



# Dollhopf

600 Years in the Baking

## Dollhopf Women

This is the 21<sup>st</sup> essay in a series addressing the life and times of our Dollhopf grandmothers.

### Grandmother Susanna Born (1886-1956)

**Birth:** 26 Dec 1886

**Place of birth:** Spring Hill, Allegheny City (Pittsburgh), PA

**Parents:** Johann Adam Born and Mary Mohr

**Marriage:** 18 Feb 1914

**Age at marriage:** 27

**Husband:** Edward Dollhopf (18 Mar 1889 – 26 Jul 1982, 93), also known as “Eddie” and “Dolly”, salesman, Burrell Technical Supply Co.

**Residence until 1926:** 1606 Walz Street, Spring Hill

**Residence 1926-1956:** 127 Montclair Avenue, West View, Ross Township, PA

**Death:** 05 Jun 1956

**Age at death:** 69

**Cause of death:** Immediate cause: *Uremia*.<sup>1</sup> Chronic illness: For 15 years she suffered *calculus of kidney and ureter*.<sup>2</sup>

I have written about 16 generations of great-grandmothers in these blogs.

Susanna is the first one I met.

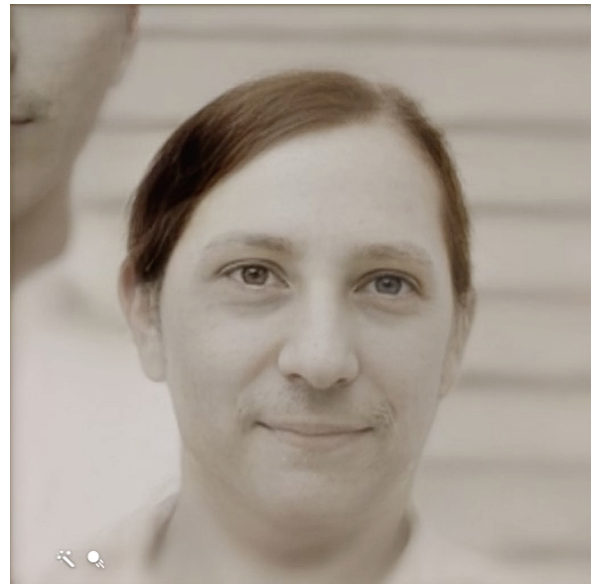
Sort of. She held me on her lap a few months after I was born, only a few months before she died. I “met” her, but never knew her.

I have learned this most unfortunate lesson: I *did* know her husband and all of her children. But they are all dead now, and I failed to ask any of them about Susanna. I have no stories, no recollections, no memories. Only a precious few photos.

If you have *any* interest in the lives of your parents or grandparents, those who raised you, then talk to them. Before they die. Collect their stories. Ask them what makes them tick.

Even if you are *not* interested, your children, nephews, nieces, grandchildren might be. Think about family not yet born who will want to know where they came from.

I learned my lesson too late.



**Susanna “Susan” Born.** This picture was cropped from a family photo of c. 1939, when she was about 53.

<sup>1</sup> Uremia is a buildup of toxins in your blood. It occurs when the kidneys stop filtering toxins through your urine. Uremia is often a sign of end-stage renal (kidney) disease.

<sup>2</sup> Ureteral stones are kidney stones that have become stuck in one or both ureters (the tubes that carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder). If the stone is large enough, it can block the flow of urine

from the kidney to the bladder. This blockage can cause severe pain.

[https://www.google.com/search?xsrf=AOaemvKqztUYHu1M9uZ5SUNjCQA1IM41Sg:1635023220126&q=What+is+calculus+of+kidney+and+ureter%3F&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjofCRuOHZAhXwV98KHYqID\\_MQzmd6BAgxEAU&biw=694&bih=445&dpr=2.5](https://www.google.com/search?xsrf=AOaemvKqztUYHu1M9uZ5SUNjCQA1IM41Sg:1635023220126&q=What+is+calculus+of+kidney+and+ureter%3F&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjofCRuOHZAhXwV98KHYqID_MQzmd6BAgxEAU&biw=694&bih=445&dpr=2.5)

Susanna Born, our grandmother, known as Susan, was briefly known to some of the current generation – her grandchildren Bill, Jim, and Ruth Dollhopf. When she died Bill was 14, Jim 8, and Ruth 6. Grandchildren Glenn, Dale, and Mark were less than two years old.

