

A Family Biography

By

ARNOLD GUEBERT



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CANADA

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INTRODUCTORY

The chief purpose of this brief biography is to preserve some of the interesting facts in the history of our family, particularly the history of the earlier years. Experience has shown that within a comparatively short time children and children's children forget who their forefathers were or where they came from, to say nothing of the interesting events of their lives; and yet all relatives like to know something about those who are of their own kin if only the material can be made available. For this reason the writer has taken it upon himself to publish this little volume. He has always been particularly fond of digging up historical material and was fortunate enough to find some old letters and deeds which, he feels sure, will make this account of real value.

We have also endeavored to record the names of all, living or dead, who have been or still are Gueberts. We believe we have succeeded in this. We did not mention the names of all the children and children's children of the girls. We felt it would have taken too long to get all this extra data and would have made the undertaking too expensive. In the case of the girls we have usually been content with recording the name, occupation, and place of residence of the husband. Dates and the most important facts in the life of each relative were included wherever available. We beg the indulgence of anyone who may find that something important has been omitted. He may be sure that it was not done intentionally.

It was difficult to find suitable pictures of the pioneers. Back in 1880 there were no cameras and having your picture "took" was quite an event. Thus it happens that not one single picture of Mrs. Christ Guebert (I) could be found. Grandpa William Guebert (I) was also averse to having his picture taken at any time. The one we have of him was snapped by a visiting student while Grandpa was sitting in his armchair. It was taken without his knowledge or consent.

We should also like to state here that we have received excellent co-operation from the relatives in the preparation of this volume. Not one personal letter we have written has remained unanswered. In one case a letter traveled from Illinois to Texas and back to St. Louis, Mo. before it was answered. We wish to thank all those very heartily who have responded so wholeheartedly to our requests for information and thus helped to make this biography more complete.

December 31, 1936.

ARNOLD GUEBERT.

A FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

CHAPTER I.

THE ORIGINAL HOME

The home of the Gueberts in the old country was the village of Schierin-Eigen, near Bueckeberg, in the principality (Fuerstentum) Schaumburg-Lippe (population 42,000), Germany. The name Schaumburg-Lippe no longer appears on most German maps. It was one of the small principalities of which there were hundreds in Germany even 125 years ago. It lay just west of the city of Hannover; and Bueckeberg, which still can be found on any good map, was its principal city. Thus the Gueberts were originally Hannoverians and spoke that Low German dialect. High German was spoken only on occasion, though, of course, it was used exclusively when writing.

Whether there are still Gueberts in Germany to-day we do not know. It seems this family was the only one of that name in and around Bueckeberg. No letters from any Guebert across the water have ever been found. We have a few written by a William Kemker, who was a cousin and lived in Meinsen, Germany. Mathilde Guebert, youngest daughter of the pioneer Christian (1), made a trip to Germany in 1912 and stopped off at the home place. She writes as follows: "I was in Schaumburg-Lippe in the year 1912; but I am very sorry to say that I did not find any Gueberts there. I was on the farm where my grandparents lived, but there were no buildings left on the place, only a little corner of rocks, left from the bake-oven. Some other people bought the land. My uncle Kroemer from my mother's side told me that was the only family there by the name of Guebert. There were Ahnefelds, Eggerdings, Davids, and Lohmanns. I surely did enjoy it there. All the buildings on the home place of my mother's folks were still there. My uncle Kroemer passed away several years ago." We agree that it must have been a thrill to stand on the ground once trod by the feet of the forefathers. Incidentally, Mathilde was the first of the Gueberts to make a trip to the old country; in fact, she and her niece Martha, daughter of Henry W., are the only members of the family who have had that privilege. None of the old timers ever went back for a visit to their former home.

We have often wondered what the name "Guebert" really means or from what word it is derived. For the benefit of the later generations we might add here that in German the name would be spelled "Gübert". In other words the "u" would be unlauded. However, there is no word in the German dictionary which begins with gub. There is the foreign word "Gubernator" which is derived from the Latin and means "helmsman" or "governor"; but we are not ready to advance that as a solution to the problem. Our cousin Beatrice, wife of Prof. H. Grunau of Bronxville, New York, avers that the name might originally have been "Guibert" and had a French origin. Our own guess is that it is derived from Geber, Geburt, or possibly Grueber. But it's any man's guess thus far. Some day when we make that proposed trip to the old country we shall look into this matter and see whether we cannot trace the origin of this rather unusual name.

CHAPTER II.

THE IMMIGRANTS

The history of the family in America begins with the immigration of William Guebert (1) and his brother Henry in the year 1850. William was born in 1830 and was, therefore, 20 years old when he came to America. His brother was 17. Just what made these young Germans leave home and country we do not know, but it was undoubtedly the call of America at that time. America was the "Land of Opportunity" to many thousands of Europeans. We must remember also that 1848 was the year of revolutions in Europe; and the strife and unrest caused many to leave that overcrowded and harassed continent and seek their fortune and found a new home in this favored land. Then, too, friends of the Gueberts, the Schriebers, Eggerdings, and others, had settled in Horse Prairie before 1850, and no doubt wrote to their acquaintances in the old country urging them to emigrate. At any rate, the two brothers, together with the Carl Nagel family and perhaps others, started out in the year mentioned. They left behind: their parents, a brother, Christian, and a sister, Sophie.

The journey across the ocean lasted nine weeks. This seems an extremely long time to us, but we must not forget that the ships in those days were very small and did not average even 5 miles an hour. They were often buffeted about by the storms for days and the accommodations, particularly for immigrants, were anything but good. An ocean voyage was by no means a pleasure in 1850. These facts will explain, in a measure at least, why very few of the old timers longed to make another trip across the ocean.

The ship of our two immigrants landed at New Orleans. It seems this city was the favorite port of entry for those settling in what was then the West. From New Orleans the newcomers made their way up the Mississippi just as the Saxon immigrants, who founded the Lutheran Missouri Synod, had done eleven years before. They left the boat at St. Louis, Mo., and William, Henry, and Mr. Carl Nagel crossed the river in a ferry and walked the forty miles to Red Bud. They did not have \$5.00 between them, all their money having been used for traveling expenses.

We might add here that Red Bud was at that time a mere hamlet. It received its name because there was a large thicket of grape vines and red bud trees where the creamery, or rather ice plant, now stands. Red Bud was organized as a village in 1866 (after the Civil War) and did not have a railroad until 1875. There are still people living in Red Bud who remember that produce had to be hauled all the way to St. Louis or Belleville by team and wagon.

Arriving in Red Bud, the new immigrants looked up their friends in Horse Prairie. After they had secured a team and wagon they drove back to St. Louis in order to get their belongings and the rest of the party. Among the members of this group was little Engel Nagel, then nine years old, who seven years later became the wife of William Guebert. The Carl Nagel mentioned here was the father of old Uncle Fred Nagel, who formerly lived east of Red Bud and will be remembered by some of my readers.

Our two young German immigrants soon found work on the farm, Henry for an Anton Busse, who lived east of Red Bud, and William for Carl Schrieber in Horse Prairie. William could not have stayed at Schriebers very long for in the same year we find him in the employ of Henry McSimmons. The McSimmons farm lay at the southeastern edge of what is now Red Bud. It included 240 acres and constituted the larger part of the Chas. F. Guebert and the Henry W. Guebert estates, at present occupied by Alfred F. Guebert and Herbert Guebert, respectively. The farm extended north to what is now East Market Street. One of the main thoroughfares ran along the west side of this farm, directly south of the present Public School. The house on this farm stood just

east of the present rock house, occupied by Herbert Guebert and his mother, Mrs. Henry W. Guebert. Some of my readers will remember a wind-mill and well about 300 yards east of the present home. That is where the original house stood.

Young William worked for McSimmons for about five years. At this time, towards the end of 1854, McSimmons was tired of farming and wanted to sell out. Since everything had been taken out of the land and nothing put back in we can guess the reason. He accordingly offered to sell the farm to his trusted hired hand. William, however, was loathe to buy for he had earned probably \$150-\$200 a year. He, therefore, said to his employer: "I cannot buy this land. I have no money". "You don't need any money," said Mr. McSimmons. "If you want the farm I'll sell it to you without money." Surely the hired man had gained the respect and confidence of his employer. Mr. McSimmons undoubtedly meant that he would be willing to wait for his money, knowing full well that he would get it. The price asked was \$5,000.00.

