

GERMAN AMERICAN MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

ST. LUCAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**PRESERVING THE PAST
CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
EMBRACING THE FUTURE**



Issue # 1, Spring 2015

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the German American Museum, Library and Family History Center and the St. Lucas Historical Society. We are proud to share with you our first attempt at creating and publishing a newsletter. We hope that you will find it informative and interesting.

Your involvement and contributions will add to the continued success of this publication. Our goal is to publish twice a year. We are committed to producing another quality publication in the Fall.

Submissions of family histories, photos, local historical information, articles or artifacts that would be of interest to our readers are welcome. Any suggestions or comments are encouraged.

Please share the newsletter with others. If you would like additional copies, please contact *Virginia Manderfield* at 563-778-2710. Copies will also be available at the German American Museum, Library and Family History Center in St. Lucas, Iowa, and at other local museums.

HISTORY OF THE GERMAN AMERICAN MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND FAMILY HISTORY CENTER



German American Museum, Library & Family History Center, March 2015

The very handsome and architecturally significant St. Luke's School building is the decade long home for the German American Museum, Library and Family History Center. The building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the past decade.

Over the past ten years the St. Lucas Historical Society has completed several major restoration projects including; a new asphalt shingle roof, tuck pointing of exterior brick surfaces, painting all the interior rooms, and the installation of a new HVAC system on all three floors of the building.

These restoration and preservation updates are possible because of the generous support of many community friends and founding members of the Society, as well as the institutional supporters; the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, the Fayette County Community Foundation and Fayette County. On behalf of the officers and members of the Society, we extend our gratitude and thanks to all of these important supporters.

OVERVIEW OF COLLECTIONS

The German American Museum, Library and Family History Center provides a unique learning experience about the 165-year ethnic heritage of this community and surrounding areas. The Museum is focused on several key themes:

- Why immigrants left Germanic countries and came to the Old Mission area of North East Iowa.
- The strong role of the religious and lay organizations in shaping the values of the community.
- The role of the clergy, school teachers and families in fostering the importance of education for enriching life.
- The steady growth and rapid change in agricultural practices and industrial arts in the community.
- The family and social life of the community.
- The role of sports in relating to nearby communities.
- The role of service in the military acquainting veterans with a broader sense of America and discovering the world.

The exhibits and artifacts in the Museum focus on these themes. The library books, materials and photographs are integrated with the exhibits to provide a better understanding of these themes. Currently the Museum and Library collections include several thousand artifacts, photos, documents, and books. These collections continue to grow because of the thoughtful donations made by many local families. Our challenge is to catalog and archive this rapidly growing collection. Currently the archive room is used to store and preserve these historic materials.

Recent additions to these Museum collections include: 30 local news scrapbooks from Germaine Schmitt Winter (deceased), several military artifacts from Charles Langreck of West Union, and World War I German language history books from George Junghans, a World War II intelligence officer veteran from Annapolis, Maryland.

FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The Family History Center (FHC) is a repository of family genealogies and histories. Many local families have donated copies of their family histories, genealogies, photos, documents, or other related information to the FHC. The collection continues to grow as families begin to realize the importance of having a place to preserve and share their family story for present and future descendants.

Over the past decade Ken and Lorraine (deceased) Kuennen spent a significant amount of time gathering and organizing this collection of family histories and related materials. Currently the FHC collection consists of more than 200 family genealogies and histories.

The FHC Room is very popular with researchers, family reunions and our lecture series. In our next issue of the newsletter we will begin publishing the names of the family genealogies in the current collection. Please consider adding your family genealogy and history to the collection.

A select list of family histories follows and can be viewed at the Family History Center.

