

She was a daughter of John Milton Brown and Susan Turner, born on the fourth of August, in the year of 1869. Survivors were: her two sons, Harry Brown Ruth and John B. Ruth and four grandsons. Her earthly remains were lain to rest at Eugene, Oregon.

1929

On January the twenty fourth, in the year of 1929, Louise Matilda Ruth, Nee Dagit, passed away in East Saint Louis, Illinois at the age of forty two years, five months and twenty four days. She was a daughter of William Dagit and Rose Dagit, Nee Ulmer, born at Summerfield, Illinois on the thirty first of June, in the year of 1886. On the tenth of March, in the year of 1912, she, and Robert Roland Ruth, were united in Holy Matrimony, at Summerfield, Illinois. Survivors were her husband, two daughters, Dorothy Kathryn and Virginia Rose, and three brothers, John, George and Edward. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the College Hill Cemetery at Lebanon, Illinois. Robert's home was in O'Fallon, Illinois, at the time.

On February the fourteenth, in the year of 1929, Henry C. Hornburg passed away in Upland, California. He was born in Plattendorf, Germany on the first day of July, in the year of 1862, and reached the age of sixty seven years, seven months and thirteen days at the time of his passing. He and Barbara R. Krehbiel were united in marriage, in Summerfield, Illinois on the first day of July, in the year of 1893. He was a Pharmacist by trade. He was survived by his adopted daughter Meta Bertha Ruth, Nee Wichmann, who married Paul Ernest Ruth. His earthly remains were lain to rest at Upland, California.

On May the fifth, in the year of 1929, Betty Joann was born to Alfred and Hazel, in Toledo, Ohio. Their first daughter, Helen Virginia, was born on December the thirteenth, in the year of 1916.

On the eleventh of September, in the year of 1929, Willis Eyvan, was born to Milton Baer and Eva Amanda Baer, Nee Trippel, at Trenton, Illinois.

1930

On the tenth day of June, in the year of 1930, my nephew, Samuel David Ruth, son of David B. Ruth and Maria Ruth, Nee Berger, passed away very suddenly at Beatrice, Nebraska, at the age of fifty seven years, two months and eleven days. He was born in the Ruth home at Summerfield, Illinois on the twenty ninth of March, in the year of 1873. He and Marie Katherine Dueck, were united in Holy Matrimony in Saint Louis, Missouri on March the sixteenth, in the year of 1904. He was survived by his widow: Marie Katherine, a son Clinton Howard, two daughters, Mildred Dorothy and Anna Marie Agnes, three sisters, Katie A. Von Steen, Elizabeth B. Van Der Smissen and Lydia D. Krehbiel, and two brothers, David Samuel and Henry Albert. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Mennonite Cemetery near Beatrice, Nebraska.

Katie Von Steen, the Samuel David Ruth Family and the John Edward Ruth Family, were all living near to, or in Beatrice, Nebraska for a number of years.

On the eighth of July, in the year of 1930, Albert Walter Jr., was born to Albert Walter Eicher Sr. and Georgia Eicher, Nee Lloyd, in Saint Louis, Missouri. Unfortunately, he lived but one day, and passed away on the ninth. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Trenton Cemetery at Trenton, Illinois.

On the fourteenth of August, in the year of 1930, Edna Ruth Goertz, Nee Schowalter, passed away in her home in California. She reached the age of forty two years, ten months and twenty nine days. She was born in West Point, Lee County, Iowa on the sixteenth day of September, in the year of 1887. She was a daughter of Jacob Schowalter, and Elizabeth Augusta Ruth. She and Peter M. Goertz were united in Holy Matrimony in Upland, California, on the twenty fifth of March, in the year of 1915. Survivors were: her husband Peter, her mother Elizabeth Augusta, and a brother Paul F.. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, California.

On the twenty fourth day of October, in the year of 1930, Mary E. Krehbiel, Nee Kruse, passed away at Moundridge, Kansas, at the age of sixty five years, two months and eight days. On the thirteenth day of October, in the year of 1884, she, and John William Krehbiel, were united in marriage. She was survived by her husband, one daughter, Celia Loretta, and two sons, Carl Clifford and Nelson Wendell. Her earthly remains were lain to rest at Halstead, Kansas.

On November the fourteenth, in the year of 1930, Katie Von Steen, Nee Ruth, passed away in her home at Beatrice, Nebraska. She reached the age of sixty nine years, two months and thirteen days. Her first marriage, to Daniel Hirschler, a widower, was on the fourteenth of March, in the year of 1888. He passed away on the sixth of September, in the year of 1890. One daughter, named Ruth B., was born to this union. She passed away in her infancy. On the twenty second of September, in the year of 1895, she was married to John H. Von Steen, a widower, who passed away on the twenty third day of September, in the year of 1921. She was survived by two adopted daughters, Edith and Ada, two sisters, Lydia D. Krehbiel and Elizabeth B. Van Der Smissen, and two brothers, David Samuel and Henry Albert. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Mennonite Cemetery near Beatrice, Nebraska.

1931

On the twenty seventh day of January, in the year of 1931, Barbara Berger, a daughter of Peter Berger and Christina Berger, Nee Linck, passed away in the home of David Samuel Ruth at Summerfield, Illinois. She was born in 1873. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery. Barbara Berger made her home with the David Samuel Ruth Family, and lived with them until she passed away. She was just like one of the family.

Mathilda Emelie Krehbiel, Nee Kruse, passed away at Halstead, Kansas on the twentieth day of April, in the year of 1931. She attained the age of sixty four

years, one month and three days. She and Henry Peter Krehbiel were united in Holy Matrimony on the twenty first day of November, in the year of 1886. She was survived by her husband, Henry Peter, and a daughter Elva Agnes. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Halstead Cemetery near Halstead, Kansas.

Jona Arthur Ruth passed away in California on the eighth of June, in the year of 1931. He attained the age of fifty five years, one month and twelve days. He was born at Halstead, Kansas on the fifteenth day of May, in the year of 1876. On the thirty first day of October, in the year of 1915, he and Harriett Emma Clark, were united in marriage in Hobart, Oklahoma. He was survived by his widow, Harriett Emma, and two sons, Richard Arthur and Charles Jacob. His earthly remains were lain to rest at Pomona, California.

On August the eleventh, in the year of 1931, Mary Elizabeth Welty, Nee Krehbiel, passed away at Moundridge, Kansas, attaining the age of fifty four years and twelve days. She and William Walter Welty, were united in Holy Matrimony in the Mennonite Church in Moundridge, Kansas on the fifteenth of September, in the year of 1895. Surviving her were her husband and their eleven children. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Cemetery at Moundridge, Kansas.

On the fourteenth day of November, in the year of 1931, John W. Ruth passed away in Reedley at the age of fifty four years, nine months and nineteen days. He was survived by his widow, Elizabeth, (Elisa) Nee Hirschler. His earthly remains were lain to rest at Reedley, California.

On the ninth day of December, in the year of 1931, Barbara Lehmann, Nee Ruth, passed away at Halstead, Kansas, at the age of ninety years and sixteen days. She was married to David Lehmann on the twenty sixth of February, in the year of 1860. He passed away on the sixteenth day of November, in the year of 1920. The earthly remains of both, David and Barbara, were lain to rest in the Cemetery at Halstead, Kansas.

1932

Hilda Sarah Kroeker, Nee Ruth, passed away in her home at Halstead, Kansas on December the seventeenth, in the year of 1932, at the age of forty five years, six months and sixteen days. She was survived by two children, Ronald Ralph and Ruth Kathleen, a brother, Edward David and four sisters: Clara K. Haury, Anna Barbara Kruse, Emma M. Kliewer and Ida Selma Welty. Her husband, David Kroeker, passed away on the fifth of November, in the year of 1923. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Cemetery at Halstead.

On December the thirty first, in the year of 1932, Elizabeth Augusta Schowalter, Nee Ruth, passed away at Ontario, California, attaining the age of eighty years, three months and twelve days. Survivors were: one son, Paul F., and a brother, Henry Benjamin. Her earthly remains lie at rest in Bellevue Cemetery, at Ontario, California.

1933

On the fifteenth of January, in the year of 1933, Maria (Mary) Braundel, Nee Dahlem, daughter of Jacob Dahlem and Veronica Dahlem, Nee Ruth, passed away in her home in Summerfield, Illinois, attaining the age of eighty six years, five months and nine days. She was born at Maxweiler, Upper Bavaria, on August the sixth, in the year of 1846. She and Jacob Braundel, were united in marriage, in Summerfield, Illinois in the year of 1865. Her husband, Jacob, passed away on the seventh of June, in the year of 1890. Survivors were: three daughters, Minnie Mallman, Anna Eicher and Alvina Beutler, and two sons, William and Jacob. Her earthly remains and those of her husband, Jacob, were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

On the seventeenth day of February, in the year of 1933, Adolph Christopher Ruth passed away at Okeene, Oklahoma. He attained the age of fifty seven years, three months and seventeen days. On the twenty ninth day of December, in the year of 1908, he was united in marriage with Nellie Katherine Galligan in Tulsa,

Oklahoma. She passed away on the eighteenth of April, in the year of 1915. Four children were born to this union. On the twenty eighth day of July, in the year of 1915, he was married a second time, to Miss Grace Florence Galligan in Fairview, Oklahoma. She was the sister of his first wife. One son was born to this union. His second wife passed away on the eighth day of April, in the year of 1930. He was survived by the four children of his first marriage: Weldon Kenneth, Robert Alexander Long, Donald Dale and Mona Grace, and the one son of the second marriage: Roland Roy, his two sisters, Elizabeth C. and Martha S. and his brother, John J.. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Cemetery at Okeene, Oklahoma.

