



The Hutzlers

Roots, Routes & Rumors

South Manitou Island had four notably successful homesteading farm families,¹ German immigrants all, among whom were the Hutzlers; George Johann and his brother George Conrad.

Thanks to Myron H. Vent's genealogical research, which he described in his monograph *South Manitou Island - From Pioneer Community to National Park*,² one needn't search far to learn about the origins of the George Johann Hutzler family.

Myron Vent began his research in the mid-1930s, finally discovering the immigration records of his German ancestors some thirty years later. This was well before the advent of powerful desktop computers, before the Internet and online databases, and before all the genealogical resources now readily available. He can be credited for doing his research the hard way; by actually visiting the National Archives in Washington D.C. and pouring over records of ship arrivals, and by walking the streets of the little Bavarian village his ancestors formerly called home.

Nevertheless, he found authoritative information scarce. As his report on genealogical research became starved of hard facts, it turned towards fiction; fiction based on real events, as it were, but nevertheless containing observations and speculations on things that had become "hidden beneath a cloak of silence" (his words) as those who lived them passed away, and therefore things that could nevermore be known. Writers of family histories are naturally tempted to embellish scant collections of physical evidence and actual fact with assumptions, theories developed from their research, anecdotal snippets, hearsay contributed from the memories of old-timers, and sometimes popular folklore. Vent was evidently no exception.

Perhaps to some extent that is perfectly understandable. After all, his purpose in writing was to tell *a story*, and in the telling of stories, continuity is important. The human mind is inquisitive, and does not like unresolved mysteries. However, Vent's book was the first historical work ever written about South Manitou Island. It was probably never his intention that it would be elevated to the status of *the* definitive source of facts and information about the island, but since it was the only source available for a time, indeed it was. Almost everything published since relies to some extent on Vent to support its information and facts, without giving notice that his work was actually *a story* loosely based on the scant historical facts he was able to come up with, and that in his writing style he moves freely, and without warning, back and forth between fact and fiction.

Vent's Roots – the Johann Hutzlers

Mr. Vent's finding of factual information began with his search of ship arrival records at the national Archives, where

he discovered that a sailing vessel, the barque *Sir Isaac Newton*,³ departed Hamburg October 21, 1853, and finally landed at the Port of New York on January 23, 1854. That was the year that brought the first peak of German immigration to America, with upwards of 1/4-million people, mostly from southwestern Germany, arriving at various ports. Most were farmers looking for greener pastures after suffering through eight years of repeated crop failures, mainly potato blight, while at the same time facing increasing competition in grain production from new American farms, most of which were being established by their former countrymen, earlier immigrants from northern Europe!

Among these multitudes from southern Germany were the eight members of the George Johann and Margaretha Hutzler family, listed on the Newton's manifest as:

Johann-Georg Hutzler, a 39-year old "*Workman*"
Margaretha, his 33-year old wife
Elisabeth, his daughter, age 12
Margaretha, another daughter age 10
Georg, their son; 8-years
Anny, their youngest daughter, age 4,
Johann, his father's namesake, just 10-months old, and
Cathrine Hutzler, Johann-Georg's 14-year old half-sister

They were from "Bayern", and headed for "Buffalo."

Their thirteen and a half weeks at sea was much longer than the voyage should have taken. Vent explains that their late arrival resulted from bad weather and mechanical failures, including a broken rudder; information presumably found in the ship's passenger log. Of the eight Hutzlers who boarded at Hamburg, only seven landed at New York. Baby Johann had not made it; his little body had been committed to the deep while still at sea, his short life officially ending with a terse note scrawled on the ship's manifest: "*Died on the Voyage.*"⁴

Vent's continuing research discovered that the Hutzlers had come from *Oberkrumbach* (Upper Krumbach), a small village in the Bavarian highlands about 24-miles northeast of Nürnberg. During his tour as a WW-II soldier in Europe, Vent had an opportunity to visit Oberkrumbach. At the time his grandparents left, there were only thirty-nine homes in the village, and a hundred years later the visiting American soldier would find that the place had not grown much. He would also probably have discovered that *Hutzler* was a very common name in that area, and that its people had short memories as far as expatriated relatives were concerned.

Moreover, he would have learned that at baptism, it was the German custom that a boy's first given name be a spiritual, or saint's name, "George" being one of the most common, recognizing the Saint George of the crusades, and/or the German-born George I, who ascended to the British throne in the 18th century to become ruler of what was then left of the Holy Roman Empire. The second given name was the secular name, the name the person was commonly known by, and in their time, the names "Johann" and "Konrad" were among the most common.



Vent was apparently able to establish that his roots were Evangelical Lutheran, and that his grandfather Johann had been the eldest son of another "George Hutzler," a farmer and artisan. That George Hutzler had also been a lime burner, working as part of a kiln crew calcining limestone to create quicklime, an essential ingredient of cement, plaster, and mortar. Recently featured on "The Discovery Channel" as one of *The Worst Jobs in History*, lime burning was an occupation offering good pay, but for hot, hard work, frequently leading to burns, blindness, permanent lung damage and death from asphyxiation.

The passenger arrival list for the Sir Isaac Newton is somewhat unique in that the intended destination of its passengers is unusually specific. Whereas the reports submitted by most other arriving vessels are usually quite vague in that respect, giving only "America" or "USA" or "New York," the Newton's passengers give "Toledo," "Albany," "Chicago," "Milwaukee," "Montgomery," "Philadelphia," etc. But then, the Newton brought only 154 passengers, so its purser would have had the time needed to prepare a more particular record. The Hutzlers were among those who declared "Buffalo" as their intended destination.

Family records recounted that after their arrival, the family did indeed make their way to Buffalo, at the east end of Lake Erie, making the trip immediately by rail. There was a reason for their going there.

The Mysterious Half-Brother – Conrad Hutzler

About seven years after Johann landed his family on South Manitou, another Hutzler showed up on the island, with a wife and three children. Conrad (Konrad) Hutzler, who was said to be Johann's half-brother, had been born seven-years later than Johann, Johann's mother evidently having died when he was very young; five-years old, or less. Conrad would have been about thirty-two when Johann and his family left for America. Catherine, who accompanied the Johann Hutzler family, although eighteen years younger than Conrad, was probably his little sister.

Not much has ever been known about Conrad Hutzler's origins, his history seeming to begin with his arrival on South Manitou Island. It has been speculated that perhaps he came into the country through Canada some time after his older brother's arrival in America, Canada not requiring reports on arrivals back then, and with the St. Lawrence River ports of entry also offering newcomers the advantage of arriving in the interior aboard the same ship that took them across the Atlantic. From Montreal one could easily get into upstate New York, and from Toronto it was only a short trip to Buffalo. However, such was evidently not the case.

