

## ***“Our Little Red Church”***

I would like to share with you tonight why I Love ***“Our Little Red Church”***. My Grandmother Clara and Henry August, Heindric, Christian, Ludvig Bruns, had 4 children Olive, Alice, Hank and Clarence. My father was Clarence whom married my Mother Harriett Aleen Doubleday Bruns. I was the first baby to be baptized in the ***“Little Red Church”*** 1924.

My sponsors were Grandma Clara and Grandpa Henry. In the years to follow there would be 9 more children.

Now I will share with you what I have learned about the History of how the ***“Little Red Church”*** came to be.

My dad's oldest sister Olive May Bruns Steinhauer, wrote a book titled ***“Stirred up Memories since Darwin Road”***. Their parents came over from Germany in 1856. Ernest Bruns and Herman Weddig two German lads who ventured to tell their folks they planned to go to the New Country, America. It was quite a coincidence that the two young frouleins had the same longing to go to America and came on the same boat. One of the girls name was Johanna and her friend was Amelia. These two men picked out two of the prettiest girls on the boat. Who later became their brides.

The path that led Ernest and Herman when they arrived in Madison, was to go north of the Capitol Square, where a group of Germans had settled called ***“Sucher Bush”*** in 1856. Shortly after Ernest arrived and became acquainted with the location, he purchased land that the German community was developing. These were the days they lived in a primitive way.

The little gathering worshiped under a group of trees in the vicinity of ***“Sucher Bush”***. The men made a log bench for the ladies to sit on. They all loved to sing their gospel songs. They were thankful for their new homes. They hoped that they soon would be able to organize a Lutheran Church, which was accomplished two months after they came in 1856. As it happened, St. Johns Lutheran Church of Madison was just organized January 20<sup>th</sup> 1856 by ***“Hope”*** the Mother Church in Cottage Grove. Two months later on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1856. St. Johns Madison organized the ***“Sucher Bush”*** Church. They worshiped for twenty-eight years in the little white schoolhouse, District No. 10 now called Sherman Ave. School. ***“Little Red Church”*** was built in Westport in 1884.

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Our Grandfather Ernest was born in a cultural prosperous home in Germany. He was educated in the direction of which he pursued for better living. After a time he and Johanna were married and started to make the land ready for their living. It was a dairy farm.

My Auntie Olive writes: My Grandfathers homestead stayed in the Ernest Bruns family until the death of my fathers brother Ernest who died at age of 77, November 16<sup>th</sup> 1953. Grandfather Henry and Uncle Ernest were born on the farm. My Mother, Clara Hartkopf was introduced to Madison when she was 18 years old. She was born in Asseo Minnesota the ninth of eleven children. She spoke the German language most of the time but, had a good understanding of English. She loved music. Mostly folk songs and gospel hymns. She loved to dress neatly. The first time away from home, she was to go to Madison, Wisconsin to visit her older sister Pauline Sachtjen. Because, it was late in the fall when she was going, her Mother made ready for her to take along a new feather bed. A thick covering of feathers, instead of a quilt. She used to laugh to think how funny she must have looked caring the big feather bed. Her sister's home was filled with many rooms and five children, a busy and fun household. As it happened a neighbor, young Henry Bruns was invited over for her to meet. As time went on Henry was a steady visitor. They became engaged and were married in the fall of 1895.

Their first home was in the old Sachtjen homestead. It was a beautiful red brick house. Two children were born there, Olive and Henry Jr. after two and one half years Grandfather purchased a farm for them and helped provide stock and farm implements for their farming. The farm was located on Darwin Road. Alice Bruns Kluge and Clarence H. Bruns were born on this farm.

It was a little community of seven farms, including ours. It was a neighborhood three German Families, three Norwegian Families and one Irish Family.

Our Grandfather Henry always had projects going, he built a large machine shop. He was an inventor. The first blacksmith in our area.

