

*Kisabeth — Kissenberth — Kisseberth — Kisaberth
Küschwert — Küssert — Kispert.*

Kisabeth Historical Review

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February 2000



Special points of interest:

- University of Leipzig and the Kisabeth connection
- John Kisabeth well known farmer
- Robert Foster Kisabeth sets up Hotel in Charleston SC.
- Reunion 2000



ROYAL WEDDING
MAXIMILIAN

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John Kisabeth

John Kisabeth (1844-1934) probably the most successful farmer in the history of our family was John Kisabeth. He was well known in and around Seneca County, Ohio about 100 years ago. John Kisabeth leaves no blood descendants but his agriculture success should be remembered by all Kisabeths.

The name of Kisabeth has long been prominently and honorably associated with the history of Seneca County. John Kisabeth was a worthy representative of its farming interests and was a man whose sterling traits of character made him popular with his business and social connections. He resided in Loudon Township on a farm of eighty acres, which he devoted to general produce. He was born in Clinton Township September 23, 1844, and was the son of Philip Sr. and Elizabeth (Daum) Kisabeth, both of whom were natives of Hessen, Germany. His parents came to the city of Tiffin in 1842 from Germany. Philip Kisabeth's older brother Georg had immigrated ten years earlier in 1832. In 1844, the senior Kisabeth purchased 40 acres of farmland in Loudon Township, most of which was in its primitive wild

state. The children in order of age were; George, Henry, John, Louisa, Adam, Philip Jr., Jacob, Amelia, Mary E., William and Catherine S. John Kisabeth received his early training and education in the schools of Loudon Township and his life was devoted entirely to agriculture pursuits. Back then education was secondary to the farming of the land. A Loudon Township business directory lists John Kisabeth's occupation as farming and stock raising with the date of settlement as 1870. The 1874 Land Plat shows John owning a parcel of 40 acres in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter in section 10. In the 1896 Land Plat of Loudon Township in addition to the 40 acres, John was the owner of 80 acres in the northeast half of the northeast quarter of section 16. All total he owned and farmed 120 acres of prime fertile soil located between the town of Fostoria and the village of Bascom off of route 18. John Kisabeth was married August 2, 1870 to Laverna Holbert, who was born in Marion Co., Virginia, a daughter of John Holbert. She came to Ohio with her parents and settled in Seneca County in 1853. This marriage was blessed with

two children; Anna B. who was married to Jacob Morcher, and Myrtie who died February 19, 1895 at the age of only 21. A third child, Ella Ruse, daughter of Aaron H. Ruse and Laverna (her brief first marriage)

lived her childhood days with mother and step-father John Kisabeth. One story my father Foster B.



John Kisabeth

Kisabeth (grandnephew of John) fondly remembers is that of his younger brother Denzel. It seems that great uncle John had given the young Denzel three large honeycombs to take to his parents. But instead of delivering the three, he hid and consumed two of the rather large thick honeycombs. Needless to say, the young Denzel had a terrific bellyache for some time after. This incident brought many moments of laughter over the years when mentioned to anyone except poor Denzel. Incidentally, my grandfather William Earl Kisabeth was a tenant farmer on his uncle's farm in the early 1920's and this was the land where my father and his brothers and sisters spent their youth. I believe it was here where Robert

McClellan Kisabeth was born on his great uncle's land.

Laverna Kisabeth died July 19, 1923 of heart trouble while John lived to be just three months shy of his 90th birthday. He had a bad fall and dislocated his shoulder which forced his living with daughter Anna in Tiffin his last year.

