

# *A History of the Flagge and Behling Families of Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

In memory of:  
Christine Ellen Flagge Pinter

by: Ken Pinter  
Updated 2018

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**T**his genealogy research paper discusses the Flagge and Behling family lines of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and is written in memory of Christine Ellen Flagge Pinter, the daughter of Jerome and Bernice Behling Flagge and wife of the author. In addition, the Kleczka and Busza families will be briefly discussed.

This paper is based on information from the following resources:

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)  
[www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com)  
plus others

In addition, the few public family trees found in [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) were consulted.

Tables are used in this report to show families. If a cell of a table is empty, that means I do not have the information for that cell.

## **The Flagge Family**

The reader should know that much of the information presented below was derived from US Census and other databases found in the above web sites. The US performs a census only every 10 years. Without family-provided materials such as letters, bible entries, etc, one can only guess about the family's activities and status between the census years. Currently, census data is available only through 1940 because, by law, the census data must be held for 72 years before being released to the public.

## Flagge Arrival in America

On 13 October 1856, the ship Tuisko docked at the Port of New York. It had sailed from Bremen, Germany, sometime earlier. In this time, trans-Atlantic voyages could take a month or more. On board was Carl Flagge (actual name on manifest). He recorded on the ship's manifest that he was 20 years old (birth about 1836), that his occupation was "tin-man", that he was from Hanover in Germany, and that he was bound for Wisconsin. This data was found in ancestry.com's New York Passengers List 1820-1957.

## Note on the European Flagges

Members of the Mormon Church (LDS) have visited churches of all denominations in Europe and the USA and have filmed the historical records of those churches. These records include birth, marriage, and death records as well as family records. The original images of these records can be viewed at LDS Family History Centers nationwide in microfilm format. The images are of the actual pages of the various church records written in the native language of the country where they were found.

In addition, volunteers have digitized these records and placed them online at [www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com).

Unfortunately, they have not been able to visit each and every church in Europe. Consequently, no identifiable records of the Charles "Carl" Flagge and his family have been found for the period before he came to America.

## 1860

After arrival in New York, Carl found his way to Milwaukee, WI, and sometime before 1860, married Barbara Pfeiffer. It is assumed they were married in Milwaukee.

According to the 1860 US Census, Charles Flagge is found living in the Second Ward of Milwaukee, with his wife Barbara:

<b>1860</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Charles Flagge	24	~1836	Hanover	occ: grocer
Barbara Pfeiffer	26	~1834	Hanover	

Since Charles came to America in 1856 while Barbara Pfeiffer came in 1848 (this data found in the 1900 census), it is assumed that they met in the US and married between 1856 and 1860. Charles and his wife Barbara had no children as of 1860. His occupation was recorded as grocer. He indicated that the value of his personal property was \$150.

By cross-referencing the above data with data found in a few other researcher's online family trees, we can assume that Charles Flagge, in the 1860 census, and Carl Flagge, found in the Tuisko ship passenger list, are one in the same person.

Charles “Carl” Flagge’s birth date is either 1836 (per the 1860 census) or June of 1838 (per the 1900 census) in the town of Hanover in Germany (part of Prussia in that time frame). We will assume 1838.

Barbara was also born in Hanover (Prussia) in about 1833 or 1834. She immigrated to the US in 1848.

For a time, Hanover was the provincial capital of Prussia. Information on Prussia will be presented later in this paper.

### **1870**

By 1870, Charles and Barbara’s family had grown to three children. He was now employed as a tinsmith in Milwaukee. Here is their family. The birth dates shown are copied from the 1900 census when possible since the 1900 census is the only census that recorded birth dates (month and year):

<b>1870</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Died</b>
Charles “Carl” Flagge	34	6/1838	Prussia	occ: tinsmith	10/19/1909
Barbara Pfeiffer	37	~1834	Prussia		10/19/1874
Mathias	8	~1863	Milwaukee		8/31/1874
Frank (Phillip Franz)	6	2/7/1865	Milwaukee		2/6/1853
Margaret “Tacla”	3	1/31/1867	Milwaukee		12/28/1919

At least three spellings have been found for Margaret’s middle name or nickname: Tacla, Taela, and Tekla.

Two more children were born to Charles and Barbara between 1870 and 1874:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Mary	8/1871	Milwaukee	3/30/1934	
William	10/28/1873	Milwaukee		

Barbara Pfeiffer Flagge died on 19 October 1874 at the age of about 40 years and about 1 and one-half months after her oldest son Mathias died at age 11. Charles was left with a family of children ranging in age from about 9 years to one year old.

In about 1875, Charles married Eva Merten. Eva was born in Prussia in May 1845 and migrated to America in 1848. Charles and Eva then produced two children of their own:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Died</b>
Anna Maria	1/2/1876	Milwaukee		12/21/1964
<b>Charles Weimer</b>	12/21/1877	Milwaukee	“Weimer” is his middle name	8/19/1927

US naturalization records show that Charles “Carl” Flagge was naturalized on 26 February 1877. Witnesses were John Goebel and Joseph Schardt.

## **1880**

By 1880, the census data shows that Charles “Carl” Flagge had married his second wife, Ava (or Eva...the handwriting in the record is poor) Merten and that they had a total of six children living at home. Here is a chart of this family in 1880. They were living as a blended family. Mathias had died in 1874. Charles and family resided at 305 Fourth St, Milwaukee, WI:

<b>1880</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Charles Flagge	43	6/1838	Prussia	Occ: tinsmith
Ava (Eva Merten)	35	5/1845	Prussia	
Franz	15	2/7/1865		Occ: tinsmith
Taela (Tekla)	13	1/31/1867		M: 8/28/1888
Mary	9	8/1871		
William	7	10/28/1873		
Annie (Anna Maria)	4	1/2/1876		mother is Eva
<b>Charles Wiemer</b>	2	12/21/1877		mother is Eva

Charles and his son Franz were both tinsmiths in 1880. Both Charles and Ava/Eva list their birth place and that of their parents as Prussia.

According to familysearch.com, Ava is actually Eva Merten and Annie is actually Anna Maria Flagge, born 2 Jan 1876.

Again, it is thought that Taela is Margaret’s middle name and that she was using that name in 1880.

## **1890**

No census data is available for 1890 because of a fire that destroyed most of the records. These records were being stored in the basement of the US Commerce Department building. The fire, on January 20, 1921, destroyed about 75% of the data.

## 1895

Wisconsin did its own census in 1895. The data is limited but it does list the Charles Flagge family as follows:

- 3 male family members
- 3 female family members
- 4 members born in the US, 2 born in Germany

This data fits with the 1900 census data found below.

