

**THE
JOHANN CHRISTIAN DAVID
WOLFGRAM FAMILY**

WITH NOTES ON THE FAMILY GROUPS OF
BUSS, GOEBEL, KLUG, KNARR, SYLWESTER,
VOSSBERG, AND FRANK WOLFGRAM



by

Ronald L. Giese and Maureen F. Giese

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Back cover: The Morning Chronicle, July 20, 1855; Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

To Carl August Emil Wolfgram, 1903 – 1994



Pioneer Family Certificate

The Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society, Inc. of Watertown, Wisconsin
takes great pleasure in awarding this Certificate to:

Maureen Fay (Wolfgram) Giese

This Certificate is presented to the above descendant in special tribute to the following
pioneer ancestor(s) who settled in Dodge or Jefferson Counties by the year 1856.

Johann Christian David WOLFGRAM

Dodge County by 1855

Anna Sophie (Schlueter) WOLFGRAM, his wife

Dodge County by 1855



Awarded this 14th day of October, 1999

Mary K. Hall

President

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PREFACE

We were astonished to see the amount of progress that had been accomplished as we were tying loose ends together and discarding outdated information forms and charts toward the end of 1999. Early charts had many more empty cells than full ones. That was because when we started this research project in the mid 1980's, the small circle of Wolfgrams in the Dodge County, Wisconsin area, knew virtually nothing about their ancestors. Early on, we learned from his marriage certificate that grandfather Frank Wolfgram's parents were Johann and Sophia and that the family farm was in Portland Township. The earliest census we could find where the family showed up was 1870 and there were four children listed. Then a family church register from the late 1850's surfaced at Watertown including the right Wolfgram family, but with nine children – more than twice as many as we first knew about! However, family existing when we discovered the church register could account for only two of Frank's sisters. What happened to the other six children? An equally vexing problem was the whereabouts of great-grandparents Johann and Sophia who simply disappeared after 1880.

It certainly did not help our cause that-

- we could not locate the time and place of the family's arrival in America,
- we initially missed a whole important (unindexed) census because of a first farm ownership in a different township, and
- one of the missing children married a man whose name Wisconsin records show as Sylvester, but when he moved to another state changed it to Sylwester.

Finally, it all came together – well, nearly all. Frank's parents and at least six of his siblings left Wisconsin for greener pastures in two other states. While the families regularly kept in touch with and visited their Wisconsin relatives through the end of the 1800's, contact declined precipitously after 1900. By the time we started this venture, there was no contact with out-of-state relatives. Also, the knowledge of their existence and location had completely disappeared from family lore. So, for nearly a century, directly-related families were lost to each other.

The enormous amount of work reconstructing the family precluded us from bringing genealogical lines completely up to date – we will leave that for future genealogists. We felt, largely because of the difficulty of gathering valid 19th century information, coinciding with our fortunate presence at a locale very rich in family history resources, that the highest contribution we could make was to reassemble the original migrating Johann Wolfgram family. Generally, we carry members through to the third generation as best possible.

It is indeed satisfying, after nearly 100 years of separation, to put this long-lost family back together again. That is what this book is all about. We truly hope that others in the clan who contributed share the joy of this story.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Genealogists/family historians must either begin at an early age when ancestors and other relatives can be helpful with first-hand information and family lore, or they are relegated to learn about their roots from kindred souls and tangential resources. The best and most intelligent approach is the former because it takes vastly less work and generally provides a more complete understanding of one's family, and the capability to find and relate personal anecdotes adds a great deal of spice and interest to a family story – skeletons and all. Unfortunately, we are among the latter group who started when nearly all relatives with any knowledge had passed to the great beyond.

However intensive, this has been a rewarding experience. Lacking historic family Bibles with their leading or trailing pages traditionally filled with vital statistics, we had to rely on primary sources by going -- county by county and state by state -- to local court houses to search for birth, marriage and death records. That's not debilitating or uninteresting. In time one is able to collect most of the information needed to provide reasonable family sheets for future generations. But, without firsthand – or passed-down – information, it's tremendously more difficult to learn about why, where, and how. Thus, secondary sources, like newspapers, become paramount in importance. Where no personal effects, old letters, or useful official documents exist, an extraordinary amount of work is required to ferret out what happened to ancestors and why. In fact, many of the important and most interesting questions cannot possibly be answered. Still, this was not a disaster because in desperation, we were forced to seek out a wider diversity of kin to assemble a decent story -- in itself a redeeming experience.

The kindred souls whose contributions we greatly appreciate are:

Dennis Vossberg of Plainview, Nebraska, a relative whom we met for the first time in 1998, and whose patience, cooperation, sharing of labeled photographs, and willingness to garner new information added a lot of information and interest to this book,

Kevin Neuberger of Waterloo, Wisconsin, another relative connected to the Goebel clan, is undoubtedly more knowledgeable than anyone on earth about the social history of Dodge County. As a very young man he learned how to read 19th century German script to understand more about his ancestors. In the process, he translated all of the original German records of Trinity Church near Reeseville, Wisconsin, where a large amount of Wolfgram activity occurred. This added numerous important details to our own story,

Lorraine Larsen, Tofte, Minnesota, a Sylwester descendant, provided important information and introduced us to Josephine's Story which connected us together,

Rev. Herbert A. Baker from Sheboygan, a descendant of the Klug family who grew up in Dodge County, shared both personal information and pictures to embellish this research.

Other relatives were helpful in providing information for which we are grateful:

Sandy Gullickson, DeForest, WI, provided genealogical aspects of the Carl Wolfgram clan, for whom, very late in the game, we were finally able to make a connection to the Wolfgrams of our direct interest,

Beverly Drunasky, Horicon, WI, provided information on Carl Gottlieb Wolfgram, Homer Goebel, from Detroit Lakes, MN, was kind enough to let us borrow portraits of

both Johann and Sophia Wolfgram (likely the only ones in the world) as well as interesting art works for Hulda and Wilhelm Goebel,
James Weinbender, of Greeley, CO, shared some of the research done by his deceased wife Arlene on the Vossberg and Wolfgram families,
Oscar Klug, Watertown, WI, related to the "other" Henry Klug, helped by sharing his extensive knowledge of Klug and local area information,
Renee Wittenberg, St. Cloud MN, helped with Sylwester and Abraham families, and
The Sylwesters -- Robert (Eugene, OR); Jim (Harold J., Warrensburg, MO) and Kurt (Bend, OR) -- helped with Sophia and August's family.

We are lucky to reside in Wisconsin because no other state is a better place to be conducting family history research. Among the significant resource providers were:

The Wisconsin State Historical Society, a jewel unmatched in any state, whose holdings are robust, but more importantly whose cooperation and user-friendliness makes their wonderful materials truly accessible, even to the novice,
Roberta Fosdal, Jefferson, WI, whose personal card catalogue is unparalleled and whose cooperative nature provides fellow genealogists with incredible data,
The Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society at Watertown which wonderfully complements the extraordinary holdings of the State Historical Society by developing unique local records and providing expert assistance, and
Gertrude J. Mundt, Watertown, Wisconsin, who shared her major knowledge about records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Watertown.

Finally, but certainly not less important, are more helpers in other places:

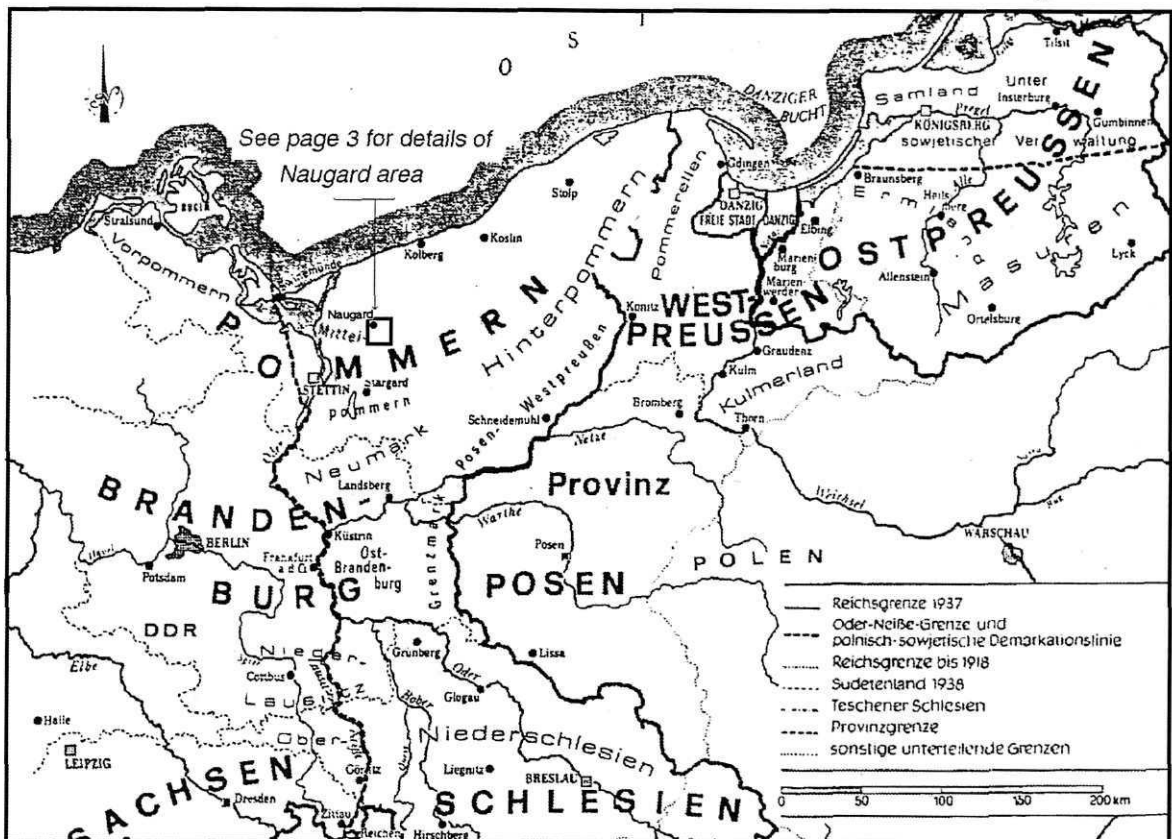
Arlene Busse, of the Sibley County Minnesota Historical Society, who through her personal knowledge of local history not only provided and synthesized significant information on the Wolfgram and Sylwester families, but put us in touch with a previously unknown relative she knew personally, without which we would have still been in the dark genealogical ages in Minnesota,
Volker Radloff, professional colleague, who was always available for translation help,
Mary Lou Smith, librarian for the Renville County (Minnesota) Genealogical Society, helped greatly in our work, especially with respect to the Goebel family,
Family History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City UT and the Family History Center, LDS, Madison, WI,
Dodge County Title and Abstract Co., Juneau, WI provided help with land records,
The Minnesota State Historical Society was very helpful in locating and providing copies of obituaries from old newspapers,
Carol McCuaig, Renfrew Co. Ontario, helped immensely with the Canadian scene,
Cathy Porter (Portland, OR) helped with Sylwester information in the West,
Caroline W. Irwine, a Wolfgramm descendant from Logan, Utah, with a dubious genetic, but German-geographically close Wolfgram relationship helped with advice,
Raymond Meffert and Gerald and Melba Meffert (all of Arlington MN), and Walt Meffert (San Martin, CA) helped to fill in some gaps about Buss issues,
Max Kade Institute, Madison, WI assisted with cartography.
Sharen Kranz, Sibley Co. MN Records Office helped resolve certificate issues,
Carrie Weber of Fort Wayne, IN provided a photo for the Knarr chapter,
Elaine Gorder (Waterloo Area Hist. Soc.) transcribed German church records, and
Vern Damrow, caretaker and keeper of the Trinity Church Cemetery records at Reeseville, WI helped to verify burial events and locations.

Our sincere thanks to all who helped in so many ways.

Chapter 1

Johann Christian David Wolfgram

We knew rather little of Johann Wolfgram's European background and family but, finally after nine years of research, information recently came to light about his ancestors and siblings – coincidentally, this new knowledge helps to solve some nagging local mysteries discussed later.



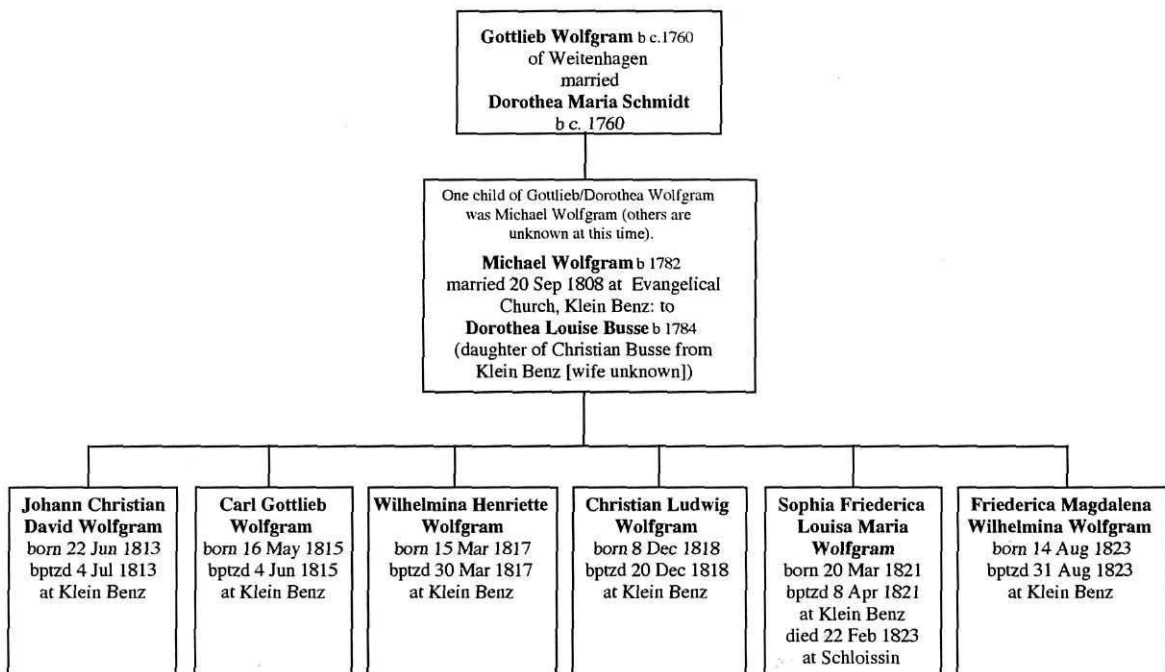
German eastern regions showing 20th century boundary changes (Modified from E. R. Brandt et al. 1995. *German Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns*. Germanic Genealogy Society, St. Paul, p. 328).

Most readers will realize there was a tremendous influx of people who emigrated away from Germany in the mid-19th century – Johann Wolfgram and his family were part of this movement. The main area of geographical interest for

the Wolfgram family is Pommern (see map on previous page) in northeastern Germany; the family lived north of Stargard in Kreis Naugard (the box surrounding the town of Naugard on this map is expanded on page three to show the detail of the Wolfgram area). With changes in political boundaries during the 20th century, the specific towns of interest are currently located in Poland.

Before exploring the Naugard countryside, let's first find out a little about Johann and his German family.

This great-grandfather was born Johann Christian David Wolfgram at Klein Benz in 1813.¹ He was the first of six children recorded in the Klein Benz Evangelical Church lists born to Michael and Louise (Busse) Wolfgram (chart below).



Known siblings and ancestors of Johann Christian David Wolfgram.

(Pommersche Evangelische Kirche, Landeskirchliches Archiv, Greifswald Germany.)

From the individual birth and marriage records we learn quite a bit about the location and status of relatives. Klein Benz (lesser Benz) was a small town in the county (approximately equivalent to the German *Kreis*) of Naugard. This and other important towns in close proximity are highlighted in rectangles on page 3. We now know the Wolfgram ancestral home to be Naugard County in Hinterpommern and most particularly Klein Benz and Weitenhagen.

Johann's parents, Michael and Louise Wolfgram were married at the Evangelical Church² and, resided in the Klein Benz parish and there the six children (listed in the chart above) were born and baptized. The paternal grandparents of

Johann, Gottlieb and Dorothea Maria (Schmidt) Wolfgram, resided in Weitenhagen 6 1/2 miles south of Klein Benz (right side of map below).

By the time of Johann's birth and thereafter, the spelling of his mother's family name became "Buss." Godparents of Johann C. D. Wolfgram were Christian



Part of Naugard Kreis (county) with towns of Wolfgram relatives, friends and events highlighted (Modified from Großblatt 38 Stettin-Stargard i. Pom., 1:100,000 einfarbig, Karte des Deutschen Reiches, 1940, Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie).

Friedrich Wolfgram, a farmer and churchwarden at Klein Benz; David Buss, a farm worker; and Anna Maria Wolfgram, a farmer's daughter (most probably a sister of Michael) of Weitenhagen.

Godparents for other Wolfgram children baptisms were Carl Friedrich Buss of Klein Benz, Gottlieb Wolfgram farmer in Weitenhagen, Dorothea Sophia

Wolfgram married to Statthalter Liermann, Jacob Fr. Liermann of Farbezin, Anna Louise Buss of Kl. Benz, and Dorothea Maria Schmidt married to farmer Gottlieb Wolfgram of Weitenhagen, Gottlieb Buss a landless farm laborer from Kl. Benz, Johann Joachim Buss, Maria Elizabeth Gartzcke married Küster May both from Kl. Benz, Friedrich Buss of Kl. Benz, Friederica Louise Kobs of Schloissin, Anna Sophia Krüger married to farmer Christian Wolfgram from Külz, Carl Willo (or Wille) a legacy farmer from Schloissin, Friederica Magdalena Wilhelmina Krenke married to farmer Christian Wille from Schloissin, and Anna Sophia Wiencke married to farmer Backhaus of Schloissin. With apologies for all the names, they will be useful for future genealogists and they do provide a context for friends of the family and their geographic locations. Furthermore, Friedrich Buss piques our interest because he is likely the person who came to Milford in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. He may have been the father of Fred (Jr.), the blacksmith who married Lena Wolfgram.

A Wolfgram Legend

In trying to find relationships, a letter was written to Caroline Irwin from Utah, who has done research on the Charles and Emil Otto Frederick Wolfgram families that came from Pyritz, Pommerania and ended up in the South Pacific kingdom of Tonga in the 1700's. Although no direct line of relationship is apparent, a wonderful story of the "Wolfgram" name is presented. She wrote,

Our family name was originally Gramm (this I have seen in early church records in Germany in the area). The Gramm's served as royal guards for the Prince of the land (Stettin was the base for the nobility, which is about 15-28 miles north of Pyritz). The Prince and our ancestor Gramm went through the woods to visit various parts of the kingdom when a pack of wolves surrounded them. The guard sent the Prince ahead while he remained to fight the pack. The guard attacked and killed the leader of the pack, knowing that doing so would cause the pack to disperse. He succeeded and killed the wolf. For his bravery his family name was changed from Gramm to Wolfgramm.

This story was told to her as a young child and so far no confirming data, but a smile and twinkle in an eye brings happy thoughts.

The Evangelical Church at Klein Benz was also the location of Johann's marriage.³ At age 26 1/2 he was betrothed to Anna Sophie Schlüter (age 23) on November 7, 1840. Christian Schlüter, a landed farmer from Zachow, is listed in the church records as Anna Sophia's father.

We simply do not know anything about Johann's family in the ensuing thirty years. But as you read the maps of Germany, keep in mind this was the 1800's and people were subject to feudal restrictions limiting their ability to move ; a person's social position was determined by birth, rather than by personal achievements. Klein Benz, where Johann came from, was a rural area, small in population (120 in 1870⁴) and probably ruled by a noble landowner. The reasons for the massive 19th century Germanic emigration were complex.^{5, 6, 7}

Leaving your homeland behind with only the bare essentials to come to America was indeed a challenge created out of chaos in Pommerania (which now lies in Germany and Poland). There was little virgin land in the area; hundreds of small countries were controlled in a feudalistic manner by barons, counts, grand dukes, etc. There was also disagreement regarding the Reformed and Lutheran Churches providing spiritual anguish among many Christians. When it became known that America had freedom to worship, freedom to acquire land and to engage in business, people began to emigrate to the new land. Major reasons for people from eastern Pommerania migrating were religious persecution, lack of opportunity at home, liberal land policies in Wisconsin, and influence by relatives and friends already in this state. It is reasonable to think that these factors also formed the rationale for the Johann Wolfgram family when they decided to leave Kreis Naugard.

Verzeichniss
der Personen welche mit dem *hamburger* Schiffe *Johannes*
Capitain *Bucher* nach *Quincy*
zur Auswanderung durch Unterzeichneten engagirt sind.

Na- und Vorname und Familie.	Geburts- und Wohnort.	Landes.	Gewerbe.	Alter	Ge- schlecht		Total
					mañl.	weibl.	
<i>Antonina Schmidt</i>	<i>Markkopp</i>	<i>Preußen</i>		<i>32</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Johann Wolffgram</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>P</i>		<i>40</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>
<i>Anna A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>37</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Wilhelm A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>14</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>
<i>Wilhelm A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>13</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Caroline A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>11</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Margarete A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>9</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Paula A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>7</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Paula A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>4</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Ernst A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>16</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Carl Peterson</i>	<i>Polen</i>	<i>P</i>		<i>42</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>

Hamburg 1855 passenger list for the ship *Johannes*
(LDS film 470837-1855; header from page 269, Wolfgram family entry from page 273).

Though the date and route of their trip from Germany had eluded us for years, Maureen finally discovered the Wolfgrams in the Hamburg Passenger List.⁸ In 1855 Johann and Anna Sophia Wolfgram took a very brave, actually momentous, move. After wrapping up personal affairs at their longstanding home in Naugard County, they traveled 220 miles due west to the Hamburg area to await a ship for America. On the first of June in 1855 they stepped foot on the bark sailing ship named *Johannes* with their family. As seen in the passenger list above, the *Johannes'* manifest listed their family as follows: Johann Wolfgram (42), Anna Wolfgram (37), Wilhelm Wolfgram (14), Wilhelme. [an abbreviation for Wilhelmine] Wolfgram (13), Emilie Wolfgram (11), Magdalena Wolfgram (9), Bertha Wolfgram (7), Hulda Wolfgram (4), and Sophia Wolfgram (1 1/2).

Many passengers listed gave Neukappe as their last place of residence. There doesn't appear to be such a place. After searching through many sources, we finally took "New Village" at face value and concluded this was probably put down as a quick and easy euphemism, to satisfy the bureaucrats, when leaving the country.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

PORT OF QUEBEC

ARRIVED.

July 17.

Bark Johannes, Bremen, 2nd June, Hamburg, H Chapman & Co, general cargo, 280 pas.

July 18.

Schr Parisque, Bernier, 18 days, Halifax, H J Mead Co, sugar & molasses.

Brigte Veteripada, Harrigan, 18 days, Halifax, H J Mead & Co, sugar & molasses.

Schr J J Marshall, Bruce, 14 days, Casco, J J Mitchell, berrings.

Brig Mary Minahan, Harrison, — May, Hamburg, Ryan Bros & Co, general cargo, 160 pas.

— Corwith, Russell, 27th June, Cartougar, Nfld, Benson & Co, ballast.

— Nelson, Wilson, 1st July, Sydney, C B Hanson & Co, coal.

— Radford, Warren, 29th June, St John, Nfld, G B Symes & Co, ballast.

Bark Lady of the Lake, Little, 14th May, Malta, order, ballast.

— Clio, Craig, 13th May, Altona, order, ballast.

July 19.

Bark Hope, Morty, 21st May, Cork, order, ballast, 2 cable, 170 steerage pas.

— Chasen, Hingworth, 21st May, Hull, H Burdett & Co, coal & oil, 7 cabin, 93 steerage pas.

— Families, Allison, 27th May, Drummond, order, ballast, 714 pas.

Ship United Kingdom, Johnston, 29th May, Malta, order, ballast.

—

The Morning Chronicle, July 20, 1855

The trip across the Atlantic ocean must have been terribly arduous. The *Johannes* carried general cargo and 280 passengers most of whom, including the Wolfgrams, were in steerage class accommodations. They arrived in Quebec City, Canada on July 17, 1855 forty seven days following their departure from Hamburg.⁹ The *Johannes* was the only ship to arrive at the Port of Quebec that Tuesday. Imagine the relief of Johann and Sophia, with seven children ranging in age from 1 1/2 to 14, once again setting foot on solid ground after such a long journey under crowded and inconvenient conditions.

Family lore has it that Anna Sophia (Schlueter) Wolfgram's sister had encouraged them through letters, to come to America.¹⁰ So it could be that the plan to get from Quebec City, Canada to the Watertown area was accomplished with help from her. In any event, the ancestral home of the Wolfgram family was far away in their minds as the long, nearly seven week, journey in steerage on a 280

passenger boat was to end. Somehow they found their way to settle in the Watertown area in Wisconsin.

Soon they became affiliated with St. John's Lutheran Church in the city of Watertown. The family register of St. John's provides the first record of birth dates for the Wolfgram children and from there we learned their proper given names:

Friedrich Wilhelm Herman,	born November 5, 1840
Friederica Wilhelmine Augusta	born December 26, 1841
Albertine Emilie Bertha	born December 9, 1843
Ulricke Magdalena Theresa	born November 20, 1845
Henriette Bertha Louise	born January 6, 1848
Albertine Hulda Ernestine	born October 8, 1850
Hanna Sophia Henriette	born June 12, 1853

It was a common practice in German families for people to be known by a name other than their first given name. Thus, the usual names for the children listed above are shown in bold face and future references to them will use these common names (sometimes anglicized and often diminutive). Also indicated in the register is a note that Johann migrated from Klein Benz, Hinterpommern.



South part of 1859 plat map for Emmet Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin (T9N, R15E) with Johann Wolfgram property highlighted in section 30 (Atlas of Dodge County Wisconsin, 1859, publisher unknown).

A month after their arrival in North America, Johann Wolfgram bought his first property from John W. O'Connor on August 22, 1855.¹¹ He wasted no time! The parcel was 80 acres of land, and the amount of \$3,000 was paid for the East 1/2 of the NE Quarter of Section 30, T9N and R15E in Emmet Township of Dodge County. His farm was conveniently situated near Watertown where St. John's Church was also located.

A year after establishing their new homestead, another child was welcomed into the household. August Franz Heinrich Wolfgram (Maureen's grandfather Frank) was born on October 16, 1856.¹² The U.S. census in 1860 reflected the entire family still at the Emmet Township farm with the exception of Wilhelmina and all the girls, ranging in age from 6 to 16, were attending school.¹³ All except Frank were listed as being born in Prussia and Johann's personal estate was estimated to be \$300.

In the Productions of Agriculture section of that census, the Wolfgram farm¹⁴ had 38 acres of improved land and 42 acres were unimproved. The value of the farm was listed at \$1,500 and the value of implements \$50. Johann had 2 horses, 2 working oxen, 3 "milche" cows, 5 other cattle, 6 sheep and 14 swine; value of all livestock was \$333. The farm was producing 265 bushels of wheat, 50 bushels of rye, 12 of Indian corn, 100 bushels of oats and 30 pounds of wool.

Nearly two years after Frank's birth, on June 18, 1860, the last of the nine children, Hanna Marie Alwine Wolfgram came into this world.¹² She was baptized at St. John's in Watertown by Rev. Carl Strasen.

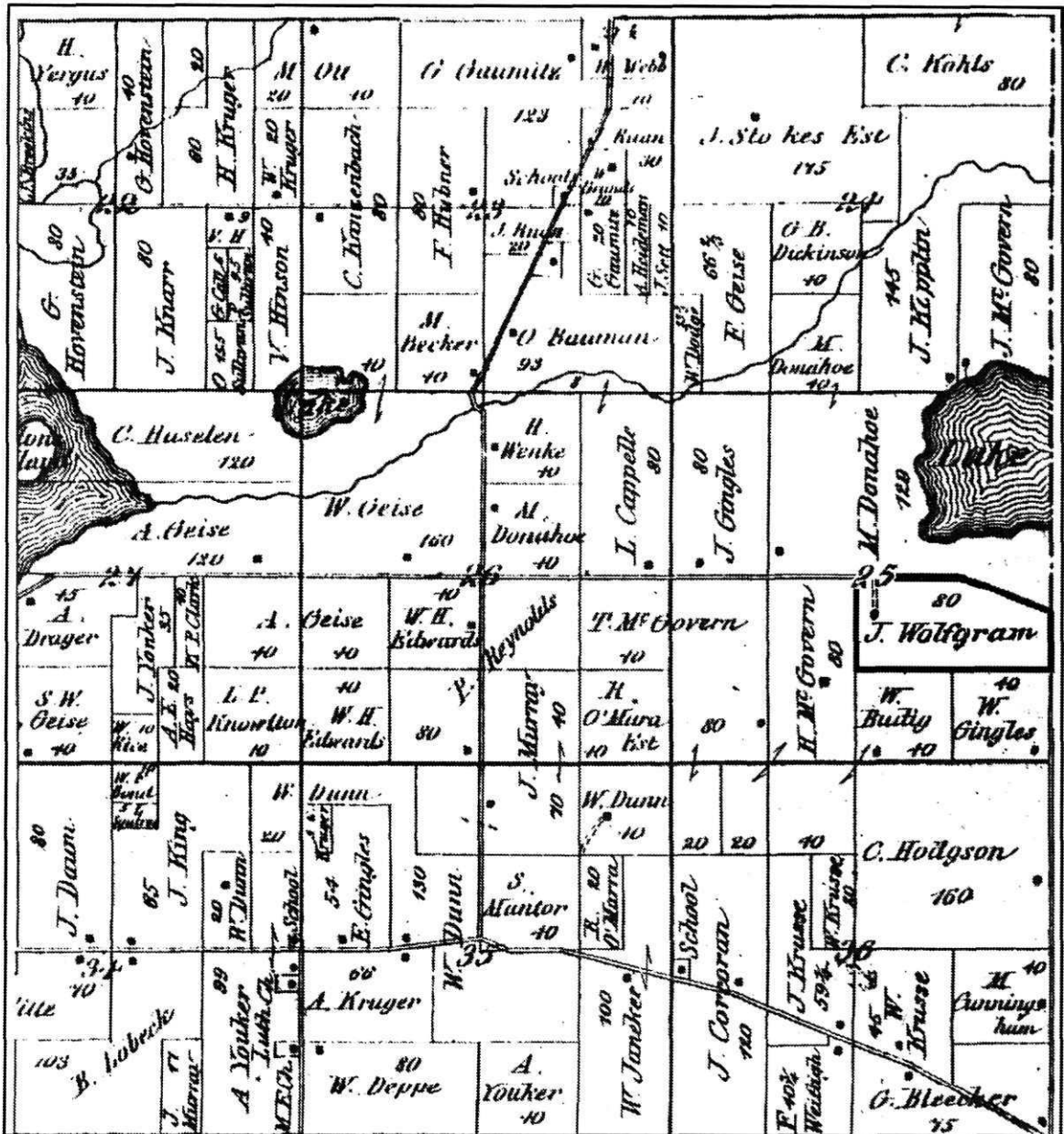
Big changes were to occur for the Wolfgram family, now made up of parents and nine children. At the end of January in 1860, Johann sold part of his farm to his nearest neighbor to the south, Joseph Brooks.¹⁵ Mr. Brooks already had over 190 acres making it one of the two largest properties in western Emmet Township. The fact that he was willing to pay \$1,500 for just 11 acres, suggests that Brooks was eager to enlarge his own farm. After all, Johann had paid \$3,000 for the entire 80 acres five years earlier. While we're not certain to whom, or how, the remaining acreage was disposed of, Johann found it financially advantageous to divest his farm and move two townships to the west.

It wasn't until July 1861 that he bought his second farm,¹⁶ this one in Portland Township, still in Dodge county. The property was 89.85 acres in size and conditions of the deed were that the seller, John Wallo, reserved the current crops until March, 1862. Mr. Wallo also agreed to cover the 1861 taxes. The Wolfgrams must have taken occupancy in late 1861 or at the latest before planting time in 1862.

*Trinity Church is ... on a hill,
and the view is beautiful,
looking beyond the cemetery
toward the colorful farm and
forested land in the area
known to the settlers as the
Sugarbush.*

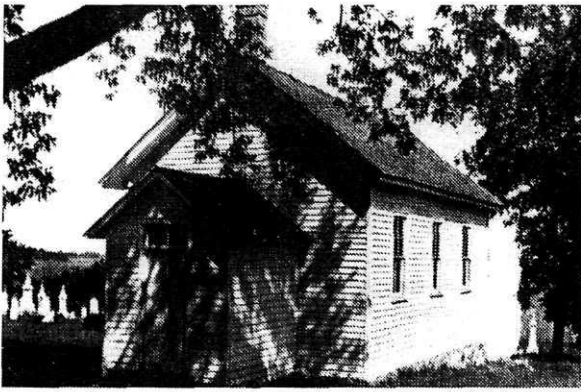
Their new location (map, page 9) at section 25 in Portland Township was very close to Mud Lake and about 2 1/2 miles from Hubbleton, where a one-room school was situated. Trips to St. John's in Watertown became intractable, but a new church (page 10) was being established south of Reeseville much closer to the Wolfgram farm;

Trinity Church is just across the Portland/Lowell Township border. The church is located southwest of Reeseville on a hill, and the view is beautiful, looking beyond the cemetery toward the colorful farm and forested land in the area known to the settlers as the Sugarbush.



Southeast 1/4 of 1873 plat map for Portland, Dodge County, Wisconsin (T9N, R13E) with Johann Wolfgram property highlighted in section 25 (Atlas of Dodge County Wisconsin, 1873, Harrison and Warner, Madison).

The church was very important in their lives as evidenced by many of the family being involved as witnesses at weddings and baptisms. And the family maintained occasional ties with St. John's at Watertown as well as incorporating



The first Trinity church building erected in 1861 in Lowell Township (Trinity Congregation 75th Anniversary Album, 1933).

into their new Trinity community. Following is a sample of social-religious engagements:

- In 1856, August Franz Heinrich Wolfgram was baptized at St. John's with August Abraham, Heinrich Hildemann, Friederika Schlueter as sponsors,
- William Wolfgram, (believed to be the elusive Friedrich Wilhelm Herman Wolfgram and for whom this would be the latest record we could find) was listed

as sponsor along with August Sylvester and Emilie Abraham for the St. John's baptism of Johannis August William Abraham in July, 1861,

- Sophie Wolfgram was a sponsor for a baptism of Auguste Pauline Engelke in 1864 at St. John's,
- Magdalena Wolfgram was a witness at St. John's to the wedding of August Friedrich Sylvester and Emilie Friederika Abraham on February 3, 1865,
- Emilie Wolfgram served as a sponsor for the baptism at St. John's of Magdalena Alwine Mathilde Sylvester, born November 17, 1865,
- A daughter of Karl Schülter and Johanna Arndt, named Johanna Karolina Friedericke and baptized on February 27, 1869 with Johann Wolfgram, Emilie (Wolfgram) Klug, and Sophia Wolfgram as sponsors at Trinity,
- Johanna Emilie Frederike, a daughter of Karl Schülter and Johanna Arndt was baptized on December 17, 1871 at Trinity with Sophia Wolfgram as one of the sponsors,

Of Johann's family the following were confirmed at Trinity, Hanna Sophia Henriette (1867), August Franz Heinrich (1871), and Hanna Alwine Marie (1873).

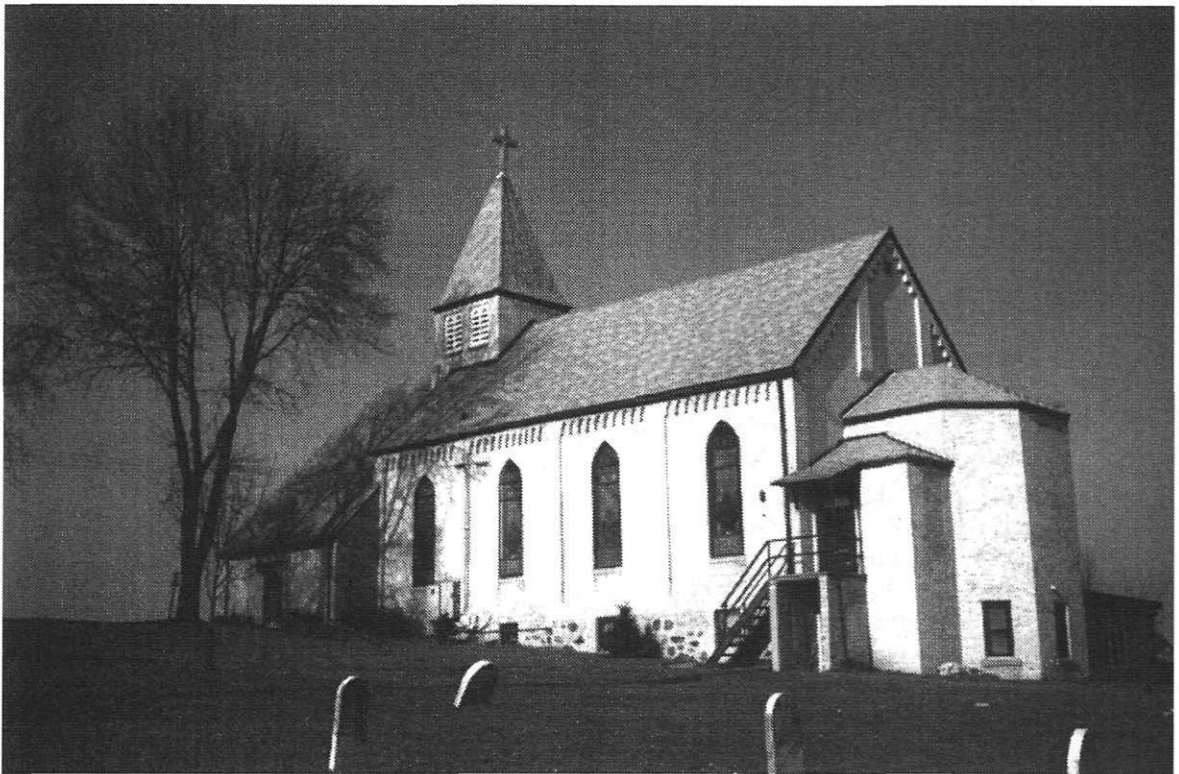
Conducting a rural church service in the early days entailed considerably more effort than now and Trinity was no exception. The Spartan conditions are related in its 75th Anniversary booklet.¹⁷

When Rev. Wagner (Trinity's first minister) first took charge of his pastorate he had no Agenda, i.e. a book of prayers for church service and forms for administering baptism and holy communion, performing wedding ceremonies and similar ministerial acts. Our Synod had published no such book at that time. The best Pastor Wagner could do was to walk over to the Town of Lebanon and there copy the most important sections out of Pastor Geyer's book, and this of course was the only copy written in pen and ink, nor were the members any better equipped. Hymnbooks had in some instances been brought along from Germany, but those of the Bavarians naturally contained a different selections of hymns than those of the Pommeranians, and both of these differed from the rest. When finally the same hymn was found, it was found at the same time that the hymn appeared in several dialects and made singing very

difficult. To obviate this condition the pastor served as cantor. Unless some very familiar hymn was sung the pastor would sing the first line of a stanza, and then the congregation repeat, thus each line was repeated until the hymn had been sung through and at some time memorized.

Perhaps the first sing-a-long in Dodge County!

At the time of the 1870 U.S. Census, only Johann, Sophia and the four youngest children were at home on the farm.¹⁸ Not counting Wilhelm whom we lost track of, the seven years beginning in 1866 were quite eventful. During 1866-67 three of the daughters were married, and in the period 1871-73 three more daughters took their vows. Thus, all the German-born children were married and most (all those who did not migrate to Nebraska or Minnesota) were involved in Trinity Church activities.



Trinity Lutheran Church south of Reeseville, Wisconsin in its current form; the nave (behind the entry addition to the left) originated in 1871.

The Productions of Agriculture Schedule of the 1870 census gives us a good idea of what was raised on the land.¹⁹ Livestock: four horses, four "milch" cows, 20 sheep, five swine. Produce; spring wheat 200 bushels, Indian corn 100 bushels, oats 90 bushels, wool 80 pounds, Irish potatoes 50 bushels, butter 300 pounds, hay 30 tons, value of animals slaughtered and sold \$100. The value of all farm production for the year was \$650. Compared to Johann's Emmet area agricultural status ten years earlier, the Wolfgram farm had a value twice as

great, the number of horses doubled, there was an additional milk cow and the flock of sheep was over three times as big. This resulted in higher output of wool and corn, and butter, hay and Irish potatoes were added to the production.

By 1870 the Trinity Lutheran congregation numbered 290 souls and there were 50 voting members – Johann Wolfgram was one of these. A new church was needed and a building committee set out to organize and initiate the ambitious project which would see much participation by the parishioners.²⁰ A record of the hauling process exists. Johann is shown to have conveyed three loads of sand and three loads of brick totaling 2000. The brick was manufactured in Watertown, a round trip distance of about 22 miles from the site of the new church, and members transported their loads by oxcart across the ice of Mud Lake. Construction was completed in 1871.

The 150th Trinity Lutheran Church Anniversary booklet also details how the funding was acquired to run the new church and pay the pastor's salary. The

HUBBLETON.

ACCIDENT.---As the Freight train was switching at this station, on Tuesday p.m. of this week. Mr. J. Wolfgram, (who was returning from the Fair at Watertown) attempted to drive over the crossing in advance of the locomotive, the Pilot struck the hind part of his wagon throwing him and the box into the air, the box came down right side up in the ditch, but Mr. Wolfgram came down, wrong side up on the forward axletree, when the horses run it threw him between the wheels and the wagon passed over him. He kept his hold on the lines, and managed to stop the horses after being dragged about twenty rods. He is cut about the head and bruised badly, but not dangerously injured.

Waterloo Journal, April 12, 1873

pastor's salary was about \$350 which was raised by subscriptions that averaged \$6.20 per member. Among the highest subscriptions were those of \$12 and \$10 and Johann Wolfgram is listed among those who paid the highest amount.

The Wisconsin State Census for 1875 indicated the presence of two males and two females, undoubtedly Johann, Sophia, Frank and Alvina.²¹ Around this time, the senior Wolfgrams sat for portraits (pages 14, 15), but given the proclivity of Wolfgram genes for early balding, the time could have been earlier.

The year 1879 brought an unpleasant surprise to the Wolfgram household. The school district tax on their property jumped to \$13.81, nearly five times higher than the year before when they were assessed \$2.81.²²

Total taxes paid in 1878 were \$14.04, but in 1879 the total was \$24.27. The large increase resulted from construction of a new Hubbleton School building to replace the original frame structure destroyed by fire.²³

By 1880 when the next U.S. census was conducted,²⁴ the family members were the same as in 1875. But the 1880 farm enterprise showed improved yield and greater diversity.

The 1880 Schedule 2 – Productions of Agriculture²⁵ was the most detailed yet and provides a reasonably complete picture of Johann's farm operation. Of his farm land, 85 acres were improved – 35 under tillage and 50 in permanent pasture – and two acres were in unimproved woodland. Twenty acres of grassland produced 20 tons of hay. He had six milk and 13 other cows, and in 1879 five calves were dropped, of which two were sold. The family made 500 pounds of butter on the farm – a record production for them.

For the year, their sheep flock numbered 29. Unlike other years, Johann did not shear wool in 1879, rather he sold all the sheep except one slaughtered for domestic use. On hand June 1, 1880 at the Wolfgram farm were 16 swine, a flock of 24 poultry (exclusive of the spring hatch) which laid 50 dozen eggs. His 1879 crop areas and production were:

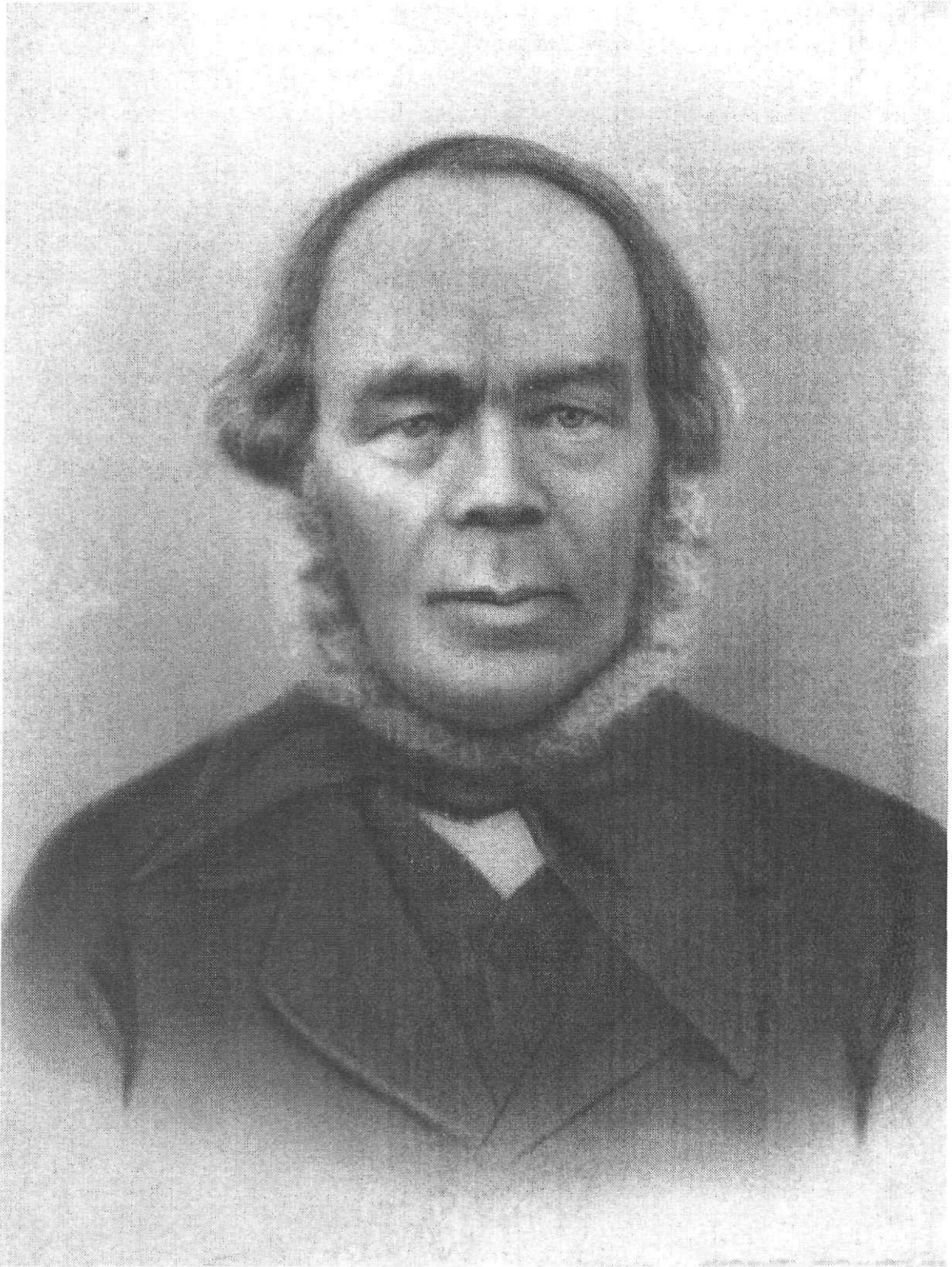
Wolfgram Commodity	Acres	Yield
Barley	2	50 bushels
Indian corn	4	320 "
Oats	4	150 "
Rye	4	70 "
Wheat	20	222 "
Irish potatoes	1/2	25 "
Apples (50 trees)	1	12 "
Wood	2	10 cords

We can compare the Wolfgram farming statistics over a 30 year period by looking at several of the categories across three censuses:

Census (Wolfgram Farm location)	Wolfgram Animal Agriculture (number)					
	Horses	Milk Cows	Wrkg Oxen	Other Cattle	Sheep	Swine
1860 (Emmet)	2	3	2	5	6	14
1870 (Portland)	4	4	-	-	20	5
1880 (Portland)	4	6	-	13	29	16

Census (Wolfgram Farm location)	Wolfgram Plant/ Animal Agricultural Production					
	Wheat Bushels	Rye Bushels	Indian Corn Bushels	Oats Bushels	Wool Pounds	Butter Pounds
1860 (Emmet)	265	50	12	100	30	-
1870 (Portland)	200	-	100	90	80	300
1880 (Portland)	222	70	320	150	-	500

A week after the census taker gathered information about the Wolfgram farm on that 16th of June of 1880, Johann would turn 67 and thoughts of retiring and turning the farm over to his son Franz were being kindled.



Johann Christian David Wolfram (portrait courtesy of Homer Goebel).



Anna Sophie (Schlüter) Wolfgram (portrait courtesy of Homer Goebel).

Just on a chance, in May, 1999, a stop was made at the old homestead in Portland Township, near Mud Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hellenbrand are the current owners and have built a new home where Johann and family previously lived.

Mrs. Hellenbrand shared the complete original abstract from when they bought the farm. What a nice opportunity! Johann and Sophie deeded the land²⁶ and dwellings to Frank on January 13, 1882, subject to this interesting agreement:

...the party of the first part (Frank) ... does hereby covenant and agree, to leave the said parties of the second part (Johann and Sophie Wolfgram) in quiet and peaceable possession of a part of the dwelling house on said land now occupied during their natural lives and also to give them yearly and every year,

- 1. Forty dollars cash money;*
- 2. 25 bushels of wheat;*
- 3. 20 bushels of potatoes;*
- 4. 20 cabbage heads;*
- 5. 16 dozen of eggs;*
- 6. 1 hog of 200 pounds weight;*
- 7. The third part of apples;*
- 8. All the fuel, prepared for the stove;*
- 9. Food, pasture and stabling for one cow;*
- 10. The use of a part of the cellar;*
- 11. The use of 1/4 acre of land for garden;*
- 12. The use of the well and of all rods and paths on said farm;*
- 13. The use of the horses and wagon from time to time.*

During the year of that agreement, Johann worked it out so that he paid the real estate tax (at \$17.38)²² while Frank covered the personal property tax in the amount of \$2.98. Meanwhile, five years following the school fire, tax levels were somewhat normalized once again.

The Johann Wolfgram and Wilhelm Goebel families moved to the Glencoe-Buffalo Lake area in Minnesota. They were pioneer settlers in that land.

Then on the 26th day of February, 1885 John Wolfgram and Sophie his wife in consideration of the sum of \$800 "...to us in hand paid by Franz Wolfgram, do hereby fully release and discharge the said Franz Wolfgram ... hereby declaring ourselves fully paid and satisfied and said agreement void." Frank had signed the original agreement in January of 1882 and married Amelia Maas in June, 1882. So this extended family lived together from June, 1882 until early 1885.

Now the elder Wolfgrams, Johann and Anne Sophie, would prepare for their departure to Minnesota.

The Trinity Lutheran Church 125th Anniversary booklet²⁰ mentions, from the church records, that many of the early members of Trinity moved West in the 1880's " ...as a result of hard economic times, advice from friends and relatives, and a pioneering spirit. The Johann Wolfgram and Wilhelm Goebel families moved to the Glencoe-Buffalo Lake area in Minnesota. They were pioneer settlers in that land." The fact that four of the Johann Wolfgram's daughters were married and living in that general area provided a compelling reason for selecting south-central Minnesota.

