

Johannes or John Gustav Ernst (645), my grandfather, was the fourth child of August and Caroline. I remember him as a kind old man who lived up on the hill.

His son, my Uncle Walter (648), remembers him as a strict father. As the story goes, Maria Klug was employed as a housemaid in the home of a wealthy businessman in Milwaukee. One day her father came to see her and informed her that a young man named John Ernst wanted to marry her. Her father asked her to come home with him. She did and, soon after, John and Maria were married.



Figure 35. Wedding invitation of Johannes Ernst and Maria Klug, 1882.

The wedding invitation shown in Figure 35 is in German script characters, headed by *Einladung* or Invitation. The invitation can be translated as “You and your worthy family find hereby a friendly invitation to our wedding that will take place on Sunday morning 12 November 1882 at 11 AM in the home of Mr. Gottlieb Klug, respectfully, Johannes Ernst, Maria Klug, Freistadt, Wis.” The reason the wedding was held at the Klug homestead could have been that the new church in Freistadt was under construction and certain parts such as windows and stone were taken from the old church (see page 41).

Maria (646) had an ancestral line going back to Pomerania as well. Maria’s parents were Gottlieb Christoph Klug (1816-1890) born in Plathe, Regenwalde, and Carolina Dorothea Bartelt (1824-1866) born in Boock, Randow. Her paternal grandparents were Adam Gottlieb Klug (1775-1867) of Muddelmow, Regenwalde, and Sophia Louise Schumacher (1778-1853) born in Newhof, Regenwalde. All of these people, except Martin and Christian, came from