

# Chapter 14: Story of the Kuehl Family Lineage Documents

## Birth/Baptism and Death Certificates

### Copies of Original German Documents

Dating back to forebear born in 1797

### How remarkable it is that we have these historical records

**T**hese documents date back to 1797. Imagine, that's over two centuries back in time. Amazing! Fortunately for us, they were gleaned from church records in 1935 and 1941. Several of them bear the stamp of Hitler and the Third Reich, with a Swastika on an eagle's breast.

The Second World War began in 1939. Otto F Bloedow, a family historian, wrote how historical records were destroyed after World War II.

*In Europe, the Second World War began in 1939. After the Second World War ended in 1945, the area where our ancestors lived became part of the Russian sector, under Russian control. Russia had been persecuted by the Germans during the war. As a result, when the Russians took over their portion of Germany, as they swept across the countryside they destroyed the churches, executed the pastors, burnt church records, and ran rough shod through cemeteries, burying stone markers and monuments.*

What a wonder it is for us to have such documents. We owe a debt of gratitude to the person in the Luloff family who took the initiative to go through church books and locate most of these certificates before WWII. Such incredible foresight! Within a few years the window of opportunity closed. The records no longer existed. They'd been destroyed.

It is interesting to note that some of these church records were copied in 1941 ... during World War II. To be able to do this, during a war, suggests that life may have been somewhat normal in certain parts of Germany. Our ancestors home area - Klein Silber and Ziegenhagen - did not escape war. As noted in chapter one, Klein

Silber was destroyed in battle in 1945, just 49 days before the war in Europe ended with the capture of Berlin by Soviet and Polish troops and the German unconditional surrender on May 8, 1945.



Irmgard and Frederick Kaufmann with grandson Arnd Mickel, son of their daughter Maren Hornburg, Germany - March 1972

We're also indebted to Irmgard Luloff Kaufmann in Germany who made copies of these certificates for our family in America. On October 1, 1970 she sent them on, as a gift to Bill and Lee in Walnut Grove, MN. We, the family of William and Mary Kuehl, are the only descendants of Karl Friedrich and Minna Haseleu Kuehl that we're aware of who have made our home in America. With these documents of birth/baptism and death, for the first time we know names of several generations of our ancestors, the forebears, both paternal and maternal of our Grandfather William Kuehl.

## Treasure Trove from Germany

Original German documents dating back to 1797  
with details on Williams Kuehl's paternal ancestors



Saved from destruction before World War II  
Arrived in America in 1970

What a treasure to have various official documents (birth/baptism, marriage, death) on William Kuehl's great grandparents, grandparents, parents, brothers and half-siblings. It was in 1970 that the following letter arrived from Irmgard Luloff Kaufman of Hornburg, West Germany. The letter came to William and Lee Kuehl in Walnut Grove, Minnesota.

On page 14.2 there is an explanation of and English translation for this letter.

### Irmgard's letter on family relationships

10 Kinder Kuhl / Luloff

August Kuhl geb.19.9.1863 gest. 28.12.37 (Tischler)

Wilhelm Kuhl geb.28.16.1866, Mai 1889 nach Amerika

Siegfried Kuhl geb. 26.8.1869 gest. in Berlin (Schneider)

Ernstine Luloff (Braun) geb.2.4.1873 gest.14.11.1912

Minna Luloff geb.5.4.1876 gest 17.3.1957 (Krüger)

Hermann Luloff geb.7.5.1879 gest.4.3.1915 (im Krieg verwundet,  
gestorben im Krankenhaus  
Berlin)

Auguste Luloff geb.31.10.1881,gest.30.11.51 (Unverferth)

Ferdinand Luloff geb.22.7.1884, gest. 1 Jahr alt

Gustav Luloff geb. 27.7.1886, gest. 1.11.1962

Luise Luloff geb.23.1.1889 - lebt noch (Albrecht)

Die Tochter von August Kuhl - Maria - hat ihren Onkel Gustav geheiratet, Die beiden Halbbrüder kannten sich nicht. August war schon in Hamburg, als Gustav geboren wurde. Davon bin ich die Tochter Irmgard Kaufmann geb.Luloff.

Die Tochter von Siegfried Kuhl ist Else, die mit einem Düring verheiratet war. Sohn Klaus Düring.

Mein Grossvater war der Bruder von Eurem Vater.  
Mein Vater war der Halbbruder von Eurem Vater.

Unsere Grossmutter war in erster Ehe mit Karl, Friedrich Kuhl verheiratet, der im Alter von 30 Jahren im Krieg 1871 (siehe Urkunde) an Typhus starb.

Sie hat dann 1872 im Alter von 28 Jahren Johann Friedrich Luloff geheiratet.