William, however, did not like to load himself down with such an enormous debt. He accordingly wrote his brother Christian in Germany asking him to join him in buying the 240 acre farm. It is entirely possible that Christian and the rest of the family intended coming to America anyway. Christian agreed to William's proposition, and so these two brothers purchased the farm, which has remained in the hands of the Gueberts ever since. We have been fortunate enough to secure the original deed which has been well preserved and now lies in a safety deposit box in the First State Bank of Red Bud, Ill. We believe this will interest everyone and, therefore, insert a complete copy in the following chapter.

CHAPTER III.

SOME INTERESTING DEEDS

The original deed of the Christian and William Guebert farms reads thus:

"This Indenture made and entered into this 4th day of January in the Year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred

and fifty five Between Henry McSimmon and Mary his wife of the first part of the County of Randolph and State of Illinois and Frederick Christian Giebert and Wm. Frederick Gubert of the County and State afforesaid of the second part Witnesseth that the said Henry McSimmons and Mary his wife for and in consideration of the sum of Forty Hundred Dollars to them in hand paid by the said Frederick Christian (Gierbert) and William Frederick Gubert the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged has Granted Bargained and Sold and by these presents do hereby bargain sell convey and confirm unto the said Frederick Christian (Gierbert) and William Frederick Gubert all that tract or parcel of Land Situated and being in the County of Randolph and State afforesaid described as follows (Viz) The South West quarter of the South East quarter of Section No. four (4) and the North West quarter of the North East quarter of Section No. nine (9) and the South East quarter of the North East quarter of Section No. Five (5) and the South Half of the West Half of the North East quarter of Section Nineteen (19) and the South East quarter of the South East quarter of Section No. Four (4) and the North East quarter of the North East quarter of Section No. Nine (9) all in Township No. Four (4) South of Range Eight (8) West in the County and State afforesaid Containing Two hundred and Forty Acres (more or Less) To have and hold the above described premises unto the said Frederick Christian (Gubert) and William Frederick Gubert and to their heirs and assigns forever and the said Henry McSimmons and Mary his wife the aforesaid premises unto the said Frederick Christian (Gurbert) and William Frederick Gubert their heirs and assigns forever against the claim or claims of all and every person lawfully claiming the Same do and will Warrant and forever defend by these presents.

In Witness whereof the said Henry McSimmons and Mary his wife of the first part has hereunto set their Hands and seal the day and year above written

(Signed) Henry Mc Simmons (Seal)
her
Mary X Simmons (Seal)
mark

Signed Sealed and delivered
in presence of us
W. D. Simpson.

State of Illinois
Randolph County

I the undersigned a Justice of the
peace within and for said
Do hereby certify that Henry McSimmons and Mary his wife
whose signatures appears to the foregoing deed of conveyance

and who are personally known to me to be the Identical persons whose names are subscribed to the said deed as having executed the same this day appeared before me and acknowledged that they had signed sealed and delivered the same as their free act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed and Mary Simmons wife of the said Henry McSimmons having been by me made acquainted with the contents of said deed and been by me examined separate and apart from her said husband acknowledged that she had executed the same and relinquished her right of dower in and to the premises freely and without any compulsion of her said husband.

The testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixth day of January 1855.

(Signed) W. D. Simpson J. P."

The deed is unique in more respects than one. In the first place it is written entirely in long hand. Even the seal, if we may call it that, is hand drawn. The certification by the Justice of the Peace was evidently written by him for the handwriting is different from the foregoing. The spelling of the words, which we have retained throughout, is also worth noting. The names of the buyers in the original draft always appeared as "Frederick Christian and William Frederick Gubert". Evidently the Justice of the Peace opined that the name Guebert should be inserted also after the name "Christian". At any rate our good Mr. Simpson, J. P., wrote the name between the lines at four different places. We have attempted to show this by placing these in brackets (). The reader will note that he spelled the name differently almost every time. Also the name Simmons appears sometimes with and sometimes without the s. It will also be noted that the Mc is missing after the word Mary in the signature. Yet the Mc is quite plain in other instances. Mrs. McSimmons evidently could not write and therefore made only an X. Even this cross looks as though it might have been the only one she ever made in her life.

What is of still greater interest is the fact that the amount of "Forty Hunderd Dollars" was paid at the time of the transaction. The deed plainly shows that the original price was **fifty** hunderd. One can still see that the **fifty** was erased and the word **forty** written over it. Most likely Mr. McSimmons reduced the price to \$4,000.00 (\$16.66 per acre) because he was being paid in cash; but a rather puzzling question is where the two brothers got the \$4,000.00. That they themselves did not have that much seems quite certain. Of course, it is possible that the family sold their holdings in Germany and that Christian brought along at least some of the money from the old country. In spite of the evident im-

perfections in the document it must have been good for no one ever challenged its validity.

On the back of the deed we find these notations:

Henry Mc Simmons & Wife
Deed To
Fred. C. Gubert
& others.

Filed Feby 12-1855
Recorded Feby 13-1855
in Book E. E page 548.
J. M. Ralls, Clk
Recorder R. C. Ill.

fee paid.

We have in our possession another deed recording the sale of forty acres of land described thus: the South Half of the West half of the N. E. Quarter of section No. 19, in Township 4, South of Range 8 West. This is the parcel of land lying in the bottom behind Blackjack, south of Red Bud, owned by Henry W. Guebert. It was sold to Mr. Mc Simmons in 1839 for the grand sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00) by one James H. Patterson and his wife Elizabeth. Thus Mc Simmons paid exactly \$1.25 an acre for this land. But there is a reason for that. Students of history will remember that a financial panic and extremely hard times followed the "wildcat" banking and speculation during President Andrew Jackson's administration (1829-1837). This no doubt accounts for the ridiculously low price paid for Illinois land, 17 years after Illinois had become a state.

CHAPTER IV.

THE FIRST THIRTY YEARS IN AMERICA

But now to get back to our story of the Guebert brothers. When Christian came across he brought along the rest of the

family, his parents and sister Sophie. This might have been in the latter part of the year 1854. At any rate they were here in the early part of 1855. The father's name was also Christian. (Note: The names Christian, William and Henry occur quite often. In order to avoid confusion we shall dub the three pioneer brothers William (I), Henry (I), and Christian (I), though this Christian was really the second of that name.) The father of the three brothers died Aug. 17, 1855 during the first year of his sojourn in America. He lies buried in the cemetery at Horse Prairie. We have found that many of his descendants do not even know that he came to America. His grave is in the north-east corner of the cemetery very near the teacher's residence, and the inscriptions are still plainly legible. He died in his 58th year having been born March 10, 1797. The old grandmother lived 20 years longer. She lies buried in the Lutheran cemetery at Red Bud. The inscription on the tombstone reads: Born Oct. 30, 1799; Died Dec. 3, 1875. Some of our readers may ask why our greatgrandparents are not buried in the same graveyard. The reason is simple: St. John's Lutheran Congregation in Red Bud was not organized until 1855 and did not own property until the following year, while Horse Prairie Congregation is much older, having been started already in 1840.

The two brothers, William (I) and Christian (I), divided the farm they had bought into two equal parts, William taking the north half and Christian the south half. This south half, as before stated, had the buildings. The old house was later moved to town just east of the present Herman Rathert residence and was long occupied by one Peter Best. The building has since burned down. The present rock house on this farm was built in 1864.

On William's 120 there stood on the present site of the Alfred Guebert residence a log house, which was probably a settler's home before Illinois became a state. A new house and also the present barn were erected some time in the 60's. The house was later on enlarged and still later (1914) rebuilt by the writer's father, Chas. F. Guebert.

At this juncture we insert a letter found by the writer in a book originally belonging to his grandfather, William Guebert (I). The letter was written in 1881 and gives a resume of the outstanding events in the family's history during the first 30 years in America. Fortunately for us the letter was never mailed and we dare say the "good friend and comrade" never did hear from his old acquaintance in America. Translated into English the letter reads thus:

Dear Friend and Comrade:

I must first of all ask your pardon, for, to have been separated for 30 years and not to have exchanged one letter, is

certainly not a sign of good friendship. I was reminded of you through a letter of Mr. Klauen to F. Roesemeier, which contained a greeting from you to all acquaintances. I immediately resolved to write you in order to make good what I have neglected. Now, I would like to have you write and tell me how your sisters and their husbands and your brother Carl are getting along, if they are still alive, and also your own family. According to reports both your eldest sons are in the army. I have also heard, that your parents have entered their eternal rest long ago.

With regard to our family, no doubt you have heard that my father died in the first year, my mother on the other hand, only 3 (?) years ago. She reached the age of 76. My wife is the daughter of Carl Nagel. The Lord has thus far blessed us with 11 children, four of which He has already taken unto Himself, and seven of which are still living. The eldest, a boy, is 19. My brother Christian has 13 children, 12 of whom are still alive, and 2 already married.

