

### Mabel Smith Family



(Left to right)—Dennis, Clem, Mrs. Bob (Bernadette) Voves, Thomas, Sister Mary Smith, Mrs. Mike (Rosemary) Zeimetz, Mother-Mabel Smith, Mrs. Merle (Elaine) Wacha, Mrs. Charles (Annie) Riley, Paul, Francis, and Pat. Clem Smith—husband and father (picture in lower right hand corner) passed away 34 years ago.

The Smith family settled in the rural Elma area in the 1800's and have lived here since.

### Sister Mary Smith



Sister Mary Smith, daughter of Mrs. Mabel Smith of Elma. She is President of the Third Order of Saint Francis in Clinton, Iowa.

### Tom Smith Family

Tom Smith, son of Clem and Mabel (Tierney) Smith and Shirley (Rance), daughter of Raymond and Angeline (Northness) Rance, were married February 8, 1964. They are the parents of four children: Todd, who married Lisa Martin on September 21, 1985; Terry; Tammy; and Ted.

They have lived in Elma all of their married life with the exception of a few months when they lived in Alta Vista during the completion of their home to replace the one that was destroyed in the tornado of 1968.

Shirley had been employed by Peoples Savings Bank before her marriage and is currently a part-time employee of the Iowa State Liquor Store.

Tom is Elma's postmaster.



(Left to right)—Tammy, Terry, Shirley, Tom, Lisa, Todd and Ted.

### Glenn Stangl Family

Glenn and his wife were both born in Carroll County. They farmed near Atlantic, Iowa, from 1950 to 1971 when they moved to the Elma area. They are the parents of Judy, Randy, Jean, Janelle and Ron.



Glenn Stangl Family

### James C. Stapleton



Loretta and James Stapleton



Jim Stapleton 50th wedding anniversary. (Left to right)—Betty (Springer), Lorraine (Hayden), Loretta and Jim, Robert, Harold.

James C. Stapleton was born November 4, 1888, the son of John and Bridget (McMahan) Stapleton of Nashua, Iowa. Loretta Conway was born October 18, 1888, the daughter of Jerry and Anna (Byrnes) Conway. They were married January 28, 1913, at the I. C. Church in Elma, Iowa. They were the parents of four children: Robert C., Harold J., Lorraine A. (Hayden), and Elizabeth (Betty) A. Springer.

James and his brother, Frank Stapleton, were cattle buyers in Elma, Iowa, in 1911. At that time, James met Loretta. After their marriage, James sold insurance for D. J. O'Donnell. They lived in Elma and moved to Nashua, where they farmed for 17 years. They moved back to Elma where Jim worked for 20 years with the Highway Department, retiring in 1955.

Loretta taught in rural schools and the Elma High

School. After moving back to Elma, she ran the insurance business which she took over from her father, Jerry W. Conway. She also served as secretary of the Elma Creamery and was appointed Elma Postmistress, which she served for 15 years. During her tenure she answered all letters which came to the post office addressed to Santa Claus. She answered over 500 letters each year from youngsters in the community including a small treat in each letter.

### Harold Stapleton Family

Harold Stapleton, son of James and Loretta (Conway) Stapleton, was born October 6, 1918, at Nashua, Iowa. Lucille Stapleton, daughter of Louis and Margaret (Ruhoff) Kobliska, was born September 11, 1918, at Deerfield. Harold and Lucille were married on February 28, 1938, at I. C. Church in Elma by Rev. E. O'Donnell. They have three children: Judith Ann Biber of Zumbrota, Minnesota, James H. Stapleton of New Hampton, and Joyce L. Swestka of Protivin, Iowa, and nine grandchildren.

When married, Harold was employed by Gaylord Robison at Elma Grocery. In 1939, they moved to Grundy Center where he was employed as meat cutter at the Chek Grocery for 2½ years. Then he was employed at the George A. Hormel Co. in Austin. Harold and Lucille returned to Elma in 1943 after the death of Leonard Kobliska and helped Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kobliska operate the Kobliska Dairy. Kobliska's had operated the dairy for 21 years. They retired to Elma, and Harold and Lucille continued operating the dairy from 1946 until 1973. Lucille was employed at the Peoples Savings Bank, hired by Reed Elwood and Charles Garmen. She retired in 1983 after 25 years of employment. Harold has been in the insurance business that has been in the family for three generations,



Harold and Lucille Stapleton  
February 28, 1938.



Harold Stapleton family. (Left to right)—Judy (Biber), Joyce (Swestka), Lucille, James, Harold.



William Biber, Jr., family. (Left to right)—Jodie, Brian (standing, rear), Judy and Bill, holding Jodie and Kris—November, 1980.

James and Gloria Stapleton  
Wedding.



Shelby and Salina,  
children of James Staple-  
ton.



Ronald Swestka family. Ronald,  
Joyce, Jason and Tiffany.



Randy Swestka

J. W. Conway and then James and Loretta Stapleton. In 1965, Harold took over as sole owner and it is still operated as Stapleton Insurance Agency. In 1970, he purchased the E. J. Weber Agency in Alta Vista and it is operated as Weber-Stapleton Agency, Alta Vista, Iowa. Since 1955 to the present, they have operated the Stapleton Auction Service and are still in operation. They have always tried to help promote businesses in our town.

Judy Biber, daughter of Harold and Lucille (Kobliska) Stapleton, was born at Hastings Hospital in

Elma on January 27, 1940. She and William J. Biwer, son of William A. and Theresa (Rosonke) Biwer, were married June 27, 1964 at the I. C. Church in Elma and have four children: Jodie, Brian, Kim and Kris. They own and operate a plumbing and heating business in Zumbrota, Minnesota.

James Stapleton, son of Harold and Lucille (Kobliska) Stapleton, was born February 8, 1943, and married Gloria Steifel, daughter of Buehla Steifel and the late Walter Steifel of New Hampton, on November 18, 1967. They are the parents of two children: Shelby and Salina. Jim graduated from Elma I. C. in 1961 and served with the U.S. Navy. He was employed at Oliver Corp. in Charles City, after which he was employed at the U.S. Post Office in New Hampton where he is presently a city carrier. Jim and Gloria also are owner/operators of the Country Antique Shop south of New Hampton.

Joyce Swestka, daughter of Harold and Lucille (Kobliska) Stapleton, was born January 2, 1953, and married Ronald Swestka, son of John and Marcella (Denner) Swestka (who was born January 3, 1953) on November 18, 1972. They have three children: Jason, Tiffany and Randy. They both graduated in 1971 from Crestwood High School. They are presently farming near Protivin and are also owner/operator of the R. C. Feed Store in Protivin.

#### Robert and Nora Stapleton



Robert Stapleton family. (Left to right)—Judy Stapleton, Robert, Jr., Bob, Nora, Richard and Honor Langreck.

Robert Conway (Bob) Stapleton, a farmer northeast of Elma, the eldest son of James and Loretta Stapleton, was born in Elma. The family moved to his grandfather's farm near Nashua in 1916. Bob received his education in a rural school and graduated from Nashua High School. In 1933 his parents and Bob, Harold, Lorraine, and Betty returned to Elma to live.

Bob worked as a farm laborer. In June, 1941, he married Nora Angela Kelly. They lived on the farm with her parents where Bob entered a partnership with Nora's father. They specialized in purebred angus cattle and purebred hogs.

Nora, born in Chester in 1917, received her education in a rural school and graduated from the I. C. Academy. She attended Mt. Mercy Jr. College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Her BA degree was received at Upper

Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa. Her teaching career began in a rural home school where she taught for eight years. For a number of years the only playground equipment was a big rock, which apparently diminished in size when students came back to see it after they had grown up. She taught seventh and eighth grades in I. C. grade school for two years and fourth grade in the Elma Public Elementary for eleven years, retiring in 1982. They adopted two children, a son, Robert, Jr., who married Judith Miller from Eyota, Minnesota. Robert had been an EMT with Gold Cross Ambulance Service in Rochester, Minnesota, for five years. Presently they are operating a liquor store in Nelson, Wisconsin. A daughter, Honor Marie, married Richard Langreck of Lawler, Iowa. They have three sons, Timothy, Michael and Paul. Honor graduated as an LPN. Richard works for a grain elevator and fertilizer business.

#### Paul Stevens Family



Paul Stevens family.—Paul, Marian, Lucille, Alan, Cliff, Tom.

Paul Stevens, born February 29, 1896, and Marian McKellor, born September 19, 1900, were married May 7, 1927. Paul, having spent four years in the navy air corps in WW I, chose to attend Creighton University in Omaha in lieu of returning to farm with his father. He became an attorney and while practicing in Austin, Minnesota, married Marian. In the years ahead, they returned to the farm due to failing health of Paul's parents. The home farm was located ½ mile north of Acme (at one time called Lawther), and although it was an equal distance to Elma or Riceville, the family at-

tended the I. C. Church and School in Elma. Paul and Marian had four children: Lucille, the oldest, married Luverne Murphy. The three boys, Alan, Cliff and Tom made their way West, married and have been in the floor covering business. Paul and Marian farmed on the home place until their retirement. Marian died October 23, 1962, at age 62; Paul died August 11, 1982, at age 86.

#### Kenneth L. Stevenson Family

Kenneth L. Stevenson, son of Lynn A. Stevenson and Nellie (Seavy) Stevenson, married Betty Mae Tierney, daughter of Dennis Tierney and Nina (O'Neil) Tierney, October 30, 1948, at The Immaculate Conception Church, Elma, Iowa.

