

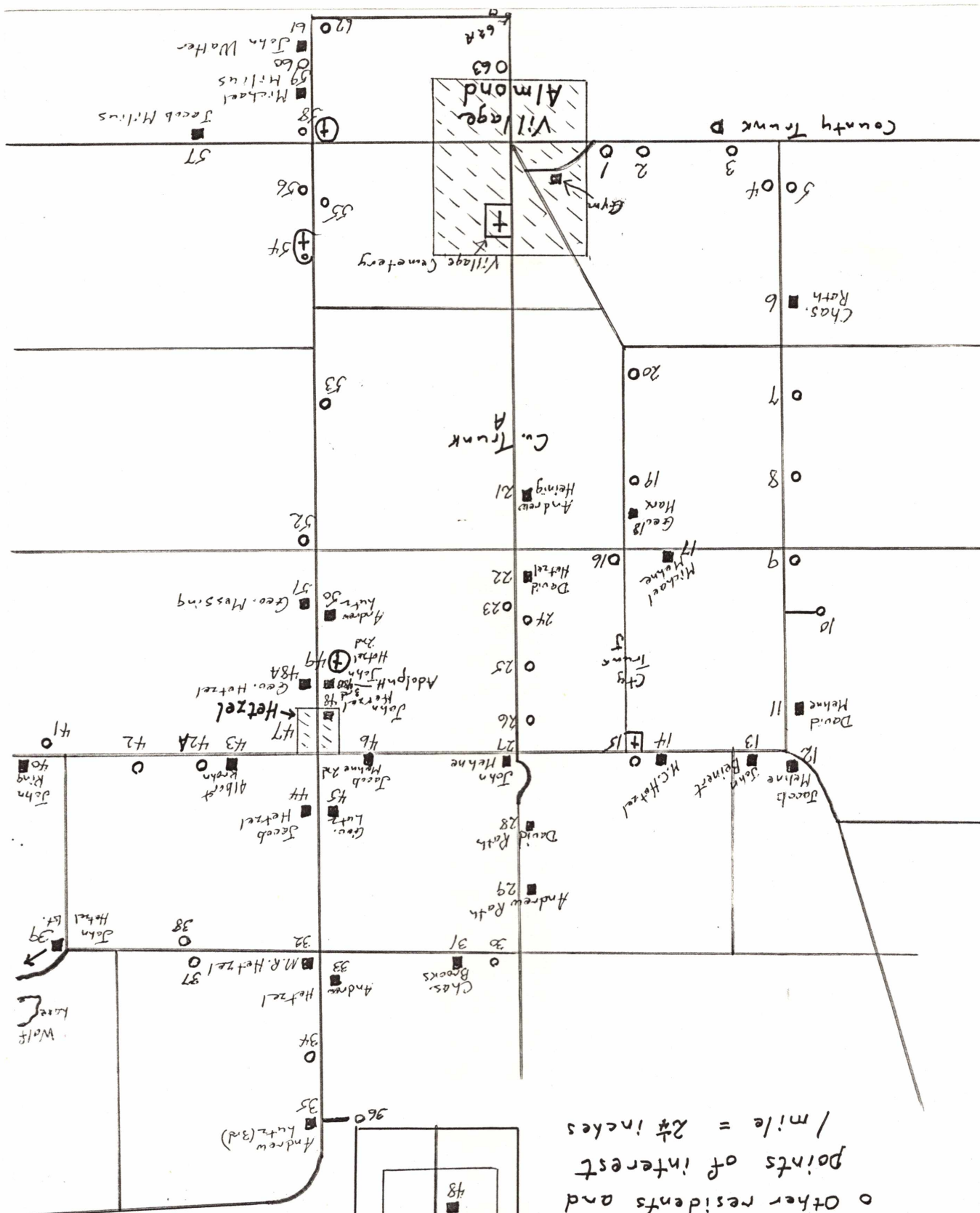
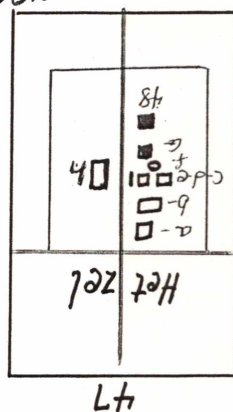
FORWARD

DEAR COUSINS:

WHEN OUR FIRST ECKARTSWEIER IMMIGRANT, ANDREW LUTZ, CAME TO ALMOND IN 1852, IT WAS STILL A VIRGIN COUNTRY. FOREST LANDS AND PRAIRIES INTERMINGLED. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BOUGHT FROM THE INDIANS THE ALMOND AREA LAND IN 1849. HENCE THE INDIANS WERE MOVING OUT AND SETTLERS WERE COMING IN. AN INDIAN MISSIONARY, SOLOMON WELLCOME, WAS STILL LIVING HERE.

