

Samuel's son Franklin told his son, Harrison Graf, who later passed the information to his grandson Tom Warren, that the cabin stood on the north side of the west entrance to the present Lake Holiday. This would be the northwest corner of Easy St. and Mary Ann St. The spring where the family got water was probably at the brook to the south. The story goes that when the Grafs moved to a frame house later, an oak sapling was planted to mark the old log cabin location. It is debatable whether the oak on the north side of the entry road is that historic oak since it is not an ancient tree.³⁴

Pioneers needed the wooded areas near streams for water, fuel and building materials. The unsheltered, swampy prairie with its tough, unworkable sod was considered worthless.

Samuel worked at tailoring and started to farm. An official township record shows that on November 16, 1839 Samuel "Graff" had 160 acres, the northeast quarter of Sec. Eight along the Somonauk Creek. The log cabin was in the very northwest corner of this property. Not long after they had arrived, Samuel had put four acres near the timber into wheat; this was always called the "little field". "As a man, he was full of activity, earnest, true, exceedingly conscientious, always wanted to do right. But one sad experience came to him - that was in losing his beloved wife, Margarete, and he was left with three small children."³⁵

Samuel wrote in English in the family Bible, "She was a good and faithful wife and a tender Mother, sacred be the remembrance of her."³⁶ Samuel and Margarete's children were very young when their mother died.

IV 1. ANNA BARBARA GRAF b. 3 May 1835 d. 1888 (or 27 Sep 1885) wed Rev. William F. Stahl. William had seven children from a previous marriage. When her mother died and she was three, Anna Barbara's father left her and her little brother with neighbor James Powell's family for the winter until he returned with his new wife.

- V 1. ALBERT STAHL, born about 1858, d. March 1888
- 2. EDWARD STAHL m. Olive M. Crawford, lived in Kansas
- 3. THEODORE STAHL b. about 1859 d. 3 Mar 1866
- 4. CARL J. STAHL was a forest ranger, near Denver, Colorado
- 5. LAURA E. STAHL b. about 1861 d. July 1884
- 6. ELEANOR H. STAHL b. 1863 d. 1936 wed Alfred Marcellus d. 1928

VI 1. DAVID MARCELLUS b. 1890 d. 1961 wed Hattie ____

- VII 1. WILLIAM MARCELLUS died in a tractor accident
- 2. ROBERT MARCELLUS lived in Princeton, Illinois
- V 7. SAMUEL T. STAHL born about 1866 d. 25 Feb 1879
- 8. OTTO E. STAHL b. about 1870 d. June 1891
- 9. ANN M. STAHL born about 1873 d. November 1890
- 10. JOHN J. STAHL born about 1878 d. September 1906

IV 2. SAMUEL GRAF b. 13 Feb 1837 d. 6 Oct 1921 Wed Julia Bernard b 15 Dec 1847, d. 29 Jun 1931. Samuel was a Civil War soldier in the Tenth Illinois Infantry Company C of Sandwich, Illinois, said to be the first full company raised in the United States under the first call of President Lincoln.³⁷

³⁴ Conversation with Paul Graf

³⁵ Op. Cit. Manuscript Mary Graf Hess

³⁶ Bible in the possession of Donoho Family - Edna Graf Smith descendants

³⁷ History of DeKalb County, Illinois, Henry L. Boies 1868



Wedding picture of Samuel and Julia Bernard Graf

Samuel's father, Samuel, went to Ottawa to hear the Lincoln-Douglas debate August 21, 1858. He said later that he approved what Lincoln said but he did not vote for him in the upcoming election because he had four sons; he thought if Lincoln was elected, there would be a civil war.³⁸ As it turned out, only one son, Samuel, was a soldier in the war that came as prophesied. After three years of arduous campaigns, he was mustered out February 7, 1865. Long after the war, because he had been wounded in the back, Samuel was teased by his siblings because, they said, he must have been running away from the battle.³⁹ After their marriage Samuel and Julia farmed for 36 years on a farm two miles west of Somonauk.⁴⁰ Later, they lived in Sheridan. Aunt Julia was plump and jolly. They had a peacock which strutted around their yard.⁴¹

IV 3. MARTHA GRAF b. 8 Jun 1839 d. 6 Dec 1889. Wed Henry Gustav Stahl (brother of W. F. Stahl) Martha, who not quite a year old when her mother died, was cared for

³⁸ Dora Graf Suppes had heard this story.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Beelman Book

⁴¹ Op. Cit. Dora Graf Suppes

by another neighboring family, the Warners, while Samuel Senior went back to Somerset County the winter of 1840. It must have been a very hard time for her despite the caring neighbors.

