

The
JOHN CARL BODENSTEINER
FAMILY



by
Lorraine Bodensteiner Kuennen

The title-page photo was sent to me in 1978
by my third-cousin, Johann Karl Bodensteiner, of Bernrieth, Bavaria.
It was inscribed:

Karl Bodensteiner
1865

Great-grandfather must have sent it to his brother, Michael, who
stayed on the family farm in Bavaria, Germany.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 79-51178

Copyright 1979
by
Lorraine Kuennen
St. Lucas, Iowa 52166

Printed by The Anundsen Publishing Co., Decorah, Iowa 52101

CONTENTS

Introduction	page 4
Acknowledgements	6
Bodensteiner Ancestors in Bavaria	7
Balk Ancestors in Bavaria	14
John Carl and Margaretha	18
John Carl's Land Deeds	25
John Carl's Writings	26
Theresia and Gerhard Hackman	36
Henry and Helena Bodensteiner	44
Carl and Johanna Bodensteiner	50
Ben and Rose Bodensteiner	58
Henry and Julia Bodensteiner	66
Frank Bodensteiner	69
John and Rena Bodensteiner	70
Clem and Florence Bodensteiner	74
Caroline and John Bruess	78
Luke and Ruth Bodensteiner	84
Edward Bodensteiner	86
Barbara and Martin Baumlner	88
Mary and Vincent Kappes	92
Elizabeth and Joseph Kappes	96
Margaret and George Mihm	102
Johanna and Herman Hackman	106
Philomena and Math Blong	112
John and Theresia Bodensteiner	120
Joseph Bodensteiner Family, Ossian, Iowa	126
Theresia and H. Henry Kuennen	133
Bodensteiner Cousins in Bavaria, Germany	134
John Bodensteiner Family, North Dakota	141

The Kuennen's of St. Lucas - by Father Denis Kuennen	150
J. Barney and Catherine Kuennen	154
Helena and Henry Bodensteiner	44
Anna and Clemens Schmitt	156
Mary and Henry Schmitt	162
Frank and Elizabeth Kuennen	166
Caroline and Herman Boeding	170
Katherine and Joseph Blong	176

INTRODUCTION

This project began, and was intended to be completed, in the winter of 1977. Originally, it was to be a grand album containing all the precious old photos and memorabilia gathered through the years by my parents, Ben and Rose Bodensteiner, complete with their descriptions. At a family gathering, the idea grew into one of having a copy made for each of their children, and grandchildren. Then, why not include the wonderful stories told to me by Dad and Mom, my brothers and sisters, and some of the older relatives? Surely, such a book should also list our ancestors as far back as we know them, and our cousins . . .

In contacting cousins for their family group lists, I discovered a surprising amount of interest in family history. Few cousins could name all their great-grandparents or all their great-uncles and great-aunts. Dad and Mom agreed with me: a family history must be published. They encouraged me tremendously, and helped wherever they could.

Most genealogists deal with only one ancestral line at a time. But I had not planned to be a genealogist. I simply started by asking a few questions about all eight of my great-grandparents! Soon, my search was jumping from Bodensteiner and Balk to Kuennen and Meyer; from Rausch and Spielman to Werner and Schoeberl!

Early in the search, I was most fortunate getting very good leads on my Bodensteiner ancestors. A postcard saved from 1914 led to the discovery of Bodensteiner's in North Dakota. Great-grandfather's own writings were found, pinpointing the little village where he was born. Research in Bavaria was now possible . . .

What a thrill it was for Dad to share in all my interesting mail! Several years earlier, he had received a book "Before the Colors Fade", and loved all the stories of years gone by. On April 20, 1978, he suffered a stroke and for Dad, at the age of 87, the colors did begin to fade . . . Just a week before he died on July 26, I could finally tell him how we were related to the Bodensteiner's in North Dakota, and he was overjoyed! About my family history, he told me once again: "It's important that you do this! It's important that you do it right!"

Now it is winter of 1979, and I have gathered so many pictures and so much information on all my ancestors, that I have to divide it into three books. This Bodensteiner volume will be followed in 1980 by "The Rausch Family". In the last several months, so much good information has turned up on Mom's family that she and I could hardly keep up with all the developments. The third book will be "Ben and Rose", the album I had originally set out to do two winters

ago.

There is really no time that one can say a family history is complete. Once begun, so many contacts are made, more ancestral data will almost certainly continue to turn up through the years. For now, I am satisfied that I have followed every possible lead in my search for Bodensteiner history. In time to come, if some important information comes along, or if a dream-trip to my ancestors' Homeland should materialize, a sequel might be in order.

In this book are listed John Carl's descendants down to his great-grandchildren (my second-cousins), and their spouses; and all of the descendants of my grandfather Henry Bodensteiner. It is my sincere hope that someone in each of Henry's brother's and sisters' families will continue where I left off, and write their ancestor's story for their families.

Errors there will be, in spite of much proof-reading. I hope they will be neither too numerous, nor too serious. I will appreciate your calling them to my attention promptly, so they can be corrected before another printing. Comments and additional information will also be most welcome.

A big question during my search was: Which variation of great-grandfather's first name should I use? It seemed that even he was not sure which he preferred. On his baptismal record in Bavaria, he was Johann Karl. On his marriage record, which was written in Latin, he was Carolus. His first land deed in Fayette County was signed J. Charles. The second one, five months later, was John Karl; then Charles, Karl, John Carl and J. Carl. Subsequent deeds were almost all signed John Carl. The latter version was the one he used most often in his writings - so John Carl must have been his first choice.

The family group lists were gathered in 1977 and 1978; therefore, some of the data is nearly two years old. Surely, since then some families have moved, and/or changed occupations; perhaps there have been some births or deaths that I am not aware of. I apologize for not being able to update right to the printing date.

Shortly before going to press, I decided to include in this book my grandmother Helena Bodensteiner's family - The J. Barney Kuennen Family. Most of the family's data had already been gathered; most of the photographs were already processed. Father Denis Kuennen had already researched the Kuennen ancestors, and happily agreed to guest-write several pages about them. It seemed fitting to put the two families - all my Dad's ancestors - into one book, especially since a good share of the readers are descendants of both families. My only regret is that I have as yet not been able to learn much about Helena's maternal ancestors - the Meyer's. There are so few leads at this time . . .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed in any way to this book. Dad and Mom were most enthusiastic and helpful, from the first day's taping, to my final questions about yet another detail. Thank you, Mom, for the many days, actually weeks, you spent translating John Carl's writings, and for writing letters in German for me - even though it was something you hadn't done for perhaps fifty years. Thank you, Margaret Pint, for responding to my request for information on great-grandfather, by bringing us the books containing his writings. How fortunate that your parents, and you, felt they were important enough to keep for all these years. Without them, John Carl's story would have been told in just a few pages. A very special thank you to Ben and Tony Schaufenbuel, and Mary Jane and Marvin Mueller, for taking precious time from a first visit to their newly-found relatives in Switzerland, to drive to northeastern Bavaria for me. With just a few good clues from John Carl's writings, they found the Bodensteiner "Heimat", found relatives I could correspond with, brought precious pictures and maps. Ben's visit with the priest at Leuchtenberg resulted in the discovery of the Bishop's Central Archives - the source of all the information on our ancestors in Bavaria. "Vielen dank" to Leonard and Wilhelmine Kuennen: To Leonard, for sharing his gift books, "Foxfire I" and "Foxfire II" with me. The idea to record memories of older folks started with these books. To Wilhelmine, for checking translations, and helping with anything German. To their son, Michael, for doing much of the photo-copying for this book. Thank you, Clair Blong, for all your help, especially for the time spent in the National Archives searching for passenger list(s) of the ship(s) our great-grandparents came on. I am grateful to Father Denis for guest-writing several pages on our Kuennen ancestors. His booklets for the John H. Kuennen family helped me decide to "do" something for my family. Thank you to all who so willingly compiled family group lists, and shared treasured photos. Last, but certainly not least, sincere thanks to my family - to Kenny, Kathy and Paul. Without your patience and understanding, I would never have been able to complete this book. I hope and pray that you, and all who read it, will enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed putting it all together!

