

Family and other relatives and friends. They stayed until in the latter part of the month.

On the sixteenth of November in the year of 1857, Grandfather Jacob Baer was buried in the Baer Family Cemetery at Ridge Prairie. He was sick for more than three years. He attained the age of - years. (No age is given due to lack of his birthdate.) His children were; Jacob, Christian, Elizabeth and Daniel. One of his brothers died during the cholera epidemic.

On the ----- day of November in the year of 1857, Barbara Dahlem passed away. She was the daughter of Jacob Dahlem and Veronica Ruth. She was born in the year of 1843. She was fourteen years old and was ill for only five and one half days. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Pausche Family Cemetery.

(The Pausche Family was one of the early settlers in Summerfield and their Family Cemetery was located on a hill on their farm located about one half mile west of Summerfield. I can recall that I was in this Cemetery several times when I was a youngster and it is still clear in my mind that I recall having seen the names of members of the Dahlem family on some of the tombstones. At that time the land belonged to my Uncle Adolph Pletscher who sold it on a later date. In June of the year of 1960, my brother Walter and I drove over to this area in an effort to verify some dates relative to the Dahlem family and the present resident told us that he had been living there for a period of thirteen years and that he did not know of a Cemetery on the land when he moved on it, but that one of the neighbors who had been living in the area all of his life, told him that there used to be one. We checked further with the family who lived just to the west of this place and we were informed that the tombstones were removed from the Cemetery by the man who owned the land about the year of 1944. Probably because they interfered with his free access to farm the land. At present, the land is farmed just as if the Cemetery had never been there. A. J. Ruth.)

1858

On the seventeenth day of January in the year of 1858, Jacob Dahlem's daughter Veronica, was married to Philip Hoffstetter. They were married in our home where the church services were always held. Preacher Johannes Schmidt performed the marriage ceremony.

In the year of 1858, Katherine Dahlem was married to George Lohmann. The ceremony was performed in our home by preacher Johannes Schmidt. Katherine was the daughter of Jacob Dahlem and Veronica Ruth.

In the year of 1858, John Pletscher arrived here from Buffalo with his wife and seven children.

On the eighteenth of August, in the year of 1858, John Schmidt of Deutschhof was buried. He reached the age of forty one years and nine months. His wife was a Hahn. She and her four sons were still in Germany. Their names were; Christian, Daniel, John and J. E..

On the twenty first day of August in the year of 1858, my daughter Susanna had a bad attack of Yellow Fever. On the second day of September she was up and around again. On this day, my daughter Maria became ill with this same disease.

On the fifth day of September in the year of 1858, Henry Miller of Maxweiler, Upper Bavaria, was buried in the Summerfield Cemetery. His wife passed away in September of the year of 1856. He reached the age of fifty three years. He was survived by eight children, the youngest son of which was only two years old. We took this little boy into our home and raised him as if he were our own. His name was George Miller. Some years later, David Ruth took him to Kansas with him. In Kansas he worked for Christian Krehbiel.

On the twelfth of September in the year of 1858, we had a double wedding at our house. Two of my own children were married. David B. to Maria Berger and Maria Ruth to John Eicher. The wedding ceremony was performed in our house where we had been holding the church services for more than two years. The entire neighborhood turned out, the large, the small, from

near and far. There were ninety three persons in the group, all Mennonites, except sixteen. This gave us a lot of satisfaction and amusement. My son David B. was twenty two years and eight months old and Maria Berger was twenty three years and three months old. Maria Ruth was twenty years, ten months and eighteen days old and John Eicher was twenty six years, seven months and twenty two days old.

In the early part of October in the year of 1858, I went to Iowa to visit with relatives and friends. I stayed there for four weeks. On my way back home, I brought my two nephews, David and Daniel, with me. They were going to go to work for Gerhard Vogt where they were going to learn the cabinet making trade.

On the seventeenth day of October in the year of 1858, Veronica Hoffstetter passed away. She attained the age of nineteen years, eight months and twenty days. She had been married only nine months. Interment was in the Summerfield Cemetery. She was a daughter of Jacob Dahlem and Veronica Ruth.

In the early fall of the year of 1858, during the months of September and October, a comet was visible that was called "Donastisch." When it first appeared in the sky, it was in the northwest and it gradually moved toward the southwest and disappeared below the horizon. When we first noticed it, it's tail pointed toward the southwest and as the comet moved across the sky, it's tail swung around so that by the time it was about to disappear, it's tail was pointing to the northwest. (People used to say that it indicated war) In the year of 1859 the World War started in the Country of Italy.

On the second day of December in the year of 1858, Abraham Hirstein's wife was interred. She was only a young girl of seventeen years and they were married for only one year and eight months. She is buried in the Summerfield Cemetery. She left a son, only eight months old. (This child was John Hirstein, who later married Katherine Baer.)

In the year of 1858, my son Henry built himself a house in Summerfield. It was two stories high with a store, six rooms, a basement and a porch. He erected it upon two lots. The lots cost him \$180.00 and the house cost him \$1,800.00. He rented a part of it out at a cost of \$19.00 per month and lived in a part of the house himself. He also had a large garden and a yard. (John Appel used to live in this house.)

On Christmas Day, in the year of 1858, my daughter Anna, was baptized and received into the church. The other members of the class were: Marie Dahlem, Jacob Pletscher, Jacob Schmitt, Susan and Elizabeth Seitz.

1859

On the ninth day of January in the year of 1859, we had our last church services in our home. We had been having them in our home for over two years.

On the twenty third day of January in the year of 1859, we dedicated our new Mennonite Church. It was built in the year of 1858 and it cost \$1,600.00.

On the twelfth day of March in the year of 1859, my brother-in-law, David Ruth, came here from Iowa on a visit. He bought four lots in Summerfield. They cost him \$140.00. It was his intention to build upon them at a later date. He also made arrangements for purchasing the Wakefield farm just north of town.

In May of the year of 1859, Christian and Daniel Krehbiel came here from Iowa and bought 180 acres of land. The price of it was \$35.00 per acre, ninety of which was located one mile from Summerfield. This is the land upon which Henry Berger lived when he first was married. The other ninety acres was located just north of Summerfield. Christian Krehbiel bought this for his father-in-law, Reverend David Ruth. (This is the farm that David B. Ruth bought on a later date.)

In the month of May in the year of 1859, my daughter and her husband, John Eicher, moved into their new home in Summerfield. They built the home by themselves. It was a two story structure with four rooms and a cellar and it was built upon two lots. The two

lots contained the house, kitchen, a large shop and a garden. The two lots cost him \$200.00 and the home cost him \$1,400.00. They employed some extra help, one party for \$5.00 per month and one for \$10.00 per month. The one that received \$5.00 per month, lived on the premises and the one that received \$10.00 per month, lived in his own home. This man also managed the General Store.

Early in the spring of the year of 1859, my son David B., built a one room house with a basement and a porch. He also built a stable. He built these for the sum of \$600.00.

In May of the year of 1859, he and his wife moved into their new home across the field from ours. They had been living in our house since they were married on the twelfth day of September in the year of 1858.

On the twenty eighth of July in the year of 1859, my son's first child was born. It was a daughter and they named her Barbara Maria (She died when she was four years old. She could not walk, poor child.) She was lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

On the thirtieth of October in the year of 1859, Christian Lehmann came from Ohio. He was the teacher of the children in our school district. This school house was built upon our land. Christian Lehmann was the first teacher. (This was the Ruth School.)

