

GERMAN AMERICAN MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND FAMILY HISTORY CENTER ST. LUCAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PRESERVING THE PAST
CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Newsletter #7
Winter 2019



WORKSHOP ON PRESERVING AND CELEBRATING CULTURAL HERITAGES AND IDENTITIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The St. Lucas Historical Society is pleased to invite you to learn what several heritage groups are doing to preserve and celebrate their cultural heritage, particularly with the younger generation. Our 4th Annual Workshop will be held on June 19, 2019 at the German American Museum in St. Lucas, Iowa.

We are inviting several groups to share their efforts in preserving and celebrating cultural heritage in the onslaught of today's mass culture environment. The following have been invited to provide speakers and displays:

- The Ho-chunk Nation Cultural Affairs Department, Black River Falls, Wisconsin;
- The Red Cloud Indian School Cultural Heritage Center and Museum, Pine Ridge, South Dakota;
- The Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, Decorah, Iowa;
- The German American Heritage Center and Museum, Davenport, Iowa;
- The Swedish American Museum and Historical Society, Swedesburg, Iowa;
- The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa;
- The African American Museum of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, Iowa;
- The Czech Days Fest, Protivin, Iowa;
- The Czech Heritage Partnership, Protivin, Iowa;
- The Annual Nordic Festival, Decorah, Iowa;
- The Polish Cultural Institute and Museum, Winona, Minnesota;
- The Annual Irish Festival, Lawler, Iowa.



"We are in the process of confirming speakers from these cultural heritage preservation groups and are asking other groups to participate," states Clair Blong of the Workshop program committee. "Overall, this comparative approach to the role of cultural heritage in our lives may yield many interesting commonalities and as well as differences for cultural heritage preservation and sustainment in the 21st Century."

You may ask, "Why participate in this Workshop?" The June 2018 Workshop drew 175 very curious persons to learn about the "Hidden in Plain Sight: The Native American Presence in NE Iowa," states Joyce Moss, vice president of the Society. "The Ho-chunk Nation of Wisconsin sent two renowned speakers to keynote the morning and afternoon sessions of the Workshop. These keynoters and other speakers generated a tremendous amount of public interest and press visibility for Native American historical issues and contemporary challenges."

This forthcoming Workshop on cultural heritage preservation and celebration may similarly generate a great deal of interest. Blong states, "We like to think of this Workshop as a 'Chautauqua' like experience; the adult education movement of the 19th and 20th centuries as a midsummer enlightening stimulus for the curious of mind in the tri-state area of the NE Iowa region. The Workshop is strongly supported by many highly motivated volunteers from NE Iowa and other states. They are the mainstay of the success of this event."

You are invited to attend and participate in the Workshop. Early Registration is encouraged to allow for planning purposes.

- To pre-register for the Workshop online, go to our website at "stlucasmuseum.org" and complete the registration form.
- To register by phone, call 534-778-2710 and leave your contact information: name, phone number, postal mailing and email addresses.

The Workshop is supported by individual free-will donations that are needed to cover the cost of printed programs, lunch, refreshments and snacks, audio-visual recording, photography, public address equipment, and related conference room and speaker expenses.

For further information on the Society and its Newsletters, visit "stlucasmuseum.org".

PILLARS OF THE ST. LUCAS COMMUNITY THE FAMILY OF ARNOLD AND IRMA LUZUM

Submitted by the Luzum Family

This story highlights an amazing couple that remained strong in faith, dedication to family, and commitment to serving the church and the community in the face of political change, military conflicts, and social upheavals that marked the 20th Century. In many ways, Arnold and Irma Luzum were representative of many couples of the World War II era; however, their ability to confront life's adversities with grace through a profound devotion to their faith is the center of this story.

Arnold Albert Luzum, son of William and Leona (Schissel) Luzum, was born December 20, 1918 on his parents' family farm west of Calmar, IA. Arnold was baptized, received First Holy Communion, and confirmed at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Calmar, IA. He attended St. Aloysius Elementary Catholic School.

As war clouds loomed on America's horizon, Arnold enlisted in the U.S. Army on May 5, 1941 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. He received his basic training at Camp Claiborn, Louisiana. The United States entered World War II in December 1941, and by early 1942, Arnold was assigned to the North African Theatre of Combat Operations. From North Africa, Arnold moved to the campaign of the invasion of Italy where he fought in the arduous battles for Rome, Tarquinia, Cecina, Arno River in Florence, and on the Gothic Line.



Silver Star

In the difficult battle of the Gothic Line in Italy, Arnold assumed command of the 2nd Platoon of Co. "F" after its leader was seriously wounded. Arnold successfully halted that German attack, and for this deed was promoted with a battlefield commission from Technical Sgt to 2nd Lieutenant and awarded the Silver Star, a medal of high distinction. He was later wounded on Hill 769 on the Gothic Line but returned to active service after thirty days in the hospital.

Arnold earned several military decorations throughout his military service including: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct, American Defense Service, E.A.M.E.WD (European-African-Middle Eastern campaign medal with distinction) and the Combat Infantry Badge. Arnold was honorably discharged on October 24, 1945 at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas at the rank of 2nd LT, INF. AUS.



Arnold Luzum in military uniform

Life then turned from war to love, family, and farming. Arnold's future wife, Irma Mary Schmitt, was born to Anton and Josephine (Zimmer) Schmitt on their family farm near St. Lucas, IA on October 3, 1925. She attended St. Luke's Catholic School.



Arnold & Irma Luzum May 6, 1947



Purple Heart

Irma married Arnold on May 6, 1947 at St. Luke's Catholic Church in St. Lucas. That day marked the beginning of a journey together that flourished for over 66 years. Together, Arnold and Irma worked the Schmitt farm northwest of St. Lucas for almost 40 years before retiring in 1981.

Arnold's love of farming and commitment to being a good steward of the earth was superseded only by his devotion to his wife, his children, and to life itself. Arnold and Irma raised seventeen children: Diane (Jon) Korte of Bella Vista, AR, Alleyn (Darla) Luzum of Bella Vista, AR, Norma Shank of Mesa, AZ, Marvin Luzum of Santa Barbara, CA, Marian (Charles) Burnett of Dakota Dunes, SD, Barbara Ann (Theodore) Stortz of Edina, MN, Sharon Kay (Dennis) Gidley of Algonquin, IL, LaVonne (Charles) Ciorba of Keizer, OR, Arnold Luzum Jr. of Fredericksburg, IA, Kevin (Linda) Luzum of Fort Atkinson, IA, Rosemary (Chris) Fritzke of Scottsdale, AZ, Jolene (Ret. MSgt. J. Mitchell) Nauman of Norman, OK, Karla (Lindsay) Erdman of Decorah, IA, and Renee (Joseph) Wisby of Nashville, TN. Three children, Anthony, Joseph, and Mary Ann preceded Arnold and Irma in death.

Shortly after retiring from farming, Arnold and Irma moved to St. Lucas where the final chapter of their lives unfolded. During these tranquil years of retirement, Arnold enjoyed family time playing cards (especially euchre), working jigsaw puzzles, traveling, and taking leisurely drives through the countryside. Arnold served his community as a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and the St. Aloysius American Legion Post #691, and as a 4th Degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus. He gained spiritual fulfillment as a member of St. Luke's Catholic Church.

Irma nurtured her love of history through books, travel, and movies. She enjoyed baking, sewing, polka dancing with Arnold, traveling, and playing euchre with family and friends. Irma loved music, both singing and playing the piano and organ. All of her daughters learned to play the piano under her watchful eye, and Irma enjoyed her own piano lessons in her retirement. She encouraged their children to participate in band and served as the President of the Turkey Valley Band Boosters Organization. Irma took great delight in the lives of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her love of music lives on in them.

Irma also appreciated nature and took particular joy in watching and listening to birds. She became an avid observer of the eagle family nesting at the Decorah Fish Hatchery, viewing them daily on the webcam throughout each spring season.

Irma was a devout Christian woman who cherished time in prayer and found strength and guidance through her deep faith. She was a lifelong member of St. Luke's Parish and exercised her commitment to her faith as a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters for 57 years. In her parish life, she sang in the church choir, served as a Eucharistic Minister, and was a devoted member of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Arnold Luzum died in May 2014, Irma Luzum died in December 2018. Inspired by faith, family, and service to country and community, their life together as members of the "Greatest Generation" exemplified a life well lived.



Arnold and Irma Luzum Family, 50th Wedding Anniversary, May 1997

FOREMAN SISTERS OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION: SERVING THE LORD, THEIR ORDER, AND GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS

Elaine Kuennen Sloan, Clair Blong

“Tis a bit overwhelming to be the ‘oldest’ living relative in a family, but here I am, and with that honor comes the responsibility to try and remember.” These are the words of Elaine Kuennen Sloan, a niece of the Foreman Sisters, when asked to write an article about the three Sisters who had entered the convent in the early 1900s.

“Help came today in the mail, in the form of a tiny old photo of my dad, mom, my only sibling, my brother Mel, and me, at the St. Rose Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA) Convent in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The photo was sent to me by a younger relative. Kind of a strange coincidence, since I had been asked to write my memories of the Foreman Sisters and St. Rose Convent.”

Who Were the Foreman Sisters?

The Foreman Sisters were the daughters of John N. Foreman and Anna Kuehner of St. Lucas, Iowa. They were Rose (Sister M. Crispina), Theresa (Sister M. Adelinda), and Mary Clara (Sister M. Carissa). Rose was born on December 2, 1897, in St. Lucas, Iowa. Theresa was born on July 28, 1901 in St. Lucas, and Mary Clara was born on September 7, 1904, in St. Lucas.

