

Christopher Wilkening, Sr. & Mina Pope



Christopher
Wilkening Sr.

Christopher Wilkening Sr. (born 11 April 1840, died 18 Dec. 1930) of Hanover, Germany (Colenfield) and Johanna Wilhelmina (Minnie and sometimes referred to as Mina) Pape (born 2 March 1848) of Brunswick, Braunschweig, Germany were married on 22 August 1866.

There appears to be some question on whether Johanna Pape was born on 2 February or 2 March. Early documents show both dates. The name Pape became Pope during



Mina Pope

the German to English translation. An early newspaper account stated that Christopher and Minnie Wilkening had ten Children. However, only the following can be accounted for: first child Heinrich August, born 18 July 1867 and died as an infant on 30 November 1867

at Long Grove, Illinois, the second child Friedrich "Fred", born 20 January 1869, the third child Heinrich Friedrich "William", born 29 Jun 1871, the fourth child Heinrich August, born 31 December 1873 and died as an infant on 18 August 1874 at Bristol Illinois, the fifth child George, born 5 September 1875, the sixth child Minnie, born 18 April 1878, the seventh child Lena, born 4 September 1886, and the eight child Christopher Jr., born 18 April 1889. Christopher Sr. and Minnie Wilkening left Long Grove, Illinois and moved to a farm in Iowa.

Regina Sophia Westphal Koppey & Henry Koppey

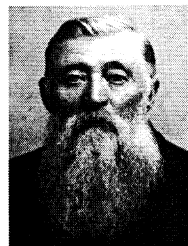


Regina Koppey

The original family name was Cappe and changed to Koppey to be less Germanic. Henry Koppey, Sr. came to the U.S. first in 1882 from Hanover, Germany. He later sent money back home to enable

his wife Regina and the three children Henry August Koppey, Jr. (1879-1968), Lena (sometimes referred to as Helena) H.

Koppey (1872-1942), and Ernest "Louie" Koppey (1872-1962) to come to the U.S. As recalled by relatives, evidently during their trip from Germany, Regina and the three children changed



Henry Koppey
Sr.

trains in Chicago. While in Chicago she was robbed of all her money. She reported the robbery to the police and was stranded in Chicago with no money. She washed dishes for food at a nearby hotel until she could contact Henry Sr. for help. Evidently she recognized the robber after a couple of days and the police

got part of her money back. She and the three children joined Henry Sr. and they settled on a farm near State Center.

The above story was written by Clifford P. Wilkening 6/6/2016.

Heinrich Friedrich "William" Wilkening & Lena Koppey Wilkening

(Some early documents refer to William M. Wilkening. It is unknown where the M. comes from)



William Wilkening

Heinrich Friedrich "William" Wilkening was born in Long Grove, Illinois on June 29, 1871. At some time during his early childhood his parents moved to State Center, Iowa and William stayed with his grandparents in Illinois. He

remained there until he was confirmed at 12 years of age. He then moved to Iowa with his parents. Lena Helena Koppey was born in Germany in 1872. Her father came to this country from Germany in 1882 and his wife and 3 children came to the United States when she was thirteen. Her parents lived north and west of State Center on "Koppey Hill"; it was just north of Howard and Evelyn Weuve's "Maple Lawn" farm. During their young adult years the couple began dating and were married on November 1, 1894 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in State Center. He was 23 and she was 21.

Throughout the next 17 years the couple farmed and raised a family of 7 children. The farm was 5 miles Southwest of State Center. Their children were Heinrich Christoph Wilhelm "Henry", William "Fritz" (Bill), Ann Regina Elnora "Nora", Raymond Heinrich Otto "Ray", Ernest Wilhelm Carl "Sheller", Carl Laverne "Corn", and Frances Elizabeth Maria. Throughout the year 1911 William had health issues. In early



Lena Koppey

October, he had his appendix removed. In mid November complications caused severe pain in the surgery area. He was taken hurriedly over a rough road in the back of a "buck" wagon to the doctor in State Center. He was sent to Englewood Hospital. He died on November 16, 1911, at the young age of 40. Lena was not yet 39 years old! A post mortem examination showed a severe secondary infection, "gangrene" had set in and resulted in multiple abscesses of the liver. Friends and neighboring farmers went to his farm and harvested the 1911 crops.

After "William's" death in 1911, Lena sold all of the farm equipment at a farm sale and in 1912



Lena Koppey's home in State Center

moved into nearby State Center. The house was located west of the ball diamond on West Main (actually 2nd Street SW) on the north side of the street. At the time of his death, Lena was pregnant with their 8th child, August Frederick William "Lucy" Wilkening. Her oldest son, Heinrich Christian Wilhelm "Henry" Wilkening, was 15 years of age. While living in State Center, she raised all 8 children making a living doing laundry for neighbors and local hotels, and helping to deliver babies for people. She also tended a very large garden. She canned and sold fruit and vegetables, and baked and sold pies. Frances Stone (the younger daughter) told

Sharon Ellers that the new supervisor of the light plant, (a bachelor) was looking for someone to do his laundry, and was sent to Lena. When he took his laundry to her he discovered she had no electricity. She had to pump water from an outside pump, heat it on top of the wood stove, agitate the washer by hand, rinse in a tub, and use a hand wringer to squeeze out the water. She then hung the clothes on an outside line to dry. When the clothes were dry, she had to iron most of them. He knew that she was making a living to raise a family of 8 children, so he decided to take up a collection at the plant and around State Center to purchase an electric washing machine for Lena. He then ran an electricity line to her outdoor kitchen (a separate building behind the house) to help her wash clothes easier and faster. He also hired 15 year-old Henry to work at the light plant. As her family grew older and the children married, some of them continued to live with her until they could afford a place of their own. The 1920 census shows that Lena 47, Head of the house with Henry, Hazel, and their two children, Marion and Virgil along with Lena's five youngest living with her; that's a family of 10.

Another story, from Frances Stone, is that Lena used the boys (early on, her own sons, and later on, grandsons Virgil and Dwight) to deliver the laundry and baked goods. They used a wagon, to deliver the goods to the local hotel. One time they were on their way to deliver the laundry, taking it across the railroad tracks and the wagon overturned, and every thing got dirty. They had to take it back to be redone. She didn't even scold them. A neighbor saw the incident and decided to put bigger wheels and taller sides on the wagon and solved the problem

Her granddaughters Adele Smith and Evelyn Weuve had great memories of Lena. Adele remembers her grandmother buying beautiful red and black wool to have pleated skirts made for her. When Adele discovered that she was allergic to wool, grandmother had the skirts lined. Lena used reverse psychology to help Adele keep her temper under control. If they played cards and Adele lost her temper and threw the cards on the floor, Lena left them there until Adele wanted to play again and then grandma reminded her that they could not play until Adele picked them and counted them to make sure the cards were all there. Adele learned that Lena was wise, shy and smart.



Lena Helena Koppey

Adele remembered Lena's white wavy hair. It was Adele's pleasure to comb it and push waves in. They (small child and large woman) shared a bed when Lena lived with them, in a small cold house with two bedrooms. Adele also remembered that Lena put sugar on tomatoes, and Adele frequently forgot to put the sugar bowl on the table.

Grandma sang songs, told stories and taught the children some German words. She had started to teach Adele the Lord's Prayer in German before she died.

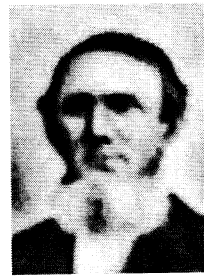
Evelyn Weuve remembered that her grandmother taught her to darn stockings. Lena could do it so well "that the mended stockings didn't hurt your feet". She taught Evelyn a song about "Little pussy Metz" and told grand children that she would buy them things "when her ship came in". Evelyn also remembered that when her daughter Ronna was born (July 2, 1942), her grandmother came out to help cook for harvesters. Evelyn had a young hired girl, but more help was needed. Evelyn said that grandma and the hired girl probably slept together while she stayed there. Evelyn said that all who knew her would always remember her Grandmother with kindness.

Lena's great granddaughter, Sharon Ellers remembers her as kind and loving. She taught Sharon to count in German and to sing some German songs before she died when Sharon was 4. Lena was the midwife when Sharon, Roger, Dick and Hank were born.

At age 65, she gave up housekeeping and took turns living with her children. When visiting her son, Ray Wilkening, she had a stroke. She never recovered and died on December 28, 1942 at age 70. William and Lena are buried in the Hillside Cemetery north of State Center.

This story was written on 3/4/2017 by Karen Harrison from information provided by Cliff Wilkening, Adele Wilkening Smith, Evelyn Wilkening Weuve, and Sharon Harrison Ellers.

Joseph Arnold and Catherine "Minnie" Couenhoven Arnold



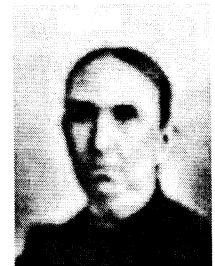
Joseph Dunn Arnold

Joseph Dunn Arnold was born 22 July 1823 in New Brunswick, New Jersey (east central New Jersey, just west of New York City). His parents were John Arnold (1787 - 1836) and Elizabeth Dunn (1792 - 1884) both of Middlesex County, New Jersey. Joseph married Catherine Couenhoven on 15 May 1848 in New

Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Her parents, James Couenhoven (1793 - 1865) and Elizabeth Bagley Couenhoven (1794 - 1854) were both originally from the New York City, New York area. After they were married Joseph and Catherine lived with her parents; during that time Joseph was a carpenter and her father was a grocer.

Their first child, James, was born in 1849 while living in New Jersey; he died at the age of 4 years. They had twin boys (Joseph and Louis) while living in New Jersey; Joseph died as an infant and Louis died at the age of 3 years. Joseph and Catherine moved to Posey County, Indiana before William Christian was born on 20 November 1857. Before the 1860 census was taken (July 1860) the family migrated to Liberty Township, Wabash County, Indiana and Joseph was a farmer. This was a migration from New Brunswick New Jersey to southwestern Indiana to north central Indiana in a span of about 5 years. Joseph went from the occupation as a carpenter in New Jersey to farmer in Indiana.

By the time the 1870 census was taken (3 June 1870) the family migrated to Bluemond Township, McLean County, Illinois. McLean County is southeast of Peoria, Illinois. Joseph Arnold, now 49, was a farmer. Living with him was Catherine 45, William 13, James 10, and Mary 6 years old. The last child, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Arnold was born on 19 January 1871 in McLean County, Illinois.



Catherine "Minnie" Couenhoven

Joseph Arnold died 27 January 1891 at the age of 67 in Luverne, Minnesota and Catherine Arnold died 13 April 1904 at the age of 76 in Luverne, Minnesota. Both William and Mary were married in McLean County, Illinois by 1888. Not sure if Elizabeth was married there or not, but she was married in 1891 after her dad died. Somewhere between 22 February 1888 and 27 January 1891 the family migrated from McLean County, Illinois to Luverne, Minnesota.

