

Descendants of George Selbher

First Generation

1. **George Selbher** was born on 05 Jan 1828 in Germany,¹ died on 23 Aug 1890 in Jasper Co., Iowa¹ at age 62, and was buried in Sugar Grove Cemetery-Metz, Jasper Co., Iowa.²

George married **Barbara Germann** on 21 Jul 1861.³ Barbara was born on 16 May 1834 in Lowdenow, Germany,¹ died on 02 Feb 1910 in Jasper Co., Iowa¹ at age 75, and was buried on 18 Feb 1910 in Sugar Grove Cemetery-Metz, Jasper Co., Iowa.²

Noted events in her life were:

- Death Notice: The Newton Daily News, 03 Feb 1910, Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa.⁴ Paralysis Causes Death

Mrs. Barbara Selbher was stricken with paralysis Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock. She died this morning at 12:30 at the farm five miles southwest of Newton where she made her home with her son, John Selbher. She was 77 years of age. The funeral will be held next Sunday at one p.m. at the home. Rev. W. Dieffenbach will have charge of the services. ~ The Newton Daily News, February 3, 1910.

- Her obituary was published in The Newton Journal on 09 Feb 1910 in Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa.⁵

Kind Woman Passed Away

Mrs. Barbara Selbher died last Thursday morning being almost seventy five years of age. The funeral was held from the residence on Sunday afternoon, conducted by Rev. W. Dieffenbach, and the remains laid to rest in the Metz cemetery by the side of her husband. A large concourse of friends were present at the funeral to pay their last tribute of love and respect.

The pall bearers were: Messrs. Howard Hickman, Frank Whittaker, Lou Helphrey, Charley Bruce, Bert Spencer and Henry Aillaud.

The deceased was born May 16, 1834 at Lowdenow (?), Germany. She grew to womanhood in that country and when about nineteen years of age came to the United States of America. On July 21st, 1861 she was married to Mr. George Selbher. To this union two children were born, a daughter, Mrs. Mary Harshner, and son, John Selbher, who survives.

Mrs. Selbher was confirmed a member of the Lutheran church when a small girl and remained faithful to her vow all during her life. She was much loved by all who knew her. She was kind to everyone and never lost an opportunity to minister to the wants of others.

Besides the son, who lives at home with his mother, and the daughter, Mrs. Harshner, Mrs. Selbher leaves three grandchildren, Mrs. Nick Vestige and Katie and Barbara Harshner, and one great grandchild, little Irene Vestige. The husband died about nineteen years ago.

Mrs. Selbher had been in her usual health until Monday evening when she was stricken with paralysis from which her death resulted. ~ The Newton Journal, February 9, 1910

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Children from this marriage were:

- 2 M i. **John W. Selbher** was born on 29 Jul 1869 in Jasper Co., Iowa,⁶ died on 07 Feb 1933 in Jasper Co., Iowa⁶ at age 63, and was buried on 10 Feb 1933 in Sugar Grove Cemetery-Metz, Jasper Co., Iowa.²
- John married **Alta Sanderson** (d. 25 Jan 1972) on 27 Mar 1912 in Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa.⁷
- 3 F ii. **Mary Ann Selbher** was born in 1862 in Iowa,⁸ died in 1935⁸ at age 73, and was buried in Palo Alto Cemetery-Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa.⁸
- Mary married **William Harshner** (d. 1934) about 1886.⁹

Second Generation (Children)

2. John W. Selbher (*George*¹) was born on 29 Jul 1869 in Jasper Co., Iowa,⁶ died on 07 Feb 1933 in Jasper Co., Iowa⁶ at age 63, and was buried on 10 Feb 1933 in Sugar Grove Cemetery-Metz, Jasper Co., Iowa.²

Noted events in his life were:

- His obituary was published in The Newton Daily News on 07 Feb 1933 in Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa.¹⁰

John Selbher Dies This Noon
Jasper County Farmer is Dead,
Following Prolonged Illness

John Selbher, 63, Jasper county farmer, died this afternoon at 12:30 o'clock at the Skiff Memorial hospital, following a major operation submitted to this morning. He had been in ill health for some time, suffering from osteomyelitis of the vertebra.

Mr. Selbher was taken to the hospital Saturday, from his home five and one-half miles southwest of Newton.

Funeral services are to be held Friday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock from the Lutheran church in Newton, with Dr. W. H. Blancke in charge. Interment will be in the Sugar Grove cemetery.

