



Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke

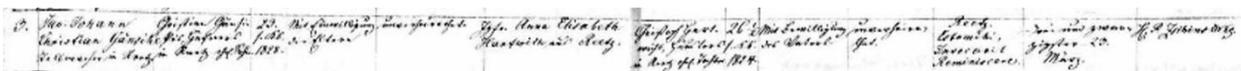
Johann Christian Gäsike and Anna Elisabeth Hartwich were born and raised in Reetz (bei Belzig), Brandenburg, Prussia. They were married there in 1851, and emigrated to the United States in 1853. They soon made their way to Iowa, where they lived the rest of their lives. We are direct descendants of Christian and Elisabeth through their son Friedrich Heinrich (Frederick Henry).

Johann Christian Gäsike, known as Christian Gensicke in the United States, was born in Reetz (bei Belzig), Brandenburg, Prussia, on January 28, 1828. He was one of at least seven (and as many as ten) children born to Johann Christian Friedrich Gäsike and Johanna Christiane Gäsike nee Kersten. Nothing is known about his early years other than he was raised on a small farm.

From 1848 to 1851, Christian served in the Prussian army. During those years, Prussia went to war with Denmark over Schleswig-Holstein, the area in present-day northern Germany that borders Denmark. This was known as the First Schleswig War. The Danes won, but 13 years later they lost this area in the Second Schleswig War. After completing his service in the Prussian army, Christian worked as a cartwright, or wagon maker.

Anna Elisabeth Hartwich, normalized to Hartwig, was born in Reetz (bei Belzig) on November 13, 1825. She was one of at least two children born to Jochen Christoph Hartwich and Anna Elisabeth Hartwich nee Böttge.

After leaving the army, Christian and Elisabeth were married in Reetz (bei Belzig) on March 23, 1851.

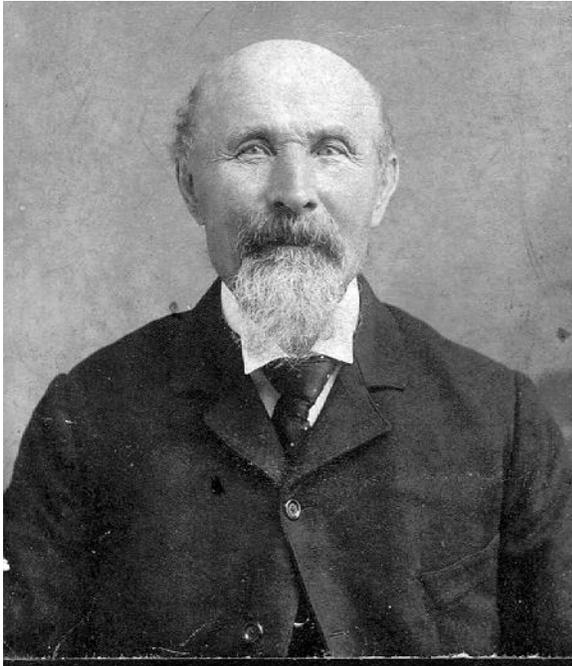


Marriage record for Johann Christian Gäsike and Anna Elisabeth Hartwich, March 23, 1851

Christian and Elisabeth's first child, son Friedrich Hermann Gänseke, was born on August 30, 1852 in Reetz (bei Belzig). However, Hermann died just a couple months later on November 9, 1852.

A handwritten death record on a grid form. The text is in German and includes the name Friedrich Hermann Gänseke, the date of death (November 9, 1852), and the location (Reetz bei Belzig). The handwriting is in cursive.

Death record for their son Friedrich Hermann Gänseke, who died on November 9, 1852 at just two months and ten days old

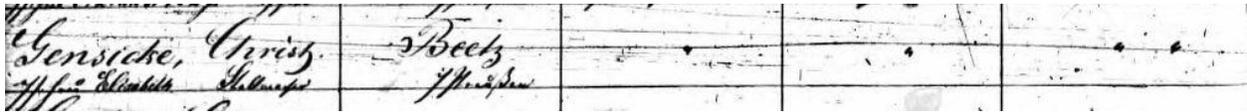


This is the only photo I have of Christian Gensicke. I have not yet turned up any photos of Elisabeth Gensicke.

In a later U.S. passport application, Christian described himself as 5'5" tall, with light blue eyes and light brown hair.

Emigration

Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke emigrated from Reetz (bei Belzig) to the United States in 1853. They emigrated aboard the Rastede, which sailed from Hamburg, at that time an independent state in the German Confederation, on October 15, 1853.



Gensicke, Christ.	Reetz			
Elisabeth	Hamburg			

Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke appear on the Hamburg emigrant passenger list for the Rastede, which sailed from Hamburg, Germany on October 15, 1853, and arrived in New York near the end of that month.



Painting of the Rastede

They arrived in New York City before the end of October. After brief stays in New York City and Buffalo followed by six months in Chicago, the Gensickes headed to Iowa. They may have initially stayed in Scott County before settling in Wilton Junction in Muscatine County.

