

Mr. & Mrs. John Kunz Family History

By

Clyde Kunz

Mr and Mrs. John Kunz Family History

(As of June 6, 2013)

I have compiled the following family history of my Grandfather and Grandmother, Mr and Mrs. John Kunz, from the family records that have been passed on to me over the years so that it will not be lost and can be passed on to other family members in future generations. I have tried to be as factual as possible; my grandfather wrote a "Family Register", however, although he learned to speak English very well, he kept a lot of the old German script style in his handwriting; any combination of e, v, c, m, n, or w can be frustrating, also s looks like f. My Grandmother had very clear handwriting since she grew up in America at a time when handwriting was taught and stressed in the schools. I have copies of Swiss legal documents, letters, postcards, obituaries and the hand written notes on some photographs. The name on my Grandfather's Swiss Hometown Certificate is Johannes Kunz, later it is spelled Johann, but in America he used John so that is what I will use here in this history document. My Grandmother's name was Marie but many friends and family members called her Mary; I have used Marie in this writing. Also, they referred to each other as "Mom" and "Dad" or "Daddy" which was how they trained their children as to what they wanted to be called and sometimes this was used in their writing. I lived next door to my Grandparents as a child and spent a lot of time with them and talking with them so I have many memories of them and the stories that they told me and the answers to questions that I would ask from time to time. Now there are many questions that I know that I should have asked but did not and I must depend on my on memory as best I can for those that I did ask. I have also consulted with the other grandchildren to help me add to this work. My nephew, Russell Ladd, wrote a paper in 1981 titled, "History of the Kunz Family" for a school assignment based on an interview with Rose Kunz-Quinn at that time. Lynda Kunz-Harper wrote a paper for the Grundy County Historical Society titled "John and Mary Stamm Kunz" based on information from her father Homer Kunz and other family members in about 2001. Many family documents have been handed down and my grandmother kept a diary from 1932 until her death in 1977. Information from these papers and documents has been included in this history.

Clyde Kunz, June 6, 2013

John Kunz

John (Johannes) Kunz was born April 27, 1873, in Diemerssayl (his spelling) (Diemerswil spelling on map) (Munchenbuchsee on his Hometown Certificate), Canton Bern, Switzerland and died June 9, 1959 in Tracy City, Tennessee and is buried in the John Kunz family plot in the Tracy City Cemetery. It was customary for Swiss children to have three (or more) names, however, neither his Hometown Certificate nor family records show a middle name but church records may. His father was Johannes Kunz [Sr] born August 15, 1843 in Lyssach, Canton Berne and died July 12, 1927. His mother was Anna Wasmer Kunz born March 22, 1847, also from Lyssach, and died December 22, 1944. John Kunz had two brothers and three sisters; Brother Fred Kunz born April 4, 1875 probably in Lyssach. Fred (who was never married) also immigrated to the United States in about 1910 and homesteaded in Provo, South Dakota and died August 24, 1940 at age 65 and is buried at McColley Mortuary in Edgemont, South Dakota. John visited with Fred in May 1940 shortly before his death in August of that same year. Brother Rudolf Kunz was born February 8, 1886 probably in Lyssach. Rudolf also immigrated to the United States. John made contact and visited with Rudolf in Cheyenne, Wyoming August 1911 (also in October 1915?) and in Dixon, Wyoming in October, 1949. Rudolf visited John in Tracy City in 1955 and Homer Kunz visited with Rudolph in Wyoming in 1971. Rudolf, then 94 years old, still did some hunting and prospecting for gold in the mountains. He showed Homer his gold prospecting equipment and his hunting rifle at the time. Rudolph was married twice but had no children. Rudolph died in August 1972 and is buried with his wife Grace in Little Snake Valley, Wyoming. Sister Anna Kunz was born December 4, 1877 probably in Lyssach and died in ?. Sister Elise (Marti) Kunz was born April 30, 1880 probably in Lyssach was married and had six children and died in April 1944. Sister Marie Kunz was born September 30, 1886 probably in Lyssach and died December 29th, 1957.

John Kunz was baptized in Munchenbuchsee, Canton Bern, Switzerland May 18, 1873 (probably the Reformed Church). He was confirmed at Kirchberg, Switzerland on Good Friday 1889; he and his parents were living in Lyssach at that time. John immigrated to the United States in 1890, at age 17, and went to live with his uncle Jacob Wasmer in Grant Iowa and worked on farms while learning English. He moved to Omaha and took business courses at Omaha Community College in 1893.

