

Dead-End Report: Clifford

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is intended to be a review of all the research done so far on Lewis Clifford and Sophia Hale, great-grandparents of Margaret Estella (DeWitt) Gile and third-great grandparents of Mary Estella (Moberly) Koeven, the author of this report. Lewis and Sophia were German immigrants, and at this point in time, no vital records or family members have been located for either of them in Germany. In order to trace the Clifford and Hale lines back farther, it is necessary to review everything that is known about them. At the end of the report, future research plans will be discussed.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research are as follows:

- Prove that Lewis Clifford and Sophia Hale are direct ancestors of Margaret Estella DeWitt.
- Identify the birth, marriage, death and burial dates and places of Lewis Clifford and Sophia Hale, as well as any information on their parents.
- Locate and analyze any records pertaining to Lewis and Sophia's immigration and naturalization.
- Identify the birth, marriage, death and burial dates and places of all of Lewis and Sophia's children.
- Identify the birth, marriage, death and burial dates and places of any of Lewis and Sophia's other spouses, and any children from those marriages (birth and step children included)
- Identify each place where Lewis and Sophia lived during their lives.
- Identify any relevant DNA matches found through AncestryDNA testing of Carl Gile and Dianna (Gile) Moberly, children of Margaret Estella (DeWitt) Gile.

PROVING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GENERATIONS

The following is a summary of evidence indicating that Lewis Clifford and Sophia Hale are direct ancestors of Margaret Estella DeWitt.

MARGARET ESTELLA DEWITT, DAUGHTER OF GLADYS CLIFFORD

Margaret Estella DeWitt Gile's birth certificate names her mother as Gladys Clifford of Concordia, Kansas, who was born in Muscatine, Iowa.¹ Margaret and her children were well acquainted with Gladys as their mother/grandmother, and visited often for family gatherings. Gladys married Vernon John

¹ Cloud County, Kansas, birth certificate no. 2152290, Margaret Estella DeWitt, 20 January 1935.

DeWitt on 25 December 1916.² She passed away on 5 March 1984 in a nursing home in Concordia, Cloud, Kansas. Margaret Gile was listed as one of her daughters in her obituary.³

GLADYS CLIFFORD, DAUGHTER OF FRED OR CHARLES CLIFFORD

In Margaret's birth certificate and several census records, Gladys reports her birthplace as Iowa. However, Gladys was still alive when her daughter Margaret was researching her family, and remembered her siblings and some of their descendants. They reported that Gladys was actually born in Argentine, Kansas, while her parents, Fred Clifford and Ella Mae (Bryan) Clifford were living there. Gladys Clifford also had memories of being raised by Charles and Ella Mae Clifford of Geneva, Fillmore, Nebraska. Census records confirm her living in these two locations.

There is some confusion as to whether Gladys was the biological daughter of Charles Clifford or his brother, Fred Clifford. Her mother, Ella Mae Bryan, married Fred Clifford on 6 July 1885 in the office of the Probate Judge in Johnson County, Kansas, per their marriage license.⁴

In the 1900 census, Ella Mae was listed twice. She was listed in Johnson County, Kansas with Fred and two children, Leo, age ten, and May, age ten.⁵ The census stated that Ella and Fred had been married for fifteen years. Ella Mae was listed again in Jefferson County, Nebraska, this time with Charles and two children: Gladys, age six, and Lurna, age three.⁶ This census record indicated that Charles and Ella Mae had been married for four years (about 1896). Gladys was born in 1893. A marriage record for Charles and Ella Mae has not been found. A divorce record for Fred and Ella Mae has not been located either.

Margaret (Bobbitt) Carlson, daughter of Irene (Clifford) Bobbitt, stated in a letter that "It was determined that Fred was the father of Gladys and Mae and I guess Leo."⁷ She had asked Sophia (Schumacher) Slaymaker and Fred Schumacher, children of Mary (Clifford) Schumacher, about the family history when she was in highschool. Fred Schumacher also wrote a letter explaining that he remembered Fred and Ella along with their children Leo, May, Gladys and twins "Lewis" and "Lorene."⁸ They had come to Iowa to stay with family in 1898. By 1899, Fred, Leo, and May were back in Kansas. He also stated that Fred Clifford was married when he came to Iowa to visit in 1888-1889. This implies that Fred and Ella Clifford lived in Kansas together from the time they were married (1885) until visiting

² Fillmore County, Nebraska, marriage certificate no. 654, Vernon J DeWitt and Gladys Clifford, 25 December 1916.

³ Obituary for Gladys DeWitt, *The Salina Journal*, Salina, Kansas, 6 March 1984.

⁴ "Kansas County Marriages, 1855-1911," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FWLS-SQD> : accessed 13 April 2018), Frederic J. Clifford and Ella M. Bryan, 06 Jul 1885; citing FHL microfilm 1,572,005.

⁵ 1900 U.S. Census, Wyandotte County, Kansas, population schedule, Argentine, enumeration district (ED) 142, p. 55A (stamped), dwelling 195, family 204; Fred Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7602/4120169_00113 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

⁶ 1900 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, Nebraska, population schedule, Eureka, enumeration district (ED) 85, p. 8 (written), dwelling 143, family 148; Charles Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7602/4119892_00788/65218712 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

⁷ Margaret Carlson (Columbus, Indiana) to "Dear Margaret" [Margaret Estella DeWitt Gile], letter, no date; Privately held by Clyde Gile.

⁸ Fred Schumacher (Marengo, Iowa) to "Dear Mrs Giles" [Margaret Estella DeWitt Gile], letter, 29 May 1961; Privately held by Clyde Gile.

family in Iowa—once in 1888 and again in 1899. Gladys was born in 1893, so if these accounts are true, then Gladys must have been Fred’s daughter.

From this information, Margaret (DeWitt) Gile concluded that Gladys was the daughter of Fred, as that is what she recorded on her personal pedigree chart. The obituary of Gladys DeWitt as reported in the *Belleville Telescope* states that her father was Fred.⁹ This obituary information also likely came from Margaret Gile. The obituary of Ella Mae (Bryan) Clifford states that Gladys was the daughter of John Clifford, likely in reference to Charles John Clifford.¹⁰

Because it is not one hundred percent certain exactly when Ella Mae and Charles began to have an intimate relationship, it is possible that Charles was the biological father of Gladys, but since Ella Mae and Charles were living in two different states, except for occasional visits, it seems most likely that Gladys’ father was Fred. However, it is apparent that the father who raised Gladys from the age of six onward was Charles John Clifford. Step and adopted relationships can be just as important as biological ones in determining family connections.

Regardless of who is considered Gladys’ “real” father, Fred and Charles were both sons of Lewis Clifford and Sophia Hale. Determining which brother was the father of Gladys is irrelevant in regards to tracing the Clifford line back in time.

FRED AND CHARLES CLIFFORD, SONS OF LEWIS CLIFFORD AND SOPHIA HALE

In a probate file dated 13 March 1878, held by the Iowa County, Iowa Circuit Court, “Frederick and Charles Cleiforth” are described as “sons and minor heirs ... of Lewis Cleiforth, dec[ease]d.”¹¹ Their guardian, as described in the document, was Sophia Bonatz. Bonatz was the surname of Sophia Hale’s second husband.

Fred and Charles are listed with Lewis and Sophia in the 1870 United States Federal Census in Iowa County, Iowa.¹² Fred is listed with them in the 1860 Census at the age of two, when the family was living in Erie County, New York.¹³ Their older sister, Maria or Mary, is also listed in these census records, and the ages match up with estimated birth dates, so these census records seem to be about the same family. These records give strong evidence that Fred and Charles were the sons of Lewis Clifford and Sophia Hale.

⁹ Obituary for Gladys DeWitt, *The Belleville Telescope*, Belleville, Kansas, 15 March 1984.