Kenneth was born on a farm northeast of Riceville, Iowa. He received his schooling at Riceville, Chester and Lime Springs, Iowa. He spent two years in the



Kenneth Stevenson family. (Back row, left to right)—Dennis, Betty and Kenny, Gary. (Front row)—Nancy and Kelly.



Dennis Stevenson family—Sandra, Dennis, Scott and Brian. Dennis, son of Kenneth and Betty Stevenson, and Sandra, daughter of Marvin and Gloria Tonn, are life-time residents of Elma.



Kelly and Cynthia Stevenson



Glendon C. Benson family—Nancy, Glendon and son, Eric John.

United States Navy, worked in Rath Packing Co. at Waterloo, Chamberlain Manufacturing Co. at Waterloo, Iowa, and The Oliver Corporation at Charles City, Iowa, while operating a service station and a repair shop at Elma since 1948 to the present time. Also has the distinction of being the last blacksmith in the town of Elma.

Betty, born on a farm southwest of Elma May 29, 1929, attended country school and graduated from high school at Immaculate Conception, Elma, Iowa. Betty has spent her time as a housewife and mother to four children: Dennis, Gary, Nancy and Kelly.

Dennis married Sandra Tonn and they are the parents of two sons, Brian and Scott. Dennis is employed at Kitchens of Sara Lee, New Hampton, Iowa, and Sandra at North Iowa Area Community College and Comprehensive Systems, Elma, Iowa. Gary, single and living at Mason City, Iowa, is employed at Winnebago Industries, Forest City, Iowa.

Kelly married Cynthia May from East North Port Long Island, New York, daughter of Frank and Kathleen May, on June 1, 1984. Kelly is a construction engineer employed at H. M. Hughes Co., New York City. Cynthia is a chemical engineer employed at Sperry Corporation, Long Island, New York. They now live at Hempstead, New York.

Nancy L. Stevenson, daughter of Kenneth and Betty (Tierney), married Glen Benson, son of Merrill and Mary (Rouchka) Benson, on February 25, 1984, and they are the parents of one son, Eric Jon, born May 1, 1985. Both are employed at The Kitchens of Sara Lee. They reside in New Hampton, Iowa.

#### Clifford Stratton

Clifford Stratton was born October 16, 1900, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stratton. Cliff married Lucinda McGrane on November 23, 1925, and one child was born to them—Mary Lou, who died in infancy.

Clifford and Lucinda celebrated their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary on November 23, 1980.



Lucinda and Clifford Stratton

Cliff and Lucinda operated the New Deal Inn early in their marriage, later moving to Minneapolis to work for Brown and Bigelow. They built their first home and business in Elma in 1949. The structure held a barber-shop in the west side and living quarters in the east side. This building was destroyed in the fire of 1954. The Strattons rebuilt a similar structure, where Lucinda still lives. After operating a barbershop for almost 30 years, Cliff sold his business to John Wacha III.

Cliff served as grand knight of the Knights of Colum-

bus and three terms as mayor of Elma. He also served on the town council and on the park board.

Lucinda has been a seamstress in Elma for over 20 years. She also has the distinction of having had her poetry printed. She can be considered Elma's poet laureate.

Clifford Stratton died on December 25, 1980.

#### William Streich Family

William Streich was born in the Elma area, the son of Fred and Mathilda Streich. In 1911 he married Hulda (Krumm), the daughter of John and Frederika (Saubier) Krumm, also of Elma. Hulda was born February 5, 1892.

William and Hulda raised one son, Elroy, who now lives at Denver, Iowa.

Hulda died December 29, 1985, at Elma; her husband had preceded her in death.



Pictured above are William and Hulda (Krumm) Streich. Also pictured on the couple's right and left are Sara Streich and Emma Ladwig, Hulda's sisters.



Hulda, Elroy and William Streich.

#### John and Margaret Stritzel



John and Margaret Stritzel family. (Left to right)—John, Jr. (Jack), Edward, 6 years old, John and Margaret.

The Stritzel family in Elma from about 1904-05, until 1918, J. J. Stritzel was a shoemaker by trade and owned the J. J. Stritzel Shoe Store. In 1912, Mr.

Stritzel purchased the old stone building built by Lemuel Potter on the west side of town. He razed the building and erected a new building on the east side of town, which is now the Shopette.

An ad for the shoe dealer boasted "The finest up-to-date cash shoe store in the state." J. J. Stritzel came to America in 1901 from Austria; his son, Ed stated, "His first goal was to be an American citizen and second to be successful."

Son, John, Jr., was about one year of age when his parents moved to Elma. He now resides in California, having visited Elma in 1984. He had attended Elma schools during their residency here.

#### Fred A. Streich Family

Fred A. Streich, son of Fred and Mathilda (Luebke) Streich, was born on September 26, 1878, on a farm 2½ miles east of Elma. He was a life-long farmer and resident of the Elma community. He became acquainted with Augusta Lamprecht, born March 25, 1878, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lamprecht of Sumner. They were married October 29, 1903, in Maple Leaf. They made their first home on a farm in the Maple Leaf vicinity, where they stayed for seven years and then moved to a farm south of Elma. This was the farm previously owned by the Fallgatter family. Two sons were born to them, Victor on June 4, 1906, and Edwin, born March 21, 1910.

Victor married Dora Friedrich August 29, 1933. She was born November 12, 1901. They had two children: LaVern, born on December 7, 1937, died January 12, 1938. Alvera was born November 14, 1940. She is married to Jim Cisewski and they live in Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

Edwin married Blanche Kutzbach, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kutzbach, on November 24, 1938. They also were the parents of two children: Robert and Lyle. Robert joined the U.S. Army and while home on furlough before going overseas, he was killed in a truck accident. He was born April 15, 1944, and died July 31, 1967. Lyle was born June 20, 1948. He was married August 1, 1970, to Patricia Enright, the daughter of Francis and Clara Enright. They have four children: Brian, Bridgette, Robert, and Bradley.

Edwin and his wife lived on the Fred Streich farm after their marriage, and his parents bought the acreage across the road, where they resided the balance of their lives. Ed and Blanche bought a home in Elma in which to retire and sold the farm.

Fred and Mathilda (Luebke) Streich were also the parents of the following: Charles, Herman, Tillie Peterson, Rose Bender, Emil, Chris, William, Frank, and Louis.

Dora and Victor Streich



## Ray Sullivan

Ray Sullivan was born April 11, 1888, in Elma, the son of Daniel and Jane Sullivan. He had four sisters: Sister Mary Daniel, Sister Mary Eulalia, Mrs. L. J. Holroyd, Mrs. Clem (Lydia) Cashman, and two brothers, Tom and Vincent.

Ray married Margaret Biwer, daughter of Frank Biwer, in St. Paul in 1908. They farmed in the Elma area all their lives. They were parents of: Leo, Elma; Daniel, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mrs. Art (Rosemary) Gebel, Alta Vista; Mrs. Richard (Geraldine) Wingert, Granite Falls, Minnesota; and Jane of Waterloo.

Ray died in March of 1957 and is buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Elma.

Margaret died August 10, 1968, at the age of 83.



Ray and "Maggie" Sullivan

## Thomas Sullivan Family

Thomas and Bridget Brennan Sullivan were parents of six children: Edward, Thomas H., Patrick and Daniel, Mary Roche and Julia Devereaux.

Thomas H. was born on November 10, 1854, in New York. In 1865, the Sullivan's moved to rural Elma. Thomas married Mary Jane Quillinan, daughter of Charles and Catherine Keefe Quillinan, on July 20, 1881, at St. Cecelia.

Thomas H. and Mary Jane had seven children: Frank, Charles, Catherine (Mrs. Albert Laughlin), Omer (a Jesuit priest), Marie (Mother Sister Marie of St. Francis Borgia), Mrs. James (Clair) Greene, and Mrs. Homer (Charlotte) Edmiston.

The Sullivan families were farmers in the Elma area. They were active in the Immaculate Conception Church at Elma. Mary Jane was a country school teacher near Elma and Thomas, Sr., was a county supervisor in the 1880's.

The farm, which was purchased through a Land Patent from the U.S. Government by Thomas and Mary Jane Sullivan, is now owned by the Thiele family, so it has only had two family owners. Thomas built a barn and for the first year of their marriage and until the birth of their first child, Frank, they lived in the loft of the barn. Meanwhile, Thomas built the house which still stands and where all the other children were born. In the 1960's family visitors could still view the number of nicks on the kitchen door frame put there by Thomas when he measured the growth of Marie each year on her birthday.

In his late 40's, Thomas retired from farming and moved into Elma. Their home, built by a Mr. Klemme, who also built the house across the alley, which for many years was the home of Uncle Tom and Aunt Jo Cashman (terms of endearment as they were not relatives) is now owned by Merle and Leona Jacoby. The Diekmann's lived on the southeast corner, the Dr. Stute's family lived on the southwest corner, the Stack's (the local druggist) were on the northwest corner and the Sullivan house was on the northeast corner—all on Main Street. These homes are all still standing, though all have had extensive remodeling.

Frank Sullivan married Margaret Elgas and they raised their family of twelve children in Elma. Their son, George, was killed in the Pacific Theater in World War II.

Charles married Margaret Jacoby. They were parents of ten children and lived in the Elma area.

