

Leeleva Online Map

Tobias Boese (grandpa)

Tobias Boese lived in the middle of the village along the main road. Three houses to the east was the house of Jake Unruh's father, Benjamin Unruh. Benjamin's wife, Eva Boese, was one of Tobias Boese's daughters. Thus, Tobias Boese was Jake Unruh's grandfather.



Tobias Boese House

According to the GRANDMA database, Tobias Boese was born around the year 1830. Given that date, he was probably born in one of the Karolswalde villages in Volhynia. At this time we do not know the names of his parents for sure.

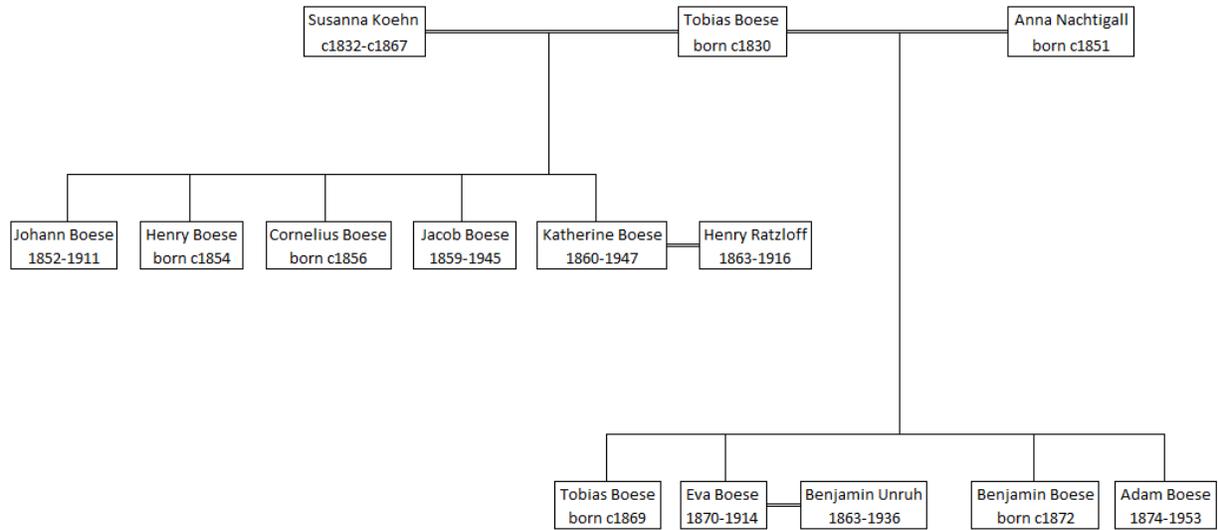
Tobias' first wife was named Susanna Koehn. Susanna was born around the year 1832 in Volhynia. Her parents are unknown. Susanna and Tobias had five children, but we don't know much about most of them. The four older children were boys: Johan, Henry, Cornelius, and Jacob. Johan and Jacob both passed away in Iowa, Cornelius lived in Colorado, but we don't know anything further about Henry.

The youngest child was a daughter, Katharine. Katharine in the year 1887 married Henry J Ratzloff, oldest brother of Andrew Ratzlaff (Ratzlaff) of Leeleva. Katharine and Henry, along with their children Tobias and Carolina, immigrated to America in 1893 aboard the S.S. Polaria.

Travelling with the young Ratzloff Family was Henry's family, the Jacob Ratzlaffs; the Heinrich and Anna (Eck) Koehn Family of Karolsberge; Katharine and Sara Nachtigal; as well as Andreas and Maria Ratzlaff. This Andreas Ratzlaff had been born in Volhynia but had moved with his family to the Molotschna Mennonite Colony in South Russia in the 1840s. The relationships between these Ratzlaff, Koehn, and Nachtigal Families are not known at this point.

Around the year 1867, Susanna (Koehn) Boese passed away and Tobias re-married to Anna Nachtigall of Grünthal (Grünthal was a German Mennonite village that stood a little north of Krevin. On the Leeleva Map, the John Koehn house probably represents the Village of Grünthal. Very few Mennonites would have lived there by the turn of the 20th Century as most of them would have immigrated to America in 1874. It's likely that John Koehn of Grünthal was either closely related or a close friend to Tobias and Anna Nachtigall Boese). Anna Nachtigall was born around the year 1851.

Tobias Boese and Anna Nachtigall had four children. The oldest, Tobias, died in childhood. Eva, the second child, married Benjamin Unruh (GRANDMA indicates that Eva was born in Grünthal, so Tobias and Anna may have lived in Grünthal for a time). Nothing is known about Benjamin, the third child. Adam, the youngest, was also born in Grünthal. Adam married Carolina Unruh who was closely related to the Schmidt Family who also lived in Leeleva. Adam and his family, along with the Andreas Schmidt Family, the Benjamin Decker Family, and the Tobias Unruh Family (Carolina's father and family), immigrated to America in 1894. Most of these settled in Kansas.



Tobias Boese Family Tree

We do not know for sure, but it appears as though Tobias and Anna (Nachtigall) Boese probably did not leave Russia.