Rose Foreman, Sister M. Crispina

Rose, Sister M. Crispina, in her family history, stated “My parents were born in St. Lucas, Iowa. My father is of Bohemian descent and my mother of French descent. They were united in marriage in St. Lucas by Rev. F.X. Boeding, and at once began farming 160 acres of land. This farm has grown to 200 acres with a comfortable home

and equipment. Seven children were given to them. We all received a thoroughly Catholic education in the parochial school conducted by the Sisters of St. Rose Convent at St. Lucas. My parents are happy to have given up three daughters to the religious state; Sisters Crispina, Adelina, and Carissa.

My youngest sister, Anna, hopes to join us soon. We have three brothers



still at home, two older than me and one younger. All of our family are blessed with good health and all are fervent Catholics. My father is now 58; my mother is 53.” (La Crosse, Wisconsin: FSPA Archives, Rose Foreman application, 1916.)

Of her youth, Rose said “It was my greatest delight be out in the open, whether it snowed or rained. I was especially fond of my father and would follow him up wherever I could. In this way I grew to be quite a favorite of his and it would naturally be that I would learn some of men’s traits. We had a blacksmith shop and in this I also had great experience of which I can now at times make good use.”

Rose said “In my earliest days a great desire arose in my heart to become a Sister but as I got older, I naturally dropped the idea. I fought against the same for three years in that I would not even want to meet a Sister so as to drown the idea. Later my conscience reproved of the same and I again prayed and fostered the same. On September 1, 1916, I entered the St. Rose Convent.”

Rose, Sister Crispina, served the St. Rose Community for 54 years as a homemaker. She spent 1 year at Odanah, 25 years at St. Rose, 5 years at Superior, 1 year at Stratford, 3 years at St. Michaels, La Crosse, 1 year at Harper, 2 years at Halbur, 3 years at Ashland, 4 years at St. Anthony in Carroll, 1 year at Boscobel, 3 years at St. Francis Hospital, 1 year at Marion and 4 years at St. Lucas.

Sister Crispina (Rose) died at Villa St. Joseph Nursing Home on January 13, 1975, at 77 years of age. She had served in her religious profession for 55 years.

Theresa Foreman, Sister M. Adelinda

Theresa Foreman (Sister M. Adelina) wrote in her personal history, "After I left school (8th Grade) I stayed with my parents and family on our farm and helped with the work there. When I was fifteen years old my oldest sister, Rosa entered the St. Rose Convent. After this I was the next one to leave home. On September 3, 1922, I entered St. Rose Convent to become one of its many members. Ever since my childhood days I longed for this day to come, which to my happiness took place this third day of September."

Upon entering the Convent, Sister Adelinda returned to her education and completed St. Rose High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1926. She completed her college studies with a major in history and minors in English and Education at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri in 1946. She also completed a master's degree in Library Science at Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1948. Through the decades of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, Sister Adelinda held teaching positions in Maple River, Athens, Lyndon, Eau Galle, Allouez, Loyal, Spencer, Harper, Guttenburg, Lansing and again Allouez.

Sister Adelinda died at Villa St. Joseph Nursing Home on January 7, 1980 at 78 years of age. She had spent 54 years of her life in the religious profession, teaching at elementary schools in Iowa and Wisconsin for 44 years.

Mary Clara Foreman, Sister M. Carissa

Mary Clara, Sister M. Carissa, completed 8th Grade in the parochial school in St. Lucas in 1919. In her personal history, Mary Clara notes "From the time she left school on April 20, 1919 until August 1924, she spent at home on her father's farm near St. Lucas, Iowa. On August 1, 1924, she entered St. Rose Convent. After her entrance to the convent she attended St. Rose High School until her admission to the novitiate on July 1, 1926, when she

received the name Sister Mary Carissa." She completed St. Rose High School in 1929.

Sister M. Carissa's early teaching career included assignments at Maple River, Holy Cross, Richmond, Dedham, and Luxemburg. She then completed a bachelor's degree in English and History at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and in 1948 completed a master's degree in Library Science at Viterbo College in La Crosse. Sister Carissa taught at Stratford, Middle Ridge Hills, Boscobel, Mt. Carmel, Luxemburg, and Harper during the 1940s and 1950s.

Sister M. Carissa died at St. Francis Hospital in La Crosse on August 22, 1963. She is buried with her sisters in La Crosse.

Elaine Sloan shared her memories of visits with the Sisters. We would visit the convent every summer when the Sisters were not scheduled for a home visit. They enjoyed our visits as much as we did—we were those "little ones." No doubt we got a lot of attention and were treated royally by all the nuns. We looked forward to those visits but enjoyed their home visits in the summer more. We prepared for these visits well in advance.

The Sisters usually were picked up by their younger brother or by

my dad. Upon their arrival at home, they changed into at-home clothes as soon as possible - ready to gather eggs, or apples, or pick strawberries or whatever was in the garden. They were happy just to be outside or around animals or in the "man's world" of the wood shop, where their dad and older brothers made and repaired furniture. The Sisters would occasionally bring home projects they were preparing for their classrooms and living quarters. (Some of the Foreman antique, handmade furniture is in the German American Museum in St. Lucas.) Many may be familiar with one of Sister Crispina's projects, the fruit pit rosaries. She was also skilled with the spinning wheel, as she spun and made the cinctures (white knotted cords) the nuns wore with their habits (dresses). And they would often convince my mom to do some "fancy-work", crocheting, embroidery, etc. that could be sold at bazaars at their new assignments. They were very creative, artistic and talented women.



**Sister M. Crispina, Sister M. Adelinda,
Sister M. Carissa**

The Sisters were always in a teaching mode and loved to just visit. Sister Carissa was the musician, the organist. My early piano interests come through her. Sister Adelinda was artistic and taught me calligraphy. Sister Crispina was the expert in repurposing and could often find "treasures in the trash." Much of this was done with their new assignments in mind, including my mom's fancy work contributions.

Their home week always flew by. My mom would go to her parent's home, while they were there, so they could all be together for a while. It was a happy week-a happy time. There were always smiles and laughter and hugs, music, singing, and food.

Their home week was like a crash course in summer school, but I loved it. By the time I was old enough for school, I was looking forward to the Sisters teaching. I have been told and it is said by many, we were lucky to have the best education - twelve years of Sister schooling. Yes, I was among the blessed.

HISTORIC DIETZENBACH BOTTOM BRIDGE STILL SPANS THE TURKEY RIVER

Clair Blong, Joyce Schaufenbuel

Fayette County is located in the northeast area of Iowa and is made up of twenty townships and covers 730 square miles. The terrain of the county varies greatly, from the relatively flat lands of the southwest half to the hilly and more rugged terrain of the northeast. The topography changes quickly in the northeast, particularly along the Turkey and Volga rivers, with elevations varying by up to 200 feet.

Auburn Township, where the Dietzenbach Bottom Bridge is now located, lies in the hills of the northern area of the county. Elgin, the first site of the bridge, is in Pleasant Valley Township, in the eastern part of the county, an area known as the Switzerland of Iowa.



Originally built in 1890 in Elgin, the bridge was first known as the Elgin Creamery Bridge that spanned Otter Creek to connect the town of Elgin to the local union creamery. By 1890, Elgin was a flourishing town of mills, a railroad depot, and the township's Union Creamery Association.

The creamery, positioned across Otter Creek from the downtown, served as the central depository for the local dairy farmers. They produced butter and sour cream to be sold locally. Across Mill Street from the creamery was the Schori and Lehman Brewery, which was founded around 1873. The bridge, as it originally stood in Elgin, made the vital connection between the downtown and the creamery.

The move from Elgin to the farmland of Dietzenbach Bottom took place in 1926. Petitions for a bridge in this area had been made since the 1890s with no action taken. In 1923, a final request was made: "A petition signed by three hundred citizens asking the Board of Supervisors to construct a bridge across the Turkey River in Section three (Auburn Township) at the Dietzenbach Ford east of Old Mission Mill, was received and ordered filed." (The Fayette County Union, February 22, 1923).

This petition, remarkable in its number of advocates, was taken under consideration, and finally in the winter of 1926, concrete abutments were poured for the bridge. William Moellering, the Fayette County Engineer for 40 years, notes that the bridge was disassembled and moved with horses and sleds up the frozen Turkey River in the wintertime. Local farmers worked through the winter to build a ramp approach for the bridge.

BRIDGE WORKMEN IN SPEED RECORD

The people in and near section 3, Auburn township, are not only thankful that they have got a bridge across the Little Turkey river at the Old Mission ford, some two and a half miles northeast of St. Lucas, but they also are gratified at the speed record made by the workmen under the direction of Bridge Foremen George Morehouse and Fremont Clark in putting up the structure. Just nine working days of ten hours each were required to place their outfit, throw the steel work across the stream, floor it, and move the outfit back again. The bridge was a 120-foot steel span which formerly crossed Otter creek at the Goose ranch location east of West Union. After the steel was taken down it was cleaned and painted in the county warehouse before being re-erected. The new location is on a township road. It is now known as the Dietzenbach bridge, Joseph Dietzenbach having been instrumental in getting its establishment ordered.

An article in the West Union Argo-Gazette, February 2, 1927 newspaper details the serious effort made to get the bridge installed and the gratitude of the people.

What had been the motivation to finally erect a bridge at this rural location which had been forded for so many years? The bridge does not perform the typical role of a bridge on a farm- to-market road by enabling farmers to move crops or livestock to the county seat more easily. The bridge, however, does make travel much easier to the small town of St. Lucas in northwest Auburn Township. For the Dietzenbach family (for whom the bridge is named) and other residents of that area, the town of St. Lucas was of great importance. The majority of farmers in northern Auburn Township were German Catholics, and St. Lucas was the home of their parish church, St. Luke's.

The original settling of the area illuminates the decision to erect a bridge at Dietzenbach Bottom. Auburn Township borders Winneshiek County, which, in the 1840s, was an Indian reservation. At that time, a Catholic mission was established on the border to work with the Indians. By the late 1840s, the Winnebago Indians had been removed from the Indian Subagency lands in this area of the middle Turkey River Valley. These fertile lands were eagerly sought by the landless immigrants from Germanic states in Europe. John Gaertner, a German Catholic, came to the area in

1848, bringing with him two other men. The men approached the bishop to ask him to assign a priest to the area. The bishop promised a priest but with the provision that other German families would settle in the area. The men returned home, sold their farms, and brought their own families and others as well. This settlement became known as Old Mission.

