

K R E A T Z

Very little is known of the Kreatz family before they came to America from Germany. Franc and Ferdinand (brothers) settled in Plymouth Township sometime between 1855 and 1858. On October 1, 1860 they walked to Forest City near Litchfield, Minnesota to purchase the land from the government office. The land purchased was the West one-half, south-west quarter Section Twenty-nine, consisting of eighty acres and the north-west quarter Section Twenty-nine, consisting of 160 acres. They paid \$1.25 per acre on a warrenty deed of 1855. They had small log cabins built on the property near the Kreatz Lake where they lived with their families. In 1868, Franc, Sr. sold his land and purchased eighty acres east of the Ferdinand Kreatz farm. In 1873, both Frank and Ferdinand built homes on their farms. These houses are now known as the Gustav Kreatz home and the Arthur Kreatz home.

An order for a meeting of the Town Board on June 20, 1863 was called. An election for a militia was ordered. Twenty-four votes were cast. Charles Tolman received twenty-four votes for Captain; Amos Hoyt received twenty-two for first Lieutenant and Ferdinand Kreatz received twenty-two for second Lieutenant. The town board ordered provisions for a safety against the Indians. Another meeting was held on July 25, 1863 at 3:00 P. M. It was then proposed by vote and agreed that the matter of safety against the Indians be that if anyone should see the Indians within Plymouth Township limits, they should report to Tolman. He was to authorize on such a notice detail for the militia as he deemed necessary. The militia was first to hunt such Indians and as individuals pledge themselves to obey the orders of Tolman. By vote they agreed that each resident of our town shall fire one gun shot every night between sunset and dark.

Franc, later known as Frank Kreatz, Sr. was born in Germany in 1819. He was married to Anna Hughes Craite, who had a son Jack, by a former marriage. Frank lived on the farm until his death in 1893 and Anna lived there until her death in 1906. They were both layed to rest in Parkers Lake Cemetery. They had four sons, namely Agustine, 1856-1887; Fred, 1866-1951; George, 1864-1950; and Frank, 1860-1938. Agustine was unmarried.

Frank lived and worked the farm with his father and later married Lillian Frick. They

lived on the farm until about 1926 when they moved to Minneapolis. They had three sons and one daughter; Allen, 1895; Arthur, 1896; Walter, 1898; and Grace, 1902. Lillian Kreatz is still living in Minneapolis.

Allen lived on the farm and he and Arthur ran it until 1941, when he bought another farm near the Kreatz farm. He is married to Zina Patnode and they have two sons, George, 1931, and Robert, 1933.

Arthur lives on the old Kreatz farm and is married to Ellen Soire. They have no family

Walter lived in Minneapolis and is married to Gladys Schmidt. They have three sons and one daughter, Clyde, 1922; Vernon, 1924; Shirley, 1927; and Harlan, 1934. Vernon now lives on a tract of the original Kreatz farm.

Grace was married to Delos Dreher and has always lived in Minneapolis. She has two sons, Merwin, 1927, and Clark, 1933.

George Kreatz was married to Cora Keesling and they had three sons and two daughters, Ruben, Clayton and Gladys who are dead, and Raymond and Lorraine, now living in the west. George moved to California many years ago and after Cora's death, married Lucille Swanson of Robbinsdale. He died in 1950 and was buried in California and Lucille still resides in California.

Fred was married to Alice Quigley and lived in Oregon all their married life. They had no family and passed away within a month of each other in 1951.

Ferdinand Kreatz was born in Germany in 1820 and his parents names are unknown. In 1860 he married Susanna Marguriette Bies Reum, who also came here from Germany. She had three children by a former marriage, Christ, Fred and Christiana Reum. Ferdinand worked the farm all his life until his death in 1893, and his wife lived on the farm until her death in 1904. They had three children, William, Christine and Gustav.

William was born in 1862 and lived on the farm until he took a job in Minneapolis. He was married to Elizabeth Monick for a very short time when he died in 1896. Christine was born in 1862 and moved to Minneapolis in 1904. She was unmarried and died in 1946.

Gustav Kreatz was born in 1873 and lived his entire life on the farm. He was born in the log cabin near the lake and was nine months old when his family moved into the new house which is now the farm home. During his life he never traveled outside the state of Minnesota except once when he crossed the line into Wisconsin. Gus married Jennie Hatcher the grand daughter of Frank Hatcher, Sr., one of the early Plymouth settlers. He passed away in 1941 and his wife, Jennie in 1952. They had four children, Pearl, 1904,; Lloyd, 1907; Ronald, 1909; and Dorothy, 1914.

Pearl is married to Merrill Hasty and lives on a part of the Kreatz farm. They have four children, Marvel, 1925; Douglas, 1928; Mavis, 1929; and Gayle, 1936. Marvel and Gayle live at home. Douglas is married to Arlene Wagmer and has a daughter, Marie; and, like his mother, lives on a part of the farm. Mavis is married to Merlin Reinking and they have two sons, Ronald and Richard. She lives in the house on her Grandfather's farm.

Lloyd passed away at the age of ten months in 1908.

Ronald is married to Irene Webb and lives in Robbinsdale. They have three children, Kay, 1943; Lloyd, 1945; and Carol, 1946.

Dorothy was married to Robert Allen and they have two sons, Stanley, 1937; and Donald, 1939; Her family lives on a part of the farm also, although Dorothy now resides in California.

It is very unusual, but the entire Ferdinand Kreatz family who have passed away are all buried in the Parkers Lake Cemetery.