

Bechler Family Cemetery

By Dave Hallemann



This beautiful well-kept cemetery with its new fence is located in T42 R4 S34 NW¼ of the SW¼ .

38° 19' 51" N / 90° 34' 14" W

The tract was originally entered as a new location by Edward Young on August 28th, 1851, Surveyor Generals Certificate # 142, Reg. # 229, Com. Letter March 7th, 1883, as

recorded in Original Entries Book 2.

Evidentially Edward Young sold the property to Freronica Kuhl at some point in time before 1858, however I could not locate the record of this transaction.

On October 14, 1858 Freronica Kuhl sells the tract to Frederick Pfaff "...NW ¼ of the SW ¼ and the NE ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 34 Township 42 Range 4, containing 80 acres. Also 1 mare, 1 yoke of oxen, 2 cows and calves, 2 wagons, 2 plows, now on said land..." as recorded in Book P at Page 18.

For some unknown reason Frederick Pfaff sells the above named tract and personal property back to Freronica Kuhl, on December 1st, 1858, as recorded in Book P at Page 75.

On May 2nd, 1864 Joseph Bechler purchases the tract, for \$450.⁰⁰, from Francis Kuhl and Freronica his wife, of Macoupin Co., Ill., "...NW ¼ of the SW ¼ and the NE ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 34 Township 42 Range 4, containing 80 acres, being same land secondly described in and conveyed by deed from Frederick Pfaff to said Freronica Kuhl recorded in Book P Page 75...", this transaction recorded in Book T at Page 494.

In probate record case # 2318, Joseph Bechler appointed John F. Bechler, his son, Administrator of his Last Will and Testament. His will gives to Ernestina his wife, a life interest in the property, John F. Bechler to have the farm containing 150 acres in all, Emma his single daughter \$1000.⁰⁰ cash, the rest of the estate divided equally between, John F., Emma, Caroline Miller wife of Edward, Louise Ottomeyer wife of William. Dr. John E. Miller was paid \$6.⁵⁰ for his services. The farm listed as N ½ & SE ¼ of the SW ¼ and the E ¾ of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 34 Township 42 Range 4.

In probate case # 3942, date January 25th, 1915, Ernestina Bechler's will appointed Emma G. Eisenhauer Administrator, with heirs Gusta Bristenstine nee Moran of Kansas City, Mo.; Caroline Miller nee Bechler of Jefferson County; Louise Ottomeyer nee Bechler of Jefferson County; Emma G. Eisenhauer nee Bechler of Jefferson County; Joseph Bechler;

grandchild of Jefferson County, Caroline Bechler, grandchild of Jefferson County; Mary Bechler, grandchild of Jefferson County; and Della Bechler, grandchild of Jefferson County. Ernestina was buried by Brimmer and Sons of House Spring, submitting a charge of \$80.⁰⁰; a charge of \$32.⁰⁰ submitted by Dr. Charles Williams attending physician; and the estate paid Aug. Heligtag and Son, of Antonia, Mo., \$122.⁰⁰, 1 monument for Ernestina. *Remember that Ernestina did not own the farm; she only had a life estate in it. John F. Bechler, her son, had possession of the tract.*

In Probate Case # 3711, John F. Bechler, Amelia (Eisenhauer) Bechler, is appointed administrator, with heirs listed as Amelia, wife; Joseph J., son; Caroline, daughter; Mary, daughter; Della, daughter; all of Jefferson County. Property listed as "...W ½ of the SE ¼, SE ¼ of the SW ¼, and the E part of the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ containing 150 acres...", the Joseph Bechler farm. On January 17th, 1914, Aug. Heilatag and Son submitted a bill for \$95.⁰⁰, one black draped casket, shaving and services, embalming, arm crepe, and gloves for pallbearers. Jefferson County Marble and Granite Works of De Soto submitted a bill for \$108.⁰⁰ for 1 marble monument and (opening grave?) Records show that John F. Bechler, born June 11th, 1866 and died October 7th, 1913, and Amelia L. Bechler, born October 24th, 1876 died January 6th, 1962 are buried in Glade Chapel Church Cemetery just two miles south of this cemetery.

