BARHORST

BERTKE

BRAMLAGE

FULLENKAMP

WENZKE MATERNAL ANCESTORS

Jim Scharf February 2008

Table of Contents

Table of Contents..... i
Introduction..... 1
Theresa Bertke Pedigree..... 2A
Bertke Ancestry..... 3-8
Bertke Photos, Maps, Descendants..... 8A-K
Cranberry Prairie..... 8L-O
Fullenkamp Ancestry..... 9-10
Fullenkamp Photos..... 10A
Bramlage Ancestry..... 11-16
Bramlage Photos, Maps, Descendants.... 16A-D
Barhorst Ancestry..... 17-24
Barhorst Photo and Map..... 24A-B

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Introduction

May 26, 2010

In 2006 I published the Wenzke Family History. To complete the history of Wenzke family ancestors, I present the maternal side of the Wenzke family: the Bertkes, Fullenkamps, Barhorsts and Bramlages.

These ancestors emigrated from northern Germany - from villages near Lohne, Damme and Ankum, cities of Oldenburg and Hannover. The Wenzkes came from Upper Silesia, an eastern province of Prussian Germany. The maternal Wenzke ancestors came much earlier to America - in the 1830's - and were some of the first German families in the Mercer County area, still a heavily forested wilderness when they arrived. The Wenzke family came in 1870 and bought land from a previous owner.

The Bertkes came to Maria Stein and later to Cranberry Prairie in Granville Township. The Fullenkamps were located in nearby Auglaize County and they worshipped at St. John Church at Maria Stein as did the Bertkes. Barhorsts and Bramlages worshipped at St. Augustine in Minster, but they lived in McLean township of Shelby County. The Wenzkes lived on Frahm's Pike, WNW of Celina in Hopewell township.

These families are ancestors of Theresa Marie Bertke, my grandmother, who married Joseph Aloysius Wenzke, my grandfather. Their farm on Frahm's Pike remained in Wenzke hands until the end of the 1930's. Today the Wenzke surname has disappeared from Mercer County to Dayton, Fostoria, Pennsylvania, New York and many other places. Bertke and Fullenkamp families flourish in Mercer County. Bramlage families remain near Mercer County and in Dayton. Distantly related Barhorsts remain in Mercer and Shelby Counties.

All these ancestors were fully German, Catholic, and willing to take a chance on coming to America. The promise of land ownership and escape from military service were powerful incentives to emigrate.

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A brief "Ahnentafel" of Theresa Bertke Wenzke should serve to show you the relationships before telling the story of each family by surname:

Parents

Bernard Bertke
Bernadina Bramlage

Grandparents

Herman Heinrich Bertke
Maria Elisabeth Fullenkamp

Herman Heinrich Bramlage
Maria Agnes Barhorst

Great-Grandparents

Bernhard Bertke
Maria Adelheid Boehemann

Johann Heinrich Fullenkamp
Maria Catharina Elisabeth Rickelmann

Johann Bernard Bramlage
Anna Gertrud Rackhorst

Carl Anton Barhorst
Maria Elisabeth Freking

Only Grandma Wenzke's parents were born in America. Her grandparents and great-grandparents were born in Germany and died in America.

What follows now is their story by family surname. I would appreciate any comments or corrections you offer.

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Theresa Bertke Pedgree

Chart #1

Theresa Marie Bertke
b. 1 Dec 1876
bp. CranberryPrairie, Mercer, OH
m. 26 Nov 1896
mp. Celina, Mercer, Ohio
d. 7 Mar 1964
dp. Dayton, Montgomery, Ohio

2 Bernard Bertke
b. 17 Jan 1848
bp. Mercer, Ohio
m. 22 Apr 1875
mp. Maria Stein, Mercer, Ohio
d. 5 Jun 1913
dp. St. Henry, Mercer, Ohio

4 Herman Heinrich Bertke
b. 25 Aug 1820
bp. Kettenkamp, Hannover, Germany
m. 14 Apr 1847
mp.
d. 18 May 1895
dp. Maria Stein, Mercer, Ohio

8 Heinrich Bernard Bertke
b. 11 Nov 1787
bp. Kettenkamp, Hannover, Germany
m. 29 Oct 1814
mp. Ankum, Germany
d. 7 Nov 1851
dp. Maria Stein, Mercer, Ohio

2

9 Maria Adelheid Boehemann
b. 1793
bp.
d.
dp. Maria Stein, Mercer, Ohio

5 Maria Elisabeth Fullenkamp
b. 15 Apr 1825
bp. Ankum, Hannover, Germany
d. 10 Jan 1861
dp. Maria Stein, Mercer, Ohio

10 Johann Heinrich Fullenkamp
b. 28 Apr 1775
bp. Tütingen, Hannover, Germany
m. 10 Aug 1806
mp. Ankum, Hannover, Germany
d. 1840
dp.

3

11 Maria Catharina Elisabeth Rickelmann
b. 16 Nov 1787
bp. Tütingen, Hannover, Germany
d. 1853
dp.

4

3 M. Bernadina Bramlage
b. 29 Apr 1856
bp. Ft Loramie, Shelby, Ohio
d. 19 Feb 1881
dp. CranberryPrairie, Mercer, Ohio

6 Herman Henry Bramlage
b. 18 Aug 1817
bp. Lohne, Oldenberg, Germany
m. 15 Jan 1851
mp. Minster, Auglaize, Ohio
d. 18 Jan 1873
dp. Ft Loramie, Shelby, Ohio

12 Johann Bernard Bramlage
b. 22 Nov 1784
bp. Lohne, Oldenberg, Germany
m. 30 Apr 1810
mp. Langwege, Dinklage, Germany
d.
dp.

5

13 Anna Gertrud Rackhorst
b. 3 Apr 1788
bp. Aus Langwege, Dinklage, Germany
d. 5 Feb 1849
dp. Minster, Auglaize, Ohio

6

7 Maria Agnes Barhorst
b. 14 Nov 1833
bp. Steinfeld, Oldenburg, Germany
d. 14 Aug 1861
dp. Ft Loramie, Shelby, Ohio

14 Carl Anton Barhorst Genannt Wiewerig
b. 2 Nov 1804
bp. Harpendorf, Oldenburg, Germany
m. 27 Nov 1827
mp. Steinfeld, Oldenburg, Germany
d. 28 Sep 1852
dp. Ft Loramie, Shelby, Ohio

7

15 Maria Elisabeth Freking
b. 11 Oct 1800
bp. Oldenburg, Germany
d. 1 Sep 1881
dp. Ft Loramie, Shelby, Ohio

8

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Bertke Ancestry

The Bertke ancestors of the Wenzke family came from Kettenkamp, Germany, a small farming village north of Ankum. Ankum is east of Lingen and north of Osnabrück, all in the Hannover area presently known as Niedersachsen. The family farm has been in the Bertke family for over 356 years (in 2008).

First Generation

Gerd Heinrich Bertke - Catharina Adelheid Reiling - All we know of the first Bertke generation are their names and the birth/death date of Gred Heinrich's wife Catharina Adelheid: 1763/4 and 28 March 1837 at Basum. They had four children that we know of:

1.	Heinrich Bernd	11 Nov 1787	Of whom further
2.	Herman Gerd Heinrich	5 May 1791	
3.	Anna Catharina Elisabeth	11 May 1793	
4.	Johann Heinrich	25 july 1797	

Second Generation

Heinrich Bernard Bertke - Maria Adelheid Boehemann - Heinrich Bernard was born 1787, and Maria Adelheid was born 1793. They married October 29, 1814, at the Ankum church. All seven of their children were born at Kettenkamp from 1815 through 1833:

1.	Maria Catharina	28 Aug 1815	
2.	Hermann Bernard	24 Nov 1817	
3.	Hermann Heinrich	25 Aug 1820	Of whom further
4.	Maria Elisabeth	18 Nov 1822	
5.	Johann Theodor	26 May 1825	
6.	Johann Gerhard	29 Oct 1828	
7.	Hermann Bernhard	30 Nov 1833	

Two children evidently died or stayed behind when they emigrated to the United States, spending 90 days at sea and arriving aboard the sailing ship Lucilla Copen at Richmond, Virginia, on November 15, 1837.

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The family followed the James River in Virginia, then went overland to the headwaters of the Kanawha River, built a raft and floated down the Kanawha into the Ohio River with Missouri as their destination. (The Kanawha River flows past my home in South Charleston, West Virginia).

After days and days of floating downstream, they decided that Missouri was now at their right hand and they disembarked with their belongings.

After a few days of preparation to move inland, they found they were in Ohio. However, they moved on up the Little Miami Valley for about 50 miles, then turned left and struck the Big Miami Valley near what is now Dayton, Ohio. They turned left again in the upper reaches of that valley, near what is now Sidney, following the high ground to a point in the southeast corner of Mercer County, Ohio. Here they acquired title to about 100 acres in 1837.

They constructed a log cabin before winter set in, and food for the time consisted of game. Grain was given to them by distant settlers. When the cabin was completed, they started to clear a few acres during the winter and prepared for spring planting. Bernard (Herman Bernard, brother of our ancestor Herman Henry) often related to his grandson William Bertke how they cleared the high spots for cultivation as the lower rich soil was covered with water until late summer and was unavailable until drainage could be made. Here they toiled for a number of years, expanding their tillable land and getting a foothold and getting acclimated.

