

The Paul Tetzlaff and Hulda Krostag Story





Hulda Krostag circa 1895
(Photograph from the Paulina Phelan Collection - Courtesy of IK, AE, CK)



Photo of Paul Tetzlaff and Renner Zef
(Photograph courtesy of the Kiel Historical Society)

Paul E. Tetzlaff was born April 21, 1879 in Strapleburg, West Prussia to Daniel Tetzlaff and Carrie Tetzlaff (Carrow). We are not certain what year the Tetzlaffs came to America. The Tetzlaffs lived in Reedsville WI, in 1902. The 1901-1902 Reedsville directory lists Paul as a Cigar Manufacturer. He may have had a brother named Charles. In the mid 1900's Paul worked for the August Kurz Cigar Co. owned by Henry J. Amman in Kiel, WI. On September 1, 1904 Paul married **Hulda Krostag** the youngest child of August and Louisa Krostag of Kiel, WI. Hulda graduated from the Oshkosh Normal School and was a teacher in Kiel in September 1902. On October 31, 1905 Hulda gave birth to their first child Edward Paul in Kiel, WI. On November 23, 1908 Iola L. was born in Kiel WI. On January 9, 1912 Paul became a naturalized US citizen.



Paul Tetzlaff at the Henry J Ammann Cigar Co in Kiel WI.
(Photograph courtesy of the Heritage Collection at Kiel Public Library)

Notice the photo inset. The two gentlemen in the photo are the same as the photo identified in the prior photo as Paul Tetzlaff and Renner Zef by the Heritage Collection. However, the description in the Heritage Collection identifies the inset as the founders. Further descriptions say that Ammann bought the Cigar Company in 1890 from August Kurz who started it in 1885.

So we are not sure if the photo is actually Paul Tetzlaff as stated by the Heritage Collection since he couldn't be a founder. However he does resemble Paul Tetzlaff identified in other photographs below.

During his time in Kiel, Paul was a member of the Arion Band. Around 1914 Paul moved his family to Milwaukee, WI and started the Paul Tetzlaff Cigar Company. On August 6, 1916 Ellen M. Tetzlaff was born to Paul and Hulda. In 1921 Paul was in owner of the Weber and Tezlaff Cigar Manufacturing with Anton Weber. Paul was a member of the AFL Cigar Makers' union local 25.



Paul Tetzlaff Cigar Box
(For sale on eBay in 2012)



KIEL ARION BAND & ORCHESTRA

Organized in 1895. Charter members: Henry Ammann, Joseph Ammann, Albert Dassler, Wm. Guetzloe, Edgar Lindner, Hugo Lindner, Walter Lindner, William Roehr, Herman Roehr, Henry Goeres, Wm. Schildhauer, Paul Tetzlaff, Rudolph Greve, Chas. Grasshold, John Klein, Fred Eilers, Wm. Ree and Albert Schram.



Paul Tetzlaff was one of the charter members of the Kiel Arion Band
(Photograph courtesy of the Kiel Historical Society)



BLUE LABEL BOWLING CHAMPIONS 1904
TOP ROW: Joe Reigh, Paul Tetzlaff. FRONT
ROW: Bill Pezold, Henry Ammann, Mr. Johnson
Frank Groth.

Paul played trumpet for many years in the orchestra for the Riverview roller skating rink and in orchestras engaged for community and fraternal picnic. He was a member of the Milwaukee Musicians' association since 1916, he was made an honorary member in 1941.



Edward Paul Tetzlaff, Front row first on the left. 3rd grade class Kiel, WI circa 1913
(Photograph courtesy of the Heritage Collection at Kiel Public Library)

In 1927, at the age of 21, Edward became the conductor of the Colonial Theater in Milwaukee. At the time, he was the youngest conductor of a theatre orchestra in Milwaukee. During his time since moving to Milwaukee when he was 9 years he studied violin with Herman Kelbe and with Richard Czerwonky of Chicago. In 1930 Edward left for a year of musical study in Berlin, Germany. While most of his time was spent in Berlin he traveled extensively throughout Europe.

Life continued for the Tetzlaffs with the next significant family event being the marriage of Edward to Magda Marie Schmidt in the early 1930's. Magda was also an accomplished violinist Born in Hamburg, Germany she came to the United States in 1910. In 1922 moved to Berlin, Germany to study music. Magda didn't return to the United States until 1927. During her time in Europe she had very successful concert tour in Germany and travel throughout Europe. After returning from Europe she led the Magda Mari Schmidt trio. The trio included Magda as violinist, Therese Krumhoff, pianist, and Willy Schmidt cellist. They made regular broadcasts on WTMJ Milwaukee.

In the early 1930's Edward and Magda played viola and violin together in the same ensemble. They were married in late 1934 or early 1935 and Magda gave birth to their son Robert Paul Tetzlaff on November 13, 1935.

In August of 1936 Edward made his first visit to Hollywood to work in film studio orchestras. At the time also became a member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

By 1937 the Tetzlaffs were considered two of Milwaukee's foremost musicians. They could be heard playing viola and violin duets with the Wisconsin Symphony.

As an example, on Sunday April 25, 1937 they played a duet, "Passacaglia on a Theme by Handel" by Halvorsen in which they were accompanied by the orchestra under the direction of Hugo Bach.

Shortly after this, Edward moved his family to Los Angeles and in 1940 they lived at 1963 Bronson Ave with other household members Genevieve Lexa, Gebevieve Sedivy, and Lorraine Sedivy. As previously mentioned, Edward's musical expertise led him to Los Angeles where he worked in the Motion Picture industry. Magda initially was a member of the Brodetsky chamber music ensemble later the Hancock ensemble in Los Angeles in the mid 1940's. By 1960 Edward was still a member of the viola section of the Los Angeles Philharmonic under George Solti and Magda had retired from public appearances.