THE TOWNSHIP WAS ORGANIZED IN MAY OF THAT YEAR, BUT IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS A LEGAL ENTITY, THEY HAD TO TAKE IN A MUCH LARGER TERRITORY, A TERRITORY WHICH CONSISTED OF THE PRESENT TOWNSHIPS OF BELMONT, PINE GROVE AND THE SOUTHERN HALF OF BUENA VISTA. FROM THIS VAST TERRITORY, 18 VOTERS TURNED OUT TO ORGANIZE THE TOWNSHIP. TWO OF THESE VOTERS, AARON AND JAMES MOORE, CAME FROM ALMOND, NEW YORK. YOU CAN SEE WHERE OUR TOWNSHIP DERIVED ITS NAME. THE SURVEYORS WERE STILL IN THE LAND LAYING OUT THE SECTION LINES. THIS IS THE LAND THAT OUR ANCESTOR PICKED OUT.

Almond
From an 1895 map
The families of
Eckartsweier
Other residents and
points of interest
/ mile = $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches



(1)

THE LARGE WHITE HOUSE THAT LOOMS ON OUR RIGHT AS WE STOP TO GET ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY WAS THE HOME OF THE FIRST DOCTOR TO SETTLE IN ALMOND, DR. ADDISON GUERNSEY. HE CAME IN 1857. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1881.

(2)

OUR NEXT HOME ON OUR RIGHT WAS THAT OF DR. GUERNSEY'S BROTHER, GEORGE.

(3)

HERE AGAIN ON OUR RIGHT IS THE SITE SELECTED BY EPHRAIM DOOLITTLE, WHO ALSO ARRIVED BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. MR DOOLITTLE WAS A FAIRLY WELL TO DO MAN ACCORDING TO THE STANDARDS OF THAT DAY. DURING HIS JOURNEY TO ALMOND, HIS WIFE HAD SEWED OVER \$3,000.00 INTO HIS CLOTHING.

(4)

ON OUR RIGHT WAS THE HOMSTEAD OF HIRAM BOWEN. AND ON THE LEFT- -

(5)

HIS NEIGHBOR, ALEXANDER STEVENS. MR STEVENS WAS A VETERAN OF THE WAR OF 1845 WITH MEXICO AND OF THE CIVIL WAR.

(6)

OUR FIRST ECKARTSWEIER STOP IS THE FARM SELECTED BY CHARLES RATH (1859-1936). HE CAME FROM GERMANY IN 1882 TO JOIN HIS BROTHERS DAVID (28) AND ANDREW (29). HE CAME IN 1882 AT THE AGE OF 23.

HE MARRIED AMELIA YOUNG (1886-1954). THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN BLESSED THIS UNION:

SPOUSE

WILLIAM

ELLA (1890-1962)

MINNIE

EZRA (1893-1950)

JOSEPH LANGBAUER (1887-1968)

LEMRO ENGLE

MURNA TRICKEY (1899-1925)

(12)

ON OUR LEFT ON THE HILLSIDE IS THE SITE THAT JACOB MEHNE I, PICKED FOR HIS FAMILY WHEN THEY ARRIVED FROM ECKARTSWEIER IN 1863. HE MARRIED ANNA MARIE LUTZ, SISTER OF ANDREW LUTZ I (50).

THEY BROUGHT THE FOLLOWING FAMILY WITH THEM FROM GERMANY.

	SPOUSE
JACOB II (46)	BARBARA VETTER
ELIZABETH (66)	MICHAEL URBAN
ANNA MARIE (48)	JOHN HETZEL III
JOHN (27)	BARBARA MILIUS
BARBARA (18)	GEORGE MARX
MAGDALENA (22)	DAVID HETZEL
MICHAEL (17)	MARY MILIUS
GEORGE (11)	MARY LANGBAUER
CHRISTINA (28)	DAVID RATH
DAVID (if)	GEORGE'S WIDOW

TWO CHILDREN DIED DURING THE 49 DAY CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC FROM GERMANY.

JACOB WAS BORN IN 1820 AND DIED IN 1901, AND HIS WIFE, ANNA MARIE, WAS BORN IN 1825 AND DIED IN 1865, ONLY A FEW MONTHS AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN AMERICA.

MRS MEHNES PARENTS, ANDREW SR (1792-1873) AND ANNA MARIA LUTZ (1799-1863) ACCOMPANIED MR & MRS MEHNE TO ALMOND. THEY ARE PARENTS ALSO OF ANDREW AND ELIZABETH LUTZ (50). THEY ARE BURIED IN THE EAST GERMAN CEMETERY.

