



SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Henderson, Minnesota 56044 Ph: (507)248-3434

SEPTEMBER 2012

Volume 17, Issue 3

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This well researched and documented article is the gift of genealogist Nicole Miller, a librarian by profession. She will soon be teaching a genealogy course at her alma mater, The Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, Champaign.

The first half of the article with reference notes appears in this issue. The remainder, in the next newsletter, will have information on 14 more Arlington area families.

From Illinois to the Minnesota Territory

The migration of Hessian Families to Arlington Township in Sibley County.

Nicole Wedemeyer Miller, M.L.S.

You may know that many German families poured into Sibley and neighboring counties of southeastern Minnesota in the 1850's, but you may not know that many of them lived for several years in Illinois first. These Germans had sailed to the east coast,

often entering at ports such as Baltimore and New York. They then traveled to the Midwest via canal boats and railroads.

There was lots of cheap land near the rapidly growing city of Chicago in Cook County (Illinois). West of the city, in Elk Grove and Schaumburg townships, many emigrants from the Hessen-Kassel region of Germany settled together. They started arriving in the late 1840's and more and more arrived during the 1850's through chain migration. The land here was a combination of prairie, wooded groves and marshy areas or sloughs. There are still many forest preserves that dot the Chicago suburbs today, remnants of these groves; the soil was very good.

The Hessians settled and founded Lutheran churches in the area including St. Peter's in Schaumburg, which started holding services in 1840, but which was officially dedicated in 1848, and St. John's in Elk Grove Township, also founded in 1848.

(Continued on page 2)

Calendar of Events

Check our website for programs.

- September 22nd Heritage Day in Henderson. Museum open both Saturday and Sunday.
- Sunday September 30, "End of Summer Celebration" at museum, free admission. 2-5 pm.
- Tuesday, October 23, Farming Heritage, Gordon Frederickson Mule Team Harvest video

Monthly meetings start at 7 pm

- If you have suggestions or comments on upcoming events Contact Judy Loewe 507-248-3345
- **Calendar Subject to Change.**



The Prez Sez

by Jerome Petersen



Pot Luck at the Arlington Sportsman Park
David Main, Bert and Arline Karels, Gail Nuessmeier

Our June program was a potluck supper and a tour of the exotic animals that are owned by Christian Lilienthal and his wife, Gena. Who knew there were all these animals right in our midst? Christian had an informative presentation. Camels don't have



Christian Lilienthal and the parrot. Mmm. Little drumsticks!

hooves, just pads. I assumed they were like a cow. They look kinda like a cow with osteoporosis. Parrots live to be 70 years old. This one might not. Gena said the parrot told Bruce's mother, Nelva, one day "You're fat". Bruce's mother wondered "Are they hard to clean? Do they make good gravy? Do they taste like chicken?" In their menagerie they have camels, parrots,



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The St John's congregation built a simple frame structure with oak harvested from the church property, and decorated it with pumpkins, prairie flowers and a banner reading "*Gott allein die Ehre*" (To God alone the glory) for its dedication festival. These churches initially shared the same pastor, Rev. Francis A. Hoffman, and they both also had Lutheran schools.¹

During this time, the farmers on the fringes of Cook County had difficulty getting their crops into the Chicago market. The road from northwest Cook County into Chicago was in a primitive state, and there were no rivers close enough to float their crops to market. About this time another group of Germans from Württemberg, also living near Chicago, organized themselves into the *Chicago Landverein*, or land society. They had heard that the government had negotiated a treaty with Native Americans, and was opening up land in the Minnesota territory. The land was very cheap, \$1.25 per acre, and much of it was near rivers, either the mighty Mississippi, or the Minnesota river.

The members of the *Landverein* would pool their money and buy a block of land collectively in order to found a town. After some financial trials and tribulations, they ultimately did establish New Ulm in 1854.

Probably inspired by this group of Württembergers, and the widespread publicity about the newly opened territory, many, but not all of the Hessians west of Chicago decided to move to Minnesota. One family, the Busses, stayed, quickly multiplied, and ended up owning a large chunk of Elk Grove Township. Today, there is a road and a forest preserve named for them.²

The Hessians west of Chicago were a conservative group. Their churches were old Lutheran, not Reformed, and not United, but part of the Missouri synod. They definitely did not have ideas of a socialist German utopia like the group at New Ulm. So they struck out for an area slightly to the north of New Ulm, in Sibley County. They filed their claims at the land office in Red Wing, or in Henderson after that office opened in June 1857, and settled in what was called Prairie Mound, now Arlington Township.

How do we know that the same group moved together? Luckily, the Lutherans were good record keepers. The members of St. John's Lutheran church back in Elk Grove Township were some of the same men who founded another church, also called St John's in Sibley County, Minnesota. We can also examine federal and state census records, homestead files, obituaries and more for information about the families and where and when they moved.

I became interested in this group when I embarked on research to help a friend, Paul Dohme of Champaign, IL, find out the origins of his family. In the process of tracing his family's movements backwards, we discovered that they had emigrated from Hessen-Kassel, lived for several years in Cook County, and then moved west to Sibley County, (Minnesota). The Dohmes acquired their land in Minnesota from the U.S. government, which made them a pioneer family of the state. Their story was typical of the group of Hessian immigrants who moved with them.