On the ninth of March, in the year of 1933, Henry Benjamin Ruth passed away in Colorado, at the age of eighty three years, five months and seven days. He and Miss Alice Wright, were united in Holy Matrimony on April the twenty first, in the year of 1878. She passed away on March the eighth, in the year of 1900. Survivors were: his three sons, Guy, Carl Leslie and Ralph Leon. His earthly remains were lain to rest at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Katherine Krehbiel, Nee Ringelman, passed away in Geary, Oklahoma on the sixteenth day of March, in the year of 1933, at the age of sixty four years, eleven months and seven days. She and Jacob Samuel Krehbiel were united in Holy Matrimony in Halstead, Kansas on May the seventh, in the year of 1889. He passed away in Geary, Oklahoma on the tenth of April, in the year of 1916. Survivors were: two sons, Adolph Jacob and Otto Lewis and one sister, Abigail Ruth. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Cemetery at Geary, Oklahoma.

1934

On February the nineteenth, in the year of 1934. Anna Susan Ruth, Nee Auernheimer, passed away in her home near Halstead, Kansas, at the age of fifty five years, one month and twelve days. On the thirtieth

day of September, in the year of 1900, she and Henry Albert Ruth, were united in marriage at Summerfield, Illinois. She was survived by her husband, one son, Clifford Henry, and two daughters, Frieda Alida and Edith Mollie. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Halstead Cemetery at Halstead, Kansas.

August Herman Ruth passed away at Enid, Oklahoma, on the twenty third day of March, in the year of 1934, at the age of fifty seven years and sixteen days. He and Myrtle Mabel Spindel, were united in marriage in Kingfisher, Oklahoma on the twenty second of August, in the year of 1917. Surviving him were: his widow, one son, John August, one daughter, Wilma Lois, his mother, Clara A., Nee Eymann, five brothers, Daniel Edward, Arthur David, Rudolph Henry, Ernest Paul and Paul Ernest, and two sisters, Stella Clara and Emma Mary. His earthly remains were lian to rest in the Ehid Memorial Cemetery at Enid, Oklahoma.

On the twenty fourth of May, in the year of 1934, Elizabeth B. Van Der Smissen, Nee Ruth, passed away in Bethel Home for the Aged, in Newton, Kansas. She attained the age of sixty seven years, seven months and twenty six days. On the eighteenth day of June, in the year of 1893, she and Reverend Carl H. A. Van Der Smissen were united in Holy Matrimony in Summerfield, Illinois. Surviving her were her husband, her two sons, Alwin Theodor and Hinrich Roland, and five daughters, Hilda Cornelia, Frieda Wilhelmina, Elsie Katherine, Edna Ruth and Ruth Margaret, one sister, Lydia D. Krehbiel and two brothers, David Samuel and Henry Albert. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Newton Cemetery at Newton, Kansas.

On the thirtieth of December, in the year of 1934, Reverend Henry H. Ewert, passed away in his home at Gretna, Manitoba, Canada. His first wife was Lizzie Baer, a daughter of Daniel Baer and Katherine Baer, Nee Bergthold, who passed away on the thirteenth day of February, in the year of 1925. On July the ninth, in the year of 1926, he was united in marriage, with

Mrs. Katherine Amalia Krehbiel Kruse, widow of Henry Otto Kruse. His earthly remains were lain to rest at Gretna, Manitoba, Canada.

1935

On the second day of January, in the year of 1935, Emma M. Kliewer, Nee Ruth, passed away at Newton at the age of fifty eight years, eleven months and sixteen days. She was born at Halstead, Kansas on the seventeenth day of January, in the year of 1876. She was a daughter of John W. Ruth and Eliza Strohm. On October the thirtieth, in the year of 1902, she and John Walter Kliewer were united in Holy Matrimony in Halstead, Kansas. She was survived by her husband, two sons, Karl Gerok and Paul Lawrence, a daughter, Ruth Lucille, her three sisters, Clara K. Haury, Ida Selma Welty and Anna Barbara Kruse, and one brother, Edward David. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Newton Cemetery at Newton, Kansas.

On the sixteenth of February, in the year of 1935, Clara K. Haury, Nee Ruth, passed away at Los Angeles at the age of sixty nine years, eight months and five days. She was born at Summerfield, Illinois, on June the eleventh, in the year of 1865, a daughter of John W. Ruth and Eliza Ruth, Nee Strohm. On the eleventh of June, in the year of 1891, she, and Gustav Adolph Haury, were united in marriage in Halstead, Kansas. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Newton Cemetery at Newton, Kansas.

On the twelfth of June, in the year of 1935, Carl Clifford Krehbiel, passed away at Moundridge, Kansas at the age of forty four years, four months and five days. He was survived by his widow Emma Dorothy, Nee Rupp. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Halstead Mausoleum, at Halstead, Kansas.

On the tenth day of August, in the year of 1935, Jacob Ernest Ruth, passed away at McPherson, Kansas. He reached the age of eighty six years, eight months and fourteen days. His first wife, Christina Risser, passed away on the twenty eighth of July, in the year

On the twenty second day of November, in the year of 1938, Martha Ruth, Nee Lucy, the widow of Gerhard Benjamin Ruth, passed away at DeRidder, Louisiana at the age of eighty years, seven months and eighteen days. She was born at Summerfield, Illinois on April the fourth, in the year of 1857. On the twenty fifth day of June, in the year of 1876, she and Gerhard B. were united in marriage in Summerfield, Illinois. He passed away on August the twenty first, in the year of 1922. She was survived by two daughters, Bernice Strohm and Muriel Evelyn and three sons, Gerhard B., Jacob Roland and Marlin Marx. The earthly remains of both, Martha and Gerhard Benjamin, were lain to rest at DeRidder, Louisiana.

1939

On November the seventh, in the year of 1939, John J. Ruth, son of Daniel Ruth and Anna Elisa Ruth. Nee Schowalter, passed away in Riverside, California. He reached the age of fifty nine years, five months and seven days. He was born at Moundridge, Kansas on the thirty first of May, in the year of 1880. His earthly remains were lain to rest at Riverside, California.

1940

On the fourth day of October, in the year of 1940, Reverend Henry J. Krehbiel, son of Jacob E. Krehbiel and Katherine Krehbiel, Nee Ruth, passed away in his home in Reedley, California. He attained the age of seventy five years and sixteen days. He was born in Lee County, Iowa, on the eighth of September, in the year of 1865. He and Miss Lydia D. Ruth, were united in marriage, at Summerfield, Illinois, on the twenty fifth day of May, in the year of 1890. Surviving him were: his widow, a daughter, Ruth May and four sons, Paul Gerhard, Robert David, Walter Henry and Arthur Jacob. Reverend Henry J. Krehbiel was very active in Church, Mission and the General Conference Work, for many years. He was Field Secretary, for the General Conference, for many years. His earthly remains were lain to rest at Reedley, California.

On December the second, in the year of 1940, Henry Peter Krehbiel, passed away at Halstead, Kansas. He reached the age of seventy seven years, seven months and nineteen days. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Cemetery at Halstead, Kansas.

1944

On the twenty fifth of June, in the year of 1944, Lydia D. Krehbiel, Nee Ruth, passed away in her home in Reedley, California, at the age of seventy three years, six months and eighteen days. She was born at Summerfield, Illinois on the seventh day of December, in the year of 1870, a daughter of David B. Ruth and Maria (Mary) Ruth, Nee Berger. Her earthly remains were lain to rest at Reedley, California.

1946

On the twenty sixth day of October, in the year of 1946, Anna B. Ruth, Nee Hirstein, passed away in her home at Summerfield, Illinois. She attained the age of sixty two years, ten months and ten days. She was a daughter of John Hirstein and Katherine Hirstein, Nee Baer, born at Summerfield, Illinois on December the sixteenth, in the year of 1883. She and Gustav W. Ruth, were united in Holy Matrimony in Summerfield, Illinois on the sixteenth of January, in the year of 1907. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

1948

On the eighteenth day of December, in the year of 1948, Wesley Warren Ruth, a son of Peter B. Ruth and Mary E. Ruth, Nee Baer, passed away very suddenly in his home in Salt Lake City, Utah on Saturday evening at 10:15 P.M. due to a heart ailment. He reached the age of sixty three years, two months and twenty nine days. He was born near Summerfield, Illinois, on the twentieth day of September, in the year of 1885. He and Eoline Elizabeth Funston were united in marriage in Little Rock, Arkansas on December the fourteenth, in the year of 1914. One son, Wesley Warren Jr., was born to them. On the twenty seventh day of February,

of 1907. His second wife, Augusta (Gussie) Krehbiel, who was his first cousin, passed away on the twenty ninth day of May, in the year of 1919. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Halstead Cemetery, at Halstead, Kansas.

