The Blumenscheins of Springfield, Ohio



From
Winterkasten, Lindenfels, Hessen, Germany
to
Springfield, Ohio, USA
and beyond!

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Introduction

About 40 years ago, when attending one of my first Blumenschein family reunions, I became curious about the origins of the family. I was intrigued to learn Peter Blumenschein and Hannah Kreichbaum had come to the United States from an unknown part of Germany and no one seemed to know much about their origins. Thus began my search of the Blumenschein family tree.

This book is the result of many years of research, and includes information related by family members and material found in visits to numerous libraries. Recently, the internet has helped a great deal, and I must add a special thanks to my internet friend, Darrell Hunter.

This information in this notebook is confined to Johann Peter Blumenschein and his direct ancestors and descendants. Included is a brief history of the family, followed by relevant documents and an ancestry chart. Although there are variations in spellings and dates, the information is correct as far as I have been able to determine.

Eleanor McMullen Blumenschein Green Valley, Arizona

September 2002



Johann Peter Blumenschein and Hanna Elisabetha Kreichbaum Blumenschein

Johann Peter Blumenschein was born May 27, 1833, in Winterkasten, Lindenfels, Hessen, Germany. Hanna Elisabeth Kreichbaum (later Kreigbaum) was born June 25, 1829, also in Winterkasten. Peter's mother, Anna Eva Keil Blumenschein died in 1855. Records show his father, Johann Peter, died in the United States, date unknown.

Peter and Hanna left Germany in 1856 to find a new life in the United States.

They traveled many days by horse-drawn vehicle from Winterkaskten to London. There they boarded a ship and sailed 40 days to reach New York.

Their son, Henry, born en route, and was kept warm in a box filled with cotton near the stove used for cooking. In later years he referred to himself as "a man without a country."

The family went directly to Springfield, Ohio. There they were welcomed by Oscar Schmitt, and stayed in his two-story apartment on West Main Street. Clara Lutz Blumenschein related, "Everyone that came over, he would put up and feed until they found a place. Uncle George's house was next door to them."

Records show that Peter and Hanna were married in Union County, Ohio, on August 27, 1856. Wholeheartedly adopting his new country, Peter insisted that family members speak English, since they were now in the United States.

The U.S. Census for 1860 finds the family in St. Louis, Missouri, where they moved to avoid the Civil War. The census also shows a young child (Peter) believed to have lived about four months. Local St. Louis records show a John (Johann)

Blumenschein buried at Old St. Marcus Cemetery. A listing in the St. Louis City Directory for 1860 indicates the father Peter worked as a laborer.

Returning to Ohio, after the war, Peter applied for and was granted citizenship on April 20, 1874. Settling in the Springfield area, Peter purchased a 36-acre farm. The children of Peter and Hanna were Henry, Elizabeth, Peter, Minnie M., George A. and William S.

A member of the Lutheran Church in Germany, Peter was instrumental in the founding of St. Lukes Lutheran Church, on North Street, in Springfield Ohio. Church records in German list his name in several places. In addition, records of the children and the deaths of Peter and Hannah are shown in the church documents.

Hannah died in 1896 of "consumption" according to cemetery records, although her obituary lists the cause of death as stomach cancer. Curiously her obituary refers to her as Mrs. Peter Blumenschein and never uses her given name. The 1896 city directory shows that Peter was a machinist living at 445 South Yellow Springs.

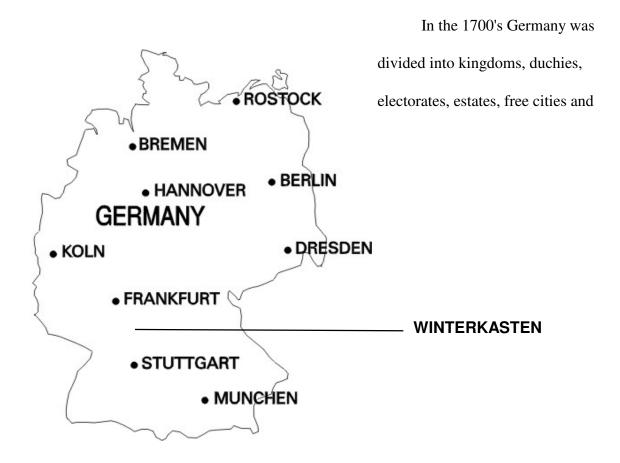
Peter died September 17, 1905 of "heart trouble," and he and Hanna are both buried at Ferncliff Cemetery, Springfield, Ohio.

