

A Continuing Family History

In tracing back the Fieg and Sheehan families, I discovered that most of my ancestors arrived in America from Europe during the first half of the nineteenth century. My Great-Grandfather, Joseph Fieg, was born in Stuttgart, Wuerttemberg, Germany. There he met and married Caroline Louise Texter, the daughter of Ludwig and Caroline Texter. On their honeymoon they traveled to and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. They remained there the rest of their lives and had three children, two that died soon after birth and a third, Francis Joseph. He left school at the age of thirteen to begin working after the death of his father. On April 26, 1911, he married Ida Irene Homegardner, daughter of Lena Ehort and Charles Homegardner. Charles was the son of George and Mary Ann Homegardner. George had been born in Switzerland and had moved with his father, Johannes Heingartner, to Sandusky, Ohio. There he had married Mary Ann Hermann who had come to Ohio from her birthplace in Alsace-Lorraine.

Francis Joseph (commonly called Joseph) and Ida Fieg lived in Cleveland until 1918 when they took their five small children to La Grange, Illinois. A year later a sixth son was born to them there. Joseph was employed by United Screw and Bolt Company both in Cleveland and Chicago until his death. The oldest of their children, Joseph Ignatius, is my father. He has lived all of his life in La Grange since the time he was six, except for a brief period right after his marriage when he worked in Springfield, Illinois. He attended St. Francis Xavier Grammar School, St. Ignatius High School, and Loyola University.

The rest of the Fieg children also live in La Grange. *Francis*
 Francis ~~is~~ ^{was} married to Catherine Bielby and they have one
 daughter, Caroline. Mary Louise ~~is~~ ^{was} married to Frank
 Kartheiser, and the other three, Martha, Charles, and Louis,
 live together at home. *My Grandfather died March 22, 1951, and My Grandmother on June 28, 1963.*

On November 23, 1939, Joseph married Nell Marie
 Sheehan, thus uniting the two families. The Sheehan family,
 as ~~one might assume~~, came from Ireland. My Great-Grandfather,
 William Sheehan, came to America at the age of six with his
 parents and settled in Burlington, Iowa. There he met Mary
 Carroll, an Irish girl who had been brought to the United
 States at the age of two ~~with~~ ^{by} her parents. They had nine children
 one of them being Robert Emmitt Sheehan. He left home after
 finishing high school and began working on a bridge construction
 gang. He moved about frequently and in Plattsmouth, Nebraska,
 he met and married Adelaide Cora Smith. She was the daughter
 of Chester, postmaster of Plattsmouth, and Nell Black Smith.
 Nell was the daughter of Doctor George Black and Sara Buttrey
 Black, who had crossed the Great Plains from Ohio in a covered
 wagon. Dr. Black had been born in Ohio but Sara Buttrey had
 come to this country as a child from her home in England.

Robert Emmitt and Adelaide moved frequently in the early
 years of their marriage. While living in Galesburg, Illinois,
 two children were born to them. In 1918 the family moved to
 La Grange and they have remained there ever since. Robert
 remained with the Burlington Railroad as Superintendent of
 Bridges until his retirement after fifty years of service.
 Their oldest child, James Chester, married Grace Godfrey and

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they live in La Grange. The other child, Nell, is my mother. A third child, Alice, was born to them after they arrived there. She married James Phillips and they and their three children Bonnie, Michael, and James live in La Grange too. My Grandfather died on September 5, 1957, and My Grandmother is still alive. *until last year they moved to Scottsdale, Arizona where they died on July 6, 1974*

Nell was educated in St. Francis Xavier Grammar School, Lyons Township High School, and Moser Business College. Before her marriage she worked as a secretary in Chicago for the Prudential Insurance Company. Joseph and Nell lived for a time in Springfield while he worked as an accountant for the state government. Their first child, John Paul, was born there in 1941. Soon after they returned to La Grange and there two more children were born to them a daughter, Mary Ann in 1944, and a son, Robert Joseph, in 1946. Joseph works as a comptroller for Steel Warehousing Division of the Joseph Steel Company. My brothers and I all attended St. Francis Xavier Grammar School. After graduation from there my brother John attended Fenwick High School, I went to Nazareth Academy, and my brother Robert is still attending St. Joseph's High School in Westchester. John is now a senior at Notre Dame University and is planning a career in journalism. Robert intends to major in electrical engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology. After graduation from Lyons Township Junior College in June, I plan to attend Northern Illinois University and prepare for a teaching career.

Thus the story that began in the countries of Germany, Ireland, England, and France is currently being staged in La Grange, Illinois. Where it will go from there is anyone's guess.