



Madison County Genealogical Society



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Christian Schmitt, Early Settler

The Christ Schmitt home was located six miles west, two south, and one-half mile east of Madison. The home was built around 1884 by Christ Schmitt for his wife, Philippina, and their 13 children. When it was built, the home had 18 rooms. In addition to his family, the home was a residence for the hired men and the minister from the Evangelical United Brethren Church which stood a short distance to the west. Mrs. Beth Rottler, at one time, lived in the home and said that the dining room of the house was 16 feet by 24 feet and that the table would seat 40 people. [Mrs. Beth Rottler's husband was Frederick A. Rottler. He was the son of William and Clara Elizabeth (Schmitt) Rottler]. The house was the first in the area to have a gas lighting system and also the first to have water in the house with an inside bathroom.

Christ Schmitt was a county commissioner at one time. He donated the land for the first District 19 school house and also the land for the cemetery that still is in existence on the north side of the road across from where the church stood. Christ Schmitt was a native of Germany. He was born May 17, 1844, at Machenback, Reinfals, in the Province of Bavaria on the Rhine. He died at his home, south of Madison, Nebraska on April 17, 1914 [or April 7, 1914]. Mr. Schmitt left his native land, embarking on the steamship "FERKRUTZ", coming by way of Havre, France, to Liverpool, and from there to New York. After landing in the new world he started for the west, and settled in Will County, Illinois, where he remained five years. He married Philippina [or Philipina] Gabelman on January 19, 1869. [She was born Sept. 22 1848 and died Aug. 20, 1901.] Philippina was a sister of Jacob "J. D." Gabelman. After her marriage to Christ, they moved to Nebraska in 1871. He liked the country so much that Jacob and his parents moved to Nebraska in 1872, and also homesteaded in Green Garden Precinct. Philippina's parents lived on the homestead until they retired in 1875.

Their 13 children are:

- Katharina was born in Dec. 1869. She married Fred Bender. She died in Feb. 1916, at the age of 47 years. Buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery
- Caroline was born in Apr. 1871. She married William Kohl. She died in Jan. 1922, at the age of 51 years. Buried in Kohl Cemetery.
- Phoebe was born in Aug. 1873. She married Gustav Miller. She died in May 1930, at the age of 57 years. Buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery.
- Johanna "Anna" was born in Jan. 1875. She married William Frey. She died in Sept. 1927, at the age of 52 years. Buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery.
- Christian D. was born in May 1876 and died in May 1922, at the age of 46 years.
- Jacob R. was born Feb. 9, 1878, and died Aug. 10, 1955, at the age of 77 years. He married Martha Kallweit.
- George O. was born in Aug. 1880 and died in June 1959, at the age of 79 years. He married Amelia Rottler [1879-1906]. Buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery.
- William was born July 2, 1882, and died Jan 30, 1952. He married Esther Emilie Wegner.
- Fred P. was born in Aug. 1884 and died in Apr. 1919, at the age of 35 years. He married Gladys Jenkins [1886-1957].
- Margaretha, born May 27, 1886, and died on Aug. 20, 1887, at age of one. Buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery.
- Clara Elizabeth "Lizzie" was born Sept. 2, 1888, and died Feb. 6, 1922, at the age of 34 years. She married William Rottler. He was born Dec. 16, 1875, and died Jan. 5, 1967. Buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery.
- Martha was born in May 1892. She married Herman Blank. She died in Nov. 1954, at the age of 62 years. Buried in Zion

Evangelical Cemetery. • William A. was born on July 2, 1882, and died on Jan. 30, 1952, at the age of 70 years. He married Esther Emilie Wegner. Buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

More information on these families can be found in the sources listed below.

Sources: "125 Years of Memories" 1867 - 1992 Madison, Nebraska. Published in 1993.

Madison County Genealogical Society, Schmitt/Rottler Cemetery, Published in 2000.

Madison County Genealogical Society, Kohl Cemetery, Published in 2000.

Information extracted and compiled by Richard Strenge.

Herman Raasch, 85, Is Taken By Death

Was Boy of 7 in First Wisconsin Caravan to arrive in Norfolk

Herman Raasch, Stanton, who was a 7-year-old boy in the first colony of Wisconsin settlers to come to Norfolk in 1866, died Tuesday morning at his home. He was 85 years old.

Mr. Raasch was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Martin Raasch whose family was one of twenty-eight that traveled in the Wisconsin covered wagon caravan to establish the town of Norfolk.