Hessen_Kassel of Germany showing the likely port of departure; Bremen

Their story begins in Hessen-Kassel

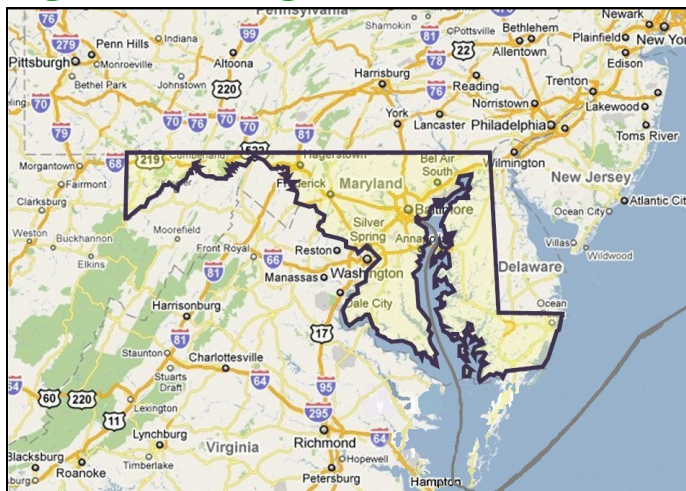
Carl Dohme³ and his wife Caroline Meyer⁴ were born in the villages of Fuhlen and Rumbeck respectively, adjacent *dorfs* or villages, on the same side of the Weser River. These towns are located on land that gently rises upwards from the river towards wooded areas, and the region is nicknamed *Sonnenthal*, or Sun Valley. This area of Germany was part of Hessen-Kassel, which was a very old earldom. They were married in Fuhlen, on October 17, 1847.⁵ The wedding would have been celebrated at a party at the groom's farm, according to traditions in Northern Germany, and it could have lasted for two or three days!

In this area of Germany the farmhouses were arranged in groups, and the farmers had to travel into the countryside to work their land, which frequently was not in one contiguous piece, but which was usually scattered in small parcels. The red brick farmhouses often had the names and dates of former or current residents painted on a beam above the door, as well as mottoes, which is called *Einshriften*. Some can still be seen today. The barns were attached to either end of the houses forming a u-shaped compound. The Dohmes lived on farm number 18 in Fuhlen, owned by Carl's father Georg, which Carl stood to inherit.⁷

Carl only had one sibling, a younger sister named Justine, who had married in 1837, and had presumably moved onto her husband's farm. Carl and Caroline had their first child nine months after their wedding; daughter Justine "Wilhelmina" Charlotta, known as Mena or Minnie, was born on their farm in Fuhlen on July 12, 1848. She was baptized two weeks later on August 2, 1848 at St. Johannes der Tauffer (St. John the Baptist) church in Fuhlen.⁹

Shortly after, the family must have left for America. We know this because in September of 1848, Carl Dohme is listed as a founding member of the church congregation in Elk Grove Township, Cook County, called St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.¹⁰ The family would have taken a sailing ship out of Bremen to the U S eastern seaboard (route shown on next

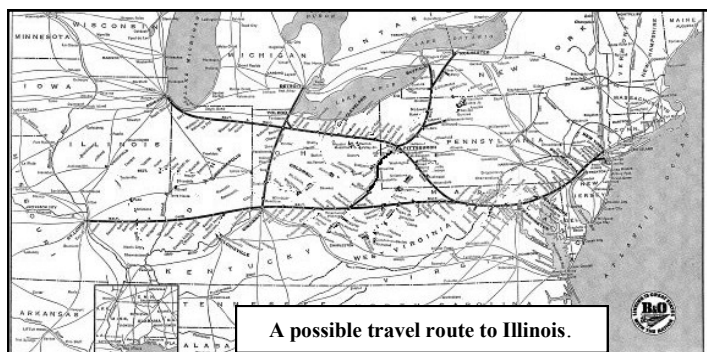
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page), which averaged one to two months.

At this time we have not located which ship carried the Dohmes to America. It is possible that the passenger list has been lost. But because many others in the Fuhlen area, including other Dohmes landed at Baltimore, it is probable that Carl and Caroline Dohme did as well. Baltimore was the closest U S port to the Midwest in the mid-nineteenth century. The Baltimore & Ohio railroad then took them almost as far



A possible travel route to Illinois.

west as the Ohio river. From there they would travel west of Chicago to Elk Grove Township.

Why did the Dohmes and other Hessians emigrate? There are several possible reasons. German history tells us that there were widespread crop failures in Germany in 1847-48; also, conflicts due to border disputes prompted immigration from the Hessen-Kassel region. During this time Germany was not yet a unified nation. It was still a patchwork of duchies, kingdoms, bishoprics, and free cities. Power struggles amongst the leaders of these small governments were frequent. Compulsory military service for young men was yet another motivation for many to leave.

