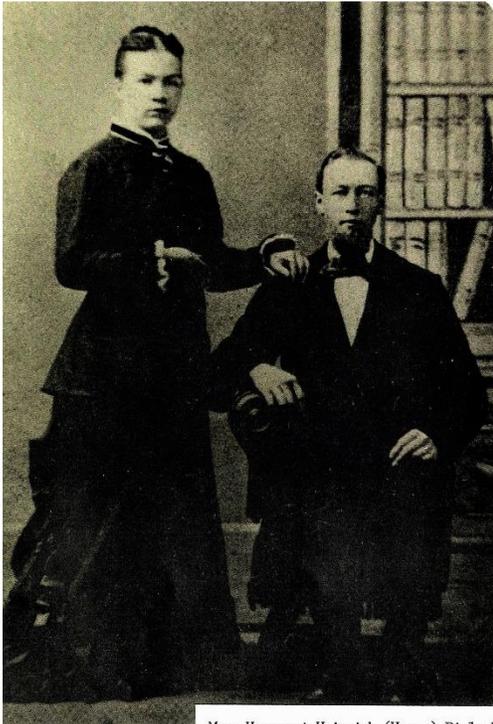


Bielenberg Journal

The Bielenberg Family and John and Mary Lorang were part of a group of 11 who traveled West on the first emigrant train to Riparia, WA, then by steamboat to Lewiston and then by wagon up Lewiston Hill on Silcott Road. Here are excerpts from Len Bielenberg's family history.....

“1974 Interview with Helen (Bielenberg) Jutte, Florence Bielenberg, John Bielenberg (nephew)

In 1884, Henry Mary, Beldie, Matt, Nick, and Mary's mother (Maria Lea Hennes) moved west traveling by train. *(with John and Mary Lorang and others)* Aunt Florence told of baby Nick being sick during entire trip. They arrived at Dutch Flat, near Colton, WA soon leaving for a new home in the Moscow mountains near Moscow, ID, where they homesteaded.



Mary Hennes + Heinrich (Henry) Bielenberg
married Nov. 27, 1879
St. Marys Catholic Church
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin



HEINRICH + MARY
had
12 children
BALTAZAR HUEBERT
MATTHIAS ALOYS
NICHOLAS FRANK
HELEN M
EMELIE M
HENRY JOSEPH
ANTON WILLIAM
FLORENCE J
AGNES MARGARET
JOSEPH PAUL
HERMAN CHRISTIAN
EDWIN GEORGE



Mary Hennes





Grandma
Mary Hennes

Six more children were born here; Helen 12-15-1884, Emelie 12-23-1886, Henry 4-18-1890, Anton 2-17-1892, Florence 11-28-1893, Agnes 6-18-1896. Henry and boys cleared ground, made wood and farmed the land.



b.r. Henry J. (Harry) (4/18/1890-10/4/1918) , Emelie M (12/23/1886-7/19/1963), Nicholas F. (8/17/1883-6/2/1975, Mathias Aloys (2/6/1882-10/2/1966), Balthasar H. (12/26/1880-11/25/1970), Helen M. (12/15/1884-4/17/1980), Anton W. (2/17/1892-5/5/1938), f.r. Florence J. (11/28/1893-9/15/1990), Mary (4/10/1862-10/7/1942), Herman C. (1/6/1901-7/9/1995), Heinrick (1/17/1850-7/1/1938), Edwin George (9/13/1903-5/15/1983, Agnes M (8/31/1896-1/29/1989) Joseph P. (10/18/1898-6/28/1978

Wood was delivered with wagon or sled drawn by horses to Moscow and sold. In 1897, the family moved from Moscow to Genesee, ID. The 80 acre Geiger place was rented for about 13 years. In 1910, they purchased the 120 acre Breshler place, Hasbrook 20 acres, and rented some land from Stan Becker. The last three children; Joseph 10-18-1898, Herman 1-6-1901, Edwin 9-13-1903, were born at the Geiger place. Edwin worked and lived on the home place with his wife and family. Henry and Mary celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary 11-27-1929 with 11 of their 12 children in attendance. Henry (*Bielenberg*), was killed in action during WWI.

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Helen was born in the Moscow mountains area December 15, 1884. Helen stated the family moved to Colton, WA, where her sister Emilia was born in 1886, then the family moved back to the Moscow area. They lived in a shack by the sawmill where their father worked. They bought this place from Jacob Cambridge, (*Kambitsch?*) a rich guy. The place was purchased on a payment plan. A log cabin home was later built on the property by Henry, their dad. He also helped build a little brown school house about a mile from their home. The kids (Beldie, Matt, Nick, and Helen) attended school here. The kids used to pay in the sawdust pile by the mill. The log cabin was one large room with a loft. There was a partition separating the kitchen/living area from the bedroom for the parents. They had a trundle bed for the little ones which was rolled under the parents' bed during the day. Older children slept in the loft. Henry and older boys also made wood, selling it in Moscow to provide for the family. Business was pretty good at times. He cleared and farmed 35 acres using a walking plow pulled by horses. They also had a couple of milk cows. He hunted grouse and pine squirrels for meat. They also raised a few hogs. Sometimes the neighbors got deer and some bear meat to share. They also had a nice garden and small orchard. At one time there was a small store, which later moved. If Henry had money, he would buy what was needed.

