



Johanna Fricke
Louis Gerke

THE LOVE OF A MOTHER

It takes a mother's love
To make a house a home,
A place to be remembered,
No matter where we roam.
It takes a mother's patience
To bring a child up right,
And her courage and her cheerfulness
To make a dark day bright.
It takes a mother's thoughtfulness
To mend the heart's deep "hurts,"
And her skill and her endurance
To mend little socks and shirts.

It takes a mother's kindness
To forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble
And bow her head in prayer.
It takes a mother's wisdom
To recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance
By her loving words and deeds.
It takes a mother's endless faith,
Her confidence and trust
To guide us through the pitfalls
Of selfishness and lust.
And that is why in all this world
There could not be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose
As completely as
A mother!

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JOHANNA FRICKE

VI

Sixth Child of Christian and Caroline Schaper Fricke

JOHANNA FRICKE

born February 15, 1868
died September 11, 1922

LOUIS C. GERKE

born November 16, 1864
died February 25, 1941

Married July 7, 1894

Johanna Fricke married Louis C. Gerke in 1894 and they farmed near State Center. Johanna was a capable patient mother of five sons and five daughters and Louis was a hard working farmer and good business man.

Their oldest son Lawrence worked at home until he entered service in World War I. He served in the United States since the armistice was signed before he was shipped out. He farmed with his brother Louis and later with his sister Ediths' husband and moved to Marshalltown with them when they retired.

Caroline Gerke Tisler, Johanna and Louis's second child worked at home until she married Henry Tisler and they were blessed with three children. The oldest, Harold died in the Pacific during World War II.

Louis H. Gerke was the third child. He lived and worked at home until 1919, then moved to another farm with his brother Lawrence until 1943. He married Lillie Sinkler in 1940. They farmed south of Nevada until they passed away. They had one child who died when one day old.

Rosetta Gerke the fourth child grew up at home and worked for the family. She wanted to go to high school but when there mother died she took over raising the family. After that she went to work and was killed in an auto accident on her way to work one day. Rosetta never married.

Conrad Gerke the fifth child farmed near Dike until retiring to Melbourne. He and Pearl had two sons and a daughter.

Dorothy Gerke, sixth child helped take care of the family and worked in homes, then worked in the telephone office for eight years. When the phone system went to dial she transferred to a new profession, working in the hospital diet kitchen.

Fredrick Gerke, seventh child, worked at home and was injured breaking colts and later was hit by a falling tree and was permanently injured and after a lingering illness passed away.

Martin, the eighth child farmed near State Center. He and Isabelle were the parents of three sons and three daughters. They raised many feeder cattle when he was on the farm.

Leora Gerke Dike, ninth child, worked at home and as a housemaid until she married, living in Florida, Colorado, Illinois and Iowa. She is presently living in Florida, they had no children.

Edith Gerke Leggett went into nurses training for two years after high school. She and Laurel had two daughters and one son; their daughter Marilyn lived only three weeks. They moved to Marshalltown when they retired from the farm and after Laurel's death Edith moved to California where she works as a nurse aid.

Children of Louis & Johanna Fricke Gerke

*** 1. Lawrence Gerke

b. June 2, 1895
d. November 1965
m. Never married
Served in W.W.I and farmed

*** 2. Caroline Gerke

b. 1896
d. 1925
m. 1918
Henry Tisler
b. November 22, 1894
d.

*** 3. Louis C. Gerke

b. May 8, 1899
d. April 4, 1959
m. 1940
Lillie Sinkler
b. 1914
d. 1954

*** 4. Rosetta Gerke

b. January 16, 1901
d. November 29, 1947
m. Never married

*** 5. Conrad Gerke

b. August 9, 1902
d. March 30, 1980
m. August 29, 1928
Pearl Overstake
b. March 29, 1907
d.

*** 6. Dorothy Gerke

b. October 3, 1906
d. November 6, 1968
m. Never married - worked as housemaid; telephone operator; hospital dietitian.

Children of Louis & Johanna Fricke Gerke (con't)

*** 7. Fredrick Gerke

b. 1905

d. 1926

m. Never married, was injured while breaking colts
and was fatally injured when a tree fell on him.
He died after a long illness.

*** 8. Martin Gerke

b. September 9, 1908

d. August 4, 1981

m. September 3, 1938

(Laura) Isabelle Turner

b. January 15, 1918

d.

Martin was a farmer until he retired to State Center.

*** 9. Leora Gerke

b. July 21, 1911

d.

m.

Paul Dike

b.

d.

*** 10. Edith Gerke

b. November 1, 1913

d.

m.

Laurel E. Leggett

b. October 24, 1908

d. March 17, 1976

Laurel drove a semi, served in Navy
and farmed and Edith works as a nurses
aid and homemaker.