When the Miami-Erie Canal was constructed nearby the Bertke farm, Herman Bernard worked part-time helping build the canal, and Herman Henry's sister Maria Catherine was a cook in one of the canal building camps. When she took sick and died very suddenly (cholera?), they buried her near the canal somewhere between Lock #2 and St. Marys.

Herman Henry also worked on the canal, but we do not know if it was the construction part or later maintenance. The two brothers subsequently farmed in Mercer County.

Johann Theodore, the third brother, married Maria Francizka Heitmann, born at Minster. He evidently first went to Cincinnati, a thriving city by 1846, and boarded with John Nieters, a shoemaker. Theodor, also known as Dietrich, must have learned the shoemaking trade from John Nieters. By 1850, the Cincinnati directories show his being in the shoemaking business with his brother John (Gerhard), who disappears from the business in 1853-4, the time when Gerhard

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left by stagecoach for the West and the Gold Rush. Theodor married about 1850 and they were blessed with eight children. Dietrich died in 1879.

While in the shoemaking business, Dietrich and Gerhard used the surname Bertken, possibly to distinguish themselves from a Joseph Bertke, who also was a shoemaker nearby in Cincinnati.

Gerhard became George Bertken, who made it to Mariposa County, California, a mining area. He married a friend's sister who was imported from Emden, Germany to marry him. She and another sister came by boat around South America to California, then by stagecoach and finally on horseback to Mariiposa County. Their descendants, taking the Bertken surname, still live on the West Coast.

Johann Bernhard Bertke was killed by a falling tree. His son Hermann Bernard used to repeatedly relate this story to his grandson William Bertke, showing him the exact spot on which it happened. He also told William about putting his dad's heart and other organs back into his body, about chasing the deer out of the corn patch to keep them from destroying too much of their corn; how they lived and overcame tremendous obstacles; how they made cornmeal in the hollow of a stump with rocks and an axe; the utensils used over an open fire; the cholera epidemic; the bushwackers; their first church and the Precious Blood missionaries coming some time in the 1830's (1840's?); how they would travel miles to some settler's cabin to hear Mass several times a year.

Third Generation

Herman Henry Bertke - Maria Elisabeth Fullenkamp/Katherine Kreiger - Herman Henry, with the help of his father and brother Bernard, cleared some ground just east of and adjoining the old homestead. A cabin was built and Herman Henry married Maria Elisabeth Fullenkamp on April 14, 1847, and settled there. Herman Henry married a second time to Katherine Kreiger and they had two additional children.

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Maria Elisabeth Fullenkamp was born in Tütingen, and emigrated with her family to Auglaize County. She and Herman Henry Bertke had seven children born at Cranberry Prairie and Maria Stein, Mercer County:

1.	Bernard	17 january 1848	Of whom further
2.	Catherine	1849	
3.	Mary E.	1850	
4.	Fred Anthony	17 January 1857	
5.	Henry J.	30 June 1859	
6.	Johann	9 January 1861	A twin
7.	Josephine	9 January 1861	A twin

Maria Elisabeth Fullenkamp died on January 10, 1861, after giving birth to the twins. Both twins died at birth. Herman Henry married a second time to Katherine Kreiger on August 12, 1862. They had two children:

1.	Joseph Bernard	19 April 1864
2.	Philomena	4 February 1866

Katherine died at Maria Stein on June 19, 1894, at age 72. Herman Henry died the following year on May 18, 1895, at age 75.

Fourth Generation

Bernard Bertke - Bernadina Bramlage - Some of the Bernard Bertke story is told in the Wenzke family History. He first married Bernadina Bramlage on April 22, 1875 at Maria Stein.. My grandmother, Theresa Marie Bertke, was firstborn on December 1, 1876. A second, Heinrich, was born in 1881 and died on the same day. Bernadina died within two weeks following the birth. Their children:

1.	Theresa Marie	1 December 1876	Of whom further
2.	Heinrich	7 February, 1881	Died on 7 February

Bernard Bertke - Katie Fiely - Bernard then married Katie Fiely in 1882. Their children:

1.	Bernard John	8 May 1883	Married Elizabeth Heuing
2.	Henry	3 March 1884	Married Sophia Meyer
3.	Frances	17 Oct 1885	Married Ernst Meyer
4.	Katherine	12 October 1891	Married Joe Walters
5.	Frank	27 November 1892	Married Frances Peters

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Bernard's half-sister, Frances Bertke Meyer, told her son, Ralph, that Bernard was rather intellectual and a bit of a mechanic-inventor. He had a gas well on his farm, which was located west of Cranberry Prairie at the intersection of Fleetwood and Dull Roads with the road west out of Cranberry Prairie. There was an oil boom around Lima, Ohio in the '90's, and he had gas heat in his house at that time. He built a dumb-waiter between floors of his house. He also invented and patented a device to tip and unload farm wagons inside the barn. Ralph saw the patent blueprints in one of his sister's Cincinnati homes.

But Bernard was a poor farmer. Apparently he was more interested in reading the big city newspapers that he would have sent to the local train station. Frances Meyer said that his second wife, Katherine Fiely Bertke, could do "twice the work in the fields" as could Bernard. And he was bedeviled by the frequent overflows of the Wabash River which originates in Mercer County as a small stream.

One day a real estate man rather casually offered Grandpa Bertke a price for his farm and he rather impulsively accepted the real estate offer. He made a mistake, as the job opportunities for a man of his age in Mercer County were limited. He bought the City Hotel in St. Henry, and that was another disaster. The hotel was located a block from Railroad Street, adjacent to the "Kite and Katy's" Restaurant on the east side, close to the railroad station but off from the present center of town. Even then the population of small towns and their businesses were shrinking rapidly.

Mercer County later constructed drainage ditches and the original Bertke farm is now prime land.

So he and Grandma (Katherine Fiely) moved to Victoria (St. Peter), back to St. Henry, and then a few years later to the Cincinnati area (Covington, Kentucky). Four of his children were already in Cincinnati. They lived with Frances and Ernst Meyer for a while, eventually coming to live with their son Henry Bertke. At some point Katherine was a housekeeper for a priest.

No one in "Cinti" talked much about Grandpa Bertke. Ralph Meyer gathers that he never worked and he may have had a slight drinking problem.

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Frances Meyer indicated that Bernard was rather slightly built, was strong-willed, independent and a loner. He was active in school affairs while farming. He served on the school board and in the wintertime he'd ride to town and actually sit in the back of the school room during class, checking on the quality of the teaching. He tended to be outspoken and a bit feisty and not too religious. A quote from Frances Meyer: "he was always fighting with the priests".

Naturally all his sons went into businesses for themselves. Two became butcher-grocery shop owners and the third, Frank Bertke, who was most like his father and slightly built, was cofounder of Young and Bertke Sheet Metal Company in Cinti. Ralph Meyer wrote a contract for extensive sheet metal work at a government-owned aircraft engine repair building at Strothers Field in Arkansas, and one of the bidders on the work was the Young & Bertke Company of Cinti! This occurred when Ralph worked at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. Unfortunately Frank Bertke died at 39 of stomach cancer and Phil Young bought out widow Frances Peters Bertke's half-interest in the firm.

Another Bertke founded the Bertke Electric Company in Cinti. Frances Meyer said he was descended from Herman Bernard Bertke. The Bertke Electric Company is even bigger than Young and Bertke. Ralph used to work for Railway Express Agency, and when they installed a one-third million dollar automatic whiz-bang package-sorting system in Cinti (1962 dollars), the Bertke Electric Company did all the electric work on it for Aerojet-General Co. When Ralph was on the road in the Cleveland area in the '50's for the Express Company, he saw a sign in downtown Cleveland outside a big building under construction: "Electric Work by Bertke Electric Company, Cincinnati, Ohio".

Grandpa Bernard Bertke was born 50 years too soon.

As his health failed, he returned to the St. Henry area and died June 5, 1913. His obituary is in the Coldwater Chronicle June 13, 1913.

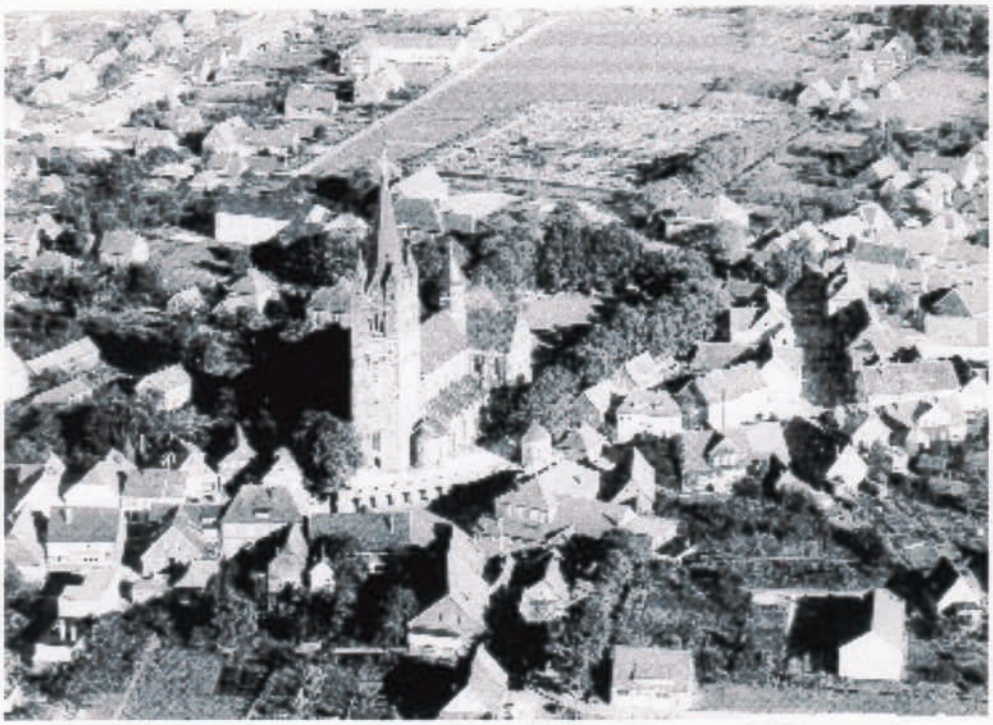
The information on the Bertke family came from William Bertke, son of Matthias Bertke (son of Herman Bernard Bertke). William was 91 years old, living at Sacred Heart Rest Home, Oregon, Ohio, in 1980, and related this information about 1955. The rest is from Ralph Meyer and the original family's genealogical data on birth and marriage dates, ancestors is from a VonderHaar living in Bersenbruck, near Ankum, who answered my inquiry for Bertke information. She was unable to trace the Bertke family back farther because the Ankum church records had been lost in a fire.

