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**Kleiboeker's**

**Why and how we got here**

The story of Johann from Germany  
to St. Louis to Illinois to Freistatt

**In Memoriam: We dedicate this first reunion to 2 young Kleiboekers who gave their life to their country**

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Pvt FC Hubert H. Kleiboeker  
22 Dec 1922 – 15 March 1945  
Killed in Utweiler, Germany  
WWII



Lance Corporal  
Nicholas Kleiboeker  
6 June 1983 - 13 May 2003  
Died in Iraq in a bunker explosion

## a quote from Martin Luther

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- Glaube nicht alles, was du hörst
  - Sage nicht alles, was du weisst,
  - Tue nicht alles, was du magst.
- 
- Don't believe all that you hear
  - Don't tell all that you know
  - Don't do everything that you desire

This information was created from great work done  
by many special people

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- Mildred Moennig
- Elaine McCall
- Donna Budzier
- Barbara (Kleiboeker) Page
- Cheryl Brown
- Orville Osterloh
- Lorn and Alice Kleiboeker
- Glenn Kruse

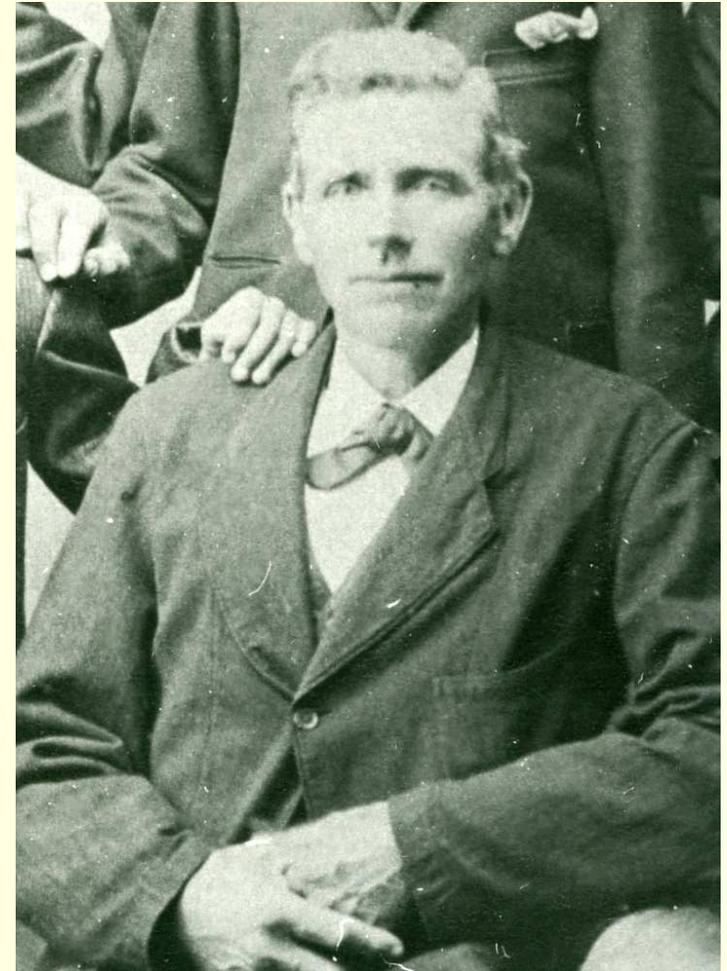
## Kleiboeker's – A very special family

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- “*Gemütlichkeit*”
  - *connotes the notion of belonging, social acceptance, cheerfulness, the absence of anything hectic and the opportunity to spend quality time.*
  - *Queen Victoria is said to have been one of the first to use the adjective *gemütlich* in English -- Her ancestors were from Osnabrück area too!*
- Interesting family history, with lots of data still waiting to be uncovered

# Johann, the man that caused us all to be here

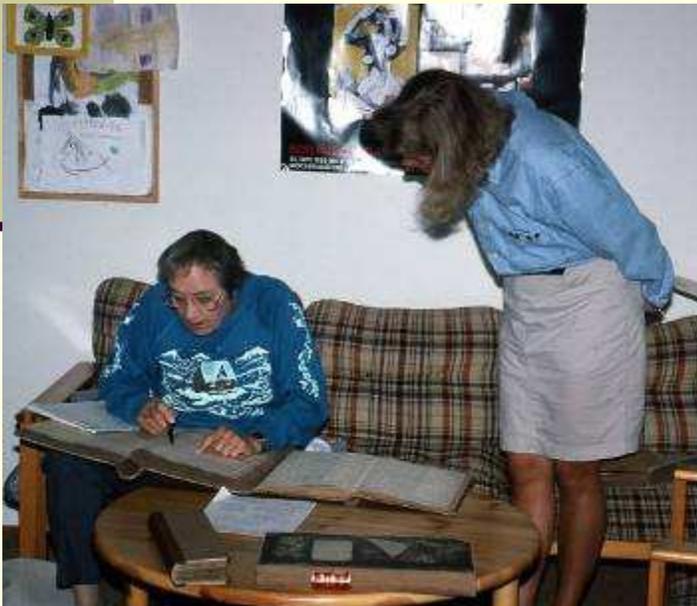
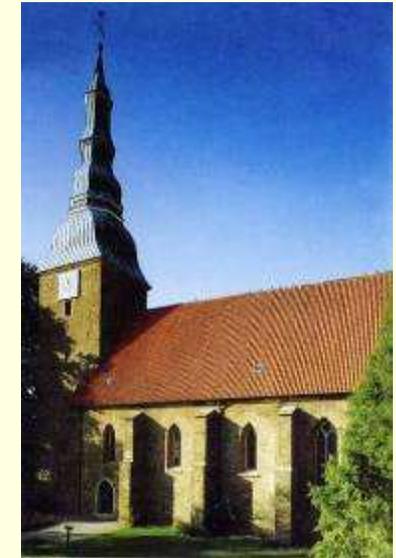
- Born in Gehrde, 1830, left Germany in 1851
- First of the family to immigrate, helped pay for brothers, sisters and mother to come to America
- Furniture maker / Salesman in St. Louis
- First wife died early, married again, total of 10 children
- 1865 moved to Hoyleton, Ill and bought farmland
- 1884 moved to Freistatt, MO
- Died in 1900, buried at Trinity Lutheran
- Active in the Lutheran church
- Educated, strong penmanship
- Attention to detail, fine craftsman
- Persistent, always looking for something better



# Johann never got his birth date correct

Kirchenb. Gehrde 1829-1835

No.	Name des Kindes	Geburtsort	Mutter und Zusammen des Vaters			Geburtszeitpunkt	Taufzeitpunkt	Taufpaten		Mutter des Kindes
			der Mutter	der Vaters	Nachname			bei Taufe	bei Wiedertaufe	
14	Ruesfort Gehrde	16	Willy Klein	Johann Maria Gehrde herd Lierke	23. Okt. 1830	29. Okt. 1830	Johann Strohm		Willy Klein Johann Jacob Dörner Johann Klein Gehrde Moris Wille	



Johann wrote his "Walk of Life" in 1860 - 1862

"My walk of life. I was born October 23, 1830 in the community of Ruesfort, Kirchspiel Gehrde, ..... Confirmed in year 1845 by Pastor Bock."



