

The Rausch Family

I was born on a farm that was 1½ miles east of Livingston. This is the story of my family through good times and bad. My grandparents purchased this farm in 1908 from John Coalson.

Alois Rausch was born in Austria-Hungary in 1851. At the age of 18, he left home to avoid having to serve in the army. Whether he had brothers or sisters, he never spoke of them. His travels took him to Czechoslovakia, where he found work in a coalmine.

How he traveled from New York to northern Illinois is unknown to me. Evidently the journey was made known to Julia because she too arrived in the Kangely-Streator area. Some other members of the Korunka family also came to the United States, for my father had several aunts that I learned to know.

As the year went on, Alois's family grew with the birth of John, Emma, and Charles. There were two daughters Julia and Matilda who died at birth. They were buried in a cemetery in Streator.

Veins of coal can be "worked out" and when the mine owners can't operate for a profit, they close the mines. This happened in northern Illinois. One winter Alois and Frank went to Iowa to work. Work was scarce, so when news spread of the new mines being sunk in the counties of Madison and Macoupin, there was an exodus of miners from the north to central Illinois settling in the towns of Staunton, Williamson, and Livingston.

The Rausch family settled in Williamson. Included in the family was a second family-Louis had married Mary Crawford and had two sons and was expecting twins. Frank, John, Charles, and Emma were still single. Because Mary Rausch had too many small children to take care of, she sent off for her cousin Katherine Ashcroft to come to Williamson to help take care of the children.

Alois and Julia worked and saved money to buy a farm in 1908. They purchased an eighty-acre farm 1½ miles east from William Tabor, which was part of John Coalson's Homestead Act grant. They moved there from Williamson the same year.

Some changes in the family occurred. Emma married Frank Miller of Worden. Louis and family moved back to Streator. Frank, John, and Charles were still single and moved with their parents to the farm.

Frank became interested in Katherine Ashcroft, whom he had known in Kangley, and decided he wanted to marry her. With Louis's family moving back to Streator and Frank was proposing marriage, she decided to accept his proposal.

In January 1910, Julia became very ill and didn't recover. So it became an all-male household on the farm. Emma decided to sue her father for her share of her mother's share of the farm. The farm had to be sold. Alois and the sons Frank, John, and Charles bought it back. Later Frank paid off his brothers.

On October 12, 1910, Frank and Katherine were married and stayed on the farm. John soon married Lucile Clark and moved to Collinsville, came back to Livingston for a while, then returned to Collinsville, where he lived with his family until his death.

Charles was drafted in the First World War. He was sent to a camp in Kentucky where he soon became chief cook. He never served overseas and was discharged. After the war, he returned to the farm. He tried his hand in operating a hardware store with John Skamenka, went to Streator, and then back to the farm.

Frank's family grew with the birth of a daughter Bridget Ashcroft in 1911, a son Harry Edward in 1915, a daughter Frances Katherine in 1918, and a surprise, another son James David in 1933.

Frank farmed the 80 acres and worked in No. 2 mine in Williamson as a mine examiner. This was a night job so he was able to work the farm in the day.

Since Alois always lived with Frank's family, we were all sorry with his passing in 1930. He was 79 years old and had learned to speak English very well, read English and also read a Bohemian weekly paper from a publisher in Chicago.

Our biggest sorrow was the passing of Kitty Rausch on January 14, 1935, leaving Jimmy, who was too young to ever remember his mother.

Frances and Louis Perne decided to get married on January 17, 1942. Our family increased with the birth of twins Jane and Janet on December 24, 1942.

Life continued on the farm until the 1950's. Frank was not anxious to sell, so we decided to move to Livingston.

Frank would not move. James had been in Chicago, and after an accident to his back, he brought his family to the farm. He was able to work the farm and worked at Laclede in Alton.

Frank died in 1956; he had sold the farm to James and Norma. They were being asked by families to buy the acreage along the New Douglas road. They sold lots and were soon asked to sell more. Today they have about 16 homes on what once was "Rausch's Farm".

James passed away in 1985. Now Frances Perne is the only "Rausch" of direct line to Alois.

The Reeves Family

William Hardin Reeves, son of Civil War Veteran John David Reeves and Anna Elizabeth Presley, was born March 9, 1873 in Elsberry, Lincoln County, Missouri. In his youth, he worked on a boat that carried mail back and forth across the Mississippi River from Missouri to Illinois.

On November 17, 1900, in Calhoun County, Illinois, he married Cora May Derwin, daughter of French immigrant Edward Derwin and Martha Bell. Cora was born April 21, 1881 in Lincoln County, Missouri. Their first two children, Ethel Flossie born August 3, 1901 and Lucille born October 23, 1903, were born in Golden Eagle, Calhoun County. First son, Orin Selby was born October 18, 1905 in Livingston, Madison County, followed by William Lawrence born February 14, 1907. Orin died December 23, 1907 and is buried in Spangle Cemetery. Cora always said he smothered in a feather bed, but in later years, Ethel wondered if he possibly died of what is now known as crib death.