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Ankum



City Limits



Aerial View of St. Nikolaus Church

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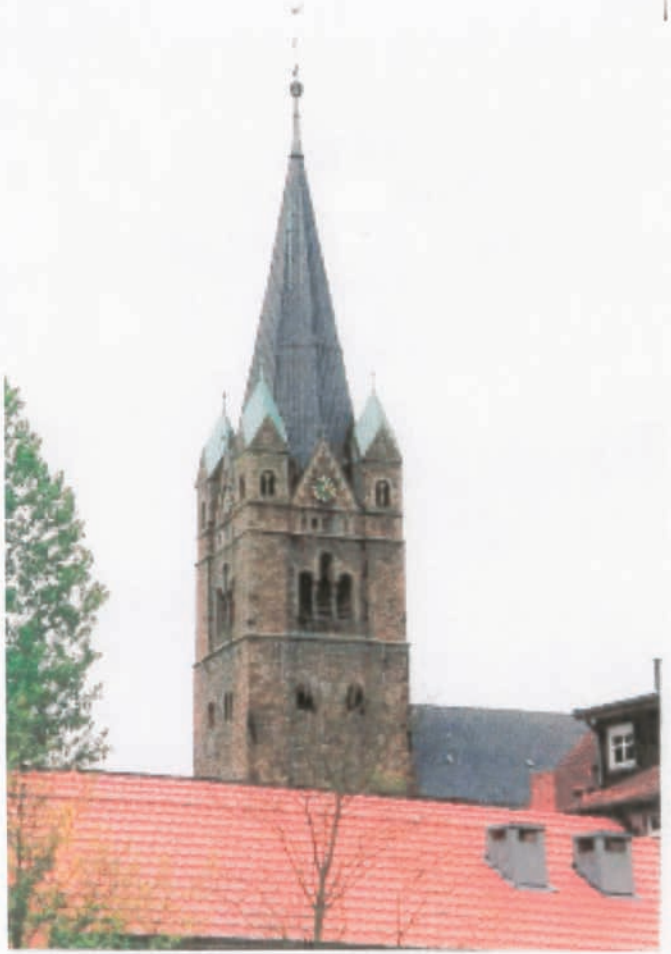
Ankum Rathaus



Crest and Statue

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Ankum St. Nikolaus Church

Page 8C

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Interior Views of Ankum St. Nikolaus

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Bertke Ancestral Village
Kettenkamp, NW from Ankum, Germany

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Bertke Farm and Home at Kettenkamp

Home built in 1958

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Bernadina Bramalge and Bernard Bertke
Holding Theresa - ca 1877



Bernard and latie Fiely
Wedding on April 25, 1892

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Bernard Bertke Family

Standing: Henry, Theresa Wenzke, Frances Meyer, Katherina Walter, John
Front: Bernard (Ben), Frank and Katie Fiely Bertke

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City Hotel on the west side (right)
Kite and Katy's Restaurant on the east side (left)

West Main

The hotel stood west of Kite and Katy's Restaurant. Clemmens Meinerding owned the hotel first. Joseph Gardner then owned the hotel in the 1890's; in the spring of 1894, Gardner put an addition to his hotel. Sebastian Laubers purchased the Germania Hotel from Gardner in September 1903. Next [redacted] owned the hotel, then known as the City Hotel. Eventually, the building was torn down.

Livery Barn, map no. 79

Railroad Street

In 1890, Clemmens Meinerding built the livery barn which stood south of Kite and Katy's Restaurant. His son, H. C. Meinerding, had the livery barn next. H. C. Meinerding kept a ledger between 1891 and 1903, in which he entered the people's names to whom he rented horses and wagons or buggies. On the picture, H. C. Meinerding on the livery wagon took salesmen "drummers" around to the farms and returned in the evening; the salesmen kept their wares in the barn at night. Andrew Buschor had the livery barn next. The salesmen would get off the train with their samples; Andrew put their trunks on the wagon and would take them to the nearby towns, e.g. Burkettsville, Philothea, Wendelin. They would go to one town in the morning and another in the afternoon; the next day they would travel to two more towns. Sometimes, the salesmen would only come twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. Later Buschor bought and sold and traded draft horses. During World War I, he bought horses for the army. William Uhlenhake put shoes on the horses. Then they were shipped out on the train. Buschor closed the livery barn in the twenties.

City Hotel, St. Henry - Bernard Bertke, owner

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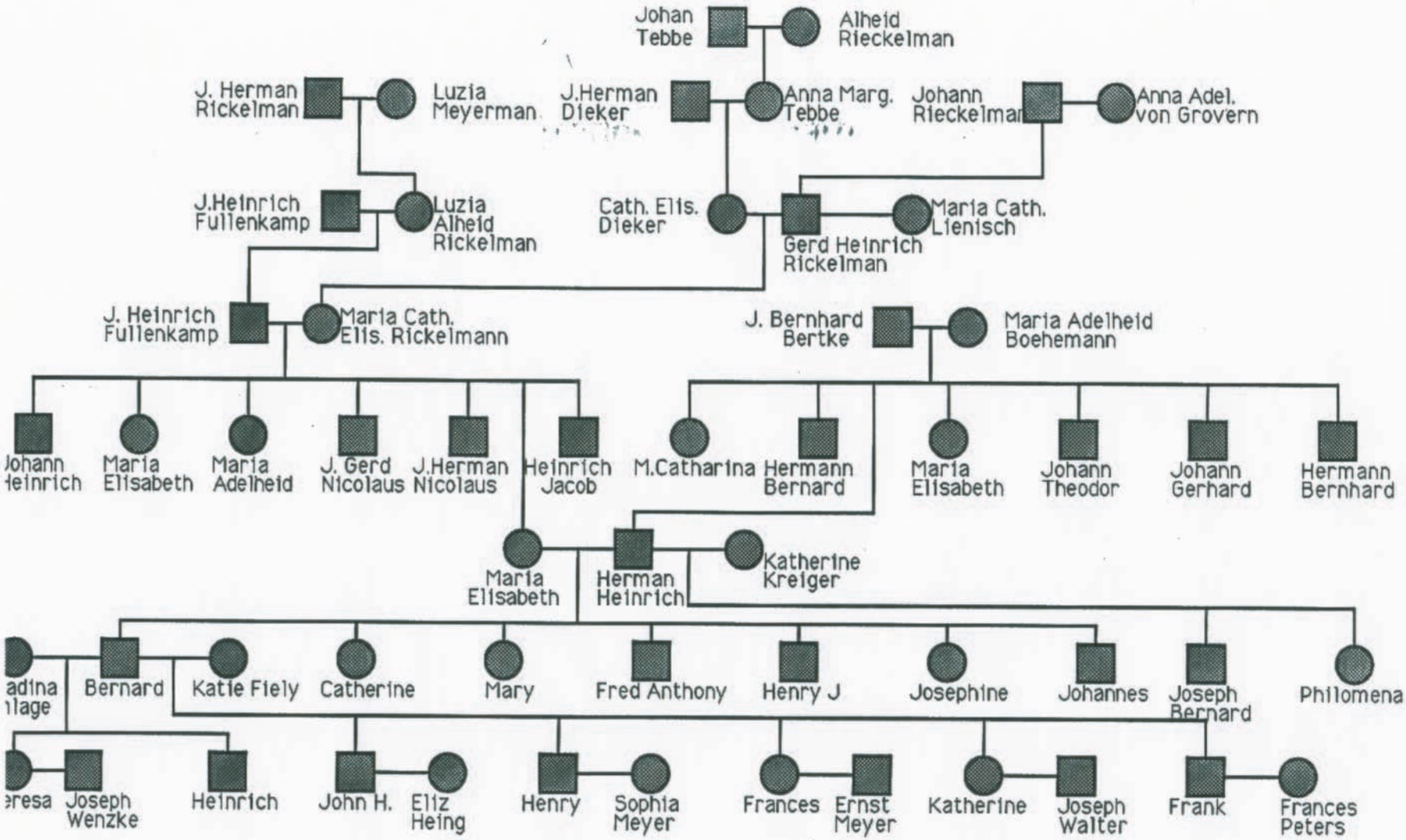
Bernard Bertke Obituary

Friday, June 13, 1913; Coldwater Chronicle

Bernard Bertke, a highly respected and well-known citizen of this place, died on Thursday of last week of tuberculosis. He had been in failing health for some time, but had only been confined to his bed for the past few weeks with the illness that resulted in death. The decesased was born at St John on January 17, 1848. and was aged 65 years, 4 months and 18 days. For several years he conducted a hotel here and prior to coming to St Henry had resided at Cranberry Prairie. After closing the hotel, he moved to Victoria, where he resided for some time and then came back to St. Henry. From here he went to Covington, Ky., but his health began to fail rapidly and he was brought back to his old home at this place at his request. He was a conscientious and upright man and greatly respoected by all who knew him, and his death is mourned by a large circle of friends, who extend their deep sympathy to the surviving members of the family. He was twice married and is survived by a wife and six childeren - John, Henry, Frank, Miss Catherine and Mrs.Frances Meyer, of CIncinnati, and Mrs. Tresie Wenzke, of Celina, Requiem Mass and sermon were held at the St. Henry Catholic Church, on Monday morning and were largely attended. Burial was in the Catholic cemetery at Cranberry Prairie. The family desires to thanbk all those who assisted them during the illness of their beloved father, especially the neighbors, relatives and friends, and the Reverend (illegible).

