

Bockhaus and Stein

From Germany To The
San Luis Valley

By Virgil Bockhaus

INTRODUCTION

I

For several years I have thought that I should write down a few things about Dad and Mother and their life in the San Luis Valley and their involvement with the Alamosa River area. Along with that I began to think about other things. One thing that I always knew was that Dad and his brothers and sister were born in South Dakota. I began to wonder where their parents came from before that and why they were in South Dakota. That led me down some interesting paths. Some of those paths were not always the right ones as we will see.

The search began in N.E. Iowa, where my Great Grandparents came to from Germany. From there it led to N.W. Iowa where my Grand Father had been.

In N.E. Iowa were found graves of family members, and in N.W. Iowa, were found records of marriages, births etc. Here also were found various records of people with the name of Bockhaus. As you will see later this was very confusing to me, as I assumed things that later turned out to be false.

After talking to relatives in Kansas and being put in touch with Lester Boshart in Nebraska, things began to sort themselves out. I found that I should not be looking at the name Bockhaus, but instead should be looking at the name Backhaus. As you will see after reading this article, I made some rather confusing searches.

As you read on, you will see dates etc. that do not always match up. For instance the year of arrival from Germany is a little confusing, but do not put much in this as a year or so either way is really not that important at this time. You will see two or three different dates for my Grandparents marriage, and I still do not know for sure which is right, but again it is not that important for the sake of this article.

One thing that has come up has been, did the folks arrive from Germany and go thru Ellis Island. My answer for that is no. All information is that they did arrive in New York, but at the time of their arrival, either 1865 or 1866, they would have went thru a place called Castle Garden. It has a rather interesting history, including a fort in the war of 1812. It served as immigration station for some 35 years from 1855 to 1890, and saw some 8 million plus immigrants pass thru it. Ellis Island opened Jan. 1, 1892. There was a temporary station used during the time Castle Garden closed and Ellis Island opened. (Note, this information came from the NW Iowa Genealogical Soc. news letter of Oct. 1998)

You will see some confusion about where the family came from in Germany. In the article there are two different towns listed, and I am not sure which is correct. Also I recently received some information which lists Leipzig as the birth place of Granddad's older brother. As this was not in the Hannover Province at that time, I doubt if that is where they came to America from. Some of the family may have been born there and later moved to another area.

I found it rather interesting that during WW2, Francis was in the Third Armored Div. and they fought some of the last battles of the war just a few miles from Leipzig.

The first three sections deal with the family before Dad and Mother came to Colorado.

Note - sorry for some misspelled words. I changed typewriters when I started this several years ago, and I have yet to teach it to spell correctly. Some things I received from other sources and I put them in as I received them, and I am not going to take the blame for their spelling.

I have not determined when the spelling of the name was changed. I wrote to the county court in Douglas Co. S. Dakota, and they could find no record of it going thru court there. My guess is that they just started spelling it with an O instead of an A. I must assume that it was done before they left S. Dakota. It would have been a pretty simple matter in those days, not like it would be today.

Since the above was written, a little new information about the spelling of the name has shown up. I believe that the Grand parents probably began spelling the last name Bockhaus as soon as they were married. Of course the name on the homestead would have been with the old spelling. There is information now available on births in S. Dakota before 1900. The only name that so far shows up is Dad's brother Albert, and his name is listed as Bockhaus, and the parents listed the same. As far as I know, all of their children were born Bockhaus. Why Dad and his older brother do not show up, I don't know. It might have something to do with it being a territory when they were born.

As to how accurate this book is, I am sure that it is not 100%. The information about Dad and Mother's early years in the Valley, I gathered most of it from old records that I found. The later years, I got both from old records and from things as I remember them. Therein might be a problem. I find that I don't always remember things the same as others do. That leads me to think that surely they are the ones that are wrong, but then again maybe not.

I believe for the most part the book is fairly accurate. I have found some things that are not 100%, but believe for the purpose of this information, it is nothing worth worrying about. I have of course read and reread the book and must accept it as pretty accurate.

There are many things that are not in the book, but had to give up as it was getting out of control. I never intended for it to get nearly this big.

The following lines were from the NE Washington Genealogical Soc. and pretty well sums up the frustration some must feel at times.

"I started out calmly, tracing my tree, to see if I could find the makings of me. And all that I had was great-grandfather's name, not knowing his wife or from where he came. I chased him across a long line of states, and came up with pages and pages of dates. When all were put together, it made me forlorn, it proved poor great-grandpa had never been born. One day I was sure the truth I had found, determined to turn this whole thing up side down. I looked up the record of our dear Uncle John, then I found him younger than his son, oh darn. Then when my hopes were fast growing dim, I came across records that must have been him. The facts I collected made me quite sad, dear old great-grandfather was never a dad. I think someone is pulling my leg, I am not sure at all I wasn't hatched from an egg. After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my tree, I can't help but wonder if I'm really me." (written by Joy Ross)

As I bring this effort to a close, I hope you enjoy reading it, and it brings back memories to those of us that lived some of it and for those of you that are new to some of the information, I hope you learn things that you didn't know.

Note, In the back of the book there is an index. It is by no means complete, but might be of some help. You will notice that most of the names refer back to the first three sections, from there on more of it refers to locations etc.

One Last thing before this goes to be printed, for whatever it is worth, I would like to dedicate this effort to the memory of Louis and Emma Bockhaus. May they never be forgotten

PART ONE - THE IOWA CONNECTION

Thru various sources I had learned that my grandparents had come over from Germany to the small town of Dorchester, Iowa, around the end of the civil war. With that in mind Mavis and I went to Dorchester in Sept. of 1994. When we arrived there, we were taken at the beauty of the area, and also found that the town probably hadn't changed much over the years. The first thing we saw coming into town was the Methodist Church, but could find no one around there, so went to the Post Office, and asked if they had ever heard of the name Bockhaus. To our surprise they had and began to think back. They said they believed that the ones left there had all died some years back. We were directed to the Methodist Cemetary, where we found the graves of Henry and Dorothea Backhaus, who were my Greatgrand parents. Beside them were the graves of Fred Bockhaus and his wife Frieda. Fred is a son of Henry and a brother of my grandfather. Beside them are the graves of their three sons, Frederick, Milton, and Ervin. We found out that none of the boys ever married. There was a girl named Nettie who was married to Earl Weber, and she is buried at Decorah, Iowa. They did not have any children.

At this point I will explain the differant spelling of the last name. I had always been led to believe that the name had been changed from Backhaus to Bockhaus. As you will notice there was also a change to Bockhaus. As far as I can tell Fred and his family are the only one that used this spelling. Later in the family history you will see one other spelling. You will also notice that not all of the family changed the spelling.

After leaving Dorchester, we continued on across the state to LeMars, where it was my understanding my grandfather had gone later. We looked up cemetary records, marriage and birth records and found several recordings, including the marriage of my grandparents. We also found several recordings of births, etc. of the name Bockhaus, but at that time could not connect them. One name stood out, and that was a birth to a man named Adolph Dulitz, and a woman named Catherina Bockhaus, who later we found out was my grandfathers sister and her husband. It turned out he was the Methodist Minister who performed the marriage of my grandparents.

Thru several letters, etc., we found three Bockhaus names that I decided must be related to my grandfather. There is a Henry Bockhaus, who is buried at Hull, Iowa, a Frank Bockhaus who died at Merrill, Iowa, in 1906. There is also a George Bockhaus that I have no information on. I do know that Henry and Frank were brothers, so I thought Henry was probably Henry Jr., but as you will see later they are not connected, at least as far as I can tell, to my grandparents. I plan on looking into this later, and if new information shows up, it will be added.

PART ONE - continued

To further find out more about the Bockhaus family in Iowa and to find out if more family had come over from Germany, I had the church records in LeMars searched and found that the Methodist church there does not have any of the old records. I also wrote to the Methodist church in Dorchester and received a very nice letter from a lady by the name of Edna Kumph, who lives across the state line in Eitzen, Minn. It seems that the church in Dorchester had been closed because there were not enough people attending anymore to maintain it. (this was in June of 1993) The church was purchased by a private party and is now being maintained. During the title search they found that the land it sits on was sold by Henry and Dorothea Bockhaus in 1875. A copy of the title is included in this writeup. She also enclosed a picture of Nettie Bockhaus's husband with his second wife, who at this date I believe is still living, although in rather poor health. Earl Weber, (Nettie's husband) I believe died in 1985. Earl donated 12 oak pews to the church in Dorchester in Nettie's name. Do not know the date of this. Edna also told me that her husband Walter Kumph was friends with Fred Bockhaus's family and was pallbearer at Frieda's funeral, and also at all 3 boys funerals. Edna said that she used to always call Frieda Grandma Bockhaus. I have seen this in other papers also, but cannot recall where.

This is just a brief summary of the tracking of the early family history that was done just to get me up to date with the past. At one time all of this and more was known by the family in Kansas, but all of the older ones are gone, and I am so far out of touch with the ones that are left, that we had to make a trip back there this spring just to get to know them again. By living so far away from Kansas, and not keeping in touch we have missed out on family get togethers etc.

Later in this writeup I will go into more detail about the family in Kansas, and how they came to be in Kansas. I will also give a brief history of Dad's brothers and sister, who for anyone that remembers her, will remember her as quite an unforgettable lady.

PART ONE - continued

In May of this year (1995) we were in Kansas for the first time in many years and asked many questions about the family history. During the course of conversation with Wilburt Penner, he told of a second cousin by the name of Lester Boshart who lives in Oneil, Nebraska. I contacted him and he sent a packet of information about the family. I am including this information in this writeup, but will also make a summary of it.

My Greatgrandfather, Henry, was born in Germany in 1818. My greatgrandmother, Dorothea Harms, was also born in Germany in 1820. (I do not know the date of their marriage) They lived in the small village of Barum, in the Hanover Province, where all of their children were born. They had 6 children, 3 boys, and 3 girls. They were, Dora, born in 1843, Henry, born in 1847, Catherina, born in 1850, Mary, born in 1855, Fred, born in 1857, and William, born in 1860. As you will notice the name Henry appears, but is a differant one then the one I traced earlier. William who was usually listed as William H. was my Grandfather, and Henry was Lester Boshart's Grandfather.

In 1863 the two oldest children were sent to America to see if they could earn enough money to bring the rest of the family over. They were unable to earn enough money, so the family in Germany borrowed the money from a tailor by the name of Schneider and came over with him. They arrived in New York in July of 1865. From there they went by train to Dorchester, Iowa, where they settled. By this time the oldest son Henry, who had been in this country two years, and was now 18, enlisted in the army. He and his older sister had located near Madison, Wisconsin, and he joined Co. H 51st Regiment of the Wisconsin Infantry.

Catherina married Adolph Dulitz when she was 17. Adolph later became a German Methodist minister, and although the information does not show it, he was minister in LeMars, Iowa during the period of 1883-1885. The birth records show a son born to them in LeMars in 1883, and he performed the marriage of my Grandparents in 1885. William H moved to LeMars, I assume around this time, and would assume that he went to that town because of his sister. He worked at a hardware store there, as far as I know. He also met his future wife there.

William H. married Emilie Falk according to the records in LeMars in Dec. of 1885. The history of his new wife can best be told by a writeup done by their daughter Frances, and it is included in this writeup. The date of their marriage does not correspond, so I will stay with the record of their marriage from the courthouse in LeMars.

Note - Some information on this page and the following page cleared up in later information in this section. As for the of Wm. & Emilie's marriage, there are conflicting dates, so not know for sure when they were married.

T ONE - continued

rtly after their marriage, Wm. and Emilie went to South
ota, where I assume they homesteaded 160 acres. I would
nk that it would have been in the early part of 1886, but
not know this for sure.

y located approx. nine miles west of Parkston, in Douglas
nty. The location is the N.E. 1/4 of Section # 2 Township
Range 62 W. All of their children were born there, as told
Aunt Frances's story. I remember dad telling about one of
J younger brothers asking him where he was born, and of course
said South Dakota. His brother said, no you weren't, you
e born in Dakota Territory, I was born in South Dakota.
course this didn't set too well with dad, but he had to
mit his brother was right.

is my understanding that George and Bertha Baum settled just
, the south of Wm. and Emilie. (Bertha was Emilie's sister.)
do not know if it joined their place or not, but would think
at maybe it did, as they stayed close all thru the years.

1903 Granddad had had all of the tough South Dakota winters
could take, and went south looking for some other place to
ttle. He went to New Mexico, and while there he was told of
ome property in Kansas that might be for sale. He went there
nd found two places near Halstead. One was about nine miles
om town, the other was about three miles from town. There
as not much to decide there as Grandmother had told him before
e left, he had better not find another place nine miles from
own. He bought the place close to town, and that became the
ome place in Kansas. He sold the place in South Dakota for
4000.00 and bought the place in Kansas for the same amount.
have only been to the area in South Dakota a couple of times,
ut I would say he made a good trade.

he Baum's also moved to Halstead, but do not have any information
bout them.

he story of the move is also told in the write up from Aunt
rancis. The information about the price of the property is
from my cousin Art Bockhaus. He still has a copy of the bill
of sale from South Dakota, and also a copy of the deed to the
ome place in Halstead.

Note - Since the above was written I have other information that
I will insert here. Granddad actually homesteaded the land in SD
in 1881, at which time he built a small house on the property, but
decided that he would rather live in town and work in the hard-
ware store. After his marriage he moved back to the homestead.
George Baum homesteaded south of them and met Emilie's sister
there, and married her.

PART ONE - continued - 1996 update

This page is some information that I have received since 1994 & 1995, when this part of the book was first written.

Mavis & I made a second trip to Dorchester this year, and have some more information, some a little different, and some that just adds to what is already written.

First of all, in the past I had seen some information about the trip from Germany, but did not know who the person was that had written it, so was not sure of the accuracy. The information was furnished to Frances Penner in 1975 by Anna Anderson of Decorah, Iowa. There was not much of it and I had no idea who Anna was. I now have the complete letter and know who Anna was. She states that the Bockhaus and Dehning families came over together in 1866. This makes the 2 dates a year apart, so do not know for sure which is right, but does not make that much difference. She also states that they came from Dirsbutt, Germany, instead of Barum. Lester Boshart said that he believes this could be correct, and that our Greatgrandmother was the one that was from Barum. As for the Dehning family, I believe that is probably correct information. While we were in Dorchester, we stopped at the Methodist church, or what used to be the church, and talked to the man that now owns the building, and he put us in contact with one of the Dehnings that still lives there, and he took us all around the area. He showed us where the Bockhaus family had lived, and also the Dehning farms. He was very familiar with the family, and they had farmed side by side for close to 100 years, at which time the last Bockhaus passed away, and the place was sold. I asked who Anna Anderson was, and he said that it was his Aunt. She was a granddaughter of the Dehnings that came over from Germany. Dehnings also took us out to visit with Alvin and Mildred Mohwinkle. Alvin's Aunt was married to Fred Bockhaus. He had a few pictures of the Bockhaus family from years ago. We spent a very interesting day in Dorchester, and met some very nice people. Very friendly, very laid back for want of a better word. It is a very different life there than I am used to. I asked if there was any law officers in town, and the answer was, no but a deputy comes by once in awhile from the next town. When we arrived back at Dehnings farm, Mavis happened to look towards the house, and was shocked to find they had not even shut the door. Must not be a very high crime area.

As for things we learned, I will start with the church. The last service was held in the church June 27, 1993. The property was sold, and we met the man that owns it today. I failed to write down his name, but the building is in good hands. He was planning on living there, but found a house in town that suited him better, so the church is only used for storage at present. The Methodists started holding church in Dorchester in 1858 at various places. During the years of 1874-1875 the present building was built and dedicated on August 28, 1875. Services were held in the Dorchester community for 135 years until this church was closed.

PART ONE - continued

The building that is there today was built on Bockhaus land. Inside the church are some really nice oak pews that were given to the church in memory of Nettie Weber, by her husband. They are really beautiful, and at present no one knows what will happen to them.

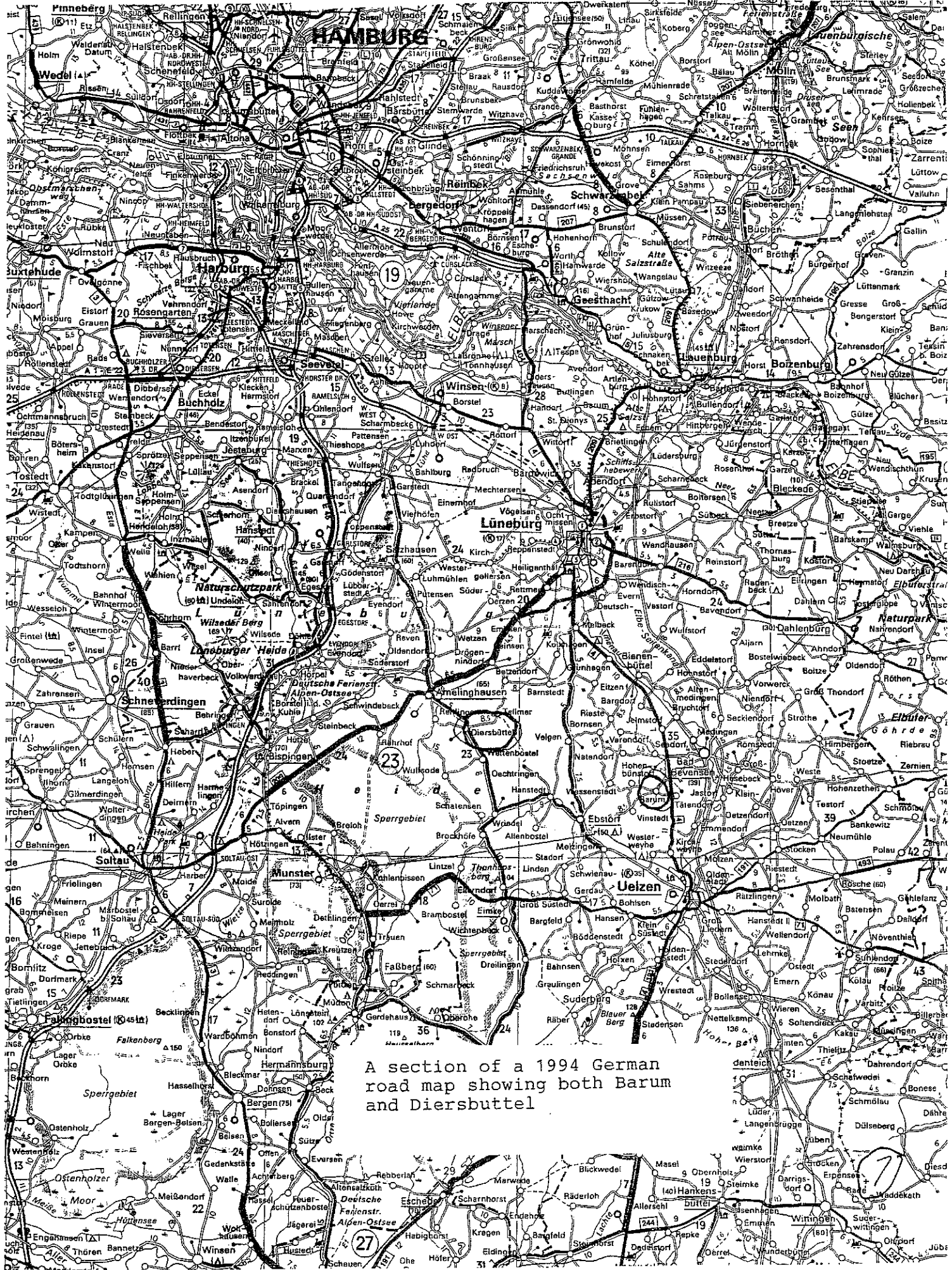
As for the Bockhaus family in Dorchester, I found that all you have to do is tell anyone there that you are a Bockhaus, and you are already known. The home place there was almost right in town. The house is long gone, and the county has a yard there, right along the road into town. The area is very hilly and the property starts in town, (where the church sits) and follows up a little valley until you get on top of the hill. There the area opens up into pretty large fields. There the Bockhaus & Dehning land joins. The Dehnings lived on top of the hill, in fact some of them still do.

Henry Bockhaus died in 1875, and as his son Fred was then 18, I assume that he took over. After his death his sons continued farming there until the last one passed away in 1962. The oldest boy was also named Fred, and everyone called him Freddie. Freddie farmed on another place by himself, while the other 2 boys stayed on the home place. Freddie was planning on getting married when he had a heart attack.

According to Dehning, Nettie had a pretty rough life until she married. The old house had been destroyed by fire and the boys built another one, but it was not very suitable for all of them to live in, and it made it pretty rough on Nettie. After she married Earl Weber, her life changed for the better fast. Everyone says that he was a really nice person and he thought the world of Nettie. According to the Dehnings, Earl & Nettie spent a lot of time doing things for other people. I talked to the secretary at the Methodist church in Decorah, when we were looking for Nettie's grave, and she said the same thing about Earl.

Erwin was the last boy to farm the home place, and he is really not hard to find out about. Seems that he and his brother Milton were well known around the area. Don't know if that is good or bad. Erwin was a ww2 vet, and he had been shot up pretty bad during the war.

I had assumed that we would make this one last trip to Dorchester but after being there this time, I found that I am very attracted to both the people and the area. It is some very pretty country. So who knows, maybe we will be thru there again.