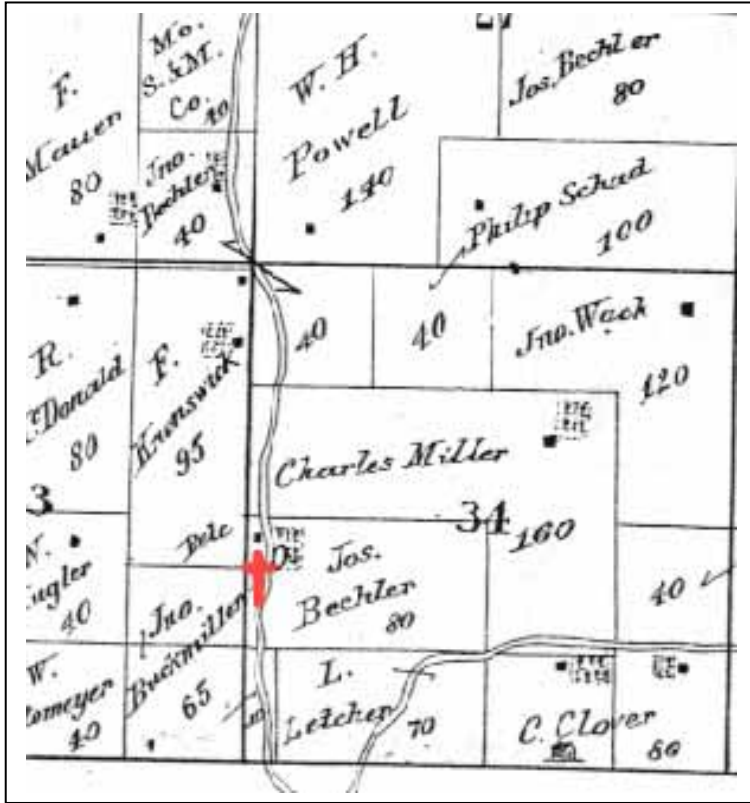
As can be seen in the above probates, Caroline was the granddaughter of Joseph Bechler, daughter of John F. Bechler, and acquired the interest of the other heirs. Caroline was born on Monday June 26th, 1899 and died on Wednesday October 6th, 1982 at 83 years 3 months 11 days. and is also buried in Glade Chapel Cemetery.

In deed dated June 11th, 1976, after the farm being in the Bechler family for 112 years, Caroline Bechler, a single person, sells a part of the original farm to Robert L. and Kathleen M. Taylor, "Part of the SW ¼ of Section 34 Township 42 Range 4...*Less and Excepting from said tract a Cemetery located therein.*"

With this deed we can establish the "official" name of this cemetery as ***Bechler Family Cemetery.***

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Taylors for their wonderful efforts at restoring and maintaining this cemetery.

Bechler Family Cemetery

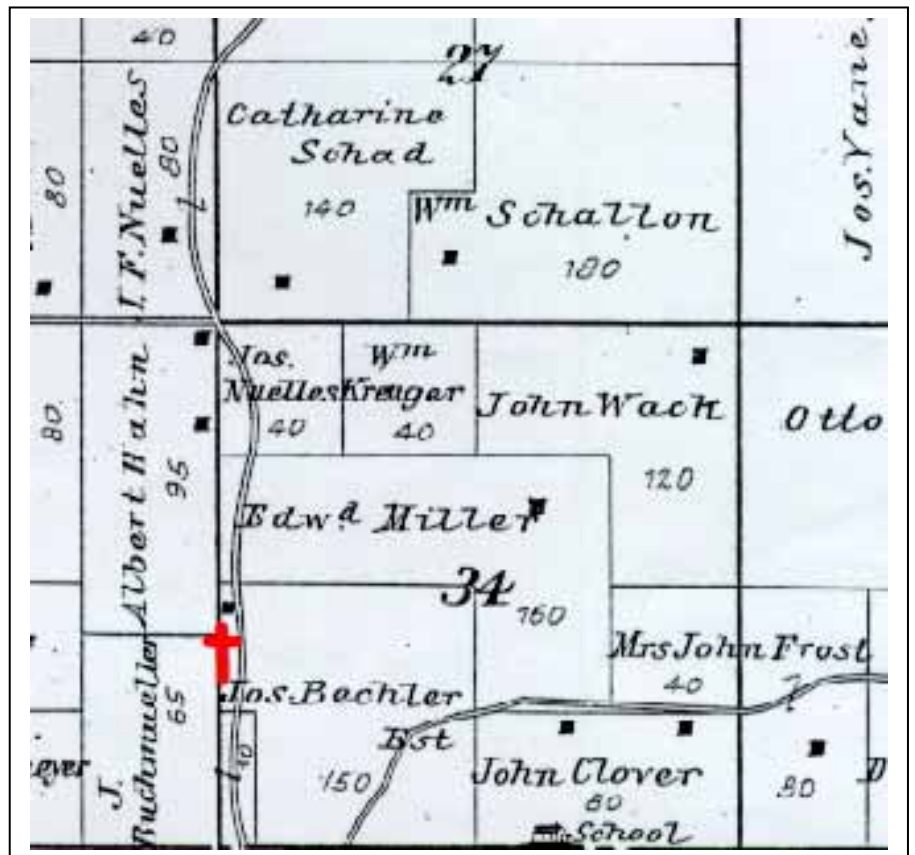


As can be seen in the picture at left, in 1876 the Joseph Bechler is in possession of the property. The cross I added to the photo to denote the location of this family cemetery.