SELECT FAMILY HISTORY COLLECTION

FAMILY	AUTHOR	DATE
Bodensteiner, John Carl Family	Lorraine (Bodensteiner) Kuennen	1979
Boeding, Franz Xavier Family	Unknown	1980
Drilling, Frank and Theresa Todt Family	John and Clara Drilling	1980
Duclos, Laurentz Family	Unknown	2010
Franzen, Remke Family History	Jane Thorsen	2004
Huinker, Descendants of Heinrich and Kathrina (Ellert) from Prussia to America, 1860 - 1982	Deetta (Huinker) Hemesath	1982
Klimesh, John Family History	Cyril Klimesh and Dolores Ira	1985
Kriener Family	Alvina (Kriener) Imoehl, Eleanor (Kriener) Mracek, Alice (Kriener) Klemish	1982
Kuennen, Family in America	John H. Kuennen Family	2004
Kuennen, J. Barney Family	Denis Kuennen	1983
Langreck, John H. Family	Colette (Langreck) Ameling	2008
Lichen, Theodore and Catherine	Unknown	?
Manderscheids in United States and Germany	Lorraine Manderscheid	1995
Schaufenbuel Family, 1497 - 1993	Mona Schaufenbuel	1994
Stammeyer	Leander Stammeyer	?
Schmitt, Theodore family from Rohl, Germany	Elnore Hackman	1980
Wurzer, Michael Family, 1822 - 1903	Marvin A. Wurzer	2011

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

One of the missions that the St. Lucas Historical Society has begun and hopes to continue is an oral history project. Rosemary (Kuennen) Most and Carl Most have undertaken this project. Since 2004 they have interviewed a number of elderly persons with family ties to the St. Lucas area.

The interviews were recorded on cassette tapes in the homes of the person(s) being interviewed. The cassette tapes were then transferred to CDs by a professional studio. Several of the persons interviewed were quite elderly at the time of the recordings. Their voices may not have been strong but the studio was able to transfer the recordings to the CDs in a way that produced high quality recordings in terms of clarity of the voices and at a suitable volume level.

The interviews were conducted between 2004 and 2008. Since that time, some of the persons interviewed have passed away. This emphasizes the importance of interviewing people and families while they are still able to provide information of historical significance.

Rosemary Most was the primary interviewer. She prepared a list of pertinent questions to be used during the interviews. These questions were based on her knowledge of the time-frame and cultural conditions in which these people lived. The questions were intended to evoke memories that would provide important family information. For example, details about who they had grown up with, who were their family members, where they lived, their occupation etc. This method was effective and allowed both the interviewer and the person(s) being interviewed to be on common ground.

Much of the content resulting from the interviews is of historical interest. Information was provided about where in the community the person lived and was raised, description of the family structure, condition of farming and the economy during that time. They also talked about food that was common at that time. The type of food served at mealtime was German food and was recollected with fondness. They gave details about school instruction and the subjects that were taught. Many of the teachers were Catholic nuns. The priests and the church were an important part of the community culture and played an important role in the formation of the character and belief of the young people.

An interesting theme in those interviewed was the use of the German language in the home and school. Many said that German was the only language spoken in their home. German prayers were an integral part of their religious upbringing. Some were still able to converse in German during the interview. Some spoke of the distinction between "High German" and "Low German." High German is spoken mostly in the southern regions of Germany and Low German spoken in the northern part, where the land is low-lying.

These interviews provided background on the history of the St. Lucas community and the way of life during those times. These memories are not only nostalgic, but also provide descendants a 'living' connection to the past.

Anyone doing research into the history and lives of this community will find that these interviews provide insight and understanding of the past. These recorded life stories clearly show that the way these early generations conducted their lives greatly influenced the development of our community and our country. This is especially significant since most of the community was made up of immigrants from other countries.

The CDs are located in the Family History Center Room in the Museum. They are available for anyone who would like to listen to the recordings. Earphones are provided for listening individually or speakers are available that can be used for groups of listeners.