**Translation of the letter from Irmgard (Lüloff) Kaufman which Accompanied the German documents dating back to 1797**

**The English translation is in blue print**



**Here's why Irmgard sent the German documents to us**

The bottom five sections of her letter contain the explanation. It is summarized as follows:

The mother of Irmgard was the daughter of William's brother August Kuehl.

The father of Irmgard was William's half brother Gustav Luloff.

Therefore, although her maiden name is Luloff, Irmgard's maternal lineage through her mother is Kuehl.

Likely it was Irmgard's mother who collected these documents. Being a Kuehl, Irmgard's mother, married to Luloff, would have had an interest in finding birth/baptism and death certificates both through the maternal lineage and paternal lineage of her father, August. Since the brothers August and William had the same father, this research is also the family history of our Grandfather William.

<p><b>(Our Great Grandmother)Minna Maria Luisa Haseleu had ten children - three with her husband Friedrich Kuehl (our Great Grandfather). Friedrich died at the age of 30 in war from typhus</b></p>	
<p>- August Kühl geb. 19.9.1863 gest. 28.12.37 (Tischler)          - Wilhelm Küh1 geb. 28.6.1866, Mai 1889 nach Amerika          - Siegfried Kühl geb. 26.8.1869 gest. in Berlin (Schneider)</p>	
<p>- <i>August Kühl born 9-19-1863, died 12-28-1937 (Tischler)</i>          - <i>Wilhelm Kühl born 6-28-1866, May 1889 to America</i>          - <i>Siegfried Kühl born 8-26-1869, died in Berlin (Schneider)</i></p>	
<p><b>A year later the Kuehl widow Minna Maria Luisa (28) and Johann Friedrich Luloff, (26) were married. Together, they had seven little Luloffs</b></p>	
<p>- Ernstine Lüloff (Braun) geb. 2.4.1873 gest. 14.11.1912          - Minna Lüloff geb. 5.4.1876 gest. 17.3.1957 (Krüger)          - Hermann Lüloff geb. 7.5.1879 gest.4.3.1815 (im Krieg verwundet, gestorben im Krankenhaus Berlin)          - Auguste Lüloff geb. 31.10.1881, gest. 30.11.51 (Unverferth)          - Ferdinand Lüloff geb. 22.7.1884, gest. 1 Jahr alt          - Gustav Lüloff geb. 27.7.1886, gest. 1.11.1962          - Luise Lüloff geb. 23.1.1889 - lebt noch - (Albrecht)</p>	
<p>- <i>Ernstine Lüloff (Braun) born 4-2-1873, died 11-14-1912</i>          - <i>Minna Lüloff born 4-5-1876, died 3-17-1957 (Krüger)</i>          - <i>Hermann Lüloff born 5-7-1879, died 3-4-1815 (in the war wounded, died in the Hospital Berlin)</i>          - <i>Auguste Lüloff born 10-31-1881, died 11-30-51 (Unverferth)</i>          - <i>Ferdinand Lüloff born 7-22-1884, died 1 year old</i>          - <i>Gustav Lüloff born 7-27-1886, died 11-1-1962</i>          - <i>Luise Lüloff born 1-23-1889, still alive - (Albrecht)</i></p>	
<p><b>How does it happen that Irmgard Lüloff would be sending us documents of our ancestors Kuehl? The rest of her letter shows why. See our summary on the left.</b></p>	
<p>- Die Tochter von August Kühl – Maria - hat ihren Onkel Gustav geheiratet          - Die beiden hanbrüder kannten sich nicht.          - August war schon in Hamburg, als Gustav geboren wurde.          - Davon bin ich die Tochter Irmgard Kaufmann geb. Lüloff</p> <p>- Die Tochter von Siegfried Kühl ist Else, die mit einem Düring verheiratet war. Sohn Klauz Düring.</p> <p>- Mein Grossvater war der Bruder von Eurem Vater.          - Mein Vater war der Halpbruder von Eurem Vater.</p> <p>- Unsere Grosnmutter war in erster Ehe mit Karl, Friedrich Kühl verheiratet, der im Alter von 30 Jahren im Krieg 1871 (siehe Urkunde) an Tyrhus starb.</p> <p>- Sie hat dann 1872 im Alter von 28 Jahren Jahren Friedrich Lüloff Geheiratet.</p>	
<p>- <i>The daughter of August Kühl - Maria - has married her uncle Gustav, - The two half-brothers do not know.</i>          - <i>August was already in Hamburg, as Gustav was born.</i>          - <i>I am the daughter Irmgard Kaufmann born Lüloff</i></p> <p>- <i>The daughter of Siegfried Kühl is Else, with a Düring was married. Son Klauz Düring.</i></p> <p>(Note: In the next paragraph, Irmgard is speaking to Bill Kuehl of Walnut Grove. She says that her/Irmgard's grandfather was the brother of Bill's dad.)</p> <p>- <i>My grandfather was the brother of your father.</i>          - <i>My father was the half-brother from your father.</i></p> <p>- <i>Our grandmother was in first marriage to Karl, Friedrich Kühl, who died of typhus at the age of 30 years old in the war in 1871 (see document)</i></p> <p>- <i>Then in 1872 at the age of 28 years Friedrich Lüloff got married</i></p>	

## Who is IRMGARD LULOFF KAUFMAN?

In 1871 Karl Friedrich Kühl died of typhus while serving his country in war. His wife was Minna Haseleu.

