

MESSER / NEU MESSER

Newsletter 6

April, 2015

Hello Everyone,

I hope 2015 is off to a good start for all of you and that you have a wonderful spring and summer. Here is another Messer / Neu Messer Newsletter. I hope to see many of you at the AHSGR convention coming up in July in Billings, Montana. Please let me know if you have suggestions for upcoming newsletters or articles or photos you would like to share.

Regards,

Mike Meisinger
Village Coordinator for Messer and Neu Messer

Technology Update: As I mentioned in the last Newsletter a project is currently underway to index approximately 40,000 German language obituaries we have sent to FamilySearch. This indexing project is moving very slowly compared to our earlier English language obituaries. Obviously, there aren't nearly as many indexers who can read German as can read English. Currently, only 23% of our German language obituaries have been indexed and that is only up from 15% at the time of my last Newsletter. I once again ask that if any of you can read German and have the time, that you give indexing our collection a try. Here are the instructions to get started:

1. Go to <https://familysearch.org>
2. Click "Indexing"
- 3a. If you have not indexed for FamilySearch before click on "Get Started" and follow the instructions to download the indexing software and register as an indexer
- 3b. If you are already a registered indexer, click "Find a Project"
4. On the next screen click "Projects"
5. On the next screen click "U" since our project is United States Based
6. On the next screen scroll down to the last project on the page, "US - Todesanzeigen für Deutsche Einwanderer, 1871 - 2013 [2. Teil]"
7. Click on "Get Started" under "US - Todesanzeigen für Deutsche Einwanderer, 1871 - 2013 [2. Teil]" to download and begin indexing your first set of obituaries

The work on updating our AHSGR website is underway and hopefully you will see some very positive changes before the end of the year.

2015 Convention: The 2015 AHSGR Convention will be held in Billings, Montana July 12-19. I am sure it is going to be a great convention, in a beautiful setting, and I hope to see many of you there. In addition to the normal Convention meetings and presentation, 10 tours are being planned. They include;

1. Battle of Little Big Horn (Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument),
2. The Sugar Beet Story (includes agricultural museum),
3. Microbrewery, distillery, galleries, and shops,
4. Historic Billings,
5. Cemetery Tales Tour.

Please mark the dates on your calendars. More information will be coming as the event draws near.

Please let me know if you plan to attend and if you would be interested in getting together as a Messer group for lunch or supper some day during the convention.

Origin of Messer Colonists not found in First Settlers List: There were of course movements into Messer from other colonies after its founding. I have been doing a little research on people who moved to Messer after 1767 and have found the following.

Listed in the Supplemental families to the 1775 Messer Census are:

Georg **Achzig** and his wife Anna. He was a blacksmith who had moved to Messer from Hussenbach.

Friedrich **Weber**, wife Friederika, and son Christian. He had moved from Anton where he had a farm and mill and was now operating a mill in Messer with his son-in-law, Friedrich **Riesch**.

The following information is from the Movement Tables in Brent Mai's "1798 Census of the German Colonies along the Volga:

From Balzer in 1788, Anna Margaretha, daughter of Konrad **Weisheim**, married in Messer to Johannes **Hargenhein**. *According to the Balzer FSL, Konrad **Weisheim** was from Isenburg. His daughter Anna Margaretha is not listed so she was probably born in Balzer after 1767.*

From Beideck in 1790, maidens Katharina and Anna Maria, daughters of Johann **Heilberg**, married in Messer. *From the Messer 1798 Census, they married Franz **Radi** and Franz **Schneider**.*

From Beideck in 1792, Anna Katharina, daughter of Heinrich **Schreiner**, married in Messer to Heinrich **Herd**. This appears to be the Katarina **Schreiner** listed in the 1775 Beideck Census as the daughter of Johannes and Maria **Schreiner**, aged 4 ½.

From Dönhof in 1792, Regina, daughter of Johannes **Schenkel**, married in Messer. *From the Messer 1798 Census, she married Johann Philip **Manweiler**. According to*

*the Dönhof FSL, Johannes **Schenkel** was from Kurpfalz and his daughter Regina is listed in the FSL aged 5.*

From Grimm in 1795, Maria Elisabeth, daughter of Konrad **Braun**, married in Messer.