Their four children that lived to adult hood were:

- William Christian Arnold, b. 20 November 1857 in Posey County, Indiana, d. 9 May 1919, m. 22 February 1888 to Sarah Idella Etnier
- James C. "Jimmy" Arnold, b. 15 August 1860 in Wabash, Indiana, d. 25 September 1917, m. 12 February 1890 to Minnie Harms
- Mary R. "Mayme" Arnold, b. 27 November 1864 in Wabash County, Indiana, d. 22 February 1942, m. 22 February 1888 to William Johnson
- Elizabeth "Lizzie" Arnold, b. 19 January 1871 in McLean County, Illinois, d. 1 April 1930, m. 25 March 1891 to Elmer Chapman

This story was written by Richard Harrison on 2/16/2017 from information and research provided by Barbra Kozisek.

Samuel Etnier Sr. and Elizabeth Jontz Etnier



Samuel Etnier Sr.

Samuel Etnier Sr. was born 14 December 1838 near Harrisburg, Huntington County, Pennsylvania. His parents, Samuel Etnier (1804 – 1884) and Elizabeth Harker Etnier (1803 – 1878) were both born in the same area of Pennsylvania. His

parents moved to Fulton County, Illinois about 1845, so Samuel Sr. spent several years of his early life in Illinois.

His war record reports that he enlisted Aug. 15, 1861, at the age of 22, in Company H, 28th Infantry, organized at Camp Butler (near Springfield, Illinois) and fought in the Civil War. Samuel was discharged Oct. 22, 1862 on account

of wounds. This Regiment engaged in the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Heiman - Mar. 17, 1862 and April 6 and 7, 1862; also at Pittsburg Landing. These two forts were across the Tennessee River from each other. Fort Henry in Tennessee and Fort Heiman in Kentucky. The regiment arrived at Memphis, Tenn., Jul. 21, 1862. (History of Fulton County by: Chas. A. Chapman & Co., P 359, 1879). This information is different than the official reports about Fort Henry and Fort Heiman.

The **Battle of Fort Henry** was fought on February 6, 1862, in western Middle Tennessee, during the American Civil War. It was the first important victory for the Union and Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in the Western Theater. On February 4 and 5, Grant landed two divisions just north of Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. (The troops serving under Grant were the nucleus of the Union's successful Army of the Tennessee, although that name was not yet in use.^[3]) Grant's plan was to advance upon the fort on February 6 while it was being simultaneously attacked by Union gunboats commanded by Flag Officer Andrew Hull Foote. A combination of accurate and effective naval gunfire, heavy rain, and the poor siting of the fort, nearly inundated by rising river waters, caused its commander, Brig. Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, to surrender to Foote before the Union Army arrived. The surrender of Fort Henry opened the Tennessee River to Union traffic south of the Alabama border. In the days following the fort's surrender, from February 6 through February 12, Union raids used timberclad boats to destroy Confederate shipping and railroad bridges along the river.

After Samuel Etnier was discharged from the Infantry on 22 October 1862 he married Elizabeth Jontz on 4 February 1864 in York County, Pennsylvania. Samuel's family was still living Illinois at that time. Elizabeth Jontz was born 9

June 1841 in Middleton, Pennsylvania.

Her parents, Henry Jontz (1809 – 1863) and Sarah Wood Jontz (1812 – 1885), were both born in Pennsylvania and migrated to Bureau County, Illinois by 1870. Their first-born child, Sarah Idella "Della" Etnier, was born 6 May 1865 in



Elizabeth Jontz

Cooksville, McLean County, Illinois. Cooksville is southeast of Peoria. Fulton County is southwest of Peoria. Bureau County is north of Peoria.

By December 1872 seven more children were born to Samuel and Elizabeth; all were born in Illinois; the middle child, Harry, died in infancy. The family migrated west to Smayville, Sherman Township, Story County, Iowa about 1894. Their farm was two miles north of Colo, Iowa; he and Elizabeth lived on the farm until March 1918. Samuel and Elizabeth moved to Collins, Iowa. Samuel suddenly and quickly died 2 January 1918 in Collins at the age of 79. Elizabeth died 10 January 1924 in Collins at the age of 82. Both are buried in the Colo Cemetery.

Samuel and Elizabeth had seven children that lived to adulthood:

- Sarah Idella "Della" Etnier, b. 6 May 1865, d. 19 December 1941, m. 22 February 1888 to William Arnold
- Clara Elizabeth Etnier, b. 29 October 1866, d. 10 September 1958, m. 25 November 1886 to Nathan Elbert
- Minnie Lou Etnier, b. 19 February 1868, d. 4 June 1945, m. 20 April 1886 to James Homan
- Arthur Ernst Etnier, b. 30 January 1874, d. 23 August 1945, m. before 1909 to Mae McCless
- Annie Etnier, b. 15 June 1877, d. ?????, m. 27 October 1897 to Elias Shearer
- Samuel Grafield, b. 2 March 1880, d. 9 December 1963, m. ???? to Jessie Webb
- Gayle Franklin, b. 27 February 1885, d. 25 November 1965, m. ???? to Lena Reingardt

This story was written by Richard Harrison on 2/16/2017 from information and research provided by Barbra Kozisek.

William Arnold and Sarah Etnier Arnold

William Christian Arnold was born 20 November 1857 in Posey County, Indiana (an area in southwestern Indiana, near Hew Harmony). He died 9 May 1919 in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the age of 61. He is buried in a cemetery in Colo, Iowa. There is a little confusion about whether he was born on the 20th or 21st of November. William married Sarah Idella Etnier on 22 February 1888 in Cooksville, Illinois when he was



William Arnold

31 years old. Sarah, the oldest daughter of Samuel Etnier Sr. and Elizabeth Jontz Etnier, was born 6 May 1865 in Cooksville, McClean County, Illinois; she died on 19 December 1941 in State Center, Iowa. Apparently William (possibly with his family) migrated from Posey County, Indiana to Cooksville,

Illinois where he married Sarah. Cooksville, Illinois is in central Illinois over 200 miles from Posey County, Indiana. Their first child, Carrie Ruby Arnold, was born on 19 December 1888 in Cooksville, just 7 months after their marriage. Their second child, Katherine Elizabeth "Kitty" Arnold was born 21 January 1892 in Laverne, Minnesota. Laverne is in southwestern, Minnesota over 560 miles from Cooksville. Their third and fourth children, Samuel and William, were also born in Laverne, Minnesota. By the time Hazel Vera Arnold was born 1 December 1897, they had moved to Colo, New Albany Township, Story County, Iowa. Colo, Iowa is over 280 miles from Laverne, Minnesota. In the first 9 years of Williams marriage, between 1888 and 1897, he migrated from Posey County, Indiana, to Cooksville, Illinois, to Laverne, Minnesota to Colo, Iowa; a total of over 1,040 miles. Their last four children, Jesse, Goldie, Opal, and Eldon were also born in the Colo, Iowa area. They had nine children, two died in infancy, between 1888 and 1906.



Sarah "Della" Etnier

In 1910 Sam (age 16) and his sister Katherine (age 18) were living with John Fitzgerald and his wife and family in New Albany Township, Story County, Iowa. In 1910 William and Sarah left Iowa to homestead land in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This became the Arnold Ranch. Sarah had a reputation of being cruel to her children. Apparently, the three youngest children went to Wyoming with William and Sarah; the others were either married, sent to live with the oldest married daughter, Carrie, or sent to live with friend, John Fitzgerald

Hazel, reportedly lived with her sister Carrie, and never finished the fourth grade. Hazel disliked

her sister, had to do her housework, and wanted to finish school. Even though Hazel disliked her mother, Sarah, Hazel brought her into her State Center home where Sarah passed away at the age of 76.

Samuel was discharged from the army after World War I at Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1919. Sam was 25 years old at the time. He went back to Iowa after discharged for a visit (presumably Story County) and returned to Cheyenne shortly after his visit.

William died in 1919, around the time Sam was discharged from the Army. Sarah had trouble managing the ranch alone and had trouble paying the taxes. Sam Arnold, the oldest son, took over the ranch. After a tornado in 1922 that destroyed the buildings on the ranch, Sarah went back to an Etner farm in Iowa (Colo area) and left Opal "Doll" and Goldie with Sam. Later Goldie and Opal "Doll" returned to Iowa.

William and Sarah had seven children that lived to adulthood:

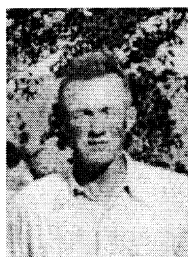
- Carrie Ruby Anold, b. 19 Dec. 1888, d. 25 Jan 1969, m. 12 Feb. 1908 to Henry Reingardt
- Katherine Elizabeth "Kitty" Arnold, b. 21 Jan 1892, d. 26 April 1931, m. 1 June 1911 to John Crocker
- Samuel Joseph Arnold, b. 21 March 1894, d. 22 July 1967, m. 12 December 1923 to Edith Wittmer.
- Hazel Vera Arnold, b. 1 December 1897, d. 29 August 1992, m. 7 November 1917 to "Henry" Wilkening
- Goldie Idella Arnold, b. 24 April 1901, d. 16 April 1972, M. 24 February 1924 to John Obrecht
- Opal Zola "Doll" Arnold, b. 24 November 1903, d. 13 November 1976, m. 28 February 1922 to Arthur Ernst

The above story was written by Richard Harrison 2/15/2017.

Samuel Joseph Arnold & Edith Wittmer Arnold

Things changed a lot in the years my folks lived. From horse and buggy to fancy cars, airplanes to jet airplanes, horses to farm with to tractors and even air conditioned ones, from sacks for flour and sugar to paper bags, from waxed paper to

wrap your sandwich in to plastic bags, washing clothes on a scrub board to wringer washing machines to automatic washer and dryer crank telephones to dial phones, radio and television came into being.



Sam Arnold

My dad was born March 22, 1894 and my mother was born January 5, 1902. There lives started out with hardships and they managed to survive through them as a team working hard and making do.

He served in the US Army during World War I. It was a miracle that he returned after battling the Germans and the flu of that era for 19 days. The nurse had told him when he was well; that he was one soldier that walked into the hospital that she didn't think would walk out. This was before IV's and miracle drugs. He came home from the war on Armistice Day November 11, 1918.



Edith Arnold

Mother lived in Kansas in Albia a little town that was started by her grandfather. He had a blacksmith shop and had a General Store that mother's mother ran. Mother lost a sister there because of a burst appendix.

Medical advancement over the years from no surgery - because of lack of knowledge or anesthetic to heart surgery, knee and hip replacements, operating on the brain and eyes. Things that people years ago did not even dream of being able to do.

Her family moved to Colorado by horses pulling their two covered wagons. They lived in Carr, Colorado and had a General Store. Later the family located to a homestead they purchased and built a home there. Their home was about 5 miles from the Arnold homestead. That is where my folks met at a community party.

They were married on December, 12, 1923 in Greeley, Colorado. They were married for 44 years.