	SPOUSE
EDNA	JACOB KEFFNER (69)
ERNEST (1876-1947)	EMMA KING(1882-1968) (40)
ARTHUR(1878-1973)	1-ORIBEL DAVIS
	2_MINNIE SUSTINS
ALVIN (1883-1954)	1-LILLY LOOMIS
	2-SYLVIA MORRISON (1897-1969)
RUTH (1895-1968)	MYRON HARSHAW
LYDIA	DID NOT MARRY

(15)

ON OUR LEFT, NEXT TO THE WOODS, STOOD A GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1894. MOST OF THE MEMBERS WERE RATH'S, HETZEL'S AND MEHNE'S. IT WAS IN THIS AREA OF THE TOWNSHIP THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION SETTLED AND MARRIED. THE LAND FOR THE CHURCH WAS DONATED BY M C HETZEL.

IN 1901 THE RAILROAD WAS BUILT THROUGH ALMOND. THE VILLAGE QUADRUPLD IN SIZE DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THE MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH AND THE OTHER METHODIST CHURCH (58) DECIDED TO MERGE. ACCORDINGLY BOTH CHURCHES WERE MOVED TO THE VILLAGE AND JOINED TOGETHER MAKING ONE LARGE CHURCH. THIS OCCURED IN 1903.

THE CEMETERY ON OUR RIGHT WAS PLOTTED BY THE CHURCH IN 1894.

(16)

ON OUR LEFT IS THE SITE OF THE MEHNE SCHOOL. IT WAS BUILT IN 1893 AND OPERATED UNTIL 1928. THIS WAS ERECTED TO REMOVE SOME OF THE PRESSURE OFF THE HETZEL SCHOOL (47) WHICH HAD REACHED AN ENROLLMENT OF 79 ONE TERM.

(21)

ANDREW HEINING (1849-1912) ARRIVED AS A YOUNG MAN OF 19 IN 1868. HE SELECTED THIS FARM AND THEN MARRIED AUGUSTA BORK (1847-1931). TWO BOYS AND A GIRL CAME TO GLADDEN THIS HOME.

SPOUSE

EMMA	HERMAN YOUNG
EMIL (1879-1934)	ETHEL CASLER
FRANK (1882-1955)	ANNA LARSON (1882-1979)

IN 1914 ALL THE BUILDINGS, EXCEPT THE HOUSE, WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE, WHICH STARTED FROM SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION IN THE HAYMOW.

(22)

DAVID HETZEL (1851-1924) SON OF JOHN HETZEL (49), CAME TO ALMOND IN 1853 WITH HIS PARENTS. HE MARRIED MAGDALENA MEHNE (1855-1947), DAUGHTER OF JACOB MEHNE (17) AND SETTLED ON THIS FARM. THEY WERE PARENTS OF THE FOLLOWING SONS AND DAUGHTERS:

SPOUSE

WILLIAM (1877-1960)	BRIDGET BARRETT (1879-1961)
MARTHA (1879-1969)	WILLIAM TESS (1873-1930)
EDWARD (1880-1972)	GERTRUDE STEWART (1886-1956)
EMMA (1882-1955)	HENRY TESS (1870-1964)
JOHN (1884-1963)	SELMA BOELTER (1889-1966)
ALBERT (1886-1971)	HAZEL STEWART
LAURA (1888-1965)	HARRY NELSON (1889-1944)
FRED	MIRIAM LOWE
OSCAR	MABEL MATHE
HENRY	STELL MORGAN
WALTER	LAURA HOGSTAD
EZRA	CORINNE GRIFFITH (1898-1943)

(27)

HERE AT THE BEND IN THE ROAD WE COME TO THE HOMESTEAD OF JOHN MEHNE.

JOHN (1849-1935), SON OF JACOB MEHNE (12) CAME WITH HIS PARENTS TO ALMOND IN 1863. HE MARRIED BARBARA MILIUS (1856-1937), DAUGHTER OF JACOB MILIUS (57).

AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE, THEY MOVED ON THIS FARM AND BECAME THE PARENTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

SPOUSE

ANNA (1876-1904)	JOHN TESS (1875-1962)
ROSE (1878-1957)	HERMAN KEHL (1875-1968)
JOHN	NETTIE MOREY
FRED	GRACE WOOD
WALTER	EDNA REMER

THE BARN AND GRANERY THAT JOHN BUILT IS STILL STANDING.

(28)

DAVID RATH (1852-1928) CAME TO AMERICA IN 1871, THE FIRST OF THREE BROTHERS. HE MARRIED CHRISTINA MEHNE, DAUGHTER OF JACOB AND ANNA MARIE MEHNE (12). THEY SETTLED UPON THIS FARM, WHICH DAVID HAD BOUGHT SOON AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN ALMOND.

THEY WERE THE PARENTS OF THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN:

SPOUSE

ELIZABETH (1879-1958)	WILLIAM WITTMAN (1871-1969)
EDWARD (1886-1964)	CLARA REICHELT (1886-1958)
JOHN (1888-1960)	IDA HAIGHT (1893-1976)
CLARA (1889-)	WINFIELD BRIGHAM (1889-1951)
LORETTA (1892-1968)	RALPH MINER (1887-1964)
CHARLOTTE (1895-1947)	LOUIS PROCHNOW (1894-)
CORA (1899-)	ROY DIVER

(33)

ON OUR LEFT IN THIS OPEN FIELD, ANDREW HETZEL (1850-1930), SON OF JOHN HETZEL (39) CAME WITH HIS PARENTS TO AMERICA IN 1853. HE REMAINED A BATCHALOR. THE BUILDINGS WERE REMOVED IN 1980.

