

Charles Mohr Family

Prepared by: Louis Dolton

In the year 1863 the United States finds itself in the second year of a Civil War that many did not believe would last more than a couple of months. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, making the abolition of slavery in the confederate states an official war goal. That year ground was broken in Sacramento, California, on the construction of the First North American Transcontinental Railroad. First meeting of the "Committee of the Five" in Geneva, Switzerland, this year is regarded as the foundation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. In the Franco-Mexican War in Mexico; the Battle of Camarón took place in April: 65 soldiers of the French Foreign Legion fought 2,000 Mexicans; three of the Legionnaires survive the battle.

It was into this world that Charles Henry Mohr was born on November 8, 1863, in Sheldon, Iroquois County, Illinois. His parents were Christian and Charlotte Mohr who had come to America from Germany as children.

The Charles Mohr family participated in one of the Oklahoma land runs, but was unable to find a good section of land upon which to file a claim. Charles then bought a quarter section (160 acres) from a speculator that was successful in the run for one hundred dollars.

Fred Mohr (Charles Mohr's brother) and his wife, (Hattie), had three children: Irene, Joe and Bertee. Fred owned and farmed a quarter section adjacent to the southeast corner of Mustang, but the farm was divided by the railroad tracks.

Bertee Mohr married Agnes. Fred would often nod off to sleep sitting up and Agnes let Bertee and her children be mean to Fred. After Agnes died, they lived on the farm with Fred to help him with the farm. Fred became ill and gave the farm to Bertee.

Bertee and Joe were killed by a train while crossing from one pasture to the other about 1935. Elza Dolton and many others went to the scene of the accident and everyone was just standing around. Elza picked Joe up and took him to the hospital in Oklahoma City, but Joe did not survive.

Charles Mohr returned to Chicago, but came back with his mother and sister Jenny when his brother Fred came to fetch them. They settled in Mustang around 1890. Charles worked as a carpenter helping to build buildings including the churches, then rebuilding after the big tornado damage caused by a storm in April 1927.

Charles came courting Katie Young on a working mule from the farm he had bought one mile south of the Young farm. They were married in 1885. Their family started with Maude in 1887, Jenny 1889, Lottie 1894, Bessie 1901, Earl 1905, Lawrence 1907, Louisa 1909, Fred 1912, Rose 1914, and Edna in 1916. After they were married, they lived in a two room shanty in the wood lot (or grove) on the North West corner of the farm. Most farmers preserved a grove of



Katie & Charles Mohr

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trees to supply wood for cooking and heating their homes.

The shanty was shedded onto for living space as the first four girls were born. When Earl was born, they built the two story house where they raised their family. During these early days they got their water out of a well and when they had to go to the bathroom they went to an outhouse. It wasn't until about 1939 that running water, septic tanks, and electricity came to most of the homes in Mustang.

My grandmother Louisa was close to being the middle child among her eleven brothers and sisters. By 1927, Louisa had worked in her parents fields, worked with her mother preparing meals, and went to Mustang School through the tenth grade. She played high school basketball, and sang in the high school choir but became disenchanted with school because the basketball coach would not let her play on the basketball team so she dropped out of school. Louisa said she quit high school because she wanted to play on the school basketball team and her teacher wouldn't let her. There was another team in town and they asked her to play. The teacher wanted her to come back to school so she quit. Grandma said the teacher was a real _____. When I asked Louisa if she was any good she said, "Well sure. I was the star forward."

She turned eighteen the first of June in 1927. She had been dating Elza Dolton, and was working in the fields with her dad on June second. Elza was walking in the field near her father trying to ask him to let them get married.

They had already asked mother Kate, and she had said it was all right with her if they could get dad's permission. When Elza finally was able to say, I want to marry Louisa, he must have gotten a positive response. The next day, June third, they were married by a judge in the Oklahoma City Courthouse with Louisa's brother Lawrence Mohr and his wife Carrie in attendance as witnesses.

Fruit trees were abundant in Canadian County and Louis Dolton said they had abundant fruit on their property. Frank Mohr had a press to make cider. Louis says they made some of into hard cider, "but I never saw a jug of it and the family gatherings".

Mustang has always been a small town. It's only about twelve square miles in size. Louis Dolton remembers seeing a sign on the road leading into Mustang that gave the population as 300.



Front of house in Mustang, Oklahoma, from a family photo.



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Louis said, "From the time I was five [in 1934] until I was eighteen no more than 500 people lived here".

The roads were mostly dirt and when the weather was bad it was difficult to get around. The roads were paved with gravel in the early nineteen forties and that significantly improved mobility. But, when families would take produce they grew into the farmer's market in Oklahoma City "it would take a long time to get there on the roads with a horse and wagon, so they would start early in the morning around one or two am. They slept under the wagon and came back home after everything was sold."

The Mohr's and Dolton's were always trying to help build up the town and bring business into Mustang. Frank Mohr, (a brother to Charles) was an entrepreneur. Together with one of his in-laws; Frank Dolton, he ran the local hotel and at one time they owned the Mustang Overall Company. They had the equipment and the building and had hired girls to sell the garments, but they couldn't get the material to make the overalls. They went broke. The equipment was repossessed and carried off to Yukon.

Frank and Maud Mohr children were Dorothy, Lydia and another child. Sally Brought married a Loomis. Sally (Brought) Loomis, Sylvia Young's sister, Hazel Loomis, Goldie Loomis.

