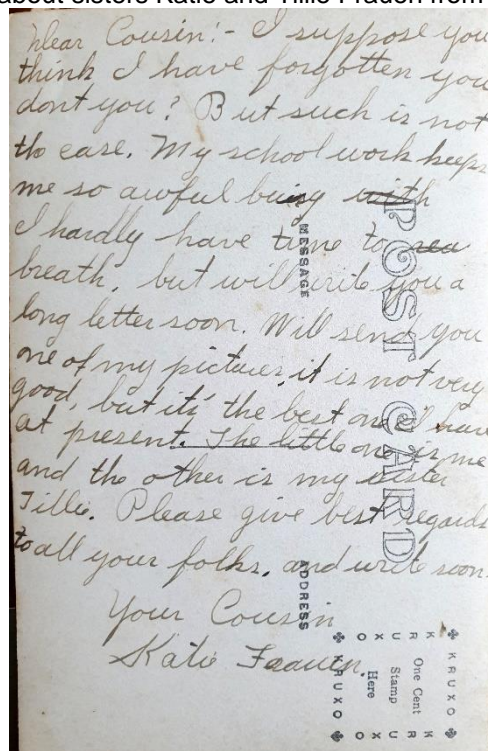


Sisters Katie and Tillie Frauen



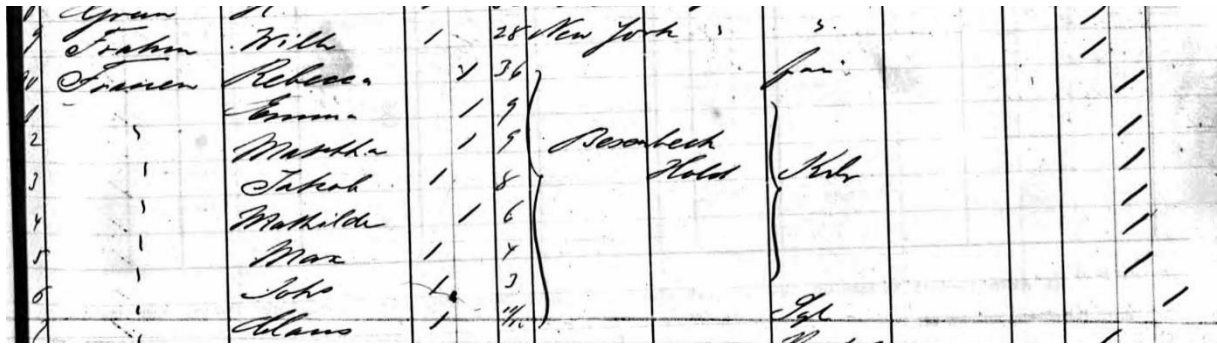
This RPPC was among a lot of around 100 photos I purchased on German ebay. It stood out for me, first of all, because of the unusual design of the taller lady's dress. Judging from the ladies' fashion, the photo dates to the 1910s. Secondly, it was written in English which I don't get often. The message was addressed to "Dear Cousin" and my Instagram community helped me identify the writer to have been one Katie Frauen.

Katie is the little one in the photo, according to her own description. The other lady is her sister Tillie. So let's see what we can find about sisters Katie and Tillie Frauen from America.



I was pleasantly surprised that this family had been thoroughly researched already. I could also find quite many records both in the States and in German online archives as well as some newspaper clippings mentioning the Frauen family. I've not yet located any close relatives to either Katie or Tillie. But perhaps this blogpost will help with that!

So how come this RPPC, written in English, was found in Germany? The answer is that Tillie and Katie's parents had embarked on a life-altering journey in 1894 when they sailed to America which was going to be their new forever home. Katie wasn't even born then. The father Markus had arrived in New York in April 1894, and the mother Rebecca with 7 children between the ages of 1 1/2 and 9 had followed in August 1894.



A handwritten immigration record on a grid. The first column lists names: 'Frauen', 'Tillie', 'Rebecca', 'Emma', 'Mathilda', 'Tobias', 'Mathilda', 'Max', 'John', 'Alano'. The second column lists ages: '1', '3 1/2', '9', '5', '8', '6', '4', '3', '1 1/2'. The third column lists birthplaces: 'New York', 'Petersburg', 'Held'. The fourth column lists names: 'Frauen', 'Neihus'. The fifth column has checkmarks. The sixth column has a date: '28 New York'.

The Frauens purchased a small ranch in Springview, Nebraska. Rebecca's brother Frank Neihus was already living in Nebraska at the time. He had come to America in 1877.

The girls' parents Markus Ludwig Frauen and Rebecca née Neihus were both born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in 1857 and 1858. They had got married in 1882 and had 7 children in Germany before they dared to start a new life in the New World. They left behind family members in Germany (Rebecca had 5 siblings) to whom their children apparently had contact, even when not writing in the mother tongue of their parents, in German.

In America, two more children were born, one of them was Katie in the photo.



