

Historical Perspectives

A Semi-annual Journal of
the German American Museum,
Library and Family History Center



St. Luke Church, St. Lucas, Iowa. June 2023.

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German American Museum, Library and Family History Center

Mission Statement:

**Preserve the Past
Celebrate the Presence
Embrace the Future**

About Historical Perspectives

**With the publication of Historical Perspectives,
Historische Betrachtungen, we are focusing on articles
From many disciplines including the arts, humanities, history, literature, and
the social and physical sciences.**

German American Museum Exhibit Theme Areas

**Geographic features of the landscape
Indigenous Peoples: removal policies and tribal revival
Europeans coming to Iowa
Role of religion and the clergy in the community
Importance of education and the teaching nuns
Development of farming and industrial arts
Evolution of family social life
Sports: baseball, basketball, and softball
National defense service and economic change
Preserving and celebrating cultural heritages**

St. Lucas Historical Society

German American Museum, Library and Family History Center

Dear friends of the Museum:

The Spring months have been quite busy with the planning and implementation of the Maifest event at Pivo Brewery in late April, grant applications for the Museum's new roof, the bus museum visit with historical themes on German American issues, and the bon voyage reception for the Luren Singing Society.

We held a board meeting in May to select a roofing contractor, receive our annual financial update, and reviewed donations strategy for the new roof system.

In March we returned to the Max Kade Institute of the University of Wisconsin Madison, its premier exhibit of "Germans in Wisconsin" that was exhibited for nine months in our museum. This outstanding exhibit portrayed the rich history of Germans in Wisconsin. Four years earlier, we exhibited the University of Iowa exhibit on "Germans in Iowa".

As you sort through your family valuables, please consider sharing a copy of any trans-Atlantic correspondence and photos of your family and German relatives with the Museum. These letters would be a valuable contribution to understanding family ties across the many decades.

This Journal issue contains articles on the Perry Store, the history of Corpus Christi and its revival at St. Luke Church, the Klimesh family genealogy, the recent history of St. Clément's Church, German National Security Strategy, Kissinger's 100th birthday, and recent Museum activities. We hope you find these articles of interest. Let us know of historic topics for future issues.

Have a great Summer.

Sincerely,

Clair Blong, President

212 East Main Street, P.O. Box 195, St. Lucas, Iowa 52166

Contents of Issue # 15

The Perry Family Store By Flora Perry McMullen, Ormond Beach, Florida	5
Corpus Christi Revival at St. Luke Church By Father Nicolaus Radloff, Fort Atkinson, Iowa	16
Are You Related to the Jan and Anna (Mikota) Klimesh Family? By Steve Klemish, Spillville, Iowa	27
St. Clement Church: Restoring a Religious Icon By Helen Kruse Pinter, Fort Atkinson, Iowa	44
First German National Security Strategy By James Bendengal, Bonn, Germany	52
Kissinger's 100th Birthday in Furth, Germany By Carl Most, Rochester, Minnesota	55
Recent Museum Activities	57

The Perry Family Store in St Lucas, Iowa

By Flora (Perry) McMullen

Introduction

At about the age of seven or eight, I would take the short walk to the store known then as **T Perry and Sons Co., Inc** (first named **Perry's Store**) in St. Lucas and began to do small jobs like dusting, sweeping the floor, and eventually did more complicated work to help in the family business. This was in about 1947-48, after my dad had passed away and our family members all "pitched in" to help.

My first job involving serving customers started at about the age of ten, when I began selling at the candy counter on weekends; an especially busy time was on Sunday mornings after each church service at St. Luke's Catholic Church. The surrounding area farm families came into town to attend Mass and after services they would stop at the store for their weekly shopping trip, to purchase items they didn't grow or raise on their farms before they returned home.

On Saturdays I would get out a small scale and a stack of brown paper or clear cellophane bags, then select several bulk candy boxes (I think they were about ten pounds each) of colorful jelly beans, candy corn, lemon drops, chocolate covered peanuts, assorted hard candies etc. Next, I would scoop out and measure a predetermined amount of candy to make either a 10 cent, or 25 cent bag of candy, bag it, then mark the price on the outside, staple it shut and place about 10 or 15 bags of each candy at the back of a tall dark oak and glass display case which held the various bulk candies to tempt the children for their sweets.

Parents would give their children money to come to the candy area and purchase a treat or two. Another case held candy bars like Baby Ruth, Butterfinger, Snickers, Hershey Bars, Bit O Honey, Wrigley's gum, etc. At that time 5, 10 or 25 cents would buy enough candy for the week! I had my own cash box and would keep a tally of purchases, making sure that the sheet was balanced at the end of the day.

As I grew older, at about the age of twelve, I would either bag groceries, clean counters, and "front" the shelves as needed; also sweep floors, dust, and help clean up for the next day. By the time I was a teenager (mid-1950's), I had learned how to clerk for the adult customers, using the adding machine or hand-tallied small purchases because we only had one adding machine for the two or three clerks working at the same time. Our cash register was a heavy, metal, extremely large one, and I remember being so proud when I was finally allowed to record purchases, handle larger amounts of cash, and make change.

This was before credit cards were invented so all purchases were either by cash, check, or some patrons had a running charge account and would pay every few weeks or monthly. Another observation I have often reflected upon was the amount of honesty that was expected at this time in history, partly because no one ever “checked on” the credit ability of the customers. Also, much of the store stock was displayed within easy reach so the customer brought purchases to the counter to pay for them—an early version of the self-serve supermarkets of today which include the customer filling carts and includes self-pay!

Before I graduated from high school, I remember “running the store” for a few weeks one summer, supervised by my mother, while my brothers went on a fishing vacation to Colorado. I ordered food from two of our provision wholesalers and also placed orders from the fresh bread supplier and dairy trucker. When they arrived with their orders I verified and approved each order and put the supplies on display for sale. I also served the customers and balanced the books every day, being confident that I knew how to do all the work!

History

To look back into the history of Perry’s Store in St Lucas, I do not recall that anyone ever recorded a chronological written record. The following information was compiled by me, with help from my brother Matt, and sister, Marie, using genealogy information, historical records and memorable stories.

Great-grandfather Nicholas Perry Senior (1814-1901) and his wife Maria (Strauss) Perry (1816-1887) were born in Luxembourg and came to the United States in 1848. They left from Antwerp, Belgium on a ship named EDWINA with their three oldest children (Maria, Kate and Nicholas Junior born 1837), arrived in New York, and settled first in Holy Cross, Wisconsin. Theodore (1855-1921) our grandfather, was born there. After living in Wisconsin for a short time, part of the family moved to LaSalle, Illinois where they purchased and operated a farm for a few years.

In 1859 Nicholas Jr. moved again, this time to Old Mission, Iowa, an abandoned Indian settlement (part of which became the original name for St. Lucas). Shortly after his arrival Nicholas established a business, opening the first General Store, (named **Perry’s Store**) a wooden structure, near the main intersection of the small village. Theodore and Nicholas Sr. moved from LaSalle to St. Lucas in about 1875.

According to information published in the 1878 History of Fayette County Iowa, page 756, the family members operated a thriving business as a grocery and dry goods store in the small town, also owned and operated a hardware store and a hotel. Nicholas Sr was named the postmaster when he arrived, and Nicholas Jr was named his assistant. The post office was located inside the general store. In 1867, Nicholas Jr. married Annie Robund (also spelled Robinet) and several years later they left the area to move to Hosper, Iowa, where he owned and operated a hotel. The family eventually moved back to the St. Lucas area and owned and operated a farm.



Wooden Perry Store on the left. About the time of World War I.

On October 24, 1877, Theodore married Catherine Bies (1855-1933) in St. Lucas. Theodore purchased the store from his father on February 1, 1878, and after his father Nicholas passed away in 1901, the family continued to operate the General Merchandise Store as **T. Perry and Sons Co. Inc.** The following is a quote from the 1891 Fayette County Iowa Biography Directory, page 219:

Theodore Perry

Mr. Perry has a fine trade in general merchandise, his stock consisting of clothing, boots and shoes, hats and caps, dry-goods, notions, groceries and provisions. He owns the leading store in the place and enjoys a liberal patronage, won by fair and honest dealing and impartial treatment. He was appointed Postmaster twelve years ago (1879) and has held the position continuously since to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has been School Director for a number of years he affiliates with the Democratic party and takes an active interest in public affairs. He and his family are members of the German congregation of the St. Lucas Roman Catholic Church, and in the community are highly respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.



Photo of Perry Block, 1917.

Theodore operated the family business in the original wooden structure until 1917. It was then replaced, on the original site, with the cement block, pebble dashed structure which is still standing as of this writing. As quoted above, Theodore held many civic and political positions in the St. Lucas Community and in Fayette County. One example of their generosity is the donation of one of the beautiful stained-glass windows (JESUS AND THE LITTLE CHILDREN) which were created in Germany and imported and installed in the St. Luke's Catholic Church. The inscription on the window reads: "Donated by Theodor and Catherina Perry".

Our paternal grandparents, Theodore and Catherine were the parents of ten children: Nickolas, Mary, Barbara, Kate, Joe, Anna (Sister Cordula), Mathew (born John Mathias), Victor, Clara, and Carolyn. From family stories it was said that some of the sons and daughters worked in the store in various capacities as they became adults. As years passed most of the children married and either left the area or pursued other occupations, but their son, Mathew, and daughter Mary (wife of Ben Kuennen), were most involved with the operations of the General Store.

With the beginning of World War I, Mathew (his official papers say Math Perry and he was known locally as Matt), enlisted into the Army on April 27, 1918, attended basic training in Camp Fort Dodge Iowa and eventually was deployed to France where he suffered a serious bullet injury in the Battle of St. Mihiel. He remained in a trench for a few days with his arm partially blown off until the medics could safely get in to remove Matt and the many soldiers who had either died or were injured. He was in an army hospital for recovery and eventually honorably discharged on February 8, 1919, awarded a Purple Heart, and returned to St. Lucas where he



Theodore Perry & Family

continued as a clerk in the original **Perry's Store**. (Additional World War I information is available about Matt Perry's war years in the St. Lucas Historical Society)

On April 29, 1919, Matt Perry (1889-1946) married Theresa Barbara Blong (1899-1980). They were the parents of eight children: Rita, Leo (died as infant), Francis, Marie, Robert, Jerome, Flora, and Matthew Jr. During the next year Matt became the manager of **T Perry and Sons Co, Inc.** Following in his father's and his grandfather's footsteps, on November 19, 1921, Matt was named the Postmaster of St. Lucas. The Post Office was located inside the store just as it had been for his father and grandfather. Matt's sister, Mary, continued working in the store and her son, Albert (Bert) Kuennen, also became part of the business operation.