A section of a 1994 German road map showing both Barum and Diersbützel

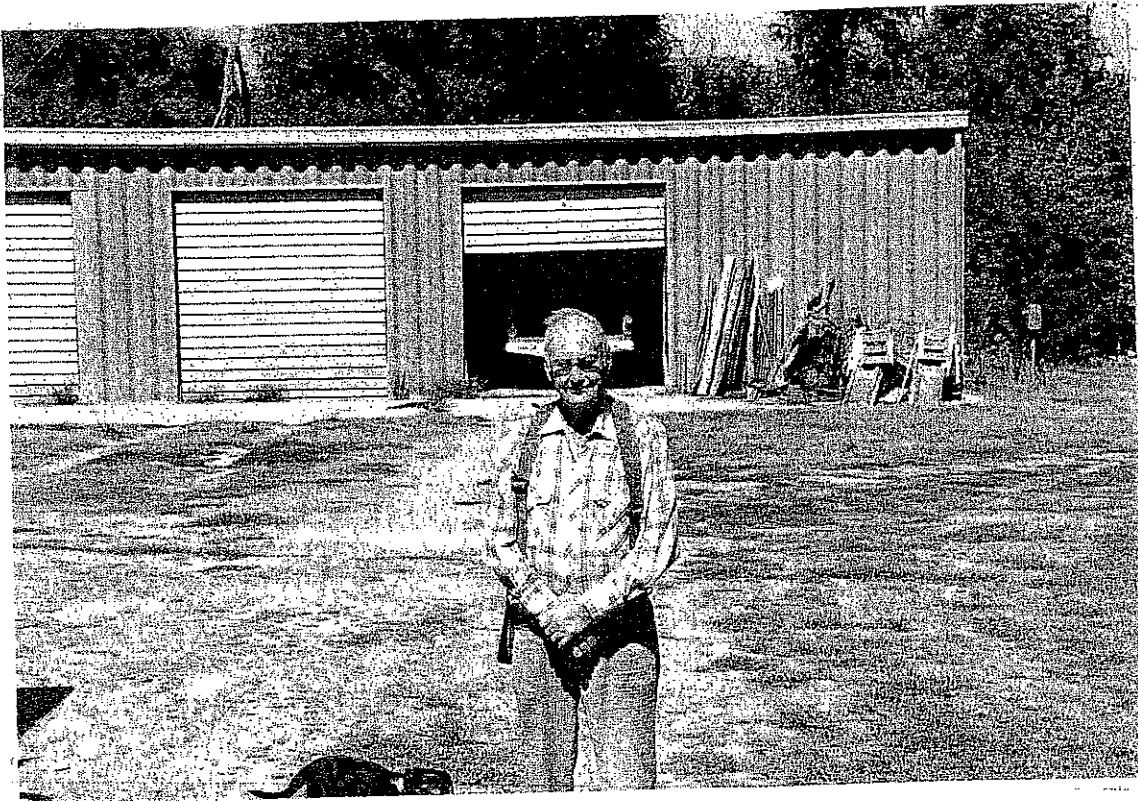
PART ONE - continued

The following pages, (eleven) were furnished to me by Lester Boshart. As you will notice at the top of the pages, some of the information was furnished to him by others. Lester has done a lot of research into the Backhaus family, and I am very grateful for the information that he has given me, and also for getting me on the right track. If it wasn't for him, there is no telling what direction I would have went. As we already know the family name was Backhaus, and as you will notice Wm. carried that spelling when he homesteaded the property in South Dakota.

Below is a photo of Lester taken in Sept. of 1998, when Mavis & I stopped by his place for a brief visit. He lives on a cattle ranch north of O'Neil, Nebr. At the time of our visit he stated that he had pretty well turned most of the ranch over to his nephew, who lives close by.

(Lester's grandfather Henry was Wm. Bockhaus' brother)

Note - there is other information in this first section that I have received from Lester also. He has been a great help with any information that he has available. I must thank Wilbert Penner for putting me in touch with Lester.



NAME OF RESEARCHER: Lester A. Shart
DATE: _____

Please return to:
Marjorie McKathnie
1474 48th Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601

USE FULL GIVEN NAME BEFORE MARRIAGE

DESCENDANT GREAT GRANDFATHER

SPOUSE GREAT GRANDMOTHER

FULL NAME: HENRY BACKHAUS
CHILD OF: _____
DATE OF BIRTH: 1818
PLACE OF BIRTH: HANOVER GERMANY
DATE OF DEATH: AUG 9 1875
PLACE OF BURIAL: DORCHESTER IOWA

FULL NAME: DOROTHEA HARMS
CHILD OF: _____
DATE OF BIRTH: 1820
PLACE OF BIRTH: HANOVER GERMANY
DATE OF DEATH: Aug 19 1906
PLACE OF BURIAL: DORCHESTER IOWA

DATE AND PLACE MARRIED: BARUM GERMANY

CHILDREN

SEX:	NAME IN FULL	BIRTH DATE, CO., CITY, STATE	SPOUSE	DATE	DEATH DATE
F	DORA	1843 HANOVER BARUM GER	OTTO EHRICK	1867	
M	HENRY	FEB 14 1847 BARUM GER	AUGUSTA LAABS	1875	19
			DORA BUCKENDAHL	1888	
F	CATHERINE	AUG 20 1850 BARUM GER	ADOLPH DULITZ	1867	19
F	MARY	JAN 3 1855 BARUM GER	FRED BUBLITZ	1893	19
M	FRED	1857 BARUM GER	FREDA MOHWINKEL	1900	19
M	WILLIAM HENRY	AUG 31 1860 BARUM GER	EMILIE FALK	1885	19

INTERESTING FACTS

Previous marriages, education, military service, travels, church, hobbies, etc.
HENRY AND DOROTHEA WERE BORN IN GERMANY AND WERE MARRIED THERE. LIVED IN BARUM GERMANY WHERE ALL THEIR CHILDREN WERE BORN. IN 1863 THEY SENT THEIR 2 OLDEST CHILDREN TO AMERICA TO EARN MONEY FOR THE REST OF THE FAMILY TO COME OVER ON. UNABLE TO EARN THE MONEY IN 1865 THEY BORROWED THE MONEY FROM A TAYLOR BY THE NAME OF SCHNEIDER AND CAME OVER WITH HIM. THEY ARRIVED IN NEW YORK IN JULY 1865. FROM THERE THEY CAME TO IOWA BY TRAIN AND SETTLED AT DORCHESTER. DORCHESTER IS CLOSE TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND LOOKS MUCH LIKE GERMANY WHERE THEY CAME FROM. A LOT OF HERMANS SETTLED THERE. ANOTHER FAMILY BY THE NAME BACKHAUS LIVE CLOSE TO THERE BUT COULD NOT FIND OUT HOW THEY ARE RELATED.

NAME OF RESEARCHER: _____
DATE: _____

Please return to
Lester Boshart
HC 85 Box 19
O'Neill, NE 68763

USE FULL GIVEN NAME BEFORE MARRIAGE

DESCENDANT

SPOUSE

FULL NAME: Dora Backhaus
CHILD OF: Henry & Dorothea Backhaus
DATE OF BIRTH: 1843
PLACE OF BIRTH: Hanover Germany
DATE OF DEATH: _____
PLACE OF BURIAL: _____

FULL NAME: Otto Ehrick
CHILD OF: _____
DATE OF BIRTH: _____
PLACE OF BIRTH: _____
DATE OF DEATH: _____
PLACE OF BURIAL: _____

DATE AND PLACE MARRIED: 1867

CHILDREN

SEX:	NAME IN FULL	:	DATE:	BIRTH CITY	STATE	:	SPOUSE	:	MARRIED DATE	DEATH DATE
_____	_____	:	_____	_____	_____	:	_____	:	_____	_____
_____	_____	:	_____	_____	_____	:	_____	:	_____	_____
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_____	_____	:	_____	_____	_____	:	_____	:	_____	_____

INTERESTING FACTS AND PHOTOS

Previous marriages, education, Military service, travels, church, hobbies, etc.

I CAN NOT FINE NOTHING ON DORA

DESCENDANT

GRANDFATHER

SPOUSE

GRANDMOTHER

FULL NAME: Henry Backhaus
 CHILD OF: Henry & Kate Harms Backhaus
 DATE OF BIRTH: Feb 14-1847
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Hanover Germany
 DATE OF DEATH: March 17-1916
 PLACE OF BURIAL: Atkinson Nebraska

FULL NAME: Augusta Caroline Laabs
 CHILD OF: Martin Dorothen Luedtke Laab
 DATE OF BIRTH: Oct 3-1852
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Germany
 DATE OF DEATH: Aug 18-1885
 PLACE OF BURIAL: Independence Iowa
 FULL NAME: Anna Dora Buckendahl
 CHILD OF: William & Dora Buckendahl
 DATE OF BIRTH: June 19-1862
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Germany
 DATE OF DEATH: Sept 28- 1947
 PLACE OF BURIAL: Atkinson Nebraska

DATE AND PLACE MARRIED: Febr 19-1875 at Silver Creek Ridge, Iowa Allamakee, Cou

Date AND PLACE MARRIED: July 12-1888 at O'Neill, Nebraska Holt County

CHILDREN OF HENRY AND AUGUSTA BACKHAUS

SEX:	NAME IN FULL	BIRTH DATE	CITY	STATE	SPOUSE	nie:	DATE: DATE
F	Marie Lydia	3-26-1876	Dorchester	Iowa	Archibald MCKath	8-18-1876	6-18-1876
m	George William	9-15-1878	Dorchester	Iowa	Never married	4-20-	4-20-
M	Heinrick Arthur	8-18-1880	Dorchester	Iowa	Elizabeth Thomazin	6-15-	6-15-

CHILDREN OF HENRY AND DORA

SEX:	NAME IN FULL	BIRTH DATE	CITY	STATE	SPOUSE	DATE	DATE
M	William	7-13-1888	Atkinson Nebr	Nebr	Millie Bliss	1-17-1888	1-17-1888
M	Frank	2-7-1890	Atkinson Nebr	Nebr	Eva Bradshaw	7-29-1890	7-29-1890
M	Lewis	8-29-1893	Atkinson Nebr	Nebr	Rose Vrooman	6-9-1893	6-9-1893
F	Cora	1-3-1896	Atkinson Nebr	Nebr	George Thomson	10-8-1896	10-8-1896
F	Pearl	9-10-1895	Atkinson Nebr	Nebr	Ivan Winterstean	3-7-1895	3-7-1895
F	Minnie	10-30-1900	Atkinson Nebr	Nebr	Edward Boshart	2-26-1900	2-26-1900
M	Leroy	2-5-1905	Atkinson Nebr	Nebr	Mildred Olson	1-10-1905	1-10-1905

Henry was born Hanover, Germany in a small town by the name of Barum. When he was 16 his parents sent him and his oldest sister to America to earn money so the rest of the family could come over. They located near Madison, Wisconsin. On March 27, 1865, then being eighteen of age he enlisted in CO. H Fifty-First Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry. Unable to raise money here the family borrowed the money from a taylor by the name of Schneider who was coming to this country and came along with him. They arrived in New York in July 1865. At Dorchester in 1875 he married Augusta Caroline Laabs. They had three children named Marie Lydia, George William & Heinrick Arthur. She died Aug 1885 at Independence, Iowa and is buried there. In 1886 Henry and his three children moved by train to Atkinson Nebraska. Some time later Henry's sister and my grandmother Dora Buckendahl came to Atkinson. Dora homesteaded on some land south of Atkinson. In 1888 Henry and Dora were married. They had seven children, William, Frank, Lewis, Cora, Pearl, Minnie and Leroy. All have passed away.

Henry passed away in the Veterans Hospital at Hot Springs, South Dakota in 1916. Dora passed away Sept. 28, 1947. Both are buried at Atkinson, Nebraska.

NAME OF RESEARCHER: WESLEY DULITZ
DATE: DEC 1991

Please return to:
Marjorie McKathnie
1474 48th Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601

USE FULL GIVEN NAME BEFORE MARRIAGE

DESCENDANT

FULL NAME: CATHERINE BACKHAUS
CHILD OF: HENRY & DOROTHEA BACKHAUS
DATE OF BIRTH: AUG 20, 1850
PLACE OF BIRTH: HANOVER GERMANY
DATE OF DEATH: JUNE 6, 1932
PLACE OF BURIAL: MASON CITY, IOWA

SPOUSE

FULL NAME: ADOLPH DULITZ
CHILD OF: FREDERICKA HARTMAN DULITZ
DATE OF BIRTH: 1838
PLACE OF BIRTH: BRANDENBURG EAST PRUSSIA
DATE OF DEATH: MARCH 1, 1920
PLACE OF BURIAL: MASON CITY, IOWA

DATE AND PLACE MARRIED: DEC 17, 1867

CHILDREN

SEX:	NAME IN FULL	BIRTH			SPOUSE	DEATH	
		DATE	CO.	CITY, STATE		DATE	DATE
M	WILLIAM	1869				1907	
F	LYDIA	1876			KUPPINGER	1963	
F	FRANCIS	1880			JAMES MUNSON	1975	
M	EDWARD	1883				1920	
M	FRANK	1887	REDFIELD,	DAKOTA TERR.	LOUISE ROEHRICH	1918; 1976	
F	Helen						
M	GEORGE	1891				1946	

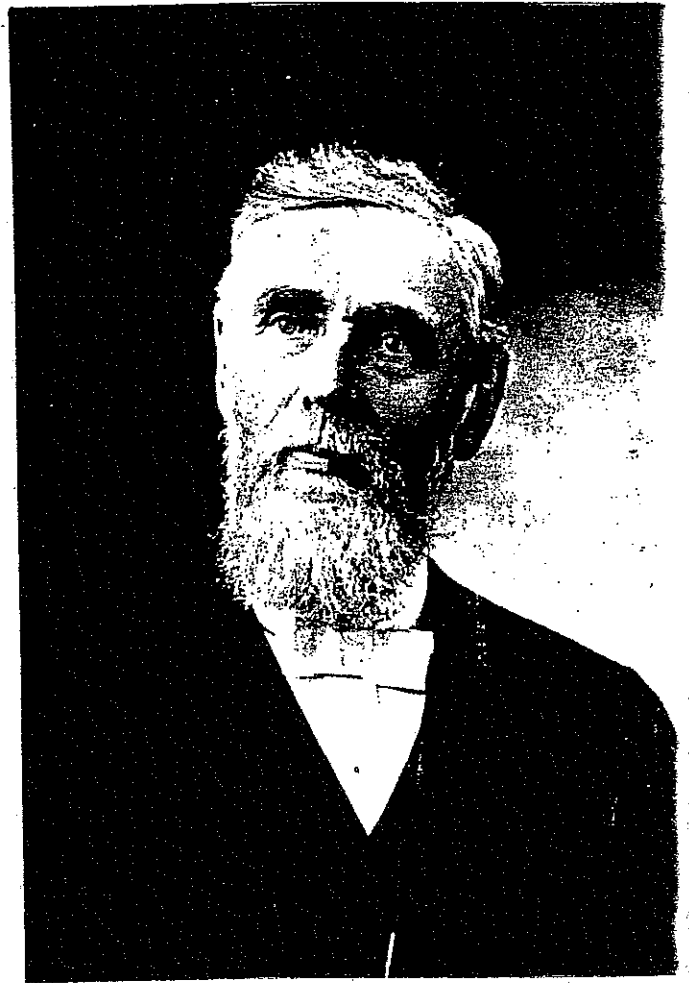
INTERESTING FACTS

Previous marriages, education, military service, travels, church, hobbies, etc.

Catherine came to this country when she was 15 years old with her parents and family. Her oldest sister and brother were sent over ahead of them to earn money for fare over but was unable to do. The son enlisted in a Wisconsin regiment and was no help. There was a tailor by the name of Schneidar who was going to this country and borrow them the money to come along. They arrived in New York in July 1865. When they landed in New York she saw a row of sick children lay there waiting to be moved. They went to the next exit of the station. A family with many small children was ahead of them. Suddenly the mother fell over dead. That was not a very good luck at America before they set their foot on the soil. They came to Dorchester with debts to pay for their fare. On Dec. 17, 1867 she was married to Adolf Dulitz. She still owed a tailor \$50.00 for her passage to America, but worked in the fields to earn money to repay that debt. In 1873 her husband became a minister of the German Methodist Church and they made their home in southern Minn. in the vicinity of the famous Indian Massacre and during the 7 year grasshopper plague in that part of the country. In 1886 they were transferred to Dakota Territory living at Redfield. After this the family moved to Iowa until Rev. Dulitz retired. In 1910 they moved to Webster and in 1917 celebrated their golden wedding.



CATHERINE BACKHAUS DULITZ



ADOLPH DULITZ

Please return to:
Marjorie McKathnie
1474 48th Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601

SPOUSE Great Uncle

DATE AND PLACE MARRIED: March 8, 1893 at French Creek Iowa
Mary age 38 Fredrick age 64

[illegible]

Mary came to America with her parents from Germany when she was 10 years old. She moved to California in December of 1913.



This picture was
taken in California

Mary Backhaus Dubli

NAME OF RESEARCHER: Lester Boshart
DATE: Jan 1993

Please return to:
Marjorie McKathnie
1474 48th Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601

USE FULL GIVEN NAME BEFORE MARRIAGE

ANCESTANT

SPOUSE

FULL NAME: Fred Backhaus
CHILD OF: Henry & Dorothea (harms) Backhaus
DATE OF BIRTH: Oct 12, 1857
PLACE OF BIRTH: Barum, Hanover Germany
DATE OF DEATH: Jan 15, 1925
PLACE OF BURIAL: Dorchester Iowa

FULL NAME: Freda Mohwinkel
CHILD OF: Jurgen & Dorothea (Oitzman) Mohwinkel
DATE OF BIRTH: Dec 11, 1877
PLACE OF BIRTH: _____
DATE OF DEATH: Oct 28, 1946
PLACE OF BURIAL: Dorchester Iowa

DATE AND PLACE MARRIED: Nov 8, 1900

CHILDREN

SEX	NAME IN FULL	BIRTH			SPOUSE	DEATH	
		DATE	CO.	CITY, STATE		DATE	DATE
M	Frederick	1902	Dorchester	Iowa			1950
M	Milton	1906	Dorchester	Iowa			1961
F	Nettie	1905	Dorchester	Iowa	Earl Weber (1985)		1961
M	Ervin	1914	Dorchester	Iowa			1982

INTERESTING FACTS

Previous marriages, education, military service, travels, church, hobbies, etc.

Fred came to this country when he was 7 years old with his family. They came by train to Dorchester Iowa. He spent his entire life liveing around Dorchester. On Nov 8 1900 he married Freda Mohwinkel and had four children. Nettie was the only one to marry and they had no children. Fred changed the spelling of his last name to spell Bockhaus. We visited with Alvin Mohwinkel who is a nephew of Freda and he took us to the cemetry, where they are all buried at the Methodist cemetry at Dorchester. Both sets of my Grandparents are buried there to . The Backhaus and the Buckendahl familys



Cuffman & Barnard WAUKON, IOWA.
FRED BOCKHAUS



FRED & FRED A BOCKHAUS WEDDING

NAME OF RESEARCHER: WILBERT PENNER
DATE: AUG 26 1991

Please return to:
Marjorie McKathnie
1474 48th Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601

USE FULL GIVEN NAME BEFORE MARRIAGE

DESCENDANT

SPOUSE

FULL NAME: WILLIAM HENRY BACKHAUS FULL NAME: EMILIE AUGUSTA HENRIETTA FALK
CHILD OF: HENRY DORATHEA HARMS BACKHAUS CHILD OF: ERNST-FREDEKKA CHAROTTE FALK
DATE OF BIRTH: AUG 31 1860 DATE OF BIRTH: OCT 14 1864
PLACE OF BIRTH: HANOVER GERMANY PLACE OF BIRTH: RHUNOW-POMMERANIA GERMA
DATE OF DEATH: 1937 ? DATE OF DEATH: APRIL 1928
PLACE OF BURIAL: HALSTEAD KANSAS PLACE OF BURIAL: HALSTEAD KANSAS

DATE AND PLACE MARRIED: _____

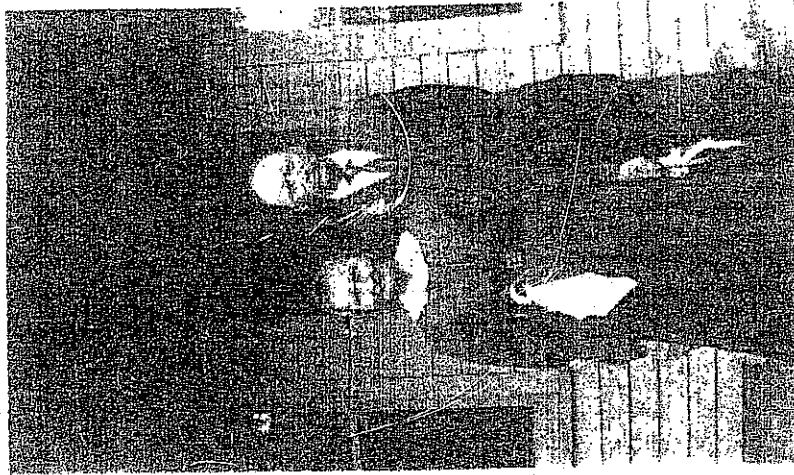
CHILDREN

		BIRTH				
SEX:	NAME IN FULL	DATE	CO., CITY, STATE	SPOUSE	DATE	DEAT
M	WILLIAM ERNST	6/29/1886	Parkston S.D.	NONE		4/21/19
M	LOUIS BENJAMIN	10/23/1887	PARKSTON S.D.	EMMA STEIN		10/27
M	ALBERT HENRY	11/4/1890	PARKSTON S.D.	BONNIE WERTENBERG		3/4
M	BENJAMIN R	2/13/1893	PARKSTON S.D.	LENA WYSS		5/3
F	FRANCES EMMA	2/3/1898	PARKSTON S.D.	HENRY J. PENNER		197
F	WALTER GEORGE	1/25/1901	PARKSTON S.D.	MARIE WILL		10/24

INTERESTING FACTS

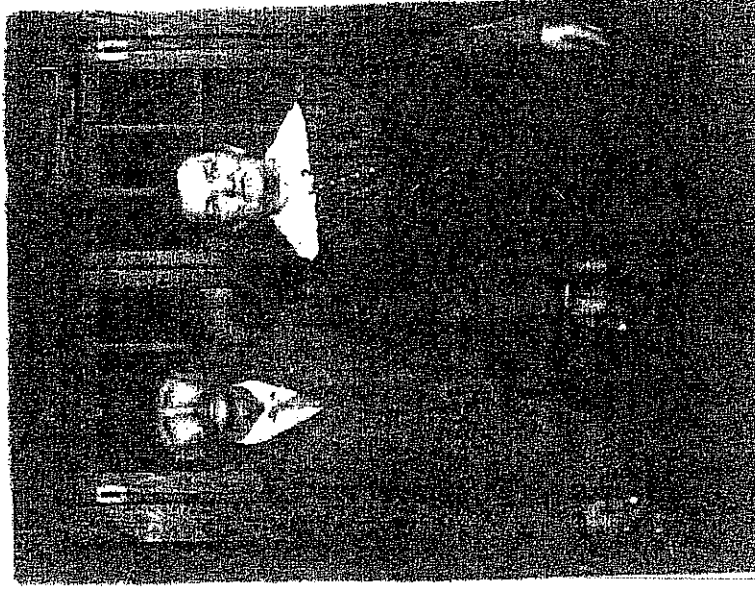
Previous marriages, education, military service, travels, church, hobbies, etc
William came to this country when he was 5 years old with his family. They li
around Dorchester Iowa. He homesteaded 9 miles west of Parkston South Dakota
and worked in a hardware store. On November 15, 1885 he married Emilie Falk t
his brother inlaw the Rev Adolph Dulitz. Not likeing the cold in South Dakota
they sold their farm and moved to Halstead Kansas in March 1903.

