

Johannes and Barbara (Kessler) Rhombs

A Compilation of Information About Their Lives

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Johannes and Barbara Rombs

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Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Introduction

Objective

The purpose of this document is to be a repository of historical information pertaining to Johannes Rombs and his wife Barbara Kessler. I am doing this as a part of collecting genealogical information on all my ancestors. One of my grandfathers was Joe Rhombs, who is a son of Johannes and Barbara.

There is some sketchy information here, and it is my hope that some uncertainty can be eliminated by finding some new primary or secondary source information. Reasons for the sketchiness include the facts that most 1890 Federal census records burned, there appears to be no pertinent information in the 1895 SD census, and church and civil records for the Kutschurgan colonies between 1852 and 1884 are relatively hard to access in their location in Saratov, Russia. In December, 2015, Dennis Roth (GRHS) provided some information from the Saratov Archives that fills in some gaps, however. Future research possibilities are noted at the end of the document.

Most current published family tree information for my family can be found at <http://rhombs.myheritage.com>.

I wish that my dad could read all this, since he helped acquire much of the information and since he had a real interest in understanding the associated history.

Historical Background

The information that follows focuses on a period of time during which Barbara and Johannes lived – roughly the decades from 1840 to 1920. There is some information about their ancestors as well as some information about their children. So, the outer boundaries of the information extend back to the 18th century and forward to the very beginning of the 21st century.

Putting family events into a historical context can be very useful. So, I am going to present some superficial information that may help to understand their lives.

Evidence suggests that Barbara and Johannes came from the agrarian Germanic culture that existed just to the west of the Rhein in political regions known as Alsace and Pfalz. Their grand parents hail from this culture. These grand parents were basically displaced by political and economic events and moved to South Russia in the early years of the 19th century. Political events in Russia eventually encouraged Barbara and Johannes (as well as many of their cultural/ethnic comrades) to migrate to the Americas.

Consequently, it can help to consider political and economic events in three places – the Rheinland west of the Rhein, South Russia, and North America. These events are well documented, so I will only discuss a few highlights to set the scene before you read on.

Actually, events centered on France are significant to both the Rheinland and North America. These events start with the French revolution in the late 18th century. During this period, France was turned upside down, and Napoleon came to power. The resulting impacts on the area west of the Rhein were tremendous, and they resulted in displacements of large numbers of people from and back to the region. Johann von Goethe wrote

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

about this in his work Hermann and Dorothea. Even Beethoven was influenced by Napoleon's actions when he first dedicated his third symphony to him and then withdrew the dedication based on his disgust for Napoleon's power-grabbing actions. Given the turmoil in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, it is easy to understand why people would be willing to embark on a long journey to Russia to start new lives.

During this period, almost to intentionally set the stage for the latter years of Johannes' and Barbara's lives, France (Napoleon) sold territory held in North America to The United States in what is known as the Louisiana Purchase. Napoleon had acquired this land from Spain not too long before he sold it. The Lewis and Clark Expedition explored the vast area involved. That part of the purchase which became the Dakota Territory was initially occupied by Native Tribes. The region around what was to become Edmunds and Faulk Counties in South Dakota was little explored until not long before European settlers came there. The railroad did not come to Ipswich until about 1883 – the year before Johannes and Barbara arrived in the area from Russia.

Not long after their arrival, Dakota Territory was divided so as to create the new State of South Dakota, where they both lived out the remainder of their lives. There are various sources that describe what it was like to homestead in this part of the world (between current day Ipswich and Faulkton in South Dakota). The gist of things is that there were blizzards, droughts, grasshopper infestations, unscrupulous financiers, etc. Very few of the immigrants to this region from Russia were able to succeed on their homesteads.

Russia acquired the region north of the Black Sea by force from the Turks in the early 1790s. Catherine the Great was the Russian leader at the time, and her favorite general, Potemkin, was responsible for the successful execution of the war. These are two colorful characters about whom much has been written. In any event, Catherine encouraged Germanic immigration to the recently acquired area of South Russia. This was why our ancestors moved from the area near the Rhein to the Kutschurgan Colonies in the early 1800s.

Unfortunately, various promises that were made to the colonists were eventually rescinded, and it became attractive for Johannes and Barbara to make the long journey to the lands opening up in that part of the Louisiana Purchase that became the Dakota Territory. Many tens of thousands of Germanic colonists made similar journeys, but some remained behind. Those who stayed behind (including some who are clearly related to us) suffered under tightening controls, which culminated in many being executed or exiled to remote areas of Russia.

In summary, these were interesting times that were navigated by Barbara and Johannes and their relatives via long-distance migrations from the Rheinland to South Russia and then to Dakota territory. Over the course of three generations, families and cultures were moved over 10,000 miles.

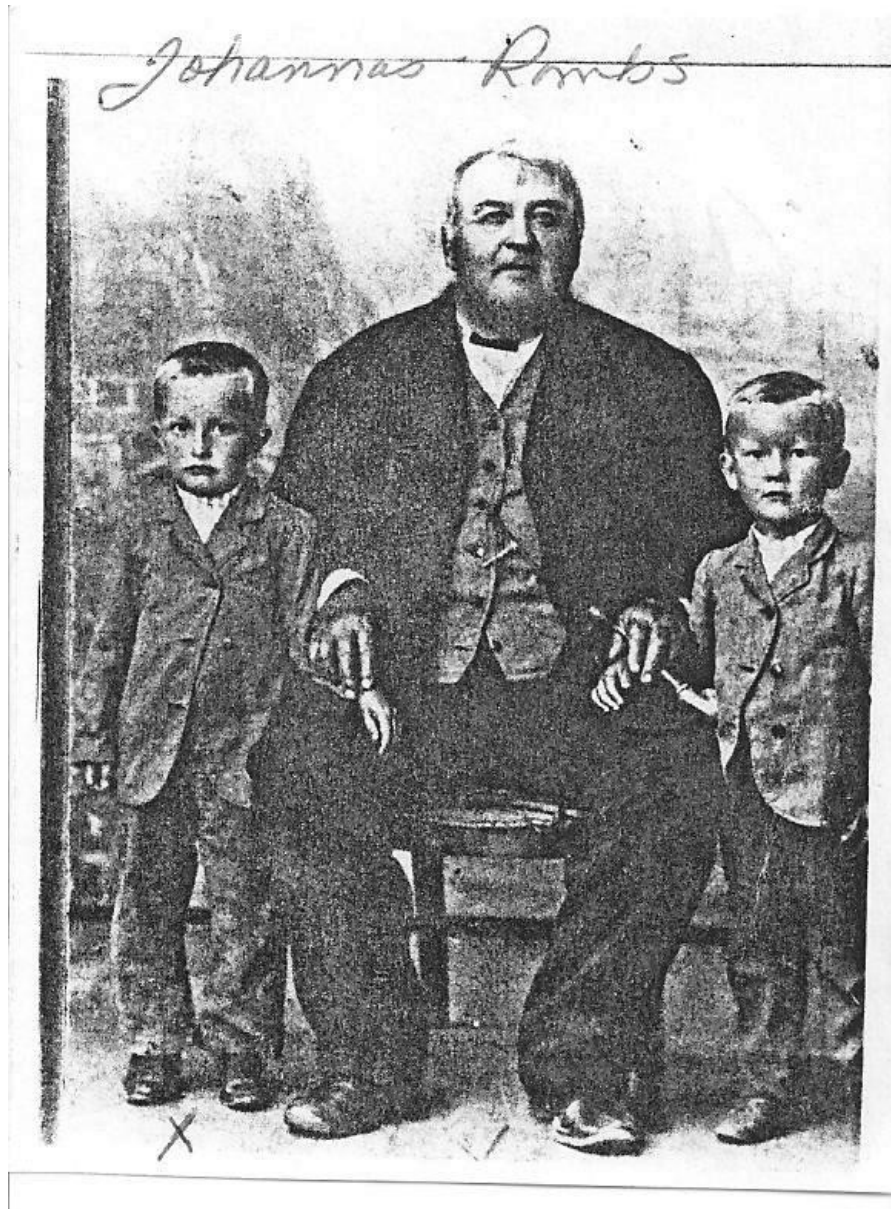
Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Johannes Rombs

Here is the only known picture of Johannes Rombs. Presumably he is with two children, who are related to him. At one point, I thought that it might be his sons, but their difference in ages makes this unlikely. Perhaps these are two grand children. My guess is that this picture may have been taken before 1910.

Johannes may have had blue eyes and stood about 63-64 inches in height.

The source of the photo is Betty Harris, another great grandchild of Johannes and Barbara.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Birth

I am assuming the date of 8/1/1845. This is consistent with Russian archives and most census data.

There are many conflicting sources for date of birth information. The first four sources below seem most consistent, which is why I have chosen 1845 as his birth year.

- Information from the Saratov Archives (Selz Church records) shows 8/1/1845 as the birth date.
- The Kutschurgan census of 1852 implies 1845 as his birth year
- Citizenship papers from 1885 indicate a birth year of 1845.
- Immigration records show 1845.
- The 1885 SD territorial census shows his age as 42, which implies a birth year of 1843
- The 1900 federal census shows June, 1846.
- The 1910 census lists no birth date.
- The 1905 SD census is not clear. The inferred date could be 1841 or 1851.
- His headstone shows a date of 6/29/1850. - In general, I think that this source of information is very unreliable.

Regarding his birth place was Selz in South Russia. This is one of the Kutschurgan Colonies near Odessa. I take this location based mainly on the 1852 census of the colonies that shows people with name Rombs only in Selz, not in any of the other colonies. Other evidence is the record of the birth of his daughter, Elisabetha. Her christening is shown as taking place in Selz, South Russia. And, the final confirmation comes from the Selz Church records in the Saratov Archives in a note from Dennis Roth (GRHS).

Death and Burial

This event is much more clearly documented. Johannes died near Beebe in Edmunds County, SD, on 8/8/1914, while cutting hay. The funeral was in Cresbard and burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, near Wecota, SD. He died of heart failure. It may be that his daughter, Carolina, who I believe was residing in Cresbard at the time, was responsible for organizing the funeral.

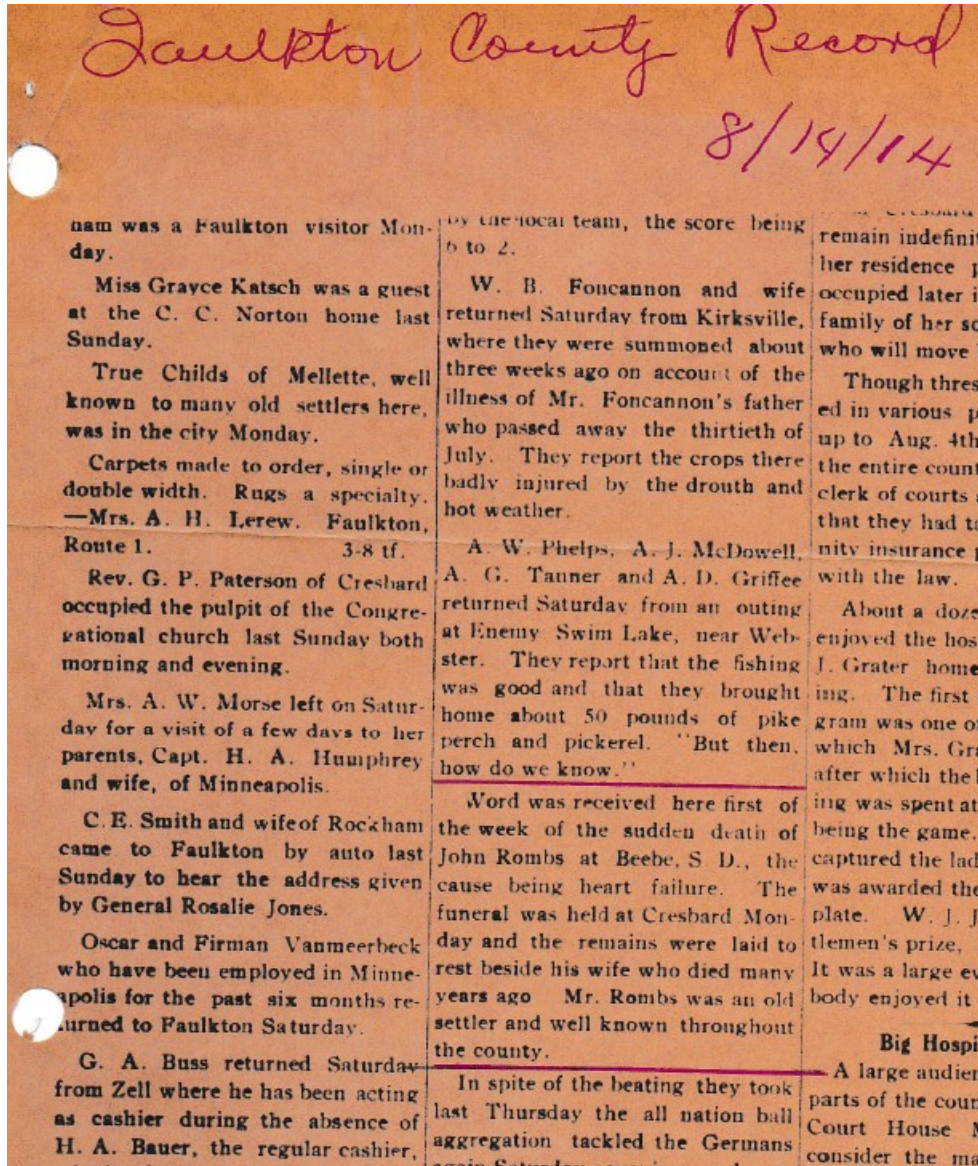
References are the Faulk County Record newspaper for 8/14/1914 and the death certificate filed in Edmunds County, SD, on 8/11/1914.

Here is a picture of his headstone in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a copy of the notice in the Faulk County Record.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is his death certificate.

PLACE OF DEATH		DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY	
County of <u>Edmunds</u>		Division of Census and Vital Statistics	
Township of		Registered No. <u>39768</u>	
City of		St. Ward)	
(If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special information.")		(If death occurred in a hospital or institution give its NAME instead of street and number.)	
Full Name <u>John Rombs</u>			
Personal and Statistical Particulars.		Medical Certificate of Death	
SEX <u>Male</u>	COLOR <u>White</u>	DATE OF DEATH <u>Aug 8 1914</u>	
DATE OF BIRTH <u>Not known</u>		I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I ATTENDED DECEASED FROM <u>Dead when seen</u>	
AGE <u>70</u> <u>about</u>		190 to 190	
MARRIED, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED <u>Widowed</u>		that I last saw him alive on 190	
BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) <u>Russia</u>		and that death occurred on the date stated above, at <u>4 P.M.</u>	
NAME OF FATHER <u>Joseph Rombs</u>		The cause of death was as follows: <u>Heart disease; which family says he had for years.</u>	
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country) <u>Germany</u>		<u>died in field cutting hay.</u>	
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Not known</u>		(Duration) Days	
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country) <u>Not known</u>		Contributory <u>over exertion.</u>	
OCCUPATION <u>labourer</u>		(Duration) Days	
THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF		(Signed) <u>Chas. E. Weidman M. D.</u>	
(Informant) <u>Carrie Euster</u>		<u>Aug 11 1914</u> (Address) <u>Chesham, Wash.</u>	
Address <u>Chesham, SD</u>		SPECIAL INFORMATION, only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or recent residents.	
FILED 190		Former or Usual Residence How Long at Place of Death? Days	
Clerk of Courts		Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?	
		PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Neota</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>Aug 11 1914</u>	
		UNDERTAKER <u>Kessel</u> ADDRESS <u>Spewich, SD</u>	

For what it is worth, on 8/8/1914 (a Saturday), the high temperature in Aberdeen was 94 degrees F (a hot day). The moon was a couple days past full. It was a cool day for the funeral three days later – a high temperature of 68 degrees F. You could ask why a nearly 70 year old man was out on a hot day in the hay fields, especially when it was known that he had heart issues.

Information about the Charles Weidman, who signed the certificate, can be found at Find A Grave Memorial 73307440 .



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Ancestors

So far I am led to conclude that Johannes and his ancestors originated in what is now Alsace in NE France. They were ethnic Germans living in this area, which changed hands many times over the years. In particular, during the period of time when the immigration to South Russia took place, the region had been destabilized by the French Revolution and then Napoleonic Wars.

I suspect that some of his ancestors were semi-subsistence farmers, typical for the region. If I am correct, then the poem Hermann and Dorothea by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe addresses the conditions in which Johannes's ancestors found themselves in the late 1700s. (Possibly this applies to Barbara's ancestors as well.)

Having said this, however, it is now also clear that the paternal line for Johannes includes teachers. In particular, Franz Ludwig Rombs (great grandfather to Johannes) and his father Johannes were teachers. The source for this information is a note from Dennis Roth (GRHS) quoted below.

“The 1811 Selz Census states Franz Ludwig Rombs was a school teacher.

RUMBS, Ludwig	Schoolteacher	47	--	Kasteldorf, Elsass				
Cath.	1	--	--	1	--	1	1	1 wagon
Rumbs, Margaretha	wife	49						
[Rumbs, Franz]	child	21						
Rumbs, Elisabeth	child	16						
Rumbs, Maria								

And another record, mostly for the village of Kesseldorf stated that Franz Ludwig Rombs was the son of Johannes Rombs, teacher, and Barbara Schickel from Kesseldorf.

”

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Genetics

I have had genetic tests done with Family Tree DNA and 23andMe. The results for my Y-DNA follow. It is likely that this information represents the results if the test had been run on Johannes Rombs. They are consistent with origins in what is now NE France.

23andme y-DNA results: y-DNA haplogroup = R1b1b2a1a2d

Family Tree y-DNA results: y-DNA haplogroup = R-M269 (This is another way of describing the haplogroup identified by 23andMe.)

The fact that autosomal DNA test results have led to Usselman cousins with roots in Alsace further supports the proposed origins in Alsace. Refer to the pedigree information that follows for Johannes.

Note: In fact the Y-DNA type is the same as that inferred for George Washington, whose English ancestors may have roots back to ancient Gaul. It is probably the connection to Gaul that we share with George Washington. - It is plausible that people from Gaul who were auxiliaries to the Romans in the invasion of Britain are related to Johannes in his paternal line. - This also explains that the nearest matches to me on family tree DNA using y-DNA trace their roots back to Britain. According to the theory, then, if we were to trace farther back, we would find the common link from Gaul.

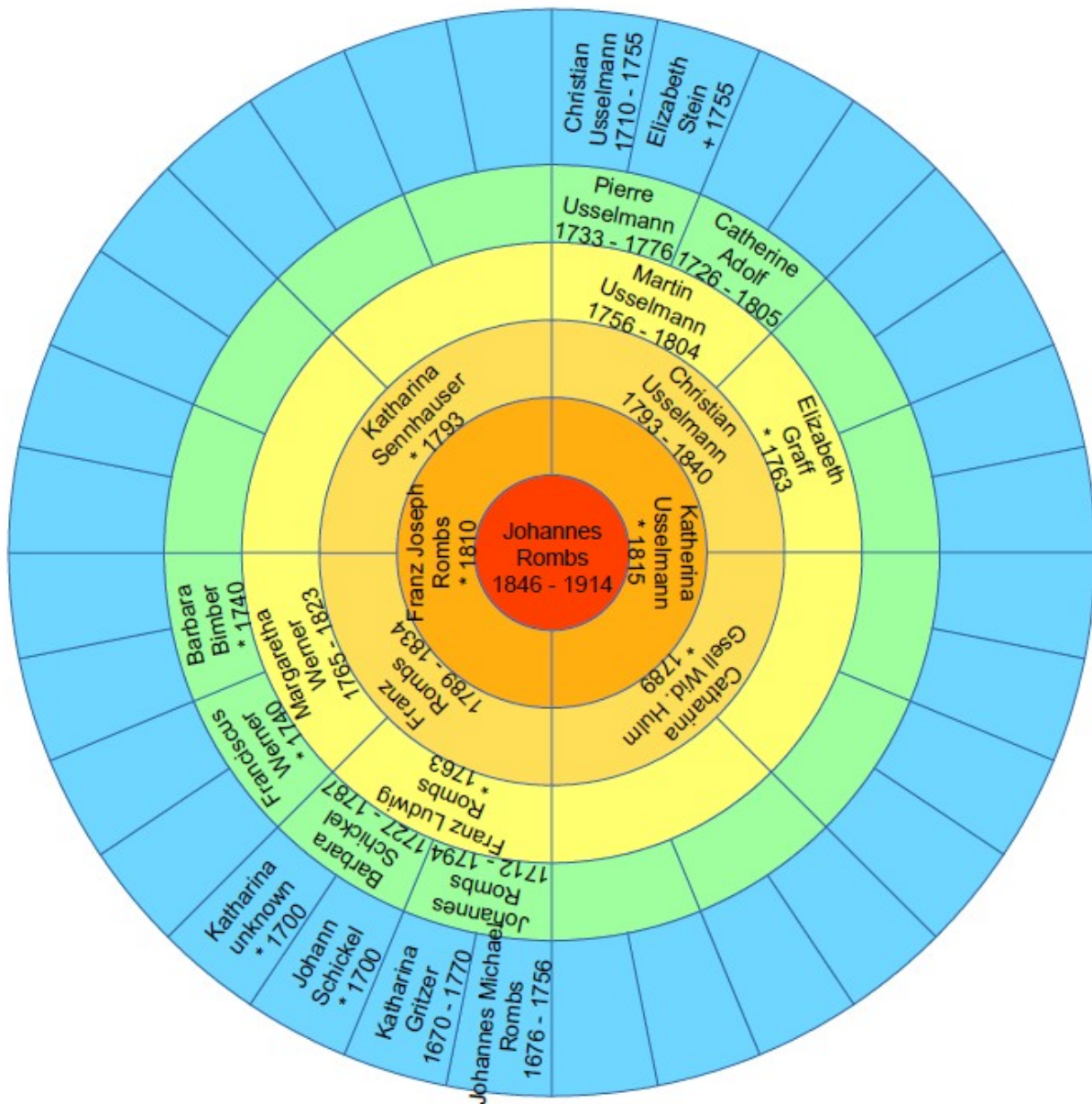
Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Family Tree for Johannes

I have derived the following proposed genealogy for Johannes based largely on information in family trees prepared by others. Even though this is suspect information, some information about his maternal line has been confirmed through genetic testing as noted above.

Franz Rombs and Christian Usselmann are the heads of families that originally immigrated to Selz, South Russia, in about 1809. It appears from census records that some Usselmanns did not survive the trip or expired shortly thereafter. Some of their children were adopted by Ludwig Strauss and his wife, Elisabetha. (See the 1816 Selz Census.)

First, a fan chart centered on Johannes.



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Next, a corresponding Ahnentafel report shows some additional details.

Generation 1

1. Rombs, Johannes. Johannes was born on 1845-06-29 in Selz, Ukraine ?. He died on 1914-08-08 in Beebe (SD). He died on 1914-08-08 in Edmunds County, SD.

Generation 2

2. Rombs, Franz Joseph. Franz Joseph was born in 1810 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
3. Usselmann, Katherina. Katherina was born in 1815 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).

Generation 3

4. Rombs, Franz. Franz was born in 1789 in Kesseldorf (Alsace). He died in 1834 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
5. Sennhauser, Katharina. Katharina was born in 1793.
6. Usselmann, Christian. Christian was born in 1793 in Niederseebach (Alsace). He died in 1840 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
7. Gsell, Catharina. Catharina was born in 1789 in Salmbach (Alsace). She died in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine). She was twice widowed before marrying Christian.

Generation 4

8. Rombs, Franz Ludwig. Franz Ludwig was born on 1763-04-30 in Oberlauterbach (Alsace).
9. Werner, Margaretha. Margaretha was born on 1765-11-03 in Germany. She died on 1823-03-16 in Germany.
12. Usselmann, Martin. Martin was born on 1756-01-02 in Niederseebach (Alsace). He died on 1804-03-02 in Niederseebach (Alsace).
13. Graff, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was born in 1763 in Niederlauterbach. She died in Schoenfeld (Ukraine).

Generation 5

16. Rombs, Johannes. Johannes was born on 1712-03-11 in Neibsheim. He died in 1794.
17. Schickel, Barbara. Barbara was born in 1727 in Germany. She died on 1787-06-06 in Oberlauterbach (Alsace).
18. Werner, Franciscus. Franciscus was born in 1740.
19. Bimber, Barbara. Barbara was born in 1740.
24. Usselmann, Pierre. Pierre was born in 1733 in Niederseebach (Alsace). He died on 1776-09-19.
25. Adolf, Catherine. Catherine was born in 1726 in Trimbach. She died in 1805 in Trimbach.