The business expanded during the 1920's through the 1940's, and continued operating as **T. Perry and Sons Co, Inc.**, still being the main grocery/dry goods merchant in the area. The store was stocked with a full line of canned and packaged foods, fresh fruits, and vegetables (some of them coming from the large family backyard garden in season) and had regular deliveries of fresh baked goods, meat from a butcher shop in Calmar, Iowa, and local dairy products. The store was known in the wide surrounding area for stocking and selling Oshkosh overalls, blue jeans, and shirts; Red Wing work boots and shoes; men's and women's clothing, fabrics, etc.

The store also stocked over the counter drugs and personal care items were sold, along with special gift items which included some costume jewelry and gold wedding rings! Another unique feature during the early days of operation was that the store carried many veterinary products for local farmers, and they were stored in and sold from a "warehouse" that was built adjacent to the store. This service continued through the 1950's.



When Matt purchased the store, he also expanded a unique clothing line carried by the store to include taking orders for men's tailored suits. He took measurements from customers and obtained boxes of fabric swatches from a Chicago tailoring shop so the customers would be able to choose their fabric. Matt drove to Chicago a few times a year to pick up the finished men's suits for the lucky customers and would return with the suits and also special gift items to sell! Matt would also treat his family with special gifts when he returned, I remember some were jewelry for my older sisters and I would usually be given a special doll, and my brothers would receive watches and Junior would get a pull toy or truck for the sand pile.

While he was in Chicago my dad often visited and stayed with his special friends, the Regnery Family, formerly from the St. Lucas area. In 1939 his trip also included a visit to the Chicago World's Fair and he returned with gifts for the family, including a cane and a large book about the Fair, (both items I have been trying to locate within the family, but no one seems to know if they still exist).

On March 12, 1946, Matt Perry passed away unexpectedly while visiting his sister, Sister Cordula, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While there he also went for a periodical health checkup at the hospital and died the evening before he was to return home. This was a shock to the Perry family and the entire St. Lucas community. The family store would now be operated by Theresa Perry, and her children. Mary Kuennen and her son, Albert continued in the partnership.

Shortly after Matt Perry's passing, Albert Kuennen was named the Postmaster of St. Lucas and a new post office building was built next to the store a few years later. The raised area in the store which had held the post office was then converted into the store operations office.



Perry Family in the Store. Around 1920.

Interior of Perry Store.



The following is a synopsis of the members of the immediate Perry family in regard to their part in the operations of the family business from the 1920's to 1958:

Rita (1920-2006) was a clerk until she opened her own beauty shop in 1945 (Rita's Beauty Shop) which was located in the basement of the family home. In 1949 she married Anthony Karnik (1921-1965) and they were the parents of four children. The Karnik family owned and operated a farm near Fort Atkinson, Iowa. Rita continued to operate her beauty shop on the lower level of their farm family home for many years. Rita lived in Kentucky with her daughter Anne for several years until her death in 2006.

Francis (1925-2012) was also a clerk until he left to attend Loras College in Dubuque IA. He also attended St. Meinrad's Seminary in Indiana as preparation for the priesthood. He was ordained as a priest in St. Lucas in 1950 for the Dubuque Diocese. This was an historical event in St. Lucas because the Bishop of the Diocese came there to ordain three new priests from St. Luke's Parish at St. Luke's Church in one ceremony. During his tenure Rev. Francis Perry taught at Loras Academy, was a hospital chaplain in Waterloo, and held various positions in several churches in the Diocese. Shortly after the celebration of 50 years as a priest he retired, moved to Dubuque, and often did substitute pastoral work until shortly before his death in 2012.

Marie (1927-2022), after graduation from St. Luke's High School was employed as a clerk, bookkeeper, and was an assistant in the post office until 1952 when she moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to pursue a career in accounting. In 1954 she married Maynard Marek (1923-2010) and they had three children. She retired several years ago and was living in Cedar Rapids until her death.

Robert (1929-1995) was attending Loras College at the time of his dad's passing in 1946 and discontinued his studies to help the family continue operating the store. He became a partner in the business with his mother until they sold the store in 1958. See the last section of this article.

Jerome (1934-1998) was a teenager at the time of his dad's passing, graduated from St. Luke's High School in 1952, and also worked in the store, but as an adult he was a mechanic at a local garage and a woodworker with a local builder for a few years. Next, he purchased the Mobil Gas Station on West Main in St. Lucas and operated that until he became disabled in a car accident and moved to Dubuque and Cedar Rapids.

Flora (1939) worked in the store until she graduated in 1957 from St. Luke's High School, moved to Dubuque IA and graduated from Clarke University (1961) with degrees in Art, History and Education. In 1977 she obtained an MS degree in Education, specializing in Reading from the State University of New York Fredonia. She married Dr. Patrick McMullen (1939) in 1961 and they had three children. Both were employed in various educational capacities in several states. After retirement they lived aboard their sailboat for several years and now reside in Ormond Beach FL.

Matthew Jr. (1940) was a toddler when his father passed. He also worked in the store as a youth and played on several sports teams until his high school graduation in 1958. He attended Loras College and then graduated from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, with a degree in Pharmacy. In 1963 he married Sharon Freyman (1941) from Dubuque, and they had three children. Matthew had been employed by pharmaceutical firms in Illinois and Indiana and are now retired and resides in Libertyville IL.

The Final Years

Robert (Bob) and his mother, Theresa, eventually purchased the Kuennen portion of the store partnership in the late 1940's, and the name was shortened to **Perry's Store** which was the name of the original store in the 1800's. In addition to the name change, many interior renovations were made to modernize the shopping experience. New freezers and refrigerated display cases were added to reflect current buying trends and some of the older types of shelving were removed to make the sales areas more open. I can still remember the beautifully embossed tin ceiling, the large ceiling fans, beautiful dark oak, varnished wooden shelves and display cases some of which were refurbished at that time to retain the "old fashioned General Store" effect.

In 1959 Theresa and Bob sold the store and the residential Perry property on East Main Street and both moved to Dubuque Iowa. In 1962 Bob married Marie Collins (1928-2015) and were parents of three children. He was employed as an Accountant in Dubuque until his retirement and death in 1995. Theresa lived in Dubuque for several years, then moved to Cedar Rapids to be near family, until her death in 1980. This ended the era of the Perry family store in St. Lucas Iowa.



Back Row: Rita, Francis, and Marie. Middle Row: Matt, Robert, Jerome and Theresa.
Front Row: Flora and Matthew. Date: early 1940s.

MEMORIES AND STORIES ABOUT OUR LIFE IN ST. LUCAS IN THE 1940'S AND 50'S

Matt and Flora remember that shortly after their Dads' death they began to deliver groceries with their wagon (or sled in winter) to the Sister's Convent and Priest's Rectory. This was a rather short distance that they were familiar with and at that time they needed something to do to help with the family store. They especially liked delivering to the nun's convent because one of them would usually appear with a treat or maybe a holy card or something else homemade. We have photos of all the nuns standing in the snow one time when someone had a camera for the special shot on a winter day.

After we learned to ride bikes, we would deliver small packages to elderly customers who would phone in the order and either one or both of us would hop on our bikes and ride out as far as the edge of town—that was probably not more than a mile. Not only would we drop off the delivery, but sometimes we would stop and visit or be offered a cookie or cold drink. Looking back, I sometimes think these people were lonely and we were able to provide them with a little break during the day. For our part, it is an extraordinary memory of our childhood.

Our property in St. Lucas included flower gardens, and a huge vegetable garden that was plowed each spring by a local gentleman who came with a horse and walked behind with a plow to till the land. He would let us pet the horse sometimes and we would give the horse a carrot as a treat! Also, in our backyard my older brother Francis as a teenager, planned out and made a full-size lawn tennis court for our family and our friends to use. We knew all the “rules” and took the games very seriously. Another space was used for a modified baseball, softball, and football field where neighborhood friends played afternoon and evening pick-up games. I played tackle football and one time a football hit my front teeth and I needed a root canal—I still have the crowns that were made and placed in 1958!

As a teenager I helped my sister, Marie, decorate the large display windows at the front of the store. We would make displays to show the recent arrival of new products. As each season changes, we would make appropriate decorations with poster board, and colorful crepe paper streamers, lights and large cardboard easels of Santa, Easter Bunny, etc. which were usually provided by various companies for promotion of their products. Major celebrations like July 4th, Christmas, Halloween, and Easter decorations were the most elaborate, and I remember that we especially advertised the Annual St. Luke’s Summer Celebration on the Church grounds which was a major event. After Marie moved to Cedar Rapids, I was in charge of the window decorations and did all the planning and decorating.

I had a special fondness for watching the large delivery trucks arrive, back up their truck close to the back door of the store, pull out a “long ladder like object with rollers instead of steps,” attach one end to the back of the truck and the far end would be placed at the store door. Soon box after box would roll down this ramp into the store and be checked off the delivery sheet by a store employee. The deliveries that were even more exciting were when they drove the truck around to the basement door. That was a large heavy metal door at ground level. They would open the door and roll down the steps several large barrels of both white and cider vinegar. I don’t remember ever “tapping” the barrels to insert the faucet but loved to watch that process. This was repeated several times in the summer and fall when everyone needed vinegar for the vegetable canning season. Customers would bring their own containers and one of us would go down to the basement to fill the jugs or bottles with vinegar.

In the early years that my grandparents and parents owned the store, they were good friends with the Regnery family. My Dad would visit and stay with them when he traveled to Chicago, and they would visit St. Lucas occasionally and visit the Perry family. My mother would sometimes recall the visits and tell us about the special meals she had made for their visits.

