

BIOGRAPHIES OF MARY ELIZABETH TORGLER AND ADELBERT FRAZIER 1852-1914 and 1853-1940

Mary Elizabeth, called Lizzie by her mother, and Mary by her husband

The adventure begins a few miles from the shore of beautiful Lake Constance, in Berneck, St. Gallen, Switzerland. Parish church records show the Torgler family lived there since the 1500's, as working class folk; many were blacksmiths by trade. Two brothers made the bold step of leaving 300 years of family history behind and opening a new chapter by emigrating to America in the mid 1800's. As the parish priest noted in the margin of the Church Book, John (Johannes) Torgler "auswanderung".

John and his younger brother Frederick left their ancestral home as young men in their mid twenties, taking their valuable blacksmithing trade to the western frontier of America. They settled in a town founded by Moravian immigrants who originally named the village Schoenbrunn meaning beautiful spring. The Moravian missionaries wrote the first civil code in Ohio, as well as building the first school and church. After the disruption of the American Revolutionary War the village was renamed New Philadelphia and became the county seat of Tuscarawas County. The town took it's name and grid pattern of streets from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and prospered with a courthouse, many stores, and taverns. (Credits to Wikipedia for the history of New Philadelphia.)

John was fortunate in falling in love with a strong and capable German woman, Elizabeth Bugher. Her name is sometimes anglicized as Bucher or even Booker. Elizabeth was the daughter of John Peter Bugher and Eve Donmeyer. There is an illustrious history of the Donmeyer (Dormeyer) family who originated in Alsace-Lorraine, titled Early History of the Donmeyer Family by Bertha Thomas Libby, who summarized an earlier unpublished work by Dr. Benson Dunmire.

John Torgler was 27 and Elizabeth was 25 at the time of their marriage on 15 December of 1851, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. (See Ohio marriage records.)

With that ancestry outlined we come to the first subject of this biography, Mary Elizabeth Torgler. She was the oldest child of John Torgler and Elizabeth Bugher born in New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio on 17 August 1852. Sometime between the years of 1855-1857 the family relocated to Jamestown, Moniteau County, Missouri township 46, Range 14. By 1860 Mary Elizabeth had 4 siblings: John, Catherine, Caroline, and Frederick. One more child, Louise, was born posthumously.

In 1862 Mary Elizabeth was 10 years old when her father died of pneumonia at only 37 years of age, leaving her widowed mother to bravely carry on in the midst of Civil War raging around them in Missouri. With six children including a newborn, one wonders how they managed to survive. As the oldest child, surely Mary Elizabeth had to grow up very quickly and work very hard. Uncle Frederick and Aunt Caroline Torgler lived next door, and hopefully did all they could to help John's family. Mary Elizabeth's mother never remarried.

Adelbert also known as AD, and Grandpa Delly

The second subject of this biography is Adelbert Frazier. While all these adventures were happening in the Torgler family, Mary Elizabeth's and Adelbert's future was being prepared. Reuben and Jane (Everett) Frazier and their three children were on the westward migration trail as well. Beginning in Cardington, Ohio, thence to Terre Haute, Indiana where two sons were born, Adelbert and a son named "R". They ended in the exact location as the Torglers, in Moniteau County, Missouri. In 1860 the entire county had 10,000 residents, and Jamestown remains a hamlet of less than 400 residents at this writing. The point is that the Fraziers and the Torglers surely must have been acquainted.

Somewhere between the birth of her last child, "R" Frazier in 1854 and the census of 1860 Jane Frazier died,

leaving young Adelbert and his four siblings motherless. Reuben remarried on 10 November 1859 to a young woman named Dulcena Robertson with whom he had one daughter, Martha Ann born 19 November 1862.

From Civil War records we learn that Reuben enlisted in the Union Army at California, Missouri, on August 12, 1862, in the 33 Regiment, Company B, Missouri Infantry Volunteers, under Captain Hudson. He mustered in on August 29, 1862 at W.S., Missouri. This means that Reuben was more than likely not at home when Martha Ann was born. He mustered out 24 July 1865 at Benton Barracks, Missouri. He was 42 years old.

His war records report that he helped bury William B. Pennington who died 16 Feb, 1863 in Helena, Arkansas. It is assumed that Reuben served in the Union occupation forces there. He was called to attest to Pennington's death in 1865 in proceedings to award his widow's pension.

There is no record of Reuben's death. Family legend avers that he walked home from mustering out, lay down on the cellar door and was found there deceased. Taxes on the farm were paid the following year, possibly by his oldest son William. A close tie was formed between the Torglers and the Fraziers when Reuben's widow Dulcena married Mary Elizabeth's Uncle George Bugher, brother to Elizabeth Bugher Torgler on 14 October, 1867 at Linn, Moniteau County, Missouri. George had also lost a spouse and was single parenting 4 children. The combined household listed on the 1870 US Census for Walker, Moniteau County, Missouri shows the 4 Bugher children, three Frazier children, and a baby boy of Dulcena and George. There is no record of where the three older Frazier siblings were.

