



THE RUTH HOME LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST 40 ACRES

This was the first of three homes located in the State of Illinois that were connected with the David B. Ruth family. Their first location in this Country was in West Point, Lee County, Iowa. The second one was on the Franklin Prairie, Lee County, Iowa. From there they came to Illinois and their first home was the one on the northwest 40, the second one was the one on the southeast 40, the third was the one north of Summerfield where David B. lived until he passed on to his eternal reward.

The first Ruth family to occupy the home north of Summerfield was the Reverend David Ruth family. They also moved here from Lee County, Iowa where they had made their first home in this Country. The Reverend David Ruth resided in this home until he passed away to receive his eternal reward.

We were fortunate to get a photograph of each of the three Illinois homes but unfortunate in the case of the homes located in Lee County, Iowa.

The photograph of this home is a view taken from the northeast corner and gives you an idea of how it looked about the year of 1908. At the time that this picture was taken, the lane leading to the house was on the north side of the house. This lane was later relocated on the south side of the house. On a later date this house was raised and placed upon a cinder block foundation. The porch on the north side of the house was removed and the entrance was relocated on the south side. Here too, a central hot air heating system was installed in the basement together with a hot and cold running water system much like the one in the home located on the southeast 40 acres.

The persons in the picture are; Henry A. Ruth and his wife Anna, their daughter Edith and Miss Bertha Auernheimer, a sister of Anna.

The team of horses and the wagon in the picture belonged to Jacob H. Ruth. The wagon is one of those bought from Philip Bauchenz, the wagon maker in the village of Summerfield, Illinois. The team of horses consisted of a bay and a white, nicknamed "Peanuts" and "Blister", in that order.

Robert Roland Ruth conceived this particular nick name for the bay because he always pricked his ears and started to run whenever he heard any cracking or grating sound of any sort. The noise annoyed him and he made an effort to get out of earshot of the sound but when he was hitched to a buggy and the occupants ate some peanuts, the cracking of the peanut shells would cause him to prick his ears and he would start to run. Since the noise was in the buggy and he was hitched to it, it was useless for him to run because the noise followed him, nevertheless, he never gave up trying, hence the name "Peanuts". I do not recall how the white horse got the name of "Blister" but it probably came from the same source for a fitting and reasonable cause. This team was thereafter known as "Peanuts and Blister" and the names stuck with them as long as they lived.

The photograph of the house is one that was taken by my brother Walter. It was taken in the early part of the summer and just after a heavy rain. Fly nets on the horses tell us it was warm and the fact that the horses tails are tied up tells us it was muddy. It was a common practice to tie up the long tails of the horses to keep them from getting all full of mud whenever the roads were muddy. This naturally saved a lot of time because it was a long job to curry and comb the caked dirt out of the horses long tail. The fly nets helped to keep the flies off of the horses.

The machine in the wagon bed, a part of which can be seen extending up over the sides of the wagon box

is a woven wire fence machine that weaves the fence as it moves along the ground. Quite a lot of fencing was woven with this machine before the improved wire fencing was placed on the market. The manufacturers developed a new method of making fences that were of a welded construction and sold under the trade name, "The Weld that Held", and after that it was cheaper to buy the manufactured fence than it was to buy the wire and weave the fence with this machine.

This large frame house and the large brick house on the southeast 40 were on a tract of land totaling 160 acres that was purchased by John Kraemer and his wife Barbara (the widow of Jacob Ruth) on April 18, 1856. On the twelfth day of April of that same year, John Kraemer with his wife Barbara and her children, left their home in Franklin Prairie, Iowa to come to Illinois to make their new home. They arrived there on the seventeenth day of April, 1856. On the first day of May in the year of 1855, John Kraemer and his wife had purchased an 80 acre tract of land that was directly west of their new 160 acre tract.

The first Mennonite Church services were held in this home. Through research we found that the first services were held on the twentieth day of April in the year of 1856. The group arrived here on Thursday the seventeenth, which was four days earlier. It was a suitable place for the services because this house had a large room that covered about one half of the area of the first floor. A week later, on the twenty seventh, services were held at the home of Christian Baer, located in Ridge Prairie, Illinois. After that they were held alternately every two weeks, first in the home of John Kraemer and the next in the home of Christian Baer. These services were continued until the group organized and built a church in 1858. The Church was dedicated on the twenty third of January, in the year of 1859.

On the twelfth day of September, 1858 there was a double wedding in this house that was attended by a

group of ninety three friends and relatives. The two bridal couples were; David B. Ruth and Maria Berger and John Eicher and Mary Ruth.

This home had a large fruit orchard located south of the house. It contained many different varieties of fruit trees. The writer remembers two of the last trees that were located in this orchard. They were two apple trees that died and were removed about the year of 1910. Some years prior to this a new orchard containing many varieties of fruit trees was planted on the north side of this house. This orchard, like many others in the area, was killed by the San Jose Scale before a suitable insecticide was available to combat the insect pest.

One of the outbuildings on this farm was a large brick barn, the only one of its kind in the area. It was razed about the year of 1950. We were unable to locate any data on just when this barn was built or why it happened to be built of brick.

During a visit with Walter Beutler, who was born in this house, we learned of an interesting and enlightening anecdote connected with the home. Walter spent a part of his boyhood days in this home and he recalled and related the following story.

The lane leading to this house was located on the north side of the house at the time. There was a row of large trees located along the north side of this lane to serve as a windbreak to protect the northern exposure of the house from the cold north winds. The large fruit orchard was located on the south side of the house. It contained a variety of several kinds of fruit trees.