I remember on one of the visits, when I was about ten years old, Mr. Regnery arrived in a large black limousine with a smartly dressed African American chauffeur, parked in front of our house, and when some of the children were walking home from school and passed our house, they stopped walking and stared at the limo and driver—an experience they had never seen before.

Also, as a child I had another great memory of traveling to Chicago with my mother Theresa, and brothers Frank and Matthew jr. to visit the Regnery home for a few days. I remember that it was a beautiful large mansion in a garde-like walled-in setting, and for me as a child, the house had almost a fairy-tale type of decor. There were butlers, kitchen staff and gardeners in attendance. We stayed in rooms upstairs and I remember that we slept on satin sheets. I also got lost on the second floor in the “big house” and came down the wrong stairs, so the chef found me and took me back upstairs because I had used the wrong stairway.

Another memorable feature of our visit was time spent in the Regnery home library where we saw life sized full oil portraits of family members lining the dark wooden walls and huge gold edged art books on stands and Mr. Regnery would point out specific artworks. During the visit of a few days, we were also treated to a tour of Chicago and visited the Lincoln Park Zoo. I still wish now that I had been old enough then to have the full knowledge of that great experience.

I have another 1950’s memory about the suit patches used by customers in the 1930’s and 40’s when they were able to choose the fabric for a custom-tailored suit (mentioned earlier). We were cleaning out some no longer used items in the store at that time, and among the discarded items my mother thought she could use this excellent fabric for another purpose. We tore the cardboard off the swatches, washed the fabric and made several patch-work quilts.

The above memories and **The History of the Perry Store in St Lucas IA** are part of a book I am writing and hope to have published in the near future. If anyone has any more information, corrections or copies of photos please share them with me.

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Corpus Christi: Its History and Revival

By Fr. Nicholas Radloff
Pastor, St. Luke Parish, Christ Our Hope Cluster

Next April, a group of pilgrims from the Christ Our Hope Cluster will be traveling to Italy to pray at the churches and shrines which helped spread the Catholic Faith. One of those sites, famous to Catholics and non-Catholics alike, is the Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo.

Just outside the entrance to the Sistine Chapel in the Apostolic Palace is a group of lesser-known rooms painted by Michelangelo's rival, Raphael Sanzio and are appropriately named the Raphael Rooms. When they were painted in the early 16th century, at the same time Michelangelo was working on the ceiling of the nearby chapel, Raphael chose to match the decorations of these rooms to their function.

For example, the Room of the Signatura housed the Pope's library. Above the shelves of theology texts, Raphael chose to paint his famous "Disputation of the Holy Sacrament." Above the philosophy texts, his famous "School of Athens" can be found. Both paintings have outgrown the mere decoration of a library and have become well known.

The room next to the library is known as the Room of Heliodorus due to the painting depicting Heliodorus being expelled from the Temple of Jerusalem as recounted in the Old Testament book of 2nd Maccabees. Most of the paintings in this room point to the power of God because the Pope, utilizing his title of the Vicar of Christ on earth, used this room as an audience chamber. The paintings surrounding him gave credence to this authority and rule.

One can see an image of Pope Leo the Great rebuking Atilla the Hun. Another wall depicts St. Peter being freed from the chains of his prison cell by an angel. The fresco more to the point of a recent feast day, however, can be found over one of the windows. It is known as the Mass at Bolsena.



**Mass at Bolsena by Raphael. Painted between 1512 and 1514.
In the Apostolic Palace, the Vatican, Rome, Italy.**

In 1263 A.D., a Bohemian priest known as Peter of Prague was battling personal doubt that the bread and wine he would sacrifice during the Mass became the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. To bolster his faith, he embarked on a pilgrimage to Rome, just as Catholics of our Cluster will do in a few short months.

On his way to Rome, he stopped at Bolsena to celebrate Mass. Just after consecrating the bread to become the Eucharist, the host began to bleed and the blood dripped onto the corporal, the white cloth on the altar. His faith was transformed, and upon hearing of the miracle, Pope Urban IV issued a papal bull establishing the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ) in August of 1264. Raphael's fresco anachronistically recounts the Mass by showing Pope Urban IV and Swiss Guards in attendance.

Even with those present in the painting bearing a historical inaccuracy, the celebration and solemnity of the event depicted lives on to bear witness to truth Catholics believe: the Eucharist contains the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. We celebrate this at every Mass, but in a special way this feast allows us to draw special attention to this reality. So now, sixty days after Easter, (or in the United States, the Sunday that follows) we do so in a way that differs, at least physically, from many of our other celebrations.

The difference in this public liturgy takes the form of a public procession with the Eucharist. Shortly after the initial decree of this feast, processions commemorating this solemnity began to pop up in Germany and were growing by 1275.

Following in the footsteps of Urban IV, Pope Clement V renewed devotion to this feast with a decree of his own in 1314. His successor, Pope John XXII made it part of Canon Law in 1317 allowing its universal practice and making Eucharistic processions on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi commonplace by the end of the 14th century.

The processions varied from place to place by traversing urban streets, rural fields, or wherever the faithful could gather. Altars were erected along the processional path so that a benediction, a blessing, with the Eucharist could take place. Subsequent popes encouraged the continuation of such processions and granted special indulgences to those who participated. After the Reformation, the Council of Trent (1545-1563) solemnly approved and recommended the procession on Corpus Christi to act as a universal public witness of the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Sacrament.

After the Second Vatican Council, the presence of Eucharistic Processions decreased along with other liturgical practices but was never officially discouraged. In fact, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi still carried such importance that the 1983 Code of Canon Law requires bishops to be in their diocese for the event, placing it on footing like Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

Even with a decrease in practice, processions did continue in Iowa parishes. Notably, the processions at Immaculate Conception in Gilbertville and the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Dyersville have occurred annually since the late 1800s. In Rome, the practice was revived by Pope John Paul II who led a procession through the streets of the Eternal City from the Roman Cathedral of St. John Lateran to the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

Now, in this year of Eucharistic Revival, multiple parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque and elsewhere in the United States have revived the practice. The revival year will culminate in July of 2024 with the celebration of a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana. It will be the first such gathering in the United States in 83 years. Following the custom of previous events using sports arenas, such as the 1926 Congress at Soldier Field in Chicago, the Congress will take place in the Lucas Oil Stadium.



**Eucharistic Congress at Soldier Field, June 21, 1926.
Copyright by Kauffman and Fabry, Chicago, 1926.**

The **28th International Eucharistic Congress** was held in Chicago, Illinois, from June 20 to 24, 1926. The event, held by the Catholic Church, was a large-scale gathering of Catholics that focuses on the Eucharist and other items of Catholic faith.

The event was organized by Cardinal George Mundelein, and was the first International Eucharistic Congress held in the United States. The event attracted a large number of people to the city, with most sources claiming at least 800,000 to a million attendees. Source: Wikipedia, "28th International Eucharistic Congress, 11 May 2023.



Corpus Christi Service at St. Luke Church, St. Lucas, Iowa, June 1940.

Here at St. Luke Church Parish, we have revived a local tradition of our own. Decades ago, the processions at St. Luke Church used various routes and three outdoor altars. The last known Corpus Christi procession was in 1962.

After the 10:30 Mass on June 11, 2023, the people of the parish processed with the Blessed Sacrament to St. Luke's cemetery as a way of giving public affirmation to our faith in the Eucharist.



**Parishioners procession to the St. Luke Cemetery, June 11, 2023.
Haze in the background is from Canadian forest fires.**



**Father Radloff offered incense during the Corpus Christi procession
to the St. Luke Cemetery, June 11, 2023.**

In doing so, we follow the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church which states, “The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to the sacrament of the Eucharist the cult of adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession” (paragraph 1378).

In that procession, those in attendance may have noticed items that are not often used in everyday worship. The first item was a golden, jeweled, starburst vessel with a glass door used to carry the Eucharist and display it. It is called a “monstrance,” a name which comes from the Latin word, *monstrare* meaning “to show.”



**Father Radloff with Monstrance,
St. Luke Cemetery, June 11, 2023.**

The second item, and perhaps one less familiar, is called a “baldachino.” It is a fabric canopy supported by four poles and is carried over the Blessed Sacrament to show reverence to it throughout the procession. The name comes from the Italian word *baldacco* which was used to reference the silk cloth from Baghdad from which such canopies were often made.



Carriers of the Corpus Christi Canopy or Baldachino: Melvin Bodensteiner, Clair Dietzenbach, John Kuennen and Allan Schmitt, June 11, 2023, outside St. Luke Church.

St. Luke's Parish and Christ Our Hope Cluster is grateful to the St. Lucas German American Museum for use of the original baldachino from St. Luke's which they beautifully display and maintain.

The practice of a Eucharistic Procession on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi is a tradition that is centuries old and is thankfully seeing a renaissance. By such events, Catholics publicly proclaim, by physically taking to the streets, the beautiful truth of our faith:

“By the consecration, the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is brought about. Under the consecrated species of bread and wine Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real, and substantial manner: His Body and His Blood, with His soul and His divinity” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1413).

“Each time we participate in the Eucharist,” Pope Francis said, “Jesus comes, and Jesus gives us the strength to love like he loved, because it gives us the courage to encounter others, to go out of ourselves, and to open ourselves to others with love.”

“In the Eucharist, it is Christ who offers himself, who gives himself for us. He invites us, so that our lives may be nourished by him and may nourish the lives of our brothers and sisters,” he said.

“The eucharistic celebration is an encounter with the risen Jesus. At the same time, it is a way of opening ourselves to the world as he taught us.”



Procession at St. Luke Parish Cemetery, June 11, 2023.

Are You Related To The Jan and Anna (Mikota) Klimesh Family?

By Steven Anthony Klimesh



The odds are in your favor if you answered "yes", and you can identify your roots in the Spillville/Protivin, IA area back four or more generations.

Since returning to my birthplace of Spillville in 2001, after an absence of 40+ years, I had some catching up to do relative to relearning family and childhood friends. I started to find myself saying. "Forgive me, but you have me at a

disadvantage. I seem to recognize you and your features, but I just can't place you". After a short discussion, it would often be revealed that I was related to the party I was visiting with; it seemed like to almost everyone. As a result, I became interested in my family genealogy and the history of Spillville and the people that settled here beginning in 1854 / 1855.

