

George P & Anna Buller Toews Family Information

Updated
9/25/2023

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A 2023
↑
Toews

This document is a collection of information, photographs, maps and more, about the forebears, siblings, children, and descendants of our [paternal Grandparents George P and Anna Buller Toews](#). It is mostly about the brothers and sisters of our Dad, [David A Toews](#), and is a supplement to "[Ancestors of David A & Rosa M Voth Toews](#)," also available on this website.

Many of the photos and much of the information have been provided by my brother [Myron Toews](#), so [this is his work as well](#). And [his family too!](#) I am deeply grateful and highly indebted to Myron for all his help through the years. [Gerry Toews Reimer](#) supplied memories and copies of much material as well.

We will always appreciate any comments, corrections, and additional information, including photos, from any interested readers. We hope you enjoy and learn from our efforts. We encourage you to explore [weblinks](#), shown [underlined in purple](#).

Contact: [Arrel](#) atoews@hotmail.com [Myron](#) myron.toews@gmail.com

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George (Gerhard) P and Anna Buller Toews

Arrel's Grandpa Gerhard P Toews was born 23 Nov 1874 in [Hierschau, Molotschna, South Russia](#), and he immigrated to the US with his family when only 4 years old. He remembered nothing at all about this journey because when his father Isaac died several years later, George had very high fever from Influenza, and he had no memories from before that illness. He was baptized in Beaver Creek, S of Hampton NE in August 1889. On 28 Jan 1897, he married Grandma [Anna Buller](#) in Hampton NE. Their [first home](#) was near Hampton NE (photo p 3).

On 18 Nov 1903, at age 29, he and his family [moved to Kremlin OK](#) in a railroad boxcar, plus a cattle car for

the horses, wagon, walking plow, furniture, and a cow or two. He passed from this world on 22 July 1940 (Arrel's birthday!) at age 65. **Grandma Anna Buller Toews** was born on 5 April 1875 in Marion County KS, and she died near Kremlin OK on 25 November 1947 at age 72. [George P](#) and [Anna](#) are both buried in the [North Enid Mennonite Brethren cemetery](#).

They had 6 children (birth order): **Clara (Clada), Henry (Heinie), Peter (Pud), Jacob (Cub), Anna (Aunt Bush), & David (Squirrel)** - yes, everyone had nicknames!

Below, L/R: **George P & Anna Buller Toews** wedding photo, 1897; **George P Toews & children** on S porch of their (and our) homeplace (back, L/R) **Jacob, Peter, Henry**, middle **Clara & George P**; front **David** and **Anna (Aunt Bush)**; Grandma Anna Buller Toews is not in the photo, ca 1925.

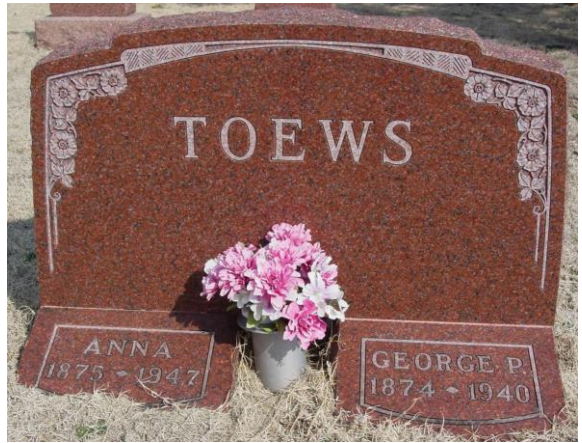


Photo below is the [first home of George P and Anna Buller Toews](#), near [Hampton NE](#). Caption written by my grandfather, George P Toews is below the photo. We presume, but cannot be sure, that this was the house on the farm owned by [G-Grandfather Isaac Toews](#), very near Hampton NE (E¹/₂-NW/4-4-10N-5W). We also presume George P and Anna are shown in the photo with daughter Clara - later Mrs. Pete Voth. Perhaps it was taken on a return visit after moving to Kremlin OK in 1903. Clara was only 18 months of age when they moved to OK. From Gerry Toews Reimer



*The house in which we were married and where
Clara was born near Hampton Neb, 1900*

[Isaac Toews farm](#) (80) as it appeared in Feb 2002. Present house built ~1910 and barn ~1916.



George P Toews purchased 260 acres of land just W of Kremlin OK in 1903 - see 1906 Kremlin Township plat map below. This land included "Uncle Henry's farm" (NW/4-21-24N-6W), purchased for \$2900 on 8 January 1903, 40 acres of which were soon sold for \$725 to his father-in-law (our G-Grandfather) Heinrich Buller, who moved a small house onto it from Kremlin. This farm was purchased almost a year before the family moved to Kremlin.

On 26 December 1903, about a month after arriving from NE, George P also purchased for \$1800 the E 100 acres of the adjacent farm, NE/4-20-24N-6W - this would become his and eventually also our homeplace. "Old Man" Abraham Sperling, who also owned the farm just S of this one, retained the W 60 acres, and George P purchased this remaining land on 12 October 1910 for \$2500, thus gaining ownership of the entire 160 acre farm. This farm has been in our family ever since. Myron Toews can supply detailed information on various specific land transactions for Toews family farms, not to mention some legal shenanigans associated with our homeplace! George P Toews family was good friends with Jacob J Voths (our G-Grandparents; * on map below; purchased 4 April 1901), perhaps at least partially explaining the proximity of their farms. This Abraham Sperling is the same man who owned the E/2-SE/4-17-10N-5W in Beaver Precinct, Hamilton County NE (see 1888 plat map on p 74 of "Ancestors of Arrel Toews."

Some historical information on our family homeplace - it was part of the territory of the Cherokee Outlet Opening (Land Run of 1893), the largest of four land runs in then OK Territory. Our farm was homesteaded by John W Rockenbach (Rockenbeck on 1901 plat map), a single man who filed his claim on 22 June 1900 and was granted title on 12 October 1900.

On 4 September 1902, he sold the entire farm to Abraham Sperling for \$3500. This land was part of OK Territory at this time, with OK not gaining statehood until 1907.



The **George P and Anna Toews family** photo below was taken before my Dad, David A (b 1916), and Anna (Aunt Bush; b 1913) were born. L/R, back: **Grandpa George P, Grandma Anna** holding **Jacob** (b 1909), **Mary Neuman (Aunt Mary) & Clara**; front: **Henry G** and **Peter I**. Mary Neuman was unofficially adopted and raised by the George & Anna Toews family. ca 1910



Photo of **George P and Anna Toews children** ca 1910-11. L/R, Clara (b 1902), Peter (b 1907), Jakob (b 1909), Henry (b 1904)



George P, Anna (Aunt Bush), Gerry Toews (b 1932), ca 1934



George P and Anna Toews family photo below was taken in front of their "first OK home." From L, back; **Grandma Anna, Mary Neuman, Clara;** front; **Grandpa George P, Henry, Pete, Jacob, Anna (Aunt Bush; b 1913).** Taken before my Dad, **David A** (b 1916), was born. Lower photo shows the entire house; top photo enlarged from this lower image. ca 1915



This same house is shown in the photo below, from a greater distance. Presumably [Grandpa George P Toews](#) driving the wagon with [Henry](#) and [Peter](#) riding on the sides. Much remains

*Birth place of Henry
Peter Jacob Amal
and David Toews,*

unknown or puzzling about this house, but presumably it was on the George P/David A Toews homeplace. No living persons have any memories of it. Caption from back of photo (L) firmly establishes it as the George P Toews home. Perhaps row of six trees are the elms that bordered our garden patch in later years?



Shown below at R is perhaps the same house as above, soon after it was constructed (ca 1904) - [George P and Anna Buller Toews](#) arrived at their new farm at Kremlin OK with daughter [Clara](#) (b 1902) and adopted daughter [Mary Neuman](#) (b 1895) on 18 November 1903. The terrain seems flatter R of the house in the photo below relative to the above photo. photo from Mike Gray, son of Dorothy Voth Gray, grandson of Clara Toews Voth.

Our father, [David A Toews](#), recalled:

"[Rockenbach](#) homesteaded this farm and as far as I remember, he was a bachelor that [lived in a dugout](#) and probably wanted to get rid of what he had left, because he only had a hundred acres. Old Man Sperling had the west 60."

Then "[they built the original house.](#)"



Photo below is of the **George P and Anna Toews** homeplace 1.5 miles W of Kremlin OK; also the homeplace of **David A and Rosa M Toews**, our parents, and their three sons, **Galen, Arrel & Myron**. (ca 1920-30) Note the haystack behind the house, summer kitchen/wash house, windmill, garage, and second auto at extreme R. David Toews says his earliest memory is of the porch being built in 1921, when he was 5, so perhaps this second house was **built in early 1920s**.



A similar (damaged) photo of George P Toews farmstead, timeframe as above. Note machine shed with auto inside, barn at far R, and buggy/wagon E of garage. Looking NW



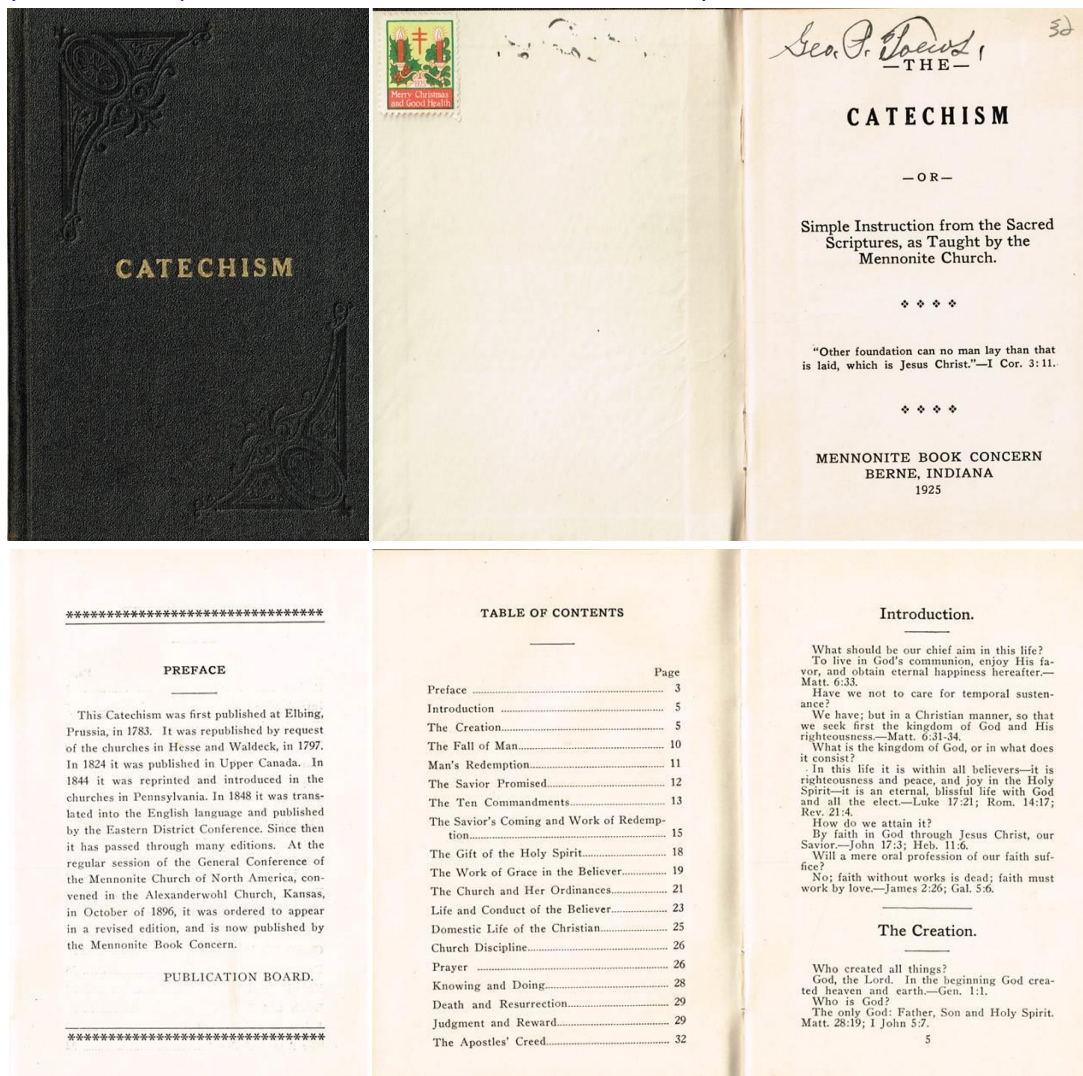
Top: [George P and Anna Buller Toews](#) farmstead with a woman holding a baby (perhaps Elsie/Gerry?) sitting on S porch steps. Note back door to house at extreme L and "first" barn at R. This barn was struck by lightning in 1935 and it burned down, but by 20 October 1935, Anna Toews was able to host a Sunday afternoon "Building Party" in the new white barn for her younger brother David A Toews' 19th birthday! Looking ENE, ca 1932.



Threshing crew on Half-Section Road in front of George P Toews farmstead. Note steam engine behind water wagon, threshing machine and cookshack, with buggy between/behind them. Original barn in back. Looking NNE, ca 1920s-early 1930s



For archival purposes, the first few pages of [George P Toews' Mennonite Catechism booklet](#) and his [newspaper obituary](#) are shown below (both from Gerry Toews Reimer)



George P. Toews

TOEWS—Rites for Geo. P. Toews, 65, pioneer farmer of the Kremlin community, were to be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Fossett-Schaeffer Funeral home chapel, with further services at 3 o'clock in the Mennonite church, north of Enid.

Burial was to be in the church cemetery beside a daughter who died several months ago.

Pallbearers were to be cousins of Toews. They are A. A. John, H. A., D. A., and A. G. Toews and G. D. Ediger.

Toews died Monday morning in an Enid hospital.

He came to Oklahoma in 1903, making his home on a farm 2½ miles south of Kremlin.

He is survived by his wife; four sons, Henry, Peter, Jacob and David all of Kremlin; two daughters, Mrs. Peter Vogt of Kremlin and Mrs. G. A. Toews of Enid; two brothers, one in California and the other in British Columbia and two sisters in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Funeral services for George P. Toews, 65 years old, who died Monday morning in an Enid hospital probably will be Thursday, it was announced at the Fossett-Schaeffer funeral home last night.

Toews, a farmer of the Kremlin community, died of a heart ailment after a four-day illness.

He had lived on a farm two and one-half miles southwest of Kremlin since coming to Oklahoma in 1903.

A daughter, Miss Anna Toews, school teacher, died a few months ago.

He is survived by his wife of the home; four sons, Henry, Peter, Jacob and David, all of Kremlin; two daughters, Mrs. Peter Vogt of Kremlin, and Mrs. G. A. Toews of Enid; two brothers, one in California, and the other in British Columbia, and two sisters living in Saskatchewan, Canada.

A more detailed obituary for **George P Toews**, translated by **Alf Berg**, is below (3 pages)

Br. Gerhard P. Toews. - I was born in South Russia the 11th of November, old style, or the 23rd of November, new style, 1874. (Note: Russia did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1918.) Emigrated from Russia to America with my parents, Isaak and Elisabeth Toews in the summer of 1878. Arrived in York County, Nebraska, and settled near Hampton, Hampton County, Nebraska.

My father went to be with the Lord December 19, 1884. Then May 2, 1884 Mother married Peter Block. I received in him a good, honest stepfather, who gave me much good advice, and who also admonished me that I should be converted to the Lord, which my father on his deathbed had already laid on my heart. In the summer of 1889 the Ministers Peter H. Wedel and Cornelius Janzen came to Nebraska and conducted revival meetings. Through the sermons and the Holy Spirit I was convinced that I should change my way of life. I began to pray again. As a child I had already prayed at Mother's knees, but since then not as I should have. I asked forgiveness of my parents and also of others whom I had offended. Thereupon I found peace in the blood of Jesus. I was especially impressed by the sermon regarding Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead. At that time Jesus said, "Unbind him and let him go." Jesus had also unbound me. In August 1889 I was baptized into Christ's death in Beaver Creek south of Hampton, Nebraska, and later received into the M. B. Church of Henderson, Nebraska.

On the 28th of January 1897 I was joined in holy matrimony to Anna Buller. Elder Johann J. Regier performed the ceremony.

On the 18th of November 1903 we moved hier to Oklahoma and settled on a farm near Kremlin, Garfield County. The Lord has permitted us to experience many good things, though we sometimes went through difficult times, especially when the children were sick or when accidents happened, but the Lord gave grace that we were able to thank Him. We are not worthy of His goodness and faithfulness that He rendered to us in our lives. (This far by Br. Toews.)

Br. Toews had been in good health nearly his entire lifetime. However, since his daughter Anna's serious illness and especially since her death one perceived signs of decrepitude off and on in him. Anna's departure weighed heavily on him. It was difficult for him to become accustomed to her loss. At least that experience had an injurious effect on his health. He said repeatedly, "I wish I could speak with Anna a little once more."

Recently he complained about severe fatigue. Regarding this he sought the good advice of a doctor. He asked for medicine that would cure his fatigue. After more careful examination the doctor informed him that his heart showed signs of "exhaustion or collapse" (congestive heart failure). The doctor gave him medicine for that purpose, which he also took, but work of any consequence he was not able to do. He complained repeatedly about difficulty in breathing. He would pitch in and help with less strenuous tasks until he would receive a severe attack.

Thinking about remarks that he made off and on in recent times, led one to believe that he had a premonition of his approaching death. Just two weeks ago he said to some brethren at the close of the church service that he regretted that his time on earth was so short. On that Sunday his participation in the Sunday School lesson was not what one was accustomed to hear from him. His spirit seemed to be stirred by more serious thoughts. Tuesday evening, the 16th of July, he called his family together for evening devotions. He told his family that this would not happen often any more. This declaration was significant, since on the following Wednesday evening, the 17th of July about 11:00 o'clock, he suddenly experienced severe shortness of breath. The family immediately recognized the seriousness of his condition and decided to immediately take him to the doctor. However, at the departure from home he told his family that he did not want to go to the hospital. But as they approached town, he asked the family to take him to the hospital. He was still able to walk into the hospital, but then his strength failed him. Everything possible was done to prolong his life but without lasting success. Monday morning July 22 at about 10:15 his diseased heart failed completely and he passed away at the age of 65 years, 7 months and 29 days.