When the settlement reached 50 families in 1853, the residents built a small stone chapel two miles north in Festina, Winneshiek County. The settlers farther south wanted their own parish church, and in 1854, plans were made for a church in Statheltown, now St. Lucas. In 1882, Father Boeding became the parish priest for St. Lucas. The area of the Dietzenbach family farms is in the parish of St. Luke's, but because of the Turkey River, it was easier for the residents to go north to Festina to attend mass. Father Boeding, however, wanted to expand his membership and open new areas to St. Luke's Church. He was behind petitions for other bridges in the area, and likely helped organize the 300- person petition which brought the bridge to Dietzenbach Bottom.

The Dietzenbach Bottom Bridge stands as an important example of the pin-connected wrought-iron Warren truss. Wrought-iron Warren trusses were never common for roadway bridges. As a pin-connected Warren through truss, the Dietzenbach Bottom Bridge is one of only three left in the state of Iowa. Riveted steel Warren trusses, however, became very common in Iowa after the turn of the century, particularly ones built after 1913 to the Iowa State Highway Commission standards.

The truss consists of six panels for a 120' span and 16'1" roadway inches width. The upper chord and inclined end posts are 2 channels joined by a cover and batten plates, and the lower chord is made up of 2 rectangular eye bars. The verticals are two angles with lacing, and the diagonals two channels with lacing, except for the ends, which are two rectangular eye bars. The portal has a simple design which creates a triangle in both upper corners which is then bisected. The substructure of the bridge was replaced in 1987.

Horace Horton, the designer of the bridge, was highly respected as a bridge engineer. In a memorial from the Journal of the Western Society of Engineers, the writer noted: "Mr. Horton possessed unusual ability as a designer. He was amongst the foremost in the production of new features of design, seeming to grasp the requirements of each particular case and equally ready to plan the finished structure adapted to each case, and to devise the plant and methods of fabricating and erecting the material."

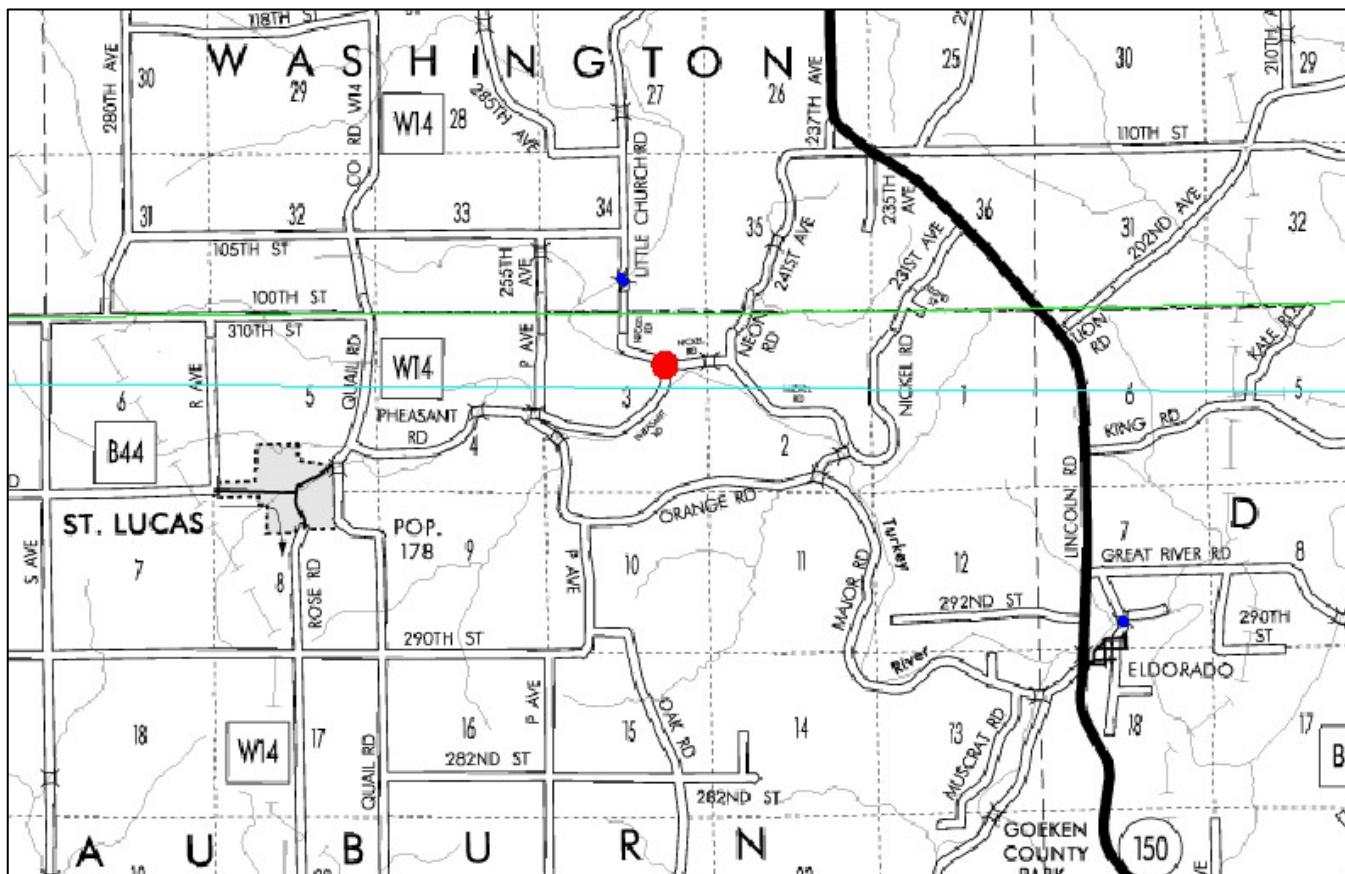


The Dietzenbach Bottom Bridge stands as a striking illustration of bridge construction and bridge roles in Iowa. While rural bridges often play a prosaic role in moving crops or livestock to market, the Dietzenbach Bottom Bridge is remarkable in the local importance it has had in both sites. Today, the bridge has been bypassed by a modern bridge, and the historic bridge was left abandoned for its aesthetic and historic value. While floods have washed away the soil around the abutments, the truss itself remains with good historic and structural integrity.

The Historic American Engineering Record report states its significance: "The Dietzenbach Bottom Bridge is an excellent example of the now rare late nineteenth century pin-connected, wrought-iron Warren truss. It seems to be the work of the creative and well-known engineer Horace Horton, the founder of the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company. While the bridge has been moved from its original location, both sites show the transportation roles played by bridges in Iowa."

Source: Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, DC: [Dietzenbach Bottom Bridge](#), (AKA: Turkey River Bridge, Mill Race Bridge, and Old Elgin Creamery Bridge), 1996. 12 pages.

Location of the Dietzenbach Bridge



Source of map: <https://iowadot.gov/historicbridges/historic-bridges/mill-race-bridge>

The Mill Race Bridge is distinguished as a well-preserved example of this uncommon 19th century truss type (adapted from Field Inspection by Clayton Fraser, 10 July 1992.)

The bridge was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1998. (United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form May 29, 1986 Register Of Historic Places National Park Service Omb No. 10024-0018).

For additional reading and more photos, go to <https://bridgehunter.com/ia/fayette/dietzenbach-bottom/>

Bridgehunter.com is a database of historic or notable bridges in the United States, [past and present](#). It has comprehensive reports of surveys (Historic American Buildings Survey, Engineering Record, Landscapes Survey) of historic bridges across the country. The report on the Mill Race Bridge is 29 pages in length and has several photos. The photos are also accessible through the National Archives, as noted in this report.

CASEMER A. UGOREK: AN IMMIGRANT'S LIFE OF SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY, HIS NEIGHBORS AND THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

Clair Blong

Casemer A. Ugorek was born on March 3, 1821, in Wiecbork, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, in north central Poland. Pomorskie is equivalent of German Pommern, the English is Pomerania. These contested lands frequently changed hands over the past two centuries: first Poland, then Prussia, then Germany and now Poland again in post-World War II era (See Baldner email of January 23, 2019, 8:59 PM).

Casemer A. Ugorek came to America on September 14, 1857, on the Schooner Chas Smith from Hamburg, Germany to New York. (See Find a Grave, Casemer-Albert-Ugorek) He then possibly lived with other Polish immigrants in the Chicago area.

On December 31, 1861, Casemer was inducted into the Union Army. He served in the Illinois 58th Regiment Infantry, organized at Camp Douglas, Chicago on February 11, 1862. Casemer served in Company F of the Illinois 58th Regiment Infantry almost the entire Civil War. He was discharged on February 7, 1865.

The regiment was the basic maneuver unit of the Civil War. They were recruited from among the eligible citizenry of one or more nearby counties and usually consisted of 1,000 men when first organized. Companies consisted of around 100 troops. The attrition of disease, combat, and desertion would rapidly reduce this number.

Replacements were exceedingly rare for both sides-it was more typical for an entirely new regiment to be raised instead. Regiments were usually led by colonels (Civil War Trust, Table of Organization).

In the post-Civil War era many Union Army veterans were pouring into Iowa, attracted by its rich lands and timbers, especially in northeastern Iowa. The beautiful hill-top cemetery above Auburn, Iowa contains the graves of 21 Civil War veterans who had settled in this area of Auburn township.

