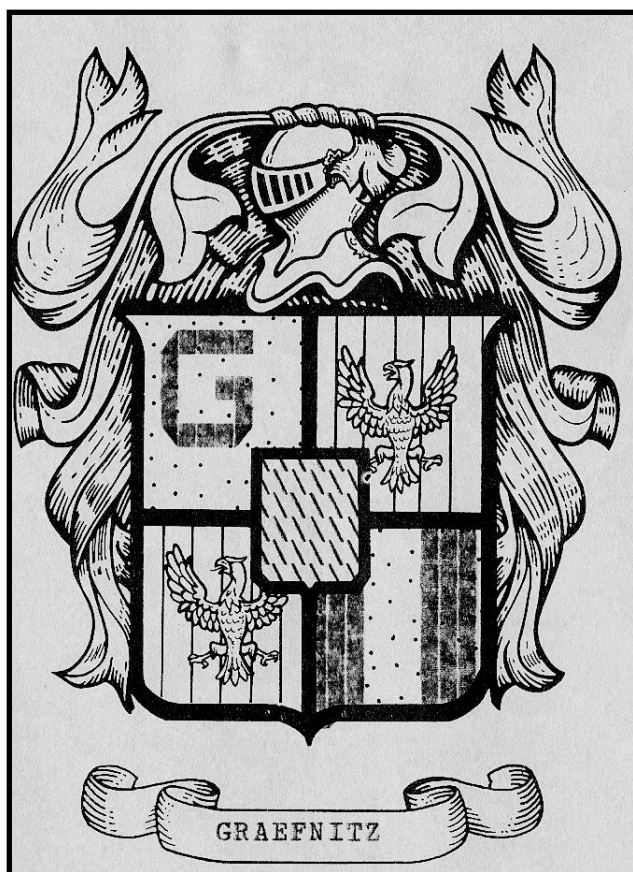


THE FAMILY GRAEFNITZ



Wilhelm and Christiana



Church in Kefinbrink where Wilhelm was baptized

Wilhelm was born in Kefinbrink, Germany on 26 Oct 1857. At an early age his family moved to Tribsees, Germany where he lived until he migrated to the United States.

Christiana Deth was born in Pommern, Germany On 03 Dec 1855. At an early age her parents died and she moved to Tribsees and was adopted.

Wilhelm and Christiana were married on 04 April 1880 in Tribsees. It is unclear where they lived in Tribsees as a young married couple. However they quickly became parents and had two sons, Frederick Carl Wilhelm born in 1880 and Wilhelm (Will) Henrick born in 1881.

In the 1880's Wilhelm, Christiana and their two sons migrated to the United States eventually ending up in Lake Village, Indiana where he managed the Blair Ranch West of the village. The ranch was owned by Mr. Blair, a wealthy business owner from the Chicago area. The large ranch had many different livestock including cattle, hogs, sheep and horses.

Albert worked with his father on the ranch and when his father decided to retire from the rigors of the ranch, Albert traveled to Chicago and asked for an audience with Mr. Blair stating he thought he was the right man to replace his father. While Mr. Blair thought he might be too young he gave him a chance and Albert continued the ranch's prosperity until he became a carpenter.



Old home in Kefinbrink



Old barn in Kefinbrink



**Lutheran Church in Tribsees
Where Wilhelm and
Christiana were married**

Tribsees, Germany to the United States



Wilhelm and his family's home in Tribsees ... with a small court yard in back, they had to take the cow through the house to let her graze across the road.



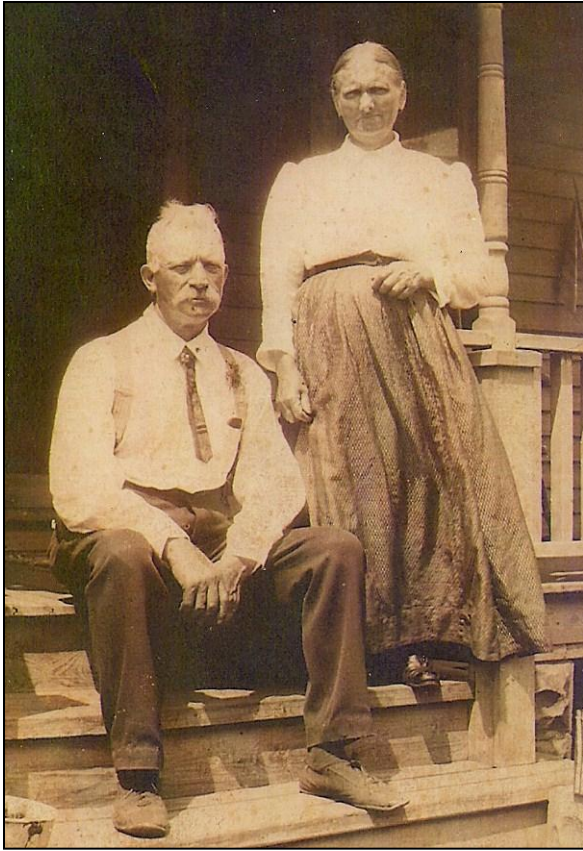
Carl Christian Ferdinand Graefnitz; born in Kefinbrink on 18 Jan 1825, died 25 Dec 1872
married