BODENSTEINER ANCESTORS IN BAVARIA

Great-grandfather John Carl loved to read. And he also loved to write - in all the blank spaces of his favorite books. One wonders if he ever dreamed as he wrote one hundred years ago, that one day his family would carefully translate his every word, for possible clues about his life and his origins.

We knew that he was "Geboren in Bayern" from his tombstone and the memorial card at the time of his death. But no one knew where in Bavaria he was born. Until his granddaughter, Margaret Pint of Osage, looked through some of his old books and discovered all his writings. (Her parents, John and Theresia Bodensteiner, had lived with John Carl and farmed the home place for fourteen years.) Here it was, in great detail, written across the top of the first page of "Das Goldene Familienbuch":

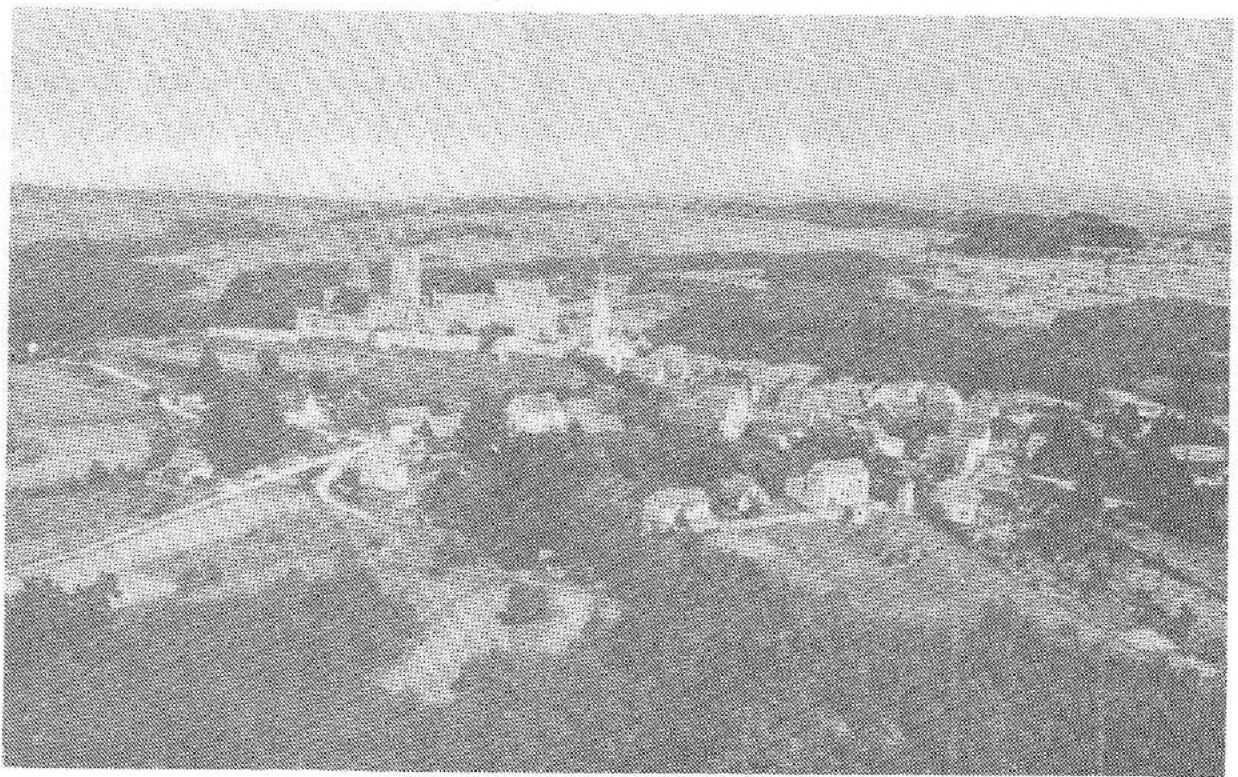
*John Carl Bodensteiner von
Bernerieth bei Dollnitz
und Leuchtenberg
Das Goldene Familienbuch.
König Regensburg Oberpfalz
Erster Theil.
Landquart Gesundheitspflege. Bayern*

1. Ansteckung bei Krankheiten zu verhüten und die bewährtesten Desinfektionsmittel.
Die besten Hausmittel zur Luftreinigung und Ansteckungserhaltung sind folgende:
1) Man löse ungefähr einen Schöffel Kochsalz in einem Faß Wasser

"John Carl Bodensteiner from Bernerieth by Dollnitz and Leuchtenberg, district of Regensburg, Oberpfalz region of Bavaria, land-district Vohenstrauss."

In September 1977, with the above information, my brother-in-law Ben Schaufenbuel had no difficulty finding the area. His son-in-law, Marvin Mueller, was driving the car while Mary Jane was writing in her diary:

(From Switzerland) . . . "All through the Austrian and Bavarian Alps . . . Through Mittenwald, Berchtesgaden, Prien, on to Wasserburg where the streets were very narrow and old . . . Stayed in an old, old hotel there . . . Crossed the beautiful Danube in Regensburg . . . Continued north to Vohenstrauss, very near to the Czechoslovakian border. Went first to the Rathaus (Town Hall) to find records. They suggested we go to Leuchtenberg, but first made a copy of a map for us which showed all the small towns in the area. The lady made a phone call, then told us of a possible relative in Wieselrieth . . .