Susan is the first grandmother in our direct line for whom we have an adult picture (we have a picture of 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandmother Barbara Mai, see *Blog 42: Great-grandmother Elizabeth Bender*).

Susan's parents, like most of the residents of Spring Hill, were German immigrants.

Her father, **Johann Adam Born** (19 Apr 1841 – 22 Nov 1917, 76), our great-grandfather (he used Adam as his first name), was born in the village of Gräfenhausen, son of a linen-weaver. Gräfenhausen is in the German state of Rheinland-Pfalz, located in the southwestern corner of Germany bordering France, Luxembourg, and Belgium. This area is Germany's leading producer of wine. The village of Gräfenhausen is about 40 miles due north of Zurich, Switzerland.

Adam immigrated to the US in 1863 when he was 22. We don't know the exact date of his arrival in America, but we do know that he arrived in time to fight in the Civil War. He is buried in the same St. Paul's Cemetery as John and Lizzie Dollhopf. His grave, however, unlike the Dollhopf's, is marked by a large monument, as was the perk for Civil War veterans. Why he came to Pittsburgh is not known, although he had a cousin also named Adam Born, two years older, who was a farmer in Reserve Township, the area abutting Spring Hill to the immediate north. He might have followed his cousin, or vice versa.



**Adam Born's Grave Monument** at St. Paul's Cemetery. A. Born is carved on the base. Hans Dollhopf is to the right. Civil War veterans were provided with large markers.

America. (It took a considerable amount of research to figure that out.)

Susan's mother **Mary Mohr** (28 Aug 1842-05 Mar 1914), our great-grandmother, was born in the village of Wolff, in the German state of Hesse, the same state as Georg Bender and Barbara Mai (parents of our great-grandmother Lizzie Bender). Mary came to America, at the age of 12, with her mother Margaretha Heilmann (1801-1874.)

Mary's mother, Margaretha Heilmann, had six children with three different men; her first child, and last child, were illegitimate, by men for whom we have no record of their names. One of her six children died as an infant. Mary was the last illegitimate child, so we don't know the name of her father, our 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather.

It was likely that Margaretha was unable to marry because of the residency taxes required for marriage. (Remember, illegitimate births were common at this time in Germany.) She married Heinrich Mohr (?-1834) on 11 Mar 1827 in Wolff; he was the father of her middle four children. He died shortly after the birth of their fourth child.

After Heinrich died, Margaretha did not remarry, but gave birth to Mary nine years later in 1842, when she was 42.

For reasons we do not know, Margaretha used her maiden name Heilmann and her married name Mohr interchangeably in

In the spring of 1854, when Margaretha was 54 – and likely because of extreme poverty – she set off for America husbandless with her five children, all of whom were adults by this time except for Mary, our great-grandmother, who was 12. She and the family left Antwerp, Belgium on April 14, 1854, aboard the sailing ship *Amaranth*, and

arrived in New York City 33 days later on May 17, 1854 –a long trip in the days of sail. Transatlantic trips before the age of steam were treacherous.<sup>3</sup>

The ship's manifest listed the family members as follows [my comments in brackets]:

1. **Margaretha Mohr**, age 49, mother [grandmother of Susan]. She lied about her age; I'm not sure why.
2. **Elisa Mohr**, age 32 [Margarethe's first illegitimate daughter; Elisa never married and lived with her younger sister Mary and her husband Adam Born until she died. Even though Heinrich Mohr was not her father, she used the surname Mohr].
3. **Conrad Mohr**, age 30 [Her first child with Heinrich Mohr, he married Katherine Weaver in Allegheny City, Pittsburgh, and had six children; worked as a cooper].
4. **Friedrich Mohr**, age 25, a tailor, and his wife **Susan Mohr**, age 23, and their infant daughter **Elisa Mohr** [Friedrich was her second child with Mohr; we have no further information on this family in America.].
5. **John Mohr**, age 20 [Her third child with Mohr, John fought in the Civil War, married Elizabeth Weber and had four children. They lived on the same block as Adam and Mary, and he also worked as a cooper].
6. **Mary Mohr**, age 12 [our great-grandmother, mother of Susan].

We don't know why Margarethe and the children went from New York City to Pittsburgh, but they settled on Spring Hill just a few blocks from the Born family.

Susan's father Adam was listed as a stone mason in US Censuses after the Civil War. He must have been relatively prosperous because there were several plots owned by a person named "Born" on Spring Hill. An 1872 plot map of Spring Hill shows two large lots of least an acre each owned by "Born," and one additional large lot owned by "Jno. Born," which could be either Johann Born, or our Johann Adam Born. These lots were located on a street with no name, and indeed the 1880 Census lists the Born family still living on Spring Hill on a street with no name. There were many large undeveloped plots on Spring Hill at the time; it was still largely vacant land.

By 1882, the street on which they lived was became known as Rhine Street (most of the streets on Spring Hill were eventually given German names because of the many German immigrants). The 1882 map of Rhine Street shows "A. Born" owning two houses, next door to a house owned by "J. Born," and two doors away, a house owned by "P. Born." I do not know how these Borns were related, although it is likely they were. It would be too much of a coincidence if three Borns had adjoining houses and were not related.

These houses were two blocks away from the lot at 22 Iona Street, which was acquired by John Dollhopf about 1890.

Susan, our grandmother, was born in 1886 on Rhine Street, the last child of eight born to Adam and Mary. Four of their children died as infants or young children, only two lived beyond the age of 35. Susan's brothers and sisters:

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<sup>3</sup> There have been numerous ships with the name *Amaranth*. The *Amaranth* was a *bark* ("barque," or "barc"), a tall wooden ship of three or more masts. Transatlantic ocean voyages aboard sailing ships lasted on average 36 days (steamships would later cut that time in half) and were treacherous at best. For a description of what life at sea was like aboard one of these vessels in the 1850s, see *Blog 4: Coming to America*. For the docking papers and manifest of the *Amaranth* as received on May 17, 1854, including Mary Mohr's entry, see <https://immigrantships.net/v3/1800v3/amaranth18540517.html>. The Mohr family is listed as passengers #100 to #107. There was a total of 218 passengers aboard – 5 passengers were Belgian; the rest were German (26 were from "Hessia"). 14 of the passengers stayed in cabins above deck; 204 traveled in steerage below deck, the worst of conditions in the day of sail.

1. **Frederick** (abt 1865-?). In the 1880 census, at the age of 15, he is listed as a “moulder,” one who makes castings to mold metal in a foundry. No additional records have been found for Frederick.
2. **Heinrich** (22 Jul 1873-24 Oct 1877), died at the age of four.
3. **Michael** (01 Sep 1874-22 Jun 1910, 35) died at the relatively young age of 35 from kidney stones, the same disease that afflicted his sister Susan. At the time of his death he was employed as a night watchman at the Northside Market.
4. **Maria** (13 Jan 1878-21 Oct 1881), died at age three.
5. **Ludwig** (31 Jan 1880-31 Oct 1881) died at 21 months, twin of Louis below. Ludwig died 10 days after his three-year-old sister Maria (perhaps because of a contagious disease?). Four of Mary’s children, possibly five (we don’t know what happened to twin brother Louis), died before the age of four.
6. **Louis** (31 Jan 1880-?), probably died as an infant or a young child since he does not appear in census records after 1880.
7. **Caroline “Callie”** (26 Jan 1882-14 Aug 1906, 24), married Joseph Kress and had four children before the age of 24 – William, Herbert, Marie, and an unnamed baby that she miscarried on August 10, 1906. Callie died three days later from *puerperal septicemia*, a severe blood infection usually caused by obstetrical procedures. In 1910, four years after she died, husband Joseph and the three children were living on the first floor of the house owned by Adam and Mary, who lived on the second floor. Sometime after 1910, Joseph left the children and became a boarder at 1322 East Street in the East Street Valley at the base of Spring Hill. The three children were then cared for, presumably until they were 18, by Susan and husband Ed Dollhopf, who likely took over the first-floor apartment.
8. **Susanna “Susan”** (26 Dec 1886-05 Jun 1956, 69). Mary was 44 when she gave birth to Susan. Susan never knew four of her siblings since they died before she was born.