In him the family has lost a loving, caring, kind and intimate father, the church a faithful supporter and the community a citizen with extensive interests. In the family he was everything that is contained in the word "father", in the church a loving brother in Christ and in the community a respected citizen. He esteemed the congregation of believers highly. He also sought the fellowship of ministers even outside the brotherhood. He did not discriminate between the poor and the rich. He was a blessing to the world. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

Sorrowing his early and sudden departure are: his loving wife, one daughter, one stepdaughter, four sons, two sons-in-law, three daughters-in-law, twelve grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters, who because of the distance are not able to attend the funeral; five brothers-in-law, six sisters-in-law, and many relatives and friends. Daughter Anna preceeded him in death about 80 days on May 2, 1940. The journeys that he was able to take meant a great deal to him, but now he has been able to take his best final journey. We feel that his farewell message is fittingly expressed in the following verse:

Farewell, you precious ones, farewell!
We are parting at this time with love.
Farewell, until we see each other again
When we stand before God's throne.

In the name of the bereaved family,

R. C. Seibel

Kremlin, Oklahoma
Juli 24, 1940

Handwritten notes:
I give this dear Bible Book to our son,
Gerhard P. Toews, in remembrance I sign
(subscribe my name) as always
August 14, 1910
Peter Block
Alsen, N.D.

Isaiah 34:16 I give this dear Bible Book to our son, Gerhard P. Toews, in remembrance I sign (subscribe my name) as always

August 14, 1910 Peter Block Alsen, N.D.

Comment:

The obituary is richly embellished with numerous German idioms that are a little difficult to translate literally. In my copy of the original I have underscored a number of these idioms and would be glad to discuss their meaning with you. Maybe in my attempt to be as literal as possible, I ended up with some awkward sentences. You might proof read the translation and indicate what you would like changed. R. C. Seibel certainly was a master at writing obituaries in the style and detail that no doubt was customary 50 years ago. I was impressed at the detailed account of Gerhard's salvation experience as well as the detailed picture of his deteriorating health. No doubt most of the "outline" obituaries today present a less adequate picture of the life of the deceased.

Handwritten signature: Alf Berg

The [Zionsbote](#) obituary for [Anna Buller Toews](#) is shown below at L:

Todesanzeigen

Mrs. Anna Toews, nee Buller, our dear beloved mother, daughter of Henry and Sarah Buller, was born in Marion County, Kansas, on April 5, 1875, exchanged this life with eternity on November 25, 1947, at the age of 72 years, 7 months and 20 days. Her parents immigrated to America with the first contingent of immigrants in 1874, settling in Kansas. At the age of 16 years she moved with her parents to Hamilton County, Nebraska, where they established their home. Realizing her lost and undone condition, she accepted Christ as her Saviour, and on May 27, 1894, she was baptized and received into active membership into the M. B. church remaining true to her Lord and the church to the end. On January 28, 1897, she was united into holy matrimony with our father, George P. Toews, who was called from her side in July, 1940, remaining in widowhood, to her death. To this union six children were born; four sons and two daughters; daughter Anna preceded her in death in May, 1940. In 1901 another member was added to the family circle in Mary Neuman, who received the parental love and affection, until she married and established her own home. She was always considered as one of the family, including her own family.

In 1903 our parents moved to Oklahoma, and settled on a farm near Kremlin, where she made her home for 39 years, enduring the hardships of a pioneer life with the neighbors. God blessed their

Zionsbote

in the course of time they were privilege to have a settled life. She bore her trials and bereavements, caused by the death of loved one, and the result of war, as her sons were called into service, with great fortitude, but decided in 1942 to move to Kremlin, where she made her home until her death. She was to us a loving and praying mother.

About a year ago she began to fail, and medical aid was sought, but without much avail. In October, 1947, she was transferred to a hospital for a week, for closer observation, then was taken to her home, but her condition was such, that after two weeks at home, which time was mostly spent in bed, she was again taken to a hospital, where after three weeks she quietly passed out of this life. She received the best medical care and attention, and everything was done to improve her condition, but in vain. May she rest in peace.

She leaves to mourn: One daughter, Clara, Mrs. P. H. Voth, one foster daughter, Mary, Mrs. Geo. Toews; four sons, Henry G., Peter I., Jacob B., and David A. Toews, two sons-in-law, four daughters-in-law, 14 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, three brothers, Peter A., Henry T., and John Buller, all of Enid, and many friends and relatives.

It is so lonesome here without you
 And sad and weary the way;
 Life is not the same to us
 Since you are called away.
 But in God's dear home you are
 So safe, no suffering, tears or care
 And in His own time, we'll find
 You waiting over there.

The Children.

Enid newspaper obituary below:

Anna Toews
 Apr. 5, 1875
 Nov. 25, 1947

**FRIDAY FUNERAL
 SET FOR MRS. TOEWS**

Services for Mrs. Anna Toews, 72, Kremlin, who died Tuesday in an Enid hospital, will be held Friday at 2 p. m. in the Mennonite Brethren church north of Enid with Rev. P. C. Grunau and Rev. Jack Adrian in charge. Interment will follow in the Mennonite Brethren cemetery.

A prayer service will be held Wednesday at 1:30 p. m. in the Fossett chapel.

Pallbearers will be G. H. Jantzen, H. H. Jantzen, J. J. Thesman, Jacob A. Voth, J. E. Eger, and E. A. Toews.

[line(s) missing in copy above]

The parents of **Grandpa George P Toews** were **Isaac and Elizabeth Peters Toews** (see "**Ancestors of Arrel Toews**" for more details). Isaac died from Influenza in 1884, soon after reaching the US (Hampton/Aurora NE area) and Elizabeth soon remarried - to **Peter Block**. They lived for a number of years in NE, then in ND, then in Saskatchewan, where she is buried.

Photo below is the **Peter and Elizabeth Peters Toews Block family** - back (L/R), Jacob P, Elizabeth, Isaac P & **Grandpa George P Toews**; front, **G-Grandmother Elizabeth** holding daughter Tina (Katharina), Peter P, Helena & Peter Block holding son Heinrich. Aurora NE, 1892. My Dad always referred to his Grandma Toews as "**Grandma Block.**"

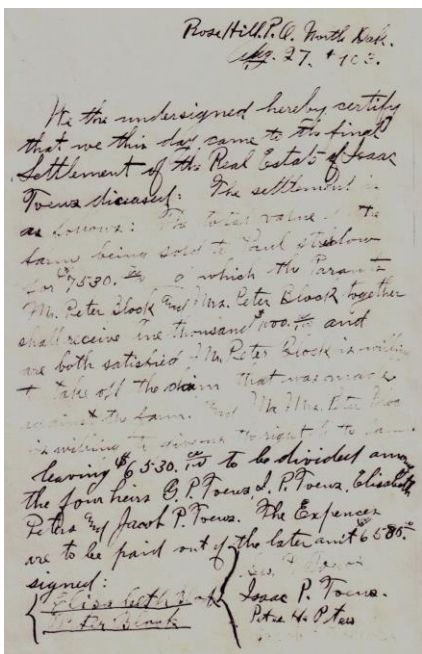


Great-Grandpa Isaac Toews died when **Grandpa George P Toews** was about 10 yrs old, so his later childhood/early manhood was as part of the Peter Block family near Aurora NE. Isaac Toews is buried on some farm near Henderson NE, but we have been unable to locate his gravesite. See "**Ancestors of Arrel Toews**" for photo and additional information.

Grandpa George P Toews & his siblings are shown at right: **George P**, Elizabeth, Isaac P & Jacob P (Aurora NE). **George P** had a twin, Johann who died in infancy, & brothers (another) **Johann & Abraham**, who lived 3 & 1 years, respectively. ca 1890



The land formerly owned by Isaac Toews, and later by Peter and Elisabeth Peters Toews Block following Isaac's death in 1884, was sold for \$7530 to Paul Strehlow on 27 August 1903, just months before Grandparents George P and Anna Buller Toews moved to Kremlin OK. See 1888 plat map of Beaver Precinct, Hamilton County NE on p 71 of "Ancestors of Arrel Toews" for location of this farmland (80 acres plus almost adjacent 40 acres), just S & W of the town of Hampton NE. After the Peter Block family moved to ND, George P Toews farmed this land prior to moving in November 1903 to Kremlin OK. Settlement document and balance sheet are shown below. Settlement was made in Rose Hill ND, where the Peter Block family, including all of George P Toews' siblings, had moved. George P Toews received a total of \$1616.41 from this settlement. Transliteration of hand-written document by Arrel Toews.



Rose Hill P.O. North Dak.
Aug 27, 1903

We the undersigned hereby certify that we this day came to the final Settlement of the Real Estate of Isaac Toews deceased. The settlement is as follows: The total value of the farm being sold to Paul Strehlow is \$7530.00 of which the Parents Mr. Peter Block and Mrs. Peter Block together shall receive one thousand \$1000.00 and are both satisfied. Mr. Peter Block is willing to take off the claim that was made against the farm and Mr. Mrs. Peter Block is willing to give up the right to the farm, leaving \$6530.00 to be divided among the four heirs G.P. Toews, I.P. Toews, Elisabeth Peters and Jacob P. Toews. The Expenses are to be paid out of the later amount of \$6530.00

Signed: Geo P Toews
Elisabeth Block Isaac P Toews
Peter Block Peter H Peters

Settlement of Toews heirs land sold to Paul Strehlow.	
Land sold for	\$ 7530.00
Court costs paid by G.P.Toews	\$ 11.80
Abstract	11.50
Lawyer fees	25.00
Bank charges	5.00
Exchange draft to E.Block	1.35
Balance	<u>7475.25</u>
	\$ 7530.00
Net proceeds from sale	\$ 900.00
Elizabeth Block in full	100.00
Already paid E.Block	1316.71
Draft Isaac P.Toews	300.00
Already rec'd. By I.P.Toews	2.10
Exchange, draft I.P.Toews	1316.71
Elizabeth Peters draft	300.00
Already paid E.Peters	2.10
Exchange, draft E.Peters	1516.41
Draft Geo.P.Toews	100.00
Already paid G.P.Toews	2.40
Exchange, draft G.P.Toews	1566.41
Jacob P.Toews	50.00
Already paid J.P.Toews	2.40
Exchange, draft J.P.Toews	<u>7475.25</u>
	\$ 7475.25
Draft to Elizabeth Block	\$ 900.00
" " Isaac P.Toews	1316.71
" " Elizabeth Peters	1316.71
" " George P.Toews	1516.41
" " Jacob P.Toews	1566.41
Court costs paid by Geo. P.Toews	48.40
Commission and exchange	15.35
Cash received and divided by Geo. P.Toews when land was first sold	<u>850.00</u>
	\$ 7530.00

Some memories of our father, David A Toews, about his father George P Toews and various other forebears (from an interview with Dad by his son Galen, ca 2000).

Our GG-Grandfather Gerhard Isaac Toews lived outside the "dorf" of Landskrone in a big white stone house and was considered one of the well-heeled members of that Molotschna Colony village. He was one of the full-fledged landowners in the Landskrone village (see "Ancestors of Arrel Toews" for details of land-holding arrangements in the Molotschna S Russia colony), and family lands were sometimes divided among sons (only!). [Gerhard Isaac came to America in 1882, several years after his son Isaac, our G-Grandfather, immigrated].

In contrast, our G-Grandfather Heinrich J Buller (p 16-19) was not "landed," and when he married, no land was available for him, so he says he was a "Sheet Vert" (Shit's Worth!) that ended up coming to America instead (he was a member of the Alexanderwohl village).

A bit of additional information about **Peter and Elisabeth Peters Toews Block**: Peter was born in Poland on 18 March 1856. When he was 1 year old, his family moved from Poland to S Russia in a 2-wheeled cart pulled by his father. He immigrated from S Russia to NE in 1884 and soon lost his wife. On 2/3 May 1885, he married recently widowed Elizabeth Peters Toews, my G-Grandmother. In 1897, their combined family (except for Grandpa George P Toews & wife Anna) moved 600 miles N to Langdon ND in a wagon train lead by Peter Block, then in 1911 on to Kelstern, Saskatchewan Canada, 470 miles WNW by rail. They joined the **Seventh Day Adventist Church** in 1908 and followed this faith the remainder of their lives. **Peter** died on 15 August 1925, and **Elisabeth** on 5 April 1937. They are both buried in the **Elim Mennonite Brethren Cemetery**, Morse, Moose Jaw Census Division, Saskatchewan Canada. Their obituaries, provided by Myron Toews, are below. Plat map of Block farms near Kelstern on the next page.

Some additional genealogical information on **G-Gmother Elisabeth Peters Toews Block** can be found on p 67 of this document.



1925

Obituary

BLOCK—Peter Block was born in Poland, March 18, 1856. When he was a year old, in a two-wheeled cart pulled by his father, they moved to Russia.

In 1884 they moved to Nebraska where he lost his first wife. In 1885 he was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Toews, daughter of Peters.

In the year 1897 they moved to North Dakota, where he heard the Third Angel's Message of Rev. 14:6-7. Again in 1911 they moved to Saskatchewan.

The fourth day of August they came home from a visiting trip, the same night he was paralyzed, then he was in bed for ten days. Many friends came visiting during this time, but he was speechless and on the 15th he passed away. His trust and confidence was in the Lord. He is survived by his wife, four children, three step-children, forty-five grand-children, and a large circle

of friends. The help of his faithfulness will be remembered by the Kelstern church.

D. D. NEUFELD

1937

Block.—Elizabeth Block was born in the village of Landskran, Russia, June 4, 1852. She was united in marriage to Isaac Toews in 1874, and came to the United States in 1878. Her husband died in 1884, and in 1885 she was married to Peter Block. They joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1908 and remained faithful to the truth.

Sister Block died on April 5, 1937 at Kelstern, Sask., at the age of eighty-four years. She leaves to mourn six children, fifty-two grandchildren, and thirty great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by the writer, together with the Mennonite minister, in the Mennonite church near Kelstern, Sask. She died in the hope of the first resurrection. A. M. BAYBARZ.

Plat map (ca 1918) below of the region between **St Boswells** and **Kelstern** in **S Central Saskatchewan** shows location of farms of **Peter Block Sr** and his son, **Peter P Block Jr.** The **Elim MB Church** as well as the **Elim Cemetery** where they rest is also shown. From "**The Block Family: Northern Europe to Saskatchewan**" by **Clive Block**, 2012. Supplied by Myron Toews. Kelstern is about 115 miles WSW of Regina Saskatchewan.



Some additional information about the [3 siblings of Grandpa George P Toews](#) and his [5 Block half-siblings](#); all generously supplied by my brother [Myron Toews](#) after many years of laborious inquiries and research. We are deeply indebted to him for his efforts.

Peter Block married widow Elizabeth Toews on 2/3 May 1885 in Hampton NE. By October 1893, they had 5 children - [Peter P, Helena, Heinrich, Tina & Anna](#). In 1897, all of George P Toews' single siblings moved with Peter and Elizabeth *Peters Toews* Block and their 5 children to the Alsen-Munich ND area, just S of the Canadian border. George P Toews had married Anna Buller and stayed in NE to work the family farm. The Blocks later moved to Kelstern Saskatchewan.

[Myron Toews](#) has compiled an excellent and [comprehensive history of the Peter & Elizabeth Block family](#) with many vintage photos, and anyone interested in this family should [contact him](#).

Oldest George P Toews sibling [Isaac P Toews](#) wed [Susanna "Suzie" Froese](#) in June 1900 in ND. In 1914, they moved to S Saskatchewan (Rush Lake). Wedding and 50th Anniversary photos shown at R.



Middle sibling [Elizabeth Toews](#) (b 16 October 1879) married [Peter H Peters](#) on 16 August 1900 in Roseville ND. They are shown at L with oldest daughter, also named Elizabeth. Mother Elizabeth died 29 January 1908, shortly after the birth of their 4th child Mary. Other children were Anna & Peter.



Youngest sibling [Jacob P. Toews](#) married [Maria \(Mary\) Warkentin](#) in 1901 in ND. Wedding photo and with only child Lydia (b 1908) at R. They lived mostly near Dinuba CA

The parents of **Grandma Anna Buller Toews** were **Heinrich J and Sara Buller Buller** (see "**Ancestors of Arrel Toews**" for more details). **G-GPa Heinrich J. Buller** was born 9 Dec 1850 and **G-GMa Sara Buller Buller** on 25 Nov 1845, both in **Alexanderwohl, Molotschna, S Russia**. They married on 30 Nov 1872 in Alexanderwohl. In 1874, led by Elder Jakob Buller, most of the **Alexanderwohl colony** immigrated *en masse* to the current **Alexanderwohl community near Goessel KS**. The Bullers moved from the Alexanderwohl Colony near Goessel KS to **Hamilton County NE** in 1888, then to near **Kremlin OK** on 20 September 1902, where they lived in a "shack" on our "40". Sara died of the flu on 25 Feb 1928 in her home near Kremlin OK. Heinrich died on 15 January 1937 in the guest bedroom of our family farmhouse, where my Dad found him hanging from a window sashcord.



Below: Heinrich J & Sara Buller family on S porch of our Toews family home: **Heinrich & Sara** seated at front; front R, **Anna & George P Toews (Arrel's grandparents)**; back, L of middle porch pillar, **Aunt Clara & Uncle Pete Voth**; back, R of pillar, **Peter Buller (James Buller's Gpa)**.



HENRY BULLER FOUND HANGING IN FARM HOME

Family Says Aged Man
Has Been in Poor
Health for Few Years

Henry J. Buller, 86, was found dead in a bedroom at the home of his son-in-law and wife, Mr. and Mrs. George P. Toews, southwest of Kremlin, about 5:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

He had looped a piece of window sash cord about his neck, tied it to a piece of upright furniture in the room, and was found dangling from the noose, Ferd Brakhage, deputy sheriff, and Hugh Conway, assistant county attorney, who investigated the case, reported.

The family said he had eaten a hearty meal at noon and told them he was feeling fine. They could ascribe no motive for suicide, but said he had been in poor health the past few years.

Apparently he had been dead for some time, the investigators said. Members of the family missed him, and went to look for him. A nephew found the body in the bedroom.

Surviving are his daughter, Mrs. Toews, with whom he made his home; a son, Henry H. Buller, south of Enid; Peter A. Buller, Enid route four; and John Buller of Enid.

The body was removed to the Brown Funeral home to be prepared for burial and cared for until last rites are arranged.

Photo at L from 50th
anniversary family
gathering

A hand-written obituary for [Henry J Buller](#) is shown below (from Gerry Toews Reimer).