1936

On November the third, in the year of 1936, Jacob Philip Vogt, son of Gerhard Vogt and Christina Vogt, Nee Dettweiler, passed away in Reedley, California, at the age of seventy five years, eight months and sixteen days. On the seventeenth of February, in the year of 1884, he and Miss Anna Barbara Krehbiel were united in Holy Matrimony in Christian, Kansas, about one mile south of the town of Moundridge. She was a daughter of Valentine Krehbiel and Susanna Krehbiel, Nee Ruth. His earthly remains were lain to rest at Reedley, California.

1937

On the twenty fifth of March, in the year of 1937, Clara A. Ruth, Nee Eymann, widow of John A. Ruth and daughter of Jacob Eymann and Maria Krehbiel, passed away in her home in Reedley, California, at the age of eighty nine years, seven months and fifteen days. She was born at Ashland, Ohio on August the tenth, in the year of 1847. She was married to John A. Ruth in Donnellson, Iowa, on the twenty third day of August, in the year of 1870. Her earthly remains were lain to rest at Reedley, California.

On June the twenty seventh, in the year of 1937, Anna Barbara Vogt, Nee Krehbiel, the widow of Jacob Philip Vogt and a daughter of Valentine Krehbiel and Susanna Ruth, passed away in Reedley, California, at the age of seventy four years, five months and twenty seven days. She was born at Summerfield, Illinois on the thirtieth day of December, in the year of 1862. She and Jacob Philip Vogt were united in marriage in Christian, Kansas on the seventeenth day of February, in the year of 1884. Surviving her were her two sons, Raymond Howard and Gerhard Oscar, and two daughters,

Lenora Susan and Anna Magdalena. Her earthly remains were lain to rest at Reedley, California.

1938

On January the twenty fifth, in the year of 1938, Valentine Charles Eicher, the son of John Eicher and Mary Eicher, Nee Ruth, passed away in Summerfield at the age of sixty eight years, seven months and seventeen days. He was born in Summerfield, on the eighth of February, in the year of 1869. He and Anna Marie Braundel, were united in marriage in Summerfield on the twenty eighth of November, in the year of 1901. Survivors were: his widow, two daughters, Alta June and Irma Joy, and four brothers, John Edward, Henry Frederick, Jacob Albert and Peter David. His earthly remains were interred in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

On the ninth day of February, in the year of 1938, John Walter Kliewer passed away at Newton, Kansas at the age of sixty eight years, eight months and one day. He was born in Russia on the eighth of June, in the year of 1869. He and Emma M. Ruth were united in marriage in Halstead, Kansas on the thirtieth day of October, in the year of 1902. She passed away on the second of January, in the year of 1935. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Newton Cemetery. He was survived by one daughter, Ruth Lucille, and two sons, Karl Gerok and Paul Lawrence.

On the thirtieth day of September, in the year of 1938, Ida Selma Welty, daughter of John W. Ruth and Elisa Ruth, Nee Strohm, passed away in California at the age of fifty six years, two months and thirteen days. She was born at Halstead, Kansas on the seventeenth of July, in the year of 1882. She and David Christian Welty, were united in marriage on June the seventeenth, in the year of 1909. Survivors were her husband, a son Winston Richard, a daughter Ruth, one brother, Edward David, and one sister, Anna Barbara, who was married to Adolf Theodore Kruse. Her earthly remains were lain to rest at Ontario, California.

in the year of 1917, Eoline passed away, having been ill since the birth of Wesley Warren Jr.. On January the first, New Years Day, Wesley Warren, was married to Mabel Snyder in Dallas, Texas.

Wesley went to Bethel College in Newton, Kansas, in the year of 1905. During the summer vacation, he went to Geary, Oklahoma, and worked for his brother, Oscar Peter. He worked in the capacity of carpenter, thresherman and odd jobs man about the house. In the month of September, he left his brother's home to go to Quincy, Illinois, to attend Gem Business College, where Mr. Musselman was president, and stayed there, until in the month of May, in the year of 1906. They located a job for him with the Remington Typewriter Company in Saint Louis, Missouri, at a salary of ten Dollars per week. He stayed there for a little while and then went to work for Simmons Hardware Company. He worked for them until in the month of October, in the year of 1907 at the time the money panic came on and they dismissed him, along with many of the other employees. In the month of May, in the year of 1908, he went to work for the Furtenwüth and Uhl Jewelry Company and worked for them until in August. Then he took a job with Swift and Company as their traveling Auditor, and retired on the first day of January, in the year of 1946, after thirty eight years of service with their Company. He moved to Salt Lake City, Utah in the year of 1940. Surviving him were:

His mother: Mrs. Peter B. Ruth, of Summerfield, Ill.

His widow: Mabel, of Salt Lake City, Utah.

His son: Wesley Warren Jr., of Oakland, California.

His step-brother: Oscar Peter of Geary, Oklahoma.

His three brothers: Robert Roland of O'Fallon, Ill., Alfred W. of Toledo and Gustav W. of Summerfield.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, the twenty second, at 2:30 P.M., with Reverend George J. Weber, of the First Congregational Church of Salt Lake City officiating. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Salt Lake City Mausoleum

1949

On the thirtieth day of May, in the year of 1949, Gustav W. Ruth passed away at Summerfield, Illinois. He reached the age of seventy years, nine months and six days. He was a son of Peter B. Ruth and Mary E. Ruth, Nee Baer, born near Summerfield, Illinois, on the twenty fourth day of August, in the year of 1878. He and Anna B. Hirstein, were united in Marriage in Summerfield, Illinois on the sixteenth of January, in the year of 1907. He was survived by two sons, Leroy C. and Ralph Gustav, a daughter, Lucille Ethel, his mother, Mrs. Peter B. Ruth, and two brothers, Robert Roland, and Alfred Wallis. His earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

APPENDIX

1950

Mary E. Ruth, Nee Baer, (Mrs. Peter B. Ruth) the person who wrote the foregoing history of the family, passed away in her home on the fifth day of January, in the year of 1950, at the age of ninety four years, two months and seven days. Survivors were: one step-son Oscar Peter, and her two sons, Robert Roland and Alfred Wallis. Her earthly remains were lain to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery.

The family histories, "Remembrances from 1807" by Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer, "A history of the Ruth Family" by Reverend David and Katherine Ruth and the "A family history by Mary E. Ruth, Nee Baer", cover the period of 143 years, beginning with the year of 1807 and ending with the year of 1950.

These histories, cover a lot of genealogical data on the family, together with various information on, where they came from, their travels, experiences and the location of their homes.

We are sure that the present generation and those of the future, will enrich their minds with the data they have recorded for their benefit and use.

October 15, 1967.

Per Albert J. Ruth.

THE RUTH SCHOOL

THE RUTH SCHOOL WAS LOCATED ON THE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF THE SOUTH EAST ONE QUARTER OF THE SOUTH EAST ONE QUARTER OF SECTION NUMBER TWO RANGE OF ONE NORTH AND SIX WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPLE MERIDIAN IN THE COUNTY OF SAINT CLAIR AND IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

It was in Mascoutah Township and was known as the School District Number Eleven. It covered an area of four square miles and the school was located in the center of the District. Whether or not the District covered a larger area when it was first organized is not known and there is no record available as to the size of the District at that time.

A HISTORY OF THE RUTH SCHOOL

It was my earnest endeavour to be able to give a complete history of this school that would include a roster of the teachers who taught there and a roster of the Trustees who served on the School Board. This would have included the number of terms and the date of said term or terms that each one had served.

We regret to report that we were unsuccessful in our efforts to obtain this information. We contacted the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in an effort to gain access to the necessary data but were told that there was nothing in Springfield covering it and that all of the information we wanted should be in the office of the County Superintendent in the County Seat of Saint Clair County in Belleville. Our contact with him proved futile for we were told that he had nothing in his office in connection with any school that was not active at the time. We contacted the Trustees of the Mascoutah Schools with which the Ruth School was consolidated and received little or

no information from them. The little they did supply was not even reliable and proved to be erroneous.

We then contacted several people who lived in the District and they informed us that on a certain day, some time after the consolidation, a group came out from Mascoutah and checked through all of the books and records, took some material with them and made a bonfire out of some others. Since the records of the school were in the building, the material we wanted was destroyed by fire. It is most unfortunate that a record of this or any other discontinued school, was not perpetuated for future historical records.