From 1885 until 1895 we temporarily lose track of the Johann Wolfgrams. It may be assumed from the release of the agreement between Johann and Frank described above that the senior Wolfgrams left Portland Township in early 1885. They no longer showed up in the Wisconsin state census in that year. But they also do not appear in the Minnesota census.²⁷ According to family lore, Johann and Sophia first went to live with their youngest child Alvina. In *Josephine's Story of the Sylwester Family*,²⁸ it is stated that "the Wolfgram parents lived with their daughter, Alvina and John Levin (or Polzin) near Buffalo Lake." However, Alvina Wolfgram Levine died in Grafton Township in 1890.²⁹

As *Josephine's Story* continues,³⁰ "Then they came to live at the August Sylwester farm." So we have Johann and Anna Sophie Wolfgram moving on to another home at Gaylord -- this one to be their last. They were in familial company in Minnesota, however, because two other daughters still lived nearby. Lena Wolfgram Buss resided with her husband Fred in Glencoe just 10 miles north of the Sylwester farm and Hulda Wolfgram Goebel operated the Buffalo Lake Hotel with her husband William about 20 miles to the northwest in Renville county.

That the elder Wolfgrams then moved to Gaylord in Dryden Township is documented in the 1895 Minnesota census.³¹ At that time in the home of August Sylwester and his wife Sophia (youngest of the German-born Wolfgrams) was to be found Johann Wolfgram (81, but still working 12 months) and Sophia (77). In addition to the Sylwester parents and the Wolfgrams, there were eight children at home and Sophia Wolfgram Sylwester's mother-in-law Louisa (79) for a total extended family of 13 people. Goodness, what a house full!

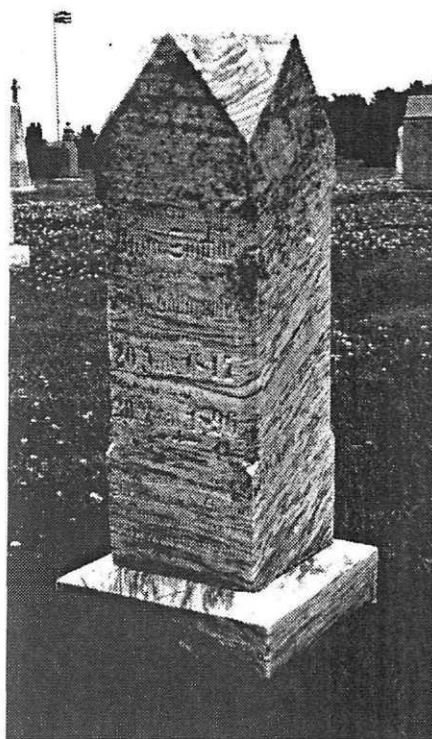
Under Johann's listing in the 1895 MN census, it was indicated that he had been in Minnesota for 9 years and in Dryden Township for 5.³² That generally agrees with leaving Wisconsin in 1885, and living elsewhere in Minnesota (probably at Alvina Levine's) for the first four years in his new state before moving in with the Sylwester family in 1890 following Alvina's death.

Bertha Toftey's *Josephine's Story of the Sylwester Family* relates that "the Wolfgram grandparents she (Josephine Sylwester Kretzschmar) knew well. Grandfather (Johann) Wolfgram liked to knit. He had learned to do this in Germany when he went out to herd the sheep. He kept the boys in wool socks and mittens. Grandmother Wolfgram was not very well. There was a large loom in the living room on which the women folk made yards and yards of carpetrag rugs. These strips were sewed together. It was grandfather Wolfgram who readied the loom for this work."³³ She continued, "Grandfather Wolfgram interested his grandson, Carl (Sylwester), in bees and together they kept several hives."

Anna Sophia died of consumption the following year³⁴ and her final resting place is at the St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery at Mountville, Minnesota, near Gaylord, Minnesota in Sibley County. Interesting that, in America, great grandmother Sophia started her religious life with the St. John's congregation in Watertown, Wisconsin and ended it at St. John's in Minnesota. Her headstone reads (original in German):

DIED. - At the home of her daughter, near Gaylord on Friday, Mrs. Wolfgram, aged 72 years. The deceased was the mother of Mrs. F. Buss of this city. The funeral took place at Mountville on Sunday, and was attended by a number of friends and relatives from this place. -- Glencoe Enterprise."

The Gaylord (MN) Hub, 16 May 1896



Headstone at Anna Sophia's grave,
St. John's Lutheran Cemetery,
Mountville, Minnesota.

*Now rest in God
Anna Sophia
wife of
Joh. Wolfgramm
born on the 20 of Jan. 1817
died on the
30 of Apr. 1896*

followed by the verse (see Johann Wolfgram's same inscription for translation):

*Christus der ist mein Leben
Sterben ist mein Gewinn,
Dem ich mich ergeben
Mitt Freuden fahr ich dahin.*

Johann Wolfgram continued to live with the Sylwester family at Lake Titloe in Dryden Township, Sibley County just north of Gaylord, Minnesota. The August Sylwesters had, by 1900, added a set of twin daughters to their family.³⁵ Information from this same census indicates that Johann, then 87 years old, was

naturalized though we have been unable either in Minnesota or Wisconsin to find such a record. He continued on at the Sylwesters in 1905³⁶ and 1910.³⁷

Johann Christian David Wolfgram lived to the age of 98 years and died June 1, 1912.³⁸ At the time of his death, Johann had 5 children, 39 grandchildren and 48 great-grandchildren.³⁹ He was laid to rest on June 4th at the Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Gaylord, Minnesota. What a pity he is not buried along with his wife Anna Sophia at Mountville. But in the late 1890's a new church was established at Gaylord and this was located much closer to the Sylwester farm so his (and the Sylwester family's) affiliation was changed from Mountville to Gaylord. We learned this from interviewing clerics in Sibley County, but later it was confirmed by Josephine's Story⁴⁰ which declared that "Distance was the deciding factor. It was eight miles to the Mountville church, and three miles to Gaylord." The inscription on Johann's headstone is very similar to his wife Sophia's (translated):

*Here rests in God
Johann Wolfgramm*

born on the

22 of Jun. 1813

died on the 1 June 1912

and like Sophia's headstone bears the inscription (translated from German)

Christ is my Life

Dying is my Victory,

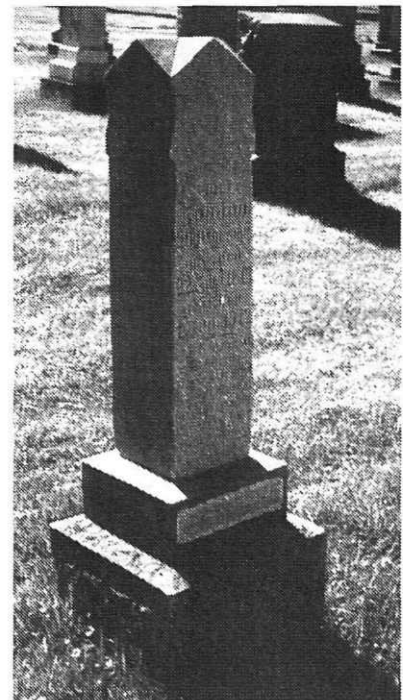
To whom I have given myself

With joy I take my journey.

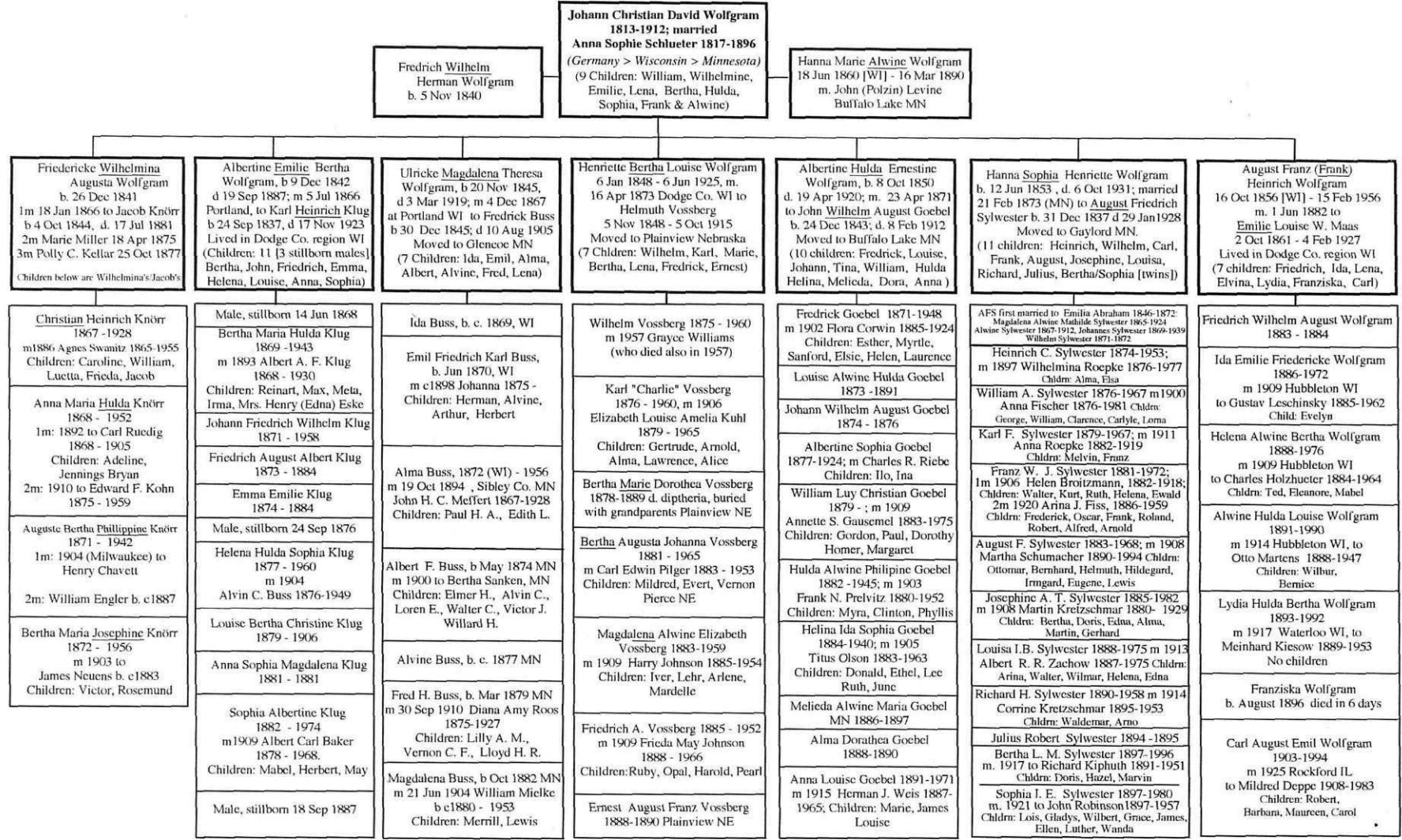
Their life's journey proceeded from Pommerania to Quebec City, Canada, then to the Watertown, Wisconsin area for thirty years, thence to Minnesota first to Buffalo Lake and finally to the Gaylord area -- the quest to discover freedom of land ownership, freedom of religion, opportunity to provide for a family of nine, be with family, or sheer adventure has led this research full circle as each child's family is examined to honor ancestral roots.

Gaylord. Another pioneer settler of this county has been called by his Maker. Mr. Johan Wolfgramm died last Saturday, June 1st, at about noon, old age being the direct cause of his death. He had been in failing health during the past five weeks, but prior to that time, had always enjoyed the best of health. The deceased came to this country about fifty years ago and most of the half century has been spent in this county. He came here when this section was sparsely settled. Johan Wolfgramm was native of Germany, and lived to the age of 98 years, 11 months and 9 days.

*Gibbon (MN) Gazette, June 14, 1912
(Minnesota Historical Society
Scrapbook 69:68)*



Headstone at Johann Wolfgramm grave, Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, Gaylord, Minnesota



Master chart of Johann and Sophie Wolfgram descendants.

By way of reintroducing the Wolfgram family, please see the master chart on the facing page. In order of their birth the Johann/Anna Sophia children appear counterclockwise around the parents' box on the chart. We will discuss each of them sequentially in separate chapters.

Although the amount of information on the Wolfgram children is variable, we have accumulated much data presented in individual chapters. Because space and time are limitations, we follow through only to the third generation from Johann and Anna Sophie Wolfgram. The single exception is for the family of Carl Wolfgram, Maureen's own immediate ancestor, for which more generations and detail are provided.

The chart provides names of children's children where we have been able to establish factual information. Then at the end, family sheets are presented to give the details as far as we know them.

Endnotes

(The abbreviation WSHS refers to the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison WI).

- ¹ Baptism Book of the Evangelical Church at Klein Benz; Pommersche Evangelische Kirche, Landeskirchliches Archiv, Greifswald, Germany.
- ² Marriage Book of the Evangelical Church at Klein Benz; Pommersche Evangelische Kirche, Landeskirchliches Archiv, Greifswald, Germany.
- ³ *Ibid.*
- ⁴ H. Rudolph, *Vollständigstes geographisch-topographisch-statistisches Orts-Lexikon von Deutschland*, Erster Band. A-K. Weimar, Karl Voigt jun., 1870.
- ⁵ E. R. Brandt et al. 1995. *German Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns*. Germanic Genealogy Society, St. Paul, pp. 137-143
- ⁶ A Brief History of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown Wisconsin: 1852-1952. Watertown, The Church, 47 pp. 1952.
- ⁷ K. E. Levi and A. B. Faust. (N.D.) *Early German Immigrants in Wisconsin*. Janesville, Origins, 40 pp.
- ⁸ Hamburg Passenger List for 1855 (LDS film 470837-1855).
- ⁹ The (Quebec City) *Morning Chronicle*, July 20, 1855, p. 3.
- ¹⁰ Bertha Kretzschmar Toftey. *Josephine's Story of the Sylvester Family*. Waseca MN Walter's Pub. Co., 1978.
- ¹¹ Recorded 6 Sep 1855 as Dodge County Courthouse document #Y144 in possession of and with kind aid from staff at the Dodge County Title and Abstract Co., Inc. Juneau WI.
- ¹² Records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown WI.
- ¹³ Census of the United States, Wisconsin 1860, Emmet, Dodge County, p. 31.
- ¹⁴ Census of the United States, Wisconsin 1860, Productions of Agriculture, Emmet, Dodge County, p. 9 (WSHS Film # 1860-483).
- ¹⁵ Tract Book, courtesy Dodge County Title and Abstract Co., Inc. Juneau WI.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁷ Album of Trinity Church. Short Historical Sketch of Trinity Lutheran Congregation, Town of Lowell, Dodge County Wisconsin: In Commemoration of its Seventy-fifth Anniversary. Lowell, WI: The Church, 31 pp., 1933.
- ¹⁸ Census of the United States, Wisconsin 1870, Portland Township, Dodge County, p. 25 (WSHS).
- ¹⁹ Census of the United States, Wisconsin 1870, Productions of Agriculture, Portland Township, Dodge County, p. 7 (WSHS).
- ²⁰ Jesus Christ – The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever, Hebrews 13.8. 1858 – 1983 Trinity Lutheran Church. Reeseville, WI: The Church, 96 pp., 1983.
- ²¹ Wisconsin Census, 1875. Enumeration of the inhabitants of Town of Portland in Dodge County (WSHS).
- ²² Portland Tax Roll, Sec 25 T9 R13, Joint School District 13, Dodge County, Wisconsin, 1878, 1879 and 1882. (Held by Waterloo Area Historical Society)
- ²³ District School Record 1864 – 1895, Hubbleton School, Joint District #13, Dodge and Jefferson Counties, Wisconsin. (Held by Waterloo Area Historical Society)
- ²⁴ 1880 U.S. Census, Portland Township, Dodge County (WSHS)
- ²⁵ 1880 U.S. Census, Agricultural Schedule, Dodge; Portland Township p. 14 (WSHS Series 1678, reel 7).
- ²⁶ Warranty Deed No. 188027, Page 154, Vol. 88, Dodge Co., (Juneau, WI).
- ²⁷ In the 1885 Minnesota census, we explored the Buffalo Lake area in Renville County, Grafton and Gaylord townships in Sibley County and Glencoe in McLeod County without success.

²⁸ Toftey, *op. cit.*

²⁹ Sibley County (MN) Record of Deaths Vol. B Page 13 Line 23. The entry reads, Alvina Lavina, white, married, age 29 yrs, 8 mo and 26 dys, born in Wisconsin, died of consumption on 16 Mar 1890; parents John Wolfgram and Sophia Wolfgram, both born in Germany; attending physician Dr. Dorsey, Glencoe (also listed under Wolfgram; name of spouse not given). According to Sharen Kranz, Sibley Records Office, the original certificate was issued from Grafton Township, listed under Alvina Levine.

³⁰ Toftey, *op. cit.*

³¹ 1895. Census of Minnesota, Sibley County, Dryden Township, Sheet 11 (Film #97, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul).

³² *Ibid.*

³³ Toftey, *op. cit.*

³⁴ Sibley County MN Record of Deaths Vol. B, Page 47, Line 26. Entered is: Anna Wolfgram, female, white, married, age 79 yrs, 3 mo, and 10 dys; Born Germany; Died 30 Apr 1896; Cause of death- consumption; father Schlueter, farmer born in Germany; registered 10 Sep 1896

³⁵ 1900, U. S. Census, Minnesota, Sibley Co., Dryden Township, Sheet No. 13, Lines 25-36.

³⁶ 1905. Census of Minnesota-Population Schedule, Sibley County, Pages 7-8 (Film #153, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul).

³⁷ 1910, Thirteenth Census of the United States: Population Schedule, Minnesota, Sibley County, Dryden Township, Sheet 12B, Line 60 (WSHS Film 1910-726, Microcopy T624).

³⁸ State of Minnesota, Division of Vital Statistics, 12167, Reg. #3. Contents: Johan Wolfgram, a farmer, born in Germany June 22, 1813 and age 98 years, 11 months, 10 days, widowed died on June 1, 1912; cause of death was no apparent cause, gradually wasted away (duration of two months), resulting in or aided by nephritis, and place of burial was Lutheran Cemetery north of village of Gaylord on June 4, 1912.

³⁹ Todten Register, p. 342, 1912 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Gaylord MN.

⁴⁰ Toftey, *op. cit.*

Chapter 2

Friedrich Wilhelm Herman Wolfgram

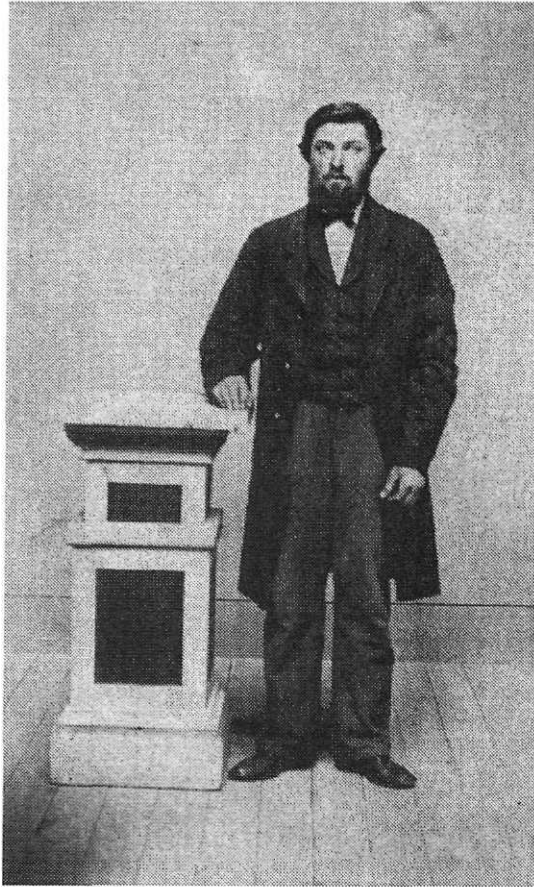
Friedrich Wilhelm Herman Wolfgram, usually found as William in the references collected, was the first born child of Johann and Anna Sophia Wolfgram. He is listed on the passenger manifest as Wilhelm, and was 14 years of age when the family left Hamburg in June, 1855. According to records from Watertown,⁴¹ he was born on 5 November 1840, though efforts to determine his place of birth in Germany were unsuccessful. William is an incredible enigma. We have personally searched at length to discover his history by reviewing post-1860 census indices where available, searching city directories, and laboring through vital statistics records at the state level – all this to no avail.

Two solid leads piqued our interest. One was William Wolfgram, a wagon maker, married to Henriette and with children named Frank, Henry, and Anna. He lived and worked in Chicago and died in 1881.^{42 43} We actually ordered and reviewed the probate records, but alas no letter of administration, which would have provided names of close relatives, was present. We finally concluded this was not the William belonging to our branch of the Wolfgrams on the basis that, despite his always being named William including the listing on his death certificate, his plot was purchased by and he was buried as “Charles Wm. Wolfgram” according to records of Graceland Cemetery in Chicago. He acquired the plot in 1872, at the death of their son William who died at age 1 year.

Another lead of major interest was a William Wolfgram who appeared in the 1871 census of Ontario, Canada in the Golden Lake area of Renfrew County.⁴⁴ According to LDS records, his wife was Louisa Krueger⁴⁵ and he had a son named Herman (born 31 Jul 1864). We also discovered a Mrs. Wm. Wolfgram who died in 1910⁴⁶ but that woman was younger than Louisa and her maiden name was Caroline Krueger. Thus, this was the wife of a different William Wolfgram than the person listed in the 1871 Ontario census, though in all likelihood she was a sister of his wife.

All of this seemed interesting. Furthermore, because of his age, the William who is the focus of our interest would have been vulnerable to conscription

during the Civil War, though no records have been discovered. He could have avoided the call by leaving for Canada as many German immigrants did. Upon more detailed investigation, it was concluded that the Wolfgrams we explored in northern Ontario were not the right age or ancestry and the German geographic location was different than that of our family.



Photograph identified as William Wolfgram
(photo courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

The single feature that provoked us to search deeply, was a photograph provided by Dennis Vossberg. (The Vossbergs will be explored in a later chapter as they are connected to the fifth-born child of Johann and Anna Sophia – Henriette Bertha Louise Wolfgram.) He has a collection of heirloom photographs from an aunt who kept impeccable records, writing details on each picture. Her careful documentation of events, people and places suggests high credibility. One of the photographs from her collection is labeled *William Wolfgram*. We reproduce it here for the record in hopes that some day, someone will discover his location and elaborate his life history. He appears to be around 30-40 years of age (which, if true, would have been photographed around 1870-1880).

A William Wolfgram, fireman with the W. P. & Y. R.R. is listed in the 1920 U.S. Census for Skagway Town, Alaska, but he was 21 years old, and without knowledge of parents and/or grandparents this find seemed too remote to explore, even though he was born in Wisconsin. The W.W.I Registration for Alaska also lists this same person and fills in a few details: the full name is William Albert Wolfgram, born 19 May 1899, resident of Skagway.

One prospect that could merit further inquiry is Civil War recruitment and service. There is a Friedrich Wolfgram who enrolled in Milwaukee; initially we discounted the importance on the basis of the location and name, but because of his eligibility that might be worth looking into. (Also, we have firsthand knowledge from experience with another relative who served in the Civil War where the records used his first given name despite the fact that he commonly used his second given name in practice.) The limited data at hand shows that Friedrich Wolfgram mustered in August 21, 1862 as a private in Company I, 26th Infantry, wounded at Gettysburg, transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corp and mustered out on August 19, 1865 (*Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers, War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865*. Vol. II. 1886. Democrat Printing, Madison WI., p. 336).

Searching records⁴⁷ from the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah to the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington D.C. and of course the Wisconsin State Historical Society in Madison – including many post-1860 newspaper microfilms and local Watertown-area documents – proved fruitless. So, in fact, we have given up on William. The limit of our current knowledge is that he came to the United States in 1855 as seen in the Hamburg passenger list, was listed on the St. John's family roster in the late 1850's, was enumerated in the 1860 census with the Johann Wolfgram family at their Emmet Township farm, and was a sponsor for the Johann August William Abraham baptism in 1861 (along with August "Sylvester" and Emilie Abraham about whom we shall see more of later). We'll need to leave it at that. After an immense continental search, we were unable to follow this oldest child of Johann and Sophia Wolfgram any farther.

Strangely enough, William's name does not appear in any obituaries of siblings or parents which leads us to suspect that he met his demise in the last part of the 19th century. We dearly wish we knew where he lived his life and found his place in America. Or did he return to his ancestral country?

Endnotes

⁴¹ Records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown WI.

⁴² Physician's Certificate of Death (#9926, 21 Aug 1881), City Board. of Health, Cook Co. Illinois. Wm. Wolfgram, male, white, age 43, occupation wagonmaker, died Aug 21st 1881 at 839 W 12th St, 8th ward. He was married, born in Germany and had resided in Illinois for 16 years (i.e., since 1865). Cholera was one cause of death. Parents are not listed.

⁴³ Illinois Staats Zeitung, 22 and 23 Aug 1881. Death Notice (translated). Friends and acquaintances the sad report that my beloved husband Spouse Wilhelm Wolfgram at the age of 43 years on Sunday the 21 of this month suddenly died. The burial will be Tuesday afternoon at 1 o'clock from the home of the bereaved, No. 839 West 12 Street thence to Graceland. The bereaved survivors ask your quiet participation.

Henrietta Wolfgram, spouse

22 Ag 2t

Frank, Henry, Anna, children

The active officers and brothers of Arminius Lodge No. 16 O. D. U. F., the sad report that our brother Wilhelm Wolfgram on 21st this month in (to) a better time (place) has been taken. All sister lodges are in silent prayer. The burial will be on Tuesday the 23 this month in the afternoon at 1 o'clock from the home of the bereaved No. 839 West 12 Street to Graceland Cemetery.

Carl Leseberg Pres.

22 Ag 2t

John M. Stompf Secty.

⁴⁴ B. S. Elliot (Ed.). 1992. *Renfrew and the North: Index to the 1871 Census of Ontario*. Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto. Listed in Renfrew County and Northern Ontario are: Wolfgram, Wm. b. Germany, Lutheran.

⁴⁵ Ancestral File. LDS. Location: Ontario Canada. William Friedrich Wolfgram (father) and Louisa Krueger (mother); child is Herman Wolfgram (born 31 Jul 1864).

⁴⁶ A. Church and L. Church. 1987. Births, marriages & deaths: abstracts from the Renfrew Mercury, 1901-1910. H. L. Church, Renfrew, Ont. (PAM 89-144, WSHS.) On page 195: Germanicus, Wilberforce, Mrs. Wm. Wolfgram aged 67, Born in Germany (died, Apr. 14, 1910).

⁴⁷ In addition to reviewing the National Civil War Pension Index, indices for the 1870 U.S. Census were examined for the following states: California, Colorado, Dakota, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, and Utah.

Chapter 3

Friedericke Wilhelmina

Augusta (Wolfgram) Knarr

The second child of Johann and Sophia Wolfgram was a daughter, born in Pommerania and named Friedericke Wilhelmina Augusta. Like all other Wolfgram children, she had three given names and it was the second of these that we find most commonly used. Thus, sometimes she was known as Wilhelmina, but usually as Minnie (and occasionally Mina). According to the records of St. John's in Watertown,⁴⁸ she was born on the 26th of December in 1841 and was the oldest sister of Maureen's Grandfather Frank.

Minnie was 13 years old when she left Hamburg in July of 1855 with her family of six other siblings and her parents. She and her brother Wilhelm, age 14, were the oldest of the children. Leaving her homeland, surviving a difficult trip across the Atlantic Ocean on the ship *Johannes*, and arriving at Quebec City 47 days later must have been an experience she never forgot.

The context of Minnie in the Wolfgram family is presented on page 20. Minnie's extended family from her marriage to Jacob Knörr is summarized in the sidebar to the left, and further details may be found in the family sheet for Wilhelmina Wolfgram and Jacob Knörr (Appendix 1).

The first thing you need to know about the Knörr family name is that it was spelled in numerous ways: of those we have seen are Knarr, Knor, Knair, Knorr, Knur, Knearr, Knörr, Knärr, Kneer, and Knoerr (most Trinity records for this

Friedericke <u>Wilhelmina</u> Augusta Wolfgram b. 26 Dec 1841 1m 18 Jan 1866 to Jacob Knörr b 4 Oct 1844, d. 17 Jul 1881 2m Marie Miller 18 Apr 1875 3m Polly C. Kellar 25 Oct 1877 Children below are Wilhelmina's/Jacob's
--

Christian Heinrich Knörr 1867 - 1928 m1886 Agnes Swanitz 1865-1955 Children: Caroline, William, Luetta, Frieda, Jacob

Anna Maria <u>Hulda</u> Knörr 1868 - 1952 1m: 1892 to Carl Ruedig 1868 - 1905 Children: Adeline, Jennings Bryan 2m: 1910 to Edward F. Kohn 1875 - 1959

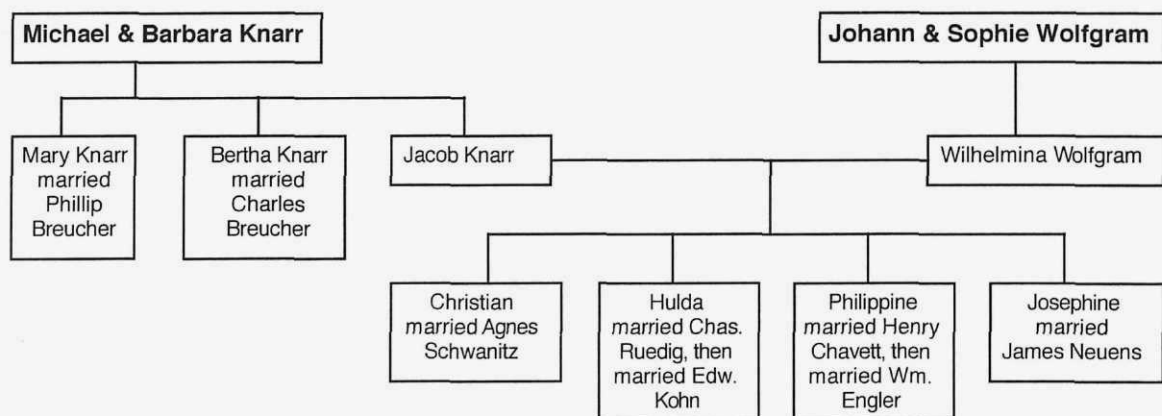
Auguste Bertha <u>Phillippine</u> Knörr 1871 - 1942 1m: 1904 (Milwaukee) to Henry Chavett 2m: William Engler b. c1887

Bertha Maria <u>Josephine</u> Knörr 1872 - 1956 m 1903 to James Neuens b. c1883 Children: Victor, Rosemund
--

family use the form Knörr [no doubt the original European spelling]; Jacob's headstone reads Knearr; but, in fact, the family generally preferred and used Knarr). The diversity of spellings caused great confusion for a time, but finally, we sorted it all out. There were in fact two families in Dodge County with similar names, one group from Bavaria using the name Knarr (the one of our primary interest) and another from Germany usually using the family name Knorr (anglicized), and there appears to be no relation between them.

Jacob certainly had problems of his own, and some would suggest he might have been a scoundrel. Still, he is not to be confused with the infamous Knörr who murdered his wife in the Beaver Dam locale, even though the area newspapers forgot which Knörr was whom. Let's deal with this directly and get the argument out of the way. In 1866⁴⁹ under the banner "A SHOCKING TRAGEDY," the Beaver Dam Argus concluded its article by saying, "The case is a singular and shocking one, and if it should be found that Mr. Knorr is guilty, it will stand as one of the most revolting and brutal murders on record." The incident involved the murder of Christian (we believe this should have been Christiana) Knorr, and her husband Nicolas and son George were arrested (though ultimately only Nicolas was convicted). Then fifteen years later, having forgotten the right names, yet still remembering reputations, the Argus⁵⁰ reported that "Jacob Knorr, sent to the penitentiary from here ten years ago for wife-murder, and who has been insane for some time, died in his cell last Sunday." Of course it wasn't Jacob Knorr, but Nicolas who died and who had been sent to the penitentiary. Ironically, five months after Nicolas died in 1881, the Jacob of our interest also died in July in the town of Elba in Dodge County.

For an easily understood visual relationship of the families discussed in this chapter, we provide a partial descendancy chart below.



Because we have the good fortune to know more than usual about this family, let's start with the George Michael Knarr family as they ventured early to America. Then after exploring their movement and family life, we can focus on their

son Jacob (and Minnie Wolfgram). With what we present here, descendants of the Knarr family will find it possible to go backwards and forward if they wish to expand on genealogy or family history.

The Family of George Michael Knarr

George Knarr and Anna Barbara Wietner⁵¹ came to America from Bavaria earlier than most people we have investigated, apparently arriving independently in New Jersey around 1837 where they married. We know of no children born to them in New Jersey. About 1839 they moved to Cleveland, Ohio where they lived until they again re-migrated, in this instance to Wisconsin. We believe all of their children – Mary, Jacob, Bertha and George Michael (Jr.) – were born in Ohio. Mary arrived first as far as we know (in 1840), then Jacob in 1844, Bertha in 1851 and finally George Michael Jr. in 1858.

The Knarr family decided to remove to Wisconsin after residing for two decades in the Cleveland area. In Anna Barbara's obituary, it is said that they came to Wisconsin in 1852, but that must be an error. The youngest child, George Michael Knarr (Jr.) was born in Cleveland in September, 1858.⁵² Since the census mortality schedule on which the younger George Michael appears registers deaths within the year prior to the census, it appears to us that the Knarr family made their way to Wisconsin at some time between 1858 and 1860.

Our first record of the Knarrs in Wisconsin is contained in the 1860 U.S. Census.⁵³ There the family was listed with George M. Knarr, 48, a farmer from Bavaria; Barbara 43 from Bavaria, Mary 20, Jacob 15, and Bertha 9; all children were born in Ohio. The Knarr infant 10/12 born also in Ohio, died in July 1859 [we assume, but do not know for sure, in Wisconsin], and his death was noted above.

The year 1866 brought an important event to the Knarr and Wolfgram families. Jacob "Knor" was betrothed to Wilhelmina Wolfgram (daughter of Johann and Anna Sophia Wolfgram) on January 18, 1866. The marriage took place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lowell Township. Children of this marriage were sequentially, Christian, Hulda, Philippine and Josephine; we will relate more of them shortly. Minnie (Wolfgram) Knarr and Jacob Knarr would both meet an early demise as we shall soon see.

By the 1870 U. S. Census,⁵⁴ Michael "Knair", 55, was listed as a laborer and his wife Barbara, 50 was keeping house. They were living independently; Michael and Barbara Knarr may have turned the farm in section 22 over to Jacob and Minnie. Indeed the 1873 plat map shows the G. M. Knarr property in section 1 of Portland Township (T9N R13E).⁵⁵ This farm was located four miles due north of

the Wolfgram farm. In the Wisconsin Census for 1875⁵⁶ there exists an entry for Michael Knarr and because that census did not list all persons, it shows simply 1 male and 1 female, thus we can conclude Michael and Barbara. They appear also in the 1880 U.S. Census.

Let's explore the farm in Portland Township where the Knarr family lived. The 1880 Schedule 2 – Productions of Agriculture part of the U. S. Census was sufficiently detailed to provide a nice picture of the Knarr farm operation. Of their farm land, 100 acres were improved – 60 under tillage and 40 in permanent pasture – and 20 acres were unimproved woodland. Thirty two acres of grassland produced 25 tons of hay. The Knarrs had five “milch cows” and 14 other cattle. In 1879 five calves were dropped and one other was purchased; none were sold or slaughtered. The family made 300 pounds of butter on the farm. There was no cash outlay for labor, and estimated value for all farm products for the year was \$1100. Their farm was valued at \$6000, implements at \$200, and the total value of livestock was \$300.

On hand June 1, 1880 at the Knarr farm were 11 swine, a flock of 45 poultry (exclusive of the spring hatch) which laid 100 dozen eggs. The Knarr farm 1879 crop areas and production were:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Yield</u>
Barley	3	60 bushels
Indian corn	7	500 “
Oats	4	200 “
Rye	1	15 “
Wheat	30	500 “
Irish potatoes	1	65 “
Apples (50 trees)	2	50 “
Wood	na	25 cords

We can compare the 120-acre Knarr farm statistics over a 30 year period by looking at several of the agricultural production categories across three censuses. Aside from the increased productivity, the astonishing feature of this period is the tremendous gain in tillable area. In 1860 there were 27 acres of improved land, but ten years later that was more than doubled. What an incredible amount of work and effort it must have taken to clear 33 acres of unimproved land in ten years – surely Michael and Jacob did this together. There are contrasts with the Wolfgram farm 2 1/2 miles to the southeast: the Knarr farm was larger, had a smaller emphasis on sheep, wool and rye, but more wheat, corn and oats.

Knarr Animal Agriculture (number)

Census	Improved	Horses	Milk	Wrkg	Other	Sheep	Swine
	acres		Cows	Oxen	Cattle		
1860	27	-	5	4	6	5	7
1870	60	4	3	-	8	5	6
1880	60	4	5	-	14	-	11

Knarr Plant/ Animal Agricultural Production

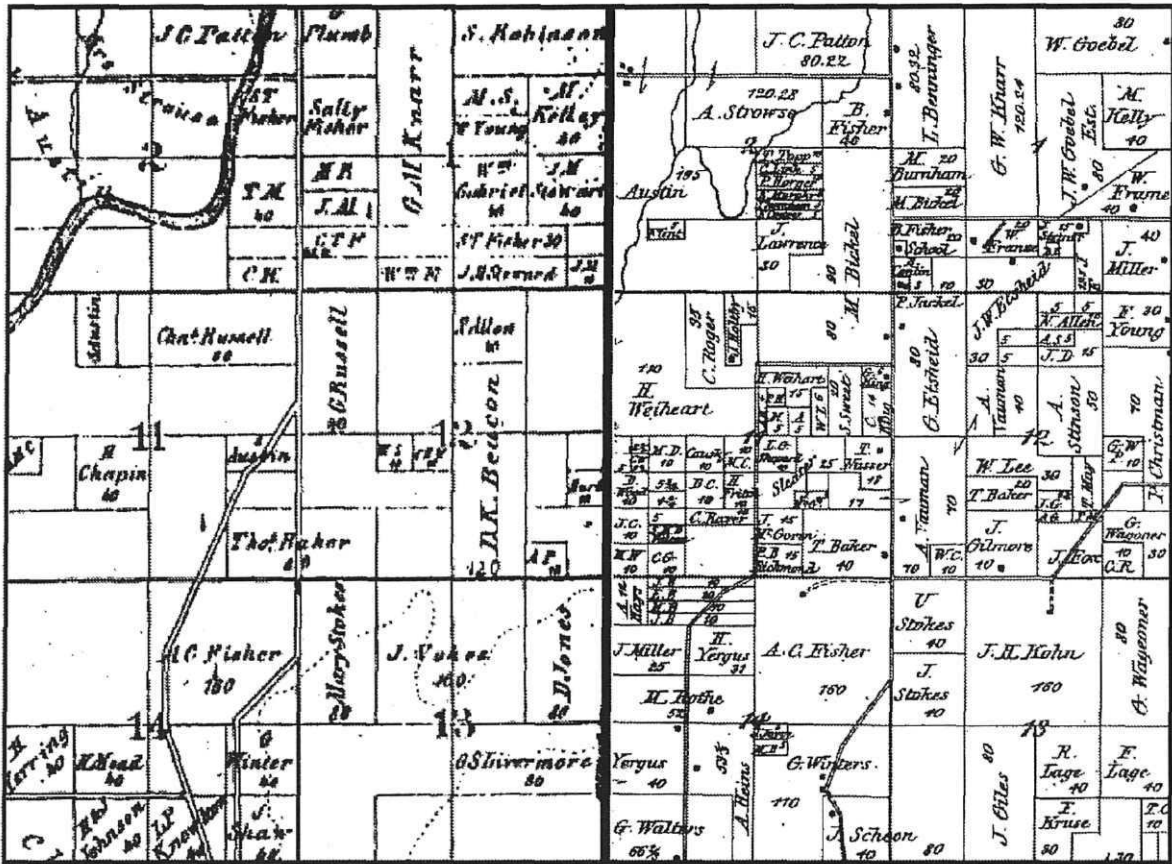
Census	Wheat Bushels	Rye Bushels	Indian	Oats Bushels	Wool Pounds	Butter Pounds
			Corn Bushels			
1860	250	4	100	155	20	350
1870	480	-	300	243	-	300
1880	500	15	500	200	-	300



Sulky cultivator used in late 19th century (adapted from Hurt, R. D. 1982. *American Farm Tools: from Hand-Power to Steam-Power*. Sunflower University Press).

It's a little difficult, 117 years after the fact, to understand the meaning of the Knarr's \$200 implement valuation. But some notes from implement dealer Reinhard and Klug⁵⁷ provide a helpful context about just what \$200 would buy in the 1880's. In September, 1883 Michael Knarr purchased one No. 519 1/2 steel beam plow; the cost was \$21.00, but with a \$1.00 discount for cash, it was procured for \$20.00. Then the following spring Michael bought one rod iron rolling coultter

plow for \$4.00 from Reinhard and Klug's on May 24, 1884. A month later at the same implement dealer, Michael Knarr bought a six shovel Jefferson sulky cultivator for \$28.00, again paying cash (this type of cultivator is portrayed in the figure on page 31).



Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Portland Township (T9N R13E) with the George Michael Knarr property located in the E1/2 of W1/2 of section 1. Left half is the 1859 plat (from *Atlas of Dodge County Wisconsin, 1859*, publisher unknown); right half represents the 1873 counterpart (from *Atlas of Dodge County Wisconsin, 1873*, Harrison and Warner, Madison).

A view of Portland Township plat maps from two different years is instructive. The 1859 map shows George Michael Knarr as one of the early settlers in this area (left half of map above). A large amount of this six square mile area was yet to be sold. Fourteen years later (1873 map, right half of map above), all the land was then owned by private individuals and there was a great deal of subdivision compared to 1859 – most particularly in Section 11 to the southwest of the Knarr farm. Notice the presence of friends, near neighbors and relatives mentioned elsewhere in this chapter in the vicinity of the Knarr property, especially families of Etscheid, Miller, Kohn and Goebel none of whom were in the environs in 1859. The 120-acre farm in Section 1 was bequeathed by Michael to his grandson Christian Knarr and later plat maps show this property under his ownership.

Meanwhile Minnie (Wolfgram) Knarr disappeared from available records, and the Knarr father, George Michael, prepared a will. While we are unaware of the circumstances of Michael's health in 1883 when he was 71 years of age, he executed a will which we discovered in the archives of the Dodge County Court House at Juneau Wisconsin. With Jacob and Minnie already deceased, his father Michael had only to deal with his wife, daughters, and grandchildren.⁵⁸

*...so long as they remain unmarried...
the said Christian Knoerr shall give to each
of his three sisters at the time of their mar-
riage, one bed, one bedstead, one bureau and
shall pay three years after their marriage to
each the sum of Three hundred dollars.*

1883 Will of George Michael Knörr

Because it provides an interesting flavor of the conditions and times, his will is quoted here:

I, Michael Knoerr of the town of Portland, County of Dodge and State of Wisconsin, being of full age, sound disposing mind, memory and understanding, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First.--- I will and direct, that the expenses of my funeral and all my just debts be fully paid out of my personal estate, by my executor hereinafter named as soon as may be after my decease.

Second. --- I hereby give, devise and bequeath unto my grand-son Christian Knoerr all my Real Estate, subject however to the dower right of my beloved wife, Anna Barbara Knoerr, during her natural life and Provided, that my said grand-son Christian Knoerr shall allow to his three sisters Hulda Knoerr, Philippine Knoerr and Josephine Knoerr the quiet and peaceable possession of a part of the dwelling house on said land, now occupied by me, so long as they are unmarried and Provided that the said Christian Knoerr shall give to each of his three sisters at the time of their marriage, one bed, one bedstead, one bureau and shall pay three years after their marriage to each the sum of Three hundred dollars.

Third. --- The child of children of a deceased grand-daughter shall have the sum which his, her or their mother would have taken if living.

Fourth. --- I give, devise and bequeath unto my daughter Bertha Bruecher five dollars and unto my daughter Mary Bruecher five dollars.

Fifth. --- All the rest, residue and remainder of my personal estate, I give, devise and bequeath to my said grand-son, except the wearing apparel with household furniture of my said wife Anna Barbara Knoerr.

Sixth. --- I hereby nominate and appoint Christian Reinhard the executor of this my last will and testament and hereby authorize and empower him, the said Christ. Reinhard to compound, compromise and settle my claim or demand which may be against or in favor of my said estate.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty first day of December 1883

signed M Knörr (Seal)

The above instrument was signed, published and declared by the said testator to be his will and testament in the presence of us who have signed our names at this request as witnesses in his presence and in presence of each other.

signed Wm Etscheid
signed Fritz Acher
signed Ernst Schwanitz

*of the village of
Reeseville, Count of Dodge
and State of Wisconsin*

In the matter of the estate of Michael Knoerr deceased, The petition of Christian Reinhard of the town of Lowell in said County, respectfully shows:

That Michael Knoerr, who was at the time of his death, an inhabitant of the town of Portland in said County of Dodge died on the 24th day of August A.D. 1884, at the said town of Portland, having estate to be administered.

That said deceased left him surviving a wife Anna Barbara Knoerr, and two daughters Bertha Bruecher and Mary Bruecher, and four children of a deceased son Jacob Knoerr, to wit, Christian, Hulda, Phillippine and Josephine Knoerr as his next of kin and heirs at law: That all of said heirs are of full age, except for the said Christian, Hulda, Phillippine and Josephine Knoerr, who are miners and have no general guardian. That the personal property of said deceased, does not exceed the value of six hundred dollars, and the annual rents and profits of his real estate does not exceed one hundred fifty dollars as petitioner is informed and believes:

That said deceased left a will, duly executed by him, as petitioner is informed and believes, which is herewith presented and propounded, wherein your petitioner is named as the sole executor.

Wherefore your petitioner prays that said will may be proved and allowed as the last will and testament of said Michael Knoerr deceased, and letters of testamentary thereupon issued to this petitioner dated September 4th 1884.

Signed Christian Reinhard.

At age 73, Michael Knarr died on August 17, 1884⁵⁹ from an injury produced by a 15' fall. His funeral (and we believe his burial) was at Trinity Lutheran Church south of Reeseville, Wisconsin and the text used was 2 Corinthians 5:1-3. The original church records indicate George Michael was born on June 24, 1812 in Raudorf, Bavaria.⁶⁰

Michael's death set into motion a petition by Christian Reinhard, a citizen of the Reeseville area, for executorship of Michael Knarr's estate.⁵⁸ Though the death date is in error, the petition provides a capsule view of the family at that time and the value of the estate (see sidebar to left).

The probate inventory⁶¹ dated December 9, 1884 included Michael's land (120 acres valued at \$4800 and located at E1/2 NW1/4 & NE1/4 SW1/4, both parcels in Section 1, T9N R13E) plus:

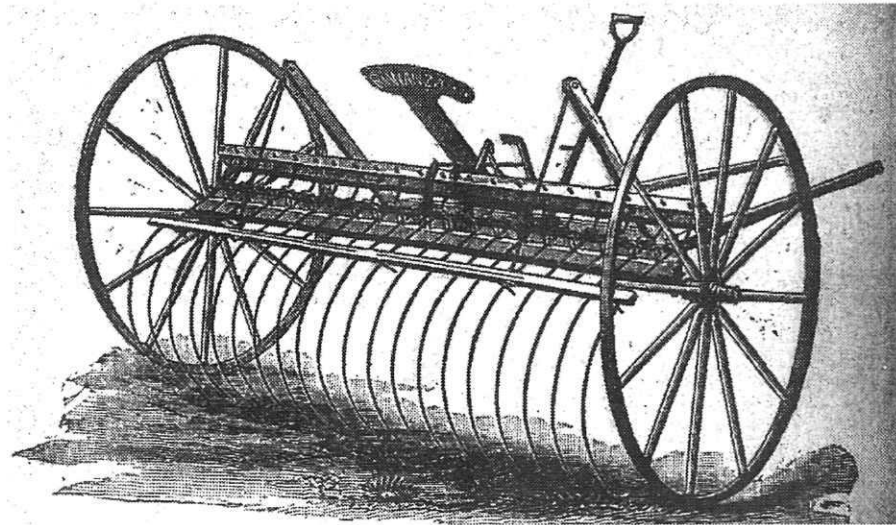
CREDIT INSTRUMENTS (notes totaling \$400.00);

CROPS (250 bushels wheat @ 60¢ = \$150.00, 150 bushels oats @ 25¢ = \$37.00, and 100 bushels corn @ 25¢ = \$37.00);

LIVESTOCK (2 horses @ \$20 = \$40.00, 2 horses @ \$50 = \$100.00, 8 cows @ \$25 = \$200.00, 1 bull = \$15.00, 6 yearlings @ \$12 = \$72.00, 4 calves @ \$4 = \$16;

EQUIPMENT (2 wagons = \$15.00, 1 buggy = \$20.00, 1 sleigh = \$10.00, 1 seeder = \$15.00, 1 corn cultivator = \$15.00, 1 mower = \$15.00, 1 horse hay rake = \$5.00 (this type hay rake can be seen in figure below), and 1 reaper = \$15.00.

Barbara Knarr, Michael's wife, eventually went to live with her grandson Christian and wife Agnes and their children. In 1900⁶² the location of this extended family was at Reeseville, WI where Christ, as he was known, was a local businessman. The census lists four children of Christ and Agnes, and grandmother Barbara, 83, born in May of 1817. She stayed with this family in



Hay rake in use in the 1880's (adapted from Morrison, W. H. (Ed.), 1887. *Wisconsin Farmers' Institutes*. Bull. No. 1. Democrat Printing Co., Madison. Page 288).

Reeseville until her death, at 86 years, on July 6, 1903.⁶³ Her local obituary is most informative, so we find it useful to reproduce it in total; except for the parenthetical remarks for clarification, this is quoted from the Weekly Review:

*...closing of a life that was rich in years
and replete with kind words and good
deeds...Grandma Knarr was a good
woman and performed all those arduous
duties that pioneer life required...*

1903 Obituary for Anna Barbara Knörr

Death of Grandma Knarr. Monday evening (6 July 1903) marked the closing of a life that was rich in years and replete with kind works and good deeds. Mrs. Anna Knarr bowed down by the weight of years quietly yielded up the ghost of life, her long journey of four score and six years on earth was at an end. In trying to compass all those years that her life extends over, and note the changes that have taken place since her birth, a more vivid imagination than writer's must be employed. But in the days of her usefulness Grandma Knarr was a good woman and performed all those arduous duties that pioneer life required and now that death has called her home she goes to receive that reward that a worthy wife and mother deserves.

Mrs. Knarr whose maiden name was Anna Widmer was born in the province of Bavaria on the 21st day of May 1817. Just twenty years later she left the scenes of her birth place and came to America and was married afterward to George Michael Knarr. Their married life extended over a period of 57 years. Three children were born to them one son and two daughters. Their son Jacob Knarr died in 1881 and Mr. Knarr her husband died in 1884. Her two surviving daughters are Mrs. C. Bruecher and Mrs. P. Bruecher of Elba. There also survives her seventeen grand children and sixteen great grand children. Since the death of her

husband she has made her home with her grandson Christian Knarr, moving with him to Reeseville some years ago.

Her marriage took place at Hobokin, N.J. and they lived two years at that city. They came to Cleveland Ohio in 1839 and resided there until 1852 when they came to Wisconsin settling on a farm in Portland where they resided until after the death of Mr. Knarr. Her health for the past few years has been poorly owing to her advanced age and for several months she has been quite helpless.

The funeral took place today (9 July 1903) from the residence of her grand-son and her remains were conveyed to the Lutheran cemetery where they were laid to rest, Rev. P. A. Schmidt officiating.

Even a circuitous search for Anna Barbara Knarr's death certificate⁶⁴ using the commonly used spellings and misspellings was unsuccessful. We finally discovered it by manually going through hundreds of certificates of the era. It showed up eventually under the name Kanarr – yet another (this, a phonetic) spelling. Kanarr appears in an entirely different subsection of the death index so would likely not have been found, even in an intensive search.⁶⁵

Mary (Knarr) Breucher

Maria was the oldest of the Michael and Barbara Knarr children and like the others, she was born in Ohio. She was married to Philipp Breucher and they lived in the Town of Elba in Dodge County. In most literature, the family name is spelled either Breucher or Bruecher, but some of the church records use the original German form Brüger.