## 1900

In 1900, the Charles “Carl” Flagge family was still intact but his wife is listed as Mary E. Here is the family as it appeared in 1900. They were living together in a rented house at 576 Third Ave:

<b>1900</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Charles “Carl” Flagge	62	6/1838	Germany	occ: tinsmith
Mary E. (Eva)	55	5/1845	Germany	
Mary	28	8/1871		occ: knitting works
William	26	10/1873		occ: furniture polisher
Annie	24	1/1876		occ: seamstress
<b>Charlie (Charles Weimer)</b>	22	12/1877		occ: mechanic

The census data for Charles shows he had been married for 40 years in 1900. This would suggest his marriage date to be about 1860. This fits with his marriage to Barbara since their first child Mathias was born in 1863.

The census data for Mary E. shows she had been married for 31 years in 1900 suggesting a marriage year of about 1869. This suggests she might have been married for a few years prior to marrying Charles in about 1875, but this is unknown.

The record also showed that Carl had arrived in the USA in 1856 while Eva arrived in 1848. This matches other sources.

It is probable that Mary E. is Mary Eva.

## 1905

Wisconsin did its own census again in June, 1905. In 1905, the Charles “Carl” Flagge family looked like this:

Charles “Carl” Flagge	age 68	occ: tinsmith
Eva Flagge	60	occ: keeping house
Mary	34	occ: knitting
William	31	occ: polisher

Mary and William are apparently living at home in 1905. The home is rented and found in the first precinct, 11<sup>th</sup> ward. Annie is unaccounted for and probably had married before 1905.

In addition, Charles Weimer Flagge and wife Katie Flagge were found in the Wisconsin 1905 census:

Charles Flagge            age 25  
Katie Flagge                age 23

Charles is the son of Charles “Carl” and Eva Flagge and was listed as being a clerk. Since they married on 6 June 1905, they were newlyweds when this census was taken. They lived in the first precinct, 11<sup>th</sup> ward. Charles age would have been about 28 in 1905, not 25.

### Complete Family Chart of Charles “Carl” Flagge

In summary, here is the complete family of Charles “Carl” Flagge including his two wives and the children born to each:

Name	Born	In	Died	Married
Charles “Carl” Flagge	6/1838	Prussia	10/19/1908	~1860
Barbara Pfeiffer	~1834	Prussia	10/19/1874	
Mathias	1863	Milwaukee	8/31/1874	Died young
Frank (Phillip Franz)	2/7/1865	Milwaukee	2/6/1953	Mary M. Lickovis
Margaret “Tacla”	1/31/1867	Milwaukee	12/28/1919	Peter Mueller
Mary	8/1871	Milwaukee	3/30/1934	Robert J. Henning
William	10/28/1873	Milwaukee	?	?
Eva (Mary Eva) Merten	5/1845	Prussia	11/25/1919	~1875
Anna Maria	1/2/1876	Milwaukee	12/21/1964	John Ricker
<b>Charles Wiemer</b>	12/21/1877	Milwaukee	8/19/1927	Catherine E. Sieberz

Charles Wiemer Flagge is Christine Ellen Flagge’s grandfather.

### 1910

By 1910, Charles Wiemer Flagge Jr (born to Charles and Mary (Eva) in 1877), was now married to Catherine Sieberz and they had three children. The chart below lists the family of Charles and Catherine in 1910. They resided at 606 First Ave, Milwaukee, WI:

1910				
Name	Age	Born	In	Died
Charles Wiemer Flagge	32	12/21/1877	Milwaukee	8/19/1927
Catherine E. Sieberz	28	1/23/1882	Illinois	10/27/1973
Clifford C.	4	4/13/1906	Milwaukee	5/3/1986
Gilbert J	2	1/28/1908	Milwaukee	12/23/1995
Raymond J.	3 mo	2/7/1910	Milwaukee	3/27/1992

They had been married 4 years in 1910. Charles' occupation was listed as "collector – furniture house".

Charles' sister Anna was now also married to John Ricker, they had 3 children, and lived at 631 First Ave.

Charles "Carl" Flagge had died in 1909. His wife Eva Flagge, listed in the census as a mother-in-law, was living with daughter Anna and John in 1910. She was listed as Ava in 1880 and Mary E in 1900. It is speculated that this is one in the same person and her name is possibly Mary Eva. In 1910, Eva was listed as being 65 years old and had given birth to 2 children, both of whom survived.

Charles Weimer's brother William was listed as a boarder in Milwaukee with an occupation of "finisher, chair factory".

In 1918 all men in the United States, born in a certain date range, were required to register for the military draft anticipating a continuance of WWI. Charles Wiemer Flagge registered on 12 September 1918. This data was found on his registration card:

Address 606 First St, Milwaukee  
Salesman for Kunzelman Esser Co  
Closest relative: Catherine C. Flagge, same address  
Age: 40  
Eyes: gray  
Hair: dark or black  
Medium height  
Slender build  
Physical: Rupture plus broken arches

## **1920**

The Charles Weimer Flagge family in 1920 was complete with four children. The family owned a home at 591 First Ave. Here is the family:

<b>1920</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Died</b>
Charles Wiemer Flagge	41	12/21/1877	WI	8/19/1927
Catherine	38	1/23/1882	IL	10/13 or 27/1973
Clifford Charles	13	4/13/1906	WI	5/3/1986
Gilbert J.	11	1/28/1908	WI	12/23/1995
Raymond J.	9	2/7/1910	WI	3/27/1992
<b>Jerome Peter</b>	6	4/13/1913	WI	4/25/1989

Note: Catherine has been found to be spelled both with a C and with a K. Jerome is Christine's father.

## **1930**

By 1930, Charles had died. He died at the age of 50 years in 1927. According to the census, the family was still living together at 591 First Ave.

<b>1930</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
Katherine	48	Widowed
Clifford Charles	23	Finisher, brass foundry
Gilbert J.	22	Set up man, machine shop
Raymond J.	20	Salesman, department store
<b>Jerome Peter</b>	16	Messenger, letter service

The census data indicated that Clifford was married but no wife was listed.

## **1940**

By 1940, Catherine Flagge's 4 sons had moved out and had families of their own or were soon to have families. Catherine and her father Joseph were living at 1571 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street with her sister Rosemary and her husband. This census indicated that Catherine had only a 6<sup>th</sup> grade education and that her father had a 4<sup>th</sup> grade education.

<b>1940</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
Katherine Flagge	58
Joseph Sieberz	85
Steward McConnell	49
Rosemary McConnel	47

In the years after 1940:

Clifford worked in poultry processing plant.

Gilbert, Ray, and Jerry all were employed with the Milwaukee City Fire Department.

