

The Julius Schwegler Family

Julius was born on January 30, 1859 in Switzerland, probably in a rural area of Canton Luzerne, and was brought to this country in 1863 along with a half-brother Franz Anton (Frank Anthony) by his father, Joseph and a step-mother. His father settled first in Fayette County, Illinois where another brother Joseph was born and the step-mother died. The family then moved on to Mount Sterling, Missouri (Gasconade County) where Joseph married again to a Mrs. Anna Kallewyne. From this union two more half-brothers were brought into Julius' world. Hann apparently was born and died in 1867 as there is a gravestone in an unnamed cemetery located in Gasconade County Section 3, Township 43N, Range 6 West, just south of the junction of Little Bay Road and Missouri Highway 19. This little stone carries simply the name Hann Schwegler and the date 1867 for both birth and death. The next and last half-brother was born on March 27, 1868 at Bay, Gasconade County, Missouri

As the former Mrs. Kallewyne remarried after Joseph died (1870) and Julius apparently didn't get along with either her or her new husband; he left home at a very early age to make his own way. He became a citizen of the U.S.A. on November 5, 1881; as is recorded in the Gasconade County Circuit Court records.

Julius married Sarah Frances Ridenhour, daughter of Martin Ridenhour and Sarah Ann Rebecca Mahon, at Buckelk, Missouri on November 28, 1880. The deed for 80 acres of land in Maries County, north half of the northeast quarter section in section 5, township 40, range 8 is dated July 10, 1895 and co-signed by John Shepherd Ridenhour and G.M. Jones. This location corresponds to the site of the home of H.D. Schwegler at the junction of what are currently Maries County Roads 302 and 303. According to oral history Julius and Sarah apparently later moved to a home just east of the Franklin School. At least one record I've seen also lists this as the Schwegler School. Julius was a member of the church of Christ for over 50 years, instrumental in starting the Bethel church of Christ and building the meeting house that this congregation still meets in to this day.

To Julius and Sarah's family six children were born, five boys and one girl. Oliver M., the oldest son and Ida J., their only daughter died in infancy and Ida J. is buried in a field just south of the Franklin School. As a child I remember a cedar tree at that spot.

Julius and Sarah's second son was Harley Defraney Schwegler, my grandfather. Harley married Martha Leona Shanks, daughter of Andrew Jackson Shanks and Sarah Octavia McDaniel, on March 12, 1916 and they were still living on the home farm at Pay Down when he died on April 4, 1965; Leona died on July 27, 1982 and rests next to her husband. To this union was born five children; Julius, Paul, and Amos Clifford all died in infancy and are buried at Bethel. Their only daughter, Sarah Elisabeth, was born on April 22, 1920, married Woodrow Joseph Hopkins on March 19, 1938, at Vienna, and they lived on the Hopkins home farm all of her life. Sarah died on August 16, 1981 and is buried at Bethel; Woodrow followed on March 2, 1997.

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Of the children born to Sarah, Brenda Leona was born on July 7, 1952, died on February 18, 1960 and is buried at Bethel. Sarah also left a living daughter and her family.

Harley's only son that lived to maturity, Leslie Lewis, was born on March 3, 1922 and married R. Nadine Clark at Iberia, Missouri on October 24, 1942. Leslie and Nadine lived on the home farm until 1956 when they moved to Dixon, Missouri and then to Rolla. Nadine passed away on November 19, 2004 and Leslie on May 28, 2009, both are buried in Nadine's family plot at Skaggs Chapel south of Belle, Missouri. They have two sons, both born at Paydown, Missouri and still living with families of their own.

The third son born to Julius and Sarah was Benjamin Franklin on June 28, 1886. Ben's first marriage was to Eva Shanks; daughter of George W. and Nancy Margaret Johnson Shanks, date unknown, at Edwardsville, Illinois. To this union was born:

Dorus Clinton on July 30, 1911; Dorus served in the U.S. Army during World War II, never married and died at the Soldiers' Home in St. James on September 3, 1995. He is buried at the Pilot Knob Baptist Church Cemetery in rural Osage County, Missouri east of Belle.

Era Artie on March 16, 1908; Era married Willis Mitchell on March 15, 1927 and died at Vienna, Missouri, on May 4, 1989; leaving three living children and their families as of this writing.