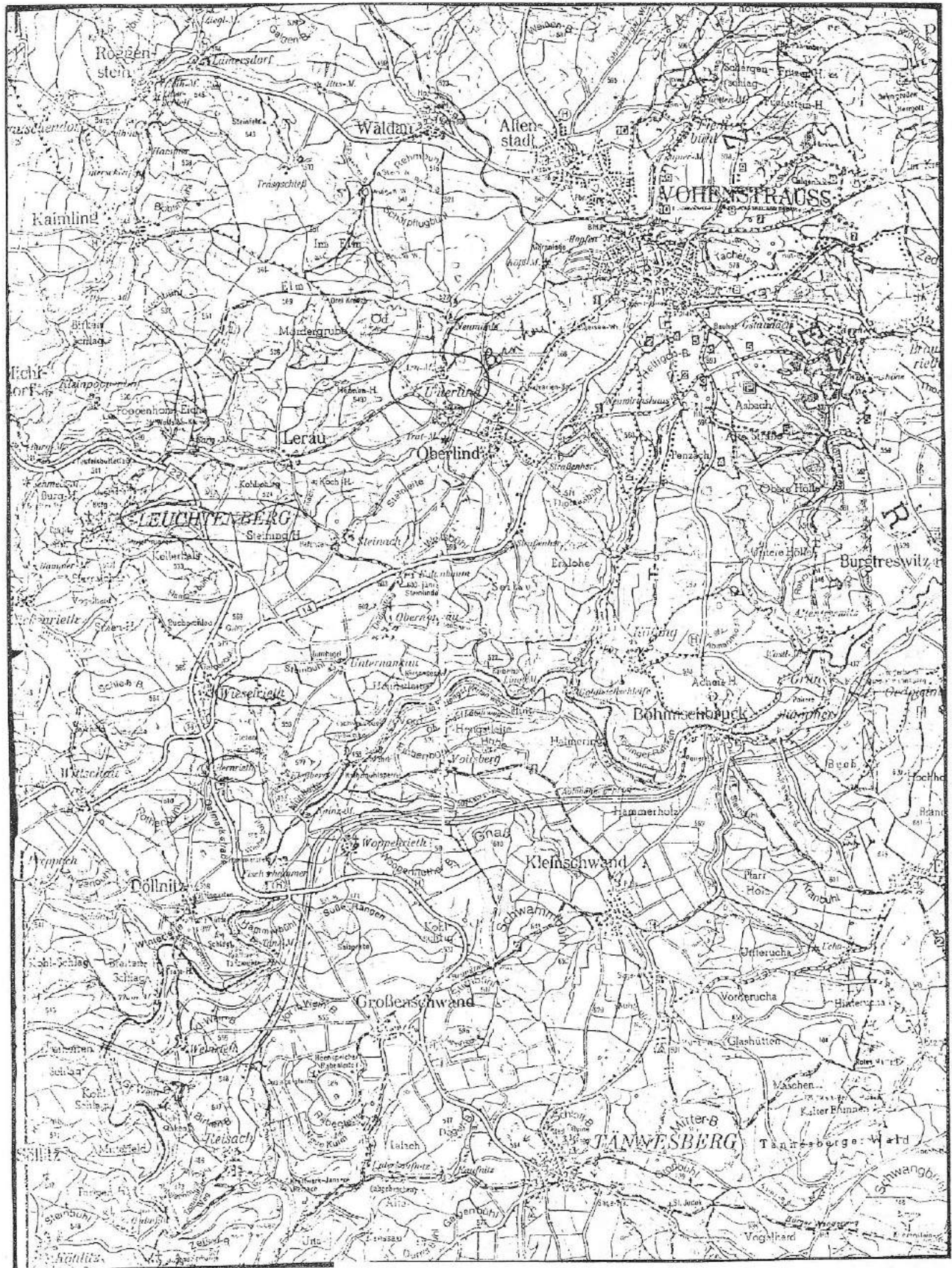


LEUCHTENBERG - "The Pearl of the Oberpfalz."

. . . So we drove to Leuchtenberg which was approximately 10 km. away. The countryside in this area is very pretty. It is softly rolling hills and stretches of woods and patches of farmland. The highways are quite good, either pavement or blacktop, but not as wide as ours in America. Leuchtenberg is an old, old town at the top of a great hill. An old castle ruins is at the very top, and just below that is the church. . . We visited the priest in the rectory just across the street. He told us that all the "Taufshein", or birth records, would be in Regensburg, which is the head of the diocese. Dad got the address . . ."

Ben surprised me one day in January 1978, with very detailed records from this Bishop's Central Archives: "Tauf-Urkunde" (baptismal records) from the church at Leuchtenberg for "Bodensteiner Johann Karl" and "Balk Margarethe", (our great-grandmother). And the "Trauungs-Urkunde" (marriage records) of both their parents, giving not only their dates and places of birth, but also naming their parents! Plus, an invitation to more research: "Ihre Familienforschung kann noch weitergefuehrt werden." (Further research on your family is possible!)

Four requests and a year later - they insisted on using surface mail - we have two rather complete Ancestor Charts, going back to great-great-great-great-great-grandparents, and the late 1600's!



Map of Northeastern Bavaria, showing all the little villages that were the Homeland of my Bodensteiner and Balk ancestors. It was given to Mary Jane by a clerk in the Vohenstrauß Rathaus. An example of the map's scale: Leuchtenberg is approximately 10 km. from Vohenstrauß. (A kilometer is 5/8 of a mile.)

BODENSTEINER ANCESTOR CHART

- b - born
- pb - place of birth
- m - married
- d - died
- pd - place of death
- c. - about

Michael Bodensteiner
 b 19 Jun 1803
 pb Unterlind
 m 20 May 1828
 d 2 Sep 1859
 pd Bernrieth

(Georg) Mathias Bodensteiner
 b 4 Apr 1765
 pb Unterlind
 m 16 Jun 1793
 d 8 Jul 1843
 pd Unterlind

Joseph Bodensteiner
 b c. 1734
 pb Unterlind
 m
 d 5 Jul 1817
 pd Unterlind
 Katherine Marg. Frischholz
 b 2 Oct 1739
 pb Kossing
 d 13 Jun 1805
 pd Unterlind

Nikolaus Frischholz
 Anna Maria

(Georg) Michael Hilburger

(Anna) Elizabeth Hilburger
 b 20 May 1770
 pb Unterlind
 d 22 Apr 1845
 pd Unterlind

Mathias Uschold

(Maria) Margarethe Uschold
 b
 pb
 d

Johann Karl Bodensteiner
 b 25 Dec 1831
 pb Bernrieth, Bavaria
 m 26 Jul 1859
 d 28 Jan 1911
 pd St. Lucas, Iowa

Margaretha Balk

(Georg Friedrich) Mathias Bausch
 b 21 Sep 1749
 pb Edeldorf
 m 31 Jan 1769
 d 19 Sep 1800
 pd Edeldorf
 Elizabeth Bausch
 b
 pb
 d 20 Nov 1794

Georg Friedr. Bausch
 d 7 Jan 1771 Edeldorf
 Elizabeth
 d 12 Dec 1776 Edeldorf
 Georg Adam Bausch

(Katharina) Margarethe Bausch
 b 2 Sep 1809
 pb Edeldorf
 d 26 Mar 1846
 pd Bernrieth

Margarethe

Paul Schwab

(Johann) Wolfgang Schwab
 b
 pb
 m 11 Feb 1782
 d
 Maria Margarethe Grossmann
 b
 pb
 d
 Lennessrieth

Paul Schwab
 d 19 May 1792 Bernrieth
 Anna Forster

All names and information on this chart are from the Bishop's Central Archives in Regensburg, Bavaria, with the exception of Johann Karl's marriage and death dates. These are from Festina and St. Lucas parish records.

Compiled by

Lorraine Bodensteiner Kuennen

January 1979

Barbara Tremel

Johann Adam Grossmann

JOSEPH and KATHERINE M. BODENSTEINER

Great-great-great-great-grandparents

Katherine Margarethe Frischholz

b 2 Oct 1739
pb Kossing, Bavaria
d 13 Jun 1805
pd Unterlind, Bavaria

Joseph Bodensteiner

b c. 1734
pb Unterlind, Bavaria
d 5 Jul 1817
pd Unterlind, Bavaria

Father - Nikolaus Frischholz Farmers near Kossing
Mother - Anna Maria Frischholz

Joseph and Katherine farmed near Unterlind.

The only child we know of so far is (Georg) Mathias Bodensteiner.

MATHIAS and ELIZABETH BODENSTEINER

Great-great-great-grandparents

(Anna) Elizabeth Hilburger

b 20 May 1770
pb Unterlind, Bavaria
d 22 Apr 1845
pd Unterlind, Bavaria

(Georg) Mathias Bodensteiner

b 4 Apr 1765
pb Unterlind, Bavaria
d 8 Jul 1843
pd Unterlind, Bavaria

Father - Michael Hilburger Farmers near Oberlind
Mother - Margarethe Uschold

Mathias and Elizabeth were married June 16, 1793 at Oberlind.

