

Martin's Start of Farming

My Dad & Mom saved their dimes & paid \$114,000 in cash for my 360 acre farm outside of Oran in 1961. My brother, E.P. was going to move here with me but my Dad felt he was having heart problems and wanted him to stay with him and help him on the farm at Portageville.

I planted my first crop in 1962. I was 20 years old when I moved to Oran and didn't know very much about farming. The first year was a dry year and the corn might have made 40 bushel an acre. The next year, 1963, was a pretty good year until right before harvest. There was a strong wind storm that came thru and blew the corn stalks down and made the harvesting of the corn crop awfully difficult. We would go about 40 feet with the combine and have to stop and get down and push the corn stalks in off of the corn head. I had a neighbor that was also a farmer that I had not met. He offered to help combine my corn and I could help him when I got done. He had a little portable gas grain dryer that he let me use. It would dry about 200 bushels in 6 hours. He had a hired man that would watch it and keep it running all night. The next year, 1964, was a real dry year and I took a water hose connected to a water pump in the hog barn that would pump a big flow of water and see if I could get the water to run down the furrow in the corn on this sandy loam dirt. No one was irrigating their crops in this area then. If I could not get the irrigation to help the growing of the corn crop, I was not going to be able to make a living farming. It worked and the water ran down the row pretty far.

I would not be here today if it wasn't for the irrigation. The irrigation made it possible to grow a crop and is still a big part of our farming operation today.

Finding someone to help with the labor on the farm was a big problem for me. I needed someone that was going to be here to work every week. My first year farming in 1962, I had a family that worked on our farm in Portageville move up here to Oran to help me farm. We had the military draft at that time and all the men had to spend time in the armed services either six months in the National Guard or two years in some other military service. I chose to do the six months at Fort Polk in Louisiana in Advanced Infantry. I would have the crops laid by and someone hired to combine them

to finish off 1962. I would then be able to return to the farm by the last of March 1963 to plant a new crop. The family that was working on the farm when I had left for those six months had moved to Illinois while I was gone. I hired another young man from Portageville but he moved back to Portageville at the end of the year. Finding someone to work on the farm was difficult until in 1973 when Jim Blanchard agreed to come and work on the farm. I finally knew someone was going to be here every week. This made my farming so much easier. Everything was going pretty good until I got an overdose of the farm chemical, Di-Syston in 1975. It is an insecticide that affects the nerves that control the muscles in the body. I finally went to see a doctor in Memphis who specialized in farmers getting overdoses of farm chemicals. He told me that I would spend the rest of my life in a wheelchair. By the grace of God, I never ended up in that wheelchair. After about a year, the nerves in my legs grew back & I was able to continue farming. I didn't know at the time that several people I knew had gotten the same poison overdose from that same chemical. I did know a man from Sikeston that got the same chemical poisoning and he was in a wheelchair a little while before he died. I also found out later in life that I had a cousin die from this same chemical. I was lucky that my nerves finally grew back pretty good.

When I was diagnosed with cancer in May 2019, I was given an experimental immunotherapy drug at M.D. Anderson in Houston, TX and it caused the same reaction and pain that my body had from the Di-Syston back in 1975. I got thru that again and here I am today writing a little about my life.

I did not know when I first started out farming if I was going to be able to make a living farming but with God's help and hard work, I, with the help of my family, have been able to turn this farm into one of the more successful farms in Southeast Missouri.

The people of Scott County had been good to me, and my sons were old enough to take over the farming operation. I thought that I would serve, if elected, as Presiding Commissioner of Scott County to try to make it an even better place to live.

Martin's Family History

We were very proud to say we were German, Dutch and Irish but never had any contact with family in Europe growing up.

Grandma Eftink spoke German and when World War II was on, the FBI did come and check out the family. A hired hand on the farm was upset he got fired and turned our Eftink family in to the FBI.

