

The Kessler (Köpler) Family

Researched and Compiled by

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and

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The Kessler (Köpler) Family

1. Johann Köpler was born in the early 1700s in Schellingen, Germany.
2. Joannes Baptist Köpler was born about 1750 in Schellingen, Germany.
3. Franz Joseph Kessler was born December 7, 1782, in Botzingen, Germany.
4. Francis Xavier Kessler was born November 12, 1808, in Borzingen, Germany.
5. Paulina Kessler was born July 25, 1844, in Boetzingen, Germany.

Relationship to Duffner Family Line

Paulina Kessler married Jacob Duffner, son of Agatha Duffner, on March 21, 1861, in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

Johann Köpler

Johann Köpler was born in the early 1700s in Schellingen, Germany. The village of Schellingen is located a few kilometers northwest of Bötzingen, Baden, Germany. Both villages are located about 15 kilometers northwest of Freiburg, Germany, at the edge of a small mountain called “Kaiserstuhl” which was a volcano about ten million years ago. Today, the area is a famous German wine cultivation area.

Johann married Anna Leber. The only known child:

1. **Joannes Baptist Köpler**, born about 1750 in Schellingen, Germany.

Joannes Baptist Köpler

Joannes Baptist Köpler was born about 1750 in Schellingen Germany. He married Anna Maria Glaser on July 9, 1770, in Schellingen. Anna, born November 6, 1745, was the daughter of Michael Glaser and Anna Ambs.

The description from the marriage record is “Johann Baptist Köpler, of the honorable parents Johann Köpler and Anna Keber, citizens of Schellingen, legitimate son, honorable youth, not married before.”

Only known children of Johann Baptist Köpler and Anna Maria Glaser:

1. Maria Theresia, born September 6, 1774.
2. **Franz Joseph Köpler (Kessler)**, born December 1, 1782.

Franz Joseph Kessler

Francis Joseph Kessler was born December 7, 1782, in Botzingen, Germany. He married Catharine Fehrenbach on November 19, 1804, in Botzingen. Catharine was born July 8, 1783.

Children of Franz Kessler and Catharina Fehrenbach (all were born in Botzingen, Germany):

1. Maria Agatha Kessler, born December 19, 1805. Died February 18, 1841, in Botzingen, Germany.
2. **Francis Xavier Kessler**, born November 12, 1808. Married Barbara Siegstein on February 27, 1837, in Botzingen, Germany. Died November 21, 1878. Boonville, Missouri.
3. Catharina Kessler, born November 19, 1811.
4. Magdalena Kessler, born June 8, 1814. Died July 21, 1846, Osenbach, Germany (located 20 km southwest of Colmar in Alsace).
5. Johann Baptist Kessler, born June 18, 1817. Immigrated to America.
6. Maria Anna Kessler, born September 23, 1820. Died November 2, 1834, Botzinger, Germany.
7. Franz Joseph Kessler, born April 14, 1823. Immigrated to America.

Francis Xavier Kessler

Francis Xavier Kessler was born November 12, 1808, in Botzingen, Baden, Germany. He married Barbara Siegstein on February 27, 1837, in Botzingen. Barbara, the daughter of Joannes Siegstein and Anna Trub, was born September 20, 1811, in Botzingen and died October 8, 1900, in Missouri.

Children of Francis Kessler and Barbara Siegstein (all born in Botzingen):

1. Franz Xaver Kessler, born December 3, 1837. Died September 1, 1838, Botzingen.
2. Wilhelmina Kessler, born November 12, 1839. Died June 19, 1842, Botzingen.
3. Magdalena Kessler, born August 10, 1842. Immigrated to America.
4. **Paulina Kessler**, born July 25, 1844. Married Jacob Duffner on March 21, 1861, in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. Died 1903 in Missouri.
5. Wilhelm Kessler, born May 27, 1848. Died August 25, 1848, Botzingen.
6. Maria Josephina Kessler, born June 28, 1849. Married Henry Sheeon on December 9, 1867, Jackson County, Missouri.