He spent most of his life in Stanton county where he first engaged in farming and later retired to his home in Stanton. He wife died many years ago, and for several years his daughter, Mrs. Ella Benning, had made her home with her father. He also is survived by two daughters living in Oklahoma, two brothers, Henry, Norfolk, and John, Hadar, and one sister, Mrs. Pfeil, Hoskins.

Death of Mr. Raasch leaves only about twenty-four or twenty-five persons, who came with the first Wisconsin pioneers, still living.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home, and at 2:30 o'clock at St. John's Lutheran church, the Rev. Herbert Hackbarth, pastor, being in charge. Burial will be made in the Stanton cemetery. Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Wednesday May 15, 1940, page 2.

Rudolph Rajskey

Rudolph Rajskey died May 4, 1920, He was born in Bohemia on Dec. 30, 1845 and was married to Mary Howe in Bohemia in 1875. They emigrated to the United States in 1882 and located in Chicago. To this union four children were born, James, Rudolph, Anton and Mrs. Mary Cerney. Funeral services were held in St. Leonard's Church, Friday, May 7th and burial in St. Leonard's cemetery. Excerpts from: Madison Star-Mail, Friday, May 14, 1920, page 2.

Winnie Reeves Dead

Prominent Young Lady of Battle Creek Called--- Hundreds Attend Funeral Held Tuesday

Death came to Miss Winnifred Reeves, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Reeves, at the home in Battle Creek early Monday morning after an illness of less than ten days. Miss Reeves had suffered somewhat at times with jaundice and the complaint appeared to be yielding under ordinary treatment. Finally, when she was forced to take to her bed, the case became hopeless almost before it was realized her condition was serious. Best physicians and competent nurses could do nothing to stay the end. She lapsed into unconsciousness and passed quietly away at a time when she appeared to be suffering the least.

Funeral services were held at the family home in south Battle Creek Tuesday afternoon. Rev. W. C. Harper of Madison officiated and he was assisted by Rev. M. Doherty of Wisconsin, formerly pastor of the Battle Creek Baptist church. Floral designs and cut flowers, gifts of loving friends, banked the bier and covered the beautiful casket. Over five hundred from all parts of the county gathered to pay last respects and the

great majority of those made up the cortege which followed the remains to the Osborn cemetery in Schoolcraft where last rites were performed.

Winnifred Reeves was born at the old Reeves home south of Battle Creek on November 5, 1916, and remained the baby of the family. At the time of her death she was 21 years, 9 months and 27 days old. A few years ago, when the parents moved to town, Winnifred entered the schools of Battle Creek and was graduated with honors from the high school with the class of 1917. During her school days Winnie's sweet face and vivacious ways won the hearts of teachers and classmates. Bright, happy, and always cheerful, she was the life of the home, now made desolate by her untimely departure.

"She had just passed her happy teens; the time when youth stands waiting before the half-open door that leads into a fairer and more promising land of dreams and flowers. And as she would have entered a messenger came and said,

'Come this way; it is best,'

"She fought her fights, she kept the faith,
Her fame shines bright and clear,
And her memory lives in all our hearts,
Which will hold it ever dear."

There survives: the parents, two brothers, Enoch and Grover, and three sisters, Miss Cora Reeves, Mrs. Charity Cox, and Mrs. Blanche Cox, the latter residing at Seneca, Nebraska.

Source: Battle Creek Enterprise, Battle Creek, Nebraska, Thursday, September 5, 1918, page 1.

Otto Reinhardt, Sr.

Otto Reinhardt, Sr., died last Saturday, May 15th in Omaha. He was born in Germany, June 2, 1861, He came to America in 1879 and first located at Omaha. He was married to Miss Tinnie Baur in 1889 and to this union four children were born Otto Jr., Minnie, Emil and Lillie. He came to Madison in 1900 and Mrs. Reinhardt died in August, 1902. Burial was made in Crown Hill Cemetery. Excerpts from: Madison Star-Mail, Friday, May 21, 1920, page 10.

Death of W. M. Robertson

The sad news came to our city Tuesday morning of the death of our former townsman, W. M. Robertson, at his home in Norfolk. He passed away at 2 o'clock Tuesday morning.

William M. Robertson was born Andes, Delaware county, N. Y., January 23, 1848. His parents were born and married in Scotland, coming to America in 1841 and settling in Delaware county, N. Y. He studied law and was admitted to practice, and in April 1874, he removed to Nebraska, locating at Norfolk, and engaged in the practice of his profession. After practicing in Norfolk for two years he removed to Madison and practiced for sixteen years. Then he returned to Norfolk, where he has since resided.