Johanna Sopie Marie Henning; born in Bauersdorf, Germany.

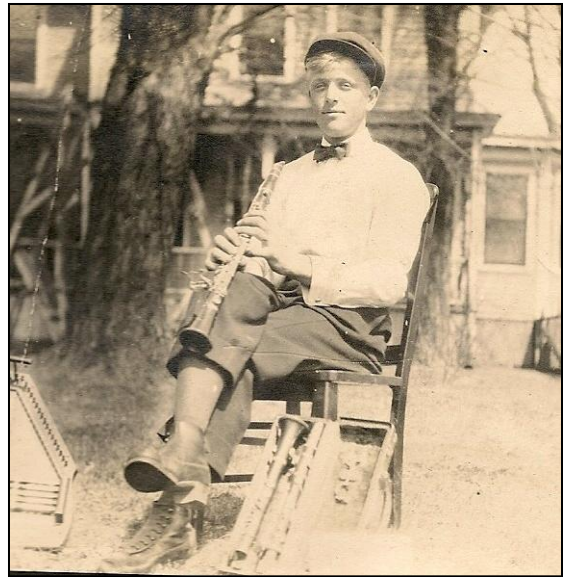
Children

- Wilhelm C.; born in Kefinbrink on 26 Oct 1857, died in Lake Village 13 Aug 1925
- Unknown name infant
- Johanna Fredrich Adolf; born on 09 November 1861
- Carl Fredrich Wilhelm; born 28 July 1864
- Wilhelmine Johanne M.; born 17 Aug 1871
- Bertha Christine T.; born 18 Mar 1873

