

Family Group Record

Male or Partner	Willis M. GARDNER	
Born	01 June 1868	Galena, Jo Daviess, Illinois
Died	03 May 1949	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
Buried	06 May 1949	Resurrection Cemetery, Mendota Heights, Minnesota
Father	John GARDNER (Bet 1812-1896)	
Mother	Mary Elizabeth MURRAY (1826-1913)	
Partnership	09 December 1891	Dubuque County, Iowa

Events

	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Occupation			Carpenter
•	Residence		03 May 1949	173 W. Robie, St. Paul, Minnesota
•	Death Notes			

The death certificate shows:

Birth: 1 June 1868 in Illinois
Parents: John Gardner (Kentucky) and Mary Murray (Ireland)
Death: 3 May 1949 in St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
Age at death: 74 years
Marital status at death: Married
Spouse: Sophia M. Gardner
Occupation: Carpenter
Residence: 173 West Robie, St. Paul, Minnesota
Burial: Resurrection Cemetery, St. Paul, Minnesota
Informant: Sophia M. Gardner

Female or Partner	Sophia M. BRENNER	
Born	05 January 1875	Rhein, Prussia (Germany)
Died	20 May 1958	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
Buried	23 May 1958	Resurrection Cemetery, Mendota Heights, Minnesota
Father	Jacob BRENNER (1849-1916)	
Mother	Louisa ABRESCH (1852-1924)	

Events

	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Immigration		27 December 1883	
		SS Westernland, Antwerp to New York		
•	Death Notes			

The death certificate shows:

Birth: 5 January 1875 in Germany
Parents: Unknown
Death: 20 May 1958 in St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
Age at death: 83 years
Marital status at death: Widowed
Spouse: Willis Gardner
Burial: Resurrection Cemetery, Mendota Heights, Minnesota

Family Group Record

Events:

•	Obituary		
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An obituary was found among my mother's photographs. It is likely it was printed in the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

GARDNER-Sophia, formerly of 173 W. Robie, Tuesday evening. Beloved mother of Mrs. Edward (Belle) Karth, Louis and Clarence of St. Paul, Clement (Cy), Los Angeles, Charles, Racine, Wis., and Rev. Father Frank Gardner of Norton, Va. Others surviving are two brothers, 18 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren. Friends may call at the Devlin funeral home, So. Wabasha and Humboldt ave. after 12 noon on Thursday. Funeral from the mortuary Friday morning at 8:30. Mass at St. Michael's On The Hill, East Annapolis and Sperl sts., at 9 o'clock. Interment Resurrection cemetery. Recitation of the rosary Thursday afternoon at 3.

Marriage Events

	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Reference			

Willis Gardner & Sophia Brenner -> Mary Gardner -> Marvel Ohmann -> Sandra Dennis

•	Census	1900	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
Twelfth Census of the United States			

Twelfth Census of the United States (1900), St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota (14 June 1900), household of Willis Gardner: Sophie states she has had five children and three are living. They are George, Louis, and Clement.

Gardner, Willis, Date of Birth June 1868, Age 32, Number of Years Married: 9, Birthplace: Illinois, Birthplace of Father: ? Missouri?, Birthplace of Mother: Ireland, Occupation: Carpenter

Sophie, Relation: Wife, Date of Birth Jan 1875, Age 25, Number of Years Married: 9, Birthplace: Germany, Birthplace of Father: Germany, Birthplace of Mother: Germany

George, Relation: Son, Date of Birth: Jan 1892

Louis, Relation: Son, Date of Birth: ?May? 1896

Clement, Relation: Son, Date of Birth: Sept 1898

•	Census	1920	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
Fourteenth Census of the United States			

Fourteenth Census of the United States (1920), 3rd Precinct, St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota (1920), household of Willis M. Gardner:

Gardner, Willis, M., Age 51, Birthplace: Illinois, Birthplace of Father: Kentucky, Birthplace of Mother: Iowa

Sophie, Relation: Wife, Age 45, Birthplace: Germany, Birthplace of Father: Germany, Birthplace of Mother: Germany

Louis W., Relation: Son, Age ?23?, Birthplace: Minnesota

Clement E., Relation: Son, Age 21, Birthplace: Minnesota

Mary, Relation: Daughter, Age 16, Birthplace: Minnesota

Isabelle, Relation: Daughter, Age 14, Birthplace: Minnesota

Charles, Relation: Son, Age 5, Birthplace: Minnesota

Frank, Relation: Son, Age 1, Birthplace: Minnesota

Family Group Record

Events (cont.)

