

Weikel – Hochgesang Families

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From the book, Jent – Schum – Weikel – Hochgesang – Risse – Kost, by Jerry Long, McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 1994; copies of the book can be found in the following repositories - L.D.S. Library, Salt Lake City, UT; Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; Kentucky Historical Society Library, Frankfort, KY; Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, WI; Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY; and Spencer County Public Library, Rockport, IN:

Michael Weikel (c1794-1866+) Founding Member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Jasper, Indiana

The Weikel name in German records is also spelled Weigel. There are numerous misspellings found in English records. Michael Weikel about the year of 1794 was born in the German providence of Hesse(n)-Darmstadt. Hesse-Darmstadt is no longer a geographical entity. It was combined with Hessen to form the state of Hesse, located in the west central part of what was later West Germany. Hesse-Darmstadt was bordered on the west by the Rhine River. Its major towns included Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, Offenbach and Darmstadt.

Michael Weikel married about 1820. His wife was named Barbara and she was born about 1798. It is not known if she was his first or only wife. At least three children were born to Michael Weikel in Germany - Adam, c1822, Joahann (John), c1824, and George, c1835.

Sometime between 1835-1837 Michael Weikel and his family immigrated to the United States. They for a short time lived in Pennsylvania. In 1837 they moved to Dubois County, Indiana, where they made a home near the town of Jasper. Upon the death of Michael's son, John, it was written in the weekly newspaper, Jasper Courier (30 July 1875, pl) that: "He was among the first Germans that settled in this community, having come here from Pennsylvania with his parents, when he was but 13 years old, in 1837. He was a native of Darmstadt, in Germany." It is not certain if this reference was to the town of Darmstadt or to the providence of Hesse-Darmstadt.

John T. Melchior during the early 1930's wrote a history of the St. Joseph Catholic Church at Jasper, Indiana. In writing about the church's founding members he stated that Michael Wickal on 18 Sep 1837 purchased 40 acres of land in the northeast ¼ of the northwest ¼ of section 29, of Marion Township, south of Range 4 west. "A small creek passes through this forty and falls into Patoka River down stream from the old Klingel mill bridge. It is in the old John Breitweiser neighborhood." Breitweiser purchased an adjoining 80 acres on 7 Dec 1837. The farm bought by Michael Weikel was about 2 ½ miles east of Jasper. To travel to its site one would turn north onto Highway 545 off of Highway 164, about 2 miles east of Jasper. Highway 545 out about one-half mile crosses the creek referred to my Melchior. At this point the Weikel

farm lay due north, about halfway between the highway and the Patoka River, which is about 1 mile north.

The Weikel family were among the founding members of the St. Joseph Church in Jasper. In 1837 fifteen or so German families built a log church near the bank of the Patoka River. At first they were occasionally attended by a missionary priest. About a year later they were assigned their first permanent pastor, Rev. Joseph Kundek (1810-1857). Father .Kundek arrived in Jasper on 28 Sep 1838. In the 1910 History of Dubois County by George R. Wilson, it was written that: "In Jasper the young priest found fifteen families, a poor church and very poor prospects for the future. The families were poor, for they had used all of their money in entering their lands, as buying lands from the government was called, and in building their log cabins. Under the circumstances they had nothing to offer their new pastor but their good will. This was sufficient for Father Kundek. By superior knowledge and strenuous activity, supported by a peculiar eloquence of his own, he succeeded so well, that in the short period of two years he began to devise ways and means for building a spacious brick church. This, by dint of perserverance, he accomplished. It is in use today for hall and school purposes and is known as St. Joseph's Hall." Father Kundek also cared for all the Catholics between Jasper and Troy, a distance of 31 miles. One of the leading figures in the pioneer history of southern Indiana he was largely responsible for the German colonization of Dubois and Spencer Counties, Indiana. Many of these families in the last quarter of the 19th century moved across the river into Daviess County, KY. Rev. Kundek established the towns of Ferdinand, Fulda and St. Meinrad, and upon his entreaties the Benedictine monastery of St. Meinrad at St. Meinrad, IN, was founded. Rev. Joseph Kundek was buried at the St. Joseph Church in Jasper. A large statue honoring him overlooks the church's courtyard and the street on which the church is located is named Kundek Street.

On page 3 of the first baptismal register of the St. Joseph Church Father Joseph Kundek recorded that on 11 Aug 1839 he baptized Adam, a son of John Plehzinger & Margaretha Werle, the sponsors were Barbara & Adam Weikel. The latter were the wife and a son of Michael Weikel. This is the first reference to a Weikel found in the church's baptismal, marriage & death registers. In the first death register it was recorded that Barbara Weikel died at the age of 41 on 5 March 1840. She was not buried at the site of the present cemetery adjoining the St. Joseph Church. The St. Joseph Cemetery was not established until July 1840. Prior to this 18 burials of the congregation were made at the "Forest Grove Cemetery". No signs of this cemetery survive and its location is not now known.

The 1840 Federal census of Dubois County, IN does not list a Weikel (or any similar spellings). Michael Weikel should have been in the county at the time, he may have possibly been enumerated under the name of another household head. In this census the only names listed were those of each household head. Shortly before the census Michael's wife, Barbara, had died, leaving him with several minor children to care for, and the family thus may have been divided among several homes. Out of necessity some of the children may have went to live with other relatives or friends.

In the 1850 census of Dubois County John Weikel was enumerated but his father, Michael, was not found. The St. Joseph church records show that Michael Weikel on 27 July 1851 was a sponsor at the baptism of Mary Theresia Weikel (his granddaughter), a daughter of Adam Weikel & Magdalena Eisen. In the 1860 Dubois County census Michael was recorded as being a resident in the household of John Weikel (his son). Michael's occupation was reported as that of a farmer. Subsequent to this no further record of Michael Weikel could be located. His

name does not appear in a transcribed copy of the St. Joseph Cemetery burial register, at the Jasper Public Library.

Adam Weikel, son of Michael, was born 24 Jan 1822 in Hesse-Darmstadt. On 12 Sep 1843 he and Maria Magdalena Eisen were married by Rev. Joseph Kundek at the St. Joseph Church in Jasper. A naturalization document by Adam Weikel according to an Index of Indiana County Naturalization Records, was recorded in Dubois County Probate Book A, pp.242 & 250 - this book could not be located on two research trips to the Dubois County Courthouse. At the age of 31 Adam Weikel died on 12 April 1854. He was buried in the St. Joseph Cemetery but no monument could be found for him.

Adam Weikel's widow married John Wilz on 8 Jan 1856. She died 26 Sep 1884 and was buried in the St. Joseph Cemetery. The St. Joseph baptismal registers record five children of Adam & Magdalena Weikel, they were: John (born Oct 1844; Francis John (born 1847, married. Ellen Brook & in 1916 was living St. Louis, MO); Catherine (born Jun 1849, died age 7 in 1856); Mary Theresia (born July 1851, married Austin Kempp & in 1916 was living Cincinnati, OH); and Mary Josephine (born 10 or 11 April 1853, married Alois Grameispacher & died 14 Feb 1916 Pike County, IN, buried at St. Joseph Cemetery at Jasper). Magdalena (Eisen) Weikel by her second husband, John Wilz, had 7 children, viz: George, Catharine, Conrad, Barbara, Adam, John & Mary Magdalena Wilz.

George Weikel in the 1850 Dubois County census, aged 14 and a resident in the home of John Weikel, is believed to be a son of Michael & Barbara Weikel. George was not found in any subsequent census records of Dubois County and he does not appear in the St. Joseph Cemetery burial register. Other children of Michael Weikel may include: Herman Henry Weikel or his wife, Rosina Weikel - a son of this couple was baptized at St. Joseph on 28 March 1858, no further record of them was found; a Joanna Weigel appears as a sponsor on a baptism at St. Joseph on 29 May 1851 (this may have been John, a son of Michael; or Margaret Weikle, who married Peter Mencher in Dubois County on 12 Nov 1853.

Several "Weigel" families also resided in Dubois County, IN. However they do not appear to have any near relationship to Michael Weikel, since records show that they came from the German providence of Bavaria. One Andreas Weigel, from Bavaria, born in 1792, immigrated in June 1845, arriving at New York on 25 July 1845. On 3 Aug 1852 Andreas applied for US citizenship in Dubois County, IN (Dubois County Circuit Court Order Book 2, p.348, Dubois County Naturalization Book 1853-1868, p.19; in the 1850 Dubois County census Andreas is possibly household #172, Henry Wikle, age 60, born Germany).

Weikel, Weikl, Wikel, Waikel, Waigel, Weigi, Weigel in the Records of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Jasper, Dubois County, IN:

Burials at St. Joseph Cemetery:

Weikl, Barbara	died	5 Mar 1840	age 41
Weikel, Michael	died	24 Jan 1852	age 7 months
Weikel, Michael	died	31 Jul 1852	age 3 years & 3 months
Weikl, Adam	died	12 Apr 1854	age 31
Wekel, Catherine	died	7 Nov 1856	age 7
Waikel, John	died	25 Jul 1875	
Waikel, Margaret	died	10 Jul 1880	
Kraft, Margaret	died	30 Oct 1881	infant of Joseph & Catherine

Wils, Maria Magdalena	died	26 Sep 1884	wife of John
Gramelspacher, Josephine	died	14 Feb 1916	age 62-10-2 wife of Alois
Kraft, Joseph	died	26 Jun 1930	age 78 buried 28 Jun
Kraft, Catherine	died	30 Apr 1932	age 75-2-14 buried 2 May

Marriages:

- p.7 Adam Weikel & Maria Magdalena Eisen 12 Sep 1843 by Joseph Kundek. Witnesses Jacob Puhler & John Renner.
- p.10 John Weikel & Margaretha Hochgesang 31 Aug 1847 by Joseph Kundek. Witnesses Adam Weikel & Michael Hochgesang.
- John Wilz & Magdalena Wikel, a widow, 8 Jan 1856.
- Alois Gramelspacher & Mona Waikel 29 Jan 1874.
- Joseph Kraft & Catharina Weikel 15 May 1877.

Baptisms of children of John Weikel & Margaretha Hochgesang:

- p.57 Michael, baptized 27 May 1849 by Joseph Kundek, born 22 May 1849. Sponsors Adam Weikl & Catherine Hochgesang.
- p.79 John, baptized 18 May 1852 by John B. Merl. Sponsors John & Magdalena Hochgesang.
- p.94 Michael, baptized 20 Jul 1854 by Joseph Kundek. Sponsors Michael & Magdalen Hochgesang.
- p.111 Catherine, baptized 11 Feb 1857 by Joseph Kundek. Sponsors Balthasar & Catherine Kress.
- p.151 Sebastian, baptized 19 Aug 1859 by Bede O'Connor, born 18 Aug 1859. Sponsors Michael & Cecelia Hochgesang.
- p.188 Francis Adam, baptized 6 Feb 1862 by Ulric Christen, born 4 Feb 1862. Sponsors Adam & Elizabeth Mathes.
- p.211 Andrew John, baptized 7 Mar 1864 by Ulric Christen, born 6 Mar 1864. Sponsors John Hochgesang & Catherine Wagner.

Baptisms of children of Adam Weikel & Mary Magdalena Eisen:

- p.29 John, baptized 17 Oct 1844 by Joseph Kundek. Sponsors John Weikel & Elizabeth Miller.
- p.42 Francis John, baptized 4 Feb 1847 by Joseph Kundek. Sponsors Xavier Eisen & Elizabeth Seiffert.
- p.59 Catherine, baptized 12 Jun 1849 by Joseph Kundek. Sponsors John Weikel & Josepha Eisen.
- p.72 Mary Theresia, baptized 27 Jul 1851 by John B. Merl. Sponsors Michael Weigl & Martha Eisen.
- p.85 Mary Josephine, baptized 11 Apr 1853 by John B. Merl. Sponsors Andrew Sprauer & Susanna Seiler.

