

*The following family contributions to **The History of Lewis County, Washington**, published in 1985 by the Lewis County Historical Society, who states that the book has contributed material, impossible to verify and therefore disclaims responsibility for all stories published.*

HARRY AND PEARL MAUERMANN FAMILY -- By Harry Mauermann

My grandfather, George WAUNCH, was born in the State of Baden Wurtttemberg, Germany, in 1820. He came to the United States in 1841. After a stop in Missouri, he came to the Oregon Territory in 1845, where he settled on 320 acres. The homestead was on a prairie that was later to bear his name (Waunch's Prairie). He was the first white man to settle in what is now Lewis County. He married Harriet Jane FORD in 1847 and they had one child, George L. WAUNCH, Jr. George and Harriet soon separated. In 1855, George married Mary HAGAR, with whom he lived the rest of his life. They enlarged the farm to 640 acres and had 11 children: Amelia, Henry, Caroline, Aurora, William, Charles Edward, Frank, Edith, Walter, Charles F., and Flora.

Amelia married Adolph MAUERMANN; Aurora, also called Addie, married Charles BURGESSON; Henry died at age 8; Caroline died at age 2; William married Zula CURTIS; Edward married Angie FORD; Frank married Jessie FORD; Edith married Charles REBHOLZ and later married Mr. NYLANDER; Walter married Florence (maiden name unknown); Charles F. died at age 8; Flora married Lee MINARD; and George WAUNCH, Jr. married Emma JENNINGS and later Katherine WALLACH. George WAUNCH, Sr. died at his home on Waunch's Prairie on July 7, 1882.

His wife Mary, later married August SEWALL. They built a new home near the old one. She lived in the new home until she died on September 20, 1916. Determined not to spend two years of his life in military service, my father, Adolph MAUERMANN (with an older brother, Keydon) left his home in Germany and came to the United States. His brother went to Canada to live while Adolph came to Lewis County, where a cousin had already made his home.

In 1872, he met and married Amelia WAUNCH. They settled on land across the Skookumchuck River from the George WAUNCH claim and started clearing ground. My mother was very strong and helped my father falling trees and sawing wood to sell. Five children: Evelyn, Joseph, Daisy, Edwin, and Fred were born to them on this location. In 1884 they loaded all their household articles on a hay wagon pulled by their yoke of oxen, "Buck and Bight," and leading their three cows and two calves, they moved to a new home on Lincoln Creek, located about five miles west of their old home.

They cleared more ground and farmed. Three more children: Frank, Maude, and I (Harry) were born. My father farmed on Lincoln Creek with the help of his family until 1910. He then moved with his wife to Centralia, where he died in 1912. Amelia, my mother, then lived alone until she died on August 30, 1948.

There have been many changes since I was born on March 27, 1893. Then there were neither automobiles nor electricity. We traveled by foot or by horseback and used kerosene lanterns for light. Indians still came and camped by Lincoln Creek at one of their old summer camp sites which was on part of the farm my father claimed. They dug camas and fished. I was the youngest child of Adolph and Amelia MAUERMANN and grew to manhood helping my father and brothers farm on Lincoln Creek. When my father and mother moved to Centralia, I helped my brother Fred. I stayed on the farm for a while, but I soon found work in the logging camps and began life on my own. While working near Tumwater, I met and married Pearl JONES, whose family had come from Missouri by wagon some years earlier. We purchased an 80 acre farm from Mr. HIGGINS that was adjacent to and west of the farm my father owned on Lincoln Creek. We cleared more ground and raised grain, hay, cattle, and chickens.

Times were rough through the "Great Depression," but we managed to acquire 93 more acres; raise three children, Edith, Lyle and Bonnie; and save a little money for our old age. I worked at other jobs, logging, and in the mills when I could, but always continued to farm. I served on the school board as a director for many years and helped the community to grow in many other ways. My daughter Edith married Russell WEBSTER, my son Lyle married Margaret BRECKENRIDGE, and my daughter Bonnie married Richard BROWNING. In 1974, my wife Pearl passed away. Since my children were all grown and had families of their own, I lived alone on the farm with help from my children until December 1983. Now at age 92, by my choice, I live at the Royal Care Nursing Home in Centralia. My mind is sound and my health is good for one of my age. Each week my children take me to their homes to visit and at Royal Care I keep up with world affairs by watching television and reading. I have nine grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Harry Mauermann