On the 16th of August in 1845, eight and a half years prior to the arrival of the Johann Hutzlers, the brig *Georg Duckwitz* arrived in New York harbor from Bremen. Among its 114 passengers were...

Conr. Hutzler, a 23-year old farmer traveling with, Magd. Forstner, also listed as a farmer, age 33, and Conr. Forstner, her 2-year old son.

... the three coming from Oberkrumbach.⁵ Five years later, on the 3rd day of September, they would be enumerated by the census taker in Buffalo's 4th Ward as "Cunrad" Hutzler (37)⁶, Magdalena Hutzler (36), and their child, "Cunrad" Hutzler, age 7.

It is tempting to speculate on the nature of this relationship, but speculate is all one can do, since there is scant additional evidence to be found. Since the three were evidently traveling together, all three listed as coming from the tiny, close-knit hamlet called Oberkrumbach, it seems safe to assume that there was some sort of relationship. That the child was named "Conrad" suggests that he was Conrad Hutzler's biological son, although "Conrad" was a very common given name in Germany at the time. The 1850 census listing Magdalena and her son as "Hutzler" encourages the same assumption, and perhaps finally a marriage to legitimize the situation. However census records are not reliable in this respect – the enumerator merely recording what he was told, possibly even by a third party.

However ten years later, the 1860 U.S. Census finds Magdalena Hutzler (46) and her son Conrad Hutzler Jr. (17) living alone in Buffalo's 7th Ward in a home they apparently owned, although no occupation is listed for Magdalena.⁷ There is reason to think that Conrad, like his half-brother Johann, was making a living by sailing on the lake boats. Buffalo, called "The Lake City," was the connection between the Erie Canal system and points west, and was primarily engaged in transportation at the time,⁸ so that sort of employment was very common and would have been likely to explain the husband's absence from the home. Since Conrad Jr. retained the "Hutzler" surname for the rest of his life, and was ultimately named an heir to George Conrad Hutzler's estate, co-equal to his two other living biological children, it seems safe to assume that he was indeed the namesake of his true biological father.

Life in Buffalo

Myron Vent had evidently not discovered that George Johann Hutzler brought his family and Conrad's little sister directly to Buffalo in 1854 to join his younger half-brother, who had already established himself there, having been in America for over eight years.

Things did not go well in Buffalo after Johann's arrival, neither for his family, nor for Conrad's.

Conrad, Magdalene and the young Conrad were living in Buffalo's 4th Ward – the most "German" of the four "German Wards" – in a boarding house with four other families, not far from the Erie Basin, which was the western terminus of the Erie Canal. It is probably safe to assume that when Conrad's brother Johann arrived, he and his family took up residence nearby. With the numbers of German immigrants drastically increasing, many of whom had expended their savings in order to get there, the German Wards grew overcrowded and became



little better than ghettos.⁹ The warmer weather of 1854 again brought the scourge of cholera, and almost the whole of Johann's family was afflicted, including Johann himself. Before it was over, they had lost their only other son, nine-year old Georg. Johann, supposedly through sheer will power according to Myron Vent, managed to extricate himself from the clutches of the Grim Reaper, and eventually recovered. Later that summer he was able to find work as a sailor, signing on as a crewmember aboard the steamer *Iowa*. There is reason to suspect that Johann might have been following in the footsteps of his younger brother, since there is evidence to suggest that Conrad was working as a steamboat *fireman*, perhaps even aboard the same boat.

Coming To the Island

Vent's narrative about Johann's encountering South Manitou Island during the *Iowa*'s wooding stops and his subsequent employment by the island's wood merchant, William Burton, seems plausible, although no substantiation is offered. It is also easy to accept his assertions that Johann chose the island as his family's future home after seeing and discounting every other place along the *Iowa*'s route between Buffalo and Chicago. The Hutzlers of Oberkrumbach were small town people, and after having had a taste of big city life with its crowds, noise and disease, the tranquility and unspoiled environment of the island, with its rolling, wooded hills, might well have seemed more like home.

It is quite likely that Johann sailed on the *Iowa* during the season, and worked for Burton, Lord & Co. on South Manitou Island during the four or five months while the *Iowa* was laid up for the winter at Buffalo. Originally built and launched at Buffalo in 1852 as a high-pressure side-wheel steamboat,¹⁰ the *Iowa* had been converted to a propeller, becoming the largest ship in that class on the Great Lakes.¹¹ She was owned by the newly formed American Transportation Company of Buffalo, carrying passengers and freight between Buffalo and Chicago under charter to the New York & Erie Railroad Line.

Johann was apparently able to earn enough money sailing on the *Iowa* during the sailing season to support his family in Buffalo. Myron Vent wrote that he soon left the boat and went to work for the Burtons on South Manitou Island, accumulating a stock of cordwood on his own time which he planned to wholesale to the Burtons in order to secure the money needed to cover the cost of transporting his family and their belongings to their new island home. According to Vent, misfortune struck again when a fire broke out on the island, consuming all the wood he had stockpiled, but that the Burtons were then good enough to lend him the needed cash. That does not seem plausible.

"Burton's Wharf," as it designated on the island's first survey map, was a busy place. The Burtons hired lots of woodchoppers, dock hands, and other help, and it does not seem likely that they would have been willing to lend money to an itinerant sailor, unless it was someone they had come to know quite well. It is quite likely that Johann did indeed began

sailing with the *Iowa* during the summer of 1854, and might very well have become acquainted with the Burtons immediately or, at least, the Burton & Lord operation, since the *Iowa* was a busy boat that sailed a regular schedule, stopping at South Manitou for fuel when both downbound and upbound. While continuing to be materially employed by the American Transportation Company of Buffalo as a crewmember aboard the *Iowa*, he would indeed have been able to work for Burton, Lord & Co. on South Manitou during the four or five months that the *Iowa* was laid up for the winters in Buffalo. But other than Vent's assertions, there is no evidence to suggest that he enjoyed a special relationship with the Burtons, or was any more favored by them than any of their other hired men.

Vent supposes that the Johann Hutzlers arrived on South Manitou late in 1856. Indeed, Johann might have found plenty of time to survey living conditions on the islands earlier that year, the *Iowa* having twice experience mechanical failures, once in May and again in June, requiring it to lay over for repairs for a few weeks in the harbor at Beaver Island on both occasions.¹² But that date was probably not correct.

Cathrine, Conrad's sister and Johann's half-sister, evidently never came to the island, nor did Johann's daughters Elisabeth and Margaretha. If indeed the rest of the family moved to South Manitou towards the end of 1856, as Vent suggests was "quite likely," the girls would have been only seventeen, fifteen and twelve, respectively. On the other hand, Vent offers no evidence to support that date. He apparently based that assumption upon the vague enumeration of a "James Hoolster" family in the 1960 census listings for South Manitou Island, guessing that they were actually the Johann Hutzler family. In fact, the variances in numbers of family members, names, and ages are so great that this seems like quite a stretch, indeed. Strangely, only the listings for two of the Hoolster girls approximately match the Hutzler's at 1860: Elizabeth at nineteen years of age, and Margaret at fifteen.