On checking in the Library we found; A Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Saint Clair County, by Wilderman, Volume 2 and History of Saint Clair County, by McDonough, 1881. Here again, it was a sad disappointment to find very little historical data on the District Schools of Mascoutah Township. These books mention several schools but give only a few lines relative to each one mentioned. They do a fair job on the history of the earliest schools, how and when the school system was started and the State laws that were enacted to govern them. We found some helpful and valuable data in the Centennial Issue of the Belleville Daily Advocate that was published on October the twenty fifth, 1939.

MASCOUTAH TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS IN 1907

Mascoutah Township schools on record as being in existence and active in the year of 1907 are given in alphabetical order as follows; Choctaw, Mascoutah City Schools, Mizpah, Richter, Ruth, Union Grove and Woodland.

The District Schools made their disappearance one by one so that by the third day of September in the year of 1955 there were only six one room schools in existence in the entire County of Saint Clair in the State of Illinois.

The Ruth School was in District Number Eleven and was consolidated with the Mascoutah Schools in 1948. The last term of school held in the Ruth School was from September 1947 to May 1948 and it was taught by Miss Kathryn M. Ruth, a great great granddaughter of the person who deeded the land upon which the school house was built for use by the inhabitants of School District Number Eleven in Mascoutah Township.

OUR SOURCE OF INFORMATION

We owe a vote of thanks to the following persons who supplied us with data relative to the history of the Ruth School. Oscar Peter Ruth, my first cousin once removed, John H. Dagit, my uncle on the distaff side and his brother George. Oscar supplied a short anecdote that occurred when he was a youngster. Uncle John supplied the data on the deeds that granted the land to the original Board of School Trustees of the School District and George Dagit supplied us with an eloquent roster containing the names of the teachers who taught in the school during his school days. The roster includes the number of terms each one served and the dates of each term. It was data such as this that we had hoped to find in the County Seat.

Other early and valuable information was found in the Ruth Family History, "Remembrances from 1807, by Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer", my great grand mother, who had the foresightedness to record a lot of our early family history for future reference.

EARLIEST RECORD OF THE SCHOOL

THE FIRST DEED

On the twenty third day of September in the year of 1862, John Kraemer and Barbara Kraemer, his wife, (widow of Jacob Ruth) deeded a certain tract of land located in the County of Saint Clair in the State of

Illinois to the Trustees of School District Number Eleven in Mascoutah Township, to wit; Commencing on the south west corner of the south east one quarter of Section Number 2 in Township 1 north and range 6 west of the third principle meridian, thence north 48 feet, then east 32 feet, then south 48 feet, then west 32 feet to the place of beginning. Acknowledged on the twenty third day of September in the year of 1862, by John Kraemer and Barbara Kraemer, his wife, before Henry Ruth, (a son of Jacob Ruth and Barbara Strohm. She married John Kraemer some time after the death of Jacob Ruth) a Justice of the Peace.

SECOND DEED INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE GROUNDS

On the second day of May and in the year of 1868, Peter B. Ruth and Barbara Ruth, his wife, Valentine Krehbiel and Susanna Krehbiel, his wife, deeded the described lot, piece or parcel of land to the School Trustees of the School District Number Eleven, for the use of the inhabitants of the said District.

All of the described lot situated in Section 2 in Township 1 north range 6 west of the third principle meridian, in the County of Saint Clair and State of Illinois, to wit; Commencing 18 chains and 96 links east of the south west corner of the east one half of the south east one quarter of the above mentioned location, thence running north 10 rods to a stake, thence west 8 rods to a stake, thence south 10 rods to the place of beginning, and covering 1/2 acre. Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of Peter B. Ruth, Barbara Ruth, his wife, Valentine Krehbiel and Susanna Krehbiel, his wife. Acknowledged before Henry Ruth, A Notary Public.

Note; This Henry Ruth, a Justice of the Peace and a Notary Public was also called "Squire Henry Ruth". Squire being Aphetic for Esquire, a title of office and courtesy, perhaps most usually given to Justices of the Peace.

The original tract was 48 feet by 32 feet and the enlarged tract was 160 feet by 128 feet. The School House was constructed of brick and was approximately 22 feet wide and 45 feet long, facing the south with the length of the building running north and south. The first Trustees of the District were; Jacob Rowe, George Hebel and John Kraemer.

THE FIRST TEACHERS AT THE RUTH SCHOOL

Through research work and from Family Histories, we located the following data in connection with the first teachers of the Ruth School.

Mr. Christian Lehmann, who came here from Ohio on the thirtieth day of October in the year of 1859, is recorded as being the first teacher to teach at the Ruth School. He probably taught here for many years. We have already mentioned that the first deed on the lot for the School bore the date of the twenty third day of September in the year of 1862. Since we know that Christian Lehmann came to teach the children in this district in the fall of 1859, we have two items that are known to be facts but we have a discrepancy of three years. Either the Ruth School was built for a period of three years before the lot was deeded or school was held in one of the homes in the area for the period until the Ruth School was built. If it is the latter, it must have been the Ruth home north of the School, the one where the church services were held. In either case, the record stands.

Next we find that Samuel Jacob Eymann taught Ruth School for many years. He stayed with Peter Ruth for five years. He lived in the home north of the school for a long time. Samuel Eymann was, without a doubt, the second teacher of the Ruth School.

Samuel Jacob Eymann was a son of John Eymann and Johanna Krehbiel. He was born on March the twentieth in the year of 1856 near Franklin, Lee County, Iowa. He died on the sixth of June in the year of 1919.

We now come to John L. Baer, who also taught Ruth School for a number of years. John L. Baer must have given up teaching on account of ill health, for the last term he taught ended on May the first, 1889 and he passed away on February the eleventh in the year of 1892. John L. Baer was the son of Jacob Baer and Anna Elizabeth Langenwalter. He was born near Troy, Illinois and died at Mascoutah, Illinois.

A ROSTER OF TEACHERS FROM 1889 TO 1901

Name;	Term
John L. Baer	2-14-1889 to 5-1-1889.
Robert & William Steele	9-1-1889 to 5-1-1890.
Henry M. Kasserman	9-1-1890 to 5-1-1891.
Henry M. Kasserman	9-1-1891 to 5-1-1892.
William Dorris	9-1-1892 to 5-1-1893.
William Dorris	9-1-1893 to 5-1-1894.
William Dorris	9-1-1894 to 5-1-1895.
William Dorris	9-1-1895 to 5-1-1896.
William Dorris	9-1-1896 to 5-1-1897.
William Dorris	9-1-1897 to 5-1-1898.
Charles Milton (part)	1897 to 3- -1898.
Charles Milton	9-1-1898 to 5-1-1899.
Charles Milton	9-1-1899 to 5-1-1900.
Louise C. Rose	9-1-1900 to 5-1-1901.
Louise C. Rose	9-1-1901 to

Samuel Eymann taught school before John L. Baer. There were as many as 75 pupils attending the school at one time. This many pupils in such a small school made conditions quite crowded.

TEACHERS WHO TAUGHT AFTER 1900

This period covers a few years prior to the time that the writer attended and continues for several years afterward. We learned that Louise C. Rose had taught for three or four terms after 1901 and after that, to the best of our knowledge: Walter Grodeon,

Elmer Grodeon, Alex Brandenburger, Katherine Keck, Clara Miener, Ida Funke, Ambrosia Chuse and Loretta Traband. From this point until a few years prior to the closing of the school, some names are missing. The last several terms were taught by Miss Kathryn M. Ruth, a daughter of Henry Jacob Ruth.

Three generations of the Ruth family received an elementary school training in the Ruth School. Jacob Henry Ruth (my father) was a school trustee for many years and served in the capacity of clerk. He served faithfully until in the fall of the year of 1913 at which time he was forced to give up the work due to ill health. He passed away on January 16, 1914. His brother, Henry Albert Ruth, was also a member of the board and served for several years. Some time later, Henry Jacob Ruth, son of Jacob, served the board for several years in the same office that his father did a number of years before him.

A CONTRIBUTION BY OSCAR PETER RUTH

Mentioning of the Ruth School brings to my memory an incident that happened about the year of 1879, or it could have been a year or two earlier. It occurred in the summer during harvest time and your folks had a field of wheat across the road and to the south of the school, on a piece of land owned by your grandfather, David B. Ruth. At this time I can not recall just where my father and his help were harvesting on that day. My mother (stepmother) was at home on that day, there was another lady at our house at the time but I do not recall who she was, when in the afternoon, a severe storm blew in from the west. I recall that my mother and this other lady took us children by the hand and led us down into the cellar, closed the door and sat on the bottom cellar steps where we could hear the storm passing over us. We stayed down in the cellar until all was quiet before we came out to look around and see what had happened. Our house,

a large two story frame building facing north, had a large porch on the east side with a railing around the top. When we looked the place over we found that the entire railing was missing. The storm had torn it off and carried it away with it. I do not recall any other damage to the house. This tornado also did some damage to the house east of the school.