Iowa had just become a state on December 28, 1846. The following research begins with the first Klimesh American generation settling in Sumner Township, Winneshiek County in Northeast Iowa and then continues through the second and third generations. For purposes of this paper, I intend to define the **First Generation** with the arrival of Jan (John) Klimeš (Klimesh) along with his soon to be bride, Anna (Mikota) Klimeš in January, 1855. They came over on the same ship; it is not certain if they knew each other in Bohemia before leaving South Bohemia. The **Second Generation** will consist of their children, and the **Third Generation** will be Jan and Anna's grandchildren. If you wish to carry this family search on through additional generations you are on your own; it is complicated enough just to get through three.

I was born in 1948 and am the fifth generation. You can see my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will be the sixth, seventh and eighth generations, as will many of yours. I only hope that what I put forth here in these pages will be of help to you through the early years of our family research.

JAN (JOHN) KLIMES (KLIMESH) AND ANNA MIKOTA

PRIOR TO LEAVING SOUTH BOHEMIA

The home village of Jan Klimeš is Zvěrkovice in South Bohemia (see **Exhibit II**). The family name had been associated with the village for over 200 years prior to Jan's birth in 1829; back to at least the 1620's. To the best of my knowledge the Klimesh family name is still present in Zvěrkovice as of 2022; a span now reaching over 400 years. Jan would be the only male that would carry the Klimeš (Klimesh) family name to the United States, Northeast Iowa, Winneshiek County and Spillville. Two of Jan's sisters, Josephine and Catherine, also came after marriage.

Jan's family members had been serfs (see **Exhibit I**) to the Archbishop of Prague, who from 1849 to 1885 was Friedrich Prince zu Schwarzenberg. (Ordained in 1833 at age 24, appointed Archbishop of Salzburg in 1835 at age 26 and appointed Cardinal in 1842 at age 33) The Schwarzenberg family was one of the most powerful and influential noble families in the region at the time. It was a time when nobles also held high Church office such as Bishop, Cardinal and even Pope. Having been born in 1829, Jan, like generations of his forebears, was bound to the soil on which he was born. It wasn't until 1848 that serfdom was abolished in the Czech lands. Jan immigrated to the United States during the winter of 1854.



Anna Mikota (who would become Jan's wife on Aug 26, 1856) was born November 3, 1838 in Purkarec, (see **Exhibit III**) South Bohemia. Her parents were Frank Mikota and Mary (Shileny) Mikota. Jan and Anna's villages in Bohemia are 12 km, or 7 miles, apart. The entire Mikota family, excepting Anna's brother Francis Leopold Mikota (pictured above), came to Spillville together during the fall of 1854. Francis Leopold Mikota was in the seminary at the time of the family immigration.

In 1866 Father Mikota would come from Nepomuk to New York on the ship America, and then continue on to Spillville where he would serve as pastor for the St. Wenceslaus Church until 1881. He would die in Norway, IA on December 22, 1888 and would be buried at the head of the center aisle in the church he helped to build; St Wenceslaus in Spillville. Being Anna Mikota's brother, many of the residents now living in the Spillville area, and many other places today, can call him family, either by their relationship to the Klimesh family name or the Mikota family name.

Let us now lay out the First, Second and Third Generations of the Jan, and Anna (Mikota), Klimesh American Family tree.

Introduction to Jan Klimeš and his siblings

Jan's father, Mathew Klimeš (b 12-18-1788) married Catherine (Kateřina) Mistr(ova) (b 7-17-1798) on 4-21-1819 in the Church of St. Prokopius at Krtenov, South Bohemia; a village about a mile southwest of Zvěrkovice. They would have 8 children, all of whom were born in Zvěrkovice, South Bohemia.

Joseph Klimeš (b 01-15-1820) # Josephine Klimeš (b 02-22-1822) ###

Mary Ann Klimeš (b 02-26-1824) # Wenceslaus (Vaclav) Klimeš (b 08-19-1826) #

Jan (John) Klimeš (b 04-14-1829) ## Catherine Klimeš (b 12-15-1834) #####

Elizabeth Klimeš (b 06-01-1839) # Anna Klimeš (b 06-01-1839) #

Twins Elizabeth and Anna remained in South Bohemia as did Joseph, Mary Ann and Wenceslaus
Jan migrated to the United States – Winneshiek County Iowa in 1854. Details for American generations two and three will follow.

Josephine married John S Tuma, of Litoradlice, in Tyn nad Vltavou, South Bohemia in 1850 and migrated to Winneshiek County Iowa about 1858 settling in Calmar Township Section 13

Catherine married Joseph Panoch, of Třitim, in Tyn nad Vltavou, South Bohemia in 1860 and migrated to Winneshiek County in 1870 settling on section 33 Sumner Township

Note: ### and ##### So if you are Tuma or Panoch you can also be Klimeš

The First Generation of the Jan Klimesh American Family Tree are **John and Anna.**

1 Jan Klimesh (b Apr 14, 1829) (m 8-26-1856) Anna (Shileny) Mikota (b. 11-3-1838) They had 13 children. Their children will be identified as the Second Generation of the Klimesh American Family tree.

Note: the abbreviations that will follow are defined as: b = born, m = married, s = son of. d =daughter of. Also, in the following details you will note there will be (names in brackets). These will later be referred to in a table as a **SECONDARY** name. For example, below you will see (d John and Katherina (Kornecini) Suchan); it should read as daughter of John and Katherine Suchan where (**Kornecini**) is Katherine's maiden name. This information is not available for all individuals but is provided where known. The numbers to the left of a family member are for cross reference to the above-mentioned table that will follow – i.e., 2 John Louis Klimesh. Not all family members have a number to the left of their name; They did not marry for a number of reasons and therefore are not included on the following table as they did not bring a new surname into the Klimesh American Tree.

The Second Generation of the Jan Klimesh American Family Tree are the **13 children** of Jan and Anna listed below.

2 John Louis Klimesh (b 12-31-1858) (m 5-31-1881) Rose Suchan (b 5-6-1862) (d John and Katherine (Kornecini) Suchan) They had 9 children.

3 Frank John Klimesh (b 7-9-1861) (m 1-16-1883) Eleanor Sobolik (b 2-2-1863) They had 10 children.

Joseph Jacob Klimesh (b 8-2-1863) (Died in Infancy)

Mary Klimesh (Died in infancy)

Vaclav Klimesh (Died in infancy)

Note: Joseph, Mary and Vaclav share a common grave in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery having died in their early years within a week of each other during one of the plagues (diphtheria, yellow fever, smallpox or cholera) that swept through Winneshiek County during settlement years.

4 Anna Klimesh (b 10-1-1866) (m 5-4-1886) Anton Swehla (b 1866 in Slavetice Bohemia) (s Frank/Katherine (Bruha) Swehla) They had five children

5 Joseph F Klimesh (b 5-5-1868) (m 6-3-1890) Barbara (Rezac) Kortan (b 9-28-1871) They had 10 children.

6 Victoria Klimesh (b 12-21-1870) (m 6-11-1889) John Vana (b 5-4-1868 near Pisek Bohemia) They had nine children.

7 Mary Theresa Klimesh (b 7-21-1872) (m 8-8-1893) Albert Trular (b 1-1-1875 in Dlouha Trebova) They had 3 children

Eleanor Klimesh (b 10-20-1874) Remained single her entire life

8 Robert Alois Klimesh (b 3-27-1877) (m 4-24-1900) Mary Elizabeth Andera (b 6-22-1881) They had eight children.

9 Margaret Klimesh (b 1-1-1881) (m 6-18-1901) Anton Balik (b 1-9-1880) (s Wenzel and Marian (Jarosh) Balik) They had eight children.

10 Josephine Elizabeth Klimesh (b 3-21-1884) (m 6-1-1904) Joseph Kapinos They had one child that died in infancy

Combined, the 9 children of John and Anna that married brought 63 children into the world; a.k.a. the grandchildren of John and Anna.

The Third Generation of the Jan Klimesh American Family Tree are the 63 **grandchildren** of John and Anna listed below and indented under their parents' names. There would be 187 great grandchildren brought into the world by the grandchildren of John and Anna.

2 John Louis Klimesh (b 12-31-1858) (m 5-31-1881) Rose Suchan (b 5-6-1862) (d John and Katherine (Kornecini) Suchan) They had 9 children; listed below.

11 John Izac Klimesh (b 7-14-1882) (m 1-9-1906) Emma Kovarik (b 9-9-1882) (d Wenceslaus / Barbara (Mikesh) Kovarik). (They had three children)

Rose Klimesh (b 1883) Died in infancy

12 Mary Klimesh (b 3-7-1885) (m 8-26-1913) Charles Conlee of Springfield Ill. and Cook, Neb. (s Parents unknown) (They had four children)

13 Rose Anna Klimesh (b 3-7-1887) (m 11-22-1910 George C. Huber (b 3-19-1885) (s John / Madalena (Herzog) Huber) (they had five children)

Louis Klimesh (b ??) Died in infancy, at about 4 years old

14 Emma Irene Klimesh (b 12-25-1891) (m 2-5-1918) John Fisher (b 9-12-1889) (s of John T Fisher and Anna (Zoulek) Fisher) (they had five children)

15 Stella Klimesh (b 5-11-1893) (m 2-10-1920) Benjamin Novak (b 1-19-1892) (s of Joseph and Anna (Bouska) Novak) (They had two Children)

16 Louise Klimesh (b 5-5-1894) (m 2-3-1914) Edward Herold (b ??) (Parents unknown) (They had five children)

17 Helen Klimesh (b 1-22-1896) (m 11-19-1918) Elias Meyer (b ??) (Parents unknown) (They had no children)

3 Frank John Klimesh (b 7-9-1861) (m 1-16-1883) Eleanor Sobolik (b 2-2-1863) They had 10 children.

18 Frank John Klimesh (b 2-4-1884) (m 2-26-1908) Caroline Bouska (b 10-21-1883) d of John/Anna (Fencl) Bouska) (They had five children)

19 John Joseph Klimesh (b 2-22-1886) (m 10-4-1910) Mary Pecinovsky (b 12-26-1890) (d Joe A /Catherine (Holub) Pecinovsky) (They had three children)

20 Eleanor Elizabeth Klimesh (b 4-13-1888) (m 10-26-1910) Robert J. Lukeš (b 6-7-1887) (s J J /Anna (Nohale) Lukeš) (They had twelve children)

21 Mary Barbara Klimesh (b 6-24-1890) (m 8-19-1909) Adolph Zahasky (b ??) (s Frank/Catherine (Fisher) Zahasky) (They had seven children)

22 Barbara Anna Klimesh (b 2-28-1893) (m 9-23-1919) Vincent Polashek (b 9-22-1893) (s William /Rose (Bittner) Polaskek) (They had six children)

Rose Victoria Klimesh (b 6-18-1895) in 1908 Rose joined the sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee and became a nun - Sister Mary Majella in 1912

23 Wenceslaus Alois Klimesh (b 10-9-1897) (m 6-15-1932) Anna Vandas (b 4-22-1909) (parent unknown) (They had one child)

Joseph Charles Klimesh (b 10-10-1900) Did not marry.