Catherine married Albert Laughlin. She will be remembered by many as the 5th and 6th grade teacher in the Elma Public School during the years 1925



Thomas Sullivan family. (Left to right)—Charlotte Edmiston, Claire Greene, Sister Marie of St. Francis, Rev. Omer, Catherine Laughlin, Charles, and Frank.

Reverend Omer Sullivan Golden Jubilee.



through 1939. They later moved to St. Paul, Minnesota.

Father Omer Sullivan spent the last 25 years of his life in the Central American country now known as Belize where he was a missionary.

Sister St. Francis spent much of her life at the Good Shepherd Motherhouse in St. Paul, where for a number of years she was the Mother of Novices, and responsible for the training and education of the young women who had come to become nuns.

Claire was a nurse. She married James Greene and they raised their family of four children in New York City.

Charlotte, Mrs. Homer Edmiston, lived and died in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

All the members of the Thomas H. Sullivan family are now deceased. Catherine was the last to die in 1978. Many of the family are buried in Calvary Cemetery in Elma.

Mary Catherine Laughlin sent her tribute to Elma—"I shall always be grateful for my formative years in Elma. We learned values, we learned loyalty, we were given a fine education by any standard; family life was important and even though many have left to make their way in other places, no matter what the reason, we are drawn back to the place of our birth, to renew those memories that are so precious."

### Charles Sullivan



Charles Sullivan family. (Back row, left to right)—Lavern; Mrs. Ralph (Lila) Marr; Virgil "Curly"; Mrs. Raymond (Marie) Frank; Lawrence; Mrs. Vernon (Betty) Regan. (Front)—Omer, Mrs. Ed (Rose Marie) Wubbens, Charles Margaret, Joe.



Rev. Omer Sullivan standing with his brother, Charles Sullivan.



Margaret Jacoby Sullivan. Note the watch pinned to her dress. This was a cherished gift from her father for helping pick corn by hand, when she was sixteen years of age.



Virgil "Curly" Sullivan, son of Charles and Margaret.



Charles and Margaret (Jacoby) Sullivan wedding day.

Charles Sullivan, son of Thomas H. and Mary Jane Quillinan Sullivan, was born September 28, 1883. He married Margaret Jacoby June 12, 1907, and to this union ten children were born: Mrs. Ralph (Lila) Marr, Riceville; Virgil, married to Irene Kinter, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Joseph, married Helen Kohles, they lived in the Elma community until retiring to Cresco; Lawrence married Dorothy Vick, St. Paul, Minnesota; Mrs. Raymond (Marie) Frank, Cresco; Vern married LaVaugh Taylor, Waterloo, Iowa; Omer and his wife, Evelyn, live in Dallas, Texas; Mrs. Vernon (Betty) Regan, Charles City, Iowa; Charles, who died as a child; and Mrs. Ed (Rose Marie) Wubbens, Charles City, Iowa.

Charles lived all his life in the Elma Community and was a farmer. For many years he was clerk of Howard Township.

Margaret died on March 1, 1958, and Charles died on April 17 of that same year at the age of 74.

### Frank E. Sullivan



Wedding picture of Frank E. and Margaret Elgas Sullivan.



Margaret and Frank



Frank Sullivan family. (Left to right)—Don, Leon, Jim, Bernadine, John, Mary Ann, Tom, Donna, Gerry, Marguerite, Marcella. (In front)—Frank and Margaret.

One of the weddings of the earlier part of the century in Elma was the wedding of Frank Sullivan and Margaret Elgas on January 26, 1909, at the Immaculate Conception Church.

He was a native of the Elma area and she had come to Elma from Wisconsin with her parents, the Michael Elgas, when she was a child.

About two years after their marriage, they moved to Kent, Minnesota, then later to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, before returning to Elma in 1929.

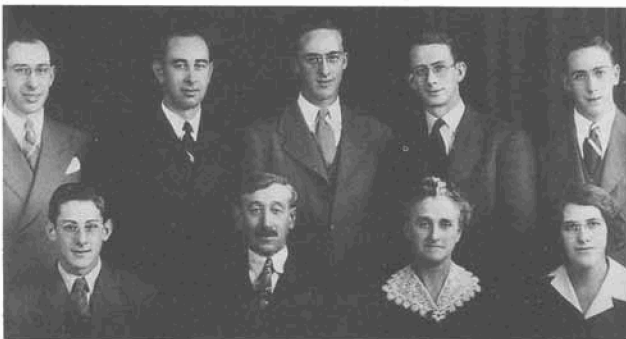
They were parents of twelve children, five of whom were born in Elma. None of them reside in Elma at present.

The children are: Marcella Harwick, Illinois; Bernadine Trout, Arizona; Donald, Waterloo, Iowa; Tom, Cedar Rapids, Iowa (deceased); Marguerite Miller, Osage; George, killed in service in the Navy, 1942; James, Cedar Rapids; Donna Wagner, Waterloo; Jack, Texas; Gerry, California; Leon, California; and Mary Ann, Dubuque.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1959.

Frank died in 1960 and Margaret died April 28, 1977.

#### Leo Thiele Family



Leo Thiele family taken in November 1943. (Back row, left to right)—Leo, Joseph, Carl, Lawrence, Henry. (Front row, left to right)—Harold, Leo, Anna, Mrs. George (Clara) Bayer.



Mr. and Mrs. Leo Thiele on their 60th wedding anniversary September 21, 1969.

#### Harold Thiele

Harold Thiele, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Thiele, married Kathleen Regan, daughter of John and Josephine (Irvin) Regan, in 1952.

They became parents of: Mrs. James (Patricia) Hooks; Gregory; Julie Knecht; Mrs. Bryce (Mary Ellen) Larsen; Gerald; Neil; and Beverly.

John Regan, born in Waukon in 1881, moved to Busti when young. He married Josephine Irvin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs Joe Irvin, also of Busti. They farmed north of Elma for years and later moved into the town of Elma. Harold and Kathleen Thiele bought the Regan farm and raised their family there. Recently, they sold the farm to their son, Greg and his wife, Lori, who with their two children, Travis and Trent, live there, making it a fourth generation farm.

#### Orrie Thompson

Orrie Eddy Thompson moved with his family to the Elma community in September of 1953. He and his wife, Geraldine, deceased—1918-1963, had five daughters: Kay, Connie, Kathy, Corinne and Mary.

Orrie was born July 3, 1909, and raised in Greene, Iowa. He had worked at a quarry hauling rock by hand for \$20 a week, on the section crew, as a farm hand, and electrician for Albrecht Hatchery before starting with Interstate Power Co. in 1939. In 1943, he took a leave of absence from Interstate and worked at Oliver Corp. for war efforts. In October of the same year, he enlisted in the Navy. As a Chief Petty Officer, he was stationed in Alaska until December of 1945 when he was discharged. At that time he started a TV and radio repair shop. He operated the shop until he went back to work for Interstate in 1948. In May of 1952, he accepted the position of service representative for the Riceville area. In September, 1953, he was appointed Area Manager in Elma. He served in that position until August 1, 1974, when he retired.

His amateur radio hobby keeps him busy when he isn't watching baseball games on TV. His favorite quote is "Left handers use the right side of their brain, so they are the only ones in their right mind!"

#### Severt Thompson



(Back row, left to right)—Thomas, Clara, Mayme and Severt. (In front)—Mary.



Severt Thompson was born February 7, 1892, the son of Ole and Elizabeth (Nundahl) Thompson. November 17, 1914, he married Mayme Marik and they lived in the Lourdes area.

Mayme was the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Koudelka) Marik. She was born October 22, 1895.

Severt and Mayme began their married life on the farm, moving into Elma in 1932 where he was employed by the Eclipse Lumber Company until his sudden death May 20, 1949.

Mayme died May 20, 1948, after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis.

They were the parents of five children: Thomas; Mrs. Francis (Clara) Enright; Leo, who died of lockjaw in 1929; Alice, who died of pneumonia in 1936; and Mrs. Jerome (Mary) Heying.

### D. H. Tidgwell

One of the first buildings in Elma was the hardware store. D. H. Tidgwell bought lumber in New Hampton and hauled it to the present site of Elma, prior to the time when the railroad was built. He ran the business very successfully for six years.

In 1892, D. H. married Ida M. Trickle of New Hampton, a teacher. He retired from the hardware trade and turned his attention to the breeding and raising of race horses. In Jim Pittenger's book, *I Remember Elma*, Jim remembered his father, D. H. and Bill Murray racing, but D. H. always came in first.

About 1894 D. H. went into the lumber business and ran the yard until 1900 when he sold to the C. W. Chapman Lumber Company.

The Tidgwell's had three children: Lylah, David and Thelma. The only boy, David, died very young.

Ida painted many pictures. In her early years, she painted with oils, later on with pastels. Many of these pictures grace the homes of people in Elma. Ida had many poems committed to memory. Whatever the occasion, she could quote an appropriate poem.

Ward L. Cook (1896-1976) and Lylah Tidgwell (1897-1964) lived 1½ miles north and 1½ miles west of



David Tidgwell family. (Left)—David Tidgwell, daughter, Thelma Tidgwell Baker Rick, driving, Ida Trickle Tidgwell, wife, behind car, Lylah Tidgwell Cook, daughter, right. The family believes the car to be a 1918 Buick. The picture is taken with the family home in the background. The house is now owned by the Lavern Worple family.