There was a Depression that they lived through. This was a hard time for everyone. No work and no money, just make do. During World War II more hardships were incurred with family members going off to war and rationing of meat,

food, gas, and tires. You needed a rationing stamp just to buy shoes, but they were not to be found.

Mother and Daddy made a good team. When we children came a long, there was work for us to do too. We learned from our parents. They had dairy cattle for many years and later bought Hereford cattle and got out of the dairy business.

They helped bring in the neighbor's crops when he was bite by a rattlesnake. They were always ready to lend a hand.

They contacted and made arrangements for the REA, Rural Electric Association, to visit the neighborhood and electricity came to our world. What a change! Dial Telephones came to our neighborhood also through their efforts.

Mother loved to crochet and made bedspreads, tablecloths, afghans and gave away over 100 pillows that she loved to crochet. Her sewing was outstanding and she made clothing for her children and her grandchildren. She embroidered tablecloths and loved to use her spare time on craft items.

Mother belonged to several clubs and organizations, Friendly Club, she was a Special Friend for Circle #6 of First Baptist Church, VFW Auxiliary and Rebecca's. She loved to bowl and bowled when she was well in her 80's and had several trophies.

My dad passed away on July 22, 1967 and mother passed away on January 26, 2001. Mother had always wanted to live to be 100 but just made it to 99 years and 21 days.

The above story was written by Leona Anold Lowe 3/24/2017.

Henry Christoph Wilkening & Hazel Arnold Wilkening



Hazel Wilkening

Hazel and Henry Wilkening were married on November 7, 1917. They lived with his mother, brothers and sisters until after the 1920 census. They had no car, but he had a motorcycle with a sidecar, that he used to transport Hazel and their young children. The couple was blessed with

five children: Marion (Harrison), Virgil, Dwight, Evelyn (Weuve) and Ronald.



Henry Wilkening

During WWI, Henry served with the US Army as a private in the army motor transportation corps from July 25, 1918 until February 20, 1919. Before and after his service to his country he worked at the State Center Light Plant. He began working there as a 15 year-old boy after his father died. He started sweeping floors, running errands, and mowing the lawn, etc. to help his mother pay the bills. He worked his way up the ladder and became plant superintendent in 1921. It was under his direction and supervision that a new system was installed and the plant went from a point that the town of State Center was without commercial credit to a profitable system. Henry recalled that at one time he went three months without a paycheck.

Marion told a story about Virgil and Dwight as little boys in the basement. Apparently Grandpa made wine down there. She was babysitting and those two brothers went down and drank the wine and were so tipsy that they could not get up the stairs, she was possibly around 11 years old... she tried to get them up; however, they were like wet noodles and she had to leave them there for Grandpa to take care of, when her parents came home.

During WWII, the majority of the men in America were drafted. Many were drafted right out of high school. All three of Grandma and Grandpa's sons were gone to different parts of the world. Virgil was in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific. Dwight was with the Marines in the Philippines when he was wounded, and later with a MP group in Alaska. Ronnie served in the Pacific and was on his way to Japan on a troop transport when the war with Japan ended. He then went to Europe to serve in Germany before returning to the United States. Their granddaughter, Sharon, remembers that every time she went to State Center, Grandma sat at the table and wrote letters, everyday, with tears streaming down her face

Henry resigned from the light plant on June 22, 1944. He started an electric shop on the SE corner of Main and Second Avenue, across from the school. He sold small appliances,

refrigerators, washers and dryers. Grandpa fixed small appliances (like toasters, mixers and lamps). Virgil went into the business with Henry after he returned from World War II. Henry and Virgil moved two times to larger buildings. Many of the grandchildren received small appliances as wedding gifts from Henry and Hazel.

Sharon Ellers says "The first of us grandchildren were born in the living room of Great Grandma Wilkening's home (Sharon, Dec 1938, Roger Weuve, April 1939, Richard, Aug 1940, Hank Weuve, Aug 1940) Grandma said that Mom had to get out of the bed so that Evelyn could get in for the birth of Hank (as they were about two weeks apart). Dr Beirsborn was our Doctor, our Great Grandmother Wilkening was the midwife and our Grandmother was the helper. We were all (the Mother and the babies and the older siblings for a couple weeks) at Grandma Wilkening's as she took care of us. Grandma told me that we were born in the living room, that is where they sat up the birthing bed in the house on the North East side of the RR track on the street to the west of the street that Grandma and Grandpa lived at, as we remember, when we were children."



Henry & Hazel's home on 3rd St. NW & 2nd St. SW

There were 8 older grandchildren who spent a lot of time with their grandparents during the 40's and 50's. The children of Marion and Evelyn remember that they all went to St. Paul's Lutheran Church every Sunday morning. The grandchildren were baptized in a dress that Grandma had made for Marion. The dress was made from Hazel's wedding dress and all of her children were baptized in it. On most of the Sundays following church the three families went to Henry and Hazel's home for Sunday lunch. The lunch was usually cold meat (German salami and blood sausage), cheese sandwiches, pickled herring, Jello with fruit, fresh vegetables from the garden and pop to drink. There was usually

angel food cake and ice cream for dessert. Grandma also made many cherry pies, because she had a cherry tree in the yard. Grandma provided play clothes to keep the church clothes clean. The play clothes were an assortment of old bibbed overalls and shirts.

After lunch the children played either inside or outside depending in the weather. Sharon remembers that they had a raceway through several rooms, the stairway, the back and side porches, and perhaps out and back in the house, up and down the stairs, etc. They chased and ran until Grandpa would bang his fist on the table and order them to stop; the noise was too much. The adults played lots of cards, while the children ran and played.

During their early married life Henry bought Hazel a treadle sewing machine. Her mother ridiculed the gift, so the first thing Hazel made was a dress for her mother. She sewed many of their clothes throughout their marriage and later made doll clothes from scraps without a pattern. Her granddaughter Sharon remembers playing with the dolls and their clothes. Grandma taught her to make homemade paper dolls and dolls made from hollyhocks from the front yard.

While Henry and Virgil built the electrical shop and a home wiring business, Hazel was busy being the "home day care" grandma for Larry Wilkening and later for Virgil and Mary's three daughters, Daria, Patty, and Ginny while Mary was the bookkeeper at the shop.

One of Henry's favorite pastimes was fishing. He often fished locally with friends and sometimes travelled to Watertown, Minnesota with Marion and her family, and Ron and his family. They stayed in a somewhat primitive resort. Sharon reported that he took her out in a rowboat to fish once. He told her that she needed to "sit still and be Quiet". She said "Grandpa, I can do neither of those two things. Just take me back to the shore. I NEVER want to fish".

They spent their retirement years together in State Center, with occasional trips to visit family in Wyoming, Indiana and other special spots. (Usually visiting relatives.)

Henry died on January 13, 1975. They had been married 58 years. Hazel moved to a small senior's apartment near Virgil's house after his death. She continued to travel to visit far away grandchildren and even went to visit Dick and his family in California. They were able to locate a

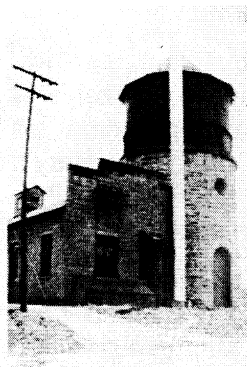
cousin near San Diego and took her to see her childhood buddy Bernice Etnier Jones. Hazel fell and broke a hip at 94 and died on August 29, 1992. She left a legacy of five children, 14 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great grandchildren, the last one born two hours after death. Her husband, one son and one grandson preceded her in death.

Karen Harrison wrote this story on March 3, 2017 using stories reported by Sharon Harrison Ellers and information from other sources.

State Center Light Plant

*Fairbanks Morse spread fame of State Center Page in American Municipalities tells of local Light Plant
April 9, 1931 State Center Enterprise*

In a page ad in a recent issue of the American Municipalities, Fairbanks Morse & Co., tell the story of State Center's light plant to the world. The ad, in substance, is as follows:



Original Steam

"State Center – A town of 1000 people, will have entirely paid for their light plant out of earnings in approximately five years. Diesels did it.

State Center's plant originally a steam plant, which was completely changed over to Fairbank-Morse Diesels by the installation of the first 240 HP engine in

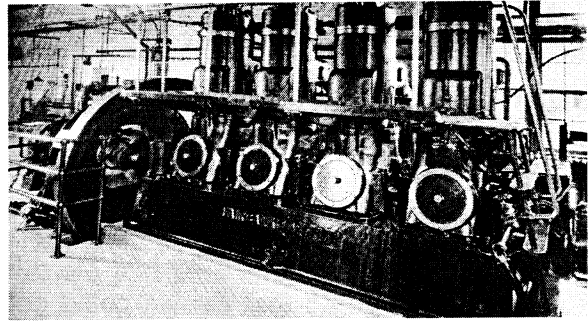
May 1927, and the second 240 HP unit in December 1928.

This plant is generating 550,000 KWH per year under the able management of the superintendent, Mr. **H.C. (Henry Christoph) Wilkening**, and a progressive Mayor and Council of ability.

Their cost for this current delivered on the switchboard, including fuel oil, lubricating oil, labor, superintendent, repairs, liability and fire insurance, and miscellaneous supplies is .0143 cents per KWH.

The plant makes a net profit of approximately \$10,000 per year, and in a very short time will

have this equipment all paid for out of the earnings of the plant **WITHOUT ANY COST TO THE CITY IN THE FORM OF TAXES.**



One of the 240 HP diesels in the Power Plant

The equipment is practically as good as new, and as soon as the payments are completed they will be in position to further reduce rates and give the Town of State Center rates equal to those offered by the largest cities of the state.

In addition to this, they will also still make a sufficient profit to lay up a reserve for the purchase of any equipment which they will need in the future."

This story was contributed by Cliff Wilkening.

Looking Back

By Shirley Schaper

State Center Vigilantes Organized

August 11, 1921 State Center Enterprise

"The work of organizing the State Center branch of the Marshall County vigilantes has been practically completed. A meeting was held a short time ago at which J.R. Meekings, county sheriff, Chief of Police Campbell and H.W. Jennings, Secretary of the Marshall County Banker's Association of Marshalltown were present. Delegations from Clemons and St. Anthony were also present in addition to a representation of State Center people.

Five men have been named here as members of the vigilantes. They are Parker J. Adams, **Henry C. Wilkening**, **Otha A. Sweet**, Robert E. Gray and C.W. Bachman. The men have been sworn in and their bonds have been filed. In the near future they will be provided with guns and be ready for instant call.



Main Street, State Center

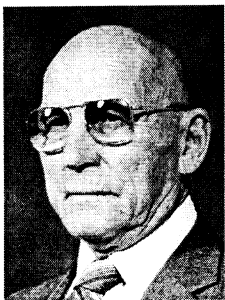
The vigilantes are organized for the protection of banks and mercantile houses primarily and all to aid the law enforcement officers in apprehending fugitives, etc. They have practically the same powers as deputy sheriffs when on duty. Local organizations have now been formed in nearly all of the towns of this county."

