



Johns. Kilian
Family Tree

HISTORY OF THE JOINS FAMILY

Spanning Six Generations

Prepared by

Patricia Johns (Dasse)

and

Many Thanks

For Information Provided

by

Jacob Johns IV

and

Leonard Johns

Dedicated to

Elizabeth Johns (Kilian)

May 30, 1988

*A Remembrance from Grandma
and Grandpa Elliott*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Part 1: Jacob Johns, Sr.	
His Life	1
Railroad Holocaust	5
Family Tree	6
Part 2: Jacob Johns II	
His Life	9
Brief History of His Children	12
Kryzer Family Tree	13
Part 3: Jacob Johns III	
His Life	14
The Kilian Family (Jacob's Wife)	
Mishap Fatal to Pioneer	18
Brief History of Their Children	19
Family Tree/Jacob III and Elizabeth Kilian	21
Family Tree/Kilian Third Through Fifth Generation	26
Family Tree/Johns - Sixth Generation	33
Newspaper Clippings	41

PART 1

JACOB JOHNS, SR.

Born: January 5, 1801
Died: 1900

Mr. Jacob Johns, Sr., my great, great grandfather, the first of four generations of Johns, had a tumultuous 99-plus years. He survived 5 wives, fathered 6 children, and endured the hardships of a treacherous 2-month ocean voyage from Germany to the Americas in the Spring of 1845. During this ocean crossing, Jacob Johns, Sr., lost his second wife, Catharina, after having remarried when his first wife, Margaretha, passed away.

This is the story of his life.



Jacob Johns, Sr.

Rozina Scherer

Nothing is known of his life before the age of 27 when he married his first wife, Margaretha Montag, of Germany, who was born March 29, 1800, and died at the age of 30 in April 1830. They were married February 4, 1828, in Wardehauser, Germany. There were no children born of this marriage.

A few months after her death, Jacob Johns, Sr., met and eventually married Catharina John on July 12, 1830. Three children were born of this marriage: Louisa, Jacob II (my great-grandfather), and Elizabeth. In the Spring of 1845, Jacob Johns, Sr., Catharina, and their three young children left with many others on a sailing vessel bound for America. The journey from Germany to America took approximately 2 months. One can only imagine the hardships endured: sickness, poor accommodations, bad food, and rough seas. Then tragedy struck! Catharina died during the fourth week and she, along with many others, was buried at sea. Jacob Johns, Sr., was left alone with three motherless children. Jacob II (my great-grandfather) was 4 or 5 years of age at the time.

After landing in Baltimore, Maryland, they proceeded to travel to Manchester, Missouri, which was 25 miles from St. Louis, Missouri. It is not known whether they traveled by boat up the Mississippi River to reach St. Louis or overland.

Jacob Johns, Sr.'s occupation is not known while living in Manchester.

On January 28, 1848, he met and married for the third time; this time to Ms. Maria Hartigen from Manchester. Three children were born of this marriage: August, Charley, and Henry.

In 1852, they moved to Hazel Green, Wisconsin. In 1856, they moved to Minnesota and established a home along Rush Creek in Hart County. The Rush Creek valley had rich loam soil and was very desirable for farming. He

built a log cabin and stable that later became the location for the district school as other Norwegian and German families settled in the area. This valley was a main travel route to other settlements and the main thoroughfare to Rushford. His log cabin was among the first to be built and also the last to remain occupied.

Because of the central location and because the district school was so close, his farm and home was one of the best known places in the valley. For years, the children came to the "Johns" pump and well to eat their lunches and to get their drinking water during school hours.

Here, at this log cabin, Maria, the third wife died from unknown causes. Tragedy struck again when Henry, the youngest son, 12 years of age, also died from unknown causes. Both are buried in unmarked graves near the log cabin.

Again, in 1858, Jacob Johns, Sr., married. This time to Ma. Eva Kramer, Unfortunately, she passed away a short time after their marriage. Cause is unknown. There were no children of this marriage.

In 1868, Jacob Johns, Sr., married for the fifth time to Mrs. Rosina Scherer, a widow. Mrs. Scherer had two sons by her previous marriage: Conrad and George. Both later became prominent businessmen in Winona, Minnesota. After 20 years of marriage, Rosina and two grandchildren, coming home from a trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, met with a terrible railroad accident. Rosina was killed, but she was able to save the two grandchildren by pushing them out a small window to someone outside. The coach was completely engulfed in flames, and there were no survivors. (See excerpt taken from the town newspaper, dated October 28, 1886.)

Jacob Johns, Sr., was 85 years of age at the time of Rosina's death and never remarried again. He never learned to speak the English language; and therefore did not fraternize much with his neighbors. They were all Norwegian and did not speak German. They were, however, all true friends during the many years they lived together as neighbors.

Jacob Johns, Sr., who lived to over 99 years of age, died while still occupying his original homestead. At the time of his death, he was the oldest farmer in the valley.

Charley, the youngest son, remained on the homestead. He built a new modern house and barn which was destroyed by fire in 1892, but he rebuilt again. Charley died in 1930 at the age of 74. He left his wife, Philepena, and 11 children. Carl, the eldest son, took over the homestead and is currently occupying it at the age of 85. Jacob Johns, Sr., died in 1900 and is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery near Rushford, Minnesota.

