

Justina Wendland and John Boelter

John Boelter was born in Reetz, Arnwalde, Germany in 1823. He emigrated to America, settling in Marquette county, Wisconsin. Here he met and married Justina Wendland, a German native. They and their three children eventually moved to the southeast quarter of section 34, Flora township, in Renville county, Minnesota. Michael Boelter, John's brother, lived next to them on a claim in the southwest quarter of section 35. The area was known as the Middle Creek settlement, and several in the community were killed by the Indians on August 18, 1862, the first day of the Dakota uprising. John was killed while he was checking their cattle. His wife and two of his children survived. Michael's wife and children were killed. John's widow, Justina, married her brother in law, Michael Boelter, on September 13, 1863. It is assumed that the soldiers buried John Boelter on his claim, near the spot where he fell. Findagrave Memorial by Bill Cox.