Unknown author

Henry J. Buller
 Was born in south Russia Dec 21
 1850 and died Jan 18, 1937 at the age
 of 86 years 28 days. While still living
 in Russia, he was married to Sarah
 Buller Nov, 30, 1872 and in the year
 1874 they migrated to America and
 settled on a farm in Marion County
 Kansas while living there, there were
 born to them six children, Anna, Henry,
 Peter, Sarah, John, Jacob having died in
 infancy, and Sarah died in 1930
 In the year 1888 they moved with their
 family to Hamilton Neb. where they lived
 on a farm till 1902, then they moved to
 Garfield County, Okla. where they resided
 to the time of their death.
 Mrs Buller preceded her husband in death,
 having died in the year of 1928.
 There are four children who survive
 Mrs Anna Toews, Henry H. Buller, Peter A Buller
 John W. Buller, all living with their
 families in Garfield County Okla.



A nice photo of [G-Grandpa Heinrich Buller](#) by our S porch with grandsons [Ernie](#) (b 1925) and [Bob](#) (b 1927) [Voth](#). Note first barn in back. Looking E, ca early 1930s

The photo below, taken ca 1885 in Lehigh KS (near Alexanderwohl) shows the **Heinrich J and Sara Buller Buller family** with 5 of their 6 children (notations on the back are by my father, David A Toews):



Back (L/R), Henry H (b 1878), Heinrich J, **Anna** (b 1875), Sara holding John W (b 1882); front (L/R), **Peter A** (1879) & Sara O (b 1880). Jacob (b 1886) is not shown, presumably because he was not yet born. Anna was our grandmother Toews and Peter A James Buller's grandfather.

Photos below show **Heinrich and Sara Buller & 4 of their children in early adulthood, ca 1898-99:**
L/R, Heinrich & Sara, Henry, Peter, Sara O, John



The obituary of *G-Gma Sarah Buller Buller*, written by *G-Grandpa Heinrich J Buller* and published in 1928 in the *Zionsbote*, is shown below. The translation from German is by Tabor College Biology Professor *Solomon Loewen*.

1928
 † Sarah Buller, †
 geborne Buller. Unsere liebe Ehegattin und Mutter wurde geboren im Jahre 1845, den 25. November, in Alexanderwohl, Südrussland. Ausgewandert nach Amerika im Juni 1874. Wir liebten uns bei Lehigh, Kansas, nieder, woselbst wir 14 Jahre gewohnt haben. Von dort zogen wir den 20. November 1888 nach Hamilton County, Nebraska, woselbst wir wieder 14 Jahre gewohnt haben. Von da aus zogen wir den 20. September 1902 nach Garfield County, Oklahoma, nahe Kremlin, wo sie den Rest ihres Lebens zugebracht hat. Im Jahre 1872, den 30. November, trat sie in den Ehestand mit mir, Heinrich Buller. Im Ehestand gelebt 55 Jahre, 2 Monate und 13 Tage. Kinder geboren 6: 4 Söhne und 2 Töchter, wovon ihr ein Sohn im zarten Alter im Tode voran gegangen ist. Zum Herrn befehrt im Jahre 1881, den 8. Mai von Br. Abr. Schellenberg getauft und in die M. B. Gemeinde aufgenommen bei Lehigh, Kans. Sie ist krank gewesen 6½ Monate, die letzten Wochen schwer krank an der Flu, was auch ihren Tod herbeiführte. Im Leiden war sie geduldig. Sie hat ihr Verlangen ausgesprochen, bei Jesus zu sein. Einen Tag vor ihrem Sterben sagte sie noch den 13. Vers aus Lied: „Ist's auch eine Freude,“ welcher lautet: „Endlich kommt er leise, nimmt mich bei der Hand,“ usw. Sie entschlief sanft den 25. Februar, 6:40 Uhr abends. Alt geworden 82 Jahre und 3 Monate. Sie hinterläßt unsern lieben Vater, eine Schwester, 5 Kinder, 18 Großkinder, 5 Urgroßkinder und viele Freunde. Es fällt uns schwer, unsere liebe Mutter abzugeben, doch gönnen wir ihr die Ruhe. Wir trösten uns, sie dort wieder zu treffen. Sie hat dankbar gefühlt für die Besuche, auch für die verschiedenen Lieder, die ihnen vorgesungen wurden. Wir danken allen Geschwistern und Freunden für die Teilnahme während ihrer Krankheit.
 S. J. Buller u. Familie.
 Kremlin, Okla.

Loewen

Sarah Buller
 nee Buller.

Our dear wife and mother was born in in the year 1845, the 25 November in Alexanderwohl, South Russia. Emigrated to America in June, 1874. We settled at Lehigh, Kansas, where we lived for 14 years. From there we moved on the 20 November, 1888 to Hamilton County, Nebraska, where we again lived for 14 years. From there we moved on the 20 September 1902 to Garfield County, Oklahoma, near Kremlin, where she spent the rest of her life. In the year 1872, the 30 November, she entered matrimony with me, Henry Buller. Lived in matrimony 55 years, 2 months and 13 days. Children born six: 4 sons and 2 daughters, of whom one son died in his tender years, preceded her in death. She accepted the Lord in 1881, and baptized by Br. Abr. Schellenberg the 8 May and received into the M. B. Church at Lehigh, Kansas. She has been sick 6½ months, the last weeks very sick. In her suffering she was patient. She often expressed her desire to be with the Lord. One day before her passing she quoted the 13 versed from the song: "He also a Joy", which reads: "Finally he comes quietly and takes me by my hand" etc. She fell asleep quietly the 25 February, 6:40 o'clock in the evening. She reached the age of 82 years and 3 months. She leaves in passing our dear father, one sister, 5 children, 18 grand children 5 great grand children and many friends.

(Over)

(Obituary Ctd.)

It is hard for me to give up our dear mother, yet we do not begrudge her the rest. We comfort ourselves in hoping to meet her again. She was thankful for the visits, and for the different songs that were sung for her. We thank all brothers and sisters and friends for their participation during her illness.
 H. J. Buller Family
 Kremlin, Ok

Children of George P and Anna Buller Toews

Peter H and Clara Toews Voth

Clara Elizabeth Toews was born 3 April 1902 near Hamilton, Hamilton County NE. She was the oldest child of George P and Anna Toews. **Peter Harold Voth** was born on 31 May 1900 in Henderson, York County NE, the son of Jacob J (1870-1938) and Anna J Toews Voth (1872-1943). Peter H Voth was a brother of my mother's father, **Jacob Albert Voth (my Grandpa Voth)**. Clara and Peter married on 28 May 1922 in the N Enid MB Church.



Uncle Pete and Aunt Clara had 4 children: **Ernest Henry** (married to **Virgie Dezort**), **Robert P "Bob"** (married to **Carol Helena Epp**), **Johnny Eugene** (married to **MaryAnn Sherley**), and **Dorothy Ann** (married to **Gene Gray**). The family lived most of their lives on their home-place just W of Kremlin OK, with its well-known big red barn and attached silo (NE/4-21-24N-6W). Earlier, the family lived on the Butler Place (SW/4-19-24N-6W), in the home that later became Bob Voth's home-place, in the "Garold and Betty Fox" house on the W side of Kremlin, and even in their chicken house (see following page) when they built the current house on the Pete Voth homeplace.

Right: **Peter H Voth** as a young lad.

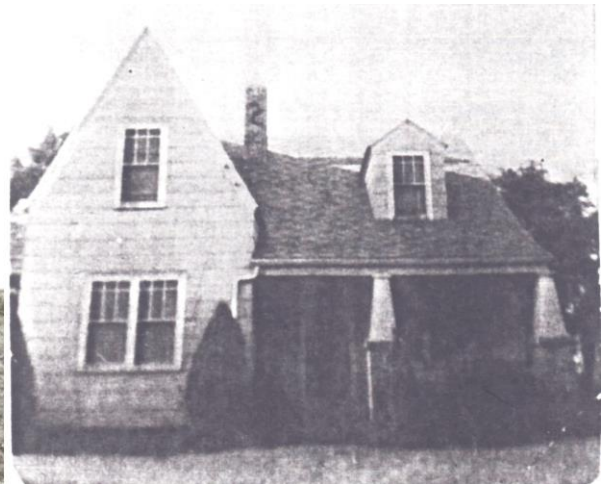
Uncle Pete was an energetic and hard-driven farmer, and he raised his sons to be the same - he did quite well in this aspect! I worked for the "**Voth Brothers**" (**Ernie, Bob & John**) through high school and college and learned both the value and price of unrelenting hard work and constant maximal effort. For their later years, Pete and Clara moved to Kremlin, adjacent to the Kremlin Methodist Church. Johnny and MaryAnn Voth later lived on the Pete Voth homeplace in the same, although extensively remodeled, house.



Photos below are of the landmark red barn and silo (L) and chicken house (R), where the Pete Voth family lived temporarily during construction of their new house (below).



At left below is what we believe to be the first (Seapy) house on the Pete Voth farmstead. It was demolished and the new home at R was constructed. Looking N. Both just S of red chicken house above.



Below: Uncle Pete with his new 1954 Chevrolet Bel Aire; Dorothy and Clara with same car, on the yard of their farmstead, in front of their garage and home just W of Kremlin.



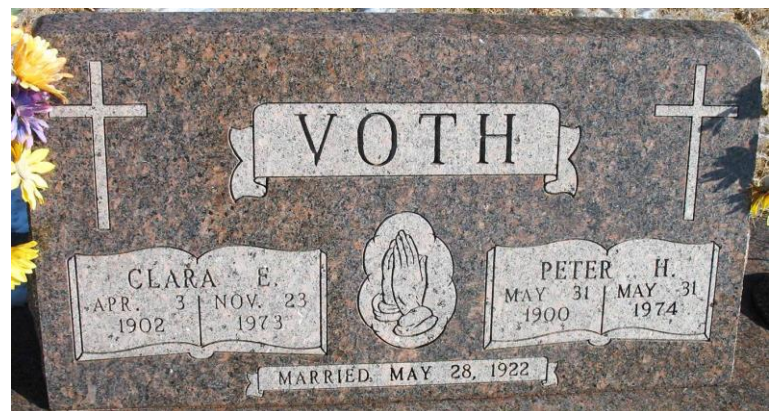


Above: **Johnny Voth** with prize Shorthorn steer in 1945 and 1947 (Kremlin School Yearbooks); "**Bob Voth** and Skipper, his prize shorthorn steer of 1945" from 1945 Kremlin School Yearbook, Eldora Janzen ed.

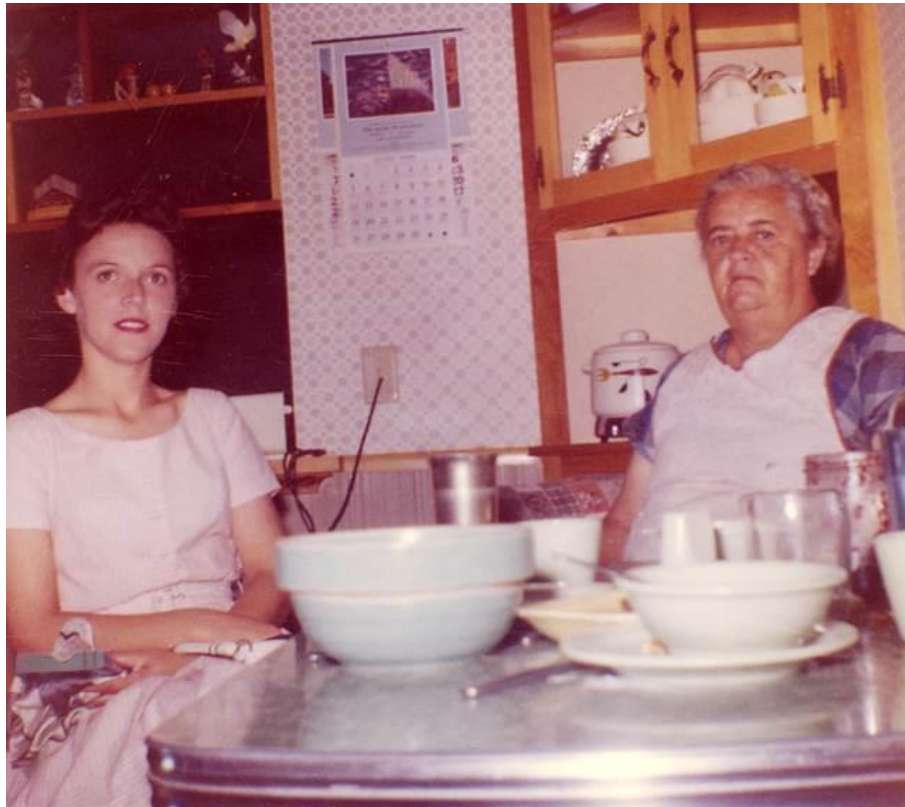


Above: **Pete & Clara Voth**, (L) unknown date; (R) 50th Wedding Anniversary (1972)

Clara died 23 November 1973 at age 71 in Kremlin OK, and **Pete** died on 31 May 1974 at age 74 in Enid OK. Both **Peter** and **Clara** are buried in the **N Enid MB Cemetery**.



Below: (L) "Voth Brothers" Bob, Ernie (back), John; (R) Dorothy and her mother, Aunt Clara



Below: L, A nice photo of successful farmer and father, my Uncle Peter H Voth;
R, Dorothy Voth as a "Shirley Temple toddler".



Below: **Pete & Clara Voth** and children (L/R) **Bob, Dorothy, Ernie, Johnny** (ca 1972)

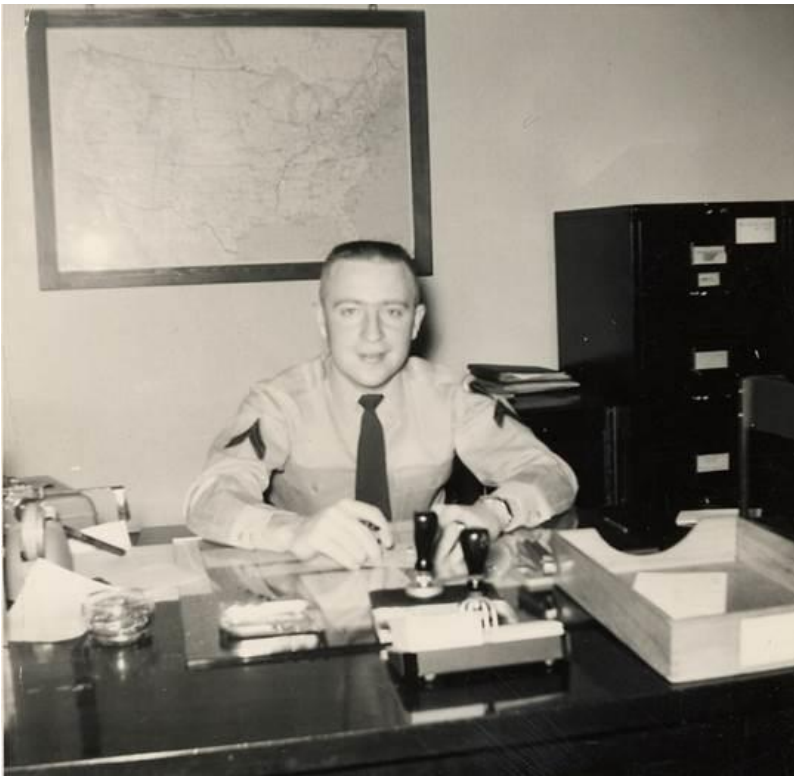


Below: **Pete & Clara Voth family with grandchildren** (L/R by family) - Dean, Donna, Bob, Danny & Carol; Michael, Dorothy & Gene Gray; Pete & Clara; Virgie, Ernie, Karen, Tom & Susan; Janet, Diane, Johnny, MaryAnn & Gary John. Both ca 1972 (perhaps Pete/Clara 50th Anniversary)



Below: Army photos of **Johnny** (L) and **Ernie** (R) **Voth**.

Lower photo: **Uncle Pete** & **Aunt Clara** at their home W of Kremlin (L) and in Kremlin (R).



Family photo of **Pete & Clara Voth family** taken in front of their home W of Kremlin OK. Back, L/R, **Ernie, Clara, Pete, Bob**; front, **Johnny & Dorothy**



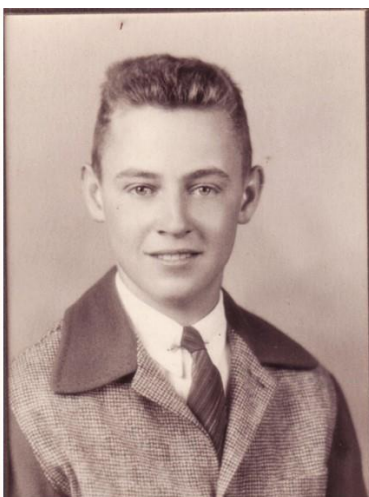
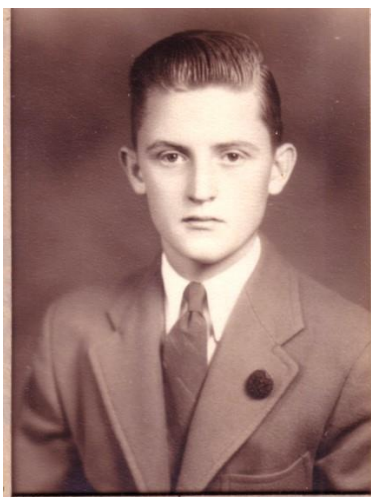
Presumed Senior pictures of **Pete & Clara Voth** children shown below:

(L/R) **Ernie**

Robert (Bob)

Johnny

Dorothy



Some of the Pete and Clara Voth family are shown below at a Toews family reunion in Enid OK March 2003. From L to R: [Ernie & Virgie](#), [Johnny](#), [Donna](#) (daughter of Bob & Carol) & [MaryAnn Voth](#), [Dorothy & Gene Gray](#).



Right: "Butler" house under construction;
Below: Another home of [Pete and Clara Voth](#),
2 mi S & $\frac{1}{4}$ E of the Midway, later the
homeplace of [Bob and Carol Voth](#) - and now
of their son, [Dean Voth](#). Home built by G-Gpa
Jacob J Voth in 1925; presumably [Jacob J &
Anna J Voth](#) in front of their new home
shown below.



Photos below (top) are of the [Pete Voth](#) farm home as it appears in 2018 (L/R): front (S) view from Keowee Road (Kremlin blacktop; note chicken house at back L); side (E) view from the yard. [Johnny and MaryAnn Voth](#) lived there until 2020. Earlier photos on p 17.