Ten years later, the Hoolsters are gone, and the enumeration of the Johann Hutzler family does not include the three older girls. According to the August 18, 1870 census for South Manitou Island, the family now includes son George Isaac, fifteen and born in New York, and daughter Catharine, nine and born in Michigan. Since precise birth dates are not available for these two children, we can only deduce a range of possible dates. George was probably born in January of 1855, while Catharine appears to have been born in March of 1861. Assuming that "Michigan" meant South Manitou Island, the Johann Hutzler's might have arrived as early as the fall of 1855, or as late as autumn of 1860.¹³

Interestingly, there is no trace of anyone in the Johann Hutzler family anywhere in the United States in the 1860 census. This could very well be because the family left Buffalo before being enumerated there, and arrived at South Manitou Island after the census taker had finished his work. The census for South Manitou was taken on July 30th of that year. The censuses in Buffalo's four German wards all began on June 12, 1860, with the enumeration of Ward 4 not being completed



until August 3rd. If correct, this scenario suggests that the Johann Hutzler's moved from Buffalo to South Manitou Island around the end of July or early in August of 1860.

Indeed, that decision might have arisen from casualties suffered by the Iowa at that time and the loss of Johann's job. No stranger to such mishaps, the steamer collided first with the schooner *Gerrit Smith* in Saginaw Bay the end of July¹⁴, causing serious damage to the schooner before continuing on downbound without further ado. She next was hit broadside by the swing ferry *Huron* in the St. Clair River early in August,¹⁵ sustaining heavy damage. After transferring her cargo at Detroit, she was able to return to Buffalo in crippled condition, but that apparently ended her career as a passenger steamer.¹⁶

Hutzler's half-brother, Conrad Hutzler, seems to have come to South Manitou a few years after Johann had established himself on the island. When Conrad arrived on the Island in the late 1860s, it was not with Magdalena and Conrad Jr., but with a different wife, some fifteen years younger than he, and initially listed as "Christina." They brought her two children by a previous marriage, Mary Ann and Rolland Schenk, and a daughter of their own, Catherine, who had been born in New York on or before August 18, 1866. Conrad filed a homestead claim for 160-acres on South Manitou Island on April 20, 1868,¹⁷ so it would appear that the Conrad Hutzlers probably arrived about seven years after Johann and his family.

Conrad's relationship with the older Magdalena had apparently ended some time during the early 1860s.¹⁸ Nothing more can be found regarding Magdalene Hutzler after that time, which suggests that she might have died, else left Conrad and married someone else. At the time when Conrad Hutzler came to South Manitou, presumably 1867, Conrad Jr. would have been about 24-years old, and was probably by then established on his own at Buffalo. The father and son apparently remained in contact however, for the rest of Conrad Sr.'s life.

New Beginnings on the Island

When the Johann Hutzler family came to the island, they were four: Johann (46) and Margaretha (40), and their two youngest surviving children, Anna (12) and George Isaac (5).

The dream of most German immigrants in the 18th and 19th centuries was the debt-free ownership of a farm. Taking up residence and finding a job in a major American city was a strategy often used to build up savings to an amount that made that possible. In Hutzler's day, the mid-nineteenth century, \$50 to \$150 was sufficient for a down payment on a farm of about 40 acres, which was about the size needed to make a living. In addition to that, the prospective farmer needed about \$500 to acquire implements, cattle and seed grains, as well as food that would last until the first harvest, unless he was lucky enough to have outside employment.¹⁹

At the time of the family's arrival, South Manitou Island was owned by the government; held as *public lands* by the State of Michigan. As such, it was subject to the provisions of

the *Preemption Act of 1841*, which permitted squatters who were heads of households, widows, or single men over 21; who were citizens of the United States, or intended to become naturalized; and who had lived on the land for at least 14 months, to purchase up to 160 acres at about \$1.25 per acre, before the land was offered for sale to the public.²⁰

Under that act, land was actually available for free. Anyone who wished to have a place of their own could simply stake out 160 acres for themselves and move onto it. Ownership under the Preemption Act, and payment for the land, only became an issue if someone else decided they wanted to buy the property from the government, and that wasn't very likely in the early days on South Manitou Island and other wilderness areas. Nevertheless, the unscrupulous sometimes took advantage of the law to buy developed parcels out from under squatters who had been living on it and improving it for several years, then evicting its former residents and reselling it at a profit. Recognizing this reality, the Congress passed a new law, requiring would-be homesteaders to merely file an application, improve the land, and ultimately apply for a final deed of title, or *patent*. The filing fee was \$10, plus a \$2 commission for the land office agent, with another \$6 due when the final patent was eventually issued – a total of only \$18 for up to 160-acres!²¹

The *Homestead Act* was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in the spring of 1862. George Johann Hutzler was the first to register a claim on South Manitou Island, filing the following year on the 160-acres that became the home place for his branch of the Hutzler family. Their farm was located just beyond the north end of what today is known as Ohio Road.²²

Within ten years, the family grew from four to eight, with the arrival of Catharine in 1860, John in 1865, Ludwig in 1867 and Louisa in 1868.²³ During those years, the Johann Hutzler farm became one of the island's most productive and successful, and that family one of the island's most prominent. These were the years before the Lifesaving Service established a presence on the island, so the present-day village area did not exist. The centers of activity consisted of the Light Station on the south end, the Hutzler farm on the north side, and Burton's Wharf on the bay. It was easy for a farmer to be a successful marketer then, since Milwaukee and Chicago were both growing cities, with ever-expanding needs. Moreover, downbound boats were in and out of the island's harbor every day, with Burton's Wharf only down the road a mile or so from the Hutzler farm.

Seven years later, the other Hutzlers – Conrad, "Christina," Mary Ann, Roland and Catherine – established a farm not far away, located at the southwestern extreme of what is today called "the farm loop."²⁴ For reasons unknown, the mother of these children was listed as "Christina" Hutzler on the island's 1870 census. In fact, her name was neither Christina, nor Hutzler. She was Marianna Schenk, the widow of Christian J. Schenk, a casualty of the Civil War who died at Wilmington, North Carolina in March of 1865,²⁵ the youngsters Mary Ann



and Roland being her children from that marriage. She had not been, nor ever would be, married to Conrad Hutzler. Her reason was plain: she had applied for, and received, a Civil War Widow's Pension, the provisions of which called for its suspension in the event that she was to ever become remarried.²⁶ She and Conrad Hutzler would have two more children: Margaret in 1869 and George in 1872.²⁷

The Johann Hutzler Children

Johann and Margaretha Hutzler had eleven children in all. Of these, six grew up on South Manitou Island.

Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Hutzler, born in Oberkrumbach in 1841, apparently accompanied her parents when they relocated to South Manitou Island, she then being about nineteen. Five years later (1865) she married George "John" Hoeft in Leland. They had two children; Catharine "Kitty" (or sometimes "Katie") Hoeft, born in Good Harbor on June 12, 1867,²⁸ and Anna Elizabeth Hoeft, born in 1869. Together they operated a boarding house at Good Harbor, where John was also listed as a butcher.^{29, 30} In the June 1870 census for Kalamazoo, Michigan, "Eliza Hof" was found there at the Michigan State Insane Asylum, designated "Insane." She died there two years later.³¹ John Hoeft died in Leland, a widower, on December 12, 1878.³²

Margaretha ("Maggie") Hutzler was born in Oberkrumbach on January 27, 1843.³³ She most likely did not come to the island immediately, since she was employed as a seventeen-year old domestic servant by the Jacob Barnes family in Buffalo.³⁴ She married the widower George Aylsworth. About ten years before they met, George had bought the wooding station on North Manitou Island's west side from Simon Pickard, and during fifteen years of successful operation a village called *Aylsworth* developed at the site of the dock, which in later years would become known as *Crescent*. In 1872 he moved to a farm near Empire, and built a dock over which he sold thousands of cords of wood to visiting steamboats. Continuing in business at Empire for some 24-years, he also operated a grist mill and hotel. Having lost his first wife, George married a second time at Detroit on June 8, 1868, wedding Margaretha.³⁵ He was forty-nine; she was twenty-five. They had three children, all girls: Georgia in 1870, Jessie in 1873, and Nettie Margaret in 1881. George died in 1888. Maggie lived another 36-years. Both are buried in Empire's *Maple Grove Cemetery*.³⁶

George was born about 1845 in Oberkrumbach. He died at the age of nine years in Buffalo, New York, a victim of cholera.³⁷

Anna was born in Oberkrumbach on December 9, 1849³⁸ and came to South Manitou Island with her parents when she was about eleven years old. At the age of 29, on May 28, 1879, she married Friedrich Guckenmus in Chicago.³⁹ He was also a German immigrant, and a farm laborer and cabinet maker who was some six years younger than she. They apparently lived in Chicago from the time of their marriage until the end of their lives.⁴⁰ Fred died there on December 10, 1936 at the age of 80.

He was buried in the Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois. Anna died there about five years later, on January 19, 1942 at the age of 92, and was laid to rest next to her husband.⁴¹ They apparently never had any children.

Johann was born about 1852 in Oberkrumbach. He died as an infant during the Atlantic Ocean crossing in 1853, and was buried at sea.

George Isaac was born in Buffalo, New York. He also came to South Manitou Island with his parents, arriving when he was about five years old. He and Selma Erickson, daughter of Andrew and Ulrica Erickson, were married on October 31, 1883 in Milwaukee. Like his father before him, George became a farmer on South Manitou, settling on a place just south of the Henry and Maggie Haas farm on the west side of Lake Florence. There they had six children: Earnest (1884) who became a lightkeeper and married the widow Zella Mae Furst; Lulu (1886) who married Peter J. Payment, a butcher in Empire; Charlotte (1889), who married John K. Tobin, a Surfman at the Life Saving Station; Blanche (1891) who married Clifford B. Lewis, a teacher at Empire who became Superintendent of Schools in Leelanau County; Violet (1894) who married the mail boat captain and lightkeeper Harry Ray Robinette, and Walter (1897) who died in the Traverse City State Hospital at the age of 25 and was buried with his parents on the island. George Isaac Hutzler died on the island in 1909 at the age of 53. Selma lived another twelve years, passing away on the island in 1921 at the age of 57. Both were buried in the family plot in island's main cemetery.

Maria ("Mary") was born in 1857. She lived less than two years, dieing 1859.⁴²

Katherine was the first Hutzler child born on the island, coming into the world there in 1861. She married Leonard Rohr Jr. on September 21, 1888 in Chicago.⁴³ They settled on a farm near Empire, having one child – daughter Elizabeth born on June 17 of 1889, who married Empire bartender/farmer Edgar W. Roosa.⁴⁴ Leonard Rohr died on August 30, 1925. Kate lived with her daughter in Empire for another eleven years, passing away on December 6, 1936. Their final resting place is the Maple Grove Cemetery at Empire.^{45, 46}

John, born on the island in August of 1865, would remain on the island farm his entire life. At the age of twenty-eight, he married nineteen-year old Bertha Peth. Bertha was born in Chicago on the 20th of May in 1873, the daughter of Lewis and Emelia Peth, and was confirmed at Chicago's St. Columbkille Catholic Church at the age of seventeen.⁴⁷ She arrived on the island the summer of 1891 with Johnny's visiting niece, Katie Tilton (the former Catharine Hoeft, daughter of his eldest sister Elizabeth, who had married Joseph H. Tilton of Chicago.) Coming as the governess of the Tilton children, a romance ensued, and she wound up as their great aunt. John and Bertha were married on May 2, 1893. Bertha's first and only child, a son named Stanley, was born on July 18, 1899.⁴⁸ During Stanley's second year it became apparent that he was ailing with a problem that seemed to be progressively worsening. Bertha took him to Chicago, seeking professional medical help,



but the boy died there on July 5th of 1901 at the home of Bertha's aunt Henrietta (Mrs. Herman Kassin.)⁴⁹ Stanley was buried in the Kassin family plot at the Concordia Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois. John and Bertha were said to be an example of opposites attracting; he being taciturn by nature, while she was chatty and fun-loving. After returning to the island, she and John found it difficult to get along, and apparently quarreled frequently. That eventually led to their divorce. After briefly retreating to her aunt's home in Chicago, she returned to the island, never to leave again. Bertha had actually returned to the island at the request of Theodore Thompson to help care for the four Thompson children after the unexpected death of their young mother, Matilda. "Tillie" Thompson had operated a small store, selling cigarettes, cigars, and candy; a little business that Bertha apparently continued while caring for the Thompson children, and even long after the family had grown up and gone. While having not been able to coexist peaceably under the same roof, John and Bertha eventually reconciled with him alone on the farm, and her living alone in the village. That grew into a life-long relationship of mutual caring, he being her handyman and providing her with firewood for the winter; she supplying him with baked goods and watching over the farm and feeding his cats on the infrequent occasions when John visited the mainland. John died alone sometime in August of 1944; his remains were discovered lying on the ground near his well. Bertha lived another dozen years, finally passing away in 1956 at the age of 83. She and John are both buried in the main cemetery on South Manitou Island, albeit on opposite ends of that one-acre burial place.⁵⁰

