

**Mrs. Kambitsch Celebrates 92nd Birthday
Big Celebration at Genesee**

Long a resident of Lewiston and Lewiston County and loved by all.

(By Mrs. R.E. Hanrahan), 1924

On the evening of Oct. 15, 1832, in the town of Steinlsch, Baden Germany, an adoring mother and a proud father, gazed upon their new baby daughter with mixed relief and fears; relief that the tiny person had safely arrived into this world--fears for the dangers which might beset her in her future travels through life.

Theressia Geiger was the dignified name of this so very small lady who's future mattered not at all to her in spite of any concern of her parents.

And what a future has enrolled itself for Theressia—for ninety two years it has been gradually unfolding it's secrets to her, and today the mark of another milestone in her life is to be the occasion of a happy gathering of six children, thirty-two grandchildren, and twenty-two great grandchildren to celebrate her 92nd birthday.

Theressia Geiger has for over sixty years been Mrs. Jacob Kambitsch, with her home for a great many years at Thorn Creek, and the past twenty-two years at Genesee. It is in this Genesee home that the delightful family reunion and celebration takes place today with all the joyful rites of a birthday anniversary, a beautifully decorated cake bearing ninety-two candles forming an artistic and delicious part of the festivities. Not only the members of the family of Mrs. Kambitsch, but scores of friends in the Genesee and Lewiston countries are sending their congratulations and felicitations.

Ninety-two years old: Today, as she receives the homage of her adoring family and devoted friends, Mrs. Kambitsch will, no doubt, be asked to recount some of the interesting phases of her long life, which has been lived on two continents—and what a fund of narratives she must have stored away among her memories! For these are the outstanding facts of her life:

As we said, she was born in Germany, where she lived until she was twenty-one years of age; then seized with a desire to seek her fortune in a new country this courageous young woman started on a journey fraught with many an unforeseen hazard.

Today was we hail as intrepid the aviatrix who placed her faith in a bit of machinery, wood, cloth and her knowledge of the craft of flying, as she starts

on an airship voyage of a few hours across the sea. Was Theressia Geiger any less intrepid when she cast her lot with a sailing vessel of 1856, which took over eighty days for its crossing the Atlantic?

Not so very commodious were the accommodations of those sailing vessels. Not to be trusted were the sky and sea of 1856, any more than is the sky and sea of 1924. But this vessel in which Miss Geiger crossed from Germany landed safely, and a young German girl, without a friend, and not knowing a word of English, saw her first American city-- New York.

That city was her home until the end of the Civil War, and then she responded to the post-war boom at St. Louis to make her home there.

It was in St. Louis that Miss Geiger met and became the bride of Jacob Kambitsch, a stalwart young Prussian who had done his bit toward defeating the south, with service as a gun man in the army from the beginning to the end of the war.

Mr. and Mrs. Kambitsch resided in St. Louis for a few years after their marriage, but the valiant pioneer spirit of the two urged them to a newer west.

Knowing not what his destination would be, and fearing the uncertain conditions to be met on the journey, Mr. Kambitsch left his wife and two baby daughters safely at home while he ventured forth alone, determined to soon find a fortune and a new home.

The first stop in his travels was at Helena, Montana, from where tales of rich mines had reached him. He felt that his savings of six hundred dollars would yield him a small fortune, if not a great one. He received many alluring invitations to invest his money, but, having done so, that was all he did receive and so, disappointed, but undaunted he once again, bravely, set out on a further quest. Farther west.

And he walked. Walking cost nothing—but a fine faith in your future, and that fare Jacob Kambitsch possessed. He walked for days and nights, sometimes getting lost, but always eventually finding a shelter and the hospitality of some cabin dweller along the way. Following, probably, the Lolo pass, he finally reached Lewiston and here he decided to make his home, sending immediately for his family.

Mrs. Kambitsch and her two babies, as soon as they received the word, left St. Louis for Lewiston—but by what a route! Down the Mississippi they sailed, down and around the Cape Horn, up to San Francisco, and then to Portland, Oregon. There Mrs. Kambitsch, her two children and her last dollar came to a

stop. They went to the New York Hotel which was run by a kindly Jewess. To her Mrs. Kambitsch explained her situation, and the landlady, sympathetic and trusting, invited Mrs. Kambitsch to remain until she could proceed on her way, advancing her 50 dollars in gold. This generous act has remained as a bright memory with Mrs. Kambitsch an illustration of the trust and generosity of the West in those days.

From Portland to Walla Walla, Mrs. Kambitsch and babies travelled by stage; being met there by her husband, who brought them on to Lewiston.

Here Mr. Kambitsch, desperately in need of money, was shown another demonstration of the kindly cooperation of the westerners when the firm of Lowenberg company loaned him five hundred dollars without any security other than his appearance of honest and sincerity.