¹⁰ Obituary for Mrs. Charles Clifford, *The Nebraska Signal*, Geneva, Nebraska, 16 November 1944.

¹¹ Guardianship record, Estate of Lewis Cleiforth, Iowa County, Iowa, 5 Mar 1878. Privately held by Clyde Sheridan Gile.

¹² 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, agriculture schedule, Washington Township, p. 3, line 25, Louis Clifford; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>; accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication T1156, roll 9.

¹³ 1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>; accessed 26 Dec 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 752.

LEWIS CLIFFORD

SUMMARY OF RECORDS

The following table contains a list of all known records about Lewis J. Clifford. The documents are listed in chronological order:

Date Created	Name on Record	Description of Record	Comments	ref
15 Sep 1854	L. Kliefoth	Port of Hamburg shiplist for passengers aboard the ship <i>Aurora</i> , departing 15 September 1854	Wife named as Sophie; says born in Tessendorf	¹⁴
25 Nov 1854	L. Klieforth	Port of New York shiplist for passengers aboard the ship <i>Aurora</i> , arriving 25 November 1854	Listed with Sophie	¹⁵
10 June 1855	Lewis Cleafholt	1855 New York State Census	Living in Lancaster, Erie, NY with Sophia and Maria. Born in Prussia	¹⁶
7 Sep 1855	Louis Kliefuss	Baptism record for Maria Karolina Louisa Kliefuss, St. John's Lutheran Church, Lancaster, New York	Living in Lancaster, New York	¹⁷
27 August 1860	Ludwich Clefbat	1860 United States Census	Living in West Seneca, Erie, NY with Sopia, Mary, and Frederick	¹⁸
3 May 1867	Lewis Cleiforth	Deed purchasing land in Iowa County, Iowa from John Caffrey		¹⁹

¹⁴ Entry for L. Kliefoth on ship *Aurora*, "Auswandererlisten, 1850-1934," FHL microfilm 470836. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹⁵ Entry for L. Klieforth, *Aurora* passenger list, 23 Nov 1854 "New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 January 2011), citing NARA microfilm publication M237, roll 148.

¹⁶ 1855 New York, Erie County Census, Lancaster, Election District 1, page 77 (written), dwelling 690, Lewis Cleafholt household, indexed as Lewis Clendholt; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2013); citing Hamburg, New York: Hamburg Historical Society, New York, Erie County Census - 1855, 1865, 1875.

¹⁷ Mary Koeven marykoeven@gmail.com, to Church Office of St. John's Lutheran Church, Lancaster, New York churchoffice@stjohnslanc.org e-mail correspondence, 26 Feb 2017 to 1 Mar 2017, "Old Church Records," Clifford Research Files, privately held by Mary Koeven.

¹⁸ 1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 Dec 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 752.

¹⁹ Deed record, Iowa County, Iowa, John Caffrey to Lewis and Sophia Cleiforth, 3 May 1867. Copy privately held by Clyde Sheridan Gile.

Date Created	Name on Record	Description of Record	Comments	ref
12-17 August 1870	Louis Clifford	1870 US Census Agricultural Schedule		²⁰
22 August 1870	Louis Clifford	1870 United States Census	Washington Township, Iowa, Iowa, living with Sophia, Mary, Fredric and Charles. Born in Macklenburgh	²¹
29 Oct 1873	Lewis J., Husband of S. Clifford	Tombstone of Lewis J. Clifford in Bishop Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa, Iowa		²²
5 March 1878	Lewis Cleiforth	Affidavit regarding the guardianship of Charles and Frederick Cleiforth, minor heirs of Lewis Cleiforth	Death date recorded as 27 October 1873	²³
13 March 1878	Lewis Cleiforth	Petition notifying Fred and Charles that Sophia intends to sell their inherited land		²⁴
18 April 1878	Lewis Cleiforth	Sale of Lewis Cleiforth's land to Christian Hartmann		²⁵
31 December 1901	Not mentioned by name, but as husband of Sophia Kilforth	Obituary of Sophia Kilforth	Married in "this country" in 18?3	²⁶

BIRTH

Lewis J. Clifford (as his name is spelled on his gravestone) was born about 8 August 1819 in Mecklenburg. At the time Mecklenburg was a semi-independent territory known as a "duchy," located in what is now northern Germany.

²⁰ 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, agriculture schedule, Washington Township, p. 3, line 25, Louis Clifford; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication T1156, roll 9.

²¹ 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Washington Township, p. 338 (stamped), dwelling 75, family 75, Louis Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 396.

²² *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 January 2011), memorial page for Lewis J Clifford (unknown–15 Oct 1873), Find A Grave Memorial no. [41721213](#), citing Bishop Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa County, Iowa, USA ; Maintained by colette harrison (contributor [47022055](#)) .

²³ Guardianship record, Estate of Lewis Cleiforth, Iowa County, Iowa, 5 Mar 1878. Privately held by Clyde Sheridan Gile.

²⁴ Guardianship record, Estate of Lewis Cleiforth, Iowa County, Iowa, 20 May 1878. Privately held by Clyde Sheridan Gile.

²⁵ Guardianship record, Estate of Lewis Cleiforth, Iowa County, Iowa. Privately held by Clyde Sheridan Gile.

²⁶ Obituary for Sophia Kliforth, *Marengo Republican*, Marengo, Iowa, 31 December 1901; newspaper clipping received from Iowa County Genealogy Society.

Lewis's birth date was calculated from his age as written on his tombstone. The writing is weathered away somewhat and photos of the tombstone are blurry, so it is recommended that the tombstone be consulted a second time and a better photograph taken so that the dates can be verified. The birth year calculated from the tombstone is fairly consistent with his age as recorded in other records. A comparison of these records is shown in the table below:

Record Description	Age	Calculated Birth Date
New York Passenger List for ship <i>Aurora</i> , 23 November 1854 ²⁷	35	1819
1855 New York State Census, Enumeration Date: 10 June 1855 ²⁸	35	1820
1860 United States Federal Census, Enumeration Date: 27 August 1860 ²⁹	42	1818
1870 United States Federal Census, Enumeration Date: 22 August 1860 ³⁰	50	1820
Gravestone of Lewis J. Clifford, 27 October 1873 ³¹	54 years, 2 months, 19 days	8 August 1819

The shiplist recording Lewis and Sophia's departure from Hamburg, Germany states that Lewis was born in Tessendorf, Mecklenburg.³² No town named "Tessendorf" has been identified in German gazeteers, however, there are several places in Germany called "Teschendorf," two of which are in Mecklenburg. Lutheran baptism records in both of these Teschendorfs have been searched, but no one matching Lewis's name and birth date has been found.

The Hamburg shiplist has the most complete birth location for Lewis. It is also the oldest record discovered so far for Lewis, so it is the most reliable source as far as birthplace. The 1870 census also states that Lewis was born in Mecklenburg.³³ The 1855 New York census says he was born in Germany, and the 1860 census says he was born in Prussia.³⁴ Although Mecklenburg was not technically a part of

²⁷ Entry for L. Kliefoth on ship *Aurora*, "Auswandererlisten, 1850-1934," FHL microfilm 470836. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²⁸ 1855 New York, Erie County Census, Lancaster, Election District 1, page 77 (written), dwelling 690, Lewis Cleaholt household, indexed as Lewis Clendholt; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2013).

²⁹ 1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 Dec 2012).

³⁰ 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Washington Township, p. 338 (stamped), dwelling 75, family 75, Louis Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 May 2015).

³¹ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 January 2011), memorial page for Lewis J Clifford (unknown-15 Oct 1873), Find A Grave Memorial no. [41721213](#), citing Bishop Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa County, Iowa, USA ; Maintained by colette harrison (contributor [47022055](#)) .