LAWRENCE GERKE

LAWRENCE GERKE

born June 2, 1895

died November , 1965

Lawrence worked at home until he entered the service in World War I in 1917. He was ready to go overseas when the Armistice was declared in 1918, therefore he served only in the United States.

Lawrence was in partnership with his brother Louis until 1943 and then with Edith and Laurel Leggett for twenty years.

When Edith and Laurel moved to Marshalltown in 1965 Lawrence moved with them. He died there in November of 1965.

Lawrence was never married.

Children of Caroline and Henry Tisler

**** 1. Harold Tisler

b. October 23, 1919
d. February , 1943

Harold was killed in the Pacific while serving with the Marines during World War II.

**** 2. Andrew (Bud) Tisler

b. May 8, 1921
d.
m. July 24, 1945
Mary Ellen Kunkel
b. April 2, 1922
d.

Andy (Bud) is currently in the trucking business but still a farmer at heart. Mary Ellen is school nurse in Roswell. We both enjoy gardening, wood crafts, bicycling, and visiting our grand children. We are both involved in several church activities.

**** 3. Lenora Tisler Flathers

b. July 24, 1922
d.
m. 1941
Wilbur Flathers
b. January 22, 1918
d.

Children of Andrew and Mary Ellen Kunkel Tisler

**** 1. Andrew Louis Tisler, Jr.

b. February 10, 1947

d.

m. July 29, 1972

Nancy Ann Keefer

b. July 20, 1951

d.

Andrew Jr. is a chemical engineer working for Good Year Rubber Co. in Lawton, Oklahoma's new plant.

Andrew enjoys gardening and hunting. He has made several black powder rifles.

Nancy enjoys interior decorating and all kinds of art work. She spends some time taking art courses at the local college. She is a very talented young lady.

**** 2. Paul Leroy Tisler

b. February 15, 1948

d.

m. August 24, 1969

Laurel Ann Vaughan

b. May 6, 1948

d.

Paul and Laurel are farmers and ranchers. This out door life is their love. They take an active roll in community affairs, Farm Bureau, County Fair and church. Laurel is active in "Cowbelles" an organization of ranchers wives who promote products raised on the ranch and make ranch life better.

**** 3. Carolyn Jean Tisler

b. January 19, 1950

d.

m. June 8, 1969

Gary W. Barnett

b. February 17, 1948

d.

Carolyn and Gary are farmers. Carolyn is active in Farm Bureau and church activities. She is also taking some

college work. Along with keeping house and caring for three girls she is pretty busy. Gary is active in the local Reserve unit and volunteer law enforcement group.

Children of Wilbur and Lenora Tisler Flathers

***** 1. Marjorie Flathers

b. March 13, 1942

d.

m. January 21, 1972

Phillip Hill

b. January 5, 1942

d.

***** 2. Harold Flathers

b. April 11, 1943

d.

m. November 13, 1964

Brenda Truelove

b. June 9, 1945

d.

***** 3. Linda Flathers

b. August 24, 1945

d.

m.

Viernes

b.

d.

***** 4. Michael Flathers

b. November 13, 1947

d: September 23, 1961

***** 5. Patricia Flathers

b. August 12, 1950

d.

m. February , 1970

Chester Bullock

b. July 22, 1947

d.

Children of Wilbur and Lenora Tisler Flathers (con't)

***** 6. Blanche Flathers
b. September 13, 1951
d.

m.

Stoleworthy

b.
d.

***** 7. Debra Flathers
b. April 19, 1953
d.
m. December 29, 1973
Joe Chewning
b. February 11,
d.

***** 8. Duane Flathers
b. April 4, 1955
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 9. Betty Flathers
b. March 24, 1958
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 10. Craig Flathers
b. January 17, 1961
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 11. James Flathers
b. March 28, 1964
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Harold and Brenda Truelove Tisler

***** 1. Gina Truelove
b. December 22, 1965
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 2. Traci Truelove
b. January 21, 1968
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 3. Kirk Truelove
b. August 21, 1975
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Linda and

Viernes

***** 1. Wendy Loftis
b. May 14, 1965
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 2. Richard Loftis
b. April 12, 1966
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 3. Ronald Loftis
b. June 4, 1968
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 4. Jeffrey Allen
b. June 26, 1973
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 5. Jennifer Viernes
b. August 23, 1979
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Chester and Patricia Flathers Bullock

***** 1. Chester Bullock, Jr.
b. October 14, 1970
d.
m.
b.
d.

***** 2. Curtis Bullock
b. June 7, 1973
d.
m.
b.
d.

***** 3. Jaimee Bullock
b. February 4, 1977
d.
m.
b.
d.

Children of

& Blanche Flathers Stoleworthy

***** 1. Sherri Steel
b. October 8, 1968
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 2. David Steel
b. January 2, 1971
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 3. Scott Stoleworthy
b. May 2, 1976
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Joseph & Debra Flathers Chewning

***** 1. Joseph Chewning
b. February 14, 1975
d.
m.
b.
d.

***** 2. Patrick Chewning
b. March 30, 1980
d.
m.
b.
d.

***** 3. Matthew Chewning
b. October 10, 1981
d.
m.
b.
d.

Children of Louis and Lillie Sinkler Gerke

- ***** 1. Rodney Gerke
b. July 1, 1941
d. July 2, 1941

ROSETTA GERKE (ROSE)

born January 16, 1901
died November 29, 1947

Rosetta was the fourth child of Johanna Fricke and Louis Gerke. Rose didn't attend high school as she worked at home caring for the family when her mother died. We owe much of our training and help to her.

