

The *Shakopee Argus* (Volume 61, Number 16, Page 1) noted Herman's death:

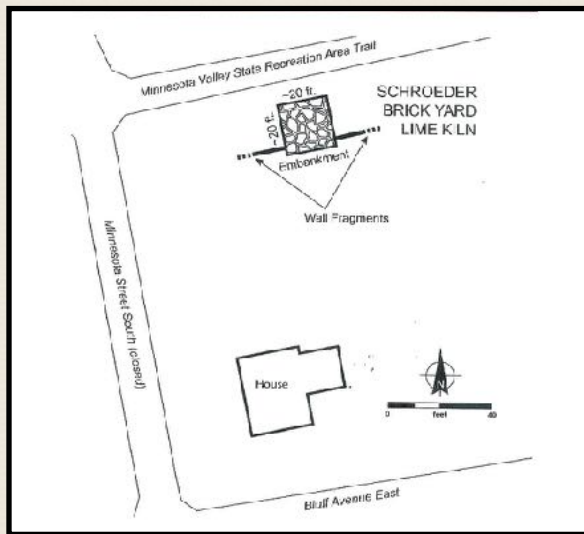
"The community was shocked and grieved Tuesday evening when the news spread about town that Herman Schroeder, one of our best known citizens, had passed away almost without warning at 6:45 o'clock [February 28, 1922] at his residence in this city of pulmonary embolism."

"Since January 15 Mr. Schroeder had been confined to his home but had attended to business all of the time and was much improved until Friday. He had, however, been up and about and taken an interest in affairs to the last. "



Herman Schroeder's house from *A Sketch of Shakopee, Minn.: Historical and Industrial 1891* by William Hinds and published in 1996 by the Scott County Historical Society. On right is the German Lutheran Church on First Avenue, where Herman worshipped. From Huber Collection of the Shakopee Heritage Society.

"Shortly before death he had eaten supper and apparently, as usual, conversing with the family and expressing no hint of any change to his condition. A few minutes later his daughter heard him moaning in an adjoining room and found him suffering with shortness of breath. Before aid summoned by her could reach him, he was beyond restoration, death coming quietly and peacefully without pain. His sudden passing was a great shock to the family and deep sympathy goes out to them in their keen sorrow and bereavement."



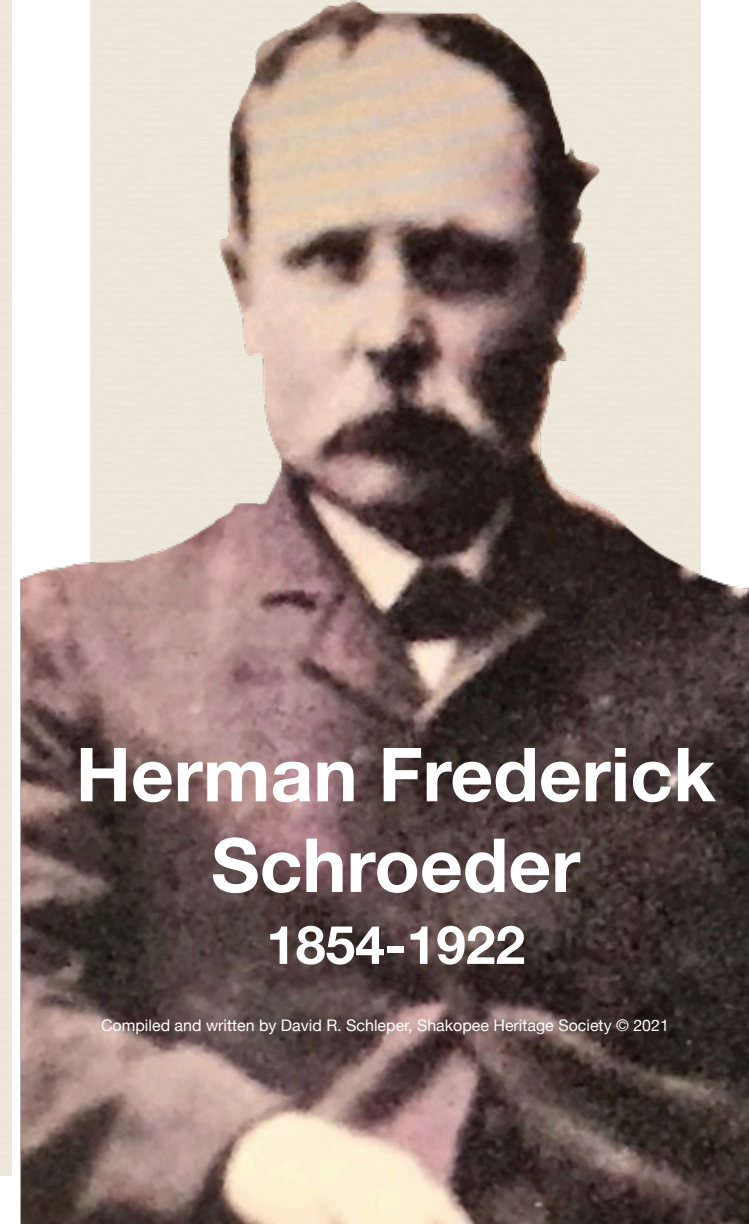
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Herman Frederick Schroeder 1854-1922