Note that Otha A. Sweet was the husband of Lena Pauling Wilkening. Christoph "Chris" Wilkening was the father of Lena and Henry Wilkening.

This story was contributed by Cliff Wilkening.

August Frederick William "Lucy" Wilkening & Clara Selberg Wilkening.

August Frederick William "Lucy" Wilkening was born on 28 May 1912 in State Center, Marshall County, Iowa. August died in Plano, Texas, on 19 Dec. 1984. He was 72 and buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Marshalltown, Marshall County, Iowa.



"Lucy" Wilkening

August F. Wilkening had not been born yet when his father, William, died in November 1911 from appendicitis surgery complications and multiple abscess of the liver. His mother, Lena, was 3

months pregnant with August at the time of William's death. After William's death, his mother, left the farm with 7 children and moved to State Center, Iowa. At an early age he achieved the nickname "Lucy" from "Lucifer the devil". This nickname stayed with him throughout his entire life. It was hard growing up in a family consisting of only a mother and 7 older brothers and sisters. There was usually no money for clothes. As a

teenager August would wear worn military Navy uniforms to school that were sent home by his older brother, Ernie, who was in the Navy. After a while, August could not endure the continual teasing and joking by other students about his bell bottom Navy pants, so he quit the 8th grade and left home at the age of 14. He left State Center, Iowa and headed north to work in a logging camp in Minnesota. After about a year of harsh living conditions in the camp and numerous bedbug bites each night he left Minnesota. He went to South Dakota to work as hired help on a farm. After several years, he moved back to Iowa to work for a farmer near Baxter, Iowa.

There he met at church and dated a local Baxter girl, Clara Aileen Selberg. Clara was a graduate of the Baxter High School, went to the Central Iowa Business College in Marshalltown, Iowa and for several years was employed in an office in Marshalltown. August (age 23) and Clara (age 25) were married on Sunday, Sept. 8, 1935 in Parker, South Dakota. The



Clara Wilkening

ceremony was performed in the manse of the Rev. C.J. Nuernberg, pastor of the Lutheran Church of Parker, S.D. Clara's widowed mother owned an 80 acre farm northeast of Baxter. The following March, August and Clara moved to the farm. Throughout the next 35 years, they increased the size of the farm and built a fairly large livestock operation. In 1970, when they knew their son Clifford Wilkening would no longer come back and run the family farm business because of his pursuit of an aviation career, they sold the farm to movie star Jean Seberg, formerly of Marshalltown, Iowa. They retired to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to be near their daughter and her family. After several years, they moved again to Harlingen, Texas where they continued to live the remainder of their lives. They enjoyed traveling, were members of the First Christian Church in Harlingen and August belonged to the Elks Club.

Clara Aileen Selberg was born on 26 August, 1910 in Baxter, Iowa. She was the daughter of William Selberg and Maria (Mary) Miller Selberg. Clara died about 3 years before August F. (Lucy) Wilkening on January 1981, in Harlingen Texas.

They had two children:

Marilyn Jane Wilkening Matzek 1938 –

Clifford Paul Wilkening 1943 –

The above story was written by Clifford P. Wilkening 6/6/2016.

Homer & Marion Harrison and Family

Homer Clyde Harrison Jr. was born in Sanoma County, California on July 31, 1917 the son of Homer Clyde Ernest Harrison Sr. and Elsie Maude Richards. Homer's paternal grandparents are Edmund Walker Harrison and Lorinda Alice Walls; his maternal grandparents were Elisha Richards and Mary Adelia Strong.



Homer & Marion
Harrison 1968

Homer married Marion Frances Wilkening in State Center, Marshall County, Iowa on February 28, 1938. Marion was born in State Center on April 2, 1918 the daughter of Henry Christian Wilkening and Hazel Vera Arnold. Marion's paternal grandparents are William M. Wilkening and Lena H. Koppey; her maternal grandparents are William Christian Arnold and Sarah Idella Etnier. Homer and Marion had

three children: Sharon Kay, born in State Center on December 25, 1938; Richard Arnold, born in State Center on August 13, 1940; and Dennis Dwight, born in Marshalltown on December 26, 1943.

Homer lived in Marshall County the majority of his life after his parents returned to Iowa from California in 1920. He went to first grade in a country school on West Main St., second grade in the Franklin School, and finished through most of his ninth grade year in Melbourne. In March, 1932 he left school to help his father on the dairy farm



Homer & Marion with
Sharon, Dick, and Denny
(50th Anniversary, 1988)

near Marshalltown. After he and Marion married in 1938 he spent the next three to four years farming at several locations on the east and west sides of Marshalltown. He worked for several local contractors and home builders from 1941 to 1947 as a laborer and carpenter. During this period he spent one year in 1945 serving in the US Army and going through basic training at Camp Walters, Texas (near Fort Worth). In 1947, while he was a journeyman carpenter with Con Jacobson, he built his first house on South First Street, near High Street. From there he was hooked in the home construction and development business. During the next 38 years, 1947 to 1985, "Harrison Homes" built over 2,000 homes and developed nine subdivisions in Marshalltown. Later in their career, between 1971 and 1989, he and Marion ran an antique dealership, "Granny's Antiques", on Highway 30, near South 12th St. Homer and Marion decided to leave their friends and relatives and move to Kokomo, Indiana in May, 1993 to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Homer enjoyed gardening, bowling, walking, traveling around the country and world, and being with his family and friends.

Marion grew up in State Center, Iowa. She won 5 sports letters, 4 in basketball and 1 in softball, at State Center High School. She was one of two daughters and three sons of the marriage of Henry and Hazel Wilkening. Marion passed away on November 14, 1994 and is interred at Sunset Memory Gardens, Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana.

Homer married Mary Sue Mix on May 25, 1999 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Homer and Sue traveled, enjoyed each others company and both Homer's immediate family and Sue's extended family. Homer passed away on March 5, 2009 and is interred next to Marion at Sunset Memory Gardens. Sue passed away 13 weeks later on June 11, 2009 and is interred next to her first husband, Melville Mix II at Woodlawn Cemetery., Montpelier, Indiana.

Sharon, Homer and Marion's first child, attended several elementary schools in Marshalltown because her parents frequently moved into new houses that Homer built. She married Earl Bruce Butler on August 7, 1955 in Marshalltown. "Bruce", the son of Earl Charles Butler and Nellie Pauline Smith, was born in Clemons, Marshall County, Iowa on September 30, 1934. Bruce was an Air Force pilot stationed early in his military

career at Amarillo, Texas. Their first child, Steven Bruce Butler, was born on September 26, 1956 in Amarillo. Sharon finished high school at Amarillo, but still considers her high school as Marshalltown High, class of 56. She has attended several Marshalltown High School reunions. Bruce and Sharon had two daughters born in South Ruislip, England while Bruce was stationed in England. Linda Suzanne was born on August 16, 1959 and Laura Diane was born on August 24, 1960. Bruce was killed in an Air Force plane accident in Macon, Georgia on November 7, 1962 and is interred at Rose Hill Cemetery, Marshalltown, Iowa. Sharon married Norman Dale Reid on October 20, 1964 in Lebanon, Illinois. Sharon and Norman had one daughter Melanie Luanne Reid born October 5, 1966 in Columbus, Bartholomew County, Indiana. They later divorced. Sharon married Jonathan Ellers on May 8, 1976 in Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana; there were no children of that marriage. Jon had three children of his previous marriage. Their combined family represents seven children and twelve grandchildren and one deceased grandson. Sharon currently has seven grandchildren and one step grandchild from the marriages of Steven Butler to Thomas Brock, Melanie Reid to Brian Elo, and Linda to Steven Neubauer. Laura, Sharon's second daughter from her marriage with Bruce passed away on March 28, 1998. Sharon graduated and was a certified interior designer with McClintock Furniture, Kokomo, Indiana. She worked there for 24 years and has received many awards. The most outstanding award was the "Beth Ann Brewer Memorial Award" by the Indiana Home Furniture Club in recognition of outstanding attitude and superior achievement in retail salesmanship. Jon received a Bachelors and Masters degree from Indiana State University. He spent his career in teaching and coaching around the state of Indiana. He held positions of High School Assistant Principal and Principal, in the Kokomo School System and received much recognition for his work with the youth of Kokomo. Jon is enjoying his retirement.

Sharon retired from the furniture business in 2009. She and Jon have enjoyed traveling in their motor home, winter vacationing in the Harlingen, Texas area. They have also spent many months remodeling their home in Kokomo.

Richard "Dick", Homer and Marion's second child also attended several schools in Marshalltown and transferred to LeGrand High School in 1956

as he entered the tenth grade. The family moved to South 12th Avenue Road, about a mile south of highway 30. Upon graduation from LeGrand in 1958, Dick enrolled in the Marshall Community College for one year before entering Iowa State University in 1959. He graduated with a BSEE from Iowa State on May 26, 1962 and married Karen Patricia Gorackowski on the following day in Ames, Iowa. Karen also received her BS Home Economics on May 26, 1962. Karen, the daughter of Walter William Gorackowski and Katrina Elsie Larsen, was born March 11, 1941 in Fairmont, Martin County, Minnesota. With their diplomas in their hand Dick and Karen moved to Waltham, Massachusetts to start their new careers. Dick was an Electronics Engineer at Raytheon Company, Bedford Mass. and Karen was a Home Economics teacher at Georgetown High School, Georgetown, Mass. Dick started his master degree program while working full time at Raytheon and received his MSEE from Northeastern University in 1966. Their first daughter, Barbra Joanne, was born in Lowell, Middlesex County, Mass. on November 21, 1964. Dick became very interested in computers during his masters program and decided to pursue his interest by taking a new job with AC Electronics (a division of General Motors, later called Delco Electronics), Milwaukee, Wisconsin in September 1966. Their second daughter, Suzanne Marie, was born in Racine, Wisconsin on January 2, 1968. During Dick's long career with Delco Electronics, he transferred to Santa Barbara, California in 1972, and then transferred to Kokomo, Indiana in 1978 where he worked until retirement. His positions had been primarily in engineering management in the field of special purpose computers. He was on the design team for the Inertial Navigation Computer on the first Boeing 747, he developed GM's first custom large-scale-integration computer for defense missiles, and in 1978 he lead the development of General Motors first fuel injection system engine control computer. Delco Electronics transitioned into Delphi Automotive Systems in late 1999. Dick was one of a handful of Principle Technical Fellows at Delco Electronics and Delphi Automotive Systems leading their way to the future in automotive electronics. Dick retired from Delco Automotive Systems in 2001. Karen and Dick are blessed with five grandchildren from the marriages of Barbra to Scott Allen Kozisek and Suzanne to Kyle Dean Mettin and one additional grandchild from Suzanne's second marriage to Kenneth Biddle. Ken had two sons from his

previous marriage. Karen's career was very interesting. She taught in many school systems at the high school level, had managed a day care center, had been a juvenile probation officer and continued to substitute teach while maintaining the household.