October 28, 1886

RAILROAD HOLOCAUST

THE LIMITED EXPRESS FROM CHICAGO GOES THROUGH
AN OPEN SWITCH INTO A STONE QUARRY

THE CARS TAKE FIRE AND MANY PERSONS HELPLESSLY
ROASTED TO DEATH

AN OPEN SWITCH, A HORRIBLE
DISASTER ON THE RAIL

PORTAGE, WIS., Special telegram October 28. Limited Train No. 07 (Conductor L. H. Searles) which left Chicago last night, ran into an open switch at Rio, Columbia County, 15 miles east of here, at about 12:45 A.M. The train was composed of mail and baggage car, one day coach and three sleepers, all of which, except the rear car, left the track and went into a sand bank. A fire immediately broke out in the wreck, consuming everything except the rear sleeper. All the persons in the day coach were killed or consumed in the flames except one man and two children named Scherer of Winona, whose mother and grandmother were burned under most distressing circumstances. At least 14 persons were killed, probably more; but it is impossible to give their names as they are unknown. No one in the sleepers was injured. A passenger, who was in a sleeper, has reached the city and has given the following account of the disaster:

TOLD BY A PASSENGER

The first thing I knew about the accident was when I was thrown up against the end of the berth. I was sleeping at the time, but this thoroughly awakened me. Someone at this juncture shouted, "Get the passengers out." I needed no second invitation but was out of that car in no time. Luckily I was all dressed and was enabled to be on hand in a very few seconds after the thing happened. Before I could reach the coach beyond the sleepers, it was all on fire inside and flames were burning through the windows and roof. Groans and shrieks came from the interior, but we were powerless to lend a hand in saving the unfortunate ones. A lady appeared at a window with two children and handed them to a gentleman outside. This was the most touching episode I ever witnessed, and I never want to see anything like it again. "Take my children" she cried. "I am hurt and cannot get out." Their name is Scherer and their home, Winona." They were young things, the elder about four years and the younger scarcely as many months. We put forth our most strenuous efforts to save the mother, but she was caught in the seat and, the flames driving about us, we were obliged to relinquish our hold upon her and she fell back into the fire and perished. Oh, it was a horrible sight. The burning coach was run together, the top bulged up making a sort of an upturned V-shaped mass of ruins. The train men and surviving passengers did everything in their power to save the doomed inmates, but all their efforts were without avail; not a soul excepting the two children escaping.

HERIOT ENGINEER

The engineer of the train was the nerviest man I ever saw. When I first noticed him, blood was coming from his mouth and ears, but he was giving orders to the men about uncoupling the sleepers from the burning coach. Poor fellow, he did his duty well. Had he not applied the brakes as soon as he saw the danger, the result would have been worse and, heaven knows, it is bad enough. The baggage man told me that when the accident occurred, his stove door opened and that the shock threw coals out upon the floor "I could have easily extinguished the fire then", he said, "but was under a trunk with my leg broken and was consequently powerless."

Born:
City, State:

Died:
Buried:

Jacob Johns, Sr.	January 5, 1801 Muelhausen, Germany	1900 St. Joseph Cemetery Rushford, Minnesota
------------------	--	--

Married: (First Wife)

Margaretha Montag	March 29, 1800 Wardehauser, Germany	April 1830 Wardehauser, Germany
-------------------	--	------------------------------------

No Children

Married: (Second Wife)

Catharina John July 12, 1830		1845 at sea
---------------------------------	--	----------------

Children (3)

Louisa	October 13, 1832 Muelhausen, Germany	
--------	---	--

nee: Christopher Henze
1861

Children (6)

Jacob
nee: Lizzie Kahoun

Children (5)

Henry
nee: Mary Kahoun
Elizabeth
nee: John Kahoun
Anna
nee: Swanum Svenungson

Margaret
nee: Albert Meilke

Louisa
nee: Henry Lehr

Family Tree of Jacob Johns, Sr.
(continued)

Born:
City, State:

Died:
Buried:

Jacob Johns II

August 5, 1840
Muelhausen, Germany

April 16, 1924
Holy Trinity
Rollingstone,
Minnesota

nee: Theresa Kryzer
May 18, 1858

Children (12)

Marie : Sophia
Elizabeth : Jacob III
Henry : George
Annie : Rosie
Emma : Johana
Willie : Edward

Elizabeth

January 15, 1844
Muelhausen, Germany

Married (Third Wife)

Maris Hartigen

1861
Rush Creek, Minnesota

Children (3)

August

June 5, 1848
Manchester, Missouri

Charley

September 8, 1849
Manchester, Missouri

1930
Winona, Minnesota

nee: Philepena Gross

Children (11)

Carl : Rocent
Julius : Emma
Hattie : Fred
Paul : Arthur
Ellen : Sophie
Raymond

Henry

February 24, 1853
Hazel Green, Wisconsin

1861
Unmarked Grave Next
to Mother, Maria
Rush Creek, Minnesota

Family Tree of Jacob Johns, Sr.
(continued)

Born:
City, State:

Died:
Buried:

Married (Fourth Wife)

Eva Kramer
1858

1858
Rush Creek, Minnesota

Married (Fifth Wife)

Rosina Scherer
March 21, 1868

October 28, 1886
Winona, Minnesota

Children (2)

(From Rosina's former marriage)

Conrad
George