Generation 6

32. Rombs, Johannes Michael. Johannes Michael was born in 1676 in Neibsheim. He died on 1756-02-19 in Neibsheim.
33. Gritzer, Katharina. Katharina was born in 1670 in Neibsheim (Karlsruhe). She died in 1770 in Zeutern (Karlsruhe).
34. Schickel, Johann. Johann was born in 1700.
35. unknown, Katharina. Katharina was born in 1700.
48. Usselmann, Christian. Christian was born in 1710 in Niederseebach (Alsace). He died in 1755 in Niederseebach (Alsace).
49. Stein, Elizabeth. She died in 1755.

Generation 7

96. Usselmann, Michael.
97. unknown, Catherine (wife of Michael Usselmann).

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Locations

Karl Stumpf wrote a book about the migration of ethnic Germans to Russia. In this he lists the original settlers in the areas around Odessa. The name of the book is The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862.

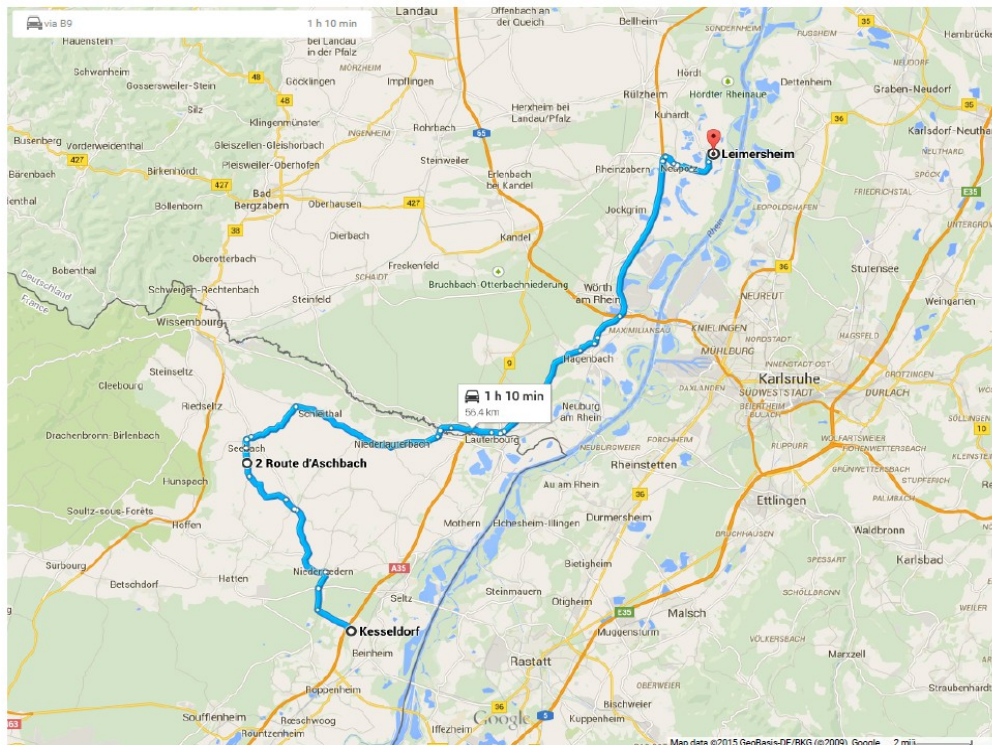
This list shows the following people in the family tree of Johannes who settled in South Russia. The first location in each entry of the list shows the origination location – town, locale, and “department”. “EL” stands for Elsass (Alsace), and “Pf” stands for Pfalz (Palatinate).

Rums, Franz	Kesseldorf/Weissenburg	El		Selz/Odessa
Rums, Ludwig	Kesseldorf/Weissenburg	El		Selz/Odessa
Usselmann, Christian	Niederseebach/Weissenburg	El	1809	Kandel/Odessa

Also of potential interest is an ancestor of Barbara from the Palatinate. I'll say more about this later.

Kessler, Joseph	Leimersheim/Germersheim	Pf	1809	Selz/Odessa
-----------------	-------------------------	----	------	-------------

If you plot the origination points for these people on a current day map, here is what you see. The blue line plots a course from Kesseldorf (where Franz Rombs started) to Niederseebach (where Christian Usselmann started) to Leimersheim (where Joseph Kessler started). The point is that these people all lived fairly close to each other, not too far from the Rhein River.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a picture of the central part of Selz, France, as it existed in 1997. (I was able to visit the area one Saturday in 1997, while on a business trip.) It is the likely source of the name of “Colonie Selz” in “Sud Rusland,” that Franz Rombs helped found in about 1808. Based on the information above, the original Rombs settlers actually came from Kesseldorf, a short distance to the southwest of Selz, France.



In the 18th century Kesseldorf was not a large town. A well-known astronomer named Cassini was commissioned prior to the Revolution to map France. A French genealogy site hosts this map and provides associated information about places. Here is the link to the site.

<http://french-genealogy.typepad.com/genealogie/2009/06/the-cassini-map.html>

Here is a section of the map showing Kesseldorf and Selz. They are on the western edge of the Haguenau Forest and close to the Rhein River.



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Population information for Kesseldorf from this same source shows the following.

From this you can see that, during the time of the Revolution (the 1790s), population declined. After that, population increased until 1851 when a peak was reached.

The point of this is to demonstrate that significant social changes were taking place just before Johannes' ancestors emigrated in 1808-1809.

Le nombre d'habitants [\(voir diagramme d'évolution\)](#)

Le recensement de 1826, qui ne serait qu'une réactualisation de celui de 1821, n'a pas été retenu.

Le recensement de 1871 a été, pour cause de guerre, repoussé à l'année 1872.

Le recensement de 1941, réalisé selon des instructions différentes, ne peut être qualifié de recensement général, et n'a donné lieu à aucune publication officielle.

Les résultats provisoires du recensement par sondage annuel réalisé en 2004, 2005 et 2006 selon les communes sont tous, par convention, affichés à 2006 (voir dossier Sources et site Insee).

Pour l'Alsace-Lorraine, les recensements de la période 1870-1919 ont eu lieu aux années 0 et 5 sauf 1871, et 1915 qui n'a pas été réalisé.

Pour Nice et la Savoie, les recensements de la période 1814-1860 ont eu lieu en 1815, 1822, 1838, 1848 et 1858.

autre	1841 490	1876 361	1911 356	1962 306
1793 268	1846 477	1881 384	1921 300	1968 307
1800 187	1851 496	1886 386	1926 333	1975 332
1806 313	1856 375	1891 388	1931 318	1982 320
1821 387	1861 378	1896 379	1936 313	1990 317
1831 463	1866 374	1901 369	1946 315	1999 331
1836 451	1872 347	1906 369	1954 321	2006 402

légende

- 0 hab. : commune inhabitée
- ... : commune n'existant pas à cette date
- adm. : commune recensée avec une autre
- lac. : commune oubliée sur la publication du recensement
- ill. : information illisible
- vide : information non disponible actuellement
- abs. : document (ou pages) disparu(es)

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a map of the colonies in South Russia that seem to matter here. Note that Selz and Kandel are close together, and they were established in the same year (1808). (Kandel is where the Usselmann ancestors of Johannes initially settled.)



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

For further support, here is information from the 1852 census for Selz, South Russia. Details can be had in the GRHS publication, “1852 Kutschurgan Census”, c. 2002.

The following table shows by house number where people with the three surnames (Rombs, Kessler, and Usselman) were residing. All were in Selz in 1852. These names do not appear in the other Kutschurgan colonies. Kesslers were in one house, Rombs people were in two houses, and Usselman people were in four houses.

Name	House 13	House 14	House 28	House 29	House 49	House 51	House 126	Total Result
Kessler					1			1
Rombs				1			1	2
Usselman	1	1	1			1		4

The point of all of this information is that the (Usselman and Rombs) ancestors of Johannes Rombs started from what is now NE France. They settled in close proximity to each other in Russia, and they stayed there until many emigrated.

The Kessler family that is shown above (from Leimersheim) is associated with Barbara as explained in a section that follows.

Current day boundaries that separate Leimersheim (now in Germany) from Kesseldorf and Niederseebach (now in France) had significance in the early 19th century, but they may not indicate a significant difference in ethnicity. I say this because the region was unstable – see historical references that describe the French Revolution and the subsequent rise of Napoleon, who was opposed by assorted Germanic “states”.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Barbara Rombs

Birth

I am assuming a date of 6/16/1848.

I know of only four sources of a date for her birth.

- The 1852 Kutschurgan census implies 1848 as her birth date.
- Immigration records, which, although not very clear, seem to indicate a birth year of 1850
- The 1885 SD territorial census shows her age as 37, implying a birth year of 1848
- The date shown on her headstone is 6/16/1842. This makes me again wonder if the headstone years are reliable at all.

Her birth place was Russia based on the 1852 Kutschurgan Census and U.S. census data for her children that usually shows this as her origin. Sometimes, however, her birth place is shown as Germany or even France, which I believe to be errors.

Death and Burial

There are only two sources of information for Barbara's date of death – the infamous headstone and two newspaper articles. I adopt a date of 3/10/1896 for her death. (Later I will explain an interesting family story that may relate to Barbara's death.)

- The headstone shows 3/11/1896.
- The newspapers show death on 3/10/1896 (a Tuesday), with burial on 3/13/1896 (a Friday). Cause of death is shown as consumption (i.e., tuberculosis).

Copies of the newspaper text follow. The first is from the “Faulk Co. Times”, March 12, 1896, page 3. The second is from the “Faulk County Republican Record”, vol. 14, no. 14, March 12, 1896, page 8.

DIED:—At her home near Millard
on Tuesday, March 10, 1896, of con-
sumption, Mrs. John Rhombs.

Mrs. Rhombs died at her home
near Millard Tuesday. Funeral
services will be held on Friday.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Ancestors

Primary source information for Barbara's ancestors has been a little hard to come by, and some has been confusing. In spite of this I believe that it is reasonably clear who her ancestors were and where they lived.

Hints

First, to some confusing information. - My father had a phone conversation with a descendant of Lulu, one of Barbara's daughters. The descendant was Alta House Soderquist, who is a daughter of Reuben House and Lulu Rombs. I believe that Alta was living in Chicago at the time of the conversation. Here are dad's notes. I believe that they may provide a key role in discovering Barbara's ancestors./

1-4-76

Phoned Alta Soderquist -
great gal - I'd bet!

States:
Lulu remembers moving
from Strasburg (Gr.?) to the
W. Kyline, in Russia (Strasburg
is German) - spoke German & (?)

Barbara Kessler's brother
Robert Kessler, and wife Hannah
come to S. Dak - some time
as John Rombs and lived
in Ipswich, S. Dak. Lulu visited
at Robert Kessler's!

Also sure John had only one
wife - will tell me more
when I see her (maybe fun)

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Possible Questions

Concerning J.R. -

- ① When ^{where} was he born? (exact)
Stressburg (?)
- ② What were his professions?
Don't know
- ③ Parents: names, origins, professions, ...
- ④ Stories ...

Concerning Barbara -

- ① When & where born?
Some region
- ② Parents (as above)
Not known
- ③ Cause of death
F.T.B. probably femoral
fracture
- ④ Stories

Herbert
Ulta says
1881
Odessa -
New York

- ① Details of the immigration (exactly when, from where to where, did they know someone here, what steamship co., what rail co. ...)
- ② Was Elizabeth born during same year as the immigration? [3 yrs old]
- ③ Why did some of the kids put the "H" in the name?
- ④ What about Alfred & the will?

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Concerning Kate:

- ① Birth + death dates + places.
- ② Who had control of the original farm + what was done with it?
- ③ How was Cala's name spelled?
- ④ Do any old family documents exist?

Rumor - John Del. Cattle to
Spring City - married
Gal maybe about -

Twins in God House
79-85

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Jan 16, 1977
Send

1869
12
1881
Lulu says (12)
when entered -
18 when married!

940

Rokus Kersler

Edith daughter
Rokus
in home in
Spawick

Sauk County Record
Thursday April 22, 1976.

1907 - Alta come with kids
to S. Dak for Sparta Wis
(son three, (son 2) (son 1))
Winona - La Crosse, Sparta,
then Saukton.
1912 Weatoh melina

kids
Anna
Frances
Joseph
Edith

John - Book Business -
5' 3" or 4" -

blue eyes
Barbara - Brown (?)

W
N
H



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a summary of some points from the notes. By the way, I believe that dad actually visited Alta on one of his trips to Chicago.

- Lulu purportedly remembered the trip from Strasbourg to Russia. (I am very skeptical of this since primary source documents show that she was born in Russia.)
- Barbara had a brother named Ro(c)hus Kessler, whose wife was named Hanna. They came to SD at the same time as Johannes and Barbara. They lived in Ipswich.
- Alta disputes that Johannes had a second wife.
- Barbara may have died from “female” troubles.
- Did Johannes and Barbara have twins in a house?
- Alta references the Faulk County Record of Thursday, April 22, 1976.
- Alta recounts her travels with her parents to WI and then MN.
- She says that Johannes had blue eyes, was about 63-64 inches tall, and was a good businessman.
- Lastly, and probably most importantly, she describes the Kessler family in Ipswich, which Lulu visited at times.
 - Husband Rochus Kessler
 - wife Hannah Kessler
 - children: Anna, Francis, Joseph, Edith.

Resolutions (reality)

Here is what I believe reality actually is.

I have found a Rochus Kessler (b. 1854 – Find A Grave Memorial 155876844) family in Edmunds County at the right time. However, the family members do not look right, and they were living north of Ipswich. They were clearly Alsatian (German-Russian). I tracked down a direct male descendant, who kindly submitted to a genetic test. The results of this test are quite clear – we are not related. So, I am sure that this is the wrong family.

Furthermore, the 1852 census probably shows Barbara in the house numbered 49. She is the daughter of Johann and Elisabetha Kessler, and she has siblings named Franz, Margareta, and Katharina. There is no Rochus Kessler in the house at this time. (Perhaps more children were born after 1852, but I have no information about that.) A copy of the transcription follows.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Selz 1852 Census

HH#	#Males in Village	#Females in Village	Surname	Given (First) Name	Age of Male	Age of Female
		246		Barbara		38
	224			Valentin	5	
	225			Franz	1/2	
		247		Katharina		14
		248		Karolina		9
48	226		Thomas	Peter	26	
		249		Karolina		24
	227			Josef	6	
	228			Franz	2	
		250		Karolina		1/2
49	229		Kessler	Josef	73	
		251		Barbara		70
	230		Kessler	Anton	48	
		252		Elisabetha		30
	231			Franz	17	
	232			Georg	9	
		253		Gertruda		14
		254		Barbara		11
		255		Daria		3
	233		Kessler	Jakob	40	
		256		Elisabetha		31
	234			Ignatz	8	
	235		<i>Edwards Co. →</i>	Josef	4	
	236			Ludwig	2	
	237			Nikolaus	3/4	
		257		Genoveva		10
		258		Marianna		6
	238		Kessler	Johann	31	
		259		Elisabetha		30
	239			Franz	5	
		260		Margareta		6
		261	<i>Fault Co. →</i>	Barbara		4
		262		Katharina		1
50	240		Eisenzimmer	Johann	48	
		263		Maria Eva		39
	241			Valentin	1	
		264		Franziska		15
		265		Elisabetha		11
		266		Helena		9
		267		Margareta		6
	242		Philipps	Georg	39	
		268		Henrika		37
	243			Kosmos	6	
		269		Maria		17
		270		Katharina		13
		271		Marianna		9
		272		Elisabetha		3/4
51	244		Usselman	Christian	38	
		273		Eva		36
	245			Valentin	13	
	246			Peter	11	
	247			Anton	9	

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Interestingly, I have subsequently found another Kessler family in Ipswich at the right time, with many of the correct family members. The family was headed by a widow named Anna Kessler from Russia. She appears to have been born in 1859 in Russia, immigrated to the US in 1885, was widowed, and died in SD in 1930. I think that she was possibly married in 1881 (in Russia), and that her husband died some time during or after 1893. Their children are listed below, and a copy of the 1900 Federal Census page that shows them follows as well.

Edith b. 7/1882 (Russia)

Francis b.1884 (Russia)

Lizzie b. 1887 (SD)

Joseph b. 1889 (SD)

Anna b. 1891 (SD)

Katie b. 1894 (SD)

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. B

State South Dakota } **SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.** { Supervisor's District No. 2 } Sheet No. 6
 County Edmunds } { Enumeration District No. 141 }

Township or other division of county Ipswich Township Name of Institution, X
(Type name of township, town, precinct, district, or other civil division in the case made. See instructions.)

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Ipswich Village Ward of city, X
(Type name of city, town, or village in the case made. See instructions.)

Enumerated by me on the 8th day of June, 1900, Arvid J. Barker, Enumerator.

Here is the bulk of the family living on Main Street.

Main Street	104 100	100	Dumbloom, Andrew	Boarder	r m	Janu.	1849	51	m	22
	103 88	88	Russell, Teller	Head	r m	Janu.	1848	52	m	32
	104	106	" Louis	Son	r m	June	1868	31	b.	
			" Gail	Son	r m	May	1881	19	p	
	107 87	87	Kessler, Anna	Head	r f.	Aug.	1859	40	m	20
			" Francis	Daughter	r f.	Dec.	1884	15	b.	
			" Lizzie	Daughter	r f.	Feby.	1887	13	s	
			" Joseph	Son	r m	Janu.	1889	11	s	
	105	107	" Anna	Daughter	r f.	Feby.	1891	9	s	
	101 102	102	" Katie	Daughter	r f.	May	1894	6	s	

859	40	m	20	6	6	Russia	Russia	Russia	1885	15	Wash woman
884	15	b.				"	"	"	1885	15	"at school"
887	13	s				South Dakota	"	"			"at school"
889	11	s				"	"	"			"at school"
891	9	s				"	"	"			"at school"
894	6	s				South Dakota	"	"			

Edith is just down the street, shown as a boarder.

101 102	102	Kessler, Edith	Servant	r f.	July	1882	17	b.		Russia
--------------------	----------------	----------------	---------	------	------	------	----	----	--	--------



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Also, a quick search of arrivals to NY from Germany, revealed the following family on the SS Elbe, arriving from Bremen in NY on 10/31/1885. The people and the dates shown in the transcription that follows are all consistent with the 1900 census shown above. Person 484 may be Edith (wrong gender on the manifest), and person 485 maybe Francis.

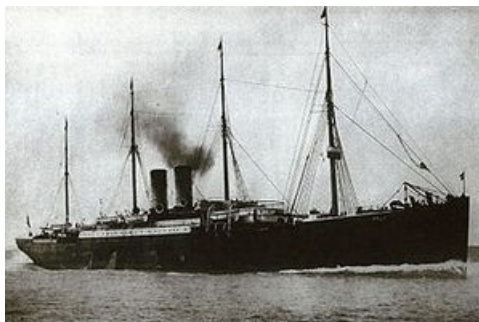
482	Jos Kessler	30	m	farmer	Germany	1-5
483	Anna Kessler	28	f	wife	Germany	1-
484	? Kessler	2	m	child	Germany	1-
485	Franziska Kessler	8m	f	child	Germany	1-

Here is a copy of the original manifest. It actually shows two groups of Kesslers close together, and this may be a clue. The first family looks like Franz and Barbara Kessler. The next family is Jos and Anna Kessler. It is this second family that I think may be the one that ended up in Ipswich. The first family may be that of Barbara Rombs' brother, Franz, and the second one the family of her cousin, Josef.



If this is the case, then Anna's husband (missing in the Ipswich family) was named Joseph, and he was about two years older than Anna. They then arrived in the year that Anna states in census records, about 11 months after Johannes and Barbara Rombs. His wife, Anna, may have been from one of the Senger families in Kandel at the time of the 1852 census. For what it is worth, Joseph Kessler is also the name of one of the original settlers of Selz as noted above.

Here is a picture of the SS Elbe. She was part of the North German Lloyd line.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Further evidence for Joseph being the name of the head of the Ipswich Kessler family comes from the birth record for Joseph Kessler b. 1889. This record from Edmunds County shows that the father was named Joseph Kessler and the mother was named Anna Saenger (a new piece of information).

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
 DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

State File **621694**
 INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY
 LEGAL PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION
 Co. Reg. No. **6546**

Full Name at Birth: **Joseph Kessler** Date of Birth: **Jan. 6, 1889** Sex: **male**

Birthplace: **Faulkton** (City or Town) **Faulk** (County) **South Dakota** (State) Color: **white**

Father: Name: **Joseph Kessler** Age: **34** Birth-Place: **Russia** (State or Country)

Mother: Name: **Anna Saenger** Age: **29** Birth-Place: **Russia** (State or Country)

Affidavit: I hereby declare upon oath that the above statements are true.

Signature: *Edith Kessler* (Sister) Address: **Ipswich, S. D.**
 (To be signed by informant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this **14th** day of **December**, 19**42**.

SEAL *Rev. J. Thomas* **Clerk of Courts, Edmunds County, S. D.**

ABSTRACT OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

I hereby certify that the abstract of evidence appended is to my knowledge true and correct.

Signature: _____ Date signed: _____
 (Title of Reviewing Official) Register: *Mason Chamberlin*

Faulkton Date Filed: **Dec. 15, 1942**

An obituary for Anna, published in the Ipswich Tribune on 11/27/1930, indicates that her husband died in 1893.

Funeral Services For Mrs. Kessler

Mrs. Anna Kessler was born November 29, 1858 in Russia and passed away November 19, 1930 at Ipswich, S. D.

In 1886, Mr. and Mrs. Kessler came to the United States, locating in Edmunds County. They lived in Bowdle a year and then moved to Ipswich. Mr. Kessler passed away thirty-seven years ago.

Mrs. Kessler has been ill the past six years, and has been confined to her bed since last April.

Those left to mourn are three daughters, Miss Edith Kessler, Mrs. Carl Blank and Mrs. L. L. Silvernail; one son, Joseph Kessler.

Funeral services were held Saturday morning at nine o'clock at nine o'clock from Holy Cross Church, with Rev. F. Bormann officiating. Interment was made in the Ipswich cemetery.

The pall bearers were: Adam Siller, Peter Pietz, Frank Archer, Will Deminck, F. E. Lass and Peter Geditz.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

So, based on all of this evidence, I propose that Barbara's cousin is the person named Jos Kessler in the ship manifest and that his family in Ipswich is the one that Alta Soderquist mentioned in her conversation with my father. I am trying to confirm this.

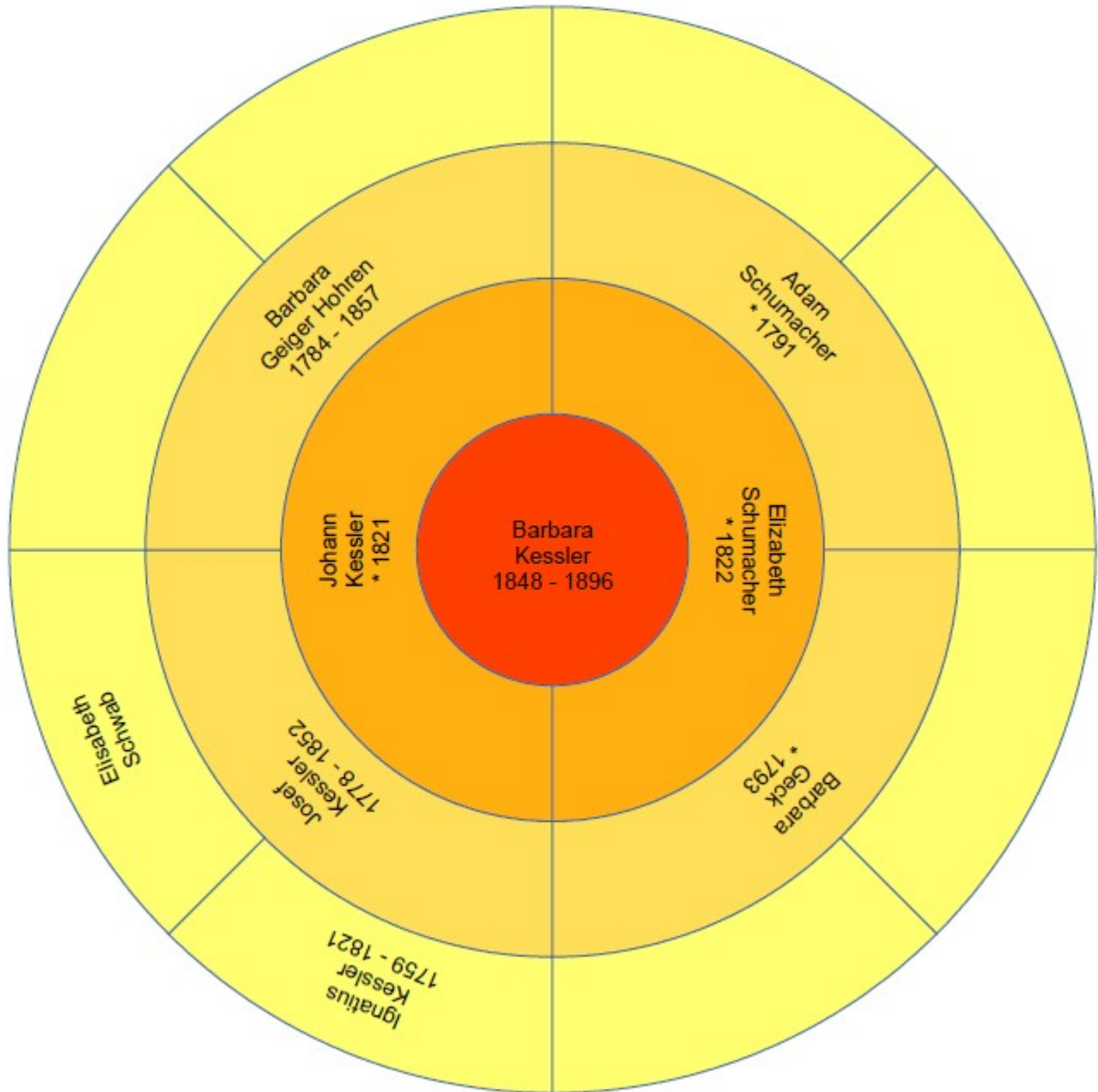
Associated with this is the proposal that Barbara's brother Franz, who shows up in the 1852 Kutschurgan census, should be found close by at about the same time. In fact there is a Frank Kessler, who once lived in ND and died in Washington state, that might be a good candidate for her brother.