Baptism of child of Herman Henry Wiekel & Rosina Wiekel:

- p.127 Gerhard Adam, baptized 28 Mar 1858 by Bede O'Connor, born 23 Mar 1858. Sponsors Adam & Margaret Richard.

Baptisms of children of Joseph Kraft & Catherine Weikel:

- Michael, baptized 29 Jan 1878, born 28 Jan 1878.

- Rosalia Elisabeth, baptized 10 Mar 1880.
- Helen Emma, baptized 19 Jun 1889, born 18 Jun 1889.

Baptisms of children of Francis John Waikel & Ellen Brock:

- p.187 Jacob Adam, baptized 12 Mar 1879, born 17 Aug 1875.
- p.187 Elizabeth Evodia, baptized 12 Mar 1879, born 22 Dec 1877.

Baptisms of children of Alois Gramelspacher & Josephine Weikel:

- p.110 Joseph George, baptized Nov 1874.
- p.130 Francis Alois, baptized 24 Mar 1876.
- p.163 John Dominic, baptized 7 Nov 1877, born 6 Nov 1877.
- p.196 Edward Michael, baptized 1 Oct 1879.
- p.231 Andrew Martin, baptized 11 Nov 1881.
- p.285 Mary Julia, baptized 8 Dec 1883, born 8 Dec 1883.
- p.328 William, baptized 29 Mar 1885, born 29 Mar 1885, sponsor Francis John Waikel.

Weikels as sponsors on other baptisms:

- p.3 Adam, son of John Plehzingler & Margaretha Werle, baptized 11 Aug 1839 by Joseph Kundek. Sponsors Adam & Barbara Weikel.
- p.35 Joseph, son of John Pfeffer & Margaret Scheurich, baptized 18 Oct 1845 by Joseph Kundek. Sponsor Margaret Hochgesang (later wife of John Weikel).
- p.38 Felix, son of Carl Bucharth & Agatha Bernhard, baptized 7 May 1846 by Joseph Kundek. Sponsors John & Mary Magdalen Weikel.
- p.68 Mary Elizabeth, daughter of John Hochgesang & Magdalen Scheurich, baptized 31 Jan 1851 by Joseph Kundek. Sponsors John & Margaret Weikel.
- p.71 Juliana, daughter of Andrew Bavendistel & Mary Ann Altgeier, baptized 29 May 1851 by John B. Merl. Sponsors Juliana Schwarz & Joanna Weigel.
- p.205 John Ignatius, son of Balthasar Gress & Catherine Hochgesang, baptized 4 Aug 1863 by Ulric Christen, born 31 Jul 1863. Sponsor John Weikel.
- p.233 John William, son of Michael Hochgesang & Ottilia Habich, baptized 21 Oct 1865 by Fidelis Maute, born 21 Oct 1865. Sponsors John & Margaret Waigel.
- p.263 Anthony William, son of Andrew Hochgesang & Cecelia Habich, baptized 7 Jan 1868. Sponsor Margaret Weigel.

John Weikel (0824-1875) Sheriff of Dubois County, IN And the Hochgesang Family

Johann (John) Weikel, son of Michael & Barbara, was born about 1824 in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. At the age of 13, in 1837 he moved with his parents to Dubois County, Indiana. He first appears in the St. Joseph Catholic Church, Jasper, IN, records on 17 Oct 1844 when he performed the duties of baptismal sponsor for a child of Adam Weikel & Magdalena Eisen. On 31 Aug 1847 he married Mary Margaretha Hochgesang (pronounced Hok - song). Her full name, including maiden name, are inscribed on her monument in the St. Joseph Cemetery at Jasper. Her tombstone has Mary Margaretha, in her will it is Maria Margaretha, on her marriage license and the federal censuses of 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880 it is reported as Margaret.

John & Margaretha's marriage is recorded on page 68, entry #480, in Dubois County Marriage Book A. Their license was granted 24 Aug 1847. The bride's maiden name as recorded is hard to decipher. In a published book of Dubois County marriages it was interpreted to be "Haden". However, the third letter does not look like other letter d's on the same page. It may be written as "Haxen", but whatever it is the clerk apparently wrote a shorten anglicized estimation. Frequently this was the case in recording long and foreign sounding German names. On the marriage return the performing minister wrote: "This is to certify that the above named persons were joined together as husband and wife in the estate of matrimony by virtue of the above license this 31st day of August AD 1847, By me, Joseph Kundek, Cath. Missionary Priest." The couple was married at the St. Joseph Church at Jasper. In the church's marriage register (p.10) Father Kundek recorded their names as John Weikel & Margaretha Hochgesang, witnesses were Adam Weikel & Michael Hochgesang (brothers of the groom and bride). On the baptism of John & Margaretha's first child in 1849 Adam Weikel also served as a sponsor. John Weikel served as a sponsor on the baptisms of two of the children of his brother, Adam, in 1844 & 1849.

Mary Margaretha Flochgesang was a native of Lebenhan, a tiny village in the German province of Bavaria, near the larger town of Bad Neustadt an der Saale (on the Saale River). At the village's Catholic Church the baptism of Margaretha Hochgesang was recorded. This record, according to Stanley G. Krempp, of Jasper, IN, a Hochgesang family historian, who has viewed the original church registers, records that Mary Margaretha Hochgesang was born on 7 Dec 1829 to John Joseph Hochgesang & Barbara Molitor. On her cemetery monument her birth date is inscribed as being 7 weeks later on 28 Jan 1830. Her monument appears to be a more modern vintage and may have been erected many years subsequent to her death - which may help to account for the discrepancy.

Hochgesangs have been residents of Lebenhan, Germany for centuries. In the house next to the village's Catholic church a Hochgesang family lives today and have for generations. Stanley G. Krempp and several other Hochgesang descendants have met and continue a friendship with a distant German cousin, Rev. Hochgesang, a Catholic priest. Mr. Krempp has traced the family back to the early 1600's. The earliest known ancestors, Hans & Maria Hochgesang, were the parents of Hans Hochgesang, who in Lebenhan on 26 Jan 1711 married Anna Maria Handschuh (in English translates to glove - shoe for hand). This couple's son, Martin Hochgesang, married Barbara Reuder in Lebenhan on 10 Oct 1746. At Lebenhan Martin died on 30 Jan 1804 and his wife, Barbara, on 5 Dec 1827. John Michael Hochgesang was born to them at Lebenhan on 3 Nov 1752, and in his native village married Catherina Gottwalt on 2 July 1782. Catherina was born 13 July 1757 in the neighboring village of Sleben, to the marriage of Adam Gottwalt & Catherina Rottinger, who were married 11 Feb 1749. Her grandparents were Michaelis Gottwalt & Elizabeth Katzenberger and Conrad Rottinger & Catherine Eckard.

Church records in Lebenhan show the birth of five children to John Michael Hochgesang & Catherina Gottwalt, viz: John Michael, born 17 April 1783 (? died young). Andreas, born 30 Oct 1784. John Michael Sigmund, born 22 Feb 1787 (married Magdalena Gessner at Lebenhan on 21 Sep 1807). Elizabeth, born 4 July 1791 (died single at Lebenhan on 7 April 1826). And John Joseph, born 16 March 1794. John Michael, Sr. died at Lebenhan on 24 Jan 1814 and his wife, Catherina's death occurred there on 30 July 1831. They and other members of the family were no doubt buried in the parish cemetery in Lebenhan, but no monuments for them are found there today. Typically in most older German cemeteries, because of a severe shortage of land, older graves were replaced by newer ones. Frequently older gravestones that were removed were used in the construction of fences or walkways around the cemetery.

Two of the sons of John Michael & Catherina Hochgesang, John J. and Andreas immigrated to the United States and during the 1840's settled in Dubois County, Indiana. John Joseph Hochgesang, the first to immigrate, had married Barbara Molitor about 1818. In the baptismal registers of the Lebenhan church the births of five children of John & Barbara were recorded, they were: Michael, born 4 Sep 1819; Paul, born 24 Jan 1823 (died at the age of 3 on 24 April 1826); Elizabeth Antonia, born 16 Jan 1825; Catherine, born 13 May 1825; and Mary Margaretha, born 7 Dec 1829. By 1842 John & Barbara and several of their children were residing in Dubois County, IN, they had probably left the old country not long before this. Two of their children, Michael & Catherine, on 6 Feb 1842 appeared as sponsors on a baptism at St. Joseph Church in Jasper, IN. The following year Michael was married at St. Joseph's and on the baptism of his first child on 11 Feb 1844 his father, John Hochgesang, was a sponsor. John & Barbara's daughter, Margaret on 18 Oct 1845 was a baptismal sponsor at St. Joseph's. Another daughter, Elizabeth, on 11 Oct 1847 acted as baptismal sponsor for a child of her sister, Catherine Hochgesang Fecher, at the St. Joseph Church. In the 1850 Dubois County, IN census in the home of John Hockson, age 61, farmer, were listed: Barbary, 64, Elizabeth, 18 & John, 15, all born Germany. It is not known who the younger John is, no other record was found to suggest he was a son of John & Barbara. Enumerated two households away in the census was the family of their son, Michael. The family name in English records was frequently misspelled as Hoxon, Hockson, Haxen or Hackson.

The register of burials at the St. Joseph Cemetery in Jasper records that John Hochgesang died on 24 Aug 1851 (he was listed as being age 59 but his baptismal record at Lebenhan shows him to be 57) and Barbara Hochgesang died at the age of 64 on 24 July 1850.

Michael Hochgesang, son of John & Barbara, married Magdalena Schdurich on 27 Feb 1843 and they were the parents of nine children: John Baptist, Magdalena, Margaret, Michael Emanuel, Mary Elizabeth, Catherine, Theresia, Andrew Joseph, and Peter Henry. Michael in the St. Joseph Church records was occasionally referred to as Michael, Sr., to distinguish him from his first cousin of the same name, who was 14 years his junior. In 1859 Michael (Sr.) was appointed a parish trustee of St. Joseph. He died near Jasper on 16 Aug 1888 and was interred in the St. Joseph Cemetery. Catherine Hochgesang, daughter of John & Barbara, about 1847 married Paul Fecher and on 28 Aug 1855 at the St. Joseph Church in Jasper she was married to Balthasar Kress/Gress.

Andreas Hochgesang, son of John Michael Hochgesang & Catherina Gottwalt, was born at Lebenhan on 30 Oct 1784. He served in the Napoleonic Wars. By 1808 Lebenhan and the Confederation of the Rhine, of which it was a part, had been annexed by Emperor Napoleon as part of his massive empire. In 1812 Napoleon raised an army of 600,000 to invade Russia. About half this force was French, the rest was drawn from the French allies and subject people. Andreas Hochgesang, then 27 years old, was conscripted into its ranks. He was one of 20 men who departed from Wollbach, a neighboring village of Lebenhan. The army fought its way across Poland and Russia to Moscow before the winter. Reaching there cost them 150,000 men. While occupying Moscow 3/4 of the city was destroyed by fires set by the Russians. This along with a large loss of life due to disease forced Napoleon to abandon his plans to spend the winter there. In October 1812, 33 days after entering the city, he ordered a retreat. The retreat became one of the great tragedies of history. Within the week the bitter Russian winter had arrived with unceasing snow and freezing temperatures. Supplies had been depleted. The hungry army spread itself out in search of supplies until it broke up into mere bands of marauders. Guerrilla forces, mainly Cossacks, hovered about continually pouncing on stragglers. They were forced to eat rats

and boil shoe leather for sustenance. Thousands died in the snow. Pneumonia and typhus also took their grisly toll. Out of the more than half a million men who had crossed the Russian frontiers in June, a tattered fragment of barely 20,000 troops was able to make the retreat to Germany. Of the 20 men who had left Wollbach, three of them returned, one of them was Andreas Hochgesang.