The earliest formal evidence of when the Gensickes were in Iowa consists of two land purchase agreements that Christian Gensicke and two partners, Anton Zieher and Anton Esterle, submitted to the U.S. General Land Office's registry in Iowa City, Iowa dated December 1, 1854. (Part of this land was eventually sold in the 1860s and 1870s. A title registration error associated with that transaction resulting in a 1903 legal filing to ensure that Zieher, Esterle and Gensicke had no claims to the land that had been sold off.)

Wilton Junction, Iowa

Wilton Junction – today’s Wilton, Iowa – began at a railroad junction. The first settlers in the area arrived in 1849. A town was platted in the early 1850s, and the first lot was sold in 1854, although the first house in town wasn’t erected until 1855. Passenger rail service arrived in December of that year, and the town rapidly grew in 1856.

- For more about Wilton Junction, see [A Brief History of Wilton Junction, Muscatine County, Iowa.](#)

It’s not clear what year the Gensickes settled in Wilton Junction. Christian and Elisabeth’s second child, son Friedrich Carl Gensicke a.k.a. Charles, was born in 1854, and the 1860 U.S. Census is consistent with that year. It also shows that he was born in Iowa and had started attending school by that year’s census. Some family researchers have listed his birth location as Wilton Junction, but the town did not exist then, so I suspect that it was only someone’s reasonable guess. He may have been born in Scott County when the family possibly lived there. However, Christian and Elisabeth had five more children between 1858 and 1866, all of whom were in fact born in Wilton Junction.

According to the 1860 U.S. Census, the Gensickes lived in town, where Christian worked as a wagonmaker. As he lived between two clergymen who likely would have lived at their churches’ parsonages, that would have put the Gensickes on 5th Street between Mill Street (today’s Maurer Street) and Chestnut Street, just a few blocks from downtown Wilton.

A handwritten census record from 1860 showing the Gensicke family. The table has columns for name, age, sex, occupation, and birthplace. The entries are:

26	Christian Gensicke	35	M	Wagon Maker	125	134	Prussia
27	Elisabeth	32	F				
28	Charles	5	M				Iowa
29	Christian	1	M				

Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke and their then-two children appear in the 1860 U.S. Census.

Christian and Elisabeth’s U.S. born children included the following:

- Friedrich Carl “Charles” Gensicke, born June 18, 1854 in Iowa before the family arrived in Wilton Junction, Muscatine County, Iowa
- Friedrich Christian Gensicke, born May 7, 1858, Wilton Junction, Muscatine County, Iowa
- Maria Sophia Gensicke, born October 20, 1860, Wilton Junction, Muscatine County, Iowa
- Anna Johanna Gensicke, born January 28, 1863, Wilton Junction, Muscatine County, Iowa
- Friedrich “Frederick” Heinrich “Henry” Gensicke, born November 4, 1864, Wilton Junction, Muscatine County, Iowa
- Elisa Rebecca Gensicke, born October 16, 1866, Wilton Junction, Muscatine County, Iowa

The only other information I found for the Gensickes' Wilton Junction years is that at age 35 Christian registered for the draft during the Civil War in the summer of 1863, and that Christian and by default Elisabeth were naturalized as U.S. citizens on October 12, 1863.

No. 111

Class I comprises all persons subject to do military duty between the ages of twenty and thirty-five years, and all unmarried persons subject to do military duty above the age of thirty-five years and under the age of sixty-five. Class II comprises all other persons subject to do military duty.

SCHEDULE II—CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of CLASS II, subject to do military duty in the Second Congressional District, consisting of the Counties of Scott Jackson Muscatine and Wassatah State of Iowa, enumerated during the month of June & July, 1863, under direction of D. E. Nau, Provost Marshal.

RESIDENCE	NAME	AGE IN 1863	WHITE OR COLORED	DESCRIPTION PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE	PLACE OF BIRTH (Naming the State, Territory, or Country)	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
Wilton, Ia. Scott Co.	1. <u>Glenis James</u>	44	White	Farmer	Ohio		1
"	2. <u>Greer Nathan</u>	43	"	"	Pa		2
"	3. <u>Greer Wm. N.</u>	39	"	"	"		3
"	4. <u>Graham Jim</u>	35	"	Labourer	Scotland		4
De Witt, Hamilton Co.	5. <u>Griffin Henry</u>	36	"	Farmer	Ireland		5
"	6. <u>Gage Samuel P.</u>	42	"	Shoemaker	N. Hampshire		6
Wilton, Ia. Scott Co.	7. <u>Gates Don. C.</u>	38	"	Farmer	Vermont		7
Wilton, Ia. Scott Co.	8. <u>Goodman George</u>	40	"	"	Pa		8
Wilton, Ia. Muscatine Co.	9. <u>Gensicke Christian</u>	36	"	Wagonmaker	Germany		9
"	10. <u>Gabriel Henry</u>	36	"	Farmer	"		10
"	11. <u>Grander Peter</u>	36	"	"	"		11
"	12. <u>Goldman Herman</u>	39	"	"	"		12
"	13. <u>George Clark</u>	42	"	"	Ohio		13
Wilton, Ia. Scott Co.	14. <u>Gray A. H.</u>	44	"	Cabinetmaker	Mass.		14
Wilton, Ia. Scott Co.	15. <u>Gorman Daniel</u>	39	"	Farmer	Maryland		15
Wilton, Ia. Scott Co.	16. <u>Gillmore Alex</u>	42	"	"	Canada		16
"	17. <u>Gray Jerome</u>	37	"	"	Mass		17
"	18. <u>Goodman James</u>	43	"	"	N. Y.		18
Wilton, Ia. Scott Co.	19. <u>Galloway Urban</u>	37	"	"	Ohio		19
Muscatine, Ia. 2 nd Ward	20. <u>Geibert Fidelis</u>	42	"	Labourer	Germany		20

To Colonel JAMES B. FREY,
Provost Marshal General U. S.,
Washington, D. C.

