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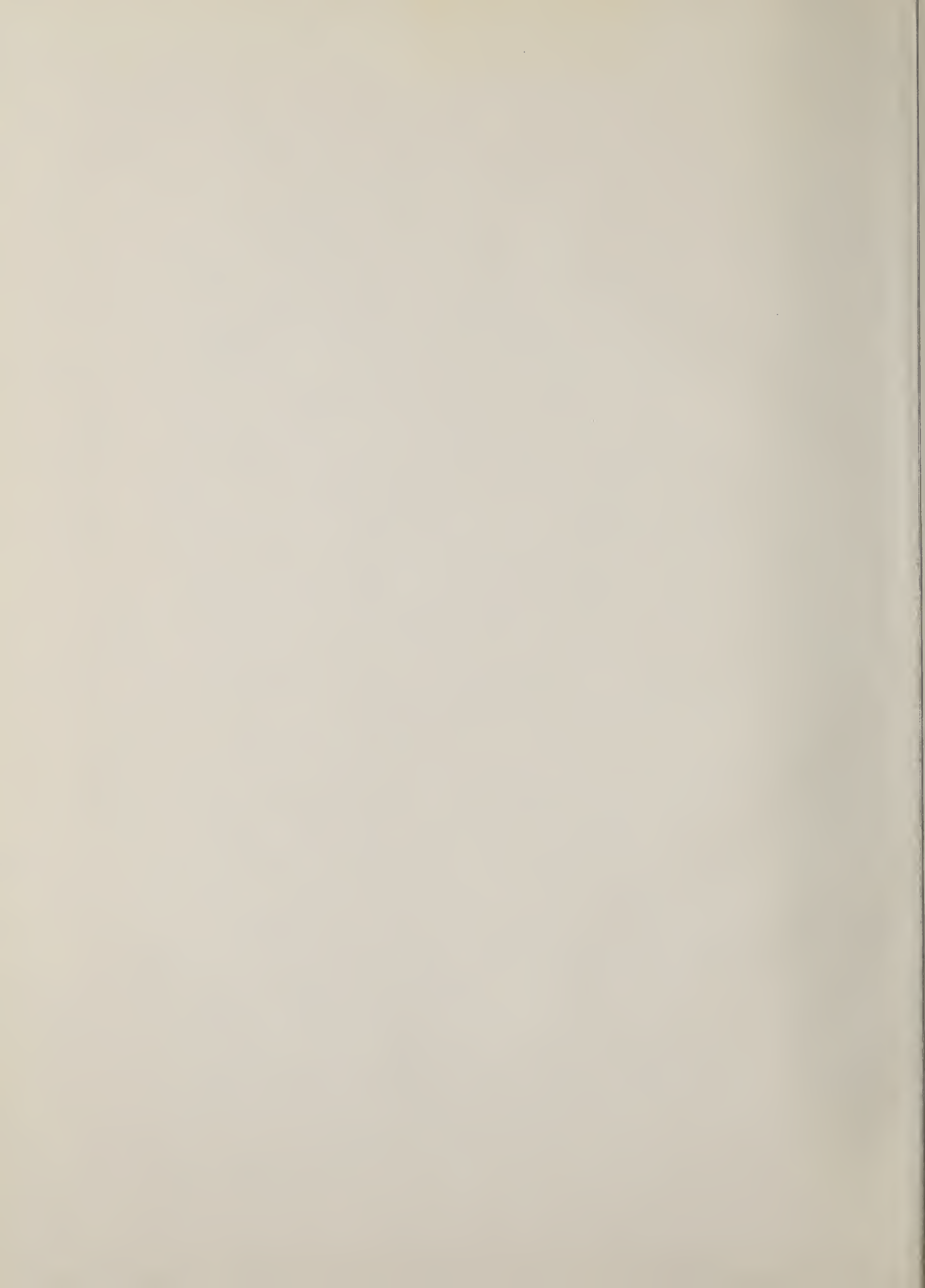
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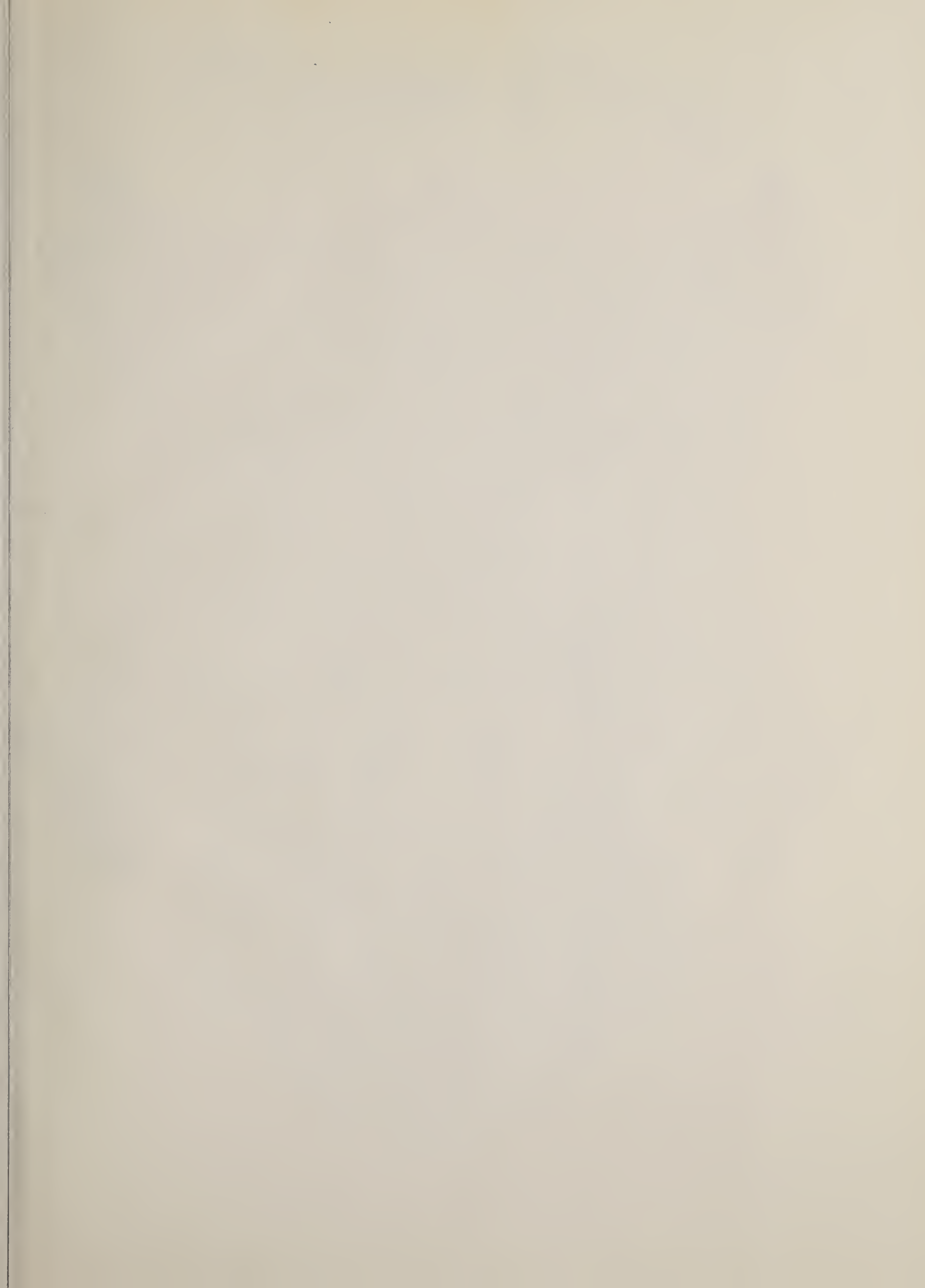
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Stroebe Story





Stroebe Story

The Descendents in America of
Wilhelm Wolfgang Gerhardt Ströbe
and
Anna Catherina Shübelin

The Cover

For many years branches of the Stroebe family have cherished the coat of arms on the cover. The father of Lieutenant Colonel Fritz Stroebe, West German Army, secured it from a geneological agency which he engaged to chart his family.

The original was given to Colonel George W. Stroebe, Playa del Rey, California, in 1943 by Dr. Lilian L. Stroebe, Head Professor of German, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Dr. Helen Clark referred this emblem to Genealogist Karl F. von Frank. After investigating, he advised that it was from the Strüve family but could find no connection with the Ströbe family, by descent, change in spelling or otherwise.

We show it on the cover, adding this comment for the record, to point out the cloud against it for further Stroebe consideration.



THE PIONEER IMMIGRANTS

Elizabeth Louise (Wild) Stroebe, Johann Christian Gunther Stroebe
with granddaughter Emma

1865

Stroebe Story

The Descendents in America of
Wilhelm Wolfgang Gerhardt Ströbe

and

Anna Catherina Shübelin

Thuringer Wald, Germany

“Ofen warm, bier kalt,
Weib jung, wein alt.”

“Ein Märchen aus Alten Zeiten”

Compiled:

1. For East Germany, by

Mrs. Fred A. (Helen Stroebe) Clark, Jr.
Dr. Lilian L. Stroebe
Lieutenant Colonel Fritz Stroebe
Baron Karl Friedrich von Frank, Genealogist

2. For Wisconsin, by

Mrs. Harry H. (Mildred Nelson) Stroebe, Sr.
Mrs. Frank (Anna Nelson) Stroebe
Mrs. Leigh (Henriette Stroebe) Bryan
Mrs. Andrew (Henriette Weimar) Grishaber
Mrs. Schuyler (Laura Stroebe) Rhone
Mrs. Julian D. (Pearl Stroebe) Cox

3. For Michigan, by

Colonel George G. Stroebe
Dr. Helen Stroebe Clark

Historical Background and Fictional Yeast —
(Motives, dialog and logical probabilities), by

Waldo E. Rosebush

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Valley Press Inc., Neenah, Wisconsin
Printed in the U.S.A., 1959

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The Descendents in America of Wilhelm Wolfgang Gerhardt Ströbe

and

Anna Catherina Shübelin

of Grossbreitenbach, Thuringia, Germany

DISCOVERIES

Two centuries ago the Fox Indians made the French trappers and traders pay toll to pass Little Lake Butte des Morts in either direction. The Indian island rendezvous here has been owned and occupied by the Stroebe family for more than ninety years. The early Butte des Morts story has long been a matter of local historical interest.

But little did we know, those of us who sat by Harry Stroebe, Sr., reclining in the wheelchair of his final days, what a pioneer story lay far back in the memories of that gray head. For the full eighty-nine years of his life, he had lived on this island at the northwest side of the lake. He knew that his father was a California Argonaut, an original "forty-niner" who travelled the Oregon-California Trail with Uncle Ben Stroebe and Wilhelm Weimar; that in 1854 his father Joseph and his Uncle Ben together with the two Weimar brothers, Wilhelm and Fritz, again made the long journey, carrying guns which were a part of the family possessions brought from Germany. One of these guns still glistened in the racks, but not a word of its history from old Harry.

The end of October, 1957, marked the end of his trail and so Harry was gathered unto his fathers. Not long after, Mrs. Stroebe gave his guns to the State Historical Society, the Indian relics having gone previously to the Oshkosh Museum. With the gift of these guns as seed, the long buried family history began to sprout.

In due course discovery was made that other branches of the old family had been working on its genealogy which was even then being unearthed in East Germany. The family chart thus resurrected by these common efforts, back to the end of the eighteenth century, is included at the end of this story.

Two articles on the Stroebe pioneers and Stroebe's Island have been published in the newspapers: one in *The Milwaukee Journal* of September 5, 1920, the other in the *Appleton Post-Crescent* of October 10, 1957. But these stories did not reach back into the earlier history

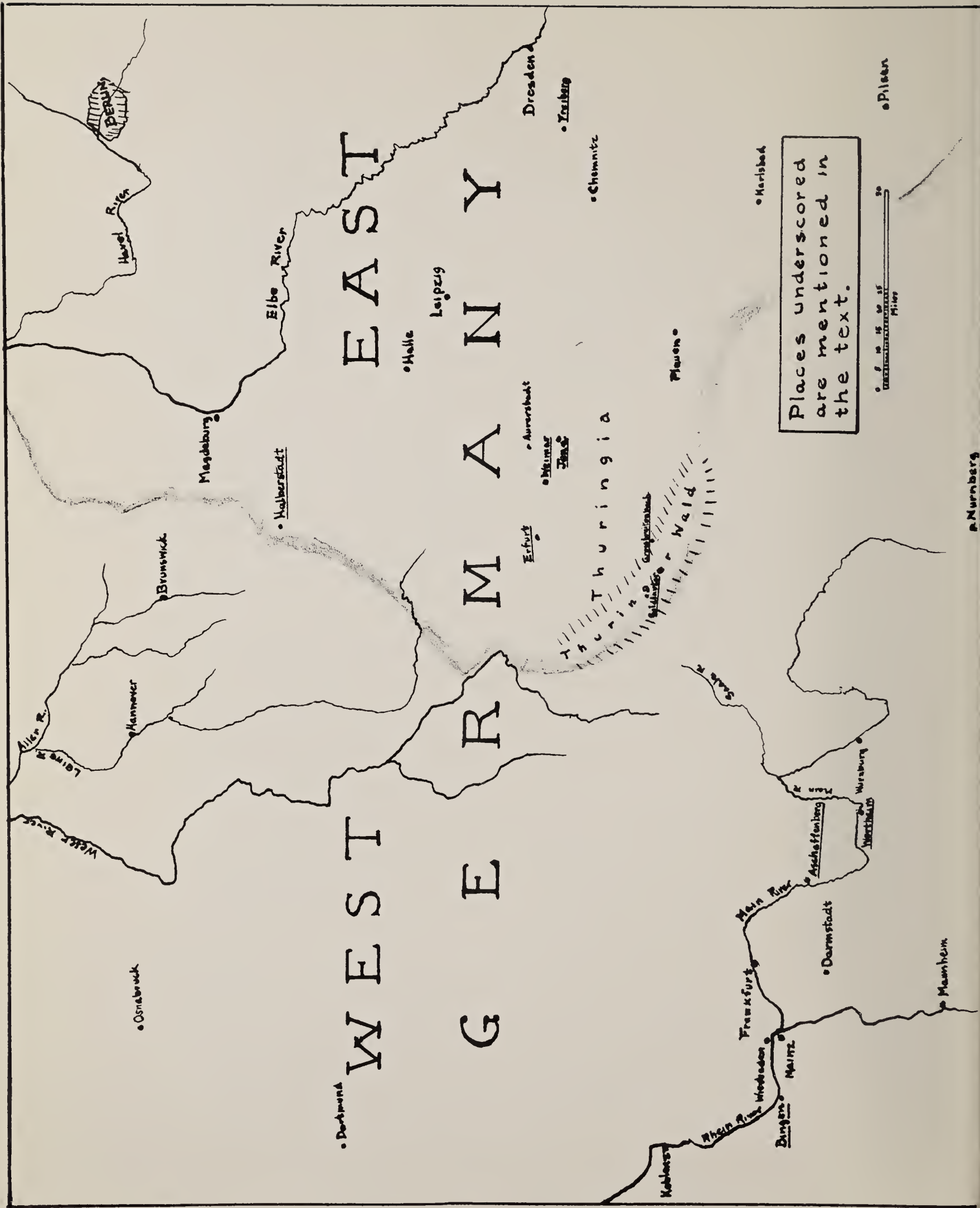
of the family. The Stroebe family had intermarried with the Weimar family and it is not unlikely that the two families had known each other in Germany.¹ The Weimar family of Appleton, has a geneological chart which extends back into the seventeenth century. This chart is large enough to cover an eight-place dining room table. With other Weimar documents and memories, it was of great assistance.

The story of the Stroebe (Ströbe) family in Germany, was developed by a geneologist in Austria. He had to reach behind the present Iron Curtain because the habitat of these early families was in Thuringia (present day provinces of Thuringen and Anhalt) and old Saxony, including the cities of Erfurt, Weimar and toward Halberstadt all occupied now by the forces of the Soviet Union.

LEGENDS — STROEBE AND WEIMAR

There is a family legend that one of the Stroebe forbears hunted with the Czar of Russia. This event perhaps took place in the seventeenth century. All Russian rulers from the time of Peter the Great (1689-1725), had many contacts with the Germany duchies and the Prussia of Frederick the Great (1740-1786). However, almost continuously from 1725 to 1796, Russia was ruled by queens (Elizabeth and Catherine II). The half-mad Czar Paul ruled from 1796 to 1801 when he was assassinated. Alexander I ruled from 1801 to 1825 and Nicholas I from 1825 to 1855.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, it is possible that the heads of both the Ströbe and Weimar families, were foresters or gamekeepers. And at the start of the nineteenth century it is certain that some of the Weimars were ("Forster en Nied"). Therefore it is easily clear how one may have hunted with the Czar of Russia. Wolfgang the first Ströbe on the Chart, was born about 1775; and at the time of his marriage about 1797, was listed as a bushelmaker. His sons were listed as master-weavers, tradesmen and innkeepers. Thus any gamekeepers or foresters in that family, must have lived prior to 1775. This means that the only Czars who may have hunted with the forbears of Wolfgang, were Peter the



Great and his no-good grandson Peter III who was Czar for only about six months in 1762.

There remains the possibility that through personal relations with the Weimar family², a Ströbe might have been included in a hunting trip of either Czar Alexander I or Czar Nicholas I.

