

Katherine “Kate” Ginsbach Krell



Lifespan: 97 years, 1882-1979. Born on a farm near Le Mars, IA, 1/31/1882. Died in Plankinton, 05/02/1979, of natural causes. Buried in Plankinton.

Locations: LeMars, IA (1882), White Lake Twp (1895), Eureka Twp (1904), Plankinton House (1937), Olesen Apts in Plankinton (1971).

Spouse: Pete Krell, 1869-1944. Born in LaMott, IL. Married 06/28/1904 at St. Peter’s Catholic Church, White Lake. Farmed the Krell Homestead in Section 13 of Eureka Township, which was homesteaded by Pete’s father, John, an immigrant from Luxemburg.

Kate Krell Profile: Kate was a wonderful, caring, warm person. She knew tragedy, as her own mother died in childbirth when Kate was seven years old, with four older brothers, a younger brother, five years old, and younger sister, then three years old. Her father remarried, two years later, but his second wife died after only three years, leaving the family motherless, and thus, Kate’s youth was spent helping her father with the family. Kate moved with her father and younger siblings to Aurora County in 1895. When Kate married Pete Krell, in 1904, her family connections expanded considerably, as many of Pete’s sixteen siblings (some step and half), also lived in the area. She also suffered the loss of her own infant in 1910. Many of her five children remained in the area, and she was able to enjoy knowing her twenty grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. She and her husband farmed on the family homestead, until they moved to Plankinton in 1937, due to Pete’s poor health. After her husband passed away, she lived another thirty-five years. During that time, Kate opened her home to farm children attending High School in Plankinton, and in 1969, those former students honored her with a gathering at Fish Lake.

Blessed with longevity, Kate did live to see two of her children, Harry Krell and Caroline Hoffman, celebrate their golden wedding anniversaries. In the span of her lifetime, she rode in a covered wagon and watched a man walk on the moon. The 1983 Aurora County History notes that she was “a lady of vitality, always ready to travel at a moment’s notice, always taking an interest in those who were less fortunate or ill.” Her granddaughter Cindy Krell Hine noted, “What a remarkable lady. We were blessed to know her and call her our ancestor.”

Roles/Talent: Farmwife, homemaker, mother, grandmother, provided boarding home for country children attending high school in Plankinton.

Parents (Ethnicity): Nicholas Ginsbach, immigrated from Prussia, and Mary Ziemet, immigrated from Luxemburg, per 1880 Federal Census, Sioux County, IA.

Children: 6 children born 1905-1917. Harry N (Ruth Lenocker), Clarence J (Mildred Doran), Caroline (Martin Hoffman), Elizabeth (lived four hours), Agnes (John Lenocker, Ruth’s brother), Margaret (Bernard Doran).

Sisters: Clara Moeller

Brothers: Frank, Michael, Mathias, John, Nicholas

Education: Grammar school only

Work Experience: no formal work experience

Church, Clubs and Organizations: St. John's Catholic Church, Altar Society, Catholic Daughters of America, VFW Auxiliary.

Family Connections/Occupations: Kate's family engaged in farming and ranching. Pete was known for his horses and registered hogs. Kate, as the custom at the time, was a mother and homemaker. Their son, Harry, started Krell Trucking in 1934, and his great-grandson Mike continues to run the business now, in 2021. Kate's nephew, Mark Ginsbach, was employed in the business for many years. Also, Harry's son, Edwin "Ed", was involved in trucking from 1945 until health issues forced him to retire, very reluctantly, at the age of 90, in 2020. Ed's son Gary was also involved in the family business until moving to Wyoming, although he continued working as a trucker. Ed's daughter, Cindy Hine, and her family, still ranch nearby in Jerauld County.

Time in Aurora County: 84 years

Physical Appearance: Small stature and slight build, dark hair

Date of Submission: June 2021

Updated: June 2021

Submitter: Cindy Krell Hine, granddaughter