The Rochus Kessler reference is still a mystery at this time.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Family Tree for Barbara

Adopting the proposed ancestry for Barbara mentioned above, the results depicted below are reasonable.
First a fan chart.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Next an Ahnentafel report.

Generation 1

1. Kessler, Barbara. Barbara was born on 1848-06-16 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine). She died on 1896-03-11 in Faulk County, SD.

Generation 2

2. Kessler, Johann. Johann was born in 1821 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
3. Schumacher, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was born in 1822 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).

Generation 3

4. Kessler, Josef. Josef was born in 1778 in Leimersheim Pfalz. He died in 1852 in Selz (South Russia - Ukraine).
5. Geiger Hohen, Barbara. Barbara was born in 1784. She died in 1857.
6. Schumacher, Adam. Adam was born in 1791.
7. Geck, Barbara. Barbara was born in 1793.

Generation 4

8. Kessler, Ignatius. Ignatius was born in 1759 in Blumenberg Pfalz. He died in 1821 in Manneheim Germany.
9. Schwab, Elisabeth.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Life Together

Introduction

Before delving into more details of their life together, I thought that it would be useful to present a summary time-line to put everything in context. The table that follows summarizes what has been established or estimated. Events subsequent to the births of Barbara and Johannes are discussed in more detail in subsequent sections.

year	event	location
1808-1809	ancestors emigrate to South Russia	Russia
1845	Johannes born	Russia
1848	Barbara born	Russia
1866	marriage	Russia
1866	birth of Lucada	Russia
1868	Johannes born	Russia
1872	Andreas born	Russia
1875	birth of Caroline	Russia
1878	birth of Nicholas	Russia
1881	birth of Peter	Russia
1883	birth of Elizabeth	Russia
1884	immigration	NY
1885	naturalization started	SD
1885	birth of Joseph	SD
1885	land patent started	SD
1886	land first occupied	SD
1887	birth of Kathryn	SD
1888	loss of section 10 of homestead	SD
1892	land patent finished	SD
1892	naturalization finished	SD
1896	Barbara dies	SD
1896	Johannes joins Immanuel Lutheran	SD
1897	loss of section 9 of homestead	sd
1898	Johannes marries Mary Kastan	SD
1898	Johannes ships Mary back to Chicago	SD
1902	Johannes divorces Mary Kastan	SD
1914	Johannes dies	SD

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Marriage

The record of marriage comes in the form of a note from Dennis Roth (GRHS). He relates that the Saratov Archive information shows a date of 11/7/1866 in Selz.

Here is a recent photo of a house built by German settlers in South Russia. Johannes and Barbara might have known similar quarters. Source = <http://www.goldade.net/ukraine.htm> .



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Immigration

Johannes and Barbara immigrated to the US through New York City on November 22, 1884. Johannes is listed as a farmer. They traveled on the SS Oder of the North German Lloyd Line. Their last name is shown as “Rums”.

Here are the people in their family on the boat.

Johannes, age 39 years

Barbara, age 34? years

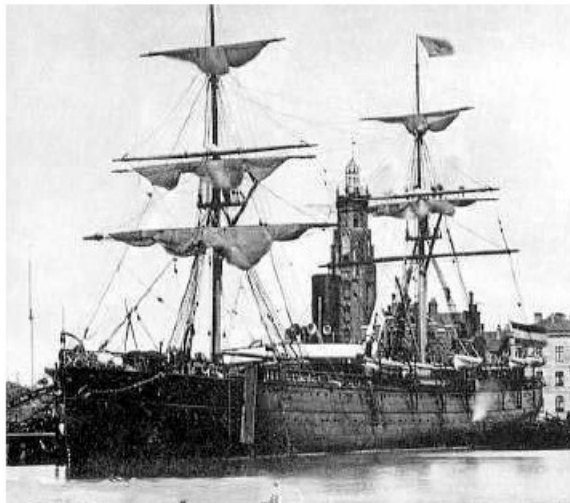
Lucada, age 14 years

Caroline, age 5 ½ years

Nicolas, age 4 years

Elizabeth, age 9 mo.

Here is a picture of the SS Oder. She carried passengers from Bremen to NY from 1873-1885.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

This is a picture of the ship's manifest that shows the "Rums" family. This is clearly the Rombs family.

The image shows an open, aged ship's manifest book with handwritten entries in multiple columns. The text is written in a cursive script, likely from the 18th or 19th century. The entries include names, ages, and other details, organized in a structured format. The paper is yellowed and shows signs of wear, with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side. The manifest is divided into several columns, with the leftmost column containing names and ages, and subsequent columns containing various details and possibly crew or passenger information. The handwriting is dense and fills most of the pages.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Homestead Papers

Between immigration in late 1884 and filing the homestead papers described below, I believe that The family moved to Ipswich, Dakota Territory, along with cousins and other people that they knew from Selz. Ipswich was the end of the railroad at the time. (I'll present my reasoning in other data that follows about children and neighbors.)

On 12/2/1885, papers were filed in Huron by Johannes to start the homestead application process on one quarter section. The land is the southeast quarter of section 9, township 120 N, range 69 west, of the 5th principal meridian. There probably are other filings like this to be found.

There is also a note dated 11/27/1885 that “one year after landing in NY – is living on homestead property and have built buildings and dug well.”

In 1892, final papers were filed. These state that the homestead was occupied since March, 1886. This is later than the 1885 note indicates. Maybe there was a period of time when the family was living elsewhere (Ipswich?) while work progressed on the homestead.

In 1892, the following characteristics of the homestead property were noted.

- 12X20 house with 12X14 addition
- granary 10X14
- barn 20X100
- 3 wells
- breaking 140 acres

It seems like a lot of work was done in the time immediately after arriving!

Eventually, Johannes acquired more land. Here is a list of all tracts that he took on. This makes it look as if they started with land in section 10 and then acquired land in section 9.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR										
PRIVATE CLAIMS										
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT						General Land Office Records				
	Search Documents		Reference Center		Support		Shopping Cart			
Search Documents		Results List								
Printer Friendly										
Patents										
Note: An <i>Italic</i> entry denotes data that has not been indexed against the land patent document, and has no image.										
Image	Accession	Names†	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
---	SDMTAA 038287	ROMBS, JOHANNES	7/13/1889	13933	SD	5th PM	120N - 069W	SW¼	10	Faulk
---	SDMTAA 038382	ROMBS, JOHANNES	10/18/1892	4709	SD	5th PM	120N - 069W	SE¼	9	Faulk
---	SDMTAA 038418	ROMBS, JOHANNES	10/4/1900	2620	SD	5th PM	120N - 069W	E½NW¼	9	Faulk
							120N - 069W	NW¼NW¼	9	Faulk
							120N - 069W	SW¼NW¼	9	Faulk

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

The US Land patents database also lists the following information for Johannes. It provides somewhat more detail than shown on the website above.

ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	010	160	272002	PA	13933	07/13/1889
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	160	251101	PA	4709	10/18/1892
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	80	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	35	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	5	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	28.75	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900
ROMBS JOHANNES	05	120 N	069 W	009	11.25	251105	PA	2620	10/04/1900

Here is the reference for this information. <http://www.usgwarchives.org/sd/sdfiles.htm>

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

If you actually look at the land, you will find that there are significant water features on the property. That is, there are streams and ponds. In the image below, the two full sections below the ones containing Hammok (Hamak) Lake are sections 9 and 10. (9 is on the left and 10 is on the right.) From the BLM records, Johannes had two contiguous quarters and then smaller parcels around the lake in section 9. Each of the “aliquots” is shown with an arrow below.

This land is just north and a little west of Wecota. Cresbard is to the east. It is slightly closer to Faulkton than Ipswich.

I don't see any lingering hints of original structures, which I assume were long ago demolished.

If you drive by the area today, you will see that the land is being used for livestock. I do not believe that the land was/is very suitable for small grains.



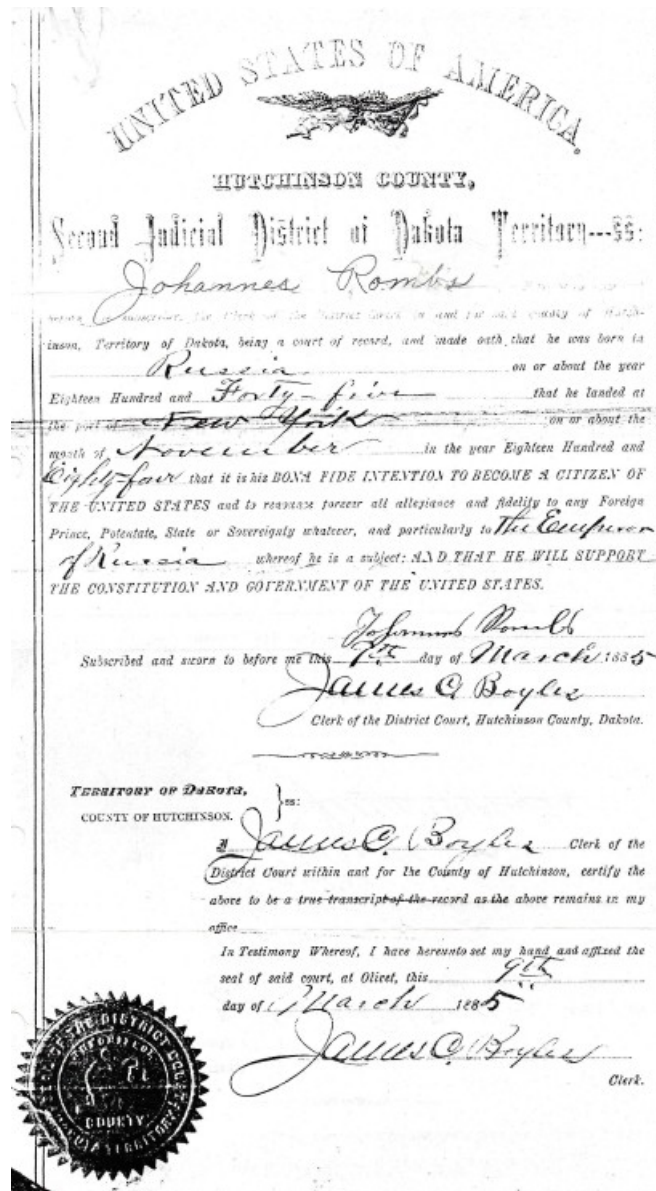
Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Naturalization Papers

Johannes filed first and second papers for citizenship as required in his land patent agreement.

- First papers will filed in Hutchinson County on 3/9/1885.
- Second papers were filed in Faulk County on 4/9/1892.

Here are images of these documents.




Johannes and Barbara Rombs

FINAL DEPARTMENT OF NATURALIZATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Circuit
COURT,
PAULK COUNTY,



In 6th JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Be it Remembered, This on 9th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety two personally appeared before the Honorable H. H. Bailey, Presiding Judge of the County Court of Faulk County in the Circuit aforesaid Johannes Rombs an alien born, above the age of twenty-one years, and applied in open Court to be admitted to become a naturalized citizen of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, pursuant to the several acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject. And the said Johannes Rombs having thereupon produced to the Court record testimony showing that he had heretofore reported himself and filed his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, according to the provisions of said several acts of Congress, and the Court being satisfied as well from the oath of the said Johannes Rombs as from the testimony of John P. Huggen and John M. Hottel who are known to be citizens of the United States, that the said Johannes Rombs has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, for at least five years last past, and at least one year last past within the State of South Dakota, and that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, 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 elapsed since the said Johannes Rombs reported himself and filed his declaration of intention as aforesaid.


IT WAS ORDERED, that the said Johannes Rombs be permitted to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the usual oath whereby he renounced all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and more particularly to the Emperor of Russia whom he was heretofore a subject, which said oath having been administered to the said Johannes Rombs by the Clerk of said Court, it was ordered by the Court that the said Johannes Rombs be admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges and immunities of a naturalized citizen of the United States, and that the same be certified by the Clerk of this Court, under the seal of said Court, which is done accordingly.

C. H. DeWitt Judge.
H. M. Bailey Clerk.

Attest:

IN TESTIMONY That the foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings, taken from the record of the proceedings of the Court aforesaid, I subscribe my name hereunto and affix the Seal of the Court, this ninth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety two

H. M. Bailey Clerk.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

NATURALIZATION.—2159.—Fisk Meritt Company, Printers and Manufacturing Stationers, Chicago

State of South ~~OF~~ DAKOTA, } ss.
 County of Faulkton } *County*
 DISTRICT COURT, *April 9th* ~~TERM~~, 1892

In the matter of the application of *Johannes Rombs* to become a citizen of the United States,
 I, *John Kruger* and *John White* being severally sworn to
 depose and say each for himself, that he is well acquainted with the above named *Johannes Rombs* that he has
 resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past and for one year last past within the *State of S. D.*
Dakota; and that during the same period he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution
 of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this *9th*
 day of *April* 1892
H. W. Bailey Clerk.

John Kruger
John White

State of South ~~OF~~ DAKOTA, } ss.
 County of *Faulk* } *County*
 DISTRICT COURT.*

I, *Johannes Rombs* do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of
 America, and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure forever all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Power, Prince, Potentate,
 State or Sovereignty whatever; and particularly to the *Empire* of *Russia* whose subject I
 was. And further, that I never have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the ~~degrees~~ ^{degrees} of nobility of the country whereof I have been a subject,
 and that I have resided within the United States for five years last past, and in this ~~territory~~ ^{State} for one year last past.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this *9th*
 day of *April* 1892
H. W. Bailey Clerk.

Johannes Rombs



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

United States of America.

County Faulk ss. In 6th Judicial District of Dakota

Be it Remembered That on the 9th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety two personally appeared before the Honorable C.H. Derr Presiding Judge of the Faulk County Court of Faulk County for the Distric aforesaid Johannes Rombs an alien born, above the age of twenty-one years, and applied in open Court to be admitted to become a naturalized citizen of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, pursuant to the several acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject. And the said Johannes Rombs having thereupon produced to the Court record testimony showing that he had heretofore reported himself and filed his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, according to the provisions of said several acts of Congress, and the Court being satisfied, as well from the oath of the said Johannes Rombs as from the testimony of John K. Kruger Johannes Rombs has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, for at least five years last past, and at least one year last past, within the State of South of Dakota, and that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, 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 upward having elapsed since the said Johannes Rombs reported himself and filed his declaration of intention as aforesaid.

IT WAS ORDERED, that the said Johannes Rombs be permitted to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the usual oath whereby he renounced all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and more particularly to The Emperor of Prussia whereof he was heretofore a subject, which said oath having been administered to the said Johannes Rombs by the Clerk of said Court, it was ordered by the Court that the said Johannes Rombs be admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges and immunities of a naturalized citizen of the United States, and that the same be certified by the Clerk of this Court, under the seal of said Court, which is done accordingly.

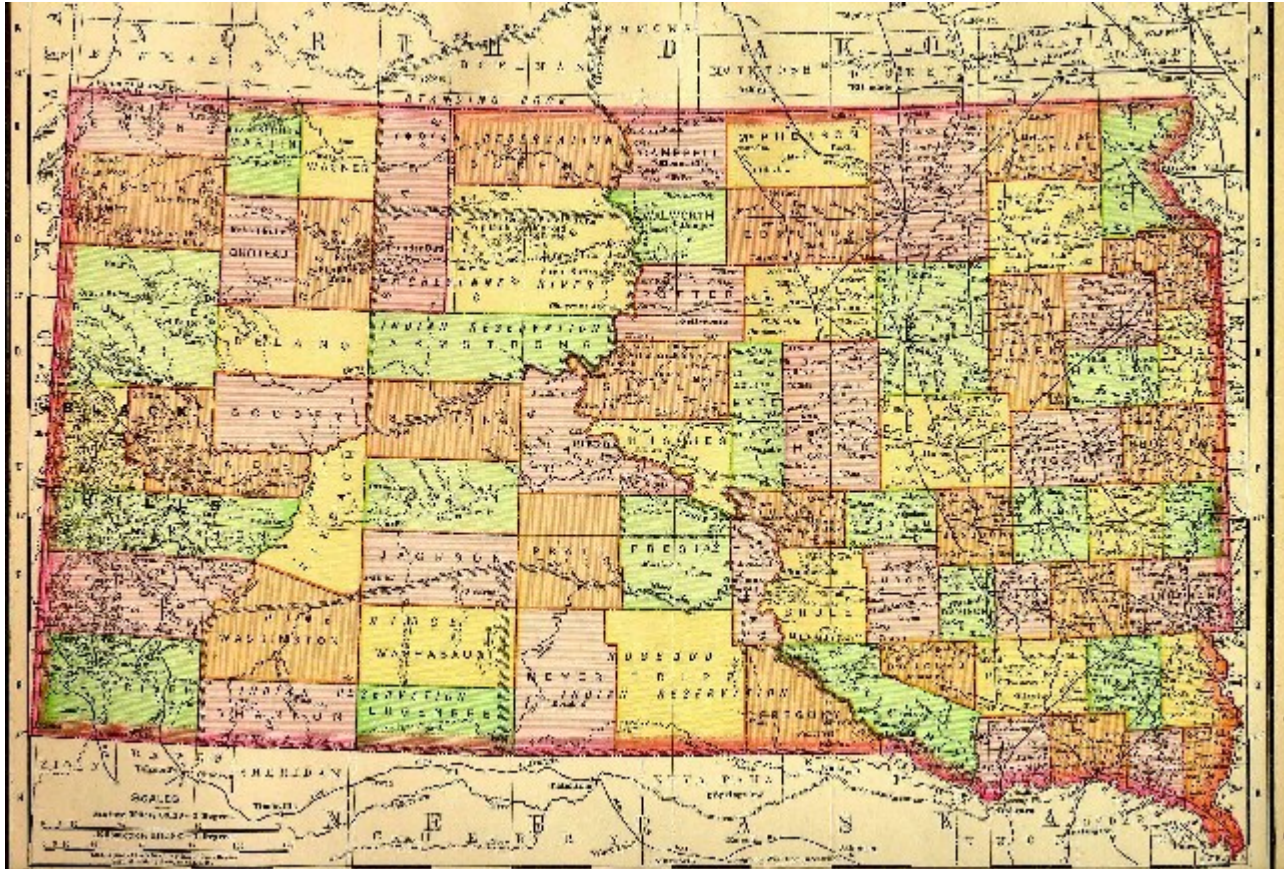
Attest W. B. Siler Clerk. C.H. Derr Judge.

Note: Information about the judge, C.H. Derr can be found at Find A Grave Memorial 93230546 .

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Neighbors

Here is a map of South Dakota as it was in 1895. The purpose of showing this is to put locations into perspective. Johannes and Barbara lived just west of Cresbard, about midway between Ipswich and Faulkton in Faulk County. Note that the railroad went through Cresbard at that time. Another line to the west may have run through the now defunct town of Millard. At this time the counties east of the Mo. River had been established. The ones on the west side were in more flux – some were later consolidated.



Historical note from Kent A. Gebhard, a local historian and significant contributor to Find A Grave. (Kent added most of Millard to Findagrave.) -

“Cresbard at that time was the post office in the store of Cressy and Baird- who joined their names to create "Cresbard"- which was located north and east of the Howe farm, which is about 2 miles northwest of the current town site, which came into being after 1906 when the M & St.L railroad was constructed. Previous to that the mail arrived at the store by stage coach. Other new towns that sprang up on that line were Wecota . . . (post office opened 10 April 1907), Carlyle and Onaka. Norbeck was founded later, in 1920.

The ghost town of Millard was a very important hub for homesteaders, as the railroad through that part of Faulk was completed in late 1886; the first train arrived in Faulkton, I believe, October 26, 1886. Mail arriving by stage coach prior to that. Stage schedules are recorded in the early newspapers. Ironically, the only reminder of that early settlement is Millard cemetery.”

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

The following information is provided to give a feeling for people that lived close to Johannes and Barbara.

This table summarizes the number of land patents for Freedom Township by year and section number. It is very clear that most patents were taken out in the earlier years shown, particularly 1889. This is the time of a big land rush in this area. (There were about 125 people who took out patents during this time period for land just in this township.) Johannes and Barbara were there to participate in it.

By the way, the three 1967 patents in section 9, where Johannes originally owned land, are probably taken out by the Federal Government to protect the water feature that is on the west side of this section. (This is speculation.)

Count - Aliquid	year																	Total Result			
Sec. #	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1911	1967	Total Result
1		3	4					2													9
2		2	3														3				8
3		1			6	3							1								11
4	1	1			3			6													11
5	1	4									3										8
6		4				4											3				11
7		6			1		2														9
8		2			1			2													5
9	1		1		1								3							3	9
10		1										1	1	1							4
11		2	1								1										4
12		3															1				4
13		2			1								1								4
14		3																	1		4
15		3																	1		4
17		2													2						4
18		4													3					1	8
19				4	3						1										8
20		3													1						4
21		4																			4
22		3											1								4
23					2	1											1				4
24		1	1		1								1								4
25		1	1			1		2													5
26		3																		1	4
27	1	2						2													5
28		1			2							1									4
29		1			1						1						1				4
30		2			3				6								1				11
31	2	3								6											11
32		2	1												1						4
33		1	1		1												1				4
34		2											2								4
35		3																	1		4
Total Result	6	75	13	4	26	9	2	14	6	6	6	1	5	6	8	7	3	4	1	3	205



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

This table shows tracts and owners in the same township in the sections that were nearest to Johannes and Barbara, who owned parts of sections 9 and 10. These were their neighbors.

Obviously there are many neighbors with names that seem to hint of German ethnic background.

Some also show up in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery where Johannes and Barbara are buried. - Nolte, Fenske, Leppke, Holscher are example names of neighbors that show up in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.

Perhaps others with “suggestive” names were Catholic. (Fischer, Voeller, Baumann, etc.) There will be more about this shortly.

Sec. #	Aliquots	name
2	Lot/Trct 1	RINER, JOHN H
	Lot/Trct 2	RINER, JOHN H
	Lot/Trct 3	CARDY, MARY
	Lot/Trct 4	CARDY, MARY
	S½NE¼	RINER, JOHN H
	S½NW¼	CARDY, MARY
	SE¼	KOASLER, JOSEPH
3	SW¼	KOASLAR, FRANZ
	Lot/Trct 1	KAY, HIRAM R
	Lot/Trct 2	KAY, HIRAM R
	Lot/Trct 3	KAY, JOHN
	Lot/Trct 4	KAY, JOHN
	S½NE¼	KAY, HIRAM R
	S½NW¼	KAY, JOHN
4	SE¼	NOLTE, HENRY F
	SW¼	BERTSCH, STANISLAUS
	Lot/Trct 1	FULLER, WILSON B
	Lot/Trct 2	FULLER, WILSON B
	Lot/Trct 3	POOL, GEORGE E
	Lot/Trct 4	POOL, GEORGE E
	S½NE¼	FULLER, WILSON B
	S½NW¼	POOL, GEORGE E
5	SE¼	WEISBECK, JOSEPH
	SW¼	POOL, THEODORE
	Lot/Trct 1	SNEARLY, EMMA A
	Lot/Trct 2	SNEARLY, EMMA A
	Lot/Trct 3	POOL, THEODORE
	Lot/Trct 4	POOL, THEODORE
	S½NE¼	SNEARLY, EMMA A
	S½NW¼	POOL, THEODORE
8	SE¼	POOL, GEORGE E
	SW¼	WHITSEL, JOHN
	NE¼	WHITSEL, JOHN
	NW¼	JONES, DAVID D
9	SE¼	WHITSEL, JOHN
	SW¼	BAHNKE, MICHAEL
	E½NW¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES USA
	NE¼	DAVIS, ANNA S
	NW¼NW¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES USA
	SE¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES
10	SW¼	FENSKE, HERMANN
	SW¼NW¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES USA
	NE¼	NOLTE, LIENA
	NW¼	DAVIES, DAVID M
11	SE¼	HOLSCHER, WILHELM
	SW¼	ROMBS, JOHANNES
	NE¼	ALDEN, SAMUEL E
	NW¼	FISCHER, MARTINO
14	SE¼	WAKEFIELD, JASPER
	SW¼	FISCHER, FERDINAND
	NE¼	VOELLER, JOHANNES
	NW¼	LINK, JOHN
15	SE¼	VOELLER, ANTON
	SW¼	BERSCH, JOHANNES
	NE¼	HOLSCHER, HERMAN H
	NW¼	BESHOLT, FRIEDTRICH
17	SE¼	FISCHER, KARL
	SW¼	BAUMANN, HENRY
	NE¼	HIBBS, JAMES J
	NW¼	FISCHER, JAKOB
	SE¼	SOMERS, WILBER S
	SW¼	SWEENY, VERN

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a picture of early land ownership in Freedom Township, where Johannes and Barbara settled. This is hard to read, but it reinforces the point about who their neighbors were. Source = <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sdfaulk/>

FREEDOM
HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP MAP
 TOWNSHIP: 120 N. RANGE: 69 W.