# Johann and the Hof



# Johann and the Hof

"I was born October 23 1830 in the community of Ruesfort, Kirchspiel Gehrde, Amt Bersenbrueck, in the Kingdom of Hannover Occupation: Heuerling"



Johann's father and grandfather lived in Neunkirchen as Heuerlings



Johann's great grandfather is listed as a Heuerling in Hinnenkamp



# Many families originated from the same area



# Land use in Germany prior to 18th Century

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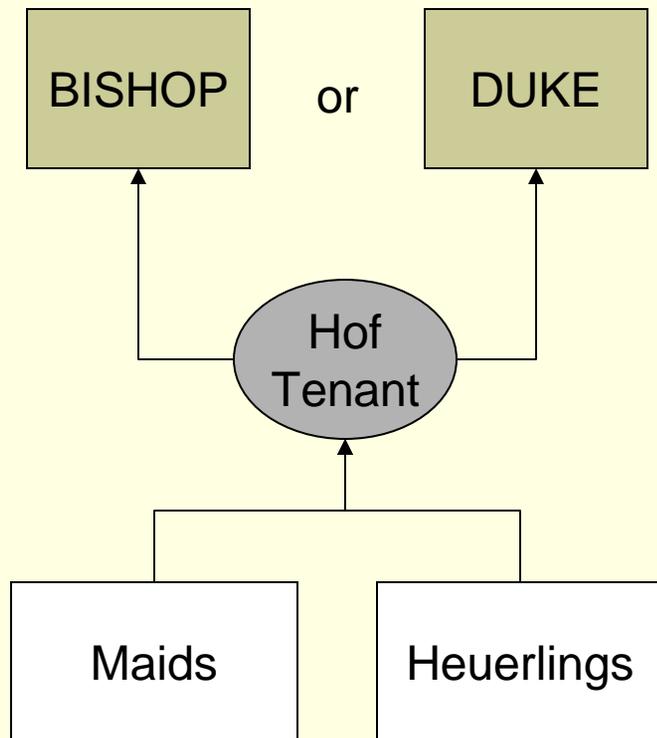
- Charlemagne established first land use policy, did not change for 1000 years!
  - land given as a “Hof” by royalty or church to select persons who had lifelong leases that could be transferred to heirs
  - obligated 10% return of what was produced back to the Count or Church
  - Hof farmers & residents required to defend the Count or Church’s land and livestock in time of war, at no pay, and provide their own armor and weapons.
  - More hofs = more income for the Count or Church
- Hof: a complex of land & buildings and included rights to use shared land called the “Mark”
  - Mark: shared woods, meadows, pasture land, heaths and moors, surrounding the settlement of Hofs; used by Hof farmers and tenants
- Mark controlled / administered by the lord of the land, or local community of Hof owners
  - Vollerbe Hof: A Hof with full rights and privileges of using the Mark
  - Halberbe Hof: A Hof with limited rights and privileges of the Mark

# Hof inheritance laws in Osnabrücker Land

- Hofes were not divided & distributed to multiple heirs, all land and rights given to youngest son
- If no youngest son, then daughter would marry and new son-in-law would become Hof farmer & take the name of the Hof
- If lucky, new strips of land provided to Hof sons via “Markkotts” or “Erbkotts”, Practice outlawed in 1618, Marks eliminated in 1820
- Other Hof sons became “heuerlings” - hired hands with no land or future = “Abgehende Söhne”
- People not allowed to marry, unless they had a cow in the barn and a roof over their head
- Heuerlings needed side jobs to feed their family
  - Hollandgänger and Flax spinning / weaving



## In summary



Landowners - granted inheritable, life-long leases

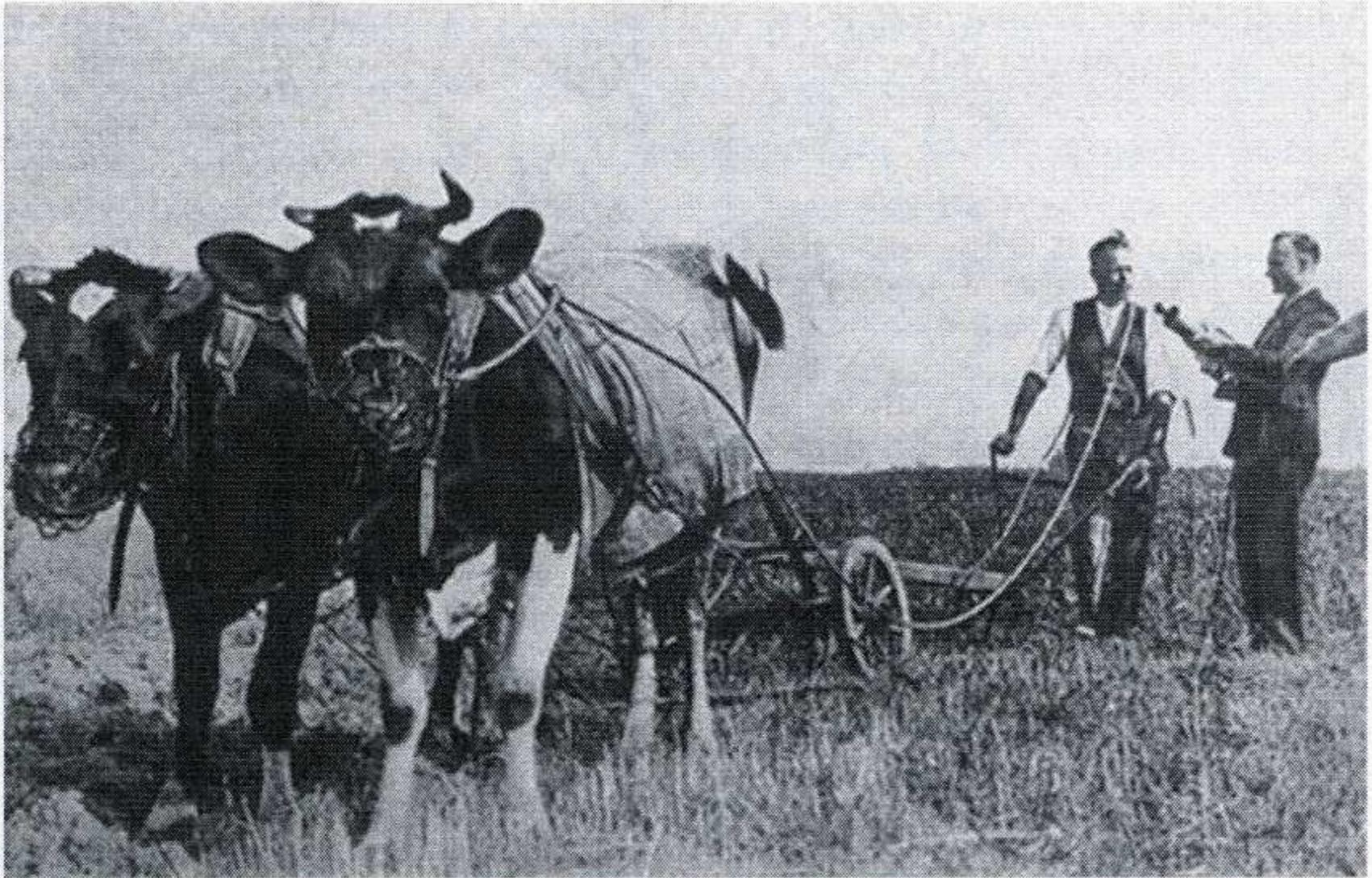
Hof tenants - owed 10% of all production to landlord, death and marriage fees, protect landlord in case of war

Hired hands & maids - worked for the Hof farmers, could live in a shed or cottage in Hof, small garden and a few livestock, worked for room & board, cash from other sources

# Halberbe Kleyböcker Hof

- First written history in 1400's, but definitely older.
- Located in Hinnenkamp, Village of Vörden.
- 1378, people encouraged to settle in Vörden, new law exempted new Hof owners from the 10% payment for the first 10 years.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Century, Hof listed as 83 Morgens in size (about 127 Acres)
  - In 1550 Hof had 7 horses, 12 cows, 8 steers, 24 pigs & 22 sheep
  - Morgen = amount of land tillable by one man behind an Ox in the "morgen" [morning] which was a day's work for the oxen.