Dora Backhaus Ehrick &
Wm. H. brother & sister



*Dora Backhaus Ehrick
Wm. Backhaus brother &*

Wm. & Emilie Bockhaus

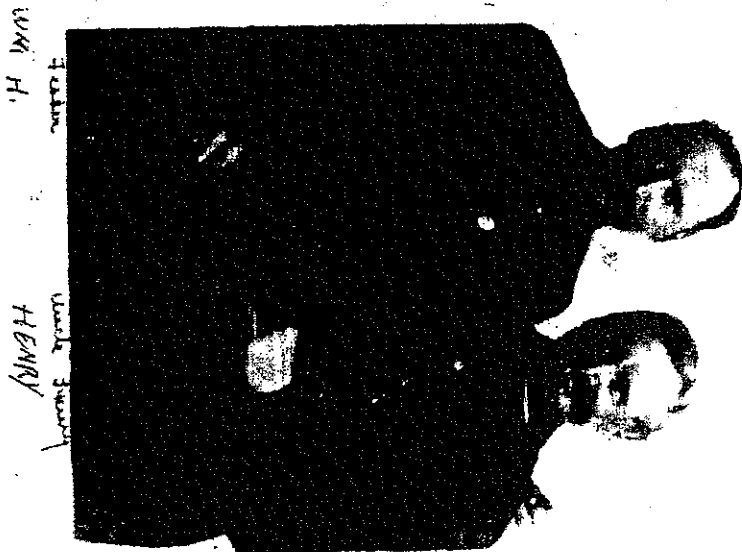


Wm. Bockhaus & wife

Wm. H.
Wm. H.



Henry Henry



Wm. H.

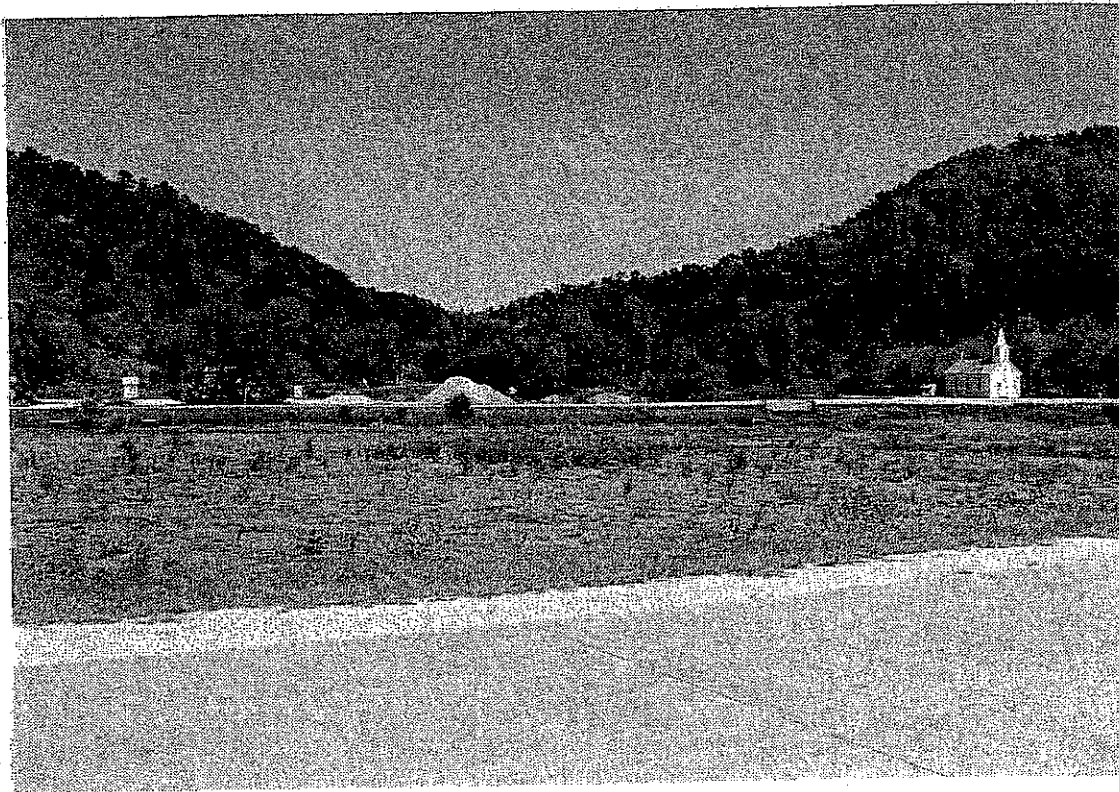
Henry



Above - Looking toward the town of Dorchester, Picture is taken from the west side of the Church. Land to the right of the picture was at one time Bockhaus property.

Below - The Post Office in Dorchester





Above - Picture taken from across the creek looking at the Church. Dorchester lays to the left of the picture. The valley in the center of the picture was Bockhaus land. The house used to be in the area where the county gravel pile is.

Below - This picture shows the Bockhaus land on top of the ridge above town. The ridge in the background was considered the end of Bockhaus land.





Above - More of the land on top of the ridge. Am not sure if it was Bockhaus or Dehning land, as they joined together.

Below - Looking at Dehning property and house. Still in the family after 130 years.

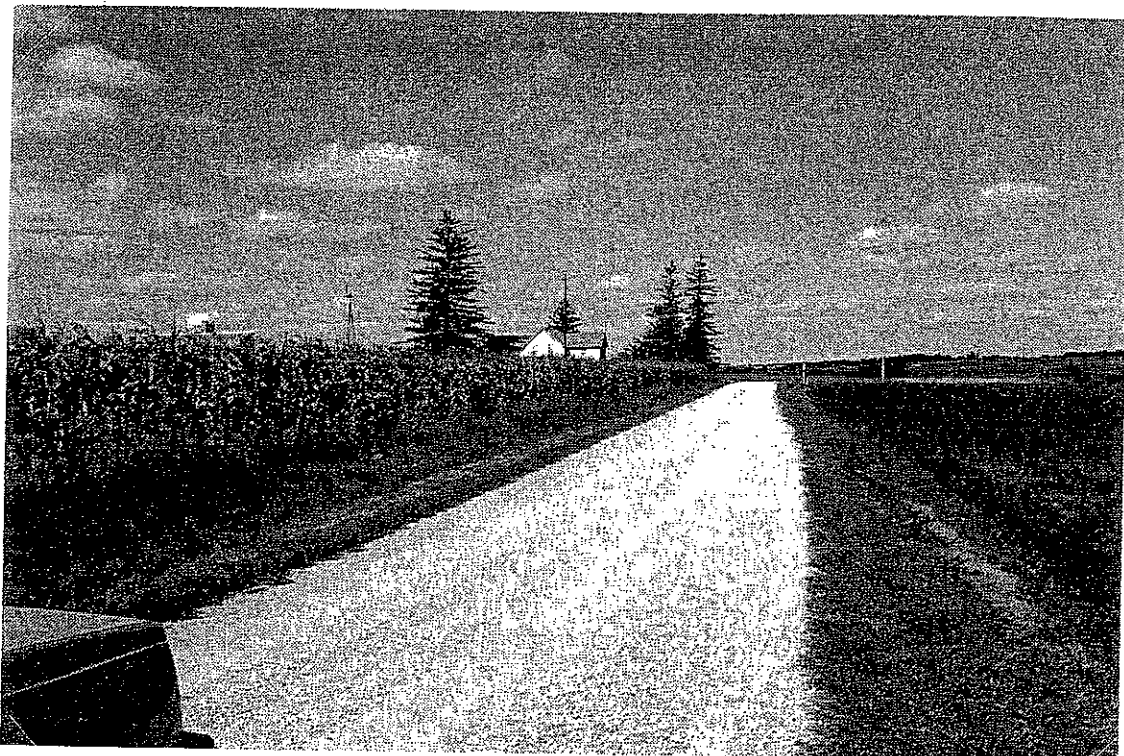
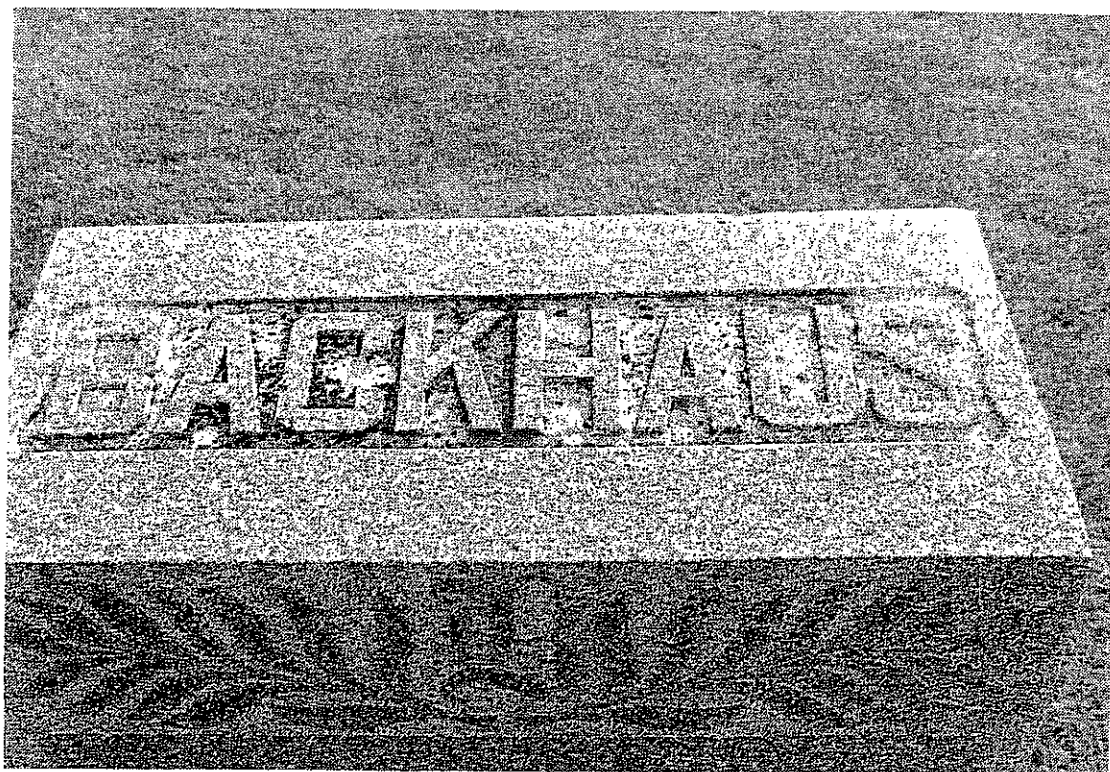




Photo above shows the entrance to the Methodist cemetery at Dorchester, Iowa

Below - in the foreground are the Bockhaus graves at Dorchester. The large one on the left is Henry & Dorothea, next to them are the graves of Fred, and his wife Frieda, and the 3 smaller stones are Fred, Milton, and Erwin.



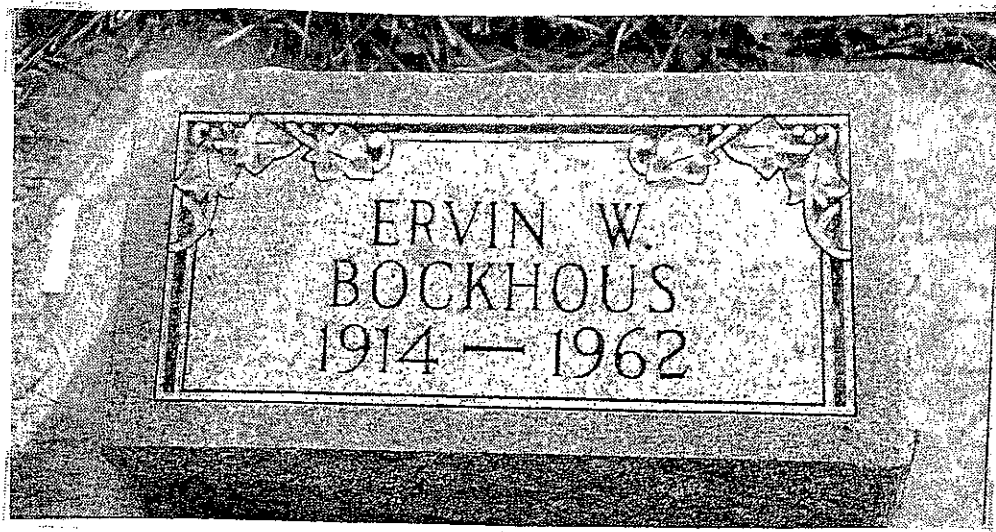
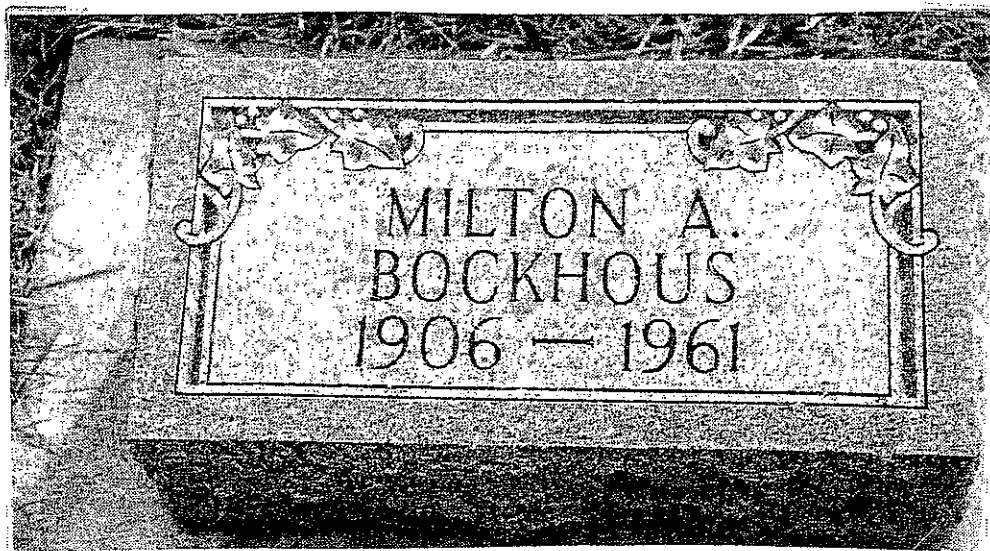
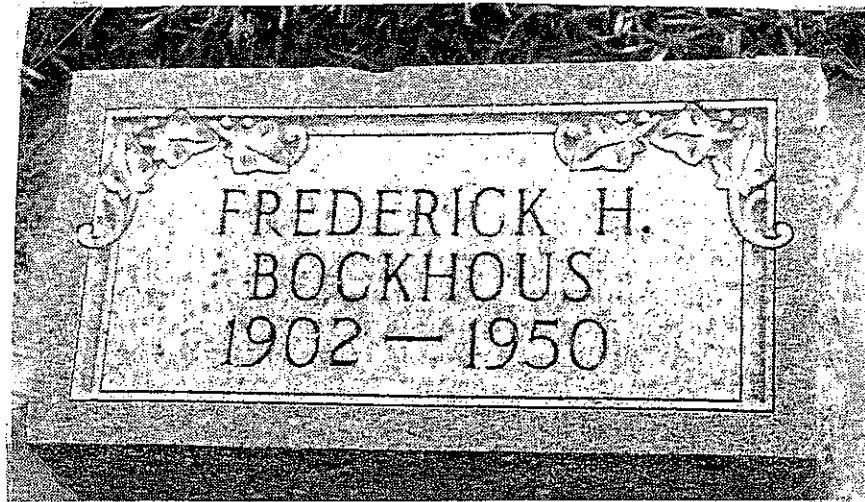


Grave of Henry Backhaus Dorchester, Iowa

Photos taken Sept. 1994

Grave of Fred and Frieda Bockhous - Son and daughter in law of Henry Backhaus





Graves of the three sons of Fred & Frieda
Bockhaus Dorchester, Iowa
Sept. 1994

Deaths of Fred Bockhaus' Children

Freddie

IN MEMORY OF
Frederick H. Bockhaus

DATE OF BIRTH
January 19, 1902

DATE OF DEATH
June 25, 1950

DATE AND HOUR OF SERVICES
Thursday, June 29, 1950

HELD AT
1 p. m. from Funeral Home
2 p. m. at Methodist Church
(Dorchester, Iowa)

CLERGYMAN
Edward Meyer

PLACE OF INTERMENT
M. E. Cemetery, Dorchester

Martin Funeral Service

Milton

IN MEMORY OF
Milton A. Bockhaus

DATE OF BIRTH
Oct. 16, 1906

DATE OF DEATH
June 26, 1961

DATE OF SERVICE
Saturday, July 1, 1961

HELD AT
Dorchester Methodist Church
2:00 p. m.

CLERGYMAN
Rev. Milton Beeman

PLACE OF INTERMENT
Dorchester Methodist
Cemetery

PALLBEARERS
Norman Lippe Donald Dehning
Walter Kumph Alton Kumph
Ray Mahr Clarence Schulte

Martin Funeral Home

Nettie

IN MEMORY OF

MRS. EARL WEBER

BORN
January 5, 1905

DEPARTED THIS LIFE
November 9, 1961

SERVICES FROM
First Methodist Church
Monday, November 13 2:00 P. M.

CLERGYMAN
Pastor Donald Artman

INTERMENT
Canoe Methodist Cemetery

PALLBEARERS
Elmer Dresselhaus Chester Erickson
Willard Dresselhaus Walter Kumpf
Orlie Seegmiller Edwin Wenig

FLORAL COMMITTEE
Betty Jo Weber Linda Bolson
Alice Jehring Janice Dehning

MUSIC
Organist—Mrs. Kenneth Kittleson
Soloist—Mrs. D. W. Davis

Milton Bockhaus Rites Saturday

Rites will be held at Dorchester Methodist church at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, July 1, for Milton A. Bockhaus, who died at his Waterloo township home Monday.

He was a son of Fred and Frieda Mohwinkle Bockhaus, and a member of Dorchester Methodist church. A brother and a sister who remain are Irvin Bockhaus of Dorchester and Mrs. Earl Weber, Decorah.

Bockhaus, who was 55, was found dead in a cornfield by his brother, Irvin. Sheriff Theo. Rumph and Dr. Alden F. Wiley, medical examiner, investigated Tuesday and reported that death was due to natural causes.

Ervin

IN MEMORY OF
Ervin W. Bockhaus

DATE OF BIRTH
December 14, 1914

DATE OF DEATH
February 16, 1962

DATE OF SERVICE
Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1962

HELD AT
2:00 p. m. at St. John's
Methodist Church, Dorchester

CLERGYMAN
Rev. Milton Beeman

PLACE OF INTERMENT
Dorchester Methodist Cemetery

Nettie's Husband

IN MEMORY OF

EARL HENRY C. WEBER

October 29, 1903

August 22, 1965

Services From
First United Methodist Church
Monday, August 23, 1965 - 2:00 P.M.

Clergyman
Rev. David W. Ash

Honorary Bearers
Elmer Dresselhaus Alvin Mohwinkle
Carl Kraby Ralph Roney
Harry A. Larson Clifford G. Westby
John Lazum William H. Wilkens

Bearers
Harold Dehning Kenneth Nordheim
Chester Erickson Orlie A. Seegmiller
Carlos J. Hawley Lavern Syverson

Music
Soloist - Mrs. W. D. Willer
Organist - Mrs. David W. Ash
Hymns by the Congregation - Nos. 263 and 275

Interment
Canoe Methodist Cemetery

You are invited to the Fellowship Hall
following the communal service.