Witnesses: Joseph Bodensteiner, father of the bridegroom
Joseph Baeumler, schoolmaster in Oberlind

Mathias and Elizabeth farmed near Unterlind.

Their children:

1. Elisabeth Margarethe b 14 Jan 1796
2. Maria Anna Katharina b 12 Sep 1798
3. (Maria) Anna b 22 Dec 1800 *
4. (Georg) Michael b 19 Jun 1803 - Great-great-grandfather
5. Michael Balthasar b 6 Jun 1806
6. Georg Mathias b 5 Mar 1808

* (Maria) Anna married Joseph Bodensteiner. Their descendants settled in North Dakota in 1896. See page 141.

MICHAEL and MARGARETHE BODENSTEINER

Great-great-grandparents

Margarethe Bausch

b 2 Sep 1809
pb Edeldorf, Bavaria
d 26 Mar 1846
pd Bernrieth, Bavaria

(Georg) Michael Bodensteiner

b 19 Jun 1803
pb Unterlind, Bavaria
d 2 Sep 1859
pd Bernrieth, Bavaria

Father - Johann Bausch
Mother - Barbara Schwab farmers near Edeldorf

Married 20 May 1828 at Leuchtenberg.

Witnesses: Father of the bridegroom
and Georg Schwabl, landlord from Dollnitz

Michael and Margarethe farmed at Bernrieth Nr. 1. This farm is still in the Bodensteiner family. (See page 135.)

Their children:

1. Maria b 2 May 1829
2. Johann Karl b 25 Dec 1831 - Great-grandfather
3. Johann Michael b 4 Jun 1834
4. Margarethe b 2 Nov 1837
5. Joseph b 26 Aug 1840
6. Maria Theresia b 31 Mar 1842
7. Theresia b 27 Aug 1845

About Maria - we only know what John Carl wrote: "Schwester Maria gestorben 26 Oct 1903, 75 Yahr Alt."

Johann Michael stayed on the home farm. His great-grandson, Johann Karl Bodensteiner still farms Bernrieth Nr. 1.

Margarethe - we only know: "2nd Schwester Tod November 1861, 25 Yahr Alt."

Joseph came to America. For his family, see page 126.

Maria Theresia came to America. For her story, see page 133.

About Theresia - we know nothing. Perhaps she died in infancy, or outlived John Carl, being he didn't write about her death.

Their mother, great-great-grandmother Margarethe, died on March 26, 1846, at the age of 37, leaving Michael with seven children, ranging in age from 7 months to 17 years. On February 13, 1849, he married Walburga Roehl, daughter of Andreas Roehl, a tailor from Waldau, and Apollonia Gensmann. She died fourteen months later, on April 7, 1850, at the age of 44. Michael married Barbara Reil on February 23, 1852. She was the daughter of Paul Reil and Margarethe Braun, farmers near Zeissau. On March 12, 1857, she died at the age of 53.

Great-great-grandfather Michael died on September 2, 1859 at the age of 57.

Tauf - Urkunde

Täufling
 Zu- und Vorname Bodensteiner Johann Karl

Geburtsdatum 25. Dezember 1831

Geburtsort Bernrieth

Tauftag 27. Dezember 1831

Taufort / Kirche Döllnitz

Vater Bodensteiner Michael

Zu- und Vorname Bauer

Bek. kath.

Mutter Bodensteiner Margarethe

Zu- und Vorname Bausch

Geburtsname Bauerstochter von Edldorf

Bek. -/-

Beruf Bernrieth

Wohnort, Str., Nr. Bernrieth

Taufpate / Taufpatin Krappf Johann Karl

Bauer

Bek. kath.

Kleiberg

Wohnort, Str., Nr. Kleiberg

Taufpriester Nagl, Coop.

Bemerkungen -/-

Taufmatrikel der röm. kath. Pfarrei Leuchtenberg

Band 4 Seite 146 Nr. -

Regensburg, den 8. 11. 1977



Bischöfliches Zentralarchiv
 Regensburg, St. Petrusweg 11

Wagner
 (Archivar)

Trauungs - Urkunde

Bräutigam
 Zu- und Vorname Bodensteiner Michael, ledig

Bek. kath.

Bauer

Geburtsdatum 19. Juni 1803

Geburtsort Unterlind

Eltern: Mathias Bodensteiner, Bauer in Unterlind und Elisabeth, geb. Hilburger

Bräut
 Zu- und Vorname Bausch Margarethe, ledig

Bek. kath.

Bauerstochter in Bernrieth, kath.

Geburtsdatum 2. September 1809

Geburtsort Edldorf

Eltern: Johann Bausch, Bauer in Edldorf und Barbara, geb. Schwab von Bernrieth

Tag der kirchl. Trauung 20. Mai 1828

Ort (Kirche) der Trauung Leuchtenberg

Trauzugen 1. Vater des Bräutigams

-/-

2. Georg Schwabl, Wirt von Döllnitz

-/-

Traumamatrikel der röm. kath. Pfarrei Leuchtenberg

Band 9 Seite 24 Nr. -

Regensb 1977



Bischöfliches Zentralarchiv
 Regensburg, St. Petrusweg 11

Wagner
 (Archivar)

BALK ANCESTOR CHART

b - born
 pb - place of birth
 m - married
 d - died
 pd - place of death
 c. - about

Wolfgang Balk
 b 7 Feb 1789
 pb Lerau
 m 19 Oct 1824
 d 7 Sep 1861
 pd Lerau

Erhard Balck
 b c. 1762
 pb Witschau
 m 22 Apr 1788
 d 30 Mar 1814
 pd Lerau

Margarethe Zilbauer
 b c. 1764
 pb Lerau
 d 20 Mar 1814
 pd Lerau

Joseph Balck
 b
 pb
 m
 d

Susanne Uschold
 b
 pb
 d

Johann Zilbauer
 b
 pb
 m
 d

Barbara Braun
 b
 pb
 d

Albrecht Marx
 b
 pb
 m
 d

Anna Margaretha Uschold

Georg Bojer
 b
 pb
 m
 d

Dorothea Riedl
 b
 pb
 d

Georg Uschold

Johann Braun

Mathias Uschold

Barthl. Riedl

Great-grandmother:

Margaretha Balk

b 19 Jul 1837
 pb Lerau, Bavaria
 m 26 Jul 1859
 d 2 Feb 1879
 pd St. Lucas, Iowa

Johann Karl Bodensteiner

Katharina Marg. Marx
 b 30 Nov 1800
 pb Neumuhle
 d
 pd

Georg Marx
 b
 pb Neumuhle
 m 15 Feb 1794
 d
 pd

All names and information on this chart are from the Bishop's Central Archives in Regensburg, Bavaria, with the exception of Margaretha's marriage and death dates. These are from Festina and St. Lucas parish records.

Compiled by
 Lorraine Bodensteiner Kuennen January 1979

JOSEPH and SUSANNE BALK
Great-great-great-great-grandparents

Susanne Uschold

b
pb
d
pd

Joseph Balck

b
pb
d
pd

Father - Georg Uschold Farmer near Woppenrieth
Mother -

Joseph and Susanne farmed near Witschau.

The only child we know of so far is Erhard Balck.