(34)

ON OUR RIGHT WAS THE HOME OF JESSE BUMP.

(35)

ANDREW LUTZ III (1846-1912) MARRIED ELIZABETH BAASS (1847-1905). THEY CAME TO AMERICA IN 1883 WITH THEIR TWO CHILDREN.

SPOUSE

ELIZABETH

NICHOLAS READER

ANDREW IIII (1881-1963) HULDA BOELTER (1887-1978)

SINCE MR LUTZ WAS ONE OF THE LATE ARRIVALS IN THE TOWNSHIP HE HAD TO SETTLE FOR SOME OF THE LESS DESIRABLE LAND, THE HILLY NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE TOWN.

(36)

HERE AS WE TURN AROUND IS A DEAD END ROAD LEADING WEST ABOUT 80 RODS WHERE FRED HINTZ LIVED.

(37)

ON OUR LEFT WAS THE HOME OF AUGUST SHEIDER AND ON OUR RIGHT --

(38)

THE RESIDENCE OF JULIUS SMITH.

(39)

AS WE STOP AT THIS CORNER, AN OLD ROAD STARTED HERE IN A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION AND THEN TURNED EAST. IT SKIRTED THE SOUTH SIDE OF WOLF LAKE AND THEN PASSED BY THE NORTH SIDE OF PICKERAL LAKE. MIDWAY BETWEEN THESE

SPOUSE

MINNIE (1875-1955)	SAMUEL NELSON (1868-1934)
EMMA (1882-1963)	ERNEST HETZEL (1876-1968) (14)
BERTHA (1879-1931)	FRANK KEFFNER (1871-1971) (69)
CHARLES (1876-1948)	MARY BARRETT (1881-1968) (23)
HENRY (1880-1961)	MAY STEVENS (1883-1951)
EMIL (1888-1926)	RUBY STEVENS (1891-1978)

MR KING BUILT THIS HOME ABOUT 1880.

(41)

ON OUR LEFT WAS THE HOME OF FRED OTTO.

(42)

AND ON OUR RIGHT ELDRIDGE EATON, A CIVIL WAR VETERAN SETTLED. LATER HE ERECTED ANOTHER HOME AT (42A).

(43)

ELIZABETH HEITZMANN URBAN (1822-1907), WIDOW OF GEORGE URBAN, CAME TO ALMOND IN 1874, ACCOMPANIED BY HER DAUGHTER, BARBARA, AND HER DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW JOHN KING (40).

DAUGHTER BARBARA (1859-1941) MARRIED ALBERT KROHN (26) (1858-1926). AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE, ALBERT PURCHASED THIS FARM FROM HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW.

BARBARA AND ALBERT RAISED THE FOLLOWING FAMILY:

SPOUSE

LOUISA (1880-1970)	HERMAN POPP (1879-1968)
FRED (1883-1967)	BERTHA MEHNE (1883-1964) (17)
LENA (1886-1938)	EDWIN WEBER (1883-1905)
ALBERT (BERT) (1890-1932)	LYDIA SEEFELDT (1881-1966)
JESSE	DIED IN INFANCY
CLARENCE (1903-1978)	HELEN MILLER (1904-1982)
ARLOINE (1905-)	RALPH TESS (1903-)

THE FARM IS OCCUPIED AT THE PRESENT TIME BY HAROLD KROHN, A GRANDSON. THE ORIGINAL HOME WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1960.

(46)

PIONEER HOME OF JACOB MEHNE II, SON OF JACOB MEHNE I (12).

JACOB CAME TO AMERICA IN 1863. SHORTLY HE JOINED THE UNION ARMY IN THE CIVIL WAR AND SPENT SOME TIME AFTER THE WAR WITH THE ARMY SUBDUING INDIAN RESURRECTIONS. AFTER HIS RETURN, HE MARRIED BARBARA VETTER, HIS CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART. SHE HAD FOLLOWED HIM TO AMERICA IN 1865.

THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN BLESSED THEIR MARRIAGE:

SPOUSE

EMMA (1873-1973)	GEORGE LUTZ (1861-1948)
JACOB III (1875-1970)	ANNA KLEIST (1882-1968)
WILLIAM (1878-1940)	FLORA GOEBAL (1891-1973)
LOUISA (1880-1909)	MICHAEL AMMEL (1874-1932)
BERTHA (1882-1979)	WILLIAM MOORMAN (1880-1938)
LENA (1885-)	DUNCAN BARKER (1882-1962)
EMIL (1887-1978)	LAURA MARTIN (1891-1960)
CLARA (1892-)	EMIL BURCHARDT (1881-1941)

JACOB WAS BORN IN 1845 AND DIED IN 1936 AND BARBARA WAS BORN IN 1848 AND DIED IN 1919.