Lylah Cook



Ward Cook



Elsie Kipple

Elma. In March, 1937, the farm home burned to the ground. Lylah saved their only child, Bonita (Boni Ihns). Lylah was badly burned. To replace the home, the Congregational Church in Elma was purchased for \$800. It cost \$900 to move it to the farm. Lylah taught school in Elma and some of the surrounding towns for over twenty years.

In 1939, Elsie Kippe came to teach the country school (Afton No. 7). Lylah told her she could stay two weeks while she looked for another place to stay. Somehow she never found another place. Elsie made her home with the Cook's for 25 years. At age 62, Elsie joined the Franciscan Order, after having taught school for 44 years. She still teaches in Sioux City.

Boni married Lyle Ihns and lives in Lime Springs. They had two children, David Ward, and Lulylah Cook Ihns. Boni taught art in Riceville for twenty years. David still continues the tradition of the family and teaches at Gilbert, Arizona.

In 1962, Lylah and Ward gave land to the Howard County Conservation Board for a marsh area, known as Lylahs Marsh. A commemorative tree was planted and dedicated to J. (Ding) Darling, a conservation cartoonist. The tree also marked the two millionth evergreen tree to be planted in Iowa.

### Dennis Tierney Family

Johannah (Hannah) Kane was born in approximately 1854 near Aurora, Kane County, Illinois, of Irish immigrant parents. She, her parents, and brothers and sisters moved to a farm southwest of Elma. Her younger brother, Michael Kane, was a long-time resident of Elma.

Johanna (Hannah) Kane married Dennis Tierney and two daughters, Gertrude and Evelyn, were born to the union. They resided on a farm two and one-half miles

southwest of Elma., which when it was sold in the 1970's had never had a mortgage on it.

Following the death of Dennis Tierney in the early 1900's, his wife and their two daughters moved to the town of Elma, first living in a two-story house across from what was later the Standard Oil Station on Busti Avenue. They later moved to a house on the west side of Elma where Mrs. Tierney, and later, the Stute's, resided until the late 1960's when the house was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boyle, Sr.

Gertrude and Evelyn Tierney attended Mount St. Joseph Academy, now Clarke College, in Dubuque, Iowa. Evelyn later graduated from Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, Iowa, and taught in Skagway, Alaska, and in Pocatello, Idaho. She then moved to New York City, received a Masters Degree from Columbia University and taught the mentally handicapped in the New York school system for a number of years. Evelyn died in the 1970's and is buried in New Jersey, where she had resided for many years.

Gertrude Tierney was born in 1884. She married Frederick N. Stute, D.D.S., in November, 1907. They lived with her mother in the house in West Elma, where Mrs. Tierney died in 1940. Except for periodic visits with her children, Gertrude Tierney Stute lived in her home here until the late 1960's, when she moved to the Kahl Home for the Aged, Davenport, Iowa. She died in February, 1971, at age 86, and was buried in the family plot at Calvary Cemetery, Elma, Iowa.

#### Dennis Tierney Family

Dennis is the son of Walter and Evelyn (Eiffler) Tierney. His grandparents, Dennis and Nina (O'Neil) Tierney and Louis and Thresa (Bucholz) Eiffler, all settled in the Elma area. Dennis and his brother, Ronald, were raised for many years by Ernest and Thresa Kutzbach.

Dennis married Joyce Swehla, daughter of Jerome and Grace Swehla of Alta Vista, who was born and raised near Alta Vista. They have six children: Brett, Bradley, Nicole, Natalie, Brodie and Brian. Dennis is a machinist at White Farm in Charles City and they live near Charles City.



Dennis Tierney family. (Left to right)—Joyce, Nicole, Bradley, Brett, Dennis (father). (Front)—Brian, Brodie, Natalie.

#### Leo Tonn

Leo Tonn, one of Elma's businessmen, was born March 6, 1908, in Riceville, Iowa, to Mike and Leopoldine Tonn.

On October 2, 1926, he was united in marriage to Elnora Hendrickson of LeRoy, Minnesota. To this union, four children were born: Francis of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Marvin of Elma; Charlotte McGrane, Fairbanks, Iowa; and Shirley Teepe, Orchard, Iowa.

Leo served in the United States Navy from November 7, 1943, to January 12, 1946. He was a member of the American Legion. Leo and his family moved to Elma in 1946 when he purchased the Erion Building and opened the Tip Top Tavern and Cafe.

Leo passed away September 28, 1975, in Elma, of an apparent heart attack while conducting an auction sale. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery in Riceville, Iowa.

Elnora still resides in her home in Elma.

#### Marvin Tonn Family

Marvin Tonn was born in Riceville, Iowa, to Leo and Elnora (Hendrickson) Tonn, moving to Elma in 1946. He was associated in the tavern and restaurant business for several years with his father . . . then driving semi's for Hayden, Alta Vista Feed and Grain, Kobliska Trucking and Howard County Equity. Gloria is a certified nurse's aide, daughter of Edward and Helen (Dratina) Shimek, married Marvin on October 21, 1952, at Holy Cross Church in Schley, Iowa. She has spent her past 16 years caring for their invalid daughter, babysits and sews. To this union, seven children were born. They are: Sandra (Stevenson), 1953; Leland, 1955; Lorilee, 1959; JoAnn (Marshall), 1961; Marvin, Jr., 1965; Peggy, 1967; and Michael, 1973.

Marvin was born in 1930 and Gloria in 1933.

Sandra married Dennis Stevenson; Leland married Kathy Walker; JoAnn married David Marshall; and Peggy married Khris Huhe.



(Standing)—Marvin, Jr., Marvin (Louie) and Gloria, JoAnn, Sandra, Leland. (Seated)—Michael, Lorilee, Peggy.

#### Harvey Trunkey

Harvey Trunkey and Ida John were married November 30, 1875.

In 1876, the young couple moved to Howard County, settling on a farm about a mile east of what is now Elma. They resided there several years and later farmed on a place about three miles north of Elma. In October, 1891, when the town was in its infancy, they established their home in Elma.

Mr. Trunkey was engaged in the grocery business and later in the dray line business. She died in 1934.

They were the parents of seven children: Charles, Mrs. George (Margaret) Evans, Mrs. (Frances) Hargrave, Mrs. (Mary) Fitcher, Merle, and Mrs. (Alice) Pelton.

#### Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Tucheck

Reuben Tucheck and Viola Tupy were married in 1940 at Protivin, Iowa, by Reuben's brother, Rev. Edward Tucheck. After Reuben's discharge from the Army, they lived in Spillville with Mrs. Tucheck's parents. A year later, in 1945, they moved to Elma. They operated a tavern in Elma for 23 years, until their retirement in 1969. They built a home then and are at present living in Elma.



Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Tucheck

#### Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tuttle

Robert and Ramona Tuttle live on Rural Route 2, Elma. They have resided in the Elma area since 1965, where they are farmers.

They are parents of: Mrs. Clayton (Suzanne) Holmstrom, Elma; Mike, Fredericksburg; Gary, Colleta, California.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tuttle

#### Charles Tyler Family

Charles L. Tyler was born August 16, 1866, near National, Iowa, and died September 9, 1944.

Charles and his wife, Doradee (Dora), moved to Elma from Charles City in 1889 to open a meat market. Charles and the former Dora Kaebrick had been married on May 13, 1887. Charley was engaged in the meat and butchering business and at one time owned three butcher shops. He was rated as one of the best butchers in this section of the state. In the early days when Elma had a lamplighter, Charley filled this role. Eventually, Charley sold his business to Charlie Klobassa.

Charles and Dora had six children: Frank, William, Gertrude, Roy, Estelle, and Elmer.

William Tyler began his barber career in Elma with Dewey Garrett and Bill Clancy giving him his first chance. He also worked with Bert Siddal before moving to Alta Vista in 1914. He also helped with his father's butchering.

Frank "Packey" and Elmer "Bummy" barbered with William Tyler. Bummy returned to Elma in the 1930's and barbered in his own shop. Packey was in the Rainbow Division in World War I.

Gertrude worked as an operator at the Elma Telephone Exchange a number of years prior to her marriage to Charlie Lukritz of Alta Vista.

Ray worked in the Diekmann Grocery and then as a mechanic in the Diekmann Garage before moving to Oelwein where he worked as a mechanic.

Estelle married Robert Mabry and they had one daughter, Roberta. Stella died at the age of 20, and Roberta was raised by Charley and Dora Tyler.

The Tyler home in Elma was built about 1888 and is now the home of Anna Dybevik.

Gertrude Tyler Lukritz,  
daughter of Charles Tyler.



#### Unger Family



Mr. William Unger

William Unger was born January 15, 1852, at Brallentien, Germany. He was one of the organizers of the Lutheran Church in Elma. The first church service

was held at his home March 2, 1889. He died January 1, 1942.

August Unger was born September 24, 1875, at Brallentien, Germany. He married Martha Flugge. Martha was born August 14, 1883, at Macklenburg, Germany. She came to the United States as a small child, living in Illinois before moving to Iowa. August died November 3, 1939.

Edna Unger was born December 20, 1903. She attended the Howard County School and the Elma High School. She married William Lamprecht June 1, 1926, in Elma. She died October 6, 1972.



(Left to right)—August Unger, William and Martha Unger Lamprecht. (Seated)—Wilma Lamprecht, Edna Lamprecht, holding Dale.

#### John Vokaty Family

Joseph and Barbara (Samec) Jilma lived southeast of Elma on a farm. They were the parents of three children: Lillian, born April 23, 1896; Laddie, and Cecilia (Sister Methodia OSF).

