Morison, The Oxford History of the American People (New York, 1965), 470, 481-2, 768-9.

Page 15. Interview with Daniel Socolofsky by Homer Socolofsky, no date, also as told by Daniel Socolofsky to Ruth E. Socolofsky; "Biography of David D. Socolofsky."

Page 16. "Biography of David D. Socolofsky."

Page 17. "Biography of David D. Socolofsky;" Marion County Register of Deeds "Deed Record" Vol. V: 169; Interview with Jacob Socolofsky, August 28, 1960, by Homer Socolofsky.

Page 18. Federal manuscript census, 1880, Centre Township, Marion County, Kansas, in the library of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka; "The Socolofskys;" "Biography of David D. Socolofsky;" Interview with Jacob Socolofsky, Aug. 28, 1960; Marion Record, summer months 1879-81; Marion Banner, summer months, 1880. In the county atlas, the census and in Marion County Kansas: Past and Present by Sondra Van Meter published at Hillsboro, 1972, the name "Wren" is spelled with one "n". The school at that location was district number 5.

Page 19. Marion County Probate Court, file 107, Misc. Rec. No. 3, 161-62.

Page 20. State census, manuscript returns, in the library of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka. The spelling of the Kleiber family in the 1885 census was "Gleiber;" Grave marker in Mohn Cemetery, three miles southeast of Tampa; Letter from Katharine Friesen, Mar. 20, 1911, to the Marion County Probate

Judge in file 107. This letter sent from Huntington Beach, California, was written in a combination of German and English and was as follows:

"Dear Sir:

Will you kindly do me a fauyer and wright me in regard to my Estate from my Brothers. it is so long that i dont know what i can do a bought 30 years ago My Father dide in Marion County Gotfried Socolofsky then apointed Jacob Ehrlich as administrater he dividide that Property of my Father in the Old Country way i was the only Gearl in the Famly but they was not a Schamed of and the 5 Brothers gote \$225. ech. and i gote nothing i was a fraid to go to law and thought \_\_\_\_\_ nanny days them i will git my Schear Iche also had \$225. but nanny dial and tould the Boys to gev me that Money but the never donn it, that lost mony is with my oldest Brother Gottfried and the dont Evin wright me a thing, as lang as my Mann was yung and farmed i felt it not so bad but now he is old and i am Suffering and waring my Self almost to \_\_\_\_\_ and my Brothers call them Self Honnest Mann and i dont know watt to do. My Mann is also Honnest Maby you know him it is A. B. Friesen but he dont want to fight with my Brothers. So i want first good information from the Home court wat i can do in regard to it if you figger 10 prc. interest on the mony it is no a nice sum will you Kindly wright me on good basses how i can colect it if neslet it will prove big thes city that i am worry pore  
respectfully

Katharine Friesen"

"Biography of David D. Socolofsky;" Interview with Daniel Socolofsky, no date.

Page 21. "Biography of David D. Socolofsky;" Interview with Daniel Socolofsky, no date; Various deed records in the Office of the Register of Deeds, Marion.

Page 22. Economic data comes from the 1885 state manuscript census; "Biography of David D. Socolofsky;" Mortality of Andrew's children from his daughter, Eva Peay; Ruth was told the rattlesnake story by her father; Abe told about his finger to his children and Dan told about William's accident when a toddler.



Page 23. The story about the two oldest brothers was from Eva Peay; Both Ruth and Leona heard about the care of the infants Jacob and Solomon; the fishing stories are general knowledge; Information on the two trails is in many sources and can readily be seen in Sondra Van Meter, Marion County Kansas: Past and Present.

Page 24. The Scully material comes from the A. E. Case Collection located in the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas. A small journal, about a 1/2" thick and about 6" x 8" in size with the pasted word "Scully" on the cover, contains the rent collections of William Scully in Marion County; See also Homer E. Socolofsky, "The Scully Land System in Marion County," Kansas Historical Quarterly (November, 1950) XVIII:337-75; School records, District #91, Marion County Courthouse.

Pages 25-31. School records; School Souvenirs; Marion County Atlas, 1885; Halley's Comet visited the vicinity of the Earth in 1909-10 on its 77-year migration through space and it probably inspired the new name for the school.

Pages 32-33. Compiled Laws of Kansas, 1881; Kansas Statutes Annotated, 1964; Records of the Clerk of the District Court, Marion County, for dates shown on these pages; Certificate of Naturalization #137075, obtained from Marinette County, Wisconsin; State manuscript census, 1895.

