

Descendants of Virginia Adeline Seslar and George Benjamin Kushmaul

Generation No. 5.4

VIRGINIA ADELINE⁵ SESLAR (*Thomas Martin⁴ Sesler, Jane³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*) was born October 19, 1859 in Bloomington, OH, and died September 09, 1916 in Bridgeport, Morrill Co., NE. She married **GEORGE BENJAMIN KUSHMAUL** December 18, 1879, son of **JOHANN KUSSMAUL** and **KUMENARA BECK**. He was born June 15, 1852 in Cairo, OH, and died August 17, 1930 in St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR.

Children of **VIRGINIA SESLAR** and **GEORGE KUSHMAUL** are:

- i. **ARTHUR GLOSCOW⁶ KUSHMAUL**, b. January 18, 1881, Lima, Allen Co., OH; d. June 17, 1938, Portland, Multnomah Co., OR. He m. **DELLA NEGLEMRE**, b. Abt. 1903, NE.
- ii. **HALLIE KUSHMAUL**, b. February 22, 1882, Lima, Allen Co., OH; d. February 22, 1882, Lima, Allen Co., OH.
- iii. **PEARL INEZ KUSHMAUL**, b. March 16, 1884, Lima, Allen Co., OH; d. April 20, 1952, Portland, Multnomah Co., OR. She m. **JAMES MARTIN**.
- iv. **KATHERINE MARY KUSHMAUL**, b. March 13, 1886, LaPort, LaPort Co., IN; d. December 22, 1970. She m. (1) **LEW GREEN** Abt. 1905, Fargo, Cass Co., ND; b. Fargo, ND. She m. (2) **FREDE E. BENTLEY** March 04, 1908; b. December 08, 1878, NY.
- v. **MINTIE KUSHMAUL**, b. March 19, 1888, NE; d. May 30, 1908, Bridgeport, Cheyenne Co., NE.
- vi. **ALICE ROSE KUSHMAUL**, b. March 18, 1893, Camp Clarke, Cheyenne Co., NE; d. May 13, 1974, Portland, Multnomah Co., OR. She m. **CLYDE E. TODD** June 16, 1910, Beverly, Hitchcock Co., NE; b. April 09, 1888, Quincy, Hickory Co., MO; d. February 1984, Portland, Multnomah Co., OR.
- vii. **BONNIE KUSHMAUL**, b. December 21, 1897, Camp Clarke, Cheyenne Co., NE; d. December 1897, Camp Clarke, Cheyenne Co., NE.

VIRGINIA ADELINE SESLAR 1859 - 1916
and
GEORGE BENJAMIN KUSHMAUL 1852 - 1930

Even though the early homesteaders found the land forbidding, they learned to be survivalists. What developed was a community of innovative, frugal citizens. Almost overnight they had created a culture [for] which no previous experience could have prepared them. They seemed to be tied to the land.¹

George Benjamin Kushmaul

Virginia And George Bring Five Children To Nebraska

Virginia Adeline Seslar was born in Ohio on October 19, 1859, the fourth child of Thomas Martin Seslar and Elizabeth Mahala Aldridge.² When she was twenty years old she married George Benjamin Kushmaul on December 18, 1879.³ George's parents had come from Germany and George was recorded in the Census of 1880 as a farmer. Both this Census and that taken in 1900 record that Virginia was known as Jennie.⁴

Jennie and George's first three children were born in Lima, Allen County, Ohio. Arthur Gloscow Kushmaul was born January 18, 1881, Hallie Kushmaul was born and died on February 22, 1882, and Pearl Inez Kushmaul was born on March 16, 1884. Then the family moved to LaPort, Indiana with Virginia's mother, where Katherine Mary Kushmaul was born on March 13, 1886. Three more children were born in Camp Clarke, Cheyenne County, Nebraska. Mintie Kushmaul was born March 19, 1888, probably shortly after their arrival. She died May 30, 1908 in Bridgeport, Morrill County, Nebraska. Alice Rose Kushmaul was born on March 18, 1893 and Bonnie Kushmaul, born on December 21, 1897, died shortly after her birth.⁵ Four of their eight children lived to attain their majority.

Jennie and George settled into the frontier life and George turned from farming to freighting.