24 Adella Lillian Klimesh (b 5-3-1905) (m 7-26-1927) Joseph Kerian (b 7-112-1896) (s Frank / Anna (Kuba) Kerian (They had eight children)

Robert Klimesh (b June 1908) Died in Infancy two weeks later

4 Anna Klimesh (b 10-1-1866) (m 5-4-1886) Anton Swehla (b 1866 in Slavetice Bohemia) (s Frank / Katherine (Bruha) Swehla) (They had five children)

25 Anna Cecelia Swehla (b 7-13-1887) (m 6-10-1910) Charles Moudry (b 4-20-1887) (s Joseph/Anna (Ptacnik) Moudry) (They had six children)

26 Anton Swehla (b Feb 1890) (m 2-15-1916) Rose Shevik (b ??) (Divorced soon after marriage; no children)

Agnes Eleanor Swehla (b 1-18-1893) Died in 1902 (Died at age nine – No Children)

27 Louis Swehla (b 12-10-1895) (m6-20-1922) Eleanor Harold (b 11-10-1896) (d Clemence/Antonia (Zoulek) Herold) (They had one child)

28 Paul James Swehla (b 9-14-1906) (m 4-15-1927) Thelma Johnson (b 7-4-1908) (d Engebret/Emma (??) Johnson) (They had four children)

5 Joseph F Klimesh (b 5-5-1868) (m 6-3-1890) Barbara (Rezac) Kortan (b 9-28-1871) They had 10 children.

29 Joseph Anton Klimesh (b 6-27-1891) (m 10-5-1915) Albina C Kalishek (b ??) (d Martin / Elizabeth (Novotny) Kalishek) (They had 8 children)

30 Frank Vaclav (V.) Klimesh (b 6-4-1893) (m v8-01-1916) Mayme Holub (b 11-25-1896) (d unknown parents) (They had four children)

Cecelia Mary Klimesh (b 3-18-1896) Died young in March of 1900

31 Agnes M. Klimesh (b 1-05-1898) (m 11-6-1917) Albert F. Jarosh (Jaroš) (b 4-4-1895) (s Albert / Marie (Korbel) Jarosh) (They six children)

32 Ceceilia Anna Klimesh (b 8-4-1901) (m 1-18-1921) Leonard Edward Humpal (b 5-20-1896) (s John/Emily Humpal) (They had four children)

33 George E. Klimesh (b 9-17-1904) Twin (m 10-11-1927) Augusta Houdek (b 10-20-1911) (d Louis/Anna (Novak) Houdek) (They had ten Children)

34 Hattie Klimesh (b 9-17-1904) Twin of George E. (m 11-27-1923) Alvis Jirak (b 6-12-1898) (s parents not known) (They had two children)

35 Barbara Petronella Klimesh (b 1-18-1907) (m 9-14-1935) Roy Novak (b 11-27-1906) (s parents name not known) (They had one child)

Viola Margaret Klimesh (b 7-5-1910) Died young on May 20, 1917

37 Helen Clara Klimesh (b 8-12-1914) (m 3-24-1935) Carroll J. Mayrand (b 5-16-1900) (s parents not known) (They had three children)

6 Victoria Klimesh (b 12-21-1870) (m 6-11-1889) John Vana (b 5-4-1868 near Pisek Bohemia) (s Joseph / Barbara (Sikora) Vana) (They had nine children) The Vana family resides primarily in the Omaha NE and Chicago IL areas

37 George Vana (b 3-31-1890) (m 1912 Est) Josephine Mathaus (b 3-14-1890) (d Joseph / Barbara (Vana) Mathaus) They had three children. Josephine died in 1918) George then married Arzella Rabb (b 10-10-1894) (d Joseph / Frances (Waffle) Rabb) (They had two children)

38 Victoria Barbara Vana (b 6-13-1892 in Chicago) (m 6-11-1914) John Voller (b In Pisek) (s John/Anna (Kripper) Voller) (They had six children and lived in Cicero, Ill and South Omaha)

Barbara Vana (b 6-21-1894) Died young in Omaha NE 1-11-1907

Anna Vana (b 7-21-1896) Died 7-2-1985 in Silver Springs, Maryland. Never married

39 John C. Vana (b 1-14-1900) (m 7-2-1922) Rose Milczski (b 6-12-1901) (d Peter/Laura (Moraczski) Milczski) (They had one son)

Mary Vana (b 5-17-1902) Never married died in May 1970

Joseph Vana (b 12-23-1905) Died Young in May 1908

40 Georgiana Mari Vana (b 9-18-1908 Omaha) (m 7-27-1935) Robert R. Evans (b 8-6-1908 Shelby, NE) (They had three children)

Celia Ann Vana (b 5-11-1911 died 7-29-1939) No children

7 Mary Theresa Klimesh (b 7-21-1872) (m 8-8-1893) Albert Trular (b 1-1-1875 Dlouha Trebova, Bohemia) (s Anton / Anna (Podhajsky) Trular) They had 3 children

41 Adella Barbara Trular (b 3-17-1897) (m 9-30-1916) Paul Zafke (b 12-26-1894) s August/Martha (Ludka) Zafke

Otto Trular (b 9-7-1900) No children

Marcella Trular (b 1-6-1907) No children

Note: The Trular and Zafke family lived primarily in the Minneapolis/St Paul, Phoenix and Detroit areas

8 Robert A. Klimesh (b 3-27-1877) (m 4-24-1900) Mary Elizabeth Andera (6-22-1881) (d Charles and Barbara (Dostel) Andera) They had eight children

42 Robert Charles Klimesh attended Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis. (b 8-3-1901) (m 2-9-1932) Ardella Raezak (b 3-28-1905) (d parents not identified) No Children

43 Charles Matthew Klimesh (b 4-21-1903) (m 10-18-1908) Anna Pavlovec (b 7-25-1908) (d Vaclav/Mary (Snyder) Pavlovec) They had three children

44 Otilia Mary Klimesh (b 2-19-1905) (m 9-30-1934) Mark Walsh (b ??) (s Matthew / Mary (Tamborino) Walsh) They had four children

45 Sidonia Mary Klimesh (b 3-18-1909) (m 11-27-1933) Alvin Otto Klimesh (b 5-2-1909) The marriage was allowed by special dispensation. Alvin was the son of J I Klimesh and Emma Kovarik and Sidonia was the daughter of Robert A and Mary (Andera) Klimesh. They had four children

46 Celestine Francis Klimesh (b 3-6-1911) (m 9-5-1935) Helen Polansky (b 6-8-1910) (d Wenceslaus/Mary (Poshusta) Polansky) They had four children

47 Emil Anthony Klimesh (b 7-19-1914) (m 3-30-1940) Marcella Herold (b ??) (d John/Evelyn (Zahasky) Herold) They had three children.

48 Cyril Methodius Klimesh (b 1-20-1917) (m 5-8-1948) Irene Dolan (b 7-6-1924) (d Gerald/Lillian (Beranek) Dolan. They had 6 children

49 Godfrey Martin Klimesh (b 11-8-1919) (m 4-22-1946) Regina Bily (b 9-28-1924) (d Joseph/Mathilda (Taylor) Bily). They had four children

9 Margaret Klimesh (b 1-1-1881) (m 6-18-1901) Anton Balik (b 6-9-1880) (s Wensil and Mary (Jaros) Balik. They had eight children

Margaret Barbara Balik (b 5-9-1902) Never married

50 Viola Mary Balik (b 3-22-1904) (m 6-18-1935) Leo Carney (b ??) (s of parents unidentified) They had three children.

51 Irma Balik (b 2-9-1907) (m 6-2-1931) George Ebert (b 4-3-1908) (s of parents not identified) They had two children.

Marcella Anna Balik (b 7-31-1909) Never married

Mildred Mary Balik (b 7-28-1911) Never married

52 Stanley Anton Balik (b 12-10-1915) (m 6-28-1939) Marie Budke (b 5-1-1917) (d Edward/Nan (Glass) Budke. They had three children.

53 Robert John Balik (b 3-22-1919) (m 4-16-1941) Helen Bouska (b 4-30-1919) (d John/Agnes (Sazma) Bouska) They had eleven children

54 Dolores Mary Balik (b 10-6-1924) (m 7-22-1947) Clarence Brom (b 12-13-1919) They had three children.

10 Josephine Klimesh (b 3-21-1884) (m 6-1-1904) Joseph Kapinos (b ??) (s Anton and Mary (Stadle) Kapinos. They had one child who died in infancy.