Katie or Katherine Frauen, the smaller woman in the photo, was born on October 5th, 1897, in Springview, Nebraska. She married Benjamin F. Adson in 1916. Benjamin was born in Iowa to a Norwegian father and Iowa-born mother. In 1940, Katie and Benjamin and their 3 children are living in Jaroso, Costilla, Colorado. Benjamin was a farm labourer.

Katie was widowed in 1980, after 64 years of marriage! She herself passed away in 1986 at the age of 89 years and is buried in her hometown in Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado.

Katie and Benjamin had 4 children:

1. Ada Rebecca „Ida“ Chilcutt Toland neé Adson (1917-2019). Ada passed away at the age of 102 years just last year! What a woman, what a life! She had three children: daughter Barbara Anna Parry, son Benny Jack Chilcutt, and son Marvin who she had outlived. She also had grandchildren Audra Zinn, Robert Parry, Heather Sanders, Paige Craig, Addie Kerr, Megan Chilcutt and 10 great-grandchildren.
2. Robert Franklin Adson (1921-1993). He seems not to have been married.
3. In the 1940 Census, Katie and Benjamin have another daughter called Jean who was born around 1935/36. Jean Louise Adson attended the Centennial High School in Pueblo, Colorado, in the 1950s. Here's her yearbook photo from 1952. She is about the same age here as her mother in the photo above. Her sister Ada's obituary from 2019 refers to her as Jean Ellis, married to one Ray Ellis.
4. Ada's obituary also names another daughter Mickey King, but I have not information on her.



Matilda “Tillie” Bertha Frauen was born in 1888 in Germany. She married Lionel Edward Stanley in 1913, and the couple had two children: Melvin E. Stanley, born in 1914, and Maxine R. Stanley born in 1916.

Before Tillie married Lionel, she was listed as a wage owner, working as a school teacher at a public school in Norden, Keya Paha in Nebraska. This is where she met her future husband Lionel, who was a native of Norden.

In 1930, Tillie and her husband were living at 404 West 13th Street in Grand Island Hall, Nebraska in apartment no. 5. Could this have been their home in 1930?

Lionel passed away in 1953, they had been married for 40 years. At the time of his death, the couple was living in El Cerrito, California. This was probably their house in 647 Elm Street in El Cerrito in 1953.

Lionel's obituary lists three grandchildren: Patricia, Richard and Kathleen Stanley.

I haven't found out when exactly Tillie re-married, but her second husband was one Cosimo Comella of Italian heritage. Tillie was widowed for the second time in 1971 and 9 years later, she passed away in 1980 in Contra Costa, California, at the age of 92 years.

Tillie and Katie's siblings and parents

Because the family is wonderfully researched on Ancestry, I will write a few words about Tillie and Katie's siblings and parents.



The oldest sibling **Emma Petersen neé Frauen** was born in 1883 in Germany. In 1905 she married David M. Graham. I found their wedding photo on Ancestry. Unfortunately David passed away in 1919. They had two daughters together: Marion and Magdalene. At some later point, Emma must have re-married. Her surname in later references is Petersen.

The second-oldest sibling **Martha Augusta Anderson Langer neé Frauen** was born in 1884 in Germany. She married Andrew L. Anderson in 1904 but he took his own life in 1915. They had 2 children together: Helen Frances Anderson (1905-1973), and Roscoe W. Anderson (1907-1979). Martha re-married in 1916 in Valentine, Cherry, Nebraska. Her second husband was Rudolph Anton Langer with whom she had another son Ralph William (1921-1998). Martha and Rudolph lived in Ainsworth. She passed away in 1976.

Jacob “Jake” Claus Frauen was born in 1886 in Germany. He was married to Bertrice Fern née Rector, and had three children: Ernest Claus Frauen (1917-1945), Hazel Fern Peterson neé Frauen (1919-2010), and Otto Frauen. The couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1963. Jacob lived in Springview. He passed away in 1984.

Max Frauen was born in 1890 in Germany. He and his brother Harry ran the family ranch in Springview. Max was married October 1915 to Miss Verna Woolf of Manchester, Iowa. They had three daughters: Margory (Mrs. G.E. Bammerlin) of Millboro, South Dakota, Phyllis (Mrs. Charles Sisk), Worland, Wyoming, and Bernice (Mrs. Paul Eichenberger) of Springview, Nebraska. Max passed away in 1959.

John Anton Frauen was born in 1891 in Germany. He lived in Norfolk. He passed away in 1934 as a result of a fatal accident.

Clause Frauen was born in 1893 in Germany. He married Luella Irene Lambert in 1920. He was widowed in 1940. The couple lived in Ainsworth and had three children: Mary Margaret, James and Donald Frauen. Clause passed away in 1951.

Harry W. Frauen was born in 1897 in Springview. He married Iva Leona Weldin in 1928, and they had a daughter Iris Frauen in 1928. Harry passed away in 1983.

Parents **Markus and Rebecca Frauen** both passed away in 1946. To honour them on their golden wedding anniversary, the Ainsworth Star-Journal from June 2nd, 1932, published this short tribute to the worthy couple.