Nevertheless the Stroebees were and are outdoorsmen and hunters even to this day. So who can absolutely deny this legend. For the benefit of those who are skeptical of all family legends, it may be said in truth against fiction, that sometimes the impossible does happen. For example: As a young man, Peter the Great disliked ceremonials and thus travelled extensively in Europe incognito in order to get close first-hand knowledge of how people lived and worked, especially in the skilled trades. In one instance ". . . the Tsar who was dressed like a common Dutch skipper, in red jacket and white linen drawers, hailed the man and engaged lodgings of him, consisting of two small rooms with a loft over them. . ." He worked with saw, hammer and adze; persisted in living like the rest of the workmen, rising early, building his own fire and often cooking his own meals. From the foregoing therefore, it appears quite possible for him to have gone hunting with even a humble innkeeper.

Now the Weimar family also has a family legend though of a different type. All families have their individualists. This individualist upon the death of his brother, painted the front door red. Why he painted it red has been the subject of debate ever since. The most acceptable version runs about like this: black would have denoted the bottomless pit which was unthinkable; blue indicates the sky without getting anywhere; green stands for the verdure of nature, a replenishment for beasts of the field without souls; gold for the glory of Heaven might also represent the everlasting fires of hell; white is a common color used on many doors and while it might portray purity, it could look like whitewash covering a man whose sins were many. So red was selected to indicate safe passage of the pearly gates and a cloak befitting royal status above.

AMERICA WE COME

Why did these German families come to America? The many wars between Sweden, Germany, Austria, Russia, Prussia of Frederick the Great followed by the French Revolution, Napoleonic wars and the struggle of the smaller German states to maintain their position, caused a general unrest in Europe. These struggles bore hard on the means for daily bread for centuries—luxury in the castle, counting house and high places, not much elsewhere. Common people long endured toil, tatters, tears and blood. By contrast were the stories of America where in spite of "wild and savage Indians," there were

new opportunities and a freedom many could not visualize for Europe in their time. And from America, promoters for land developments and industries, drew rosy pictures of high wages and cheap, broad-acred farms with plenty of elbow room for large families to grow in. Life in wild western America would be a relief from the constant turmoil and wars in Europe; a relief from levies for army recruits and food; and sometimes from pillage, pestilence and plagues. Conditions in Europe varied then as in recent times and perhaps with no greater hardships. Yet these things caused discontent to grow, especially with an escape route like America constantly beckoning.

However it may have been with the Ströbe family, in the spring of 1841, Wolfgang, if still living, bade good-bye to his oldest son Gunther and two years later, to his second son Georg Nicol. Then in 1844, the family of Ludwig Weimar prepared for the long journey to America as evidenced by the copy of the travel manifest below:

MANIFEST

Those whose names are subscribed below, submit that Herr Ludwig Weimar age 40 yrs.

- Susanne age 42
- Fritz age 10
- Wilhelm age 9
- Edmund age 8
- Franzisca age 5
- Augusta age ¾

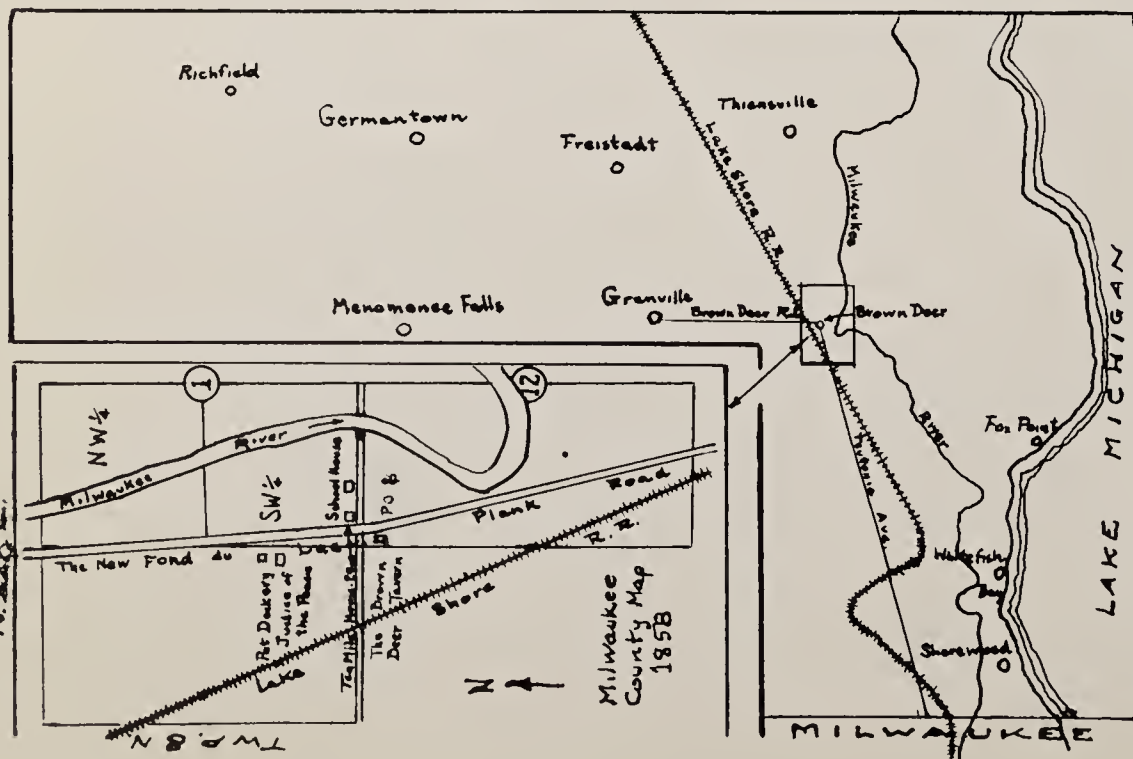
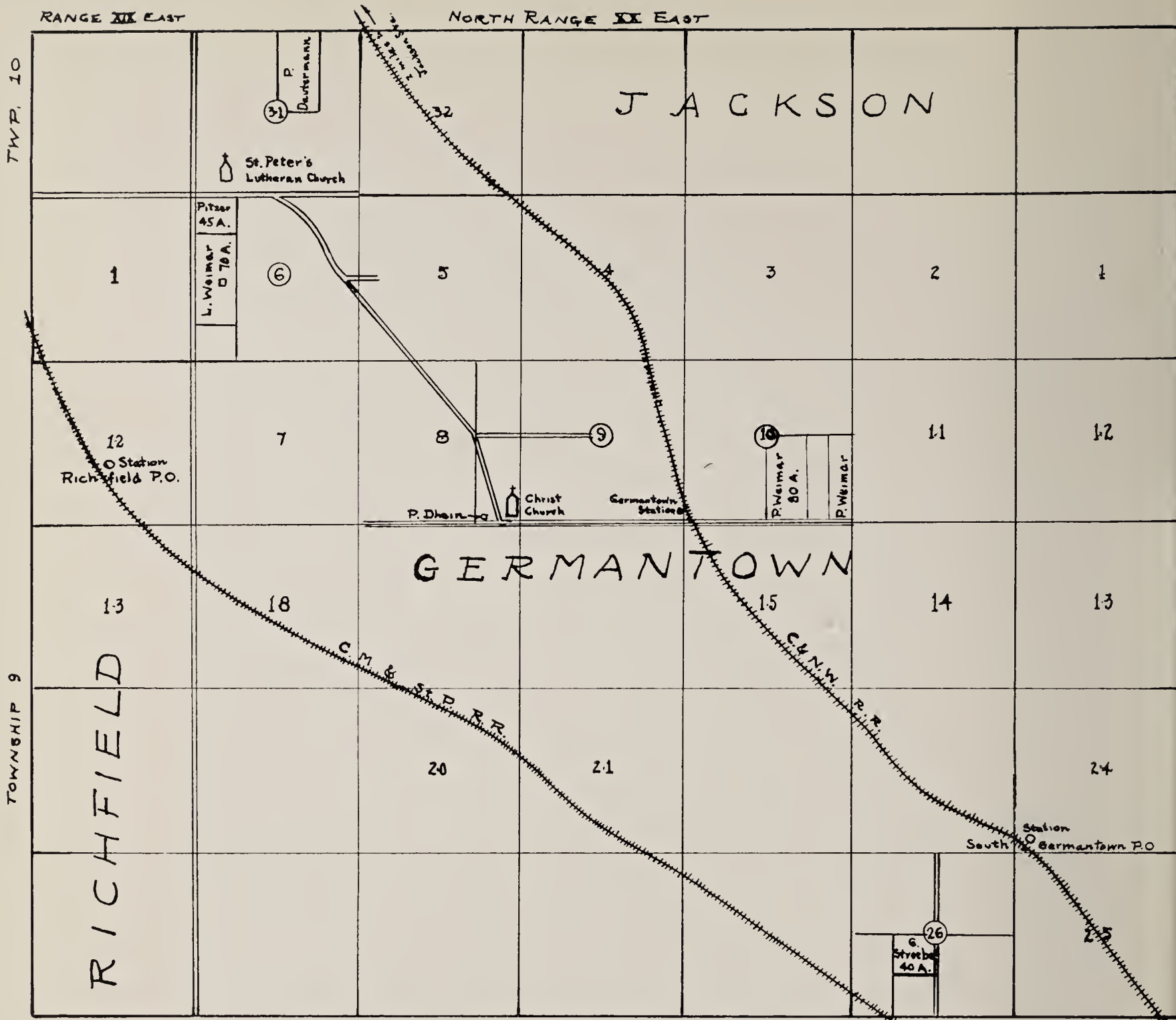
for him and his family together has paid over the passage money and therefore are given passage from here via Rotterdam to North America.

Bingen the 4 June, 1844
(s) KELLERMANN

The undersigned attests the above signature of Agent Kellermann

Bingen, 4 June, 1844
The Grandduchy Mayor,
(s) NUERLETT

While the above Manifest or ticket is still in view, it should be noted that Ludwig, or Louis as he was called in America, actually was born March 28, 1803; "Fritz" whose full name was Heinrich Friedrich born May 7, 1828, was actually sixteen years old and Wilhelm was fourteen, being born July 13, 1830. Edmund was born October 2, 1835 so his age agrees with the Manifest and so does that of Franzisca who was born April 15, 1839. The baby Augusta died at sea and her little coffin was dropped overboard with melancholy rites. Louis' wife was Susanne Christiana Chollet who was or had been a French dancer. No doubt the ladies would like to know how much her age was shifted. . . (Shh!—she was born in Dillenberg forty miles west of Bonn, July 22, 1799 and lived 79 years). As usual, sailing masters



LEGEND -

Above is a plat map of Germantown with parts of the townships of JACKSON and RICHFIELD included at the top and left. This is copied from the map of 1873. The plat map for 1859 shows no C.M. & St.P. R.R. or any Germantown Station or postoffice. At that time the LaCrosse & Milwaukee R.R. ran through Granville. In this area the Stroebes and Weimars founded their first homes in the new world.

Directly opposite is a location map of this country north of Milwaukee with an enlarged map of the Brown Deer rectangle on the area map, shown on its side at the lower left. These two rectangles - the small one and its enlargement, are connected by a double-headed arrow.

The original plat maps of 1873 and 1858-9 are the property of State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin. The 1858 map is of Milwaukee Co.



ORIGINAL WEIMAR HOMESTEAD, 1845

Stone walls about 30 inches thick — Photo taken 1937

Under their passage ticket shown above, in 1844 Louis and "Charlotte" Weimar with their four remaining youngsters arrived in America and coming through Milwaukee, soon were settled on a new land entry near Richfield, Washington County. "Charlotte" may have been a stage or a pet name for Susanne Christiana the mother. Being French, she was much for the graces. Even with the need for economy in the amount of baggage for America, she brought along a wardrobe of twenty-eight fine dresses and party clothes. From all accounts, she was a very chic, vibrant personality. All this was in store for little daughter Franzisca also. Pioneering was fine, but after all, *vous savez*, one should live. *Venez vous; en avant la musique.*

PIONEER CHOICE: CERTAIN FARM HOME OR UNCERTAIN GOLD

In the early years, the pioneers were quite successful in growing wheat as a cash crop. Prices were high, partly due to crop failures in Europe and Ireland and partly due to the Mexican War. But continuous cropping with the same grain depleted the soil. There were some poor crop years in the late forties, while in the fifties pests such as the chinch bug commenced to hurt the crop. Offsetting these difficulties and the gradual soil deterioration due to lack of cattle and crop rotation, the demands of a growing population and later the Civil War kept prices high and profits up. At the same time, cattle and dairy herds were growing and as farmers found other suitable products which were profitable, diversification increased. Thus after 1870, the growing of wheat became a minor crop.³

The Church of the Latter Day Saints commonly known as Mormons, being driven from Missouri, settled near Nauvoo, Illinois. Later they became involved in quarrels with other settlers thereabout. Finally in the spring and summer of 1847, they migrated with household goods, cattle and all their possessions, across the plains to the Great Salt Lake basin. In 1849, gold was discovered in California thereby starting a grand rush on foot, horseback and by water to that distant, enchanted land which had been advertised by hunter, explorer, trader and soldier. But the overland trail was not new nor was it scored more indelibly by gold-seekers. For years it had been in use by fur trappers, mountain men, missionaries, the army and by settlers looking for new homes. Its burdens had not only been

then liked to have a full cargo including passengers, so if children might be carried at minimum rates, this could be very helpful all around.

In their voyage three years before, the young Stroebes made the passage all right. With his family and household goods including a double gun probably made by Kitzler in Aschaffenburg, Johann Gunther Stroebe settled in Germantown township, Washington County, Wisconsin. Several other German pioneers were scattered in the area. Gunther's land entry for forty acres, is dated August 9, 1841. Patent from the United States was issued to him on March 3, 1845 for the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 26, township 9 north, range 20 east, of Germantown. To anticipate, he farmed this land for twenty-five years until November 22, 1867 when Guenther Stroebe and Elizabeth his wife, deeded the property to Franz Brown.

In 1843 the second Ströbe son, Georg Nicol arrived with his family and settled in Milwaukee. Very likely he operated a store because he was listed in Germany as a tradesman or merchant. However his time in America was short for he died about 1846. The widow Barbara and their boy Carl, then sixteen, maintained the family in Milwaukee for a number of years. In 1854 she bought property there. On August 16, 1856, Carl, now called Charles, bought from Herman Mills for \$300, eighty acres in section 18, township 20 north, range 14 east, being the north half of the northwest quarter. This farm was about two miles south of the northwest corner of Winnebago County and about two miles west of Wolf River where the postoffice of Orihula was then located.

borne by cattle and packmules but also by many carts and wagons. When the gold rush had subsided into a series of minor quakes, it continued to carry its burden of caravans until the rails came.

In the little town of Milwaukee there was as much interest, excitement and urge for gold hunting in California as there was in the surrounding farm country. Meetings to organize such parties or "brigades", were arranged by men of prominence, wherein the professions and even the clergy were represented. It was no small undertaking to organize and equip an outfit with animals, wagons, foodstuffs, firearms and general supplies for such a trip. Money was required. In some instances men of means advanced the money on a share basis; in other instances, men sold all their belongings and pulled out "lock, stock and barrel."

In March days of 1849, mud was not only a burden on the unplanked country roads but also stood ankle-deep in the streets of Milwaukee where some of the overland caravans were outfitted. Throngs gathered to see the oxen start the big wheeled wagons on the long journey across Iowa to the Missouri and thence westward. Said the Milwaukee Daily Wisconsin, Tuesday evening, March 6, 1849:

"THE PILGRIMS — Our streets, notwithstanding the mud, present an animated appearance as the crusaders leave us with their ox-teams bound for California. Though our people are near the frontiers, and are used to witness strange sights, yet a crowd will gather around these traveling arks. The long journey of *two thousand* miles, seems doubly long, when it is seen that this whole route is to be travelled with oxen."

Footnotes

¹In the Geneological Chart, note that Gunther and Elizabeth name their daughter, born December 12, 1834, Franziska Loui Fredericke or five years before we find a Franziska in the Weimar family. How common the name Franziska was in Thuring Wald is a guess. For various spellings of Franziska to Frances, see 2(a) Prefatory Notes on page 36.

²"At the partition of Saxony in 1485, Weimar with Thuringia fell to the older Ernestine branch of the Saxon house of Wettin and has been the continuous residence until recent years, of the senior branch of the dukes of this line since 1592. Under Charles Augustus, Weimar became the center of liberalism as well as art. . . The traditions of Charles Augustus were well maintained by his grandson the grand-duke Charles Alexander (1816-1901) whose statue now stands in the Karlsplatz. The grand-duke's connections with the courts of Russia and Holland (his mother was a Russian grand-duchess and his wife . . . a princess of the Netherlands) tended to give Weimar society a cosmopolitan character . . ."

British Encyclopedia, 11th Ed., Vol. 27-8, page 496.

³"In the ten years following 1840, the home market demand for wheat grew faster than the supply. During the next ten years however, while the population increased by only thirty percent, the production of wheat expanded to . . . seventy-three percent. Notwithstanding the favorable prospect for growers which seemed assured at the end of the eighteen forties, the first three years in the fifties brought them disappointment by reason of low prices as well as bad crops. It was in this crisis that many restless people left homes in Wisconsin to try their luck in California. Later, not a few of them returned, for 1853 was a reasonably good crop year and the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railway had built its line as far as the Rock River valley making the transportation of farmers easier in that region. . . In 1854 the crop was good but so was the demand and for the first time Wisconsin growers found themselves able to sell their wheat for a dollar a bushel. . . Then came the depression of 1857. . . The year 1859 is remembered for a severe drought. . . Came prosperity in 1860 when farmers gathered . . . as much as thirty-five and even forty-five bushels the acre, the average being twenty-four and one-half bushels, and were able to dispose of it at eighty cents a bushel. . . Wisconsin wheat crop that year aggregated thirty million bushels. Farmers were able to pay off their debts. After the Civil War, wheat commanded high prices, but Wisconsin growers generally began to suffer discouragement by reason of rust, smut, bad weather harvest time and the . . . chinch bug. . . By 1870 farmers were complaining it was unprofitable." (Southern Wisconsin — Old Milwaukee County by John C. Gregory, S. J. Clarke Pub. Co., Chicago, 1932, page 93)

The Family of Johann Christian Gunther Stroebe

CALIFORNIA — TRAGEDY AND TROPHIES

Among those bitten by the gold-bug and lure of adventure, were 22 year old Ben Stroebe and his 19 year old brother Joseph. And of course Joseph's pal of the same age, Wilhelm Weimar, was likewise affected. They loaded their equipment on pack mules and walked the entire distance. What success they had is not known. But among the Weimar family papers is a cancelled note for \$25 which Wilhelm made in favor of Bartholomew (Woods?) in California, August 1, 1850. Also there is another paper reading:

No. 70 San Francisco 1851
Received from Mr. Henry Howard
Fifty dollars
which entitles him to a 2nd cabin passage in the
Ship Tahmaroo, bound for Panama.
Berth No. 38

George Work, Agt.