The four sons of Charles and Catherine Flagge were married as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Married on</b>	<b>She was born:</b>	<b>She died:</b>
Clifford Charles	Florence Mary Zajriek	Unk	7/9/1907	2/17/2001
Gilbert J.	*Helen S. *Sylvia Sciano	Unk	~1910 9/26/1922	1/19/1971 12/9/2003
Raymond J.	Lucille A.	Unk	3/2/1908	1/23/1992
Jerome Peter	Bernice Behling	Unk	10/9/1914	10/29/2003



## **Flagge Family Cemetery Listing**

This table shows the location of the cemetery of each of the Flagge family members discussed above.

<b>Person</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Charles "Carl" Flagge	Calvary Cemetery	Block 4, Row 45N
Mary Eva Merten	Holy Trinity	Block 2, Lot 29-S
Barbara Pfeiffer		
Charles Weimer Flagge	Holy Trinity	Block D, Lot 39-S
Catherine Sieberz	Holy Trinity	Block D, Lot 39-S
Clifford Flagge	Holy Cross	Block 6, sect 2, lot 325
Gilbert Flagge	Holy Trinity	Block D, Lot 39-S
Raymond and Lucille Flagge	St Aldebert	Sect 14, Block 11, Lot 18
Jerome Peter Flagge	Holy Trinity	Block D, Lot 39-S
Bernice Behling Flagge	Holy Trinity	Block D, Lot 39-S
John Arthur Flagge	Holy Trinity	Block 13, Lot 159
Mary Ann Klecza	Holy Trinity	Block 13, Lot 159
Karen Flagge	Holy Trinity	Block 13, Lot 159
Christine Ellen Flagge Pinter	Holy Trinity	Block D, Lot 39-S

## **The Behling Family**

The Behling family of Milwaukee is connected to the Flagge family by way of the marriage of Jerome Flagge to Bernice Behling.

As with the Flagge family, I will present the information starting in the past and moving forward in time.

### **Arrival in America**

The first member of this Behling family found in the US is Friedrich Behling. Friedrich and his wife Caroline and two sons, August and Freidrich, can be found in the 1870 census.

Note: No identifiable European records of Behling family members have been found for Friedrich Behling's parents and earlier relatives.

August Behling is the family member that continues the family line forward to intersect with the Flagge family. August Behling is Christine Flagge Pinter's great-grandfather.

Friedrich and Caroline and family were found in the passenger list of a ship that departed Hanover, Germany on 15 April 1864 and landed some weeks later in Quebec, Canada. Here are the details:

Friedrich Behling	47
Caroline	46
<b>August</b>	18
Friedrich	7

Ship Name: Main  
Previously lived in Broitz, Prussia

However, according to the 1900 census data, August Behling is reported to have entered the US in 1852. This is a severe discrepancy. However, the ship manifest dated 1864 is probably the correct record. We will assume that.

Data for this family between 1852 and 1870 is limited to non-existent. No identifiable records for members of this family can be found in the 1860 census which further supports the 1864 immigration date.

### **1870**

In the 1870 census, Friedrich and Caroline Behling and their two sons were found living in Subdivision#8 in the city of Milwaukee, WI. They had been in the United States for about 6 years according to the census, again supporting the 1864 arrival.

<b>1870</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Married</b>
Friedrich Behling	53	~1817	Prussia	occ: laborer	
Caroline Unknown	53	~1817	Prussia		
<b>August</b>	24	~1846	Prussia	occ: laborer	Hanna Unknown
Friedrich	16	~1854	Prussia		

1870 census data is limited. The above table shows all that can be found about his family in 1870. Death dates are unknown.

## **1880**

In the 1880 census, Friedrich and Caroline could not be found. They would both have been about 63 years old. It is feasible that they both died within the 10-year span between 1870 and 1880. Unfortunately, vital statistics information for this time frame in Wisconsin is not readily available online.

By 1880, August had married Hanna and had a family, including two children, as follows, and lived at 638 Seventh Ave in Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

<b>1880</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
August Behling	34	~1846	Prussia	occ: butcher
Hanna	28	~1852	Prussia	
George	7	~1873	WI	
Clara	2	~1878	WI	

Hanna is Johanne Amalie Mathilda Rütz. She also went by the names Hanna and Anna in some databases.

They were living next door to the Albert and Bertha Behling family. It appears this family is not related to the Friedrich Behling family line.

As time went on, more and more Behling families appeared in Milwaukee. It is not clear if they are all related to each other.

## **1890**

Recall that the 1890 census data was destroyed in a fire.

## **1900**

By 1900, August and Hanna and a third child, Arthur, and were living at 638 Seventh Ave just as they were in 1880. George and Clara had already moved out of the house. Perhaps they were all married by this time since their ages would be 27 and 22 in 1900.

Arthur Behling is the father of Bernice Behling Flagge.

The following table shows the complete August Behling family in 1900:

<b>1900</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
August B. Behling	53	3/1847	Germany	Foreman in packing house	~1874
Hanna	48	1/2/1852	Germany		
George	27	~1873	WI		
Clara	22	~1878	WI		
<b>Arthur</b>	19	7/30/1883	WI	Attending business college	Emma
Unknown					
Unknown					

The 1900 census data indicates that Hanna had given birth to 5 children, but only two were still living in 1900. Census data only shows 3 children but there was a 20-year time gap between 1880 and 1900 where a child could have been born and died without being recorded in any census. It is certain that August was one of the two survivors, but the other, either George or Clara, is currently unknown.

Census data also shows that August and Hanna were married 26 years thus putting their marriage in about 1874.

### **1905**

In 1905, according to the Wisconsin state census, August (age 59) and Hanna (52) and Arthur (21) were found in the 11<sup>th</sup> ward. No address was given. August was a Butcher while Arthur was a salesman.

### **1910**

Here is the family chart in 1910:

<b>1910</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
August B. Behling	64	3/1847	Germany	Foreman in packing house	
Anna (Hanna)	58	1/1852	Germany		
<b>Arthur</b>	26	7/1883	WI	Occ: Collector	Emma

In 1910, the data lists August's wife's name as Anna. August and Anna still lived at 638 Seventh St. Their next-door neighbors were still Albert and Bertha Behling. Arthur was still at home at the age of 26. August was still a foreman at a packing company while Arthur was a bill collector.

There are a few areas of data discrepancy that must be noted. The 1910 census suggests that August and Hanna's marriage was in 1871, not 1874 and that August immigrated in 1864 rather than 1852 while Hanna immigrated in 1871 rather than 1855.

These discrepancies are not enough to suggest that these are not the same family.