In the fall of the year of 1859, my son David B. bought two mules at a price of \$231.00.

On the twelfth of November in the year of 1859, Reverend Daniel Hege came here from Iowa. May God be merciful and guide him so he can teach us to be good Christians and follow in his footsteps. May God give his sanction to this, our most humble request, Amen.

John Ruth's wife and John Weber came along with Reverend Daniel Hege. They came along to visit with their relatives and their many friends.

On the twentieth of December in the year of 1859, Johannes Krehbiel passed away in Iowa. He was a good and true friend of ours.

On the twenty sixth day of December in the year of 1859, I had an attack of Dysentery. It lasted for ten days and I had to remain in bed for three days. After that it improved rapidly. Thanks be to God for my recovery for he has the power over life and death and everything is done according to his will, Amen.

CLOSING OF THE BOOK

With the coming of the close of the year of 1859, it is my desire and wish to close this book, which I have written. I think that I have recorded a lot of data and that I have been writing long enough. Every one I mentioned in this record will always remain in my thoughts, never to be forgotten.

To those of the present generation who may now be reading this to refresh their memory, it will always be a gentle reminder of the events that have gone on before us.

To the coming generations it will be a history to inform them about the trials and tribulations of the early ancestors and give you some idea of what they had to go through to give the future generations the chance of a good life in this Great Country of ours.

While this history may appear to have the affect of bringing back the past and the forgotten, it is a history written for the generations still to come.

Now, my children, it is possible that I too, will be forgotten for a time, but whenever anyone has the occasion to read this history, they will think of me many many times.

Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer, December 1859.

A RE-ENTRY BY BARBARA STROHM RUTH KRAEMER

On the sixth day of April in the year of 1862, my daughter Susanna, was married to Valentine Krehbiel. They were married by Reverend Daniel Hege. They were married in the Summerfield Mennonite Church. It was

on a Sunday so we had the regular services first and then the wedding ceremony. The celebration was held after the ceremony and there were eighty six persons in attendance, not counting the help. Every one was in good health and there was no one who was ill. All of the people were very glad to see me. Susanna was twenty years and five days old. Valentine Krehbiel was a minister.

THE SECOND ATTEMPT TO CLOSE THE BOOK

This first book which I have written was given to my daughter Susanna, wife of Valentine Krehbiel, the twenty first day of August in the year of 1862.

The second book will be written long after I have passed away. So I say to you: Everybody be diligent and industrious and remain on good terms with everybody, because it is noble and good.

Keep a good record so that our descendants can be informed of where our ancestors came from, what they stood for and what they have accomplished.

Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer.
August the twenty first, 1862.

FROM THE TAGEBUCH OF DAVID RUTH AND KATHERINE STROHM RUTH, WE TAKE THE FOLLOWING:

On the twenty fifth day of October in the year of 1862, John Kraemer and his wife left here to go over to Germany for a visit. They stayed there until the fall of the year of 1863. Her health was fairly good until the time of their departure for home. She was sick all of the way home. They returned home in the month of November in the year of 1863 and she passed away peacefully on the twenty seventh day of January in the year of 1864.

Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer spent the remaining days of her life at the home of her daughter Maria, or the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Eicher.

AN UNSIGNED ENTRY IN THE BOOK

On the twentieth of November in the year of 1863, our parents arrived from their trip to Germany. Our beloved mother was sick on the entire return trip. She was critically ill and her condition grew worse day by day. She suffered with terrible pains but she never complained about them to anyone. She was ready and resigned to her fate and placed herself into the hands of God who took her to her home on high on the twenty seventh day of January in the year of 1864.

The funeral services were held Friday the twenty ninth of January and her earthly remains lie buried in the Summerfield Cemetery.

She had a very large funeral. The text was Job 16 verse 22: "When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return."

Our beloved mother attained the age of fifty six years, three months and three days.

The last entry written into the "Tagebuch" by my great grandmother, Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer, is a noble and wonderous thought.

Our Creator, who has power over life and death, might well have made man to be independant, but such is not the case.

God has made man to be dependant upon one another and dependance is one of the strongest bonds of the society of man. Man was formed for social and active life, the noblest work of God. God is our Father and we are his children. We must believe in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

I therefore repeat the words of my great grandmother. Be diligent, industrious, tolerant and be on good terms with everybody.

By Albert J. Ruth,
Great Grandson of Barbara Strohm Ruth.

The following poem was written by my great grandmother, Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer, in her fiftieth year, at Summerfield, Illinois on April 10, 1858. It was written in the family history she recorded and it gives a description of her life from childhood up to her fiftieth year.

By Albert J. Ruth.

1
Als Ich war fünfzig Jahre zurück;
Als Kindlein ward geboren;
An den lieben Deutschen Rhein;
Wo jetzt Bruder und Freunde sein.

2
Da verlebte Ich die Kinder Jahren;
Die so Froh und Glücklich waren;
Nur schade dasz sie nicht länger währten;
Die sind doch dasz gröszte Glück auf Erden.

3
Als Ich schon im zwölften Jahr;
In meinem Land ein Fremdling war;
Fern in dasz Fremden Lande;
Dasz mann Ober Bayern Nannte.

4
Da verlebte Ich die Jugend Jahren;
Die wieder Froh und Glücklich waren;
Damals kannte Ich nichts als Freude;
Wusste nichts von Herzenleid.

5
Zwanzig Eins kannte Ich jetzt zählen;
Als Ich fort von Eltern Haus;
Und Ich mit mein Mann vermählte;
Und Ich folge in sein Haus.

6

Froh und Glücklich lebten wir;
Die einige vier Jahren;
Da starb die liebe Mutter mein;
Und ging zum lieben Heiland Heim.

7

Das was dan der Ersten Schmerz;
Das Ich empfangen habe;
Ich muszte oft recht weinen;
An meine Mutter's Grabe.

8

Kurtze Zeit verflosz nun wieder;
Da folgte ein neuer Schmerz;
Die Schwester sagte zu mir;
Schwester, gieb dich zu Frieden.

9

Schwester tröste dich und Denke;
Dasz Gott es zum besten Lenke;
Der dich deine Kinder Gabe;
Und legte sie so früh ins Grabe.

10

Denke Gott wird es wohl wissen;
Weil er sie hat weggerissen;
Aus diese Gottvergessene Welt;
Die nicht thut was Ihm gefällt.

11

Damals dachte Ich und weinte;
Ich fühle den Schmerz und du doch nicht;
Heute Danke Ich Gott mit Freude;
Dasz er sie hat weg gericht.

12

Eine Tante sagt zu mir;
Nichte, gieb dich doch zufrieden;
Danke Gott dasz es der Stamm nicht ist;
Es sind ja nur zwei kleine Sweisen.

13

Es verfloszten wieder Jahren;
Freud und Leiden verwechseln sich;
Endlich auch der Stamm erkrankte;
Und auf mir lag Angst und Quall.

14

Wir suchten Hülfe, Bei Gott und Menschen;
Nirgends fand sich Hülfe mir;
Bis Der liebe Heiland kam;
Und Ihm in den Himmel nahm.

15

Nun kam auch für mich die Leidens Zeit;
Die schwer warren zu Überwinden;
Allein und doch nicht ganz allein;
Stand Ich mit meine sechs Kinder.

16

Nun verfloszen wieder Jahre;
Noth und Kummer war die Zeit;
Und Ich mich zum zweiten mal vermählte;
Mit Johannes Kraemer.