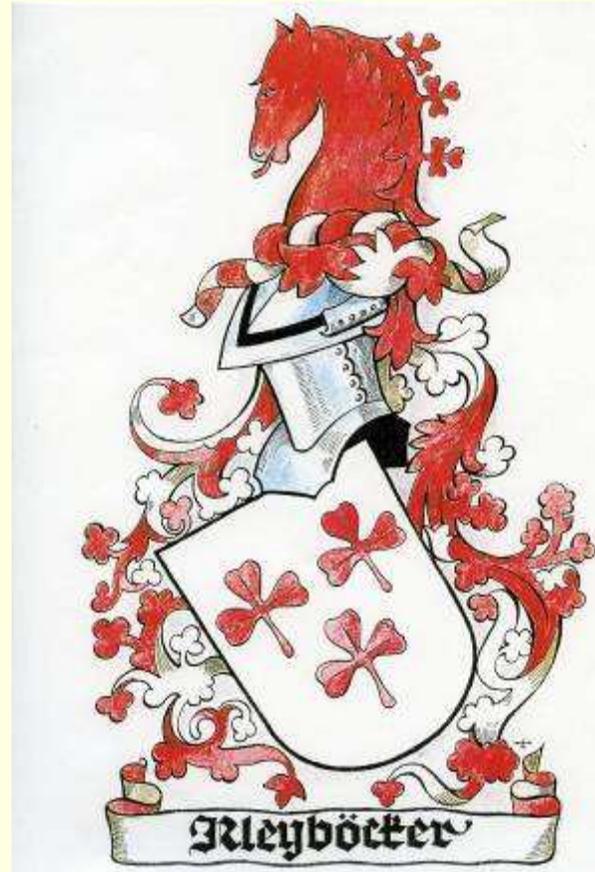


Heinrich Behrens in Laderholz plowing with his milk cows, ca. 1900.  
*Courtesy of Stadtbibliothek Neustadt a. Rbge.*

# Fashions of Osnabrück

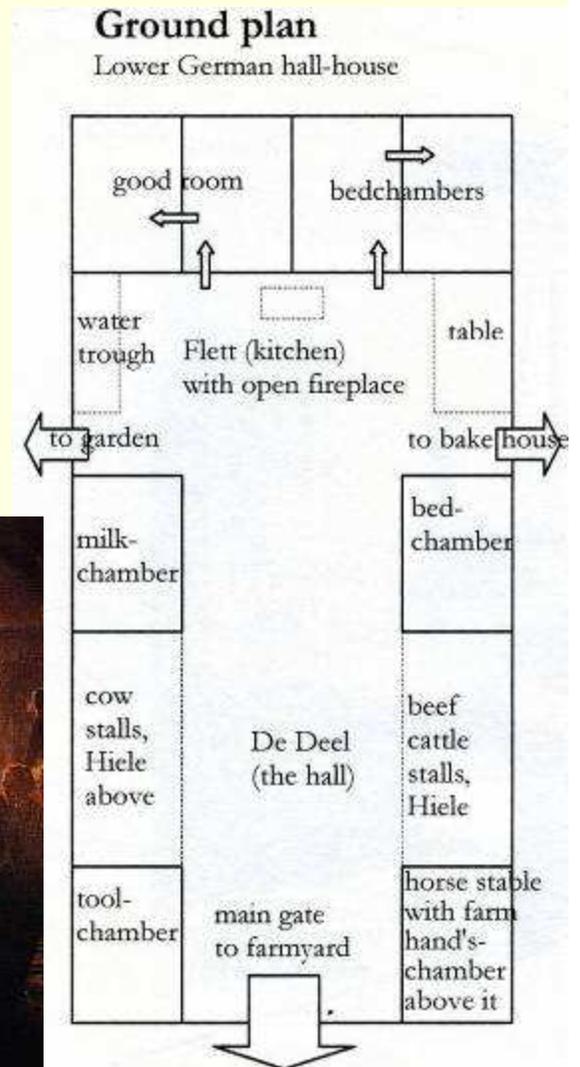
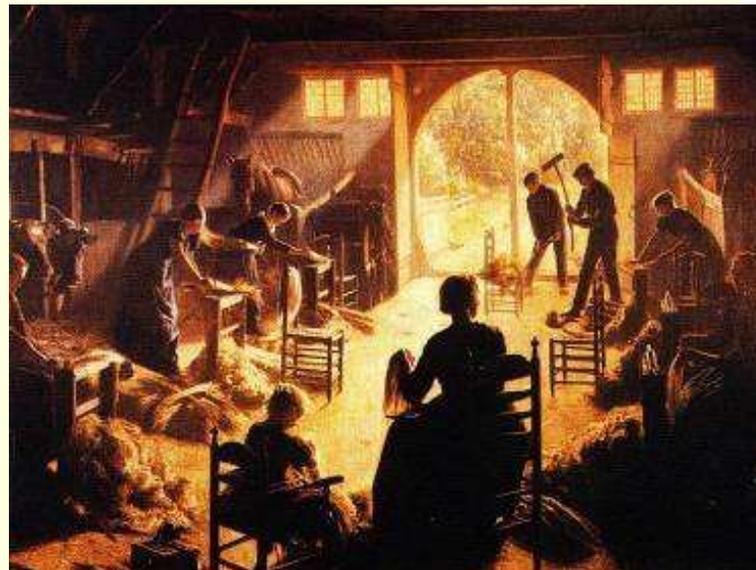