Sometime between 1907 and 1910 Susan’s father purchased 1606 Walz Street, a two-family house two doors from their property at 30 Rhine Street. Living on the second floor, according to the 1910 US Census, were Adam, age 68, stone mason, his wife Mary, 67, son Michael, 32, single, night watchman at the city market on the Northside and daughter Susanna, 23, single, dressmaker. Living on the first floor was their daughter Callie’s husband Joseph Kress, 30, lathe operator, and their three children William, 9, Herbert, 7, and Marie, 5 (as noted above, Callie died in 1906 after a still birth).

Susan married Edward Dollhopf on February 18, 1914, and gave birth to Edward John Dollhopf six months later on August 28, 1914.<sup>4</sup> Edward John was born on the second floor of 1606 Walz St.

Sometime after 1910 Joseph abandoned his three children for reasons unknown. Susan and Ed then cared for the children until they were old enough to leave. The youngest, Marie, would have turned 18 in 1919. The children must have left the care of Ed and Susan by the year 1920, because they were not listed with them at 1606 Walz St. in the 1920 Census.

So, in the mid to late teens, Susan was caring for three teenagers in addition to Edward John, who was born in 1914 and Ruth Emma, born in 1917. Her hands were full.

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<sup>4</sup> All of John Dollhopf’s sons had “shotgun” weddings except for John Nicolaus, who never married, and possibly George, because we do not have a record of his marriage. Hard to say why they did not marry first, perhaps they were not so religious, too poor, or maybe they just didn’t care.

Susan's mother Mary Mohr died on March 4, 1916, at age 72 from liver cancer. Her father Adam died a year and a half later at age 76 on November 22, 1917, from pneumonia, a few months before the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 struck the Pittsburgh area.



**Intersection of Rhine St and Walz St, Spring Hill, c. 1911.** Between 1907 and 1910 our great grandfather Adam Born, a stone mason, acquired this two-family house at 1606 Walz St. (before 1910 it was called Robinson St.) His daughter Susanna Born and son-in-law Edward Dollhopf inherited the house after his death in 1917. After Adam and Mary died, Edward and Susan lived on the second floor, Edward's brother George Dollhopf and wife Viola Ott lived on the first. Susan and Ed's first three children were born on the second floor: Edward John on 28 Aug 1914, Ruth Emma on 12 Sep 1917, and Lois Anna on 07 Dec 1920. For 12 years, until 1926, the three Dollhopf children, with their cousin Dolores Dollhopf (George's daughter), played on these streets. Spring Hill was then a booming suburb of Pittsburgh, reaching its population zenith in 1910, home to scores of young German families. At the time of this photo the street was being paved, an improvement project that was launched after Pittsburgh annexed Allegheny City in 1907.

Susan and Edward's second child, daughter **Ruth Emma** was born on September 12, 1917, two months before Adam died.