Oral History CDs in Family History Center

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT COMPLETED INTERVIEWS

FAMILY NAME	NAMES OF FAMILY MEMBERS INTERVIEWED	YEAR
Baumler	Theresa (Franzen) Baumler (Mrs. Ray)	2004
Bodensteiner	Florence (Lusson) Bodensteiner (Mrs. Clem)	2006
Bodensteiner	Rose (Rausch) Bodensteiner (Interviewed by Lorraine Bodensteiner Kuennen)	1979
Boeding	Hermina (Rausch) Boeding (Mrs. Arnold)	2006
Cremer	Leonard and Odilea (Lechtenberg) Cremer	2007
Croatt/Rausch	James and Verena (Rausch) Croatt	2004
Drilling	Mechtildis (Kuennen) Drilling (Mrs. Urban)	2006
Finn	Mary (Kuennen) Finn (Mrs. Earl) (called Kinny)	2004
Hackman	Hugo Hackman, husband of Mildred (Weiling)	2006
Hageman	Elizabeth (Kuennen) Hageman (Mrs. Ignatius)	2007
Hageman	Irma (Wurzer) Hageman (Mrs. Florian)	2004
Johnson	Gertrude (Steffes) Johnson	2006
Kreiner	Agnes, Alice, Alvina and Linus of the Chris and Cecilia (Kruse) family	2008
Kruse	Lucille (Hackman) Kruse (Mrs. Arthur)	2008
Kuehner	Sister Rose Catherine Kuehner (Mary) of the Nick and Catherine (Hackman)	2005
Luzum/Schmitt	Arnold and Irma (Schmitt) Luzum	2008
Meinert	Meinert family	2004
Mihm	Mark Mihm, husband of Marge (Hauer)	2008
Ott	Dale Ott, husband of Helen (Einck)	2004
Perry	Veronica (Verna) Perry Wells (Mrs. Glen)	2006
Schaufenbuel	Marie (Stammeyer) Schaufenbuel (Mrs. William)	2007
Smith	Margaret Josepha (Mihm) Smith (Mrs. Milton)	2004
Winter/Schmitt	Nicky and Germaine (Schmitt) Winter	2006

It is important that the oral interviews in our community continue. If you or someone you know is interested in being interviewed, contact *Rosemary Kuennen Most at 507 289-1505*.

Families often know who their family historians are. It doesn't matter whether or not these family members think of themselves as storytellers. Some may be hesitant to be interviewed, but everyone has a piece of the history of the St. Lucas community and culture and has a story to contribute.

Is there an oral interview in your future?

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

At this time, we have completed a number of major exterior projects on the Museum Building. You may wonder what is on our list of projects to complete in order to get the Museum in topnotch condition. Our goals for the next year will focus on a number of critical projects listed here:

MUSEUM PROJECTS

- **Repair and restore the tall, old but beautiful Museum windows, storm windows and windowsills.** The goal of this effort will dramatically improve energy efficiency while retaining one of the most historically authentic architectural features of the building. A window restoration firm has looked at the windows and expects great energy efficiency potential in restoring and refitting the windows into the window frames. A final estimate on the cost of this project is expected soon and is anticipated to range from \$25,000 to \$35,000. This project would repair the 40 large windows and adapt them to contemporary efficiency standards. This will require a significant amount of financial support and grant assistance.
- **Organize the archives room and catalog the current collection of artifacts and materials.** The \$1,500 donation from the Schaufenbuel family in September will be allocated to acquire a new computer and cataloging software. This is needed to begin the vital task of creating and maintaining an inventory of all the collections in the Museum, Library and Family History Center. We are looking into the possibility of getting student volunteers from the University of Northern Iowa local history program to assist with this project. The Luther College archive staff and Vesterheim Museum archive staff have been very helpful and have offered relevant advice on how to proceed.
- **Upgrade electrical system in the Museum.** Much new electrical equipment has been installed, including the new climate control system that heats and cools the building. However, the traditional classrooms lack adequate electrical power. Some lighting improvements have been made, but several of the older electrical outlets need to be upgraded and increased capacity added. Estimated cost for this project is \$4,000 to \$5,000.
- **Install a chairlift from the main floor to the upper floor for handicap access to the upper levels of the Museum, archives, dining and kitchen rooms.** This is a much needed addition to allow accessibility for many of our visitors. This will ensure that everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy the exhibits and displays in the upper rooms as well as to participate in events and activities held upstairs. Estimates vary depending on the size and quality of the chairlift purchased and cost to have it installed. The estimated cost for this project ranges from \$2,500 to \$4,000.
- **Install new carpeting in the Chapel.** The current carpet needs to be replaced with carpeting that is moisture and mildew resistant. We are getting estimates from a carpeting firm in Decorah. This carpeting will refresh the space and make the Chapel a better venue for funeral wakes, music concerts and other gatherings.
- **Cleaning attic space for Museum uses.** Currently, much of the space in the attic is used to store Christmas trees and decorations. Volunteers have carefully sorted, organized, and stored the materials that will be kept at the museum. The intended use for the extra space is to store large Museum artifacts and excess furniture. Volunteers will complete this project in early Spring. Additional wood shelving will be needed. The cost for materials for this project is estimated to be around \$1,000.
- **Clean furnace room, remove furnace scrap metal and wallboard to improve air circulation for moisture control.** This work requires some strong volunteers to carry out the scrap metal and remove the wallboard. Cleaning up this area would be a big step in making this space more functional and will improve the air circulation in the lower level. The estimated cost for labor is \$500 to \$1,000.