³² Entry for L. Kliefoth on ship *Aurora*, "Auswandererlisten, 1850-1934," FHL microfilm 470836. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

³³ 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Washington Township, p. 338 (stamped), dwelling 75, family 75, Louis Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 396.

³⁴ 1855 New York, Erie County Census, Lancaster, Election District 1, page 77 (written), dwelling 690, Lewis Cleaholt household, indexed as Lewis Clendholt; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2013); citing Hamburg, New York: Hamburg Historical Society, New York, Erie County Census - 1855, 1865, 1875.

Prussia, it would be easy for an American census taker to assume that anyone who spoke German was from Prussia, since most German states were Prussian. Germany was also a catch-all term referring to the German Confederation, or any country whose primary language was German. Mecklenburg became part of the German Empire in 1871.

SPELLING OF NAME

Lewis's name has been spelled in several different ways in different records. This has made it challenging to locate records about him. Here is a list of names he has been found under:

- Lewis Clendholdt
- Louis Clifford
- Ludwick Cefbot
- L Kliefoth
- Lewis J Clifford
- Ludwick Clefoot
- Lewis Cleafholt
- Louis Kliefuss

This variation in names is not surprising, because Lewis was a native German speaker, and American English speakers would have had a difficult time transcribing his pronunciation. The only German record found for him so far, the Hamburg shiplist, refers to him as "L. Kliefoth." It is likely that his German name was "Ludwig Kliefoth," although this has not been proven.

To ensure that no records for the Cliffords are missed, it is recommended that both the "C's" and the "K's" be searched in any book index consulted. When using computer databases, several spelling variations should be searched, using wildcard characters if the search tool allows it (for example, "Cl*f*t*"). These techniques have already helped uncover many of the records discussed in this report.

MARRIAGE

Sophie is listed as Lewis's wife ("Frau" in German) in the Hamburg passenger list³⁵ and Maria was born shortly after their arrival, so they must have been married in Germany. It is possible they were married in Hamburg right before they left, or in Mecklenburg a few months or years earlier.

Sophie's obituary states, "Sophia Hale was born in Mecklenburg, Schwerin, Jan. 8, 1821, and was married in this country in 18?3."³⁶ It seems that "this country" refers to Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the country where Sophia was born, since we know that the couple was married before they arrived in New York. The copy obtained from the Iowa County Genealogy Society is difficult to read, so the date is uncertain. In 1843, Sophie would have been 22 years old, and in 1853, she would have been 32. Maria,

1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 Dec 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 752.

³⁵ Entry for L. Kliefoth on ship *Aurora*, "Auswandererlisten, 1850-1934," FHL microfilm 470836. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

³⁶ Obituary for Sophia Kliforth, *Marengo Republican*, Marengo, Iowa, 31 December 1901; newspaper clipping received from Iowa County Genealogy Society.

their first child that we have record of, was born in 1854, so 1853 seems a reasonable assumption, since they did not bring any children with them. However, their date of marriage is not proven.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

The Hamburg Passenger list, New York Arrival Record, and 1855 New York State Census tell a clear story of Lewis and Sophia Clifford's immigration.³⁷ They departed Hamburg, Germany on the ship *Aurora* on 15 September 1854, and arrived in New York on 25 November 1854. On 10 June 1855, they were living in Lancaster, Erie, New York, with their infant daughter Maria, aged six months. A Lancaster baptism record indicates that Maria Karolina Louisa Kliefuss was born on 4 December 1854. It seems that Sophia was pregnant while onboard the *Aurora*.³⁸

In the 1855 New York State Census, Lewis Clifford was enumerated as an "alien" and not a naturalized citizen. In the 1870 Census, Louis Clifford is marked as a "male citizen of the US of 21 years and upwards," meaning he likely became a naturalized citizen sometime between 1855 and 1870.³⁹ The 1860 Census did not have any indication of citizenship.⁴⁰ No naturalization records for Lewis have been located so far. If they exist, they may be located in the court records of Erie County, New York, or Iowa County, Iowa.

RESIDENCES IN THE UNITED STATES

Lewis and Sophia were living with their infant daughter Maria in the First Election District of Lancaster, Erie County, New York on 10 June 1855, as recorded in the 1855 New York census.⁴¹ Their home was described as a "shanty" and they did not own the land. Several other immigrants from Germany, France and England living in shanties and log homes were listed on the same census page. This was about seven months after their arrival at the Port of New York. Lancaster was nearly 400 miles from New York Harbor. They probably traveled that distance by rail, or by rail and canal.

³⁷ Entry for L. Kliefoth on ship *Aurora*, "Auswandererlisten, 1850-1934," FHL microfilm 470836. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entry for L. Klieforth, *Aurora* passenger list, 23 Nov 1854 "New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 January 2011), citing NARA microfilm publication M237, roll 148.

1855 New York, Erie County Census, Lancaster, Election District 1, page 77 (written), dwelling 690, Lewis Cleafholt household, indexed as Lewis Clendholt; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2013); citing Hamburg, New York: Hamburg Historical Society, New York, Erie County Census - 1855, 1865, 1875.

³⁹ 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Washington Township, p. 338 (stamped), dwelling 75, family 75, Louis Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 396.

⁴⁰ 1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 Dec 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 752.

⁴¹ 1855 New York, Erie County Census, Lancaster, Election District 1, page 77 (written), dwelling 690, Lewis Cleafholt household, indexed as Lewis Clendholt; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2013); citing Hamburg, New York: Hamburg Historical Society, New York, Erie County Census - 1855, 1865, 1875.

In 1860, the Cliffords were living in West Seneca, a town in Erie County about eight miles from Lancaster. Both towns are suburbs of Buffalo.⁴² Lewis owned no real estate, and his personal estate was valued at \$550. Lewis's occupation in both the 1855 and 1860 censuses was described as a "laborer."

Sophia's obituary mentions that the Cliffords came to the "Amana Colony" and lived there for three years, before moving to a farm in Washington Township.⁴³ Fred Schumacher, their grandson, also remembered that they had settled in West Amana in about 1866 before settling on a farm near Marengo.⁴⁴ The Amana Colony was a town in Iowa County founded by a German religious group who called themselves "The Community of True Inspiration." This religious group had previously formed a colony in West Seneca, the same town the Cliffords were living in in 1860. The Inspirationists left West Seneca in 1855 for their new settlement in Iowa. It seems many Germans, including the Cliffords, followed in their footsteps to find more land to farm. The Inspirationists kept good records of their members, and their archives have been contacted, but the Cliffords are not in their records. They lived near the Inspirationists, but were not members of their religious organization.

Lewis and Sophia bought about forty acres of land in Iowa County, Iowa in 1864 for \$200.⁴⁵ The land was located about 2.5 miles (drawing a straight line) northeast of Marengo, in Washington Township. The 1870 Census Agricultural Schedule describes the farm as 10 acres of improved land, 6 acres of unimproved woodland, and 30 acres of other unimproved land.⁴⁶ At the time this report is being written, the land is owned by a Steven Bruce Behrens and contains both farmland and woodland.⁴⁷ Sophia still owned the land in Iowa County and sold half of it after Lewis's death, so it is reasonable to assume that Lewis lived on and worked the land until he died.

⁴² 1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 Dec 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 752.

⁴³ Obituary for Sophia Kliforth, *Marengo Republican*, Marengo, Iowa, 31 December 1901; newspaper clipping received from Iowa County Genealogy Society.

⁴⁴ Fred Schumacher (Marengo, Iowa) to "Dear Mrs Giles" [Margaret Estella DeWitt Gile], letter, 29 May 1961; Privately held by Clyde Gile.

"Lewis and Sophia Clifford came from Mechlinburg girmeny landed in New York for a while came to Iowa in 66. Mary, my mother, was 11 years old at that time. Settled in West Amana then later moved to a farm about 4 miles northeast of Marengo."

