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RUTH FAMILY GENEALOGY

HISTORY

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THE RUTH FAMILY

THE ORIGINATION AND MEANING OF THE NAME

Considerable research work was done in an effort to trace the name back to its origination but it is apparent that no one is aware of its true source nor of the date of its initial usage.

Professor Albert Heintze in his book "The German Family Names, Historical, Grammatical and Geographical" says it is the modern form of Rut, the variant of Roth.

Ferguessen in his book "The Teutonic Name System" quotes Forstemann as stating that it is derived from the Old Norse "Hrodhr", meaning glory, thus red may be used in the sense in which the Russians use the word today. There is evidence that it was in use as far back as the fifth century in the form of ROD and ROT. Pronounced with a long "O".

The volume "The Teutonic Name System", written by Ferguessen, was published in the year of 1864, so in the phrase, "thus red may be used in the same sense in which the Russians use the word today", the word "RED" must convey the same signification it did at the time the book was written and not have reference to the present day connotation of "Revolutionary".

A check in a pre-revolutionary Russian dictionary (Aleksandrov, Complete Russian-English Dictionary, 1904) gives us the following definition of the word Kpachbin; "red, ruddy", figuratively, "serene, fair, beautiful, pretty, handsome".

A special significance of the word is a religious one. When it is used with Russian words meaning, the corner of a room, its reference is to, "that corner where the Saints' images are hanging". It is used in connection with Easter.

In the book "The German Family Names" written by

R. Kleinpaul, we find; Hrodhr---Norse. From which we derive such names as Rut, Ruth, Roth, Red and Rode.

August Friedrich Pott, Professor of the Universal Science of Languages of the University of Halle says the following; Some family names are characteristic of certain properties such as color; In this case we have the color "RED". In the German; Rot, Rothe and Roth. The name was usually given to people who had red hair. Franz Royer Callard wrote, "The Lord Von Rode who was red haired was called the Red Knight".

From the word or name "ROT" we derive many names, such as Rufus, meaning red haired, Roth, Rudt, Rutt, Rothe, Rauth, Ruth, Ruthe and Hraudhi.

Fairfax says; RUTH, a noun, taken from rue, meaning mercy, pity, tenderness and having sorrowfulness for the misery of another. It is now obsolete.

Some authorities say that the surname "RUTH" and "RUDY" (Rudy being Swiss) are the diminutive form of RUDOLPH, meaning "famous wolf", still others seem to opine that it is the corruption of "RUPERT", meaning "One bright with fame". Both Rudolph and Rupert are names of Teutonic origin.

In my research work covering the family name, the following forms were found in the present day usage, Ruth, Rutt, Roodt, Routh and Ruthe. The form "Ruth" was found to be used the most frequently.

The earliest record of the use of the name "Ruth" is found in the Holy Bible. Elimelech of Bethlehem-Judah sojourned in the country of Moab with his wife Naomi and his two sons, Mahlan and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem-Judah, and they remained there for several years. Mahlan married RUTH, a Moabite woman, (Hebrew) a descendant of Lot. After his death, Ruth went to Bethlehem-Judah with her mother-in-law where she was married to Boaz, the Kinsman of Elimelech. From the genealogy tables given in the Holy Bible we find that Ruth was the great grandmother of David, the King of Judah. Her story is the subject of the canonical book of Ruth. The object of the writer was

to narrate an episode of the ancestors of King David and keep in remembrance the descent of the Monarch.

The very name "RUTH" intrigues every speculation. The earliest translations from the Hebrew literature give us the name in its present english form; german and latin do likewise; the greek has it as "ROUTH", but in each language the meaning of the word is so similar that one may well say that it is identical. It may be of Galacian or Slavonic derivation, too an Old Norse or Icelandic extraction. It can hardly be Semitic.

We do know from research that the family name has existed for many generations in Germany and Switzerland and that our ancestors came from the Palatinate region and from Switzerland prior to that.

The origin of the family name, however, is not to be found in that section. The name does not have the proper resonance of that which is purely Teutonic in origin. I have often observed that in meeting people from the Latin Countries and Europeans in general, with the exception of English, that when I pronounce my name in the accepted english, they conform until their self-consciousness abates and then their usual invariable pronunciation follows; Root. Family names are often and have been changed through the generations to conform with the pronunciation, or as the case was during the period of Reformation, to throw their persecutors off of the track when a family was forced to leave their home and go to another country in an effort to live in peace and quiet.

However, ours seems to have stood the test in the German by remaining "RUTH" and it causes one to lean toward the idea and conception that its origination was and is not Teutonic.

THE EARLY LOCATION OF THE FAMILY

All of the conclusions herein set forth are taken from actual facts found through extensive research

and a sound reasoning that is supported by a careful investigation and study of material found in various publications covering history and genealogical data and from unpublished private family records.

The earliest known date of our early ancestors is 1702, at which time they were living in Harxheim an der Pfrimm, Rhein Pfalz (Palatinate). They lived in this area until in the fall of the year of 1809.

The Krehbiel Family, closely associated with ours through inter-marriage and of the same religious belief, gives us an earlier date. Here we have 1670 as the earliest recorded date. From the J. J. Krehbiel Genealogy we quote; "Jost Krehbiel was born before 1670 and died in 1722. In the year 1671 he migrated from Switzerland to the Rhine Province known as "The Palatinate". In 1709 he bought the Pfrimmerhof. We find that at the time this family lived in Switzerland, their name was spelled "Crayenbuehl" and when they settled in the Palatinate, the name was changed to "Krehbiel".

Not being satisfied with 1702 as a starting date but being unable to locate any earlier genealogical data from records, we resolved to find some earlier information through some other approach.

Religious de-nominational influence being of the first importance and knowing that all of our early ancestors were of the Mennonite faith, we decided to do some research work from that angle.

Being raised in the Mennonite faith, I was aware of the fact that they keep wonderful church records of a genealogical nature of all of their members and a check of the early European records showed us that during the period of Reformation and for a long time there-after, various governments kept a close watch on the people of the Mennonite faith, kept track of their movements and took a census of the membership every seven years. These early records have been an asset to us in checking and confirming dates and the place and abode and history of our early ancestors.

Mennonite, Luthern, Reformed and Pietist are all infallible indices of German, Swiss and Huguenot extraction. Localized, this leads us into the section called the "Rhein Pfalz" or Palatinate; that section generalized as Alsace Lorraine; in the south-western Provinces, including parts of Bavaria, Baden, Hesse, Wurtemberg and Saar, (Germany) Moselle and Alsace, (France) and the Rhine region of Switzerland.