Joseph was killed at an early age when traveling over the railroad pass, his horse became frightened by the train and he was thrown down the embankment and sustained a broken neck. He died two days later.

John Vokaty was the son of Albert and Anna (Hoverka) Vokaty.

John and Lillian were married October 7, 1913, at Holy Trinity Church in Protivin; they were the parents of two adopted children, Rita (Vokaty) Hereid and Robert Vokaty.

John and Lill moved to Elma in 1932 and purchased



Mrs. Lillian Vokaty, who celebrated her 90th birthday on April 23, 1986.

the residence previously owned by the Hayden family. Mrs. Jilma made her home with her daughter for several years.

John spent his working years doing carpenter work, and Lill was a telephone operator and later was the priests' housekeeper for Father F. Cassidy, Father J. Weber, and Father R. Kalb, as well as caring for several assistant priests. Lill celebrated her 90th birthday on April 23, 1986.



The John Vokaty family—Rita (Vokaty) Hereid, Mrs. Lillian Vokaty, son, Robert Vokaty.

#### Edward Voves, Sr.

Ed Voves, Sr., was born to John and Agnes Kubik Voves. His brothers and sisters included: Agnes, John, Frank, Abbie, Joe, Charles, Mary, and Helen Zobeck, Elma.

His mother, Anna, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Kubik.

Edward married Marie Berka, daughter of Joseph and Victoria Samec Berka of Ridgeway, in 1942.

They were parents of two sons, Luvern and Edward, Jr., both of Elma.

Ed is a retired farmer and now resides at Colonial Manor in Elma; Marie is deceased.



Mr. and Mrs. Edward Voves, Sr.

#### Edward Voves, Jr.



Debra Voves

Edward Voves, Jr.

Joanne



Julie



Janelle

Edward Voves, Jr., son of Edward and Marie Berka Voves, Sr., married Debra Meyerhoff, daughter of Louis and Betty (Roethler) Meyerhoff, in 1971.

They are parents of three daughters: Joanne, Julie and Janelle.

Ed and Deb live in Elma where Ed is employed by Howard County Equity as mill operator. He is a member of Elma's Volunteer Fire Department.

### Vern Voves Family

Vern and Jean Voves were united in marriage February 10, 1968. Vern's parents were Edward, Sr., and Marie (Berka) Voves. Jean's parents were Leander and Geraldine (Biber) Heying of Elma.

They are the parents of four children: Ronald Edward, 1969, deceased; LeAnn Marie, 1970; Randal Charles, 1972; and Bradley John, 1980.

Vern and Jean both grew up in rural Elma and attended rural, public and parochial schools. They are members of Immaculate Conception Church. Vern served in the Vietnam conflict from 1965 to 1967. He has been a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 4144 for 22 years. He is also a fourth degree Knight in the Davis Assembly. He is a volunteer fireman and is currently assistant chief. He formerly served on the town council and is presently a member of the Elma Community Club. He has been employed at Allied, formerly White Farm, for 22 years. Jean is currently employed at Kitchens of Sara Lee in New Hampton, Iowa.



(Front row, left to right)—Randy and Bradley. (Back row, left to right)—LeAnn, Vern, and Jean Voves.

### John Wacha Family

John Wacha, Sr.'s, father and mother came to America from Bohemia. Mary Wacha, wife of John Wacha, Sr., parents also came from Bohemia, and their names were Mr. and Mrs. Anton Roman. Mr. Roman's first job in America was to work for the railroad when the line was being constructed through Elma. He later settled in the Maple Leaf area.

John and Mary Wacha farmed in the Maple Leaf area all their married life. They had three children: Loretta Ludwig, died in 1974; Ione Benson of Postville; and John Wacha, Jr., who is currently owner of the farm and has been on the farm since his birth in 1922. The Wacha family farm has been in the Wacha name since 1879. John, Sr., died in 1960 and Mary died in 1980.

John Wacha, Jr., married Margaret Ann Berka, daughter of Joe and Victoria Berka of Ridgeway, on November 8, 1950. They are the parents of four children: John III, born September 16, 1952; Joseph, born July 9, 1956; Judy, born September 15, 1960; and Mary, born June 29, 1967.

John III is operating Wacha's Barbershop in Elma since 1973, and is also employed by his father in their insurance agency, Wacha's Insurance. Joseph is employed at the Cresco Plant Peddlers and lives near Cresco.

Judy married Don Bartels, son of Herbert and Verona Bartels of Elma, on February 16, 1980, and they farm northwest of Elma. They are the parents of two children: Melissa, born January 16, 1982, and Michelle, born June 2, 1985. Mary is currently living at home.

The family belongs to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

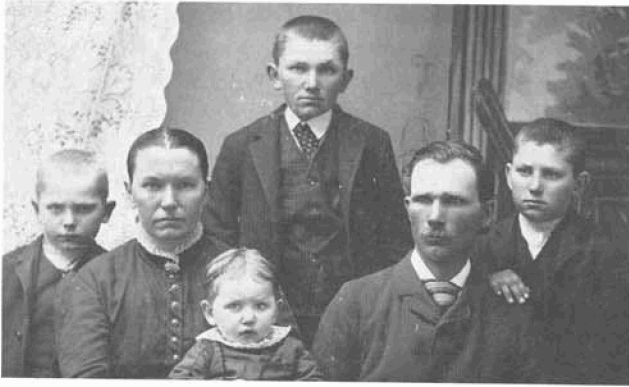
In 1954, John Wacha, Jr., started the Wacha Insurance Agency. The agency started on the family farm and today, along with his son, John III, they run the agency from the farm.



Don, Joseph, Judy, John III, Margie holding Melissa, Mary and John Jr.



John and Mary Wacha married November 8, 1910.



(Left to right)—Frank Wacha, mother, Antonia Wacha, holding Josephine, Joseph Wacha (father of Wm and Frank Wacha), John Wacha (father of John Wacha, Jr.), John, Jr.

#### Merle Wacha Family

Merle, son of William and Mildred Wacha, and Elaine, daughter of Clem and Mabel Smith, have farmed in the Elma area all their lives. They are the parents of seven children: Tom, Peggy, Karen, Nancy, Dan, Kathy, and Kenny. They farm about five miles northeast of Elma, and are members of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

#### Arthur Watson Family



Louis Watson family. (Left to right)—Lou, Howard "Pete," Nora, George, Ellen Watson Shatek in 1960.



Howard "Pete" Watson holding "Little Pete" Bradley Gansen, 1983.

Arthur Watson, son of George and Rebecca (Bateman) Watson, came to farm near Elma in 1877, after his brother, John, had settled near here.

Arthur married Ellen Sayer and they became the parents of Florence, Louis, Harriet, Francis, and Ben.

Arthur's son, Louis, married Nora Hill and they continued to farm the land. To this union was born: Francis, deceased; Mrs. Charles (Ellen) Shatek, deceased;

Howard "Pete," Elma, deceased; Ruth, deceased; and George, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The farm is still in the family, having been purchased recently from the Howard Watson Estate by Louis' great-granddaughter, Richard and Suzan Gansen, granddaughter of Charles and Ellen Shatek.

#### John H. Watson

John H. Watson was born March 10, 1853, at Lishus Kyl, New York, the oldest child of George and Rebecca (Bateman) Watson. He moved with his parents, four brothers and a sister to a farm near Alpine, Illinois. The family was very poor and John began to earn his living as a hired hand when he was twelve years old.

In the spring of 1876, John came to Howard County, Iowa. He purchased 80 acres of land from George Burgess near the village of Busti in the southwestern part of the county. His land had a house, but no one had lived in it. It was to this farm that he brought his bride, Emily Sayers of Alpine, Illinois, that fall.

It was lonesome country at that time, no roads, no neighbors, no trains, no mail. There were many frightening things—prairie wolves, rattlesnakes, and prairie fires.

John and Emily became the parents of a daughter, Eliza Ann, known as Lollie.

The nearest store was at Busti, along with a saloon and blacksmith shop. Eventually a church was built—the Union Church—where settlers worshipped together. A stagecoach brought mail to the store on its route through the county. The nearest railroad was at Cresco and grain was hauled there for shipment. Coal and other supplies were brought back in lumber wagons.

John's brothers, Arthur and William, and finally, the father, George, moved to Iowa and settled on farms within two miles of John. Many good times were had by the families as they grew up.

At the turn of the century, John moved the house nearer the road and set out a row of maple trees. The farm was registered as the "Maple Row Farm."

John Watson served his community in many ways. He was a respected citizen, a friend of many and was often asked for his advice. He served as assessor and as trustee of Howard Township; in 1906 and 1908 he was elected Supervisor of the Second District. He ran again in 1918 and served two more terms. He was a charter member of the Methodist Church of Elma, where he served for many years. He was a member of the Masonic Order of Mason's and of the Order of Eastern Star.

Emily Watson died in January, 1906, and John Watson died October, 1929.

Lollie Watson and her husband, Earl Schroeder, lived on the farm until their deaths. Members of their family continue to live on the land and in 1976 it was declared a Century Farm.

## Weber Family

John Casper Weber and Mary Ashbrenner were married November 20, 1890. They came to the Elma area in 1905. He died in 1927 and she died in 1949.