Bottom: [Pete and Clara Voth](#) home on 5th St in Kremlin OK, as it appears in 2018 - Kremlin United Methodist Church is across the street to the R.



Right: [Johnny & MaryAnn Voth](#) on the yard of their farmstead just W of Kremlin OK, July 2018.

[Johnny Eugene Voth](#) passed away 17 January 2020 and [Mary Ann Sherley Voth](#) on 12 February 2023; they are both buried in the N Enid MB Cemetery.



Henry George and Elsie Marie Schmidt Toews

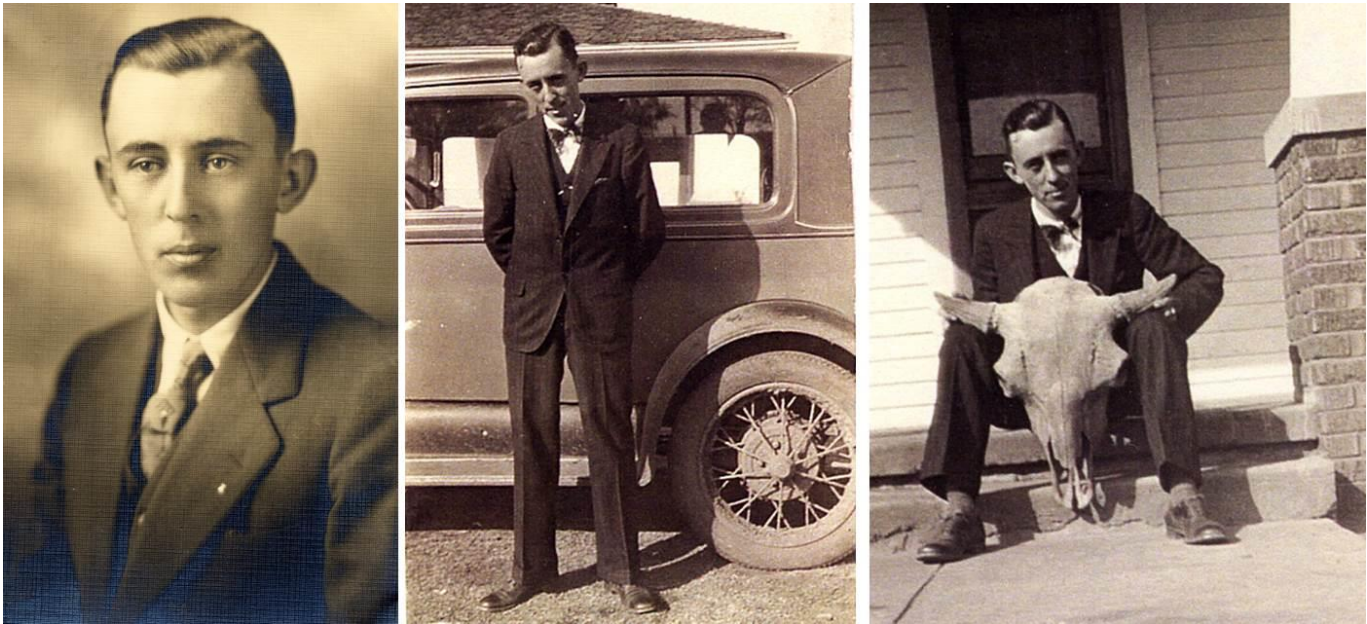
[Henry George](#) was the oldest son of [George P and Anna Toews](#). He was born on 10 August 1904 near Kremlin, OK (in the George P Toews home-place house). He married [Elsie Marie Schmidt](#) on 18 October 1931 in Dalmeny, Saskatchewan, Canada. Elsie Schmidt was born on 17 February 1904 in Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada, the daughter of Aron and Maria Wiens Schmidt.

Uncle Henry was the banker in Kremlin ([Bank of Kremlin](#)) for many years. Henry's daughter Gerry says her dad really wanted to be educated but there was no high school in Kremlin, so after much persuading, Henry's father, George P, agreed to send him to high school in Enid, renting a room for him in town, but with the caveat that Henry would return home whenever needed for farm work - especially when spring planting time arrived. After graduation, Henry chose not to farm and managed to get a job as an apprentice at the Bank of Kremlin in 1923, working the first year for his noon lunch. He walked to the bank every morning (almost 2 miles) and the bank paid for his lunch at the Kremlin Hotel, just S of the bank. She says he loved the food, being introduced to sardines and other fare, and enjoyed banking as well. After the first year of employment, he began earning a small salary, but still helped out on the farm. Henry eventually purchased most of the bank, perhaps from "[Uncle](#)" [John Eger](#) (no relation; just the endearment Henry and his family always used), or perhaps from George Austin & HA Reed (see [Bank of Kremlin ad from 19 October 1916 Kremlin Journal](#), on p 29). [John E. Eger, Jr.](#) remained as an officer in the bank after it changed hands. He was the other person in the bank when I was a child and teenager. I never knew him to smile. John Eger and his family are shown in front of Rathmel Grocery (next page), which was adjacent and shared a wall with the Bank of Kremlin. Aunt Elsie also worked in the Bank of Kremlin, as a teller and posting checks, balancing books, &c. [Herb Thesman](#) also worked in the bank.



Henry and Elsie lived in Kremlin, in the same block as the bank and just E of the [Community Hall](#), for most of their lives, adding onto the original small house as their family grew and life got better, until finally moving to 1615 S. Hayes Street in Enid OK in 1969, where Henry continued his banking activities as Cashier at the [Security National Bank](#), continuing to serve in that capacity until his sudden death. In 1969, he "sold" the bank to [VW Mendenhall](#), I believe with significant involvement of the [Zaloudeks](#). The Henry and Elsie Toews house and detached garage on 5th St in Kremlin still stands today (photos on p 28).

Below: [Henry Toews](#) as gentleman, in front of a car, and on our S porch with a buffalo skull.



Henry and Elsie had two daughters, [Gerry](#) (Geraldine Louise), born 1 August 1932 in Enid OK (married to [Delmer Reimer](#) on 6 October 1951 in Enid OK) and [Rene](#) (Lorene Ellen), born 1 October 1936 in Enid OK (married to [Jim Pauls](#) on 29 May 1958 in Enid OK). Rene died 27 June 2018 in McPherson KS. Gerry and Delmer currently reside in Showalter Villa, Hesston KS, and Jim Pauls in MacPherson KS.

Photo at R shows [Rene Toews](#), [Uncle Pete Toews](#), [Dorothy Voth](#), & [Gerry Toews](#), Rock Island depot, Enid, OK. Uncle Pete is leaving for his overseas army assignment.



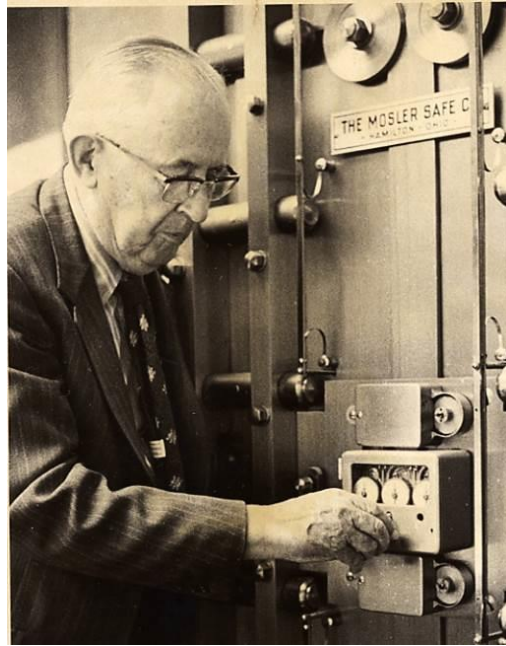
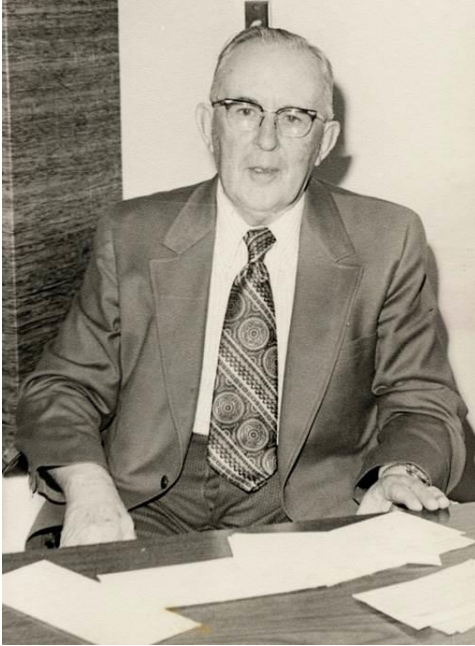
[Aunt Elsie](#) died on 1 March 1975 at the age of 71 in Enid OK and [Uncle Henry](#) on 1 July 1984 at the age of 79, also in Enid OK. They are both buried in the [N Enid MB Cemetery](#).



John Eger family (Vera, Laurence, David, John) in front of Rathmel Grocery with their 1948 Ford "Woody," at R; Bank of Kremlin was adjacent to and shared a common wall with Rathmel Grocery, which also served as the Kremlin Post Office. Bill and Clara Rathmel took care of store and postal duties, while brother Carleton was the mailman and sister Carolyn the first and second grade teacher at Kremlin School. I was in the Bank of Kremlin many times as a young child and never ever saw John Eger smile even just a tiny bit.



Below (L/R): Henry Toews as banker, trying to open his safe, and with Aunt Elsie in front of their home at 1615 S Hayes St. in Enid OK.



The two photos at L and center below are from 1964, other photo date unknown.



My only known photos of the [Bank of Kremlin](#) are below: (L), [Arrel & Galen](#) in our [1950 Chevrolet "Deluxe"](#) in front of the bank - Dad was picking up Uncle Henry's [Argus C3 camera and light meter](#), as well as traveler's checks, prior to our 1954 family vacation to Estes Park & Rocky Mountain National Park, CO. The badly underexposed photo was Dad's first attempt at picture taking, under Uncle Henry's tutelage. Remarkably, our subsequent CO slides turned out just fine! (R), [Bank of Kremlin](#) after a storm, date unknown. [Rathmel Grocery/Post Office](#) to the r; note Pepsi-Cola sign on N door. I believe the banker, [Henry Toews](#), and [Rueben Thesman](#) are the two individuals shown in the photo inspecting storm damage. I remember Rueben's blue Ford pickup with red bull-leader hitch.



Below: [Henry & Elsie Toews](#) home on 5th St, between Ave. B & C, Kremlin OK. July 2018. Except for the added covered rear patio, the outer appearance is quite similar to what it looked like when Uncle Henry & Aunt Elsie lived there.



Below: (L) David A and Peter I Toews after the funeral of their brother, Henry G Toews (July 1984); (R) Elsie & Henry Toews and Thelma & Pete Toews, date unknown) .



Below: Winter photograph of home of Henry & Elsie Toews, looking W from Fifth Street (date unknown). Note Community Hall at L back.



THE KREMLIN JOURNAL, KREMLIN, OKLAHOMA

ated in Enid, on par and same
rating of graduates of any state
school.

Gave the farmer of Garfield
county and State of Oklahoma
the right to organize a mutual
insurance company.

These measures is what I had
enacted into law during my term
of four years in office. — Adv.

Wild Horse Items.
George Peterson is visiting his
sister, Mrs. Will Teska.

Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Moffitt
spent Sunday with Bert Gray's,
Fritz Goll went to Pond Creek,
Thursday.

Mrs. Less Goddard left Sunday
to visit her brothers and sisters,
near Mountain View and Lawton.
Mrs. Goddard expects to be
gone about two weeks.

Miss Bertha Ward is visiting
her aunt, Mrs. B. Moffitt.

GEORGE AUSTIN, President. S. A. REED, Cashier.
H. A. REED, Vice-President. N. R. AUSTIN, Asst. Cashier.

**ON YOUR WAY TO THE
BANK OF KREMLIN**

The First Step to Independence
is carefulness in spending. The
man with a salary will find that
his money goes farther when he
deposits it in the bank and pays
his bill by check. And he knows
where every penny goes, too. The
Kremlin Bank invites accounts
from salaried men and house-
keepers. As little as one dollar
will start one. Many a one-
penny bill has become a
godly balance, because of the
check it puts on thoughtless
spending.

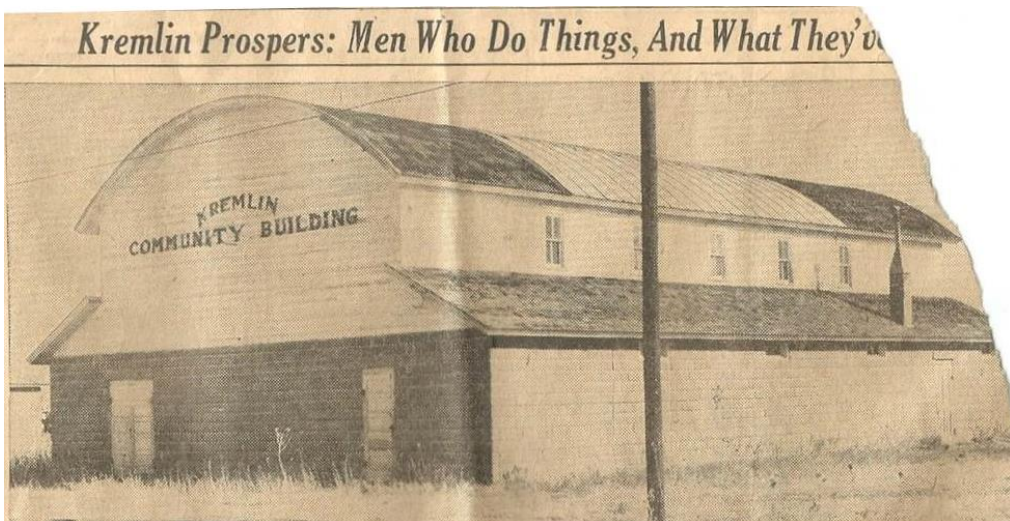
**BANK OF KREMLIN,
Kremlin, Oklahoma**

Vintage ad for Bank of Kremlin from Kremlin Journal

Gerry & Delmer Reimer wedding and 50th Anniversary photos



Below: (R) A young **Gerry Toews** & her sled @ the SE corner of the **Kremlin Community Hall**. The Community Hall (L; 1929) was adjacent W to Uncle Henry and Aunt Elsie's home in Kremlin and was for many years the gym where **Kremlin School** played their basketball games. The stage was used for school programs and plays as well. Later also **donkey basketball games**, and even later, it saw use as a roller-skating rink. It was destroyed by fire ca 1967.

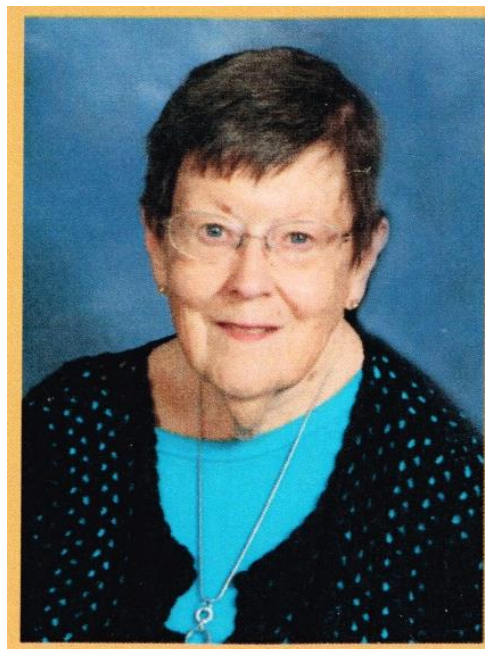


Below: (L) Wedding photo of [Rene Toews](#) and [Jim Pauls](#); (R) [Gerry Toews Reimer](#) and [Rene Toews Pauls](#), October 2017.



[Lorene "Rene" Toews Pauls](#) (R) was born on 1 October 1936 and passed away on 27 June 2018; she is buried in the McPherson (KS) Cemetery.

A nice March 2022 photo of [Gerry Toews Reimer](#), from a Showalter Villa brochure



Peter Isaac and Thelma Ione Malter Toews

Peter Isaac Toews was born 20 January 1907 in the George P Toews home W of Kremlin OK. **Thelma Ione "Toots" Malter** was born on 16 July 1906 in Caseyville, St Clair County IL, the daughter of George John (1856-1937) and Katherine Ellen Pausch Malter (1862-1938). Her family moved to the Kremlin area in 1909. She graduated from Enid High School and, after earning her teaching certificate, taught school in Hillsdale and Sinclair (NE of Covington). Uncle Pete and Aunt Thelma were married on 21 December 1946 in Wichita KS. She subsequently graduated from Central State University (Edmond OK), and from 1953-1971, taught in Enid schools. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Neal Chapter.

Uncle Pete inherited 2 farms SE of Kremlin (SW/4-31-24N-5W and NW/4-6-23N-5W) during the settlement of Grandma Anna Toews' estate after her passing in 1947. The history of these farms prior to that settlement are complicated and tortuous, but seem to involve Uncle Henry and the Bank of Kremlin, with acquisition of one farm by the bank in 1935-36, then transfer to Grandpa George P Toews. At the time of acquisition, the farm was known as the "**Dolan Place**" - Mr. Dolan was an Irishman who got the land by a homesteading claim in the 16 September **1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run**, but he mortgaged the farm and paid off his loans by renting the land to others; nobody has any knowledge of Mr. Dolan ever actually farming his land.

According to Pete and Thelma's son, Curtis (Chip), the house on the S Place was originally constructed for Jake and Anna Toews, and perhaps they lived on this farm for a few years, but only until the 1947 settlement. Pete and Thelma moved into the home on their farms 3 mi S and 3 mi E of Kremlin soon after marrying (Pete had been living with his mother, Anna Toews in her house in Kremlin after returning from WW-II service in 1945 until his marriage to Thelma). They only lived on their S farm for a few years (according to Chip, "from the spring of 1947 to the fall of 1952"), when Chip was very young. Moving to Enid in 1953, they spent one year in an apartment on W Pine and another year in an apartment on W Oklahoma before moving to their own home at 705 W Mulberry Avenue (below), where the family lived for most of their lives. In 1984, they moved to Austin TX to be near Chip and Rosa for their remaining days.