HAUER BLACKSMITH SHOP

- **Paint exterior of blacksmith shop.** A preservationist from Decorah offered advice on painting the exterior of the building. Painting with an oil-based primer and paint will begin in the Spring. The original color was a rust-red. Donations have been received to help cover this expense. All of the windows and frames were completely restored and re-installed by local Amish volunteers last Summer. Estimated costs for painting the exterior range from \$1,500 to \$2,200.



- **Install electrical wiring, lighting and plugins in the old section of the blacksmith shop.** Currently there is one light in the building. Adequate lighting is needed in order to exhibit and demonstrate the blacksmithing process. A final cost estimate is expected soon and anticipated to be in a range from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
- **Install exhibit signage in old blacksmith shop.** With a small grant from the Silos and Smokestacks Foundation in Waterloo, we are beginning this project. The intent is to depict and display the blacksmithing process and how it was used in this shop. Information is needed from anyone who actually witnessed or knows how Edmund Hauer and his father used the machinery, the hearth and fire pit to heat and shape iron for repairing farm machinery and for shoeing horses. Please share your story of this skilled craftsmanship with us. You will see it in print and on display in the Blacksmith Shop. Estimated cost for this project is from \$500 to \$900.

These projects are not in a priority order. We hope to accomplish several of them simultaneously over the coming months and years. Your kind assistance and generosity are needed to help accomplish these goals. Thank you in advance for your interest and your support in helping to finance these projects. Your donation is greatly appreciated and will be recognized and publicly acknowledged.



OKTOBERFEST 2014

Oktoberfest 2014 was held on Sunday, September 14th, 2014. The traditional Oktoberfest brunch was held in the lower level of St. Luke's Church from 10:30 to 12:30. The German American Museum hosted an Open House from 12:30 to 4:30 PM.

The world famous Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany is traditionally held during the last two weeks of September and into early October. Celebrating Oktoberfest in mid-September has been a tradition in St. Lucas for over a decade. This date was chosen to allow for easier travel before harsh autumn weather arrives and to avoid potential conflict with other area events held during this time.

This year's Oktoberfest was held in honor of Mr. Duane Boyer, our Vice President, who passed away in late Summer. Many of Duane's friends from St. Lucas and the surrounding areas volunteered and helped to make this year's Oktoberfest an outstanding success.

Mr. Kurt Anfinson, (also known as Norsky), a friend of Duane's and a well-respected chef from Ossian, prepared the main dishes for the brunch. The menu included delicious scrambled eggs, sausage, cheesy potatoes, mixed fruit, home-made kolaches, breads and desserts. With the generous assistance of Historical Society members and many other volunteers, an outstanding meal was served for the large crowd in attendance.

A special 'thank you' is extended to the numerous people who contributed to making the Oktoberfest a great success. John and Jan Kuehner, proprietors of the White House Supper Club, offered the use of their modern kitchen facilities and provided immeasurable moral support. Members of the Society and members of the Catholic Order of Foresters worked diligently with Virginia Manderfield, Rosemary (Kuennen) Most, Carl Most, Dan Kuennen, and Mel and Jeanette (Hlubek) Dietzenbach. DeVere Manderfield served as a liaison with the Catholic Order of Foresters, an organization that has generously supported the Historical Society's events for many years.



Schaufenbuel Family Present Check to Museum Board Members

Visitors who attended the Open House commented on the updated exhibits and collections. It was obvious that much work had been done to 'refresh' the Museum.

Members of the Schaufenbuel family took this opportunity to present a check to the Museum. Several board members were present to accept this donation. The family wished to show their gratitude for the significant contribution and generous support from the Museum and staff for the Schaufenbuel Family Reunion held in June 2014.