That portion of the World's surface so frequently alluded to by all of the historians as "The cock pit of Europe". The surges of the fair skinned race have clustered here through all of the years of recorded history. Here many bloods mixed. Sturdy adventurous folk. Consequently, religious and political disturbances. From the time of ancient Rome until 1945, the favoured battle ground for warring factions of the world. The influences from this section seem to have played a large part and had a tremendous influence in the resulting early Teutonic and Norman invasions of what is now England which occurred in the eleventh century.

Numerous generations (about twenty-seven hundred) have come and gone since that time. District racial characteristics disappear in a few generations if unconfined. We find the Hebrew has confined himself as closely as any race for many centuries, but even now, mixed marriages of this race are increasing. In the early history of man, we find that he clung more closely to his own kind.

To find the family name distinctly Scotch or English in those countries is no great surprise to me. Perhaps they were not rooted in Scotland and England as early as the conquests, but we find the religious oppression carried tides of these Palatinate people into Holland, England, Scotland and Ireland in the latter part of the sixteenth century. Being in those countries at that early date gives them ample time to become thoroughly anglicized.

As early as 1534, Henry the eighth issued a royal

proclamation against the Mennonites, ordering them out of the Kingdom on the pain of death.

Pennsylvania was settled in 1682. From that time to 1776 it was the central point of immigration from Germany, Holland, Switzerland and some sections of France. The beginning of the great influx, however, was not until about 1707. During 1708 and 1709 Queen Anne, in her efforts to populate her colonies, drew thousands of these Palatinates through England and there dispersed them. The influx into England was so much greater than her expectations with a net result that there were an insufficient number of ships that could be made available to transport these people to her colonies in New England. Some of these were fortunate enough to be taken to America, others settled in the northern part of England and Ireland, many of them had to return to their old homes and hope for a successful attempt to get to America at some future date. Those that settled in England and Ireland were instrumental in starting the textile industry in the area, since they were expert silk and linen weavers.

Among those who came here around that time were a number of Ruths. The descendants of these are living in the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia and Maryland as well as in Pennsylvania.

Among those who remained in Ireland and England, rather than go back to their old homes and suffer a lot of hardships and humiliation, they dropped their mode of dress and language and adopted local habits for their own security and safety.

Unfortunately, the exodus of the Mennonites from Switzerland in 1671 did not stop the persecution of the people of that faith. It may have abated for a time but it was later renewed with additional vigor. A Commission was formed to handle what they termed the Mennonite Situation. The Commission appointed a number of persons, usually the common rowdies of the community, to locate the Mennonite people. They were called "Mennonite Hunters" and received as much as

thirty Kreuzer for an ordinary suspect placed under arrest. A minister brought a higher price, often as much as one hundred thaler.

Without a doubt, the Mennonite ban of forbidding marriage with anyone who was not a member of their church, was the net result of this practice. One or more of these persons would move to the vicinity of a Mennonite community, befriend them, and gain their confidence and after gathering sufficient evidence, would turn them over to government authorities to be subjected to persecution.

From Switzerland and the Palatinate, these people emigrated into other countries, among which we find Austria, Alsace, Russia, Poland, Schleswig Holstein, Prussia, Holland, Moravia, Galacia, East Friesland, Hesse and several others.

These people always migrated to a new country on invitation from its rulers and they were always most gladly received. Whenever one country would compel them to move out, there was always another country that would invite them in and be glad to have them.

THEIR VOCATION

They were an intelligent, industrious and frugal group of people, following the highly skilled trades and professions such as Milling, Engineering, Cane and Textile Weaving, Business Administration and the Ministry. They were adept and became expert in any line of work they chose to follow.

During one specified period of the Reformation, however, they were not allowed to live in the cities and follow their usual vocations. They were forced out of the cities and had to roam the land. Under a ruling of this sort there was but one thing left for them to do and that was to turn to agriculture. They were not allowed to own their own land at this time, so they tilled the land belonging to the Lords and Barons of that particular area.

Large sections of the Palatinate and surrounding areas were depopulated by the ravages of war and the pestilence and the Lords and Barons that owned this land were desirous of getting agriculturists to farm the land and put it on a producing basis. These land owners became aware of how the Mennonites were being treated in Switzerland and invited them to come into the Palatinate and settle on their land.

Sizeable groups of these people left their homes in Switzerland to make their new homes in Alsace and the Palatinate. Here they tilled the land belonging to the Lords and Barons under a leasing agreement or hereditary lease known as an "Erbpacht". Here again, they applied their knowledge and frugality to their best advantage. They could take the poorest weed invested swamp land, clear and drain it and in a short time build it up into the best producing farm land in the area. It is evident that they were the first people to use the system of crop rotation.

When other land owning rulers in the surrounding countries heard of and became aware of what they did for their neighbors, they were very anxious to have a number of them to till their land, invited them to live on their property and set them up as a shining example to some of the indolent local farmers. Some of these farmers, especially in the Alsace section, became quite perturbed and complained to the local authorities that the Mennonites were causing a lot of disruption and trouble because they settled all of their troubles and misunderstandings among themselves and did not rely on the local courts to do it for them. When the land owners were informed of this complaint, they turned a deaf ear on it, for it was only necessary for them to drive along the countryside and to observe the appearance of the buildings, land and crops to know whether the farm was occupied by a Mennonite family or a local citizen. The farms of the Mennonite family were always kept in the best appearance and condition.

As soon as these people were allowed to purchase land, they bought the land on which they had a lease and bought more as the families grew in size. When a number of the authorities noticed the rate at which they were buying land, they tried to discourage them by raising the price to a point where they thought the Menmonites would be unable to pay and still not be too high to discourage local buyers. They forgot to take into consideration the courage and determination of these industrious and frugal people, being able to pay the stipulated price because they were thrifty and economical in operating their farms.

These people always forged ahead in any area in which they resided and whenever the community became too small for their increasing numbers, some of them would go to some other unsettled area and begin the process all over again. Regardless of the friction and one-sided enmity of the opposing factions, they were always sorry to see these people move from the surrounding community.

THE EARLY ANCESTORS

From known family genealogical records and from records in the Palatinate, we have established that our early ancestors lived in the Rhein Pfalz or that area called the Palatinate, from about the year 1670 until the fall of 1809 and in Switzerland before the time that they lived in the Pfalz. In Switzerland we found some evidence that they lived in the Canton of Schwyz but other than that we found no further data.