With regard to my brother Henry, I might say that the Lord has laid a heavy cross upon him, in that he lost a leg in a threshing machine accident five years ago and must now wear a wooden leg. A year later a similar accident happened to one of his little boys, who, however, was killed instantly, and last summer he lost his wife also.

My sister Sophie and also her husband, E. Schoenbeck, died during the same year, 18 years ago.

As for myself, I live in a little town, and a good part of my land (is within the city limits). Red bud has 1700 inhabitants, and this summer much building is again going on. Since 6 years ago we also have a railroad. Ten years ago we built a Lutheran Church, which cost \$12,000.00 and which cost me \$2,000.00. Last summer we also built a school house, which 16,00.—and I live only 200 paces from it.

With regard to my own circumstances, I can say that the Lord has blessed me more than too much, for I own almost 700 acres of land, some of which is worth \$200.00 an acre. I am also a shareholder in a bank which is doing good business. I have an interest in a large mill and other things. Also my brothers are well off. Most of my land I have rented, and of this I get one-third without much work or trouble. I farm about 100 acres myself, since I have many side interests and much business in court. Last fall I was also a candidate for county "judge", but since I was on the Democratic side and since this party lost out in the entire country, I met the same fate. Who knows what it is good for!

The last two years we have had very good crops. Wheat costs \$1.00 a bushel at the present time. This winter we have had very cold weather and it is still very cold.

I have heard that the poor people over there are having

very hard times. I do wish some of them were here, for I have plenty of land and other things, so that I could let them earn their daily bread. In case there are some who should like to come here and start farming, I would gladly help them. I could also find ways and means if they would not have the money for the trip. Also, if your grown-up sons would care to come, they could make their fortune here.

At the present time land costs between 50 and 60 dollars an acre, that is, a well equipped farm; of course, farther west the land is much cheaper. A good horse costs from 100 to 150 dollars, and a cow from 30 to 50. A hired hand earns from 15 to 18 dollars a month, and a girl 6 to 10.

I should also like to ask you to greet William Kemker of Meinsen if you have the opportunity, or let him read this letter, and ask him to write me and if I have time I will also write to him. Many greetings to all who know and remember me.

Hoping that you will not feel offended that I am writing you will fulfill my wish and answer at once, I remain,

Your old comrade,

WILLIAM GUEBERT.

This letter is certainly interesting. A few comments will not be amiss. In the first place the letter contains several inaccuracies as to dates. William's mother did not die in 1878 as the letter indicates, but in 1875. Likewise, the Lutheran church was not built in 1871 but in 1868.

William further tells us that his wife was Engel Nagel. The marriage took place in 1857. The bride was exactly 16 years old at the time while her husband was 27, thus she was forty and he 51 when the letter was written. Eleven children are mentioned. Two were born after 1881. We shall say more about them and also the brothers of William later. The Schoenbecks referred to died in 1863 and are the ancestors of the Schoenbecks living in Horse Prairie to-day. Sophie Schoenbeck (nee Guebert) had two children.

According to the letter, Red Bud had 1700 inhabitants in 1881. This seems rather doubtful to us, although the figures are quite plain. Old timers tell us Red Bud's population was always around 1200. At the present writing it is 1150.

The success achieved by William Guebert (I) is certainly remarkable. He bought the farm in 1855 and by 1881 he had amassed the wealth he speaks of in the letter. 'Tis true the period of 25 or 26 years included the time of the Civil War (1861-1865) when farm prices were undoubtedly very high; but it also included the hectic reconstruction years after the war when hard times prevailed. In 1873, for example, the United States was in the midst of the most distressing financial panic the country had yet suffered. We must also remem-

ber that the farm was considered a poor one when William bought it. It contained only 120 acres and that the purchase meant the incurrence of a large debt.

Farm machinery was also quite primitive at that time. Binders did not become popular until after the Civil War (1865) and were anything but efficient. The writer's father used to tell that Grandpa Guebert would often get disgusted with the binder and drive down the field without tying a bundle. This meant, of course, that the boys and the hired men had to do all the tying by hand. Another thing we must not forget in this connection is, that all farm products had to be hauled to St. Louis or Belleville until 1875. In spite of all these adverse circumstances William and his brothers prospered. This certainly gives evidence of a high degree of energy and efficiency.

The price of land and wheat, of horses and cattle, and the wages of hired help in 1881 are surely illuminating and may well serve as a basis of some interesting comparisons. When William says that some of his land was worth \$200.00 an acre, he very likely means some of the land lying within the city limits, and later on sold as lots along what is now East Market Street. The mill mentioned is the present Becker Mill.

The election spoken of in the letter was that of 1880 in which Garfield was elected President. Garfield followed Rutherford B. Hayes who in turn had followed Ulysses S. Grant. Grant was president from 1869-1877 and is incidentally the only Republican President who occupied the White House for two full terms. It seems the Gueberts were Democrats from the beginning, and it is, therefore, more than likely that they did not vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and 1864. When William says he was a candidate for County Judge, this is hardly accurate. The office in question was that of County Commissioner. Even to-day a County Commissioner is a "Judge" in southern Illinois. It is interesting to note how philosophically William took his defeat.

The Lutheran Church, which was built in 1867-68 and cost \$12,000.00 is the brick church of St. John's Lutheran of Red Bud to-day. The building was seriously damaged by the cyclone in 1892 and now has a different tower. Extensive alterations and improvements have also been made in the interior of the church, but otherwise it is the same building. Rev. Herman Guebert of Oak Park, Ill., son of William (I), has in his possession the original list of subscriptions for the building of the church. It is headed by William and Christian Guebert with \$1,000.00 each. In the letter William says it cost him \$2,000.00. This is quite true. He was a member of the collecting committee, perhaps its chairman. When a member of the church could not pay his subscription, William often paid it for him, the member promising to pay him later. Ma-

ny of these promises were never redeemed and had to be written off as bad debts. This explains the statement in the letter. Incidentally, it was quite an undertaking for so young a congregation to build such a fine church in those early years. It certainly speaks well for the courage and energy of the pastor, Rev. F. Schaller, and his flock, for it was only 10 years since they had built the first church and parsonage and only three years after the Civil War.

The school-house, as indicated, was built in 1880 on the foundation of the first church. It stood until 1922 and will be remembered by most of my readers. Though it always had two rooms, it was not until 1901 that a permanent second teacher was called.

William (I) and Christian Guebert (I) were always active church members. We find their names among the charter members of the congregation in 1855. William gave three and Christian one of his boys to the service of the church. When the congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1930, it was reported that seven Gueberts had entered the ministry and that an eighth had died while at college. That a truly Christian spirit dwelt in the early pioneers is further evidenced by the following fragment of a letter, also found among the posthumous papers of the writer's grandfather:

"Our congregation has recently passed through two storms in which the waves ran high. In the first, the Lord has given us a helmsman who has courageously seized the rudder and led us safely to the shore; and although the waves still run high at times, no real danger will threaten us under his watchfulness, and we can look with confidence into the future.

In the second storm, the Lord has let us see His anger, and at the same time also His almighty power, for how easily might He have utterly destroyed us and all we have from the face of the earth and that in the twinkling of an eye; but hardly had He visited His punishment upon us when He again held His gracious hand over us to help us, and the gifts flowed abundantly. But instead of thanking the Lord, many people murmur and everyone wants to have still more, and the worst of all is that a good many show their thankfulness by running to the saloons and spending this donated money in drinking and gambling."

So far the letter. The first storm was undoubtedly due to the rather unsuccessful pastorate of the Rev. H. Lenk, who resigned after less than a year in office. The courageous "helmsman" was none other than the Rev. Geo. Link, who was pastor in Red Bud from 1892-1901. It was the Rev. H. Lenk, by the way, who married the writer's parents in 1891.

The second storm was the cyclone of 1892. This struck the city proper and did considerable damage, though only one

person was killed. It seems that a collection was raised for the sufferers, but that many did not appreciate this kindness.

The William Kemker, mentioned in the first letter, is the cousin spoken of on page 1. As already stated, some of his letters have been preserved. Several of them deal with an inheritance which fell to the lot of the Gueberts. Some of the older relatives will remember the story of this "Erbschaft". It seems that about 1896 or 1897 word was received from Germany that some kind of inheritance had been left to the Gueberts. Excitement ran high for a time, for no one knew just how much it was or what kind of property it could be. After due investigation, however, it turned out to be nothing but a few railroad shares which the father or grandfather had bought at one time and entirely forgotten about. The shares were worth the grand sum of 144 marks, about \$36.00 in our money. This was to be divided among the four children, William, Henry, Christian and Sophie. Accordingly, each was to receive \$9.00, and since Christian had died by that time, his share was divided among his 12 children, so that each was entitled to about 75c. We feel sure the "Erbschaft" did not materially affect the financial standing of anyone.