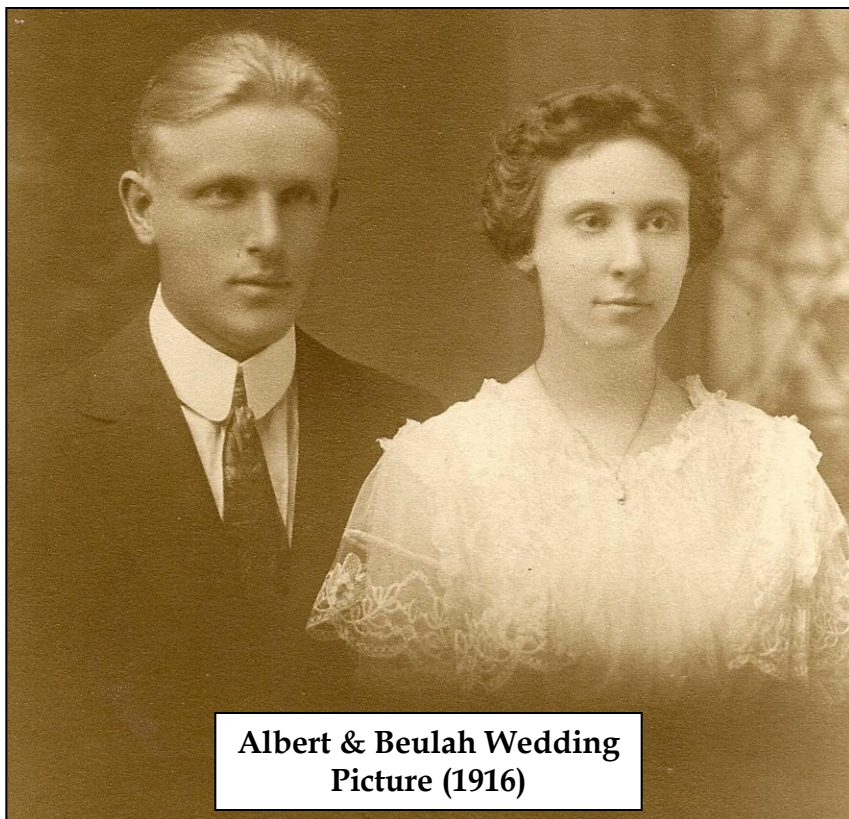
The Graefnitz Family



**Wilhelm & Christiana
Graefnitz**



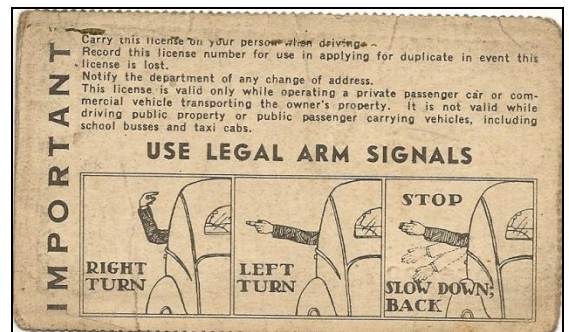
Albert with his Clarinet



**Albert & Beulah Wedding
Picture (1916)**



Wilhelm & Christiana
Lyda - Lucy - Albert - Chris - Walter



One of Albert G's Driver's License
(of many)

Sendet hin und lehret alle Völker
u. taufet sie im Namen des Vaters
u. des Sohnes u. des Heiligen Geistes
und lehret sie halten Alles was Ich
euch befohlen habe. Matth. 28, 19, 20.

Wer da glaubet und getauft wird, der wird selig werden;
wer aber nicht glaubet, der wird verdammet werden. MARC. 16, 16.

Albert Ludwig Wilhelm,
Sohn von Wilhelm Graefnitz und
dessen Ehefrau Christiana, geb. Deth,
geboren den 11^{ten} Nov. 1892 bei Lake
Village, Woodstock, Ind. ist am 27^{ten} Nov. 1892

das selbst

im Namen des

Dreieinigen **G**ottes
getauft worden,

Taufzeugen waren:

Wilhelm Friedrich
Schultz, Wilhelm Schultz
Charlotte Christensen.

welches hierdurch
bescheiniget wird.

Geo. Heintz,
w. luth. Pastor



Lasset die Kindlein zu mir
kommen, und wehret ihnen
nicht denn solcher ist das
Reich Gottes. Ev. Luc. 10, 16.

Wahrlich Ich sage euch,
wer nicht das Reich Gottes
empfangt als ein Kindlein,
der wird nicht hinein kommen.

LUC. 2, 29, 30.

EV. JOH. III. XIV.

Albert G's Baptism Certificate

Death Calls Well Known Citizen

William C. Graefnitz Dies at Home in Lake Village

Managed the Blair Ranch

Passes Away After Long Illness on Saturday - Funeral was Held Monday

William C. Graefnitz, one of the best known and most prominent residents of Lake Village, Ind. Died at his home in that place at 9:30 o'clock last Friday evening, after an illness of several weeks. His health was poor during the past winter and early last April he suffered a heart attack from which he partially recovered. He was able to be up and around until last Friday afternoon when he suffered an attack of neuralgia of the heart, which was the cause of his passing away.

Wm. C. Graefnitz was born in Kaffenbrink, Germany, on October 26, 1857 being 67 years, 9 months and 18 days of age. He received his education in Germany and learned the weaver's trade later taking up agriculture which he followed for many years. He was united in marriage with Miss Christine Deth in Germany on April 4, 1880. In 1885 he and his family came to America, locating at Lansing, Ill. Where they resided until 1891 when they removed to a farm near Lake Village. For several years he was manager of the Blair Ranch, west of Lake Village, and about ten years ago he gave up the management of the farm and retired, moving to Lake Village.

Mr. Graefnitz enjoyed a wide acquaintance throughout this section of the country and was known as a man of strong character, thoroughly trustworthy and an upright citizen. He served his township two terms as assessor and one term as township trustee, besides other minor office which he filled with credit to himself.

At an early age he was confirmed in the Lutheran church in which he was a faithful member. There being no church of that denomination in his community and feeling that he must be active in church life he placed his membership in the Lake Village Presbyterian church and was one of the most faithful and active members.

Mr. Graefnitz was preceded in death by five children, four of whom died in early childhood and Fred who passed away eight years ago. The widow survives with the following children: William and Walter, Mrs. Melvin Herman, Mrs. William Sullivan and Mrs. C.F. Hall of Momence, Chris Graefnitz of Grant Park, Ill., Albert and Mrs. C.F. Bloomquist of Lake Village.

Funeral services were held on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Presbyterian church in Lake Village, and was attended by a large number of sorrowing friends. Among those present were a number of members of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge of Momence, of which the deceased was an honored member, besides many others who had known him many years. Burial was in Lake Village cemetery. The profusion of floral tributes upon this occasion was mute evidence of the esteem in which the deceased was held in the community.



