**Link (Linke) Family Papers**

**Date Range: about 1912-1970s**

**Historic Homestead Town Hall Museum**

**41 North Krome Avenue, Homestead, FL 33030**

**Creator:** Lena Ritter Link and Barbara Hirsch Linke

**Extent:**  1 legal half box (.21 linear feet)

**Accession Number:** 2013.005

**Language:** English

**Processed by:** Katherine L. Fleming, June 2022

**Acquisition Information**:

Collection donated by Judy Anne Linke Wilson

**Cite as:** Link/Linke Family Papers

**Biographical and Organizational History:**

**Lena May Ritter,** and her twin sister who died at age 9, were born September 22, 1866, in Springfield, Massachusetts, to a German father and Swiss school teacher mother, Louis and Catherine Ritter. The Ritters had arrived in America in 1861. Lena died on April 1, 1958, in Homestead, Florida. In 1884, Lena married **Fred Rudolph Link** (1862-1945 December 19), a barber who had changed the spelling of his last name from the German Linke. Link had arrived in America from Germany as a child and lived in New York and then in Massachusetts. A few years after his marriage, Link grew restless and Lena agreed to move to the Pacific Northwest with him and their two children. Their children were **Fred Rudolph Link (later Linke), Jr.** and **Anna Link (later Littlefield)**. Halfway through the journey Lena left her husband and returned to Springfield with her children. During the 1890s, she became foreman of the bindery department of Phelps Publishing Company in Springfield where she supervised the hand-binding of Good Housekeeping magazine. Lena divorced Fred in 1906.

In 1912, Fred Link visited his sister **Annie (Anna Theresa) Linke Fuchs** and brother-in-law, **Charles T. (Karl Theodor) Fuchs, Sr.** in Milan, Tennessee, on his way from Oregon to South Florida to look for a homestead. Fred convinced Charles, who was already hoping to relocate, to visit South Florida. In January or February of 1912, the men explored the region. Both loved the area, and Charles bought a house and land on Avocado Drive near Homestead from the Fred Thomas family. After returning to Milan, Charles sold the bakery to his partner and, in April, the family moved to Homestead. Fred Link moved to South Florida the following year. (Fred Link obituary, December 21, 1945, Homestead Leader and Enterprise; *Papa Fuchs’ Family, 1881-1981*, p. 14-15, 85; clippings).

Charles T. Fuchs had been born in Germany on November 9, 1864, and immigrated to the United States while in his teens. After he married Annie Linke, they operated a butter and eggs store in New York City. In 1904, the family moved to Germantown, Tennessee, where Charles’ brother Jacob lived. Charles acquired a farm then later bought a bakery in Milan, Tennessee. After moving to Homestead in 1913, Fuchs and Richard Linke, who also moved to Homestead, acquired the W. Nobles Homestead Bakery and Meat Market, and renamed it Linke and Fuchs Homestead Bakery and Meat Market. After a couple of months, Linke and his wife, who did not like the area, moved away. Charles then moved the old wooden store to the rear of the property and built a poured concrete structure. In March 1913, Charles and his son Charles, Jr. opened Fuchs and Son, a bakery and grocery, at that location on Krome Avenue at 1st Street. Annie worked as the cashier.

In 1921, the bakery moved to South Flagler Avenue, while the grocery remained at Krome Avenue. Charles, Jr., was given the Fuchs Bakery and his father continued to manage the grocery on Krome Avenue. Charlie (Jr.) urged his brother-in-law, Tom Faust (Elizabeth Pipes Fuchs’ sister’s husband), to move from West Virginia to join him in the business. In 1926, Tom moved to Homestead with his wife, Mary Pipes Faust and their son Rex. The business was incorporated on April 26, 1926 with Charlie as president and Tom (T. J.) Faust and L. L. Chandler (a friend) as associates. The bakery continued to grow, and in 1927, the company moved to a larger facility at South East 2nd Road. In 1930, the Fuchs Baking Company open a relay station at 621 West Flagler Street in Miami. Since much of his business was located closer to Miami, in 1934 (after Charlie and Elizabeth divorced) the company moved to Robert Dorn’s Riviera Theater Building (which had opened in September 1926) on South Dixie Highway in South Miami. The business became known as the Holsum Bakery.