She stayed on the Home place until 1929 when she was able to leave us and go out and work for her self.

She worked in Marshalltown (one place being Dr. Cobb.) When Dr. Cobb retired to California Rose lived with Edith and Laurel as Edith was quite ill at the time.

Again Rose went back to work in Marshalltown, this time at Fisher Controls.

On November 27, 1947 Rose was driving to work when she was killed instantly in an automobile accident.
May she rest in peace.

We remember her also as "Rosey" in stead of her given name of Rosetta.

Children of Conrad and Pearl Overstake Gerke

- **** 1. Ernest William Gerke
b. December 2, 1928
d.
m. May 29, 1949
Barbara Irene Hickman
b. December 4, 1927
d.

Ernest has always been a truck driver out of Marshalltown and Des Moines

- **** 2. Richard Dwight Gerke
b. October 20, 1932
d.
m. May 29, 1952
Jane Ann Neek
b. November 30, 1933
d.

Richard has always been a farmer living on farms in the Grundy Center, Iowa area.

- **** 3. Mary Ellen Gerke
b. September 27, 1942
d.
m. September 1, 1963
Allan Dean Koester
b. August 20, 1937
d.

Mary grew up on a farm at Fern in Grundy Co. and attended school and graduated from Dike in 1960. Later graduated from Allen Memorial School of Nursing in 1963. Allen lived at Gladbrook and graduated from Iowa State in 1960. He worked for the Extension Service in Iowa for four years. In the fall of 1964 he joined the Soil Conservation. He served in Colorado for twelve years before moving to Alaska in 1976.

Children of Ernest and Barbara Hickman Gerke

- ***** 1. Raymond Lee Gerke
b. January 21, 1950
d.
m. May 5, 1975
Patricia Wheeler
b. June 20, 1938
d.
- ***** 2. Pamela Joy Gerke
b. February 5, 1953
d.
m.
b.
d.
- ***** 3. Paula Selene Gerke
b. June 16, 1956
d.
m. April 4, 1975
Jerry Palmer
b. February 3, 1958
d.
- ***** 4. Randy Lynn Gerke
b. January 4, 1959
d.
m. June 14, 1976
Susan Kay Mayes
b. January 12, 1960
d.
- ***** 5. Ronald Gerke
b. August 6, 1960
d.
m. September 27, 1979
Emily Rose Mayes
b. February 23, 1961
d.
- ***** 6. Phyllis Marie Gerke
b. November 23, 1961
d.
m. October 18, 1980
Kevin Osborne
b. November 24, 1959
d.

Children of Jerry and Paula Gerke Palmer

***** 1. Selene Irene Palmer
b. December 19, 1975
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 2. Amanda Elaine Palmer
b. March 28, 1980
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Randy and Susan Mayes Gerke

***** 1. Jennifer Renee Gerke
b. September 9, 1976
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 2. Melissa Sue Gerke
b. February 19, 1979
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Ronald and Emily Mayes Gerke

***** 1. Joshua Allan
b. September 20, 1980
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Richard and Jane Neek Gerke

***** 1. Linda Jean Gerke
b. December 2, 1952
d.
m. March 26, 1970
Patrick Joseph Twiss
b. January 18, 1948
d.

***** 2. Richard Byron Gerke
b. July 23, 1957
d.
m.
b.
d.

***** 3. Dennis Edward Gerke
b. April 4, 1960
d.
m.
b.
d.

***** 4. Sandra Dyane Gerke
b. September 2, 1961
d.
m. May 24, 1980
Scott Arlo Pipko
b. May 30, 1961
d.

Children of Patrick and Linda Jean Gerke Twiss

***** 1. Alicia Lynn Twiss
b. September 25, 1971
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 2. David Patrick Twiss
b. February 4, 1974
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Alan and Mary Helen Gerke Koester

***** 1. Joann Lynn Koester
b. August 6, 1964
d.

m.

b.
d.

***** 2. Julie Ann Koester
b. July 28, 1969
d.

m.

b.
d.

