

"Life History and Record of John Kimerer and Margaret Esther Wheaton" that was written by their daughter, Mary Louise Kimerer. Here is the story:

LIFE HISTORY & RECORD OF JOHN KIMERER & MARGARET ESTHER WHEATON

John Kimerer II was the third son of John and Naomi Martin Kimerer. He was born March 22, 1833 on the Grandfather Jacob's farm, and lived there until he was three years of age. His father died in 1836; this left the mother, Naomi and four little ones, Martin, Jesse, John and the baby sister, Catherine, just three months old. Naomi then returned with her little ones to the home of her parents, Neddy and Catherine Martin, to live. His mother died in 1839, and shortly after the death of her father Neddy Martin and the mother Catherine, he, with his brothers Martin and Jesse, were given to the dear old Aunt Abigail Martin and Russel Wheaton, who both died in a couple of years.

Kindhearted Old Aunt Katy Painter, whose maiden name was Catherine Martin, daughter of Neddy martin, then took to rear John and Martin. There they lived for a few years, when the home was destroyed by fire, and she was burned to death (her son, Bruce, rushed into the burning house, but too late to save her). The son, Bruce Painter, father of Sample Painter of Benton, Ohio, lived across the road on his farm; he and his kind wife gave the two boys a home until they reached the ages of seventeen and nineteen years.

John went West and lived in Iowa for a number of years; he secured a Government claim of eighty acres near Cedar Rapids. A young man, who was a neighbor on an adjoining claim became homesick and discouraged and sold his claim to him, who then had one hundred and sixty acres, which is now a part of the city of Cedar Rapid. He lived a year or more on his claim when he returned to Holmes County, Ohio. Here he met and married Maggie Wheaton on May 31, 1860 (at the age of 27 years). He expected to take his young wife of nineteen years back to his home in Iowa, but she, at that time was living with her widowed mother in her home on North Monroe Street, Millersburg, Ohio, and was the baby of a large family. Her mother could not give her up to go into a land so far away (Iowa), so he left and went to live again three months of each year on his land. While away, the first baby, Lucy, was born in 1861. He then returned and remained a few months and again returned. Upon his next return home, he enlisted as a substitute in the Army, and was in Company "E" - 16th O.V.I. He left for camp in Mansfield, Ohio. After a few weeks he stole a furlough home in September; then left for the South. On May 2nd, 1863, Mary Louise Kimerer was born - "His Furlough Child". At the time of this birth, he was a prisoner in Jacksonville Prison. Before he left he bought a new cottage home on the hill; it was just put up and plastered, setting on large blocks. He finished a cellar and then my mother and her mother moved there. After his return from the war he sold the land, 160 acres, for payment of this home and two lots in the Knopp Addition in Millersburg and three hundred dollars in money. His beautiful land which is now a part of the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was given for this (then it was considered worthless). The old log Court House of Cedar Rapids was replaced by a new brick one. They sent for him and paid his fare back and forth that he might be given the honor of laying the cornerstone. This structure was burned in some years after and all the records.

He was injured while in prison, which caused his death; was operated for tumor on the hip in 1883; was again operated in February of 1884 and died on June 29, 1884. John was a carpenter by trade; he and the Walkup men built the present "Jail and Sheriff's Home" in Millersburg, Ohio. He was a staunch Democrat, always; was Town Marshall twice; was solicited at the time of the building of the new Jail to run for Sheriff, but he refused. The Commercial Bank was built by Walkup and Kimerer; (the round top windows on the east side were his own work). The old Wash Cary home was built by them, also the

home of Dr. Wise. He remodeled the John K. Koch home, and built the Methodist Church and all best buildings of Millersburg, including the Peters Block, A.B. Rudy home and Central Hotel. He was Superintendent Carpenter of the C.A.&C.R.R. for years, during the years of President Mansarrat and Train master James Black. He was on the R.R. for eight years. He returned to Millersburg and remodeled Mayers Brothers store; his last work on earth was putting in the paneling and stairway now used in the same building. John, who began his young life so bravely and by his hard work and untiring efforts secured the Iowa farm, seemed doomed to failure and disappointment. His life was made sad over the loss of this land, and he felt that had Maggie gone West with him then, he would have been a very rich man, as the land afterwards became a part of the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