In 1921, Charles, Sr. became vice-president of the Homestead Bank. In 1925, Charles T. Fuchs took his son **Richard Fuchs**, who had just graduated from high school, and **Russell Horne** to Europe. After their return to the United States, **Lena Link** joined them in New York and traveled with them to Homestead, Florida (clipping from her 89th birthday). While in Homestead, she encountered her former husband Fred Link for the first time in 31 years. He persuaded her to remarry him and move to South Florida. They remarried in 1926. With her children grown, Lena Link settled her affairs in Springfield and relocated to Homestead, Florida. The couple first lived at the corner of Roberts Road and Waldin Drive before building a home on Link’s 40 acres north of Waldin Drive on the corner of Bauer Drive and Roberts Road (264th Street and 182nd Avenue). In 1935, the effects of Great Depression and devastating hurricanes pushed the couple toward bankruptcy. To improve their financial situation, in 1936, Lena took in a few elderly boarders who were sent by the county welfare board to what became known as Camp Happy. Eventually, she improved the main house and service buildings and added eight cottages for her 28 guests. This effort resulted in Camp Happy, a private home for the aged. An amateur artist, Lena decorated the wall of Camp Happy with her artwork. She began painting figurines after she turned 80.

Lena was a member of the Redland District Chamber of Commerce (joining in 1944), the Crime Commission of Greater Miami, the Homestead Art Club, the Homestead Business and Professional Women’s Club, the Liberty Rebekah Lodge and the local V. F. W. Auxiliary. She was a director of the Soroptimist Club of Homestead, a life member of James Archer Smith Hospital Auxiliary, and an honorary member of Redland District Golf and Country Club.

Lena and Fred Link’s daughter, **Anna Louisa Link** (1886-1932) married **Austin Ray Littlefield** (b. 1886) and remained in the North. Their son, **Fred Rudolph Linke, Jr.** (May 29, 1885-1956, buried in West Springfield), who was a photo engraver and used the original German spelling of the family name, married **Glenna Mary Kenyon** (1890-1943) on December 3, 1907, in Springfield Massachusetts, and lived in Coventry, Rhode Island. After Lena’s husband Fred died in 1945, her son Fred, whose wife Glenna had died two years earlier, moved to Florida to stay with her. Fred (Jr.) worked for Engravers, Inc. in Miami (Redland District News, August 9, 1946). Lena’s obituary lists her survivors as the six children of Fred and Glenna Linke including grandsons, **Fred Wesley Linke** (b. 1908) of Jacksonville, **Richard Curtis Linke** of Springfield, and **Kenneth Ray Linke** (1916 February 24-1990 February 10) of Homestead (Miami Herald, April 2, 1958) and granddaughters **Ruth Naomi Linke Holden** (who married Donald Holden) of Kendall, **Dorothy Louse Linke Marshall** (November 30, 1912-August 21, 2015), who married James Pivey Marshall (b. 1900) of Barrington, Rhode Island, on May 29, 1936 (FamilySearch), and **Beatrice May Linke Hood** (who married John Hood) of New York, fourteen great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren (Homestead News, April 3, 1958). (Homestead Leader-Enterprise, September 21, 1951; Papa Fuchs’ Family, 1881-1981 by Doris S. Silver, Korth Co., Inc., Miami, Fla., 1982. Chapter 7, pages 85-87)

Fred Rudolph Linke, Jr. and Glenna Mary Kenyon Linke’s son **Kenneth Ray Linke** was born in West Springfield, Massachusetts, on February 24, 1916, died February 10, 1990, in Atlanta, Georgia, and is buried in Palms Woodlawn Cemetery in Naranja, Florida. He married **Barbara Frances Hirsch** on June 21, 1941, at West Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts. Barbara was born September 24, 1922, in Springfield, Massachusetts, to Emanuel and Isabelle Dora Eagan, died on May 17, 1973, and is buried in Palms Woodland Cemetery. Fred and Glenna moved to Homestead in 1948. Barbara Linke was active in the Homestead Elks and Anna Miller Circle. The Elks’ shows raised funds for the Harry Anna Home for crippled children at Umatilla, Florida. She had formerly worked on YWCA productions in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

Barbara Linke directed the first **Homestead Elk Club** minstrel show, “The Cotton Blossom Review,” in 1953. The second show “Showboat” was presented in 1954. “Basin Street Saturday Night” in 1955 included an act written by Mrs. Jill Mallory for Roy Haynes and John Balfe. The minstrel show was held November 10-12 at the Redland Farm Labor Camp (October 20, 1955, Leader Enterprise). Mrs. Cohen Leggett directed “The Old Time Minstrel Review” in 1956 and “Dogpatch Days in Homestead,” based on the popular comic strip, in 1957. Linke, with Mrs. Mallory assisting, resumed directing in 1958 with “Southland Jubilee.” In 1959, “The Modern Minstrel Review” was the first show to be presented in the Elks’ new auditorium. “Minstrel Memories” was presented in 1960.

