

## Frank SCHMID and Gertrude Anna VOS Families

19 albums 19 saved moved

13 links fixed                      1848 FRANK 04 Joe 181 example of name                      done

**NOTE:** THIS IS A ROUGH DOCUMENT. The content was copy/pasted from our old Web Site before it went offline. The new Website is under construction in 2023

You will find broken links in this document. Those will be fixed online.

Thank you for your patience.

In the meantime, LINKS to **PHOTO ALBUMS on Shutterfly** – enjoy

- **Frank SCHMID & Gertrude VOS** <https://link.shutterfly.com/K8tbmGHLtzb>
- **EARLY AVON Scenes** <https://link.shutterfly.com/mX7jmnjwSzb>
- **Gertrude's Parents, 'Anton' Antonius Herbertus VOS and Anna Elizabeth BECKERS**  
<https://link.shutterfly.com/g000Sj6n7zb>
- **Frank's sister Lena: Reinhard VOS and Magdalena "Lena" SCHMID** <https://link.shutterfly.com/TMyAVS3wSzb>

### My 2017 Trip to Minnesota

VOS & SCHMID Cousins I met in 2017 when I drove through VOS & SCHMID country in Hennepin, Carver and Stearns Counties, visiting numerous Cousins, Farms, Cemeteries. Link to PDF on google drive

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yFk4RuZQgGjD2-y5NzdM-9VZDKt0AYQF?usp=sharing>

### The SCHMIDs and VOSs are related multiple ways:

- A) our Dutch Immigrants John & Gertrud VOS, who settled in Carver County  
(Peter Joannes VOS & Anna Gertrudis MOORS from Limburg, Holland)

Their sons, Anton VOS, Sr and little brother Reinhard VOS, and their Sister, Agnes VOS Muyres, all moved from Carver County up to Stearns County, married and raised families there. Reinhard was abt 18 years younger than Anton, Sr.

Anton VOS, Sr's brother, Reinhard VOS married Magdalena "Lena" SCHMID, sister of Frank SCHMID

Anton VOS, Sr's daughter Gertrude VOS married Frank SCHMID of Avon, son of Joseph SCHMID

- B) our German Immigrants Joseph & Elisabeth SCHMID who settled in Hennepin County  
Joseph SCHMID and Elisabeth SCHWEIKERT Schmid from Württemberg, Germany

Their son, Frank SCHMID, married Gertrude VOS, dau of Anton VOS, Sr.

Their daughter, Magdalena SCHMID married Reinhard VOS

our Great Grandmother, Gertrude VOS is the niece of Reinhard VOS (her dad Anton's brother)

and Gertrude VOS Schmid is sister-in-law to Magdalena SCHMID Vos

Some of the Children of Anton VOS Sr, Reinhard VOS and Agnes VOS Muyres, Frank SCHMID remained in Stearns County and had families. Anton's children: John Peter, Gertrude, Theodore, Peter, Anton Jr,

Surnames: Schmid, Vos, Muyres

SCHMID: Schmid, Thome, Ross, Welle, Randall, Fenton, McKinley, Buettner, Campbell, Diedrich, Neumann, Netter, Brooks, Holder, Diederichs, Scott, Williams, Mingo, Weber, St Hilaire,

THOME: Thome, Ritter, Dirkes, Lauer, Machtemes, Omann, Carmody, Mergen, Buttweiler, Thielman, Achman, Schoenberg, Hoffmann to name a few.

VOS: Vos, Voss, Ebnet, Meyer, Gruidl, Krekelberg, Ehrlichmann, Kubicek, Beckmann, Neuwirth, Schwinghammer, Burger, Anderson, Heisick, Pulkrabek, Doble, Simone, Thell, to name a few

Muyres, Greener, Gerads, Michael, Munkler, Boeckermann, Kuefler, Schueller, Kerfeld, to name a few



Photos will be housed on Shutterfly. Links will be added to the web site over time

## BEGINNING OF OLD WEB PAGE

*Frank is the 6th child of Joseph & Elizabeth Schmid, born after Joseph returned from two years serving the Union in the Civil War*

LISTEN to the Garrison Keillor Radio Show, about Frank Schmid. Link is way down below.

### **Frank (born Francis) SCHMID**

Born: 27 Jul 1866, in Chaska or Minnetrista, Hennepin, MN

Died: 29 Dec 1946, Avon, Stearns County, Minnesota

**Frank and Gertrude Vos were married 23 September 1889** in Holdingford, Stearns Co, MN.

### **Gertrude Anna VOS**

Born: Jul 17 or 20, 1869, Kraitown or Albany, Stearns Co, MN

Died: Dec 29, 1946, Avon, Stearns Co, MN

Gertrude's Parents: Anton Vos, Sr and Anna Elizabeth Beckers.

Read about **Gertrude's grandparents and parents who emigrated from Limburg, Netherlands** on the Holland Ancestors page and the Anton Vos, Sr. page on this Web Site

**Frank and Gertrude had 13 children:** Joseph Anton 1890, Elizabeth 1891, Edward 1893, Elenora 1895, Francis 1896, twin George 1896, Roman 1898, Gertrude 1900, Ben 1902, Harold 1904, Leonard 1907, Marie 1910, and Aloysius 1915.

They also raised the 5 children of their daughter, Elenora, who died at age 27.

Frank and Gertrude lived in Avon, MN, where Frank operated the Avon General Store, where Stearns County farmers traded. He was the local banker. He operated the grain elevator and lumber yard, and was involved in many more business dealings in Avon. Frank loved farming, and after he retired, he and Gertrude went to live on a farm north of Avon.

They died together on December 29, 1946, in a tragic train accident.