On the afternoon of May the twenty seventh, 1898, a severe storm came up from the west that turned out to be a cyclone. I was in the kitchen looking out of the north window and my mother was in the northwest room on the first floor where she stood in the north west corner and begged me to come into the room and stand there too, but refused to go there. I stood by

the window and watched the force of the storm uproot the entire row of trees located on the north side of the lane. There was a wagon standing in the lane and the storm lifted the wagon box off of the wagon gear and tossed it up against the northwest corner of the house where it came to rest on the outside, a little less than a foot from the point where my mother was standing on the inside. Luckily, she was not hurt.

After the storm was over, we made an examination of the place and surroundings to see how much damage had been done. We examined the house first and found that it had been shifted from it's foundation about two inches, but other than this and the small amount of damage to the corner of the house where the wagon box struck it, the house was unharmed.

After seeing that the house was not badly damaged we checked the surrounding areas and found that the row of trees on the north side of the house and all but three of those in the orchard on the south side, were uprooted and ruined.

We had a lot of pigs and the storm tore down the fence around the pen. The pigs naturally got out and they were nowhere to be seen so we had to go out and look for them. We found all of ours and put them all back into the pen. There was one incident connected with this that we never could figure out. A few days before this storm came, we borrowed a male pig from Pfeiffer, our neighbor, and it was among our pigs at the time of the storm and while we found all of our own, we never did find the one that belonged to our neighbor, and to this day we do not know what became of it when the storm was raging.

This was the second time that this house and the surrounding area was damaged by a cyclone. The first time was on June the thirtieth in the year of 1877. This incident is covered in the History of the Ruth School.

The cyclone of May the twenty seventh, 1898 went through the southern part of the city of Saint Louis

and did extensive damage, then crossed into Illinois and practically demolished the town of Baden, only a few houses were left standing. Baden was named after Baden, Germany. It became New Baden when it was rebuilt after the cyclone demolished it.

According to stories my mother and several others who knew about it told me, Baden was a rough and un-Godly town until it was demolished by this cyclone. The people took this as an omen, a sort of Sodom and Gomorrah, mended their ways and rebuilt the town and named it New Baden.

THE OLD REED ORGAN

One interesting article connected with this house and family is an old Estey Cottage Organ. As this is being written it is in the hands of the descendants. This instrument was built in the year of 1855 by the J. E. Estey and Company of Brattleboro, Vermont. The organ has 61 keys, 36 white and 25 black and has six stops. On the back of the cabinet we find the serial number 28242. On the inside of the cabinet we find a decalcomania bearing the following information; The Estey Cottage Organs No. 53653; February 1855, S. U. by V. D., tested by Martha S. 318 C-4 LO-5.

This organ was built in the year of 1855 and soon thereafter, in all probability, it was purchased by John Kraemer and his wife (widow of Jacob Ruth) and was placed in their home located on the northwest 40 acres and probably was used there for some time. The organ later went to David B. Ruth and in this family it received a lot of use. It was now located in the Ruth home located on the southeast 40 acres. Here it remained until David B. Ruth and his family moved to the Ruth home just north of Summerfield, taking the organ with them. Counting this last move, the organ had now been located in each of the three Ruth homes one time. When Katie Ruth married Daniel Hirschler, missionary to the Indians at Cantonement, Oklahoma,

the organ went into this mission field where it was used until the death of Daniel Hirschler. The organ now came back to Illinois and was placed in the Ruth home north of Summerfield where it remained for some time until it came into the Jacob H. Ruth family and was once again in the Ruth home on the southeast 40 acres. Here it was used by the oldest son Walter. He used it until the family bought a piano and then the organ went into the Henry Albert Ruth family and it was moved back into the Ruth home on the northwest 40 acres. The organ had now been in each of the Ruth homes two times and with this last move, it was back in the home where it was first located when it came into the Ruth family for the first time.

When Henry Albert Ruth and his family moved south to Oklahoma, the organ went along and was now in the State for a second time. Here it was moved to three different parts of the State. When this family moved to the State of Kansas and made their home near the city of Halstead, they took the organ with them and it was now in this State for the first time. It next moved to Newton where it stands at this writing. The organ still plays, but it needs new bellows.

This Ruth home, like the other two, has a lot of family history connected with it. It is not possible for us to list all of the relatives who lived in the home at one time or another. The last Ruth occupant to live in this home was Henry Albert Ruth, a grandson of the original owner.

Fred Koebel bought this home and lived in it for several years until he retired and then his daughter and son-in-law lived in it. They had planned to remodel the old home but after a thorough examination, found the supporting timbers in such poor condition that they decided to build a new one. They lived in this old home until on the fifth of August, 1956 and on that day they began to raze the building and then they built a new home on the same location.

July 5, 1959. By Albert J. Ruth.



THE RUTH HOME LOCATED ON THE SOUTH EAST 40 ACRES

An item of special interest which occurred in this old Ruth Home is connected with Jacob Henry Ruth (my father.)

On the fourth day of February in the year of 1863, Jacob Henry Ruth was born in the room located on the first floor and in the south west corner of the old two story section of this old home.

On the sixteenth of January in the year of 1914, he passed away in this same room.

This home had always been a sort of mystery to me as far back as I can recall the place to mind. When I was a youngster just past the age of six years, my father remodelled both sections of this old home.

Prior to the time that this work was done, it had always given me the impression of being two separate homes built one against the other. The south wall of the north house was built right up against the north wall of the house on the south of it.

The south section was a two story structure built of brick. The north wall had one door, the east wall had four windows, the south wall, seven windows and a door leading on to a good sized porch and the west wall had two windows. There were three rooms on the first floor and two rooms and a hall on the second floor. There was a cellar under the east one half of this section, access to it was from the outside and on the east side of the house.

The north section was a one story structure, with one large room built of brick and a small room and a porch built of wood. The entire north wall was built of brick. There was a cellar under the large brick room and access to it was on the outside and on the north side of the house.