⁴⁵ Deed record, Iowa County, Iowa, John Caffrey to Lewis and Sophia Cleiforth, 3 May 1867. Copy privately held by Clyde Sheridan Gile.

See map on page 10 for the exact location of the farm.

⁴⁶ 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, agriculture schedule, Washington Township, p. 3, line 25, Louis Clifford; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication T1156, roll 9.

⁴⁷ See Iowa County, Iowa GIS Coordinator website, <http://www.co.iowa.ia.us/offices/gis/index.htm>. Also see photo on page 11.

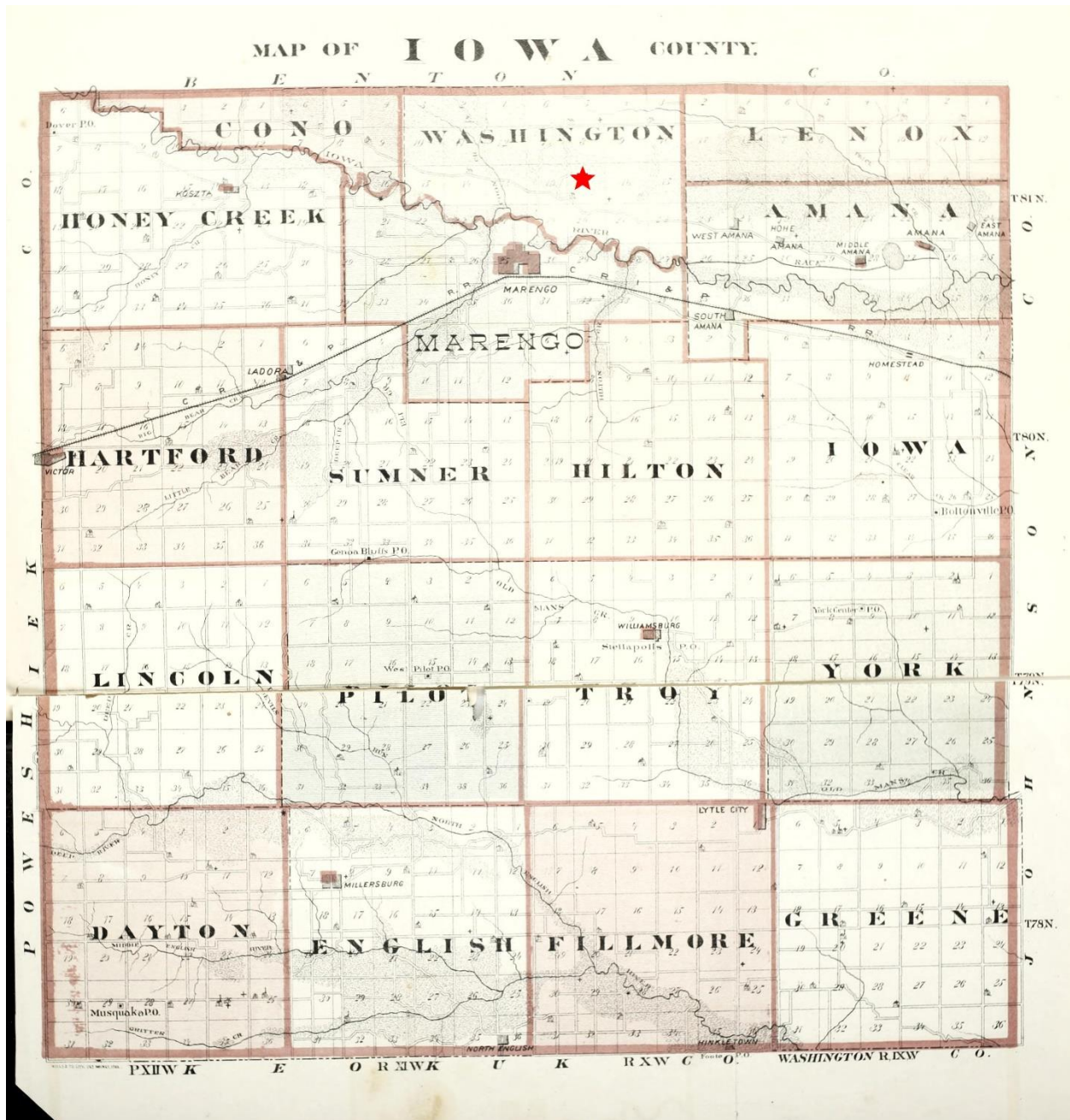


Figure 1: Star indicates location of Clifford farm in Washington Township, Iowa County.



Figure 2: GIS map with aerial photo showing two parcels of land owned by Steven Bruce Behrens on O Avenue, Washington Township, Iowa County, Iowa. The former Clifford farm is the parcel to the west.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Lewis Clifford's probate file states that he died on 27 October 1873.⁴⁸ A date in October 1873 is also recorded on Lewis Clifford's gravestone, although the writing is worn and difficult to read from the photo currently in the writer's possession.⁴⁹ The gravestone is located in Bishop Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa, Iowa, and should be consulted in person to verify the date.

SOPHIA HALE

BIRTH

Since Sophia and Lewis were already married upon their arrival in America, not much is known about Sophia's origins in Germany. Her obituary states that she was born in Mecklenburg Schwerin on 8 January 1821.⁵⁰ This seems to correspond to the date on her tombstone, although the writing is weathered away and difficult to read. Other records seem to agree with a birth year of about 1821:

⁴⁸ Guardianship record, Estate of Lewis Cleiforth, Iowa County, Iowa, 5 Mar 1878. Privately held by Clyde Sheridan Gile.

⁴⁹ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 January 2011), memorial page for Lewis J Clifford (unknown–15 Oct 1873), Find A Grave Memorial no. [41721213](#), citing Bishop Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa County, Iowa, USA ; Maintained by colette harrison (contributor [47022055](#)) .

⁵⁰ Obituary for Sophia Kliforth, *Marengo Republican*, Marengo, Iowa, 31 December 1901; newspaper clipping received from Iowa County Genealogy Society.

Record Description	Age	Calculated Birth Date
New York Passenger List for ship <i>Aurora</i> , 23 November 1854 ⁵¹	30	1824
1855 New York State Census, Enumeration Date: 10 June 1855 ⁵²	33	1822
1860 United States Federal Census, Enumeration Date: 27 August 1860 ⁵³	39	1821
1870 United States Federal Census, Enumeration Date: 22 August 1870 ⁵⁴	49	1821
Gravestone of Sophia Clifford, death date: 28 Dec 1901 ⁵⁵	80 years, 11? months, 20 days	8 January? 1821

SPELLING OF NAME

Sophia's obituary states that her name at birth was Sophia Hale. Hale is not a German name. German names that sound similar would be spelled "Hehl" or "Heil." It's also possible that Hale is a misspelling of a surname with a similar-sounding consonant, such as "Haiden." Any neighbors or witnesses on Clifford family documents with names resembling these should be investigated to determine if they are family members. There is a Karoline and Johann Haiden listed as godparents on Maria's Lutheran baptism record in Lancaster, New York. So far, this couple has not been identified in any other records.

In Germany, the name "Sophie" and "Sophia" are different spellings of the same name. In the German language, the "e" is not silent, and instead makes an "eh" sound at the end of the name: "so-FEE-eh". Both spellings are used in the various records found about Sophia, and to a German speaker, they are essentially the same name.

⁵¹ Entry for L. Klieforth, *Aurora* passenger list, 23 Nov 1854 "New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 January 2011), citing NARA microfilm publication M237, roll 148.

⁵² 1855 New York, Erie County Census, Lancaster, Election District 1, page 77 (written), dwelling 690, Lewis Cleafholt household, indexed as Lewis Clendholt; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2013); citing Hamburg, New York: Hamburg Historical Society, New York, Erie County Census - 1855, 1865, 1875.