Emilia Ranch	August Suman	Theodore Pool	Emma Stottary	George Pool	Wilma Tollin	John Key	Alam Key	Asy Cardey	John Rinn	John Beckl	George Adams
Richard Francis	John Zanger	John Whitel	George Pool	Theodore Pool	Joseph Wabech	Stene Adene Bealich	Henry North	Frans Kraslon	Joseph Kosler	John Bechl	Raylon Adams
John Rahnke	John Aasper	David Sanka	John Whitel	Johanna Rombs	Anna Somas	David Davies	Lena Apelmann	Martin Fischer	Samuel Alden	Evansd Alden	V. Foxnest Somas
John Rahnke	John Rahnke	Michael Rahnke	John Whitel	Annmaria Fank	Johanna Rombs	Johanna Rombs	Wilhelm Holachen	Ferdinand Fischer	Joseph Wahfeld	Alice Kearny	Marin Hanson
Michael Feneber	Sebastian Gisoni	Jacob Fischer	Jonas Kobbe	School	Isidteich Beahdt	Heaman Holachen	John Link	Johanna Vallin	Ephraim Cola	George Antenna	
Levi Nutz	Johannes Seng	Hen Seng	Dilba Somas	District	Henry Boumann	Karl Fischer	Johanna Bunach	Anton Vallin	John Smith	George Wahfeld	
Joshua Adams	Samuel Adams	Henrad Kilpentaich	Watson Philbinich	William Goss Budd	Gilbert Fainch	Henry Wilkinson	Fred Bavon	Gottlieb Kieffmann	William Kieffmann	Wilhelm Kieffmann	Wilhelm Holzger
Samuel Adams	Edwin Adams	Ola Johnson	Franklin Bailey	Ann Van Voorst	George Wilkinson	Henry Bolsches	Emelia Patterson	Frank Patterson	William Patterson	Wilhelm Kieffmann	Minnie Saiten
John Stefferson	John Kisby	David Walker	Anna Bailey	Barazon Bailey	Fred Auge	Henry Holachen	Joseph Smith	Louisa Baker	Fred Slark	Wilhelm Fiermann	Avelling
John Stefferson	Ole Corken	Andrew Slaw	Anna Bailey	Shramen Bailey	Fredrich Baudle	Asy Bemich	Christopher Bark	Andruut Salisbury	William Bower	Frank Goslon	Ruch Bahr
Jacob Kvalabye	Joseph Raynton	Irving Kowles	Marin Rahn	John Pleaser	George Aillex	Fredrich Balarha	Conellona Buhle	Kellin Salisbury	Albert Goslon		
Charles Anderson	Lucy Obasz	William Huff	Charlie John Tanner	Eva Chupman	Charlie Kullonen	Frank Rowell	George Kulott	Frank Doramus	Richard Goslon		



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Further information about their neighbors comes from the South Dakota Territorial Census of 1885. This was taken in June, 1885, just about six months after the Rombs family arrived in the U.S. Here is a copy that shows the family, flanked by a families of Fischers and Sengers from Russia and Fenskes from Germany..

House No.	Name	Age	Sex	Relationship	Name	Age	Sex	Relationship	Name	Age	Sex	Relationship
13	Fischer, John	31	W	Husband	Fischer, Maria	28	W	Wife	Senger, Peter	28	W	Wife
14	Fischer, Helen	18	F	Daughter	Fischer, John	25	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	25	W	Wife
15	Fischer, Elizabeth	16	F	Daughter	Fischer, John	23	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	23	W	Wife
16	Fischer, Margaret	14	F	Daughter	Fischer, John	21	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	21	W	Wife
17	Fischer, Elizabeth	12	F	Daughter	Fischer, John	19	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	19	W	Wife
18	Fischer, Barbara	10	F	Daughter	Fischer, John	17	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	17	W	Wife
19	Senger, Peter	28	W	Husband	Senger, Maria	25	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	25	W	Wife
20	Senger, Margaret	26	F	Wife	Senger, John	23	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	23	W	Wife
21	Romb, Barbara	37	W	Wife	Romb, John	34	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	34	W	Wife
22	Romb, Elizabeth	16	F	Daughter	Romb, John	13	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	13	W	Wife
23	Romb, Nicholas	8	W	Son	Romb, John	5	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	5	W	Wife
24	Romb, Elizabeth	2	F	Daughter	Romb, John	1	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	1	W	Wife
25	Fenske, Herman	26	W	Husband	Fenske, Maria	23	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	23	W	Wife
26	Fenske, Augusta	27	F	Wife	Fenske, John	24	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	24	W	Wife
27	Fenske, William	13	W	Daughter	Fenske, John	10	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	10	W	Wife
28	Fenske, Otto	1	W	Son	Fenske, John	1	W	Wife	Fischer, Peter	1	W	Wife

This census showed that many of the people from Russia in this area were named Fischer. I have not tried to trace these families.

The name Senger is a variant of Saenger, which is the maiden name of Barbara's cousin in-law in Ipswich, mentioned earlier. Perhaps there is a connection.

The Fenskes have been mentioned as neighbors, who were buried in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Ned Schall, now deceased, a very distant cousin, and a skilled researcher actually gave a hint about this line of reasoning many years ago. I was just too ignorant to make good use of it. Here is his note to my father.

Dear Robert:

I just recently found the 1885 South Dakota State census, Faulk County. It lists the Carl Fischers, three sons and their families, also John Senger a son-in-law. I already knew a great deal about the Fischers. They all came from Selz, Russia and first settled near Orient and several years later moved to Emmons County, North Dakota. It is possible that they chose to settle at Orient because a catholic church with a pastor and School had already been established at Zell, by some Austrian emigrants.

I must confess that several years ago when I first came across the Rombs name I had certain doubts about them belonging to the kinship. Had I seen the census before; I would have had no such problem, in fact I would not at all be surprised to find that Carl Fischer's mother may have been a Rombs.

Sincerely,

Ned
Ned

RECEIVED MAY 17 1988

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Loss of Land Ownership

In today's world it can be difficult to imagine what early settlers experienced. More than one group came to this region and eventually failed. As an example, you can research the Welsh group that came to Ipswich about a year prior to Barbara and Johannes. They headed south, just like our ancestors, founded the town of Powell that was eventually ruined by a tornado nearly 30 years later.

Weather was certainly a factor. The SD blizzard of January, 1888, is a well-known event. See for example <http://genealogytrails.com/sdak/faulk/blizzardof1888.html>. I have not investigated the weather in the ten years after our ancestors arrived, but that could be done using historical records for Aberdeen.

It is also helpful to remember that the land that they homesteaded had never been farmed before. It was used by Native Tribes and bison.

Anyway, it appears that Johannes took out loans on both of the full quarter sections that he had patents on. According to records in the Faulk County courthouse, Johannes and Barbara defaulted on both. The land reverted to the lending agencies, and it was put up for sale.

I assume that Johannes was able to continue as a renter (tenant farmer) on one of these quarters. The details have escaped me. However, the loss of land ownership explains why the land does not appear in the probate documents (after Johannes died).



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is evidence that they lost one quarter (the quarter on section 10). The loan was taken out in November, 1885, - perhaps to help put buildings on the land, buy equipment, buy seed, and buy animals. At least some of what they did is documented in the homestead papers. The amount of the loan was \$23.00 (payable in 10 semi-annual payments) and the lender was E. S. Ormsby Graves & Co of Palo Alto, IA. The Sheriff's deed that follows is dated June, 1889, but the sale was on 5/26/1888. This means that the default occurred prior to the end of the term of the loan.

According to a map that I have found, the owner of this quarter in 1920 was R. E. Ormsby. I'm guessing that this is the same family that made and foreclosed on the original loan. I do not know if he actually used the land himself.

309

Sheriff's deed.

This Indenture, Made this 21st day of June A.D., 1889. between the D. Chamberlain Sheriff of the County of Faulk and Territory of Dakota of the first part and E. S. Ormsby Trustee of Palo Alto County in the State of Iowa of the second part, witnesseth: Whereas, by a certain Indenture of Mortgage, bearing date the 28th day of November A.D., 1885, Johannes Rombs and Barbara Rombs his wife, of the County of Faulk and Territory of Dakota, duly mortgaged to Ormsby Graves & Co. the land and real property hereinafter mentioned and described, with all the appurtenances and improvements thereto belonging, which said mortgage was intended as a security for the payment of a certain promissory note dated November 16th 1885 executed by said mortgagor to said Ormsby, Graves & Co. for Twenty three Dollars payable in installments described as follows, viz:

Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars December 1st 1890 - Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars June 1st 1890
Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars December 1st 1889 - Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars June 1st 1889
Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars December 1st 1888 - Two ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars June 1st 1888

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is evidence that he lost the other quarter (in section 9). In this case the loan was from W. J. Bowden for \$54.89 in 4/18/1892. The foreclosure sale occurred on 8/15/1896. It appears that someone from Brooklyn, NY, bought the land.

In the map mentioned above, the owner in 1910 was Jos. N. Brown.

227

DEED RECORD.

SHERIFF'S DEED.—FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

MORRIS & BACHOR, MANUFACTURERS, SIOUX FALLS, S. D. — 15110—2nd—213 DEB.

This Indenture, Made this 4th day of September, 1897 between O. M. Moe Sheriff of the County of Faulk, of the State of South Dakota, party of the first part, and William H. Male of the City of Brooklyn, State of New York part 2^d of the second part.

WITNESSETH, That whereas, default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made and executed by Johannes Rombs and Barbara Rombs Mortgagor to W. J. Bowden Mortgagee, bearing date the 18th day of April, 1892, whereby the property hereinafter described was mortgaged to secure the payment of the sum of Fifty four and 89/100 Dollars, and interest, according to the conditions of the note... in said mortgage described, and which mortgage was duly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of the County of Faulk, in the State of South Dakota, on the 23rd day of April, 1892, at 6³⁰ o'clock P. M., in Book 26 of Mortgages, on page 64 and 65

~~The said mortgage was duly assigned by an instrument in writing duly executed and delivered by the said~~

~~dated the _____ day of _____, A. D. 189____, and recorded in the said office of the Register of Deeds on the _____ day of _____, 189____, at _____ o'clock _____ M. in Book _____ of Mortgages, on page _____~~

~~and whereas~~ The Sheriff of the County of Faulk, in said State, by virtue of the power of sale in said mortgage contained and at the direction of the owner of said mortgage, did on the fifteenth day of August, 1896 sell the said premises at public auction, at the front door of the Court House, in the City of Faulkton, in said County, at two o'clock in the after noon, notice of the time and place of such sale having first been duly given by advertising the same according to law; at which sale the said premises were struck off and sold to William H. Male for the sum of seventy one and 64/100 Dollars, that being the highest sum bid, and the whole price paid for the same.

~~and whereas~~ The said Sheriff, after receiving from said purchaser... the said sum of money bid as aforesaid, gave to said purchaser... a certificate of sale as is by law directed to be given and a duplicate of the same was duly filed, and said certificate was duly filed and recorded in the office of Register of Deeds of said Faulk County, on the fifteenth day of August, 1896 at five o'clock P. M., in Book 23 of Mortgages, on page 361

~~and whereas~~ More than one year has expired since the date of sale, and no redemption of said premises has been made, ~~the said certificate was duly assigned by an instrument in writing duly executed and delivered by the said~~

NOW, THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That O. M. Moe dated the _____ day of _____, 189____ Sheriff as aforesaid, party of the first part, by virtue of the said mortgage, and in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, and for the purpose of completing said sale above mentioned, by these presents does hereby grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the said part 2^d of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns, all the estate, right, title and interest which the said mortgagor had on the eighteenth day of April, 1892, or at any time thereafter, in and to all the following described premises in the County of Faulk and State of South Dakota, to-wit:

The South east quarter of Section None in Township One Hundred and Twenty North of Range sixty nine West of the 5th P. M., together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging, or in anywise appertaining. To have and to hold the same, unto the said part 2^d of the second part, and his heirs and assigns ~~and assigns forever~~.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said Sheriff has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED IN PRESENCE OF

Frank Turner } O. M. Moe [SEAL]
George J. Jarvis } Sheriff of Faulk County, State of South Dakota.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, COUNTY OF FAULK, ss.

On this 4th day of September 1897, before me personally appeared O. M. Moe Sheriff of Faulk County, South Dakota, known to me to be the person who is described in and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

Frank Turner
 Notary Public, South Dakota.

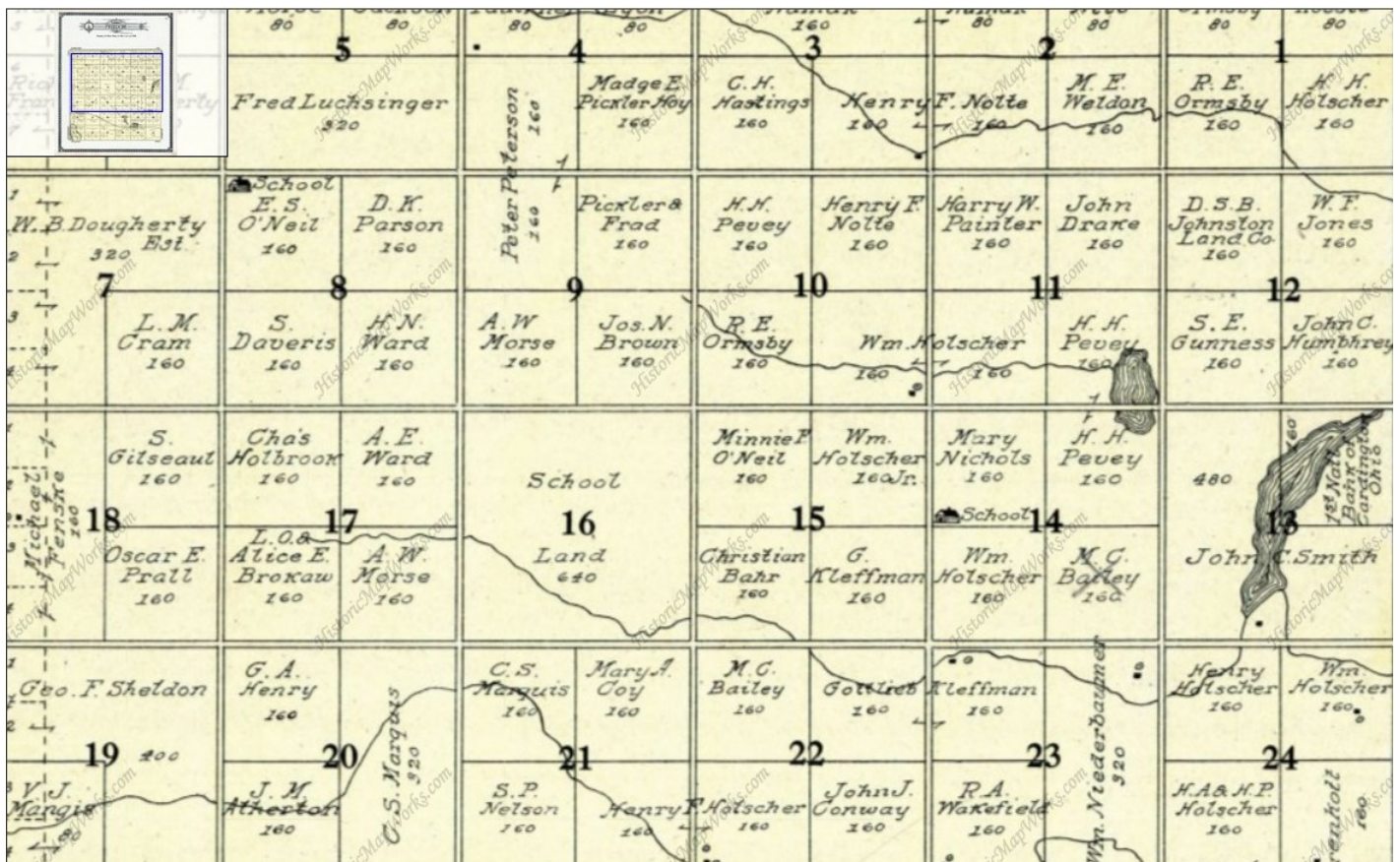
Billed in and for Jan

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

One last note – The map mentioned above that shows who owned what land in Freedom township in 1910 also reveals the following.

- Peter Peterson owned the remaining parcels in the NW ¼ of section 9 that Barbara and Johannes had homesteaded.
- If you compare the 1910 owner names to those of the original homesteaders, you will be hard pressed to find the same name in 1910 that existed in the late 1880s.
- You will find the Ormsby name more than once in 1910. My conclusion from this is that they foreclosed on a number of homesteaders.

In general, I suspect that the initial homesteaders were destined for failure by various factors. Lending agents were ready to step in to benefit from the failures. Here is an excerpt of the 1910 map that shows sections 9 & 10.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Catholic or Lutheran?

The colony from which Barbara and Johannes emigrated (Selz) was Catholic, except for a small Jewish population as evidenced by a small Jewish cemetery there. This is also true of the area of Alsace where they ultimately originated. So, why are they buried in a Lutheran cemetery?

I think that the answer can be found in an old family “legend”, which is corroborated by records from the Immanuel Lutheran Church. - The family legend is that Johannes summoned the priest when someone was very ill or dying, the priest refused to come out, this made Johannes mad, and so he moved from a local Catholic Church to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

For years I was skeptical about this legend, but here are some facts that make this a more credible story.

- Johannes joined the Lutheran community in June, 1896. See information from the letter that follows.
- This is about three months after Barbara died.
- The weather at the time of Barbara's death was miserable, which may have influenced the priest.

Here is a daily summary of weather at Aberdeen for March, 1896. Note the amount of snow and the large weather change between the 10th and 11th (when Barbara died). It looks like it snowed on the day when she was buried.

Elev: 1297 ft. Lat: 45.443° N Lon: 98.413° W
Station: ABERDEEN REGIONAL AIRPORT, SD US GHCND:USW00014929

Generated on 04/17/17

P r e l i m i n a r y	Y e a r	M o n t h	D a y	Temperature (F)			Precipitation(see 1)		
				24 hrs. ending at observation time		at O b s e r v a t i o n	24 Hour Amounts ending at observation time		
				Max.	Min.		Rain, melted snow, etc. (in)	F l a g	Snow, ice pellets, hail (in)
	1896	3	1	3	-12		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	2	4	-10		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	3	11	-2		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	4	23	-12		0.18		1.0
	1896	3	5	36	0		0.75		3.0
	1896	3	6	18	3		0.60		2.5
	1896	3	7	15	-8		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	8	28	0		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	9	18	4		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	10	16	5		0.40		1.8
	1896	3	11	4	-15		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	12	3	-18		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	13	14	-28		0.48		2.0
	1896	3	14	24	-15		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	15	28	-11		0.18		0.5
	1896	3	16	28	-4		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	17	28	10		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	18	40	12		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	19	41	11		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	20	42	12		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	21	28	25		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	22	30	4		0.45		2.0
	1896	3	23	35	6		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	24	58	28		0.10		0.0
	1896	3	25	38	34		0.02		0.1
	1896	3	26	52	24		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	27	55	36		0.02		0.0
	1896	3	28	51	35		1.24		0.0
	1896	3	29	50	28		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	30	48	29		0.00		0.0
	1896	3	31	34	28		0.00		0.0
			Summary	29.1	6.4		4.42		12.9



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Given the likelihood that the family was Catholic, I think that it is possible that the legend describes events surrounding the death of Barbara. If this is true, then the family probably attended some Catholic Church in the area prior to March, 1896.

Here is the evidence related to Immanuel Lutheran Church. It is in the form of a letter from Anna White in 1984. This letter is a result of a visit that dad and I made to the area that year. Incidentally, the church has since burned. According to a note from Kent Gebhard, I understand that the records in the church safe survived. A copy of the letter follows.

Important items to note are the following.

- Johannes was voted into the congregation in June, 1896.
- Immanuel Lutheran had a confirmation record for Lizzie (Elisabetha). It indicated that she was born on 6/24/1883 in Langut Wirro-Gretski, Sud Rusland, baptized in Colonie Selz, Sud Rusland, and confirmed on 4/8/1897. The location of her birth may describe the Russian estate where Selz was situated. This could be confirmed.

The final confirmation of the theory that the family was Catholic when they originally settled in South Dakota came when I visited Ipswich in the summer of 2015. While there I was able to review old records held at the Holy Cross Catholic Church. I was able to locate records for the baptisms of Joe and Katie, the last two children of Barbara and Johannes. This was a significant finding that I will say more about later, when I describe information about these children.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Mon. 7-29.

Dear Mrs Rombs.

In regard to your tele call -
I have gone over Imm Church Records
quite thoroughly - and the only thing
I can tell you is that the Voters Meeting
record of June 1896 - mentioned that
Johanes Rombs was voted in as a member
There was nothing in the death records -
but you already have those dates.
I did find this recording in the Confirmation
records.

Elisabetha Rombs born 6-24-1883.
in Landgut Wiers-gretzki, S. Russland
Confirmed Apr 8 - 1897 -

Place of baptism Colonie Sely
Died Russland.
Father Johannes Rombs.

The address makes me think that
they emigrated from Russia. Do you
have a Elisabetha on your list. She was
evidently a daughter was 14 yrs old when
she was confirmed, but her name did
not show but for the one time.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

This is all the information I can give you from the Imm. Church Records.

I would suggest you call or correspond with Hazel Fought Faulkton S. Dak. - 57438 - she was a Rombs and has more records and information ^{than} I could possibly give you. I did not find the name of Barbara Rombs at all.

Bonnie Halving tells me, that you had been at their house so evidently you went to the Imm. Cemetery and saw that they were buried there. That is where I got the birth and death dates.

I did inquire at the Faulk Co. Court House for information - was told you had already inquired, so I feel there isn't anything else that the Imm Church Records can be of any help to you. I am 82 years old and the oldest member and have no recollection of those early years. Good luck in your research -

Sincerely
Anna White.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Finally, I will mention the results of a spot check of a few of the neighbors with Germanic names, who are also buried in the Lutheran Cemetery. These people seem to have originated in Germany based on census data. They do not appear to have been Russian-Germans. If this is true, then it is much more likely that they were Lutherans from the start. Having a number of close neighbors who were members of the Immanuel Lutheran congregation may have helped Johannes make the switch. - Here are pictures of a few of their headstones in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.

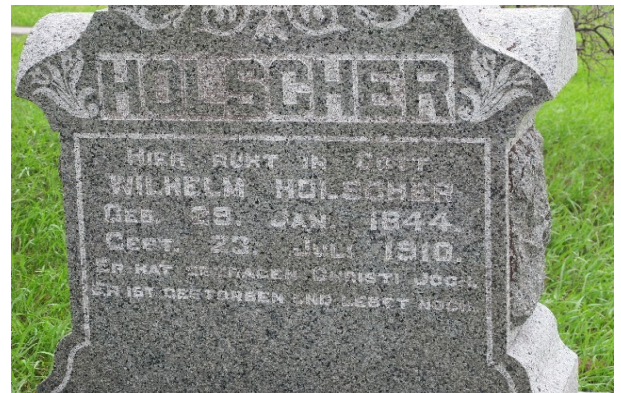
According to the 1920 census, Michael Fenske had Polish parents. His wife, Minna, had German parents. They immigrated to the US in about 1889. They were neighbors of Barbara and Johannes on section 9.



The Leppke family lived a few miles south (in Pulaski township) from the Rombs family. They appear to have German origins. The marker in the cemetery for Anna Kranz is probably for Amelia Kranz Leppke's mother.



The Holschers came to the area after the Rombs family. This is based on land ownership information. It appears that they were able to obtain land made available by failing original homesteaders.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Children

Johannes and Barbara had 9 children, seven that were born in South Russia and two that were born in South Dakota. Each section below explains a little bit about the descendants of each child. There is a list for each child that shows by generation the descendants of which I am aware. Here is the starting generation, Johannes and Barbara.