Philipp and his family appear in the 1870 U.S. census, he at age 33 (born in Prussia), his wife at 30 and as we already know she was born in Ohio, plus Frederick (8), Albert (6), Bertha (4), Jacob (2) and an unreadable entry. Since all children were born in Wisconsin, the Breucher family must have been here at least since 1862. The 1875 census lists 4 male and 4 female in this household. We do not know if it includes Philipp.

In 1873, four of Mary's children were baptized on the same day. The event was at Trinity Lutheran Church and all these baptisms occurred on June 7, 1873. The Mary and Philipp Breucher's child name is followed by their birth date, then their sponsors:⁶⁰

Albert, 7 Dec 1862, Michael Knörr and wife Barbara,
Bertha Catharine, 9 Mar 1866, Carl Brücher and wife Bertha,
Jacob Georg, 29 Jan 1868, Jacob Knörr and wife Wilhelmina,
Caroline Josephine, 29 Apr 1871, Friedrich Schmeling and Frau Bertha Klug.

By 1880, Mary was listed as the head of the household at 40, along with her eight children: Frederick, 18; Albert, 16; Bertha, 14; Jacob, 12; Caroline, 9; Emma, 6; Mary, 4, and Henry, 2. It appears that Philipp, the father/husband died between 1877-1880.

The Jacob Knarr Family and Marriages

Jacob Knarr (birth stated as 4 Oct 1844) was confirmed at Trinity on 15 Apr 1860 by Pastor C. Strassen, the same minister who baptized, confirmed, and married others in the Wolfgram family including grandfather Frank.⁶⁰

According to Trinity Lutheran Church records regarding marriages: Jacob Knarr born 5 Nov 1844 in Cleveland, son of Michael and his wife Barbara geb. Weitner residing in Town of Portland, Dodge Co. WI and the bride was Wilhelmine Wolfgram, born 26 Dec 1842 in Pommerania, the daughter of Johann Wolfgram and his wife Sophia geb. Schleutter whose residence was in the Town of Portland. The marriage was conducted by Pastor Carl Strassen in Trinity Lutheran Church on the 18th of January, 1866 with song and sermon.⁶⁰ The official certificate was dated January 18, 1866 and registered on January 30, 1866.⁶⁶ This may well have been the first marriage of the Wolfgram children (we do not know the details of William Wolfgram as noted previously); she surely was the first of the Wolfgram daughters to marry, though her sister Emilie married also at Trinity in July five months later. The modest wooden church in Lowell Township (Fig. 7) was almost certainly the location of Minnie's marriage to Jacob Knarr.

Minnie (Wolfgram) Knarr had four children with Jacob: Christian (1867), Hulda (1868), Philippine (1871) and Josephine (1872). Minnie was a sponsor, along with Jacob, for one of the Breucher children at the mass confirmation at Trinity in 1873. After that we can find no record whatsoever and have been unable to locate a death date or a burial location, but apparently she died between 1873 and 1875; Trinity records of April 1875 show Jacob as widowed. Indeed, a female is missing from the family tally in the 1875 Wisconsin State Census.⁵⁶ Jacob himself, intervened by two more marriages, died in 1881.

Jacob (listed as Knoerr in the official registration⁶⁷) later married Maria Mueller. The ceremony was a religious event at Trinity Lutheran Church. This marriage was pronounced by Pastor E. Grothe on April 18, 1875. The bride, a daughter of John and Maria, was Maria Mueller. At the time of her marriage, Maria was 16, going on 17. However, this marriage was not to last very long. One hint of looming troubles is found in the minutes of the Trinity Lutheran Church council of May 6, 1876 noting that the pastor and elders were to go to

***Dodge County Court In Probate
In the Matter of Mary Knorr a minor
To the Judge of said Court:***

The petition of Mary Knorr respectfully shows, that she was aged seventeen years on the 26th day of May 1876, and was the wife of Jacob Knorr, from whom she was recently divorced, and the daughter of John Miller, a farmer residing at the town of Lowell in said County of Dodge. That she resides with her said father in the Town of Lowell, County of Dodge and State of Wisconsin, and has no guardian, but is in need of a guardian. That she has personal property to the value of about Five hundred dollars, but has no real estate. And your petitioner would pray that her said father John Miller, being a responsible and competent person, may, by this Court, be appointed her guardian.

Dated March 13th 1877. signed by Mary Knarr.

Jacob Knörr in regards to problems between him and his wife (no details were given).⁶⁸ Divorce records of that era no longer exist for Dodge County, but the Court in Probate records have been filmed and the petition seeking guardianship for Mary Knarr⁶⁹ sheds what little light there is about the situation. It is recorded verbatim in the sidebar.

A year after Jacob's divorce from Maria Mueller, he married Polly C. Kellar at the Methodist church in Columbus. The wedding was officiated by Rev. W. R. Jones on

October 25, 1877 and witnessed by Chas. Breucher (Jacob's brother in law) and Martha Kellar. Polly was a daughter of Isaac and Ann E. Kellar. It seems reasonable that her middle initial "C" stood for Catherine, because in the 1880 U.S. census⁷⁰ Jacob, then 36 is listed along with his wife Kate, 29 and the four children born to Jacob and Minnie (Wolfgram) Knarr: Christian, 13; Hulda, 11; Philippine, 9; and Josephine, 7.

Late in our research we discovered a cemetery record of potential interest in regards to Jacob's last marriage. There is an infant buried at the Austin Cemetery (a modest family plot in Section 3 of Portland Township) who we believe to be a daughter. We were unable to find a headstone, but an earlier transcription was recorded as "Knear, (Mattie) daug of J. & K, Mar 29, 1878 – Apr 9, 1878."⁷¹ The inference we have drawn is that the J & K represent Jacob and Kate. There appear to be no official (i.e., State) birth or death records which would not have been rare in 1878. Future efforts could focus on the church of their marriage in Columbus or other churches in northern Portland Township for further confirmation. Considering information in the next paragraph, it is possible that records exist for the Reformed Church, Reeseville, but we have examined that documentation and did not find Knarr data (we confess to concentrating on Gobel family records at the time; we re-examined the materials in 2000 and did not find relevant entries).

Jacob Knarr was stricken from the membership list of Trinity Lutheran Church on January 1, 1878 because he had joined the Reformed Church.⁶⁸

In 1881, at age 37, Jacob suffered a stroke and the Columbus Democrat⁷² carried the only account known of this event:

"Jacob Kneer, of the town of Elba, who had been ailing for some time was laid prostrate on Friday, July 1st, with a very severe stroke of paralysis. The case is pronounced an unusually bad one, the gentleman having lost control of his person from the middle of the body down."

His final day came on July 17th and the Democrat provided public notice:⁷³

"Jacob Knerr, of Portland, mentioned in this paper two weeks ago as having suffered a severe stroke of paralysis, entirely disabling him from any service, and from which he endured painful suffering for several weeks, died on Sunday morning last, leaving four children without a father's comforting care. From what we are able to learn we judge Mr. Knerr to have been a highly respectable citizen of the community in which he lived. He was comparatively a young man, about 37 years old at the time of his death. The funeral took place on Tuesday from the German Lutheran Church in the town of Lowell."

Jacob was 37 years of age at his death and at that point in time his son Christian was 14, Anna Maria Hulda was 13, Auguste Bertha Philippine was 10, and the youngest daughter Bertha Maria Josephine was only 9 years old. Trinity Church records show Jacob Knarr, born in Cleveland Ohio on 4 Nov 1844, died on 17 July 1881 and was buried in the Trinity congregational graveyard on 19 July 1881; text for the funeral was Joh. 11:4.



Jacob Knarr headstone at the Trinity Lutheran Church cemetery near Reeseville, Wisconsin.

We were unable to resolve an ambiguity in the church records about the month of Jacob's birth; in some cases October is used, while others indicate November.

The marriage of Wilhelmina Wolfgram to Jacob Knarr lasted between seven and nine years. The latest record we have of Minnie is the listing of her as a witness, along with Jacob, at the baptism of Mary Breucher's (his sister) child Jacob Georg in June of 1873 at Trinity. The records of Trinity Lutheran Church list Jacob as a widower in April of 1875.

Jacob remarried in 1875 and again in 1877. No evidence has been found regarding Minnie (Wolfgram) Knarr's death; possibly it was a serious disease or infection that took her life. No certificate of death or gravestone has been located.

The keeper of the cemetery and records for Trinity, located Minnie's grave site on the map, but there is no headstone and the cemetery records do not provide details other than name.⁷⁴ The four grandchildren were held in high esteem by Jacob's parents as seen by the will of grandfather Michael Knarr.

As Jacob died at the age of 37 years, his parents could have guided the four children (then 14, 13, 10 and 9) through the years of maturation by living as an extended family.

Christian Heinrich Knarr

Christian Heinrich was born on 17 Jan 1867⁶⁰ and baptized at Trinity Lutheran on 27 Jan 1867 with sponsors being Christian Kohn, Bertha Wolfgram, and Heinrich Klug. Christian was the first child born to Jacob and Minnie (Wolfgram) Knarr. He was confirmed also at Trinity on Palm Sunday, 21 Mar 1880 with the text Ps. 42:12.

From the marriage records of Trinity: Christian, son of Jacob and his wife Wilhelmine geb. Wolfgram and residing in Town of Portland married Emmie Sophie Emilie Agnes Schwanitz. She was born on 3 Jan 1868, in Reeseville and the daughter of Ernst Schwanitz and his wife Caroline geb. Schroder. There were two proclamations on the 3rd and 4th Sundays after Epiphany on Jan 24 and 31. Their marriage was on 4 Feb 1886, in the church with song and sermon. The witnesses were Albert Breger, Ludwig Schröder, Hulda Knarr and Maria Schwanitz. Comments: The parents of the bridegroom are deceased so the widow, grandmother Knarr and Johann Göbel attended the wedding.

The first child of Christian and Emma Sophie Emilie Agnes (Schwanitz) Knarr was Caroline Maria Philippine, born in Town of Portland on 26 Feb 1887. She was baptized at Trinity Church the following day.⁶⁰ Sponsors for this event were Ernst Schwanitz, Maria Schwanitz, and Philippine Knörr.

Another child, Christian Wilhelm was born 24 June 1889, and baptized on 2 July 1889 in the parents home, but by the Trinity ecclesiastic.⁶⁰

In the same year his son William entered this world, Christ initiated a long string of events that would mean large changes for his family. As announced by the Review ⁷⁵ "C. Knarr will sell his farming implements and stock at public auction on Saturday Sep. 7th." A reminder of the sale appeared in the Weekly Review two weeks later, "C. Knarr's auction comes up today."

In 1891, Christ Knarr sold his 120 acre farm in the town of Portland at \$85/acre. At the same time he bought 70 acres of the farm owned by G. W. Runkel east of Reeseville in the Town of Lowell for \$5500.⁷⁶ Mr. Runkel was moving, as others from the area did, to Pine Island in Minnesota. A year later, the Knarr dwelling in the village was sold to F. Heinig for \$1600.⁷⁷ The farm east of the village, bought just two years earlier was bought by Phillip Goebel (likely his uncle), consideration \$7300.⁷⁸ If, as we assume, this was the same property he acquired from G. Runkel the 33% gain in value realized turned out to be a good investment.

Also in 1891, another daughter arrived at the Christ Knarr household. This was Luetta born on May 1, 1891. Nearly all documents we have examined have Louetta's given name spelled incorrectly and the birth certificate is no exception⁷⁹ using "Luretta."

The fourth child of Christ and Agnes Knarr was born on December 23, 1897.⁸⁰ Though known as Frieda, her name appears as Fedora A. Knarr on the birth certificate.

When the census was conducted in 1900⁸¹ it listed Christian H. 33, as head of household, born in Wisconsin in January of 1867; his wife Agnes E. 32, born in Wisconsin; and four Wisconsin-born children including Caroline M. 13 (Feb. 1887), William C. 10 (Jun 1889), Louetta M. 9 (May 1891), and Frieda 2 (Dec 1897). In addition Grandmother Barbara Knarr, age 83 (May 1817) was living there.

A decade passed until the next real estate transaction. Then in 1901, he sold another farm property as noted by the Review,⁸² (see sidebar page 43):

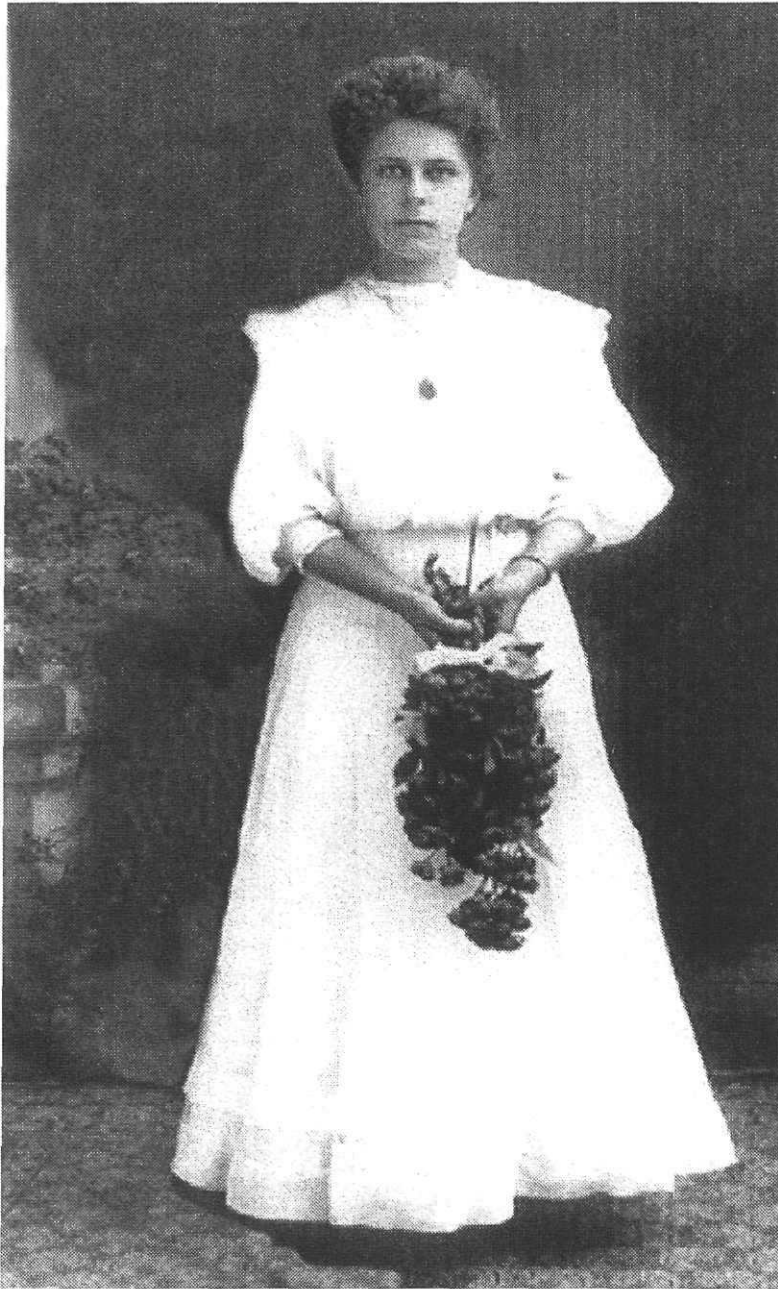
THE WOLFGRAMS AND KNARRS

Let's take a small departure here to comment on the social interactions between the Wolfgram family and the Knarrs. Frank Wolfgram in early 1904 had been ill for some time and he was staying at the home of Christian Knarr.^a Perhaps he wanted to be in a village where there was presence of a medical doctor. Other records provide evidence of exchange visits between Frank's daughters and their Knarr relatives in the Reeseville area. In 1906, a surprise party was given for Christ Knarr; not only were there a large number of neighbors, but, "from out of town Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Lemke, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wolfgram, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Koplín, of Portland were present."^b The latter set were relatives and friends. After Christ's family moved to Kendall, Frank and Amelia Wolfgram visited them in 1916.^c That is just a sample of documented events. More importantly, when we discussed his childhood with Maureen's father Carl Wolfgram, he remembered clearly making visits to Kendall as a young boy. He did not know of the other close relatives who had migrated to Minnesota and Nebraska.

^a Weekly Review, February 25, 1904.

^b Weekly Review, January 16, 1906.

^c Waterloo Democrat, August 4, 1916.



Luetta Knarr on the occasion of her marriage to Louis Haseley (Courtesy of Carrie Weber).

“Christ Knarr has traded his farm east of this village to Wm. Dauffenbach. The farm consists of 93 acres and was exchanged for the property Mr. Dauffenbach owns on South Main St., and \$5,000. Mr. Knarr expects to open a saloon in the building after July 1st. He has also purchased a lot on Garfield Ave., of C. Kohn.”

Meanwhile, while he was preparing his newly acquired saloon, the local paper published notice of a happy interlude,⁸³ “Christian Knarr is setting up the cigars for the boys today on account of a little boy that arrived at this home on the 24th of April.” That would have been Jacob, colloquially know as Jakie (usually), Jake, or Jaeky.

Two months later, on Monday June 29, 1901, Christian Knarr opened his saloon on June 29th in 1901;⁸⁴ “He has had the interior painted and finished in the latest styles and asks for a share of the public patronage.” Food was also served at the Saloon; as appropriate to the season, the Review noted⁸⁵ “Turkey lunch at C. Knarr’s on Thanksgiving.”

A Review report related that in late December, 1902 Christ had been confined to his bed for two weeks⁸⁶ “on account of a severe attack of rheumatism. His many friends hope to see him out in the near future.” His health? The need for a change of pace? Whatever the reason, Christ began to survey possibilities for a new home and a new opportunity. In March of 1903, he traveled to the western part of Wisconsin looking over the landscape in Monroe and Vernon counties.⁸⁷ A few weeks later, Christ attended the cattle fair at Watertown.⁸⁸ Was interest in a rural life being rekindled?

The state census of 1905 listed Christian Knarr 38 saloon keeper, Agnes 37, Caroline 18, William 16, Louetta 14, Frieda 7, and Jacob 4.⁸⁹ Noteworthy since the last census five years earlier, was the addition of a son Jacob.

Dr. F. A. Eickelberg, physician at Reeseville reported an illegitimate vertex birth which took place at 10 a.m. on Wednesday July 25, 1906 in the village of Reeseville, Dodge County, Wisconsin; no child’s name appears on the certificate. The father was unknown and the mother was Luretta (Luetta) Knarr.⁹⁰

Christ did an unusual amount of travelling compared to the average citizen of Reeseville, Wisconsin and during this phase of his life, in addition to the usual business travel in the region around Reeseville, he ventured farther afield. In May of 1906, Christ visited with friends at Pine Island and other parts of Minnesota⁹¹ (a number of former Reeseville residents re-migrated to Minnesota) and also at Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. He made a number of trips to northern Wisconsin in this period and in January 1907, Christ along with fellow traveler August Summercorn, visited Chippewa Falls and other parts of the northern part of the state seeing Christ’s brother-in-law Chester Patten, and former residents of

Reeseville, Wilhelm Devney and Walter Connolly.⁹² Perhaps he was still searching for the ideal place for his new forthcoming residence.

Changes were afoot for the Knarr family. In late June of 1907, Christ sold his house and business for \$4700 to Otto Krohn of Iron Ridge, possession to be given on July 1st.⁹³ Even then, there were fiscal years to be concerned about, so as the Review reported,⁹⁴ "This week being the first week of excise years, the following changes took place...Mr. Christ Knarr has moved his family into the Steinacker building and Mr. Otto Krohn who has moved here from Iron Ridge will take his place." That was all prelude to a major move away from Dodge County where Christ was born, baptized, confirmed, married and spent his whole working life until then.

September brought another trip to Monroe County⁹⁵ where Christian purchased eighty acres of land near Kendall, expecting to move his family to this new place as soon as possible. Two weeks later,⁹⁶ "Mr. Christ Knarr loaded his household goods at Clyman Monday and on Tuesday he and his family took the train from Hubbleton for Kendall, Wis., where they will make their future home. Their many friends here wish them unbounded success."

Just a year after their move to Kendall, Christ and Agnes' oldest child was married.⁹⁷ Carolina married William Tetzlaff of Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the home of her parents. Two of her attendants were siblings Luetta and William.

Christ, with one or more family members, made numerous trips back to Reeseville after their move to the Kendall area – they couldn't stay away from the strong roots of their upbringing. In March of 1908, he and daughter Frieda were in Reeseville to visit friends and the Review⁹⁸ commented that "Mr. Knarr is well pleased with farm life and has been working in the woods on his farm all winter getting out trees and hardwood lumber." Usually Christ brought Jakie along on these trips to Reeseville to shake hands with old friends. In 1909 Christ's wife Agnes and Jakie ventured to Milwaukee along with Mrs. O. Sell to visit their father E. Swanitz in Milwaukee stopping at Reeseville along the way; the following year Agnes' father Ernest died at a Milwaukee hospital.⁹⁹ He had been a saddler and harness maker in Reeseville and was born Ernest Hugo Heinrich Swanitz in Hoerchberg, Prussia, on March 14, 1831. He emigrated in 1856. Ernest Swanitz served in the 1st Cavalry during the Civil War. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Knarr of Kendall attended the funeral.

The family at the farm in Wellington Township numbered four in 1920:¹⁰⁰ Christ Knarr 53 head, Agnes 52, Frieda 22, and Jake 18. This would soon change though, because Frieda, Christ and Agnes' fourth child would get married later in the year. On the 17th of November,¹⁰¹ Frieda was betrothed to Elmer G. Schin-

dlar (of Black Valley) at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Kendall by Rev. G. Kobs. Frieda and Elmer purchased the William Denz farm.

The year 1923 would prove to be an unhappy one for the Knarr family because another untimely death was to occur. Jake, the 22-year old son of Chris Knarr died of complications resulting from an attack by an "angry bull" reported the Kendall Keystone.¹⁰² A week later the Keystone published a brief obituary¹⁰³ as follows: "OBITUARY. Jacob Karl Knarr was born in Dodge county Wis., at Reeseville, April 26, 1901, and died Sept. 9, 1923. He leaves to mourn his death his grief-stricken parents, one brother and three sisters -- W. C. Knarr, Mrs. Wm. Tetzlaff, Mrs. L. A. Hasyley and Mrs. Elmer Schindler, with many other relatives and friends."

Another untimely death occurred in 1925 when Christ's young grandson succumbed to blood poisoning (see sidebar).¹⁰⁴ At a later time in history with the advent of antibiotics, this would likely have been prevented.

**LITTLE EUGENE KNARR DIES
SUNDAY MORNING.**

Eugene Knarr, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Knarr, died at their farm home near here Sunday morning. Death resulted from blood-poisoning from a blister on a heel. Funeral services were held yesterday. Besides his parents, Eugene leaves two little sisters and other relatives.

In summer of 1928, Christ's health started going downhill. There was a

CHRISTIAN KNAAR OF KENDALL CALLED BY DEATH

Christian Knarr was born in the town of Portland, Dodge county, January 17, 1867. In 1886 he was married to Agnes Swanitz. Five children were born. A son Jacob, died in 1923.

The Knarrs moved from Reeseville to the town of Wellington in 1907, and to Kendall in 1926. Mr. Knarr died October 30, after a long illness. Funeral, conducted by Rev. George Kobs, was held from St. John Lutheran church at one o'clock, Friday afternoon. Interment was in Glendale cemetery.

Decedent is survived by his widow, three daughters, Mmes. William Tetzlaff of Milwaukee, L. A. Hasely, and Elmer Schindler; a son William; eight grandchildren, and three sisters, Mmes. Ed Kahn of Reeseville, and William Engler and James Neuns of Milwaukee. (N.B. should be Neuens).

Some of those from away who attended the funeral were: Messrs. and Mmes. William Engler, James Neuns and son Victor, William Tetzlaff and daughter Arline of Milwaukee; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Sell, Mrs. Ed Kahn, Rudolph Hagman and son Wynn of Reeseville, Chester Patton of Bloomer and Russel Lamb of Melvina.

*Reeseville Review November 15, 1928
(Kendall Enterprise)*

flurry of visits from family and friends in from the Reeseville area and Milwaukee. In late July, Christ was visited by the J. C. Bruechers, Mrs. A. H. Mertz, and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Miller.¹⁰⁵ In late September, Milwaukeeans Mr. and Mrs. Tetzlaff and G. Waiderlich were in Kendall where they visited at Christ Knarr's and as the Reeseville Review noted¹⁰⁶ "They tell us that Mr. Knarr has improved wonderful after his serious illness."

Christ Knarr's better state of health proved only temporary, however. He died on October 30, 1928. Although Christ was interred at Glendale in Kendall, apparently the funeral was at Beaver Dam. The Review carried an obituary of its

favorite son as in the sidebar (page 45).

After Christ's death, Agnes enjoyed friends and relatives and especially spending time with her grandchildren and began spending extended visits from several weeks to two months with special people in the Kendall area, Reeseville and Milwaukee. In 1929, Agnes moved into an apartment in the Hiram Web home to provide less housekeeping responsibility and more flexibility.¹⁰⁷ Then in 1931, she spent some time with her daughter Frieda Schindler and family at Sutcliffe Corner in Monroe County helping them to get settled in their new home.¹⁰⁸ In 1935 Agnes had a hospital stint at Sparta, but in 1939 she was back visiting with her sister Mrs. O. A. Sell in Reeseville.¹⁰⁹ In 1947 Agnes' brother Oscar Swanitz died (October 31, 1947) at Watertown. He had been born in Reeseville on June 8, 1874. Siblings other than Agnes Knarr, were Mrs. O. A. Sell, Mrs. U. R. Hagman (Watertown), a brother Hugo (California) and two sisters preceded. He was buried in the Reeseville Cemetery.¹¹⁰ That was one of her last visits to Reeseville, Wisconsin. Agnes died in 1955 and the obituary was provided by the Review for this former resident.¹¹¹

Mrs. Agnes Knarr Passed Away

Mrs. Christian Knarr, nee Agnes Swanitz, 87 died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Elmer Schindler at Wilton Wis., on July 31, 1955.

Mrs. A. Knarr was born and reared in Reeseville and lived here for a number of years before moving to Kendall, with her family and her late husband, Christian Knarr.

Surviving are (3) daughters, Mrs. Caroline Tetzlaff, Milwaukee; Mrs. Luetta Hasely, Kendall; Mrs. Freda Schindler, Wilton; and 1 son William Knarr, Kendall.

Also surviving are two sisters, Mrs. J. R. Hagman, Watertown; Mrs. O. A. Sell, Reeseville; and (1) brother Mr. H. E. "Sroonitz" (*Should be Swanitz or Schwanitz*) Santa Anna California.

Funeral services were held from the Lutheran church, Kendall and interment was in Kendall cemetery.

As a postscript, we have visited the Glendale Cemetery in Kendall and found headstones there with the following inscriptions:

Agnes Knarr	1865-1956
Christian Knarr	1867-1928
Jacob Knarr	1901-1923
Eugene O. Knarr	1918-1925
Knarr: William C.	1889-1962
Alma S.	1891-1976

Anna Maria Hulda (Knarr) Ruedig, later Kohn

The second child of Jacob and Minnie was Anna Maria Hulda Knarr, born 15 Nov 1868, and who was baptized on 29 November in the same year. Her spon-

sors were Maria and Karl Brüger and Hulda Wolfgram. She was confirmed at Trinity as well on Palm Sunday 2 Apr 1882, with the text being Joh. 5:4.

Hulda's first husband was Charles (sometimes Carl) Ruedig, and their marriage was in 1892. The certificate of marriage¹¹² shows Carl, son of Philipp and Christine Ruedig, born in Reeseville and occupied as a painter. The marriage was contracted on February 20, 1892, at the German Reformed Church in Reeseville. Philippine Knarr was among the witnesses. Two children were born to them -- Adeline and Jennings Bryan.

On the first of September, 1905, Jennings Bryan Ruedig celebrated his 8th birthday with young friends in Reeseville.¹¹³ Four days later, his father died. A summary of his obituary¹¹⁴ give some family details of interest: Charles Ruedig born in Reeseville on 25 Nov 1868; died Tuesday 5 Sep. Succeeded father in saloon business. On 26 Feb 1892, he married Hulda Knarr who survives along with one daughter Adeline, son Jennings, aged father, 2 brothers William (St. Paul) & George (Fairmont N.D.) and 3 sisters Mrs. John Schaller (Duluth), Mrs. Louis Jacobs and Christine Rueding of Reeseville. Funeral at Reformed Church.

Five years later, Hulda re-married, this time to Ed Kohn in November of 1910. Her only surviving child, Jennings Brian Ruedig, met an untimely death in 1927 as commemorated by the Review:¹¹⁵

**JENNINGS RUEDIG ANSWERS LAST SUMMONS
Prolonged Illness Proved Fatal Friday Evening---Funeral
Was Held Monday**

Jennings Ruedig, one this community's best known young men, died at the home of his mother, Mrs. E. F. Kohn in the town of Portland, Friday evening, October 7. His death followed a prolonged illness.

Jennings was born in this village August 31, 1897, a son of the late Charles Ruedig and of Hulda Ruedig, now Mrs. E. Kohn. He attended the local school and grew to manhood in the vicinity of Reeseville. He followed the pursuits of farming on the Edward Kohn farm, residing there until two years ago when he moved to this village and engaged in business.

Jennings was never endowed with a robust physique but was always a bustling, ambitious person who worked diligently at all his ventures despite being incapacitated occasionally with ill health. The dreaded malady to which he fell a victim first asserted itself three years ago. Specialized treatment, at that time proved successful, but the disease took a firmer grip a year ago, causing his death Friday evening.

Jennings Ruedig was a man of most generous impulses and his good nature and genial disposition was an inspiration to all who came into contact with him. By his neighbors he was held in the highest esteem. He was honorable in all his dealings and precise to the most minute detail in the fulfillment of his obligations. His death in the prime of life has occasioned deep sorrow within the circle of his relatives and friends.

He leaves to mourn his loss his mother and stepfather Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Kohn and two daughters Eva and Lorraine, his only sister Adlaine died ten years ago.

The funeral was held Monday afternoon with a short ceremony at the home followed by services in the Trinity Lutheran church, were attended by a large concourse of relatives and friends. The Rev. V. Mennicke conducted the ceremonies. Burial was made in the Trinity cemetery.

Mrs. Ed Kohn 83 Stricken After Long Illness

Mrs. Ed Kohn, 83, a well known and lifelong resident of this community, passed away at her home Saturday evening, August 23, after a lingering illness. She was the former Anna Marie Hulda Knarr, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Knarr, born in the Town of Lowell November 5th, 1868.

Her marriage to Mr. Kohn took place November 26th, 1910.

Mrs. Kohn was a member of Trinity Lutheran church in the Town of Lowell, where funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Albert Huber, with burial at the Reeseville cemetery.

Survivors are her husband and : one sister, Mrs. James Neuens of Milwaukee; two granddaughters Mrs. Eva Blek and Mrs. Lorraine Soldner, both of Reeseville, who had resided with her and three great grandchildren and several nephews and nieces. A son and two daughters preceded her in death.

Hulda lived to be 83 and of her siblings, only Josephine survived her. Some additional information is provided in the Review's obituary:¹¹⁶

Edward Kohn died on July 7, 1959 nearly seven years after Hulda passed. He was at St. Mary's Hospital at the time. The Columbus paper's brief obituary gives several items of family interest:¹¹⁷ he was born in the town of Portland on January 25, 1875, the son of the Christian Kohns. His survivors included a sister Mrs. Lena Klug of Reeseville. Funeral services were held at Trinity Lutheran Church and burial was at the Reeseville Cemetery.

Auguste Bertha Philippine (Knarr) Chavett, later Engler

Phoenie (and Phoena), as she would later be known, was born on January 6, 1871 as Auguste Bertha Philippine, the third child of Jacob and Minnie (Wolfgram) Knarr, and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday Quasimodo, 20 Apr 1884, using the text Ps. 51:12-13.⁶⁰

Phoena and Josie (her sister) were living in Watertown in 1890¹¹⁸ when they traveled to Reeseville to "take in the New Year doings." By 1896, both had moved to Milwaukee, where each would eventually marry and live.

In a judicial ceremony Pheonie was married in Milwaukee on August 15, 1904¹¹⁹ to Henry Chavett, son of John Chavett and Lena Scheuer. Henry was a teamster born and residing in Milwaukee.

Later, Philippine married William Engler. In 1920 they lived in a rented house on Center Street in Milwaukee. The census listed William at 33, a saloonkeeper, and Philippine at 44.¹²⁰ There were no children present, nor are any evident in other records we could find.

Philippine passed on in 1942, and the Milwaukee Journal's account is quoted:¹²¹ **ENGLER:** Philipenia (nee Knarr), of 2448 N. Richards St., Sat., Oct. 31, beloved wife of William Engler, sister of Josephine Neuens, Hulda Kohn. Serv-

ices Wed., Nov. 4 at 1:30, at the Froemming-Boecher Funeral Home, corner of E. North av. and N. 1st st. Interment Union cemetery. In state Tues. after 11 a.m.

Bertha Maria Josephine (Knarr) Neuens

Popularly known as Josie, Bertha Maria Josephine Knarr was born on 9 Dec 1872, according to the records of Trinity Lutheran Church and was confirmed there on 3 June 1886, by Pastor Machmuller.⁶⁰

The Neuens' lived on Holton Street in Milwaukee and at that home in 1920¹²² were listed James H. Neuens, head, 37 born in Wisconsin; Josephine wife, 46; Victor 8 1/2; Rosamund 5 10/12; and Michael Neuens 71, born in Luxembourg.

Josephine passed away on March 1, 1956.¹²³ The notice of her death in the Milwaukee Journal¹²⁴ provided useful details: "NEUENS: Josephine, 1929 W. Fairmont, aged 83 years, beloved wife of James, mother of Victor ... Funeral Sat., Mar. 3, at 2 p.m., from the funeral home of Helden & Lange, 3116 N. 3d st. Interment Evergreen. In state after 4 p.m. Fri. Member of Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran church."

JOSEPHINE'S MARRIAGE

Sunday July 19th Justice Otto Sell united in marriage Mr. James Neuens and Miss Josephine Knarr. The ceremony was performed at the residence of the bride's sister Mrs. Chas. Ruedig. On Monday evening the newly married couple took the train for Milwaukee where they will make their future home. The bride is well acquainted in this vicinity. She is a sister of Christ. Knarr and Mrs. Chas. Ruedig and lived here until a few years ago when she went to Milwaukee to reside.

The groom Mr. Neuens is comparatively a stranger here. His home is in Milwaukee where he works as a plumber and to all appearances is a steady industrious young man. The Review joins with other friends in wishing them success and happiness in their future life.

The Weekly Review, July 23, 1903

Bertha C. W. (Knarr) Breucher

The last child of Michael and Barbara Knarr to survive beyond a year was Bertha Catharina Wilhelmine Knarr born 17 Oct 1851, and later confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church on 3 Apr 1864 by Pastor C. Strassen.⁶⁰

Like her sister Mary (Knarr) Breucher, Bertha (and Charles) Breucher lived in Elba Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin. According to the 1880 U.S. Census,¹²⁵ Charles Breucher, 35 was born in Prussia; wife Bertha, 29 was born in Ohio and the following children were all born in Wisconsin: Lizzie, 9; Frank, 6; Frederick, 4; and Louis, 2.

*For 31 years Charles served as
secretary of the Elba Mutual
Fire Insurance Company.*

1932 Obituary for J. C. Bruecher

It was a sad family affair in 1904, when the family lost son Lewis Phillip to suicide by shooting at age 24; he was born on December 3, 1879 and died March 28, 1904 in the Town of Elba.¹²⁶

J. C. (Charles) Bruecher's obituary includes a portrait.¹²⁷ In summary, Charles was born at St. Wendel, Germany, on January 12, 1845, and came to the Dodge County area in 1847 in pioneer days. In 1868 he married Bertha Knarr and they took up their residence in the town of Elba. In 1927 they left their homestead to reside in Gibson Corners. Their marriage was blessed with four children: F. C. (Milwaukee), Robert (at the homestead), Mrs. C. C. Miller of Columbus. Merlin R. was a grandson and the oldest daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Mertz died on September 15, 1932. Two sons, Lewis and Frank also preceded him in death. For 31 years Charles served as secretary of the Elba Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Bertha (Knarr) Bruecher lived until 86 years of age.¹²⁸ She died on Saturday January 28, 1939 and since her husband's death had been living with her daughter Mrs. Kurt Miller at Columbus; also surviving were sons Robert and Fred. Another daughter Mrs. Albert Mertz preceded her. She was born to the Michael Knarrs who were pioneer residents of Portland Township and married J. C. Bruecher in 1868. Her paul-bearers were S. M. Austin, Frank Runkel, Jake and Henry Breyer and B. D. Wright, all familiar names in the Portland-Elba-Lowell area in Dodge County. She was buried at the Reeseville Cemetery.

Fred Bruecher, son of Bertha and Charles, born in 1876 died in late February (probably Feb. 22) in 1942.¹²⁹ He had for some years been a carpenter and painter in the Reeseville area, but lived in Milwaukee the last 17 years of his life. In May, 1926 he was married to Millie Ahren of Neenah, Wisconsin; they resided at 4901 Silver Spring Road in Milwaukee. At the time of passing, he was survived by his wife, one sister, Mrs. C. C. Miller, R. O. Bruecher of Reeseville, and a nephew Merlin Bruecher. He is buried at Pine Lawn Cemetery.

George Michael Knarr (Infant)

Ohio-born in 1858, this namesake of his father died before he was one year old and was noted earlier.⁵³

Another Knarr family of probable interest

There is another group of Knarrs in south-central Wisconsin that has high potential interest for Knarr descendants. There is a John Knarr family listed in the 1860 and 1870 censuses at the Portland Township, Dodge County area. He too was from Bavaria and like the Michael Knarr family, lived in Ohio – in fact his first three children (John, Barbara, Sarah) were born there. This family came to Wisconsin between 1855 and 1859, the same time frame that the Michael Knarrs also remigrated here. We have not explored this family extensively, but it seems nearly certain that John and his family were closely related to the Knarrs of our interest as outlined in this book.

Endnotes

⁴⁸ Records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown WI.

⁴⁹ Beaver Dam (WI) Argus, Sept. 22, 1866. This is an expanded version of an article appearing in the Milwaukee Sentinel on Sept. 24, 1866.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, February 10, 1881, page 3.

⁵¹ In the obituary for Anna Knarr, her maiden name is shown to be Widmer, but Trinity church records indicate it was Wietner (See footnote 60 for source). The death certificate (endnote 64) uses Widener. The end result is that we do not know for sure how Anna Barbara Knarr's maiden name was spelled.

⁵² U. S. Census 1860, Dodge County Wisconsin, Schedule 3 – Mortality (P. 509).

⁵³ *Ibid.*, Portland Township (P. 395).

⁵⁴ U. S. Census 1870, Dodge County Wisconsin, Portland Township (P. 836).

⁵⁵ *Atlas of Dodge County Wisconsin*, 1873, Harrison and Warner, Madison.

⁵⁶ Wisconsin Census, 1875. Enumeration of the inhabitants of Town of Portland in Dodge County (WSHS).

⁵⁷ Information from the Day Book of Reinhard & Klug, Reeseville WI was kindly provided by Kevin W. Neuberger.

⁵⁸ Dodge County Court in Probate, Juneau Wisconsin, Record 2945, Estate-related materials for Michael Knarr.

⁵⁹ Deaths Vol. A, Page 381 [and Page 13 in Death Index], Register of Deeds, Dodge County, Juneau WI. Records of Trinity Church indicate Michael's death date as 17 Aug 1884.

⁶⁰ Neuberger, Kevin W., N.D., Sugarbush Happenings 1858-1890: [Translated] Records of Trinity Lutheran Church, Town of Lowell, Dodge County, Wisconsin. 189 pp.

⁶¹ Courtesy of Kevin W. Neuberger.

⁶² U. S. Census 1900, Dodge County Wisconsin, Reeseville (Vol. 15, ED 100, Sheet 2).

⁶³ The Weekly Review (Reeseville, WI), 16 Jul 1903, Obituary, P4, C3. An abbreviated companion was published in the Beaver Dam Argus (23 Jul 1903) as follows: "Mrs. Anna Knarr died at the home of her grandson Christian Knarr, in Reeseville, Monday, July 13th, aged 86 years, 2 months and 22 days. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. C. Bruecher and Mrs. Ph. Bruecher, of Elba."

⁶⁴ Death Records, Register of Deeds, Dodge County WI, Vol. 6, page 218, original certificate # 226. Details are: Anna Barbra (Widener) Knarr, widow, died in Reeseville 13 Jul 1903 at 86 years 1 month 23 days, buried at Town of Lowell, born 21 May 1817, spouse George M. Kanarr, burial conducted by Fred. Dauffenbach, attending physician R. A. Eickelberg.

⁶⁵ When we finally discovered the death certificate for Anna Barbara Knarr the hard way, it provided new data and also led us to the informative obituary which gave an unusually good look at family history. As a matter of interest, we re-looked at the Wisconsin statewide Pre-1907 vital statistics index to see, after the fact, if we should have encountered a reference to the certificate the logical way. The story took another turn for the worse (yet another spelling) when the already erroneous spelling on the death certificate was misinterpreted by the indexers or possibly it was a typo. In the Pre-1907 Index, this certificate is listed under "Kancrr, Ama Basbra" a form that the most ardent genealogist would certainly miss.

⁶⁶ Dodge County Marriages, Vol. 4, Page 80 (WSHS).

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. 6, Page 183 (WSHS)

⁶⁸ Translation of 19th century Trinity Lutheran Church minutes from the German language originals courtesy of Kevin W. Neuberger.

⁶⁹ Dodge County Court in Probate, Juneau Wisconsin, Record 2954, Petition of Mary Knarr to have a guardian appointed.

⁷⁰ U. S. Census 1880, Dodge County Wisconsin, Portland (Vol. 7, ED 22, Sheet 5).

⁷¹ Dodge County Wisconsin Cemetery Card Index, Ref. #158 Beaver Dam Wisconsin Library).

⁷² The Columbus (WI) Democrat, July 9, 1881.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, July 23, 1881.

⁷⁴ Personal correspondence, February 13, 1999 with Vern Damrow, Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery.

⁷⁵ The Weekly Review, August 24, 1889 (WSHS P78-2314).

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, November 20, 1891 (WSHS P83-1813).

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, September 9, 1892 (WSHS P78-1815).

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, August 17, 1894 (WSHS P46615).

⁷⁹ Dodge County Births, Microfilm Reel 46, Record 2870 (WSHS).

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- ⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, Microfilm Reel 48, Record 65 (WSHS).
- ⁸¹ U.S. Census 1900. Dodge County Wisconsin, Reeseville, Vol. 15, ED 100, Sheet 2.
- ⁸² *The Weekly Review*, March 21, 1901 (WSHS P77-5225).
- ⁸³ *Ibid.*, April 25, 1901. (WSHS P77-5225).
- ⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, June 27, 1901. (WSHS P77-5225).
- ⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, November 21, 1901 (WSHS P41716).
- ⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, January 1, 1903 (WSHS P41716).
- ⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, March 26, 1903 (WSHS P78-1084).
- ⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, April 16, 1903 (WSHS P78-1084).
- ⁸⁹ Wisconsin Census 1905, Dodge County, Village of Reeseville.
- ⁹⁰ Dodge County Births, Microfilm Reel 50, Record 1396 (WSHS).
- ⁹¹ *The Weekly Review*, May 10, 1906 (WSHS P77-5226).
- ⁹² *Ibid.*, January 31, 1907.
- ⁹³ *Weekly Review*, June 27, 1907. (WSHS P77-5226).
- ⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, July 4, 1907. (WSHS P81-990).
- ⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, September 19, 1907 (WSHS P81-990).
- ⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, October 3, 1907.
- ⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, September 26, 1908 (WSHS P81-990).
- ⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, WR, March 12, 1908.
- ⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, February 3, 1910 (WSHS P82-3482).
- ¹⁰⁰ U.S. Census 1920. Monroe County Wisconsin, Wellington Twn., Sd 6, ED 149, Sheet 5B.
- ¹⁰¹ *The Reeseville (WI) Review*, November 25, 1920 (WSHS P81-1778).
- ¹⁰² *The Kendall (WI) Keystone*, September 13, 1923 (WSHS P71-991).
- ¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, September 20, 1923
- ¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, December 31, 1925 (WSHS P76-2160).
- ¹⁰⁵ *Reeseville Review*, August 2, 1928 (WSHS P81-1779).
- ¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, September 27, 1928 (WSHS P81-1779).
- ¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, March 29, 1929 (WSHS P76-2160).
- ¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, November 26 and December 10, 1931.
- ¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, February 2, 1939.
- ¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*, August 21, 1947 (WSHS P41377).
- ¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, August 4, 1955 (WSHS P45623).
- ¹¹² Dodge County Wisconsin Marriages (WSHS Image 00516).
- ¹¹³ *The Weekly Review* (Reeseville, WI), Sept. 7, 1905.
- ¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*
- ¹¹⁵ *The Reeseville (WI) Review*, Oct. 13, 1927.
- ¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Sep. 11, 1952.
- ¹¹⁷ *The Columbus (WI) Journal Republican*, July 16, 1959 (WSHS P70-2208).
- ¹¹⁸ *Weekly Review*, January 3, 1891 (WSHS P83-1813).
- ¹¹⁹ *Marriages, Milwaukee County Wisconsin*, Vol. 36, Page 216, Image 01538.
- ¹²⁰ U.S. Census 1920, Milwaukee County Wisconsin, Vol. 53, ED 158, Sheet 10.
- ¹²¹ *The Milwaukee Journal*, November 2, 1942 (WSHS P3551).
- ¹²² U. S. Census 1920, Milwaukee Wisconsin, Vol. 53, ED 158, Sheet 8.
- ¹²³ *Milwaukee County Deaths, 1956, Wisconsin Vital Statistics, Madison WI.*
- ¹²⁴ *The Milwaukee Journal*, March 2, 1956. (WSHS P3896).
- ¹²⁵ U. S. Census 1880, Dodge County Wisconsin, Elba Township, Vol. 7, ED 10, Sheet 18.
- ¹²⁶ *Deaths, Dodge County Wisconsin*, Vol. 3, Page 33, Juneau, WI Register of Deeds.
- ¹²⁷ *The Reeseville Review*, October 9, 1932 (WSHS P41509).
- ¹²⁸ *Ibid.*, February 2, 1939 (WSHS P78-853).
- ¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, February 26, 1942 (WSHS P41510).

Chapter 4

Albertine Emilie Bertha (Wolfgram) Klug

Johann and Sophia Wolfgram's third child, and second daughter, was Albertine Emilie Bertha. Like most of her siblings, she used her second given name, Amelia in its anglicized form. Though we do not have Amelia's birth records from the Pomeranian church of her origin, the Watertown St. John's family roster provides the next most reliable source, and indicates that she was born on December 9, 1842, just short of a year after her older sister Minnie arrived.¹³⁰ When the Wolfgram family departed by ship from Hamburg, Germany, Amelia was 11 years old.

Not counting Wilhelm, Amelia was one of only three of the Wolfgram children to remain in Wisconsin and all lived in Dodge County. At least five of the other nine children remigrated from Wisconsin to Minnesota or Nebraska; recall from chapter 1 that her parents also resettled in Minnesota in the late 1800's.

Amelia was married in the same year as her older sister Minnie, only six months later. On the 5th of July, 1866 Amelia was married in a religious ceremony to "Heinrich" Klug.¹³¹ Later, he would be known as Karl Heinrich, likely to differentiate himself from another Klug of the same name but usually called Heinrich; he was a cousin whose full name was Karl Heinrich Ferdinand Klug. We will refer to the husband of Amelia Wolfgram as Carl Henry. (See App. II for family sheet.)

Carl Henry was born in Prussia and his parents, as listed on the certificate, were Pogislav (possibly Bageslar) and Scharlotte (Bargart) Klug. The wedding ceremony took place at the home of the bride's parents, Johann and Sophia Wolfgram, in Portland Township, where Pastor Friedrich Hachenberger con-

Albertine Emilie Bertha Wolfgram, b 9 Dec 1842 d 19 Sep 1887; m 5 Jul 1866 Portland, to Karl Heinrich Klug b 24 Sep 1837, d 17 Nov 1923 Lived in Dodge Co. region WI (Children: 11 [3 stillborn males] Bertha, John, Friedrich, Emma, Helena, Louise, Anna, Sophia)
Male, stillborn 14 Jun 1868
Bertha Maria Hulda Klug 1869 - 1943 m 1893 Albert A. F. Klug 1868 - 1930 Children: Reinart, Max, Meta, Irma, Mrs. Henry (Edna) Eske
Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Klug 1871 - 1958
Friedrich August Albert Klug 1873 - 1884
Emma Emilie Klug 1874 - 1884
Male, stillborn 24 Sep 1876
Helena (Hulda) S. Klug 1877 - 1960 m 1904 A. C. Buss 1876-1949
Louise B. C. Klug 1879 - 1906
Anna Sophia Magdalena Klug 1881 - 1881
Sophia Albertine Klug 1882 - 1974 m 1909 Albert Carl Baker 1878 - 1968. Children: Mabel, Herbert, May
Male, stillborn 18 Sep 1887

ducted the service with song and sermon. At this time, Carl Henry Klug resided in the Town of Shields, Dodge County.¹³²

Carl Henry came to North America in May of 1861, when he was 23 years old and landed at the Port of Detroit.¹³³ He filed his intention to become a citizen of the United States in the name of Henry Klug on November 5, 1886, before the Dodge County Circuit Court four months after his marriage to Emilie Wolfgram. The intent would sit idle for a number of years. Finally in 1900, thirty-nine years after his arrival, he completed his filing process by petitioning the Dodge County Court as "C. H. Klug" on the 29th of June, 1900 and was successfully admitted as a U.S. citizen.¹³⁴

United States of America.	
STATE OF WISCONSIN, } COUNTY OF DODGE, }	ss. <i>Henry Klug</i> personally appeared before the subscriber, Clerk of the Circuit Court, for said County, being a Court of Record, and made Oath that he was born in <i>Prussia</i> on or about the year Eighteen hundred and <i>61</i> that he emigrated to the United States, and landed at the port of <i>Detroit</i> on or about the month of <i>May</i> in the year eighteen hundred and <i>61</i> that it is bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to <i>the King of Prussia</i> whereof he is a subject.
Subscribed and sworn to before me, this	
<i>5th</i> day of <i>November</i> 1886	<i>J. H. Klug</i>
<i>James B. Hays</i> Clerk.	

Carl Henry Klug's 1886 Intent to File for Citizenship with his original signature.

There would have been eleven children in the family of Amelia and Carl Henry, but typical of the era, not all would survive. The first was such an unfortunate circumstance of a stillbirth, a male, on June 14, 1868. Apparently, this unnamed infant is buried at the Trinity congregation's cemetery.

Bertha Maria Hulda was the first of the infants to come into Carl Henry and Amelia (Wolfgram) Klug's family that survived and she was born on 30 July 1869. The baptism occurred on the 9th of August and was sponsored by Bertha Schmeling, Hulda Wolfgram (an aunt and older sister of Frank), and Johann Wolfgram (the maternal grandfather). She would be known by her first given name, Bertha. When Bertha was of age, she was confirmed at Trinity on Sunday Exuadi the 6th of May, 1883 using text Joh. 5:24.