We have located names of families that came into the Pfalz at an earlier date, namely; Eicher, Kaegy, Deutsch, Dahlem, Lehmann and Schowalter, descendants of which have inter-married into the Ruth family or its collateral lineages at various times. Since all of these people were of the Mennonite faith and the various governments kept a very close watch on them, taking a census of their number every seven years,

we find that this has been an advantage to us in the checking of the old government records against our early family records to prove their veracity.

Records in the Palatinate give us the proof that these people came there from Switzerland. This then, corroborates the early family records that tell us the same thing. From this point back we have reached a stop gap other than to find that they lived in the Canton of Schwyz. Some family history tells us that some families lived in Switzerland, moved out to the Palatinate and back into Switzerland again, only to move out a second time when the authorities renewed the drive against them.

From this point we have been unable to locate any genealogical data on these people, as a family or as individuals, so the status of the point of origin of the family is at this point until someone can find earlier data through a more further research.

THEIR PRESENT DAY LOCATION

The descendants of the family of Gerhard Ruth and Elizabeth Rupp came over to America from the period of 1850 to 1856. Other families connected with this group came over from 1830 to 1850 and still others from 1856 to 1875.

The earlier groups settled in New York and Ohio, the 1850 to 1856 group settled in Iowa and Illinois and the 1856 to 1875 group, plus a few late comers, settled in Kansas and Nebraska.

From these locations the groups scattered as they grew and you can find the descendants of this group in every State of the Union and in Canada. A check of the individual genealogy sheets for each of these descendants will give you the location of the family and the vocation each one chose to follow.

They have all become honest and respectable citizens and are an asset to any community in which they chose to live.

THE MIGRATIONS OF THE RUTH FAMILY

The existing genealogical records and the family history of this branch of the Ruth Family begin with Gerhard Ruth and Elizabeth Rupp of Harxheim.

We find that Gerhard Ruth and Elizabeth Rupp were born in Harxheim and that all of their children were born there too. They lived here until in the fall of 1819 when they migrated to Upper Bavaria to the farm named "Eichstock" in the district of Dachau not very far from the city of Munich.

Gerhard Ruth lived there until he passed away and after that the farm was operated by two of his sons, John and David. They lived here until in the year of 1852 when they migrated to this country. Jacob Ruth, the eldest son, married and moved to Harreszell and lived there until he passed away. His widow and the children lived there until in the year of 1852 when they also migrated to this country.

We could not locate a photograph of the Ruth home in Harxheim nor of the one in Harreszell but we have one of the Ruth home in Eichstock. This home was the work of the Ruth family and some time after the Ruth family left there it struck someone's fancy as being so picturesque that a photograph was made of it and it was reproduced on color post cards that were sold throughout the country. The picture in this history was reproduced from one of these colored post cards.

Through research and from the genealogies of the families of Janson, Rupp and Seitz. We have located an earlier ancestor of the Ruth family. We find that Johann Jakob Ruth was the father of Gerhard Ruth. He was born in Ober Floersheim and lived there until he married Anna Catharina Janson at which time he moved into the home of his mother-in-law at Harxheim. He moved into her home to help her with the business.

It was not until after the death of his wife that Johann Jakob Ruth bought a home of his own and lived there until his children were married. After that he

divided the acreage amongst his four children, gave the home to his son Gerhard, kept a small amount of money for himself and went back to Ober Floersheim, the place of his birth. Here he was married a second time to a woman of Ober Floersheim named Kraemer who bore him one child, a son whom they named Jacob. The couple amassed a small fortune which they passed on to Jacob. It is unfortunate that we do not have the date and place of death of Johann Jakob Ruth and his wife Anna Catharina, Nee Janson. From the records we have, it seems quite clear that Anna Catharina, his first wife, was buried at Harxheim and Johann Jakob and his second wife were buried at Ober Floersheim. We found no data on the second wife other than that her name was Kraemer.

Jacob Ruth, the only son of this couple, was born in Ober Floersheim and resided there until he passed away at the age of over 85 years. He was married and the couple had three daughters. Since he had no male offspring to carry on the family name, it naturally became extinct in the Ober Floersheim area. This man was a highly respected and esteemed citizen of this Community. Due to the fact that this couple had only daughters and no sons, we could not trace the family lineage too easily. Records of the distaff side were not kept very well at that time. Because of this we were unable to get dates covering this branch of the family that lived in Ober Floersheim.

Through research we traced our family back to the Country of Switzerland. The migration of the family from this location is as follows;

From Switzerland to the Rhine Pfalz. This occurred some time during the period of from 1671 to 1709. We were unable to establish the exact year and date.

From Rhine Pfalz to Upper Bavaria in the month of December in the year of 1819.

From Eichstock and Harreszell in Upper Bavaria to the United States of America in the year of 1852.

October 10, 1959.

By Albert J. Ruth.



A SECTION OF A MAP OF THE PALATINATE (RHEIN PFALZ)

AS IT WAS IN THE YEAR 1750

This map is a section of the Palatinate as it was in the middle of the eighteenth century, or in 1750.

It shows the City of Harxheim on the Pfrimm which was the home of this branch of the Ruth family and is the first residential area for which we have some records of their abode in this part of the Pfalz.

The Ruth family came from Harxheim.

The Strohm family lived at Kriegsheim.

The Krehbiel family lived around Donnersberg.

The Lehmann family lived around Heppenheim.

