

Corporal Gottfried Kron, Company K, 4th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry

Biography by Richard E. Niehe

Corporal Gottfried Kron was born in Bavaria, Germany on April 23, 1836. He emigrated to the United States on the Bremen Bark Constitution and arrived at Ellis Island on November 12, 1853, at the age of 17.

He settled in Cincinnati, Ohio and worked as a brass molder until enlisting in the 4th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, Company K, on September 19, 1862. He served faithfully with that unit in all major engagements from Stone's River to Lovejoy Station before receiving an Honorable Discharge on January 24, 1865. Gottfried, like many other Union Civil war veterans, would earn his United States citizenship as a result of his Honorable Service and Discharge under the Militia Act of 1862.

Shortly after the war, he returned to Cincinnati to marry his sweetheart, Clara Geier. They would have seven children through the years. One daughter in particular, Emma Kron, born in 1874, would grow up in Cincinnati, marry Joseph George Warther. Together, they would have seven children. Their daughter, Josephine Kron married Emil Frank Niehe after his final discharge from the U.S. Navy after serving in World War One and the Naval Reserve. One of their two offspring, Emil Joseph Niehe married Rosemary Russo in 1953. They are my parents.

Gottfried and Clara lived a happy life in greater Cincinnati until his sudden death from peritonitis in 1892. My Great-Great Grandmother Clara would go on to draw the Civil War Widows' Pension until her death in 1924. Both Gottfried and Clara are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery just outside Cincinnati in St Bernard, Ohio.