Stehle Funeral Home

HEIRS LISTED IN THE ERVIN BOCKHOUS' ESTATE

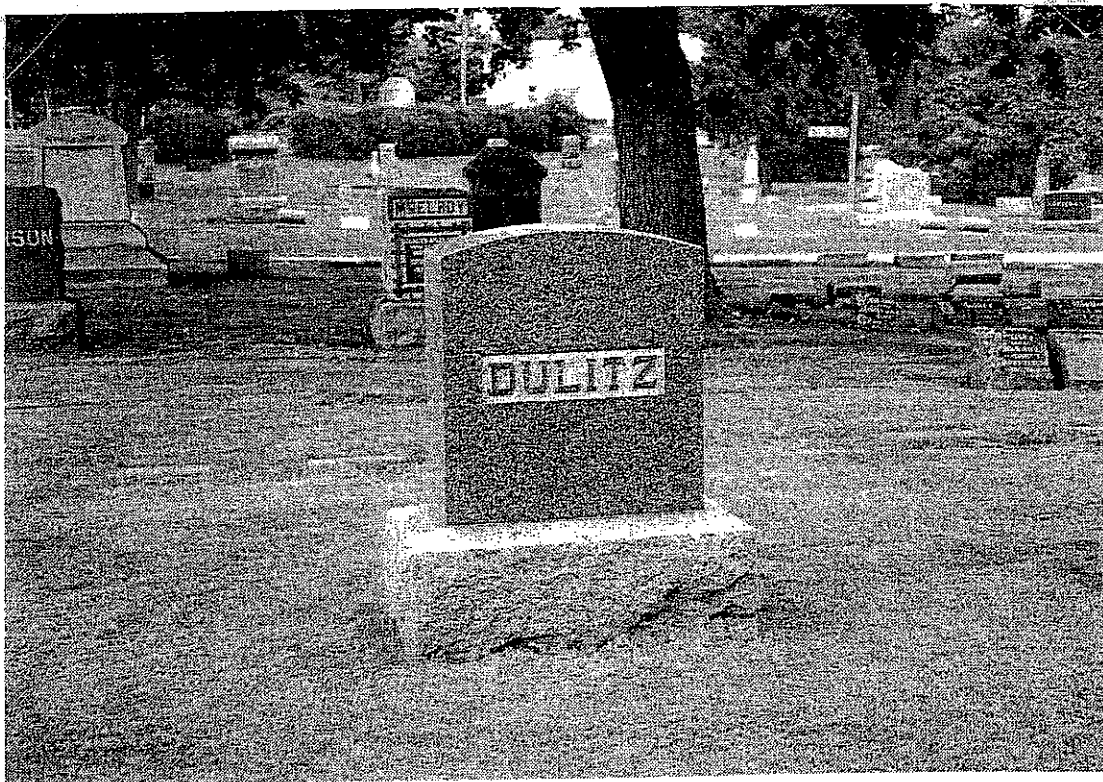
1 Ben Bockhaus	Halstead, Kansas
2 Walter Bockhaus	Halstead, Kansas
3 Mrs. Frances Penner	Burton, Kansas
4 Albert Bochaus	Newton, Kansas
5 Mrs. Lydia(Dulitz)Kuppinger	Mason City, Iowa
6 Mrs. Helen(Dulitz)Graney	Portland, Oregan
7 Frank Dulitz	Webster, S.Dakota
8 Frances(Dulitz) Munson	c/o Frank Dulitz, Guardian
9 Mrs. Emma(Backhaus)McKathnie	Atkinson, Neb.
10 Lewis Backhaus	Chamber, Neb.
11 Leroy Backhaus	O'Neill, Neb.
12 Minnie(Backhaus)Boshart	O'Neill, Neb.
13 Cora(Backhaus)Thomson	Chambers, Neb.
14 Pearl(Backhaus)Wintersteen	Lincoln, Neb.
15 Mrs. Romona(Backhaus)Blackman (cousin once removed)	Milwaukee, WI
16 Theodore Backus (once removed)	c/o Mrs. Wm. Backus Atkinson, Neb.
17 John W. Backus (once removed)	Willow Grove, Penn.
18 Mrs. Caroline(Backhaus)Poessnecker (once removed)	Mount View, Alaska
19 Mrs. Lenora(Backhaus)Porter (once removed)	Thermopolis, Wyo.
20 Ralph Bockhaus (once removed)	Monte Vista, Colo.
21 Francis Bockhaus (once removed)	Pagosa Springs, Colo.
22 Virgil Bockhaus (once removed)	Monte Vista, Colo.



Above and below are photos of Nettie Bockhaus Weber grave. Notice on the marker for all the graves, that Nettie's name is spelled the same as the Kansas family. (and ours) These graves are located in a church cemetery just out of Decorah, Iowa. The area is named "Canoe Ridge" and it is really a pretty place. (these photos taken in 1996)

At the time these pictures were taken, Earl's second wife was still living, although in very poor health.





Above is the marker for the Dulitz family graves in Mason City, Iowa.

Below is the marker for Catherina Bockhaus Dulitz. She was a sister of Willaim H.

Buried in this same lot is, Rev. Adolph Dulitz, a son William H. who died in 1907, another son Edward, who died in 1920, (he was born in LeMars, Iowa) and a daughter Helen Dulitz Graney, who died in 1984.

(Photos taken in 1996)



DEED RECORD, ALLAMAKEE COUNTY.

WARRANTY DEED.

Entered for Taxation this 30th day of July
 A. D. 1875
 Filed for Record this 30th day of July
 A. D. 1875, at 2 o'clock P M
Wm. C. Thompson Auditor.
R. W. Wood Recorder.

Know all Men by these Presents, That Henry & Bessie Ann
Bachman & Bessie Ann his wife
 of Allamakee County, and State of Iowa in consideration of the sum of
Twenty five Dollars,
 in hand paid by Henry & Bessie Ann of Allamakee County, State of Iowa
 do hereby sell and convey unto the said Henry & Bessie Ann and to their heirs and assigns, the
 following described premises, situated in the County of Allamakee and State of Iowa, to-wit:

Commencing at a point in the N.E. 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 24 Township
(10N Range 6 West, from which the E. 1/2 East of corner to sections 13, 14, 23 & 24) contains 13 & 24
Acres 62 1/2 Acre distant 10 ch. & 7 1/2 links; thence North 3 chs 16 1/2 links; thence East 3 chs 16 1/2 links;
thence South 3 chs 16 1/2 links; thence West 3 chs 16 1/2 links to place of beginning. Containing one acre, being
the N.E. 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 24 Town 10N R. 6W in Allamakee County, Iowa

And they do hereby covenant with the said Henry & Bessie Ann that they are lawfully seized of said premises; that they are free from incumbrance; that they have good
 right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same; and they do hereby covenant to WARRANT AND DEFEND
 the said premises against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever; and the grantors aforesaid hereby relinquish all con-
 tingent rights, including right of dower, which they have in and to the said described premises.

Signed the 21st day of July A. D. 1875

IN PRESENCE OF

J. C. Parth
L. J. Lungebach

Henry & Bessie Ann
Bachman & Bessie Ann

STATE OF IOWA, Allamakee County, ss:

On this 21st day of July A. D. 1875, before me
a Justice of the Peace in and for said County,
 personally came Henry & Bessie Ann to me personally known
 to be the identical person whose names are affixed to the above deed as grantors, and acknowledged the same to be
their voluntary act and deed.

WITNESS my hand and _____ the date last above written.

J. C. Parth J.P.

This is a copy of the deed to
 one acre of ground that the
 church in Dorchester sits on
 dated July 21, 1875

REGISTER OF

Journal, Steam Press, Sioux City, Iowa.

No. of License Date of License	1 By whom affidavit, if any, is made 2 By whom consent to Marriage given	1 Full Name of Groom 2 Place of Residence 3 Occupation	1 Age next Birthday 2 Race or Color 3 Place of Birth	1 Father's Name 2 Mother's Maiden Name 3 No. of Groom's Marriage
10/19/85	1	1 John Gale	1 25 Years	1 William
	2	2 Rockbach 3 Farmer	2 Illinois	2 Mary Gallagher 3 First
11/13/86	1	1 John J. Cady	1 27 Years	1 Timothy Brady
	2	2 Nauvoo Ill 3 Farmer	2 Indiana	2 Barbara Connors 3 First
11/19/85	1	1 Thomas P. Sainier	1 — Years	1 —
	2	2 Piquette Co. Ind. 3 Farmer	2 —	2 —
Dec 3/85	1	1 William Backhaus	1 26 Years	1 H. J. Backhaus
	2	2 Loo Mars 3 Farmer	2 Germany	2 Elizabeth Harris 3 First
5) Nov 21/85	1	1 Melvin O. Metcalf	1 27 Years	1 Lucius A. Metcalf
	2	2 Central City Neb 3 Carpenter	2 Indiana	2 Roxana R. Chapin 3 First
6) Jan 28/86	1	1 Harry M. Hayner	1 27 Years	1 J. M. Hayner
	2	2 Ohio 3 Farmer	2 Ohio	2 E. R. Bretney 3 Second
7) Jan 4/86	1	1 Andreas Jensen	1 30 Years	1 James Anderson
	2	2 Piquette Co. Ind. 3 Farmer	2 Denmark	2 Johanna 3 First
8) Feb 13/86	1	1 Almon H. Hunsicker	1 27 Years	1 Martin Hunsicker
	2	2 Kingsley Ind. 3 Machinist	2 Vermont	2 Eliza News 3 First
9) Feb 13/86	1	1 William Fissel	1 24 Years	1 Jno Fissel
	2	2 Piquette Co. Ind. 3 Farmer	2 Wisconsin	2 Gertrude Steig 3 First
10) Feb 13/86	1	1 Valentine B. Diehl	1 28 Years	1 Jacob Diehl
	2	2 Scotland A. I. 3 Druggist	2 Racine Wis	2 Catherine Leight 3 First
11) Jan 27/86	1	1 Frank Rinner	1 28 Years	1 Jno Rinner
	2	2 Piquette Co. Ind. 3 Farmer	2 Wis	2 Caroline Wessely 3 First
31			1 27 Years	1 John Miller

MARRIAGES.

49

1 Full Name of Bride 2 Maiden Name, if a Widow 3 Place of Residence	1 Age next Birthday 2 Race or Color 3 Place of Birth	1 Father's Name 2 Mother's Maiden Name 3 No. of Bride's Marriage	1 Where and when Married 2 Witnesses 3 By whom Certified, Name and Office	1 Date of Return 2 When Registered
Bridget Salan	1 73 years 2 3 Wisconsin	1 James Salan 2 Mark Hughes 3 First	1 at Kasbach 2 Young 3 ^d 1856 3 M. H. Kupperman	1 2 3
1 Kasbach				
Mary Ann Salan	1 24 years 2 3 Wisconsin	1 Mark P. Salan 2 Ellen M. Mannus 3 First	1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 3	1 2 3
1 Lincoln Ia. 2 Thompson Co. Ia. 3			1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 3	1 2 3
Patrick Newman	1 — years 2 — 3 —	1 Patrick Newman 2 3 First	1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 3	1 2 3
Amelia Jack	1 22 years 2 3 Germany	1 Ernst J. Jack 2 Fredericka Forker 3 First	1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 Dec 3 ^d 1855 3 E. J. Jack, Mary Jack 4 Wm. Kupperman, Pastor 5 Rev. M. E. Church	1 2 3
1 Le Mars Ia.				177 86
1 Lucy E. Kasper	1 19 years 2 3 Iowa	1 Charles Kasper 2 Lucy A. Satter 3 First	1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 Nov 26 th 1855 3	1 2 3
1 Le Mars Ia.				178
1 William A. Seales	1 21 years 2 3 Illinois	1 Daniel Seales 2 Caroline Conley 3 First	1 at Akron Ia. 2 Jan 27 th 1856 3 L. O. Nordford 4 Pastor M. E. Church	1 2 3
1 Akron Ia.				1 30
1 Emma Jensen	1 16 years 2 3 Widow	1 John Johnson 2 Frances Swanson 3 First	1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 Jan 30 th 1856 3 Mrs. J. K. Kupperman, Pastor 4 A. A. Allen, J. P.	1 2 3
1 Akron Ia.				179
1 Elizabeth Strong	1 22 years 2 3 Indiana	1 J. M. Strong 2 Elizabeth Strong 3 First	1 at Akron Ia. 2 3 ^d Feb 1856 3 M. A. Russell 4 L. O. Nordford, Pastor M. E. Church	1 2 3
1 Akron Ia.				179
1 Bertha Peters	1 22 years 2 3 Germany	1 John Peters 2 Mathewina Kiefler 3 First	1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 Feb 16 1856 3 Charles Peters 4 Fizzie Wendler 5 Rev. J. Belzer	1 2 3
1 Le Mars Ia.				179
1 Fizzie L. Sarnyca	1 22 years 2 3 Maine	1 Rufus McLaughlin 2 Sophia Blake 3 First	1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 Feb 16 1856 3 P. H. Kiehl, Gen. Sarnyca 4 L. P. Paton, Minister	1 2 3
1 Le Mars Ia.				179
1 Carolina Hilmer	1 23 years 2 3 Germany	1 Christian Hilmer 2 Carolina Schaefer 3 First	1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 Feb 2 ^d 1856 3 Wm. Kupperman, Pastor Gen. M. E. Socy.	1 2 3
1 Le Mars Ia.				179
1 Caroline Elizabeth Barker	1 21 years 2 3	1 John Barker 2 3	1 at Le Mars Ia. 2 3	1 2 3

COMRADE BACKHAUS of EDWARD LENOX POST G.A.R
Passes AWAY at SOLDIER'S HOME

The death of Henry Backhaus, an old soldier and member of Edward Lenox Post, occurred at Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, S.D. last Friday. Deceased had been in poor health for some time and for the past year has been under the care and treatment at the Home made and provided for the Old Soldier's declining years.

The body was accompanied home Saturday by his son A.H. Backhaus who was called to Hot Springs from his home at Pierce.

Henry Backhaus was born in Liepzig Germany, Febr. 14, 1847. At the age of sixteen he came to America and located near Madison Wisconsin. On March 27, 1865, then being eighteen years of age, he enlisted in Co. H. fifty-first regiment of Wisconsin infantry. His service was under Captain Rufus S. Allen. In the year 1887 he came to Holt County, where he has since lived. He has been a pioneer and an upright citizen, adding his part to building of the great west.

He was 69 years, 1 month and 3 days old. Surviving relatives are: two brothers, three sisters, a devoted wife and nine children. One son George died some years ago.

Henry Backhaus was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Holt creek.

The last sad rites were held in the Methodist church in Atkinson, Sunday afternoon and the body laid to rest in Woodlawn cemetery. The church was filled to it's capacity with sympathizing friends and neighbors.

Rev. H.E. Wells conducted the service and brought a message of comfort to the bereaved family. The G.A.R. Post and the W.R.C. were in attendance in a body. The little group of veterans who followed Comrade Backhaus to his last resting place remind us that the ranks are thin and that that noble array of the Grand Army of the Republic has almost passed from view. Soon the tender memory of their bravery and the service they wrought will alone remain.

(This was copied from an Atkinson Graphic dated March 24, 1916)

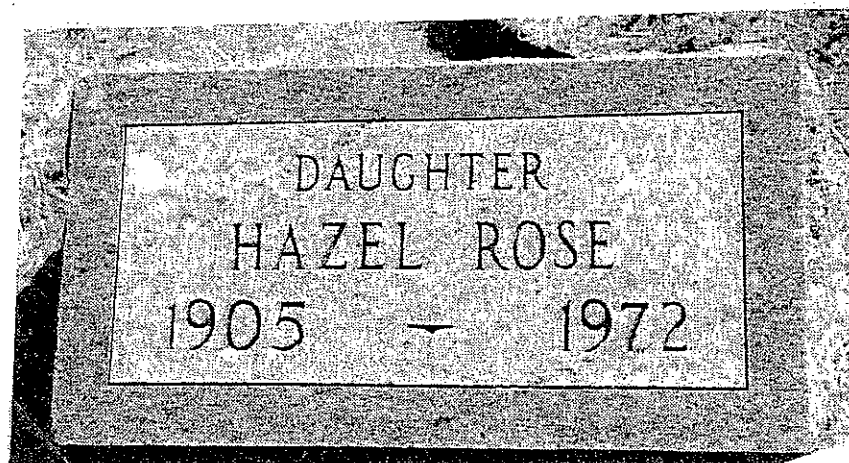
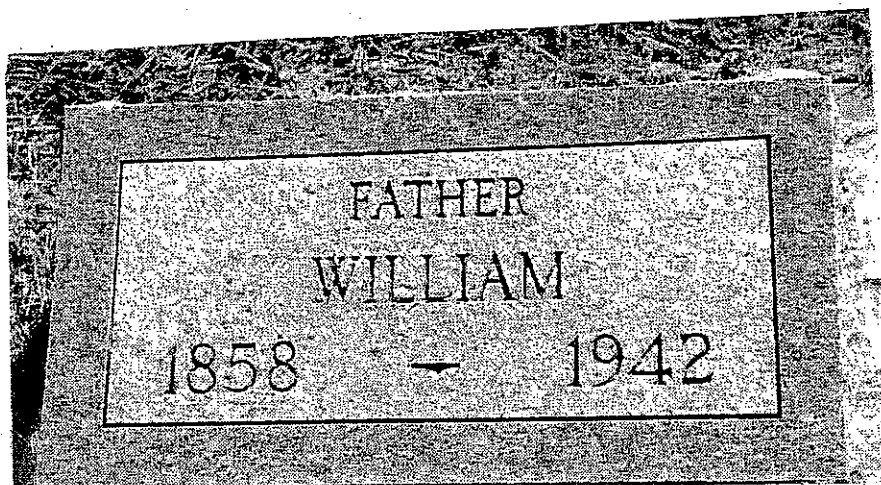


Above is a photo of Ernst Karl Gottfried Falk - Father of Emile Falk Bockhaus - Born Sept. 11, 1821 at Rhunow Pommerania, Germany. Died in 1908. Believe that he is buried in Canada, as some of the family went there and he followed in 1902.

There are some Falks buried at LeMars, Iowa, but have not been there as yet to check them out. One that is buried there is a son of Ernst's, William, also looks as though William's wife, and possibly a daughter of their's, as the lot and block numbers are the same for all three. There are some other Falks buried there, but do not know if they are related.

There are some Falks listed in the phone book in Sioux Falls, SD, and I wrote to one of them, but never received a reply, so do not know if they are any relation or not.

Below are photos of Falk graves in LeMars, Iowa, taken in Sept. 1998. William is a brother of Emilie Falk Bockhaus, and Bertha Baum. After I took the pictures, I noticed that his name and his wife's name were the same as William and Emilie Bockhaus. Did not look for other Falk graves in the same cemetery. Did not have a location, and do not know that they are any relation.



NOTE - the following pages are some hi-lites from William H. application for his homestead in S. Dakota. Notice that it was Dakota Territory at that time. Also note that he was still using the old spelling of his last name. (Backhaus)

HOMESTEAD.

APPLICATION

No. 5614

Land Office at Yankton, Dak

March 30, 1882.

I, William Backhaus, of Davies
County, D.T., do hereby apply to enter, under Section 2289,

Revised Statutes of the United States, the North East 1/4
of Section 2, in Township 99 of
Range 62, containing 161.80 acres.

William Backhaus

Land Office at Yankton, D.T.

April 7th, 1882.

I, J. A. Wetter

REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE,

do hereby certify that the above application is for Surveyed Lands of the class which the applicant is legally entitled to enter under Section 2289, Revised Statutes of the United States, and that there is no prior valid adverse right to the same.

J. A. Wetter

Register.

Excess Receipt N^o 1668

HOMESTEAD.

[AFFIDAVIT.]

Land Office at

Yankton, Dak
March 30th, 1882.

I, William Backhaus, of Douglas Co. D.T.

having filed my application, No. 5614, for an entry under

Section No. 2289, Revised Statutes of the United States, do solemnly swear

that I am not the head of a family, but am
21 years of age, and have declared
my intention to become a citizen
of the United States

that said application, No. 5614, is made for the purpose of actual
settlement and cultivation; that said entry is made for my own exclusive
benefit, and not directly or indirectly for the benefit or use of any other
person or persons whomsoever; and that I have not heretofore had the benefit
of the homestead laws.

William Backhaus

Sworn to and subscribed this 30th day
of March 1882, before

Gawrth
Register of the Land Office.

NOTE.—If this affidavit be acknowledged before the Clerk of the Court, as provided for by Sec. 2294, U. S. Revised Statutes, the Homestead party must expressly state herein that he or some member of his family is residing upon the land applied for, and that bona fide improvement and settlement have been made. He must also state why he is unable to appear at the Land Office.

[4-138.]

Receiver's Duplicate Receipt No. 5614

Application No. 5614

HOMESTEAD.

Receiver's Office, San Antonio, TX

April 7th, 1882

RECEIVED of William Packham the sum
of Fourteen dollars _____ cents;
being the amount of fee and compensation of Register and Receiver for the
entry of North East 1/4 of Section - 2 - in
Township 99 of Range 62, under
Section 2290, Revised Statutes of the United States. 161.40 c

Alexander S. Hughes
Receiver

\$ 14

Excess Receipt N^o 1668

NOTE.—It is required of the homestead settler that he shall reside upon and cultivate the land embraced in his homestead entry for a period of five years from the time of filing the affidavit, being also the date of entry. An abandonment of the land for more than six months works a forfeiture of the claim. Further, within two years from the expiration of the said five years he must file proof of his actual settlement and cultivation, failing to do which, his entry will be canceled. If the settler does not wish to remain five years on his tract, he can, at any time after six months, pay for it with cash or land warrants, upon making proof of settlement and cultivation from date of filing affidavit to the time of payment.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



TERRITORY OF DAKOTA,

Douglas County 2^d Judicial District.