With this financial assistance he installed his family in a new home which stood where the Clearwater Timber company mills now stand, living there from 1869 on, for several years. Here their third child was born, she being the fourth child born in Lewiston. She is now Mrs. Mary Shoebar of Cottonwood.

Wishing to take advantage of his soldier's right to a homestead, Mr. Kambitsch settled on a claim—four miles north of what is now the Twenty-One Ranch, the latter being then occupied by Mr. Joe Schessler.

But after residing here for a short time Mr. Kambitsch deciding that the Palouse country offered him greater possibilities, remove his family to Thorn Creek, near Genesee, where he spend the remainder of his life.

Moving to Thorn Creek offered no greater problem in transference than that of loading on to a hay-rack, drawn by two horses, his worldly goods, and seating there in the family, to which a son Joseph, had been added during their stay on the homestead.

At best it was not a pleasant trip, especially when nightfall brought a wind and rain storm of combined forces to greet them as they neared the top of the north hills, compelling them to halt in the deep mud through which their horses could haul the load no further.

Mr. Kambitsch started in search of assistance. Did Mrs. Kambitsch waiting there in the cold and dark with the tired babies, pray? Indeed, she did. She has a very deep devotion to her faith, and her prayer was a most fervent one in that time of need.

At last her husband returned with men and horses from the Ruddy stage station at the top of the hill, and again they were on their way.

At the state station, the old Ruddy home threw out a cheery greeting of lighted windows. With characteristic western friendliness and solicitude Mrs. Ruddy stood, hospitality, in the doorway to receive the wet and weary family into her large living room.

A leaping fire blazed on the hearth. There was the odor of warm foods, where was hospitality—shelter.

The tired mother lifted her eyes, and saw over the mantel, a picture of the Madonna. “Ah” she said. “God guided us here.”

That has been the spirit with which Mrs. Kambitsch has met life. She has firmly believed that every hardship has been overcome by divine guidance, and she does not attribute their years of prosperity so much to perseverance and hard work as to divine aid.

And successful they have been since that stormy night.

Mr. Kambitsch, refusing to raise wheat to sell at twenty-five and fifty cents a bushel when he sensed success with flax-growing, experimented with great fortune, and the first flax ever grown in that country he raised to sell for a dollar and a half a bushel. His produce he marketed in Lewiston.

The first year at Thorn creek was a busy one. What with the house building, soil breaking, planting and harvesting, but Mr. Kambitsch had a help-mate who worked by his side through it all, preparing the lumber for the home, tilling the soil—anything, everything, to say nothing of giving her housework every attention, rearing her own six children and a seventh child, and infant whose mother, a neighbor, had died at his birth (William Tierney, Sr.)

And Mrs. Kambitsch would have flowers all around her. She was never too busy to cultivate them. She imported and planted the first flower seeds in the Palouse country, and today her home is surrounded with exquisite blooms, roses festooning themselves lovingly over her doorway.

Mr. Kambitsch lived through an eventful life full of hard work which won for him the staunch friendship of a large community, and an enviable fortune. He celebrated ninety-one birthdays before his death which occurred in March, 1922, four months before his ninety-second birthday. He was proud of his years and was a man of great strength until the last.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kambitsch were born Mrs. Jacksha, of Moscow; Mrs. Frank Bruegeman, Lewiston Orchards; Mrs. Mary Shoeber, Cottonwood; Mr. Joseph Kambitsch, Thorn Creek; Mrs. Andrew Clemm, Thorn Creek; and Mrs. John Hordeman, Thorn Creek. Those daughters and son with their families will

gather today at the home of their mother for a joyous birthday celebration and no doubt the honored lady will be asked to recall and recount some of the phases of her long and interesting life lived on two continents. What a fund of memories she much have.

GENESEE (2,677 alt.; pop. 750)

The valley is 18 miles south of Moscow was first settled in 1871 by Jacob Kambitsch and named Genesee because it resembled the Genesee valley in the New York state. In the early 1880's Louis Levy and his father established a store which was the beginning of the town. In 1888 when the railroad was built through the valley the town was moved a mile to be on the rail line. Recently, Louis Levy, at the age of 83, died in San Francisco. Genesee is a thriving town in an agricultural wonderland. It serves a large and productive area that is given chiefly to farming, dairying and lumbering.

PASSING OF AGED MAN

Jacob Kambitsch Departed This Life Sunday Night—

Was Pioneer of Genesee Country

Jacob Kambitsch, a pioneer of the Genesee country and an esteemed citizen, passed away Sunday night, March 19, 1922, at 9 o'clock at the advanced age of 91 years, seven months and 29 days. His death came after a short illness and was due to high blood pressure and old age.

