

KELLER FAMILY IN IOWA (PHASE 9) RESEARCH REPORT

In my Iowa research regarding the **Maurice/Crescentia (Gruman) Keller** family, our wonderful, quite-numerous Iowa State Census records provided a treasure-trove of information. The facts and figures gleaned from them provided several more branches to the family tree. Column 9 of the 1856 State Census identifies how long each individual family member has lived in the state by that time. In identifying common migratory patterns, a researcher can oftentimes identify additional relatives and family groups. On the 12-page 1840 **Federal** Territorial Census (available via the internet on the Clayton County, Iowa GENWEB site), previously substantiated family names were found, including **Campbell, Kraman (Gruman), Walker, Springer (Sprenger), Lemon, and Griffith (Griffis)**. As you continue with your reading of this report, keep in mind that all records used to compile this report were formally scanned and are readily available in this compilation -- including fully-documented source information. Due to time constraints, a lot of the information has been scanned, but not yet thoroughly investigated regarding the numerous families and relatives. Hence, the related information and possible additional lineage has not yet been added to the family GEDCOM file. In my research of the **Keller/Gruman** families of Iowa, I was able to substantiate the following information and additions to the family:

Maurice/Crescentia Direct Descendants:

Son, **Edward Keller, born 1857** (vs. "Edward Albert Keller" born 1860), has been added to the existing GEDCOM file, bringing Maurice and Crescentia's offspring to 11 in this research phase of the project. Edward was somewhat hidden from view in the previously-perused 1860 Buchanan County, Iowa, Madison Township (Erin P.O.) federal census record -- the main record source, thus far, used to identify Maurice and family and their early-day residency in Iowa. On this very same census page, four-year-old Edward is lurking a few doors down -- in the household of 67-year old Daniel W. **Neimer** -- the last few letters of this last name quite difficult to decipher, even in accessing the original record. Daniel was born in Connecticut and his assumed daughter, Wealthy A., next on the list at age 31, was born in New York.

"Edward Albert **Keller**", born 1860, (five-months old in the foregoing 1860 record), has formally been changed to "Albert, born 1860" in the GEDCOM file, and a new record has been added for "Edward Keller, born about 1857".¹ Additional information regarding Edward -- as well as the other newly-substantiated members of the family that follow -- can be found in the documentation included with this family research project. A unique folder identifying each new addition to the family has been formally established.

There's one additional tidbit that deserves at least a mention at this time regarding the aforementioned 1860 Census record. Between the **Keller's** and the **Neimer's** live the **Campbell's** -- Michael, wife, Elizabeth, daughter, Martha and 9-month-old son, Henry. The **Campbell** surname, as well as **Keller** and **Gruman** (and the various variations thereof), are abundantly found in early Northeastern Iowa county history books. I have not had the time to formally identify just how/where Michael **Campbell** and family fit into the family puzzle, but it's highly probable that these neighbors are related to the Keller's in some form or fashion. Other repetitive surnames in the neighborhood include **Ward, Williams, King, Morarend (Moran/Morin), Brockman** and **Best**. Wards Corners, located in central Buchanan County, near Independence, is a worthwhile area to explore in any future research endeavors regarding the Keller Family etal.

I was unable to locate Maurice and family anywhere in the 1856 State Census, but with the 1852 State Census records, I found "Morely" **Keller** living in Cass Twp., Clayton County, near

¹ The separate names of "Edward" and "Albert" are substantiated with the 1860 Buchanan County, Madison Twp. Federal Census (P.O. Erin) -- denoting "Edwd.", age 4 and "C. Albert", age five months -- as well as the 1880 Pennington, Dakota Territory Federal Census, reflecting "Edward S.", age 22 and "Albert A.", age 20 at this time.

Strawberry Point. His household totals 13 at this time -- 10 males and 3 females. Two members of the group were eligible to vote and two were eligible for the Militia. Next head-of-household is Moses “**German**”, a probable brother to Crescentia. Another possible family connection is also living nearby. David **Morin (Moran)** and family are found just a few doors down.