Their story continues in Cook County, IL

Carl Dohme bought land near where O'Hare airport would eventually be built in Elk Grove Township, Cook County.¹¹ This area west of Chicago was originally settled by Americans from the northeast, but gradually became filled with farmers from the Hessen-Kassel region. The adjacent township of Schaumburg, originally called Sarah's Grove, was also settled and named by Hessians (one area of Hessen-Kassel was called Schaumburg). They brought their low German language, Lutheran faith, music, and culinary traditions with them, but they left one tradition be-

hind. In the old country the farmhouses were in sociable groups, but the Hessians adopted the American custom of placing their homes in the middle of their block of land — a more efficient, but lonelier, system.

Not only did ties of blood and marriage cause this group from the same region of Germany to settle together, but also ties of language and culture. Despite earlier efforts to establish a single dialect of middle high German as a written language, in the 1800s, Germans still spoke regional dialects which hindered communication with Germans from other areas.

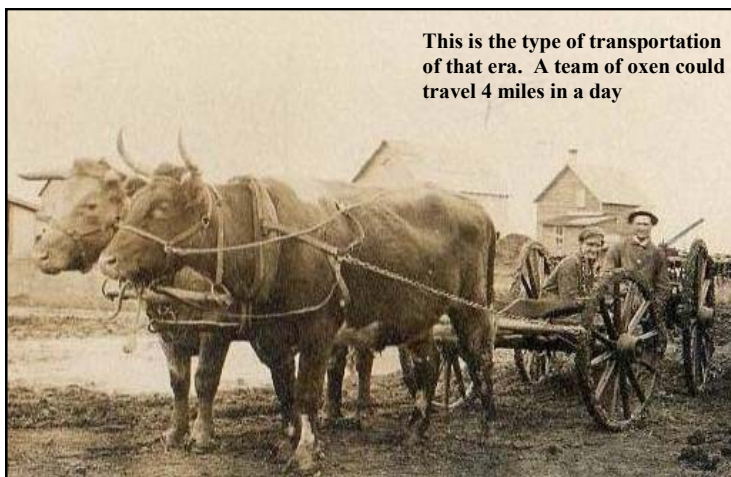
Although sparse at first, there had been settlement of Elk Grove Township since the 1830's. The Dohmes and other Hessians settled on land that they probably bought from another farmer, although any deeds of these transactions were destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1873. Unfortunately, many other records generated by the family were also consumed by a fire of their church parsonage in 1853, but we do know that the family continued to grow.

The IL state census of 1844 confirms that Carl and Caroline have three children by this point, and that only Carl's mother, Justine¹², still lives with them. At some point in 1853, Carl's father, Georg, passed away at age 71 and is probably buried in the cemetery, or "Gottakre", adjacent to their church¹³. Carl now owns \$600 worth of livestock — in five years he has increased its worth by \$400. Their fourth child, William, is born in Cook County in 1855¹⁴. Eventually, the Dohmes will have 10 children altogether.

The move to Minnesota Territory

The Dohmes and other Hessian families left Cook County, probably after the 1855 harvest, to head for the Minnesota territory. It is possible that the Hessians sent a small scouting party ahead to Minnesota before the move, in order to evaluate the land there and decide on a specific destination, a common practice amongst American pioneers.

Historian Bruce O Stenzel says that farmers were targeted with advertising to lure them to Minnesota because prior to the 1850's most of the food had to be imported to the area¹⁵. The southeastern area of Minnesota where the Hessian families settled had been Indian country until the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota were negotiated



This is the type of transportation of that era. A team of oxen could travel 4 miles in a day

in 1851. The government did not start surveying the area until the summer of 1853.

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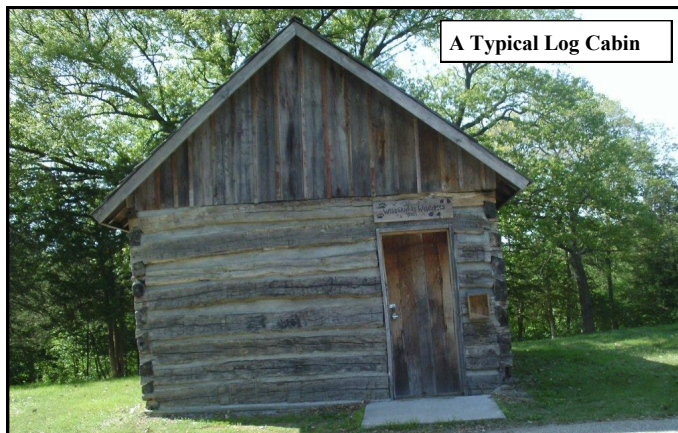
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The settlers who came to claim government land had to follow a strict protocol. They had to travel to the nearest land office and describe their land either by geographic features, or by metes and bounds. Within three months of when the government surveyors had filed the plats for the area containing their land, they had to revisit the land office again in order to file a declaration of intention to purchase the land. When the government released the land in their area for sale, the settlers then had the right of purchase of the land for \$1.25 per acre. Meanwhile they also had to live on the land, build a dwelling, and enclose at least a half-acre of it with a fence. Affidavits to these facts can often be read in the land case entry files. If the person claiming land was not a U S citizen he had to file an intention to become one.

Dohme family tradition says that the family stayed briefly in Watertown, WI, likely on the way to Minnesota. The distance from western Cook county to Watertown is roughly 100 miles. They were traveling by horse drawn covered wagon, or possibly oxcart, moving household goods, small children, an elderly mother, and probably some livestock. If they left at the end of the 1855 harvest, they likely only got as far as Watertown by the winter, and then had to stop and wait out the bad weather.