Their three sons were first-born August Kühl, our grandfather Wilhelm Kühl, and the youngest son Siegfried Kühl.

In 1872 a year after the death of Minna's first husband Karl Friedrich, Minna remarried, this time to Johann Friedrich Luloff. Minna and Johann went on to have seven little Luloffs, half-siblings to our Grandfather William Kühl.

The documents of both the maternal and paternal lineage of the Kuehl family came to us by way of Irmgard Luloff Kaufman. Irmgard's mother Maria was born as a Kühl. Thus Maria easily would have an interest in collecting papers documenting the history of the Kühl line through her grandparents and great-grandparents. Being that the documents were collected in 1935 and 1941, that would put Maria at an age where it could be that she was our family genealogist. Quite naturally then, interest in the family history as well as copies of the documents would be passed down to Maria's daughter Irmgard born Luloff.

Irmgard Luloff Kaufmann married Friedrich Kaufmann, who was mayor of Hornburg, West Germany. Hornburg is a city lying on the border which ran between West Germany and the Russian occupied zone of East Germany.

After World War II during the American occupation of West Germany, Bill and Lee sent their daughter Phyllis's clothes to Maren, daughter of Irmgard and Friedrich Kaufmann. These documents arrived from Irmgard in October of 1970. Then in May of 1973 Bill, Lee and son Bill and Marilyn Kuehl visited with the Kaufmanns in their home in Hornburg.

### **A Tangled Web Marriage Uncle Marries Niece**

This is complicated to explain. We've devoted page 14.5 to explaining it. Below is a complex paragraph that may make your head spin. It does ours.

Our Grandfather William Kühl's older brother was August Kühl. August's daughter Maria married her half-uncle, August's half brother Gustav Luloff. The daughter of Maria and Gustav is Irmgard Luloff Kaufmann. Therefore, August Kühl is Maria's father, her daughter Irmgard's grandfather and half-uncle (by Irmgard's father Gustav, who is a half-brother of August). Gustav Luloff is Irmgard's father and great-half-uncle (once removed from being Maria's half-uncle).

### **Who translated the documents of the Kuehl family lineage?**

Anja Shepela, a friend of Phyllis Kuehl Zumach, spent her childhood in Witzenhausen, Germany but has since made her home in America. She lives in St Paul, MN with her husband and daughter.

In February, 2011, with their little Johanna, Anja returned to Germany for a visit with her family, mother and Grandmother. She took with her copies of the birth and death documents of the lineage of Wilhelm Kuehl. Currently, Anja is writing her thesis for a Doctorate in German Culture at the University of Minnesota. Anja's grandmother of 92 years is still familiar with the old German handwriting. And so, while visiting in Germany, Anja, her mother and her Grandmother spent time sitting together studying the certificates.

The documents were written in the old pointy German script of the 1800's and early 1900's. There were misspellings. Some handwriting was poor or illegible, and occasionally the writer's choice of words could have been more accurately selected. Anja's Mother and Grandmother poured over the pages and interpreted what they saw into recognizable German words. Then Anja translated for us the German into English.

