

# A Tale Of Two Sisters

**Susanna and Anna Marie were the 9th and 10th children of eleven that were born to Joseph and Katherine (Wenzel or Wenzelle) Friedman. They both married into the Gaul family.**

**Susanna Friedman** was born November 13, 1856 at Luxemburg, Iowa. She married Nicholas Gaul February 1, 1876 at Holy Trinity, Luxemburg, Iowa. (It was a double wedding with her brother George marrying Katharine Westendorf.)



*Nicholas and Susanna  
(Friedman) Gaul*

A deed dated December 1, 1875 and recorded March 4, 1876, leads us to believe that Nicholas purchased an 80 acre farm in western Iowa in the fall of 1875. Then, after his marriage to Susanna, they moved some 300 hundred miles from Luxemburg in northeastern Iowa, to Shelby county in western Iowa.

Susanna must have been thrilled when her first born was a girl. After a year away from her family, she undoubtedly was lonely, isolated as she was on that raw farmstead. Although a boy would eventually 'lighten' Nicholas's farm labors, this girl, who they named Elizabeth, would, as we shall see, lighten his labors to a far greater extent. Elizabeth was born April 12, 1877. Susanna was pregnant again before the end of that year.

On August 24, 1878, a son was born to Nicholas and Susanna. They named him

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**Anna Marie Friedman** was born June 27, 1858 at Luxemburg, Iowa. She married John Gaul February 15, 1878 at Luxemburg, Iowa. (John is the oldest child of Peter Gaul, the brother of Johann Wilhelm Gaul and uncle to Nicholas.)



*John and Anna Marie  
(Friedman) Gaul*

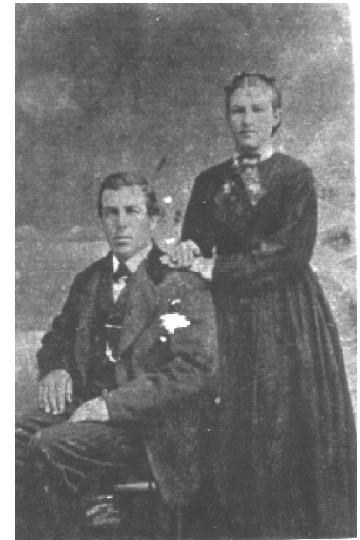
The couple farmed near Alton, Iowa, later moving to Remsen and Granville. The family moved to Bancroft, Iowa, about 1890,

The oldest son, Peter Aloysius, was born on November 15, 1878. Three sisters followed in successive years, Kathryn born April 3, 1880; Apollonia born October 5, 1881, and Mary born November 1, 1882. Two sons then came to even the number, George born March 25, 1884, and Jacob born March 9, 1886.

In 1887, the home was struck by a tragedy. Young Peter, attending school, came down with diphtheria. He recovered, but within a week three sisters and one brother died of the dread disease: Kathryn on March 27; Apollonia on March 28th, Mary on March 30th and Jacob on April 4th. What a shock, to have four out of six children suddenly die.

Soon other children came to replace those taken away by diphtheria. Susana came into the world on September 14, 1887; Clara was born December 12,

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*Joseph (1813-1882) and Katherine  
(Wenzel) (1822-1861) Friedman*

In the 1830's, Katherine Wenzel's family moved from Berks County, Pennsylvania to the Canton, Ohio area (Stark County) by ox cart. Mary Ann, the oldest in the family (early teens) drove one team of oxen and her father, Andrew, drove another. It was there Katherine met Joseph Friedman, who had come the United States from Baden, Germany not long before. They were married on June 1, 1841 at St. John Baptist Church in Canton, Ohio. They moved to Dubuque County, Iowa in 1856. Their Children were:

**John** Friedman, born October 3, 1841, died on October 11, 1844. John, just three years old, climbed up on a log fence and stuck his head through the opening between the top two logs to watch the men in the field digging potatoes. He lost his footing, slipped and hung himself.

**Andrew** Friedman, born June 5, 1843 at Morges, Carroll County, Ohio. He married Margaret Scher at Luxemburg, Iowa on January 15, 1867. They moved to Indiana where, in Huntington, Indiana on April 8, 1924, he died. He and Margaret had 14 children and his descendants are numerous.

**Anton** Friedman, born October 14, 1844 at Morges, Ohio. On April 19, 1868 he married Elizabeth Westendorf. He died July 20, 1900 at Luxemburg, Iowa.

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*Susanna Friedman, continued*

William. Another son was born on March 23, 1880 whom they named John. They were heartbroken when John lived only until the first of August of 1880. But then in 1881, Nicholas and Susanna received the ultimate Christmas present. They named their daughter born that day, Marie. As it turned out, they would have no more girls.

On September 15, 1883, a son, Jacob, was born. Son, Peter, was born July 2, 1886. John was born September 4, 1888. This must have been a happy and exciting time for the Gaul family. The family was growing and Nicholas and Susanna were prospering.