A Christmas photo of Pete, Chip and Thelma at L ca 1953. (Ancestry.com via Myron Toews)

The house on Uncle Pete's S farm was purchased by Henry G Toews and moved adjacent to his home on 5th St in Kremlin in 1959/60. This is the house where we stored our furniture and other family belongings temporarily after the

May 1961 tornado destroyed our house. It was later occupied by [Merlin Rodgers](#), Principal and my science/math teacher at Kremlin High School, and his family. The house still stands today (photo at R).

For most or all of his post-farming years, Uncle Pete drove a red Texaco gas delivery truck for [Ernie S Blanton Texaco](#), 101 E York Ave in Enid OK (3 blocks S of Rock Island depot, E side of tracks). He delivered to farmers E of US-81 and was somewhat famous among his nieces and nephews for

giving out shiny dimes to the nieces and sticks of [Adams clove and/or licorice chewing gum](#) to the nephews (neither of which we liked very much!). He was always very

jovial and friendly and liked to visit before, during, and after filling our fuel tanks.



My Dad, David A Toews and his three sons farmed Uncle Pete's two farms for many years, until Dad retired from farming in 1977. [Bob Voth](#) farmed this land for 1 year (until he became sick and soon passed away), then Bob's oldest son, [Dean](#), took over and has managed these farms until recently. I have many fond memories (and some not so fond) of plowing and harvesting wheat on these two farms, not to mention minding our cattle on pastures on both sides of the road, sometimes hauling water from Enid during dry spells. Chip still owns these two family farms and has been busy cementing his legacy of this land with additional land on the S section (SE & SW quarters), construction of a lake and shelterbelt, and seeding his lands with native prairie grasses and forbs. Good for him!

Chip married [Rosa Gonzalez](#) on 17 November 1979, and they live in Austin TX. In 1984, Pete and Thelma moved to Austin TX to be near their son.



Pete died on 31 May 1986 at age 79 in Austin TX and Thelma on 1 August 1989 at age 82, also in Austin TX. Both [Pete](#) and [Thelma](#) are buried in Section A of the [Enid OK Memorial Park Cemetery](#).



Below: (top, L/R); [Peter I Toews](#) Kremlin High School Senior picture, Uncle Pete in uniform, and with a fellow soldier in France during WW-II. (bottom) [Uncle Pete's S barn in the snow with our cattle and stock tank full of baling wire](#) - one of my all-time favorite photos!



Right: Aunt Clara Voth, Uncle Pete Toews, & Grandma Anna Toews in front of our house.

Below (L/R): Bob, John & Ernie Voth with Pete Toews



Below: Uncle Pete Toews leaving from Enid Rock Island depot for Army duty overseas: L/R back: Henry & Elsie Toews, Ernie Voth, Peter and Jacob Toews, Peter Voth, Ann Toews, Clara & Bob Voth; second row: Gerry Toews, John Voth, Grandma Anna Toews; front: Rene Toews, Dorothy Voth, Richard Toews in front of Uncle Jake.



Right: Earliest known photo of **Curtis "Chip" Toews**:



Below: **Curtis** as a baby, as a cute "Little Rascal," & his Enid High School Senior picture



Below (L/R) *Thelma Malter Toews*; **George** & **Katie** Malter (Thelma's parents); **Curtis** & **Rosa Gonzalez Toews** (April 2019)



Jacob Benjamin & Anna Helen Baergen Toews

Jacob Benjamin was born on 27 April 1909 in the George P Toews home near Kremlin OK (Toews homeplace). On 19 March 1939, he married **Anna Helen Baergen** in Corn OK. **Anna** was born 15 November 1908 in Corn OK. **Jake** died 21 May 1977 in Halstead KS at age 68 and **Anna** died 2 June 1999 in Hesston KS. **Jake** and **Anna** are both buried in the [Hesston KS Cemetery](#). Uncle Jake wrote a nice "History of Kremlin, Oklahoma" when a Junior at Kremlin High School - I have a copy and it is well worth reading! Please ask for it.



Richard "Dick" Jacob is their only son; he married **Ruth Ann** Detweiler on 19 May 1961 in Hesston KS. They currently reside in Showalter Villa, Hesston KS.

In their later years, Uncle Jake and Aunt Anne moved to Buhler KS, and after retiring, explored the USA in Jake's pickup with mounted camper. After Uncle Jake's death, Aunt Anne moved to Hesston KS. The house on their farm SE of Kremlin (NE/4-13-23N-6W) was subsequently occupied by the Dan Kroekers and then by **Johnny "Fritz" and Rosie Voth**; I believe it still stands in its original location to this day.

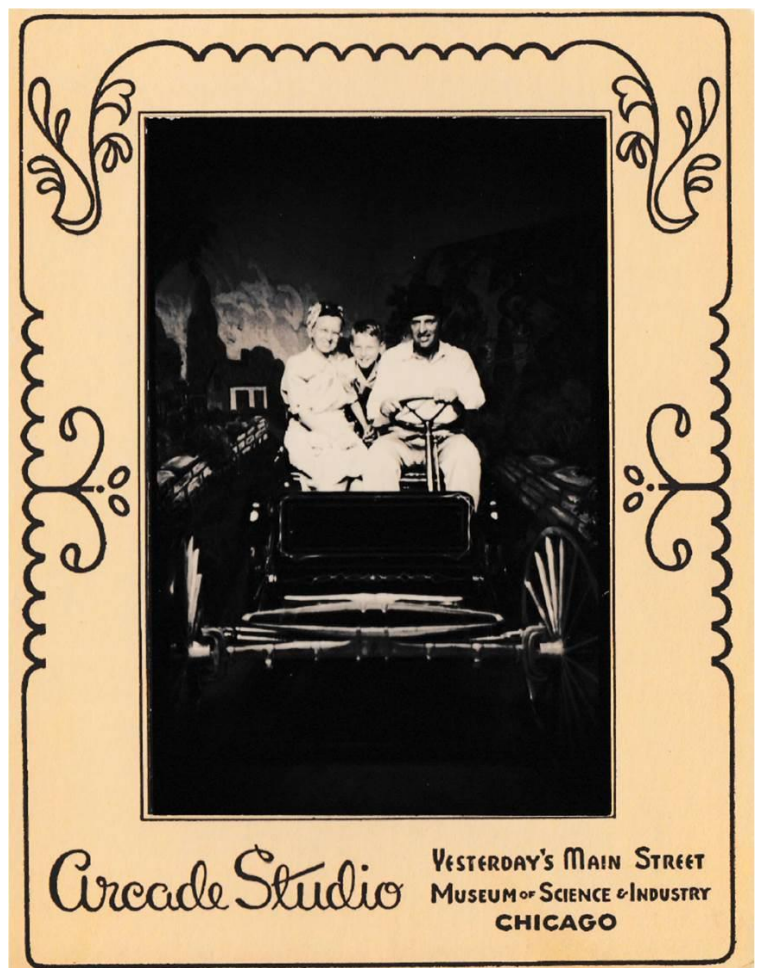
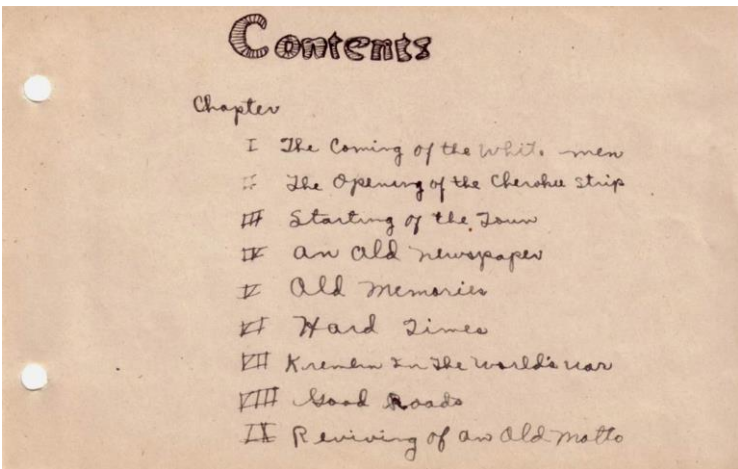
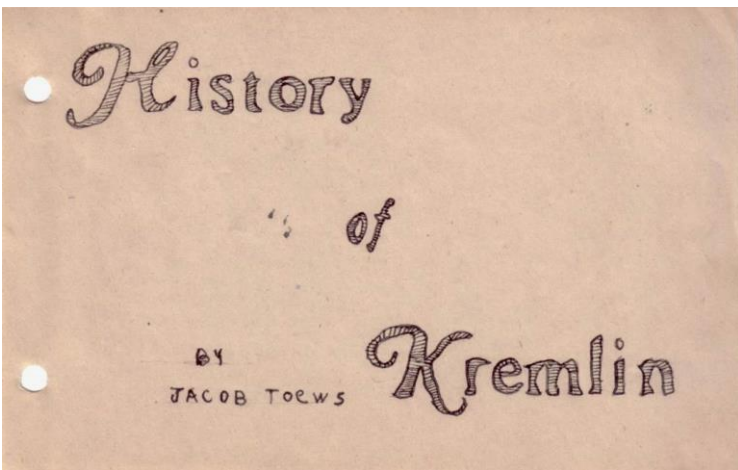
Below: **Jake and Anna Toews** wedding photo (19 March 1939) and later as farmer and wife.



Below: L, Uncle Jake (back, 2nd from L) and the Kremlin "Wonder Boys" high school basketball team; R, Jake and son Richard "Dick" with dog Trigger on our homeplace S porch.



Below: L, first 2 pages of Jake Toews' History of Kremlin; R, Anne, Richard, & Jake Toews at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.



Below: [Jacob Toews](#) as a young man; [Aunt Ann and Uncle Jake Toews](#) in their senior years.



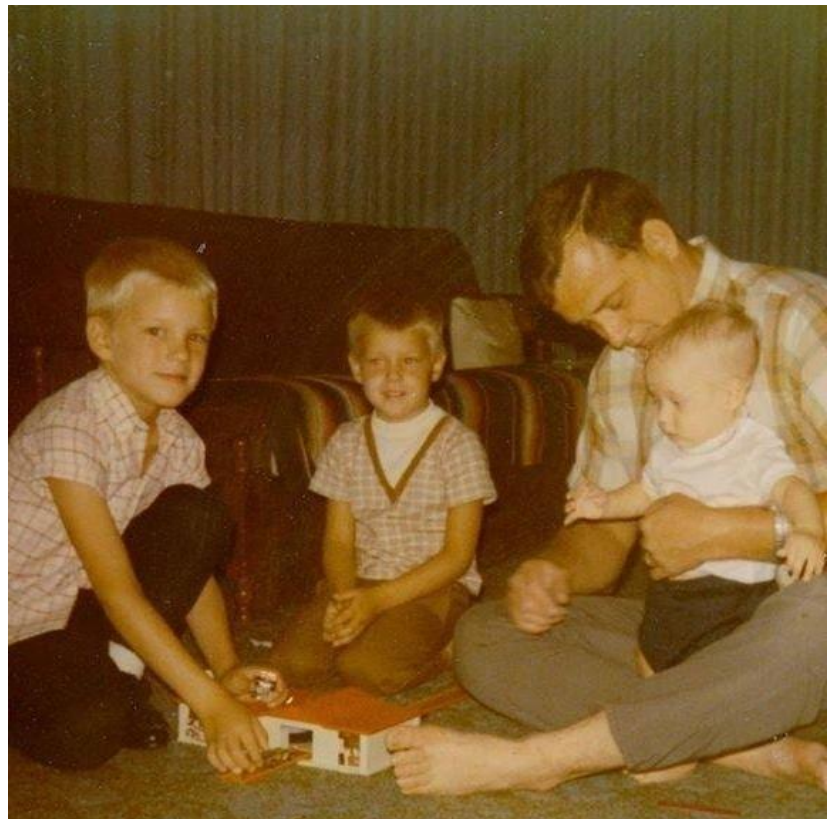
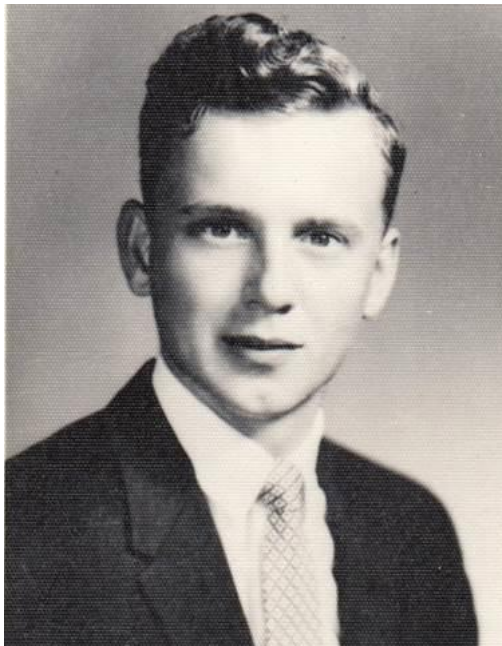
Below: L, Richard "[Dick](#)" Toews when a baby on the porch of their then home, later home to Peter I and Thelma Malter Toews; R, as a young lad.



Richard Jacob Toews



Below, clockwise: Dick and Trigger on S porch of our home place (note cistern & summer kitchen in back); Dick & Ruth Ann wedding photo (May 1961); Dick Toews high school senior photo, 1955.



Dick Toews and sons (L/R) Bobby, Ricky, Randy [officially Robert Jacob, Richard Jay, Randall Jon], 1969

Anna Rosella "Aunt Bush" Toews

Anna was born 12 March 1913 on the George P Toews home-place W of Kremlin, and she passed away at age 27 on 2 May 1940 from breast cancer. She was a schoolteacher. Her beau was **Harry Voth**. My Dad always referred to her as "Aunt Bush." [Aunt Bush](#) is buried in the **N Enid MB Cemetery**.



Photos below (L/R): **Anna's** Senior picture, as a schoolteacher in front of George P Toews home in winter, & a college-era autographed photo. Bottom: **David and Anna** at home (note person reflected in window); **Aunt Bush** (back row, 3rd from L) with some of her students.



Photos below (L/R): **Anna** in her college days; with her beau **Harry Voth**



Below: **Anna "Aunt Bush" Toews** in front of George P Toews home:



This page contains the informative [obituaries of Anna Rosella "Aunt Bush" Toews](#). For me it is heart-rending reading. [Grandpa George P Toews](#) died only a few months after Aunt Bush, perhaps partially from a broken heart (see his obituaries on p 4 & 5). From Gerry Toews Reimer

OBITUARY

Our beloved daughter and sister, Anna Rosella Toews, was born March 12, 1913 on the "home place" one and one-half miles west of Kremlin, Okla., and died Thursday, May 2, 1940 in an Enid hospital at the age of 27 years, one month, and 20 days.

Her elementary and secondary education up to the eleventh grade she received in the Kremlin public schools. May 29, 1930 she was graduated with honors from the Enid high school. During the school year of 1930-31 she attended Tabor college, Hillsboro, Kan. Since then she attended the summer school in Phillips university, Enid, for five or six summers in order to keep pace with the state certificate requirements.

Since the fall of 1931 she was employed as teacher in the public schools of Oklahoma. She apparently enjoyed her work, and her work apparently was recognized, for in every school she taught she was re-employed after the first year of teaching. During the nine years of her teaching experience she was obliged to quit during the middle of two terms, because of illness.

She was an inspiration to the home, maintaining a cheerful state of mind under all circumstances. In the early months of 1938 she accidentally discovered a growth in the lower region of her chest. She consulted competent physicians. After careful diagnosis, she was subjected to radium treatments for several weeks. When the appropriate time arrived, the growth was removed by operation. Laboratory analysis revealed that the growth was an uncontrollable transplanting growth, which finally infested her brain.

The two years following the operation she occasionally complained

of headaches, but enjoyed good health otherwise. Both years she was employed as teacher in the Columbia school district. On the evening of February 9, 1940 she insisted on attending a sacred program given by a quartet from Tabor college in the city of Enid. Because of the facts that the weather was cold, and that she had worked hard all week, mother prevailed upon her to stay home and rest, for that same group was to give a program in our church on the Sunday evening following that Friday evening. But she insisted on going, because, as she intimated, "we do not know what might happen by Sunday evening." She was correct in her contention, for on Saturday afternoon on February 10 she was overtaken by serious fainting spells. She never entered the threshold of this church again. The best medical aid, and the best hospital care was given her during the three months of her illness, but it was only for the purpose of making life most pleasant during her stay on earth. She desired to stay with us a little longer, and we wanted her with us a little longer, but "God's way is the best way." In her prayers during her illness she was submissive, always expressing her wish to recover, but she also expressed that she was willing to go, if it were the will of God. Physically, she fought a commendable fight; she never complained seriously; almost up to her end she maintained a cheerful state of mind. Only the hope of the redeemed makes that possible.

She accepted the Lord Jesus as her personal Savior in the winter of 1931 while attending Tabor college.

She leaves her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George P. Toews, one sister, one foster-sister, four brothers, one brother-in-law, two sisters-in-law, four nephews, three nieces, two aunts, five uncles, and many relatives and friends.

DEATH CLAIMS ANNA B. TOEWS, TEACHER, AGE 27

Rites Pending for Veteran Teacher at Columbia School

Anna B. Toews, 27 years old, a Garfield county school teacher, died at 5:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon in an Enid hospital after a four-months illness.

Miss Toews had taught school for nine years and at the time of her illness was teacher at the Columbia district school north of Enid on U. S. highway 81. She became ill during the Christmas vacation and had not been teaching since that time.

Funeral services will be in charge of the Schaeffer Funeral home.

Miss Toews was born and reared in the Kremlin community.

She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George P. Toews, Kremlin; two sisters, Mrs. P. H. Voth of Kremlin and Mrs. G. A. Toews, Enid; four brothers, Henry G. Toews, Peter I. Toews, Jacob B. Toews, and David A. Toews, all of Kremlin.

FUNERAL RITES SET SUNDAY FOR ANNA B. TOEWS

Services Also Will Be Held Sunday for D. E. James

Pallbearers for the funeral Sunday afternoon for Miss Anna B. Toews, teacher at Columbia school north of Enid, will be John H. Janzen, Abie Janzen, Meno Voth, Herbert Thesman, Clarence Spirling and Henry G. Kroeker.

Services will be at 1 o'clock in the chapel of the Schaeffer Funeral home, and at 1:30 o'clock at the Mennonite Brethren church north of Enid. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Miss Toews had taught school nine years. She was born and reared in the Kremlin community. Since Christmas, she had been receiving treatment in an Enid hospital.

