

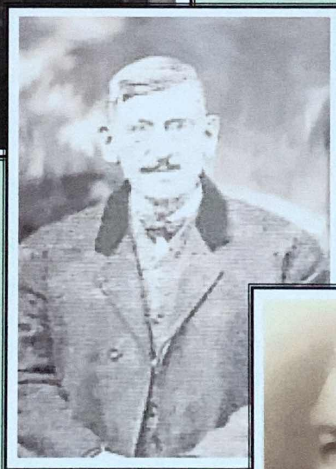
The Chicago Family Clusters

*An Incomplete History of the
Kauss, Wildner and Schillo Families*

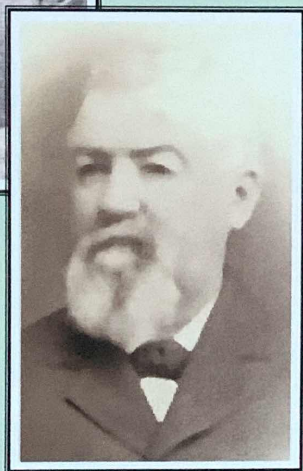
*By
Mary Durland Kauss*



Four Generations
*Great Grandpa Soehr
Grandma Anna Kauss
George Kauss Sr.
George Kauss Jr.*



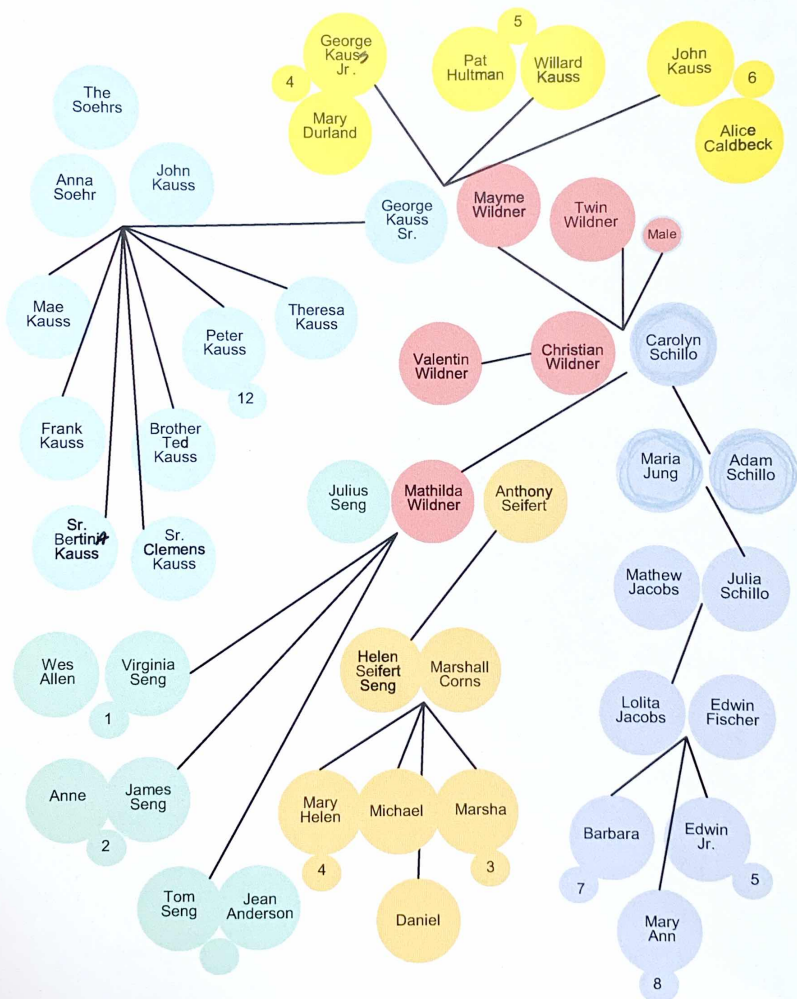
*Christian
Wildner*



*Adam
Schillo*

THE CHICAGO CLUSTERS

KAUSS, WILDNER AND SCHILLO FAMILIES



EXPLANATION OF CHICAGO CLUSTERS & BOOK INFORMATION

On the left, the family groups are arranged in specific colors so that by following the lines the reader can ascertain the original families. The only exception is the yellow of the three Kauss brothers George, Bill, and Jack which have been set apart even though their parents are designated by their original families. The senior Kauss and Soehr families are in light blue. The Wildner origins are in red. The Schillo clan is in dark blue. The Seng family is in aqua and the Seifert family is in orange. By following the connecting lines the relationships are apparent. The small bubbles designate the number of children for each family.

The booklet itself is organized in three sections: first the George Kauss Sr.'s family and ancestors, second his three sons, and third their mother, Mayme, her story and ancestors. For example, Chapter I traces the ancestors and families of George Kauss Sr., father of the three sons, and then continues with his story before his marriage.

Chapter II follows with his three sons and their families as well as the house where the three boys grew up. It includes their families.

Chapter III begins with the story of Mayme Kauss when she first married George Kauss Sr. and her story as mother of the three boys. Following that is the background of her family which includes not only Mayme's parents but also her sister Mathilda and as much as known about Mathilda's family.

The final Chapter tells the story of the ancestors of Mayme and their beginnings. The title of the booklet, THE CHICAGO CLUSTERS, illustrates how all these families were a part of the area for many generations.

In memory of Maribeth Kauss

*Edited and Published by
George Kauss III
March 2002*

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Acknowledgements

The information about family members came from those I contacted. I am sorry if anyone was left out or if there is any incorrect information. The stories of the Kauss and the Sengs are my recollections from experiences with each of the families. The public records I was able to obtain from the Cook County Records with the help of Frank Suerth. Tom Kauss of the Peter Kauss family supplied most Kauss pictures and some were lent to me by Alice Kauss, widow of Jack Kauss of the George Kauss Sr. family so that I could make copies. The entire Schillo family information came from Mary Ann Anderson and Barbara Carini. I am so grateful for their contributions for without their help that chapter would be devoid of information.

Mary

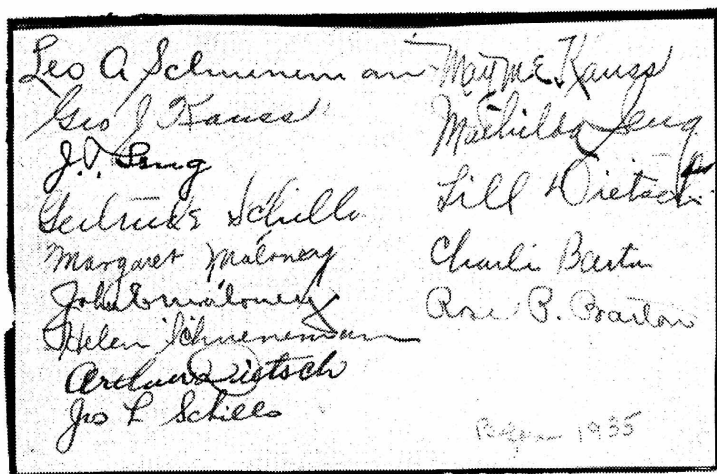
PROLOGUE

I married into the Kauss family May 28, 1941 but this was not the beginning of the symbiosis of the families. The Kauss and Durland family history had begun several years before my marriage ever took place.

Notice in the list below the top name is Leo Schueneman. This is my uncle. Obviously this is

Henry spoke to Mayme's father, he broke the engagement. However, in all fairness, I must add that George Kauss Sr. told another daughter-in-law that Mayme chose him over Henry.

Even though the engagement was broken, the families remained very close and the friendships continued.



a list of friends in the past and as you can see it includes the names of George Kauss and Mayme, the Sengs, and the Schillos. This is one example that the families had been good friends for several years.

In my family there is a legend about a brother of Leo Schueneman named Henry. It seems that even before the list above, Henry was engaged to marry Mayme. However, there must have been a misunderstanding because the story in the Schueneman family is that when

I remember being told about how my father knocked over a card table at Mayme and George's 25th wedding anniversary celebration breaking some of her good china. It was a big party and I think a wild one. They were all party people but, even though it was an accident, I don't think Mayme ever forgave my father.

George Jr. was born before I was and I was always told that when I was born, I slept in his bassinet. This is another family legend kept alive by the friendship of the Sr. Kauss and Durland

families.

Then there was the practice of the Sr. Kauss family driving out to the Durland home in the country. My grandmother and my mother would play pinochle in the afternoon and the men would watch the baseball game. I was in high school at the time. The family would arrive in the early afternoon and sometimes George Jr. came with them.

I remember peeking out of the curtains in my grandmother's bedroom to see if George Jr. came. Then I would pretend to be very surprised to see him. Sometimes he wouldn't come and I would be devastated. The women played cards and my father and George Sr. would argue over politics and the game. When George Jr. came, he and I would go for a drive.

My sisters and I called his father Uncle George and his mother Aunt Mayme. They were like family. As the card games continued our friendship grew stronger and developed into love.

Eventually I graduated from high school and went on to college but the friendship that started between George Jr. and me continued on while I was away. I thought he was the most handsome, debonair man I had ever known. He and I corresponded every day and I used to read his letters to my college friends.

He became a close buddy to my father, who had only daughters but was from a family of boys. He captivated my grandmother and my mother. His charisma was so powerful that when he walked into a room he became the circle of attention.

My sister Joan loved him because he always made her feel special. My sister Mitzi visited them in Chicago and always tells about the fun she and Aunt Mayme had eating watermelon.

Our wedding was an exciting event because the two families were finally united.

CHAPTER ONE

THE KAUSS AND SOEHR FAMILIES

John Kauss, the patriarch of the Kauss family, came to the United States and specifically to Chicago about the year 1875. This was determined by his death certificate, which stated he lived in Chicago 32 years.



He was born October 12, 1848 in Frankfort, Germany. When he died at age 59 on November 2, 1907, his occupation was listed as watchman. At the time he of his death he lived at 827 Halsted St. According to this certificate he is buried at St. Joseph's cemetery.

The physician who signed his death certificate listed the cause of death as "congestive chill followed by heart failure." The contributing cause or complication was typhoid symptoms.

He must have married Anna Soehr about 1874 because his first child Mary was born 1876.