Second of the surviving children was Johann Friedrich Wilhelm, born 20 August, 1871, and baptized on the 27th of August. Sponsors were Otto Klug, August Jahnke, and Bertha Wolfgram (an aunt who would soon marry Helmuth Vossberg and leave Wisconsin for Nebraska). He was confirmed at Trinity on Palm Sunday, March 29, 1885 with text Joh. 12:26.

A common demise leads us to deal with the next two children together. The fourth birth event and third survivor was Friedrich August Albert, born on the 4th of August, 1873. He was baptized on August 25, 1873 with Friedrich Schmelting and Frau Bertha Klug as sponsors. Next was Emma Emilie who was born November 26, 1874 and baptized the following day, November 27, 1874 with Wilhelm and Johann Klug as sponsors. A remark noted next to the entry states, "Members of Pastor Lange's congregation."

The year 1884 was catastrophic for the Klug family and their closely-related Wolfgrams. First, George Michael Knarr died in mid-August as a result of a fall. Two weeks later, Friedrich August Albert Klug, son of Amelia (Wolfgram) and Carl Henry Klug, died at age 11 on August 26, 1884 of diphtheria. A day later his nine-year old sister Emma Emilie died (on August 27, 1884) also of diphtheria; both brother and sister are buried at the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Row 6, Section 1. Less than a week following the death of Friedrich August Albert and Emma Emilie Klug, their cousin Friedrich Wilhelm August, son of Franz and Emilie Wolfgram, died – another victim of diphtheria.

Amelia Klug's next attempt at childbirth was unsuccessful. On 24 September 1876, the second stillbirth befell the Klug family. His funeral used the text John 13:7 and interment was at the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery as noted in the church burial records.

Helena Hulda Sophie, born on August 28, 1877, was the seventh child of Amelia and Carl Henry. Her baptism took place in Trinity Church on September 9th where her sponsors were Franz Wolfgram, Alwine Wolfgram, and Hulda Buntrock. Hulda, as she was known, was confirmed at Trinity in 1891.

DIED. Miss Louise Klug, daughter of C. H. Klug died at the home of the Feeble Minded at Watertown on Tuesday morning and the remains brought here for burial. They arrived here at noon and were taken to the home of her father. The funeral takes place this afternoon from Trinity Lutheran Church south of Reeseville and the remains will be laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery. The young lady has always been in feeble health during her entire life and for the past five years has been confined to a private asylum.

Weekly Review July 5, 1906, Page 4

Next born in the Klug household was another girl, Olga Louise Franziske on July 29, 1879 and baptized in the church on the 17th of August. Sponsors for that pleasant event were Johann Neuberger, Frau Sophie Wolf-

gram (Maureen's great grandmother) and Frau Bertha Schmeling. This child was known as Louise and throughout her life, Louise's health was fragile. Like others of her siblings, her death was untimely when she passed away in Watertown at age 26. She is buried next to her father, Carl Henry, at the Trinity Cemetery (plot 3-2) with a headstone inscription saying simply: Louisa geb. Juli 29 1879 – gest. Juli 3 1906.

Anna Sophie Magdalena was born in the Town of Lowell on August 6, 1881, and baptized at the home of Amelia and Carl Henry on the 7th of August. Her sponsors were Heinrich Otto Klug, Caroline Wille, and Bertha Weber. We do not know the cause, but Anna Sophie's premature death took place nearly two months later on October 4th. She was buried in the Trinity graveyard on October 5, 1881 (Row 4, Section 1).

Sophia Albertine Klug would be the last of the children surviving beyond infancy. She was born to Amelia and Carl Henry on September 17, 1882 and baptized in her parent's home on the 9th of October, with Heinrich Lau and Anna Margarethe Klug as sponsors. Trinity was the church where Sophia also was confirmed.



Lena Wolfgram, Sophia Klug, and
Ida Wolfgram (Photo courtesy of
Rev. Herbert Baker).

"C. Henry Klug was a farmer and in the winter time the farmers would haul manure out into the field and make little piles. Then in the spring those piles would be spread out with a fork. My mother told me that Emilie would go into the field and spread those piles and her legs were as big as stove pipes. Most likely her kidneys were not working so the fluid would accumulate in her legs. In 1887 the midwives would deliver the babies and the women would not get any medical attention. Before the people knew anything about birth control, the average woman would have a baby about every two years. Then about half would die from disease. C. Henry and his wife had eleven children. Three were still born, four survived, four died from disease."

Oscar G. Klug, January 9, 1999

The Klug family lived in Lowell Township where they were engaged in farming. They were hard-working and everyone did their share. Besides housekeeping and tending children, Amelia helped with the physical farm work as well. An account from a related Klug descendent¹³⁵ tells about conditions and an anecdote about Amelia as told by his mother.

Amelia Wolfgram Klug died in childbirth for what might have been Carl Henry's and her eleventh child.¹³⁶ The official county record lists her age as 43, death on September 19, 1887, and indicated that a craniotomy had been performed and septicemia set in. The stillborn child was a male. In the church record it is noted that burial was on

September 21, 1887 in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery – text Heb 19:27. In this record Amelia's place of birth is listed as Zachow. Along with one of her sisters, this is one of only two references we know about that show Zachow as a location for Wolfgram activities. Her father Johann was born and married at Klein Benz, but the church there has no record of Johann's children. Amelia's maternal grandfather, Christian Schlüter was from Zachow, so it is quite possible that Johann and Sophie went to Zachow after their marriage in Klein Benz to spend the early years of their marriage prior to emigrating from Pommerania via Hamburg, Germany.



Photo from Gaylord, Minnesota to Sophia Baker (courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker)

Photo-postcards were popular early in the twentieth century. This one was postmarked with a one cent stamp on August 24, 1910 at Gaylord and addressed to Mrs. Albert Baker, Route 1, Box 44, Juneau, Wisconsin with the following message:

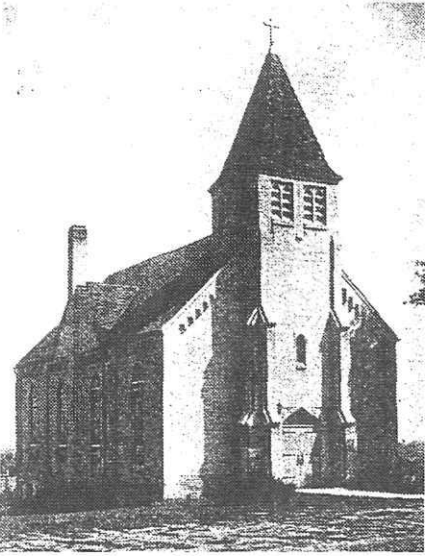
Dear Sophia,-

Was so glad to get a card from you once again so will answer right away. Will be looking for the picture now. Do you live far from Ida (Wolfgram) or get to see her often? How do you like your new home? Have you folks got much fruit? We have no apples or plums. Ma is gone on a few weeks visit so we girls must look after everything.

With love from Laura

Laura, author of the note and pictured in the cart above, was almost certainly Laura Schlueter, granddaughter of August F. Sylwester and daughter of Wisconsin-born Magdalena (Sylwester) Schlueter. Laura was born in 1883 and would have been a step-cousin of Sophia (who was born in 1882).

The Trinity Lutheran Church congregation had been organized about three years before Carl Henry Klug arrived in the United States.¹³⁷ However, it didn't take long for him, particularly after his marriage to Amelia Wolfgram, to get involved in the church's activities. According to the church minutes, Carl Henry



The new Trinity Lutheran Church in 1871.

was elected to the Building Committee on April 24, 1870 along with Carl Liebing, Otto Klug, Carl Witte, and Friedrich Kohls,¹³⁸ it would be their responsibility to organize the congregation, arrange for a builder, and oversee the general construction of a new brick church.¹³⁹ The congregation furnished the lumber for sills, roofboards, beams, flooring, and the boards for pews and it was cut and delivered from parishioner's farms. Church members provided the stones and brick. Mr. Leonard Neuberger was put in charge of determining the proper proportion of lumber and hauling each member was to furnish. Bids were opened in December of 1870 and the building was dedicated in autumn of 1871.

Sand and stone for the church were hauled by wagon from Reinhard's Quarry in the Lowell area on January 26, 1871. Carl Henry Klug's share of this effort was two loads of sand. Five days later, able-bodied members took their wagons all the way to Watertown to procure bricks from the Goeldner and Neisser brickyard; Carl Henry hauled three loads for a total of 1800 bricks. In this effort he was joined by in-laws Jacob Knarr and Johann Wolfgram and 36 other Trinity members.¹⁴⁰

Though he would hold other positions of trust as well, Carl Henry Klug was elected on May 2, 1880 as the deputy to the synotical convention held in Milwaukee on May 27th in the same year.¹³⁸

The 1880 U. S. Census accounts for Charles H. Klug, 42 (he and parents from Germany); Amelia, 36 housewife, and 5 children all born in Wisconsin as follows: Betsy 10, John 8, Fredrick 7, Emma 6, and Hulda 2.¹⁴¹

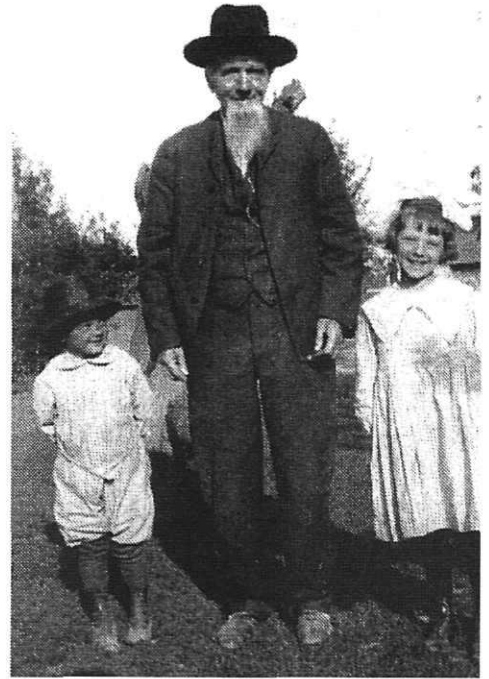
The state census for 1885 presents an interesting conundrum. In the tally for the Town of Lowell, C. H. Klug is listed with 3 males and 6 females, 5 born in the U.S. and 4 in Germany. Compared to Amelia and Carl Henry's immediate family, that's an extra man and woman, both from overseas. Though no evidence is at hand, we wonder if Carl Henry's parents were visiting, or conceivably Johann and Sophia Wolfgram were staying briefly prior to their relocation to Minnesota.

At the same time there were *Echoes of the Milford Dam*¹⁴² recalling "...the famous controversy that existed with farmers who owned land on the shores of Mud Lake. About 20 years ago, the removal of the Milford Dam was the all absorbing topic of conversation among those farmers... A party under the leadership of C. H. Klug surveyed and personally sounded every air hole from Van Delevan's bridge up to Holznagel's farm, but still the Dam remained and the mud hens wardled their sweet pensive lays over the land that should be under cultivation. Fortunately one night the mill burned down and the farmers brought out the charter and the dam was removed..."

In late September, 1922¹⁴³ "A China wedding anniversary was celebrated at the Carl Klug home west of here (Reeseville). Besides celebrating the event of the China wedding, the 85th birth anniversary of C. H. Klug, who was also present at the wedding anniversary celebration and he is an uncle of Carl Klug, was also celebrated."

Carl Henry Klug was locally known as "Landlord Klug." Amelia and Carl Henry hosted events for the Reeseville area at their homestead, particularly on the 4th of July. One retrospective newspaper account about the 1880's gave a general picture of a typical celebration:¹⁴⁴

"Forty years ago Independence Day was observed by people of this community in a manner quite different than it is today. The neighborhood south of here known as "Sugar Bush" had its own celebration at the home of Landlord Klug where target shooting was one of the principal sports in which the men indulged. Other sports were also on the program, followed by a dance in the evening. Many of our older residents who remember the Fourth of July will tell you that the events were largely attended, and outside of an occasional brawl, was by far (more) peaceful than many of the celebrations held today." Some years later, in an *Early History of Reeseville* section, the Review provided more specifics, especially concerning



Carl Henry Klug with grandchildren Herbert and Mabel Baker.



Carl Henry Klug (Courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).

target shooting.

JULY 4TH AT THE SUGARBUSH

...Our village has always had amusements. In the early days, the Fourth of July was celebrated among the farmers. C. H. Klug, a prosperous farmer south of the village, would invite the townspeople to his grove and the day was spent in target shooting. Bullets were moulded and shot out of the mussle loaders, and whoever hit the most "bull's eyes" was declared king for the coming year. The evening was spent in dancing – Anhauser's band would furnish the music...

*The Reeseville Review, August 13, 1931
Supplement: Diamond Jubilee News, p. 8*

and reveals the Klug's near neighbors and relatives. The Wolfgram homestead was about one mile to the southwest in Portland Township. By 1900, Carl Henry had increased the holdings on his immediate farm to 165.56 acres.¹⁴⁶

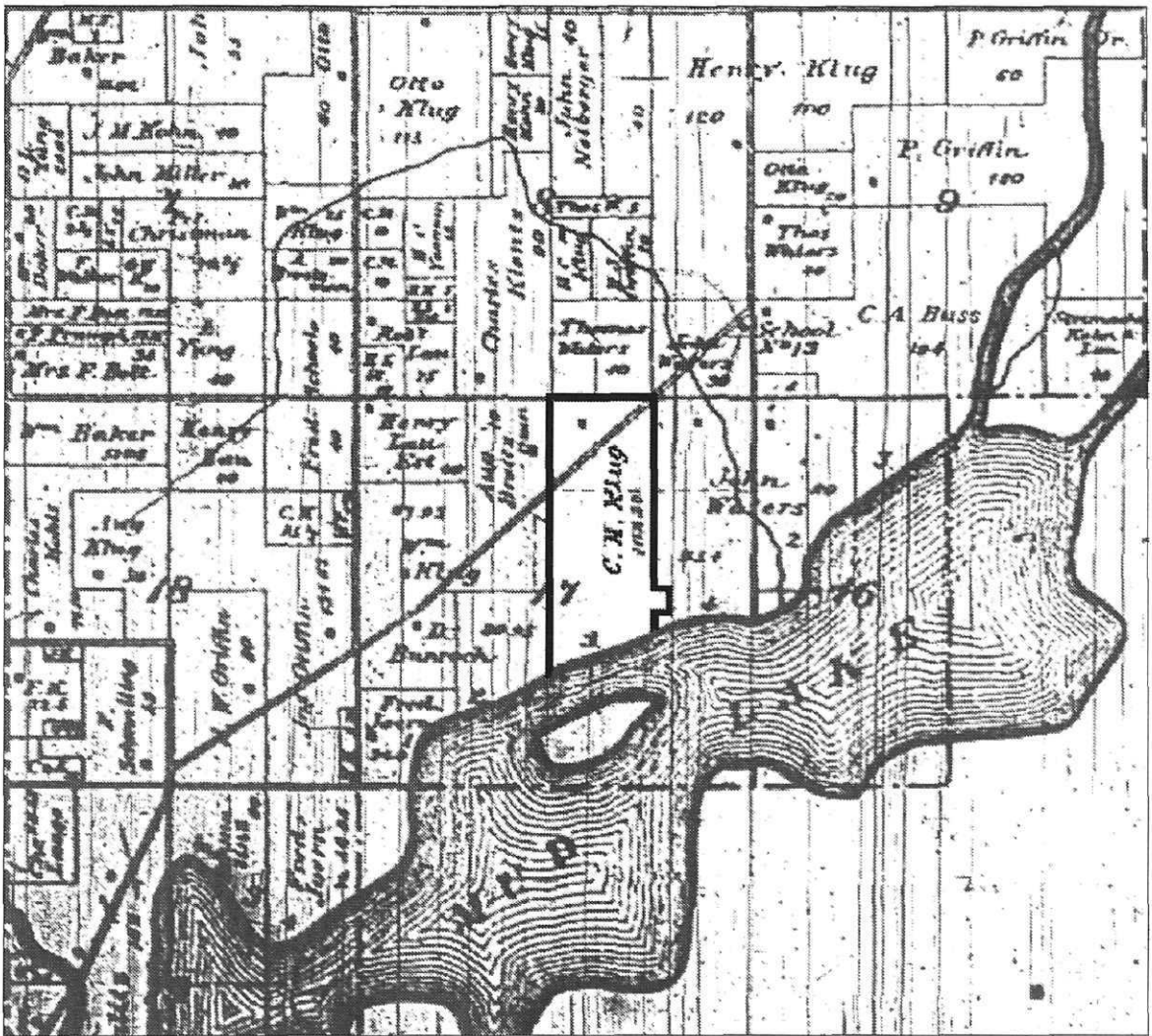
From the Daybooks of Reinhard & Klug,¹⁴⁷ it is evident that Carl Henry was building up his farm and equipment in the 1880's. He procured a No. 21 plow in 1880 for \$17 with cash. Then came a 5-tooth Van Bount cultivator with large shovel at \$7 cash. In 1884 the implement dealer sold to him one potato plow for \$9, but instead of cash, \$4.50 worth of honey was provided each to Otto Klug and William Reinhard. The same year Carl Henry also bought a 5 foot Champion binder costing \$210, which was paid by two gray horses. An improved version came five years later with a Champion chain drive binder with bundle carrier; cost was \$140 and the old Champion binder.

A JIC harrow, in 1887, was paid with 3/4 cords of wood; likewise a grass seeder for \$7.50 paid by wood for William Reinhard. The next year Carl Henry got a 12 iron bar spring tooth seeder at \$35 cash. Then in spring of 1890 he bought a G&M No. 2 top buggy for \$55.

Sheep were raised for more than domestic consumption. In early January of 1891, Carl Henry shipped a carload of sheep to Chicago.¹⁴⁸ His farm did not escape natural accidents. In 1906, "The lightning killed two sheep belonging to C. H. Klug of the Town of Lowell."¹⁴⁹

Rev. Herbert Baker¹⁵⁰ referring to the island just south of the Klug farm (shown on the plat) recalled from his childhood that, "In a dry year cattle would feed there and one could approach it on dry ground."

The homestead of Amelia and Carl Henry Klug was in Lowell Township, Dodge County. The largest piece of the property was in Section 17 which amounted to 106.72 acres. Another 20 acres were adjoining in Section 8 to the north. All acreage was in Township 9N and Range 14E and the total for the Klug farm was 126.72 acres.¹⁴⁵ The partial Lowell plat map from 1890 shows the location of this farm, highlighted just right of center



Town of Lowell 1890 plat map with Carl Henry Klug property highlighted in section 17
(Plat Book of Dodge County Wisconsin, 1890, C. M. Foote, Minneapolis.)

Signs of Carl Henry's demise were present. In September of 1923, the Reeseville Review reported that, "Mr. C. H. Klug, one of the oldest citizens of the town of Lowell is seriously ill at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Albert Baker. He was in excellent health until a few days ago, when he was forced to his bed, suffered from a complication affecting the heart."¹⁵¹

Thirty-six years following Amelia's death, Carl Henry Klug was laid to rest. The obituary from the Review¹⁵² demonstrates that Carl was an esteemed citizen of the area:



Carl Henry Klug (courtesy Rev. Herbert Baker).

CARL HENRY KLUG LAID AT REST

Pioneer Resident of Town of Lowell Died Nov. 17th
Reaching the Age of 86 Years

In the death of Carl H. Klug the town of Lowell has lost a pioneer citizen, who died at the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital at Beaver Dam at about nine o'clock Saturday night, November 17. He had been confined to his bed for a number of months and on Friday, November 16 was taken to the hospital at Beaver Dam, and though given the very best of care and attention, his condition was beyond medical aid and he passed peacefully to his reward.

Carl Henry Klug was a native of Pommerania, Germany, where he was born September 27th 1837. At the age of 23 he came to the United States, first settling near Watertown. On July 5, 1866 he was united in marriage with Miss Emelia Wolfgram, who preceded him in death September 19, 1887. Following their marriage the young couple engaged in farming on the farm where he resided until his death. He was the father of eleven children, seven of whom preceded him in death. Surviving are: Bertha, wife of Albert Klug of this place, Hulda, wife of A. C. Buss, of this place, Sophia, wife of A. C. Baker of the town of Lowell, who reside on the homestead farm, and John of this place. A devoted and loving father, his passing leaves sorrow at every hand.

Mr. Klug, despite the pressing of old age, up to the time he was taken sick, was a regular visitor in this village, where he was well known. In the township of his home he was always regarded as a prominent and leading citizen and held many offices of trust. His good nature and genial disposition were an inspiration to all who came in contact with him, while for his manly traits he was greatly respected.

A man whom to know was to esteem and honor, Mr. Klug not only enjoyed the greatest respect of his fellowmen, but also held their warm personal regard.

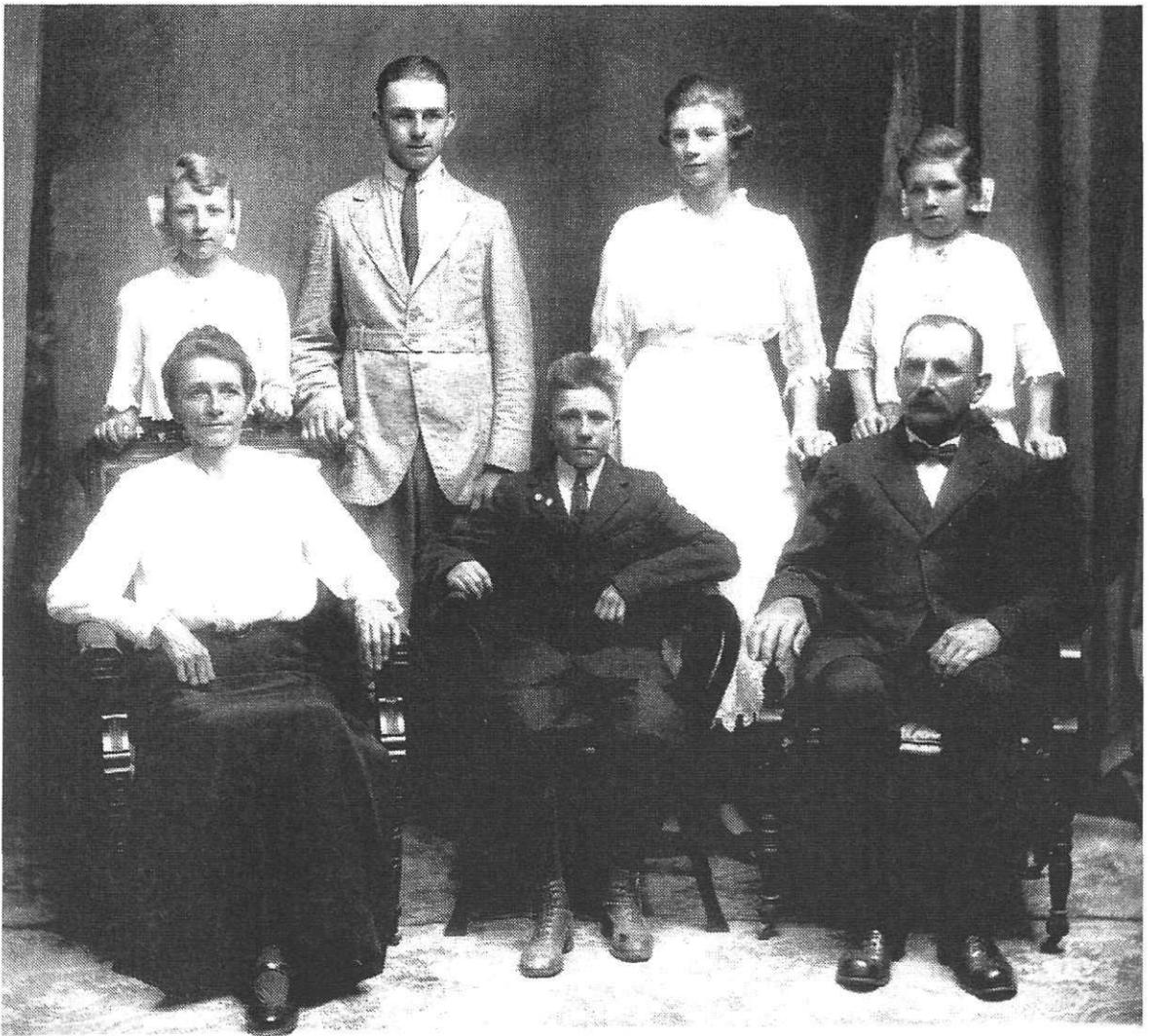
The honor and respect that the people of this section held for Mr. Klug could not have been better evidenced than by the large concourse of people that were to pay a last tribute at the final rites held at the home and at the Trinity Lutheran church. He was laid to rest in the Trinity cemetery. Rev. E. R. Schauer officiated.

KLUG CHILDREN MARRIAGES. Of the surviving children of Carl Henry and Amelia, three would marry. What a pity that Amelia did not survive to see her children mature and enjoy her grandchildren.

Bertha Klug – Albert Klug

First of the Emilie (Wolfgram) and Carl Henry Klug children to survive was Bertha Maria Hulda, born in 1869. She was also the first to become betrothed. Her family is seen in the photograph on the facing page.

Bertha married another Klug, Albert A. F. by name. Albert was born in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, to Carl and Mary (Kohloff) Klug. If there was a relationship to the Carl Henry family, it would have been quite distant – certainly it eludes us at this time. Vows between Bertha and Albert were taken in February, 1893 at Trinity Lutheran Church, south of Reeseville. By our count, there were eight children born to Bertha and Albert: Lavina M. I. (1895-1908), Reinhard H. C. (1899-1937), Werner A. (1901-1902), Meta A. E. (1903-1989), Max A. E. (1905-1958), Edna S. A. (1907-1989), Irma S. A. (1902-?), and Alfred J. W. (1911-1912).



The Bertha and Albert Klug family: back, standing from left are Edna, Rheinhold, Meta and Irma and sitting in front from left, Bertha, Max and Albert (photograph courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).

The father, Alfred, died at 61 on March 7, 1930 suffering with rheumatism and in ill-health for more than a year. He and Bertha ran a farm south of Reeseville until 1921, when they moved to the village.¹⁵³ At the time of his passing, Alfred was survived, besides his widow, by Reinart of Watertown, Max at home, 3 daughters: Meta of Watertown, Mrs. Henry Eske of Ashippun, and Mrs. Irma Schachtner at home. Funeral services were at Immanuel, but burial was at Trinity (Row 2, Sec.2).

Later, mother Bertha made her home near Johnson Creek with her daughter Meta and family (Mrs. Gerhard Degner). In 1943, Bertha suffered a broken leg and died from complications in St. Mary's Hospital at Watertown some weeks later. At the time of her passing the children surviving were Mrs. Degner (Johnson Creek), Mrs. Henry Eske (Ixonía), Mrs. Michael Olejniczak (Waukesha), and

Max (Brownsville). Her brother John and her two sisters Mrs. Alvin Buss and Mrs. Albert Baker (all of Reeseville) were also surviving. The funeral and burial took place at Trinity Lutheran (Reeseville) with Rev. Ratjen officiating.¹⁵⁴

We know a little about some of their children. Reinhard (later known as Reinert) Klug died at 38 on November 30, 1937 from an accident involving a car and truck in a head-on collision. He was married to Margaret Neitzel of Watertown on February 2, 1921.¹⁵⁵

Daughter Meta married Gerhard W. Degner on November 1, 1930 at St. John's, Watertown (the initial church of the Johann Wolfgram family when they arrived in Wisconsin in 1855). The Degners were members of Emmanuel Lutheran in Farmington. There were no children born to this couple. Gerhard died in April, 1981 at 76, and Meta December 18, 1989. Both funerals were at Emmanuel and burial at Glenview in Ixonia.¹⁵⁵

Daughter Edna S. Klug was married to Henry Eske April 20, 1929 in Lowell Township.¹⁵⁵ Henry was the son of Fred Eske and was born in rural Oconomowoc on February 9, 1907. Edna and Henry farmed in the Neshkoro area. Henry died in August of 1981. Edna then moved to Watertown in 1984. She died on October 7, 1989. Both are buried in the parish cemetery of St. John's Lutheran Church in Ashippun.

Hulda Klug – Alvin Buss

Amelia and Carl Henry's second child to be married was Hulda. Christened Helena Hulda Sophia Klug, she was always known as Hulda. In early September of 1904, the Review noted that Alvin C. Buss and Hulda Klug, both of Lowell Township, had applied for a license,¹⁵⁶ thus a marriage was imminent. The wedding took place on the 6th of September, 1904 at Trinity Lutheran Church and the attendants were Frank Sylwester, Carl Buss, Gertrude Buss and Sophia Klug.¹⁵⁷

Alvin, born May 7, 1876, was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Buss and the newly-married couple were to farm south of Reeseville in the town of Lowell. Alvin was a nephew of Fred Buss (married to Magdalena Wolfgram) who had already moved to Glencoe, Minnesota, and whose family is the subject of a separate chapter in this book. He was also the nephew of Sophia (Wolfgram, the younger) and August Sylwester of Gaylord, Minnesota, and first cousin of their son Frank who was in the wedding party. The Sylwesters are also represented by another chapter between these covers.



The Klug/Buss wedding party: from left Hulda (Klug) and Alvin C. Buss, Sophia Klug, Carl Buss, Gertrude Buss, Frank Sylwester (photograph courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).

Alvin passed away in 1949 (January 15, and Hulda eleven years later on August 5, 1960. Both are buried in the Reeseville City Cemetery (1-2). From his obituary, it was evident that Alvin was active and well-known in the Reeseville vicinity.¹⁵⁸ He had moved with his family at age 10 from Lake Mills. He and Hulda ran a farm for a while, then moved to the village where he operated a hardware store. He was a former president of the Reeseville Fire Department, on the village board, and village clerk for his last 32 years. A son, Theodore of Reeseville, and daughter Leona (Mrs. Corliss Miller of Beaver Dam) survived him.

This is an appropriate place to mention two anecdotes. In the first, Alvin Buss was involved with his brother Carl and the incident happened three years before Alvin's marriage to Hulda Klug. It is so graphic we are compelled to quote the *Weekly Review's* account:

THE BRONCHO EPISODE

Last Saturday evening Carl Buss had an experience with a span of Broncho's that he will remember for some time and would admit him to a chariot in Buffalo Bill's parade. He and his brother were preparing to come to Reeseville, and while Alvin was getting ready a dog bit one of the broncho's and they started to run. The bridle came off of one and that gave them limited freedom as far as Carl was concerned. He could only try to keep them on the road. He lost his hat and sat like Ben Hur in the buggy, his hair flying with the wind and the broncho's doing their level best to make a record. It is about three miles from Mr. Buss's farm to Reeseville, but they made every one clear the way. When they struck this place it was a regular Donegal *Faugh ab Bellah*. Old women, boys, girls, kids, dogs, cats, bicycles etc., went behind the sidewalk line, keep off the grass signs were forgotten and flower beds were held no more sacred than bunches of burdock, underneath the skirts and barefeet that swished or stampeded over them. When the team reached the center of town they were flagged by Emil Ebendroth. Mr. Buss was pretty well scared but he stayed by them with a tenacity that will convince the ponies that he can ride as fast as they can run. He can also say hereafter that he had the right of way for three miles and no one tried to dispute his possession.

The Weekly Review, June 27, 1901, Page 1

The second is a sad anecdote. We begin the story with the Reeseville Review and its problems in World War II. Employees had been dwindling off, one by one, to enter the armed forces, and Alfred Alvin, son of Hulda (Klug) and Alvin C. Buss, was the last employee left. Then the foreboding notice appeared on January 28, 1943:

SORRY

Due to the enlistment of our only employee, Alfred Alvin Buss, in the Naval Reserve on Friday of last week, we are forced to suspend publication of "The Review" for the present, or at least until we are able to secure help.

Help was not secured, and publication of the Review didn't resume until May 23, 1946, over three years later. Paradoxically, Alfred Buss, the last employee to leave – resulting in cessation of the local paper – would not return. When publication of the Reeseville Review resumed, the first issue contained information about memorial services for Reeseville-area veterans.¹⁵⁹ Among those honored was Alfred A. Buss, Machinist Mate Second Class, U.S. Navy, who gave his life for his country on April 28, 1945 near Okinawa. He entered the Navy on January 22, 1943.

In late April, 1949, a reburial ceremony was held in Reeseville for this native son who was killed in action near Okinawa. With military rites, his burial took place at the Reeseville Cemetery¹⁶⁰ where his remains rest with along side his parents.

Sophia Klug – Albert Baker

The youngest daughter of Amelia and Carl Henry Klug was Sophia Albertine. Though Amelia was absent, Sophia's marriage would be the last of the happy marriage events of their children. Amelia's absence was evident in the wedding invitation in which Mr. C. H. Klug requested "your presence."

On October 28, 1909 occurred the wedding of Mr. Albert Baker to Miss Sophia Klug with a ceremony at the Lutheran Church by Rev. A. Schauer at Trinity, south of Reeseville. The bride was attended by, among others, Ida Wolfgram, and Mr. Baker by John Benninger (friend and neighbor), John Klug (brother of the bride), and Gustave Leschensky (to become the husband of Ida Wolfgram a month later). Albert Baker was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Baker of Lowell Township.¹⁶¹ After the ceremony, a reception was held at the residence of Carl Henry Klug.



Three children would be born to this union. Mabel H. Baker was the first child, born on June 26, 1912 who met an untimely death on the 18th of May, 1928. Herbert A. was the second child and was born April 16, 1916. Finally, May S. Baker came into this world on June 4, 1922, but was deceased two months later on August 10, 1922. Mabel and May Baker are buried along with their parents at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Row 4, Section 2. For a picture of the Bakers with the Martens, see the Frank Wolfgram chapter.

The authors had the joy of meeting Herbert Baker and his wife Dorothy in eastern Wisconsin in 1999. Along with tradition, Herbert Albert Baker was married at Trinity Lutheran Church near Reeseville, Dodge County, on November 23, 1939 to Dorothy Anne Soldner (born January 1, 1920). Herbert became Reverend Herbert A. Baker who served an illustrious career as pastor in various Evangelical Lutheran churches in Wisconsin. Their son Claude Herbert (born



The wedding party of Sophia (Klug) and Albert Baker, seated. Standing are, from left, Ida Wolfgram, Beretta Fehling, Ella Baker (the bridegroom's twin sister), John Klug (the bride's brother), John Benninger, and Gus Leschensky (Photo courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).



Sophia and Albert Baker with Sophia's father, Carl Henry Klug (Courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).

December 9, 1940) followed in Pastor Herbert's ecclesiastical footsteps as well.

The elder Rev. Baker served the following pastorates:¹⁵⁰

- St. Marks Lutheran Church, Manawa Wisconsin 1940-1949. While at this charge, Claude was born on December 9, 1940 and Barbara Ann on September 30, 1943, both at New London, Wisconsin Hospital.
- St. Johns Lutheran Church, Berlin Wisconsin 1949-1955. During this phase, Dennis Allen Baker was born on August 19, 1949 at the Berlin Hospital.
- Bethany Lutheran Church, Kohler, Wisconsin 1955-1981. Pastor Baker retired at the end of this pastorate.

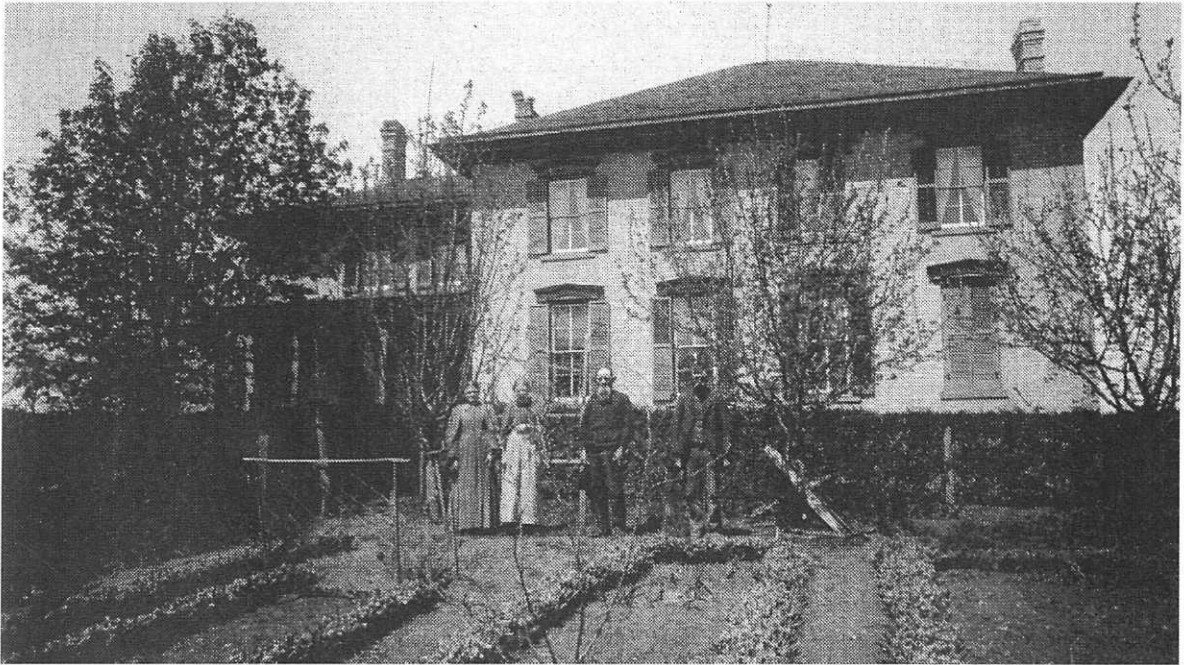
The Albert Bakers gave up farming in the town of Lowell. They lived for a few years in Portland Township and then retired in Reeseville. According to a 1950 Review article:¹⁶² "Mr. and Mrs. Albert Baker, formerly of Portland Township, recently moved to this village, having purchased the residence of the late Fred Baker. John Klug, Mrs. Baker's brother, is also residing with them."



Sophia and Albert Baker on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary (photograph courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).

Father Albert Carl Baker, a life-time resident of Reeseville, lived to be 89 years and passed away at the Lutheran Hospital in Beaver Dam on March 29, 1968.¹⁶³ At the time of his death, his survivors included his wife Sophia; one son, Rev. Herbert Baker, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, two daughters, three brothers and one sister. Services were held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, and interment was at Trinity, south of Reeseville.

Mother Sophia would live several more years, but she had moved to Sheboygan. She died in November of 1974, and like Albert her husband, her funeral was at Immanuel in Reeseville, with burial at Trinity. At that time Sophia was survived by one son, Rev. Herbert Baker of Kohler, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded by her husband, two daughters, five brothers and five sisters.¹⁶³



Lowell Township farm home of C. H. and Amelia (Wolfgram) Klug; from left Hulda (Klug) Buss, Sophie (Klug) Baker, Carl Henry, and John Klug (photograph courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).



Carl Henry Klug with daughters Hulda on left, and Sophia A.
(photograph courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).

Endnotes

¹³⁰ Records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown WI.

¹³¹ Registration of Marriages, Dodge County WI, Vol. 4, P. 123, Image 1991. (Microfilm, WSHS).

¹³² Most Trinity Church records for the Klug family were translated from the German originals by the authors. Some records were augmented by the work of Neuberger *op. cit.* Unless otherwise noted, all vital statistics are from these sources.

¹³³ Intent to file for citizenship, Oshkosh Area Research Center, WSHS.

¹³⁴ Petition for citizenship, Oshkosh Area Research Center, WSHS.

¹³⁵ Personal correspondence, Oscar G. Klug, January 9, 1999.

¹³⁶ Deaths, Dodge County, Vol. B, P. 274. (Register of Deeds, Juneau, WI).

¹³⁷ Album of Trinity Church, *op. cit.*, p. 5.

¹³⁸ Translation of 19th century Trinity Lutheran Church minutes from the German language originals courtesy of Kevin W. Neuberger.

¹³⁹ Album of Trinity Church, *op. cit.*, p. 2, 11.

¹⁴⁰ Jesus Christ – The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever, Heb. 13.8. 1858-1983 Trinity Lutheran Church. Reeseville, WI: The Church, 1983. p. 52.

¹⁴¹ U.S. Census, 1880 (WSHS Film 1880-1425).

¹⁴² The Weekly Review (Reeseville, WI), October 18, 1900 (WSHS P77-5225).

¹⁴³ The Reeseville (WI) Review, September 28, 1922 (WSHS P81-233).

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, June 27, 1929 (WSHS P81-1779).

¹⁴⁵ Portland Tax Roll, Dodge County, Wisconsin, 1880. (Held by Waterloo Area Historical Society)

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 1900.

¹⁴⁷ Daybook information from Reinhard & Klug, Reeseville kindly provided by Kevin W. Neuberger.

- ¹⁴⁸ The Waterloo (WI) Democrat, January 17, 1891 (WSHS P71-1727).
- ¹⁴⁹ The Weekly Review, June 7, 1906 (WSHS P77-5226).
- ¹⁵⁰ Personal correspondence with Rev. Herbert A. and Dorothy Baker, February 25, 2000.
- ¹⁵¹ The Reeseville Review, September 20, 1923 (WSHS P81-231).
- ¹⁵² The Waterloo Democrat, November 22, 1923, p. 1.
- ¹⁵³ *Ibid.*, March 13, 1930 (WSHS P41376).
- ¹⁵⁴ The Watertown (WI) Daily Times, February 2, 1943.
- ¹⁵⁵ Personal correspondence from Oscar G. Klug May 28, 1999.
- ¹⁵⁶ The Reeseville Review, September 8, 1904, p. 1 (WSHS P83-1801).
- ¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, Page 4.
- ¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, January 20, 1949 (WSHS P81-1780).
- ¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, May 23, 1946 (WSHS P41377).
- ¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, April 21, 1949 (WSHS P81-1780).
- ¹⁶¹ The Weekly Review, October 28, 1909 (WSHS P82-3482).
- ¹⁶² *Ibid.*, September 20, 1950 (WSHS P81-1780).
- ¹⁶³ Personal correspondence, Oscar G. Klug, February 9, 1999.

Chapter 5

Ulricke Magdalena

Theresa (Wolfgram) Buss

The third daughter and fourth child of Johann and Sophia Wolfgram was Albertine Magdalena Theresa. As with most of her siblings, this child would be known by her second given name, as Magdalena or most often in the diminutive Lena. According to the St. John's Church records at Watertown, Lena was born three years after her sister Amelia and the event occurred on November 20, 1845.¹⁶⁴ Lena was just 9 years of age when she joined with her family at Hamburg, Germany to embark on the ship *Johannes* on their way to North America.

Lena was one of the Wolfgram family who relocated to Minnesota along with her parents and three of her sisters. She was married about a year after her sisters Minnie and Amelia. On December 4, 1867, Lena was betrothed to Fredrick Buss, a blacksmith from Lake Mills. It's not completely clear where they were married. The State of Wisconsin marriage certificate indicates that Lena and Fred were married in Portland Township.¹⁶⁵ There is no record of their having been married at Trinity, and although Fred's obituary states that they were married at Reeseville,¹⁶⁶ both Trinity and Reeseville are in Lowell Township. We suspect they were married at Johann and Sophia Wolfgram's home in Portland Township.

As best we can learn, Fred Buss came from a family of four other siblings.¹⁶⁷ There were three sisters: Augusta Kasten (1838-1920) and Mrs. Tielke both of Watertown, Wisconsin, and Helen Schmidt of Redfield, Wisconsin. The only brother we know of was Char-

Ulricke <u>Magdalena</u> Theresa Wolfgram, b 20 Nov 1845, d 3 Mar 1919; m 4 Dec 1867 at Portland WI to Fredrick Buss b 30 Dec 1845; d 10 Aug 1905 Moved to Glencoe MN (7 Children: Ida, Emil, Alma, Albert, Alvine, Fred, Lena)

Ida Buss, b. c. 1869, WI

Emil Friedrich Karl Buss b. 22 Jun 1870, WI m c1898 Johanna 1875 - Children: Herman, Alvine, Arthur, Herbert
--

Alma Buss, 1872 (WI) - 1956 m 19 Oct 1894, Sibley Co. MN John H. C. Meffert 1867-1928 Children: Paul H. A., Edith L.

Albert F. Buss, b May 1874 MN m 1900 to Bertha Sanken, MN Children: Elmer H., Alvin C., Loren E., Walter Carl., Victor J. Willard H.
--

Alvine Buss, b. c. 1877 MN

Fred H. Buss, b. Mar 1879 MN m 30 Sep 1910 Diana Amy Roos 1875-1927 Children: Lilly A. M., Vernon C. F., Lloyd H. R.
--

Magdalena Buss, b Oct 1882 MN m 21 Jun 1904 William Mielke b c1880 - 1953 Children: Merrill, Lewis

les A. Buss (1850-1914) who, on November 12, 1873, married Anna Hermine Rosenberg (1851-1923). He left Lake Mills to become the blacksmith in Reeseville. Later he went into dairy farming. He served on the board of directors of the Leader Cheese Factory and was at one time its president. He died in Lowell Township in 1914 and was returned to Lake Mills for burial at Rock Lake Cemetery. One of their nine children was Albert C. Buss (nephew of Fred) who married Sophia Klug (niece of Lena). This couple is portrayed in chapter 4 where there is also a relevant Buss anecdote entitled the Broncho Episode.



Lena (Wolfgram) Buss photo, likely taken between 1867-1873
(Photograph by F. Bishop & Son, Artistic Photographers, Watertown,
Wisconsin; provided courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

Lena and Fred Buss had seven children; we can account for them according to sequential censuses. In 1870, the U.S. Census¹⁶⁸ reported a family of four living in the village of Lake Mills, Wisconsin. Husband and father Fred, at 25 was

listed as a blacksmith born in Prussia; wife Lena was keeping house also born in Prussia, and there were two children shown as Eda 2, and Fred at 1/12. The "Eda" was actually Ida, who we will see in a subsequent census in another state. Both children were born in Wisconsin and Fred was born in June, 1870 according to the census data. Though we could find no official state vital statistics records for either child, we did locate a church record for the male called Fred. His parents identified him as Fred for the census taker, but he was born Emil Friedrich Karl on June 22, 1870. This child was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church south of Reeseville, Wisconsin on September 11, 1870 with Bertha Wolfgram (Lena's sister) and Karl Buss (Fred's brother) serving as sponsors.¹⁶⁹ A remark at the end of the church entry states, "not a member of the congregation."

Also in Lake Mills at the same time was Fred's brother, Carl age 20, a blacksmith as well.

By 1875, the Buss family had moved to Minnesota and that year would be the first experience with the census in their new state. There were certainly communication problems with the census-taker.¹⁷⁰ Fred and Lena Buss are listed at 29 years. Then three children born in Wisconsin show up; Ida at 5, Amelia at 4 (this is actually Emil), and Elmer 3 (actually Alma). There was an additional family member and it was an infant named Albert born in Minnesota. Albert was born in May of 1874, which helps narrow the Buss' relocation from Wisconsin between 1870-1874. (See Appendix III for details on family vital statistics.)

By the time of the U.S. 1880 Census, two more Minnesota-born children had been added to the fold.¹⁷¹ They were Alvena (Alvine) age 3, and Fredrick at 1.

We know that Fred Buss returned to Wisconsin for a visit with relatives and friends in Dodge and Jefferson counties during June of 1882, as noted by the *Waterloo Journal*¹⁷² in the brief statement, "Fred Buss, a former resident of Lake Mills, is here on a visit."

The Minnesota Census of 1885¹⁷³ is a little messy and requires comparison with known family information to sort out accurately. Fred and Lena are shown to be 39. Then comes "Eda" 16 (=Ida), "Amel" 14 (Emil), "Almena" 11 (actually this is Alma). These are followed by the children born in Minnesota, i.e. Albert 10, "Freda" 7 (checked as a female, but this is in fact their son Fred), and Lena 3. The youngest child, Alvine, born c. 1877, was absent in this and succeeding census reports. Only two children were left at home by 1895¹⁷⁴ and they were Fredrick 16, and Lena 12. At that time Fred and Lena were 50, and he was still identified as a blacksmith. They declared that they had been in the district and the state of Minnesota for 22 years, suggesting 1873 as the year in which their relocation took place. The federal census five years later¹⁷⁵ showed the same people. Fred and Lena owned their house free of mortgage. In the 1900 census, the specific month and year of birth was requested which helped

us to better narrow information for Buss family members for whom we were unable to locate exact dates through birth or baptismal records.



A scene from the village of Glencoe c. 1877 with a delivery wagon of Glencoe Brewery in front of the Glencoe House, and livery stable to the right. This is the time when the Buss family arrived in Glencoe to make their home. (Adapted from p. 24, *The McLeod County History Book: McLeod County, Minnesota*. 1978. McLeod County Historical Society, Hutchinson, MN.)

The entry adjacent to Fred and Lena's 1900 listing is for their son Albert Buss, 26, who had been married to Bertha (Sanken) for seven months. He too was a blacksmith.

Daughter Alma had gotten married in 1894. She shows up in the census at her new location, Arlington, Minnesota with her husband John Meffert.¹⁷⁶ John was born in April, 1868¹⁷⁷ in Illinois and was engaged in the furniture business as a dealer. The record shows Alma's birth in March, 1873 (probably should be 1872) and there were two young children in their family, Ida born 2 1/2 years earlier in December of 1896 (though her headstone reads 1895) and Paul H. born in October, 1897 (the only correct year on the list). Ida was later known as Edith.

In 1905, the Buss family at home reduced to three; along with parents, son

Fred H. was still in the household and his occupation was butcher.¹⁷⁸ Albert Buss was listed¹⁷⁸ and he and his wife Bertha were both 30 and both born in Minnesota. There were two children in Albert and Bertha's family: Elmer H. 3, and Alvin C. age 1.

After two decades' absence, the elder Fred Buss returned to the Reeseville area for a brief visit in spring of 1905 to see relatives and friends. According to the Review,¹⁷⁹ "Fred Buss of Glencoe Minn., arrived here Saturday morning for a brief visit with friends. Mr. Buss is a brother of Charles Buss and his last visit here was some 20 years ago." It might have been prophetic, but at least it was wonderful that he had the opportunity to rekindle a personal relationship with Wisconsin family because it was to be his last.

In August of 1905, the Glencoe Enterprise had a brief announcement of Fred Buss' passing (at right).¹⁸⁰

Then, as promised, the Enterprise produced a fuller story a week later.¹⁸¹ On the 17th of August, 1905.

FRED BUSS, SR. DIES THIS MORNING.

As we go to press this morning we learn of the death of Fred Buss Sr., one of the oldest and highly respected businessmen of this village. An obituary will appear in next week's issue.

CALLED TO THE BEYOND

Fredrich Buss Sr. Expires From Dropsy

**Was Engaged in Business at Glencoe for Past Thirty Years ---
Was Highly Respected**

The death of Fredrich Buss, who had been a resident of this village for the past thirty years occurred at his late residence about 11 o'clock Thursday morning August 10th. Several weeks ago the deceased was subjected to an attack of pleurisy, after which dropsy set in which ultimately caused his demise. The late Fredrich Buss was born at Pommerania, Germany, Dec. 30th 1845, and immigrated to America in 1855, first settling at Reeseville, Wis., where he was married to Miss Lena Wolfgram. In 1867 (*incorrect, it was after 1870*) he removed with his wife to this village, where he has since resided and had continuously conducted a blacksmith shop. The deceased was the father of seven children, five of whom are living, viz.: Emil, of Winthrop, Mrs. Alma Meffert, of Arlington, Mrs. Lena Mielke and Albert and Fred of this village. These, his widow, one brother and three sisters, mourn his loss, together with a large number of friends. The late Fredrich Buss was a conscientious and industrious man and was regarded in highest esteem by all who knew him. The funeral services were held Sunday afternoon last at the German Ev. Lutheran church, the Rev. Kolbe officiating and delivering an impressive sermon and the remains were laid to rest in the cemetery of that denomination. Those from abroad attending the last sad rites were, Carl Buss, a brother of deceased, and wife, of Reeseville, Wis.; Mrs. Augusta Kasten and Mrs. Tielke, sisters, of Watertown, Wis.; Mrs. Helen Schmidt, a sister, of Redfield, Wis.; Mr. Klugh, a brother-in-law, of Reeseville, Wis.; Mrs. Goebel and daughter of Buffalo Lake, a sister-in-law of Mrs. Buss, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester, the latter a sister of Mrs. Buss and Mr. Wolfgram, father of Mrs. Buss, of Gaylord, Minn. The Enterprise joins with the many friends of the family in extending condolences.