John Julius on September 24, 1916; and served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. During the war John married Nellie Asher in Pineville, Kentucky and my records show one adopted daughter. John married a second time on August 11, 1990 in Bell County, Kentucky and passed away at Harrogate, Tennessee on January 25, 2003. He is buried in Green Hills Memorial Gardens, Middleboro, Bell County, Kentucky.

Ben's second marriage was to Ella Mitchell in March, 1937 at Marshall, Missouri. Two daughters were born to this union, both still living at the time of this writing. Ben died at Pilot Knob, Missouri on March 31, 1968 and is buried in the Pilot Knob Cemetery; Eva Shanks Schwegler died on January 18, 1938 and is buried at Buckelk; Ella Mitchell died on August 28, 1964.

The fourth son of Julius and Sarah was Harrison Wright was born on November 14, 1892. Wright's first marriage was to Belle McKinney at Summerfield on February 27, 1914; Belle died in February, 1923 and is buried at Bethel; a newborn child was buried with her. Their children, to the best of my knowledge, are August, Oma, Harley, Willard, Roy and Frank. Wright's second marriage was to Stella Burt at Argyle, Missouri. The actual record has not been found on the internet sources but we expect that it was recorded either in Maries or Osage County. Their children are listed as Billy, Joseph B., Betty and Bonnie Lee (twins), Ollie, Janice and Earl. Most of these children lived and raised the Metropolitan St. Louis area and several worked in the flooring business. When buying a piece of carpet for an area rug Bob Woodside of Woodside Floors in Normandy asked if I was related to the Schweglers whom he had employed.

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The fifth son and youngest child of Julius and Sarah is Rainey Adam, born on May 30, 1904 and still living in Rolla, Missouri. Rainey was first married to Orpha Elrod, daughter of George B. Elrod and Rebecca Jones, who died April 11, 1939, and is buried at the Bethel church of Christ. His second marriage was on May 30, 1944 to Una Wiles Barnhart in Rolla, Phelps County, Missouri, daughter of William Christopher Wiles and Ollie Jones and widow of Riley Anderson Barnhart. Una Schwegler passed away in June, 1980 and is buried in the Stokes Cemetery, Van Cleve, Maries County, Missouri near her first husband. Rainey's third marriage was to Margaret Frances Webber Thomas, on January 29, 1990 in Rolla, Phelps County, Missouri. Margaret was the daughter of John Edward Webber and Mary Ann Dunham and the widow of Festus Thomas. All of Rainey's children were born of his marriage to Orpha Elrod and are as follows (tho Rainey has a number of great-grandchildren space constraints will not permit more detail):

Virginia May, born in Maries County on July 21, 1924; married Charles Warren Crossman at Union, Missouri on July 31, 1942 died July 10, 2000 at Vienna, Missouri. Their only child, Patricia Ann, was born on March 18, 1950 at St. Louis, Missouri and is deceased.

Edna Elsie, born in Maries County on March 8, 1926; married Jackie Ray Myers on January 13, 1950 and is currently living in the St. Louis area. Their children are Judith Kay and Brenda Jean.

Junie Fay, born in Maries County on July 21, 1928; married Anthony George Pollard on July 26, 1947 and lives in the St. Louis area. Their children are Kathleen June, Elizabeth Ann, George Anthony, Michael John (deceased), Kenneth Joseph and Carolyn Marie.

Waneta Lavern, born in Maries County on May 27, 1931, married Melvin Cecil Grothe on June 30, 1947 and lives in the St. Louis area. Their children are Barbara Jeanette, James Edward (deceased), Douglas Bruce, Pamela Jean, Cheryl Raina and Evelyn Mary.

Alice Delphine, born in Maries County on December 17, 1933; married Donald Lee Kohl on September 5, 1953 and lives near Arnold, Missouri. Their children are Janet Lynn, Jill Michelle, John Barry and Joseph Harry.

George Julius, born in Maries County on December 30, 1937; married Marilyn Jane Moore on January 25, 1964 and lives in the St. Louis area. Their children are Evan Lee and Valin Duane.

Sarah Francis Ridenhour Schwegler died on April 17, 1924 at the home farm and is buried at Bethel church of Christ. Julius Schwegler died on February 21, 1943 at the home of Harley Defraney Schwegler and rests beside his wife at Bethel.