In 1891 an event occurred that seemed to happen to someone in every other generation of the Gaul family. Susanna, at age thirty five, gave birth to twins. They named the twin boys, born May 27, 1891, Theodore and Jacob Joseph. They both died during the next month. Theodore died June 21. Jacob Joseph died June 28. Like so many other pioneer women, Susanna's age, the hard life on the land and the toll of her past child-bearing with little or no medical attention was taxing her health. Nevertheless, she became pregnant again within a few months and their son Paul was born on April 12, 1892. Little Paul would grow up with no memory of his mother.

Four days after Paul celebrated his first birthday, on April 16, 1893, his younger brother was born. He was named Nicholas after his father. Their mother, Susanna (Friedman) Gaul, died a few days later on April 24, 1893. Then, as if it were a harbinger of the change in store for the family, a late winter snow storm struck.

Elizabeth would remember that snow storm for the rest of her life. She would recall how, as a grief stricken sixteen-year old, she watched the horse-drawn hearse struggling through the drifts on the way to the cemetery. She watched in horror when at one point the conveyance almost overturned and came close to dumping its sacred contents. To Elizabeth, it was as if the storm was an omen. She was just beginning to realize the awesome burden that had fallen to her. For it was Elizabeth who took over as the mistress of the Gaul household.

*Anna Marie Friedman, continued*

1888; Joseph on April 21, 1890; Anna, March 7, 1892; Agnes, September 5, 1894; Frances, September 23, 1896-died January 24, 1897; Lucille, October 23, 1897, and Adeline, the youngest, was born September 29, 1900.

Three of the children joined the religious life. George was professed as a Benedictine monk, Fr. Cyril of St. Meinrad's Abbey, Indiana, in 1909, and was ordained a priest on May 27, 1915. Susana and Lucille both became Sisters of St. Joseph at Lewiston, Idaho-Susana was professed as Sister M. Huberta on February 2, 1909, and Lucille as Sr. M. Cyril on January 6, 1917.

In 1903 two events took place: Peter, the oldest son, was married to Catherine Michels in Bancroft, Iowa, on October 28th. A month later, November 27th, Clara, aged almost 15, died of inflammatory rheumatism. Another break in the family, and a significant one, came in 1905 when Peter and his wife decided to move west.

They worked in a mercantile store in Lewiston, Idaho, but they made their home across the river in Clarkston, Washington. Thus this oldest son blazed the trail westward which some years later the rest of the family was to follow after the death of his father. John Gaul died suddenly on February 12, 1912.

Meanwhile Joseph had gone west to join his older brother, who by then lived in Cottonwood, Idaho. There he met and married Miss Hilda Strickfaden of Ferdinand, Idaho on October 14, 1913. In 1915 the rest of the family migrated westward, settling first in Cottonwood, then in Lewiston. Anna taught school in Keuterville, and on October 10, 1917, married Frank Honer.

About 1918 Joseph and his family moved to Compton, California. Mrs. Gaul, Agnes and Adeline and the Honer family moved to California soon after. In 1920 the Peter Gaul family moved to Yakima, Washington.

In Los Angeles, Adeline, the youngest girl, was married to Leo Hinsberger on June 27, 1927. Anna died on August 21, 1938.

Mrs. Anna (Friedman) Gaul passed away on April 7, 1943 at Los Angeles,

*Friedman Family continued*

**Joseph** Friedman was born in Ohio on August 29, 1846. He died August 29, 1868 in Iowa. He never Married.

**Jacob** Friedman, born April 27, 1848 at Morges, Ohio. He married Rachel Crevier on January 19, 1875 at Rickardsville, Dubuque County, Iowa. He died August 31, 1929 at Dubuque, Iowa.

**Catherine** Friedman, born December 25, 1851 at Morges, Ohio. She married Jacob Diederich on April 14, 1874 at Luxemburg, Iowa She died at Granville, Iowa on June 9, 1938.

**Elizabeth** Friedman, born November 16, 1853 at Morges, Ohio. She married Martin Hine on November 16, 1875. Elizabeth died November 26, 1896.

**George** Friedman, born April 18, 1855 at Morges, Ohio. He married Katharine Westendorf on February 1, 1876 at Luxemburg, Iowa. He died December 9, 1943 at Alton, Iowa.

**Susanna** Friedman, born November 13, 1856 at Luxemburg, Iowa. Susanna married Nicholas Gaul at Holy Trinity, Luxemburg, Iowa February 1, 1876.

**Anna Marie** Friedman, born June 27, 1858 at Luxemburg, Iowa. On February 15, 1878 at Luxemburg, Iowa, she married John Gaul.

**Regina** Friedman, born January 10, 1861 at Luxemburg, Iowa. Regina married Matt Schumer on November 24, 1879 at Luxemburg, Iowa. She Later married Paul Weipert. She died July 21, 1936 at Dubuque, Iowa.

Katherine (Wenzel) Friedman died March 19, 1861 and was buried at New Vienna, Iowa.

On February 23, 1863, Joseph Friedman married Mary (Wenzel) Kurri before a Justice Of The Peace in Clayton County, Iowa. Mary was the sister of Katherine. The Local priest refused to marry them. But a missionary priest came to town later and he married them on June 30, 1863. Their only child, Magdalena, was born February 14, 1864. She, on February 14, 1882, at Luxemburg, Iowa, married Joseph Bawer. She died September 19, 1951 at Dubuque, Iowa.