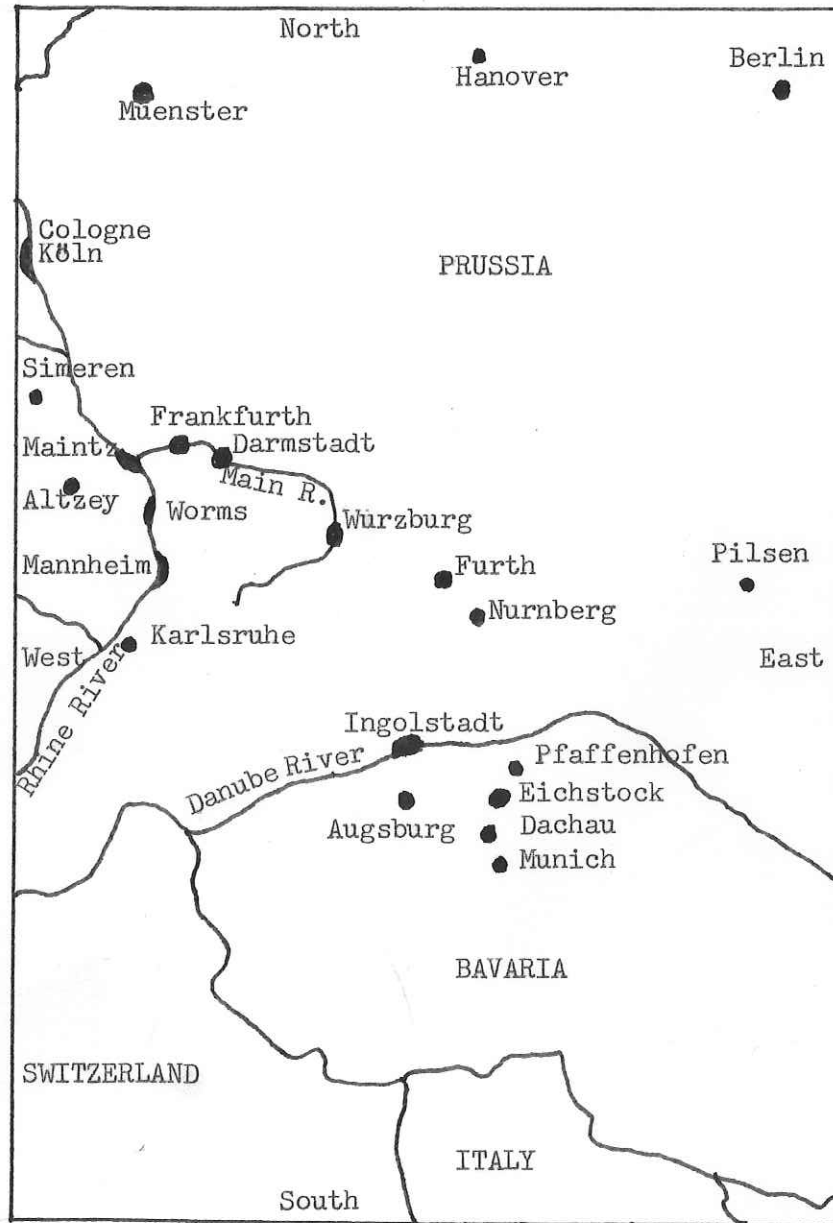
John Kraemer lived around Ober Floersheim.

Our available records start from April, 1743 and we find that they lived in this area until the fall of the year of 1819 when they moved to the District of Dachau, to a place in Upper Bavaria near the City of Munich.

It was at this time that numerous families moved away from the Pfalz due to the unsettled conditions in that area at the time. They had hoped to find it more pleasant and peaceful in Old Bavaria where they had hopes of making their permanent homes.

July 3, 1954.

By Albert J. Ruth.



A SECTIONAL MAP OF OLD BAVARIA
 SHOWING THE
 SECOND HOME OF THE RUTH FAMILY

This is a section of a map of Upper Bavaria which shows the second location of the Ruth family in this area. In December of the year of 1819, Gerhard Ruth, together with his family, moved here from Harxheim on the Pfrimm in the Palatinate.

In the District of Dachau about twenty four miles a little to the north west of Munich, he bought the farm named "Eichstock" by Eichhofen, and made it his home until he passed on to his eternal reward.

The sons, David and John, each took a part of the farm and made it their home until in 1852. The son, Jacob, moved a short distance from heretto a farm at Harreszell that his father-in-law bought. The family lived there until in the year of 1852.

The year of 1848 brought on many revolutions and political changes. This again broke the peace of the group and they thought seriously of immigrating to America. Conditions became worse and this naturally was instrumental to their final decision of selling their property and leaving for America.

They left Eichstock, Bavaria on the twenty eighth of May, 1852, arriving at their destination of West Point, Lee County, Iowa on August the twenty third, 1852. Here they made their first home in America.

July 3, 1954.

By Albert J. Ruth.