The two houses were not connected in any way. You could not go from one house to another without going outside. The same thing was true of the two cellars.

It was always my belief that the one story brick and wood structure was the oldest of the two houses, but a family history written by my great grandmother Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer, tells us that there was a house on this land when she and her husband bought it on the eighteenth of April in the year of 1856.

She also wrote that her son, David B. (my grandfather) built himself a one story house with a porch and a cellar on this land early in the spring of the year of 1859 and that he and his wife moved into it in the month of May of that same year.

It was not possible for us to establish the date of construction of the two story house on this land. A check of land grants shows that there is on file a certificate of entry, dated the fifth day of August, 1837: United States of America to William M. Moore, for this 160 acres. Sevear Roberts bought this land from William M. Moore on March the fourth, 1852. My great grandmother bought it from Sevear Roberts.

Judging from this data and other material that we located, this two story brick house could have been built as early as 1838 and not later than 1845. Both sections are over 100 years old at this writing.

In the early days there were times when more than one family lived in this house at one time. In that case, one family lived in the old section and one in the new section. The east room on the first floor of this old section was used for a kitchen and living quarters and the rest of the house was used for the sleeping quarters.

The large brick room of the new section was used for a kitchen and living quarters and the small room was used for the sleeping quarters.

THE OLD BARN

The old barn was quite a unique piece of work. It had a framework that was put together without nails. It was fit together with mortise and tenon and held

together with wooden pegs. This barn was remodelled and enlarged by my father some time after he had the old home remodelled. I do not recall the exact date. The new section, however, was not constructed in the same manner in which the old section was.

The writer often wondered who built this barn and in what year it was built. Here again, we found that the history written by my great grandmother supplied us with the answer. This barn was built in the year of 1859. David B. Ruth, my grandfather, built it and the one story house for the sum of \$600.00. He first built and completed the one story house and then the barn. This barn is still standing and in use at this writing. It is needless to add that it is no longer used for the same purpose it was when it was built. The changing times have seen to that. It used to be filled to capacity. It housed twelve horses or mules and ten cows. It also had a section for young calves to be confined in until they had been weaned.

Just inside of and to the right as you entered at the center door on the west side of the barn was the small section where the harness was hung. Each horse had a set of work harness and a collar that was hung on an oaken peg in this section. The single harness for the buggy and the double harness for the surrey with the fringe on top, was also hung here. This was much lighter and more decorative than the heavy work harness. Every winter, this harness would be given a good cleaning, repairing and oiling to have it ready for the coming work season of the following year.

Today, the old harnesses and the aroma of harness oil and dressing have disappeared. The dusty harness pegs and horse stalls are all empty. Boys and girls of today do not know a horse's friendly whinny when a barn door is opened in the morning. As this is now being written, there are still some old timers alive who can remember how their old favorite horse would come up to them and nuzzle their pockets for a lump of sugar they were sure they would get.

All of this has been forced out of the picture by the rapidly changing times and the arrival of the so called mechanical age. The horse and buggy have been replaced by the automobile and tractor and even as I am writing this, many people travel by air in their own privately owned aeroplanes. The odor of gasoline and oil have replaced the aroma of the harness oil, gasoline and oil drums have taken the place of oaken pegs and the automobile and tractor are housed in a structure that is called a garage. I have yet to see or hear a tractor or automobile whinny when you open the door of the garage or come running up to you and nuzzle you for a lump of sugar.

Gray stable blankets, and those colorful blankets for covering the horses in the winter when one went to the village, are gentle reminders of the time the speed of rapid traveling was ten miles per hour. Now we have automobiles that travel over the highways at a speed of 100 miles an hour or more, jet planes fly at a speed of more than 600 miles per hour.

When my great grandmother and her family came to America, it took them a total of forty three days to go from New York to Saint Louis. They made a trip to Milwaukee which may have added a few days. Allowing three days for this trip, it took them forty days to complete the trip from New York to Saint Louis. Just recently I went to New York City on a business trip, went on board a jet plane at Saint Louis Airport and stepped off at the International Airport at New York City in an hour and forty five minutes.

Another interesting item on this farm was the old cider mill that was operated by a mechanical device called a "Horse-power". It was made to operate with from two to eight horses. For making cider, only two horses were used. The mill was originally located on the home farm north of Summerfield and was moved out to this location from there. The cider mill was also operated for the benefit of neighbors who came quite a distance to have their cider made in this mill.

HOME MADE LAUNDRY SOAP

My mother used to make her own laundry soap. She made this according to a recipe that was handed down from generation to generation.

The soap itself would not win any prizes when one compared it with the alluring soap advertisements in household magazines and on the Radio and Television Station commercials. It served the purpose for which it was intended and it did a very good job of it.

The making of home made soap is almost a lost art in this present age of push button operation and the ready made products you get on the market. There was a time though, during the early pioneering days when every house-wife had to know how to make soap or the family had to do without it. In those days it had an extra chore connected with it, they even had to make their own lye by the process of leaching wood ashes from the fireplaces in the homes.

The ingredients used to make the soap are: grease or fats, lye and water, usually in the proportion of three gallons of water, five pounds of grease or fat and one pound of lye.

The water, grease and lye were placed in an iron kettle and the concoction simmered over a wood fire. It was stirred quite frequently, usually with an old bed slat or anything suitable for the purpose.

It usually takes about four hours of simmering to bring the mixture to a density where it "sheets off" of the stirring stick in a thick cohesive layer. Now the fire is drawn and the contents left to cool over night. The next day it is cut into suitable bars and left to dry for a few days and then it is stored for future use. One such a batch usually lasted for one year. It usually was cooked in the early spring. The reason for this being that the fats and greases used to make the soap, always accumulated much faster in the late fall and winter, especially from butchering which was always done in that season of the year.

