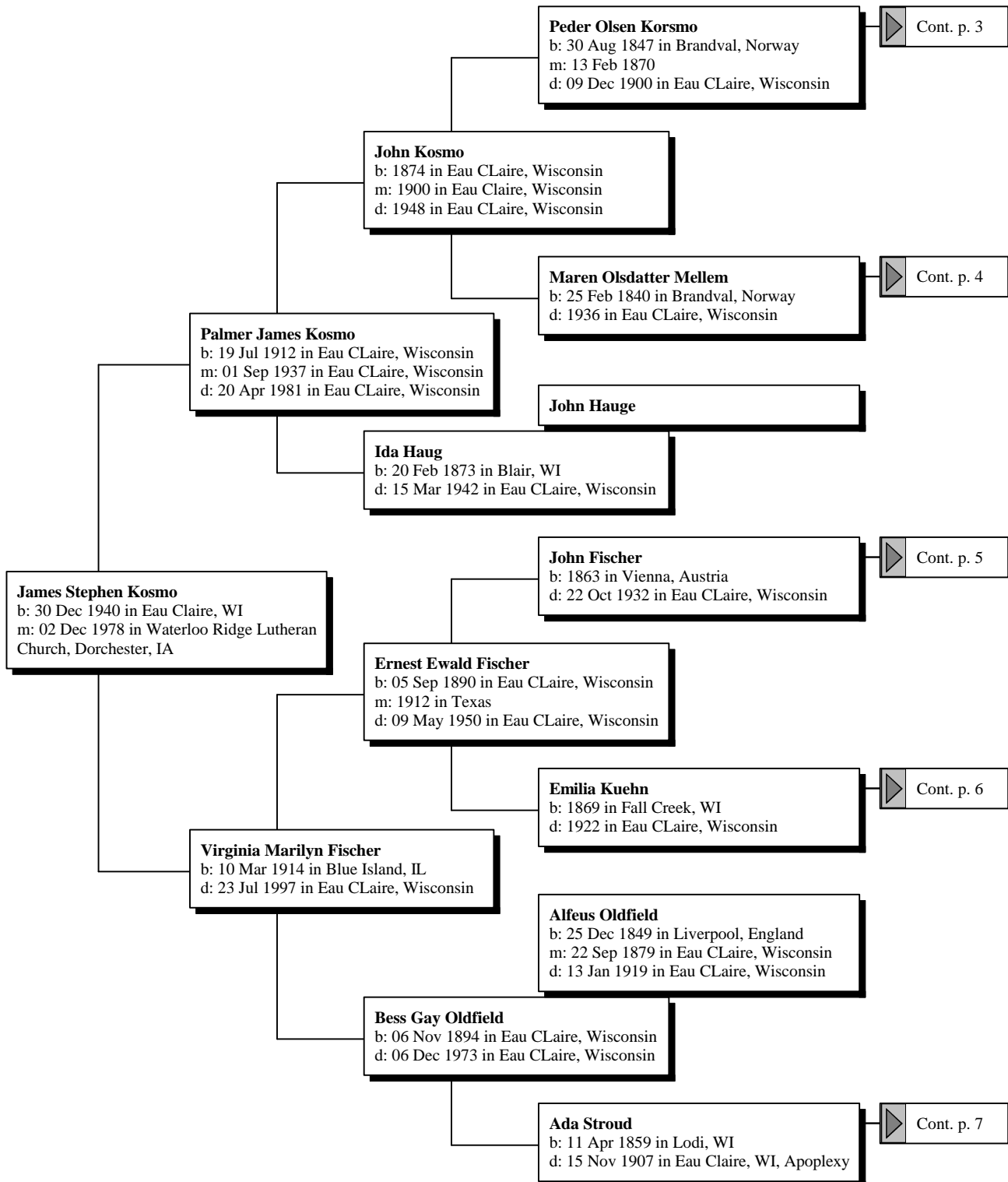


Who Am I?

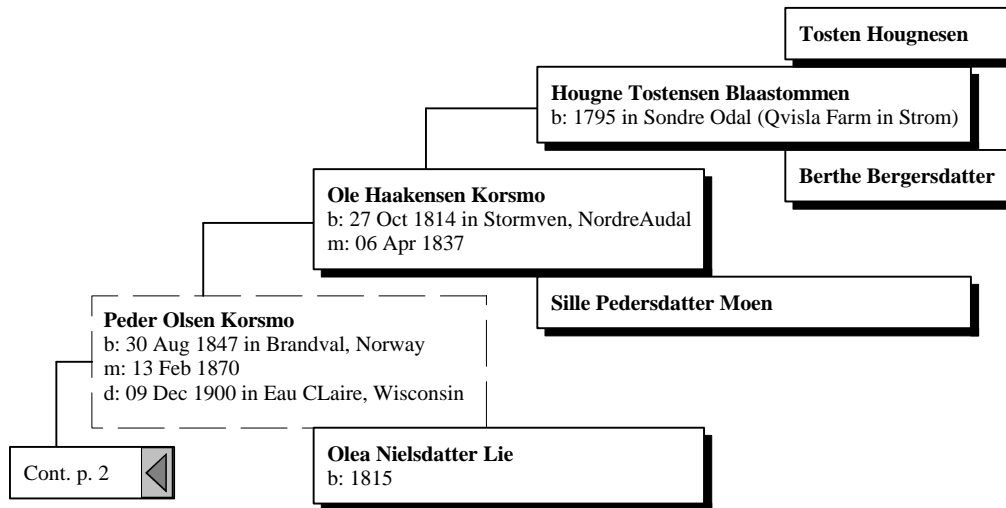
by
Capt. Jim Kosmo

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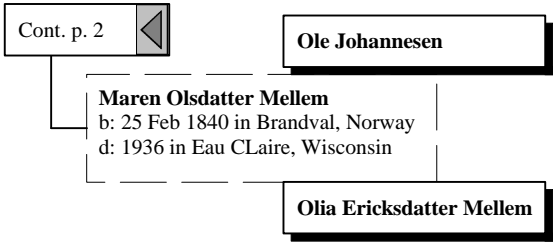
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Ancestors of James Stephen Kosmo

Ancestors of James Stephen Kosmo



Ancestors of James Stephen Kosmo



Ancestors of James Stephen Kosmo

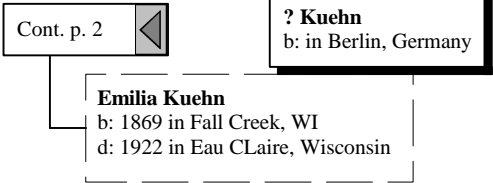
Joseph Fischer

John Fischer
b: 1863 in Vienna, Austria
d: 22 Oct 1932 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin

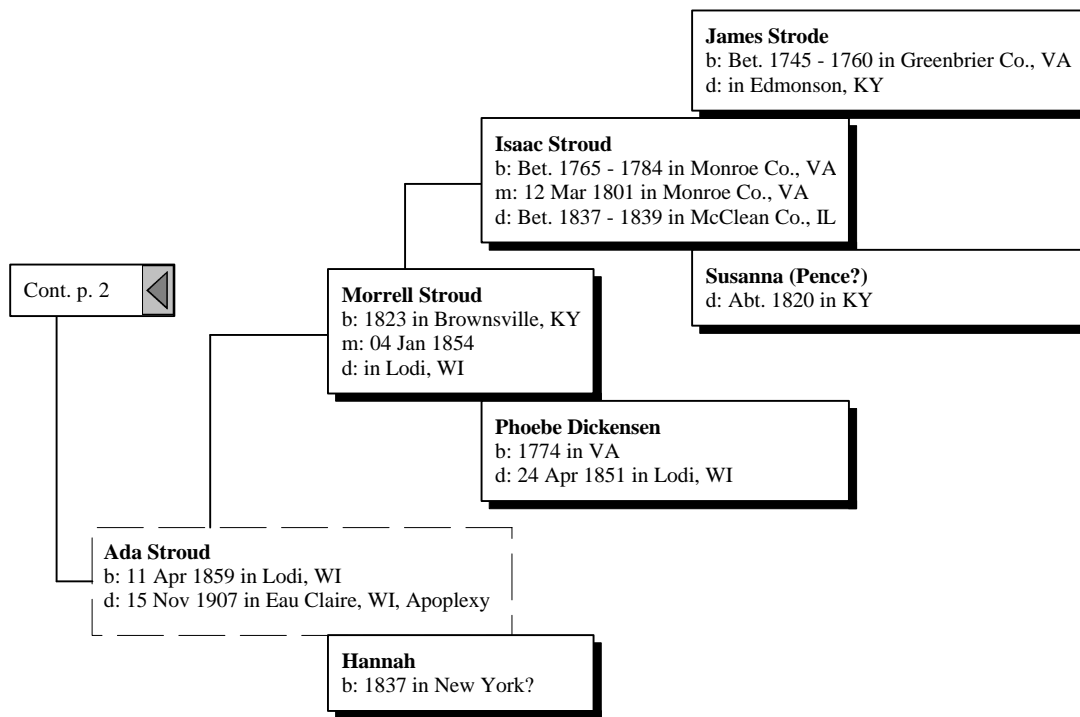
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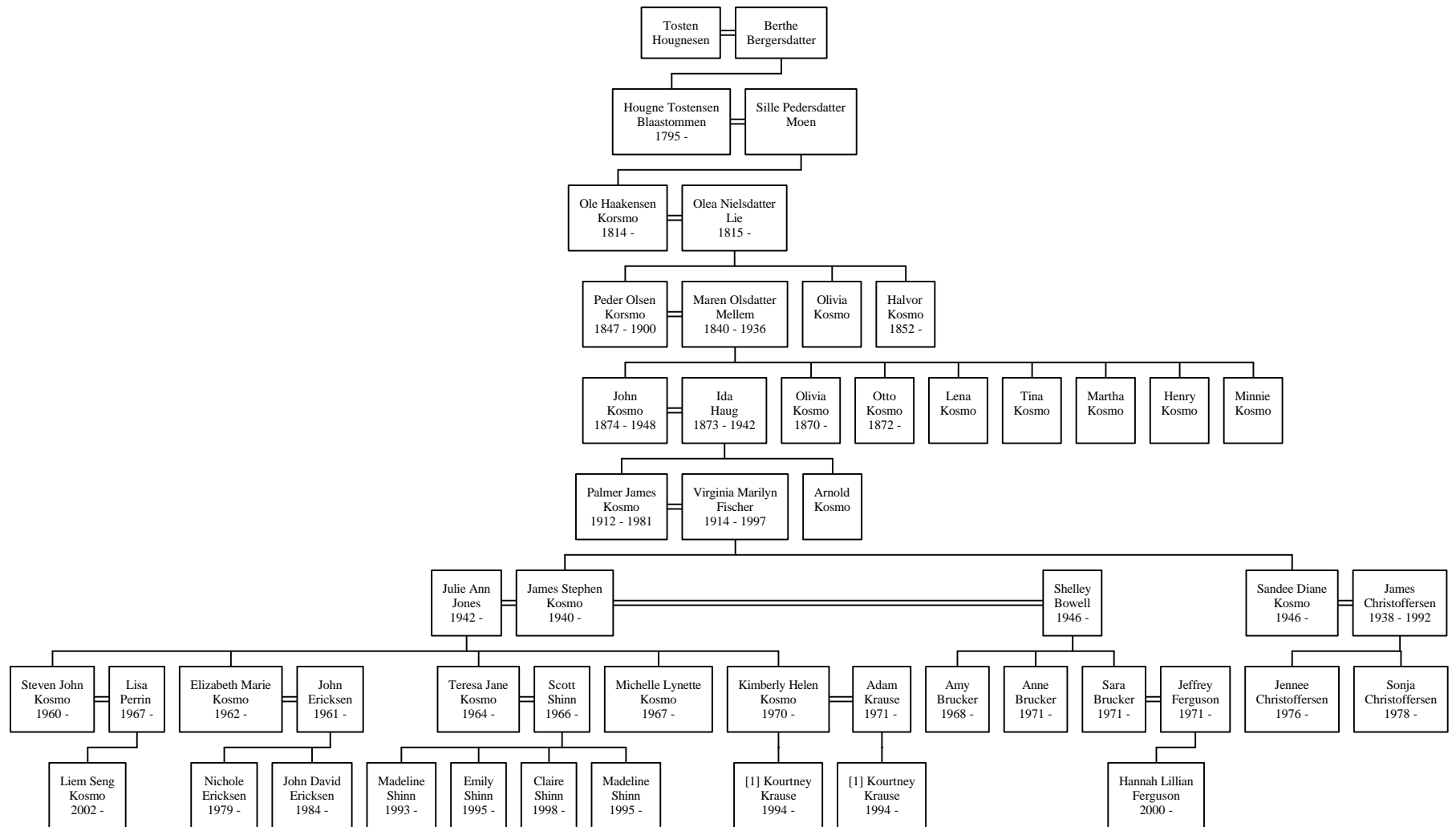
Ancestors of James Stephen Kosmo