John was treated for chronic myocarditis in the last four years of his life otherwise he was in very good health. John passed away June 16, 1934. Well known in Seneca County, John Kisabeth was a worthy representative of its farming interests and was a man whose sterling traits of character gained

for him the high regard of those with whom business and social relations had brought him in contact. John Kisabeth typifies the hard working farmer that is so prevalent in our family history.
written by Gerald Kisabeth January 2000

University of Leipzig

The University of Leipzig (Universitat Leipzig) in Saxony, Germany is, next to Heidelberg, the oldest university in the German Empire. It was established when the German students under the leadership of Johannes of Munsterberg, who had been deposed as rector by King Wenceslaus, left Prague in May, 1409, and went to Leipzig. The cause of this withdrawal was national disorders provoked in Bohemia by John Hus. At Leipzig Friedrich and Wilhelm, Landgraves of Thuringia and Margraves of Meissen, founded a "studium generale," the Bull for the foundation being issued by Pope Alexander V at Pisa, 9 September, 1409. The charter was signed on 2 December of the same year, and the first rector was Johannes of Munsterberg. In the first semester 369 students matriculated. The Bishop of Merseburg was appointed chancellor.

The University of Leipzig holds a very special place in the history of our family. We have the proud distinction that at least five of our ancestors attended this prestigious school starting in the year 1490.

On 13 May, 1998 I received a very nice letter from a Mr. P. Hesse, Archivist at the university. Attached to his letter were the matriculation records of four of our ancestors. Here is a brief summary of those records:

Die Matrikel der Universitat Leipzig (1409-1559)

Kusswert, Kuhsvert, Kuschwert, -werth, Kussesswert, Kusswert, KuBwerth, Kueswerd, Kwswerdt, Kwswert Hinr. de Weyssenstat I S 1491 B63, b. W 1492 (II 334). (meaning in english= Heinrich Kuschwert of WeiBenstadt with various spellings of his surname attended the university in both the summer and winter terms in 1491 & 1492.)

-loh. de Weyssenstat I W 1500 B44, b. S 1503 (II 394), m W 1507 (II 434), curs. 1508 (II 19), sent 1510 (II 19). (meaning that a Johann Kuschwert attended the university in the winter of 1500/1507, the summer term in 1503 & was there again in 1508 & 1510).

-Nic. Weissenstad. i S 1507 B11, b. S 1508 (II 440). (meaning in English that Nicholas Kuschwert attended the university in the summer term of 1507 and finished with the winter term of 1508.

Our noted ancestor Michael Alexander Kuschwert (Kisibert) attended the winter term in 1576. The book states; Kuschwert, Kueschwert Alex. Werthemius 7 gr. I W 1579 B 16).

A Georg Christian Kuspert attended the university much later. He spent four years, 1850-1854 at U. of Leipzig.

Another Kuspert from our Fichtelgebirge area attended the school in 1777.

As stated previously the University of Leipzig is second in age to Heidelberg as the oldest German university but it is the oldest surviving university in the new federal states of former East Germany.

Over the centuries, the University was often directly affected by the various crises afflicting both town and country and thus forced again and again to adapt and reform itself.

The Reformation between 1542 and 1544 initiated a process of transformation from an essentially medieval institution of learning into a training center for the up-and-coming churchmen, lawyers and educationalists required by the new state of Saxony which was now under Albertinian rule. It should be noted here that four of our ancestors

were to become members of the clergy of the Evangelische-Lutherische Kirche (Evan. Lutheran Church). Also worth mentioning is that in 1519 a memorable theological controversy took place in Leipzig between Martin Luther and Dr. Eck.

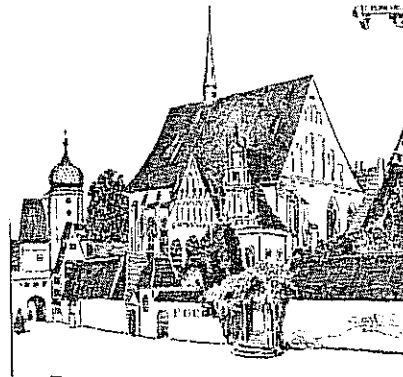
Next to Berlin and Munich, the University of Leipzig used to be one of the most popular universities, at times attended by some 10,000 students and, when celebrating its quincentenary (500 years) in 1909 could boast achieve-