17

Als ich war sechs Jahr zurück;
Die Heimath hab verlossen;
Und die lange groszen Reise;
Über den Ocean zu machen.

18

Jetzt sind wir in Amerika;
Doch da ist nicht vollkommens;
Da hört mann nichts als Mord und Streit;
Von Brand und ungerechtichkeit;

19

Nun, wasz soll Ich jetzt noch wünschen;
Nichts als nur die Seligkeit;
Treuer Heiland gieb mir Gnade;
Und mache mich dazu bereit.

The following is a translation of a poem, written by my great grandmother Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer, in her fiftieth year. In the German, most verses are written in rhyme. In the translation to English, the rhyming is lost. It is therefore written as a story, so that the original thought is not lost.

By Albert J. Ruth.

When I think of all the events which have occurred over the past fifty years, it takes me back to the time when I was born. My birthplace was Kriegsheim, Rhine Hessen near the beautiful Rhine River. I still have a brother and some friends living there today.

It was there that I spent my childhood days that were all so joyous, happy and carefree. It is a pity that our childhood days are so short. They are the most precious days of one's life here on earth.

When I was twelve years old, my parents moved to Upper Bavaria and then I was a stranger in a strange land. Here I lived as a youth and spent my teen aged years. They were also joyous, happy and carefree and I knew nothing about heartaches and grief.

At the age of twenty one, I was married and took my rightful place beside my husband. I left the home of my parents and went to the home of my husband. We spent four joyous and happy years together and then my beloved mother was called to her eternal home in heaven.

This was the first grief and bereavement I had to endure. I cried many times while visiting the grave of my mother.

Things went along smoothly for a while and then I was struck by some more grief. My sister said to me, "Sister, calm yourself and be contented".

"Sister, console yourself and believe that God, who has given you these children and has also taken them away and laid them in an early grave, has taken them into a better land."

Believe that God knows just why he has taken your two small children from your side and removed them from this God-forsaken world where the people do not do the things which please God.

I sat in deep thought for a long while and cried, I feel this grief but when I ask God to comfort me, I do not feel it. Today I thank God and rejoice that he has taken them out of this misery.

An Aunt of mine said to me, "My Niece, do console yourself and thank God that it was not the trunk of the tree (husband) that was lost, it was only two of the little branches.

Since then, a number of years have passed, intermingled with joy and sorrow. Finally, the main trunk of the tree (husband) began to complain of feeling ill and I was worried and afraid.

We sought help from God and man, but not a single thing seemed to help. His condition grew worse until the Saviour came and took him to his home in heaven.

Now, it was my turn to carry the entire burden of grief and sorrow. I was alone and yet not alone, for I had six small children.

Several years have passed again, all filled with distress and trouble. I was married a second time to Johannes Kraemer.

Six years ago, we left our home in Upper Bavaria, and prepared for the long trip across the ocean and to make our new home in America.

Now we are in America, but up to now, very little has been accomplished. It seems that the only things we hear about are, murder and strife, mortification and unrighteousness.

Now, what more shall I wish for, a firm stand for true happiness and eternal bliss. My dear God, give me clemency and help me to be prepared for my call to be taken to my home on high.

Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer.
Summerfield, Illinois, April 10, 1858.

HISTORY OF THE RUTH FAMILY

On the following pages is a literal translation of the History of the Family, David Ruth, my father, as written by him and my mother in the preceding pages of this book.

Per Jacob E. Ruth.

The original History written in the german language by David Ruth and his wife, Katherine Strohm Ruth, along with the english translation made by his son, Jacob E. Ruth, are kept in the Historical Library of Bethel College at North Newton, Kansas.

The interpolations are by Jacob E. Ruth.

In December of the year 1819, my father, Gerhard Ruth, and Family migrated from the Rhine District to Upper Bavaria.

In the District of Dachau, he bought the farm named "Eichstock" consisting of 140 (german) acres of meadow and timberland for 4800 Guilder.

Of his seven children, one son and two daughters married during his lifetime. To the two younger sons he deeded the Homestead in even parts and these two sons had to pay to each of their younger sisters the sum of 1500 Guilder from their father's inheritance.

The part of the farm which brother John took was valued at 3800 Guilder. The dwellings and the rest of the buildings were finished with the exception of the pig sty which he built.

My share of the parental farm was charged to me at 4800 Guilder because it contained more buildings and the Distillery was also in my portion, how-ever the dwelling was in very poor condition.

On the second of March 1834 my father died before a complete will was made, which cost us many trips and money until in the spring of 1836 when the land was deeded to us and my brother John was married.

From 1835 I kept house with my mother and sister until 1837 when I married Katherine Strohm on May the twenty first.

Foot Note:

The year 1834 was a very dry one with a scarcity of feed, grain did fairly well, rape very well and we got 300 Florin for twelve Schoeffel.

1838-1840

In the year 1838 soon after the New Year brother John and I, began digging a well in his yard, about eight steps from the gable of his house. Toward evening at a depth of about 18 yards, we struck water but as there was only six yards of solid earth on top, and below only dry sand, which caved in as soon as they dug below it, they were compelled to line the well with boards, but as quite a lot of sand had

caved in, they filled in the space behind the boards with some straw.

When they had walled up six yards from below, the boards were to be taken out, but the pressure of the sand against this straw, was too strong, it crushed these boards in, and one of the men, N. Mueller from Walzhof, was caught and covered and only after eight dangerous hours was released, so digging was abandoned and the well was filled in.

On the eighth of May, a son was born to us, named John.

In the spring and summer of this year, we built the home, and we made the brick in our brick kiln, bought wood, lumber, at Steinkirchen. Had the window frames made. In the fall we bought some lime.*

Tuesday the seventh day of May 1839 the old house was torn down and on the thirtieth day of August, we moved into the new house. It cost us in cash, 1500 Guilder without the stone and brick and not counting the labor, which we did ourselves.

On April the twenty second 1840, a daughter was born to us, named Susanna, and during that time the mother suffered with a sore breast with pus flowing from the sore and it was fully two months before she recovered, but the child had to be weaned.

* Foot Note: In August of 1914 in company with my wife Gussie, we visited at the old home twenty four miles from Munich while we were held up there a week on account of the World War. Per Jacob E. Ruth.

1841-1844

In May 1841 building of a Church was begun by the Congregation of sixteen families. The building cost 2500 Guilder. They had no outside contributions or help and on the fourteenth of November, the Church was dedicated.

The day before this, namely on the thirteenth of November, our daughter Barbara was born.

On the eighteenth of September 1842, grandmother Elizabeth Ruth passed away at the age of seventy four

years, her disease was Typhoid Fever. As she was in our home, nearly everyone in the house had an attack of this disease due to contagion, some more and some less, resulting in more deaths, namely in the John Ruth family. A maid and a man servant and his oldest son, aged seven years. In 1843, our Congregation was enlarged by Jacob Krehbiel of Obererlach who in that summer moved here from the Palatinate.

On December the thirtieth of that year, a son was born to us, named David.

In May 1844, our Congregation was again enlarged by Johannes Krehbiel in Schwabenhausen. Moved here from his home in Weierhof in the Palatinate.

A few weeks afterwards, namely on June the twenty fifth, we were struck by a terrible hail-storm. The width of the storm covered twelve miles and it passed through twenty two Sandgerichte (Townships) and the damage was unheard of large. Since we had wheat, corn and barley, which recovered in part after that hail, we had enough left for our bread that year.