Ancestors of James Stephen Kosmo



Descendants of Tosten Hougnesen



Descendants of Peder Olsen Korsmo

Generation No. 1

1. PEDER OLSEN⁴ KORSMO (OLE HAAKENSEN³, HOUGNE TOSTENSEN² BLAASTOMMEN, TOSTEN¹ HOUGNESEN) was born 30 Aug 1847 in Brandval, Norway, and died 09 Dec 1900 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin. He married MAREN OLSDATTER MELLEM 13 Feb 1870, daughter of OLE JOHANNESSEN and OLIA MELLEM. She was born 25 Feb 1840 in Brandval, Norway, and died 1936 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin.

Notes for PEDER OLSEN KORSMO:

(In 1968 Rev. Orrin Kosmo and his wife Shirley traveled to Norway in search of the family homestead. The following is a reprint of the letter he wrote after returning from that trip)

When Shirley and I left Kennedy Intl. Airport in New York City at midnight Tuesday, July 9, 1968 we had a rather vague idea as to how we would be able to locate the homestead from which Grandmother Maren and Grandfather Peder Kosmo had immigrated to America from Norway and how we would locate any descendents. Scandinavian Air Lines provided excellent transportation and we were in Bergen, Norway in about six hours flying time. After seeing the delightful Bergen area and the magnificent fjord country, we traveled over the mountainous, scenic region by railroad to Oslo. We spent several pleasant days seeing this lovely city. Then came the time to make plans to discover the gaards whence our grandparents came and any descendents. We made our decision to make Kongsvinger our headquarters for this search. Kongsvinger is about 125 miles northeast of Oslo.

I guess most of the early Norse immigrants to America were too busy getting settled and making a living in this new land to carefully preserve the records of where they came from for posterity. Also, many of them were peasant folks who had little education and were unable to make such records. Growing up my older brother Percy and I slept and had breakfast frequently with Grandmother and Aunt Minnie until I went away to college. But I never recollect anything being said as to where our grand folks came from in Norway. I do remember Grandmother saying that there was a most kindly lady who was close to her as a young girl. I remember Grandmother reading her Psalm Book but I cannot recall her ever doing any writing. If she had any writing to be done or any business to be taken care of she always had my Dad take care of that. It wasn't until after I was in St. Olaf College and had a year of Norse, which was compulsory, that I had the wit to ask Aunt Minnie where our grandparents came from. She mentioned two places, Brandval and Solar. But beyond this she could tell me nothing; however, I vowed to remember those two places because I had a pride about my Norse ancestors and because I hoped someday to be able to visit this spot.

The busy years had flown by and I hadn't gotten to Norway. In fact I hadn't given the idea much thought. But now, with a new wife who was travel minded, we teamed up and planned the journey to the Fatherland. I told Shirley that I didn't know whether I could get her into Norway inasmuch as she didn't have a drop of Norse blood in her (she is made up of Scotch, English, Irish, French and American Indian). But she looks so wholesome and the Norse are so magnanimous that she had no trouble getting in. So, here we were in Oslo.

We, or I as Shirley isn't too much on maps, had studied the maps and found Brandval. Solar, I discovered, is the name of the district in which Brandval is located. The nearest community of any size, where we would put up is Kongsvinger, and that is why we boarded at the electrified train for this city. I do recollect Grandmother saying once when she and some Norwegian ladies were having coffee in the kitchen back in Eau Claire, rather condescendingly, that a neighbor lady, Mrs. Vinger, came from Kongsvinger. Well, it might not have been very impressive when Grandmother Kosmo left but when we arrived we found

it to be a busy and delightful place. I would like to say here that the trip up was delightful, for all of Norway is scenic and travel on the trains is so pleasant and clean. There is not soot or dust, the train windows are large and clean and the attendants are most courteous.

We put up at the leading hotel, the Grand Hotel. At the desk was an attractive young lady. I decided to seek out her help for our next move. Back home before we left for Norway I had written a letter to the minister of the Brandval parish, inquiring about our grandparents. I couldn't give him much information except that Grandfather's name was either Peter Olsen or Korsmo, and that Grandmother's maiden name was Maren Mellum, and that it must have been about 1874 that they left Norway for America. In two weeks I had a letter back that amazed me with the information it provided. It came from the Regional State Archives of Hamar Diocese as all church records of the 1870s had been transferred there. Mellem and Korsmo were small farms and place names not only in Brandval but also in the neighboring parish of Grue, rather near the Swedish border. From these records they found information that Peder Olsen Korsmo and his wife Maren Olsdatter and two children, Olivia and Otto, had emigrated to America in April 1874 with others of the relationship.

I asked the young lady at the hotel desk whether she knew the pastor at Brandval. To our pleasure she not only knew him because he had taught her religion at high school, but she would call him and ask him to receive us. The state archivist had said there would be no doubt he would be able to tell us where the gaards were. The pastor said that we might come at 5 p.m.

Full of anticipation we took the bus from Kongsvinger riding along the lovely countryside until the driver told us where to get off. There wasn't much sign of habitation, but the bus driver asked a young lady who was also getting off to take us to the pastor's parsonage. We chatted pleasantly as this young lady led us to the parsonage where the pastor stood waiting for us.

Pastor Solum proved to be a delightful man and it was he who solved our problems. He read the archivist's letter. He said he would have to consult a man who had lived all his life in the area and likely would be able to advise us where the Korsmo and Mellum gaards were located. The man wasn't home. Meanwhile the pastor introduced us to his attractive daughter who was home from the University at Oslo where she was studying music. She entertained us with coffee and Norse delicacies as we chatted so amiably. The conversation turned to the famous Norwegian composer Grieg. The Pastor asked if we would like to hear some Grieg whose home we had visited in Bergen. Of course we would. He played beautifully for us. He also presented us with a book he had just written about the hundredth anniversary of one of the two churches of which he is pastor. He inscribed the book so beautifully on the front page to mark the occasion of our visit.

Now the man who would know where to take us was home. Pastor Solum took his daughter, Siri, and us to the home of Magne Skaare. He and his wife were so glad to meet us. All through this my Norwegian, such as it was, was a great help. First he took us to a small place which had been Grandfather Kosmo's homestead or gaard. A widow was living there, her husband having lost his life when a tractor overturned on him two years before. From all the information that Mr. Skaare had this would be the Korsmo gaard, but there were no descendants. We sadly said goodbye to the widow who was not a descendant.

Now Mr. Skaare and Pastor Solum took us several miles, somewhat off the main road, to a delightful place. There a smiling, attractive lady named Dagny, about 35, met us. When the men explained their mission Dagny said she didn't know whether this could be the place, but she said there were two photographs that she had carefully kept and we might be able to tell whether these were our ancestors. We went inside and when I beheld the photograph I must have almost shouted for joy for here was the familiar photo I had seen frequently at 414 Williams St., Grandmother Kosmo's. There were our grandparents and their six grown children -- Aunts Lena, Martha and Minnie and Uncles Henry and John and my dad. The other photo had the corner missing where there was some embossing, but there was enough

to make out Eau Claire, and it showed Aunts Lena, Martha and Minnie when they were young ladies dress in the costumes of the day. I was overjoyed.

The next day, Saturday, July 7, Dagny and her brother had all the relatives at the Mellum gaard, where grandmother Kosmo came from, to welcome us and to meet us. When we arrived at Mr. Skaare's place nothing would do but that we come in and have coffee. This turned out to be a sumptuous spread in this baronial manor. This large place had been in the family name for 600 years and you might call the Skaares the aristocrats of the area although they were so hospitable and democratic. Their home was beautifully furnished with many choice pieces and exquisite china. After thanks all around we returned to our hotel quite tired.

We had learned from the state archivist that there were such places as Korsmo and Mellum gaards but we hadn't learned whether there were any living descendents. Now we had learned that there were descendents and we were very excited about meeting them. While we were saddened to learn that there were no more Korsmos after our Grandfather around we were happy that there were Mellums. Now we were to meet them. Let me tell you a little about each of them as we got acquainted at the Mellum gaard.

Let me begin with Dagny and her brother Torbjorn who lived on the gaard, farmed the place and were our hosts. I would say that Torbjorn was a couple of years younger than Digny. Neither were married. They seemed to manage things so nicely that I wonder whether either will marry. Their place is 60 acres and Torbjorn works another 50 acres, mostly grains, such as oats. There is a fine barn, erected in 1939, but no animals. A tractor does the work around the farm, so there are no horses.

I guess I had better get on to Olav Mellon, as he is the historian of the family and has a good memory. As he explained, Grandmother Kosmo had a brother who ran the gaard and when he died his son ran the place. When the son died about 10 years ago his offspring, Dagny and Torbjorn, took over and are running the place.

To go back to Grandmother's brother, he must have been somewhat younger than Grandmother, for his offspring are still living with the exception of the one who ran the gaard, Dagny's father. There are three sons and one daughter. The oldest of those is Olav who is very spry at 84. He rides his bicycle into Kongsvinger, a distance of five miles, to visit his brother three times a week. He lives near the gaard. He and his wife have no children. He explained how hard his brother had worked to build up the gaard. The house was very small when he grew up there as a boy. Times were hard. He showed us the corner in the now remodeled and enlarged house where the baking oven was located. It was the only baking oven in the entire neighborhood; so, on each day some neighbor took turns to bake bread in it. They brought their own wood. They didn't pay anything. And the oven baked 14 loaves at a time. Talk about primitive times. This accounted for the large immigration to America. Pastor Solum told us that of 2,000 people in the parish 800 had emigrated to America. A large addition has been added to the house to provide a modern kitchen on one side and another addition on the other side to make a living room. Olav showed us the tiny space where he as a boy he slept on a double decker bed under the stairs.

