

## ANDREW JORDAN

Andrew Jordan was born on May 20, 1812 at Cologne Preusen, Prussia now Germany. Little can be learned of his early life except that his family was of the middle class of farmers. He was married in Germany to Clara Kramer who was born in 1815, the exact date and place unknown.

They had a total of eleven children, ten of which were born in Germany and the last, Elizabeth, was born in the United States. As much information as is available on these children will follow in sequence later in this history.

Five of the children born in Germany passed away there apparently at young ages, since it is estimated they were married about 1835 and Karl the oldest to arrive with them was twelve years old. One son died aboard ship on the way here and was buried at sea. This was one of the unfortunate incidents in the life of Andrew and his wife, one of which he often spoke with sorrow in later years.

Andrew and his wife Clara arrived in the United States with their four remaining children in 1852. Little is known of their crossing except it is noted they came by a "big boat" very likely a large crude sailing vessel. The four children were Karl, John and the twins Anna and Katherine.

The family landed in New York and from there migrated to Illinois. The exact place where they settled in Illinois or what Andrew did there as a means of living is not recorded. Neither are any family incidents. They lived there about three years.

In 1855 the family came to Minnesota by covered wagon. This journey, no doubt, required several months since it is established they arrived here in the fall and no doubt left in the spring or early summer. Andrew immediately started a search for a piece of property to settle on and chose the So  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the N  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 18 in Plymouth Township. He filed a homestead claim to this property that same year.

Before winter set in he had cut the timber, hewed the logs and built a small cabin on the southwest shore of what was known as Jordan Lake. This lake has now been drained and what remains is a swampy bog but at that time it was quite a good size with a small island to the west of the Jordan cabin. It is reported the fishing was good too, and many of the family meals came from the fish that were caught there.

The choice of site for the cabin had its practical side also in that it served as a place to do the family wash and a place to water the livestock and chickens.

The wooded area also abounded in wild game including bear and deer. Andrew was an enthusiastic hunter and provided a good share of the family's food with all sorts of wild game.

Indians were quite common in the area and though no incidents of actual damage or harm to property or family were reported they always dreaded their appearance. They were never sure if they were friendly or hostile and since no one spoke their language they never knew what their intentions were.

It was in this cabin on August 10, 1858 that Elizabeth was born, the last of the eleven children and the first to be born in this country.

In 1858 when the territory of Minnesota became a state, Andrew Jordan was appointed as the first constable of Plymouth Twsp. He held this position for several years, records do not show the exact dates.

On November 23 1860 Andrew acquired title to the property as required by the new Minnesota laws. The records show the property was purchased on this date but since he had already filed homestead rights in 1855 it is presumed there was a fee that had to be paid to the state.

In the same year work was begun in cutting and hewing the logs for a new house. All cutting and hewing was done by hand and all logs used were of red or white oak. The house was completed in 1861. It was a log frame structure with log rafters, the roof was covered by roof boards and shingles and the sides covered by sheathing and siding. It was considered a rather new type of construction and a forerunner of our present buildings. This house was located on the south side of the Perkinsville Road about three fourths mile west of Hwy. 101.

Andrew moved his family into this new house in the summer of 1861 where they lived until his wife, Clara, died on Nov. 2, 1867. She was buried at Holy Name Cemetery, Medina, Minn.

In 1871 he was married to Gertrude Timmers who was born in Sittard, Holland on April 19, 1852. She came to the United States when she was ten years old. It is known that her crossing was also made in an old type vessel and took fifty nine days. She died at Wayzata on Nov. 23, 1932, and was buried at Holy Name, Medina.

Eight children were born of this marriage. They were Katherine, who died at the age of four as a result of a reaper accident, Anna, Andrew, Mary, Katherine, who was renamed after the first Katherine killed in the accident mentioned, John, Theresa, and Elizabeth. The death of Katherine was another incident which caused a deep sorrow in Andrew's life. He was operating the reaper, one of the first horse drawn reapers of that time, himself and did not see the little girl who had walked into the grain field unbeknown to him. As the reaper passed over her it amputated both her legs. Little medical aid was known or to had in those days and the child died from loss of blood.

To return to the history of the children of the first marriage:

Karl was born in Prussia, about 1840. Came to the U. S. with his parents in 1852. He died at the age of 22 during the Civil War. He was buried in St. Anthony.

John was born in Oberhausen , Germany on January 16, 1845. He also came with his parents in 1852. In 1864 he enlisted in the 8th Minnesota Volunteer Regiment and was mustered out May 16, 1865. He returned to Plymouth Twsp. and married Mary Anna Weidenbach, who was born in Dahlenbach Frier Preusen, Germany Jan. 10, 1849, on Nov. 10, 1868. In 1871 he bought the farm where Mathias Jordan now lives. Twelve children were born to them, John and Andrew who died in infancy, Mary, who died at five years, Elizabeth, John, Alex, Herbert, Michael, Mary, Mathias, Laura, and Clara. In 1874 he was elected assessor. This he was until 1880 when he was appointed town clerk, an office he held for approximately 22 years. His son Herbert has held the office since 1916. In 1881 he built the house where Alex now lives.

He died Feb. 16, 1916, buried at Holy Name. Wife died Dec. 25 1914.