From Huck in 1793, Katharina, daughter of Jacob **Strauch**, married in Messer to Heinrich **Schmidt**. *According to the Huck FSL, Jacob **Straus** was from Isenburg and his daughter Katharina is listed in the FSL aged 1 ½.*

From Huck in 1794, Margaretha, daughter of Ernst **Schultheis**, married in Messer to Adam **Manweiler**. *According to the Huck FSL, Ernst **Schultheis** was from Isenburg. His daughter Margaretha is not listed so she was probably born in Huck after 1767.*

From Huck in 1796, Heinrich **Heidenreich** moved to Messer. *Possibly son of Ernst Rendenreich from Isenburg listed in Huck FSL.*

From Kautz in 1792, Elisabeth, daughter of Friedrich **Lehm**, married Jakob **Wirth** in Messer. *According to the Kautz FSL, Friedrich **Lehm** was from Berlin, Preussen. His daughter Elisabeth is not listed so she was probably born in Kautz after 1767.*

From Kraft in 1788, Michael **Guttmann** moved to Messer.

From Kratzke in 1795, Johannes **Meng** with his family moved to Messer.

From Kutter in 1792, Johann Michael **Bauer** moved to Messer.

From Norka in 1790, Georg **Bauer** moved to Messer. *According to the Norka FSL, Georg **Bauer**, aged 16, was living with his mother Johannette and step-father, Johann Philipp **Bäker**, and sister, Katharina, aged 8. This might possibly be the family of Johann **Bauer** who arrived in Russia on August 29th, 1766 aboard the ship "Apollo". The family consisted of; Johann a tailor from Isenburg, his wife Antonetta, and children; Johann, 16 and Catharina, 6.*

From Norka in 1790, Sophia, daughter of Johann **Scharf**, married Heinrich **Göbel** in Messer. *According to the Norka FSL, Johannes **Scharf** was from Isenburg. His daughter Sophia is not listed so she was probably born in Norka after 1767.*

From Norka in 1793, Katharina, daughter of Ulrich **Schmidt**, married in Messer. *From the Messer 1798 Census, she married Georg Heinrich **Masch**.*

From Norka in 1793, Sophia **Müller** married Johannes **Lipps** in Messer.

From Norka in 1796, Johannes **Fischer** moved to Messer.

From Preuss in 1788, Peter **Wacker** moved to Messer. *According to the Preuss FSL, Peter **Wacker** was aged 23 and a Catholic from Würzburg, Schwabach. His wife was Katharina, aged 25.*

From Schilling in 1791, Anna Maria, daughter of Georg **Maul**, married Johann **Zieg** in

Messer.

Individual in 1775 Messer Census that was found in another FSL:

Family 51 in the Kutter FSL is headed by Konrad **Weigand**, 49, reformed, farmer from Isenburg. His wife is Anna Elisabeth, 54 and his children are Heinrich Peter, 18 ½, Lorenz, 18 ½, and Elisabeth, 7. There is a note after Heinrich Peter that says he settled in the Colony Messer in 1768. *In the Russian Arrival Lists we find Konrad **Weigand** and his family arrived in Russia on September 14, 1766 aboard a ship from Lübeck captained by Skipper Reders. He is listed as reformed, a farmer from Isenburg and is traveling with his wife, Elisabeth, and children; Peter, 18, Florenz 14, and Elisabeth 9.*

Family in the 1816 Messer Census found in earlier Census from neighboring colony:

Family 48 in the 1798 Beideck census is headed by Philipp **Schäffer**. His wife is Anna Maria **Wunder** and a note says her deceased husband was Heinrich **Schreiner**. Also listed as step-sons of Philipp **Schäffer** are; Johannes **Schreiner**, Johann Heinrich **Schreiner**, Johann Ernst **Schreiner**, and Ludwig **Schreiner**. This appears to be the family of Johannes **Schreiner** in the 1775 Beideck census which consisted of Johannes, 33, Maria, 33, Johannes 6, Johann Heinrich ¼, and Katarina 4 ½, (See entry for Katarina moving to Messer to marry Heinrich **Herdt** above.) Johann Ernst **Schreiner** is listed as the head of family 31 in the 1816 Messer Census.