The house we grew up in was the house our Grandpa Herman and Grandma Emma Priggel moved their family to from Fredericktown to Portageville in 1913. It was 80 acres for \$50 and acre on Ditch 18. Most of the land owners in our little section of New Madrid County were relatives. Often we were referred to as the "Dutchman's" area. When our Mother, Jane Eftink, married our Dad, Everett Priggel, in October 22, 1935 she moved into the house which was just a field away. Grandpa Herman Priggel had died in April 21, 1925 but Grandma Emma Priggel was still alive and lived until 1946 when she died at the age of 87. Her visitation was held at our home with many attending. I remember asking my Mama how she felt about moving in with her Mother-In-Law. She said, "My only regret is, I did not spend more time with her just sitting and talking instead of always being busy working". Following Grandma's burial in Fredericktown, Daddy said it is time for us to do a Family Rosary every night at 8PM. That was in 1946 and it became the nightly happening - THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

Herman, Elizabeth(Betty), and Martin were all delivered at home. Everett Paul (EP) Mary Jane and Martha at the hospital. All meals were eaten with the family around the table starting and ending in prayer. We were expected to eat what was served and if not, we went to the dark room. Remember Martin got sent often since he only wanted bread and syrup.

Martin's Family History

Grandma Elizabeth Eftink and Grandpa John Eftink, our Mother's parents, were a big part of our life along with all the Aunt's and Uncle's. Almost every Sunday we where together after Church. The Eftink's 1st cousins total 42 and our Priggel/Hulshof 1st cousins total 15.

Our parents made a good team and they both knew their roles. Mama never had a job outside of the home. She was the oldest of seven children and a great homemaker. They provided much love and security as well as all our basic needs. We knew what was expected of us. We did have bikes, most sports equipment, dogs and cats (outside), getting a horse was a big thing but only the boys could ride it. The girls got the Piano and lessons.

We played with the "Sharecroppers" kids that lived on the farms. In our early years, we had both black and white working the farm but in the 1950's many black's took their families to Chicago. Our schools even had "Cotten Picking Vacation" because of the need for laborers.

Mr. E.A. ,as Daddy was known, was the one that drove all the Priggel Children to St. Eustachian School. School buses only transported the kids that went to Public School. Before school and after school we always had chores like milking the cows, feeding the chicken, gathering the eggs. We had a machine that separated the milk and we shipped the cream. Those milking got spending money from the cream. Also, we prepared the eggs to be deliver to the local grocery store. We got a "dew bill" which we used to buy our groceries.

Remember when Martin decided he wanted to start milking to make money. I was already milking and the only cow that was available was "Kicking Cow". Since I was a year older, I gave Martin my cow and took "Kicking Cow". After I got kicked, that

Martin's Family History

ended my milking days but Martin kept milking and making money.

After our 8th grade graduation, we went to Portageville High School. Our Hulshof cousins were big stars on the Football team. Daddy needed us to come home and help on the farm after school, so Martin was not permitted to play on the team. Remember when Martin was in 11th grade and was running for the Student Council President, he was to make a speech to the whole student body before election. Being his sister and a Senior, I was so nervous for him. He got up very calmly and said, "I am Martin Priggel and I would appreciate your vote." He won that election and again his Senior year. Leadership seems to be part of his DNA..

We Priggel kids still talk about the only vacation we had as children growing up. It was our Mother that decided we needed to go to the St. Louis Zoo and see different animals than the ones we had on the farm. Vacation was not in our Dad's DNA but Mama had decided and she got her way with Daddy.

To sum up our childhood - ORA ET LABORA - PRAY AND WORK

We felt Blessed!!!!

Priggel family History can be traced back to 1613
Leveringhausen, Garbeck, Germany. Was Prussia in 1850"s.
Our blood line in America.

In 1852, Johann Eberhard Priggel,(1810-1885) his wife Maria Catharina Wortmann (1817-1852)and son, Herman Priggel (our grandfather) came by New Orleans to Missouri. Maria Catharina did not survive the trip and was buried in Apple Creek.

Herman Priggel: (born 1851 in Germany and died 1925 in Portageville, MO) **Emma Fox** (born 1858 in County Cork, Ireland and died 1946 in Portageville, MO)

Everett Anthony Priggel (born September 6, 1898 & died September 15, 1983) **Married** October 22, 1935. **Jane Hannah Eftink:** (born August 19, 1910 & died January 28, 1982)



Taken from Herman's Obituary(Martin's Grandfather): Foreman of the Mill Engine Dressing Works at Mine La Motte, Madison Co., Mo., is a native of Germany, born July 25, 1851, and the son of E. Priggel, who crossed the ocean from his native country to America when Herman was but one year old, and here passed the remainder of his days. He died April 21,1925 at age 74. He was an ore smelter by occupation. The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in Mine La Motte, and was employed in the dressing works at the age of fourteen or fifteen. He was first taken in the works in 1871, and has been foreman of the same to the satisfaction of all concerned since 1885. He is a worthy member of the Catholic Church, and is a Democrat in his political views.

