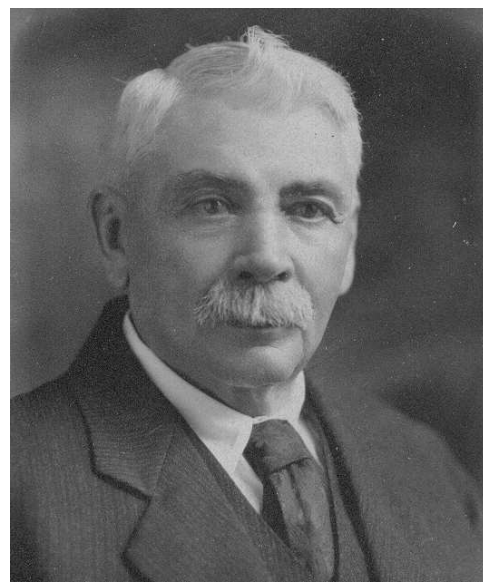


Adam and Gertrude (Minnich) Remaklus



Adam Remaklus was born on October 24, 1862 in Wabash Township, Jay County, Indiana to Peter and Margaret (Knieper) Remaklus, who had just arrived during the year to begin homesteading. Peter was 43 and Margaret was 44 years old when Adam was born. Adam was at least the seventh and last of Peter and Margaret's children. He was baptized at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on October 27 with Adam Laux and Anna Maria Laux for his godparents. Adam's baptism was one of the very first entries in Holy Trinity Catholic Church record. His siblings' ages were John 18, Anton 12, Joseph 10, Nicholas 8 and Anna Maria (who was called Emma) 5 years old.

Peter and Margaret's 1870 census also listed John 25, Joseph 17, Nicholas 15, Emma 12 and Adam 7. Anton apparently had already left the family farm for St Louis, Missouri by the time of the June 1870 census. Adam's oldest brother John married in October 1872 and left the farm to start raising his family. Another of Adam's brothers, Joseph, got married around 1879 but continued to live on the farm with his wife. Adam's sister, Emma, married Philip Schirack May 25, 1880 in Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Peter and Margaret's 1880 census, taken June 3, 1880, noted that Peter was paralyzed and also listed Joseph 27, his wife Gertrude 22 and their 6 month old son John, Nicholas 25, Emma 22 and her new husband Philip Schirack 23 and Adam 17. Emma gave birth to a son Peter on March 20, 1881 but died four days later from complications from childbirth and was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Adam's brother Nicholas was married on April 17, 1883, five days before their father Peter, who had brought his family to America, died April 22, 1883 at the age of 64 at his farm and was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Adam knew Gertrude Minnich while growing up in the same small, tight-knit farming community that was settled mainly by German immigrant families, and attending Holy Trinity church and school activities. She came from a large family - the fourth of fourteen children of Nicholas and Mary Ann (Lescher) Minnich. Her three older siblings were John, Gust and Anton, 3, 2 and 1 year older than her. Her younger siblings were Joseph born in 1870, Catherine 1872, Peter 1873, Mathias 1875, Ignatius 1876, Nicholas 1878, Barbara 1879, Henry 1882, Margaretha 1885 and Willie born in 1887. Unfortunately, Catherine died in childhood, Mathias died before he was a month old, her oldest brother John died in December 1887 at the age of 22 and Willie died before the age of two in November 1888.

Adam Remaklus married Gertrude Minnich January 29, 1889 in Holy Trinity Catholic Church. They had 13 children, 2 boys and 11 girls, between 1889 and 1908 -- Mary Ann, Nicholas, Sophia, Susann, Emma, Frances, Estella, Catherine, Marcella, Margaret, Clarence, Theresa and Elizabeth. Frances died

before her first birthday.

Gertrude gave birth to Mary Ann, their first child, on December 26, 1889. Adam and Gertrude's second child, Nicholas Henry, was born on January 9, 1891. He was baptized one day later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on January 10th. Gertrude gave birth to Sophia Ann, their third child, on August 25, 1892. She was baptized three days later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on August 28th. Sophia always went by the name Jane, perhaps a name she chose for herself.

The family grew or raised all of their own food. They then had to can fruits and vegetables or store root crops and apples in sufficient quantities to last until the next harvest. As the family grew, more and more food would have to be grown and processed. The family had pie (apple, cherry, berry) frequently, every day during the growing season. They also produced some great pie bakers among the girls as they got older and could help. They had a "summer kitchen" - a separate building where they would cook, bake and can during the summer to keep the house from getting too hot.