(47)

WE ARE NOW PARKED AT THE SIDE OF A BUSY LITTLE SETTLEMENT KNOWN AS HETZEL AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. (SEE INSERT AT THE TOP OF YOUR MAP)

IMMEDIATELY TO OUR RIGHT (a) STOOD THE HETZEL SCHOOL. IT WAS LOCATED ABOUT WHERE THE PRESENT TRAILER HOME STANDS. IN THE SCHOOL YEAR OF 1891-1892 WILLIAM URBAN, SON OF MICHAEL AND ELIZABETH URBAN (66) TAUGHT THE SCHOOL. SEVENTY-NINE PUPILS WERE REGISTERED THAT TERM. OF THESE, 16 WERE HETZELS, 9 MEHNES, 7 LUTZS, 3 RATHS, 2 URBANS, 2 KINGS AND 2 MESSINGS. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, 23 WERE WILLIAMS, FIRST COUSINS.

AT POINT (b) STOOD THE STORE AND POSTOFFICE. THIS WAS OPERATED BY JOHN HETZEL III AND SON DANIEL.

AT POINT (c) WAS A BARN, AND A BLACKSMITH SHOP (d). AT (e) WAS A SCALE FOR WEIGHING FARM WAGONS AND PRODUCE.

AT (f) A HUGE WINDMILL PROVIDED POWER FOR GRINDING FARMERS' FEED. AND AT (g) STOOD A RESIDENCE FOR THE

THEY WERE THE PARENTS OF THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN:

SPOUSE

BARBARA (69)	PETER KEFFNER
JOHN III (48)	ANNA MARIE MEHNE (12)
ELIZABETH	DECEASED
MICHAEL C (14)	AMANDA MESSING (51)
DAVID (22)	MAGADALENA MEHNE (12)
*MARY	GOTTLIEB JAMES STERNITSKY (65)

*MARY WAS BORN IN ALMOND.

PROBABLY SOMETIME IN 1855 JOHN WAS KILLED IN A WELL ON HIS FARM. RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE WAS LEFT BURIED IN THE WELL. THIS HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED.

HIS WIDOW MARRIED AUGUST DAMIER IN 1857, AND DIED SHORTLY AFTER HER SECOND MARRIAGE.

NOTE: THE FIRST CEMETERY ESTABLISHED IN THE TOWNSHIP WAS IN 1861. PRIOR TO THAT TIME BURIALS WERE USUALLY MADE NEARBY THE HOME OF THE DECEASED.

(50)

AND HERE ON OUR RIGHT IS THE HOME SITE CHOSEN BY ANDREW LUTZ I. ANDREW WAS THE FIRST OF THE ECKARTSWEIER PEOPLE TO COME TO ALMOND. HE CAME ALONE IN 1852 VIA RACINE WHERE HE STAYED A VERY SHORT TIME AND THEN JOURNEYED ON TO ALMOND. THE LAND WAS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING SURVEYED AND WAS AVAILABLE FROM THE U. S. GOVERNMENT AT THE MODEST SUM OF \$50.00 FOR A "40" OF LAND.

HE SENT FOR HIS FAMILY AND THEY ARRIVED IN 1853 ALONG WITH THE JOHN HETZEL II FAMILY (49) AND THE JOHN HETZEL I FAMILY (39), WHO REMAINED IN RACINE FOR A FEW YEARS BEFORE COMING TO ALMOND.

MR LUTZ MARRIED ELIZABETH GABÖR WHO WAS A SISTER OF MRS JOHN HETZEL II (49).

MR AND MRS LUTZ WERE THE PARENTS OF THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN:

CIVIL WAR AND THEN MARRIED MARYANN EAGER.

THEY WERE THE PARENTS OF THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN:

SPOUSE

AMANDA (1856-1908)	MICHAEL HETZEL (14)
JULIA (1861-1939)	ROBERT SPARKS
CLARA ANN (1863-1891)	ORVILLE ROGERS
AMELIA (1863-1891)	
ALICE LUCINDA (1866-1937)	ED ZIEMENDORF
AUGUSTA ELIZABETH (1868-1946)	JOHN SPARKS
GEORGE DANIEL (1870-1929)	ELIZA PAINTON
LAURA LOUISE (1873-1938)	JESSE SPARKS
ADA MAY (1875-1927)	ADOLPH CLEMENT
FLORENCE AURELIA (1877-1920)	ERNEST STUBBS
ELERY ELFERT	BERTHA STUBBS

THE MOTHER DIED IN 1883. LATER GEORGE MARRIED
HENRIETTA ZIMMERMAN. FROM THIS MARRIAGE TWO CHILDREN
ARRIVED:

SPOUSE

EMMA REGINA (1890-1976)	ANDERS G ANDERSON
IDA WILHAMENA (1893-)	_____ WOLBERT

GEORGE MESSING DIED IN 1912.

