

October 2017 ~ Minnesota Research & Discovery Trip ~ A Journal

By Toni MARIA GABRIELLE SCHMID Stevenson

The purpose of my trip was to continue my exploration & familiarization of the areas where my ancestors settled and raised their families; to meet with 2nd, 3rd and 4th Cousins from my Schmid and Vos relatives; to visit cemeteries and former farms of my ancestors and cousins in Carver, Hennepin, and Stearns Counties.

And to learn more about the 3 immigrant Vos kids who moved from Carver County to Stearns County when all of their other siblings remained in Carver. In 1863 when the VOS family arrived in America, Anton was age 20, Agnes was age 9, and Reinhard was age 1. They all married in Carver Co, Anton Vos to Elizabeth Beckers, Agnes Vos to John Muyres, and Reinhard Vos to Magdalena Schmid. All three couples moved up to and farmed in Stearns County.

Thursday 19 October 2017

Flew Austin to MSP and drove directly to the Schmid Farm house Ruins in Lake Minnetonka Regional Park, where I met my 3rd Cousin, Rich Schmid, Great, Great Grandson of Benedict Schmid, Rich's wife, Kathy, and daughter Hannah, Liz Vandam & George Buehl of Westonka Historical Society, and Mary McKenzie, a friend of Liz who is another lover of history. The fall colors were on fire and made for an extra special visit. Rich brought **Benedict's original 1864-1865 German Diary**. It is a tiny journal, approx. 5"x7". Imagine how he carried this diary with him throughout the war. How fortunate we are to have this now and for our future generations!

The English translation of this diary and his other diaries are linked on our website and google drive

Our New web site: www.schmid1848.com <https://schmid1848.com/benedict>

Google Drive: [Documents, Oral Histories, DIARY, Memories, Stories, & more](#)



From Minnetrista I drove northwest to Avon, and met my cousin Bobbie (Florence, Mrs Roger Schmid) at Fisher's Club on Middle Spunk Lake. Terrific walleye dinner. At Fisher's I met the owners and managers, the Voss family (our cousins on our Dutch Antonius Vos Line), including Jacob Voss, with whom I am working to plan our Frank & Gertrude Schmid Family Reunion, June 17, 2018 at Fisher's Club. I also met some of Jacob's family members who also work in the business.

Fishers Club has an interesting history as well <https://www.fishersclub.com/>

Jacob's VOS/VOSS line: Peter Joannes Vos > Antonius Vos > Anton Vos, Jr > Clarence Henry Voss > Arnold Voss
Voss Family who were also at Fishers Club Thursday evening: Craig Voss & his wife Roseanne, son of Arnold Voss, Jacob Voss, son of Craig, Steven Voss and his wife Patty, son of Arnold, and Cory Voss, brother of Justin Voss, sons of Steven, cousin of Jacob

Overnight Baymont Inn & Suites in Albany, MN. (2 nights here)

Friday Oct 20

I met my 1st cousin's once removed, Fuzzy (Roger) Schmid, 1st cousin of my dad & Bobbie, for breakfast at PJ's Supper Club on Middle Spunk Lake <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pjs-Supper-Club/450312095141301>

Roger stories: buttermilk run-off into the lake attracted the fish; Schmid Farm #2 mainly dairy since land was no good for crops; David Schmid makes barrels used all over the world; Ben was big into scouting; Lake Miltona - Ben had an identical cabin next door to Frank's. Frank Schmid Web Page: <https://schmid1848.com/frank>

After breakfast, in my search for information about the old Anton Vos Sr homestead farm, I made some phone calls to Vos cousins. MaryAnn Gobel (Mrs. Leroy) Vos referred me to Tillie Vos Ebnet. Tillie referred me to Linus Vos who lives near the original homestead. I could never find a good phone number for Harriet Vos Jonas, so never connected.

Today I learned how confusion occurs when one asks about Anton Vos, as there were at least 3 Anton Vos relatives: Anton Vos, Sr Anton Vos, Jr Anton Albert Vos (son of John Peter) in 3 different generations. I drove up to Krain Township, Stearns, where my Great Grandmother Gertrude Vos grew up. Her parents, Anton Vos, Sr and Anna Elizabeth Beckers had moved to Stearns Co. from Carver County abt 1868. They farmed and raised their family of 12 children, before moving to Alberta, CA sometime after 1912. Anton Sr's son, John Peter Vos took over the Vos farm at Vos Lake.

