

Oct 14-1975

I was born on July 26-1884  
at what they called the Old Herras Place  
1/4 of mile East of the John or Frank  
Schmitt Place about 1 1/2 mile North  
west of the Clear Creek St. Peter & Paul  
Church. There was no road but  
lanes to that place I had a trail  
over to the Glieden Place across  
the field when I was 2 or 3 yrs old  
and John Henry Glieden invited me to  
come over to eat plums. So I ran  
away to get some plums but some  
one came after me with a switch  
and ran me some - over time  
I was gone and did not find me  
for some time dad had put a  
salt barrel laid on side of shed  
with straw bedding for the cats and  
I crawled in this barrel with the  
cats I went to sleep and did not  
find me for quite a while but found  
me in the barrel sleeping with ~~the~~

we had several good apple  
trees and all named by their own <sup>names</sup>  
we left this place around 1890  
to 1892 when dad bought the Theo  
Goedner place from uncle Mike  
Hammes who had married Theo's daughter  
aunt Bertha. This was a stone  
house and had a basement barn on  
the Hill Side. Dad added an addition  
to the South Side also that had a  
basement. Lena & Wick went to No. 4  
school and took me along the last  
day I remember our speech they learned  
me <sup>with</sup> Wick went like this ladies & gentlemen  
I mean you no harm I speak you a piece  
as long as my arm. I started  
to school to Antonette mostly my first teacher  
then I soon had to start to the  
German Catholic school which was  
conducted by a German man teacher  
who ruled with a stick and  
some times very rough. The second  
year the Sisters of St. Francis came  
Sister Agedina & Sister Francis

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I was in the last class in the  
old Church 1876 while the new  
Church was being built the big part of  
The brick was burnt in a kiln on the  
Church Ground Dan <sup>Wick</sup> & Joe <sup>Johnson</sup>  
Ludwig quarried the rock for the new  
Church some rock weighed a fresh  
wreck they hauled one rock to a load  
Mon Signor Schulte from Iowa City gave  
The Sermon on laying the corner stone  
Our school was all in German  
so I got my Catholicism all in German  
Reading writing & arithmetics all  
so I had to learn my religion  
in English I remember some of my  
teachers at no 2 Antonette Mertz Constance Mertz  
Ella Magan Edith Reynolds Clara Newhouse  
Frank Schiltz Geo Dickson lot then we moved  
1893 and attended No 13 school in German  
town there was no road to No 4 school  
all across the fields.

Some of those that attended No 4 school  
 in Clear Creek Twp were Andrew Jake  
 Mike Frank Ziggy Lena Vogel  
 Ed Vogel Vic Vogel Maggie Caroline Francis  
 Vogl. Rosa Ziggy & Mary Klein  
 Mattie Mary John Wehr August Bieren  
 Lena Rick Constant Peter & Anna Matthe  
 Hammes Jake Murty Frank Wecker  
 these all went to No 4 Clearcreek Twp  
 when we started to No 13 German Twp  
 This school had quite a few that were  
 older like Edw, Herman, Richard & William  
 and Alvina Lewis went to school after  
 they were 21 yrs old this made good competition  
 We had men teachers like Walter Healscher  
 Wm Keck Ella Morgan and some more  
 and had Spelling Schools Boy Socials  
 Literarys Debates all good lessons  
 in this school Rick Constant Pete Matthe  
 Elia Anna Hammes Amy Goodner Lena Kaffer  
 Boyd Mable Dubois and some from  
 No 4 Clearcreek came to our school like the  
 Bumbies Wehrs Bieren Kaffer  
 but I only attended the winter months



1 shot my second <sup>to</sup> be missed his  
second I turned and got my third  
one I felt pretty <sup>good</sup> getting 3 to one  
we shot wild timber pheasants and  
we both hit. we hunted other game like  
mink skunk <sup>fox</sup> <sup>weasel</sup> <sup>fox</sup> <sup>Raccoon</sup> <sup>mink</sup> <sup>Rat</sup>  
I made a special kit hunting mink with  
a good dog I got one that I was after  
the year before but took him out in a pond  
from under the ice he was the largest <sup>around</sup>  
I had a dog that I had a good many that  
he got out of drifts and dens, in our younger  
days of boy hood when we lived on the creek  
Nick and I on Sunday P.M. we went down the creek  
one row was 8-10 <sup>to</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>Squirrels</sup> we would easily  
shoot 100 or more the biggest Rabbit hunt was  
in hazel brush and a bunch of youngsters  
driving them while 3 of us got up in trees  
to shoot the one driving we had shot  
154 packed them in a barrel and shipped  
by freight to Chicago to Commission house  
Nick did most of the shipping as he  
shipped great Prairie Chicken and most any  
other game he had a stand in <sup>with</sup> <sup>Commission</sup>  
<sup>men</sup>