Foot Note: In May 1842 we bought eleven Tagenwerk (cords) of Schlagbares Holz (wood) and lumber, for 2600 Guilder, used on our outbuildings (most likely my father's and Uncle John's homes) which were all connected in one large hollow square. The dwellings being joined end to end.

1845-1847

The winter of 1845, brought us a snow average of two feet deep, it covered the ground and stayed on the ground from Christmas until in March.

On Easter Monday it began to melt and in three or four days, it was gone. The snow and water from the melted snow ruined much grain in the fields that the price of grain of all kinds advanced very much.

October twenty eighth of this year, our daughter Katherine was born.

The year of 1846 again brought hail-storms in our vicinity, but thanks to God, we were not struck. It poured less than a mile north of us and ruined the

fields. This year was a fortunate one for us and we realized 2278 Guilder out of our grain, cattle and distilled liquor. In the spring of this year, sister and sister-in-law, Susanna, married Franz Hahn from Vierholzen Pfaffenhofen Palatinate. She received her parental inheritance from us, namely, 1500 Guilder which we had partly given her since our marriage and now, through God's blessing could give her entirely.

This spring we also had our cow stable walled in which cost us considerable money and labor.

In the fall of 1846 the distillery was changed to a machine distillery, and this cost 250 Guilder. The machine became a great convenience in as much as it aided us, in that year we had many potatoes to save, these from disease, which attacked the potatoes, to utilize these in our distillery, for making liquor, whereas, most every one else lost their potatoes.

1847-1848

In April 1847, it rained almost continuously so that the acts could not be done until May. In the early part of this month it cleared off and remained clear. The yield from the fruit this year was extraordinary fine, finer than anyone could remember.

Apples and pears and small fruit, as berries for instance, were so fine and large that it was a pleasure. The price of grain was high, the harvest was a blessed one, for from twenty six quarters (acres) of wheat, we threshed thirty seven Schoeffel.

On the twenty seventh of June of that year, our son Heinrich was born.

At Christmas time that year, a threshing machine arrived from America, which ten families had ordered which cost us 350 Guilder without freight. It worked admirably well, and we had the privilege to operate it in Bavaria for five years. Our receipts that year were 1074 Guilder.

The year 1848 politically was one of many changes and revolutions in all of the Sections and Cities of Germany. On March twenty second, many changes took

place in Munich. In the law, the privilege of hunting was taken from the hunters and given to the farmers. The tenth was taken from the Priests. Courts were established, and the Freedom of the Press was annulled. King Ludwig 1st. of Bavaria, resigned in favor of his son Maximilian the Second, of Bavaria. On March the twenty first in Frankfurth a parliament was established to represent the people but it was not well regarded and was later annulled.

We were greatly worried, as we were in a strange country and not Catholics, and feared that we might be driven from our house and homes or killed, yet we were not obliged to suffer physically neither, nor none heard an enemy, had no burdens or expenses to bear, nevertheless the desire to emigrate to America became more alive and surer.

On the twenty sixth day of November our son Jacob was born.

The year 1848 was a blessed one for grain and potatoes.

Foot Note: In this year 1848 on January the ninth brother Jacob died in Harreszelle, left three sons and three daughters, the oldest son thirteen years.
1849-1852

In August of this year, we got a pump from Munich with cast iron wheels and pipes, for an old well in our yard, located in the distillery, the price was 200 Guilder. The cost of which we bore alone.

When we cleaned out this old well, it developed that it did not yield over six pails of water, so we decided that this well was not worth the pump, so we did not install it.

Before Christmas 1850, we began for a second time to dig us a well near the house, but in a different place from the first. With a great cost and work we brought it to a depth of 112 feet, walled up entirely, but struck no water, therefore abandoned it and covered it over.

On October the twenty eighth 1850, our daughter

Marie was born.

On February the tenth 1851, our good friend John Krehbiel of Schwabenhausen sold his property to emigrate to America.

On March twenty first, he and his family and Henry Ruth and two Berger children, left for Augsburg. The loss of this friend, out of our midst, seemingly was the signal to leave as everybody offered his property for sale and did not want to stay any longer.

In regard to the farm yield of this year, it was fair, but the extra-ordinary vicious weather partly injured it.

Just a few days after this friend left, brother-in-law Jacob Leisy of Fraenking sold his home in order to emigrate to America, but promised the friends and relatives, to wait until the following spring, while during the intervening time, he might have some traveling companions. In the meantime, he lived with brother Henry Strohm on the Schwaig.

1852

On the eleventh of February 1852, we with brother John, sold our farms to Daniel Springer of Allersbach for 19,500 Guilder without inventory of the household goods, which remained with the house with the exception of a few articles. Of this amount, we drew in advance, 800 Guilder as our buildings were worth much more than those of my brother John's.

With interest on money loaned, 1852, and sale of our home and all, we had a total of \$4,500.00.

On the tenth day of February, sister Barbara Ruth (widow) sold her farm, but before she left to go to America, she married John Kraemer of Oberfloersheim.

Beginning of February, Jacob Krehbiel of Obererlach, had also sold his farm, also my brother-in-law John Weber of Einsassen, sold about the same time so that there were now six families footloose, but the Kraemers and the Webers were not ready so they had to embark on another vessel which arrived five weeks later here.

After our business was all in order and we were ready, we left on May the twenty eighth, 1852, after we had spent several days with our relatives on the Schwaig. We also spent several days at Mannheim.

On the second of June we left on a steamboat down the Rhine for Worms, where the people from Weierhof, who became our fellow travellers, came aboard our steamboat. Here, we saw our Offstein relatives for the last time and then we left for Cologne (Köln). Here we stayed all night and then left for Le Harve. Here we had to wait several days before we could embark. This however, was very good for our old father (Grandfather Strohm) who was very weary, as a result of the journey. We feared that he might not be able to undertake this long sea voyage, however, by the time the ship sailed, he had recovered sufficiently to go aboard, which was on June the eleventh, 1852. As our vessel was large, with around seven hundred people aboard, it could not leave here on this day because of the neap tide, and we did not sail until six o'clock P.M. on the twelfth. Our ship had to be towed by a steamboat for some time when leaving.

As our traveling companions we had of our people, brother-in-law Jacob Leisy, brother John Ruth and Family, Jacob Krehbiel and his Family, Marie Eger, Gerhard Dahlem, his sister Maria, Leisy's brother John, and sister, Katherine, Jacob Vogt, the latter three single. Marie Hahn with her son and daughters, also Christian Springer, the son of the buyer of our Home, (single) John Lehmann, tailor, came from Baden, also our Father Strohm.

The first few days we had to sail against strong winds, resulting in nearly all getting sea-sick. Our ocean trip took fifty two days and during this time, twelve or thirteen died, namely, an old man, an old woman, brother-in-law Leisy's sister Katherine died of Typhoid Fever. A boy of twelve years and another child, and other children.

God whose almighty hand had guided us and led us,

protected us against this bad Typhoid epidemic for since Leisy's sister had lain in our beds, we might easily been attacked by it, but thanks be to God, we passed through it all unscathed.

Finally on the fourth day of August we arrived at New York, after fifty two days journey on the ocean.

On the sixth we continued our journey to Buffalo. Here we visited Aunt Anna Frei, sister of our Mother Strohm. We crossed Lake Erie and again had reason to thank God, for in Buffalo, Cholera was prevalent.

