



Volume 1, Issue 1

## Our Story Continues . . .

Autumn 2019

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### Facts and Figures

- 2000+ - minimum number of members of the Klitz Family;
- 450+ - minimum number of members of the Kaup Family;
- 1200+ - minimum number of members of the Knowlton Family;
- 2400+ - minimum number of members of the O'Donnell Family;
- 800+ - minimum number of members of the Stevens Family

### Reunion 2019

We give a very hearty **thank you** for everyone who helped organize, setup, serve at and/or break down for our reunion the first weekend of August.

The weekend was a resounding success. All were treated to won-

derful Nebraskan foods, the history of our family, and meeting distant, but no longer long-lost, cousins.

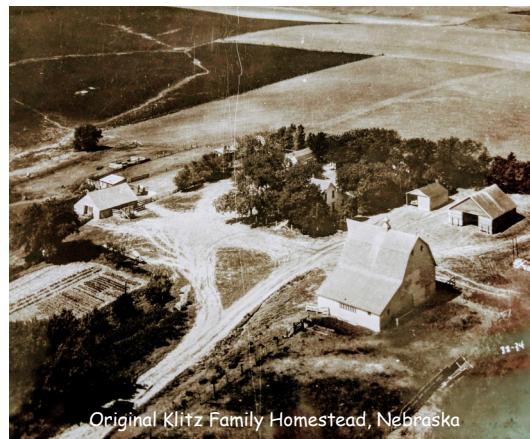
We were especially grateful to have the Königs (distant cousins) and Matthias (a

dear friend) join us from Germany.

All presentation materials from the reunion (i.e. cemetery sheets, generational posters, and Power-Point presentations) are available on our website.



Farmland where the Klitzes lived for five generations, Münsterland, Germany



Original Klitz Family Homestead, Nebraska

## More on the Reunion

The local Dodge, NE newspaper published an article about our reunion. Click [here](#) to read the article.

If you are interested in copies of material you saw at the reunion, please look at our website to see if the item is there for you to download/print.

If the item is not there, please email us and we can send you

an electronic version of the item.

If you are interested in creating additional presentation items such as cemetery sheets/generational posters, please email us and we can send you a template for you to create one.

Finally, if you encountered any information that didn't make sense, or you know if

incorrect, please let us know so that we can correct it.

Our email is  
[info@klitzfamily.com](mailto:info@klitzfamily.com)



**Schöppingen to Dodge**  
A Celebration for the Ages

Logo for the 2019 Klitz Family Reunion

## Resources for Research

One frequent question we encounter is, "Where did you find all this information and all of the documents?"

Well known genealogical websites have provided a wealth of information.

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) has provided most of the historical documents we have.

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)—a website run by the Church of Latter Day Saints—provides a lot of direction, even though the site may not offer as many documents online as [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) has a lot of land records specifically for Nebraska, including homestead records.

Other documents have been found by visiting the historical sites and towns or by researching books about and/or from those places.

"Knowing the answers matters. Understanding the lives of our parents helps us understand who we are."  
- former Sen. Bob Kerrey

## More Resources for Research

There are many other online resources available for little or no cost.

[www.data.matricula-online.eu/eu](http://www.data.matricula-online.eu/eu). provides scanned copies of German church records. This site and the records are in German and are hand written which can complicate research.

Please see page 3 for a guide to first steps of researching German church records.

Local genealogical societies can offer more personalized options for research. Hamilton County (Cincinnati, Ohio) Genealogical Society has a wonderful site with

a lot of information about Cincinnati—  
[www.hcgsohio.org](http://www.hcgsohio.org)

A branch of the Klitz family lived in Cincinnati after emigrating from Prussia in 1847 and 1849.



Image of the former St. Paul's Church, Cincinnati, OH

## Encounters with History

We have all read about major historical events in school. Maybe we have even visited a historical site, whether it be a castle or battlefield or the ruins of a town.

Hopefully these have given us a sense of the time and events that took place and created humanity's story.