# Kleyböcker Crest

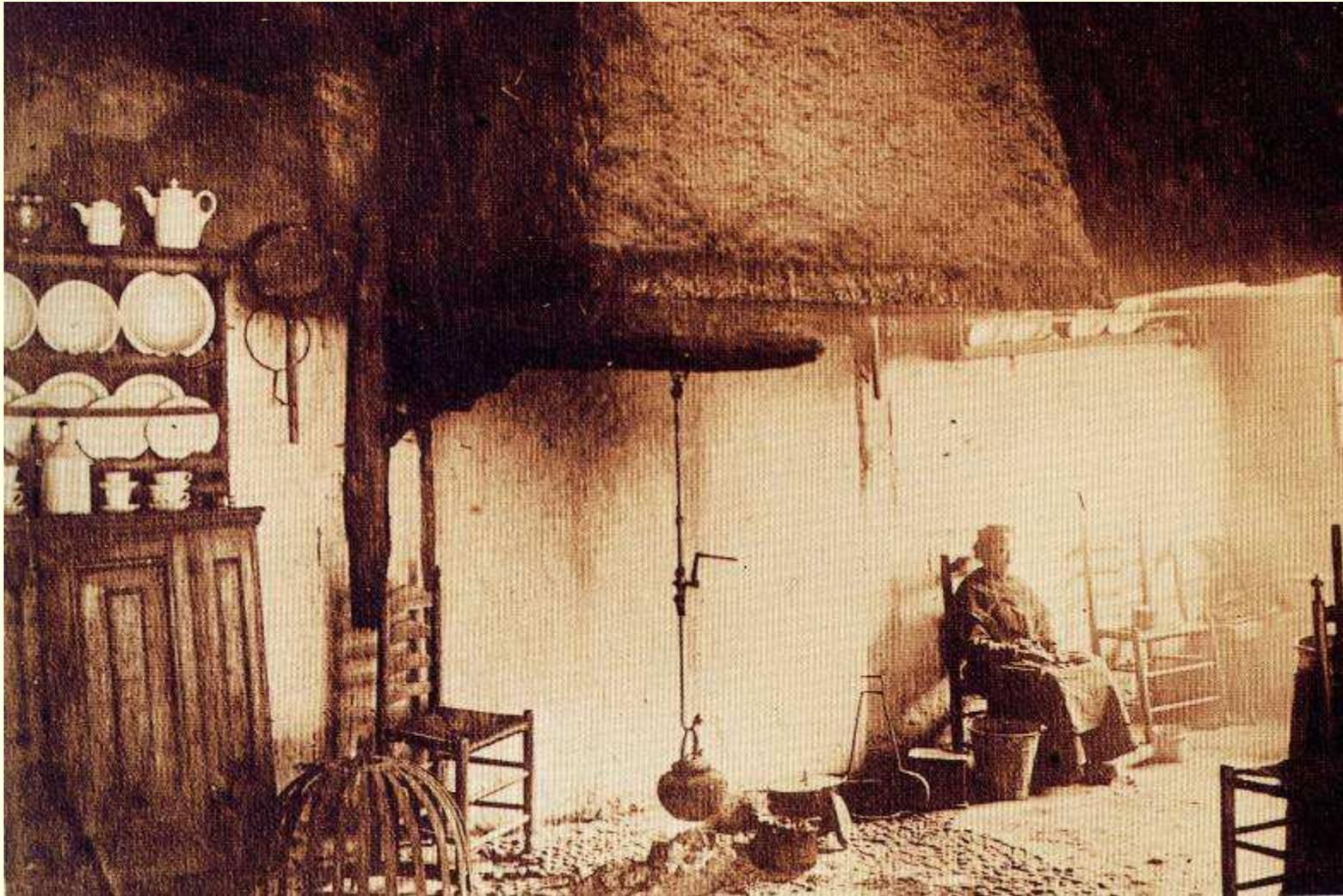


# Life at the Hof

- Hof farmer family & heuerlings lived and ate together
- Severe class distinction, with no ability to move up, likely to move down
- Many maids, hired hands remained single, lived at the Hof
- Some heuerlings lived in their own cottages



# A Heuerling's house in 1900



# Why they all left - Push and Pull

## ■ Push Factors:

- Inability to own land and be free
- More Heuerlings than available jobs or places to live
- Flax price decline, due to cotton & industrial revolution
- Draught & poor harvests

## ■ Pull Factors:

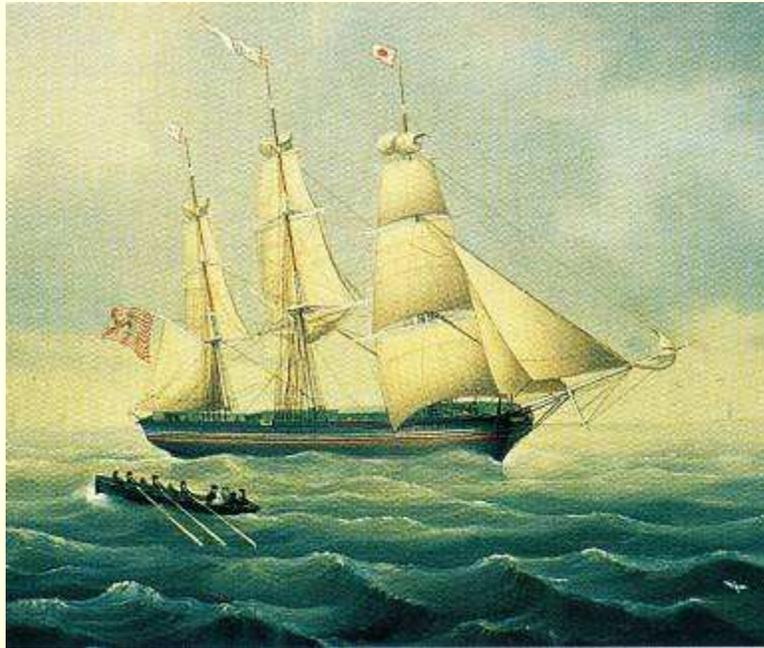
- Duden book on his experience in MO
- Agents actively promoting travel to US
- Letters from relatives in USA
- Better wages