Another story of life in Neu Messer: I found this newspaper article on the internet. It was written in the early 1970s. Anna **Beckel**, in this story, was born in Neu Messer in 1883, the daughter of Johann **Laufer** and Kristina **Bauer**.

"Anna Beckel tells her story"

Anna Beckel is Grandma Beckel to many of her Berthoud friends and neighbors. The charming, white-haired lady who measures less than five feet has spirit enough for a woman twice her size. Even at age eighty-eight, that indomitable spirit is clearly evident.

Mrs. Beckel's heritage is German. Her forefathers joined many of their countryman in the immigration to Russia where they were granted certain financial and religious privileges in exchange for building up the land. The Germans in Russia remained German. They did not "mix" with the Russians.

Mrs. Beckel has pleasant memories of her life in Russia, but explained that the Germans were "people without a home." They were not really accepted in their adopted country and, if they returned to Germany they were shunned because they were, either by choice or birth, Russian. Mrs. Beckel said, that finally in the United States, "I found out I'm a person."

Her memories of life in Russia are vivid and she, being a born storyteller, has the ability to paint word pictures for her listeners. Mrs. Beckel said that she, like others her age, started school at seven and was expected to learn something while she was there. The children began with simple concepts and advanced to the more complicated ones as they were able. Class lines were not rigidly drawn. At age fifteen, Anna earned the equivalent of a high school

diploma, but was not encouraged to go to college. There just were no jobs available to women outside the home. Besides the cost of college would have been a financial burden.

With a chuckle, she said, "Why do I need college to work in the field or milk cows?"

When Anna married Henry Beckel, she moved in with his family according to custom. She was the fourth daughter-in-law added to the family circle. The Beckels' large family, at that time numbered twenty-eight and occupied two houses. "One house for sleeping, one for eating," Anna explained.

She recalled that one of the first duties of a bride was to make a complete set of clothes for her husband and herself. The custom was of a practical nature. If either should die, suitable garments would be immediately available to clothe the deceased.

It was an advantage to have male children; for each boy, at birth, was deeded a certain amount of land by the government, thereby increasing the family holdings.

The women not only kept house and cooked, but also worked in the fields, putting up hay, and cutting and binding grain by hand.

The women milked cows and tended the other livestock. The men prepared sheep for shearing, but the actual cutting was done by the women who completed the operation by carding and spinning the wool. All the clothes, except for sheepskin coats and tailored men's suits, were sewn at home. What could not be sewn by hand was taken to "a man in town with a sewing machine" who was paid by the yard for his work.

The grocery stores sold only staples -- those foodstuffs which the people could not grow or make themselves, therefore food had to be preserved for winter use. Eggs packed in boxes of grain stayed fresh for months. Apples, cucumbers, and watermelon were put down in brine, and of course there was sauerkraut to be made. Meat was cooked and stored between layers of lard in large crocks. Butter balls kept well in crocks of homemade beet syrup.

A huge brick oven was an important part of the Beckel "cooking house." A big covered kettle filled with meat and vegetables simmered in the oven all day, and in the evenings a tasty, hearty meal was ready for serving. The soup was ladled into large wooden bowls. Each person had his own wooden spoon but was not given a separate bowl. Each dipped into the bowl nearest him.

Henry Beckel served four years in the Russian army during the Russo-Japanese War. Upon his return, he opened his own blacksmith shop and moved his family into their own home. But Henry feared a revolution. He was disturbed by murmurings that there would be a Bolshevik revolution.

He decided to go to the United States. He established himself in Lincoln, Nebraska, and sent for his family.

A few months later, in 1913, Anna, after selling a trunk full of clothes and the household possessions, boarded a ship for the journey to America. She was accompanied by her younger brother, a three-year-old daughter, and an infant of eight months. It was a frightening

experience for the young German matron. She can describe in detail how their vessel nearly struck an iceberg. It was far from a pleasure cruise, but finally they landed in Winnipeg, Canada, and completed their trip by train. After a long and arduous journey, the little family was greeted in Lincoln by Henry.

Two years later, they moved to Loveland where they thinned and hoed beets in the summer. During the winter, the head of the house was employed at the sugar factory. They "worked and saved" till they could manage to rent land and buy machinery.