1913

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Above the Fruited Bog

Cranberry Prairie: Good land, obscure location and proud of it.

By Randy McNutt



Creating farm land out of a peat bog saved Cranberry Prairie; now, what was once a general store is a center for migrant workers.

Nobody expected much of Cranberry Prairie. Other towns had promise and a feed mill, but all Cranberry Prairie had was that infernal muck. So when the erratic winds of commerce blew over Mercer County towns in the mid-1800s, Cranberry Prairie didn't even notice. Its people were too busy trying to fashion homesteads out of the boggy land to concern themselves with such arcane matters as business.

Perhaps that is why banks and inns and the usual amenities of small-town Ohio never took root in their hamlet. Cranberry Prairie was a place where only *crops* seemed to sprout. The soil on the west side of the community consisted of the rich decay of the ages. For thousands of years, thick vegetation had grown and died until a twelve-hundred-acre peat bog—later called the prairie of Cranberry Prairie—was left.

A bog seemed an unlikely place on which to wager hopes and investments, yet such a cockeyed notion obsessed the immigrants. Arriving from Germany in the middle of the nineteenth century, they thought hard work could transform the swampy region of their new home into immaculate fields. So they worked. By 1880, their hamlet was green but not large, and many of the once-prosperous towns of the county had already dwindled back to

Photos by Eric Weinberg

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"From its founding in 1837, Cranberry Prairie gradually changed to farm land. Obstinacy was as much a resource as flat land."

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obscurity.

Not much has changed since. About two hundred people, mainly descendants of the immigrants, are still locked in a perpetual motion of planting and harvesting on the family farms. Horse-drawn machinery is gone, of course, and powerful combines swarm through the waves of corn. But the view and the hamlet remain uncluttered. The layout is simple: About twenty-five houses cluster around the intersection of Cranberry Road and Recovery-Minster Road; an old brick church and rectory and a couple of farm-related businesses fit in between the houses. What was once a general store is now a center for migrant workers. "We like the town this way because everything is easy to find," somebody said.

It might have been Frank Hemmelgarn. He lives near Saint Francis Church, which his father helped found, and from his kitchen window distant silos look like pillars supporting a roof of clouds. Mr. Hemmelgarn never tires of looking at the huge patch of green that extends from his yard. Corn, wheat, hay, soybeans. *Ecstasy!* Each morning he rises to gauge the weather—an old farmer's habit—by looking through his kitchen window. He worked this land most of his seventy-nine years, and at one time he knew the location of every big hole and rock. Now that he is retired, however, the fields have somehow become strangers to him. He stares longingly at them, something like a jilted suitor.

On a muggy morning in June, he stands at the window and says the hamlet is blessed with plenty of crops and few people. He wouldn't change it, he explains, because the beauty of a small community lies in *history*, not subdivisions.

Cranberry Prairie has history, if nothing else. For some reason, the hamlet has managed to exist for more than a century without much attention. Some people in Celina, the county seat, haven't even heard of the place. "When we go to town, most of us just say, 'We're from central Mercer County,' " says Mr. Hemmelgarn. "Then we'll add, 'By the way, you ever heard of Cranberry Prairie?' The younger ones usually say no, because we're not on many maps."

Cranberry Prairie lies just west of U.S. Rt. 127 in rural Granville Township. Since its founding in 1837, the township's growth has remained steady in agriculture, for the area is covered with some of Ohio's most fertile soil, and it is a tidy little outpost on an agricultural frontier where blood is mixed successfully with business.

Mr. Hemmelgarn's grandfather arrived from Germany about 1850 and immediately liked the topography, although he was puzzled by a crimson sea of wild cranberries blooming in the marshes. "Cranberries as far as you could *see*," says Al Huwer. "What a sight. Our people didn't believe they were edible, though, so they tore 'em out. Haven't had any cranberries here to this day. But the name sure stuck."

The newcomers also found a land filled with snakes and mosquitoes. Nevertheless, Herr Hemmelgarn and his friends were determined to make the swamp productive. With Hail Marys on their lips and pistols at their sides, they dug out the marshes. The work took years and ingenuity, and it was not done without sacrifice. Mr. Huwer says that many men, including his uncle, reached down into the brush and came up screaming, rattlesnakes wrapped around their arms.

Into this willful land came William Simison, an early Cranberry settler and hermit not known for his love of farming. He is discussed even to this day. People say he was not afraid of any man or animal, and considering where he lived, they are probably correct. He was a mystery to the immigrants. They liked to tell their children of the time that Bill borrowed a pair of pants. He had used his own to fill a crack in a log cabin to keep out wolves.

Mr. Hemmelgarn says Simison represented the wilderness—the roughness—that was the prairie. "Old Bill had been in the Army once, but he ran away," he says. "The Army captured him and brought him to the swamp on an express wagon, which was sort of a pickup with wagon wheels. But Bill was sly. He got loose and slipped out into the prairie. Well, nobody thought he'd survive out there. The Army folks came to our house to ask where Bill was hidin', I'm told, but my grandpa refused to say anything. Bill lived the rest of his life out there on the prairie. Now he's buried there."

The prairie gradually changed to farm land. Obstinacy was as much a resource as flat land. Historian S. S. Scranton saluted the hamlet in 1907: "The dredging of the Wabash River has reclaimed this waste land, which has become the finest farming section of the township. Few farms are encumbered by debt. The farmers take pride in having the best stock that money will buy and, as a class, are industrious and economical. The German people have *made* this section of the county, bringing it from a wilderness to scores of productive farms."

Yet the land had only begun to show its potential. About 1906, a large supply of natural gas was discovered, and for a few years some of the fields of Cranberry Prairie helped fuel Dayton, Troy, Piqua and other Ohio cities. But the gas business eventually died. Farmers were too smart to lease their land for something that they could not watch grow. Their business was farming. In fact, only the Roman Catholic Church was more sacred to them. Saint Francis Parish was organized in 1859 for sixty-five families, about the same number that worships there today.

Mr. Hemmelgarn says the land and church give people everything they need. The only time he ever doubted the future was during the 1930s, when the Great Depression reached into even Cranberry Prairie.

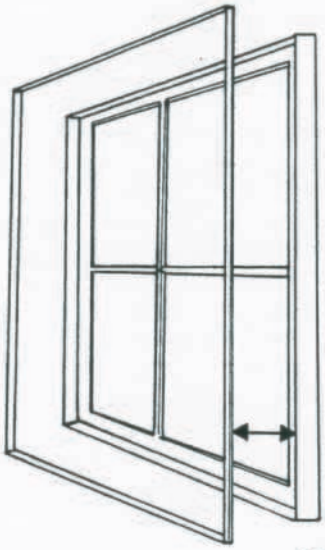


The land and the church meet the townspeople's needs. Left, three generations of Huwers. Far left, St. Francis Church.

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"I used to raise Poland China hogs, and one day a man asked me, 'Frank, you need this hog?' " he recalls. "I told him, 'Joe, I need *money*. Hog's for sale. Five dollars.' He said, 'Give you three,' and I said, 'You just bought yourself a *hog*.' What could I do? Times were hard. But at six hundred pounds of hog, that sale came out to about a half cent a pound."

But neither depression nor time shook the German names from the mailboxes on the roads of Cranberry Prairie. The old ones are still there: Huwer, Hemmelgarn, Langenkamp, Zahn. A visitor is hard pressed to find an Englishman among them.

The Stucke farmers, aided by *their* stubborn German blood, says Mrs. Hilda Stucke, have taken an original sixty acres of prairie land and expanded to fourteen hundred acres of corn, beans, wheat and clover. Whatever they plant seems to grow, which does not surprise her. She says Cranberry Prairie farmers are successful not only because of rich land but because of innovative methods of cultivation, as well as blood.

Henry Stucke, her husband, bought a piece of undeveloped prairie in 1934. By the time he died in 1969, he had pushed the borders of Stucke Farms Inc. out of the prairie and into the surrounding countryside. "My Henry was a particular and intelligent man," says Mrs. Stucke. "He built one of Ohio's top storage facilities. Our trucks are on the road seven days a week, and we sell potatoes to Frito-Lay and other chip companies. But all this didn't just grow up overnight. It took work, dedication."

