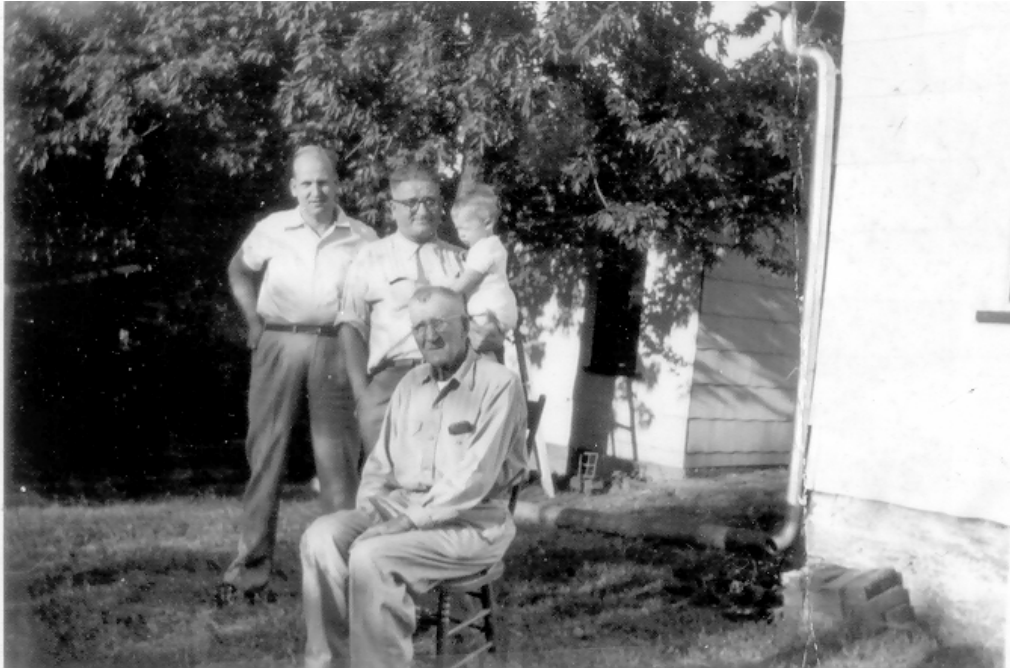


Four Generations of Augustines



Left to Right: Robert, John
(Robert's father holding
Robert's son, young Robert),
Grandpa Augustine who
emigrated from
Czechoslovakia in the late
1800's

Mr. & Mrs. Henry (Hank) Augustine

Henry (Hank) Augustine was born July 21, 1910. Margariete (Kreuter) Augustine was born September 27, 1915. They married on November 19, 1938. Three children were born to their union: James Henry (1942), Nancy (1943) and George Driscoll (1948).

Hank dropped out of school in sixth grade to go to work in the coal mine. Hank served Olive Township for 54 years (a precinct record) as Justice of Peace, Democratic Precinct Committeeman and Township Trustee. Margariete graduated from Livingston High School in 1934 and was a housewife.

Hank and Margariete had four grandchildren: Noel, Amy, Jamie and Driscoll and two great-grandchildren: Aubry and Madelyn.

Margariete passed away on January 20, 1980 and Hank passed away February 25, 1989. Both are buried at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

George and Mary Best Family

George Washington Best was born in Omphgent Township to William and Fredonia (Baird) Best in 1863. He married Mary Catherine Best in 1888 in Worden. Even though their last names are both Best, we have found no relationship between the two families. George was a farmer and hauled coal and other things with horse and wagon. He died in 1917.

Mary Catherine Best, also call 'Molly' was born in Omphgent Township in 1869 to Dempsey and Nancy (Camp) Best. Mary's great, great grandparents Michael and Anna (Spence) Best were born in Tyrell County, North Carolina. They left North Carolina and settled near Nashville, Tennessee for a few years. In the mid 1820s, Michael and Anna settled near Staunton and their son Ephraim settled in Silver Creek which later became Olive Township. She died in 1948.

George and Mary lived in Omphgent Township and then moved to the farm where Mt. Olive and Staunton Coal Company Mine #2 was later sunk. In 1904, they moved to the farm of Henry Burns north of the railroad tracks on what is now Livingston Avenue.

Twelve children were born to George and Mary.

