

## Minnie C. (Kaiser) Grettenberger 1872-1958



Thousands of ambitious, hardworking Germans immigrated to America during the mid-19th century. Among the migration masses were a family from the southwestern part of Germany, roughly now including the states of Bavaria and Baden-Wurttemberg, called Swabia. By 1850-1860 Washtenaw County, Michigan held a large population from this region. It was in October 1860 that Konrad and Sophie Weissenger (also spelled Weisinger), natives of the Wurttemberg vicinity, brought their family to the US and settled in Okemos, Ingham County, Michigan. In about 1866, the Weissinger's daughter, Philippina

Christine, born 20 March 1848 in Germany, married another German immigrant, Johann Georg Kaiser. Johann did not formally use his first name but was always called Georg.

Georg and Philippina Weissenger Kaiser had 8 children, 7 living to adulthood. The third oldest child was named Wilhelmina "Minnie." Minnie was born, educated and lived her entire adult life in Okemos. At the time, graduation was considered 8<sup>th</sup> grade, however, girls taught school at 16. Minnie probably continued to attend school until she was 16, even though

Okemos only had 8 grades. We will consider her the class of 1888. Minnie taught school in Okemos and Meridian township for several years prior to her marriage, 2 May 1894, Okemos, to John O. Grettenberger. Their 1894 marriage license listed Minnie employed as a teacher.

Soon after the marriage young John, born 28 May 1868, Okemos, purchased a business owned by

**PUT THIS AND THAT TOGETHER**

**DETROIT.**  
John Dressel & Son  
Wm. J. Volkman  
John C. Currie, Jr.  
P. McGonagle  
P. McFarland & Blackwell  
A. M. Martens  
M. W. & J. Dianan  
Geo. Besanson & Sons  
A. J. Miller  
George E. Granzow

**DETROIT.**  
R. B. McGaffey  
A. H. Riddle  
Geo. A. Troester  
G. W. Kellogg  
A. A. Smith  
William Allan  
Meffde Brothers  
Martindale & Co.  
J. H. Pearson  
F. Deeg

**DEXTER.**  
P. Sloan & Co.  
FLINT.  
Hewes & Hopkins  
E. O. Pierce & Sons  
G. W. Grobe  
D. D. McElroy  
Flint Grocery & Drug Co.  
O. M. Smith Co.  
Smith, Bridgman & Co.  
Geo. M. Petherbridge

**PLYMOUTH.**  
D. A. Jeffries  
W. H. Ross  
Gayde Brothers

**GRAND BLANC.**  
W. C. Denney

**OKEMOS.**  
J. O. Grettenberger

**HOWELL.**

pharmacist Manley Sherman. Mr. Sherman had opened his Okemos based store in 1885. John's newly purchased drug and grocery venture was a success. In 1915 he also became the postmaster for Okemos, an office he held until December 1938.

John and Minnie had three children: Marion, born 1897, Mildred, born 1901 and Orin "O.K.", born 1908. All the children, graduates of the Okemos school, were college graduates.

John O., son of Jacob (1839 Germany - 1897) and Catherine "Kate" (Helwig) (1843 Germany - 1918) Grettenberger, passed away in his Okemos home 17 March 1944. He was interred Glendale Cemetery, Okemos.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan)*

Tuesday 10 August 1943

J. O. Grettenberger, life-long resident of Okemos, and for many years postmaster and druggist, is confined to his bed with heart trouble, following an acute attack two weeks ago.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan)*

Sunday 19 March 1944

## **JOHN O. GRETENBERGER**

Funeral services for Mr. Grettenberger, 76, retired Okemos businessman and former postmaster, who died Friday at his home in the village, will be held Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock at the residence. Proprietor of a combined drug and grocery store since 1894, he retired from active business in 1939. He would have celebrated his golden wedding anniversary on May 3 of this year.

Pall bearers will be Jay Becker, Ray Johnson, Harris Hammond, John C. Grettenberger, William Grettenberger and Fred Weissinger. Rev. Ralph

I have heard practically no one complain regarding the effective influence of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root in the diseases for which it is so highly recommended during nearly twenty-four years' sale of the medicine. I have never been afraid to recommend Swamp-Root for kidney and bladder troubles, consequently my sales have been splendid.

Very truly yours,  
**J. O. GRETENBERGER,**  
Druggist.

Oct. 8, 1916.

Okemos, Michigan.

Wooten and Rev. Myron Hoyt will officiate at the service. Interment will be in Glendale cemetery.

Minnie remained active in community affairs until her death 20 January 1958, Okemos. She was interred Glendale Cemetery.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Sunday 26 January 1958

## **OKEMOS PIONEER DIES FROM FALL**



Grettenberger

Funeral services for Mrs. Minnie C. Grettenberger, 86, of Okemos, will be held at Gorsline-Runciman funeral home Tuesday at 1 p.m. Rev. Warren Brown and David Evans will officiate. Burial will be at Glendale cemetery.

Mrs. Grettenberger, a lifelong resident of Okemos, died Friday as the result of a hip injury suffered last Monday at her residence.

She taught school in Okemos and Meridian township in the late 1800's, and she and her husband, John, operated a drug store and grocery store in Okemos from 1885 until 1930. A charter member of the Okemos Pioneer club, Mrs. Grettenberger also belonged to the Rebekah lodge and was active in both until her death.