Ancestors of Johann Peter Blumenschein

First, a few words about names. The definition given to Blumenschein is: Blum - flower, dweller at the sign of the flower, one who came from Blume; and Schein - the distinguished, handsome, or outstanding man. Blumenschein in German is pronounced Bloomen-sheenah.

Most male Germans were given the first name of Johann (John). Kreichbaum was later changed to Kreigbaum. That was common as phonetically the "ch" and "g" are interchangeable.

The ancestors of Johann Peter Blumenschein and Hannah Elisabetha Kreichbaum are from the village of Winterkasten. Situated in the Odenwald (mangrove forest) between Darmstadt and Heidelberg, Winterkasten means "winter box."



free states. Each had its own ruler, and only those living in free cities or free states could be citizens.

Direct ancestors of Johann Peter Blumenschein are traceable to 1739 in

Winterkasten, Lindenfels, Hessen, Germany. There is an indirect connection to Veltten

Blumenschein, born 1680, in Frohnhofen bei Reichelsheim, Hessen, Germany.

Indeed, there were many, many Blumenscheins throughout this area of Germany.

Reviewing the occupations of the ancestors of Johann Peter Blumenschein (1833-1905), all were farmers (ackersmann). Only Johann Peter Blumenschein (1793-?) was a citizen.

Because of crop failures, an increase in the price of food and political instability, many Germans left their country for the United States in the 1850's. Land in the United States was abundant and cheap. This appealed to immigrating farmers and peasants, and it certainly appealed to Peter Blumenschein and Hanna Kreichbaum..

London to New York

This past month Jim located the passenger list for Hannah and Peter Blumenschein's voyage from Germany to Ohio. Sailing from London on the packet¹ *Amazon*, they spent four to five weeks at sea, and arrived in New York on May 20, 1856. Peter and Hannah are listed on the passenger list as numbers 472 and 473, with the indication "ch born on the passage." Their accommodations were on the lower deck.

The square-rigger bark² *Amazon*, owned by the London Black X Line, was one of the largest and fastest of all the packets. Built in 1854³ and carrying about 1,000 passengers, she was a 1771-ton ship, with a length of 216 feet and a beam of 42 feet.

Captain Henry R. Hovey, commanded her for the lifetime of the ship, from 1854 to 1862.

³Most of the ship information has been taken from *Square-riggers on schedule*; the New York sailing packets to England, France and the cotton ports, by Robert Greenhalgh Albion.



¹A passenger boat carrying mail and cargo on a regular schedule.

²A three-masted ship with foremast and main mast square-rigged and mizzenmast fore and aft rigged.