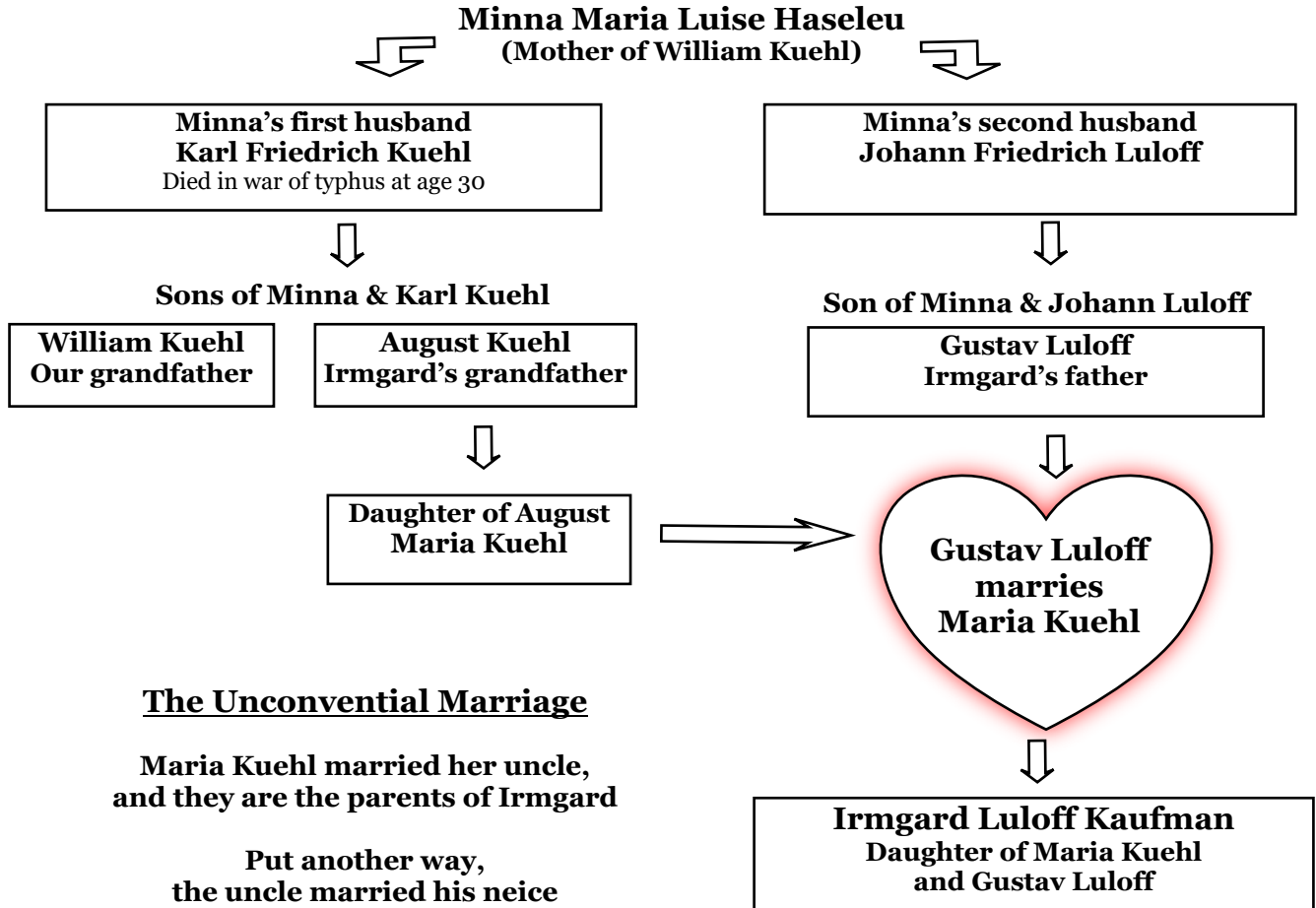
### **Altsitzer - important, but now outdated**

Anja writes: "One little note regarding a term that shows up a few times in the documents. The term "Altsitzer" isn't used anymore today, in fact, I had never heard of it before I talked to my mom & grandma about your documents. An "Altsitzer" is a retired farmer (or his wife) who still lives with his sons family after the son took over the farm. This was an official legal status before there was such a thing as retirement or retirement benefits, i.e. the parents had the right to live in the house until their death.

That's why the term shows up in the documents and I translated it with "retired" (I don't know if there is a better translation for "Altsitzer" or if there is an equivalent in English). As far as I know, the term was only used for farmers."

**Question: How does Irmgard Luloff fit in the family?**

**Answer: Through an unconventional marriage - that we explain below**



**The Unconventional Marriage**

**Maria Kuehl married her uncle,  
and they are the parents of Irmgard**

**Put another way,  
the uncle married his niece  
and they are the parents of Irmgard**

**The grandmother of the bride  
was the mother of the groom**

More specifically, Maria married her half uncle.

- Brothers William and August Kuehl are half brothers of Gustav Luloff
- Maria, daughter of August, has Gustav Luloff as her uncle (technically, half-uncle)
- Maria married Gustav Luloff - her uncle (technically, her half-uncle)

Irmgard, in a letter accompanying the old German documents, said "they didn't know." This apparently meant that families somewhere along the way weren't aware of these tangled relationships.

You might think that Gustav was much older than Maria. However, Gustav was the ninth of Minna's 10 children. He would have been closer in age to Maria ... whose father, August, was the first, and therefore the oldest, of Minna's children. He was from her first marriage.

**We are Grateful**

This is all interesting history. But the bottom line is that we are so grateful to Irmgard's family for collecting these Kuehl (Kuehl) and Haseleu birth/baptism and death certificates of our grandfather William Kuehl's ancestors. And it's wonderful that Irmgard shared them with us.

In 1970 Irmgard sent these historical certificates to Bill and Lee Kuehl in Walnut Grove, Minnesota.

*William Kuehl*  
*Circa 1917*