After his death, Susan sought the assistance of Conrad Dollhopf to pay any outstanding debts owed by her father. She posted an ad in the newspaper stating that interested parties should contact Conrad. Conrad, who lived near Spring Hill, was a distant cousin of John Dollhopf who also immigrated from Mistelbach. At the time Conrad was an insurance and real estate broker. This ad is the only proof I have that the two Dollhopfs from Mistelbach knew of each other while in Pittsburgh.

Susan and Ed inherited the house after her father died – a big deal since the house was mortgage free. Susan was the only living heir in 1917.

Daughter **Lois Anna** was born on 07 Dec 1920. According to the 1920 Census, Edward's older brother George Dollhopf, then 34, and wife Viola Marie Ott were living on the first floor with their only child Dolores, who was born March 16, 1917. George was renting from Edward. At the time, both worked on the loading dock of Burrell Laboratory Instruments.

In 1926 Edward sold 1606 Walz St., and on July 30, 1926, bought a house at 127 Montclair Ave. in West View, an emerging suburb five miles north of Spring Hill.

Prior to the 1920s West View was largely rural. The town had been established in 1907, and in 1923 was served only by a one room schoolhouse.

Much, however, was about to change.

Beginning in the late teens and twenties, Pittsburghers began migrating north to

Ross Township and beyond with the opening of intercity rail lines and the paving of roads. Route 19, the main thoroughfare through West View, had been surfaced with wood planks around the turn of the century and was therefore called the Perrysville Plank Toll Road. In 1911 it was paved with bricks, and in 1927 covered with asphalt, making passage – especially with the newfangled machines called automobiles – easier.

Three generations of Dollhopfs, beginning with great-grandfather John, kept moving north to pursue the American dream.

- 1890s: John moved from Allegheny City near the Allegheny River to Spring Hill in the 1881, the emerging suburb of that generation. Spring Hill, only a mile north of the river, was still largely rural and sparsely settled.
- 1920s: Ed and Susan moved five miles further north to West View in 1926. Like Spring Hill in the previous generation, West View was largely rural and sparsely settled.
- 1950s: Lois, Roland, and LaVerne pursued the dream in McCandless, the township to the immediate north of West View and Ross Township. McCandless at the time was largely rural and sparsely settled.



**1606 Walz Street**, on the left, in 2022. In 1910 Adam and his wife Mary were living on the second floor with daughter Susan. Their son-in-law Joseph Kress lived on the first floor with his three children. Susan married Ed in 1914 and shortly after gave birth to Edward John. It could have been at this time that Joseph moved out and Ed and Susan moved to the first floor with the Kress children. As you can see in the photo, this is a very small house, only two bedrooms on each floor. It must have been an interesting living arrangement. Parents Mary died in 1916 followed by Adam in 1917. In the 1920 Census Edward and Susan were living on the second floor with children Ed and Ruth, and brother George Dollhopf and wife Viola lived on the first with daughter Dolores. By then the Kress children had left. In 1910 the building on the right was a store, as it remains today. I visited this market in July of 2022 and was informed by the Italian owner of both properties that they were for sale for \$300,000. The store is one small room and extends into the first floor of the house to the front door. The price indicates the area is becoming gentrified. Photo Mark Dollhopf, 2022.

- 1980s: Some of the fourth generation moved even further north to Cranberry Township, and it was...you guessed it, largely rural and sparsely settled.

Others of fourth generation scattered about the country, a pattern that is typical today as schools, jobs, and significant others cause relocations far from Pittsburgh.

In the early 1900s the area known as West View was undeveloped forest and farmland. West View was named because of the view afforded to the west from the Venango Path, or what is now known as Perry Highway. The Venango Path connected the confluence of the three rivers (Pittsburgh) with Presque Isle, Pennsylvania, on Lake Erie.