Ludwig ("Lewis") was born on South Manitou in 1867. He became the 2nd Assistant Lightkeeper on South Manitou on October 25, 1892, and was promoted to 1st on November 13, 1895. On October 1, 1898 he was transferred to the Pottawatomie Lighthouse on Rock Island, at the tip of the Door Peninsula, leaving that post eight months later to get married.⁵¹ On June 15, 1899, at the age of 33, he married Jesse Belle Haas, the 16-year old daughter of Joseph and Florence Haas, also of South Manitou Island. The wedding was at Glen Haven, with friends from the island, Leonard Erickson and Fanny Foster, in attendance.⁵² After resuming his career, he served as "Keeper" of the Grassy Island Range Lights at Green Bay, Wisconsin for thirty years, from January 1, 1903 until retiring in 1933. They had four children: Gyda (1900,) Jessie (1902,) Laura (1907,) and Louis M. Jr. (1914.)⁵³ Louis died at Green Bay in 1947 and was laid to rest in Green Bay's Fort Howard Memorial Park. Jessie died nineteen years later (March 27, 1966) and was buried at his side.⁵⁴

Louisa was born on South Manitou in December of 1869. She married William P. Vent at Chicago's St. Patrick's Catholic Church on November 23, 1892, he being born in Chicago of Danish/English ancestry⁵⁵ and a wholesale dry goods salesman from that city. He was about a year younger than she, and in later years became a retail merchant with his own clothing store. They had four children; two girls and two boys: Gail A. in August of 1894, Fay L. in February of 1897,

William E. in 1906, and lastly Myron Hutzler Vent on December 3, 1912.⁵⁶ William P. Vent died at Chicago around 1949. Louisa last visited the island in the summer of 1951, accompanied by her daughter Fay and son William. She died at Chicago in 1954. She and her husband were both buried at Chicago. Myron Vent, the author of the first book ever written about the island, being fresh out of Chicago College, took a high school teaching job at Empire, Michigan in 1938.⁵⁷ After two years he enlisted in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Warrant Officer during WW-II. By 1951 he had earned his PhD from the University of Maryland. Prior to retiring in 1977, he served as Deputy Director of the Office of Education and Human Resources with the Agency for International Development. He died in Chevy Chase, Maryland on October 31, 1992.⁵⁸

The Conrad Hutzler Children

Conrad Hutzler apparently had four children; Conrad Hutzler Jr. with Magdalena Forstner, then Catharine, Margaret, and George C. with Marianna Schenk. Marianna had two children from her previous marriage to Christian Schenk; Mary Ann and Roland, who became Conrad's *de facto* step-children. These latter five grew up on South Manitou Island.

Conrad Hutzler Jr. went on to become a ships carpenter, probably employed by one of Buffalo's transportation companies, since he worked variously at Buffalo and Chicago. He appears to have been married twice; first probably at Buffalo in 1870 or 1871 to a New York born girl of fifteen or sixteen known to us only as Barbara. A daughter Lizzie was born shortly thereafter. They lived at Chicago in the summer of 1880, he 35, she 25, and Lizzie then nine.⁵⁹ That marriage evidently lasted for about a dozen years. He next married the widow Mary Roth, probably about 1885 in Buffalo. She already had three children of her own, all boys, ages 9, 7 and 4. They had three more children of their own; Maggie, Annie and Henry.⁶⁰ Conrad Jr. spent all of his remaining years at Buffalo working as a ships carpenter. From city directory data, it would appear that this second family was rather close-knit, some of the children having become notably successful as the owners of Buffalo's "Hutzler Lumber Co."⁶¹ Unfortunately, their father evidently had a dinking problem, and was eventually committed. On January 8, 1919 his wife Mary and son Henry had him admitted to Buffalo's *Erie County Almshouse*, by reason of "Intemperance." His date of birth was recorded as March 23, 1843 so at the time of his committal, he was approaching 76-years of age. Although he was considered still of sound mind, his physical condition was listed as poor, and he was not considered capable of doing any work. He evidently died there in the poor house not long after being admitted. His record lists his mother as "Magdalene" and his father as "Conrad," a *Lake Fireman*; whereabouts unknown.⁶²

Rolland Schenk ("Shank") was born in 1857 at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the son of Christian and Mary Ann Schenk. He was considered to be Conrad Hutzler's step-son, coming to the island with him and his mother when about nine or ten years of age. He spent the rest of his life there, never



marrying, and always working as a common laborer, mostly on the family farm, but also for other island farmers. For most of his life he lived with his parents, and then with his step-brother after George C. Hutzler took over the family farm. On August 14, 1903 he filed a homestead claim for 90-acres on the island's west shore, most of that land consisting of worthless sand hills, with only about four acres of tillable soil.⁶³ There he cleared two acres, built a small house and barn, and planted over two-dozen fruit trees which were enclosed with a pole fence. In his application he claimed to have been living alone on his property, which indeed he may have been according to the census of 1910, and in view of his becoming known among island folks as "the hermit." He died while digging potatoes on the Charles Anderson farm on October 19, 1915, in his 58th year, and just four years after having received the final patent for his property. He was buried in the South Manitou cemetery and rests under a simple cross as "Ruhle" Shank.⁶⁴

Mary Ann Schenk ("Shank") was born in April of 1859, also at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Christian and Mary Ann Schenk. She was considered to be Conrad Hutzler's step-daughter, coming to the island with him and his mother when about five or six years of age. She married Julius Krause, probably at Traverse City, in 1881. He was a German immigrant from the Berlin area who had arrived in 1855 and was ten years older than she. Their first child, Frank, was born in Garfield Township (near Traverse City) on April 28, 1882.^{65, 66} Moving to Kalamazoo, Michigan probably in 1883, he became a molder in a local foundry, and there they had seven more children: Julius Jr (1884-1936), William (1888-1939), Arthur (1890-1970), Elizabeth (1894-1967), Wiley (1899-1978), Albert (1896-1900), and finally Joseph (1902-1903). Julius died at Kalamazoo on January 20, 1920. Mary died only a month later, on February 18, 1920.⁶⁷ Julius, Mary Ann, and all of their children are buried in the family plot at Kalamazoo's Riverside Cemetery.⁶⁸

Catharine appears only in the 1870 and 1880 census records, both which indicate that she was born sometime between June of 1865 and August in 1866, probably in Buffalo, New York. Nothing more is known about Catharine.