Anna (Bush) Toews
mar. 12, 1913
May 2, 1940

Funeral photo for Anna "Bush" Toews is below: L/R, parents Anna and George P, Henry, Peter, Jacob, David, Peter H and Clara Voth, George Toews, Anne and Elsie Toews (wives of Jake and Henry), Mary Neuman Toews. We believe the small, framed portrait on the cabinet at L in the photo to be her beau, Harry Voth. May 1940



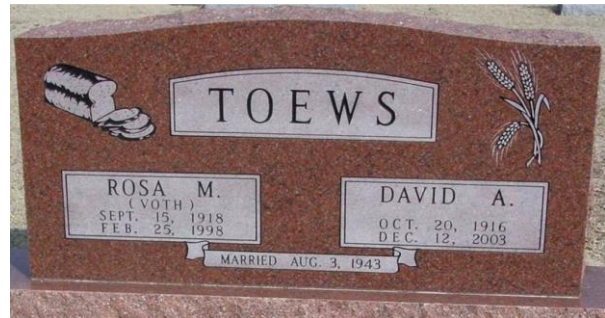
David Abraham and Rosa Marie Voth Toews

Note: this section is redundant with identical material in the "Jacob A & Elizabeth Schmidt Voth Family Information" file

David Abraham Toews, my father, was born on 20 October 1916 on our family farm ~1.5 mi W of Kremlin OK (NE/4-20-24N-6W), the youngest of six children. His wife (my mother), **Rosa Marie Voth Toews**, was born 15 September 1918 on the **Butler Place** (SW/4-19-24N-6W; N across from our **Houghtaling Farm**) near Kremlin OK. David and Rosa were married on 3 August 1943 in the **North Enid Mennonite Brethren Church**. They lived most all of their married life on the George P Toews homeplace 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ mi W of Kremlin OK.

David farmed most of his life, including renting farms from Uncle Henry and Uncle Pete Toews. He raised wheat, silage, cattle, and, with his sons, registered Hampshire sheep, and also drove a bus for Kremlin School, while Mom was homemaker and a long-time legal secretary for **Belcher, Belcher & Collins** in Enid OK.

David passed from this earth at age of 87 on 12 December 2003, and Rosa on 25 February 1998 at age 79, both in Enid OK. [Rosa](#) and [David](#) are buried in the [North Enid MB cemetery](#).



Below, L/R: [David & Rosa wedding](#) (August 1943) and [50th Anniversary](#) (August 1993) photos.



Bottom: [David and Rosa Voth Toews farmstead](#) looking WNW - note chicken house, summer kitchen, machine shed at R. This was original OK farmstead of George P and Anna Toews. ca 1930-40s

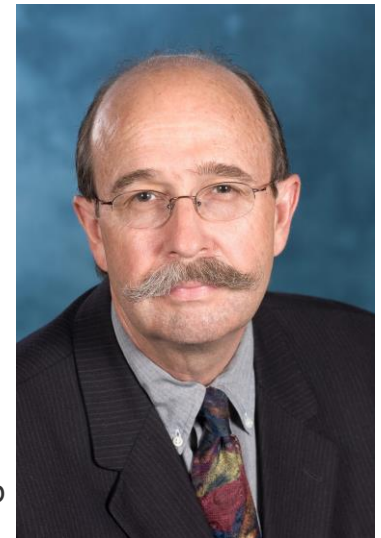


Photo below shows our homeplace in later years, before it was destroyed by a tornado in [May 1961](#).

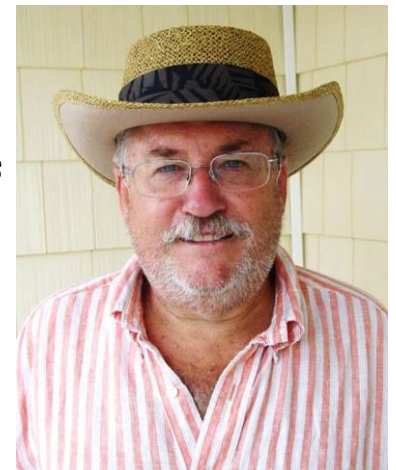


David and Rosa had 3 sons: **Galen Bruce** was born on 26 November 1945 in Colorado Springs CO and he died on 12 October 2011 at age 65 in Ann Arbor MI - he is buried in the [Valley Brook Cemetery](#) in Breckenridge CO. Galen served as Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Michigan from 1987 until his death. He married **Anita Marie Regehr**, daughter of **Henry and Tillie Suderman Regehr**) 12 August 1967 in San Jose CA. Anita was born 28 June 1946 in Chicago IL. Anita is retired and resides in Ann Arbor MI.

They have one son, **Mark Galen**, (born 23 December 1974), married to **Regan Graves**. Mark and Regan have 3 children, **Henry Galen** (b 11 April 2006), **Lucas Ames** (11 September 2009), and **Zadie Matilda** (15 March 2011). They reside in Brooklyn NY.



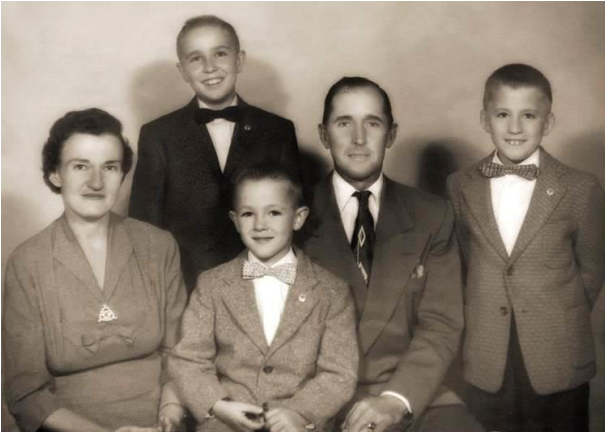
Arrel Dwayne was born in St. Mary's Hospital Annex in Enid OK on 22 July 1948. On 19 June 1971, he married **Kathy (Kathleen Kay) Neufeld** (daughter of **Leon and Viola Esther Fadenrecht Neufeld**) in Balko OK. Kathy was born 27 August 1949 in Perryton TX. Arrel was at the UNC School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, NC (Professor of Biochemistry) for 38 years. Both Kathy and Arrel are now retired and live in Carrboro NC. They have 2 daughters, **Erin Lynne** (b 28 September 1985 in Durham NC; married to **David Austin Lemon** on 9 April 2005) and **Laura Kathleen** (b 18 December 1985 in Durham NC; married to **Barron Black Martin** on 23 March 2019). Erin and Dave have 2 sons, **Austin Jacob** (b 9 August 2010) and **Benjamin Arrel** (b 12 May 2013). **Barron Black Martin III** was born to Laura and Barron on 18 May 2021 and **Elizabeth "Ellie" Kathleen** on 28 March 2023. Erin and Dave reside in Crozet VA and Laura and Barron in Bethesda MD.



Myron Lee was born 15 May 1951 at St Mary's Hospital Annex in Enid, OK. On 20 May 1972, he married **Barbara Franz** in Wichita KS. Barbara was born 10 February 1952 in Wichita KS, the daughter of **Menno B and Velma Thiessen Franz**. Myron is retired; he was Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha NE. They have a daughter **Annie Elizabeth** (b 8 June 1978; married to **Daniel Johnson**) and a son **Alexander Jacob** (b 1 October 1982). Annie and Dan have a son **Riley David** (b 1 June 2009) and a daughter **Elise May** (b 15 January 2013). The entire Myron Toews family currently resides in Omaha NE.



Photos below: L, **David A Toews family** (ca 1955); R, our home until 2 May 1961, when it was heavily damaged by a tornado and had to be demolished. Note summer kitchen, mouse house and machine shed at R and large porch.



Below, L/R: **Arrel, Galen, Myron** in 1953; our new home on the Kremlin blacktop (Keowee Road),



50th Anniversary family photo (L/R): **Anita, Mark, Myron (& Mitzi), Barbara, Erin, Annie, Alex, David, Rosa, Arrel, Kathy, Laura, & Galen Toews**, in front of our "new" house on the Kremlin blacktop. (August 1993)



David A Toews family oceanfront at North Topsail Beach NC, Summer 2013: L/R, Annie Johnson holding daughter Elise, Dan Johnson, Barbara Toews with Riley Johnson in front, Myron, Kathy, Mark, & Arrel Toews with Lucas (hat) and Henry Toews in front, Alex Toews, Erin Lemon holding son Benjamin Arrel, David Lemon holding son Austin Jacob, Laura Toews, Regan Toews holding daughter Zadie, Anita Toews



Below: Arrel & Kathy Toews family at the beach on Topsail Island NC, June 2017: left (L/R): Dave, Benjamin, Erin & Austin Lemon, Kathy, Arrel & Laura Toews, Barron Martin; right: Erin Lemon, Kathy, Laura, & Arrel Toews.



A more recent David & Rosa Toews family photo, taken July 2019 near Sawyer MI, is shown at the extreme end of this document. Arrel & Kathy June 2020 family photo as well.

Maria "Aunt Mary" Neuman Toews

Aunt Mary Neumann was unofficially adopted by the George P Toews family. Her parents were [Bernhard](#) and Maria Benke Neuman. Mary was born 5 January 1895 near Henderson NE. When she was 5 years old, her mother died, leaving Bernhard with 6 orphaned children. The father gave these children to other people to raise and provide for them. Mary was given



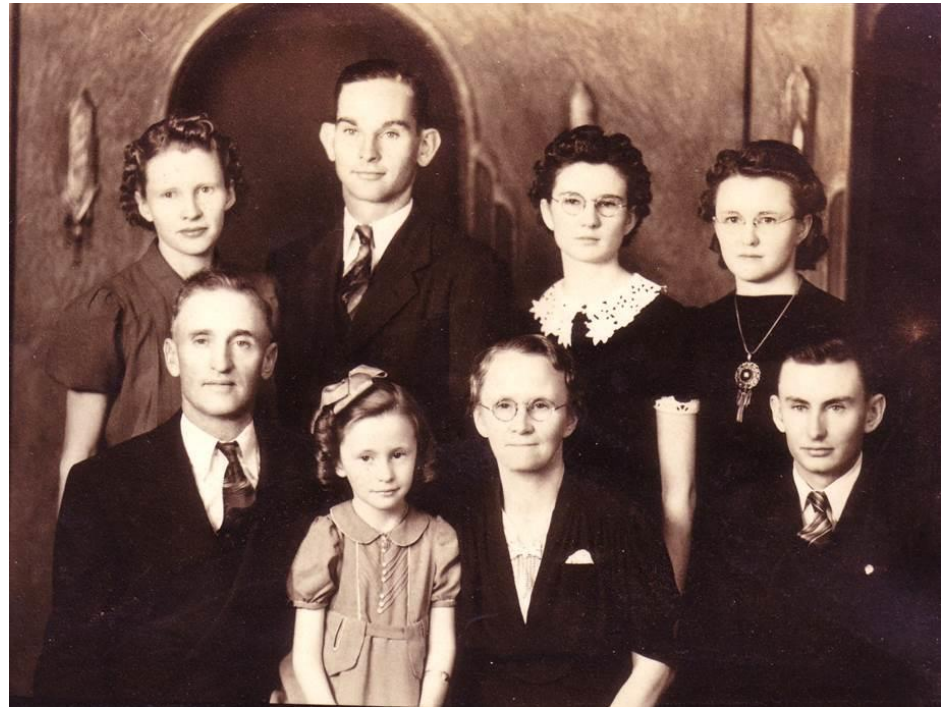
to neighbors, the [Jacob Voths](#) (likely either Jacob and Anna or Jacob J and Anna J, our G-G- and G-Grandparents, respectively). Mary was with them only one year when the Voths decided to move to OK. Since Mary's father did not want them to take her away to OK, he asked a young couple, [George P and Anna Buller Toews](#), to take Mary and raise her. In 1903, George and Anna moved to OK as well, and this time her father did not object to them taking Mary along. They moved to near Kremlin OK, where Mary attended Kremlin Schools. She married [George \(Gerhard A\) Toews](#) (born 14 December 1885 in NE), on 29 August 1915. George was the son of [Abraham Toews](#), brother to our G-Grandfather Isaac Toews. George died 14 October 1949 at age 64 and she died in Enid OK on 9 April 1981 at age 86. Both [Mary](#) and [George](#) are buried in the [NEMB Cemetery](#). Much of above information is from Mary's obituary, provided by Gerry Toews Reimer.

When we were young, Aunt Mary was often at family gatherings such as Christmas family dinners.

Photos: L, [Mary](#) as a teenage adoptee; R, [Mary & George](#), presumably at N Enid MB Church



Below: L, [George & Mary Toews](#) wedding photo (29 August 1915); R, family photo, ca 1940:
L/R, back, [Lydia and Ben Warkentin](#), [Martha](#), [Mathilda](#); front, [George](#), [Louisa Mae](#), [Mary](#), [Daniel](#)
"Dan."



Lydia and Ben were parents to [Dennis and Velda Jean Warkentin](#); Martha married [John Thesman](#), their children were [Edith](#) and [Franklin](#), who had a daughter [Vicki](#). Neither Mathilda nor Louisa Mae married.

Some GP Toews family photos: L, [Mary, Clara \(front\), Henry](#), ca 1904; R, [Mary, Bush, Clara](#), ca 1915



Below: [George P & Anna Toews sons, Henry, Pete, Jake & David](#) at S side of Toews homeplace 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ mi W of Kremlin. Note chicken barn at far L. ca early 1920s



A final photo - of [Grandpa George P Toews](#), as "[Man on the Street](#)" for the Enid Morning News.



I hope this document and my efforts to produce it will inspire readers, including especially any living relatives featured in this story, to provide additional &/or more accurate information, additional photos, and any suggestions for revisions and improvements. [I am deeply grateful to many people for photos and other invaluable assistance, but most especially my brother Myron Toews.](#) Of course these are all his family too! This will always be a work in progress, so I will always greatly appreciate any input from others.

Arrel Toews
updated 25 September 2023
Carrboro, NC

The following [seven pages \(59-65\)](#) contain an exhaustive listing of the [Descendants of George P and Anna Buller Toews](#), assembled from Brother's Keeper/GRANDMA and supplied by my brother [Myron Toews](#). I believe it is current as of [25 June 2023](#).

Note that [Maria Neumann](#), whom we knew as "[Aunt Mary](#)," was unofficially adopted by the George P Toews family and she is officially included as a descendant below. She helped raise the children of George and Anna Toews. She was always a part of our Christmas gatherings, and we knew her well.

[Page 67](#) has family information on [Great-Grandma Elisabeth Peters Toews Block](#).

Descendants of George P & Anna Buller Toews

Updated 25 June 2023

- 1 **George P Toews** b: 23 Nov 1874 in Hierschau, S. Russia, d: 22 Jul 1940 in Enid OK
 + **Anna Buller** b: 05 Apr 1875 in Marion Co KS, m: 28 Jan 1897 in Hampton NE, d: 25 Nov 1947 in Kremlin OK
- ...2 **Maria Neumann [adopted] "Aunt Mary"** b: 05 Jan 1895 Henderson NE, d: 09 Apr 1981 Fairview OK
 + **Gerhard (George) A. Toews** b: 14 Dec 1885, m: 29 Aug 1915 in Enid MB Church Enid OK, d: 04 Oct 1949
-3 Martha Mary Toews b: 15 Dec 1916, d: 13 Aug 1988
 + John Harold Thesman b: 21 Mar 1915 Enid OK, m: 06 Dec 1942, d: 19 Jun 1972 Enid OK
-4 Franklin James Thesman b: 25 Jul 1946 in Enid OK
 + Connie Lee Fuller b: 09 Mar 1949, m: 30 Jul 1971
-5 Vicki L. Thesman b: 02 Oct 1978
-5 James Thesman b: 02 Feb 1980
-3 Lydia Anna Toews b: 19 Feb 1918, d: 28 Jun 1992
 + Bernhard "Ben" Warkentin b: 15 Nov 1917 in Kirk CO, m: 22 Sep 1940 in Enid OK, d: Nov 1986 in Garfield County OK
-4 Velda Jean Warkentin b: 28 Mar 1942
 + Loren Gilbert Dittmeyer b: 21 Oct 1940 in Douglas OK, m: 25 Jun 1961 in Enid OK
-5 Beverly Lorene Dittmeyer b: 04 Jun 1962
 + Larry Hinter b: 26 Feb 1952
-5 Loren Gregory "Greg" Dittmeyer b: 29 Aug 1963
 + Oliver Boyer b: 15 Sep 1934
-4 Dennis Lee Warkentin b: 02 Jul 1947 in Enid OK
 + Brenda Joyce Metcalf b: 26 Jan 1951
-5 Denise Renee Warkentin b: 14 Jun 1974
-3 Daniel Bernhard Toews b: 22 Jun 1919, d: 27 Oct 1976
 + Phyllis Anne Denson b: 12 Nov 1935 in Enid OK, m: 27 Dec 1956
-4 Robert Toews-Willingham b: 21 Jun 1959
 + Cynthia Ann Wessel
-5 Jeremy Charles Toews-Willingham b: 22 Oct 1981
-5 Ashley Marie Toews-Willingham b: 20 May 1984
 + Charles James Thompson m: 24 Sep 2005
-6 Kemper James Thompson b: 21 Sep 2008
-6 Samantha Rose Thompson b: 25 May 2012
-6 Calvin Nehemiah Thompson b: 15 Nov 2016
-3 Matilda Esther Toews b: 14 Sep 1921, d: 1999
-3 Louisa Mae Toews b: 26 Aug 1935, d: 28 Jan 2015