I first stopped in at charming St Anthony Catholic Church and Cemetery. In 1880, my Great Grandmother, Gertrude Vos Schmid had her First Communion in St Anthony Parish. Several Vos ancestors are buried in St Anthony Cemetery.



Excerpt from History of St Anthony site: <http://7dolors.weebly.com/about-st-anthony.html>

*As one chronicler put it, "with hard labor and a little money," a Church (50' by 30') with a tower was built at a cost of approximately \$1,500.00. Some of the men who worked on the first church were: Messrs, John Budnar, Anton Gogala Jr., Anton Gogala Sr., Joseph Gasperlin, Joseph Kuhar, John Locknikar, Andrew Malley, **Henry Moonen, Joseph Moonen**, John Plemel, Matthew Pogatchnik, Peter Pogatchnik, Frank Rakotz Sr., Mattew Schiffler, Premus Skumantz, George Urbaskich, **Anton Vos**, and Ulrich Zeleznik. The first Church was officially dedicated on June 13, 1874 and on June 13, 1879, a twenty-one hundred pound bell was blessed and raised. In 1893, Father Ignatius Lager constructed the first Rectory. May years later, this building we transferred to the present Joseph Gasperlin farm. On November 5, 1859, Father John Alterdorf, under Bishop Martin Marty, legally incorporated the Parish of Saint Anthony. Mr.*

Henry Kemper and Mr. John Luethmers were the first Trustees of the newly-organized Parish. In 1898, the cemetery was established--according the records--"twelve rods by six rods," or 198' by 99'." (Note: Anton Vos was a long-time friend of the Moonen families.) Outside the church I met Leroy Sand. He grew up near Vos. His family Nicolas Sand, Victor Sand, Richard Sand were neighbors of Vos farm. He used to ice skate on Vos Lake, and trap muskrats around there. Christen another neighbor.

I drove back down to Albany, and met Mary Elizabeth Voss Burke and her husband Dave, for lunch in Albany. Mary is my 2nd cousin once removed, (Mary is a 2nd Cousin of my dad on the Gertrude Vos side.)

Mary said that Vos changed to Voss with her father's generation. She grew up on the Anton Vos, Jr Farm up just east of St Francis. My time spent with Mary and David was a highlight of my trip.

Mary's branch of Vos is: Peter Joannes Vos > Antonius H. Vos > Anton Vos, Jr > Clarence Henry Voss > Mary E. Voss
VOS HISTORY web page: <https://schmid1848.com/vos>

Mary's brother, Arnold Voss, and her sister, Bernadette Voss, live at Mother of Mercy Memory Lane in Albany. We planned to meet up again after my visit with Donald Schmid, who lives in Mother of Mercy Senior Living assisted living. I had a nice visit with Donald Schmid, my dad's 1st cousin. Patty K joined us too. We talked about The Gatherings in June, and his sister Lois, who will be coming over from the west coast. Don plans to stay healthy and attend both events. He turns 99 in Feb. I intend to record oral histories with Donald in the near future.

After I left Don, I re-joined Mary & Dave, met her siblings Arnold Voss and Bernadette Voss. They had photos including a wedding photo of Mary's parents, Clarence Voss & Agnes Lange. Among the wedding party was Clarence's First Cousin, my Great Uncle Harry Schmid, small world! Harry Schmid (1904) and Clarence Voss (1905) must have been good friends too. Mary had a photo from when the family farm (Anton Vos, Jr > Clarence) was designated a Century Farm by the Stearns History Museum <http://stearns-museum.org/century-farm-listing>



Voss siblings: Ronald, Arnold, Barbara, Mary, Judy, Glorine, Bernadette 2017 - Bernadette, Mary, Arnold Voss

Mary, David and I then drove up to the Anton Vos, Jr Farm, east of St Francis Church and Cemetery, where Anton Vos Jr is buried. They have a building which was formerly a school not far from the farm. It was moved to the farm in 19xx; and is now used as a barn. Mary showed me inside the old dairy barn, no longer used, but she reminisced about "back in the day" when it was busy with milk cows.

Anton Vos, Jr > Clarence H Voss Farm, just east of Saint Francis – a working farm



From there we drove south, to the property which had been the homestead farm of my GG GF Antonius “Anton” Vos, Sr. Anton’s son John Peter Vos took over the farm at some point, and then Anton moved to Canada, ca 1915.