When Fred Buss traveled to Wisconsin in April he must have known his days were numbered given the statement on his death certificate that he had carcinoma of the liver of 6 months duration.¹⁸² He was 59 years, 7 months, and 11 days at the time of his death. The certificate notes that Fred had been a resident of Glencoe for 32 years again suggesting 1873 as the year the Buss family left Wisconsin.

Five years later, at the time of the 1910 federal census¹⁸³ Fred, the son and still single, was listed as head of household. Lena appears as mother at 64. There was an imminent wedding however, so Fred would soon change his status to married. Son Albert F. continued to follow in his father's footsteps as a blacksmith, while Bertha had set up her own shop as a dressmaker. They had added two more children to their family and both were sons: Loren 5, and Walter 3. Now the total was four boys.

What little we know of son Emil Buss' family is gleaned from the 1910 census.¹⁸⁴ He farmed in Bismarck Township in Sibley County, near Winthrop. His wife Johanna was 37 and three children are listed: Alvina 11, Arthur 9, and Herbert at 5.

The Meffert family, still in Arlington remained four in number. John and Alma (Buss) Meffert were now 42 and 38 – he still a furniture merchant – and their daughter is now shown as Edith at 14, while Paul was 12. Descendants Gerald and Melba Meffert (personal correspondence August 18, 1999), related that John farmed until 1899 when he lost his right hand in a farm accident. Thereafter, he went into the furniture business with his brother Henry until 1911. The partnership apparently didn't work out, so John went back to farming. Family hearsay actually has it that John and his brother Henry "didn't click."

The Meffert daughter, Edith L., lived most of her adult life in Los Angeles, California. Born December 28, 1895, she never married and died May 4, 1987. Her cremated remains are buried at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery at Arlington, Minnesota. Paul Henry Albert Meffert (September 26, 1897 – September 5, 1951) went on to marry Marie Emma Clara Willmsen (1907-1975) and raised a family of three sons (including Gerald Leroy, who with his wife, were the gracious providers of our Meffert family details).

Lena Buss, youngest child of Fred and Lena, was married a few years earlier to William Mielke. They farmed in Sumpter Township, McLeod County, Minnesota. At the time of this census there was one child, a son, named Merrill, 2.¹⁸⁵

Lena (Wolfgram) Buss, at age 73, died in 1919, as noted in an obituary published by the local Enterprise.¹⁸⁶

MRS. LENA BUSS DIES SUDDENLY
WAS ONE OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF THE CITY OF GLENCOE

Glencoe was shocked Monday morning upon hearing of the sudden death of Mrs. Lena Buss who was found dead by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Fred Buss, about 7 o'clock. The deceased who was apparently enjoying good health on the previous day and attended church as was usual for her to do, evidently had arose from bed and kindled a fire in the stove in her bedroom at an early hour Monday morning. As she did not come down to breakfast when her daughter-in-law called up the stairway that the meal was ready, Mrs. Buss went upstairs and found the aged woman lying dead in bed. Her body was still warm showing that she had been dead but a few minutes. She succumbed to heart disease.

Mrs. Lena Buss was born in Germany Nov. 20, 1845, attained the age of 73 years, 3 months and 11 days. She came to America with her parents at the age of 9 years and settled at Reisville, Wis. She married Fredrick Buss at that place in 1865 who died Aug 8, 1905.

Mrs. Buss is one of the earlier settlers of this city, coming here with her husband 49 years ago, who conducted a blacksmith shop for many years. She was a woman of kind disposition, whose friendliness and charity endeared her to her neighbors and won her the esteem of everyone who knew her. She was a Christian woman and a loving mother.

Five children of a family of seven survive her. They are: Emil of Winthrop; Albert and Fred of Glencoe; Mrs. Alma Meffert, of Arlington, and Mrs. Lena Mielke of this community. She is also survived by 17 grandchildren, and three sisters and one brother, the latter are: Mrs. Sophia Sylwester, Gaylord; Mrs. Hilda Goebel, Buffalo Lake; Mrs. Bertha Vossberg who lives in Nebraska, and Frank Wolfgram of Waterloo, Wis.

The funeral will take place this afternoon (6 Mar 1919). Prayers will be offered at the home at 1 o'clock and services will be conducted at the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church by Rev. E. Kolbe.

Lena (Wolfgram) Buss is buried next to her husband at the Glencoe Cemetery; the inscription on her headstone reads Mutter Nov. 20, 1845 – Mar. 3, 1919.

In the 1920 census¹⁸⁷ Albert F. Buss was still blacksmithing and he had his own smithy. Elmer was no longer at home, and Alvin now 16 was an apprentice at a drug store. Meanwhile, two more sons had been born: Victor J. 9 and Willard H. 8.

Fred and Lena's son Frederick H. married since the last census to "Dena" who was four years his senior. At this time they had three children: Lilly A. M. 7, Vernon C. F. 4 years and 3 months, and Lloyd 1 year and 6 months. The marriage was to Diana Amy Roos on September 30, 1910 at Glencoe.¹⁸⁸ We know nothing further about Fred, but his wife, listed as Dina, died on August 30, 1927¹⁸⁹ at age 52 years, 4 months and 11 days. She was born in Minnesota of Norwegian parents.

Endnotes

¹⁶⁴ Family roster records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown, WI.

¹⁶⁵ Registration of Marriages, Jefferson County WI, Vol. 1, Page 131.

¹⁶⁶ The Glencoe (MN) Enterprise, August 10, 1905 (Minnesota Historical Society).

¹⁶⁷ This Fred's death certificate (see endnote #182) identifies his father's name as also Frederick. We were not able for certain to document this but we believe a Fred Buss in the Milford area of Jefferson County was the father; he was born c. 1806 and his wife Wilhelmine was ten years younger. Two facts lead to this suggestion, 1) Milford was listed as the residence of Fred Buss on the certificate of his marriage to Lena Wolfgram, and 2) the 1860 census shows a Charles at home who was the right age to be Fred (Jr's) brother. Future genealogists interested in the Buss family may wish to pursue the broader family who first immigrated to Wisconsin. At first it seemed that the issue was exacerbated by the presence of another Fred Buss who farmed in Hubbard Township in Dodge County, but based on age that person would not likely have been the parent.

¹⁶⁸ Census of the United States, Wisconsin 1870, Jefferson County, Village Lake Mills, Vol. 1:473.

¹⁶⁹ Neuberger, *op. cit.*

¹⁷⁰ State Census 1875, Minnesota, McLeod Co., Glencoe Village (Film # 0565724, LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).

¹⁷¹ U. S. Census 1880, Minnesota, McLeod Co., Glencoe Village (Film # 0565745, LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).

¹⁷² The Waterloo (WI) Journal, June 8, 1882, Correspondence - Lake Mills (WSHS P46611).

¹⁷³ State Census 1885, Minnesota, McLeod Co., Glencoe Village (Film # 0565745, LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).

¹⁷⁴ State Census 1895, Minnesota, McLeod Co., Glencoe Village (Film # 0565787, LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).

¹⁷⁵ U. S. Census 1900, Minnesota, McLeod Co., Glencoe Village ED 85, Sheet 16 (WSHS).

¹⁷⁶ U. S. Census 1900, Minnesota, Sibley County, Arlington, SD 3, ED 182, Sheet 5 (WSHS).

¹⁷⁷ Family members suggest John Meffert was born in 1867 (personal correspondence from Raymond Meffert June, 1999, and Gerald and Melba Meffert, August 18, 1999 - all of Arlington MN) and his headstone at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery at Arlington shows the years 1867-1928).

¹⁷⁸ State Census 1905, Minnesota, McLeod Co., Glencoe Village, Page 177.

¹⁷⁹ The Weekly Review (Reeseville, WI), April 27, 1905 (WSHS P83-1801).

¹⁸⁰ The Glencoe (MN) Enterprise, August 10, 1905 (Minnesota Historical Society).

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*, August 17, 1905

¹⁸² McLeod County Vital Records, Glencoe, MN, Deaths, Book C, Page 3-5, Line 18.

¹⁸³ U. S. Census 1910, Minnesota, McLeod Co., Glencoe Village (Film # 1374721, LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).

¹⁸⁴ U. S. Census 1910, Minnesota, Sibley Co., Bismarck Township (WSHS).

¹⁸⁵ U. S. Census, 1910, McLeod Co., Sumpter Township (WSHS)

¹⁸⁶ The Glencoe Enterprise, March 6, 1919 (courtesy of the Glencoe Public Library).

¹⁸⁷ U. S. Census 1920, Minnesota, McLeod Co., Glencoe Village, ED 86, Sheet 15A.

¹⁸⁸ McLeod County Vital Records, Glencoe, MN, Marriages, Book L, Page 516.

¹⁸⁹ McLeod County Vital Records, Glencoe, MN, Deaths, Book E, Page 452.

Chapter 6

Henriette Bertha Louise (Wolfgram) Vossberg

Bertha was the middle sibling of the nine children born to Johann and Sophia Wolfgram, and the fourth daughter in succession. Born (and presumably baptized) as Henriette Bertha Louise, she would always be known as Bertha. When she boarded the *Johannes* in Hamburg to emigrate from her homeland, Bertha was just seven years of age. We have an indication that Bertha was born in Zachow, Pommerania – one of only two such records for children.

Bertha was present with her family of eight others – her younger brother Frank was born after their arrival in the new country – at their Emmet Township farm during the 1860 census where she is (incorrectly) shown to be age 10. She was not at home in 1870; she would have been 22 at the time, so perhaps she was working elsewhere.

In 1862, at about the time Johann Wolfgram's family would have been moving from Emmet to Portland Township, Bertha prepared for confirmation on April 13, 1862 at St. John's in Watertown. Officiating was Pastor C. Strassen whose name is seen elsewhere in this book, and who served this and other congregations in the area.

Bertha Wolfgram was active in Trinity Church affairs. Prior to her own marriage, she was a sponsor at the wedding of August Friedrich Albert Schulz in June, 1872, and served as a sponsor for her nephews' baptisms:

- Christian Heinrich Knarr, baptized 27 January 1867,
- Emil Friedrich Karl Buss, baptized 11 September 1870,
- Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Klug, baptized 27 August 1871, and
- Friedrich Goebel, baptized 3 December 1871.

Henriette Bertha Louise Wolfgram 6 Jan 1848 - 6 Jun 1925, m. 16 Apr 1873 Dodge Co. WI to Helmuth Vossberg 5 Nov 1848 - 5 Oct 1915 Moved to Plainview Nebraska (7 Children: Wilhelm, Karl, Marie, Bertha, Lena, Fredrick, Ernest)

Wilhelm Vossberg 1875 - 1960 m 1957 Grayce Williams (who died also in 1957)

Karl "Charlie" Vossberg 1876 - 1960, m 1906 Elizabeth Louise Amelia Kuhl 1879 - 1965 Children: Gertrude, Arnold, Alma, Lawrence, Alice

Bertha Marie Dorothea Vossberg 1878-1889 d. diptheria, buried with grandparents Plainview NE
--

Bertha Augusta Johanna Vossberg 1881 - 1965 m Carl Edwin Pilger 1883 - 1953 Children: Mildred, Evert, Vernon Pierce NE
--

Magdalena Alwine Elizabeth Vossberg 1883-1959 m 1909 Harry Johnson 1885-1954 Children: Iver, Lehr, Arlene, Mardelle

Friedrich A. Vossberg 1885 - 1952 m 1909 Frieda May Johnson 1888 - 1966 Children: Ruby, Opal, Harold, Pearl
--

Ernest August Franz Vossberg 1888-1890 Plainview NE
--



Certificate of confirmation for Bertha Wolfgram from St. John's Lutheran Church at Watertown, Wisconsin, 1862 (Courtesy of James Weinbender).

Bertha was to meet Helmuth Vossberg and they married in 1873. The State certificate¹⁹⁰ shows the husband as H. S. W. Vossberg, a resident of Dane County whose occupation was farmer. His mother was indicated to be Maria Vossberg and the father's name line was blank – you can tell where this is headed, but more later. The bride was 25; her husband 24. The marriage vows were exchanged on April 16, 1873, in a religious ceremony conducted by Rev. Friedrich Wesemann. Official witnesses were Johann Wolfgram (the bride's father), and August Schulz.¹⁹¹ The ceremony was at Trinity, as was her sister Minnie's wedding, except the older frame church shown on page 10 had recently been replaced by a lovely brick structure which forms the basic church extant today (pages 11 and 58).

From the church records¹⁹² we find more information. For example, we learn that bridegroom's full name was Helmuth Friedrich Wilhelm Vossberg, that he

was born on November 5, 1848, in Pommerania, and at the time was from the Town of York in Dane County. By now Bertha was listing her name as it was being used, Bertha Louisa Henriette. The marriage was in the church with song and sermon, text being Joh. 20:21 (Fried sie mit euch). In addition to the witnesses noted in the Dodge County certificate, Heinrich Desler and Alvina Wolfgram were also among the church witnesses. The church records remarked, "The bridegroom is not a member of the congregation."



Certificate of 1873 marriage for Bertha Wolfgram and Helmuth Vossberg from Trinity Lutheran Church, Reeseville, Wisconsin (courtesy of James Weinbender).

Being illegitimate, Helmuth kept his mother's Vossberg name.¹⁹³ No knowledge of his biological father has surfaced. It must have been after Helmuth's birth that his mother Maria married August Schulz.

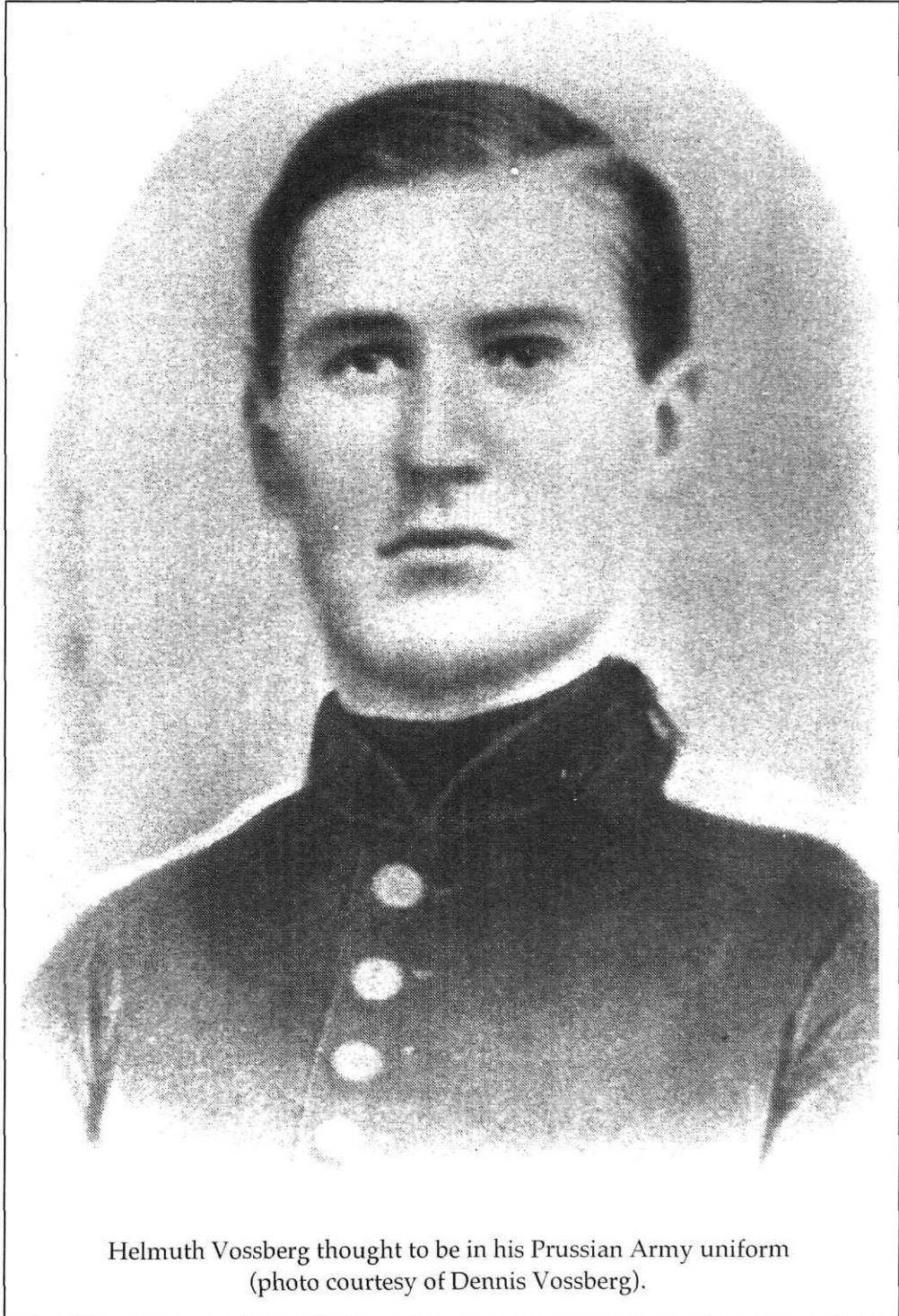
Helmuth Vossberg had been in America a little over three years when his marriage took place. Like his wife 14 years before him, Helmuth departed from Hamburg, but disembarked in New York rather than Quebec. His passage was aboard the steamer *Silesia* which arrived in port on November 24, 1869.¹⁹⁴ Helmuth's listing shows his age at 21 and the occupation was stated as "Turner." We also found and examined the manifest for the *Silesia*, but found no additional

information save for the possibility that the written word on the manifest which was interpreted as turner and abbreviated TU in *Germans to America* ¹⁹⁴ might also be read as farmer. Dennis Vossberg, a direct descendant of Helmuth, has graciously collaborated with us in this effort. We made available a copy of the manifest to him for an opinion and his inclination was towards "farmer."



Bertha Wolfgram (photo courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

Nearly all of our ancestors were farmers – that’s what the vast majority of people did – and despite our hopes for something new and novel as an occupation, Helmuth was probably misclassified as a turner. Farming was certainly his occupation in Dane County, Wisconsin and initially in Nebraska.



Helmuth Vossberg thought to be in his Prussian Army uniform
(photo courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

The young Vossbergs soon moved away from Wisconsin to make their new life in Nebraska. We're not sure just when they left Dodge County, but their first child, William was born in Rock Creek, Cuming County, Nebraska in early 1875.¹⁹⁵

When Bertha and Helmuth moved to Nebraska in the 1870's they found a dramatically different situation compared to their Wisconsin residence. Dodge County was fully populated, and land was being sold for the second and third time. Pierce County, Nebraska was very sparsely settled and was in the early stages of homesteading. The whole of Pierce County is covered in four sheets for the 1870 census. The Vossbergs would have known they were to encounter frontier conditions, because large caravans of German migrants from Wisconsin preceded them to Nebraska. No doubt the low population density meant appealing land prices, and this might have been one incentive to pull up their short-lived stakes in Wisconsin.

NORTH DRY CREEK PRECINCT (PLAINVIEW)

The quality of the land in this township is generally of very poor sand ridges and totally destitute of water and timber, and is unfit for habitation or settlement.

Field notes of Pierce County survey by Charles Turner
October 14, 1858¹⁹⁶

As one reads accounts of conditions in Pierce County, it is apparent that in this rural Nebraska setting, development was at the stage Portland Township in Dodge County, Wisconsin had been at 30-40 years earlier. At the Vossberg's arrival in Nebraska, Plainview didn't even exist. It was first platted in 1880 and was only the second town in Pierce County.¹⁹⁶ Articles of incorporation for Plainview were filed on April 5, 1886. The small community at that location was known as Roseville when Bertha and Helmuth came and there was a post office there, established in 1872; so named in honor of Charles Rose the first postmaster. Local settlers in Roseville believed its name "gave too much prominence to the Rose brothers, and not any recognition to others" so after endless controversy, the name became Plainview at the time of platting and has remained ever since.¹⁹⁶

We reviewed the U.S. census to find the Vossberg entry and what the family looked like in 1880.¹⁹⁷ Helmuth Vossberg was occupied as a farmer and Bertha is listed as wife, both 32, and they and their parents are shown to have been born in Prussia. At that time three children were listed, each born in Nebraska: William son 5, Carl son 3, and Mary daughter at 1. This area was truly a melting pot con-

sidering their near neighbors came from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Maine.



The Helmuth Vossberg family, probably in the early 1890's: Helmuth left, Bertha (Wolfgram) his wife at right, standing from left Wilhelm, Bertha, Karl, Magdalena in front of Karl, and the youngest, Friedrich, sitting in front (photo courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

Children of Bertha (Wolfgram) and Helmuth Vossberg, as well as their grandchildren, are listed in the chart at the head of this chapter. To get a context of Bertha in the larger Wolfgram family, please review the master chart on page 20. Vital statistics for the immediate family of Bertha and Helmuth are provided in Appendix IV. We fully expect that Dennis Vossberg will elaborate on the Vossberg family in the future. Accordingly, we will neither describe those relationships here nor attempt a comprehensive update of genealogical issues.

Helmuth Vossberg, a former Pierce County resident, passed away at this home near Julesburg, Colo. on Oct. 5, 1915. His body was shipped to the old home of his daughter, Mrs. Harry Johnson, who lives 2 miles southeast of Plainview. It was there the funeral services were conducted, a minister from Julesburg delivered the sermon.

Helmuth Vossberg was born in Pommern, Daber Province, Germany, Nov. 5, 1848 and died on his ranch near Julesburg, Colo. Oct. 5, 1915 making him 66 years and 11 months of age.

He had served in the German army and naturally took a great interest in the present European War in which his native country is so greatly interested. He came to America when 21 years of age and settled in Wisconsin. He was married at 25 (April 16, 1873) to Bertha Wolfgram and moved to Nebraska the same year, taking a homestead near Plainview and afterwards added to this until at his death he had 5 quarters southeast of Plainview. The Colorado ranch which he bought and moved upon five years ago, he recently deeded to his two eldest sons.

Mr. Vossberg is survived by his wife, as also by 5 of his 7 children. The surviving are William and Charles living south of Big Springs, Nebr., Fred living on the old home farm, Mrs. Harry Johnson who lives with her husband about 2 miles east of the old home and Mrs. Carl Pilger living west of Pierce.

Mr. Vossberg experienced his share of hardships encountered by the pioneers of Nebraska. In the year of 1896 he suffered a great loss when his entire crop was beaten to the ground and destroyed by the memorable hail storm of the year. He also went through the blizzard of 1888. In the early days deer and antelope were plenty. Mr. Vossberg was among the best known and eldest pioneers of Pierce County, where he was well known and highly esteemed. He well remembered the early days and passed through the various years of droughts, hard times and the plague of grasshoppers.

During his residence in Pierce County, Mr. Vossberg was always active in politics and educational interests lending his best efforts to promote general welfare.

He was chairman of the democratic County Central Committee and as such commanded a great influence.

He was one of the prominent pioneers of Pierce County and as such was well known to hundreds throughout this county and during his entire residence in this section, nothing but good of him has ever been known. He was everyone's friend and indeed to know him was to be his friend.

He was a stockholder and director of the first National Bank of Plainview. Mr. Vossberg had served Pierce County as County Commissioner.

As stated in the beginning, the funeral was held at the home of his daughter but the house was not near large enough to hold the immense crowd who were present to pay their last respects to a departed friend and neighbor. The remains were laid to rest in the Lutheran Cemetery near his homestead and it is there he sleeps. The floral offerings from loving relatives and friends were many and beautiful. The entire community tenders heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

Of the senior Vossbergs, Helmuth was the first to die in 1915 at his ranch home between Julesburg, Colorado and Big Springs, Nebraska. According to the obituary in the *Leader*,¹⁹⁸ funeral services were held at his daughter's home. Considering his leadership, both civic and religious, in the Plainview area, it will appear curious that there was no church funeral especially since he was a founding member. However, family lore via Dennis Vossberg resolves the situation:¹⁹³ "My father explains that the Evangelical Lutheran pastor fulfilled an old grudge by refusing to bury him. So, he is not listed in the church book."

Another Pierce County newspaper, the *Call*, also published an obituary;¹⁹⁹ because it offers additional clarity, we felt it worthwhile to reproduce part of it here (duplicated information compared to the *Leader's* obituary is deleted).

PASSING OF HELMUTH VOSSBERG

The death of Helmuth Vossberg, mentioned in last week's *Call* marks the removal of another of the small band of old settlers and pioneers that withstood the privations and hardships of frontier days in this county that their posterity might enjoy the fruits of their toil and labor... At the age of 18 he enlisted in the German army and served in the war between Prussia and Austria... he was united in marriage to Bertha Wolfgram and moved to Nebraska, locating in Cuming County. A year later he filed on a homestead near Plainview. Grasshoppers destroyed his crops and he went back to Cuming County for a year or so, and then returned again to his homestead in this county. Five years ago he removed to Julesburg, Colorado, where he resided until his death... besides owning eight hundred acres of fine farm land near Plainview, owns residence property in that city (Plainview)... One son, Ernest, died at the age of 2 years and one daughter, Mary at 11 years of age.

Twenty years ago Mr. Vossberg was the Democratic nominee for County Treasurer...

The remains were shipped to Foster last Thursday and interred in the Lutheran cemetery southeast of Plainview and near his old home on Friday.

One of Bertha and Helmuth's daughters, Bertha Auguste Johanna Vossberg married into the Pilger family who also had Wisconsin roots. We thought it would be interesting to include a vignette published about the family because it provides a flavor of conditions and tribulations.²⁰⁰

FRED W. PILGER

Among the early settlers of southeastern Nebraska, who have been instrumental in the growth of the agricultural and financial interests of that region, a prominent place is given the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review. He has always been found ready to further the interests of the community where he chose his home, and had gained a wide and enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and substantial agriculturist, having built up a fine farm and home in section nineteen, township twenty-seven, range four, Pierce county, his present location.

Mr. Pilger was born, August 20, 1850, in Washington County, Wisconsin and is the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Young) Pilger, natives of Germany, who were married in Wisconsin.

In 1868, Mr. Pilger went from Wisconsin to Omaha, remaining there a year and a half, going thence to Franklin county, Nebraska, where he filed on a homestead in the Republican River valley. Bloomington, the county seat, was located adjoining his farm.. There were but fourteen settlers in the county at the time of his coming. He resided there seventeen years, and in the fall of 1888, came to Pierce county, Nebraska, which has since been his home. He rented for several years in Pierce and Antelope counties, and bought his present place in 1895. He now owns two hundred acres of land.

In Franklin county, Mr. Pilger lived in a dugout for five years, and then built a frame house. Kearney was the nearest market place, fifty miles distant, and for the first two years he had to make the journey to market and back by ox team. He "batched it" for nearly six years before finding a helpmate to share his possessions and occupy the new frame house.

April 19, 1875, Mr. Pilger was married to Miss Alice Lamb. Eight children have been born to them: Frank, who married Mabel Searle, and has two children, served three terms as county superintendent of schools of Pierce county; LeRoy who married Myrtle Abey, has four children, and farms in Holt county; Lottie, married Edward Samuelson, and lives near Wayne; Carl who married Bertha Vossberg, and has two children, occupies the home with his father; Veta, married Burrell Wright, of Dixon; Fred, runs the Holt County Bank at Dorsey; Luella is a teacher of Pierce county; and Fern.

Mr. Pilger endured his full share of the hardships and privations of the pioneer days, and, among other calamities, he suffered the loss of his crops for two years by drought, and two years by grasshoppers. He was fortunate in being at home at the time of the bad blizzards. His son, Frank, was a mile from home on the day of the blizzard of January 12, 1888. He drove cattle into a grove for water at noon, and was at home at dinner when the storm broke. Prairie fire once came near the burning his residence. He plowed a fire guard, but the fire jumped over it, being extinguished, however, before reaching the house. The town of Pilger, named for our subject's father, who settled in Stanton county in 1873, located on his farm.

Mr. Pilger is independent in Politics, always casting his vote for the man regardless of the party.

Endnotes

¹⁹⁰ Dodge County Marriages, Vol. 6 (WSHS).

¹⁹¹ This is the same August Schulz for whom Bertha served as a marriage witness the year before. He was nearly the same age as Helmuth and born also in Daber; it is likely August was related to Helmuth's mother's husband.

¹⁹² Neuberger, *op. cit.*

¹⁹³ Personal correspondence from Dennis Vossberg, June 13, 1999.

¹⁹⁴ Glazier, I. A. and P. W. Filby (Eds.). 1991. *Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U. S. Ports. Volume 23, June 1869-December 1869.* Wilmington DE, Scholarly Resources Inc. Pp. 435-437.

¹⁹⁵ This, and a large amount of other Bertha (Wolfgram) and Helmuth Vossberg family genealogical information was provided by Dennis Vossberg, Plainview, Nebraska whose cooperation we greatly appreciate.

¹⁹⁶ Hansen, Esther. K. 1976. *Echoes of the Past and Along Pioneer Trails in Pierce County Nebraska.* 4th Edition. Lincoln: Union College Press. 66, 114p. (WSHS F672 P54 H35 1976).

¹⁹⁷ U. S. Census 1880, Tp 26, R2W, County of Pierce Nebraska, P. 9, SD 2, ED 104 (WSHS).

¹⁹⁸ The Pierce County Leader, October 14, 1915 (Courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

¹⁹⁹ The Pierce County Call, October 14, 1915 (Courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

²⁰⁰ *History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Nebraska*, 1912, Alden Publishing Co., Chicago, IL.

Chapter 7

Albertine Hulda Ernestine (Wolfgram) Goebel

The sixth child, and fifth daughter in succession of Johann and Sophia Wolfgram was Albertine Hulda Ernestine. As with most of her brothers and sisters, this child would be known by her second given name, as Hulda. According to the St. John's Church records at Watertown, Hulda was born two and a half years after her next sister Bertha on October 8, 1850.²⁰¹ At 4 years of age, Hulda was the second youngest member of the Wolfgram family when they loaded their worldly goods on the *Johannes* at Hamburg, Germany in 1855 headed for North America. Hulda was another of the Wolfgram family who eventually relocated to Minnesota, along with her parents and three of her sisters.

As we will see momentarily, there is a good indication that she too was born in Zachow. Hulda's parents, Johann and Sophie (Schlüter) Wolfgram were married at Klein Benz, but there are no records of their children there. Very likely the newly married Wolfgrams went to Zachow, the locality of Sophie's father, Christian Schlüter.

To get an idea of Hulda's place in the Wolfgram family, you may wish to review the master chart on page 20 and be sure to see Appendix V for the Hulda Wolfgram/William Goebel family sheet for details of children. While we have attempted to fill in information where available, most of the data in the family sheet are taken from Laurence Goebel's 1980 work, *The Goebel Records*. In this chapter, we hope to supplement and introduce new information, rather than duplicate what family history is available in Larry Goebel's treatise.

Albertine Hulda Ernestine Wolfgram, b. 8 Oct 1850 d. 19 Apr 1920; m. 23 Apr 1871 to John Wilhelm August Goebel b. 24 Dec 1843; d. 8 Feb 1912 Moved to Buffalo Lake MN (10 children: Fredrick, Louise, Johann, Tina, William, Hulda Helina, Melieda, Dora, Anna)
Fredrick Goebel 1871-1948 m 1902 Flora Corwin 1885-1924 Children: Esther, Myrtle, Sanford, Elsie, Helen, Laurence
Louise Alwine Hulda Goebel 1873 -1891
Johann Wilhelm August Goebel 1874 - 1876
Albertine Sophia Goebel 1877-1924; m Charles R. Riebe Children: Ilo, Ina
William Luy Christian Goebel 1879 - ; m 1909 Annette S. Gausemel 1883-1975 Children: Gordon, Paul, Dorothy Homer, Margaret
Hulda Alwine Philipine Goebel 1882 -1945; m 1903 Frank N. Prelvitz 1880-1952 Children: Myra, Clinton, Phyllis
Helina Ida Sophia Goebel 1884-1940; m 1905 Titus Olson 1883-1963 Children: Donald, Ethel, Lee Ruth, June
Melieda Alwine Maria Goebel MN 1886-1897
Alma Doratheia Goebel 1888-1890
Anna Louise Goebel 1891-1971 m 1915 Herman J. Weis 1887- 1965; Children: Marie, James Louise

In her late teens and early twenties, Hulda is recorded as a witness at Trinity Lutheran Church for baptisms of two of her sisters' children and a Bauman family not known to us:

- Anna Maria Hulda, baptized 29 Nov 1868, daughter of sister Minnie and Jacob Knarr,
- Bertha Maria Hulda, baptized 9 Aug 1869, daughter of sister Amelia and Carl Henry Klug (witnessed along with her father Johann Wolfgram),
- Auguste Louise Karoline Bauman, baptized 9 Apr 1871 (daughter of friends),

Hulda was married in 1871 during a religious ceremony conducted by Fred. Wasemann in Lowell Township according to the official Wisconsin marriage certificate.²⁰² The husband was Wilhelm Goebel, son of Wilhelm and Sophia Goebel, a farmer born in Prussia residing in Portland Township. In the state record the bride is listed as Albertine Hulda Ernestine Wolfgram, daughter of Johann and Sophia Wolfgram, born in Germany. The date of the ceremony was April 23, 1871, and witnesses for the Wisconsin certificate were Johann Wilhelm Goebel (father of the bridegroom) and Sophia Wolfgram (mother of the bride).

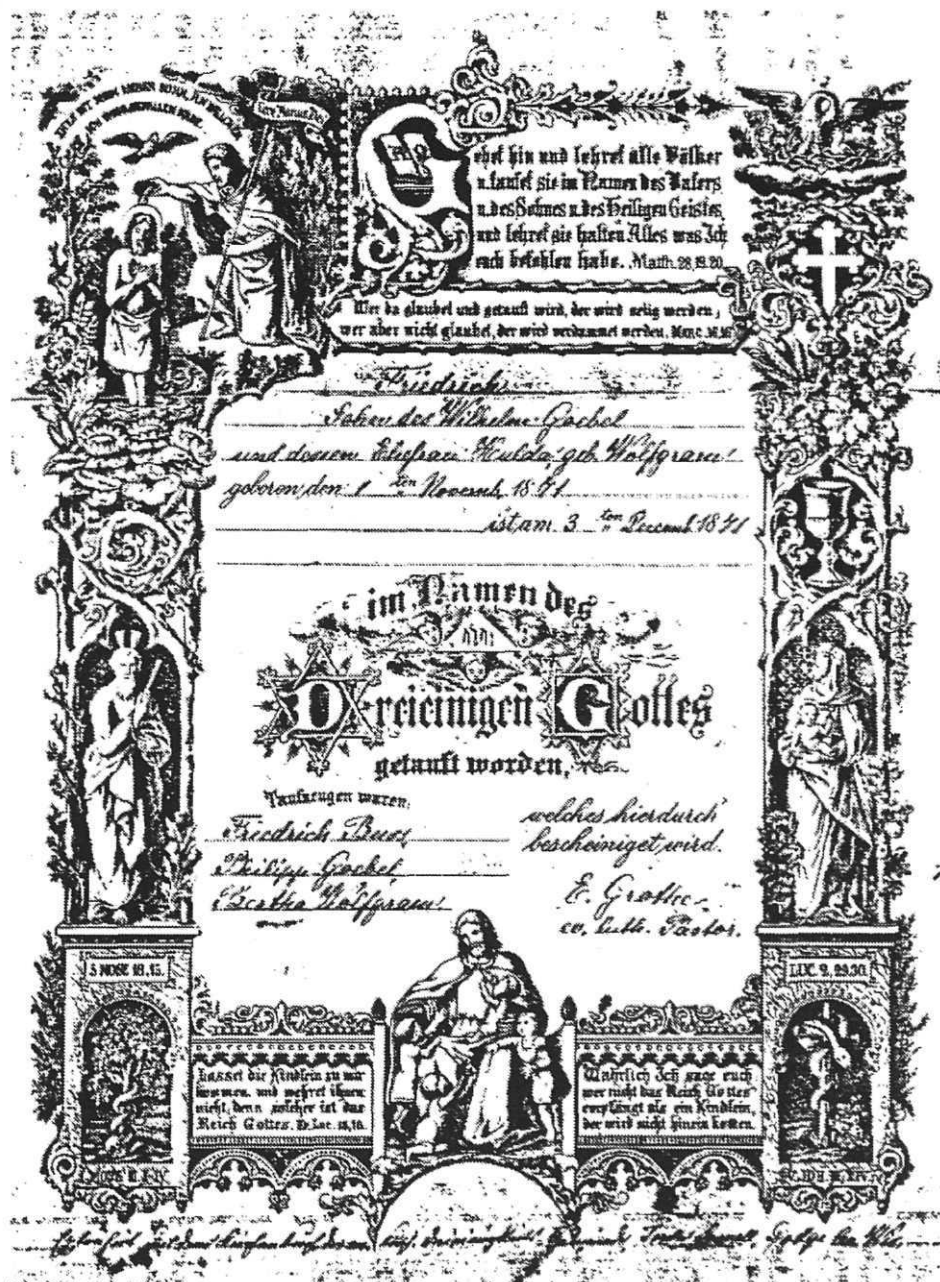
As expected, the wedding took place at Trinity Lutheran Church south of Reeseville and its records²⁰³ add significant information to the state's certificate. Wilhelm Goebel was born December 25, 1845 in Ehlscheid, Rheinprovinz, Prussia. His mother was Sophia (Kleinmann) Goebel. The Trinity record confirms our prior knowledge of Hulda's birth date, but adds that she was born in Zachow (which makes the second such record for Johann and Sophia Wolfgram's children). There were two marriage proclamations, namely on April 16 and 23, 1871. The ceremony was with song and sermon: (Tob. 7, 15). Witnesses were not listed, but a remark is noted that the "bridegroom is from the Reformed Church."

The Goebel family farm was in Section 1 of Portland Township as may be seen in the plat map on page 32 in the NE corner of the 1873 plat. The Goebels were next door neighbors to George Michael Knarr. To help put William's Goebel family in context with other parts of this book, it is useful to articulate a bit about his original family prior to his marriage. In the federal 1860 census,²⁰⁴ William Goebel, a farmer at 56 is shown with his family, all born in Prussia and including: wife Sophia 48, Albertine 21, Mary 17, William 16 (this is the person who was to marry Hulda Wolfgram), George 11, John 8, Phillip 6, Louise 4 and Phillip 61. The last named person is listed as a guest and was most likely one of the Goebel clan visiting from Germany.

In 1870²⁰⁵ the father and head of family was listed as John W. Gable (his christened name was Johann Wilhelm Goebel and this is different than his listing in 1860 as William) at 67, with Sophia 56 keeping house, and the only children re-

maining children were William 24 (who married Hulda a year later), George 22, John 20, Phillip 16, and Louisa 15. Everyone in the family was born in Prussia.

Apparently, William’s father died sometime after 1870 because the State census in 1875²⁰⁶ showed the family as consisting of Sophia “Gabel” with a total tally of one female and one male, perhaps Phillip.



Baptismal certificate for Friedrich, Hulda and William Goebel’s first child; baptism took place at Trinity Lutheran Church south of Reeseville, Wisconsin on December 3, 1871. (From Laurence Goebel’s *The Goebel Records* 1980.)

The majority of Hulda and William's children were born in Wisconsin. The first to arrive was Friedrich, baptized on December 3, 1871 whose church certificate we present above. Friedrich was born on the 1st of November, 1871. It is curious that his baptism occurred at Trinity Lutheran Church because his father was a member of the Reformed Church in Reeseville and indeed, he was the only of their Wisconsin-born children to be baptized at Trinity. In any event, the witnesses at this baptism were Friedrich Buss (Hulda's brother-in-law who was soon to leave for Minnesota), Philipp Goebel (William's brother), and Bertha Wolfgram who was soon to become Helmuth Vossberg's wife (and was one of the sisters of Hulda).

Then following Friedrich's birth, in order, the following siblings were also born in Wisconsin: Louise Alwine Hulda (1873), Johann Wilhelm August (1874), Albertine Sophie Goebel (1877), William Luy Christian (1879), and Hulda Alwine Phillipine (1882). The remaining four children were all born in Minnesota.

In the 1880 U.S. Census, William and Hulda were tallied in Lowell Township,²⁰⁷ he at 34 years of age and she at 29. In addition there were Fredrick 8, Louisa 7, Albertina 3, and William at 1. You will notice that Johann Wilhelm August is missing. He died two years after his birth on December 14, 1876.²⁰⁸

According to William's obituary (later in the chapter), he and Hulda moved from Wisconsin to Glencoe, Minnesota in the fall of 1883. Glencoe was the town where Hulda's sister Lena had already taken residence with her husband Fred Buss, and they had been there for ten years when the Goebels arrived. Possibly William's asthmatic condition made his farming experience in Wisconsin unacceptable for his health and that he was interested in moving to an environment with less threats to his well-being. Glencoe must have been a temporary residence while options were being considered. The following spring William, Hulda and their children apparently moved to Stewart, Minnesota where they spent two years. Finally, in the spring of 1886 they moved to Buffalo Lake, Minnesota in Renville County which would become their permanent residence.

Before the Goebel's arrival, John C. Riebe (who owned the farm home not far away) had already erected the Buffalo Lake Hotel in early 1882.²⁰⁹ It must have been ripe for sale when Goebel's were ready to make their move, because the hotel on lots 11 & 12 of block 11 was "sold afterward to Wm. Goebel. It was conducted by the Goebel family until Spring of 1915,²¹⁰ when Mrs. Goebel the widow retired from active life." Buffalo Lake was incorporated on October 5, 1891²¹¹ and William Goebel was among those listed as being a part of the incorporation.

Louise Goebel died in 1891, an event noted by the Dodge County Pioneer.²¹²

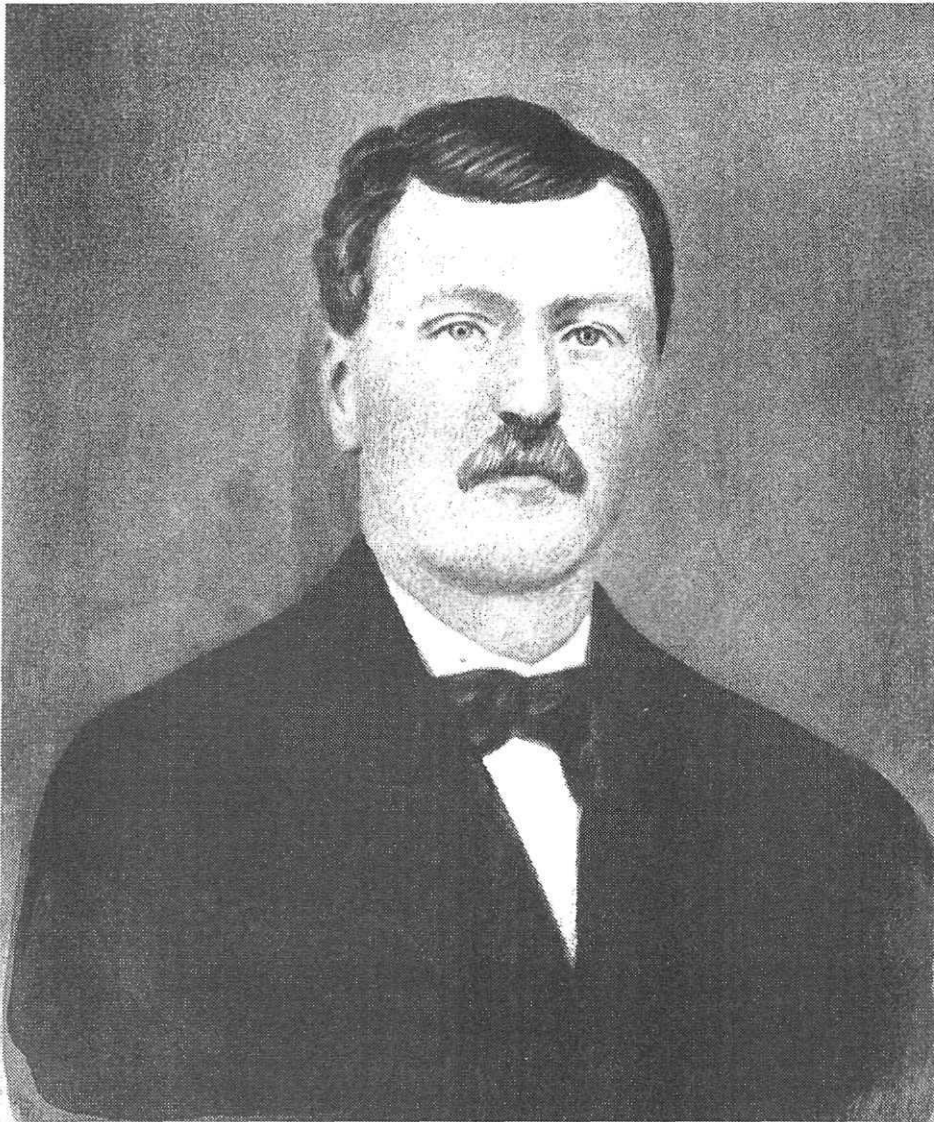


Hulda (Wolfgram) Goebel; this is a charcoal rendering by an itinerant artist (courtesy of Homer Goebel).

Hulda and William spent the rest of their lives as hotel keepers. A brief look at sequential census records provides an idea of the family at home. In 1895²¹³ William (50) and Hulda (44) had six of their children at home: Albertina 18, William 16, Hulda 13, Helina 11, Melieda 9, and Anna at 4 years of age. By 1900 in the U. S. Census²¹⁴ the number in the family was the same, but Melieda had died in 1897. Meanwhile, Fred, the oldest child, had returned home to help with the hotel as a clerk. He was 28 years at that time, and the youngest, Anna was 9.

Just five years later, at the time of the 1905 Minnesota state census, the family had really dwindled as the children matured and went off to work or get married.²¹⁵ The family consisted of four, with parents William at 61 and Hulda 54, and two of the girls, Helina then 20 and Anna at 14. Fred (32) was listed separately with his wife Florence (21) and their two young children, Esther G. M. at 2

and Myrtle V. 3 months.



Wilhelm Goebel; this is a charcoal rendering by an itinerant artist (courtesy of Homer Goebel).

In 1910,²¹⁶ only daughter Anna then 18 was home with parents William (66 and still a hotel keeper) and Hulda (60). Notations indicate that William was naturalized and had immigrated in 1858. Their son Fred, again listed separately, had added Elsie to the fold. The next federal census was in 1920²¹⁷ and it lists Hulda as the head of family. At that time she was 69 and the only family member handling the hotel which still had boarders. Fred had moved to Aurora in St. Louis County, Minnesota. Two more children had been added to his and Florence's family – Helen, age 9 and a son listed as "Gayhart" who was born in 1918.

The latter, usually known as Laurence Gayheart, was christened Gerhard Lawrence according to Goebel historians.

Though the distance between the location of Wolfgram relations in Minnesota and Dodge County, Wisconsin made trips infrequent, we can document several instances of the Goebels criss-crossing borders. In late May of 1889, William Goebel ventured to the Reeseville area for an extended stay as noted by the local *Review*:²¹⁸ "Wm. Goebel arrived from Minnesota last week Thursday, for a visit among friends and relatives." Not until mid-October did he return home:²¹⁹ "Wm. Goebel started for his home in Minnesota Tuesday." Two years later, in 1891, William was in Dodge County visiting during the week of October 16th,²²⁰ we know of no major family events around this time so it may have just been a casual vacation. Charles Goebel ventured to Buffalo Lake, Minnesota during late December, 1901 and early January, 1902.²²¹ He was most likely the 19 year old son of Philipp Goebel, William's brother in the Reeseville area.



Hulda (Wolfgram) and Wilhelm Goebel; by F. Bishop & Son, Artistic Photographers, Wauertown, Wisconsin (photo courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

Helen Goebel, daughter of Hulda and William, traveled from Buffalo Lake to the Reeseville area for a six-week visit in 1904.²²² The year following, her father visited his former home.²²³ He came particularly to attend the O'Rourke-Kohn wedding, the bride's mother Louisa being a younger sister of William. He extended the stay for a month to be with relatives and friends.

There was a reciprocation several years later when, in 1908,²²⁴ family from the Reeseville area answered an urgent message. In mid-November, William had already been seriously ill for several months, so a family group from Dodge County left for Buffalo Lake to be with their brother. Included in the contingent were brothers Philip and John Goebel, and sisters Mrs. Louise Kohn, and Mrs. Albertine Bickel (and husband Philip).

Mr. Goebel and family have made their home in Buffalo Lake since 1886, and their hospitality and friendly ways have won for them the love and esteem of all.

Buffalo Lake News Obituary for Wm. Goebel

William Goebel died on February 8, 1912. We provide verbatim the obituary as published by the Buffalo Lake News with known corrections noted parenthetically.²²⁵

WM. GOEBEL PASSES AWAY.

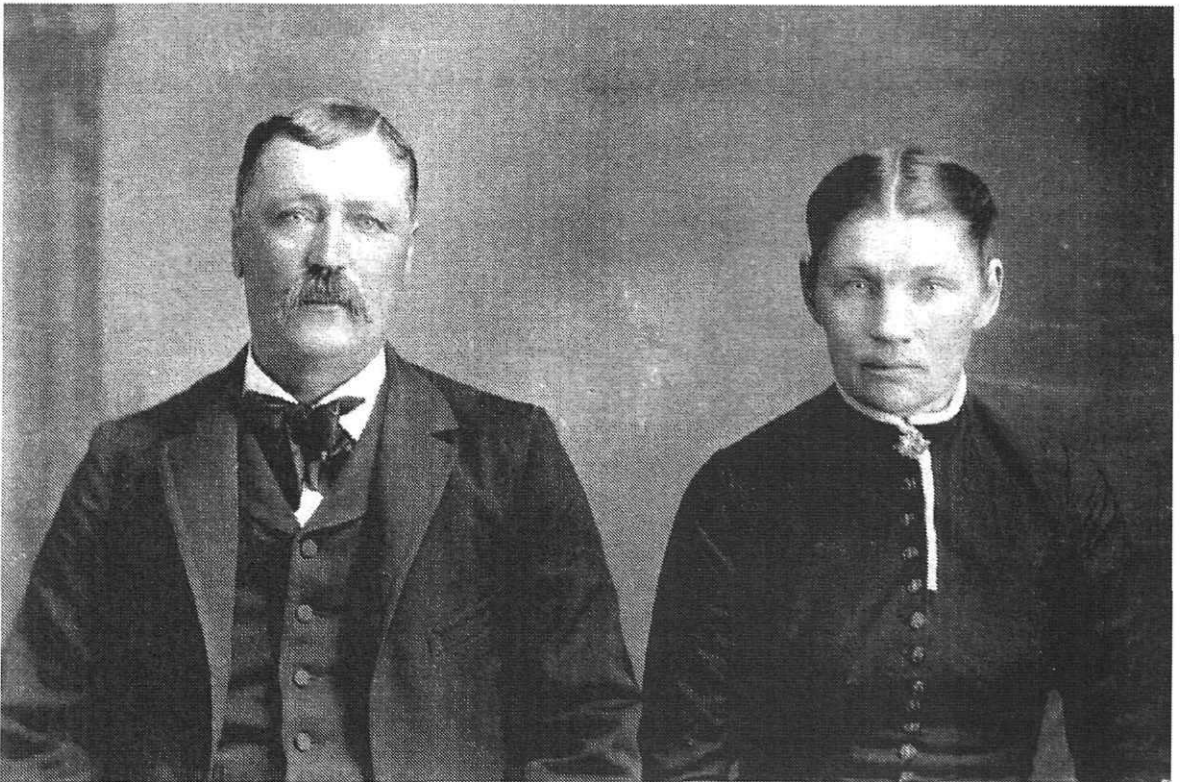
On Wednesday evening at 9:20 o'clock occurred the death of one of our pioneer citizens, Wm. Goebel. For a long time past he had not been in the best of health, and at times suffered intense pains. He was afflicted with asthma and various other ailments, which would not submit to medical treatment and he bore his affliction until the end. About two years ago an operation was performed for cancer of the bladder, and altho it brought no relief and was a severe shock, his strong vitality asserted itself and recovered from the effects sufficiently to be about as before. The past few months he declined rapidly, and altho helpless he retained consciousness until the last.