(52)

ON OUR LEFT AT THE CORNER WAS THE RESIDENCE OF FRANK
MATHE.

(53)

HERE ON OUR RIGHT STOOD THE HOME OF J LOCKE FROST.
MR FROST ARRIVED IN 1853 AND BOUGHT 520 ACRES OF LAND, AS
SOON AS THE SURVEY WAS COMPLETED, FOR \$650.00. IT WAS ON
THIS FARM THAT GEORGE MESSING (51) MET HIS WIFE, WHO WAS
EMPLOYED AS A MAID.

AND, ON THIS FARM, GEORGE MEHNE (11) MET HIS DEATH
DIGGING A WELL.

(58)

AND AS WE GO AROUND THE CORNER WE COME TO ANOTHER CEMETERY, THE EAST GERMAN METHODIST. DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE CIVIL WAR, A GERMAN METHODIST CIRCUIT RIDER CAME THROUGH, HELD MEETINGS AND MANY OF OUR ECKARTSWEIER SETTLERS AS WELL AS OTHER GERMAN IMMIGRANTS WERE CONVERTED TO THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL FAITH. THEY BUILT A SMALL CHURCH ON THE GROUNDS OF THE CEMETERY AND BUILT A PARSONAGE ACROSS THE ROAD. THE EXACT DATE IS NOT KNOWN, BUT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 1865 AND 1868. THIS WAS THE FIRST CHURCH ESTABLISHED IN THE TOWNSHIP. OTHER FAITHS AND ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLE STILL WORSHIPPED IN HOMES AND SCHOOLHOUSES.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE FIND MANY OF OUR LUTHERAN PEOPLE WHO DIED BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THEIR CHURCH, BURIED HERE. IN GOING THROUGH THE CEMETERY, WE FIND ALL ELEVEN OF OUR ECKARTSWEIER NAMES. ABOUT 60% OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE BORN IN ECKARTSWEIER ARE BURIED HERE.

THE CHURCH WAS MOVED INTO THE VILLAGE IN 1903 (15).

(59)

MICHAEL MILIUS (1830-1900) CAME TO AMERICA WITH HIS FATHER AND BROTHER JACOB (57) ABOUT 1850 SETTLING FIRST NEAR RACINE. THEY CAME FROM STRASBURG, WHICH IS ACROSS THE RHINE FROM ECKARTSWEIER. THE PHILLIP FERBER FAMILY ALSO CAME ABOUT THE SAME TIME. THEY CAME FROM ECKARTSWEIER. MICHAEL MARRIED BARBARA FERBER (1831-1902) AND THEY MOVED UP TO ALMOND ALONG WITH THE FERBER FAMILY IN 1854.

MICHAEL SELECTED THIS FARM, BUILT THE HOME WHICH STILL STANDS. (IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN RENOVATED.)

THEY WERE THE PARENTS OF ONE SON, AUGUST.

AUGUST (1852-1927) MARRIED WILHEMINA EDLER (1855-1943). THEY TOOK OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FARM AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE.

THEY WERE THE PARENTS OF THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN:

(62A)

JUST AS WE ARE ABOUT TO TURN THE CORNER, AT OUR LEFT STOOD A LOG CABIN OCCUPIED BY SOLOMON WELLCOME, A MISSIONARY TO THE INDIANS. WHEN HE CAME, WE DO NOT KNOW, BUT HE LEFT IN 1857 FOR INDIAN COUNTRY IN MINNESOTA TO CONTINUE HIS MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES. BEFORE HE DID LEAVE, HE PERFORMED A MARRIAGE CEREMONY FOR ONE OF OUR ECKARTSWEIER IMMIGRANTS, MRS BARBARA HETZEL (49).

(63)

AS WE ARE COMING INTO THE VILLAGE A LONE HOUSE STANDS ON OUR RIGHT. THIS WAS THE RESIDENCE OF JOHN FREDERICK, A CIVIL WAR VETERAN.

(THIS IS THE END OF OUR TRIP. OTHER FAMILIES LISTED BELOW.)

(64)

ELIZABETH AND KATIE BEINERT FOLLOWED THEIR UNCLE, JOHN BEINERT (13) TO AMERICA ABOUT 1882. ELIZABETH (1864-1945) MARRIED FREDERICK ANSELM (1857-1929), ALSO A NATIVE OF BADEN. THEY WERE THE PARENTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

SPOUSE

FRED (1884-1961)	VERONA DOEGE (1883-1941)
ALBERT	MINNIE STRUSS
WILLIAM (1889-1946)	NORMA CIZINSKY (1893-1972)
HENRY (1893-1961)	LILLIS MORRISON
CHARLES (1891-1971)	AUGUSTA BOOSE (1891-1981)
ANNA (1887-1973)	CHARLES SCHLEICHER (1890-1980)
ELIZABETH	DONALD MARTIN
LYDIA	VICTOR HAUGE
LAURA	WALTER WITTMAN
ALICE	JOHN LANGAUER

THEY RESIDED ON A FARM ABOUT FOUR MILES SOUTHEAST OF ALMOND IN THE TOWN OF ROSE.