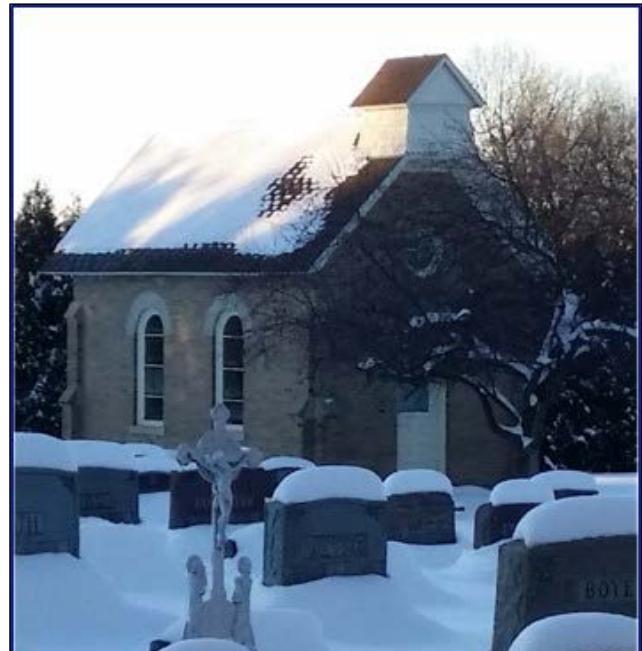
After the Civil War it appears Casemer was invited by his friend, John Carl Bodensteiner, the father of Henry Bodensteiner, to live in the St. Lucas, Iowa area. Ugorek built a log cabin on the Bodensteiner farm. The cabin was located in the woods across the road from Leo Bodensteiner's farm residence. (From the writings of John Carl Bodensteiner, "The Family of John Carl Bodensteiner" 1979, Lorraine Bodensteiner Kuennen.)

Casemer lived a quiet life in the countryside, never married and performed odd jobs and farm work for his St. Lucas neighbors. The 1880 United States Federal Census for Auburn, Fayette County, Iowa the entry for Casemer Ugorek notes he was working on a farm owned by John Bodensteiner. The 1900 Federal Census for Fayette County notes that Casemir H. Ugorek is a landowner.

Casemer Ugorek generously contributed money to the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, IA to build a rest home for the elderly at Cottage Hill in Dubuque. In those days, Dubuque was a focal point for medical treatment and care for those living out on the prairies of NE Iowa.

Casemer was very thrifty and donated much of his life savings to St. Luke's Church in St. Lucas. His substantial donation was used to pay for the construction of a beautiful brick chapel in St. Luke's Cemetery. The chapel was built by Bill Baker (per Lee Stammeyer, January 23, 2019).

Casemer spent the last year of his life at that rest home at Cottage Hill in Dubuque. Casemer died on February 9, 1904 and was buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Dubuque. (Dubuque County Death Records, 1904).



Chapel in St. Luke's Cemetery
Built with funds donated by Casemer Ugorek

Last Will and Testament of Casimir Ugorek, signed on December 22, 1903, sums up his generosity.

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W I L L O F C A S I M I R A L B E R T U G O R E K D E C R E A S E D .

I, Casimir Albert Ugorek, declare the following to be my last Will & Testament

1. I give and bequeath two thousand dollars \$2000.00, to the Sisters of St Francis of Dubuque Co Ia for the erection & maintenance of a home for the aged and they on their part agree to support me unto the end of my life.

2. I give & bequeath to the same Sisters of St Francis of Dubuque Co Ia, eight hundred dollars \$800.00 for the Orphans under their charge.

3. I give & bequeath to Rev F. Digmann S.J. (or his successor in office) superior of the Indian Missions for the benefit of said Indian Missions six hundred dollars \$600.00 Rev F. Digmann S.J. is at present to the west of my knowledgemstationed at St Francis Rosebud Reservation S. Dakota.

4. I give & bequeath to my sister Antonia Gappa, Ashton, Sherman Co Neb. one thousand dollars \$1000.00.

5. I give bequeath to my sister Johanna Badura, Ashton, Neb, four hundred dollars \$400.00.

6. I give & bequeath to Rev F. H. Boeding, Pastor of St Lucas Church, St Lucas Ia or his successor, all the rest of my estate for the erection of a chapel on the cemetery of St Lucas Parish.

I appoint Theodor Perry of St Lucas executor.

His
Albert X Ugorek
Witnesses Franz Thunte Mark
 Bernard Budde

The above instrument Casimir Albert Ugorek declared to be his last Will & Testament and he signed the same in our presence and we signed the same in his presence and in the presence of each other.

Franz Thunte

Witnesses Bernard Budde

Dubuque, Ia December 22, 1903.
Filed May 13, 1904.
W. G. Walrath, Clerk.

Certificate of Proof of Will.

I, W. G. Walrath, Clerk of District Court, hereby certify that the instrument of writing hereto attached, purporting to be the last Will and Testament of Casimir Albert Ugorek of Fayette County, Iowa, was presented, read and filed on the 13th day of May 1904, that a notice was published for its probate in the Gazette a weekly newspaper published in West Union, Fayette County, Iowa, three consecutive weeks, the last publication being ten days before the time appointed for its probate; that on said time appointed the execution of said Will was duly proved by the subscribing witnesses, and also, that the said testator at the time of its execution was of full age, sound disposing mind and memory and free to act.

It was then and there adjudged and ordered by the Court that the aforesaid instrument was duly executed and probated as the last Will and Testament of Casimir Albert Ugorek and that letters testamentary issue thereon as provided by law.

In Witness Whereof, I have attached the seal of this Court and subscribed my name this 12th day of September 1904.

W. G. Walrath
Clerk District Court
B y M. E. Bailey Deputy

(SEAL)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE

Carl Most

Would you like to find out more about how the most spoken language in Europe came to be? This brief history of the German language will inform you.

German is the official language of four European countries: Germany, Austria, Belgium and one of the three official languages of Switzerland. More than 100 million people speak German worldwide and it is the most widely spoken language in Europe if we do not take into account Russian in the whole of Eurasia.

German ranks the sixth most popular language in the world, the first language being Chinese, then English, Hindi-Urdu, Spanish, and Russian. Experts believe the basis of the German language, Proto-Germanic, began to develop about 2000 BC as people began to settle in western areas of the Baltic Sea.

One of the first ever records of the German language dates back to the 1st Century BC when the Romans came into contact with inhabitants of the Rhine-Danube area during their occupation. The modern German we know today is likely to be unrecognizable from the language that the Romans first observed. It has gone through many changes:

- Old High German (from about 700 AD to the eleventh century),
- Middle High German (from about 1050 to 1350),
- Early New High German (1350 to 1600) to New High German (from about 1600 to the present).

As with many languages, German has evolved with society. Sociopolitical factors have helped shape the language to become what it is today. New words from other languages have been adopted by German speakers. Other words have been introduced into the German language due to more interaction with foreigners because of migration, trade, war, or the development of new technology from cinema to the Internet.

For example, today Germans will regularly have “brainstorming sessions” – using the English term. Similarly, most speakers have adopted English words related to technology; Internet or email for example, as they are used in several other languages.

German is an especially interesting language because of the dominance of dialects which emerged due to the fact that there was no cultural center, for example like Paris in France. By the end of the Middle Ages attempts were made to create a “Standard German language” so that the several independent regions could communicate more easily with each other. It is important to note that Germany did not exist as a political entity until the 19th century.

A major influence on the standardization of the German language was Martin Luther’s Bible translation into German from the original Hebrew in 1522. The translation from Hebrew aimed at an “East Middle German Style,” was largely based on the language used at the Saxon court. This became the basis of what we know as German today.

Modern day German is often referred to as “High German,” or “Hochdeutsch.” Hochdeutsch is used as the language of administration, higher education, literature, and the mass media.

Other dialects include:

- Low German, or Plattdeutsch or Niederdeutsch, which is still spoken in many homes in the lowlands of northern Germany.
- Alemannic, which differs considerably in sound and grammar from standard High German. It is spoken mainly in Switzerland, western Austria, Swabia, Liechtenstein and in the Alsace region of France.
- Yiddish, the language of the Ashkenazic Jews (Jews whose ancestors lived in Germany in the European Middle Ages), also developed from High German.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/German-language>

GROWING UP IN POST-WAR GERMANY

Carl Most, Rochester, Minnesota

Wolfgang Most, Essen, Germany

Mr. Carl Most of Rochester, Minnesota, is a Founding Member of the St Lucas Historical Society (SLHS) and remains a resourceful and dedicated member. Carl recently submitted this article written by his cousin, Wolfgang Most, who lives in Essen, Germany. As a very young child, Wolfgang survived the bombing raids and experienced the years of recovery from WW II and has managed to build a successful career. He is now 75 years of age.

The article describes Wolfgang's first days of school in a city that was heavily bombed after the war. He received warm oatmeal for lunch in school, food sent by the American Quakers who helped feed the children of our former enemies. The children also received a tablespoon of cod liver oil each day. The spoon was wiped with a cloth and then used for the next child. There was discipline and order in school, but the children did not mind.

Carl has provided a brief introduction to Wolfgang's article, one in English and in German. Wolfgang's article that follows the introduction is presented in German only.

English Text

The author of the Article below was written by my cousin Wolfgang Most. Wolfgang was born in 1943 in the industrial city of Essen, Germany. In this year the allied air raids increased immensely, and because Essen was the heavy weapons center of the Third Reich, it was especially heavily targeted. My cousin Wolfgang lived through these days—and through the days of total destruction—and was able to build a meaningful life in post-war Germany. We met for the first time personally in 1957, and since then have had a close personal friendship.

Carl Most,
Rochester, Minnesota

German Text

Der Autor unterstehenden Artikels stammt von meinem Cousin Wolfgang Most. Wolfgang wurde 1943 in der Industriestadt Essen geboren. IN diesem Jahre nahmen die Luftangriffe der Alliierten Streitmächte an Intensivierung zu, und da die Stadt Essen die Waffenschmiede des Reiches war, kam sie unter besonders schwerem Beschuss. Mein Vetter Wolfgang überlebte diese harten Tage—sowie auch die "Stunde Null"— und konnte sein Leben im Nachkriegsdeutschland erfolgreich aufbauen. Wir haben uns erstmals im Jahre 1957 persönlich kennengelernt, und pflegen seitdem eine enge Freundschaft.