Twenty-seven years ago the Beckels, then retired, moved to Berthoud into the home in which Anna still lives. Henry died fourteen years ago.

Mrs. Beckel "takes care of herself" . . . washing, cooking, hoeing her garden. For a few months each winter she lives with a son in Denver . . . a concession to the "kids" who think she should slow down a little.

The story of the family in Russia is sad. As Henry foresaw, the revolution erupted. The unfortunate Germans lost land, storehouses of grain, everything to the Bolsheviks. Mrs. Beckel noted sadly, "Under the Bolsheviks, there was not God."

A member of the Beckel family wrote that the only food available was ground squirrels and eventually they, too, were consumed.

One of Henry's brothers while taking water to Bolshevik soldiers, was fatally wounded by one of their number. Some of the old people died of "heartbreak." It is assumed that the entire family perished.

In this country, Anna and Henry Beckel lost an infant daughter and grown son. Four children survive . . . Amelia Yeager of Prospect Valley, Reuben of Prospect Valley, Ed of Denver, and Reynold of Denver.

Additional Messer and Neu Messer records found on the Internet:

Bremen Departure Records: A few Bremen, Germany departure records have recently started popping up on Ancestry. Here are some I found recently:

Last Name	First and Middle Name	Age	Marital Status	Departure Date	Destination	Last Residence	Ship Name
Laubach	Katharina Elizabeth	25	Married	12 Aug 1913	Okeene, Oklahoma	Lisanderdorf, Russland	Kaiser Wilhelm II
Zieg	Katharina	33	Married	12 Nov 1913	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Lisanderdorf, Russland	Sierra Salvada
Zieg	Maria	10	Single	12 Nov 1913	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Lisanderdorf, Russland	Sierra Salvada
Zieg	Peter	10	Single	12 Nov 1913	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Lisanderdorf, Russland	Sierra Salvada
Zieg	Eugenie	7	Single	12 Nov 1913	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Lisanderdorf, Russland	Sierra Salvada
Meisinger	Jacob	20	Single	10 Nov 1907	Evans, Colorado	Solicha, Russland	Rhein

Additional Hamburg Departure Records:

Last Name	First and Middle Name	Age	Departure Date	Destination	Last Residence	Ship Name
Geis	Franz	26	12 Jul 1892	New York	Ustzolicha, Russland	Albingia
Schumann	Friedrich	52	10 Mar 1906	Cuxhaven, Dover, Boulogne-sur-Mer, New York	Ust Salicha, Russland	Pretoria
Schumann	Franz	17	10 Mar 1906	Cuxhaven, Dover, Boulogne-sur-Mer, New York	Ust Salicha, Russland	Pretoria
Schumann	Friedrich	21	10 Mar 1906	Cuxhaven, Dover, Boulogne-sur-Mer, New York	Ust Salicha, Russland	Pretoria
Schumann	Maria	52	10 Mar 1906	Cuxhaven, Dover, Boulogne-sur-Mer, New York	Ust Salicha, Russland	Pretoria
Schumann	Amalia	19	10 Mar 1906	Cuxhaven, Dover, Boulogne-sur-Mer, New York	Ust Salicha, Russland	Pretoria
Schumann	Mariakatherine	7	10 Mar 1906	Cuxhaven, Dover, Boulogne-sur-Mer, New York	Ust Salicha, Russland	Pretoria
Hart	Catharina	27	03 Aug 1912	Southampton, Cherbourg, New York	Solicha	Cincinnati
Hart	Amalia Elizabeth	6	03 Aug 1912	Southampton, Cherbourg, New York	Solicha	Cincinnati

New York Passenger List Record

Name: Johannes **Ulrich**
Arrival: 25 Jan 1909
Age: 19
Birthplace: Messer, Russia
Nationality: German
Last Residence: Messer, Russia
Arriving From: Bremen
Ship: Chemnitz
Destination: Russell, Kansas
Russian Contact: Father, Johannes **Ulrich**, Ust Solicha

Texas Passenger List Record

Name: Heinrich Peter **Emert**
Arrival: 20 Jul 1912
Age: 19
Birthplace: Lysanderdorf, Russia
Nationality: German
Last Residence: Lysanderdorf, Russia
Arriving From: Bremen
Ship: Breslau
Destination: Friend, Heinrich **Geis** in Okeene, Oklahoma