The table of Family Surnames and Secondary names brought into the Klimesh American Family Tree by generation follows:

First Generation			
		Spouse surname	Secondary
1	Jan Klimesh	Mikota	Shileny
Second Generation			
		Spouse surname	Secondary
2	John Louis Klimesh	Suchan	Kornecini
3	Frank John Klimesh	Soblik	Not Identified
4	Anna Klimesh	Swehla	Bruha
5	Joseph F. Klimesh	Kortan	Rezac
6	Victoria Klimesh	Vana	Not Identified
7	Mary Theresa Klimesh	Trular	Not Identified
8	Robert Alois Klimesh	Andera	Not Identified
9	Margaret Klimesh	Balik	Not Identified
10	Josephine Elizabeth Klimesh	Kapinos	Not Identified
Third Generation			
		Spouse surname	Secondary
2	John Louis Klimesh		
11	John Izac Klimesh	Kovarik (Kovářík)	Mikesh (Mikeš)
12	Mary Klimesh	Conlee	Not Identified
13	Rose Anna Klimesh	Huber	Herzog
14	Emma Irene Klimesh	Fisher	Zoulek
15	Stella Klimesh	Novák	Bouska
16	Louise Klimesh	Harold	Not Identified
17	Helen Klimesh	Meyer	Not Identified
3	Frank John Klimesh		
3	18 Frank John Klimesh	Bouska	Fencl
3	19 John Joseph Klimesh	Pecinovsky	Holub
3	20 Elenore Elizabeth Klimesh	Lukeš	Nohale
3	21 Mary Barbara Klimesh	Zahasky	Fisher
3	22 Barbara Ann Klimesh	Polashek	Bittner
3	23 Wenceslaus Alois Klimesh	Vandas	Not Identified
3	24 Adella Lillian Klimesh	Kerian	Kuba
	Anna Klimesh (Swehla)		
4	25 Anna Cecelia Swehla	Moudry	Ptacnik
4	26 Anton Swehla	Shevik	Not Identified
4	27 Louis Swehla	Herold	Zoulek
4	28 Paul James Swehla	Johnson	Not Identified
	Joseph F. Klimesh		
5	29 Joseph Anton Klimesh	Kalishek	Novotny
5	30 Frank V. (John) Klimesh	Holub	Not Identified
5	31 Agnes M Klimesh	Jaroš	Korbel
5	32 Ceceilia Anna Klimesh	Humpal	Humpal
5	33 George E. Klimesh	Houdek	Novak
5	34 Hattie Klimesh	Jirak	Not Identified
5	35 Barbara Petronella Klimesh	Novak	Not Identified
5	36 Helen Clara Klimesh	Mayrand	Not Identified
	Victoria Klimesh		
6	37 George Vana	Mathaus Rabb	Vana, Waffle

6	38 Victoria Barbara Vana	Voller	Kripper
6	39 John C, Vana	Milczski	Moraczski
6	40 Georgiana Mari Vana	Evans	Not identified
	Mary Theresa Klimesh		
7	41 Adella Barbara Trular	Zafke	Ludka
	Robert Alois Klimesh		
8	42 Robert Charles Klimesh	Raezak	Not Identified
8	43 Charles Mathew Klimesh	Pavlovec	Snyder
8	44 Otilia Mary Klimesh	Walsh	Tamborino
8	45 Sidonia Mary Klimesh	Klimesh	Kavorik
8	46 Celestine Francis Klimesh	Polansky	Poshusta
8	47 Emil Anthony Klimesh	Harold	Zahasky
8	48 Cyril Methodius Klimesh	Dolan	Beranek
8	49 Godfrey Martin Klimesh	Bily	Taylor
	Margaret Klimesh		
9	50 Viola Mary Balik	Carney	Not Identified
9	51 Irma Balik	Ebert	Not Identified
9	52 Stanley Anton Balik	Budke	Glass
9	53 Robert John Balik	Bouska	Sazma
9	54 Dolores Mary Balik	Brom	Not Identified
	Josephine Elizabeth Klimesh		
10	55 Josephine Klimesh	Kapinos	Stadle

The 1st Generation added 1 surname and 1 secondary name to start the American Tree.

The 2nd Generation added 9 surnames and 3 identified secondary names before 1904.

The 3rd Generation added 46 surnames and 31 identified secondary names before 1948.

The three generations added 56 surnames and 35 identified secondary names.

As I briefly look over the fourth generation of only new family surnames entering the Klimesh American Family Tree I see: Prohaski, Driscoll, Carper, Goodspeed, Hayek, Wagner, Kapler, Silhacek, Falada, Cekal, O'Brien, Einwalter, O'Byrne, Loesch, Kuhn, Brown, Froemke, Thomas, Wicharen, Highsmith, Pinter, Hruska, Henderson, Trubel, Rutar, Ruter, Heeren, Cavalore, Boeding, Martinek, Hosek, McEnney, Dundas, Brisbene, Greene, Greaves, Ross, Broden, Hotakainen, Malek, Waston, Kane, Struck, Harold, Shimek, Haug, Hosper, Lefrienk, Ira, Elsbernd, Holthaus, Kriener, Phillips, Murray, Lynch, Wallace, Smith, Mass, Olsen, Eagle, McManus, Guignard, Korta, Bradeley, Bocek, Sutton, Shindelar, Wotza, Pang, Shanahan, Sentman, Layman, Hill, Silva, Rathjen, Stellflue, Poole, Murphy, Thompson, Mishek, Sender, Lowe, Bernatz, Ludwig, Schissel, Myhre (86) That is only the fourth generation and only surnames entering the American Tree

Bože, Bože, Bože, Ufda, Guter Gott, Bože (Lordy, Lordy, Lordy, Oh Dear, Good God, Lordy)
That is a lot of names!

Now I think you can begin to understand why it appears I am related to everyone; because (tongue in cheek) I am. And, by your relationship to Jan and Anna Mikota Klimesh so may you.

So why did this happen in a small rural setting in the mid to late 1800's, whereas you would most likely not see it in a major city? Good question. Consider the following:

- The subject population was Bohemian and spoke Czech as their primary language; hence they married among their own.
- There was low population density in the early days; hence the choice of partners was few.
- The early settlers often had large families; hence many family names entered into the family tree with the early generations.
- With the early introduction of a large number of family names into the family tree later generations would also tend to expand the names in the tree.
- Religion played a part; Catholics chose to marry Catholics and the Bohemian immigrants in the Spillville – Protivin – Fort Atkinson area were virtually, but not absolutely, all Catholic.
- There was a limited ability to travel far from home. For the first 50 years travel was by foot, wagon or horse; resulting in many marriages taking place between individuals living "across the fence" or among neighbors.
- In the early settlement days, families stayed in the local area for one or two or more generations whereas today they move away for "better opportunities". But I am still where my ancestors landed.

All of these reasons, plus others, when taken individually and mixed together create the perfect environment for expansion of the Klimesh American Family Tree such that one ends up thinking he is related to everyone.

John and Anna's 13 children (nine of which produced offspring) presented John and Anna 177 grandchildren.

You will note that through the first three generations the surnames were mostly Bohemian. It is with the fourth generation that other nationalities started to show up in greater numbers. Travel became easier, people began moving from rural to urban areas and ethnic language was no longer playing a major role in relationships. In other words, the gene pool was expanding.

The majority of the data contained in this paper came from four sources:

- The John Klimesh Family Tree, published in 1985
- The Spillville St. Wenceslaus Church Community History 1860-2010 book published in 2010.
- Wikipedia relative to the bishops and archbishops of Prague
- The maps of the Archbishop of Prague holdings, Exhibit I and of Zverkovice Exhibit II and Purkarec Exhibit III are used with permission from the collection of Michael Francis Klimesh (my brother)

Should anyone wish to study their family tree relative to the data presented herein I would recommend contacting:

- The Czech Heritage Partnership in Protivin, Iowa
- The Howard County Genealogy Society in Cresco, Iowa,
- The Winneshiek County Historical Society and The Winneshiek County Genealogy Society in Decorah,
- As well as the German American Historical Society in St. Lucas, Iowa

Exhibit I

Villages and estates of the Archbishop of Prague c. mid 1800's

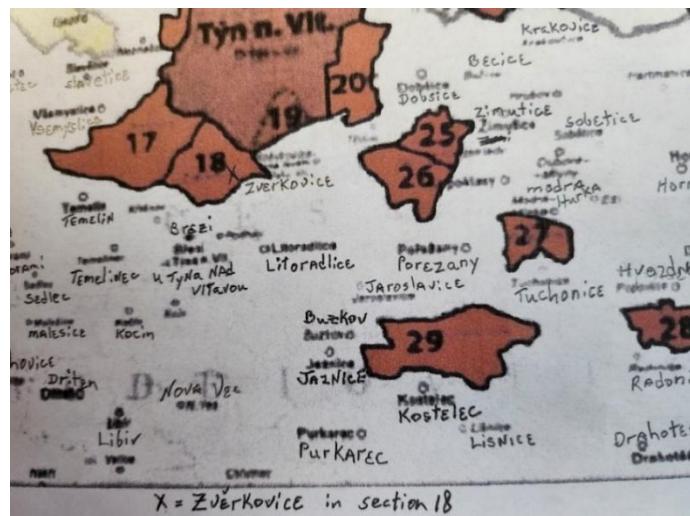


On the left is a Map of South Bohemia cir.1820 showing all the lands belonging to the archbishop of Prague. They are the Red geographic areas numbered 1 thru 31. The majority of those migrating from South Bohemia in the first wave of 1854-1856 came from the villages near and around Tyn nad Vltavou. The areas noted in red, but also those in white and yellow. More generally they came from a rough triangle of Pisek on the West, Tabor on the East and České Budějovice on the South. Pisek is located on this map roughly one third of the way down from the top left corner of the map; Tabor is in the upper right corner and Č. Budějovice is off the bottom center of the map.

John's village of Zvěrkovice is in section 18 and is part of the archbishops' lands; Anna's village of Purkarec, lower left of section 29, is not, but it is in Schwarzenberg land. Many of the surrounding villages are also not part of the archbishop's land. That does not however mean those living in those villages were not serfs; it only means they were not serfs to the archbishop. The majority of the land on this map is not shaded in RED, but was land under the control of the Schwarzenberg family, which, coincidentally had a family member serving as archbishop of Prague who controlled the Red shaded land; they had it all.

For centuries the powerful nobles of the Austro-Hungarian empire and the Catholic Church leaders colluded among themselves to ensure they controlled the people, power and wealth of the empire. There have been many books written on this topic so I will only touch the topic briefly to make my point.