KATIE MARRIED JACOB WALTERS IN 1899. THEY WERE THE PARENTS OF TWO CHILDREN, JULIA AND WILMER. THEY MOVED TO CALIFORNIA IN 1919.

(68)

JACOB WALTERS (1823-1888) MARRIED MARGARETHA NELTER (1828-1907). THEY WERE MARRIED IN 1848 AND CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1868. THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN CAME TO BLESS THIS UNION:

SPOUSE

MARGARET (1850-1935)	FREDERICK GROSSE (1846-1921) VETERAN OF THE CIVIL WAR
BARBARA (1854-1918)	JOHN AMBROSE
JACOB F (1856-1937)	ISADORA WOOD (1856-1931)
JOHN L (1862-)	ELIZABETH YEAGER (1870-1895)
EMMA (1871-)	<u> </u> KISSINGER <u> </u> SITZER

MR AND MRS WALTERS LIVED FIVE MILES SOUTHEAST OF ALMOND IN THE TOWN OF OASIS.

(69)

BARBARA HETZEL (1845-1930), DAUGHTER OF JOHN HETZEL II (49) MARRIED PETER KEFFNER (1840-1896) IN 1864. THEY LIVED ON A FARM IN THE TOWN OF OASIS LOCATED ABOUT THREE MILES SOUTHWEST OF THE VILLAGE OF ALMOND.

THREE SONS JOINED THE FAMILY AS FOLLOWS:

SPOUSE

JOHN (1865-1945)	1-MARY MOLSKI (1865-1894)
	2-HELEN ADAMS (1876-1933)
FRANK	BERTHA KING (40)
JACOB	EDNA HETZEL (14)

This book was compiled by Ralph Fess - 1983

THE HERITAGE

About 20 years ago the entire Hanauerland region underwent exploratory drilling for Oil reserves. These drillings provided us with a little insight into the foundation of the land that we live on. Millions of years ago the Rhein underground caverns and ravins collapsed causing the underground waters and the rainwaters from the nearby mountains to fill the basin with gravel, sand and silt creating what is known today as the "gray gold" belt. A shifting of the earth also helped to create this Lower Terrace region of very fertile soil. Most of this fertile region lies in northern Hanauerland. Only a small remnant of this fertile soil reached as far down as the Kinzig area. The towns of Kinzig Schutter and Rensch lose a percentage of this good soil yearly to highwater that carries the soil away. Eckartsweier lying at an angle between Kinzig and Schuttermündung is doubly affected by the yearly reoccurrence of the highwaters.

The gravel sediments allow for the thorough cleaning of the drinking water. Unfortunately with today's industry water pollution levels are high. The oceanic climate of the Rhein area provides enough mild weather and moisture to enhance agriculture. Man's hard work has enabled areas of the region to be completely without the dangers of highwater reoccurrence by the rechanneling of rivers and streams. Out of this inhabitant free swamp areas has bloomed a countryside of small villages and small communities.

They worked the land together, fertilizer was not known at this time, there wasn't too much livestock at this time either, hunting and fishing were free. For building, the raw materials that nature provided were used, such as wood, sod and straw. Some of these type of houses are still standing today. The Alemannen worshipped their gods, Odin, Donar and Ziu for a long time to come.

Substantial changes came with Christianity and Feudalism. The first signs of Christianity came with the Romans, but took foothold when the Franc rulers sent out missionaries to the different villiages and settlements. Later the monestaries, Honau, Schwarzach, and Schuttern were built and from their Christianity was taught under the rulership of the Bishof of Strassburg.

The Feudal-system started under the rule of the Francs, the highest master being the Kaiser. He bestowed the land to his most faithful followers, and with the land the free people became bondage slaves to their master. The first bondage laws pertained to the men and women given to the master until their death. But later the law also pertained to the offspring of the original bondage slaves. This came to pass in the time of the Sachsenkaiser. As time progressed, the Bishofs also became feudal masters and had to follow the Kaiser into battle. Konrad the III was Bishof and feudal-master of our area. He was killed in battle around the year 1300 A.D. The land passed into the hands of the masters of Hunnenburg and so in 1316 the villiage first received recognition.

The shortcomings of the feudal system became more and more apparent through the splitting up of the Germanic nation into small realms creating a political impotence and weakening of a united force. The masters sustained themselves through the tith system (one tenth of production went to the church and since money was not

Hörder from Eckartsweier escaped to Strassburg and received assylum there.