- *Grover Dempsey* was born in 1891 and married Gertrude Oehler of Staunton. They had three children – Ruth married Melvin Zirges; Gilbert married Anna Mae Karl, and Marietta married Ervin Schnarre. Grover and Gertie lived in the Staunton area usually on a farm, and he worked at the Livingston mine.
- *Ruth Belle* was born in 1893. She remained single and lived with her mother. She taught school for fifteen years and worked in the Livingston Post Office for forty years. She tended a garden, an orchard, chickens, geese, ducks, pigs and cows on the home place.
- *Nancy Etta* was born in 1895 and married Howard Sherfy from Staunton. They always lived in Staunton. They had two boys – Dean Leroy who died at the age of seven days and David Howard who married Val Hannig of Staunton.
- *Dollie Blye* was born in 1897 and married Elia Tepovich. They had nine children – Eli, Melvin, Jessie, Alberta, George, Irene, Merlin who died in infancy, Ellsworth and Franklin. Dollie and Elia lived in Livingston for a short time and then moved to Nason, Illinois.
- *Eliza Ellen* known as Lydia was born in 1899 and married John Rydgig. They had six children – Flora, Dorothy, Alberta, twins Mae and June and Donald who was injured in Iwo Jima and died aboard a hospital ship going to Guam. He is buried in National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific also known as Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii. Lydia and John lived most of their lives in Akron, Ohio.
- *Elberta Jane* better known as Jennie. (See Mathes and Jennie Jones.)
- *Twins Cora Matilda and Nora Mawilda.* (Cora, see Chulka Family) (Nora see Nixon Family)
- *George Rolla* was born in 1905 and married Eleanor Bloemker. They had three daughter: Lavonne married Charles Collman; Nelda is single and Vida Rose married James Knecht. All three daughters are nurses. George and Eleanor lived on a farm south of Livingston until they retired in Edwardsville.
- *Twins May Lorena and Jessie Irene* were born in 1908. They were named after Mae and Jessie Livingston May died at age 1 ½ months and Jessie died at 8 ½ months.
- *Ellsworth Woodrow* (See Ellsworth and Gladys Best Family)



Pictured above from left: Ruth, George holding Cora, Nancy, Grover, Jennie, Mary holding Nora.
Seated in front: Dollie and Lydia

In addition to their twelve children, George and Mary had thirty-four grandchildren, sixty-nine great grandchildren, one hundred, forty-three great, great grandchildren, thirty-four great, great, great grandchildren and one great, great, great, great grandchild. George and Eleanor lived on a farm until they retired to Edwardsville

Ellsworth Best Family

Ellsworth W. Best was born June 8, 1910 and was the youngest of twelve children born to George and Mary Catherine Best. Ellsworth, better known to his friends as Elzy, attended the Livingston Schools through the tenth grade. On June 26, 1933 he married Gladys Bishop daughter of William and Lena (VanHooser) Bishop of Olive Township. They spent their married life of sixty-three years residing in Livingston. They both were active in area civic organizations, Ellsworth being a member of the Staunton Masonic Lodge #177, while Gladys was an active member of the school PTO, Girl Scouts and the Eastern Star. He also served as the Township Highway Commissioner for a period of time. Even though he was not an actual member of the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department, he was always present to assist in any way he could. He loved sports and was a respected player on several of the local baseball teams.

Ellsworth was a welder/pipefitter by trade and a member of Pipefitters Lodge #533 of East Alton. He retired from this trade in 1975. He also farmed the family homestead farm located just north of the railroad tracks on Livingston Avenue. He loved working with the land, whether it be the farm or in his garden behind the house. Gladys was known for her sewing talent, golden fried chicken and delicious homemade pies. Ellsworth and Gladys both were hard working people and always available to lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need or the community. They both were active members of the Staunton Methodist Church.

Ellsworth passed away on May 28, 1994, Gladys on May 26, 1996. Five children, fifteen grandchildren, and twenty-nine great grandchildren survive them.

Merlyne Ruth married Robert C. Owens of Staunton, Illinois in December 1955. They currently reside in Cumming, Georgia. They have five children and eight grandchildren – Bobbie Jo (Robert) Moore of Atlanta, Georgia; Gregory Allen Owens of Springfield, Missouri; Kirk Robert (Shannon) Owens of Pensacola, Florida; Tracy Lynn (Douglas) Moran of Grand Blanc, Michigan, and Shelley Ann (Keith) Smith of Carrollton, Georgia.



Standing from left: Lois, Ellsworth, Harlan, and Merlyne
Seated: Joyce, Gladys and Vara

Joyce Lee married James F. Furtkamp of Staunton in September 1958. They currently reside in Lebanon, Illinois. They have three children and seven grandchildren – Douglas James (Lisa) Furtkamp, Ozark, Missouri; Darryl Best (Emily) Furtkamp of Andover, New Hampshire, and Deanna Lee (Scott) Weiler of Ashland, Virginia.