Most settlers who went from Illinois used the old State road, which ran west from Chicago all the way across the northern part of Illinois, almost as far as the border. Then the State road veered north into Wisconsin. Remember that there were only a handful of national roads in the mid-nineteenth century, and so migration patterns were necessarily limited. It was also possible to travel west to Minnesota by train, and then by steamboat but then they would not have been able to move many possessions with them, notably livestock¹⁶.

The trip from Watertown, WI to Sibley County, Minnesota was another 350 miles. One of the Dohmes' neighbors in Sibley



A Typical Log Cabin

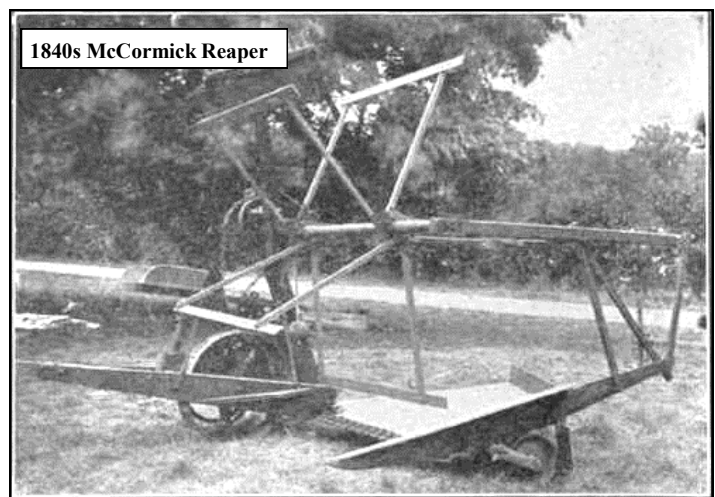
County, Julius Ritter, had also come from Watertown¹⁷. The Dohmes arrived in the spring of 1856, settled on some government land and got to work. Many of the settlers deliberately chose land that was wooded to farm. The prevailing wisdom at the time said that wooded land often near the edges of rivers and streams, had better soil, and besides that yielded plenty of building material. The wooded land also offered years of back-breaking labor needed to clear it! The later settlers, who had to take open prairie land, perhaps were luckier.

Carl Dohme's land entry case file, the information involved in his purchase of U S government land, reveals that on July 1, 1856 he started building a log cabin on a 160 acre parcel of land

that had been abandoned by someone else.

During the building process, the family either slept under their wagon, which they turned over to form a shelter, or they quickly constructed a lean-to made from brush. On July 25, Carl moved his wife, four children and mother into the cabin. It was 25' by 30' and had two windows and two doors. By the standards of the time and place, this was a generously sized cabin¹⁸. the land was located in the "east half of the southwest quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 25 in Township one hundred and thirteen North of range 27, west in the District of Lands subject to sale at Henderson, Minnesota, containing one hundred and sixty acres" according to his patent, which was finalized November 10, 1859. This area falls within the southeast corner of Arlington township¹⁹.

Pioneer mother Caroline gave birth to her fifth child, a girl named Mary, in May 1857²⁰. Her husband Carl was quite



1840s McCormick Reaper

busy also. By the end of August 1857, he had fenced 60 acres, planted another 20, built a stable, and dug a well, according to his homestead file.

The 1857 territorial census for Minnesota, enumerated October 7, lists Carl's family of five children by name, and includes his mother²¹. On Halloween 1857, Carl Dohme travels to the land office in Henderson and pays the \$200.00 he owes the government for his land — a bargain for 160 acres.

The next spring, Minnesota became the 32nd state, and Carl buys 80 more acres of land from his mother, Justine, making his total 240 acres²². His mother had bought 160 acres of land in July 1857²³, and sold half of it to her son in July 1858²⁴. He may have rented out this parcel because it was not adjoining the land he lived on. With his eldest son only eight years old, it is not likely that the Dohmes bought more land than they needed as an investment. More and more people flocked to Minnesota from the 1850's on — the population increased more than 2000 percent in that decade²⁵. there was a huge rush of people buying land for speculation purposes, and fortunes were made overnight. Unfortunately, many of them were brought to an end by the Panic of 1857, when many paper fortunes disappeared. This economic turmoil was unlike-

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ly to have greatly affected the German farmers of the south-eastern valley—they came to work their own land not to gamble economically. Historian Kathleen Neils Conzen writes, “German American farmers had a reputation for being conservative and unspeculative...more oriented toward long-term persistence of the family on the farm than to short-term profits”²⁶.

In addition to increasing their land holdings, the family continued to increase their most important crop, children. The Dohme’s sixth child, Henry was born on May 1, 1859²⁷. When the U S census taker comes around again in June 1860, Carl has six children, as well as his wife and mother still with him. His land is now worth \$3000 and his personal estate, everything else, is worth \$6000²⁸. He has really prospered.

The Civil War begins April 12, 1861. Carl is too old to serve at age 44, and his sons are too young. But the war must have impacted his life. There was a labor shortage as men start to join the army, but that was partially offset by advances in farm technology. New equipment such as McCormick’s reaper was now available and being marketed in Minnesota. The new machines meant that fewer hands were needed in the field. However, two weeks after the start of the war, Carl Dohme sells two 80 acre parcels of his land³⁰.