WILLIAM GUEBERT (I)
(March 1, 1830—Jan. 11, 1903)



ENGEL GUEBERT, nee Nagel
(Sept. 13, 1841—Feb. 12, 1922)

CHAPTER V.

WILLIAM GUEBERT (I)

William Guebert (I) lived on the old homestead until his son Charles was married in 1891. He then removed to the property adjoining the home place, now occupied by August Voges and the Valentine brothers and owned by Edward Guebert. This place was originally owned by the Huegli family who had a large brick kiln where the tall barn now stands. The clay for the brick was gotten from fields due south and the excavations can be seen to this day. William lived on this place until his death in 1903. He reached the age of 73. His wife, Engel, lived until 1922. She spent the last years of her life with her son Charles, and was 80 years old at the time of her death.

The following is a list of the children of William (I) and Engel Guebert:

Karolina, 1858-1859	Henry, 1870-1898
Christina, 1859-1872	Herman, March 28, 1872—
William, 1861—	Frederick, July 1, 1874-1918
Frederick, 1863-1873	Sophie, Nov. 18, 1876—
Karolina, 1867-1867	Martin, Feb. 8, 1879—
Charles, Mar. 7, 1868-Mar. 28, 1935.	John, April 18, 1881—
	Edward, June 4, 1883—

The reader will note that eight boys but only one girl grew to maturity. It must have been quite a blow for Grandma Guebert to lose her first three girls, one of whom was already 13 years old. A comparison of this list with the lists on pages 31 and 39 will reveal that the very same names appear again and again among the children of William's (I) brothers. Thus there were among the children of the three pioneers, 3 Henrys, 3 Fredericks, 2 Sophias, 2 Karolinas, 2 Christinas, 2 Hermans, 2 Johns, 2 Marys, 2 Christians, and 2 Augusts. It seems rather queer to us that the brothers should have named their children alike, but it was the good old German custom. Oddly enough there was little confusion on account of this as no two of the boys, who grew up and were named alike, stayed around Red Bud. While we are looking over the list, we also note the following: In all, the three brothers had 34 children. 27 grew to maturity, one of them, Fred, son of Christian (I), the so-called Big Fritz, died at the age of 30, unmarried. All the rest were married save two girls. Of the 7 who died young, 5 were girls, three of them dying in infancy. Of the 15 boys who were married, 8 stayed around Red Bud: William, Charles, Fred, and Edward, sons of William (I), Henry W. and Christ F., sons of Christian (I), John and Herman, sons of Henry (I). Two of

the girls do not reside in or near Red Bud, namely, Sophie and Mathilde.

William, eldest son of William (I), married Lydia Rahn in November 1885. He first lived on a farm in Ames. Later he moved to the present John Faust place east of Red Bud, then to the Schumacher place, west of the city, and then to the Peltzer farm. He now resides in Red Bud. He is 75 years of age and the oldest of the Gueberts now living.

William and Lydia Guebert had seven children:

Emma, Oct. 9, 1886-Sept. 10, 1909	Adolph, 1899—
Louise, May 22, 1888	Clara, 1901—
Charles, 1891-1936	Erwin, 1904—
Hugo, 1896—	

Emma died at the early age of 22. It could not be determined just what her ailment was. Louise married the Rev. Titus Lang in 1910. Rev. Lang first served a congregation in California (1910-1911). He then removed to Nebraska where he stayed until 1926. In that year he accepted a call to Quincy, Ill., where he still has charge of a large congregation. There are three children, Martin, Clara, Dorothy.

Charles married Emma Koehler in 1915 and this union was blessed with two children, Lucille (1917) and Marvin (1923). At the time of his death, Charles was residing on his farm four miles north of Red Bud. Hugo married Elizabeth Mohr and has two children, Fern (Sept. 11, 1918) and Pearl (April 11, 1922). He lives in Red Bud and is engaged in the trucking business.

Adolph married Alma Koch of Omaha, Nebr. in 1925 and resides in St. Louis, Mo. He is employed at the Hostess Cake Co., and has two children, Betty Lou (1927) and Rosemary (1934). Clara is the wife of Walter Ruedlinger and resides in St. Louis. They have one child, Walter (1927). Erwin's wife is the former Viola Blakely. The couple live in St. Louis, Mo., and have one child, Doris (1935). Erwin is in the grocery business.

Chas. F. Guebert, the writer's father and third son of William (I), married Rosa Loesche, daughter of Herman Loesche and his first wife Johanna, nee Ronnenberg, in 1891 and took over the home place. Here he lived all his life, making improvements as he went along and keeping the farm in good shape. About 1910 he enlarged the farm by purchasing the so-called Helber land, 22 acres, just east and north of the City Cemetery. Thus the farm now embraces 142 acres. The old house was partly torn down and rebuilt in 1914. The writer and his brothers placed a receptacle containing some documents into the south post which, with three others, supports

the front porch. Perhaps some member of a later generation who reads this will have an opportunity to unearth these papers again.

Fond memories crowd in upon us as we think of the old home. There was the large old-fashioned house with a "Rumpelkammer" where the parlor should have been, the spacious lawn shaded by beautiful maple trees, the garden with its gorgeous roses and luscious grapes besides the vegetables, and then the orchard, ah, that orchard! What a thrill for the barefoot boy to find the first ripe June apple, and then keep right on eating until the first frost came. Then there was the tool-house, usually so full of everything there was hardly room to turn, but the finest place to repair or make articles of all kinds, from toys to dog houses; in the "lot" stood the big barn with its "Dielen" (driveway) and the immense hayloft, just made for games on rainy days and in the winter; the high forty foot windmill which afforded a fine place to sit and munch apples; and even the "old oaken bucket, which hung in the well" on the south side was not missing in the earlier years. Aye, indeed, tho it was "ever so humble" that was home, sweet home.

Charles F. was a sincere Christian and an active church worker. As a boy, we cannot remember that there was ever a time when he did not hold one office or the other in the congregation; neither can we recall that he ever missed a service at the church when he was able to get there. "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy House" was the very fitting text Pastor Hartenberger chose for his funeral sermon. He has left us all a fine example, indeed, and we cannot refrain from paying dear old Dad that tribute here.

Mother was never very strong and with that flock of boys hers was indeed a busy life. Many a gallon of apple-butter had to be cooked and many a large loaf of bread had to be baked in that out-door bake-oven to keep those hungry mouths fed. Her name was Rose and she was a lover of roses. Some of the stocks she planted are still to be found in the garden.

Charles lost his beloved wife on Sept. 14, 1924. She died from the effects of a stroke. Her birthday was May 21, 1868. After his wife's death, Charles turned the farm over to his son Alfred. In 1930-31 he made an extended trip to Canada and spent the winter with the writer. We looked forward to having him with us again sometime, but it was not to be. He always enjoyed good health. In fact, he never had a doctor until he broke his arm through a fall from the binder in 1934, and then again, shortly before his death. He died in St. Clements Hospital in Red Bud from the ravages of pneumonia and kidney trouble.

The union of Charles and Rosa was blessed with ten children:

Walter, May 22, 1892—
Paul, May 9, 1894-Oct., 1914.
Arnold, March 27, 1896—
Alfred, March 21, 1898—
Victor, April 16, 1900—

Clarence, 1902-1902.
Lorenz, Nov. 27, 1903—
Johanna, 1906-1917.
Norma, July 9, 1909—
Carl, Jan. 4, 1914—

Walter married Alma Ohlau (born May 15, 1898) and first lived in the old Ryan home, working the farm of his grandmother, Mrs. Herman Loesche. Later he moved to the home now occupied by Adolph Loesche, west of town, then to the Edward Guebert place, and then to the Wegener farm south of Red Bud. He has now rented and lives on the Schoenberger farm south-west of the city.

Besides running the farm, Walter is also Maintenance Man of the Illinois State Highway Department.

Following are the children of Walter and Alma:

Ralph, Jan. 26, 1917-Dec. 4, '34.	Oliver, Aug. 7, 1925—
Lee, Sept. 9, 1918—	Alice, Jan. 23, 1927—
Anita, Feb. 14, 1920—	Helen, Nov. 4, 1928—
Esther, Nov. 3, 1921—	Clyde, Oct. 14, 1931—
Edith, July 11, 1923—	Rose Marie, Oct. 5, 1932—

Paul Guebert attended Walther College in St. Louis and then worked in a bank in that city for some time. He was last employed in the office of the Becker Milling Co., in Red Bud. He died of typhoid in 1914 at the age of 20.