In summary, then here is the complete August Behling family:

<b>Complete August Behling Family</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Married</b>
August B. Behling	3/1847	Germany	After 1920	~1874
Anna (Hanna)	1/1852	Germany	After 1920	
George	~1873	WI		
Clara	~1878	WI		
<b>Arthur</b>	7/1883	WI	10/17/1953	Emma Hildebrandt about 1913
Unknown		WI		
Unknown		WI		

## **1920**

Arthur Behling married Emma Mary Hildebrandt on 25 March 1914 in Milwaukee. By 1920 they had two children and were living at 657 ½ Lapham St in Milwaukee:

<b>1920</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Arthur Behling	37	7/30/1883	WI	Police officer
Emma	34	9/7/1885	WI	
<b>Bernice</b>	5	9 Oct 1914	WI	
Norma	3yr 5mo	7/3/1916	WI	

In 1920, August and Hanna were still living in a rented home at 638 Seventh St.

Some notes about Emma Hildebrandt are provided later in this report.

Here is August and Hanna in 1920.

<b>1920</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
August B. Behling	73	3/1847	Germany	Janitor, in packing house
Hanna	67	1/1852	Germany	

Additional data about August's origins can be found in the 1920 census:

August immigrated to America in 1864 from Pomerania, Germany.  
Hanna immigrated to America in 1870 from Pomerania, Germany.

See information about Pomerania below.

In 1920, August and Hanna were still living next to Bertha Behling, age 71, a widow, and her three sons.

### **1930**

By 1930, the Arthur Behling family was the same but now Hanna Behling, a widow, was living with them. She was 79 years old. The family was living at 929 32<sup>nd</sup> Street in Milwaukee. The data shows that they owned their home and it was valued at \$7000.

<b>1930</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Arthur Behling	46	7/1883	WI	Occ: Police officer	~1912
Emma	44	9/7/1885	WI		
<b>Bernice</b>	15	9 Oct 1914	WI		Jerome Flagge
Norma	13	7/3/1916	WI		Hugh Crowley
Hanna Behling	79				

Hugh Crowley was born on 24 March 1914 and died on 2 June 1998. Norma Behling Crowley died on 15 November 2010.

### **1940**

By 1940, the Arthur Behling family was found on 2219 South 32<sup>nd</sup> Street:

<b>1940</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Arthur Behling	46	7/1883	WI	Occ: Police officer	~1912 or 1913
Emma	44	9/7/1885	WI		
Norma	23	7/3/1916	WI		

Arthur had changed careers and was now a maintenance foreman.

They owned their home, valued and \$5500.

Norma was unmarried and was a stenographer

Bernice was recently married to Jerome Flagge.

Hanna was not listed and is assumed to have died between 1930 and 1940. The death dates of both Hanna and her husband August cannot be found.

Arthur and Emma had an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education. Norma had completed 4 years of high school.

Here is Jerome and Bernice in 1940. They resided at 2251A 21<sup>st</sup> street. He was a printer:

1940					
Name	Age	Born	In	Notes	Married
Jerome Flagge	27	4/13/1913			
Bernice Flagge	25	10/9/1914			

### The Jerome Peter Flagge Family

Since US census data is not available after 1940, the remainder of this paper will be based mostly on family member inputs plus various publically available civil records.

Jerome Flagge married Bernice Behling on unknown date. They had two children as follows:

Name	Born	In	Married	On	Died
Jerome Flagge	4/13/1913			?	4/25/1989
Bernice	10/9/1914				10/29/2003
John Arthur	4/2/1941		Mary Ann Kleczka	?	12/18/1996
Christine Ellen	10/14/1948		Ken Pinter	11/15/1969	8/9/1987

Jerry spent most of his life as a fireman on the Milwaukee City Fire Department.

Bernice worked in an unknown office job.

The family was a member of a local Catholic Church and was very involved in their church's activities.

### The John Flagge Family

Complete John Flagge Family				
Name	Born	Died	Married/Children	Date
John Arthur Flagge	4/2/1941	12/18/1996		
Mary Ann Kleczka	2/26/1941	3/24/1997		
Karen Lynn	~1966	10/5/1968		
Brian John	1963		Kim Marie Krahn • Andrew • Nicole	5/14/1988
Bradley Scott	8/18/1969		Christine Diane Rueter • Alyssa • Katie	11/27/1993
Brent Matthew	7/1972		Michele J. Furrer • Matthew • Ashleigh Emily Unknown • ??	6/21/1997  4/29/2017

Brenda L.	11/29/1976		Unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travis Brad Anderson</li> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	8/29/2015
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John's career was spent at the Allen-Bradley Company in Milwaukee. He was an executive in the QA department.

He developed a cancer of unknown type at a young age. Treatments were quite severe. The cancer finally took his life at the age of 55.

Mary Ann also developed a cancer of unknown type and died at the young age of 56.

John and Mary's first-born child was Karen Lynn. Karen was killed in a car accident in October, 1968, when she was about 2 years old. A car she was playing in by herself rolled into a lake and attempts to save her were unsuccessful.

### **The Christine Flagge Pinter Family**

<b>Complete Christine Flagge Pinter Family</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Date</b>
Kenneth R. Pinter	5/4/1947			11/15/1969
Christine Ellen Flagge	10/14/1948	8/9/1987		
Erik John <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chase Edward</li> <li>• Ava Christine</li> </ul>	8/25/1974 11/17/1998 5/20/2003		Stacy Atkins	
David Scott <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia Daley</li> <li>• Nash William</li> </ul>	12/27/1977 6/23/2009 10/2/2012		Ashley Forehand	
Diane Rachal Newberry	11/26/1942		12/30/1989	
Noel Scott Newberry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachal</li> <li>• Madison</li> </ul> James Bradley Newberry			Melissa Dupont	

Christine Ellen Flagge worked as a lab technician at the Allen Bradley Company from high school graduation until she married in 1969. She attended college in Racine, Wisconsin, for one semester before going to work at AB.

She was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer in August 1986. She fought the disease for one year. The cancer metastasized to her liver and lower spine. She died August 9, 1987. While there was no history of this disease in her family, one significant event occurred in her infancy that may have contributed to the disease. As an infant, Christine developed a lump on her neck. It was possibly Hodgkin's Disease. Doctors treated this lump with



irradiated needles, possibly referred to as Low Intensity Radium Element Needles. Studies have shown a link between this treatment in young girls and breast cancer later in life.

Please see the following paper written by Ken Pinter for more about Christine.

A Short Biography of Christine Ellen Flagge Pinter

## **The Hildebrandt Family**

Arthur Behling married Emma Mary Hildebrandt on 25 March 1914 as stated above. Emma is the daughter of Ernst and Helena Hildebrandt.

It is thought that Ernst and Helena were born in Pomerania in Prussia. Some records show they were married in April of 1870, the same year they traveled to America. Immigration data show that they travelled together and departed Stettin in Pomerania, Prussia, on 2 April 1870, and landed at New York on 2 May 1870. Trans-Atlantic voyages usually took a week in this time period, but Stettin is an inland port, and the voyage coupled with other stops could have taken 30 days to complete.