The family story is that the boys returned by ship via Panama. There was much rivalry among ships to secure passengers for the home voyage because of the tight traffic eastbound. Low rates, fine food, band or orchestra music and other entertainment were offered by the competing ships to attract passengers; this being possible because of the high rates westbound. Conditions east of Panama perhaps were not so competitive. At least receipts for passage such as the one quoted above were probably purchased and resold like shares of stock based on the urgency or need of the passenger and on the market offerings at the time. Fortunately Wilhelm left his receipt at home—and so for this record.

Again in 1854 two brothers from each family, took the trail westward—Ben and Joseph Stroebe, Fred or Fritz" and Wilhelm Weimar. Fritz and Ben were twenty six and seven, Joseph and Wilhelm twenty four years old. From scattered and dim memories of remarks made by the participants, some perhaps seventy years ago, it is evident that this California trip by itself is a real story. The boys found gold all right, especially Joseph; and on March 14, 1855 Wilhelm paid his \$25 note to Bartholomew the money lender. A few of the nuggets which Joseph brought back, are still retained by the family as mementoes.

But unfortunately, gold was not all they carried, for they bore the sad news that Wilhelm had been injured in a fight with the Chinese who often panned the streams abandoned or partially so, by the white miners.



JOSEPH STROEBE

"On the way to California, 1851" (1854)

Wilhelm had been hit with a rock which knocked him into the river where he was half drowned. From the effects of this he died on the return journey somewhere on the Humboldt River. Wilhelm's gun which the boys brought back, appears to have been used as a club.

Obviously these Chinese worked on the west side of the Sierras so Wilhelm must have been injured there, probably along the Truckee River trail from Marysville or Downieville. The trip up the Humboldt was very hard, too much for the injured Wilhelm. It is unfortunate that the other three boys left no record of this journey, but a general idea of its difficulties is well described by the diary of a westbound traveler in 1850: ". . . struggling as they could through one vast cloud of blinding, smothering dust while their jaded teams were dragging almost empty wagons over hills of crumbling shale or loose sand and gravel; through deep trenches worn by other wheels, in beds of alkaline earth or volcanic ash, or across broad stretches of desert in



Light German rifle of about .50 caliber, the ignition altered from flint to percussion, carried to California in "gold-rush" days by Wilhelm Weimar. By turning the picture upside down, his name may be read on the stock in the lower photo. The barrel exterior flares outward at the muzzle as well as at the breech. The stock is broken and the brass trigger guard gone as if from use as a club. The gun was originally full-stocked. This rifle was brought back from the Humboldt River by the other three boys and is still in possession of the Weimar family of Appleton, Wisconsin.

which there was no water and not even a mouthful of bitter wormwood for horse or oxen." (The Great Trek—Coy, page 181).

Thus their caravan could not delay because of lack of food and water for animals as well as for men. So Ben Stroebe remained behind with Wilhelm until the end. Ben buried the body, took the effects and hurrying on caught up with the party. Ben did this because he was older, and was familiar with the trail and because Joseph was carrying a load of gold. He was also carrying a very ornate silk shawl from the Orient with Destiny wrapped up in it.

Night brought the first chill of autumn of the year 1855.

"AH, SWEET MYSTERY OF LIFE"

This was Joseph's third one-way passage over the Oregon-California Trail. Now that he was eastbound with a comfortable "strike", he had the feeling that he must come to definite conclusions about the future. He was twenty five years old now, for some time had considered marriage and a home of his own. In fact for quite a spell he had the girl in mind. But she had romantic ideas and thought she was in love "of all things," with an impecunious musician. Joseph had been attracted by a pleasant spot near the Grasshopper⁵ River in Jefferson County, eastern Kansas. There were groves of walnut trees, grass was abundant and the creek bottoms were full of deer and turkeys. To the east was Walnut Creek and the Trail from Atchison to Fort Riley. Some miles west was the Oregon Trail up the Big Blue and the Little Blue to Platte River and buffalo country. Not too far from the settlements, it was a likeable country with many desirable places for a home.

The death of Wilhelm had sobered and saddened these young men, Joseph particularly. From boyhood and on the trail in '49 Wilhelm had been his close chum. Inherited from his French mother, Wilhelm had *Gemütlichkeit*—humor with a spontaneity which leavened many a dreary moment. Joseph would certainly miss Wilhelm. Often they had talked of settling near each other in those hardwood groves around the Grasshopper. They had talked of Franzisca, Wilhelm's young sister now sixteen, vivacious, with pert eyes shaded by oriflamed lids like her mother's and a coquet if ever there was one. Joseph had looked thoughtfully at her for a year or more; and many times, Wilhelm had frankly stated he wished Joseph to seek her hand. And back beyond the Sierras as the four talked together night after night, Fritz and Ben also agreed that Joseph should marry Franzisca.

But Joseph being nine years older, quiet, industrious, responsible, did not seem to match Franzisca's ideal of romance. She wanted animation—a lover who was full

of mystery, grace, charm, gaiety and mischief. And so we come now to the musician, the man of mystery. We know not even his name or his origin. Nor do we know how much he had of grace, charm, gaiety. But of mischief he had plenty for Joseph. All we know is that he came from nowhere in particular and Franzisca fell in love with him—at least that was her apparent disposition. Her apparent disposition? Could anyone know just what was Franzisca's disposition! She had a musical voice which all liked to hear—and the musician gave lessons.

For some time before the four boys left for California, Franzisca had avoided Joseph. But she never indicated she disliked him or anybody—certainly no one who ever looked engagingly at her flaunting, flaxon curls. And goodness knows, Joseph looked enough. But he wasn't a bold one with women and besides, he seemed to lack that mystery, grace, charm, gaiety and mischief so dear to Franzisca's mental images of French chivalry. Indeed Franzisca was a problem to the other three as well as Joseph. She thoroughly enjoyed this and was thrilled to make similar problems any place she cast her eyes.

In Sacramento one day for supplies, Joseph recalling instantly how Franzisca liked finery and adoration, was very much attracted by the beautiful silk shawls displayed by a Chinese vendor. So, confiding in Wilhelm whose good taste in such matters he relied on, together they viewed the shawl display for a close scrutiny. After many comparisons both in piece and price, Joseph bought one of the most elegant, paid the Chinaman in yellow powder, the usual medium of exchange and went away with the precious garment wrapped in a small rugged package.

"Franzisca never saw anything like this Joseph," said Wilhelm. "You think she has eyes. Wait."

On the home trail now, lonesome without Wilhelm, Joseph thought much on these things as they travelled. How would the two families take Wilhelm's death which news of course was theirs alone to reveal. How would Franzisca appear—that is, if she had not already married the musician.

The caravan left the Platte and travelled down the Little Blue as the trail headed for Westport and Independence. The boys would leave the Oregon Trail at its junction with the Fort Riley-Atchison trail because being shorter, they made time and so on across Iowa to Milwaukee.

DENOUEMENT

Finally with the first snows, the three boys were home. From all sides of course the first question was, "But where is Wilhelm?" Their momentary sober silence quickly conveyed the answer. While this possibility was always foremost in those times, the actuality seemed



INTERIOR OF CHRIST CHURCH AT
DHEINSVILLE, WISCONSIN



THE 115 YEAR OLD STONE CHURCH
where Joseph and Frances were
married in 1856



THE SHAWL

Displayed by the youngest and only survivor of the
children of Joseph and Frances, Henriette Bryan,
Auburn, Washington

harsh and cruel just the same. When conveyed by returning loved ones, it was disaster by lightning from a blue sky. "We left Wilhelm buried on the Humboldt" and on and on until every bit and detail was told.

Now Franzisca loved Wilhelm dearly as a brother. His loss was something she never expected. In fact she never expected any unpleasant thing to hit her. She commenced to remember the time the baby died and was dropped into the sea. She had forgotten little Augusta. It was such a very, very long time ago when she was five. Now it quickly bore on Franzisca that there are two sides to life: the coming in and the going out. She was quiet and thoughtful.

That winter the farm work and the house work made the usual routine. For the past two years the crops had been good and the prices too. So everyone was comfortable. With the return of the three boys, there was plenty of help for the light winter work, while evenings were for the violin and singing and sometimes a dance if the weather wasn't too cold for such a dance floor as they might improvise in the neighborhood.

During these winter weeks, Joseph saw Franzisca many times and there were moments when he felt she was actually looking at him—at least she did not seem to avoid him. It was known too that Joseph had a considerable amount of gold hidden somewhere; maybe enough to buy a farm, maybe more. When pressed, Fritz said he did not know—they all had some but Joseph had made the real "strike." Franzisca's mother was much interested. In her easy, disarming way, Susanne (or "Charlotte") kept at the quest but without learning much. Also she was carefully planting in Franzisca's maturing mind, the need for a good alliance: that frontier musicians were charming in their way but usually hungry.

Cannily Joseph had kept the shawl a secret. Fritz and Ben had agreed with Joseph to say nothing of it, at least until after Weihnachten. Thus Joseph's gift of the shawl as a Christmas present to Franzisca, came as an astounding surprise. Franzisca's eyes fully bore out Wilhelm's prophecy. Afterward Joseph wished sadly that Wilhelm could have been there to see. Franzisca could barely leave it out of her hands. She draped it on her mother a dozen times and her mother modelled it on Franzisca in every conceivable manner. For weeks it was the talk of the area. Women hurried their work to be able to drive long miles to see it.

Of course the result of all this ferment is clearly indicated. The shawl fulfilled its promise and the destiny it held for Joseph. He and Franzisca were married March 16, 1856 in the old stone church at Dheinsville—and the shawl was her crown of glory. It is still preserved as the accompanying photograph shows. And from her parents, Franzisca received a dowry of \$600.

As soon as Joseph and Franzisca had come to an understanding, naturally he told her of the Eden near Grasshopper River and how he and Wilhelm had hoped for a future there with their families. It sounded very romantic to Franzisca: the whole country on the move, rich farm land for the settling, plenty of fish and game. People and new country were exciting. Thus even before the week of the wedding, all plans were made to get to Kansas early that spring to assure finding the best location.



THE RETURN — 1855

Joseph Stroebe Fritz Weimar Ben Stroebe

"BLEEDING KANSAS"

But history in the making was moving into this dream. On May 30, 1854, Kansas was admitted into the Union as a Territory and soon settlers commenced to come. Though some land claims were entered in Jefferson County (gained by treaty from the Delaware Indians), few settled there until 1855, most of them locating in or near the freight road from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley. However the mail route westward from Fort Leavenworth crossed the Grasshopper River seven miles below the falls, thence on to the Big Blue. Consequently the principal settlement in that area, was at this crossing

and received the name Ozawkie. The settlers here were mostly "pro-slavery" people. Those who settled a little later at the falls, were "free-state" folks from the northern states. Consequently along with the quest for new homes, travelled the burning question of slavery. Were these new territories and eventually the new states to be formed from them, to be open or closed to the ownership of slaves?

Kansas Territory became the focal point in this issue. It was currently termed "Bleeding Kansas". It had six governors in five years. The "free-soil" and the "pro-slavery" men came from all parts of the United States to clash head-on in guerilla fighting, intimidation, torture and murder, to force out the other side. The Federal government in Washington was torn with political intrigue, half-truths, expediency and misrepresentation. Votes were cast in Kansas by outsiders from the State of Missouri who then returned to their homes there. Overawing the thousands of honest, peaceable homeseekers, gangs of "Border Ruffians", fire eaters, frenzied abolitionists and cutthroats held full sway. Every "Jayhawker" looking for violence and plunder, was present. Belts, waistbands and pockets carried a full cargo of loaded pistols and revolvers, supplemented by knives or a bowie in the boot. From May to September, 1856, John Brown of Pottawatomie entered this conflict as his prelude to Harper's Ferry. On August 30 he fought the most severe battle of the Kansas guerilla war, said to have cost thirty killed and the same number wounded.

Without knowing what was stirring in Kansas, into the fringe of this struggle, Joseph and Frances were drawn. The axis of turbulence lay along the Kaw or Kansas River from the state line of Missouri westward to Topeka. Joseph settled in the northwest corner of Jefferson County about three miles north of Grasshopper (Valley) Falls as shown on the map on the opposite page. Thus he was twenty miles from the main disturbances. The only sizeable fight near him, noted in available published records, was at a place about seven miles away and south of the Falls—a place called Hartville or Hardteville commonly known as Hickory Point at that time. This place then was about thirteen miles north of LeCompton and the fight occurred September 14, 1856. An armed party of over one hundred men from Lawrence under a man named Harvey, having with them a brass 4-pounder cannon taken by Colonel Doniphan at the battle of Sacramento creek north of Chihuahua in the Mexican War, had entered the above settlement defended by pro-slavery men. Captain Wood with Companies C and H of the First Cavalry, was sent to investigate. He captured most of Harvey's force together with the brass field piece, seven wagons, thirty eight U.S. muskets, forty seven Sharps rifles, six hunting rifles, two shotguns, fourteen Bowie knives, four swords and a large supply of ammunition for artillery and small arms.

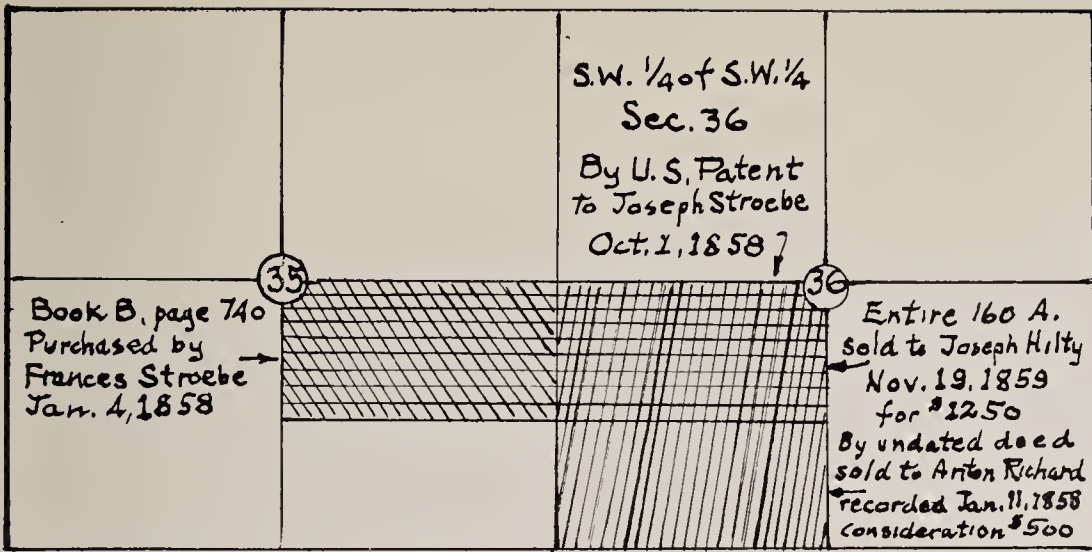
LAND DEALS, A FARM AND AN HEIR

The first land record for Joseph and Frances, was January 4, 1858 when Frances Stroebe is shown to have purchased eighty acres being the north half of the southeast quarter of section 35, township 7, range 17 (see map opposite). The probable reason this parcel came to them on this date, will appear presently. Frances sold it to Joseph for \$500 on February 23, 1859. The next record is a United States Patent dated October 1, 1858, conveying to Joseph Stroebe 160 acres covered by the southwest quarter of section 36. This patent probably issued about eighteen months after the claim was filed. Almost ten months before, he had sold the south eighty acres of it to Anton Richard, which relates as will be seen, to the purchase by Frances. The balance of the farm, still 160 acres which included a good walnut grove, he sold to Joseph Hilty, November 19, 1859.

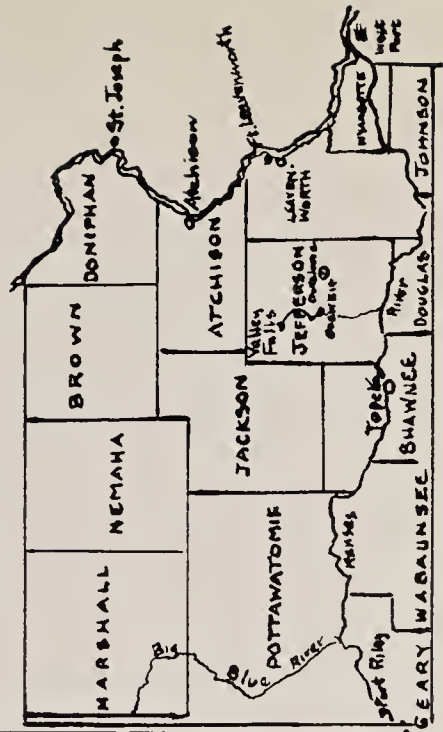
Joseph and Frances were very busy during all this period of the land deals. Upon arrival they had filed their claim immediately after making their choice. In every way as Joseph had described it to Frances, the area was rich in productiveness and beauty. Soon the grass was green and thick, leaves were massing in the groves of trees and the walnuts were in bud. There were carpets of native flowers here and there and clear water gurgled in the brooks. They planted a small garden and then all summer, busied themselves with their cabin and a couple of sheds. When autumn came, they had from the garden, beans, corn, squash and potatoes; and these in addition to the lesser truck they had eaten during the summer. Things were coming fine and they were very happy.

