

The Marianus Theiler Scholarship Fund

Background:

Dr. George Theiler, Jr. OB/GYN practiced in Green Bay, WI. He had a successful career and retirement until his death on August 17, 2013. In his trust he provided that a scholarship fund should be created to assist descendants of Marianus and Katherine Theiler in pursuing education beyond the high school level. This action is in concert with the Swiss tradition. In Switzerland, the family farm was inherited by the eldest male. In turn, the eldest son had to make sure the other siblings had a trade or other career to assist them in living a true and fruitful life. George (aka Toby) never married and invested wisely. He felt strongly about the value of education. As evidenced by his trust, it was his desire to extend the concept to the entire Theiler family descending from Marianus and Katherine using the Marianus Theiler Scholarship fund, "the Fund."

History:

Marianus was born in Wollerau, Canton Schwyz, Switzerland in 1862. Katherine was born in Studen, Canton Schwyz, Switzerland 1860. They met while Katherine was working in the Theiler Hotel in Wollerau. They were pregnant when they married in Einsiedleln in 1881. Not being the eldest son, Marianus would not inherit the family farm called "Neufeld" outside of Wollerau. At that time the US Government had a program to encourage people to immigrate to America. Marianus was given his portion of the value of the estate by the family and he and Katherine set off on a journey to America. During the journey, that baby was miscarried at sea. Marianus and Katherine entered through the Port of New York prior to the opening of Ellis Island. They made their way to northern Wisconsin, first settling in Wausau where they owned 2 "forties". They moved to Tomahawk when it was opened for settlement by William Bradley in 1887. They raised one girl and ten boys. The only girl, Carolina (Lena) was born before the boys and consequently spent her time helping raise the ten brothers. The oldest boy, Frank, took la leadership role in the development of the family. Frank was a successful businessman and community leader. His business interests included banking, timber, railroading and farming. He was well positioned to look after the well-being of his sister and nine brothers. His business interests provided employment opportunities for the brothers as they grew up, especially Brothers Harry and Louis. He sent Brother George, Sr. to McHenry College in Chicago to become a veterinarian. He sent Brothers Carl and Joe to road school and helped establish a partnership which would build roads and excavating projects in Wisconsin. He set Brother Bill up to the Theiler's Tavern and then Bill Theiler's Resort. He put Brother Martin, Jr. in charge of the family farm south of Tomahawk. He sent Brother Edgar to Marquette University in Milwaukee to study business, and the youngest Brother, Robert to Stout College to study education. Drawing on this model George, Jr. (Toby) provided a significant resource to establish the Marianus Theiler Scholarship Fund.

Status:

In his trust, George (Toby) named AJ Theiler as trustee, to set up and manage "the Fund". Toby also provided AJ with the option to name other trustees who would have the same powers. This action allows the trust to continue as long as there are sufficient funds. As the trustee, AJ invited all descendants to join the discussion regarding the structure of "the Fund." Some have participated and have developed guidance. Kudos to Donnie Theiler, Kathy (Klawitter) Gambacorta, Lynn (Theiler) Grills, Lincoln Theiler, Helen (Bishop) Hoover and Sara (Theiler) Salewske for their participation.

Eligibility Guidelines:

1. The fund will utilize a reimbursement model (where funds are reimbursed **after** expenses are paid (versus a scholarship model (where funds are distributed **before** expenses.)
2. All natural born or adopted descendants are eligible, but not decendants who were adopted after the age of 16.
3. Financial need will not be a consideration or a criterion.
4. Reimbursement will be provided for expenditures in pursuit of a degree or certificate from any college or technical school.
5. Post graduate work beyond a Bachelor’s degree will not be reimbursed except for those programs that do not award a Bachelor’s degree, but upon completion, award a Master’s Degree. These programs will be treated as undergraduate work.
6. Reimbursement is dependent on course completion based on passing grades as shown on completed course transcripts.

Annual Theiler Scholarship Application Check List as of: 4/15/2022	
1.	Provide transcripts by term. You may apply for classes taken within the last 4 years for which you have not already received Theiler scholarship funds.
2.	Provide student’s mailing address for the check.
3.	Provide student’s e-mail address so we can contact you directly if needed. The K1 tax forms will also be sent by e-mail by the end of March 2023.
4.	First time applicants provide your Tax Identification Number (aka Social Security). It can be mailed separately, called in or texted. 2489 Laurel Bay Lane, The Villages, FL 32162, or 715/453-0010.
5.	Provide evidence of your descendancy back to Marianus & Katherine Theiler, utilizing information on the .PDF on www.theiler.org . Include any changes in your family, including birth, legal adoptions, deaths, marriages, etc. with dates, locations, and full legal names. Scans of “source data” are good, i.e. obituaries, death, marriage, birth, or adoption certificates.

All data will be provided to the trustees or their designate before the annual due date.

Submit by e-mail to: joskitheiler@gmail.com

Scholarship funds will be by checks, made payable to the student and mailed to the address provided.

Requests for scholarship funds can be made for up to four (4) years prior to the current year.

It is not required that the recipients reimburse the fund. When possible, any contribution is encouraged. Such action would follow the footsteps of the Theiler family tradition.

The Fund can accept bequests and donations in any form. Cash, checks, real estate, etc.

Hopefully, appreciation, interest and dividends in the fund will exceed the amount necessary to compensate availability for many generations.