- V
1. JULIA BEATRICE STAHL wed Harold O. Lawrence
 2. LYDIA G. STAHL wed ____ Meyer
 3. FRANK STAHL
 4. CARL STAHL, died age 7
 5. PAUL STAHL, died age 20
 6. ANNA STAHL, died age 10

In 1909 there was a law suit in the LaSalle County Circuit Court by Lydia and Julia Stahl and their father Henry Gustav Stahl against the defendants, the widow and children of the deceased Samuel Graf, Senior and the executors of his will regarding the dispersal of his estate. By this time, Martha Graf Stahl had died. The outcome is unknown.

After Margarete Finly Graf died in July of 1840, and after the harvest, Samuel returned to Somerset County and courted Louise-Anna Parker. She was much younger than Samuel and Margarete but was said to be a good friend of Margarete (indeed, her first daughter was apparently named for this first wife). She had clear, blue eyes and was about five feet six inches tall according to great-grandson Verne Hazeman with whose family she lived part of her old age.

Her father died when she was very young. At the age of six her mother put her in Mr. Musser's family to remain there till she would become of age, 18 years. When she was 17, she was confirmed and joined the German Lutheran Church. The last year of her stay in Pennsylvania she lived in the family of Mr. Beachley. She was married at that place the 22nd of March 1841. Her mother's maiden name was Mary Hill and she married a Parker.⁴² Mr. Beachley is reported to have been a minister.⁴³ Louise-Anna's mother was living in Meyersdale at the time of the wedding and attended her daughter's marriage to Samuel.⁴⁴

A note made by Dora Graf Suppes reads "Thomas Hill 1881, John Parker 1866, Isabella Parker 1839." These names are followed by "Corkley 315 Salisbury Street". It is the writer's belief that Corkley refers to a Somerset genealogist she once met. The years referred to are perhaps death dates?

After their marriage, when Samuel and Louise-Anna started for their new home, they probably traveled on keel boats, the standard river transport. It seemed to Louise-Anna and her friends that she was setting off for the very far West; the young women teased Louise-Anna about marrying such an "old man" and advised her to push him overboard on one of the rivers "to save herself".⁴⁵ She was 23 and he was 40.

The first change they made was at Pittsburgh. Then, they came down on the Ohio River through Cincinnati down to Louisville. They changed again at Cairo, rode on the Mississippi

⁴² Op. Cit. Mary Ann Hess

⁴³ Dora Graf Suppes

⁴⁴ Op. Cit. Mary Ann Hess

⁴⁵ Dora Graf Suppes

River up to St. Louis, changed boats again and took the Illinois River and rode up to Peru, Illinois. From there, they came by wagon to Ottawa and from there by wagon to their final home in Somonauk. They were 11 days on the way. In a couple of days they had cleaned up their little cabin and settled down for good again. Then Father Graf went and got his three little children and brought them home again.⁴⁶

Samuel Graf was not a rugged man; Louise-Anna was strong and helped him in the fields. The Potawatomi were still living along Somonauk Creek, still hoping they would not have to give up their homeland. Verne Hazeman said that Grandma told him how the Indians were expected to attack one time and Grandpa was sick, so they couldn't go to the fort at Ottawa. She took the children and they all lay down in the wheat field for two days so as not to be seen from the cabin or trails. He stayed in bed with a loaded gun, but they did not have visitors. Dora Suppes also heard this story and that Grandma had a hard time keeping the children quiet for such a long, dangerous time. Just a few years before in 1832 there were 17 settlers massacred at nearby Indian Creek settlement.

In 184` Samuel obtained a Preemption Certificate No. 5768, signed by President Tyler, for 160 acres, northeast quarter of Section Eight. The next year his and Louise-Anna's first child was born.