Within a few weeks after his return Andreas Hochgesang on 12 Jan 1813 married Martina Benkert, of Wollbach. She was born there to Joannes Benkert & Margaretha Kneuer on 30 July 1791. Andreas & Martina made their home at Wollbach and 8 children were born there to them, they were: Susanna (15 Oct 1813), Andreas Edward (21 Oct 1817), Elizabeth (5 Apr 1820), Martina (5 Aug 1821), Mary Magdalena (27 Jun 1825), M. Genovefa (22 Aug 1827), Joseph (28 May 1829), and Michael (26 Sep 1833).

In 1847 Andreas Hochgesang sent his daughter, Magdalena, to the United States. She joined the family of her uncle, John, who was residing near Jasper, IN. The next year Andreas, his wife, and several of their children, embarked on the same journey. While at sea, Martina, wife of Andreas, became ill and died on 11 Aug 1848, she was buried at sea. At least two of their children remained in Germany. Susanna married Ludwig Werner at Wollbach in 1839 and died in Germany in 1886. Elizabeth married Stephen Pepper at Wollbach on 1 Dec 1849.

Andreas Hochgesang located a few miles from Jasper, IN, and became a member of the town's Catholic Church, St. Joseph's. In the 1850 Dubois County, IN census he was listed as Andrew Hoxon. His name was also listed as Hoxon when he was granted his citizenship in 1853. In the 1850 census three others were listed in his household: Peter, age 20, Joseph, 17 and Mary, 16. They were probably his three youngest children, Genovefa, Joseph & Michael. In this census the enumerator appears to have largely guessed at what his German neighbors were saying.

Andreas Hochgesang lived the last eight years of his life at the home of his son-in-law, Adam Schmidt. He died on 8 April 1863, at the age of 78. His remains were interred at the St. Joseph Cemetery in Jasper. His daughter, Magdalena, married Adam Schmidt at St. Joseph's on 16 April 1849 and she died in 1903.

Today there are about 40 Hochgesang residences listed in the Dubois County, IN phone directory. This far exceeds the number living in the county, where Lebenhan, the Hochgesang ancestral home, is located. The Hochgesangs of Dubois County, IN are descendants of Andreas' sons, Andreas Jr. & Michael, and of his brother, John's son, Michael (Sr.). Andreas, Jr. (Andrew) married twice. About 1849 he married Maria Anna Schmidt and following her death he married Cecilia Habig at St. Joseph's on 25 Aug 1857. Cecilia was a sister to his brother, Michael's, wife. Andreas & Cecilia had six children, they were: Ignatz Edward, Mary Cecelia, Mary Frances, Joseph Carl, Anthony William & Helen Sabina. Andreas Jr. died on 2 Sep 1876 and was buried at St. Joseph Cemetery in Jasper.

Michael Hochgesang, son of Andreas Sr., married Ottilia Habig at St. Joseph's on 25 Sep 1855. He served as Dubois County, IN coroner for five years. In 1880 he established a brickyard near Jasper, at its peak it manufactured about 500,000 bricks per annum, many of the factories in Jasper were built with Hochgesang brick. Michael died on 25 Jan 1915. He was buried at the St. Joseph Cemetery in Jasper. To his marriage ten children were born: Mary Magdalena, Joseph Philip, Michael Andrew, Albert Ignatius, John William, Rosa Cecelia, Amelia Ottilia, Dominic, Lawrence, and Leo Joseph.

Mary Margaret Hochgesang, daughter of John J. & Barbara Molitor Hochgesang, prior to her marriage to John Weikel, first appeared in the records of the St. Joseph's church at Jasper on 18 Oct 1845. On that date she was a baptismal sponsor for Joseph Pfeffer, a son of John Pfeffer

& Margaret Scheurich. In the 1850 census of Dubois County John & Margaret Weikel were enumerated three households from the home of her uncle, Andreas Hochgesang. On the baptisms of 6 of the 7 children of John & Margaret members of the Hochgesang family acted as sponsors. Margaret's sister, Catherine performed the duty in 1849 & 1857, and her brother, Michael, in 1852 & 1854. In 1859 Margaret's first cousin, Michael Hochgesang, and in 1864 her nephew, John Baptist Hochgesang, acted as baptismal sponsors for her children. Margaret Weikel performed the role of sponsor on the baptisms of the children of her brother, Michael in 1851, her first cousin, Michael in 1865, and of her first cousin, Andreas Jr. in 1868.

At the February term of the Dubois County Circuit Court in 1849 a decree was recorded granting U.S. citizenship to John Weikel. The text of the document as recorded in Dubois County Circuit Court Order Book 2(1846-1852), pl68, is as follows:

John Wikel a native of Germany and at present residing within the State of Indiana appeared in open court and applied to be admitted to become a citizen of this United States. And it appearing to the satisfaction of this Court that the said John Wikel arrived in the United States when he was a minor under the age of eighteen years. And the said John Wikel having declared on oath taken in open court that it had been bonafide his intentions for three years last past to become a citizen of the United States and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court upon the testimony of Dominick Ersay (?) a citizen of the United States that it had been bonafide the intentions of the said John Wikel for three years last past to become a citizen of the United States, And that the said John Wikel had resided in the United States for five years last past and one year immediately preceding this application within the State of Indiana, that he has now attained the age of twenty one years, And that the said John Wikel hath conducted himself as a man of good moral character attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to this good order and happiness of the laws; and the said John Wikel having declared on oath taken in open court that he will support the Constitution of the United States; and that he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince Potentate state and sovereignty whatever and particularly all allegiance and fidelity to the Grand Duke Hessen Darmstadt. The Court therefore admits the said John Wikel to become a citizen of the United States.

John Weikel's family in the Federal censuses of 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880 were enumerated in the Bainbridge Township of Dubois County, IN. He worked as a farmer, at first residing on a farm near Jasper and later in the town of Jasper. His real estate in the 1860 census was evaluated at \$1000. In 1860 their post office was at Jasper and in 1870 it was Ireland, located 4 miles northeast of Jasper. Between 1870-1875 the family moved into the town of Jasper.

John Weikel was elected Sheriff of Dubois County on 29 Oct 1860 - at this time the office was possibly the most influential position in county government. The people were pleased with his service and two years later on 6 Nov 1862 he was reelected. His second term ended 27 Oct 1864. He then returned to farming and after eight years decided to try for the high office once again. At the election of 28 Oct 1872 he was victorious and returned to the sheriff's office. He was elected for a fourth term on 3 Nov 1874.

The Jasper Courier of 9 July 1875 announced "Sheriff Weikel is very sick at his home in Jasper." While in office he died on 23 July 1875 of consumption. He was 50 years of age and was survived by his wife and six children. The following day his burial was at the St. Joseph's Cemetery. Resolutions of respect and an obituary were published on page 1 of the Jasper Courier

on Friday, 30 July 1875. His burial was recorded in a book of St. Joseph Cemetery burials, but no monument stands in the cemetery today. His family's plot is located along the fence on the north side of the cemetery, at about the midpoint of the cemetery. In the plot, his wife, an infant child, Michael, and a daughter & her husband, Catharina & Joseph Kraft, have monuments. On the left side of his wife is an unmarked grave, this is no doubt the grave of John Weikel. The vast majority of those buried in the cemetery pre 1880 do not have marked graves.

Jasper Courier, Jasper, IN, Friday, 30 July 1875, p1:

DIED: On Friday morning July 23rd, 1875, of consumption, Mr. John Weikel, in the 51st year of his age.

Mr. Weikel, at the time of his death was serving as Sheriff of this county for the fourth term, having been elected again in 1874. He was among the first Germans that settled in this community, having come here from Pennsylvania with his parents, when he was but 13 years old, in 1837. He was a native of Darmstat, in Germany. During his long residence in this county he had gained respect and the confidence of the community in a large degree, as was evidenced by their electing him repeatedly to positions of public trust. He was elected Sheriff in 1860 and was again chosen as Sheriff in 1872. He leaves a widow and 6 children to mourn the loss of a kind and indulgent husband and father. May the God of the widows and fatherless be with them and comfort them. He was buried on Saturday with the ceremonies of the Catholic Church, to which he belonged. The County officers and members of the bar desired to participate in a public demonstration, in honor of his memory and many good qualities, at his funeral, but it was objected to by the Priest and in deference to the wishes of the family it was not done. As the generous hearted and free dispositioned, whose hands and hearts are ever open to relieve the calls of distress or charity, rest in peace after the turmoils of this short life are ended, will he now rest, remembered by many whom he helped along the journey of live.

[Editorial page account of Commissioners court to appoint a new sheriff . Candidates are Phillip Staringer, B. B. L. Edmonston, Leroy Cave, Frank Fink, George Cox, R. C. Harbison, and several others were mentioned. The Board elected B. B. L. Edmonston for sheriff.]

John Weikel "of Jasper" wrote a final will on 12 July 1875, 14 days later it was probated and recorded in Will Book 2, pp. 209-210. He left all of his estate to his wife, Margaretha, who he appointed his executrix. The county court clerk who recorded his will, Bazil B. L. Edmonston, on 31 July 1875 was selected to fill the remaining 15 months of John Weikel's term as sheriff.

In the 1880 Dubois County census, town of Jasper, Mrs. Margaret Weikel, widow, age 50, was residing with the family of her daughter, Catherine Kraft. Margaret was reported as being a native of the German providence of Bavaria (also spelled Bayern), the same was also recorded in the 1860 & 1870 censuses. The census taker in 1880 wrote that she was suffering from consumption, the same malady that had taken her husband. Only a few weeks after the census takers' visit, she died, probably of the illness he had noted. Her death occurred on 9 July 1880, as recorded on her gravestone. The book of St. Joseph Cemetery burials lists her as dying on the 10th, but this may have been the date of her burial. The monument that stands to her memory in the St. Joseph Cemetery appears to be of a more modern vintage, or at least newer than the base on which it is mounted. Possibly an older monument had fallen and a newer one was erected later. Maria Margaretha Weikel "of Jasper" signed her will on 19 Jan 1880 and on 13 Sep 1880 it was recorded in Dubois County Will Book 2, pp.475-477. She named six children, viz: John, Michael, Sebastian, Frank and Andrew J. Weikel, and Catherine Kraft. Five years earlier her

husband's obituary referred to six surviving children but did not name them. Prior to this another child, Michael, had died on 30 July 1852. His monument in the family plot at St. Joseph Cemetery is inscribed in German, it records that he was aged 3 yrs. & 3 mos. In the baptismal registers of the St. Joseph's church the baptisms of the seven children of John Weikel & Margaret Hochgesang were recorded. Their baptismal dates were recorded as: Michael, 27 May 1849 (born "'22 May'); John, 18 May 1852; Michael, 20 July 1854; Catherine, 11 Feb 1857; Sebastian, 19 Aug 1859 (born "18 Aug"); Francis Adam, 6 Feb 1862 (born "4 Feb"); and Andrew John, 7 March 1864 (born "6 March").