The Reeves Family moved to Livingston between 1903 and 1905. William worked in the coalmines as a "fireman" (which in coalmine lingo means he kept the fires going) walking back and forth every day until well past the age of 65 when his daughter Ethel finally told him if he wasn't going to retire from the mines, he at least had to start taking a taxi back and forth to work, which he did. He never did learn to drive. It is believed he worked in the coalmines until about age 70.

In addition to working the coalmines, William, along with his wife Cora, owned and ran the Variety Store near the railroad tracks in Livingston during the 1930s. Cora and their children worked many hours at the store while William worked the mines.

Cora died September 1965, and it was then that William went to live with his daughter Ethel in Staunton. He died in 1971 at the age of 98 ½ years, greatly loved by all that knew him.

Ethel married Emil Beyer February 27, 1926, at the home of her parents in Livingston and they raised four children. Ethel, who passed away in 1988, had six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

Lucille graduated from Livingston School and went on to school in Normal, Illinois to become a school teacher. She taught school for about two years in Alton, Illinois. She married Clarence Johnson, and they had nine children, three of whom died before the age of 5. Lucille passed away in 1948 and had nineteen grandchildren, thirty-eight great grandchildren, and eight known great-great grandchildren.

William Lawrence graduated from Livingston School and went on to school to become a pharmacist. He lived in St. Louis and had two sons. He has three grandchildren.

About 1919, Lucille was dating a young man who tragically drowned. He had a younger sister that Lucille had become very fond of and vice versa. Little Grace Louise Jones came to Livingston to spend the night with the Reeves family . . . and stayed eleven years until her marriage. Although never legally adopted, she became a much beloved daughter, sister, and aunt. She is currently residing in Texas at age 93, has one daughter, two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

The Amandus Carl Salter and Eunice Eugenia (Jones) Salter Family

Amandus was born on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1897, one and one-half miles southeast of Livingston, Illinois. The farm was owned by his grandfather Carl, whom Amandus had been named after. He attended the Hazel Dell school just a fourth of a mile from his home. After completing the sixth grade, he was required to attend two years in the German school in Alhambra. He was confirmed on April 9, 1911 at Salem Evangelical Church in Alhambra. Being the second oldest son of a family of ten living children, five died as infants, Amandus had his share of chores to do. Schooling was not considered too important in those days and the boys stayed home when it was harvest and planting time.

Eunice was born September 19, 1900 in Staunton, Illinois at the home of her grandparents, Wiley and Sarah Ellen (Sawyer) Jarman. At that time, her grandparents were living on North Edwardsville Street. When Eunice was 6 weeks old, fire destroyed the house. Eunice attended both the old North and South Grade Schools at Staunton and one year of High School. At home she was called Jeannie, but when she started school, went by her given name. She had blue eyes and long, curly auburn hair.



Amandus and Eunice Salter

Eunice liked school and had hopes of becoming a nurse. Her aunt, Martha Jarman, was a nurse at Cook County Hospital in Chicago where Eunice planned to take her training. However, when her father remarried, they moved to a farm southeast of Livingston and she was unable to finish high school. It was while they were living on this farm that she met her husband, Amandus, who lived about 1 1/2 miles from her home. Their first date was a Box Social at Hazel Dell School. Eunice was 17 and Amandus was 21.

They married September 6, 1919 at Salem Church in Alhambra. Their first home was on Henry Street in Staunton and Amandus worked at Priesmeyer Dairy. In 1920, he started working at #2 mine at Williamson and remained there until the mine closed in 1957. During their married life they lived in the Staunton/Livingston area. In 1926, they built a home on School Street in Livingston and this was their "Homestead" where they raised their two daughters, Lorene Heeren, who died in 1970 and Ellen Dal Pozzo who died in 2004.

Amandus was a hard worker - even after his retirement from the mines. In his younger years he was in a dance band. After he retired from the coal mine, he started a sewing machine sales and repair business. Eunice made rag rugs and sold them. When her health kept her from her hobby, Amandus took over weaving the carpets from the rags Eunice had sewed together. As if they weren't busy enough, Amandus also repaired and made violins. Eunice played piano and sang.

Amandus died February 9, 1971 at St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. Eunice died June 6, 1986 at St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. They are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, Staunton.