The article begins with the words, "Liebe Rédaction" (Dear Publishers) and ends with the words, "Mit Lieben Grüßen" (With Kind Regards).

Liebe Redaktion,

Ihr Bericht hat mich wieder sehr an meinen ersten Schultag 1949 erinnert. Meine Eltern wohnten damals in der Dahnstrasse in Essen-West in einem durch den Krieg schwer beschädigten Haus. Der Schulweg zu meiner Volksschule Bärendelle war nur rund 500 Meter, vorbei an Häuserruinen. Im April 1949 ging die Schule los. Ich hatte keine Schultüte, mein Freund Heinz Spormann hatte wie fast alle Kinder auch keine, so dass mir das nicht allzu viel ausmachte. An Verzicht war man zu dieser Zeit gewöhnt. Ich ging natürlich allein zur Schule, hinbringen war nicht üblich.



Wolfgang Most is on the right and his buddy Heinz is on the left, dressed for school.

Der erste Schultag sollte so um 11.00 Uhr zu Ende sein, meine sehr strenge Mutter wartete wohl so gegen 11.15 auf mich. Ich klüngelte aber mit einigen anderen Schulkindern noch herum und verspätete mich. Unterwegs wurden wir von einem Fotografen angesprochen, der mich mit meinem Freund Heinz fotografierte. Der Bursche auf der rechten Seite des Bildes war ich. Das war vielleicht ein Theater, als ich 1 Stunde später nach Hause kam. Meine Mutter verprügelte mich und ich bekam für 2 Tage Stubenarrest. In der Schule war die Klasse mit ca. 40 Kindern besetzt, es gab weder Schulbücher noch eine richtige Tafel. Mein Vater hatte von einem Dach ein Stück Schiefer besorgt, worauf ich mit einem dünnen Griffel schreiben musste.

Unsere Lehrerin Frau Steinhause gab sich alle Mühe und stellte auf einer Verfielfältigungsmaschine selbst ein Schulbuch her. In der grossen Pause gab es für jedes Kind eine Suppenkelle mit Quäkerspeise, die aus Haferflocken mit Milch bestand. Es war eine Spende der Quäker aus den USA.

Dazu musste jedes Kind einen "Henkelmann" und einen Löffel mitbringen. Als Nachtisch gab es einen Esslöffel mit Lebertran. Der Löffel wurde immer für das nächste Kind an einem Lappen abgeputzt. Disziplin, Ordnung und Sauberkeit hatten einen grossen Stellenwert. Trotz allem hatte ich eine schöne Kindheit und auf dem Kindergeburtstag freute ich mich über Kleinigkeiten. In den grossen Ferien war ich zur Stadtranderholung angemeldet und verlebte im Kreise anderer Kinder schöne Tage am Baldeneysee. Ich erinnere mich gern an alles.

Wolfgang Most, Essen, Germany

Wolfgang Most is a Founding Member of the St Lucas Historical Society (SLHS) and is proud to be one! He has given permission to publish this article.

THE WAR WITHIN: WORLD WAR I AND THE ASSAULT ON GERMAN-AMERICAN IDENTITY IN IOWA

Russ Baldner

Anti-German hysteria in Iowa during World War I, already manifest in 1917, reached a linguistic crescendo in the spring of 1918, resulting in an unprecedented assault on German-American identity, traditional American liberties, and ultimately the extraordinary measures taken by a German-American Lutheran congregation.

Wartime zealotry, countenancing no form of German identity, culminated in an edict by the governor of Iowa restricting spoken language and consequently for some the free exercise of their religion.

In response, the parishioners of St. Peter Lutheran Church at Toeterville, Iowa, abstained from the use of their church and moved Gottesdienst, German worship services, a few miles north into Minnesota, meeting in a member's farm grove at night. Thomas Jefferson once observed, "I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty, than those attending too small a degree of it." On which side of Jefferson's alternatives shall Americans in the twenty-first century choose to stand?

Russ will be presenting his complete paper on this topic at the annual meeting of the Society of German American Studies in Madison, Wisconsin, in April 2019.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Ruth Ann (Smith) Stoltzmann

Have you ever wanted to relive some American history? In July of 2014 my husband Mark and I visited the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Site in Great Falls, Montana and our historic curiosities were set in motion. Here we began one of our explorations of our vast country and its history of expansion. Over the next three years we completed most of the 3700-mile journey that Meriwether Lewis and William Clark experienced during their historical expedition.

On June 20, 1803, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis to lead an expedition through the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. He commanded, "The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river and such principal stream of it as by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent for the purpose of commerce."

(Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation; www.lewisandclark.org)

In 1800, America's western border reached only as far west as the Mississippi River. Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 the country nearly doubled in size and pushed its western edge past the Rocky Mountains, through part of present-day Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. American Indians had traveled through this country for many years, but for European Americans it was unknown territory. Lewis and Clark's expedition in 1803 was part of a U.S. Government plan to open this land for settlement. (See the attached map.)

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail starts at Jefferson Expansion Memorial park at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. Some 3700 miles later, the trail ends at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Park on the Columbia River/Pacific Ocean. The National Trail touches 10 western states and a myriad of Interpretive Visitor Centers along the way.

On May 14, 1804 the "Corps of Discovery" expedition, departed from the St. Louis area and headed upstream in the strong current of the Missouri River. On August 20, Sergeant Charles Floyd died of a suspected burst appendix at what is now Sioux City, Iowa, the only casualty on the expedition. There is a memorial obelisk on top of "Floyds Bluff" overlooking the river. By September, the Corps of Discovery came across prairie dogs which they had never seen before and labeled them barking squirrels. In December the Corp spent the brutally cold winter in Mandan, ND, where three different native tribes provided food and shelter. It was here that Sacagawea joined the expedition and became instrumental to the Corps' survival. Today there is a spectacular Interpretive Center replicating the winter camp. The Knife River Indian Villages National Historical Site close by is a 'must see.'

On April 7, 1805 the expedition headed west from Mandan. In June, they encountered the Great Falls of the Missouri in Montana. Instead of the planned two-day portage, it took more than 30 days to get around these falls. Today there is an Interpretive Center in Great Falls, MT. with incredible displays and replicas of a keelboat.

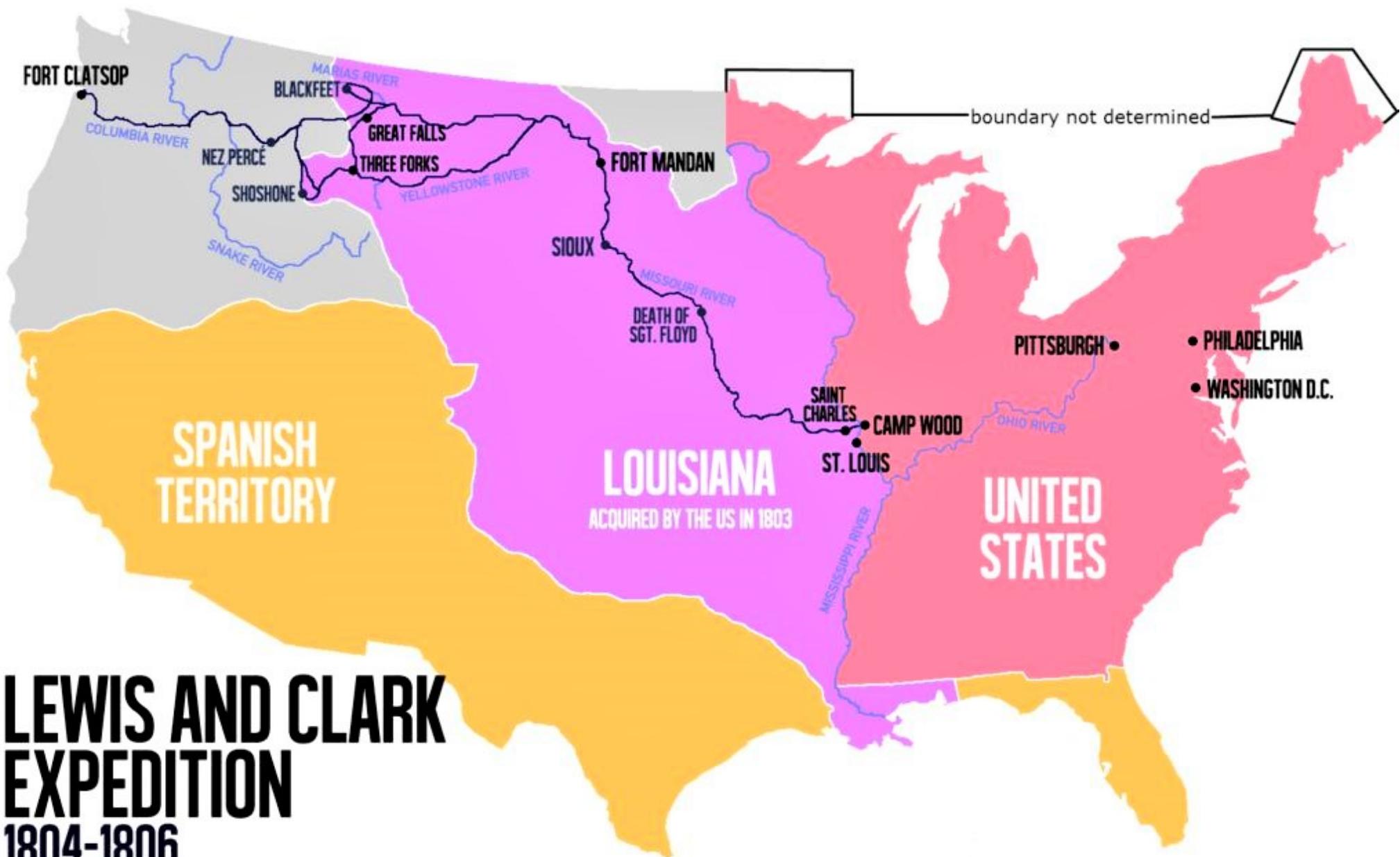
After reaching the headwaters of the Missouri river in August, the expedition headed across the Bitterroot Mountain Range. Present day visitor centers in Salmon and Lolo Pass, Idaho have wonderful displays and information. The drive along the Salmon River is truly spectacular.

