

THE FAMILY HISTORY OF
JOHN AND ANNA BARBARA GOPPER HETZEL

ACROSS THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALMOND, THERE RUNS A RIDGE OR DIVIDE. FROM THIS DIVIDE AS ONE IS LOOKING EAST, ALL WATER FLOWS TOWARD THE GREAT LAKES AND THEN INTO THE ST. LAWRENCE AND ATLANTIC OCEAN. LOOKING WEST, THE WATER FLOWS INTO THE WISCONSIN, THE MISSISSIPPI AND THE GULF OF MEXICO.

IT IS LESS THAN A MILE WEST OF THIS DIVIDE, ON THE EDGE OF THE PRAIRIE THAT STRETCHES MANY MILES TOWARD THE SOUTHEAST, THAT THERE IS A SMALL FAMILY BURIAL PLOT. MANY PEOPLE HAVE PASSED BY THIS WELL FENCED AREA AND HAVE WONDERED JUST WHAT IT WAS, OR WHAT IT CONTAINED. THIS PLOT IS APPROXIMATELY FIFTY YARDS OFF TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD ON A LITTLE KNOLL ON THE CLARENCE KLEIST FARM. THE FARM YEARS AGO WOULD HAVE BEEN KNOWN AS THE JOHN HETZEL FARM.

AS ONE STANDS AND GAZES INTO THIS ENCLOSURE ALL THEY SEE IS A PINE TREE GROWING IN ONE CORNER AND WOULD NOT REALIZE THAT THERE ARE BURIALS HERE. THERE ARE NO DEPRESSIONS, NO MOUNDS, NO MARKERS, ONLY THE LONG GRASS THAT HAS ACCUMULATED OVER THE YEARS. JOHN HETZEL, HIS WIFE BARBARA AND THEIR DAUGHTER ELIZABETHA ARE BURIED HERE.

JOHN HETZEL WAS BORN IN ECKARTSWEIER, GERMANY, WHICH IS ONLY A SHORT WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE CITY OF KEHL WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE RHINE RIVER, HIS BIRTH DATE WAS SEPT. 18, 1820. HE WAS A WEAVER BY TRADE. THIS WAS NOT A VERY LUCRATIVE TRADE, SO HE JUST BARELY MANAGED TO EKE OUT A LIVING. HE MARRIED ANNA BARBARA GOPPER OCT. 22, 1844. SHE WAS BORN AUG. 15, 1820.

WHILE IN GERMANY THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN WERE BORN TO THEM: BARBARA BORN JULY 24, 1845, JOHN JR. DEC. 17, 1846, ELIZABETHA NOV. 26, 1848, MICHAEL C. NOV. 23, 1849 AND DAVID JUNE 24, 1851.

JOHN AND BARBARA, S BROTHER IN LAW, ANDREW LUTZ, EMIGRATED TO AMERICA IN 1852, CAME TO ALMOND AND SELECTED A FARM AND THEN SENT FOR HIS FAMILY TO FOLLOW. JOHN AND BARBARA DECIDED TO ACCOMPANY ANDREW'S FAMILY. THE TWO FAMILIES ARRIVED IN 1853.

JOHN SELECTED A FARM ADJOINING HIS BROTHER IN LAW ON THE NORTH AND PROCEEDED TO BREAK UP AND FARM THE LAND. MISFORTUNE SOON STRUCK. HE WAS DIGGING A WELL, WHEN IT CAVED IN ON HIM.

THE STORY IS TOLD THAT HE WAS LEFT BURIED IN THE WELL, BUT THIS HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE ACCIDENT OCCURED SOMETIME IN 1855.

A DAUGHTER, MARY, WAS BORN JAN. 18, 1855.