Generally, an immigrant has to be sponsored in order to get passage and permission to leave Germany. The photo on this page is a picture of his sponsors but John is the only one recognized. The picture is from a family album of the Kauss family and is entitled "Dad and his sponsors."

Subsequent death certificates of his children also listed their father as having been born in Frankfort, Germany.

Anna Soehr, his wife, was born May 4, 1853 in Trier Germany. Her parents undoubtedly brought her to this country when they emigrated from Trier. They came as farmers and they

always called grandma Soehr a midwife.

There are many pictures of Anna's parents from the Kauss album and also several pictures of others in the Soehr family, however, they are not all identified.

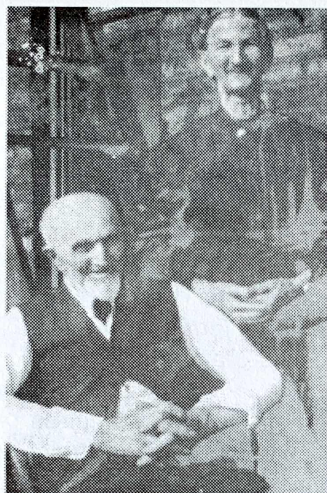
The name Soehr is very hard to trace because it is written several different way on the pho-



tos that remain.

Sometimes it is spelled as above and other times it is spelled Sehr and Zehr. But it is for certain that both John from Frankfort and Anna from Trier emigrated from Germany.

The picture below is labeled, "Grandma and Grandpa Soehr." As you can see Grandma had very strong hands, which

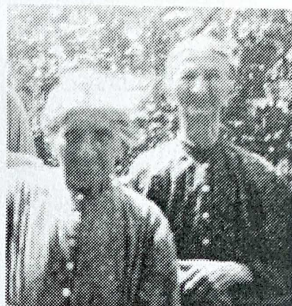


would complement her profession as a mid wife. Grandpa Soehr's beard is a treasure to see.

My favorite picture of the two is the one below. It must have been their Sunday best. Grandma Soehr with her bonnet tied under her chin.



John and Anna Soehr had eight children.



Grandma Soehr and Anna

JOHN KAUSS
& ANNA Soehr
m. abt 1874, CHICAGO, IL

MARY C KAUSS

PETER KAUSS
& MARY CATHERINE DOHM

LENA KAUSS

GEORGE JOSEPH KAUSS SR.
& MARY A "MAYME" WILDNER
m. 6 Jun 1911, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

THEODORE KAUSS

FRANK KAUSS

ANNA KAUSS

THERESA KAUSS
& JOSEPH J. ROYER



**Anna Soehr and her daughters
Mae, Theresa, Lena & Anna.**

Aunt Mae was the oldest and never married. She was born Mary but was always called Mae. She watched over Frank who the family said had an "alcohol weakness."

Three of the family belonged to religious orders. Lena was Sr. Clemens, Ted was a Brother, and Anna Sr. Bertina. I didn't know Sr. Bertina at all because she died very young, but I did know Sr. Clemens and Brother Ted. Brother Ted was a Christian Brother and I believe taught in their school in St. Louis. The nuns were Sisters of Notre Dame.

Peter, another son, married Maymie Dohm as she was called. Uncle Peter had twelve



Mae, Brother Ted, Sr. Clemens

children. Aunt Maymie's brother-in-law was Matt Shulien who had a tavern on the near north side in Chicago. Matt was a short roly-poly man who played card tricks all



Peter

the time. He was so fast and so funny that it was a delight to watch



Joseph

him

Some of Peter's family were in WW II. The family printed a paper with

Peter & Alma

pictures of all those serving their country. It was called "The Kauss Informer". Among Uncle Pete's



Tom

family in WWII were Joseph, Peter, Alma and Tom.

In 1990 Tom Kauss wrote a letter to his second cousin George Kauss III from the George Kauss Sr. family. I print it here for it contains much family history.

Letter written to
George Kauss III to
inform him about the
Kauss family. This is
page 1 of this long
letter. Tom is still liv-
ing but not at this
address. I spoke
with him briefly not
too long ago to ask
for information. He
gave me several
names to follow up
but time did not per-
mit it. I have no idea
if any of his family is
keeping a record of
Uncle Pete's family.
So far I do not have
the names of all 11 of
Tom's siblings.

George Kauss: June 11, 1970

My name THOMAS A KAUSS age 69, I
was a first cousin to your dad.
His father and my father were brothers.
My father's name was PETER A. KAUSS and
mother MARY (NORMAN) KAUSS. We
had a family of 12 ten boys and two
girls. The story goes dad's mother had
three boys in a row. Mother named the
third boy Joseph (Joe) hoping Mary would
follow. ~~When~~ He held was a girl named Mary.
My 1st cousin was Joseph and
2nd was a girl named Margie.
Your grandmother Mary Kauss was her
God Mother. even are still living 1955-67
So actually all above would be
considered second cousins to you.
your father's Grandfather died in
his 50's - had a coal hauling business?
Grandmother lived till 86 or so. All buried
at St Joseph's cemetery in Elgin, Suburb.
your dad's family lived in Southfield, Mich.
which used to be our family's
side of the family" to be in another
High Society of Early Chicago. We
were really proud to be related to
Aunt Mary Kauss of Indiana St where
they lived. I'm not sure of her
maiden name. I believe Aunt Mary's
sister was married to the "Long
Family", a well known and wealthy
family in Chicago area. To this day
I believe "Long Terminal Warehouse Co."
is still in operation. Back in the 1930's
& 1940's it was really big business.
your grandma, my Aunt Mary Kauss,
used to spend many summers in
Florida where her sister had a
winter home many times the boys
your dad George, his brothers Bill
and Jackie, your uncles, use to
go with their mother to Florida. We
from our big family thought that
was neat. We were not at all
jealous of them. In fact we
really had a loving relation with
our cousins. ~~Two~~ Billy and
George with your father. He had an

to St. Gregoire's
was a real elegant
He considered her

THOMAS KAUSS
2542 85th ST
CHICAGO IL 60648

The information about
his Uncle George, brother
of Peter will follow
this story along with the
information about the
Sengs.

These Kolbs are people that I don't know at all and I haven't been able to fit them into the family. Tom didn't seem to know where they belonged either. The information about the John Kauss family was very helpful

5
sister Margies Chass again. He was well liked & really nice fellow. Always was this way till his life. We all were surprised at his death. A sudden heart attack I believe.

I had a brother named George Kauss, named after your Grand Dad. He also was in business type work whereas the rest of our family were in the trades.

So far for what I remember about the Kauss family. As far as your Grand Dad's Parents ¹⁸⁸²⁻¹⁸⁹⁰ John & ¹⁸⁸²⁻¹⁸⁹⁰ Anna Kauss. I'm not sure of his maiden name. But her relatives.

ANNA Kolb-Juneau - 1887 - Aug 26, 1917 (St. Joseph's Cemetery, St. Paul, MN)
JOHANN FIX - AUG 17, 1857 - MAY 22, 1926
THEODORE FIX - Feb 11, 1857 - Jan 14, 1912
MAMIE FIX - 1-25-1890 - 11-28-1947

Your Grand Dad's Brothers & Sisters
Frank Kauss - Aug 9, 1891 - Feb 17, 1968
Mary C. Kauss - July 27, 1876 - Feb 24, 1966
Evelyn Kauss - 1896-1945

Joseph H. Rayer - 1892-1960 (1/4 Ave. N. 1212-44-45)
John Kauss - (Frank's Brother) Mary's Sister
who wife: Nettle Chass Kauss (Washing)
John Kauss (Died)
MAY 13 (1893) ST. LOUIS - MAR 12, 1960 - June 30, 1961

Now into getting Foggy.

I believe the address below are related
Either to your Dad's, Grand Father & Mother.

KIECHLER - (FR - Mother)
LEOPOLDINA 1867-1937
JACOB - 1881-1945
SONS
JOSEPH - 1896-1962
FRANK - 1897-1920
MATHIAS - 1894-1959
MAMIE - 1893-1966
ANNA S - 1891-1969

Another Name related to above
Kollar = (my age or so 70-71)
KOLLAR

Well I ran out of names. If I get any further information I let you know. I was always sorry we didn't get to know Margies family more. Your mother and your kids. Perhaps some day when you're in Chicago we'll have a buzz and we can share things over.

P.S. And these photos would for awhile thought you might like to have them.

THOMAS KAUSS
2042 DEWITT AVE
CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS

2642 W. Broadway St
Chicago, IL 60612
1-312-673-4584

The best to you
in your family

Thomas A. Kauss

The Fix names are unfamiliar to me also. Nor do I recognize any of the Kiechler names or the name Kohlar. However, they are useful to have in case they pop up in the future.

This letter is invaluable as far as the family background is concerned. As I wrote, Tom is still living but has moved from that address. Some of Pete's family is located in the area.

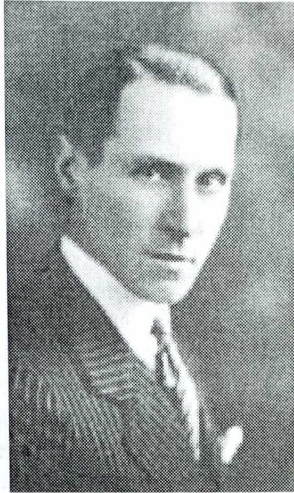
His uncle George that he writes about is John Kauss' son who married Mary Wildner. He is the direct family member And his story follows.

GEORGE KAUSS SR.

George Joseph Kauss was born on March 19, 1885. the fourth child of John and Anna Kauss. There is nothing known about his childhood.

I know he had a good relationship with his siblings because we saw them often. He was much like his brothers and sisters. The boys were quiet and the girls more vocal but they were a calm sober group who liked to play tricks on one another.

He was a gentle man who loved baseball and would sit for hours by the radio listening to the games. Always in his hand was a



the opposite side of any argument and never seemed to get excited when others opposed him. I remember when others would holler and shout, he would always just smile a little and insist on his point of view.

I don't know where or when he met Mary Wildner. All I know is that she had been engaged to a

Schueneman son but she married George Kauss. He was 26 when they married on June 6, 1911 at St. Alphonso Church.



A young George Sr.

cigarette and he wasn't too careful about the ashes. He loved to take



Early picture. Note he is now combing his hair back.