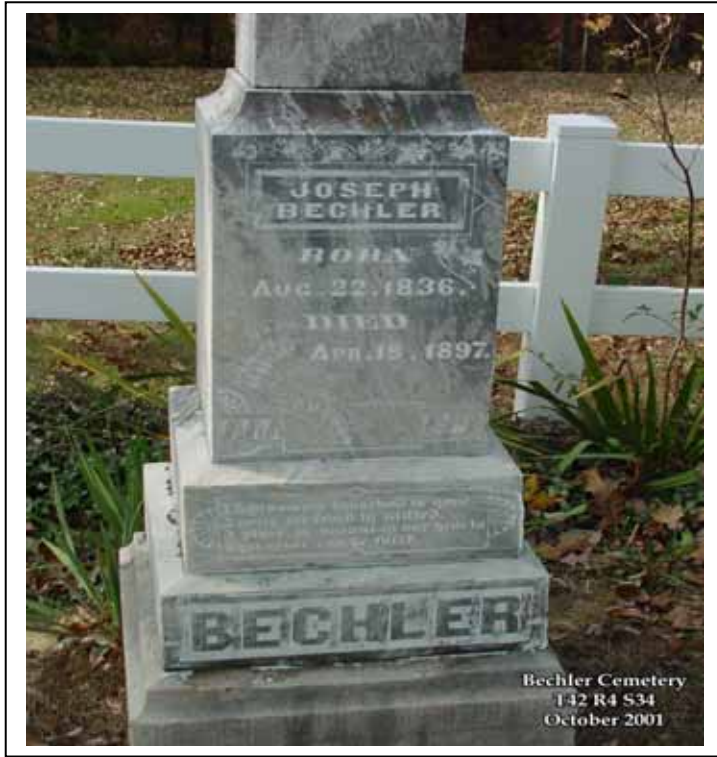
The "Bele" located to the left of the cemetery is unknown.

By 1898 the Estate of Joseph Bechler has ownership of this tract. As before I added the cross to show location of this graveyard.

The school located on the Clover property was Mount Olive School.



The following persons are listed on the monuments in this cemetery; also all monuments are accompanied by footstones;



Joseph Bechler

Born
August 22, 1836

Died
April 18, 1897

(Aged 60y 7m 27d)

*A light from our household is gone,
A voice we loved is stilled,
A place is vacant in our hearts,
That never can be filled.*