Olav explained that when Grandmother was a girl there was no such thing as a school, but that the school master came around and lived at the farm house for one week in the winter and was glad if he could teach the children to write. This of course would account for the fact that Grandmother Kosmo didn't do any writing although we did see her reading her Psalm book. Food and fish were hard to come by in that day for peasants, but all that is changed now because Norway is prosperous with her abundant water power and electrification even to the smallest farm today. Splendid trains bring tourists in great numbers to see Norway's beauty and meet the cordial people. The country also has a giant fishing industry and is the leading shipping nation of the world.

I told how there was much heavy drinking by Norse immigrants when I was a boy and Olav

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said that was the same in Norway at that time, but when I said that is all gone in America he said it has disappeared in Norway too. Olav said that Grandfather Kosmo wrote letters frequently but then the letters stopped. Grandfather died about the turn of the century (Peder died in 1900). This was the time the letters stopped. Evidently Grandfather had learned to write somehow. Grandmother couldn't write so there were no more letters. In Norway they wondered what had become of the Kosmos in America. Now they were overjoyed after this long lapse to learn that there were Kosmos and now to meet one of them.

Then there is the next brother, Albert Mellum. It was Albert and his wife Margit who live in Kongsvinger who came to the hotel and took us out to the gaard for the gathering. I would say that he is in his early 70s. We had come at the time when he had just received a medal from King Olav for his service during the recent war, when he had to live in Sweden and do secret service work. We saw the medal that night and read the inscription, and we can grasp why he and his wife felt so proud. After finishing a career in government service he finished his public life serving as sheriff of the Kongsvinger area, an office that is held in high esteem in Norway.

A third brother, Dagfinn, who lives in Oslo, was vacationing some miles away at his summer home. Torbjorn made the long drive to fetch him. I would say he is close to 70 and a fine looking man. He is a high officer in the electrification program of Norway. He is both an electrical engineer and a lawyer. I suppose you would say he is the intellect of the family. He is married and I believe that he has grown children but in the excitement and with so much to do I didn't get this accurately.

Then there was Fru Marta Kaknes. As the Norse was flying around I gathered that she is the one sister. She helped Dagny put on the meal that had several courses. I guess it would take a page to tell about this alone. Marta presented Shirley with a lovely hand embroidered tablecloth.

Finally we were taken to the church in Brandval which is on the beautiful Glomma River and which was the important center in Grandmother's day, but recently the population center has changed to Roverud. Here we chatted, visited the cemetery and at last had to say goodbye with thanks for the wonderful hospitality. Alfred and Margit drove us away and I couldn't help but sing a few bars of the Norse national anthem as I waved farewell. Nothing would do but that we should see Albert-Margit's beautiful new home, also on the River Glomma, and come in for refreshments. Here we visited and ate into the night. The last we saw our descendents was when Albert and Margit left us at the hotel and waved a fond farewell.

So the Mellem name goes on in Norway even if the Kosmo name does not. They are all fine people and they couldn't have been nicer to us. Albert had told me how they all work together. There is a good spirit among them. I do not know what will come of this discovery of our relatives, but at least this contact has been made and we know they are there and that they are splendid, worthy folks. The address of the gaard, Dagny and Torbjorn Mellem (parenthetically the name is spelled um, om, em at the end, and Dagny spells it em) is Hokaasen, Røverud, Norway. Perhaps some of you will take up where we left off. In closing let me venture to say that I feel our grandparents would be happy about this good news. The rest of our travels in Norway, Sweden and Denmark was so enjoyable but that is another story. Perhaps someday I shall be able to show you our slides including the Mellem Gaard.

Sincerely,
Orrin and Shirley Kosmo
July 1968

More About PEDER OLSEN KORSMO:

Fact 1: 15 Apr 1873, Left Brandval with Olivia & Otto

Fact 2: Relatives Ole Olsen Mellem and Helvar Korsmo also left Norway

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- Fact 3: Stayed in England about year before coming to US
- Fact 4: Started a feed mill on Madison St. hill in Eau Claire
- Fact 5: Feed store burned
- Fact 6: owned shoe store on N. Barstow St.
- Fact 7: In 1865 census was living in Korsmoe section of Hokaasen, Norway
- Fact 8: In Norway farm was near city of Kongsvinger

Children of PEDER KORSMO and MAREN MELLEM are:

- 2.
 - i. JOHN⁵ KOSMO, b. 1874, Eau CLaire, Wisconsin; d. 1948, Eau CLaire, Wisconsin.
 - ii. OLIVIA KOSMO, b. 04 Jul 1870.
 - iii. OTTO KOSMO, b. 18 Apr 1872.
 - iv. LENA KOSMO.
 - v. TINA KOSMO.
 - vi. MARTHA KOSMO.
 - vii. HENRY KOSMO.
 - viii. MINNIE KOSMO.

Generation No. 2

2. JOHN⁵ KOSMO (PEDER OLSEN⁴ KORSMO, OLE HAAKENSEN³, HOUGNE TOSTENSEN² BLAASTOMMEN, TOSTEN¹ HOUGNESEN) was born 1874 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin, and died 1948 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin. He married IDA HAUG 1900 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, daughter of JOHN HAUGE. She was born 20 Feb 1873 in Blair, WI, and died 15 Mar 1942 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin.

Children of JOHN KOSMO and IDA HAUG are:

- 3.
 - i. PALMER JAMES⁶ KOSMO, b. 19 Jul 1912, Eau CLaire, Wisconsin; d. 20 Apr 1981, Eau CLaire, Wisconsin.
 - ii. ARNOLD KOSMO.

Generation No. 3

3. PALMER JAMES⁶ KOSMO (JOHN⁵, PEDER OLSEN⁴ KORSMO, OLE HAAKENSEN³, HOUGNE TOSTENSEN² BLAASTOMMEN, TOSTEN¹ HOUGNESEN) was born 19 Jul 1912 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin, and died 20 Apr 1981 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin. He married VIRGINIA MARILYN FISCHER 01 Sep 1937 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin, daughter of ERNEST FISCHER and BESS OLDFIELD. She was born 10 Mar 1914 in Blue Island, IL, and died 23 Jul 1997 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin.

Notes for VIRGINIA MARILYN FISCHER:
[Kosmo Family.FTW]

Virginia was born in Blue Island, IL and grew up in the Italian section on the west side of Chicago. She often told stories of the difficult, but exciting years growing up in the midst of the gangster dominated area of Chicago during the Prohibition Era. Virginia, or Ginger as she was known in the Windy City, loved the big city and flourished at McKinley High School, but in her senior year in high school her parents announced that they were moving to Eau Claire, WI. It was 1932 and the Great Depression had put her father out of work and forced him to return home to Eau Claire to join his brother in the family harness and canvas awning business. Virginia may have understood the reasons for the move but it appears that she certainly was not happy. Writing about the move in her later years it is clear that she saw it as a life changing event, one of several difficult challenges she was to encounter.

"I was a senior in high school." she wrote. "It was with mixed emotions I finished my final year at Eau Claire High. In Chicago I was to graduate in January 1933. I was one of the editors of our school newspaper and our school's pick for a scholarship to the Chicago Art Institute. Each class in the city sent their most artistically inclined student there for study and I was the choice from McKinley. Instead, I moved to Eau Claire and found many of my classes did not transfer. Spanish was not taught there and didn't transfer. Advance math also was required, but I did not have it. I had never heard of finals. In Chicago we were

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tested quarterly and never again. Suddenly I was involved in finals. Instead a January graduation I had to make up credits. I did not graduate until June and at that time I had 38 credits. Although 32 credits were needed to finish, some of mine didn't fit the Eau Claire requirements. My diploma read 'Special Diploma.' They said I could stay another year for math and a different foreign language because Spanish and my art classes did not count. I took the 'Special Diploma' and left. Besides, it was 'special'."

Children of PALMER KOSMO and VIRGINIA FISCHER are:

4. i. CAPT. JAMES STEPHEN⁷ KOSMO, b. 30 Dec 1940, Eau Claire, WI.
5. ii. SANDEE DIANE KOSMO, b. 14 Jun 1946, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Generation No. 4

4. CAPT. JAMES STEPHEN⁷ KOSMO (PALMER JAMES⁶, JOHN⁵, PEDER OLSEN⁴ KORSKO, OLE HAAKENSEN³, HOUGNE TOSTENSEN² BLAASTOMMEN, TOSTEN¹ HOUGNESEN) was born 30 Dec 1940 in Eau Claire, WI. He married (1) JULIE ANN JONES 08 Aug 1960 in Alma, WI, daughter of JOHN JONES and HELEN PAGE. She was born 28 Dec 1942 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He married (2) SHELLEY BOWELL 02 Dec 1978 in Waterloo Ridge Lutheran Church, Dorchester, IA, daughter of WILLIAM BOWELL and LILLIAN FLATTEN. She was born 20 Oct 1946 in St. Paul, MN.

Notes for CAPT. JAMES STEPHEN KOSMO:
[Kosmo Family2.FTW]

Served in US Air Force 1960-64 at Nellis AFB, NV
Editor, No. Las Vegas Valley Times
Editor, Sun Newspapers in Bloomington, MN 1965-69
Public Information Officer, Metro Transit Authority, 1970-71
Editorial Supervisor, Northstar Public Relations Agency, 1971-76
Asst. Director, MN Medical Assn., 1977-78
Asst. Communications Dir., American Medical Assn., 1979-80
Owner, Kosmo Carlson Advertising Agency, 1982-1989
Sr. Vice President and co-owner, Padelford Packet Boat Co., 1980-81 & 1990-

Founded Minnesota Valley YMCA, 1964
Elected to Bayport (MN) City Council 1996-2000
Elected Mayor of Bayport 2001-2003
Received U.S. Coast Guard license to pilot 100 ton passenger vessels, 1993

Awards:

US Air Force Editor of Year, 1964
U.S. Suburban Journalist of Year, 1968
MN Jaycee Outstanding Young Man, 1968

For most people life stitches together a mosaic of good times and bad and I certainly have had my share of each. The first nine years of life were pretty normal, at least for the times. My earliest memories are moving from a very small house we rented on Hudson St. near the Chippewa River in downtown Eau Claire. My parents purchased a lot in what was then a new, largely undeveloped area on the northside where they built the house of their dreams. Dad hired some carpenter friends, but he did a great deal of the work himself. It was a great house and I spent most of my grade school years there trudging nearly two miles to Longfellow Elementary School.

But my father drank an awful lot, spent more and more time away from home and began to show signs of mental illness, although at the time I was too young to know what was happening. He had problems at work and mother became increasingly concerned with his aberrant behavior. Finally, after one particularly nasty event he agreed to see a doctor. One thing led to another and he was hospitalized for a few weeks. During that time he was taken to a special hospital in Madison, WI where they tried everything, including electric shock, to chase his demons. He returned home after two months and we were ecstatic. Life was better than ever. We went out to eat (a rare experience in those days), went on a fishing trip, and we did things as a family.