⁵³ 1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 Dec 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 752.

⁵⁴ 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Washington Township, p. 338 (stamped), dwelling 75, family 75, Louis Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 396.

⁵⁵ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 January 2011), memorial page for Sophia Clifford (unknown-28 Dec 1901), Find A Grave Memorial no. [41721343](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41721343), citing Bishop Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa County, Iowa, USA ; Maintained by colette harrison (contributor [47022055](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47022055)) .

LEWIS'S WIDOW

Sophia lived for 28 years after Lewis died. Her obituary states that she lived with her daughter after her husband died, and after her daughter died on 13 October 1900, she continued to live with her son-in-law, Henry Schumacher.⁵⁶ However, this is not the complete story. Probate records for Lewis's estate indicate that Sophia married a second time, to a William Bonatz. The probate record states that they were married on 19 January 1875, and a decree of divorce was granted in February of 1878.⁵⁷

The probate record also states that as his widow, Sophia inherited one third of the "1/2 share" of the land owned by Lewis upon his death, and the children inherited the remaining two thirds of the "1/2 share" of the land. Apparently, the children did not want the land, because Sophia, as guardian of the estate (Fred and Charles being under age 21), sold this half of the land in 1878. After this, it can be assumed that Sophia went to live with her daughter, Mary Schumacher, as stated in the obituary. According to Henry Schumacher's obituary, the family lived near Marengo, Iowa at this time.⁵⁸ Sophia was found living in the Schumacher household in the 1880 US Federal Census, and in the 1885 Iowa State Census, although not in the 1900 US Federal Census.⁵⁹

It is not clear what happened to the other half of the land that Lewis originally bought in 1864. It may be helpful to consult the probate, land and court files of Iowa County to locate additional information about the land and the estate of Lewis Cleiforth, as well as to find any information on the marriage and divorce with William Bonatz. The probate files and deeds in the writer's possession are copies obtained from Margaret Gile's research, and a second consultation of the original records with a new set of eyes can be beneficial.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Sophia's tombstone gives her death date as 28 December 1901.⁶⁰ The obituary reports that the funeral services were held in Henry Schumacher's home on Monday, December 30, and the services were conducted by Rev. S. Elliker, a minister of the Zion Reformed Church in Williamsburg, about twelve miles from Marengo in Iowa County.⁶¹ Sophia was buried in the Bishop Cemetery in Marengo, next to her husband.

⁵⁶ Obituary for Sophia Kliforth, *Marengo Republican*, Marengo, Iowa, 31 December 1901; newspaper clipping received from Iowa County Genealogy Society.

⁵⁷ Guardianship record, Estate of Lewis Cleiforth, Iowa County, Iowa, 5 Mar 1878. Privately held by Clyde Sheridan Gile.

⁵⁸ Obituary for Henry Schumacher, *Pioneer Republican*, Marengo, Iowa, 20 December 1934; newspaper clipping received from Iowa County Genealogy Society.

⁵⁹ 1880 U.S. Census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Washington Township, enumeration district (ED) 200, p. 123 (stamped), dwelling 95, family 95; Henry Schumacher household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 345. 1885 Iowa State Census, Iowa County, Washington township, pp. 325-326 (stamped), dwelling 88, Henry Shumaker household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 May 2015); citing Microfilm of Iowa State Census, 1885, from State Historical Society of Iowa via Heritage Quest.

⁶⁰ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 January 2011), memorial page for Sophia Clifford (unknown–28 Dec 1901), Find A Grave Memorial no. [41721343](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41721343), citing Bishop Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa County, Iowa, USA ; Maintained by colette harrison (contributor [47022055](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47022055)) .

⁶¹ Obituary for Sophia Kliforth, *Marengo Republican*, Marengo, Iowa, 31 December 1901; newspaper clipping received from Iowa County Genealogy Society.

CHILDREN OF LEWIS CLIFFORD AND SOPHIA HALE

MARIA CAROLINE CLIFFORD

The 1855 New York State Census indicates that Lewis and Sophia had a daughter, "Marian Cleafholt", who was six months old on 10 June 1855.⁶² That would make her birthdate about January of 1855. The Cliffords were living in Lancaster, Erie, New York in the 1855 Census. A search for German churches that existed in Lancaster revealed the St. John's Lutheran Church, a building originally built in 1877, but with ties to a German Lutheran church from the early days of Lancaster. The records at St. John's go back to 1844.

An email was sent to the church office at St. John's in Lancaster. The church secretary checked their index and found a baptism record for a Maria Karolina Louisa Kliefuss, daughter of Louis and Sophie Kliefuss, born on 4 December 1854 and baptized on 7 September 1855.⁶³ This appears to be the same family. The godparents on the record were Karol[ina] Haiden and Joh[ann] Haiden. These could be relatives or close family friends and should be researched. The original version of Maria's baptism record should also be located to see if there is any other information.

Maria has been located in all available US Federal Census records for her lifetime (1854-1900), as well as the 1855 New York State Census. The following table is a summary of those census records:

Census Year	Location	Age	Est. Birth	Birthplace	Comments
1855 NY ⁶⁴	Lancaster, Erie, New York	6 mos.	Jan. 1855	Germany	Living with parents, Lewis and Sophia
1860 US ⁶⁵	West Seneca, Erie, New York	5	1855	Prussia	Living with parents and brother Frederick.
1870 US ⁶⁶	Washington Township, Iowa, Iowa	16	1854	New York	Living with parents and brothers Fred and Charles

⁶² 1855 New York, Erie County Census, Lancaster, Election District 1, page 77 (written), dwelling 690, Lewis Cleafholt household, indexed as Lewis Clendholt; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2013); citing Hamburg, New York: Hamburg Historical Society, New York, Erie County Census - 1855, 1865, 1875.

⁶³ Mary Koeven marykoeven@gmail.com, to Church Office of St. John's Lutheran Church, Lancaster, New York churchoffice@stjohnslanc.org e-mail correspondence, 26 Feb 2017 to 1 Mar 2017, "Old Church Records," Clifford Research Files, privately held by Mary Koeven.

⁶⁴ 1855 New York, Erie County Census, Lancaster, Election District 1, page 77 (written), dwelling 690, Lewis Cleafholt household, indexed as Lewis Clendholt; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2013); citing Hamburg, New York: Hamburg Historical Society, New York, Erie County Census - 1855, 1865, 1875.

⁶⁵ 1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 Dec 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 752.

⁶⁶ 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Washington Township, p. 338 (stamped), dwelling 75, family 75, Louis Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 396.

Census Year	Location	Age	Est. Birth	Birthplace	Comments
1880 US ⁶⁷	Washington Township, Iowa, Iowa	25	1855	New York	Living with mother Sophia and husband, Henry Schumacher. Three children: Johan, Fredrich and Sophia
1900 US ⁶⁸	Marengo, Iowa, Iowa	45	Nov. 1854	New York	Living with husband. Mother of nine children, seven are living. Six children listed here: Sophia, Anna, Fred, Carl, Ida, and Elsie. Husband's farm is rented.

Inaccuracies in reporting ages, birthdates, and birthplaces are common in census records. Since Maria was born shortly after her parents arrived in America, it would be natural for the stranger to assume that she was born before they left or on the ship, if they didn't have all the information about the family. It is clear that Maria was born after their arrival because she is not listed on the passenger list with her parents. The baptism record mentioned earlier also gives evidence of her birth.

A marriage certificate for Henry Shoemaker and Mary Clifford was located in the Iowa County marriage books.⁶⁹ It states they were married on 11 March 1873, at the residence of E. S. Athern. They were married by a minister named Benjamin T. Snider. Both of these men were ministers of the First Christian Church of Marengo.