Albert Graefnitz's & Beulah Jackson's Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. George Jackson
request the honor of your presence at the
marriage of their daughter
Beulah Marian
to
Mr. Albert F. Graefnitz
on Thursday at high noon, June first
nineteen hundred and sixteen
at their home
Battle Ground, Indiana

At Home

after June fifteenth
Lake Village, Indiana

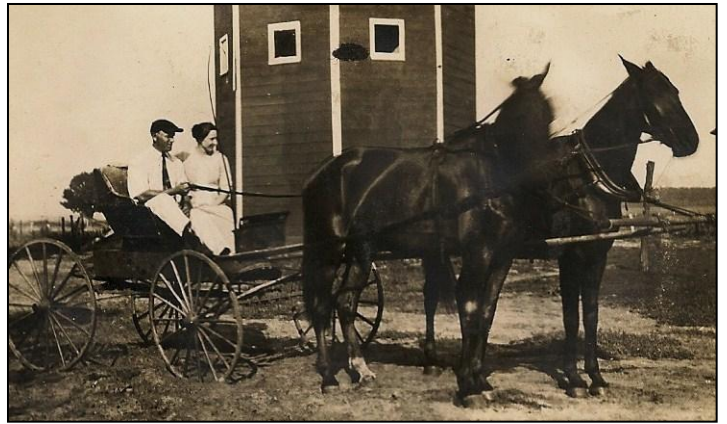
Albert & Beulah's Wedding Invitation

BATTLE GROUND SCENE OF JUNE DAY WEDDING

The marriage of Miss Beulah Marian Jackson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Jackson of Battle Ground, and Albert Frederick Graefnitz, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Graefnitz of Lake Village, Ind., took place today at 12 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Stan, of Indianapolis, and was witnessed by about forty relatives and friends. The couple was attended by Hubert Jackson, brother of the bride, Miss Pearl Matthews, of Chalmers. Mrs. George Hickman and Mrs. Minnie Albaugh, of Oxford. Miss Ruth Taggett, of Detroit, played the wedding march for the entrance of the couple and Miss Bessie Scott sang "O Promise Me." The bride was beautiful in an exquisite gown of white. The Jackson home was beautifully decorated with cut flowers and greenery, and the young couple were married before an altar banked with palms and ferns. After the ceremony the guests were served with a five-course dinner. The young couple left for Indianapolis in an automobile, and from there they will go east for ten days. Mrs. Graefnitz is one of Battle Ground's most popular young women and was a teacher in the Battle Ground schools. The groom is a rising young man and is assistant manager of a 700 acre ranch near Lake Village. The young couple will make their home in Lake Village and will be at home after June 15. The Lafayette guests were Misses Grace and May Wallace.



Albert & Beulah at the Blair Ranch



**Albert &
Beulah on
the Harley**



**Beulah &
her class at
Mill School
(1912)**



Albert & Beulah Graefnitz



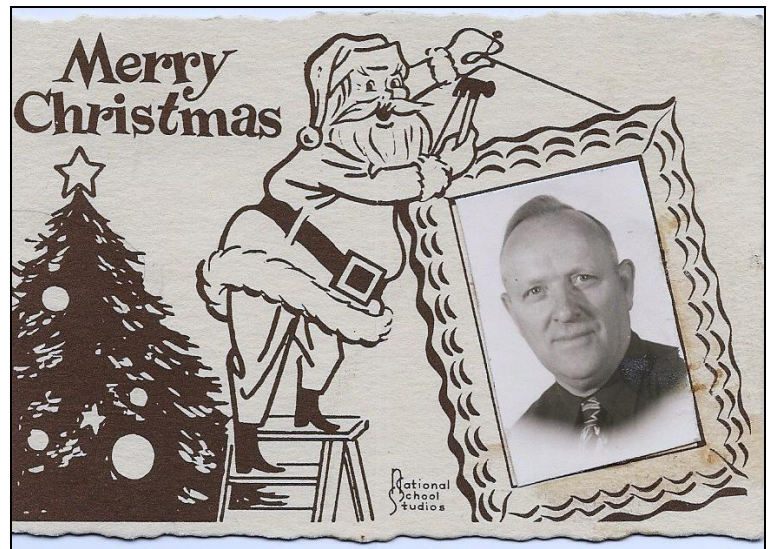
Ruth, Great Grandma Jackson & Mary



Graefnitz Family Picture
Back - Mary, Warren, Russell & Ruth
Front - Beulah and Albert
(1940)