Anna, also born in Oberhausen Oct. 30, 1848 and came with her parents. She married Peter Puetz and moved to Parry Twsp. Dane Co. Wisc. They later moved to Starr, S. Dak. and from there to Parkston, S. Dak. Anna died there about 1920 and was buried there. They had twelve children including two sets of twins, Julia and Josephine, and Henry and Rose, also Margaret, John, Frank, Joseph, Elizabeth, Anna, Francis, Magdelene.

Katherine, twin of Anna, came to this country with her parents at age four. She died at seventeen and was buried at Holy Name, Medina.

Elizabeth, first of the children born here on Aug. 10 1858, married Frederick Eckes on Sept. 23, 1873. They had thirteen children, two dying in infancy, and Mathias, Andrew, Clara, Anna, Fred, Catherine, John, Phillip, Magdelene, Joseph, Cecelia. They first lived in a small log house on a few acres on what is now known as Fox Ave. also beside a creek in which all the family washing was done. Later they bought a farm at the intersection of Sixth Ave. and Perkinsville Road, now owned by a grandson Fidelis Eckes. Elizabeth died there May 10, 1935 and was buried at Holy Name, Medina.

Of the second family of eight children all were born at the old homestead. Katherine's story has been told in preceding paragraphs.

Anna was born on Jan. 13 1874 and married Joseph Kloeckner on May 5, 1889 and lived in the old log frame house on the Perkinsville Road for many years. They later moved to Wayzata about 1915, and again later moved to Minneapolis where Anna died. They had a family of eight children.

Andrew was born Dec. 30, 1876 and lived with his parents and farmed the old homestead until about 1910. He married Lillian Case of Corcoran Oct. 4 1910. They lived at Corcoran ,Minn. until the time of a fire which destroyed their home in 1919 and both were burned to death. He was buried at Holy Name, Medina.

Mary was born Feb. 2, 1879. She never married. She later moved to Wayzata and went to work as a housemaid in Minneapolis. She died in Mpls. on Mar. 1, 1949 and was buried at Holy Name, Medina.

Katherine was born Feb. 25, 1882 and was married to William Gerling of Phillips Wisconsin. They had one son. They lived on the farm there until her death November 19, 1941. Burial place unknown.

John was born Dec. 2, 1884 and married Melvina Case on Sept. 26, 1914. They had four children. He worked as a section hand on the Mpls. St. Paul and Sioux Ste. Marie Railroad. He retired from there and bought a small farm near Hanover, Minn. He later sold this and moved to Robbinsdale where he now lives.

Theresa was born Mar. 1885. She passed away at age 11. Buried in Holy Name, Medina.

Elizabeth was born in Nov. 7, 1889 and married to Nicholas Kloeckner on May 28, 1908. They moved to Wayzata and are still living there at the present time. They have two daughters, Bernice and Eleanor.

Of the entire family of Andrew Jordan, John and Elizabeth are the sole survivors.

In conclusion it could be said that Andrew Jordan was a tireless worker, though small in stature, 5' 7", who cleared a great deal of the land alone and a good share of cutting and hewing the logs for his homes. Practically all family supplies that had to be bought were brought home on his back from St. Anthony Village a distance of about sixteen miles, or more, on narrow trails.

He loved to entertain guests at his home and many a gay party was held in his home. Travellers and guests were always welcome. Because of this hospitality, a priest from some great distance away was allowed to come to his home and say Mass on Sunday morning. Holy Name Church was not yet then established. This priest would have to come on Saturday and possibly stay over till Monday morning. Andrew and his wife gave up their bed for this priest and went into the basement to sleep.

After his death the homestead was rented out for a while, then later sold to Frank Mengelkoch and after Mr. Mengelkoch's death was again sold to Joseph Leuer who is now the present owner.

It is to be noted that there were many duplications in the names of the children. This was sort of an old German custom. When one died the next of its sex was almost always named the same name. Records were not as accurate or complicated as of now and people were not too concerned about confusion in mail, bank, or charge accounts.

As near as can be calculated there was a total of 51 grandchildren of Andrew Jordan. On Dec. 12, 1904 he died and was buried in Holy Name Cemetery, Medina, Minn.

Jordan, John      son of Andrew Jordan by first wife.

Copied from " History of Hennepin County " Neill 1881

"John H Jordan, a native of Prussia was born Jan. 16, 1845, when he came with his parents to America. They landed in New York in the fall of 1852, and went to Newark, New Jersey, for a short time and in 1853, moved to Illinois. In the spring of 1855, they came to Minnesota and made a claim on section 18, of what is now Plymouth Township, where they experienced, of course, their share of the hardships of pioneer life. In July, 1864 John H enlisted in the 8th Minnesota Regiment, Vol. served nine months and was mustered out at Fort Snelling, May 16, 1865. He returned to the homestead and lived until his marriage with Anna M Weidenback, which occurred in November, 1868. In 1871 he bought the farm where he now lives. Mrs. Jordan has been active in all the public affairs of the town, also in promoting the causes of christianity and education. He has been assessor for six years, also justice of the peace, and school officer for a number of years. At present he fills the office of town clerk. They have six children, only three of whom are living, Anna, John and Alexander."

There were more children, see Andrew Jordan history. In the 1873 atlas there is no indication of his having owned land at that time. It came later.