The path, also known as the Venango Trail, was an indigenous portage route of 127 miles between these important waterways and was named after the Lenape indigenous people's village of Venango, which was located at the junction of French Creek and the Allegheny River. The site was later incorporated by European settlers as Franklin, PA, in 1903, a town eight miles south of Oil City, 66 miles north of Pittsburgh.<sup>5</sup>



**Perrysville Plank Road Toll House at West View, c. 1935.** Travelers paid tolls to use this road, which became known as Perrysville Avenue, turning into Perry Highway, Route 19, running all the way to Erie, PA. Interstate 79 parallels this route.

During the War of 1812 (between the US and Britain) the trail was used to transport supplies from Pittsburgh and points south to Erie to build the naval fleet of Admiral Oliver Hazard Perry. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813, at which time he wrote the famous words "We have met the enemy and they are ours." It has been Perry Highway ever since.

Frederick C. Martsolf, a developer of the Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company, acquired 640 acres, approximately one square mile, on both sides of Perry Highway about five miles north of Pittsburgh in 1903. This square mile was soon incorporated as "West View Borough". Between 1903 and 1914, Martsolf there developed six housing plans.

The house that Ed and Susan purchased, 125 Montclair Avenue, was in the so-called East Bellevue Plan #4, laid out in 1905. The plan included 723 lots, each measuring 30 feet by 110 feet. The lots were intentionally dense to facilitate town sewers and public transportation. Residents of Pittsburgh and the North Side could find their way to this new development of West View via the Perry Plank Road, or on the streetcars of the Allegheny-Bellevue Railways Company.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The Lenape were also known as the Delaware indigenous people.

<sup>6</sup> "In 1849 a group of businessmen organized a company to develop the Perrysville and Zelienople Turnpike or "Plank Road." Planked roads, which were mostly unpaved dirt, had timber planking laid across low-lying stretches so horses and wagons could travel easily during rainy weather. The route of the Plank Road appears to have



**EASTERN PLANS**

- 1. Keating Plan 1 - 1903
- 2. Keating Plan 2 - 1903
- 3. Schwitter Plan - 1904

**WESTERN PLANS**

- 4. East Bellevue Plan - 1905
- 5. Northeast Bellevue Plan - 1906
- 6. Parkwood Acres - 1914

**West View Borough Development Housing Plans** of the Allegheny-Bellevue Land Company on a plot map c. 1920. Note the location of West View Park. This map is from the History of 517 Highland Avenue, at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/westviewhistory/permalink/280126432091173>.

paralleled and, in some places, crisscrossed the Pittsburgh-Mercer Road (opened in 1805)... The businessmen soon discovered that operating a turnpike was more demanding than collecting tolls and raising and lowering tollgates. Maintenance costs, toll-keeper wages, and other expenses eventually forced their company into bankruptcy.” <https://historicpittsburgh.org/islandora/object/pitt:MSP285.B012.F02.I01>



West View Park opened in 1906 partly to encourage the use of streetcars on weekends when ridership suffered because of the lack of commuters to and from work.

“The Plank Road brought them out of town, but the streetcars took them back!” was the real-estate advertising of the day.

In 1950 the population of West View was about 7,000, and most residents worked outside the borough. It was a new trend – a so-called “bedroom community.” This was true for Edward, as he commuted to Pittsburgh for his job at Burrell Scientific Instruments.

When Ed and Susan bought the house in West View, their son Ed was 11, Ruth, 8, and Lois, 5. Roland “Rolly” was born two years later in 1928, and LaVerne in 1931.



Second generation immigrants Edward Dollhopf and Susan Born and their family c. 1938, *From left to right: Lois Anna (Harris), 18, LaVerne Elsie (Pennell), 8, Ruth Emma (Pearce), 21, Edward John, 24, Susanna Born Dollhopf, 52, Roland*

Susan’s children:

1. **Edward John** (28 Aug 1914 – 11 Sep 1980, 66), graduated the sixth grade in January of 1926 from the Spring Hill School. He was then a member of one of the first classes to attend Perry High School, which was built in 1923 three miles north of Spring Hill. Ed would have been one of, if not the first of his generation to attend high school. His parent’s generation did not attend school beyond the seventh or eighth grade. (As in the old country, one attended school until the age of 12 or 13, then went to work.) After high school Ed worked as an insurance salesman and later, through the war years, as a pipefitter for the HJ Heinz Co. He married Mildred May Schmidt on August 5, 1939, and had three children: William Edward (b 1942), James Wayne (b. 1948), and Ruth Mildred (b. 1950). Shortly after the war, he followed Mildred’s parents to Lamartine, a rural community in northern Pennsylvania near Emlenton, PA. In Emlenton Ed operated a plumbing business and tended cattle and a substantial garden.