Beulah (1944)



**Albert (when he was a custodian
at the Lake Village School)**



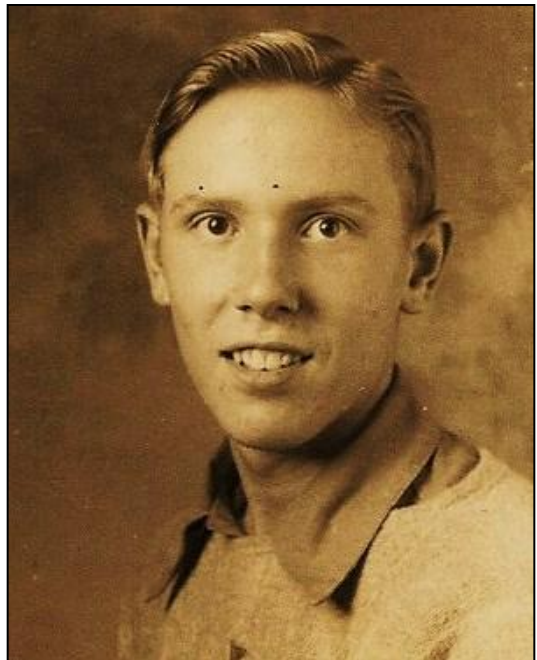
Mary - Graduation



Russ - Navy



Ruth - Graduation



Warren School Picture

Mary & Larry (son of Russell)



Doris (wife of Russell)



Russ & Warren



Russ & Warren



Beulah & Lake Village Presbyterian Church Women



**Russ, Doris & Larry
(1944)**



**Ruth, Roy, Carolyn
& Roslynn Merchant**



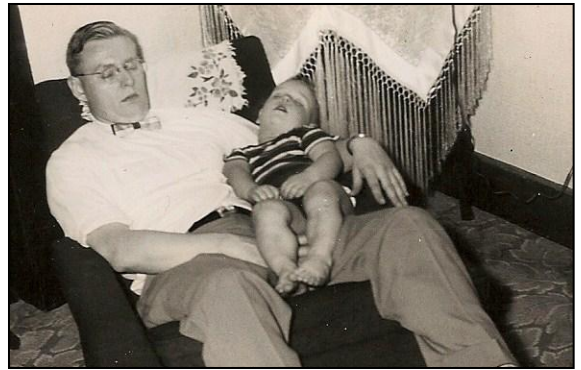
**At a Graefnitz Reunion
(1952)**



**Albert, Dale, Ed, Mary
Linda (front), Bonnie & Beulah
(1953)**



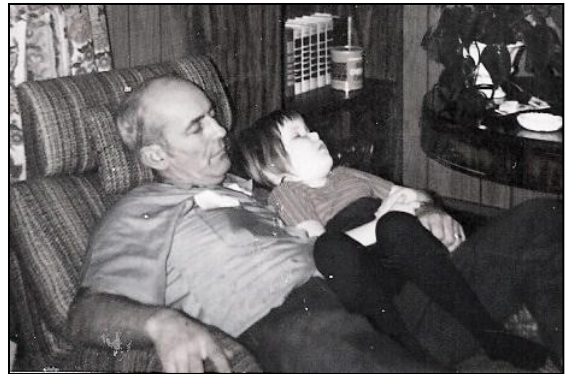
**The Graefnitz Boys
Russ - Larry - David - Terry**



Russ & David - 1955



**Roy and Kristin
Boyd
Around 1972**



Roslynn



**The whole Family at Grandma's
Birthday (1955)**

Candid Shots Through the Years ...



Morocco man looks back on a century of life

By CARLA WATERS

Twin States writer

Albert Graefnitz of Morocco, Ind, recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

And he's more active than some people a quarter of his age.

Graefnitz was born one-and-a-quarter miles west of Lake Village, the tenth in a family of seven boys and six girls.

Today he is the only living child from the family, but still has a few nieces and nephews around, as well as his two daughters and two sons.

His father and mother came to this country from Germany, and had three children at that time. They worked for a family in Lansing, Ill., when one of Graefnitz's sisters was killed by a train which traveled near the tenement houses.

After the accident his mother told his father she could not bear to live in the same place so near to the accident.

The family was given a \$600 settlement check from the railroad, and his father bought an 80-acre farm near Lake Village at \$11 per acre.

His father's old boss encouraged him to buy farm, telling him the family came to America and should have a piece of the country they now call home.

So that's what they did.

It was on that farm that Graefnitz was born.

But after five years and the depression, but family lost the farm because they had no way of paying for it.