World War II (Old Man's Draft) Record

Name: Henry **Herd**
Birth Date: 6 Oct 1891
Birthplace: Ust Solicha
Residence: Torrington, Connecticut
Wife: Olga
Workplace: Henry Machine Company

Cook County, Illinois Birth Certificate

Name: Catherine **Keiser**
Birth Date: 2 Nov 1919
Father: Henry **Keiser**
Father's Birthplace: Ust Solicha, Russia

Mother: Elizabeth **Link**
Mother's Birthplace: Samara, Russia

US Naturalization (Declaration of Intent) Records

Name: John **Ulrich**
Residence: Walla Walla, Washington
Birthplace: Messer, Russia
Birthdate: 21 Jan 1890
Wife: Elizabeth **Ulrich**
Wife's Birth Date: 20 Oct 1885
Wife's Birthplace: Saratov, Russia
Marriage Date: 30 Jan 1931
Marriage Place: Walla Walla, Washington
Child: Walter **Ulrich**, born 18 Dec in Heppner, Oregon
Child: Carl **Ulrich**, born 15 May 1916 in Walla Walla, Washington
Port of Departure: Bremen
Port of Arrival: New York
Name Used: Johannes **Ulrich**
Arrival Date: 25 Jan 1909
Ship: SS Chemnitz
Date of Declaration: 22 Jun 1936

Name: Barbara **Lipps**
Residence: Gotebo, Oklahoma
Birthplace: Ust-Solicha, Russia
Birth Date: 4 Aug 1885
Husband: John **Lipps**
Husband's Birth Date: 14 Jan 1887
Husband's Birthplace: Ust-Solicha, Russia
Marriage Date: 25 May 1905
Marriage Place: Ust-Solicha, Russia
Child: Aaron **Lipps**, born 5 Aug 1906 in Russia
Child: Olinda **Lipps Coakley**, born 16 Jul 1916 in Gotebo, Oklahoma
Child: Wilmer **Lipps**, born 16 Mar 1917 in Gotebo, Oklahoma
Child: Bertha **Lipps**, born 19 Jul 1925 in Gotebo, Oklahoma
Port of Departure: Bremen
Port of Arrival: Galveston
Name Used: Barbara **Lipp**
Arrival Date: 13 Feb 1907
Ship: SS Hanover
Date of Declaration: 14 Jun 1939
Note: Husband naturalized in Oklahoma City 13 Jan 1939

Name: Johannes **Lipps** (also known as Aaron Lipps)
Residence: Hobart, Oklahoma
Birthplace: Ust-Solicha, Russia
Birth Date: 5 Aug 1906
Wife: Ella **Rosenoff Lipps**

Wife's Birth Date: 6 Aug 1912
Wife's Birthplace: Weatherford, Oklahoma
Marriage Date: 22 Mar 1934
Marriage Place: Cordell, Oklahoma
Child: Lloyd Edward **Lipps**, born 5 Jan 1935 in Hobart, Oklahoma
Child: Gordon Kieth **Lipps**, born 23 Mar 1938 in Hobart, Oklahoma
Port of Departure: Bremen
Port of Arrival: Galveston
Name Used: Johannes **Lipp**
Arrival Date: 13 Feb 1907
Ship: SS Hanover
Date of Declaration: 9 Mar 1939

US Passport Application

Name: John P **Lorenz**
Birth Date: 23 Apr 1872
Birth Place: Messer, Russia
Wife: Isal **Lorenz**
Child: Alma **Lorenz**, born 23 May 1900 in Bremen, Germany
Child: Olga **Lorenz**, born 21 May 1902 in Prague, Bohemia
Date of Immigration: July, 1876
Port of Departure: Hamburg
Previous Residence: Marion County, Kansas 1876 – 1899
Naturalization: Marion County, Kansas 4 Apr 1899
Current Residence: Enid, Oklahoma Territory
Occupation: Gospel Ministry
Date of Application: 23 Apr 1903
Reason for Travel: Travel in Europe in the interest of Missionary Work

Nebraska Homestead Records available online: A project is underway to make all of the US Homestead Records available online and those for the state of Nebraska have been completed. Nebraska was chosen as the first state to be indexed because the first homestead ever claimed was in Nebraska, 45% of Nebraska's land was given to homesteaders, and homesteading occurred in all 93 of Nebraska's counties. Work is underway for the other states and hopefully we will see more becoming available soon.