A bit of Avon trivia, by the St Cloud Daily Times:

*“Avon was first settled by Nick Keppers 1863. Bank robbers blew the front off the bank in 1909 for a haul of \$1,700. Nationally known during the Prohibition 1920's as center of moonshine production, “Minnesota 13” by tradition made in circus tents hidden in the woods.”*

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2009 Retro Fun in Avon! Garrison Keillor interviews Avon local, Jeanette Blonigen Clancy

LINK to AUDIO Jeanette’s Recording: <http://jeanetteblonigenclancy.com/speaking-and-interviews>

Or, go to 1:28:20 mark in this audio: <https://www.prairiehome.org/shows/56781.html#>

Local Historian, Jeanette **Blonigen Clancy was in Garrison Keillor’s 35th anniversary “Prairie Home Companion”**® show in Avon, MN on July 4, 2009, as the historian of Avon. She researched and wrote *Nestled between Lakes and Wooded Hills: The Centennial History of the Avon Area*.

Sound recording © 2009 American Public Media. Used by permission of Garrison Keillor and American Public Media.

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**Excerpt from Biography of Frank Schmid  
compiled by Nancy Schmid Topham  
July 2014**

**Source of Information “*Nestled between Lakes and Wooded Hills, The Centennial History of the Avon Area*”, by Jeanette Blonigen Clancy, Page 162**

Frank Schmid was an ambitious entrepreneur in Avon, Minnesota. He moved to Avon [in 1899] when he bought the general store. In those days they had hitching posts out front to tie up the customer’s horses and a livery barn in the back that held 27 teams. Franks family lived in the top of the store.

He quickly impressed people and was elected president of the village in 1900; less than a year after he moved there. The custom was to pay your grocery bill once a year. So, when kids were sent to the store to get a loaf of bread the storekeeper put the purchase in a record book instead of taking money.

At one time Frank owned the Schmid Store, the lumber company, the grain elevator, creamery, two farms and had the controlling stock in the bank. It was said; “If there ever was such a thing as a one-man town, it was Avon and Frank Schmid was the man”. He was the mayor for 25 years.

He believed his kids should learn to work. They swept spider webs in the barn, pulled mustard weeds in the fields and cleaned the chicken coops to name a few. Frank believed idle hands led to trouble. He was the father of 13 children so I suppose he had lots of good workers.

He formed the Schmid Company with his sons, it became the center of commerce for farmers because it bought from them what they wanted to sell and sold to them what they needed to buy. It was the fountain head and the center around which the life of the community revolved. When Avon needed a hospital Frank built one.

He met with an untimely death at the age of 77. One Sunday he and Gerti were heading into town when their car stalled on the Great Northern railroad tracks. They were killed instantly ... what a sad day for Avon, Minnesota.

READ MORE Biography of Frank Schmid (PDF) linked below in “Documents and Files of Interest”

## **Children of Frank & Gertrude**

Frank and Gertrude had 13 children:

### **Joseph Anton SCHMID**

b. 20 Jun 1890 Holdingford, Stearns, MN

- m. 22 Oct 1912 to Catherine/Katherine Elizabeth THOME, Avon, Stearns, MN (1889-1980)
- c. Bernard, Edwin, Viola, Leonard, Mildred, George, Francis
- d. 8 Jan 1976 Denver, CO. Burial Rapid City, Pennington, SD

**Elizabetha SCHMID - died as a child**

- b. 18 Nov 1891 Albany, Stearns Co., MN  
died at age 7 of typhoid
- d. 4 Aug 1899; Old Saint Benedicts, Avon, Stearns Co, MN

**Edward "Ed" John SCHMID** in Seven Dolors Church record as Edwardum Joannem

- b. 13 Apr 1893 Albany, Stearns, MN
- m. 22 Nov 1916 to Luella Susan ROCHE (1897-1983)
- c. Dorothy, Donald, Billy, Lee, Lois
- d. 24 Mar or Jul 1972

**Elenora "Ella" Rose SCHMID Ross aka Rass**

- b. 3 Feb 1895, Albany, Stearns, MN
- m. 13 Apr 1915 to Alfred Michael Ross aka Rass
- c. Nestor, Leroy, Franklin, Alfred "Alfie", and Eleanor Rose (Baby Ella)
- d. 24 Jul 1927 Bowbells, Burke, ND; buried in Bowbells, ND  
Ella & Alfred died young. Her 5 children were raised by her parents, Frank & Gertrude

**George A. SCHMID, VETERAN WWI** in Seven Dolors Church record as Georgium Albertum

- b. 19 Nov 1896 Albany, Stearns, MN (twin of Frank)
- m. 23 Jan 1921 in ?, to Veronica "Vern" Catherine MILLER 1899-1972
- c. Georgia, Mary Helen, Lorlee
- d. 22 Apr 1979 in Avon, Stearns, MN

George ran the Avon store. He lived upstairs after Frank & Gert moved to the farm.

**Francis "Frank" A. SCHMID, VETERAN WWI** in Seven Dolors Church record as Franziscum Aloys

- b. 19 Nov 1896 Albany, Stearns, MN (twin of George)
- m. 23 Apr 1917 Avon, Stearns to Theresa "Tracy" Welle 1894-1969
- c. Gilfred, Inez, Daniel
- d. 20 Dec 1957 Ramsey County, MN

(note: sometimes referred to as "Frank Jr" but he was not actually a Jr.)

**Roman Alois SCHMID**

- b. 7 or 8 May 1898 Albany, Stearns, MN
- m1. 11 Sep 1923 Stearns, MN to Dorothy E. Hartfelder Schmid (1898-1957)
- m2. 1960 Mary Cecelia Koroll Woitalla (1907-1993)
- c. Allen, Conrad, Terry [from first marriage]
- d. 22 Mar 1965 Avon, Stearns Co, MN  
Roman was a rural mail carrier and ran the general store

**Gertrude "Gertie" Schmid Welle**

- b. 30 Sep 1900 Avon, Stearns, MN
- m. 27 Nov 1917 Stearns, MN to Albinus "Albin" Elmer Welle
- c. Alma, Elsie, Cyril, Geraldine, Rosemary, Judy
- d. 17 Sep 1995 Klamath, OR. Burial Lake Forest, Orange, CA

**Benedict "Ben" Schmid**

- b. 21 Sep 1902 Avon, Stearns, MN

- m. 6 Jun 1927 to Laretta Aschenbrenner (1911-1975)
- c. Elaine, Roger, Charles, baby boy Thomas
- d. 31 Aug 1972 Avon, Stearns, MN