THE OLD FRUIT ORCHARD

This farm had a good sized orchard that contained many different varieties of apple trees. Through the family history we find that this orchard was here at the time that my great grandmother bought this land. Some trees that died were replaced by my grandfather and my father. It was about the year of 1910 that a scale insect called the San Jose Scale, attacked the trees in this orchard and before we were able to get an insecticide to protect the trees, practically all of them died and had to be cut down. There were only a few of the younger trees remaining. By the year of 1913, there was very little of the old orchard left. The San Jose Scale made it's first appearance in the United States at San Jose, California. The Department of Agriculture developed an insecticide to kill this insect but it was not available in time to save the old trees in this old fruit orchard.

Some of the apples from this orchard were used to make cider, which in turn, was used to make vinegar. It was made through fermentation and this took place in the cellar under the two story house. This cellar was made with special racks to cradle the barrels of cider. Above these racks was a shelf upon which some eating apples were stored for use during the winter months. A lot of the vinegar we made was sold to our neighbors and to proprietors of the General Stores of the surrounding community.

On the thirtieth day of June in the year of 1877, a tornado passed through this area. It came in from the south west and travelled toward the north east. It struck the Ruth School and practically demolished it. It pulled off the porch railing on the Ruth Home north of the school and did some minor damage to the brick wall in the south west corner of the Ruth Home located east of the school. It cracked and weakened the walls in this corner of the house and the cracks in the masonry can still be seen at this writing.

THE FIRST REMODELING OF THE HOME

My father remodelled this house in the spring of 1907. The porch and the south wall of the small room were removed, the east roof of the new section was raised and extended to meet the east wall of the old section and closed in on the east side with a doorway at the point where the new wall met the old one. This new room was then used as a dining room.

The cellar under the new section was enlarged and a doorway cut through the foundation to connect with the cellar under the old section. A new stairway was built on the inside of the house to give access to the cellar without going outdoors. Outside entrances to the cellar were all closed off. A central hot air heating system was installed with the furnace in the cellar. A coal storage bin was constructed near the furnace, making it unnecessary to carry the coal for any great distance. A water system was installed in the house to supply hot and cold running water to a sink in the kitchen and to a lavatory and bathtub in the bathroom.

This was the first rural home in that area to be equipped with a central heating system and also the first in the area to be equipped with a water system to supply hot and cold running water in the house.

The entrance to the upstairs rooms was changed so you could go upstairs without going into the living room and the same thing was done to the room in the south west corner of the house.

A summer kitchen was built onto the north side of the house along with a wash house, with two kettles, one of iron and one of copper, mounted in masonry. The iron kettle was used to heat water and cook meat and sausage during the butchering season. The copper kettle was used to cook applebutter and preserves. A smokehouse was located right next to the kettles. At one time there was a large brick oven on this place to bake home made bread and cakes for family use.

THE SECOND REMODELING OF THE HOME

The present owner has installed a complete bathroom, added an extra wash basin and a new type sink. The system has an electrically driven water pump and a cess pool. The door to the upstairs rooms has been changed and an outside entrance to the cellar added, both of which are now in the original position they were when the house was built. The smokehouse is now a garage connected directly to the house.

This old Ruth Home has one thing in common with the one located north of Summerfield. It has housed many relatives and it would be next to impossible to make a list of all of those who lived in the home at one time or another.

We show three photographs of this old Ruth Home. The first two views were taken in the summer of the year of 1959 and they show the old home as it looked on that date. The first view shows the south side of the house or the southern exposure, the second view, being an angle shot, shows the east and south sides or the eastern and southern exposures.

We did not show the west side of these two houses because they were similar to the east walls. The one story brick structure which my grandfather built in 1859 had two windows in the west wall. The two story brick structure had two windows in this wall, one on the first floor and the other on the second floor.

The third view was taken about the year of 1910. It was taken in winter just after a heavy snow. Here you can see how the old home looked on that date. In this picture you can see the old style wooden window shutters that were on every house at that time. You can also see the numerous trees that surrounded the house and gave an abundance of shade. The largest of these trees were American Elms that grew to be quite a bit larger than they are in this picture before it was necessary to cut them down because of the Dutch Elm Disease. The last tree was removed in 1959.

This last photo is quite unique, in a sense, for it was the work of my brother Walter. He received a 4 x 5 plate camera, complete with the developing and printing outfit for the same for a Christmas present one year and he took and finished quite a number of pictures. A small dark room was built over the head of the stairway to the second floor and that was the birthplace of my brother's photography. This room is still existant at this writing but is being used for a storage space or closet instead of a dark room.

The two old Ruth Homes, one, being a quarter mile north of and the other, being a quarter mile east of the Ruth School, were not far apart when you figured the distance on the diagonal.

My two cousins, Frieda and Edith Ruth, lived in the home north of the school while the writer lived in the one located east of the school.

We used to visit back and forth, spending countless hours together at one home or the other, it did not seem to matter which one. When the time came to go home, we used to walk each other home until some one had to make the break and walk home alone.

There used to be a patch of wild strawberries on the east side of the roadway, about half way between the Ruth School and the home north of it. During the berry season, we used to pick the wild strawberries in this patch. After we had picked the ripe ones, we took them home, washed and cleaned them and then our mothers gave us some cream and sugar to put on them and we enjoyed many a dish of strawberries and cream when we were youngsters in this area. As time passed and we grew older, our numerous visits decreased and our chores at home increased. After that, our visits took place on a Sunday.

Unlike some of the youngsters of the present day, certain chores were assigned to us according to our age and ability. These chores had to be executed and if they were not carried out to the satisfaction of our parents, we had to answer for it.