Adam would use a scythe to cut the first row of wheat or hay all the way around the field so it could be gathered by hand before the horses would trample on it while cutting and harvesting the remainder of the field. He would also use the scythe to cut the corners of the fields so nothing went to waste.

Even during the coldest part of the winter, there was plenty to do besides taking care of the animals, such as cutting blocks of ice from the pond and hauling and storing them for use as long as they would last. Gertrude's brother Gust died in October 1892 at the young age of 26.

Gertrude gave birth to Susann, their fourth child, on November 15, 1893. She was baptized four days later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on November 19th. Gertrude's brother Anton died in May 1894 when he was only 26.

The children would all attend Holy Trinity grammar school in turn, making their First Holy Communion and Confirmation by the seventh or eighth grade before graduating. They learned English at school but spoke mostly German at home since that was the language their parents were most comfortable using. Many a time Adam would come in for dinner after a long day working on the farm only to find one of the children's shoes waiting for repair before school the next day. He always did this without complaint.

Gertrude gave birth to Emma Catherine, their fifth child, on September 15, 1895. She was baptized five days later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on September 20th. Frances Gertrude, Adam and Gertrude's sixth child, was born January 3, 1897. She was baptized a week later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church January 10th. Her baptismal name was recorded as Gertrude Frances in the church records. God called Frances home on November 5th of that year when she was only nine months old. She was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery on the Church property. Emma remembered Frances, her next youngest sibling's funeral. She especially remembered there were candles. Emma always said

she was the baby twice.

Gertrude gave birth to Estella Margaret, their seventh child, on January 10, 1898. She was baptized four days later by Rev. James Paulus at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on January 14th. Her godparents were Nicholas Minnich, Gertrude's brother, and Margaret Remaklus, Adam's niece. She was always called Stella.

Adam had to build a second building for the older kids to sleep in since there were not enough bedrooms in the main house. The older children would sleep on the porch on hot summer nights. The children's cousins would come over to stay for weeks at a time during the summer and play. They also had a four-holer for the most important seat in the (out) house. Having almost all girls and only one boy on a farm meant that Adam would not have much help with many of the chores required on the farm as the children grew older. This trend would continue. Emma, told her daughter, Mary Bradley, in later years "We worked like men." They had cows that would graze in and around the woods, eliminating any underbrush but needed to be called and milked twice every day. Adam's mother Margaret was almost 80 when she died February 12, 1898 from apoplexy (stroke) and was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

The 1900 census taken in June listed Adam and Gertrude with their six surviving children. They had been married eleven years. It also showed Nicholas and Mary Ann Laux including their son Johnny living two farms away from Adam and Gertrude. The older children would wash the dishes after each meal, dry them and set the table for the next meal with the dishes never going into the cupboard. The family would usually walk to church and back to rest the horses because they worked hard during the week and the large family made fitting in one conveyance difficult. Gertrude's mother, Mary Ann, died at the age of 60 on December 19, 1901 and was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Gertrude gave birth to Catherine Leona, their eighth child, on Christmas day 1900. She was baptized two days later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on December 27th. Adam and Gertrude's ninth child, Marcella Lucille, was born August 12, 1902. She was baptized three days later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on August 15th, the feast of the Assumption. Her siblings called her "Moots" - a name that her close relatives would call her for her entire life. Gertrude gave birth to Margaret Frances, their tenth child, on December 29, 1903. She was baptized two days later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on the last day of 1903. Margaret was called "Mike."

Gertrude's youngest sister Margaretha died in March 1905 at the age of 20 shortly before Gertrude gave birth to August Clarence, their eleventh child and only second boy, on May 03, 1905. He was baptized four days later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on May 7th. He later changed his name to Clarence Gene. On October 25, 1906, Theresa Frances, Adam and Gertrude's twelfth child was born. She was baptized three days later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on October 28th. Theresa was always called "Terry." Gertrude gave birth to Elizabeth Victoria Preska, their thirteenth and last child, on October 20, 1908. She was baptized five days later at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on October

25th. Her nickname was "Toots."

The 1910 census taken in April showed that Jane had already left home to study nursing. All the other children lived at home with Emma, Stella, Catherine, Marcella and Margaret attending school. Their last name on the census record was spelled "Remocklous." Not long after the last baby was born, the oldest children began getting married and leaving home or leaving home and getting married. Mary Ann and Clarence Wagner were married February 22, 1911. Susann married John Laux, who grew up two farms over, on November 25, 1913. Nick married Celia Barnes January 20, 1914. These couples all stayed in the same Indiana/Ohio border area where they grew up. Gertrude's father, Nicholas, died at the age of 73 on February 2, 1916 and was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

After graduating from high school around 1916, Stella followed her sister, Emma, to Dayton where they worked as telegraph operators, and where Linus Wagner, Stella's future husband was working. Shortly thereafter Emma and Stella left Dayton to work for Western Union in Cleveland, Ohio. While in Cleveland, they lived at a Residence Hall for Working Women which the Sisters of Notre Dame operated. Meanwhile Linus went to Akron for work in the rubber industry. Stella and Linus Wagner were married November 27, 1919 in Akron.