It didn't last. Before long dad was talking to people who weren't there. He was constantly worried about someone he thought was living in the attic. I remember cautiously sneaking up the creaky wooden stairway one day when no one was home to see who was up there thinking if I could chase him away dad would be OK. There was nobody there. In fact it was just a big unfinished attic with nothing but old, yellow fiberglass insulation everywhere - I returned downstairs covered with the prickly stuff and managed to get it on just about every piece of furniture in the house. Mother never said anything, but she surely knew what I had done.

Dad began visiting the bars again and spending long nights away. I vividly remember Mom standing by the back door waiting for hours without moving. To this day I can see her framed like a painting standing there staring out the window. He would come home drunk, push past her without a word and head to bed. Conversation between actual people grew to be less and less a part of our lives.

To complement his other bad habits Dad chain-smoked Camel cigarettes. I can hardly picture him without a cigarette. Years later they would claim his life. But in the 1940s just about everyone smoked. It was very manly - and quite popular with the ladies as well. Mom actually smoked a little during that time, probably in self-defense.

One morning I was awakened by a shrill scream coming from the living room. "Jim, get your sister. Hurry, hurry, hurry the house is on fire!" Half asleep I stumbled into my parents room where Sandee was sound asleep in her crib. I pulled her out of bed and dragged her down the hall. Smoke was rapidly filling the house as I staggered down the hall and straight out the front door into the cold November air.

Almost on our heels mother shot out the door behind us, wrapped her arms around us both and ran to the Ruhe's next door. Apparently, after calling the fire department and yelling to me she had gone downstairs trying to put out the fire and to find Tippy, our cat. She's lucky to have gotten out alive. Tippy didn't.

The fire department was delayed due to a train. By the time they arrived the window in the side door where mother stood watch each night waiting for dad to come home was a brilliant orange with dancing flames. Although it seemed to go on forever the flames and smoke tore through our wonderful home quickly leaving everything looking like an old black and white photograph totally void of color revealing only varying shades of gray. The firemen actually saved most of the house from burning but everything was coated with a film of black soot. Days later the smoke smell remained so strong it was difficult to stay inside more than a few minutes and your clothes reeked of it after you left. The basement was completely gutted as was the kitchen, but fire damage to the rest of the house was surprisingly minimal.

Dad was working the 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. shift at the Uniroyal tire factory that day and had left for work shortly after 6 a.m. Mother first noticed the smoke a short time later. The fire department determined that the fire had started in a woodpile that was stacked too close to the furnace. It was never determined officially but apparently there was some indication that Dad might have started the fire intentionally.

We went to live with my Grandmother while the house was remodeled, but Mother grew increasingly uneasy with Dad's imaginary friends, constant anger and the thought that he might actually have started the fire. When he seriously assaulted his supervisor at Uniroyal something needed to happen. He was a very large, very strong man, but he never threatened any of us physically. After visiting several doctors he was again hospitalized but this time it was for much longer than two months. At first they tried various treatments but eventually he was just confined - for 30 years.

If it's possible, losing my Dad to mental illness was worse than death. There was no financial assistance for the family of a person who just went to a mental hospital, and instead of compassion many people treated us as lepers. Looking back I cannot imagine how my mother managed. She took over and did so well that Sandee and I hardly ever realized how poor we were until many years later. For a long time I thought church people delivered fruit baskets and turkeys to everyone on Christmas day. Most people were outwardly very nice, but some of my friends said their parents wouldn't let them be my friend any longer. They referred to my dad as "that crazy guy."

For the first six months after Dad was hospitalized Mother and I couldn't even look each other in the eye without breaking into massive tears. We stayed with Grams and mother spent much of the time in bed. Then one day, I don't know what happened, but Mother just bolted out of the house saying she had to get a job. I never saw her cry again, perhaps she had used up her lifetime quota of tears. She landed a sales position at Montgomery Wards Department Store paying almost nothing, but offering a lot of long hours. They didn't have any limit on hours and certainly no such thing as overtime pay. She was just happy to have a job.

We moved back to our house at 2215 Somona Parkway and I became a latchkey kid. Sandee stayed with Grams and we all got together on weekends. The term latchkey didn't exist in 1953 but that was me. Mother found a better paying job with Shedd-Brown, a calendar company, where she spray painted colors over a giant stencil to make the calendars. It was 12-hour days of very tedious work but it kept us going.

During that time several of Dad's friends came around offering to help. I thought they were being nice at the time. Little did I know that the type of help they were offering had more to do with Mom's personal life than anything else. She was a rather striking woman nearly six foot tall, slim and very attractive. The attention could have been somewhat flattering but most of the guys she didn't care to have around and the others were already married.

One guy in particular I recall because I had always found him to be a bit weird. Kids have always enjoyed weird people. Okey owned a radio repair business. He was about five feet tall, more than a little portly, and he made a good double for Porky Pig. Apparently he offered his services to ease Mom's sexual desires. She got all the satisfaction she wanted chasing him out the door, across the yard and into his truck with a broom. He never came back, not even to fix the new television set Dad bought just before he went to the hospital. After the Okey incident she made it crystal clear to all the "boys" that she did not want nor need their help. They stopped coming around and she never showed the slightest interest in a man again - well, except for Arnie, but that was almost 40 years later.

Try as she might being a woman attempting to raise a family by herself in the 1950s just wasn't a good situation. Good jobs mostly were not available for women. Pretty much everyone suggested that what she needed to do was find a good man to support her. If you knew Mom that was definitely the wrong thing to say unless your objective was to motivate her. She moved from Shedd-Brown to Davis Photo Art, a local photography studio, where she worked for many years.

She worked longer hours at low pay but she enjoyed the photography business. She made most of our clothes herself and began writing articles for newspapers and magazines. She sold a few and landed a job as part time reporter for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. It was truly

Who Am I?

more of a freelance assignment, but she sold stories to them just about every week. Her "beat" was Wisconsin. She didn't drive so we enlisted Grandma who had a brand new 1955 Plymouth. Grams was a great driver.

She said she learned to drive from a distant relative, famed racecar driver Barney Oldfield. Her maiden name was Bessie Oldfield. So, every weekend we would all pile into Grams' big, black Plymouth and travel the state looking for a good story. Mom became a pretty good photographer along way as well shooting pictures to accompany her articles. Her Argus C-3 camera captured color slides of just about everything the eye could see in Wisconsin and many of those photographs ended up in the St. Paul Pioneer Press newspaper.

More About CAPT. JAMES STEPHEN KOSMO:
Medical Information: High blood pressure

Children of JAMES KOSMO and JULIE JONES are:

6. i. STEVEN JOHN⁸ KOSMO, b. 03 Nov 1960, Las Vegas, NV.
7. ii. ELIZABETH MARIE KOSMO, b. 31 May 1962, Las Vegas, NV.
8. iii. TERESA JANE KOSMO, b. 29 Jun 1964, Las Vegas, NV.
- iv. MICHELLE LYNETTE KOSMO, b. 16 Mar 1967.
9. v. KIMBERLY HELEN KOSMO, b. 28 Feb 1970, Edina, MN.

5. SANDEE DIANE⁷ KOSMO (PALMER JAMES⁶, JOHN⁵, PEDER OLSEN⁴ KORSKO, OLE HAAKENSEN³, HOUGNE TOSTENSEN² BLAASTOMMEN, TOSTEN¹ HOUNESEN) was born 14 Jun 1946 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. She married JAMES CHRISTOFFERSEN 02 Feb 1966 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, son of HENRY CHRISTOFFERSEN and JEANNETTE LYLE. He was born 18 Mar 1938 in Chippewa Falls, WI, and died 09 Dec 1992 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Notes for SANDEE DIANE KOSMO:
[Kosmo Family2.FTW]

More About SANDEE DIANE KOSMO:
Degree: May 1968, BA, English, UW at Eau Claire
Occupation: Bet. 1968 - 1985, Teacher, Chippewa Valley Tech College
Ordination: Sep 1990, Luther Seminary

Children of SANDEE KOSMO and JAMES CHRISTOFFERSEN are:

- i. JENNEE⁸ CHRISTOFFERSEN, b. 11 Feb 1976.
- ii. SONJA CHRISTOFFERSEN, b. 22 Aug 1978.

Generation No. 5

6. STEVEN JOHN⁸ KOSMO (JAMES STEPHEN⁷, PALMER JAMES⁶, JOHN⁵, PEDER OLSEN⁴ KORSKO, OLE HAAKENSEN³, HOUGNE TOSTENSEN² BLAASTOMMEN, TOSTEN¹ HOUNESEN) was born 03 Nov 1960 in Las Vegas, NV. He married LISA PERRIN 11 May 1991 in Lutsen, MN. She was born 18 Jan 1967.

Child of STEVEN KOSMO and LISA PERRIN is:
i. LIEM SENG⁹ KOSMO, b. 11 Dec 2002, Korea.

Who Am I?

7. ELIZABETH MARIE⁸ KOSMO (JAMES STEPHEN⁷, PALMER JAMES⁶, JOHN⁵, PEDER OLSEN⁴ KORSMO, OLE HAAKENSEN³, HOUGNE TOSTENSEN² BLAASTOMMEN, TOSTEN¹ HOUGNESEN) was born 31 May 1962 in Las Vegas, NV. She married JOHN ERICKSEN, son of RICHARD ERICKSEN and LORRAINE SCHAEFFER. He was born 15 Jan 1961 in Edina, MN.

Children of ELIZABETH KOSMO and JOHN ERICKSEN are:

- i. NICHOLE⁹ ERICKSEN, b. 16 Dec 1979.
- ii. JOHN DAVID ERICKSEN, b. 19 Oct 1984.

8. TERESA JANE⁸ KOSMO (JAMES STEPHEN⁷, PALMER JAMES⁶, JOHN⁵, PEDER OLSEN⁴ KORSMO, OLE HAAKENSEN³, HOUGNE TOSTENSEN² BLAASTOMMEN, TOSTEN¹ HOUGNESEN) was born 29 Jun 1964 in Las Vegas, NV. She married SCOTT SHINN 27 Apr 1991 in Minneapolis, MN. He was born 28 Jun 1966 in Minneapolis, MN.