In October, the Corps of Discovery reached the great Columbia River. By the end of November 1805, the expedition reached the Pacific Ocean and constructed Fort Clatsop for its winter quarters. They had completed their incredible journey from St. Louis, MO. to the Pacific Ocean.

During the years on our journey, we traveled much of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and stopped at many historical spots along the way. We couldn't help but stop along the way, sit on top of the banks of the Missouri River and imagine the voices of the Corps of Discovery as they paddled and pulled their keelboats against the mighty current of the river. This was an expedition like none other, not knowing what they would encounter. The history of this trip is documented all along the way.

Notable Stops Along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

- Museum of Westward Expansion and the Gateway Arch - St. Louis, MO.
- Camp River Dubois - expedition starting point - St. Louis, MO.
- Sergeant Floyd Monument/Interpretive Center - Sioux City, IA.
- Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center - Fort Mandan, ND.
- Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site - near Mandan ND.
- Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center - Great Falls, MT.
- Sacagawea Interpretive Center - Salmon, ID.
- Lolo Pass Visitor Center - ID.
- Lewis and Clark National Interpretive Centers - WA. OR.



LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION 1804-1806

Map provided by Lewis and Clark National Interpretive Centers - WA. OR.

BRIAN J. SMITH, PROFESSOR, SCIENTIST, RESEARCHER, DEPARTMENT OF BIOSTATISTICS, CANCER RESEARCH CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Brian J. Smith, January 2019

Brian is the son of a local family with deep roots in St. Lucas. His father, Bob Smith, is the son of Milton and Margaret Smith who raised their family on a farm NE of St. Lucas. At a young age, Brian clearly exhibited a zest and gift for Mathematics. Brian is currently a professor in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, and the Director at Biostatistics Core, at Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (HCCC), at the University of Iowa. He is also the Leadership Committee Member for the Cancer Epidemiology and Population Science Program, HCCC, and the Co-Director of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core, Lymphoma SPORE, at the University of Iowa/Mayo Clinic.



The University of Iowa is home to the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, one of 49 cancer centers nationwide holding National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center status and the only designated center in the state. This NCI distinction and the recent US News & World Report #18 National Ranking of Cancer Care at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, highlights the HCCC's commitment to the treatment and research of cancer. The most publicly recognizable activity of the HCCC is the patient care provided by the physicians, nurses, and other professionals working there. However, working in collaboration with these health professionals is an active group of HCCC scientists conducting research on cancer prevention, outcomes, and new treatments for the disease. Brian explains his role as HCCC Biostatistics Director, "I am one of those scientists who, along with my colleagues, strives to advance cancer research at the University of Iowa and beyond."

What attracted Brian to work in the field of cancer research? Brian explains that he was attracted to Biostatistics because of its opportunities to utilize his interests in mathematics, statistics, and computer programming to have a broad impact on people's well-being." Brian further explains, "When I tell that to people I meet, they sometimes ask how I became interested in math. My usual response is to jokingly say it was inherited from my parents (Bob and Ronnie Smith), both of whom have graduate degrees in math and had positions in the Math Department at Arkansas State University. There may be some truth to that, but more importantly were the opportunities my parents gave me to develop my interests.

The most memorable of those opportunities were the college courses my dad arranged for me to take at Arkansas State University while I was in grade school and high school. My very first college course was computer programming in a language called BASIC when I was about around 12 years old. Now that I teach college courses, the thought of having a 12-year-old in class is pretty amusing. However, my memories of the BASIC class are all about the material rather than about what must have been an obvious disparity in my age. Later, in high school, I came back to Arkansas State to take Trigonometry and Calculus I-III. The college math courses were particularly instrumental in the development of my math interests not only because of the exposure to the material, but also because of the quality and enthusiasm of the instructors who helped turn me on to the field."

Brian described details about current Cancer research. "Cancer research is an increasingly team-based endeavor involving the collaborative efforts of individuals from many different fields. Likewise, success is dependent on the team's collective use of appropriate methods to address research objectives of interest. In cancer research, objectives are typically addressed with data collected from research studies. As the HCCC Biostatistics Director, I help ensure that rigorous and objective methods are used for research study data. One way I do that is by developing and applying mathematical methods for the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of cancer-related data. Another way is by leading a group of faculty, staff, and students that provides biostatistical support for the 200 HCCC research members."

“Since joining the University of Iowa Biostatistics Department faculty in 2001 and becoming HCCC Biostatistics Director in 2006, I have been involved in a wide variety of activities. Notable research projects include the UI/Mayo Lymphoma Study, the Quantitative Imaging Study, and the Iowa Radon Lung Cancer Study. The UI/Mayo Lymphoma Study is a National Institute of Health (NIH)-funded collaborative research program among investigators at Iowa and Mayo that has been ongoing since 2002. Its goal is to research lymphoma and lymphocytic leukemia treatments and outcomes. An example of my role as a biostatistician on the study is the implementation of clinical trial designs to identify the safest and most efficacious dose levels of investigational lymphoma treatments.

Also ongoing at Iowa is the Quantitative Imaging Study whose goal is to develop methods of predicting cancer treatment response from medical images. Statistical methods are being employed to help identify cancer patients that are likely to have disease recurrence after treatments based on patterns in their medical images. The Iowa Radon Lung Cancer Study is one of the first studies in which I was involved. This was an epidemiologic study that enrolled 413 Iowans with lung cancer, and 614 without cancer and measured their home radon levels in order to determine the lung cancer risk posed by residential radon exposure. I performed the statistical analysis for the study including estimation of lung cancer risk and development of state-wide residential radon maps. The study became well known in the field of radon research for its relatively advanced assessment of radon exposure. Consequently, because of my involvement in the Iowa study, I was recently invited to join a United Nations expert group to review the radon literature and write a report on the current state of knowledge on radon lung cancer risk.”

GERMAN STUDENTS FROM BADEN-WURTTEMBERG HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORE THE VILLAGE OF ST. LUCAS

On Monday, October 22, 2018, a sunny and beautiful autumn afternoon, 21 excited high school students from Überlingen in Baden-Württemberg in Southern Germany and 2 teachers with smiling faces tumbled off a North High School bus on the St. Luke’s Church parking lot. The students were eager to explore this quiet small town and learn about its unique German heritage.

The German students were participating in the 36th year of the high school student exchange program initiated by Wilhelmine (Scharlach) Kuennen in 1984. Mrs. Kuennen was the German language teacher at North High School in West Union, who reached out to her English language teaching friends in southern Germany near Lake Constance (Bodensee) to begin this very popular and enduring student exchange program. This volunteer student exchange program is a dramatic example of personal initiative and strong determination by a few teachers to help students learn, appreciate and understand the culture of another country.



German students pay respect at the gravesite of Wilhelmine Kuennen who started this exchange program in 1984.

The first stop on the tour was the site of Wilhelmine’s grave in St. Luke’s Cemetery where a short memorial service was held in her honor. After walking among the gravesites, Joana, a student from Germany, noted, “I was surprised by the many German names in the graveyard. I didn’t know there were entire German villages in the middle of the United States!”

The students then toured St. Luke’s Church to see the Gothic architecture interior and learn about the extraordinary stained-glass windows which were imported from Munich, the capital city of Bavaria after World War I.

The windows had been ordered from a stained-glass manufacturer in Munich before the war, but unrestricted submarine warfare prevented the arrival of the stained-glass panels until the war ended.

Jeanette Dietzenbach demonstrated the handsome tracker pipe organ made by a German firm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Students were invited to play the organ, even if they had no instruction on how to play. Several students volunteered to play the large complex instrument. Some knew how to play music themes like "Harry Potter" by heart, to the delight of the audience. All appreciated the beautiful sounds of the organ music filling the church. Gabriel, a student bubbled, "I had never played an organ before. It was a great experience." Mr. Borte stated, "It was amazing to listen to the soundtrack of "Pirates of the Caribbean" on the organ. It sounded really good." The small audience was thoroughly delighted by the beautiful sounds of organ music filling the church.

At the German American Museum, refreshments were served, and the students were given a brief overview of the museum followed by a tour of the various exhibits. Students were especially interested in the Native American ceremonial dresses, the hats worn in the 1920s, the military uniforms, and the baseball uniforms. Benni, one of the students, remarked, "My favorite part was the exhibit about the Indians who once lived in this area."

Teachers Hans-Jurgen Borte and Annegret Gminderers regretted the short time spent in the Museum and asked for a longer visit on their next visit in two years. Cosima, a student noted, "I liked the Museum a lot and would like to spend a lot more time there."

The students and teachers then hiked down the hill to Goerend Transmission for a presentation and tour of the fast-growing manufacturing facility. Darla Goerend noted, "We were very pleased to share our experience as a three-generation family-owned business. Hopefully, the students gained an appreciation of how a small business can create new technologies and adapt to ever changing customer needs and markets."

After the transmission facility tour, the students headed back to North High School to continue their three-week-long visit to Iowa schools and tours of neighboring points of interest.

Joyce Schaufenbuel of Colorado Springs noted "I really enjoyed giving the students a tour of the Museum and appreciated their strong interest in the German heritage in the area." Jeanette Dietzenbach of Decorah stated, "I enjoyed learning about their families and educational system and was delighted about their excitement in touring Northeast Iowa cultural icons and landmarks."