I remember the story about how his brothers kidnapped the bride on their wedding day. I never did know how long they held her until they let her go.

He was a man who was not demonstrative but from the beginning I remember he was a

diabetic and had to give himself insulin shots every day. Sometimes I noticed that Mayme would rush into the kitchen for an orange because he was going into insulin



**George Sr.
ca. 1920's**

shock. She continually watched over him.

He loved candy and would surreptitiously try to take a piece when Mayme wasn't looking. She watched the amount he drank in order to forgo a diabetic coma. I was always told he was a guinea pig for insulin and I believed that he got diabetes in his twenties. However a daughter-in-law said he got it much later.

There was never a time when I didn't know he had diabetes.

I'm fairly certain that all of

his family went to high school but when his siblings went into the trades or religious orders he went into business.

To my knowledge he didn't play any sports. Perhaps this was reflected in his upbringing because I don't think his siblings did either.

I never did know when he began his representation of furniture firms. I knew his companies had display offices in the Furniture Mart. He would go there at least every Friday. I think he was a frugal man and used to save his money by investing in the stock market. When the market crashed he lost a lot.

The depression was very hard on him when he lost so much money. This was devastating to the family. I remember that Mayme put all her jewels in a safe deposit box and never wore them because the times were so bad. George would work every night on his books in the room converted to an office. He kept meticulous records. This is the way I saw him when I



Mayme & George Sr. in 1919

came into the family.

His main representation was Laun Furniture company

based somewhere in Wisconsin. At that time both Mayme and George would go down to the Furniture Mart every Friday to meet the buyers.

He was a fastidious man and always looked like a fashion-plate. Note the stickpin in his tie in the picture on the previous page taken in the 1920's. Perhaps it was the style of the day but he never wore a sports shirt without a tie or any kind of a leisure suit.

He remained close to his brothers and sisters family and his children knew their aunts and uncles very well and were friendly with their Kauss cousins.

George and Mayme had three sons. The boys respected their father but the dominant force in the marriage was their mother, Mayme

After Mayme died in 1948 he lived with his son Jack for a time but eventually went into a retirement home. He died 5 June 1952, four years after Mayme. He is buried at St. Boniface Cemetery.



**George & Mayme
in their back yard on
Paulina Street.**

CHAPTER TWO

THE THREE SONS OF GEORGE SR. AND MAYME GEORGE JR., BILL AND JACK



George, Jack & Bill

GEORGE JOSEPH KAUSS SR.
& MARY A "MAYME" WILDNER
m. 6 June 1911, Chicago, IL

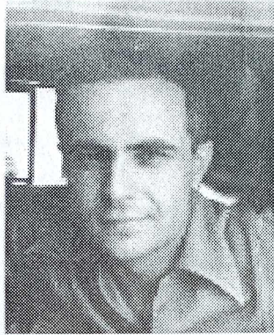
GEORGE JOSEPH KAUSS JR.
& MARY ELVERA DURLAND
m. 28 May 1941 McHenry, IL

WILLIAM WILLARD KAUSS
& PAT HULTMAN
m. 29 Nov. 1947, Chicago, IL

JOHN KAUSS
& ALICE CALDBECK
m. 18 May 1946, Chicago, IL

GEORGE JR.

George Jr. was the eldest of the three boys of George Sr. and Mayme. He was born on 10th of April, 1912³ at home on 3739 Evanston Ave in Chicago. Since he was the first born and resembled his mother, he was doted on until a second son was born.



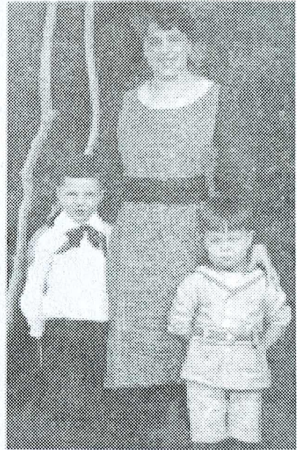
He must have had fun when the little pony would come to his neighborhood and they would be able to ride it (see picture below). I know they went to Leesburg, Florida to visit the Sengs almost every winter.

There are many pictures of George as a small child.

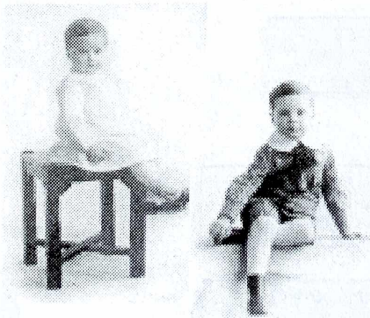
The George Sr. family traveled a lot with Mathilda Seng, Mayme's sister and her children even after the second child, another boy was born.



The First Born



***George, Mayme & Bill
ca. 1917***



***George Jr. in a dress in 1915 and
first pants 1916***



George & Bill ca. 1919

The picture below is dated 1923 and has the caption, "taken right after we got home from church January 27, 1923" so he was about 10 years old.



I'm not sure but I think that the next picture was from his grade school graduation.

I know that George went to a private high school in Florida because we visited it on our honeymoon. I'm pretty sure that Aunt Tillie footed the bill because her

husband was George's Godfather and he had passed away so George and his cousin James Seng were treated as brothers.

I think George was only there one year. For some reason George Sr. decided his son needed a military school so he was shipped off to St. Johns Military in Delafield, Wisconsin. There he won many medals for his marksmanship Those medals dis-

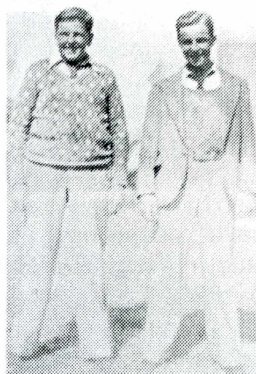


About 1917

appeared when my things were thrown away while I was in Mexico.

He graduated from St.

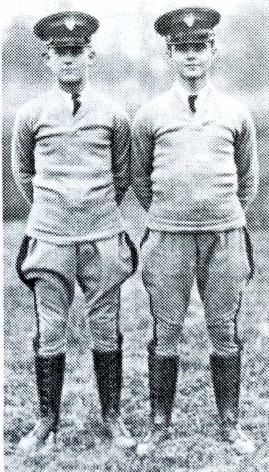
Johns Military High School and then had various jobs before he and I really became involved. Actually our friendship



George & Jimmie Seng in High School - 1928

happened when I was 15 and in high school. As I said George would drive his parents to McHenry. Grandma, my mother, and Aunt Mayme would play pinocle while my father and Uncle George would argue over the baseball game.

George Jr. wasn't very tall but what he lacked in height he made up for in heart. He was a man who never backed down from anything or anyone.



George and Orja Corns in 1930 St. John's Military School

Perhaps this was due to his military training but he used to tell me that in sports one had to hustle and I know he was always a star.

I know he excelled in every sport he played, tennis, golf, and the team sports football and baseball. I asked him why he never went to college. He told me that he had several offers in sports but he didn't like studying. At that time I never questioned at length why studying was a problem for him. Besides I don't think his parents encouraged him.

When I graduated and went away to college he gave me this picture. It was on my dresser and all the girls oohed and aahed over it. I was the one who had an "older" man for a boyfriend.



He wrote me almost every day and every week I would receive a little corsage of dried flowers. His best friend was a florist. They were darling. I never had had so much attention.

George was a very gregarious person and loved people. He took after his mother. When he walked into a room, everyone was in the palm of his hand. Charisma was his middle name. It served him well. He made friends easily. We married in 1941 and immediately started a family.

There are many stories to tell about our married life but suffice it to say, in his work he was very successful. He became a superb salesman, always winning

prizes.

After the war and his stint with the Bureau of Ships ended he went to work for Gregory Industries where he was a top salesman. His way with people had no equal.

We lived in McHenry. I had already opened a store and he was at his best helping me publicly in many ways: style shows, promotion appearances, and seeing salesman. He would take me to buy merchandise in Chicago when he drove in for business.

He loved the limelight and for that reason we complemented each other in our marriage. With the store, George was the one who fronted for me at all the activities.

At one time he decided to become a councilman in

***George and I had
four beautiful children***



Betsy



Sissi



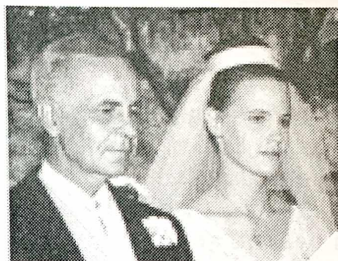
Gini



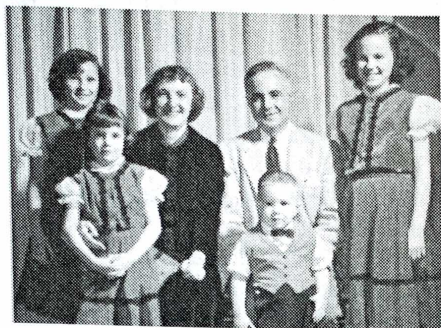
George III

McHenry. He canvassed the neighborhoods and of course he won. I must admit he did it all himself, knocking on doors and talking with everyone. He loved being a big fish in a small pond.

The last part of his life is sad and one that I don't wish to dwell on. He was at his daughter's

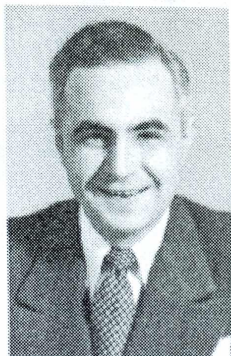


**At daughters Betsy's wedding
in Mexico City
5 July 1964**



Kauss Jr. family photo ca. 1952

wedding in 1964 in Mexico City. In 1971 he died in Denver, Colorado. The cause of his death was "fatty metamorphosis, liver, severe".