There have been 36 bishops / archbishops of Prague throughout the ages beginning with the first; Dětmar (Thietmar Dietmar) 973 – 982 A.D.; to present day number 36; Jan Graubner 2022 – Present. Several examples of the tight relationship of the nobles and the Church are:



19 - Johann Moriz Gustav Graf von Manderscheid-Blankenheim 1733–1763

Johann Moritz Gustav Graf von Manderscheid-Blankenheim came from **the noble family of Manderscheid**. His parents were Salentin Ernst, **Count** of Manderscheid-Blankenheim (1630-1705) and his second wife Christine Elisabeth (1641-1692), daughter of **Count** Georg Albrecht von Erbach and **Countess** Dorothea zu Hohenlohe.

26 - Friedrich Johannes Jacob Celestin von Schwarzenberg 1849–1885

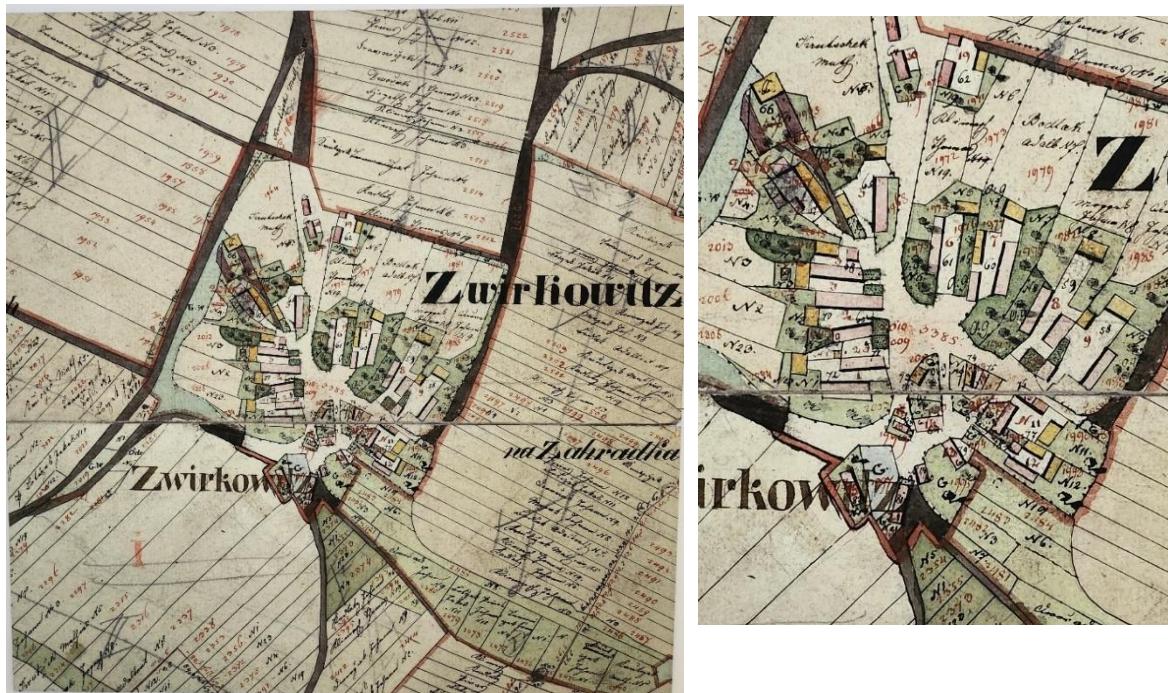


He was the youngest child of John Joseph, **Prince** of Schwarzenberg and of his wife Pauline d'Arenberg and brother to Austrian Prime Minister Felix, **Prince** of Schwarzenberg.

The **House of Schwarzenberg** is a German (Franconian) and Czech (Bohemian) aristocratic family, and it was one of the most prominent European noble houses. The Schwarzenbergs are members of the German nobility and Czech nobility and they held the rank of Princes of the Holy Roman Empire. The family belongs to the high nobility and traces its roots to the Lords of Seinsheim during the Middle Ages.

Friedrich Egon von Fürstenberg was chosen archbishop of Olomouc by its chapter on 6 June 1853 and the pope confirmed his appointment on 27 June 1853. He received his episcopal consecration in Olomouc on 4 September 1853 from his **cousin** Cardinal von Schwarzenberg, the archbishop of Prague. Bishop Furstenberg would later become a Cardinal.

Exhibit II



Zvěrkovice, South Bohemia is a small village, part of the Temelín municipality in the České Budějovice district. It belongs to the Roman Catholic parish of Týn nad Vltavou. There are 40 registered addresses, and approximately 83 people will live in the village in 2020. **It is the ancestral village of Jan Klimeš;** The maps are from 1837. Jan was born and raised in House No. 21 which is located in the lower center of the village near the "itz" in the village name. This spelling is the German spelling.

There are two more blowups of the village. As we zero in on No. 21 a Large "G" becomes clear and No. 21 lies almost parallel to the "G" which is the village carp pond and fire water reservoir (another story for another day). The final picture is one of me and my daughter Adrienne on the far side of the carp pond with the John Klimeš house, No. 21, in the background taken in May of 2011. It is an absolutely incredible and emotional experience to be standing on the ground where my great great grandfather lived and worked prior to coming to America and Spillville in 1855.



Exhibit III

Purkarec, South Bohemia



The village of **Purkarec** (*Burgholz* in German) is located approximately ten kilometers south of Týn nad Vltavou. Purkarec lies on the banks of the Vltava River; the right-bank (smaller) part of Purkarka was called Malá Strana (Lesser Town) before the liquidation of the estates there, as a result of the establishment of the Hněvkovice Water Reservoir. In 2011, 155 residents lived there permanently. **It is the ancestral village of Anna Mikota Klimeš.**

The Mikota family occupied this home since the early 1600's. Anna, and all her siblings were born in this house (No. 42 in red on the white structure). The maps are Cir. 1820 and show the entire village with a closeup view of the Mikota residence. It was unusual in that the buildings were traversed by a public lane.

The buildings consisted of a thick stone walled pig sty, a woodshed, the family home, a storage room, a chicken coop, cow barn and a second woodshed. The home consisted of two rooms separated by the entry and a "black kitchen", so called because of the thick soot build up on the walls after years of open hearth cooking. One room was occupied by Anna's family and the other by her in-laws.

These buildings no longer exist. When it was decided to raise the level of the Vltava to supply cooling water for the needs of the planned Temelín nuclear power plant these buildings were flooded; also lost was Jaroslavice, Buzkovo, the whole of Purkarka on the right bank (Purkarka Malá Strana), and a large part of Purkarka on the left bank. In the late nineteenth century as many as 682 people lived in Purkarec, with the damming of the river that number has fallen to 155.

St. Clement Church: Restoring a Religious Icon

By Helen Kruse Pinter

Contemporary Mass at St. Clement's

St. Clement's Church, one mile southwest of Spillville, was the setting for Holy Mass, on October 6, 2022, that was celebrated by Rev. Henry Huber.

Attending were the third and fourth grade classes and staff from St. Teresa of Calcutta School in Spillville. Also attending the mass were descendants of the original parish members and local friends.



St. Clement Church near Spillville, Iowa. June 15, 2023.

In the last decade Jeanette Dietzenbach provided music for the occasion. Jeanette's uncle Rev. Valentine Hlubek was the assistant priest at St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville from 1935-1940. Under Pastor Rev. John Boz, Father Valentine's mission was St. Clement. In prior decades Lorraine Kuennen Bodensteiner, of St. Lucas, provided organ music for the mass service, from 1990 to 2012. Loraine's grandparents, Elizabeth and John Rausch were married in St. Clement's in 1875.

Following the October 6th mass, each of the students were able to ring the church bells, enjoy Czech kolaches. The adults also enjoyed the hot coffee and kolaches while reconnecting with friends. The kolaches were provided by Sherry Bouska. Sherry's parents were Walter and Florine Klemish. Their marriage in 1953 was the last marriage ceremony held at St. Clement Church. Walter died in 1994. Florine devoted many hours over the years in the maintenance and upkeep of the church grounds and cemetery until her death in 2010.



St. Clement's Church parishioners, 1936.

Beginnings

St. Clement's Catholic Church stands on the corner of a gently sloping field in Section 25, Sumner Township, Winneshiek County, about a mile southwest of Spillville, Iowa. The church and cemetery are surrounded by a magnificent stand of Norway spruce trees dating back to the founding of the church. They have weathered many thunderstorms and strong gusts of wind off the prairie to the West.

Phillip Spielman, a nephew of Joseph Spielman, who was of German descent and Spillville's founder, donated the land for the church and cemetery. This forty-acre parcel of land was transferred to Bishop Mathias Loras in November 1854. Commonly known as the "church forty," this land provided income for the maintenance of the building and grounds after St. Clement was established. Created by German immigrants, St. Clement became known as the German Church.

Before the Germans came, the area west and north of the church served as an Indian burial ground. According to tradition, St. Clement Church came into being in 1856. However there is evidence, which indicates that for twelve years before the present church was built, members of St. Clement worshiped in a small log structure.

St. Clement church never had a resident priest. It was always served in a mission capacity, first under Our Lady of Dolors at Twin Springs, now Festina, Iowa. Later it was under the St. Wenceslaus in Spillville. Sunday mass, marriages and funerals were celebrated at St. Clement Church through the 1950s. Sadly it then fell into disuse and decay.