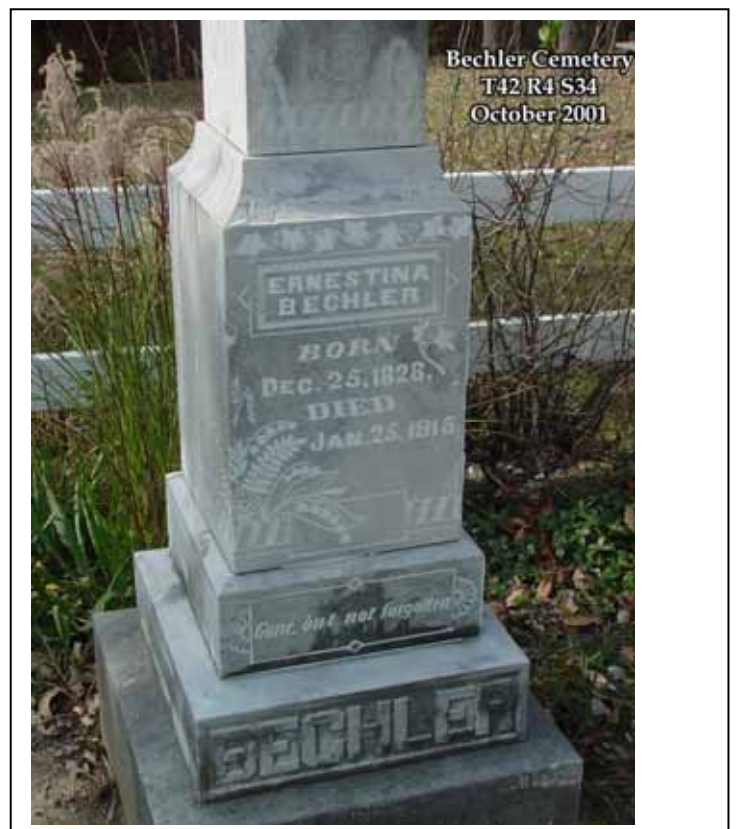
Ernestina Bechler

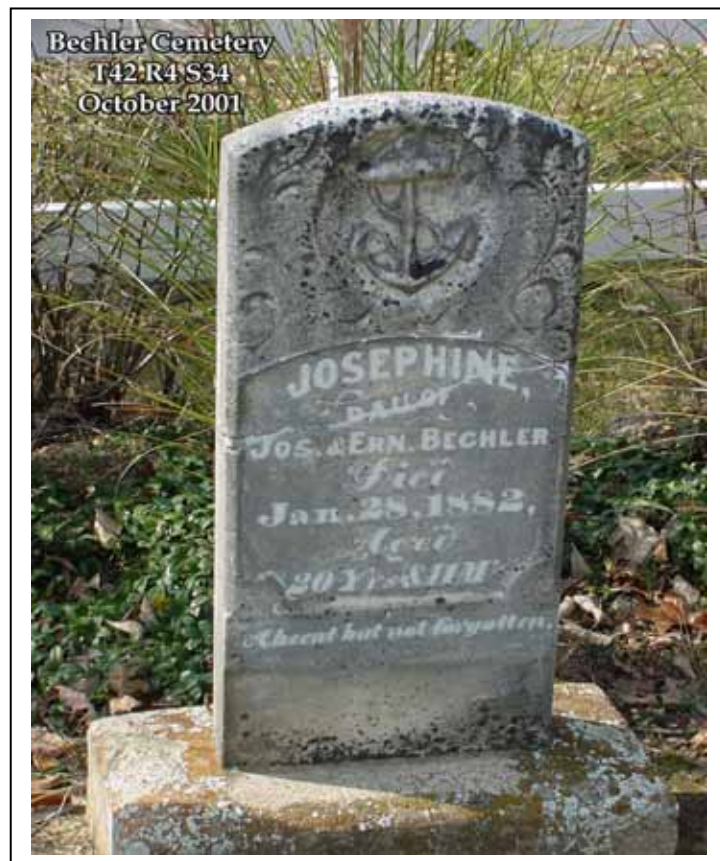
Born
December 25, 1828

Died
January 25, 1915

(Aged 86y 1m)

Gone but Not Forgotten





Josephine Bechler

Dau. Of
Joe. & Ern. Bechler

Died
January 28, 1882

Aged
20 years & 11 Months

(Born February 1861)

Ship Anchor in Circle on top
Absent but not forgotten

As can be seen in the first picture of the complete cemetery, there are two graves between Josephine, John and Mary's monument, and possibly one to the left of Joseph's. Also the green grassy area in front of the fence is part of the cemetery. The property owners did not know who is buried there. Also there is a short concrete retaining wall around the back side of the cemetery that once had decorative blocks placed along the top.



John Bechler

1838-1895

Mary Bechler

1845-1932

The John and Mary Bechler buried here are *probably* Joseph Bechler's brother and his wife. Joseph and John were born two years apart.

Probate Case # 2774, John Bechler, list Mary Bechler as his administrator, heirs were Josephine, Ed, Sophia, Charles, John Bechler, all minors; Joseph, Mary, Martin, George, and Frank Bechler. Dr. John E. Miller attending doctor. Bill of \$30.⁰⁰ submitted by Coxwell and Son for burial case, burial robe, and 6 pairs of gloves for pallbearers.

Coxwell funeral parlor records list John as dying of a stroke, at age 55 years, and being buried on the Bechler farm, and Joseph, died of Heart trouble, buried on the home.

On page 446 of Goodspeed's History, Joseph Beckler (sic) was postmaster of Belew's Creek Post office. And on page 426 Joseph Bechler is listed as First Lieutenant of Company I under Captain William F. Ottomeier.

The 1880 Census list John Bechler as 41-year-old farmer, his wife Mary A. 34, son Martin 16, son Joseph 13, son Frank 11, son George 9, daughter Mary 6, and son John 1. All the children being born in Missouri.

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