THE BEGINNING OF THE MECHANICAL AGE

Things were going along normally until about the year of 1914 and from that time on, the trend toward mechanization started to gain momentum. A short time thereafter, many changes began to take place in the operational methods on the farm. The old hand pumps, which in many cases had already been operated by the windmill, were now being changed over to be operated by small gasoline engines. Tractors began to replace the horses, first for pulling plows, and then slowly took over one job after another, until the horse was forced out of the picture. The tractor also took the place of the steam engine for driving the separator for threshing the grain.

The old steam driven threshing outfits were quite numerous in their time. A threshing rig consisted of a steam driven traction engine, a water wagon and a grain separator, together with a crew of men made up of an Engineer, Oiler, Fireman, Weigher, Stacker and a Water Hauler. As the mechanized age made progress, it had a net result of reducing the crew so that by the time these rigs were obsolete, the crew was down to an Engineer and a Water Hauler.

Each of these rigs served a number of farmers who banded together to help each other and such a group was called a run. It consisted of an average of from fourteen to twenty farmers. The women folks would go to help their neighbors with the cooking whenever it was necessary to serve meals to the help.

There was always a certain amount of sociability connected with groups such as this working together and it created a feeling of neighborliness and good will in the community. The arrival of the combine to replace the threshing rigs eliminated these friendly and sociable groups because with a combine, one man, or two at the most, could harvest one farmers entire crop of wheat. Such was the affect of mechanization on the social life of a community from one machine.

The "Husking Bee", consisting of several farmers gathered together for the purpose of helping him out with his task of corn husking, was eliminated by the arrival of the mechanical corn picker.

The arrival of the telephone eliminated the need of personal contact in talking to one's neighbor, so this too, eliminated a lot of social contact.

It used to be that a man would harness and hitch up his team to a wagon or buggy, load up his entire family and drive to a neighbor or relative and spend the entire day visiting. In that day, young and old alike would have a most sociable visit together. The people also spent more time together in groups, such as picnics and family reunions.

When the automobiles came into use and slowly but surely crowded out the horses, the wonderful social visits were also crowded out of the itinerary. These same people who used to spend an entire day visiting a family, now climbed into their automobile and then drove to the homes of several families, spending but a few minutes at each home. In most cases, they did not even get out of the automobile because they had to be going. The family group visits disappeared and the young and old each went their separate ways. The social life disappeared and the indifferent attitude of each man toward his own neighbor took its place. This attitude is quite noticeable among the workers in large corporations and in the attitude of people one meets in all walks of life.

It used to be an old custom with families who had daughters, that the parlor was reserved for daughter and her boy friend on date nights. The young man had to present himself in the proper manner according to the rules of etiquette or he would have been refused the right to see the daughter. The courting, in most cases, was done on the old familiar family sofa. The parents knew where the couple was and there was none of the anxiety and worry as to their whereabouts and behaviour as is the case in the present day.

With the arrival of the automobile, we find that it took the place of the family sofa as a place for courting and moved it from the parlor into the great outdoors and in most cases, the parents have not the least idea of where the young couple is.

The mechanical age has a lot of advantages but it has given us a harsh cacophony of clanging machines. We find these machines not only in the factories but in the office, on the farm and in the air. Everybody is in a hurry to get some place and has little or no time for social life. They have practically lost all sense of value of the social life with their family, neighbors and business associates.

This advanced age has made man's work much easier and he is able to produce more but it has brought on another condition that is detrimental to the society and welfare of man. In the horse and buggy days, man did not travel or live as fast as they do in this so called mechanical age so they had more time to visit and enjoy the society of his relatives and friends.

It has gone so far that a man who works in one of the plants operated by automation, receives a bonus or extra pay under the name of "Lonely Pay", because of working alone among a lot of mechanized machines.

Every time that a labor saving device has entered the field, it has eliminated a certain amount of the social life of man. Man was created to be dependent upon one another for security and protection and the mechanization is taking away the opportunity to fulfill this most important duty to mankind.

It is encouraging to note that in some areas, the general attitude of the people points to the revival of some of these old customs. Let us hope this trend continues and brings about a more congenial and more peaceful life among the people. This brings to mind one of the greatest commandments which Jesus Christ instructed us to keep, namely: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Saint Matthew 22, verse 39.

June 12, 1960.

By Albert J. Ruth.









A FAMILY HISTORY BY MRS. MARY E. RUTH,
NEE BAER, SECOND WIFE OF PETER B. RUTH.

PREFACE

This material was recorded in a tablet wherein it covered ninety two pages of data, beginning with the excerpts taken from the family history "Remembrances from 1807, By Barbara Strohm" and then continuing on from that point with various family data about those who were closely related.

Due to the great amount of time that has elapsed since this history was begun and brought to a close, plus the fact that the author has long since passed on to her eternal reward, it is impossible for us to get the exact story of how or when this history came into being.

It is quite possible that Miss Mary E. Baer began recording the history as a record of the Baer family until her marriage to Peter B. Ruth on the third day of September in the year of 1876. It appears that it was after this date that she took excerpts from the history "Remembrances from 1807, By Barbara Strohm", combined them with her record and then continued the project of recording the data and events of interest to both families with those events occurring in the lineage of the Ruth family being predominant.

It appears that this history was first written in the german language and the english translation made at the time the material was recorded in the tablet.

The heading on the first page of the tablet bears the following caption; "Copied from the record book of Mary E. Ruth, Summerfield, Illinois, January the fifteenth, 1909." This is undoubtedly the indication that she began the translating and recording of this material on that date, transferring it to the larger 200 page record book on a later date, then continued to enter the various entries as they occurred, until the last entry was made in the year of 1927.

From all indications, she soon realized that this tablet was not going to be large enough to enter all of the data, so a 200 page record book was purchased and the data in the tablet was transferred into this book, wherein it covers fifty three pages, then from that point on, all other data was entered from time to time as the incident or event occurred.