**Harold "Harry" Charles Schmid**

- b. 11 Nov 1904 Avon, Stearns, MN
- m. 12 Jun 1928 Stearns, MN Mary Patricia O'Connor (1906-1999)
- c. Connor
- d. 25 Apr 1983 Dent, Otter Tail, MN

First to graduate college

**Harry was a Colonel of the MN Civil Air Patrol**

**Leo Alfred Schmid**

- b. 5 Sep 1907 Avon, Stearns, MN
- m. 1 May 1933 to Agnes "Aggie" M. WOLNEY, 1912-1988
- c. Lanee, Jolayne
- d. 11 Oct 1991 Bend, Deschutes, OR

**Marie SCHMID Randall**

- b. 24 Jun 1910 Avon, Stearns, MN
- m. Robert Anthony "Tony" Randall and Marie were married on June 5, 1935 at the Crosier College Chapel in Onamia, Mille Lacs County, MN. Robert Anthony "Tony" Randall 1912-1998
- c. Gertrude, James, Nora, Mary
- d. 17 Dec 1964 Little Falls, Morrison, MN
- b. Calvary Cemetery, Little Falls, Morrison County, MN

**VETERAN WWII US ARMY - R.A. TONY RANDALL**

**Aloysius "Alois" aka "Al" R. Schmid**

- b. 10 Jan 1915, Avon, Stearns, Co, MN;
  - m. 2 Sep 1940 Hennepin, MN to Mary Patricia SUTER (1913-2000)
  - c. Marcia
  - d. 21 Mar 1993 Minneapolis, Hennepin, MN
- Univ of MN lived with Harry's family for awhile; Assos Prof of Agronomy
- VETERAN WWII - a radar man in So. Pacific**

**Frank & Gert also raised the 5 children of their daughter, Elenora, who died at the young age of 27.**

Documents and Files of Interest – will be linked on new website later in 2023

[Fond Memories of Avon, by Sue Saccoman Burich](#)

(272 KB)

[Memories of Veronica Catherine Miller Schmid, by Dan Diedrich](#)

(49 KB)

[2015 The Life & Times of Georgia Schmid Diedrich](#)

(8.24 MB)

[Roman Alois Schmid Bio.pdf](#)

(179 KB)

[Oral History interview w/ Connor Schmid, Aug 2017 .mp3 11MB](#)

(11 MB)

[BIOGRAPHY of Frank Schmid by Nancy Schmid Topham](#)

(252 KB)

[AUDIO FILE: Garrison Keillor & Jeanette Clancy Avon History July 4, 2009](#)

(5.98 MB)

[1946 Dec 29 Train Tragedy Frank & Gertrude, Newspaper Article](#)

(2.49 MB)

[1946 St. Cloud Daily Times "Christmas Tragedy at Avon"](#)

(1.67 MB)

[1998 Diedrich News WWII Military Experience WEB.pdf](#)

(7.26 MB)

[2000 Kent Davis school paper, Establishing the German Tradition in MN Elsie Brooks gr-son.pdf](#)

(2.69 MB)

## Frank + Gertrude Family Albums - 19 albums to save - will be linked soon on web site.



[2018 Cousins Reunion](#) DID NOT SAVE THIS ONE SINCE ALREADY SAVED W 2018 GATHERING



[Frank SCHMID + Gertrude VOS](#) 01 64 no notes



[Avon, Store, Lumber Co. and area scenes](#) 02 92

Special THANK YOU to Historian/Author, **Jeanette Blonigen Clancy** for her wonderful book: *"Nestled between Lakes and Wooded Hills: The Centennial History of the Avon Area"*

Thank you to **Stearns History Museum, Lee Schmid Family, and Dan Diedrich** for many of these Avon photos.



[Schmid Farms 1 and 2](#) 03 62

Farm #1 on outskirts of Avon, where Frank & Gert lived

Farm #2 was south near Watab. not good for crops. mainly cows we thing.



[Joe & Kate](#) 04 182

Joseph Anton Schmid & Catherine Thome Schmid

Joseph Anton SCHMID (1890-1976)

b. 20 Jun 1890 in Holdingford, Stearns Co, MN

d. 8 Jan 1976 in Denver, Denver Co, CO

Marriage. 22 Oct 1912 to Katharine Elizabeth THOME, Avon, Stearns, MN

Catherine (born Katarine) "Kate" Elizabeth THOME

b. 23 January 1888 in Avon, Stearns Co, MN

d. 5 November 1981, Denver, Denver County, Colorado

Buried in Rapid City, SD



[Elisabetha 1891-1899](#) 05 8

Elisabetha Schmid died at the age of 7 from Typhoid

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=grampGRid=53123850>

b. Nov. 18, 1891

d. Aug. 4, 1899

Old Sain Benedict's Cemetery

Cemetery notes:

The graves south of the present Church Cemetery across I-94 is called "Old St. Benedict's." The old St. Benedict's Cemetery was moved when Interstate 94 was built. The new St. Benedict's cemetery began in 1923 and many of the graves were moved from the old cemetery to the new, but not all of them.



[Ed & Luella](#) 06 76

Edward E John SCHMID

b. 13 Apr 1893 Freeport or Albany, Stearns, MN

d. 24 Mar or Jul 1972

Marriage: 22 Nov 1916 to Luella Susan ROCHE (1897-1983)

children. Dorothy, Donald, Billy, Lee, Lois



[Elenora & Alfred](#) 07 55

**Elenora Ella SCHMID Ross aka Rass**

b. 3 Feb 1895, Albany, Stearns, MN

m. 13 Apr 1915 to Alfred Michael Ross aka Rass

c. Nestor, Leroy, Franklin, Alfred Alfie, and Eleanor Rose (Baby Ella)

d. 24 Jul 1927 Bowbells, Burke, ND; buried in Bowbells, ND

Ella & Alfred died young. Her 5 children were raised by her parents, Frank & Gertrude