Children of TERESA KOSMO and SCOTT SHINN are:

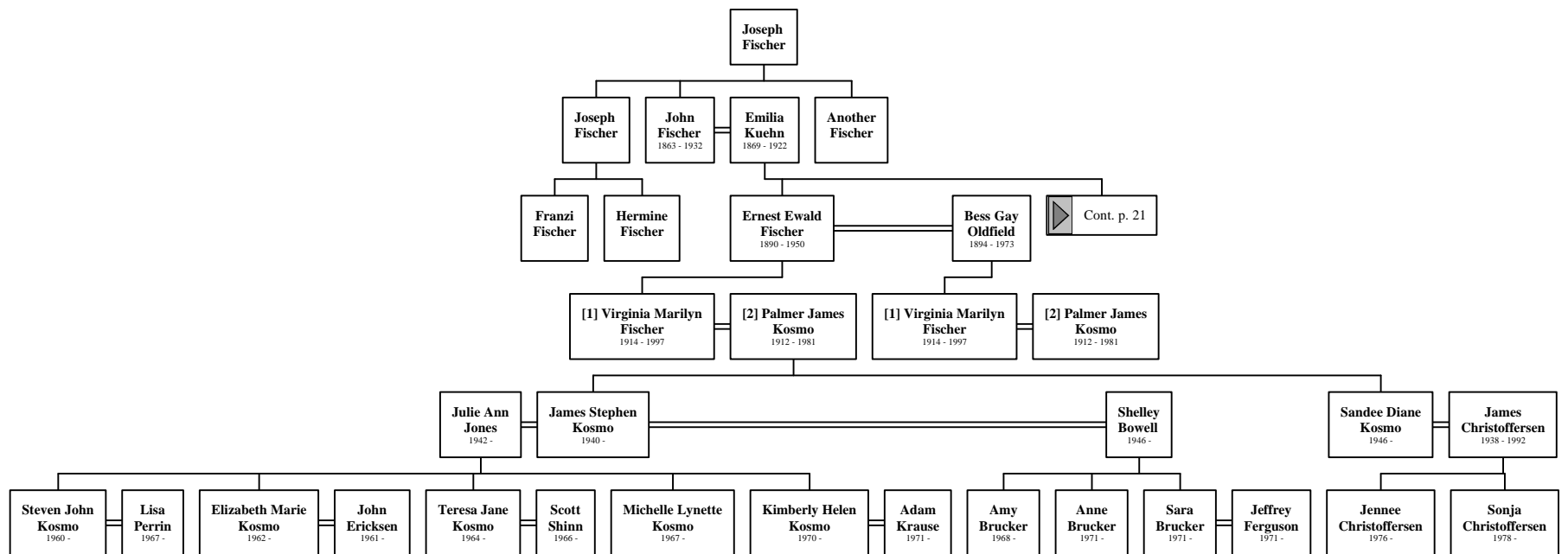
- i. MADELINE⁹ SHINN, b. 25 Sep 1993.
- ii. EMILY SHINN, b. 16 Jan 1995.
- iii. CLAIRE SHINN, b. 18 Aug 1998.
- iv. MADELINE SHINN, b. 16 Jan 1995.

9. KIMBERLY HELEN⁸ KOSMO (JAMES STEPHEN⁷, PALMER JAMES⁶, JOHN⁵, PEDER OLSEN⁴ KORSMO, OLE HAAKENSEN³, HOUGNE TOSTENSEN² BLAASTOMMEN, TOSTEN¹ HOUGNESEN) was born 28 Feb 1970 in Edina, MN. She married (1) ADAM KRAUSE. He was born 15 Jan 1971.

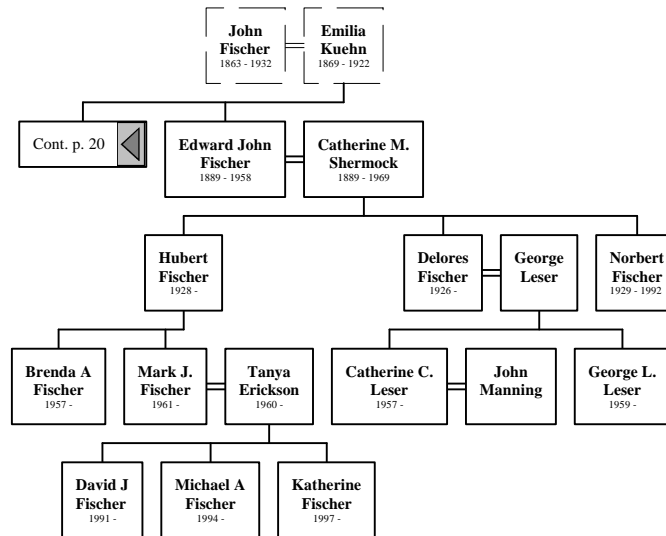
Child of KIMBERLY KOSMO and ADAM KRAUSE is:

- i. KOURTNEY⁹ KRAUSE, b. 19 Sep 1994.

Descendants of Joseph Fischer



Descendants of Joseph Fischer



Descendants of John Fischer

Generation No. 1

1. JOHN² FISCHER (JOSEPH¹) was born 1863 in Vienna, Austria, and died 22 Oct 1932 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin. He married EMILIA KUEHN, daughter of ? KUEHN. She was born 1869 in Fall Creek, WI, and died 1922 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin.

Notes for JOHN FISCHER:
[Kosmo Family.FTW]

My grandfather was born and grew up in Vienna, Austria, wrote Virginia Fischer Kosmo. Inasmuch as he was the second son his older brother Joseph was heir to the family shoe business. Instead of learning the family trade John was apprenticed to a harness maker.

John Fischer was a tall (over 6'), thin man with dark hair and steel blue eyes. In the 1880s he came to America to live with family friends in Chicago. He went there with the promise of work. Once there he found too many immigrants to fill the jobs; so, he went north to the German settlement in Milwaukee, WI. There friends told him of the boom towns in the lumber country of northern Wisconsin.

Eau Claire, WI was the lumbering mecca at that time and was home to many Germans and Austrians so John settled there. After a period of time in Eau Claire he decided to open his own business. He rented a piece of land on North Barstow St. in downtown Eau Claire for his first harness shop. Later he bought property on Galloway St. During that time he met and married Amelia Kuehn from Fall Creek, WI. Her family had come to Wisconsin from Germany and many relatives had settled on farms in the Fall Creek and Augusta area. John and Amelia had two sons, John Edward and Ernest Ewald. The boys began working at the shop at about eight years of age because their rigid father believed everyone should learn a trade and "the earlier the better."

Children of JOHN FISCHER and EMILIA KUEHN are:

2. i. ERNEST EWALD³ FISCHER, b. 05 Sep 1890, Eau CLaire, Wisconsin; d. 09 May 1950, Eau CLaire, Wisconsin.
3. ii. EDWARD JOHN FISCHER, b. 15 Jul 1889, Eau Claire, WI; d. 11 Dec 1958, Eau Claire, WI.

Generation No. 2

2. ERNEST EWALD³ FISCHER (JOHN², JOSEPH¹) was born 05 Sep 1890 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin, and died 09 May 1950 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin. He married (1) BESS GAY OLDFIELD 1912 in Texas, daughter of ALFEUS OLDFIELD and ADA STROUD. She was born 06 Nov 1894 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin, and died 06 Dec 1973 in Eau CLaire, Wisconsin.

Notes for ERNEST EWALD FISCHER:
[Kosmo Family.FTW]

From information provided by Virginia Fischer Kosmo

My father grew up in the center of Eau Claire, WI before World War I. He swam in the rivers where he watched the log jams of the bustling lumber industry. He loved to fish in the Eau Claire River, especially at his favorite site by a lumber mill near where the Huebsch Building was later built.

As war rumbled in Europe Ernie met Bessie Oldfield. After a brief romance they eloped. Bessie was a young, tiny, auburn-haired girl. In the beginning both families objected and

the run-a-way couple was tracked down and returned to Eau Claire only to escape a second time. The young couple was married in Texas and traveled about the country until they settled in Chicago. After two years their daughter was born (March 10, 1914) in Blue Island, IL. Eventually the families in Wisconsin were notified and a kind of truce was established; although the religious differences remained a problem for the families.

Several years went by and Ernest and Bessie continued to live in Chicago. His skill as a harness maker was in great demand, but he soon learned that the automobile was beginning to replace the horse and buggy. He studied upholstery and in the early 1900s began working on automobiles. The well-to-do kept their cars many years and each spring they would have their autos reupholstered to go with the ladies' spring color scheme. Ernest worked on cars owned by city officials and gangsters alike. He said that he would often replace the trim with heavy steel plate and installed inch-thick window glass. Among his clients were a police commissioner, gangster Al Capone and Colonel Robert McCormick who owned the Chicago Tribune newspaper and the Chicago Blackhawk professional hockey team. Ernest, who was a rabid hockey fan and often carried rubber chickens to the Blackhawk games to toss on the ice, especially enjoyed his relationship Col. McCormick and occasionally obtained hockey tickets from him.

During that time Bessie also became an accomplished seamstress and dressmaker, and she worked for many of the wives of Ernie's customers. She even continued to work on dresses for Mrs. McCormick after the Fischers moved to Eau Claire. Her sewing skills also were put to good use in the business they started in the garage.

In 1928 his mother died and four years later his father, John died. Ernest moved his family to Eau Claire in November 1932. It was the depth of the Great Depression and the auto upholstery business was down dramatically. His company closed that spring unable to find work as the banks were closing and people were thrown into poverty everywhere in America. He returned to Eau Claire to join his brother Edward, known as E. John Fischer by signature but called John. in the harness and awning business. The two brothers never got along well and the partnership was short lived. John continued at the harness shop and Ernest started his own business with a small shop in the garage of his home at 215 Wisconsin St. Bessie joined him in the business and they focused on producing large tarpaulins for the trucking industry. At that time many of the large delivery trucks were open and used the large tarps to cover their products. He struck a deal with Briggs Trucking that became a very successful venture.

Next to hockey, Ernie loved to fish and often traveled to Chetek and Hayward, WI, and he and Bessie frequently went on extended vacations, usually in the southwestern part of the U.S., occasionally dipping into Mexico. He didn't drive but Bessie was an excellent driver. Often in the midst of a cold Wisconsin winter they would get their work caught up, call their daughter Virginia, and head to the southwest in their car. The winter excursions usually lasted a month or two.

A diabetic, Ernest concealed his disease from his family until he fell into a diabetic coma in May 1950. He survived only a week in the hospital and died on May 9, 1950. Surely he had known or suspected his disease. He frequently had experienced broken bones and his mood swings were familiar to all who knew him..

More About ERNEST EWALD FISCHER:
Burial: Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Notes for BESS GAY OLDFIELD:
Provided by Jim Kosmo

One humorous story Gram loved to tell occurred in Montana. At that time race car driver Barney Oldfield was one of the most famous sports figures in America. He held virtually all speed records. So, whenever someone was driving too fast it was a common phrase to say, "Who do you think you are? Barney Oldfield?" Well, Bessie, who claimed to have gotten a

lesson from the famous driver, and who was a bit heavy in the driving foot herself was clocked going very fast across the open road in Montana by a state trooper. He pulled her over, asked for her license and spilled out the popular quote, "Who do you think you are? Barney Oldfield?"

"No, just his niece," she replied. The officer glanced at her license, his composure slipped slightly and he responded, "You really are."

Well, it was a great story although I suspect there was a bit more to it inasmuch as I assume her license read Fischer, not Oldfield, but hey that's just a detail. And, the relationship with Barney was a bit more distant than uncle. Still, a pretty good story.

Another grand event for Gram occurred in 1952 when she came to Boy Scout Camp Phillips in Northern Wisconsin to bring me home after a two week stay. All the campers and leaders assembled by the flag pole, stood at attention one more time while the flag was lowered and received one last message from the camp director while our parents (or grandparent) waited in the nearby parking lot. Grams, who was an absolute tea-totter, somehow had acquired an old whiskey bottle that she felt was a perfect flask for carrying her beloved very strong coffee when on the road. While we stood at attention I heard several scouts begin to giggle. Then one whispered in a fairly loud voice, "Wow, look at the old lady hitting the bottle." To my horror it was Grams downing a shot of coffee from her whiskey bottle.