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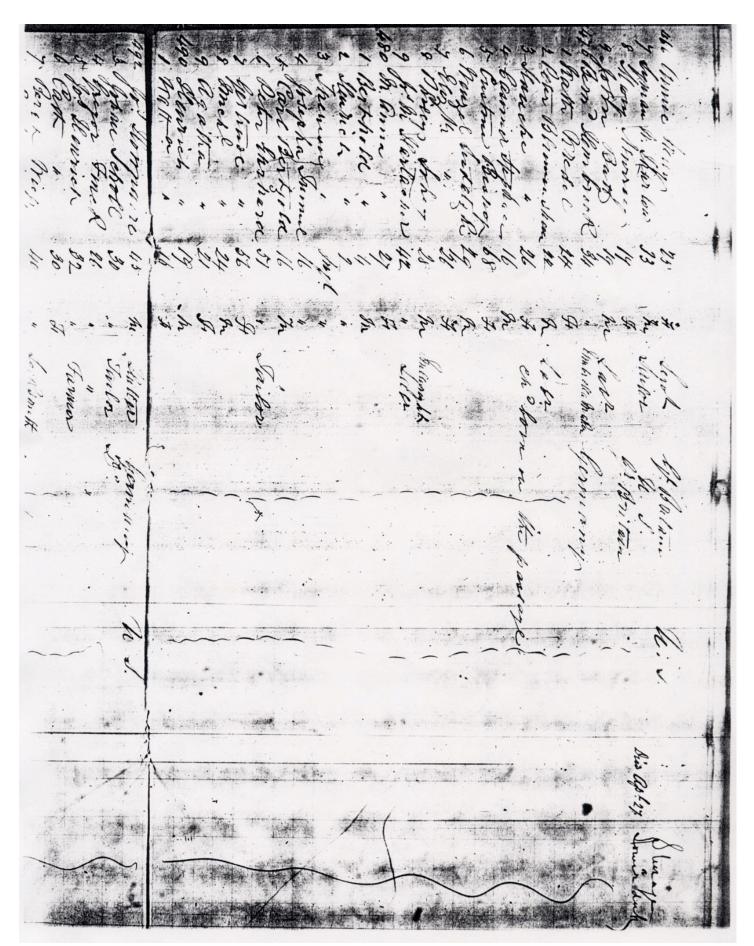
Captain Henry R. Hovey, commanded her for the lifetime of the ship, from 1854 to 1862.

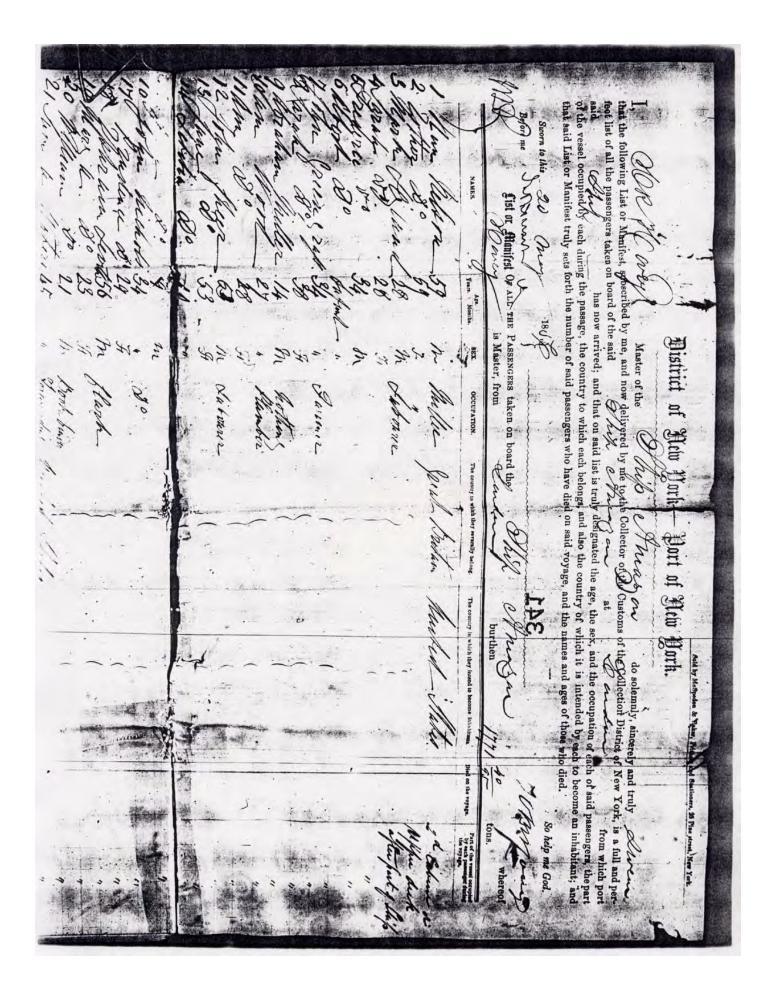
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²A three-masted ship with foremast and main mast square-rigged and mizzenmast fore and aft rigged.