In his prime - 1948

GEORGE JOSEPH KAUSS JR.
& MARY ELVERA DURLAND
m. 28 May 1941, MCHENRY, ILLINOIS

MARIBETH ELIZABETH "Betsy" KAUSS
& PETER NORTHRUP
m. 5 Jul 1964, MEXICO CITY

CAROLYN NORTHRUP
& ALBERTO VALENCIA
m. 28 Nov 1992, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

SANTIAGO VALENCIA

CHRISTOPHER NORTHRUP
& ESTHER ROSENTHAL
m. 17 Jul 1999, PHILADELPHIA, PA

SUZANNE MARY "SISSI" KAUSS
& WILLIAM Wenks
m. 29 Dec 1962, MEXICO CITY

CHRISTINE Wenks
& THOMAS ANDERSON
m. 5 Dec 1998, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

LOGAN ANDERSON

HUNTER ANDERSON

VIRGINIA MARY "GINI" KAUSS
& TOM HOLDEN CAUDILL
m. 26 Jun 1971, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Mara JULIA CAUDILL

George Joseph KAUSS III
& Maria del Carmen GONZALEZ
m. 30 Oct 1999, Vail, Colorado

LUIS SANTIAGO

Raul SANTIAGO

Alejandra SANTIAGO

WILLARD (WILLIAM)

Bill was the middle child of the George Kauss Sr. family. He was born the 18th of March of 1916, three years after his older brother George. There is little I know about Bill's formative years. He was a gregarious child and adored his mother.



Reykjavik, Iceland. His wrote his mother faithfully because she always talked about his letters.

The picture below was printed in a family circular made by the Pete Kauss family called the "Kauss Informer".

On November 29, 1947 he married Patricia Hultman at Our lady of Lourdes church. Pat and Bill had five children.

Bill continued to work with his father until he retired. He was a sublime salesman. One never could say no when Bill showed up with his wares.

Bill died February 8, 1990 in the Veteran Affairs Medical Center in North Chicago of several

When or where he began working never seemed to be important until he went into business with his father. They had their office in the Furniture Mart. However, I am sure that he had other jobs before that.

I think that Bill basked in the shadows of his brothers. To my knowledge he was not an athlete although I think in high school he did play sports.

Of all the pictures of George as a child, there are none of Bill except with George Jr. He was christened Willard after the famous boxer of the day. He always hated that name and even applied to the courts to change it to William.

At the beginning of WW II he joined the U. S. Navy and spent most of his time stationed in



Bill in the Navy during WW II

ailments, cancer and liver disease among them. He is buried in Arlington Heights, Illinois

The Bill Kauss children are scattered. Penny married and moved to Indianapolis, Indiana.

WILLIAM WILLARD KAUSS
& PAT HULTMAN
m. 29 Nov 1947, CHICAGO

PENNY PATRICIA LEE KAUSS
& JOHN CAIRNS HOLCOMB
m. 22 Feb 1969, CLEVELAND, OHIO

JOHN CAIRNS HOLCOMB JR

MARGO MARY KAUSS
& MILTON BRADLEY HOUSE
m. 31 Jul 1975, REDDING, CT

WILLIAM EUGENE KAUSS
& JEAN SEYMOUR
m. 16 Sep 1988, CICERO, ILLINOIS

BRUCE GREGORY KAUSS
m. Nov 1981, CICERO, ILLINOIS

KIMBERLY JOY KAUSS
& JEFFREY BYRUM

JEFFREY BYRUM

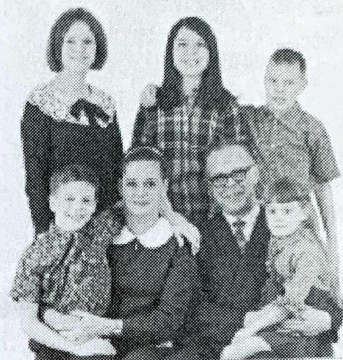
MEGAN BYRUM

KIMBERLY JOY KAUSS
& KEVIN RIZZO

KEVIN RIZZO

Oklahoma with her children

I have seen Penny and Margo although not Penny recently. Margo and I manage to speak



Back: Penny, Margo, Bill
Front: Bruce, Pat, Bill Sr., Kim

on the telephone and she keeps me up to date with the family. Below is a picture of all five children at Bill Jr.'s wedding.



Her son is currently working in Los Angeles, California. Penny is a very successful real estate sales woman.

Margo lives in W. Redding, Connecticut. She and her husband have no children. Margo is an entrepreneur having her own computer consulting service.

Bill and his wife Jean live in Cary, Illinois. I'm not sure about his occupation.

Bruce lives in Florida where he manages the property of Margo and her husband. He is an electrician by trade.

Kimberly lives in

JOHN (JACK)

John James was the youngest son of George and Mayme Kauss. He was born on the 18th day of October 1921 and was christened at Our Lady of Lourdes on the 20th. He was called Jack right at the beginning.

Of all the early pictures I have of his brothers, I have none of Jack as a child.

His grandmother was living with the Sr. Kauss family at this time. He soon became her favorite, which is only normal with the youngest in the family.

The only picture of Jack as a very young child is the one with his brothers.

While his grandmother was living with them, she came down with tuberculosis and there was great fear that Jack would also contract the disease because they were so close. Thankfully he was spared but his grandmother died because of it.

Jack's mother was so hoping that one of her children would become a priest and this desire seemed to fall on Jack. When he finished his grammar school, he entered a seminary, which was quite a distance from Chicago. I believe it was St. Vincent's at Cape Girardeau.

He was very young and because his grandmother had



Jack ca. 1941

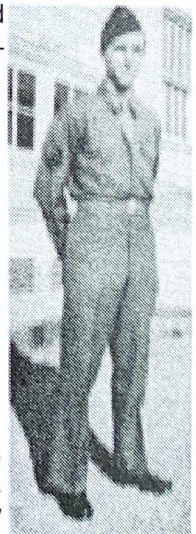
sheltered him, he found it very difficult to be separated from his family.

His mother told me he found the classes, particularly in Latin, not to his liking and so he returned home to go to St. Michael's high school. When he finished high school, WW II had begun and he was drafted into

the Army.

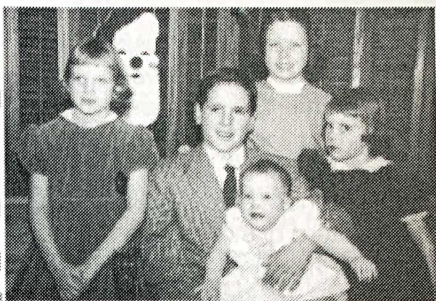
I believe Jack served overseas but I don't know in which branch of the army he served. Nor do I remember the length of time he was gone. After finishing his stint in the army he returned home and married Alice Caldbeck the 18th of May 1946.

They had six children. The eldest was a boy and then five daughters followed.



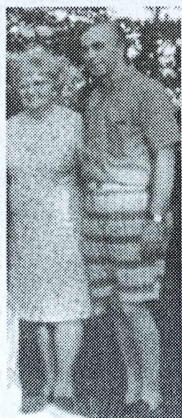
**Picture
from "The
Kauss Informer"**

JOHN KAUSS & ALICE CALDBECK m. 18 May 1946, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	
JAMES KAUSS & SUSAN CONSIDINE m. 27 Jun 1985, WINNETKA, IL.	SUTTON KAUSS
	JACK CONSIDINE KAUSS
NANCY KAUSS & DON VINCENT WILLIAMS m. 19 Aug 1983, WINNETKA, IL.	HILARY MARY WILLIAMS
	EMILY MARY WILLIAMS
	PATRICK JOHN WILLIAMS
ELIZABETH KAUSS & MICHAEL VINCENT HUGHES m. 8 Oct 1994	MEGAN BRIDGET WILLIAMS
	MICHAEL RANDOM HUGHES
KATHLEEN MARY KAUSS	JACK MCCALL KAUSS
	Billie RYAN
JANET KAUSS & WILLIAM J. RYAN m. 9 May 1995	Brenna RYAN
	MARIA SOPHIA RYAN
SUSAN KAUSS & RUFUS SMITH FROST IV m. 1 Aug 1992, PARK CITY, UTAH	RUFUS SMITH FROST IV
	NATALIE ANN FROST
	LAUREN FROST



**Jack's family from a photo in 1958.
Missing is the youngest
child Susan who was not
born until 1960.**

At one time during the polio epidemic, Jack became ill with polio and there was much concern that he would be inflicted with some debilitating handicap. However, he was very fortunate and was able to over throw the symptoms, but it was always thought that his health had been affected.



This Jack and Nana Durland picture was taken right after his brother George died in 1971. It was a family gathering in McHenry IL. at the home of the Larkins. Jack also went to work with his father in

the furniture business but sadly suffered a fatal heart attack and died June 11, 1976.

Here are several recent pictures of Jim and his five sisters. I'm not sure I have them all correct

Jim



Nancy



Susan



Elizabeth



Kathy



**Janet
mother of Maria**



**Maria, in traditional
Kauss christening
dress worn by all the
Kauss brothers**

4746 N. PAULINA

It was an imposing frame building nestled in between others of the same construction. I don't know when it was built or when the George Kauss Sr. family bought it.

Since George Sr. was in the furniture business, the furniture

ing with a huge sideboard plus a service piece. The chairs upholstered in red plush, were enormous. Joan remembers when the two families were together, they would play bingo on the large table with pennies for counters.

Upstairs were four bedrooms, really 3 1/2 because George Sr used the very small one as an office. There was only one bathroom at the end of a long hall that led to the back stairs going to the kitchen downstairs. I don't think I had ever seen a house with front and back stairs.

Along the width of the house upstairs was a

large screened in porch with several beds. This is where the boys slept during the hot summer time.

When I graduated from high school in 1937, I stayed at the Kauss house for a couple of months before I started college. I had a job downtown on Michigan Ave. and couldn't commute from McHenry.

During the hot summer the boys slept in the upstairs back porch. That summer I also slept in one of the beds with the boys. I don't think that Mayme and Uncle George, as we Durlands called them, knew how much their son George and I were involved until one evening when all three of the Kauss boys and I were sleeping on the porch, George Jr. who was



The House at 4746 N. Paulina

inside was quite elegant especially in the living room, which had a baby grand piano with a beautiful black shawl draped over it. We found that shawl in a black suitcase with Mayme's wedding dress. It is now with Mayme's great granddaughter, Carolyn. I can remember a beautiful black library table with lion heads. Today that table is in the house of Jack's widow, Alice. What treasures these descendants have!

The living room also contained two heads on pedestals. I had never seen anything like those in private homes.

I can remember the dining room set that I was told was Jacobean. It was large and impos-

in one of the other beds, decided to get some "necking" in as was the term of the day and crawled over to my bed.