Their family was made up of: Carl, Casper, Mrs. Wm. (Mary) Thies, Mrs. John (Grace) Dusheck, Mrs. Robert (Julia) Spaulding, Mrs. Richard (Hattie) Rowley, Loven, and John.

Carl Weber came to this area in 1905 having been born in Des Moines June 1, 1892. He attended Elma schools and owned and operated a blacksmith shop in Elma. He made his home with his sister, Mrs. Mary Thies. He died in February of 1958.

## The Diedrich Weers Family

Diedrich Johan Wehrs was born in Prussia on October 5, 1845. He came to the United States in January, 1867, and became a citizen of the United States on April 4, 1871, County of Ramsey, St. Paul, Minnesota. At this time he changed the spelling of his last name from Wehrs to Weers.

Deidrich Weers and Anna Maria Miller were married at Barre Mills, Wisconsin, and came to Howard County to live. They farmed northeast of Maple Leaf. Later they moved into Elma to live in a brick house that Mr. Weers built, located on the corner south of the Elma Methodist Church. This house was taken down in later years and a new modern home was built by new owners.

Diedrich Weers and family were members of the St. Peter Lutheran Church. Mr. Weers was a member of the first council and of the building committee of this church. Mr. and Mrs. Weers were the parents of eight children: William, Mrs. August (Emma) Wolf, Mrs. William (Lillie) Mantz, John, Mrs. Ben (Laura) Schoenfeldt, Mrs. Carl (Clara) Kemp, Mrs. Edward (Mayme) Kruger, and Mrs. Emil (Allene) Ring.

Diedrich and sons, William (Bill) and John, were well known as brick layers and masons. His son-in-law, August F. Wolf, was the carpenter for all their building throughout the community.

The only three-story building in Elma was built by Diedrich Weers in 1896. The building was located on Busti Avenue. Some years later he removed the third story and used the material when building the Opera



Diedrich Weers, 1845-1928



William "Bill" Weers, father of Arlyn "Shrimp" Weers.

House, which now is the Elma Locker.

Some other work of the Weers family include the local hospital building, the former creamery building on West Main Street, the Lutheran Church in Alta Vista, the convent building and the Parish House in Lourdes, and the Lourdes Store, which was operated by the Chihak family. The store burned down a few years ago and was replaced by another building.

The fireplace in the Elma Park was built by William Weers, with W.P.A. workers helping him, William Weers' son, Arthur, also did masonry work.

Survivors today of the Diedrich Weers family are the grandchildren, Arlyn Diedrich Weers of Elma; Eileen Mantz, Northwood, Iowa; Waldron Kemp, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Harold Schoenfeldt, Charles City, Iowa; Aletha Kruger, Elma, Iowa; Mildred Joachim, Denison, Iowa; Lois Dinger, Riceville, Iowa; and Marlene Dillon, Cresco, Iowa. There are several great grandchildren.

Three grandchildren are deceased—Arthur (Bertha) Weers, Wilbur (Tubby) Weers, and Willis (Johnny) Weers.

As of today, the Weers name is carried on by: Arlyn Diedrich Weers, son of William Carl Weers; Richard Arlyn Weers, son of Arlyn Diedrich Weers; Gerald Allan Weers, son of Richard Arlyn Weers; Braden Cory Weers, son of Gerald Allan Weers; Gary Arlyn Weers, son of Richard Arlyn Weers; and Michael John Weers, son of Willis John Weers.

## Arlyn and Rosella Weers

Arlyn and Rosella Weers are lifetime residents of Elma. Both graduated from the Elma Public High School—Arlyn with the class of 1927 and Rosella with the class of 1929. They are the parents of one son, Richard, who with his wife, live at Converse, Texas. Arlyn and Rosella have three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Through the years Arlyn has been known as "Shrimp."

On February 9, 1982, the Weers celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary while visiting their family in Texas.



Arlyn and Rosella Weers

## Richard and Gloria Weers

Richard's parents are Arlyn and Rosella Weers of Elma, and Gloria of Cedar Rapids, is the daughter of Elsie Wiegner and the late Ewald Wiegner.

Richard was graduated from the Elma Public High School with the class of 1950. He served with the U.S. Air Force for twenty years. After his retirement from



Richard "Dick" Weers and wife, Gloria.

the Air Force, he continued his study in art and has become well known for his paintings. He has presented two paintings to the Colonial Manor and a painting to the Elma Public Library.

Richard and Gloria are parents of three children: Jerry, Kathryn and Gary, and three grandchildren—Braden, Aubrey and Andra.

#### William H. Whelan

William H. Whelan was born in Lawler, Iowa, April 14, 1878. He married Nellie Griffin August 14, 1907, in Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Lawler.

William operated the Farmer's Elevator in Elma for many years before moving to Ryan and then to Dubuque.

On April 14, 1978, he had the unique honor of celebrating his 100th birthday in Dubuque, Iowa.

#### John P. Whelan

John P. Whelan was born near Lawler in Chickasaw County on March 14, 1869, the son of Thomas and Mary A. Whelan. Mr. Whelan was educated in district schools in Chickasaw County and helped on the home farm until he was 22 years of age, when he accepted a position as helper with the Jerico Creamery Co. After two years, when he had learned the trade, he was made buttermaker at the Owen Creamery at Lourdes for a year and then served as buttermaker for a larger creamery at Blue Hill, Nebraska.

In 1902, he accepted a position as manager and buttermaker at the Elma Cooperative Creamery, where he remained for a period of fifteen years, helping to build it up to one of the strongest in the country.

In 1906, Mr. Whelan was married to Ella Fitzgerald of Elma. They had four children: Thomas, Muriel and Miriam and John Gerald, who was killed in an accident some years previous to his father's death.

In 1917, Whelan purchased the business of O. A. Dunton in Elma, and the following year, equipped the business with modern buttermaking equipment. For many years, he operated the creamery and shipped carloads of produce, butter and eggs every month. With the depression and the slump in farm prices, his operations dwindled and in 1932 he closed his plant, later selling the business to George Haberman of Ft. Atkinson. Mr. Whelan continued to operate a produce station, buying for Goodrich and Searcy of Cresco.

John Whelan died February 8, 1934. He is buried at Elma.

#### Jake Whiting Family

Jake Whiting was born at Iowa Center in 1884. His wife, Clara Shaffer, was born near Tipton, Iowa, in 1887. They were married in 1905. They farmed north of Elma.

Jake and Clara were the parents of three children: Mrs. William (Thelma) Bryan, Arthur, and Jake, Jr. Jake, Sr., passed away in 1948 and Clara in 1942.

#### Arthur Whiting Family



Art Whiting family. (Standing in back)—Robert and Jack. (Front row, left to right)—Art, Marlene, Joe, Irene.



Joe Whiting family. (Back row, left to right)—Kathy, Joe. (Middle row)—Jamie, Jimmy, Jason. (Front row)—Joshua and Jarvis.



Whiting family. (Back row, left to right)—Robert, Connie, Joe, Robert Lewis, Millie, Jack, Tony. (Middle row)—Kathy, Irene, Marlene Lewis, Danyelle Lewis, Lee Cochran. (Front row)—Bob, Helen, Jamie, Jason, Jarvis, Michael Lewis, Tammy Cochran. (Front)—Joshua.



Art Whiting was born the son of Jake and Clara (Shaffer) Whiting. He attended Riceville schools and later on married Irene Chihak. They lived and farmed three miles north of Elma, which is now a "Century Farm of 1884."

Art and Irene were the parents of four children: Robert, Jack, Joe and Mrs. Robert (Marlene) Lewis.

Robert was born in 1936 and his wife, Connie, was born the same year. They were married in 1959. They are the owners of Bondag Recap. Co. of Topeka, Kansas. In 1984, their son, Robert G., married Helen Ryan and they are the parents of one child, Blyth C., who was born in 1985.

Jack Whiting and his wife, Millie (Prohaska), were born in 1938. They both attended the Elma Public School and were married in April of 1958. In addition to farming the "Family Farm," they operated the Alibi Tavern in 1968 and in 1972, the Alibi Lanes. They now manage the J. R Whitco Cabinet Factory of Elma. They are the parents of two children: Mrs. Lee (Tammy) Cochran and Tony.

Joe Whiting and his wife, Kathy (Reed), were born in 1946. Joe attended the Immaculate Conception School, and Kathy, the Riceville schools. They were married in 1965. At present, they publish the "Elma Reminder," and also run Whiting Insurance. They are the parents of five children: Jim (deceased), Jamie, Jason, Jarvis and Joshua.

Marlene (Whiting) Lewis was born in 1955. She and her husband, Robert, were married in 1974. She is an R.N. with Home Care and he is a Farmers Insurance Group agent. They have two children: Danyelle, born in 1976, and Michael, born in 1979.

#### Ed Worpel Family

Ed and Frieda (DeVries) Worpel farmed west of Elma until his retirement when they moved into Elma.

They are parents of six children: Mrs. Don (LaVonne) Roethler, Fred, John, Merle, Jim and Dianne.

John married Mary Dempsey and they have three children. Merle married Marilyn Schwake and they have two daughters. John and Merle operate the Elma Locker.

Jim and his wife, Pat, have two children. He is employed by the Chester Pallet Factory, and Pat is an employee of Comprehensive Systems.

Ed and Frieda are both deceased.



Ed and Frieda Worpel

#### John Worpel Family

John and Mary (Dempsey) Worpel live on a farm

acreage northeast of Elma. John is the son of Ed and Frieda (DeVries) Worpel. They are the parents of three children: Craig, Steve and Chris. John works in the Elma Locker and Mary is head of the dietary department at Colonial Manor.