An examination of a list of all Sibley county men who either volunteered or were drafted, shows that none of our group of Hessian heads of families enlisted in the Civil War, although a few of their sons did³¹. Most members of the elder generation in this group were born in the 1820’s or before, which would make them in their forties, or older during the war — not young men anymore. Also, one reason the Hessians left Germany was to avoid compulsory military service. They must have been very dismayed to find that same problem in this country after they arrived. The close-knit band of pioneers probably also thought it was not their fight. The sectionalism and conflict over slavery which caused the Civil War were not “their” issues. However conflicted they were about the war, results from the election of 1860 show that the southeastern valley region, including the heavily German counties of Brown, Carver, Sibley and Le Sueur, returned the majority of votes for Abraham Lincoln³².

(Next issue continues the story with names you will recognize as present day descendants.)

Acknowledgements— this article could not have been completed without the research assistance of Arlene Busse of the Sibley County Historical Society, and the translation help of Professor Emeritus U. Henry Gerlach of the German Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Reference notes

Louis J. Schartzkopf, *The Lutheran Trail, A History of the Synodical Conference Lutheran churches in Northern Illinois* (St. Louis, Missouri: Concordia Publishing House, 1950), pp 48-51.

Busse road runs through Elk Grove Village as part of Route 83. Nearby Busse Woods is an impressive 3700 acres of forest and lake. The website of the organization called Friends of Busse Woods, describes it as “one of the best remaining examples of mesic and drymesic upland forest in the Eastern Central lowlands” (HYPERLINK, <http://www.bussewoods.net>) www.bussewoods.net, accessed May 5, 2012.)

Fuhlen Evangelical Parish (Fuhlen, Germany) “Baptismal Register Fuhlen 1817” p. 128. Heinrich Carl Ferdinand Dohme was born Marcy 28k, 1817 and baptized April 7, 1817; Lutheran Church Archive, Hanover, Germany.

“Baptismal Register Fuhlen 1828” p. 358. Caroline Louise Justine Meyer was born February 13, 1828 and baptized February 24, 1828.

“Marriage Register Fuhlen 1847” p. 34; Heinrich Carl Ferdinand Dohme married Wilhelmine (Caroline) Justine Louise Meier on October 17.

R. L. Stockman, *From Northern Germany to North America: 19th Century Migration*, Alto, Michigan: PlantDuutsch Press, 2003), pp. 213-239. These pages list many fascinating details of old-time courtship and wedding traditions in northern Germany.

Their marriage record, see reference note #5, lists the groom as residing at farm number 28 in Fuhlen, and being “anerbe”, or entitled to inherit the family farm.

Lachem Evangelical Parish (Lachem, Germany) “Marriage Register Lachem, 1837” pl. 106. Heinrich Conrad Kruckleberg married Justine Friederike Dohme from Fuhlen on September 17; Lutheran Church Archive, Hannover, Germany.

“Baptismal Register Fuhlen 1848” p. 73, baptism of Justine Wilhelmina Charlotta Dohme.

See Reference note #1, p. 49.

Cook county deeds from this period were destroyed in the Chicago fire, but his location is proven by the fact that he was enumerated in Elk Grove township in both the 1850 U S Census, and the 1855 Illinois State Census.

1855 Illinois State Census, population schedule, Elk Grove, p. 33 (handwritten), Carl Dohme; digital image, Ancestry.com (HYPERLINK <http://ancestry.com>) <http://ancestry.com>: accessed May 5, 2012) citing Illinois State Archives microfilm collection RS 103.8 roll 2189, line 13.

This is known from a note in his wife’s church burial record, St. John’s Lutheran Church Records (Arlington township, Minnesota) Gestorben in 1863m” p. 81 no. 1, church rectory, Arlington township, Minnesota.

The 1855 Illinois State Census, see # 12, lists the household as having 3 males under the age of 10, they were Carl Jr., Christian and William.

Bryce O. Stenzel, *German Immigration to the Minnesota River Valley Frontier, 1852-1865*. Mankato, Minnesota: Minnesota Heritage Publishing 1889.) See chapter one.

Merrill E. Jarchow, “The Earth Brought Forth: A History of Minnesota Agriculture to 1855. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1949), p. 190. Jarchow writes, “In the early 1850’s good cows could be purchased in Iowa, Illinois or Wisconsin for about \$25 each and the cost of taking one from Galena to St. Paul by steamboat was between \$3 and \$4. This, however was too expensive for the average farmer...”

“Hansen-Stubbs Tree” Ancestry.com, accessed May 12, 2012. this tree states that Julius Ritter had been born at Neuhoften in Posen in 1828, and that he married his wife, Wilhelmina Schnell in 1855 in Watertown, WI. He died in Hutchinson, McLeod Co., MN in 1909. Unfortunately, these facts are not sourced. But if they are true, it would mean that he may have decided to migrate to Sibley County with the group of Hessians who passed through Watertown in the winter of 1855-56.