While living in Omaha, John heard of the plans of the Swiss Pioneer Union Corporation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to build a town in Lewis County, Tennessee. The advertisement for the new town, to be named New Switzerland, was placed in many Swiss and German language news papers throughout America. Many people he knew in Omaha were excited about the opportunity and made plans to buy land and move to the new town. Several families in Omaha secured land in Lewis County; some were members of the Omaha Schweizer Verein. One family John knew who planned to move was the Emil Roth family. John Kunz was close friends of the Roth family; Emil's wife, Elizabeth Weyermann, is thought to be a first cousin to John Kunz (John stated that he was kin to the Roths but did not say how). There was a drought and depression in 1895 and the Roth family and others were out of work and looking for an opportunity to make a new start.

John moved to Hohenwald, Tennessee in 1895 and became involved with the development of the new colony. He helped Mr. W. (Bill) J. ("hog-eared") Hale survey the town of New Switzerland. Bill Hale had one "bad" ear and that was the source of the nickname. The town of New Switzerland was a corporate land development by The Swiss Pioneer Union formed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1894. John became the Secretary of the Swiss Pioneer Union and his signature is on some of the Share Certificates. I have a copy of a share certificate for seven shares of the corporation of The Swiss Pioneer Union and the signature of John Kunz was entered as the secretary. He bought two of the forty acre tracks of the new colony (Lots 4 and 5 in Section #1 as shown on the original town plat) and built a house and began the development of one of the colony farms. The land today is bordered by _____ Road on the west and by _____ Road on the north. He also bought property in the town of New Switzerland (Lot 4 in block 15) but never developed it. New Switzerland was later renamed Hohenwald which means high forest. There had been a small town in Lewis County named Hohenwald named by earlier German settlers that dates to about 1880. When the first New Switzerland Colony settlers came in November 1895, the town of "Old Hohenwald" had a small store which held the post office, a school house and a few houses. After much dispute, the name "New Switzerland" was voted to be changed to Hohenwald in about 1897 to allow the post office to be moved from "Old Hohenwald" to Main Street of the new town. The new post office was located in the store of Mr. Jacob Marbet and John became the postmaster and was also a clerk at the store. Mr Marbet could not speak English very well so

John was able to communicate with both those that spoke English and those that only spoke German. Great Grandson Russell Ladd interviewed Rose Kunz Quinn for a school paper he wrote in 1981 and based on that interview he wrote in that paper that "He [John Kunz] ran [helped run] the store because the owner could not speak English well enough to communicate with the English speaking customers." My Grandfather once showed me a postcard from the 1930s of the main street of Hohenwald and remarked at how wide the streets were. The original plat of the town shows the main streets were eighty feet wide and the other streets were sixty feet wide, very impressive for the times. I could tell that he was proud to have been a part of laying out the town with streets wide enough that people could park their wagons in the middle of the street and there was still room for traffic to pass on either side. He wrote promotional articles in the colony newspaper ("The Swiss-American Pioneer") and participated in community projects.

He was naturalized May 3, 1897 at the Lewis County Courthouse in the town of Newberg, Lewis County Tennessee by Lewis County Judge J. R. Fain. The county seat of Lewis County was later moved to Hohenwald; there is no longer a town of Newberg and only a wilderness where the town was. He moved to Nashville Tennessee in 1901 and went to work for the Nashville, Chattanooga and St Louis (NC & St L) railroad. He married Marie Magdalena Stamm (who he had met in Hohenwald) on November 4, 1901. They started married life in Nashville Tennessee.

Marie Magdalena Stamm

Marie Magdalena Stamm was born Sept 29, 1880 in Hottingen, Canton Zurich, Switzerland and died August 10, 1977 in Tracy City, Tennessee, and is buried in the John Kunz family plot in the Tracy City, Tennessee Cemetery. Her father was Hans Jacob Stamm, born August 3, 1848 in Schleithem, Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland, was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in New York City on October 11, 1886 and died November 8 (His Death Certificate indicates he died on November 7), 1895, in New York City and was buried in Brooklyn, New York. My Uncle Homer stated that "Hans Jacob Stamm was documented as the tallest man ever at that time in the Swiss Army at six feet four inches and was known as trumpeter Jake". His occupation identified on his marriage licenses was helmsman; Russell Ladd wrote "...he was a Captain of a tourist steamer." based on his interview with