The immigration data also shows the couple came from Pählitz, in the county of Friedeberg. In 1870, Friedeberg was a county in Pomerania which was a province of Prussia, the largest state in the German Empire.

Ernst and Helena arrived in Milwaukee before the 1870 census was taken in around June. Here they are in 1870:

<b>1870</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Ernst Hildebrandt	28	9/4/1840		
Helena	25	4/21/1845		

By 1880, they had produced a family of 3 children:

<b>1880</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Ernst Hildebrandt	38	9/4/1840	Prussia	
Helena	33	4/21/1845	Prussia	
Auguste	9		WI	
Herman	4		WI	
Minna	1		WI	

Notes: the ages don't quite matchup to other censuses.  
Minna may be Minni or Minnia  
Auguste is a daughter.

Here is the family in 1900 in Milwaukee.

<b>1900</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Ernst Hildebrandt	60	9/4/1840	Prussia	
Helena	55	4/21/1845	Prussia	
Herman	26	9/1873	WI	
Lizzie (Minni?)	19	3/1881	WI	
Emma	14	9/1885	WI	

The 1900 data supported that they were married and immigrated in 1870.  
Ernst was a laborer in a Rolling Mill.  
Emma was employed as a sales lady.

Finally, here they are in 1910:

<b>1910</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Ernst Hildebrandt	70	9/4/1840	Prussia	
Helena	65	4/21/1845	Prussia	
Herman	38	9/1873	WI	
Emma	28	9/1885	WI	

They lived at 684 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Ernst was still working as a laborer.  
Emma was a sales lady at a grocery store.

Emma married in 1914.  
Ernst died at age 75 on 1/25/1915.  
Helena died at age 72 on 2/24/1917.

Note: Helena's maiden name is given in the immigration data, but it is not clear as to the spelling. It looks like Howerth or some variation of that name.

### **The Kleczka and Dusza Families**

As mentioned above, Mary Ann Kleczka married John Arthur Flagge. Mary Ann is the daughter of Harold (Harry) J. Kleczka and Agnes P. Dusza. This report section will briefly discuss the Kleczka and Dusza families. Note that two spellings have been found for Dusza: Dusza and Ducza. Dusza appears to be the correct spelling.

## Kleczka Family

The first Kleczka family member that can be verified is Joseph Kleczka. Joseph was born in Poland on 26 February 1856. Joseph married Maryanna Unknown in Poland in about 1878 and started a family there. In about 1881, they emigrated to the USA.

Special note on Poland: In the time that the Kleczka and Dusza families lived in Poland, the country was actually three different Polands. I will use the name Poland here, but the reader needs to see the explanation of the three Polands at the end of this report. In summary, though, these are the countries of origin of these two families:

Kleczka – German-Poland  
Dusza – Austrian-Poland

The first US Census that this family appeared in is the 1900 census since there is no 1890 census. In 1900, they were living in Milwaukee and he was a saloon keeper. Here is the family in 1900:

<b>1900</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Joseph Kleczka	43	2/26/1856	Poland	1900 census says 2/1857	
Mary	44	8/19/1852	Poland	1900 census says 7/1855	
Joseph	15	3/9/1885	Milwaukee		
Peter	13	11/1886	Milw		
Alexander	12	9/1887	Milw		
Edmond	9	9/1891	Milw		

Once again, note that actual birthdates will be used when known or else the birthdate will be an estimate based on the age given during the census.

We will see that by 1905, when a Wisconsin census was taken, an additional child was shown. She was 12 year old Tekla. But Tekla was not listed in the 1900 census even though she would have been about 2 years old. The reason is unknown. In addition, the 1900 census indicated that Mary had given birth to 12 children of which only 5 survived. Those 5 children are listed in the 1905 census. Joseph was still a saloon keeper in Milwaukee.

Here is the family in 1905:

<b>1905</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Joseph Kleczka.Sr.	47	2/26/1856			
Mary	50	8/19/1852			
Joseph, Jr.	20	3/9/1885	Milwaukee		
Peter	18	1/1886			
Alex	16	9/1887			
Edmond	14	9/1891			
Tekla	12	~1893			

By 1910, Joseph was a teamster working in the carriage industry, meaning possibly an employee of the local street car service. Here is the family in 1910:

<b>1910</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Joseph Kleczka, Sr	53	2/26/1856			
Mary	53	8/19/1852			
Alexander	21	9/1887			
Edmond	20	9/1891			
Tekla	17	~1893			

Joseph and Mary both died in 1915 about 4 months apart.

In about 1908 or 1909, Joseph, Jr. married Frances Rewolinski and they had one son, Harry, who was 5 months old in 1910. Here they are in 1910:

<b>1910</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Joseph Kleczka, Jr.	24	3/9/1885			
Frances	18	6/11/1892			
Harry	5mo	11/14/1909			

They lived at 334 Burnham St in Milwaukee. Joseph was a “motorman with the street railway” which probably means he was a driver for a street car service in Milwaukee. Harry is the father of Mary Ann Kleczka Flagge.

Also, in 1910, while Joseph and Peter were out on their own, Alexander (21), Edmond (20) and Tekla (17) were still living at home with Joseph (53) and Mary (53).

By 1920, Joseph and Frances had moved their family to the town of Little Suamico in Oconto County, WI. Oconto Co is in the northeast part of Wisconsin, close to Lake Michigan. He was a farmer.

Here is the family in 1920:

<b>1920</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Joseph Kleczka, Jr	34	3/9/1885			
Frances	27	6/11/1892			
Harry	10	11/14/1909			
Emil	7	~1913			
Tekla	6	~1914			

Note that Joseph, Jr and Frances had a daughter Tekla but Joseph Sr and Mary also had a daughter named Tekla.

In 1930, the family is still living in Suamico. This record shows a child named Della. Della does not appear in other censuses but her age corresponds with Tekla so we will assume Tekla and Della are the same person. This census also gives information that Joseph and Frances were married in 1909. Here is the family in 1930.

<b>1930</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Joseph Kleczka, Jr.	44	3/9/1885			
Frances	37	6/11/1892			
Harry	20	11/14/1909			
Emil	17	~1913			
Della (Tekla)	15	~1915		May be Tekla	

By 1940, Harry was married and on his own. He was back in Milwaukee and was employed as a roofer. He had married Agnes P. Dusza in unknown year and had one child, Jerome. Here they are in 1940:

<b>1940</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Harry Kleczka	24	11/14/1909			
Agnes	18	2/22/1913			
Jerome	2	~1938			

Agnes P. Dusza is the daughter of Vincent and Victoria (unknown maiden name) Dusza. He was born in Poland in 1873 and emigrated in 1890/1. She was born in Poland in 1875 and emigrated in about 1896.