 In 1961, the Elks presented “Showtime—1754.” The entire show was written and directed by Barbara Linke, assisted by Jill Mallory. In 1962, the tenth annual show featured professionals and local talent including barber-shop quartets. It was directed by Barbara Linke with musical direction by Eddie Baumgartner and choreography by Jill Mallory. In 1963, the Four Seasons Revue,” written and directed by Barbara Linke with Jill Mallory as choreographer, took place with a cast including members of the Elks, Anna Miller Circle, and local residents. President Kennedy’s assassination earlier in the day, November 22, 1963, caused the show to be canceled. “Make ‘Em Laugh” took place in November 1964, written and directed by Barbara Linwe with Mary Jane Romer as assistant director, Jill Mallory choreographer, and William J. Moss as musical director. In 1965, Linke directed “Circus Daze” assisted by Mrs. Romer and choreographer Jill Mallory.

In November 1962, Link instructed Civil Defense classes at the Homestead Elks Lodge at U.S. 1 and NE Eighth Street. She also taught classes at City Hall, that were then moved to Tom Harris Field. After Barbara’s death, Kenneth married Sarah Florence Smith Davis (February 10, 1921-April 2, 2004) on December 14, 1973, in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Sarah, whose maiden name was Smith, had previously married Carlton D. Davis.

Kenneth Linke and Barbara Hirsh Linke’s daughter **Judy Ann Linke** wasborn in Springfield, Massachusetts. The family moved to Homestead in 1948 when Ken’s father Fred Linke relocated from Massachusetts to care for his mother Lena Link. Judy married **Frederick N. Wilson** in May 1964 in Dade County, Florida. (Find-a-grave)

**Scope and Content:**

This collection documents the activities of the Link/Linke family and their relatives including the Fuchs and Redd families. Most materials and activities relate to South Florida and include business, recreational, school, and family activities. The papers include photographs and other materials related to the Elks Club including minstrel shows and other musical presentations.

**Arrangement:**

Arranged into series according to family member and material: 1. Lena Link, 2. Fred R. Link, 3. Barbara Hirsch Linke, 4. Judy Ann Linke (Wilson) Papers, 5. Link and Fuchs Families clippings, and 6. Photographs.

**Subjects:**

Blackface entertainers

American wit and humor

Camp Happy (Redland, Fla.)

Civil defense—1940-1950

Community and school—United States

Elks (Fraternal order)—Lodge No. 1754 (Homestead, Fla.)

Elks Club (Homestead, Fla.)

Family life—Florida.

Linke, Barbara Hirsch, 1922-1973

Linke, Lena Ritter, 1866-1958

Minstrel shows—United States

Redland Junior High School (Redland, Fla.)—Students—Yearbooks

**Related Collections:**

Fuchs Family Papers

**Description:**

Box Folder Contents

Series 1: Lena Ritter Link Papers, 1948-1958

1 1 Telegram from “Dottie” (Dorothy Louis Linke, later Marshall) at West Warwick, Rhode Island, to “folks” and “Mrs. Fred R. Linke” (Lena Link) at Homestead, Florida, concerning her upcoming marriage, 1937 May 27.

1 2 “A Demonstration Rhyme” poem written by “Mrs. Fred Linke, Homestead, Fla.” The inscription was probably written by a relative, not Lena Link, who spelled her name without an “e” contrary to the other Linke relatives. It could have been written in the 1920s, 1930s, or 1940s. The poem is about the Home Demonstration Club and the creation of rag rugs.

1 3 Honorary Life Membership Certificate, Redland Chamber of Commerce, 1951 September 22.