•	Census	1930	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
Fifteenth Census of the United States			

Fifteenth Census of the United States (1930), St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota (15 April 1930), household of Willis M. Gardner:

Gardner, Willis, M., Age 61, Carpenter, Birthplace: Illinois, Birthplace of Father: Kentucky, Birthplace of Mother: Iowa

Sophie M., Relation: Wife, Age 55, Birthplace: Germany, Birthplace of Father: Germany, Birthplace of Mother: Germany

Charles, Relation: Son, Age 15, Birthplace: Minnesota

Frank R., Relation: Son, Age 11, Birthplace: Minnesota

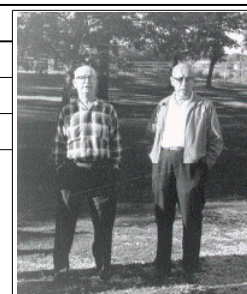
Children

1	M	George William GARDNER	
Born		21 January 1892	Iowa
Died		10 September 1950	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
Buried		14 September 1950	Resurrection Cemetery, Mendota Heights, Minnesota
Spouse		Clara PRIEBE (-)	

Events

	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Soc Sec Num	701-05-9917		
•	Occupation	Steward, Minneapolis Club		
•	Residence		10 September 1950	173 W. Robie, St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota

2	M	John Willis GARDNER	
Born		1893	
3	F	Alice GARDNER	
Born		1895	
4	M	Louis Wharton GARDNER	
Born		10 May 1896	
Died		29 January 1973	Ramsey County, Minnesota
Spouse		Grace Agnes WALSH (1905-2004)	



Events


	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Soc Sec Num			

Social Security Death Index:

Name SS# Issue State Birth Death Death State Last Known Residence Last Payment Location
 GARDNER, LOUIS 474-44-9294 MN 10 May 1896 Jan 1973 MN Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Family Group Record

Events (cont.)

5	M	Clement (Cy) E. GARDNER		
Born		05 September 1898		
Died		28 May 1974	Ramsey County, Minnesota	

Events

	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Soc Sec Num			

Social Security Death Index:

Name SS# Issue State Birth Death Death State Last Known Residence Last Payment Location
 GARDNER, CLEMENT 347-09-3817 IL 5 Sep 1898 May 1974 TN Shelbyville, Tennessee 37160

6	M	Clarence Marcellous GARDNER	
Born		30 April 1901	
Died		21 August 1976	Ramsey County, Minnesota
Spouse		Delores (-)	
Spouse		Virginia MOULDER (-1978)	

Events

	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Birth Notes			

Minnesota Birth Index:

Gardner, Clarence Marcellous
 Date of Birth: 04/30/1901
 County of Birth: Ramsey
 certid# 1901-34758
 Mother Maiden Name: Sophia

•	Obituary			
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Gardner - Clarence M.
 Saturday Eve. Res. 329 Summit. Beloved husband of Virginia. Step-father of Robert E. and Evelyn L. Johnson. Brother of Fr. Frank Gardner, Cincinnati and Mrs. Guy (Belle) Kenyon, Shelbyville, Tenn. Funeral from Godbout & Sons 560 W. 7th Wednesday Aug. 25th at 9:30 a.m. Mass The Assumption Church 10 a.m. Interment National. Member of St. Paul Council 397 K of C. Visitation 5-9 p.m. Tuesday. K of C and Parish vigil 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Family Group Record

Events (cont.)

7	F	Mary Cecelia GARDNER	
Born	21 July 1903	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota	
Died	05 April 1938	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota	
Buried	08 April 1938	Riverview Cemetery, St. Paul, Minnesota	
Spouse	Friedrich (Fred) Walter OHMANN (1898-1998)		
Marr. Date	18 April 1928 - St. Patrick's Church, St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota		



Events

	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Birth Notes			

Minnesota Birth Index:

Gardner,
 Date of Birth: 07/21/1903
 County of Birth: Ramsey
 certid# 1903-38132
 Mother Maiden Name: Sophie

This card to be returned to the Department of Health within FIVE days after birth.

Full name of Father: W. Gardner
 Full name of Mother Sophie Gardner
 Birthplace of Father: N. Amerika
 Birthplace of Mother: Germania
 Sex of Child: girl Color: Whithe
 When born: 21 day Juli month, year 1903
 Number 689 Arlington Street

I hereby certify that I was in attendance at the birth of the above described child.
 Johanna ?Schanz?