The Karl and Emma Schuette Family

In north central Germany, Ducky of Braunschweig, nestled near the Ith Mountain Range, sits the quiet village of Bremke. As far back as 1663 the Schuette family had established roots at this place. Numerous generations of Schuettes lived on the same farm until early March, 1872. At that time, the Franco-Prussian war had finally ended, family members had died during the war, and life was very difficult. The family decided it was time to try to find a better life. The thought was, "Let's go to America!" It is told that the family had received glowing reports about the land in Madison County (perhaps this was from other families who had emigrated from the Bremke area such as the Sievers, Albrechts, Heinemeiers and Kohlenbergs).

On January 3, 1872 their notice was published in the *Braunscheigischen Anzeign* of their intent to immigrate to America. The family sold everything they owned and booked passage on the German ship S.S. Herman. Those who sailed to America were Heinrich and Wilhelmine (Bock) Schuette and their children Conrad, Wilhelm, Wilhelmine, Karl and August. Also traveling with them was Conrad's wife Caroline Kohlenberg Schuette, their three-month old son Karl, and Caroline's brother, Karl Kohlenberg.

The family sailed from the port at Bremen and headed for America. They arrived in New York City on March 11, 1872. Their next destination was Olive Town-



The Schuette Family about 1906.
Front row from left: Emma (Schuette) Schlichte, Karl (Chas) Schuette, Carl Schuette, Emma (Witte) Schuette, Julia (Schuette) Ruehrup.
Back row: Henry Schuette, August, Schuette, Edward Schuette, Louis Schuette.

ship, Madison County, Illinois. Shortly after arriving in Madison County, Heinrich bought a parcel of land from George Whaling for \$4,200. This land is on the sharp curve on Spangle Road near Section 9 of Olive Township.

The children grew older, got married, and moved from the family farm. Conrad moved to Missouri; Wilhelm moved to Worden; August stayed in the area, married Minnie Stille, and died young; Wilhelmine married William Sievers, and Karl married the neighbor girl, Emma Witte.

In May 1903, Karl bought a farm in Section 15 of Olive Township. The family stayed on the original Heinrich Schuette place until about 1910 and rented out the new farm. They then moved to the farm where Sam and Mary McKenzie now live.

Karl and Emma had nine children born to them. One daughter was stillborn after Emma was kicked in the stomach by a cow and another daughter, Anna, died at the age of nine years from diphtheria. The children growing into adulthood were Eduard, August, Louis, Henry, Julia, Emma and Carl. Of these children, Eduard moved to Canada, Henry and Julia moved near Alhambra, and his son Carl moved several times finally settling in Staunton. August stayed on the original farm in Section 9 and Emma stayed with

her parents on the farm in Section 15.

Karl Sr. (also known as Charles, Charlie and Chas) was a prominent man in the area with many neighbors coming to him for advice. He helped coach German immigrants in American ways and politics so they could get their citizenship papers. He farmed for a living, but also took an active part in the affairs of Olive Township, serving as assessor, school director, road commissioner and bank director. In October, 1909, the contractors Sheppard & Morgan Engineers drew up a town plat for the "Schuette Addition." This parcel of land was a part of Karl's farm. The section line bound it on the south, Livingston Avenue on the west, Maple Street on the north, and Leland Avenue and Hillsboro Road on the east. It would include Maple Street, Elm Street, Oak Street, Hickory Street, St. Louis Avenue, Grand Avenue and Leland Avenue.

In the years of about 1914 and 1915, horse racing was an important pastime for people in the Village of Livingston. Louis Schuette owned some of the fastest horses around. One of his favorites was named Don C. It is said his horses were conditioned by their being used to pull a milk wagon. It is believed that the racetrack was approximately where our ball field now sits. Louis was also a businessman in Livingston. He owned a feed and implement store where for many years and later converted it into a lumberyard.

Emma Schuette married Ferdinand Schlechte and lived on the farm for many years after Karl's death in 1931. She moved into town on South Second Street when Interstate 55 engulfed the house and most of the farm. About 1974, Sam and Mary (Schuette) McKenzie purchased the remaining thirteen acres of the farm and have lived there since 1977. The land has been in the ownership of generations of the same family for over 100 years.

The Family of Roger (Rock) and Anna (Goldasich) Spudich

Roger Spudich was born in Yugoslavia and came to America with his parents Joseph and Catherine (Zarr) Spudich when he was an infant. Ironically, Anna was born in Staunton but returned to Yugoslavia when she was approximately a year and a half old, then returning to America at the age of 18. She met and married Roger Spudich at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Livingston. They had nine children, eight of which graduated from Livingston High School. They are as follows, in order of birth:

Paul, "Moody", the eldest, was a retired ironworker who passed away in 2002 at the age of 74. He never married, and aside from serving in the US Army in his younger years, lived in Livingston his entire life. He was an avid sports fan whose record following of basketball won him a place in the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame.