John Lehmann, father of five children, died on the boat on the way from Buffalo to Cleveland, after an illness of less than ten hours. He was buried on the shore of Lake Erie close to Cleveland. After Lehmann died, our son David had an attack of cholera too but an American physician used strenuous methods to stay the disease, and by the help of God, was well again after twelve hours.

Insert:

I want to mention several instances that occurred during the journey, which are not mentioned. Because railroads were few in Europe, we had to drive overland a part of the way. While doing so, there were a large number of people in the party, my oldest brother John, then in his fourteenth year, was riding with two men in a smaller conveyance. At about three o'clock one morning, we stopped at a place to change the horses, on leaving there, brother failed to get in the wagon with the men and they supposing that he had gotten into one of the other wagons with the children, had started off without him. As a result he was left standing alone in a strange town at three o'clock in the morning. He took off his shoes, threw them over his shoulder and started on a run after the party. When he came to where the road forked he fortunately took the right road and finally at eight o'clock P.M. came to the next change station, twenty five miles, where his father was waiting for him, having not missed him until they again stopped to

change teams. And again, while stopping in New York, sister Susan, then twelve years old, was playing in front of the Hotel or Boarding House where the folks stopped temporarily, when a woman passed by, stopped and being attracted by sister Susans general appearance, (for she was well developed for her age,) she offered the girl some candy or other inducement, if she would come with her and taking hold of sisters hand, started dragging or pulling sister Susan along against her will, the other girls, who had started with her, became alarmed and went back and told the folks about what had happened to sister Susan.

The Landlord rushed to the door just in time to see the woman about to turn the corner into another street, he gave a shrill whistle, the woman looked around, saw him motioning to her, let go of sisters hand and ran away and sister returned.

John Lehmann who died on Lake Erie of Cholera was grandfather of Emil and Edgar Lehmann, now of Geary, Oklahoma.

While the widow, grandmother of the above, was on the way overland from Peoria, Ill. to Burlington, Iowa with her five children, the youngest, a boy died in her arms and she carried him so all day until they came to the next stopping place where they finally buried him by the roadside.

So much for what does not appear in the record book.

While on the overland journey to Burlington, Iowa Marie the youngest was taken ill and also our father Strohm was very weak, so at Peoria, we had a Doctor treat them both, but his treatment had no affect for the betterment. From Peoria we went by stage to Burlington, Iowa (Railroads were few there in that western country, for Illinois was west then.)

There we engaged teams and Farmers who brought us to West Point, Lee County, Iowa.

Our chests, (there were 12 or so about two by two by five feet) we left in Peoria, and then hired some teams in West Point, Iowa to go and get them.

On Monday evening the twenty third of August 1852 by candle light we arrived at West Point, Iowa. Many friends and acquaintances surrounded and welcomed us and how pleasant was the feeling and knowledge that we finally had reached the end of our one fourth year long, tiresome and trying journey. We recruited a house in West Point and lived there until January the seventh, 1853.

On the tenth day we lived at West Point, father Strohm died quite suddenly, which we surely did not anticipate, for after being so weak during the journey and the first few days after we arrived at West Point, he began to feel better but on September the second, 1852 at noon, he died quite suddenly. Dropsy had evidently hastened his death, connected with his weakness due to old age. He lies buried in the Methodist Cemetery at West Point, Iowa.

A gravestone with his name, John Strohm, and date of his death, marks his grave. He was born on July the sixteenth in the year of 1781.

The disease of our child, Marie, continued to get worse, she did not like to take medicine the Doctor prescribed for her. All of the rest of us were ill, John and Barbara became the ague for three months and not until after three months, when we moved out to our farm did they get well entirely. Sister Leisy had a fever for a long time, but finally got well again and the rest of us soon regained our health again. With the exception of our Marie, who for the first weeks we were in West Point, had the ague but soon after, it became dropsy and suffered much until on December ninth when she departed quietly at seven o'clock in the evening. Her earthly remains lie buried by the side of Grandfather Strohm at West Point.

She was born on October the twenty eighth 1850 at Eichstock, Bavaria, was two years old at the time of her passing away.

John Ruth bought his farm on December the twenty-seventh, 1852, and moved there at the end of March.

On December the twenty eighth, 1852 we bought our farm of 200 acres, 105 acres fenced and under cultivation and 95 acres of timber land for \$2,400.00.

1853

On January the seventh 1853 we moved here and began in the name of God our Saviour to farm on our new home. Up to April the seventh of that year, we lived with the American Family from whom we purchased the farm when they moved to Oregon. There were nine of us, plus the Family of McQuire from whom we bought the land. We all lived in the one story brick house of three rooms and a hallway, do not know how many there were in the McQuire Family.

Mother with her two sisters and their husbands went to St. Louis to visit friends there, and they returned home safely on April the tenth.

Soon after, I became the ague and was afflicted with this most of the summer, even long after the disease had practically ceased, yet after each physical exertion I had pain in my joints and weakness in general.

In January 1853, brother-in-law Kraemer bought a farm and moved upon it on the eighth of February.

Brother-in-law Leisy did not like it here and decided to move to Illinois and left in May with his wife and household goods for there. He bought a farm near Lebanon, Illinois. (Really near Summerfield.)

On the twentieth day of June 1853, brother-in-law Peter Strohm arrived here from Germany. We had hoped dearly that brother Henry would also come along, but he did not, it is so, and he is there and Leisy is in Illinois, only God knows, and I say nothing.

Foot Note: About in February 1853 our Susan had a disease of the breast but it soon became well again. On May the twenty ninth, Dahlems came from Germany.

He went to Summerfield, Illinois and on the way to St. Louis on the steamboat from Keokuk, when they were only a few miles from St. Louis, lost their son Daniel, who fell into the river and was drowned.

Beginning of July our friends from Illinois came, namely, Micheal Kraemer, his wife, and his youngest daughter, Pletscher, Christian Baer and Jacob Lehmann from Bavaria, who had all come across the ocean with Peter Strohm, and who remained in St. Louis with his brothers-in-law. After these had visited the friends here and they were on their way home, brother-in-law Leisy's brother John accompanied them to go to his brother in Illinois. A few miles from Keokuk, while on the steamboat on it's way to St. Louis, he met his death in the waves of the Mississippi River.

Our harvest this year, was very good, considering the poor preparation of the land due to the extreme amount of rainfall this spring. Spring wheat, corn and oats yielded a good crop, also our fruit orchard yielded a hundred and seventy bushels of apples plus the clover we cut. In general, we have very much to be thankful for to God, since our arrival here. Praise be to his name, who blessed us in earthly goods. Oh, that our hearts may be turned to him, and we receive his spiritual blessing fully too, for if we do not let his goodness toward us lead us and make us thankful, he will come with the rod, so we give the Creator thanks for all. If only it will lead us toward our eternal home in heaven.

On the fourth of October, 1853, our son Gerhard Benjamin was born to us.

1854

End of March, brother-in-law Peter Strohm and I, went to Illinois to visit our relatives and returned safely. My brother-in-law Peter had been complaining prior to this time and he became gradually worse and it developed he had consumption, and though the Doctors spoke hopefully of his recovery he kept getting worse until on August the sixteenth the Dear Saviour took him home. He is happy in his heavenly home, but it was a severe blow for his sorrowful wife and five minor girls. The Lord however, will take care of the widow and the orphans. Father and his word are sure

and true, Amen.

The fruit crop in our orchard this year was very light. The harvest was medium. In this year 1854 our Church was begun in Franklin Township (About twenty one miles from us by the highway) upon John Kraemers land. The same year, we built a stone house upon our home place, in addition to the brick house. It cost \$160.00 not counting the cost of our labor.