Though stories of "free-soil" troubles reached them occasionally, they were not much worried. They were home nearly always, kept their own counsel and avoided partisan discussions. The people in Grasshopper Falls three miles away where they bought supplies, were mostly "free-soilers". The nearest so-called pro-slavery towns were Ozawkee seven miles further south and Oskaloosa fifteen miles southeast but they had not visited either place because "The Falls" supplied their modest needs.

There is no record or knowledge of them having been assailed, abused or threatened by partisans of either side. For them the year 1856 apparently was without incident though the John Brown fight was notorious and other rough clashes were common talk. But these events were mainly along the Kaw. The 1857 influx of settlers was very heavy, many attracted in fact by the desire to secure the territory pro or con on the slavery question. The sales of land were quite in proportion. Then when the squatters were bidding in their land and selling it at high profits to the newcomers, the financial depression of 1857 cut off the money supply. Large numbers of settlers left the area and deserted cabins were to be seen everywhere.

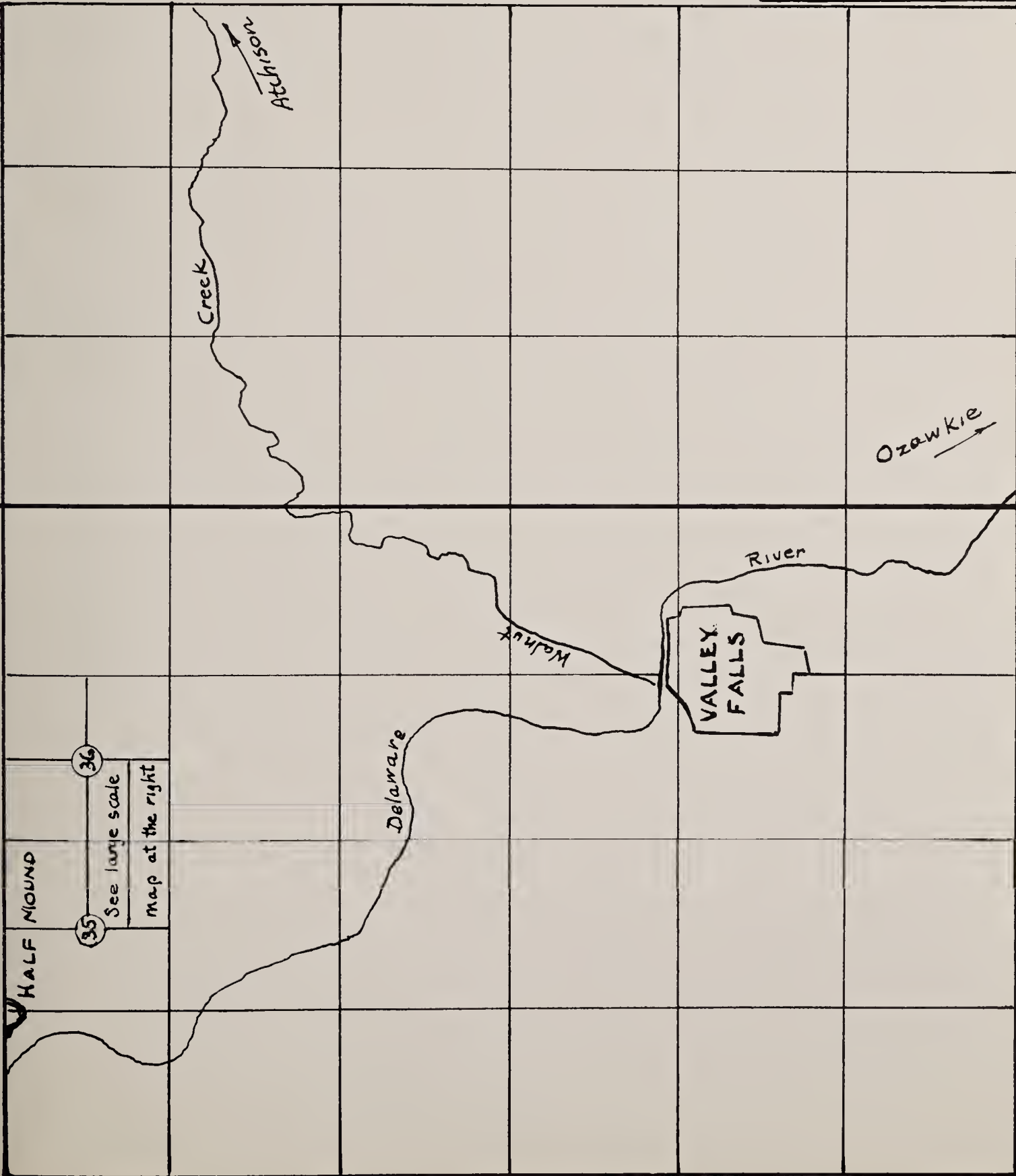


SECTIONS 35 AND 36 ON INCREASED SCALE



TWP. 7 RANGE 18

TWP. 7 RANGE 17



PLAT OF N.W. CORNER, JEFFERSON CO.,
Grasshopper (Valley) Falls area, showing the land entries
and sales of Joseph and Frances Stroebe, 1856 - 1859.

Joseph and Frances were not affected. They were not short of money and did not have to sell. They were happy with their home and kept right on adding improvements and more tilled soil. But the eighty acres Frances bought, perhaps was one of these claims sold for a song. That transaction was recorded January 4, 1858. One week later or on January 11, Anton Richard had recorded his undated deed from Joseph for the south eighty acres of Joseph's government patent. Undoubtedly this was the poorer half. Joseph got \$500 for it which is exactly what he paid Frances for her eighty. Under Joseph no grass turned yellow; rather, he viewed the landscape, saw where the gold lay and put the color in his pocket.

Not only did Joseph and Frances speculate in land but also they speculated on an heir. And this important personage arrived September 29, 1858 and was given the name of Adolph Otto, ever after nicknamed "The Homesteader". Despite the bitterness which filled the air over slavery, things never looked better to the parents.

MALARIA

Joseph had great hopes for the coming year and did a lot of ploughing. Otto with bouncing, grew by leaps. But in the spring of 1859 Joseph was stricken with malarial or "intermittant" fever. He hired men to do his farming but the fever hung on. So did the slavery question. Because his farm looked good and he could hire help, he was getting attention. Strange men stopped by and talked and talked. They insisted he declare his views. And Frances was getting attention too. With Otto and Frances always in his thoughts, Joseph dreaded trouble. Without the fever he might have felt confident. But sickness was new to him and he felt lost. So in the autumn he decided to accept the first good offer for his farm. Joseph Hilty had been there once or twice, talked "casual", like passing the time of day "and so on", not staying long or saying much. When he came the third time, Joseph thought he had something on his mind. Hilty mentioned how Joseph's "malary" hung on, asked him what he "wuz doin fer it" and so on. Then he "up and asked if Joseph thought o' sellin". Joseph said he felt mebbe the climate wasn't good for him, and so on. Thus a deal was made and Hilty got it all, come November, for \$1,250. He "figgered" he got a bargain—and Joseph had a hand in that too.

So Frances was going back to the old Wisconsin home—and with Baby Otto "The Homesteader". The three and one-half years in Kansas had been happy in many ways. But thoughts of home with mother who had never seen Otto, gave her a singing joy. Joseph too, hoped the change of climate would "clear his system". He told Frances he thought with the money they had, he might find a likely place for a store. He could do that until he got his strength again. Anyway he could do better than that fellow in Grasshopper Falls—Dummkopf! "When I was

fifteen, father took me to Milwaukee to see Uncle Georg and Aunt Barbara who had a small store there. My cousin Charles about my age, clerked in the store and kept the books, as Uncle Georg was not in very good health. Everything was so neat and orderly; much different than the store in Grasshopper Falls I can tell you. Charles liked the store but he thought we did much better on the farm. He told me that someday when they were older and his sisters could help in the store, he would like to try farming. I wonder how things are now."⁷

STORE, POSTMASTER AND CIVIL WAR

There were many family parties when they arrived and the Dheinsville church was full every Sunday. What are Joseph's plans? What does he say? Does he wish to buy a farm? No? A store—you don't say! Where? O but I know—Horawetz in Brown Deer wants to sell. Just the place for Joseph. We'll tell him about it. Of course, right away. Schnell, du gans!

Sermons were fine; but people and the news of the day—ach, we know we live then.

Joseph did see Horawetz in Brown Deer (see 2d par. Map Legend, page 4). He bought the store and he was no dummkopf. Frances liked it too. To her it was much better than farming, for people came in all day long, young and old. And she welcomed all with a smile and a flip of the curls, for she was only twenty one. Time ran on and all was good. Then trouble like wisps of the coming storm, brewed the atmosphere; a war by the whole country over those slaves they had talked about so much in Kansas. Something else was coming too—on May 8 a daughter. They named her Hannah.

The men were enlisting all around; many companies of Germans. Much drumming and band music in Milwaukee. You should see and hear. No, Joseph cannot go to war. That fever made him so weak. Maybe later, but not now.

Joseph was not strong. The fever did leave but it came again the next year. It was in his bones and hid around. Slowly he regained his strength and storekeeping was not hard; nothing like the farm and building a home. Sixteen hours a day and more. Oh! But that work in the open; building something new with all the strength and energy of youth. Exhilaration. It was a real life.

Brown Deer is to have a new postmaster and Joseph's store is just the place. So he applied and in due course his appointment came, dated January 14, 1863. Postmaster eh. Well, he could serve Uncle Sam in that way if no other. Also there was a further appointment. On June 15 arrived eine winzig tochter. They named her Emma. The old ladies all came to see; patted the head of the older tots and nodded to each other knowingly—glücklich Kleines. Ach, aber der krieg. Schrecklich

Chancellorsville, so auf wie Jena.⁸ Yah, Edmund Weimar ganz gut, danke. Yah, 9th Wisconsin Infantry.

The war news was uppermost. These German women knew something of war and they expected their men to do well, although leaders in America were not the same as in Europe—not so many real officers, said they; just common people doing their best. The losses in men they always had had, a thing expected and their part was to bear it as their forebears of the forest had done for centuries. So the battles came and went—Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chicamauga, The Wilderness again, Cold Harbor, Petersburg; and again and again they heard of the heroism and staunch valor of a unit called “The Iron Brigade”. Was? Young Reinhold Stroebe enlisted du sagt? Yah, Company A, 51st Infantry.

On March 20, 1865 came another little one, a boy this time and they named him Edward. Thirty days more and the Great War was over, Lincoln assassinated and the country in a turmoil of suspicion, indecision and re- crimination.

The store business was good. Joseph was much himself again, but the steady detail and the constantly increasing volume of postal business made him wonder if this was the best outlook for his family. He liked the open country, the forest, the streams, hunting, the bird chorus of early morning and the long evening shadows of trees and bushes. The store was too constrained. Frances’ little brood and the housekeeping took much of her time but she also helped a lot in the store. She was only twenty six and as pert as ever. The young people seemed to crowd in more and more, especially these young soldiers back from the war. Some of them were rather brash, Joseph thought and perhaps Frances did not rebuke their sallies and advances as she should. He mused to himself, “Those eyelashes—she always likes adoration, what woman docsn’t.” Not that Joseph was jealous—O no, just conscientious and careful. It got so that every sally and burst of laughter made him grimace. He would not appear curious at these moments; but he commenced to wonder what his older customers would think and say to each other on the way home.

AGAIN THE LANDSEEKERS

So that fall Joseph decided to look for a likely place somewhere in the north where he could have life and family under better control; and relief from clerical duties. He had the north country in mind because of a talk he had in January, 1861 when his cousin Charles stopped in Brown Deer on his way back to Milwaukee. Charles had just sold his farm December 15 to Fred Gehrke for \$500 which was \$200 more than he paid for it four years before. Charles told how rich and well watered the country was, with all kinds of game in forest

and stream, while the good waterways provided excellent transportation. He liked farming all right and could save money, but bright sunlight bothered his eyes. So he was obliged to get work inside, perhaps a store.

Then within Joseph’s hearing, one day two customers got to talking with each other about the shoreland at the head of Lake Winnebago; of the good hunting and fishing, the good soil and the good new towns nearby, already using the flow of the river to turn the wheels of new industries.

With a word to Frances, Joseph quietly went off to see these things for himself. Some days later he returned all aglow. Frances looked at him as a new man. He had something of his old color and spirit before the fevers hit him. He was so enthusiastic about the country he had seen. There was an island of about ninety acres on a quiet sidewater of the Fox River—Caldwell Island they said it was, though no longer owned by that man a Virginian who had for many years a trading post at Winnebago Rapids (Neenah) and growing old, had retired in 1861. Such a place; better than Kansas! Fish, game and berries were plentiful. The land was very fertile and wild rice hung over the sloughs. The mornings and evenings were simply wonderful.

“Better than our farm in Kansas, much better, and how beautiful”, said Joseph as he watched those eyes. And those eyes watched him too:

“Joseph you bought it! Now didn’t you?”

“Well, not exactly. I’d have to know the title is good und so weiter.”

“Joseph, I know you. You bought it. What of the store and the postoffice? And I don’t know about going off in the wilds again. We have four now. But you do look so good, so big, so rested and so boyish again. I don’t know; I don’t know. And you think it such a wonderful place—better than our walnut groves and deer and turkeys in Kansas. All the same, I like it here Joseph. There are people and friends and other children. Bu— bu— but I love you Joseph. So I’ll go.”

He swept her off her feet. . . .

“Ach Emma, did we waken you?”

“Yeth . . . Papa luf Mama.”

As postmaster, Joseph was replaced on May 28, 1866, by a new appointee. In the meantime he arranged for the sale of his store and his stock of goods. This store stood on the southwest corner of the lot bounded today by Brown Deer Road and Teutonia Avenue or the Cedarburg Road. This property of 1.7 acres was deeded back to Joseph twice but was sold permanently in 1871. Before he moved away, he went to Caldwell Island and with help, framed and roofed a modest log cabin for his family.

STROEBE'S ISLAND

The coming of the family to this island, ever since known as Stroebe's Island, is described by an interview which L'Irlandaise of *The Milwaukee Journal*, had with Joseph and Frances in August, 1920:

"It was in the charming month of June that Joseph Stroebe then a black-haired, brown-eyed youth an even six feet tall, strong and sturdy with never an ounce of fat upon his muscular body, took a trip into the north of Wisconsin, intent upon finding just the place where he and his pretty, flaxen-haired wife Frances, might build a home. . . . He could trap and hunt with any woodsman and he loved the hard life of the pioneer. Then too, he liked perhaps, the thought of life alone with Frances, with no intruding outside world to gaze upon their happiness. . . . They quickly packed their belongings and journeyed forth by oxcart to the beautiful spot. . . .

"The island was like a bit of fairyland. Everywhere there were wild flowers and splendid old trees; wild birds abounded. A small band of Indians was camping there and welcomed them. The Indians canoed them from the mainland to their new home. . . . Outside, Mr. Stroebe built an oven of precious bricks carried from Milwaukee for the purpose. Inside, the big fireplace was fitted with hooks for kettles. Dishes, tables and chairs were put in place, a fragrant pine bed was built; animal skins, trophies of Joseph's skill as a marksman, were spread upon the floor; the spinning wheel, loom and carding machines were set up. . . . Their first real meal consisted of venison, for Joseph shot a deer the day of their arrival. Berries were found ripe on a thousand bushes and wild rice . . . promised many a goodly dish when it . . . ripened in late summer. . . . When their fields were under cultivation . . . they need never leave their island for food. . . .

". . . oven was built with walls three feet thick. When a batch of bread (made from "mother" yeast brought with them from civilization, for cake yeast was yet unknown) was ready to bake, a hot maple fire was built in the oven which had a chimney opening . . . when the fire . . . bricks were white with heat, the coals were withdrawn . . . and with a shovel the loaves were placed inside and left until the oven cooled, when they were found perfectly baked; and neither the bread, cake nor meats baked or roasted in this oven, were ever known to scorch. It was used in the dead of winter, in rains and in warm weather, with equal success.

"Although Frances was busy inside with her many household duties, she occasionally found time to work for a few hours with her husband outside. He had gone energetically at the necessary task of clearing five or six acres of the heavy timber which was upon

it; building shelters for the cows, horses, sheep and hogs they had driven before them to the island, and otherwise making ready for the long winter.

"There were wild plums and berries to be dried. Delicious mandrakes and ground cherries were found in abundance and these had to be gathered and made into preserves for the winter. Such crops as could still be put in, were quickly planted, but for the first winter it was necessary to depend somewhat upon such produce as they were able to buy from other settlers, the nearest of whom was several miles away. They bought flour and potatoes, and grain for the animals, and when the storms of winter came, they were safe, snug and warm, sheltered in their island refuge, far from the turbulent world.

LOOKING BACKWARD

"'Were you ever lonesome?'" I asked Mrs. Stroebe. She smiled, as she answered with the staunch spirit and cheerful mien which marked the pioneer woman: 'It used to get a bit lonesome in the wintertime when Mr. Stroebe was away hunting, never to see a white face all day. And sometimes when the children had some little ailment, I longed for an older woman or a doctor to counsel me, but ordinarily I never thought of anything but how beautiful the island was and how happy I was. My seven children all grew into handsome men and women, and all but one who was the victim of an accident, are alive and well. Our children and our grandchildren had plenty of hours for quiet sleep between dark and dawn. All of them have been quick to learn. . . .'