Francis Xavier Kessler died in Missouri on November 21, 1878, and is buried in "old" St. Martin's Catholic Cemetery, Pilot Grove, Missouri. The cemetery is located at T 48 N, R 18 W, Section 22 and is about five miles northeast of Pilot Grove a short distance off of Route 135 on a gravel road. His wife, Barbara Siegstein, died October 8, 1900, and is also buried in St. Martin's Cemetery.

Paulina Kessler

Paulina Kessler was born on July 25, 1844, in Botzingen, Baden, Germany. She immigrated to America with her parents, Francis Xavier Kessler and Barbara Siegstien, and two sisters, Magdalena and Maria Josephina.

Paulina Kessler married Jacob Duffner, the son of Agatha Dufner of Germany, on March 21, 1861, in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

The children of Jacob Duffner and Paulina Kessler:

1. Infant Duffner, about 1862, Platte County, Missouri.
2. Mary L. Duffner, born May 10, 1866, in Platte County, Missouri. Died 1926.
3. **Frank Xavier Duffner**, born May 10, 1868, Merriam, Shawnee Township, Johnson County, Kansas. Married Minnie Lillie Knoff on November 11, 1887, in Rosedale, Wyandotte County, Kansas. Died August 2, 1942, in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas, and is buried in Shawnee Cemetery, Johnson County.
4. Jacob Duffner, Jr., born May 3, 1870, Shawnee Township, Johnson County, Kansas. Married Saraphine Naser. Died 1955 in St. Louis, Missouri, and is buried in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri. One child.
5. George A. Duffner born January 1, 1873, in Shawnee Township, Johnson County, Kansas. Married Katherine Maloney. Died October, 1962, in California.
6. John Henry Duffner, born December 25, 1876, in Shawnee Township, Johnson County, Kansas. Married 1) Fridrika Hansen on July 3, 1925, in Salt Lake City, Utah. And 2) Daisey Roundtree, about 1940, in Santa Cruz, California. Died in San Diego, California.
7. Joseph E. Duffner, born October 15, 1877, Shawnee Township, Johnson County, Kansas. Married Agatha Lillian Motz on April 23, 1901 in St. Louis, Missouri. Died December 29, 1937 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
8. Carrie Amelia Duffner, born May 3, 1883, Shawnee Township, Johnson County, Kansas. Died November, 1887, Shawnee Township, Johnson County, Kansas.

After their marriage in 1861, Jacob and Paulina moved to a 40 acre farm that they purchased near Parkville, Platt county, Missouri, along the Missouri River north of Kansas City, Kansas. Jacob sold his house in Kansas City, Missouri, to purchase the farm land.

During the Civil War, Jacob Duffner enrolled in the Enrolled Missouri Militia in Parkville, Platte County, Missouri, on November 30, 1863. He was a member of the 82nd Regiment, Company F. The unit, commanded by General Fisk, was ordered into active duty on May 27, 1864, at Parkville, Missouri. Jacob Duffner was relieved from duty on August 22, 1864, after 37 days of active service.

Jacob and Paulina's first child, a son, was born about three years after they were married and died in infancy. Their first surviving daughter, Mary L. Duffner, was born in 1866 in

Missouri and as a young adult, around 1890, Mary was living in Independence, Missouri, where she was involved in a millinery business.

Frank Xavier Duffner was born in 1868 and the first child born on the Duffner farm land in Merriam, Shawnee Township, Johnson County, Kansas. Frank was the only Duffner child to remain in the Kansas City area throughout his life.

Following Frank Duffner, four sons were born: Jacob Dufner, Jr., George A. Duffner, John Henry Duffner, and Joseph Edward Duffner. A daughter, Carrie Amelia Duffner, was born on May 3, 1883, but died at a young age in 1887.

Jacob and Paulina lived on the farm near Parkville, Missouri, for almost four years. In 1865, they sold the 40 acre farm and moved to Chillicothe, Johnson County, Kansas, where they rented a farm for about one year prior to moving to the farm in Shawnee Township of Johnson County, Kansas. Chillicothe was located in western Johnson County, Kansas, and was no longer in existence in the 1870s.