Since retiring Dick and Karen have enjoyed traveling throughout the world visiting over 65 countries on five of the six continents. Dick still enjoys electronics as a hobby, model railroading, computers, and genealogy.

Dennis "Denny", Homer and Marion's youngest child entered the Franklin School and transferred to LeGrand School in 1956 when he entered the sixth grade. Denny received several basketball, football, track, and baseball letters during his high school career in LeGrand before he graduated in 1962. He enrolled in Marshalltown Community College for two years before transferring to Parsons College in 1964 where he received a BA in business in 1966. Denny was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966, attended Officer Candidate School, and received an Officers Commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry on October 11, 1967. His first assignment was as an Infantry Platoon Leader in Vietnam in 1968. Denny has many stories he can tell, mood permitting, of his experiences there. One that he has terrible memories about resulted in him recuperating in a Japanese hospital for 131 days, after his platoon was ambushed while conducting river operations in the Mekong Delta. Denny had learned a lot from his first tour in Vietnam and volunteered for a second tour in 1970 where he commanded a Rifle Company. During his two tours in Vietnam, Denny received numerous awards which include two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Star medals w/V device for valor and bravery, two Army Commendation medals w/V device for valor and bravery, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He returned to Fort Benning, Georgia in, 1971 where he married Dona Faye Crowe in Fort Benning, Chattahoochee County, Georgia (near Columbus) on August 25, 1973. Dona, the daughter of Clifton Raymond Crowe and Rachel Francis Russell, was born June 26, 1949 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Denny was transferred to Berlin, Germany in 1974. Their daughter, Christina Ann, was born in Berlin, Germany on February 9, 1977. During their tour in Germany, they were able to visit many of the countries in Europe and Communist, East Berlin. Denny returned to the United States in 1977 and was the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Commander for

the state of Michigan, headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. Their son, Bryan Henry, was born in Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan on May 13, 1981. Shortly after Bryan was born they transferred to Fort Stewart, Georgia. They spent four years at Fort Stewart and returned to Fort Benning in 1985. He was transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (near Kansas City) in 1987 where he spent four years teaching staff procedures and coordination at the Command and General Staff College. In 1991 he was transferred to Panama Canal where he served for 18 months. They returned to Fort Benning in 1993 where Denny retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, after 27 years of military service. He and Dona divorced in 1993. Denny became Junior ROTC Instructors at a high school near Savannah, Georgia and Crisp County High School, Cordelle, Georgia. He spent a lot of time with Bryan on weekends and was an Assistant Scout Master for the Boy Scouts.

Denny married Gloria Jean Bradford on October 15, 1998 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Denny and Jean retired in 2008 and they have enjoyed traveling about the United States in their motor home and visiting their children and grand children.

The above story was written by Richard A. Harrison and contributed for publication in the "The Continuing History of Marshall County Iowa 1997", Walsworth Publishing Company, Marceline, MO and revised/updated in 2017.

The Harrison Construction and Land Development Companies

Homer C. Harrison Jr. and Marion Harrison became major home builders in 1947. Prior to that time, Homer had worked for the V.C. Peterson Company, the C.F. Reimer Company, Con Jacobson Company and the Herb Weitzell and Charles Switzer Company. In some cases, he worked as a superintendent.

There were always two corporations at any given time. At first they had the Harrison Construction Company and Harrison Homes Inc. At a later date it became Triangle Homes, Inc.

They entered into the land Development Business in 1952 as Harrison Enterprises 1 and Harrison Enterprises 2. Their companies altogether built approximately 2,000 homes in

HARRISON HOMES
FOR '58

SEE OUR
PARADE of Homes
For All OF These Values

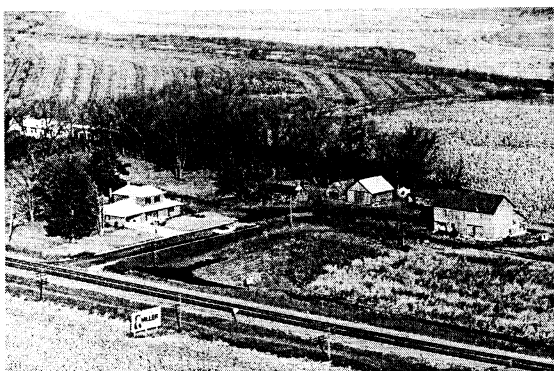
3 Bedroom **HOMES** FHA Terms

203 N. 12th Ave. \$11,800.00 \$400 DOWN \$61 per Month 3 Bedrooms	203 N. 14th Ave. \$18,250.00 \$700 DOWN \$69.50 per Month 3 Bedrooms
---	--

Harrison Homes Full Page Marshalltown Times
Republican Ad 1958

Marshalltown. Harrison Enterprises developed the following areas: Marion Park, Fair Meadows, Pioneer Village, Brentwood, Reyclif Second addition and Maple Estates.

They retired from the building business in 1985 and established Granny's Antiques. For many years Marion Harrison's hobby was collecting antiques. She became an expert on the subject. She and Homer had many trips collecting for their home. They bought a small farm on Lincoln Highway, now 1603 Iowa Ave. West. It had a barn and several out houses on it besides the home, which they remodeled.



1603 Iowa Ave. West before antique buildings
were remodeled

In 1970, they turned an old chicken house into an antique shop and soon they were in business. Later they turned the barn into a three-story building with shops in it. They rented out the shops and named it Granny's Antique mall. They had a shop for themselves and received much pleasure from the association with other antique collectors.

In 1985 they sold all three businesses, moved into town and retired. The Van Metre Auction Company and Van Metre Iowa Realty are in business along with Granny's Antique Mall at this popular location.

The above story was written by by *Gretchen Sipes* (sister of Homer Harrison Jr.) and contributed for publication in the "The Continuing History of Marshall County Iowa 1997", Walsworth Publishing Company, Marceline, MO.

Virgil & Mary Wilkening

The Greatest Generation. This tag line defines Virgil and Mary. They were products of the Great Depression and World War II with prosperity and dreams fulfilled that came to the hard working after the War. They were also a study in



Virg & Mary Wilkening

contrasts. They married shortly after WWII in Mary's hometown of Boston, Massachusetts. As many of her generation, Mary was a war bride. But unlike most, she married a young man from a totally different background.

She was born November 26, 1919, in Boston to Irish immigrant parents. Mary was the third daughter of Thomas James Connolly and Delia Mitchell Connolly. Her two sisters were Margaret Mary Connolly and Catherine Theresa Connolly. Mary grew up in a very traditional Irish Catholic family, surrounded by many aunts and uncles who were all Irish immigrants. With numerous first cousins in the Boston area, their life revolved around family, the Church and the beach at Green Hill. She attended Catholic schools until the passing of her father, when due to economics, she entered Roslindale High School. Roslindale, like South Boston, was largely comprised of Irish families. After high school, Mary worked at Filene's department store. Eventually, she landed a job at the Massachusetts State House and was forever proud of that.

Virgil was born in State Center, Iowa, on November 13, 1919. Other than a short time in Southern California and his years in the military, Virg spent his entire life in State Center and wouldn't have had it any other way. He was the

second born and first son of Henry (Hank) Christian Wilkening and Hazel Vera Arnold. He had four siblings: Marion, Dwight, Evelyn and Ronald. They grew up in town of this central Iowa rural community. State Center prospered first due to the Iowa Central Railroad and Chicago Northwestern Railroad, then the arrival of the Lincoln Highway. A very close knit community of overwhelmingly German Lutheran heritage, State Center was a hard nut to crack for outsiders. Most of these pioneer families went back generations with inter marriages and even origins to the same areas of Germany. The Wilkenings were at least shirt-tail related (Hazel's frequent saying) to most in State Center and went to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, along with most others. Virgil and his siblings were all baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's and attended State Center schools. His childhood was spent with grandparents, aunts, uncles and tons of cousins. Of course in a town of 1500 people, he knew everyone and everyone knew him and who he belonged to. He had lots of chores, helping his mother and Grandmother Wilkening, but he also had the run of town. No stranger to adventure and with lots of energy and friends, he got into his share of mischief. For several summers, he was sent to live with some of his aunts and uncles (Henry and Carrie Reingardt, August and Clara Wilkening) to help out on their farms and to keep him occupied. These summer experiences truly shaped his character and developed his work ethic. Throughout his life, Virg remained close to his aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. In school, Virg played sports and loved football most of all. Virg worked for a while after high school, eventually going to California to work in the aircraft industry as the war effort ramped up. He traveled via his Indian motorcycle, stopping to visit his aunt and uncle, Samuel and Edith Arnold, on a ranch five miles south of Cheyenne, Wyoming. This ranch was homesteaded by William and Sarah Arnold, Virgil's Grandparents.

Upon arriving in the Los Angeles area, he secured a job with Douglas Aircraft. Several young men from central Iowa that he knew had also made this journey, so he had several connections. The draw to work in the aircraft industry and support the war effort was a responsibility and exciting at the same time. From pictures in his photo albums, Virg worked hard and played hard.

By early February 1943, Virg left California, returned to Iowa and on a mission to enlist in the Army Air Corp. He accomplished just that. He

was at Camp Dodge in Des Moines before embarking on a three day train trip to Miami,



Virgil Wilkening,
Air Corps

Florida. He was assigned to the Collins Hotel on Miami Beach for six weeks of basic training. All of the hotels on Collins Avenue were used for training Air Corp recruits. Next, he was transferred to Boston via another three-day train trip for the civilian operated New England Airplane and Engine School. This school was located just across the street from Fenway Park, home of the