GERMAN STUDENTS TOUR ST. LUCAS

In late October 2014, twenty German high school students from Southern Bavaria, accompanied by two of their language teachers, Hans-Jurgen Borde and Annegret Gminder, visited the town of St. Lucas. The visit began with a tour of St. Luke's Church. Virginia Manderfield provided a brief history and gave them a tour of the historic church.

The students were especially interested in hearing about the beautiful stained glass windows that came from Germany when the church was being built. The windows were ordered from Bavaria in 1914, just before the beginning of World War 1. However, they were not delivered from Bavaria until after the end of the war in 1919. The shipment was held up because of the British blockade of German ports and so the windows did not arrive in St. Lucas until 1919.

For more information about the history of the church and the windows, refer to the publication "150 Years - History of St. Luke's Church." This book is available and can be purchased in the Museum. It contains a detailed history of the purchase and installation of the windows as well as eight magnificent color photos.



Stained Glass Windows in St. Luke's Church

Steve Story, the retired principal of North High School in West Union and current director of the Fayette County History Museum, gave the students a tour of Luke's cemetery. The students were impressed with the number of German names on the gravestones and eagerly took notes on the names. These were names of our ancestors who immigrated from Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Austria. Many of our ancestors came to America from the German Lander (states) of Baden Wurttemberg, North Rhine Westphalia, and Bavaria.

By the middle of the very cold morning, the students were glad to return to the German American Museum where hot coffee, cookies and cakes were served. After this pleasant break that warmed feet and spirits, Clair Blong provided an overview of the history of the Museum.

The students spent a considerable amount of time touring the Museum. They had an especially strong interest in the exhibits on social life, sports, and military service in the community.

After the tour, Annegret Gminder, one of the German teachers, marveled at the Museum and explicitly commented: "In Germany all of our Museums are state owned. Here you have a Museum from the people of the community. This Museum is *truly of, by, and for the people.*"

We were honored to hear this comment – one of acknowledgement and praise for our Museum. It clearly embodies the goals, efforts and spirit of our dedication of the Museum to the generations past, present and future.

This student and teacher visit was part of a three-week stay at the North Fayette High School and area intended to acquaint them with contemporary American life in a small community. By living with volunteer families they were also able to improve their English language skills. Steve Story remarked that their visit to St. Lucas was one of the highlights of their stay in Northeast Iowa.



German Students at the Museum, October 2014

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS DECEMBER 2014



Harvest Table in Museum

After the meal, attendees spent time in the the Museum admiring the exhibits and the FamilyHistory Center and enjoying the beautifully decorated rooms and Christmas trees.

The festivities included a running Polar Express train. This was a big hit with the children.



Polar Express Train

Later in the afternoon, Jeanette Dietzenbach sat at the organ and began playing Christmas carols. With the support of Mark, Deb, Nick, Emily and others, the impromptu caroling session filled the Museum with the wonderful sounds of Christmas music..

We want to express a big 'Thank You' to our chef Norsky, the cookie ladies, and the many volunteers for helping to prepare and serve an outstanding meal. Their kind and generous participation helped to create a joyful Christmas spirit. Also, a special thank you to Mel and Jeanette Dietzenbach of Decorah, and Leon and Lois Dietzenbach of Hawkeye, for the great job on decorating the Museum and Family History Center.

Our next Christmas Reflections will be held December 20, 2015.

The annual Christmas Reflections celebration was held at the German American Museum, Library and Family History Center on Sunday, December 21, 2014.

The mild weather helped to facilitate attendance of all ages from our local church cluster and other communities in the area - Cresco, New Hampton, West Union, Calmar and Ossian. Many people have visited the Museum in past years, but wanted to see all the new exhibits and artifacts. One of the highlights was the meal that consisted of a variety of soups prepared from scratch by the well-known regional chef, Kurt Anfinson. (Better known as "Norsky.")

The menu included Norsky's hearty home-made soups; chicken noodle, cheese-broccoli, and chili, all served with his delicious baked breads.

Not to be out done, the local ladies brought a wide variety of their favorite Christmas treats - German cookies, bars and sweets. Virginia Manderfield mobilized the team and they delivered delicious desserts. Needless to say, there were no leftovers at the end of the day.