ments of international fame. However, it soon found itself in financial difficulties in the wake of WWI. After the War it was the sciences and the medical faculty in particular that gained international repute. Then followed the decline during the Third Reich when some 30 professors and lecturers lost their jobs because of their racial origin or political orientation, and student numbers dropped from 7350 in 1932 to 1560 in 1939. university buildings also suffered enormously from bombing between 1943 and 1945, and more than 60% of all buildings were destroyed. Despite the policy of "Gleichschaltung" a policy adopted by the Nazis to force into line all public institutions, the university was able to retain its traditional and largely middle-class character. (Honorary Rektor Hans-Georg Gadamer recalls: The Nazis were barbarians who despised us. That gave us some breathing space.)

The original University Chapel had survived the War undamaged, the main university building was partially damaged, yet still usable; but both were sacrificed in 1968 in order to make room for the new project. The University was renamed Karl Marx University in 1953 by the communist leadership of east Germany. After the desolvement of East Germany it was

decided in February 1991 to revert to the former title of "University of Leipzig." During the academic year 1996/97 some 23,000 students were registered and around 1,600 came from more than 120 different countries.

When in Germany if you get a chance, visit the famous old medieval city of Leipzig and by all means check out the 600 year old University where our namesake, Heinrich Kuschwert first studied in 1491, one year before Columbus discovered America.



A Unique Kispert Story

Here's a very interesting story passed down over the years by the Kispert Family in Indiana. Gene Kispert of Owatonna, Minnesota and Wayne Kispert of Orlando, Florida have provided us with this story:

In 1842, Nicholas Kispert and Barbara Nurnberger were engaged to be married in the

Province of Bavaria, in Germany.

The ruling Prince of Bavaria was also planning to be married. He sent out word to all the engaged couples of the province that they might take part in a mass ceremony at the palace if

they so wished. 70 couples responded, among them Nicholas and Barbara. When the wedding date arrived the Prince sent out a carriage for each bride and her parents and another carriage for each groom and his parents. The mass ceremony took place and the Prince presented each groom with a bible, inscribed with his name as donor, and the Princess presented each bride with a gold wedding ring to match her own.

About four years later, Nicholas and Barbara Kispert, with their baby daughter Sara and

Barbara's parents, Adam and Eve Nurnberger came to America. After several years of living in various places, they settled in Parke County, Indiana. Nicholas built the first brick house in the county, which is still standing in fairly good condition, about one mile north of Atherton.

Nicholas and Barbara were the

parents of four children, Margaret, Sarah, John and George. Nicholas died in 1889 and his wife Barbara passed away in 1908.

Through his father's efforts, Wayne Kispert was able to re-

cover the gold wedding band and the family bible presented to Nicholas and Barbara Kispert back in 1842. These two family heirlooms were used for Wayne and wife Dotty's wedding in 1988 and the bible was used once again for their youngest son's (David) wedding. Wayne has promised that upon his death the items will be passed on to his eldest surviving son in hopes of keeping them in the Kispert family.

Another bit of information, in the bible record that belonged to Nicholas and Barbara Kispert

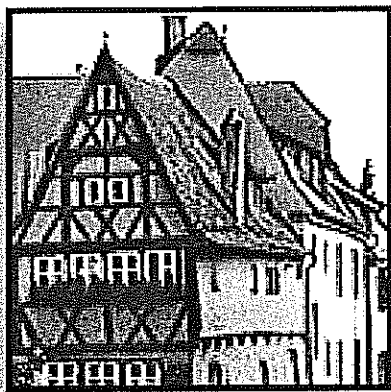
the name is spelled Küsspert.

