

GOTTLLOB CHRISTIAN MAUSER



Gottlob Mauser

Gottlob was born on December 24, 1860 in Unterbrüden, Württemberg, Germany. We know this from the church Family Tables in Württemberg and the Württemberg Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages and Burials. The date is also listed on his death certificate. Gottlob was the second of 5 children born to Johann Jacob Mauser and Eva Katharina Meister. Their first child died unnamed, then Gottlob, Katherine, and two boys, Frederich Jacob and Carl Frederich who both died in infancy. Eva died in 1866 and then Johann Jacob married his second wife Eva Katharina's sister Eva Rosina and they had 7 more children, all of whom lived to adulthood.

The next official record we have of Gottlob is his arrival in the United States. The 1900 Federal census and the Deuel County History both say that he arrived in 1881, but as of yet, we have not found any passenger list with his name on it. Family stories say that he was a stowaway who cut hair, shined shoes, and other things to earn money while on the ship. There is also a story that he intended to get on a ship to South America and got on the wrong ship. That story though also says that he was going to a sister who was already there, but as all his siblings came to America if there is truth to that statement it must have been a different family member.

Kent Mauser has shared the story that Gottlob was part of the German Army and was relieved for a time with foot problems. When it came time for him to go back to the service, he left for America. We may or may not be able to find German Military Records and for now that is not researched.

An interview with Pam Foster Erickson, granddaughter of Gottlob's sister Anna Maria Mauser, in 2004 added that the Mauser family left a 3 story, 4000 square foot home on an acreage in Germany. They were apparently wealthy and industrious for the time period. We are assuming that they left Germany because of the class structure as they would likely have been in the "peasant" class and socially would never go any higher. Pam and her mother Margaret went to the house and the castle where taxes would have been paid on a trip they took to Germany.

Once Gottlob arrived in America we have been told that he briefly settled in Waco, Nebraska and then in 1885 he came to Deuel County. I don't see Gottlob in the 1885 Nebraska census, but the Nebraska Tract Books Volume 18 Image 42 of Township 14N Range 41W, Section 20, SE Quarter show that Gottlob took out his first homestead on Aug 6, 1884 application number 5316. He cancelled this on Feb 17, 1886 and then it appears

that on July 13, 1891 he applied for Township 14N, Range 42W, Section 24, NE Quarter with application number 2499 and that was later granted a final certificate number 2877 from the Sidney, NE Land office and approved on July 30, 1898.

As part of the homestead documents, we also see Gottlob's naturalization papers where he was declared a citizen of the United States on December 16th, 1890 in Chappell, Nebraska.

On February 2, 1889 Gottlob Married Anna Moeller in Ogallala, Nebraska as recorded in the county clerk's office. The Deuel County History book with a piece written by Gottlob's children Ben Mauser and Mabel Mauser Olson states that Gottlob met Anna attending church as at that time the German Methodist Church was held in different homes northeast of Big Springs.



Gottlob in his blacksmith apron

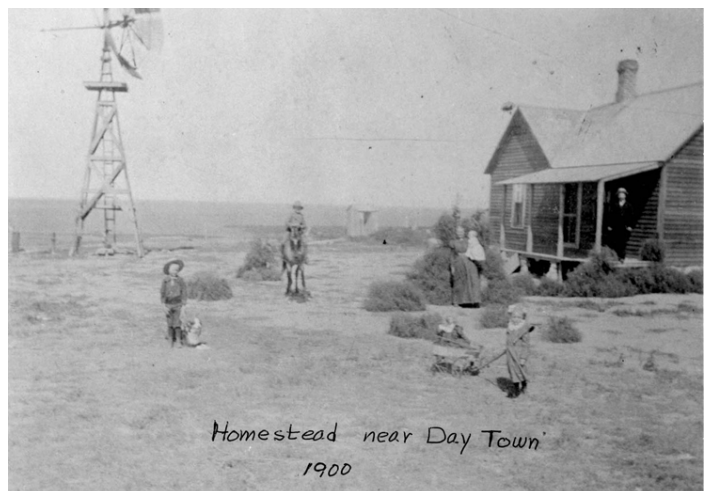
The same piece also states that in 1885 Gottlob established the first blacksmith shop in Big Springs. Gottlob operated his blacksmith shop in town until 1892 when the family moved to the homestead north of town. From the family memories we find that he hauled water for the family and livestock from town for two years and finished his own well in 1893.