Pages 34-35. "Biography of David D. Socolofsky;" Letter from Mrs. Lola L. Suter, daughter of Rhinehardt; Letter from Edwin Socolofsky; Interview with Daniel Socolofsky.

Page 36. Letter from Eva Peay.

Pages 37-38. Kansas state census, 1895; Marion County deed records, 84:430 & 86:297, 350; Interview with Daniel Socolofsky.

Kansas state census, 1895; Letter from Ezra Haas, grandson of Cousin Fred; school records and manuscript census returns. Somehow the cemetery map in the Van Meter history of Marion County failed to locate the Mohn Cemetery.

Pages 39-41. "Biography of David D. Socolofsky;" Tampa Star, summer of 1912; Letter from Joyce Ringering, Librarian, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to Ruth Socolofsky, April 4, 1972; Atlas of Marion County Kansas (Wichita, 1971).

Page 42. Marion County Atlas, 1921.

Page 43. Letter, Ringering to R. Socolofsky; Marion County deed records, 101:530; 115:192; 118:574; 169:82.

Pages 44-45. Letter from Eva Peay; Kansas state census, 1905; Marion County deed records, 119-72; 133:439; Leona Holecek, "Profile of a Marriage."

Pages 46-47. Holecek; Kansas state census, 1915; Marion County deed records, 8:145-146; 12:458; 15:225; 13:385; 45:297; 48:439; 49:421; 51:201; 84:430; 85:123-124; 97:535-536; 104:117; 105:430;

Pages 48-59. Personal reminiscences of members of the Socolofsky family.

Pages 61-64. Personal reminiscences and papers kept by Abraham Socolofsky.

Page 65. "Probate Court, Marion County, file 3793."

Pages 66-73. Personal reminiscences and responses to family questionnaire; Current Biography, 1953, described Marshal V. D. Sokolovsky as about six feet tall, 200 pounds, dignified, quiet, unassuming and ready to debate, prefers vodka to whiskey, is chain-smoker, serious, nicknamed "Sock" by American Newsweek Magazine, April 22, 1946. Ruth supplied the song and prayers.

Page 74. "Der Yokel" in papers kept by Abraham Socolofsky.

Page 75. Ruth supplied her father's poem.

Pages 77-79. Recipes supplied by Leona Holecek, Freda Major, Ruth Socolofsky, Sadie Socolofsky, Clara Hein, Velma Socolofsky and Lowell Socolofsky.