1. Rombs, Johannes (b. 1845-08-01 - Selz, Ukraine ?, d. 1914-08-08 - Beebe (SD))
sp. [Kessler], Barbara (b. 1848-06-16 - Germany, d. 1896-03-10 - Wecota)

The following sections first describe the children that survived and then those who did not.

Lulu (Lukarda, Lucada)

I know very little about Lulu, other than what her daughter, Alta, related to my dad. (See the note above.)

A list of her descendants follows, and then there is a picture of her with three sisters. There is some uncertainty about her actual birth date.

2. Rombs, Lulu (b. 1866-07-02 - Russia, d. 1953-04-17 - Faulk County (SD))
sp. House, Reuben H. (b. 1858 - Canada)
 3. House, Esther Alta (b. 1900-02-25 - Sparta (WI))
sp. Soderquist, Clarence
 3. House, Joseph Franklin (b. 1906-05-14 - Sparta (WI), d. 1988-05-10 - Hawthorne (CA))
sp. unknown, Virginia
 3. House, William Theodore (b. 1904-03-30 - Sparta (WI))
sp. Rieger, Ethel
 3. House, James R. (b. 1888 - South Dakota)
 3. House, Anna C. (b. 1890 - South Dakota, d. 1973)
sp. Hansen, Fred
 3. House, Bertha J. (b. 1892 - South Dakota)
sp. Magnuson, Earl
 4. Magnuson, Eleanor
 3. House, Chester Ira (b. 1897-07-22 - South Dakota, d. 1972-06-04 - Swift, MN)
sp. Rieger, Rose M. (b. 1903 - North Dakota)
 4. House, James
 4. House, Beverly
 3. House, Charles Edward (b. 1893-07-22 - Watertown, SD, d. 1966-11-15 - Riverside, CA)
sp. unknown, Nina
 4. House, Keith
 4. House, Bernice Joyce
 4. House, Myra Lee
 4. House, Phyllis
 4. House, Kenneth
 3. House, Vera Muriel (b. 1908-08-03 - South Dakota, d. 1980-04-04 - Sacramento (CA))
 3. House, Helen (b. 1903 - Wisconsin)
sp. Housen, Edward
 4. Housen, Byron

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Lulu is on the right.
Next to her is Kathryn.
Lizzie is on the left,
with crutches.

Thanks to Bruce
Wherry, we know that
the picture was taken
on the east side of the
home of Anna House
Hansen in Faulkton.
(The right door went to
the porch, the left to
the living room!) So,
Lulu was at the house
of one of her daughters.

My guess is that the
picture dates to around
1950. Carrie, the
remaining sister, had
died prior to this
picture.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

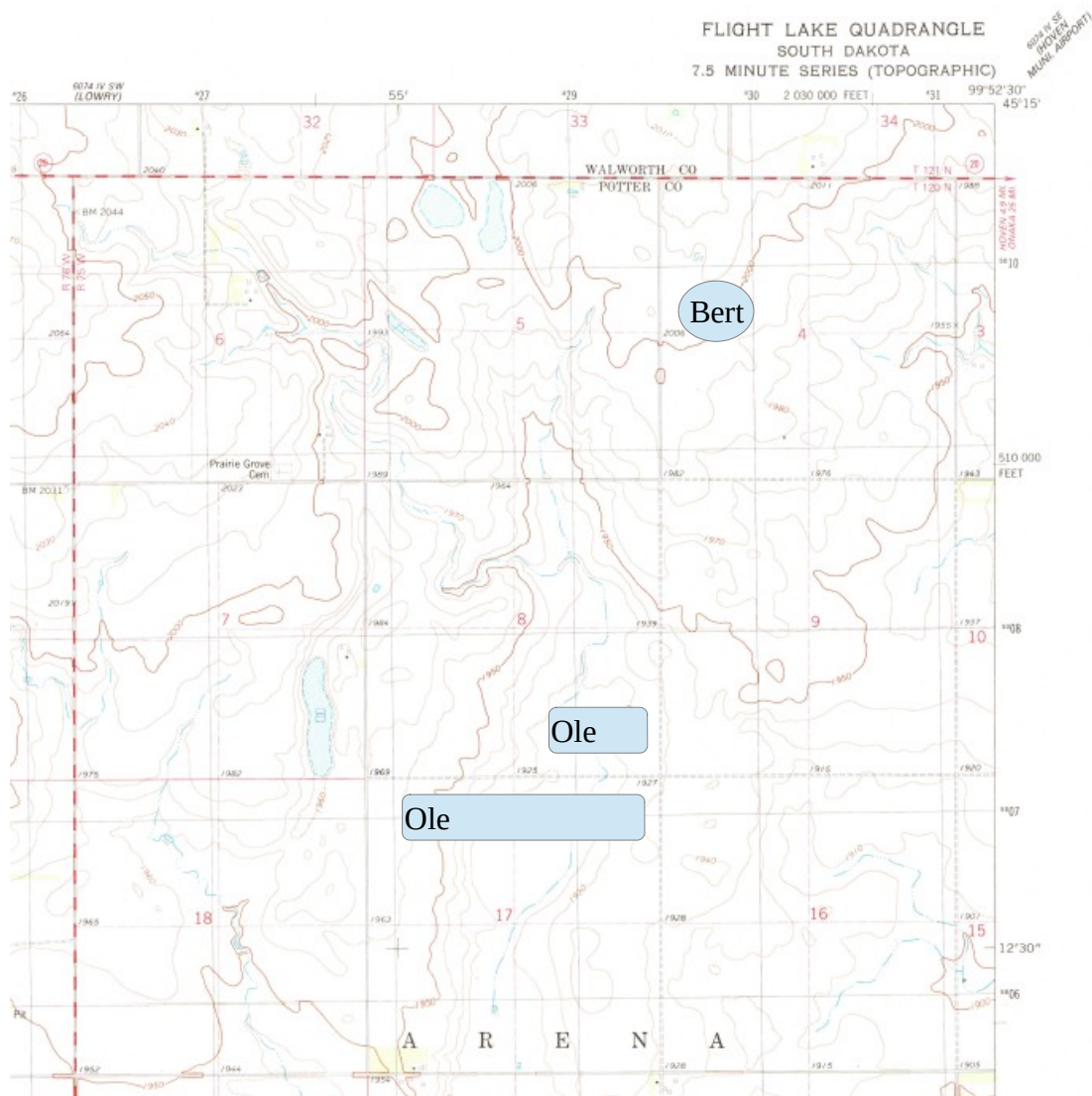
Carolina (Carrie)

Once again, I know very little about Carrie.

At the time of the 1900 census, she and Bert Austin and their daughter Mildred were living with Johannes in Freedom Township in Faulk County.

At the time of the 1910 census she and husband Bert were living in Arena Township in Potter County. They had 3 children – Mildred, Dorothy, and Muriel. At this same time, her brother Joe was working for Ole Thompson in the same township.

I have found that Bert homesteaded land in Arena Township in 1899, and that his land was within about a mile of Ole's. So, I believe that they were neighbors and knew each other. Perhaps this was what drew Joe Rombs to the area to work for Ole.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

I believe that Carrie also had a quarter section of land that she acquired later. This land was about mid-way between Arena Township (above) and Freedom Township where Barbara and Johannes lived.

The 1915 SD census shows them in Cresbard.

Carrie died two years later (1917) of burns suffered in an accident that occurred on about 12/21/1916, I believe. One year later (1918), her oldest daughter, Mildred died.

Bert had remarried by 1920. He married a lady named Grace, from Ohio, and they were living in Fairview Township in Faulk Township with his two remaining daughters.

Here is a list of her descendants.

1. Rombs, Caroline B. (b. 1875 - Selz (South Russia - Ukraine), d. 1917-02-03 - Faulk County (SD)
sp. Austin, Bert W. (b. 1870-02-10 - Illinois, d. 1953-01-02 - SanDiego (CA))
 2. Austin, Mildred B. (b. 1900, d. 1918-11-07 - Brown County (SD))
sp. Mayer, unknown
 2. Austin, Dorothy E. (b. 1901-01-27 - Faulk County (SD), d. 1979-12-20 - Los Angeles (CA))
sp. Sieberg, Roland
 3. Sieberg, Donald
 2. Austin, Muriel Veva (b. 1904-11-15 - South Dakota, d. 1986-01-24 - Lakeport (CA))
sp. Hill, Unknown
sp. Evans, Charles Dineen (b. 1895, d. 1950)
 3. Evans, Robert Charles (b. 1924, d. 1983)

This picture (from Betty Harris) shows Carrie with her nephew Walter, son of Nick Rombs.

A good guess for the date of this photo is 1910.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Nicholas (Nick)

Nick helped my grandfather, Joe, build his house and perhaps a granary south of Lebanon in Potter County. (It was completed in the winter of 1920, and it is still there.) I have been told that Nick was a good carpenter. He apparently was also quick to anger – pugnacious would probably be an apt description. Betty Harris, one of Nick's grandchildren, tracks the history of this branch of the family. I'm sure that she has more details.

Nick's daughter, Evelyn, lived just to the east of my family when we lived in Des Moines, IA. I was once left with her family when my parents took a trip. It was a great stay!

Nick's daughter, Marie, was something of a favorite of my dad's sister, Anna Comeau. My family was fortunate to meet Marie and her second husband, Gus, in a trip to SD one summer.

Here is a list of Nick's descendants.

1. Rombs, Nicholas (b. 1877 - Selz (South Russia), d. 1945-09-01 - Mechanicsburg (PA))
sp. Nelson, Mary C. (b. 1885-11-04 - Kandota (MN), d. 1960-01-02 - Torrance (CA))
 2. Rombs, Evelyn Agnes (b. 1912-05-01 - Faulkton (SD), d. 2006-01-27 - Newton (IA))
sp. Schmidt, Harold F. (b. 1905-04-07 - Iowa, d. 1988-12-17 - Newton (IA))
 3. Schmidt, Janice M. (b. 1931 - South Dakota)
 2. Rombs, Hazel Elizabeth (b. 1915-06-02 - Faulkton (SD), d. 1996-12-09)
sp. Fought, Vance R. (b. 1911)
 3. Fought, Marion Ann (b. 1936-08-18, d. 2009-04-04)
 3. Fought, Maynard Foster
 2. Rombs, Lucille Eileen (b. 1919-06-08 - Faulkton (SD), d. 2012-03-16 - Minnesota)
sp. Harris, Keneth R.
 3. Harris, Clayton Roger (b. 1938, d. 1972)
 3. Harris, Barbara Ann (b. 1939)
 3. Harris, Linda Lucille (b. 1947)
 3. Harris, June Marie (b. 1949)
 3. Harris, Richard Allen (b. 1951)
 3. Harris, Betty Kaye (b. 1959)
 2. Rombs, Katherine A. (b. 1924 - Faulkton (SD))
sp. Steele, Robert G.
 3. Steele, Kathryn Janell (b. 1947)
 2. Rombs, Marie I. (b. 1926 - Faulkton (SD), d. 2010-01-08)
sp. Schmidt, August E.
sp. Peasnell, James Oliver (b. 1920-05-13 - Utah, d. 2004-08-26 - Redondo Beach (CA))
 3. Peasnell, Marsha Marie (b. 1948)
 3. Peasnell, Jerald Owen (b. 1953)
 2. Rombs, Walter J. (b. 1907-04-21 - South Dakota, d. 1993-01-05 - Central Point (OR))
sp. Carlson, Edith

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a picture of Nick, probably taken in the 1930s.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Elisabetha (Lizzie)

The details of Lizzie's life are unknown to me. Lizzie was the last child to be born in Russia. She was less than 2 years old when they mad the trip from Russia to the US. Following is a list of descendants that I have assembled.

2. Rombs, Elizabeth (b. 1883-06-00 - Russia, d. 1957 - Aberdeen (SD))
 - sp. Thornburg, unknown (b. 1879 - Indiana, d. 1912)
 3. Thornburg, Ambrose Clayton (b. 1906 - North Dakota)
 3. Thornburg, Harold Arlo (b. 1904 - North Dakota)
 3. Thornburg, Clyde Alva (b. 1910-10-28 - Montana, bur. 1972-12-17 - Ft. Snelling (MN))
 3. Thornburg, Mabel Evelyn (b. 1908 - Canada)
 - sp. Cranage, Matt (b. 1875 - Wisconsin)
 3. Cranage, Elizabeth (b. 1927 - South Dakota)
 3. Cranage, Everett (b. 1921 - South Dakota)
 3. Cranage, Loren (b. 1919 - South Dakota)
 3. Cranage, Maynard (b. 1922 - South Dakota)
 3. Cranage, Ralph (b. 1917 - South Dakota)

Here is a picture of Lizzie that my dad's sister, Annie, had. I do not know the location or date. The physical nature of the photograph makes me think that is may have been taken in the 1950s.

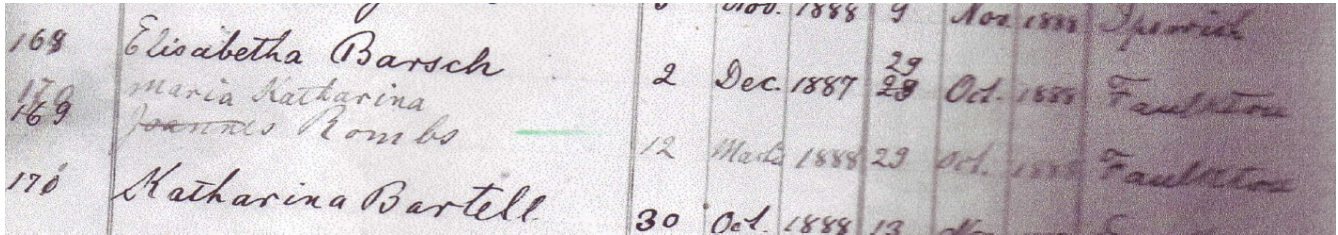


Johannes and Barbara Rombs

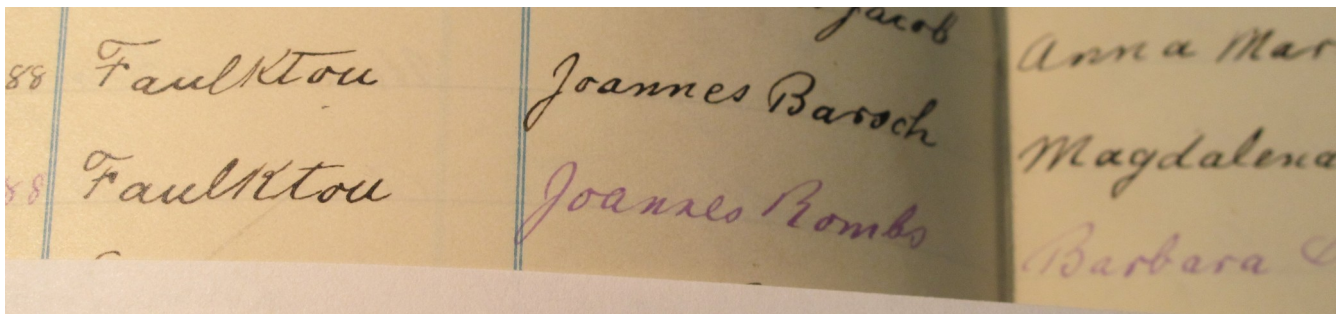
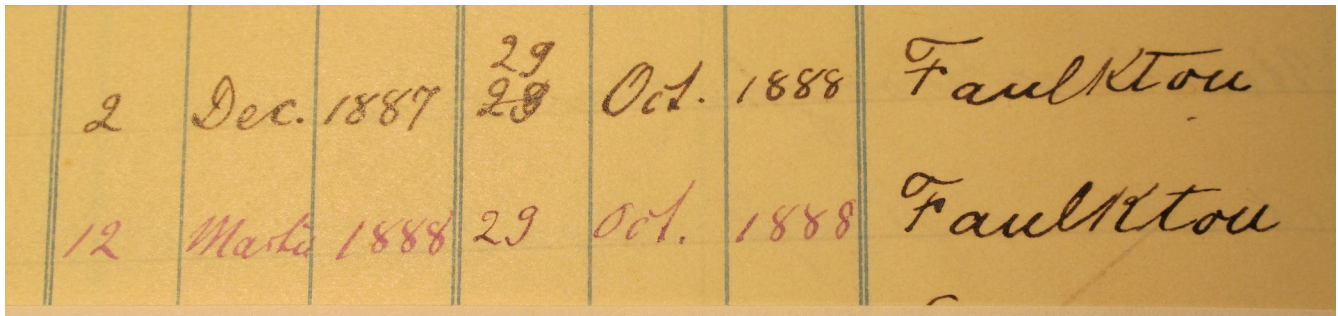
Kathryn (Katie)

I also know very little about Katie. Dad's sister has mentioned that Katie sometimes would stay with her when traveling to/from MT.

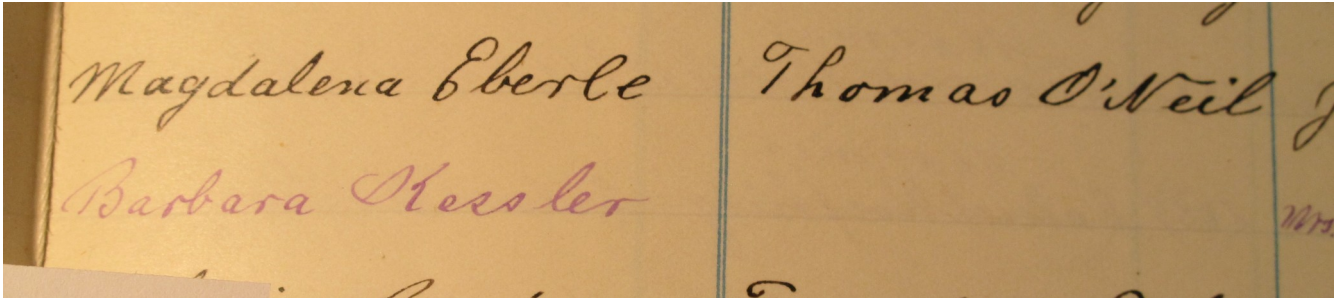
The information that I found regarding Katie's baptism in Ipswich at Holy Cross Church follows. The book recording baptisms has two facing pages for entries. Note that Katie's full name is Maria Katharina Rombs. (Her vorname = Maria and her rufname = Katharina.) In each image that follows you will see two full lines of information. Katie's is the second one. I will say more about the first (Barsch) line later.



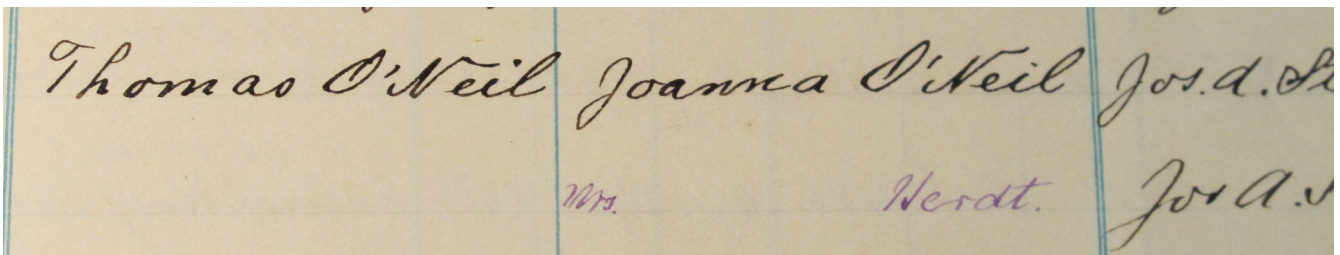
Here are sections of the same entry, progressing from left to right. The first date is the date of birth. The second is the baptism date.



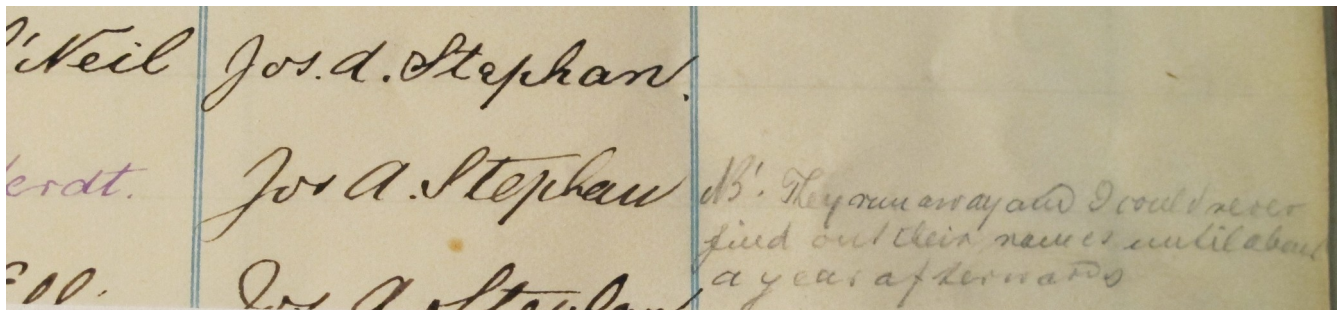
Johannes and Barbara Rombs



Note that the sponsor's name was "Herdt". I wonder if this was actually Hirt since there was such a family in Kandel in South Russia. (The Kandel colony was close to Selz, the town where Barbara and Johannes lived.)

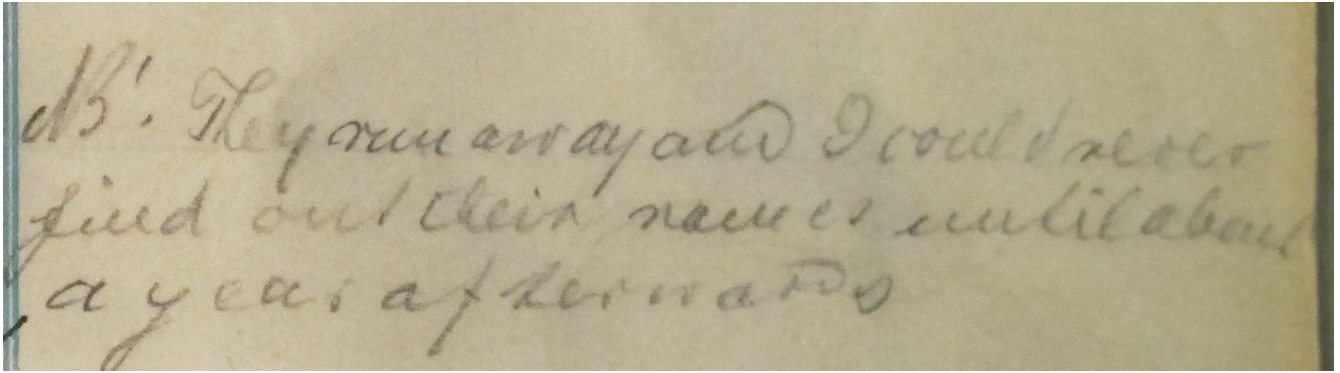


The priest's name was Joseph A. Stephan, and he left us a note.



I think that is says "They moved away and I could never find out their names until about a year afterwards." I wonder if shortly after October, 1888, they moved permanently to the homestead in Faulk County. Perhaps some or all of the family was living in Ipswich prior to this time while the homestead land was made habitable.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs



dB'. They run away and I could never find out their names until about a year afterwards

One further Note. -

On the same day (10/29/1888) another child from Faulk Co. was baptized. Her name was Elizabetha Barsch. I have purposely included the information in the images above. I wonder if this family knew Johannes and Barbara. It may be that the last name was actually Bertsch and that they were neighbors, residing on section 14 of Freedom Township. (There were Bertsch families in the Kutschurgan colonies, but none with the name of Barsch.)

I have tried to locate Magdalena Eberle without success. Since my faith in the priest's ability to deal with Germanic names is not high, it may be that Magdalena Eberle might actually be Magdalena Gebhard, not Eberle. If this is correct then this family might actually be represented by the findagrave.com memorial 115232469 . This is purely speculation, however. Perhaps Eberle was her maiden name, subsequently changed by a marriage.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is information about Katie's descendants.

2. Rombs, Kathryn (b. 1887-03-00, d. 1970-12-22 - Jefferson County (MT))
sp. Vinton, Alva J. (b. 1878 - Tama County Iowa, d. 1959-04-16 - Meagher MT)
3. Vinton, Fern C. (b. 1911 - South Dakota, d. 1993-03-13 - Meagher MT)
sp. Campbell, Clarice A. (b. 1919)
 4. Vinton, Charles Willard (b. 1939 - Meagher MT)
sp. Chriskie, Theresa Ida (b. 1940 - Townsend (MT))
 4. Vinton, Patricia (b. 1941)
 4. Vinton, Lewis (b. 1942)
 4. Vinton, Katie (b. 1944)
 4. Vinton, Carol (b. 1946)
 4. Vinton, Willard (b. 1949)
 4. Vinton, Robert (b. 1954)
 4. Vinton, Frank (b. 1955)
 4. Vinton, Paul (b. 1959)

Here is the picture of three Rombs sisters again. Katie is the middle person in this picture.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here is a picture of Katie and her husband, Alva Vinton.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Joseph (Joe)

Joe is my grandfather.