*Einkommengefälle um 1835 (A. Holtmann, Zeichnung von B. Winter).*



# The Journey to the USA

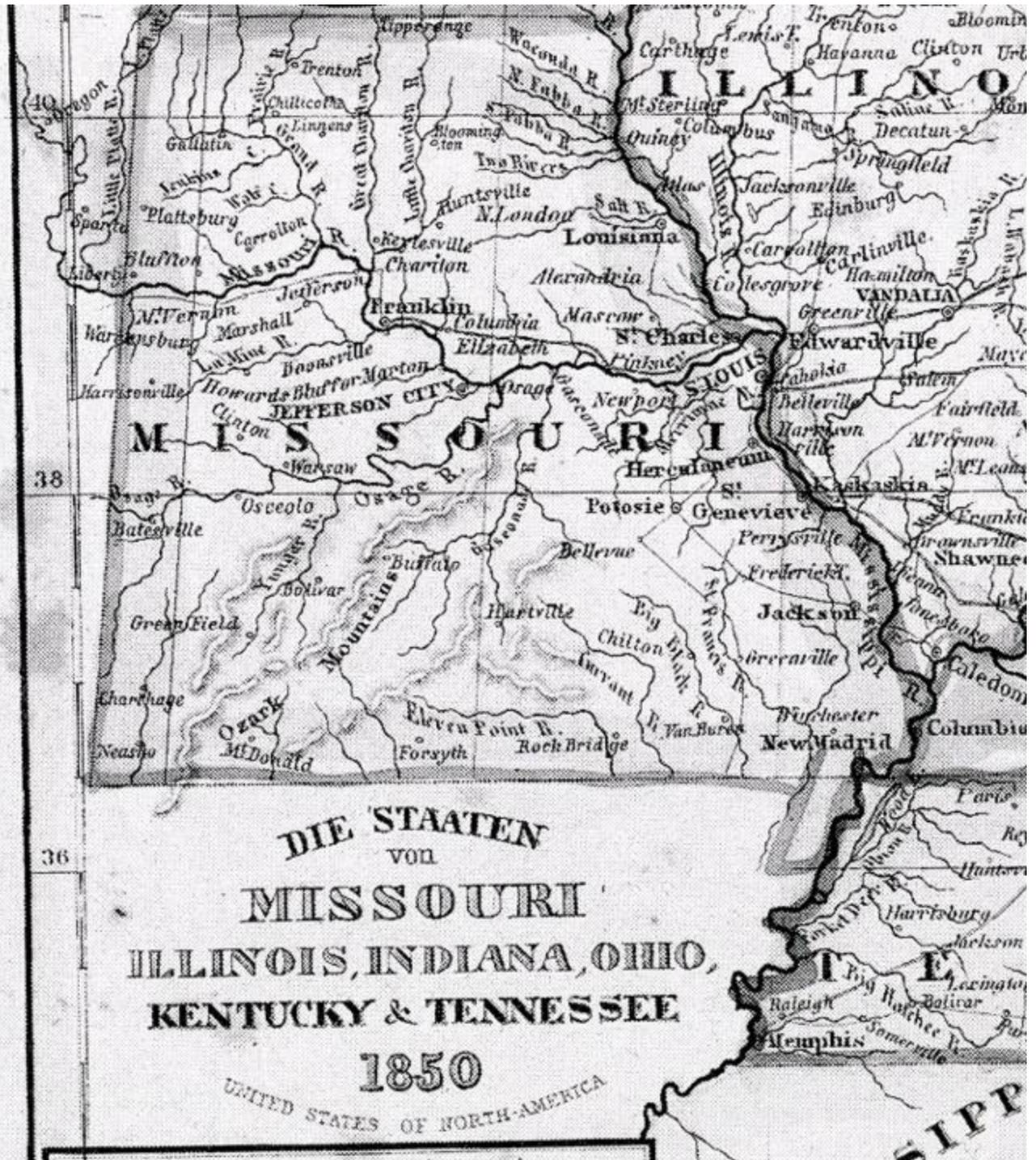


- Bremerhaven to Baltimore, New Orleans or NYC

- Duration up to 60 days, dependent on wind & weather
- Lousy food, some water
- Same ships used for shipping cotton / goods to Germany



What Johann  
encountered  
in 1851



# Johann in St. Louis

- Furniture Maker 1851- 1855, Salesman from 1855 to 1867
- Apprenticed with J. Koppelman, Meister Schreiner
- record book of all sales



# Johann was always looking for the next big thing



**BOND** 1863

Know all men by these presents that the Honorable association of St. Louis and State of Missouri of the first part and *Johann Meinbarker* of the second part.

**Witnesseth**, that the said Honorable association have sold to *J. Meinbarker* free lots of ground in Havana City, Shawnee County, Kansas Territory.

The following described lots:

Lot No. 13 in square 102  
Lot No. 14 in square 102  
Lot No. 20 in square 183  
Lot No. 21 in square 183  
Lot No. 22 in square 183

and according to the Lithographic map of Havana City made by Babine and at the price of *ten* dollars in money and his promissory note for *ten* dollars payable whenever the said association shall tender to him a good deed.

Whereas the conditions of this land are such that the Honorable association agree that they will furnish *J. Meinbarker* with a good and valid deed and in or reasonable time after they shall have secured title from government and upon demand so repaid to *J. Meinbarker* his *ten* dollars and return to him his promissory note.

In Witness whereof this bond is signed by the President and Directors and countersigned by the secretary on behalf of the association.

Given this day of *April 14<sup>th</sup>* 1857.

*Geo. E. Whinn* {SEAL}  
*F. W. Hackman* {SEAL}

*J. F. Schank* {SEAL}

## Johann in St. Louis in his own words

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- First marriage to Henrietta Brinkman in St. Louis in 1858
- “March 18, 1858 I was honorably united in marriage with Henriete Willemina Brinkman by Pastor Picker. On September 27, 1859 my wife presented me with a little daughter. On the 13th of May she was baptized by Pastor Schrenk at 14th and Madison....
- ...July 13th 1860, is the day my beloved spouse died. She suffered much with high fever and for 9 days of discomfort departed honorably and was released of her affliction. Henriete Wilemina Brinkman was born on November 16, 1834 in Oberdisen by Bielefeld, Kingdom of Prussia. She is buried in the Cemetery of the Holy Ghost in site number 2433. "Here in God's quiet garden awaiting her beloved spouse".”
- Johann marries Charlotte Stratmann 1862, he 31, she 17
- Charlotte & Johann's first daughter, Anna Henrietta dies in St. Louis in 1864, age 1

# Johann in Illinois

- Visits Wash County in 1860 & 61
- Moves to Wash. County, (Nashville) 1865
- Buys land from other farmers (1868) and Illinois Central RR (1870)
- organizes Hoyleton Farmers Club with brother-in-law
- 6 children born in IL
- Venedy Lutheran church est. first in 1842, then New Minden, later Hoyleton
- New Minden Church's bell (2000 lbs) given to Freistatt - 1879



**AT FROM \$6 TO \$12 PER ACRE,**  
Near Markets, Schools, Railroads, Churches, and all the blessings of Civilization.  
1,200,000 Acres in Farms of 40, 80, 120, 160 Acres and upwards; in  
**ILLINOIS, the Garden State of America.**

*The Illinois Central Railroad Company offer, on LONG CREDIT, the beautiful and fertile PRAIRIE LANDS lying along the whole line of their Railroad, 700 MILES IN LENGTH, upon the most Favorable Terms for enabling Farmers, Manufacturers, Mechanics, and Workmen, to make for themselves and their families a competency, and a home they can call Their Own.*

#### ILLINOIS

Is about equal in extent to England, with a population of 1,722,464, and a soil capable of supporting 20,000,000. No State in the valley of the Mississippi offers so great an inducement to the settler as the State of Illinois. There is no part of the world where all the conditions of climate and soil so admirably combine to produce those two great staples, CORN and WHEAT.

#### CLIMATE.

Nowhere can the industrious farmer secure such immediate results from his labor as on these deep, rich, loamy soils, cultivated with so much ease. The climate from the extreme southern part of the State to the Terre Haute, Alton and St. Louis Railroad, a distance of nearly 300 miles, is well adapted to Winter

#### WHEAT, CORN, COTTON, TOBACCO.

Peaches, Pears, Tomatoes, and every variety of fruit and vegetables are grown in great abundance, from which Chicago and other Northern markets are furnished from four to six weeks earlier than their immediate vicinity.

#### THE ORDINARY YIELD

of Corn is from 50 to 80 bushels per acre. Cattle, Horses, Mules, Sheep and Hogs are raised here at a small cost, and yield large profits. It is believed that no section of country presents greater inducements for Dairy Farming than the Prairie of Illinois, a branch of farming to which but little attention has been paid, and which must yield sure profitable results.

#### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

The Agricultural products of Illinois are greater than those of any other State. The Wheat crop of 1861 was estimated at 35,000,000 bushels, while the Corn crop yield's not less than 140,000,000 bushels, besides the crop of Oats, Barley, Rye, Buckwheat, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Pump-

kins, Squashes, Flax, Hemp, Peas, Clover, Cabbage, Beets, Tobacco, Sorghum, Grapes, Peaches, Apples, &c., which go to swell the vast aggregate of production in this fertile region. Over Four Million tons of produce were sent out of Illinois during the past year.

#### CULTIVATION OF COTTON.

The experiments in Cotton culture are of very great promise. Commencing in latitude 33 deg. 30 min. (see Map) on the Branch, and Assumption on the Main Line), the Company owns thousands of acres well adapted to the perfection of this fibre. A settler having a family of young children can turn their youthful labor to a most profitable account in the growth and perfection of this plant.

#### THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD

Traverses the whole length of the State, from the banks of the Mississippi and Lake Michigan to the Ohio. As its name imports, the Railroad runs through the centre of the State, and on either side of the road along its whole length lie the lands offered for sale.

#### CITIES, TOWNS, MARKETS, DEPOTS.

There are ninety-eight Depots on the Company's Railway, giving about one every seven miles. Cities, Towns, and Villages are situated at convenient distances throughout the whole route, where every desirable commodity may be found as readily as in the oldest cities of the Union, and where buyers are to be met for all kinds of farm produce.