Sophia's obituary mentions that Mary passed away on 13 October 1900.⁷⁰ Henry Schumacher's obituary also mentions that she passed away on that date.⁷¹ Henry's obituary also mentions nine children who were born to Henry and Mary:

- Christine Ella, passed away at the age of 7 in 1896.
- Herman George passed away at age 3 in 1896.
- John H. Schumacher
- Fred L. Schumacher
- Carl W. Schumacher
- Mrs. Sophia Slaymaker
- Mrs. Anna McBride

⁶⁷ 1880 U.S. Census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Washington Township, enumeration district (ED) 200, p. 123 (stamped), dwelling 95, family 95; Henry Schumacher household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 345.

⁶⁸ 1900 U.S. Census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Marengo, enumeration district (ED) 46, p. 1B, dwelling 14, family 14; Henry Schumacher household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7602/4119862_00283/14440978 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

⁶⁹ Iowa County, Iowa, Marriage Book C: 383, Henry Shoemaker and Mary Clifford, 11 March 1873; FHL microfilm 988202.

⁷⁰ Obituary for Sophia Kliforth, *Marengo Republican*, Marengo, Iowa, 31 December 1901; newspaper clipping received from Iowa County Genealogy Society.

⁷¹ Obituary for Henry Schumacher, *Pioneer Republican*, Marengo, Iowa, 20 December 1934; newspaper clipping received from Iowa County Genealogy Society.

- Mrs. Ed Schrader (probably “Ida” mentioned in 1900 census)
- Mrs. Elsie Hedges

An obituary for Mary Clifford has not been located. Mary’s gravestone is located in Bishop Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa, Iowa.⁷² It reads:

“Maria Caroline Kilforth, born Nov. 30, 1854, died Oct. 13, 1900, aged 45 ys. 10 ms. 13 ds.”

The November 30 birthdate comes very close to the December 4 birthdate on the baptism record. The baptism record is most likely to be correct as it was created closer to her time of birth.

Maria’s husband, Henry Schumacher, passed away on 13 December 1934 in Marengo, Iowa, according to his obituary.

FREDERICK CLIFFORD

Fred first appears in the 1860 census living with his parents and sister in West Seneca, Erie, New York.⁷³ He is listed as two years old and born in New York. The 1900 census reports he was born in April of 1858.⁷⁴ No written record of his specific birthdate has been located.

The following table lists the census records that have been found listing Frederick Clifford. He has not been located in the 1880 US Federal Census. He would have been 22 years old and single at the time, and could have been living in any state, which makes him difficult to locate.

Census Year	Location	Age	Est. Birth	Birthplace	Comments
1860 US ⁷⁵	West Seneca, Erie, New York	2	1858	New York	Living with parents and sister.
1870 US ⁷⁶	Washington Township, Iowa, Iowa	12	1858	New York	Living with parents and siblings

⁷² *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 January 2011), memorial page for Maria Caroline Kieforth(Kilforth) Schumacher (30 Nov 1854–13 Oct 1900), Find A Grave Memorial no. [40744609](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/40744609), citing Bishop Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa County, Iowa, USA ; Maintained by colette harrison (contributor [47022055](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47022055)).

⁷³ 1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 Dec 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 752.

⁷⁴ 1900 U.S. Census, Wyandotte County, Kansas, population schedule, Argentine, enumeration district (ED) 142, p. 55A (stamped), dwelling 195, family 204; Fred Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7602/4120169_00113 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

⁷⁵ 1860 U.S. census, Erie County, New York, population schedule, West Seneca, p. 585 (stamped), dwelling 1654, family 1634, Ludwick Cefbot [Clefbat] household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 Dec 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 752.

⁷⁶ 1870 U.S. census, Iowa County, Iowa, population schedule, Washington Township, p. 338 (stamped), dwelling 75, family 75, Louis Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 May 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 396.

Census Year	Location	Age	Est. Birth	Birthplace	Comments
1885 Kansas ⁷⁷	Monticello, Johnson, Kansas	26	1859	New York	Living in a boardinghouse owned by his future mother-in-law
1895 Kansas ⁷⁸	Argentine, Wyandotte, Kansas	37	1858	Germany	Married with three children
1900 US ⁷⁹	Argentine, Wyandotte, Kansas	42	Apr 1858	New York	With Ella, Martha Bryan (mother-in-law) and children Leo and May.
1905 Kansas ⁸⁰	Shawnee, Wyandotte, Kansas	47	1858	New York	With Ella, Martha Bryan (mother-in-law) and children Leo and May.

On 6 July 1885, Frederic J. Clifford married Ella M Bryan in the office of the Probate Judge in Olathe, Johnson, Kansas.⁸¹ Earlier that year, they were both living in Ella's mother's boardinghouse at the time of the enumeration of the Kansas State Census. They were living in Wilder, Kansas, located in Monticello Township, Johnson County, now part of the Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

By 1895, Fred and Ella had 3 children: Leo, May, and Gladys. In the 1895 Census, these names are spelled differently, but other census records and family records tell these were the names of their children. There were also twins, Louis and Irene or Lorene, who were born on 25 December 1894. Louis passed away on 15 August 1898, according to the family.⁸²

Family stories tell that Fred's wife left him to live with his brother in about 1899. Although both the 1900 and 1905 censuses indicate that Fred and his wife were still living together, Ella was also listed in the

⁷⁷ 1885 Kansas State Census, Johnson County, Monticello Township, page 9, dwelling 45, family 45, F J Clifford in household of M A Evans; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1088/ks1885_64-0676/1573969 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing Kansas State Historical Society, 1885 Kansas Territory Census, Roll KS1885_64.

⁷⁸ 1895 Kansas State Census, Wyandotte County, Argentine Ward 2, page 21, line 24, Fred Clifford; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1088/ksv115_165-0217/7433227 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing Kansas State Historical Society, 1895 Kansas Territory Census, Roll v115_165.

⁷⁹ 1900 U.S. Census, Wyandotte County, Kansas, population schedule, Argentine, enumeration district (ED) 142, p. 55A (stamped), dwelling 195, family 204; Fred Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7602/4120169_00113 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

⁸⁰ 1905 Kansas State Census, Wyandotte County, Shawnee Township, page 5314, dwelling 3, family 3, Fred Clifford; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1088/ks1905_180-0566/6897088 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing Kansas State Historical Society, 1905 Kansas Territory Census, Roll ks1905_180.

⁸¹ "Kansas County Marriages, 1855-1911," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/FWLS-SQD> : accessed 13 April 2018), Frederic J. Clifford and Ella M. Bryan, 06 Jul 1885; citing FHL microfilm 1,572,005.

⁸² Doris Softly to "Dear Margaret" [Margaret Estella DeWitt Gile], letter, 10 February 1980; Privately held by Clyde Gile; Doris is the daughter of Irene or Lorene Clifford. "Ok so now I question what you say about a boy twin to my mom [Irene] whose death date was Aug 15, 1898 - My Mom was always confused about her age but Fran and Owen took her to Kans at one time to confirm her birth date which was Dec 25, 1894. My mom always said she had a twin sister - NOT brother."

Fred Schumacher (Marengo, Iowa) to "Dear Mrs Giles" [Margaret Estella DeWitt Gile], letter, 29 May 1961; Privately held by Clyde Gile. "twins were Lewis and Lorene Lewis that april [1899] about 4 months old."

1900 census with Charles in Nebraska.⁸³ No divorce records have been located. However, a probate file for Fred indicates that Ella, as his widow, did not show up in court to claim her inheritance, so it went to their children, Leo and May, who were still minors.⁸⁴ Ella took Gladys and Irene with her when she went to live with Charles, but left Leo and May behind.