Mrs. Stucke still lives in their little farmhouse, surrounded by patches of petunias, marigolds, geraniums and violets. Her sons work out back in a spacious metal barn, which has storage rooms for heavy equipment, an accounting office and a truck terminal. Other large buildings are filled with crops, mainly potatoes.

At dusk, Mrs. Stucke stands near the big metal barns and waves her hands over neat green rows of potatoes. "See, we got the *prairie* out there," she says. "That helps. But we just don't grow potatoes. We store them till they *sweat*. That's the secret to good taste."

For her, the fields are filled with both crops and memories. "When Henry first bought a farm on the prairie, I couldn't believe it. I remember saying, 'What do you want with a *water hole*, Henry?' He said, 'Hilda, things will work out.' And they did. Now I love to come out here in the evening and look at the fields. They're so green. So perfect."

Hilda Stucke looks dreamily up Cranberry Road, toward John Huwer's farm, and a balmy summer breeze blows gently on her face. "Perfect . . . " she says again, softly, as she smiles. ❶

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Fullenkamp Ancestry

The Fullenkamp families lived for at least three generations in Tütingen, Germany, a small village near Ankum. Many families, including the Bertkes, emigrated from villages near Ankum, where the central church existed and records for the families were kept.

"Fullenkamp" means "Colt enclosure or field", and is possibly the origin of the name. It's also possible that this was the original Fullenkamp business, without owning land. In 1834, Heinrich Fullenkamp was a "laborer", possibly a "taglöhner", (day laborer), as the family has attested that Heinrich worked the peat fields of Holland and Denmark. By 1833, this supplemental work became scarce, and when permission was granted to emigrate, there was a mass migration from the Ankum area. Bertkes, Kremers, Fullenkamps all left.

The Fullenkamp family, Heinrich, his wife Catharina, and their three children left on the Cassander from Bremen and landed at Baltimore on August 22, 1834. Four of their seven children died before they came to America.

They did not arrive at Minster until a couple years later in 1836-7, possibly because they had no definite place in mind, or because of the difficulties of travel in those days.

The father, Heinrich, died in the 1840's, Katharina, in 1853. Nikolaus Fullenkamp remained on the farm in Jackson Township of Auglaize County. Nicholas's brother Henry went to Cincinnati. Maria Elisabeth married Henry Bertke. The Fullenkamp name is now quite well known in Mercer County.

Heinrich and Katharina Rickelmann Fullenkamp's complete family were:

1.	Johann Heinrich	31 March 1807	Died on 1824
2.	Maria Elisabeth	2 April 1810	Must have died young
3.	Maria Adelheid	10 July 1813	Died in 1819
4.	Johann Gerd Nikolaus	24 May 1816	Came to America
5.	Johann Herm Nikolaus	13 June 1819	Died in 1824
6.	Maria Elisabeth	15 April 1825	Came to America
7.	Heinrich Jacob	24 July 1828	Came to America

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It was quite common for German families to name a child after an older sibling who had died. In this family, it probably proves that the older Maria Elisabeth had died before the second so named was born.

There were rumors that two older brothers had settled in New York State, but the correct explanation is that they had died before the family emigrated to America.

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Fullenkamp Farm Buildings - Tütingen, Germany

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Bramlage Ancestry

Theresa Marie Wenzke's mother was Bernadina Bramlage. Bramlages came in 1832 to Shelby County, Ohio, from Lohne, Oldenberg, now part of northern Germany. They worshipped at St. Augustine church in Minster. Rita Hoying of that parish gave me the Bramlage family lineage records she collected in Germany as part of her own ancestor research.

In these lineage records for the period 1650 to the late 1800's, three Bramlage families and their descendants are listed as living in the Brockdorf-Lohne area near Dinklage. Dinklage and Lohne are situated in the southern part of Oldenberg called "Oldenburger Munsterland". All are part of present-day Germany. The three families were not linked together in the lineage book, but the ancestors of Herman Henry Bramlage, Bernadina's father, can be traced back to one of these three families. The earliest ancestor of Herman Henry Bramlage is Ludmar Bramlage, born in the early 1600's.

The records show that the Bramlages were Zellers, or tenant farmers working fairly sizable tracts of land, and were previously "Eigenhorige", or bound by blood to the land called "Gut Hopen". An attached map shows these locations.

The different families of Bramlages were called "grote" and "kleine" Bramlages, and evidently the branches reunited in 1836. In nearby Brockdorf, which is closer to Dinklage, there is an estate on the map marked "Bramlage", which I guess to be the location of the other branch of the Bramlage family and perhaps the early ancestral home of all Bramlages.

Six generations of Bramlages are known before the birth of Herman Henry Bramlage, who emigrated to the United States.

First Gemeration

Heinrich Bramlage - Nothing is known of Heinrich except his name, Heinrich Lutke Bramlage, a Zeller of the kleine-Bramlage branch on the estate of Gut Hopen, Lohne, born 1618.

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Second Generation

Ludmar Bramlage - We know that Ludmar married Talke Hanekamp and had at least one son, Ludmar.

Third Generationi

Ludmar Bramlage - Ludmar was born in 1667 and married Natalia Kamphus on 16 May, 1696. They had five children:

1.	Johann Heinrich	1696	Married margaretha Kreienborg
2.	Anna Adleheid	1699	Married K. Johann Bundt
3.	Ludmar	1702	Died 1709
4.	Anna Gertrud	1705	Married Johann Eilert
5.	Johann	1710	Married Anna Margaretha Hörstmann

Fourth Generation

Johann Bramlage - Anna Margaretha H_rstmann - They married in 1735 and had ten children:

1.	Johann Heinrich	1737	Married Anna Maria Kreienborg
2.	Johann	1739	
3.	Anna Margaretha	1741	Married Gerd Heinrich Sierverding
4.	Gerhard Heinrich	1744	Married Anna Maria Holbrock
5.	Katharina Adelheid	1747	Married Heinrich Otto Bund
6.	Johann Herman	1750	
7.	Anna Gesina Maria	1752	Married Johann Herma Krimpenfort
8.	Anna Dorothes Elisabeth	1755	Married Johann Nein. Krimpenfort
9.	Johann Herman	1758	
10.	Anna Maria	1760	Married Diderich Kreienborg

Fifth Generation

Johann Heinrich Bramlage - Anna Maria Kreienborg - they married in 1783 and had three children:

1.	Johann Bernard	1784	Married Anna Gertrud Rackhorst
2.	Anna Margaretha	1787	Married Albert Trenkamp
3.	Johann Heinrich	1790	

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Sixth Generation

Johann Bernard Bramlage - Anna Gertrud Rackhorst - Johann Bernard and his wife married at Dinklage in 1810 and had six children, all before they emigrated to America. We know for sure that one child, Joseph Bernard, died in Germany. We do not know what happened to the last two. The children, born in Langwege:

1.	Johann Heinrich	1811	Came to America with family
2.	Anna Margaretha	1813	Married Johann Joseph Enneking
3.	Johann Bernard	1815	Died in 1816
4.	Herman Heinrich	1817	Came to America with family
5.	Johann Bernard	1819	Unknown life and death
6.	Josephina	1821	Unknown life and death

Herman Henry, his brother Johann Heinrich, his sister Anna Margaretha, and his parents Johann Bernard and Anna Gertrud emigrated from Dinklage and came to the Cincinnati area some time in 1832.

The settling of Minster is related to the Bramlage immigration. Franz Joseph Stallo, a school teacher, bookbinder, printer and horticulturist, grew up in the parish of Damme, near Dinklage, and became interested in America through a friend. Local officials took a dim view of his talk about America, and suppressed his business. He decided to emigrate in 1831. As his family began the journey, his wife died in Amsterdam. He engaged a nurse of surname Bramlage (her name is missing from the ship's record) to take care of his children on the boat to the New World.

Stallo and his family made their way to Cincinnati, and there he became friends in time with William McGuffey, who printed the readers that my mother used in her childhood school years. Stallo wrote letters to Germany extolling the virtues of coming to America. Many came from the area that Stallo came from, including Lohne and Dinklage. The Bramlages were one such family.

After some months, people grew dissatisfied with the conditions in the Cincinnati area, and prompted Stallo to search for better land to settle on. He and a group of men formed a stock company to found a colony in Ohio. Land was purchased in 1832 in Mercer County, which at that time included part of

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present-day Auglaize County. People trickled into the area and began to take lots in 1833.

The Bramlages did not come with the original group in the Fall of 1832, but came shortly afterwards. The place was called Stallostown, later to become Minster, named for the German Münsterland, without the umlaut.

The Bramlage family settled west of Fort Loramie, called Berlin in those days. The farm land straddles the Greenville Treaty Line and the North Star Pike. There are land maps attached that show where the Bramlage land was situated.

Herman Henry's brother John belonged to St. Augustine parish, and then the family moved sometime before 1863 to "parts unknown" according to the church census records. However, we discovered they moved to Kansas and are well-known in the Fort Riley area.

The Herman Henry Bramlage family also belonged to the Minster church, later to the Ft. Loramie church and then still later to St. Joe's in Egypt, Ohio. Anna Margaretha married John Joseph Enneking. Her son, John Joseph Enneking, became a famous artist. Anna Margaretha died of cholera in 1849, and her husband a year later.