Note; There is a picture of this house in another section of this history but the porch he mentions is not included in the view.

Your two Aunts, Katie and Lizzie, along with two other men whose names I do not recall, were harvesting wheat in the field south of the school house. It began to storm and the four of them started on a run for the school house. The two men made it and turned to see where the girls were, realizing that they did not have time to make it, they called to them to lie flat on the ground and wait for the storm to pass. The girls obeyed and outside of getting a good soaking from the heavy rain, they were not injured. They often retold the story of this experience of theirs.

The men, who made it to the school, decided to go into the building to get protection from the storm. The building faced south, it had a door on the south and had six windows, three each in the east and west walls. Two of the windows in the east wall, the ones farthest north and farthest south, were never locked and the tramps that used to stay at the school used to crawl in through these windows to get protection from inclement weather. The two men hastily crawled into the building, thinking how lucky they were, and as they were getting their breath, one of them said, "Say, I believe this building is shaking", or words to that affect, "and I am getting out of here". The two of them, their minds acting simultaneously, went out through the window farthest to the north as fast as they could, went north until they reached the end of the wall and then went west, past the north wall. Almost immediately after they passed the north wall,

the entire roof flew up into the air and dropped off toward the south and east, the west and south walls collapsed and fell the same direction, thus missing the two men, thank goodness. The two men stopped to get their breath for the second time, looked at one another with a sigh of relief, then one of them said to the other, "Say, your face is as black as that of a negro". The other looked at him and then replied, "If my face is as black as a negro's, then your face is just as black as mine". The answer to this is the fact that the school house was heated with soft coal with an old pot bellied stove setting in the center of the building with a long stove pipe running from the stove to the chimney at the north end. The pipe, having fallen down, came apart and released the soot that flew through the air and covered their faces.

We had wheat in the field just west of your house and it was in shocks. After this storm had passed we found that practically all of the wheat bundles had been carried away by the wind and deposited into and against the high willow fence that your folks had on the west side of your fruit orchard.

So ends the story as told by Oscar Peter Ruth.

A VERIFICATION OF THE TORNADO

In a family history written by Mrs. Peter B. Ruth we find the following:

On the thirtieth day of June in the year of 1877, we had a tornado. It was during the wheat harvesting time and we were living in the Ruth Home one quarter mile north of the Ruth School. The wind uprooted the fruit trees and blew down all of the fences. All of our horses and cattle were gone and we had to round them up. There was a wheat field east of the school and it was all in shocks. The force of the wind took all of the bundles and dropped them against a willow fence located on the west side of the fruit orchard of the Ruth Home located east of the Ruth School.

Mrs. Barbara Hornburg, Nee Krehbiel, was visiting us at the time. Barbara and I hurriedly took Bertha and Oscar by the hand and went down into the cellar, closed the door and stayed there until all was quiet before we came back up out of the cellar.

My husband, Peter Ruth, was at John A. Ruth's for the purpose of getting the wheat binder. They had no storm there. This was the farm where Ben J. Schoene who married Emma M. Hirstein lived for a long time.

We made an inquiry through the Government Weather Bureau to verify the date of this tornado but due to the fact that they do not make a record unless there is a loss of life, they had no record of it.

THE SCHOOL AND SCHOOL GROUNDS

The school house was rebuilt and school days were resumed under normal conditions. The photograph that shows the school house and school grounds was taken about the year of 1910 and was taken and finished by my brother Walter. It gives you a picture of how the school looked at that time. The view was taken from the south west. A few years after the photograph was taken, a porch was added on the south side and other improvements made to make the school conform to what was termed a Standard School of the State.

The school ground or yard was bounded on the east and north sides by a trimmed hedge fence and a road on the west and south sides. Incidentally, during our research work on the school, we found that the name of the road on the south side of the school is "Ruth School Road". The school house was surrounded by two maple and seven locust trees, the one maple that was on the north west corner of the grounds is not shown in the photograph.

At one time there was a movement afoot to change the name of the school from "Ruth School" to "Locust Grove School". It progressed to the point where news items about the school and surrounding area appeared

in local papers under the heading of "Locust Grove". This movement was squashed and the instigators were told that the school started as Ruth School and Ruth School it would stay. And stay it did for it carried the name to the day it was closed and consolidated with the Mascoutah Township Schools in 1950.

John H. Dagit purchased the school grounds on the thirteenth day of May in the year of 1950. He is the owner, on this date, of the 40 acre tract upon which the school house was built, having purchased it from the Ruth Estate several years previous. The building was razed in the year of 1954 and the 1/2 acre tract was planted with peach trees.

REMINISCENCE

Having been born and raised one quarter mile east of the Ruth School and having received my elementary school training in it, recalling these incidents and writing the article leaves me a bit nostalgic. It is rather interesting that Oscar recalled the fact that two windows in the east wall of the school building were never locked and that tramps used to crawl into the building to get out of the weather. As far back as I can recall and up to the time that the building was improved, these windows were never locked. After the improvements were made the window farthest north was locked but the one farthest south was left open. This one was open as long as I can remember and was never locked as long as I lived in the area.

His recollection of the tramps at the school also brings them to my mind. At this time there is no one alive who could tell us when the tramps first began to come to the school or what prompted them to stay there in the first place. The odd thing about it is that this was the only school for miles around where any tramps camped out during the summer months. They may have made one night stops at other schools, but that was their limit. At the Ruth School they began

to arrive about the latter part of May and camped on the grounds until around the latter part of August. While Oscar mentions the fact that during his time, the tramps crawled into the building for protection, there was no trouble of this sort during my time for they always slept in the coal shed. It seemed that a number of them acted as watchmen to see that no one did any damage to the school property. Whenever they had a visitor who did not live up to their rules, he was told to move on and was not given the privilege to stay at the Ruth School.

The only feasible reason that is applicative as to why the tramps stayed at the Ruth School and not at any of the other schools, is the tolerance of the Ruth Family. Since they were of the Mennonite faith whose ancestors suffered much during the reformation period, they knew what it was like to roam the lands without a home to call their own, they could readily sympathize with these homeless people. At one time I inquired of one of these old timers why they always stayed at the Ruth School. He replied that so far as he knew and as far back as he could recall, they had been given the privilege to stay there as long as no damage was done to the school property and that they never abused that privilege nor did they allow anyone else to abuse it. If they stayed at any other of the schools for more than one night, they would have a visitor the next day who told them to move on.

This privilege seemed to be an unwritten law that did not have to be renewed every year. They returned every year until they answered the last roll call to be taken to their home on high. During the time that I lived in the area there was not a single incident where there was any damage done to school property, or to the property of anyone who lived in the school district, nor of any property being stolen by any of these men. If it were possible to make inquiry about this of men who lived in the area before my time, I am sure that the answer would have been the same.

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT THE TRAMPS

Each year the tramps would begin to arrive a few weeks prior to the harvest season. Some of them made it a practice to work in the harvest fields and they would work for the same party each year. Some would stay and follow the threshing rig and work as bundle pitchers, others would stay a short time and then be off for parts unknown. Bear in mind that this story about these tramps refers only to those we knew and who returned to the school year after year and does not include any that merely passed through the area.

When I was a youngster it was my privilege to go to the school house on a Sunday afternoon and spend countless hours with these men and received a lot of good advice. It is needless to add that the visiting was done with the sanction of both of my parents. It was also my privilege to spend a lot of time with my cousins, Frieda and Edith, whom I tried to induce to go with me to visit these men but never did get them to the point where they lost their fear of the men.

The names of some of the old timers were; Charles Martin, also known as Charley Cadet, Switzer Albert, Switzer Joe, Flat Wheel, Fritz Shoe, Frenchy, Basket Maker, Umbrella Fixer, Philadelphia Dick and others.

There used to be anywhere from one to as many as fifteen or twenty of these men at the school on some of these Sunday afternoons. During the week they had a job working for a farmer in the surrounding area. Charles Martin used to work for my Uncle Henry Ruth and stayed there during the summer. He got the name "Charley Cadet" from the fact that he could take any old stick for his gun, stand at attention, call out and execute the complete military maneuvers without batting an eye. Switzer Joe used to shock wheat for my father and sometimes Flat Wheel was included with him. The Basket Maker made baskets from willows that grew a mile south of the school. He would make a few baskets, as many as he could carry, and sell them to

the people in the community. He made plain and fancy baskets and many people who needed baskets would not buy any until this basket maker came around with his wares. The Umbrella Fixer was the least presentable, he always wore from three to four pairs of trousers and the like number of coats at one time and always looked as if he needed a good scrubbing. Mother once gave him an umbrella to mend and he did such a poor job that she later ripped the patch off and then did the entire job herself.

Philadelphia Dick, who named himself "A gentleman of the Road", was always neat and well dressed. His wearing apparel consisted of a coat, trousers, vest, shirt, tie and a straw hat. He was well mannered and an excellent conversationalist, being well versed on many subjects. I recall his mentioning that aluminum was being used to make cooking utensils long before it was possible to purchase them on the open market. Every time that he stopped at our house to buy something he would talk to my mother for an hour or more before going back to the school house.