Aussenansicht des Anwesens von Theobald Scheib

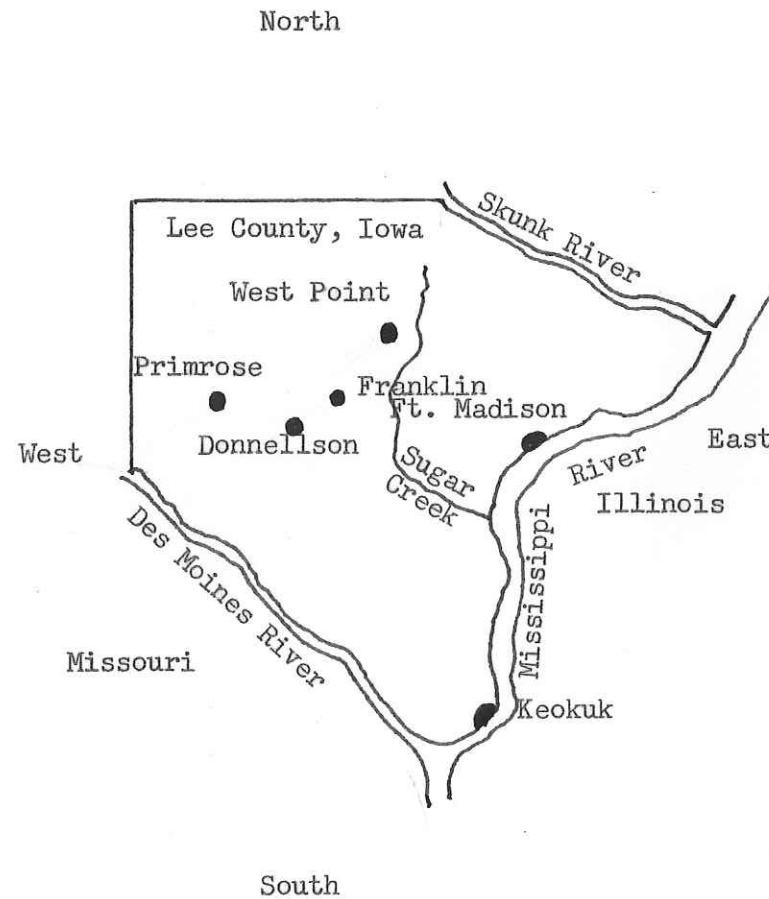


Innenansicht des Wohnhauses nebst Hof

Eichstock

Hofgebäude





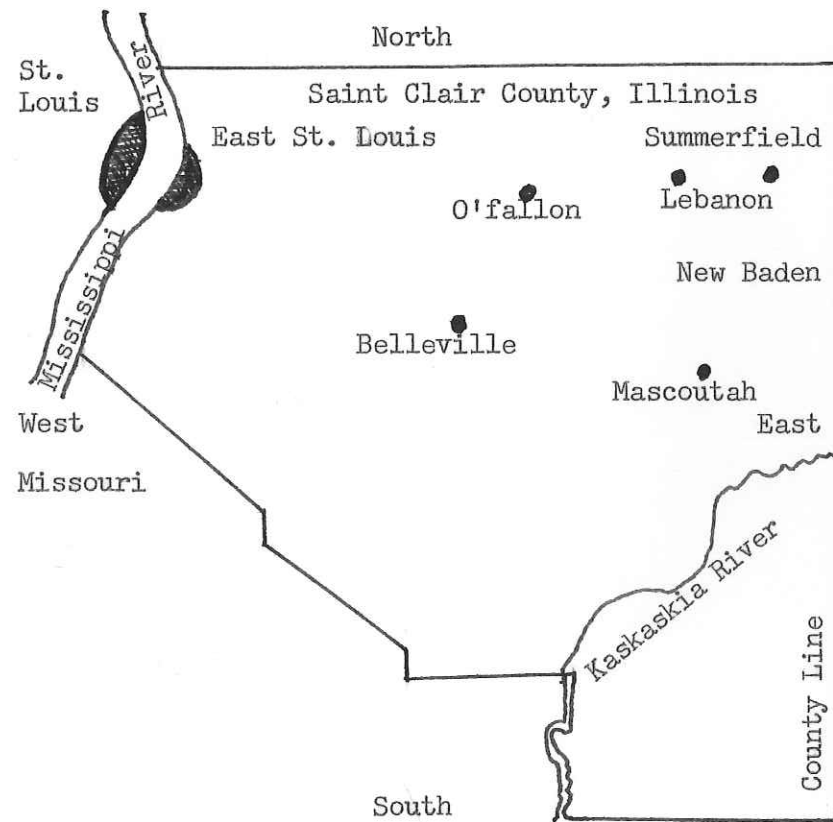
MAP OF LEE COUNTY IOWA

SHOWING

THE FIRST LOCATION OF THE RUTH FAMILY IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In the year of 1852 the Ruth family migrated from Bavaria to the United States of America, landing at Port of New York. After a delay of several days they started on the trek across the Country to the State of Iowa where they made their first home in the town of West Point in Lee County. This family came over in two groups, one group arriving on August 23, 1852 and another group arriving on September 20, 1852.

They lost no time in getting established in their new Country for by the second of February, 1853 they were all located in their new homes, having purchased farms on the Franklin Prairie near Donnellson and started farming operations immediately. They resided in this section of Iowa for several years and then moved to Saint Clair County, Illinois.



MAP OF SAINT CLAIR COUNTY ILLINOIS

SHOWING

THE SECOND LOCATION OF THE RUTH FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

According to the original plans, this was to have been the first home of the Ruth family in the United States, but due to a cholera epidemic in the area at the time of their arrival, they went to West Point, Iowa and settled there for a short time.

Over the period of time from May 1853 to May 1865 one family after another began moving to Illinois so that by the end of that time the group was living in the area around Summerfield. They established themselves in this section and were instrumental in the improvement and advancement of the area. They seemed to have been well situated here but we find that the urge to pioneer the West and open up new sections to others was awakened so in 1880 some of them began to move to sections of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, California and Canada. This movement was rather active up to 1910, after which time it slackened its pace.

From these sections, the Ruth family and its descendants, lineal and collateral, have spread out in all directions and are to be found in every State of the Union.

REMEMBRANCES FROM 1807

BY

BARBARA STROHM

I, Barbara Strohm, was born in Kriegsheim an der Pfrimm, in Rhein Hessen, on October 23, 1807.

My father, Johannes Strohm, was born on July 16, 1781. My mother (Nee Lehmann) was born in Heppenheim an der Wiese from the Weiden Muehle in April, 1782.

In 1812, my father moved to the Polsmuller farm, having leased it for a period of fifteen years. However after eight years, so many of the people having moved to Bavaria, he also moved there in March 1820. He lived in Upper Bavaria, eight hours distance from the city of Munich.

In 1828, I became engaged to Jacob Ruth, born in Harxheim in Rhein Pfalz. On February the third, 1829 I was married in my father's home on the Schwaig. Jacob Ruth was the groom.

There were forty six of our friends at the wedding. Jacob was twenty nine years old and I (Barbara Strohm) was twenty one years old.

On the seventeenth of February, 1829, we moved to the Harreszell farm which my parents had purchased in 1827. The buildings were in very poor condition and had to be rebuilt.

Our first child, Johannes, was born on the first day of December, 1829.

Our second child, Jacob, was born on the twenty-sixth day of December, 1832.

On February the eighteenth, 1833, my dear mother (Nee Lehmann) died, having been sick for five years. However, she was up and around and sick in bed about two days. She was fifty years and ten months old.

The Evangelical preacher had the funeral services

from the text, Hebrews 13:14; "For we have not here an abiding city, but we seek after the city which is to come."

June the tenth, 1833, was the day when my brother Henry lost his eye-sight. He was hit by shot from a gun fired from a neighbors window. He was married in December, 1843, to Anna Leisy. They built themselves a home on the Schwaig. (They had no children.)

On January the twenty sixth, 1834 our third child was born to us, we named him Henry.

On the second of March, 1834, my father-in-law, Gerhard Ruth of Eichstock passed away. He was sixty years old. His children were:

Jacob Ruth: (who married Barbara Strohm.)
Johannes Ruth: (who married Elizabeth Dettweiler.)
Katherine Ruth: (who married Johann Dahlem.)
Barbara Ruth: (who died in her infancy.)
Marie Ruth: (who married Johann Weber.)
David Ruth: (who married Katherine Strohm.)
Veronica Ruth: (who married Jacob Dahlem.)
Susanna Ruth: (who married Franz Hahn.)

On January the sixth, 1835, our oldest son John died of scarlet fever. His funeral text was Psalms 103, verses 15 and 16. He was five years, one month and five days old.

On the twenty second of January, 1835 our second son, Jacob, died of the same disease. He was three years and twenty one days old.

On the twelfth of January, 1836, our fourth child was born to us, we named him David.

On the twenty fifth of October, 1837, our fifth child was born to us, we named her Marie.

On the twenty first of May, 1837, my sister Katherine Strohm, was married to Reverend David Ruth, my husband's youngest brother. He was the preacher of the Eichstock Congregation. (These were the parents of Mrs. Christian Krehbiel of Summerfield, Illinois, and later of Halstead, Kansas. Some time after her husband's death, the widow married Micheal Lehmann.