Catharina (Catherine) Weikel, daughter of John & Margaretha, was born on 15 Feb 1857 in Dubois County, IN. At the St. Joseph's church in Jasper she was married to Joseph Kraft on 15 May 1877. A native of Dubois County, he was born on 24 March 1852 to Othmar Kraft & Barbara Eckerle. Joseph worked as a coal miner and served as a city marshall of Jasper. Joseph & Catherine Kraft in the 1880 and 1900 Dubois County, IN censuses were enumerated as residents of Jasper. The 1900 census records that Catherine was the mother of 4 children, one being deceased. In the St. Joseph church records the baptisms of 3 of their children and a burial record for the fourth child were located. Their children were: Michael (born 28 Jan 1878, married Martha Elizabeth Zoeller, died 19 Aug 1947 Highland Park, IL, buried Louisville, KY), Rosalia Elizabeth (born in March 1880, married Michael Kunkle, 1902 St. Joseph Church, Jasper, IN), Margaret (born in 1881 & died 30 Oct 1881, buried St. Joseph Cemetery, Jasper, IN), and Helen Emma (born 18 June 1889). About 1925 Joseph & Catherine Kraft went to live with their son, Michael, in Louisville, KY. There Joseph died on 26 June 1930 and Catherine on 30 April 1932. They were returned to Jasper, IN and buried in the Weikel family plot at St. Joseph Cemetery. An obituary in the Jasper newspaper stated that Catherine was survived by three brothers: John of Evansville, IN, Sebastian of Owensboro, KY, and Louis of Louisville, KY. There were three surviving brothers but other records show them to be: Frank of Evansville, IN, Sebastian of Owensboro, KY and Andrew of Cincinnati, OH. The Louis referred to was not a brother. At the time there was a Louis Weikel living in Louisville, KY, and died there at the age of 73 on 5 Oct 1958. If he was related to Catherine he may possibly have been a nephew (? son of John or Andrew). As early as 1860 other Weikel families were living in Louisville, KY, in that year two John Weikels were listed. At that time Catherine's father, John Weikel, was living in Dubois County, IN.

John B. Weikel, son of John & Margaretha, was born 7 March 1852 Jasper, In according to his death certificate. On 16 Oct 1877 in Dubois County, IN he married Susanna Bloettner (spelling from baptismal record of a child, on marriage spelled Bledner). A daughter, Susanna Margaret, born 3 Jan 1879, was baptized the next day at the St. Anthony Catholic Church, in Jasper, IN. John married Elvira Shepherd, 22 Sep 1884 Washington County, IN. He worked as a stationary engineer. He died in Louisville, KY on 17 July 1934. An obituary in the Courier-Journal newspaper (Louisville, KY, 18 July 1934) listed his survivors as his wife, Elvira Shepherd Weikel, and two borthers, Frank Weikel of Jasper, IN and Sebastian Weikel of Owensboro, KY; no children were named. He was buried at the St. Louis Cemetery in Louisville, KY.

Francis (Frank) Adam Weikel, son of John & Margaretha, was born on 4 Feb 1862. By 1888 he had married Elizabeth Bohnsheib and was living in Evansville, IN, where he resided for about 50 years. He worked as a wrecker foreman for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, was in charge of the crew who were sent to clean up wrecks. He retired about 1932. His wife, Elizabeth, died at their home, 222 Ewing Ave., in Evansville, on 29 May 1923, she was born on 2 June

1862. During the last six years of his life, Frank Weikel, lived at the home of his brother, Sebastian Weikel, near Owensboro, KY. He died there on 15 July 1941 at the age of 79. His funeral was held in Evansville at the St. Agnes Church, where he had been a member for many years. He was buried by his wife at the St. Joseph Cemetery in Evansville.

Frank and Elizabeth Weikel had three children who lived to adulthood, Mary E./"Mayme" (born 24 Sep 1888), Alice M. (born 12 Aug 1891), and William Jerome (born 22 Jun 1893), they were all born in Evansville, IN. Mary married John Wolsiefer. At the age of 43 she died in Evansville on 7 Jan 1932. She was buried in her parents family plot at St. Joseph Cemetery. She was survived by her husband and one child, Mrs. Elizabeth Jarvis., of Evansville. Alice married Raymond A. Herb. They resided at Montpelier, Ohio and had about five children. William J. Weikel married Emily Agnes Pope of Owensboro, KY. They lived in Evansville, where he died on 26 Aug 1972. He was interred by his parents at St. Joseph Cemetery. His children were: William F. (currently of Evansville), James A., Francis H., Emily (Drochelman) & Margaret (McCracken).

Andrew Jackson Weikel, son of John & Margaretha, was born 6 March 1864. He was the last surviving member of his family. He married Mary Sullivan (1857-1917), 21 Jan 1885 Louisville, KY and Ella (Johnston) Harrington (1880-1918), 30 Jun 1917 Dearborn County, IN. In 1900 he was living in Cincinnati, Ohio and was working as dairyman. He operated a dairy in the westend of Louisville. He died 27 Apr 1947 in Cincinnati, OH. He was buried Calvary Cemetery in Louisville, KY. He and his first wife had 6 children – Marguerite C., John William, Cornelia, Marie Magdalene, Amelia Catherine and one other died prior to 1900.

Michael Weikel (1854-1927) of Daviess County, KY

Michael Weikel, son of John & Margaretha, was born 17 July 1854 in Dubois County, IN. In the year of 1876 he left home and moved to Carmi, IL, about 100 miles southwest of Jasper and 30 miles west of Evansville. He remained there until 1878 and according to the 1883 History of Daviess County, Kentucky (Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, p.656) then removed to Daviess County, KY.

In Spencer County, IN Michael Weikel married Emma Risse on 24 Jan 1880. They were married by Rev. J. G. Schafer, a Lutheran minister. Her family resided about two miles west of New Boston, in the northeastern section of Spencer County, and were members of the St. John's Lutheran Church, near New Boston. Her parents, Stephen Risse & Margaret Fuchs, natives of Prussia & Bavaria, providences in Germany, were married in Spencer County, IN in 1854. Shortly afterwards they moved to Louisville, KY, where Emma was born on 16 Aug 1855. At the close of the Civil War her family returned to Spencer County. Emma had at least three possibly four names. Several grandchildren reported her full name to be Emma Wilhelmina Margaret Risse, one grandchild was told that her name was Emma Wilhelmina Marguerite Theresa Risse. On her marriage record in addition to Emma, the name she was known by, the initials "W. M." also appeared.

After their marriage Michael & Emma Weikel took up permanent residence in Daviess County, KY. On 12 June 1880 the census taker enumerated them in the Lowertown Precinct. Judging by their neighbors they were living in the area about two miles or so west of Owensboro and the city limits, the section today bounded by the roads of West 5th Street, Carter, Parrish, &

Worthington. In 1880 Michael Weikel was a tenant farmer. The 1883 History of Daviess County, Kentucky stated he was "teaming and farming, raising what he needs for his own use".

History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, p.656:

Michael Weikel was born in Dubois County, Ind., July 17, 1855. In 1876 he moved to Carmi, Ill., and remained till 1878, when he came to Daviess County, Ky., where he is teaming and farming, raising what he needs for his own use. He was married Jan. 29, 1879 to Emma Risse, a native of Louisville, Ky., born Aug. 16, 1855. They have two children—Robert, born Dec. 15, 1880, and Matthias, born June 6, 1882, Mr. Weikel is a member of the Catholic church, and his wife of the German Presbyterian. Politically he is a Democrat.

During this period a couple of locals in the Jasper Courier referred to their former citizen, Michael Weikel. In the issue of 16 Oct 1885 the following item appeared: "The many friends of Mr. Michael Weikel around Jasper, were glad to shake hands with him and see him looking so well this week. He is now one of the solid grangers of Daviess County, Ky." And on 2 March 1888 the following was published: "We regret to learn that our old friend Mike Weikel, a native of Dubois Co., but for several years a citizen of Daviess Co., Ky., recently met with an accident while saw logging, by which he had a leg broken and was otherwise severely injured. He is now, however, on the mend."

Michael Weikel purchased his first land in Daviess County, when he paid Dr. H. J. Grismer \$1100 for 100 acres on 23 July 1888 (Deed Book 48, p89). Located 6 ½ miles southwest of Owensboro, on the south bank of Panther Creek, it was lot #15 in a subdivision of a larger tract previously owned by Daniel M. & Clinton Griffith. On the same day, Michael's brother, Sebastian, bought an adjoining 99 acres from Dr. Grismer. An 1891 Owensboro City Directory lists Mike Weikel, post office Owensboro, as a property owner with 100 acres. Michael Weikel sold this 100 acres on 18 Nov 1891 to Margaret Coomes for \$3000 (Deed Book 55, p231). Four months later on 26 March 1892 he purchased 39 acres from Simeon W. Osborne for \$3315 (Deed Book 55, p552). One mile west of Owensboro it was on the north side of the Henderson Road, and adjoined the properties of G. D. McLean (on east), Eli Cox (on west) & Jacob Rembold (on north). One acre off this tract was sold on 9 March 1893 to John Gager (Deed Book 58, p262). The remaining 38 acres was sold to W. E. Whitely on 24 Aug 1900 (Deed Book 70 p93). On the same day Michael Weikel purchased another farm of 52 acres from James H. Parrish (Deed Book 70, p298). This farm was just north of Sorgho, on the north side of the Owensboro & Henderson Road, and on the banks of Rhodes Creek (runs north of Sorgho west towards the Green River). It boarded on property of Emerson Shaw & Wendell Kamuf. The deed stipulated the tract had been 53 acres & one acre of it had been sold to the Baptist Church, this suggests it laid near the Sorgho Baptist Church. When the 1900 census was taken Mike Weikel's family was residing on this farm, both Shaw & Kamuf were listed as near neighbors.

On 22 April 1908 Michael & Emma Weikel sold their farm at Sorgho (Deed Book 84, p461). They had become indebted to James H. Parrish, a banker and investor of Owensboro. Parrish was president of the Owensboro Savings Bank & Trust Co. and eight years earlier the Weikels had purchased their farm from him. Foster Hayes in his history of Owensboro writes that "in 1908 Owensboro was the proud possessor of twelve banks. As our population was then less than half what it is now... it is obvious that we were a greatly overbanked community, and we can now see that it is far from surprising that some of these institutions, to put it mildly, were not strong... In April, 1908, there was a 'run' on the Owensboro Savings Bank." As a result of the

run Parrish was forced into foreclosing on numerous debts and loans. Mike Weikel owed Parrish four notes of \$250 each and since a mortgage already existed against his farm, to his brother Sebastian, he had no alternative but to sell. The farm was sold to Lee Birk under the agreement that Birk would pay off the notes. In May 1908 the Owensboro Savings Bank and another Owensboro bank, the Daviess County Bank & Trust Co., collapsed and were closed. Several thousand people lost their hard earned investments. When it was disclosed that other interests that Parrish was involved in owed large sums of money to his bank that could not be recovered, he was taken to court. James H. Parrish was convicted and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. One of Parrish's projects had been the Homestead Land Co., which was responsible for the development of the Seven Hills section & Chautauqua Park. For more on the 1908 bank failures and Parrish see Sixty Years of Owensboro, 1883-1943, by William Foster Hayes (Owensboro, KY, 1943, pp.109-112, 290-291).

Michael & Emma Weikel were not again able to own their own property. At the time of the 1910 Daviess County census they were renting a farm on Peoples Road in the Lowertown Precinct. This road no longer appears on the county map, it was west of Owensboro, in the vicinity of the Henderson Road and West 5th Street Road. About 1913 the family moved to the home of his brother, Sebastian Weikel, on the west side of the Livermore Road, now the site of the Texas Gas Co. (3800 Frederica St.). The farm then was about 2 miles south of Owensboro's city limits. In 1913 Sebastian purchased a home closer to town, 2204 Frederica, where he moved his family. Michael's family then lived in Sebastian's former home and managed and worked his farm of 119 acres. In the 1920 Daviess census Mike & Emma Weikel were listed at this location, he was reported to be a farmer & renter.