Nick & I were quite interested in hunting  
and later in fishing, Nick in trapping and  
hunting Nick always boasted to go and  
shot a Stevens 22 caliber rifle and Nick  
a single barrel No 12 gauge Single Shot  
gun when we went Squirrel hunting I had  
to know Nick engineered I was not to  
shoot a Gray Squirrel unless I told him  
to stand by one day I saw across  
a gray Squirrel all in open view I shot  
and got him when Nick came up he  
says that a Gray why I got him yes he  
said but what if you missed as he  
could shoot them on the run Nick  
was a good shot but I held him  
even some time Nick and me shot  
many Squirrels Rabbit quail pheasants  
Coon Fox duck of all kinds one of my  
best shots I made on duck - Nick shot a  
double barrel Remington and I shot a  
Winchester we found 4 duck on the river  
so he say you take that Sittie and I make  
take the other we both killed our best ducks

in 1904 was the World Fair at St Louis  
I wanted to go but was only 20 yrs old  
so I asked Dad to let me go and also borrow  
money which he did so a bunch made up  
for a trip to St Louis John & Jake Schmitt  
Jake Vogel Matho Weber for Kantenberger Mack  
Berg and myself we knew of some people  
that were from Kookuk Co; so they put up cots  
to sleep on for 35 Cts a night in 1904 all  
exhibits were for largest the tickets to the fair  
was 150 Cts the fair covered 1200 acres  
the exhibits were all on the large or largest  
~~agriculture~~ Agriculture Building was 2000 ft long  
and could spend days trying to see it all  
machinery Hall covered 42 acres the Boer war  
20 acres I don't escape he jump horse back out of  
a building into the river and escaped  
There were so many different exhibits I can  
not recall all all the States had Buildings  
I seen and had my hand on the Liberty Bell  
read its Proclamation and saw the Crack in  
the Bell which was guarded day & night  
The Hagebuch Wallace trained wild animals  
showed all year at same place. The Forestry  
and Fishing Exhibits was most interesting as they  
included all wild life and people of Africa  
Indians Bornea had for clothes a short leather belt  
around the middle. I saw my first Educated Indians  
Palace of Art & Music so great that you would  
believe possible - The fike was all amusement  
and shows all over from 10 to 50 ct the Ferris wheel  
was 240 ft high Cages hung on cables so they  
stayed straight up & down each cage carried from  
12 to 20 people you could walk around inside of the  
Cage a

Jerusalem covered  $8\frac{1}{2}$  acres enclosed with  
 a rock wall 9 ft high of white rock. Ticket was 5<sup>00</sup>  
 they had the 14 Stations and Holy of Holies  
 The scene of the Dead Sea. Sold olive oil  
 for 30 ct for  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint. He said you could use  
 it for anything if you had faith in it even,  
 baptize your children with it if you had faith in it.  
 The world largest Brass Band was from Germany  
 they played on different parts of the fair ground.  
 Poles 6'-8' in dia and up to 80 ft high  
 all along the street about 20 ft apart. We also  
 visited the two Breweries Anheuser Bush & Lemm.  
 The Bush had the prize winning 12 Belgians  
 horses took to prize. The Brewery of Bush had 124  
 The Lemm had and took us down 90 ft down to  
 natural caves and showed Rij van Winkel <sup>praying</sup>  
 Mine for a <sup>run</sup> under ground stream down there  
 90 ft down we crossed in on a bridge  
 and the brewery & part of the City are drained  
 into it they made wear extra Rubber Coats before  
 they took us down as it was about 300 on some  
 levels so come and make eyes with me under  
 the Anheuser Bush - but there are a lot of exhibit  
 that I remember every thing big as this was before  
 the Automobile. The mighty power from Steam  
 we seen <sup>Steam</sup> motors - that had fly wheel or balanced wheel  
 40 ft high  $\frac{1}{2}$  run in a pit