Grams only finished eighth grade in school and she almost never went to church, except for special ceremonies, but she was the most intelligent, highly principled person I have ever met. After my father was hospitalized we went to live with Gram and she became a second mother to me. I learned so much from her and to this day I often quote advice that she offered so freely -- probably appreciated more today than when I was a teenager. She read constantly, worked crossword puzzles everyday and picked a new word out of the dictionary every single day of her life. She was constantly learning. She was an excellent seamstress, a highly skilled gardener and a person who consoled and counseled many friends, neighbors and relatives. The back door was always open and there was seemingly a constant flow of people walking in to talk with that fiery grandmother.

Child of ERNEST FISCHER and BESS OLDFIELD is:

- i. VIRGINIA MARILYN⁴ FISCHER, b. 10 Mar 1914, Blue Island, IL; d. 23 Jul 1997, Eau Claire, Wisconsin; m. PALMER JAMES KOSMO, 01 Sep 1937, Eau Claire, Wisconsin; b. 19 Jul 1912, Eau Claire, Wisconsin; d. 20 Apr 1981, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Notes for VIRGINIA MARILYN FISCHER:
[Kosmo Family.FTW]

Virginia was born in Blue Island, IL and grew up in the Italian section on the west side of Chicago. She often told stories of the difficult, but exciting years growing up in the midst of the gangster dominated area of Chicago during the Prohibition Era. Virginia, or Ginger as she was known in the Windy City, loved the big city and flourished at McKinley High School, but in her senior year in high school her parents announced that they were moving to Eau Claire, WI. It was 1932 and the Great Depression had put her father out of work and forced him to return home to Eau Claire to join his brother in the family harness and canvas awning business. Virginia may have understood the reasons for the move but it appears that she certainly was not happy. Writing about the move in her later years it is clear that she saw it as a life changing event, one of several difficult challenges she was to encounter.

"I was a senior in high school," she wrote. "It was with mixed emotions I finished my final year at Eau Claire High. In Chicago I was to graduate in January 1933. I was one of the editors of our school newspaper and our school's pick for a scholarship to the Chicago Art Institute. Each class in the city sent their most artistically inclined student there for study and I was the choice from McKinley. Instead, I moved to Eau Claire and found many of my classes did not transfer. Spanish was not taught there and didn't transfer. Advance math also was required, but I did not have it. I had never heard of finals. In Chicago we were tested quarterly and never again. Suddenly I was involved in finals. Instead a January graduation I had to make up credits. I did not graduate until June and at that time I had 38 credits. Although 32 credits were needed to finish, some of mine didn't fit the Eau Claire requirements. My diploma read 'Special Diploma.' They said I

Who Am I?

could stay another year for math and a different foreign language because Spanish and my art classes did not count. I took the 'Special Diploma' and left. Besides, it was 'special'."

3. EDWARD JOHN³ FISCHER (JOHN², JOSEPH¹) was born 15 Jul 1889 in Eau Claire, WI, and died 11 Dec 1958 in Eau Claire, WI. He married CATHERINE M. SHERMOCK 18 Aug 1925 in Sacred Heart Church, Eau Claire, WI. She was born 03 Mar 1889 in Brunswick, WI, and died 15 Aug 1969 in Eau Claire, WI.

Notes for EDWARD JOHN FISCHER:

Primary trade was as a harness maker which was the same trade as his father. E. John was one of the last harness makers in America when "horse power" on farms ceased to be used about 1950. He was also a horticulturist to the extent of being an avid grower of dahlia flowers. He also was an avid football fan.

Children of EDWARD FISCHER and CATHERINE SHERMOCK are:

- i. HUBERT⁴ FISCHER, b. 08 Apr 1928, Eau Claire, WI.

Notes for HUBERT FISCHER:

Graduated from University of Notre Dame in 1950 with degree in Civil Engineering. Drafted into U.S. Army October 1950 and saw service with the 45th Infantry Division in war time Korea. He was released from active military duty in September 1953. In the army he graduated from the Army Engineers Officer School and trained recruits.

In September 1956 he married Irene M. Pickerign of Eau Claire. Her family had a farm in Dunn County, WI. Hubert was employed as an engineer with the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation, Division of Highways at the District Office in Eau Claire. He retired in January 1993.

- ii. DELORES FISCHER, b. 01 Jun 1926, Eau Claire, WI; m. GEORGE LESER, Aug 1956; b. Joliet, IL.
- iii. NORBERT FISCHER, b. 25 Sep 1929, Eau Claire, WI; d. 31 Jan 1992, Eau Claire, WI.

Notes for NORBERT FISCHER:

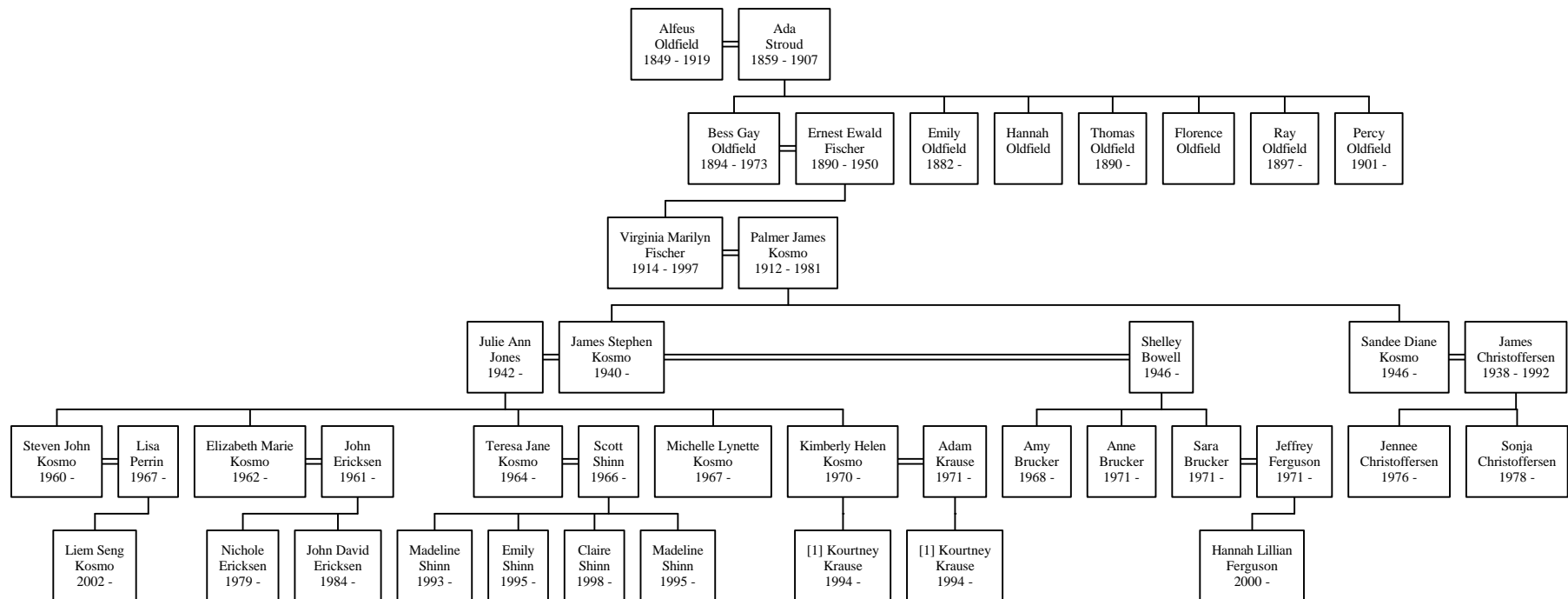
Never married... Unfortunately he suffered from alcoholism most of his adult life. In 1952, when E. John Fischer retired from the family business, Norbert took over, but due to his alcoholism and care-free disposition he failed in business. Known as "Nobby" at St. Patrick's High School in Eau Claire, Norbert played football for four years and was a much heralded local sports hero. At that time Marty Crowe, a highly respected high school football and basketball coach, said of Nobby, "He was one of my alltime favorites. A simple kind of guy but fearless and terribly strong. Just a tremendous defensive tackler. I never had one better in all my years of coaching." Norbert was over 6'2" tall and weighed 200 lbs. He was buried from Sacred Heart Church in Eau Claire. At the funeral mass a family eulogy was delivered by Rev. Sandee Kosmo Christoffersen, daughter of Palmer and Virginia Kosmo and grand daughter of Ernest and Bessie Fischer.

Descendants of John Fischer

1 John Fischer 1863 - 1932
 .. +Emilia Kuehn 1869 - 1922
 2 Ernest Ewald Fischer 1890 - 1950
 +Bess Gay Oldfield 1894 - 1973
 3 [2] Virginia Marilyn Fischer 1914 - 1997
 +[3] Palmer James Kosmo 1912 - 1981
 4 [4] James Stephen Kosmo 1940 -
 +[5] Julie Ann Jones 1942 -
 5 [6] Steven John Kosmo 1960 -
 +[7] Lisa Perrin 1967 -
 6 [8] Liem Seng Kosmo 2002 -
 5 [9] Elizabeth Marie Kosmo 1962 -
 +[10] John Ericksen 1961 -
 6 [11] Nichole Ericksen 1979 -
 6 [12] John David Ericksen 1984 -
 5 [13] Teresa Jane Kosmo 1964 -
 +[14] Scott Shinn 1966 -
 6 [15] Madeline Shinn 1993 -
 6 [16] Emily Shinn 1995 -
 6 [17] Claire Shinn 1998 -
 6 [18] Madeline Shinn 1995 -
 5 [19] Michelle Lynette Kosmo 1967 -
 5 [20] Kimberly Helen Kosmo 1970 -
 +[21] Adam Krause 1971 -
 6 [1] Kourtney Krause 1994 -
 6 [1] Kourtney Krause 1994 -
 *2nd Wife of [4] James Stephen Kosmo:
 +[22] Shelley Bowen 1946 -
 5 [23] Amy Brucker 1968 -
 5 [24] Anne Brucker 1971 -
 5 [25] Sara Brucker 1971 -
 +[26] Jeffrey Ferguson 1971 -
 6 [27] Hannah Lillian Ferguson 2000 -
 4 [28] Sandee Diane Kosmo 1946 -
 +[29] James Christoffersen 1938 - 1992
 5 [30] Jennee Christoffersen 1976 -
 5 [31] Sonja Christoffersen 1978 -
 3 [2] Virginia Marilyn Fischer 1914 - 1997
 +[3] Palmer James Kosmo 1912 - 1981
 4 [4] James Stephen Kosmo 1940 -
 +[5] Julie Ann Jones 1942 -
 5 [6] Steven John Kosmo 1960 -
 +[7] Lisa Perrin 1967 -
 6 [8] Liem Seng Kosmo 2002 -
 5 [9] Elizabeth Marie Kosmo 1962 -
 +[10] John Ericksen 1961 -
 6 [11] Nichole Ericksen 1979 -
 6 [12] John David Ericksen 1984 -
 5 [13] Teresa Jane Kosmo 1964 -
 +[14] Scott Shinn 1966 -
 6 [15] Madeline Shinn 1993 -
 6 [16] Emily Shinn 1995 -
 6 [17] Claire Shinn 1998 -
 6 [18] Madeline Shinn 1995 -
 5 [19] Michelle Lynette Kosmo 1967 -
 5 [20] Kimberly Helen Kosmo 1970 -
 +[21] Adam Krause 1971 -
 6 [1] Kourtney Krause 1994 -
 6 [1] Kourtney Krause 1994 -
 *2nd Wife of [4] James Stephen Kosmo:
 +[22] Shelley Bowen 1946 -
 5 [23] Amy Brucker 1968 -
 5 [24] Anne Brucker 1971 -
 5 [25] Sara Brucker 1971 -
 +[26] Jeffrey Ferguson 1971 -
 6 [27] Hannah Lillian Ferguson 2000 -
 4 [28] Sandee Diane Kosmo 1946 -
 +[29] James Christoffersen 1938 - 1992
 5 [30] Jennee Christoffersen 1976 -
 5 [31] Sonja Christoffersen 1978 -
 2 Edward John Fischer 1889 - 1958