This is another example of the two surnames Kispert and Küsspert being used interchangeably in the same family- which is further proof that the names are virtually the same. Wayne Kispert has graciously agreed to provide us with some pictures of both the gold wedding ring and the family bible. Wayne and Dotty visited Munich in 1994 and have confirmed that indeed Crown Prince Maximilian married Princess Maria of Prussia in 1842. The Crown Prince later became King of Bavaria.

I just received from Wayne Kispert a marriage document from the Evang.-Lutheran Church in Munich showing that indeed on October 16, 1842 Johann Nicolaus Küsspert and Margaretha Barbara Nürnbergger were joined as one. Among those present were; Johann Michael Küsspert and Susana Küsspert probably his brother and sister. The bridal party also includes members of his bride's family.

In November 1999 I received an e-mail from a lady whose ancestors were also invited to join the wedding celebration of the Prince & Princess of Bavaria. She also confirmed the gala event with documentation from the church records. Here is a partial description;

"With joy that recommenda-



New Family Genealogist

Cousin Craig Kisabeth of Dandridge, Tennessee has a new hobby, Genealogy.

I hear the family tree bug hit Craig and hit him hard. How he finds time for his research is a mystery. You see, Craig is a full time high school teacher and is head football coach at Jefferson County High School. I might add, Craig is a very successful high school football coach having guided the Patriots to the Tennessee State title a few years back. His teams have annually been among the top in Tennessee High School Football.

You can contact Craig via his e-mail address: Ckisabeth@hotmail.com He is currently researching his Harris side but is open to all Kisabeth related questions and study. Craig, do you know what you are getting into????????????????

Grandpa Mike Kisabeth ?

I hear that the stork will be visiting the home of Jason and Corrie (Kisabeth) Janeski in March. Corrie is the daughter of my brother Mike & Maureen Kisabeth of Plymouth, Michigan. Mike will be a grandfather for the first time.



He and Maureen have 4 lovely daughters so it might be time for a boy in the family. If it's a boy will he eventually be playing line-backer for Central

Michigan University like his grandfather did? Good luck goddaughter Corrie and Jason. Corrie is also a graduate of CMU as is Joan Kisabeth, wife of my other brother Ken

Hotel Opening Early 2000



Confusion in Charleston

It seems that a Robert Kisabeth has relocated to the Charleston, South Carolina area. This same Robert Kisabeth's family pediatrician's son is another Robert Kisabeth who just so happens to be the grandson of another Robert Kisabeth in the area who lives in a home bought by still another Robert Kisabeth. Four Robert Kisabeths in the Charleston area? Yes, let me explain:

1. Robert Foster Kisabeth, son of Gordon & Michele Kisabeth, has accepted a position as general manager for Embassy Suite Hotels to supervise the building and all operations for their new structure in downtown Charleston. The opening is scheduled for next month. "Rob" and wife Stephanie and sons Jake and Matt are having a house built in the area.
 2. Charles W. Kisabeth, M.D. is a local pediatrician in Charleston. "Chuck" and wife Anne have a fifteen year old son named Robert Scott Kisabeth.
 3. Robert McClellan Kisabeth Sr. and wife Jimmie live in a gorgeous house on nearby Kiawah Island.
 4. This house, I believe, was bought by their son Robert McClellan Kisabeth Jr. : **Robert Kisabeth, M.D., is Medical Director of the Mayo Medical Laboratories, Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.**
- So there you have it—four different Robert Kisabeths in the Charleston, South Carolina area with perhaps more to come.....

New Embassy Suites in Charleston SC has general Manager.

Robert Foster Kisabeth has left the Embassy Suite in Cincinnati, Ohio to open the new Embassy Suites in Charleston, SC. The 256 room hotel is scheduled to open February 19, 2000. Robert has been general manager of hotels in California, New York, Ohio, Virginia and now South Carolina. The hotel is adjacent to the Charleston Convention Center Complex. It is two miles south of Charleston International Airport and 10 minutes north of the city's historic downtown area.

If you would like to get in touch with Gerald or Gordon on the web our e-mail address are as follows.