"Mrs. Stroebe also told of being a bit frightened when the lightning storms came. Six times tall trees were demolished in these electrical storms and finally the log house, their first loved island home, was burned. That was [1890] . . . A cottage was built to replace it. . . . The cottage is small with a broad screened piazza, and inside and out are trophies of the days when Joseph Stroebe was the best shot for miles around. The arm chair in which he sits, is made soft by a buffalo skin so thickly furred it is like a wool mat. Mr. Stroebe tanned the hide himself and the leather is as soft now as when he prepared it in 1854, and it has been in use constantly since, without so much as wearing away or matting down the fur. Many mounted deer heads are hung about. Rifles and guns stand against the wall as if vainly waiting for the game that is gone forever from the island.

"'When we came here,' said Mr. Stroebe, 'I could go out any day and get wild turkeys, squirrels, deer, duck or geese. I have shot into a flock of brown heads and brought down six as they went over, with literally millions of them darkening the sky. Wild pigeons were so plentiful that we had all we wanted during their migratory seasons.



FRANCES AND JOSEPH STROEBE IN 1920

Flowers in front of them and the quiet water of Little Lake Butte des Morts in the background.

on the island, birds are plentiful in its vicinity. As I drove across it, two tall sand cranes rose majestically above our heads and soared away.

“My last impression of the island was of peace, calm and happiness. As I turned to look back into the face of the setting sun, I saw Mr. and Mrs. Stroebe seated on the bluff before their cottage, drinking in the beauty about them and thinking perhaps of the days when as happy lovers, they first gazed upon the place—and of the joys of the years that followed as children and grandchildren grew up around them. And perhaps too, they were thinking of the days when the island shall know them no more—when other eyes will glory in the sunsets across the water and other hands gather the wild fruits and the nuts of their fruitful groves and fields.”

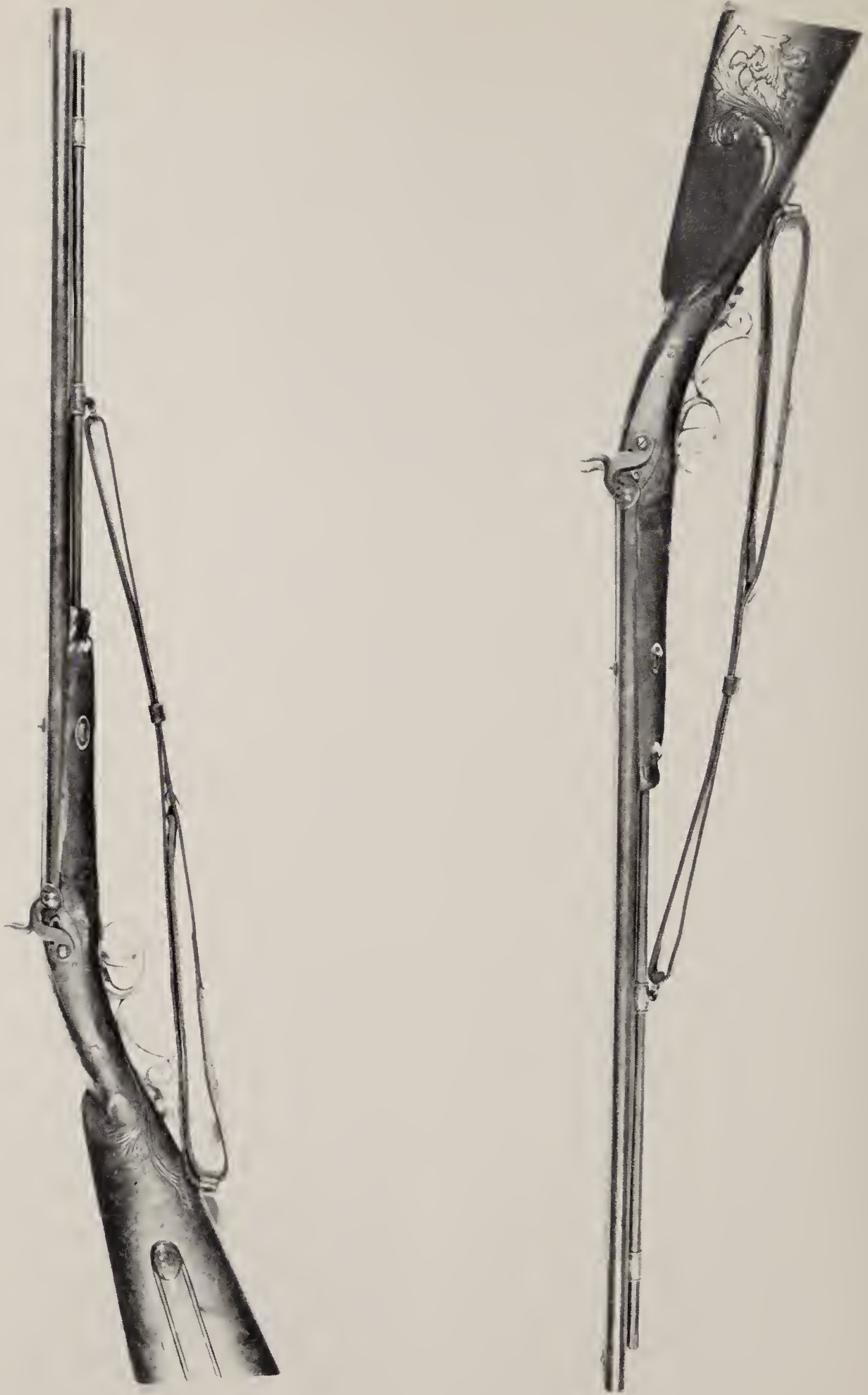
“The Indians loved this island almost as much as we did, and for years after I settled here, Little Bear and Mexico, two fine old chiefs, used to come here annually, camping with their tribes and hunting. They also fished here and we used to have fine fish. I have landed a Sturgeon weighing 150 pounds many a time. . . I never got acquainted with many of the Indian girls. They were beautiful creatures and when they were camping on the island I would see them moving about in the soft moccasins like shy does, but they always ran away before I could get to speak to them, even when they were with older people. We always were glad to have the Indians pay us a visit. They were very friendly and often divided the game they caught, with us. They used to gather wild rice, going out in the lake and the river in canoes and shaking it off the plants into the boat.’

SUNSET

“Some of the romance has gone from the island, for while during the spring break-ups the island is approachable only by boats, during the dry period of summer, one can reach it nowadays by automobile over a bridge. In days of old, Mr. Stroebe and his son built a floating bridge of sixty-foot stringers over which big logs ran crossways and on top, a layer of other logs. This raft-like bridge would hold the weight of a team, but the balance was so destroyed that it always seemed as if the horses were going up hill. . . All the material used in its construction grew on the island. Now the old floating bridge has been incorporated into a stationary bridge. This bridge is still a picturesque part of the island, for wild rice and cat-tails grow thick about it. As everywhere



PLANK CAUSEWAY AND FLOATING BRIDGE TO STROEBE'S ISLAND, 1900



THE DOUBLE PERCUSSION GUN BROUGHT FROM GERMANY ONE BARREL RIFLED, THE OTHER FOR SHOT.
CARRIED BY JOSEPH TO CALIFORNIA TWICE.

THE GUNS

The foregoing Milwaukee Journal story mentions Joseph's guns and his shooting. These guns and a number carried by his four boys, as noted already, are now in the Museum of the State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin. The historic items are as follows:

A short .62 caliber hunting gun which Joseph obtained from the Indians who came to his island in the early days. It has all the earmarks of Indian use and repair and is still in shooting order.

Model 1866 Springfield, breechloader, .50-70 caliber, given to Harry Stroebe, Sr. by Bruce Tamblyn. It is the same model rifle used in the famous Wagon Box Fight of 1868, near Fort Phil Kearney in north-eastern Wyoming.

A German short percussion musket with brass barrel. This gun was owned at one time by George Walter the brewer. It is the gun which brought down game birds in bunches.

Lefever 10 gauge shotgun, breechloader double, with which Otto, "The Homesteader," Joseph's eldest son, killed thousands of ducks.

Spanish Mauser, 7 m/m five shot magazine rifle given to Harry, Sr. by Major Charles Green of Green Brothers Construction Co. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War.

The double barreled percussion gun, one barrel rifled, the other for shot, which was brought from Germany by Joseph's father Gunther and later carried by Joseph on his two California ventures—1849 and 1954. See photo on opposite page.

About 1876, Joseph felt that he should have a new gun, a really fine piece which he could use and show with pride. So, perhaps (as a member of the family stated "out of the unexpected") through John Munier of Milwaukee, he sent to L. Kitzler of Aschaffenburg near Mainz, for a modernized version of the old double gun his father brought from Germany with the family in 1841, the same one Joseph carried to California. In 1878 he received the new gun. It is a double of course, one barrel for rifle balls, the other for shot. It is provided too, with an additional set of barrels for shot only. Obviously, everything is breechloading for center-fire cartridges. Leather slings are provided. On the stock back of the cheek rest is carved "J. Stroebe." It is a beautiful piece. Joseph paid \$100 for it, which eighty years ago was a lot of money for anything without gold on it.

THE FAMILY GROUPS NEAR THE ISLAND AND GUNTHER MAKES HIS WILL

Soon after Joseph and Frances settled on their island, they induced the parents Gunther and Elizabeth to sell their farm in Germantown because these pioneers were getting along in years and Joseph wanted them near him. So Gunther sold his forty acre tract as heretofore noted, and moved into a new home which still stands on the west side of Badger School Road near Butte des Morts Golf Club. Son Benjamin, a farmer, also moved to a new location across the road from Gunther. In 1904 Joseph's son Otto bought a small piece of land across from the island and south of the present St. Mary's Cemetery. He got this parcel from William N. Carter and wife. Prior to that, for years he had operated a tavern on property owned by J. H. Carver, proprietor of an adjacent brickyard though Gunther may have had an interest in that land as he did, with Joseph's help, in a number of places. In 1920, Otto moved to California and died there February 15, 1931. All these places as



THE FOUR STROEBE BOYS ABOUT 1900

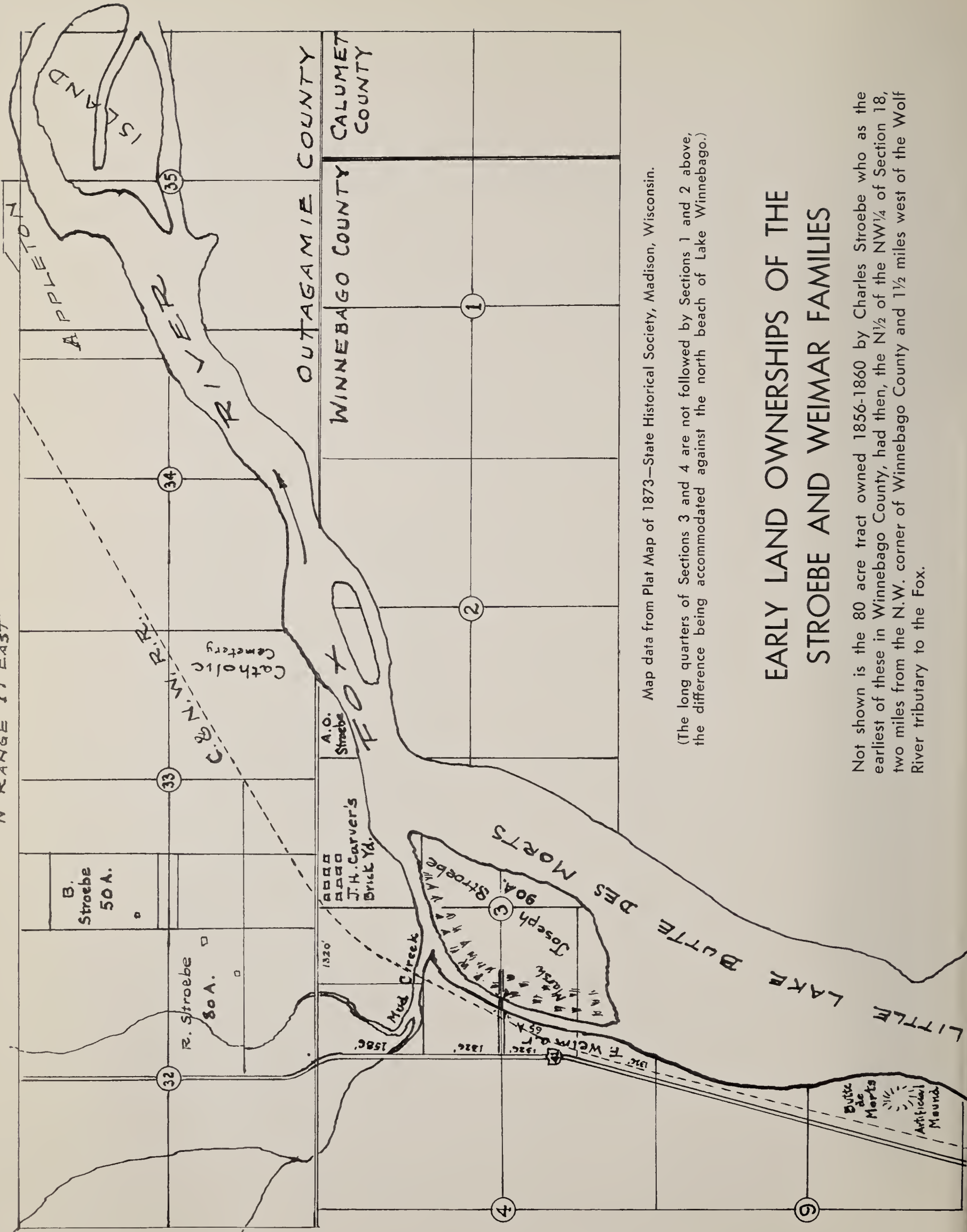
A family of hunters antedating by many years the day of the game warden.

Left to right above: Frank, great fisherman and bird hunter; Edward, bird hunter; Otto, ducks his specialty also a crack revolver shot; Harry, deer and bird hunter.

N RANGE 17 EAST

TWP 21

TWP 20



Map data from Plat Map of 1873—State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

(The long quarters of Sections 3 and 4 are not followed by Sections 1 and 2 above, the difference being accommodated against the north beach of Lake Winnebago.)

EARLY LAND OWNERSHIPS OF THE STROEBE AND WEIMAR FAMILIES

Not shown is the 80 acre tract owned 1856-1860 by Charles Stroebe who as the earliest of these in Winnebago County, had then, the N¹/₄ of Section 18, two miles from the N.W. corner of Winnebago County and 1¹/₂ miles west of the Wolf River tributary to the Fox.

Co., and in June, 1912, was accidentally killed in the Milwaukee yard.

STROEBE'S ISLAND, THE RESORT

Harry and Frank liked the old island home. And Joseph was glad too that they remained to operate the place. Harry also worked on the river boats from 1896 to 1911. People enjoyed visiting the island and Harry built a small wharf so he could meet his boats there and receive small parties of visitors. This expanded a resort business which in spite of the displacement of boats by the automobile, is still operating because the place was pleasant, congenial and at-

tractive. The business just grew.

In the "gay nineties" the island entertained many parties. The earliest resort was established by Joseph near the site of his first log cabin which burned. Every Sunday, excursionists boarded the little boat *FAWN* at Lehman's landing (Lutz Park). It made trips on a regular schedule and each trip usually carried a gay crowd: courting couples, family groups and groups of youngsters all bound for a day of picnicing, outdoor games and bowling-on-the-green which then was the great sport for gentlemen. Waistcoated and tight-trousered, with elastic arm bands, and of all ages, they pinioned their sleeves and bowled the grassy green near the rustic pavilion



CHRISTENA AND BENJAMIN STROEBE ABOUT 1895

well as Stroebe's island, are shown on the map facing this page. Gunther died August (15?) 1872 and under the will, son Reinhold received the home. Elizabeth died February 8, 1879. Today, Ben's farm is occupied by his grandson, Willis Stroebe.

Gunther's will dated April 1, 1872, reads almost like a page of Americana. Reinhold received the eighty acre farm, two horses with harness, one wagon, one plough, one harrow, two sleighs, one fanning mill, two milch cows, thirteen heifers, one calf, four swine, seven sheep, twenty hens, all household goods and furniture, one double-barrel shotgun, one single barrel rifle. The Will continues: "I, Gunther Stroebe desire . . . that he pay or cause to be paid to each of his four sisters the sum of \$100 . . . which payment shall be made in the course of five years beginning with the death of my wife Elizabeth. And to wife Elizabeth, in the month of October of each year, Reinold (sic) shall give \$40 in money, two barrels of wheat flour of 200 pounds each, twenty bushels of potatoes, one milch cow and fodder for same; firewood already split for use, enough to last her for her own use through the year; a room or dwelling on the above farm; and in case of sickness, nurse and administer such needs as will help alleviate her wants."

Edward, Joseph's fourth child, worked for the C.M.&St.P. Ry.



THE BRICK HOME OF ELIZABETH AND GUNTHER STROEBE
Badger School Road, about 1875



FAMILY OF OTTO AND STELLA STROEBE — 1912
 Left to right: Otto, Nina, Stella and Thomas in front



FAMILY OF HARRY AND MILDRED STROEBE — 1932
 Left to right: Harry Jr., Harry Sr., Mildred, Frances Mary ("Betty") and Pearl Dorothy



JOSEPH'S FAMILY ABOUT 1895
 Front row, left to right: Emma, Edward, Otto, Henrietta
 In the center: Frances and Joseph — Rear row: Frank, Hannah and Harry



FAMILY OF FRANK AND ANNA STROEBE — 1923
 Left to right: Gladys, Frank, Anna, Helen, Marion and Mildred

which overlooked the water.