German teacher Mr. Borte remarked as he boarded the bus, "Thank you for always making this visit possible for us. We appreciate it very much. We look forward to seeing you again in two years."



German students in front of the German American Museum



CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS BECOMES A TRADITION

Jeanette Hlubek Ditzenbach

December of 2018 marked the 16th year of Christmas Reflections, an annual event put on by the St. Lucas Historical Society. Each year at Christmas time the Society decorates the German-American Museum and hosts an Open House. The event boasts of a generous holiday buffet, holiday trees and decorations, historic displays, and music. Members of the community donate an abundance of decadent desserts, which has been a tradition since the beginning of the event.

The history of the Christmas Reflections event is quite interesting. The celebration began in December of 2003 as a creative idea of Duane Boyer.

The school building had been purchased in the spring of 2003 from the St. Luke's Parish by a group of founding members. Duane had been involved in the Festival of Trees celebration in Decorah and that association prompted him to create a similar event in St. Lucas. Jeanette Dietzenbach joined with Duane and assisted in decorating the school. Jeanette proposed the idea of incorporating music into the event and recruited a Christmas Reflections choir. The chapel in the basement of the school was used for a small concert and an Evening Prayer service and was continued for many years. The first vesper services were presided by Sr. Lou Ann Doehring and Father Marvin Salz.

The initial choir members were members of the community. Rosemary and Carl Most, founding members from Rochester, Minnesota lead guests in singing traditional German hymns during the concert. Festivities during the day included a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols. Lorraine Kuennen, Kathy Meyer, Clotiel Kuennen and Jeanette Dietzenbach accompanied the singers on the piano.



In the early years, the school was decorated as a Festival of Trees. The immense space that was available in the building allowed for several trees to be set up and decorated. As one of the original guest decorators stated, "It was almost magical with all the lights, trees and garlands." Many local people offered their special collections or decorations to be used to enhance the festive atmosphere for the event. A Polar Express party hosted by Hannah and Devin Franzen was held one year.

In 2004, piano students of Jeanette Dietzenbach added Christmas music to the event. The students came dressed in their Christmas finery and were inspired by the magical atmosphere as they played their Christmas selections. Students also came from many communities and school districts: Trinity School, Turkey Valley, South Winn, Decorah School District, St. Patrick's, Waukon. Parents, grandparents, family members and members of the community came to hear the children perform their Christmas pieces. In 2007, the students of the "Schola" from



St. Francis DeSales School of Ossian sang at the event. The "Signs of Christ" group performed their signing of a religious selection in one of the chapel concerts. Starting in 2006 and continuing for years following, the Society purchased special Christmas items that were raffled off at the event.

As the museum acquired more artifacts and the number of displays grew, Christmas Reflections became an event which incorporated the historic elements of the museum and the significant character of the building. In 2010, the entire event was held in the Chapel - food, music and all.

Every year Virginia Manderfield, one of the original founding members, took on the enormous task of preparing the linens to be used in the dining room. Members of the family of Duane Boyer have been involved in the festivities - helping with the decorating and especially working with the food and dessert buffet.

Much could not have been done without the contribution of John and Jann Kuehner who "held it all together" down at the White House by providing the use of their kitchen and other last-minute accessories needed.

For several years, the National Catholic Society of Foresters and the Catholic Order of Foresters sponsored the event with their matching fund program. This was an important financial element that was coordinated with the officers of these organizations by Virginia and DeVere Manderfield.

In recent years, many new people have become involved with the event. After Duane, the buffet was managed by Kurt Anfinson (Norski) and is now managed by Vice President Joyce Moss and D. J. Orthaus.

Originally, the event was held on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. It is now an intense one-day event, with preparation activities taking place on Friday and Saturday and the celebration and Open House held on Sunday.

Many have helped decorate the school over the years, including members of the society and people from the community. Some of the memorable decorations were the upside-down tree in 2004, the Visions of Sugarplums bed, the Denim and Crayola Tree, the Superman Tree, the tree of miniatures, the twelve-foot tree decorated by Kay Dietzenbach with her many treasures, the Byers Carolers of Jeanette Dietzenbach and Keith Kreun, Corky Schlicte's musical tree stand that played an eerie tune as it turned in a circle. In 2016, Clarise Timp brought her beautiful floor model Nativity set.

The event has been documented each year with photographs and videos. Photos of past years were on display at the 15th year celebration. It is especially enjoyable to view the decorating, the trees and, and most importantly, the people who attended and supported the event by their presence and their donations.

Leading the effort over the years was Clair Blong, president of the St. Lucas Historical Society.



A PILGRIMAGE OF HISTORY AND FAITH IN GERMANY

Russ Baldner

On October 28, 2018, Reformation Sunday, Russell Baldner of Spillville, Iowa, presented on the life and times of Martin Luther; places where he lived and worked, the teachings and the Reformation he inspired, and the colleagues and defenders who stood by his side. Russ's presentation took place at the Calmar Lutheran church on a brisk autumn Sunday afternoon.

Drawing on striking photography from the Luther College spring tour in Germany, Russ's presentation featured a wealth of attractive scenes and historical architecture from Eisenach, the Wartburg, Erfurt, Leipzig, and Wittenberg. Russ noted the tour also included historical portraiture and artifacts; and a little light-hearted fare here and there; all of which culminating in a 289-step ascent to the top of the Schlosskirche bell tower and breathtaking views of charming Lutherstadt (Luther City) Wittenberg.

Russ's program concluded on a reflective note with Luther's death, his last written words, and a theological compass of the Reformation as expressed in the opening words of one of his many hymns. The presentation was free and open to the public.

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Clair Blong

Gretchen M. Bataille, David M. Gradwohl, and Charles I. Silet. The World Between Two Rivers: Perspectives on American Indians in Iowa. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1978. 148 pages. These thirteen essays give a clearer picture of the first Iowans then and now. Many points of view are represented—Native American, Euro-Americans, lay people, educators, social scientists and humanists.

Clyde Cremer. The Life and Times of a World War I Soldier: The Julius Holthaus Story. Bloomington, Indiana: Universe LLC, 2014. 411 pages. 41 pages of images. Julius Holthaus, a humble American farm boy, went to France to help fill the depleted ranks of the Allies in America's biggest battle in World War I, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Julius had no idea of what he was getting into. The fight would involve over a million American doughboys, spanning 47 days, and resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Allied and German soldiers in one of the costliest battles in history. Truly, the horrors of war writ large. Clyde Cremer explores the diary and life of Holthaus.

The story follows Holthaus from Idaho and Iowa through his enlistment, training, and final trauma in the dark, disenchanted forest of the Argonne. Mr. Cremer was born and raised in NE Iowa, obtained degrees in forestry and environmental sciences from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas and Yale University in Connecticut. He currently is president of American Log Homes in Pueblo, Colorado. (The book and related materials are on display in the military section of the Museum.)

Patty Loew. Indian Nations of Wisconsin: Histories of Endurance and Renewal. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2013, 222 pages. Extensive collection of historical photographs. Professor Loew, an enrolled member of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Ojibwe, has done a superb job of providing an overview of the many tribes in Wisconsin. Dr. Loew tells the stories through maps, photos and great narrative.

The chapter on the Ho-Chunk Nation is of special interest to us. It covers the early history, removal to Iowa, and their struggle for survival, endurance and renewal today. Interestingly, given all the abuse they encountered from the American government and society, they supported the American government in the Civil War by providing a company of troops. Their rich heritage is summarized in this compelling chapter. (The book is on display in the Native American section of the Museum.)

Fritz Stern. Gold and Iron: Bismarck, Bleichroder, and Building the German Empire. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1977. 620 pages. Fritz Stern presents a brilliant study of politics and high finance that shows how these two men: Bismarck, the preeminent leader of late-nineteenth Europe, and Bleichroder, a great banker and central figure in the rise of imperial Germany. The two men come from two different worlds and aspired to different stations. Bismarck was the adventurous Junker who had to circumvent the Prussian constitution to bolster a conservative monarchy and realize his plans for a unified Germany. Bleichroder was a capitalist par excellence, an ingenious Jewish financier who circumvented the social hierarchy of the day to attain aristocratic respectability. Professor Stern reveals that Bleichroder was not only Bismarck's private banker but also his confidant in politics and diplomacy for thirty years. The book sheds light on the fragility and hidden conflicts of the German Empire, whose glittering façade masked a nation sundered by political and social patterns that later favored the rise of political extremism. A compelling work by a keen mind in the study of German history and politics.

Cecele R. Gantema. Officially Indian: Symbols that Define the United States. Washington, DC: National Museum of the American Indian, October 2017. 184 pages. This volume examines the United States' habit of employing visual imagery of American Indians to distinguish itself from other nations and define itself as a Nation. Images of the Indian Queen engraved on the nations' first diplomatic medal in 1792 and Sequoyah's likeness etched into the glass doors at the Library of Congress in 2013 reveal how deeply rooted American Indians are in U.S. national identity. Another good example is the U.S. Congressional Gold Medals for the Code Talkers in World War II. On page 157 is the Gold Medal awarded to the Ho-Chunk Nation for its service in WW II. (On display in the Native American section of the Museum along with a copper copy of the medal).

Norman M. Naimark. **The Russians in Germany: A History of the Soviet Zone of Occupation, 1945-1949.** Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1995. 586 pages. Naimark, using newly opened archives in Germany and Russia, reveals what actually happened during the Soviet occupation of eastern Germany. Unique in its broad, comparative approach to the Soviet military government in Germany, Naimark fills a void in modern Germany history. His work is a masterly analysis of the ruthless Stalinization of East Germany in the early post-war years and of its economic and scientific exploitation.