Be it Remembered, That on the 20 day of Sept in the year of OUR LORD one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven personally appeared before the Honorable Bartlett Jipp Presiding Judge of the District Court of Douglas County for the district aforesaid, William Backhaus an alien born, above the age of twenty-one years, and applied in open court to be admitted to become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America, pursuant to the several acts of congress heretofore passed on that subject. And the said William Backhaus having thereupon produced to the Court record testimony

showing that he had heretofore reported himself and filed his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, according to the provisions of said several acts of congress, and the Court being satisfied, as well from the oath of the said William Backhaus as from the testimony of William Heidler and John Heidler who are known to be citizens of the United States, that the said William Backhaus has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for at least five years last past, and at least one year last past within the Territory of Dakota, and that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order, well being and happiness of the same; and two years and upwards having elapsed since the said William Backhaus reported himself and filed his declaration of intention as aforesaid

It was Ordered, That the said William Backhaus be permitted to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the usual oath whereby he renounced all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and more particularly to the Emperor of Germany whereof he was heretofore a subject, which said oath having been administered to the said William Backhaus by the Clerk of said Court, it was ordered by the Court that the said William Backhaus be admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges and immunities of a naturalized citizen of the United States, and that the same be certified by the Clerk of this Court, under the seal of said Court, which is done accordingly.

Bartlett Jipp Judge.

In Testimony, That the foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings taken from the record of the proceedings of the Court aforesaid, I subscribe my name hereunto and affix the Seal of the Court at Grandview this 20 day of Sept in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven

E. Keef Clerk.

NO. 1--HOMESTEAD.

U. S. Land Office, Yankton Dakota.July Aug 31 1887I, William Backhaus of Kirk P. O. HutchinsonCounty, Dakota, who made Homestead Application No. 5-614 for theLots 1 + 2 + S 1/2 of the North East fractional quarterof Section No. 2 in Township No. 99 of Range No. 62 west 5th P. M.,hereby give notice of my intention to make final proof to establish my claim to the land above describedand that I expect to prove my residence and cultivation before the Judge, or in his absence before theClerk of the District Court for Douglas County, Dakota Territory,at Grand View, the county seat thereof, on Wednesdaythe 28th day of September 1887 at 11 o'clock A. M.,by two of the following witnesses:Robert A. Sawyer of Plainview P. O.Gottlieb Politz all of Douglas CoGottlieb Spillich of doGeorge Baum of doWilliam Backhaus

(Signature of Claimant.)

Land Office Yankton Dakota.August 1 1887Notice of the above application will be published in the Advertiserprinted at Yankton Hutchinson County, Dakota,which I hereby designate as the newspaper published nearest the land described in said application.Hughes East

Register.

NOTICE TO CLAIMANT.—Give time and place of proving up and title of the officer before whom proof is made; also give names and postoffice address of four neighbors, two of whom must appear as your witnesses. At least the first given name of claimant and witnesses must be stated in full.

(Press and Dakotaian Print Yankton.)

PROOF OF PUBLICATION.

Territory of Dakota,

COUNTY OF

Hutchinson

U.S. Land Office at Yankton, Dakota, July 2nd, 1887. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the judge or in his absence before the clerk of the district court for Douglas county, Dakota Territory, at Grand View, the county seat thereof, on Wednesday, the 25th day of September, 1887, at 11 o'clock a.m., viz: *William Backhaus*, under his homestead entry number 6614, for the lots 1 and 2, and south half of north east quarter of section number 2, in township number 28 north of range number 62 west 5th R. M. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: *Robert L. Sawyer, Gottlieb Feltz, Gottlieb Sperlich, George Baum*, all of Plainview, P. O., Douglas county Dakota. *Hughes East, Register.*

I *John E. Hipple* do cath

depose and say that I am the publisher, (or foreman) of the *Parkston Advance*, a weekly paper published at *Parkston, Dakota*

County, Dakota, that the annexed Proof Notice was published in said newspaper for six consecutive times, not in a supplement, but in the regular and entire issue of every number of the paper during the period and time of publication, and that said notice was first published in the issue of *August 4* 1887, and last in the issue of *September 8* 1887.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this *10th*day of *September* 1887.

John E. Hipple
Wm. Backhaus
Notary Public

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, *Yankton D.T.*

I, *Hughes East* Register, do hereby certify that a notice, a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was by me posted in a conspicuous place in my office for a period of thirty days, as required by act of March 3d, 1879, I having first posted said notice on the *30* day of *August* 1887.

Hughes East Register.

HOMESTEAD, PRE-EMPTION AND COMMUTATION PROOF.

TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

Full and Specific answers must be given to each Question. Evasive Answers will be Fatal to the Proof

William Buckhaus claimant, being duly sworn, testifies as follows:

Question 1.—What is your correct name, your age and occupation? If employed by any person, state by whom.

Ans. William Buckhaus, 27 yrs old, - farmer in my own employ

Ques. 2.—What is your postoffice address?

Ans. Hammew Douglas Co. D.T.

Ques. 3.—Are you the identical person who made pre-emption filing No. _____ for homestead entry No. 5614 at the Yankton land office on the 7th day of April 1887 and which is the true description of the land now claimed by you?

Ans. Yes. - Lots 1 & 2 & 8th N.E. - sec 2. Tp 29-R. 62 (N.E. 1/4) -

Ques. 4.—Where did you live before settling on this land, and what was your occupation?

Ans. Umanak Co. Iowa. - Doctor P.O. - farmer

Ques. 5.—Are you a citizen of the United States, or have you declared your intention to become such?

Ans. a Naturalized Citizen of the U.S.

(In case the party is of foreign birth, a copy of his declaration of intention to become a citizen or full naturalization certificate, officially certified, must be filed with the case. The latter is only required in final homestead entries.)

Ques. 6.—Are you interested in any other entry or filing than the one upon which you now seek to make proof?

Ans. no — no —

Ques. 7.—Have you ever made a pre-emption filing for any other tract of land, or made any other homestead entry or filing or entry of any kind? (Answer each question separately, describing the land, and state what disposition you made of your claim.)

Ans. Yes - I filed for pre-emption in Hammew Co. D.T. (cannot give description of land) which I abandoned - never made any other filings or entries (any land under U.S. land law)

Ques. 8.—Is your present claim within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade and business?

Ans. no — no — no

Ques. 9.—What is the character of the land? Is it timber, mountainous, prairie, grazing, or ordinary agricultural land? State its kind and quality, and for what purpose it is most valuable.

Ans. All clear prairie land - fair quality - suitable for farming purposes only

Ques. 10.—Is the land valuable for coal, iron, stone, or minerals of any kind? Has any coal or other minerals been discovered thereon, or is any coal or mineral known to be contained therein? Are there any indications of coal, saliner, or minerals of any kind on the land? If so, describe what they are.

Ans. no — no — no

Ques. 11.—If the land is timber land, state the kind, quality, and amount of timber thereon at date of initiating your claim, the amount still standing, how much has been cut and removed, and by whom, and whether the same has been disposed of, and to whom; also whether any other person than yourself has any interest in the timber, and if so, what kind of interest?

Ans. No natural timber was seen on the tract to my knowledge.

2
Ques. 12—If the land is used for grazing purposes, state how and by whom it is so used, and whether it is within an stock range or fence or other enclosure, and who owns or controls the range or enclosure.

Ans. not used in any way only a
a farm home of myself & family

Ques. 13—When did you first make an actual personal settlement on this land? State what you did to make such settlement, and the character and value of the improvements you then placed upon the land.

Ans. April 10, 1882—built house 10 x 12—dug
well,— & dug stone & frame about
1 acre of the tract — value—\$200

Ques. 14—Was the land occupied by any other person when you made such settlement? If so, state who lived there and how you obtained possession.

Ans. No— I obtained possession by
virtue of filing a settlement

Ques. 15—When did you actually move on this land and commence living permanently thereon?

Ans. Sept 1st 1882—

Ques. 16—Where has been your actual personal residence and home during the whole time since the date of this filing or entry?

Ans. on said Homestead, Sept 1st sec. 2—T^h 99 R^g 6th

Ques. 17—Has your residence on the land now claimed been actual or constructive, continuous or at intervals? Explain what you mean by actual continuous residence.

Ans. actual, continuous, an actual occup
of the tract all the time and
cultivation of the tract

Ques. 18—Have you resided or boarded elsewhere than on this land since commencing your residence thereon? If so, state when and where, how often, and for how long?

Ans. No

Ques. 19—Where have you voted since establishing residence on this land, and where did you last vote, and how long have you voted there?

Ans. at usual voting place for said Loc— same place,
since April 7, 1882 I have never voted elsewhere

Ques. 20—How many times have you been absent from said tract since you commenced actual residence thereon? Give the dates when such absence commenced and terminated, and the cause therefor.

Ans. never been only once temporarily absent then from
Sept. 10, 1885, to Nov. 1st 1885, when I went
to Demans Dorra for the purpose of
getting married

Ques. 21—Have you a family, and of whom does your family consist?

Ans. Yes—myself wife & one child,
was a single man up to Sept. 1885—

Ques. 22—Has your family resided with you on this claim? If so, state when they moved on the land, how long they have lived there, and whether they actually reside there still

Ans. Yes—Nov. 1, 1885 shortly after marriage—since then
where they now actually live

Ques. 23—If your family has been absent any part of the time since moving on the land, state the causes for and dates when each absence commenced and terminated.

Ans. not been absent at
any time since Nov. 1, 1885

Ques. 24—When and by whom was your house built? Is it habitable at all seasons of the year?

Ans. first house by myself in Feb^y 1882—2nd house in July 1883—
Yes.

Ques 25—Did you and your family live in said house during all of each or any winter since the date of your filing or entry? If not, state the duration and causes of each absence.

Ans. Yes Since Nov. 1885—

Ques 26—If your family has not lived with you on this claim since the date of your filing or entry, state the causes therefor, where did they reside, and where are they now living?

Ans. My family have lived on the land with me all the time since shortly after our marriage in Sep. 1885— from Nov. 1885, where they now live the same.

Ques 27—Do you own any other residence house than the one now on your claim? If so, state where, and who occupies the same.

Ans. No.

Ques 28—Describe fully the house on this claim, giving value thereof; also describe fully all other improvements thereon of whatever kind, giving the value of each and total value of all improvements.

Ans. Frame house 14x22, 10 ft high, add. 8x8, shingle roof. 2 ft 2 outside & 3 inside doors & 6 windows worth \$200.— Stone frame stable 15x32 worth \$125.— two wells—one 12 ft deep & one 17 ft deep both walled up with stones worth \$50, about 6000 cultivated trees worth \$800.— 3 acres fenced pasture worth \$20.— 70 acres broken & cultivated worth \$210.— total \$805.—

Ques 29—What farm implements do you own and use on this claim? State kind and number, and how long you have owned the same.

Ans. Harvester, plows, harrows, — wagon, small tools &c — — partly since Spring of 1882

Ques 30—What domestic animals and live stock do you own and keep on this claim? State kind and number of each kind.

Ans. 3 horses, 4 ^{heads} cattle — 2 hogs — 100 chicken 7 Turkeys, — 3 cats & one dog

Ques 31—State what articles of furniture of every kind you keep and use in your residence on this claim, and how long you have had them there.

Ans. Stone, 3 beds & bedding, 2 tables, — 8 chairs cupboard, — dishes, — cooking utensils &c — — partly since Spring of 1882

Ques 32—Have you any personal prop. erty or live stock of any kind elsewhere than on this claim? If so, describe the same, and state where the same is kept.

Ans. No.

Ques 33—How many seasons have you raised crops on this land, and what kind of crop have you raised each season?

Ans. 5 season wheat oats flax corn & garden

Ques 34—How many acres have you put in crop each year, and how much did you raise? State the amount in bushels of each kind.

Ans. 1882 broke 1 acre. — 1883, 10 acres cropped to flax corn & garden — 1884, 30 acres cropped to flax corn & garden, 1885, 40 acres cropped to wheat oats flax & garden 1886, 60 acres cropped to wheat 80 bu. flax 30 bu. oats 225 corn 50

Ques 35—Have you the land in crop this year; or is it prepared for cropping the coming season? How much of the land is so cropped or prepared?

Ans. 70 acres cropped 1887.— partly harvested have fall plowed about 20 acres for cropping 1888

Ques 36—Do you carry on any trade, profession, or business elsewhere than on this land? If so, state what business you have been engaged in while claiming this land, where it was carried on, and the distance from your claim.

Ans. No — No —

Ques 37—If you have been employed in working for others away from this claim since you established residence thereon, state when, where, and for whom, in what occupation or capacity, how long you have so worked, and where you staid and lived during that time.

Ans. No. never worked away & only changing work occasionally with neighbors usually staying

HOMESTEAD.

Land Office at Yankton, Dakota
September 30th, 1887

FINAL CERTIFICATE,
 No. 4695

APPLICATION,
 No. 5614

It is hereby certified That, pursuant to the provisions of Section No. 2291, Revised Statutes of the United States, William Backhaus, of Douglas Co, D^t has made payment in full for the lots numbered one and two and the south one half of the north east quarter

of Section No. two (2), in Township No. ninety-nine (99) N. of Range No. Eighty-two (62) West, of the 5th Principal Meridian, containing 161 + 80 ¹⁰⁰ acres.

Now, therefore, be it known, That on presentation of this Certificate to the COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, the said William Backhaus shall be entitled to a Patent for the Tract of Land above described.

Hughes East
 Register.

(7632-23 M.)

Excess paid No. 1668.

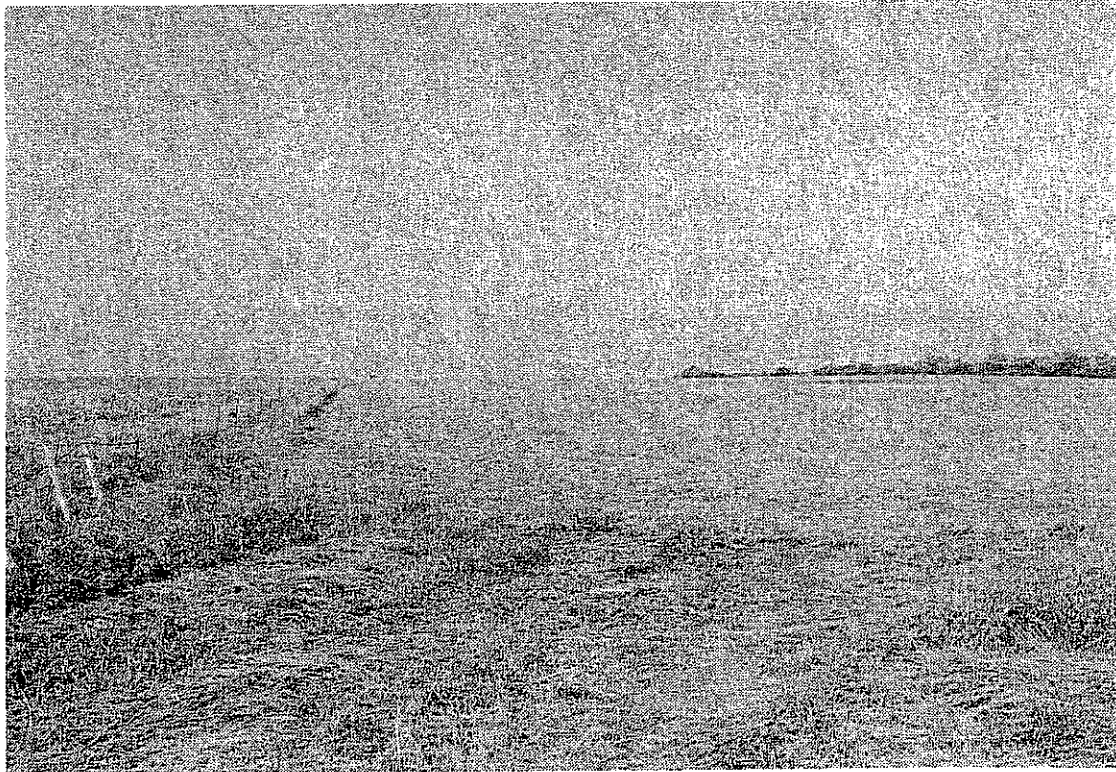
Location of the 160 Acres owned by
Wm. H. & Emilie Bockhaus (9 miles west of
Parker S.D.)

BOCKHAUS
1891-1903

Evangelic Cem.

Roadside Park

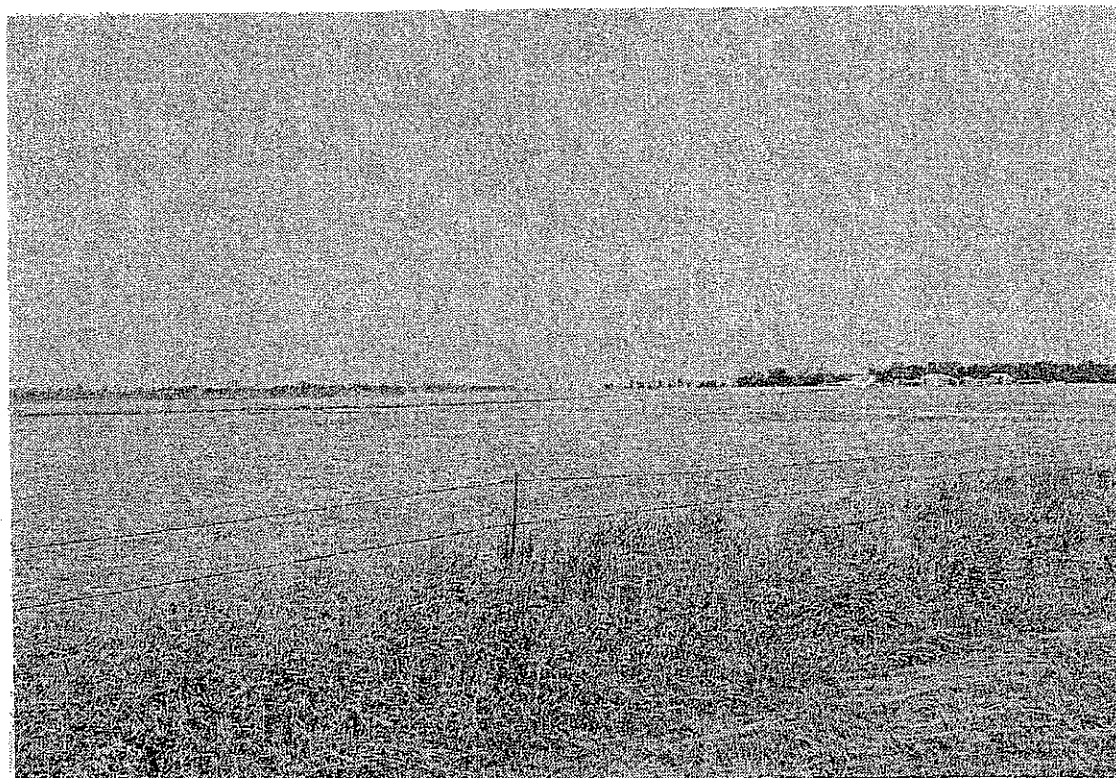
PARKSTON 8 MI.
PARKER 51 MI.

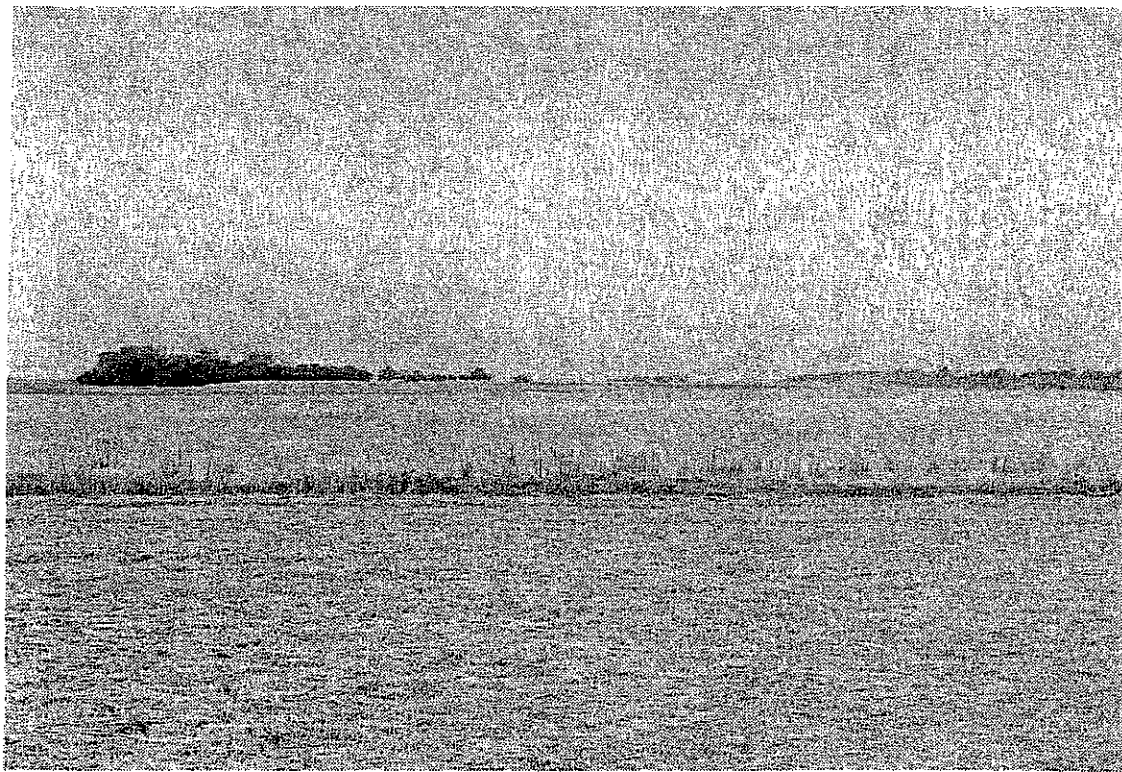


ABOVE - Looking west along the south fence of the land that Wm. Bockhaus homesteaded in 1882.

(1998)

BELOW - Looking NW from the east line of the homestead. The buildings in the background belong to the man that owns the property. His Dad bought it soon after my grandparents moved, and later became the property of their son who still owns it. There are no buildings on the property.