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2021



Herman Frederick Schroeder was born in Hemsloh, Hanover, Germany on July 26, 1854. His father, Frederick, died when he was six years of age, and the death of his mother, Margaret Sandman Schroeder, left him an orphan at the age of eleven.

In 1870 he came from Hanover to America and settled at Belle Plaine. He was married there in 1875 to Marie Reinke, and they came to Shakopee the same year. This had been their home ever since.

Immediately after coming to Shakopee, Herman, in company with his brother, opened a brickyard which developed into the Schroeder Brick and Lime Manufacturing Company. It was one of the leading and most prosperous business enterprises of the city, and was well known in the northwest. Herman purchased his brother's interest in 1896 and continued the business.

The brick yard was located north of Bluff Avenue between Market and Minnesota Street. The bricks were from near the Minnesota River, near Huber Park. Many of the early building in Shakopee were made from these bricks. Most of these photographs were from the early 1900s.



LOOKING SOUTHWEST



LOOKING EAST

According to Dan Meyer, "The brick yard was awesome. It was my jungle gym and playground as a kid. We used to play on the brick walls for hours, and we used to climb down inside the old brick kiln. It was the part they used to fire up the bricks. It was kind of scary at the tip looking down. The old brick yard was right over the hill in my backyard."

The lime kiln is all that is left standing of the Schroeder Brick & Lime Manufacturing Company. This kiln provides a first hand look at how lime used to be made. Lime was manufactured from limestone chunks, a common by-product of stone quarrying. When heated or burnt to 1600 degree Fahrenheit, the chunks crumbled into a powder. The heat caused the stone to give off carbon dioxide, thus forming calcium oxide or 'quicklime.' Kilns were built into hillsides so that wagons could get to the top. This made it easy to load the chimney. An iron grate or stone arch inside the kiln prevented the stone chunks from falling to the bottom. As the limestone burned, lime powder would fall to the floor. A brick lining on the inside walls prevented disintegration of the kiln itself. Wood fueled the kilns. It took about 15 medium sized oak trees to produce one ton of lime. Wood was burned directly in the chimney layered with limestone chunks, or in fireboxes on either side of the kiln. The fireboxes channeled the heat up the chimney through the stone chunks. The fireboxes, without their iron doors, are on the sides of the Schroeder lime kiln.

Many of the settler-colonists to Shakopee were German, and they preferred to build with bricks. This, coupled with the fact that shipping brick by river was very costly, guaranteed a constant demand for locally made bricks.

The Schroeder Brickyard possessed all the components needed for a successful brick making operation: A large and easily accessible supply of high quality clay; a large supply of wood to fuel the kilns and steam engines; a willing work force; and close proximity to a growing town.

Because brick making was an outdoor activity, it was limited to the warmer months of the year. When the temperature dropped below freezing, the bricks could not dry properly before firing. During the winter months, the workers of the brick yard were forced to find alternate employment, or were left unemployed during the hardest time of the year.

Brick production at the Schroeder Brickyard was labor intensive compared to today's methods. Excavating, mixing, and forming the clay into bricks was accomplished using only people, horses, and steam engines for power.

After the bricks were slowly cooled, they were graded, sorted, and stacked for shipment. In 1880 the Schroeder brickyard manufactured one million bricks.

Herman Schroeder's house was the red brick one on Bluff Street. He had 5 children, 3 girls and 2 boys. Two of his daughters stayed living in the house until they passed away. One girl died very young. When Herman Frederick Schroeder died on February 28, 1922, the boys ran the brick yards after their dad passed away.

Many of the buildings in downtown Shakopee were made from the bricks manufactured at the Schroeder Brickyard. This business stayed in the family until it ceased operation in 1941.