Earlier, Tillie VOS Ebnet had told me that no one lives there currently, and she referred me to her 1st cousin Linus T. Vos (my 2nd cousin once removed) who lives nearby and could tell me more about the property. When we arrived at the vacant house, a late 1800s house built of Chaska brick, I called Linus Vos. He directed me to where we could find the ruins of the old cow barn. The newer barn nearby was the horse barn. And another wooden building had been the smoke house. The 12+ foot stone walls of the old barn are still there, and you can see 1901 etched in one of the stones.

Tillie Vos Ebnet is my father’s 2nd cousin. Line: Anton Vos, Sr > John Peter Vos > Anton Albert Vos > Matilda “Tillie” Tillie’s Grandfather, John Peter Vos, took over the Vos homestead farm from his father, Anton Vos Sr. Tillie grew up spending much time on the Vos Sr farm with Vos Lake there on the property.

VOS Web page <https://schmid1848.com/vos>

2017 Vacant late 1800s Vos farm house



Toni at stone foundation of the old cow barn



below: Chaska brick house

above: horse barn



1901 on a stone on old foundation of the former cow barn



Former home of Anton Vos, Sr before he moved to Canada after 1912. Prior to this brick home, Anton & Elizabeth lived in a wood cabin. Anton’s son, John Peter Vos took over the farm. In recent years it was owned by a 2nd cousin once removed, Harriet VOS Jonas, daughter of Stephen Joseph Vos, son of John Peter Vos, son of Anton Vos, Sr. I have not yet learned who is the current owner, possibly still Harriet Vos Jonas.

The day ended with a delicious walleye dinner at Fisher's Club w David & Mary Voss Burke, Patty Schmid Kleinart, her daughter Andrea, and Jeanette Clancy, author of the book, *Nestled Between Lakes and Wooded Hills*, history of Avon.

Overnight Baymont Inn & Suites in Albany

Saturday, 21 October 2017

I started my day with breakfast at Avon Cabin Café. As I was making notes, looking at maps, a man at the next table heard me ask about a road under construction.. He asked where I was going. When I replied that I'm in the area driving around researching ancestors, cousins, cemeteries, he introduced himself as Jay Netter, a 2nd cousin (Schmid) who lives near Avon. He and I have been exchanging emails regarding the Gathering next June. Small world at Cabin Café!

I met up with my 2nd cousin, Patty Schmid Kleinart in Avon and we drove over to **Old St Benedict Cemetery** across the highway from Avon. Our Great Aunt, **Elizabetha Schmid**, 8 yr old daughter of Frank Schmid & Gertrude Vos, died of typhoid in 1899, the year that Frank & Gertrude arrived in Avon. Back then, the new St Benedicts Cemetery did not yet exist. It is sad that Elizabetha is there alone without her family, but she is in very good company of many of the early settlers of Avon, including Keppers and Roche. The oldest graves date to 1872 - Mr and Mrs Streit.

I highly recommend that anyone interested in Avon history, visit this very old unmarked cemetery near 17089 Upper Spunk Lake Rd. <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=53123850>



Patty drove me by the former homes of Barbara Thome (my Great Grandmother,) Ben Schmid, and Edward Schmid. We then said our goodbyes and I dropped in at Lumber One, formerly Schmid Lumber Co, which is owned and run by two of my Schmid 2nd cousins Ted Schmid and Barb Schmid Brandes. They were both out, but I met Scott Brandes and left information flyers for Ted and Barb, for our June 2018 Gatherings.

I then headed back up to Krain Township to return to the old **Vos farm homestead** and snap a couple more photos. My sister had also asked me to take some photos of some beautifully patterned farm fields on Hwy 17, which she had seen when she was in the area in September. She described them as stunningly artistic and said I couldn't miss them. Well, she was right. The fields are not far from the old Vos home place, toward Holdingford. I tried to photograph, but could not get good shots from the road. As I drove by the house, I noticed a commercial looking sign hanging from the porch "Ebnet Airport Elev. 1180" which got my attention. They have a grass strip behind the house. I drove into the driveway and a young woman jumped down from a very large piece of farm machinery and asked how she could help me. This was Kathy Ebnet. I explained that my sister had admired her beautiful fields a few weeks before, and, also, that I am hunting for Vos cousins, and Direct Descendants of Reinhard Vos and wife Magdalena Schmid, information about the old Vos home place down the road, visiting cemeteries, etc., and also, if she had any aerial photos of her fields that my sister in Texas might be able to see, for ideas for her small central Texas farm. When I mentioned Reinhard Vos, she said that her husband, Joel Ebnet is a descendant of Reinhard Vos. I told her about The Gathering in Minnetrista next June, since Joel is a direct descendant of our German immigrant Joseph Schmid through Joseph's daughter Magdalena Schmid Vos. She gave me her email address, and referred me to Tillie Vos & Lloyd Ebnet just down the lane and that many Vos and Ebnets live close by. I left The Gathering flyer on her porch, and off I went towards Tillie's house.