Rose Kunz-Quinn in 1981, probably a steam boat captain on one of the Swiss lakes. A photograph from the family photo album, dated 1878, shows him in the uniform of the helmsman occupation. Jacob Stamm's father was Marten Kaser Stamm and his mother was Magalena Meyer. Marie Magdalena Stamm's mother was Anna Maria Benkert born April 15, 1855 in Aarberg, Canton Bern, Switzerland and died November 4, 1905, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Hans Jacob Stamm and Anna Maria Benkert were married March 31, 1879 in Aarberg. Anna Benkert's parents were Johannes Abraham Christen Benkert and Maria Bart. Marie Magdalena Stamm was baptized in Canton Zurich in 1880 and confirmed in Bern Switzerland April 15, 1897 (Munster Cathedral). She was the first of eight children, two of which died as infants. She immigrated to the United States in 1880 with her parents when she was seven weeks old. She told me that she was a seven month premature baby and it was unusual for her to have survived given the times. Her father brought cases of caned, she said Eagle Brand type milk (probably condensed), for her on the trip. The Swiss had developed caned, condensed milk at this time and it was widely used for babies for ship travel.

Her family lived in one of the "Brown Stone" apartments in New York City on 106th Street just four blocks from Central Park and her father worked as a drayman (teamster or delivery driver) and possibly a dock worker at one time. Her father was naturalized October 11, 1886. She played as a child in Central Park. Teddy Roosevelt was chief of police of New York City at the time and she played with both a daughter (Alice) and son (Kermit) of the Roosevelts and she remembered seeing Teddy Roosevelt on a big white horse, probably in Central Park. She remembered her father pointing out John L. Sullivan, a famous prize fighter of the time. She remembered President Grant's funeral: "all the school kids had little bouquets and stood in line as the funeral passed". The former Union General and U.S. President was laid to rest on 125th Street not far from the Stamms' home. She was allowed to play outside in the evening until the lamplighter came around. She remembered the organ-grinder with a little monkey on a chain. "We all saved our pennies, and the organ-grinder would play as long as they lasted while the children danced and sang". While the family lived in New York City, she was joined by four brothers and three sisters; Brother Jacob Stamm born March 8, 1882 and died as an infant, Jacob Herman Stamm was born July 29, 1883, Married Flora Kappeler in 1911 and died June 19, 1976 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Brother Robert Stamm born January 24, 1885 and died in Pewaukee June 3, 1965, Sister Anna Stamm (Schenk) born February

14, 1886 and died September 27, 1972 and is buried in Wisconsin Memorial Park, Sister Franziska (Francis) Stamm (Walters, Ritter) born September 24, 1887 and died December 14, 1952 in Milwaukee and was buried at Port Washington, Sister Rosa Stamm born March 10, 1889, married Paul J. Buckethal on May 18, 1907 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and died December 31, 1977 and Brother Ernst Stamm born June 17, 1890 and died as an infant.

She was eight years old at the time of the “Blizzard of 1888” and remembered the snow up to the middle of the second story window where she had placed some paper flowers from the decorations of a roast pig that was a prize her father had won playing billiards. She remembered her father having to get into the house by climbing in a second story window because of the deep snow. She remembered seeing her mother helping him by placing warm towels on him until he recovered from the cold. Hundreds of people froze to death trying to reach shelter. The Blizzard of 1888 is the most famous snowstorm in American history and has acquired almost legendary status because of the blizzards combination of temperature, wind and snowfall has been unmatched in American history. It was called “The Great White Hurricane” and paralyzed the East Coast from the Chesapeake Bay to Maine, isolating New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington for days. Two hundred ships were grounded and at least one hundred seamen died. Fifty inches of snow fell and winds blew up to 48 miles an hour creating snowdrifts forty to fifty feet high. The resulting transportation crisis led to the creation of the New York subway.

Smallpox was one of the dreaded diseases of the time and it was truly fortunate that the smallpox vaccine was invented at this time. But many were afraid of it and did not get the vaccination. Her father was warned by others not to have his children vaccinated because it would kill them, but he took a chance and had all of his children vaccinated and none of them got sick with smallpox.