In Frank Dolton's first move from the farm to town he moved into the old Loomis house. Sally Loomis operated a piece goods store, shoes, thread, etc. and was a cousin to Hazel (Loomis) Wilson (Harley Wilson) with children Billy, Lucille, and another child.

Pat Smith married Eva Coles, a cousin to Bessie (Lawson) Mohr (Earl Mohr) with one child, Betty.

Charles Mohr had two brothers and two sisters. A sister died of TB in Chicago. They all moved to Mustang with their mother. Sister Jennie died of TB in Mustang. The three sons of Christian: Charles, Fred, and Frank farmed and did business in Mustang until they died.

Aunt May (Young) Kissik, sister to Katie (Young) Mohr. Uncle Joe Kissik had a beautiful team of horses, raised apples and made cider.

Family was important and the families were always getting together one way or another. "We gathered every Sunday at Charles and Katie Mohr's house and everyone brought whatever was their specialty to cook. Aunt Jenny always brought her angel food cake." Louis Dolton says on those days the children would run and play while the men played cards. "I'm not sure what the women did," he said, "I think they quilted and crocheted some and probably gossiped." All the kids who lived in Mustang played together often. In the late 1800's and early 1900's all twelve grades were in the same brick school house. The kids went to school every day during the school year. Boys carried knives and we played tops, marbles and mumbley peg at lunch," he said. Mumbley peg was a game the boys played by flipping their knives and trying to get them to stick in the ground. It was a small school. Thirteen students graduated from Mustang High School in 1946.

The options for recreation were few. Katie Mohr would sometimes take all the kids three miles north of Charles Mohr Farm to play with cousins and spend the night. "Radio was a big thing back then," he said. "We couldn't wait for dad to get home from work so we could take out

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the car battery and hook it up to the radio so we could listen.”

Louis Dolton recalls that during World War II many things were rationed in support of the war effort. “I remember we couldn’t drive cars. We had to ride in a wagon to Grandpa Mohr’s on Sundays because we didn’t have gas,” he said. Margarine came in at that time because of rationing. They rationed sugar and butter. They couldn’t sell yellow margarine because that way you couldn’t accidentally buy margarine thinking it was butter. You got margarine and a package of coloring. They gave you yellow dye with your margarine and if you wanted it to look like butter, then you had to mix the dye in with their margarine at home.

Here was an honest, friendly man, blessed by God with a long life, who worked throughout to earn a living and help the people in his community. He was in love with his wife and spent his life proving it. Together they raised a family and their children and grandchildren were a blessing to them. He was stubborn in his support of what he believed to be right. He lost several fortunes and worked until the end. He was always plowing, planting, weeding, and harvesting. When he was young it was a quarter section and when he was old it was the kitchen garden. In the end God called him home and now he can rest.

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Charles Henry Mohr

+ Katie Young

- Maude Mohr
 - + Bert Brindley
 - Berta Mohr
 - Catherine Mohr
 - Mildred Mohr
- Jenny Mohr
 - + Don Bennett
 - George Bennett
 - Evalyn
 - Donald Paul Bennett
 - George Charles Bennett
 - Judy Bennett
 - Jimmy Bennett
 - Winifred
 - Paul Melugen
- Lottie Mohr
 - + Earl Bennett
 - Kenneth Bennett
 - Unknown
 - Claudia Bennett
 - Charles Bennett
 - Larma
 - Keith Bennett
 - David Bennett – has a little girl
- Bessie Mohr
 - + Eddie LaCount
- Earl Mohr
 - + Bessie Lawson
 - Bettie Mohr
 - (1) Unknown Bejack – divorced
 - (2) Unknown Moldenhauer
 - one son – two daughters
- Lawrence Mohr
 - + Carrie Bennett
 - Edward Mohr – died in May 2001
 - Melba
 - They had a boy and a girl
- Lester Mohr

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- + (1) Ellen Ruth Thompson (b) 12/31/36 (m) 12/26/54
 - o Stephen Lee Mohr, (b) 2/2/56
 - o Kathryn Ann Mohr, (b) 9/29/58
 - o Teresa Kay Mohr, (b) 12/16/60
- (2) Nancy Daniels (m) 3/12/81
- Louisa Hattie Mohr
 - + Elza Garland Dolton
 - o Louis Garland Dolton
 - Louis Garland Dolton, Jr.
 - + Patti Jo McManigle
 - Sean Patrick Dolton
 - Matthew Aaron Dolton
 - Paul Howard Dolton
 - + Nancy Hammond
 - Phillip Dolton
 - Grace Elizabeth Dolton
 - Peter Dolton
 - o Joseph Lee Dolton
 - + Luzell London
 - Pamela Jo Dolton
 - (1) Lynn Adams
 - Lindsey Adams
 - London Adams
 - o Ronald Earl Dolton
 - + Betty Cope
 - Rusty Dolton
 - + Lea Ann
 - Dusty Dolton
 - Kristin Dolton
 - Joseph Lee Dolton
 - + DeLisha
 - Fred Mohr
 - + (1) Edna
 - o Bobby Mohr
 - o Marilyn Mohr
 - o Carolyn Mohr
 - o Richard Mohr
 - + (2) Phylliss
 - o Ronnie
 - Rose Mohr
 - + Wilbur Owen

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- Charles Owen
 - Judy Morrison
 - David Owen
 - Unknown
 - Gage and a girl
 - Justin
- Edna Mohr
 - + (1) Claude Bryant
 - Onema
 - Two girls and a boy
 - + (2) Ed Johnson
 - Anthony