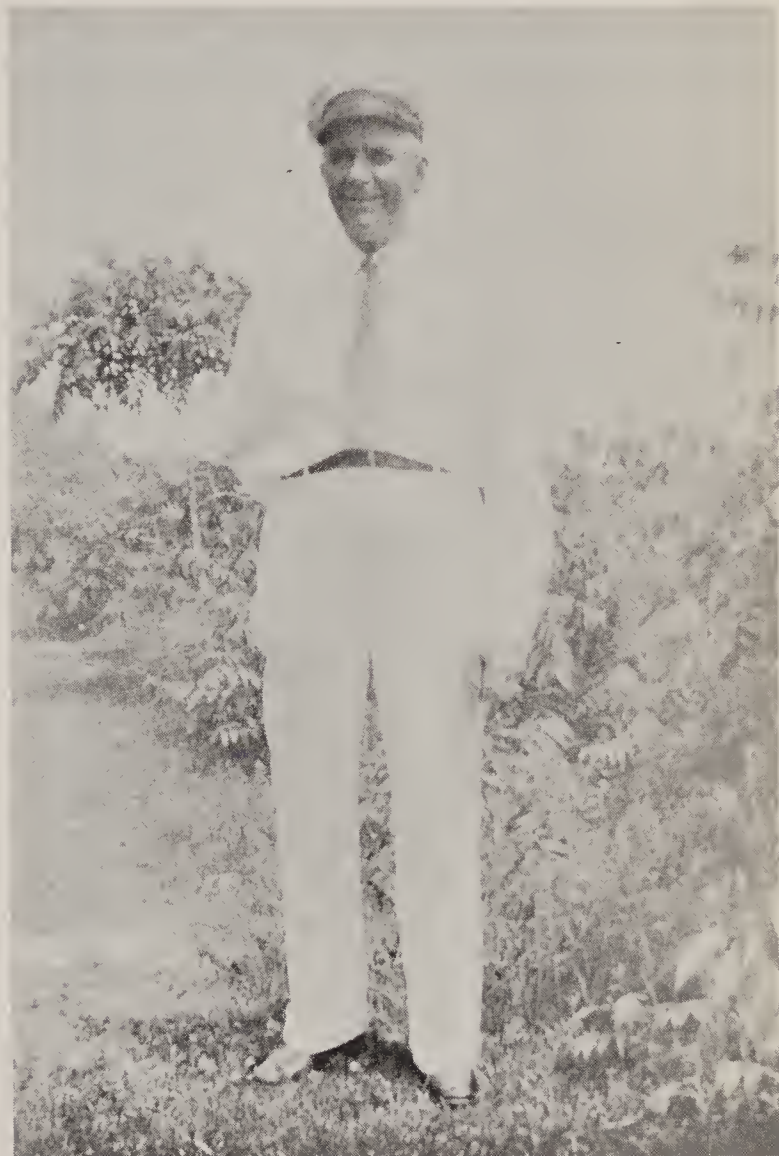
In 1902, Joseph was seventy-two years old. He relinquished the island to Harry and Frank who continued to operate it jointly. In 1903, Frank married Anna Nelson (see Appen. II). In 1911, Harry opened a resort of his own and Frank took over the family farm. Harry had the river dredged for a dock site and built a long pier to accommodate the large excursion steamboats which then served the Fox River and Lake Winnebago. The LEANDER CHOATE a large sidewheeler, was the largest and best of these. Others were the THISTLE, MAYFLOWER, FOUNTAIN CITY, EVELYN and FAWN.

One winter evening when Harry and his father were quietly sipping their lager, Joseph spoke to his son: "You have worked hard and done well. Mama and I think everything is wonderful—all but one thing. When I was young, my people talked to me about marriage. So now I talk to you. We all know we can't be together always in this good home, no matter how good and how happy. Mama and I will have to go some day and you should have children to make you happy. Besides, there should be young ones to do the work and enjoy this place when you, in turn, get old. Here, there is room for all; and you will have all you need."

These thoughts of course were not new. Busy as they were with the resort and the farm, Frank and Harry had considered these things together, but wondered if father and mother would feel deserted if they both made homes of their own which might mean moving elsewhere. They were born on the island and they loved it.

So the words of Joseph were a benediction to Harry. Frank's wife Anna had a younger sister Mildred who often visited them and also with groups of young people, came to the island for parties and picnics. Of course Harry as boat "skipper", brother-in-law and resort proprietor, had known Mildred for a long time and had grown fond of this hearty young lady. She in turn, thought Harry in his "skipper" cap, a wonderfully kind, calm, capable man and the island a paradise which indeed it was. So the result is foretold. They were married in 1915 and together reigned over their part of the island for forty two years.

About 1932, Harry and Frank divided the island, Frank establishing a resort of his own, Island Haven on the south end, while Harry continued his operation on the north half. In 1941 Harry retired, leasing his Island Inn to John Gmeinweiser. Frank died in 1946 and his resort is now operated by his daughter and her husband, the Clarence Dobersteins. Notwithstanding the outdated boat excursions, the island has continued in popularity for group parties, picnics, boating, fishing and trapshooting.



"THE SKIPPER"
Harry Stroebe, Sr.

Footnotes

⁴The phrase in quotations was written on the back of the photograph but the date in all likelihood, should be 1854 instead of 1851 when Joseph was returning from his first trip to California. In 1854 he was 24 years old which also fits the picture better. The above likeness was made by A. H. Mathes Studio, 930 College Avenue, Appleton, Wisconsin. In the Appleton Directories, Albert Mathes is listed in 1893-4 as a laborer, in 1896 in business with Jacob Griesbach dealing in coal, wood and building materials, in 1899-1900 a photographer at 930 College Avenue and remained there until at least 1908. Therefore Joseph's picture is a copy of a daguerreotype.

⁵In 1875 Grasshopper River was renamed Delaware and the town at the falls then called Grasshopper Falls, became Valley Falls.

⁶For changes in spelling, see Prefatory Note 2 (a) of Geneological Chart.

⁷All meetings between Joseph and Charles and the incident of the store in Milwaukee, are purely assumptions without evidence, based only on probabilities and vague references to practically inevitable contacts between the two families.

⁸A Napoleonic battle a few miles from Weimar.



BARBARA GEYER STROEBE
About 1858



BARBARA GEYER STROEBE
At Age 80 (1877)

The Family of Johann Georg Nicolaus Ströbe

By Dr. Helen Stroebe Clark

Johann Georg Nicolaus Ströbe was born on April 2, 1802 at nine o'clock in the morning, (says the birth register in the little church at Grossbreitenbach), as the second son of Wilhelm Wolfgang Gerhardt Ströbe and his wife Anna Catherina, born Schübeline, from Goldlauter. We do not know of his childhood, but presumably he was trained in the craft of his father. Later records show him to be a "tradesman, a merchant and a master weaver." He met and married Barbara Margarethe Geyer, born 1797, the only daughter of Johann Heinrich Geyer. Their bans were first published on Trinity Sunday, June 1, 1828 and again June 8th. The marriage took place June 16, 1828 at noon in the church. "The consent of the groom was verbal, of the parents of the bride it was in writing" says the marriage certificate in Grossbreitenbach.

WISCONSIN—AND DEATH OF THE FATHER

Five children were born to them in Germany; Johanne Christiane Caroline, at 1 a.m. November 6, 1829; Carl on June 19, 1831; Christiane Margarete at 11 p.m. on June 11, 1833 (who apparently died young); Frederika on June 11, 1835; and Georgiana (Georgine) at 6 p.m. on August 5, 1837.

Fares across the ocean for large families were not easy to come by. Often a first child would go to the New World, earn some money and then send for the next child. This might have been the case with the Ströbe brothers. At least it is a known fact that Christian Gunther Ströbe arrived with his family in Washington County, Wisconsin and bought land in August, 1841. Georg Nicolaus Ströbe and his family passed through the port of New York in August, 1843 and journeyed to Wisconsin. Just where they lived those first years is not as yet known, but from the brief facts handed down, one can surmise pioneer hardships, tragedy and courage.

Carl who was the only son of Georg and Barbara, told his sons that he was between thirteen and fifteen when his father died. This teenager and a neighbor constructed the wooden box that Georg was buried in, somewhere in Wisconsin; and then Carl became the man of the family responsible for the support of his mother and the three girls. He did some farming; he even learned to do shoe and bootmaking when his eyes were failing and he was obliged to stay in a darkened room.

CHARLES GETS A FARM AND A WIFE

The family came to Milwaukee where Barbara Ströbe who was the daughter of a master tailor, could probably help maintain the family by sewing. There are land records in the City and County of Milwaukee showing the purchase of a parcel of land from John Hess by Barbara Stroebe, September 2, 1854, for \$745. On April 4, 1858 young Charles (who apparently had Anglicized his name from Carl) Stroebe, obtained naturalization in the Circuit Court at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

After his three sisters had married, Johanna to John Maas, Frederika to August Miller and Georgiana to Benedict Caspari in September 1859, Charles then could turn his thoughts to a home of his own. In 1860 Charles was in Orihula, Winnebago County, near Fremont, Wis. There he met a young school teacher from Fremont whom he courted and married August 4, 1862 in Mil-



CHARLES STROEBE AND SISTERS — about 1883
 GEORGIANA FREDERIKA CAROLINE
 Photo by Miller Bros. (sons of Frederika)

waukee when he was thirty one and she was twenty. The name of this young lady was Mary Helen Susan Spindler. She also was an immigrant, having come with her parents Gottlieb and Johanna Spindler together with six brothers and sisters from Oppeln, Germany.

By 1867 Charles and Mary Helen Stroebe had left Wisconsin, for they built that year a house in Ferrysburg, near Spring Lake, Michigan. Charles had a grocery store there and for many years was the town postmaster, as was his cousin Joseph in Brown Deer, Wisconsin. After ten years of marriage without children, they took a young lad named Delos into their home and raised him. Finally on October 11, 1877, Charles and Mary had a child of their own, a son they named George Gottlieb Stroebe thus perpetuating the name of his two grandfathers. A second son followed, May 6, 1880 whom they named Ernest Charles Stroebe.

Barbara Stroebe died in Milwaukee of a stroke January 12, 1880. Charles Stroebe died in Ferrysburg of arterio sclerosis January 6, 1909. John and Johanna Maas had six children; August and Frederika Miller had six also; Benedict and Georgiana Caspari had eight.

THE TWO BOYS GRADUATE AS ENGINEERS AND GO FAR AFIELD

Mary Helen Stroebe's experience as a school teacher, spurred her interest in seeing that her sons became educated. They did not disappoint their beloved mother, for both of them graduated from the University of Michigan—George with a degree in Civil Engineering and Ernest with a degree in Marine Engineering.

George G. Stroebe married a young school teacher from Coopersville, Michigan on December 26, 1906. This young lady was Gertrude Payne. In Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1908, the young couple became parents of a daughter they named Mary Helen. At this time, George was an Instructor in Engineering at the University.

Not long after, he decided that he needed more practical work in his chosen field of engineering if he were to advance on the teaching staff, and accordingly accepted an offer from the Philippine Government. So the family moved to Manila where he served twelve years—1910-1922—as irrigation engineer in the Bureau of Public Works. There two sons were born, George Willard in 1912 and Richard Payne in 1918.

During World War I, George G. was commissioned in the Engineers and served with troops, reaching the rank of Colonel of Engineers, U.S. Army.

After the war he continued his civil pursuits in hydraulic engineering and flood control work. In 1922 he accepted an invitation of the Chinese Government of that day, to serve as Chief Survey Engineer in its newly created Yangtse River Commission, remaining in that

capacity from 1922 to 1937. Returning then, from China to America, he was with the United States Army Engineers on flood control work until retirement in 1947.

FOURTH AND FIFTH GENERATIONS

It was in China that young Richard died from pneumonia in 1936. Meanwhile Helen had finished college and Stanford Medical School and had married Fred A. Clark, Jr., also a physician. George Willard was graduated from Stanford University and later earned his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Michigan in 1938. Since then he has been in the Research Department of the Standard Oil Company of California being now the head of the El Segundo branch of that Department. In 1948 he married Sue Crofford in Playa del Rey, California. They have a son, David George Stroebe born in 1951 and a daughter Carolyn Sue born in 1954. Although there are many lineal descendants, David George (*George Willard, George Gottlieb, Carl or Charles, Georg Nicolaus, Wolfgang Gerhardt Stroebe*) is at present, the only male child in the sixth generation to carry on the line and the name of Georg Nicolaus Stroebe the immigrant.

Ernest Stroebe, after his graduation from the University of Michigan Engineering Department in 1902, with a degree in Marine Engineering, had extensive experience in the construction of Mississippi River boats. He married Emy Myers of St. Louis, Missouri. They had three children: Ernest Richard born in 1911, St. Louis, Missouri, died unmarried in Los Angeles in 1952; Virginia who married Kenneth Swanson and has two children; and Richard born February 2, 1923, who has a post graduate degree from the University of Michigan. He is now a research engineer for General Motors in its research plant at Center Line near Detroit, Michigan.

HEIRLOOMS

Family heirlooms treasured by the George Stroebes, are two cups and saucers which apparently were given as farewell gifts to Georg and Barbara in 1843, by Y. N. and Johanne Schlott. Inscribed on each are the words: "Gedenke mein auch in den Ferne." "Y. N." could be the Nicolaus Schlott, master baker, who according to the record, stood as one of the sponsors at the baptism of the sixth child of Gunther and Elizabeth Ströbe, Johanne Elisabeth Wilhelmine Ströbe, in 1832. And Georg Nicolaus himself may have received the name Nicolaus from the Schlott family.

We are fortunate to have learned this much about the family of Wolfgang Gerhardt Ströbe and his wife Anna Catherina, for Grossbreitenbach is at present in East Germany behind the "Iron Curtain". Soviet Russia does not encourage correspondence with the Western World even about such non-political matters as geneology.



FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF
 GEORGE GOTTLIEB AND GERTRUDE (PAYNE) STROEBE, DEC. 26, 1956

Top row, from the left:

George Willard Stroebe
 Sue (Crofford) Stroebe
 Gertrude (Payne) Stroebe
 George Gottlieb Stroebe

Richard Stroebe Clark
 Helen (Stroebe) Clark
 Fred Adam Clark

Below, same order:

Roger William Clark
 Daniel George Clark
 Carolyn Sue Stroebe

David George Stroebe
 Peter Fred Clark



STROEBE ISLAND HOME, 1890

Two story house built to replace original log cabin which burned (see page 16); occupied later by Frank Stroebe and family. Photo taken about 1912.



THE HARRY STROEBE, SR., HOME, 1945
on the north half of the island.

Appendix I⁹

1. SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II OF HARRY STROEBE, JR. AND
2. MARY WHITE WHO LATER BECAME HIS WIFE

Harry Stroebe, Jr. enlisted July 29, 1942, in the Army Air Corps Reserve, for the Civilian Pilot Training Program at that time conducted locally for glider pilots at Kenosha, Wisconsin. This training was continued at other fields in Kansas, Arkansas and Texas. Through some quirk in the regulations, these civilian reservists had to be discharged when they finished the course, in this instance December 5, 1943. They were then returned to the responsibility of their respective local draft boards.

But some, including Harry Stroebe, were able to surmount this regulation, and were accepted into the regular service on the same or following day. Then they continued with primary, basic, advanced and transitional pilot training. About January 5, 1944, Harry was sent to Hendricks Field and to McDill Field, Florida, for Flying Fortress pilot and operational training. He finished this training in early summer, was sent overseas, arriving in England June 27. His assignment was to permanent station on a bomber-base of the Eighth Air Force.

During the month of July, 1944, "Operation Overlord" was still meeting a very tough German defense in Normandy, finally to break through this steel ring the last of that month. All through August from a swing just south of Paris, Patton's Third Army made uninterrupted progress eastward across France, while in the north, Montgomery's British Army battered the Germans back along the coast into Belgium. These drives were strongly supported from the air. The Eighth Air Force from England, raided German installations over a wide area in northern and central France.

In September, ahead of Patton's drive toward Nancy and Metz, the Ninth Air Force bombed the retreating Germans while more than 1100 "Fortresses" of the Eighth Air Force, attacked targets in central and southern Germany: synthetic and natural oil plants, industries, airfields, bridges, railroads and convoys, as far east as the Czechoslovakian border. From Italy the Fifteenth Air Force struck the upper Rhine area.

In December, the Germans threw all they had into a heavy counterattack through the Ardennes. But this in turn was boxed in and pinched off. The Allied drive across the Rhine followed; and by May 1945, the European part of the war was over.

NEWS ITEM

Second Lieutenant Harry Stroebe, Jr., 26 years old, pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress, has been awarded the Air Medal. He won the decoration while participating in heavy bombardment missions of the Eighth Air Force offensive . . . according to an Eighth Air Force dispatch. (Oct. 26, 1944)

First Lieutenant Harry Stroebe, Jr., pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress, has won an oak leaf cluster to his Air Medal for bombing attacks on targets in Germany and enemy occupied territory . . . is a graduate of the University of Minnesota [1941]. Prior to enlisting in the service, he was employed by the Wisconsin Conservation Department. (Nov. 8, 1944).

Harry Stroebe, Jr., stationed in England as a B-17 pilot, has been promoted to Captain. . . (Feb. 10, 1945)



FLAK!

In Harry's handwriting above: "Opening day of duck season was never like this!"

This picture was posed immediately after landing airplane "453" on the return from Berlin, Germany. This ship led the 486th Bomb Group for the bombing mission of that day. The bombing was done through part cloud cover but enough of Berlin was observed to see the terrific damage inflicted—April 2, 1945.

This mission marked the conclusion of a tour in the European Theater of Operations for most of the men in the picture — Crew 177 of McDill Field, Florida; Ship Pebbly E-easy "453."



CAPT. STROEBE & CREW at the end of the 30th mission. Beginning with the rear rank, left to right: Norton, Stroebe, Kirkendall, Walter, Tolson, Lynch, McCabe, Moore, Brown, Clarke.