Meeting Tillie VOS Ebnet was a highlight of my trip!

Ebnet Farm



Tillie Vos Ebnet



I visited with Tillie for about 45 minutes. Her husband Lloyd popped in and out. He was clearly busy working. When I told him that he was my cousin and was also a Schmid Descendant through Reinhard Vos & Magdalena Schmid, he seemed surprised and a bit skeptical. I charted out how we are all related... through Vos and Schmid. Tillie was interested in all of my info, and she gave me her sister-in-law, Alice EBNET Maine's contact info in Yuma, AZ, and that Alice is into genealogy. She also gave me contact info for a daughter Joy in Randall, MN.

Like her brother Lloyd Ebnet, Alice Mae Mary EBNET Maine has triple connection to our family through her mother (Muyres back to Vos) and her Father (Ebnet back to (Elizabeth) Schmid and Ebnet back to (Reinhard) Vos)
Schmid Paternal: Joseph Schmid > Magdalena SCHMID Vos > Elizabeth VOS Ebnet > Alfred Ebnet > Lloyd & Alice
Vos Paternal: Peter Joannes Vos > Reinhard Vos > Elizabeth VOS Ebnet > Alfred Ebnet > Lloyd & Alice
Vos Maternal: Peter Joannes Vos > Agnes H VOS Muyres > Theodore A Muyres > Regina MUYRES Ebnet > Lloyd & Alice
Reinhard (Peter) Vos (1861-1918) & Magdalen "Lena" Schmid (1864-1941):
Reinhard & Lena Vos – SEE VOS Web page: <https://schmid1848.com/vos>
Our Dutch Vos Ancestors: <https://schmid1848.com/vos>

My next stop was Saint Mary's Cemetery, west of Holdingford, to visit the graves of my great great aunt, Magdalena Schmid Vos and my great, great, great uncle Reinhard Vos, and his sister Agnes Vos Muyres and John Muyres. Unfortunately, the **old St Mary's Church**, where our Frank Schmid & Gertrude Vos were married in 1889, just outside of Holdingford, is gone, and a new church was built in town. (Read "*The Ford in the River*" by Yzermans.)



I drove through Holdingford on my way to Stearns History Museum in St. Cloud. SHM had some documents waiting for me, which I had purchased prior to my trip, on Vos & Schmid. AWESOME resource! <http://stearns-museum.org/>
I didn't make it to the former site of Schmid Farm #2, down by Schmid Lake/Watab Lake. Fuzzy & Bobbie own told me how to find it, but that the old barn is unrecognizable since it was converted to apartments. I'll check it out next time. Onward to my hotel in Delano, MN. Dinner at the Ox Bow Inn.

Sunday, 22 October 2017

I had a quick meeting with my 3rd cousin, Dorothy Ritter Raph in Excelsior. Her Gr GM, Elizabeth Schmid Leuthard is the sister of my Gr GF Frank Schmid. She and her 1st cousin Kelly Leuthard Marsh have been helping to spread the word of The Gathering amongst Elizabeth & John Leuthard's large (15 children) family. Dorothy has a fantastic collection of old family photos, and has created a beautiful Leuthard Family Album. The Leuthard Line is a large family, many of whom still live in the cities area. Elizabeth & John's farm home was in Baker Township.

Joseph Sr > Elizabeth Schmid Leuthard > Thomas & Anna Leuthard > Carl & Lillian > Kelly & Dorothy

Web page Elizabeth & John Leuthard – coming soon. see JOSEPH SCHMID, SR <https://schmid1848.com/joseph-sr>

My next meeting was with Dorie & Jerome and Chad & Chris Schmiege in Victoria. We had connected on Facebook. While they are not directly in my line, they are helping me w identifying direct descendants of Thomas Schmid & Mary Magdalen Schmiege AND Maria Schmid & Frank Schmiege. **Two Schmid siblings, Thomas Schmid and Maria Schmid, married two Schmiege siblings, Mary Magdalen Schmiege and Frank Schmiege.** This was not uncommon at the time. The Schmid farm and the Schmiege farm were not far from each other, and a common factor was likely St Victoria Church or school (just a hunch.) Dorie, Jerome, Chad, and Chris are delightful and I thoroughly enjoyed my time with them. I am still searching for Schmiege 3rd cousins who are Direct Descendants of Joseph Schmid the immigrant.