Joseph Jr signed up for the WWII draft in 1942. This data was found on the registration card:

Joseph Stanley Kleczka  
 Little Saumico, WI  
 Born 3/9/1885 in Milwaukee  
 5'6" tall, 175 pounds

Census data for 1950 will not be available until 2022. But, we know that Harry and Agnes had 4 children. Here is the complete family:

<b>Complete Harry Kleczka Family</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Harry Kleczka	11/14/1909	10/28/1992		
Agnes	2/22/1913	10/16/1980		
Jerome J.	1937	2009		
Gerald Daniel	1943	2017		
Mary Ann	1941	1997		John Flagge
Marlene A.	10/10/1942	3/2/2004		

### Dusza Family

As mentioned above, Mary Ann Kleczka Flagge's mother is Agnes P. Dusza. This section of the report will discuss the limited information available for the Dusza family.

The first Dusza family member know is Vincent Dusza. Ne was born in Poland in about 1873. He immigrated to the USA in about 1890. In 1900, he married Victoria Kosla. Victoria was born in Poland in about 1875 and immigrated to the USA in 1896.

Vincent and Victoria cannot be found in the 1900 census.

They married in about 1900.

By 1910, they had a family of 5 children and were farming in Little Saumico, Oconto County, Wisconsin, where it is assumed they settled soon after their arrival in the US. Here is their family in 1910:

<b>1910</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Vincent Dusza	34	1873	Poland		
Viscoria	37	1875	Poland		
Marie	9	~1901	WI		
John	7	~1903			
Anna	5	~1905			
Angeline	3	~1907			
Helen	1y 5m	~1908			

In 1920, the census data recorded the family as follows, still farming in Oconto County, Wisconsin:

<b>1920</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Vincent Dusza	47	1873			
Victoria	44	1875			
Annie	16	9/15/1903			
Nellie	13	~1907			
Helen	12	~1908			
Sophie	11	~1909			
Agnes	7	2/22/1913			
Frances	5	~1915			

And, in 1930, the family still farmed in Little Suamico. All but the last two children had moved out of the household and were on their own:

<b>1930</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Married</b>
Vincent Dusza	57	1873			
Victoria	55	1875			
Agnes	17	2/22/1913			
Frances	14	~1916			

Sometime before 1937, Agnes married Harry Kleczka.

Vincent and Victoria were not found in the 1940 census. It is presumed they died between 1930 and 1940 but the dates are unknown. They had a family that totaled 8 children.

<< End of Report >>



## Supplemental Information

### Information on Hanover

From Wikipedia:

**Hanover** or **Hannover**: (German: 🇩🇪 *Hannover* )on the river Leine, is the capital of the federal state of Lower Saxony (*Niedersachsen*), Germany and was once by personal union the family seat of the Hanoverian Kings of Great Britain, in their dignities as the dukes of Brunswick-Lüneburg (which title was later called the Elector of Hanover at the end of the historical period known as Early Modern Europe). After the Napoleonic Wars ended, the Electorate was enlarged and made into the capital of the Kingdom of Hanover.

In addition to being the capital of Lower Saxony, Hanover was the capital of the administrative area *Regierungsbezirk Hannover* (*Hanover region*) until Lower Saxony's administrative regions were disbanded at the beginning of 2005. Since 2001 it is part of the Hanover district (*Region Hannover*), which is a municipal body made up from the former district (*Landkreis Hannover*) and city of Hanover (note: although both *Region* and *Landkreis* are translated as *district* they are not the same).....

After Napoleon imposed the Convention of Artlenburg (Convention of the Elbe) on July 5, 1803, about 30,000 French soldiers occupied Hanover. The Convention also meant the disbanding of the army of Hanover. George III did not recognize the Convention of the Elbe. As a result of this, a great number of soldiers from Hanover eventually emigrated to Great Britain, leading to the formation of the King's German Legion, which was the only German army to fight throughout the entire Napoleonic wars against the French. They later played an important role in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. The Congress of Vienna in 1815 elevated the electorate to the Kingdom of Hanover. The capital town Hanover expanded to the western bank of the Leine and has grown considerably since then.

In 1837, the personal union of the United Kingdom and Hanover ended as William IV's heir in the United Kingdom was female (Queen Victoria). According to Salic Law Hanover could only be inherited by males. As a consequence, Hanover passed to William IV's brother, Ernest Augustus, and remained a kingdom until 1866, when it was annexed by Prussia during the Austro-Prussian war. Despite having defeated Prussia at the Battle of Langensalza, the city of Hanover became a Prussian provincial capital. After the annexation, the people of Hanover opposed the Prussian regime.

However, for Hanoverian industry, the new connection with Prussia meant an improvement in business. The introduction of free trade promoted economic growth, and also led to the recovery of the *Gründerzeit* (founders' era). In the period from 1871 to 1912 the population of Hanover grew from 87,600 to 313,400.

In 1872 the first horse railway was inaugurated, and from 1893 an electric tram was developed.

In 1887 Emile Berliner invented the record and the gramophone.

The upswing in Hanover started with the era of urban Director Heinrich Tramm. From 1891–1918 he was director of the city of Hanover, and fundamentally shaped the look of the city up to the turn of the century (The "Tramm Era"). The New Town Hall, the Trammplatz, is named after him.

In 1883 from the city of Hanover, the Hanover district government was created and became active.

The city was enlarged first in 1869, and again in 1882 by adding Königsworther Platz and the Welfengarten. In 1891 the municipalities of Herrenhausen, Hainholz, Vahrenwald were added. In 1907 the municipalities of Stöcken, Gutsbezirk Mecklenheide, Bothfeld, Klein-Buchholz, Groß-Buchholz, Kirchrode, Döhren and Wülfel were incorporated into Hanover.



### **Information on Prussia**

From Wikipedia:

**Prussia** (German: *Preußen* <sup>(help·info)</sup>; Latin: *Borussia*, *Prutenia*; Latvian: *Prūsija*; Lithuanian: *Prūsija*; Polish: *Prusy*; Old Prussian: *Prūsa*) was, most recently, a historic state originating out of the Duchy of Prussia and the Margraviate of Brandenburg. This state had for centuries substantial influence on German and European history. The last capital of the state of Prussia was Berlin.

The name *Prussia* derives from the Old Prussians, a Baltic people related to the Lithuanians and Latvians. In the 13th century, "Old Prussia" was conquered by the Teutonic Knights. Their monastic state was Germanized following the Ostsiedlung. The union of Brandenburg and Prussia (Brandenburg-Prussia) in 1618 led to the proclamation of the Kingdom of Prussia in 1701.

Prussia attained its greatest importance in the 18th and 19th centuries. During the 18th century, it became a great European power under the reign of Frederick the Great (1740–86). During the 19th century, Chancellor Otto von Bismarck pursued a policy of uniting the German principalities into a "Lesser Germany" which would exclude the Austrian Empire.