Fred was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No. 90 in Argentine, Wyandotte, Kansas. According to the records of that organization, Fred passed away on 29 Jan 1906 at the age of forty-seven.⁸⁵ He was buried in Maple Hill Cemetery, in Argentine, Wyandotte, Kansas. The location of his burial plot is known (Block 1, Lot 69, Grave 3), but there is no tombstone.⁸⁶

CHARLES JOHN CLIFFORD

Charles was born 8 June 1862, according to his obituary.⁸⁷ The obituary also states that he married Ella Mae Bryan at the age of 22, or about 1884-1885. The 1885 Iowa State Census reports that Charles was living with his mother on the farm in Washington Township, Iowa County, Iowa in 1885, while (as described above) Fred was living in the Bryan household as a boarder and then married Ella Mae Bryan that same year.⁸⁸

There is no marriage record for Charles John Clifford and Ella Mae Bryan. It seems that Ella Mae used the date of her marriage to Fred as her official marriage date to Charles. Charles and Ella Mae were living together in Daykin Village, Jefferson County, Nebraska in the 1900 census.⁸⁹ By 1910, they had moved to Geneva, Fillmore County. Charles' obituary reports that Charles and Ella Mae moved to Nebraska in 1908. They lived in Geneva, then Belvidere and Bruning. He lived in Belvidere, Nebraska from 1945 until his death on 19 September 1946. Other than the omission of Daykin Village, this is consistent with findings in census records.

Charles and Ella Mae raised five children together. Margaret (DeWitt) Gile kept in contact with these individuals and their descendants:

- Gladys Clifford, born 12 September 1893, who is discussed earlier in this report.

⁸³ 1900 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, Nebraska, population schedule, Eureka, enumeration district (ED) 85, p. 8 (written), dwelling 143, family 148; Charles Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7602/4119892_00788/65218712 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

⁸⁴ Guardianship record, Estate of Fred Clifford, Wyandotte County, Kansas, 18 May 1906. Privately held by Clyde Sheridan Gile.

⁸⁵ "Death Notices of Members of Fraternal Orders," Kansas Historical Society, (<https://www.kshs.org/p/fraternal-order-death-notices/10988> : accessed 13 April 2018), entry for Fred Clifford 29 January 1906.

⁸⁶ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 13 April 2018), memorial page for Fred Clifford (Apr 1858–29 Jan 1906), Find A Grave Memorial no. [36949885](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/36949885), citing Maple Hill Cemetery, Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by Mary (contributor [47105066](https://www.findagrave.com/contributor/47105066)).

Mrs. Clyde S. Gile (Scandia, Kansas) to "To Whom it May Concern" (Chamber of Commerce, Argentine, Kansas), letter, 31 May 1964, and response written on the same paper, not dated, inquiry about burial of anyone with surname Clifford at Maple Hill Cemetery; Privately held by Clyde Gile. "Fred Clifford Jan 3 1906 Gr 3 Lot 69 Blk 1."

⁸⁷ Obituary for Charles John Clifford, *The Nebraska Signal*, Geneva, Nebraska, September 1946.

⁸⁸ "Kansas County Marriages, 1855-1911," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/FWLS-SQD> : accessed 13 April 2018), Frederic J. Clifford and Ella M. Bryan, 06 Jul 1885; citing FHL microfilm 1,572,005.

⁸⁹ 1900 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, Nebraska, population schedule, Eureka, enumeration district (ED) 85, p. 8 (written), dwelling 143, family 148; Charles Clifford household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7602/4119892_00788/65218712 : accessed 13 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

- Irene Lorene Clifford, born 25 December 1896, who married Ralph Raymond Bobbitt.⁹⁰
- John Arthur Clifford, born 16 July 1900 who died on 3 October 1918 at eighteen years old.⁹¹
- Bessie Clifford, born 12 January 1903, who married Harry Edwin Rasher.
- Ida Mae Clifford, born 9 May 1907, who married Theodore Harms Wilhelms.

Charles John Clifford was buried next to his wife, Ella Mae Bryan, in the Geneva Cemetery, Geneva, Fillmore County, Nebraska.⁹² Ella Mae died on 14 November 1944, two years before Charles.



Figure 3: Margaret Bobbitt, Ella Mae Clifford, Charles John Clifford, and Frances Bobbitt.

Charles is the only child of Lewis and Sophia Clifford who has a known photograph. The photograph is of Charles and Ella Mae standing outside with two of their granddaughters, Margaret (Bobbitt) Carlson and Frances (Bobbitt) Cartwright. It was taken sometime around 1939-1944.

POSSIBILITY OF OTHER CHILDREN

There is a five-year gap between the births of Fred and Charles. It is possible there was another child born between them. Cemetery records and baptism records in New York should be searched to determine if there was or not. In addition, it is unknown when Lewis and Sophia were married. Lewis was thirty-five and Sophia was thirty-three when they arrived in America, so they could have been married to each other for years prior to their departure. They also could have been married to other spouses previously. Either of these circumstances could have resulted in children. Once Lewis and Sophia are identified in Germany, these possibilities should be investigated.

DNA MATCHES

Two children of Margaret Gile, Dianna (Gile) Moberly and Carl Gile, have submitted their DNA to AncestryDNA for autosomal DNA testing. The autosomal DNA test compares DNA from all of an individual's chromosomes with others in the AncestryDNA database to look for matches. A DNA match

⁹⁰ Obituary for Irene Lorene Bobbitt, *The Nebraska Signal*, Geneva, Nebraska, 15 April 1976.

⁹¹ Obituary for John Arthur Clifford, *The Nebraska Signal*, Geneva, Nebraska, 10 Oct 1918.

⁹² *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 13 April 2018), memorial page for Charles John Clifford (8 Jun 1863–19 Sep 1946), Find A Grave Memorial no. [52711392](#), citing Geneva Cemetery, Geneva, Fillmore County, Nebraska, USA ; Maintained by Mary (contributor [47105066](#)).

has been confirmed with a descendant of Henry and Maria Schumacher, and several other individuals have been identified as sharing similar DNA segments. A comparison of these matches on the Gedmatch website will help us identify exactly where the DNA segment is that corresponds to the Clifford line. This can help us identify individuals who are descended from Lewis or Sophia's parents who live in the United States or Germany and have also taken the DNA test.

A Y-DNA test would also be helpful for the Clifford project. However, there is no known living direct male descendant in the Clifford family who would have inherited Lewis Clifford's Y chromosome. All known descendants are from female children. In other words, there is no known descendant of Lewis and Sophia Clifford with the Clifford surname alive today.

SUMMARY

Extensive research has allowed a very detailed picture of the Clifford family in America:

- Louis and Sophia were married in Germany before they left for America.
- They departed from the Port of Hamburg on the ship *Aurora* on 15 September 1854 and arrived in the Port of New York on 25 November 1854.
- Sophia gave birth to Maria Clifford on 4 December 1854, less than two weeks after their arrival, while living in a shanty in Lancaster, Erie County, New York.
- Fred and Charles were born while the family was living in West Seneca, Erie County, New York.
- Lewis and Sophia bought a 40-acre farm near Marengo, Iowa in 1864.
- Maria married Henry Schumacher on 11 March 1873 at the home of E. S. Athern in Iowa County, Iowa.
- Lewis died on 27 October 1873 in Iowa County, Iowa. Sophia remarried in 1875 to William Bonatz, then divorced him in 1878. She spent the end of her life living with her daughter's family.
- Fred married Ella Mae Bryan on 6 July 1886 in the office of the probate judge in Olathe, Johnson County, Kansas.
- Ella Mae left Fred to live with Charles in about 1899.
- Maria died on 13 October 1900 in Marengo, Iowa County, Iowa.
- Sophia died on 28 December 1901 in Marengo, Iowa County, Iowa.
- Fred died on 29 January 1906 in Wyandotte County, Kansas.
- Henry Schumacher died on 13 December 1934 in Marengo, Iowa, Iowa.
- Ella Mae Bryan died on 14 November 1944 in Bruning, Thayer, Nebraska.
- Charles died on 19 September 1946 in Belvidere, Thayer, Nebraska.