Harlan Duane married Mary Lou Zuber of Litchfield in November 1968. They currently reside in Staunton. They have two children and three grandchildren – Bradley Duane (Angela) Best and Keely Lynn (Troy) Redfern, both of Staunton.

Lois Lana married Ramsae C. Stricker of Okawville, Illinois in June 1966. They currently reside in Highland, Illinois. They have four children and eleven grandchildren – Michael Perry (Dianne) Stricker of Fountain Hill, Arizona; Beth Lynn (Gene) Fisher of Okawville, Illinois; Alana Kay (David) DeCurtis of Orlando, Florida, and Ryan Ellsworth (Melissa) Stricker of Highland.

Vara Lynn married David Yochum of Decatur, Illinois in August 1986. They reside in Troy, Illinois. They have two children – Lesley Renee Yochum and Jason Edward Yochum both of Troy.

The Busker and Luebke Families

Ernst Busker (some family members spelled the name Buescher) was born in Linen, Wetfalen, Germany. He married Elisabeth Hilgedieck from Linen. He sailed with his wife Elisabeth and their young son Ernst to the United States in 1857 from Bremen, Germany, landing at Baltimore, Maryland.

His naturalization says he signed his intent to become a citizen in 1860 in Ohio and received his final papers in 1862 in Alton, Illinois.

Their daughter Sophie was born in Cincinnati, Ohio circa 1857 or 58. In 1868, he bought land in Section 15 of Olive Township (southwest of Livingston) from James W. Cline and Mary E. Cline. Their other children were Henry, Mary, Sophie, Caroline, William, and Wilhelmina. His wife, Elisabeth, died August 1868. December 11th of 1868 he married Lisette Sander in DeCamp Church in Madison County. To them were born Elise "Lizzie," John, Fred, August, and Louis Buescher.

William, age 17, Wilhelmina, age 14, and Lizzie, age 11 died in a typhoid epidemic between March and April 1882. The entire family came down with the illness. Louis was killed by accident, thrown from a horse when gypsies camped by Silver Creek, frightened the horse. John, Fred, and August were well known for their musical talents, often playing at funerals and gatherings. These brothers attended Pleasant Hill School east of town. In 1904, Fred took the train from Binney Station to visit the St. Louis World's Fair and returned with stories and souvenirs.

Around 1909, John Busker established a furniture and hardware store. Furniture was delivered to town by rail. We believe this was later the Martintoni Hardware Store.

John's wife Nora was the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Luebke Kroeger. Nora's grandparents were John F. and Lisette (Salter) Luebke, who lived south of Livingston. John F. Luebke was a former gold miner in California with brother-in-law, Charles Salter. He stayed there seven years and returned in 1861 and bought a farm

on Section 22 of Olive Township, which is south of town. The barn, which still stands today, was built during the Civic War. John Luebke's children were Elizabeth, H. Heinrich, Sophia, Charles and Johanna. Johanna married Fred Busker, son of Ernst and Lisette Sander Busker on June 2, 1901.

John and Nora's children were Elmer and Marvin. Elmer passed away on August 11, 1929. He had a sudden illness after swimming in Livingston Lake. Marvin attended Livingston schools and later moved with his parents to Staunton. Here



Pictured left to right. Standing: Eleanora (Nora), Charles Busker, Clara Busker, Seated: Fred H. Busker, Edna Busker, Johanna Luebke Busker

they ran a car dealership and finally settled in Edwardsville, where they ran Busker's Hardware for many years.

August "Gus" Busker never married and spent most of his life in Livingston-Williamson. He was an avid hunter. Fred Busker's family lived south of town on the former Luebke farm. Their children were Willie, who died as an infant, Charles, and Clara Busker Schuette. Then they moved to the Alhambra farm where Eleanor Busker Schlechte and Edna were born.

Johanna "Anna" Luebke Busker

Born to Lisette Salter and John Fred Luebke, Anna was one of five children, three girls and two boys. Anna's father was a gold seeker, and just four months after his marriage in November 1853, he headed off to the California Gold Rush. He and his brother-in-law, Carl Salter, spent seven long years in the gold fields of California before J.F. returned home to his young wife in St. Louis, Missouri. While he was gone seeking his fortune, Lisette stayed in St. Louis and worked.

The family lived in St. Louis for a time, then moved to Madison County, Illinois where they bought a farm with money earned from the California gold fields. Their farm was located just south of what is now Livingston. J.F. also brought back several pieces of gold that he had made into jewelry for his daughter.

