

ZIEGLER - BOEPPLE FAMILY

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John and Christina Zeigler on their farm in the 1940's.

My parents, John Ziegler and Christina Boepple, were both born in Dennyvitz, Russia; my father, Aug. 20, 1872, my mother on Jan. 14, 1876. Both came to America with their parents; my father and his parents, William and Barbara (Friedrich) Ziegler in May of 1877, at the age of 5 years; my mother and her parents, Christian and Johanna (Kramer) Boepple, in the fall of 1876, at the age of 1 year. Both families settled on farms near Scotland, S.D. (Dakota Territory), where they grew up and spent their youth, and here they met and were given christian training through their church and family homes. Both were baptized in the Lutheran faith as infants. They were also confirmed in the Lutheran Church in Scotland; my father, April 3, 1887, my mother on March 30, 1890. In Nov. 14, 1895, they were united in

marriage. They were blessed with a long wedded life of 68 years. Highlights were their 50th and 60th anniversary celebrations.

My father's parents remained on their farm, or homestead near Scotland until their deaths. Their home was made of adobe, a long building with mud floors, a grainery, horse barn, and a cattle shed, all under one roof, of which much of it is still standing. My parents worked and farmed in the Scotland area with my father's parents. I remember my mother saying that she sewed the suits for the men folks of the family and other clothing.

In April 1899 the Zieglers, with a small son, Richard, born in 1898, migrated to eastern Colo. by train and homesteaded in the so-called Russian-German Settlement, north of Bethune. They lived in with the Martin Stahlecker family until they had a building put up to live in. Not fully satisfied, in 1903, they moved to Oklahoma, near Covington, where some of my mother's family had moved to after living a short while in Tennessee and then had moved to Okla. also. After a year there, my parents returned to their homestead near Bethune again, where I, Anna was born in 1911. Here the rest of the family were born and raised; there were: Bill, Clara, Lena, (Mrs. Albert Strobel), Otto, Fred, the twins, Emma and Elma, (Mrs. Art Dobler and Mrs. Ralph Stahlecker), and Esther, (Mrs. Carl Arends). Richard died from a stationary engine accident, age 19, and Clara drowned, at the age of 6 years, when my mother and the three smallest children were returning from a visit in Okla. via train. There had been a cloudburst near Belleville, Kan. In the dark of the night, as this train came to this place, the train bridge was washed out, they tried to stop, but many of the train cars went down in, Many passengers were drowned including my little sister at the age of 6 years.

My parents had a family of 8 to support, but when us kids were old enough to work, they kept us all busy. Dad and the boys did the farming with the horses; the various crops were wheat, corn, oats, barley and some dryland alfalfa. In later years, we also raised some hogs and cattle. Mom and the girls hand-milked as many as 25 cows, separated the milk and bucket fed the calves, raised chickens, ducks and geese, always had a large garden and with not much running water, Dad built a two-wheeled barrel cart with which we hauled the water to the garden. We sold the cream and eggs and that was my mother's money to feed and clothe the family. I must say, she managed quite well. For meat, they did their own butchering, mostly pork, cured the bacon and hams, fried the other meat and put it in a crock and covered it with the rendered lard and kept it in a dug out cellar. Poultry was dressed as they were used. Mother baked the bread, sewed most of the clothes and she was always busy knitting mittens and stockings for the smaller children.

All of us children received our education in the one-room "Union School" of 8 grades. We usually walked the 2½ miles to and from school, unless it was bad weather, then they took us by horse and wagon and later by car, which was not very often. For entertainment the various country schools took turns of inviting another school in on Friday afternoons for baseball games, cypher down contests, (spelling and arithmetic), etc. Box suppers and literaries with all the family attending were always fun. On Sunday we

always attended Sunday School and Worship services at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Settlement. My parents were the first to have electric lights in the Settlement; also were among the first for running water in the house. Most of the houses in the Settlement were made of Adobe. In 1935, after enduring several of the "Dust Bowl" years, my parents had a farm auction and sold out, but retained the land and went to Oregon and Washington, worked in various fruit and hop harvests for a short time, along with the four younger ones of the family and my two married brothers and their families, Bill and Otto.

Once again they returned to the family farm near Bethune (no place like home). In 1950, when all their children had married and on their own, they moved to Burlington, Colo. and my younger brother Fred continued farming the home place.

In 1933, I married Emil Strobel who lived on a farm 5 miles north of my folks; he inherited the home place from his parents, which was also his birthplace and their homestead. We lived and farmed there until our son Leland was married in 1982. Then we moved to another farm house of Leland's, just 1½ miles away and let him have the whole works there, farm, debts, work and all, and retired. This was the only move we had in our 53 years of married life, and Emil in his lifetime, outside of a few years in Burlington, Colo. to get our three children a high school education.

Besides a son Leland, we have 2 daughters, Florence Scott, and Julia Liufau, 6 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren. My parents lived to the age of, father 98, mother 87. My mother's funeral was the day that President John Kennedy was assassinated. A sad day, but looking back over the years, I must say God's blessings were numerous.

by Anna M. Strobel