- ...2 **Clara Elizabeth Toews** b: 03 Apr 1902 in Hampton NE, d: 23 Nov 1973 in Kremlin OK
 + **Peter "Pete" Harold Voth** b: 31 May 1900 in Henderson, NE, m: 28 May 1922 in Enid OK, d: 31 May 1974 in Kremlin OK
-3 **Ernest "Ernie" Henry Voth** b: 17 Aug 1925 in Kremlin OK, d: 05 Jun 2011 in Enid OK
 + **Virgie** Lou Dezort b: 02 Jun 1932 in Curtis OK, m: 22 Nov 1956 in Mooreland OK
-4 Thomas Brian Voth b: 04 Jul 1957 in Enid OK
 + Diane Louise Long b: 24 Oct 1956 in St. Louis MO, m: 18 Oct 1980 in Tulsa OK
-5 John Henry Voth b: 16 Dec 1984
 + Ruby Grace Javier m: 06 Jul 2018
-6 Henry Javier Voth b: 01 Aug 2020 in Austin TX
-5 Vanesa Diane Voth b: 05 Jan 1988
 + Kevin John Foster b: 14 Jul 1986, m: 06 Jul 2013
-6 James Henry Foster b: 11 Dec 2017
-6 Emily Mackenzie Foster b: 04 May 2020
-4 Susan Kaye Voth b: 13 Nov 1959 in Enid OK
 + William John Kilmer b: 19 Oct 1959 in Schenectady NY, m: 25 Aug 1984 in Enid OK
-5 Lauren Elizabeth Kilmer b: 23 May 1987 in Enid OK
 + Jimmy Wayne "J." Mays b: 11 Jan 1982
-6 Remy Elizabeth Mays b: 02 Oct 2016
-6 Noelle Victoria Mays b: 03 Dec 2018
-5 Jordan Michael Kilmer b: 19 Aug 1989 in Enid, OK
 + April Janice Biniasz b: 12 Feb 1986 in Calif, m: 11 Apr 2015
-5 Kalli Victoria Kilmer b: 28 Oct 1991 in Frankfurt am Main, Hessen Germany
-4 Karen Lynne Voth b: 06 Oct 1961 in Enid OK
 + John Jay Lemley b: 07 Oct 1958 in Lockney TX, m: 21 Jul 1984 in Enid OK
-5 Cassidy Lynne Lemley b: 09 Apr 1988 in Denison TX
 + Cameron Scott Twyford b: 05 Jul 1988 in Abilene TX, m: 28 Sep 2013 in Norman OK
-6 Graham Scott Twyford b: 04 Mar 2016
-6 Welles Jay Twyford b: 12 Aug 2018
-6 Etta Twyford
-5 Bethany Breann Lemley b: 25 Apr 1991 in Denison TX
-3 **Robert "Bob" Peter Voth** b: 01 Dec 1927 in Kremlin, OK, d: 11 Apr 1997 in Enid OK
 + **Carol** Helena Epp b: 26 Jan 1933 in Fairview, OK, m: 10 Nov 1951 in Fairview OK, d: 11 Mar 1998 in Enid OK
-4 Donna Jean Voth b: 10 May 1955 in Enid OK
 + Franklyn Loren Jost Jr. b: 31 Jul 1954 in Kansas City KS, m: 18 Dec 1976 in Enid OK
-5 Alisa Loren Jost b: 05 Jun 1984 in Newton KS
 + Benjamin Tobias Schmidt b: 04 Jul 1983 in Hillsboro KS, m: 29 May 2005 in Hillsboro, KS
-6 June Lauren Schmidt b: 26 Feb 2008 in Fresno CA
-6 Hudson Tobias Schmidt b: 23 Feb 2010 in Kansas City KS
-6 Pearl Schmidt b: 12 Feb 2013

-5 Robert Franklyn Jost b: 14 Sep 1987 in Newton KS
-4 Dean Alan Voth b: 18 Mar 1957 in Enid OK
 - + Jacque Lynn Gordon b: 16 Jan 1962 in Seminole OK, m: 09 Oct 1993 in Oklahoma City OK
-5 Mari Ryan Voth b: 04 Aug 1995
 - + Hunter Burrows
-5 Elijah Gordon Voth b: 25 Apr 1998
-5 Malia Suzanne Voth b: 16 May 2002 in Enid OK
 - + Vicki Jean Rinn b: 09 Nov 1958 in Chickasha, OK, m: 11 Aug 1979 in Enid OK
-5 Peter Alan Voth b: 18 Aug 1982 in Enid OK
 - + Lacey Stubblefield m: 06 May 2006
-6 Riley Rae Voth b: 29 Apr 2009
-5 Jeremiah Dean Voth b: 16 Jun 1985 in Enid OK
 - + Julia Alexandra Bowen m: 28 Aug 2010
-6 Ava Bren Voth
-6 Alexandria Voth
-6 Jackson Voth
-6 Samuel Voth
 - + Not Julia Bowen
-6 Ava Bren Voth
-5 Benjamin Allen Voth b: 29 Dec 1986 in Enid OK
 - + Brooke Wilkinson
-6 Bristol Voth
-6 Britt Voth
-4 Dan Eugene Voth b: 27 Aug 1959 in Enid OK, d: 15 Jan 2006 in Kremlin, OK
 - + Rhonda Sharleen Lowe b: 01 Jul 1959 in Durant OK, m: 08 Sep 1978 in Enid OK
-5 Daniel Ezra Voth b: 03 Mar 1979 in Enid OK
 - + Chrissy Ann Kelley b: 28 Mar 1978 in Enid OK, m: 08 Aug 1998 in Enid OK
-6 Clara Noelle Voth b: 28 Nov 2000 in Enid OK
-6 Anna Voth
-5 Joseph Aaron Voth b: 13 Mar 1984 in Enid OK
-3 **John "Johnny" Eugene** Voth b: 30 Aug 1932 in Kremlin OK, d: 17 Jan 2020 in Enid OK
 - + **Mary Ann** Sherley b: 23 Jan 1934 in Fairland OK, m: 27 Dec 1957 in Tulsa OK
-4 Janet Elizabeth Voth b: 26 Apr 1959 in Enid OK
 - + Michael David Streck b: 26 Apr 1956 in Enid OK, m: 27 Dec 1978 in Enid OK
-5 Michael David Streck b: 12 Mar 1982 in Enid OK
 - + Bronwyn
-6 Isaac David Streck b: May 2011
-5 Johnny Mark Streck b: 18 Jan 1985 in Enid OK
 - + Katie Siebert
-6 Tessa Lynn Streck b: 11 Jan 2019
-5 James Paul Streck b: 04 Feb 1987 in Enid OK

-5 Matthew Evan Streck b: 11 Aug 1989 in Enid OK
-5 Jacob Anthony Streck b: 22 Nov 1991 in Alva OK
-4 Sherley Diane Voth b: 18 Nov 1960 in Enid OK
 - + Andrew Osmond Fosmire b: 30 Mar 1960 in Rochester NY, m: 25 May 1985 in Enid OK
-5 Maxwell Osmond Fosmire b: 28 Aug 1989 in Enid OK
-5 Elizabeth Diane Fosmire b: 16 Aug 1992 in Enid OK
-5 Sophie HaoBing Fosmire b: 08 Sep 2001
-4 Gary John Voth b: 06 Apr 1962 in Enid OK
 - + Kari Jo Chaufy b: 28 Dec 1963 in Ponca City OK, m: 13 Jul 1985 in Texarkana TX
 - + Ronald Belanger, m: 18 July 2008
-5 Karleigh Ruth Voth b: 14 Aug 1987 in Norman OK
 - + Mr Wells
-5 Alacia Marie Voth b: 17 May 1989 in Norman OK
-5 Trenton Alexander Voth b: 02 May 1992 in Norman OK
-3 **Dorothy Ann Voth** b: 28 Dec 1935 in Kremlin OK, d: 13 Oct 2016 in Broken Arrow OK
 - + Norval Eugene (**Gene**) Gray b: 06 Apr 1929 in Navina OK, m: 26 Jan 1963 in Kansas City MO, d: 16 Jan 2018
-4 Michael Eugene Gray b: 05 Nov 1963 in Kansas City MO
 - + Eva Marcene Chambers b: 29 Mar 1968 in Ponca City OK, m: 18 May 1991 in Tulsa OK
-5 Hannah Karleen Gray b: 03 May 1997 in Tulsa OK

- ...2 **Henry George Toews** b: 10 Aug 1904 in Kremlin OK, d: 01 Jul 1984
 - + **Elsie** Marie Schmidt b: 17 Feb 1904 in Rosthern Saskatchewan, m: 18 Oct 1931 in Dalmeny Saskatchewan, d: 24 Mar 1975 in Enid Oklahoma
-3 **Geraldine "Gerry" Louise Toews** b: 01 Aug 1932 in Enid OK
 - + **Delmer James Reimer** b: 01 Jun 1929 in Diller NE, m: 06 Oct 1951 in Enid OK
-4 Timothy Jon Reimer b: 01 Jul 1954 in Topeka KS
 - + Pamela Beverly Anne Unruh b: 02 Oct 1952, m: 31 May 1975 in Kamloops British Columbia
-5 Holly Anne Reimer b: 14 Dec 1979 in Newton KS
-5 Andrew Michael Reimer b: 14 Jun 1982 in Newton KS
 - + Rebekkah Corley b: 01 Nov 1985 in Lafayette CO
-6 Max Reimer
-6 Margaret Reimer
-6 Everett Reimer
-6 Finley David Reimer
 - + Anita Christine Yost b: 21 Sep 1956 in Allentown PA, m: 21 May 1994 in Wichita KS
-4 Mark Alan Reimer b: 11 Jan 1956 in Hutchinson KS
 - + Hue Nugyen m: 2009
-4 Steven James Reimer b: 07 Jul 1957 in Hutchinson KS
 - + Stephanie Ann Heinrichs b: 31 Oct 1958 in Muenchweiler W Ger, m: 19 Jun 1982 in Saratoga CA
-5 Kyle Daniel Reimer b: 03 Feb 1983 in Wichita KS

+ Tiffany Garten

- 6 Miles Reimer
- 6 Macaulay Reimer
- 5 Jeffrey Paul Reimer b: 05 Aug 1986 in Wichita KS
 - + Katherine Kyle
 - 6 Regina Reimer
 - 6 Bernadette Reimer
- 5 Laura Christine Reimer b: 01 Aug 1988 in Wichita Kansas
 - + Michael Sealock
 - 6 James Sealock
 - 6 Matthew Sealock
- 5 John Alexander Reimer b: 02 Apr 1991 in Portland OR
 - + Angela
 - 6 Avila Reimer
 - 6 Magdaline Reimer
- 5 Peter Jacob Reimer b: 08 Oct 1994 in Portland OR
- 5 Benjamin Thomas Reimer b: 10 Oct 1996 in Portland, OR
- 5 Anna Marie Louise Reimer b: 08 Jan 2003
- 4 Paul Eric Reimer b: 22 Oct 1965 in Hillsboro KS
 - + Karla Kay Thomas b: 26 Jul 1965 in Meade KS, m: 25 Jul 1987 in Hillsboro KS
- 5 Eric James Reimer b: 21 Oct 1989 in Houston TX
- 5 Christopher Scott Reimer b: 03 Jun 1992 in Wichita KS
 - + Rachael
- 3 **Lorene "Rene" Ellen Toews** b: 01 Oct 1936 in Enid OK, d: 27 Jun 2018 in McPherson KS
 - + Edwin James "**Jim**" Pauls b: 10 Sep 1934 in Newton KS, m: 29 May 1958 in Enid OK
- 4 David George Pauls b: 05 Jan 1962 in Topeka, KS
 - + Kathy Ellen Riggs b: 07 Dec 1961 in Hutchinson KS, m: 21 Jul 1984 in Hutchinson KS
- 5 Aaron Michael Pauls b: 28 Mar 1989 in Wichita KS
 - + Ashley Marie Bergner b: 10 Aug 1987 in Wichita KS, m: 13 Jun 2015 in North Newton KS
- 5 Hannah Kay Pauls b: 11 Apr 1991 in Wichita KS
 - + Kendall Alan Ens b: 14 Apr 1991 in Wichita KS, m: 19 Jul 2014 in Wichita KS
- 5 Ethan Mark Pauls b: 26 May 1994 in Manhattan KS
 - + Hannah Elizabeth Abell b: 15 Aug 1993, m: 04 Jun 2016 in Manhattan KS
- 4 John Charles Pauls b: 23 Feb 1964 in Topeka KS
 - + Susan Elizabeth Conard b: 11 Jul 1965 in Coolidge KS, m: 06 Aug 1988 in McPherson KS
- 5 Lauren Elizabeth Pauls b: 10 Feb 1995 in Lawrence KS
- 5 Daniel Thoms Pauls b: 06 Jul 1998 in Lawrence KS

-4 Thomas Andrew Pauls b: 19 Jan 1965 in Topeka KS
 - + Carole Jean Martin b: 09 May 1967 in Ann Arbor MI, m: 17 Jul 2005 in Winter Park CO
-5 Yohannes Martin Pauls b: 07 Feb 2014

- ...2 **Peter "Pete" Isaac Toews** b: 20 Jan 1907 in Kremlin OK, d: 31 May 1986 in Austin TX
 - + **Thelma "Tootsie"** Ione Malter b: 16 Jul 1906 in Caseyville IL, m: 21 Dec 1946 in Wichita KS, d: 01 Aug 1989 in Austin TX
-3 **Curtis Dean Toews** b: 03 Nov 1947 in Enid OK
 - + **Rosa** Marie Gonzalez b: 18 May 1948 in Brownsville TX, m: 17 Nov 1979
-4 No Children

- ...2 **Jacob Benjamin Toews** b: 27 Apr 1909 in Kremlin OK, d: 21 May 1977 in Halstead KS
 - + **Anna** Helen Baergen b: 15 Nov 1908 in Corn OK, m: 19 Mar 1939 in Corn OK, d: 02 Jun 1999 in Hesston KS
-3 **Richard Jacob Toews** b: 19 Nov 1939 in Enid, OK
 - + **Ruth Ann** Detweiler b: 06 Oct 1939 in Thomas, OK, m: 19 May 1961 in Hesston KS
-4 Robert Jacob Toews b: 12 Sep 1962 in Newton KS
 - + Brenda Jean Stoltzfus b: 26 Jun 1963 in Coatesville, PA, m: 29 Mar 1986 in Goshen IN
-5 Benjamin Jacob Toews b: 21 Oct 1988 in Goshen IN
 - + Sami Gross b: 29 Sep 1988 in Boston, MA, m: 12 Aug 2017 in Goleta CA
-5 Sarah Grace Toews b: 16 Sep 1991 in Goshen IN
-4 Richard Jay Toews b: 23 Sep 1964 in Newton KS
 - + Jillian Ann Janicki b: 16 Mar 1969 in South Bend IN, m: 14 May 1994 in Granger IN
-5 Riley Richard Toews b: 21 Aug 1997 in Newton KS
-5 Grady Jack Toews b: 03 Dec 2000 in Newton KS
-4 Randall Jon Toews b: 23 Apr 1969 in Newton KS
 - + Sandra Kay Wiggers b: 30 Jul 1968 in Newton KS, m: 24 Jun 1989 in Hesston KS
-5 Trevor Jon Toews b: 27 Oct 1992 in Newton KS
 - + Taylor Lowery b: 02 Sep 1992 in Wichita KS, m: 09 Apr 2016 in Hesston KS
-6 Tatum Jon Toews b: 10 Sep 2017 in Newton KS
-5 Trenton James Toews b: 26 Jan 1997 in Newton KS
 - + Felicia Haddock b: 01 Sep 1996 in Gravette AR, m: 22 Apr 2017 in Moundridge KS
-6 Tucker James Toews b: 02 Mar 2018 in Newton KS
 - + [unknown spouse]
-7 Julian Maree Toews b: 08 Jan 2001 in Newton KS
-5 Julian Maree Toews b: 18 Jan 2001 in Newton KS

- ...2 **Anna "Aunt Bush" Rosella Toews** b: 12 Mar 1913 in Kremlin OK, d: 02 May 1940 in Enid OK
 - + Never Married

- ...2 **David Abraham Toews** b: 20 Oct 1916 in Kremlin OK, d: 12 Dec 2003 in Golden Oaks Village, Enid OK
 - + **Rosa Marie Voth** b: 15 Sep 1918 in Kremlin OK, m: 03 Aug 1943 Enid OK, d: 25 Feb 1998 Enid OK
-3 **Galen Bruce Toews** b: 26 Nov 1945 in Colorado Springs CO, d: 12 Oct 2011 in Ann Arbor MI
 - + **Anita Marie Regehr** b: 28 Jun 1946 in Chicago IL, m: 12 Aug 1967 in San Jose CA
-4 Mark Galen Toews b: 23 Dec 1974 in Lake Charles LA
 - + Regan Graves m: Breckenridge CO
-5 Henry Galen Toews b: 11 Apr 2006 in Boston MA
-5 Lucas Ames Toews b: 11 Sep 2009
-5 Zadie Matilda Toews b: 15 Mar 2011
-3 **Arrel Dwayne Toews** b: 22 Jul 1948 in Enid OK
 - + **Kathleen Kay Neufeld** b: 27 Aug 1949 in Perryton TX, m: 19 Jun 1971 in Balko OK
-4 **Erin Lynne Toews** b: 28 Sep 1979 in Durham NC
 - + **David Austin Lemon** b: 07 Nov 1978 in Marietta GA, m: 09 Apr 2005 in Chapel Hill NC
-5 **Austin Jacob** b: 09 Aug 2010 in Charlottesville VA
-5 **Benjamin Arrel** b: 12 May 2013 in Charlottesville VA
-4 **Laura Kathleen Toews** b: 18 Dec 1985 in Durham NC
 - + **Barron Black Martin II** b: 11 Feb 1986 in Annapolis MD, m: 23 Mar 2019 in North Garden VA
-5 **Barron Black Martin III** b: 18 May 2021 in Arlington VA
- 5 **Elizabeth "Ellie" Kathleen Martin** b: 28 March 2023 in Arlington VA
-3 **Myron Lee Toews** b: 15 May 1951 in Enid OK
 - + **Barbara Jean Franz** b: 10 Feb 1952, m: 20 May 1972 in Wichita KS
-4 Ann Elizabeth Toews b: 08 Jun 1978 in Madison WI
 - + Dan Paul Johnson Jr. b: 22 Apr 1977 in Omaha NE, m: 15 Jul 2006 in Omaha NE
-5 Riley David Johnson b: 01 Jun 2009
-5 Elise May Johnson b: 15 Jan 2013
-4 Alexander Jacob Toews b: 01 Oct 1982 in Durham NC

Family information of [Great-Grandma Elisabeth Peters Toews Block](#), from GRANDMA database, courtesy of my brother Myron Toews. Note that [Grandpa George P, Johann](#) (his twin who died in infancy; Nov 1874-1874), and [Isaak](#) were all born in Landskrone, Molotschna, South Russia, while [Elisabeth](#), a second [Johann](#) (Jan 1881 to Dec 1884), [Jakob](#) and [Abraham](#) (Apr 1884 to Mar 1885) were born near Aurora NE.