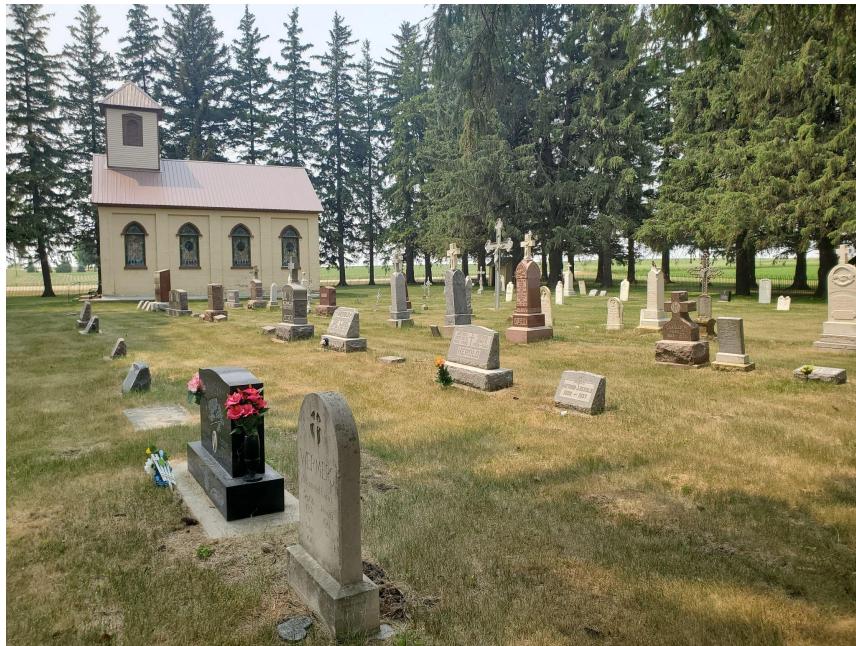
Revitalizing the Church

In late October 1987, Father Clem Burke, the pastor of St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville, told several parishioners that he was going to celebrate mass at St. Clement Church on his feast day of November 23rd. The parishioners conferred and told Father it would be impossible due to the condition and disrepair of the church. Father replied, "I will be celebrating mass there on November 23rd."

Father's decision was discussed among several individuals who had maintained an interest in St. Clement Church, mainly families who descended from the original parish members. With shovels, hammers, brooms and wash pails, they attacked the shabby structure. They had the church ready for mass on November 23, 1987. Since that mass, enthusiasm grew to restore the church to its original condition.



Regina Kuhn at St. Clement's Church ca. 1937



St. Clement Church and Cemetery, June 15, 2023.

In 1992 after finding metal that matched the existing pattern on the interior walls, the interior metal facade was restored. The walls were painted and the shabby floor was refinished. The statutes of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, were recovered from dusty storage in the old historic St. Wenceslaus convent school. A local artist repainted them. She had also repainted the St. Clement statue years earlier while it was still on display in St. Wenceslaus Church.

Once everything was in order, several men brought the statue of St. Clement back from St. Wenceslaus Church to St. Clement Church in time for a rededication mass on November 23, 1992. Since then a mass has been celebrated on a summer evening, usually in August, at 6:00 PM, followed by a potluck supper on the church lawn. Much excitement engulfs the evening twilight as participants renew friendships and acquaintances during the meal.

Mass is also celebrated in the autumn. Originally, it was celebrated on November 23rd, the feast of St. Clement. After several years of cold weather and even snow, the mass was moved to the balmy mid October Indian summer time.

Dr. Ruth Kath of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, along with her German students compiled a book of St. Clement history for the 150th year celebration on July 16, 2006. Maintaining the structure and grounds is a constant struggle: to raise money and make repairs like a new roof. For the volunteers it is a labor of love and spiritual devotion.



**Father Huber giving remarks at St Clements Church,
near Spillville, Iowa, June 29, 2023.**



Picnic dinner after the Mass at St. Clement Church, June 29, 2023.

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St. Clement's Church, Spillville, Iowa: 1856-2006. By Ruth R. Kath, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, 2006.

St. Clement Church. By Cyril M. Klimesh, Sebastopol, California. 1997.



Spruce trees , St. Clement Church, June 15, 2023.

Magnificent and stately Norway spruce trees surround the entire church property gently establishing the boundaries and creating a serenity that envelopes your soul.

The First German National Security Strategy

By James D. Bindenagel University of Bonn, Center for Advanced Security, Strategy and Integration Studies

The world looks for German leadership in its National Security Strategy, the first in German history, unveiled on June 14, 2023. It offered reassurances of Germany as a reliable partner in Europe, the transatlantic alliance, NATO, and the G7, as well as confirmed its commitment to the values of a free, democratic order and the international rule of law. It could have addressed more clearly its priorities for managing multiple existential risks beyond Russia.

The National Security Strategy is an all-of-government document that offers insights into the German government's strategic thinking related to the epochal change, the *Zeitenwende*, after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. It presents a three-dimensional approach—robust, resilient, and sustainable—as a framework for integrated security policies. It draws on the collaborative interaction of all relevant actors, resources, and instruments that, in combination, can comprehensively guarantee and strengthen German security, including food and health security, climate, as well as hard security in China and Russia, and other issues in its security definition. It draws on a whole-of-society concept with broad domestic support and the resilience of free and democratic order, international law, and the UN Charter.

The robust, resilient, and sustainable framework, including a firm commitment of 2 percent of GDP for defense, offers a platform for continuing strategic debates on priority issues in the Russian war against Ukraine, China as a systemic rival, climate change, and critical raw materials for a modern society.

The National Security Strategy defines German interests:

“The paramount task of German security policy is to ensure that we can continue to live in our country in peace, freedom, and security. Germany’s security is indivisible from that of our European partners and allies. Our commitment to NATO and the EU is unshakeable. We stand resolutely by the mutual defense pledge under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. We are strengthening the Bundeswehr as a cornerstone of defense in Europe. National and collective defense is the core task of the Bundeswehr, and this task includes our contribution to NATO’s deterrence capabilities. We will allocate two percent of our GDP, as an average over a multi-year period, to reaching NATO capability goals, initially in part via the newly created special fund for the Bundeswehr. At the same time, we will bolster investments in critical-infrastructure protection, cyber capabilities, effective diplomacy, civil protection, stabilizing our partners, and dedicated humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.”

That statement of interests can go a long way to reassuring Germany's international partners and friends where Germany stands in security policy today. This German national security strategy defines Germany's political place in Europe. And, as it confirms its values and sets priorities, the

National Security Strategy will mitigate continuing and growing doubt and mistrust of German leadership in Europe that does not dominate European policy. But can this National Security Strategy achieve for united Germany what Konrad Adenauer's *Westbindung* did for West Germany in the 1949 *Zeitenwende* that defined West Germany's commitment to democracy, Europe, and NATO?

As such, the new National Security Strategy offers the chance in Germany's current *Zeitenwende* to strengthen European defense by accepting responsibility for international security, as President Gauck and Ministers Steinmeier and von der Leyen promised at the 2014 Munich Security Conference. It takes courage to take responsibility. Thucydides noted that it is courage that is the secret to freedom, and courage to tackle national security strategies is needed.

While the document addresses current threats, it evades contentious strategic debates over priorities, particularly for future financing. Strategic policy priorities need clarification. The volatile geopolitical environment needs strategies to end Russia's war in Ukraine, manage the strategic rivalry with China, balance transatlantic relations with the EU, and shape the emerging international order. The integrated approach is an essential guiding principle for the German government and a unique opportunity to employ a broad, whole-of-the-country conception of strategy that can yield new thinking. At the same time, the strategy needs a process to address the priorities in the document, including calls for critical infrastructure protection, cyber capabilities, effective diplomacy, resilient disaster prevention and relief, stabilizing our partners, and engaged humanitarian assistance and international development cooperation.

The coalition found consensus on the document's structure, but Germany needs a national security council to manage policy debates on various issues. A national security strategy can only contribute added value to policymaking when a strategic learning culture is institutionalized. A council of experts for strategic foresight can contribute essential approaches, especially with Bundestag debates. Germany can show more courage to debate controversial issues and not lose focus on the resources needed to protect Germany, its free democratic order and values, and its foreign and security policy commitment to a free international order based on international law, and the Charter of the United Nations.

While Germany and France enjoy a close friendship in which they have overcome historical perceptions of enmity, more must be done to achieve a shared purpose with East Central Europe and the Baltics, especially with Poland. European integration is indispensable for peace in Europe, which needs continued United States support in the transatlantic alliance.

The National Security Strategy is a good start at strategic thinking. Plans, as President Eisenhower said, are worthless; planning is everything. Thinking strategically with this new National Security Strategy will help avoid going blind into crises and help secure peace in the future.

Kissinger celebrates his 100th Birthday in Franconia, the place of his birth

Kissinger feiert in frankischer Heimat 100 Geburtstag

By Carl Most

Henry Kissinger was born in the city of Furth, Germany, 100 years ago. He returned to his home town to celebrate his centennial birthday with high ranking guests and in the presence of his favorite soccer club, SPVGG Greunter Furth.

The President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, praised the former American Secretary of State: “You became one of the most influential persons in international affairs.”

Henry Kissinger said, “It is a very moving experience to return to the place of my birth and to experience how strong the ties have remained to Germany and to my new homeland.” Kissinger related how 90 years ago he went to the theater and saw the opera “Fidelio.”

The recollections of my youth have helped me through very difficult times,” he said. “Furth has remained a part of our lives throughout all these years,” he said in the name of all his family.



Henry Kissinger

Photo from Center International Security Studies, John Hopkins University

Markus Soder, the Prime Minister (Ministerpräsident) of Bavaria, the state in which Furth is located, stated that Dr. Kissinger has presented himself as a friend of the German people, even though he and his family were victims of antisemitism during the most harrowing of times.

In 1938 Dr. Kissinger and his Jewish family left Germany and emigrated to the USA. His life and career in the service of his new homeland are well known.

Recent Museum Activities



Erfurt University students and faculty visiting the German American Museum, May 2023.



Erfurt University students and faculty at the Museum.



Governor Rynolds presented the Governor's Volunteer Award to Dennis Boyer and Virginia Manderfield for twenty years of outstanding volunteer service to the German American Museum. The Governor's Award Ceremony was held in Cedar Falls, Iowa, May 2023.



The Guttenberg German Band performed at Maifest at Pivo Brewery in Calmar, Iowa on April 29, 2023. The Maifest event was a roof rehabilitation fundraiser for the German American Museum.



Enjoying the Maifest festivities, April 29, 2023. Accordion player and Diane McCarty, Helen Kruse Pinter, and Marie Kuennen Schneeberger, April 29, 2023.



Helen Pinter and Clair Blong examining the wonderful rye bread Helen baked for Maifest held at Pivo Brewery, Calmar, Iowa, April 29, 2023.

Virginia Manderfield and daughter at Maifest, April 29, 2023.



