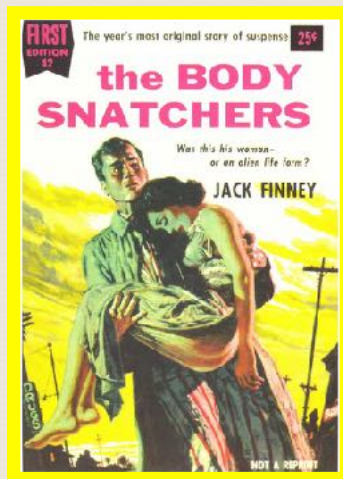




A jury was summoned and an inquest was held that afternoon. The decided that the deceased was an unknown person who had met her death at the hands of a person or persons unknown to them. They buried the body.

The County Attorney didn't like the verdict, and so they again disinterred the body. Same results, and the body was buried again.

The *Shakopee Argus* on May 17, 1883 noted the person or people had "undoubtedly decapitated the body and buried it upon the banks of the river, or shoved it under the ice, naked, as they would have done with a dead hog."



Julia Unze had a scar on her left leg, which would have been aided in identifying the body. Because this was the leg that was removed, it was clear someone knew that.

"Haunted in their dreams, they must dread the appearance of the pure, bright light of day as being a constant reproach upon their dark deeds," said the *Shakopee Argus*, May 17, 1883



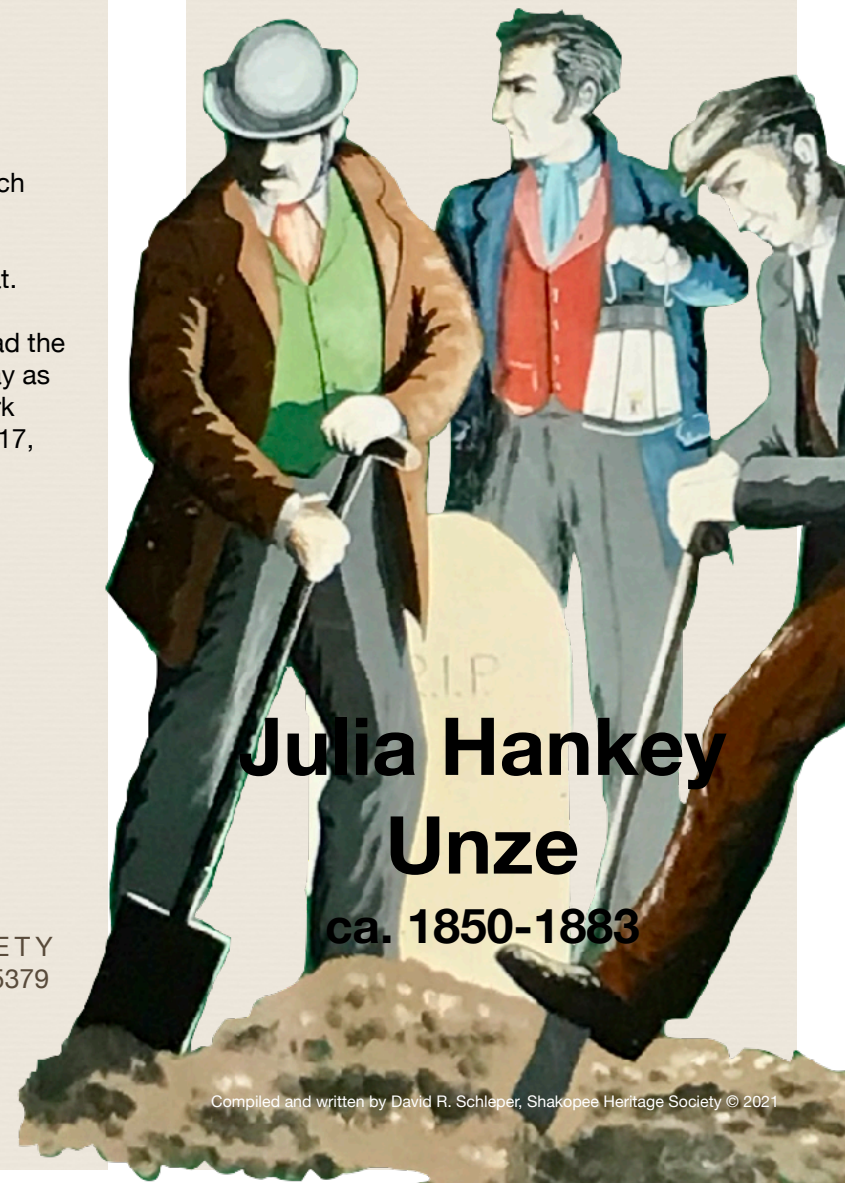
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2109 Boulder Pointe, Shakopee, MN 55379