Margaret ("Maggie") was born on South Manitou Island in March of 1869. In January of 1886, at age sixteen, she married the neighbor boy, Henry Haas, who was exactly eight years older than her (born in March of 1861).⁶⁹ They acquired the former Aaron Sheridan farm as a wedding gift from their parents, and had two children there: Rosa ("Rosie") in October of 1886, and Harrison in November of 1889.⁷⁰ Rosie married August Warner of Port Oneida and moved onto a small farm there, which came as a wedding gift from the couple's parents. In the early 1920s, she and August moved to the island, August becoming the mail boat operator and a commercial fisherman, while Rosie provided laundry and food services for the Coast Guard men, her home being next door to the Station. Harrison joined the Coast Guard, eventually achieving the top enlisted rank, and retiring at Frankfort after a distinguished career as NCOIC at several stations around the Lake Michigan/Lake

Huron area.⁷¹ Maggie and Henry lived on the island all their lives, he passing away on April 3, 1947, and she on November 20, 1953. Both are buried in South Manitou Island's main cemetery.⁷²

George C. was born on South Manitou Island on October 28, 1872.⁷³ On June 15, 1893 he was married to 17-year old Josephine ("Josie") Beck, a daughter of August Beck, by the Justice of the Peace in Leland.⁷⁴ Their first and only child, Lewis, was born on March 17, 1896.⁷⁵ George's father, Conrad Hutzler, died a month later, which left George in charge of the family farm. After the settlement of his father's estate, George became its sole owner upon buying out his half-brother Conrad Hutzler Jr and his sister Maggie. Josie died on October 8, 1911, after eighteen years of marriage, leaving George with his fifteen-year old son.⁷⁶ For most of the rest of his life, George and his son Lewis ran the farm, living there alone together until Lewis eventually married Lola Longenberger, at the age of thirty-eight.⁷⁷ They became somewhat noteworthy as experimental farmers, working with what was to become Michigan State University in the development of two improved crops; Rosen Rye and the Michilite Bean.⁷⁸ In the years following, they produced seed crops, shipping high quality seed from South Manitou Island to farmers throughout the United States, and even abroad.⁷⁹ Lewis and his wife eventually moved to a farm in Hastings, Michigan. George died there on April 3, 1951 and is buried alongside Lewis and Lola in Barry County's Dowling Cemetery.

The Ends of the Elders

George Johan Hutzler died on his island farm on January 24, of 1890 and was buried there in his apple orchard.^{80, 81} After his death, son his youngest son John took over the farm. His widow, Margaretha, remained on the island for another eleven years, before ultimately moving to Chicago where she lived with her daughter Anna until succumbing to influenza on February 26, 1909. She was buried in Chicago's Forest Home Cemetery.⁸²

George Conrad Hutzler died on his island farm on April 4, 1896,⁸³ and was buried there on a hill overlooking the farm.⁸⁴ At the time of his death, he was listed as a "widower," however there are no known records of his ever having been married to anyone, or regarding what became of the two known women in his life; Magdalena Forstner and Marianna (Ziegler) Schenk.



Editors Note: This essay is a compilation of information from a variety of sources. Special contributions by Joseph A. Orbeck, great-grandson of Conrad Hutzler and Marianne Schenk, are acknowledged with thanks. Other sources include Internet genealogical databases, and other Internet web sites. While information from these sources is not always in agreement, the information contained in this work represents an earnest attempt to remain faithful to the facts, or what was probable given the times and the circumstances of the events.

Copies of documents referenced herein are available on the www.manitousislandsarchives.org web site, or for copyrighted material see the bibliographical information.



References

- ¹ Note: The farmers were George Johann Hutzler, George Conrad Hutzler, Theodore Beck and August Beck.
- ² Vent, Myron. *South Manitou Island: From Pioneer Community to National Park*. 1973. New York: Center for Cultural Resources, 1988. 105p. Print.
- ³ Ships Registry - Hamburg Bark Sir Isaac Newton
- ⁴ New York Passenger Arrival Record – Sir Isaac Newton, January 12, 1853
- ⁵ New York Passenger Arrival Record – Georg Duckwitz, August 16, 1845
- ⁶ 1850 U.S. Census, Buffalo, New York, 4th Ward, pg 76.
Note: Here again, the legibility of the record suggests that it was probably a final transcription of information collected in the field. Conrad Hutzler's age should have been 27, it seems quite possible that the transcriber assumed that was probably incorrect, since that would have made him nine years younger than his wife, so changed it to 37. (Conrad Hutzler's death record (1896) gives his date of birth as July of 1821.)
- ⁷ 1860 U.S. Census, Buffalo, New York, 7th Ward, pg 25
- ⁸ *The City of Buffalo - 1840 to 1850*. Buffalonet – Buffalo and Western New York's Internet Historical Resource (<http://history.buffalonet.org/1840-50.html>) with historic images "Bird's Eye View of the City of Buffalo, NY" (C 1863) on display at the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society Museum (<http://www.buffaloah.com/a/notting/25/hp/hp.html>)
- ⁹ *History of the Germans in Buffalo and Erie County*, Buffalo, N.Y., Reinecke & Zesch, [©1897]
- ¹⁰ *New Steamer*, The Buffalo Daily Courier, Saturday, May 8, 1852
- ¹¹ Comment on steamer Iowa conversion, the Monthly Nautical Magazine and Quarterly Review, Spt 1855, pgs 518-519
- ¹² Notes on Iowa breakdowns; from the Buffalo Daily Republic, May 31, 1856 and the Buffalo Daily Courier, June 2, 1856
- ¹³ Estimated arrival of the Johann Hutzler family at South Manitou Island
Note: In the 1900 census George Isaac Hutzler reported his birth date as January 1854. However, the ages reported for him in the previous two enumerations suggest that he was born sometime between June of 1854 and August of 1855. At the time of his death, February 17, 1909, he was reportedly 54 years old, which would suggest a birth on that date between 1854 and 1855. It is therefore assume that his correct birth date was probably January of 1855. In the 1900 census Katharine reported her birth date as March 1861, which nominally agrees with other documents giving her age. Thus it appears that the Hutzlers arrived some time between the beginning of the shipping season in 1855, and the end of the shipping season in 1860. Since their seventeen-year old daughter Margaret was found employed as a servant in Buffalo in August of 1860, it seems doubtful that they would have left much before that time.
- ¹⁴ Iowa-Gerrit Smith Collision, the Detroit Free Press, July 27, 1860
- ¹⁵ Iowa-Huron Collision, the Buffalo Daily Republic, August 11, 1860
- ¹⁶ Great Lakes Maritime Database - Iowa
- ¹⁷ Land patent for "Conrad Husler," awarded February 10, 1874. Original filing date was April 20, 1868.
- ¹⁸ Note: There is thus far no evidence that Conrad Hutzler and Magdalena Forstner were ever legally married.
- ¹⁹ *The German-Americans, An Ethnic Experience*; Willi Paul Adams; Max Kade German-American Center (Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis), December 1993, Chapter Four: Inequality: Incomes, Occupations, Social Structure.
- ²⁰ Preemption Act of 1841
- ²¹ Homestead Act of 1862
- ²² Land Patents of George Johann Hutzler
Note: George Johann Hutzler held three land patents: one for 160-acres issued in 1869, and two for 80-acres, issued in 1864 and 1865 respectively. The filing date for his 160-acre homestead claim was January 9, 1863. The two 80-acre parcels were acquired as "cash-sale entries" on November 1, 1864 and July 10, 1865, probably purchased at the government's specified minimum price of \$1.25 per acre (\$100 for each parcel.) These cash purchases, doubling the size of the Hutzler farm, suggest that Johann's operation had quickly become quite successful.
- ²³ 1870 U.S. Census, Manitou County, Michigan, South Manitou Island, pg 2.
- ²⁴ *Ibid.* 16
- ²⁵ *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers*, title page and pg 583
Note: The Schenk name appears with various spellings, including "Schenck" and "Shank" – the version most frequently used in island records and literature. "Mary Ann" Schenk was the former Marianna Josephina Ziegler, born November 4, 1835 in Westfalen, Prussia. She and Christian Schenk were married in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on October 26, 1854, which was apparently also the birthplace of their two children, Mary Ann and Roland, and their place of residence at the time of Christian's death. During her adult years, she used various other names, including "Mary Ann," "Mary A.," and "Christina."
- ²⁶ Assorted Records re MaryAnn & Christian Schenk – Birth record, marriage record, military records, and pension record. See also the Joseph A. Orbeck Jr collection of documents archived online at www.manitouislandsarchives.org
- ²⁷ 1870 and 1880 U. S. Census, Manitou County, Michigan, South Manitou Island, pgs 1
Note: The origin of Catherine is uncertain. She appears to have been born in New York State sometime between June of 1865 and August of 1866. Since Christian Schenk, Mary Ann Schenk's first husband died in March of 1865, it is possible that Catharine was his biological daughter. On the other hand, the 1880 U.S. Census identifies her as "Catharine Hutcler," whereas her brother, or half-brother, is identified as "Rollin Shank," suggesting that Catharine was one of Conrad Hutzler's biological children, rather than another daughter of Christian Schenk. However, Catharine is not mentioned as an heir in the August 5, 1896 proceedings regarding the distribution of Conrad Hutzler's estate. That suggests that either she had died before that time (her name does not appear on the 1871-1898 index of Manitou County Deaths,) else she was not one of Conrad Hutzler's biological children.
- ²⁸ Birth Record – Catherine Hoef
- ²⁹ 1870 U.S. Census, Centerville Township, Leelanau County, Michigan, pg 11
- ³⁰ Marriage Records – Katie & Anna Hoef
Note: Katie eventually married Joseph Tilton of Chicago, which resulted in her bringing Bertha Peth to South Manitou Island as a nanny for her children while visiting her Hutzler relatives there. Her sister Anna married Thomas Richard