I was scared to death. I kept telling him to get back to his own bed but he persisted in staying. I threw pillows at Bill and Jack to come to my aid and I knew they must have heard us, but to no avail. They never said a word and kept pretending they were sleeping. I knew I had awakened them but this was their big brother. What could they do!

When the next night rolled around. Aunt Mayme very nicely told me I couldn't sleep on the porch with the boys but had to sleep in one of the bedrooms! She didn't tell me why but I knew. Bill and Jack had ganged up on their brother George and told their mother what had happened.

But even that didn't stop George Jr. Every morning he would come into the bedroom to wake me up with kisses curlers and all. I was seventeen and he was a man of the world; how could I stop him.

One morning his mother caught him! Wow. What a dressing down he got. He never did that again.

As you can see along the front of the house also was a porch. Above the porch and on the second floor was the bedroom of George and Bill.

After we were married, George told me when he was young, he used to climb out of the

window onto the roof of the porch and then down one of the columns to go out to parties. His parents never caught on because he would climb up and return in the wee hours of the morning. In later years I learned that George was known as the party boy of the family.

The house remained in the family through the marriages of the three boys.

When I already had one child Betsy, and was pregnant with the second, we had moved to a larger apartment. But I began to notice strange things. The apartment was invested with bedbugs!

There was nothing we could do but move out but WWII had started and there were no other apartments. George's parents very graciously said the family could move in with them, furniture and all.

And so we did but first everything had to be taken to the basement of the house on Paulina and sprayed. When this was accomplished, then we were able to squeeze every thing into the house. Spraying and brushing was quite an ordeal.

One day Bill was home for a visit from the Navy and he and I were having lunch in the kitchen. There was no one else there. I think possibly his parents were down at the furniture mart and George was at work.

I started with labor pains and told Bill he had to take me to the hospital. This was a new experience for him. He wasn't married

and didn't know exactly what to do.

I told him to get a cab, he did and away we went.

Our second daughter Suzanne was born while we lived on Paulina. Suzanne didn't like to sleep at night so I had to take her downstairs when she started to cry. I don't think I realized the sacrifice the elder Kauss' made when they asked a family to live with them.

As I said, it was during WW II. When George took a job with the Bureau of Ships to expedite materials we moved out of the Paulina House to Milwaukee

Grandmother Kauss was very sad to lose her grandchildren. By this time she was quite attached to them.

The house on Paulina remained in the family through the war years. But it was getting too much for just Mayme and George, so they decided it was time to sell.

All went well. The elder Kauss' found an apartment down the street. They had a buyer for the house. The house where all the children grew up was to be sold. The lease on an apartment was ready to be signed. That was the day Mayme died. It was too traumatic for her to have to leave her memories on Paulina.

Now the house has been torn down. I have no idea what is there in its place. I only know that 4746 Paulina had a history all its own with the Kauss family.

Resurrecting the Wedding Dress

In an old beat up black valise in the basement of the house of George Kauss Jr. we found some precious memories stored. These were all but forgotten about when his family moved to Mexico City. One day, Maribeth Kauss, the eldest daughter of George asked her mother where her grandmother's wedding dress was. Mary had completely forgotten about it but on the next trip back to the house in McHenry, the old valise was rediscovered. In it were treasures that were hardly recognizable: The black shawl that had been over the Kauss piano for years. The Wedding Shoes. What small feet Mayme had!

The unique petticoat was crumbling but the ruffled flounce on the bottom looked like it was salvageable. The beautiful wedding dress was no longer white but a beautiful warm beige. Best of all were the wedding pictures of her grandmother. Maribeth decided immediately that she wanted to wear it at her wedding which would take place in one of the most picturesque ancient churches in Mexico City. It would be so much more appropriate than a modern one.

But the question was could the dress be restored. The flounce of the petticoat probably could be cleaned. The shoes in no way could be used. The silk

black shawl was in excellent condition so it remained as a memento in the family. But what could be done about the dress.

Fortunately because it was made of silk, it hadn't deteriorated.

There were some holes in the train and some stains from not

having been cleaned for so many years. This was in 1964. Maribeth knew her father had been born in 1913 so the dress had to be more than 50 years old.

The dilemma was not only cleaning the dress but also fitting it to Maribeth. Women's figures had changed so over the years. The decision was made to take it entirely apart, lace and all, clean it, and alter it to Maribeth's figure. This

was done. With the dress in pieces, it was taken to cleaners in San Antonio who specialized in cleaning wedding gowns. Because it was silk, the material had withstood the test of time. The cleaners said they thought it was best to wash it in a very special solution and Maribeth agreed. Everyone waited with bated breath to see how the material would withstand the washing knowing that some of the extra details would be lost. Well, the cleaners did a wonderful job and the material was ready to be sewn back together.

But another problem surfaced. Who was going to put it together following the original exact lines of the dress so that



they would reflect the styles of the time it was worn.

Finding a seamstress in Mexico City who could do this was not an easy job. Finally the dress was ready and Maribeth was married in her grandmother's Parisian wedding dress in an old colonial

church in Coyocan, Mexico.

The accompanying picture shows the other brides married in the same wedding dress, all descendants of Mayme Wildner Kauss who originally wore it in the year 1911.

The Wedding Dress Legacy



Maribeth Kauss
Granddaughter
July 5, 1964



Virginia Kauss
Granddaughter
June 26, 1971



Carolyn Northrup
Great
Granddaughter
November 28, 1992



Esther Rosenthal
Wife of Great Grandson
Christopher Northrup
July 17, 1999

The wedding picture of Mayme Wildner when she married George Kauss on June 6, 1911 in Chicago, Il.

CHAPTER THREE

MAYME WILDNER KAUSS

Mary A. Wildner was born 6 April 1889. She entered this life as a twin but her twin did not survive. She seemed to have been the second child of Christian Wildner and his wife Caroline. Her sister Mathilda was the older of the two. However, it seems there was another child born in 1883 but unnamed, just the record exists of the birth of a male.

We know Mary was a twin because there exists a picture of the two but there is no indication how long this other female baby lived. There is not much known about the childhood of Mary A. Wildner who was soon called Mayme. This name remained with

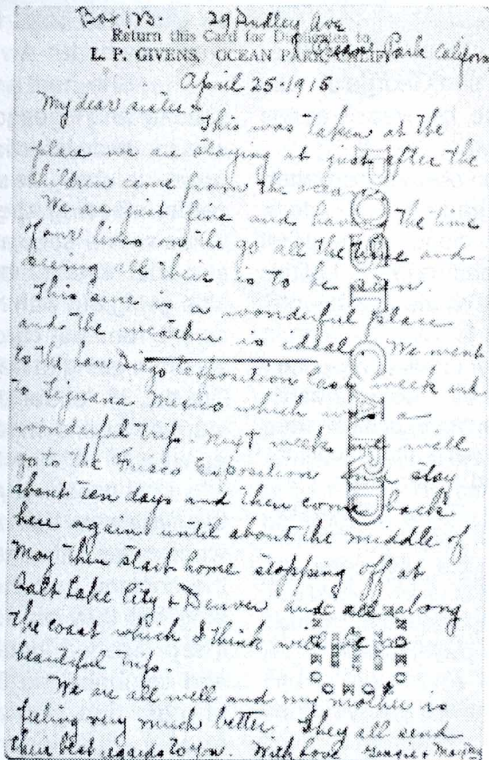


Mayme, Christian & Caroline

her for her entire lifetime although in later years she wanted people to call her Nancy. But no one ever called her Mary or Nancy. Mary was only on legal documents.

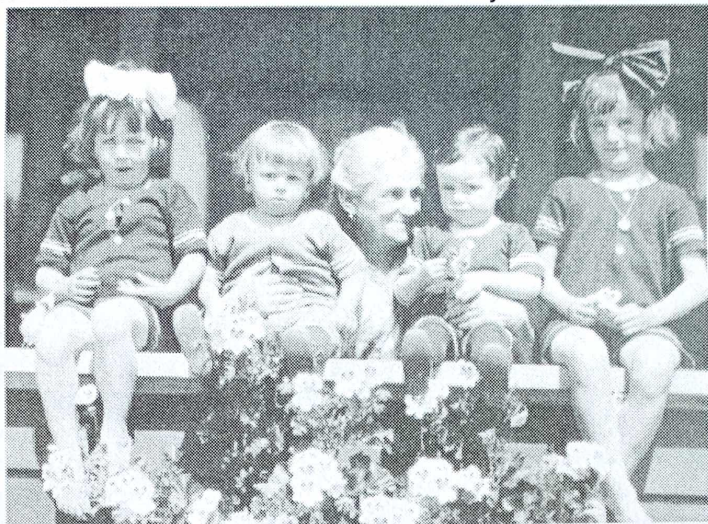
The above picture is the earliest that I could find that existed before her marriage to George Kauss Sr. Records of her life seem to begin at this time.

She and her sister Tillie used to take many trips together. I was given a picture card that she had written in 1915 to Mae Kauss, her sister-in-law.



The picture on the reverse side (shown below) was that of her mother with Mathilda's children and

pinochle with Elvera Durland and Minnie Schueneman. They played for money too and what a good



Mayme's only child at that time, George Jr. Her son George Jr. was born in 1913 so he was 2 at the time of the trip.

Mayme always regretted that she never had any daughters. She was very close to her first cousin Lolita and one of Lolita's daughters wrote to me and I quote:

"Lolita and Mayme were very good friends as well as cousins. Mary Ann (Lolita's daughter) can remember being her pet - the daughter she never had. We also can remember the many parties at Mayme's house, and the wonderful card games on the back porch in the summer. All of us kids would do dishes after supper and fool around while the adults played poker."

Games were always a part of Mayme's life. She and George would drive out to McHenry so that she could play three-handed

time they had.

She had a wonderful personality and loved jokes. Her smile was instantly infectious. One of her great talents was reading the cards, meaning she would tell fortunes with a special deck of cards she had. I remember once when I was going out with her son George so she read our cards and saw that we were going to have an accident. We did. A fender bender. I never laughed at this superstition of hers again.

I was very impressed at the way she trained her sons to work around the house. She did the cooking and the grocery shopping but they did everything else. They cleaned house, vacuumed, and scrubbed the floors. All three of them had their chores. It was great training for their future marriages.