He always had money to buy what he wanted and was never known to have had to work to earn it and on an occasion when my mother made reference to it, he had this answer; "I am not a tramp, I am a gentleman of the Road", which closed the incident and the subject was never mentioned after that. He never did divulge the secret source of his finances nor gave us any of his family connections other than to tell us that he was born in Philadelphia. His wonderful conduct and mannerism clearly showed that he must have been born of a rich and well established family. He never did mention whether he chose this nomadic way of life of his own free will or if it was some tragic incident occurring during his life that prompted him to do it.

The two Ruth homes, the ones just east and north of the school were the first choice of these men and therefore received more visits from them than any of the other homes in that area. During harvest time I

used to go to town quite a bit and always stopped at the school house to see if I could get anything for any of those men that were there. Practically every time I went I would bring back some chewing or smoking tobacco for one or more of them. It is needless to add that they always gave me the money to pay for what they wanted. Chewing tobacco was number one on their list and it covered such brands as Horse Shoe, Star and Granger Twist.

At that time each plug of tobacco had a metal tag on it that could be redeemed in cash, much like most present day coupons. Each of the manufacturers had a design of their own, Star had a star and Horse Shoe had a horse shoe, etc.. These men used to save these tags and give them to me so that I could redeem them for cash or candy. Most of the time it was candy.

My mother never turned away a hungry man, regardless of whether he offered to work or pay for it. In more cases than not, she never accepted anything for the food she gave them. I once asked Switzer Joe how these men knew a place where they would be sure of a meal and also knew where they would be refused. His reply was that they had a sort of organization and a code of marks which would identify the sort of place it was. These marks were placed on some object along the roadside where anyone that was familiar with the marks could recognize them while others that did not know the code had no idea of what they meant. It was fun to watch a newcomer come down the road until he was even with our lane, then stop and look around as if he had lost something, then come up to the house and ask for food. Before Switzer Joe told us of this method we always wondered why these men would stop a while, look around for several minutes before coming up to our house to make their request. After that we were aware of what they were looking for. On several occasions we went down to the road and tried to find the markings which they recognized but we never were successful in locating the marks of their code.

When my mother moved into Summerfield to make her home, she thought, "Well, I will not have to feed any more tramps", but she was mistaken. They missed her the first year but found her in the second. How they accomplished the task of locating her, no one knows, but they succeeded. At this time the old timers were well up in age and disappeared one by one so that by the year of 1945, there were none left. It seemed as if there were no new recruits to fill the vacancies left by the passing of the old timers and so the old fashioned tramp or hobo, became a thing of the past. Modes of travel, living and farming have changed and we now have what we term a hitch-hiker.

Thinking back over the time I used to spend with these men who came back year after year to spend the harvest season, never harming anyone or stealing any property, their conduct always being above reproach, and compare them with the conduct and actions of the present day hitch-hikers, these old timers were most assuredly, "Gentlemen of the Road".

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

As this is being written there are still a number of people living who have attended Ruth School and a few parents whose children have, that can recall the many activities connected with the school. The usual yearly picnics at the close of the school term with the home made ice-cream, pink lemonade, cake and all of the other good eats one finds at any picnic. Any person who has never been drafted to turn one of the old style home freezers can not appreciate ice-cream to it's fullest extent as that of one who has.

The usual Christmas entertainments along with the box of candy and an orange given by the teacher and in some cases, through an attending Santa Claus. The lot of Santa Claus, as long as I can remember, fell to one of my brothers. During the last few years of my school years and for a few years afterward it was

my privelege to play Santa Claus at the Ruth School and a few times at the school a mile and one quarter south of it. The few times that I had the pleasure while attending school, the entire procedure was the net result of some planning between the teacher and the writer. At noon on the day before Christmas, the teacher gave the children some sort of an excuse for my leaving the school at noon time. I went home and got everything ready, including myself, and arrived at school at the appointed time as Santa Claus, gave out the presents to the children and disappeared. It was pleasing to know that with an exception or two, I was not recognized as being their Santa Claus. The question might arise as to why it was always a Ruth that was a Santa Claus. The answer to this might be, they were the only ones that took enough interest in the project to make up a Santa Claus costume and use it for the purpose of entertaining the children. The job fell to my younger brother after I left the area and after that I do not know if the practice was one that was continued or not.

The many box socials, sock socials and the school plays that were given to raise money for the school district, the proceeds of which were always used to help defray the expenses of the activities. The box social was an affair where the young women brought a nicely decorated box (mostly always a shoe box) that was filled with an assortment of good things to eat, such as candies, fruit, cake, cookies, sandwiches or some other delicacy. The young woman placed her name on the inside of the box and all of these boxes were placed on exhibition and auctioned off to the party giving the highest bid. This party paid for the box, opened it to find out the name of the young lady who brought it and the two of them sat down to enjoy the evening eating the contents of the box and listen to each others conversation and usually always ended up with the young man seeing the young lady home.

The general idea was that no one was supposed to

know the identity of the party that brought the box they were bidding on but in many cases where a young man and a young woman were going steady the girl was sure to give her friend a cue to let him know which box was the one that belonged to her. While at first thought one might think that this was unfair, it was advantageous from the standpoint of finances. When a young man began to bid in earnest on any certain box the rest of them could tell that it belonged to his girl friend and began to bid against him and bidding began to get enthusiastic with a net result that he ended up by paying from two to three times more for the box than he would have under normal conditions. Since the proceeds always went for a good cause, the young men always took it good natured and never were known to have lost their temper on any one occasion. No social was complete however, without at least one bachelors box. It was a box just like any other with the exception that it did not contain a girls name. Whoever bought it, sat down with a number of his men friends and they all managed to have a good time.

A sock social was the same as a box social except that a pair of socks were used in place of a box and the party that bought them could at least wear them.

The school plays or entertainments consisted of a number of recitations, a short farce or play and one or more dialogues. The children in the lower grades gave the recitations, the ones in the middle grades gave the dialogues and the ones in the higher grades took parts in the plays and farces.

Preparing for these affairs was a lot of fun for we spent quite a bit of time rehearsing and we also spent a lot of time cleaning the old kerosene lamps that supplied the light. They were of the type that used a wick and the old lamp chimneys. The lamps had an outside reflector and both the lamp and reflector were mounted on a swinging bracket that was mounted on the wall. The chore of cleaning a lamp consisted of filling the base with kerosene, trimming the wick

and cleaning the lamp chimney. Trimming the wick was done with a special scissors made for the purpose or one could use a red hot iron rod and burn it off and do a better job than one could do with the scissors. If you did a good job of trimming the wick you got a nice even flame that gave off a lot of light and no smoke but if you did a bad job on it you got a flame that gave very little light but gave an abundance of smoke along with a very disagreeable odor.

A portable stage was used and it was made up of a number of trusses and planks, the curtains were hung from wires that were stretched across the room. Some extra seats were made by using trusses and planks to be laid crosswise of the room and the ends of these planks rested on the seats of the school desks. This stage and the seats were always put up by the school directors on the afternoon before the entertainment was to be given. The material used for this purpose was always stored in my father's granary until they built a special place to store it under the roof of the school building.

Such is the history of the Ruth School, a passing landmark of Mascoutah Township. All that remains of the school at this writing is the pump on the well, a pile of bricks and the original grounds upon which the present owner has planted some fruit trees.

CONCLUSION

The early one room country schools so familiar to our predecessors and to those who have attended them who may be fortunate enough to be living at the time this article is written, have practically all passed into oblivion. It is for this reason that we thought it might be interesting to portray a few of the many activities connected with these schools so that the present and future generations may have some idea of how they operated.

Many people have ridiculed these schools and even

in the present day we sometimes meet some people who make derogatory remarks about them when the subject is mentioned. It is to be borne in mind that at the time when the first immigrants came to this country there were no ready made cities equipped with up to date multiple roomed schools awaiting them with open arms. The land at that time was either a forest or a prairie and the most important item to the settlers was food and the only way to get it was to resort to agriculture. They selected a suitable area on which to build their homes which they built similar to the arrangement of homes in the present day agricultural areas except that they were much closer together for the sake of the safety of the occupants.

These settlers were conscious of the necessity of education for their children and they taught them in their home or homes until there were enough settlers living in the area to make it worth while to build a school house. They always built it in the center of the community of those who were to use it and since the number of pupils was not too great, the one room school answered the purpose very well indeed.