Carl Dohme (Sibley County) cash entry file, certificate no. 3154, Henderson, Minnesota, Land Office Land Office; Land Entry Papers, 1800-1908; Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49; National Archives, Washington D.C.

Bureau of Land Management, “Land Patent Search”, digital images, General Land Office Records (HYPERLINK “<http://www.glorecoords.blm.gov/Patent>” <http://www.glorecoords.blm.gov/Patent> search: accessed May 8, 2012), Carl Dohme, (Sibley County, Minnesota), homestead patent no. 3154.

The 1857 Minnesota Territorial census lists Mary as having been born in Illinois, but this must be a mistake because every other census she appears in lists her birthplace as Minnesota. For the citation, see the next note.

1857 Minnesota Territorial census, Sibley County, Township 113, Range 27, Charles Dohine [sic] family, lines 20-27, digital image, Ancestry.com (HYPERLINK “<http://www.ancestry.com>” <http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed May 5, 2012) citing Minnesota Historical Society microfilm, roll MN1857_4.

Sibley County Minnesota Deeds, Book D:639, Justine Dohme to Charles Dohme, July 20, 1858; Records Office, Henderson.

Deed Book C:33, Louis Muller to Justine Dohme, July 7, 1857.

See #22.

The population of Minnesota exploded after the U S government started to sell the cheap homestead land there. In 1850, it was 6,077 and by 1860 it was 172,023. These are figures from the U S census information found at HYPERLINK “http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Minnesota” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Minnesota, accessed May 8, 2012.

Kathleen Neils Conzen, *Germans in Minnesota*, (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2003), p. 28.

“Henry Dohme is called beyond” an unidentified newspaper obituary found in the Dohme family file, Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana, Illinois.

1860 U S Census, Minnesota, Sibley County, Arlington Township, p. 49, dwelling 532, family 532, line 1, Charles Dahml [sic], digital image, Ancestry.com (HYPERLINK “<http://www.ancestry.com>” <http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed May 8, 2012); citing NARA microfilm M653, image 217.

See Jarchow, p.124. “There seems to be some doubt as to the exact date when the first reaper appeared in Minnesota, but it probably was not later than 1854.”

Deed Book D: 661-2, Charles and Caroline [sic] Dohme to Harman Dregs, and to Charles Hoakey, April 24, 1861.

“Civil war databases search” HYPERLINK “<http://www.dalbydata.com>. accessed May 7, 2012.

Stenzel. p. 71.



Summer's over!

We had another successful Sibley County fair experience. Where else can you visit with over 300 people in just a few days. Our exhibits were well received and enjoyed by visitors and guides. We visited with people about Sibley County rural schools, Sibley County barn books, U S S Sibley exhibit and the Winthrop Reserve Units Vietnam Tour.

One of the most popular things we do at the fair is the mystery items; this year we had 4. We held a drawing after the fair and the Deric Sievert family of Gibbon was awarded this year's family membership. Theirs was one of the entries that came up with 3 of 4 correct guesses. Here are the correct identifications of the items and a small picture of each: Item A is a camp stove, Item B is a carpet stretcher, Item C is a cigar trimmer and Item D is oxen shoes. The one most everyone had trouble identifying was item B.



**I
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A**



Item B



Item C



**I
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D**

Our County Schools portion included pictures of Sibley County 8th grade graduation classes. This was a special celebration for all 8th graders in rural schools, held at the County Seat. We have pictures of many of those groups, such as the one shown below, but not much identification of people on those pictures. So if you know of someone who graduated from 8th grade in Sibley County, ask to see our 8th grade graduation pictures. Also we are still missing some of those pictures, and we do not know how many years this was continued. If you have any 8th grade graduation pictures like the ones shown here, or any information about the graduations, please let us know. Incidentally, there were also programs each year, listing the students, which school district they were from and in some years even listed the teacher's names. We'd love to have more of those also. You can call the museum at 507 248 3434 to check and see if we have your 8th grade graduation picture. We've had a busy summer and now are gearing up for the fall season. We have several special events coming

up in September. First comes Heritage Days, when Henderson puts on a spectacular event: street actors, music, art/craft fair, etc. The museum will be open both Saturday and Sunday to meet and greet old friends and new. There will be a dedication of the JR Brown Bust at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday.

On Sunday, September 30th will be the 2nd "End of Summer" celebration sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. There will be free admission for all on that day, and also includes door prizes and refreshments. Check our website! Our very own webmaster, Steve Briggs, does a marvelous job of keeping that up-to-date.

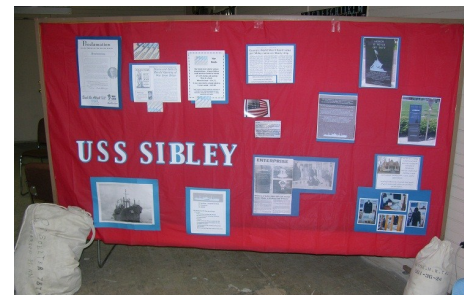
Part of our Country School display included this display inspired by exhibits given to us by Delores Lueck, former Sibley County resident who attended District #50 in Cornish Township. This very sharp 90+ year old proudly displayed her 83 year old Sibley County Fair penmanship award. This award named hers as the champion penmanship exhibit at the Sibley county Fair in 1929!