Web page Maria Schmid & Frank Schmiege: coming soon

Web page Thomas Schmid & Mary Schmiege: coming soon



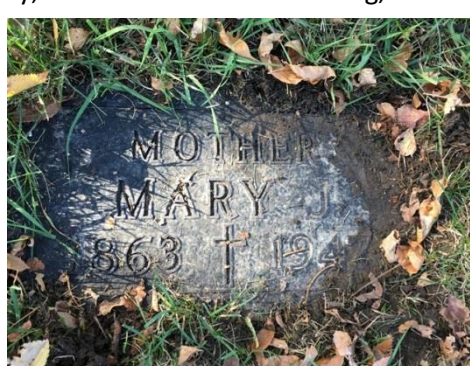
Dorie & Jerome "Chubb" Schmiege, Chad Schmiege

I then met my 2nd cousin once removed, Doug Schmid, at St Victoria Cemetery, to visit the graves of our German Immigrant Ancestors, my Gr Gr Grandparents, Joseph Schmid and Elizabeth Schweikert Schmid. a beautiful little church! Doug is having the gravestone repaired over the winter. The top cross had broken off at some point. THANK YOU DOUG! **Doug is a grandson of Joseph Schmid Jr.** He has strong ties to the old Schmid homestead since his grandfather Joe Jr took it over after old Joseph Sr left the farm.

Joseph Schmid > Joseph Schmid (Jr) > Raymond G. Schmid > Doug Schmid

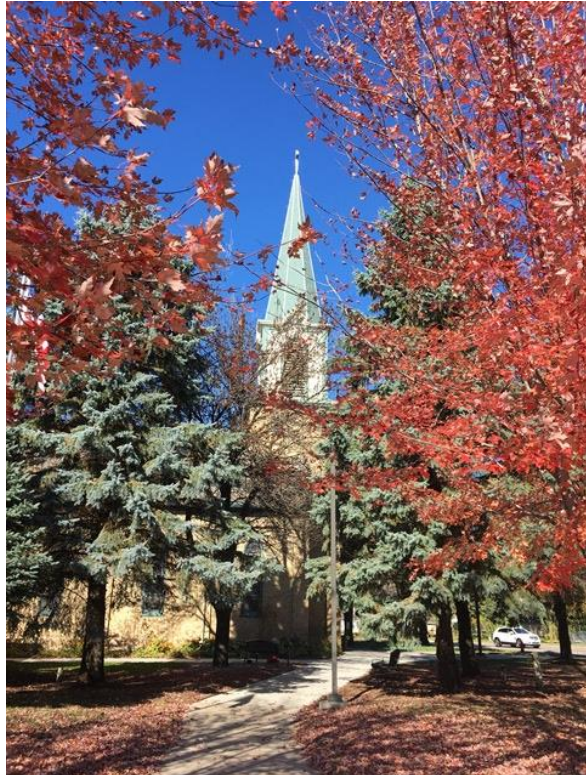
Web page Joseph Schmid (Jr) & Mary J Poppler coming soon. See Joseph, SR <https://schmid1848.com/joseph-sr>

Graves of Joseph Schmid, Jr & wife Mary; and Maria SCHMID Schmiege, children of Joseph Schmid, Sr



St Victoria Church and Cemetery

Gravestone of Joseph & Elisabeth Schmid, our German immigrant ancestors, my Gr Gr Grandparents
Note the top cross is missing. Doug Schmid is having this repaired in 2018 in time for our Gathering



My next appointment is a planning meeting at Gale Woods Farm with my 3rd cousin Pat Geyen Dongoske, my 2nd cousin Barb Johnson Coyle, and Westonka Historical Society Volunteer, Liz Vandam, who is helping us with our June 16th event. We are doing our best to make The Gathering a memorable event.

Toni & Barb are in the Joseph Schmid > Frank Schmid Line

Pat is in the Joseph > Joseph, Jr Line

Liz is very interested in and knowledgeable about the Joseph & Benedict Schmid history in the area.