In comparing the 1852 **Keller** information to the 1860 Federal Census record just mentioned, I’m inclined to believe we’re not done with the 13-member Maurice **Keller** family yet.

According to the 1860 Federal record, at least four of Maurice’s children were born after the 1852 State Census was taken. With this in mind, this should bring our Keller count to 17 by 1860 – IF the 13-member household of 1852 were all members of Maurice’s direct family. There could be a cousin or two – or even a hired hand – in the figure. If Maurice adhered at all to the German- Catholic naming tradition, you’d think there would be a “Maria” in the female mix. We do seem to be missing a female or two with the 1852 record. Given the older ages of Maurice and Crescentia upon their first child’s birth, (33 and 28 respectively), we may very well have some older **Keller** children not yet identified.

I haven’t determined how/where the above-mentioned **Neimer** family fits into the family -- if at all. In light of the foregoing circumstances, they’re at least friends of the family, which, in the research world, is significant. I did locate a record for a Clara **Niemeyer**, (1822-1866), in the St. Mary’s Cemetery (Guttenberg) WPA listing, available on the Clayton County, Iowa GENWEB site, bringing us to the next important family find...

Liberius (1815-1877) and Theresia Keller (1828-1887) and Family: These folks and a majority of their descendants, lived and died in Guttenberg, upon first arriving in the state around 1853 -- as per the 1856 State Census for Jefferson Twp. (Guttenberg locale). This 1856 record was the first Iowa record I was able to find relating to this family. After thorough investigation of the numerous Clayton County/Guttenberg records I’m able to represent, I’m 99% positive that Liberius is a brother or a cousin to our Maurice. Upon your own examination of the Jefferson Twp. Census records and the Guttenberg St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery records, you’ll formulate the same conclusion. Liberius’ birth in 1815 makes him a probable fit between our Maurice, born in 1814, and older brother Joseph, born in 1816.

Forty-year-old Carpenter, “Liborius”, his wife, Theresia, and their two-year-old son, Johann are reflected on the foregoing 1856 record. The family has been in the state for three years by this time, as per the record. Interestingly, just above them on the very same page are Heinrich and Theresia **Gruman** -- both age 24 -- and two-year-old son, Bob! This family had lived in Iowa for only a year. In 1885, after Liberius’ death, Theresia **Keller** is found living on Third Street in Guttenberg with daughter, Katherina, and son, John – also a Carpenter. One unsourced GEDCOM via Ancestry.com (“**Keller** Family Tree”) indicates Liberius married a “**Guman**”. Could we possibly have two **Keller** gents in the family who married **Gruman** gals?

In the WPA Clayton County Death Records compilation, within the St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery listing, I found the following intriguing records:

Gerner, Crescentia	1822	02/05/1905
Gerner, Laurence	1818	03/01/1899
Gerner, Lorenz	1857	1924
Keller, Liborious	1815	07/12/1877
Keller, Theresa	1828	05/25/1887

I did some deeper digging on the “**Gerner**” surname and found the name reflected as **Gindar**, **Gander**, **Gender**, **Gernar**, and even **Garner** in the numerous Clayton/Buchanan County records I came upon. One such record I recall pertained to “Matthias **Gernar**”, noted in an 1854 Jefferson Twp. State Census record. He was living with his family of three, one male and two females. No member of the household was eligible for military duty and one member of the

household is an “alien” – not yet naturalized. In an 1856 Jefferson Twp. record, I identified Laurence, Sr. and family once more, (including wife, Crescentia, and two young children, Margaretha and additional female, A.M.). The last name in this particular record could feasibly be identified/interpreted as “**Kerman**”. This brings me to some thoughts from my own German forefathers, the Cretsinger’s. There’s an Americanized commonality among our many German progenitors. Surnames beginning with “G” in the “old country” (e.g., Groetzinger) become “K” (Kretzinger) or sometimes “C” (Cretsinger) in our United States. With this a proven fact in German ancestry research, I tend to think the “**Gerner’s**” are actually a part of our **Gruman** clan, if not by blood, at least by marriage. Along with Liberius and family, they’ve also been in the state for three years with the 1856 record, their neighbors including the **Brockman’s** and the **Lemme’s**, both foregoing surnames to be found in the **Keller/Gruman** family GEDCOM file.