We continue to work on our country school project, let us know if you have country school info.



Come in and visit our U S Sibley display in the military room.



We do not know what year this was taken, do you?



(Continued from page 1)



Gena and one of those you would walk a mile for.

emus, kangaroos, llamas, swans and I think I saw an ostrich. It was an interesting evening.

Christine Bach gave a presentation on the DAR for our July meeting. Their organization nationwide is involved in many charities. And as noted in our last newsletter, we are one of them. She explained the procedure of getting into the DAR. You must trace your roots back to the Revolutionary War era. It requires much research and documentation. I want Christine to know it is a lot easier to get into the Sibley County Historical Society.

Next came the Sibley County Fair. The weather turned favorable just in time after being in the 90s. By Saturday we did not even need the air conditioning. We have used the Cub Scout building for the last few years, and it



HENDERSON HERITAGE DAYS

Saturday and Sunday

September 22 and 23

Schedule of Events:

At the Community Building Saturday

10-10:30am JRB Annual Meeting

10:30 - Noon Speaker Bruce White & Katherine Beane -

"Minnesota is a Dakota Place"

1:15 - 2pm Joe Brown Bust Dedication

2:15 - 3:45pm Speaker John LaBatte - "Causes of the U.S. - Dakota War of 1862"

On Main Street

Street actors, music, art/craft fair, JRBrown Center Open, Sibley County Museum Open (\$2), Henderson Feathers: Mini Bird Science Museum Open

BUS TOUR

Significant Early Henderson Sites

Leaving at 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm

\$5 adults, \$2 children 12 & under

Flint Napping, Corn Husk Dolls, Apple Pressing, Food Vendors

SUNDAY, September 23rd

11:15 Community Church Service and Community Choir at Benders Park

1:00 Through a generous donation to SCHS, we are able to bring to the community the Lucio Family presentation of Native Dakota Dancers at Benders Park



is an ideal place for us when we have a variety of themes as we did this year. Country Schools and Harriet's Barn Books are fun for visitors. The USS Sibley was also a theme. We had over 300 people visit our display.

Look at that new coatrack the Shimotas made and installed. Sharon found the hooks up in the attic. They match those found in some of the closets, making them 128 years old.

Thanks to Chuck and Sharon for a job well done.

May the Force be with you!





WASPS

Women Air Force Service Pilots

Liz "Betty" Wall Strohfus was guest speaker at our August meeting, she was a self-acclaimed tomboy who always liked heights and when she had her first plane ride, she was hooked; she knew she wanted to fly. To become a member of the WASP (Women Air Force Service Pilots) she had to borrow \$100 from the bank to learn to fly at the Faribault airport. Of the 25,000 women who applied, only 1,830 were accepted and took the oath. And only 1,074 passed the training. They flew operational flights from aircraft factories to military bases. The women had to wear men's issue coveralls and winter wear which were not acceptable in restaurants and hotels. Finally one WASP member bought material to make skirts.

They flew 60 million miles in every type of military craft during WWII yet they were not considered part of the military. She served from 1942-1944. Thirty eight women were killed, eleven in training and twenty seven in active duty. They were not even given the honor of having a US flag drape their coffin. The women had to pay their own way home at the end of their duty. It wasn't until 1977 that WASP were finally granted veteran status and given the Congressional Gold Medal in 2009.

After returning to Faribault, MN where she grew up, she was unable to find a job flying planes, no one would hire a woman. But she was the first to tell you she had a good life.



THANK YOU

Thanks You For Your Generosity

We want to thank these kind people for their gifts to SCHS; Robert Cox, Eleanor Clancy, Travelers Insurance (matching Steve Briggs donation), Dr. Edgar Taggatz and an anonymous gift.

The following memorials were received; Memorials for Ruth Mueller by Marie and David Main, Gloria Sinell and Margaret Hoffman. Memorials for Stanley Ruschmeyer (Sharon Haggenmiller's father) Marie Main, Rommie and Mary Petersen, Arlene Busse, Ruth Ann Buck and Dorothy Peterson. Memorials for Peter Petersen (son of Mary and Rommie Petersen) Margaret Hoffman, Charles and Donna Meyer, and Dorothy Busch. Also a gift honoring Chuck and Jan Lundgren from Dorothy Peterson.

Special thanks to Sharon and Chuck Shimota for making and installing the new coatrack. Now we won't have to throw our jackets on the floor. I wanted a shelf, but was overruled. There will be one less place to put our dust.

Our thanks go out to all of you for your generosity. What a nice bunch of people we have!

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank the wonderful people in our SCHS family for all the kindness shown to Mary and me, as well as the whole Petersen family, as we deal with the loss of our dear beloved son Peter. We were overwhelmed with grief and then overwhelmed with the thoughtfulness of our members, most who did not know our son. Mary and I want to thank you for your memorials, visits, food and for taking time to come to his funeral. We are humbled.