Gerald Lee Kisabeth is at gerrykisabeth@mediaone.net
And Gordon William Kisabeth is at gkisabeth@mediaone.net

Kuespert

I had the honor of meeting through the Internet a very nice couple from South Bend, Indiana (Fighting Irish Territory). Our new connection is Kenneth Clement (Clem) and Elfrieda (Petzke) Kuespert. Clem & Elfrieda just returned from a nice month long stay in Germany. They visited the area of our origin, The Fichtelgebirge. From staying in the small guest house "The Pension Siebenstern Family Kuspert" with relatives, to attending the No.1 main event in the world, the Octoberfest in Munich, the Kuesperts had a great informative-fun vacation. I am told that some research was done in the old Lutheran Church at Schönbrunn where Clem's father was baptized. This was the couple's 3rd visit to the area. Clem's family was from Reichenbach, a small village southwest of the larger town of Wunsiedel in Oberfranken.

Clem's cousins, Emmie (Kuspert) Scheiner-Beck and Hermine (Kuspert) Langgüth own the Pension house in Rösau where they stayed. At my urging they drove up a few miles to the town of Schönwald where there is the "Ferienhaus Kispert", another small guest-vacation house that was in the Kispert family for over 200 years now owned by Jitka Jung-Männl. She has supplied us with much family documentation and pictures of an old coat-of-arm Kispert that is painted on the outside of the house. Clem & Elfrieda also visited the old Lutheran church in Wunsiedel, St. Viet's, where our very old ancestors, the Kuschwert worshiped. This was back in the 1500's.

The Kuesperts from South Bend are our main connection to our Kuespert line in America and our Kuspert line in the Fichtelgebirge area of Germany. We hope to see Clem & the Mrs. At our big 10th Annual Reunion in Bascom, Ohio this August. Thanks again, Clem & Elfrieda for all the information, pictures and research.

tion was accepted and after eager preparations of the Titel Herr County Judge and with my most possible assistance because of the joyful and excellent sending, bride and bridegroom were sent together with 5 "heads" of people who are usually part of weddings on October 13, 1842 early in the morning on a street parade float which was decorated very tasteful with a blue and white winded and with flowers decorated arch, surrounded by blue and white garlands and decorated with many Bavarian



Bavaria

flags, pulled by four stately stallions. There were lots of people who watched how the street parade started in Atting. They drove to Strubing and then to Munich and were joined in marriage October 16, 1842, 10 o'clock in the morning, by the most Reverend Herr Anton Reißbacher, of the town parish church St. Peter's. After that they were part of the parade on the Theresienwiese together with the brides and bridegrooms who were sent from

other provinces and the highest Royal Court."

This event was without doubt the most memorable story passed down from the descendants of

the Kisperts. Remember both of these families, the Kisperts and Nurenbergers, were just farmers from two very small villages in upper Bavaria. Just the thought of traveling to the capital city of Munich was almost inconceivable; let alone celebrating in a marriage ceremony with the Prince and Princess of the State of Bavaria.

Johann Niholas and Barbara Kispert immigrated to America about four years later with their baby daughter Sara, and Barbara's parents, Adam and Eve Nurnberger. They settled finally in the Terra Haute, Indiana area where their descendents live today.

Special acknowledgements should go to Gene Kispert, Betty Jean Kispert, Ortie Curtis Kispert, his son Wayne and Harry Richard Ballou.

10th Annual Family Reunion

Greetings.....