Norsky Preparing Soup



FRANZEN BUTTON QUILT

By Helen M. Franzen
November 17, 2014

When I was a little girl, women sewed most of the clothing for their families on a treadle (foot powered) sewing machine. Times were hard, so nothing that could be used again was wasted. When clothes were past mending, they were torn up for rags (no paper towels) but the buttons were saved to use again and added to the "button box." I used to play with buttons while my mother sewed, especially some big ones off the coats of my grandmother. One day my mother said if I wanted to collect buttons, I could start with the ones she had in the button box. I was delighted!

We used buttons for games like tic-tac-toe on the inside of a cereal box with lines drawn on it. We would "draw pictures" using different colors of buttons to make flowers, trees, etc. They made pretty necklaces or bracelets when strung with cords. When I was in high school, I counted 327 different buttons. I kept adding to them, not knowing what to do with them. When my mother and mother-in-law died, I got their button boxes. I bought some material and started sewing straight lines of buttons on it, but that didn't appeal to me.

When my husband Leo started making plans to show his farm toys, I thought I should do something with my buttons so that the women could see them. But what? I was looking through a magazine one day and saw an article showing lamp shades decorated with buttons. A few pages later, it showed pictures of quilts with button sewed on the cover. A light bulb came on! I could make a quilt with the buttons!

I got out the fabric I bought years before, drew simple patterns on the fabric, organized the buttons by colors, and made sure that there were no duplicates. I traced the patterns on the fabric, one block at a time. I then arranged the buttons and then sewed them onto the fabric. All the buttons sewed on the quilt are from our family button boxes.

Every button is different and each one represents a piece of our family history.



Cover of the Button Quilt

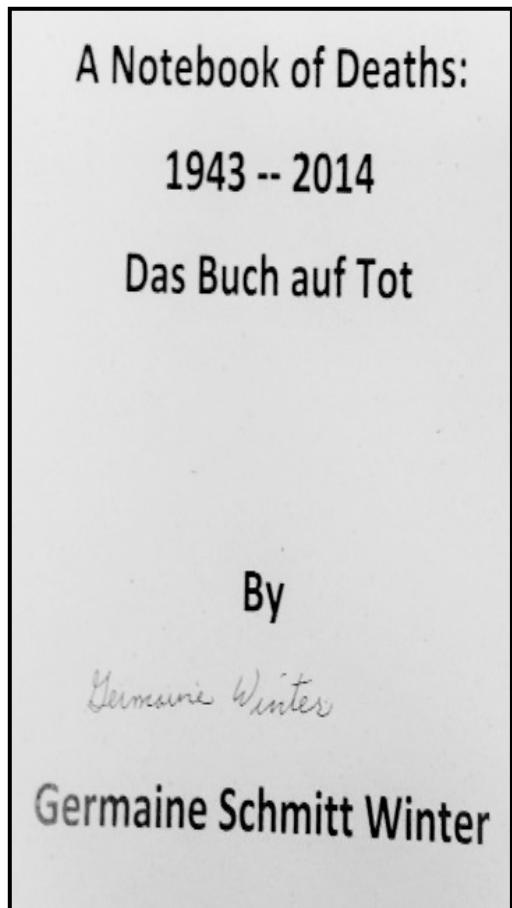
NOTEBOOK OF DEATHS, 1943 – 2014

By Germaine Schmitt Winter (deceased)*

The death of my uncle, the Reverend Aloysius Schmitt, at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, prompted me to begin recording the deaths occurring in the St. Lucas community and those of family, friends and acquaintances in the neighboring towns of Festina, Fort Atkinson and Waucoma. I was a young girl during World War II in 1943 when I started recording deaths and have continued this labor of remembrance for over seven decades.

I think the notebook can be a valuable resource for persons doing research on family genealogy and local history. The book, a 70-year chronology, includes over 1,000 names of persons who passed away in the area. It also lists the date of their death.

The book is over 40 pages in length. Copies are available for viewing in the Family History Center Library.