STATION: Headquarters Second Congr. Dist. of Iowa

DATE: July 27th 1863

D. E. Nau
Provost Marshal,
2nd Dist. of Iowa

Record of Christian Gensicke's registration for the draft during the Civil War, Summer 1863

G 522

Family name Genseke (Gerseke) | Given name or names C

Address X | 2

Certificate no. (or vol. and page) Vol. 1861-68 P. 254 | Title and location of court Dist. Johnson Co. Iowa City, Ia.

Country of birth or allegiance Prussia | When born (or age) X

Date and port of arrival in U. S. X | Date of naturalization Oct. 12-1863

Names and addresses of witnesses Aug. Rank

X

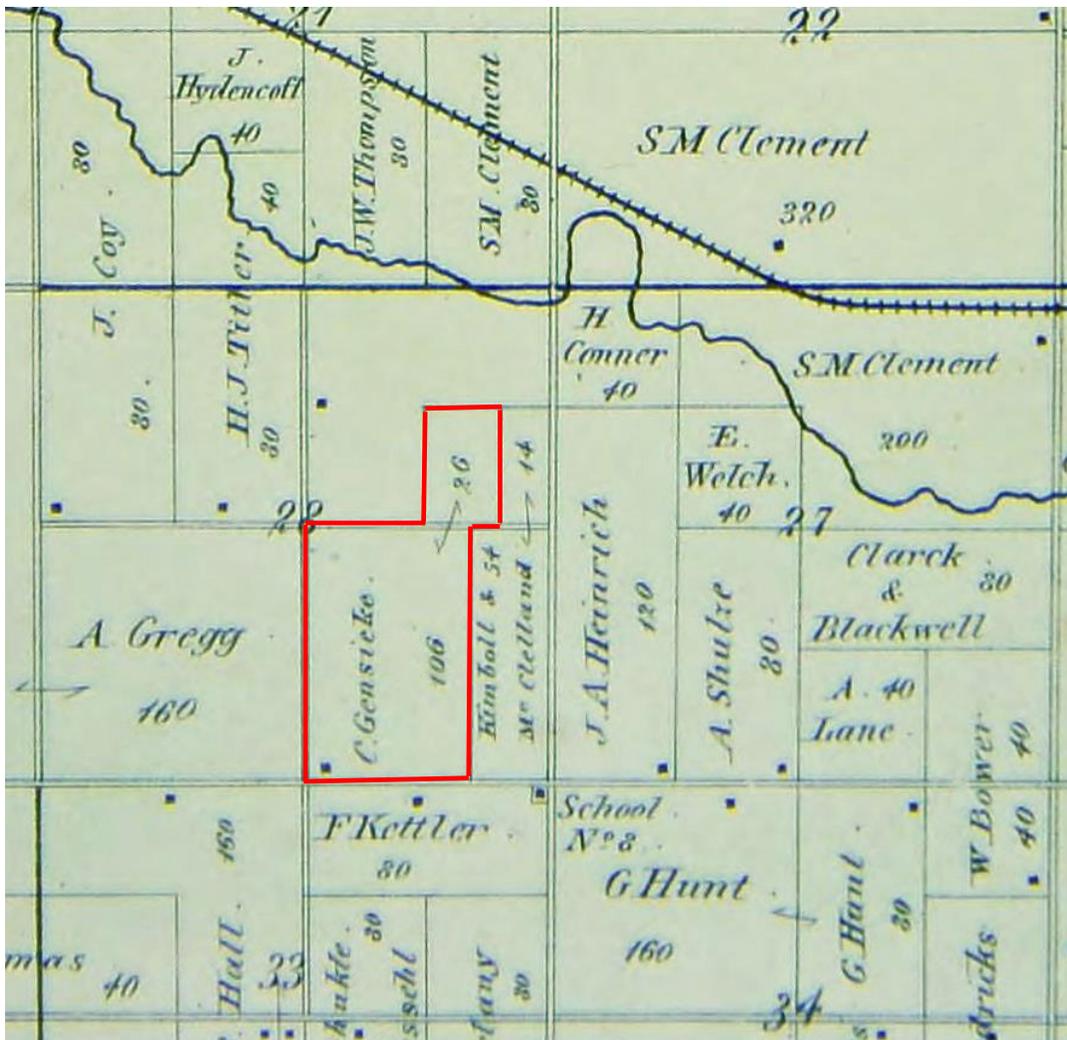
U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service Form No. 1-1 P.