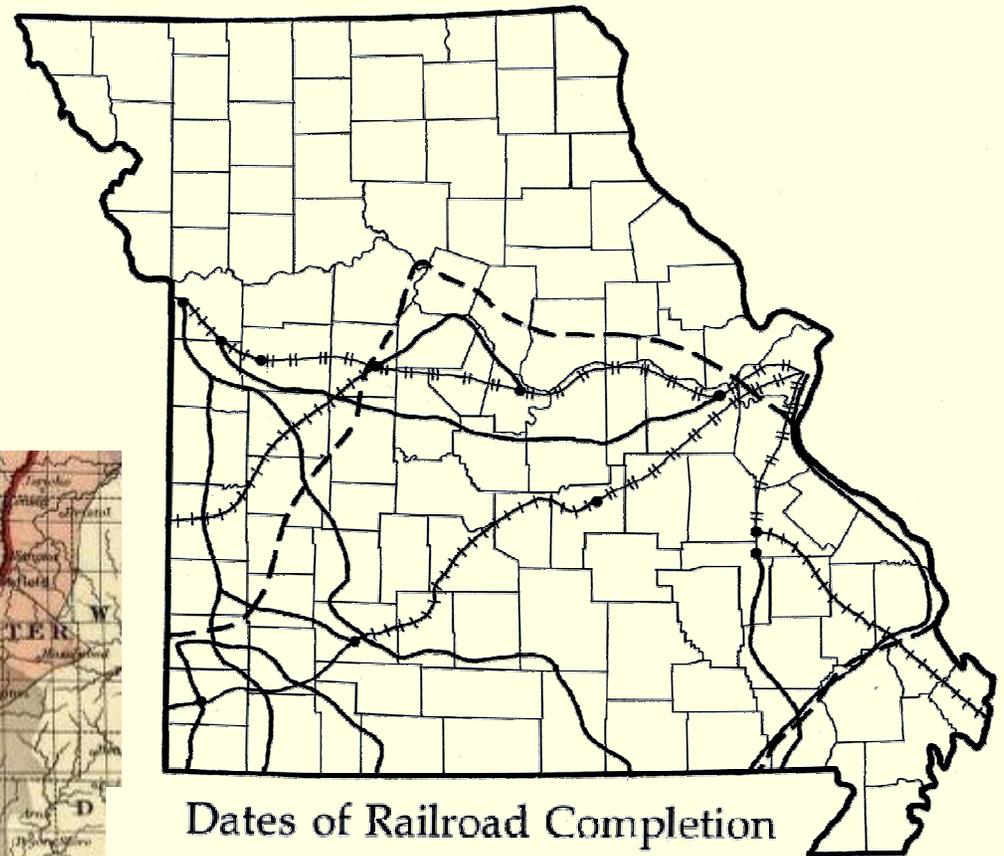
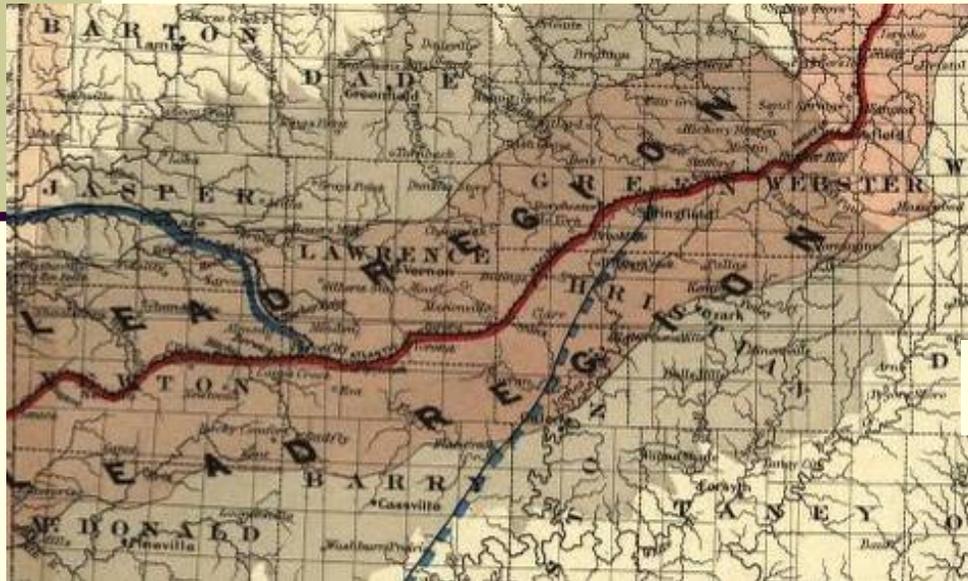
#### EDUCATION.

Mechanics and working men will find the free school system encouraged by the State, and endowed with a large revenue for the support of the schools. Children can live in sight of the school, the college, the church, and grow up with the prosperity of the leading State of the Great Western Empire.

An 1867 land advertisement. The railroad promised extraordinary yields as well as "all the blessings of civilization" to any and all land buyers. (*Illinois Central Railroad*)

# Johann and family moves to Freistatt in 1884

- Railroad was driving force behind decision to settle in SW MO
- Land at \$6 / acre from St. Louis & San Fran Railway
- German settlement with a Lutheran church