Cover Page



Germaine Schmitt Winter
1924- 2014

1978	
Catharine Gerleman	Jan 9
Henry Zimmerman	Jan 26
Ethel Nagel	Jan 10
Clara Schmitt (de)	Feb 7
John T. Winter	Feb 19
Geo. Blong	Feb 26
John Wihm	May 1
Gen Bodensteiner	July 26
Theresa Jacobs	Dec 22

1979	
Jakie Schmitt	Jan 5
Louie Sloan	Mar 9
Ed Trangen	Mar 11
Mike Trangen	Mar 16
Mrs Geo. Truse	Mar. 19
Cl. Pete Blong	June 4
Albert Truse	July 1
Leo Meyer	July 31
Chris Schmitt	Aug. 24
Theresa Perry	Sept. 13
Joe Weinert	Oct. 9
Frankie Blong	Dec 5
Carl Bodensteiner	Dec 30 (son of Fay Bodensteiner)

Sample Page From the Notebook

* These remarks were collected from Germaine in the summer of 2014, four months before her passing to the Lord. We extend our thanks to Germaine for permission to reproduce this valuable personal and local history document.

SCHAUFENBUEL FAMILY REUNION

On June 15, 2014 the population of St. Lucas increased by over 225 people. The visitors were all part of the Schaufenbuel Swiss-American Family reunion – 'Schaufenfest 2014'. This day was the highlight of the three-day event. Following the Mass at the historic St Luke's church, the group went across the street to the German American Museum. Thanks to the generous offer from the museum to use the building for the afternoon, there was a room that was totally dedicated to an exhibit of Schaufenbuel family history. Here the Schaufelbuehl family crest, records dating back to 1497 in Switzerland, historical documents, narratives and photos were on display chronicling the family history from Switzerland to the present day.

Sigismund Schaufelbuehl came to America from Switzerland in 1857 and first settled in Spillville. Later Sigismund moved to St. Lucas where his father-in-law, Anton Stathel lived. Anton Stathel was one of the early founders of the town of St. Lucas and donated 30 acres of land for the Catholic Church and cemetery.



American and Swiss Flags at the Museum, June 2014

Relatives attending the celebration came from all over the world, including Switzerland, South Africa, Tokyo, Canada and the United States.

The Swiss and American flags that were hung above the entrance door immediately drew attention to the spirit of this special day and made everyone feel welcome.



Inside, the visitors were able to explore all the rooms in the museum, including the exhibits downstairs, and especially the room entirely dedicated to Schaufenbuel family history.

The upstairs dining room was set up with decorated tables where cake and coffee were served. The staff assisted with exceptional service.

The gracious sharing of museum resources and the indispensable help from the staff made the experience unforgettable for all. It was clearly an event that showed the potential for using the museum for many family celebrations such as this.

A comment that made that day sums it up very well.

