

## Susanna Katharina “Kate” Agenstein

Susanna Katharina “Kate” Agenstein was born 1 March 1857 in Diemtigen, Bern, Switzerland.<sup>1</sup> She was the third of five children of Gottlieb Agenstein and Maria Rauber. Her mother died in 1863 and her father married a woman who was working in his home, taking care of his four young daughters. They had five children.<sup>2</sup> Kate’s stepmother was baptized into the Mormon Church in 1869, followed by her father and three of the daughters.<sup>3</sup> Her father, stepmother, and five children traveled by train and boat to Liverpool, where they sailed 13 July 1870 to Queenstown Ireland and New York City on the ship "Manhattan". They arrived on 26 July 1870.<sup>4</sup>

The company of 250 Saints, many Swiss, boarded a special train at New York City on 29 July 1870. They traveled for ten days and arrived in Ogden, Utah Territory on 6 August 1870. There was a smallpox epidemic there, so they sent the train on to Salt Lake City. Halfway there, they shunted to let a train pass them, which stopped and let out Brigham Young, George A. Smith and Daniel H. Wells. They went through our train, shaking hands with everyone.<sup>5</sup> They settled in Logan, Cache, Utah Territory.<sup>6</sup>

In 1871, Kate’s father and stepmother were baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. A Catharine Agenstein is also listed on the membership rolls.<sup>7</sup> Her parents moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where her stepmother operated a hotel and restaurant.<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, Kate was a waitress at the Cosmopolitan Restaurant, living in the home of Margaret Grambs, in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, in 1880.<sup>9</sup> She was made a naturalized citizen in 1884.<sup>10</sup>

She married George H Bennett about 1884 in Utah Territory. He was a store clerk in Silver Reef in 1880.<sup>11</sup> They had seven children, two of whom died young. They lived in American Fork, Utah, Utah Territory. They had moved to Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, by 1890<sup>12</sup>, where George was a store clerk.<sup>13</sup> On the 1900 census, she was living with her husband and five children in Salt Lake City Ward 2, Salt Lake, Utah. George was working as a mining company bookkeeper.<sup>14</sup> He died in 1902 in Salt Lake City.<sup>15</sup>

On the 1910 and 1920 censuses, Kate was living with her five children in Salt Lake City.<sup>16</sup> Only her youngest daughter married, the other children were single their whole lives.<sup>17</sup> In 1930, she was living

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<sup>1</sup> Switzerland Baptisms, 1491-1940; Schweiz, Taufen, 1491-1940.

<sup>2</sup> *Familysearch.org*

<sup>3</sup> Observations on the Swiss Background of the Kunz Family, by Paul Anthon-Nielson.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*; New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891; Journal of Josiah Marsh Ferrin.

<sup>5</sup> *fortiefamily.blogspot.com*

<sup>6</sup> Observations on the Swiss Background of the Kunz Family, by Paul Anthon-Nielson.

<sup>7</sup> Early Members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

<sup>8</sup> Mission Record of David Kunz’s First Mission to Switzerland and Germany, 1884, p. 135.

<sup>9</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>10</sup> United States Census, 1920.

<sup>11</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>12</sup> Child born 1890 in Salt Lake City (Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964).

<sup>13</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 29 November 1896, p. 5.

<sup>14</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>15</sup> Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 849-1949.

<sup>16</sup> United States Census, 1910, 1920.

<sup>17</sup> *Familysearch.org*

with her son in Salt Lake City, and in 1940 she was living with two of her children.<sup>18</sup> She died of pneumonia on 2 February 1944 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. She was buried in the Mount Olivet Cemetery.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> United States Census, 1930, 1940.

<sup>19</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949.