In 1922 Sebastian Weikel sold his house at 2204 Frederica St. and moved back to his farm on the Livermore Road. About this time Michael moved his family to the Rembold farm on the West 5th St. Road, just west of the city of Owensboro. There he lived on the north side of the road near the east end of the lot where the Mary Lee Cravens School is now located (2741 West 5th St. Road). Mike & Emma's daughter, Bertha Rembold, lived on the other side of the road on another part of the Jacob Rembold farm. Twenty years later Mike & Emma's son, Robert, bought the Rembold farm.

In the 1922-23 Owensboro City Directory Michael (Emma) Weikel, farmer, was listed as residing on the W. 5th St. Road. In the 1925-26 edition Michael (Emma) Weikel, farmer, were listed as rooming at 2306 Henderson Road, this would now be near its intersection with Rose Ave. On 3 Dec 1926 Michael & Emma's daughter, Edith Yeand bought a house in Owensboro at 1523 Hathaway St. and they moved there to live with their daughter's family. The family of another daughter, Anna Greenwell, resided in another side of the house until about 1928.

At the age of 72 Michael Weikel died at 1523 Hathaway St. on 25 March 1927. His wake was held there, his funeral was at St. Joseph Catholic Church, and his burial in the Catholic Cemetery (Mater Dolorosa), on west 9th St. in Owensboro.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 26 March 1927:

Mike Weikel, 74 years old, one of the best known farmers of Daviess county, died of heart trouble at 5 o'clock yesterday morning at his home in Owensboro. He had been ill since last October. He had been a resident of Daviess county half a century, coming here from Jasper, Ind. He is survived by his widow and two: sons, Deputy Sheriff Robert Weikel and Matt Weikel, and five daughter, Mrs. Bertha Rembold, Mrs. Lorena Vittitow, Mrs. Amelia Kirk, Mrs. Edith Yeand and Mrs. Anna Gröenwcli. He had

seventeen grandchildren. The funeral will be conducted from St. Joseph's Catholic church at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, burial will be In the Catholic cemetery.

The following will act as pallbearers: Nick Wink, Robert Zogleman, Henry Kuegel, Mike Scherm, John Frey and August Graf.

For the next few years Michael Weikel's widow, Emma, continued to reside at the home of her daughter, Edith. Between 1930-1932 she moved to the home of her daughter, Anna Greenwell, at 1519 Pearl St. in Owensboro. Emma continued to live there until shortly before her death. At the time of her last illness one of the Greenwell sons was in the hospital for an appendectomy and Emma was taken to the home of her daughter, Edith, at 1523 Hathaway St. There a few days later she died on 19 Aug 1947. She was 92 years old and survived her husband by 20 years. Funeral visitation was at 1523 Hathaway and services at the St. Joseph's Church. She was laid to rest by the side of her husband.

Emma Risse Weikel was originally a member of the German Lutheran Church. Several years following her marriage she became a Catholic convert. Several grandchildren remarked that she became a very devout and faithful Catholic. Michael & Emma Weikel had been married by a Lutheran minister and at least their first child, Robert, was baptized by a minister of the German Lutheran Church in Owensboro. A granddaughter, Dottie Rembold Schnapf told the following story that had been told by her mother, Bertha Weikel Rembold:

Michael Weikel was a Catholic and as a boy attended a school taught by Catholic Brothers. They were very strict and hard on the boys. So much so that it caused him to not to want to go to church once he was on his own. For years he did not attend Church. When their daughter, Bertha, was about 13 (c1899) she found a book on the Catholic church and read it. Shortly, she asked her parents if she could attend St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Owensboro, where many of their German neighbors and friends went to church. They agreed she could and from home: [then on the Old Henderson Road] she walked 5 miles to the church. Later she asked if she could take some of her younger sisters. She did, and then she talked her older brothers and eventually her dad into going to church. Their mother, Emma, then said that since all the rest of the family was going she would also and then became a Catholic convert.

Another granddaughter, Margaret Roberts, said that her father, Robert S. Weikel, in later years worried over the fact he had not been baptized in the Catholic church. The Lutheran Church in rites is very close to those of the Catholic church and the sacraments of the former are recognized in the Catholic church and thus Baptism was not required if it had already been performed in the Lutheran Church. Regardless of this, he requested to be re-baptized in the Catholic Church and was done so.

To the union of Michael Weikel & Emma Risse eight children were born, all in Daviess County, KY, they were:

Robert Sebastian	15 Dec 1880
Frank Matthew	6 Jun 1882
Sebastian Andrew	28 Jun 1884
Ann Bertha Katherine	4 Jul 1886
Lorena Catherine	12 Aug 1888
Mary Amelia	25 Aug 1890
Edith Sue	14 Nov 1893

Robert S. Weikel, son of Michael & Emma, in 1904 married Florence Payne at St. Stephen's Church in Owensboro. In the first years after their marriage he worked farming and they lived on his parents' farm at Sorgho until it was sold in 1908. Their first two children were born there. When the 1910 census was taken he was renting a farm on Booth Ave. near Owensboro. During part of the next decade they resided on the east side of the Livermore Road, about one block north of the home of his uncle, Sebastian Weikel on the west side, where Robert's parents were living at the time. By 1916 they had moved into Owensboro, when they were living at 316 Locust St. In the following years they rented homes at several sites, 1918-20 at 304 Locust St., 1922-23 at 502 W.3rd, and 1925-29 at 906 W.2nd.

About 1919-1920 Robert S. Weikel embarked upon a law enforcement career. For 2 ½ years, 1920-1922, he served as policeman on the Owensboro Police Department. In 1922 he was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Daviess County, serving under Sheriff John D. Howard, 1922-1926. Under the next Sheriff Len Dawson he was reappointed to the position and served under him 1926-1930. In performing the duties of this office he participated in a very dramatic episode that to this day is widely talked of. Rivaling the escapades of Bonnie & Clyde on 9 Jan 1929 at the point of a machine gun, Carl & Grace Browder held up the Farmers Bank of West Louisville. With \$838 in cash they departed the usually quiet hamlet with their guns blazing, wounding one bystander. Deputy Sheriff Weikel worked the case and successfully tracked the couple to Atlanta, GA. There he arrested them on 13 Jan 1929. Upon their arrival in Owensboro at the Union Station train depoy two days later they were welcomed by a large crowd. The Browders were subsequently tried and sentenced to prison terms. Robert S. Weikel was interviewed by the Startling Detective Magazine about the case and in Feb 1935 they published an article entitled "Tracking Kentucky's Girl Machine Gunner". In the special new courthouse edition of the Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer on 5 Sep 1964 in an article entitled "Looking Backward With A Bandit's Captor", Bob Weikel recalled his role in the case. In 1992 his daughter, Margaret Roberts of Owensboro, had the article from the Startling Detective Magazine reprinted in a souvenir booklet, and during the same year she was interviewed for an article on the episode published in the Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer on 14 Sep 1992:

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 14 September 1992, page 1C, by Keith Lawrence
 "before Bonnie and Clyde, Daviess saw Grace and Carl"

The '20s had less than a year left to roar when Carl and Grace Browder came to town.

Daviess County never saw the likes of Bonnie Parker, Clyde Barrow, John Dillinger or Ma Barker during the Depression era that followed. But machine gun-toting Grace Browder made an impression people around West Louisville still haven't forgotten.

Margaret Weikel Roberts, whose father Robert Weikel tracked the pair to Atlanta and arrested them there, has reprinted Startling Detective magazine's February 1935 account of the incident - "Tracking Kentucky's Girl Machine Gunner." Robert Weikel was elected jailer in 1929 largely on the strength of his solving the case. He supplied the information for the Startling Detective story, Margaret Weikel Roberts said.

It was the afternoon of Jan. 9, 1929.

Martin O'Bryan, the 47-year-old cashier at Farmers Bank of West Louisville, was sitting at his desk, working with an adding machine.

His 14-year-old son, Henry, (who would later become a Catholic priest) had brought in some coal for the stove. He stopped to watch his father work.

T.R. Hicks, 43, who lived near West Louisville, was leaving the bank after transacting some business. He noticed a Studebaker pulling to the curb beside the bank, but he paid little attention.

Two people got out of the car. One carried a sack under his arm.

Men strolled from in front of the general store to Heady's Garage to get a better look at the strangers.

One was a tall, slender man in overalls, leather jacket and aviator's helmet. The other was slim and short, wearing a sheepskin coat, khaki breeches, kneeboots and a cap.

They passed a mule team and wagon laden with coal and hurried into the bank.

"I got something for you, Mister," the taller of the two said.

O'Bryan mumbled, "That's fine." Then he looked up into the muzzle of a Thompson machine gun.

The banker jumped to his feet and raised his hands. His son walked in to see what was happening and found the gun trained on him.

The smaller bandit was guarding the door with a pistol.

"Take this and let go on 'em if they move!" the leader commanded, handing over the machine gun. The little bandit pocketed the pistol.

"Don't move a finger or you get it!" the small robber said, in a voice as soft as a woman's.

The tall bandit cleaned out O'Bryan's cage and said: "If I ain't got all the cash money you got, you're sure going to get a shooting! Now, march!" The O'Bryans walked out of the bank with the small bandit behind them.

The leader grabbed the machine gun and the other robber drew a pistol.

Two boys came out of Mackey's Store. "Stick 'em up and get inside!" the lead robber yelled.

They didn't move fast enough. So he opened fire, sending the boys diving for cover.

Hays Bratcher, a West Louisville farmer, was sitting at the garage waiting for a bus. When he heard the shooting, Bratcher walked to the door to investigate.

The gunman turned, spraying bullets in that direction. Bratcher was hit in the right side, critically wounding him.

Then the pair leaped into the car and roared away. In the scramble, they dropped 42 cents - the only money ever recovered. The other \$838 was never found.

Sheriff Len Dawson was at the courthouse in Owensboro - 14 miles away - when the call came in. He assigned the case to Weikel, a 6-foot-3 deputy who was an expert with pistol and rifle.

Weikel led a three-car posse of deputies and citizens into southwestern Daviess County in search of the robbers.

Hours later, they found the getaway car stuck in the mud in the Green River bottoms.

When they reached Calhoun, shortly after dawn the next day, they learned a ferryman had been held up near Eastwood by two tired travelers who forced him to ferry them across the Green.

The machine gun was recovered near the ferry, wrapped in a sweater, hidden in a bush.

A Buick coupe, stolen in Calhoun, was discovered abandoned near Central City. Inside were bags with a man's shirt monogrammed with the letter "B" and a woman's dress, shoes and lingerie.

"The little robber is a woman!" Dawson exclaimed. "A gal that totes a machine gun!" A storekeeper in Central City had sold a woman's coat, hat, shoes and dress to a helmeted young man in overalls that day. He paid with new bills. But there the trail ended.

Dawson and Weikel headed for Louisville. The Studebaker had been stolen there three days earlier.

The monogram pointed to Carl Browder, 26, tall and slender at 140 pounds.

He had been in Hawesville the day before the robbery. Later, he was seen in Calhoun and Owensboro.

Calhoun friends told about his pretty young wife, Grace. Both had lived along the Green River.

The couple had vanished.

Finally, Weikel discovered an Atlanta phone number on a friend of the Browders. He got two warrants and headed south on Jan. 13.

With Atlanta police in tow, Weikel knocked on the door of the house he tracked the pair to. Police grabbed the man who answered the door. And Weikel ran in with a .45 in his hand.