APPLETON POST-CRESCENT

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 4, 1945

B-17 PILOT GIVES BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF EUROPE AFTER V-E DAY

Captain Harry Stroebe, pilot of a B-17 with the Eighth Air Force, has written his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stroebe, Stroebe's Island, describing a flight he made May 9, two days after V-E day, over Belgium, Germany and France.

"Leaving Sudbury Air Base," he wrote, "Circling over the field until the other ships get into formation and then proceeding across the English channel to Belgium. There isn't a cloud in the sky and a thousand feet below, U-boats head for Antwerp, Ostende and many little French ports.

"Below, the town of Ostende shows the effect of bombing and shelling it received almost a year ago. It is a resort town; you can see that by the rows of hotels along the waterfront.

"As we head toward Brussels we pass over Ghent and note that the marshaling yard has been hard hit but has been fixed up. Below are the well-kept fields of Belgium already green with grain and hay. Roads, fence rows, winding streams and yards are outlined with tall slender willow and poplar trees. The houses are in good condition, many of them being recently repaired or remodeled. There are cows in the field but usually not more than six.

"The horse chestnuts are in blossom in Brussels — officially it is V-E day and flags are flying from every house—French flags, British, American, church, Dutch and just plain bunting—people are in the streets and they wave to us—we are down to 500 feet and details are clear. Brussels sustained slight damage—the airport

on the outskirts of town was pounded and a few factories and rail yards were hit. Life seems to go on as usual in the capital.

"For thirty minutes and 75 miles we pass over the countryside—all well cultivated or growing. We pass a couple of airfields and they have received a terrific pounding—they have never been repaired.

SIGNS OF GROUND STRUGGLE

"On to Liege where the country is getting hilly and the slag dumps show up against the green earth. As the country gets rougher the farmland gives way to planted forests of pine and hardwoods. Here are the first definite signs of a ground struggle—old tank tracks and artillery shell craters. We crossed over a concrete battle line—below, the dragons teeth of a tank barrier look like a necklace. Pillboxes have been blown completely out of the ground. Up ahead is Aachen—from the west the damage is light but now we are passing over town and every house has been shelled—east of town every field has a thousand shell holes—every farm house is a defense with a zig-zag trench and a buried pill box.

"Ten minutes later we are out of the battle zone and into farm country. There is Germany now and here too, fields have been planted. Farmers are in the fields today ploughing and harrowing. No cattle are visible in the fields below and horses are scarce.

"Here we get off course and head for Cologne. Cologne was a town in the Ruhr valley—high altitude bombing did this—roofless houses, burned out areas, twisted steel and streets deep in debris. The cathedral still stands dark and foreboding above a ruined city. To the south is what is left of the Hohenzollern bridge lying broken in the river and down stream a railroad trestle has been

cut. Several pontoon bridges now breach the river and over these are passing a few trucks.

"We cut across country from Cologne to Essen and pass over well tilled farm country that shows little fighting. Essen is under us; what is left of the town is in the streets. Civilians walk through narrow paths in the streets. This town was pulverized—where do all these people live—there must be some underground living quarters.

SEES TOWN HE BOMBED

"We pass over Munster another flattened town (I bombed this town last September) and proceed out over unmolested farm country. For 50 miles we sail along—no war passed here—small groups of cows graze in the fields. The grain is up, potatoes are hilled in and there is much pasture land. The farm houses are clean with red tile roofs—community life never stopped here. The land resembles the midwest—scattered woods, pasture land and tilled fields. Square fields instead of the usual irregular shaped ones, bordered by straight gravel roads.

"And now comes the first autobahn—these fine boulevard roads of Germany. Each strip of macadam or concrete is three lanes wide and crossings are made by over or underpasses. Intricate cloverleaves bring traffic up to the main roads and great bridges cross the streams and valleys.

"These roads served Germany for motor transport as her canals did for water transport. They also were helpful to us for navigational check points—even from 25,000 feet the cloverleaves stood out well and many have been used for turning points.

"On these same roads now pass a British convoy and speeding past is the omnipresent jeep.

"Halfway to Hanover the land gets a little more hilly and the autobahn winds along the top of the ridge. Even here the bridges have been blown but by now temporary spans have been pushed across the valleys. In this hilly section are more planted forests—logging is going on in some 80 foot pine below us.

GARDENS IN RUINED HANOVER

"Hanover under us—the downtown district is well demolished. In the outskirts some repair work is going on but the only signs of

people in town are the gardens behind the smashed apartment houses. Everyone seems to have a small garden.

"On to Brunswick where the destruction continues and here we head south by west over the Harz mountains. I am flying now so I can't write much—the hills are 3,000 feet high and well covered by timber. It is a beautiful country, only the lakes are lacking.

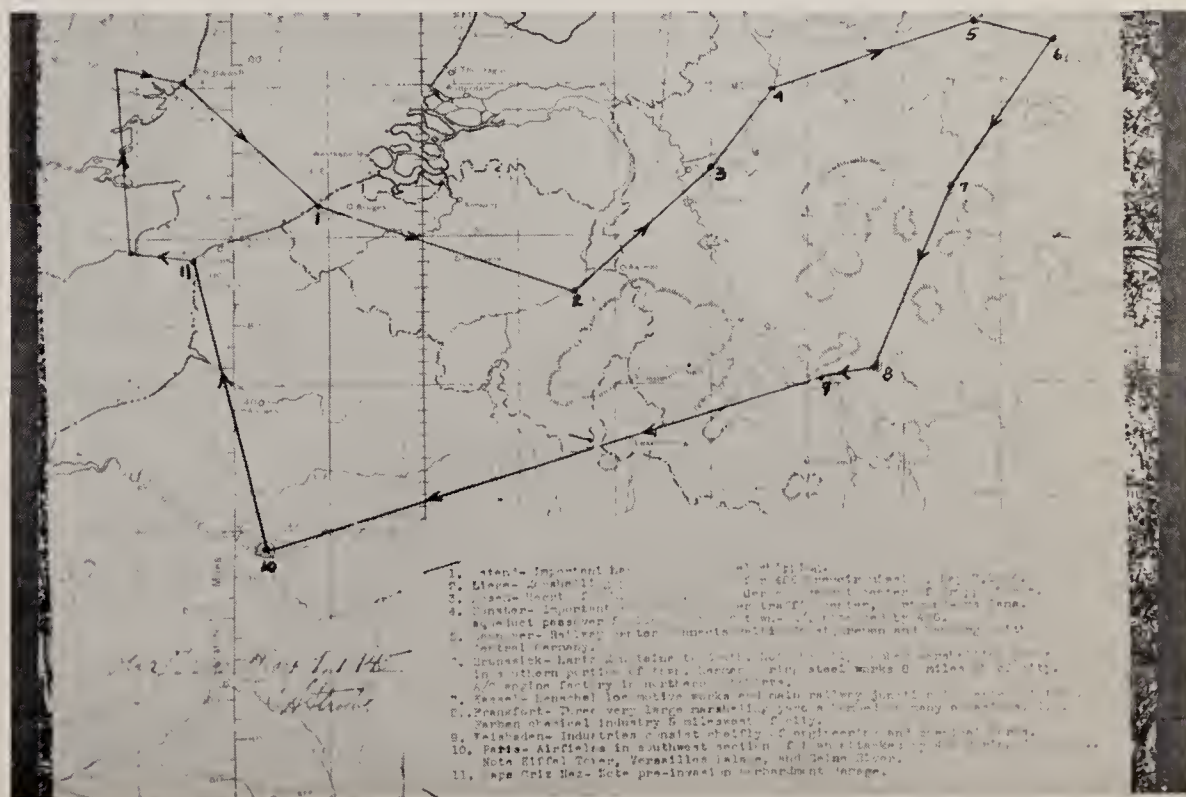
"Here comes the town of Kassel. Both Kassel and Frankfort¹⁰ have been turned upside down (bombed both these towns last winter); there isn't a bit of green grass showing and many cave air-raid shelters are visible.

"In this section of Germany only the larger towns, and the railroad yards in the smaller towns have been hit; so while the marshaling yard may be wiped out, the buildings in town are still intact.

"Here too, farming is going on as usual—well, perhaps not as usual as the farmer beneath us is ploughing with two cows hitched to his plough and one cow is kicking up quite a fuss. From what I observe, there should be little starvation problems in Germany with the exception of the big cities. Transportation to get the produce from the farms to congested areas will be most difficult but the food is on the land.

TERRACED FOR GRAPES

"We leave Frankfort and pass Wiesbaden and on down the Rhine valley. The valley is very steep and the southern slopes have been terraced for the raising of grapes. The slopes look like a patchwork of gray quilts. A farmer is ploughing on this slope and it looks as if he were going directly up hill.



POST V-E DAY TOUR MAP OF EUROPE, MAY 9, 1945 —
As described by Captain Harry Stroebe

NEWS ITEM

“Out of the deep Rhine valley heading for Luxembourg—this was country fought over by the tanks, and farm houses show the damage.

“Between here and Paris the land is monotonous—long stretches of waste land and thousands of acres of planted timber. Over Paris we circle the Eiffel tower and look down on the Arch of Triumph. We are low enough to see the sidewalk cafes and a few bright canopies. Thousands of people are in the streets celebrating.

“Then on back to Calais past the invasion coast and home.”

Captain Harry Stroebe, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Stroebe, Stroebe's Island, was honorably discharged from the Army September 28, effective December 5, 1945, at Drew Field, Tampa, Florida. A veteran of the European Theater of Operations with the 486th Bomb Group, Eighth Air Force, Captain Stroebe completed 30 combat missions as a pilot and flight commander of a B-17 “Flying Fortress”. He was awarded the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross and then was made director of his bombing base in England. (Oct. 10, 1945)

He is now Major Harry Stroebe of the Air Force Reserve.



THE RETURN — 1945

Harry, Sr. with his son Captain Harry



LIEUTENANT MARY ANN WHITE, U.S.N.R.

2. NAVAL SERVICE OF MARY ANN WHITE, 1943-6

Her application for enlistment in Class V-9, Women's Reserve, United States Naval Reserve, was approved November 11, 1943.

She entered into active service at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, November 15, 1943. At Smith, she attended the Midshipman (WR) School for eight weeks. On December 22, 1943, she received her appointment to the United States Naval Reserve.

Her commission as Ensign, W-V(s) USNR, 345929, signed by Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy and dated the day of her appointment as above, was received by her January 11, 1944.

On January 13, 1944, she was ordered to report to Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts, for an eight weeks course in Communications (W) School.

As Communications Officer, she was ordered on March 7, 1944, to proceed by rail to the 13th Naval District, Seattle, Washington where she arrived, March 14.

On June 1, 1945, she was appointed Lieutenant, (j.g.)W(c) USNR 345929.

She was released from active duty, May 15, 1946 with leave for 26 days before passing to inactive status, Naval Reserve, June 10, 1946.

Her termination papers show:

Prior civilian training—Vocational Course, one year at Catherine Gibbs Secretarial School, Boston, Massachusetts. Last Employer, Scudder, Stevens and Clark, Boston, Massachusetts where she worked as secretary.

Medals and Ribbons: American Campaign Ribbon, Victory Medal.

Footnotes

⁹ Without their knowledge, this account of the Federal Service of Harry, Jr. and his wife in World War II, was secured from the scrap book of his mother, articles in the newspapers of the day and from various other sources.

¹⁰ About midway between Kassel and Frankfort, all unknown to Captain Stroebe, fifty miles to the east lay the western border of medieval Saxony and the town of Grossbreitenbach the ancient ancestral home of his forbears.

Appendix II

THE NELSON FAMILY

Since two of the Nelson sisters married two sons of Joseph Stroebe, some note must be made of the Nelson Family.

The maternal grandfather of these girls, was Christian Rubenstein who was born in Berlin, Germany in 1827. He came to America about 1848. At Buffalo, New York in 1854, he married Marie Christina Groffman who was born in Stettin, Germany. They had four children including Mary who was born in Buffalo, May 5, 1862. Mary died January 6, 1948.

On June 18, 1878, Mary Rubenstein married Chris Nelson at Little Suamico, Wisconsin. He was born in Denmark, February 15, 1858 and died June 24, 1936. He came to America in 1876.

By trade, Chris was a papermaker. He became a foreman at Fox River Paper Company and worked there over thirty years. In 1912 he went as superintendent to Whiting-Plover Paper Company, Stevens Point, Wisconsin where he remained until he retired in 1926.

Chris and Mary (Rubenstein) Nelson had nine children:

Thora	Ella (See first par. below)
Anna m. Nov. 10, 1903,	Mildred m. Oct. 6, 1915,
Frank Stroebe	Harry H. Stroebe
William	Mae
Edward	Ruth
Altha	

In reference to Ella Nelson above, it is necessary to digress for a moment. With Company G, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry, commanded by Captain Lothar G. Graef, Alfred W. Pingel served as Sergeant on the Mexican Border in 1916. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, Pingel found himself again at the State Military Reservation at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, with the prospect of many changes in organization. Most of the Wisconsin and Michigan troops were to be grouped together at Waco, Texas, into the 32nd Division. But old Company G under Captain Graef, was changed into a machine gun company for the 42nd or "Rainbow" Division. Thus eventually it became Company A, 150th Machine Gun Battalion and Sergeant Pingel became its leading "non-com" as First Sergeant. However this was not his main achievement. After a bold and gallant war-time wooing, he convinced Miss Ella Nelson that he was the real C.O. (Chief Osculator or Commanding Officer) for her; and so along with all the other military activities, they were married at Camp Douglas, August 25, 1917.

Now returning to the maternal grandfather above, at the age of thirty-five years, Christian Rubenstein enlisted for military service, August 6, 1862 and was assigned to Company H, 24th Wisconsin Infantry. The captain of his company was H. W. Gunnison, the 1st

lieutenant, Gustave Goldsmith. The regimental adjutant was Arthur McArthur father of General Douglas McArthur. The complete regiment was assembled at Camp Sigel, Milwaukee, in August.

In September, 1862, the regiment was sent across the Ohio River where it became a part of General Gordon Granger's Division of Sheridan's Third Corps of Buell's Army which was then pointed against Bragg's Confederate Army in Tennessee.

In November, Buell joined the Union forces under Rosencrans in the Battle of Stone River. The following year this Union army fought eastwardly through Murfreesboro and Tullahoma to the momentous struggles around Chattanooga and Gordon's Mills. In September, 1863 it was in the Battle of Chickamauga and was caught in the squeeze at Chattanooga.

Two months later, in November, Company H with the 24th Wisconsin took part in the unexpected, thrilling, suddenly successful assault against the heights of Missionary Ridge where Major Arthur McArthur seized the regimental flag from the hands of its exhausted bearer and waved the panting blue line up over the crest.

The 24th Wisconsin did not do it all by any means. But it played its small part in the thick of it. The troops had been ordered only to "demonstrate" while General Sherman's veterans showed them how a battle should be won. General Grant who had come to see what was going on in this hot spot of the Army of the Cumberland, was startled, amazed and not exactly pleased. He turned to General Thomas:

"By whose command are these troops climbing the hill?"

General Thomas suggested that it was probably their own—which it was. But it was Sheridan's Division and he was in it. Men and officers together as veterans, sometimes sense the moment to strike the enemy.

Later, the 24th Wisconsin, still of Granger's Corps was sent to Knoxville to get Burnside out of the ring which Longstreet was trying so hard to close about him. This was a hard-marching expedition consuming most of the months of December and January.

After Longstreet retired, the regiment returned to become a part of Sherman's Atlanta campaign. It fought in the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain and Peachtree Creek in Atlanta.

At Kenesaw Mountain where McArthur, now a lieutenant colonel, again was foremost in battle, Christian Rubenstein was wounded. On July 7, two weeks before the Battle of Peachtree Creek, he died from this wound.

Appendix III

MILITARY SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT EDGAR LEONARD SIELAFF

Husband of "Betty" Stroebe

He was inducted into the service, September 11, 1941 and reported at Camp Grant the same day. This was three months before Pearl Harbor. From October 1 to December 13, he took basic training in Horse Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kansas. From December 15, 1941 to March 12, 1942, he was in Air Warning Service, Signal Corps, Camp Dix, N.J. From March 19 to May 23, 1942, he was with the Signal Corps at Drew Field, Florida. From there he was sent to Plant Park, Tampa where he was stationed until June 10. Next he was sent to a Signal Corps Bivouac at Pascagoula, Mississippi where he remained until August 20. Then he returned to Plant Park where he was stationed until October 1. Between October 1 and December 6, the Signal Corps divided his time between Camp DeSoto and Drew Field, Florida.

About this time the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes, caused a feeling in high military circles that they might need men who could push bullets and bayonets as well

as battery buttons and ricocheting radar. So he was sent to Camp Livingston, Louisiana and to Camp Shelby, Mississippi from December 6, 1944 to June 6, 1945, to learn Infantry Basics.

Back in the Signal Corps again, from June 19 to July 7 he was at Fort Meade, Maryland; then from July 9 to August 15 at the Port of Embarkation, New Orleans, finally arriving at Corozal, Panama, C.Z. on August 20. There he remained in the Signal Corps until December 4 when he was passed through Fort Randolph, C.Z. and thence to the Separation Center at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, being discharged December 22, 1945. His discharge shows his civilian rating to be a college graduate, vocation Landscape Architect. Medals and Ribbons received: American Defense Service Ribbon; Victory Medal; American Theater Ribbon; one service stripe and the Good Conduct Medal.

