

Maria Louisa (Mary) Muench

By RICIGS member Linda Walker

I want to tell you about my mother's, mother's mother. Her name was Maria Louisa (Mary) Muench. She went by Mary. She was born 14 December 1871 in Zweibrucken, Bayern, Germany. Her parents were Heinrich (Henry) Muench and Maria Elisabeth (Elizabeth) Pirmann. she was the second to the youngest of five children of Henry and Elizabeth. Her older sister Juliana (Julia), 2 older brothers - Frederick Heinrich, and Henry Hipolitus (nickname Bullet) who was the 2nd Assistant Fire Chief for the city of Moline, Illinois. He and his wife are buried in Riverside Cemetery. Mary's younger brother was named Heinrich.

Mary's father and brothers came to the United States, and arrived in Moline, Illinois in 1882. Mary, her mother and sister came to Moline, Illinois in 1884 when Mary was thirteen years old.

At the age of twenty Mary married Henry C. Harttung who was born 25 November 1868 in Hampton, Rock Island County, Illinois. They married 18 February 1891 in Hampton, Illinois at the German Lutheran Church. I did find them listed in the Illinois Marriage Index on Cyberdrive Illinois. I went to the Rock Island County Clerk's office to get a copy of the marriage license. I did not know Mary's parents names until I received a copy of the marriage license. I thought it was great that it gave Mary's place of birth, and her mother's maiden name.

My grandmother Elsie Elizabeth Harttung was born to Mary and Henry Muench on 13 January 1892 in Moline, Illinois. They were only married a little over a year when Mary Muench Harttung died at the age of 21 on 8 November 1892. She died at her home in Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society 4 Spring 2012 Maria Louisa (Mary) Muench contd. Moline, Illinois after a nine day illness of typhoid-malarial fever. Henry had been dangerously sick of the same disease for several weeks, and was still in critical condition when Mary died. He did survive though. Mary's funeral took place at their residence in Moline, Illinois. Her daughter Elsie was only ten months old when her mother died.

Elsie married Henry John Zeitler who was born 4 February 1888 in Rock Island, Illinois. They were married 30 April 1919 in Rock Island, Illinois.

Henry Muench did remarry Amelia Schultz, and they had four children. They farmed in Michigan. Henry died 17 April 1917. His five sisters brought his body back to Illinois, and he is buried in the Hampton Cemetery along with his parents.

My grandmother Elsie Zietler was 25 years old, and unmarried when her father died. She went back and forth living with these aunts until she married two years later.

Mary Muench Harttung is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Moline, Illinois along with her parents and her brother Frederick Muench. I did find their graves last year. They do not have have headstones, but there is a small marker with the name Muench.