Christian Gensicke's naturalization record, October 12, 1863

The Benton County, Iowa Years

According to his obituary, Christian and his family moved to a farm near Watkins in Benton County, Iowa in 1868 (an 1878 community profile puts the year as 1869). At this point, Christian became a farmer. His ties to the farm that the family moved onto actually date back to 1854, as it was part of the land that Christian and partners Anton Zieher and Anton Esterle purchased in December that year. The 1878 community profile for Christian Gensicke reported that he owned 460 acres at that point. However, the only available plat maps show that he owned two farms that totaled about 288 acres in 1872 and one farm that totaled about 213 acres in 1885 in the township.

- For more about the Gensicke farms in Benton County, see [The Christian Gensicke Farms, St. Clair Township, Benton County, Iowa.](#)



This 1872 plat map is marked to show the boundaries of the Christian Gensicke Farm at that time. This farm consists of one-third of the land that Christian originally bought in partnership with Anton Zieher and Anton Esterle in 1854.



The Christian Gensicke Farm, 2010; the barn has since been torn down

The Gensicke children attended St. Clair Township School No. 8 about a half mile down the road, and the family initially attended St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church, a.k.a. the German Lutheran Church, located about two miles away to the southwest.

The Moravian Church of United Brethren, a.k.a. the Blirstown Moravian Church, a Slavic Protestant denomination, organized about five miles away in Blirstown on June 16, 1878. Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke transferred their membership to this church, where Christian became one of the church elders. In March 1880, four of their children were brought into this church, including newly confirmed son F.H. (Henry) and daughter Anna Johanna. Although the church had closed by 1890, in the 1895 Iowa Census, Christian and Elisabeth still listed their religion as Moravian, as did their son Henry Gensicke, who lived with them. Henry's wife Hannah and their three children, however, were identified as Lutherans, and the births and baptisms of their three children at that time had been recorded at St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Vinton.

Moravian Church of United Brethren.—The first minister of this faith to preach at Blairstown was Rev. Francis F. Hagen. The Church was organized June 16th, 1878, by Rev. Charles Moench. The members composing the society were Henry S. Clewell and wife Fyetta, Charles W. Shireman, Edward

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HISTORY OF BENTON COUNTY.

Knecht and wife Amelia, John M. Lehr and wife Alice J., Henry C. Neumeyer, Ernest F. Grunewald and wife Elizabeth, Henry Reisser and wife Margaret, Richard Knecht, Camilla Knecht, Christian Shireman, William Reisser. Christian Becker and wife Abigail, Mrs. Magdalena Rupp, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Asch, Mrs. Mary M. Grunewald, Mrs. Sarah Lehr, Mrs. Anna Winch, Mrs. Elizabeth Gensiche.

The elders are John Rupp, Wm. Grunewald, Oliver Asch ; Trustees—Enos Lehr, A. T. Winch, Christian Gensiche.

A. T. Winch is Superintendent of the Sabbath school, which numbers fifty pupils, instructed by eight teachers.

The Moravian Church of United Brethren in Blairstown included Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke as members, and Christian also served as one of the church trustees. Daughter Sophia would go on to marry church member William Reisser. The History of Benton County, 1878

In 1889, Christian applied for a passport so that he could return to Germany to see his family in the Reetz (bei Belzig) area.

No. 24609

Issued Feb. 14/89

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF Mo.
COUNTY OF Benton } ss:

I, Christian Gensicke, a NATURALIZED AND LOYAL CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, do hereby apply to the Department of State at Washington for a passport for myself ~~and wife, and my minor children~~ as follows: Prussia Germany born at Germany on the 28 day of January, 1828, and

In support of the above application, I do solemnly swear that I was born at Germany in Germany on or about the 28th day of January, 1828; that I emigrated to the United States, sailing on board the Germany from Germany on or about the 10th day of October, 1828; that I resided 27 years, uninterruptedly, in the United States, from 1853 to 1888, at Germany; that I was naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the County Court of Johnson County, at Germany, Mo., on the 10th day of October, 1868, as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Naturalization; that I am the IDENTICAL PERSON described in said Certificate; that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Bellevue Township, Benton Co., Mo., in the State of Mo., where I follow the occupation of Farmer; that I am about to go abroad temporarily; and that I intend to return to the United States two years from the date hereof, with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: SO HELP ME GOD.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of February, 1889.
Christian Gensicke
Notary Public.

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.

Age: 61 years. Mouth: Ordinary
Stature: 5 feet, 6 inches, Eng. Chin: Light Brown
Forehead: prominent Hair: Light Brown
Eyes: light blue Complexion: Rather dark
Nose: ordinary Face: full & plump

IDENTIFICATION.

I hereby certify that I know the above-named Christian Gensicke personally, and know him to be the identical person referred to in the within-described Certificate of Naturalization, and that the facts stated in his affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[ADDRESS OF WITNESS] Ed. G. Williams, Notary
W. H. Bickel, Notary

Applicant desires passport sent to following address:
.....
.....
.....

Christian Gensicke's 1889 passport application; Christian returned to the United States in August 1889

In 1895, Christian Gensicke took an extended trip to Maryland, Delaware and North Carolina.



Christian Gensicke made these wooden shelves

The Death of Elisabeth Gensicke

Elisabeth died at their farm on March 12, 1897. She was buried in the Mound Cemetery, just east of Watkins. A local newspaper carried her funeral notice but no obituary.

