

THE KRIEGER-STERKEL STORY

Germany → Russia → Nebraska

1760s–1900s



Wedding Photo: George Krieger and Catherine Sterkel Krieger



The Krieger Family: George, Anna Maria, Catherine, William Louis, circa 1910



George Jerome (“Jerry”) Krieger
1931–2017

The Krieger-Sterkel story is dedicated to our Uncle Jerry Krieger, grandson of Catherine and George Krieger, who inspired our love of family history and researched our Germans from Russia heritage with joy and perseverance. After his retirement Jerry edited the Norka Newsletter, a publication devoted to connecting and researching Germans from Russia, for nearly 20 years. His extensive work motivates and informs our story at every turn.

The Germans from Russia have been very well researched and documented, allowing us to narrate a detailed story of our past. At the same time, many passenger lists were lost, confused or mistaken; name spellings went from German to Russian to English, so can have many variations; “Krieger” is a very common surname and “Johannes” was often used as a first name for several male children in a family. We have made every attempt to be as accurate as possible in this history, but there may be slight contradictions in some details. In general we have used the modern English spelling of names.

This publication has relied on the work of many hands: Bill Sallee was the primary researcher of family lines; Mary Lou Sallee researched the Germans from Russia and wrote the narrative; Kathleen Sallee Coleman assisted with editing and formatting; Maureen Sallee Wenzel provided countless snapshots and photos as she organized thousands of family photos; Ginger Krieger Jansson sent photos, primary source documents and details of everyday life; Michel Krieger McCone contributed documents and files from her father; and Mark Krieger sent his father’s computer to Kathleen Coleman so that she could pull additional details and photos for the piece. The richness of the narrative is a direct result of this extensive collaboration. We hope you enjoy reading the piece as much as we enjoyed working on it.

Mary Lou Sallee
William L. Sallee
November 2023