As mentioned above, he was working for Ole Thompson in Arena Township (Potter County) in 1910. He must have really liked Ole's daughters. He eventually married Tena. He had been engaged to her sister, Anna, who died in 1909 of appendicitis.

He and the Thompsons lived near Carrie and Bert Austin for a while as noted above.

He had the flu during the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic.

In the spring of 1920, Joe and Tena and their children moved from Ole's house to a farm south of Lebanon. This is where he and Nick had constructed a house.

Joe used horses in farming all of his life. Apparently he loved working with horses. Dad has spoken often about how he trained them, was close to them, and was heartbroken when many were accidentally poisoned in the 1930s. Joe had a well-trained dog as well.

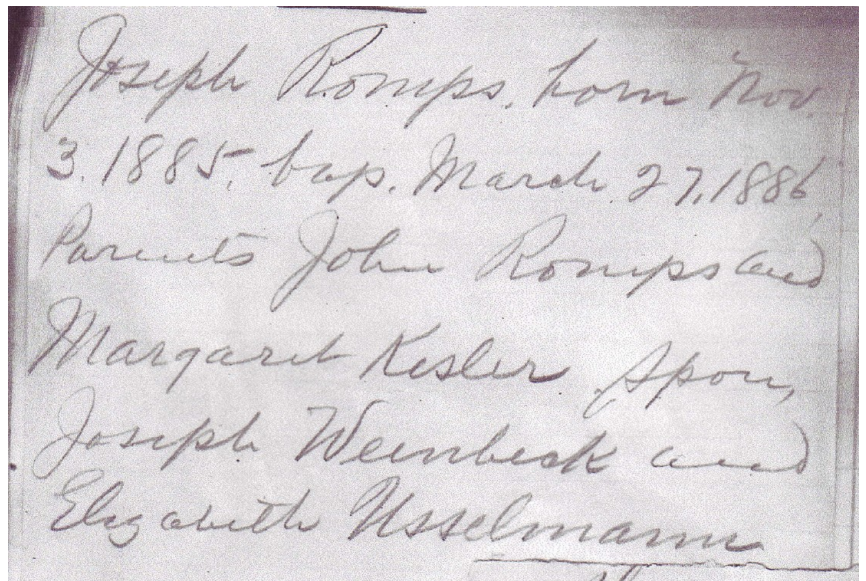
He was apparently a tall man. Served on the school board (Roy School), and he was a bouncer at some of the local dances.

He died of colon cancer in Pierre after a long struggle.

Baptismal information that I found in Ipswich at Holy Cross follows. This image is a copy of what the priest recorded on a slip of paper, which was later placed in the official record book. I am guessing that the Church had not provided him with the official book at the time of the baptism.

Here are some features of this record.

- The Rombs name is miss-spelled, perhaps due to the way the name was pronounced.
- Joe's mother's name is shown as Margaret. I wonder if this name is actually her vorname, so that her full name would be Margaretha Barbara Kessler. The use of the names would be consistent with common practice with Germanic names.
- One sponsor is Joseph Weissbeck. I wonder if this is their neighbor, who took out a patent on the SE1/4 of section 4 of Freedom Township (120N, 69W, 5th meridian).
- Elizabeth Usselmanna is the other sponsor. Her last name is intriguing, since this is the married name of Johannes' mother. Perhaps Elizabeth is a cousin of Johannes. Note that there are other Usselmanna families in the area. Further, it is interesting to note that there is an Elizabeth Usselmanna (b.1855, d.1838), who married Martin Fischer. (Martin Fischer, homesteading on section 11 of Freedom Township, was a neighbor of Barbara and Johannes.) And, if that is not enough coincidence,



Joseph Romps, born Nov.
3, 1885, bap. March 27, 1886
Parents John Romps and
Margaret Kessler
Sponsors
Joseph Weissbeck and
Elizabeth Usselmanna

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Elizabeth Usselmann had a sister named Helen (b.1853, d.1940), who married John Weissbeck.

I hope that you understand now why I am getting the feeling that the area held a number of cousins and acquaintances. Surnames keep popping up that are familiar. In fact the more research that I do, the more I realize that there must have been a sense of community due to the fact that cousins and longtime acquaintances from Russia were living nearby. The area must have been much more populous then than now by at least a factor of 30.

Here is a list of Joe's descendants.

2. Rhombs, Joseph (b. 1885-11-03 - Faulk County (SD), d. 1940-09-03 - Pierre (SD))
sp. Thompson, Tena A. (b. 1890-03-17 - Potter County, South Dakota, d. 1979-05-18 - Annie's House)
3. Rhombs, Robert Earl (b. 1920-02-20 - Lebanon, South Dakota, d. 2005-08-31 - Sarasota, Florida)
sp. Bates, [Living] Blanche Velma (b. 1921-12-22 - Bowman, North Dakota)
 4. Rhombs, Pamela Ann (b. 1957-08-16)
sp. Carver, Mike (b. 1950-09-01, d. 2008-02-05)
 5. Carver, Ashley (b. 1986-06-16)
 4. Rhombs, Craig (b. 1949-09-30 - Des Moines, Iowa)
sp. Long, Edith Ann (b. 1951-02-22 - San Antonio, Texas)
 5. Rhombs, Christopher Scott (b. 1988-05-16 - Minneapolis, Minnesota)
3. Rhombs, Vern J. (b. 1917-12-28 - Potter County, South Dakota, d. 1970-08-13 - Lebanon, South Dakota)
3. Rhombs, Anna V. (b. 1911 - Potter County (SD), d. 2002 - Potter County (SD))
sp. Comeau, Leo
 4. Comeau, Phyllis Rae
sp. Rogers, Dale
 5. Rogers, Lori
 5. Rogers, Brad
 4. Comeau, Robert Lee
sp. Livengood, Joan
 5. Comeau, Brent Lee
 5. Comeau, Adrienne Rae



This is a picture of Joe from around 1910, when he was about 25 years old.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

This may be a picture of the school that Joe attended. He may be the second person from the left.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Short-lived Children Born in Russia

Information about these children comes in an email note from Dennis Roth (GRHS) and is based on information extracted from the Saratov Archive (Russia) thanks Joseph Rombs, who contracted with a Russian researcher.

Johannes: born 1868, died 6/18/1872

Andreas: born 3/14/1872, died 6/23/1873

Peter: born 1881, died 7/3/1882

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

After Barbara's Death

Imagine yourself at age 51 with three teenage children, no spouse, and a farm to run. I think that is the situation in which Johannes found himself after Barbara's death. What would you do? - It appears that Johannes looked for help in the form of an arranged marriage to a woman from Chicago.

Second Marriage

Here is an outline of what happened.

- In the summer of 1898, Johannes made arrangements through a man named Hoffman in Miranda to import a new wife from Chicago.
- The woman's name was Mary Kastan. (I have never been able to find out more about her.)
- Johannes picked her up in Roscoe.
- It appears that there was a three week courtship, followed by marriage.
- On 8/6/1898 he took out a marriage license, and on 8/13/1898 they are married.
- It turns out that this was a horrible decision. She was abusive to Johannes and the children. She set fire to the house. She “wandered” north to Edmunds County and south to Faulkton. Johannes retrieved her more than once. She called him a “lame, old bear.”
- Little wonder that he sent her home on 10/25/1898 via Miranda. (It took him two months of hell, but he got rid of her.)
- In June, 1902, he filed for divorce. He appeared along with corroborating witnesses before Judge Pickler.

You can read the details below.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

189

MARRIAGE RECORD.

Perkins Bros. Co., Printers and Binders, Sioux City.

Mr. John Rombs age 47
M Mary Kasten age 32

No. 189
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FAULK CO.
Faulkton, S. D., Aug 6th 1898

AFFIDAVIT.

I, John Rombs of Faulk County, State of South Dakota
aged 47 years, do solemnly swear that I am acquainted with John Rombs
and Mary Kasten who are the parties for the marriage of whom a License is applied
for, that said John Rombs is of the age of 47 years and upwards, of sound contracting
mind and unmarried; that said Mary Kasten is of the age of 32 years and unmarried;
and that there is no legal impediment to said parties entering the marriage state, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief,
and that I am ~~not~~ interested in the issue of said license.

John Rombs

Subscribed and sworn to by John Rombs before me Aug 6th 1898

C. A. Ed. Whitten
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT,
for and for Faulk Co., State of South Dakota.

aged 47 years, do solemnly swear that I am acquainted with
and Mary Kasten who are the parties for the marriage of whom a License is applied
for, that said John Rombs is of the age of 47 years and upwards, of sound contracting
mind and unmarried; that said Mary Kasten is of the age of 32 years and unmarried;
and that there is no legal impediment to said parties entering the marriage state, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief,
and that I am ~~not~~ interested in the issue of said license.

John Rombs

Subscribed and sworn to by John Rombs before me Aug 6th 1898

C. A. Ed. Whitten
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT,
for and for Faulk Co., State of South Dakota.

Agatha S. M. Deussen Deft

ISSUE OF LICENSE.

Application being made this day by John Rombs for License for the Marriage of
Mr. John Rombs aged 47 years, and M. Mary Kasten
aged 32 years, it appearing by the Affidavit of John Rombs
(1) See Note Below.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

that the said parties are of competent age and condition to marry, License is therefore issued.

Geo E Whitten
Clerk of the Circuit Court.

By Mrs M^cDearmon Deft

RECORD OF THE CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

To the Circuit Court of Faulk County:

This Certifies, That on the 13th day of August A. D. 1898, at Faulton
in said County, according to law and
by authority, I duly joined in Marriage John Rombs and Mary Keastan
WITNESS my hand this 13th day of August 1898
S. J. Brown
Pastor M^c Church

Filed August 15th 1898
(10) at Revere street

Geo E Whitten
By Mrs M^cDearmon Deft
Clerk.

(1) NOTE.—The record must show that the License issued either
1st—Upon the Personal Acquaintance of the Clerk with the competent age and condition of the parties; or
2d—Upon the Testimony of a Competent and Disinterested Witness as to their competent age and condition; or
3d—If either party is under age, the record must show that the written consent of parent or guardian of such party was filed, after being admitted by the said parent or guardian, or
proven to be genuine.

Note: You can find more about the Deputy Clerk named McDearmon at the Find A Grave Memorial 64473839.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTHERN DAKOTA,
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT.

ss.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,
IN AND FOR FAULK COUNTY.

Johannes Rombs,
-vs-
Maria Rombs,
Plaintiff.
Defendant.

BEFORE:

Hon. Loring E. Gaffy, Presiding Judge.

APPEARANCES:

J. A. Pickler/ Esq., Attorney for the Plaintiff.

(No appearance in behalf of the defendant.)

The above entitled action coming on for hearing before the court on this 17th day of June, 1902, at a regular term of the circuit court in and for said county and state, begun and holden in the town of Faulkton, county and state aforesaid, the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

Johannes Rombs, having been called and sworn in his own behalf, testified as follows:

By Mr. Pickler:

- Q- You may state your name?
- A- Johannes Rombs.
- Q- You are the plaintiff here are you?
- A- Yes.
- Q- When were you married to the defendant?
- A- The 13th of August.
- Q- What year?

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

A- 1898.

Q- How did you become acquainted with her?

A- Mr. Hoffman had her, he lived east of Miranda.

Q- Well how did he bring her here, how did he find her, where did he get her?

A- Well he had some relation in Chicago and he wrote to his relation and he wrote him back there is one here that he wanted to get married.

Q- He wrote for you did he?

A- Yes.

Q- Well what happened then?

A- Afterwards she come out.

Q- Did you meet her?

A- Yes.

Q- Where?

A- In Roscoe.

Q- Did you bring her down here to Paulkton?

A- Yes.

Q- Were you married?

A- Yes.

Q- How long after you brought her here did you marry her?

A- Three weeks about afterwards.

Q- Well where did you go when you were married--you had a farm up north did you?

A- Yes.

Q- Take her home there?

A- Yes.

Q- Well now tell the judge what happened after you got her there?

A- Well when we got married I brought her home and she commenced then to lick the children, I got an old girl and she take her down and lick her and she take the boy down and lick him and afterwards she pull me on the floor and kick me, I say this house belong to me, I take

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Johannes and Barbara Rombs

everything as long as I can stand it, afterwards ^{he} I light out ~~for~~ ^{after} about
^{went} 7 or 8 weeks, I ~~put~~ away, pull right out, that I can't get any trouble
he cover up everything and put the girl out of the house, she speak
all the time from burning the house all up, she say she burn herself
when the house was afire and burn us all up too, so one night the
house he get afire, the fire burn through two 2 x 6 but I smell the
fire and put it out, so afterwards she say she wouldn't stay here, I
am too old for her she say it is too lonesome for her out here, she
want to go back to the city, that was right after we get married four
weeks she went, she went three times in the neighborhood and two times
in Edmunds county, when I find out where she was I hitch up and go
and get her back home, I don't know where she went but afterwards a
seller seen her up in Edmunds county and he say if I want my wife I
should go and get her down, I couldn't keep her to home.

Q- How many times did you go after her?

A- Well, I went two times to Edmunds county and one time to Faulkton that
I remember of, I couldn't keep her, she want to go away all the time.

Q- Where did she want to go?

A- Well she say she go to Chicago, she had better time there than out
here.

Q- Well did she abuse you in any way, how did she talk to you?

A- Oh, she call rough words and everything.

Q- Call you names did she?

A- Yes.

Q- What did she call you?

A- Well she call me a lame cripple, say I was an old bear.

Q- Well she left you did she finally?

A- Yes, she leave me.

Q- When did she leave you?

A- It must be the 25th or 26th of October, I guess the 25th of October.

Q- Where did she go?

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

A- She told me Chicago.

Q- Where did she take the train?

A- Miranda.

Q- That was in October, 1898?

A- Yes.

Q- Have you heard from her since?

A- No.

Q- Do you know anything about her?

A- No.

Q- Has anybody ever heard from her that you know of?

A- No, nobody ever heard from her.

Court:

Q- How did she go, did you give her the money?

A- I give her money for tickets.

Q- How long did you live together?

A- From the 13th of August till the 25th of October.

(Witness excused.)

Nick Brewer, having been called and sworn in behalf of the plaintiff, testified as follows:

By Mr. Pickler:

Q- Where do you live?

A- Near Borkmere.

Q- How long have you lived in Faulk county?

A- Since 1886.

Q- Did you know this Mrs. Rombs?

A- I wasn't acquainted with her but I have seen her several times.

Q- Where did you see her?

A- I seen her drive in town here.

Q- Where have you been engaged for several years last past.

A- Hoo's livery barn.

Q- You saw her when she drove in town here?

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

A- Yes sir.

Q- What do you know about their living together?

A- Why I never heard a great deal about them, I know when they got married and when they separated?

Q- You know she left him?

A- Yes.

Q- Well what do you know about their having trouble there and her going away at different times and him going after her?

A- My that is what I have heard, I heard she left him once or twice or two or three times I guess.

Q- When did she leave him finally?

A- Well it was that fall I know.

Q- The fall after they were married?

A- Yes.

Q- Where did you see her here in Faulkton?

A- Yes that is where I seen her on the street here.

Q- Did you ever hear any disagreement or any controversy between them he and his wife?

A- No.

Q- Where did she go when she left him, where did you understand she went?

A- I don't know anything at all, I heard at different times that she had left him, but that is all I know about it is what I have heard

Court:

Q- Do you know what she left him for?

A- No.

(Witness excused.)

O. F. Judge, having been called and sworn in behalf of the plaintiff, testified as follows:

By Mr. Pickler:

Q- Where do you live?

A- Faulkton.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

- Q- How long have you lived here?
A- 4 years and over.
Q- How long have you known Mr. Rombs?
A- Ever since I came here.
Q- Do you know of his marrying in August, 1898?
A- I know of the time he was married here.
Q- Did you see his wife at any time?
A- I seen her in the wagon, in a buggy with him, I knew who she was.
Q- What do you know about them having trouble and about her leaving him at any time?
A- Just what I heard other people talking about it, they didn't get along and she left him, he went and fetched her back several times.
Q- You were never there when he brought her back?
A- No.
Q- You were not there when she left?
A- No.
Q- What do you know about her leaving and about him having a wife since she left?
A- Well I know he hasn't had any wife since she left.
Q- Where did she leave from, do you know?
A- No.

(Witness excused.)

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a full, true, correct and complete transcript of my notes of the oral evidence adduced on the trial of the before entitled action.

Dated July 22nd, 1902.

A. Little
Official Stenographer, Sixth Judicial Circuit, State of South Dakota.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

1900 Fed Census

The 1900 Federal Census shows Johannes still on the farm, with children (Joe and Katie), and Carrie and her husband Bert Austin. This makes me wonder if Carrie and Bert had moved in with Johannes partly to help with the teenage kids, Katie and Joe.

1	83	84	Rombs John	Head	M	Mar	June 1846	33	Pr				Russia
2			- Joseph	Son	Fr	Mar	Nov 1885	14	S				South
3			- Catherine	Daughter	Fr	F	Mar 1887	13	S				South
4			Austin Bert	W	Pr	Mar	Feb 1870	30	M	1			Illinoi
5			- Caroline B	Daughter	Fr	F	Nov 1875	24	M	1	1	1	Russia
6			- Mildred B	Daughter	Fr	F	Jan 1900	0	S				South

1905 SD Census

The 1905 SD census shows Johannes living in Faulkton.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	Name	John Rombs		Card No.	129
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	County	Faulk	P. O.	Faulkton	
<input type="checkbox"/> White	Township		Sec.	T.	R.
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	Ward	1	City	Faulkton	No.
<input type="checkbox"/> Red				St.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow				Av.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	Hotel or Institution				
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	Age	34	Occupation	Horseman	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Widowed	Place of Birth	Russia			
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	Years in South Dakota	21	Years in United States		
<input type="checkbox"/> Can Read	Birthplace of Father	Russia			
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Read	Birthplace of Mother	Russia			
<input type="checkbox"/> Can Write	Signed	J. L. Swager		Enumerator	
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Write					
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind					
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf					
<input type="checkbox"/> Idiotic					
<input type="checkbox"/> Insane					

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Katie is found in Faulkton as well, doing domestic work.

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	Name <i>Katie Rombs</i> Card No. <i>130</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female	County <i>Faulk</i> P. O. <i>Faulkton</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White	Township _____ Sec. _____ T. _____ R. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	Ward _____ City <i>Faulkton</i> No. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Red	St. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	Av. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	Hotel or Institution _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single	Age <i>16</i> Occupation <i>Domestic</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	Place of Birth <i>S.D.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	Years in South Dakota <i>16</i> Years in United States _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Read	Birthplace of Father <i>Russia</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Read	Birthplace of Mother <i>Russia</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Write	Signed <i>J. L. Swartz</i> Enumerator
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Write	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf	
<input type="checkbox"/> Idiotic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Insane	

Meanwhile, Joe has moved to Arena Township in Potter County, working as a farm hand. It must be at about this time that Joe began working for Ole Thompson.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	Name <i>Joseph Rombs</i> Card No. <i>18</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	County <i>Potter</i> P. O. <i>Pembroke</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White	Township <i>Arena</i> Sec. <i>3</i> T. <i>120</i> R. <i>75</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	Ward _____ City _____ No. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Red	St. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	Av. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	Hotel or Institution _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single	Age <i>19</i> Occupation <i>Farm Hand</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	Place of Birth <i>Faulk Co. S.D.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	Years in South Dakota <i>19</i> Years in United States <i>19</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Read	Birthplace of Father <i>Germany</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Read	Birthplace of Mother <i>Germany</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Write	Signed <i>Wm Austin</i> Enumerator
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Write	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf	
<input type="checkbox"/> Idiotic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Insane	

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Bert Austin (and presumably his family) can be found at the farm at Freedom Township.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	Name <i>Bert, W. Austin</i> Card No. <i>164</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	County <i>Faulk</i> P. O. <i>Orleans</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White	Township <i>Freedom</i> Sec. <i>9</i> T. <i>120</i> R. <i>69</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	Ward..... City..... No.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Red	} St..... Av.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married	Hotel or Institution.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	Age <i>36</i> Occupation <i>Farmer</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	Place of Birth <i>Illinois</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	Years in South Dakota <i>19</i> Years in United States.....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Read	Birthplace of Father <i>North Carolina</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Read	Birthplace of Mother.....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can Write	Signed <i>H. L. Salisbury</i> Enumerator
<input type="checkbox"/> Can't Write	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf	
<input type="checkbox"/> Idiotic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Insane	

When viewed this way, some time in 1904 or 1905, a decision must have been made to disperse the family. Joe going off to work in Potter County, Johannes going into Faulkton, Katie also moving to Faulkton and finding domestic work, and Carrie and Bert staying on the farm.

Since Carrie and Bert show up in Potter County in the 1910 Federal Census, I suspect that they must have moved there after what was left of the farm was sold.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

1910 Fed Census

The 1910 Federal Census shows Johannes still in Faulkton, just three residences away from son, Nick, and his family on Main Street.

1	1	Rombs, John	Head - X	M	W		Wd	
2	2	Krasch, George F	Head	M	W	56	M-1	20
3		Anna V.	Wife	M	W	49	M-1	20
4		Fred A	Son	M	W	19	S	
5		Georgiana	Daughter	F	W	16	S	
6	3	Nelson, Luther O	Head	M	W	36	M-1	12
7		Hilma A	Wife	M	W	33	M-1	12
8		Fred L.	Son	M	W	9	S	
9		Genevieve H	Daughter	F	W	6	S	
10		Ruby E	Daughter	F	W	4	S	
11		Hilma S	Daughter	F	W	2	S	
12		Miriam W	Daughter	F	W	2 1/2	S	
13	2	Rombs, Nicholas	Head	M	W	32	M-1	3
14		Mary C.	Wife	M	W	24	M-1	3
15		Walter J.	Son	M	W	2	S	

This makes me wonder even more what Johannes was doing in a hay field near Beebe on 8/8/1914.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Settling the Estate of Johannes Rombs

Will Dated 1911

Here is a copy of Johannes' will and the paperwork that was filed in association with it after his death.

Lastly, I make, constitute and appoint... son, Nicholas Rombs

to be Executor of this, my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal the 11th day of April in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven.

John Rombs [SEAL.]

This Instrument was, on the day of the date thereof, signed, published and declared by the said testator John Rombs to be his Last Will and Testament, in our presence, who, at his request, have subscribed our names thereto as witnesses, in his presence, and in the presence of each other.

W. Mathison residing at *Faulton, South Dakota*
Nellie Lathan residing at *Faulton, South Dakota*

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Last Will and Testament
OF
JOHANN ROMBS
Dated APRIL 11 1911.

Filed in the Office of Clerk of County Court, Faulk County, State of South Dakota, this 22 day of April 1911 at 5 o'clock P.M.
John D. Douglas
Clerk of the County Court
Denault.

Recorded in Court
Journal no 8 Page
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Johannes and Barbara Rombs

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT. 286 BROWN & BARNER, PRINTERS, SIOUX FALLS, S. D.

In the Name of God, Amen. I, John Rombs
of Faulkton in the County of
Faulk and State of South Dakota, being of sound mind
and memory, and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life, do therefore make,
doin, publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament.

First, I order and direct that my execut~~or~~ hereinafter named, pay all my just debts
and funeral expenses as soon after my decease as conveniently may be, And shall also erect
a brick building for my grave, not to exceed in cost \$75.00
Second, After the payment of such funeral expenses and debts, I give devise and bequeath
to my sons Nicholas Rhombs and Joseph Rhombs the One Thousand Dollars to
received from my life insurance, Policy NO. 2638, in the Order of the
Home Marauders and rewritten in the Leval Americans of the Republic
Society Policy NO. 74517. The one half of the proceeds of the same
of \$500.00, to go to each of said sons as per the directions in
said Insurance Policies.