It appears that a certain amount of the space was allotted to each family and the data for that family was entered in this particular space. Here again, it became apparent that space was going to be a factor, so, a lot of data, which was meant to be recorded in a certain space, was found to be recorded in some of the other reserved sections of the book.

This created a lot of duplication of some entries and in some cases, there are conflicting dates which creates a condition whereby one wonders which of the dates are correct. Under conditions such as this, it is very easy to misunderstand and interpret an entry made in duplicate with a conflicting date unless the person reading the entry is thoroughly familiar with the family and incident in question and can make the proper corrections and adjustments.

The entries in the book are made in the form of a combined history and genealogy. This record has been revised and emended. All of the material pertaining to genealogy appears in the genealogy section of the proper family branch. The history section covers the Historical data to prevent a duplication of records.

July 16, 1966.

By Albert J. Ruth.

A FAMILY HISTORY, BY MARY E. RUTH, NEE BAER.

JANUARY 15, 1909

On the sixth day of April, in the year of 1862, Susanna Ruth and Valentine Krehbiel were united in Holy Matrimony in the Summerfield Mennonite Church. The ceremony was performed by Reverend Daniel Hege. Susanna Ruth, was a little over twenty years old and Valentine Krehbiel, was a little over twenty one.

Susanna was a daughter of Jacob Ruth and Barbara Strohm, and Valentine Krehbiel was a son of Johannes Krehbiel and Katherine Krehbiel, Nee Krehbiel.

On the twenty fifth day of October in the year of 1862, John Kraemer and his wife (Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer), left their home to go on a trip to Germany to visit with their many relatives and friends.

1863

John Kraemer and his wife, Barbara, returned home from their trip to Germany on November the twentieth in the year of 1863. Barbara contracted some sort of an illness shortly before they left for home and she was more or less ill on the entire homeward journey. Her condition was such that it grew worse day by day and she suffered from terrible pains about which she never complained to anyone. They stayed at the home of her daughter Mary (Mrs. John Eicher) after coming home from their long overseas trip.

1864

Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer was called home about midnight on the twenty seventh day of January in the year of 1864. The funeral text was Job 16, verse 22. She reached the age of fifty six years, three months and four days. Her funeral was very large for everyone who knew her loved her. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery. She passed away in Summerfield in the home of her daughter Mary Eicher, Nee Ruth (Mrs. John Eicher). Jacob Ruth, her

first husband, and the father of her eight children, passed away in Harreszell, Upper Bavaria January the ninth, in the year of 1848. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Eichstock Church-yard Cemetery.

In the year of 1864, Reverend Christian Krehbiel was elected to serve as minister of the Summerfield Mennonite Church. He was a son of Johannes Krehbiel and Katherine Krehbiel, Nee Krehbiel. He was born in Weierhof, Palatinate, on the ninth day of October in the year of 1832. On the fourteenth day of March, in the year of 1858, he and Susanna Ruth, a daughter of Reverend David Ruth and Katherine Ruth, Nee Strohm, were united in Holy Matrimony at Donnellson, Iowa.

Susanna Ruth was born in Eichstock, Upper Bavaria on April the twenty second, in the year of 1840.

1865

In the early spring of the year of 1865, Reverend David Ruth, together with his family, migrated from their home on the Franklin Prairie, Lee County, Iowa to their new home, located just north of the village of Summerfield, Illinois.

On the sixteenth of August, in the year of 1865, a daughter was born to Henry (Squire) Ruth and Marie Katherine Ruth. They named her, Katherine M. Ruth.

On September the first in the year of 1865, Marie Katherine Ruth, Nee Bauchenz, wife of Henry (Squire) Ruth, passed away in her home in Summerfield. Interment was in the Summerfield Cemetery.

On the fourth of September, in the year of 1865, Katherine M. Ruth, passed away in Summerfield at the age of nineteen days. She was the daughter of Henry (Squire) and Marie Katherine Ruth. Interment was in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

On the twelfth of November, in the year of 1865, Christian Berger passed away at Summerfield. He was a son of Samuel Berger and Elizabeth Kinkel, born on the fourth day of April, in the year of 1833. He was married to Katherine Miller (Mueller). Interment was in the Summerfield Cemetery.

1866

On the twelfth day of May in the year of 1866, we held our yearly Sunday School Festival.

Copied from the "Tagebuch" of Katherine Ruth, Nee Strohm, wife of Reverend David Ruth. The family came from their old home in Lee County, Iowa to their new home just north of the village of Summerfield in the spring of the year of 1865.

Originally taken from the January sixteenth, 1912 issue of the Newton Herald, Newton, Kansas.

On Pentecost Day, the twelfth of May, in the year of 1866, Reverend Jacob Krehbiel preached the Sunday morning sermon. On this day, the annual celebration of the Sunday School was held.

Superintendent Valentine Krehbiel opened the services with a song and prayer, after which, assistant Superintendent John Brandt read Chapter ten from the book of Acts. Then Daniel F. Risser came forward (He was the teacher of the Summerfield Congregation for a long time) and told about the progress made by the Sunday School since it was begun, and mentioned what a blessing it was to the surrounding community. Then John Kraemer (Little John), arose and read the rules and regulations that governed the Sunday School, and then, the conditions and purpose of it, after which, he gave a responsive prayer.

Henry Kraemer (The eldest) read the article which explains the purpose and conditions under which the Sunday School was formed.

Then Class teacher Jacob Auernheimer read off the names of all the members of his class and then gave a detailed report of how many times each one missed or came late. Teacher John Krehbiel did the same and then told the children a short story about a little boy, only three years of age, who had made a request of God to give him a clean heart. This boy's request was granted and the boy maintained and preserved his clean heart and only a short time after this, he was called home to his Creator in Heaven. Then he gave a

short discourse on the moral of this story and asked both young and old to follow in the footsteps of the little boy about whom this story was told.