They moved to the 1,000-acre Blair Ranch west of Lake Village on the Kankakee River when he was two years old, and his father managed it.

"We lived there for 17 years and then my folks moved off of it," he said. "I was 23 years old and managed it for five years."

He married a school teacher, Beulah, in 1916 and started a family of his own.

The family lived in a 20-room house with 11 bedrooms.

"My wife couldn't take care of it," he said. So in 1921 the family left the ranch and Graefnitz began working as a carpenter, building his first house that year.

"We lived in that house for seven years and sold it to a Chicago couple," he said. The couple had one daughter, who was older. The man died before the couple could get moved into the home, so the woman moved in and lived alone. The woman died and left the house to the daughter, who still lives there to this day.

"After I built my first house I built seven



Albert Graefnitz shows off two of the 200 windmills he has made out of toothpicks in his lifetime.

more in Lake Village."

He also built other buildings in the town, including the library, the parsonage for the Presbyterian Church, a store building and a large garage for the Ford Agency.

After his wife died, Graefnitz moved to Morocco. He built the house he now lives in on Lincoln Street when he was 79 years old.

"I had a heart attack before the house was completed and wasn't able to do so. My son-in-law helped me," he said.

After the heart attack he quit driving, but

still wanted to get around.

At first he bought a bicycle, but got winded when he pedaled.

After some searching he found a moped he liked and bought it. He rode the moped for eight years. He found the moped similar to the motorcycles he rode when he was in his 20s.

He rode the moped until about two years ago, when it began to get too heavy for him.

The carpenter in him has kept him busy building windmills out of toothpicks over the years.

He has made 200 or more in his life. During the winter months, he said, it takes all day to make one. Two years ago he made 36 windmills in one winter.

The windmills are not just sitting in his house, either. He has sent them to friends and relatives all over the world. There are Graefnitz windmills in Vietnam, Japan, Canada, Germany and 15 states of the United States.

He also has collected antique clock over the years.

"I've had a 100 or more over the years," he said. He takes the old clocks and makes them workable. Right now about 20 sit in his house.

Another hobby he has taken up is playing solitaire, which he learned to play when he was sick.

In 18 years he said he has played 20,000 games, winning about 4,500.

"And losing the balance," he laughed.

He plans to spend his birthday in Lafayette at the home of his son, Russell.

There will be an open house for him from 2-4 p.m. Sunday at the United Church of Morocco.

All four of his children: Russell, Ruth Merchant Padgett of Morocco, Mary of Morton Grove, Ill., and Warren of Morocco, are living. He also has 40 grandchildren.

Newspaper article on Albert's
100th Birthday

Candid Shots Through the Years ...



At 93, Graefnitz needs no elixir of Youth ...

People meeting Albert Graefnitz for the first time may wonder if he has sipped from the fountain of youth.

At 93, the Morocco, IN man is almost as independent as he was at 20. He does his own house and yard work with a spritely spring to his step, and on sunny days often goes for a spin on his moped.

My daughter didn't want me to get one, he says, with laughter in his bright blue eyes. She was afraid I would kill myself. Now I'm getting along so good that she doesn't want me to get rid of it.

His daughter, Ruth Merchant, of Morocco shakes her head at his antics.

"In 1921 I was making 40 cents an hour ... worked 10 Hours a day, six days a week and I never took a Coffee break."

You don't tell him anything, she says. We had a party for his 93rd birthday (Nov 10). We said we'd clean the house and he wouldn't hear of it. He did it himself

and he wouldn't hear of it. He did it himself

He cleaned off every shelf and that was quite a job, she says, pointing to the rows of shelves that cover the living room walls – shelves that hold a lifetime of photographs and memorabilia.

The dozens of items show the clarity of Graefnitz's amazing memory. He remembers names, dates and other details surrounding all the items, and can even reproduce bits of conversations from years ago.

Graefnitz usually makes games and wood ornaments during the winter months when he has more leisure time. I bring my jigsaw into the kitchen and saw right on the table he says. He wears a mysterious smile as he takes visitors to the master bedroom where he displays one of his biggest accomplishments, a model of the 1,100 acre ranch near Lake Village where he spent his childhood. The replica is made from toothpicks – and fond memories of the ranch are still clear after more than 60 years. I got a blue ribbon at the Indiana State Fair for this, he says proudly.

He reveals a hint of good humor as he shows his visitors the wooden figure of a dashing cowboy. I've tried to tell my grandchildren that I looked like that when I was young, and that I look like this since I've gotten old, he said pointing to a shriveled, zombie-like figure near the cowboy. But they won't believe me, he says with a delighted grin, they just won't believe me.