Third: I give, devise and bequeath all the balance and remainder
of my property real and personal, of which I shall die seized or
possessed or to which I shall be entitled at the time of my decease,
in the manner following and to the following named persons, to-wit:
I give devise, and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same to
my son Nicholas Rhombs.
I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same
to my son Joseph Rhombs.
I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same
to my daughter Kathryn M. Vinton.
I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same
to the children of my daughter Carrie Austin, said children to hold
the same in equal shares.
I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the same
to the children of my daughter Lizzie Thornoure, said children to
hold the same in equal shares.
I give, devise and bequeath the undivided one sixth of the
same to the children of my daughter Lulu House, said children to
hold the same in equal shares.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA WITHIN AND
FOR FAULK COUNTY

: P
In The Matter of the Estate of: PETITION FOR LETTERS.
: JOHN ROMBS, deceased.
: -----

TO THE JUDGE OF THE COUNTY COURT WITHIN AND FOR SAID COUNTY:

the petition of Nicholas Rombs, of said County of Potter respectfully represents that John Rombs late of Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota, deceased, on the 8th day of August, 1914 at Edmunds County, South Dakota, died testate, as petitioner believes; that the instrument in writing herewith presented to this court is the last will and testament of said deceased as petitioner believes; and that Nicholas Rombs the said petitioner is the identical Nicholas Rombs named and appointed in and by said last will and testament as executor thereof and consents to act as such; that the heirs at law and devisees of said deceased with their names, ages and places of residence are as follows:

- Carrie Austin, age 43, Cresbard, S. Dak.
- Nicholas Rombs, age 37, Lebannon, S. Dak.
- Joseph Rombs, age 29, Hoven, S. Dak.
- Kathryn Vinton, age 27, White Sulphur Springs, Montana.
- Mildred Austin, age 14, Cresbard, S. Dak.
- Dorothy Austin, age 13, Cresbard, S. Dak.
- Muriel Austin, age 9, Cresbard, S. Dak.
- Harold Thornburg, age 10, Ipswich, S. Dak.
- Clayton Thornburg, age 8, Ipswich, S. Dak.
- Mabel Thornburg, age 6, Ipswich, S. Dak.
- Clyde Thornburg, age 4, Ipswich, S. Dak.
- Lizzie Thornburg, Age 25, Ipswich, S. Dak.
- Lulu House, age 45, Milaca, Minn.
- James H. House, age 26, East Dagan, Mont.
- Mrs. Fred Hanson, age 25, Faulkton, S. Dak.
- Mrs. C. A. Magnuson, age 23, Milaca, Minn.
- Eddie House, age 21, Milaca, Minn.
- Chester House, age 17, Milaca, Minn.
- Alta House, age 15, Milaca, Minn.
- Willie House, age 10, Milaca, Minnesota.
- Helen House, age 13, Milaca, Minn.
- Joe House, age 8, Milaca, Minn.
- Flora House, age 6, Milaca, Minn.

that the property of said estate consists of real and personal property and is of the probable value of Four Thousand dollars.

Your petition would further represent that the goods, chattels and personal estate of said deceased amounts to



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

about Fifteen Hundred dollars, and that the said deceased left no debts aside from funeral expenses.

Your petitioner would pray that a day be appointed for hearing the proofs of said last will and testament and that public notice thereof be given to all persons interested as this court shall direct; and that upon the proofs and allowance of said will and the approval of the bond of your petitioner letters testamentary be issued to him thereon, and appraisers appointed according to the rules and practice of this Court.

dated at Faulkton, S. D. August 12, 1914.

Nicholas Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
) ss
COUNTY OF FAULK)

On this 12th day of August, 1914, personally appeared before me Nicholas Rombs, the petitioner named in the foregoing petition who being duly sworn did depose and say that he had read the foregoing petition by him subscribed and knows the contents thereof and that the same is true of his own knowledge excepting as to matters therein stated on information and belief and as to those matters he believes it to be true.

Nicholas Rombs

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 12th., day of August, A.D. 1914.

John D. Douglas
Judge of the County Court.
By Marie Douglas, Deputy

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

It appears that part of the estate must have included a stallion. And it looks as if it is still being used in subsequent years (by Nick?).

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STALLION RECORD

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
STALLION REGISTRATION BOARD

License Certificate Grade Stallion

Certificate No. 69

The Pedigree of the Stallion named James
Owned by John Rombs
Post Office Faulkton County Frauer
Age _____ years. Described as follows Star

Color Black Breed Percheron

Foaled in the year 1907 has been examined at the South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Division of Animal Husbandry, and it is hereby certified that the said stallion is a grade of his respective breed his sire being recorded in a stud book recognized by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C. The above named stallion has been examined by Clint B. Reynolds, a duly licensed Veterinarian, is reported free from infectious, contagious or transmissible disease or unsoundness, and is licensed to stand for public service during the season of 1914 in the State of South Dakota.

Dated at Brookings, S. D., this _____ day of _____ 19____

Signed J. L. Barber Supt.
Prof. of Animal Husbandry and Secretary Stallion Registration Board

Frank R. Cook Secy. Secretary

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, } ss.
County of Frauer Filed for record in my office this 16 day
of March 1915, and recorded in Book No. 1 of Stallion Records on Page 165

By H. R. Hall Deputy. J. O. Shirk County Auditor.

Renewed <u>1915</u>	Renewed _____
Renewed <u>1916</u>	Renewed _____

TRANSFERRED TO _____
Postoffice _____ County _____

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Katie Prods Nick to Settle Estate

It is 1917 after all! Nick pleads poverty. The court says sell stuff and distribute the proceeds!

State of South Dakota, }
County of Faulk. } In County Court.

In the matter of the estate of)
John Rhombs, deceased.) Petition for order
show cause.

Your petitioner, Kathryn M. Vinton, respectfully shows to this court that she is a daughter of the above named deceased, whose will has heretofore been admitted to probate by the order of this court; that she is one of the beneficiaries under the will of deceased; that letters testamentary were issued herein to Nicholas Rhombs on November 21st, 1914; but that no inventory or appraisal has been filed herein; that no report of any kind has been filed herein; that no proof of the giving of notice to creditors is on file herein.

Wherefore, your petitioner prays that an order to show cause be entered herein requiring the said executor, Nicholas Rhombs, to show cause before this court at such time as may be designated by this court, why he, the said executor, should not make and file an inventory and appraisal herein, make a report as executor, and set forth what, if anything, has been done in the way of administering this estate.

Kathryn M. Vinton
State of South Dakota, County of Faulk.

Kathryn M. Vinton, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that she has heard read the foregoing petition, and that the same is true.

Kathryn M. Vinton

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 6th day of March, 1917.

Frank [Signature]
Notary Public. (SEAL)

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

State of South Dakota,)
County of Faulk.) SS. In County Court,
Hon. George J. Jarvis, Judge thereof.

In the Matter of the Estate of)
John Rombs, deceased.) P E T I T I O N .

To the Judge of said Court:

The petition of Kathryn M. Vinton respectfully represents that she is one of the devisees and legatees of the estate of John Rombs, deceased, under the last will and testament of said deceased heretofore duly admitted to probate in this Court; that said John Rombs died testate on or about the 8th day of August, 1914, in the County of Edmunds, State of South Dakota, being at the time of his death a resident of Faulk County, South Dakota; that he left an estate consisting of both real and personal property in said state;

That Nicholas Rombs was duly appointed and qualified as executor of said estate on the 21st day of November, 1914, and ever since and now continues to be the sole executor of said estate.

That on March 15th, 1917, said executor caused to be returned to this Court an inventory and appraisement of the estate of said deceased, all of which will more fully appear by the papers on file in the Clerk's office in the records of said Court in the matter of said estate, to which reference is hereby made.

That certain personal property, including one stallion and other personal property, still remains in the hands of the executor and has not been disposed of; that said deceased died seized of the following real estate situate and being in the County of Faulk and State of South Dakota, to-wit: Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Fifteen (15) and all of Block Fourteen (14) in the City of Faulkton.

That the only information your petitioner has as to the personal property belonging to said estate and the debts and expenses of said estate, is contained in the inventory, appraisement and report of the executor heretofore filed in said estate March 15th, 1917.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Both of said instruments are hereby referred to and are hereby made a part of this petition.

That the names of the legatees, devisees and heirs of said deceased are Nicholas Rombs, Joseph Rombs, Kathryn Vinton, Mildred Austin, Dorothy Austin, Muriel Austin, Harold Thornburg, Clayton Thornburg, Mabel Thornburg, Clyde Thornburg, Lizzie Thornburg, Lulu House, James H. House, Mrs. Fred Hansen, Mrs. E. A. Magnuson, Eddie House, Chester House, Alta House, Willie House, Helen House, Joe House and Vera House.

That affiant is informed and therefore alleges that the certain debts amounting to about the sum of Three hundred Dollars and the expense of the administration still remains to be paid and the executor has not funds in his hands sufficient to pay the same. That there are a large number of devisees and legatees and it is impossible to divide the estate among them without doing great injustice and depreciating the value of the property belonging to the estate. That a sale of all of the property, both real and personal, belonging to said estate is for the advantage, benefit and best interest of the estate and those interested therein.

WHEREFORE, petitioner prays for an order directing that all of the property of said estate, both real and personal of every character, be sold at public sale, and that only one sale be had.

Dated at Faulkton, South Dakota this 12th day of April, 1917.

Kathryn M. Vinton
Petitioner.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

State of South Dakota,)
County of Faulk.) SS.

Kathryn M. Vinton being duly sworn on her oath says:
That she is the party named in and who subscribed to the above petition,
that she has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof
and that the same are true except as to those matters therein stated
on information and belief, and as to those she believes the same to
be true.

Kathryn M. Vinton

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of April, 1917.

(SEAL)

[Signature]
Notary Public, South Dakota.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Nick is removed from control of the estate.

IN COUNTY COURT

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
 COUNTY OF FAULK } SS. Hon. George J. Jarvis, Judge

In the matter of the estate of } *Petition for Letters of Administration*
 JOHN RHOMBS, Deceased. } *With Will Annulled*

To the Honorable George J. Jarvis, Judge of the County Court in and for Faulk County, South Dakota.

The petition of W. J. Jacobs of Faulkton, in said County, respectfully shows that on February 16, 1922, an order revoking Letters Testamentary of Nicholas Rhombs was duly entered by the Court in said estate. That the probate of said estate has not been completed and property still remains in said estate to be administered, consisting of the following real property locate and being in said Faulk County, to-wit:

All of Block Fourteen (14) in the City of Faulkton and Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Fifteen (15) of the City of Faulkton,

and some personal property in the hands of said Nicholas Rhombs who was the former executor of said estate, the exact amount of which is unknown to affiant; that the personal property still belonging to said estate amounts to in the neighborhood of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and the annual rents, profits and issues of the real estate above described is about the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00); that the next of kin of said Deceased, and whom your petitioner is advised and believes, and therefore alleges to be the heirs at law of said Deceased are as follows:

Name	Age	Relationship	Residence
Nicholas Rhombs	45	Son	Faulkton, South Dakota
Joseph Rhombs	37	Son	Hoven, South Dakota
Kathryn Vinton	35	Daughter	White Sulphur Springs, Montana
Robert Austin Mayer	3	Great grandson	Cresbard, South Dakota
Dorothy Austin Siederz	21	Granddaughter	Mitchell, South Dakota

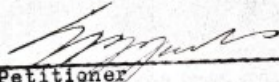


Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Name	Age	Relationship	Residence
Muriel Austin	17	Granddaughter	<i>East Bakusfield, Cal.</i>
Harold Thornburg	18	Grandson	Ipswich, South Dakota
Clayton Thornburg	16	Grandson	Ipswich, South Dakota
Mabel Thornburg	14	Granddaughter	Ipswich, South Dakota
Clyde Thornburg	12	Grandson	Ipswich, South Dakota
Lizzie Thornburg	43	Daughter	Ipswich, South Dakota
Lulu House	53	Daughter	Milaca, Minnesota
James H. House	34	Grandson	Fort Duggan, Montana
Mrs. Fred Hansen	33	Granddaughter	Faulkton, South Dakota
Mrs. E. A. Magnuson	31	Granddaughter	Milaca, Minnesota
Eddie House	29	Grandson	Faulkton, South Dakota
Chester House	25	Grandson	Faulkton, South Dakota
Alta House	23	Granddaughter	Milaca, Minnesota
Willie House	18	Grandson	Milaca, Minnesota
Helen House	20	Granddaughter	Milaca, Minnesota
Joe House	16	Grandson	Milaca, Minnesota
Vera House	14	Granddaughter	Milaca, Minnesota

That affiant is the attorney for and makes this petition for and on behalf of Kathryn Vinton, who was a daughter of said Deceased and asks that P. W. Loomis, of Faulkton, South Dakota, who is a fit and proper person, be appointed Administrator with Will Annexed of said estate.

Dated at Faulkton, South Dakota this 16th day of February, 1922.

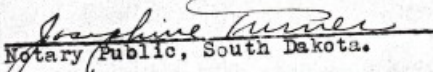


Petitioner

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
COUNTY OF FAULK } SS.

W. J. JACOBS, the petitioner hereinbefore named being duly sworn says, that he has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to the matters which are therein stated on information and belief and as to those matters he believes the same to be true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 16th day of February, 1922.



Notary Public, South Dakota.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

792—ORDER FOR HEARING PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION News Ptg. Co., Aberdeen, S. D.

AT A COUNTY COURT Held in and for Faulk County, South Dakota,
at the office of the County Judge in City of Faulkton in said County,
on the 16th day of February, A. D. 1922.

Present: Hon. George J. Jarvis, County Judge.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, }
County of Faulk, } ss. IN COUNTY COURT

In the Matter of the Estate of }
John Rombs, }
Deceased }

On reading and filing the petition of W. J. Jacobs
of Faulk County, setting forth that Letters Testamentary of Nicholas
Rombs in the above estate ~~has~~ been by the Court revoked this day
~~annulled~~ the 19XX, and praying that
with Will Annexed
Letters of Administration of the estate of said deceased be issued to P. W. Loomis
of Faulkton, of Faulk County, State of
South Dakota,

It is Ordered, That said application and petition be heard by the County Judge in and for
Faulk County, South Dakota, at a special term to be held at his
office in Faulkton in said County of Faulk on the
15th day of March, A. D. 1922, at ten o'clock
A. M. of that day.

It is Further Ordered, That due notice thereof be given by publishing a notice of hearing for three succes-
sive weeks (once in each week), prior to said hearing, in the Faulkton Advocate
a newspaper published in said County, and that copies of said notice be addressed to the heirs of said
John Rombs deceased, resident in this State, at their plac-
es of residence, and deposited in the postoffice, with the postage thereon prepaid, by the said petitioner at least ten
days before the time of said hearing.

Dated at Faulkton, South Dakota, this 16th day of
February, A. D. 1922.

[SEAL] By the Court: George J. Jarvis
Judge of the County Court

Attest: Elmer Dean
Clerk

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
COUNTY OF FAULK } SS.

JOSEPHINE TURNER being duly sworn on her oath says, that she is a duly qualified elector in and for said County and State, and not a party to or interested in the estate of John Rombs, Deceased; That on February 21, 1922, she served a copy of the attached Order Revoking Letters Testamentary upon Nicholas Rombs, by depositing such copy in the post-office at Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota directed to said Nicholas Rombs at the post-office above set opposite his name; that said copy was securely enclosed and directed to said named person as aforesaid, and the postage on said letter paid, and that there is postal communication between each of said named places.

Josephine Turner

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 21st day of February, 1922.

Notary Public, South Dakota.

In the office of Clerk of County
Court, Faulk County, State of South
Dakota this 1st day of Feb
1922 at _____
Edmer Durr
Clerk of the County Court.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
COUNTY OF FAULK } SS.

IN COUNTY COURT
Hon. George J. Jarvis, Judge.

In the matter of the estate of }
JOHN R~~OMBS~~, Deceased. } ORDER REVOKING LETTERS
TESTAMENTARY.

Now on this 16th day of February, 1922, it appearing to the Court that Nicholas R~~ombs~~, executor of the Last Will and Testament of the above named decedent, has failed to render a statement of his accounts as such executor and has long continued and wrongfully neglected to perform the duties of such executor, the Judge of this Court, of his own motion, on November 30, 1921, having issued a citation to said Nicholas R~~ombs~~ to appear before said Court on December 30, 1921, then and there to show cause why his Letters Executory should not be revoked for his long continued and wrongful neglect to perform the duties of such executor and to render a statement of his accounts as such executor and a certified copy of which said citation was duly and personally served upon said Nicholas R~~ombs~~ on December 5, 1921, and said Nicholas R~~ombs~~ never having made any appearance, never having filed any report of his duties as such executor in pursuance to said citation or made any appearance of any kind whatever; and the Court being satisfied that sufficient cause exists for his removal as such executor.

It is therefore ORDERED, by the Court that the said Nicholas R~~ombs~~ be and is, hereby removed from the office of executor of the Last Will and Testament of said deceased in said estate, and the Letters Testamentary heretofore issued to him, by virtue of which he held said office, are hereby revoked.

By the Court George J. Jarvis
Judge of the County Court

Attest: Edmund D. ...
Clerk of the County Court

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Here's an inventory of what was left.

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, }
 County of Faulk. } ss. IN COUNTY COURT 19__

In the Matter of the Estate of }
John Rombs, } ORDER APPOINTING APPRAISERS
 Deceased—Testate }

IT IS ORDERED by George J. Jarvis Judge of said County Court,
 That Irvin Allen Cornwell, S. S. Meier
Josephine Turner
 be and they are hereby authorized and appointed to appraise the goods, chattels and effects, real and personal
 (except the homestead), of the estate of John Rombs, deceased.

Attest: George J. Jarvis County Judge
Edmond Drumm Clerk of Courts

(SEAL) By _____ Deputy

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, }
 County of Faulk. } ss. OATH OF APPRAISERS

Irvin Allen Cornwell and
Josephine Turner being first duly sworn, each for himself, says, we will
 truly, honestly and impartially appraise the goods, chattels and effects, real and personal, of the estate of
John Rombs, deceased, that shall be exhibited to us, according to the
 best of our knowledge and ability.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st
 day of May 19__22.

Irvin Allen Cornwell
Josephine Turner

DESCRIPTION OF REAL ESTATE	VALUE	
	Dollars	Cts.
Lot 14 in Block 15 of Faulkton, Faulk County, S. D.	50	
Lots 21 and 22 in Block Fourteen (14) City of Faulkton <small>(Lease)</small>	1250	
Lots 23 and 24 in Block Fourteen (14) City of Faulkton <small>(Lease)</small>	1000	

Note: You can find more about Judge Irvin Allen Cornwell at Find A Grave Memorial 93213559.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

MONEY ON HAND AT TIME OF DECEASE \$ _____

NOTES AND ACCOUNTS	WHEN DUE			AMOUNT		NOTES AND ACCOUNTS	WHEN DUE			VALUE	
	Month	Day	Year	Dollars	Cts.		Month	Day	Year	Dollars	Cts.
<i>Names of Debtors</i>						<i>Names of Debtors</i>					
Anton Koeker	10	1	14	204.	80					-0-	
H. J. Reed	7	1	10	85.	00					-0-	
Will Wagner	10	1	14	68.	85					-0-	
Walter Wagner	7	27	12	40.	00					-0-	
<i>Money received from Nichols Rombs, ex claim against Nichols Rombs, former executor</i>											<i>56.00</i>
<i>Total</i>						<i>Total</i>					

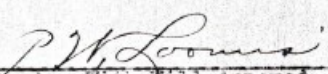
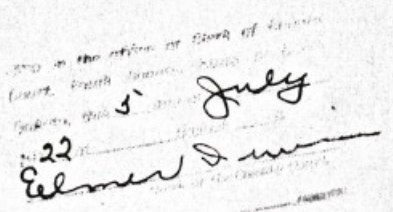
PERSONAL PROPERTY (NOT DEEMED ASSETS)

No.	ARTICLES	VALUE	
		Dollars	Cts.
	<i>All family pictures,</i>		
	<i>A pew or other sitting in any house of worship,</i>		
	<i>A lot or lots in any burial ground,</i>		
	<i>The family Bible,</i>		
	<i>All school books used by the family,</i>		
	<i>All other books used as a part of the family library,</i>		
	<i>All wearing apparel and clothing of decedent and his family,</i>		
	<i>The provisions for the family necessary for one year's supply, either provided or growing, or both,</i>		
	<i>Fuel necessary for one year,</i>		
	<i>Cook stoves, utensils and pipe,</i>		
	<i>Heating stoves and pipe,</i>		
	<i>Bedsteads,</i>		
	<i>Beds and bedding,</i>		
	<i>Sofas,</i>		
	<i>Chairs,</i>		
	<i>Tables,</i>		
	<i>Stands,</i>		
	<i>Kitchen safes (or cupboards) and dishes,</i>		
<i>Total</i>			



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Property in Faulkton is sold.

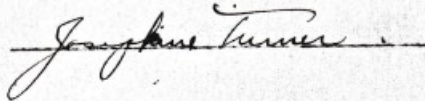
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA) COUNTY OF FAULK)	SS.	IN COUNTY COURT Hon. George J. Jarvis, Judge
In the matter of the estate of) JOHN ROMBS, Deceased.)		NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE.
WHEREAS, an order of the County Court of Faulk County, South Dakota was made on the 3rd day of July, 1922 directing P. W. Loomis, as Administrator With Will Annexed, of the estate of the above named John Rombs, Deceased, to sell, at private sale, certain real estate, the property of said Deceased.		
NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of said Order of Sale, the undersigned will, on or after the 27th day of July, 1922, sell at private sale, to the highest bidder for cash, the real estate in said Order of Sale described, to-wit:		
Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Fifteen (15) and Lots Twenty-one (21), Twenty-two (22), Twenty-three (23) and Twenty-four (24) in Block Fourteen (14), all in the City of Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota.		
Said real estate will be offered for sale at the office of the County Treasurer in the Court House in the City of Faulkton in said County, and bids in writing received at said place.		
Dated this 3rd day of July, 1922.		
 Administrator With Will Annexed of the Estate of John Rombs, Deceased.		
		

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

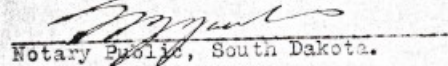
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
COUNTY OF FAULK)SS.

JOSEPHINE TURNER being duly sworn on her oath says that she is a duly qualified elector in and for said County and State, and not a party to or interested in the estate of John Rombs, Deceased.

That on July 5, 1922 she posted true and correct copies of said Notice of Sale of Real Estate in three of the most public and conspicuous places in the City of Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota, to-wit: One on the bulletin board at the front door of the office of the County Judge in the Court House, one on the bulletin board at the front door of the Court House and one on the bulletin board in the lobby of the United States post-office, all in the City of Faulkton in said Faulk County.



Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 5th day of July, 1922.


Notary Public, South Dakota.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
)SS.
COUNTY OF FAULK)

IN COUNTY COURT
HON GEORGE J. JARVIS, JUDGE.

In the matter of the estate of)
John Rombs) REPORT OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE
 Deceased.) AT PRIVATE SALE.

To the Judge of the County Court of the County of Faulk and State of South Dakota:

F. W. Loomis, the Administrator with Will annexed of the Estate of John Rombs, deceased, respectfully makes the following return of the proceedings under the order of this Court, dated the 3rd day of July, 1922, authorizing said Administrator to sell certain real estate, and report as follows to-wit:

That in pursuance of said order of sale he caused notice of the terms of such sale, the time when and place where bids would be received, to be posted in three of the most public places in the County of Faulk in which the land ordered to be sold is situated, and to be published in the Faulkton Advocate a newspaper printed and published in the City of Faulkton in said County of Faulk for three weeks successively next before such sale, in which notice the lands and tenements to be sold were described with common certainty; all of which will also and more fully appear by the affidavits herewith filed for record in this Court.

That said Administrator, pursuant to said order of sale and of the notice duly given, offered for sale, and on the 7th day of December, 1922, sold Lots Twenty-three and Twenty-four (24) in Block Fourteen (14) of the City of Faulkton in said Faulk County, in one parcel, judging it most beneficial to the estate, to the highest bidder, for cash, and subject to confirmation by this Court, ~~certain of the real estate described in said order of sale and in said notice, which said real estate is described as follows, to-wit:~~

~~Lots Twenty-three (23) and Twenty-four (24) in Block Fourteen (14) of the City of Faulkton, County of Faulk and State of South Dakota~~

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

That at such sale Carl Smolnisky of the City of Faulkton, in the County of Faulk in the State of South Dakota, became the purchaser of the said real estate for the sum of Nine Hundred Dollars *cash,* he being the highest bidder, and the said sum being the highest and best sum bid.

That the said sale was legally conducted; that as said Administrator believes the sum bid is not disproportionate to the value of the property sold, and that a sum exceeding such bid at least ten per cent., exclusive of the expenses of a new sale, cannot be obtained; and that before making such sale, to-wit: On the 23rd day of October, 1922, said Administrator as required in and by said order of sale, duly executed an additional bond to the State of South Dakota, with sufficient surties, duly approved, to-wit: In the penal sum of Five Thousand Dollars conditioned, that the said Administrator shall faithfully execute the duties of the trust according to Law.

And said real estate not having been appraised within one year prior to such sale, the same was duly appraised by three competent, disinterested persons, appointed by said Court, which appraisement is on file and of record in said court.

Wherefore, said Administrator prays that the Honorable Judge of said Court make an order confirming the said sale and directing good and sufficient conveyance to be executed to the said purchaser, conveying all the right, title, interest and estate of said decedent in said premises at the time of his death, all the right, title and interest of said estate in the same, or that such other and further order may be made as is meet in the premises.

Dated this 7th day of December, 1922.