In continuing my research focus on the rather uncommon **Gruman** surname, early Buchanan County records contain the additional surname variants: **Grumman, German, Garman, Grouman, and Grummond**. My **Grumman** findings continue, with the following information gleaned from WPA Death Records for Clayton County, Iowa, (this publication, mentioned earlier as well, is available in entirety at the Iowa Genealogical Society, 628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50316):

Strawberry Point Cemetery, Cass Twp.

Gruman, Kath	1819	10/23/1890	(female)
Gruman, Reid²	1815	09/20/1882	lot 13

After Reid’s death, “Catherine”, (formally “Katherina”), is found living with son, John and family in Buchanan County, Madison Township (1885 Iowa State Census). The very large, very old Campton/Oak Hill Cemetery of the related neighborhood is loaded with family names, including **Gruman, Knight, Ward** and **Williams**. An 1868 Land Ownership Map identifies “**J. Grouman**” and his 119.28 acres in Section 1 of Madison Township. In taking a peak at an early township/school map for Buchanan County, it’s my opinion that the **Grumman’s**, as well as their relatives, attended nearby Pleasant Hill School #2. This is another recommended focus in additional research efforts. Some towns where **Grumman** and **Keller** records were identified include Independence, Lamont, Wards Corners, Cono, and Erin – the now defunct village that Maurice and family called home, at least in 1860. Erin was located in the northeast corner of Section 12, initially known as Newton Twp. in this early day, having a short-lived existence of 10 years -- from 1853 to 1863. Additional information pertaining to this town, and other Ghost towns of the neighborhood, can be found at the following link:
<http://www.iowaghosttowns.com>.

Madison Twp. of Buchanan County was actually formed from the aforementioned Newton Twp. in 1857, as stated on page 63 of the History of Buchanan County, Iowa, 1842-1881. It’s important to keep this in mind as I present my next **Keller** possible kin discovery. On page 854 of the 1856 Iowa State Census, (Newton Twp.) I found Jacob **Keller**, his 34-year-old wife, Elizabeth, and their five children at the time -- namely, Wm., Ephraim (sic), Mary E., Henry, and one-year-old, Margaret. Jacob, a 42-year-old farmer, unlike our German-born Maurice, was born in Pennsylvania and had lived with his family in Iowa for six years. His three older children were born in Ohio. The Pennsylvania/Ohio connections in this family have me thinking that this Keller family may be kin to the Noble County, Ohio Keller’s who removed to Ringgold/Delaware Counties of Iowa in the 1860’s. Brothers, Levi, John, and Benjamin Keller first settled in Jefferson County. Levi later returned to Ohio, settling in Seneca Twp. (Noble

² “Rudolph” was Reid’s formal name, as per various records to be found in “Grumman” folder included with the documentation provided with this family history project.

County). Benjamin's son, Isaac, became a prominent attorney of early-day Ringgold County. More extensive attention is warranted for these highly probable Keller cousins.

Back to Jacob -- According to the Agricultural portion of the 1856 identifying record, Jacob was not your average "Farmer Brown". He was quite an early-day entrepreneur, involving himself in everything from cattle, to hogs, to sheep -- and every agricultural crop you can imagine. As a matter of fact, according to the 25-item record, he was extensively involved in every farming category of the day except cheese production! I have not had time to research Jacob and family, but their close proximity to our **Keller/Grumman** clan puts them at the top of any list in continuing family research.

