

The Krummy Quarter

Well,---! You might wonder why people would call a perfectly good quarter section of land a Krummy Quarter. I think that my cousin Gary Krumm would know why. Gary is a serious hard working person at his jobs. However, he can be very jovial and funny with his friends. They often called him Krummy. Gary's family lived on this land with our Grandparents, to help with the farm work after my parents moved to California.

My grandfather, Philipp Krumm, was born on the 5th June 1882, in Kukkus, Samara, Volga, Russia. His parents were Johannes Krumm and Anna Margaretha Fuchs. His father died when he was about 10 years old. His mother remarried, but Philipp did not like his step father so he moved in with his Uncle Andreas Krumm and his family. His 5th great grandparents moved to Russia, in 1767, at the invitation of Catherine the Great, Empress/Czarina of Russia and were German farmers there. Catherine offered free transportation, food, animals, wood to build homes and churches, plus freedom of religion, speaking their own German language and they were not required to serve in the Russian military.



Volga River Scene from Kukkus



Kukkus Home



Main Street, Kukkus



Kukkus was started as a small village of 51 families, located along the meadow side of the Volga River in Russia. The homes were located in the town close to the village Church. The streets were lined with lovely

trees. The houses were long buildings, which included the family home, with an attached barn and a shed for keeping equipment and repairing tools. There were flowers and other plants in the front yard. A large garden, fruit trees and animal pens were behind the house. The wife and older children tended the garden and animals, which were to be eaten by the family. The horses were well attended to by the men because they were used for farming chores.

The farm's crops were in narrow strips, away from town, near a source of water. The whole family would go out to their parcel of land to care for the crops and to do harvesting. Tending the crops was not easy to do. The crops had to be watered from buckets carried by hand. The horses were used only for working in the field. The weeds and close plants had to be thinned out and pruned each spring by hand. The crops were taken by horses and wagons to their assigned destination. The larger parts of the crops were sent to other areas, on boats by government orders, or sent to nearby villages. The family was able to keep a small amount of the crops to feed the family and animals.

Grandpa Krumm's family was quite small. He had a younger brother who died of a childhood illness. It was quite common for families to lose family members to diseases. He had a younger sister named Margaret. She lived to be married and had 2 children, but never left Russia. They, with other people of the village were rounded up by the Russian secret police. They were forced to dig a hole in the middle of town. Then they had them line up around the hole and shot them so they would fall into the hole. Grandfather had never cried so hard in his life as when he received the letter describing the death of his sister and her children.

Philipp emigrated from his village in Russia, with his Uncle Andreas Krumm. He listed Philipp as his son but Philipp was actually Andreas's nephew. Andreas arrived at the Port of St. Paul, Minnesota, on the 10th of December 1902. Andreas and his family went to Winnepeg, Canada. Philipp told me he could not

depart from the ship because his eyes were swollen and red from a strong wind, blowing dirt from the land to the ship. Philipp said he was able to get off the ship in Galveston, Texas. He apparently was then able to go to Canada to be with his Uncle.

Philipp left Canada, coming to America on the 22nd of December 1902, riding on the Canadian Pacific Railroad. He then went to Lincoln, Nebraska to find work. Philipp married Anna Maria (Emma) Maser on January 9th, 1907, in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. Their marriage was arranged for them by their Church, or a marriage broker, as it was done in Russia. They lived on New Hampshire Street in the North Bottoms of Lincoln. Her parents were Andreas and Marie Katherine (Lehmann) Maser. Marie was born in the village of Schilling, Russia. Andreas and Marie were married in the village of Kukkus. Emma and her family emigrated to Lincoln, in 1898. The newlyweds lived around the corner from her parents who lived on Charleston Street. The Maser grocery store was on the corner and the Church was across the street, on the other corner of Charleston Street. Philipp worked at the Railroad Roundhouse in Lincoln.

Philipp and Emma had one child, Johannes (John) born in Lincoln. Andreas and family went from Canada to Montana a few years later through the port of Pembina, North Dakota. Philipp and Emma moved from Lincoln to Fromberg, Carbon County, Montana, to help on his Uncle Andreas's farm. They loaded up their horse drawn wagon to move to Montana. They had 5 more children in Montana: my Aunt Marie, my Father Andrew, and my Uncles Herman, Alfred, and Henry. After a few more years, land became available in Nebraska. Philipp moved his family to Madrid, Perkins County, Nebraska. He rented his farm land for many years in the area now called "the Krummey Quarter". Their last child, my Aunt Thelma, was born in Madrid.



Many years later Philipp and Emma retired from farming and moved to Ovid, Sedgwick County, Colorado. Marie married Harry Shalla, (a county Clerk). The Shalla's settled in Grant, Perkins County, Nebraska and raised 3 children. My father, Andrew also married Phoebe Schlieper in Grant. They had two children in Madrid, Nebraska and 6 more in Merced, Merced County, California. Herman and Alfred never married. Henry married Marie Nein in Sedgwick, Sedgwick County, Colorado, and had 4 children. Thelma married David Nein, also in Sedgwick, and had 4 children.

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The Krummy Quarter still exists, at the intersection of Road 765 just west of Road 337, in Perkins County, Nebraska. The farm land still grows wheat and corn. The house, animal sheds, and other buildings are no longer there, but the Krummy Quarter will always live in my heart.

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