[Frank & Tracy](#) 08 41

**Francis A. Schmid**

Birth: Nov. 19, 1896; Death: Dec. 20, 1957

Burial: Saint Benedicts Parish Cemetery, Avon, Stearns, MN

**Theresa A WELLE Schmid**

Birth: Oct. 19, 1894; Death: Jan. 15, 1969  
Burial: Saint Benedicts Parish Cemetery, Avon, Stearns, MN  
3 Children:  
Gilfred Frank Schmid 1919-2005  
Inez Catherine SCHMID Campbell 1921-2011  
Daniel Joseph 1926-1930



[George & Vern](#) 09 94

Memories of Veronica Catherine Miller Schmid  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5XQ30qzyFOXNE54NFdjOWIwdzg>



[Roman & Dorothy](#) 10 51

**Roman Alois SCHMID and Dorothy E HARTFELDER**

b. 7 or 8 May 1898 Albany, Stearns, MN  
d. 22 Mar 1965 Avon, Stearns Co, MN  
m1. 11 Sep 1923 Stearns, MN to Dorothy E. Hartfelder Schmid (1898-1957)  
m2. 1960 Mary Cecelia Koroll Weitalla (1907-1993)

Children from first marriage: Allen, Conrad, Terry  
Roman worked in the Schmid Family businesses, and at one point was also a rural mail carrier and ran the Schmid general store



[Gertie & Albin Welle](#) 11 49

From Find-a-grave Gertrude E Schmid Welle (1900 - 1995)  
Birth: Sep. 30, 1900 Avon, Stearns County, MN  
Death: Sep. 17, 1995 California, USA  
Spouse: Albinus E Welle (1893 - 1975)\*  
Burial: Ascension Cemetery, Lake Forest, Orange County, CA



[Ben & Laretta](#) 12 37

Ben's Grave Record on find-a-grave:  
<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=grampGRid=138695490>  
Birth: Sep. 21, 1902; Avon, Stearns Co, Minnesota, USA  
Death: Aug. 31, 1972; Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota  
Burial: Saint Benedicts Parish Cemetery, Avon, Stearns Co





[Harry SCHMID + Mary O'Connor](#)

13 40

**Harold 'Harry' Charles Schmid**

- b. 11 Nov 1904 Avon, Stearns, MN
- m. 12 Jun 1928 Stearns, MN Mary Julia O'Connor (1906-1999)
- c. Connor
- d. 25 Apr 1983 Dent, Otter Tail, MN

First to graduate college

**Harry was a Colonel of the MN Civil Air Patrol**



[Leo & Aggie](#)

14 38

**Leonard "Leo" Alfred Schmid**

- b. 5 Sep 1907 Avon, Stearns, MN
- m. 1 May 1933 to Agnes "Aggie" M. WOLNEY, 1912-1988
- c. Lanee, Jolayne
- d. 11 Oct 1991 Bend, Deschutes, OR



[Marie & Tony Randall](#)

15 31

From Find-a-Grave

[Marie: https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=grampGRid=104076514](https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=grampGRid=104076514)

[Tony: https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=grampGRid=104076527](https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=grampGRid=104076527)

**Marie SCHMID Randall**

- b. 24 Jun 1910 Avon, Stearns, MN
- m. Robert Anthony "Tony" Randall and Marie were married on June 5, 1935 at the Crosier College Chapel in Onamia, Mille Lacs County, MN. Robert Anthony "Tony" Randall 1912-1998
- c. Gertrude, James, Nora, Mary
- d. 17 Dec 1964 Little Falls, Morrison, MN
- b. Calvary Cemetery, Little Falls, Morrison County, MN

**VETERAN WWII US ARMY - R.A. TONY RANDAL**



[Al & Mary](#)

16 36

**Aloysius "Alois" "Al" R. Schmid**

- b. 10 Jan 1915, Avon, Stearns, Co, MN;
- m. 2 Sep 1940 Hennepin, MN to Mary Patricia SUTER (1913-2000)
- c. Marcia
- d. 21 Mar 1993 Minneapolis, Hennepin, MN

Univ of MN lived with Harry's family for awhile; Assos Prof of Agronimy

**VETERAN WWII - a radar man in So. Pacific**



[Dan Diedrich collection](#) 17

15

no notes



[Thome Family in Avon](#)

18

19

Barbara LENERTZ / LEHNARTZ Thome was the mother in law of Joseph Anton Schmid, oldest son of Frank & Gertrude. (Marriage record spells as Lenertz)

## ***THOME / LENERTZ***

*John Peter THOME and Barbara LENERTZ, were immigrants from Germany, and their daughter, Catherine 'Kate' was born in America.*

## **Barbara Lenertz Thome and John Peter Thome (in-laws of Frank & Gertrude Schmid of Avon, MN)**

### **Barbara LENERTZ**

b. 19 Dec 1858 in Germany;

d. 29 Apr 1944, in Avon, Stearns Co, MN

Immigrated to America in 1883

Barbara and John married on 6 Nov 1883

### **John Peter THOME**

b. 11 Nov 1843 in Germany

d. 5 Jun 1913 in MN

John Served in the Prussian Military Service while in Germany

Immigrated to America in 1882

**Children:** Peter Thome, Mary K Thome (Peter) Machtemes (1886-1956), Louise, Catherine Elizabeth THOME (1888 - 1981) , Michael A Thome (1891 - 1938), Anna, Katherine 'Katie' Thome Mergen (1895 - 1973), Baby Thome, who died as an infant. (no info)



[Past Schmid Reunions & Gatherings](#)

19

20

photos from past reunions in Avon. (we don't have many photos. pls send to toni if you have some good group photos from these reunions. large and small groups.)

1919 Schmid Store Gertie Frank Al Roman



Schmid Lumber Co. circa 1935



#### The Creamery

"The creamery at this place was organized in March, 1900, by F. M. Whitman and F. Schmid, who are the sole owners, and began operations the following month. An addition was built in 1901 to be used as a feed mill. During the past year (1914) 86,000 pounds of butter was made and \$21,000 was paid to patrons, of whom there are 100 with about 400 cows. The creamery still occupies the original building.