Grace Browder, 23, who had an ear infection, was lying on the bed.

Covering her with his pistol, Weikel yanked open a closet door. Then he heard a sound from beneath the bed.

"I'm holding on you!" he snapped. "Come out, Browder. And let's see your hands!" "I'd have given you a right smart fight," Browder said, "if I didn't have to move my legs so you heard me." Under the bed, Weikel found a .45 pistol.

The two were charged with bank robbery, auto theft and malicious shooting and wounding.

Grace said later that Browder had wandered the East, shipped out to Europe and drifted through the West as a young man. When they married, the couple moved to Detroit.

But "Carl hankered for Kentucky all the time," she said. "And I did too. He talked about the Green River and the frogs a-hollerin' in the bottoms. We planned to buy a place near Calhoun and settle down to be near the river. Carl was going to get some money quick and put it on dice at Louisville and win enough for the home." When Weikel and his prisoners arrived at Owensboro's Union Station, the crowd was so thick police had to shove a path through to the patrol wagon.

The couple was indicted on Feb. 4. Carl's trial was set for Feb. 13.

The jury heard all the evidence -including Bratcher's dramatic testimony which included pointing a finger at Browder and exclaiming, "That is the man who shot me down!" But the case ended in a hung jury.

Two days later, Grace went on trial. At 7 a.m., two hours before the trial, the courthouse was already packed.

It took the jury 35 minutes to sentence her to the maximum 20 years in prison.

The state waited 11 days to put Carl back on trial. This time, it took a jury 45 minutes to give him 18 years.

"Green River puts a spell on folks," Grace said. "And Carl and I will go back and have a home there when we get out." But for Carl Browder, it was a death sentence. Three years later, at age 29, he attacked a guard at Eddyville prison and was shot to death.

Grace, Daviess County's only "flapper bandit," served more than 10 years.

She was released shortly after her 33rd birthday and returned to Atlanta to live.

Weikel was completing his second term as a deputy sheriff - 1922-30.

After winning the jailer's race, he served two terms in that post - 1930-38. He died in 1966 at age 85.

Farmers Bank is long gone.

But Grace and Carl Browder's machine gun is still on display in the Daviess County Sheriff's Office, a reminder of a bank robbery nearly 64 years ago.

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In a biography of Robert S. Weikel in the book, Kentucky Democrat: A History of the Party and Its Representative Members – Past and Present (Volume II, Democratic Historical Society, Louisville, KY. 1935, pp292-293) it is stated that after his capture of the Browders "he has received wide commendation from the national crime authorities."

In the election of 1929 Robert S. Weikel threw his hat into the ring as a candidate for the office of Daviess County Jailer. He was selected as the Democratic candidate and largely due to the acclaim for capturing the Browders he was victorious. At the polls on 5 Nov 1929 he received 8223 votes to his opponent Henry Starks 6373 (Owensboro Messenger, 6 Nov 1929, p.1A).

At the beginning of his term as Jailer Robert S. Weikel's family moved to the jail, 110 St. Elizabeth St., where they resided on the 2nd floor over the jail. On 7 Nov 1933 he was reelected as Daviess County Jailer, he was unopposed (Owensboro Messenger, 10 Nov 1933, p2).

Robert S. Weikel in 1936 was a participant in what is possibly the most written about event in the history of the county - the last public execution in the U.S. - an event that put Owensboro on the front page of newspapers all across the country. On the 6 Jan 1936 a young black man, named Rainey Bethea, was incarcerated at the Daviess County Jail, for a minor offense of drunk & disorderly. During his stay Jailer Weikel and his family were impressed by him, he was very affable and a hard worker. He was permitted to be a jail trustee. He was released on 18 April 1936. Robert Weikel's daughter, Margaret Roberts, recalled that the day before his release he came upstairs to clean her room. Seven weeks later on June 7, he entered the home of Mrs. Lischia Edwards, at 322 E. 5th St., and raped and murdered her. Three days later he was arrested and taken to the Daviess County Jail. Fearing mob action he was taken on the same day by deputies from the Sheriff's department to the jail in Louisville. On June 22 he was returned to the Daviess County Jail to await his trial. On the morning of the trial, June 25, Bethea made a confession to Jailer Weikel, describing how he had committed the crime, this was his fifth notarized confession. At the trial later that day Robert S. Weikel was the last witness called by the prosecution to testify to Bethea's confession to him. The text of his testimony on the stand is as follows:

Testimony of Robert S. Weikel:

Q. "Your name is Bob Weikel?"

A. "Yes, sir. It is."

Q. "Do you hold any official position?"

A. "Jailer of Daviess County."

Q. "How long have you been Jailer?"

A. "Six years and nearly six months."

Q. "Do you know the defendant, Rainey Bethea?"

A. "Yes, sir, I do. Known him a little over a year."

Q. "Have you talked with him since this offense with which he is charged?"

A. "I never saw him until this morning. Talked with him this morning."

Q. "Where?"

A. "In the side room."

Q. "Did he make any statement to you about his connection with this offense?"

A. "Yes."

Q. "Was that a voluntary statement?"

A. "Yes, sir."

Q. "Did you make any threat or promise him immunity?"

A. "No, air. lie said he was glad to see me, and he told me he thought of this, and the best lie remembered that night about eleven o'clock, he taken off his shoes and got on the roof, and went through the window. He said the window was up about so high and the screen was loose, and the first thing he did, lie got up this jewelry you speak of, and after he got the jewelry, she woke up, and that is when he grabbed her and assaulted her, and after he was through and fixing up his clothes, she said, 'I know you.' He turned his head sideways, and she said several times, 'I know you.'"

Q. "Did he state what he did when he assaulted her?"

A. "Yes, sir. He said he did, and she was still living when lie left."

At this time, the Commonwealth closed its case-in-chief.

Shortly afterwards, the jury after only 4 ½ minutes deliberation returned a verdict of guilty and fixed the punishment at death. Judge George S. Wilson issued the decree that he was to be

hanged. Following the pronouncement of the sentence Jailer Robert Weikel and Deputy Jailer Arthur Bollington, quickly took Bethea out of the courtroom, to the jury room, then to the county attorney's office, into the hall and down the stairs to the north door of the courthouse out to an awaiting car. He was taken back to the Louisville Jail by other deputies.

On 5 Aug 1936 at a Habeas Corpus hearing in Louisville Robert S. Weikel took the stand again testifying to Bethea's confession to him. His testimony was confirmed by his son, Robert S. Weikel, Jr., who followed him on the stand. The next day Bethea's execution date was set at Aug 14, 1936. Deputies of the sheriff's department in the early hours of that date returned Bethea to Owensboro. They arrived at the jail about 4:00 A.M. Bethea was taken from the jail at 5:21 A.M. by deputies Reisz and Dishman. Jailer Weikel accompanied the entourage that escorted Bethea to the gallows, about a block away, in the lot of the county garage (on the east side of where the Executive Inn is now). At 5:32 A.M. he was hanged until he was dead. Estimates of the crowd were as high as 20,000. Sources for the preceding details on Robert S. Weikel's role in the Rainey Bethea case are: The Last Public Execution In America, by Perry T. Ryan, Lexington, KY, Alexandria Printing, 1992, pp.35, 43, 66, 67, 100, 101, 103, 148, 149, 170, 174 & 177; and interview of Margaret Weikel Roberts, 1637 Griffith Ave., Owensboro, KY, on 9 Dec 1993 by Jerry Long.

In 1937 Robert Weikel's Democrat party selected Carl Harrison as it's nominee for Daviess County Jailer. Unopposed Harrison was elected on 3 Nov 1937. At the end of his term Robert Weikel returned to farming and moved to a farm on the Livermore Road, near where he had lived over twenty years before. It was on the east side of the road a short distance south of his uncle, Sebastian Weikel's farm. On 27 Jan 1932 he had bought this farm of 43 acres from Henry & Kunigunda Kuegel, who had owned it since 1895 (Deed Book 128, p139). Mrs. Kuegel's son by a former marriage, Gilbert Yeand, had married his sister, Edith Weikel. Robert Weikel remodeled and lived in the old Kuegel house, it stood between where Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and the Wendell Ford Expressway are now.

Robert Weikel purchased part of the old Jacob Rembold farm on the West 5th St. Road, about one-half mile from Owensboro, to be used as rental property. Sixty acres of this farm he bought in 1935 from his brother-in-law and sister, John V. & Lorena Vittitow, they had purchased it from the Federal Land Bank of Louisville in 1934, and they had purchased it in 1933 from the Rembold heirs (Deed Books 160, p63, 132, p52, Com. Book M, p534). In 1944 Robert Weikel purchased another 24 acres of this farm from Miss Lena Rembold. It was on the north side of W. 5th St. Road, across the road from the other tract of 60 acres. His parents had formerly lived here. In 1951 R. S. Weikel sold the 60 acre tract to James Robert Grant, whose house # here was subsequently 2802 W. 5th St. Road. In 1954 he sold the other 24 acres to the Owensboro Board of Education (Deed Book 240, p591), in 1957 the Mary Lee Cravens Elementary School was built here.

Robert S. & Florence Weikel on 27 Sep 1943 sold their home on the Livermore Road to his cousin, Anna Weikel Snyder, daughter of Sebastian Weikel (Deed Book 156, p161). At this time they purchased a home in Owensboro at 416 W. 7th St., on the south side of the street, three houses east of St. Stephen's Church, where they attended. They resided here over 20 years.

About 1950 Robert S. Weikel returned to work in the Daviess County Sheriff's office. For three or four years he served as a "deputy waiting on the court", a clerk of the Sheriff's office. Following several years of retirement he died at the age of 85 on 11 Oct 1966, his wife had died three years previously. They were buried at the Catholic Cemetery in Owensboro. To them six children were born: Robert S., Jr. (died 1981), Margaret (Roberts) of Owensboro, Dolly

(Moore) of Mt. Pleasant, MI, Edward M. (died 1916 age 3), Paul J. (died 1939 age 22), and Bill (died 1983). Bill Weikel for 35 years was a rural mail carrier in Daviess County and served as Alcohol Beverage Administrator for the city of Owensboro. Robert S. Weikel, Jr. for 43 years worked for the Owensboro Sanitation Department - 9 years he was assistant superintendent and 26 years the superintendent. In 1980-81 a new Owensboro street was named in his honor. "Weikel Drive" is on the southern edge of Owensboro, just north of the Wendell Ford Expressway and east of Frederica St. It runs east-west from Kipling Dr. to Jefferson St.

Matthew (Matt) Weikel, son of Mike & Emma, on 10 Aug 1909 married Mary Elizabeth Bellwood. They were the first couple married in St. Mary Magdalene Church at Sorgho, in Daviess County, KY, the ceremony was performed by Rev. Joseph Wright (Sense of Beginning: A History of St. Mary Magdalene 1907-1990, Grady Ebelhar, Owensboro, KY, 1991, p.5). He worked as a farmer. At the time of the 1910 Daviess County census he was renting a farm near Sorgho and when the 1920 Daviess census was compiled he was living with his parents on the farm of his uncle, Sebastian Weikel, on the Livermore Road. During the 30's & 40's he lived on and worked his brother, Robert's, farm on the W. 5th St. Road. In the mid 50's he and his wife moved to 907 Conway Ave. in Owensboro. His wife died there in 1955. In his last years he resided at the Little Sisters of the Poor Home in Evansville, IN, where he died at the age of 82 on 28 Oct 1964. He was returned to Owensboro and buried at the Catholic Cemetery. They had two sons: Andrew (died 1967 at San Jose, CA), and Leo, is currently living in CA.