Ainsworth Star-Journal

AINSWORTH, BROWN COUNTY, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1932

Committee Will Ask Governor Bryan For State Aid

State aid for the Grasshopper fight without any strings attached to the demand that will be laid before Governor Bryan next Monday by a committee representing the County Boards of Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Holt, Keya Paha and Rock counties.

The Boards of these counties held a meeting at O'Neill Tuesday. All the members were present except those from Antelope county, declared that the finances of their counties are completely exhausted and that their levy has reached the limit prescribed by law and even now exceeds the ability of their citizens to pay, and that Grasshoppers are already present in devastating numbers and more are hatching. Unless the State can furnish the money to fight them without the necessity of the counties "matching dollars" this whole area will become non-productive. This will mean that 1-12 of the state's area will be unable to pay any taxes.

Governor Bryan has announced that \$18,000 can be made available for this purpose if the counties can raise a like amount.

But as set forth above, this is impossible so the County Boards' representatives will present the following petition to Governor Bryan next Monday afternoon:

"Therefore, We, the undersigned representatives of the afore named counties respectively petition the Honorable Governor to grant this State Aid without any strings tied to it, and we assure him that we will make personal supervision of the distribution and application."

(Signed).

Mr. and Mrs. M. Frauen will Celebrate Golden Wedding




On next Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Markus L. Frauen will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

This worthy couple have been residents of Ainsworth for the past 16 years. Both are natives of Holstein, Germany, Mr. Frauen being born November 4, 1857, at Hohenfelde, near Davenport, Holstein, and Mrs. Frauen, whose maiden name was Rebecca Neihus, was born July 9, 1858, at Bessenbeck, near Elmshorn, Holstein.

On June 9th, 1882, they were married. They remained in Germany until 1894 and there seven of their children were born.

In 1894 they emigrated to America, coming direct to Keya Paha county, Nebraska, where Frank Neihus, Mrs. Frauen's brother lived.

They purchased a small place north of Springview, which later they enlarged into their present ranch holdings now operated by their sons, Max and Harry.

In 1899 they moved to West Point, Nebr., to obtain better schooling privileges for their children. In 1903 they returned to the ranch and remained there until 1915 when they moved to Springview and a year later to Ainsworth, where they have lived ever since.

Their children are, Mrs. Emma Peterson, Grand Island; Mrs. Martha Langer, Ainsworth; Jacob Frauen, Springview; Mrs. Matilda Stanley, Grand Island; Max Frauen, Springview; John Frauen, Norfolk; Claus Frauen, Ainsworth; Mrs. Katherine Odson, Jarosa, Colo.; Harry Frauen Springview.

These with their families and other relatives to the number of sixty are expected to attend the golden wedding which will be celebrated at their old home on their ranch.

Rebekah Lodge Held District Convention At Newport Saturday

Saturday, May 28, twenty-six Rebekahs went to Newport to the District Convention, where they were royally entertained.

The enrollment was one hundred and eleven with three distinguished visitors, being, Mrs. Clara Lush, State Assembly President; Mrs. Emma Talbot, Past President and also State Secretary, both of Omaha; and Miss Fanny De Low, Past President of Coleridge.

Six Past District Presidents were present, three being from Ainsworth.

Miss Elva Kelly of Bassett won the banner in the secret work contest.

The new officers are: President, Stella Eaton, Valentine.

Vice President, Lydia Solson, Newport.

Warden, Dorothy Browne, Ainsworth; Ethel Salmon, Valentine.

Treasurer, Blanche Taylor, Valentine.

Marshall, Adelaide Hutton, Newport.

Conductress, Carrie Olson, Johnston.

and Mrs. S. F. Farner of Stuart, Chapter, Mrs. Sargent, Long Pine.

Inside Guard, Clara Ensley, Outside Guard, Elva Kelley, Bassett.

The next meeting is to be held at Valentine.

Butler-Woods Nuptials At Hoskins Sunday

Mrs. J. G. Ackerman Home Cafe Changes

Memorial Services Well Attended Monday

Memorial Sunday and Decoration Day were observed in more of the old time spirit this year than for some time. Sunday a large audience assembled at the Methodist church and listened to a Memorial sermon by the Rev.

Sixty-From Here L

Robert Va Gradus

A large dance greets in their gr the high s Saturday.

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Robert Mr. and Mr of the Moo led the cou grade of 9 pupils are Foster, Ca Frazier an

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2. Alm	
3. Har	
4. Ver	
5. Che	
6. Eth	
7. Will	
8. Elvi	
9. Glen	
10. Ray	
11. Haz	
12. Poll	
13. Rob	

The parents Markus and Rebecca took quite the risk in 1894 when they decided to leave Germany and start a new life in Nebraska. The 9 children they had together in 14 years probably took away quite a few strong traits and values from their parents. Markus built up their fortune from scratch. That took guts and perseverance. Rebecca travelled with 7 children alone on the steamboat to America, and had two more children there. That speaks for courage, too. They were rewarded with altogether 27 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. They taught their children that family ties matter, not to forget their roots and to keep in touch with their German cousins. I wonder if there are more letters or RPPCs out there from Katie and Tillie to cousins in Germany?