The Duffner land in Johnson County, shown on a 1877 map of the area, lies northwest of the small town of Merriam and about 2 miles northeast of Shawnee, Kansas. The land is on a high rise west of the Turkey Creek valley with woods on several sides. In 1888, the farm consisted of 200 acres in Sections 1 and 12 of T12N, R24W, Johnson County, Kansas.

Today, the Duffner farm land lies in a suburban part of Kansas City, Kansas, near the border between Wyandotte and Johnson Counties. The Duffner farm land is located west of Interstate 35 and Merriam Drive, along Turkey Creek, between 53rd and 55th Streets. The western boundary appears to be Switzer Street, which was "old Shawnee Road." The farm land is populated by suburban residential homes today.

The 1870 federal census, taken in July, 1870, for Shawnee township of Johnson county, Kansas, lists the following members of the Jacob Duffner household:

47	Duffner, Jacob	Head, age 45, farmer, born in Germany
	Paulina	Wife, age 30, keeping house, born in Germany
	Mary	Daughter, age 5, born in Missouri
	Frank	Son, age 3, born in Kansas
	Jacob	Son, age 1, born in Kansas

Paulina Kessler filed for a divorce from Jacob Duffner in October, 1887, and the divorce decree was issued in Johnson County in January, 1888. At the time of the divorce, they owned the farm land in Shawnee Township and also lots 1 through 4 in the Chestnut Heights¹ subdivision of Kansas City, Missouri. After the divorce, it is believed that Paulina lived on the Kansas City property with her young sons. Their daughter, Mary, was in the millinery trade and living near Independence, Missouri.

Following the divorce court settlement, the farm property near Merriam was sold and the assets divided between Jacob and Pauline. In 1900, Jacob Duffner was a boarder in a hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, at 1708 Allen Street². The area is south of downtown Kansas City, Missouri, and in a railroad/industrial area. Three of their sons, George, Jacob Jr., and Joseph Edward, were living at 2601 Eads Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1900. George A Duffner was a grocer, brother Jacob Duffner was also a grocer, and brother Joseph Edwards Duffner was a painter³.

Pauline's mother, Barbara Siegstein Kessler, is believed to have lived in Kansas City, Missouri, with Pauline and her sons immediately after the divorce. In 1900, both Barbara Siegstein Kessler and Pauline Kessler Duffner were living in Pilot Grove Township, Cooper County, Missouri, with the family of Thomas Mallott and his wife, Josephine Kessler. Josephine was the sister of Pauline Duffner. Barbara "Barbry" Kessler died in October, 1900, and was buried next to her husband, Francis Xavier Kessler, at St. Martin's Catholic Cemetery at Pilot Grove.

Jacob died the evening before his 76th birthday on May 2, 1901, in St. Louis, Missouri. He had probably been in St. Louis for the marriage of his son, Joseph Edward, and Agatha Motz, which took place ten days earlier. The family story indicates that Jacob was playing cards with his sons and said "Get the priest boys, I am going to die." Jacob was buried the next day in Calvary Cemetery, 5339 Florissant Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

Pauline Kessler Duffner died in 1903. At the time of her death, a telegram was sent to Frank X. Duffner from brother George A. Duffner, who was living in St. Louis. The message on the telegram was "Mother is dead." Pauline Kessler is buried with her parents in St. Martin's Catholic Cemetery, Pilot Grove, Missouri. The cemetery is located at T 48 N, R 18 W, Section 22 and is about five miles northeast of Pilot Grove a short distance off of Route 135 on a gravel road.

¹ The Chestnut Heights subdivision is in east Kansas City. The subdivision is one city block bounded on the north and south by 22nd and 23rd Streets, on the east by Agnes Street, and on the west by Benton Street.

² 1900 Census, Jackson County, Missouri. Vol. 42, ED 37, Sheet 2, Line 86.

³ 1900 Census, Perry County (St. Louis), Missouri, Vol. 93, ED 203, Sheet 6, Line 80.

For more information on Paulina Kessler, see the document entitled “**The Duffner Family.**”