DOROTHY GERKE

born October 3, 1906
died November 6, 1968

Dorothy was the sixth child of Johanna Fricke and Louis Gerke. Dorothy worked at home and helped take care of the family until in the late 1920's when she worked out in various homes including Dr. Biersborn and also Dr. Sokol's in State Center.

She worked for her brother Martin and wife Isabelle for approximately 15 years and helped them with their family of six lively children.

In 1952 she moved to help Edith and Laurel and was a great help to them.

She worked at the Telephone Office in State Center as Switch board operator for eight years until it went to the dial system.

In 1965 she moved to Marshalltown with Edith and Laurel and worked in the diet kitchen at Marshalltown Area Community Hospital.

In 1968 health problems forced her to give up work and in November of 1968 she passed away.

May God grant peace and rest to those who labor.

FREDRICK GERKE

born 1905
died 1926

Fredrick was the seventh child of Johanna Fricke and Louis Gerke. He worked at home with the rest of the family and at the age of twenty was helping to break colts for work horses and was severely injured.

Later as he was helping a brother cut trees for fire wood, he was hit by a falling branch and was permanently injured in this accident. As time passed he became an invalid and could not be helped by Medical efforts. He passed away in 1926 at the age of 21 years.

God calls each from the labors of life at His appointed time.

Children of Martin & Isabelle Turner Gerke

- **** 1. Norma Kay Gerke
b. June 24, 1939
d.
m. June 26, 1959
Charles H. Wendel
b. February 13, 1939
d.
- **** 2. Robert Martin Gerke
b. November 26, 1941
d.
m. February 19, 1967
Margaret Marie Werner
b. July 11, 1947
d.
- **** 3. Judith Karen Gerke
b. November 19, 1943
d.
m.

b.
d.
- **** 4. Donna Rae Gerke
b. May 23, 1945
d.
m.

b.
d.
- **** 5. Dean Louis Gerke
b. October 4, 1946
d.
m. December 27, 1971
Lorraine Elizabeth Kintzel
b. June 2, 1945
d.
- **** 6. Russell D. Gerke
b. August 17, 1948
d.
m. November 4, 1973
Jeanne M. Herbst
b. January 6, 1951
d.

Children of Charles and Kay Gerke Wendel

***** 1. Steven W. Wendel
b. October 30, 1961
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 2. Lisa R. Wendel
b. December 30, 1963
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 3. Rosalyn C. Wendel
b. January 25, 1966
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Robert & Margaret Werner Gerke

***** 1. Chris Lee Gerke
b. April 23, 1970
d.
m.

b.
d.

***** 2. Gregory Warren Gerke
b. June 1, 1974
d.
m.

b.
d.

LEORA GERKE

Leora Gerke

born July 21, 1911
died

Paul Dike

born
died

Married

Leora lived at home and worked with the family until she worked out at domestic employment in various homes.

She then travelled to Florida and worked there for a time and then back to Iowa.

Leora then moved to Denver, Colorado and worked at May Company and while in Denver married Paul Dike.

In 1966 or 1967 they moved to Illinois and then on to Florida.

Leora had some health and nerve problems but was a good housekeeper and cook.

We have not heard from her or Paul in over a year now.

God's ways are beyond our knowledge as He watches over them, guiding and directing their lives.

Children of Laurel and Edith Gerke Leggett

- **** 1. Joan Y. Leggett
b. June 8, 1934
d.
m. August 20, 1964
Jerry A. Lehrer
b.
d.

After high school Joan worked for Iowa Electric Light and Power in Marshalltown for eight years. She then moved to Phoenix, Ariz. where she worked for the Telephone company for seven years. In 1967 Joan and her husband Jerry moved to Orange County, Calif.

- **** 2. Marilyn Jean Leggett
b. August 20, 1935
d. September 15, 1935

- **** 3. Al Leggett
b. April 19, 1942
d.
m. October 7, 1962
divorced 1978
Linda Tomlinson
b.
d.

After high school Al went to college for 1 1/2 years. He was active in sports during high school. He worked for his parents on the farm until 1965 and then Al worked at Lennox Industries for awhile. He also worked at appliance stores, as a salesman and as a truck driver. He is a good hunter, learning that from his father. His wife Linda worked at various offices and had a great musical talent.

Edith Gerke went into Nurse's training after high school, she also worked as a Nurse and housekeeper and also a home maker. Her husband Laurel was a semi driver and transportation Manager until he entered the service in 1943 serving in the Navy until 1944. From 1945 - 1965 he farmed north of State Center with Edith's brother Lawrence. After moving to Marshalltown he returned to his profession of semi driving which he did until health forced him to retire in 1974.

Children of Jerry and Joan Leggett Lehrer

***** 1. Alex Lehrer
b. November 11, 1968
d.
m.

b.
d.

Children of Al and Linda Tomlinson Leggett

***** 1. Pamela Jo Leggett Casey
b. October 18, 1964
d.
m.

b.
d.