Her father was killed November 7, 1895, reference State of New York Certificate and Record of Death No. 38192. There is some uncertainty as to how he was killed and several different versions have been passed down. Uncle Homer told me “he was walking home from work at the bank through some back alleys and was carrying a valise; two men jumped him, hitting him on the head, killing him. They probably thought he was carrying money. The murderers were caught and sentenced to life in prison.” I remember my

Grandmother telling me that he was shot as an innocent bystander to a bank robbery. Russell Ladd interviewed my aunt Rose in 1981 for a school paper assignment and based on that interview he wrote "In New York her father [Jacob Stamm] worked in a boat harbor around the loading docks...one payday her father was coming home from work and was robbed and killed by 'Ice Man'." Upon the death of her father, my Grandmother's Aunt Rose (Rosina) in Switzerland, who was a widow and did not have any children, sent word to her widowed sister to send one of her children for her to educate since their father had been killed. Since my Grandmother was the oldest of the children and wanted to go, she was sent to live with the aunt in Switzerland where she went to finishing school and was trained as a seamstress and learned dressmaking and took languages. During this time that she was in Switzerland, the Spanish and American war broke out and the Swiss were sympathetic to Spain. She was given a hard time about this by the Swiss since she was an American. After America won, she told me that she was able to say to them that "the best man won".

Her mother received some insurance money, probably from a verein, from her father's death and her mother's father John Benkert and her brother, Ernst Benkert, also living in the United States at this time, advised her mother to sell the house and furniture and take the children and leave the city and raise them on a farm. So her mother decided to leave New York and buy a farm in the new Swiss Colony, New Switzerland (later renamed Hohenwald) in Tennessee. On their way to Tennessee the Stamm family stopped in Hersey, Michigan and stayed with her mother's brother, Alex Benkert, until they could complete the purchase of a farm in Hohenwald. Her brother Herman Stamm, age 13, wrote a letter to her, (she was now in Switzerland with her Aunt), about details of the trip and of the stay with "Uncle Alex" in Hersey. The purchase of the farm was completed and the family completed the journey to the new farm in Hohenwald. The land was a thirty acre L shaped lot, lot #1 bordered on the south by the Schubert's Farm Exclusion and on the east by Lot #2. The southeast corner of the Lot would be about at the intersection of what today is Kimmins and Borum streets. Her mother's father John Benkert and brother Ernst Benkert moved with them. The 1900 census shows both her mother's brother Ernst and her mother's father John Benkert living with her on the farm in Hohenwald in 1900. Marie returned to the United States in 1900 and moved to Hohenwald to live with her family. She found work, probably as a "threader", in the lace and embroidery factory, the Kursheedt Mfg Co. that was operating at that time in Hohenwald. The

manager of the factory was Robert Thurnherr who also ran one of the machines. She once told me that she loved to dance and sometimes would dance all night, go home and change shoes and then go to work. She met John Kunz at this time in Hohenwald but he did not like to dance and at first she did not show an interest in him. But he was persistent, made friends with her mother and finally she agreed to marriage. A few years later, her mother sold the farm and moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she died at age 50 in 1905. Her mother's brother Ernst Benkert and father John Benkert went to Milwaukee with her. Ernest Benkert was a member of the Swiss-American Fraternal Society and lived at 3224 N 29th Street (near Herman Stamm who lived at 3264 N 29th Street) and died November 16, 1955 at age 89 and was buried in Wisconsin Memorial Park. John Benkert is buried there also.

Mr and Mrs John Kunz

Mr and Mrs John Kunz were married November 4, 1901 in the Evangelical Reformed Church in North Nashville, Tennessee (the building is still standing as of October 2007). The Reformed Church in Hohenwald was planted or sponsored by this church in Nashville and the Hohenwald Swiss kept close ties with the Nashville Swiss. They started married life in Nashville Tennessee where John was working for the Nashville, Chattanooga and St Louis (NC & St L) railroad. While living as newlyweds in Nashville, an old "granny" Negro worked next door to where they lived and one day, while she was hanging out the family's wash, she observed something important missing from the Kunz's clothesline. "Lord, child", she said to the newlywed, "ain't you got no quilt?" Later in Tracy City Mrs. Ida Hunziker taught my Grandmother about quilting and my Grandmother shared some of the sewing skills that she had learned while living with her Aunt in Switzerland with Ida and the other women in the Tracy City Sewing Club. She enjoyed quilting, embroidery and crocheting. She made most of the family's clothes. And she loved entertaining ladies groups, using her fine linens and tablecloths that she had embroidered and crocheted.

Twins Rosa Marie and John Frederick were born August 22, 1903 at 805 Taylor Street, Nashville, Tennessee.