Rommie and Mary Petersen



Sharlene Friederichs	Brooklyn Park MN	Roman Jaus	Winthrop MN
Mary Nimmerfroh *	St Joseph MN	Tiffany M Reinitz	Henderson MN
Matt & Jody Boisen *	Owatonna MN	Doug & Iris Parrott	Gaylord MN
Linda L Cancio	Sacramento GA	William Borchert	Chamblee GA
Jean Markham *	Bloomington MN	Clara M Heberle	Hooper CO
Paul & Lorraine Doering	Mankato MN	Mary L Bremke	Albert Lea MN
Jeffrey Ducharme	Henderson MN	Wayne & Louise Quast	Arlington MN
Daryl & Marilee Peterson	Winthrop MN	Harry W Kreger	Ocean View DE
Dorrie & Jim Fleischer	Moundsview MN	Eugene & Jeanette Bening	Hutchinson MN
Susan M Morrisette	Arlington MN	Lavonne Bangsnud	St Cloud MN
Richard & Janet Graupman	Gibbon MN	Viola J Lang	Winthrop MN
Carol E Jackson	Eden Prairie MN	Gene & Marlene Moskop	Arlington MN
Arlene & Edward Pinske	Gaylord MN	David King	Houston TX
Alvin & Diane Rostberg	Henderson MN	Eunice A Benneke-Rucks	Henderson MN
John & Dorothy Johnson	Gibbon MN	Public Library Allen Co	Fort Wayne IN
Lawrence Crawford	Gaylord MN	William & Vickie Holtz	New Auburn MN
Wayne A Pettis	Hutchinson MN	Susan H Ainsworth *	Minneapolis MN
Wayne Jarvis	Cedar Falls IA	Howard & Frances Armstrong	Gaylord MN
David & Diane Laabs	Gaylord MN	Lowell Hanson	North Oaks MN
Eldrene & Ruben Ebert	Gaylord MN	Harold & Bonita Pettis	Gibbon MN
Joan A & Dale E Ewald	Brownnton MN	Eric C Hanson	Chesapeake VA
Dennis Walter *	Lakeville MN	Darwin Buerkle *	Gibbon MN
Cliff Zieske	Gibbon MN	Robert & Jo Ann Schwartz	Chanhassen MN
Janice Isakson	St Peter MN	Wade J Werner *	Gibbon MN
William Grimes	Round Rock TX	Abby Flantz *	Gaylord MN
Carol E Pogatchnik	Finlayson MN	Sievert Deric & Julie, fair winner	Gibbon MN
Charlotte Doudell	San Jose CA	Troldahl Dayle	Gaylord MN
Otto Templin *	Hutchinson MN		

Membership Form

I would like to become a member of the Sibley County Historical Society.

NAME _____ SCHS TREASURER

ADDRESS _____ 49858 316 ST

_____ Winthrop MN 55396-2038

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Individual--\$20, Family-- \$25, Business-- \$50 Send to:

Check your due date on the mailing label. Membership dues are as stated on the form. Please use it to renew your subscription or pass it along to anyone who is interested.



Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, March thru November at the museum in Henderson. The public is invited. The museum is open to the public for tours on Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. June

Send articles, announcements, photos and comments to the SCHS Newsletter, P.O. Box 407, Henderson, MN 56044 or Email: schs1@frontiernet.net





SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

700 Main Street

P.O. Box 407

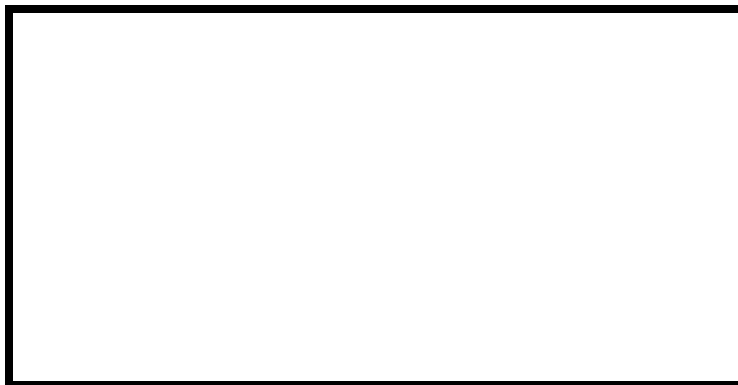
Henderson, MN 56044

Phone: 507-248-3434

Email: schs1@frontiernet.net

SIBLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Jerome Petersen	President
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Dorothy Peterson	Secretary
Ray Meyer	Treasurer
Sharon Haggemiller	Curator
Judy Loewe	Marie Main
Millie Johnson	Sharon Shimota
Ruth Ann Buck	Mary Petersen



Vietnam War Display

Several members of the former Winthrop Reserve Unit were very helpful in identifying pictures that we have at the museum of that unit. Capt. "Blackie" Elroy Schwartz, Sgt. Dave Neubarth, and SP4 Brian Berndt joined museum staff members one recent Tuesday and helped to identify many of the pictures that had been given to the museum when the Winthrop Reserve Unit closed. Our display at the Sibley County Fair included a slide show of these pictures, as well as other information from that tour of duty including newspaper articles by Gene Rode-wald, a reporter for KNUJ New Ulm who spent several weeks interviewing these men during November of 1968.

Among the Sibley county residents who were killed in Vietnam was Bradley Klukas as shown on this picture taken at the Vietnam Wall in Washington D C. Bradley grew up in Gibbon.



Brian Berndt and Dave Neubarth



Elroy Schwartz