A report of "premature" or "stillborn" child must be accompanied with DEATH CERTIFICATE.

•	Residence		31 May 1931	473 Hall Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota
•	Residence		05 April 1938	469 Hall Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota
•	Occupation	Housewife		
•	Death Notes			

Minnesota Death Index:

OHMANN, MARY
 Date of Birth: not indexed
 Place of Birth: not indexed
 Mother Maiden Name: not indexed
 certid# 1938-MN-023907
 Date of Death: 04/05/1938

Family Group Record

Events (cont.)

County of Death: RAMSEY

The death certificate shows:

Birth: 21 July 1903 in St. Paul, Minnesota
 Parents: Willis Gardner (Illinois) and Sophia Brenner (Germany)
 Death: 5 April 1938 in St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
 Age at death: 34 years, 8 months, 14 days
 Cause of death: Lobar pneumonia
 Marital status at death: Married
 Spouse: Fred W. Ohmann
 Occupation: Housewife
 Residence: 469 Hall Avenue
 Burial: Riverview on 8 April 1938
 Informant: Willis Gardner, 167 W. Robie

8	F	Agnes Margaret GARDNER		
Born		1905		
Events				
	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Death Notes			

Minnesota Death Index:

GARDNER, AGNES
 Date of Birth: <1905>
 Place of Birth: US
 Mother Maiden Name: not indexed
 certid# 1906-50-2378
 Date of Death: 10/11/1906
 County of Death: RAMSEY

9	F	Belle GARDNER		
Born		05 August 1907		
Spouse		Edward KARTH (-)		
Spouse		Guy T. KENYON (1897-1987)		



Events				
	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Birth Notes			

Minnesota Birth Index:

Family Group Record

Events (cont.)

Gardner, Belle
 Date of Birth: 08/05/1907
 County of Birth: Ramsey
 certid# 1907-38297
 Mother Maiden Name: Brenner

•	Obituary		
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Kenyon, Belle (Karth) 98 Years Old Of Arden Hills, died March 3, 2006. Preceded in death by her husbands, Edward Karth and Guy "Jack" Kenyon. Survived by her loving children, Edward (Dorothy) Karth, Virginia (Howard) Lundgren, Harvey (Kathy) Karth; dear companion, Ross Steele; treasured grandchildren, Linda (Dick) Rostomily, Howard (Jeanne) Lundgren, Sandy (Jim) Kensity, Brenda (Bob) Montgomery, Guy (Jen) and Chad (Usha) Karth; 10 great-grandchildren. Funeral service 7:00 PM Wednesday at HOLCOMB-HENRY-BOOM FUNERAL CHAPEL, 515 Hwy 96 at Mackubin, Shoreview (651-482-7606) with visitation beginning at 4:00 PM. Private interment Elmhurst Cemetery.

Published in the Pioneer Press from 3/5/2006 - 3/6/2006.

10	M	Willis GARDNER
11	M	Lawrence GARDNER
Born	1911	
Died	14 August 1914	

Events

	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Death Notes			

Minnesota Death Index:

GARDNER, LAWRENCE
 Date of Birth: not indexed
 Place of Birth: not indexed
 Mother Maiden Name: not indexed
 certid# 1914-MN-023005
 Date of Death: 08/14/1914
 County of Death: RAMSEY

12	M	Charles Edward GARDNER	
Born	29 December 1914	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota	
Died	18 January 1962	Wood, Wisconsin	
Buried		Graceland Cemetery	
Spouse	Elaine Augusta MAIER (1914-1998)		

Events

	Name	Description:	Date:	Location:
•	Birth Notes			

Minnesota Birth Index:

Gardner, Charles
 Date of Birth: 12/29/1914

Family Group Record

Events (cont.)

County of Birth: Ramsey
 Bottom of Form 0
 certid# 1914-51764
 Mother Maiden Name: Brenner

• Soc Sec Num			
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Social Security Death Index:

Name SS# Issue State Birth Death Death State Last Known Residence Last Payment Location
 GARDNER, CHARLES 474-10-7110 MN 29 Dec 1914 Jan 1962

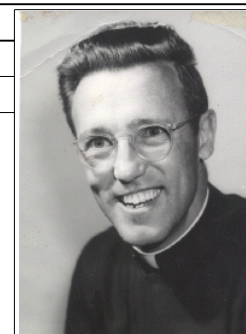
• Obituary			
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Gardner, Charles E.
 2920 Erie St.