1 4 Business card, “Lena Link owner Camp Happy,”1950s; photocopy of envelope addressed to Camp Happy, 1954; and envelope addressed to Mrs. Lena Link, Camp Happy Home for Aged, 1956

1 5 “Alphabet Toast” cards toasting Lena Link at her 86th birthday party, 1952 September 22

1 6 Clippings and copies of clippings includes obituary, 1948-1958

Series 2: Fred R. Link [Sr.] Papers, 1917, 1943-1945

1 7 Letter from the United States Customs Service at Key West, Florida, authorizing Link’s passage to Havana, Cuba, on the S. S. Olivette, 1917 June 25

1 8 Clippings includes obituary, 1943, 1945

Series 3: Barbara Hirsch Linke Papers, 1914, 1954-1962

1 9 Civil Defense and Disaster

a *A Textbook of Civil Defense for Dade County Public Schools: It can happen here* by Leo L. Boles, Dade County School Defense Bulletin No. 2, July 1954, Dade County Public Schools, Miami, Florida, W. R. Thomas, Superintendent. Chemical, biological, radiological warfare, and other types of attacks discussed. Be prepared.

b Photocopy image of Barbara Linke and another woman with Dade County Florida CD (Civil Defense) sleeve patch, 1950s

c Manufacturers of Shelter Equipment (list), November 25, 1959

d Dealers for shelters manufactured by Wonder Building Corporation of America put out by State of Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, about 1960

e Adult Education, Personal Survival in Disaster, agenda, May 13, 1961

1 Elks Lodge materials:

#### 1 10 Minstrel Cross-Fire:clever come-backs for the endman and interlocutor, by Harry L. (Harry Lee, b. 1872), Newton, Chicago: T.S. Denison & Co., 1914. PN4305.N6 N493 1914 [pamphlet, 24 p., 18 cm.].

1 11 “Honey Gal Minstrels” copywrite by Sheets Mayo. Directors Instructions, includes script [mimeographed book, not in WorldCat] by Skeets Mayo (died in 1962) Stage Productions, Nashville, Tennessee. Includes rental prices for minstrel costumes from Sheets Mayo Costume Company.

#### 1 12 “Down in Dear Old Homestead (Sunny F-L-A)" handwritten sheet music. Words and music by Ted Fisher, 1954. American Recording and Transcription Service, Inc., Miami, Florida (founded in 1945 by Harold E. Doane).

1 13 "Anything you can Do" annotated sheet music and notes.

1 14 "Gas Lights to Satellites," 10th annual charity benefit (program), presented by Homestead Elks and Anna Miller Circle, 1962. Barbara Linke, director. To raise money for the Harry Anna Home for crippled children at Umatilla, Florida.

1 15 Barbara Linke membership card, Anna Miller Circle, Elks Lodge, 1964 April 15.

1 16 Clippings, mid-1950s and 1961 concerning Barbara Linke and minstrel shows.

Series 4: Judy Ann Linke (Wilson) Papers, 1949-1957

1 17 Redland Kindergarten graduation program for 1949

1 18 *Redland Rattler* [yearbook], 1956, Redland Junior High School

1 19 *Redland Rattler* [yearbook], 1957, Redland Junior High School

Series 5: Link and Fuchs Families clippings, 1930s-1970s

1 20 Clippings related to family members, 1939-1950s, including Glenna Linke, Beatrice Link, Fred W. Link and Fred Fuchs

1 21 Clippings related to Fuchs family members, about 1949, 1973, and 1970s

Series 6: Photographs, 1912-early 1960s

Fuchs Family

1. 22 Fuchs family (2 images, 2 5/8 x 3 ½ inches, B&W)

a. Fuchs house on Avocado Drive between SW 187 Avenue and SW 197 Avenue, Homestead, Florida, about 1912-1915. Charles T. Fuchs, Richard Fuchs, Utley Fuchs, Anna (Annie) Linke Fuchs

b. Horse and carriage with pine forest in distance, about 1912-1915. Probably Charles T. Fuchs driving carriage, Fred Link beside him, two women in back seat (one is probably Annie Fuchs), two children on the side Richard Fuchs and Utley Fuchs

1. 23 Fuchs family gathered on the front steps of the Fuchs’ home on Avocado Drive, Homestead, Florida, 1924 (2 copies, 9 x 6 ¾ B&W). In *Papa Fuchs’ Family, 1881-1981*, Pages 44-45.