Anna was born October 1, 1872 in Olive Township, Madison County. Here Anna lived with her parents, sisters Elizabeth and Sophie, and brother Charles. They also had a brother, Henry, who died around the age of five years old.

Anna was a lady, small in stature and when a young woman she worked as a seamstress for a Mrs. Mank in Staunton. As she grew into adulthood she met and fell in love with a neighbor, Fred Busker. They were married on June 6, 1901, and purchased a farm north of Alhambra, this farm is now owned by their grandson, Dan Schlechte.

Tragedy struck the young couple in their early years, when on July 29, 1903 their first born child Karl F.W. "Willie" Buescher, aged five months, twenty-two days, died unexpectedly. The parents were devastated. Less than one year later, in 1904, their son Charles was born followed by Clara in 1905, Eleanora in 1907 and Edna in 1909.

In 1945 Anna and Fred retired from farming, rented out their farm and moved to a house on Panhorst Street in Staunton. The house sat across the street and behind what was the old South Public School. Here they lived together with their son Charles and daughter Edna until November 7, 1947. At that time Anna passed away at the age of seventy-five years. Fred continued to live in Staunton with Edna and Charles until his death in 1962.



The Bononis



In the year 1921, the Bononi Brothers and their family posed for this picture. The brothers were David and Alfred.

Prior to 1916, these boys built a large brick store on the west side of Livingston Avenue. The building was eventually razed and apartment buildings are now in its place.

The Bononi's also had a grocery store in the west side of Livingston Ave. It was operated by Steve and his wife Helen (Ulrich). It was closed and razed.

The Joseph and Cecilia Covi Family

Joseph (Giuseppi) Covi was born in North Italy (Fondo) on March 19, 1887 and came to the United States twice. The first time was in 1906, at the age of 19 and the second time in 1911 or 1912. He remained here the rest of his life except for about four months after he retired in 1950. He then returned to Italy to visit family and friends.

Between 1909 and 1911, he fulfilled his military service under the Austrian Government, at that time, the legitimate ruler of North Italy.

Cecilia Menghini was born in Oklahoma on January 15, 1891. She was left motherless while still a child and was taken with her sister and one or two brothers by her father to his native Northern Italy. There the children remained while the father re-married and moved to Mexico with his second wife, a widow and her two sons by her previous marriage. Cecilia never saw her father again. He died in Mexico in 1941.

Cecilia finished her schooling in Italy and at an early age began to work as a housekeeper for Joseph Covi's maternal uncle and aunt, Bortolo and Rachele Battisti. There she met Joseph and they became engaged. But because of the intervention of World War I, she was unable to join him in the United States until after the war had ended. She sailed from Genoa in September 1919, arriving in New York on October 2.

After the required stop at Ellis Island, she traveled by train to Livingston, Where she and Joseph were married on October 11. By that time Joseph was settled in Livingston with a job as a coal miner.

Joseph and Cecilia raised their children; Dr. Dario Covi, Lucy McGartland, Erma Reise (deceased) and Frieda Augustine. They gave the Covis eleven grandchildren.



The Chulka Family

Cora Best was born July 26, 1903 to George and Mary Best. She married George Chulka on May 17, 1923 and they had one son, Robert Harris Chulka. Cora was employed by Martha Manning Co., in Collinsville, retiring January 1, 1968. She died on December 14, 1993.



Cora (Best) Chulka



Robert and Violet Chulka

Robert (Bob) was born on May 1, 1924, and married Violet Mishanec on November 2, 1946 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livingston. They had 3 children, Gordon Harris, Bruce Robert and Bobette Nadeen. Bob served in the Navy in WWII. He was employed at the Livingston Coal mine, then at Shell Oil Refinery for 27 years until his death on November 2, 1980. He was active with the Cub Scouts and served on the school board for many years. Violet was a homemaker, was employed in the accounting department of Basler Electric, Highland, for several years, also at Jubelts' Bakery in Staunton and Wal-Mart in Glen Carbon. She currently resides in Livingston



Gordon (Butch) and Felicity Chulka

Gordon (Butch) was born on January 30, 1948 and married Felicity Jenkins on April 26, 1967. They had 2 children, Robert Gordon, and Lisa Michelle. During the time they were married, Gordon was employed at McDonald Douglas, and Shell Oil Refinery. Felicity was a homemaker and taught Sunday School. Gordon and Felicity died on December 21, 1969. Their children were later adopted by their grandparents, Robert and Violet.