Marriage License Application, Peter Bloomershine (Blumenschein) and Hannah Krichbaum (Kreigbaum), August 17, 1856, Union County, Ohio.

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Marriage Record (second entry), Peter Blumenschein and Hannan Kreichbaum, August 17, 1856. They were married at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Middleburg Plain City Road, Marysville, Ohio.

1860 U. S. Census for St. Louis, Missouri. The entries beginning on Line 14 are for the Peter Blumenschein family. Line 18 lists a male child named Peter who does not appear in later records. It is believed he died at about four months of age.

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Cemetery record for the burial of John (Peter) Blumenschein on July 1, 1860, and history of Old St. Marcus Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

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                                                         BLUM, Joseph
                                                                             42y 27 Jan 1878
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                                                               Michael
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BEANHARDT, Christina
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BERTHA, John
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BERTHOLD, William 5m
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                                                         BOAS, Leopold
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BEST, Emma
                          16 Mar 1866
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BESTEL, John
                 30y 9 May 1901 795
                                                               Theodore S. 44y 28 Nov 1880
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OLD ST. MARCUS 6638 Gravois

Old St. Marcus, after some years of vandalism and neglect, was made into a "passive park" about a decade ago. Public outcry came too late; some of the tombstones had been set into a wall, others had disappeared. It had become virtually impossible to identify the location of a particular grave, or family plot.

But not long after, a mysterious package arrived at the StLGS office: the St. Marcus records on microfilm, from an anonymous donor.

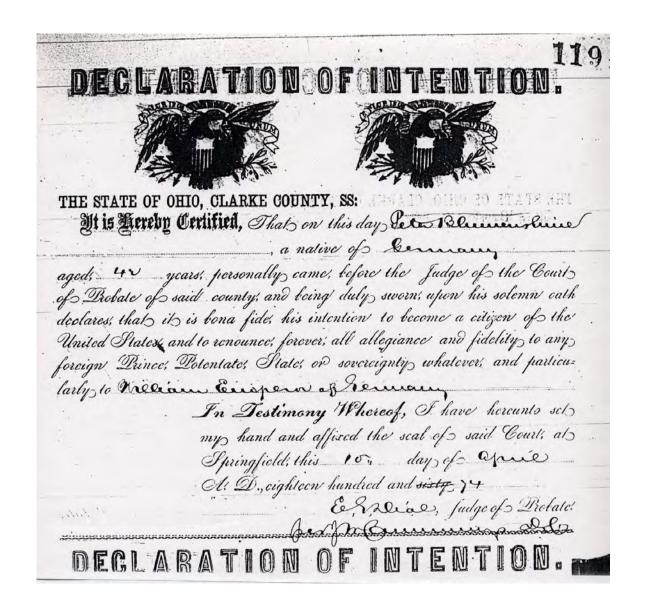
Herman Radloff and Jacqueline Whitworth took over the long and difficult job of transcribing the old records onto cards, for future publication.

The cemetery, as was fairly common, was in two sections; one for family plots, one for single graves (referred to as "commons"). They are both shown here in alphabetical order, with the lot owner's name or the grave number included.