Mrs. Christian Gensike was buried here to-day.

Elisabeth Gensicke's funeral, Vinton Eagle, March 12, 1897



Elisabeth Gensicke's inscription on the Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke marker

In 1901, Christian returned to Germany for a second time to visit family in the Reetz (bei Belzig) area. He remained there for almost a year, returning to Iowa in May 1902.

No. Issued

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF Iowa } COUNTY OF Benton } ss:

I, Christian Gensicke, a NATURALIZED AND LOYAL CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport for myself, accompanied by ... as follows: ... born at Prussia, Germany on the 28 day of Jan'y, 1828, and ...

I solemnly swear that I was born at Prussia, Germany, on or about the 28 day of Jan'y, 1828 that I emigrated to the United States, sailing on board the sailing vessel from Hamburg, on or about the 16 day of Oct. 1853 that I resided 48 years, uninterruptedly, in the United States, from 1853 to 1901 at State of Iowa; that I was naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the County Court of Johnson Co. Iowa at Iowa City, on the 12 day of Oct. 1863 as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Naturalization; that I am the IDENTICAL PERSON described in said Certificate; that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Warkins, in the State of Iowa, where I follow the occupation of Farmer; that I am about to go abroad temporarily; and that I intend to return to the United States in two years, with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: So HELP ME GOD.

Sworn to before me this 27 day of April, 1901 Christian Gensicke Notary Public, Benton Co. Iowa

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.

Age: 73 years. Mouth: ordinary. Stature: 5 feet, 15 inches, Eng. Chin: do. Forehead: prominent. Hair: gray. Eyes: light blue. Complexion: rather light. Nose: ordinary. Face: full.

IDENTIFICATION.

I hereby certify that I know the above-named Christian Gensicke personally, and know him to be the identical person referred to in the within-described Certificate of Naturalization, and that the facts stated in his affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[ADDRESS OF WITNESS]

Applicant desires passport sent to following address:

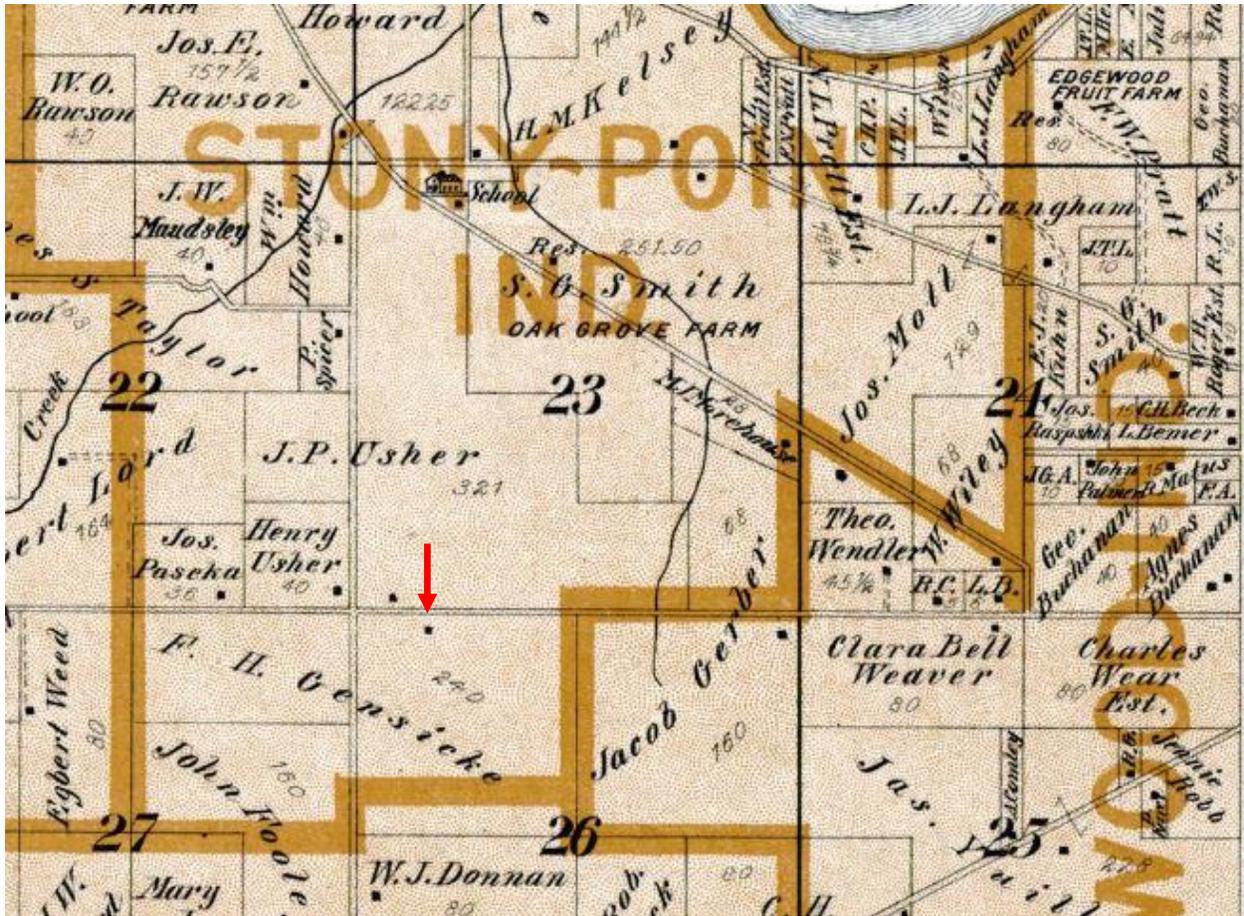
J. M. Luine Warkins Iowa Benton County

Christian Gensicke's 1901 passport application

The Linn County, Iowa Years

Henry and Hannah Gensicke began buy and selling properties in and around nearby Cedar Rapids in Linn County while they still lived on the farm near Watkins.