Craig married Nancy Freidhof, daughter of Vince and Phyllis Freidhof, on June 9, 1979. They are the parents of two children, Courtney and Marcy.

Steve married Kay Kruger, daughter of Irwin and Althea Kruger, on July 25, 1981. They are the parents of one son, Michael.

Chris married Mark Pietan, son of Harlin and Isabel Pietan, on December 29, 1979. They had one daughter, Jackie. Chris was killed in an auto accident on July 13, 1984.



John Worpel family. (Standing in rear)—Steve Worpel. (Left to right)—Mark Pietan, Chris (Worpel) Pietan, Mary and John Worpel, Nancy and Craig Worpel.

#### Craig Worpel

Nancy and Craig Worpel



Nancy and Craig Worpel wedding. (Back row)—Julie and George Freidhof holding son, Jeff. (Left to right)—Cynthia and Ron Freidhof holding daughter, Kelli. (Front row, left to right)—Kathy Freidhof, Phyllis and Vince Freidhof, Nancy Freidhof Worpel, and Craig Worpel. (Front)—Brad Freidhof, son of George and Julie and Melissa Freidhof, daughter of Ron and Cynthia.

Craig Worple, son of John and Mary Worple, and Nancy Freidhof, daughter of Vincent and Phyllis Freidhof, were married June 9, 1979. They are the parents of two children: Courtney and Marcy. Craig works at Howard County Equity and Nancy is employed part-time at Colonial Manor in Elma and as a housewife.

#### Lavern Worple Family

Lavern H., son of Vern and Dolores Worple of Elma, was born in the Elma Hospital on April 21, 1952, and has resided in Elma all his life except 1971-73 when he worked in Illinois.

Lavern, Jr., married Betty Trout November 14, 1973, in Princeton, Illinois. Betty was a supervisor with GTE and Lavern was an accountant with Illinois Grain Corp. and Holiday Inns. They moved back to Elma November 7, 1974.

Lavern is employed as an accountant for C & H Farm Service, New Hampton, Iowa, and is serving our town as City Clerk. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Elma Community Club, Farm Bureau and active as a CCD teacher, I. C. Lector, Catholic Charities Lay-speaker, and Red Cross Multi-Media Instructor, and in the TEC program of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Betty is a certified med-aide at Colonial Manor, Elma, and a newspaper correspondent for Times-Plain Dealer, Riceville Recorder, Charles City Press, New Hampton Tribune and Waterloo Courier. She is active in community affairs being a 4-H leader, I. C. Choir Director and organist, 9th grade CCD teacher, Elma Cottage Religious Education Coordinator and Senior Citizens Meal Site Coordinator and a member of the Altar-Rosary Society.

In 1977, Toby, Chris and Matt Trout, nephews of the couple joined their home and were adopted by Lavern and Betty on March 11, 1986.

*See photo at end of photo section.*

#### Nick Zeimetz Family

Nick Zeimetz immigrated to the United States from Seifferwick, Germany, in 1930 and became a United States citizen in 1957. He lived with his aunt and uncle in Avon, Minnesota, and worked as a butcher at St. John's University until he moved to the Elma-Alta Vista area in 1936. He worked for Charles Klobassa as a butcher for two years. In 1938 he married Lidwina Busch of Festina and they started farming northwest of Elma. Prior to being married, Lidwina had worked at the Hastings Hospital in Elma for a year. In 1946 they moved to an acreage in Busti and he worked part time for Klobassa's until 1947 when he started working for Oliver in Charles City. He was employed there at the time of his death in 1961. He was a KC member. Lidwina was a den mother and taught religion. She is still an active resident of Elma. They were the parents of seventeen children.

Virgil (deceased)—Worked for Western Electric in Rochester, Minnesota, and was part owner of Zeimetz Motors, Spring Valley, Minnesota. He was married to



Zeimetz family. (Left to right)—Being held, Tom, Barb, Mary Jo, Nick, Jr., Tina. (Sitting)—Lou Ann, Cathy, Nick, Lidwina, Marilyn. (Standing)—Linda, Janet, Zip, Virgil, Roger, Susan, Marie and Mike.



Zeimetz family. (Left to right, sitting)—Tina, Linda, Mary Jo, Barb, Lidwina, Cathy, Marie, Janet. (Standing)—Marilyn, Lou Ann, Tom, Nick, Jr., Larry, Zip, Virgil, Mike, Roger and Susan.

Mary Hartogh and they had three children. His family still resides in Rochester.

Roger—Part owner of Zeimetz Motors, Spring Valley, Minnesota. He is married to Angie Hattig and they have four children.

Cathy—Married to James Nosbisch and the mother of six children. They reside on a farm north of Stewartville, Minnesota. Cathy is a sales clerk at Donaldsons in Rochester and Jim is a salesman for Zeimetz Motors.

Marilyn—Married to Kenny Kiernan and the mother of four children and has two grandchildren. They reside in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Kenny works for Iowa Power & Electric.

Lou Ann—Married to John Huegel and the mother of four children. They reside on a farm southwest of Alta Vista. Lou Ann has a beauty shop in her home and John farms.

Susan—Married to Jerry Marr and the mother of four children. They reside on a farm northwest of Spring Valley, Minnesota. Susan works as a secretary for IBM in Rochester, Minnesota, and Jerry farms.

Zip (Francis)—Part owner of Zeimetz Motors, Spring Valley, Minnesota. He is married to Linda Anderson and they have two children.

Marie—Married to Dennis Smith and the mother of three children. They reside and farm northeast of Elma.

Janet—Married to Bob Flaherty and they have four children. They reside in Lourdes, Iowa. Janet is head cook at the Elma Public School and Bob works for Monray Windows in Osage, Iowa.

Mike—Owner of Zeimetz Service, Elma. He is married to Rosie Smith and they have three children.

Tom—Lives in Minneapolis and is a bartender at a private club. He does special education volunteer work with handicapped children.

Linda—Married to Francis Smith and they have five children. They reside and farm east of Elma.

Tina (Christine)—Married to Dale Roethler and they have two children. They reside on a farm west of Alta Vista. Tina works for Sara Lee in New Hampton. Dale is a carpenter.

Barb—Married to Pat Smith and they have three children. They reside on a farm southeast of Elma. Barb works for Comprehensive Systems, Elma, and Pat runs the county maintainer and farms.

Mary Jo—Married to Lonnie Friedrich and they have three children. They reside and farm north of Elma. Mary Jo works for Peoples Savings Bank in Elma.

Nick, Jr.—Shop Foreman at Zeimetz Motors, Spring Valley, Minnesota. He is married to Teresa Wemett and they have three children. They reside in Elma where Teresa is a teacher's aide at the Elma Preschool.

Larry—Lives in Phoenix, Arizona, and is a barber/hairstylist in Scottsdale, Arizona.

### Francis "Zip" Zeimetz Family

Francis "Zip" and Linda Zeimetz were married June 17, 1977. They have two children: Sara, born April 30, 1979, Scott, born April 18, 1981.



### Mike Zeimetz Family

Mike Zeimetz, son of Lidwina (Busch) and the late Nick Zeimetz, married Rosemary Smith, daughter of Mabel (Tierney) and the late Clem Smith, on November 28, 1970, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Lourdes. In their first three years of marriage they lived in Hiawatha, Iowa.

Mike was employed at Century Engineering, while Rosemary attended Paris Academy of Beauty in Cedar Rapids. After completing school she was employed at Sonya's Boutique in Cedar Rapids.

In 1973, Mike, Rosie and Kimberly moved to Elma on the Albert Lauck farm, owned by Harlin Pietan. At this time, Mike was employed by White Farm Equipment in Charles City. Rosie was then employed at "Little Butch's" bar and restaurant owned by Don Buzette and later was employed at Colonial Manor Nursing Home.

In 1978, the Zeimetz's purchased a house in Elma (known as the Cora McCarthy-Gertrude Clark home).

In 1981, Mike was employed at the Howard County Equity Service Station and in 1983 they leased the station. In 1985, they purchased the building and together operate the business, "Zeimetz Service." Besides Kimberly, born in 1972, the Zeimetz's have two other daughters, Lori Ann, born in 1974; and Kelli Margaret, born in 1977.



Lori, Rosie, Kim, Mike and Kelli, in front.

### Ben Zelner

Ben Zelner was well-known in the community as a dealer in scrap iron and hides. He was born in Russia and came to the U.S. around 1911, first to Osage and later to Elma. He was engaged in the hide and wool business most of the time he lived here. He never married and lived in rooms over the Condon Produce Station. He was killed in a car accident in 1936. He formerly lived in an old wooden store building on west Main Street that burned and he lost his belongings and his collection of rags.

### Frank Zobeck Family

Frank and Grace Zobeck were born and raised in the Elma area. They farmed in the area and were the parents of five children: Lester, who was killed at Pearl Harbor; Jim of Cresco; LaVern of Elma; Lorraine (Mrs. Joe Kipping) of Cedar Rapids; and Deloris (Mrs. Don Knutson) of Jerico. Frank and Grace are both deceased.



Grace and Frank Zobeck—50th wedding anniversary.

### LaVern Zobeck Family

LaVern Zobeck, son of Frank and Grace Zobeck, lived all his life in the Elma area. When his parents moved into Elma in 1960, he and his wife, Betty, moved to their farm and are presently living there.