Boston Red Sox where servicemen could attend a game for free at any time. He was in Boston from early May 1943 until October 1943. This is also where he met a "sweet little gal," Mary Connolly, at a school sponsored dance on the last Saturday of May. A short time later, Virg asked Mary to be his bride after the war. From Boston, he was assigned to Tyndall Field in Panama City, Florida, for gunnery school. Ground school included aircraft identification by flash cards, disassembly and reassembly of a 50-caliber machine gun while blindfolded. He flew in a twin engine Lockheed Hudson Bomber for air-to-air gunnery training. Next, he had a ten-day leave before reporting to Florence, South Carolina, to train on the Douglas A-20 aircraft, an attack twin-engine low level bomber. He took a two-day train trip each way to Boston to spend his precious leave with Mary. Virg checked in to Florence Air Force Base on January 2, 1944. From here, he went to a base in Columbia, SC, and finally on to Greenville, SC, where he was teamed up with his crew: LT. Bodenheimer, pilot; LT. Crissey, copilot; LT. Eddy Klimek, bombardier navigator; Bruso, radio; Manna, tail gunner; and Virg, engineer gunner. During this flight-training period, narrow escapes were plentiful and several crew and planes were lost. Virg's training included air to ground gunnery training in B-25's in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Virg would spend the remainder of his time in the Air Corp with these dedicated five men. He cherished his lifelong friendships with Eddy Klimak from Illinois, and with Body from New York. His next assignments were Robins Air Force Base near Macon, Georgia, and Hickam Field (now Joint Base Pearl Harbor) in Hawaii where he was

housed in 600 man barracks before moving to Kahuku on the far north side of Oahu for more training. Next, he went by Douglas C-54 transport to Kwajalein Isle (Marshall Islands), then on a smaller Douglas DC-3 to Makin Isle in the Marshall Islands where they were assigned an old field repaired C model B-25. From here the crew saw their first real combat. "It took both pilots to handle this plane on take offs and landings with the rest of the crew praying." They flew missions until late October when they flew "the old Bucket Of Bolts" back to Wheeler Field in Oahu. Their brand new much improved B-25 J model awaited them. More intensive training followed, with training casualties too common. In June 1945, the ground equipment and ground personnel were loaded on three ships bound for Okinawa, Japan, which the Marines and other forces had secured. At the end of the month, the flight crews followed in their planes to Johnston Island, between Hawaii and the Marshall Islands, then on to Kwajalein Island for flight missions. His first mission was to Kyushu, southern island of Japan. Virg's missions also included four to China with two each to Hong Kong and Shanghai. He commented that "war is hell" and did not speak of the details to his immediate family. Three days after the signing of end of the war, Virg was selected as the flight engineer for a flight to transport one of three Military Governors of the three big islands of Japan to Atsugi Air Base. On the return trip to Okinawa, Virg's plane flew over Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan) at 100 - 200 feet, not realizing the radiation danger of spending 15 to 20 minutes over each. It took a long time for Virg to finally make it back to the States, to San Francisco, then on to Los Angeles and finally to Fort MacArthur, CA, where he got his discharge papers on January 12, 1946. He left the next day via car for Iowa, picked up his mother Hazel and they went to Boston for his marriage to Mary on February 2, 1946. He became Catholic during his time in the service and was rebaptized in the small village of Wahiawa, Oahu, and reconfirmed on Okinawa, Japan. A mixed marriage would have been out of the question. Virg and Mary took a honeymoon to Providence, Rhode Island, then drove to State Center where Mary could meet the family before continuing their honeymoon with a drive to California. That was a lot of miles for a road trip in 1946 without interstate highways. They spent the rest of their married lives in State Center with Virg and his father, Henry, entering the electrical contracting business as Wilkening Electric. Mary

was an active participant in the business as the bookkeeper. The business was first located on West Main Street, then later moving to a larger building on East Main Street.

Virg's family welcomed Mary with open arms, although she was much different than anyone they had ever known. With her Bostonian accent and her more gentle ways, she won them over as well as all the people of State Center. They soon bought a lot right across the street from St. Joseph's Catholic Church where they would build their house. They raised three daughters: Daria, Patricia and Virginia. There were always large holiday dinners at Henry and Hazel's with the Wilkenings, Harrisons and Weuves. Hazel's specialties were chicken noodles (homemade noodles) and rice. We now know it as rice pudding, but at the time it was just rice and the only way to prepare rice. Later, Mary and Virg hosted their own holiday dinners.

Every other year like clockwork, Virg would drive Mary and the girls back to Boston for a visit. Margaret and Catherine Connolly were frequent visitors in Iowa. Eventually, they welcomed three son-in-laws, one granddaughter and five grandsons. Mary lived to know two great grandchildren.

Virg and Mary had many, many friends in State Center and were extremely social. They were involved in their church and numerous community organizations. Every priest at St. Joseph's became a good friend and Mary was a dedicated member of the Rosary Society. Virg was a proud volunteer State Center fireman, as was his father Henry. He was also a member of the Lion's Club. Virg served on the building committee for the third new St. Joseph's church, built on the same site and completed in 1997. Together they belonged to many card clubs. They were both active in planning and working at the early Rose Festivals, as State Center became the "Rose Capital of Iowa" in 1958. They never missed a State Center Alumni Banquet or a family reunion. They supported the building of the Lincoln Valley Golf Club. Virg was a dedicated member of the "Over 50 Men's Group," which traveled Central Iowa weekly playing various courses. They also traveled the state and the country throughout their lives, always stopping to visit friends and relatives along the way. Virg and Mary enjoyed traveling to five reunions of the 396th Bomb Squadron.

Virg tackled everything in his life with passion, one hundred percent, all in. His passions throughout his life or at various times included his family, his business, boating, camping, fishing, playing cards, playing board games, golfing and always football; High school football (State Center Wildcats and later West Marshall Trojans), college football (especially the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Iowa State Cyclones) and professional football. At various times, he was a Green Bay Packers fan, a Minnesota Vikings fan, a Kansas City Chiefs fan, a New England Patriots fan and a Denver Broncos fan. Sunday dinners after Mass during football season were always scheduled at halftime or after the games. For many years, Virg and Mary were season ticket holders at ISU. They would drive to Ames and host tailgating parties for friends and family.

They both were avid newspaper readers: State Center Enterprise, Marshalltown Times Republican, Des Moines Register, Des Moines Tribune. They had KFJB Radio on in the mornings and never missed the ten o'clock news. They were long time Democrats and always up on politics. Mary loved following the Kennedy's and the British royalty. The pink telephone at their house was always ringing as Mary's many dear friends and neighbors checked in regularly. Hazel and Mary saw each other nearly every day and also chatted on the phone daily. Mary was Hazel's regular companion and chauffeur around town. They went grocery shopping, to the locker and to the Post Office in State Center almost daily. They would also just drive around town and go to the local cemeteries.

They were very proud that all three of their daughters graduated from college, Daria and Ginny from Iowa State and Patty from the University of Iowa. All three daughters married Iowa boys and Virg finally got his sons and wasn't so outnumbered!

Back to the contrasts between Virgil and Mary.

He: German, Lutheran heritage; She: Irish, Catholic heritage

He: Raised in a small rural town; She: Raised in big city Boston, MA

He: Large stature; She: Petite He: Outdoorsman; She: Preferred indoors

He: Outgoing; She: Quiet and refined He: Loved driving; She: Not so much

He: Loved to travel for extended periods; She: Preferred shorter trips

He: Embraced new technology (TV, Atari, computer, cell phone); She: Did not

He: Loved bold colors, red and yellow; She: Loved pastels, pink and blue

He: Liked westerns & war related movies/TV; She: Love stories, comedies, game shows, Judge Judy

Yet, it worked for 57 years. One's weaknesses were the other's strengths. They complimented each other.

Virg passed away at home in State Center on October 11, 2003. Mary left this world on February 16, 2015, in Centerville, Iowa, where she had resided in assisted living for over ten years. They are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, State Center, with many of their dear friends nearby. They are eternally together.

By Daria Chesnut, Ginny Garretson, Patty Tresemer, daughters of Virgil and Mary Wilkening 7/21/2016

Dwight and Doris Wilkening



Dwight Wilkening

My father, Dwight Wilkening, served in World War II with the Marines 4th Raiders in the Phillipines where he got shot in the leg. The military surgeons wanted to remove his leg, but he refused. He ended up serving with a Military Police group in Alaska, riding a motorcycle.

My mother, the former Doris Holubar, and father met at the Forest Park Ballroom in Marshalltown Iowa. He swept her of her feet and rode away with her on his motorcycle. They were married on March 18, 1945 in State Center, Iowa. They remained together until my father passed away on April 15, 1986 at the age of 64 Doris passed away on August 24, 2013 at the age of 90.

When I was two years old they took a trip on the motorcycle to Yellowstone



Doris Wilkening

National Park. They rode day and night to get back home when they found out I had been run over while staying with my grandpa and grandma Holubar on their farm.

My father always took exceptional care of anything that he owned, always cleaning and shining them. He used to say that if you took care of your things they will last. When he cleaned his vehicles he would clean everything inside and out. The engine compartment of his vehicles looked almost as good as they did when he purchased them new. He even took black shoe polish and polished his radiator hose until you could almost see yourself in them.

The above story was written by Larry D. Wilkening 2/23/2017.

Howard and Evelyn Wilkening Weuve

Howard and Evelyn (Wilkening) Weuve have lived on Maple Lawn Farm 59 years. They came to the farm as newly weds. They were both born in Marshall County. He is the eldest of two sons



Howard & Evelyn Weuve
2002

born to Lyell and Edith Bader Weuve. He attended Minerva No. 9 School for his first eight years and graduated from State Center High School. Howard can remember walking to school through huge snowdrifts. His teacher, Charlie

Cowen, walked five miles from State Center when the snow was too deep to ride his horse.

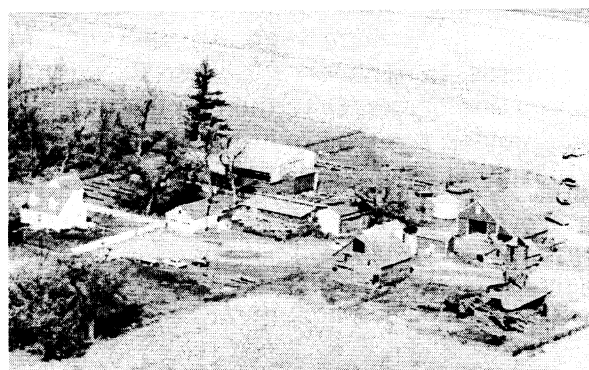
Evelyn attended the State Center Schools and can remember Helen Gray, Helen Malloy, and Florence Gulick as her favorite teachers. She went home every day for lunch, rain or shine, snow or sleet.

Their children are Roger, Henry (Hank), Ronna, Ronald, and Marion (Pete). All their children and spouses live in Iowa. They have 14 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

We began farming with a 1020 McCormick Deering tractor, four horses, and four mules. Milking cows, raising chickens, and feeding hogs

and cattle were part of our daily chores. Crops were corn, oats, hay, and later soybeans were added. Water for the livestock was pumped by a windmill. A hand pump was used to supply water to the chicken house and for drinking and cooking in the home. For many years, we sold eggs to a hatchery.

The work was heavy, especially picking corn by hand and unloading it with a shovel. Milking was done by hand and also separating the milk from the cream and worst of all, washing the separator



Maple Lawn Farm, 1964

every day! What a joy when Dreft, the first detergent came on the market. We would cut down trees, chop wood, and haul it to the basement for winter fuel. From a large garden, we brought in wagon loads of potatoes and fruits and vegetables to can. Each fall when it got cold enough. Cows and pigs were butchered and some meat was canned. The hams, bacon, and some chops were cured. The hams were stored in the oat bin. Poultry was canned too. When home freezers became available, less canning was done, but we still can some beef because it is so delicious.

We used cobs to kindle the fire in the old iron stove to cook with and warm the kitchen. The oven was always hot, so many hot breads, biscuits, Johnnycakes, etc. were enjoyed. We bought oatmeal in ten pound sacks and had tomato soup often because the milk was always fresh. Our first refrigerator was bought in 1942 and was "second hand" or as we say now "used".

We purchased our first John Deere tractor in 1940. That "poppin Johnny", sure helped. We could cultivate two rows instead of one with the horses! Our first manure loader was a mechanical loader. It made cleaning the barns

much easier. A two-row corn picker sure did beat harvesting corn by hand.