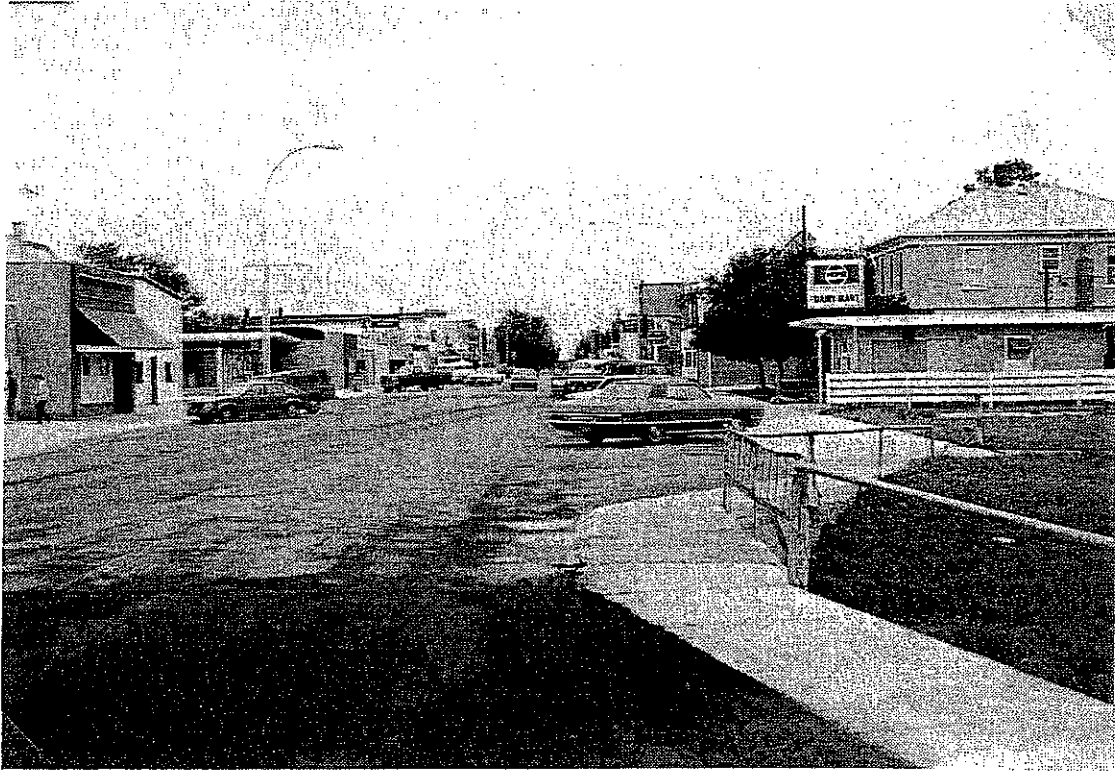


ABOVE - Looking west from approx. the center of the property.
The trees in the background are just west of the property.

Taken in 1998

BELOW - Looking south along the west fence of the property.





Looking east along main street, Parkston, South Dakota

Sept. 1994

Looking west along main street, Parkston, South Dakota



The following 20 pages are a copy of an article written by Frances Penner. I have inserted it here because in it is a very good description of life in South Dakota in the late 1800s. As you can tell from the article, life was not easy. Of course as the children were growing up, they didn't know that it was that bad as that is all they knew.

When Mavis and I visited the area in Sept. of 1998, I tried to imagine what it must have been like before cars and paved roads. The place they lived is still kind of out in the sticks, but with paved roads close by, it is not so bad. Parkston is still a small town, but is a nice town. Of course now with cars and paved road, Mitchell is not that far away, time wise.

In the article She tells about the death of their brother Bill. I have mentioned this farther in this article, and will have some comments about that subject. As you will see Bill was a very important part of Dad's life when he first moved to Colorado.

The following is a copy of an article written by Frances Penner;

When I was small, we did not have radios or TV. No cars, and no electricity. But we did not miss those things because we did not know what it was like to have them. My mother and father both liked to read and many evenings my mother would read to us or may be tell of her life in the old country, or the years she spent in Iowa before she and Dad were married and then moved to a home-
stead in South Dakota in 1885. Her stories were interesting to me and I hope will be to my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren because they are true and maybe you will realize how much courage and faith it took for them to leave their home-
land, cross the ocean and settle in a new country and make new friends.

A long time ago in the province of Pommerania in Germany in a little town called Rhunow lived a family named Falk. The father was Ernst Falk. He was born Sept 11, 1824. His first wife died and left him with a little girl, Augusta Caroline. His second wife was Frederieka Vöks. She was born Nov. 26, 1828. The father was a tall man and his wife was very small. He worked for the rich landowners and groomed their horses. On May 7, 1858, they had a son Wilhelm Fredrick Herman, On Oct. 21, 1862, another son was born, Franz Herman. Then on Oct. 14, 1864, they had a little sister, Emilie Augusta Henrietta. When she was two years old another little sister, Wilhelmina Caroline Ernestine, was born March 4, 1867. Then on Dec. 24, 1869, another girl joined the family named Bertha Augusta Wilhelmina Ernestina. When Bertha was ten years old the mother became very sick. The doctor did not know what to do and the mother died in 1879. When Emilie came to Halstead, she told Dr. Hertzler the symptoms her mother had. He said he was sure that she died of a ruptured appendix.

When the mother died they had dressed her in a black dress, a white petticoat underneath, a little of the white lace could be seen after she was laid out. They put her on a pallet of straw in the attic where it was cool until a casket was provided for the funeral. The attic was a storage place for all their linens and dried fruit, etc., plus their long linen handwoven table-cloths used on special occasions such as weddings or funerals. Sometime after the mother had died Emilie had sent the little sister Bertha to the attic to get something. When Bertha got up there she thought she saw her mother alive again standing there throwing straw over her head. She said she even saw the white lace of her mother's petticoat. Screaming she came downstairs to tell what she had seen. When Emilie went up to investigate there was no one there. Later they found out it was a neighbor lady who was up there stealing all their good table linens. She threw straw over her face so Bertha would not recognize her. The house was built for four families with a big central chimney. Beside the chimney was a crawl space where a small person could squeeze through. This neighbor was the only one small enough to get through that space. Bertha said she even saw the white lace on her petticoat.

2

Emilie and Wilhelmina had all the house work to do and go to the pasture to get the cows and milk them which was women's work. One family had all boys so some of the boys had to do the milking. Emilie fell in love with one of the boys. His name was August Luebke. But her brothers teased her so much for falling in love with a boy who had to do women's work that in time the romance seemed to cool. After they had married someone else they lived as neighbors for nearly twenty years.

The older brother Wilhelm wanted to see America so he migrated with some friends and found work around LeMars, Iowa. In 1882 the father and younger son and the three girls came to America. They came lower class by boat and then by train to LeMars, Iowa. The conductor on the train on the last part of the trip was a Mr. Williams who took an interest in the poor immigrants who besides their luggage carried a chamber pot with them. Mr Williams took the second girl, Minnie, into his home to work. His wife was ailing and needed help. When Mrs. Williams died, Minnie took care of the youngest girl, Mildred, and raised her. Later Mildred took Minnie into her home in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and she died there in 1934. She had been engaged to a young man, Wm. Hanke. He was in the U.S. Cavalry and fought in the Indian battle of Wounded Knee where he was injured and was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, where he died. Minnie came to Fort Riley and took his body back to Iowa to bury him. Minnie was a practical nurse and for some time was nurse and companion to the mother of the president of Sears Roebuck and Co. She was also a masseur and in later years was a crossing watchman in Glen Ellyn for the Northwestern Railroad.

Emilie found a job with the family of Hubst in LeMars. He was co-owner of the hardware firm of Haas & Hubst. She had a hard time learning English. Instead of saying today she always said heut today. One time they served watermelon to company and when Emilie went to the kitchen to eat her piece she ate it right down to the hard green rind. Her boss came out and told her how to eat it. They were very good to her and had a lot of patience in teaching her American ways. She attended the Methodist Church in LeMars. The minister was a Rev. Dulitz and Mrs. Dulitz had an unmarried brother who also came to church. He worked in the hardware store. Emilie often said she noticed the tall young man because he had the bluest eyes she had ever seen. His name was Wm. H. Bockhaus and on Nov. 15, 1885, Emilie and Wm. were married by Rev. Dulitz. They moved to a homestead nine miles west of Parkston, S. Dakota. Wm. had homesteaded this in 1881 walking all the way from Yankston, S. Dakota, to stake his claim. But he decided he would rather work in a hardware store than farm. He had built a 2 room house before he went back to Iowa. But Emilie wanted a home of her own and was willing to take the hardships of a pioneer homestead wife, and hardships they were. Emilie made a home for the younger sister, Bertha, when she wasn't working in someone's home. Her father also stayed with her until her brother Herman got married and then he stayed there part-time. A young man named George Baum from Fon du Lac, Wisc., also took up a homestead nearby. He courted and married Bertha Falk on Dec. 14, 1889.

Homesteading was hard work but all the families were the same. Everyone had lots of babies and everyone was poor. No doctors for many miles. Two neighbor women did most of the doctoring and midwifery - Mrs. Skode and Mrs. Bielauff. If one was going to have a baby herself then the other one would come. On June 29, 1886, Will and Emilie had a baby boy, William Ernst. Father Ernst Falk came to stay with them although Emilie's brother Herman had homesteaded only a half mile south and when he was married to Augusta Maus, Father Falk stayed part-time with them. Augusta was so very neat and particular that he wanted to stay with Emilie but Will wasn't easy to get along with an older person so he spent his time between the two places. On October 23, 1887, another little boy arrived, Louis Benjamine. Emilie had to make over clothes. The only relative she had that sent her clothes was Minnie, but Emilie was good at making over. One time Minnie sent her a nice coat for winter. One day instead of hanging it up she laid it on the couch. Above the couch was the clock shelf. On the shelf they kept the necessary medicines and disinfectants. One day Bertha was cleaning off the clock shelf and accidentally dropped the carbolic acid bottle on the coat and it ate a hole in the material. For several years Emilie wore a patched coat to church. Carbolic acid was a household disinfectant. Diluted with water it was used for cleansing wounds.

On Nov. 4, 1890, another boy was born, Albert Henry (Abbie). Then on Feb. 13, 1893, a fourth boy was born. He was such a big boy - twelve pounds - that Emilie had a very hard birth and the midwife did the best she could but Emilie got infection. When she finally went to a doctor in Parkston he told her it was a miracle she was alive because he was sure she had a case of blood poisoning but was healthy enough to get over it. But she had no more babies for five years. The doctor told her that having such a hard birth the afterbirth was torn and either the midwife didn't notice it or maybe didn't know what to do about it. A doctor would have noticed it right away. So some was expelled like it should have and nature had to take care of it.

Now whenever Emilie went to town she was known as the woman with four boys. Then someone told her there was a magic for having girls so on Feb. 3, 1898, a Thursday, when the three boys were walking home from school little Bennie ran to tell them that that morning they got a little sister. Everyone was so happy and they named her Emma Franziska, but they learned there was a cousin Emma in Nebraska and they admired Frances Williard so she became Frances Emma. Willaim took complete care of the baby. Emilie thought it was because he was so happy that it was a girl. He really was afraid to have Emilie find out that the baby had deformed feet. They were similiar to club feet turned inward. Emilie was a very smart and resourceful woman. She also had a lot of faith and believed in the power of prayer. She knew that a babies bones were soft and pliable. She told them to bring her cotton, cardboard, scissors, needle and thread. She proceeded to massage the little ankles and sewed little casts

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of cotton and cardboard around the feet so they would gradually straighten out, which they did, but Emilie always had her wear shoes to strengthen the ankles and she walked on straight feet the rest of her life. When a bone specialist examined her feet sixty years later he said, your mother must have been a very wonderful woman because she did more than a doctor would have known what to do. Then on July 25, 1901, Emilie had another boy -- Walter George. She said she had forgotten to stay with her recipe for girls.

The protestant homesteaders had started a Sunday School in the country school. Sunday School was every Sunday but preaching was only certain Sundays when a preacher was available or when some babies were to be baptized or when there was a funeral. The funerals were held in the home and so were the baptismal services. When Emilie's brother Herman's wife died she left four little children - John, Louis, August (Euti), and Nora. A girl, Minnie, had died of whooping cough. The Mother gave Nora to a childless neighbor couple before she died. Herman soon married a neighbor girl, Augusta Skode. She was only 18 years old. When they had two little girls, little Euti was frail and when the stepmother would set him on his little pottie outside he always looked toward the cemetery and called his mother. When he died the funeral was in the home and it was crowded. When the newest baby cried Emilie reached across the little casket and picked her up which was a bad omen. The women said because of that Alma the baby would never grow up but she lived to be past 70 years old.

There were many tragedies among the homesteaders. One family named Liebswager had three little children. The father thought the mother should help him with field work. Many wives did help as much as possible. One woman did help even when her labor pains started. The grain or hay had to be harvested. Winter food for humans and animals was important. One day Mrs. Liebswager came home and her three small children were nearly smothered in a smoke filled sod house, but by getting them out in fresh air they revived them. Several weeks later a neighbor came to get Emilie and said they needed her at the Liebswagers. Three children had smothered to death. Emilie told him they had been revived and he said, "No, this time it's true and they are dead." So she got in the wagon and drove over with him. When she got there three little bodies were stretched out on the kitchen table. It left such an impression on Emilie that she never let anyone lay a baby on a table, which mothers often did to wrap them in a shawl before going out in the cold. Even after she had grandchildren she never allowed anyone to do that. What had happened this time was that the sod house door could be easily opened from the outside by a latch but they needed the stove poker to open the door from the inside. The biggest boy took the poker outside to play and forgot and left it lay outside. He came inside and put some cow chips into the stove and they smoked and smoldered instead of burning. Soon the room was full of choking smoke. He tried to open the door but without the poker he couldn't get it open. When the mother came in from

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the field all three children were dead. The boy was by the door, the baby in the cradle. They did not call an undertaker. The neighbor women washed the little bodies and dressed them and the neighbor men made the little caskets. They had a family of six or seven after that. One time this mother had come along with her husband when he came to see Wm. on some business. Emilie had just baked coffee cakes and while visiting gave her a piece. She just held it in her hand and when Emilie said, don't you like it? she said, Oh yes, but I want to take it home to the children so they can also taste it. Knowing Emilie she probably sent a whole coffee cake home with her.

Fuel for heating and cooking was scarce on the prairie. Very few trees but plenty of dried cow chips or buffalo chips. The droppings from the animals when dry made good fuel. It was a good idea to gather them just on your own land. When the two older boys got big enough Willaim made a two wheeled cart for them to pull and go out and gather chips. The wheels were made of wood and weren't perfectly round. and after Will and Louie were grown men they often spoke of that cart and how hard it was to pull on bumpy wheels. Prairie grass was plentiful so when a hot fire was needed for baking bread Emilie would stuff an old wash boiler with twists of prairie hay, then take the front lids off the stove, upset the boiler of hay and the oven would get hot enough to bake an oven full of bread and a big pan of buns. Sometimes when they ran low on hay or snow had covered all the chips and those in the shed were all gone they resorted to burning corn. It was cheaper than coal which they couldn't afford. Everyone dressed warm in wool flannel shirts. Everyone had to wear long underwear. Women all knitted sweaters & stockings and caps. Anyone was an artist who could smooth down long underwear and put on long stockings so the leg looked smooth. If you were careless it looked like a piece of sausage wrapped around your leg.

Neighbors were anyone within driving distance. After Emilie became acquainted with one of her neighbors, Mrs. Palmer, she learned a very unusual story about her. Years before at a party by the young people for miles around, a young man who was a stranger to most of them got up and asked jokingly if there was anyone who would like to get married. There was always someone who would go along with a joke. This time an older batchler said he would and when the young man asked who would marry him a beautiful young woman said she would knowing it was a prank. After the young man went thru the whole ceremony, he pronounced them man and wife and then told them he was a minister and they were legally married. It must have been before licenses were required and separations were unheard of so she stayed with him and made him a good home and raised a family. Emilie often expressed great admiration for this wonderful woman.

Church was in the school house and benches were the school desks. When sermons got to long it was easy for children to put their heads down on the desk tops and sleep. One of the Heidner boys fell asleep during one of the sermons and started reaching around

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and finally said out loud, Teador wo ist mein kissen? Theodore where is my pillow. Theodore was his brother and bed partner.

When Sunday morning came the women and children got all dressed for church when they got up except to put an everyday dress on because time went fast with breakfast and chores and driving to church in either a wagon or spring wagon. So it didn't take long for a last minute change to the Sunday clothes. Most women wore a shirt waist of blouse and a heavier and darker skirt with a placket in the back which closed with hooks and eyes. In every community there are some who think they are a little better than the others. As one woman walked down the aisle she walked with a sort of swag. This particular morning she dressed in a hurry and as she pulled up her skirt part of her petticoat or underskirt pulled up and part of it stuck out through the placket and as she walked the part that stuck out wagged back and forth like a tail.

It took good management to keep a family healthy and well fed. Everyone had gardens. Root crops grew well only one year. Will and Emilie raised only one sack of potatoes. They had cabbage or could buy it and make it into sauerkraut. Cucumbers were made into pickles. Tomatoes were used as vegetables. Syrup buckets were used for canning. After putting the hot cooked vegetables or fruit in and the lids put on a sealing wax was melted and poured around the edge of the lid. Emilie used the tomatoes as fruit, too, by adding sugar and some lemon slices. Dried fruit was bought in 25 lb. boxes such as raisens, prunes, apricots, peaches, and pears. Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward put out a grocery catalogue. A square sweet cracker in big boxes was also a luxury. Another luxury was jelly in small wooden buckets. It always seemed to have a taste from the wooden bucket. Soda crackers were bought in big wooden boxes. They raised their own hogs so had hams, bacons, smoked sausages, lard, and some was put in brine and later cooked with sauerkraut or dried beans. Maybe there was a beef too which could be butchered. Some was fried down, brined or maybe hung in an outside building and frozen and steaks or roasts cut off as needed. They raised corn and wheat and Will took some of the grain to Milltown where it was ground into flour and corn meal. Milltown was a settlement of Mennonites called Hutterites. They lived in colony houses. The mill was powered by a big water wheel run by a stream running through the colony. The little boys liked to go along because there was good fishing in the river and they always had to stay overnight. It was too far for the horses to make the trip in one day. One time Albert cried and cried when it was time to go to bed. He kept saying "Ick will nicht the Mennoniten schlafen." "I don't want to sleep with the Mennonites." No one thought then that someday their sister would marry a Mennonite and live with him for forty four years and also join the Mennonite church. It was a different branch of the Mennonite church than those in South Dakota.

Christmas was always a big day. There was no money to buy store toys, but Emilie was very good at making things. Some of the homesteaders had relatives in Iowa or Wisconsin who would send a box at Christmas time. Will and Emilie had no one except Minnie and she always remembered them. Will's family paid no attention to them even though his mother was still living. She was poor, too. Christmas meant new clothes for the Christmas program and homemade toys, especially stuffed animals. And always there were figure cookies - horses, birds, stars, trees and bells. One year Emilie had all the toys and cookies in a nice white clean flour sack. Will had gone to town and when he got home he drove under a tree and standing on the sked hung the sack as high as he could. The next morning the little boys found the sack and when they got it down they ran to the house and told their parents how they knew Santa Claus (Weihnachtsman) had hung it there because they saw his sled tracks. Emilie often laughed about it because in their excitement they never noticed that the tracks ended where Will had left the sled when he unhitched the horses and put them in the barn. One year Will had fastened a string to a cow bell upstairs. While standing by the stove to warm his back he pulled the string and they heard the bell upstairs where Emilie had put their gifts. By the time they got upstairs Santa Claus was gone already but they found their gifts. It didn't take expensive toys to make them happy. There never was a Christmas without a big batch of figure cookies. The only decoration on them was colored sugars. Sometimes an egg white was beaten stiff, some sugar beaten in and spread on the cookies and then colored sugars shaken on. These were special.

Wm. and Emilie's homestead wasn't too far from the Rosebud Indian Reservation-about forty miles. A couple of miles from their home was a section of ground called the school section. Here the Indians camped during the summer as they wandered around over the country and in the neighborhood sometimes begging and sometimes just taking. They were mostly Sioux. One day Emilie had baked some bread and also a big pan of buns when an Indian buck came to the door telling her he needed food for a sick papoose. Knowing he just wanted white man's food she gave him some fresh buns because she didn't have much else to give him. As soon as he got back to camp and spread the word, four more buck came all with the same stories -- need food, sick papooses. Often they had beautiful bead work or moccasins to trade for food or chickens. Especially did they like to trade for chickens. One day Emilie traded an old hen for a beautiful beaded pincushion which after 75 years is still in the family. The Indians roamed over the country and on the prairies and dug for Indian turnips which were a low growing plant with small potato-like roots. These were also found on Kansas prairies. If the homesteaders saw the Indians coming they would often lock their doors and pull the shades and pretend not to be at home. Once Emilie and Bertha saw them coming. They locked the door and pulled the shades. Just as the Indians walked past the window something happened and the shade flew up with a bang. Emilie and Bertha were more scared than the Indians.

One late summer as the currants were ripening in the ravine north of the house, there were so many Emilie decided she would can some for winter use. Only that meant a trip to town for she had no more empty cans or jars. Luckily this was William's turn to go to Parkston to get the mail for the neighbors and themselves. They were running low on kerosene for the lamps. too. In a short time Emilie had gotten the little boys ready and brought up a basket of eggs from the cellar which she would trade for groceries. While she was waiting for Will to harness the horses and hitch them to the wagon she packed some bread and slices of boiled ham for their dinner. Then telling the dog Rover to mind the place they were on their way to Parkston nine miles to the east. On the way they noticed some of the neighbors were starting to mow some prairie hay getting ready for the long winter ahead. They admired some of the wheat stacks that were put up so straight and round. Those that leaned a little were probably put up by a careless homesteader. The little boys watched for the birds that flew out of the roadside grass. Some prairie chickens that whirled through the air and the rabbits that hopped along the roadside were also interesting. It was like a picnic for the boys and the shaking of the wagon made them hungry so they ate lunch as soon as Will tied the horses to the hitching rack. The town pump was near so everyone including the horses had a nice cool drink. Will had business in the hardware store. Besides the nails he needed he got lots of news. Emilie and the boys got their supplies. Eggs had gone up in price. Instead of five cents a dozen they were six cents so Emilie could buy some calico and make each of the boys a shirt. They chose the red calico with little black horseshoes on it.

