

ADA GAUSS

Ada N. Gauss was born to Gottfried and Mary Elizabeth Brooks GAUSS on May 12, 1878 in Unidella ,Michigan. She had 4 brothers Hartman. William, Eugene, and Fredrick. Her mother died when she was about 10 years old of T.B. known as consumpton in those days. She tried to do a lot of things around the house. One that I remember her telling about was making the bread, she had to stand on a box to knead it and her brother Hart hepeld quite a lot. HER FATHER was a shoe maker and he traveled by foot or horseback to get orders, buy the leather and deliver his products, so he was away from home a lot.

She met, I don't know where, FRank Van Syckel and the became friends, some letters that we found showed that they corresponded for some time. The church were their social gatherings. On November 15, 1899 they were married. Thet went to live on a farm owned by his uncle John Van Syckel whose wife had died several years before. The farm was located north- west of the little village of Plainfield. During the winter it was decided Frank's parents would buy a house in Plainfield and Frank AND Ada would take over their farm. This move was done in the spring of 1901.

Ada Van Syckel -

The farm that Ada came to live on after she married Frank VanSyckel November 15 1899 was chartered to Samuel F. VanSyckel by President Martin Van Buren August 12, 1837. It was located on Van Syckel road near Plainfield Michigan in Livingston county. Frank was able to buy his sister's share of the farm after it was willed to them by their father Edgar VanSyckel in 1922. HE did general farming with milking cows, ^{raising} sheep, hogs, and chickens. Ada made many lbs of excellent butter that was shipped by train with fresh eggs each week to DETroit. She was an fine cook and houekeeper. She enjoyed it very much. She adored her husband and children, she was a quietspoken person that I never heard complain about anything. She enjoyed her church and read her Bible regularly. FRank was a small man with beautiful white hair from the time he was young. He was a very hard worker and they hired extar man to help do the farm work. But I have also heard my mother tell about all the farm work she and Eugenia did during the summer, especially at haying time. One time she told about them getting to the barn on top of the wagon to find they had a rattle snake riding with them. I remember a few things when they were on the farm. ONE Christmas we were to spend Christmas day with our grandparents and there had been so much snow that Van Syckel road was blocked, so grandpa camme across a field with his horses and sleigh to get us and he took us back to our car latter in the afternoon. Christmas a grandma's was special the tree and gifts were shut in the paarlor until after a delious dinner had been served by grandma around her lon, table (that I now serve my family and friends on. I remeber a picture that hung over her table that was a dish of fruit. In the summer time when we visited some, I remember a playhouse that Auntie Marjorie had made under the trees out from the kitchen, we had lots of spice boxes to play with. Grandpa had Sugar Diabetes and ther^e was't insulin to use at that time so he battled it with diet but he would crave sweets so much that it was hard for them to controll it. He got sick and developed pneumonia and died Oct0ber 1, 1930. Eugenia VanSyckel Delamarter was made the Executrix of the estate. Louisa told that her dad never forgave her for spending some money on a special hat and she felt that he felt she was a spender. Grandma moved into a house in Plainfield that had belonged to Mary Louise Montague (Frank's mother). They rented the farm for a few years and finally sold it to Ray and Cora Hill on December 20, 1938. As I remember it Majorie lived with her there for years. After she was married to Heil Grubaugh the both worked at the HOWELL T.B. sanitorium for some time. After they moved Grandma started coming to stay with us in the winters. She started coming in the years of 1937 & 38. I found that in those years mama spoke, in her diarys, that Grandma did a lot of the ironing and always kept the mending done. I can remember her always helping us with the night dishes. She was always very quiet and never corrected us unless she was left in charge. She always went home in t;he summer time so she could enjoy quiet, her church, neighbors, and family that still lived near. In 1941 when I graduated from high school she wanted to go visit her sister-in-law Lydia and her familys

who lived in Californian and Arziona. My father bought a new car for us to drive and she paid the expenes of the trip. We were gone 6 weeks and had a wonderfull time . We first visitec in Globe Arziona with her nieceLeta, her husband Barney and son Richard. The heat bothered Grandma very much so I bought a car window fan cooler before we went on across the desert which did help alot. The night we arrived in Yuma, it was so hot she could not stand it outdoors so I got a motel that was air cooled and she stayed in. I went and got a light lunch at a drug store and brought her back a lunch. We arrived the next day in Long Beach to Lydia's, she was Grandma's brother Gene's wife. It was much cooler by the water and she was able to remember many things and good times they had together. Lydia's daughter Lucille Nutter also lived in Long Beach and we vivisted with them many times. Her husband was Ray and their son was Gerry. We spent several weeks with each family, While we were in Long Beach we took a trip to Catalina and rode a glass bottom boat. We visited a cousin Majorie Montague in L. A. she took us on a tour of Hollywood. Then we went North to San Francisco ,went to Fisherman's Wrapf, Golden Gate Bridge and park there. Then we went North to visit Gorden and Gene GAuss who was Grandma's nephew. We did a lot of sight seeing while we were there and she was able to keep up very well. After we got home that summer she went home to Plainfield. We cannot put a date or when the family felt it was too dangeous to have Grandma by herselp, so they moved her to our house to stay. She was able for some time to work for a lady in East Lansing . But she came back and use to just sit and rock. My dad told us he wanted us all to learn to knit because he felt it was ashame that ~~She~~ she couldn't do some hand work. She got so she couldn't remember and ask the same questions over and over. The DR. said it was harding of the arteries. She went with my folks to Florida 1946, but after that she stayed with Bun and I. When the folks built there little house she stayed with them summers. When daddy died in 1950 she didn't know who he was. In the years that followed there isn't recorded and so we have tried to put together some imformation. Mother Married Jacob Lange in August of 1951 and at that time I belive Grandma was living with some ladies in a rest home. They decided to move and so Eugenia took her back to her house until summer. Then Mother and Margaret Ann kept her in Jackson that summer. By this time she was very hard to care for for she slept very little and would get up and wonder all over the house. So Margaret slept on a cot across the doorway so she couldn't get out it was a very hard summer. I belive that she went back to live with Eugenia in the fall about 1954. AT Thanksgiving time she broke a hip and was then in the hospital for some time she developed pneumonia and died January 8 1955. I was very fortunate to have had my Grandma teach me to bake bread and make molasses and sugar cookies.

Thoughts of Ada Black Huyck Mead on

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