We see Gottlob, Anna and their family in the 1900 Federal Census in District 0098, Park, Deuel County, Nebraska. They report their immigration dates of 1881 and 1880 respectively. They list that they have had 6 children with 5 living, that everyone reads, writes, and speaks English and that they own their home.

In 1902 Gottlob is listed as the postmaster for Day, a small village, no longer existing, in Deuel County.

In the 1910 Federal Census we see Gottlob and his family in District 0111, Big Spring, Deuel County, Nebraska. Gottlob and Anna list that they have been married for 21 years and that of 10 children born, 7 are living. As in 1900 they are farming and own their home.

The Deuel County history shares that in 1914 the older Mauser boys took over the farming at which point Gottlob and Anna moved to a home in town.



Homestead near Day Town (North of Big Springs)

In the 1920 Federal Census Gottlob and his family are in District 0119, Big Springs, Deuel County, Nebraska. Gottlob now lists his occupation as blacksmith.

In the 1930 Federal Census Gottlob is listed in District 0001, Big Springs, Deuel County, Nebraska. He lists that they own their home, that its value is \$1800 (on that page of the census we have home that are owned ranging from 1000 to what looks like 12,000, but that seems like a misplaced zero on the end. Excluding that home, the highest value home on the page is Henry Kallsen – another branch of the family tree at \$4,500. Gottlob reports that they do not own a radio set and that he is working as a blacksmith.

In the 1940 Federal Census Gottlob is in 25-1, Big Springs, Deuel County, Nebraska. They own their home and report its value at \$1500. He and Anna both state that they are educated through the 8th grade, that they are in the same home as they were in the same home in 1935 and now at 79 no longer lists an occupation.

Keep in mind that a change in census district does not indicate a physical move. Gottlob lived on the homestead and then in the town of Big Springs.