Mr. Goebel and family have made their home in Buffalo Lake since 1886, and their hospitality and friendly ways have won for them the love and esteem of all. The deceased was honest and upright in all his doings, and his familiar presence will be missed by all our citizens. Wm. Goebel was born in Elschid (*Ehlscheid*), Province of Coblan (*Koblenz*), Germany, December 24, 1854 (1843). He came to this country with his parents when he was 12 (13) years old and settled at Reeseville, Wis. In 1870 (1871)²⁰² he was united in marriage to Miss Hulda Wolfgram the union being blessed with ten children. In the fall of 1883 they came to Glencoe and remained there until the following spring when they moved to Stewart, where they remained for two years before coming here. Besides the widow the following children are left to mourn his departure: Fred, Anna and Mrs. F. N. Prelvitz of this place, Mrs. Chas. Riebe of (unreadable), Wm. of (unreadable) and Mrs. Titus Olson of Gibbon. They have the sympathy of the entire community in their sad bereavement. The funeral will be held Saturday and services will be held by the Lutheran church.

Buffalo Lake News, February c.10, 1912.

Hulda returned once again to Dodge County²²⁶ in 1916 for the purpose of attending the funeral of William Kleinmann.

Despite her residence in the United States for over 60 years and her long presence in the Buffalo Lake, Minnesota business world, because she was a widow she had no standing as a citizen.²²⁷ Thus, by law Hulda had to file an Alien Registration and Declaration of Holdings with the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety responding to World War I concerns.²²⁸ In that document she declared that she Hulda Goebel, of Buffalo Lake, Preston Lake, Renville County had been a resident for 30 years, and was age 67 born in Germany on Oct 8, 1850. She had entered the United States at the Port of New York (it was actually Quebec, but she was only 4 at the time so would not have remembered). She was a widow who spoke and read English. Her living children were: Fred age 46, Albertina 40, Will 38 years old, Hulda 35 years old, Helina 33 years old, Anna 26 years old. She responded in the affirmative as having real estate in Minnesota and approximate value therein: yes Hotel Building \$3,000.00 in which she acquired an interest 28 years since. Remaining questions were answered in the negative and she solemnly swore that the answers to questions No. 1 to 35 were complete and true to the best of her knowledge and belief. Signed Hulda Goebel.



William and Hulda (Wolfgram) Goebel (courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).

In April of 1920, "News reached here (Reeseville, Wisconsin) Monday of the death of Mrs. Wm. Goebel at Buffalo Lake, Minn. Mrs. Goebel was the wife of the late Wm. Goebel former residents of the town of Lowell." ²²⁹

...She was a person of exceptional business integrity and possessed unusual energy and enjoyed a long successful and active business career.

Buffalo Lake News, April 23, 1920

The Buffalo Lake News produced an obituary, which we copy verbatim (except for a parenthetic addition to correct a known mistake):²³⁰

PIONEER LADY SUMMONED

Mrs. Hulda Goebel passed away at the home of her daughter Mrs. Herman Weis at Stewart at 10:45 o'clock Monday evening, April 19th following an illness of several weeks duration. The cause of her death was a complication of organic troubles.

Mrs. Goebel who was Hulda Wolfgram was born October 8, 1850, in Germany. She was married in 1870 (1871) to William Goebel. In 1886 they moved from Reeseville, Wisconsin, to Buffalo Lake where she had since resided. During practically the entire period of her residence here she had been the courteous and efficient landlady at the Buffalo Lake Hotel. She was a person of exceptional business integrity and possessed unusual energy and enjoyed a long successful and active business career. She had a wide acquaintance and was a most useful person in the community for the past thirty years and her kindly disposition won for her the friendship of everyone. She remained in active life almost until the last, having retired from the hotel only about a month ago on account of failing health, and went to Stewart expecting to make her home with her daughter Mrs. Weis, for the present.

Her husband preceded her in death, having passed away February 8, 1912. She leaves six children, two sons and four daughters, who are: Fred of Aurora, Minn.; William of Belfield, N. D.; Mrs. Charles Riebe of Missoula, Mont.; Mrs. Titus Olson and Mrs. Herman Weis of Stewart and Mrs. F. N. Prevlitz of this place.

The funeral was held Thursday afternoon, April 22nd from the Zion Lutheran church, at 1:30 o'clock. Rev. Eugene Ahl assisted by Rev. C. H. Kowalske, conducted the services. The interment was made at the Buffalo Lake cemetery.

Her death is a regret to her many friends here and they extend sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

Endnotes

- ²⁰¹ Family roster records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown, WI.
- ²⁰² Registration of Marriages, Dodge County, Wisconsin, Vol. 5, P. 197 (WSHS).
- ²⁰³ Neuberger, *op. cit.*
- ²⁰⁴ U. S. Census 1860, Dodge County Wisconsin, Portland Township (P. 395).
- ²⁰⁵ U. S. Census 1870, Dodge County Wisconsin, Portland Township (P. 831).
- ²⁰⁶ Wisconsin Census 1875, Dodge County, Portland Township.
- ²⁰⁷ U. S. Census 1880, Dodge County Wisconsin, Lowell Township Vol. 7, ED 20, Sheet 46.
- ²⁰⁸ Records of the First German Evangelical Reformed Congregation at Reeseville (Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society, Watertown, WI).
- ²⁰⁹ Curtiss-Wedge, F. 1916. *The History of Renville County, Minnesota*. Vol. II. H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., Chicago (LDS, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, 977.634 H2C).
- ²¹⁰ This is an error. The 1920 census clearly shows Hulda Goebel on Main Street in Buffalo Lake with boarders listed. She died in that year and the obituary states that she retired from the hotel only a month before her death.
- ²¹¹ A slightly different picture is presented in the 1940 Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota: No. 65 Renville County, published in St. Paul by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Under the heading of "Villages" on page 17 is the statement, "Buffalo Lake, population 545, a railway village in Preston Township, was platted in August 1881 and incorporated in January 1892."
- ²¹² The Dodge County Pioneer, March 12, 1891.
- ²¹³ 1895 Census of Minnesota, Buffalo Lake, Renville County (courtesy of Mary Lou Smith, Renville County Genealogical Society).
- ²¹⁴ 1900 Census of the United States, Minnesota, Preston Lake Township, Buffalo Lake Village, Renville County, SD 3, ED 140, Sheet 9 (WSHS).
- ²¹⁵ 1905 Census of Minnesota, Buffalo Lake, Renville County (Film #928811, LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).
- ²¹⁶ 1910 Census of the United States, Minnesota, Preston Lake Township, Buffalo Lake Village, Renville County (Film #1374721, LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).
- ²¹⁷ 1920 Census of the United States, Minnesota, Preston Lake Township, Buffalo Lake Village, Renville County Vol. 60, ED 161, Sheet 3 (LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).
- ²¹⁸ The Weekly Review (Reeseville, WI), June 1, 1889 (WSHS P78-2314).
- ²¹⁹ *Ibid.*, October 19, 1889.
- ²²⁰ *Ibid.*, October 16, 1891 (WSHS P83-1813).
- ²²¹ *Ibid.*, January 3, 1902 (WSHS P41716).
- ²²² *Ibid.*, February 4 and March 10, 1904 (WSHS P78-1084).
- ²²³ *Ibid.*, June 15 and July 20, 1905 (WSHS P83-1801).
- ²²⁴ *Ibid.*, November 19, 1908 P.4, Col. 1 & Col. 2 (WSHS P81-990).
- ²²⁵ Fortunately someone in the Goebel family preserved William's obituary because it contains much important family history information. It is especially fortunate due to the fact that there are no extant copies or microfilms of the Buffalo Lake News. Neither the Minnesota State Historical Society nor local county genealogical societies have microfilmed copies, nor did the current successor of the Buffalo Lake News respond positively to inquiries regarding archived copies for the period of interest. Wonderfully, it appears in Laurence G. Goebel's 1980 "*The Goebel Records*" (but without date or identification, thus we provide a very close approximation). There is actually some dispute over the year of William's death. All anecdotal evidence suggests 1912 and his headstone uses 1912 also. However, the Renville County MN Recorders Office reported 1911 to be the year of death.
- ²²⁶ The Reeseville Review, August 10, 1916 (WSHS P77-5227).
- ²²⁷ We could consider this as a technicality. Since Hulda's husband William had died, she was apparently again regarded as a German national. Policy covering this stated that German aliens over 14 years who had not filed papers must register.
- ²²⁸ Hulda Goebel, Alien Registration and Declaration of Holdings, State of Minnesota, Minnesota Commission of Public Safety, 1918 (provided through the courtesy of Mrs. Mary Lou Smith, Renville County Genealogical Society, Renville, Minnesota).
- ²²⁹ The Reeseville Review, April 22, 1920 (WSHS P81-1778).
- ²³⁰ The Buffalo Lake (MN) News, April 23, 1920 (provided through the courtesy of Mrs. Mary Lou Smith, Renville County Genealogical Society, Renville, Minnesota).

Chapter 8

Hanna Sophia Henriette (Wolfgram) Sylwester

Hanna Sophia Henriette Wolfgram b. 12 Jun 1853 , d. 6 Oct 1931; married 21 Feb 1873 (MN) to August Friedrich Sylwester b. 31 Dec 1837 d 29 Jan 1928 Moved to Gaylord MN. (11 children: Heinrich, Wilhelm, Carl, Frank, August, Josephine, Louisa, Richard, Julius, Bertha/Sophia [twins])
--

AFS first married to Emilia Abraham 1846-1872; Magdalena Alwine Mathilde Sylwester 1865-1924 Alwine Sylwester 1867-1912, Johannes Sylwester 1869-1939 Wilhelm Sylwester 1871-1872
--

Heinrich C. Sylwester 1874-1953; m 1897 Wilhelmina Roepke 1876-1977 Chldrn: Alma, Elsa
--

William A. Sylwester 1876-1967 m1900 Anna Fischer 1876-1981 Chldrn: George, William, Clarence, Carlyle, Lorna

Karl F. Sylwester 1879-1967; m 1911 Anna Roepke 1882-1919 Chldrn: Melvin, Franz

Franz W. J. Sylwester 1881-1972; Im 1906 Helen Broitzmann, 1882-1918; Children: Walter, Kurt, Ruth, Helena, Ewald 2m 1920 Arina J. Fiss, 1886-1959 Chldrn: Frederick, Oscar, Frank, Roland, Robert, Alfred, Arnold

August F. Sylwester 1883-1968; m 1908 Martha Schumacher 1890-1994 Chldrn: Ottomar, Bernhard, Helmuth, Hildegard, Irmgard, Eugene, Lewis
--

Josephine A. T. Sylwester 1885-1982 m 1908 Martin Kretzschmar 1880-1929 Chldrn: Bertha, Doris, Edna, Alma, Martin, Gerhard

Louisa I.B. Sylwester 1888-1975 m 1913 Albert R. R. Zachow 1887-1975 Chldrn: Arina, Walter, Wilmar, Helena, Edna
--

Richard H. Sylwester 1890-1958 m 1914 Corrine Kretzschmar 1895-1953 Chldrn: Waldemar, Arno
--

Julius Robert Sylwester 1894 -1895 Bertha L. M. Sylwester 1897-1996 m. 1917 to Richard Kiphuth 1891-1951 Chldrn: Doris, Hazel, Marvin
--

Sophia I. E. Sylwester 1897-1980 m. 1921 to John Robinson 1897-1957 Chldrn: Lois, Gladys, Wilbert, Grace, James, Ellen, Luther, Wanda
--

The seventh child of Johann and Sophia Wolfgram was Hanna Sophia Henriette born June 12, 1853. Like her mother, she was known as Sophia and was the sixth daughter in succession. When her family left Hamburg to venture to America in 1855, Sophia was the youngest member at just one and a half.

In this chapter we will elaborate on our knowledge of the Wolfgram-related Sylwesters in Wisconsin, relate the fruits of our research and travels as they pertain to this family group in Minnesota, and tie together some information from *Josephine's Story of the Sylwester Family*²³¹ where it helps to complete an understanding of our own family history work. Genealogically, we have borrowed material from *Josephine's Story* and updated and filled in gaps where we were able to verify people and events. Thus, the chart at the left and the family sheet (Appendix VI) represent our research efforts combined with the extensive work of Bertha Kretzschmar Toftey.²³¹

Sophia was the first of the Wolfgram children to be confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church, Reeseville, Wisconsin. That event occurred on April 14, 1867, and the confirmation service was conducted by Friedrich Hachenberger in a class that included 8 other teenagers with family names of Kohn, Sommerkorn, Steindorf, Kling, Glaenz

and Weihert.²³² It was the sixth annual confirmation class since the inception of

Trinity, and the second during the pastorate of Rev. Hachenberger. The first four classes were confirmed by Pastor Strassen whose activities around the area are noted elsewhere in this book.

Sophia married August Sylvester on February 21, 1873, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Mountville, Minnesota.²³¹ For reasons of distance as explained in Chapter 1, this is the church attended when Johann and Sophia Wolfgram first moved in with August and Sophia Sylvester at their farm on the north side of Lake Titlow near Gaylord. Mother Sophia Wolfgram is also buried in the church cemetery at Mountville. We have visited this lovely place on several locations. It is a classic of rural Midwestern church architecture – it is perfectly charming.

We use the name Sylvester here for one of the last times. Indeed early records of the Sylvester family from Wisconsin, particularly from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Watertown show only the surname Sylvester. August was married using the name Sylvester,²³³ and his and Emelie's first child was baptized as a Sylvester.²³⁴ However, when the Minnesota records were first explored, there was some confusion as we kept finding Sylwester as the name referring to the family we were familiar with as Sylvester in Wisconsin. A visit with Pastor Harold Storm²³⁵ led us to several productive paths at once. The first had to do with the elder Wolfgrams.

DUAL FAMILIES OF AUGUST SYLWESTER

A brief aside will explain August's large family. The Sylvester, Wolfgram and Abraham families knew each other in Wisconsin. The Sylvester home was in the Town of Shields, just east of Johann Wolfgram's farm. In 1865, August Sylvester was married to Emilie Friedericke Abraham.^a The State certificate indicates that the wedding took place in the Town of Shields, so it was likely at the Sylvester home, though it is possible that the Abraham family also lived in Shields Township. The ceremony was by "Carl Strasen, Minister of the Gospel" and took place on February 3, 1865. Records from St. John's Church in Watertown^b show that August was a son of Henriette (Dibal) and Carl Sylvester and was born December 31, 1838. His wife Emilie was born on January 24, 1846, the daughter of Karl and Louise (Schlüter) Abraham. One of the witnesses was Magdalena Wolfgram (who later married Fred Buss and moved to Minnesota a few miles north of where the August Sylvesters were to move).

The first child of August and Emilie arrived on the 17th of November in 1865^b and given the name Magdalena Alwine Mathilde Sylvester. Her baptism occurred December 17, 1865, and was witnessed by Amelia Wolfgram (who was married the following year to Carl Henry Klug).

Emilie Sylvester, only 26 years old, died on August 11, 1872.^c Early the next year August was married to Hanna Sophia Henriette Wolfgram. From the two marriages, August had 15 children.

^a Marriage Registration, Dodge County WI, Vol. 3, Page 159.

^b Records of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Watertown, WI.

^c Bertha Kretzschmar Toftey. *Josephine's Story of the Sylvester Family*. Waseca MN Walter's Pub. Co., 1978.

A search of the St. John's cemetery, then confirmed by church records, located the burial site of great-grandmother Sophia Wolfgram. But we couldn't find anything about great-grandfather Johann in the graveyard or records in the church. Pastor Storm suggested a search at Gaylord to the south mentioning that a new church was established late in the 19th century there, and that some parishioners from Mountville had moved to the new church for reasons of proximity. He was right about this one, for Johann rests in peace at Immanuel Lutheran cemetery in Gaylord,²³⁶ and yes, Johann had changed churches along with the Sylwesters; we've covered this story in the opening chapter.



Hanna Sophia Henriette Wolfgram (F. Bishop & Son, Artistic Photographers, Watertown, Wis.; provided courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

Pastor Storm was helpful in another way. Although he did not know any Sylwesters, he indicated there was still a Sylvester family in the Parish. We went to find them and met Ray Sylvester and his wife, along with their son Dilbert at the north part of Dryden Township in Section 5.²³⁷ This family is part of the original Sylvester group, but declared they were only shirttail relatives of the people we were interested to learn about. The Sylwesters, they said, were farther south in Sibley County. As to their name, Ray Sylvester said he knew that the other branch which we sought, usually used Sylwester as their proper surname because "it sounded better in the Minnesota setting."

So the visit to Mountville and chance meeting with Pastor Storm helped us to solve two intriguing problems.

According to Bertha Toftey,²³¹ there were four grandparents living at the Sylwester farmhouse at one time, namely Karl and Louise (Abraham) Sylvester and Johann and Sophie (Schlüter) Wolfgram. Karl is buried at the Mountville Church cemetery with a headstone inscription: 15 Nov. 1801 – 21 Dec. 1883. "Grandmother Louise (Abraham) Sylwester ... lived at the Sylwester farmhouse until she died. Occasionally she would visit at the homes of her sons, three of whom had adjoining farms to the Sylwester farm, namely Herman, William, and Frank. Sons August and Henry Abraham had farms a little farther away. After each visit she would come back and tell Josephine that she felt more at home on the Sylwester farm. She loved flowers and was happiest when the boys spaded up some ground so she could plant another flowerbed. Verbenas were her favorite flowers. She died February 19, 1906."

An examination of the 1895 Minnesota census is informative in the size of the extended family that lived and worked together.²³⁸ In essence, the listing shows: August Sylwester 56 a German-born farmer who lived in Minnesota (and Dryden Township) for 25 years, Sophia 41 also German-born, Henry 20, William 17, Charley 16, Frank 14, August 12, Josephina 9, Louisa 7, Richart 5, Louisa 79, Johann Wolfgram 81 and Sophia Wolfgram 77. It is noted that Johann worked 12 months at farming and resided in the state for 9 years and in Dryden Township for 5 years. Thirteen people is a lot for one house.

In 1900, the U.S. Census²³⁹ was as follows: August Sylvester family (age 60, born Dec. 1839), Sophia (age 45, born June 1854) which was Johann Wolfgram's daughter, plus 8 children including a set of twin daughters and others noted. All children were born in Minnesota beginning in 1879. Eleven children were born to Sophia, 10 of whom were still living (thus two were away from home). August and Sophia were married for 26 years as of 1900 (actually betrothed in 1873). The children and their birth months/years were: Charles 21 (Feb 1879), Frank 19 (Mar 1881), August C. 17 (Apr 1883), Josephine 15 (Oct 1884), Louisa 12

property of August Sylwester in 1914: August Sylwester sec 21 (158 acres), sec 28 (29 acres), sec 20 (40 acres), sec 29 (4 acres), wife Sophia, Ch. Louisa, Charles, Henry, William, Johannes, Lena, Richard, Sophia, Bertha - 50 years in the county (*i.e. c.1864*). Notice on the plat that Sylwester neighbors include families such as Maas, Schlueters, Abrahams, and Hahn. These are people who re-migrated from Wisconsin, or had connections to Dodge County families at the time.

Brief accounts of Sylwesters in the Gaylord history book²⁴² include (p. 319) an allusion to ads appearing between 1925-1935 offering sewing/laundry services, among them Mrs. August Sylwester (no doubt the daughter-in-law of Sophia), and (p. 469) a lovely 1931 photograph of Sophia Sylwester with grandchildren.

Sophia and August Sylwester are buried in Gaylord. Their tombstone inscription translates to: Here rest in God, August Sylwester born 31 Dec. 1837 died 29 Jan. 1928; Sophia Sylwester born 12 June 1853 died 6 Oct. 1931 followed with the exact verse as seen on Johann and Sophia Wolfgram headstones (pp. 18,19).

*Josephine's Story of the Sylwester Family*²³¹ provides an excellent treatment of the Sylwester family lineage. We will highlight just three of Sophia (Wolfgram) and August Sylwester's children.

Frank William John Sylwester

*...God bless you, Father, Teacher, Friend,
God keep you faithful to the end,
And may His Hands allay all fears
As He has done for NINETY YEARS!*

Part of poem written by Alfred Sylwester in honor of Frank
Sylwester's ninetieth birthday anniversary

Frank, while attending Concordia College in Milwaukee, often visited his cousins in Dodge County, Wisconsin. During these weekend visits with relatives, he was one of the attendants at the 1904 wedding of Hulda Klug and Alvin Buss (as pictured on page 65), and importantly, became acquainted with Helene Broitzmann whose family were neighbors of the Klugs.²³¹

It was Helene who Frank married in 1906. She was born Helena Anna Maria on April 12, 1882 in the Town of Lowell to August Freidrich Broitzmann (from Wondtke, Pommerania) and Caroline Sophie Henriette Klenz (from Watertown, Wisconsin).²³² Helene was baptized on the 1st of May, 1882 at her parents home. Sponsors for the baptismal event were Herman Selk, Anna Broitzmann, and Emilie (Wolfgram) Klug, the sister of Sophia (Wolfgram) Sylwester.



Helena Broitzmann and Frank Sylwester, 1906 (photograph by Miller, Reeseville, Wis.; courtesy of Dennis Vossberg).

According to records of the funeral home,²⁴³ Mrs. Helen Sylwester died of influenza on December 24, 1918 at the family residence, 1330 E. 27th N. She was 36 years, 8 months, and 12 days, born in Wisconsin on April 12, 1882; wife of Rev. Frank W. J. Sylwester, mother of Walter, Kurt, Ruth, and Ewald Sylwester. Funeral services were held at the German Trinity Lutheran Church, "Cor. Graham/Wms. Ave." Saturday Dec. 28, 1918 at 2: P. M. Rev. Phimbach and Rev. Kappelman officiating. Interment, Rose City Cemetery. She started and ended her religious life at Trinity Lutheran Church – first at Reeseville, Wisconsin and last at Portland, Oregon. The Funeral Notice in the *Oregonian*²⁴⁴ confirmed the location of Trinity Lutheran to be at Williams avenue and Graham street, and "Remains at Pearson's undertaking parlors, Russell street and Union avenue."

Frank Sylwester's second wife died on October 26, 1959.²⁴⁵ She was born in Gaylord Minnesota May 29, 1886 (daughter of Albert Fiss from Germany) and

had resided in Oregon 39 years at the time of her passing when she had reached the age of 73. The residence of Dr. Frank W. J. and Arina J. Sylwester at that time was 3614 NE Holman St., Portland, Oregon. Rev. E. Eickmann conducted services at Trinity Lutheran Church. A death notice was published in the *Oregonian*²⁴⁶ followed the next day by an obituary.²⁴⁷ In addition to the information noted above, the obituary provided names of survivors as: the widower, Dr. Frank W. J.; sons, Rev. Walter, Kurt, Frederick, Chaplain Oscar, Roland, Prof. Robert and Alfred; daughter Mrs. Ruth Augustin; sisters, Mrs. Augusta Lieske, Mrs. Anna Gierke, Miss Alma Fiss, Mrs. V. Kottke, Mrs. A. Rischmiller and Mrs. W. Kuehner; brother Albert Fiss; 40 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Under the banner **Honors Due College Head**, the local *Oregonian*²⁴⁸ announced ceremonies to honor F. W. J. Sylwester's 90th birthday anniversary on March 7, 1971 at St. Michael Lutheran Church. The article noted that Frank "...has been a president and teacher at Concordia College and high school for the past 66 years." After the special church service, a reception was held at the college where students, faculty and alumni greeted Rev. Sylwester. He was the first president and the college's only teacher when he opened the institution in 1905 and was still working several hours a day in the college library in 1971. "He was president of the institution until 1946, taught in many subject areas, directed construction of the campus buildings – and continued as a teacher after resigning the presidency. From the start with a single building more than 60 years ago, Sylwester has piloted Concordia to a modern complex of buildings and programs, located on a 12-acre campus in Northeast Portland."

A year and one half following the special honors he received at his ninetieth birthday, Rev. Frank

Concordia head Sylwester dies

Funeral for Dr. F.W.J. Sylwester, 91-year-old educator and religionist who founded Concordia College, will be at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday on the Concordia campus. The Rev. Sylwester died Thursday after a brief illness.

He founded Concordia and was the college's only teacher in 1905. He was president of the Northeast Portland college until 1946, and until a few months before his death continued at the institution as a teacher and librarian.

A native of Gaylord, Minn., Dr. Sylwester came to Portland in 1905 to establish Concordia. For many years he personally landscaped the campus.

He was a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., gained his master of arts degree from University of Oregon, and later was honored with the doctor of divinity degree from Concordia Seminary.

Surviving are seven sons and four sisters.

The sons are Walter, Everett, Wash.; Kurt, Lakefield, Minn.; Ewald, Twin Harte, Calif.; Oscar, a chaplain with the U.S. Air Force; Roland, Los Angeles; Robert, Eugene; and Alfred, Riverside, Calif.

Sisters include Josephine Kretzschmar, Minneapolis, Minn.; Louise Zachow, Gaylord, Minn.; Bertha Kiphuth, Rockford, Minn.; and Sophie Robinson, Armstrong, Iowa.

The family suggests remembrances be contributed to the Sylwester Scholarship Foundation of Concordia College, or to the Trinity Lutheran Church building fund.

Interment will be in Rose City Cemetery.

The Oregonian, October 31, 1972.

Sylwester died.²⁴⁹ The Record of Funeral²⁵⁰ indicates the date of death as October 26, 1972, precisely the date in 1959 when his second wife Arina died. The Record lists his birthplace as Gaylord, Minnesota, parents as Sophia Wolfgram and August Sylwester, and services arranged at Concordia College. His residence was still 3614 NE Holman in Portland, although his death took place at the Porthaven Nursing Home. The funeral notice²⁵¹ lists his age as 91, with 42 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren. Services were to be held at Concordia College, 29th & Holman, interment following at Rose City Cemetery.

Louisa Ida Bertha Sylwester



Louisa Sylwester and Albert Zachow marriage at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Gaylord, Minnesota, August 21, 1913 (Courtesy of Rev. Herbert Baker).

In Josephine's Story,²³¹ is found a profile for Louisa Sylwester and Albert Zachow: LOUISA IDA BERTHA SYLWESTER, b. May 9, 1888, in Dryden Twp., Sibley Co., near Gaylord, Minnesota. Attended Immanuel Lutheran School until her confirmation. Married to Albert Richard Robert Zachow, b. December 31, 1887, in Transit Twp., near Gaylord. Farmer and stone mason. Made many outdoor planters and bird-baths. Loved gardening. Both worked at this, especially after they retired from farming and moved to Gaylord. Louisa also liked quilting, embroidery, and sewing. Albert sang with the church choir and played in the band. Albert died February 5, 1975. Louisa died September 15, 1975.

Richard Herman Sylwester

Richard's biographic sketch in Josephine's story²³¹ states that he was the second youngest son, b. September 11, 1890 near Gaylord and attended the German Lutheran School until he was confirmed at age 15. In 1914 he married Corrine (born Brandt on May 6, 1895 in Wisconsin, and adopted Kretschmar) who was known as Cora. They bought the Sylwester farm of 231.76 acres from August and Sophia in 1920 and operated it until 1956. "Because of their musical talent, Richard and Cora's life on the farm was enriched. Both were self taught. Both played the organ in church. Richard also played the violin. He possessed a very powerful bass voice, utilized in the church choir for more than a quarter of a century." Corinne died in October of 1953 and Richard followed in August of 1958.

At the end of Richard's obituary (sidebar) and not reproduced is a very long list of people from outside Gaylord who attended his funeral and included relatives and friends from Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, Colorado, and elsewhere in Minnesota. Among those we recognize as relatives were Schindlers, Haselys, Tofteys, Kipuths, and Mielkes to name a few.²⁵²

RICHARD SYLWESTER RITES SATURDAY

Funeral services for Richard Sylwester, who died from coronary thrombosis at this home on August 20 were held on Saturday, August 23.

As briefly mentioned last week Mr. Sylwester became ill at about 6:30 p.m. shortly after his evening meal. A doctor was summoned but he passed away at 8:15. He would have reached the age of 68 years on September 11.

A family service was held at the Quist & Johnson Funeral Home at 11 a.m. and rites at Immanuel Lutheran Church were at 2 p.m.

The choir sang "Abide With Me," a favorite hymn of the deceased. Casket bearers were Roman Lenz, LeRoy W. Hahn, Alex Gasow, Arthur Abraham, Reuben Carlson and Arnold Abraham. Burial was in Immanuel's cemetery.

Richard Herman Sylwester was the son of August and Sophia Sylwester. He was born in Dryden township on September 11, 1890, and lived on the home farm on the north shore of Lake Titloe all of his life until 1956 when he retired and came to Gaylord.

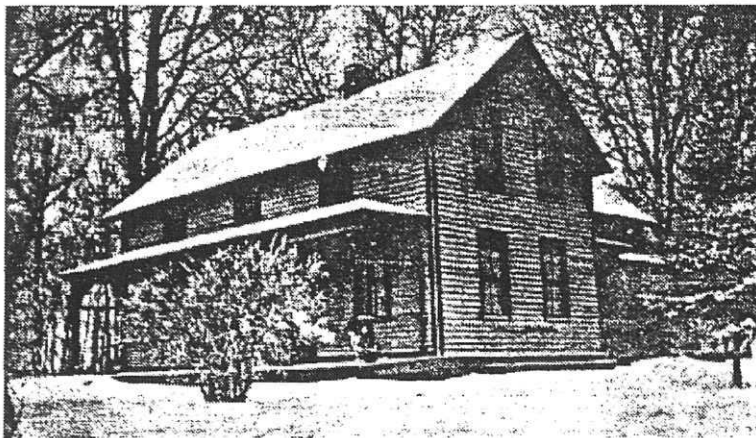
Mr. Sylwester attended the Gaylord parochial school and was confirmed in Immanuel Church. He married Corinne Kretschmar on Nov. 18, 1914.

They made their home on the farm where two sons, Arno and Waldemar, were born to them. Mrs. Sylwester died in 1953. In 1956 Mr. Sylwester and his son Waldemar purchased a home in West Addition and have lived here since.

Survivors include two sons, Waldemar of Gaylord and Arno of Minneapolis; four sisters and four brothers, namely: Mrs. Bertha Kiputh, Buffalo; Mrs. Sophia Robinson, Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Josie Kretschmar, Minneapolis and Mrs. Albert Zachow, Gaylord, and Frank Sylwester of Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Sylwester was (an) indulgent worker in his church and took an ardent interest in music. Another interest was baseball, which he followed very closely. He was rated as one of the top fans and strongest supporters of the Gaylord team.....

Gaylord Hub, August 29, 1958



The Sylwester family home near Gaylord, Minnesota

The Sylwester family house was built in 1885. According to Josephine's Story.²³¹ "It was large enough to hold the fifteen children of August Friedrich Sylwester's two marriages. It still stands secure in a grove of trees planted by the men in the family...The house was built by one man, who stayed with the Sylwester family all the while he was building. The wooden frame structure was well built and stood the test of time and weather."

Endnotes

²³¹ Toftey, *op. cit.*

²³² Neuberger, *op. cit.*

²³³ Marriage Registration, Dodge County WI, Vol. 3, Page 159 (WSHS 1844-65 Series 2073, Reel 52M).

²³⁴ Records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown, WI.

²³⁵ Personal interview with Rev. Harold Storm, Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, September 13, 1992 at Mountville, MN.

²³⁶ Randen, L. C. (Ed.). 1982. Immanuel Lutheran Church 1882-1982: A Centennial History Celebrating 100 years of "God With Us." Gaylord, MN. This booklet presents a history of the church and an extensive list of marriages, baptisms, confirmations, and funerals from the beginning through 1981.

²³⁷ Personal interview with Ray Sylwester, RR 1, Box 101, Gaylord, MN (near Mountville), September 13, 1992.

²³⁸ 1895, Census of Minnesota, Sibley County, Dryden Township (Minnesota Historical Society, Film #97).

²³⁹ 1900, U. S. Census, Minnesota, Sibley County, Dryden Township, SD 3, ED 185, Sheet 13, Lines 25-36 (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC).

²⁴⁰ 1910, U. S. Census, Minnesota, Sibley County, Dryden Township, SD 3, ED 151, Sheet 12B, Line 60 (WSHS 1910-726, Microcopy T624).

²⁴¹ *Atlas and Farmers Directory of Sibley County Minnesota*, 1914, The Farmer, St. Paul (County Atlas Collection, Film #175-9, Minnesota Historical Society).

²⁴² Gaylord, Hub of Sibley County. 1982. Gaylord History Committee, Gaylord, Minnesota.

²⁴³ 1918, Record of Funeral, Helen Sylwester, The Little Chapel of the Chimes, Portland, OR.

²⁴⁴ The (Portland) Oregonian, December 27, 1918.

²⁴⁵ 1959, Record of Funeral, Page 125, Arina Sylwester, The Little Chapel of the Chimes, Portland, OR.

²⁴⁶ The Oregonian, October 29, 1959.

²⁴⁷ The Oregonian, October 30, 1959.

²⁴⁸ The Oregonian, March 6, 1971.

²⁴⁹ The Oregonian, October 28, 1972, Death Notices.

²⁵⁰ 1972, Record of Funeral, Page 290, Dr. Frank Sylwester, The Little Chapel of the Chimes, Portland, OR.

²⁵¹ The Oregonian, October, October 29, 1972.

²⁵² The Gaylord (MN) Hub, August 29, 1958

Chapter 9

August Franz Heinrich Wolfgram

The eighth child of Johann and Anna Sophie was Maureen's grandfather. Though baptized as August Franz Heinrich, he was nearly always known as Frank. Herewith is what we know about this gentle man who lived to be 99 years old. His father's longevity was noteworthy as well because Johann lived for 98 years, 11 months, and 9 days.

Frank was born October 16, 1856, fifteen months after the family's arrival in Quebec and nearly fourteen months after the family acquired their first homestead in Emmet Township, Dodge County. There would be eight children now living with their parents on a farm of 80 acres.

In 1856, August Franz Heinrich Wolfgram was baptized at St. John's Lutheran Church in Watertown, Wisconsin.²⁵³ August Abraham, Heinrich Hildemann, and Friedericke Schlueter served as sponsors.

We know very little about the years between his birth and marriage--but he probably enjoyed keeping up with his older brother (Wilhelm) and older sisters.

Frank married Emilie Louise Maas on June 1, 1882. Her German-given name was Emilie, but as was typical with immigrants, she was most often known as Amelia – the phonetic and anglicized version. They were the first couple to be married²⁵⁴ at the newly formed St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lebanon, Wisconsin as cited in the centennial publication under Congregational Firsts which says "Emilie Maass and Heinrich Wolfgram were married on June

August Franz (Frank) Heinrich Wolfgram 16 Oct 1856 [WI] - 15 Feb 1956 m. 1 Jun 1882 to Emilie Louise W. Maas 2 Oct 1861 - 4 Feb 1927 Lived in Dodge Co. region WI (7 children: Friedrich, Ida, Lena, Elvina, Lydia, Franziska, Carl)
--

Friedrich Wilhelm August Wolfgram 1883 - 1884
--

Ida Emilie Friedericke Wolfgram 1886-1972 m 1909 Hubbleton WI to Gustav Leschinsky 1885-1962 Child: Evelyn
--

Helena Alwine Bertha Wolfgram 1888-1976 m 1909 Hubbleton WI to Charles Holzhueter 1884-1964 Chldr: Ted, Eleanore, Mabel

Alwine Hulda Louise Wolfgram 1891-1990 m 1914 Hubbleton WI, to Otto Martens 1888-1947 Children: Wilbur, Bernice
--

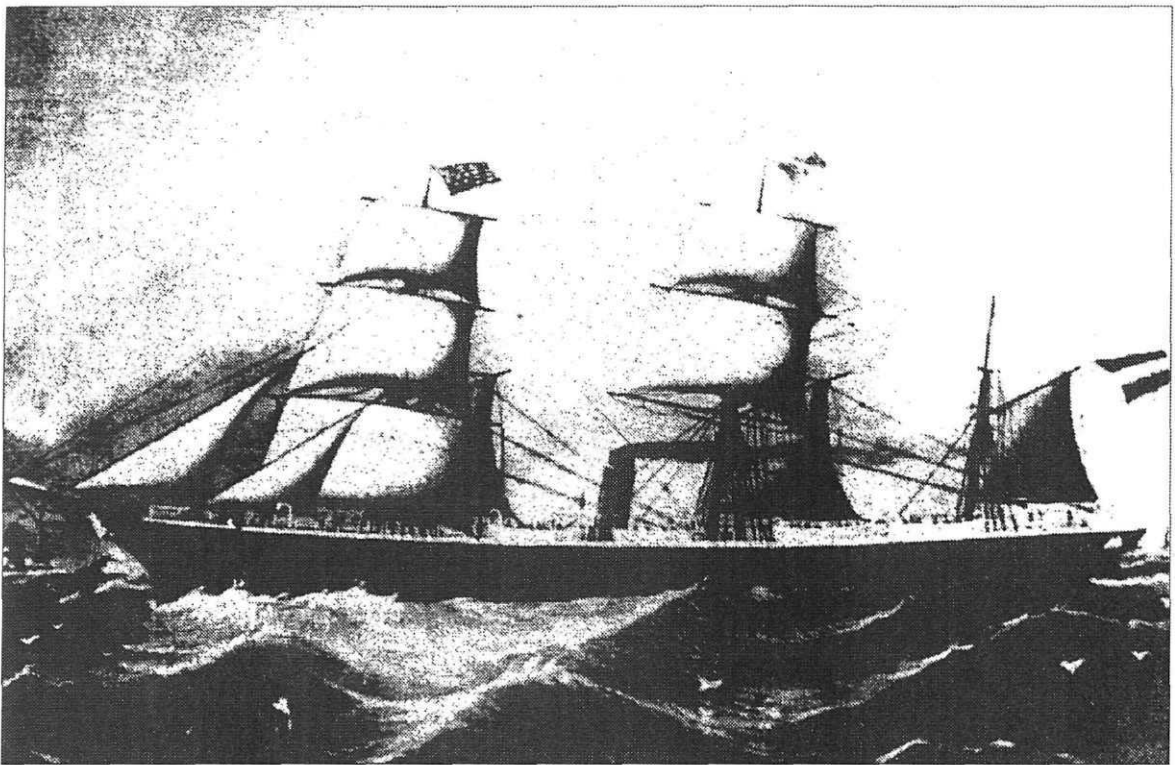
Lydia Hulda Bertha Wolfgram 1893-1992 m 1917 Waterloo WI, to Meinhard Kiesow 1889-1953 No children
--

Franziska Wolfgram b. August 1896 died in 6 days

Carl August Emil Wolfgram 1903-1994 m 1925 Rockford IL to Mildred Deppe 1908-1983 Children: Robert, Barbara, Maureen, Carol
--

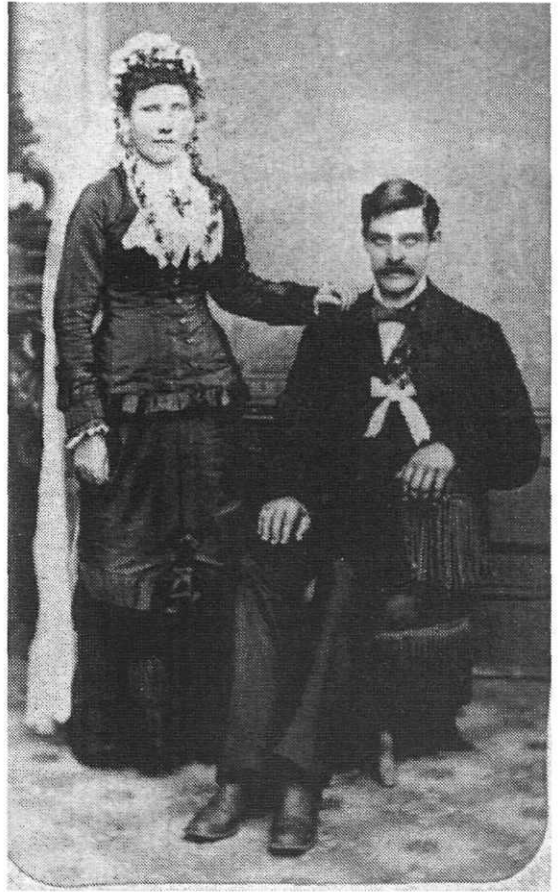
1, 1882, probably in the log schoolhouse-church.” The 1956 obituary for Frank²⁵⁵ in the Waterloo Courier mentioning that Frank and Amelia were married at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Watertown is incorrect as verified by the Lebanon church history and the actual marriage certificate.²⁵⁶ Perhaps the mix-up was because Pastor Carl Strassen, who married them, had his residence in Watertown and he also served several church congregations including Lebanon.

Emilia Maas Wolfgram came to America on June 5, 1862. She arrived in New York via Southampton, aboard the ship *S. S. Saxonia* from Hamburg. Listed on the passenger manifest are Friedrich Maas, 32-male farmer, Wilhelmine-30 female, wife- farmer; Ernestine 7, female child, Bertha 6, female child, Herman 4, male child and Emilie 1, female child.²⁵⁷

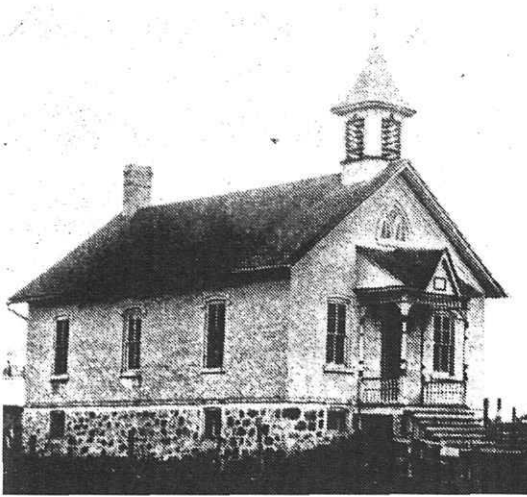


The S.S. Saxonia. (Modified from Anuta, M. J. 1983. *Ships of our Ancestors*. Ships of our Ancestors, Inc., Menominee, MI. [from the collection of the Peabody Museum of Salem]).

It is interesting that two wedding pictures of Frank and Amelia were brought to our attention. The first one came to us from Sandy Gullickson of De Forest, Wisconsin. Descended from Theodore Wolfgram (a nephew of Johann Wolfgram) she is working on her family history. We are grateful for the picture of the Frank Wolfgram family she had in her possession. The other picture, a wedding event was not identified, so we were unsure of it until a marked Frank Wolfgram matching picture was brought to us by Dennis Vossberg of Plainview, Nebraska. Continuous research does sometimes reap rewards.



Amelia and Frank Wolfgram in their wedding attire. (Photograph courtesy of Sandy Gullickson and Dennis Vossberg.)



Early St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church at Lebanon, Wisconsin (from Centennial booklet).

As mentioned previously, Frank and Amelia were married in Lebanon at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. This church was the Maas' home church. An interesting anecdote regarding the early church services at St. Peter's is copied here from the anniversary booklet.

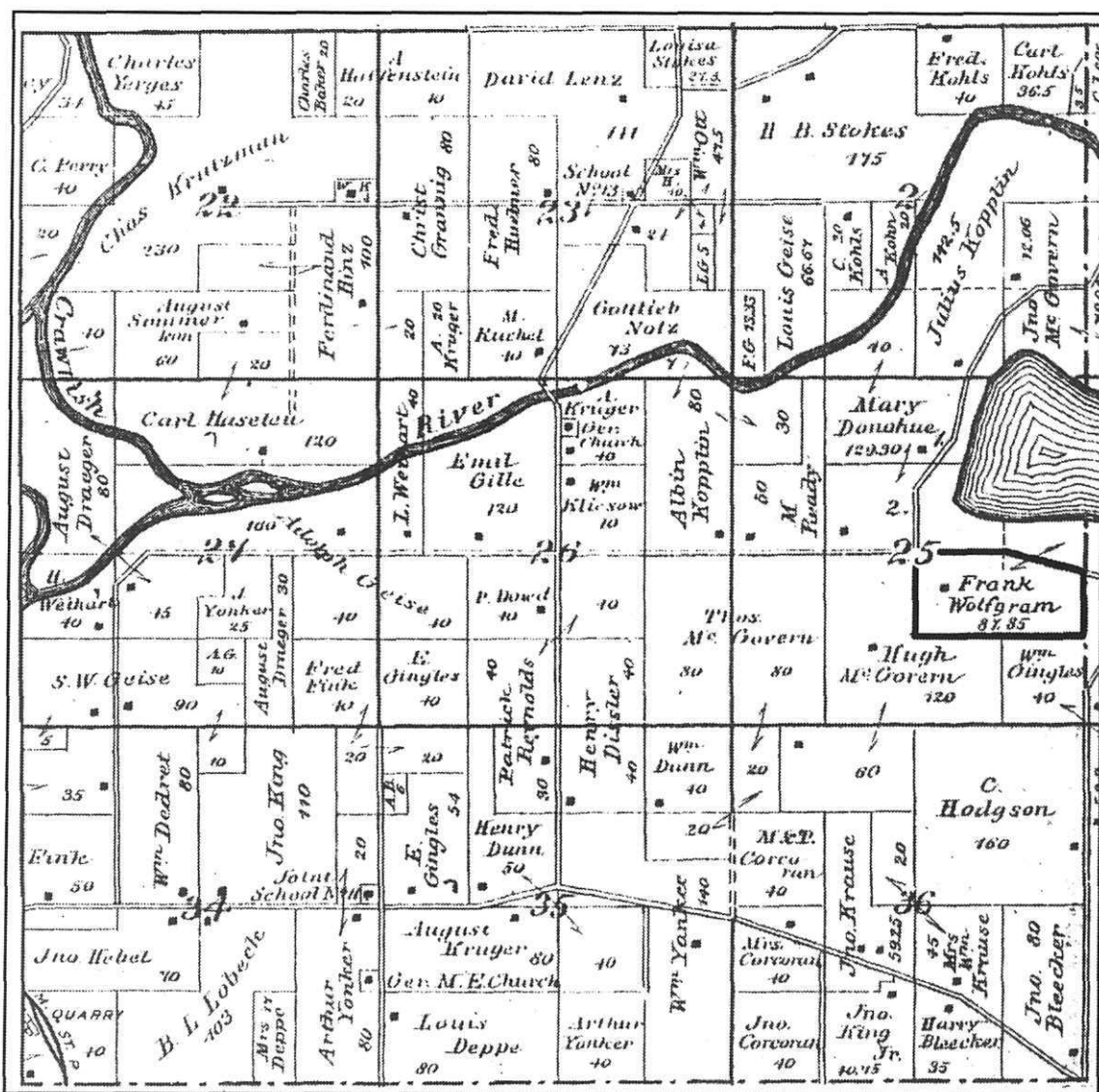
"In the old days men folks sat upstairs, women and only the three Vorstehers (*deacons*) sat downstairs. To determine the order of leaving after services, it was decided that men should be allowed to leave first. Men went out first and untied the horses. Then the women came out... Communion was

held six times a year. They had a tin box standing there every time; you took a little money along and put it in there. They bought the wine with that."

In January of 1882, the Portland Township farm property of Johann and Sophie Wolfgram was transferred to their son Frank for the sum of \$3,000.²⁵⁸ On February 26th, 1885, John Wolfgram and Sophie released the original agreement

with the "consideration of the sum of eight-hundred dollars." So this extended family lived together from June, 1882 until early 1885, or thereabouts.

In the 1890 platbook, the property was accordingly listed under the ownership of Frank Wolfram. Comparing this plat to its counterpart from 1873 (page 9), there was a change in area of the Wolfram property (7.85 acres additional), some neighbors were different, and there was still similarity though often rearranged of some nearby ownerships such as Hodgsons, McGoverns, Donahues, and Kohls. What had been Wilhelm Deppe's farm (related through Mildred Deppe Wolfram) at the south border of Section 35 had been transferred to son Louis, similar to the transfer from Johann to Frank Wolfram.



Town of Portland 1890 plat map with Frank Wolfram property highlighted in section 25 (Plat Book of Dodge County Wisconsin, 1890, C. M. Foote, Minneapolis.)

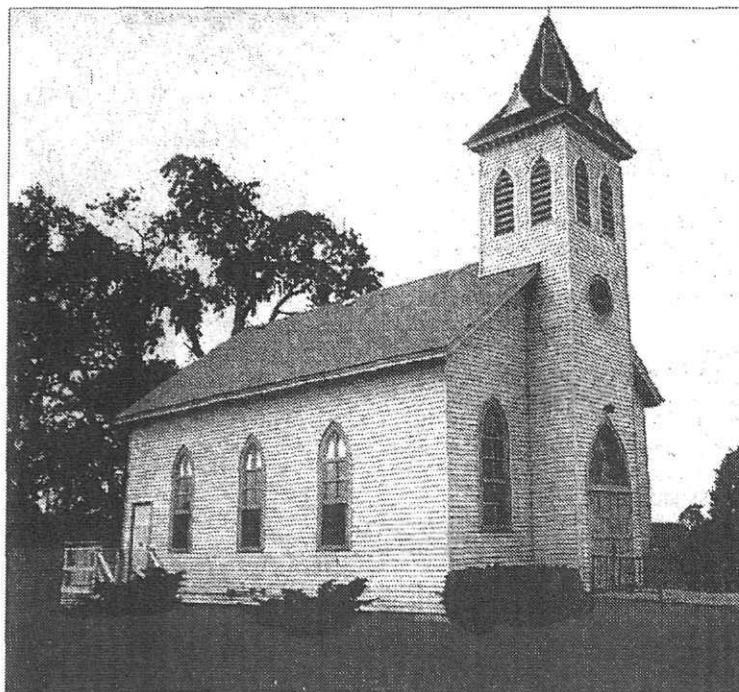
Though Frank and Amelia were married at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Lebanon, it seems that their attendance at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Reeseville-Lowell area took precedence as it was closer to their homestead. Beyond their marriage in Lebanon, the Frank Wolfgram family had long-term affiliations with three churches, each related to proximity.²⁵⁹ The first significant connection was with Trinity Lutheran Church south of Reeseville. As would be expected since his parents were members of Trinity, Frank too was involved at Trinity as a youth. He was confirmed there on April 16, 1871 (text, John 5:29).²⁶⁰

Then after Frank's marriage to Amelia in 1882 they attended Trinity as a practical matter. Frank was admitted to Trinity as a voting member the fourth Sunday following Epiphany after signing the constitution. At the turn of the new year, Emilie Wolfgram geb. Maaß was admitted to membership on January 1, 1883 after obtaining a release from Rev. Strassen (on behalf of the Lebanon congregation). Here also, Friedrich, their first-born child was baptized in April of 1883. Seventeen months later when he succumbed to diphtheria, Friedrich's funeral and burial took place at Trinity. All daughters were baptized here as well; Ida (in 1886), Lena (1888), Alvina (1891), Lydia (1893), and Franziska (1896). Six days after her baptism, Franziska's funeral and burial took place at Trinity. The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Church anniversary booklet tells about conducting a church service in the early days of settlement as recounted on page seven.

