

THE FISCHER STORY

Eustache Fischer was born in Alsace-Lorraine November 23, 1844. Christina Wegrich was born in Germany, January 1843. They were married in the year of 1871 in Alsace-Lorraine. At the time of their marriage Christina had a daughter named Isabelle Wegrich who was five years old. Eustache adopted the child. Her name became Fischer.

Eustache and Christina had five children, all of them born in Alsace-Lorraine. They were Isabelle (female) born July 20, 1867, Joseph (male) born January 31, 1872, Selestine (male) born April 6, 1873, Emily (female) born December 27, 1878 and Caroline (female) born August 28, 1884.

Eustache did not want his sons to be in the German army and they were getting close to the draft age, so they decided to leave the country. It was not easily done in those days, however they made their way to England. Since Joseph was of draft age, he could not leave with them. The family waited for him in England. It is not known how long they remained there before Joseph stowed away on a ship and joined them.

According to the 1900 census in Galveston, Texas, the entire family came to the United States in 1889 coming through Ellis Island and then on to the Port of Indianola, Texas which was later destroyed by a hurricane. Eustache could not read or write English. Christina could read but not write. From there they went to live in Meyersville (Dewitt County) Texas where they purchased land.

Soon the children were grown and found mates in and around the Dewitt County area.

- (1) Isabelle married Selestine Horney in Goliad County, TX in 1890. They had six children, Marcel born in Germany (before she married Selestine.) Albert, Josephine and Annie were born in Goliad, TX., Emma and Edward were born in Emory, TX. Albert and Josephine died as infants and are buried in Goliad.
- (2) Joseph married Jenne Isabel Timme (who was from New Castle, England) in 1894. They had five children (three born in Meyersville, TX and two born in Emory, TX.) Joseph died in 1905 as a result of small pox, leaving Jenne with five children from ages 8 years to 1 year. She had a farm hand living on the place to help bring in the crop and her father-in-law (Eustache) also helped. In 1909 Jenne died from the flu leaving the five children orphans. Their names and ages were Christina 12 years, Frances 10 years, Theresa 9 years, Josephine 6 years and George 4 years. Joseph and Jenne are buried in the Dunbar Cemetery in Emory, TX.
Jenne's bother, Robert Timme, who lived in Meyersville, TX boarded a train to Emory and took the five children back to Meyersville. They were taken in different families. However they were all in the same area where they all lived good lives and stayed close to each other. The last remaining orphan, Theresa Fischer Schuber, passed away on March 10, 1997 at the age of 96 years and is buried in San Antonio, TX.
- (3) Selestine married Agatha Geneva Horney (who was a sister to Isabel's husband) in 1891. They had eleven children seven born in Goliad, TX and four born in Emory, TX. Four of them died as infants. One is still living, Katharina "Katie", Fischer Wade Shivers who will be 99 years old on July 30, 1997. She lives with her daughter, Bonnie Springer in Gun Barrel City, TX.

(4) Emily married Franz Belford Horadam in 1898 in Meyersville, TX. They had two children, a daughter Johanna born 1899 in Meyersville, TX and a son Frank Joseph born in 1903 in Rains County, TX. In 1912 they moved to San Antonio, TX where they lived for the remainder of their lives. Franz died in 1917 and Emily in 1962. Both are buried in San Antonio, TX.

(5) Caroline left home quite young before her folks moved to Rains County. She moved to San Antonio and married four times. Her husbands were Henry Kinny, Joe Strickelbault, Ed Curry and Andrew Jung.

Selestine and Agatha heard that you could homestead land in Oklahoma, so about 1900 they and their children Benard, Alios, Katharina and Otto left Goliad County by covered wagon. There were four other wagons with them. It took them six weeks to reach Rains County. They camped about four miles south of Emory. Then they went a little farther and camped at Lake Fork in Rains County. They were so impressed with area, they decided to make it their home. They sent after Emily and Franz Horadam and their two year old daughter Johanna. Emily was Selestine's sister.

They also sent for Isabel (another sister) and her husband Selestine Horney, Fischer's brother Joseph and his wife Jenne and their children, Christina, Frances and Theresa. Also his parents Eustache and Christina moved to Rains County. Eustache bought 100 acres of land. 40 acres in one track and 60 in another. All were in the Isaac Wilkins survey. The amount of the sale was \$750.00.

Selestine and Agatha had three sons born in Rains County. They were Anton, Edward and Charley. Selestine died of black jaundice in 1910. The inscription on his tombstone reads, "We knew no sorrow, we knew no grief thy bright face was missing". Agatha lived to be about 64 years old.

In 1907 Eustache and Christina sold 50 acres of land to Selestine and Agatha. The land was 7 miles southwest of the town of Emory. Eustache signed his name and Christina made her mark. The amount of the sale was \$375.00.

Emily Horadam joined by her husband Franz, Caroline Strickelbault of the County of Bexar, State of Texas, and Isabel Horney joined by her husband Selestine Horney of Rains County Texas (said of grantors Emily, Caroline and Isabel being children and hires at law of Christina Fischer, deceased

cash to each grantor) undivided 3/10 interest in 50 acres of Isaac Wilkins survey, being of the same land conveyed from Eustache Fischer to Agatha Fischer on October 25, 1911. Dated Dec 15, 1913.

Eustache left the rest of his land to his children about 1914 and returned to Germany never to be heard of again.

Dedicated to the memory of Dorothy Fischer Walker who searched the census and other records for this information. She was the daughter of George Fischer.

Written by Norma Lee Lauderdale (Daughter of Johanna Horadam Lauderdale and granddaughter of Emily Fischer Horadam. (December, 1997)

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