They respected their moth-

er and she had them right under her thumb. She was very vocal in what her boys should and shouldn't do. They always listened but then did as they pleased.

Every once a week she would go to church in the evening to say a Novena. She was deeply religious even to the point of washing and ironing all the linens from the church altar every week. It was a tedious job because they were very large and cumbersome. They had to be just perfect. When I questioned her about her reason for doing it, all she answered it was "to do penance". I couldn't quite figure out what she was doing penance for because she was inherently a very good woman.

When we had to move in with them during the war, I remember that she would go to the butcher shop and the green grocer. Through the back yard turn right, and she was right there. But guess what! She never went to shop without a hat on. Even though it was a matter of a few feet, she always put her hat on.

Hats seem to be her thing. You'll read about how her cousin Lolita liked to make hats. Every hat that Mayme wore to her boys' weddings were works of art and she wore them with perfect carriage as though she was going down a runway.

The first one that I remember very well was the one that she wore at my wedding. The hat was an original creation and attracted as much attention as the bride did. It was in late May but she still had fur on her suit. The suit was light

blue and went perfectly with her coloring. She had snow-white hair and a flawless complexion. Her eyes were as black as dark brown can be. She really did look like a



George's wedding hat

grand dame.

If you look closely at the above photo, you can see her dimples. She was a startling presence.

It was the custom then at Our Lady of Lourdes, at the completion of the vows, before the bride and groom went out of the church, for the bride to place a bouquet on Mary's Altar. We had never heard of it in my church in McHenry but you can be sure, I placed the bouquet on Mary's Altar.

For Bill's wedding she wore a more somber hat but nonetheless quite stunning. It was winter so it wasn't quite as frivolous as the one for my wedding but still very striking. There was always the smile and always the erect carriage, which showed her self-confidence.



Bill's wedding hat

At Jack's wedding her hat was like meringue. It was light and airy and almost eclipsed her face. Nevertheless it was the fashion statement of the day, another creation of Lolita's.



Jack's wedding hat

Mayme was truly a great lady and these hats tell a story about her.

During the WW II war years, she had a victory garden. This was her contribution to the war effort.

No story would be complete about Mayme without mentioning her death. One day I had gone to the Merchandise Mart to buy for my store. George Jr. always drove me into town. On the way home, he said his mother wasn't feeling very well so we decided to stop to see her.

Alice and Jack had been there during the day but when I arrived Mayme and George Sr. were alone. I could see that she was not well so I offered to stay and make supper for George Sr. I called home and made arrangements for someone to take care of my children. She thanked me profusely and I went down to the kitchen.

When I went back upstairs I could see she really was having a terrible time. My thought was to get a priest to comfort her so George Jr. called the church and a priest arrived. In the meantime, we had supper while the priest was there.

Soon the priest came down and said we had better call the fire department (in those days they didn't have EMS). because she had turned blue. They worked a long time to try and revive her. At least it seemed it was a long time, but to no avail.

In the meantime, we had called Jack and tried to get Bill who was at a dinner at the Furniture Mart. The firemen finally said they could do no more. This was the most traumatic experience I have ever had. I had never been with anyone who died. What if George Jr. and I had gone on home to the

country and hadn't stayed! I thank God for giving me the insight to try and help.

The rest of the evening is a blur. I know that Marshall and Helen Corns came to help. They were there when the undertaker came. I don't remember who made what decisions. I don't remember when Jack returned or when we finally reached Bill. I do remember when they brought her downstairs to leave her house forever.

I said she died of a broken heart. How she loved that house. She couldn't bear leaving it.

Ironically, the very next day, I received the letter reprinted on these pages. She died the 21st of May; the letter is dated May 18.

I hope now that all the descendants of Mayme Wildner Kauss will know what a fine strong woman she was. She died very young, I believe, of congestive heart failure as she had complained many times about stress. I know she had been to a doctor who said he could do nothing for her.

Today, I believe new medical procedures would have saved her.

She was a chain smoker as all sophisticated women were in her day. Then there were not the warnings that we know exist today for those who smoke.

She loved to eat and could

Twisted May 18th 1948.
Dearest Mary,
I was so happy to hear from you this morning. That so far you were all so ill, but for heaven's what can anyone expect with this awful weather and today so cold again. It really is discouraging waiting for spring and summer to come along. I too had this bug of some kind running off of the bowels & vomiting, but Jim & I did not get it out. There as everyone around here has it too, only lasted a few days and a

make special dishes that were not handed down to her boys as one inherits cooking from one's mother. One of her specialties was tongue. It was something I had never eaten in my family but her beef tongue was out of this world. She brought it often when she would come out to the country to play cards with my mother and grandmother.

Another of her specialties was sauerbraten. I watched her marinate the meat in red wine

I'm fine again and sure hope you
all are too.

George did stop in just a moment
yesterday & I was so disappointed
we all weren't with him so come
when you can we always love to
have you & the kiddies so very much.

No we did not sell the house
as yet everyone wants it for nothing
many people looking at it & all
like it very much & the condition is
in, but no one likes the price so
quicker that will be out if we want to
get rid of it soon.

We have an offer of 16,500 which I
guess we will have to take.

Letter written
by Mayme two
days before
her death and
received by
Mary Durland
Kauss after
Mayme died.

Oh I do wish so very much you could
find a place in town it would not
be quite so difficult for you & much
better in the winter time for the kiddies
but Lillie is coming along fair &
wants to go home next week. Of course
this is all only temporary as the doctors
say it's impossible for her to live more
than a couple of months longer as she
is so irrationally & what not.
They are taking her home to Helen's
place again as she is so perturbed now
being at the hospital so long & 1/2 month
what will be there no one knows.
We are big kids to tell my darling &
come in every day & so any how before
long we will have nothing left.

overnight. I thought it was a lot of trouble to prepare but it was second nature to her. I did learn how to brown flour for the thick gravy. She used ginger snap cookies in this gravy. This was not a dish my family ever made.

She could throw baking powder biscuits together without ever measuring an ingredient and her chicken and dumplings made with stewed tomatoes was out of this world. My dumplings never reached hers of perfection.

One thing that her son George Jr. always asked me to make was her chocolate pie. How she did it from scratch I never did know. And her butterscotch pie too was a work of art.

I can remember her telling me that she would never live to see

her first grand daughter, Maribeth, make her first communion. She didn't nor did she live to see many of her other grandchildren for she died at age 59 much too soon for the vibrant woman she was.

I think of her often. She was a good friend to my mother and often a very generous and loving mother-in-law.



Tell Cissie this is her picture

MAYME'S SISTER MATHILDA WILDNER SENG

Mayme's older sister was Mathilda who was born in July 1882. Throughout Mayme's life, Tillie was a large presence. Not only did she sustain Mayme during the bad times of the depression



Mathilda, Caroline & Mayme

by helping out with the finances, but also she helped with the schooling of Mayme's son George Jr.

Aunt Tillie, as we called her, was married twice. Her first husband was Tony Seifert who must have died very young. The details of his death are rather clouded. Tillie and Tony did have a child named Helen.

After Tony Seifert died, Tillie married Julius Seng. With Julius, Tillie had three children, Virginia, James, and Thomas. Julius Seng was a member of the very prominent Seng family, which I believe may still be in existence today.

It seems that Julius never did formally adopt Helen although she used the name Seng throughout her life. It was not until Julius died intestate that Helen discovered that she was not formally Julius' daughter. Tillie made up for that legality in her will.

Tillie built a beautiful home in Florida and it was the joy of the George Kauss family with all the

children visiting often.

Tillie's son James was about the same age as Mayme's son George Jr. They were

both sent away to high school together until George Jr. was sent to St. John's boarding school. It was Aunt Tillie who paid the tuition for George Kauss Jr.

Mayme and Tillie were inseparable as sisters. Tillie spent a great deal of her time in Florida but while her children were in school they lived in the area. Julius died in 1936.

Tillie's family of four and Mayme's family of three were all reared together.

My recollection of Aunt Tillie has dimmed. She had a magnificent carriage. She was quite tall and very statuesque. She was not a pretty woman but when she was in the room, everyone took notice. Unfortunately Aunt Tillie became very ill with cancer. For a time she stayed with Mayme on Paulina St. when she was under treatment but then went to back to Florida. She was still ailing when her sister Mayme died in 1948. Aunt Tillie was not able to come to Mayme's funeral. Mayme died suddenly in May of 1948 but Tillie lingered until

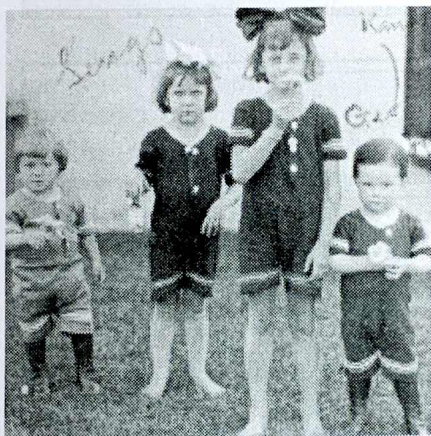
September 1948.

These sisters were devoted to each other throughout their lives and Tillie was a driving force in Mayme's life.

The Seng and Kauss cousins were very close. The Seng families and the Kauss families often traveled together.

Below is a picture of Helen, the eldest child of Mathilda, Virginia, Jimmie on the left and George Jr. when they all traveled to California in 1915.

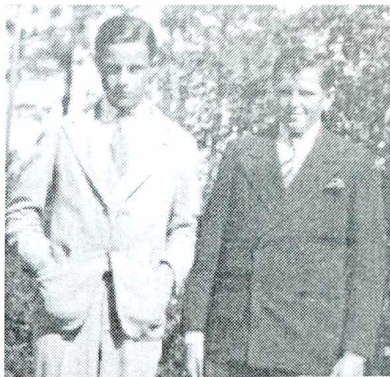
George Kauss Jr. and Jimmy Seng went to boarding school together. In later years, Tommy who was a little younger than George jr. had his own car and he used to drive George Jr. to visit Mary at Clark College in Dubuque, Iowa.



Helen married Marshall Corns, a very handsome man with a dynamic personality. Marshall's brother Org Corns went to St. John's Military with George Jr. Org came to a very untimely death which to this day has not been

solved.