He treated and helped his neighbors by actions. He helped his Church with his talents and saw them through many trials and triumphs. Grandpa Bruns main project of the Church was the steeple. Grandpa Bruns and Ernest were

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responsibility of hanging the bell also. Many other families in the community helped. My Mother Harriett Aleen's dad laid all the wood floors. His name was Edwin Doubleday. Herman Weddig comes to mind, Stanges, Onckens, Harborts, Ructi's and many more.

Rev. Ottow Wilkie as our Pastor at that time he would drive the horse and buggy from down town to Westport. There were no roads just ruts to follow. He would tie the buggy to the old oak tree in front of the Church.

I remember when Grandpa Henry and Rev. Wilkie went fishing over in Lake Mendota. Rev. Wilkie caught a huge fish and apparently had to stand up. He fell in the water but, there was quicksand and Grandpa has a hard time pulling him out and back in the boat. It was a miracle. There are so many more stories but they will have to wait.

I remember the Ladies Aids-My Mother playing the organ and piano at the Church.

I was married to Russell Reinke in the ***“Little Red Church”*** 1942.

My daughter Linda L. Reinke Baker was baptized, confirmed and married in the Chapel-Ken Hoffman was the Pastor.

My grandsons were married in our Church-  
Robert and Vicki Baker June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000-Chapel  
Bart and Annisa Baker October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1992-New Church

My granddaughter Vicki and great grandchildren were baptized in the summer of August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1994 outdoors. Trisha Lynn Baker and Sasha Lynn Peterson.

The marker on our ***“Little Red Church”*** was placed there in memory of our Grandma Clara Bruns. By her son Henry E. Bruns Jr.

*Written by: Marjorie Bruns Reinke Rietveld*

*Date: April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

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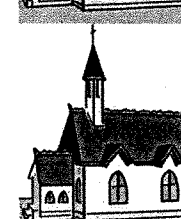
I was rehearsing my memories when my 10 year old Great Granddaughter said to me. “Grandmother Margy you forgot to mention Uncle Michael Baker and your Great Grandchildren who dearly Love you!” Bryce Michael, Taylor Jane and Brooke Elizabeth.

I said “Oh forgive me you are so right” How about my nieces and nephews Great and Grand. The Remus’, Fritzs’, Hoffmans’, Stubblefields’, Zimmermans’, Rossows’, Bruns’ Olivers’and Webers’.

A Special Thank you to my dear niece Susan Ann Remus for typing this for me.

Oh, yes I am a Great-Great Grandmother. Dakota Lynn Bowers.

*All this is by the Grace of God for which I  
am so thankful!*



# Family Party to Celebrate Mrs. Bruns' 90th Birthday



MRS. HENRY BRUNS, 1709 Fremont Ave., the oldest living member of Lakeview American Lutheran Church, will celebrate her 90th birthday at a family dinner party in the parish hall Sunday. Mrs. Bruns posed for the five generation picture (above) with her son, Clarence H. Bruns; her granddaughter, Mrs. Russell A. Reinke, who is holding her grandson, Robert Russell Baker; and the baby's mother, Mrs. James M. Baker. Mrs. Baker is one of Mrs. Bruns' 51 great-grandchildren and her son is Mrs. Bruns' only great-great-grandchild.

Because raising Persian cats is one of Mrs. Bruns' hobbies, she is affectionately called "Kitty Grandma" by her great-grandchildren. Another of her hobbies is gardening. She has her favorite stars on television, knows all the gospel singers on radio and still plays a good game of 500.

Staff Photo by David Sandell

MRS. HENRY BRUNS was born in Osseo, Minn., in 1872 and in 1890 she came to the Town of Burke to visit her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. William Sachtjen. During her visit she met the Sachtjens' neighbor, Henry Bruns, and four years later, on Nov. 21, she and Mr. Bruns were married.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruns are the parents of four children. Henry Bruns Jr., with whom she makes her home, Mrs. R. M. Steinhauer and Clarence Bruns, Madison, and Mrs. Carl Kluge, Wauwatosa. All of her children will share in her birthday celebration, which will be highlighted by a program presented by her great-grandchildren.