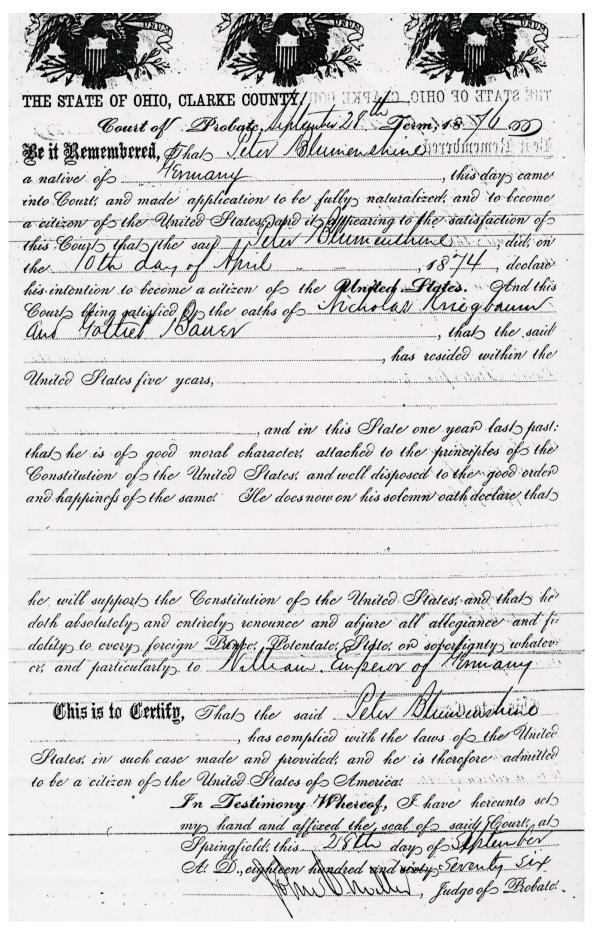
In addition to the microfilm records, we have included a number of burials from the period August 1862-November 1863, shown in the city records but not on the microfilm; these were copied by Lois Stanley.

Old St. Marcus was dedicated 29 March, 1856 "in the presence of Pastor G. W. Wall of St. Marcus Parish assisted by Paster L. Nollau of St. John's Parish." Jacob Westermann, who recorded the event, was buried there 36 years later; his is one of the stones which remain. But the first burial was that of Elisabeth Frank, on 6 May 1856, in lot 58; and oddly enough, this little girl's name is missing from the microfilm.

Page from 1860 Kennedy's St. Louis Directory Listing Peter Blumenschein (Blumshine, Peter) as a laborer.



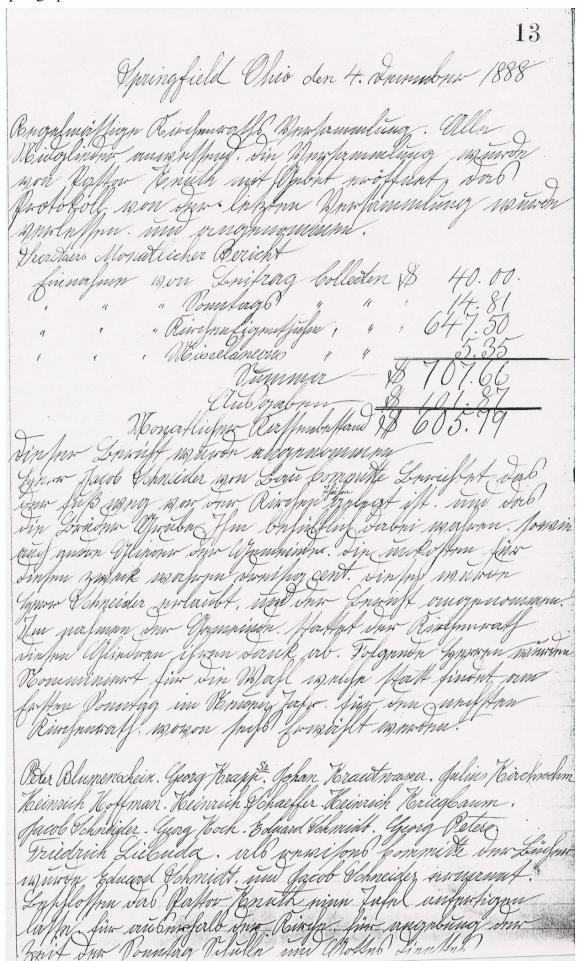
Naturalization papers for Peter Blumenschein, with Nicholas Kreigbaum, brother of Hanna Blumenschein, as witness.



1880 Springfield, Ohio, census showing Peter Blumenschein as a farmer.

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Page from the 1888 German records of St. Luke's Church, Springfield, Ohio. The last paragraph mentions Peter Blumenschein.



Site of original St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Springfield, Ohio. Peter Blumenschein was one of the co-founders of the church.