3 Schmid cousins, Barb, Toni, Pat, planning meeting at Gale Woods Farm. Photo by Liz Vandam, WHS



From Gale Woods Farm I drove to the Grimm Farm Historical Site, in Carver County. I had learned that this farm house is the identical floor plan as Joseph Schmid's 1876 stone farmhouse. The only difference is that Grimm House was built with Chaska Brick, which was most common in the area. Joseph chose to build his home with field stones from his property.

The Grimm family were neighbors of the Joseph Schmid Farmstead, only 3 miles away. Their farm house, built around 1875, was the same floor plan as the Schmid house. This house was restored and is maintained by Three Rivers Park District. I encourage my cousins to visit the home, to experience how Joseph & Elisabeth's house may have looked, with the exception of the brick exterior.



On my way up to Excelsior for the night, I stopped in at Woodside Cemetery, the resting place of Benedict Schmid and Rosina Auer, and members of their family. There are several old stones which appear to reference Benedict but I could not read them. One seemed to reference the 2nd Regiment. Not sure.

Woodside Cemetery is very close to the former location of Benedict's farm on Lake Minnewashta; and is only 3.5 miles from the Joseph Schmid Farmstead on Lake Minnetonka

Graves of Benedict & Rosina Schmid, and their son William & Nora Schmid



Web page Benedict (1833-1905) & Rosina Schmid (1839-1912) <https://schmid1848.com/benedict>

Overnight Bird House Inn, Excelsior, MN

Monday, 23 October 2017 – my last day (boo hoo!)

From Excelsior I drove south, 8.5 miles, to beautiful Guardian Angels Church in Chaska.

Church History <http://gachaska.org/church-history/>

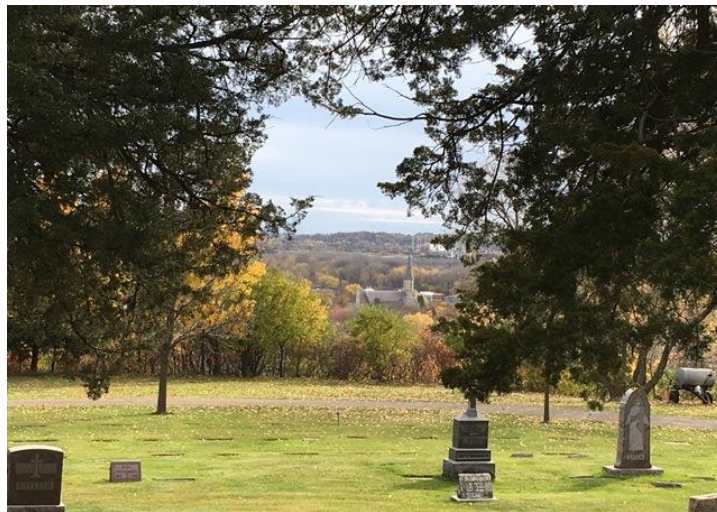
My Dutch Immigrant Ancestors, Peter Joannes Vos (1808-1876) and Anna Gertrudis Moors (1819-1895), settled in this area of Carver County, in Dahlgren Township, between Cologne and Chaska. They left Echt, Limburg, Netherlands in 1863, with their 8 children. Peter Joannes “John” and Gertrud’s home farm was adjacent to Miller Lake; and several of their children farmed in Dahlgren Township. This is beautiful farmland, rolling hills dotted with small lakes and farm lanes. Three of their children, Anton, Agnes, and Reinhard married in Carver Co, and later moved up to Stearns County. John & Gertrud Vos, and many of their children and grandchildren are buried in Guardian Angels Cemetery.

Their story: <https://schmid1848.com/vos>

I met Charles & Candi Stuber (Agnes Vos) at Guardian Angels Cemetery just outside of Chaska. Candi is my 4th Cousin. Her Gr Gr GM Agnes Vos Muyres was the sister of my Gr Gr GF Anton Vos, Sr. Charles is an amazing genealogist and has collected vast information on the Vos lines.

Guardian Angels Cemetery sits high on a hill overlooking Chaska. It is quite beautiful there.