Hubbleton became the scene of unusual activity. "Ten years prior to the turn of the century, considerable changes took place in Hubbleton, a village in Jefferson County located along the Milwaukee Railroad and the Crawfish River. The railroad station, destroyed by fire in 1896, was rebuilt. Mr. Voi opened a shoe store and government U.S. Post Office also opened with Edward Maldaener as the first postmaster. A new residence was being built for the butter maker and lumber was hauled for a new bridge over the river. Washington Hall was about the only public meeting place."²⁶¹

A new Lutheran congregation was formed in 1897 at Hubbleton, a location even closer to the Wolfgram farm.²⁶² According to the Watertown Daily Times²⁶³ "They erected a house of worship, 40 by 26 feet with a steeple measuring 53 feet, which was built on one-fourth acre of land bought... for \$59." The Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church became the focus of Frank's family. Frank was a charter member along with Emil Kopplin, William Holzhueter, August Tetzlaff and Albert Lemke (whose names appear elsewhere in this book) among others. Ida was confirmed at Immanuel on Palm Sunday of 1899 and would later become its organist, and successively, Lena, Alvina, and Lydia were all confirmed at Immanuel. Records available indicate regular involvement of the family through 1915. Frank and Amelia routinely served as sponsors for baptisms starting in 1899 for the families of Gehrke, Kopplin, Holzhueter, Grunewald, Leschensky, Kuhlow, Werth, and Gruchow, a list which includes both relatives

and neighbors. Three of the four surviving Wolfgram girls were married at Hubbleton.²⁶⁴



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church at Hubbleton, Wisconsin (modified from the Watertown Daily News, July 8, 1997).

Finally, when the family moved to Waterloo Wisconsin, they attended St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the location of Lydia's marriage, Carl's confirmation, and the funerals of both Amelia and Frank.

We do not know much about the everyday life of Frank and Amelia because we haven't been able to locate any personal materials. Some hints of activities are given in newspaper articles that tell us that Frank was working on a barn addition. Quilting and feathering bees were also participated in, visiting relatives and friends in the Watertown area plus attending fairs were all reported. In addition, there exist an excellent set of church records to help document events and to compensate to some extent for the disastrous courthouse fire which consumed Dodge County records late in the 19th century. Between the two, we can construct most of the genealogical information and recreate some of the family history.

After the death of their first-born Friedrich Wilhelm, Frank and Amelia welcomed four healthy daughters and one son into their home. Ida, daughter born in January, 1886; Lena, April, 1888; Alvina, February, 1891; Lydia, September, 1893, and finally Carl, son, born in December, 1903. An unhappy intervening

event was that of Franziska's death, just six days after her birth in 1896 between the births of Lydia and Carl. More specific information can be found on the Frank Wolfgram family in Appendix VII.

For those who have never seen German handwriting of the nineteenth century first-hand, we provide an example of text from the register of Trinity Lutheran Church at Reeseville. On page 32 of the first volume are transcribed baptisms from 1882-1883, and entry 4 (below) is the accounting of Frank and Amelia Wolfgram's first-born child's baptism.

Much of the text will not be recognizable, even with respect to modern German handwriting. The information present translates as: across the top of the two sheets comprising page 32 is seen *Baptisms in Years 1882-1883*; in column 1 is the entry number, i.e., 4; the first major heading is *Name of father*, in this case Franz August Heinrich Wolfgram, from Town (of) Clyman; next is *Name of mother*, here Emilie Louise Friedericke, geb. (born) Maaß, from Pommern; next is the *Baptism name of the child*, Friedrich Wilhelm August. Then on the right side sheet of page 32 (lower part below) is the *Time and place of birth* – March 27, 1883 in Town of Portland; *Time and place of baptism* – April 8, 1883 at home of parents; then come the *Witnesses* (or Godparents), Friedrich Maaß, Friedrich Schmeling and Alwine Wolfgram; finally are *Comments* which in this case is blank.

32	Lauter im J. 1882		
4	Franz August Heinrich Wolfgram in Town of Clyman	Emilie Louise Friederike, geb. Maaß, geb. Pommern	Friedrich Maaß, Friedrich Schmeling
7	1883		
28	7 März 1883 in Town of Portland	8 April 1883 in Hause der Eltern	Friedrich Maaß, Friedrich Schmeling, Alwine Wolfgram

Entry from Volume I of the Trinity Church Register including page 32 in part. Upper portion is the left side with headings, and lower portion is the right side of the form.

In the actual register, these two parts are side by side; we separate them here so they may be seen in nearly original size.

These records contain other useful information, e.g. always the birth date and often the birth place of parents, sometimes including the name of the town and kreis in Germany. Though we have examined the original records at Trinity and

done some translations of our own, we benefited immensely from the work of Kevin Neuberger, who has translated all the German vital records from Trinity.²⁶⁰

Like his father, Frank Wolfgram worked an 89-acre farm. Reviewing his purchase of equipment from the implement dealer in Reeseville, we can learn a little about how people conducted business. In 1885, Frank decided he needed a new binder so on March 13 he contracted for a 5-foot Champion binder for \$190 with the local dealer, Reinhard & Klug.²⁶⁵ The binder was delivered on July 15, 1885 with payment due as follows: \$40 for two 2-year old steers, \$50 note @ 6% interest due Oct 1, 1885 and a \$100 note @ 6% interest due Oct 1, 1887. The following year Frank needed a new mower so he ordered this, another Champion brand, on April 4, 1886 for \$60. It was delivered on June 11th with payment due listed as: \$13 cash due on Oct 1, 1886 and \$47 for one 9-year old cow and two yearling steers. On June 5, 1890, Reinhard & Klug sold to Frank a No. 92, 3-spring wagon for \$75. The condition of payment was \$75 due by October 1, 1891 at 6% interest from April 1, 1891. Frank paid this off a year early so he received an allowance of \$2.80 for interest on payment before the due date. Paging through the Day Book, one sees a variety of payment methods including trade-in allowances and other commodities similar to Frank's steers, including honey, gray horses, and fire wood.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS. While loading his wagon at Brittingham & Hixon's lumber yard last Saturday, Frank Wolfgram's horses got scared and began to run. They ran across the walk at Commercial House corner breaking the lamp and lamp post, up Madison street and when in front of Frank Fiebinger's store came in contact with another team that was being driven by Wenzle Feldesack, throwing him out in such a manner as to hurt his side and shoulder quite bad.

Waterloo Democrat, May 29, 1891, P. 3

Most families in the nineteenth century had embarrassing and disruptive runaway horse events and Frank was no exception. Like his father before him, Frank's horses became spooked. Rather than at the railroad crossing at Hubbleton, this time it happened at the lumber yard in Waterloo in late May, 1891 (see sidebar). The incident occurred during the long process of reconstructing and moving the barn at his farm. Through brief newspaper accounts we can piece to-

gether the barn building project and learn a little about hard work, neighborhood cooperation, and fun. In early February of 1891, both the Jefferson County Union²⁶⁶ and the Waterloo Journal²⁶⁷ reported that Frank Wolfgram was "making preparations for building a large barn in the spring." The following week, Frank engaged William Behlke, of Portland, to build the basement wall for the barn.²⁶⁸ Then, two weeks following his runaway horse escapade at Brittingham & Hixon's lumber yard, on the second Thursday of June,²⁶⁹ Frank had a lumber bee to draw lumber from Waterloo for his new barn. A month later there was a bee²⁷⁰ on Monday to take down his barn in preparation for "removing it onto the basement wall he has built. Wednesday all hands meet again to raise the barn."

The biggest tasks being done, there was a dance in the new barn on the third Saturday evening of July which drew a large crowd who all reported having a fine time.²⁷¹ It must have been an adult barn dance because the children were young preschoolers. Ida was 5 at the time, Lena was just 3, and Alvina was an infant of 6 months. Though badly in need of paint, the barn was still standing 108 years later.²⁷²

Census information relates members of the family living on the homestead near Hubbleton. The 1895 state census²⁷³ lists 1 male and 5 females; in addition to the parents, that would be Ida, Lena, Alvina, and Lydia. The same people were in the household in the 1900²⁷⁴ census which also indicated that the Wolfgram farm was mortgaged. Lena, then 12, and Alvina, 9, were in school. By 1905, Carl appeared in the state census²⁷⁵ along with the four girls, three of whom were in school – Ida, Alvina, and Lydia. By 1910²⁷⁶ only Alvina, Lydia, and Carl were at home, with Ida and Lena already married. The farm was owned free.



The barn on the Frank Wolfgram farm as it looked in 1999.

Pictured on the next page is the Wolfgram family in 1912 with the four daughters of Frank and Amelia, and a young picture of Carl. Carl mentioned many times that his sisters gave him the nickname “Cully” as the age difference made them all feel like he was their little brother to watch over and care for while growing up among them. So from age 14 on, (and probably before then) Carl was helping out when his four sister’s left the homestead in Dodge County.



The Wolfgram family (1912) with Frank and Amelia in the center, Carl standing to the left, and clockwise from the upper left the four sisters: Lydia, Lena, Alvina, and Ida.

Farming apparently got to be too much for the Frank Wolfgram family. With the daughters starting to marry and age creeping up on Frank plus the fact they had been farming from 1882 on, Frank and Amelia decided to move to Waterloo. The January 15, 1915 issue of the Waterloo Democrat related that an auction was to take place on the Frank Wolfgram farm:

“Frank Wolfgram having sold his farm located 2 miles northwest of Hubbleton, 1 1/2 miles northwest of Bleecker Corners Creamery, 6 miles northeast of Waterloo, and 6 miles south of Reeseville on Monday, January 25, 1915, at 10 o’clock a.m. sharp, the following property: 24 head of cattle, 4 head of horses, hay rake, seeder, drag, sulkey, corn cultivator, walking plows, hand cultivator, wagon, lumber wagon, work harness, Milwaukee binder, surrey, milk wagon, set of bob sleigh, set of light bobs, corn sheller, fanning mills, milk cans, pails and many other articles too numerous to mention. Free lunch and coffee at noon. Usual terms of sale C. E. Donovan, auctioneer.”



Amelia and Frank Wolfgram
In their later married years.

Frank and Amelia purchased new real estate early in 1915 in the form of lot 1 in block 8 of Lum's 2nd addition, for \$2,750 from L. C. Failinger and others.²⁷⁷

The social event of the season took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wolfgram Saturday evening, June 1st. That date being the 25th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Wolfgram's wedded life. The party was planned by their daughters who were assisted by Mrs. Albert Lempke. Thirty families were invited, they were relatives, near neighbors and old friends that made up the jolly company, who enjoyed an evening which they will never forget. Several pieces of silver were presented and many other beautiful and useful gifts. That Mr. and Mrs. Wolfgram may celebrate their golden wedding is the wish of their many friends.

*The Waterloo Democrat, June 7,
1907, P. 8*

They moved to Waterloo from Hubbleton in February, 1915 where they were to make their new home.²⁷⁸ This second home provided many happy times as newspaper reports tell of birthday celebrations, visitors from the Watertown area, wedding preparations, anniversary celebrations, card parties, and family activities kept Frank and Amelia and their family busy.

Amelia (Maas) Wolfgram passed away Friday, February 4th, 1927. She had been in ailing health for some time. Carl and Mildred moved in with Frank on Spring Street, and all of Carl and Mildred Deppe Wolfgram's children were born in this home, except Carol.

We discovered what happened to the Wolfgram farm while exploring probate records. Documentation associated with a petition for termination of joint tenancy between Frank and Amelia²⁷⁹ revealed that a mortgage by Gustav Leschensky and his wife Ida in the amount of \$9,000 was filed on February 10, 1915 (Mortgages, Vol. 125, page 627). Thus, when the senior Wolfgrams left the Portland

Township area, their property stayed in the family for one more generation given that Ida Leschensky was Frank and Amelia's oldest daughter. That was appropriate and nice, and provided opportunities for the elder Wolfgrams to return to their former homestead to visit relatives and reminisce about their 23 years on the farm near Hubbleton.



Amelia at the Wolfgram's Waterloo residence on Spring Street.

Frank lived with Carl and Mildred Wolfgram for 25 years, then moved on and lived with his daughters for his remaining years. During the time Frank lived with Carl's family, Maureen remembers him as a quiet and unassuming man, chopping and sawing wood, preparing the side of the house with stacked leaves for winter insulation, fishing at the park dam and playing cards downtown when he was able to walk and get around.

Eventually, he moved in with each of his daughters for a few months, and passed away at the home of his daughter, Lydia Kiesow in February, 1956. He was 99 years old, though the year of death engraved on his headstone is in error.²⁸⁰ At the time of his death, Frank was the oldest resident of Waterloo.²⁸¹ It is only fitting that he and Amelia are buried on one side of the Wolfgram gravestone and his last son, Carl (Maureen's father) and Mildred are buried on the other side of the family plot at Oak Hill Cemetery, Waterloo, Wisconsin.



Frank Wolfgram sawing slabwood some years following Amelia's death (probably in the late 1940's).

On the occasion of Frank Wolfgram's 97th birthday, there was a major celebration.²⁸² At that time, Frank was living at the home of Lena and Charles Holzhueter. About 60 family and friends gathered one Sunday (October 10, 1954) for a

pot luck dinner and a party in honor of his birthday. Frank had been active and in good health until two weeks earlier when he "suffered a severe spell of illness."²⁸³

One of the issues we found perplexing initially, was the complete loss of contact between the Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Minnesota Wolfgrams for nearly a century. Recall that Frank's parents moved to Minnesota in the early 1880's as did four of his sisters – Lena Buss, Hulda Goebel, Sophia Sylwester, and Alvina Wolfgram. Another sister, Bertha Vossberg, migrated to Nebraska. We know of several visits to and from kinfolk in Minnesota gleaned from snippets published in Wisconsin newspapers. In October of 1888 Frank went to Minnesota to visit parents and other relatives.²⁸⁴ A niece was entertained by Frank and Amelia at their Portland Township home nearly two years later.²⁸⁵ In 1882²⁸⁶ Fred Buss, Lena's husband, visited Wisconsin relatives. Johann and Sophia Wolfgram's son-in-law and Hulda's husband, William Goebel of Buffalo Lake visited Wisconsin relatives in 1889²⁸⁷ and again in 1891²⁸⁸ and 1905.²⁸⁹ The latter visit by William lasted for a month. Frank's niece, Helen Buss came from Buffalo Lake in 1904²⁹⁰ for a duration of six weeks. A nephew of Frank, Fred Buss traveled from Glencoe, Minnesota for a Dodge County visit in early 1906²⁹¹ and then Frank's daughter, Ida, took a trip to Minnesota in August of 1906.²⁹² Miss Josephine Sylwester attended Lena Broitzmann for her marriage to Frank Sylwester at Reeseville in August, 1906.²⁹³ Frank, accompanied by a daughter, visited his father and other relatives near Gaylord, Minnesota in late 1910.²⁹⁴ For that trip, under the "Hubbleton" banner, the paper noted that "Old Mr. Wolfgram (i.e., Frank's father, Johann) moved from the farm here about twenty-six years ago. He has reached the age of ninety-three years."

We can also add to these, exchange visits from Sibley County (near Gaylord) Minnesota relatives as quoted from Josephine's Story of the Sylwester Family in a section entitled Visiting Cousins:²⁹⁵

Because of the distance involved, there was little visiting of family groups. Josephine remembers that she and her brother Carl went to Hubbleton, Wisconsin by train in the early 1900's to visit the Wolfgrams for about a week. She was 16.

Taking the train from Gaylord involved staying overnight in St. Paul. There they were guests of Pastor and Mrs. Paul Kretzschmar. In the morning, they traveled on to Reeseville, Wisconsin where they were met by Uncle Frank Wolfgram.

Another brother, Franz, became acquainted with the cousins in Wisconsin while he was studying at Concordia College, Milwaukee. He often visited them on weekends.

He soon became acquainted with the Broitzmann family, neighbors of the Karl Klug relatives. It was one of those Broitzmann daughters, Helene, that Franz married as his first wife.

That's as complete a record as we can determine. Beyond 1910, future contacts declined precipitously. By the 1980's when we launched this research project, we discovered no knowledge or lore pertaining to the common threads between the Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Minnesota descendants of Johann Wolfgram. We found this puzzling at first, but in the end the solution is probably quite simple. All the cross-contacts in the late 19th and early 20th century were between direct first and second generation relatives. For each succeeding generation, the ancestral ties became socially and genetically more distant, i.e. one step further removed, and with geographic barriers, the personal contact of relatives became less meaningful in the sense of close blood relationships and especially common family experiences. For example, as would be typical of other relatives, our son's children have not even met children of our nieces and nephews (their father's cousins), who are variously located from coast to coast.

One of the joys of producing this work, was to put the families back together again, at least genealogically. We have had the personal pleasure of meeting some of these long-lost relatives and visiting many locations where their events transpired. In some cases we have also been able to inform people (to their astonishment) in adjacent counties who are directly related to one another and were not aware of it, let alone know there are related descendants in Wisconsin.

Wedding pictures of all of the Frank Wolfgram family are presented and are treasured as this was a time of limited resources and wealth came from within as the one beautiful wedding dress was worn with spiritual love and honor.

Friedrich Wilhelm August Wolfgram

The first child born to Frank and Amelia was Friedrich Wilhelm August Wolfgram who came into this world on March 27, 1883. He was baptized at home (by rites of Trinity Lutheran Church) April 8, 1883, a ceremony that was witnessed by Friedrich "Maass." Friedrich Schmeling, and Alvina Wolfgram (Frank's younger sister).²⁹⁶

There are two Wolfgram gravesites at the Trinity Cemetery near Reeseville. One honors this male child, who died at age 17 months on August 31, 1884 of diphtheria.²⁹⁷ His death is detailed in the church records, but no gravestone is present at this time. It is interesting to note that the name of Frank and Amelia's first born child was similar to Frank's brother, Friedrich Wilhelm Herman Wolfgram whose whereabouts we were unable to determine.

Current generations know little about Diphtheria, but it was a significant disease in the 19th century and pages are filled on death records held by county Registers of Deeds offices. In fact, the week before Friedrich Wilhelm August died, two of his cousins in the same family succumbed also to diphtheria -- 11-year old Friedrich August Albert Klug and 10-year old Emma Emelie Klug.

Ida Emilie Friedericke Wolfgram

This first daughter of Frank and Amelia was Ida Emilie Friedericke whose arrival was announced in the *Waterloo Journal*²⁹⁸ under Hubbleton Correspondence with the declaration, "Oh, yes we don't want to forget that a very fine young lady came to see Frank and Mrs. Wolfgram on the 8th of January. Mother and daughter are doing well, and as to Frank, he is chock full of ecstasy and delight." The year was 1886; Ida was baptized at home (by Trinity rites) on January

Portland. A number from here sprung a surprise on Miss Ida Wolfgram near Hubbleton last Tuesday evening, it being her twenty first birthday. The evening was spent playing games and dancing. A pleasant time is reported by all.

Waterloo Democrat June 7, 1907, p. 8

17th as witnessed by Emilie Krueger, Wilhelmine Maass and Christian Knörr. By the time Ida was ready for catechism, the family had changed their church affiliation to Immanuel at Hubbleton. She was confirmed there on Palm Sunday March 26, 1899.

The year before her marriage Ida was portrayed in a flamboyant hat so characteristic of the time. Also in 1908, Ida played the wedding march for the Martha Klug-Fred Meyer wedding at Trinity.²⁹⁹

In an autumn wedding at the Lutheran church in Reeseville, Ida served as an attendant for Sohia Klug, a cousin of Ida.³⁰⁰ Sophia was a daughter C. H. Klug and the late Emilie (Wolfgram) Klug.

Though she was the oldest of the surviving children, the second marriage in the family was that of Ida who married Gustav Leschensky on November 24, 1909 just six months after her sister Lena was betrothed. The church records note that the ceremony took place at Immanuel Church in Hubbleton and was witnessed



Ida Wolfgram in her dressy hat in 1908.

by a large contingent comprised of Arthur Lemke, Alwine Wolfgram (i.e. Ida's sister Alvina), Louis Kronitz, Lydia Lemke, Chas. Reichard, and Ella Leschensky. Afterwards, there was a reception given at the Wolfgram home Wednesday afternoon and evening.³⁰¹

Ida's husband was known as Gus Leschensky. At the time of their marriage,



Gus and Ida Leschensky on the occasion of their wedding in 1909.

Gus was a resident of the Town of Waterloo. He was born in Germany on November 6, 1885 to Carl Leschensky and Martha Regenberg.

Gus operated a farm near Waterloo and he died, after an extended illness, in January of 1962 survived by his wife Ida, a daughter Mrs. Wallace Gruchow, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, a brother Charles, and three sisters: Esther Martin, Mrs. Charles Reichert and Mrs. Helmuth Strasburg.³⁰²

Nearly eleven years later, Ida died in late November, 1972³⁰³ following a brief illness. Ida was the first of her 20th century siblings to pass on. Gus and Ida were members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lake Mills Wisconsin. Both are buried at the Kroghville Cemetery.

Helena (Lena) Alwine Bertha Wolfgram

The third child, but second girl to join the family was Helena Alwine Bertha, born on the 27th of April, 1888 and baptized at Trinity Church May 20, 1888. Witnesses were Albert Lemke, Alwine Maass and Bertha Klug. She would always be known as Lena. Like Ida before her, Lena was confirmed at Hubbleton and the confirmation verse she chose was John 15:5.

Lena was the first daughter to be married. At age 21, she married Charles Holzhueter, 25, on May 12, 1909 at Hubbleton, Wisconsin. Her brother Carl, was six years old at the time.

Hubbleton. April 10. The event of the season will occur Wednesday when Charles Holzhueter, oldest son of Wm. Holzhueter of town Waterloo, and Miss Lena Wolfgram second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wolfgram of town Portland will be united in marriage at the Lutheran church in this village. They are well known and popular young people who will have the best wishes of a host of friends for a happy married life.

Waterloo Democrat, May 14, 1909

Newspaper accounts nicely tell the story of this marriage which was richly covered in the county. First, the Waterloo Democrat announced it.

Then the Democrat reported the actual wedding³⁰⁴ as follows:

"Holtzhueter--Wolfgram. Mr. Charles Holzhueter and Miss Lena Wolfgram were united in the bonds of holy wedlock at Immanuel Lutheran Church at

Hubbleton, Wednesday, May 12, 1909. Rev. M. H. Pankow tying the nuptial knot. The witnesses were Messrs. Gustav Leschensky and Bernard Holzhueter and the Misses Ida Wolfgram and Martha Holzhueter.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Holzhueter of the town of Waterloo, and the brides parents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wolfgram of the town of Portland. After the wedding ceremony about one hundred invited guests repaired to the home of the bride where a bountiful wedding banquet was served.

The young couple will make their home on the Meinert Haseleu farm in the town of Portland, which the groom has rented for a term of years. May they always enjoy good health and prosperity is the wish of the Waterloo Democrat and their many friends."

The Reeseville Review joined in the coverage³⁰⁵ and provided different details:

"Hubbleton. A very pretty wedding took place at the Immanuel Church Hubbleton on Wednesday May 12, 1909. When Miss Lena Wolfgram was united in marriage to Mr. Charles Holzhueter. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Aug. Pankow of Waterloo at 2:30 p.m. The bride attired in white silk and with flowers was assisted by her sister Ida Wolfgram and Miss Martha Holzhueter. The groom was attended by Bernard Holzhueter and Gustave Leschensky. Immediately after the ceremony a large number of invited guests repaired to the home of the brides parents where one of the finest receptions was given in honor of the newly married couple. About

three hundred guests were present, including neighbors and relatives from a distant. The bride is a very charming young lady who has very many friends in the vicinity of her home. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wolfgram well known citizen of the town of Portland. The groom is a popular young farmer also of that town. The newly married couple will make their future home on the Haseleu farm in the town of Portland where they will have the very best wishes of all their friends. The Review takes pleasure in extending congratulations."



Charles and Lena Holzhueter in 1909.

Charles died in 1964 followed by Lena 12 years later, and their graves are in Oak Hill in Waterloo. A Waterloo Courier obituary (August 5, 1976) relates a few details of church affiliation and survivors:

Mrs. L. Holzhueter Dies After Long Illness. Mrs. Lena Holzhueter, 88, Waterloo, passed away Monday, August 2, 1976 at Countryside Home in Jefferson.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church with the Rev. Harold Essmann officiating. Interment will be in Oak Hill Cemetery.

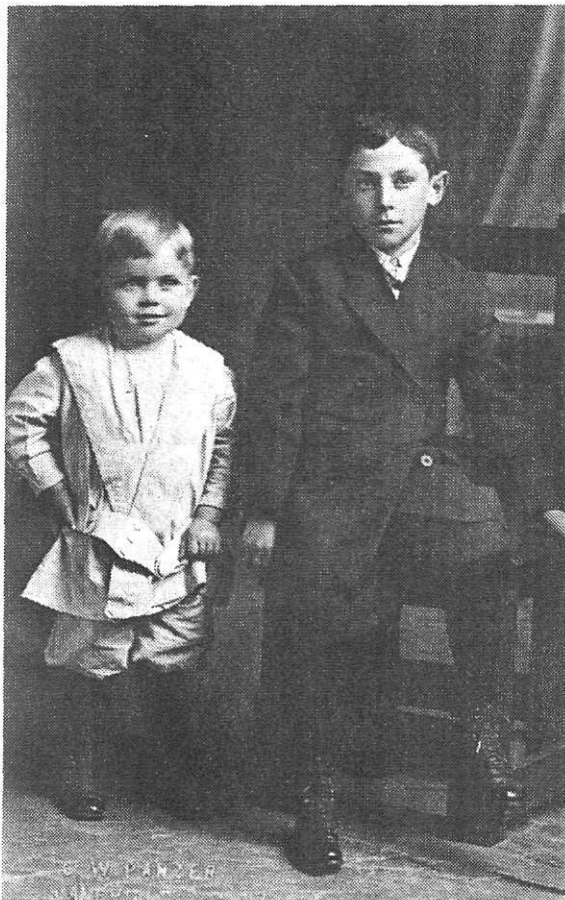
Friends and relatives paid their respects at the Jones funeral Home after 4 p.m. on Wednesday of this week.

The former Lena Wolfgram was born in the town of Portland on April 27, 1888, daughter of the late Mr. And Mrs. Frank Wolfgram. She married Charles Holzhueter on May 12, 1909 at Hubbleton. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and the Ladies Aid Society of that church.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Lawrence Bibow (Eleanor) and Mrs. Robert

Gassen (Mabel) of Waterloo; two sisters, Mrs. Lydia Kiesow and Mrs. Alvina Martens, both of Columbus; one brother, Carl, of Waterloo, seven grandchildren and eight great grand children.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1964 and one son Theodore in 1958.



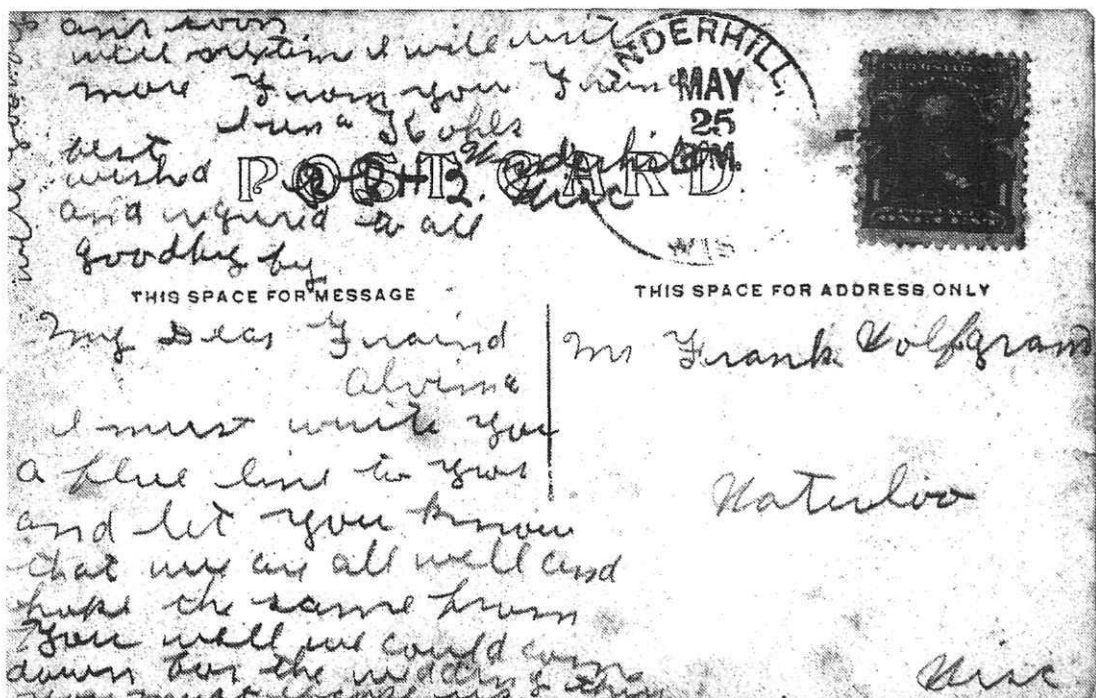
Ted Holzhueter and Carl Wolfgram (1912).

The picture of Ted Holzhueter, an offspring of Charles and Lena, and Carl Wolfgram illustrates how intragenerational differences in age can confuse families working on genealogy. Ted was a nephew of Carl, yet their ages appear to be not too different. Ted's mother, Lena was born 15 years earlier than Carl. In fact, there was a span of 20 years between the first and last-born of Frank and Amelia, so conceivably Carl had nephews or nieces who were older than he was.

Alwine Hulda Louise Wolfgram

Fourth in birth order, and the third daughter to be born was Alwine Hulda Louise who arrived on February 1, 1891. Like all her siblings, she was baptized at, or under the auspices of, Trinity. Her first given name was soon anglicized to Alvina. She was also confirmed at Hubbleton which ceremony took place on June 18, 1905 and for which her selected verse was Matthew 6:33.

Theodore Wolfgram, a cousin of Frank, married Alwine Kohls, October 30, 1890, at Trinity Lutheran Church at Lowell Township, Wisconsin. Alvina Kohls and Alvina Wolfgram were friends and exchanged visits and correspondence. A post card from Alvina Kohls, visiting in Underhill Wisconsin, came to Alvina Wolfgram via Frank apparently regarding the wedding of Alvina Wolfgram; this was found in a box of pictures belonging to Mabel Holzhueter Gassen. (Frank and Amelia's daughter Lena, married Charles Holzhueter.) Family ties between the Lowell and Portland Wolfgrams make more sense now that we finally know Frank's father and Theodore's father were brothers.



Card from Alvina Kohls to Alvina Wolfgram (1914).

Scarcely a year before the family farm was sold and when she was 23 years old, Alvina Wolfgram married Otto Martens in June, 1914. Accordingly, this was the final Wolfgram marriage at the Hubbleton church. Carl, her only living brother was then eleven years old.

Otto, age 25 at the time of their marriage, was a resident of Town of Hampden in Columbia County, Wisconsin. His parents were Friedrich Martens and Friedericke Langer.



Alvina and Otto Martens (1914).

Other cousins of the Wolfgram children were the Klugs who lived nearby in Lowell Township. One of them, Sophia, married Albert Baker and there were continued contacts between them and Alwine.

The family farmed in the Hamden area. Otto Martens, 59, died after several months' illness in 1947.³⁰⁶ He was survived by his wife, one daughter, Bernice Raether, a son Wilbert and one brother Albert Martens. Alvina moved to Columbus after Otto's death and for many years took in boarders.³⁰⁷ The Martens were members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and Alvina was an honorary member of the Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid.

Both are buried at Hillside Cemetery, Columbus Wisconsin.

Married. MARTENS - WOLFGRAM. On Wednesday, June 3rd at 3 p.m. occurred the marriage of Mr. Otto Martens and Miss Alvina Wolfgram at the Lutheran Church at Hubbleton, Rev. M. H. Pankow officiating.

The witnesses were Albert Martens, brother of the groom and Chas. Lemke and Miss Lydia Wolfgram, sister of the bride and Miss Elsie Kronitz.

After the ceremony the guests, about two hundred, went to the home of the bride's parents and partook of a sumptuous wedding supper.

Both the young people are favorably known in their respective localities, who have a host of friends who with the Democrat extend congratulations.

Waterloo Democrat, June 5, 1914, p. 5



Otto Martens, Sophia (Klug) Baker, Alvina (Wolfgram) Martens, and Albert Baker.

Lydia Hulda Bertha Wolfgram

Lydia Hulda Bertha was born on September 22, 1893 and baptized also at Trinity. Lydia was confirmed at Hubbleton, June 2, 1907 and she chose the same confirmation verse as her sister Lena 6 years earlier, John 15:5.



Confirmation picture of Lydia Wolfgram.

The last daughter of Frank and Amelia's to marry was Lydia. She married Meinhard E. Kiesow on November 14, 1917. All were married at the Hubbleton Immanuel Lutheran Church, except Lydia who was married at the Waterloo German Lutheran Church.



Meinhard and
Lydia Kiesow (1917).

“Married³⁰⁸ WOLFGRAM -- KIESOW. On Wednesday of this week occurred the marriage of Miss Lydia Wolfgram, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wolfgram of this village to Mr. Meinhard Kiesow, son of Mr. and Mrs. (*Ernestine Haseleu*) Wm. Kiesow of Portland. The wedding ceremony was performed by Rev. Kuhlow at the German Lutheran church at four o'clock.

The young couple was attended by Miss Elsie Lemke, cousin of the bride and Mr. Edward Kiesow, brother of the groom.

The bride was attired in a beautiful white satin gown trimmed in georgette crepe. She wore a wreath and veil and carried a shower bouquet of cream roses. The bridesmaid wore a dove colored silk dress and wore a corsage bouquet of carnations.

After the church service the wedding party repaired at the bride's home where a reception was held for the relatives and a few intimate friends. The rooms were tastily decorated in pink and white and a three course wedding supper was served.

The young couple are now on a wedding trip to New Richmond, after which they will return here and make their home with groom's parents in Portland (*see SW1/4, NE1/4 Section 26, [Page 112]*). They will be home to friends after Dec 1st.

Both young people are highly esteemed by their friends who wish them all kinds of happiness in their journey through life.”

Meinhard and Lydia farmed in the Town of Elba until 1943 when they moved to Columbus. Meinhard died in 1953 at a Madison hospital early on Sunday morning, May 10th.³⁰⁹ He had been ill the past five years and in the hospital for the past week.



Lydia Kiesow with, from left: Robert & Mabel Gassen, brother Cully Wolfgram, Barbara (Wolfgram) Wendt, and Maureen (Wolfgram) Giese.

Lydia had numerous visits from family and friends while at the Columbus Nursing home and always an annual birthday celebration. Among the visitors celebrating her 97th birthday was her brother Cully.



Lydia (Wolfgram) Kiesow and her brother Cully (1990).

The Journal Republican account of Lydia's death³¹⁰ was:

Lydia B. Kiesow. Lydia B. Kiesow, age 98, of 825 Western Ave., Columbus died May 6, 1992 at the Columbus Care Center.

She was born September 22, 1893 in Hubbleton, Wis. to Frank and Amelia (Maas) Wolfgram. She married Minhard Kiesow on November 14, 1917.

Mrs. Kiesow has been a lifelong resident of the Columbus area. She was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbus and Honorary Ladies Aid member.

She is survived by one brother Carl Wolfgram, Waterloo; nieces nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband in 1952 (*should be 1953*); three sisters Lena Holzhueter, Ida Leschensky, and Alvina Martens.

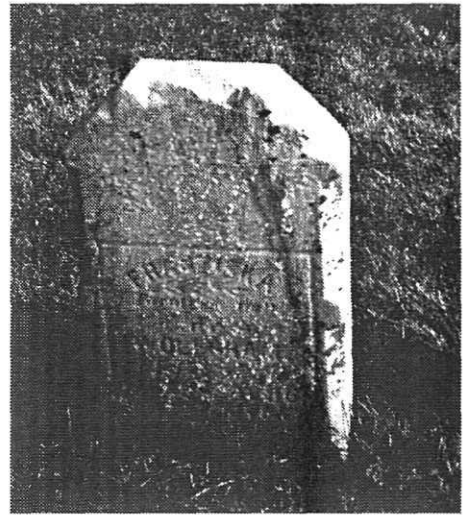
Funeral services were held Friday, May 8, 1992 at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Reverends G. F. Cares and Robert Wilke officiated.

The Kiesows are buried at Hillside Cemetery in Columbus, Wisconsin.

Franziska Wolfgram

The other Wolfgram gravesite at Trinity Lutheran Church cemetery honors Franziska, a female infant who lived only six days, then died on August 6, 1896. She was the sixth child of Frank and Amelia. Her grave is marked with a time-worn headstone. The inscription is nearly indiscernible but begins with "Franziska, Ichler von F. H. & A. Wolfgram." This was a trying year for Frank; his mother had died in Minnesota just three months earlier.

The Franziska Wolfgram headstone at Trinity Cemetery, Reeseville, Wisconsin.



Carl August Emil Wolfgram



The last of the children born to Frank and Amelia Wolfgram was Carl August Emil who arrived on December 18, 1903 ten years after his next surviving sibling. Church records indicate that his baptism took place at the Wolfgram home on January 10 in 1904. In attendance as sponsors were August Maas, Amelia's brother; Carl "Riedig" (probably misspelled by Pastor Pankow; we believe this to be Carl Ruedig, husband of Frank's niece, Hulda Knarr); and Agnes Knarr, wife of Christian, Frank's nephew.

Carl Wolfgram (about 1908).

Taufschein

Carl August Emil,

Kind des Franz Wolfgramm
und dessen Ehefrau Emilie geborne Maafs
geb. am 18^{ten} December 1903

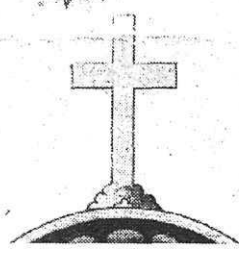
zu Town Portland Dodge Co. Wisconsin
ist am 10^{ten} Januar 1904 in der Ev. Luth.
Immanuel-Gemeinde zu Neuhöfen Wis.

im Namen des

DREIEINIGEN GOTTES

Taufpüthen:

August Maafs,
Carl Kiedig
Frau Agnes Knoer.



getauft worden!

W. H. Fankow
Ev. Luth.
Waterloo Wis. *Pastor*

Baptism certificate (Taufschein) for Carl August Emil Wolfgram.

Carl's sisters gave him the nickname "Cully" which stayed with him for the rest of his life.

By the time of Carl's confirmation, the family had moved to Waterloo so he was confirmed at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church there on April 1, 1817 (verse, John 20:29).



Carl Wolfgram at the time of his confirmation (1917).

Carl Wolfgram was enrolled at the Hubbleton School until the family moved to Waterloo. He graduated from the eighth grade at the Waterloo Public Schools in June of 1921.³¹¹ The Waterloo Democrat wrote up the occasion,³¹² "The Grade Commencement exercises were held in the high school gymnasium at 8:15 on Thursday evening June 9 ... Principal Curtis then gave a short talk after which he presented diplomas to the following graduates..." including Carl Wolfgram and 23 others.



Mildred Deppe, who would soon marry Carl, graduated from Waterloo High School in June of 1925 with a major in English.³¹³ She is portrayed in an original photograph showing all 29 graduates of the class of 1925 and the principal.

High School graduation portrait of Mildred Deppe, 1925 (Photo by Dallman).



Carl Wolfgram and Mildred Deppe were married at Rockford, Illinois by the Justice of the Peace, on November 12, 1925. Mildred's sister Pearl, was married before Mildred and it is believed Mildred and "Cully" wanted to follow suit.

Despite the fact that they elected not to have a church wedding, they still displayed the usual finery.

Mildred and Carl Wolfgram's wedding photograph (1925)

Carl's entire working career was with the McKay Nursery Company in Waterloo, Wisconsin. He learned numerous horticultural skills over the years and became an expert at those. He also had great people skills, and his leadership and knowledge led to supervisory positions. After 50 years at McKay, Carl retired on December 31, 1971.³¹⁴

Carl worked hard, but led a well-balanced life. His fishing ventures were legendary. One ice-fishing experience was recounted by the Courier:³¹⁵

"Carl Wolfgram Catches Prize Perch Sunday. While ice fishing on Lake Mendota in Madison, Sunday, Carl Wolfgram caught a prize 12" perch weighing over a pound. And this is another fish story. According to experts the Waterloo fishermen have been doing all right ice fishing, bringing home their limit practically every day."

DEPPE -- WOLFGRAM. Slipping away, after the shower held at the city hall Friday, Miss Mildred Deppe and Carl Wolfgram, after well on their way, sped swiftly along to Rockford Ill., where they were married Saturday at nine o'clock.

Mrs. Wolfgram, a maid of charming personality, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ora Deppe, who reside near Lake Mills. She was a member of the 1925 graduating class of the local high school, since that time remaining at home.

"Cully" as he is known by the younger set, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wolfgram of this city. He is employed by the McKay Nursery.

For the present the young people will make their home with Mr. Wolfgram's parents.

Best wishes and a life of happiness are extended to them "from all sides" by their host of friends.

Waterloo Courier, November 12, 1925

One of the favorite pastimes for Carl was baseball. For many years, he participated in local amateur clubs (see sidebar).

By early June, 1926, the Waterloo Baseball Club took the league by defeating the Doylestown Champions 8-0.³¹⁶ Then a few weeks later, Waterloo lost its first game to Madison and was 6-1 for the season.³¹⁷

We don't know the cause, but a dispute emerged midway through the season, and "Stokes and Wolfgram, Waterloo's battery for the first half of the season handed in their suits."³¹⁸

Somehow it was settled, because they would play again late in the season as recorded by the Democrat, "... see Stokes and Wolfgram in action for Waterloo, opposing Strasburg, and head for the Lake Mills Grays. You can't afford to miss this game. Everybody, Let's go."³¹⁹ The following week, the local paper³²⁰

headlined a sports report, "**Lake Mills in Series Opener. Waterloo loses 2 to 1...** Lake succeeded in putting a score across in the sixth. Waterloo did likewise Pyburn crossing home, when Wolfgram made a perfect drive over second."

Cully Wolfgram enjoyed observing professional teams as well, travelling to Milwaukee and Chicago on occasion.

Another long-term activity for Cully was participation in the volunteer village fire department to which he was activated in 1937 as detailed in his appointment certificate:³²¹

This certifies that on the 4th day of January A. D. 1937 Carl Wolfgram was appointed by the Village Board of the Village of Waterloo Wis, a Member of the Village Fire Department attached to Active Company and as such he is entitled to all the Privileges and Exemptions granted to Firemen, by the provisions contained in the laws of the State of Wisconsin...affixed 6th day of January A. D. 1937.

He served the active volunteer fire department for 29 years.

WOLFGRAM AND STOKES MAKE UP 1926 BATTERY

Tentative Baseball Lineup Given Out by "Doc" Joyce, Manager

There were practically fifteen enthusiastic baseball players out Sunday afternoon at the Firemen's Park for a tryout practice. Nine of these men, the most talented, will comprise the Waterloo Baseball Club for the season of '26 according to Mgr. "Doc" Joyce.

Probable Line-up

The batteries are George Stokes, pitcher, and Carl Wolfgram, catcher. Infield supporters of these two men are Wayne Dallman, first base; Silas Pyburn, second base; Roman Spies, short stop; Harvey Krause, third base. Ira Biehle, left field, Erwin Gehler, center-field, and Clarence Krause, right field, will comprise the outfield. Substitutes are Harold Doschadis, Arno Huebner, Jos. Rebstein and Griffith Moser.

Waterloo Democrat, April 22, 1926, p. 1



Cully Wolfgram at a favorite pastime in downtown Waterloo.

A popular activity in the Waterloo area, and certainly a life-long diversion for Carl and Mildred Wolfgram was playing card games. Though others were common, depending upon the mix and ability of players, Euchre was the most prevalent. For years they regularly played cards with other couples, a group of friends who did the rounds to each others' homes. Especially after retirement, Cully played in many tournaments in the area, and several times each week joined the regulars downtown for a soup and sandwich, then Euchre in the afternoon.

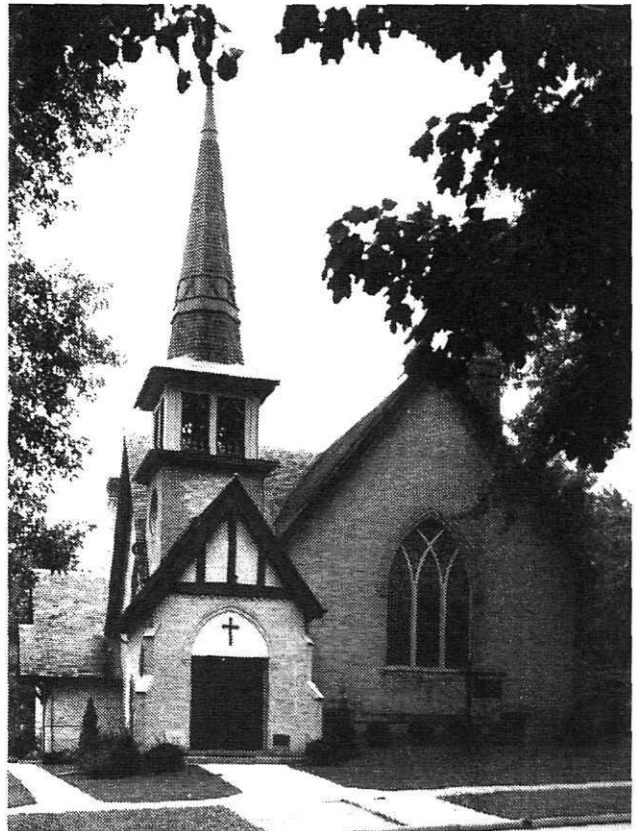
Then-contemporary family and friends will remember a wonderful celebration for Carl and Mildred Wolfgram's 50th anniversary at the Waterloo Community Building in September, 1975. Their card-playing friends put on a humorous skit, gifts were opened, lunch served, and a good time was had by everyone. All



Robert, Barbara (Wolfgram) Wendt, Cully and Mildred Wolfgram, Carol (Wolfgram) Zimbric, and Maureen (Wolfgram) Giese.

of their family was there to wish them good health and happiness in the years ahead.

Although Carl was baptized and raised a Lutheran, all religious activities of the Carl and Mildred Wolfgram family took place in the Waterloo Methodist Church. The fact that Mildred, while growing up in the Deppe family, attended a rural Methodist church may have had some influence on their church of choice. Family baptisms and confirmations occurred here. Maurleen Fay Wolfgram and Ronald Lawrence Giese were married in this charming place with a candle-light service on June 12, 1954.³²²



The Waterloo Methodist Church
in 1954

Mildred (Deppe) Wolfgram passed on in 1983 as detailed by the Watertown (WI) Daily Times:

Mrs. Carl Wolfgram

Waterloo -- Funeral services for Mrs. Carl (Mildred) Wolfgram, 75 425 Bradford Drive, Waterloo, will be held Friday at 11 a.m. at Waterloo United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Brain Kundinger officiating. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery in Waterloo...

Mrs. Wolfgram was born June 22, 1908 in Waterloo, daughter of Ora and Belle Deppe. She married Carl Wolfgram on Nov. 7 1925 in Rockford, Ill.

She was a member of Waterloo United Methodist Church, Royal Neighbors and Waterloo Senior Citizens Club.

Mrs. Wolfgram is survived by her husband; one son, Robert (Loretta), of Waterloo; three daughters, Mrs. Willard (Barbara) Wendt, of Lake Mills, Mrs. Ronald (Maureen) Giese, of Middleton, and Mrs. Eugene (Carol) Zimbric, of Waterloo; 11 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two brothers, Warren, of Lake Mills, and Howard, of Tucson, Ariz; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Mrs. Robert (Pearl) Bierchen.

In anticipation of Cully's 90th birthday, grandson David Wendt planned something special for this benchmark event. He rented a limousine and driver, picked Cully up at his Bradford Drive home and off they went to the dog races at

Wisconsin Dells. This was a memorable experience which left grandpa Cully almost speechless.



Peter Wendt (Cully's great-grandson), Cully, and David Wendt (Peter's father) ready for a day at the track (August, 1993).

The six months before Cully died were special for most of the family, and in December, 1993, his three daughters decided to produce a 90th birthday party for him. They had fun planning and involving many of his friends and co-workers from around town. The event took place at the VFW Hall in Waterloo – decorations were in place, invitations issued, sumptuous food arranged, and a fun program designed. Many of Cully's friends and relatives from Waterloo and surrounding communities attended. One of the highlights was a delightful song created by niece Joan Deppe (daughter of Ruth and Warren [Mildred's brother] Deppe). Also a co-worker from McKay's made up an interesting poem and box of gambler's luck which Cully had to pull on for his good luck. Cully remembered that event many times in the future and laughed and smiled at his good fortune in having so many good friends and relatives. Of course the good fortune was mutual and not just his.

After Mildred's death, the tradition of celebrating Cully's birthday continued annually at the Giese household. Pictures were always in store, and one of the latter ones is shown on the next page.

Since the inception of their Bradford Drive home, Mildred and Carl Wolfgram convened whatever part of the clan were available on Easter Sunday – usually that was most of them. There was always an egg hunt on the property. Weather permitting, it was outdoors. In addition to real eggs and candy, there would be money for the lucky finders – no eggs were left undetected.

Cully's last Easter weekend was carefully planned, but did not come off happily. On Good Friday, 1994, daughters Barbara, Maureen and Carol prepared the house for Easter dinner. Barb suggested to Cully that he might like to take communion since he had not been able to make it to church for the last month



Cully Wolfgram with his four children (from bottom left clockwise: Maureen Giese, Barbara Wendt, Robert, and Carol Zimbric.

and he agreed that was a good idea. Waterloo Methodist Pastor Guse came to the house. Cully was in good spirits. Son Robert came over the following morning to check on his dad and help to fix up a mess left from the installation of a new gas furnace. But, there was no response, and Cully was never to recover from his weak heart that gave out during the early morning hours. The family felt blessed that there was no suffering or long-term pain.

But, there was an ironic and unexpected twist in the end -- one that demonstrated Cully's thoughtfulness. His family found it beneficial to go ahead with the Easter dinner. Though generally a sad event, to everyone's delight, when the lucky ones removed their dinner plates just before dessert, there underneath each had been hidden a ticket for the Wisconsin lottery. Cully had found the where-withal to venture out in his unhealthy state to provide a nice surprise, and his last act served as a wonderful reminder to all, of his universal unselfishness.



Cully Wolfgram with some of his Great Grandchildren: From left, Benjamin and Danielle Giese, Peter Wendt and Gretchen Wehausen, and Jennifer Hayes.

An obituary from the Watertown Times, April 2, 1994 closes this chapter.

Carl Wolfgram

Waterloo -- Funeral services for Carl "Cully" Wolfgram, 90, of Waterloo, will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Waterloo United Methodist Church with the Rev. David Guse officiating. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery....

Wolfgram was born Dec. 18, 1903 in the town of Shields, Dodge County, son of Frank and Amelia (Maas) Wolfgram. He married the former Mildred Deppe Nov. 7, 1925 in Rockford, Ill. He was employed at McKay Nursery in Waterloo from 1933 to 1981. He was a member of Waterloo United Methodist Church and the active volunteer fire department in Waterloo from 1936 to 1965. He was a member of the inactive volunteer fire department from 1965 until his death.

Survivors include a son, Robert (Loretta) of Waterloo; three daughters, Barbara (Willard) Wendt of Lake Mills, Maureen (Ronald) Giese of Middleton and Carol (Eugene) Zimbric of Waterloo; 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; a number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was the last member of his immediate family. He was preceded in death by his wife on Sept. 6, 1983, his parents and four sisters.

The final resting place for Carl and Frank Wolfgram and their spouses is at Oak Hill Cemetery in Waterloo, together in a family plot.

