

# 1893: Ten Leisz family members journey to U.S.

## FAMILY MATRIARCH

Anna Maria “Mary” Schmidt Leisz, 52

Mary was recently widowed when her husband of 30-plus years died tragically in a tavern inferno on February 13, 1893. The family property and most of their possessions were already sold or disposed of, in preparation to immigrate to the United States, and Mary courageously went forward with these plans. She left behind family, friends, church, and graves of X children she buried in infancy or early adulthood.

## MARY’S ELDEST SON

John Leisz, 32

John was married and had two children with wife Agnes.

## JOHN’S SPOUSE

Agnes Louise Schuster Leisz, 27

Agnes was 8 months pregnant with the couple’s third child. Little did she know that within ten years after immigrating to America, she would die in Turtle Lake, leaving six children behind with her widowed husband John Leisz.

## JOHN & AGNES’ LITTLE GIRL

Julia Louise “Juel” Leisz, 4

Julia was the first-born of John and Agnes’ children. She was just a little girl at the time of her voyage to America. In years to come Julia would grow up, marry Earl Campbell, and live most of her life in Billings, Montana.

## JOHN & AGNES’ TODDLER

Mary Leisz, 2

Mary was little sister to Julia, the second-born child of John and Agnes Leisz. In adulthood she would marry a man 25 years her senior, Axel Califf, and, like her sister Julia, would live most of her life in Billings, Montana.

## MARY’S UNMARRIED SON

Joseph Leisz, 25

Joseph was matriarch Mary Leisz’s third-born son. He was unmarried, having served four years in the military. Joseph would find marriage—twice—and family in Turtle Lake in years to come. He would go on to have nine children.

## MARY’S TEENAGE SON

Frank (Ferenc) Leisz, 18

Born in 1875, Frank was the fourth-born son of Mary and Leopold Leisz who lived to adulthood. Within seven years of immigrating, Frank would be married in Turtle Lake and starting a family on his 80-acre farm there.

## MARY’S PRE-TEEN SON

Anton Florian Leisz, 12

Born in 1880, Anton was a pre-teen who would be married within ten years of arriving in Turtle Lake. There he and wife Sophia went on to have 11 children.

## MARY’S YOUNGEST SON

Michael (Mihaly) Joseph Leisz, 10

Michael was a boy with five older brothers and one older sister. Only his sibling Julia was younger than he. Michael’s mother was 42 when she gave birth to him in 1882. He would go on to finish his schooling in Turtle Lake, Wisconsin, and there marry twice, having one child, a son Herbert Walter with first wife Alvina Louise Wabschall, then divorcing, and having six children with his second wife, Rosalia Prosser Leisz, who hailed from

## MARY’S YOUNGEST CHILD

Julia Leisz, 8

Julia was the youngest child of widowed Leisz family matriarch Anna Maria “Mary” Leisz. She was already an aunt, with two nieces named Julia, just like her!