952-693-3865

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Julia Hankey Unze

ca. 1850-1883



Julia Hankey was born in Germany, daughter of Frederick Hankey and his wife, Elizabeth. Julia immigrated to Shakopee, and on November 20, 1867, she married Joachim Jacob Unze, the second of thirteen children born of Joachim Unze and Dorothy Elizabeth Selle from Krampf, Bradeburg, Prussia. Joachim was born in 1844.

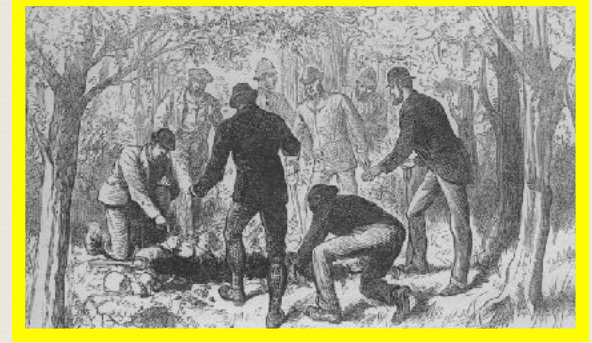
They married at St John's Lutheran Church in Shakopee. Joachim and Julia had four children, including Mary Rose (1868) Julia Sophia (1873), Jacob Henry (1874) and Albert (1879). They farmed in Eagle Creek area of what is later Shakopee.



Joachim Unze I (1811-1899) and Dorothy Elizabeth Selle Unze (1821-1897) arrived from Germany to Illinois in 1852, and continued to Shakopee in 1858. They had 13 children, including Joachim Unze II, who married Julia Hankey in Shakopee.



In the 1800s, people in the United States would steal the bodies of various graves in order to sell them to doctors and medical facilities to be used for research.



On January 14, 1882 in Spring Hill, Joachim Unze, died. He was 37 years old. He had returned from the market in Shakopee, put his horse team in the barn, and entered the house, according to the **Shakopee Argus**, January 19, 1882. He unbutton his coat, placed the packages on the table, and suddenly fell to the floor, dead. After Coroner Hirscher checked to make sure the cause heart disease.

Almost one year later, Joachim's wife, Julia Hankey Unze, suddenly died.

Julia was unwell, not not seriously. The next day, she was much worse, and by Wednesday, she was dead, according to the **Shakopee Argus** on January 18, 1893. Though some people thought it might be suicide, Coroner Hirscher made an investigation and decided that Julia died of natural causes.

Her four children were left orphans, but eventually they were adopted by George Unze and Margaret Rielander Unze.

Julia Hankey Unze was buried in the early part of January, 1883. She was buried at Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

And that is when the body snatchers showed up.

Night watchman Gifford was in the cemetery. He notice suspects tracks near the newly grave of Julia Unze. He contacted the trustees, who invested. They opened the grave and found that it was filled with earth, according to the **Shakopee Argus**, January 11, 1883.

There was no body.

Gifford reported the tracks of 3 men. They were wearing either moccasins or stocking feet. They drove into the field adjoining the cemetery with a single horse hitched to a bobsled. They were accompanied by a large, heavy dog.

Was there an organized gang of professional grave robbers, who dispose of their ghastly plunder in distant cities and medical colleges?

All of the doctors' offices were searched. No luck. Nothing happened until the May of 1883.

A headless body was found floating in the river near where the creek empties into Conter's Lime Kiln. It was a nude body of an adult female, decapitated, and with the left leg amputated, according to the **Shakopee Argus**, May 17, 1883.