ERHARD and MARGARETHE BALCK
Great-great-great-grandparents

Margarethe Zilbauer

b c. 1764
pb Lerau, Bavaria
d 20 Mar 1814
pd Lerau, Bavaria

Erhard Balck

b c. 1762
pb Witschau, Bavaria
d 30 Mar 1814
pd Lerau, Bavaria

Father - Johann Zilbauer Farmers near Lerau
Mother - Barbara Braun

Erhard and Margarethe were married April 22, 1788, in Leuchtenberg.

Witnesses: Leonhard Froidl, farmer near Lerau
Joseph Balck, farmer near Witschau

Erhard and Margarethe farmed near Lerau.

Their children:

1. Georg Wolfgang b 7 Feb 1789 - Great-great-grandfather
2. Anna Maria b 16 Jul 1795
3. Eva b 1 Jun 1798
4. Ulrich b 24 May 1800
5. Maria b 28 Apr 1803
6. Margarethe b 12 Mar 1806

WOLFGANG BALCK

Great-great-grandfather

Wolfgang's first marriage was to Margarethe Demleitner, daughter of Simon Demleitner and Kunigunde Weiss Demleitner, on September 19, 1815 at Leuchtenberg. Witnesses were: Georg Beyerl, farmer near Lerau, and the Father of the Bride. Three children were born to them:

1. Margaretha b 20 Jun 1817
2. (Anna) Maria b 21 Oct 1818 *
3. Maria Anna b 16 Dec 1820

* (Anna) Maria Balk married Johann Spickenreither of Tannesberg, and their daughter, Catherina, married Conrad Hauer. They became the parents of Joseph and Michael Hauer, and all eventually came to the St. Lucas, Iowa area.

Margarethe Balck died on May 21, 1824, and Wolfgang remarried:

WOLFGANG and KATHARINA BALK

Great-great-grandparents

Katharina Margarethe Marx

b 30 Nov 1800
pb Neumuhle, Bavaria
d
pd

Wolfgang Balk

b 7 Feb 1789
pb Lerau, Bavaria
d 7 Sep 1861
pb Lerau, Bavaria

Father - Georg Marx

Mother - Maria Anna Boier

Wolfgang and Katharina were married on October 19, 1824 at Leuchtenberg.

Witnesses: Georg Marx, father of the bride
Georg Betz, carpenter from Lerau

Wolfgang and Katharina farmed near Lerau.

Their children:

1. Elisabeth b 2 Jul 1825 * married John Kuehner
2. Mathias b 22 Feb 1827 * married _____ Otters
3. Johann b 5 Apr 1829
4. Barbara b 24 Feb 1831 * married Adam Martin
5. Maria Barbara b 7 Oct 1833
6. Maria Barbara b 17 Sep 1834
7. Margarethe b 19 Jul 1837 * married John Carl Bodensteiner
8. Johann Ulrich b 15 Nov 1839
9. Maria b 2 Apr 1841
10. Ulrich b 4 Oct 1843 * married Margaret Wittman
11. Rosina b 31 Jul 1846

* Came to America, settled in the St. Lucas area.

Tauf - Urkunde

Täufling Balk Margarethe
 Zu- und Vorname 19. Juli 1837
 Geburtsdatum Lerau
 Geburtsort 19. Juli 1837
 Taufort / Kirche Leuchtenberg
 Vater Balk Wolfgang
 Zu- und Vorname Bek. -/-
 Beruf Bauer
 Wohnort Str., Nr. Lerau Nr. 6
 Mutter Balk Katharina
 Zu- und Vorname Marx
 Geburtsname Bauerstochter von Neumühle -/-
 Beruf Bek. -/-
 Wohnort, Str., Nr. Lerau Nr. 6
 Taufpate / Taufpatin Wetzstein Barbara
 Beruf Hebamme
 Wohnort, Str., Nr. Leuchtenberg
 Taufpriester Hamann, Coop.
 Bemerkungen -/-
 Taufmarkel der röm. kath. Pfarrei Leuchtenberg
 Band 4 Seite 172 Nr.

Regensburg den 8. 11. 1977



Bischöfliches Zentralarchiv
 Regensburg, St. Petersweg 11

Wagner-Hübner
 (Archivar)

Trauwings - Urkunde

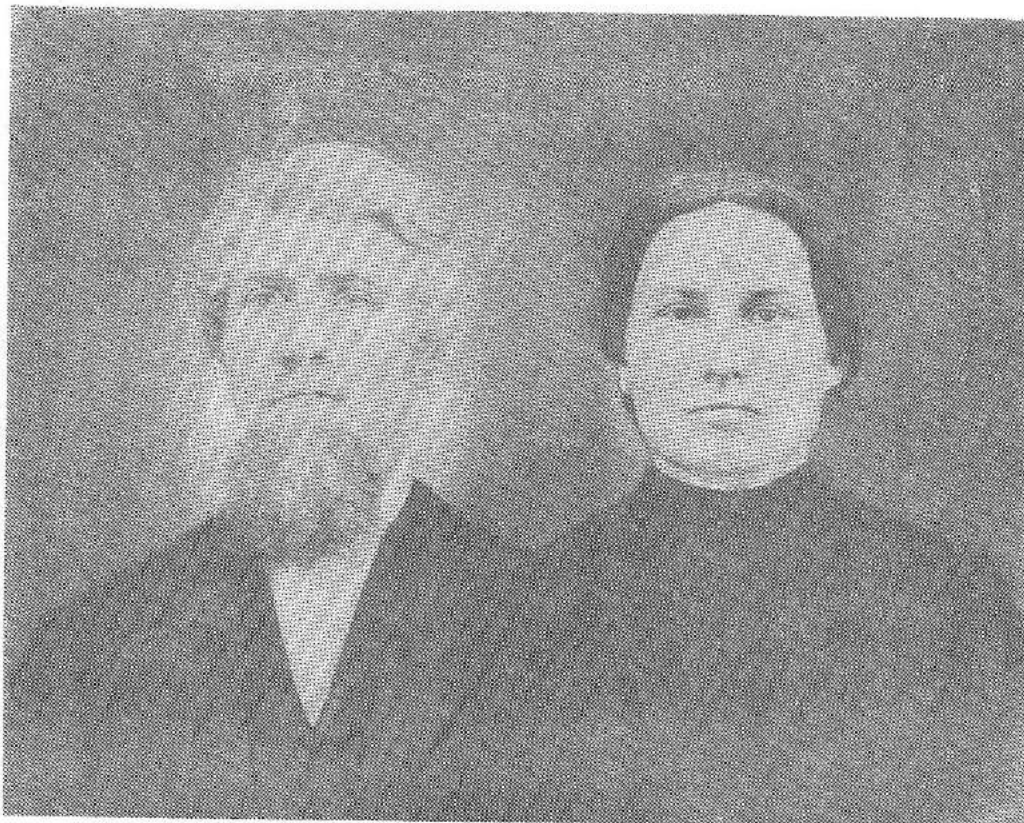
Bräutigam Balck Wolfgang, Witwer
 Zu- und Vorname Bauer in Lerau
 Beruf Bek. kath.
 Geburtsort 7. Februar 1789
 Eltern Lerau
 Erhard Balck und Margarethe, geb.
 Zilbauer
 Braut -/-
 Zu- und Vorname Marx Katharina Margarethe, ledig
 Beruf Bauerstochter von Neumühle, kath.
 Geburtsort Bek.
 Eltern 30. November 1800
 Neumühle
 Georg Marx und Maria Anna, geb.
 Boier
 Tag der kirchl. Trauung -/-
 Ort (Kirche) der Trauung 19. Oktober 1824
 Trauzeugen Leuchtenberg
 1. Georg Marx, Vater der Braut
 2. Georg Betz, Zimmermann zu Lerau
 Trauwingsmarkel der röm. kath. Pfarrei Leuchtenberg
 Band 9

Regensburg den 8. 11. 1977



Bischöfliches Zentralarchiv
 Regensburg, St. Petersweg 11

Wagner-Hübner
 Archivar



John Carl and Margaretha Bodensteiner

"4 July 1859 - Came to America." These few words are all that great-grandfather wrote about what must have been one of the most important events in his life. They were found on the inside back cover of his Goldene Familienbuch. On another page, he recorded the death of his beloved Margaret: "Mutter Tod 2 Feb 1879, 42 Jahr Alt, in Land 20 Jahr."