MRS. BRUNS' GRANDCHILDREN and their families who will be with her on her birthday include Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Erickson, Mrs. William Sundquist, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Steinhauer, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Reinke, Mr. and Mrs. Kendall Bruns, Mr. and Mrs. Sexton Birkeland, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruns, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Weber, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Rossow, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Remus and Miss Mary Bruns and John Bruns, all of Madison.

Here from away will be the Rev. and Mrs. A. S. Christensen and family, Watertown; Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Steinhauer and family, Reedsburg; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Steinhauer and family, Rockford, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Boettcher, Wauwatosa; Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Seeds and family, Freeport, Ill.; and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Zimmerman and family, Beloit.

NIECES AND NEPHEWS who will attend the party will be Judge and Mrs. Herman Sachtjen, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Coles, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Sachtjen, Mrs. Goldie Rigney, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sachtjen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sachtjen, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Borchers and Mrs. Carl Fischnick, all of Madison.

Other guests will be Mrs. Bruns' sister-in-law, Mrs. Ernest Bruns, Madison; the Rev. Kenneth Hoffman, pastor of Lakeview American Lutheran Church, and Mrs. Hoffman; and Mrs. Rose Daggett who has been Mrs. Bruns' companion for several years.



# Mrs. Henry Bruns To Mark Her 90th Birthday Today

Mrs. Henry Bruns, 1709 Burke. Their last farm home was Mrs. Carl Kluge, Wauwatosa, will Fremont ave., who is affectionately known as "Kitty room for the Sherman Plaza Grandma" to her 51 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, will observe her 90th birthday today at a catered 1:30 p.m. dinner in the parish hall of the Lakeview American Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Bruns, the former Clara Hartkopf, left her childhood home in Osseo, Minn., and came to Madison at the age of 18 to visit her sister, Mrs. William Sachtfen. She fell in love with a neighbor, Henry Bruns, and they were married Nov. 21, 1894.

Mrs. Bruns farmed for many years in the town of Clarence H. Bruns, Madison, and her four children, Mrs. R. M. Wilbur Sachtfen, Henry Bruns Jr., Mrs. Wilfred Coles, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sachtfen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sachtfen, Mrs. Goldie Rigney, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Borchers, Mrs. Clara Fischnick, Mrs. Rose Daggett, the Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Hoffman and family, Madison; Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Steinhauer and family, Reedsburg; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Steinhauer and family, Rockford, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Gene Zimmerman and family, Beloit; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Boettcher and family, Wauwatosa; and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Seeds and family, Freeport, Ill.

Other guests will be Mrs. Clarence Bruns, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Erickson and children, Mrs. William Sundquist and son, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Steinhauer and family, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Reinke and family, Mr. and Mrs. K. D. Bruns and family, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Birkeland and family; Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Bruns, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Rossow and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Weber and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Remus and family, Mary and John Bruns, Mr. and Mrs. James Baker and family, Judge and Mrs. Herman Sachtfen, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Coles, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Sachtfen, Mrs. Ernest Sachtfen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sachtfen, Mrs. Goldie Rigney, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Borchers, Mrs. Clara Fischnick, Mrs. Rose Daggett, the Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Hoffman and family, Madison; Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Steinhauer and family, Reedsburg; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Steinhauer and family, Rockford, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Gene Zimmerman and family, Beloit; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Boettcher and family, Wauwatosa; and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Seeds and family, Freeport, Ill.



Mrs. Henry Bruns, 1709 Fremont ave., seated left, who is observing her 90th birthday today, is shown with five generations of her family.

She is holding her great-great grandson, Robert Russell Baker. Others in the picture are Mrs. Bruns' son, Clarence H. Bruns, 4209 Hanover st.; her granddaughter, Mrs. Russell A. Reinke, 1920 Heath ave.; and her great-granddaughter, Mrs. James M. Baker, 409½ Clemons ave.