The Nebraska Homestead Records can be accessed via Fold3. A subscription is required to use Fold3, but many libraries have institutional copies. Here are the steps to access the homestead records once you have access to Fold3:

1. Scroll to the bottom of the Fold3 home page and click on "see all documents"
2. Type "Homestead Records" into the search field at the top of the next screen.
3. Click on "Homestead Records (NE)" which should appear just below the search field.
4. Type in the last name of the person you want to search for in the "Search" field of the next screen. (If it is a common last name type the last name followed by a comma, a space, and the first name.)
5. Scroll down the right side of the next screen to select the person you are looking for.

These records can be very interesting. I did a quick search of a few sections around Sutton, Nebraska and found records for Christian and John **Nuss**, both born in Russia. The record for Christian **Nuss** was 23 pages long and included copies of his Naturalization Declaration of Intent, his Naturalization Certificate, the Homestead application, the Homestead proof, testimony of witnesses, (Anton **Schwarz**, John **Klein**, John Geo. **Nuss**, and Christian **Grosshans**), his testimony as claimant, and other documents.

The record for John **Nuss** was 26 pages long and included much of the same type of information including the testimony of his witnesses, (Jacob **Kart** and Paul **Nuss**).

There was also a 24 page record for John **Klein**, Christian **Nuss**' witness.

The 1892 Famine in the Volga Colonies: Maggie Hein, the Village Coordinator for the Village of Frank, shared a link to an article on this Famine with all the Village Coordinators. We have all heard quite a bit about the famines of the 1920s and 1930s but less seems to be available on the famine of 1892. The link below will take you to a book written by E. A. Brayley Hodgetts about his Journey through the famine areas of Russia in 1892. It was published in London. It gives us a good perspective of what our ancestors were going through when many of them made the decision to leave Russia. The chapter about the German Colonists begins on Page 158.

<http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006545650>

Historic Newspapers Online: I like to pass along new things I discover that can be helpful as we try to learn more about our ancestors. I have recently discovered some web sites that list old newspapers that are available online. Here are two examples:

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/>

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/>

The second one, (Library of Congress), is particularly useful. Using its Advanced Search function, you can restrict your search by state or newspaper, time period, and a phrase you are looking for. Here are a few examples of interesting articles I found by searching Kansas for two of the family names associated with Messer and Neu Messer.

The Wichita Daily Eagle – May 29, 1892

“The Devastation at Wellington Duplicated at Harper. (Special Dispatch to the Daily Eagle.) Anthony, Kan., May 28.--A cyclone struck the north part of Harper county last night at 7:30 o'clock and swept through the business part of the city of Harper, nine miles north of here, creating fearful havoc. Crystal Springs was swept away and Attica slightly damaged, but Anthony, Bluff City, Danville and Freeport were uninjured. The storm belt was six miles wide—a straight blow with severe hail along the outside. The wind started west and south of Harper and swept away thirty farm buildings before reaching that town. At Harper the ruin is fearful. At least sixty buildings are crushed to the earth and their contents are a complete wreck. One hundred more houses are damaged more or less, and scarcely a building escaped injury in

that town. Hundreds of families are homeless, without food or shelter. The dead are as follows:

William Stranahan, a farmer at the west edge of Harper; killed by the house moving from its foundation and catching him half out of the cellar. He was caught by the neck and dragged six feet into a space only four inches high. The family, down cellar and up, were uninjured.

Mrs. Thomas Gallagher, living three miles west; skull broken; died today.

A son of Mrs. Gallagher's

A grandchild of E. Mallory. The mother of the child is fatally hurt.

A brother of W. H. Harrison, living northwest of Harper.

F. A. Beath, living one mile north, had all his fine buildings destroyed. His wife's thigh was broken and his little daughter Minnie received a severe scalp wound.