The Kingdom of Prussia dominated northern Germany politically, economically, and in terms of population, and was the core of the unified North German Confederation formed in 1867, which became part of the German Empire or *Deutsches Reich* in 1871.

With the end of the Hohenzollern monarchy in Germany following World War I, Prussia became part of the Weimar Republic as a free state in 1919. This came to an end during the Weimar Republic in 1932 under Reich Chancellor Franz von Papen (the *Preußenschlag*); and as a state was abolished *de facto* by the Nazis in 1934 and *de jure* by the Allies of World War II in 1947.<sup>[1]</sup>

Since then, the term's relevance has been limited to historical, geographical, or cultural usages. Many Prussians believed some specific "Prussian virtues"<sup>[2]</sup> were part of the reasons for the rise of their country, for instance: perfect organization, discipline, sacrifice, rule of law, obedience to authority, but also reliability, tolerance, frugality, punctuality, modesty, and diligence. In the eyes of non-Prussians who were forced to become subjects of that state, the culture of the Prussian state represented lack of freedom, personal repression and bureaucratic regimentation, blind obedience, cultural arrogance and amoral rationalism.<sup>[3]</sup>

Prussia began as a territory, in what was later called East Prussia, which is now divided into the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship of Poland, the Kaliningrad Oblast exclave of Russia, and the Klaipėda Region of Lithuania. Originally the area was much larger, but was greatly reduced by newcomer countries Masovia and Poland. Much of Prussian Sudovia and Yotvingians territory was conquered and came to Poland, Lithuania, Belarus etc.

The region, originally populated by Baltic Old Prussians who were Christianized and Germanized, became a preferred location for immigration by (later mainly Protestant) Germans (*see Ostsiedlung*) as well as Poles and Lithuanians along border regions.

Before its abolition, the territory of the Kingdom of Prussia included "Prussia proper" (West and East Prussia), Brandenburg, the Province of Saxony (including most of the present-day state of Saxony-Anhalt and parts of the state of Thuringia in Germany), Pomerania, Rhineland, Westphalia, Silesia (without Austrian Silesia), Lusatia, Schleswig-Holstein, Hanover, Hesse-Nassau, and a small detached area in the south Hohenzollern, the ancestral home of the Prussian ruling family.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In 1871, Prussia's population numbered 24.69 million, accounting for 60% of the German Empire's population.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1910, the population had increased to a number of 40.17 million (62% of the Empire's population).<sup>[4]</sup> In 1914, Prussia had an area of 354,490 km<sup>2</sup>. In May

1939 Prussia had an area of 297,007 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 41,915,040 inhabitants. The Principality of Neuenburg, now the Canton of Neuchâtel in Switzerland, was a part of the Prussian kingdom from 1707 to 1848.

Although Prussia was dominated by Protestant Germans it contained millions of Catholics, and millions of minorities, particularly Poles. East Prussia's southern region of Masuria was largely made up of Germanized Protestant Masurs. There were substantial Roman Catholic populations in the Rhineland and parts of Westphalia. Also West Prussia, Warmia, Silesia, and the Province of Posen had predominantly Catholic populations. The Kingdom of Prussia acquired these areas from countries with a Catholic majority: the Kingdom of Poland and the Austrian Empire.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In 1871, approximately 2,4 million Poles lived in Prussia, constituting the largest minority.<sup>[4]</sup> Other minorities were Danes, Frisians, Kashubians (72,500 in 1905), Masurians (248,000 in 1905), Lithuanians (101,500 in 1905), Walloones, Czechs and Sorbs.<sup>[4]</sup>

The area of Greater Poland where the Polish nation had originated became the Province of Posen after the Partitions of Poland. Poles in this Polish-majority province (62% Polish, 38% German) resisted German rule. Also, the southeast portion of Silesia (Upper Silesia) had a majority percentage of Polish population. But Catholics, ethnic Poles and other Slavs, and Jews didn't have equal status with Protestants.<sup>[5]</sup>

As a result of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 the Second Polish Republic was granted these two areas, but also areas with a German majority in the Province of West Prussia. After World War II, East Prussia, Silesia, most of Pomerania, and part of Brandenburg were taken over by either the Soviet Union or Poland.<sup>[6]</sup>

### **Information on Pomerania**

According to Wikipedia:

**Pomerania** (German: *Pommern*, Polish: *Pomorze*, Kashubian: *Pòmòrze or Pòmòrskô*, Latin: *Pomerania or Pomorania*) is a historical region on the south shore of the Baltic Sea. Divided between Germany and Poland, it stretches roughly from the Recknitz River near Stralsund in the West, via the Oder River delta near Szczecin, to the mouth of the Vistula River near Gdańsk in the East.<sup>[1]</sup> It is inhabited primarily by Poles, Germans and Kashubians. Pomerania was strongly affected by 20th century, post-World War I and II border and population shifts.

From the web site: [http://www.genealoger.com/german/pommern/ger\\_pommern.htm](http://www.genealoger.com/german/pommern/ger_pommern.htm)

The former Prussian/German province of Pomerania (from Slavic *po*, "along" and *morze*, "sea") was situated on the southern Baltic Coast, on both sides of the River Oder, stretching

from Stralsund on the west to Lauenburg on the east.. The Slavic tribes Pomorzanie and Polabs settled the area in the 5th century. German migration into the western and central regions of Pomerania began in the late 12th century. Western Pomerania (Vorpommern) was acquired by the Swedes through the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648. Part of this area was returned to Brandenburg in 1720. Prussia combined this area and the other areas of western Pomerania in 1815 as one province and called it Pommern. Prussia annexed Eastern Pomerania (Hinterpommern) in 1772. The far eastern district, called Pomerelia or Pomerellen, eventually became what was known as West Prussia after 1772

After World War I, the Treaty of Versailles created the Polish Corridor in part of Hinterpommern. The Polish part formed the province of Pomerelia (German Pommerellen; Polish Pomorze)(6,335 sq. mi. / 16,408 sq. km.), with Bydgoszcz as its capital. The German province had 14,380 sq. mi. / 38,410 sq. km.), with Stettin (Szczecin) as its capital.

After World War II, the Potsdam Conference in 1945 transferred to Polish jurisdiction the area east of the Oder River (former Hinterpommern), and a small part west of the Oder including the former Pomeranian capital city Stettin (Szczecin), the peninsula Wollin, and the eastern part of the peninsula Usedom with the city of Swinemünde. The former Hinterpommern today forms two of the 16 voivodeships (provinces) of Poland: Zachodnio-Omorskie (province of West Pomerania) with Szczecin (formerly Stettin) as its capital city and Pomorskie (Pomerania) with Gdansk (formerly Danzig) as its capital. The balance of the Pommern area west of the Oder was designated as part of Mecklenburg and thus a part of the Soviet zone of occupation. The area became part of the German Democratic Republic (Deutsche Demokratische Republik), also known as East Germany. Today most of this area is part of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany.

