

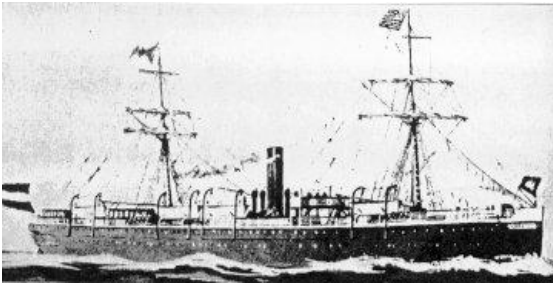
The Peter Dierks & Amelia Schaffner Family



The Peter Dierks Family circa 1888
My grandfather, John William Dierks is the
young boy standing to the right of Peter Dierks

Peter J. Dierks was born on June 19, 1842 to Hinrich Dierks (b. 1802) and Elisabeth Sietas (chr. 1814) in Neuenfelde, a small town on the Elbe River and across from Hamburg.



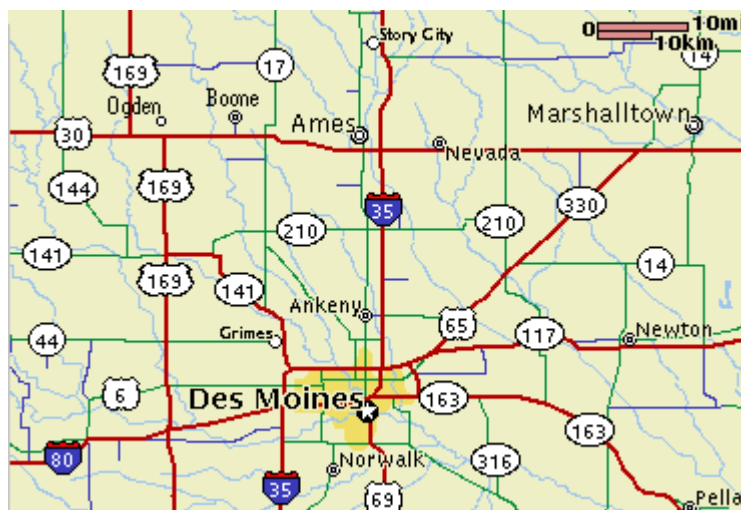


One of eight children and one half of a set of twins, he immigrated to America with his sister Margaretha, brother in-law Peter Clausen and nephew, Peter F. Clausen. They arrived in New York on March 18, 1869 on board the 2,719 ton steamship **S.S. Germania** (left), captained by N.C. Franzen, out of Hamburg and Le Havre. He was listed on the passenger list as a between deck passenger, #78, a farmer and age 27.

Sometime between March 1869 and March 1871, Peter Dierks and the Clausens traveled from New York to Boone County, Iowa.

Amelia Schaffner was the second child born to Christian & Eva Schaffner. Sharing the same last name, Eva and Christian were distant cousins, and immigrated to America from Anwil (An-veel), Switzerland, a small town at the base of the Alps. Amelia was born on the ship of her parent's crossing to America in 1852.

Eva and Christian Schaffner settled their family in Millersburg, Iowa, and it was in Millersburg that Amelia spent her youth. It was also in Millersburg that most of her brothers and sisters were born. In 1867 she moved with her family to Ogden, in Boone County, Iowa. A few years later she met Peter Dierks.



A marriage license was issued to Peter and Amelia on August 14, 1871. On August 24th, they were married in Boonsboro, Boone County.

Peter and Amelia farmed in and around Boone County. Together, they had seven children, all born in Boone County:

Eva Ann Dierks, born November 28, 1871
Emma Jane Dierks, born July 25, 1873
Maggie Dierks, born January 27, 1875
Minnie Josephine Dierks, born March 12, 1877
Clara Esther Dierks, born May 25, 1879
John William Dierks, born October 15, 1882
Mary Bell "Madie" Dierks, born August 4, 1884



On January 13, 1880, Peter Dierks filed First Papers in the District Court, State of Iowa, Boone County to become a citizen. On August 1882, Peter was granted citizenship by the same court.

On November 13, 1886, at the age of 34, Amelia Schaffner Dierks died (and was buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Ogden, Iowa), leaving behind Peter and seven children, ages two to fifteen. Peter continued to farm and raise his family, but never remarried.

Peter Dierks was well known and liked by the people of Boone County. On the occasion of his daughter Minnie's wedding (October 18, 1901), the **Boone County Democrat** described him as *"a prominent and highly respected citizen of Amaqua Township."*

Peter Dierks spent the last years living with his daughter Minnie and son-in-law Paul Dyer at the Dyer home in Colfax Township, Boone County. Peter died on January 22, 1917 of a "general breakdown", and was buried in Boone Squire Cemetery, Boone, Iowa



Peter J. Dierks circa 1917