More research can paint the picture in even more detail, and hopefully find information that will trace the family line back to Germany.

FUTURE RESEARCH PLAN

IOWA COUNTY, IOWA

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org

Using census, vital records, and other records available on Ancestry and FamilySearch, research descendants of Henry Schumacher who lived in Iowa. Descendants should be contacted to see if they have any stories, records, photographs, or artifacts that shed light on the Clifford's German origins. DNA testing with descendants will also be helpful, as explained above.

Iowa County Historical Society

675 East South St., Marengo, IA 52301, Phone: 319-642-7018

<http://iagenweb.org/iowa/research/ICHS.htm>

- Ask about a Presbyterian church where Frank Paul Hladky was a minister.
- Ask if there are records for the First Christian Church of Marengo, Iowa.
- Ask about records for the Zion Reformed Church of Williamsburg, Iowa, now the United Church of Christ.

Bishop/Denzler Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa, Iowa:

A better image of Lewis Clifford's tombstone is needed to be certain of the dates recorded on the stone. Visit Lewis Clifford's grave in Bishop's Cemetery, Marengo, Iowa County, Iowa. Take a high-resolution photograph and an aluminum foil impression of his tombstone. An aluminum foil impression is taken by laying aluminum foil over the stone and using a small brush to push the aluminum foil into all indentations of the stone. The aluminum foil catches more light than the stone, allowing better contrast and readability of the impressions. Take a photo of the foil-covered stone before removing the foil.

Iowa County, Iowa: County Recorder's Office

901 Court Avenue, Marengo, IA 52301, Phone: (319) 642-3622, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

- Land Records
 - Find out what happened to the land tract owned by Lewis Clifford. Look for deeds of sale for Clifford and Bonatz, about 1872-1878. If it is not there, try earlier.
 - Search for Clifford and Bonatz surnames in the index, about 1860-1878
 - Search for Schumacher surnames in the index, about 1873-latest available record
 - Search for Elisha Sargent Athearn in the index. Henry Schumacher and Maria Clifford were married in his residence in 1873.

Iowa State Historical Society Library in Iowa City

402 Iowa Ave, Iowa City, IA 52240, Phone: 319-335-3926, Email: history.research@iowa.gov

Contact library before visiting to ensure desired films will be at Iowa City location.

Also Available at Marengo Public Library

235 East Hilton St., Marengo, IA 52301, Phone: 319-741-3825, Email: director@marengo.lib.ia.us

- Newspapers for Marengo, Iowa

- Look for obituaries: Lewis Clifford (29 Oct 1873), Maria Schumacher (13 Oct 1900), Henry Schumacher (13-20 Dec 1934), Sophia Clifford (30-31 Dec 1901)
 - *The Marengo Democrat*
 - *The Marengo Republican*
 - *The Progressive Republican*
 - *The Pioneer-Republican*

FamilySearch (These digital records only accessible at a Family History Center):

Reno Nevada Family History Center, 4751 Neil Road, Reno, Nevada 89502-5878, Phone: 775-826-1130

- Probate records (These are also available at the Iowa State Historical Society Library)
 - Locate original probate records that were found by Margaret Gile: Case number 1196, filed March 1878, copy all papers in file.
 - Look in probate index for any other cases with surname Clifford or Bonatz.
 - Start with the General Index Probate records, 1860-2007 (Film 2446656) and General probate index 1855-1924 (Film 988212)
- Court records
 - Look for any court cases involving this family, but especially any naturalization records for Lewis Clifford, abt. 1860-1870, and a divorce record for Sophia Clifford and William Bonatz, abt. 1873-1878
 - Start in Court record index for Clifford, Bonatz, Schumacher: Circuit Court General index, v. A-B, 1869-1887 (Film 2446828)

Family History Library, Salt Lake City (microfilms not yet digitized):

35 North West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84105, Phone: 1-801-240-6996

These records may also be available at the Iowa County Courthouse, but there is no info online.

Contact the Clerk of Court for information: (319) 642-3914

- Look for any court cases involving this family, but especially any naturalization records for Lewis Clifford, abt. 1860-1870, and a divorce record for Sophia Clifford and William Bonatz, abt. 1873-1878
- Court records – search for Clifford, Bonatz, Schumacher, 1860-1900
 - General index to District Court records, v. 1-3 (Film 988357)
 - District Court record and Index, v. 2, 1857-1859 (Film 2446652)

Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA

425 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147, Phone: 215-627-1852, Email: refdesk@history.pcusa.org
www.history.pcusa.org/

- Identify name and location of church where Frank Paul Hladky was a minister at the time of Henry Schumacher's burial in 1934.
 - Contact the Iowa County Historical Society and ask them.
 - Identify the church in [Hall's Index of American Presbyterian Congregations](#)
- Search the [CALVIN](#) database to determine if records exist for that congregation.
- Submit a [Genealogy Research Service Request](#) to the Presbyterian Historical Society so they will look up any baptism marriage, membership or death records.

ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**FamilySearch.org**

- Look in FamilySearch digital microfilms for Lewis Clifford's Naturalization Record in Erie County, NY:
 - Card index Cegielski, Valenty - Clemon, Fred, 976479
 - Card index Clench, Rafe J. - Coons, Ellen, 976480
 - Card index Kewley, John - Kluck, Mathias, 977025
 - Card index Kluck, Mathias - Koreath, Jacob, 977026
 - Index alien applications 1835-1891, 979358
 - Miscellaneous records, 1808-1907, 825672-7
- Check cemetery records in West Seneca for any Cliffords:
 - Erie County, New York, cemetery records, film 1411736

BuffaloResearch.com

- Look for the Cliffords in City Directories of Buffalo and surrounding areas, 1854-1864:
 - <http://www.buffaloresearch.com/onlinedirectories.html>
 - <https://newyorkgenealogy.org/erie/buffalo-new-york-city-directories-1828-1893.htm>

St. John's Lutheran Church, Lancaster, New York

55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086, phone: 716-683-8972, email: churchoffice@stjohnslanc.org

- Locate original copy of Maria Kliefuss baptism record. The record has been requested several months ago, but they haven't found it yet. Visiting the church or sending a professional genealogist there could speed up the process.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Grosvenor Room

1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203, phone: 716-858-8900, website:

<http://www.buffalolib.org/content/grosvenor/genealogy-collection>

- Look up various spellings of Kliefoth in church records in Lancaster and West Seneca, 1854-1864
 - Lancaster Presbyterian Church
 - North Lancaster Church of Christ
 - Saint Peter United Church of Christ
- Look up various spellings of Kliefoth in cemetery records in Lancaster and West Seneca, 1854-1864
 - Old Cemetery on Genessee Road
 - Bowmansville Cemetery
 - Trinity Episcopal Church
 - Blossom Cemetery
 - St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery
 - German Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery

Cemeteries in Lancaster and West Seneca

- Visit or contact cemeteries in Lancaster and West Seneca. Check their complete records and headstones for anyone with the surname Clifford or Kliefoth or similar surname who died between 1854-1864. It is possible that a child of Lewis and Sophia is buried there.
 - Master list of cemeteries in Erie County located here:
<http://wnyroots.tripod.com/index-master.html>

If none of these searches are successful at finding a German hometown, the next strategy would be to identify Lewis and Sophia's neighbors and friends, then research any of those individuals who also originated in Germany. If any of their friends and neighbors came from the same town in Germany, we should be able to find them in that town's church records. Individuals who should be researched include:

- People on the same census page and adjacent pages
- People living near them in city directories
- Individuals who owned land next to them, or bough land in the same month
- Anyone with the same surname
- Anyone who came on the same ship with them
- Witnesses on baptism, marriage, land, and other records
- Individuals mentioned in probate records or any other record as a friend, neighbor, relative, or acquaintance.