IV 4. MARGARETE GRAF b. 4 Jan 1842 d. 27 Feb 1917. Wed in 1863 John Henry Beck, b. 18 Jan 1837 d. 30 Apr 1925

V 1. ANNA-LOUISE BECK b. 5 Apr 1865 d. 28 Aug 1940. Wed Edward Hazeman (son of Gustav)
b. 21 Aug 1866 d. 1 Dec 1945

VI 1. CLAUDE H. HAZEMAN b. 28 Jun 1896 d. 4 May 1984
2. MARGARET ANNA HAZEMAN b. 13 Jun 1898 d. 1974. Wed__Bailius

VII 1. LOU ANN BAILIUS, wed__ Sarver, divorced. 2nd marriage Ed Alleman

VIII 1. RONALD SARVER
2. ROBERT SARVER

VI 3. VERNE HAZEMAN b. 13 Jan 1902 d. 14 Aug 1995. Verne remembered his great-grandmother Louise-Anna well. He fondly recalled the stained arms of her rocking chair "from her sweat". He passed this chair on to his niece, Lou Ann Alleman, and he gave Samuel's rocker to cousin Marilyn Rasmusen.

He is pictured below in his Plainfield, Illinois residence; he had moved from his lifelong farm to a new residence that Lou Ann found for him to be near her. "Best I ever had," is the way he described his new little home. He planted, harvested and cooked well from his vegetable garden there and made delicious pickled apples from the crab tree in his back yard.

⁴⁶ Op. Cit. Manuscript Mary Graf Hess



- V 2. LILLIE BECK b. 1865 d. 31 Aug 1965
- 3. LUCY BECK b. 1867 d. 1956 wed Prosper Loux
- 4. SAMUEL BECK b. 1879 d. 26 Feb 1959 wed Lila Legner
2nd marriage, Mildred Peterson

VI 1. DOLORES BECK wed Robert Barnes

- V 5. FREDERICK BECK b. 1870 d. 1951 wed Adeline Hazeman (dau. of Gustav)
b. 1877 d. 5 Feb 1956

VI 1. VIVIAN BECK b. 1901 wed Jesse Hupach b. 1891 d. 5 Apr 1966

- V. 6. MARGARET BECK lived in Washington state, wed Leon Foos

VI 1. LIDA FOOS wed Norman Robert Pringle

- V 7. ANGELINE BECK b. 13 Feb 1886 d. 6 Jan 1981

Margarete Graf Beck spent more than two decades rearing babies; like many women of her day, the family was large - economically and socially satisfying, but a lot of hard work

A picture of Margarete appears below. From her clothing she seems to have been a cheerful, attractive woman.



In 1843 when Samuel and Louise-Anna's first baby Margarete was about a year old, Samuel obtained another preemption certificate, No. 6323, 80 acres, the east half of the southwest quarter of Section Five. Now, he had preempted a total of 240 acres.

IV 5. EDWARD GRAF b. 2 Sep 1843 d. 16 Sep 1849. Shortly after his sixth birthday Edward was in the grass outside the cabin. His little sister Mary Ann was playing by a log nearby. She heard him scream. His mother also heard him cry out. When she went to investigate, he was lying on the ground. Samuel walked to Northville, about a mile to the south, where there was a doctor "of sorts", but Edward's body swelled up and he died quickly. They supposed he was bitten by a snake, though no puncture marks were found.⁴⁷ He was sadly laid to rest in what was called the "German cemetery", now the Lutheran cemetery south of Somonauk. Samuel recorded the death in the family Bible and called Edward "a dear and lovely child".

IV 6. DAVID GRAF b. 22 Sep 1845, d. 23 Feb 1934. Wed Adaline Hazemann. In 1875 David and his other brothers were given land about six miles east of Beatrice, Nebraska. Samuel Graf Senior had bought six, eighty-acre tracts in 1872 and had now conveyed these tracts to his six sons. David, along with brothers Franklin and John and the three wives, left Illinois and spent the winter of 1875 in Beatrice. While returning from the

⁴⁷Dora Graf Suppes told this "handed down" story

store with a sack of flour one day, David was offered the vacant lot on which the Beatrice post office now stands, to be traded for the flour. He declined as he thought the flour was more valuable to him right then, it being almost impossible at that time to raise tax money for land.

So the three couples took their teams of oxen and started farming the next Spring in these years of hardship and deprivation. What the hot winds of the late 1800s did not burn up, the grasshoppers finished. Stories were told that the hoppers even chewed up wooden pitchfork handles.

They persevered and eventually, David's farming operation encompassed 600 acres. In 1876 he bought the northeast quarter of Section 11 in Midland Twp.; he paid \$12 an acre. There was a three-room house on the land in which David and Adaline's first three sons were born. By 1892 they had built a large farm home, and a large barn soon followed.

