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Title

MATTHEW KREISLE (1831-1882)

HIS ANCESTORS, DESCENDANTS, AND RELATED FAMILIES

(MAYER, MUELLER, SEIDEL, AND THOMAS)

(Chap Head)

JOHN OR JOHANNES KREISLE

(1827-1882)

(Chapt Head)

THE KREISLES IN AUSTIN (1875)

AND THE FIRST GENERATION OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

II. JOHN OR JOHANNES KREISLE (1827-1882).

Johannes or John Kreisle, the oldest child of Johannes Kreussle and Maria Rominger, was born December 11, 1827, and was confirmed April 18, 1841, according to the Winterlingen church records. He was born almost three years before his parents were married, a fact not unusual for the times, as previously stated. He died October 18, 1882, a few months after his brother, Matthew, and he is buried in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery in Castroville. John and Matthew Kreisle were the only two Kreisles who had descendants, apparently. The children of John Kreisle and Catherine Beck Kreisle, as listed in the Baptismal Register of Saint Louis [Catholic] Church in Castroville, were:

Josephine, February, 1854
Maria Louisa, May 10, 1855
Emil, September 1, 1856
Maria Aemilia, August 8, 1858
Louis George or George Louis, March 23, 1862

The manager of the Lutheran cemetery stated in 1971 that the Kreisles were actually from the community of San Francisco, some miles west of Castroville. It should be noted that the children of this marriage were baptized in the Catholic church. One of the three daughters, Josephine, married William Thomas, the brother of Sophie Thomas Kreisle, from information in the Louis G. Kreisle obituary (Victoria Advocate, January 22, 1924). The descendants of William Thomas were or became Catholics, also. The same obituary states that Catherine Beck Kreisle was a native of Alsace and came to the United States as a part of Castro's Colony (and founded

Castroville). The Geue immigration list gives the Joseph Beck family's destination or settlement as DeWitt County in 1849, but this would not preclude their moving on to the Castroville area. Since the births of the five children of John and Catherine Beck are listed in the Castroville church, it may be assumed that they were born there.

The Kreisle family is listed in the census of Medina County in 1870 as living in Castroville. John Kreisle's age is given as 41, which is not quite accurate, and his occupation given as blacksmith or clocksmith (the entry cannot be read legibly). Catherine Kreisle's age is given as 39, which seems to be in accordance with her age given in the Geue immigration list, and her place of birth is given as France. Only four children are listed; Maria Aemilia, born in 1858, is not listed, and apparently did not survive childhood. (INSERT FROM PAGE 25)

No information has been found about the children, except for Louis G. Kreisle, who went to Goliad in 1878, where he lived with his sister, Mrs. William Thomas, and "clerked in a hardware store [presumably William Thomas'] until 1881." "He then went to San Antonio and was a clerk in a hardware store in that city for about a year, when he returned to Goliad and established a hardware store." Kreisle "sold his store in Goliad in 1892 and removed to Victoria." In Victoria he entered the hardware business with Frank R. Pridham, who died in 1904, after which the store continued under his own name until he sold it to Ruckman Hardware Company.

The obituary of Louis G. Kreisle describes him as a "prominent retired business man of Victoria," a man of "unquestioned integrity ...a self-made man...of a very modest, retiring and unassuming disposition...." Louis married Mrs. Nellie Borland Wood on February 12, 1907, the widow of William A. Wood. Mrs. Wood's grandparents came to Texas in 1825, and her grandfather was a signer of the first Declaration of Texas Independence, according to the obituary. Listed as survivors of Louis G. Kreisle are his wife, mother, and brother, Emil, of San Antonio, and four step-children. He is buried in the Catholic Cemetery of Victoria, and a copy of his death certificate has been secured. His last residence, 302 Juan Linn, has been torn down for a bank parking lot.

Information about when and where his mother and brother died, presumably in San Antonio, has not been located. According to the San Antonio Public Library, no index to the cemeteries of San Antonio exists (1980). No information is known about the descendants of Emil Kreisle, or if there were any.

In the cattle brand collection of the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin, the branding iron of John Kreisle, Medina County, may be found, according to James E. Kreisle. The brand is a half-circle over an "L," thus spelling the name visually with the German word for circle ("Kreis") and the letter "L," or "Kreis-L."

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