**Basic Facts About Pomerania/Pommern** -- (from Uncapher, Wendy K. and Linda M. Herrick. *German Maps & Facts for Genealogy*. Janesville, Wisconsin: Origins Books, 2002)

- **Size:** 11,621 sq. miles (20% the size of Wisconsin); 14,389 square miles after Grenzmark Posen-Westpreussen was added to Pomerania in 1938. Today about 2,800 square miles of Vorpommern remain in Germany, with the balance in Poland)
- **Prussian:** 1701-1947
- **Dominant religion:** Protestant (1871: Evangelical - 1,397,467; Catholic - 16,858; Other - 4,266; Jewish - 13,036; and Non-Christian -6)
- **Population:** 1855 - 1,289,134; 1871 - 1,431,796
- **Land ownership:** 1860s: 0-3.1 acres (cottagers) - 80; 3.2-18.9 acres - 400; 19.0-189 acres - 2,863; 190-378 acres - 572; and over 378 acres - 6,979 (total: 10,484 landowners)
- **Principal crops:** potatoes, rye, oats, wheat, barley, tobacco, flax, hops, beetroot
- **Livestock:** horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, geese
- **Industry:** fishing, linen weaving, shipbuilding, distilleries, sugar refineries, peat, woodworking
- **Minerals:** chalk

- **Rivers:** Oder, Peene, Ücker, Ihna, Persante
- **Ports:** Stettin was the third largest German port, but numbers of emigrant ships was small when compared to Hamburg and Bremen.

**Geography** -- (from Herrick, Linda M. and Wendy K. Uncapher. *Pomerania: Atlantic Bridge to Germany*. Janesville, Wisconsin: Origins Books, 2005)

Pomerania stretched along the *Ostsee* (Baltic Sea) bordering on Mecklenburg, Brandenburg and West Prussia. The province was part of the North German Plain and was considered the flattest area of Germany. East of the Oder River lay a range of low hills and forests. The soil was thin and sandy and not very good for farming. In spite of this, Pomerania ranked as one of the largest producers of crops.

The province had numerous lakes and marshes. The largest rivers were the Oder, Peene, Ücker, Ihna, Rega, Persante, Wipper, Stolpe, Lupow and the Leba, which all flowed to the north. In Southern Pomerania the small streams connected to the Netze River. The western coastline was very irregular; the eastern coast was more regular and bordered with sand dunes, and was famous for its seaside resorts since the 1930s. Fishing was popular, especially for lampreys and herring. Fishing centers thrived in Stralsund and Sassnitz. The marshes were sources for peat.

The province had three large islands: Rügen, Usedom and Wollin. Rügen was separated from the main land by a narrow channel called the *Strela Sund*. Usedom and Wollin were located between the *Stettiner Haff* (Stettin Lagoon) and the *Pommersche Bucht* (Pomeranian Bay) in the Baltic.

Through the years, alternate names were used for the western and eastern parts of Pomerania. East and west were divided by the Oder River.

- **Western:** Westpommern; Vorpommern; Fore Pomerania; Near Pomerania; Hither Pomerania; and Swedish Pomerania.
- **Eastern:** Ostpommern; Hinterpommern; Further Pomerania; Far Pomerania; Farther Pomerania; and Prussian Pomerania.

### **Information about the Country of Origin of the Kleczka and Duska Families**

Over many hundreds of years, Europe has seen many large groups of people, known variously as Kingdoms, Empires, etc, engage in wars and conflicts in an attempt to gain control and power over the lands and their peoples. Poland was one area that was at one time or another possessed by other countries. These paragraphs will attempt to describe a simplified timeline of Poland to the extent that it affected the Kleczka and Dusza families. Again, this is extremely simplified.

There are two persons associated with these families who lived in Poland and immigrated to the US. They are:

Joseph J. and Maryanne Kleczka – immigrated in 1881 - identified themselves as German-Polish  
Vincent and Victoria Dusza – immigrated in 1891/2 and 1896 - identified themselves as Austrian-Polish.

Prior to 1772. The territory of Poland existed as the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, an independent state. It was formed after a series of wars between the two countries. In 1772, after decades of prosperity, the Commonwealth began to decline and weaken, and its three neighbors began a takeover of the country. Those neighboring countries, specifically Prussia, Russia, and Austria, claimed parts of the Commonwealth for their own in what was called partitioning. By 1795, three partitionings had occurred such that the original Commonwealth was eliminated and three Polands now existed. This status remained until 1918.

The main point to be made here is that the Joseph Kleczka and Vincent Dusza families lived in this time frame between 1795 and 1918 when the three Poland entities existed. As a result, they gave their country of origin to census takers as:

Joseph Kleczka – German-Polish  
Vincent Dusza – Austrian-Polish.

So far, only a few references to towns have been found for the Kleczka family and none for the Dusza family. These names are provided here for future reference and have been very difficult to research due to the continual changes that Poland went thru in the 1700 and 1800s. These locations have come from the online trees of other researchers:

1. Sadki parish, Gromaden, Wirszitz, Pozen – marriage location of Joseph and Marryanne, May 1878
  - a. Wirszitz is a county and town in the Prussian province of Posen (Poszan)
2. Wielkopolski – birth location of two of Josephs’ sisters
  - a. Aka Greater Poland
  - b. Is a key town in Poznan
3. Kraczki, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland – birth location of another sister
  - a. Kraczki is a village in the north central Poland.

Of course, this is a highly simplified history of Poland. Wikipedia has a collection of articles that gives more detail. Here is the link and a segment of one such article:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partitions\\_of\\_Poland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partitions_of_Poland)

# Partitions of Poland

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## Partitions of Poland

The [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](#) in  
1772



The three partitions of Poland (the [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](#)). The [Russian Partition](#) (red), the [Austrian Partition](#) (green), and the [Prussian Partition](#) (blue)

The **Partitions of Poland** were three partitions of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth that took place toward the end of the 18th century and ended the existence of the state, resulting in the elimination of sovereign Poland and Lithuania for 123 years. The partitions were conducted by Habsburg Austria, the Kingdom of Prussia, and the Russian Empire, which divided up the Commonwealth lands among themselves progressively in the process of territorial seizures and annexations.

The First Partition of Poland was decided on August 5, 1772. Two decades later, Russian and Prussian troops entered the Commonwealth again and the Second Partition was signed on January 23, 1793. Austria did not participate in the Second Partition. The Third Partition of Poland took place on October 24, 1795, in reaction to the unsuccessful Polish Kościuszko Uprising the previous year. With this partition, the Commonwealth ceased to exist.



Modern-day Poland