P. W. Loomis

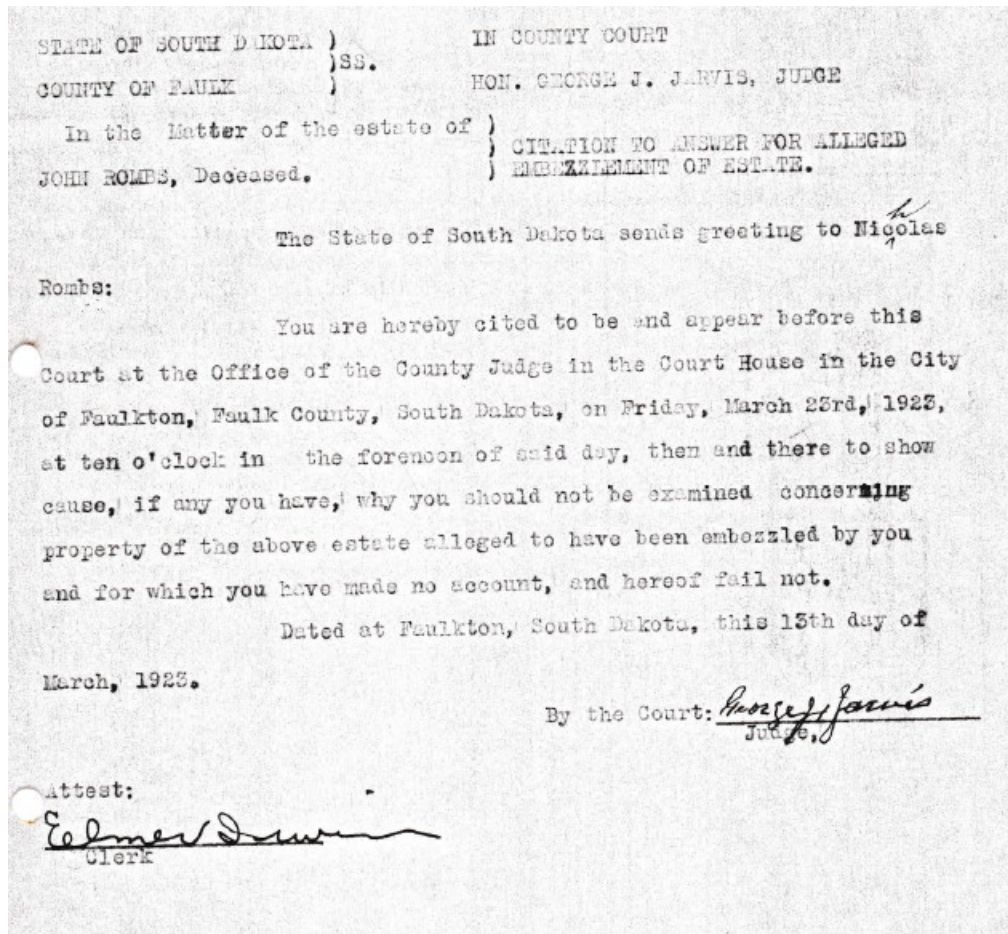
Administrator with will annexed of the
Estate of John Rombs, Deceased.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
) SS.
COUNTY OF FAULK)

P. W. Loomis, who, as the Administrator with will annexed of

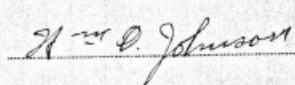
Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Embezzlement charges.



Note: more about Judge Jarvis can be found at Find A Grave Memorial 119171915.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,	}	IN _____ County _____ COURT
County of <u>Faulk</u>	} ss.	
<u>State of South Dakota</u>	vs.	Plaintiff
<u>Nicholas Rombs</u>		Defendant
<p>I hereby certify and return that the hereto attached SUMMONS <u>Citation to answer for</u> <u>alleged embezzlement of estate</u> came into my hands on the <u>13th</u> day of <u>March</u>, 19<u>23</u>, and that on the <u>13th</u> day of <u>March</u>, 19<u>23</u>, I served the same by delivering to and leaving with <u>Nicholas Rombs</u> the within named defendant, personally, a true copy of the hereto attached SUMMONS <u>Citation to</u> <u>answer for alleged embezzlement of estate</u></p>		
At <u>#7 Township</u> in <u>Faulk</u> County, South Dakota.		
SHERIFF'S FEES		
Service citation	\$	<u>.60</u>
Copies	\$	<u>.20</u>
Additional Defendant	\$	<u>.60</u>
Travel <u>three miles</u>	\$	<u>.60</u>
Total	\$	<u>1.45</u>
	 Sheriff <u>Faulk</u> County, South Dakota	
	By _____ Deputy	



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
COUNTY OF FAULK)

SS.

IN COUNTY COURT

HON. GEORGE J. JARVIS, JUDGE

In the Matter of the estate of)
John Rombs,)
Deceased.)

REPORT OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE
AT PRIVATE SALE.

To the Judge of the County Court of the County of
Faulk and State of South Dakota.

P. W. Loomis administrator with Will annexed of the
estate of John Rombs, Deceased, respectfully makes the following return
of his proceedings under the orders of this Court dated July 3rd, 1922,
and July 12th, 1923, authorizing said administrator to sell certain real
estate, and reports as follows, to-wit: that in pursuance to the orders
of sale he caused notice of the time of sale and the time when and place
where bids would be received to be posted in three of the most public
and conspicuous places in the County of Faulk in which the land ordered
to be sold is situated, and to be published in the Faulkton Advocate,
a legal newspaper printed and published in the City of Faulkton, Faulk
County for three weeks successive^{ly} next before such sale, in which notice
the lands and tenements are described with common certainty; all of which
will more fully appear by the affidavits filed for record in this Court.

That said administrator, pursuant to said orders of
sale and notice duly given, offered for sale and on the 30th day of July,
1923, duly sold Lots Twenty-one (21) and Twenty-two (22) in Block Fourteen
(14) of the City of Faulkton, in said Faulk County in one parcel, judging
it most beneficial to the estate, to Mary E. Crump, for the sum of One
Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) payable as follows, to-wit: the sum of Five
Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) cash, the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)
on or before one year and the further sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars
(\$250.00) on or before two years with interest at the rate of Eight per cent
per annum, secured by a first mortgage back on said property.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

That at said sale Mary E. Grump of the City of Faulkton, in said County became the purchaser of said real estate for the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), she being the highest bidder, and said sum being the highest and best sum bid.

That pursuant to said orders and notice duly given, said administrator offered for sale, and on the same day duly sold Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Fifteen (15) of the City of Faulkton, in said Faulk County, in one parcel to *J. T. Bannerman* for the sum of ^{Twenty}~~Twenty-five~~ Dollars (\$~~35~~.00) cash, he being the highest bidder and the said sum being the highest and best sum bid for such lot.

That said sales were legally conducted, that as said administrator believes the sums bid are not disproportionate to the value of the property sold, and that sums exceeding such bids at least ten per cent exclusive of the expenses of a new sale cannot be obtained, and that before making such sale, to-wit: on the 23rd day of October, 1922, said administrator as required in and by said order of sale, duly executed and additional bond to the State of South Dakota, with sufficient sureties duly approved, in the penal sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) conditioned that the said administrator shall faithfully execute the duties of the trust according to law.

That said real estate not having been appraised within one year prior to such sale, the same was duly appraised by three competent disinterested persons appointed by this Court, which said appraisement is on file and of record in this Court.

WHEREFORE said administrator prays that the honorable Judge of this Court confirm said sale and direct good and sufficient conveyances to the said purchasers, conveying all right, title, interest and estate in said decedent in said premises at the time of his death and all right, title and interest of the estate of in the same, or that such other and further order may be made as is mete in the premises.

Dated at Faulkton, S. D. this 31st day of July, 1923.

D. W. Lounis
Administrator with Will Annexed of the estate of
John Rombs, deceased.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
COUNTY OF FAULK) SS.

IN COUNTY COURT
HON. GEORGE J. JARVIS, JUDGE.

In the Matter of the estate of)
John Rombs,)
Deceased.)

FINAL REPORT AND PETITION FOR
DISTRIBUTION.

Comes now P. W. Loomis, Administrator with Will annexed of the estate of John Rombs, Deceased, and respectfully reports and represents to the Court.

That letters of Administration with Will annexed were duly issued to your petitioner on March 13th, 1922, after a time when Nicholas Rombs, Executor of the Will of said Deceased, had been by the County Court in and for said Faulk County removed as such Executor and his Letters Testamentary revoked.

That notice to creditors has been duly published in accordance with an order of this Court, and the time in which creditors might file claims against said estate has long expired. That all claims against said estate and all expenses of funeral and last sickness of said deceased, taxes and the costs of administration have been duly paid, and your petitioner knows of no outstanding claims of any kind against said estate. That said estate is exempt from inheritance taxation.

That the following is a statement of all claims and expenditures of any kind necessarily paid out by your petitioner during the administration of said estate.

1922	EXPENDITURES.	
April 10,	Co. Treas. Taxes.	\$ 32.47
April 15,	J. A. Kennedy, Water repairs	3.50
April 25,	J. T. Mitchell, Insurance	9.36
May 23,	Co. Treas. Taxes	6.32
May 23,	Atlas Lumber Co., Shingles	7.70
June 6,	Grace Douglas, Admx. Sheriff fee	1.25

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

June 6, Faulkton Advocate Pub. fees	\$ 19.40
June 7, S. L. Thorn, labor	3.75
July 5, Leon Perdu, labor	1.00
July 29, George Zaelke, plumbing	4.00
September 18th, Advocate, Pub. fees,	18.40
November 13, Co. Treas. Taxes	32.47
December 14, Clerk of Courts fees	25.00
1923	
January 12, Reg. Of Deeds, Rec. Satisfaction	.60
January 12, W. J. Jacobs, postage, etc.	2.00
February 7, Reg. of Deeds Rec. deed	.60
April 11, Co. Treas., Taxes	29.61
May 3, Postmaster internal Revenue stamps	1.00
July 16, W. R. Garrick, Sheriff fees	1.25
July 31, Co. Treas., Taxes	27.50
August 8, W. J. Jacobs, Quieting Title Action, Services and Expenses	98.66
August 9, Faulk Co. Abstract Co. Abstract	44.90
August 15, Co. Treas. Taxes	2.11
August 16, J. P. Turner, Revenue Stamps	1.00
August 16, Register of Deeds, Recording	1.30
August 16, Faulk County Abst. Co. Abstract	20.60
August 17, J. T. Mitchell, Insurance	8.01
August 21, Reg. of Deeds Recording	1.00
September 17, Advocate Pub. fees	5.25
October 4, Wm. O. Johnson, sheriff fees	4.05
October 25, Western Surety Company bal. Premium Nicholas Rombs Executor bond	22.50
October 25, P. W. Loomis, Statutory Administrator fees	120.75
October 25, W. J. Jacobs, Attorney fees	150.00
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 707.31</u>

That the following is a statement of all receipts

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

of your administrator:

RECEIPTS.

1922

April 8, Nick Rombs, Executor for rents collected in 1922	56.00
April 8, Hazlett, rent to April 16	12.00
April 25th, Hazlett, rent to May 16	12.00
April 25, S. Thorn, Rent to May 22	8.00
April 26, Chris Prummer, rent to April 17	8.00
May 2, Chris Prummer, rent to May 17	8.00
May 24, Hazlett, rent to June 16	12.00
July 3, S. Thorn, rent to June 22	8.00
July 3, Hazlett, rent to July 16	12.00
July 26, S. Thorn, rent to July 22	8.00
August 8, Hazlett, rent to Aug. 16	12.00
August 26, Hazlett, rent to September 16	12.00
October 12, I. T. Branaman, rent	6.00
October 17, Chris Prummer, 3 mo. rent to August 17	24.00
October 23, Smolinisky, deposit on sale of property 1923.	90.00
July 9, Chris Prummer, rent to Jan. 17	40.00
July 14, Crump deposit on sale property	100.00
August 14, Smolinisky, balance sale lots 23 and 24 in block 14, of the City of Faulkton	810.00
August 14, Smolinisky, for taxes paid	18.33
August 17, I. T. Branaman, sale lot 14 in Block 15, of the City of Faulkton	50.00
August 17, Crump, per cash sale lots 21 and 22 Block 14 of Faulkton	400.00
August 17, Crump, for insurance	3.37
September 15, Nicholas Rombs, Executor	550.00
October 25, Chris Prummer, rent	48.00
October 25, sale Crump mortgage	500.00
Total receipts-----	\$2,587.70

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

and subtracting therefrom the amount of expenditures made by your petitioner, leaves a balance in cash in his hands of the sum of One Thousand eight Hundred eighty and 39/100 (\$1880.39).

That in addition thereto Nicholas Rombs, former Executor of the Will of said deceased, and one of the legatees of said estate, is still indebted to your administrator in the sum of Three Hundred forty-five and 74/100 Dollars (\$345.74) which leaves the total amount in the hands of your administrator for distribution, the sum of Two Thousand Two Hundred twenty-six and 15/100 Dollars (\$2226.15).

That when your petitioner qualified as such Administrator he found that the real property belonging to said estate was in a more or less run down condition. He had such repairs as was absolutely necessary to rent the property and proceeded with all diligence to sell the said real estate. That your petitioner has disposed of all the real property belonging to the said estate under the order and direction of this Court. That ever since the time of his qualification as such administrator, has been pursuing remedies to get an accounting from Nicholas Rombs, Executor of said estate, and he now reports that said accounting has been had and that the share of said estate going to the said Nicholas Rombs under the Will will be sufficient to take care of the indebtedness still due the estate from said Nicholas Rombs.

That all of the property belonging to such estate has been disposed of except several promissory notes which were outlawed at the time they came into the possession of your administrator and which said notes are of no value and uncollectable.

That said estate has been fully administered and the same is now in shape for final distribution. That John Rombs died testate at Edmonds County, in the State of South Dakota, on August 8th, 1914, and at the time of his death was a resident of Faulk County, South Dakota; that he left a Last Will and Testament dated April 11, 1911, which said Will was duly admitted to probate by this Court on September 15th, 1914.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

That said Will provided after the payment of funeral expenses and debts, that Joseph Rombs, Son, Kathryn Vinton, Daughter and Nicholas Rombs, Son each receive one sixth (1/6) therein. Said Will further provided that the Children of the Daughter Carrie Austin receive one sixth (1/6) interest therein in equal shares, and that the children of the daughter Lizzie Thornburg receive one sixth (1/6) interest therein in equal shares, and that the children of the daughter Lulu House receive one sixth (1/6) interest therein in equal shares.

That Dorothy Austin Siederz and Muriel Austin ^{granddaughters} and Robert Austin Mayer, Great Grandson, ~~XXX~~ the son of Mildred Austin, by right of representation, his mother being deceased, since the time of the death of decedent, are entitled on distribution to all of the share of said estate coming to said children of the said Carrie Austin, and each being entitled on distribution to one eighteenth (1/18) of said estate.

That Harold Thornburg, Clayton Thornburg and Clyde Thornburg, ^{grand-daughter} grand-sons and Mabel Thornburg constitute all of the children of the said Lizzie Thornburg and each on distribution is entitled to one twentyfourth (1/24) interest in said estate.

That James H. House, Eddie House, Chester House, Willie House and Joe House grand-sons Mrs. Fred Hanson, Mrs. E. A. Magnuson, Alta House, Helan House and Vera House, Grand-daughters, constitute all of the children of the daughter Lulu House and on distribution each thereof is entitled to one sixtieth (1/60) interest in the said estate.

That all of the above named legatees are of the age of majority except that Robert Austin Mayer, Mabel Thornburg, Clyde Thornburg Joe House and Vera House are still minors.

WHEREFORE your administrator prays that said final account be approved, allowed and settled; that the Court determine the rights of all persons to said estate, and ^{their} interest therein and to whom distribution thereof should be made, and distribute the same to the persons entitled

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

thereto by law and for all other proper relief.

Dated this 29th day of October, 1923.

X P. W. Loomis
Administrator with Will annexed of the
Estate of John Rombs, Deceased.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
 } SS.
COUNTY OF PENNINGTON }

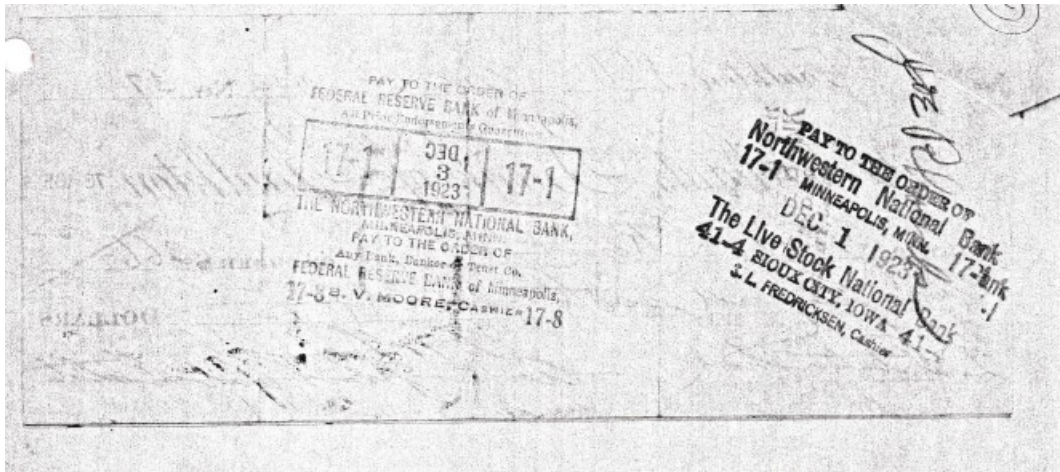
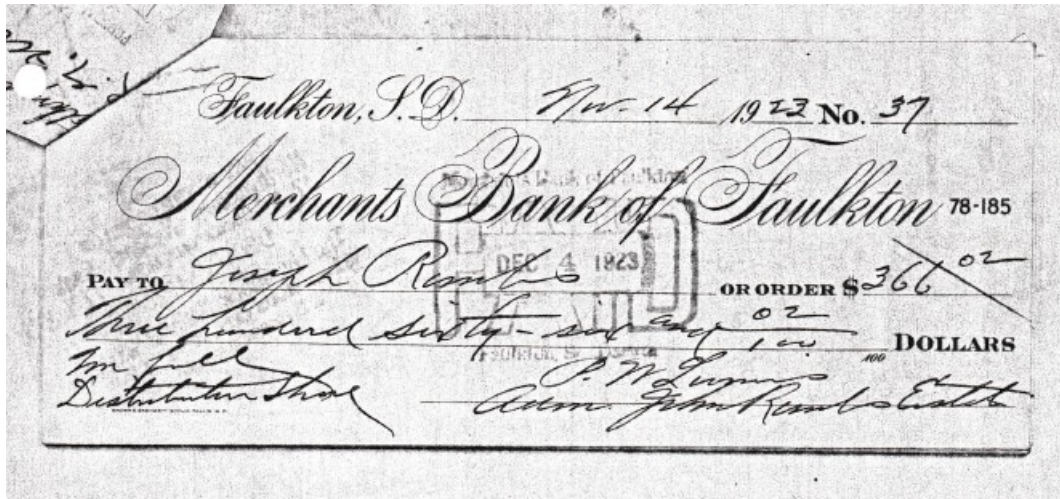
P. W. LOOMIS being duly sworn on his oath states that he is the duly qualified and acting administrator with Will Annexed of the Estate of John Rombs, Deceased, and is the party who made the foregoing report and petition and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true. That the items of expenditures therein referred to have been actually and necessarily paid out and disbursed by your administrator and that the statement of receipts is a full statement of all receipts by your administrator in said estate of every nature and kind.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 28th day of October, 1923.

X George Williams
Notary Public, South Dakota

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Joe's check.



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Future Research

So, there you have it. This is all that I know of to describe the lives of Johannes and Barbara on the Earth. The information leaves me with a general feeling of sadness, even though I know that there must have been good times. In balance it seems like there was a lot of struggle. I'm sure that this is common for people caught up in uncertain times.

Here is a list of items that I believe might still be pursued.

- Explore the whereabouts of Barbara's brother, Franz. Was he in Pierce Co., ND, in the 1900 census and then in Washington Co., Oregon, in the 1910 census?

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.
SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State *North Dakota* County *Burke* Township *1st R. 21. Large Parcel* Name of Institution _____ Ward of city _____
 Name of Incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division _____ day of June, 1900. _____

LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	BIRTH	NATIVITY	CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION	SPEECH BY SELF	Color and race	
										White	Other
1	Kelly, Thomas	Head	W m 20 yrs 1873 11 23	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1873
2	Blanch	Wife	W f 20 yrs 1874 12 18	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1874
3	Wangberg, Jacob	Head	W m 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
4	Wangberg, Alice	Wife	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
5	Wangberg, Carl	Son	W m 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
6	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
7	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
8	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
9	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
10	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
11	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
12	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
13	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
14	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
15	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
16	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
17	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
18	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
19	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
20	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
21	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
22	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
23	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
24	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
25	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
26	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
27	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
28	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
29	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
30	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
31	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
32	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
33	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
34	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
35	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
36	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
37	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
38	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
39	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
40	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
41	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
42	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
43	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
44	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
45	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
46	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
47	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
48	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
49	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875
50	Wangberg, Rosa	Daughter	W f 20 yrs 1875 11 25	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Teacher	2 1/2	2 1/2	W	1875

Koster, Frank	Head	W m	Oct. 1842	57	m	18	Russia
Barbra	Wife	W f	Jan. 1854	45	m	10 9 2	Russia
Mikkel	Son	W m	July 1888	16	S.		Russia
Luge	Daughter	W f	Jan. 1886	14	S.		South Dakota



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
 THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 - POPULATION

Supervisor's District No. 1st 168 B
 Enumerator's District No. 272 B

NAME OF CITY, TOWNSHIP OR VILLAGE: *Washington*
 NAME OF COUNTY: *Washington*
 NAME OF DISTRICT: *Washington*
 ENUMERATED BY ME OR BY OTHER: *By J. Rombs*

HOUSEHOLD NO.	NAME	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	SOCIETY	RELIGION	ETHNICITY	MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE	FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE	MARRIAGE		MARRIAGE		MARRIAGE	MARRIAGE	MARRIAGE	MARRIAGE	
												DATE	PLACE	DATE	PLACE					
111	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
112	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
113	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
114	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
115	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
116	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
117	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
118	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
119	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
120	Shawney	John	38	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Kessler Frank	Head #	m	w	65	m	29	Russia
Barbara	Wife	w	w	56	m	29	Russia



Johannes and Barbara Rombs

- Explore GRHS resources in Bismarck.
- Research location of Lizzie's birth as indicated in the church in SD.
- Track down what became of Johannes' uncles and aunts. Some information is known, but many details could be filled in.
- Do the same for Barbara's uncles and aunts.
- Determine the ancestors of Rochus Kessler (b. 1854).
- Do further research to determine relationships if any to other people with the Rombs surname – e.g., those living in Ohio, Texas, and ND, Aberdeen (descendants of Walter Rombs, who immigrated in the early 20th century?).
- A person named Alice I. Rhombs (b ~1886, d. 1909) is sometimes shown in family trees as a child of Johannes and Barbara. I have seen no evidence that this is accurate, however. Finding such evidence could be another research topic.
- Here is a 1976 note from Evelyn (Rombs) Schmidt to my dad. It contains some information that could be investigated. It appears to be based on a note from Fern Vinton in 1960.
 - From Fern Vinton in 1960: Johann Rombs was a professor of languages at St. Petersburg college near Odessa. (This may be information about one of Johannes' paternal ancestors.)
 - Johannes raised and imported horses after coming to the US.
- Evelyn had notes that hint at the possible existence of another child of Johannes and Barbara named George. No dates are provided for the birth of this child, but it is mentioned that he survived only for two years. I have never seen any corroborating information or evidence. Maybe this was an attempt to describe one of the children that lived only short lives in Russia.
- Find evidence to corroborate that some of the Rombs ancestors were teachers.

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

Dear Bob and family,

Am returning your paper
Time passed swiftly and my
memory isn't too exact so I
I'm afraid to put down too
many dates.

Ferd Vintner wrote me
in 1960 & said Professor Jakob
Rhombs was a professor of
Languages at St. Petersburg
college near Odessa Russia's
before coming to U.S.

Raised, educated & had
success after coming to U.S.
Some of me really know
very little about her
activities.

Would like a final
copy which you get this
all to be dated.

Better yet. I require
some times and your way
to go from So. Dak.

We are pretty much stay
at home - We have a Sr.
Citizen Bldg. two blocks
from road, and we spend
time there nearly every
day. Harold is like Phil, &
so that gives him something
to do.

Our daughter & son in law

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

live on the farm + Luidas
is 3rd year in College
at Waurielly Dunes.

We have had a real
nice fall but need rains
badly. The crop were
good to fair but if we
don't get moisture soon I
am afraid the crop will
suffer next year.

We are having Thanksgiving
with Janice + Luidas will
be home late tonight.

Where is Craig?

Hope that small bit of
information is helpful.

Best
Ever

Emely + Harold

12-24-76

They got lost in the shuffle
We are going to Gemmill for
Xmas. May go South a couple
of weeks in Jan or Feb.
If you get a chance will
stop and see you.

Love Emely.

Happy New Year

Johannes and Barbara Rombs

END