While working for the railroad in Nashville John learned to install and maintain the new air brake system invented by Westinghouse and being

installed on trains at the time. The railroad from Sewanee down the mountain to Cowan was very steep and the railroad was having problems with runaways so John was sent to Tracy City on a temporary one year assignment to install the new air brake system and teach others to install and maintain them before returning back to Nashville. At the end of the year there was no one willing to take on the responsibility of maintaining the air breaks so John stayed on in Tracy City working on the trains and in 1905 Marie and the young twins also moved from Nashville to Tracy City, Tennessee. Upon moving to Tracy City, John and Marie first rented a house in town near the icehouse; then they bought a two story house one block from the Episcopal Church. They became active members of Christ Episcopal Church in Tracy City and John later served as treasurer for many years.

After moving to Tracy City and installing the new air breaks, John could not find others willing to take on the air break responsibility so he stayed in Tracy City working on the trains until his retirement in 1938. He once told me that he missed Social Security and the forty hour work week. His normal work day started at 6:00 am and some days he worked long hours and sometimes was called back at night when there was a problem to be fixed with a train.

My Grandmother told me once that after moving to Tracy City, my Grandfather decided that family should move to California. The Railroad promoted many areas of the country though printed Brochures, news papers, etc and in the early 1900s California was the place to go. So she told him to go look it over before they moved. So one summer he took a trip to California, probably by train, to look it over. After hooking it over he decided he did not want to live there. After that he and my Grandmother were content to live out the rest of their lives in Tracy City.

Later they bought a house in the section of Tracy City called "Dutchtown" that they later sold to Horace Charles (that house burned sometime in the 1960s). My grandmother told me once that none of the houses at that time had running water so she had my grandfather install a hand pump in the kitchen so she would not have to carry water into the house from an outside pump. The neighbor women criticized her for being a lazy Yankee. I asked her once how long it took for the other women to have their husbands install a hand pump inside their houses. She and the other women helped deliver the babies and took care of sick families when they were in need. A lady in

Tracy City once told me of remembering my grandmother bringing a big pot of soup to her house and helping her sick family when she was a little girl, “she was always there with the big pot of soup when there was sickness with any of the neighbors”, she told me. It was the custom for friends and neighbors to “sit up” all night with the deceased when there was a death in the family. My grandmother always took a pound of coffee and went to help out with the vigil.

They had one of the few telephones in Tracy in the early 1900s; the number was simply 124. To call, you cranked the handle and told the operator, called central, the number that you wanted to call and she manually made the connection at her switch board. Many nights John got called back to work to take care of urgent repairs. He walked and never owned a car. In the early 1900s the only electricity for the homes was from the Werner mill to a few houses in Dutchtown. This was for lights only.

Robert Walter was born January 12, 1906 and died at age six months. Herman Carl and Homer Bernard (twins) were born July 28, 1913.

In 1914 they bought fifteen acres of land west of the town bordering the railroad on the south and the Tracy City Cemetery on the east and built a house with lumber from the Werner mill. They worked hard and developed the land with a barn, chicken house, orchard, pasture and gardens. Like most families of the time they grew most of what they ate. They dug a well on the north side of the residence (my Grandmother referred to it as a cistern) and in 1928 they had a deep well drilled that was 197 feet deep with great “freestone” water that never went dry even in the great drought of the 1930s. Many of the neighbors got water from this great well when their more shallow wells went dry.

There are some great stories of Homer, Herman and the other boys their age growing up. At about age ten several of the boys dug a mine in the hill on the north side of the property about where the Byron Roberts house was later built. My grandfather did not pay much attention to the boys talking about their mine but my grandmother became concerned and insisted he go take a look. My grandfather was shocked to see that they had actually tunneled several feet back into the hill and it was very unsafe and he made them stop digging. When the highway dept surveyed the new road to Monteagle, one of the survey stakes went in the top of the mine. To save the mine, the boys

moved the stake and the road was actually built with a bend at that point that can be seen today. They also built a log cabin on the site that was quite advanced for something that you would expect such young boys could build.

