

PFANTZ FAMILY HISTORY

Clement Carl Pfantz was born on November 23, 1858, in the French Grove area, Marshall County, Iowa to Henry and Margaret (Anselme) Pfantz. Henry (born March 27, 1831; died March 10, 1906) came from Hanover, Germany. He married Margaret (born October 14, 1830; died July 17, 1915) on December 21, 1856. She had come to Iowa from France. Henry and Margaret were among the earliest of settlers to the area.

Elizabeth Eckhardt was born March 3, 1860, Marietta Township, Marshall County, Iowa to August (born August 19, 1822; died January 28, 1887) and Wilhelmina (Niemeyer) Eckhardt (born February 2, 1827; died March 12, 1912). August and Wilhelmina were married in September of 1853.

Clem and Elizabeth were united in marriage at St. Paul Lutheran Church, State Center, Iowa on February 23, 1882.

Clem earned a living in farming and as a stock raiser. Ten children were born to Clem and Elizabeth; Harvey, William, Albert, Clarence, Aleta, Elmer, Leona, Walter, Mary and Lester. Elmer died at the age of three years and eight months. It is unknown exactly where the couple lived following their marriage. It is known that Clem owned several parcels of land, one with a large 16 room house, south of State Center, later known to some family members as "Doc's house/Doc's farm". This is where Harvey (Doc) the eldest son lived and farmed the land. The large house burned down in 1944. The "Home" on the land at the north edge of State Center (Clem acquired the property of approximately 105 acres in 1893 for \$6825) was built around 1900. It was a two story wood frame dwelling with around 10 rooms with a three quarters basement. This was to become the home where Walter and Luella would raise their family. This property remains in the Pfantz family, as their daughter Jean lives in the home today.

The nine children were sent to Lutheran Parochial school and to the State Center public schools. Some attended only through the eighth grade. All of the children were baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. The older children were confirmed in the German language which was discontinued the year after Leona was confirmed.

For the sons farming was their way of making a living. As noted before, Harvey, who never married, farmed the land south of State Center. William, Clarence and Lester went to Minnesota to farm near Pipestone and Jasper. Clarence and Martha, Lester and Mabel raised their families there. William and his wife, Mayme did not have children. Albert and Elvira raised their family on a farm west of State Center. The girls, Aleta, Leona and Mary were required to work out of the "Home" after their eighth grade education. Farming was in their lives also. The Pfantz family, as a whole seem to work together to get each member started either into farming or helping out in the homes. Aleta, before her marriage, worked in Harvey's household and then she married Chris and moved into his family's home southwest of State Center, where they raised their family. Leona and her husband, Merle, worked for Harvey following their marriage and from there to rented farms until in 1925 moved to Marshalltown to raise their family. Mary and Frank lived on her folk's farm before moving into State Center where children were raised.