[Prior to this] A cooperative creamery had been built in 1892 or 1893 by a Chicago concern at a cost of \$5,000, for which the farmers gave their notes. During the two or three seasons it was run the results were unsatisfactory in every way, and the plant was finally sold for a trifle to a dairy farm near St. Cloud, where it was set up and was nearly ready to run when struck by lightning and burned to the ground." excerpt from the Clancy book.

1937 Frank w eldest son, Joe, in Avon near the barn



1962 Marie, George, Roman, Joe, Gertie, Ben, Leo gather in Rapid City



1992, Frank & Gert Grandchildren, Reunion in Avon



1992\_Avon Reunion of Schmidts.jpg edit  
1992 Schmid Reunion, Avon, MN (left to right)

45 of 49

Added June 10 at 12:25pm

Standing: Bill (Ed), 2 Welle sisters (Gerty), Mildred (Joe), Viola (Joe), Bernard (Joe), Dorothy (Ed), Franklin (Eleanora), Donald (Ed), Leroy (Eleanora), Lee (Ed), Charles (Ben)  
In front: Giffred (Frank), Terry (Roman), Allen (Roman), Lois (Ed), Conrad (Roman), Connor (Harry), Joy (George), George (Joe), Allie (Eleanor), Inez (Frank), Ellice (Ben)

1946 Tragedy in Avon

## The St. Cloud Daily Times

### *Christmas Tragedy at Avon*

Avon mourned as it never did before in all its history. The tragic death of both Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schmid on a railroad crossing Christmas was a heart-breaking shock not only for the village nestled in the beautiful Avon lakes but for all of Stearns county and Central Minnesota where the family is widely known. If there ever was such a thing as a one-man town, it was Avon and Frank Schmid was the man. He was of the second generation of those German pioneer merchants who did so much to make Stearns county the fourth wealthiest in the State of Minnesota. His general store at Avon was the fountain head and the center around which the life of the community revolved. For nearly half a century he operated the general store on which he built his business. Through it he provided a market for everything that the farmers had to sell and provided them with everything they wanted to buy. He was the local banker. He operated the elevator and the lumber yard. He got the farmers together and organized the cooperative creamery. He was the largest contributor to everything that the village needed whether it was a beautiful new Catholic church which was built a few years ago, a school, better roads for the farmers or to the Avon summer resorts. He loved farming and when he retired he went to live on a fine farm just north of the railroad tracks at Avon. Wise and an expert at anything he turned his hand to, he used to boast that he had the best producing flock of hens in all Central Minnesota. It was not Frank Schmid alone. If ever a man had a wonderful helpmate, Frank Schmid had one in Gertrude Schmid. Of the eleven children she brought him, who survive, two daughters and nine stalwarth sons, all have followed in the footsteps of their father. Frank Schmid lived his life to a full 82 years, his wife to 77. They have left to their children and to everybody a great heritage—the axample of a reward won for Christian faith, honesty and hard work.

Links of Interest: Interviews, Articles, Publications (13)

[Photo Gallery of Avon, from back in the day](http://www.lakesnwoods.com/AvonGallery.htm) <http://www.lakesnwoods.com/AvonGallery.htm>

[Article on Avon, 1975](#)

[Link to Memories, Interviews, Oral Histories, and more](#)

[Garrison Keillor & Jeanette Clancy discuss Avon & Frank Schmid RADIO INTERVIEW](#)

[Link to Anton Vos, Sr & Elizabeth Vos \(parents of Gertrude\)](#)

[Music of the times, beginning 1889, the year Frank & Gert married](#)

[Link to Gertrude's Grandparents Vos & Beckers from Holland](#)

[Avon Historian Jeanette Blonigen Clancy "Nestled between Lakes and Wooded Hills: The Centennial History of the Avon Area"](#)

[FACEBOOK Page: Descendants of Frank & Gert](#)

[An Interview with Donald Schmid, Grandson of Frank & Gert](#)

[History of St Anthony Parish \(where Gertrude took First Communion\)](#)

[Photo Gallery of Albany, from back in the day](#)

[Joe SCHMID & Cathering THOME Family Web Site](#)

Burial Information Source: Find A Grave

[Frank Schmid 1866-1946, Avon, Stearns Co, MN](#)

[Gertrude Vos Schmid 1869-1946 Avon, Stearns Co, MN](#)

1908 Frank, Gert, Leo, Harry, Gertie



Frank's Store (rear view) and barn in Avon 1915 (source: SHM)



Frank & Gert Schmid Farmhouse



1920 Frank Schmid and his 9 sons



1935 Avon - Schmid Farm in foreground





1939 Frank & Gertrude Family 50th Anniversary, Avon, MN



Census Reports - Frank & Gertrude VOS Schmid

[1900 Census Frank Gertrude and 6 kids to Roman.jpg](#) (1.88 MB)

[1905 Census Frank Gertrude and 9 kids to harry.jpg](#) (464 KB)

[1905 Census zoomed Frank Gertrude and 9 kids to harry.jpg](#) ?? (91 KB)

[1910 Census Frank Gertrude and 10 kids to Leo.jpg](#) (1.42 MB)

[1920 Census Frank Gertrude and 7 kids to Al.jpg](#) (1.24 MB)

[1920 Census Joseph Katherine and 4 kids.jpg](#) (1.72 MB)

[1930 Census George Ben avon mn.jpg](#) (1.40 MB)

Memories of George & Vern (text)

### **Memories of Veronica Catherine Miller Schmid**

**February 25, 1899 - December 13, 1972**

from Daniel G. Diedrich 12/25/2016

[Click here to read or download PDF](#)

Here are some memories of our Grandmother Vern and her German, Dutch, Alsatian and Polish ancestors. She was such a wonderful grandmother, loving and graceful, with that ever present half smile of hers. She seemed to float around her domain, the second floor of that magical general store in Avon, Minnesota that all of us grandchildren called our home some time during the year. Having had the privilege of actually living in Avon with my grandparents for a school year in first grade, I have many cherished memories of Grandpa George and Vern:

Sitting next to Grandma in the front pew of St. Benedict's Church listening to her beautiful voice, Running in golden fields collecting handfuls of dandelion blossoms in baskets for Grandpa's wing,  
Resting in the swing between them on the back porch watching a fierce storm blow in over the lake,  
Driving with Grandpa along the back roads to Watab Lake and watching him toss a snapping turtle into the trunk for Grandma to make soup later in the day,  
Visiting the Schmid farm with my Aunt Joy, feeding the tiny chicks and riding their Shetland pony,  
Crashing on a sled into an icy ditch after the first snow with my school mates,  
Sitting in the basement of the store with Grandpa after a Fairway Foods delivery, while he cut a fresh orange with his big Swiss knife into eighths for a morning snack,  
Singing Christmas carols at the piano in the parlor, and of course,  
Absorbing the wonderful aromas coming from Grandma's kitchen.