S. H. Challis and wife each had an arm broken, and their home was scattered to the winds.

In the town of Harper James Dickerson was knocked down at the Red barn and bruised up. S. E. Cole received a slight injury. Mr. Corby was considerably hurt in the falling of the Masonic block. Peter Gerard, a boy, received a severe wound in the leg. Mrs. A. Grey was caught in the falling of their residence, and received a slight wound. Robert Lebrecht's leg was broken in two places. Miss Florence Sayers was struck and remained insensible for an hour. Their house was turned upside down.

Mrs. Feirath, living west of town, was brought in this morning severely injured. Gotlieb **Hanhardt** and family, two miles northwest were seated at the supper table. They were caught and carried 100 feet. Mr. **Hanhardt** received a wound in the foot. The house of M. M. Munger, north of town, was blown down over the family, bruising them considerably, but not seriously. Mr. Munger was in Wichita on business at the time.

Ellis Miller and family, two miles southeast, narrowly escaped with their lives. A brand new building, the result of nine years' savings, was crushed flat. A miraculous escape was that of J. H. **Seibert** and wife. They were in the upper story of the Thompson block when the walls fell in, and escaped with but few bruises.

Both the public school buildings are badly damaged. One is a total loss. The Catholic and German churches were blown down; the Baptist and Christian churches greatly injured, but the Methodist Episcopal church is safe. The Masonic block, on the corner in which was the Harper Mercantile company, is destroyed. The Queen City block and the opera house are almost worthless. Of the eleven houses north of the Santa Fe track eight are crushed to the floors and the contents total losses. The Murphy property is greatly damaged. The store is a wreck and the three residences more or less a total loss. The standpipe stands intact, but a small dwelling beside it is completely crushed and the contents are all smashed. The owner, standing among the ruins, was happy in the fact that his family were unharmed, having run to the northwest.

In the Odd Fellows cemetery, one mile northwest, over on-third of the monuments are prostrated, toppled to the northeast. The north fence is down and nearly all the headstones are leaning. A four wheeled vehicle was landed among the graves. The grand-stand, box stalls and buildings of the fair grounds, one mile south, are leveled to the ground, save the east end of the agricultural hall.

The Hutchinson and Southern sent a relief special south from Hutchinson and Kingman today and a relief special will go north from Anthony Sunday morning. The mayor and fire department of Anthony, with hundreds of her citizens, were up today and work squads will go up tomorrow. Hutchinson, Kingman and Anthony have relief committees at work.

The Hays Free Press – Thursday, November 6, 1919

Fred Meisinger Killed – Fred **Meisinger**, one of the well known young men of the eastern part of the county, was killed Monday morning in an automobile accident, three miles east of Loretta. Just how the accident occurred, will never be known as no one was with him at the time and he had evidently been dead for some hours when discovered. Fred had taken his brother to Hays, leaving early in the morning, and was on his way home when the fatal accident took place. The car had turned completely over and when found the edge of the machine was across Fred's throat. He had been pinned under the car and was probably choked to death. He was a young man about twenty-six years of age and had only a few months ago returned from overseas service with the American forces. He was held in very high esteem among a wide circle of acquaintances and the many friends will be grieved to hear of his sad and untimely death. The funeral services were held at the Otis Methodist church yesterday, and were attended by a very large number of people. Several soldiers of the recent war from LaCrosse, attended the funeral services in a body. – LaCrosse Republican.

A Success Story: Some of us have been fortunate enough to find our German ancestral village and others of us are still searching. Many of our ancestors were reported to be from Isenburg, but the name of the exact village is a mystery. I am happy to include here Irene Houtchen's story of how she was able to find the German ancestral village of her Ulrich ancestors.

“About finding Lorenz Ulrich. I had his birth date, her birth date and the child's too from Plevé when I was in Russia. I bought Ancestry's world (whatever) and put it in and after going through lots and lots of Lorentz, Johan Lorentz Ulrich (as most of their names had Johan and then the one that they were called it finally came up. The ages and names matched and I found that they were from the Palatinate (Bavaria). I knew they were of the Reformed faith and it had "Evaangelisch" on it and the name of the town, Obermoschel, I was able to get the Marriage Certificate and the Baptism Certificate of the child. Hopefully, my daughter and I will get to Germany sometime this year to visit the town of Obermoschel. It is only about 40 miles from Frankfurt.”

So for those of you still looking for that illusive German village, don't give up. Many Thanks to Irene for sharing her story.