RECENT PASSING OF TWO FOUNDING MEMBERS

Ken Kuennen

Kenneth (Ken) Kuennen, 89, of Decorah IA, passed away on June 2, 2018, at his home in Decorah. Interment was in St. Luke's Catholic Cemetery, St. Lucas. Kenneth Clair Kuennen was born Oct. 13, 1928, in St. Lucas, to Albert and Philomena (Minnie) Schneberger Kuennen. He was baptized in his faith by Father Paul Kirchhoff, assistant pastor at St. Luke's Catholic Church in St. Lucas. All 12 years of his education were received at St. Luke's Catholic School, taught by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, WI.

Ken started his career in hardware at the age of nine, working at George Kruse's hardware store nailing egg cases together. When his cousin, Victor Kuennen, bought the store and started selling Oliver and New Idea farm hardware and implement business machinery and Studebaker cars, Ken worked in all positions until he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War in 1951. After serving 15 months in Korea, he received his discharge and resumed working at the hardware and implement business.

Ken was united in marriage to his high school sweetheart, Lorraine Bodensteiner, June 11, 1951, at St. Luke's Catholic Church in St. Lucas. Ken and Lorraine became owners of Ken's Hardware Jan. 1, 1956. They joined the S & Q Franchise Program and the store became Ken's S & Q Store. In 1960, they joined the Coast to Coast Stores organization and until Ken's retirement in 1992, their store was known as Ken's Coast to Coast. In 1994, they donated their store building to the town of St. Lucas to be used as a City Hall and Community Center.

From boyhood on, Ken enjoyed the outdoors, hunting and fishing, and being batboy for the town baseball team, the St. Lucas Pirates, and played on the team for many years. Ken served on the Town Council, on the Parish Council and the Parochial School Board. Ken was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the St. Lucas American Legion Post, and a member of the Turkey River Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

In 1999, Ken and Lorraine sold their home on Bass Creek Road east of St. Lucas and moved to Vennehjem Retirement Community in Decorah. Ken enjoyed the amenities of a college town, such as concerts and seminars. Ken very much enjoyed being a Winneshiek County census taker in 2000.

Ken and Lorraine were still close enough to their hometown to remain members of St. Luke's Catholic Church. In 2003 they became founding members of the St. Lucas Historical Society, where they have been very involved in preserving their beloved school, as well as in the formation of the German-American Museum. Kenneth is survived by his daughter, Kathleen (Kathe) Kuennen, Decorah, and his son, Paul Kuennen, Urbandale., IA.

DeVere Manderfield

DeVere Manderfield, 90, of St. Lucas, IA passed away on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at Wellington Place in Decorah, IA. Eugene DeVere was born September 22, 1928 to William and Celia (Kurash) Manderfield in Waucoma, IA. He attended school in a one room schoolhouse in Chickasaw County through the eighth grade.

DeVere was united in marriage to Virginia Winter on May 3, 1954 at St. Luke's Catholic Church in St. Lucas. He enjoyed traveling, polka dancing, playing cards, fishing and spending time with his family. DeVere was a great storyteller, telling his stories over and over again. He farmed and was involved in concrete barn construction.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Order of Foresters and the National Farmers Organization. DeVere was also instrumental in forming the local KC Council and was a founding member of the St. Lucas Historical Society. After retirement, DeVere enjoyed spending winters in Texas.

DeVere is survived by his wife, Virginia of St. Lucas, IA; nine children, Jerry (Barb) Manderfield of Medellín, Colombia, Loren (Marilyn) Manderfield of St. Lucas, IA, Jim (Lori) Manderfield of Urbandale, IA, Dennis (Toni)

Manderfield of Davis, CA, Sheila (Mike) Oswalt of Chico, CA, Sharon (Scott) Thornton of Ames, IA, Shirley (Joe) Abdo of Iowa City, IA, Sharlene (Hein) Hüpscher of Maarssen, The Netherlands and Don (Lyndsey) Manderfield of St. Lucas, IA. DeVere was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Joe; sister, Beverly Haugen; and one grandson, Willie Manderfield. Burial will be at a later date at St. Luke's Catholic Cemetery, St. Lucas, IA.

SPRING 2019 EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

The following speakers have committed to speak on a variety of topics. These talks will be held at the German American Museum. Definite dates and times will be publicized when confirmed.

- Bill Moellering, retired Fayette County Engineer of 40 years, will speak on the "Dietzenbach Bottom Bridge: Its History and Preservation."
- Dave Roselien of Decorah will speak on "The American Bison: Its History, Survival and Sustainment." Duane is a retired veterinarian expert who worked with the US Park Service on the tuberculosis problem in the buffalo herd in Yellowstone National Park.
- Duane Fenstermann of Decorah will speak on "Photographing the American West: Early Photographers in the Montana Territory." Duane is the retired Luther College Archivist who is active in preserving the heritage of early photography of the Plains and the Western states.
- Russ Baldner of Spillville will speak on "The War Within: World War I and the Assault on German-American Identity in Iowa."

UPDATE ON BUILDINGS

Museum Window Restoration Project

Since last summer much progress has been made on restoring the 108 - year old historic window sets in the Museum. In the autumn we completed 12 sets of windows under the Northeast Iowa Community Foundation Grant of \$10,000 that was quickly matched by generous supporters.

We are now working on the State of Iowa matching grant funding of \$39,300. The contractor is currently working on restoring 16 window sets. Eight of these window sets were removed on March 11th for restoration work. This window restoration work will intensify with the arrival of warmer weather.

We have been very blessed by your generosity in matching this State of Iowa Grant funding. In just six months generous individuals and families have already matched 75 per cent of this grant.

Please consider helping complete this matching fund drive in the coming months. These donations are tax deductible and the names of donors will be inscribed on the large plaque in the Museum hallway.

Blacksmith Shop Electrical Work

Recently the contractor completed the installation of the new wiring and lighting and interior and exterior boxes to bring much needed lighting to the old blacksmithing area and the newer weld shop. Alliant Energy will complete the hook up in the near future.

Many thanks to the kind and giving spirit of Raymond Herold and his many relatives for their generosity in making this long needed electrical upgrade happen. Raymond wanted young and old to see where Edmond Hauer, and before him, his father, Joe, daily demonstrated their metal working skills to support farming and community needs for iron and steel repair and later decorative arts.

The Edmond and Mary Hauer family were the generous donors of the building to the Society in 2008. In the past decade, the Society has rebuilt the roof, restored the back wall and huge door with original lumber, replaced the chimney and forge. In 2013 we cleaned up the flooded building with FEMA assistance and in 2016 painted the building to its original rust-red color. This summer the preservation expert will be installing the period style blower to make the original forge area fully operational.

Furnace For Chapel Level Of Museum Needs To Be Replaced

In mid-February, in the worst of the very cold weather, the old forced-air furnace failed completely. This furnace is critical to heating the rest of the rooms and the chapel and in the lower two levels, and for keeping the water pipes warm. Volunteers Dan Kuennen and Dan Smith deployed portable oil-based space heaters to the 5 most critical areas to keep pipes from freezing.

Per the professional heating expert who has reviewed this jury-rigged equipment situation, the forced air furnace needs to be replaced, proper heat and return air venting installed in the chapel, and most importantly, adjustable electrical heaters installed in the four restrooms on the north side of the building.

Please consider supporting our appeal to finally fix, once and for all, this broken heating system. We have limped along for 15 years with this antiquated and inadequate equipment. Now it is kaput.

Please help us address this issue now. We will look for grant monies but that is a long and slow process. Based on word of mouth we have already raised \$900 in donations for this project.

We need to raise at least \$8,000 to \$10,000. The cost for a new furnace is expected to be \$4,000 to \$5,000, and the cost for the chapel venting and restroom electrical heaters and controls to be another \$4,000 to \$5,000.

Your kind support is greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

MESSAGE TO FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

We hope you find this Newsletter interesting and that you will enjoy the variety of articles that explore different aspects of individuals, families and history of the area. We have particularly enjoyed working on this issue because of the many articles contributed by area residents. It is always a learning experience for us because we acquire information about families and events that have contributed to the unique history of this community. We hope you will have a similar experience as you read the Newsletter and find the information interesting and inspiring.

We are especially thankful for the authors who are expanding our horizons by sharing their stories and insights. In addition, we are very grateful to our advertisers who help make publishing this Newsletter possible.

Two very interesting events are on the calendar for the upcoming weeks. You are invited to attend two exciting events that will be held at the museum; the Spring Speakers series in April and the midsummer workshop, "Preserving and Celebrating Cultural Heritages" in June. Details on registration for these events is forthcoming.

Please consider joining our growing team of museum volunteers. An Open House is held each Wednesday as a volunteer work day at the Museum. If you have volunteered in the past, you will agree that helping at the museum is not only rewarding, but fun and interesting. We can provide the coffee and a list of tasks; you can provide the assistance and comradery. Who knows that by hanging out with others, you may realize how much you have in common and at the same time, learn about not only your family, but other families and history in this area!

Finally, we would appreciate any suggestions for topics to include in the Summer issue of the Newsletter.

Consider submitting a short article. Everyone has a story to tell and we would like to help you share yours.

Feel free to share this Newsletter with family and friends. To view this Newsletter electronically and read past issues, go to "stlucasmuseum.org".

Thanks for your kind interest and generous support.

Clair Blong, President St. Lucas Historical Society

Joyce Schaufenbuel, Newsletter Editor

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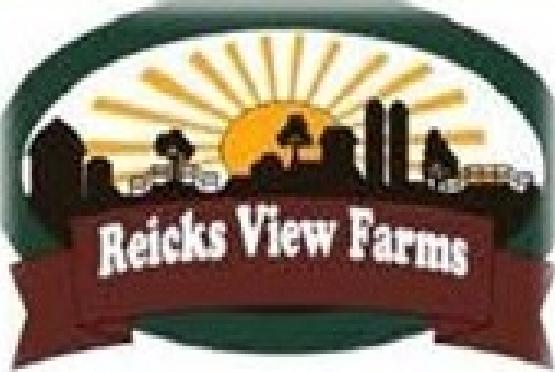
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