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I was at the World fair at Chicago <sup>Shore</sup> Lake  
in 1934/1935 - This was not as interesting as St Louis  
but instead the monster fever in Chicago was  
large horse fever was wrapped in a small package  
all the bigness of St Louis gone all handled in  
smaller packages The larger exhibits now in 1935  
were so expensive to duplicate we went on the Road Land  
for round trip ticket for 6<sup>00</sup> then towards the end for <sup>#4<sup>00</sup></sup> round trip  
in 1905 - I got to be 21 yrs old and as I got an offer to  
help build a barn and I had books that I studied and  
tried to learn something about the Steel Square  
the fall of 1905 - I helped Joe studying build a barn for Mrs  
Bro John We built a barn 36 x 48 18 ft high  
all mortised and had to do lot of boring <sup>work</sup>  
a lot of this boring was already done so I did not  
get on in the very start that fall we built an  
addition to Henry Gomez house we laid a rock foundation  
1906 we built a barn for John Greiner and  
one for Frank Schmitt and addition to Yeds <sup>Goodman</sup> house  
I studied books on the square as had a lot to  
learn but I was interested and took the square  
and drew out scales as I understood them I got  
so I could get along and I could draw out any part  
of these common buildings as the Greiners  
and Mrs Hauser had sold out and had bought  
land in Alberta Canada as Mrs R J Greiner  
was my sister they insisted that I go along  
to Canada they said they would ship my tools  
on the Emigrant Car so it would not cost me  
any freight

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I finally agreed to go along on the emigrating car with reduced fare on the Railroad in our Troup was ~~George~~<sup>Greiner</sup> Mary Greiner (his wife) Mrs Rose Harpurt wife of John Harpurt and ~~there~~ family May Greiner Mrs Peter Greiner my sister and Walter Valborg Alfred & Clarence the whole George Greiner family on the emigrating car was John Harpurt <sup>Andrew & Jake Vogel</sup> P.L. Greiner and Jake & Anton. they was to arrive in Wetaskin Alberta Canada the first part of April <sup>1910</sup> but found a lot of blocked roads so they could not get out of Jake & Andrew Vogel were out nine miles and Sunday they went out as far as their place the Greiners were out 15 miles and did not get out until a few days later so it was a real task after coming from Iowa. we got there some time 7 to 9 o'clock with plenty of ice & snow we went to the Briard Hotel for the night not much to cheer about sunny Alberta my sister had to be put under Dr. care and did not get to be on the first trip out to their new homes P.L. Greiner my sis Mrs ~~P.L.~~<sup>George</sup> Greiner Jake May & Tony close together south of Linnville Alberta Canada there was still plenty of snow and as the roads we but Trails the weather warmed up and things were more livable but their new homes were not like they had left Land was practically clear

Jake Greiner farm was just about 1/2 East and had a Log barn 32 ft square and had Parnock poles there for Rafters to build a heavy roof over this log barn I cut and fitted all the poles to make a gambrel roof then Sheathed and shingled with wooden Shingles

The house was about 14 - 32 - 7 1/2 Store High I took a straight Stairs out and put it to come in from out side so may could have a place or bed room there was a small place out side that was covered and the place for Cook Stove I covered the Stairs so it was out of the weather so Mrs. George Greiner May & Jake could stay I had been to Metaskimin to apply for a job and a Mr Nelson a Contractor but an old English tried me so I apply for Lodging at Alberta Hotel were most of the workers stayed I got a room with an English man 1 bed \$16 a month and all meals a free egg thing in the morning I hired out for 2 cent an hour the day 6 day week I found out I had a lot to learn but what I knew I worked on two brick buildings and learned how to build window frames for brick buildings Barn which for race Horses and Ticket Office got lot of work on Tools & Keys and had to duplicate moulding we put up a Bell Tel. & Washkin Tines etc etc Two of us drove 100 lbs or key of nails in less than 10 hrs on roof sheathing I built all the benches Parnock the kitchen



I learned coping and several other  
kinds of construction. I had charge  
of part of the crew for a while. I had  
to hurry to get the frames finished as I  
wanted to go along on a hunting trip  
but had to have the frames all finished  
one of my pals came and helped so  
I got them finished as my boss kind  
not want me to leave but I just looked  
up and left we were out about a  
week and seen ducks young & old  
how many we shot I don't know  
but the last day while coming to town  
we shot 134 we drove in the evening  
if any and then every body helped himself  
Coyotes was a plenty I shot one of the  
wagon while coming to town on last  
day on a load of oats I left on C.R.P. R.R.  
was on the road about 3 days I got  
home middle of November I brought 18  
Coyotes and some muskrats and what  
tools I did not sell two of us had to come  
down on trunk lid to force it down so we  
could ride and tie it with about  
100 lbs of rope.