Obituary and St. Luke's Church records for the death of Hanna Kreigbaum Blumenschein.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Blumen chein — Mrs. Peter Blumenschein, wife of Peter Blumenschein, a farmer three miles on Valley pike, died at midnight of cancer of the Stomach. Age 67 years. She was born at Winterkasten, Germany, and came to America in 1856. She leaves five children. She is the sister of Nicholas Kriegbaum, who has the bakery at 24 South Fountain avenue. Funeral Sunday at 2 o'clock from St. Lokes German Lutheran church. Interment at Ferncliff.

6. Hannah El. Blumensching gob. Krighaww. Ehrgathwood Reter Blumenschine
Geb. 25 Juni 1829. Gest. 7. Lugust 1896.
Brgr. 9. Lugust 1896.
Text. H.F.

Page from 1896 Springfield, Ohio City Directory listing Peter Blumenschein as a machinist.

CASH CAPITAL, \$3,000,000. SPRINGFIELD | BOC | DIRECTORY. DEALERS Blocher J. D. foreman casting room, The Robbins & Myers Co. res 307 Blocher Morgan A. bar tender, 280 S. Yellow Springs, res.same Blodgett D. E. railroad contractor, 356 W. Main, res same Bloomershine Samuel E stenographer, rooms 142 S. Factory Blosser Theodore B. vice president The Victor Rubber Tire Co. 18 N. Limestone, res 88 N. Fountain Av Blount Anna D. widow of John R. res 285 N. Limestone / Blount Harry T. res 285 N. Limestone SHOE Blount John A. res 285 N. Limestone Blue Emmett, marble polisher, bils 185 W. Main Bluemle Florian, machinist, res 106 N. Western Av Bluford Gabriel, whitewasher, res 253 W. Grand Av Blumenschein Geo. grocery, 279 W. North, res same Blumershine Peter B. machinist, res 445 S. Yellow Springs BOARD OF ELECTIONS. City Building. Center st. entrance; Starkey Boot & Shoe Co. are the ARCADE Stanley Young, Wm. H. Schaus, Philip E. Montanus and Joseph I. Beck, Members of Board; D. T. West, Clerk BOARD OF HEALTH, City Building; Henry H. Seys, M.D., Health Officer BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION-ERS. City Building. Center st. entrance; A. R. Ludlow, President; J. A. Myers. Vice President; W. S. Thomas and John J. Hoppes; Wm. E. Johnson, Secretary BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, Office, City Building; John Foos, President; H. A. Toulmin, Vice President; N. G. Kershner and Eugene Davenport, Executive Members; Samuel J. Wilkerson, Clerk BOARD OF TRADE, City Building; Clifton N. Nichols, Secretary and Superintendent BOARD OF TRADE REVIEW, Springfield Board of Trade Publishers, Office, City Building Board of United States Pension Examiners, office, 2d floor Post Office Building; Dr. W. A. Smith, president; Dr. T. M. Reade, secretary; Dr. W. S. Hunt, treasurer Boardman Anna, res 1ear 69 S. Yellow Springs Boblet Alonzo, laborer, res 187 Rose Boblet Blanch, res 181 Rose Boblet Daniel, res 163 York Boblet Elsworth E. pressman, res 181 Rose Boblet Harry A press feeder, res 181 Rose Boblet Harvey, carpenter, res 181 Rose Boblet James S. jr. machine setter, res 163 York Boblet John, carpenter, res 454 W. Jefferson Boblet John S. laborer, res 163 York Boblet Noah W. machine hand, res 325 E. Main Boblet Wm. carpenter, res 187 Rose Boblett Elijah, laborer, bds s w c Fair and Miami Eoblett Harriet, widow of Michael V. res rear 273 W. Pleasant Boblett Lewis, driver, res rear 273 W. Pleasant Boblett Martha, res rear 273 W. Pleasaut Bockway Annie, widow of Geo. res 65 Chestnut Av Bockway August H. painter, res 65 E. Madison Av Bookway Ella M. teacher, res 65 Chestnut Av Has a Full Line of Canned Goods. S. W. Cor. High and Market Sts.