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Herman Henry Bramlage - Three Wives

Herman Henry fathered approximately 13 children by three wives: Anna Gertrud Wehrmann(4), Maria Agnes Barhorst(3), and Anna Maria Theresa Brunswick(6). His mother probably died of cholera, and there is no known death date of his father. Herman Henry's children:

Children	Birth Date	Mother
Herman	March 10, 1843	Anna Gertrud Wehrmann
John H.	July 6, 1845	
William	Feb 26, 1848 (?)	
Henry	Nov 20, 1850	
Maria Josephine	Oct 7, 1853	Maria Agnes Barhorst
Maria Bernadina	Apr 29, 1856	
Maria Elizabeth	1860	
John	Aug 17, 1862	A. M. Theresa Brunswick
Andrew Bernard	Dec 12, 1863	
Clemens	Feb 18, 1866	
Katharina M.	March 6, 1868	
Maria Josephine	Sept. 17, 1870	
Francis Joseph	Feb 20, 1873	

Six of the Bramlage children are known to have grown to maturity and married. The two oldest, Herman and John, remained in the Shelby County area, married and had descendants.

The Shelby County History of 1883, page 264, records the following - "John H. Bramlage, son of Herman Henry and Catherine - his wife was born 6 July, 1849. He was raised a farmer and a stock-raiser. His parents came to the county in 1832. On June 6, 1875, he married Mary, daughter of Christian and Catherine Berger (Boerger), who settled here in 1833. She was born November,1855. Their children are John B. and Herman H. He has filled the office of school director and supervisor."

Nothing much is known of the next three children: Henry died at 24, Josephine at 3, and no record other than birth for the third (William, a possible misreading of the records).

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Maria Bernadina, born to Maria Agnes Barhorst, became my great-grandmother. She married Bernard Bertke in 1874, a year after her father Herman Henry died. About this time Bernadina's step-mother Theresa remarried to Georg Guenther, a cabinet-maker from St. Henry. One of these two events led to the other. Georg Guenther was previously married to a Broerman girl. There was a Broerman family next to the Bramlage farm.

Seven children were born after Bernadina, of which three grew to adulthood. Andrew married Elizabeth Ahlers in 1885, lived at Coldwater and worked for New Idea. Clemens boarded as a servant in the home of J.H. Romer, a dry-goods merchant in St. Henry, and worked as a clerk. Clemens later became a doctor, graduating from Northwestern University Medical School, and practiced in Jay County, Indiana. He died early in life in 1898, and his wife Mary Thoman and two boys returned to her birthplace of Covington, Kentucky. Katharina married Theodore Moorman of St. Henry and gave birth to a dozen children.

Bernadina gave birth to my grandmother Theresa on December 1, 1876, and later gave birth to Heinrich on February 7, 1881. Heinrich died at birth, and Bernadina died 12 days later. Bernard Bertke remarried to Katie Fiely in 1882.

My grandmother was probably named after her step-grandmother Theresa Brunswick .

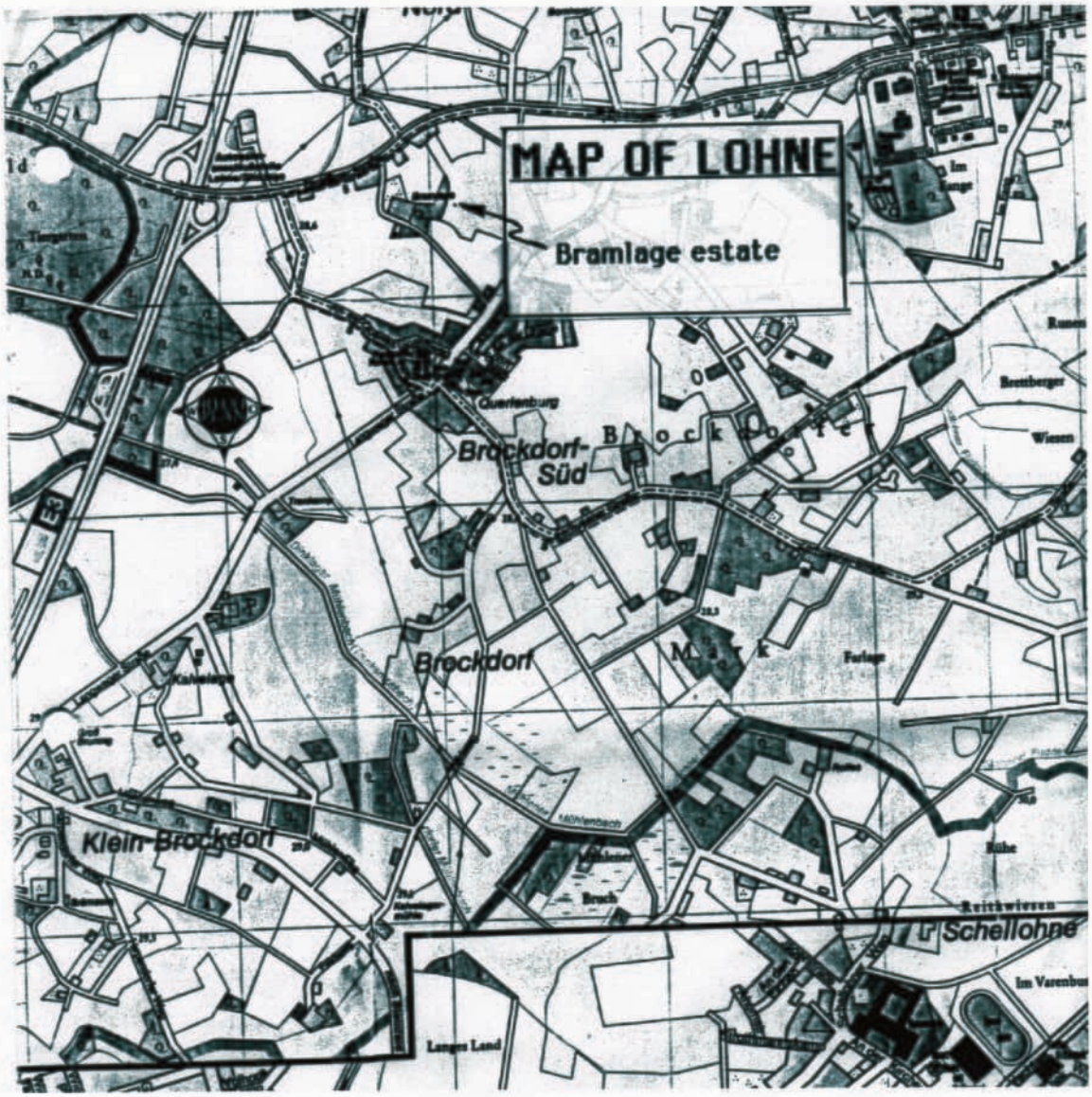
The present-day Bramlage families descend from the first two sons Herman and John, and Clemens. Some families have remained in the Minster-St. Marys area, some went to Dayton, Ohio, and the Clemens descendants live in Covington and Indianapolis.

The attached maps show the Bramlage origins in Germany. One of the Bramlage families in the attached lineage lists can be traced back to 1415. Other maps show the Bramlage farm in the early and late 1800's in Shelby County. My third cousin Greg Bramlage has recently visited the Ft. Loramie farm (1988). Greg, a descendant of Clemens Bramlage, is now a Catholic priest.

Herman Henry is buried at Minster, and his gravestone can still be read with difficulty. I have not been able to locate the first two wives' grave sites. Theresa Brunswick remarried Georg Guenther and is buried at St. Henry, Ohio.

Bramlage is now pronounced BRAM(like jam)-LAYJ. To me it's still "Brahm-lahgie".

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Lohne, Germany

See map title for location of Bramlage Estate

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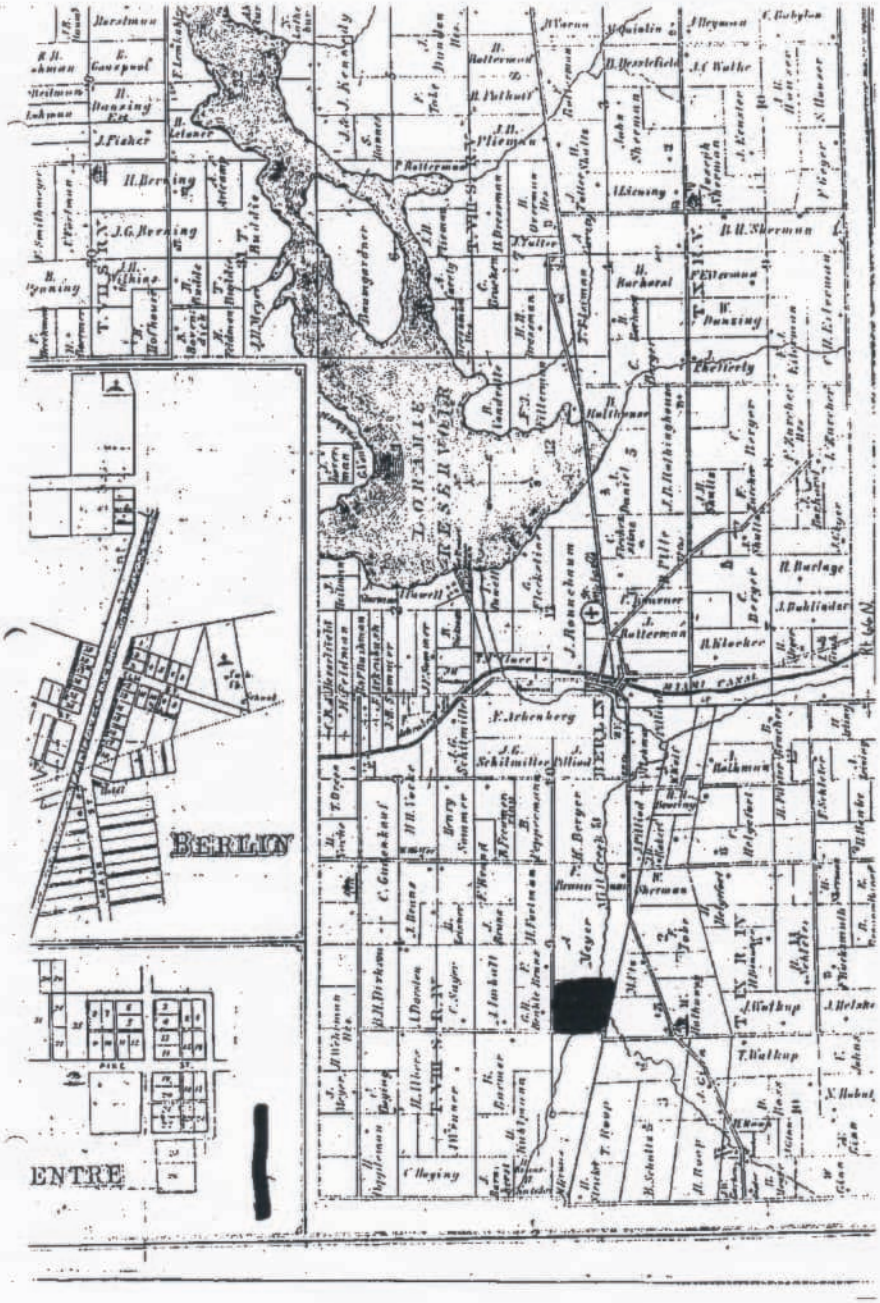