Half-mile long caravans of Indians passed by the farm in those days on their way from the Oklahoma Reservation to visit tribes on the South Dakota Reservation. They were reduced to begging, and they took whatever they were permitted as their old culture told them was proper. When Adaline was home alone and saw Indians coming, she would lock the doors, pull the blinds and lie down on the floor till they went away since, if the house was unlocked, they would come right in. This was the way they had always lived among themselves.

David was a nature lover and in later springtimes he planted many trees. He was an extensive reader with wide interests; he enjoyed simplicity. He and Adaline were devout members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They had no nearby church but every winter, preachers would come and hold nightly services in the school house; they would stay with the Grafs for a two-week period.⁴⁸

When David Bernard was 12, he went to Nebraska with his mother and grandmother to visit Uncle Dave and Aunt Adaline. He remembers Aunt Adaline always had fresh peaches or plums on the breakfast table. He said Uncle Dave seemed tall and thin, an aquiline face and white hair.⁴⁹

V 1. ALPHA GRAF b. 9 Nov 1877 d. 19 Dec 1943. Wed Lillian Hazemann. Some time before Alpha married, he and his brother John bought 200 acres of land from their father. Later, Alpha and Lillian built a fine home here using the large slabs of stone from a pioneer house on the property as well as native lumber from their timber. They farmed here for many years.

VI 1. LUCILLE GRAF b. 11 Jun 19__ . Wed Roy H. Ochsner

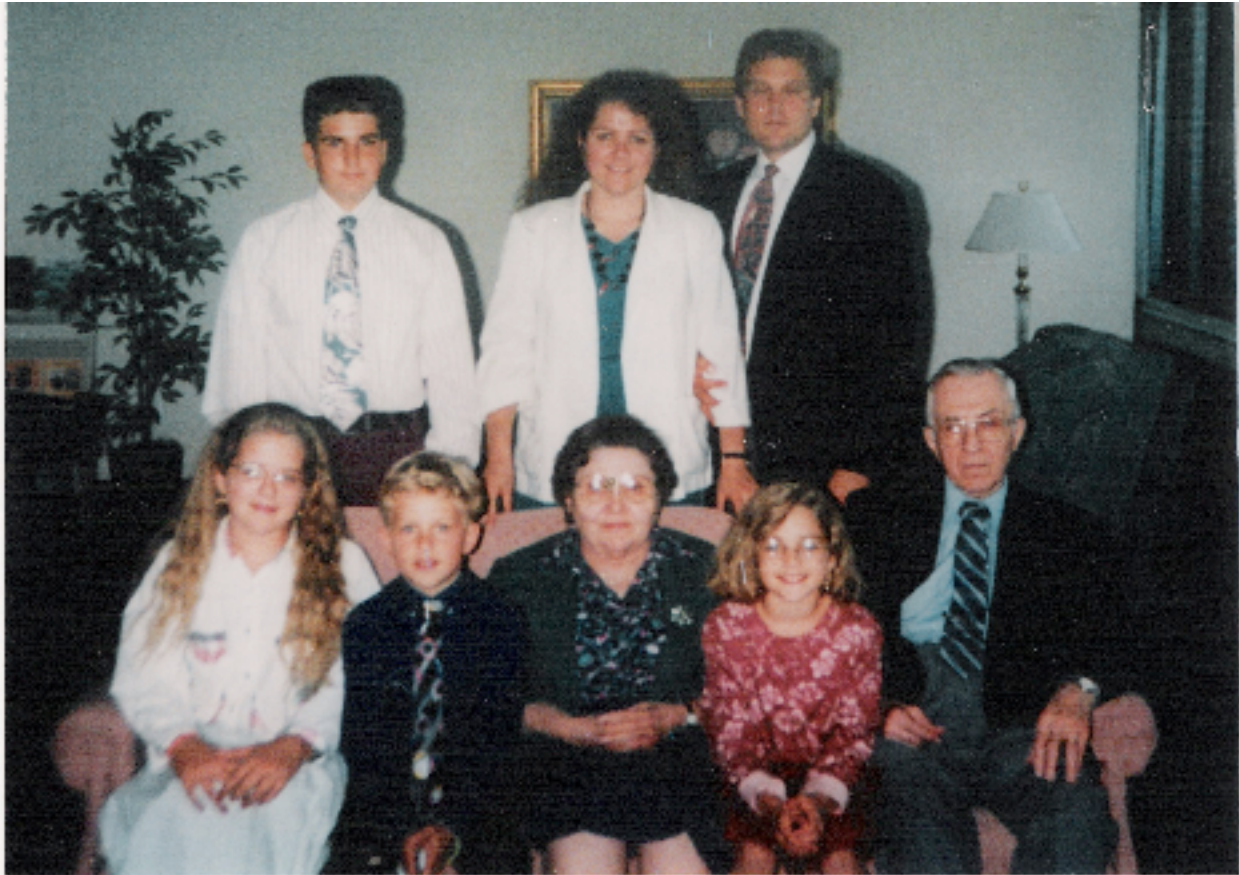
VII 1. MARTHA OCHSNER b. 10 Feb 1954 . Wed John Carey