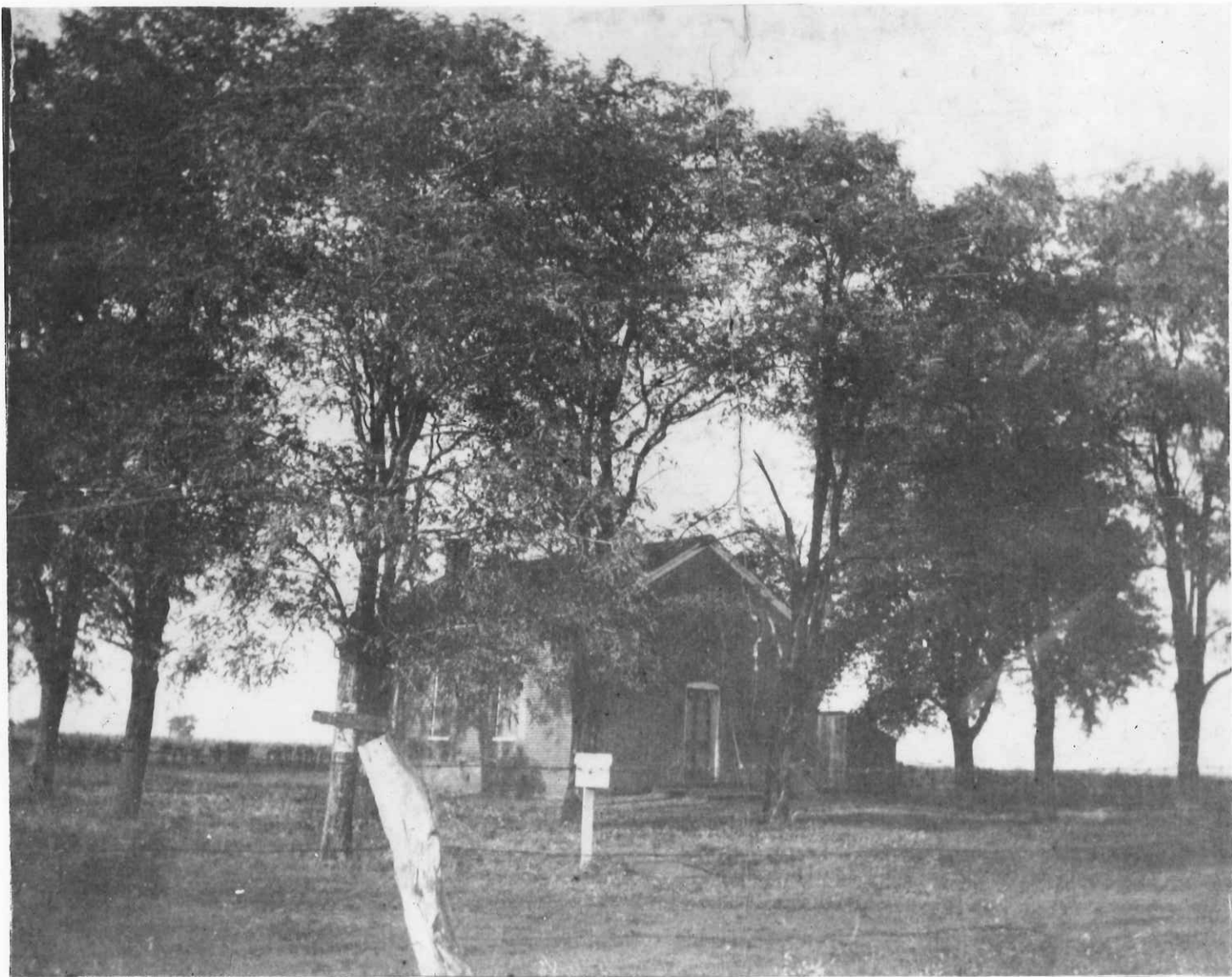
All of these one room schools operated under the same sort of an educational system set up by each of the States. The social activities were varied and in accordance with the will and pleasure of the people living in their respective school districts.

It is needless to mention the names of people who received their elementary education in one of these one room schools, history is full of them. These one room country schools were the foundation of multiple roomed schools of the cities.

This article is about the Ruth School because it fits into the family genealogy. Other schools of the one room variety were operated in a like manner. The only exception was that the Ruth School had an added feature of being what one might term a summer resort for "Gentlemen of the Road".

June 5, 1959.

By Albert J. Ruth.



A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
JOHN EICHER-MARY RUTH FAMILY

EARLY ANCESTORS

We spent quite a bit of time trying to locate the early ancestors of the Eicher family but we were not very fortunate because we could not find a genealogy of the family in this country or in Europe. The data we do have on them comes from family records and the few references we found on the Eicher family in some records of the Mennonite Families in Europe.

We found that a Hans (Johannes) Eicher was living in the Palatinate as early as 1698. The Zion Church records of the Zion Congregation of Donnellson, Iowa show that the Reverend Henry Ellenberger was married to Katherine Eicher of Rauthalerhof, Palatinate, but we could not trace either party any further.

From the John Eicher family Bible we obtained the information that he was born in Bischeim, County of Kirchheimbolanden, Palatinate. This was close to the city of Harxheim on the Pfrimm where the Ruth family lived before they migrated to Upper Bavaria.

From the Summerfield Cemetery records and some of the old-timers living in the area who remembered the Eicher family, we verified the information that the Michael Eicher who lived in the Summerfield area was a brother of the John Eicher who married Mary Ruth, who also lived in the Summerfield area.

From Charlotte Peege, granddaughter of John Lipps and Charlotte Eicher, sister of John and Michael who are mentioned above, we obtained the following data.

It was received by Viola Eicher Bristow in answer to a request for information on the early ancestors of the Eicher family on the Ruth family genealogy.

Mother often related that her grandfather, on the paternal side, was a rich aristocrat. My grandmother Charlotte Lipps, Nee Eicher, said she remembered the time when her father would take his hunting belt and load it with some gold pieces and then be off and be gone on a hunting trip for several weeks at a time. Her mother having passed away and her father not one to take on the responsibility of raising his family, Charlotte was placed in the home of a rich relative, (She did not state if this was on the Eicher or Rupp side of the family) where she was very unhappy. She did not care to be obligated to her uncle's family, so she and her brother John decided to go to America to make their new home. (We did not find a record of the name of the ship they sailed on or the date they arrived in America. The Eicher record says that they came in his twentieth year which would make the date fall some time during the year of 1852.)

There seems to be but very little known, nothing in fact, of the remaining members of the family. The name of my grandmother's grandfather was Rupp, so my lineage is Rupp-Eicher-Lipps-Peege.

Dora Eicher Miller remembers when the Lipps girls (cousins of hers) used to visit the Eicher family in Summerfield. Viola Eicher Bristow remembers that the Eicher family visited the Peege family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin about the year of 1900 and another time in the year of 1905.

Charlotte Peege was an opera singer. She sang in Milwaukee, New York City and Boston and twice in the city of Saint Louis when she appeared with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra in the Odeon Building.

Considering the fact that some early ancestors of the Ruth, Eicher and Rupp families lived in the same area in the County of Kirchheimbolanden, Palatinate, together with the fact that all of them were members of the Mennonite Faith, there is a possibility that the Ruth-Eicher family ties are further enhanced by the connections they have with the Rupp family.

Starting from the generation of the compiler and figuring back to the great great grandparents, there is a Rupp on the maternal side of the Ruth family, a Rupp on the paternal side of the Eicher family and a Rupp on the maternal side of the Eicher family one generation down at the great grandparent level. This would make the Rupp family a common ancestor of both the Ruth and Eicher families at the fifth generation from the compiler or the third great grandparents.

The foregoing is the result of our research work of trying to find the early Eicher ancestors.

It remains an open challenge to anyone in either family to carry on the research work over and beyond that which we have accomplished and recorded.

The John Eicher-Mary Ruth and the David B. Ruth-Maria Berger families were always very exceptionally devoted to one another, a trait that still manifests itself to the present day. A contributing factor may well be the fact that both couples were married in a double wedding ceremony in the old Ruth home.

THE JOHN EICHER-MARY RUTH FAMILY

John Eicher was born in Bischeim, (on a very old map it is spelled "Bisheim") in the County of Kirchheimbolanden, Palatinate on January the twenty first in the year of 1832. Bischeim was situated a little north of and west of Harxheim on the Pfrimm.

It was during his twentieth year that he migrated to the United States of America and first settled in Niagara Falls, New York. From Niagara Falls he moved west to Lee County, Iowa and after staying there for a short time he moved to Summerfield, Illinois where he made his home. With the exception of a few years, he spent the rest of his life in this area.

On the twelfth of September in the year of 1858, he and Mary Ruth and David B. Ruth and Maria Berger were married in a double wedding ceremony in the old Ruth home one quarter mile north of the Ruth School.

It was in this home that the Church services were held before the first Mennonite Church was built in this area. There were ninety three people present at the ceremony, all of them Mennonites except sixteen. John Eicher was twenty six years, seven months and twenty two days old and Mary Ruth was twenty years, ten months and eighteen days old. David B. Ruth was twenty two years and eight months old. Maria Berger was twenty three years and three months old.