From this, we know they both came to America in 1859. But so far, we have been unable to find the passenger list for their ship(s). Until we do, we will not know if they came together, or whether John Carl's brother and sister, Joseph and Theresia, came with him. Nor do we know when Margaret's four brothers and sisters came. Her older sister, Barbara, was in America as early as 1850, according to the biographies her two daughters wrote upon entering the convent.

Why did they come to America? How I wish they would have written in detail about this. It seems very few immigrants talked a great deal about the reasons. Surely, in many instances, their families were reluctant to let them go. Once in America, they were very busy making a new home in a new land. Letting their thoughts dwell too much on their Homeland would cause them to long for dear ones left behind . . .

A study of history of that era, tells of religious oppression, and much turmoil in Germany and all of Europe. All around Germany, countries were trying to expand their borders. There was great unrest among the people, resulting in the

French Revolution in the late eighteenth century, and revolutionary movements in Germany itself, especially in 1830 and 1848.

Many young men came to America to avoid the military service. Evidently, this was not the case for John Carl: "In 1853 I entered the Military in Regensburg, and again in 1854. I was on active duty only three months. Out of the six years it was lucky . . ." If his younger brother, Joseph, came with him in 1859, he would have been eighteen years old, just about the age . . .

Most likely, we will never know for what reasons our ancestors left their homes for a new life in America. Perhaps they simply loved adventure!

John Carl and Margaret must have been fiancées already in Bavaria, because just three weeks after the date that he wrote he (possibly they) "came to America July 4, 1859", they were married in St. Lucas, by the priest from Festina.

*... Margaretha Mettler, 34 et 20
Tuto: J. Fried et W. Dueda.*

W. Feddermann

*Die 26 Julii 1859 matrimonium contractum
ad Stum Lucas Carolus Bodenstern 27 et
Margaretha Balk 21 annorum. teste:
Michael Wurzer uxoris eius*

*Die 9 Oct. 1859 matrimonium contractum
in Stacyville, Mitchell Co.*

MARRIAGE RECORD OF OUR GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
from Festina church records. *

"Today 26 July 1859 entered into matrimony at St. Lucas Carl Bodensterner 27 and Margaretha Balk 21 years. Witnesses: Michael Wurzer and his wife."

Although he neglected to sign his name, the celebrant must have been Father Feddermann, pastor at Festina, who performed the other marriages recorded on this page. The few priests in Iowa at that time had to serve a large area, as the next marriage by Father was at Stacyville in Mitchell County.

* I am grateful to my niece, Elnore Hackman, for obtaining this precious copy, and to the Winneshiek County Historical Society for making it possible. In the summer of 1978, they embarked upon a program of copying the records of Festina, one of the oldest parishes in Iowa, for their archives.

JOHN CARL and MARGARETHA

Great-grandparents

Margaretha Balk

b 19 Jul 1837
pb Lerau, Bavaria
d 2 Feb 1879
pd St. Lucas, Iowa

John Carl Bodensteiner

b 25 Dec 1931
pb Bernrieth, Bavaria
d 28 Jan 1911
pd St. Lucas, Iowa

Married 26 Jul 1859 at St. Lucas, by Rev. Feddermann of Festina.

Witnesses: Michael Wurzer and his wife, Anna Stahl Wurzer

John Carl and Margaret farmed 1/4 mile west of St. Lucas, on the present Al Dietzenbach place. (Bernadine is a great-granddaughter.) Great-grandfather evidently enjoyed the buying and selling of land. (See deed records page 25.)

Their first child, Johan, was born on April 22, 1860. Baptismal sponsors were neighbors Johannes and Magdalena Wurzer.

Their second child, Theresia Margaretha, was born on July 28, 1861. This time the sponsors were John Carl's sister, Theresia, and her husband, H. Henry Kuennen. They had married two months earlier, and were farming just down the road. When their first child was born in May, 1862, Margaret was sponsor with Henry's father, Gerhard Kuennen.

Tragedy struck both families several months later. Both Bodensteiner children died of the black flu, or diphtheria. Tradition has it that John Carl was burying little year-old Theresia, when he was told that his two-year-old Johan had also died. Just two weeks later, little four-month-old Maria Kuennen also died, perhaps of the same sickness.

Another daughter was born to John Carl and Margaret in December of that year, and was also given the name Theresia. Henry and Theresia Kuennen were again chosen as sponsors.

John Carl and Margaret were sponsors for the second Kuennen baby, John Carl, who was born on September 3, 1863. He died in infancy, and just five months later, his mother Theresia Bodensteiner Kuennen died at the age of 21.

What hardships and sorrows these two young couples had to endure! In eighteen months, to lose four little babes, and a young mother!

In the ensuing years, eight more children were born to John Carl and Margaret. The last child, Casper, evidently was still-born, as great-grandfather wrote "was born 6 January 1879 Tod" (dead).

And in his own words: "Mutter Tod February 2, 1879. 42 years old, 20 years in this land."

Great-grandmother Margaret didn't have time to write anything for posterity, but she left nine healthy children who grew up and had large families of their own.

18

Schiffslog für den 16. Juni 1891

 Der Johan geboren den 22. Aug. 1860 Tod August 31. 1862
 Der Theresia geboren den 25. Juli 1861. Tod August 30. 1862
 Der Theresia geboren den 4. Dec. 1862
 Der Henry geboren den 20. Jan. 1864
 Der Barbara geboren den 25. Jan. 1866
 Der Mary geboren den 8. Aug. 1867
 Der Elizabeth geboren den 28. Jan. 1869
 Der Margaretha geboren den 20. Jan. 1871
 Der Johanna geboren den 21. Dec. 1872
 Der Philomena geboren den 5. Aug. 1874
 Der Johan Carl geboren den 20. Aug. 1876
 Der Casper geboren den 6. Jan. 1879
 Mutter Johanna M. 19. 22 Sept. 1879
 20

THEIR FAMILY RECORD

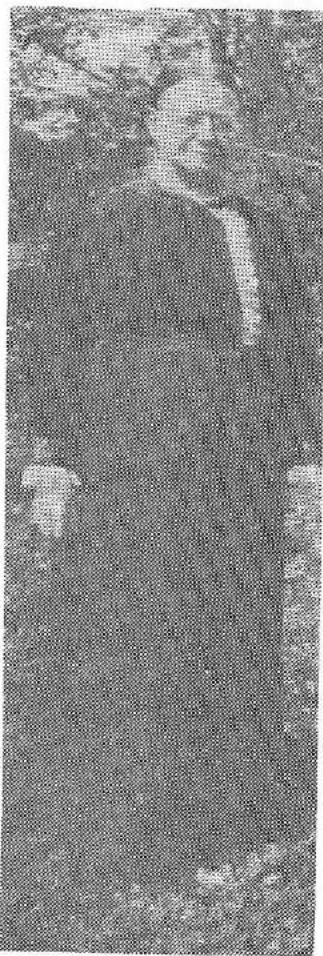
Written, almost surely, by Margaret, with later notes between the lines, and the last line, by John Carl . . .