Bramlage Home
At Lohne, Germany

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Herman Henry Bramlage Farm
Shelby County, McLean Township

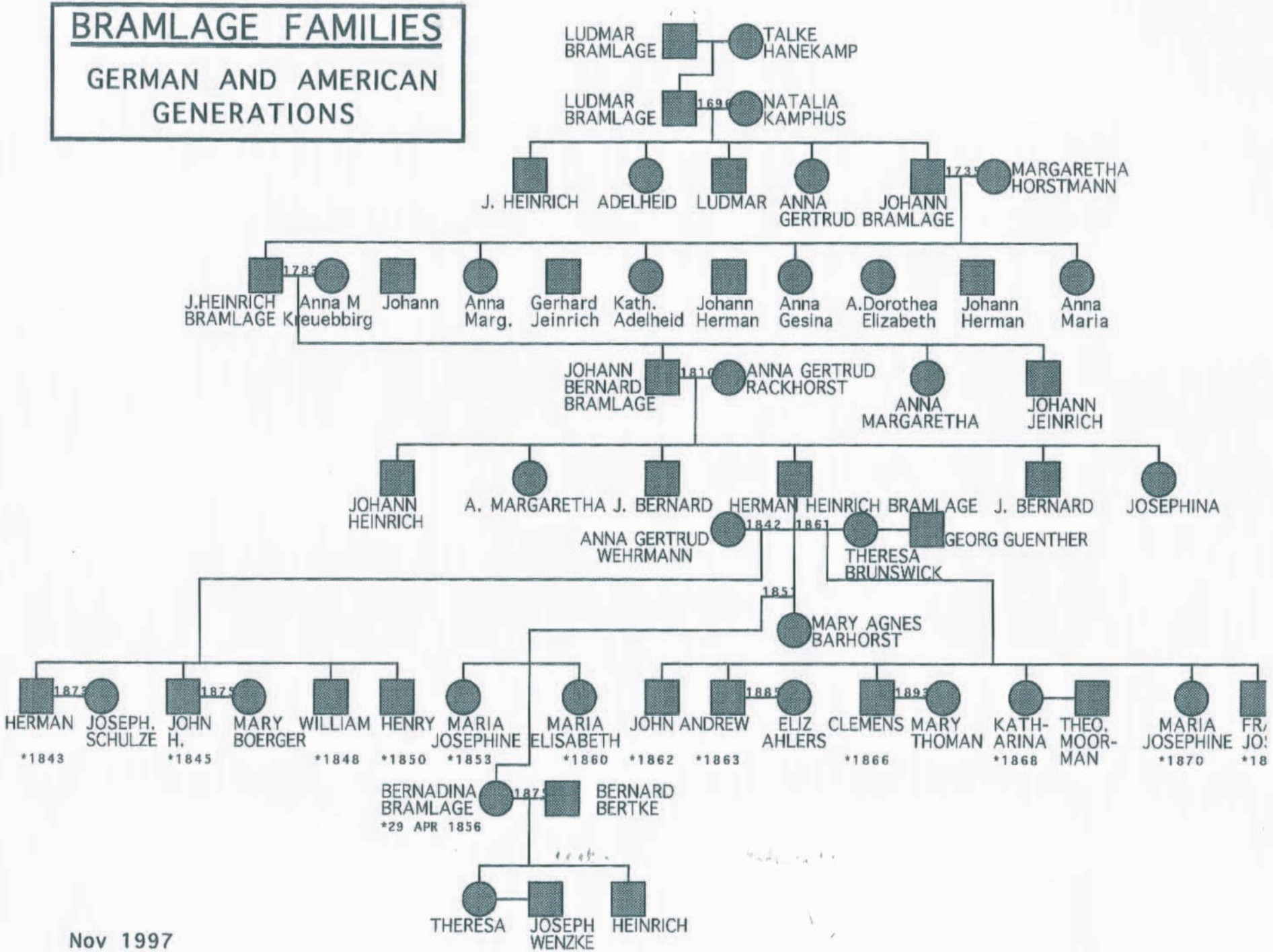
Farm is west of Berlin (Fort Loramie, OH)

Page 16C

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BRAMLAGE FAMILIES

GERMAN AND AMERICAN GENERATIONS



Nov 1997

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Barhorst Ancestry

Maria Agnes Barhorst, daughter of Carl Anton and Maria Elisabeth Freking Barhorst, was born in Germany in 1833. The baptism was recorded at the Steinfeld church. She emigrated to America and Fort Loramie, Ohio, with her family in 1846. Her father's brothers, Johann Heinrich and Bernard Barhorst, evidently came earlier to Minster in 1832. Maria Agnes married Herman Henry Bramlage as his second wife on January 15, 1851, at St. Augustine Church, Minster, Ohio. Their marriage was witnessed by Rev. Kunkler.

Mary Agnes died in August 1861, some time after her third child Maria Elisabeth's birth in 1860. We do not know if her death was related to this child's birth. All her children were girls - the second, Maria Bernadina, became the first wife of Bernard Bertke, my great-grandfather.

Barhorst ancestors lived in the Ihorst farm community, near the Steinfeld-Holdorf-Damme triangle of Oldenburg. Although the earliest ancestors' records are recorded at Damme, then Holdorf, then Steinfeld, their death records say they lived in the Ihorst farm community. The last German generation of Tobias Barhorst and Maria Elisabeth Wehebring, lived on the Wiewerig Farm in Harpendorf, subject to the Steinfeld church.

Since 1535, there are records of a Barhorst Farm at Ihorst (see drawing):

1535 Landschatzung (Land appraisal)	Johann Baorhorst
1545 Türkensteuerregister (Farm animals?)	Johann Baorhorst
1625 Höfeliste (Farm List)	Borhorst
1661 Personenschatzregister (Name Index)	Hugo Barhorst
1700 Häuserverzeichnis (Inventory of homes)	Barhorst
1789 Landvermessung (land survey)	Barhorst - 58 hectares; (143 acres)

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First Generation

Heinrich Ortman genannt Barhorst - Catharina Barhorst - The earliest Barhorst ancestors discovered are Heinrich Barhorst and
Catharina Barhorst. Their children's baptisms are recorded at Damme. They had 7 children:

1.	Margaretha	17 Apr 1712	
2.	Catharina	22 Oct 1713	
3.	Johann Heinrich	17 Feb 1716	
4.	Johann Heinrich	18 Aug 1717	Of whom further
5.	Anna Catharina	25 Jun 1720	
6.	Johann Bernard	14 Jul 1722	
7.	Luzia	26 May 1727	

Since Catherine is always called a Barhorst in the baptism records, it is quite likely that her husband took the Barhorst name at marriage. There are earlier records of a Heinrich Ortman marrying a Catharina Barhorst. They had several children and the records stop right before the beginning of the above three births. There are many earlier Barhorst generations, but they cannot yet be definitely linked as ancestors. Luzia also married and had several children.

Second Generation

Johann Heinrich Barhorst - Anna Catharina Burwinckel - Early church records at Damme show that Barhorsts have always been in the Damme area, some in the late 1600's at Ihorst. Records obtained from Rene Barhorst in the Netherlands show that Johann Heinrich Barhorst, born 1717, married Anna Catharina Burwinckel on 22 November 1740. Their witnesses were Bernd (Bernard) Barhorst and Jacob Burwinckel, who would most likely be brothers. They had six children:

1.	Johann Heinrich	3 Oct 1741	Of whom further
2.	Joseph Herman	30 Dec 1743	
3.	Anna Catharina	1747	
4.	Herman Heinrich	3 Feb 1750	
5.	Anna Margaretha	23 Nov 1752	
6.	Anna Elisabeth	23 Dec 1753	

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They lived in the Ihorst farm community. Johann Heinrich died in 1755 at the age of 38. This ended the male Barhorst line as far as descendants to Maria Agnes Barhorst in America. Johann Heinrich grew to maturity, married and several generations of Barhorsts resulted, many emigrating to America and possibly New Zealand. Our line came from a subsequent Tobias Borgerding marriage with the widow Anna Catharina Burwinckel.

