

Little else is known about Jim Kemp but he was undoubtedly a colorful character on Big Horn's scene. And he left his name on "Kemp Flat" though few today will remember its origin.

HENRY KERBEL, SR.

Henry Kerbel was born in Russia in 1862. He married Elizabeth (nee?); and six children were born to this couple. Henry Kerbel, Jr. was born in 1893, Fredrick in 1897, Paul in 1902, Annie in 1903, Ivan in 1905, and Millie in 1908. The family moved to Germany prior to coming to America. They arrived in the USA on November 7, 1912, and first settled in Havelock, Nebraska.

In 1916, the family came to the Big Horn area and rented a farm. At the time of the 1920 census, Henry was widowed. Living with him were Fredrick, Annie, Ivan, Millie, Paul, and Fred's wife, Mary. All three men were listed as "farmers." The family used German as their primary language.

Millie remembers first walking to the Big Horn school which she attended through fifth grade. Then, their father got a horse and buggy for the children to get to school. Millie next attended McCormick School where Gouverneur Skinner was her teacher.

Henry, Jr., married and rented a farm northwest of Big Horn. (See HENRY KERBEL, JR.)

Fred worked for the railroad while the family was in Nebraska. He married his wife, Mary (Anna Marie) Dill, in Gering, Nebraska, on January 5, 1919. Mary was born in Walter, Russia, on May 20, 1900, and had come to the United States on April 12, 1905. The couple moved to Sheridan where they ranched. Fred became a naturalized citizen on December 1, 1934, and Mary on May 11, 1935. They had three daughters: Ella (Madden), Esther (McKenna/Priest) and Shirley (Anderson). Both Fred and Mary are buried in Sheridan Municipal Cemetery. Fred died on September 16, 1976, Mary on October 4, 1979.

Paul rented a farm northwest of Big Horn. It is located where Ed Schunk now ranches. Paul married Lydia Herden on February 20, 1927, in Newton, Kansas. He became a naturalized citizen on May 11, 1935. Paul farmed at Big Horn until 1945 when the family moved to Sheridan. Paul then worked for the city of Sheridan and retired in 1971. The couple had three children: John,

Dorothy (Uroszek), and Helen (Bloom). Paul died August 13, 1979, and Lydia on May 1, 1983. Both are buried in Sheridan Municipal Cemetery.

Anna was born March 17, 1903 in Serepta, Russia. She married Alexander Kaufmann. (See ALEXANDER AND ANNA KAUFMANN)

Ivan worked with his father on the farm until he married Opal Bradley on June 18, 1927, in Buffalo. The couple then ranched in the Sheridan area. Ivan and Opal had three daughters: Margaret (Jurosek), Betty Lou (Mann), and Frances (Larsen) Ivan became a naturalized citizen on November 5, 1929. He died on November 28, 1972, and Opal on March 12, 1992. Both are buried in the Sheridan Cemetery.

Millie married Guy Rogers, was widowed, and married Ray Simons. She lives in Sheridan.

Henry Kerbel, Sr., later moved to Ucross and died on December 19, 1930. He was buried in Sheridan Municipal Cemetery. Henry, Sr., sought a new life for his family and through the skill of farming, he provided them all with a means to support themselves and seek their goals and dreams. He exemplified the immigrants who were willing to work hard with the soil and succeed.

HENRY AND MOLLIE KERBEL, JR.

The 1920 census records show Henry Jacob Kerbel, Jr., renting a farm in Big Horn. It was located northwest of Landon's greenhouse. Henry had been born in Grimm, Saratof, Russia, on December 13, 1893, to Elizabeth and Henry Kerbel, Sr. When a young man of 19, Henry came to the United States with his family on October 28, 1912, arriving in Baltimore, MD.

Mollie Kraft was also born in Saratof, Russia, on June 30, 1897. She arrived in the United States on March 5, 1913. Both Mollie and Henry made their separate ways to Nebraska; and it was here they met. The young couple were married in Lincoln, Nebraska, on September 26, 1915. A year later, they arrived in the Big Horn area and rented a farm northwest of the present Landon greenhouse. Henry raised sugarbeets on this farm.

Henry and Mollie had two sons born here. William Frederick was born on November 28, 1917, and Edward Paul on December 19, 1919. Both boys at-

tended school in Big Horn. Henry became a naturalized citizen of the United States on November 14, 1922; and Mollie received her citizenship papers on June 9, 1924.

The family left and went to Wheatland for a short time, but soon returned. The boys returned to Big Horn to complete their schooling. Technically assigned to the Sheridan school, the boys were permitted to attend Big Horn since they had started there previously. Vic Garber recalls them riding horseback to Big Horn to school.

The Kerbels, father and sons, leased the land along the west side of South Coffeen Avenue south of the college and raised sugar beets there.

Mollie's mother, Mary Kraft, also lived with the Henry Kerbel family. Mrs. Kraft was born in Russia on March 5, 1858, and came to the United States in 1913. She died February 11, 1938, and is buried in the Sheridan Municipal Cemetery.

William graduated from Big Horn High School and then attended the University of Nebraska. He married Ruth Lenz on August 23, 1942, and ranched on upper Prairie Dog Road. The couple had three children: Phyllis (Senn) of Port Huron, Michigan, William F, Jr., of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and James E. of Jenison, Michigan. William, Sr., died on February 13, 1989, and Ruth still lives in Sheridan.

Edward also graduated from Big Horn High School and worked with his father on the farm. He served in World War II in the European Theatre at Salerno, Anzio and southern France. He returned to work again on the farm and never married. Tragically, he took his own life on February 16, 1962.

Henry and Mollie moved to 1831 South Thurmond soon after Edward's death. On June 5, 1962, Henry's wife, Mollie, still grief-stricken, also took her life. Henry continued to farm and later married Kate Glantz Goodman on October 22, 1967. Henry died on May 23, 1976, and Kate on March 23, 1989. Both are buried in Sheridan Municipal Cemetery.

The Kerbels came to this area with farming skills, and also brought the skill of raising sugarbeets, as did many of the immigrants from Russia who settled in Sheridan County. This crop did well here and provided this family with the means to own and have a farm of their own not possible in their homeland.