In 1903, Christian Gensicke sold their Benton County farm. Henry and Hannah bought a farm in Clinton Township, just west of Cedar Rapids, and in March they moved the family there. This would become known as Sunny Dale Farm on today's E Avenue.



The Gensickes bought a farm just west of Cedar Rapids in 1903. By 1907 it consisted of 240 acres in Sections 26 and 27 of Clinton Township, Linn County, Iowa along the road known then as the Atkins Road, later the Red Ball Road and Vinton Road, and today's E Ave NW.



Sunny Dale Farm in winter

Christian often stayed with his son Henry on Sunny Dale Farm or with other of his children for extended periods, but at some point after he returned from his second trip to Germany, he bought a small house of his own in Cedar Rapids, where he lived for the rest of his life. Christian's obituary suggests that he moved to Cedar Rapids in 1900, three years before Henry, Hannah and their family moved to Sunny Dale, but I found no other record of that, and the 1900 U.S. Census showed that he was still living with son Henry and his family on the St. Clair Township farm in June of that year.



Christian Gensicke lived in this house at 524 7th Avenue SW in Cedar Rapids for the last years of his life.

The Death of Christian Gensicke

Christian died of pneumonia early in the morning of September 8, 1910 while in the care of his daughter Rebecca. At the time of his death, he had five surviving children, twenty-five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was buried in the Mound Cemetery next to his wife Elisabeth.

Christian Gensicke.

Blairstown Banner: Christian Gensicke was born at Rietz, Germany, January 28, 1828.

There he was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church.

From 1848 to 1851 he served the Prussian government as a soldier.

In 1852 he was joined in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Hartwig. This union was blessed with seven children, of which five are still living.

In 1853 he came to America, and resided for a time in New York City, Buffalo, Chicago, and then came to Wilton Junction, Iowa, where he followed the wagonmaker's trade, until 1868 when he came to Benton county and settled on a farm near Watkins, where on March 12, 1897, his wife died.

In 1900 he moved to Cedar Rapids, and on September 8, 1910, at 1:15 a. m., he died, at the age of 82 years, 8 months and 10 days.

He leaves to mourn his loss, five children, twenty-five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

He was a sincere and upright member of the Lutheran church.

Christian Gensicke's obituary, Vinton Eagle, September 23, 1910



The Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke marker (left); Christian Gensicke's inscription on the Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke marker (right)

Christian's will divided his money and personal property among his surviving children and grandchildren after the sale of his real property. According to the will, the real property included not only the house where he lived in Cedar Rapids but also an unknown house that he owned in Blirstown. However, according to probate documents, Christian had sold the Blirstown property in November 1908, more than a year before he died. Because some of the grandchildren heirs did not become "of age" until the 1920s, probate continued until April 1926.

Laurence Press Co. 153W-147

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF IOWA, IN AND FOR
_____ COUNTY.

In the Matter of the Estate of } IN PROBATE.
Joseph Mutchler } Certificate of Probate of Will.
Deceased. }

I, Wm Dennis Clerk of the District Court in and for said County and State, do hereby certify that on the 3rd day of October 1910, the will of Joseph Mutchler deceased, to which this certificate is annexed, which will is dated August 24th 1910, was duly admitted to probate by said Court as and for the last will and testament of said decedent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court this 3rd day of October 1910.

Official Seal

Wm Dennis
Clerk.
By, R. E. Tripp
Deputy.

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WILL AND CODICIL OF CHRISTIAN GENSIEKE.

In the Name of God, Amen.

I, Christian Gensieke of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, and of the age of Seventy Nine (79) years, do make, publish and declare this instrument to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking all wills by me heretofore made.

Par. 1. I direct that all my just debts, and funeral expenses, and the expenses to execute this my last will shall be paid.

Par. 2. I direct my Executors to sell my property in Cedar Rapids, towit: West ½ Lot Seven (7) Block Four (4) Murray's 1st Addition to West Cedar Rapids, known as No. 524 W. 7th Ave, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and of the sum realized by this sale, I give and bequeath Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) to my son Christian Gensieke, and the remainder of this sum I give and bequeath in equal shares to my other four children, to my daughter Anna Hagen, and to my daughter Sophia Reisser, and to my son Henry Gensieke, and to my daughter Rebecca Krueger. I give and bequeath my book-case to my daughter Rebecca Krueger; and I give and bequeath my clothes to my sons Christian Gensieke, and Henry Gensieke, and I give and bequeath my furniture to my children Anna Hagen, and Sophia Reisser, and Henry Gensieke, and Rebecca Krueger.