The Wolfgram family plot at Oak Hill Cemetery, Waterloo, Wisconsin. On the opposite side, Frank and Amelia (Maas) Wolfgram are buried.



Endnotes

²⁵³ Records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown WI.

²⁵⁴ Centennial Anniversary 1881-1981: St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1981, Lebanon Wisconsin.

²⁵⁵ The Waterloo (WI) Courier, February 23, 1956.

²⁵⁶ Marriage Records, Dodge County Register of Deeds, Juneau, WI. The original marriage certificate uses the German spelling Maaß and it specifies that the marriage occurred in the Town of Lebanon. Witnesses were Friedrich Maaß (Amelia's father) and Alwine Wolfgram (Frank's sister).

²⁵⁷ Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York 1862 May 6 - 1862 June 8. (WSHS Film P77968).

²⁵⁸ Warranty Deed No. 188027, Page 154, Vol. 88, Dodge County Register of Deeds, Juneau, WI.

²⁵⁹ Aside from unique citations in this set of endnotes, it is not necessary to provide individual documentation for each family member. Suffice it that all records related to Trinity Lutheran Church, Reeseville WI derived from either our personal review and translation of the original records or from Kevin W. Neuberger as referenced in endnote 260. All records related to both Immanuel Lutheran at Hubbleton WI and St. John's Lutheran in Waterloo WI came from the translation and compilation of original church records done by Elaine Gorder referenced in endnote 264.

²⁶⁰ Translation of Trinity Lutheran Church (Reeseville, WI) records and minutes from the German originals provided through the courtesy of Kevin W. Neuberger.

²⁶¹ The Watertown (WI) Daily Times, July 8, 1977.

²⁶² The Weekly Review (Reeseville, WI), June 10, 1897; The Waterloo (WI) Journal, July 15, 1897.

²⁶³ The Watertown Daily Times, July 8, 1977.

²⁶⁴ Birth, baptism, marriage, and death records of St. John's Lutheran (Waterloo) and Immanuel Lutheran (Hubbleton) churches, translated and compiled by Elaine Gorder.

²⁶⁵ Information from the Day Book of Reinhard & Klug, Reeseville kindly provided by Kevin Neuberger.

²⁶⁶ The Jefferson County Union (Ft. Atkinson, WI), February 6, 1891.

²⁶⁷ The Waterloo (WI) Journal, February 5, 1891.

²⁶⁸ The Jefferson County Union, February 13, 1891.

²⁶⁹ The Waterloo Journal, June 11, 1891.

²⁷⁰ The Waterloo Journal, July 16, 1891.

²⁷¹ The Waterloo Journal, July 23, 1891.

²⁷² Our thanks to the Clarence Hellenbrands for access to their property, an informative conversation, and for allowing us to copy the historic abstract.

²⁷³ Wisconsin Census, 1895. Enumeration of the inhabitants of Town of Portland. Dodge County (WSHS).

²⁷⁴ Census of the United States, Wisconsin 1900, Portland Township, Dodge County (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D. C.)

²⁷⁵ Wisconsin Census, 1905. Enumeration of the inhabitants of Town of Portland. Dodge County (WSHS).

²⁷⁶ Census of the United States, Wisconsin 1910, Portland Township, Dodge County (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D. C.)

²⁷⁷ The Waterloo (WI) Democrat, March 5, 1915.

²⁷⁸ The Lake Mills (WI) Leader, February 18, 1915.

²⁷⁹ Termination of Joint Tenancy, Vol. 25, Page 198, File #13864, Register of Probate, Dodge County, Juneau, WI.

- ²⁸⁰ There has been some confusion about Frank Wolfgram's age which we can resolve. The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Waterloo WI) records show his birth date to be October 16, 1857 and Frank's gravestone also uses that year. However, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Watertown WI was the home church for the Wolfgram family at the time of Frank's birth and baptism and their records indicate that these events happened earlier, i.e. Frank was born October 16, 1856 and baptized on October 26, 1856. We accept the Watertown information as correct, because it is an original data source, whereas the Waterloo entry relied on people's memory in a time of stress and almost a century after the fact and is, thus, a secondary source to be rejected.
- ²⁸¹ The Waterloo Courier, February 23, 1956.
- ²⁸² The Waterloo Courier, October 7 and 14, 1954; The Reeseville (WI) Review, September 30, 1954.
- ²⁸³ *Ibid.*, September 23, 1954.
- ²⁸⁴ The Waterloo Journal, November 1, 1888.
- ²⁸⁵ The Waterloo Democrat, May 3, 1890.
- ²⁸⁶ The Waterloo Journal, June 8, 1882.
- ²⁸⁷ The Weekly Review, June 1, 1889.
- ²⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, October 16, 1891.
- ²⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, June 15, 1905.
- ²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, February 25, 1904.
- ²⁹¹ *Ibid.*, February 1, 1906.
- ²⁹² The Lake Mills Leader, August 23, 1906.
- ²⁹³ The Reeseville (WI) Review, September 10, 1942 (from "Reminiscing – August 30, 1906).
- ²⁹⁴ The Waterloo Democrat, December 9, 1910.
- ²⁹⁵ Toftey, *op. cit.*
- ²⁹⁶ Volume I, Taufen, Trinity Lutheran Church, Reeseville, WI.)
- ²⁹⁷ Volume I, Sterbefälle, Trinity Lutheran Church, Reeseville, WI.)
- ²⁹⁸ The Waterloo Journal, January 14, 1886.
- ²⁹⁹ The Weekly Review, July 2, 1908.
- ³⁰⁰ The Weekly Review, October 28, 1909.
- ³⁰¹ The Waterloo Democrat, December 3, 1909.
- ³⁰² The Lake Mills Leader, February 1, 1962.
- ³⁰³ *Ibid.*, November 30, 1972.
- ³⁰⁴ The Waterloo Democrat, May 19, 1909.
- ³⁰⁵ The Reeseville Review, May 13, 1909.
- ³⁰⁶ The Columbus (WI) Journal Republican, December 11, 1947.
- ³⁰⁷ *Ibid.* February 19, 1990.
- ³⁰⁸ The Waterloo Democrat, November 16, 1917.
- ³⁰⁹ The Reeseville Review, May 21, 1953.
- ³¹⁰ The Columbus Journal Republican, May 11, 1992.
- ³¹¹ Graduation Certificate, 8th Grade, Waterloo Public Schools. Citation states, "This certifies that Carl Wolfgram having completed the Course of Study prescribed by the Board of Education, is hereby declared a graduate of the Eighth Grade of Waterloo Public Schools and awarded this Diploma, 9 June 1921."
- ³¹² The Waterloo Democrat, June 17, 1921.
- ³¹³ Waterloo High School Diploma, June, 1925. Contents: This Certifies that Mildred L. Deppe having completed the English Course of Study prescribed by the Board of Education, is hereby declared a Graduate of the Waterloo High School and is entitled to this Diploma. In Witness Whereof we have hereunto affixed our names at Waterloo Wisconsin this 3rd day of June A. D. 1925: L. G. Curtis, Principal; Edw. A. Peters, President; L. C. Hoffman, Secretary; E. E. Engsberg, Treasurer.
- ³¹⁴ McKay Nursery Company, Waterloo, WI, Certificate of Pension for Carl Wolfgram, 1971.
- ³¹⁵ The Waterloo Courier, February 18, 1954.
- ³¹⁶ The Waterloo Democrat, June 3, 1926.
- ³¹⁷ *Ibid.*, June 24, 1926.
- ³¹⁸ *Ibid.*, August 5, 1926.
- ³¹⁹ *Ibid.*, October 7, 1926.
- ³²⁰ *Ibid.*, October 14, 1926.
- ³²¹ Fireman's Certificate, Waterloo Village Fire Department, Active Company, January 6, 1937.
- ³²² The Waterloo Courier, June 24, 1954.

Chapter 10

Hanna Marie Alwine Wolfgram

Regrettably, we conclude the exposition of Wolfgram children just as we began. Alas, we know little more about Alvina Wolfgram than we knew about William in the beginning. What meager information we have won't take more than a few pages.

Alvina was the youngest of the children born to Johann and Sophia (Schlueter) Wolfgram. Like Maureen's grandfather Frank, Alvina was born in Dodge County, Wisconsin (probably Emmet Township); they were the only two members of the immediate family to be born in America. She was born on the 18th of June, 1860, and baptized as Hanna Marie Alwine Wolfgram at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Watertown.³²³ Sponsors at her baptism were Carl Sylvester (August's father), Ulrike Schlueter, and Bertha Wagner.

By the time of her confirmation, the Wolfgram family had since moved to Portland Township and transferred their church membership from St. John's in Watertown to Trinity near Reeseville. Alvina was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church on April 6, 1873 (verse Tob. 4:6).³²⁴

Alvina is listed as Alvena, age 10, on the 1870 census.³²⁵ In 1880, Alvina and Frank were the only Wolfgram children still at home.³²⁶ Neither Alvina nor her parents were listed in the 1885 Wisconsin Census, nor have we been able to find them in the 1885 Minnesota census. Possibly Alvina preceded her parents to Minnesota because, as noted in chapter 1, Johann and Sophia Wolfgram were reported to live with Alvina and her husband near Buffalo Lake, Minnesota when they first relocated in Minnesota. In *Josephine's Story*,³²⁷ it is said that Johann and Sophia "...lived with their daughter, Alvina and John Levin (or Polzin) near Buffalo Lake."

On our first visit to the Sibley County Records Office at Gaylord, Minnesota, we discovered a death entry for Alvina under the family name Wolfgram. The entry reads: Alvina Lavina, white, married, age 29 years 8 months and 26 days, born in Wisconsin, died of consumption on 16 Mar 1890; parents John and Sophia Wolfgram (both born in Germany); attending physician Dr. Dorsey of Glencoe.³²⁸ According to Sharen Kranz,³²⁹ Sibley County Records Office, the

original certificate was issued from Grafton Township and listed under Alvina Levine. Newspapers at the time of Alvina's death are not part of the collection of the Minnesota State Historical Society nor local county societies so we were unable to locate an obituary which might have shed some light on Alvina's family history.

JOSEPHINE'S NAME

Josephine's Story relates a meaningful anecdote about Alvina Wolfgram and, as well, ties together other Minnesota relations. The Josephine, about whom the story is written by Bertha Kretzschmar Toftey,³²⁷ is Josephine Alvina Theresa Sylwester Kretzschmar (Bertha's mother). We quote from the book, "Josephine was born October 30, 1885. Her baptismal day at St. John's Lutheran Church, Mountville, Minnesota, was observed at the farmhouse with a gathering of family and friends on November 8, 1885. Pastor Robert Koehler and his wife were there. "Meine Paten waren auch da," said Josephine, and then she named them. She was named for her aunt, Alvina Wolfgram Levin of Buffalo Lake, Minnesota, and her cousin, Theresa Abraham of Gaylord, Minnesota. The third sponsor at her baptism was another cousin, Emil Buss of Glencoe, Minnesota."

The hint we have from *Josephine's Story* is somewhat equivocal – it says that Alvina's husband was John Levin (or Polzin). We have looked into both. We were able to explore John Polzin quite extensively from the Civil War to his death and obituary; there is no evidence in any of the data we collected that there was a connection to Alvina Wolfgram. As to the Levin family name, we looked at all available records we could find and investigated variations (such as Levine) especially in plat maps and censuses without good clues.

The name John Polzin associated with Alvina Wolfgram is seen both in Sylwester³²⁷ and Goebel³³⁰ family documentation so we should report on results of our investigation in that regard. We found John in the Civil War Pensions listed under the spellings both of Polzen and Polzin; he was a private in Company H of the 7th Minnesota Infantry.³³¹ John Polzin is found on the Roster of Company H (page 382) at the age of 23, mustered in 14 Aug 1862 and mustered out on 16 Aug 1865;³³² "Company H was composed of sixty-one men enlisted by Adam Buck, Jr. from the farmer youth of Sibley County, and the remainder by James Gilfillax from Ramsey County...Part of the guard that conducted the 1,500 refugees to Mankato, there being one hundred fifty three wagons of women, children and sick."

This John Polzin was 23 years older than Alvina. We discovered his death certificate³³³ which led to the opportunity of an obituary to glean more information. He came to America around 1856, settling in Wisconsin and later moved to New Auburn, Minnesota in 1861. His obituary mentions Mr. Polzin's service in

the Indian War and two years in the Union Army in the South,³³⁴ but importantly it also relates that he married Wilhelmina Bielke on March 25, 1866 and they farmed just south of New Auburn. On the 1895 Dryden Township plat map, John Polzin's property is shown in the NE1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 5. Based on a large difference in age, the knowledge that John Polzin was already married when Alvina arrived in Minnesota, and the fact that Grafton Township where Alvina died was some 20 miles to the northwest of the Polzin's farm, we have concluded that there was no association between Alvina and John Polzin (at least this one).



St. John's Lutheran Church Mountville, Sibley County Minnesota. Wolfgrams and Sylwesters attended this church before the establishment of Immanuel in Gaylord, and at this place, Alvina Wolfgram sponsored the baptism of Josephine Sylwester.

Copied From 100th Anniversary: 1860-1960, St. John's Lutheran Church (Mountville) Gaylord, Minn.

Determined to learn more about Alvina, we made another trip to Minnesota in the summer of 1999. We thoroughly searched documents at Recorders Offices in both Sibley and McLeod Counties for a record of marriage and land records to no avail. At the Sibley County Recorder's Office in Gaylord, we found Lavine, Levin, Lewin, and Lavin individuals both in death and marriage records, but none which proved interesting from our perspective. We sought the help of qualified friends at the local historical societies who have better access to information. We do not regard this line of inquiry closed. There are land and cemetery records for a family named Lewin that could be worth pursuing.³³⁵ Mrs. Busse suggested the possibility that a Levine/Lewin use and pronunciation could be similar to the Sylvester/Sylwester issue discussed earlier. Although we were not able to find anything specifically about Alvina (except for her death certificate) we know her association is in the vicinity of Grafton Township. The problem is made a little more difficult by the fact that Grafton Township is bordered by two other counties.

Then we broadened the search to include Renville County at the west. Family lore has it that Alvina and her husband first lived near Buffalo Lake, but indeed there are no census or marriage records there either. Actually Grafton Township in Sibley County is in the vicinity of Buffalo Lake in Renville County. Also, Alvina's older sister, Hulda (Wolfgram) Goebel operated a hotel in Buffalo Lake so it is not unreasonable Alvina might locate nearby. Genealogists there came up empty too.³³⁶

Collectively, our work and the help of genealogical specialists in the Sibley, McLeod, Renville Counties region, produced nothing more than we presented earlier. Thus, we do not even know where Alvina is buried,³³⁷ we do not know precisely who her husband was, where they lived or what church they were affiliated with.

Let us leave the story of Johann and Sophia Wolfgram's family with the thought that the first and last in this family with nine children are not forgotten. Where their remains are resting will be a challenge for the next generation of genealogists.

Endnotes

³²³ Personal correspondence with Mrs. Gertrude J. Mundt, Watertown, WI, March 7, 1996.

³²⁴ Neuberger, *op. cit.*

³²⁵ 1870 Census, Portland Township, *op. cit.*

³²⁶ 1880 Census, Portland Township, *op. cit.*

³²⁷ Toftey, *op. cit.*

³²⁸ Sibley County (MN) Record of Deaths, Vol. B, Page 13, Line 23.

³²⁹ Personal correspondence with Sharen Kranz, Sibley County Recorders Office, March 19, 1999.

³³⁰ Goebel, L. 1980. The Goebel Records.

³³¹ Civil War Pensions, Minnesota (Film # 821936 [N-Re], LDS, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).

³³² Civil and Indian Wars. 1891. Pioneer Press Co., St. Paul, MN. (US/Canada 977.6, H2bC, 1891 V.1 FHL, LDS, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT).

³³³ Sibley County Record of Deaths, Records Office, Gaylord, MN, Vol. 110, #89.

³³⁴ The Arlington (MN) Enterprise, October 28, 1926 (courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN).

³³⁵ Arlene Busse, Henderson, MN has helped to explore the Alvina Levine problem and found plat and cemetery sources of potential importance; personal correspondence, August 6, 1999.

³³⁶ Personal correspondence with Mary Lou Smith, Renville County Genealogical Society, Renville, MN, May 23, 1999.

³³⁷ It might have been reasonable to expect a burial at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery where relatives were active and where her father rests in peace, but we were unable to locate a headstone there, nor is a funeral or burial listed in the Centennial booklet, Randen, *op. cit.*

Chapter 11

Interludios

Through the years working on this research project, there were a number of nagging problems. With the accumulation of more information and synthesis, most got resolved; yet two remained mysteries and they were of equal interest.

The first had to do with the ancestral background of Theodore Frederick Carl Wolfgram and we briefly alluded to the happy solution of this mystery on pages 114 and 133. Theodore and his siblings kept showing up in our data sets, but we could not make a definitive connection. We strongly suspected they were directly related, they were active for many years in Trinity Church, and we knew there were social interactions between the Theodore Wolfgram and Frank Wolfgram branches, but we were unable to put it all together. Sandra Gullickson³³⁸ and Beverly M. (Kohls) Drunasky³³⁹ made available what had been assembled for their family.

One feature of interest in their materials was the identification of Theodore's parents – Carl Gottlieb Wolfgram and Augusta Gauger. On that basis, we were able to locate what appeared to be Theodore Wolfgram's father's death certificate³⁴⁰ which revealed a Carl Wolfgram who died March 15, 1898 in Milwaukee at 67 years 9 months and 27 days. His wife is listed as Augusta and his German parents are identified as Michael and Louisa Wolfgram. Discovered in 1994, this information lay dormant for five years as we focused our attention on Johann Wolfgram and his immediate family.

Let's review the Carl Gottlieb Wolfgram family prior to and around the time of their migration. While in Germany and widowed with three sons, Carl Gottlieb was married to Auguste Charlotte Gauger. They boarded a ship at Bremen and arrived at the Port of Baltimore on May 2, 1884 with six of their children (i.e., Albert, Mathilda, Amelia, Richard, Paul, and Emil). At some time later, Hulda (Wolfgram) and William Rusch, and Hulda's three brothers – Theodore, August, and Fred Wolfgram – came to America.³³⁹

Carl Wolfgram appears on the 1885 Wisconsin Census in Portland Township with a total of six in the family, all with German nativity, and four males and two

In mid-1999 we received the results of research in Germany where inquiries had been initiated to locate family records pertinent to Johann Wolfgram. The Landeskirchliches Archiv of the Pommersche Evangelische Kirche in Greifswald documented Johann's birth and baptism as well as those for his siblings. An added bonus came in the form of parents' names. Though not unexpected, this new information certainly put a whole new light on our understanding of the Wolfgram family.

It solved one of our dilemmas. We know that Johann Wolfgram's parents were Michael and Dorothea Louisa (Buss) Wolfgram.³⁴⁷ Carl Gottlieb Wolfgram's parents in the Milwaukee death certificate³⁴⁰ are listed as Michael and Louise. A review of the Klein Benz Wolfgram chart on page 2 shows the first two children as Johann Christian David and Carl Gottlieb. Carl, who first immigrated to Dodge County then moved to Milwaukee, was Johann's brother. German church records³⁴⁸ show the same day and month of birth compared to Carl's death certificate. However, there is a disparity in the year of birth with Klein Benz records showing 1815 and the death certificate indicating 1830. Even though Carl fathered a child with Augusta as late as 1875 (when he would have been around 60 if born in 1815) it is not an improbable event considering that he



Augusta (Gauger) and Carl Gottlieb Wolfgram (courtesy of Sandra Gullickson)

already had three children from his first marriage and got a late start with his second family. Furthermore, his wife Augusta was 17 years his junior. The final part of the triangle comes together by exploring the ship manifest from the Carl Wolfgram's arrival in 1884 at Baltimore. It clearly shows Carl Wolfgram at age 69 which comports with the church record for a birth year of 1815; it also lists his wife Augusta at age 52 plus the following children: Albert, Mathilde, Emilie, Richard, Paul and Emil. Thus, we have concluded Carl was Johann's brother and that the informant who provided details for the death certificate was in error by 15 years.

We are pleased to have established the relationship of Johann and Carl. However, we did not solve the other dilemma which revolves around Johann Ferdinand Friedrich Wolfgram. That Johann resided in the Farmington area of Jefferson County, Wisconsin. He was of a generation following Johann Christian David Wolfgram of our primary interest because he was born in 1833. Interestingly, J. F. F. Wolfgram was also married to a Schlüter, i.e., Augusta Schlüter. It simply seems logical that J. F. F. is somehow related to J. C. D. Wolfgram.

In the 1880 U. S. Census³⁴⁹ this Wolfgram family was listed as John Wolfgram 49 born in Prussia, Augusta 49 born in Prussia, with the following children born in Wisconsin: Ludwig 13, Otto 11, Lillie 9, and Jonas 7.

J. F. F. Wolfgram was naturalized³⁵⁰ in 1888 and his documentation suggests that he was 36 and arrived at the Port of New York in June of 1869.³⁵¹ The actual naturalization occurred on the 11th of February, 1888.³⁵²

This John Wolfgram died on August 11, 1895.³⁵³ His date of birth was reported to be February 8, 1833 and he was buried at the Farmington Lutheran Cemetery. In his very brief obituary,³⁵⁴ it was stated: "John Wolfgram, Sr., one of the early settlers of this town [Farmington] died very suddenly last Sunday shortly after noon of dropsy of the heart. He leaves a wife and six children to mourn his death."

Though his obituary suggested six children, J. F. F. Wolfgram's probate folio³⁵⁵ listed only five as follows: Louisa Shottle, Ludwig Wolfgram, Otto Wolfgram, Lydia Wolfgram and John Wolfgram; Augusta was the widow and petitioner and there was an outstanding mortgage to Ludwig Wolfgram in the amount of \$400.

John and Augusta Wolfgram's son John was married on the 21st November, 1901 to Anna Pitzner.³⁵⁶ Previously married was a daughter (apparently) by the name of Wilhelmine Henriette M. Wolfgram who seems not to be mentioned in the probate records. Wilhelmine married Johann Carl August Wolff on January 8, 1878.³⁵⁷ Her parents are listed as Johann Ferdinand Wolfgram and Auguste C. F. Schlueter. Prior to that, Louis F. J. Wolfgram whose parents are listed as John Wolfgram and Auguste Schlueter was married to Emilie Streick on December 25, 1886.³⁵⁸ Oddly enough, Louis F. J. Wolfgram is also not listed on the probate record of Johann F. F. Wolfgram.

The death certificate for Johann F. F. Wolfgram does not indicate his parents. Lutheran Church records from the Farmington area have the parental field empty. So we are left as we began with no definitive record of just how Johann F. F. Wolfgram might have been related to Johann Christian David Wolfgram. Of course that is disappointing and we will always wonder about the relationship of J. F. F. and J. C. D. Wolfgram. Perhaps he (J. F. F.) was among the three children of the first marriage of Carl Gottlieb about whom we know nothing. Whatever the answer, it shall remain a mystery for the time being.

Endnotes

- ³⁸⁸ Personal correspondence, N.D. (c. 1994), Sandra Gullickson, DeForest, Wisconsin.
- ³⁸⁹ Personal correspondence, N.D. (c. 1995), Beverly M. Drunasky, Horicon, Wisconsin, and 1991, Watertown Genealogical Society, Dodge/Jefferson Counties Pioneer/Century Family Certificate Pedigree Charts, p. 199 (WSHS PAM 97-3882).
- ³⁹⁰ Milwaukee WI Deaths, Vol. 23, Page 153.
- ³⁹¹ Wisconsin Census, 1885. Enumeration of the inhabitants of Town of Portland in Dodge County.
- ³⁹² Neuberger, *op. cit.*. The marriage citation is on page 55 of the original church records showing Hermann Julius Friedrich Kohls (born 10 Mar 1860 in Deberkow, Kreis Naugard to Carl Kohls and Auguste geb. Schulz) married on 18 September 1884 at Trinity Church to Albertine Emilie Bertha Wolfgram (born 6 Mar 1866 in Hegerfelde, Kreis Naugard to Gottlieb Wolfgram and Auguste Charlotte geb. Gauger). Witnesses at this event were Carl Kohls, Theodore Wolfgram, Mathilde Wolfgram and Alvine Wolfgram (likely Johann and Sophia Wolfgram's daughter).
- ³⁹³ The Waterloo (WI) Democrat, March 8, 1890, Page 5 (WSHS P71-1727)
- ³⁹⁴ Marriage Registrations, Dodge County Wisconsin, Vol. 8, Page 41.
- ³⁹⁵ "Theodor Friedrich Carl Wolfgramm, legitimate son of the hereditary lease-holder Gauger, was born in Hegerfelde, in the church district of Regenwalde, on March 29, and was baptized on April 3, 1866. This is herewith certified on the basis of the baptismal records of protestant St. Mary's Church. Regenwalde, the 23rd April, 1879. The Pastor's Office. [signed officially:] Baubert. Pastor. [Seal:] Church Seal of Regenwalde. MATTH 13.39."
- ³⁹⁶ The graves are in row 4, section 3 at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Reeseville, WI. They are marked: Wolfgram, Mother Elvine T. 1871-1933, Father Theodore F. 1866-1939. The Waterloo Courier (November 2, 1939) carried an obituary for Theodore; surviving were his sons William, George and Charles, two brothers Emil and Richard, and one sister Mrs. Herman Kohls.
- ³⁹⁷ Bescheinigung aus dem Taufbuch der Evangelischen Kirche in Kl. Benz, 1813, Seite 37, Nr. 7.
- ³⁹⁸ Bescheinigung aus dem Taufbuch der Evangelischen Kirche in Kl. Benz, 1815, Seite 46, Nr. 6. The entry shows Carl Gottlieb Wolfgram born 16 May 1815 at Kl. Benz and baptized on 4 June 1815, son of Michael and Dorothea Louisa (Buss) Wolfgram.
- ³⁹⁹ Soundex of the 1880 U. S. Census, Vol. 13, ED 165, Sheet 21, Line 12.
- ⁴⁰⁰ Beware of another John Wolfgram who was naturalized in Jefferson County that we do not believe is J. F. F. Wolfgram; nonetheless, it bears further checking by future family historians. That person arrived via Detroit, Michigan on April 20, 1865 and was naturalized on September 15, 1891 (Circuit Court, Jefferson County Wisconsin, Admission to Citizenship, Certificate 2561).
- ⁴⁰¹ Jefferson County, Clerk of Courts, Naturalization Records Card Index 1849-1950. Jefferson Series 21.
- ⁴⁰² Circuit Court, Jefferson County Wisconsin, Admission to Citizenship, Certificate 2333. "United States of America. State of Wisconsin. Circuit Court for the County of Jefferson. To-Wit: February Term, 1888. Be it remembered, that at a Term of the Circuit Court, for the County of Jefferson, in the State of Wisconsin, in the United States of America, held at the Court House, in the Village of Jefferson, on the Eleventh day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight: John Wolfgram a Native of Germany exhibited a Petition praying to be admitted a Citizen of the United States, and it appearing to the said Court that he had declared an oath before the Circuit Court for the County of Jefferson and State of Wisconsin on the third day of November A. D. 1876 that it was bona-fide his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance or fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever and particularly to Emperor of Germany of whom he was then a subject; and the said John Wolfgram having proved by the testimony of J. H. Flint and G. A. Yandry. Competent Witnesses and Citizens of the United States, that he had resided One Year in the State of Wisconsin and within the United States of America upwards of five years, immediately preceding his application; and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that during that time he had behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; and having on his solemn oath declared before the said Court, that he would support the Constitution of the United States, and that he did entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatsoever and particularly to Emperor of Germany of whom he was before a subject: WHEREUPON, the Court admitted the said John Wolfgram to become a *CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES*, which was accordingly done. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto Affixed my hand and the Seal of the said Court, at my office in Jefferson, this Eleventh day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight and of the Independence of the United States, the Hundred & Twelfth Wm. Bieber Clerk."
- ⁴⁰³ Registration of Deaths, Jefferson County Wisconsin (WSHS Microfilm Jefferson Vol. 2 Page 68, Reel 37, Image 2422).
- ⁴⁰⁴ The Jefferson (WI) Banner, August 15, 1895 (WSHS P79-1942).
- ⁴⁰⁵ Jefferson County Estate Index 1846-1911, Vol. 5, P 439, Box 313, Register of Probate, Jefferson County Wisconsin Courthouse.
- ⁴⁰⁶ Registration of Marriages, Jefferson County Wisconsin, Vol. 5, Page 133.
- ⁴⁰⁷ Registration of Marriages, Jefferson County Wisconsin, Vol. 2, Page 439.
- ⁴⁰⁸ Registration of Marriages, Jefferson County Wisconsin, Vol. 3, Page 394.

Appendix I. Family Sheet for Minnie (Friedericke W ilhelmine Auguste) Wolfgram.

Husband Jacob Knarr							Wife Friedericke Wilhelmine Auguste Wolfgram						
Birth	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Birth	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State
Birth	4	Oct	1844	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	OH	Birth	26	Dec	1841			Pommern
Death	17	Jul	1881		Dodge	WI	Death						
Burial	19	Jul	1881	Trinity/Lowell	Dodge	WI	Burial				Trinity/Lowell	Dodge	WI
Marriage	18	Jan	1866	Trinity/Lowell	Dodge	WI	Religion Lutheran						
Originally Knörr, also spelled Knearr, Knoerr, Knorr but Knarr preferred by family; Jacob also married to: (2) Marie Miller 18 Apr 1875 (Trinity) and (3) Polly C. Kellar 25 Oct 1877.							Minnie was the 2nd of 9 children; migrated with parents, one brother and five sisters from Hamburg in June of 1855.						
Father George Michael Knarr				Mother Anna Barbara Widmars			Father Johann C. D. Wolfgram			Mother Anna Sophia Schlüter			
Children		Birth Date			Birth Place			Date	Death Date		Burial Place		
		Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Place	Marriage	Day	Month	Year	City/Township
1	Christian Heinrich Knarr	17	Jan	1867	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	4 Feb 1886		30 Oct 1928	Glendale/Kendall	Monroe	WI
Married	Agnes Swanitz	3	Jan	1865	Reeseville	Dodge	WI	Lowell T. WI		31 Jul 1955	Glendale/Kendall	Monroe	WI
2	Anna Maria Hulda Knarr	15	Nov	1868	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	26 Feb 1892		23 Aug 1952	Reeseville	Dodge	WI
1 Married	Charles Ruedig	25	Nov	1868	Reeseville	Dodge	WI	Reeseville WI		5 Sep 1905	Reeseville	Dodge	WI
2 Married	Edward F. Kohn	25	Jan	1875	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	26 Nov 1910		7 Jul 1959	Reeseville	Dodge	WI
3	Auguste Bertha Phillippine Knarr	6	Jan	1871	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	15 Aug 1904		31 Oct 1942	Union/Milwaukee	Milwaukee	WI
1 Married	Henry Chavett							Milwaukee WI					
2 Married	William Engler									after Oct 1942	<i>(NOT at Union cemetery)</i>		
4	Bertha Maria Josephine Knarr	9	Dec	1872	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	19 Jul 1903		1 Mar 1956	Evergreen/Milw.	Milwaukee	WI
Married	James Neuens	?1	Jul	1882				Reeseville WI		?Oct 1968	<i>SS record (not confirmed)</i>		
<i>by Ronald L. Giese, March 25, 2000</i>													

Appendix II. Family Sheet for Emilie (Albertine Emilie Bertha) W olfram.

Husband Karl Heinrich Klug							Wife Albertine Emilie Bertha Wolfram									
Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State		Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State				
Birth	24	Sep	1837		Pommerania		Birth	9	Dec	1842		Pommerania				
Death	17	Nov	1923	Beaver Dam	Dodge	WI	Death	19	Sep	1887						
Burial				Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	Burial	21	Sep	1887	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI			
Marriage	5	Jul	1866	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	Religion Lutheran									
							Amelia was the 3rd of 9 children; migrated with parents, one brother and five sisters from Hamburg in June of 1855.									
Father Poyislav Klug			Mother Charlotte				Father Johann C. D. Wolfram			Mother Anna Sophia Schlüter						
Children		Birth Date			Birth Place			Date	Death Date		Burial Place					
		Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Place	Marriage	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	
1	Male - stillborn	14	Jun	1868	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	-	-	-	-	-	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	
2	Bertha Marie Hulda Klug	30	Jul	1869	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	2 Feb 1893	2 Feb 1943	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	
Married	Albert A. F. Klug	24	Apr	1868		Jefferson	WI	Trinity	7 Mar 1930	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI				
3	Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Klug	20	Aug	1871	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	Single	11 Apr 1958							
4	Friedrich August Albert Klug	4	Aug	1873	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	-	26 Aug 1884	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI				
5	Emma Emilie Klug	26	Nov	1874	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	-	27 Aug 1884	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI				
6	Male - stillborn	24	Sep	1876	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	-	-	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI				
7	Helena Hulda Sophia Klug	28	Aug	1877	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	6 Sep 1904	5 Aug 1960	Reeseville	Dodge	WI				
Married	Alvin C. Buss	7	May	1876	Lake Mills	Jefferson	WI	Lowell T. WI	15 Jan 1949	Reeseville	Dodge	WI				
8	Louise Bertha Christine Klug	29	Jul	1879	Watertown	Jeff/Dodge	WI	-	3 Jul 1906	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI				
9	Anna Sophia Magdalena Klug	6	Aug	1881	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	-	6 Oct 1881	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI				
10	Sophia Albertine Klug	17	Sep	1882	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	29 Oct 1909	9 Nov 1974	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI				
Married	Albert Carl Baker	1	Nov	1878	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	Lowell T. WI	29 Mar 1968	Trinity/Lowell T.	Dodge	WI				
11	Male - stillborn	18	Sep	1887	Mother Emilie died as a result of this birth a day later											

by Ronald L. Giese, March 25, 2000

Appendix III. Family Sheet for Lena (Ulricke Magdalena Theresa) Wolfgram.

Husband Friedrich Buss							Wife Ulricke Magdalena Theresa Wolfgram							
Birth	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Birth	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	
Birth	30	Dec	1845			Pommerania	Birth	20	Nov	1845			Pommerania	
Death	10	Aug	1905	Glencoe	McLeod	MN	Death	3	Mar	1919	Glencoe	McLeod	MN	
Burial	13	Aug	1905	Glencoe	McLeod	MN	Burial	6	Mar	1919	Glencoe	McLeod	MN	
Marriage	4	Dec	1867	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	Religion	Lutheran						
Migrated to America in 1855							Magdalena was the 4th of 9 children; migrated with parents, one brother and five sisters from Hamburg to Quebec in June, 1855. Married in Wisconsin, moved to Minnesota.							
Father Frederick Buss				Mother			Father Johann C. D. Wolfgram			Mother Anna Sophia Schlüter				
Children		Birth Date		Birth Place			Date	Death Date		Burial Place				
		Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	Place	Marriage	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State
1	Ida Buss	c1869			Lake Mills	Jefferson	WI							
	Married													
2	Emil Friedrich Karl Buss	22 Jun	1870		Lake Mills	Jefferson	WI	c1898				<i>In 1910 were at Sibley County, Bismarck township near Winthrop in Minnesota</i>		
	Married Johanna	Feb	1875				MN							
3	Alma Buss	7 Mar	1872		Lake Mills	Jefferson	WI	19 Oct 1894	1 Jun	1956	St Pauls, Arlington	Sibley	MN	
	Married John Henry Carl Meffert	23 Apr	1867		Wheeling Town	Cook	IL	Sibley Co. MN	28 Feb	1928	St Pauls, Arlington	Sibley	MN	
4	Albert F. Buss	May	1874		Glencoe	McLeod	MN	1900						
	Married Bertha Sanken						MN							
5	Alvine Buss	c1877			Glencoe	McLeod	MN							
	Married													
6	Fred H. Buss	Mar	1879		Glencoe	McLeod	MN	30 Sep 1910						
	Married Diana Amy Roos	19 Apr	1875				MN	Glencoe MN	30 Aug	1927				
7	Magdalena Buss	Oct	1882		Glencoe	McLeod	MN	21 Jun 1904						<i>McLeod county, Sumpter township</i>
	Married William Mielke (Glencoe)	c1880					MN	Glencoe MN	6 Jul	1953				

by Ronald L. Giese, March 25, 2000

Appendix IV. Family Sheet for Bertha (Henriette Bertha Louise) Wolfgram.

Husband							Wife									
Helmuth S. W. Vossberg							Henriette Bertha Louise Wolfgram									
Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State		Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State				
Birth	5	Nov	1848	Daber	Konigreich	Pommerania	Birth	6	Jan	1848	Zachow	Hinterpommern				
Death	5	Oct	1915	Julesburg area	Sedgwick	CO	Death	6	Jun	1925	Julesburg area	Sedgwick CO				
Burial	8	Oct	1915	Dedlow/Plainview	Pierce	NE	Burial		Jun	1925	Dedlow/Plainview	Pierce NE				
Marriage	16	Apr	1873	Trinity/Lowell Twn.	Dodge	WI	Religion Lutheran									
Helmuth migrated from Hamburg in 1869. His mother Maria Vossberg later married August Schulz; Helmuth had 2 half brothers, Herman and Wilhelm.							Bertha was the 5th of 9 children; migrated with parents, one brother and five sisters from Hamburg to Quebec in June, 1855. Married in Wisconsin, moved to Nebraska.									
Father			Mother				Father			Mother						
Unknown			Maria Vossberg				Johann C. D. Wolfgram			Anna Sophia Schlueter						
Children		Birth Date			Birth Place		Date	Death Date		Burial Place						
		Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Place	Day	Month	Year	Cem/City/Township	County	State		
1	William Vossberg	3	Feb	1875	Rock Creek	Cuming	NE	8 Aug 1957	15	Aug	1960	Crown Hill/Denver	Jefferson	CO		
	Married Grayce Williams							Idaho Springs CO	26	Aug	1957	Crown Hill/Denver	Jefferson	CO		
2	Karl (Charlie) Vossberg	23	Oct	1876	Dry Creek Twn.	Pierce	NE	17 Oct 1906	18	Sep	1960	Hillside/Julesburg	Sedgwick	CO		
	Married Elizabeth Louise Amelia Kuhl	1	Jul	1879	Omaha		NE	Eden Valley Church rural Plainview NE	16	Apr	1965	Hillside/Julesburg	Sedgwick	CO		
3	Bertha Marie Dorothea Vossberg	16	Sep	1878	Dry Creek Twn.	Pierce	NE	-	21	Apr	1889	Dedlow/Plainview	Pierce	NE		
4	Bertha Auguste Johanna Vossberg	8	Mar	1881	Dry Creek Twn.	Pierce	NE	date unknown	13	Feb	1965			NE		
	Married Carl Edwin Pilger	3	Feb	1883	Bloomington	Franklin	NE	Prob. Pierce Co. NE	24	June	1953			NE		
5	Magdalena Alwine Elizabeth Vossberg	16	Apr	1883	Plainview	Pierce	NE	- Double Wedding -	7	Feb	1909	Pleasant View Cem/ Plainview	Pierce	NE		
	Married Harry Johnson	28	Feb	1885	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	WI		Plainview NE	1	Jan	1954	Pleasant View Cem/ Plainview area	Pierce	NE	
6	Friedrich A. Vossberg	7	May	1885	Plainview	Pierce	NE		7	Feb	1909	11	Jun	1952	Pleasant View Cem/ Plainview	Pierce
	Married Frieda May Johnson	19	May	1888	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	WI	Plainview NE	23	Aug	1966	Pleasant View Cem/ Plainview area	Pierce	NE		
7	Ernest August Franz Vossberg	6	Mar	1888	Plainview	Pierce	NE	-	25	Apr	1890	Dedlow/Plainview	Pierce	NE		

by Ronald L. Giese, March 25, 2000

Appendix V. Family Sheet for Hulda (Albertine Hulda Ernestine) Wolfgram.

Husband Johann Wilhelm Goebel							Wife Albertine Hulda Ernestine Wolfgram										
Birth	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Birth	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State				
	24	Dec	1843	Ehlscheid	Koblenz	Germany		8	Oct	1850	Zachow?		Pomerania				
Death	8	Feb	1912	Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN	Death	19	Apr	1920	Stewart	McLeod	MN				
Burial	11	Feb	1912	Zion, Buffalo Lk	Renville	MN	Burial	22	Apr	1920	Zion, Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN				
Marriage	23	Apr	1871	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	Religion Lutheran										
Came to U.S. in 1857; American records show 1845 as birth year, but German church data clearly indicate 1843 (documented by Larry Goebel).							Hulda was the 6th of 9 children; migrated with parents, one brother and five sisters from Hamburg in June of 1855. Married in Wisconsin, moved to Minnesota.										
Father			Johannes Wilhelm Goebel				Mother			Anna Sophia Kleinmann							
Father			Johann C. D. Wolfgram				Mother			Anna Sophia Schlüter							
Children	Birth Date			Birth Place			Date	Death Date			Burial Place						
	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Place	Marriage	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State			
1	Friedrich	Goebel	1	Nov	1871	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	26	Mar	1902	24	Nov	1948	Ft. Snelling Nat. Cem. (St. Paul)	MN	
Married	Flora Corwin		31	May	1885	Howard Lake	Wright	MN	Cove MN		22	May	1924				
2	Louise Alwine	Hulda Goebel	26	Mar	1873	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	-		13	Feb	1891	Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN	
Married																	
3	Johann Wilhelm	August Goebel	12	Sep	1874						14	Dec	1876	(Reformed Church	Dodge	WI	
Married												records; probably buried at Reeseville City Cemetery)					
4	Albertine Sophia	Goebel	29	Jan	1877	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	Apparently		11	May	1924	Missoula	Missoula	MT	
Married	Charles F. Riebe								married in WI								
5	William Luy	Christian Goebel	10	Mar	1879	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	8	May	1909			Riverside/Fargo	Cass	ND	
Married	Annette S. Gausemel		5	Aug	1883				Kerryon	MN	Mar	1975		Riverside/Fargo	Cass	ND	
6	Hulda Alwine	Phillipine Goebel	8	Sep	1882	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	28	Jan	1903	8	Jun	1945	Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN
Married	Frank Nicholas Prelvitz		10	Nov	1880	Hector T.	Renville	MN	Buffalo Lake	MN	1	Dec	1952	Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN	
7	Helina Ida	Sophia Goebel	31	Dec	1884	Glencoe	McLeod	MN	8	Nov	1905			Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN	
Married	Titus Olson		21	Jan	1883	Vitzjo		Sweden			3	Oct	1963	Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN	
8	Melieda Alwine	Maria Goebel	6	Mar	1886			MN	-		23	Dec	1897	Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN	
Married																	
9	Alma Dorothea	Goebel	3	Aug	1888	Preston Lake	Renville	MN	-		22	Apr	1890	Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN	
Married																	
10	Anna Louise	Goebel	22	May	1891	Buffalo Lake	Renville	MN	28	Sep	1915	23	Jun	1971	Stewart	McLeod	MN
Married	Herman John Weis		29	Sep	1887	Bird Island	Renville	MN	Stewart	MN	27	Apr	1965	Stewart	McLeod	MN	

by Ronald L. Giese, March 25, 2000

Appendix VI. Family Sheet for Sophia (Hanna Sophia Henriette) Wolfram.

Husband August Friedrich Sylwester							Wife Hanna Sophia Henriette Wolfram							
Birth	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Birth	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	
	31	Dec	1837			Pommern		12	Jun	1853				
Death	29	Jan	1928				Death	6	Oct	1931				
Burial				Gaylord	Sibley	MN	Burial				Gaylord	Sibley	MN	
Marriage	21	Feb	1873	Mountville	Sibley	MN	Religion	Lutheran						
August first married Emilie Abraham (1846-1872) with whom he had 4 children.							Sophia was the 7th of 9 children; migrated with parents, one brother and five sisters							
August changed his family name from Sylvester to Sylwester in Minnesota.							from Hamburg in June of 1855. Married and lived in Minnesota.							
Father Karl Wilhelm Sylwester				Mother Henriette			Father Johann C. D. Wolfram 1813-1912				Mother Anna S. Schüter 1817-1896			
Children	Birth Date			Birth Place			Date	Marriage	Death Date			Burial Place		
	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Place		Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State
1	Heinrich Carl Sylwester	14	Aug	1874	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	11 Jun 1897	28 Sep 1953					
Married	Wilhelmina Roepke	27	Jan	1876					6 Dec 1977					
2	Wilhelm Albert Sylwester	24	Nov	1876	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	25 Apr 1900	19 Mar 1967					
Married	Anna Caroline Fisher	28	Oct	1876	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	Gaylord MN	1981					
3	Karl Frank Sylwester	19	Feb	1879	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	28 Jun 1911	21 Jul 1967					
Married	Anna Roepke	2	Mar	1882				Gaylord MN	1 Feb 1919	Immanual/Gaylord	Sibley	MN		
4	Franz William John Sylwester	3	Mar	1881	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	29 Aug 1906	26 Oct 1972	Rose City Cemetery/Portland		OR		
1 Married	Helena Anna Maria Broitzmann	12	Apr	1882	Lowell T.	Dodge	WI	Reeseville WI	24 Dec 1918	Rose City Cemetery/Portland		OR		
2 Married	Arina J. Fiss	29	May	1886	Gaylord	Sibley	MN	1920	26 Oct 1959	Rose City Cemetery/Portland		OR		
5	August Ferdinand Sylwester	30	Apr	1883	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	30 Dec 1908	4 Jan 1968					
Married	Martha Schumacher	8	Feb	1890	Hollywood T.	Sibley	MN		3 Feb 1994					
6	Josephine Alvina T. Sylwester	30	Oct	1885	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	19 Feb 1908	Dec 1982					
Married	Martin Herman A. Kretzschmar	6	Nov	1880	Mountville	Sibley	MN	Gaylord MN	26 Mar 1929					
7	Louisa Ida Bertha Sylwester	9	May	1888	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	1913	15 Sep 1975					
Married	Albert Richard R. Zachow	31	Dec	1887	Transit T.	Sibley	MN	Gaylord MN	5 Feb 1975					
8	Richard Herman Sylwester	11	Sep	1890	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	17 Nov 1914	20 Aug 1958	Immanual/Gaylord	Sibley	MN		
Married	Corrine (Brandt) adopted-Kretzschmar	6	May	1895			WI	Gaylord MN	Oct 1953	Immanual/Gaylord	Sibley	MN		
9	Julius Robert Sylwester	27	Jul	1894	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	-	10 Feb 1895	St. Johns/Mountville	Sibley	MN		
10	Bertha Lydia M. Sylwester	26	May	1897	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	6 Dec 1917	22 Aug 1996					
Married	Richard Kiphuth (or Kiputh)	21	Sep	1891	Rockford	Wright	MN	Gaylord MN	14 Mar 1951					
11	Sophia Emilie Sylwester	26	May	1897	Dryden T.	Sibley	MN	27 Jul 1921	Oct 1980	Armstrong	Emmet	IA		
Married	John Wesley Robinson	5	Sep	1897	Cabot (Children's Home)		PA	Gaylord MN	25 Jun 1957					

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Appendix VII. Family Sheet for Frank (August Franz Heinrich) Wolfgram.

Husband August Franz Heinrich Wolfgram							Wife Emilie Louise Friedericke Maas							
	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State		Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	
Birth	16	Oct	1856	Emmet T.	Dodge	WI	Birth	2	Oct	1861			Pommerania	
Death	15	Feb	1956	Columbus	Dodge	WI	Death	4	Feb	1927	Waterloo	Jefferson	WI	
Burial	18	Feb	1956	Oak Hill, Waterloo	Jefferson	WI	Burial	7	Feb	1927	Oak Hill, Waterloo	Jefferson	WI	
Marriage	1	Jun	1882	Lebanon	Dodge	WI	Religion	Lutheran						
Frank Wolfgram, 8th of 9 children, was first to be born in America. Baptized 26 Oct 1856 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Watertown WI.							Amelia Maas came to America in 1862 at age 1 with her young parents, 2 sisters and a brother; after arriving in WI, 2 more sisters and 3 brothers were born in the Lebanon area.							
Father	Johann C. D. Wolfgram			Mother Ama S. Schlueter			Father	Friedrich Maas			Mother Wilhelmine Hante 1831-1900			
Children	Birth Date			Birth Place			Date		Death Date			Burial Place		
	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State	Place	Marriage	Day	Month	Year	City/Township	County	State
1	Friedrich Wilhelm August Wolfgram			27 Mar 1883	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	-	31 Aug 1884	Trinity/Lowell T.			Dodge	WI
2	Ida Emilie Friedericke Wolfgram			8 Jan 1886	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	24 Nov 1909	23 Nov 1972	Kroghville Cem		Jefferson	WI	
Married	Gustav Leschensky			6 Nov 1885			Germany	Hubbleton WI	26 Jan 1962	Kroghville Cem		Jefferson	WI	
3	Helena Alwine Bertha Wolfgram			27 Apr 1888	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	12 May 1909	2 Aug 1976	Oak Hill/Waterloo		Jefferson	WI	
Married	Charles August Holzhueter			10 Apr 1884	Waterloo	Jefferson	WI	Hubbleton WI	16 Feb 1964	Oak Hill/Waterloo		Jefferson	WI	
4	Alwine Hulda Louise Wolfgram			1 Feb 1891	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	3 Jun 1914	14 Feb 1990	Hillside/Columbus		Columbia	WI	
Married	Otto F. Martens			7 Jan 1888	Columbus T.	Columbia	WI	Hubbleton WI	5 Dec 1947	Hillside/Columbus		Columbia	WI	
5	Lydia Hulda Bertha Wolfgram			22 Sep 1893	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	14 Nov 1917	6 May 1992	Hillside/Columbus		Columbia	WI	
Married	Meinhard Ewald Albert Kiesow			3 Sep 1889	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	Waterloo WI	10 May 1953	Hillside/Columbus		Columbia	WI	
6	Franziska Wolfgram			1 Aug 1896	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	-	6 Aug 1896	Trinity/Lowell T.		Dodge	WI	
7	Carl August Emil Wolfgram			18 Dec 1903	Portland T.	Dodge	WI	7 Nov 1925	1 Apr 1994	Oak Hill/Waterloo		Jefferson	WI	
Married	Mildred Lena Deppe			22 Jun 1908	Waterloo	Jefferson	WI	Rockford IL	6 Sep 1983	Oak Hill/Waterloo		Jefferson	WI	

by Ronald L. Giese, March 25, 2000

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE,

PORT OF QUEBEC

ARRIVED.

July 17, 1855

Bark Johannes. Brown. 2nd June. Hamburg. H. Chapman & Co. general cargo. 220 pas.

July 18

Sch. Paragon. Barner, 16 days. Halifax. H. J. Wood
Co. sugar & molasses

Brig. Victoria. Harrison, 16 days. Halifax. H. J. Wood & Co. sugar & molasses

Sch. J. J. Marshall. Bruce, 14 days. Casco. J. J. Mitchell
berrings

Brig. Mary. Mitchell. Harrison. — May. Hamburg.
Ryan Bros & Co. general cargo. 100 pas.

— Corvella. Russell. 5th June. Caribbees. N.S.I.
Benson & Co. ballast

— Nelson. Wilson. 1st July. Sydney. C. B. Benson &
Co. coal

— Radical. Warren. 19th June. St. John. N.S.I. O. B.
Bymes & Co. ballast

Bark. Lady of the Lake. Liddle. 16th May. Malta. order.
ballast

— Clio. Creigh. 13th May. Altona. order. ballast

July 19.

Bark. Hope. Mortimer. 24th May. Cork. order. ballast. 2
cubts, 170 stowage pas.

— Chance. Ellingworth. 21st May. Hull. E. Burdell &
Co. coal & oil. 7 cubts, 50 stowage pas.

— Fambion. Allison. 27th May. Drummond. order. bal-
last. 714 pas.

Ship. United Kingdom. Johnston. 20th May. Malta. or-
der. ballast.