Kitchen, a lightkeeper on South Manitou Island, who died just four months after the wedding.

³¹ Death record – Elizabeth Hutzler Hoefst

Note: The Hoefst family name frequently appears with variations “Hoefst,” “Hoft” and “Haft.” Elizabeth appears twice in the 1870 U.S. Census; listed with her family in Centerville Township (probably on a farm near Good Harbor) and as an “insane” inmate at the State Hospital in Kalamazoo. Her death was recorded at the Asylum two years later.

³² Death record – George John Hoefst

³³ Birth record – Margaretha “Maggie” Hutzler

³⁴ 1860 U.S. Census, Buffalo, NY, 9th Ward, pg 114

³⁵ Marriage record – Maggie Hutzler & George Aylsworth

³⁶ Headstone images – George & Margaret Aylsworth

³⁷ Vent, Myron. *South Manitou Island: From Pioneer Community to National Park*. 1973. New York: Center for Cultural Resources, 1988. 105p. Print, pg 25.

“During the summer of 1854, while they were still in Buffalo, most of the Hutzlers came down with cholera. Margaretha, who was again expecting, feared for the life of her unborn child and fought the disease valiantly. So did her husband. Having been taken to a hospital, such as they were in those days, George Hutzler lay in bed only half conscious. At one point he heard the attendants say that he would probably be taken away the next day, just as they were doing to the man who died in the bed next to him. It was at this moment, so George later maintained that he made up his mind to fight the disease with all his strength. He would not leave his family alone in a new and strange world without the protection only he could give. And somehow the crisis passed. He was exhausted but alive. Little by little his strength returned and he was able to rejoin his family. But once more he lost a son. Young Georg with the laughing eyes and merry voice was gone.”

³⁸ Birth record – Anna Hutzler

³⁹ Marriage Record – Anna Hutzler & Friedrich Guckenmus

⁴⁰ 1900-1930 U.S. Census – Chicago, IL – Anna & Fred Guckenmus

⁴¹ Death records – Anna & Fred Guckenmus

⁴² Maria Hutzler, 1857 – 1859

Note: According to family genealogies, Maria (Mary) Hutzler was born in 1857 and only lived two years. Exact dates of her birth and death are not given, nor is the cause of death. Some list the place of her birth and death as South Manitou Island (see Linda Ann (Hopkins) Wolf - <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=1567-52848&id=1503>). She is not mentioned in Myron Vent’s monograph about the Johann Hutzler family.

⁴³ Marriage Record – Leonard J Rohr & Katherine Hutzler

⁴⁴ Birth and Marriage records – Elizabeth Rohr

⁴⁵ Death records & headstone – Leonard Rohr & Katharine Hutzler Rohr

⁴⁶ Personal History Summary Sheets – Leonard, Katharine & Elizabeth Rohr

⁴⁷ Birth and christening record – Bertha Peth

⁴⁸ Birth Record – Stanley L. Hutzler

⁴⁹ Death record and certificate – Stanley Hutzler

Note: As plainly indicated on Stanley Hutzler’s death certificate, the ultimate cause of the boy’s death was “hemorrhaging of the bowels,” a common complication of infantile leukemia (re: *Radiological Imaging in Hematological Malignancies*, A. Guermazi ... [et al.] ISBN 3-540-43999-4, pg 359). Swollen glands, darkish blotches on the skin’s surface and easy bruising are other symptoms of the condition’s advanced stages, which may have given rise to the legend that has been perpetuated over the years, that “... while

Bertha was entertaining her friends in the kitchen of the farmhouse, Stanley climbed over the fence where the cattle were pastured and was trampled on by a bull.” (Myron H. Vent – pg 71.) In refuting assertions to the contrary, William E. “Bud” Vent (Myron Vent’s older brother) claimed in a letter to the South Manitou Memorial Society newsletter that “*The death certificate, which mentions ‘Leucemia’ as a cause of death, also states that hemorrhage was the ‘contributing and consecutive cause.’*” That statement plainly reflects a lack of knowledge about infantile leukemia, and was a misinterpretation of the document, prompted no doubt, by his desire to support the rather cruel conjecture that had been traditionally passed on by family members. Had her son actually have died of injuries resulting from her own negligence, it seems unlikely that his mother would have never been able to admit that to anyone over the many years she continued to live, that any reputable physician would have obfuscated that fact when signing the boy’s official death certificate, or that the others who were presumably a party to her negligence would have never eventually come forward to corroborate the Hutzlers’ assertions. The legend apparently sprang from mere gossip, which eventually became even more vicious with the suggestion that it was not other women whom Bertha had been entertaining, but a visiting island sailor.

