

# FRANZ T. "FRANK" GEYER

Herington Fire Chief and Wagonmaker/Wheelwright

Born: July 3, 1865 in Saxony, Germany

Died: March 18, 1907 in Herington, KS

Frank Geyer was born in Saxony, Germany, July 3, 1865. In Germany, he learned the trade of wheelwright. At the age of 22, he came to America arriving at the port of New York aboard the Ship "Polynesia" on September 29, 1887. He came to Herington and partnered with August H. Otte (blacksmith) in a blacksmithing, horseshoeing and wagon shop business named Geyer & Otte at 20 South Broadway, later moving the business to 105 East Main (former site of IGA and the Rock Island Church). Frank Geyer also had an older brother Paul Geyer who likely joined the Geyer & Otte business as a tinsmith. Paul moved to Marlin, Texas sometime before WWI. Frank also served the town as Fire Chief for the volunteer fire department in Herington in the 1890s and early 1900s.

Frank and Bertha Geyer were the parents of 5 children, (Arthur, Adolph "Max", Oscar, Irene, and Frank Jr.) all born in Herington. Bertha died in 1905 at the age of 38. Frank then remarried in 1906 to Amanda Trebbe Bohn, a widow who ran a hotel/boarding house in Herington.

Unfortunately, Frank contracted Typhoid Fever and died of the illness on March 18, 1907. Amanda Geyer and the Geyer children remained in Herington where Amanda continued to run the family's boarding house



business at 108 West Main (former site of Pike's Body Shop and the Block House Bar) and the Geyer children worked for various pharmacies and

drug stores in town. The Geyer sons attended Pharmacy school in Wichita and later opened their own Pharmacy business under the name "Geyer Bros. Pharmacy" in Ellis, KS. Oscar Geyer worked as a pharmacist in Topeka. Irene married and move to Oklahoma City, and between 1920-1925, Amanda Geyer moved to Oklahoma City, OK to be nearer to her daughter and lived the remainder of her life there.

Frank and Bertha Geyer are buried in the St. John's Lutheran cemetery, Lyons Creek, Herington, KS. Amanda Geyer is buried in Rose Hill Burial Park in Oklahoma City, OK.