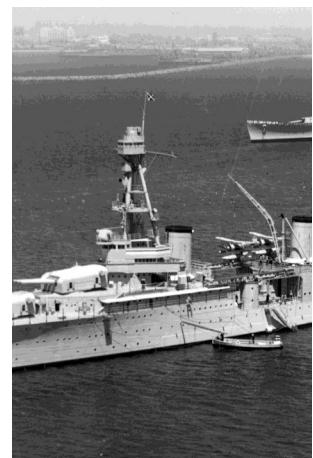
But how did our family encounter these events?

This new segment of our website recounts the stories of our ancestors as they witnessed or at times even participated in these historical events.

In 1957 the motion picture "The Bridge on the River Kwai" was released. It tells the story of WWII British POWs forced to construct a strategic

bridge for their Japanese captors. Along side the British POWs were American and Dutch POWs, survivors of the Battle of Sunda Strait (late February/early March 1942).

This sea battle saw the sinking of the flagship of the U.S.'s Asiatic Fleet, the USS Houston. [James Knowlton](#) was gunners mate, 3rd class, on the ship when it went down. Learn more about James' sto-



Photograph of the USS Houston, 1934

## Encounters with Herman Klitz

[Herman Klitz](#) (b. 1884) served in the [13th Reserve Infantry Regiment](#) for the German Army during World War 1. The 13th Reserve was comprised of men from Westphalia.

The regiment advanced with the German Army as it moved through Belgium into northern France. The soldiers were

encamped in the French Flanders region around the town of Vasnoy in the winter of 1915/1916. It was here, in December 1915, Herman and eight of his comrades were accidentally killed when an infantry gun discharged when it was moved.

Herman is buried in the [German Army cemetery](#) just out-

side the town of Frasnoy. The cemetery is one of only a handful of German military cemeteries located outside of present-day Germany.

Herman Klitz was the great-granduncle of Renate Klitz, one of our Nordwalde (German) Klitz cousins.



Burial plot of Herman Klitz near the town of Frasnoy in northern France.

## First-Step Researching of German Records

The most daunting task of researching German records is that the records are in German. If you don't speak German, it can be quite confusing trying to decipher what is written.

It's a fact that the older the records are, the more difficult they are to comprehend.

When starting to exam-

ine German records, here is a cheat sheet for which records are which:

**TAUFEN**—these are baptismal records, usually containing the name of the child, the parents' names, godparents' names and date of baptism.

**HEIRATEN**—these are marriage records, usu-

ally containing the names of the bride and groom and the marriage sponsors/witnesses.

**TOTE**—these are the death/burial records, usually including the name of the deceased and the date they died/were buried. Occasionally, you may find a cause of death in the record as well.

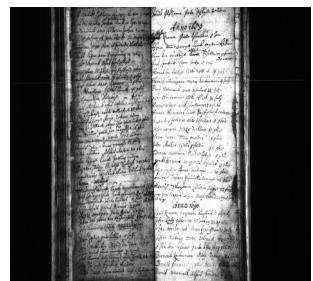


Image of a page from the Schöppingen Church books

KlitzFamily.com

Did you know?

The Klitz Family left Prussia in 1869 with 200 Thalers (Prussian currency) to their name. We've been told one could buy 4 cows for that amount in the 1860's. Around 1870, the exchange rate was 1 Thaler equals \$.73. So 200 Thalers was the equivalent of \$146. At that time, one could buy the following:

About 140 bushels of wheat (\$.102/bushel) OR

1460 pounds of dried apples (\$.10/pound) OR

About 58 calves (\$2.50/calf) OR

About 970 gallons of Kerosene (\$.15/gallon) OR

About 970 yards of bleached cotton (\$.15/yard)

Have questions about what's in this issue?

Want further information about an ancestor?

Notice something that's incorrect or doesn't seem quite right?

Then feel free to email us at

[info@klitzfamily.com](mailto:info@klitzfamily.com).

**Family Heirloom Corner**

This clock, produced by E. Ingraham and Co. (Bristol, CT), was made in the early 1900's. It belonged to John Caspar Klitz and Mary Schrage and was possibly a wedding gift for them in 1905.

It is an "Anchor"-style clock with an enameled wood case with marbleized moldings and columns. It cost \$8.75 in 1905/1906, the equivalent of about \$250 in 2018.

The clock is currently in the possession of John and Mary's great-grandson, Tim Klitz, who



received this family heirloom as a wedding gift from his father, Chuck Klitz.