She was a wonderful cook and took great care to prepare her meals with fresh produce from her huge gardens. Early in the morning up with the sun she would tend her vegetables and meticulously weed the rows of tomatoes, beets, peppers, eggplant, and corn. I remember her standing in front of the stove in her immaculate white kitchen, stirring and mixing sauces and soups, pulling wonderful lemon meringue pies, and cakes out of the oven. She would look over her shoulder, holding her latest creation and flash that great smile.

Included here as a Christmas gift are some of her recipes written in her beautiful mysterious Short hand style that she sent to her daughters, Georgia, Mary, and Joy over the years. They are a legacy from the collective culinary community in Avon, Minnesota. Notice the author of the recipe is sometimes noted in the upper right hand corner. Make sure to look on the back of the card, for often she has included a personal note about the recipe or how it was passed on at a particular social event or celebration. In these notes you will find the kindness and love with

which these gifts of great food and great shared meals together have been passed down through the generations from small villages and farms in the homeland to your table. Please pass them on so that your children and grandchildren will appreciate their heritage and culture.

Much appreciation and love to our great Grandmother Veronica C. Schmid,

BIO of Frank & Gertrude Schmid  
**Brief Biography of Frank Schmid**  
**Compiled by Nancy Schmid Topham**  
**July 2014**

Born: 27 July 1866 in Minnetrista, Hennepin, Minnesota

Married: Gertrude Vos 23 September 1889 in Holdingford, Stearns, Minnesota

Died: 29 December 1946 in Avon, Stearns, Minnesota

**Source of Information** *"Nestled between Lakes and Wooded Hills, The Centennial History of the Avon Area"*, by Jeanette Blonigen Clancy, Page 162

"Frank Schmid, who came to Avon in 1899, was the most ambitious entrepreneur Avon has ever seen. That he quickly impressed people can be seen in the fact that he was elected president of the incorporated village in 1900, a year after he arrived. At one time he owned the Schmid Store, the lumber yard, the elevator and grain company, two farms and controlling stock in the bank.

When Schmid arrived in Avon shortly before 1900, it was a rustic village. His son George Schmid, interviewed by the Albany Enterprise in 1978, said there were trees in the streets. "There were so many trees around here that some people called this Stump City. We had hitching posts all over town and behind the store we had a livery barn that held twenty-seven teams of horses."

The transaction that brought Frank Schmid to town was buying a general merchandise store from Thomas Roche. He moved to the top of the store with his family, enlarged the store to about twice its former size, and made it the heart of business in Avon.

Frank Schmid acquired the Borgerding elevator and lumber yard, both operating in Avon to the present day. Terry Schmid, grandson of Frank Schmid and present owner of Lumber One, said the oldest building in his business has the name of "Borgerding" on it. Because the railroad leased but did not sell any property adjoining its tracks, there is no abstract to tell when the businesses were started or when his grandfather bought them, but village records indicate that Alex Brandtner, who worked for Borgerding, lived in Avon by 1903, and in that year Borgerding's Avon Hardware Company began to supply building materials for the village. Perhaps the lumber company grew as a branch of the hardware store. By 1914 the village was paying Schmid for lumber. Lee Schmid can point to a place in the elevator where nail heads spell out his father's name -- Ed Schmid 1911. The date is puzzling. Perhaps Edward Schmid, eighteen at the time, was working for Borgerding when he pounded his name into the wood.

Frank Schmid had no share in the Avon State Bank when it was incorporated in 1907, but by 1921 he was the president and controlling stockholder, keeping that position until 1946 when he died in a train accident.

Schmid organized a creamery with Frank Whitman in 1900 (the one long-time residents of Avon remember on Middle Spunk Lake) and, according to Mitchell, added a feed mill to it in 1901, but that is incorrect. Feed mills did not come into existence until later, but the creamery could have sold feed for livestock in addition to the buttermilk it provided.

In 1926, Frank Schmid also bought the Davis farm just north of Avon. He and Gertrude moved there from the living quarters above the store in 1927. B. E. Davis, a gentleman from the South and a trustee when Avon was incorporated in 1900, developed the fine farm. Tom Roche was the owner after Davis. A newspaper article stated that Frank Schmid boasted he had the best producing hens in central Minnesota, but grandson Lee Schmid qualified the remark: "He never

had a damn thing to do with the chickens. Grandma took care of them." Later Frank Schmid acquired a farm of over 400 acres on the northwest shore of Watab Lake.

The Schmid Company, a corporation Frank Schmid formed with his sons, became the center of commerce for farmers because it bought from them what they needed to sell and sold to them what they needed to buy. In the words of Fred Schilplin, owner of the St. Cloud Times, it "was the fountain head and the center around which the life of the community revolved.

In 1943 Schmid decided Avon needed a hospital. He built the building now standing north of Dahlin's and brought in Doctor Hugh Slocumb. Grandson Donald Schmid recalls riding with his Uncles Ben and Frank Schmid Jr., when they moved the hospital equipment from California with a truck.

A little known enterprise of Frank Schmid was the Himsl-Schmid company with Victor Himsl, which platted Connaught Park on the northern shore of Upper Spunk Lake in 1905. Perhaps the first buyers were Lorenzo J. and Cedilia (Dellmans) Rocholl, who purchased two lake lots from Frank and Gertrude Schmid and Victor and Clara Himsl in 1908. In 1919 Rocholls bought three and one-half adjoining lots away from the lake from different parties -- William and Justina Pfeiffer and John Clark -- which indicates that Connaught Park included only the lake lots.