Frances married Ray Savant from Panama IL and now resides in Belvedere IL. Frances worked for the Belvedere School District from which she retired, while Ray worked for the Cassens's in Belvedere and has also retired. They have one daughter Carrie who is married to Bruce Hanley and lives near Seattle WA. Carrie graduated from Arizona University in the 1970's.

Catherine married Don Wright, a retired attorney and judge, from Alabama. Catherine worked for the Ford Plant for many years, and upon moving to Alabama with her husband, worked for Alcoa. She has also retired and resides with her husband in Orange Beach, AL. She has no children.

Arthur Spudich was killed in a solo truck accident at the age of 21 on his way to a construction site where he was working.

Cecelia married Joe Lockhart of Denver CO. Cecelia graduated from nursing school at Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, later earning her BS Degree in nursing in Colorado. She still works part-time on an as-needed basis. Cecilia has twin daughters, Melissa and Natasha, who have just finished their third year of college in Colorado.

Eugene (Cheezy) Spudich married Marty Baker of Jerseyville IL. He served in the US Air Force earlier and has since worked for and retired from Shell Oil Company. He currently lives in Jerseyville where he and his wife own and run a shirt printing business called Webe Inc. He has no children.

Raymond (Joe) Spudich married Patricia Ficker of Staunton, IL. He graduated from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1969 and is presently co-owner of Fritz Drug Store in Staunton IL where he has worked since 1966. His wife retired from SIUE this past year. They have three children; Nathan graduated from EIU and is employed by May Co. in St. Louis. Adrienne has her Masters in Counseling and is employed by the Granite City School District; she is married to Andy Johnson and has one daughter, Adelyn, born in January 2005. Tiffany received her Doctorate of Pharmacy Degree in May 2004 and is currently employed by St. John's Mercy Hospital in St. Louis.

Laura married Rick Worms of Mascoutah IL. She graduated from SIU with a BS degree in nursing and later in music. She has a son Michael who is a freshman in high school. Laura and her family reside in Kansas City MO.

Margaret, the youngest, passed away at the age of six in March of 1954. She died of rheumatic fever.

Roger worked in the coal mines in the surrounding area, namely the Livingston Mine until it closed. He then became an ironworker and passed away while working in 1970. His wife Anna was a homemaker and passed away in 1985.

Memories of the Voyles Family

Our family's roots go deep into Wales. About 1749 Jacob Voyles, my fifth great grandfather, and his four sons, (William, James, John, and Thomas) migrated to the United States. Arriving by ship, they settled in North and South Carolina.

His son John, my 4th great grandfather died in South Carolina. But his son Samuel Henry Voyles, my 3rd great grandfather born about 1778 left South Carolina, traveling through Tennessee, and settled in the North East sections of Madison County, Illinois. These pioneers built their homes and a school -- married and had families -- losing a few of their children at a young age.

My 2nd great grandfather Able Voyles, married Anna Young of Tennessee and their son Robert Young my 1st great grandfather, married Almanza Jane Coalson. Their son Thomas Newton my grandfather, married Amelia Jane Caldwell. (The Caldwells came from Ireland and settled in Macoupin County and Staunton, Illinois.) They and their children Thomas Caldwell, Walter Newton, and Pearl Agnes lived south of Livingston, and farmed.

My father Walter Newton, married my mother Grace Isabel Grange of nearby Livingston. Six children were born of their marriage, Charles Thomas (died June 1984), Walter Norman, Robert Leroy (died at age seven), June Isabel, William Hadley, and John Joseph. We lived in Livingston and then moved north-east of town. We all attended the Livingston School District. My father, Walter (Bud) worked at Louis Mitchelar's hardware in Livingston (died April 1956). My brothers served in the Army, Air Force, and Marines, married and had families. My mother Grace Isabel returned to Livingston and worked as a Police Dispatcher and Librarian, (died October 1997).

I moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and married Harry Herbert Hiscox, he served in the Army, Korean Conflict. We have two sons, Dale Lee and Robert Herbert (lives in St. Louis, Mo.); in July 1989 we retired and returned to the Livingston area. Harry worked as a custodian for the Livingston School District for four years. I worked as a nurse at the Hampton Nursing Care, in Alhambra for five years. Our son Dale Lee and his wife Linda Gail, daughter Tara Lynn and son David Lee built their home nearby in 1989-90. My grandchildren attended Livingston School District and graduated. Dale is employed at Lincoln, St. Louis, Mo. and Linda is Bank Manager at First National Bank, Livingston. David is attending SIUE and Tara, attended UVSC in Utah. She is married to Steven Smith and lives in San Antonio, Texas. Harry and I have retired again to the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri.

Eight generations have lived in Livingston and the surrounding areas. They were noble people. We may contemplate what those before us have gone through that we might be here, as we sense their faith and courage and feel their love for us and our love for them, we realize what is really important. We were built on rock-sturdy rock and proud of our heritage.