Henry, Lydia



Ellamae, Laura, Leone



Jake, Clara, Clarence, Lorene, Clinton, Christina



Jacob, Mary



Salome, Ella

Esther



Ben, Herbert



Robert, Alice, Violet



Edna, Virginia



G. G., Sadie



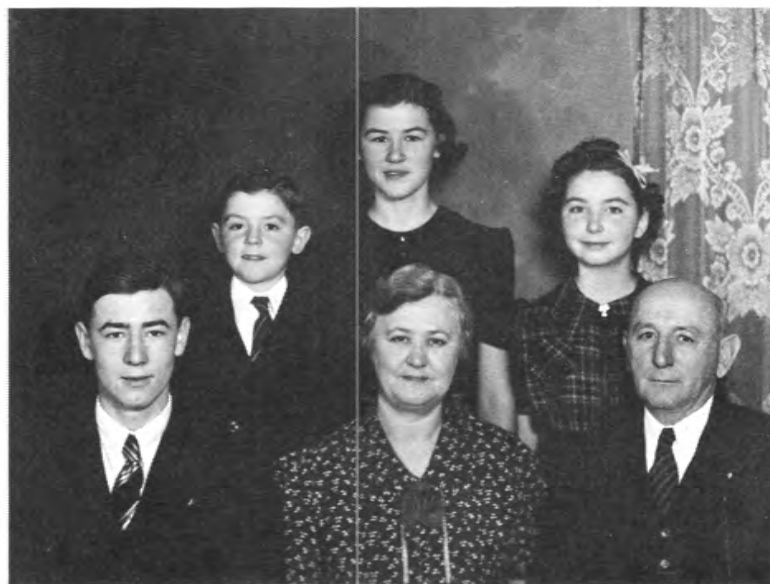
Charles, Kathryn



John, Helen, Albert, Arthur



Isabel



Homer, Marion, Mildred, Mary, Dorothy, Abe



John, Laura



Angeline, Ruth



Fred, Clara



Dorothy, Kathryn



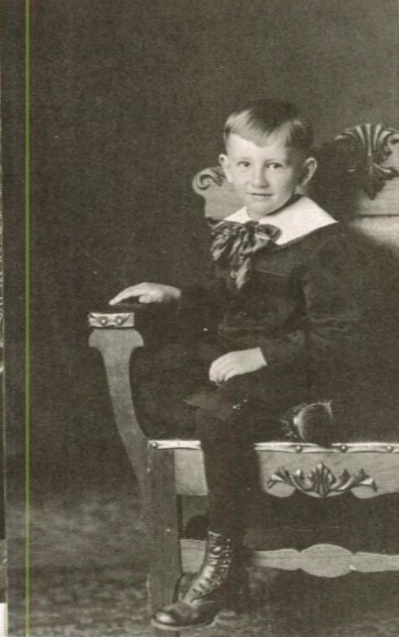
Doris



Four generations  
Salome, Lenora Jane, Mary, Katy



Alice



Charles



Virginia  
Edna  
Kathryn



Violet, Doris, Alice



Marion, Bob



Katy, Violet



Clinton

Fred with coyote, Kathryn, Dorothy

Herb, Homer, Ella, Marion, Mildred, Dorothy



Oldest and youngest at the Golden Jubilee



Virginia and Daize

Al, Dan, John, Helen, Clara, Art



Borranell Klaus  
July 15, 1907

This is a picture of the Oval we had some fine egg that hurt our wheat we will get done another one and we will get done





Ben



Bill



Abe



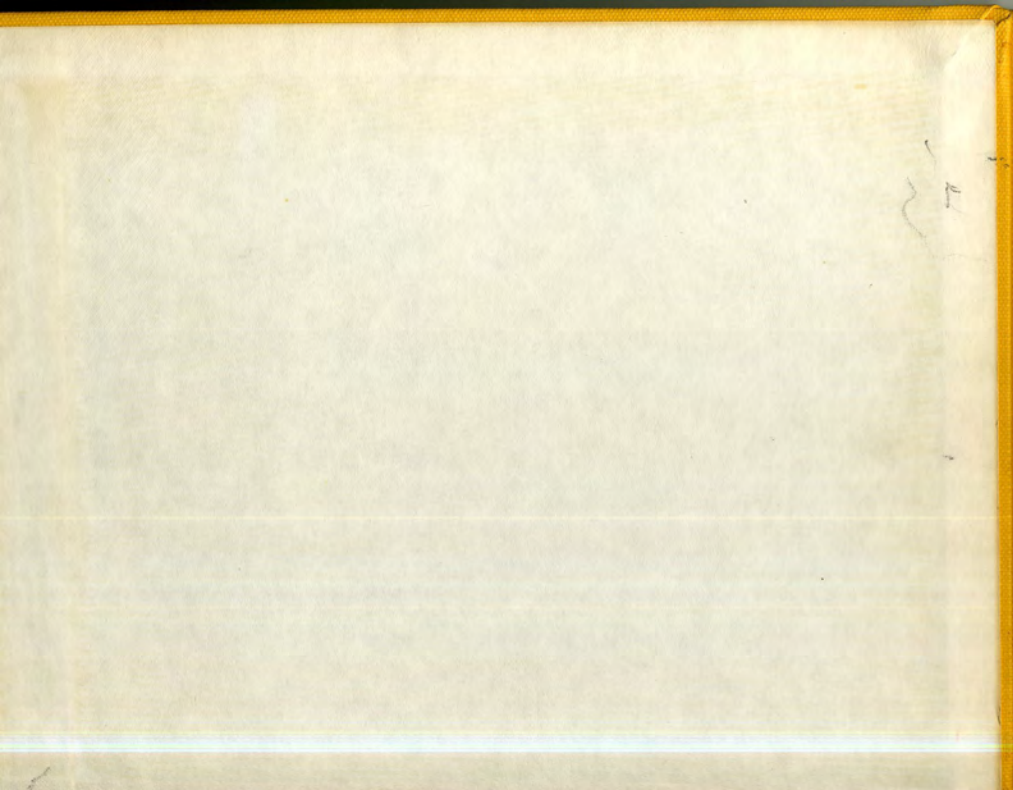
FIVE BROTHERS

Dan  
and his mules

G. G.  
his horse &  
Shep by a tree

428 7494





THE SOCOLOFSKY FAMILY