A man with the drive of Frank Schmid had to step on some toes. Bill Dreher talked about his competitiveness: "Nobody else could start anything. He aced them out one way or another." Predictably there were many people sore at him, but Butch Bohmer defended him, saying he was made the scapegoat just because he was a tough businessman. "It had to be hard," he said, "because he owned everything. He employed half the town and carried half the town on groceries." The custom was to pay the grocery bill once a year. When kids were sent to the store to get a loaf of bread, the storekeeper was expected to put it on the books. Schmid sold as high as he could, which made people mad, especially during the Depression. But he never cheated, said Bohmer. "Those were just tough times and I don't blame old Frank at all. People couldn't keep up their end and resented the fact that he wanted to collect his money."

**Continued: *"Nestled between Lakes and Wooded Hills  
The Centennial History of the Avon Area" Page 199***

"Frank Schmid is the one of interest to Avon. He was born in 1866 in Hennepin County but must have moved to Stearns County sometime before 1889 when he married Gertrude Vos, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Vos of Krain Township. The Vos's had emigrated from Holland in 1872. According to a 1939 article in the St. Cloud "Times", Frank Schmid farmed at Holdingford, in Krain Township, and at Albany, before he bought a saloon in Albany.

Then he turned to Avon. In 1899 he bought a general merchandise store from Thomas F. Roche, and he and Gert moved to Avon with their six children -- they would raise many more. The saloon in Albany rented out for twenty years. George Schmid, one of their sons, said eighty years later that his mother disliked the saloon. The Schmid store was enlarged to about twice its original size and became a landmark in Avon. It was only the beginning.

Frank Schmid jumped into new business enterprises at an astounding rate: lumber company, grain elevator, creamery, farms, and bank. The Schmid Company, a corporation he owned with his sons, supplied people in the area with most of the things they needed for daily living and bought the products from them that they needed to sell to make a living -- grain, potatoes, cordwood, eggs, and poultry.

"If there was ever such a thing as a one-man town" wrote Schilplin "it was Avon and 'Frank Schmid was the man.'" Schmid served on the school board and as director of St. Benedict's Church for many years. He was the mayor for twenty-five years, overseeing the building of the city hall, a bathhouse at the beach, and sidewalks on city streets. He was the largest contributor to Avon community projects such as the church built in 1928. The 1939 St. Cloud Times article indicates he was instrumental in getting rural telephone lines at Avon.

An ambitious man, Frank Schmid could be seen going down the street talking to himself, both hands in the air and moving, always thinking, always planning. He drove himself, his children, and his grandchildren mercilessly. They remember having to sweep spider webs in the barn, pull mustard in the fields, and “clean the damn chicken coop.”

Lee Schmid had to live with his grandparents to “learn how to work” because idle hands led to trouble. On Good Friday when all entertainment and work were to stop, he was sent to the chicken barn to sweep cobwebs because there the neighbors could not see him work.

Typical of Germans in that generation, there were no birthday presents, no sweet words, no pats, no sitting on the lap. And with his grandpa and his dad there was no conversation that did not pertain to work. Others of German descent say the same about their homes.

Lee observed his grandpa waiting on a customer one day. A young man came in to look at billfolds, so Grandpa reached under the glass to show him. “Can I charge it?” asked the young man. Frank put the billfold back in the case saying, “If you don’t have any money, you don’t need it”.

Lee courted his wife, Mazie, in the forties with Grandpa’s old 1928 GMC pickup that he was not supposed to drive beyond Avon. When he came home late at night after an evening in St. Joseph, he coasted into the drive, hoping not to wake Grandpa. One time a special occasion arose for which he wanted to use Grandpa’s 1941 Studebaker, a popular car in its day. How to ask for the car? A simple “Grandpa, can I use your car tonight?” brought an unsatisfactory “What’s the matter? Truck isn’t good enough anymore?”

The person who seeded the wheat fields for Frank Schmid was Anselm Immerfall. The trick was to drive in even rows and not leave any strips unseeded. In 1940 Immerfall was unable to seed and Lee wanted to try it. Grandpa was sure he couldn’t do it because the drill required four horses, which Lee had never driven before. But Grandma Gert urged him to try Lee out. Finally Lee was allowed to do the seeding, and in the days afterward Grandpa brought Grandma to the field, looking for empty strips among the little shoots. When the wheat was up, Grandpa spent about an hour scrutinizing the field. He came back with the only compliment Lee ever got from him: “By God, not one strip!”

Donald Schmid joined the army in 1940, then the Army Air Corps (there was no Air Force then). He noticed that service discipline was hard for the guys from Chicago, but it was easy for him. “My dad and grandpa were tougher than the sergeants I knew in the military,” he said. When he returned from Italy in World War II, Grandpa had no curiosity about how combat flying was for him, only, “How much gas did the bomber hold?”

Gertrude (Vos) Schmid was said to be a fitting mate for Frank. Supposedly a tight woman, she ran a tight ship. Lew Fisher was picking potatoes for Schmid one day. At the noon meal they saw Gert with a bowl of lettuce on her way to feed the chickens. “Grandma,” said Alfie Ross, her grandson, “That looks good. Can we have some?” “Humpf,” was her reply, “Can you lay eggs?”

**Continued: *“Nestled between Lakes and Wooded Hills  
The Centennial History of the Avon Area” Page 150 & 161***

Avon was officially incorporated on Thursday, Feb 1, 1900. The first officers were elected on Feb 8, 1900, Frank Schmid as President. In the following years he was in these Avon Village positions: 1902 President, 1904 Councilmen, 1905 Councilmen, 1908 President, 1909 President, 1910 President, and 1914 President.

***St. Cloud Daily Times Newspaper, St. Cloud, Minnesota.  
December 30, 1946, St. Cloud, Minnesota***

Frank Schmid and his wife Gertrude died on December 29, 1946 in a tragic accident. The newspaper headlines read; Avon Couple Killed Sunday in Car Crash - Frank Schmid and Wife, Prominent Stearns Residents, Are Victims When Car Is Struck By G. N. Passenger Train at Grade Crossing.