⁵⁰ Personal History Summary Sheets - John, Bertha & Stanley Hutzler

⁵¹ See the Lake Michigan section of the “Seeing the Light” website at www.terrypepper.com for assignments, promotions and service dates.

⁵² Marriage Record – Louis Hutzler and Jesse Belle Haas

⁵³ 1910, 1920 & 1920 Census records for Green Bay, Wisconsin

⁵⁴ Burial records for Louis & Jessie Hutzler

⁵⁵ Birth Certificate – William Vent

Note: William P. Vent was the ninth child of Mary M’carty and William Vent, a sailor. He was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 24, 1881.

⁵⁶ Marriage record, license & certificate – William Vent & Louisa Hutzler

⁵⁷ *Is the Empire Schoolhouse a Goldmine or a Pandora’s Box?*, Thomas Benn, Glen Arbor Sun, July 3, 2003

“Graduates who live in the area have fond memories of their favorite teachers. For Alice Coppens (class of 1940), it was Myron H. Vent, who arrived in 1938 fresh out of the University of Chicago and intent upon a cultural renaissance. “He wore a different suit every day, brought a briefcase to school, and gave a course in manners,” she remembers. “He organized a glee club, taught us ballroom dancing, and had us writing poetry.” ... Myron Vent stayed two years, then left for another job.”

⁵⁸ Death Record & Obituary – Myron H Vent

⁵⁹ 1880 U.S. Census, Chicago, Illinois, pg 35

⁶⁰ 1880-1910 Census Listings, Buffalo, NY – Mary Roth & Conrad Hutzler Jr

⁶¹ City Directory Records, 1867 – 1924; Conrad Hutzler Jr.

⁶² New York Census of Inmates in Almshouses and Poorhouses, 1875-1921

⁶³ Land Patent – Rolland Shank, February 11, 1935

⁶⁴ Death Certificate & Grave Marker – Rolland Shank, October 19, 1915

“When I got home from school, I picked potatoes until dark, then they would be hauled to the pit after dark for storage. On one of these trips from the field to the pit with a load of potatoes, Albany was driving the horse, and I was on the back of the wagon. Rual Shank had been helping that day, and as he went to pick up his coat and lunch pail, he fell and didn’t get up. I told Albany, and he turned the team around and went back. Rual was lying on the ground near his coat. Albany and I put him on the wagon, took him to the house, and put him on the couch. His half-brother, George Hutzler, was called, and

he was given some brandy and died about 2:00 the next morning. He had no other relatives, so a coffin was ordered from Traverse City and his body was put in the cemetery without a marker. He lived to the west of the island in the woods behind his brother in a one-room shack and did odd jobs wherever he could.” (*Charles M. Anderson in Isle of View, A History of South Manitou Island, self-published, 1979, pg 61.*)

with the date of death engraved on his headstone and Myron Hutzler Vent’s assertion in his monograph *South Manitou Island* that he died in 1888.

⁸² Death Certificate – Margaretha Hutzler

⁸³ Distribution of the Estate of Conrad Hutzler

⁸⁴ Headstone – Conrad Hutzler



⁶⁵ Birth Record – Frank Krause

Note: This document indicates that there was a ten year age difference between husband and wife and that Julius originally came from the Berlin, Germany area. Since the 1870 U.S. Census for Kalamazoo indicates that he was, at 21-years of age, working as a hired hand on the Henry Sterns farm, it is assumed that he was doing the same in Garfield Township, and that he and Mary Ann Schenk had probably been married in Traverse City, which borders the township’s east side.

⁶⁶ U.S. Census records – 1870, 1900 & 1920 for Kalamazoo, Michigan

Note: These documents provide evidence for the immigration date of Julius Kraus, his early occupation of as a farm laborer, the birth dates of Julius Krause and Mary Ann Schenk, and their approximate marriage place and date.

⁶⁷ Death Records – Julius & Mary Ann (Schenk) Krause

⁶⁸ Krause Family Headstones as Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo, Michigan

⁶⁹ Henry Haas – Maggie Hutzler Marriage noted, January 1, 1886, Grand Traverse Herald

⁷⁰ 1900 U.S. Census – South Manitou Island, Michigan

⁷¹ See the biographical article on Harrison Haas in the Spring 2010 ManitouIslandArchives.Org Newsletter at www.manitouislandsarchives.org

⁷² Personal History Summary Sheets & Headstones – Maggie & Henry Haas

⁷³ WW-I Draft Registration Card – George C Hutzler

⁷⁴ Marriage Record – George C Hutzler & Josie Beck

⁷⁵ Birth Record – Lewis C Hutzler

⁷⁶ Death Certificate, Record & Headstone - Josie Hutzler

⁷⁷ Marriage Record - Lewis Hutzler- Lola Longenberger

Note: Lewis Hutzler married Lola O. Longenberger in Adams County, Indiana on December 4, 1934. He was 38; Lola was 45. According to island tradition, she was a "mail order bride," however she was born in Adams County, Indiana on April 20, 1889, and had been employed as a nurse at Chicago's St. Mary's of Nazareth Catholic Hospital for at least 14 years. Since Lewis and his father were frequent exhibitors at Chicago's International Hay and Grain Show, and since Lewis once fell ill in Chicago while attending a trade school to learn automotive mechanics, there would have been opportunities to become acquainted there.

⁷⁸ *The Quarterly Bulletin*, Michigan Agricultural College Experiment Station, Vol 3, No 2, November 1920.

⁷⁹ “Marooned – Rosen Rye Is Michigan”, *The News*, Fredericksburg, Iowa. A syndicated *Men of Earth* feature article by Russel Lord, NWC News Service – April 18, 1935. Also published in *American Farmers and the Rise of Agribusiness*, Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1931

⁸⁰ Index of Deaths 1871 - 1893 Manitou County, Michigan, Source: Manitou County Clerk (Transcript - Originals on microfilm in Charlevoix County Courthouse, Charlevoix, Michigan

⁸¹ Death records & headstone – George Johann Hutzler

Note: The records of *Manitou County Deaths* and transcripts thereof variously list George Johann Hutzler’s place of death as North Manitou Island and January 24, 1890, age 74 and 6 months. However, the New York Ship Arrival Record for the Hutzler family and subsequent census data consistently indicate that his actual date of birth was 1814, which agrees