*Excerpts taken
from the Kankakee Journal
(December 1, 1985)*

**From Grandpa's story "Myself as I know me"
(written at the age of 93)**

Chronological Events ...

Wilhelm & Christiana had five children while living in Germany

- Charles, born 1878, died on the Atlantic Ocean
- Augusta, born 1879, died on the Atlantic Ocean
- Fredrick Carl Wilhelm, born 26 June 1880
- Henry, born 1880, died on the Atlantic Ocean
- Wilhelm Henrick, born 30 September 1881



Wilhelm, Christiana and two sons migrated to Dyer, IN in 1883 to work in hay fields

Family moved to Lake Village, IN to work on Sholts farm

Youngest daughter killed on RR and with \$600 Wilhelm purchased an 80 acre farm near LV

In 1897 Wilhelm moved his family to the Blair Ranch and became a "straw" boss, later became the manager

From 1888 to 1901 Wilhelm and Christiana had eight more children

- Bertha Caroline, born 09 Jan 1888 in Lansing, IL
- Elfreda Maria Wilhelmina, born 14 August 1889 in Lansing, IL
- Christian Carl Ludwig, born 03 Feb 1891 in Lansing, IL
- Albert Frederick, born 11 Nov 1892 in Lake Village
- Walter Hendrik, born 09 Aug 1896 in Lake Village
- Lida Anna, born 23 Aug 1896 in Lake Village
- Mary, born in 1899 in Lake Village and lived only one day
- Lucy Helena, born 01 Sept 1901 in Lake Village



In 1915 Wilhelm left the ranch and was elected the Twp. Assessor, in March Albert became the manager

On 01 June 1916 Albert married Beulah

In 1918 Walter was sent to France to fight in WWI ... his uncle Wilhelm Frederick was in the German army and was killed right before the armistice

In 1921 Albert left the ranch to become a carpenter

In 1925 his father passed away

In 1932 his mother passed away

Albert and Beulah had six children from 1917 to 1926

- Russell, born 27 Aug 1917
- Forrest, born 1919 died at 3 weeks, buried in Battle Ground, IN
- Marian, born 1920 died at 6 weeks, buried in Battle Ground, IN
- Ruth, born 16 Mar 1922
- Mary, born 28 Jun 1924
- Warren, born 23 Jun 1926



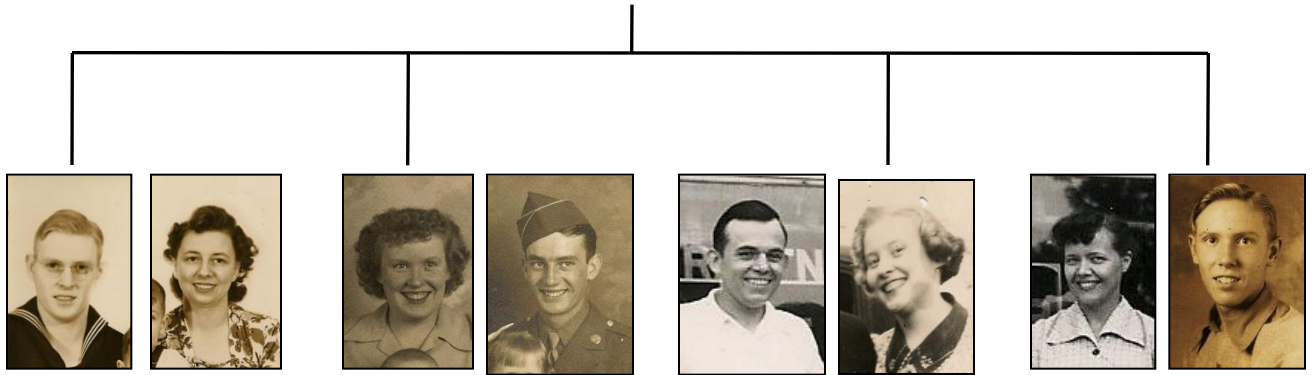
Beulah died 04 Apl 1968

Albert built his last home in Morocco at the age of 80 in 1972 and lived there till his death in 1992