Age 47. Passed away Jan. 18, 1962 in the Veterans Hospital, Wood, Wis. Mr. Gardner was born in St. Paul, Minn. on Dec. 29, 1914 and had lived in Racine for 17 years. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy in the submarine service and served during the duration. For the past five years he had been a real estate salesman with the Bud Orth Agency. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Veterans of Foreign Wars and YMCA. Surviving are his wife, Elaine (Maier); three daughters, Jalna Ruth, Lorilyn Jean and Charlaine Margaret; one son, James Steven; four brothers, Louis and Clarence Gardner, St. Paul, Minn., Frank R. Gardner, Norton, Va. and Clement Gardner, California; one sister, Mrs. Edward Karth, St. Paul, Minn. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan 20, 10 a.m., in St. John's Lutheran Church, Rev. G. N. Busarow officiating. Internment will be in the veterans plot, Graceland Cemetery. Friends may call at the Krug Memorial Home, Inc., corner of Barker and Lincoln Sts., this (Friday) afternoon after 4 oclock and during the evening. Saturday the late Mr. Gardner will lie in state at the church from 9 a.m. until service time. Memorials to the Lutheran High School, St. John's Lutheran Church or the school building fund will be appreciated. Strouf-Sheffield Funeral Home, 1001 High St., directors.

Out of Respect to the Memory
 Of Our Late Salesman
 Charles E. Gardner
 We Will Be Closed
 Saturday Morning
 "Bud" Orth Agency
 1311 High Street

13	M	Frank Robert GARDNER	
Born		25 October 1918	St. Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota
Died		29 August 1991	Sylva, Jackson, North Carolina



Notes (Partnership)

Family Group Record

Notes (Partnership)(cont.)

Sophie and Willis' marriage record is found in the Dubuque County, Iowa register of marriages. Dubuque, Iowa - Sophie's home - and Galena, Illinois - Willis' home - are border towns separated only by a river. The marriage date is 9 December 1891. The record documents Willis as a 25 year old white American, born in Galena, Illinois and Sophie as a 17 year old white German, born in Rhein, Prussia.

A note attached to the marriage record of Willis Gardner and Sophia Brenner gives consent for Sophie, who is 17 at the time, to marry. It reads, "I hereby give my consent to the marriage of my daughter Sophia M. Brenner to Willis M. Gardner. The first signature is not clear; if it is the mother's (Louisa Brenner), it is difficult to see it. The second signature is clearly that of Sophia's father, Jacob Brenner.

The "Please don't publish" notation on the record may indicate the wedding was handled discreetly; Sophie gave birth to Willis and Sophie's first child, George, on 21 January 1892 - about six weeks after the wedding.

General Notes for Child Clement (Cy) E. GARDNER

Clement never married.

General Notes for Child Frank Robert GARDNER

Shelbyville (Tenn.) Times-Gazette

Meet My Pastor
POW Days Recalled By Local Priest
By Ed Allen, T-G Editor

Who'd think the sight of a B-29 bomber flying overhead could be called the "prettiest sight" or an even prettier on being the view of the big plane opening its bomb bay doors to unload its cargo?

"It was fantastic," claims Rev. Frank R. Gardner, pastor of St. Williams Catholic Church in Shelbyville and St. John Catholic Church in Lewisburg. He has served these two parishes since 1967 as a priest in the Home Missioners of America movement.

But, it was Aug. 29, 1945 when Rev. Gardner saw the "most welcome sight" while a prisoner of war. He was taken captive by the Japanese on July 7, 1945.

He was not a clergyman, but had made up his mind just a few short months before that as soon as World War II was over he'd study for the priesthood...if he lived that long.

Rev. Gardner was a radioman in the Navy, having enlisted in 1942. He and 11 other crewmen were aboard a plane on a mission out of Okinawa. "We shot down one (enemy plane) at zero," Rev. Gardner recalled. "This little gunboat hit one of our engines as we came in about 150 to 200 feet above it to drop (bombs) on it. A second shell from the boat hit our second engine and it caught fire. We had to ditch the plane after flying over a small island...due west of Nagasaki. Seven men went down with the ship, five of us were saved. After about five hours of floating in the Japanese sea, we were taken captive."

The gunboat that hit Rev. Gardner's plane was bombed by the crew, "but we couldn't tell whether we sank it or not," he said.

Rev. Gardner recalled he was knocked out when the plane crashed and "when I came to, it was the calmest moment of my life....thinking about the goal of the priesthood, I had something to live for and made my way out of the broken craft."