Occasionally Mr Fritz Von Bergen, the Westinghouse air brake specialist from Nashville, would come to Tracy City to assist John with air brake work. He had a rail car with tools and equipment dedicated to air brakes that he would bring with him. He had earlier lived in Hohenwald (also where he is buried) and probably had met John Kunz there. He spoke German better than English and he and John were good friends. He would stay with my Grandfather and Grandmother while in Tracy City working on the trains there. Homer remembered that he would put a whole biscuit in his mouth at once. One night my Grandmother overheard them talking (in German) about how many more cars they could take down the mountain with the new air brakes. They were planning to take more cars down than ever before. My Grandmother just shook her head. The next day with the extra cars on the train they had a runaway down Cowan Mountain and could not stop the train until it had gone thru and past Cowan with the whistle wide open. Ed Hunziker was the engineer and he tried to jump off the train but they held him on. They did not loose any cars but they did find the limit for the air brakes.

John returned home to Switzerland one time, in the fall of 1923. His mother and father were still alive and had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. When he first arrived he and his father did not recognize each other but his mother did recognize him. He visited with many relatives that were still living and traveled extensively around the country. He wrote some great letters and sent many postcards which give a lot of detail of the trip. One comment that he made in one of the letters was that everything seemed so much smaller than he remembered. He thought that since everything was so big in America that things from home in Switzerland had grown in his mind to be bigger than they actually were.

In about 1929 John hurt his back and could not work. His son Homer dropped out of school and went to work in his place for a year until he could recover. All the workers knew that this was being done and kept an eye out for railroad personnel that came from Nashville from time to time. Homer worked as a car inspector checking the cars before the engineer would start

the train. There were two passenger trains to Cowan each day and two or more trains of coal per day.

During the depression in the early 1930s, there was a government program to help people develop crops and distribute the food to the hungry. The county agent, Mr Elliot, led a project to grow and can several acres of beans. He asked John to borrow his sprayer to spray the beans. John offered the sprayer on the condition that Mr Elliot take Homer along and give him the job of spraying the beans. Homer worked on the project all summer.

Fritz Von Bergen gave Marie a 28 gage, double barrel shotgun and John taught her how to use it. He worked late sometimes at night and there was a problem with chickens being stolen. Word got around that Marie had a shotgun and was a good shot so there were no more problems with the chickens being stolen. When World War I ended, Homer and Herman were in the field helping John. Hearing the mill whistle, church and school bells ringing, to celebrate the end of the war, John went into the house and got the shotgun. He held the gun and let Homer and Herman take turns firing the shotgun to celebrate the end of the war.

During the summer of 1929 John, Homer and Herman traveled out west with Herman Baggenstoss to work for the Forrest Department in the Medicine Bow National Forrest clearing the fire lanes so fire fighting machinery would have access in case of fire. Homer was on one side of the park and Herman was working on the other side; they worked all summer and did not see each other. While there they saw their first talking movie, *True to the Navy*, with Clara Bow. Homer decided to make beer for his birthday celebration but had no yeast so he used the starter from the sour dough bread for the yeast. Herman said they tried to cook pinto beans but due to the altitude they could not get the water hot enough to get them cooked. They visited and stayed a week on the Wasmer and Shuler farms (where John had first worked when he immigrated to the US). On the way home they went up into South Dakota to visit John's Brother, Fred Kunz; they were only a few miles from his Brother Rudy Kunz but did not know it at the time. In 1930 they went back and worked on the Wasmer and Shuler farms shucking corn.

In 1934 John bought 30 acres of land in Summerfield (between Tracy City and Monteagle) for \$600. He did not consider this an investment; Homer and Herman had graduated from high school and there were no jobs during these

depression years, so John bought the land to give them a job cutting and selling the wood. Homer later bought the land from his Dad and built his home there.

The first peacetime military draft began in 1940 with a Selective Service Lottery and the first number drawn was number 158. Herman Kunz held that number with the Grundy County draft board but was not called up immediately. Both Homer and Herman volunteered for military service at the outbreak of World War II. Homer was turned down due to a serious broken leg injury as a teenager. Herman was accepted into the USMC and served throughout the war including several island invasions in the Pacific. John served on the Draft Board for many years and received a certificate of appreciation and medal from the President for his service.

In 1951 John and Marie traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with the many friends and relatives in that area.

My Grandmother told me once that she had seen many weather extremes in her life starting with the 1888 blizzard in New York and the dry years in the 1930s; one summer it did not rain at all the entire summer. She told me one time that it came a foot of snow on the mountain in late May. It did not last long and was soon melted but it killed all the crops at that point and killed all the leaves on the trees. Uncle Homer remembered it being on my Grandfather's birthday in April rather than in May.