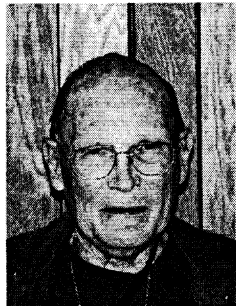
In the 1950s and 1960s, we became a sheep farm, raising lambs and feeding lambs for the market. While feeding them one fall, Pete saw one of our trees completely covered with Monarch butterflies.

We have seen many changes in our life time: From cook stoves to electric ranges to microwave ovens, food mixes, blenders, even automatic bread makers, electric or gas heaters, televisions, VCRs, satellites, freezers, computers, and in farm machinery! We could go on and on, from washboards to wringer washers, to automatic washers and dryers, even men on the moon. Oh what a golden age we live in and how thankful we are to God for all of our blessings.

The above story was written by Evelyn Weuve and contributed for publication in the "The Continuing History of Marshall County Iowa 1997", Walsworth Publishing Company, Marceline, MO.

Ronald and "Jackie" Wilkening

Ronald Wilkening was the son of Henry and Hazel Wilkening. He married Gwyetta Hoskin, daughter of Neri and Pearl Hoskin. They had two sons, Gregory and Douglas. Gregory married Deborah Jordan, daughter of Richard and Gloria Jordan. They have a son Jarrod. Douglas married Jacqueline Newton, daughter of Jack and Merry Newton. They have two daughters, Michelle and Mitzi. Michelle married Miguel Chavez. Michell has three daughters from a previous marriage: Valerie Wilkening, Veronica Gregory and Vanessa Gregory. Michelle and Miguel have a son Galen. Mitzi is married to Ryan Schnackel.



Ronald Wilkening

Ronald served his country in the United States Army during World War II. He served his country in the Pacific, and was bound for the invasion of Japan on a troop transport, when the war with Japan ended. He then served his country in Germany before returning to the United States. Upon his return, he drove from the east coast to Iowa in an army jeep he had purchased, which was lacking side windows and a heater.

This jeep was instrumental in bringing Ron to Gwyetta's attention. Gwyetta was an



"Jackie" Wilkening

elementary school teacher in Ronald's home town of State Center, IA. She had several of his young relatives as students in her classroom, and they would all run to the windows when they heard his jeep go by, creating a frequent disturbance. Gwyetta met this "disturbing" young man for the first time on a blind date.

Ronald and Gwyetta made their home in Marshalltown, IA for many years. During that time, Ronald worked for Fisher Controls. Gwyetta worked as a Para-professional and was a substitute teacher for the Marshalltown school system, along with teaching piano from their home. In 1976, they moved to the Houston Texas area where Ronald worked in a Fisher Controls Service Center. While living in the Houston area, they purchased a lake home on the shores of Lake Livingston, outside of the town of Livingston, Texas, where they spent most of their weekends fishing and enjoying the outdoors. They were fortunate to have Greg and his family living nearby, and were frequently able to spend time together. It was quite a trip to Texas for Doug's family, but they found ways to get down for visits. Christmas was always special in Texas. After retiring, Ronald and Gwyetta moved back to Marshalltown, but always returned to the Rio Grande Valley of Southern Texas for the winters with their camping group.

Throughout their lives along with fishing, they loved to camp and travel. While spending winters in southern Texas, Ronald and Gwyetta started to square dance. Summer time in Iowa was spent with family, square dancing, and their camping group the Flutter Wheelers. Ron also loved to fly kites. He would not quit until his full length of kite string was out. One day, his kite broke and went down. The string stretched from the east side of the campground at Hickory Grove Lake near Colo, IA, into the woods on the west edge. We never found the kite.

The above story was written by Jacqueline "Jackie" and Douglas Wilkening, 2/26/2017.

Marilyn Wilkening Matzek and Milford Matzek

Marilyn Jane Wilkening was born on 1 July 1938 in Marshalltown, Iowa.

She grew up on a farm in Jasper county, northeast of Baxter, Iowa. She started her education in a one room schoolhouse and in 7th grade transferred to the Melbourne Consolidated School. She was baptized and confirmed at the Bethany Reformed Church at Baxter. Upon high school graduation she went to Iowa State Teachers College, now University of Northern Iowa. After completing a two-year teaching certificate, she began



Marilyn Wilkening Matzek

teaching kindergarten in the Brooklyn Public Schools. During those two years, through extension, correspondence courses and summer school, she completed her degree and then moved to Cedar Rapids. During the next several years, she met and married Milton Matzek and they adopted two children, Mitchell and Michelle. At that time Milt was an engineer with Collins Radio, but over the years his work took the family to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, back to Cedar Rapids, and then to Kansas City, Missouri, and Plano, Texas. As the family moved around, Marilyn's teaching certificate was not valid in other states, so she left the classroom and worked in other areas of education. In 1990, Milt and Marilyn retired to Hot Springs Village, AR. They traveled extensively, both with their RV and timeshare.



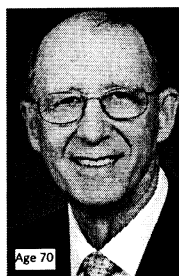
Milton Matzek

Their daughter, Michelle, died of cancer in 1996, leaving two children, Joshua and Jordan. They both live in Texas. Their son Mitchell lives in the Virginia/West Virginia area, and has a daughter, Parker. Milt passed away in 2013 and Marilyn still lives in Hot Springs Village.

The above story was written by Clifford P. Wilkening 6/6/2016.

Clifford and Virginia Wilkening

Clifford Paul Wilkening was born on May 30, 1943 in Marshalltown, Iowa. He grew up on a farm Northeast of Baxter, Iowa. He started going



Clifford Wilkening

to school in a nearby one-room country school (grades K - 1st), transferred to Melbourne Consolidated School (grades 2nd- 5th), and transferred again to Baxter Community School (grades 6th- 12th) where he graduated May 1961. He was baptized and confirmed at the Bethany Reformed Church at Baxter. In fulfilling

expectations of running the family farming business, he studied Farm Operations and Agriculture Business 1961-1963 at Iowa State University. In September 1963 he married Sandra C. Jontz, daughter of a neighboring farmer, Charles and Lois Jontz. The relationship ended after 1 ½ years.

He continued farming with his father while pursuing a side interest in learning the skills of flying an airplane. In 1966 he left the family farm and moved to Denver, Colorado to pursue his flying interests. After earning his commercial, instrument, and multi-engine pilot ratings, he did ferrying of aircraft and charter pilot work for Clinton Aviation and aerial traffic reporting for KHOW radio station. While in Colorado, he pursued an Aerospace Engineering degree at the University of Colorado and graduated in 1971. He then started working for the Naval Air Research, Development, and Procurement Dept. in Washington D.C. He was able to apply his flying experiences and academic technical skills to future Navy fighter cockpits. While working in aircraft design, he also continued graduate studies at University of Southern California and received a M.S. degree in advanced Aerospace Systems and Management.

He married Virginia L. Ward (born August 31, 1941 in Portsmouth, Virginia), daughter of Henry Handley and Bonnie Ward of Palo Alto, CA. after graduation in 1974.



Virginia Wilkening

They settled in Alexandria, VA. Virginia had already finished her graduate and internship studies in dietetics and was working with the Food & Nutrition Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Washington D.C. Between 1985-1990, he gradually changed professions from technical to management and became a Navy program manager. As a program manager he was influential in leading a technical team to change the cockpits of frontline Navy aircraft to accommodate female pilots' different weight distributions, different center of gravity, shorter reach of controls, and other numerous differences. During this time, Virginia moved to the Food and Drug Administration to lead a team to develop the Nutrition Facts labeling that you see on all the packaged foods today. In 1998-2000, President Clinton was promoting more friendly relations with Russia and decided to increase the technical exchange of information between these two countries. Clifford participated in the exchange involving technical aviation, primarily areas of aircraft cockpits and ejection seats. This lasted for several years and he visited different Russian facilities, bases, and government departments. Over the years, Clifford's side hobby was real estate rental properties and apartment buildings in Old Town, Alexandria, VA. This hobby grew into a full time business and in 2002 he retired from the aerospace industry and started a business called Wilkening Rental Properties, LLC.



Mark Wilkening

Clifford and Virginia have two children:

Mark Handley Wilkening – born January 10, 1978 in Alexandria, Virginia

Bonnie Lynn Wilkening – born June 29, 1982 in Alexandria, Virginia

Mark Handley Wilkening (born January 10, 1978) graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Aerospace Engineering in 2001 and was immediately commissioned as a Lt. in the U.S. Navy. He went into flight training, served 10 years of active duty as a pilot with missions over Iraq and Afghanistan, retired from active duty and joined Northrup-Grumman as their youngest test pilot. He married Julie Ann Gudrun Olson (born May 8, 1978), daughter of Roald Alan Olson and Kristina Bartels of Camarillo, Ca. on December 30, 2006 in Oxnard, Ca. Dr. Julie Wilkening is a

Chiropractor and performs Health Coach services.

Mark and Julie Wilkening have two children:

Avary Gudrun Wilkening - born May 9, 2012 in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Andrew Alan Wilkening - born January 3, 2014 in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Bonnie Lynn Wilkening Powell (born June 29, 1982), graduated from Virginia Polytechnic



Bonnie Wilkening Powell

Institute and State University in Business and Human Resources. She worked 7 years in management of Washington D.C. trade associations before moving to Spokane, WA. where she works in the management of a blood bank organization. She married Nicholas Edward Powell (born April 9, 1981), of Spokane on August 3, 2015 in

Glacier National Park, Montana. Nick is an electrician in Spokane and is the son of Gary Edward Powell and Micki Elaine Davis.

The above story was written by Clifford P. Wilkening 6/6/2016.

Early State Center, Iowa

From the History of Marshall County, Iowa 1878 I learned that the first white settler in Marshall County was Joseph C. Davidson in the summer of 1847 near the present location of the Township of LeGrand. The County Court established on March 1853 three official townships of Marshall County; they were Iowa Township, Marietta Township and Jefferson Township. In 1866 State Centre was established as a Township within Marshall County; it was established as a further division of Eden Township. In 1869 the current 18 townships were officially established and have remained that way ever since. The first white settler in Eden Township was Greene Allen in 1849 and his 600-acre settlement was within what are the present limits of State Center Township.

In November 1863, the Chicago & North-Western Railroad had its track laid in the area on its course to the setting sun. With it came the "Crow's Nest", a moving caravansary on wheels, kept by Alexander Crow, in which meals were furnished to track-layers, or any chance homeless traveler. In an article in the State Centre Enterprise, from which we draw a portion of the facts, Crow is described as "tall, dark, grayish looking man, generous with his tongue and purse, the beau ideal of a jolly landlord."