I was back in Iowa again. Corn was  
 most proffit so I looked for some Carpenter  
 work as I felt like a Carpenter. I soon  
 had an offer for a big barn all framed  
 48x50-8x8 posts 20ft high to John Steiner  
 on in 76 center but had to drive about 15 miles  
 we built a large Corn crib while on this <sup>place</sup>  
 I soon had enough work for the rest  
 of the year we got a two story house  
 by the end of the year and worked there  
 most all of the winter I got to be a wood  
 framer and was most always busy  
 but as I went along I found out what  
 I had to learn not what I knew I drew  
 plans of complete buildings that we scaled  
 and lumber bill and everything <sup>was</sup> <sup>to go on</sup>  
 I learned to build open stairs of all style  
 Otto Hansman an old back learned me stair work  
 one spring around the 20th of March I went  
 to one of Nicksen's barn to roof his house  
 the weather was warm the sheathing was all up  
 and about 3 inches apart so it wa hard  
 to blind nail for scaffold we use sticks  
 so used one good anchor nail but did  
 not find a solid place to nail and  
 as I had a good anchor under me I decided  
 to try it decided

one of the boys took my pants on  
 below I was going to have it stay  
 until I get done here, but I did not  
 say anything so there was no one but  
 me to blame as I was tough and had  
 stood up to Dutch when on this sleep roof  
 I send me down at once I hit some  
 of our braces but knocked them off with my  
 feet I fell in a V scaffold and go to  
 touch them so all I got was a lot of steel  
 in my left hand I landed on my heels  
 and snapped together broke <sup>several</sup> ribs and 2  
 vertebrae they took me to Sig and Dr. Doyle  
 he examined me and called for ambulance  
 to take me to Ottumwa Hospital for Gray  
 they found my trouble and put me to bed  
~~and~~ Gray the next <sup>day</sup> they put a cast  
 of cement from under my arms to my hips  
 but left me <sup>home</sup> in a day or two  
 on a hospital bed on which I laid for over 3 months  
 with that cement cast around me  
 the first week was bad as my bowel gave  
 trouble but I got it regulated and I had  
 no more bowel trouble no any other  
 troubles as every was done to the <sup>best</sup> at last

around July we sawed the east off  
and gave relief as east was getting itchy  
then ~~we~~ put on a steel brace but this was  
not very comfortable and a wheel chair

which I occupied for several weeks from  
my life was my constant nurse later  
they learned me to walk but it went slow  
I had some one call on me every day  
I was laid up and sure was appreciated

and I was thankful I was asked to  
build Albert Sierens house so we decide  
I would just ingener the job from a chair  
which I did in August - we boarded for  
meal at Keota and came home at night  
some time in Oct I got along fair  
and started to do a little work

I laid the Star Jacks of a Chair on the  
trusses and done some cabinet work  
and the last weeks I done regular  
work finishing this house and helped  
complete some we got more work  
ere long so were always busy Albert  
Sierens house was one of the large  
buildings or homes we built but we  
built many big homes and many a barn and  
corn crib

we got to build all style and size  
Norbert helped build Albert's new house  
also Ted Lamont Joe Ludwig Don Seif Martin  
Wallerick Wm Hammes Mike Hammes Ambrose  
high beeper Sam Matner Frank Vogel Otto Nauman  
helped Charles Weyers two Stein House the first  
and had a lot of help employed - Don Seif  
Joe Ludwig (and Joe Ludwig Country) Louis Blumman  
helped build our house on the farm Robt Reed  
the neighbors & friends cut all the timber for  
this frame and delivered to mill also  
helped dig Basement the whole frame was  
native Lumber we hauled the sand from  
the river we cut the logs and took to mill  
in two days