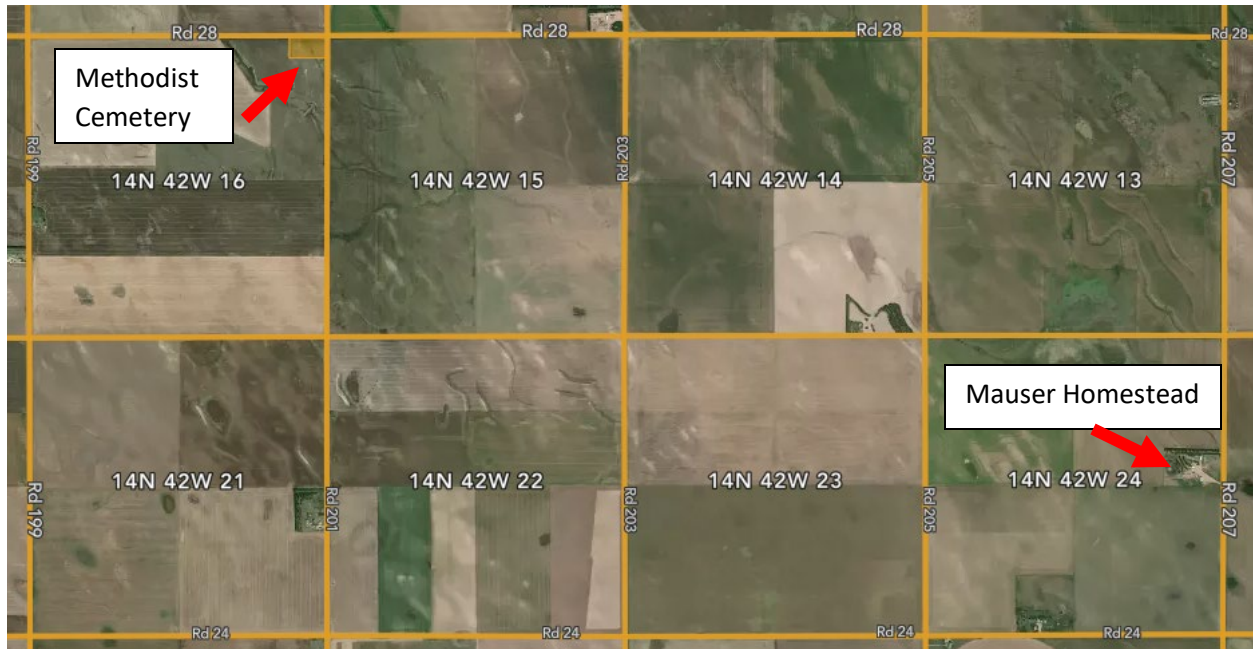


Gottlob and Anna Town Home

Gottlob was active in the community and we learn that in the early 1890's he helped construct a frame building for the German Methodist Episcopal Church. During the drought years many people moved, and the building was sold to the Day Methodists. Gottlob served on the school board and was very active in the church. The family donated an organ to the Big Springs Methodist church and made donations to Nebraska Wesleyan College. The initial Methodist Church wasn't far from the Mauser homestead and there is a

marker erected there stating "On this site stood the first church in Deuel County built of sod by Methodist Pioneers in 1887 - Erected in memory of Gottlob and Anna Mauser". The cemetery is close by and there are four Mauser children buried there.

We also see Gottlob's community involvement in the development of Deuel County. In the Deuel County History we learn that shortly after Deuel County was separated from Cheyenne County a group of men that included Gottlob immediately formed the Deuel County Court House Company to purchase a lot and construct a building that would be the county courthouse. Eventually the county seat went to Chappell, and that is another story all in itself.



Another piece that I found is from the History of Western Nebraska And Its People, Volume 3, Grant L Shumway, Editor in Chief, published in 1921, Page 506 and it reads: (copied as printed in the book)

“GOTLEIB C. MANSER, pioneer settler and well known business man of Big Springs, is one of the essentially (sic) self made men of the Panhandle who came here with little but the determination to succeed and two willing hands with which he worked, and he has made good. Today, he is one of the most substantial men of the community and has the distinction of being the first blacksmith of Big Springs. Mr. Manser was born in Germany, December 24, 1860, the son of Jacob and Rosina (Meister) Manser, both natives of that land. The father was a blacksmith in his native land who came with his family to the United States in 1886; settled in Amherst, Colorado, where he engaged in business at his trade. The mother died there in 1911 and the father in 1913, leaving a family of nine children, but Gotlieb is the only one living in the Panhandle. He was educated in the public schools of Germany and also learned the blacksmith's trade from his father. Mr. Manser came to this country ahead of the rest of the family, sailing from Europe in 1882. Soon after reaching our shores he located in York county, Nebraska, where he engaged in business as a blacksmith two years before coming to Deuel county to file on a homestead northeast of Big Springs in Keith county, but lived their (sic) only two years as he came to Big Springs in 1886 and opened a blacksmith shop, the first in the town. For eight years Mr. Manser carried on this business then moved back to his farm to engage in agricultural industries for nearly a quarter of a century. He was sober, industrious, not afraid of hard work and by these qualities became a successful rancher; When he came Mr. Manser says that all he had was his two bare hands and today he has two sections well improved. He has made his way independently, is essentially self-made by steady work, his native ability and perseverance (sic) and is still a young man in years. At first he did not do much farming as the country