One of the happy events of his life was the birth of his only son, Joseph Rogers, born June 7, 1869. He was always happy and of a jovial disposition. His next blow was the loss of just eight hundred dollars, which at that time, meant great saving, at wages of \$1.50 per day. He invested this amount in the Old Machine Shop and lost it, as did so many others. His next loss was through a Mr. McDowell of Lakeville, Ohio, who borrowed three hundred dollars. Only one year's interest was ever received by him; the principal was never paid him. Through all his failures he was a most happy husband and father; he adored his wife and was ever proud of her and loved to keep her as well dressed as wives of better able men than he. We lived like kings at our table and nothing was too much for him to have for this comfort. He loved close friends, among whom were counted Dr. Joel Pomerene, Dr. Ross, Lawyer Dan Uhl, Mr. George Adams, and Mr. Joseph Adams. Jerry Sullivan was one of his closest friends. All loved and respected this dear father who, so young in life and too proud to ask Uncle Sam for his rights, died penniless and in such great suffering, but loved by all who knew him. He was entitled to a pension from the Government, but refused to Make application for same until the year of his death, his close friends having prevailed upon him to do so, but he never lived to receive the compensation due a soldier.

On May 30, 1884, Pomerene Post of the G.A.R. marched in a body for the first time to the cemetery to participate in Decoration Day services. He had been very ill, but was determined to march with his boys. This he did, but only to the cemetery gate, where he was taken so ill that he was sent home; at about twelve o'clock that night he was stricken with paralysis and lived until June 9, 1884. He was the first man buried as a soldier of the G.A.R., of "Pomerene Post", but his family would not allow this Post to defray the funeral expenses. His dear little wife mortgaged her home for this, and when she received the pension that he should have had, it was then she paid all obligations of his last days. He had suffered and tried by two operations to regain his strength and health, but it was too late. On Sunday afternoon, June 10, 1884, just as the sun sank from view, we laid his poor worn out body to rest. We left our dear father whom we so loved and honored. The world knew him as a martyr to the cruel war. Death claimed him, and the last taps and the salute of the guns; we said "Farewell" to this loved one.

By his daughter, "Mary Louise"

From a Kimerer Family Record written by this same Mary Louise Kimerer the 1920's.

From Mary Louise Kimerer: Jacob Kimerer's farm was a fine old landmark and was a place of great interest to all: it consisted of 480 acres and there were two distilleries and a power mill on this place; there were four houses on the farm.

After Jacob's death, Joseph, Julia and Granny lived in the big house, Jacob and Stanza in another house; Michael and Nancy in the second small house, and Jacob Keifer and Rachel Kimerer in the third house.

The farm was all sold later and Joe and Granny went to Ripley Twsp, OH on his farm; Julia married; Jacob and Stanza went to Crocos Mill and built and run a distillery; Michael moved west.

Joe and his wife and Granny lived in Ripley Township, OH for 22 years, and after Granny's death, he sold his farm (and moved) to Valparaiso, Indiana where he died. He was loved and respected from young manhood, for the love and care he gave his old mother for 22 years in his home, and was known to be a very fine gentleman.

Information on Mary Louise Kimerer Rudy

She was born 1863 in Ohio. I found her in a DAR Lineage Book as a member of the DAR. Copy attached.

She was the daughter of John Kimerer (1833-1884) and Margaret Esther Wheaton. This John Kimerer was the son of John Kimerer who died in 1836 and his wife Naomy Martin.

Mary Louise Kimerer Rudy's great grandparents were Jacob Kimmerer (gen 7) and his wife Catherine Korn's Kimmerer. She did not know them personally, but it is evident from her family history that she interviewed and collected information over the years from their children who she did know personally.