He died, and she was left a widow a second time. She died at Halstead, Kansas and she is buried there.

Their children were:

- John W. Ruth: (who married Eliza Strohm.)
 Susanna Ruth: (who married Christian Krehbiel.)
 Barbara Ruth: (who married David Lehmann.)
 David C. Ruth: (who married Mary Hahn, she died, and he married Ella Lucy.)
 Katherine Ruth: (who married John Krehbiel.)
 Henry G. Ruth: (who married Marie Hirschler.)
 Jacob E. Ruth: (who married Christina A. Risser, she died, and he married Gussie Krehbiel.)
 Maria Ruth: (who died in her infancy.)
 Gerhard B. Ruth: (who married Martha Lucy.)
 Christian Ruth: (who died in his infancy.)

On the twenty second of January, 1840, our sixth child was born to us, we named him Peter.

On the first of August, 1841, my youngest sister, Marie, was married to Jacob Leisy. (They afterwards lived in the town of Summerfield, Illinois and their remains lie buried in the Summerfield Cemetery. They had no children. Jacob Leisy was the party from whom Jacob Schowalter of Halstead, and later of Upland, got his money. He was a nephew of Jacob Leisy.)

During lent in the year of 1842, our children and those of the Eichstock had the measles. My brother's child, Johann, three years old, was very sick and we were going in a sleigh to visit it. On the way the horses became frightened, upset the sleigh and threw both of us out against a large tree. My husband soon recovered, but I suffered two broken ribs and a case of pneumonia for over two weeks.

On the twenty first of March, 1842, our seventh child was born. She was named Susanna. (This was the wife of Reverend Christian Krehbiel of Moundridge, Kansas.)

On the fourth of June, 1842, my youngest brother, Peter Strohm, from Weierhof in the Rhein Pfalz, was married to Barbara Schowalter.

(Here an insertion for clarification is in order. Five daughters were born to this union. Peter Strohm died on August the sixteenth, 1854, survived by his widow, Barbara and five daughters. She later married John Kraemer. Barbara Ruth, (Nee Strohm), the party who wrote the original of this history, was married to Jacob Ruth. They were blessed with eight children of which there were five boys and three girls. The two elder children, both boys, died of scarlet fever in their infancy. Jacob Ruth passed away on January the ninth, 1848, survived by his widow, Barbara and six children. She remained a widow for four and one half years and then married John Kraemer shortly before she came to America with him and her children. She died on January the twenty seventh, 1864 leaving John Kraemer a widower. On a later date he married Barbara Strohm, (Nee Schowalter), the widow of Peter Strohm. There were no children born to the union of John Kraemer and Barbara Ruth, Nee Strohm.

On the fifteenth of September, 1842, I became ill with brain fever and for six days I suffered dreadfully, not being able to see in all that time. Then I became somewhat better but it turned into typhoid fever which lasted for three weeks. Most all of the family were sick with the same disease, but only one of our hired men died.

At the Eichstock, they were ill too and among the ones that died was my mother-in-law Ruth, Nee Rupp. She was seventy four years old.

On July the twenty fifth, 1844, our eighth child was born, a daughter named Anna. (She married Jacob Pletscher. Their children were: Johann, who died in his infancy and Jacob. Jacob Pletscher died and Anna later married Peter Lauer. They had three children, Mary, Peter and David.

In the year 1844, we had such a severe hail storm that almost all of the crops were destroyed. In the next year, 1845 we had more snow than we ever had in

forty eight years. The crops were frozen. There were plenty of potatoes in the fall but they all rotted. In the next year, 1846, we had a very good crop.

On May the twenty sixth, 1847, my oldest brother, John Strohm, died. He was married to Veronica Kaegy on April the eleventh, 1828. He left a wife and six children, three sons and three daughters. The oldest was nineteen and the youngest 13 years old. He had a stroke while on a pleasure trip with his four children. This was followed by a second and third stroke and he died before we could bring him home. His wife was with him at the last. He was forty three years old. He had gone to Worms to see the beauty of the Schweitiger Gardens. From there he went to Mannheim, where he died at the home of friends. Only after a lot of trouble and expense were they allowed to take his body home because he died in Baden. Finally his casket was sealed by the police and then they were allowed to bring his body home for burial.

In June of 1844, my husband began to complain of weakness and thirst. We called Doctor Weiss who gave him some medicine. After he had taken this he began to feel better again. This pleased the Doctor very much because it was a rare disease that was seldom cured. He got better, then worse, and finally in the fall we called another Doctor who said that he could not live until spring. Then we went back to Doctor Weiss again who gave him twelve pills a day. Then he became somewhat better again. In June of the year of 1845 he went to Marienbrun where he took some baths. This was about four hours distance from our home. He stayed there for twenty one days. First he seemed to get somewhat better, then he became worse again. He always complained of being so thirsty and drank from eight to ten quarts of water a day. This condition did not improve and continued until in 1846, when he began taking some pills for consumption. In the fall of 1847 he complained of chilliness and his feet began to swell. The Doctor said he had dropsy and putt

him to bed. Up to this time he had always been able to be up and around and tend to his work. The swelling went down but he gradually became weaker and he knew he would not get well again. He was resigned to his fate and was ready to go. He told me that God would take care of me and the children.

He sat up for at least a couple of hours each day until a few days before the end. All of his brothers and sisters were at his bedside with the exception of Reverend David Ruth.

On Sunday morning at 9:30 A. M. January the ninth 1848 he passed away surrounded by his family, pastor and many friends.

He was buried on the twelfth of January, 1848 in the Eichstock Kirchhof. The text was Timothy 4:18. Born in 1799, he was 49 years old. (His son Peter, Oscar Ruth's father, died on the same day and also buried on the same day in the year of 1893.)

Our children were:

Henry: seventeen days less than fourteen years.

David: lacked three days of being twelve years.

Marie: ten days and two months of being ten years.

Peter: lacked thirteen days of being eight years.

Susan: lacked two months of being four years.

Anna: lacked seven months of being four years.

The shock of his death prostrated me and it was three months before I became well again. As long as I took care of the children and remained single, the property did not have to be divided. When my husband was taking the baths, my son Henry, with two of the other children went to visit him. Here Henry injured the bone of one foot. Blood poison set in and he was very ill. Finally a piece of the bone came out and after remaining in bed for sixteen weeks, he could use the foot again. He was never able to do a lot of heavy work so he learned the carpenters trade. (This foot gave him some trouble for the rest of his life. He walked with a slight limp and very often it broke open.)