Frank Schmid 82, and his wife, Gertrude 77, residents of Avon for the last 47 years were killed instantly at about 1:58 p.m. Sunday when the automobile in which they were riding collided with a Great Northern passenger train. The auto had apparently stalled at the Avon crossing when struck by the eastbound train. The machine was carried about 150 feet following the impact. Mrs. Schmid's body was thrown from the automobile. The couple was driving from their farm to their store at the time of the accident.

Sheriff Art McIntee and Dr. N. J. Libert, coroner, were called to the scene to investigate. Schmid, a prominent Avon merchandiser, grain elevator operator and farmer, came to Avon in 1899 from Chaska, Minnesota. Mr. Schmid was president of the Avon State Bank and mayor of the village for 25 years and was president of the Schmid Company at the time of his death. He was a member of St. Benedict's society.

#### Web Links

[Obituary - Connor F SCHMID 1930-2018](#)

['Hundreds of Descendants ...' Article by Miguel Otárola, Star Tribune, June 16, 2018](#)

#### **Joseph Anton SCHMID & Catherine "Kate" THOME Schmid**

Joseph Anton Schmid & Catherine "Kate" Thome Schmid

Joe was named after his paternal immigrant Grampa, Joseph Schmid from Germany, and his maternal immigrant Grampa, Anton Vos, Sr from Holland.

Joseph Anton SCHMID (1890-1976)

Joe was the eldest of 13 children of Frank & Gertrude Schmid

January 1976 Obituary: <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=grampGRid=38451966>

b. 20 Jun 1890 in Holdingford, Stearns Co, MN

d. 8 Jan 1976 in Denver, Denver Co, CO

Marriage. 22 Oct 1912 to Katharine Elizabeth THOME, Avon, Stearns, MN

Catherine (born Katarine) "Kate" Elizabeth THOME

b. 23 January 1888 in Avon, Stearns Co, MN

c. 5 November 1981, Denver, Denver County, Colorado

Kate's Parents:

John Peter Thome (1843 - 1913)

Barbara Lehnartz Thome (1858 - 1944)

Joe & Kate are buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota

7 Children of Joe & Kate: Bernard, Edwin, Viola, Leonard, Mildred, George, Francis

Bernard F Schmid (1914 - 2004) born in Little Falls, MN

Edwin P Schmid (1915 - 1988) born in Little Falls, MN ~ WWII Veteran

Viola M Schmid (1917 - 2011) born in Little Falls, MN

Leonard Joseph Schmid (1919 - 2004) born in Browerville, MN ~ WWII Veteran

Mildred Louise Fenton (1920 - 2012) born in Browerville, MN

George Peter Schmid (1922 - 2005) born in Avon, MN ~ WWII Veteran

Francis Paul Schmid (1926 - 1982) born in Dallas, SD ~ WWII Veteran

Per Viola: "Joe was born in 1890. He was an unusually bright man, for the most part, self-taught. He and his eight brothers all attended St. John's College, just a few miles out Avon, MN. I think our dear old Joe finished the 6th Grade, and after that he soaked up all the business knowledge he could in the School of Hard Knocks."  
Catherine knew how to make a home and rear her children in spite of only a 3rd grade schooling.  
Side note by Viola in 1992 letter to Mike: St. John's is now a thriving University with beautiful old and new buildings, a gorgeous church and grounds. This is where we had our first Schmid cousin reunion (approx 1992). We stayed in St. Thomas dormitory ... (great food) ... Sometime in the future, you might consider a reunion with your cousins at this wonderful spot!" - Read Viola's entire 1996 letter about Joe & Kate Schmid - PDF

Per Viola: "After Joe & Catherine were married in 1912 in Avon, they went to live in Little Falls, MN. Per Viola, Joe was a Shoe Salesman [most likely for a shoe store which was owned by his dad, Frank Schmid.] Bernard, Edwin & Viola were born in Little Falls.

About 1919 or 1920 Grampa Frank Schmid sent Joe out to Sydney, MT where Frank owned a bank, and ordered Joe to operate it. In the meantime, Leonard and Mildred were born in Browerville, MN and Joe, Kate five children and their large black dog ended up in one of our large houses in Sydney. This was cattle country, and of course, Grampa Frank's bank was much involved with loans to cattlemen. Unfortunately, and sadly for Joe, the bank and many other businesses in the area took a big hit due to the cattle/sheep ranchers, and the bank struggled."

Joe's baby brother, George Peter Schmid was born in Avon, in the home of Kate's mother, Barbara Lehnartz THOME.

QUESTION: had they moved back home to Avon before moving to Dallas, SD? or were they visiting when George was born?

Joe and Catherine moved to Dallas, SD, where Francis was born.

Schmid Insurance Agency, Rapid City. Established in 1931. Remained in the family for 4 generations.

Joe & Kate Schmid Memoirs, Articles, Obituaries, and more ...

[1917 Joe Schmid's US Draft Registration Card](#)

(404 KB)

[Schmid Family Elders Memoirs MASTER.pdf](#)

(1.72 MB)

[Bernard Memoir](#)

(56 KB)

[Col. Edwin P Schmid Biography](#)

(101 KB)

[Viola WWII Memoir](#)

(69 KB)

[Leonard Memoir WWII](#)

(81 KB)

[Mildred & Bob Memoirs](#) (68 KB)

[George Schmid Memoir](#) (66 KB)

[Francis Schmid BIO](#) (70 KB)

[Mildred WWII 1944 bob fenton Doolittle article PDF](#) (768 KB)

[Edwin WWII Flame Magoon Articles PDF](#) (180 KB)

[George WWII Garner Field Article PDF](#) (53 KB)

[1958 Viola's Elizabeth Taylor story](#) (1.26 MB)

[Leonard J. Schmid Obituary](#) (93 KB)

[Mildred Fenton Obituary](#) (69 KB)

[Francis Paul Schmid Obituary](#) (72 KB)

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