In May of the year of 1859, John Eicher and his bride moved into their new home in Summerfield. The home was a two story structure with four rooms and a cellar and it was built upon two lots. The two lots contained the house, a kitchen, a large shop and the garden. The two lots cost them \$200.00 and the house cost them \$1,400.00. They built the home themselves.

A photograph of the home, with the members of the family in the foreground, appears at the end of this article. It was taken in the year of 1896 and shows how the home looked at that time. It also shows Mr. and Mrs. Eicher, their six living sons, their wives, and the grandchildren who were born up to that time. Their youngest son, Adolph, died in his infancy.

They hired two extra people to help, one was paid \$5.00 per month and the other one, \$10.00 per month. The former lived on the place while the latter lived in his own home and also managed the General Store.

The home that John Eicher and his wife built, was certainly a fitting example of their excellent workmanship. It withstood the wear of usage and rigor of the weather very well until on the night of February the twenty fourth in the year of 1956 when it was in the path of a tornado, damaging it to an extent that it had to be razed.

This couple was blest with seven children, all of whom were boys whose names were; John, Henry, Jacob, Peter, Valentine, David and Adolph. Adolph died soon after his birth. David succumbed to Typhoid Fever at Warrenton, Missouri on the thirtieth of March in the

year of 1903, aged thirty one years. His earthly remains were first interred at Warrenton. The body was exhumed on a later date, transported to Summerfield, Illinois and reinterred in the Summerfield Cemetery.

John Eicher lost the sight of one eye through an unfortunate accident. He got some lime into it while mixing some mortar and the Doctor was unable to save it. Several years later, in the year of 1900, he was working on a fence with some chicken netting and ran a piece of wire into his other eye. This happened in winter and the Doctor warned him to be careful so he would not catch cold in his eye or he would lose it too, but he insisted on going out into the cold and work on the fence. While doing so he caught a severe cold that affected his eye and he lost the sight in his remaining good eye and became totally blind. He was blind for two years when he suffered the loss of his faithful wife. She passed away on the fifteenth day of September in the year of 1902. She was born at Harreszell, Bavaria on October the twenty fifth, 1837. She was a daughter of Jacob Ruth and Barbara Strohm. Her earthly remains were laid to rest in the Summerfield Cemetery at Summerfield, Illinois.

John Eicher bore his affliction patiently. After his wife passed away he went to Goessel, Kansas and stayed in the hospital for a while and then returned to Summerfield. He stayed with his son Valentine for a while and shortly after that he made his home with Samuel Haury. After Samuel Haury died, John went to Highland, Illinois where he spent some time in the Catholic Hospital and then went to Lebanon, Illinois to stay with his son Henry. A little later, he went to another Catholic Hospital in Belleville and came back to Summerfield in the year of 1911. He made his home with Mike Sick. It was not exactly what he had wanted, but it was close to the Church, and that was what he wanted. His lot was a difficult one and full of misfortunes. His last illness was of a very short duration, so he did not have to suffer for long.

He joined the Mennonite Church in his youth, and remained a faithful member until he passed away on the fifth of March, 1913. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. John B. Baer. His earthly remains lie buried in the Summerfield Cemetery, alongside of those of his faithful wife, Mary Ruth Eicher.

The writer, even though being a youngster who was just eight months short of becoming a teen-ager when John Eicher passed away, has a clear recollection of him sitting next to the center aisle on the left and near the front of the Church. At that time the women folk sat in the right half of the Church and the men folk in the left half, or on the respective sides of the center aisle as you faced the pulpit.

While visiting the Albert W. Eicher family to get a verification of some dates, we learned of two very interesting items that have been in the family for a number of years, one of them for over a century.

The one item happens to be two cut glass tumblers that remain from an original set of twelve, given as a wedding present to the bride and groom, Mary Ruth and John Eicher, who were married on the twelfth day of September in the year of 1858. There is no record available that would identify the original donor.

Some time before she passed away, Mrs. Eicher had expressed a desire to give each of her six remaining children a keepsake and decided to give each of them two of the cut glass tumblers. The two mentioned in this article are the only ones known to be extant.

The other item is an old Swiss Musical Box. There is no record of when this box came into the family. It was made by Nicole Freres of Geneva, Switzerland.

In the year of 1815, two Freres brothers, Raymond and Francois, established separate firms and started manufacturing musical boxes, each of them used a set of serial numbers of their own. In the year of 1837, the two brothers amalgamated, trading under the name of Nicole Freres of Geneva, becoming world famous as makers of good quality musical boxes. After the date

of amalgamation, they used one set of serial numbers and started with the number 19,000 and never changed them up to the time they went out of business in the year of 1903. This is fortunate for a collector, for it is an easy matter to determine the date of any of the Nicole Freres boxes by the serial numbers.

The musical box owned by the Eicher's has both, a serial number and a date. The serial number of this box is 51165 and the date written on the bottom side of the box is June 25, 1889. We verified the date of the box from the book "Musical Boxes", by John E. T. Clark, so we know for sure, that the date and number of this box are genuine and correct.

The box is in an exceptionally good condition for it's age and still plays very good. It still has the original tune card, listing the names of the several musical selections the box plays.

The two cut glass tumblers and the Swiss Musical Box were in the hands of the Albert W. Eicher family at the time this article was being compiled.

Viola Eicher Bristow has an old "Vergl'smeinnicht" (Forget-me-not or Book of Memories) that belonged to her grandmother Mary Ruth Eicher, dating back to the time she was a little over fourteen years of age.

Considering the related excerpts from the history "Remembrances from 1807, by Barbara Strohm" plus the fact that most of the entries are dated 1852 and one in particular is dated May 16, 1852, we can assemble the following story by the use of logic and reason.

Barbara Strohm Ruth made preparations to emigrate to America in the year of 1852. During the month of May, just prior to the time they were to start their long trip, she and the children made a farewell tour for the purpose of visiting all of their friends and relatives for the last time and to tell them a final good-bye. Mary Ruth must have received the book as a gift from her mother, shortly before they were to go on the farewell tour, because it is evident that all of the entries made in the year of 1852 were made at

the time they were making the tour. The tone of most entries give evidence that they were written with a feeling and thought that this was the last time they would ever see each other. There was a happy ending and a time for elation for most all of those who had made an entry in the book, emigrated to this country and old friendships and regular visits were resumed. There are several entries in the book that were made after this branch of the Ruth family arrived in this country, the first one was made in December 1854 and the last one in October 1858. This last entry is one that was made a month after Mary Ruth was married to John Eicher in the old Ruth home in Illinois.

The book is novel and unique in the sense that it appears to be a book, but really is made in the form of a box with a hinged cover with plain cards taking the place of pages as in the regular "Forget-me-not" or "Memory Book" as our generation knew it.

The Forget-me-not is an Old World plant bearing a light blue flower, commonly regarded as an emblem of constancy and friendship. Small wonder then that the books of this nature were titled "Forget-me-not", it is a most appropriate name. The later editions of the "Forget-me-not" books were printed in the form of a Diary. They had a Month and Day heading for each and every day of the year, allotting a generous amount of blank space after each date for filling in one's own name and year of birth.

From a genealogical standpoint, this type of book was an improvement over the earlier editions because each person recorded their year of birth after their name under the proper month and day column. We found several of these "Forget-me-not" books to be a great help to us in checking back on dates of many of the descendants of the different branches of the family. While the later editions gained much favor from the genealogical standpoint, they lost all of the person to person sentiment conveyed by the "Forget-me-not" books of the type owned by Mary Ruth Eicher.

Each of the cards in the book were inscribed with a "Memory Verse" and the signature of the person who wrote it. Some cards bear the year or month and year when the verse was written, others include the place of residence. The listed locations are as follows.

Friedelsheim, Palatinate	2.
Oberfloersheim, Palatinate	9.
Weierhof, Palatinate	2.
Harreszell, Upper Bavaria	2.
Jetzendorf, Upper Bavaria	1.
Thann, Upper Bavaria	3.
Franklin Prairie, Iowa	1.
West Point, Iowa	2.

While most of the cards are hand written in plain german script, a number of them are embellished with ornamental penmanship and shading of capitals. There are a select few that have a small ringlet or braid of hair of the person who wrote the verse. These are further embellished with small hand made flowers and leaves much like the old Hand made Valentines of the period of from 1890 to about the year of 1908.

To perpetuate this family heirloom and to keep it in good condition along with giving the present day generation an idea of how the book was made and what sentiment each verse was meant to convey, the writer has translated the verses and written a short story about the book on loose leaf note book paper and has placed it in a loose leaf binber. Both articles are now in the possession of Viola Eicher Bristow.

In the german language the verses rhyme and carry or convey the proper sentiment. The rhyming and some of the sentiment is lost in the translation from the german to the english language. The translation was made as literally as possible to keep as much of the original thought and tone of each verse.

The letter "Snow Bound" that follows this article gives a description of a blizzard that struck in the Summerfield area in January of the year of 1918.

December 5, 1960.

By Albert J. Ruth.