Arnold, alias Dick, studied at Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis. (1910-1916) and at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. After doing supply work in Fant City, Fremont, and Realitos, Texas (1917-1918), and in Minneapolis, Minn. (1918-1919), he graduated and entered the ministry in 1921. His first charge was at Spencer, S. Dak. Besides Spencer he served the congregations at Fulton and Montrose, S. Dak., also teaching a day-school for five years. In 1928 he accepted a call to a professorship at Concordia College, Edmonton, Alta., Canada, one of Synod's preparatory colleges for ministerial students, where he is still active.

Arnold married Anita, daughter of Henry Burgdorf and his wife Minnie, nee Gielow, on Aug. 21, 1921. They have five children: Paul Norman (March 7, 1923), Robert Glenn (April 11, 1925), Lowell Louis (Oct. 6, 1926), Clifford Charles (Aug. 14, 1931), and Marjorie Mae (Aug. 12, 1936). The first three were born in Spencer, S. Dak. and the other two in Edmonton, Alta.

Alfred married Norma Burgdorf (born July 2, 1899), sister of Anita, and, as already stated, lives on the home place. They have four children: Doris (Nov. 26, 1925), Eileen (Feb. 9, 1927), Evelyn (Jan. 30, 1929), and Donald (March 5, 1933). Alfred, commonly called Bank, because he once said "unter da bank" for "under the bench", bought the August Voges'

farm (80 acres), just north-east of Red Bud in 1928 at \$35.00 an acre. In 1925 he purchased some land in the Richland Creek bottom from Ferdinand Obst at \$50.00 an acre so that he is now farming about 235 acres.

Victor attended Concordia College at Milwaukee for two years (1914-1916). After finishing high school in Red Bud, he worked for a time as clerk at the C. Becker Milling Co., and then was for many years assistant cashier in the First State Bank of Red Bud. He has recently accepted a position with Reinholdt & Gardner, investment firm of St. Louis, and has charge of the southern Illinois field, with headquarters at Red Bud. Vic married Ruth Schuette (born Sept. 10, 1902) of Red Bud in 1923 and has two children, Victoria Mae (May 12, 1924) and Richard Louis (April 10, 1927).

Lorenz is usually called Hon or Honey. He was such a good boy when he was little that everyone called him Honey and somehow that name has stuck. Hon worked on the farm for a number of years, but in 1934 he accepted a position with the St. Louis Milk Co. He resides in Red Bud.

Johanna, who was named after her grandmother, contracted diphtheria and died at the age of 11. Norma was at home and kept house for her father until 1930. She worked in St. Louis from then until 1936. She is now employed in Los Angeles, Cal. at 254 S. Muirfield Road. Norma has visited in S. Dak, spent one summer in Texas and also made a vacation trip to Canada in 1934. Carl, the "baby" of the family, is still at home, being employed by his brother Alfred. He is now executor of his father's estate.

Rev. Henry Guebert, fourth son of William (I), studied at Milwaukee, Ft. Wayne, and St. Louis, and entered the ministry in 1893. His first and only charge was at Stuttgart, Ark. Henry was one of the healthiest and most agile of all the boys. We are told that oftentimes he would not bother to go through a gate, jumping over the fence instead. Yet God in His all-wise counsel saw fit to call him home after but a few years of successful service in the ministry when he was in the prime of life. He must have been a charming character and it has always been one of our regrets that we never learned to know him.

On Aug. 23, 1894, Henry was married to Emily Burgdorf (born Dec. 14, 1874). The marriage was blessed with two sons, Alex (Aug. 30, 1895), and Edwin G. (Dec. 6, 1897). After her husband's death, Mrs. Emily C. Guebert went to her sister, Mrs. F. C. Streufert, in California, and spent two years there (1900-1902). Since then she has resided in Red Bud most of the time, though she has been with her boys for longer periods.

Alex was the pal and classmate of the writer throughout his college years. He did supply work at Clinton, Wis. during the summer of 1917 and then taught school and preached once a month in the Rev. F. Siebelitz' congregation at Winchester, Tex. (1917-1918). From 1919-1920 we find Alex in Driscoll, N. Dak. He taught the primary grades in a consolidated public school, preached at Driscoll and at Jamestown every Sunday and once a month at Bismarck. After graduating, he served as assistant professor at his alma mater in Milwaukee for one year. On Nov. 1, 1922 he assumed charge of a congregation in Bourbon, Mo., where he remained until Aug. 30, 1927. He is now pastor of the Lutheran Church in Oak Glen, Ill.

Alex married Henrietta Saxemeyer (born Feb. 15, 1899) of Red Bud, Ill. on Oct. 21, 1922. There are seven children: Henry George (October 10, 1923), Joy Ann (Dec. 6, 1925), Alex Hugo (Jan. 21, 1927), Robert Louis (Feb. 21, 1928), Dorothy Ruth Nov. 7, 1929), Elizabeth Lois (July 9, 1931), and Edith Helen (Oct. 14, 1933). The first three were born in Bourbon, the others in Oak Glen.

Rev. Edwin Guebert, brother of Alex, also studied at Milwaukee and St. Louis. From 1921-1922 he supplied at Kewaskum, Wis. After graduating from the Seminary he took a post-graduate course there and obtained the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology. Edwin then accepted a call into the ministry and served Trinity Ev. Luth. Church at Okmulgee, Okla. from 1925 to 1934. He was Missionary-at-Large, Lutheroma Indian Mission, Park Hill, Okla., from Sept. 1934 to March 1935. Since then he is at Redeemer Ev. Luth. Church in Custer City, Okla.

Edwin married Ethel Christine Payne on June 28, 1932. Edwin and Christine have two girls, Marian Amelia (Feb. 13, 1934) and Grace Louise (Aug. 25, 1935.).

Rev. Herman Guebert, fifth son of William (I), likewise studied at Milwaukee, Ft. Wayne, and St. Louis. He entered the ministry in 1904, his first charge being Kurreville, Mo. From 1895 to 1901 he was pastor at Baldwin, Ill. In 1901 he accepted a call to the congregation in Hinsdale, Ill., where he served until 1922. He now lives in Oak Park, Ill. and is assistant at the large St. Luke's congregation in Chicago (Pastor A. R. Kretzmann). Besides this, Uncle Herman helps out at various congregations in the Chicago area. He has, for example, taken active part in no less than fifty-two regular communion services during the year 1936. We believe this is a record no other pastor in our Synod can equal. One of his duties as assistant to Pastor Kretzmann is to visit the sick. We happen to know he has special gifts for this work and has

made over 600 such sick-calls during the current year. At various times he has also taken over classes at our normal school in River Forest, Ill.

On Sept. 13, 1896, Herman married Rosa Gielow (born Nov. 7, 1874) of Red Bud. They have two children, Paula (April 28, 1899) and Theodore (Nov. 10, 1903). Paula is now the wife of Elmer Gauger and lives at Reinbeck, Iowa, where her husband is engaged in farming and cattle raising. There are three children, Norbert, Arleen and Franklin. Theodore studied at Concordia Teachers' College in River Forest, Ill., and was teacher in the Lutheran school at Hilbert, Wis. for over nine years, 1924-1933. He now resides with his parents and is temporarily employed by the Northwestern Railroad.

Frederick Guebert, or Fritz, as he was commonly called, was the sixth son of William (I). He married Tillie Loesche (born Sept. 19, 1876) in 1898 and there were four children—Adele (1899), Frederick, Jr. (1900), Lillian (Oct. 22, 1901), and Ella (July 28, 1904). The first two died in infancy. Lillian is the wife of Elmer W. Basler (Dec. 19, 1899) and has one daughter, Jean (Apr. 7, 1927). Ella's husband is Henry B. Miller (Sept. 17, 1901) and she has two children—Patsy Ruth (Aug. 22, 1929) and John (May 11, 1935).

Fred first owned and occupied the present Schumacher place west of town. He later sold out to his brother William and moved to town, being engaged in business for some time. He died in 1918. His widow has since married Frank Flachmeier (Aug. 26, 1871) and resides at 5537 Maffitt Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Sophie, only living daughter of William (1), married William Graue of Hinsdale, Ill., on Aug. 10, 1904. His birthday is Nov. 2, 1879. With the exception of brief stays in Kankakee and La Grange, Ill., Sophie has resided in Hinsdale since her marriage. There are two daughters, Ruth (June 14, 1905) and Velma (July 2, 1909). Ruth is Mrs. Ed Theidal since July 20th, 1927, and has one son, Robert, born March 20, 1929. Velma's husband is Roy Steben, married Aug. 20, 1932. They have one son, John David, born Feb. 27, 1936. We shall never forget the kind hospitality extended by Aunt Sophie and Uncle Will and also by Uncle Herman and Aunt Rosa, to those college boys from Milwaukee who always spent their Christmas vacations in Hinsdale.

