Paternal family tree (from the family book "The Family of Franz Brueggemann," 1986

- Leo John Brueggeman (born July 6, 1926, Pierre, South Dakota)
- Andrew Brueggemann (born Sept 7, 1886, Zell, South Dakota)
- Franz Bruggemann 2nd (born May 24, 1846, Ramsbeck, Germany)
- Johann Franz Bruggemann (born Feb 16 1821, St. Andreas Ramsbeck)
- Johannes Franz Adam Bruggemann (born Sept 4, 1774, , St. Andreas Ramsbeck)
- Mathius Bruggemann (born 1740, St. Andreas Ramsbeck)
- Antonius Theodoreus Bruggemann (born May 14 1713, St. Andreas Ramsbeck)
- Johannes Drosten (born Bruggemann) (born Apr 20 1673, St. Andreas Ramsbeck)
- Antonii Bruggemann (born 164X, St. Andreas Ramsbeck)

My great grand father Franz Brueggeman emigrated with family from Ramsbeck, Germany to America in 1881 as part of the third and smallest of the great waves of German immigrants. They moved to Mankato, Minnesota and stayed with his sister and her husband Anton Balkenhol. Then Franz and family moved further west in 1883 to Zell, South Dakota, where my grandfather Andrew Brueggeman was born. Bruegge means bridge so there are plenty of variant spellings in Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany. My last name originally had two "n"s on the end but was Anglicized. I'm mostly German, with a wee bit of the Irish in me from my grandmother Casey on my mother's side.