2. **Ruth Emma** (12 Sep 1917 – 06 Oct 2006, 89). I am uncertain whether Ruth attended Perry High School with her brother Ed, or West View High School (later North Hills High School), which opened the 1920s. Ruth was a secretary, and married her boss Selden Jacquith (aka “SJ”) Pearce on April 30, 1963, when she was 46. SJ had two children, Gay and Carol, from his first marriage.
3. **Lois Anna** (07 Dec 1920 – 08 Sep 2003, 82) was the first of her generation to attend college, and was graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1950. She married John Thomas Harris on April 22, 1949, and had three children: Glenn Robert (b. 1954), Dale William (b. 1956), and Dean Richard (b. 1958).
4. **Roland “Rolly” Wilbur** (03 Aug 1928 – 28 May 2017, 88), was graduated from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1950. He spent four years in the Navy before attending Union Theological Seminary in New York City, graduating with a degree in organ and choral conducting. He married Audrey Louise Schilpp on June 28, 1952 and had three children: Mark Roland (b. 1955), Kevin John (b. 1959), and Kristin Louise (b. 1968).
5. **LaVerne Elsie** (04 Jul 1931- 18 Dec 2020) also was graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in education and became an elementary school teacher. She married William Glenn Pennell, Jr. on July 8, 1955, and had two children: Susan Lynne (b. 1960) and William Bruce (b. 1962).



**125 Montclair Avenue, West View** located in the East Bellevue Plan #4. *Edward and Susan purchased this house on July 30, 1926. They had been living at 1606 Walz Street on Spring Hill, which they inherited debt free in 1917. So after selling that house, they likely purchased the Montclair Ave. house without need for a mortgage. When they moved to West View Ed was 37, Susan 39, and their children Ed, 12, Ruth, 8, and Lois, 5. West View was one of the new “suburbs” of Pittsburgh, and many German immigrants moved here from the North Side of Pittsburgh. Roland and LaVerne were born here, in the home (not a hospital). Susan died here in 1956. Ed sold the house in the early 60s and moved to an apartment two blocks away on Perry Avenue across the street from North Hills High School.*

She called everyone by their formal name, not a nickname – Edward, not Ed, Roland, not Rolly. According to her grandchildren old enough to remember, she was not a particularly warm grandmother, nor did she speak much to her grandchildren.

Susan suffered a leg injury as an adult and relied on a cane for much of her adult life. She lived to see six of her 11 grandchildren – Bill, Jim, Ruth, Glenn, Dale, and Mark (although Dale was born only 11 days before she died).

She suffered for 15 years from a chronic kidney disorder and died of uremia, the same disease that afflicted her older brother Michael, who died at the relatively young age of 35 in 1910. She died on June 5, 1956.

A second-generation immigrant, and the first of our truly “suburban” grandmothers, she raised arguably the first family to achieve the American dream – among her children were the first Dollhopfs in history to attend high school, college, and graduate school.

Was she happy? I don’t know. She left behind no written material – diaries, letters, Bible, or cards. I have heard stories that she was brought to tears that husband Ed spent so much time in bars, but this is hearsay. I am embarrassed to say that I waited too long to write her biography. Her children are dead; I could have interviewed any one of them to learn so much more about her.

Let this be a lesson. Don’t wait for people to die before you decide to talk to them.

Mark R. Dollhopf  
New Haven, CT  
January 2, 2023.