Dates of Railroad Completion

■ To 1864

■ 1864–1870

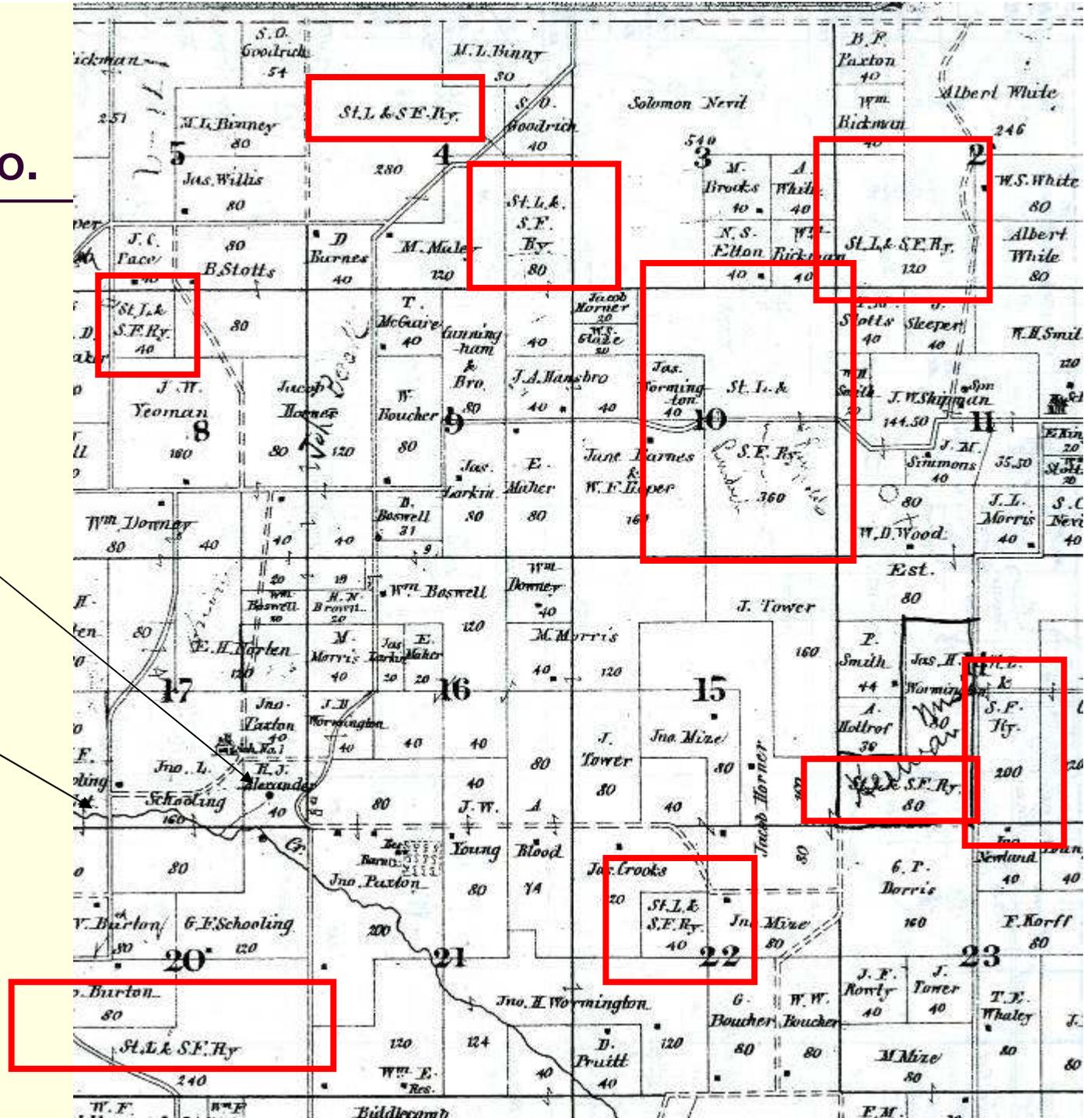
— Post-1870

# 1879 Platt Map of Lawrence Co.

RR land still  
for sale

August  
Kleiboeker  
Home

Center Creek



....and many German customs came to Freistatt



Emma Kleiboeker &  
Ed Stellwagen Wedding  
24 October, 1897



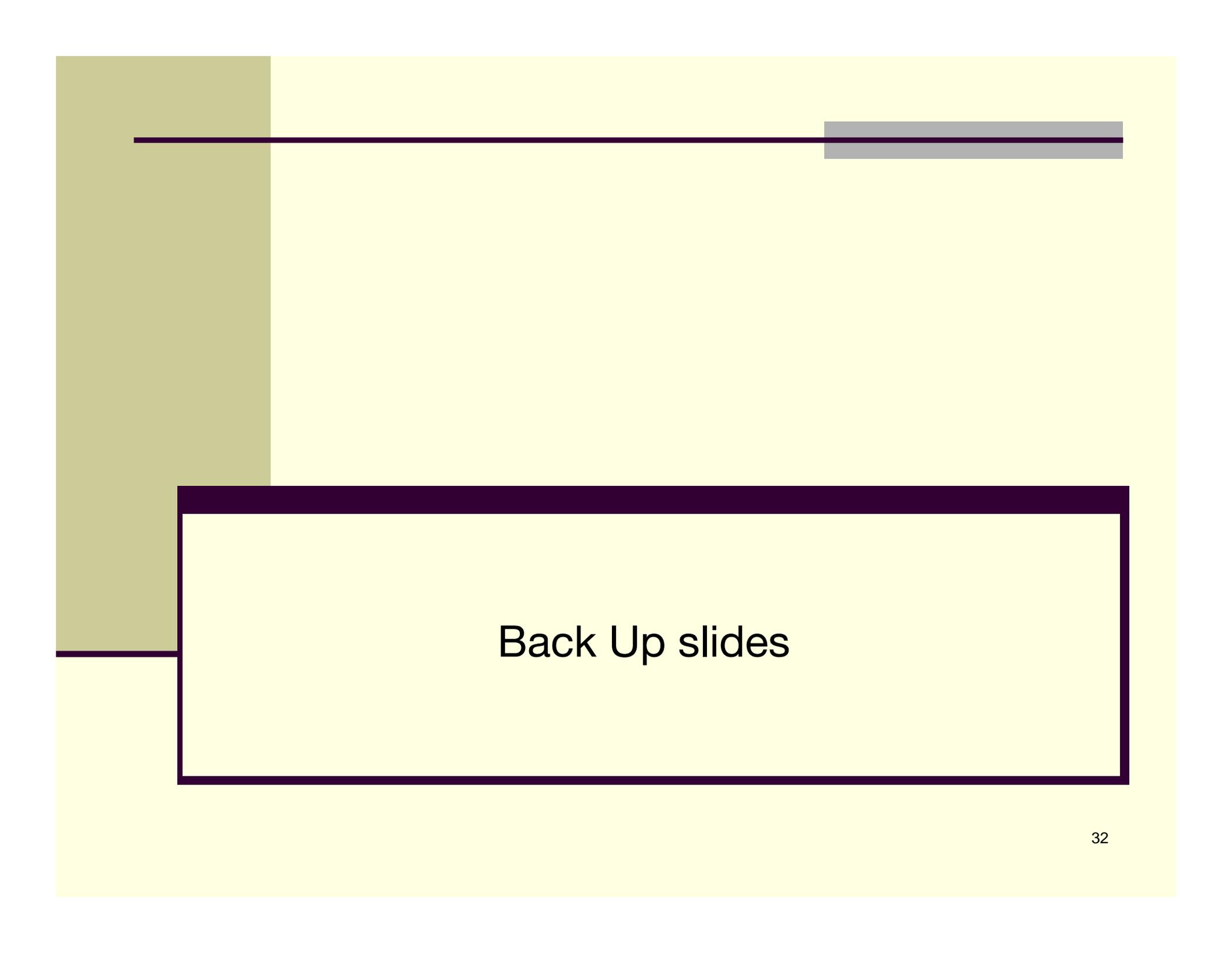
Bertha & Oscar Voskamp  
Wedding  
8 Nov 1936

## Johann K.

- the pioneer
- the family man
- the craftsman
- a life-long Lutheran
- the man always a few hundred miles from contentment looking for the charm of anticipated success



CIRCA -1889



Back Up slides

# Johann Bernhard Kleiboeker Family

	Johann B. (father)	Maria nee Dirkes (mother)	Johann H.	Maria C.	Eliza A.	Johann Herma nn	Anna C..	Hermann	Gerhard	Catherina M	Dietrich
Birth	1801	1805	1830	1832	1835	1837	1838	1841	1843	1847	1850
Immig ration	Never left Germa ny	1864 via New York from Bremen on ship: Marylan d	June 1851 but ship unknown, New Orleans is probable Port of entry	before 1855 on unknown ship	1854 via New Orleans from Bremen Ship Olbers	Never left Germa ny	1854 via New Orleans from Bremen Ship Olbers	1863 via NY from Bremen on ship Columbus	1864 via New York from Bremen on ship: Maryland	1864 via New York from Bremen on ship: Maryland	1864 via New York from Bremen on ship: Maryland
Marri age			1.Henriette Brinkman St. Louis, 2.Charlott e Stratman St. Louis	Heinrich (Henry Gerstkem per 2 March 1855	Heinrich Welp, 28 Sept 1856, St. Louis	N/A	William Schnake 9 Feb 1864 New Minden IL	Maria Jording, 17 Oct 1868 Hoyleton IL	Margaret Schmick, 12 March 1867, St. Louis MO	N/A	Anna Grote, 9 Dec 1873, St. Louis MO
Death & Burial	Oct 13, 1863 in Helle, Germa ny, near Gehrde age 62	Oct 5, 1865, New Minden IL age 60	Nov 22, 1900, Freistatt MO age 70	May 14 1904, Hoyleton IL age 71, Lutheran Cem Hoyleton IL	April 25 1905, St. Louis age 69, in Bethlehem Cem	1837 in Germa ny age 3 month s	29 March 1929, St. Louis, MO age 90, Bethlehem Cem	Jan 30, 1882, Beaver Prairie IL age 40	Dec 8 1908, Clinton County IL age 65	July 1 1866 New Minden IL age 19	26 May 1888 Hoyleton IL age 38