This was the driest year since we came here and the heat was unheard of.

1855

In the spring of 1855 brother-in-law Kraemer with others, among whom was our Susan were in Summerfield Illinois to visit. On April the eighteenth and nineteenth, a thunder-storm with hail passed over us and nearly all of our windows were ruined. In fact all on the west and north sides of the house. Several barns and homes were unroofed, but the grains in the fields were too small to be damaged.

In this year on September the eighth 1855 our son Christian Emanuel was born but after ten weeks which were a time of suffering for the mother and child, the Lord took the latter to his eternal home (rest) on November the sixteenth 1855, and a few days later namely on November the twenty sixth, John Ruth was taken home, after eight days of severe and painful illness. His disease was a combination of pneumonia and Typhoid Fever. He left his widow and the seven children.

In this year, in spite of the lasting dry weather we had an extra-ordinary fine harvest to hope for but it was the all wise Father's will, to let us see the possible fine crops in view and then to take it away to show us that it is not due to our skill, so that we might not boast of our skill, while all the credit for our good crops is due to him to whom honor is due.

About two weeks before the harvest a small insect that they called bugs (probably chinch bugs) came in

millions and covered the ground, even in the houses they covered the walls, and we were all inclined to feel sorrowful, for they reminded us of the Egyptian Plague. They attacked the very fine looking stand of wheat and in a few days, sapped this so that it lost it's strength, bleached to a deadly color and it soon was evident that only a few grains remained in the heads. This was not general throughout this section, our farm, seemed to be one of those most afflicted. Oats too, yielded but a very little, but we had some pretty good corn that produced an abundant return.

About harvest time, a continuous wet weather set in, so that it was difficult and tiresome to harvest and take care of the grain. But thanks and praise be to the Lord, for he has kept us and taken care of us and his will be done with us in the future.

Our orchard in this year, yielded so well that we could sell \$115.00 worth of apples plus those we had for our own use in the winter months.

At the end of October 1855, I and brother-in-law Kraemer, were again in Illinois to visit. Ague was prevalent there, also in Iowa, there were some cases more than in other years, but not nearly as many as there were in Illinois.

The winter of 1855 and 1856, was the first fearfully cold winter since we came here. The snowdrifts covered staked and ridged rail fences until people drove diagonally across the fields regardless of the rail fences.

1856-1857

In 1856 we bought a reaper (McCormick) to cut our grain and it did so well that besides our own grain, we cut some for our neighbors and earned \$48.00. The reaper cost us \$167.00. The harvest this year was a little better than in the preceding year, especially barley, which was the first crop of which we sowed. It yielded well, we sowed six bushel and yielded 150 bushels and sold three bushels for \$4.00. Apples, we picked only enough for our own use.

The winter of 1856-1857, was the second one that was so extra-ordinary cold. It was in this year that we built our stable for our horses, it accommodated seven or eight and it cost us \$100.00. We helped the builder and earned \$100.00. We also dug our cistern this year. On June the sixteenth, sister Marie Leisy of Illinois came and visited us for eight days.

On the eleventh of April 1856, my brother-in-law, John Kraemer and his family moved to Illinois.

This winter, which was very severe, began a month earlier than usual, with the result that we entered the winter of 1857 with a small supply of fodder for our cattle and it lasted a month longer than usual, so it was a very sad year for the cattle, some died soon, while others lasted until spring. Warm thawing weather set in on February the ninth to the twelfth, causing flood waters everywhere, doing much damage. Human lives as well as the lives of many cattle were lost, fields were washed out, watermills were washed away and a lot of other damage was done.

Every ditch and hollow was filled with mire, that was slow in drying, and later, when the cattle were turned out to forage, many of them lost their lives in those mires or bogs, or, by disease caused by the cold and poor food or the lack thereof. We too, lost seven head, mostly oxen and calves.

1857

On May the fourth 1857, John and Barbara went to Illinois on a visit and came back safely after fourteen days. A week later, brother-in-law Kraemer came to finish some business.

As a result of the long lasting and severe cold weather, the spring seeding was delayed for so long that the weak faith of humanity was inclined to believe that there would be no harvest this year, but the Lord again proved to be the Almighty and showed that He can make much out of little, the same as he did over 1800 years ago, for where it seemed that a few weeks ago, as if there would not be one head of

grain, now stands the most promising wheat, and the corn that was planted so late, and it was very backward, and we had almost given it up because of the droughth, now on the seventh of August, the Dear God sent in a thunder-storm, with heavy rains which continued for three days and now again it is warm. May the Lord be praised for his goodness everlasting and Thou, Heavenly Father, bless us with heavenly goods, then we will be happy in eternity, Amen.

August 9th., 1857

We got 300 bushels of apples, potatoes and other vegetables were also very plentiful.

On the twenty seventh of August 1857, our daughter Marie Amelia was born.

On the fourth of November, my wife and I and our youngest son, Gerhard, went to Illinois to visit our relatives. The daughter of my oldest brother, Jacob, who had been here on a visit since August, went with us to her parents in Illinois. We had planned to return home by the last of November, but about a week before this, the weather turned so very cold so that the Mississippi River froze over so we could not return by steamboat, so we had to return by railroad which cost us much more than by steamboat. The Lord watched over us, and kept us from harm and all other dangers we were exposed to, although we became sore eyes a few days before our return journey and they lasted for some time after we got home, the disease did not become as severe as it did with many of our friends and finally, it left us without any Doctor's treatment, but, our sight was so much impaired that we have spectacles on now. All this is inclined to be burdensome, but, if it serves to our everlasting glory and glorification of God, the Lord be praised for ever-more, Amen. On November the twenty sixth we arrived at our home and found all well and happy.

1858

The winter of 1858-1859, was a very mild one but the roads became almost impassible due to much rain,

which lasted until spring and it was difficult to do the spring seeding which was delayed so very much. Hundreds of acres were left un-seeded or un-planted with corn. Corn that was planted could not be cultivated because of the moisture and died in the weeds which flourished. The farmers received little or no corn or oats, and a very poor wheat crop, (all being spring wheat then), but got some barley which yielded the best. This rainy weather lasted through-out harvest and made it difficult to cut what little was worth cutting and garner it safely.

From the middle of September until the middle of October we had nice weather, such as we were used to having at that season of the year.

Beginning of October, sister Barbara Kraemer came from Illinois for a visit and stayed for four weeks and when she left for home, our son David, and Daniel Ruth went with her to learn the carpenters trade, or rather, the cabinet making trade, with brothers Vogt in Summerfield, Illinois. Friend Michael Lehmann from Ohio was here about that same time. In September and October a comet was visible called "Donastish". When it was first visible, it was in the Northwest and it gradually moved to the Southwest, where it finally disappeared. The tail of it was longer than that of it in 1811. (I remember that people used to say that it indicated war.) It came approximately two and one half years before the war of the rebellion started.

1859

This winter again, was scarcely noticeable as far as cold weather was concerned. With the exception of several real cold days, but as a result we felt the changeable weather all the more. The rain, snow and sleet changed about, cattle out in the open suffered much. Feed was poor and towards spring was also very scarce, so many a head became mired in the dirt and died.

On February the nineteenth, a son was born to our Son-in-law Christian Krehbiel, they named him David.