Teacher Christian Auernheimer mentioned that they had held Sunday School 47 times during the year and, that he had a member of his class, who was present, that attended every class during the year and never came late a single time. To this person he presented a story book containing two stories.

Then teacher Daniel Bachmann gave a report on his class, after which, Valentine Krehbiel gave a report and some advice to the distaff side. Then Christian Krehbiel said that we should give thanks to God for the Sunday School. After this, they gave out colored picture post cards to the smaller children and some tracts to the larger ones.

Songs were sung by the Congregation, children and the choir, intermingled with discourses given by the various leaders. Each of the three groups sang their songs separately. The church was filled with people. The older people were sitting in the gallery.

---Henry P. Krehbiel---

On the twenty ninth day of August, in the year of 1866, Henry (Squire) Ruth was married to Miss Ellen Hinds in Lebanon, Illinois. This was the second time that he was married. His first marriage was to Marie Katherine Bauchenz. She bore him two sons and three daughters. His second wife bore him one daughter.

Henry (Squire) Ruth was one of the first settlers in the village of Summerfield, Illinois, arriving in the early days of the village when it first began to expand and grow. He built his own home there. He and the brothers, Jacob and Gerhard Vogt, established a Furniture and Cabinet Making Business, operating the business from the Shop which Henry (Squire) Ruth had helped them to build. He also owned and operated the Lumber-yard in Summerfield for a number of years. He and Mr. Whittaker built the grain elevator, equipped to handle all sorts of grain.

(The house he built in Summerfield in the year of 1858, is still standing, and in use at this writing. Squire Appel was a long time resident of this house. The grain elevator was in constant use until on the night of February the twenty fourth, in the year of 1956, when a tornado struck the town and did a great amount of damage to the section of the town located south of the rail-road tracks. Per Albert J. Ruth.)

1867

On a certain day, during the month of February or March, in the year of 1867, Peter B. Ruth and Barbara Johanna Strohm, were united in Holy Matrimony. Peter and Barbara were first cousins by virtue of the fact that Peter's mother and Barbara's father were sister and brother. Barbara was a daughter of Peter Strohm and Barbara Schowalter, and Peter was a son of Jacob Ruth and Barbara Strohm.

1868

Miss Barbara Ruth and Daniel Theodore Eymann were united in Holy Matrimony in Franklin Center, Iowa on the ninth day of February in the year of 1868.

Barbara Ruth, was a daughter of Johannes Ruth and Elizabeth Dettweiler and Daniel Theodore Eymann, was a son of Jacob Eymann and Maria Krehbiel.

In the spring of the year of 1868, Christian Baer and his family moved from Ridge Prairie, Illinois to the vicinity of Summerfield onto a farm he purchased from Uncle John Brandt. Uncle John Brandt sold it so he could move into the town of Summerfield and make his home there. Some years later, my father sold the farm and purchased another large farm, consisting of 320 acres that was located much closer to the School and Church.

Daniel Ruth and Anna Elisa Schowalter were united in Holy Matrimony in Ashland, Ohio on the eighteenth day of October, in the year of 1868.

On the twenty eighth day of December, in the year of 1868, a son was born to Daniel Baer and his wife, Katherine, Nee Bergthold. They named him Daniel.

1869

On the twenty sixth of May, in the year of 1869, Nettie Eva, infant daughter of Henry (Squire) Ruth and Ellen Percy Ruth, Nee Hinds, passed away at the age of six months and twenty five days. Her earthly remains were interred in the Summerfield Cemetery.

On the first day of August in the year of 1869, a daughter was born to Peter B. Ruth and Barbara Ruth, his wife, Nee Strohm.

Three days later, the third of August, she passed away. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

On September the third, in the year of 1869, Mary (Maria) Weber, Nee Ruth, widow of John Weber, passed away at Summerfield, Illinois. She was a daughter of Gerhard Ruth and Elizabeth Rupp, born at Eichstock, Upper Bavaria, on December the twenty second, in the year of 1806. She was the sister of Jacob Ruth, the first husband of Barbara Strohm. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery. John Weber, her husband, passed away in Lee County, Iowa, on the sixteenth day of June in the year of 1854.

1870

Christian Auernheimer of Iowa was married to Miss Mary Pletscher in Summerfield, Illinois in the month of March in the year of 1870. Mary (Maria) Pletscher was a daughter of Jacob Pletscher and Johanna Seitz. They were living near Shiloh, Illinois at the time.

Christian Auernheimer went to Iowa in the year of 1863 and moved to Summerfield, Illinois in the year of 1870.

On November the twenty third in the year of 1870, John A. Ruth and Clara A. Eymann were united in Holy Matrimony in Donnellson, Iowa. John A. was a son of Johannes Ruth and Elizabeth Dettweiler and Clara A., was a daughter of Jacob Eymann and Maria Krehbiel.

On the twelfth of December in the year of 1870, a daughter was born to Peter B. Ruth and Barbara Ruth, Nee Strohm. They named her Augusta M. Ruth.

1871

On the thirtieth of December in the year of 1871, a daughter was born to Jacob Auernheimer and Susanna (Susan) Auernheimer, Nee Seitz.

1872

On the twelfth of February, in the year of 1872, Barbara Bachmann, Nee Berger, passed away at Summerfield, Illinois. She was born on March the ninth, in the year of 1841. She was married to Daniel Bachmann and they had two sons, Henry and Samuel. Her earthly remains were interred in the Summerfield Cemetery.

