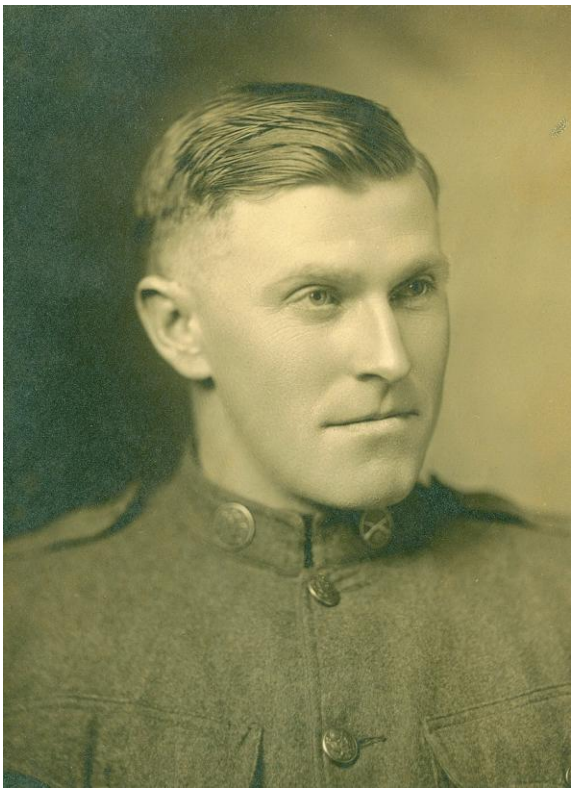
GRANDPA BEN MORMANN



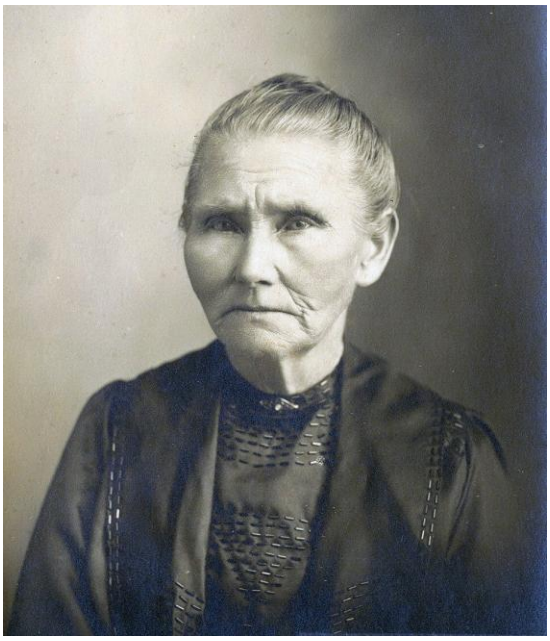
My grandfather was born on February 19, 1889 in Petersburg, Iowa. He was the son of John Mormann and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Tepke.

Grandpa's education was 8 years of Catholic school graduating from St. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Petersburg, Iowa. He had 7 brothers and two sisters.

When World War 1 broke out Bernard was drafted into the Army. He served 18 months of which one year was in Europe on the front line. He spoke 5 languages of which 3 were different German dialects. He worked for the military as an interpreter. During the course of his duty in Europe his unit was gassed by mustard gas. Some relatives feel this contributed to his early death.

Grandpa worked as a farmhand before he was drafted. He met my grandmother Mollie in 1914. They were married on November 25th, 1919. After they married they moved to the farmstead northeast of Adrian where Grandpa lived for the rest of his life. They had 4 children, Norbert, Alvin, my mother, Armella and Gregor. Grandpa bought his first tractor 2 years before he died. He farmed with horses almost his whole life. Grandpa died on April 12th, 1946 at the age of 56 from a heart condition.

Note: Below is the internet address of Grandpa's obituary. It lists as an attendee Thresia Luttermann. The name is misspelled but that is Joanne's mother Teresa.
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iadelawa/obits/mormannbernardobit.htm



Lizzie Mormann (Elizabeth Tepke), mother of Grandpa Bernard. She was born in 1856 and died in 1939. Lizzie and her husband John farmed in Petersburg, Iowa. They had 7 boys and 2 girls. In the summer of 1887 tragedy struck the family. Four of the boys died from black diphtheria. It was all their children at that point. Years later Lizzie Mormann told her daughter-in-law, Mollie about it. She said she would say it once and they were not to talk about it again. Obviously very painful. Two years after the deaths of the four children my grandfather Bernard was born.

The Bernard and Mollie Mormann family in 1939. From the left: Alvin, Grandma Mollie, Gregor, Grandpa Bernard, my mother Armella, and Norbert.