Graefnitz Family Tree



Albert and Beulah (Jackson) Graefnitz



Russ & Doris Graefnitz

Ruth & Roy Merchant

Mary & Ed Vorpapel

Warren & Bonnie Graefnitz

Larry
Graefnitz



Roslynn
(Merchant)
Boyd



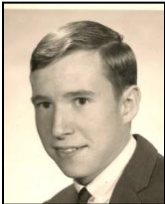
Jackie
(Vorpapel)
Mammen



Linda
(Graefnitz)
Pittman



Terry
Graefnitz



Carolyn
(Merchant)
Wiltfang



James
Vorpapel



Dale
Graefnitz



David
Graefnitz



Cheri
(Merchant)
Newell



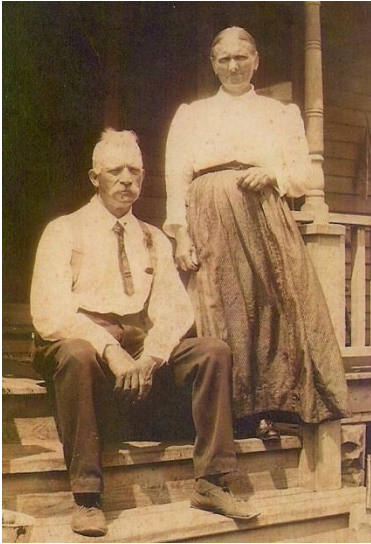
Robert
Vorpapel



Graefnitz Family Tree

The Family Connections

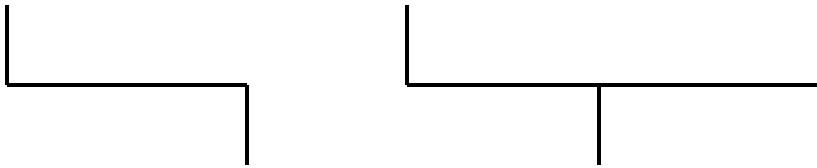
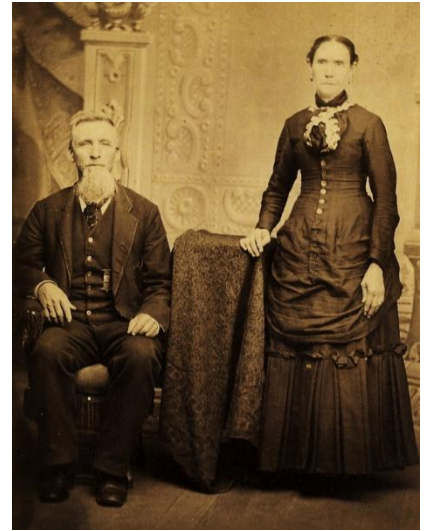
Graefnitz



Jackson



McConnell



Albert Graefnitz

Beulah Jackson

The Jackson Family Connection



George & Mary Jackson
Beulah, Wilbur & Hubert



Beulah Jackson



Beulah, Wilbur & Hubert
Jackson

LAFAYETTE JOURNAL

DEATHS

GEORGE JACKSON / 938
 BATTLE GROUND, March 25.—
 (Special)—George Jackson, 81, local resident died yesterday at the Methodist hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Jackson was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, and graduated from the Academy at McAlevy. He married Mary Jane McConnell, of Oxford, in 1887 and taught school near his birth place for eight years. He moved to Ulysses, Kan., returning to Indiana in 1893. He was a member of the Presbyterian church.

Surviving are the wife, a daughter, Mrs. Beulah Graefnitz, of Lake Village; two sons; Wilbur, of Fort Wayne; and Hubert, of Gary; a sister, Margaret Jackson, of Huntingdon; and three brothers: Hugh, of Saltsburg, Pa.; Forrest, of Huntingdon; and Leo, of Philipsburg, Pa.

Funeral services will be conducted from the local M. E. church Sunday.

The Jackson Family Connection



**George & Mary Jackson
Beulah, Wilbur & Hubert**



**Great Grandma Mary (McConnell) Jackson
(1851 - 1939)**



**Beulah & Wilbur
Jackson**

Migration of Wilhelm and Christiane to the United States

Passenger List

(Ship - California)

Name: **Wilhelm Graefnitz**
Departure Date: 29 Okt 1885 (29 Oct 1885)

Destination: New York
Estimated birth year: abt 1856
Age Year: 29
Gender: männlich (Male)
Family: [Household members](#)
Residence: Degelsdorf, Preußen (Germany)
Occupation: Landmann

Ship Name: California
Captain: Winckler
Shipping line: Edward Carr
Ship Type: Dampfschiff
Accommodation: ohne Angabe
Ship Flag: Deutschland
Port of Departure: Hamburg
Port of Arrival: Amerika (USA)

Listed on the California Passenger List with Wilhelm:

- Christiane (b. 1856)
- Fritz (b. 1880)
- Wilhelm (b. 1881)
- Auguste (b. 1883)
- Carl (b. 1885)

(found in Ancestry.com)