Each neighbors mail was tied up with a piece of string that the grocery man had given them so there would be no mixup. Mail was the homesteaders only contact with the outside world and how they treasured every letter. Some got a weekly or monthly paper and some got a roll of papers from the old home in Wisc. or Iowa. Soon they were on their way home. Horses always knew when they were on their way home. They trotted all the way. The little boys had seen the grocery man put in some sticks of candy in the grocery box, but Emilie said they could only have half a stick each, but they were satisfied with that and spread their licks far apart. Will told Emilie of the new neighbors from Wisconsin moving in before winter, hoping they might come to their Sunday School which they attended every Sunday in the little school house. Good news too that there would be preaching next Sunday and in the afternoon the newest babies would be baptized in the different homes. Soon they were home but they wondered why Rover didn't come to meet them. He wasn't even in the barn when Will unhitched the horses. Still wondering, Will stopped at the chicken house to feed the chickens and gather the eggs and check on some setting hens. There were no setting hens and no eggs. When he reported to Emilie they decided to look around and went to the current patch. Bushes were stripped of currants but there were many moccasin traks. Finding no one to barter with the roving indians just helped themselves. Two days later Rover came home, the fur all worn from his neck where he had tugged to get loose.

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Thereby the Indians didn't have dog soup but the hens and currents never came back. They were gone for good.

January 12, 1886, started out as a nice warm winter day. The sun was shining and many of the farmers decided to go to town for supplies. No radios to tell them of any change in the weather. First they had to harness the horses and hitch them to the wagon. Horses didn't travel as fast as cars so getting to town took awhile. Many didn't see the cloud coming so fast in the northwest while they were in town. But by the time their supplies were loaded and the horses hitched to the wagon or sled the blizzard was nearly there. Most of them started home. It was such a blinding blizzard that the drivers couldn't see the road so they just let their horses lead the way. Some got out and followed fences until they got to a house or shelter. Some upset their sleds and crawled under and survived. Everyone had coats made of buffalo or cow hides and also buffalo skin robes. Many did freeze to death. The storm came up so quick and it was more like sleet than snow. Uncle George said it was like little icicles and it was impossible to face the storm and horses soon had their faces covered with ice. Emilie's brother Herman was building a house for his young bride about a 1/4 mile from their place. He had gone to work there that morning but his bride stayed with Emilie. Will started for the house when the storm got bad. He luckily ran into the wash line post and followed the wash line to the house where one end was fastened. Herman wrapped a comfort around himself and started walking and got lost. One place he kicked up an ash pile so he knew he was near a house but he couldn't find the house and was too bashful to call so he kept on walking. A Minister from Wisc. was stranded at Herman Heidner's further down the road. He had experienced storms before so he would go outdoors every little bit and call just in case someone might be lost. Herman heard this call and answered and by calling back and forth and following the call he was saved. Emilie often said Herman's young bride took it so hard when her man didn't come home she knew he was lost.

That storm took many human lives and much livestock. Nothing could be done until it was over and the settlers went out to see what they could find. Some were alive under their upset sleds. Many weren't that lucky. The storm covered several states and they had no warning and it came so quick. Settlers depended on previous experience. Without radios or telephones they were on their own and the day started unusually mild for that time of year.

Homes did not have central heating. Only the very rich had a furnace in the basement which sent heat into every room through ventilators or pipes. But on the homesteads or early homes, bedrooms were not heated and there was nothing nicer than snuggling down in a bed in the winter in which our mother had first put some good warm flat irons wrapped in newspaper to warm where our feet would be in the bed.

Some beds had nice feather beds which were two pieces of ticking the size of the bed sewed together like a sack and stuffed with feathers from geese or ducks. A certain time of the year they would molt or start losing their old feathers and grow new ones. They were caught and all the feathers that came off easy were pulled and put in the ticking. They said it didn't hurt but they always did a lot of squawking anyway. In a large family there were never enough feather beds so big sacks were sewed from nice white flour sacks which had been washed enough so the print was all out, or maybe made from unbleached muslin. These were filled with clean bright straw from the new straw stack. Or often after the corn sheller had shelled the corn in the fall there were a lot of soft inner shucks that were used in place of straw. Straw sometimes would stick but shucks made the most noise. It was an art to know just how much filling to put in these ticks. Every morning these ticks were shaken up good and puffy before the blankets and quilts or comforts were put on. To crawl into those rustling beds at night was a luxury no modern child can imagine.

Will always was supposed to get up first and start the fire in both the cook stove and heater. The night before some corn cobs were put in to soak in a can of kerosene or coal oil. Then in the morning some soaked cobs were put in either stove, a match put to them, and slivers of shaved wood or kindling put on the fire and soon it would begin to warm up. Coal oil was never poured on the kindling. There might be a few embers from the night before and it would form a gas and small explosion. "Can I dress by the heater?" was often heard. One would have to turn around several times while dressing or one side would bake and the other side freeze. The cook stove oven door was opened to heat the kitchen quicker or maybe some cold shoes were set near the stove or on the oven door to warm up a little. Mittens always found their place there either to warm up before going out to do chores or to dry after coming in from choring and getting wet from the snow. The oven door was a good place to warm cold feet. A small piece of wood laid nearly in the oven, pull up a chair and stick your feet in and in a short time they were warm and dry. Mom Emilie often had trouble getting a meal and dishes washed. The big dish pan with water was put on the back of the stove and dishes put in with a good sudsing of homemade soap. It kept the water hot and with homemade lye soap it kept a scum from forming around the sides of the pan. A string behind the stove dried the dish towels. In winter a wood stove was wonderful but in summer it was a different story.

Whenever butter got scarce they used lard on their bread. Emilie liked it especially on rye bread. After a slice was spread with lard a little salt was shaken on. Will didn't like it. He thought he had to have molasses. Every time they went to town the molasses jug went along to be filled. It was a stone jug, one or two gallon size. Will liked to visit when he got to town so when he got ready to go home he loaded everything except the molasses jug. It was filled from a big wooden barrel that had a spigot. Emilie often said it sure taught Will a lesson. For two weeks he had to be satisfied with lard bread. No one went to town oftner than every two weeks.

Will liked to visit so if anyone drove in the yard the first thing he did was go out, keep one foot on the ground and the other one on one of the wheel spokes and there was no way for the visitor to drive away without hurting Will or being rude. He had no schooling or very little. He learned to read and write when Emilie helped the boys with their school work in the evening. He did a lot of reading as he got older but when he wrote he spelled the words just like they sounded. No extra letters. Evidently his mother didn't think schooling was necessary. It was Emilie who wanted her children educated. Will thought all you needed was to get by.

My dad Will was always cold when the Dakota winters came so he wanted to go to a warmer climate. Mom said there were times when she could hardly get a meal, he was huddled right in front of the stove. Mom wanted to stay in Dakota. She had her own home and she had nice neighbors, but Dad had a wandering foot. He was never satisfied to stay in one place too long. Mom's brother Herman

Falk decided he could buy cheap land in Canada so he decided to move to Alberta. Some of the other neighbors went to North Dakota. So Dad and Uncle George Baum decided to come to Kansas to look. Dad had been in Arkansas but for some reason didn't like it. Then he went to Oklahoma and didn't like it there. The evangelical minister there told them there was good land around Halstead, Kansas, so they got in touch with the Evangelical minister there and a Mr. John Bachman who was a sort of land agent. They liked the land and bought. The railroads had land excursions and land seekers could get special rates. After looking at several farms Dad bought one from Mr. Linn northwest of town and uncle George bought one from Mr. Stone southeast of town. While in Halstead the Linn's had asked him to eat dinner with them. It was winter and when Dad got home he told Mom they must be very rich people because they had lettuce in the wintertime. He had never heard of such a thing.

After they sold their Dakota farms a storm went through and the farm had a lot of damage so the new owner sued Dad. A law suit was the result. The folks moved to a neighbors place until they could move to Kansas in the spring of 1903. Father Falk wanted to come to Kansas with my Mother and Dad but Dad said no he didn't want him. My Mother cried so hard when they came to say goodbye. She never saw her father again. They went to Canada in April, 1902. He died in 1908. While we were living in the neighbor's house, Dad sold some livestock and didn't want anything to happen to that precious money so he put it in an empty baking powder can, tied a twine string around the can and since there was a cistern under the pantry of the house the other end of the string was fastened on the lid of the cistern. A cistern was a big hole in the ground with rock walls where excess water was stored from the runoff of the roof. When the folks wanted to get the money they pulled up the string and the can was gone. The constant moving of the twine had unraveled it and they had a hard time getting that floating can out of the water.

Mom always felt the lawyers were not fair to them so when they were already in Parkston getting ready to get on the train, Mom made one more trip to the lawyer's office. There she had the satisfaction of telling him what she thought and taking her diaper sachel hit lawyer Shaw across the face.

Mom and Aunt Bertha had done a lot of baking to put in the big lunch baskets. The neighbors had a farewell for them the evening before they left and hospitable Mom served some of her bakery lunch so they tried to replace some things from the store when they got to town. Uncle George Baum and brother Will who was 17 went with the freight car in which they had their horses, cows, chickens, household goods, some implements, and feed for all the livestock besides food for the two men. In the passenger car were Mom and Dad and their five other children. Aunt Bertha Baum and their five children too. Evidently the children got restless at times because there were some sharp words with other passengers and even a fight among themselves. The children ranged from 16 years to 1 year. Stopping in Kansas City the smaller children were fascinated by the lunch counter, especially how they could dry a stack of plates.

They got to Halstead March 15, 1903, in the morning. After being on the train so long, as soon as they got out all except the three littlest ran down the main street like a bunch of wild indians. It was close to Easter so the store windows were quite an attraction with Easter eggs and other Easter decorations. The freight car didn't arrive until later in the day, but faithful Evangelical church members were there to load up and take things to the two homes. All I remember is riding on a lumber wagon loaded with household things and Herman Bachman was the driver. The folks who had moved out of the house had scrubbed the floors very clean but some neighbor boys had gotten in the house and tracked mud all over the floors, and when Mom looked close she found the corners and cracks alive with bedbugs. After Mom got her family fed and got the beds ready she found her old rocking chair which helped her weather many storms. She sat and cried bitterly. A new home among strange people. But being a true pioneer she did her best to adjust to her new surroundings. She fought the bedbugs first. They had no insecticides. If they got into the joints of the wooden beds a person didn't get much of a night's sleep. Hot water or kerosene were the only remedies they knew. The hot water ruined the finish on the wood and the kerosene left a bad smell.

The folks went to the small Evangelical church. Some of the members were Stamm's, Bachman's, Farber's, Holle, Baums, MesLange. Shortly after they moved to their new home the whole church came one evening for a housewarming. The church was located a block east of the corner of Spruce and Third. Dad was a dyed-in-the wool Methodist and every Sunday he managed to drive past the German M.E. Church at the corner of Third and Santa Fe. After a time the urge got too strong and he would stop and get off there while the rest of the family went on. Mom always said a family should not be divided so we all went to the M.E. church after a

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year or so. C. Herman was the minister. Some of the German Methodists were Ahren's, Barkemeyer's, Seiler's, Hoop's, Rodenberg's. Warkentin's, Lohmeyer's, Meyer's, Krehbiel's, Seip's, Heyman's, Boller's, Bauman's, Lehman's, Eyman's.

When Dad bought the place he asked Mr. Linn if the ground ever flooded. Mr. Linn said no it never had. (The last big flood had been in 1878) In 1903 it flooded some and a real flood came in 1904. Since some of the crops were lost, Mr. Linn did a decent thing and Dad didn't have to pay interest on some of the money Dad owed him.

The nearest neighbors were the A.J. Hassinger's. They originally came from Penn. and still talked the Pennsylvania Dutch which was easy for my folks to understand. She was a very neat housekeeper and her big house was always very "souber" which was Dutch for clean. They had a family of two grown sons and a daughter at home. One son, Rob, was married and living in Kansas City. The mother often talked of the son Jimmy who died when he was sixteen. Carrie, the daughter, was married in 1905. My mother helped at the wedding so I got to go too. First wedding I had been to and they really had a beautiful wedding. An arch of real flowers and candles had been built in the bay window. The minister told them to step back a little and during the ceremony the wax dripped on the bride's dress. She married Floyd Shafer. Charles later married Kathryn Thomas. Ira was a bachler but several years later married Lydia Kanth, a clerk in Lehman Bros. store. When the Shafer's had a baby she came home to have it. Mrs. Hassinger got my mother to come over and help. After everything was over they noticed the baby had a birth mark on one side of her face. They believed that applying the afterbirth would make the mark disappear but my mother had everything cleaned up. They always seemed to blame her for not delaying the clean up.

Other neighbors were the Spaeters. They had three grown sons. Several years later they had another son. Pete, the husband, believed that men should dominate the women. Mon used to help Annie, the mother, cook for threshers. She always had her potatoes cooked by 10 a.m. She would drain them and put a spoonful of lard on them, put the lid on and set them on the back of the stove until noon. Her cookies were hard as rocks. She wasn't a cook but a wonderful bread baker and she had a heart of gold. Since Mom was one of her few friends she often told her of the rough time she had. She worked for a prominent Mennonite family on the farm and she was treated like a slave. She had cut her thumb badly one time but had to keep up with the work. When Mr. Spaeter wanted to marry her it was a release from very hard work. The boys, Walter and Ed, often walked over to our place evenings to play Flinch and later Rook. When the river flooded the whole family came over and stayed a couple of days until the water went down. Mr. Spaeter was a cousin of the wealthy Linn's so they lived on a Linn farm as long as the parents lived.

Another neighbor was the Androes family. They lived NE across the river.

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There was a father and two sons and one daughter. Mr Androes came over evenings. When he went home late he always whistled especially when he crossed the bridge. He said it kept the spirits or ghosts away.

Will's lived northeast of us. The father, John Will, liked to read and so did my folks. The mother was busy having babies so didn't have time to visit. When Mr. Will came over they would sit up late and tell of happenings in Germany and of things they had read in the German papers, Die Germania and Die Lincoln Frie Press. Germania had a comedy column every week by Phillip Sauer-ampher. We always waited for Mom to read it to us. I was told to go to bed but my bedroom was over the kitchen and the floor had a ventilator so some of the kitchen heat could come up to my room. I made a lot of noise bouncing on the bed so they thought I was in bed and then I laid on the floor with my head on the opening and listened to those stories. Now I wonder how many of those stories were true experiences and how many were fantasies. I especially remember the stories of the caves in the old country and the giant skeletons they said they found and if it might be some of our ancestors since we were all so tall. Mr. Will liked to joke about his big family and how he made believe he couldn't milk so his wife did the milking. One evening in Dec. 1904 after we had been gone a few days visiting relatives near Furley, Kansas, Mr. Will came over and told my mother they had twin boys. He was very proud of that so my mother said, "Aber jeder strassen bub kann kinder machen es nimt ein kluger man sie nicht zu machen." "Every strut boy can make children but it takes a smart man not to make them."

Many years later(1924) my youngest brother married the oldest girl Marie. The old germans always called an older person onkel or tante. I wouldn't call Mrs. Will tante because I said she wasn't my aunt. After I was married to her nephew she told me, "now you will have to call me tante because now I am your aunt."

Other neighbors were the Miller's who lived across the pasture northwest of us. They were English old settlers who came to Harvey County in 1870. When we came to Kansas the family consisted of the old man, Allen Miller, who claimed he was nearly 100 years old, his son, Albert, known to everyone as "Ab", and the old man's granddaughter who had been the child of the old man's daughter. She had been Loretta Schoonover but was married to Bill Libbart and everone knew her as Tiny. Many wild stories were told of the Miller family. Ab was a blacksmith and sharpened all the plow shears for the neighbors. He also was a fidler. During the day I could hear the ring of the plow shears being hammered but quiet evenings we could hear the beautiful music of his fiddle as he relaxed on the back steps of their cabin. The house consisted of two rooms, one a living room, kitchen and bedroom for the two men and a lean to for a bedroom for the young couple. One night Ab came over carrying a lantern and woke up my folks and asked them to stop a fight between the old man Miller and the young folks. My folks took their lantern and wiked back with Ab. I don't know what the folks did but they

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but they restored peace. The old man started a fight because he wanted the door open between the two rooms and the young folks wanted privacy. There were two other Miller sons, Steve, who was married and claimed to be on the police force in Wichita, and Frank, who had been married and evidently had lived at home. His mother did not like his wife and rumors were that she poisoned the young woman and when the old lady was on her death bed she was having hallucinations and perhaps her conscience was bothering her and she kept screaming, "take her away." Hassinger's were driving to church on Sunday morning and the road was a quarter mile south and they said they could plainly hear her. Frank Miller had also tried to molest the oldest daughter of Dr. Hertzler and for that some men got together and tarred and feathered him. The neighbors said he sat for days by the natural spring which was on the place and tried to wash the tar off. Water didn't work so finally a doctor from town, Dr. Miller, came out and used something to get the tar off. Tiny often came to visit my mother and my mother also sewed for her. When she fitted some of the dresses on her she noticed her back was a mass of scars. When my mother asked her what they came from she said when she didn't want to do what the old man wanted he beat her. The old man always carried a long walking stick.

One day when the folks had gone to town I was alone in the house. The old man stood on the back porch and with his long stick knocked on the kitchen door. When I opened it he had a small bucket of sand plums. He said, "Sissy, here are some plums for your mamma." I emptied the bucket for him and when my mother got home she said, "I won't use the plums. That bucket was the old man's pot." When the old man died in 1908, the neighbor men put a screen door up. It was July and many flies and they kept the body in the home. Neighbor women came every day and sat in the yard. My mother and a neighbor sat all day. Every 15 minutes they went in the house and put a fresh cloth on the old man's face so it wouldn't discolor. The cloths were dipped in a pan of soda water. The day of the funeral, neighbor men had provided stumps with boards laid across for seats. The casket was placed on two tressles or saw horses under a shade tree. A neighbor brought a bouquet of sweet peas and my mother brought a bouquet of zinnies. Unbelievable when one sees all the flowers at services today. When bodies were kept in the home until service time, neighbors or friends would come over to spend the night, usually two couples. Coffee and cookies, sandwiches or rolls were left on the kitchen table. Coffee stayed hot on the range. The family could go to bed if they liked. It was called a wake or watch. It was a nice gesture so the family wasn't alone with their dead. The last watch I remember was in 1919 when my brother Bill died.

Transportation was by horse and buggy or a team and spring wagon or wagon. Many richer people had a surrey with a top or a two-seated top buggy or carriage. Like the top buggy which had one seat it had side curtains which could be let down and fastened when it rained or was cold. We only had a one-seated top buggy and a spring wagon which had two seats and was much lighter than

a wagon. The team Dad brought along from South Dakota and drove most of the time was Jim and Frank. Jim was a grey horse and Frank was a black. When driving, Jim was always a little ahead of Frank. Mom's buggy horse was a white horse named Nellie. The kids could also ride her. Flora was a mare that raised a pair of colts, one of which, Bess, became the driving horse of the older brothers when they had dates with girls. In the winter a thoughtful master always carried horse blankets and when they went to church or to town and horses stood by a hitching post several hours they were covered with horse blankets. Many churches had a row of sheds back of the church in which were stalls for two horses. The north, east and west sides were enclosed. My brothers parked their horses there while they walked their girl home after services on Sunday evening. Usually in front of the church was a small cement block with two or three steps where the driver would drive alongside and the ladies could step out of the buggy and step to the ground. Very nice for the ladies who wore long dresses. The first ride I had in a car was when a red touring car stopped a Harmony School just at four o'clock and asked if anyone was going east. We all piled in and rode for one-half mile. A thrill beyond imagination. About 1910 after my folks were buying cars like Reo, Maxwell, Studebakers and fords, I was hoping Dad would buy a bigger car than a Ford which was called a Flivver or Tin Lizzie. But I was happy when one Friday evening after high school in 1914 my brother Bill came to take me home in a new Ford. When we went to town with horses we had a mile of road which ran parallel to the RR tracks. We always hoped there would be no train coming because if there was one someone had to get out and hold the horses bridle or they would rear up. When cars first traveled the roads horses would act up and the driver had to hold the horses reins. Sometimes the car owner would be courteous and stop his car until the horses were past.

Saturday afternoon was the time to go to town to take in eggs and trade for groceries or sell the butter Mom had made into one - pound pats. When silent movies came to town some of us girls always scared up enough money to go to the matinee on Saturday afternoon. In the fall before cold weather it was time to make a shopping trip to Newton. Some years it was the same day there was a circus in Newton. Mom packed a lunch and we started early. Horses didn't travel very fast and it was about 14 miles. About three miles west of Newton along a hedge row we all got out for a rest stop. If there were public toilets in Newton we didn't use them or didn't know where they were. Maybe we would sneak in someones private one in their back yard. Dinner or lunch was eaten wherever the horses were tied. A dish of ice cream was a rare treat and so was a cone or soda pop. It was mainly a shopping trip. Kids needed shoes from McManus or Hanlins. Everone needed underwear and socks or stockings. Mom needed material for comforts. Either a new one made or an old one had to be recovered. Material was needed for aprons, men's shirts, and blue chambray for every day shirts was used while light colored material was used for Sunday ones. One year Mom came home with 90 yards of material besides thread, etc. Sometimes dry goods

(material) was ordered from Montgomery Wards or Sears Roebuck. They also had grocery catalogues, so prunes, raisins and other dried fruits were ordered in 25lb. wooden boxes. Also big sweet crackers and a special cookie with pink frosting. Sometimes jelly in a small wooden bucket was ordered and it seemed to have a wooden taste, too. Soda crackers were bought in big wooden boxes the same size and shape as in later years held 30 dozen eggs. Dad always finished a meal by putting crackers in his coffee cup and adding sugar and milk or more coffee.