On the twenty first of March, 1851, Henry started for America with Johannes Krehbiel and his family. (This was Christian and Jacob E. Krehbiels father's family.)

On May the twenty fifth, I received a letter from Henry. On the twenty sixth of June they sailed. They visited friends on the way to the boat. There were eighteen people in the party.

We tried to sell our place too, so we could go to America but we were not successful at this time. It was over five months before I received a letter from Henry in America. It took them thirty seven days to cross the ocean, arriving in New York on August the fourth, 1851.

I finally sold my place on the tenth of February, 1852 for 14,200 Gulden. This was very cheap for when we bought the place, it was in very poor condition, poor buildings and poor land. We spent 6,162 Gulden on buildings and had them and the land in very good condition.

On the second of May, 1852 I and my five children started out on a farewell trip for six days. On the first day we had someone to drive us for four hours, then we walked for four hours, then a friend took us two hours and then we travelled by train. We made a round trip in twenty four hours and visited thirty-four families.

On the twelfth of May, 1852, I went to Munich and deposited 6,000 Gulden. For this I got three percent interest for six months.

On May the nineteenth, 1852, the man that bought our place took us to Augsburg. We visited a number of places. On May the twentieth we visited the Evangelical Church in Augsburg and after church was over John Kraemer of Oberfloersheim took us home. Then we enjoyed many more visits with our friends.

On the twenty seventh of May, 1852 John Kraemer and my brother-in-law and I, drove to Grenstadt to have our ship passage postponed for another month.

On the third of May, 1852 John Kraemer and I were married. I had remained a widow for four and one half years. John Kraemer was thirty years old at the time and I, Barbara Strohm Ruth, was forty five.

On June the nineteenth, 1852, my sister's family, the John Webers, came to go to America with us. On the eleventh of July we left for Worms. The ship was to sail on the eighteenth day of July, 1852. We were on the ship for five Sundays and landed in New York on August the twenty seventh, 1852 at three o'clock. The children and I, all became sea-sick. From there we went to Detroit where John Kraemer had relatives. Then we went on to Milwaukee where we visited with Abraham Leisy. On the fourteenth of September, 1852, we reached Saint Louis and we stayed at the home of Philip Lebber of Oberfloersheim.

There were eighteen people in the party and we stayed there for one breakfast, two dinners and two suppers.

We left Saint Louis on September the eighteenth and travelled by boat, reaching Keokuk, Iowa, on the twentieth. From there we went on to West Point, Iowa where we were met by John and David Ruth and Jacob Leisy, all my brothers-in-law. These people together with my father, John Strohm and other friends landed in New York on the fourth of August, 1852. On the twenty third of August my sisters with my father arrived at West Point, Iowa. My father was worn out by the trip. He went to the home of a blacksmith named Fisher. Here he had a nice place but he could never recover. He passed away on September the second at twelve o'clock at the age of seventy one years, and was buried at West Point in the Methodist Cemetery. We bought his tombstone at Fort Madison. It cost us \$10.00. A fence for the lot cost us \$12.00.

On the seventh of January, 1853 David Ruth moved from West Point onto the farm which he had bought in Franklin Prairie, ten miles away. The farm contained two hundred acres of land and a brick house that was

only two years old. He paid \$2,400.00 for the place. On the twenty seventh of January John Ruth also left for Franklin Prairie to live on the farm he bought. It contained one hundred and seventy two acres and the house was old. He paid \$2,355.00 for the place.

On the twenty ninth of January, 1853 we bought a farm in Franklin Prairie for \$3,650.00. It contained three hundred acres of land of which one hundred and fifty acres was farming land, one hundred acres was timber land and fifty acres was prairie land. It had two wells and three American huts. (These were very likely log cabins.) We moved to the farm on February the eighth, having lived at West Point for four and one half months. We paid two and one half dollars a month for rent.

On March the thirty first, 1853, my husband, John Kraemer, I, Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer, Jacob Leisy and wife (my sister), sister Katherine (David Ruth's wife), made a trip to Illinois. We drove to Keokuk with our team and then took the boat from there to Saint Louis. This boat trip cost us \$3.50. It took twenty seven hours and it was two hundred and twenty miles. On the eighth of April, 1853 we were taken to Saint Louis by Christian Baer (Peter Ruth's second wife's father). After buying \$100.00 worth of things to take along, we took the boat. It took us thirty-three hours to make the return trip.

On May the twelfth, 1853 my youngest sister Marie (Marie Strohm) and her husband, Jacob Leisy, went to Illinois to buy a farm. They bought a farm two miles southeast of Summerfield. (This is the old Hirschler place, across the road from Peter Ruth's home place and north of Brush College.) It had one hundred and ninety five acres of land and a house. It cost them 2,925 Gulden, which included \$400.00 worth of crops.

On the twentieth of June, 1853 my brother, Peter Strohm and wife, Barbara (Nee Schowalter) and their five daughters arrived from New York. They landed at New York on the thirtieth of May and had been on the

ocean for thirty three days.

The names of the five girls were:

Eliza: (Mrs. John W. Ruth.)
 Barbara: (Mrs. Peter Ruth.)
 Katherine: (Mrs. Johannes Lowenberg.)
 Mary: (Mrs. Daniel Risser.)
 Anna: (Mrs. Daniel Haury.)

In August of 1853, we had visitors from Illinois, among them was Christian Baer. He was married here to Katherine Berger on the eighth of August, 1853. (These were the parents of Peter Ruth's second wife, Mary E. Ruth, Nee Baer.)

In August of 1853, Peter Strohm bought a farm in Iowa, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres of land and two hundred dollars worth of crops in the field for sixteen hundred dollars.

There were now twenty six families that lived in Franklin Prairie. In the fall of 1853, we had our first school. It was built upon our farm. Christian Schowalter was the teacher. He received one hundred and fifty dollars. (This Rev. Christian Schowalter of Iowa, and Barbara Strohm Kraemer, Nee Schowalter, were half brother and sister. He was the father of Abe Schowalter, the lumberman from Halstead and of Gus Schowalter of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. Mrs. Daniel Ruth, Anna, Nee Schowalter, was a sister.)

On the sixteenth of August, 1854 my brother Peter Strohm died of consumption. He was sick for fifteen weeks but was up and around most of the time until toward the last. He coughed very much. His remains lie buried in the Franklin Prairie Cemetery. His age was forty two years and two months. He left a wife and five daughters. The oldest was eleven years and the youngest was five years old.