Christian Gensieke's last will and testament and codicil, first page

Par. 3. I give and bequeath to the two children of my son Christian Gensicke the sum of Fourteen Hundred Dollars (\$1400.00) in equal shares, so that each of his children shall receive the sum of Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) at the age of twenty-two years (22) and that my son Christian Gensicke shall receive the yearly income in the meantime. And I give and bequeath to the three children of my daughter, Anna Hagen, the sum of Eighteen Hundred Dollars (\$1800.00), so that each of her three children at the age of twenty-five (25) years shall receive the sum of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00), and that in the meantime my daughter Anna Hagen shall receive the yearly income of it. And of all my then remaining property I give and bequeath in equal shares one equal Third ($1/3$) to the children of my daughter Sophia Reisser in equal shares to be paid to each child at the age of Twenty-two (22) years, and my daughter Sophia Reisser to receive the yearly income of it in the meantime; and one equal Third ($1/3$) to the children of my son Henry Gensicke in equal shares to be paid to each child at the age of Twenty-two (22) years; and my son Henry Gensicke to receive the yearly income of it in the meantime; and one equal Third ($1/3$) to the children of my daughter Rebecca Krueger in equal shares to be paid to each child at the age of Twenty-two (22) years; and my daughter Rebecca Krueger to receive the yearly income of it in the meantime.

Par. 4. I direct my Executors to secure to each of my grandchildren his or her share of my property in good notes or real estate in such a way that each grandchild will come into full possession of his (her) share when he (she) arrives at the age I have marked out in Paragraph Three (3).

Par. 5. In case of death of any of my five children, my dead child's widow (widower) shall receive this said yearly income of the shares of my said dead child's minor children, but if said widow of my dead (child) son or said widower of my dead (child) daughter marries again or neglects the children of my dead child, then said yearly income shall be paid into a bank in the name of each such said grandchild of mine, to be paid to each such said grandchild when he (she) arrives at the age marked out by me in Paragraph Three (3).

Par. 6. I nominate Rev. George Bayer, and Rev. Julius Deckmann, if residing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Rev. A. D. Greif, and Anna Hagen, and Sophia Reisser, and Henry Gensicke, and Rebecca Krueger, to be the Executors of this my last will and testament without bond, and I direct that Rev. Georg Bayer, and Rev. Julius Deckmann, and Rev. A. D. Greif shall take charge of all my documents; and I direct that the expenses of my Executors shall be paid, and that Rev. Georg Bayer, and

Christian Gensicke's last will and testament and codicil, second page

Rev. Julius Deckmann, and Rev. A. D. Greif, besides their expenses shall each receive Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each day of necessary work.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, this 20th day of June, A. D. 1907,

Christian Gensicke.

The above and foregoing document was on the day of the date thereof subscribed by Christian Gensicke, the testator therein named, in our presence and in our presence by him declared to be his last will and testament, and we at his request, and in his presence, and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses of such his act and deed.

Witness our hands at Cedar Rapids, County of Linn, State of Iowa, this 20th day of June A. D. 1907.

A. W. Taege of Cedar Rapids.

Geo. H. Ilten of Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Change of my provision to Par. 3 in my testament made
June 20, 1907.

I do hereby make a change in the provision, according to my son Christian Gensicke (Junior) and his children in the testament I made the 20th day of June, 1907. In said testament I bequeathed to the two children of my son Christian \$1,400. And now I provide in this codicil, that the two children of my son Christian should have only \$700.00 and my son as his share \$800.00, so that the whole sum for my son Christian and his two children will be \$1,500.00.

The provision for my other 4 children and their children, my grand-children, remains unchanged as given in my testament June 20th, 1907. The money I leave after my death should be divided in 4 equal shares to my children, Henry Gensicke, Shphie Reiser, Anna Hagen, Rebecca Krueger. All other property which I have, my house in Cedar Rapids, Linn Co, Ia, and in Blairstown, Ia, should also be divided equal to my four children named above. If said property in Cedar Rapids, Ia and Blairstown, Ia should be sold, my four named children should have the money in equal shares, and not my grand-children.

My four children, Henry Gensicke, Sophie Reiser, Anna Hagen, Rebecca Krueger, should, if my property here in Cedar Rapids and Blairstown, Ia, be sold, make out and furnish the deed of said property.

Christian Gensicke's last will and testament and codicil, third page

Lanahan Press Co. 1204-127

If \$800.00 (eight-hundred) are paid to my son Christian and \$700.00 (seven-hundred) to his two (2) children, my son and his children should not have no further claim on my property.

Once more I beg my children to divide my property after my death in peace, so that it be a blessing to them and not a curse.

I have made this codicil to my testament in sound mind, and therefore sign my name.

April 27, 1909, Cedar Rapids, Linn Co. Iowa.

Christian Gensicke.

This codicil was subscribed by Christian Gensicke, the testator, in our presence, and in our presence by him declared to be a codicil to Par. 3 of his testament made June 20, A. D. 1907, and we at his request, and in his presence, and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses of his change made of Par. 3 of his testament.

Witness our hands at Cedar Rapids, County of Linn, State of Iowa, this _____ day of _____ A. D. 1909.