LaVern and Betty are parents of four children: Steven, David, Diane and Randy.



Betty and Vern Zobeck married 1947.



Helen and Victor Zobeck

**Victor Zobeck Family**

Victor Zobeck, son of Joseph and Josephine Zobeck, married Helen Voves, daughter of John and Anna Voves, on November 4, 1936.

They were the parents of two children: David and Judith.

Judith was killed in a head-on automobile accident on October 13, 1967, at the age of 21.

David married Carol Lentz, daughter of Vince and Millie Lentz, on February 9, 1963. They are the parents of five sons: Mark (22), Mike (21), Steven (19), Warren (13) and Jesse (6). They are Elma residents where Carol is employed at Comprehensive Systems. David is an



Carol and David Zobeck

employee of White Farm Equipment in Charles City, Iowa.

Victor Zobeck was employed by White Farm Equipment for many years and was enjoying his retirement at the time of his death May 29, 1980.

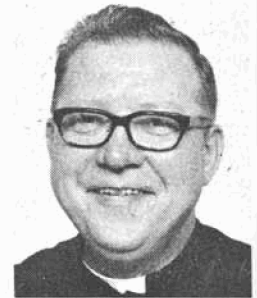
Helen still resides in their home in Elma.



Marvin Nielsen family. Standing, Peder, Beverly, Ronald, Jim, Joyce, Kathy (inset), Patty. Seated, Marvin.



Will O'Donnell and his sisters, Elizabeth Valvoda and Sabina Kanies.



Rev. Leo Pospichal



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nibaur—50th Anniversary.



Margaret and Fred Pierce



Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Reinhart



John and Ella Palmersheim

Willis and Evelyn Riley





Frank Riley family. Back: Joe, Mrs. Harold (Bernice) Showalter, Lee, Mrs. Frank (Marian) Ales, Gerald. Front: Mrs. Paul (Francis) Shannon, Florence, Frank and Paul.



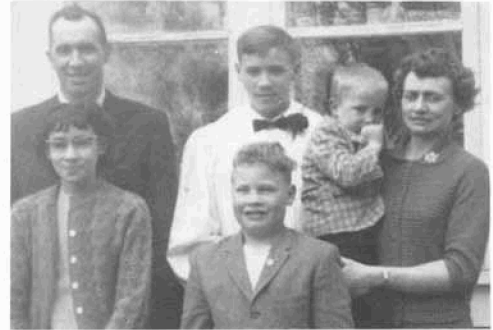
Frank Streich family—Lavern, Leona, Lloyd, Leo, Louis, Lucille, Larry, Leonard. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Streich.



Grace and Fred Schwake



Elroy and Sandy Streich, Holly and Bryan.



Roland Thies family. Back row: Roland, Greg, Bill, Mary. Front: Sheryl and Tim Thies.



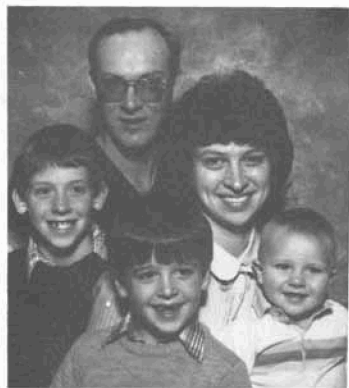
Ronald Tierney family. Back row: Chad, Sandra, Ronald. Front: Thresa and Casey.



Sam and Merle Tierney



Mrs. John Voves



Left to right: Dave and Donna Fangman, Shane, Ryan, and Jared.



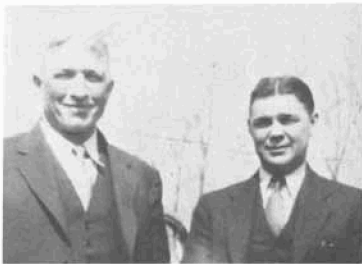
Mike and Alice Fogarty and Alice Brophy.



Eugene Freidhof family—Gert, Mike, Betty (Freidhof) Praska, David, Richard, and Gene.



Mrs. John Lenehan, Mary (Fogarty) Brophy, John Fogarty, Alice Fogarty, and Mike Fogarty.



Mike Fogarty and Joe Hoffman



Glennon family—Thomas, John, Loretta Bigley, Archie, Stella Lenahan, Carrie McGourty, Gertrude Glennon.



Merrill Havlik family—Andrew, Merrill, Barb, Jonathan.



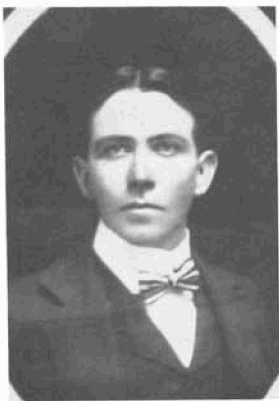
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hidding



Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Hidding



Gert and Alvie Johnson



Thomas and Mary (Cashman) Knox



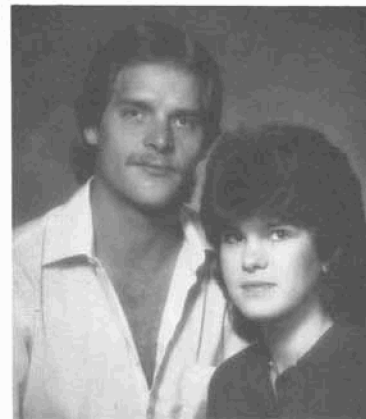
George Kohles



Gay Loftus family. Back row: Pat, Bob. Front: Olga and Gay.



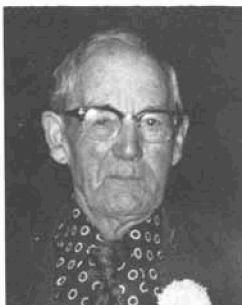
Otto Krumm children—Edwin Ladwig, Delbert Streich, Lois Meier, Kenneth Krumm, and Elroy Streich.



Vance and Debbie Fangman Moorman



Mildred Mulick, daughter of Dr. Mulick.



Frank Meier



Lloyd and Angela (Keefe) Mahoney

Mr. H. A. Moore, the photographer.





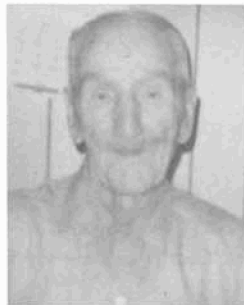
Francis Meier family—Mark and Cindy, Leroy, Francis, Lisa, Lois, Leonard, Myrna and Randy Welter.



Lucille and Vern Murphy



Velma Acker



Charlie Blaska



Ida Billington on her 88th birthday.



Earl and Ida (Krumm) Billington taken in 1957.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Billington



Jack Biwer, with Leander and Geraldine Heying's five oldest daughters.



Agnes Biwer, daughter of Mathias and Annie Biwer.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Biwer—60th wedding anniversary.



Clarice Burch—May, 1981



Mr. and Mrs. John Block—50th wedding anniversary.



Wyron and Elsie Buchholz, parents of Charlotte Platte and Marlys Johnson.



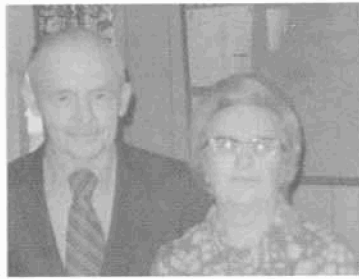
Henry Deterding family. Back row: Darlene, Mrs. Phil (Marlene) Schneider, Mrs. Louis (Mary Jo) Trachta. Front row: Mary and Henry Deterding, and Gene.



Donald Boehmer.



Mr. and Mrs. Tim Deegan, once lived in the house now owned by Katherine Beaumaster.



Ernest and Marie Frahm—May, 1973



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haskovec—wedding anniversary.



Mrs. Hi (Francis) Erion, a former Elma resident.



Elgas family. Standing: George Shannon, P. A. Elliott, Stacie (Burke) Elgas, Frank Sullivan, Leon Dostart. Sitting: Ann Kohler, Clara Shannon, Isabelle Elliott, Ben Elgas, Margaret Elgas, Margaret Sullivan, Peter Elgas, Catherine Dostart. Picture taken at Thomas and Margaret Elgas' golden wedding anniversary—1935.



Mr. and Mrs. George Larsen—April, 1974

### BUSTI PEOPLE



George and Mary Ostrander

George Ostrander was born in Pennsylvania in April of 1823. He apprenticed in his father's blacksmith shop at age 10. He came to Iowa in 1856 and during the intervening years, watched the country change from a vast unknown prairie to a rich and thickly settled community. He married Catherine Shult and she died in 1860. They were the parents of three children—Nancy, Betsey and George.

In 1862 he married Lizzie Boggess and they had one child, Ermina. Lizzie died and in 1867 he married Mary Huber. They had six children: Mary, Emily, William, Antone, Maggie, and Cora.

George died in November of 1914.

He had been one of the charter members of the Good Samaritan Lodge when it was organized in Elma. He operated a blacksmith shop on one corner of his farm at Busti for many years. In the early days he was often engaged as an auctioneer. He took a prominent part in the social and business life of the community.

George built a blacksmith shop in 1860. It was a landmark in the area and was torn down in 1905.

A. Rowley lived more than 28 years at Busti where he had a wagon and blacksmith shop. He died in 1926.



The LaVern Worple Family



Steve and Kay Worple and Michael