On Dec. 29, 1870, he was married at Forreston, Ill., to Miss Anna M. Garver and three children have been born to them. A daughter [Ruth] is the wife of Prof. Geo. C. Williams and lives in Ithaca, N. Y. A son, Sidney D., has been associated with his father in the practice of law in Norfolk under the firm name of Robertson & Robertson. One son died in infancy.

He also leaves an aged mother who is lying seriously ill in Omaha and unable to attend the funeral and three brothers, Collin of Forreston, Ill., D. K. of this city, and Fremont of Omaha who formerly resided in our city to mourn the loss of husband, father, son and brother.

Mr. Robertson was a man held in high esteem by all. He was a great friend of the children. He was a kind and loving husband and father and had friends in all parts of Nebraska, being a public man, he had a state wide reputation as an attorney. He was twice a candidate

for the republican nomination for governor and in many other ways a distinguished member of his part and was prominently mentioned as the District Judge in the Ninth judicial district to take the place of Judge Boyd. He was the president of the Commercial Club of Norfolk at the time of his death. Although he had not lived in our city for about 15 years, yet he never forgot his old friends here and always had a hearty handshake for all when visiting our city.

The closing words of his address at the memorial services of the Elks last month which was his last public utterance, are significant at this time:

"We little know what the future has in store for us. We cannot lift the veil and get a glimpse of the future, but let us press on doing the best we can, so far as life's duties are concerned, with the hope that the world will be better and not worse on account of our having lived in it."

The funeral services were held at the M. E. Church in Norfolk Thursday afternoon at one o'clock. Rev. Turner of the Congregational church preached the funeral sermon and paid many glowing tributes to his esteemed friend. The Methodist pastor assisted in the services. The floral tributes were numerous and beautiful. The remains were laid to rest in Prospect Hill cemetery. Source: Excerpts from The Madison Star-Mail, January 25, 1907, page 1.

Thursday, April 2, 1885

An item from Pierce County: Mrs. Corey Rose after long suffering died March 26th at twelve o'clock. The funeral ceremonies took place the 27th, Rev. Skinner of Burnett preaching the sermon. Mrs. Rose was loved by all who knew her and many tears were shed at her departure. She leaves a husband and three children to mourn her departure. The Battle Creek Blade

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jotter and Opal attended the funeral services of Nickolas Schmidt of Madison Tuesday afternoon. Source: Meadow Grove News, Thursday April 11, 1935, page 8.

William Seiffert, age 79, died at a Norfolk hospital Tuesday. He came to Madison county when 19 years of age. Mr. Seiffert was married twice. His second wife passed away about ten years ago. Surviving are eleven children: Chas., William, Henry, and A. E. Seiffert. Mrs. Lizzie Dewes, Mrs. Lena Muller, Ernest Seiffert, Mrs. Hattie Livingston, Mrs. Anna Klein, Mrs. Bertha Kent, and Royal Seiffert.

Funeral services were held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk. Interment was made at Prospect Hill Cemetery. Source: excerpt from Battle Creek Enterprise, Thursday, September 19, 1935, page 1.

Funeral Services for Mrs. Mary Simmons

Funeral services for Mrs. Mary E. Simmons, pioneer of Madison county, were held Wednesday afternoon, April 30, at 2:30 o'clock, from the Methodist church at Battle Creek. Interment was made in the Alberry cemetery southeast of Battle Creek beside her husband who was buried many years ago.

Mrs. Simmons, who was 91 years and six months of age at the time of her death, had been making her home with her daughter, Mrs. N. D. Evans, in Battle Creek and passed away at her home Sunday.

She is survived by two sons, Ralph E. Simmons of Battle Creek, Fred Simmons of Arizona, and one daughter, Mrs. Mattie Evans of Battle Creek. A number of children preceded her in death.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, May 1, 1930, page 1.

Albert Stark is Killed

Workman in the Northwestern Machine Shops

Struck on Neck with Lever

Was Lowering Engine Tank When Lever Slipped Out of His Hands and He Received Blow on Neck That Caused Fracture at Base of Brain.

Albert Stark, a workman in the Chicago and Northwestern machine shop, received injuries at about 5 o'clock last evening, from which he died at 9.

No very definite account of the accident can be secured, as no one was present when it happened. Stark was working on one side of a engine tank while another workman was on the other side. The tank had been raised on jack screws and the men were lowering it to the trucks, when Stark's companion called to him but received no answer, Going around the tank the other workman found stark unconscious, and all efforts by his companions failed to revive him, It is supposed that in letting down the tank the handle of the jack screw slipped away from him and struck him, Hw was taken to his home in the eastern part of the Junction where he died about 9 o'clock without regaining consciousness.