After the death of her first husband, our [Great-Grandfather Isaac Toews](#), on December 1884, after only 6 years in the US, she quickly remarried (May 1885) and busily bore second husband [Peter Block](#) 5 children within a span of 8 years. She died on 5 April 1937 and is buried in the [Elim MB Cemetery, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada](#)

Elisabeth Peters

#29251

Birth: 11 May 1852, Landskrone, Molotschna, South Russia

Baptism: Jul 1878

Immigration: 2 Jul 1878, S. S. Strassburg, arrived New York, New York

Death: 5 Apr 1937

Family: Spouse: Toews, Isaak, 4 Feb 1844, #29250
Married: 18 Feb 1872; Landskrone, Molotschna, South Russia

- 1 == Toews, Johann, 23 Nov 1874, #1096070
- 2 == +Toews, Gerhard P., 23 Nov 1874, #29252
- 3 == +Toews, Isaak, 18 Oct 1877, #29253
- 4 == +Toews, Elisabeth, 16 Oct 1879, #29254
- 5 == Toews, Johann, 5 Jan 1881, #29255
- 6 == +Toews, Jakob, 30 Oct 1882, #29256
- 7 == Toews, Abraham, 18 Apr 1884, #29257

Family: Spouse: Block, Peter P., 18 Mar 1856, #29258
Married: 3 May 1885,

- 1 == +Block, Peter, 21 Jun 1886, #29259
- 2 == +Block, Helena, 9 Feb 1888, #29260
- 3 == +Block, Heinrich, 6 Oct 1889, #29261
- 4 == +Block, Katharina "Tina", 10 Sep 1891, #29262
- 5 == +Block, Anna, 23 Oct 1894, #29263

Father: Peters, Johann Aron, 5 Apr 1809, #9772

Mother: Loewen, Margaretha, 23 Feb 1814, #9773

Addenda and updates: (updated 5 Feb & June 2020; 14 Feb 2022; 24 June 2023)

Below: **David & Rosa Toews Family photo**, taken on the SE shore of Lake MI, near Sawyer MI, July 2019. (photo by Annie Toews Johnson)



Below: **Arrel & Kathy Toews Family photo**, also taken on the SE shore of Lake MI near Sawyer MI, July 2019. (photo by Annie Toews Johnson)



Below: [Arrel & Kathy Toews Family](#) photo taken at N Topsail Beach NC, [June 2020](#). Note the actual photo was the only time in our 2020 beach week when we were this close together and only for a few seconds - due to Covid-19 safety precautions. We still had a wonderful but careful family week together. [Barron Black Martin III](#) was born 18 May 2021 and so is not included. Three photos of [B III](#) from Christmas 2021 (L & center) and February 2022 (R) are shown below.



Additional family photos of daughters Erin's and Laura's families are below:



Austin, Dave, Erin & Benjamin Lemon
December 2022



**Laura (holding baby Ellie) & Barron (holding
Barron III) Martin**
May 2023

David Toews Reminisces

ARREL\WRITE\ARREL'S ANCESTORS\3.GEORGE P TOEWS FAMILY\DAVID TOEWS REMINISCES-GALEN INTERVIEW DATE UNKNOWN

The following was transcribed from a tape recording of our father [David A. Toews](#) reminiscing and answering written questions posed by our brother [Galen Toews](#). The [date of the recording is unknown](#). David Toews died on 12 December 2003 and Galen Toews died on 12 October 2011.

Because Galen is interviewing and David is answering, there is sometimes confusion about whose Gpa/GGPa is being referred to, so I have [inserted in red the correct identification](#).

Grandpa Toews ([George P](#)) was 4 years old when he came to the United States and he did not remember one single thing about the trip because when his Dad ([Isaac](#)) died, they all had terrible high fever from influenza, and he remembered nothing from before that thing happened. Mrs. George Janzen's mother was on the ship with him, and they played together on the ship, and she remembered all of that, but he could remember nothing of that. They lived at Aurora, Nebraska a little bit west and south of Aurora.

As far as grandpa and grandma ([George P and Anna](#)) meeting, I know nothing about that, except that they lived fairly close together. Where they lived when they first got married, I don't know. Shortly after they were married, Grandma Block ([our G-Gma Block](#)) (at that time) sold the homestead and he got his inheritance which was what he bought the first farm with, which was the farm that Uncle Henry has 3 forties of, and we have 1 forty. And then he bought the east hundred acres of the home place. He didn't have enough money to handle all of that and so Grandpa Buller took the 40 that we now have and moved the house on there. Mom and Dad ([George P & Anna](#)) lived on the home place.

Did he ([George P](#)) ever work at any other jobs? No, not after he got married, that was one thing he swore that would never happen is that his boys would be hired out for work for anybody else. They were going to go into farming on their own. Aunt Mary came into the household presumably because they ([George & Anna](#)) couldn't have any children. And Aunt Mary was orphaned because her mother died and her father had a number of children and he started farming them out, so Grandpa and Grandma ([George & Anna](#)) went and got Aunt Mary. Shortly after Aunt Mary was in the home, Grandma ([Anna](#)) became pregnant and had Aunt Clara.

As far as the decision to move to Oklahoma, I think the land was too high in Nebraska and your Great-Grandpa Voth ([Jacob J](#)) was a very good friend of Grandpa ([George P](#)) Toews and as far as I know was already living in Oklahoma at that time. So Grandpa ([George P](#)) bought ([owned; bought earlier?](#)) 120 acres plus 100 when he first came here. Another interesting thing about this is - and I don't know how authentic this is, but Uncle Pete said something in the last years

that Grandpa (**George P**) Toews was supposed to get the farm where Harve Smith lived on originally and when he got to Oklahoma, this land here west of Kremlin was shoved off on him instead of the Harve Smith place [this farm is on US-81, on the Garfield/Grant County line, about 3 miles N of the Midway].

How quickly was additional land bought? That I don't know, but he bought the west 60 of the home place from old man Sperling (in **Oct 1910**), who was the father-in-law of Uncle Pete Buller (**James Buller's Gpa**). At that time or before that time, Uncle Pete Bullers lived on the George Janzen farm [S & W across road from our farm].

Grandpa (**George P**) Toews served on the school board for quite a number of years, and I think after the depression when the Bank of Kremlin almost went under, Grandpa was also on the bank board for a number of years.

He was on the Board of Trustees for a number of years in the local Mennonite church, taught Sunday school and some things like that. As far as his religious beliefs, he was a stern Christian. What principles were most important? I think they were honesty and dedication to going to church and Sunday school.

I can't say too much about his stand on peace, because during the years that he and I lived together, there was very little talk of war. He was very stern on justice and what was right and that we should always pay our debts; if we made debts to pay them. He believed in conversion and right living. He gave to the church and missions, but not in any large amounts that I know. He went to church conferences, especially in his later years and for a number of years was a free-lance correspondent for the "**Vorwärts**" now the Hillsboro Journal.

To your surprise, he (**George P?**) attended high school for a short time, where I do not know. He was very interested in education and was one of the very first local Mennonites who insisted that his boys get a high school education. I was encouraged to go to high school but not encouraged to go to college. He could talk English and could communicate in German and very fluently in Low German.

How did you view your father? Well, I better not go into that.

Grandpa (**George P**) Toews was hired out as a hired servant at the age of ten. He had to harrow corn with an old team of horses that probably walked down the row and he had to pull from one side to the other and probably worried a lot about it because he vowed that none of his boys would ever be hired out. I think that Grandpa (**Peter**) Block, being a vagabond, decided to go to South Dakota (**quite certain it was North Dakota**) where there was new land to be taken and at

that time Grandpa and Grandma (**George P & Anna**) moved on to the home place and evidently, before they moved to Oklahoma they decided to sell the homestead in Nebraska and being that Grandpa (**G-Gpa Isaac**) Toews had died, Dad (**George P**) and his brothers and sisters inherited a portion of that and that was the money that Grandpa (**George P**) Toews used to buy the land that he bought here at Kremlin. (**He got \$1616.41 from the Isaac Toews estate settlement but spent a lot more buying the land in OK**).

I think that Grandpa (**George P**) Toews must have come between 1902 and 1904 (**GRANDMA says Nov 1903**) and probably loaded all the possessions into the box car and maybe a cattle car: the horses, the wagon, the walking plow, the furniture and maybe a cow or two that they brought to Oklahoma. The farm that he bought here, I think that all it had on it was a dugout. Where they lived, I don't know, but they built the original house. As I remember them talking about it, there was an old shed here. Dad (**George P**) also built the old red barn and Grandpa (**Henry J**) Buller moved a house from Kremlin onto his 40.

Rockenbeck (**Rockenbach**) homesteaded this (**our**) farm and as far as I remember he was a bachelor that lived in a dugout and probably wanted to get rid of what he had left, because he only had a hundred acres. (**Rockenbach had the entire 160; sold it to Abe Sperling Sep 1902; Sperling sold it to Fritz Krause; and Krause sold the east 100 to George P, partly contested**). "Old Man" Sperling had the west 60. The Janzen family and the Rempel family, they came later on, probably between 1918 - 1920. Most of the other families were here by that time, the Kroekers, and the Grunaus and some of those, the Sperlings, but Grandpa Buller came at the same time.

Grandpa (**Henry J**) Buller used to live as I recall on a portion of the farm that was right west of the Mennonite Church and I think Jake Regier's grandpa had that, and they got at odds about it. I don't know if it was selling the land or moving off the farm that he had. But there was a rift between them, but as far as Grandpa (**George P**) Toews was concerned, I don't think he had any enemies. He was pretty stern about things when someone tried to get next to some of his better known friends, but I think he respected most people whether they were of the worldly neighbors or church people. I suppose Grandpa's (**George P**) best friends were Grandpa Jacob J. Voth (**our G-Gpa**) and his family. Grandma Toews, quite frequently when I was young, would call Great-Grandma (**Anna J**) Voth. I remember distinctly that she would call and then when Grandma (**Anna J**) Voth would answer, Grandma (**Anna**) Toews would say "Hello Auntje." And then they would visit at length.

Of course, I shouldn't say that they weren't at odds with some people; they were sometimes pretty bent out of shape at Uncle Pete Bullers (**James Buller's Gpa**) and Uncle John Bullers because they didn't want to take care of Grandpa (**Henry J**) Buller in his later years.

Grandpa (**George P**) had high respect for Great Grandpa (**our G-Gpa Jacob J or GG-Gpa Jacob?**) Voth's brother (**Gerhard "George," brother to Jacob J**), who was a leader in the church and the deacons Rempel and Harms, they visited with them and the George Voths and families. There was very little visitation with the Kroeker families and the Regier families and the Grunau families, but they did associate with the George Janzens and especially with (**Mom's**) Uncle Chris Voth and his wife Anna. They were very close to them when they lived on the Garold Fox farm and were shortly married.

Great Grandpa (**our GG-Gpa Gerhard Isaac**) Toews, when he lived in Russia lived outside of the "dorf" at a big white stone house supposedly, and was considered one of the better heeled people at that time. Great Grandpa (**our GG-Gpa GI**) Toews was what they called a full-fledged owner in the village and some of those shares had been divided to half shares and Grandpa (**Henry J**) Buller always said that when he got to that point that he was married, he was what they called a "sheet vert" ("**shit's worth!**") so he wound up coming to America. He was a horse trader, a dehorner of cattle and probably not the best of a businessman. He hauled bundles during the summertime in the last years to stay alive and wound up with two very decrepit horses to do his farming with and his traveling. He never owned a car.

At the time I can first remember they (**Henry J & Sara Buller**) were living in the house and Aunt Sarah was an old maid, a daughter of theirs who lived with them. They had chickens. Aunt Sarah was a hypochondriac who went along with Grandpa and Grandma (**George P & Anna**) Toews to Enid every week and had a doctor appointment with some doctor. If the doctor got tired of seeing her or didn't get enough of the chicken money, then she had to go to another one. If she didn't have wax in her ears, she had something wrong with her. Somewhere in the early 30's she married a John Penner from Nebraska who was a cousin of Grandpa (**George P**) Toews. After they were married, they went back to Nebraska where Penner was a welfare man more or less, made brooms and sold them. She was married 2 or 3 months and she had an attack of some kind. They took her to the doctor, and he operated on her kidney, and she never made it through the operation. Grandpa Toews found out afterwards that the doctors in Enid knew all about that she only had one kidney and that she would never make it through an operation, and they just kept kind of getting along with her. But the Nebraska doctor didn't know that, so he proceeded to operate on her.

At the time Aunt Sarah got married, Grandma (**Sara**) Buller had already passed away, so Grandpa (**Henry J**) Buller moved in with us with the understanding that Uncle Henry Buller would come and get him after a month and then Uncle Pete Buller would come and take him for a month and then they would rotate. Uncle John Buller had a divorce at that time and was just a welfare person in Enid so he couldn't take care of him. Grandpa went one month to live with Uncle Henry Buller, then he lived one month with Uncle Pete Buller, then he came back to live with us. Then he said he wasn't going back to Uncle Henry Buller anymore because it was too dirty there and he probably spent one or two months yet after that over the years with Uncle Pete Buller and the rest of his life he spent living with us which meant that someone had to take care of him at all times.

He was a person who had convulsions (**maybe epilepsy or worse?**) at times. Before he had these convulsions, he would be very mixed up and probably say things about when he was in Russia or Nebraska. He would take out walking down the road and would sometimes be a mile away from home and then later on in the process, he would have convulsions, anywhere from two, three to ten convulsions. When the convulsions were over, he would be bedfast for 12 - 24 hours. Grandma (**Anna Toews**) would take care of him and then he would be up and around again.

He chopped kindling every day of the year unless it was just the worst cold. He thought that he was paying for his keep and finally one afternoon - and this is something that not any of you know. One afternoon after I was out of high school while I was supposed to be taking care of him and I was to a certain extent. I was in the dining room in the old house, and I was aware that he was in his bedroom which was in the far northwest corner of the house. I walked by the door which he never had completely closed, and I thought something was strange in there. I didn't know what to do. So I waited a little while and then I went and looked again through the door and saw that he was hanging by a rope which he had put around his neck from a coat hanger on the side of the door that was between the two little bedrooms (**guest bedroom divided at the time?**). At that time I called Aunt Clara and told her that Pete should come over right away. Before he came, Aunt Anna (**Bush**) who was teaching at Columbia School at the time, came home, and I told her. She went and got the butcher knife and cut the rope. Shortly after that time, Grandma and Grandpa Toews came back from Enid and they called the sheriff and the doctor and so forth.

The following is read by Galen Toews:

Let's move to purchase of additional land. When Uncle Pete Voth and Aunt Clara were married, they lived in the upper floor of Grandpa Voth's (**Jacob J's home at the time; Jacob A living in Butler house at the time, but later moved to Jacob J's house when Jacob J moved to new house,**

later home to Bob/Carol Voth) house for a year or two. Uncle Cornelius Voth had been living in the house that Garold Fox lived in for a number of years. Since Uncle Cornelius had been trained as a tractor mechanic, he was anxious not to farm and moved to Enid to work as a tractor mechanic. Uncle Pete and Aunt Clara then moved into that house.

Great Grandpa (Jacob J) Voth owned the farm that Dorothy Voth now owns. He eventually sold this farm. The north 80 was sold to Uncle Pete Voth and the south 80 was purchased by Grandpa Toews. This 80 was purchased in approximately 1926 or 1927. The next farm that was purchased was the north farm of Uncle Pete's farms. This farm had originally been owned by the Dorians which were an Irish family. This farm was sold at a bank ordered sale and was originally purchased by the owner of the Bank of Kremlin, whose name was Bradihoft. Grandpa Toews and Uncle Henry then purchased this farm from Mr. Bradihoft in 1929 or 1930 for a price of approximately \$7,000. Uncle Henry Toews sold his half interest in the north farm to Uncle Pete to raise the necessary capital to buy a house in Kremlin in 1930 or 1931, so that he had a place to live after being married. The South farm was bought from the Dorians in 1935 for \$4,250. This farm was purchased by Grandpa (George P) Toews and Uncle Jake. Money was borrowed from Omer Faller (Fowler) to buy the north farm and from Mr. Windler to buy the south farm. Mr. Windler had earned a considerable sum of money in the Garber Covington oil field.

Grandpa (George P) Toews was also involved in the Bank of Kremlin. Uncle Henry graduated from high school in 1922 and went to work in the bank approximately a year later. In 1930 / 1931 the Bank of Kremlin was insolvent. The bank was closed for a brief period of time. At this point in time, Mr. Bradihoft forfeited all of his interest in the bank and the bank became a depositor or farmer owned bank. Each of the depositors was given bank stock in return for an agreement to leave their money in the bank. At this point in time, a Board of Directors was elected to administer the bank. The Board of Directors were John Weurflein and Grandpa (George P) Toews and another unknown member. John Eger and Henry Toews were the men who were involved in the day to day banking decisions. He remained a member of this Board of Directors until his death in 1939. The Board of Directors met on a regular basis to discuss loans and the indebtedness that individuals had to the bank. The Board of Directors were elected by the depositors. Grandpa Toews was apparently elected to this Board of Directors because of the community's trust in him as he was not a majority stockholder in the bank at this time.

Grandpa (George P) Toews was also a member of the Kremlin School Board for 12 years, his term ending in 1936. (while new brick schoolhouse built!)

The ability to buy additional farms was greatly aided by coming to Oklahoma with a significant amount of capital, which was obtained from selling land in Nebraska.

Here is a little bit of information about [farming](#) narrated by David A. Toews.

First, I remember Grandpa ([George P](#)) Toews had two horses that I would term horses. They were Prince, a gelding and Bird, a mare. Then he had two horses that were half Hamiltonians. They were Barney and Daisy. Then he had two that were half broncs named Colonel and Liz and evidently must have had 2 more horses that I don't remember because he had enough horses that he could hitch 8 of them together and run two binders. Grandpa could run one and Uncle Henry could run one. Most of the machinery was drawn by 4 horses. Four horses would pull an old Ward (?) wort(?) plow, a 2/14 about 2 to 3 inches deep. They would pull a single disk and a 15 foot harrow and about a 12/8 drill that held probably $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of wheat at the very most. In later years, Dad ([George P](#)) could drive faster with the horses and put in longer hours, and plow a little bit deeper by hooking up 5 horses which meant that the one horse always walked in the furrow and if you hooked up five, the fifth horse walked on the plowed ground, the others walked on the stubble. This is the way we plowed with a 2/14 plow or a 2 disk plow which cut 20 inches.