

BIOGRAPHY

(Wife of Kohler Brockel)

a ^{farmer} stone mason in Pomerania,

1885 - Paul and Matilda Wegner emigrated from Germany with their son Ernie and settled in La Crosse, WI. Once there Paul worked on the railroad

1889 - The Wegners bought farmland at Tabbs Corners near the village of Cataract in Monroe County. They continued to farm until 1916, raising five children in the process.

1916 They moved to Bangor while still retaining the farm. In Bangor Paul owned and operated a Fox garage, leaving the farm's operation to their son Charles.

1927 Upon retirement the Wegners divided their time between Bangor in the winters and summer in Cataract.

1929 Inspired by Holy Ghost Park in Turkeyville, they began building their own environment in Cataract. Some of the pieces (e.g. the walls of the Church) were created in Bangor and later transported to Cataract. Other pieces were built on-site. The building continued through 1936.

1937 Paul died after a long illness, his funeral held in the Glass Church. Matilda continued to work on the Grotto, adding colorful pieces of ^{glass, china, and seashells} to embellish the work.

(can over view of the 1950s
Brewer, part of
Forest & Wildlife, Mary
Gardner, other pieces about the Beach, StA,
heart, and Glass Church were constructed. The environment
grew to include an American flag & reproduction of the Wegners
garden. The first garden efforts Church and Beach Monument
pieces as well as other for replanting.)

The ship
constructed. Later,
heart, and
grew to include an American flag & reproduction of the Wegners
garden. The first garden efforts Church and Beach Monument
pieces as well as other for replanting.)

1920

1942 Mateilda died. Both Paul's and her graves were marked by monuments like those of the Grotto.

1986 The Kohler Foundation purchased the Grotto from the Neepes family. The Foundation began to restore the site, repairing the internal features as well as refurbishing surfaces and clearing the landscape.

1987 Once restoration was finished, the Foundation deeded the Grotto to Monroe County.

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Kohler
Wisconsin

Sources

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