

Proehl Family History

by Marie Proehl

Youngest Daughter of Herman and Emelie Proehl

Herman W. Proehl was the youngest son of Jacob and Marie Proehl. He was born November 5, 1841 in Sileska, Germany. (Saleske, Germany now Zaleskie, Poland) He lived with his parents until he was 15 years old.

In Germany at that time the oldest son inherited all the earthly goods his parents had at the time of their death.

At the age of 15 years he joined the German navy. For 13 years he served the German navy. Often times Dad said they would not see land for six months. Much of the food served on the sail ship was salt pork and beans, unless they were lucky and caught some fish.

At some of the ports the captain of the sail ship would not let the boys off only long enough to load supplies. At some of the ports the captain of the ship was afraid they would catch lice and get their ship infected. In those days they did not have the modern cleaning fluids of today. People did not keep as clean in those days, as we do now. Perhaps in some of the cold countries where they dress in furs, it got rather soiled and smelly.

My Dad would tell how dangerous it was to lower the sails during a strong wind storm. They had rope ladders to climb to the top to lower the sails. The ship would rock so it made it very difficult to climb to the top and bring down the sails.

After leaving the German navy, he visited his parents, two sisters and three brothers in Sileska, Germany.

In 1871 he came to America with his brother Louis and they settled on a farm near Peoria, Ill. They farmed together for several years. Dad was not too happy in Illinois so he loaded his horses, cattle, and implements on the Santa Fe train and came west to Neosho Rapids, Kansas, farmed along the river for several years before buying the farm. Some times they would find turtle eggs and use them for food. He and a friend farmed together.

After buying the farm, he would spend days plowing up the grass land so he could plant a crop. During the time of plowing he would take his horses to the creek for water which was a mile east of the farm. Then at night he would sleep under the wagon. What he had to eat I do not remember, but probably wasn't too much. He and a friend built a two room house, then put up a make shift barn for the livestock and chickens. He didn't have money to fence the land in so he bought hedge seed and planted one half mile on the east side and about half the distance on the north side.

He then met my mother who was working in a home in Emporia. After a short courtship they were married and lived in this house with seven children. They were married in March 17, 1882.

Dad made a long trough, filled it with cold well water and put crocks of milk in the water to cool. When they got enough butter and eggs, Dad would drive as far as Grandpa and Grandma Luginsland, stay all night, the next day on to Dunlap to sell the produce. The next day he would make the same trip before getting back to the farm. He would get groceries and small hand towels. At that time Emporia was not a good trading post. Sometimes Dad would get snowed in and be gone for a week. Mother had all the

chores to do as well as taking care of the kids. Before going to bed she would take the lantern and see that all the livestock was O.K. Dad made these trips for a number of years.

In Dad's spare time he would break up land for a neighbor by the name of Hotzel, who had a nursery and lived two miles south. For breaking up the land Dad got fruit trees and grape plants. We sure had a nice big orchard, but in later years the trees had all died.

My mother said the prairie chickens would come up and eat with the chickens. As Dad never shot any nor did he allow anyone to shoot them.

They lived in this two roomed house until two more rooms were built on the south side.

All 12 of us kids were born and raised in this small house.

My Dad passed away in Nov. 18 1923 after he lived to see all his kids grown.

By hard work he had 420 acres free of debt.

(This was written by Marie Proehl and sent to Elmo and Martha Lamb in 1980.)

This article appeared in the newspaper after Herman's death:

The Making of Americans.

This week out in the Lang neighborhood the neighbors gathered in a fine farm house to attend the funeral of Herman Proehl, who came to Lyon County 48 years ago, and all these years had lived upon the farm whereon he died. Ranged back of the coffin sat seven stalwart Proehl sons, ranging from youth to middle age, and five daughters. The sons have grown up in Lyon county, some of them have married and are living on adjoining farms. The daughters are farmer's wives - those who have married. Grandchildren are growing up to honor the thrifty, hardworking German and his wife who came here half a century ago. And the children of the grandchildren soon will be coming on. They are all honest, diligent, progressive Americans. They are of the stuff of which American families are founded. They are married into our English speaking families, and long ago lost all traces of their European beginnings. They live according to new world ideas. In considering the immigration problems we should think not in terms of how many may come; but what kind. America could use a million Herman Proehls a year and still need more. And what a land we have made as we have taken them in and made them our kind of folks! (printed in the newspaper after Herman's death)

Obituary: William Herman Proehl

William Proehl Dead

William Herman Proehl of Lang, died Sunday. funeral services will be held Wednesday morning at 11:30 o'clock at the home. Interment will be made in the Union cemetery.

William Herman Proehl was born in Saleska, Germany, in 1841. He came to America in 1871, locating in Illinois. In 1875 he came to Kansas and settled on a farm near Lang, where he lived until his death. He was married in 1882 to Amelia E. Luginland, of Americus. Mrs. Proehl and 12 children survive Mr. Proehl. The children are William, Carl, Ernest and Jacob of Dunlap; Mrs. Minnie Lamb, of Emporia; Mrs. Emma Blahut, Marie and John Proehl of Lang; Bernard, of Des Moines, Iowa; Henry, of Americus; Mrs. Louisa Lamb, of Parker; and Mrs. Hermania Knight, of Reading.

Mr. Proehl was a member of the Lutheran church.

Herman Proehl born Nov. 5, 1841, Sileska, Germany

Married Emily Luginsland March 17, 1882

Died Nov. 18, 1923, Redding, Kansas.

Buried at Union Cemetery, Emporia, Lyon Co.,KS.

Obituary of Emilie Luginsland Proehl printed in local paper.

Obituary: Mrs. Emilie Proehl Dead

Mrs. Emilie Proehl, who lived 12 miles northeast of Emporia on Rt. 2, Reading, died Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock in the St. Mary's hospital.

Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Free Methodist Church. The Rev. C. G. Williams, pastor of the church, will conduct the service. Burial will be in the Union Cemetery northeast of Emporia.

The casket will be open at the Roberts-Blue chapel tonight and until Saturday morning.

Mrs. Proehl was born in Wurttenburg, Germany, September 23, 1862, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Luginsland. They came to America and settled in Americus, moving to the home northeast of Emporia a year later. She was married to Herman Proehl in Americus March 17, 1882, and he died in Emporia in November, 1923.

She is survived by six sons, William and Henry Proehl, Americus, Ernest Proehl, Dunlap, John Proehl, Knoxville, Iowa and Jacob and Bernard Proehl, Reading; four daughters, Mrs. Minnie Lamb, 1021 Exchange, Mrs. Louise Lamb, Elsmore, Mrs. Herman Knight, Americus, and Miss Marie Proehl, Reading. One daughter Mrs. Emma Blahut, died in 1933 and a son Carl, died in 1929.

She was a member of the Free Methodist Church.



Herman and Emilie Proehl home northeast of Emporia



Herman Proehl



Marie (standing) &
Emilie Proehl