In April of 1855, John Kraemer, together with his niece, Susan and several others went to Summerfield, Illinois on a visit. On the first of May, 1855, he bought a little over 80 acres of land for the sum of twelve hundred dollars. (This was the 80 acres just

west of the Ruth School.)

On the seventeenth of August, 1855 our school was dedicated. Also built a Mennonite Church. These were on our farm. We donated one acre and eleven rods for this purpose as a memorial.

In the latter part of October, 1855, my brother-in-law, Reverend David Ruth together with my husband went to Illinois for a visit and returned home safe and sound.

On November the twenty sixth, 1855 John Ruth died of gall fever and pneumonia. He was fifty four years and ten months old. He was sick for six and one half days. He left a wife and seven children. There were three boys and four girls in the family. Their names were as follows:

- Daniel: (Daniel Ruth.)
- John: (John A. Ruth.)
- Henry: (Henry B. Ruth.)
- Katherine: (Mrs. Jacob E. Krehbiel.)
- Susan: (Single.)
- Barbara: (Mrs. Daniel Eymann.)
- Lizzie: (Mrs. Jacob Schowalter.)

Some of these lived in Halstead, Kansas and later moved to Upland, California.

On March the sixteenth, 1856, Katherine Ruth was married to Jacob E. Krehbiel. The Reverend Jacob E. Krehbiel was the Summerfield preacher for twenty-nine years.

On the eleventh of April, 1856, we began our trip to Illinois. The second night we were on the boat we had a dreadful storm that blew down two of the smoke stacks and the boat caught on fire. Fortunately for us, a heavy rain storm came up and put out the fire, and we were saved again. On the fifteenth we reached Saint Louis. There we were met by our sons, Henry and David, and a lot of other friends who had been waiting there for us for three days. They left Iowa twelve days earlier than we did. In Saint Louis we bought some supplies and shipped them to Summerfield

by train. (The railroad that is now known as the B & O Railroad had been operating only a short time for it was under construction from the Ohio River to the Mississippi in 1855.) Then we drove ten miles east of Saint Louis to the home of Daniel Kraemer. Then we drove to Ridge Prairie where we visited Christian Baer. On the seventeenth we reached our own place, two miles south of the Leisy place. (Later bought by Hirschler.)

On April the eighteenth, 1856, my husband bought one hundred and sixty acres of land near Summerfield for eighteen dollars per acre. Earlier we had bought eighty acres for twelve hundred dollars. We now had two hundred and forty acres of land in one piece. It had two houses and a large number of many different kinds of fruit trees. (These were the houses to the east and north of the Ruth School.)

On the twenty seventh of April, 1856, we had the first church services at Ridge Prairie at the home of Christian Baer. Christian Dettweiler from Upper Bavaria was the preacher and now two weeks later we met and celebrated Holy Communion. This was held in the School House two miles from us. (Very likely it was Brush College.) There were seventy people there, all Mennonites except eight. Thirty one partook of the Lord's Supper.

We first had services every two weeks, once here, since we had a large room in our house, and the next at Ridge Prairie at the home of Christian Baer.

On the twenty eighth of April, 1856, my son Henry and Jacob Vogt bought a lot in Summerfield for fifty dollars. They built a carpenter shop on the lot.

In 1856, my husband's sister Susanna and her husband, Franz Hahn, and their three children came to Summerfield and started up a Cooper Shop. Different people came until there were twenty one families.

On the fifth of February, 1857 our son Henry was married to Katherine Marie Bauchenz. (Sometimes this name is shown as Marie Katherine Bauchenz, the first

form is correct.) He was twenty three and she nineteen years of age.

In May of 1857, my husband went to Iowa to finish some business and returned home safely.

In September, 1857, I fell down the cellar steps and broke a rib on my right side. I was in bed for a week and suffered severe pains.

On October the eighth, at four A. M. we had quite a severe earthquake, however, no damage was done.

On the fifth of September, 1858 Henry Miller died and left a wife and eight children. Two years later his widow died. The youngest son, named George, was three years old. This boy we took and raised and in later years he went to Kansas, along with Reverend Christian Krehbiel. He later died of consumption.

On the twelfth of September, 1858 we had a double wedding at our house, the one in which the services were always held. My son David, twenty two years and eight months to Maria Berger, twenty three years, and my daughter Mary, twenty years and ten months to John Eicher. There were ninety three friends at the wedding.

In the early part of October, 1858 I went to Iowa to visit relatives and stayed for four weeks. On my return trip, I brought my nephews, David and Daniel Ruth with me to learn the carpenters trade with the Vogts in Summerfield. (Also furniture making.)

On December the second, 1858, the wife of Abraham Hirstein died. She was seventeen years old and had been married only twenty months and left a son eight months old. This was John Hirstein. (Father of Anna Hirstein who married Gustav Ruth.)

On January the twenty third, 1859, our Mennonite Church was dedicated. This was built in Summerfield and cost sixteen hundred dollars.

In 1859 Christian Krehbiel came to Summerfield to buy a farm. He bought the farm right at the northern edge of Summerfield for thirty five dollars an acre. It contained ninety acres. (He also bought seventy

acres in another tract. The farm just north of town was purchased for his father-in-law, Reverend David Ruth, who moved there from Iowa in 1865 and lived on it for the rest of his life. He did not get much of a chance to enjoy it for he died on March the third, 1867.) His widow later made her home with Christian Krehbiel and she later married Mike Lehmann. In later years they moved to Halstead, Kansas where they both passed away to their eternal reward.

In the early part of March, 1861, my husband and Christian Krehbiel went to Iowa to get some horses and returned safely in the early part of April.

On April the sixth, 1862 another daughter, Susan, was married to Valentine Krehbiel. They were married in the Summerfield Church by Reverend Daniel Hege. There were sixty eight friends at the wedding.

This is the end of her first book. It was to have been given to her daughter Susan, who was married to Valentine Krehbiel. She was to have mentioned that she was starting a second book, to be passed on to her children after her death. Whether or not she had ever written this second book, no one knows, since it has never been found. She lived for less than two years after the last entry date in the first book, which is on April the sixth, 1862. She died on the twenty seventh day of January, 1864.

On the twenty fifth of October, 1862 she and her husband, John Kraemer, left for Germany. She was not well but her health was good up to the time of their departure for home, when she became ill and was sick all of the way home. They returned on the twentieth of November, 1863 and they stayed at the home of her daughter, Mary Eicher, where she died on the twenty-seventh of January, 1864. Her funeral was held on the twenty ninth. Her text was Job 16 verse 22. She was fifty six years, three months and three days old at the time of her death. Her remains lie buried in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

The End.