Hubert Priggel's – German Cousin Story About World War II Prisoners:

Anton Priggel and my father were familiar for good treatment by their farm worker in the village. Today old people tell it to me when we speak about old times. Even the Poland and Russian prisoner have taken the same meal by the same table with my grandparents and they got the same food. The policeman said to grandfather: (It's forbidden to have prisoner by the same table and eat with them." "They work with me and they eat with me", my grandfather answered and the prisoner stayed with him by the same table till the war ended.

When the U.S. army occupied Garbeck the hole family has to leave the house for several days. It was the head quarter from officers now, because it is standing in the centre of Garbeck. No German person was allowed to enter house or farm. Now the prisoner thanks my grandfather for the good treatment all the time before, now they feed livestock and made other work. In other villages prisoner killed farmers, because they had a bad treatment by captivity.



Front Row: Grandma & Grandpa Priggel
Back Row: My Dad, Everett, Aunt Emma Hulshof, and Uncle Paul Priggel

1613	Dietrich Priggel	Küntrop
1630	Christoph Priggel	Küntrop
1658	Dietrich Priggel	Küntrop
1685	Hermann Priggel	Küntrop

oo 1710

Johann Priggel

*	Küntrop
+	Küntrop

Anna Wichartz

*	Langenholthausen
+	Küntrop

oo 31.10.1745

Heinrich Priggel

*	1710	Küntrop
+	15.6.1773	Garbeck

Catharina Carthaus

*	8.4.1725	Stiepel
+		Garbeck

oo 15.9.1759

Heinrich Priggel

*	1710	Küntrop
+	15.6.1773	Garbeck

Elisabeth Grothoff

*	9.5.1734	Höveringhausen
+	12.10.1791	Garbeck

oo 22.1.1778

Christian Priggel

*	5.10.1746	Garbeck
+	20.2.1804	Garbeck

Catharina Grothoff

*	10.4.1757	Höveringhausen
+	18.10.1810	Garbeck

oo 1.8.1805

Joh. Theodor Priggel

*	29.10.1760	Garbeck
+	16.6.1812	Leveringhausen

Anna Margaretha Dickers

*	15.12.1767	Garbeck
+	18.12.1826	Leveringhausen

oo 24.11.1807

Caspar Priggel

*	10.11.1779	Garbeck
+	31.7.1846	Garbeck

Margaretha Degenhardt

*	28.7.1780	Affeln
+	1.12.1847	Garbeck

oo 9.11.1845

Joh. Eberhard Priggel

*	25.7.1810	Leveringhausen
+	1885	USA

Maria Cath. Wortmann

*	30.12.1817	Altenaffeln
+	1852	USA

oo 21.5.1844

Bernard Priggel

*	11.11.1808	Garbeck
+	12.6.1870	Garbeck

Anna Maria Schulte-Schmale

*	9.2.1826	Frühlinghausen
+	15.4.1866	Garbeck

oo

Hermann Priggel

*	18.7.1851	Altenaffeln
+	1925	USA

Emma Fox

*	1858	USA
+	1946	USA

oo 20.6.1871

Bernard Priggel

*	19.3.1847	Garbeck
+	27.9.1899	Garbeck

Theresia Wichard

*	3.10.1848	Langenholthausen
+	12/13/36	Garbeck

oo

Everett Anton Priggel

*	6.9.1898	USA
+	15/9/1983	USA

Jane Hannah Eftink

*	1910	USA
+	1982	USA

oo 21.9.1918

Anton Priggel

*	20.4.1878	Garbeck
+	9/11/1948	Garbeck

Anna Severin

*	10.8.1886	Höveringhausen
+	31/8/1952	Menden

oo

Lewis Rone

Martha Priggel

oo 16.7.1952

Hubert Priggel

*	28/2/1921	Garbeck
+	8/1/1971	Bad Nauheim

Magdalena Allefeld

*	22/5/1929	Beckum
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Justin, Malena, Rebecca, Hannah

oo 12.2.1982

Hubert Priggel

*	9/7/1953	Garbeck
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Elsbeth Schwermann

*	29/4/1959	Garbeck
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Reiner, Renate, Stephan

Tuesday, August 31, 2004

Eeftink /Eftink family History can be traced back to 1676 Lievelede, Lichtenvoorde, Netherlands.