Again, it has been awhile since our last newsletter. Busy, busy... but I finally have taken some time to get this "Millennium" newsletter out. We have a lot in store for 2000. Our big 10th Annual Family Reunion is planned for August 5, 2000 again at Meadowbrook Park in Bascom, Ohio. More about the reunion elsewhere in this newsletter. Our Family History Book will be finished in time for the reunion. Both Gordie and I are working on a regular schedule to complete this book by August. I will

be sending out order information sometime in early summer. We hope to include a CD along with the book to include ALL the descendants. We hope your Holidays went well. My immediate family gathered at brother Gordon & Michelle Kisabeth's home. We had quite a turnout and fun was had by all. It was sort of a "mini" reunion, as there were a total of 31 family and guests present. I'm sure

there were several other "mini" family reunions held during the recent holidays. I remember reading some old newspaper articles about various "out-of-towners" visiting local family back home. It

was big news back in the early 1900's to print such happenings. We could do the same thing in our newsletter if you would sent in the news. As a matter of fact, please send in ANY family article or news as we are in dire need of family news.



You are only a stranger here but once. Please tell your Uncles, Aunts and cousins to show for the big event.



The Foster & Bertha Kisebeth Family
(Gerald-Michael-Foster-Barbara-Bertha-Ken-Gordie)



Ken & Jean Hieronymi
(Ken is the 13th great grandson of a Hans Kuschwerdt(b. about 1480))



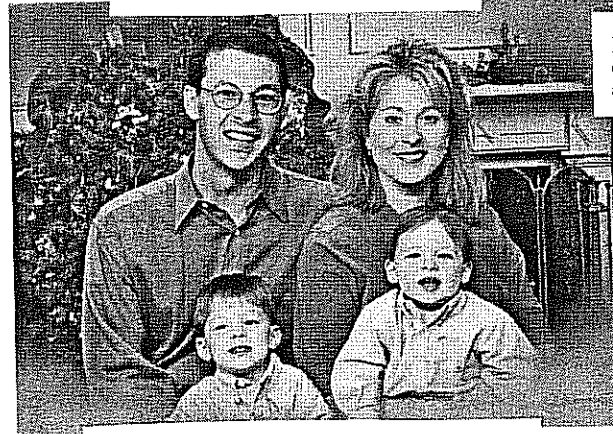
Marion & Della (Kiseberth) Winters
(grandparents of Gordon Winters of Cary,NC)



Eugene (Gene) & Fern Olive Kispert
(Gene has been working on the Kispert line in America for many years)



Erwin & Gertrud Kissenberth 1999/2000
(This happy retired couple spend their days sailing around the Carribean.)



Robert Foster & Steffi Kisebeth Family 1999
(Christmas 1999- Rob & Steffi with Mutt and Jake)



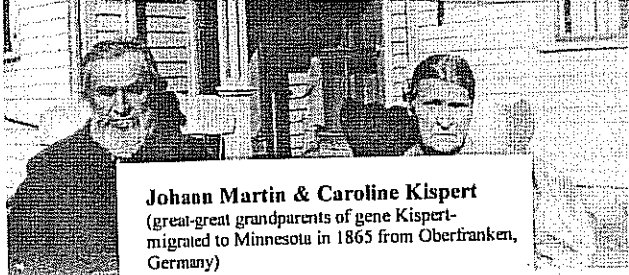
Clem & Elfrieda Kuespert
Clem's father was born in the small town of Reichenbach, near Wunsiedel, Oberfranken, Bavaria.



Lyle Gerald Kisseberth (1897-1920)
(young father of Gerald Wayne Kisebeth who died at age 22 of tuberculosis)



Dr. Fritz W. Kisseberth
(noted physician & family historian)



Johann Martin & Caroline Kispert
(great-great grandparents of gene Kispert-migrated to Minnesota in 1865 from Oberfranken, Germany)

Don't forget to bring you old & new photos to the Family Reunion. We cherish all photos. At the reunion we copy pictures with a camera, so you can retain the original. We have a large collection of photos in our gallery but more are welcome. Mail photos is you wish to our address on the newsletter. Or e-mail photos and we will try to use them in our next newsletter.

- Kiseberth
- Kispert
- Küspert
- Kuespert
- Kisabeth
- Kissenberth
- Kisaberth
- Kiespert

We are all descendants of the old medieval name of:

Küschwert