Bruce and Mindy Chulka

Bruce married Mindy Collins on July 15, 1972. They have 3 sons, Andrew Richard, Christopher Robert and Matthew. Bruce and Mindy lived in Livingston for a few years and now reside in O'Fallon, MO where he is Pastor of Hope Bible Church. Bruce served 4 years in the Navy.

Bobette and Roger Pfeiffer married on November 14, 1970. They have 3 sons, Bryan Gordon, Brent Harris and Brooks Charles. They lived in Livingston from 1978 to 1999. Bobette was a Sunday School teacher, volunteered at the library, was a member of PTO, was employed at Florists' Mutual Insurance Company and from 1985 to 1999 she owned and operated "Bobette's Creative Baking". Roger served in the Army from June, 1970 to February, 1972. He was employed at Shell Oil Refinery, coached Little League, served as youth group leader and church officer and was on the fire department. They currently reside in Pittsfield, IL.



Bobette and Roger Pfeiffer



Robert (Bobby) Chulka

Robert Gordon (Bobby) resides in Livingston and operates Chulka Farms. He is currently on the fire department, having served as Rescue Captain, Lieutenant, and Asst. Chief. He is the current Olive Township Highway Commissioner.

Lisa is married to Kenny Webb. They live in Cottage Hills and she is employed at Lewis Chiropractic. They have 3 children, Kristin, Amanda and Zachary. They have a grandson Benjamin Thompson.

Bryan married Amanda Caldwell on October 4, 2003. He is a graduate of Nashville Auto Diesel College. They have a daughter Lexi Michelle. They reside in Livingston.

Brent married Krissy Meyer on September 15, 2001. He graduated from Ranken Technical College. They have a daughter, Grace. Brent served on the fire department and has served as mayor of Livingston.

Brooks is a graduate of Northwestern College, Lima, Ohio, and resides in Livingston.



Lisa and Kenny Webb

Clifford France



Born October 8, 1899 in Streator, Illinois. At an early age his father moved the family to Indiana then he moved the family by covered wagon to Fulton, Missouri where he got work in the coal mines. When Clifford was 13 years old he started to work with his dad. Moving back to Williamson, Illinois he went to work at the mine as a machine operator until it closed down. He then worked at the Livingston mine as an inspector until his retirement.

In his spare time during his younger years, he was a third baseman for the Livingston Baseball Team. When he aged a bit more, he was a fireman when they were still using hand operated fire techniques.

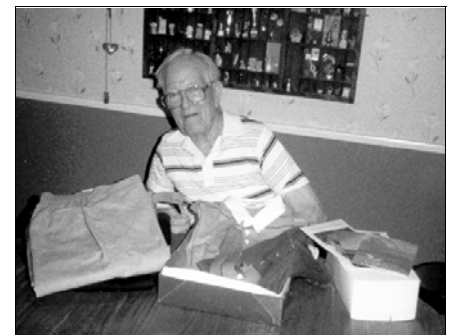
He married Irene Lovejoy and they had four children, two girls and two boys. In order, they are Eileen, Elmer, Joyce and Harold. Their family suffered two losses through the years. Joyce, the third child, passed away when she was only 7 years old. Eileen, the oldest, had medical difficulties that required much special care. Some people say that taking care of her like that “should qualify them for sainthood”. She passed away at the age of 66. Today, Elmer and Harold are the only children surviving him.

Clifford has a list of many accomplishments. As you read on, you will get a quick glimpse of them...

- Clifford was an active member of the Lion’s Club.
- At one time, he was the President of the High School Board of Education. He was very active in getting the gym addition built as well as saving the taxpayers money and getting people better jobs after certain issues were resolved.
- He was an answer to helping many of the widows in town with plumbing and heating problems by fixing many oil heaters for \$2.00 (even when it required several hours).
- With the Water Department as his passion, he was an active member of the S.W. Illinois Water Operators Association and he attended several meetings in different towns including Springfield and Edwardsville. Also, in spite of the poor quality of water he had to work with, he spent numerous hours trying to make it the best he could. He even helped contractors when the sewers were installed. He knew where the shut off valves were located even when the maps were poor and non-existent.

After retirement, he developed Alzheimer’s Disease. Not too long after showing signs of this disease, his wife passed away. He had to be placed in a nursing home to receive adequate care for his condition. Even though he had his bad days, he also had good ones where he would talk to his son and other family members.

Only a few weeks prior to his 92nd birthday, he passed away in a nursing home in Edwardsville. He is still celebrated for his accomplishments even when people don’t realize it.



Clifford France at his 88th birthday party. October 1987.