..... +Catherine M. Shermock 1889 - 1969
..... 3 Hubert Fischer 1928 -
..... 4 Brenda A Fischer 1957 -
..... 4 Mark J. Fischer 1961 -
..... +Tanya Erickson 1960 -
..... 5 David J Fischer 1991 -
..... 5 Michael A Fischer 1994 -
..... 5 Katherine Fischer 1997 -
..... 3 Delores Fischer 1926 -
..... +George Leser
..... 4 Catherine C. Leser 1957 -
..... +John Manning
..... 4 George L. Leser 1959 -
..... 3 Norbert Fischer 1929 - 1992

Descendants of Alfeus Oldfield



Descendants of James Strode

Generation No. 1

1. JAMES¹ STRODE was born Bet. 1745 - 1760 in Greenbrier Co., VA, and died in Edmonson, KY. He married SUSANNA (PENCE?). She died Abt. 1820 in KY.

Notes for JAMES STRODE:

[Kosmo Family2.FTW]

Sold 340 acres on Muddy Creek, 3 miles north of Lewisburg, WV in Blue Sulphur Springs Area on 10/27/1796 to James Kitchen

Sold 340 acres on 2 Mile Creek near Charleston, WV (now the airport) on 9/1/1802.

Moved to KY in 1803 following birth of Mahlon

Children of JAMES STRODE and SUSANNA (PENCE?) are:

2.
 - i. ISAAC² STROUD, b. Bet. 1765 - 1784, Monroe Co., VA; d. Bet. 1837 - 1839, McClean Co., IL.
 - ii. JOHN STROUD, b. 13 Mar 1790.
 - iii. DOREN STROUD.
 - iv. MAHLON STROUD, b. 08 Mar 1803.
 - v. BARBERY STROUD.

Generation No. 2

2. ISAAC² STROUD (JAMES¹ STRODE) was born Bet. 1765 - 1784 in Monroe Co., VA, and died Bet. 1837 - 1839 in McClean Co., IL. He married PHOEBE DICKENSEN 12 Mar 1801 in Monroe Co., VA. She was born 1774 in VA, and died 24 Apr 1851 in Lodi, WI.

Notes for ISAAC STROUD:

[Kosmo Family2.FTW]

In 1830 Census Amos, Jehu & James Jr. were in Edmondson CO., KY

Isaac w/wife & 10 kids were in Tazewell Co., IL

John w/wife & 7 kids in Sagamon Co., IL

Mahlon w/wife & 2 kids in Morgon Co.

1840 Phebe, Levi & Albert Stroud in McLean Co., IL

1840 Census, McLean Co., IL

Albert w/wife & 3 kids

Levi w/wife & 6kids (one same age as wife)

Phebe with 6 kidfs (2 under 5 so Isaac died or departed family between 1837-1839)

In Warren Co. IL Jehu w/wife & 12 kids

1850 Census, Columbia Co. WI shows Amos, Jehu & Phebe

Children of ISAAC STROUD and PHOEBE DICKENSEN are:

3.
 - i. MORRELL³ STROUD, b. 1823, Brownsville, KY; d. Lodi, WI.
 - ii. LEVI STROUD, b. 1805; d. 11 Jun 1884, McLean Co., IL; m. ELIZABETH STRETCH; b. Bet. 1810 - 1820; d. 04 Jan 1860, McLean Co., IL.
 - iii. ALBERT STROUD, d. 15 Feb 1855, McLean Co., IL.
 - iv. SIDNEY STROUD.

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- v. AMOS STROUD, b. 1814.
- vi. JEHU STROUD, b. 08 Dec 1818, KY; d. 01 May 1891, Altoga, TX; m. MADELINE ADELINE VANN; b. 23 Mar 1849; d. 27 Apr 1921, Pottsboro, TX.

More About JEHU STROUD:
Burial: Altoga, TX

More About MADELINE ADELINE VANN:
Burial: Altoga, TX

- vii. ISAAC STROUD, b. 1824, Brownsville, Edmonson Co., KY; d. 1899, Columbia Co., WI; m. SYLVIA ELLEN MILLARD; b. 1828, NY; d. 10 Feb 1887, Columbia Co., WI.
- viii. LYDIA STROUD, b. 1827; m. LEONARD PHILLIPS; b. 1820, OH; d. 21 Oct 1898, Chippewa Falls, WI.
- ix. BARBARA STROUD.
- x. LYDIA STROUD.

Generation No. 3

3. MORRELL³ STROUD (*ISAAC², JAMES¹ STRODE*) was born 1823 in Brownsville, KY, and died in Lodi, WI. He married (2) CORNELIA SPOORS 01 Jan 1839 in Winnebago Co., IL. She was born 1824. He married (3) HANNAH 04 Jan 1854. She was born 1837 in New York?.

More About MORRELL STROUD:
Fact 1: Farmer and ran an inn

Children of MORRELL STROUD and HANNAH are:

- i. ADA⁴ STROUD, b. 11 Apr 1859, Lodi, WI; d. 15 Nov 1907, Eau Claire, WI, Apoplexy; m. ALFEUS OLDFIELD, 22 Sep 1879, Eau CLaire, Wisconsin; b. 25 Dec 1849, Liverpool, England; d. 13 Jan 1919, Eau CLaire, Wisconsin.

More About ADA STROUD:
Burial: Lakeview Cemetery, Eau Claire, WI
Cause of Death: apoplexy (stroke)
Fact 1: Bareback rider in Burr-Robbins Circus
Fact 2: Known as Adreinne, the Fancy Rider

Notes for ALFEUS OLDFIELD:
[Kosmo Family2.FTW]

According to grand daughter Virginia, Alfeus Oldfield was a citizen of the world. Born in Liverpool, England in 1849 Alfeus' father was an auctioneer and owned a furniture store. He and his wife had 22 children of which 19 reached adulthood and several were twins, including Alfeus. The family may have been of modest means inasmuch as the children all attended private schools and in later years it is said that they returned home to receive an inheritance.

When Alfeus was 10 years old he was sent to the cloak room at school for some misdemeanor. At the end of the day the school master forgot the young boy locked in the closet and left for the day. Alfeus got out of the closet, broke a window and left the school. The next day the school master refused to admit him back into class. He was labeled unmanageable and expelled. His father found a place for Alfeus aboard a sailing vessel with a job as a cabin boy. Alfeus spent the next few years working aboard ships. He was a small man, barely over 5' tall with jet black hair and grey-blue eyes. Somewhere in his sailing days he learned to play the accordin and in later years had his own band that played for man public events in Wisconsin.

After his years at sea Alfeus came inland and joined the circus as a clown. The circus was headquartered in Iowa but, as many circuses did at that time, made its winter home in southern Wisconsin near what today is the Wisconsin Dells. One year while the circus was wintering in Wisconsin Alfeus met a young horsewoman whose family owned an inn at Lodi, WI. When the circus left during the night Ada Stroud, the young horse rider, slipped away with them. She became Adrienne, the bareback rider and tightrope walker. In time the little clown fell in love with her and they were married. They left the circus but Ada's parents had disowned her and apparently never forgave her for going into showbusiness.

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They moved to Eau Claire, WI where they purchased land west of the city and became farmers.

More About ALFEUS OLDFIELD:

Cause of Death: bladder cancer

Fact 1: Clown in Burr Robbins Circus (Barnum & Baily)

Fact 2: Wife was bareback rider in same circus

Fact 3: One of 22 children

Fact 4: Father owned furniture store & was auctioneer

Fact 5: Kicked out of school as "unmanagable"

Fact 6: cabin boy on ship

Fact 7: played consatina & accordian

Naturalization: 13 Mar 1915, Eau Claire, WI; Doc. # 48833, Petition Volume 2, No. 240

- ii. MARY STROUD, b. 1861.
- iii. KATIE STROUD, b. 1863.
- iv. EARL STROUD, b. 1865.
- v. ANNA STROUD, b. 1869.
- vi. LEVI STROUD, b. 1870.

Descendants of Henry de Strode

1 Henry de Strode
 +Maud Matilda de Bauprea
 2 Edmund de Strode
 3 Hugh Henry Strode
 +Elizabeth Brent
 4 Richard Strode
 +Elizabeth Jerard
 5 William Strode
 +Alianor Cheney
 6 John Strode
 +Joan Okele
 7 Walter Strode
 8 Thomas Strode 1493 -
 9 Edward Strode 1515 -
 +Alice Whiting
 10 William Strode 1566 -
 +Elizabeth Upton
 10 John Strode 1536 -
 10 Agnes Strode 1538 -
 10 Thomas Strode 1540 - 1625
 +Eleanor Blanchard
 10 Richard Strode 1542 -
 10 Anne Strode 1544 - 1591/92
 +John Ashe
 10 Jone Strode 1546 -
 10 Edward Strode 1548 - 1608
 +Alice Pore
 10 Thomas Strode 1552 -
 9 John Strode 1513 - 1554/55
 6 Richard Strode
 6 William Strode
 5 Edmund Strode
 *2nd Wife of Richard Strode:
 +Margaret Chantmarle

Who Am I?

Family Map



Who Am I?

Family Map

Argos, Marshall Co., IN

Ada Howell Born

Bowen Howell Born

James Howell Born

Katherine Howell Born

Lewis S. Howell Born

William Howell Born

Louisa Jane Dimmitt Born

Alfred McGriff Born

See Also Blue Island, South Bend, and Joliet.

Berkeley Co., VA (93 Mi SE of Fayette Co.)