Mr. Selbher, who was born and raised in his county, would have observed his sixty-fourth birthday anniversary in July. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Alta Selbher; one son, George and sister, Mrs. Mary Harshner of near Newton. ~ The Newton Daily News, February 7, 1933

John married **Alta Sanderson**, daughter of **James Sanderson** and **Susannah Roush**, on 27 Mar 1912 in Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa.⁷ Alta was born on 05 Sep 1884 in Monroe, Jasper Co., Iowa,¹¹ died on 25 Jan 1972 in Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa¹¹ at age 87, and was buried on 28 Jan 1972 in Sugar Grove Cemetery-Metz, Jasper Co., Iowa.²

Noted events in her life were:

- Her obituary was published in The Newton Daily News on 25 Jan 1972 in Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa.¹²

Alta L. Selbher, 87, Dies Today; Services Friday

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Mrs. John (Alta L.) Selbher, 87, of Rt. 4, Newton, a resident of the Newton community since 1902, died this morning at Skiff Memorial Hospital in Newton.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Johnson Funeral Home.

Harold Den Hartog of the Metz Church will conduct the services. Burial will be in Sugar Grove Cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home after 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Survivors are a son, George, of Newton; three grandchildren, Mrs. Heinrich (Mary Joan) Obersteller, John Selbher and Mrs. James (Bette Lou) Fane, all of Newton; and four great-grandchildren, Monica, Meta and Ruth Obersteller and Kerry Fane. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1933.

Mrs. Selbher was a member of the United Presbyterian Church of Monroe and the Sugar Grove Grange, She had attended the Metz Church for many years where she had served as church pianist for many years.

She had formerly been a rural schoolteacher in Jasper County.

The daughter of James and Susanah Roush Sanderson, she was born Sept. 5, 1884 at Monroe. She attended Hazel Dell Academy in Newton and a business college in Des Moines.

She was married March 27, 1912 at Newton. ~ The Newton Daily News, January 25, 1972.

The child from this marriage was:

- 4 M i. **George Selbher** was born on 26 May 1913 in Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa,¹³ died on 06 Oct 1993 in Jasper Co., Iowa¹³ at age 80, and was buried on 09 Oct 1993 in Sugar Grove Cemetery-Metz, Jasper Co., Iowa.²

George married **Wanda Rorabaugh** (d. 12 Apr 2003) on 01 Mar 1938 in Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa.¹⁴

3. Mary Ann Selbher (*George*¹) was born in 1862 in Iowa,⁸ died in 1935⁸ at age 73, and was buried in Palo Alto Cemetery-Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa.⁸

Mary married **William Harshner** about 1886.⁹ William was born in May 1864 in Ohio,¹⁵ died in 1934⁸ at age 70, and was buried in Palo Alto Cemetery-Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa.⁸

Children from this marriage were:

- 5 F i. **Barbara Harshner** was born in Aug 1888 in Iowa.¹⁶
- 6 F ii. **Hattie Harshner** was born in Sep 1893 in Jasper Co., Iowa.¹⁶
- 7 F iii. **Elsie Irene Harshner** was born on 11 Jul 1897 in Jasper Co., Iowa,¹⁶ died on 28 Sep 1991 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., California at age 94, and was buried in Palo Alto Cemetery-Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa.¹⁷

Third Generation (Grandchildren)

4. George Selbher (*John W.*², *George*¹) was born on 26 May 1913 in Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co.,

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Iowa,¹³ died on 06 Oct 1993 in Jasper Co., Iowa¹³ at age 80, and was buried on 09 Oct 1993 in Sugar Grove Cemetery-Metz, Jasper Co., Iowa.²

Noted events in his life were:

- News Story: The Newton Daily News, 22 Jul 1916, Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa.¹⁸

Small Son of J.W. Selbher Burns Foot

George the three year old son of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Selbher who lives south and west of this city, badly burned his left knee yesterday when he fell into a pan of boiling hot water.

Mrs. Selbher's who was scrubbing the kitchen floor left the room for only a few minutes. While she was gone her small son fell into the hot water scalding and burning his left knee considerably.

A physician was called and the little fellow was made as comfortable as possible. ~ The Newton Daily News, July 22, 1916.

- His obituary was published in The Newton Daily News on 08 Oct 1993 in Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa.¹⁹

Funeral services for George W. Selbher, 80, of Rt. 2, Newton, a life-long resident of Jasper County, will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Reese Chapel.

The Rev. Gerald Quick and the Rev. Harold Den Hartog will conduct services. Burial will be in Sugar Grove Cemetery in rural Newton.

Friends may call at the funeral home today and visitation with the family will be held from 6 to 8 pm. today at the funeral home. Memorial to the Metz community Church will be accepted.

Survivors are his wife, Wanda; a son, John of Newton; two daughters, Mary Joan (Mrs. Henry) Obersteller and Bette Lou (Mrs. Robert) Knott, both of Newton; seven grandchildren; two step-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mr. Selbher, a longtime area farmer, was a member of the Metz Community Church, a 66-years member of the Sugar Grove Grange and a member of the Jasper County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Selbher, a board member of the Rural Jasper County Fire Department, had played for a number of years on the Metz baseball team. The son of John and Alta Sanderson Selbher, he was born May 26, 1913 on the Century Farm where he had resided his entire life. He was educated in Jasper County rural schools and was a 1930 graduate of Newton Community High School.