The Torgler, Frazier, and Bugher families apparently emigrated to Saline County, Kansas about 1877. where they were to be honored among the first pioneer families. Elizabeth homesteaded a farm in her own name near her Donmeyer relatives in New Cambria, Saline County. Adelbert also owned a farm in New Cambria on which is now located the Highland Cemetery on land which he dedicated for that purpose.

Adelbert and Mary Elizabeth were married 3 June 1879 in Salina, Kansas. She was 27 years old and he was 26. She lived at home with her aged mother until her youngest sister, Louise was 17. Adelbert gave a lovely present to Miss Mary Torgler to celebrate the centennial year of the United States of America, which is in the author's possession. It is a book for tintype photographs and was filled by Mary Elizabeth with pictures kept in the possession of Adelbert of his deceased mother's family back in Cardington, Ohio, as well as pictures of Mary Elizabeth's brothers and sisters.

Adelbert and Mary Elizabeth were the parents of 5 sons, John Reuben born in 1881, Oliver Lewis born 1882, Morris Adelbert born 1884, Amos Benton born 1888, and Leonard Eugene born 1893. Mary Elizabeth was nearly blind when she died at the age of 62, on 27 January 1914. Her obituary published in the Salina Semi-Weekly Journal Friday January 30, 1914 states that she suffered from heart trouble and dropsy. A service was held at home, and another the following day at the Lutheran Church. Another article of condolence to Adelbert by the same paper is quoted "The many friends of A.D. Frazier sympathize very deeply with him in his great bereavement by the death of his wife, who died Tuesday evening at their home two and a half miles north of town after an illness of two months during which she was a great sufferer." She is buried in Highland Cemetery, New Cambria, Kansas.

Adelbert Frazier lived past the age of 86, spending the last 7 years of his life with his son Oliver Frazier in Fulton, Kansas. From letters written to the family, Adelbert may have suffered from dementia in his last years. He died of heart problems and hardening of the arteries. He passed away 12 January 1940 and was laid to rest next to the love of his life, Mary Elizabeth where they share a headstone at the entrance of Highland Cemetery where many pioneer relatives are buried. His funeral services were performed in the Lutheran church.

Their son Amos Benton Frazier was executor of Adelbert's estate, selling the property in New Cambria on 27 December 1940.

Thus closes the chapter on the lives of two pioneer ancestors whose love lives on through eternity.



Adelbert Frazier's Gift to Mary Elizabeth



Fly-leaf



Mary Elizabeth Torgler Wedding Photo



Adelbert Frazier Wedding Photo



Mary (Lizzie) and Adelbert



Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie)



Martha Ann Frazier & Charles Less



Adelbert's Milk House still stands in 1972



Sons of Mary & Adelbert: Left is John; Right is Morris; Center is Oliver, Amos & Leonard in unknown order.



Elizabeth Bugher (Torgler) center and her children. All seven left to right: Unidentified daughter, Fred, unidentified daughter, Elizabeth Torgler, Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie), John, unidentified daughter. Unidentified daughters are Catherine, Caroline, and Louise in unknown order.



*Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) Torgler Frazier.
Photo taken in son John Frazier's Studio*



Adelbert Frazier



*Left to right: Pearl Torgler McDonald, Oliver Frazier, Adelbert Frazier, Burgette
(unknown family name)*

STATE OF KANSAS
State Board of Health--Division of Vital Statistics

STANDARD
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Do not write
6 2858
In this space

1. PLACE OF DEATH: County Bourbon

Township Osage

Registered No.

or

City Fulton, Kansas

No. RFD

Fulton, Kansas

St.

Ward

(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

2. FULL NAME Adelbert Frazier

(a) Residence. No. RFD Fulton, Kansas

St.

Ward

(Usual place of abode)

(If nonresident, give city or town and state.)

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 7 yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? 7 yrs. mos. ds.

Was deceased ever a member of the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States?

If so, state Organization

Rank

Period of service

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Male 4. COLOR OR RACE White 5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) Widowed

6a. If married, widowed, or divorced
HUSBAND of
(or) WIFE of Mary E. Frazier

6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, year) Oct-17th, 1853

7. AGE Years 86 Months 2 Days 26 If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.

8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. Farmer

9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. At Home

10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation

12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Terre Haute
(State or country) Indiana

13. NAME Reuben Frazier

14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) New York
(State or country)

15. MAIDEN NAME Mary Everett

16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Ohio
(State or country)

17. INFORMANT O. L. Frazier
(Address) Fulton, Kansas

18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL
Place Salina Kans. Date Jan-14-1940

19. UNDERTAKER George A. Konantz
(Address) Fort Scott, Kansas

20. FILED 2/5 1940 A. A. Fairman
Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Jan 13, 1940

22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from

Did not attend
I last saw him Jan-13-1940 Death is said to have occurred on the date stated above at 8:00 AM

The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:

Chronic Hypertension yrs.
General arteriosclerosis yrs.

Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause:

Name of operation Long history of examination Date of examination

What test confirmed diagnosis? Way there an autopsy?

23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:

Accident suicide or homicide? No Date of injury 19

Where did injury occur? (Specify city or town, county, and state)

Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.

Manner of injury

Nature of injury

24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased?

If so specify

(Signed) Laurence Carson M. D.
(Address) Fort Scott, Kansas