Dr. Holden, the attending physician, discovered one small mark on the man's neck, just back of the jaw, where the lever struck him. The blow caused a fracture at the base of the brain, death following from internal hemorrhage.

The deceased was about thirty years old, and leaves a wife and two children, one about three and the other one year old. He had been with the company but a short time. Mr. Stark came here from Ponca, where his people live, while his wife's parents reside at Pierce.

Arrangements for funeral have not yet been made, pending the arrival of relatives.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Sat. September 1, 1906, page 8.

ohn Strate

John Frederick William Ludolf Strate was born at Lieme, Lippe Detmold, Germany, January 7, 1822. He died near Hoskins, Wayne county, Neb., April 10, 1910, at 12 m. aged 88 years, 3 months and 3 days. His death was caused by old age and pneumonia.

For some years the deceased had been feeble and ailing as the consequences of old age, but for six days only was he confined to his bed, when death relieved him from all earthly pain and woe.

Mr. Strate came to this country from Germany, in company with his wife, the 15th day of May 1870, making their home from the first in this vicinity. In the old country Mr. Strate was a brick maker by trade, but took a homestead in this country and devoted himself to farming ever after. He was one of the early settlers of his neighborhood and, consequently, endured all the hardships of pioneer life. The first years of his sojourning in this country were unusually trying, hail and drouth visiting and destroying to a great extent the promising fields of grain.

The deceased brother was one of the founders and main stays of the Reformed congregation, three miles southwest of Hoskins, and for some years an officer of that church. He remained a faithful member of the same to the end, although in late years he was not able to attend services and take an active part in the affairs of the congregation on account of failing health and strength.

Mr. Frederick Strate was joined in holy matrimony with his surviving wife, Auguste Sophia, whose maiden names was Dreves, February 4, 1866, in Germany. This union was blessed with nine children, seven sons and two daughters, three of who have preceded their father in death, two sons and one daughter, one of the sons having died in the old country. Those who are left to mourn the loss of a loving husband and father are: his bereaved widow, fives sons, Frederick, jr., Simon, Carl, Ernest and William, and one daughter, Mrs. Sophia Knebel, all of whom are living in this vicinity. Besides theses there are four daughters-in-law, one son-in-law and eleven grandchildren, also more distant relatives and many friends. May their loss be his gain.

Funeral services were held at the Reformed church near Hoskins on Wednesday afternoon, April 13, after which interment was made at the cemetery of said congregation, Rev. Emil F. Franz, officiating.

Source: The Norfolk Weekly News-Journal, Friday, April 22, 1910, page 6.

Rev. Antrim was called to Newman Grove, Thursday, to officiate at the funeral of Mrs. James Switzer of Norfolk. The remains were laid to rest by the side of her late husband in the Newman Grove cemetery.

Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday, May 21, 1920, page 1.

J. W. and Emmet Warrick, Alvah E. Crooks, Mrs. Sarah Brown and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Osborn went to Battle Creek last Sunday afternoon and attended the funeral of the late James Taylor who was a former resident of this community. The deceased was 51 years of age, and a veteran of the Spanish American war. He is survived by his wife, three brothers, Richard of Hot Springs, Thomas of Tilden, and Lee of Battle Creek, and three sisters, Miss Mollie Taylor and Mrs. Emma Mitchell of Battle Creek, and Mrs. L. W. Dogan of Meadow Grove.

Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday, May 28, 1920, page 1.

Frank Terry was a native of Madison county, born on the old Terry homestead northwest of Meadow Grove. His age at death was 58 years, 4 months and 28 days. Surviving are the widow and fourteen children, five brothers and three sisters. Source: excerpt from Battle Creek Enterprise, Thursday, November 7, 1935, page 1.

**Death Calls Mrs. Twing, Was Pioneer
Came to Madison County with Husband more than 50 years ago.**

Susan Mary Twing age 83, died at her home on Wednesday. She was born Susan Mary Flowers at Lynn, Mass., in 1848 and was united in marriage to Henry C. Twing at Des Moines, Iowa in 1871. She was the mother of five daughters and one son. A daughter, Nora, died in 1916. Survivors where her children: Nettie Dover, Lizzie Upton, Edward Twing, Anges Mercer, and Edith Mae Steinbaugh. She was also survived by Charles Flowers and Lorenzo Flowers. Excerpts from Madison Star—Mail, Thursday, December 24, 1931 on page 1.