Rev. Martin Guebert attended college and seminary at Milwaukee and St. Louis respectively and graduated in 1902.

His first charge was at Lawrence, Nebr. (1902-1903). On account of ill health he was forced to resign and was out of office until 1904. In that year he accepted a call to Ontarioville, Ill., where he remained until 1908. From 1908 until 1925 he served at Clinton, Wis. Again sickness caused him to resign and he lived for two years in St. Paul, Minn. Since 1927 he is pastor of the Lutheran Church at Middletown, Conn.

On May 4, 1904, Martin married Frieda Bruning (born April 8, 1885) of St. Louis, Mo. They have one daughter, Beatrice (Dec. 1, 1905) who is now the wife of Prof. H. Grunau, M. A., of Concordia Collegiate Institute in Bronxville, N. Y. Beatrice has two boys, David (1930) and Dan (1935). It was our custom during college days to spend our Easter vacation at Clinton, Wis., and we believe Aunt Frieda still remembers those hearty eaters and "crack" flinch players who came out from Milwaukee once a year.

John (Hans) Guebert, eighth son of William (1), attended the Lutheran Walther College in St. Louis during his youth. After his graduation from this institution he accepted a position with the A. G. Brauer Supply Co., of St. Louis, and has been with this firm ever since. He is now part owner. On June 7, 1905, he married Addie Schlichting (born Feb. 25, 1882) of St. Louis, and they have one son, Kenneth (Feb. 24, 1922).

Edward J. Guebert, youngest son of William (1), was engaged in farming for many years. He lived in town but the farm lies just west of the Red Bud hospital. Edward is now retired and lives in Red Bud. He was married on Sept. 14, 1905, to Margaret Dueker (born Feb. 22, 1884). There are no children. At present Edward is city alderman. So far as we know he is the only Guebert who has ever held an elective office in any community.



CHRISTIAN GUEBERT (I)
(Dec. 15, 1825—1892)

CHAPTER VI.

CHRISTIAN GUEBERT (1)

Christian Guebert (1), brother of William (1), married Engel Kroemer in 1855. He no doubt knew his bride already in the old country, for the Kroemers came from the same community in Germany. As previously stated, this couple occupied the original homestead of the 240 acre farm purchased by the two brothers. Christian built the rock house and the old barn in the 60's. The main part of the present barn was erected much later, during the regime of Henry W. Guebert.

Just north of the rock house, in what was for a long time an orchard, there was in the early years a beer cellar. The writer's father used to tell a story about this cellar which is too good not to be included here. Most people in town had their own cows at that time. These were driven to the pastures of the various farmers in the vicinity of the city and returned in the evening. For a time a number of cows were pastured on the Chr. Guebert farm. They were driven south on the road we spoke of before, then along a creek or deep "branch" near this orchard and out into the field. One fine day a cave-in occurred at the beer cellar. One of the large barrels, holding several hundred gallons of beer, burst and the beer ran into this "branch". When the cows came along in the evening, they saw this amber fluid, tasted it, and found it much to their liking. The drink was not without effect. Soon one could see these otherwise docile kine racing for town with heads and tails in the air, frisking about like so many young colts who had just been turned loose. It was some time before the owners could get hold of their milk producers and persuade them to go into the proper stall. Very little milk appeared on the table the next day, but probably it was just as well.

Christian and Engel Guebert had 13 children:

Henry, Oct. 15, 1856-1932	Anna, Oct. 6, 1870-
Minna, March 27, 1858-1909	August, Dec. 3, 1872-Apr. 9, 1934.
Lena, June 16, 1860-1933	
Sophie, July 1, 1862-1924	Fred, Dec. 23, 1874-1904
Mary, July 21, 1864-1903	Emma, Feb. 15, 1876-
Christ F., Apr. 21, 1866-	Emilie, June 21, 1879-1880
Christina, Apr. 3, 1868-	Mathilde, Jan. 27, 1881-

The mother, who was born March 21, 1835, died in 1882, only 47 years old. Christian remarried in 1887 and moved to town. His second wife was Mrs. Friederika Haendchen, who later lived in Red Bud with her daughter, Mrs. Henry Rabe. She died in 1927. Christian was born Dec. 15, 1825, and died in 1892, reaching the age of 67.

Of the nine girls in this family eight reached maturity. Minna married Ernst Salger; Lena, Henry Liefer; Sophie, Fred Buch; Mary, Henry Schrieber; and Christina, Ed. Schrieber, all of Horse Prairie. Anna's husband is Fred Stelhorn of Red Bud, while Emma and Tillie have remained single. Tillie is the globe-trotter of the family, having been in almost every state of the Union as well as overseas. She is now employed in San Francisco, Cal. Emma resides with her sister, Mrs. Ed Schrieber in Red Bud. Fred (1874-1904) reached maturity but was not married. He used to be called "Big Fritz" to distinguish him from his cousin, Little Fritz, son of William (I). He was in Oklahoma at the time of his death.

Henry W., first son of Christian, and not to be confused with his uncle and cousin of the same name, married Bertha Rosenberg (born Apr. 21, 1864) in 1885. Soon after his marriage his father turned the home place over to him. Henry was a very efficient farmer, which we see from the fact that he not only bought some land in the Horse Creek bottom but also a farm in Arkansas as well as the so-called Ohlwine farm, south and east of his place. Henry was a quiet and unassuming man but of sterling character. When the Lutheran school was built in 1922 he donated an acre of land for this purpose.

The union of Henry and Bertha was blessed with the following children:

Rosa, July 10, 1886-	Herbert, Sept. 10, 1898-
Frieda, March 15, 1888-	Adele, April 27, 1900-
Louis, March 29, 1891-	Edna, Aug. 17, 1901-
Edwin, Sept. 12, 1892-	Bertha, June 12, 1903-
Albert, 1894-	Theodore, May 16, 1905-
Martha, Dec. 13, 1896-	Minnie, March 24, 1906-

Every one of the 12 children grew to maturity and are still living, which is certainly a remarkable record. Rosa's husband is Fred Husemann of Red Bud, who is engaged in the manufacture of soft drinks. Frieda is the wife of F. Herschman and lives in Drake, Col.

Louis first lived for a number of years on the above mentioned Ohlwine place where his sister Rosa kept house for him. In 1926 he purchased the old Rieke homestead where he now lives with his family. His wife is the former Edna Steffen (born April 16, 1899) whom he married on June 11, 1922. There are four children: Vernon (April 24, 1923), Clifford (Sept. 10, 1926), Jeannette (March 17, 1933), and Edna Mae (May 5, 1934).

Edwin is one of the Gueberts who were called to the colors during the World War. He spent the time from June 24 until December 17, 1918, at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky, as a

member of Hq. Co. 5, Reg. F. A. R. D. On Nov. 29, 1922, Edwin married Anna Mueller (born Sept. 14, 1890) of Steeleville, Ill., and now resides in Red Bud, being engaged chiefly in the carpenter trade. There are two children, Learose (Sept. 2, 1923) and Edwin Frederick, Jr. (Sept. 23, 1925). A striking feature of this family is that all members have their birthday in September.

Albert worked on his father's farm until his marriage to Mamie Homrighausen. He now resides on the old Homrighausen place north and west of Red Bud. Albert and Mamie have four children: Elvire (1922), Eulalia (1924), Milton (1926), and Clarence (1930).

Martha is unmarried and has been employed in St. Louis, Denver, San Francisco, and other places but is now at home with her mother. Herbert is also at home and runs the original farm. Adele is the wife of Gustav Krause and lives on a farm south of Ruma. Edna is the wife of Herbert Wegener, who is in the trucking business. She lives in Red Bud.

Theodore married Amelia Blumenschein (born May 21, 1904) of Maryville, Ohio, on May 19, 1929, and lives on the Ohlwine farm, mentioned above. Teddy is the only Guebert around Red Bud who had to go beyond the borders of his home state before he could find the girl of his choice. All will admit that he made no mistake. But Teddy has another record. He has the only Guebert twins in captivity. Our lists reveal no other occurrence of twins. The children of Teddy and Amelia are as follows: Ruby (May 28, 1930), Willard (Feb. 14, 1933), Marvin and Marian (Dec. 12, 1934).