Geo. H. Ilten of Cedar Rapids, Ia.

A. W. Taege, of Cedar Rapids, Ia.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF IOWA IN AND FOR Linn COUNTY.

In the Matter of the Estate of) IN PROBATE.
Christian Gensicke } Certificate of Probate of Will.
Deceased.

I, Wm Dennis Clerk of the District Court in and for said County, and State, do hereby certify that on the 8th day of October 1910, the will and codicil thereto of Christian Gensicke deceased, to which this certificate is annexed, which will and codicil are dated 20th day of June, 1907, and 27th day of April, 1909, respectively, were duly admitted to probate by said Court as and for the last will and testament and codicil thereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court this 8th day of Oct 1910.

Seal

Wm Dennis
Clerk.
By, R. H. Lambert
Deputy.

Christian Gensicke's last will and testament and codicil, fourth page

Friedrich Hermann Gänsike (Christian and Elisabeth's son)

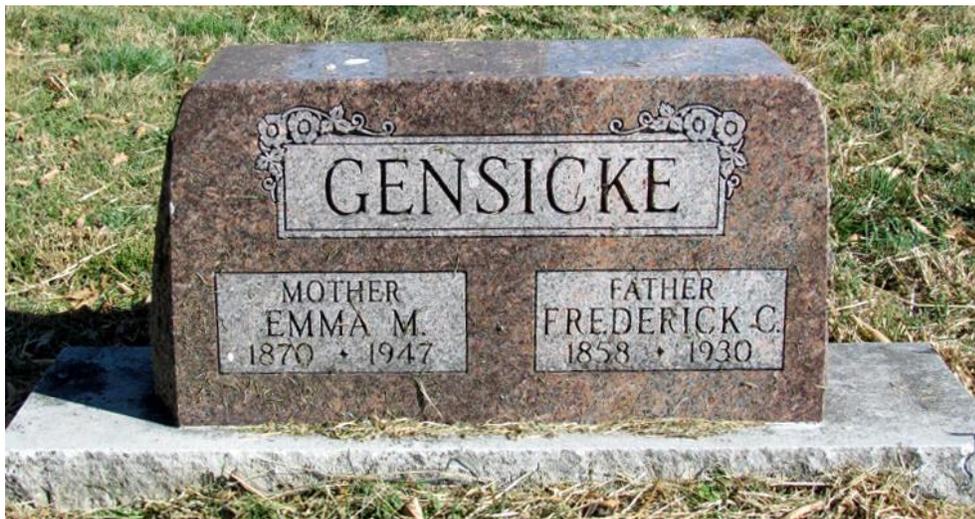
Christian and Elisabeth's first child died at just two months and ten days old. He was buried in Reetz (bei Belzig), Prussia.

Friedrich Carl "Charles" Gensicke (Christian and Elisabeth's son)

Little is known about Charles Gensicke. He died in 1872 when he was only 18. His burial site is unknown, but it likely was in a cemetery near Watkins, Iowa.

Friedrich Christian Gensicke (Christian and Elisabeth's son)

Son Christian Gensicke moved to northwest Iowa, where he married Emma Marie Augusta Bartelt in 1885 in Cherokee, Iowa. They settled near Humboldt, Iowa where their two children were born. The family later relocated to Neosho, Missouri, where Christian and Emma lived the rest of their lives. Christian and Emma had seven grandchildren. Christian died in Neosho on March 7, 1930. Christian and Emma were buried in New Salem Cemetery in Neosho.



Marker for Frederick Christian and Emma Gensicke, New Salem Cemetery, Neosho, Missouri

Maria Sophia Gensicke (Christian and Elisabeth's daughter)

Daughter Sophia Gensicke married William Reisser in Blairstown, Iowa in 1885. They remained in Benton County, Iowa, where their nine children were born. William and Sophia had at least a dozen grandchildren. Sophia died in South Dakota on February 28, 1944. William and Sophia were buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Vinton, Iowa.



Markers for Sophia Gensicke Reisser, Evergreen Cemetery, Vinton, Iowa

Anna Johanna Gensicke (Christian and Elisabeth's daughter)

Daughter Anna Gensicke married Frederick Hagen in Benton County, Iowa on March 8, 1888. They had five children and at least seven grandchildren. Anna died in 1949 in Vinton, Iowa. Frederick and Anna were buried in Salem Cemetery in Van Horne, Iowa.



Marker for Frederick and Anna Gensicke Hagen, Salem Cemetery, Van Horne, Iowa

Frederick Henry Gensicke (Christian and Elisabeth's son)

- For more about Frederick Heinrich "Frederick Henry" Gensicke, see [Henry and Hannah Gensicke](#).

Elisa Rebecca Gensicke (Christian and Elisabeth's daughter)

Daughter Rebecca Gensicke married Charles Krueger in St. Clair Township, Benton County, Iowa on December 5, 1888. They had eight children and at least seven grandchildren. Rebecca died October 20, 1949 in Luzerne, Iowa. Rebecca and Charles were buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Blirstown, Iowa.



Marker for Charles and Rebecca Gensicke Krueger, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Blirstown, Iowa

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
Last updated November 1, 2023