VIII 1. BENJAMIN CAREY b. 26 Feb 1980
2. ELIZABETH CAREY b. 22 July 1981
3. AMY CAREY b. 2 Sep 1983
4. DAVID CAREY 7 Jul 1985

⁴⁸ Manuscript, Fordyce Graf

⁴⁹ Letter from David Bernard to Marilyn Rasmusen

A picture of Lucille Graf Ochsner and Roy Ochsner appears below with daughter Martha and husband and children.



V 2. JONATHAN GRAF b 14 Feb 1880 d. 24 Feb 1956. John, as he was called, farmed with Alpha and lived on the farm where he was born all his life.

3. CLARENCE GRAF b. 4 Jun 1883, d. 27 Jul 1961. Wed Elizabeth ____ . Clarence first farmed near Filley, Nebraska where his children were born. He then operated a 2000-acre ranch in the western part of the state, then sold that and built a home in Venango using the native walnut from the Graf's home place in Gage County.

- VI 1. LAVERNE GRAF
- 2. DELISLE GRAF
- 3. MILDRED GRAF
- 4. PRISCILLA GRAF
- 5. ROSEMARY GRAF

V 4, FORDYCE HAVILAH GRAF b. 14 May 1894, d. 18 Jan 1988. Wed Hazel Lucile Burket, b. 12 Oct 1892, d. 22 Jul 1956. Second marriage to Lois M. Elwood, childless. The three older Graf brothers went to Mount Olive Country School - their mother

boarded the school teacher for about 50 years - and attended one or two years of Beatrice High School; then they took courses at Northwestern Business College. Times were better by the time Fordyce came along and he graduated from high school and the business college by 1914, though he clerked in a grocery and helped on the farm during these years also.

In 1983 Fordyce wrote, "I will never forget the good times we had the summer of 1913", (when he visited Illinois) "Three girls and three boys including me, besides the John Graf daughters from Belle Plane...we must have driven Aunt Helen crazy, but she was a good sport and knew how to handle that wild bunch."

After his marriage he was Clerk in the County Treasurer's office and then Clerk and Assistant Treasurer for Beatrice. In 1920 he and his brothers invested in a farm implement company. Business was good that year as they accepted notes for payment after harvest. However, a small depression took corn to eight cents a bushel.

After this financial loss, Fordyce was asked to work for a company in Lincoln that had him specialize in county and city audits. This was not only fruitful for him but for the customers. The counties recovered considerable funds that had heretofore been lost to incompetency and fraud. He resigned after several years to return home to Beatrice and start an abstract business. He had to learn the intricacies of writing abstracts from the ground up, but proved very successful and continued at this for 52 years. Fordyce was very active in the First Christian Church of Beatrice and in late years was elected Elder Emeritus.

VI 1. MAXINE THERESA GRAF b. 31 Dec 1916, d. 21 Jan 1999. Wed 16 Aug 1941, Lawrence Hill, b. 15 Feb 1910, d. 16 Sep 1991. Maxine graduated from nursing school at Broadlawns County Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. She worked in hospitals, private nursing and as a clinical technician for over 20 years. Though childless, she was "mother and grandmother" to her father's children and grandchildren. They always loved to visit "Aunt Tessie".

2. BURKET E. GRAF b. 26 May 1918. Wed 20 Jun 1952 Nanette Hope b. 12 Feb 1928. Divorced after four children. Second marriage 17 Jan 1972, Sheila Lee Dickinson Dinsmore b. 26 June 1923, d. 19 Mar 1996. Burket graduated from the University of Nebraska earning a B.A. of Architecture with Distinction after which he served in the Naval Air Corps in the South Pacific Islands during World War II. He was in the Naval Reserve and retired with the rank of Commander. He has been a practicing architect in Lincoln both before military service and the many years since. Pictured below is a church in Lincoln that he designed.