Bertha is employed in San Francisco, Cal. She enjoys traveling like her sister Martha and has been employed in St. Louis, Denver, New York, and other places. She is unmarried. Minnie, youngest daughter of Henry W., is the wife of Clarence Frick and lives in Red Bud where her husband is in the implement business.

Christ F. Guebert, the third Christian in line and brother of Henry W., married Minnie Buch (born Aug. 22, 1873) of Horse Prairie, in 1892, and for many years resided on what was originally the old Haendchen farm west of Red Bud and now occupied by his son Arthur. Christ has always been a jovial character, quite the opposite of his brother Henry. Personally, we have always enjoyed his encouraging handshake and good-natured slap on the back. He retired in 1922 and lived in Red Bud until 1931. His good wife died quite suddenly from the effects of a gall-stone operation in 1926, and he is now spending the evening of his life with his son Arthur on the farm.

Christ and Minnie Guebert had 4 children: Arthur (May 7, 1894), Olinda (Sept. 23, 1897), Selma (June 9, 1899), and Emil (Jan. 30, 1902-20). Arthur, who as already stated, resides on the home place, married Clara Obst (born May 24, 1898) in 1922. There are three children: Leroy (May 11, 1924), Raymond (Feb. 5, 1927), and Gladys (March 30, 1934).

Olinda is the wife of Theo. Loesche and has two children: Mildred and Clifford. Selma is now Mrs. Herman Harms. Both live in Red Bud. Emil's desire and the fond wish of his parents was that he become a minister, but God willed otherwise. After he had already finished more than four years of his studies at Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis., he succumbed to the ravages of inflammatory rheumatism in his eighteenth year.

Rev. August Guebert, third son of Christian (1) and the other brother of Henry W., studied for the ministry at Milwaukee from 1886-1892 and then continued his studies in St. Louis, graduating in 1895. He served congregations in McCook, Nebr. (1895-1897), Sigal, Ill. (1897-1902), Bunker Hill, Ill. (1902-1921), and Iuka, Ill. (1921-1924). While at McCook, Nebraska, he served thirteen stations. Along with his pastoral work at Bunker Hill and Iuka he taught a day school. To be teacher and minister at the same time is no small task, and that August did this for such a long time certainly bears testimony to his zeal and faithfulness in doing the Lord's work.

August was married twice. His first marriage to Katherine Hinch (born May 2, 1879), was solemnized by Rev. Paul Kolb at Sigal, Ill., in 1899. One child was born of this union, Walter (Aug. 12, 1900). His first wife departed this life soon after the family moved to Bunker Hill in 1903. In 1905 August married Louise Huber, born May 6, 1868. This union was blessed with two boys, Elmer (March 15, 1907), and Christian J. (Oct. 8, 1909). In 1921 Rev. Guebert received and accepted a call to Iuka, Ill. It was while at Iuka that he became seriously ill and was removed to the Lutheran hospital in St. Louis, where he died on April 9, 1924.

After his death his widow returned to Bunker Hill and later removed to St. Louis and lastly to 6717 Crest Ave., University City, Mo., where she resided with her two sons, Elmer and Christian, until her death in 1933.

Walter attended the old Walther College in St. Louis and then worked for a time in the city. Later his work took him to Texas. Here he met Laverne Vanloh (born Aug. 17, 1903), whom he married in 1925. Three children were born to this union, Kenneth (Apr. 9, 1927), Wesley (Jan. 18, 1931), and Wanda Lou (Feb. 27, 1933). At present Walter is a traveling

salesman and resides in Houston, Texas.

Elmer attended high school in Bunker Hill, Iuka, and Salem, Ill. After his father's death he went to St. Louis for employment. While here he met Selma Koehler (born Apr. 7, 1912), and was married on Thanksgiving Day, 1933.

Christian J., youngest son of Rev. August Guebert, attended high school in Iuka, Bunker Hill, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo. He is employed in the city and resides with his brother Elmer at 6717 Crest Ave., University City, Mo.



HENRY GUEBERT (I)
(Aug. 22, 1833—July 8, 1910)



ELIZABETH GUEBERT
Nee Wicklein
(Jan. 18, 1841—June 15, 1880)

CHAPTER VII.

HENRY GUEBERT (I)

As already stated, Henry (I), the third of the pioneer brothers first worked for a Mr. Anton Busse. Later he was employed by Jim Ralls who resided on what is still called Ralls' Ridge, just east of Red Bud. Adjoining the Ralls farm to the south was the Foster farm, containing 200 acres. It was this place that Henry bought in 1858, and which subsequently became his home for so many years. Naturally he could not save enough in 8 years to buy a farm, and there was danger for a time that he would have to give up the place again as his creditors wished to foreclose on him. In this emergency his future father-in-law came to his assistance by lending him enough money to pay off the mortgage. From that time on his home was secure. At first Henry (I) batched, but a little later his widowed mother came and kept house for him. This arrangement continued until his marriage to Elizabeth Wicklein in 1860.

Henry (I) built a large barn 50x50 in 1866 and a new home, costing \$1,800.00, in 1868. This home is still standing. All the building material that had to be bought, was hauled from Belleville, Ill., a distance of over 25 miles. Here was the nearest railroad at that time. Oats which also had to be hauled from Belleville sold for as low as 17c after the Civil War.

In spite of the hardships of the early years and a heavy debt to begin with, Henry (I) prospered. In his letter (p. 10) his brother, William (1), tells us that also Henry was well off in 1881. This is evident also from the fact that he could put up house and barn within ten years after purchasing the farm, and that he later on bought three more farms and equipped them with buildings. He had full control of all these farms until his death on July 8, 1910.

The horse-power threshing-machine accident in which he lost his leg occurred in 1875, when he was in the prime of life, just 42 years old. The little boy, who was killed in another threshing machine accident a year later (1876), was named after his father. Little Henry was seven years old at the time. He had just received a piece of butter-bread from his mother and had been permitted to go out to the machine. Arriving there he clambered up onto the separator, and, perhaps due to some faulty construction of the flooring, he inadvertently fell into the cylinder, still clutching that piece of bread in his hand. Little did his mother realize when she sent her boy out that he would be carried back into the house a lifeless form hardly five minutes later. Little Henry is the only one among the

Gueberts who has come to a violent death. Henry's (1) wife died already on June 15, 1880. She lies buried in the Horse Prairie cemetery. Thus the marital union lasted only 20 years and Henry (1) was destined to live another 30 years without his beloved helpmate. Truly the hand of the Lord was heavy upon him, as William (1) says in his letter.

Henry (1) was at first a member of the Lutheran Church in Horse Prairie and contributed generously toward the building of the present brick church in 1868. Due to some difficulty he left the Lutheran church in 1886 and later contributed to St. Peters' Evangelical Church in Red Bud. Henry lived to be 77 years old, and thus reached a more advanced age than either of the other brothers. His grave is to be found in the Evangelical Cemetery just west of Red Bud.

Henry (1) and Elizabeth Guebert had the following children:

Mary, 1860-1912	Christian, Jan. 3, 1867-
John, May 29, 1862-May 22, 1899.	Henry 1870-1877
Elizabeth, 1864-1918	August, Jan. 8, 1872-
	Herman, Nov. 10, 1875-
	Sophie, 1880-1892

John married Mary Sathoff (born Oct. 5, 1866) in 1886, and took over the home place. Here he lived until his early death at the age of 36. He died of blood-poisoning from an infected arm. His widow is still living, spending the evening of her very busy life with her son, Henry J., on the old home place. The union of John and Mary Guebert was blessed with five sons:

Henry J., June 4, 1887-	Andrew, Aug. 19, 1885-Oct.
William, June 4, 1889-	15, 1918.
Emil, Feb. 25, 1892-	

Arthur, Nov. 3, 1898-Dec. 31, 1901.

Henry J. married Lena Miller (born June 29, 1897) in 1916, and, as before stated lives on the farm of his father and grandfather. Henry has installed electric lights and made other improvements, so that his farm is now one of the most up-to-date in the county. There are two children, Leona (Nov. 3, 1916), now the wife of Fred F. Buch, and Irene (Dec. 4, 1918), still at home.

During the war, Henry J. was drafted into the army but was later on exempted due to the fact that he was a married man with a family. Incidentally, there were six Gueberts who were called to the colors during the great war, but only Albert R., son of August Guebert of Percy, Ill., actually saw service in France.

William, second son of John and Mary Guebert, married Emma Salger (born July 8, 1892), in 1916, and now lives on

the old Bremer farm directly north of the home place, also on the ridge. This farm was bought by his mother in 1909. William and Emma have one son, Alfred (Aug. 15, 1920).