On the tenth of March 1859, I made another trip to Illinois, for the purpose of buying a farm, which is so far accomplished, that I bought four lots in the town of Summerfield on March the twenty second, from Doctor Casad, in Block twenty seven, the lot numbers four, five, nine and ten, for \$140.00.

Our harvest, was a medium one. My brother-in-law Leisy came back with me for a visit and also on some business. We arrived home on March the twenty fourth and found all of our folks well and happy. In May of this year, our son-in-law Christian Krehbiel with our sanction, went to Illinois and bought 180 acres of land, ten acres of it in timber, from the American, Mr. Wakefield, for \$3,150.00 to be paid for in three annual payments. The first payment, we sent him in November by draft, \$1,000.00. The interest, Christian Krehbiel and David Lehmann, our sons-in-law paid. The latter, was married to our daughter Barbara on the twenty sixth of February 1860, and on March the thirteenth of that same year, together with Christian Krehbiel and families, moved to Summerfield Illinois to take possession of the farm together.

1860

The first part of the year 1860 was extra-ordinary dry until June. Corn, did not start until the end of May, but it grew so fast that we had an exceptional good crop that far exceeded our estimates and we got 1,200 bushels from twenty one acres.

On August the tenth 1860, Christian Krehbiel's son John was born.

Other grains, also yielded better than they promised shortly before harvest for all grain was small at that time. Apples, we sold \$110.00 worth, hogs, we sold \$85.00 worth.

On August the third, I and my wife and sister-in-law Barbara Strohm, went to Illinois on a visit. The Lord watched over us and we arrived safely with our folks on September the first. After a three weeks visit, with Gerhard Vogt and his wife, accompanying

us, we returned to our home, safe and sound.

On the eleventh of October, Mr. Wakefield received \$800.00 through Gerhard Vogt, and later, a draft for \$275.00 on January the twenty fifth 1861, so now two payments on the farm are made.

1861

On the sixteenth of March 1861, Christian Krehbiel and Uncle John Kraemer came from Illinois to get some horses and left again on the twenty sixth, the same month.

On March the twenty fourth 1861, our son John was married in the Zions Church to Eliza Strohm. He went to live at the home of his mother-in-law and farmed her land.

On June the first of this year, came a flying insect, which people here called Locust Bugs. This was the first time they appeared since we are here. They say that they appear every seventeen years. This insect came in on the apple trees that we feared they would harm the trees, however, this did not seem to be the case, for we got a goodly quantity of apples. For a month they hung around on the trees and filled the air with their shrill cry of "Pharou-Pharou".

On October the eighteenth, Preacher Jacob Krehbiel (Erlocher Krehbiel) died of Dysentery and inflammation of the bowels. This was a sad occasion for our Congregation. On December the eighth 1861, Preacher Christian Schowalter, was installed as Preacher of our Church.

On the thirteenth of December, our son David came home from Illinois. On March the twenty fifth, father went to Illinois, took our son Henry along, to work for his brother-in-law Christian Krehbiel, and then brought our daughter Katherine along home with him.

1862

On June the fourteenth, mother and I, made a trip to Missouri, to deal the Lord's Supper to several of the Families there. The weather was very hot and dry with continued hot and dry weather.

On October the twenty fifth, 1862, brother-in-law Kraemer and wife, went to Germany. She was not well and they stayed over there until the fall of 1863. Her health was good up to the time of her departure for home, but she was sick all of the way home. They came back home in November and on the twenty seventh of January in the year of 1864, she passed away.

On the fourth of November 1862, Brother Hege as a travelling minister, arrived in Iowa, and the Zions Church raised \$400.00 for the Mennonite College at Wadsworth, Ohio. On November the ninth, he left here and on his return to Summerfield, Illinois, was taken sick with Typhoid Fever and was taken to his heavenly home on November the thirtieth, 1862. With sorrow in general, the report of his death was received at the Zions Church, eight days later. Many people of our Congregation had expected majestic results from the efforts of this man, but the way of the Lord is wonderful and hidden from our eyes, he gives and he takes after his own will. Praise and Honor his name.

On November the twentieth, our son John, with his wife and child moved into the stone house and looked after our farm and we then received one third of the crops that were raised on our land.

1863

On March the nineteenth 1863 our son-in-law David Lehmann of Illinois came and got two horses. On April the twenty sixth, mother and I, together with our daughters, Katherine and Malchen went to Illinois to spend the summer with our children. We stayed with Christian Krehbiel and spent several pleasant, happy and blessed months and on August the tenth, returned home. Again, the Lord watched over us on our journey and we found all of our loved ones well and happy.

Father Ruth was chosen as a delegate to the General Conference at Summerfield, which convened there on October the nineteenth, 1863. He left here on the fourteenth, with him, daughter Katherine, and Eliza, John's wife, and many other Iowa friends. With them

on their return were six brothers, who came from the East, among these were brothers, J. H. Oberholzer, Hoch, Stauffer and others. On November the first, a mission celebration was held at the Zions Church, the first one. And by the way, the General Conference at Summerfield, was also the first one to be held by the Mennonites of the United States of America.

Soon after this, father was taken very sick which lasted all of this month, so that we thought his end was near, but the Lord heard our prayers and he recovered, but since then, he has been very weak. This was the beginning of a time of suffering and trial for us, for our son Gerhard developed a swelling of the joints, and we had to have a doctor for several months until the swelling disappeared.

1864

On February the twenty sixth, our son Henry came home from Illinois, and son John went there, who together with his brothers-in-law, Christian Krehbiel and David Lehmann, bought 80 acres of prairie for his share at \$26.00 per acre and in March came back with his sisters, Susan and Barbara, the latter had her five months old daughter with her. After a several weeks visit, they returned home. Our son Jacob, had gone there in March 1864, to work for our son-in-law Christian Krehbiel.

Foot note: He was paid \$7.00 per month and worked from twelve to fourteen hours per day.

On April the fourth 1864 our daughters, Susan and Barbara, together with our son, Henry, returned to Summerfield, Illinois, the latter to go to work for his brother John, on his new farm.

On April the fifth, John's wife, Eliza, was taken ill with pneumonia and was sick for a month and had to wean the baby, but the Lord again allowed her to re-gain her health.

On the sixteenth of April, our daughter Marie, we called her Malchen, was taken ill with pneumonia, her condition fluctuated, sometimes better, some-

times worse, but suffered much pain. The right side of her breast swelled up and on June the seventeenth, burst open and much pus flowed from it, as a result, she suffered no worse pain, but was a crippled child for the affected side of her breast was sunken in while the other stood out. And so with the early summer, and in addition the heat of summer, sorrow and suffering came more trouble, for on the fourteenth of June, our daughter Katherine, fell from the wagon and became dangerously ill with cramps, but after several weeks she re-covered entirely, and our Marie could be up and around again, and it seemed as if the Sun was to shine again after the thunder-storm, so to say, but these were not all passed as yet.

On the sixth of July, 1864, father left again for Illinois, mother and Gerhard, accompanied him as far as the steamboat at Keokuk and then drove back home. It was very hot.

On July the twenty seventh, father re-turned from Illinois, accompanied by his sister, and her husband Jacob Dahlem, also mother Krehbiel. The Lord watched over them and brought them safely through. On July the twenty ninth, our son John's second daughter became ill and on the first of August, she passed away at the age of eight months. On the first day of August 1864, our daughter Malchen, was again taken ill, this time, with dysentery, the Physician gave us no hope as she was still very weak from her recent illness, seven days later, our daughter Katherine, was also attacked by the same disease, and after another seven days, mother also with the same, and there was no one to take care of the sick but the feeble old father and ten year old Gerhard. Our two oldest daughters were in Illinois, and with them two younger sons, Henry and Jacob. The next oldest, David, was working in Cleveland, Ohio, as a carpenter. Only our friends and our niece, Barbara Ruth, who stayed with us until the sick had all recovered. All except our

Malchen who passed away toward evening on August the twenty fourth 1864, at the age of two days less than six years. Katherine and my mother were unable to go to the funeral on account of being sick.

