

George and Mary Stohr Family

As told by Harriet Andersen-Anderson to her children

Your great-great grandparents, George and Mary Stohr, were each German immigrant children who knew the hardships of early frontier life in America. They were married in 1871 and started their life together in Grundy County, Iowa where they were blessed with seven children – two boys and 5 girls. The two boys died of smallpox when they were four and six years old – one girl also died young. Great-great Grandpa George made the caskets for the children. That must have been a sorrowful task. The four remaining children were: Bertha, Minnie, Martha, and Etta.



Your great-great grandparents were very strict Lutherans until an Adventist evangelist by the name of Joseph Bates held some meetings in the country school. Several of the relatives went, but only your Great-great grandparents really studied and they were convinced it was the truth according to the Bible. Great-great Grandpa George would take his German Bible and his English Bible and compare them. Bertha (or Auntie as she was better known) was 17 at the time. Your Great Grandma Etta (Johnson) was 11 at the time. They all rode in a lumber wagon to the river that still had ice in it to be baptized. Auntie said it was very cold, but no one got sick!

Great-great Grandpa George Stohr passed away in June of 1915. He was buried in Iowa, but later his remains were brought to Oakland Cemetery in Hutchinson, MN, as well as his gravestone which he had made.

Great-great Grandma Mary Stohr lived in Iowa until 1919 when she and Aunt Bertha moved to Hutchinson, MN. Great-aunt Bertha lived with her mother and cared for her until Mary passed away in 1924. She is also buried in Hutchinson along with several other family members.

Bertha never married but loved children and helped to raise many of them – she was happiest when she had a child on her lap. She worked as a mid-wife as her mother, Mary, had done. In her later years she lived and farmed with her niece's family, Chris and Martha (Johnson) Andersen (Martha was the daughter of Etta Stohr-Johnson) and Bertha assisted Chris in delivering me (Harriet) during a bad snowstorm. She passed away in March 1970 after an extended hospital stay for a broken hip.

Minnie married George Kramer and they lived for a time in Iowa but later moved to Hutchinson. They had four children: Martha (married Alvin Kaldahl), John (married Christina Dollinger), George Jr. (married Margaret Forsyth), and Minnie (married Thomas Mooty).

Etta married Daniel Johnson and, after living in Iowa and Colorado, they finally settled down on a farm near Hutchinson, MN. They had nine children, all of whom graduated from Maplewood Academy in Maple Plain and in Hutchinson. Daniel helped build the Hutchinson church school in 1923 (later taken down in 1975). Their children were: Sadie (never married), Minnie (married Howard Hanson), Walter (married Tillie Hegle), Martha (married Chris Andersen), Stemple (married Helen Osgood), Kimber (pastor and conference president married Helen Cornell), Kirstine (married Virgil Tasche), Duane (pastor and missionary to India married Shirley Cavin), Richard (literature evangelist married Alice Jensen).

Martha married Andrew Anderson – they also lived in Iowa for a time before moving to Hutchinson, MN. They had four children: Earl (married Ella Dollinger), Ray (Bud married Genevieve Nelstad), Bertha (married Leo Sandrini), Emmet (married Pauline Carpenter).

Many of the Stohr descendants attended Maplewood Academy and Hutchinson Theological Seminary and a great number of them grew up to become strong leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. All of this because two young German immigrants heard the message of Joseph Bates and diligently studied the Bible, searching for truth.



Joseph Bates
The SDA preacher who led
George and Mary Stohr to
search their Bibles and accept
the SDA message



The Stohr sisters: Etta, Bertha, Minnie and Martha