Emil Guebert spent some time during the war in camps at Battle Creek, Mich., and Jacksonville, Fla. He married Mary Miller (born March 2, 1899), in 1935, and now lives in his own home in Red Bud. There are no children.

Andrew Guebert was also drafted to the colors and served in a camp at Louisville, Kentucky. He had been at home on furlough with his mother for 8 days. On his return trip he contracted influenza and died three days later. His body was brought to Red Bud and interred in the Horse Prairie cemetery.

Mary Guebert, eldest daughter of Henry (1), first married Fred Stellhorn, brother of Hy. and Conrad Stellhorn, of Horse Prairie, in 1883. After her husband's death in 1893, she became the wife of Aug. Ruehmkorf in 1895. Her sister, Elizabeth, was the wife of Ed. Wicklein, whom she married in 1886. She died in 1918, her husband in 1935.

Christian A. Guebert, second son of Henry (I), moved to Percy, Ill., on June 27, 1892. His father had bought him a farm, containing 229 acres, the year before. During the first three years his sister kept house for him. The barn was built in 1893, and the house in 1898.

On Dec. 12, 1895, Christian married Emilie Riechenberg (born Oct. 2, 1869). She died on Oct. 13, 1896, soon after the birth of their first child, Henry L. (born Oct. 10, 1896). A year later, Nov. 7, 1897, Christian married Caroline Rieckenberg (born Feb. 25, 1872), who bore him three girls: Clara (Aug. 20, 1898), Mary (Jan. 8, 1901), and Anna (Dec. 26, 1903).

Henry L. also served his country during the World War. He was at Camp Custer, Battle Creek, Mich., from Sept., 1918, until Feb., 1919. Henry L. married Bertha Knop (born Jan. 29, 1899), on May 8, 1921, and they have two children, Harold (Apr. 28, 1926) and Mildred June (June 1, 1932). The family reside with the parents on the home place.

Clara, eldest daughter of Christian A., is the wife of Louis Brandt, married Oct. 15, 1934. The couple live on a farm near Campbell Hill, Ill. Mary is still at home. Anna, the youngest, died on December 5, 1917.

August W. Guebert, fourth son of Henry (1), was married and moved to a farm near Percy, Ill., in 1894. His wife was the former Amanda Rathert (born July 13, 1870). She died on April 21, 1928, having been in poor health due to heart trouble for a long time.

The farm mentioned was bought by Henry (1) from a Mr. D. Schule, who was his brother-in-law. This no doubt explains how it came that these Gueberts located at Percy, Ill. August W. and his brother Christian A., are the only ones who left Red Bud to take up farming elsewhere. August's farm includes 200 acres and he still resides on this place.

August W. and Amanda Guebert had the following children:

Henry, Jan. 1, 1895-Mar. 8, 1895.	Elizabeth, Jan. 30, 1900-
Albert R., Jan. 11, 1896-	Fritz, Jan. 22, 1902-
Edward H., March 17, 1898-	Paul, Aug. 31, 1904-
August, Jr., Oct. 24, 1908-	John, Jan. 5, 1906-

Albert R., as already stated, was the only Guebert to serve in the army overseas. He spent two years in the service. Albert married Adele Hartman (born Dec. 18, 1897) and they have three children: Norma (Feb. 8, 1922), Albert, Jr. (Feb. 3, 1925), and Ralph (Aug. 7, 1934). Albert R. has a share in the Blair coal mine and has bought a home in Percy, Ill.

Edward H., third son of August W., married Minnie Fastenau (born March 5, 1911), and they have one boy, Delmar Lee (Dec. 3, 1934). They live on their farm (100 acres) near Percy, Ill.

Elizabeth, only daughter of August W., is the wife of Henry J. Brandt. They have one daughter, Amanda Lucille (July 7, 1925), and live with the home folks. Elizabeth keeps house for the family while her husband is employed at the shoe factory in Steeleville, Ill.

Fritz and John, fourth and sixth sons respectively, are farming the home place. They are unmarried. Paul, fifth son, is married to Elise Miens, and they have one boy, Paul Dean (June 3, 1934). Paul is employed at the shoe factory in Steeleville and lives on his farm near Bremen, Ill. August Jr., is still single. He boards at home and is also working in the shoe factory in Steeleville.

Herman Guebert, youngest son of Henry (1), married Augusta Sommer (born Dec. 2, 1881), on November 8, 1900, and now resides on a farm due east of the home place. Whereas the home place is on the hill, Herman's place is below the hill. It is about one mile west of the Kaskaskia River and the address is Red Bud, Ill., R. F. D. No. 1.

Herman and Augusta have the following children:

Fred, Feb. 9, 1902-	Anna, Dec. 31, 1909-
Lena, June 20, 1903-	Emma, Oct. 15, 1912-
Henry, Feb. 23, 1905-	Emilie, June 26, 1916-
Elizabeth, Nov. 25, 1906-	Louis, Aug. 7, 1918-
Albert, Sept. 16, 1921-	

In one respect this family is like that of Henry W. Guebert. It is a large family and all the children are living. Fred, Emma, Emilie, Louis, and Albert are still at home. Lena is the wife of Armin Lucht (born Aug. 22, 1900), whom she married on April 2, 1922. The Luchts have two children, Luella (March 31, 1924), and Vernon (Sept. 14, 1934).

Elizabeth married Paul Hartman (born Dec. 25, 1904), on March 4, 1928. There are five children: Oliver (March 12, 1929), Gilbert (Oct. 30, 1931), Paul Jr., (Jan 31, 1933), Leroy (Jan. 6, 1935), and Freeman (June 9, 1936). Anna is now Mrs. Otto Gegel, married June 12, 1934. Their son, Kenneth, was born Sept. 25, 1936, and has the distinction of being the youngest member mentioned in this biography. Mr. Gegel's birthday is Sept. 30, 1906. Henry's wife is the former Edna Engelhardt of Baldwin, whom he married on June 8, 1929. There are no children. The couple resides in Baldwin.

CHAPTER VIII.

A FEW STATISTICS

Believing they will be generally interesting, we have compiled a few statistics on the basis of the tables appearing on the foregoing pages. The total number of all those who have borne the name Guebert is 225. This includes the 47 women who have received the name by marriage. 176 of these are still living, 95 of them in or around Red Bud, Ill. Of the 49 who have passed away, 16 died as children, and of these only four were infants. 91 have reached maturity, and of these four died unmarried. 69 have entered matrimony, four having been married twice. We almost said there were no bachelors among the Gueberts, but Herbert, who is 38, will now qualify, and Fred, Fritz, and Lorenz will soon be eligible. Girls over 30 and not married total 5.

The descendants of William (1) number 41 boys and 36 girls, of whom 32 and 30 are still living. Children and children's children of Christian (1) (we are only counting the Gueberts) total 25 boys and 27 girls, of whom 21 and 22 are still living. Henry's (1) offspring number 28 boys and 16 girls, living, 23 and 12.

The writer and his sister and brothers are the only ones of the third generation who have lost both father and mother. No Guebert of the fifth generation has as yet appeared, though little Irene Buch, granddaughter of Henry J., and Marilyn Evers, granddaughter of the Rev. and Mrs. T. Lang, can lay claim to being fifth in line. A few more years and a full century will have passed since our fathers first placed their foot upon American soil.

CONCLUSION

We cannot close this account without calling attention to the fact that God has blessed our family most abundantly. Chief of these blessings is that we have learned to know our Savior from little on and have had the ministrations of faithful, God-fearing pastors at all times. Yea, most of us have also enjoyed the privilege of attending a Christian school, and a goodly number of the children are still enjoying this privilege. Some of us have also been accounted worthy to serve the Lord in His vineyard. With but few exceptions all have remained faithful to their confirmation vow and are still members of the church.

Also in a material way there has been no lack of God's blessing. Though none have become extremely rich, yet a goodly number own their own homes and all have been enabled to earn an honest living. Even in these hard times, none have been on relief. So far as we know, no one has been afflicted with a malignant disease. No one is crippled or deformed. Since 1876 there has been no major accident. No one has ever been convicted of a serious crime or served even a minor jail sentence.

We mention all this not in a spirit of boasting, but in order to show that our family has been blessed above many others and that we have every reason to be sincerely thankful to our kind heavenly Father. Let us be ever mindful of His benefits, seek to remain His children, and lead a life of service to Him. Then the time will finally come when we shall join another and greater family, namely the family of God's elect in Heaven, and hold happy reunion with all those whom He has already taken unto Himself.

His grace always endureth,
And children's children yet shall prove
How God with strength assureth
The hearts of all that seek His love.

