

My Pro-Life Heritage

I'd like to share a true story. My great-great-great grandparents were born in the mid 1800s in Germany. They migrated to America and eventually homesteaded land on the Missouri River Bluffs in Nebraska, just southeast of Yankton. During the first few years they lived in a dugout while they made bricks, in a kiln, that were then used to build a house for their family. They broke the virgin land to grow crops, and built up a herd of longhorn cattle. Their most amazing legacy is that they had 23 children, 16 of whom survived to adulthood. They thrived without any of the conveniences of our modern world: no running water, no phones, no electricity, no cars or tractors, and no convenience stores. They had to survive winter blizzards, harsh, dry summers, and the grasshopper plague of the 1870s. The family members took care of each other because they depended on each other for survival. They all worked hard with a goal of saving money to buy more land that could be used, not only for farming, but to build a church and a school for all the homesteaders to use. This way of living was passed down to the next generation of

16 offspring, who were each granted equal shares of the land that their father divided up before he died in the late 1890s.

I share this story because I am proud of my ancestors who raised up their large families in conditions that were so harsh that we cannot fully fathom. They valued and nurtured the lives of their children even when the circumstances might seem impossible nowadays. They undoubtedly suffered through days of hunger and cold or heat, in their humble living quarters, with persistent trust in God. They couldn't afford to be selfish; they had to work together, sacrifice, and suffer to help everyone survive. Every family member had chores to do to raise enough food for every person and animal to survive the long winters.

Today, we take our lives for granted, live selfishly, and don't think about what our ancestors had to go through so their descendants could live comfortably. They would turn over in their graves if they saw how devalued life has become with abortion on demand, and the prevalence of euthanasia. It's crazy that our great USA, which they worked so hard to establish and defend, has become divided over the God-given right of babies to be born alive. Medical doctors, who were so highly respected, can no longer

be trusted to follow their oath to “save and protect human life”. When I visit my great-grandparents' graves I think about how family life and procreation was the center of their lives and they sacrificed every day for their future grandchildren's lives. I owe it to them to give my all to defend human life. Our amazing ancestors deserve our efforts to continue their legacy of life. This is why I am staunchly proud to be Pro-Life.