Peddlers came by with their horse and buggy and sold flavorings, spices, medicines and salves. Mr. Lawrence, a cripple, also came. He sold some new things like sago and tapioca. After buying a certain amount he gave premiums like pretty dishes or cooking utensils. Watkins, Rawleigh and McNess Companies also had peddlers. Sometimes they would try and talk my mother onto letting them stay overnight. They got lodging, supper and breakfast, which was cheaper than going to town. Sometimes a peddler came who sold yard goods and my mother liked to sew, so she always bought some material.

When Dad had cattle to sell buyers came and bought and then would drive them to town either walking or on horseback. They were driven to stockyards in town and then picked up by freight train. Mr. Hunt was the local buyer in town. Some came from Wichita. Mr. Ahrens drove through the country and bought live chickens and eggs and sold them to the produce house in town then owned by Frizzell's. One fall Dad saw an ad from Texas where he could get 100lbs. of rice and he sent for it. My mother could fix rice in so many ways like breakfast food, puddings, and soups and we never got tired of it.

MAKING SOAP - All old grease or lard was hoarded only after it was too rancid or oily that it couldn't be used for frying potatoes or other things. Sometimes the cracklings were used. After enough was saved the big iron kettle was set up outside and grease, lye and water were put in and slowly cooked. Lye would dissolve the cracklings and after the right length of boiling when the mixture looked like thick honey it was poured in shallow wooden boxes which had been lined with wet white rags. By the next day it was hardened and then cut into big bars. If there was enough clean white grease, soap was made without boiling it and citronella was added which gave it a nice smell. The men used it for hand washing and it was always used for dish washing. Detergents were then unknown. Lava, castile and ivory were used for bathing.

Wash day was always Monday unless the weather was too bad. First water had to be pumped by hand. The wash boiler was put on the stove and filled. The washtub was put on a bench and half filled with good warm water. Next you got the washboard and a bar of homemade lye soap. The whitest clothes were first. They were put on the ribbed part of the board, rubbed good with soap and then rubbed up and down. Mom would say "rub the clothes, not your hands" You soon learned that rubbing your hands on the board soon rubbed a blister or some skin off your knuckles. The piece was

rinsed off in water, wrung and put in the wash boiler to which a bar of soap had been shaved. Clothes had to boil to get clean. Wool and silk couldn't be boiled. A half of a broom handle sanded smooth was used to stomp the clothes in the boiler and to lift them out into a tub partly filled with cold water. By now all the clothes had been rubbed and that tub was cleaned and nearly filled with cold water to which a little bluing liquid had been added to make the clothes whiter. A hand cranked wringer was fastened between the tubs so when they came out of the last rinse water and cranked through the wringer they were ready for the wash line to dry. If you had close neighbors there was rivalry to see who could get their clothes on the line first. In the country that didn't bother us but in town women were accused of hanging a clean sheet on the line first thing in the morning so she would be first. As soon as breakfast was over the wash was started. Dinner was a one-dish meal cooked on the back of the stove, such as navy or lima beans or a casserole in the oven, for washing often took until mid-afternoon if the family was large. No water was wasted. Some was used to mop the kitchen floor, some for scrubbing the front porch and maybe the board sidewalk. Some was used to wash the pots or slop jars which were bedroom necessities in houses without plumbing. Last but not least the last bucket of suds and an old broom gave the outdoor toilet or privy a good scrubbing. Wash day was a big day before modern conveniences were invented. Finally a washing machine made things so easy. It was a big wooden tub with a handle and a foot pedal. If you were clever you could sit on a stool and keep the machine going with one hand and foot and have a good story in the other hand. Later a fly wheel on the machine and a small gasoline engine made washing a luxury if the engine didn't stop and the kids didn't get too near the whole outfit. But the most wonderful invention was the machine run with electricity.

The folks often visited on Sunday with another family and had their dinner together. When they ate at our house the mother invariably said, "Ess nur heut costs uns nichts." "Eat today because it doesn't cost us anything." When we went to their house for Sunday dinner the usual remark the mother made during the meal was, "Ess nur nicht alles den margan ist wash tag." "Just don't eat everytheig because tomorrow is wash day." Good managers had enough cooked for Sunday dinner that they could have reheated food for wash day dinner and the stove was hot anyway with the wash boiler on the front of the stove.

We got our first telephone in about 1906. We were on a large party line. Every house had a differant ring and we heard every-one's ring. Ours was — — —. We could and did listen in on other folks conversations, especially if a young man would call a girl to make a date. Some talked low german but we could make out what they were talking about. If we wanted to talk to someone on another line we called the operator or central. One long ring would get her. She would say "Number please" and we gave her the number. Sometimes she said "that line is busy" or "did they answer? I'll ring again". Before she dis connected the two lines she would say "Are you waiting" or "Are you through?" We were the first ones on the line to get a crank type phonograph.

Dad rigged up a stool with a box on top and either the neighbors called or he called them and he cranked the phonograph and put on a record with the horn right up to the mouthpiece of the telephone. Some of the favorites were the Uncle Josh readings or Over the Waves Waltz.

It was hard to keep some things fresh in the summer. We had a cave and celler but Dad decided to build an ice house. There were lots of big cottonwood trees and a sawmill came and sawed them into boards so there was lots of saw dust too. It was double walled and the walls were filled with saw dust. When winter came ice was heavy or thick on the river so they sawed chunks of ice and packed them in saw dust in the ice house. It kept things cool until July or August, and we had ice to make ice cream once in awhile.

All cooking was done on the wood burning range in winter and summer. There was a small kitchen called a summer kitchen where cooking was done so it wouldn't heat the rest of the house and where washing was done. When cooking was done in the summer it was like if today you would have the heater going in 100 degree weather. No electricity so no fans either. Finally Dad bought a gasoline stove for cooking. It had two burners. Then later a kerosene stove which had a detachable oven which really was wonderful. Then they got a small ice box and they sold ice in town. A 50 or 100 lb. chunk was dropped in a compartment on top or in a side door. Ours held 50 lbs. The ice was covered with newspapers so it wouldn't melt so fast. Melted ice dripped into a pan under the refrigerator or ice box. Too bad if you forgot to empty the pan several times a day. Then you had a floor to mop.

My brother Bill graduated from Enterprise Normal Academy in the spring of 1910 with high honors. He made the class speech and the folks went to commencement. He came home when Ben and I had the measles. Bill got them and was very sick. He was anxious to work for the neighbors to earn money so he could go back to college that fall and probably went to work before he should have. Then he got the mumps that winter. When he came home in the spring, he told my mother he had consumption. Now we call it TB. She just didn't want to believe it because there was not cure for it. Then except maybe a higher dryer climate. Since brother Lou was living in Colorado he went out there and worked at any job he could find which was the worst thing he could do. Since then they have discovered bed rest is the only cure. He heard of a doctor in California who had a sure cure so he went out there. The doctor was a quack so he came home. Dad built him a special outdoor bedroom so he would get plenty of fresh air and he did not have to work. He died in 1919.

Bill liked to drive the Model T only it had to be cranked. So he and I ran the errands, trips to town, etc. I could crank it and he could drive it. Dad heard of a starter that could be put on and he got one. It worked and we were the envy for awhile of other Model T owners. It was a lever operated by the driver in the front. Some quick jerks by pulling the lever back and the motor started. My brother thought I ought to drive, So I would sometimes coming home from town. I did very well on a straight road but one time as I had to turn a sharp corner I forgot to straighten the wheels and ran into a hedge along the side of the road. That ended my driving for several years.

PART TWO - The family in Kansas

This will be some hi lites of the family in Kansas as far as I know it. I do not have a great many details about the family in Kansas, only what I have heard and a few facts from old letters, etc. I do not have marriage dates etc., so will tell as best I can with the facts I have at this time. This will not include Dad, as that will be a complete section by itself.

As I stated earlier, the family moved from South Dakota to Halstead in 1903. They had 160 acres in Kansas, which is the same amount they had in S.D. The property is located from the water tank in Halstead, 1 mile west, 1 mile north, and 1/2 mile west. At the date of this writing, (1995) there is nothing left of the old buildings on the property. The property was sold after Walters death and all of the buildings were torn down. The old house was in such bad condition that it was burned down. It had been added onto thru the years and was pretty much in disrepair. (This is according to Walter's son Art)

Grandad farmed the place until sometime in the 1920s at which time they moved into town. I would assume that he still was active on the farm after that, but do not know for sure. He was a very active person of many talents. He did various things thru the years. In a letter dated Nov. 13, 1911 to Dad, he describes a bridge he had just completed. He stated that he used 61 sacks of cement, 6000# of crushed rock, and about 8 loads of sand. (this is no doubt wagon loads) The finished bridge cost \$70.00. A picture of this bridge is included in this writeup. At the time of this writing, 1995, the bridge is still in use on the county road leading to the home place.

Grandmother died in 1928. I believe that she was out hanging out clothes when she suffered a heart attack. According to Art, Grandad use to go to Calif. in the winters to visit his sister there. This would be his sister Mary, who lived in Pasadena. Art said that he used to go to Chicago, he thought to visit another sister. That would be Dora, who at this time we have no information about. Grandmother's sister, Minnie, was in the Chicago area, so it might have been to visit her also.

Grandad died in 1937. I do not have any of the details, but I do remember when Dad got the call. I thought it was Grandad Stein, as he was the only one I really knew. I remember Wm.H. but do not remember much about him, as we very seldom saw him.

PART TWO - continued

Dad had an older brother Bill(William E.) I do not know much about him as he died in 1919, long before my time. I do know through my memories of Dad telling about him, and from old letters, that dad was very close to him, and as I think back he suffered a great loss when Bill died. I do not believe that dad ever really got completely over his death. There will be a little more about him in this article, when we get into the history of Dad and Mother in the San Luis Valley.

Albert H. Bockhaus, born in 1890, is probably the brother of dad's that is clearest in all of our memories. He was by all accounts, quite a character. He was in my opinion a mechanical genius. He could build or fix anything. If my information is correct, he went to work in the roundhouse of the Santa Fe RR in Newton in March of 1911. I do not know how long he stayed there. I have seen drawings etc. that he did while he was there and they are amazing. I know that he did not stay with the RR very many years, although I believe he had worked up to a high level of responsibility in a very short time. After leaving the RR he went into business for himself, and I believe it was on east 3rd st. in Newton. He later moved into a new shop across the street, where he stayed for a number of years. Sometime during the years Albert changed the spelling of his last name to Bochaus.(this is the 4th spelling that I know of) Albert married Bonnie Wertenberg, and they had 2 daughters, Audrey and Dorothy. Dorothy died many years ago. Albert sold his machine shop some time in the late 1940's, do not know exactly the date. I do remember in 1949 we were there and he was in the ornamental iron business, and had a trailer park on west Broadway. While we were there, Dad was looking at some equipment Albert had made and asked what it was for. Albert said that he had wanted to move to Arkansas and raise peanuts, but Bonnie had put a stop to that idea. He made a good living out of the ornamental iron business, as he was good at it just like every thing he built. He and Bonnie had problems getting along together all thru the years, and after they had been married nearly 50 years they divorced. After that it is my understanding that things went down hill for him until his death. Bonnie, I believe, lived to be close to 100 years of age.

Ben R. Bockhaus was born in 1893. I do not know much about his early years, but do know that he was in World War I and received damage to his health from gas that was used by the Germans during that war. As far as I know he received a pension for the rest of his life. He married Lena Wyes in 1925, and they never had any children. At one time he owned land in Wyo., which he may have gotten thru a homestead, but this I am not sure.

Note- this was written before I received the Penner article, so some of the information is a repeat. Also there is more info about Bill in the Penner article.

PART TWO - continued

Ben's land in Wyo. did have at least one oil well on it, which he received money from thru the years. Some of the family went to Wyo. and looked up the property in later years, and found the location with the well marked "Bockhaus No. 1". I believe that the property was disposed of after his death. As far as I know, the land is located south of Gillette, near the little town of Bill, Wyo.

Ben had a farm near Halstead all the years that I knew him. It was a pretty laid back operation as I remember. He was always very quiet and very gentle as I remember. After Lena died, Ben stayed on the old place for a number of years. The last time I remember seeing him was in 1961 while Dad and Mother were back there for the winter. Mavis and I used to fly back from Denver and Ben would pick us up at the airport in Wichita. I always looked forward to a visit with Uncle Ben. At that time he used to mention that he was seeing a woman that he thought quite a bit of. He later married her, and from what some of the family tells me, it was a disaster. He built a new house and she wound up with the house and much more. From what I can gather it pretty much ruined his life.

I must bring up something that one of the cousins once told me about Ben's farming. He said that he used to take care of the animals when Ben would be gone for a few days. He said that it was differant. The animals were all spoiled. He tried to get one of the horses thru a gate with no avail until he scratched him under the belly. Sounds pretty much standard operation for Ben's animals.

The only girl was Frances, born in 1898. She was always kind of Dad's favorite. I have to say, she was kind of unforgettable. She married Henry Penner, who I always thought was a very neat guy. They made quite a couple. They had 3 children, Florence, Wilbert, and Bob. Penner's farmed near Burton, KS. (Close to Halstead) Wilbert now lives on the Penners home place. He is retired from Cessna Aircraft.

It was always an experience to stay at the Penners, Aunt Frances always kept you entertained. You never had to worry about not feeling at home there.

She must have been pretty much the same when she was growing up, because I found a letter written to Bill in 1912 when she was 14, and she tells about Ben crying because a friend left, so she made him a handkerchief three inches square so it could wipe away his tears. Poor fellow she adds. She goes on to say "he went down to see Lena this evening, and I suppose she will pet him around a bit". She signs off by saying "I guess I did some fancy penmanship. I suppose it would take first prize at a fair or show".

PART TWO - continued

Dad'd youngest brother Walter, was born in 1901. He was married to Marie Will, and they had 5 children. They were, Ruth, Art, Mildred, Billy, and Betty. Billy was born in 1941, and suffered with poor health all of his life. He died in 1982. Ruth was married to Raymond Wall, and he suffered a heart attack and passed away a few years ago. We saw Ruth in May of this year (1995) and she is living in Newton, where she owns a fabric shop, which she was in the process of selling out when we were there. Art is still living in Halstead, but is in rather poor health. I do not know much about Mildred, except that she is living in Texas. Betty lives in Kansas City.

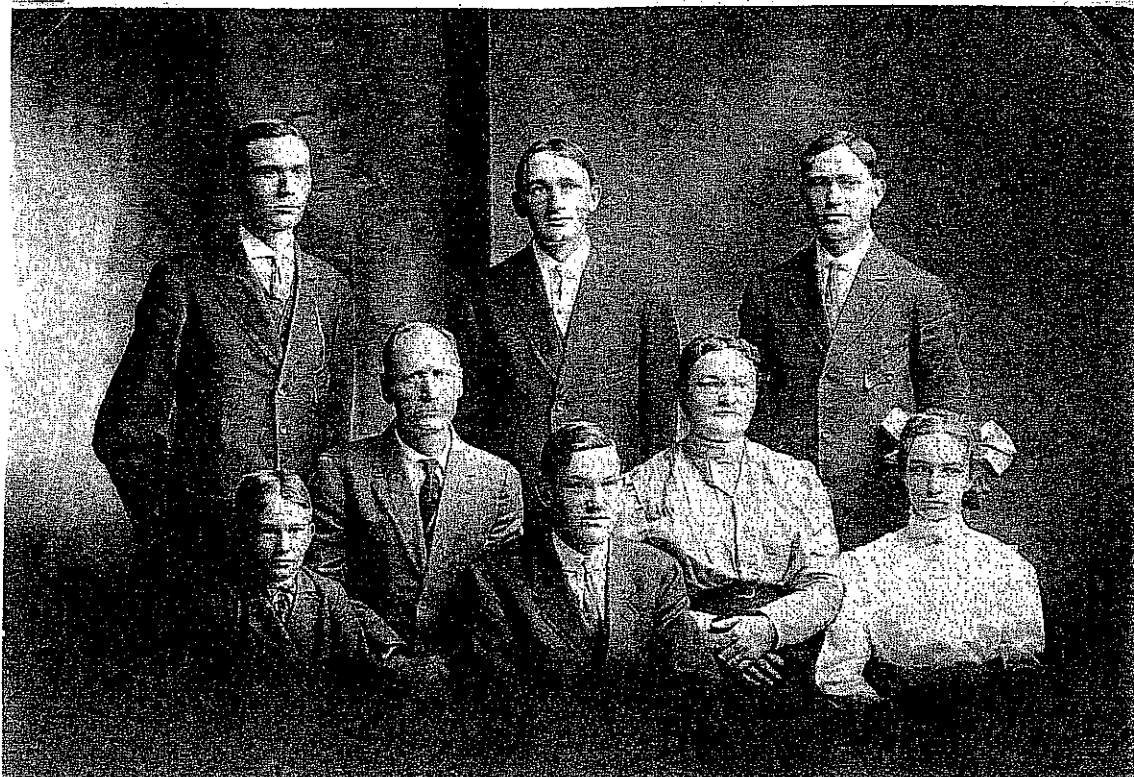
Walter lived on the home place until shortly before his death. The last time I was out at the old home place he was living in the old house. Don't know if he was still living in it or if he had moved to the other house. The other house was moved there years ago, and Art & Terry lived there when they were first married. Marie passed away in 1954, and some time later Walter remarried. I did not know his second wife, in fact I had forgotten that he had remarried, until Art jogged my memory when we were back there.

Walter passed away in 1981, at the age of 80. The last few months he stayed in town with Art & Terry. Shortly after his death the home place was sold to settle the estate. I do not what became of his wife after that. He was buried beside Marie in the Halstead cemetery.

In summing up my memories of my Dad's family in Kansas, I would have to rate them pretty high. As I think back over the years I have very good memories of the family in Kansas

This will complete the family in Kansas, except for Dad and Mother. She has not been discussed up to this point, but will be a little later. Some of the family in Kansas will be brought up from time to time in the folks history.

NOTE - Art Bockhaus passed away October 15, 1998. He was the one that I kept in touch with, although thru the years it seemed that we kind of lost touch. I am very glad that we made it back there in 1995. We kind of got in touch again. The family in Kansas is kind of fading away.



Above - The Wm. H. Bockhaus family 1911 -L - R back row - William E., Louis, Ben, Center, Wm. H., Emilie, Front - Walter, Albert, and Frances.

Below - Ben Bockhaus and Lena, probably wedding pictures

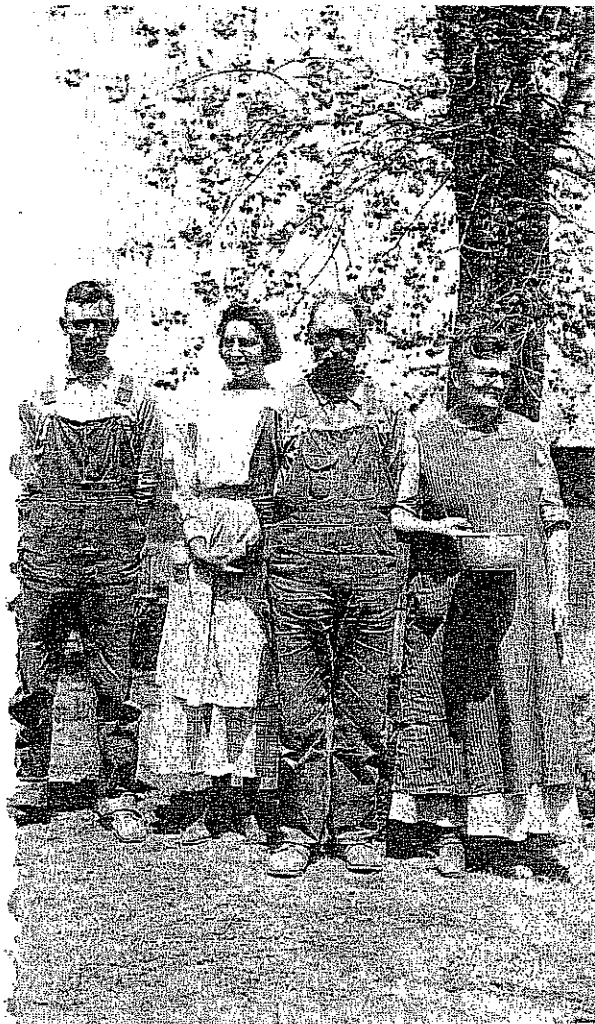




Above - L - R Roy Simouson, Alvin Baum, Walter Bockhaus, Martha Simouson, Lester Baum, Ben & Lena Bockhaus, Bonnie & Albert Bochaus, Wm. H. & Emilie Bockhaus, George & Bertha Baum and Nettie Baum taken in 1921

Below - L - R Back row, Ben & Walter Bockhaus, Albert Bochaus holding Audrey, Henry Penner (Center) Lena Bockhaus, Bonnie Bochaus, Wm. H. Bockhaus (front) Emilie Bockhaus, Marie Bockhaus holding Ruth, and George Baum taken in 1925





Above - Walter, Frances,
Wm. H., & Emilie Bockhaus



Above - Albert, Bonnie,
and Audry Bochaus

Right - Nettie
Bockhaus from Iowa,
Albert Bochaus
Frances Penner
Ben & Walter Bockhaus





Above - Frances Penner and
Bonnie Bochaus



Above - Henry & Frances Penner

Below - L - R Marie & Walter
Louis & Emma Bockhaus, Bonnie
and Albert Bochaus, Frances &
Henry Penner, Ben & Lena Bockhaus

1949