- Johan born April 22, 1860; died August 31, 1862
- Theresia born July 25, 1861; died August 30, 1862
- Theresia born December 4, 1862 (married Gerhard Hackman)
- Henry born January 20, 1864; married February 13, 1888 (Helena Kuennen)
- Barbara born January 25, 1866; died November 9, 1897, age 32 (Martin Baumler)
- Mary born August 8, 1867 (married Vincent Kappes)
- Elizabeth born January 28, 1869 (married Joseph Kappes)
- Margaretha born January 20, 1871 (married George Mihm)
- Johanna born December 21, 1872 (married Herman Hackman)
- Philomena born August 5, 1874 (married Math Blong)
- Johan Carl born August 20, 1876 (married Theresia Drilling)
- Casper born January 6, 1879, dead
- Mother died February 2, 1879, 42 years old, 20 years in this land.

John Carl married a second time on October 2, 1883. His bride was a widow, Kunigunda Baumler. The witnesses were his brother, Joseph, and his wife Maria. Some grandchildren thought they remembered hearing that Kunigunda had two sons, one of them a priest. After much research, it seems that the only Baumler priest in Iowa was Father John B. Baeumler. I was able to find much information about him, even a photo, but it was some time before I learned the identity of his mother. In "The Carroll Times" of November 30, 1932, his obituary states that his parents were "John and Margaret Baeumler . . ."

Could Margaret and Kunigunda have been the same person? That question was answered by two nieces who were mentioned as having been at his funeral. One was a nun then - "Sister M. Leocadia of St. Anthony's home, Sioux City". The other niece entered the convent shortly thereafter. Both have written to me, and from them I learned that Margaret did remarry - but she never came to America.

I am now quite sure that Kunigunda did not have a son who was a priest. But it is a coincidence that Father Baeumler worked for "an uncle" in the St. Lucas area when he first came to America in 1882, at the age of 14. (Late info: His mother was born Margaret Hirmer.)



Catherine

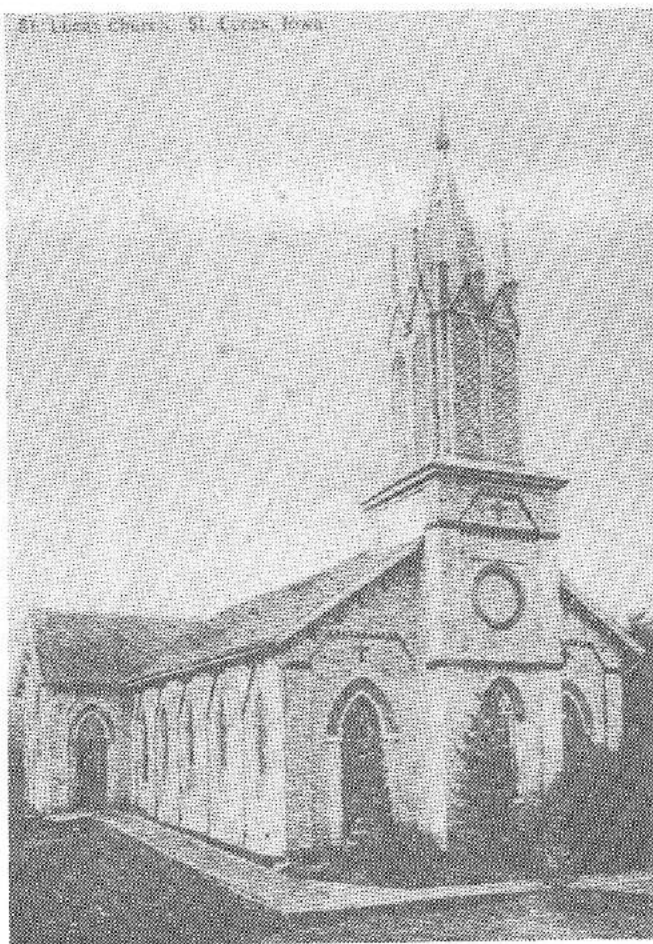
On the marriage license record and the land deeds at the Court House, and on their marriage record at our church, her maiden name is not given. She is simply listed as Kunigunda Baumler. Some day I hope to learn more about Kunigunda.. She died on February 22, 1899.

Great-grandfather's third wife was Catherine Freyburger, a widow from Buffalo, New York.

From early conversations, I gathered that she might have been a "mail-order bride". But perhaps this was not entirely true. John Carl had some connections in Buffalo from early on. One of his early books was given to him by someone from there, and a nephew, John Baptist Bodensteiner, worked in Buffalo for eight years before returning to Bavaria. But, perhaps great-grandpa did put an ad in a paper . . .

She did come on the train to Fort Atkinson, and several weeks later, on November 3, 1900, they were married. She was dearly loved, I learned from all of John Carl's grandchildren. She taught them to count to one-hundred in French, and had she stayed longer, no doubt they would have learned to speak French fluently. But John Carl died in 1911, and Margaret Pint told me that she and her sister cried several days when "grandmother went back to her family in Buffalo" in 1913. She died there on June 29, 1926.

Great-grandfather's Church . . .



John Carl's writings clearly show that his church, and his faith, were very important to him.

In the first years, he and Margaret worshipped in the little log church where the public school later stood.

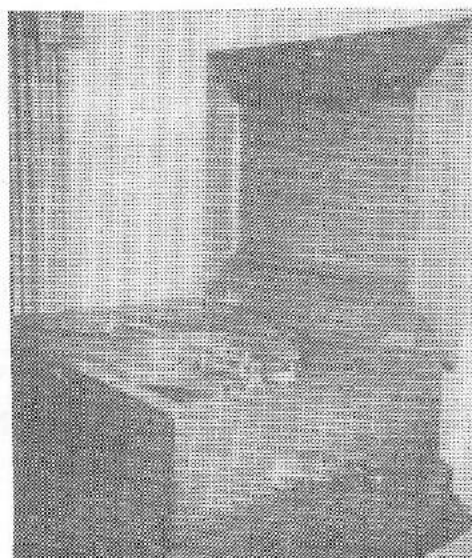
This beautiful church was built in 1870, and the parish was given a resident pastor. Imagine the bittersweet memories this edifice held for great-grandfather: The youngest children were baptized here; quite surely all his children were married here. His baby son, Casper, and a few weeks later, his Margaret, were buried from here; as were his daughters - the young mothers - Barbara and Mary. And finally, in 1911, great-grandfather himself.

John Carl loved music. His grandchildren remember hearing that he played the organ in church, and sang on the choir. It seems rather interesting to me that so many of his descendants also love to sing and play musical instruments. I have often heard people remark that "all the Bodensteiner's are good singers". . .