Marshall and Helen remained good friends with the Jr. Kauss family. Their daughter Mary Helen did give me some addresses on her mother's siblings but time constraints interfered. The like-



George Jr. & Jimmy Seng

ness of Mary Helen to her mother Helen and her grandmother Mathilda is astounding.

Virginia married Wes Allen and adopted a son who lives in Florida.

Jimmie Seng just recently died in Jacksonville, Florida. He and his wife Ann adopted twins and lived in Mathilda's home in Leesburg, Florida after she died.

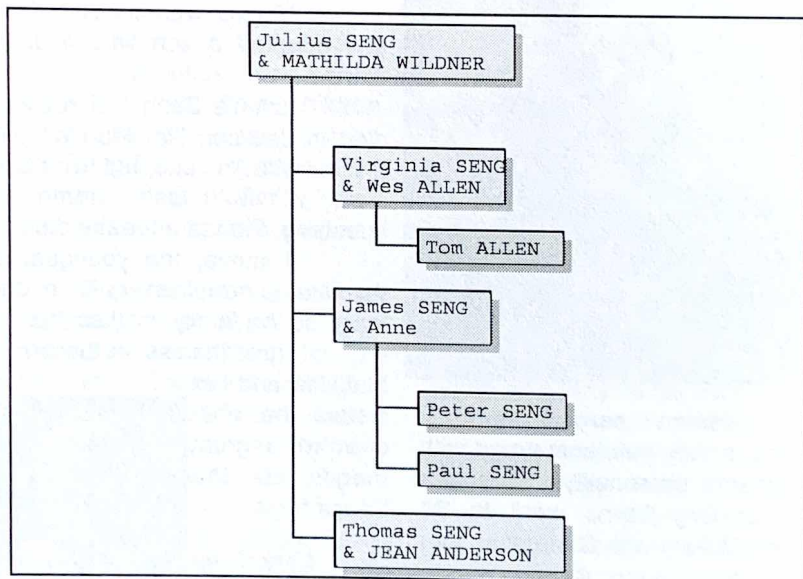
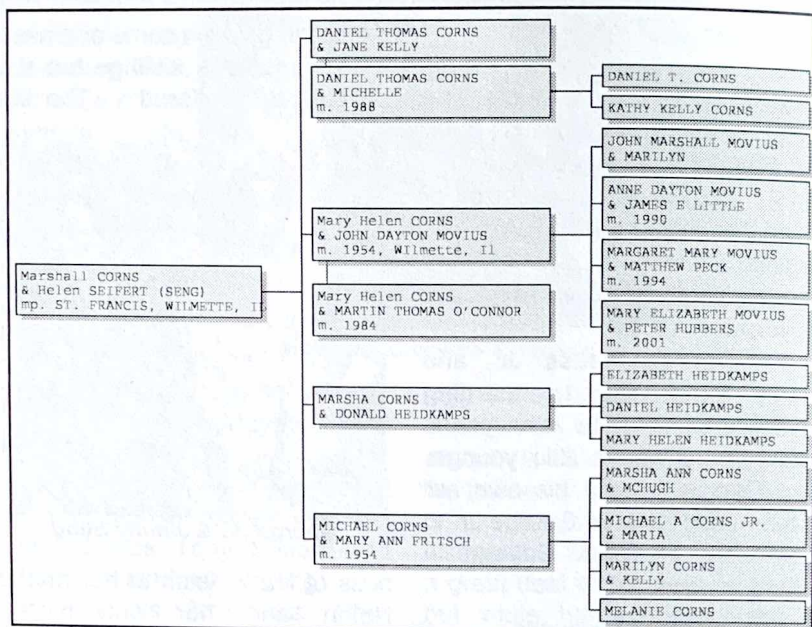
Tommie, the youngest of the family, now lives quite a distance so the family is all scattered.

Nevertheless, in the era of Mathilda and her sister, the children were great friends to the Kauss boys.

*Mary Helen
O'Connor*



MATHILDA'S CHILDREN



CHRISTIAN AND CAROLYN WILDNER

The earliest record I have of Christian is from the 1860 census of Polk, Wisconsin. The census gives his father as Valentin Wildner age 29 which means that he was born sometime in 1831. The place of birth is listed as Hesse

lived in Illinois 52 years so his father Valentin must have moved his family from Wisconsin to Illinois shortly after Christian was born.

Valentin, the brother of Christian, married Julia Jung at St. Michaels Church in Chicago



Christian and Caroline Wildner

Darmstadt, Germany. This is the only record of any census that I have found that listed the actual place of birth in Germany. His occupation at that time was given as a Wagon Maker

His wife's name was Susanna and in 1860 she was 24 so she must have been born in 1836. Her place of birth was recorded as Prussia.

There is one strange notation. Christian's brother Valentin, who was three was born in Illinois, but Christian, who was one, was born in Wisconsin.

Christian only lived to be 52. He died in February of 1912. His death certificate states that he

September 21, 1880. and died in 1927.

Christian Wildner married Caroline Schillo on the 18th day of October 1881. He was 22 and she was 21. They were also married at St. Michaels Church.

They had four children, Mathilda, who was born 26 July 1882, Mary and her twin, born 4 April 1889, and there is a record of another child born in 1886.

I have just received a notice of a birth of a male child, born June 16, 1886. It was the second child born to Carolina and Christian. The child was registered by "Cath. Kirck", a midwife, at their residence 222 Mokawk St.

Carolina was 26 years old and Christian 28.

Interestingly, on that birth certificate, the father's occupation was given as Blacksmith. When Christian died his occupation was listed as a lumber merchant so that probably means that at some time he went to work for his father-in-law Adam Schillo.

But neither the twin of Mary nor the other child survived. Mary was always called Mayme and this is the way she is referred to.

This picture on the previous page of Christian and Caroline must have been taken shortly before his death.

As I mentioned, Christian's occupation on his death certificate stated that he was a Merchant in

Lumber. Since Caroline's father was also in lumber, it can be assumed that the two met each other through Caroline's father, Adam Schillo. The cause of death was cirrhosis of the liver.

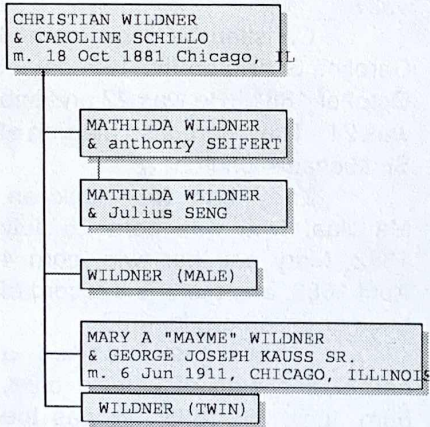
Caroline Schillo Wildner was a very religious woman. She donated a stained glass window to Our Lady of Lourdes Church. She died in 1935

She was mourned by her daughters for a long time for she had been a dominant influence in their lives.



Ms. Caroline Wildner

**Caroline Wildner from the brochure
of Our lady of Lourdes Church**



Chapter Four

The Schillo Family



Adam Schillo, the oldest known ancestor of these families must have come to Chicago about 1853 because he was naturalized in 1858 and it takes 5 years before one can become a citizen

According to his naturalization papers he was born in Prussia, Germany 22 May, 1837. That means that he was 26 when he landed in Chicago. The date of his marriage to Maria Jung also of Germany has not been found. However, we know Maria. was born in Germany January 18, 1838.

Adam was a very successful lumber merchant and when he died at age 64 on the 26th of January, 1902, he owned not only his own lumber company but also had many other assets. One of his descendants has a report from The Adam Schillo Lumber Company for



1894-1895. The report is three pages long but it ended with: "Resources in excess of Liabilities \$104,763.74. Distributed as follows:

Adam Schillo \$86,175.16,
John J. Schillo \$10,476.40,
Christian Wildner \$2,702.11,
Peter Bantz \$5,410.05."

As you can see, at the turn of the century this was a very profitable company.

At the time of his death besides the lumber company Adam had many parcels of Real Estate in Chicago clear and unencumbered. Some included a Planing Mill Company. He also had lots in other subdivisions that included buildings and barns. One was close to the railroad and probably used for shipping his lumber. All in all, his probate records show that he had 19 lots, in Chicago, many

Adam Shillo's official US Naturalization Certificate
dated 17 February 1858.

FINAL CERTIFICATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



State of Illinois, County of Cook, City of Chicago, ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED,

That on the Sixteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-eight, in the Court's Court of the City of Chicago, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, (the year being a Court of Record, having certain law practitioners, a Clerk and a Notary) Adam Shillo an alien, came in Court, and applied to be admitted as a Naturalized Citizen of the United States, and is appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the said applicant has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for and during the full term of five years last past, and for year and upwards everlastingly possessing a good name, in the State of Illinois; that during said term of five years, he has acquired a good moral character and appeared to be attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order, well being, and happiness of the same, and two years and upwards having deposited with the said applicant filed his declaration of his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, according to the pattern of the annual Acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject, and he having now been in open Court taken and subscribed the oath required by these laws, to support the Constitution of the United States, and to renounce and abstain all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Power, Princes, Rulers and Sovereigns whatever, and to receive and defend all allegiance which he may owe anyone now a Free Man of Color.

It was Ordered and Adjudged by the Court that the said Adam Shillo do and he is hereby admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges, and immunities of a Naturalized Citizen of the United States, and that it be certified to him accordingly, which is done by these Presents.



In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court's Court, at Chicago, in said County of Cook, this 17th day of February, A. D. 1858, as of the Independence of the United States the English Second Year

Thos. A. Hayes

with residences.

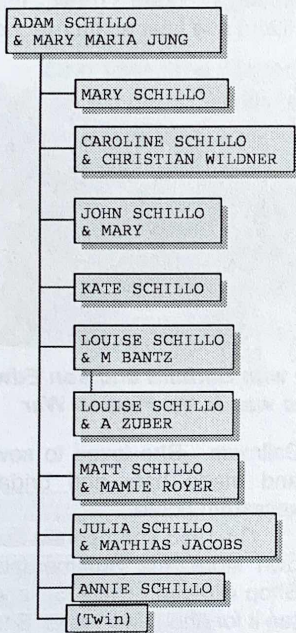
All of this was willed to his wife Maria when he died His only heirs besides his wife were Carolina Wildner, John J. Schillo, Louisa Bantz, Mathias Schillo, and

that did not survive. One child was still born. All in all there were nine children.