If Maurice adhered to the German naming system at all, I venture to say we should find a "Maria" or a "Katherine" -- or, I venture to say, a "Rudolph", in the mix somewhere. In setting my scope once again toward the less common name, in this case, Rudolph, low and behold, I found a match. Rudolph Keller was discovered in next-door Delaware County, which lies just south of Clayton County and just east of Buchanan County. Rudolph of Delaware County was born in Baden and he first married Eliza Reese and secondly married Martha Rea, as per George W. Rea's bio to be found in the 1890 Buchanan and Delaware County Histories book (pp. 241-243). Rudolph, first wife, and at least some of their children -- John, Samuel, Jacob, Theodore, Emma, Andora and Stewart -- are found living near the Rea's in Colony Twp. with the 1856 State Census. Rudolph, a farmer, is 36 years old at this time. Eliza died in 1866 and is buried in Brown Cemetery in the nearby community of Colesburg, as per Clayton County WPA recorded death records. Jane Keller, a possible daughter, is also buried there (1844 -1873).

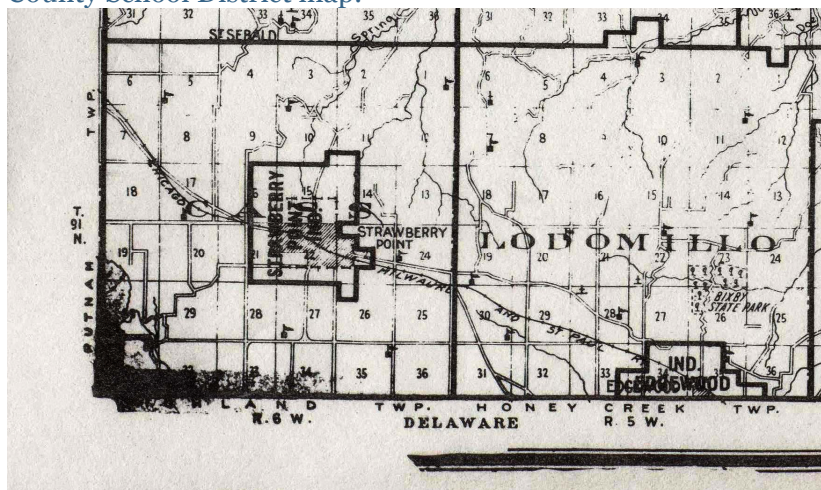
Some additional points to ponder:

In the 1852 State Census, (Clayton County), I found "Henry Keller" and family in Garnavillo Township -- just north of Jefferson Twp. and Guttenberg. There are four in the household at this time --three males and one female. None of the members are listed as Voters or Militia and the entire household is classed as Aliens (Non-U.S.-Citizens). I have yet to substantiate Henry or Rudolph's relationship to the family -- if any -- but, I've included their records with this project just in case.

An interesting early Clayton County deed record located on Clayton County GENWEB follows:

Baty, George from Merrill Keller 1853-1853 (I-205) 18-91-5

Section 18, as related in the record, lies on the eastern boarder of Cass Twp., just to the west of Lodomillo Township, as shown on the following extraction taken from an early Clayton County School District map:



I've assumed "Merrill" from above to be "Morely" in the 1852 census record and "Morely", to be our Maurice in the above proposed scenarios. After selling the Clayton County property, the Keller family relocated to the northeast corner of Buchanan County, in Madison Township, just a few miles southwest of their earlier locale.

I came across the Keller surname numerous times (including Rudolph and family) in the historical records of Delaware County, lying due south of Clayton County, as shown on the above map. Other counties that deserve further Keller/Gruman research and exploration include Dubuque (where Rudolph's intent to naturalize was formalized), Fayette, Winneshiek, Allamakee, and Bremer. You'll also want to take time to find out if there are any 1925 State Census records for the family. If you're lucky enough to find an elderly Iowa Keller/Gruman ancestor living in Iowa with her/his children during this particular time, you're capable of solving up to four generations of the family within the content of this one single source!

Happy Hunting!

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