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EDGAR L. SIELAFF, AS TECH. CORPORAL — October, 1942

The Genealogical Chart

PREFATORY NOTES:

1. Roman Capital figures represent family generations; Arabic numbers, the individual. For instance, if the children of 16 Charles Ströbe, Generation III, are desired, look for number 16 in Generation IV and the numbers shown there will be found in V. Those names not bearing Arabic numbers, are without further continuation of their branch, being without issue or issue unknown. But these names nevertheless, are included in the numbering system, so that they may bear the number without conflict in case new information shows a line of descent. Example: Generation III, 3, Christiane Margarethe for such change, would bear number 17. Sine Prole or S.P. means *without issue*.

2 a). The variation in the spelling of Christian or "given" names in the text, or as between the text and the Chart, may be confusing to some. This is such a common occurrence that little thought is given to it by many people. As a good, general example, take the name Charles the Great. The Romans called him Carolus Magnus; the early French, Charlemagne; the Germans, Karl der Grosse. From the above variations we get the common masculine names, Charles, Carl, Karl. Also we get the feminine forms with of course greater variety: Carol, Carola, Caroline, Carlotta and Charlotte. Next consider the name Franziska. An early German tribe with homes on both sides of the lower Rhine, bore the name Franks. This tribe grew into the large and powerful Kingdom of the Franks which included most of old Gaul from Paris south. Later, that portion of this kingdom west of the Rhine was split off, but the name France was left as a permanent legacy to all of the land between the English Channel and the Pyrenees. One old German province took the name Franconia. East of the Rhine the vocal sound and use of the letters z and k are preferred. So in Thuringia we find Franziska. At Bingen am Rhine the ship ticket shows Franzisca. Hence this form is used in the text for her earlier years. In Kansas it becomes Frances. In addition to the above feminine use of this name, from the same sources we find Frank and Franz for men. Also commonly, there are Henri and Henry for men and Henriette, Henrietta and Harriet for women. Many names are subject to shortening into nicknames which not infrequently become the full real name, viz. Friedrich or Friedrich—Fred, Fritz.

b). Surnames also show many changes. The present name Stroebe, one hundred and fifty years ago was Ströbe. Other possible variations are found today in the United States such as Strobe or Strebe. Weimar too is sometimes varied by Weymar and perhaps Weimer. Some of these changes are designed for simpler forms; some are errors of spelling in records and registration; many due to moving from one country to another involving language changes. The change in the name Ströbe however took place in Germany—maybe just to get rid of the umlaut.

3. Another branch of the Stroebe family was disclosed by correspondence between Dr. Lilian L. Stroebe, Vassar College, now retired and Colonel George G. Stroebe, Dr. Stroebe evidently was the only member of her branch to emigrate to America. In after years she became interested in her family geneology and wrote to relatives in Germany about it. As a result of this, she found that the father of Lieutenant Colonel Fritz Stroebe of West Germany, some years before had made inquiry of a geneological research establishment and was duly informed that the Ströbe line originated from the Strüve family which carried a coat of arms. A copy of this imposing crest was also furnished. This information with a copy of the crest, was referred by Colonel George Stroebe's daughter Dr. Helen Clark, to a competent European geneologist who after carefully investigating informed Mrs. Clark that he could find no connection between the Ströbe and Strüve families.

4. The above geneologist, Baron Karl F. von Frank also suggested to Lieutenant Colonel Fritz Stroebe in West Germany, means whereby he could check his antecedents which the latter had thought impossible due to destruction of the records by war. Colonel Stroebe followed the suggestion and thus learned from authentic church records in Wertheim am Main, that his great, great, great grandfather Johann Heinrich Ströbe, came to Wertheim from Grossbreitenbach in 1763. Therefore it is evident that beginning about the middle of the eighteenth century, these various Stroebe branches came from one source. The Wertheim line is divided into the Karlsruhe branch which is Colonel Fritz Stroebe's and the Freibeim branch from which Dr. Lilian Stroebe is descended.

Descendents in America of Wilhelm Wolfgang Gerhardt Ströbe

(Later, STROEBE)

I 1. Wilhelm Wolfgang Gerhardt Ströbe of Grossbreitenbach, Thuringia, Germany—moulder, bushelmaker and tradesman—married about 1799, Anna Catherina Shübelin (an only daughter) of Goldlauter, Thuringia.

II Children of Wolfgang and Anna:

2. Johann Christian Gunther b. 1800?
 Vocations: 1822, masterweaver m. 10 Sept., 1821 Johanne Elizabeth Louise Wild of Gold-
 1826, tradesman lauter, b. 15 Feb., 1803, d. 8 Feb., 1879, Appleton, Wis.
 1827, masterweaver & innkpr.
 1829, innkeeper
 1830, masterweaver
 1841, farmer, U.S.A. d. (15?) Aug., 1872, Appleton, Wis.

3. Johann Georg Nicol (aus) b. 20 Apr., 1802
 Vocations: tradesman or merchant. Record- m. 16 June, 1828, Barbara Margarethe Geyer, b. 24 Dec.,
 ed as inbound, Port of New 1797, only dau. of Johann Heinrich Geyer, tailor. She
 York, Aug., 1843 d. 12 Jan., 1880 in Milwaukee, Wis.
 d. about 1846 when his son Carl was 15 years old, probably
 in Milwaukee.

Johanne Susanne Christiane (no further information)

III 2. Children of Gunther and Elizabeth (Wild) Ströbe:

Friederich Carl b. 4 Jan., 1822; unmar'd,
 Studied law in Germany, farmer in d. 18 Aug., 1894
 U.S., popular with children as a story-
 teller

Johanne Christiane Michaelae b. 14 July, 1826
 d. young

7. Johann Nicholas Benjamin b. 20 Oct., 1827
 m. Christena Schultz who was b. in 1831, d. 1907
 d. 30 July, 1901

Johanne Augusta Christiane b. 23 Apr., 1829
 m. George Schneider

9. Johann Friederich Joseph b. 15 Nov., 1830
 m. 16 Mar., 1856, Franzisca Weimar in Christ Ch., Dheins-
 ville, Washington Co., Wis. She was dau. of Ludwig
 (Louis) and Susanne (Chollet) Weimar. She d. 15
 Feb., 1929

Johanne Elizabethe Wilhelmina d. 7 Mar., 1923, Appleton, Wis.
 (Called "Helma") b. 28 Oct., 1823
 m. Wm. Kunz

Franziska Louise Friedericke b. 12 Dec., 1834
 m. Edward Lite, b. 1832, d. 1898. They had George, d. 1880
 and Clara who m. Frank Ehrgott. They had Jennie.

Johanne Christiane Aurelie Caroline b. 8 Dec., 1836
 (Called "Katherine") m. Bernard Drenks

Franz b. 7 Nov., 1839
 d. young

14. Adolph Reinhold b. 9 Mar., 1841
 Served with 51st Wis. Inf. in the Civil m. Fredericka Koester, she was b. in Germany 14 July,
 War 1859, d. 12 Oct., 1944, Appleton, Wis.
 d. 7 Aug., 1899

3. Children of Georg Nicholas and Barbara (Geyer) Ströbe:

Johanne Christiane Caroline b. 6 Nov., 1829
 m. John Maas, they had six ch.; she d. in Wis.

16. Carl (Charles)

Christiane Margarethe
Fredericka

Georgiana

b. 19 June, 1831

m. 4 Aug., 1862 in Milwaukee, Mary Helen Susan Spindler of Fremont, Wis. She d. 22 Feb., 1920.

d. 6 Jan., 1909, Ferrysburg, Mich.

b. 11 June, 1833 (no further data)

b. 11 June, 1835

m. August Miller. They had six ch. Sons Herman and Robert were photographers at 359 Third or Water St., Milwaukee.

d. (date unknown)

b. 5 Aug., 1837

m. 23 Sept., 1859, Benedict Caspari. They had eight ch.

d. 14 June, 1905, in Wisconsin

IV 7. Children of Benjamin and Christena (Schultz) Stroebe:

Emma

Mary

Hannah

Katherine

Louise

Carrie

26. John Wilhelm

George

b. 31 Jan., 1864

m. 1903, Charlotte Isadora Don (2).

d. 4 May, 1937

b. 6 Jan., 1866

m. 1890, Charlotte Isadora Don (1). They had two girls both deceased. After George died, his widow married John 26 above.

d. 14 Feb., 1895

9. Children of Joseph and Frances (Franziska Weimar) Stroebe:

28. Adolph Otto

Hannah ("Della")

Emma

Edward

32. Harry Henry

33. Frank Charles

Henriette ("Yetta")

b. 29 Sept., 1858

m. Stella Irvin

d. 15 Feb., 1931

b. 8 May, 1861 S.P.

d. 9 May, 1957, Los Angeles, Calif.

b. 15 June, 1863 S.P.

d. 22 Dec., 1951, Appleton, Wis.

b. 20 Mar., 1865

m. Anna Milheiser, had 3 daus.; only survivor is Mae DeBaufer, Appleton, Wis.

d. 9 June, 1912. He was a trainman; accidentally killed in CM & St P yards, Milwaukee, Wis.

b. 28 Dec., 1868

m. 6 Oct., 1915, Mildred Nelson, Appleton—(See Appen. II, The Nelson Family).

d. 30 Oct., 1957; buried Highland Memorial Cemetery.

b. 3 Oct., 1871

m. 10 Nov., 1903, Anna Nelson, Appleton, Wis.

d. 10 Sept., 1946

b. 8 Sept., 1873

m. Leigh Bryan, they had 2 daus.—Helen deceased, Camille in Auburn, Wash. and a son Harry. There are nine grandchildren.

14. Children of Reinhold and Fredericka (Koester) Stroebe:

Edith A.

36. Frank George

Elizabeth ("Lizzie")

b. 27 Jan., 1881

m. 15 June, 1910, Alvin H. Dreblow, by a Lutheran Minister, Spokane, Wash.

d. 1928, San Bernardino, Calif.

b. 27 Feb., 1883

m. 6 Apr., 1910, Mary M. Sigl, by Father A. Roder, St John's Church, Seymour, Wis.

b. 31 July, 1885

m. 4 Oct., 1909, Frank Leisch in St. John's Ch., Appleton Wis.

d. 6 Aug., 1951, Green Bay, Wis.

Laura

b. 31 Aug., 1888
m. 21 Sept., 1912, M. Schuyler Rhone, at the Presbyterian Parsonage, Cardston, Alberta, Canada.

Wilhelmina ("Minnie")

b. 19 April, 1891
m. 27 Sept., 1913, William Kubitz in the Lutheran Church, Loveland, Colo.
d. 21 July, 1952

16. Children of Charles and Mary (Spindler) Stroebe:

40. George Gottlieb

Grad. 1900, U. Mich., Civil Eng.

b. 11 Oct., 1877, Ferrysburg, Mich.
m. 26 Dec., 1906, Coopersville, Mich., Jessie Gertrude Payne, b. 11 Jan. 1880, Elm Hall, Mich., dau. of Frank Ernest and Frances Edmonson Payne.

41. Ernest Charles

Grad. 1902, U. Mich., Marine Eng.

b. 6 May, 1880, Ferrysburg, Mich.
m. 1908, Emy Myers, St. Louis, Mo.

Delos—raised by the family from age 5

m. and had children all under the name Stroebe. Not regularly adopted.

V 26. Children of John and Charlotte (Don) Stroebe:

43. Willis Benjamin

b. 5 Sept., 1904
m. 26 Nov., 1927, Florence Mareness

28. Children of Adolph Otto and Stella (Irvin) Stroebe:

Nina

b. 3 Apr., 1889
m. 6 Sept., 1945, E. Harwood

45. Thomas Joseph

b. 29 Sept., 1893
m. 26 Apr., 1926, Dorothy Alyson Moody. She was b. 6 Aug., 1902, Fowler, Colo. and died in May, 1935.

32. Children of Harry H. and Mildred (Nelson) Stroebe:

46. Pearl Dorothy

B.S., U. Wis., 1937

b. 21 Sept., 1916
m. 2 Apr., 1942, Julian D. Cox, Specialist in Metallurgy. University of Kentucky and University of Chicago.

47. Harry, Jr.

U. Wis. 3 yrs.

U. Minn. 2 yrs.

Grad. in Forestry, 1941: Wis. Game Commission (See Mil. Record, Appen. I)

Frances Mary ("Betty")

U. Wis.

b. 11 July, 1918
m. 2 Oct., 1948, Mary A. White, Lawrence Coll., 1940, Phi Beta Kappa. (See Mil. Record, Appen. I.)

b. 31 Jan., 1921
m. 1 July, 1943, Edgar L. Sielaff, Landscape Architect. University of Wisconsin. (See Mil. Record in Appen. III.)

33. Children of Frank Charles and Anna (Nelson) Stroebe:

49. Gladys

b. 25 Aug., 1904
m. 21 Feb., 1923 (1) Alfred Phillips; 26 Dec., 1928 (2) Stanley Averill; 2 Aug., 1955 (3) Tony Yurcheck.

50. Marion

b. 30 July, 1906
m. 15 June, 1937, Lucien Gibson

51. Mildred

b. 29 May, 1908
m. 4 May, 1934, Alfred Heuer

52. Helen

b. 25 Dec., 1913
m. 22 May, 1935, Clarence Doberstein

36. Children of Frank George and Mary (Sigl) Stroebe:

53. Francis George

Grad. Montana St. Coll. 1940, B.S. in Arch.; Served in U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve.

b. 1 Feb., 1917, Kalispell, Montana
m. 11 June, 1942, Ellen Wipf (b. 14 Sept., 1918), Bozeman, Mont., in Holy Rosary Ch., by Father J. J. O'Kennedy. She is Grad. Montana St. Coll., Bozeman, 1940, B.S. in Home Ec.

40. Children of George G. and Jessie (Payne) Stroebe:
 54. Mary Helen b. 22 Nov., 1908, Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Grad. Stanford U. and M.D. m. 19 Dec., 1931 at Palo Alto, Calif., Fred Adam Clark, Jr., b. 21 Aug., 1907, Redlands, Calif. Both are graduates of Stanford Univ. and Doctors of Medicine.
55. George Willard b. 25 May, 1912, Manila, P.I.
 Grad. Stanford U. and Dr. Chem. Eng., m. 16 July, 1948, Sue Crofford
 U. Mich., 1938. Hd. El Segundo Research Br. S.O. of Calif.
 Richard Payne b. 30 May, 1918, Manila, P.I.
 d. 19 Mar., 1936 of pneumonia in China
41. Children of Ernest and Emy (Myers) Stroebe:
 Ernest R. b. 5 July, 1911, St. Louis, Mo.
 d. 20 May, 1952, Los Angeles, Calif. S.P.
 Virginia ("Dolly") b. 28 May
 m. Kenneth Swanson, they have two children
- Richard b. 2 Feb., 1923
 P. Grad., U. Mich.; Research Engr. for
 Gen. Motors, Center Line, Mich.
- VI 43. Children of Willis and Florence (Mareness) Stroebe:
 Lois Mae b. 7 July, 1928
 m. Richard Cotton, they have: Susan 10, James 9, Debra and Daphne 6 and John 2 years.
- Virginia Florence b. 2 May, 1930
 m. (1) Raymond Miller, Jr., (2) Francisco B. Whittemore;
 from (1) Gaen Jean 9, Raymond Charles III 8, Joli Ann 6, Gern 2 years; from (2) Rebecca 3 mos.
45. Children of Thomas Joseph and Dorothy A. (Moody) Stroebe:
 62. Thomas Joseph, Jr. b. 25 Jan., 1928, Santa Monica, Calif.
 m. 16 Aug., 1953, Katherine Jean Rapp who was b. 21 Feb. 1932, Wakita, Okla.
46. Children of Pearl Stroebe and Julian D. Cox:
 Morris Julian D. b. 7 March, 1943
- Joseph Stroebe b. 16 June, 1946
- Nelson Elgin b. 9 Oct., 1948
- Christina Thora b. 27 Dec., 1951
- Mary Frances b. 27 March, 1953
47. Children of Harry, Jr. and Mary A. (White) Stroebe:
 Bruce Peter b. 6 Apr., 1953; adopted 12 Sept., 1953
- Mark Stephen b. 11 June, 1955; adopted 12 Dec., 1955
49. Children of Gladys Stroebe and (1) Alfred Phillips:
 Frank Stroebe Phillips (2) Stanley Averill:
 b. 21 Feb., 1924
- James Averill b. 29 Nov., 1929
50. Children of Marion Stroebe and Lucien Gibson:
 Ann Marie b. 6 July, 1938
51. Children of Mildred Stroebe and Alfred Heuer:
 Christine b. 15 Oct., 1937
- Thomas b. 17 Mar., 1940
- Maxine b. 22 June, 1942

52. Children of Helen Stroebe and Clarence Doberstein:
 Carol b. 22 Aug., 1936
 Joan b. 15 Oct., 1938
53. Children of Francis George and Ellen (Wipf) Stroebe:
 Susan Marie b. 9 Aug., 1944
 Mary Ellen b. 27 May, 1947
 Conrad Francis b. 13 Oct., 1949
 Margaret Elise b. 5 Apr., 1952
 Frances Jean b. 15 Apr., 1954
 Timothy Joseph b. 11 Feb., 1957
54. Children of Mary Helen Stroebe and Fred A. Clark, Jr.:
 Richard Stroebe b. 27 Oct., 1935
 m. 20 Dec., 1958, Geraldine Jennings
 Peter Fred b. 16 July, 1937
 Daniel George b. 14 May, 1942
 Roger William b. 4 July, 1945
55. Children of George Willard and Sue (Crofford) Stroebe:
 David George b. 3 July, 1951
 Carolyn Sue b. 28 Apr., 1954
- VII 62. Children of Thomas Joseph, Jr. and Katherine Jean (Rapp) Stroebe:
 Thomas Arthur b. 18 Aug., 1954, Wichita, Kansas
 Dorothy Alyson b. 5 May, 1956, Wichita, Kansas
 Jennifer Lynn b. 31 Dec., 1957, Los Angeles

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