He was married to Wanda Rorabaugh March 1, 1938 in Des Moines. ~ Newton Daily News, Oct 8, 1993

George married **Wanda Rorabaugh**, daughter of **Fred O. Rorabaugh** and **Mary Jane Hummell**, on 01 Mar 1938 in Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa.¹⁴ Wanda was born on 10 Mar 1914 in Mound Prairie Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa,¹⁴ died on 12 Apr 2003 in Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa¹⁴ at age 89, and was

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buried on 15 Apr 2003 in Sugar Grove Cemetery-Metz, Jasper Co., Iowa.²

Noted events in her life were:

- Her obituary was published in The Newton Daily News on 14 Apr 2003 in Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa.²⁰

Wanda R. Selbher: Wanda Selbher, 89 of Newton, died Saturday, April 12, at Skiff Medical Center in Newton.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Reese Chapel in Newton. Burial will be at Sugar Grove Cemetery in rural Newton. Reese Funeral Home in Newton is handling arrangements.

Memorials will be accepted to Metz Community Church or Sugar Grove Cemetery.

The daughter of Fred and Mary (Hummel) Rorabaugh, she was born March 10, 1914, in Jasper County. She married George Selbher on March 10, 1938, in Des Moines. Mrs. Selbher was a 70-year member of Metz Community Church and several local granges. She enjoyed fishing and gardening.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, John and Susan Selbher of rural Newton; two daughters and sons-in-law, Mary and Henry Obersteller and Bette and Bob Knott both of rural Newton; seven grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; two step-grandchildren and one step-great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, four brothers and one nephew. ~ Newton Daily News, April 14, 2003, pg. 2A

Children from this marriage were:

- 8 F i. **Mary Joan Selbher.**
- 9 M ii. **John Selbher.**
- 10 F iii. **Betty Lou Selbher.**

5. Barbara Harshner (*Mary Ann Selbher*², *George*¹) was born in Aug 1888 in Iowa.¹⁶

6. Hattie Harshner (*Mary Ann Selbher*², *George*¹) was born in Sep 1893 in Jasper Co., Iowa.¹⁶

7. Elsie Irene Harshner (*Mary Ann Selbher*², *George*¹) was born on 11 Jul 1897 in Jasper Co., Iowa,¹⁶ died on 28 Sep 1991 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., California at age 94, and was buried in Palo Alto Cemetery-Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa.¹⁷

Fourth Generation (Great-Grandchildren)

8. Mary Joan Selbher (*George*³, *John W.*², *George*¹).

9. John Selbher (*George*³, *John W.*², *George*¹).

10. Betty Lou Selbher (*George*³, *John W.*², *George*¹).

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Source Citations

1. Tombstone.
2. *Cemetery Records*, Sugar Grove Cemetery.
3. *Obituary*, of Barbara Germann Selbher.
4. "Barbara (Germann) Selbher," (*Newton*) *The Newton Daily News*, 3 Feb 1910.
5. "Kind Woman Passed Away," (*Newton*) *The Newton Journal*, 09 Feb 1910.
6. Death Records, Jasper Co., Iowa Death Record, Book 2, page 71.
7. *Marriage Records*, Jasper Co. Iowa Marriage Record 3 1907-1916, page 81 #5428.
8. *Cemetery Records*, Jasper Co. Iowa Cemeteries Palo Alto Twp., Palo Alto Cemetery, page 37.
9. *Census*, 1900 U.S. Census Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa.
10. "John Selbher Dies This Noon," (*Newton*) *The Newton Daily News*, Feb 7 1933.
11. Death Records, Jasper Co., Iowa Death Record Book R10-1366.
12. "Alta L. Selbher, 87, Dies Today; Services Friday," (*Newton*) *The Newton Daily News*, 25 Jan 1972.
13. *Obituary*, of George Selbher.
14. *Obituary*, of Wanda Rorabaugh Selbher.
15. *Census*, 1910 U.S. Census Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa.
16. *Census*, 1900 U.S. Census, Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa.
17. *Cemetery Records*, 1900 U.S. Census, Palo Alto Twp., Jasper Co., Iowa.
18. "Small Son of J.W. Selbher Burns Foot," (*Newton*) *The Newton Daily News*, July 22 1916.
19. "Obituary: George W. Selbher," (*Newton*) *The Newton Daily News*, Oct 8 1993.
20. "Obituary - Wanda Selbher," (*Newton*) *The Newton Daily News*, 14 Apr 2003, p. 2A.