Maria Jung Schillo died on December 28, 1928 at age 80 and 11 months. The causes of her death were diabetes, which she had had for 15 years, senile debility, and arterial sclerosis.

Of the surviving children, Caroline married Christian Wildner and Julia married Matt Jacobs.

Matt Schillo took over the management of the lumber company and the family legend is that he



Julia Jacobs.

Even though he and Maria had several more children only those mentioned had survived.

An interesting fact is that at one time Maria gave birth to twins



Julia with daughter Lolita and grandchild Mary Ann. ca. 1928



Caroline, Maria, Julia & Matt Schillo ca. 1916

didn't manage it very well and eventually all was lost.

Julia's husband, Matt Jacobs, died July 15, 1915. By that time she had three children Viola who died in 1902, Lolita, born in 1904 and Edward.

Lolita was only nine when



Lolita Fischer

her father died. Financially Julia was well taken care of up until her death in 1929.

This is an account about Lolita's family passed on to me by Lolita's children Mary Ann and Barbara.

"They lived in an apartment building the family owned on Mohawk St. near St. Michael's Church.

"Lolita went to St. Michael's grammar school where English and German were taught. Edwin Fischer grew up in the same neighborhood and they were married at St. Michael's Church in November of 1925.

"They bought a bungalow in St. Margaret Mary Parish on Chicago's north side which was their home for almost ten years but they lost it during the depression and moved to an apartment in Our lady of Lourdes parish in 1935. Edwin was out of work for several years but finally got a job with Hartford Fire

Insurance where he stayed until he retired. Lolita went to work as soon as Barbara was in school. Money was very tight."

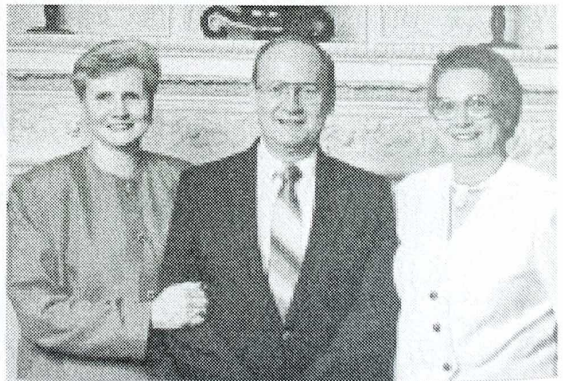
"Lolita had many jobs. She worked nights at the Steven's Hotel (now the Hilton) and later at the Aragon



Lolita with Barbara and son Edwin who was in the Korean War

Ballroom. She loved to sew and made hats and bridal veils from home.

"In 1953 she opened her own store, the Summerdale Shop on North Clark St. and ran it for about five years. She continued working downtown



The children of Lolita and parents of all of Lolita descendants. Barbara, Edwin Jr. and Mary Ann. ca. 1990

at an exclusive ladies dress shop and was still working part time until she died."

Lolita was a great friend to all the Kauss'. She was a very giving person and always wore a gentle smile. I remember her well with much fondness.

One time, she stayed with the George Kauss Jr. family while I was on a trip. This was shortly after George Kauss III was born.

Lolita had three children. Mary Ann who was born January 23 1927. Edwin Jr. who was born January 12, 1929 and Barbara who was born 18 January 1935.

I remember that Lolita

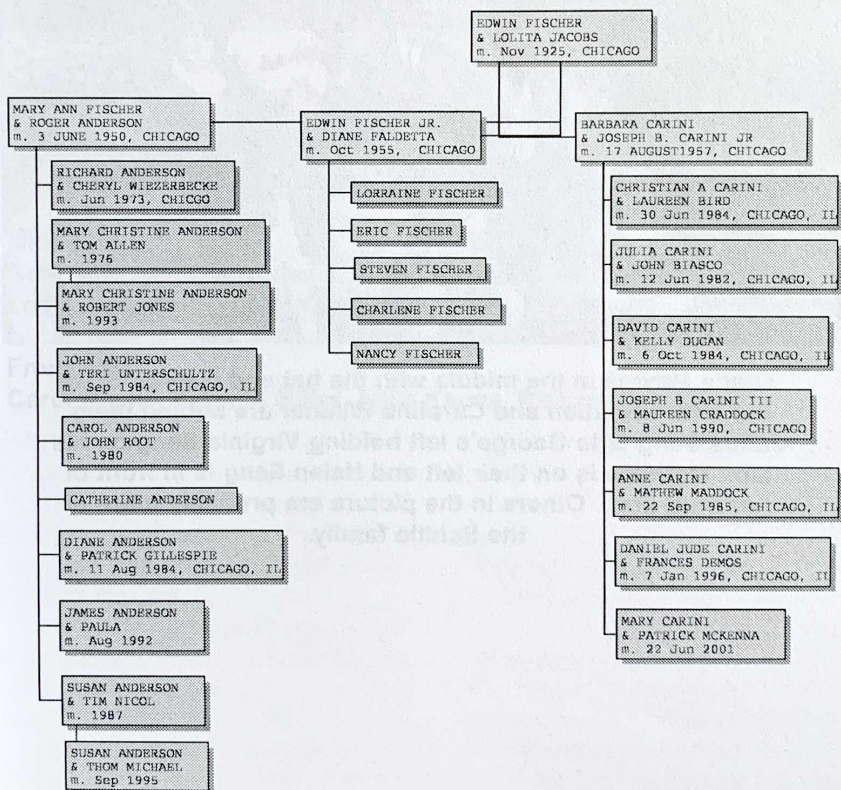
fought diabetes all of her life. She died 22 April 1971 but was fortunate to see her three children married.

Mary Ann married a Chicagoan, Roger Anderson, in 1950 and has a large family.

Edwin Jr. was married in 1955 and had several children. Unfortunately he died in 1999 in Florida.

Barbara, the youngest of the three also married a Chicagoan, Joseph Carini, Jr. a lawyer in 1957 and they have several children.

Below is a chart of Lolita's descendants.



Schillo Family Picture early 1912

Not everyone in the picture can be identified but the year was determined from two events. First Mayme and George Kauss are in the picture and they were married in June 1911. Secondly, Christian Wildner is in the picture and he died in February 1912. The clothing seems to indicate that it was during the wintertime. Taking all this into consideration, the picture had to be taken the winter of 1911 and prior to February 1912.



That's Mayme in the middle with the hat and George Sr. to her left. Christian and Caroline Wildner are behind them. Julius Seng is to George's left holding Virginia Seng on his lap. Mathilda is on their left and Helen Seng is in front of her right arm. Others in the picture are probably more of the Schillo family.

Schillo Family Reunion McHenry, Illinois - 1952



Back row

Robert Niemz, Martin Zitzman, Blanche Zuber, Elsie Zitzman, Eleanor Miller, Roger Anderson, Alice Kell (no relation), Mary Ann Fischer Anderson, Joan Zuber, Vette Kell

Midde row

George Miller, Marie Niemz, Mary Durland Kauss, Jack Kauss, Lolita Fischer, George Kauss

Front row

Carol Niemz, Virginia Miller, Alice Kauss, Richard Anderson

Epilogue

This history was begun so that my children would know more about the families of their father. For many years as a family genealogist, I had been researching my families, and while I had collected some information of the Kauss, Wildner, and Schillos families, I had not put it into any compact form.

I felt it was time that all of my descendants should know what I recollect of this family during the time I was a part of it. I must say I was surprised at how little the current generation that I contacted knew about their heritage. For that reason, I had to trust my experiences, which are purely subjective, but they come from my memory bank. There are those who might disagree with what I remember but I tried to be as objective as I could.

All the families were truly Chicagoans and truly Germanic families to be proud of. In a way, they were very clannish because the old folks usually married others of German extraction. I would venture to say the oldsters were possibly all Republican in their views even though Chicago was politically Democratic, although those who belonged to the trades and were unionized could have been Democrats.

The families were good, honest, hardworking people. All the family members I knew were very congenial and accepted me without question. They joked a lot

and I never remember a cross word spoken. To borrow a phrase from Dr. Phil, "parents write the slate of who their children are," and these parents passed on their ideals to their offspring.

The men I knew were avid followers of the two baseball teams, the Cubs and the White Sox.

Here are some of my reflections on various individuals in this booklet.

I marvel at Grandma Soehr being a midwife, which must have been the equivalent of being a nurse in her time. She and Grandpa Soehr must have emigrated as adults as I have no record of their parents. There was a big family of Soehrs. And I have many unidentified pictures. They were all farmers I believe.

I was impressed by the John Kauss Sr. family that inspired their children to enter the religious life and be teachers. Aunt Mae of that family was a formidable and strong woman. She told her me her mission in life was taking care of her brother Frank. When Anna Soehr Kauss died in 1933 her estate showed she had almost \$5000. and a notation was made that it was "peacefully settled."

One has to respect her frugalness after such a humble beginning. This was the family of George Kauss Sr.

I admire Adam Schillo for receiving his citizenship in 1857. He must have come to this

country at least by 1852 for it takes five years of residence to apply. Then he built a massive lumber business, which he probably started from scratch.

The fact that it was lost after he died would have made him very sad.

I think about the Sr. Wildner who was a wagon builder. Was the political climate in his country so confining that he thought he would have more opportunity here?

These are the genes that are in all of those who followed. An awareness of their accomplishments should be an inspiration for all their descendants. And I hope through this small effort of mine that the knowledge of their ancestors will give them much pride.

Perhaps more stories will surface as time goes on but too much time has passed already and I felt the urgency to write what I could before I forgot the little I know. It has been very painful for me to relive the past but it was vitally important to me that the descendants be proud of their heritage in spite of all the pit falls. These were good people in their time and needed to be recognized.

And so, I dedicate this short history of these families to the descendants of George Joseph Kauss, Jr. May they have

empathy for a man who was almost unknown to them. I hope they will understand and accept his frailties and be proud of their Kauss heritage.

The Chicago Family Clusters

*An Incomplete History of the
Kauss, Wildner and Schillo Families*