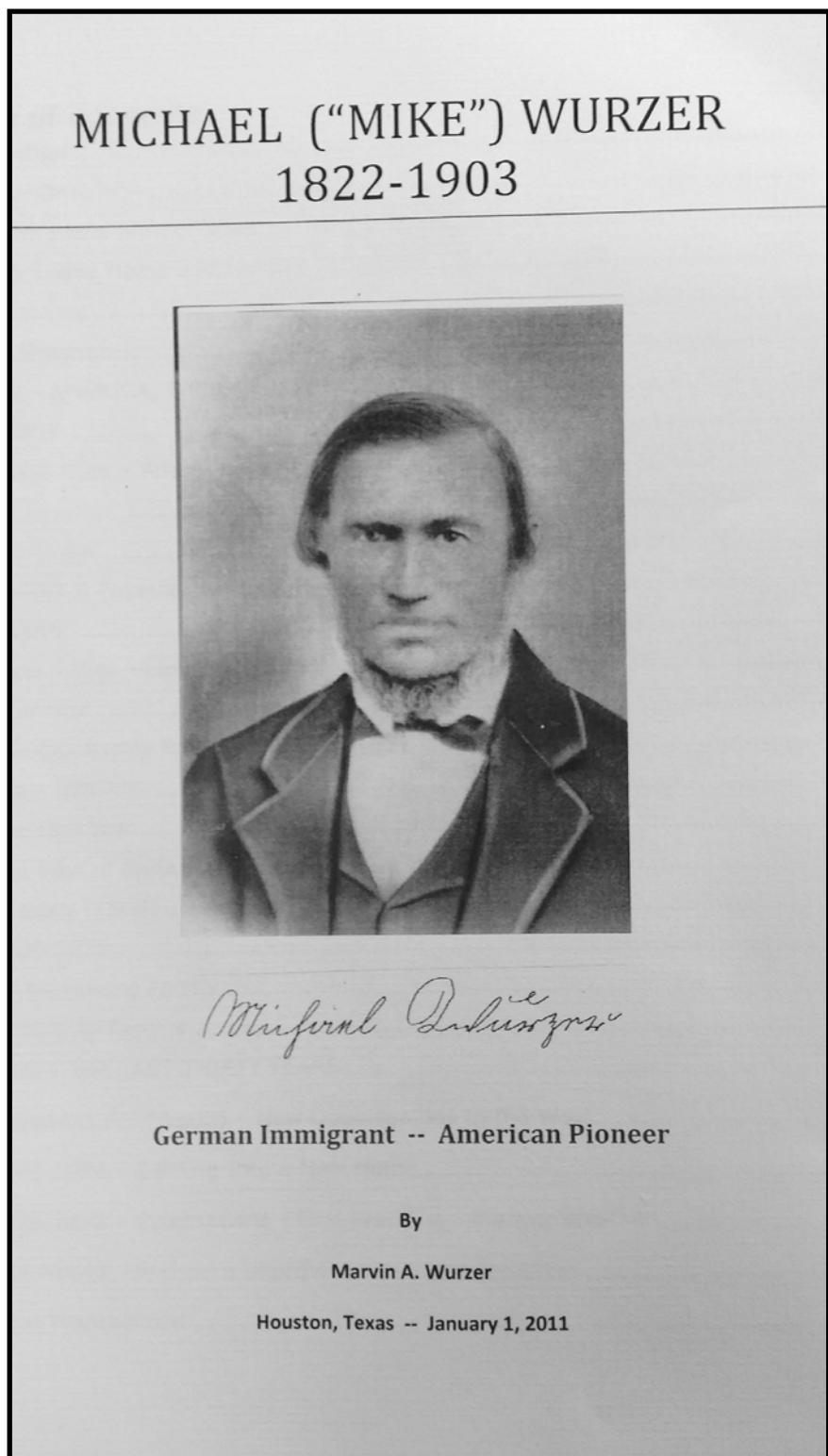
"That little corner of the world indeed came alive! How extraordinary to show the Swiss that the history of the area and of our family was significant enough to have a display in the St. Lucas museum! And what a wonderful museum it is."



MICHAEL WURZER FAMILY HISTORY BOOK

A family history book donated by Marvin A. Wurzer was recently added to the collection of books in the Family History Center. It is the life story of Micheal ("Mike") Wurzer who lived from 1822-1903. The book is titled "German Immigrant – American Pioneer." It was written in 2011 by Marvin A. Wurzer of Houston, Texas.

The book is available for viewing in the Family History Center Library at the Museum.



LAUNCHING THE NEWSLETTER

Thank you for your interest in our first issue of the German American Museum, Library and Family History Center Newsletter. Special thanks to the several contributors of articles for this issue, especially Carl and Rosemary Most, and for the tremendous efforts of Joyce Schaufenbuel in organizing, editing and publishing this issue. We are now soliciting materials for the Autumn issue and welcome your ideas and thoughts.

Thank you for your kind consideration of a free-will donation to help cover the costs of publishing and mailing the Newsletter. We also would like email addresses for you and any of your interested friends for future issues.

Many thanks for your interest and support. Have a wonderful Springtime.

Clair K. Blong, President

Society Board Members		
Clair. K. Blong (President) Fort Atkinson, IA	Ken Kuennen (Treasurer) Decorah, IA	Carl Most (Secretary) Rochester, MN
Glenn Blong Marco Island, FL	DeVere Manderfield St. Lucas, IA	Marcus Most Berwyn Heights, MD
Dennis Boyer St. Lucas, IA	Virginia Manderfield (Secretary) St. Lucas, IA	Rosemary (Kuennen) Most Rochester, MN
Jeanette (Hlubek) Dietzenbach Decorah, IA	Mona Lorimer Fayetteville, AR	Phyllis (Blong) Orthaus New Hampton, IA
Paul Hauer Jewell, IA	Joyce (Hauer) Moss West Union, IA	Joyce Schaufenbuel Colorado Springs, CO



German American Museum, Library & Family History Center, March 2015

Photos:

November Board Meeting
German Students at Lunch
Ladies at Christmas
Reflections
Danny Kuennen at Anvil in
Blacksmith Shop



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