The railroad company had bought eighty acres of land of A. C. Babcock, upon which they started a town, calling it Centre Station. William Barnes, now of Chicago, was the first agent, and also built a small shanty for a grain storehouse, and paid 80 cents for a bushel of wheat. Later he had the name changed to State Centre, owing to its being so near the geographical center of the State. W. L. Smith and William Thompson owned property near the corporation line. Business brightened. The farmhouses between Edenville and the station were all hotels, in the sense of entertaining travelers, and money began to circulate freely. A daily stage was placed on the thoroughfare from State Centre to Des Moines.

In the spring of that year (1864), the first house made its appearance in State Centre. It was not built, but moved there from Marietta, sixteen miles distant, by John Anselm. It was a small frame structure, 18 x 20 feet, and was occupied by J. S. Fairhead in the late 1800's. It was used by Mr. Anselm as a hotel. The same day that Mr. Anselm arrived with his family to take possession of his house, Mr. Barnes' family arrived. Mr. Barnes built the first house in the village, the Union Hotel, it being a part of his bargain with the railroad company that he should keep travelers who came to the station, as the "Crow's Nest took flight with the onward progress of the track. This became known as the "Stippe House".

In 1865 new settlers came to the village of State Centre to establish commerce in the village. Among the families in State Centre in 1865 - 1867 were: William Barnes, John Coulter, Abe Woolston, T. B. Carpenter (opened a store stocking a variety of goods), G. W. Bassett, C. F. Culver, J.W. Dobbins and V. J. Shipman (opened a store selling groceries, boots and shoes), John King (opened a law office), William Greenfield (established the Union Hotel), Dr. O. G. Hunt (opened a physician's practice), J. H. Post (opened a stock of drugs), Jacob Fisher (opened

a blacksmith shop), Frank and Warren Walker (opened a large and handsome store), Rev. Mr. Knepper (a Lutheran Pastor, started the first place of worship in a littler shanty that also served as a school house). State Centre was officially incorporated on August 26, 1867. By the end of 1867 State Centre had a population of about 600 people; this was a surprising growth for so short period of time. By the end of 1869 there were three religious groups established in State



St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the early 1900's

Centre: Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian.

Many of the Wilkening ancestors were Lutherans and many were baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in State Center. In fact, my whole family, including my father was baptized at St. Paul's. Reviewing the history of St. Paul's ("St. Paul Lutheran Church, A Timeline History, 1884-2009") reveals that its history goes back to the 1870's to 1880's when the early church held services in the Adventist Church, Voss School House and rural homes around Zeiring (both in Story County). This seems to tie directly in with the early history of State Center. Both Chris Wilkening Sr. and Henry Koppey Sr. are listed as amongst the 9 founders of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Further, many of Chris Wilkening and Henry Koppey's family and descendants served as leaders in the church.

This story was written by Richard Harrison on 3/24/17 from information obtained from the Internet "History of Marshall County, Iowa 1878" and from the "St. Paul Lutheran Church, A Timeline History, 1884-2009" provided by Ronald Weuve. Note that some early records showed the spelling of State Center as "State Centre". The actual history document was inconsistent.

WORLD WAR II

By D. Leona Arnold Lowe

Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941

Some friends from town came out to the ranch (Arnold ranch in Cheyenne, Wyoming) on the Sunday of the bombing and us kids were sent outside to play while I am sure the grown-ups discussed the war.

I was eleven years old. The war that was going on in Europe was on every grown-ups mind, I am sure. When we had community meetings there were always discussions among the men folk. My dad loved to discuss politics.

He had been in the First World War and had served in France. He said there is a difference between the two wars compared to a game of marbles (First World



Sam Arnold Family, 1943. L-R, Front: Kenneth, Edith, Sam; Back: Marvin, D. Leona, Edith

War) and football for the (Second World War). I think my dad was the only one who had been in the service for some of the men seemed to think the Germans would be tillable to cross the English Channel. My dad pointed out to them that this was not a large body of water and would be able to be accomplished.

On the ranch, we began seeing the bombers flying in formation, five, ten or twenty. Ft. Warren was a training base for the Army Air Force. Once when planes flew over, my brother and I hid under the hayrack, but we were assured that these were America's planes and there was nothing to fear.

I had five dollars in my piggy bank and I remember taking it to school and buying saving stamps. There were paper drives, tin cans, copper drives and metal collections to help the war effort. I remember my mother giving a large copper boiler that she really could still use but gave it for the war effort My dad had a barrel of old bolts, nuts, washers and parts that he

repaired things with and he gave one barrel to the war effort. Essential things became in short supply. You needed a ration card for food and for fuel for the vehicles. Tires were not to be had. Nylon stockings were scarce. Elastic for the waist of your panties - no way! There was a button now on your panties and you had better be sure the button was sewed on tight and that you did a good job of buttoning.

Look for good in all bad things!' I learned to knit. Our sixth grade teacher taught anyone that wanted to learn to knit. She contacted the Red Cross and got yarn and our class started knitting 6 inch by 6-inch blocks. After the blocks were blocked to exactly 6 inches the blocks were crocheted together with black yarn. Finally my knitting passed the test (no dropped stitches) and I could have yarn to knit the blocks. I don't remember how many blocks I made. Also someone had to block the block to be exactly 6 inches square and of course I would always volunteer much to my mother's dismay. We did not have electricity so a couple of Sad Irons would have to be heated in order to block the blocks. I would get the ironing board out, measure and pin the blocks to the correct size and using a damp cloth steam the blocks to size. Why don't the city girls do this? I really felt I was doing something for the war effort.

Shoes, you needed a stamp for shoes and even if you had a stamp, you couldn't find any shoes. I needed gym shoes but there were none. My friend gave me a pair of canvas shoes that were too small for her. Mother washed them in the washing machine and when they were dry, I used white shoe polish on them. My gym suit was one that my mother made me from my sister's old gym suit, she had lost the belt. Gym suits were supposed to have a belt all the way around, mine only had a half belt in back, but since it was wartime it would be ok.

Sugar, meat, gas were rationed. Grandma Wittmer was always short on sugar. My two uncles were in the service so there was just Grandpa and Grandma. There were six in our family so we had a larger allotment of sugar. For Christmas, mother gave Grandma a five-pound bag of sugar. There were tears in her eyes; she was so tickled.

People had jobs and they did have a little bit of money, but there was nothing to buy. If a store received a shipment, you had to be there when it came in because it would be sold right away.

No cars and no bicycles just do with what you had or could find second hand. My dad did come up with two-second hand bikes for Christmas for us, a boy and a girl's bike. We loved them and we took care of them. The girls bike had little holes on the fenders where there at one time been some chrome strips but they were not there any more. We used the bikes when we moved cattle from one pasture to another and we would get cactus in the tires. My dad would always get out tires fixed.

My sister was working in town and went to the dances at the USO. She met a lot of nice boys that were all headed overseas. So many of these kids joined the service right out of high school or they were drafted. Some of my sister's friends did not come back. A tragedy for the family that received the telegram that said their child was killed.

My husband to be was 16 years old at the time and he and his friend were going to run off and join the army or the marines, but they had no transportation to get to the enlistment office. They would have been in trouble for not being of age. Everyone was so ready to sacrifice for the war effort.

News on the radio was our source of information: Ernie Pyle, Edward R. Murrow, Lowell Thomas on their short wave radios with the news right from the front lines. Also when a ship would be sunk, then it was wait to find all of the men that would be a float on the oceans, Eddie Rickenbacker for 21 days. What if you were in this problem, how would you handle this? There were no Atheists in the fox holes!

My three cousins were in the service. When Ron graduated from high school he went into the army. I wrote to Ron as he was near my age and

because he had just finished high school. Ron had terrible handwriting and he got a hold of a typewriter and my dad told me to tell him to hang on to that typewriter as we could read his letters a lot easier. I wrote him about what was going on at the school and about the family and friends and my boy friend. He



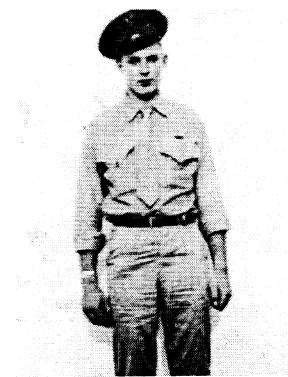
Ronald Wilkening

opened my letters before he opened any other

letters. My letters reminded him of what life had been before the war. While he was in Germany, he got me a pen pal with a young girl my age and we wrote letters for quite sometime. I would send them to Ron and he would send back her answer. I still have the letters and pictures that she had sent. Ron's brother Dwight was a side gunner on a bomber and he was injured on one of the flights over Germany to drop bombs. The three brothers, Virgil, Dwight, and Ronald Wilkening, all came home.



Dwight Wilkening



Virgil Wilkening

Also I collected jokes from the paper and old magazines and glued them on typing paper and I made quite a book to send to Ron. My dad mailed it for me. I guess it cost a little bit to do so. The book went all around his whole platoon even the colonel had a chance to read it. It certainly cheered every one and was a

moral booster. When Ron came home, he came out on his motorcycle for Cheyenne Frontier Days. He brought a toaster for Bob and me for a wedding gift. He appreciated the letters I wrote to him and also that Magic Joke Book. It was good to see that he was ok.

Both my uncles were in the service even though my Uncle Fay had a broken bone in his foot that had not been repaired when he was a child and walked with a limp. My dad was farming our place and grandpa and grandmas also, trying to keep things going at home. Grandpa and Grandma were finally able to have my Uncle Fay come home as he could not be in combat because of his limp. (Charles Fay Wittmer and Lester Pearl Wittmer)

My Uncle Pearl was in New Guinea and would have been in the battle with Japan had we not dropped the Atomic Bomb on Japan. He probably would have been killed as so many of the young men were killed. Uncle Pearl came home after

the war and he needed a car, but there was nothing to buy and second hand ones were worn out. Uncle Pearl did buy one ticket for \$1.00 on a new car that the Frontier Riding Club was selling chances on. Grandpa and Uncle Pearl went to the General Delivery window at the Post Office to pick up the mail. Uncle Pearl asked my grandpa what was in the mail and he said nothing but a letter from a riding club. He opened the letter and he had won the new 1947 Chevrolet two door, two toned, brand new car and it even had a sun visor. He deserved it.

When the war was over, everyone felt a relief. As a kid, I felt it too. Sometimes the war was not going too well for the Allies and I remember saying to my dad. If Germany wins, I will be Hitler's bodyguard. My dad was shocked. I explained, that way I could kill him because he had killed so many innocent people. I shocked him again.

Our neighbors had shared their Life Magazines with us. We kids had seen and read about the terrible things that were happening to people in concentration camps.

The soldiers were coming home and lots of them were going to school on the GI bill. Then there was shortage of homes for families. My cousins' husband (Homer Harrison), after returning from the service began to build lots of affordable homes for soldiers in Marshalltown, Iowa.

If you wanted a new car, you had to put your name on the list, which didn't mean that they were going to go by the list,

D. Leona Lowe (born 6/30/1930) wrote the above story on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor on 12/7/2016. Leona Lowe is the daughter of Samuel Joseph Arnold and Edith Wittmer Arnold, the niece of Hazel Arnold Wilkening and the cousin of Marion F. Wilkening Harrison.