The 1920 census taken January 2nd listed Adam and Gertrude and the five youngest children from Marcella down still living at home on the farm and attending school. Mary Ann's census return listed her with her husband, Clarence Wagner, and five children; Irvin, Eulalia, Herbert, Geraldine and Howard. Nick's census record showed him and his wife Celia and their two children; Dolores and Melvin (Bob). Jane's census return showed she was a Graduate Nurse working in General Practice in Cleveland. Susann's return showed her husband, John Laux, and three children; Mary, Lucille and Cordula. Emma was living and working in Cleveland. Stella and her husband, Linus Wagner, were listed as boarders (renting) living in Akron and Stella's sister Catherine lived with them.

It wasn't so much "How do you keep them down on the farm after they've seen the bright lights of the big city?" as a combination of less work and long hours, being paid for their labors and having the opportunity to meet and marry someone not from the same small farming community, who would perpetuate the farming life for yet another generation that made them want to leave. It was these factors that hastened the death of the small family farm in America. In fact, Margaret was so anxious to leave the farm that she went to live with Stella in Akron even before finishing high school and had to be talked into going back home until she graduated.

Emma married Jack Finnerty June 23, 1923 in East Cleveland. Theresa entered the congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood on October 30, 1924. She made her final vows August 15, 1933, taking the name Sr. Lillian. Margaret married Louis Romestant June 17, 1925 in Akron. Catherine married James Pappas June 9, 1926 in Akron. Preska entered the congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, like her sister on August 31, 1926, taking the name Sr. Paulissa. She made her final vows August 15, 1935. Clarence married Ethel Rhoads September 7, 1927 in Lorain. Marcella married J. Albert Krapf April 18, 1929 in Cleveland.

The 1930 census taken April 16 listed only Adam and Gertrude still living on the farm. Many of the children's families had expanded significantly and Adam and Gertrude were grandparents 26 times over. Mary Ann and Clarence Wagner had eight children; Irvin, Eulalia, Herbert, Geraldine, Howard, Dorman, Helen and Lavina. Nick and Celia still had two and had moved to Lorain between 1920 and 1922 for him to work at the oar docks for a steel mill. Susann and John Laux had nine children; Mary, Lucille, Cordula, Aurelia, Bernard, Rosina, Catherine, James and Martha. Emma and Jack Finnerty had two children; Evelyn and Jack. Stella and Linus Wagner had three children; Leona, Dorothy and Polly. Catherine and Jim Pappas had Helen. Marcella had just gotten married and was living in Akron. Margaret also in Akron had Lois. Clarence was married living in Lorain.

Besides the grandchildren listed from the 1930 census, these children were born in the years following the census. Mary Ann had Esther, Emma had Mary Lillian, Stella had Bob, Catherine had Mary Catherine, Marcella had Marilyn and Joyce, Margaret had Trudy and Louis (Sonny), and Clarence remarried after his first wife's death then he and his wife "Billie" adopted Gene and Kathy. This brought the total number of Adam and Gertrude's grandchildren to 36.

Adam died February 11, 1934 at the age of 71 from cirrhosis of the liver at his daughter Emma's home in East Cleveland, Ohio and was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery. Gertrude died March 21, 1943 also in her daughter Emma's home in East Cleveland, Ohio at the age of 74. Her body was brought back to Bryant, Indiana where she was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery next to Adam, who had died nine years before. She must have been living with Emma and her family since the time of Adam's illness and death, at least nine years previously.



After living long, full lives one by one the children passed away. The order of their deaths and age follow:

Stella July 16, 1966 age 68

Nick December 10, 1970 age 79

Mary January 5, 1971 age 81

Margaret December 13, 1972 age 68

Catherine January 18, 1974 age 73

Susann August 21, 1974 age 80

Emma January 19, 1982 age 86

Clarence January 20, 1984 age 78

Marcella April 29, 1984 age 81

Jane February 15, 1987 age 94

Sr. Paulissa September 10, 1987 age 78

Sr. Mary Lillian May 3, 1993 age 86