Obituary and St. Luke's Church records for the death of Peter Blumenschein.

BLUMENSCHEIN — Peter Blumenschein, aged 72 years, born in Barnstadt, Germany, died Sunday, at 8:30
p. m., at the home of his son, William Blumenschein, 266 Bechtle avenue, from heart trouble. Funeral
Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock,
from St. Luke's church. Burial at
Ferncliff.

6. Seter Blumen fifaring of: ton 23, Mai 1833 in Saffandorm fort.

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J. Siefs. D.

Ferncliff Cemetery, Springfield, Ohio Inscription on tombstone

Peter Blumenschein born (unreadable) died September 17, 1905

Hanna E. Wife of
Petter
Blumenschein
Born June 27, 1825
Died Aug. 6, 1896
Aged 67 YRS 1MS 12DS



The following text is transcribed from an old faint typewritten copy, source unknown.

William S. Blumenschein. While one of the most recent arrivals in Logan County, William S. Blumenschein has impressed himself favorably upon the people of his community, where he rents a handsome and valuable farm, which he cultivates with industry and ability. He was born at Enon, Clark county, Ohio, December 18, 1870, his father being Peter Blumenschein, who was born in Germany, May 26, 1833, and came to America in 1856, settling in Clark county. During the Civil war period he [Peter Blumenschein] was a resident of St. Louis, but following the close of the struggle returned to Clark county where he secured employment in a brickyard and flaxmill for a time. Next he purchased a farm of thirty-six acres in Clark county, but subsequently disposed of this property and moved to Springfield, there residing with his son until the time of his death, September 17, 1905. Mr. Blumenschein [Peter Blumenschein] married Hannah Kreigbaum, who was born in August, 1828, in Germany, and came to the United States with her husband. They became the parents of six children: Henry, who is living at Springfield; Mrs. Elizabeth German, of that city; Mrs. Minnie Schaeffer of Springfield; George, also of that city; William S., of this notice; and one child who died in infancy. William S. Blumenschein was educated in the country schools of Springfield township, Clark county, and as a young man lived at Springfield for five years, where he was employed in the shipping room of the Springfield Gas Engine Company. At the end of that time he turned his attention to farming in Clark county, where he carried on operations until 1917, March 6, of which year he located on a farm of 316 acres located on DeGraff Rural Free Delivery Route No. 4, in Logan county. Here are substantial buildings and splendid modern improvements and the measure of his success accounts for his position in public esteem as a man of solid worth and upright character. November 20, 1895, Mr. Blumenschein married Clara Belle Lutz, who was born April 10, 1875, in German township in Clark county, Ohio, and to this union there have been born nine children: Earl, born February 9, 1897, who met death by being struck by the falling limb of a tree in the woods, October 24, 1917, Charles L., born January 4, 1899, residing at home; William Glen, born December 22, 1900; Elmer Edward, born February 9, 1903; Hazel Adelia, born March 14, 1906; Arthur Franklin, born November 13, 1908; Virgil Henry, born November 26, 1912; Emma Alice, born June 5, 1915; and George Emerson, who died in infancy. Earl Blumenschein married Effie Owens, daughter of John and Emma (Ponnell) Owens, residents of Clark county, Ohio, and to their union was born May 15, 1916, a daughter, Nellie May. John Lutz, the father of Mrs. Blumenschein was born in Clark county, Ohio, January 20, 1834, and is still living at the advanced age of past eighty-six years. Mrs. Lutz who was Eliza Catherine Morris, was born in the same county, and died April 3, 1889. They became the parents of eleven children of whom five are living: Lafe R., who is engaged in farming in Clark county; Mrs. Alice Baker, of Springfield; Charles E., living at Marion, Ind.; Sidney, who resides at Detroit, Mich.; and Clara Belle, who is now Mrs, Blumenschein. Mr. Blumenschein recently purchased a farm of 110 acres in Clark county, Ohio, near New Carlisle and will make his home there in the spring of 1921. In politics he is a supporter of the Democratic party. He was raised a Lutheran but now attends the Baptist church of DeGraff.

