

News from Nan

DICK'S FAMILY HISTORY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER LENA DUEGER JOHNSON

JULY 21, 2018 | DICK

Caroline Johanne Friederike ("Lena") Dürger (Dueger) was born on July 27, 1869, in Mecklenburg, Germany. Mecklenburg is in the North of Germany and borders on the Baltic Sea.

Lena's father, Carl, was a farmer. At the time Lena was born, Mecklenburg was a Grand Duchy and almost all the land was owned by the Grand Duke, Frederick Francis II. Most of the people living on the land were serfs. Also, in the late 1860s and 1870-71, Prussian influence was unifying Germany and the Franco-Prussian war was raging.

This might be why in 1872 the entire Dueger family migrated by ship from Hamburg to New York City and from there to the Buffalo, New York, area. At the time they migrated, the family included Lena's parents and five children. Several more children were born in the United States.

The family settled in the Tonawanda and North Tonawanda area, and many of their descendants still live there today.

Dueger Family Attends Reunion On Club Grounds

Forty-seven members of the Charles Dueger family gathered for their annual reunion Sunday in the Sportsmen's Club, Killian Rd.

The adults entertained themselves with volley ball, horseshoes and bowling and the children played a variety of games. A picnic supper followed.

In charge of the program were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Burgin and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Janowsky. During the business meeting Clarence Dueger was elected president, Stuart Dueger, vice-president, and Nancy Roloff, secretary-treasurer.

Family records for the past year noted the birth of a son, Mark, to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Janowsky, a daughter, Judy, to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kober; and the death of Mrs. Charles Dueger.

Out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Lavern E. Dueger of Long Island and Mrs. Harry Metzger of Niagara Falls.

The Sportsmen's Club again will be the site for next year's reunion to be held the second Sunday in August.

Newspaper clipping about
the 1953 Dueger Family
Reunion in North
Tonawanda

According to the 1940 U.S. Census, Lena never went to school.

In 1892, Lena married my great-grandfather, Peter George Johnson.

Lena was a life-long member of the Lutheran Church, and she was a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Lena died in 1949 in North Tonawanda while living with her daughter Clara Johnson Pullen. She was living just a few blocks from DeGraff Hospital, where I was born.



Lena Dueger Johnson's gravestone in Elmlawn Cemetery in Kenmore, New York

Although my parents and I lived only a few miles from the Pullens during the 1940s, I don't recall ever seeing Lena, and I don't have any pictures of her.

◀ 2018 ◀ BIRTHDAY ◀ DUEGER ◀ GERMANY ◀ JOHNSON ◀ MIGRATION ◀ NEW YORK ◀ NORTH TONAWANDA