As a child, I lived next door to my Grandfather and Grandmother and spent a lot of time with them growing up. I was very close to them and they treated as well and any grandparent could. My grandfather made me toys like wooden guns and bows and arrows. Although retired, my Grandfather kept a very regular schedule; breakfast at seven, then out to work on things around the house and fields, lunch at noon, quit work at five and to bed at nine. By the time I was four years old I would be at his door while he was having breakfast and ask, "What are *we* going to do today, Grampa?" Then I would follow him around as he did his work for the day; my favorite days were when *we* would burn leaves. Although my Grandfather remained active until the year of his death, I was able to help with a lot of the yard work as a young teenager.

People of my Grandparents generation used a lot of what we call “old sayings”. I remember many from my Grandmother but my favorite ones are “Be not the first the new to try, nor the last the old to lay aside” and “We get too soon old and too late smart”. I once made a comment about Friday the 13th being an unlucky day and got a very stern lecture explaining that God made all the days and he did not make any unlucky days! I was truly fortunate to have such grandparents.

After my Grandfather died, my Grandmother lived for many more years and as a young adult I visited her often. She always welcomed me and took the time to talk as long as I wanted. She was such a pleasure to talk with and was able to talk about the present and future as well as the past. She told me about all the things she had seen invented in her lifetime and it is everything that today we take for granted in modern life; electrical utilities and appliances, radio, telephone, automobile, airplane, television and so much more. Just imagine all the developments that occurred between 1880 and 1977! She was very interested in the space program and lived to see the moon landing and wanted to live to see us go to other planets and to talk to other people on them and find out what their story of creation is. Hannah and I visited with her just a few days before she died and just a few days before our daughter Kathryn was born. She patted Hannah’s stomach and said, “Well, it is time for me to go and make room for someone else.”

John and Marie Kunz had five children;

Rosa (Rose) Marie (Kunz) Quinn born in Nashville, Tennessee August 22, 1903 and baptized November 22, 1903 in Hohenwald Tennessee (Confirmed in 1916 at Christ Episcopal Church in Tracy City). She Married William (Bill) Stafford Quinn August 7, 1940, at Christ Episcopal Church in Tracy City, Tennessee. Rose and Bill began married life at 843 E High Ave in New Philadelphia, Ohio until Bill’s death November 9, 1943. Bill Quinn had a heart attack and died at age 45 while attending a vestry meeting in the Rectory of Trinity Episcopal church. Bill Quinn served as a sergeant in World War I and was employed as a military guard of the Westinghouse and Riggs distiller Co. at the time of his death. They had no children. Rose then moved to Milwaukee to be near kinfolks until her father died in 1959; then she moved back home to live with her mother. She worked for the University of

the South until retirement. Rose died June 28, 1989 and is buried in the family plot in the Tracy City Cemetery.

John Frederick Kunz (twin of Rosa) was born August 22, 1903 in Nashville, Tennessee and baptized November 22, 1903 in Hohenwald, Tennessee. John Fredrick died at age 13 January 26, 1916 in Tracy City from complications of an appendicitis operation. An article in the *Banner* stated, ‘...12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kunz of this place, died at a sanitarium Wednesday afternoon after a brief illness due to adhesion of the bowel. On Sunday last an operation was performed and at the time it was thought that he would recover, but another operation became necessary, and Dr. Eve of Nashville was called in to assist local physicians. The operation was performed, but the young man was too weak to rally.’ He is buried in the family plot in the Tracy City Cemetery.

Robert Walter Kunz born January 12, 1906 in Tracy City, Tennessee and was baptized in May 1906 in Winchester Tennessee. Robert Walter died suddenly at age six months of unknown causes and is buried in the family plot in the Tracy City Cemetery.

Homer Bernard Kunz born July 28, 1913 in Tracy City, Tennessee.

Herman Carl Kunz (twin of Homer) born July 28, 1913 and died November 4, 1972 at the old Sewanee hospital and is buried with wife Ruby Wileman Kunz in the Tracy City Cemetery. At the time of Herman’s death my Grandmother told me “It is a terrible thing to out live your children.”

Homer kunz died December 20, 2012 and is buried in the Tracy City Cemetery.

John and Marie Kunz had five Grandchildren:

- Joyce (Kunz) Ladd, daughter of Herman Kunz
- Clyde Herman Kunz, son of Herman Kunz
- Lynda (Kunz) Harper, daughter of Homer Kunz
- John Erick Kunz, son of Homer Kunz
- Fredrick Bernard Kunz, son of Homer Kunz