Camp Clarke existed from 1876 to 1902. There was no Bridgeport, no railroads in the North Platte Valley, and Sidney was the closest town on the Union Pacific some 40 miles south and the infant village of Alliance was the same distance north. The homesteaders and ranchers from the scattered soddies and dugouts in the valley got their mail and bought groceries and supplies at the Camp Clarke Trading Post. Everything was hauled by huge freight wagons, some drawn by oxen and some by horses and mules. People traveled by stage, horseback, or by wagons and buckboards drawn by horses. . . .

Granddad, the builder of sod houses, freighted during winter months from Sidney to Camp Clarke, pulling the huge freight wagon with an ox team. The trip could not be made in a day and since there were no accommodations between the two destinations, Granddad slept under his wagon coping with angry weather and listening to the howling of the wolves, their threat and that of other wild animals. At the end of his run he received no cash but traded time and work for coffee, flour, sowbelly and coal oil—the necessary staples for his family.⁶

Jennie Kushmaul died on September 9, 1916 in Bridgeport. George moved to Oregon to be near his children, Arthur, Pearl and Alice. He died on August 17, 1930 in St. Helens, Oregon.

THE JANE HIBBEN LINE

Additional Information About The Children of Jennie and George

Arthur Gloscow Kushmaul married Della Neglemre sometime after 1910. They had four children; Donald Sylvester Kushmaul, Virginia Kushmaul, Mary Madeline Kushmaul and Juanita Kushmaul. Arthur died on June 17, 1938 in Portland, Oregon.⁷

Pearl Inez Kushmaul married James Martin. They had a daughter, Virginia Agnes Martin. Pearl died April 20, 1952 in Portland, Oregon.⁸

Katherine Mary Kushmaul married Lew Green about 1905 in Fargo, North Dakota, and they had a daughter, Junita Ona Green. She then married Fred E. Bentley on March 4, 1908.

All of the settlers knew her to be interested in people, and they were aware of her warmth and sympathy for all sorts of human misfortunes and cussedness. She was present at the birth of babies and every homesteader for mile around used her remedies for high fevers, infections, burns and broken bones. In the early 1920s she rode horseback to reach her patients, and not even nightfall and weather kept her home if she were needed for an emergency. There was a calm about her that eased the anxious heart. Her hands were soft and capable, and her voice reassuring. The settlers called her "Katie," but to me she was "My" Aunt Kate. . . .

Women such as my aunt were indispensable on the prairie and the sandhills. With her death came the end of an era where "special women" unselfishly looked out for the interests and welfare of others, both medically and emotionally.⁹

Kate died December 22, 1970.

Alice Rose Kushmaul and the Todd family are the subject of Generation 6.1 of this Chapter.

Generation 5.4 End Notes:

- ¹ Freida M. Steenrod, *Blowouts, Blizzards and Bunk, Ghost Town, Northport, Nebraska*, 1989, Tigard, Oregon, (B&B Litho.), chapter 4, The Old Sod House, page 29.
- ² Thomas M. Seslar and Elizabeth M. Aldridge family bible, "Virginia Adlena Seslar was borned October th, 19, 1859."
- ³ Lorraine Adair Janes (Olsen), Ancestor Chart.
- ⁴ US Census 1880, T9-990, enumeration 1, page 222, line 25, Shawnee Township, Allen County, Ohio; US Census 1900, T623-919, enumeration 49, sheet 11 line 57, Camp Clarke Township, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.
- ⁵ Lorraine Adair Janes (Olsen), [Note 3].
- ⁶ Steenrod, *Blowouts, Blizzards and Bunk, Ghost Town, Northport, Nebraska*, [Note 1], chapter 2, "Clamp Clarke, The Trading Post," page 11.
- ⁷ Family history notes of Kathleen Laverne⁷ Mount (Ruf) (*Bertha Elizabeth*⁶, *John Baldwin*⁵, *Thomas Martin*⁴ *Seslar, Jane*³ *Hibben, Thomas*², *John*¹).
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ Steenrod, *Blowouts, Blizzards and Bunk, Ghost Town, Northport, Nebraska*, [Note 1], chapter 7, "Nurse of the Frontier," pages 41-44.