

Story background

Loretta Hoerman

ACT ONE - Arrival in a New Land

New York City, 1883-1893

The six Zeisset siblings leave Germany and begin new lives in America.

Cast

Narrator – Mitch Hastings
Louise Zeisset – Talulabel Gilpin
Bertha Zeisset – Brielle Wolf
Bettie Zeisset – Abigail Cott
Jake Zeisset – Jack Stryker
Lizzie Zeisset – Josey Weller
Henry Zeisset – Conrad Hofmann

ACT TWO - How Far We’ve Come

Leonardville, January 1908

The siblings gather at Bertha and Juergen Nanninga's farm and reflect on the lives they have built in Kansas.

Cast

Narrator – Richard Cott
Louise Swart – Sarah Gilpin
Bertha Nanninga – Betsy Copeland
Lizzie Weller – Abby Reasoner
Jake Zeisset – Lawson Stryker
Bettie Hoerman – Valerie Eakins
Henry Zeisset – Alex Hoffman

ACT THREE - Summing It Up

1924-1970, Final reflections

Looking back on lives filled with both hardships and blessings, each sibling reflects on family, faith, and the opportunities they found in America.

Cast

Narrator – Trudy Suchan
Bertha Nanninga – Sherry Nanninga Walker
Lizzie Weller – Gay Stewart
Louise Swart – Karen Gilpin
Jake Zeisset – Lawson Stryker
Henry Zeisset – Paul Zeisset
Bettie Hoerman – Jan Kosarski

The Six Immigrant Zeisset Siblings

Name	Born	Died	Arrived in America
Louise Zeisset Swart	1866	1946	1883
Bertha Zeisset Nanninga	1868	1924	1885
Lizzie Zeisset Weller	1870	1938	1891
Jake Zeisset	1874	1952	1890
Bettie Zeisset Hoerman	1875	1970	1885
Henry Zeisset	1878	1961	1893

In Memory of

Jakob Friedrich Zeisset (1834-1884)

and

Margaretha Mueller Zeisset (1841-1881)

Whose children crossed an ocean and created a legacy that
continues today.

*"We honor them by keeping their stories of survival and
triumph alive."*

The Zeisset Siblings – Keeping the Story Alive

A skit presented in three acts, following the Zeisset siblings from their
arrival in America through the legacy of their families.

Written by Loretta M. Hoerman, Summer 2026

