

Jacob Kremer (January 18, 1860-July 23, 1932)
Married in 1881 in Kassel Village of South Russia
Philippina Bender (May 3, 1863-September 13, 1944)
Both were born in Kassel, South Russia, died and are buried at Linton, North Dakota.

Jacob served in the Russian army but left for America before he was through serving. They came to America in the spring of 1889 with three small children, Christina (1882-1968) Magdalena (1886-1979), and Jacob J. (1887-1963). They came on the S.S.Elder with N. Baur as the Shipmaster from Port Bremen to Southhampton, New York on May 10, 1889.

On June 3, 1889 Jacob Kremer filed Homestead patent quarter section of land 34 section township 130 range 72, ten miles west of Ashley, North Dakota. On October 19, 1889 he filed Naturalization in the state of North Dakota. Other children followed soon after they settled near Ashley, North Dakota. Valentine (1889-1972) Katharina (1891-1969) Andrew (1893-1982) Fred (1895-1995) Mary (1897-1986) Christian (1900-1984) Gottlieb (1905-1991) Martha (1909-1995) . Two other children died in infancy.

Jacob Kremer Sr. was orphaned at an early age so Henry Eckmann was his guardian until he reached adulthood. Henry Eckmann also emigrated to the U. S. at the same time Jacob and his family came on the SS Elder.

Jacob J. was the first to leave the Ashley area and move to Linton, North Dakota in 1907. At that time he became associated with the Linton Bazaar for five years also working at the Petrie Store. In 1913 he bought Joe Eberle's store and was soon joined by his brother Valentine as a partner in his business ventures. This store was called the "Cash Store" and sold groceries and general merchandise. Soon they started the John Deere Implement agency and Kremer Motor Sales Company (Chevrolet). This was the oldest car dealership in the state as there were not very many cars at all in Emmons County before WWI. In 1920 Fred joined his brothers selling hardware, furniture and were owners of a funeral home. The hardware store was later sold to the Streyle Brothers from Hazelton (1957) and furniture to Eugene Oster (1958). Jacob continued on, managing real estate until his retirement in 1962 when he moved to Bismarck. He had also been a member of the Linton School board for 20 years.

In 1916 Jacob Kremer Sr. and Philippina brought the rest of the family and homesteaded on a farm west of Linton..

Andrew moved into Linton in 1918 and worked with Jacob and Valentine. In 1925 he started an auto repair business and in 1947 he and youngest brother Gottlieb opened Kremer's Auto and Implement Shop. He retired in 1961.

Fred moved with his parents and other siblings to the farm west of Linton in 1916

and worked on the farm for a time. He attended a trade school south of Minneapolis, Minnesota studying auto mechanics. Upon his return he was drafted. He was in the National Guard but it was not any different than the Army in those days.

He traveled by train to Fort Dodge, Iowa where troops were being assembled from a multi-state area. He received a weeks training and did not fire a gun before shipping out to France. The day of the rifle training there was no room at the shooting range.

From Fort Dodge, the men rode a troop train to New York City where they boarded a boat. They landed in northern England and then were transported to the southern part of the country where they took a boat to France. The trip was two weeks from New York to England. Upon arrival on the French Coast they walked another three days to get to a base, sleeping on straw in barns along the way. Fred was one of the few soldiers who could drive and his mechanical skills were even more rare. He drove a truck throughout the war. He remembered a Nash truck with four wheel steering, not much of a truck and they did not keep them long. They were all foreign made while he was in France.

His primary assignment was to zigzag his way up over and down a mountain range to reach a supply depot. Once his truck was loaded with food and other supplies, he zigzagged back to the other side of the mountain range. The truck was fired upon from time to time taking a bullet in the radiator on one trip.

It was not unusual for the trucks to be delayed by shooting and once they were held up for most of the night. New Ford trucks were shipped to the French port for pick up from time to time. One such trip Fred's truck had a blowout, and the rest of the caravan kept going. He was very young and in a country where he could not speak the language. The only person that came by while he was repairing the inner tube was a Frenchman and they could not communicate. He had learned how to patch tubes and tires as he had a bicycle back home. He pumped up the tire with a hand pump and hurried to catch up with the caravan reaching them when they stopped for the night.

Returning from the war he began working for his brothers in the general store in 1920.

They sold the first Chevys that came into Emmons County. They thought Chevy was a "pretty good" car in 1925. The 30's were the worst time in the 40 years they had the store. There was no crop and no price for what wheat there was. One farmer paid his bill with a load of wheat, but the price was so low it did not pay to haul the grain to town. They forgave a lot of the debt during those years. People just didn't have the money to pay their bills. The Kremer brothers sold their store to Kenneth and Arnold Streyle. Fred worked for another two years for Gene Oster, who bought the furniture business.

Gottlieb came to the Linton area in 1916 with his parents when he was eleven years old. In 1923 he moved into Linton working as an auto mechanic for Kremer Motor sales until 1936 when they discontinued selling cars and sold the company to Robert Chesrown and P.J. Volk. He was a licensed plumber and worked for many years as a plumber. In 1947 he and his brother Andrew, purchased Kremer Auto and Implement Co., which they owned and operated until 1961. He worked as a plumber and carpenter for the Streyle Hardware Store along with two nephews; Howard Delzer and Ronald Kremer, until he retired in 1970.

Christian Kremer married in 1923 and took over the homestead west of Linton farming until he retired to a house he built on the east side of Linton in 1948, leaving the homestead to second son Ralph.

Contributed by Cynthia Maier.