

Augusta Theresa Jasch Bopenhagen



Lifespan: 83 years, 1856-1939. Born in Stettin, Germany (now Szczecin, Poland), 11/21/1856. Died in White Lake, 9/12/1939. Buried in Lutheran Trinity Cemetery, White Lake.

Locations: Germany (1856), Mississippi (1870), Chicago (1871), Gales Twp (1884), Gales Twp (1887), White Lake (1924).

Spouse: August Friedrich (Fred) William Bopenhagen, 1873-1916. Born in Stettin. Married 4/26/1873 in Chicago. Teamster, Farmer, Aurora County homesteader (Gales: 160 acres in section 12).

August Jasch Bopenhagen Profile: Born in the Prussian Province of Pomerania, Augusta and her family emigrated to Mississippi in 1870, the year before Prussia became part of the new German Empire. Unhappy with the climate of that southern state and suffering illness from a Malaria outbreak, the Jasch family relocated to Chicago the following year. Two years later, at the age of seventeen, Augusta married Fred Bopenhagen, also from her native town. Before moving from Chicago to Aurora County, twelve years later, Augusta gave birth to five children. At first, the family settled on a farm twelve miles southwest of White Lake. Here one building contained both the house and the barn, where the children slept in a loft, warmed by the animals below. In 1887, they bought a nearby farm in the same township. When Augusta's last child was born in March of 1896, the family numbered ten children, ages birth to twenty-two. She also took into her home two of her young grandchildren whose mothers had died; William's daughter Elfride/Frieda, in 1906, and Edwin's son Ray, in 1928.

In 1905, she and her husband donated two acres for the St. John's Lutheran cemetery and future church in Gales Twp. The cemetery is now called Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, and the church no longer exists. After her husband died in 1916, she stayed on the farm until 1924, when she moved into town with her son William and daughters Alma and Frieda. Three of her sons predeceased her. August died at age 39; Lewis died at age 27 in training camp during the first world war; Arthur died from a dynamite explosion at age 40. Most all her other children lived out their lives in Aurora County. As the mother of ten, and a farmer's wife, her life would have centered around her home, the farm, and her family. In addition, as a practicing Lutheran, she would have found solace in her religious beliefs.

Roles/Talent: Wife, mother, grandmother, homemaker, farmwife.

Parents(ethnicity): Carl Jasch and Hanna Florentine Heier, Prussian/Pomeranian.

Children: 10 children born 1874-1896. **Edwin/Fritz** (Anna Kiehn), **William** (Anna Lemcke), **August** (Anna Ingelthron), **Amanda** (Herman Miller, Sr.), **Alma** (Frederick Bradwish), **Arthur** (Anna Ketelhut), **Frederick** (Bertha Steffan), **Lewis/Louis**, **Minnie** (Charles Markhardt), **Bertha** (Alfred Rossow). Augusta raised her granddaughter Elfrida after her mother, married to William, died soon after giving birth in 1906. She also took in her young grandson Ray/Buddy, son of Edwin, in the early 1930s. All children survived until well into adulthood. Lewis was the

first Aurora County soldier to die in World War I, succumbing to influenza (the “Spanish Flu”) at Camp Taylor, Kentucky. (Note that four daughters-in-law were named Anna).

Sisters: Bertha

Brothers: August, Adolph

Education: unknown

Work Experience: unknown

Church, Clubs and Organizations: St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, Ladies Aid.

Family Connections/Occupations: Several of Augusta’s descendants, some of them elementary school age, still live in the county. William, Fred, Edwin, and daughters Alma Bradwisch and Minnie Markhardt remained to farm in White Lake and their descendants, living in the county, include families with last names of Bogenhagen, Markhardt, Sueflow, Moseman, Weires, Peters, Bradwisch, Keizer. Daughter Amanda Miller moved to Plankinton and her local descendants include the names Miller and Schmidt. Some descendant families with children currently in Aurora County elementary schools include Plamp, Keizer, Schmidt, and likely others.

Time in Aurora County: 54 years

Physical Appearance: Medium height.

Date of Submission: January 2021 **Date of Update:** September 8, 2021

Submitter: Ruth Page Jones, rpjhistories@gmail.com and Shirley Keizer, great-granddaughter.



Picture 1: Augusta and Friedrich, date unknown