In the POW camp, Rev. Gardner said "we were treated well. We were beaten a few times. The food was atrocious. The Japanese people didn't have much to eat and so not much to feed us....except rice. We had to chew it about 40 times because it was still in the hull when they gave it to us."

The prisoners didn't learn until later that the U.S. had dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima on Aug. 6 and Nagasaki Aug. 9. "It was real strange," Rev. Gardner said. "After the first bomb, the Japanese radios in the prison camp went silent, the guards were very

Family Group Record

General Notes for Child Frank Robert GARDNER(cont.)

excited and listened everytime there was a news broadcast. We knew something big had happened but we didn't know what."

After two nights of not hearing B-29s flying over and no bombings, Rev. Gardner said the tension seemed to ease. But Aug. 9 the guards became very excited and quiet again.

Aug. 24, 1945...just 10 days after the Japanese surrendered a group of POWs who had been on Wake Island were brought to the camp where Rev. Gardner was a prisoner. "They came at night. Some of them were radiomen and had been able to monitor U.S. broadcasts. By morning we had the full story."

On Aug. 26 a torpedo plane flew over and dropped C-rations for the prisoners.

"Aug. 29, a beautiful silver U.S. B-29 flew over the prison camp at about 400 feet. It made the prettiest picture up against that blue sky and the greens of the hills surrounding the camp," Rev. Gardner explained. "Just fantastic!"

All of a sudden, however, the bomb bay doors opened. "We thought for a moment they didn't know the war was supposed to be over. Then there was the most welcome sight."

Pouring out of the belly of the big bird came 20 to 30 gallon barrels of food, clothing and medical supplies. These came drifting to the earth under multicolor parachutes.

"This was about the second prettiest sight," he said.

Sept. 1, 1945 he and the other prisoners were liberated. By late fall they were back in the U.S. and he was discharged from the Navy in February, 1946.

He had earned overseas duty patches twice (in the South Pacific), five battle stars, good conduct medal, air medal, admiral's citation, victory ribbon, seaman flight wings and purple heart.

"I was in prison camp just long enough to see what it is all about and get out," Rev. Gardner said. He lost 30 pounds during his two-month imprisonment.

After working six months until the fall term opened at Nazareth College in St. Paul, Minn., Rev. Gardner attended school there two years in a general college course. He then spent two years at St. Paul Seminary, earning a BA degree.

It was in St. Paul where he as born, Oct. 25, 1918, the last of 13 children in his family.

From the seminary he went to Cincinnati as a novitiate on year at Jesuit House of Study at Milford, Ohio. Then came four years at Our Lady of the Fields Seminary, operated by the Home Missioners of America. (This group serves small town and rural churches throughout the country.)

He was ordained May 19, 1955.

He served first as assistant pastor at St. Mary Church, Norton, Va., starting the Holy Redeemer parish. In 1958 he went to Gate City, Va., as pastor. He returned to Norton in June, 1960, to pastor St. Anthony church.

Rev. Gardner became the first (and only) resident priest for the Shelbyville and Lewisburg churches in 1967. Masses are conducted at the Shelbyville Church at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday. Mass in the Lewisburg church is said at 11:15 a.m. Sunday.

The Shelbyville parish has Sunday school sessions at 10 a.m. in the rectory, 731 N. Main, which was purchased in the fall of 1968. Lay teachers conduct classes with Rev. Gardner instructing the high school age group once each month.

"I used to say Mass in the church every day," Rev. Gardner said, "but in this day and age people coming to Mass daily seems to be about gone."

There are 160 communicants in the church here and 100 in Lewisburg.

Seldom, except at clerical functions, do you see Rev. Gardner in his priestly collar and garb. Why?

Family Group Record

General Notes for Child Frank Robert GARDNER(cont.)

"This is rather personal with me," he said. "When I was in Norton...which has a great multitude of people in the poverty area...the clerical collar seemed to separate me from the people.

"Volunteers would come in to work with the people and then once in a while I'd go with them, wearing the collar, and the people would say, 'there's something different about him.' It would separate us and I couldn't work closely with them.

"Of course I do wear the collar when the situation calls for it. I like to dress like other clergymen....to be a fellow laborer....to be a citizen of the community."

Photo of Rev. Frank Gardner with his brother, Clement (Cy):

WHOSE TURN IS IT? - Rev. Frank Gardner (left) and his brother Clement (Cy) E. Gardner, take turns at cooking and doing dishes in the St. Williams' rectory on North Main Street. Cy retired two years ago as a lumberman in Los Angeles and came to make his home with his brother. He said he is always glad for a helping hand with dishes from the priest.