For years, great-grandfather sold "Mirra"s-beautiful wooden music boxes. The "records" were round metal plates with tiny discs for each note of the song. His grandson, Luke Bodensteiner remembers:

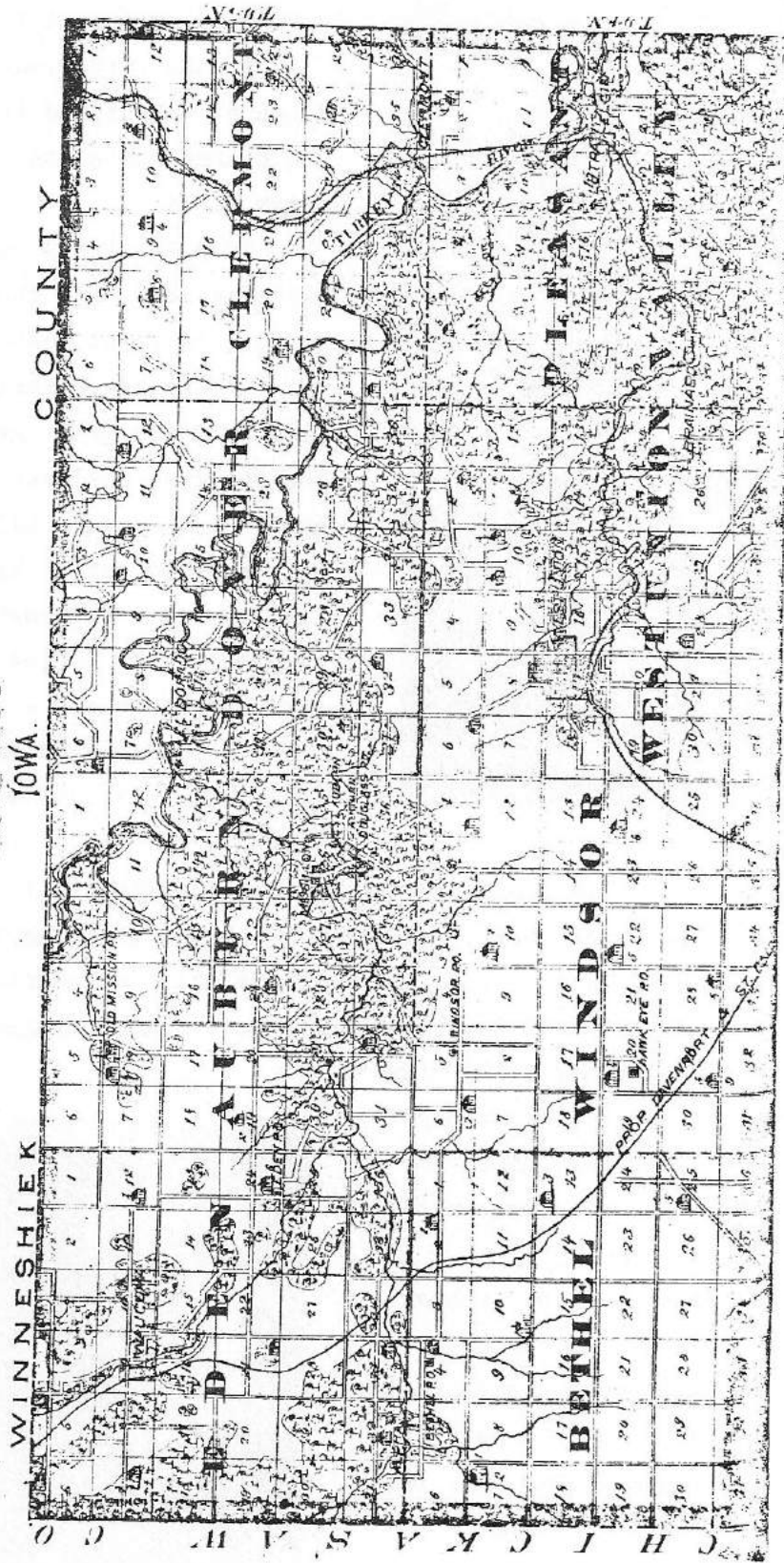
". . . about the Mirra: We had a small one that made tingling high-note music, and a much larger one that made much richer music. I played them by the hour. I never got tired of them. Later the phonograph came out, but the Mirra has my fondest recollection. . ."

The accompanying picture was sent to me by the Cyril Bodensteiner family of Fort Dodge. Everyone that hears their Mirra is "enchanted" by its lovely sound.



. . . and his Mirra.

MAP OF FAYETTE COUNTY IOWA.



The NORTHERN HALF OF FAYETTE COUNTY, from "The Fayette County History of 1878".
St. Lucas was still known as "Old Mission Post Office".

SOME OF JOHN CARL'S LAND DEALS - all in Auburn Township -
as recorded in the Fayette County Court House.

- 14 Feb 1860 - Purchased 10 acres in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, from Anthony & Mary
Book J, #230 Stathel, for \$150. (This was timber, just north of the former
Carl Baumler sawmill east of St. Lucas.)
- 16 Jul 1860 - Purchased 30 acres in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6, from R. Hopkins Harris
Book J, #525 of Baltimore City, Maryland, for \$300. (This was the first part
of his farm just west of St. Lucas.)
- 14 Feb 1863 - Purchased 40 acres in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6, from Anthony & Amelia
Book N, #521 Douglass of Hamilton County, Ohio, for \$300.
- 12 May 1866 - Purchased 5 acres off E side of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6, "ten rods
Book T, #379 in width East and West, and eighty rods long North and South", from
John Henry & Mary Foreman, for \$115.
- 1 Dec 1877 - Purchased 40 acres "more or less" in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7,
Book 46, #84 from William & Mary A. Myer, for \$1500.
- 18 Nov 1882 - Purchased 1 acre "20 rods and 12 feet S of $\frac{1}{4}$ post on N side of
Book 52, #568 Section 8, then S . . then W, N, then E . . to place of begin-
ning", from John Miller, for \$40.
- 19 Jun 1883 - Purchased (1acre?) "commencing 85 $\frac{5}{8}$ rods S of NE corner of NW
Book 54, #441 $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, thence W, thence S, thence E, thence N to place
of beginning, in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, from Theodore Perry
& Katherina, for \$33.
- 1 Feb 1886 - Purchased $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres "commencing 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ rods S of NE corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Book 58, #468 of Section 8, from John B. Bojer and wife Mary Bojer, for \$100.
- 1 Feb 1886 - Sold part of the above description (no acreage given), plus some
Book 58, #469 additional description to Baptist Bojer, for \$168.
- 16 Mar 1886 - Purchased a road "commencing 60 rods from the NE corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Book 58, #572 of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6, one rod wide, through SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$
of Section 6, from John & Magdalena Wurzer, for \$20.
- 7 Feb 1894 - Purchased 50 acres, more or less, in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11, from Jo-
Book 71, #264 seph and Magdalena Hackman, for \$1500. (This is the present Ray
Baumler farm.)
- 27 Jul 1896 - Purchased(?acres) "commencing 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ rods S of NE corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Book 75, #105 of Section 8, thence S, thence W, thence N, thence E to beginning"
from Jos. & Elizabeth Kappes, for \$600.
- 1 Dec 1898 - Sold (? acres) "the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the S $\frac{1}{4}$ of N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Book 76, #474 of Section 6, Also the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, Also commencing
30 $\frac{1}{2}$ rods S of NE corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 8, thence S 58 $\frac{1}{8}$ rods W
56 $\frac{1}{2}$ rods N 39 rods and 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ feet E 43 rods N 18 rods and 12 feet
E 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ rods to beginning in E $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 8, Also the S $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres
of E $\frac{1}{8}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6, Also commencing 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ S of NE
corner NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, thence S, W, N, E to beginning in NE $\frac{1}{4}$
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, Also commencing 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ rods S and 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ rods W of
NE corner NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 8, thence S, W, N, E, to beginning NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 8, to John Bodensteiner, for \$3000. (John Carl sold his
farm to his son, John.)