Mother (Mary) did the laundry with a wash board by the creek in summer. They had a stove by the creek to heat water. They had a well for water in winter, but dried up in summer, making it necessary to use the creek. The washed clothes were carried home to dry. Soap was homemade using lard.

School was basic reading, writing, and arithmetic. Each child had their book and didn't advance by grade. When they completed one book they would advance to the next book as each was capable. School was held for only four or five months. In spring kids were kept home to work. In the fall the teacher asked why the kids weren't in school and they replied they had to trim cabbage to make sauerkraut. Their mother (Mary) knit all stockings and kept them darned. They had store bought shoes. Dad repaired their shoes. In the summer, all went barefoot. Older boys talked about dad making wooden shoes with leather tops. In winter, they wrapped their shoes with gunny sacks to help keep feet dry in deep snow. When they got home, they had to shed gunny sacks before entering the cabin. Henry built a huge outside oven for baking bread, made of rock and clay. Pa always built a fire to get the oven hot for baking. Ma set the bread and enough was baked for the week. They had an iron stove in kitchen for cooking. The family ate a lot of bread. They purchased the flour in Moscow and stored it in barrels. They cured pork in brine and smoked it, using cherry wood. They had a small barn for two cows and two or three horses. The kids loved to ride to the neighbors for fun. The parents were called Pa and Ma. German was the common language at home. In later years, the kids would speak English, upsetting Pa! When necessary to get up at night there was a small coal oil lantern to use. Emilia always insisted her sister Helen (*aufsetzen*

das licht) put the light on as she would not go out without it. Since Helen slept on the front side of the bed she had no choice. Helen would often slip out without using the light. Upon rising in the morning, Dad and family would kneel by the table for prayer, followed by table prayer before breakfast. Breakfast was usually ground wheat cooked for cereal. If they were served bacon, it was one piece each, two for Dad, no seconds! Father was very strict, Mother with discipline. This was the difference between parents, things went well.

Wisconsin Life... Christian Hennes (Mary's father) was a blacksmith. Henry (grandpa) was a Lutheran, reading and studying the Bible a lot. Early in life he wanted to accept Catholicism, but chose not to change while his mother was living as it would break her heart. Before he knew Mary, his future bride and after his parents' death he converted to Catholic. His parents were Henry (Heinrich) Bielenberg and Gretchen Gloe both German born, Mary married very young, with much encouragement from an Aunt stating she had a good opportunity and Henry was a good man.

After having three boys, Beldie, Matt, and Nick, they sold the Wisconsin farm seeking a better life in the West. The John Lorang, Mike Schultze, and Ed Domstand families traveled with them, along with Mary Ann Leon Hennis, Mary's mother. Nick was nine months old, puny and not well. They traveled by train to Rightsberry, by boat to Lewiston, likely being met with horse and wagon, traveling to Moscow. They lived in Moscow, then Dutch Flats in Colton and back to Moscow. Henry worked in the Moscow Mountains sawmill. He was asked to supervise the mill crew but didn't want the responsibility disappointing Mother as it would have been better pay.

Mary Leon Hennes came to Moscow with her daughter. Mary had four brothers: Nick, Matt, Joe, and Hubert. Mary Ann had purchased property in Moscow, a small house with one room and a kitchen. Her brother Hubert also came west and built a shed on the side of the house for him. Mary Ann's Husband, Christian Hennes, never came west from New Holstein, Fort de lac, Wisconsin. He intended to, but died before coming west. Joe Hennes came west and raised show horses. Later he and Matt Bielenberg moved to a homestead at Camas Prairie, Hill City, Idaho. Joe met and married Esther Bell and they lived in Mountain Home, Idaho. Matt Bielenberg married Katherina Winter and later moved to CA. Nick was blind. He came one summer to see his sister Mary Ann and Helen and Joe Jutte. Aunt Mary Merdeth Leon had boys. Leo worked for dad, Albert died of diphtheria, Anthony worked on the railroad and transferred to Colton. She ran a store there.

Grandpa heard about the Geiger place in Genesee, so when Agnes was a baby, the family moved to the Genesee area. Henry Joseph b. 4/18/1890, Anton William b. 2/17/1892, Florence J. b. 11/28/1893, Agnes Margaret b. 8/31/1896 were all born in the cabin in Moscow Mts. Pa felt the farm in

Genesee would be much better to support the family needs, so he dropped payments on the Moscow property and made the move (possibly in early 1897). Grandma Hennes inherited a two-wheeled cart, which the family drove to Genesee. Helen remembers singing “Good-bye to the Mountain, “The Hills and the Wildwoods”, and “We Can’t Live Without These Sweet Memories” as they traveled on their way to the new home.

While living on the Geiger place, Helen remembers a salesman from Germany selling jewelry who knew of the Bielenbergs in Germany. He knew of Herr von Bielenberg indicating, royal blood. Henry was scared for his family and wanted no claim to royal heritage. He knew of this but said, “What good is it to be of royalty and have nothing?”

Helen was always playing tricks. She remembers just before she married in 1906, the girls were cleaning the stove pipes. She had Florence holding a lid over the outlet downstairs and Helen was to go up and clean the pipes. She left and let Florence stand holding the lid. Both of them were supposed to be outside picking beans.