Eleanor Sheppard Born: 1699

Blair, Trempealeau Co., WI (54 Mi NE of Spring Grove)

Ida Haug Born: 20 Feb 1873

Blue Island, Cook Co., IL (79 Mi NW of Argos)

Virginia Marilyn Fischer Born: 10 Mar 1914

Boston, Suffolk Co., MA

John Manning Born

Brownsville, Edmonson Co., KY

Morrell Stroud Born: 1823

Isaac Stroud Born: 1824

Chippewa Falls, Chippewa Co., WI

Henry Christoffersen Born: 25 Jun 1907

James Christoffersen Born: 18 Mar 1938

Clark Co., IN

George W. Howell Born

John Howell Born

Nancy Howell Born

Rachel Howell Born

Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co., WI

Helen Page Born

John Kosmo Born: 1874 Eau CLaire

Edward John Fischer Born: 15 Jul 1889

Ernest Ewald Fischer Born: 05 Sep 1890 Eau CLaire

Bess Gay Oldfield Born: 06 Nov 1894 Eau CLaire

Palmer James Kosmo Born: 19 Jul 1912 Eau CLaire

Delores Fischer Born: 01 Jun 1926

Hubert Fischer Born: 08 Apr 1928

Norbert Fischer Born: 25 Sep 1929

James Stephen Kosmo Born: 30 Dec 1940

Julie Ann Jones Born: 28 Dec 1942

Sandee Diane Kosmo Born: 14 Jun 1946

Catherine C. Leser Born: 31 May 1957

Brenda A Fischer Born: 22 Jul 1957

George L. Leser Born: 19 Jan 1959

Mark J. Fischer Born: 08 Feb 1961

Edina, Hennepin Co., MN

John Ericksen Born: 15 Jan 1961

Kimberly Helen Kosmo Born: 28 Feb 1970

Fall Creek, Eau Claire Co., WI

Emilia Kuehn Born: 1869

Fayette Co., PA

Anna (Amy) Howell Born

David Howell Born

Hannah Howell Born

Henry Howell Born

Sara Howell Born

Thomas Howell Born

Thomas Howell Born

Bazel Howell Born: 1747

See Also Montgomery Co., Frederick Co., and Berkeley Co..

Frederick Co., VA (90 Mi SE of Fayette Co.)

Margit Howell Born: Frederick Co., VA (now WV)

Greenbrier Co., VA

James Strode Born: Bet. 1745 - 1760

Joliet, Will Co., IL (97 Mi NW of Argos)

George Leser Born

Kentucky

Jehu Stroud Born: 08 Dec 1818

Las Vegas, Clark Co., NV

Steven John Kosmo Born: 03 Nov 1960

Elizabeth Marie Kosmo Born: 31 May 1962

Teresa Jane Kosmo Born: 29 Jun 1964

Lodi, Columbia Co., WI (107 Mi SE of Spring Grove)

Ada Stroud Born: 11 Apr 1859

Manawa, Waupaca Co., WI

Tanya Erickson Born: 24 May 1960

Marshall Co., IN

Andrew J. Howell Born

Sarah Elizabeth Howell Born

Minneapolis, Hennepin Co., MN

Scott Shinn Born: 28 Jun 1966

Monroe Co., VA

Isaac Stroud Born: Bet. 1765 - 1784

Montgomery Co., OH (246 Mi SW of Fayette Co.)

Andrew Jackson Howell Born

Who Am I?

Family Map

New York

Sylvia Ellen Millard Born: 1828

New York, NY

Hannah Born: 1837

Northfield, Rice Co., MN (97 Mi NW of Spring Grove)

Leone Calfern Padelford Born: 21 Oct 1896

Ohio

Leonard Phillips Born: 1820

Bobby Myers Born: 21 Feb 1961

Saint Paul, Ramsey Co., MN

Daisy Howell Born

Gary Brucker Born

William David Howell Born: 14 Feb 1921

Shelley Howell Born: 20 Oct 1946

William D. Howell, Jr Born: 22 Sep 1950

Amy Brucker Born: 03 Nov 1968

Anne Brucker Born: 03 Oct 1971

Sara Brucker Born: 03 Oct 1971

Jeffrey Ferguson Born: 29 Nov 1971

Sheldon, Houston Co., MN

Lillian Flatten Born: 28 Nov 1924

South Bend, Saint Joseph Co., IN (31 Mi N of Argos)

Roy Morgan Born

Spring Grove, Houston Co., MN

John Andrew Flatten Born: 19 Jan 1883

See Also Blair, Northfield, and Lodi.

Trumbull Co., OH

Jesse Howell Born

Zadock Howell Born

Virginia

Phoebe Dickens Born: 1774

Wisconsin

Lucy Hamlin Born: Anson

James Lyle Born: 1864 Southern

Catherine M. Shermock Born: 03 Mar 1889
Brunswick

Jeannette Lyle Born: 20 Nov 1909 Anson

A Brief History of The Kosmo (Korsmo) Family

*Prepared for my granddaughter, Madeline Shinn; November 10, 2005
Capt. Jim Kosmo*

At some point in life nearly everyone comes to ask, where did I come from? Who am I? Research tells us that we are indeed our parents' children. Genealogy is who we are. Our heritage manifests in our health, scholarship, attitude, endurance and physical appearance. Perhaps every person who seriously pursues genealogical research quickly discovers remarkable personality traits that carry through generations. Not only are you your parents' child but you also can thank your great, great grandparents for who you have become.

As countries go the United States is very young; thus, virtually everyone who lives in this country can trace their heritage to other countries. Immigrants built our nation. Early America was populated by adventuresome, often desperate individuals. Many of these people had fled famine, religious persecution or poverty. For centuries America has been the land of promise welcoming those who were willing to sacrifice and work hard for the promise of a better life.

The following information describes how and why my ancestors came to America:

My father's grandparents, Peder Olsen Korsmo and Maren Mellem Korsmo, left their farm home in Brandval, Norway April 15, 1873 and came by ship to America. They actually spent about a year in England before coming to the United States. Ole Olsen Mellem, apparently Maren's brother, and Helvar Korsmo, another relative, made the journey with them.

At that time in history Norway was in a deep economic depression and thousands of Norwegians left to find a better life. In those times, and often today as well, the property of the parents was passed on to the oldest son. Peder was the younger son and thus received only minor inheritance and no land in Norway. Somewhere he had learned a skill as a shoemaker. Once in Eau Claire, Wisconsin he started a shoe store in downtown Eau Claire. He also opened a feed mill in Eau Claire.

Peder and Maren had eight children: Olivia, Otto, Lena & Tina (twins), Martha, Henry, Minnie and John. John married Ida Haug in Eau Claire and they had two sons: Palmer James Kosmo and Arnold Kosmo. Arnold died at age four. Palmer married Virginia Fischer and they had two

children: Sandee and Jim.

Fischer Family

My mother's grandfather John Fischer, whose history and talents were remarkably similar to my father's grandfather, was born in Vienna, Austria in 1863. He also was a second son; thus, his older brother Joseph inherited the family shoe business. Instead of learning the family shoe trade John was apprenticed to a harness maker. A tall man, well over 6', with jet black hair and steel blue eyes, Fischer came to America where he lived with family friends in Chicago. Unfortunately by the time he arrived in Chicago there were too many immigrants and not enough jobs. He traveled north to a large German settlement in Milwaukee, WI where he learned of the boomtowns in the lumber country of northern Wisconsin. He traveled to Eau Claire where many Germans and Austrians had settled. He rented a piece of land on North Barstow St. in downtown Eau Claire and started a harness shop. That business survived into the 1950's. (Sandee and I just sold the building last year).

John married Emilia Kuehn, a German girl from Fall Creek, WI. They had two children: Edward John Fischer and Ernest Ewald Fischer (Virginia's father).

Interestingly, the Kosmo Shoe Store and the Fischer Harness Shop were right across the street from one another. The Fischers were devoted Austrian Catholics and the Kosmos were equally committed Norwegian Lutherans. At that time there was strong segregation between Catholics and Lutherans. Palmer Kosmo and Virginia Fischer (my parents) both were very independent minded young people who defied the orders of their parents not to associate with people of the other religion and eventually they were married.

Oldfield Family

My grandmother, Bess Gay Oldfield Fischer, was the daughter of Alfeus Oldfield and Ada Stroud. Alfeus and a twin brother were born Dec. 25, 1849 in Liverpool, England. His father was an auctioneer and owned a furniture store in Liverpool. They had 22 children of which 19 reached adulthood. The family apparently had modest means inasmuch as all their children attended private schools and in later years received an inheritance.

When Alfeus was 10 years old he was sent to the cloakroom at school for some mischievous act. At the end of the day the schoolmaster forgot the young boy was locked in the closet and left for the day. Alfeus escaped from the closet, broke a window and left school. The next day the schoolmaster refused to admit him back into class. He was labeled unmanageable and expelled. His father found a job for Alfeus aboard a ship as a cabin boy. He spent the next few years working aboard ships. A small man, barely over 5' tall with black hair and gray-blue eyes Alfeus became a musician aboard the ships playing the accordion and singing. Later, he had his own band in Wisconsin for many years and played for public events. On Aug. 9, 1869 he arrived at New York aboard the City of Antwerp and left the ship. He joined the Burr Robbins Circus (later

Ringling Bros.) as a clown.

The circus was headquartered in Iowa but made its winter home in southern Wisconsin near what today is the Wisconsin Dells. One winter while in Wisconsin he met a young horsewoman whose family owned the hotel in Lodi, WI. When the circus left during the night Ada Stroud, the young horse rider, slipped away with them. She became Adrienne, a famous bareback rider and tightrope walker. In time the little clown fell in love with her and they were married. They left the circus and moved to Eau Claire where they purchased land west of the city and became farmers. They had seven children including Bess Gay, my grandmother.

Stroud Family

One other quite interesting family is that of Ada Stroud, my great grandmother, Adrienne the bareback rider. Her fifth great grandfather Edward Strode came to America in 1686 as a young man. He settled in Virginia and owned a large plantation. He lived to be 108. (Note: This connection is believed to be accurate but has never been positively confirmed. My research can only verify a connection to James Stode who would be in the next generation).

Edward was descended from Warnius de la Strode of Normandy, France who accompanied William the Conqueror during the invasion of England in 1066 and fought in the Battle of Hastings where England's King Harold was killed. William the Conqueror was then crowned King William I. Early in his reign the new king introduced feudal law dividing England into sections and bestowing land upon his Norman followers. Warinus de la Strode, being one of those followers, was granted a vast estate at Shepton Mallet in County Somerset. To this day St. Paul Church in Shepton Mallet, displays numerous plaques and busts of the Strodes, including Edward, Sr.

After more than 600 years of prosperity and prominence in England the Strodes became embroiled in civil war in 1685. In those days most conflicts and wars were based on religious conflict. (Come to think of it, maybe we haven't changed so much in the past 300 years. Isn't it sad that the faith with which we seek to find a better life and to treat others more kindly is the basis for such hatred? Sorry about the editorial comment.) Anyway, back in old England civil war erupted between Catholics and Protestants. Sir William Strode, a member of Parliament, was a close ally of the Duke of Monmouth who led the attempt to take the throne of England from his uncle, King James II. The King's army defeated Monmouth at the battle of Sedgmore in Somerset County. The Duke fled to Shepton Mallet on July 6, 1686 and sought shelter with his friend Edward Strode, Sir William's brother. The King was enraged and sent his troops to punish the rebels. Some of the wealthy people paid large sums to obtain pardons. Edward Strode was one of those who paid to be pardoned, but when another brother Bernard and other Protestants were beheaded by the King's troops in the Bloody Assize of 1685 he chartered a ship, the Paysay, for an escape to America. On the voyage to America Edward Sr. died leaving his five children and nephew Bernard as orphans in a new country. One of the five children, Edward Jr., thus became the first person in our family to arrive in America in 1686. Unfortunately, not a great deal is

known about his early years in America.

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