

Madora Josephine Eller Mangold (1853-1945)

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John Adam Mangold was born in Switzerland in 1833, came to America with his family, he fought in the Civil War and became a school teacher in Japonica, Texas, which is now Hunt, Texas. 1869 he married one of his students, Madora **Josephine Eller**, She was born in Missouri in 1853. Her family, the James Eller's moved to Japonica when she was a baby.

In 1883, after a family of 6 children and one on the way, Grandpa was persuaded by a colony leader to go with him across the Rio Grande River from Eagle Pass and teach in his new colony and help him start the colony.

He loaded up his family in three wagons, took livestock and headed to Mexico in the spring of 1884. When they arrived at the river, a terrible electrical storm hit and all their live stock scattered and were lost in the storm Grandpa was already sick physically and mentally worried about his move to Mexico. After crossing the Rio Grande at Eagle Pass and making camp, Grandpa became very sick with Bright's Disease and died. (Age 51)

Grandma loaded her belongings and children, came back to the U.S. side and buried Grandpa in Eagle Pass and headed for Hunt, Texas. Upon arrival, she found her livestock all intact at their farm which was leased out. She camped on Turkey creek where her father and mother lived and on July 22, 1884 my father was born completing her seven children.

Grandma had two half brothers, **Jim & Charley Eller**, who, in 1891 rode horse back to what is known as the Eller Flat (named after them) north west of Durham, Oklahoma. They dug a dugout on what is known today as the John Smith Place, just over the Texas line. They wrote Grandma Mangold and insisted on her coming to this "Land of Milk & Honey" because "you will see the day when this land will be worth a \$1.00 an acre."

Grandma's oldest son, Henry, aged 17 rode up from Hunt to see if this was "paradise". He thought it couldn't be beat for a place to live, so he staked off 160 acres, 2 miles east of the Texas and Oklahoma line on what is known as Mangold Creek, 2 miles west and 2 1/2 miles north of Durham, Oklahoma which in 1892 was Antelope, Indian Territory.

Henry rode back in January of 1892 and on April 1st the 5 month trek to Grandma's homestead started. All seven children including Aunt Mary Joy and her two girls Clara and Shelly came with her.

“Note” Aunt Mary's husband, Mr. Joy, had been killed by his relative, named Jolly over a "religious difference". Point of interest - "Jolly Killed Joy".

My father was 8 years old and Aunt Louise was 10, they would ride the coupling Poles under the wagon, find all kinds of bird nests, even wild turkey eggs, good to eat. They picked wild fruit and learned to eat possum and other animals too numerous to mention.

They arrived at the Eller dugout on October 1st, 1892 and the next day went over the State line and started a one room log cabin, in which they lived that winter and in the summer of 1893 a one room house was built near the log cabin. In about 1920 a new two room house was built across the front of the original one room'.

Grandmother Mangold never remarried because she was too busy helping other mothers have their children. She was a mid-wife for over 100 children between the Pock-Saddle Bridge on the east to the Canadian River Bridge near Canadian, Texas on the west. Dr. Newman who was the Early Day Doctor at Ale Grand, across from the Antelope hills used Grandma on many occasions to help with a delivery. Grandma passed from this life at age 92 in 1945. She had been blind for over 20 years.

Curt, Mary and Henry homesteaded west of Grandma and Ed and Otto's homesteaded north and east of Grandma. The only original Mangold homestead still owned by the heirs is Uncle Ed's place.