THE WIDOW, BARBARA, MARRIED AUGUST DAMIER, (OR DAMMEIER), MARCH 19, 1857. THEY WERE MARRIED BY SOLOMON WELLCOME, AN INDIAN MISSIONARY WHO MOVED ON TO MINNESOTA THAT SAME YEAR. THE NEW MRS. DAMIER DIED WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO. ELIZABETHA MUST HAVE DIED ALSO WITHIN THESE FIRST YEARS. RUMORS OF OLD SAID THAT A CHILD WAS BURIED IN THE PLOT WITH THE PARENTS. THE FIRST CEMETERY WAS PLOTTED IN 1861. AUGUST DAMIER IS BURIED IN THAT CEMETERY, DEATH OCCURING IN 1871. HE IS THE ONLY ONE BURIED ON HIS LOT. MY GRAND-FATHER, DAVID, WAS BORN IN 1851. HE TOLD ME, (R. G. TESS) THAT HE WAS LEFT AN ORPHAN WHEN EIGHT OR NINE YEARS OF AGE AND THAT THE MICHAEL MILIUS TOOK HIM IN AND RAISED HIM. FACTS AND CONJECTURES INTERMINGLE HERE, BUT WE ARE REASONABLY SURE THAT ALL OF OUR CONJECTURES TOOK PLACE BEFORE 1861 AT THE LATEST. NOW, ONE MORE EVENT TO BACK UP THESE CONJECTURES.

MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT BARBARA, THE ELDEST SECURED A JOB IN GRAND RAPIDS (WISCONSIN RAPIDS) AS A MAID. JOHN, THE OLDEST BOY WAS TAKING CARE OF THE FARM. IN JANUARY THE TOWN TREASURER CAME BY AND HANDED YOUNG JOHN THE TAX NOTICE WHICH WAS TO BE PAID BY THE END OF FEBRUARY. SINCE HE WAS A YOUNG LAD HE WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED. HE WALKED TO THE RAPIDS IN THE WINTERTIME WITHOUT OVERSHOES OR OVERCOAT TO SEE HIS SISTER. SHE HAD SAVED A FEW DOLLARS WHICH SHE GAVE TO HIM SO THAT HE COULD PAY THE TAXES.

THE YOUNGSTERS GREW UP AND MARRIED AS FOLLOWS:

	SPOUSE
BARBARA (1845-1930)	PETER KEFFNER (1840-1896)
JOHN (1846-1913)	ANNA MARIA MEHNE (1847-1913)
MICHAEL (1849-1914)	AMANDA MESSING (1856-1908)
DAVID (1851-1924)	MAGDALENA MEHNE (1855-1947)
MARY (1855-1948)	GOTTLIEB STERNITSKY (1837-1923)

THE CHILDREN OF BARBARA AND PETER KEFFNER

SPOUSE

JOHN	1-MARY MOLSKI
	2-HELEN ADAMS
JACOB	EDNA HETZEL
FRANK	BERTHA KING

THE CHILDREN OF JOHN AND ANNA MARIA HETZEL

GEORGE	IDA GROSSE
ANNA	CHARLES TESS
SOPHIA	HOMER ROOD
DANIEL	EVA BARNESDALE
ADOLPH	ETHEL WARD
MINNIE	FRED MC CORMICK
ROSE	OTTO MC CORMICK

THE CHILDREN OF MICHAEL C. AND AMANDA HETZEL

EDNA	JACOB KEFFNER (69)
ERNEST	EMMA KING (40)
ALVIN	1-LILLY LOOMIS
	2-SYLVANIA MORRISON
ARTHUR	1-ORIBEL DAVIS
	2-MINNIE SUSTINS
LYDIA	DID NOT MARRY
RUTH	MYRON HARSHAW

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THE CHILDREN OF DAVID AND MAGDALENA HETZEL
SPOUSE

WILLIAM	BRIDGET BARRETT
MARTHA	WILLIAM TESS
EDWARD	GERTRUDE STEWART
EMMA	HENRY TESS
JOHN	SELMA BOELTER
ALBERT	HAZEL STEWART
LAURA	HARRY NELSON
FRED	MIRIAM LOWE
OSCAR	MABEL MATHE
HENRY	STELLA MORGAN
WALTER	LAURA HOGSTAD
EZRA	CORRINE GRIFFITH

THE CHILDREN OF MARY AND GOTTLIEB STERNITSKY

EMMA	1-FRED HERTIG
	2-WILLIAM WISBROECKER
MARGARET	JACOB BRESEMAN
FRED	MARTHA HILLERT
MARTHA	JOHN WINFELDT
SUSAN	WILLIAM VAN RYN