Jörg hörder came back to his hometown once more, and was captured and placed in the tower. The people, his friends, came from Strassburg and then he was set free. The mercenaries from Strassburg caused so much disturbance in Willstätt that this town sued the town of Strassburg and won. These events were interesting enough to warrant the writing of a play, which was performed in Strassburg.

The Strassburg reformants were able to reform the Graf von Hanau-Lichtenberg, Philipp IV, to the teaching of Luther. And so the Reformation came to Hanauerland in 1575.

At this time there were 30 citizens families in Eckartsweier, according to Fritz Jockers, a heritage specialist. These were: Beinhard, Wülf, Elss, Herder, Hartung Heid, Krieg, Meyer, Rapp, Bühl, Peyer, Veltin, Dretter, Beinert, Hetzel, Hörther, Scheer and Schneider. The town of Hundsfield was bought by Eckartsweier for 150 Gulden.

The time period before the 30 year war, brought with it a better finacial era even after the Farmerwar. This we can see from the Teilregister. This was a listing of the posesions of a family after the death of the husband or breadwinner. All of the posesions, furniture, china, clothing, and buggies, even the animals were auctioned off. Not to keep the money or goods from the Heirs, but because of the high Inheritance tax due to death.

The 30 Year War destroyed everything, not just the buildings and animals or buggies and coaches but most of the people. Between the war, hunger and disease, only 24 out of the 50 citizen families were left. After the Sweds and French invaded our area there was little left. They were required to pay an additional peace tax. They had to rebuild Graf Reinhard II mansion in Reinbishopsheim, they even had to drive about 30 wagon loads of manure for his fields. They had little reason to like to serve Reinhard II.

road had to be built for this purpose.

The French Revolution brought all the lands even east of the Rhein in unrest. The French General Moreau crossed the Rhein in 1796 by Diersheim. With this act the Hanauerland was once again involved in war. The towns around Kehl were occupied once by French troops and then by German troops. Both armies leaving destruction a misery behind them. The Hanauerland towns suffered a lot during this time, as was written by Georg Zuflucht in his diary. With the coming of Napoleonic times did not improve. Goods were constantly demanded by Napoleon, the German villagers even had to go into war with the French, in 1803 Hanauerland was given to Baden, Kehl remained Amstadt until 1881.

The war caused Eckartsweier along with all of the other villages to be deeply indebted. Along with these financial problems, came the problems of overpopulation, hunger and need. In 1851 a large number of persons started to migrate. Forty people supported financially by the town moved away to the United States.

As the Germans fight for independence in the 1848/49 began, Eckartsweier along with all of the other villages in the area started to train their own troops in the village. After the French-German war in 1870 and 1871 a time of peace and economical growth set in until the First and Second World War. Even though Eckartsweier took place in both wars, there was little historically seen, to warrant mention of the town during this time. It also took part in the reconstruction of the economy after the war, which brings us closer to today's time.

History of the Economy

Farming has since the beginning of commerce in Eckartsweier been the main source of income. Since this area was gifted with rich soil on the terraces, man has been involved with the working of the land. Even before our forefathers became serfs under the Feudal system, the land was being worked and tilled by man and each year the battle with the reoccurring highwater and flooding

The villiagers also had the grazing land for colts in the area. Here the proud Oldenburger horses were raised. It was beautiful to the eye to see the colts romping in the meadows. Unfortunately today the need for horses has gone back to being largely hobby.

There was little need for tradesmen in our area, only the shoemaker, horse furier, and carpenter. The rest the farmers of the area did themselves or went to neighboring towns. The people lived modestly on their small incomes and did their everyday work with diligence and perserverence.

Church and Culture

In the beginning Eckhartsweier and Hesselhurst, Herde and Niederweier to the church of Willstätt. Later Hundsfield also belonged to this group. In 1395 a church was mentioned (Gräßlin) built to honor St. Nikolei. In 1419 a house for the minister. In 1779 a new church was built which was badly damaged during the 30 year war. This church was damaged several times during the course of its existence until 1945 where it was completely rebuilt after the war. Fritz Jockers writes in his book about the bells of the church. The biggest bell weighed 4.27 hundred kilo and cracked in 1565. In march of 1566 a new bell was made, it was even bigger than the last. It weighed 8,65 hundred kilo. In 1631 it was brought to Strassburg until times got quieter. In 1941 the small bell was brought home, and was captured by the nations at war. It was destroyed and in 1651 in peace times a new one was made. In 1723 the same factory made a new bell for Eckartsweier which was shared in cost by Hesselhurst.

In the schoolsystem, the first teacher was Michael Reiß. He was paid in corn, grazing rights and a small amount of money. As the school became to small, Hesselhurst and Hohnhurst didn't want to help build a bigger one, so the three towns split up. In 1733-1770 a new teacher was appointed. He was Urban from Eckartsweier and was well known as being a wonder doctor for cows. Twice a year he was called to bleed the cows. He was paid well, about the same as a whole year of teaching. Many teachers came and