This is our blood line after they came to America:

In 1851, Johannas Wilhelmus Eeftink,(born June 29, 1822 Netherlands and died September 28,1891, Leopold, Missouri) went to America as the result of a major agricultural crisis in Europe.
Married Grade Gertrude Garstenveld June 3, 1852.

Henry E.Eftink (born February 15, 1856 & died August 2,1906) **Johanna Grade Scharenborg** (born September 27,1859 and died August 23,1886) **Married** on May 20, 1879

John Henry Eftink: (Born August 6, 1884 Leopold, MO & Died October 2, 1967 Portageville, MO).**Elizabeth Mary Elfrink** (born June 20, 1887 and died February 16,1962) **Married** October 12,1909

Jane Hannah Eftink: (born August 19, 1910 & died January 28, 1982) **Everett Anthony Priggel** (born September 6, 1898 & died September 15, 1983) **Married** October 22,1935.


Eeftink home in Lievelede, Netherlands



4th great grandparent

 **Jan Hendrik Eeftink**
 b: 14 Jan 1742
 Leuven, Limburg, Gelderland, Netherlands
 d: 02 Mar 1814
 Lelidrecht, Limburg, Gelderland, Netherlands


3rd great grandfather

 **Wander or Weessel Eeftink**
 b: 08 Apr 1780
 Lelidrecht, Limburg, Gelderland, Netherlands
 d: 02 Apr 1840
 Lelidrecht, Limburg, Gelderland, Netherlands


2nd great grandfather

 **Johannes Wilhelm Eeftink**
 b: 28 Jun 1822
 Lelidrecht, Limburg, Gelderland, Netherlands
 d: 26 Sep 1891
 Vermont New York, Belgium, Missouri, USA


Great grandfather

 **John "Henry" Eeftink**
 b: 18 Feb 1855
 Evansville, Vanderburgh, Indiana, USA
 d: 02 Aug 1908
 Oron, Scott, Missouri, USA


Paternal grandfather

 **John Henry Eftink (Eeftink)**
 b: 08 Aug 1884
 Leopold, Bollinger, Missouri, USA
 d: 02 Oct 1967
 Portageville, New Madrid, Missouri, United States of Am

Father

 **George Albert Eftink**
 b: 07 Feb 1921
 Portageville, New Madrid, Missouri, USA
 d: 31 Mar 2011
 Chaffee, Scott, Missouri, USA

Son

 **Helen Elizabeth Eftink**
 b: 02 Jan 1945
 Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, USA
 d:

John Henry Eeftink
 Born 6-Aug-1854
 where Leopold, Mo.
 married 12-Oct-1907
 Died 2-Oct-1967
 where Portageville, Mo.

Father
 Henry Eeftink
 Born 15 Feb 1856
 where Indiana
 married 20 May 1879
 died 2 Aug 1906
 where Oron, Mo.

mother
 Johanna Orinda Schier
 Born 22 Sept 1857
 died 29 Aug 1936
 where Leopold, Mo.

Father
 John Wilhelm Eeftink
 born 1820's
 where Netherlands
 died 28 Sept 1891
 where Leopold, Mo.

mother
 Orinda Garstewald
 Born about 1827
 where Netherlands
 died 22 Apr 1898
 where Leopold, Mo.

Martin's Grandmother
 Elizabeth Mary Eftink
 Born 20 June 1887
 where Leopold, Mo.
 died 16 Feb 1962
 where Portageville, Mo.

FATHER
 Henry Eftink
 Born 12 Dec 1851
 died 16 Sept 1921

mother
 Jane Van de Yala

Father
 Herman Eftink

mother
 Sena Shultz

Father
 Jacob Van de Van

mother
 Hene Joo