Graves of John & Gertrud Vos (Peter Joannes Vos & Anna Gertrudis Moors) – Guardian Angels Cemetery, Chaska



From there, I followed Chuck & Candi to the town of Cologne, St. Bernard Cemetery, the resting place of early settlers in this area and friends & neighbors of our Dutch ancestors. We then drove on to the farms surrounding Miller Lake, which is where the Muyres, Vos, and Miller homesteads were located. This was thrilling for me. Again, this is the most beautiful, rolling farm land. I LOVED driving around Dahlgren Township, Carver Co – homestead of John Vos and his sons



Below: Miller Lake in the background. The Vos, Miller, and Muyres farms surrounded this lake.
The old plats of Dahlgren Township show the lake

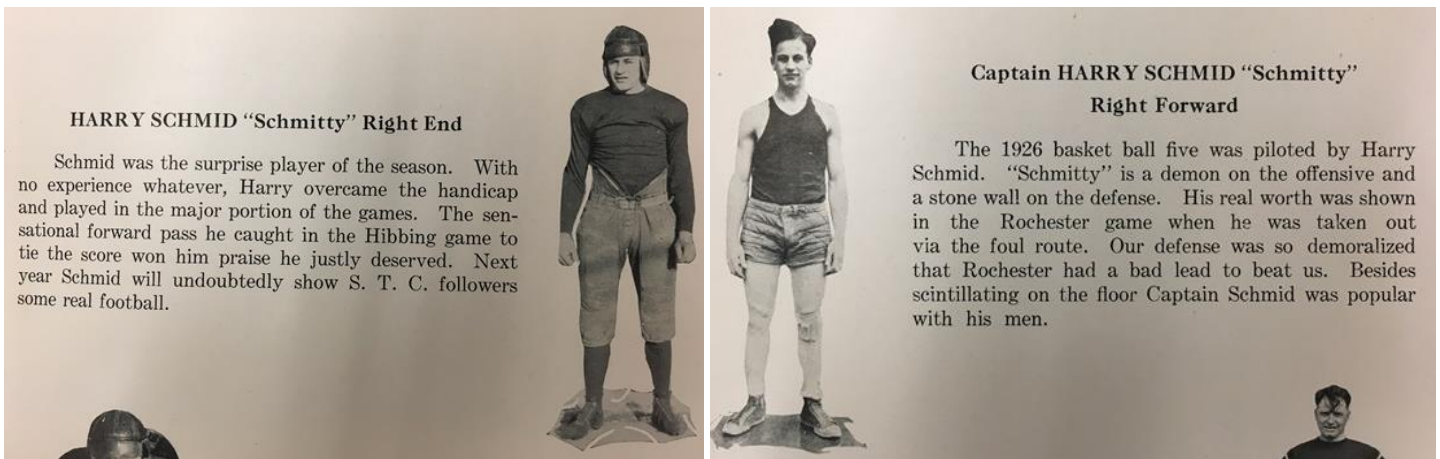


My 4th cousin on the Vos side, Candi Muyres Stuber & Chuck Stuber, genealogist extraordinaire!



My final stop before flying home to Texas was a brief visit with Connor Schmid. He shared his parents' 1926 "Talahi" Yearbook from State Teachers College, St Cloud. His dad, Harry Schmid had been quite the athlete! Connor is always a wealth of information!

Mary O'Conner, St Cloud Harry "Schmitt" Schmid, Avon, Class of 1926



In Summary

This fabulous 4-day exploration trip to Carver, Hennepin & Stearns Counties to experience Schmid and Vos territory and history, was very successful & educational, and I am so grateful to my cousins who helped me along the way. I learned SO MUCH!

On future trips, much work to do, including meeting more Schmid and Vos & Schmid cousins, locating and meeting more direct descendants of the children of Joseph the immigrant: Elizabeth & John Leuthard, Joseph & Mary Schmid, Maria Schmid & Frank Schmieg, Thomas Schmid & Mary Schmieg, Magdalena & Reinhard Vos, Henry Schmid & wife Christina Katzner; AND Descendants of Joseph's sister, Mary Schmid & John Pfeiffer; AND brother, Benedict & Rosina Schmid.

So much to do, so little time 😊

"Toni" MARIA GABRIELLE SCHMID Stevenson

October 2017

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NOTE: our old web site is linked several times in this document, but, sadly, will be retired (gone) as of 3/27/23. The new site is under way, and will be re-created in 2023 and 2024

Official Web Site: www.schmid1848.com

PS: I was nicknamed after Anton, short for Antonius, and name we see repeated many times in our ancestry. 😊