In front, seated on first step, left to right:

Utley Redd holding baby daughter Teresa Redd, Charles T. Fuchs, Sr., Lena Knowles.

Second row, left to right:

Richard Fuchs—standing, Annabell Redd [later Griffis]—standing, held by her father Fred Redd, Fred Fuchs, Sr., Fred Fuchs, Jr. barely visible beside his mother, Louise [Adel Murphy] Fuchs, Fred Link, Elizabeth [Pipes] Fuchs and her son, Robert Paul Fuchs, and his father Charles Fuchs, Jr. (Elizabeth’s husband).

[Missing are: Annie [Anna Therressa (Theresa Linke)] Fuchs (d. 1922), Lena’s son Theodore Knowles, Jr. (1921-1976), and Lena Ritter Link (who remarried Fred Link in 1926)]

1 24 Fuchs family on Fuchs homestead, 1935 November (copy, about 8 x 10 inch B&W, including mount). In *Papa Fuchs’ Family, 1881-1981*, Page 104.

Bottom row, left to right:

Marian Anderson (a friend, child), Teresa Redd with Fuchs family pet, Nuisance, Jane Fuchs, and Freddie Fuchs

Second row seated, left to right:

Fred Fuchs, Fred Link, Charles Fuchs, and Fred Redd

Back row, standing:

Louise [Adel Murphy] Fuchs (Mrs. Fred Fuchs), Utley (Othelia Lizetta) Fuchs Redd, Annabell May Redd [later Griffis], Ruth Naomi Linke Holden (Fred and Lena Link’s granddaughter), and Lena Ritter Link

1 25 “Christmas Decorations – 1949 - HOLSUM BAKERY – So. Dixie Highway Below Red Rd.” (postcard), bakery owned by Charles Fuchs, Jr., on South Dixie Highway, South Miami, Florida

Link Family

1 26 Fred Link, interior of pool hall, Homestead, Florida, 5 x 7 inch B&W print on card mount. “Next to Newsleader on corner” [NW corner of Krome and 3rd Street?], about 1920.

1 27 Camp Happy, corner of Roberts Road and 264th Street

(1) “Greetings, Camp Happy, Link” sign at Camp Happy with Lena Link’s signature on image, copy (about 5 x4 ½ inches B&W), about 1950s

(2) Lena Link in front of house at Camp Happy, copy (5 x4 ½ inches B&W), about 1950s

(3) Aerial view of Camp Happy, photocopy (about 8x10 B&W), about 1950s

1 28 The six children of Fred Linke and Glenna Kenyon Link, taken May 17, 1957 at 14 Nanson Rd., Barrington, Rhode Island (7 X 5 inch B&W)

Front row (left to right):

1. Ruth Naomi Linke Holden, who married Donald Holden of Kendall
2. Beatrice May Linke Hood who married John Hood of New York
3. Dorothy Louse Linke Marshall (November 30, 1912-August 21, 2015), who married James Pivey Marshall (b. 1900) of Barrington, Rhode Island, on May 29, 1936 (FamilySearch)

Back row (left to right):

1. Richard Curtis Linke of Springfield, Massachusetts
2. Kenneth Ray Linke (1916 February 24-1990 February 10, buried in Springfield, Massachusetts) married Barbara
3. Fred Wesley Linke (b. May 19, 1908) of Jacksonville, who married Zedna

Barbara Linke and Elks Lodge

1 29 “Institution and Installation of Homestead, Florida, Lodge B.P.O.E. 1754,

June 11, 1948, Miles Photo Shop” (5 ½ x 14 inch B&W photographic print). Large group photograph of members of the Lodge.

1 30 Minstrel and other shows

(1) Three men in blackface, one singing; women and men in evening dress in background, (8 x 10 inch B&W print), possibly 1953

(2) Large number of men and women in costumes and blackface, “Basin Street Saturday Night” show, Maitland Studio, Homestead, Florida, (8 x 10 inch B&W print), November 1955.

(3) Various men and women near microphone, set appears to be an ice cream shop, Maitland Studio, Homestead, Florida (8 x 10 inch B&W print), probably early 1960s.

1 31 Barbara Linke

(1) Barbara Frances Hirsch Linke head shot (8 x 10 inch B&W print), probably 1950s

(2) Barbara Linke with five women who were probably members of the Anna Miller Circle of the Elks Club, copy (8 x 10 inch B&W print), probably early 1960s