Maria Baer, daughter of Daniel Baer and his wife, Katherine Baer, Nee Bergthold, passed away February the twelfth in the year of 1872. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

On the thirtieth day of September, in the year of 1872, Lydia, an infant daughter of Jacob Auernheimer and his wife, Susanna (Susan), Nee Seitz, passed away at the age of nine months. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

On the fourteenth of October in the year of 1872, Katherine Krehbiel, Nee Krehbiel, widow of Johannes Krehbiel the third, passed away at Summerfield. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

Augusta Ruth, an infant daughter of Peter B. Ruth and his wife, Barbara Ruth, Nee Strohm, passed away on November the twenty fourth in the year of 1872 at the age of one year, eleven months and twelve days. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

1873

Aunt Lizzie Berger passed away on the eleventh of January in the year of 1873. She had a weak back and was unable to do any hard work so she became a seamstress and did sewing for other people. Her earthly remains lie buried in the Summerfield Cemetery.

On the ninth day of May in the year of 1873, Anna Pletscher, Nee Hahn, passed away. She was the first

wife of Michael Pletscher. Two children were born to them, Mary Susanna, who married Jacob Henry Ruth and David, who remained single. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

On June the ninth, in the year of 1873, David I. Krehbiel, the son of Reverend Christian Krehbiel and Susanna Krehbiel, Nee Ruth, passed away in the home of his parents in Summerfield, Illinois.

Grandfather Samuel Berger, passed away at the age of eighty years, three months and twenty six days on the third day of August, in the year of 1873. He was born in Warteburg on the eighth day of April in the year of 1793. He was married to Elizabeth Kinkel who was born in the Palatinate. They were married in the Palatinate and then migrated to Upper Bavaria, where they lived for a number of years. Grandfather Samuel Berger, together with his wife, Elizabeth, and their children, with the exception of John and Katherine, who emigrated to America with the Krehbiel family in the year of 1851, came to America from Upper Bavaria on the twentieth day of June in the year of 1856. It was but a short time after this that the grandmother contracted an illness and passed away on the seventeenth day of August, in the year of 1856 at the age of a little over forty nine years. Interment was in the Baer Family Cemetery on the twentieth. It was an unfortunate incident for Grandmother Berger, in that she did not have the privilege to enjoy life in this country for very long because it was the Lord's will that she be received into the hand's of her Creator. After her passing, Grandfather Samuel Berger stayed with his daughter Katherine, wife of Christian Baer, where he stayed until he passed away. Interment was in the Summerfield Cemetery, with Reverend Christian Krehbiel in charge of the funeral services.

1874

On the seventh day of March, in the year of 1874, a son was born to Jacob Vogt and his wife, Magdalena Vogt, Nee Schowalter. They named him Abraham Otto.

John Edward (called Edward) Krehbiel, first child of Jacob E. Krehbiel and Katherine Ruth, born on May the first, in the year of 1857, drowned in the Mill Pond in Summerfield on the fifth day of June, in the year of 1874. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

Abraham Otto Vogt, son of Jacob Vogt and his wife Magdalena, Nee Schowalter, passed away on the sixth day of September in the year of 1874. He reached the age of five months and twenty nine days. His earthly remains were interred in the Summerfield Cemetery.

1875

On February the fourth in the year of 1875, Maria (Marie) Krehbiel, tenth child of Reverend Christian Krehbiel and Susanna Krehbiel, Nee Ruth, passed away in Summerfield, Illinois. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

Their first child, whom they named David, passed away in Summerfield on June the ninth in the year of 1873. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

A single grave stone marks both of these graves. The data covering David is on one side of the stone, and the data for Maria is on the other side. The one stone stands between the two graves.

During the month of February in the year of 1875, Reverend Christian Krehbiel went to Halstead, Kansas to help get the pioneering families located in their new homes. The year of 1875 was the beginning of the migratory movement to the State of Kansas and it was the Reverend Christian Krehbiel who was quite active as an agent to handle the purchasing of land for the families who settled in that area. His family stayed in Summerfield until on a later date. While Reverend Christian Krehbiel was working on the project out in Kansas, his wife, Susanna, Nee Ruth, was helping out by doing her share of work to promote the cause from her home in Summerfield, Illinois. She received some help from her sister Katherine Krehbiel, Nee Ruth.

On June the twenty seventh, in the year of 1875, Barbara Ruth, Nee Strohm, the first wife of Peter B. Ruth, passed away at Summerfield, Illinois. She was born on August the twenty first in the year of 1844. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

On the third day of October, in the year of 1875, Jacob Pletscher passed away at the age of fifty five years and 28 days. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

On the twentieth of November in the year of 1875, Johanna Pletscher, Nee Seitz, recent widow of Jacob Pletscher, passed away in her home. She attained the age of sixty three years, 2 months and 11 days. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

1876

Peter B. Ruth, widower, was married a second time to Miss Mary E. Baer, daughter of Christian Baer and Katherine Baer, Nee Berger, on September the third, in the year of 1876. Barbara Strohm, his first wife, the daughter of Peter Strohm and Barbara Schowalter, passed away on the twenty seventh day of June in the year of 1875. All of the children of both marriages, with the exception of Wesley, Robert and Alfred, the three youngest sons, were born in the old Ruth home one quarter mile north of the Ruth School. This was the Ruth Home in which the church services were held before they built the Mennonite Church south of the village of Summerfield, Illinois. Wesley, Robert and Alfred, the three youngest sons, were born a little over two miles south east of Summerfield, Illinois.

1877

On the thirtieth day of June in the year of 1877, we had a cyclone. It occurred during wheat harvesting time. We were living in the old Ruth Home north of the Ruth School at the time and Barbara Hornburg, Nee Krehbiel, was visiting at our house on that day. We noticed this storm coming, so, Barbara and I took