Sebastian A. Weikel, son of Mike & Emma, in 1916 married Maude Prindle in Rockport, IN. He worked as a farmer. In 1917 he bought a 57 acre on the Red Hill & Brown's Valley Road, near Utica, in the southern section of the county. There at the early age of 40 he died on 30 Jan 1925, burial was at the Catholic Cemetery in Owensboro. His obituary in the Owensboro newspaper erroneously stated he was survived by five children. He had four children, they were: Gerald, of Owensboro, Wilton, of Owensboro, Bertha, of Owensboro (her husband, Leonard R. Lanham was one of the founders of the Lanham Brothers General Contractors, Inc., of Owensboro), and Martha (Richardson), died 1985. Sebastian's widow, Maude Prindle married second Eben Horn. By this marriage she had one child, Thelma Horn, who resides Owensboro, her husband, Ben F. Medley, was associated with the Medley Distillery of Owensboro. Maude Horn died in 1955.

Bertha Weikel, daughter of Mike & Emma, in 1909 married John Franklin Rembold in Owensboro, KY. Frank's father, John Jacob Rembold, was born in Wittenberge, Germany in 1832 and immigrated to the US in 1853. Settling in Spencer County, IN, where he married Kunigunda Bokstahler in 1860. They moved to Daviess County, KY between 1881-1892. During the 1890's they were neighbors to the family of Mike & Emma Weikel. Jacob Rembold, died 1921, had a farm of 97 acres on the West 5th St. Road, now within the Owensboro city limits, it included the area around where the Cravens school is now. Frank & Bertha Rembold following their marriage lived briefly at Fidels, Oregon, where their first child was born in 1911. By 1913 they had returned to Daviess County, KY, where they lived on and worked his father's farm. There they were living at the time of the 1920 Daviess County census. About 1922 Mike & Emma Weikel moved to the Rembold farm, they lived on the north side of W. 5th St. Road, while the family of their daughter, Bertha, lived on the south side of the road. Several years later, Robert S. Weikel, purchased part of the same farm and Matt Weikel lived there.

Between 1928-1932 Frank & Bertha Rembold moved to Evansville, IN. In 1944 Frank died suddenly on their 35th wedding anniversary while at the home of his in-laws, Robert & Anna Weikel Greenwell, at 1519 Pearl St. in Owensboro. Bertha Rembold later returned to

Owensboro to live. From 1958-1971 she resided with her husband's sister, Mrs. Alfonso (Anna) Greenwell, at 734 Stone St. in Owensboro. During 1972-1976 she was a resident of the Carmel Home in Owensboro. Afterwards she moved to a nursing home at Newburgh, IN, where she died on 19 March 1981. She was 94 years old. Frank & Bertha Rembold were buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro. They had eight children: Herbert, of Tucson, AR, Roy (died in the 1980's at Long Beach, CA), John, of Newburgh, IN, Edith (Warren), of Maud, KY, Richard, of South Bend, IN, Bertha (Lebensorger), of Evergreen Park, IL, Dottie (Schnapf), of Evansville, IN, and Wilbur, of Greenwood, IN.

Lorena Weikel, daughter of Mike & Emma, married John Volk Vittitow, at St. Stephen's in Owensboro in 1907. He was named in part for Father Paul Volk, who had established the Mt. St. Joseph Academy and several other churches in Daviess County. Following their marriage they lived in Owensboro, where he worked as a trimmer in a carriage factory. In the 1910 Daviess County census they were residing in Owensboro at 22 Maple St. In the 1920 census they were living on the same street at 34 Maple St. in the Owensboro City Directories through 1926 they are listed at the same address. Shortly afterwards they moved to Spencer County, IN. There he operated a Ford Auto dealership in Rockport. They lived on the road to Evansville (now Highway 66), about one-half mile west of Reo, the two story house still stands near the south side of the highway. Both John & Lorena died at the Mercy Hospital in Owensboro, on 28 April 1976 and 22 Sep 1978, respectively. They were buried in the St. Bernard Cemetery in Rockport, IN. They had three children: J. C., of Henderson, KY, Bill, of Louisville, KY, and Jean (Wathen), of Bardstown, KY.

Amelia Weikel, daughter of Mike & Emma, married Arthur B. Kirk in Rockport, IN in 1914. From Ohio County, KY Arthur Kirk worked as a farmer. At the time of the 1910 Daviess County, KY census his parents, Robert & Martha Ward Kirk, were living on the same road as Mike & Emma Weikel, enumerated only 11 households from them. The 1920 Daviess census shows them residing on W. 5th St. Road, only 32 households from the family of her sister, Bertha Rembold. By 1924 they were renting a farm on Booth Avenue. Their house stood where the southwest corner of Booth and Duke Dr. (not there then) are now. Booth Ave. was then a gravel road, along it was farm land, and it was several blocks south of the Owensboro city limits. About 1937 they moved to a farm on the Old Hartford Road, where the General Electric Plant is now. They moved to 1620 E. 25th St. in Owensboro about 1944, there they lived the remainder of their lives. When they moved here Arthur Kirk then worked as a night watchman for the Murphy Miller Chair Co. Amelia Kirk at the age of 77 died on 24 July 1968, her husband died 8 months later. They were buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Owensboro. To them eight children were born: Mary (Elliott), of Fort Lauderdale, FL, James (died single in 1943), Joe, of Bonifay, FL, Martha (Reed), of Owensboro, Helen (Westberry), of Fort Lauderdale, FL, Alton, of Pittsburgh, PA, Roy Lee (died 1991 in Orlando, FL), and Bernard, of Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Edith Weikel, daughter of Mike & Emma, married John Gilbert Yeand at the Holy Name Church in Henderson, KY on 23 April 1918. His parents, Michael Jent & Kuniqunda Kost moved from St. Meinrad, IN to near Owensboro shortly before 1898. His father soon afterwards died and subsequent to his death the family used the spelling of "Yeand". His mother married second Henry Kuegel. Mr. & Mrs. Kuegel had a farm on the east side of the Livermore Road, about one block or so south of where the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church is now. In 1932 the Kuegels sold this farm to Robert S. Weikel. Gilbert & Edith for several years following their marriage resided here, where he worked as a farmer. When the 1920 Daviess County census was taken they were living here. In 1925-26 they were residing at 2601 Henderson Road, just east of

Carter Road, where he operated a dairy. On 31 Oct 1926 Gilbert Yeand died of typhoid fever, his sister, Miss Marie Kuegel, had died of the same malady 20 days before.

Edith Yeand on 3 Dec 1926 purchased a house and lot in Owensboro at 1523 Hathaway St. from Dora Knight (Deed Book 117, p408). The house was built about 1920-1922, the original owner, Harry Moore, sold it in 1922 to Knight; the house number is first found in the 1922-23 Owensboro City Directory. The deaths of both Mike & Emma Weikel occurred in this home. Mrs. Edith Yeand married Thomas H. Hayden on 30 March 1932. He was a widower with four children. A veteran of World War I he worked as a carpenter. They made their home at her house on Hathaway St. Mr. Hayden died on 15 Oct 1955. Edith Hayden continual to reside at 1523 Hathaway St. until about 1967-68 when she moved to 1924 Mohawk Dr., where her death occurred on 15 Nov 1982, she was 89. Her interment was at the Catholic Cemetery in Owensboro.

To the marriage of Edith Weikel and Gilbert Yeand four children were born: Joseph Leroy, of Owensboro, Ann Marie (Stuart), of Owensboro, Mary Margaret "Monnie" (Rivette), died in 1986, and Gilbert Jean (Cecil), of Owensboro.

Anna Weikel, daughter of Mike & Emma, at the Old St. Stephens Church in Owensboro, married Robert Greenwell in 1924. In the early 1900's his parents, Joseph Eugene Greenwell & Susan J. Dunden, owned a farm on the west side of the Livermore Road just south of the farm of Sebastian Weikel. It included the property where the Southside Bar B-Q Inn is now (4500 Frederica St.). Just north of where the restaurant is, on the other side of the drive, stood a grocery store run by Bernard Greenwell, a brother of Robert. For the first couple of years of their marriage, Robert & Anna, lived in one side of the house owned by her sister, Edith Yeand, at 1523 Hathaway St. Two blocks west of there they bought a house on 21 March 1928 at 1519 Pearl St. from James R. Duggins [Deed Book 120, p100]. It was lot #38 in Jacob Smith's Addition to Owensboro and the house was built about 1928 - the house # was not listed in the 1928 Owensboro City Directory.

Robert Greenwell served in World War I. He was employed in Owensboro as a machinist at the Glenmore Distillery, then at the Anglo American Feed Mill, during World War II he worked at the shipyard in Evansville, IN. Afterward he took tow on the bridge at Owensboro for several years. He died on 21 June 1967. Anna Greenwell lived at 1519 Pearl St. for almost 60 years. A few months before her death she went to a nursing home in Newburgh, IN, where she died on 13 March 1988, at the age of 92. She and her husband were buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Owensboro. To them six children were born: Robert, of Albuquerque, NM, William (died at the age of 5 months in 1928), Joan (Scheessele), of Newburgh, IN, Margaret Sue (Hardesty), of Owensboro, KY, Edward, of Huntingdon, PA, and Nancy (Whitaker), of Crestwood, KY.

Sebastian Weikel (1859-1935) of Daviess County, KY

Sebastian Weikel, son of John Weikel & Margaretha Hochgesang, was born 18 Aug 1859 in Dubois County, IN. At the age of eighteen, according to his death notice in the Owensboro newspaper, he moved to Daviess County, KY. He probably accompanied his brother, Michael, who made his home there in 1878. In the 1880 census of Daviess County he was listed as residing in the home of his brother, Michael.

Three days following Sebastian Weikel's 24th birthday he married Miss Rachel Friedericka Leppert. They were married in her hometown of Ferdinand, Dubois County, IN, at the St. Ferdinand Catholic Church. She was born in Baden-Baden, Germany and came to the US with her family in 1876.

Sebastian Weikel purchased his first land in Daviess County on 23 July 1888, when he and his brother, Michael, bought adjoining tracts on Panther Creek, 6 ½ miles southwest of Owensboro (Deed Book 48, p91). The 99 acres that Sebastian bought at this time he sold on 20 Oct 1892 (Deed Book 57, p190). Nine days later he purchased 98 acres on the west side of the Livermore Road, 2 ½ miles south of Owensboro, from James W. Jameson for \$8500 (Deed Book 57, p208). Jameson had acquired it from J. J. Long, who owned it in 1876 when a plat of Daviess County was published. Joe Lee had previously owned the property. The tract was bounded by the lines of Scherm, Settle, McHenry, Wink, Lucas, the Moseley Road and the Livermore Road. On 22 Oct 1900 Sebastian Weikel bought 46 1/3 acres on the east side of the Livermore Road, across from his other tract. It had been successively owned by Joe Lee, J. J. Long, James W. Jameson, and Mike Gager. The latter sold it to Sebastian Weikel for \$4050 (Deed Book 71, p394). On the south it adjoined the farm of Henry Kuegel. In 1901, 25 acres off of his Livermore Road property was sold, leaving him a total acreage there of 119 (Deed Book 73, p113). From 1892 the family of Sebastian Weikel made their home on his Livermore Road (west side) land. They were enumerated here in the 1900 & 1910 Daviess County censuses. Part of this land would continue to be in his family for over 70 years.