Mr. and Mrs. Tetzlaff

Photo from 1960



Iola and Ellen

Iola Tetzlaff was a teacher at the School for the Blind in Janesville, WI in the late 1930's and ended her career as a principal at an Elementary school in Milwaukee. She spent her later years in Florida near her sister Ellen until she died on January 10, 1982 and is interred at the Mansion Memorial Park in Ellenton, Florida. Iola never married.

Ellen is listed with last name of McKenzie on the 1940 Census and lived at home with Paul and Hulda in 1940 at 2152 N. 38th Street when she was 23. In 1940 she worked as a Bookkeeper in a Department Store. She was divorced from a William F. McKenzie who was also living with his parents in 1940 in Milwaukee. She later married Frederick Verloris Johnson and they had 3 children. She died on September 1, 1995 while living in Ellenton, Florida.

Paul died January 18, 1951 in Milwaukee, WI. His obituary listed that he had 4 grandchildren. One from Edward and three from Ellen. According Paul's obituary he was cremated. Hulda died April 2, 1972 in Milwaukee, WI. It is uncertain where Paul and Hulda are interred.

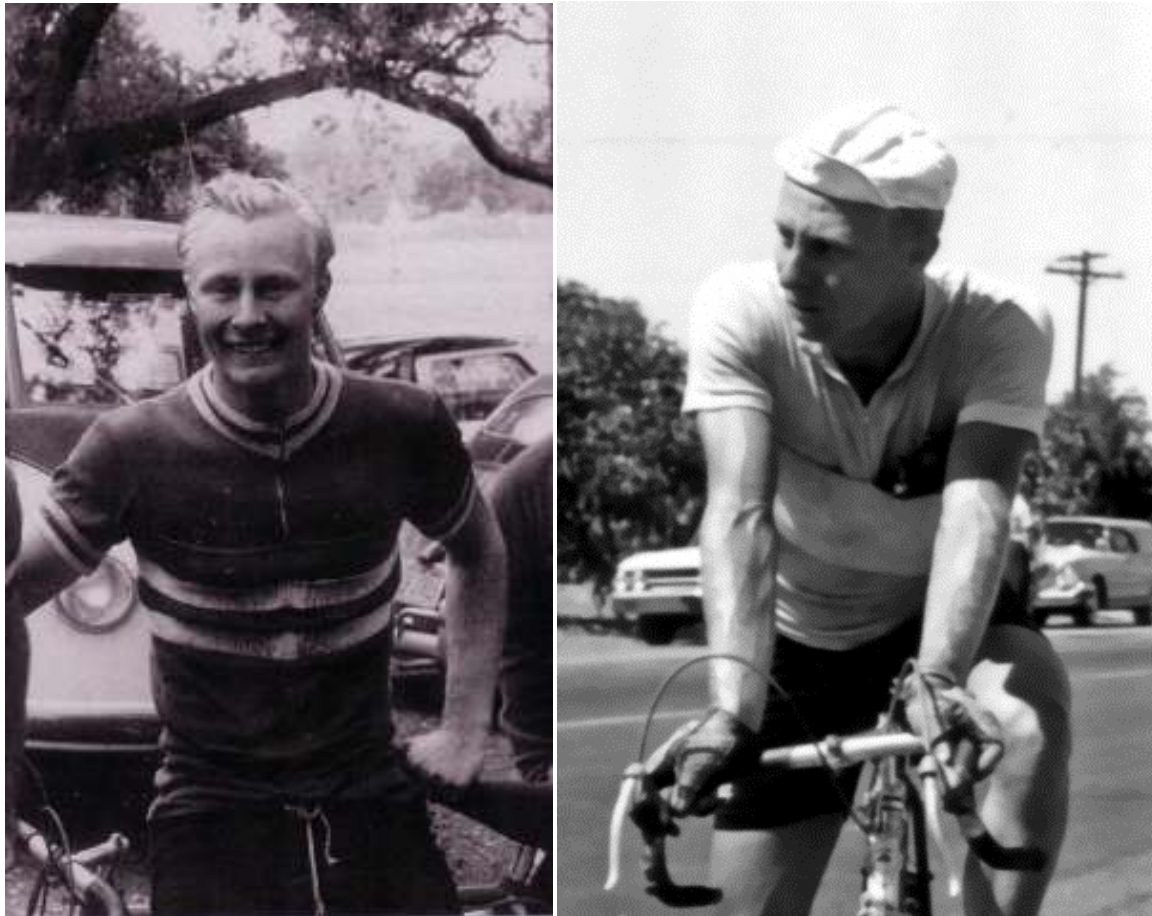
Edward lived his last years until his death on March 8, 1988 near his son Robert in Los Gatos California. Edward's wife Magda died in Los Angeles, September 1, 1978.

Robert Paul Tetzlaff became probably the most famous Krostag descendant.

Bob Tetzlaff was an Olympic cyclist who was at the forefront of the United States cycling scene in the 1950's and 1960's. For more information about Bob's cycling career visit his page at the US Bicycling Hall of Fame.

<http://www.usbhof.org/inductee-by-year/88-bob-tetzlaff>

In addition to being a cyclist, Bob was also a grade school teacher for almost 40 years.



We had mailed an introduction letter to Bob on September 25th 2012 with the hopes of learning more about the family of Paul Tetzlaff and Hulda Tetzlaff (Krostag). After a couple of weeks and not hearing from him we found out that he had passed away on September 27th the day he would have received the letter.

Bob never had any children but did have a stepson through his wife Lorine.