The deceased was born July 20, 1831, at Semic, Austria and came to the United States in 1857. He served for three years in the Civil War under General Siegel in the Second Missouri artillery and was mustered out with his regiment at the close of the conflict and was one of the few Grand Army men left in Genesee. He also served five years in the Austrian army before coming to America.

Mr. Kambitsch was united in marriage to Teresa Gieger at St. Louis, MI, February 12, 1865, and they had walked life's path together for 57 years, many of their wedding anniversaries having been celebrated by their family.

In 1865 he walked from Montana to Lewiston, Idaho, and took up land where the fairgrounds of Lewiston are at the present time and later went to Waha Lake. In 1872 he came to Thorn creek and was engaged in farming until he retired in 1904 and came to Genesee to reside.

His devoted wife and six children and a large progeny survive him. The children are: Mrs. Emma Jacksha, Moscow; Mrs. Anna Brueggeman, Lewiston; Mrs. Mary Schober, Cottonwood; Joseph Kambitsch, Mrs. Louise Klem and Mrs. Clara Hordeman of Thorn creek. There are 40 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Impressive funeral services were held from St. Mary's Catholic church Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock and were conducted by Rev. Fr. L. C. Godschalx, pastor.

The funeral was very largely attended and the many beautiful floral offerings attested the high regard in which the deceased was held.

The choir from St. Joseph's school, Sister Seraphim, directing, sang the requiem mass. Altar boys assisting were Ernest Kraut, Andrew Grieser, Albert Jacobs and Edwin Hasfurther.

The pallbearers were grandsons of the deceased, as follows: Johnny Jacksha, Walter Jacksha, Jack Kambitsch, Ernest Hordemann, Virgil Klem and Joe Brueggeman. Internment was made in St. Mary's cemetery.

Those from out of town to attend the funeral were: Mrs. Elmer Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jacksha, Miss Dolly Jacksha and Tim Sullivan of Moscow, Mrs. Gus Birchmire of Kendrick; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brueggeman of Johnson, Wash.; Louis Brueggeman of Colton and Mr. and Mrs. Brueggeman and Ferdinand Brueggeman of Thorncreek. All the daughters and sons were in attendance.

Jacob Kambitsch (L), Jacob and Teressia Kambitsch (R)
Below: the Ruddy/Collins stopping place on top of Lewiston Hill



1946

April 19

Parents Of Daughter - Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Rabdau are the parents of a daughter born Thursday morning, April 18, at the Sacred Heart hospital in Spokane.

Mrs. Elliot Passes Away - Mrs. Sarah Elliot, long-time resident of the Genesee community and Lewiston, died at 11:40 a. m. April 10, at the home of her son, Dr. T. A. Elliot in Lewiston. In recent years the deceased spent some time at the Elliot ranch south of Genesee, and part of the time with her son and his wife in Lewiston. For many years she was a resident of Genesee and was well known here, as she was in Lewiston.

Mrs. Sarah Ruddy Elliot, 84 at the time of death, was the first school teacher in Whitman county. The school was at Leachville, west of Colton, which has ceased to exist for years. The deceased was born February 5, 1862, at Exeter, Canada, and came west with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ruddy. They made the trip to San Francisco on the second transcontinental train, and in 1871 the family was living in Lewiston. The family later settled on a farm near the present junction of the North and South Highway and the Spokane-Lewiston Highway. The home became the Ruddy Stage Station, serving travelers who made the trip to and from Lewiston over the old grade. When the Ruddy family settled at the place mentioned there were but two other families in the Genesee-Uniontown-Colton area, the Mike Leach and Mike Tierney families. Mrs. Elliot, possessing a keen memory, could recall the names of many people traveling the horse-drawn stages of the pioneer days, and was interested in the early-day history of central Idaho and eastern Washington. For several years Genesee was host to pioneers of this area Community Day. Such occasions offered Mrs. Elliot an opportunity to meet her many early-day friends. On one such day she was chosen as queen of the event.

Miss Sarah Ruddy married Mr. Dick Elliot in 1882. He was a prominent cattle and sheepman, who operated ranches in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana. At one time he owned what was known as the Indian Cache Ranch near Lewiston. In 1890 Mr. and Mrs. Elliot and son moved to Tacoma where Mr. Elliot was a director of the National Bank of Commerce. He died December 25, 1892, and soon after his death Mrs. Elliot returned to Lewiston.

She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Margaret Vennigerholz, San Francisco, and Mrs. Jennie Parker, Eugene, Ore.; one son, Dr. T. A. Elliot, Lewiston; and eight nephews, one niece and three grand nieces.

Funeral services were conducted at the Vassar-Rawls Chapel in Lewiston Saturday at 11 a. m. The Rev. Frederick K. Belton of Lewiston officiated. ... The body was taken to Spokane for cremation, and was accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. T. A. Elliot