Alles in  
Ordnung

and densely  
settled near  
each other

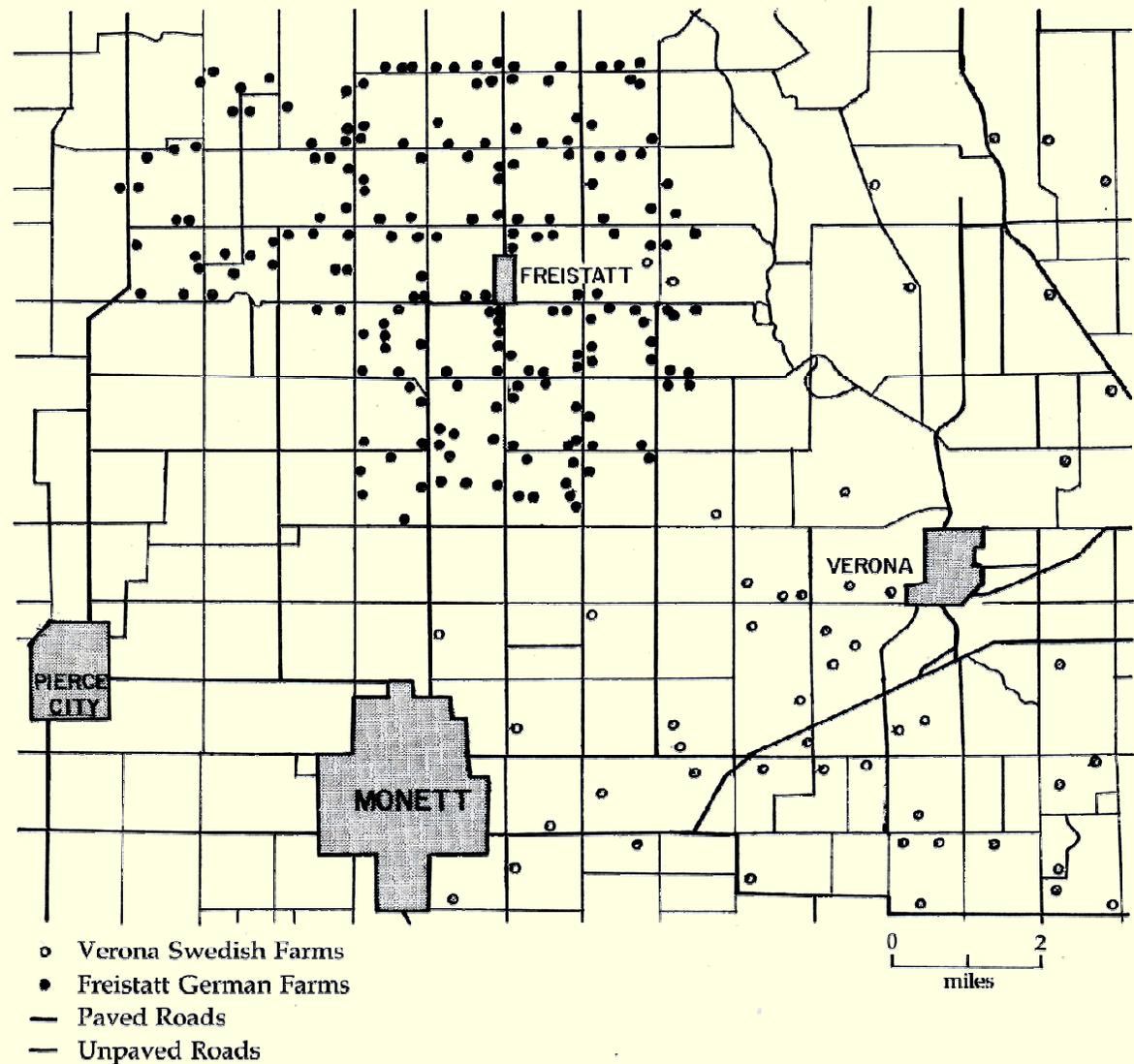


Figure 6-1. Location of Swedish and German Farmers in Lawrence County, 1972. The German settlement at Freistatt is a typical compact German agricultural settlement. The Swedish settlement at Verona represents the more dispersed pattern typical of the later European settlements.

# Johann's book of Farmers' club members

5		6	
Hoylton Farmers		Club	
Names of Members			
Chas Gerrit Kempier		Luis Fiker	
John Klebiker	25/20	Daniel Adelay	
P. B. Gaylord		Chas Cole	
Henry Arning		Henry Richman	
Wm Holmeyer		Christian Richman	
Gotlip Kirkhoff		Richard Richman	
Chas Kruger		Wm. Karmann	
Fritz Foltman		Wm. Hoockruneger	
Henry Foltman		Wm. Brownhart	
Henry Gorching		Emt Schearbeker	
Chas Quermeyer		Wm. Koblmeier	
Henry Kruger		Wm. Richman	
Geo W. Elefritz		Christ Fiker	
L. P. Dyer		Heerman Holly	
Chas Depary		Fred Adelay	
Chas Foggemüller		Wm. Hof	
Ernst Weking		Henry Karkhoff	
Henry Lucking	20	Wm. Kaston	
August Holmeyer		Henry Krugs	
Casper Arning		Henry Witt	
		Henry Magaert	

## Johann's Life Story

Minim Luban  
Mandel  
Ich bin geboren am  
23 October 1830  
in der Bauerschaft  
Riesfort Kirchspiel  
Gehöret Amt Bersenbrück  
im Königreiche  
Hanover  
Confirmit in Juhn 1845  
bei Pastor Boek  
Übergang nach America  
am 18ten March 1851  
gelandete im Hafen von  
Saint Louis Missouri  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 1851 in der Luft  
abgegangen June 7<sup>th</sup> 1851  
bei Jipfler Winzer  
Joh. H. Koppelman  
in Saint Louis Mo

# Facts about Gehrde

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- 977 - referred to as Girithi, possible Latin naming
- 1350 - named Gerden
- 1772 – 7 Vollerben Hof's, 3 Halberben, 5 Erbkotten, 44 Markkotten, 9 Kirchhof's, 67 other homesites
- Total Home sites including Hof's / Kotten, gebaude:  
1821: 130; 1885: 105; 1905: 102
- 1819: 34 Members of the Gehrde Mark
- in 19<sup>th</sup> Century, there was a Tischfabrik (table factory) and windmills for grinding grain
- Local church, St. Christopherus, founded in 1251, rebuilt and expanded in 1823
- School first established in 1625

from G.R. Twelbeck, Lagerbuch f. d. Kirchspiel Gehrde, 1867 &  
Der Altkreis Bersenbrück, Teil III, Geschichte und Entwicklung des Osnabrücker Nordlandes  
by Werner Dobelmann, printed by Wilhelm Oelkers, Berge, ISBN 3-921176-32-8

# Hof Stories

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- Erna and Vera and Ulrike
- Why we are Lutheran
- Ghost of Schlienkamp
- Lawyer's intro letter