was not yet adapted to that but raised cattle and fed some, having at one time over a hundred head. Since he retired from the land his sons have charge of the farm. Mr. Manser recounts that at first the settlers had no wood and burned buffalo chips; wagons were the only means of transportation and for three years he hauled water six miles for family and stock, paying five cents a barrel for it. Since returning to town Mr. Manser has again turned to his trade as he feels he is too young to give up all active life. He owns a fine home in Big Springs. February 2, 1888, Mr. Manser was united in marriage with Miss Anna Miller, the daughter of John and Anna miller, pioneer settlers of Deuel county, and seven children have been born to the union: Otto, at the home place; Charles, married, lives on a home farm; Tillie, Emma, Lillian, Bennie and Mattie all at home. Mr. Manser is a Republican and a member of the Methodist church. He is a progressive man in his business and ever ready to help any movement for the development of his community and county.”

Gottlob died on July 8, 1956 in Ogallala, Nebraska according to his death certificate and is buried in the Big Springs, Nebraska Cemetery.

Gottlob is recognized as a Century Family of Nebraska through the Nebraska State Genealogical Society.



1935 Family Photo Back: Charlie, Tillie, Otto, Emma, Ben, Front: Lillian, Gottlob, Anna, Mabel

Gottlob and Anna had 11 children with 6 surviving to adulthood

- Emil Mauser (1890-1890)
- Otto Mauser (1891-1982)
- Charlie Mauser (1893-1936)
- Martha Matilda "Tillie" (1895-1992)
- Emma Marie (1897-1996)
- Lillian Esther (1900-1900)
- Unnamed Girl (1902-1902)
- Unnamed Girl (1903-1903)
- Benjamin Gottlob (1905-1993)
- Mabel Ann (1907-1975)
- Helen Regina (1910-1910)



1902 Family Photo - Back: Tillie, Otto, Charlie Front: Gottlob, Lillian, Emma, Anna



1896 Family Photo - Otto, Tillie, Gottlob, Charles, Anna



1910 Family Photo Back: Charlie, Otto, Emma, Tillie Front: Gottlob, Lillian, Mabel, Anna, Ben

ANNA C MOELLER



Anna Moeller Mauser

Anna Moeller was born on December 2, 1872 in Germany according to her death certificate. A first attempt with a professional researcher shows that the family last resided in Meldorf, Schleswig-Holstein before sailing for America, but we have not yet located a birth or baptismal record for Anna, only for two of her siblings. With help from family files obtained from Mildred Mauser Bieber and some online searching it looks like Anna was the 12th of 14 children born to Heinrich Jacob Moeller and Anna Dorothea Krahl.

We have the Hamburg passenger list where the Moeller family sails to America in May of 1882. From there, they briefly went to Howard County, NE where we see the family in the 1885 State Census, and then on to the homestead near Big Springs in Keith County. Anna's father passed away in Howard County in 1887 before taking up his homestead.

For years I wondered how Gottlob and Anna met and recently found that Anna's mother, Anna Krahl Moeller Wolpers, had a timber claim on Range 42W, Township 14N, Section 24, SE Quarter that she owned as a result of her husband's death. This is application #852 and Timber Culture Certificate #1038. Approved in December of 1900. If you compare to Gottlob's Homestead entry, this is the same section. Gottlob's section is the NE Quarter and this is the SE Quarter. In addition, Anna's brother John had a homestead at Range 41W, Township 14N, Section 34, SE Quarter. The map following in a couple of pages will make this much clearer.



Anna and Gottlob 1946



Gottlob and Anna - Unknown Dates

We know that in their later years Gottlob and Anna took several trips including out to California to visit family. Mildred Mauser Bieber shared a transcript of Tillie's journal of a trip in 1926 and 1927.

Anna died on March 18, 1963 in Ogallala Nebraska according to her death certificate and is buried in the Big Springs, Nebraska Cemetery.

Note: I owe a huge thank you to so many people before me who gathered and shared photos. In addition to my immediate family A. Dale Aufrecht put together a Mauser Family History Book in 2000 from which I obtained many photos and details. Many family members contributed to that publication and made many photos and details available. I can share a copy of the book with anyone interested.