Borgerdings

I interrupt the Barhorst story because Anna Catharina Burwinckel, now a widow, remarried to Tobias Borgerding who took the Barhorst Farm name. These are the origins of the Borgerding family. Land and people inventories similar to the Barhorsts occurred for the Borgerding generations. They also lived at the Ihorst community since at least 1535(see map):

1535	Arendt von Borgerdingk
1545	Arendt Borgdinck
1625	Johann zum Borcherding
1661	Johann zum Borgding
1700	Borgerdingk
1789	Borgerding 38 hectares (94 acres)

Johann zum Borgerding - Geseke Nietfeld - The first complete Borgerding family found is Johann zum Borgerding, who married Geseke Nietfeld. His father is also Johann zum Borgerding, matching with the person and land inventory. So this family lived on the Borgerding Farm as Colons - owners of a large farm. They had seven children:

1.	Caspar Heinrich	9 Aug 1662	Died 1708
2.	Petronella Catharina	2 Dec 1663	
3.	Arendt Wilhelm	13 Feb 1665	
4.	Geseke	6 Oct 1667	
5.	Lucke	16 Nov 1669	
6.	Berndt	18 Apr 1671	Of whom further
7.	Johann	7 Jun 1676	

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Johann zum Borgerding died in 1707; Geseke the following year 1708. The farm was not inherited by Berndt. Caspar Heinrich died the same year as his mother, but could have already been the Colon.. Arendt could likewise if Caspar Heinrich did not.

Berndt Borgerding - Anna Margaretha Rosener - Berndt married Anna Margaretha Rosener on October 22, 1700, and became a Kötter (small farmer) on the Borgerding Farm. This means he owned a house and small plot of ground for a garden, but the Borgerding Farm was in his sibling's ownership. The marriage took place at Damme St. John the Baptist church. Berndt (Bernard) and Anna Margaretha had eight children:

1.	Anna Margaretha	30 Nov 1706	
2.	Johann Heinrich	26 Feb 1708	
3.	Arnold	25 Jan 1711	
4.	Catharina Sophia	23 Apr 1713	
5.	Anna Maria	9 Sep 1714	
6.	Petronella	21 Feb 1718	
7.	Herman	7 Nov 1720	
8.	Tobias Jacob	26 Jan 1728	Of whom further.

Tobias was born when his mnother was about 48 years old. He must have been a "surprise".

Second Second Generation

Tobias Borgerding - Anna Catharina Burwinckel-Barhorst - Anna Catharina remarried in 1756, the year after Johann Heinrich Barhorst's death, to Tobias Borgerding, who took the Barhorst Farm name. They had two surviving children:

1.	Anna Maria Barhorst	15 Feb 1758	
2.	Tobias Barhorst	3 Jun 1762	Of whom further

An unnamed infant was born ca 1760 and died on 9 Feb 1762. Tobias died at age 70 in 1793. Anna Catharina died first in 1786.

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Third Generation

Tobias Barhorst - Maria Elisabeth Wehebrinck (Wehebring) - Records for this family are found at three churches - the first son, Tobias, at Damme, the next two - Johann Arnold and Johann Heinrich - at Holdorf, and the remaining ones at Steinfeld. The family lived the entire time at one farm - the Wiewerig farm - as the latter church records indicate that Tobias was required to take on the Wiewerig farm name ("genannt Wiewerig") where the Wehebrings lived. Tobias's half-brother, Johann Heinrich Barhorst, inherited the Barhorst Farm. Tobias and Maria Elisabeth were married February 11, 1789, and the wedding was recorded at the Damme church. They had 13 children:

1.	Tobias	1789	Took Dirckes name at marriage.
2.	Johann Arnold	1791	Married and lived nearBersenbrück
3.	Johann Heinrich	1793	Married and family emigrated to USA.
4.	Johann Bernard	1795	Married and family emigrated to USA.
5.	Herman Heinrich	1797	Took Lethman-Strather name at marriage
6.	Franz	1798	Married twice; descendants emigrated
7.	Margaretha Elisabeth	1800	married a Hilgefort
8.	Maria Catharina	1802	married a Hinxlage
9	Carl Anton	1804	Emigrated to America - Ft. Loramie
10.	Clemens	1806	Came to USA in 1846 with Carl Anton
11.	Franz Ferdinand	1808	Life unknown; might have died young
12.	Maria Agnes	1810	Life unknown
13.	Caspar Heinrich	1812	Died at 17

The first two male children seem to be named after their grandparents - the first after the paternal grandfather, the second after the maternal grandfather. The father Tobias was evidently a soldier at some point in his life.

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Fourth Generation

Carl Anton Barhorst (genannt Wiewerig) - Maria Elisabeth Freking - Carl Anton married Maria Elisabeth Freking on November 27, 1827.at Steinfeld. His father Tobias was already deceased and known to be a soldier. Like his brother Johann Heinrich, married earlier, he carried "genannt Wiewerig" behind his name indicating they lived on the Wiewerig estate at Harpendorf. All of their children were born before they emigrated with Clemens in 1846. Their children:

1	Johann Heinrich	1828	Married Elisabeth Grieshop
2.	Maroa Elisabeth	1831	
3.	Maria Catharina	1833	Married a Gudenkauf; Maria Agnes' twin
4.	Maria Agnes	1833	Married Herman Henry Bramlage
5.	Bernadina	1836	
6.	Carl Joseph	1841	Married a Strucamp
7.	Female Infant	1844	Stillborn

In July of 1846, Carl Anton and his family sailed from Bremen, Germany on the "Caspar Thor", a ship carrying 182 passengers. They crossed the Atlantic in about a month, very good time, and landed on August 5 at Baltimore, Maryland. The passenger list showed Carl "Burghorst"(30), Elisabeth (42), Clemens (46), Elisabeth (16), Agnes (15), Catherine (12), Bernhard(12), and Joseph(5). The person making up the roster obviously guessed at the ages. Clemens was Carl's brother. There were 9 listed on the passenger list, which would be the correct count for the family and Clemens. Incorrect names are not unusual. They all listed Cincinnati as their destination.

They probably traveled overland by way of Wheeling and by boat on the Ohio River. At Cincinnati, they would have traveled the Miami-Erie Canal to Minster. Johann Heinrich Barhorst undoubtedly influenced them to come to Ohio, and helped them in their first years.

On Noveember 27 1848, Carl Anton (known as Anton in America) bought 46.05 acres from the U.S. Government at the SW corner of Schlater and Hilgefort Roads. He also owned 56 acres at the NW corner of Schlater and Friemering Roads. He sold the first piece to his son Henry on August 12, 1851, for $115. He also sold the second to Henry on November 2, 1852 for $800. He must have already been in ill health since Anton died on December 18, 1852. He is buried in the old St. Michael's Cemetery at Fort Loramie, OH.

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Wehebring (Wehebrinck) - Middendorf - The Wehebring (ck) family lived on the Wiewerig farm at Ihorst, according to various Damme death records and Steinfeld marriage records. The Wiewerig name associated with the farm evidently passed on to the Wehebrings at some point not discovered. It is also obvious that the farm ownership passed to the eldest, regardless of gender.

Johann Arnold Wehebring (also spelled Wehebrinck) married Anna Margaretha Middendorf on 17 October 1768, and their marriage produced six children, the eldest of which was Maria Elisabeth, who married Tobias Barhorst in 1789. The children:

1.	Maria Elisabeth	1769	Marries Tobias Barhorst
2.	Johann Heinrich	1773	
3.	Johann Arnold	1775	
4.	Anna Margaretha	1777	
5.	Johann Bernard	1779	
6.	Caspar Heinrich	1781	

Other American Barhorsts - Mercer County

A Franz (Carl Anton's brother) Barhorst son, Joseph Bernard, settled at St. Aloysius parish in Mercer County in the 1850's, marrying Josephine Heying, born 1851 and 1855 respectively. Franz was a brother of Johann Heinrich and Carl Anton Barhorst. Descendants still live there.

Joseph Bernard had a sister, Sophia, who married Henry Balster in Steinfeld, Germany, in 1869. They came to America with their son, Henry, to Carthagena about 1884. Henry's son, Joseph Balster, married Clara Kremer, godmother of my wife, Joan Kremer.

Bernard, Carl Anton's brother, died in 1837 at Minster and his second wife Elisabeth married to Bernard Heinrich Koesters. The fate of Bernard's children by his first marriage to Anna Margaretha Kavelage is unknown, except for his son John Bernard born in 1830. He is listed in census records as being a boat captain on the canal, married to a Meyer and having a son Carl Bernard.

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Barhorst Research Credits

Carl Barhorst of Kettering, Ohio, supplied the information about Carl Anton Barhorst coming to America. Rene Barhorst of the Netherlands supplied some early history of the German Borgerding and Barhorst families. The genealogy data were compiled by those two and Jim Scharf. Jim also researched the original Damme, Holdorf and Steinfeld church records and extracted the pertinent birth/baptism, death and marriage records.

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Ihorst Farm Community in 1789

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Barhorst Farmhouse

From 1535 to 1892 in the Ihorst Farm Community

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