On the twentieth of May 1864, we sold part of our timber at \$18.00 per acre, for we wanted to sell out and move to the State of Illinois.

Here the Family Record, or History ends as far as recorded by my father and my mother.

They sold the farm in the spring of 1865 and then moved to Summerfield, Illinois to make their home on the Wakefield farm, which my father and mother had bought. It adjoined the town of Summerfield. About this same time my year of servitude with brother-in-law, Christian Krehbiel, expired, so I came home and began to work on the home farm until in the spring, early in the year of 1867, when my father died.

The end.

A DESCRIPTION AND STORY

OF

THE RUTH FAMILY BIBLE

HERRN DOKTOR MARTIN LUTHER
(Seal)

TRANSLATED 1522 TO 1545

PERMISSION GRANTED FOR 5 COPIES

BY

ROMAN KAISER FRANCIS 1ST.

NUREMBERG

ANNO DOMINI 1767

THE RUTH FAMILY BIBLE

There have been several versions of how and when this Bible came into the Ruth Family, so, by the use of logic and material we find in the Bible, we can, by simple deduction, supply the correct one.

King Francis 1st. 1494-1547; was the second last of the Holy Roman Emperors, being the King of France from 1515 to 1547.

Doctor Martin Luther, 1483-1546. Of Doctor Martin Luther we can say that he did not necessarily print the first german Bible. Doctor Martin Luther was the man who gave the german people the german Bible. He was a master of the language and translated from the Hebrew and Greek texts.

It is said that the first Bible printed in german appeared in Augsburg in the year of 1475. There were others printed, some in low german and some in high german, but they all were very large and cumbersome and were printed from the Latin Vulgate text. Aside from being grossly misunderstood, the price was far too high for the average person to purchase one.

Near the close of the year of 1521, after having translated seven of the penitential Psalms, Luther conceived the idea of translating the entire Bible. He started on the New Testament which was printed in Wittenberg by Hans Lufft. In 1523 he started on the five books of Moses and followed with the balance of the books of the Old Testament, completing his task in the year of 1534.

King Francis 1st. granted the permission to print five copies from Doctor Martin Luther's translation.

THE BIBLE KNOWN AS THE RUTH FAMILY BIBLE

This Bible was printed in Nuremburg, Anno Domini, 1767. It is not one of the original five copies that were printed by permission of King Francis 1st.

All of the old Family Bibles were printed with a special section, usually placed between the Old and

New Testaments, for the purpose of recording all the family data, such as births, marriages and deaths. A check of this section shows that the first entry was made by one Daniel Rupp of Harxheim on the Pfrimm, stating that he was married to Katherina in Harxheim on the Pfrimm on the fourteenth day after Easter in the year of 1765. This entry establishes Daniel Rupp as the first owner of this Bible. Daniel Rupp lived in Harxheim on the Pfrimm, Palatinate. (Near Worms).

This Bible was printed in 1767 so Daniel Rupp and his wife Katherina, must have purchased it about two years after their marriage, or about one year before the birth of their daughter Elizabeth, who evidently was instrumental in the transfer of the Bible to the Ruth Family, by virtue of the fact that she married Gerhard Ruth of Harxheim, the progenitor of our line of the Ruth Family. Since then, this Bible has been in the Ruth Family, being handed down in the direct lineage from one generation unto the next.

After the death of Daniel Rupp, whose wife passed away a little less than seven months previously, the Bible came into the Ruth Family. Why it was given to their daughter Elizabeth in preference to any one of the other six living children, is something that can not be explained.

Gerhard Ruth made the first entry of genealogical data covering the Ruth Family, David Ruth, his son, made the last entry.

Gerhard, together with his wife and children, two of his three sisters and their families, migrated to Upper Bavaria, to a place in the District of Dachau, where Gerhard bought the farm called "Eichstock". He naturally took the Bible with him, and that explains how the Bible got into Upper Bavaria.

Gerhard spent the rest of his life at Eichstock. He passed the Bible on to his son David, who was the minister of the Eichstock Congregation. In the year of 1852, when the Family came to America, he brought it with him and after he passed away it was given to

his son David C. Ruth. Since then it has been handed down through two more generations of David C. Ruths and at this writing, it is in the hands of the fifth generation and scheduled to go to the sixth one.

A note on one of the fly leaves in the back part of the Bible specifies that it is to be handed down in a direct lineage of David C. Ruths.

This Bible was not one that was lain upon a shelf to gather dust on it's covers. It received considerable use. In the year of 1835, when the Bible was 68 years old, Reverend David Ruth had it recovered and rebound, then used it for a period of 32 years after that. Since he was a minister, we can readily assume that the Bible received as much use in the last 32 years as it did in the first 68. In the year of 1867 the Bible was a century old and it was in this year that the Reverend David Ruth passed away. Even now, the new leather cover was worn to the point where it showed the wooden board over which the heavy leather was stitched. It has added another 96 years to it's age, so at this writing, it is 196 years old.

This Bible is a priceless relic for two reasons, first, because of it's connection with the Mennonite History, and second, it is a family heirloom.

At this writing the Bible is kept in a Bank vault in San Francisco, California.

THE GENEALOGICAL SECTION OF THE BIBLE

A typewritten copy of all the entries that appear in the Bible was made in Denver, Colorado on August the twenty seventh in the year of 1937 by Miss Edna L. Ruth, a great grand daughter of Gerhard Ruth.

The translation of the copy was made by Albert J. Ruth, a great great grand son of Gerhard Ruth.

As you read the genealogical data entered by the various families, you will note that the transition from one family to another takes place very smoothly without an abrupt break or change in registry.

RUPP

Fourteen days after Easter Sunday in the year of 1765, I, Daniel Rupp, and Katherina Linscheid, were married in Harxheim on the Pfrimm in the Palatinate. (The date is April 19, 1765)

I, Daniel Rupp, was born on November 20, 1743. My wife, Katherina, was born on February 28, 1746.

Our Children

Daughter Maria was born on June 24, 1767.

Daughter Elizabeth was born on September 1, 1768.

Son Peter was born on November 5, 1770.

Son Johannes was born on November 27, 1772.

Son Jacob was born on February 28, 1775.

Son, Stillborn on February 3, 1778.

Son Micheal was born on April 16, 1779.

Daughter Katherina was born on November 13, 1782.

Daughter Katherina died on November 30, 1786.

Son Daniel was born on July 2, 1785.

My wife Katherina passed away on April 16, 1795.

We were married for a period of three days less than thirty years.

Our Father, Daniel Rupp, passed away on November 4, in the year of 1795.

RUTH

I, Gerhard Ruth, was born on March 12, 1774.

My wife, Elizabeth, Nee Rupp, was born on September 1, 1768.

I, Gerhard Ruth, and Elizabeth Rupp, were married in Harxheim on the Pfrimm in the Palatinate on the nineteenth of August in the year of 1798.

Our son Jacob was born on June 15, 1799.

He passed away on January 9, 1848 at the age of 48 and one eighth years of age.