Sebastian Weikel on 14 Oct 1913 purchased from Walter B. Booth a house & lot on the west side of Frederica St., a couple of blocks from the southern city limits of Owensboro, (Deed Book 93, p458). Booth, a dairyman, had resided there since 1905, when he bought it from Joseph R. Anderson. Earlier Booth had lived a couple of blocks away on "Booth Ave.", which had been named for him. The house on Frederica St. was #2204, in later years it was changed to #2212, it was then in one of the finest residential areas in the town. Shortly after buying this home Sebastian moved his family there to live. Michael Weikel and his family between 1910 and this time had moved to Sebastian Weikel's older home on the Livermore Road. It maybe that both families resided for a time in the house together for a grandson of Sebastian said that at one time 19 people had lived in the house at the same time. After Sebastian had moved to Owensboro Michael worked and managed the Livermore Road farm for about ten years.

In the 1920 Daviess County census Sebastian Weikel's family was enumerated at 2204 Frederica St. He sold this home to Wilbur J. Simpson on 11 April 1922 (Deed Book 110, p205). This house stood until the early 1980's, a parking lot is there now, it was two houses south of the E. M. Ford & Co. office and the "World's Largest Sassafras Tree". In 1921-1922 Sebastian Weikel had the older house on his Livermore Road farm torn down and a large elegant two story house built in its place. Upon its completion his family moved back to the farm.

Sebastian Weikel became one of the most prominent and successful farmers in the County. In a bio in the Owensboro Messenger of 22 Sep 1907 he is described as one of the "county's most progressive and up-to-date farmers" and his farm on the Livermore Road of 119 acres is "of as fine farming land as can be found in the county". The 1920 census lists him as a tobacconist. He was associated with the Farmers Loose Leaf Tobacco Wholesale Co., in 1918 he was its secretary-treasurer and in 1922-23 its vice-president. He was a member of the American Society of Equity, an organization promoting the organization and development of the American farmer. Politically active he worked for the advancement of the causes of the Democratic party. For many years he served as a magistrate on the Daviess County Court, representing the

Lowertown Precinct, similar to the position of Daviess County Commissioner today. The office was one of decision making and was crucial in the on going development of the county. It was also stated that he contributed to Owensboro's claim of being "The Barbecue Capital of the World". For various political, religious and family gatherings he often conducted large barbecues.

From a very early date Sebastian Weikel was active in the affairs of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Owensboro. During the last three decades of the 19th century many German families from the Southern Indiana towns of St. Meinrad, Fulda, Ferdinand, Mariah Hill, Tell City, Cannelton migrated to Daviess County. In 1870 the German families left St. Stephen's Church and formed St. Joseph's to meet the needs of the German population. In connection with St. Joseph's a German school was established in 1881. In addition to the Latin Mass, services were conducted in German, and the catechism in the school had one side in English and one in German. The use of German in the church, school and among each other could still be heard as late as the early days of World War II. The St. Hubertus Benevolent Society was organized 17 Sep 1874 by the Germans, it was comparable to the present day Knights of Columbus. They conducted and promoted charitable activities of the church. Wearing purple sashes as stoles, the men stood as guards of honor for the first communicants and at funerals. Sebastian Weikel for over 50 years was active in the society, on 12 Oct 1882 he was chosen to be its flag-bearer.

In 1912 St. Joseph's Church installed 18 stained glass art windows, imported from Munich, Germany. Various parishioners purchased a window for \$200 to \$300 each. Names of the donors were painted into the lower panels of the windows. One of the windows bears the name of Sebastian Weikel. They are now evaluated at over \$400,000. Upon the razing of the 111 year old St. Joseph's Church, at 4th & Clay Sts., the windows were donated to the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, where they will be the cornerstone of a new religious art wing now under construction.

Sebastian Weikel at the age of 75 died on his Livermore Road farm on 7 Feb 1935. His will was recorded in Daviess County Will Book H, p.502. Rachel, his widow, died on 27 Oct 1940 at a Louisville hospital, as the result of injuries suffered in a car accident. They were buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Owensboro.

The Livermore Road home of Sebastian & Rachel Weikel over the years had been the home of a large extended family. In addition to them and their five children, residing there at various times were: his brother Michael & members of his family (from about 1913 to about 1922); his brother, Frank (from about 1935 until his death in 1944); son-in-laws, Adolph Gilles, Charles W. Snyder, Albert Kamuf; and grandchildren, Rachel & Charles Kamuf. A farm worker, John Johnson, a black man, also lived there for many years. Even after the family moved from here he continued to work for various family members, until his death on 23 May 1974, he was 75.

Following the death of their parents until 1946, Charles W. & Anna Weikel Snyder, Albert & Cornelia Weikel Kamuf (& their two children) and Joseph M. Weikel, continued to live at their parents former home. On June 14 of that year the heirs of Sebastian Weikel sold three tracts of about 15 acres, including the house, to Dr. Charles W. & J. Colleene Vance (Deed Book 168, pp355 & 528). The Vances operated a chiropractic service in the house and for a time in the 1950's the Owensboro Junior Achievement was also located there. Mrs. Vance, then a widow, on 5 Dec 1958 sold the same three tracts and house to the Texas Gas Transmission Corporation (Deed Book 280, p265). Sebastian Weikel's heirs sold 1.53 acres, which they still retained, to Texas Gas in 1960. It was at the intersection of Frederica St. & Tamarack Road and was in front

of the tract on which their former home was located (Deed Book 294, pp572-581). Shortly afterwards the former Sebastian Weikel home was torn down and at its site the present Texas Gas building was constructed. Texas Gas had its open house there on 28 July 1962. After this section was incorporated into the city Livermore Road then was called Frederica Street.

To the marriage of Sebastian Weikel & Rachel Leppert five children were born, viz:

Mary Albertina	10 Sep 1884
Joseph Michael	2 Feb 1887
Anna A.	27 Oct 1889
John Joseph	20 Sep 1895
Cornelia Elizabeth	1 Jul 1900

Mary Weikel married Adolph Gilles in 1906. His parents, John Gillis & Elizabeth Strehl, moved to Owensboro in 1868 from Perry County, IN. His father was born in Luxemburg and immigrated to the US in 1857, he was one of the founding members of the old St. Joseph's Church in Owensboro. Mary Gilles died in Owensboro on 5 Feb 1958. They were the parents of: Paul Eugene (died 1988), Herman Joseph (died 1987), John S., of Owensboro, Mary Agnes (Mrs. H. P. Atherton) of Owensboro, and Rachel Elizabeth (Mrs. Daniel B. Allen). The latter died in 1993, for many years she penned a column "Allenotes" in the Grayson County, KY newspaper.

Joseph M. Weikel worked as a farmer and a tobacconist. He married twice, Irene Singer and Letitia Greenwell; he had no children. After moving from the Sebastian Weikel home in 1946 he lived with his sister, Anna Snyder, on the other side of the Livermore Road, just south of his former home by three or four blocks. When he married Lettie about 1955 they moved to a home at 1931 Merriwood Dr. in Owensboro. He died on 1 July 1962.

Anna Weikel married twice. She married first Eugene P. Gasser (1884-1913) in 1909. The son of Joseph V. & Elizabeth Gasser, he was a native of Owensboro and died at the age of 29. His brother, Lawrence "Birdie" Gasser, for many years was a writer for the Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer. Anna Weikel married second Charles W. Snyder. He was a farmer and died in 1959. Anna Snyder on 27 Sep 1943 bought from her cousin, Robert S. Weikel, 43 acres on the east side of the Livermore Road (Deed Book 156, p161). In 1946 when the Sebastian Weikel home was sold she moved to the house on this farm, where the families of Robert S. & Florence Weikel and Henry & Kunigunda Kuegel had previously lived. On Jan 5 of the same year she purchased from her siblings another 43 acres on the east side of the Livermore Road (Deed Book 165, p13). It bordered her other land on the north and had been purchased by her father in 1900. From this second tract she sold 11 acres on 10 Jan 1957 to the Owensboro Catholic Diocese, the Our Lady of Lourdes Church & school were built there and were opened in 1959. Shortly after her husband's death in 1959 Anna W. Snyder moved to 3428 Monticello Dr., where she lived until her death on 13 Oct 1972.

John J. Weikel married three times, Sarah Miller, Mrs. Ione (Love) Carl and Marguerite; he had no children. From 1925 until 1960 he worked for the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Owensboro. In his later years he resided at 3428 Monticello Dr. He died on 20 June 1972.

Cornelia Weikel married Albert Leo Kamuf in 1935. For the first ten years of their marriage they lived at the Sebastian Weikel home on the Livermore Road. When it was sold in 1946 they moved into Owensboro. Their two children had been born in the old Weikel home place. Cornelia Kamuf died on 30 May 1975 and her husband on 9 Sep 1987. A daughter,

Rachel, married John Keelin and resides in Owensboro. Their son, Charles Joseph Kamuf, is an Owensboro attorney, and resides at 3428 Monticello Dr., the former home of his aunt, Anna W. Snyder. Mr. Kamuf honored the memory of his ancestors when he spearheaded a drive to save the old St. Joseph Church building from the wrecking ball after it closed its doors in 1976. Because of extensive deterioration it was razed in 1989. Charles Kamuf was the spokesman when the 18 stained glass windows from the church were donated in that year to the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art.

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Bottom row: Anna Greenwell, Mike Weikel, Emma Risse Weikel, Bertha Rembold.
Top row: Edith Yeand, Lorena Vittitow, Amelia Kirk, Robert Weikel, Sebastian Weikel and Matt Weikel. Taken in 1923.

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25 December 1993

Dear Linda, Christy, Heather, Brian and Katie:

This year I do not have a separately wrapped gift for you, but hopefully during this year you will receive a separate gift. This is a letter of explanation.

The last year and half I have been working on a history of your grandmother, Monnie Rivette's family. The result of several hundred hours is given as a present to your whole family. The notebook, you are now receiving, is not complete, as I had visualized. I had intended to write a narrative chapter for each of the four primary families [Yeand, Weikel, Risse, & Kost] discussed. I finished the Weikel chapter, but ran out of time and was not able to complete the other three. I decided to go on and give you what I had now and the other three chapters I will add later.

I have really enjoyed working on this history and have learned a great deal. Last year I decided to begin this after talking at the library to Mrs. Rivette's first cousin, Margaret Weikel Roberts - she told me of her father's role in two of the most talked of and written about episodes in the history of Daviess County - the last public execution (1936) and the capture of the bank robbers, Carl & Grace Browder (1929). However, long before this in the back of mind I had entertained the thought of compiling family history for you - including some of the many great discoveries I have made about the ancestors of your dad. You would not believe the volume and wealth of data I have collected since 1979, when I chose genealogy as an avocation.

During the course of the last year, in talking to many of your distant cousins, many have expressed an enthusiasm for obtaining a copy of the info I was compiling for you. As a consequence I would like to propose that, if you don't mind, that the family notebook I am giving you be published in book form. The information could then be made available to all the other families it touches upon, as well as insuring that it would be preserved by placing copies in libraries. If I have your consent and it is published, I then will give you, as the second part of this Christmas present, a copy of the book.

If you would like to see this done - can you think of any additional suggestions and would you want to assist? I still would like to find several dates (ex the birth date of your great-grandfather, Gilbert Yeand) and pictures. Another possibility is helping on compiling an index for the final manuscript. An index is not essential but would contribute to the book's attractiveness and value. I will not have the additional time to do this option.

I hope you will enjoy this gift for years to come and see it of some value. I believe it is much more than a few pieces of paper and of a greater personal importance than most printed material that could be purchased. I believe family history is an important part of one's educational background - it can be a source of pride, as well as a means of attaining knowledge, and can give one a sense of kinship with the world. It is the study of the "person" in history - and places value on one's life.

Have a great new year!!!

Yours truly,
Jerry Long

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The following is the Table of Contents of the book, Jent – Schum – Weikel – Hochgesang – Risse – Kost, by Jerry Long, McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 1994:

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