



FROM NIEDER-GEMUNDEN TO MISSOURI

From Nieder- Gemunden to Missouri

 **A History and Genealogy of**
the Interrelated Families of: 

Henry Becker (1798 - 1852)

Carl Becker (1852 - 1888)

John Casper Becker (1845 - 1897)

Ernest Becker (1851 - 1888)

Anna Catherine Stroh (1845 - 1929)

Frederick Bunding (1850 - 1922)

Esther Becker Schiermeier
Eunice Becker Webbink

(revised with initial Errata Sheet and New Information)

1986



This book is dedicated to the memory of our father, August Carl Becker, who would have enjoyed it immensely and would also have been a great source of information.



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❧ INTRODUCTION ❧

About twenty years ago my sister, Esther, and I began keeping a file of Becker family genealogy with the hope of someday having a book printed. During the summer of 1969 my son, Greg, who had just completed his sophomore year in college, took a work-vacation in Germany to polish up his college German. With the names of his great-grandparents (John C. Becker and Anna Catherine Stroh) in his pocket, and a free weekend, he hitchhiked to Nieder-Gemunden, hoping to research his ancestry. Once identified, he was warmly welcomed by the Karl Becker and Robert Stroh families. They introduced him to Karl Erb, the head school teacher, whose hobby was doing genealogies of old Nieder-Gemunden families. Suddenly we had it all and knew we had to share it with all the relatives.

The enthusiasm was there but progress was slow and procrastination prevailed. Esther was the prime information gatherer (especially from the relatives) and she urged me to compile the book. I wasn't sure I was capable of this challenge but after a final year of intensive work the book was completed.

❧ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ❧

Although this book is primarily the effort of the authors, there are many individuals who have contributed to our efforts. We owe a debt of gratitude to the following individuals:

Karl Erb, former head school teacher of Nieder-Gemunden and now retired in Homburg/Ohm, who provided us with all the information from Germany, which included lineage charts and an extensive history of the village and some of its families. He is so knowledgeable about Nieder-Gemunden and pursues all of this as a hobby. Even though he speaks English his work was naturally done in German.

Gregory 'Greg' Webbink, our son and nephew, who spent many hours translating the material for us while pursuing his own career. With our meager German we were able to do the simpler things. To Karl Erb we must apologize for any mistakes or misinterpretations, if and when they occur. They were not intentional.

Carrol Geerling, a volunteer at the St. Charles County Historical Society Archives, who offered help and guidance through every step of the way, typed all of the material into her computer, retrieved it on a printer, and pasted it up, and was a delightfully pleasant person to work with. And her husband, Phil, who used his expertise in making halftones of the photographs and did the final printing of the book, using the best materials.

The many relatives who answered requests for information about their immediate families. We hesitate to mention names for fear of omitting someone, but they know who they are. They provided names, dates, photos, and any information they had. Again we thank you.

≡ FORMAT ≡

Since this book is written for our relatives and descendants we are using our own style, which may not be genealogically correct. It is written in narrative prose rather than a lengthy table of data.

This book is arranged in two parts. Part I is 'The Old Country'. Basically all of this material is from Karl Erb and contains a description of Nieder-Gemunden (taken from an anniversary booklet), The Chronicles of the Village of Nieder-Gemunden, a newspaper article on the Becker family, and the German lineage charts of the Becker, Stroh, and Bunding Families.

The format for the genealogy chart in Part I is different from Part II. Except for the translation, it was kept just like the original. Dates are given in the year-day-month format. This chart, as you will notice, is strictly of families in Nieder-Gemunden. When someone moved from there they were dropped. Only the male descendants are followed through. The female members are picked up in the family into which they married. As you will note after studying the chart, the families are cross-indexed in the right hand column. As you study the chart, and become more familiar with it, it is quite easily understood.

We do need to point out that the umlaut does not work with the computer printer used here. So in this manuscript the umlaut has been omitted. The proper way to anglicize a name with an umlaut would be to substitute it with an e; for example, Munch with an umlaut would become Muench. In Part I we have chosen to use the German spelling without an umlaut and in Part II the anglicized version.

Part II, 'The New Country', contains six chapters and is a history of the American families. Chapter I tells why they came. Chapter II is the history of the Henry Becker family, who were the first to arrive in 1834. It is to be remembered that this chapter begins a generation earlier than the following chapters as he was an uncle of the Beckers in Chapters III, IV, and V. Anna Catherine Stroh is included in Chapter IV, as she was the wife of John Casper Becker. Chapter VI contains the Frederick Bunding family, a cousin of Anna Catherine Stroh.

Throughout Part II each chapter is divided into subchapters (with headings) for each of the children in that family; and within each subchapter the lines "_____" separate the families of each of the grandchildren's families.

The children of each family are listed in a column in script type. Immediately following the listing of children, genealogical information is given on the oldest son/daughter whose family is then listed in script type. This process is repeated until the family of the youngest son/daughter of the original family is completed.

Within the parentheses after each name are the date of birth and death of the individual (if known). A question mark is used when the date is not known. For living persons only the birthdate is given. Dates are

consistently given in the day-month-year format. The months are given in the modern three-letter notation; thus 6 Sep 1985 means September 6, 1985. Wives' names are given by their maiden names. Nicknames are given in quotations.

A complete list of source material is given in the back of the book.

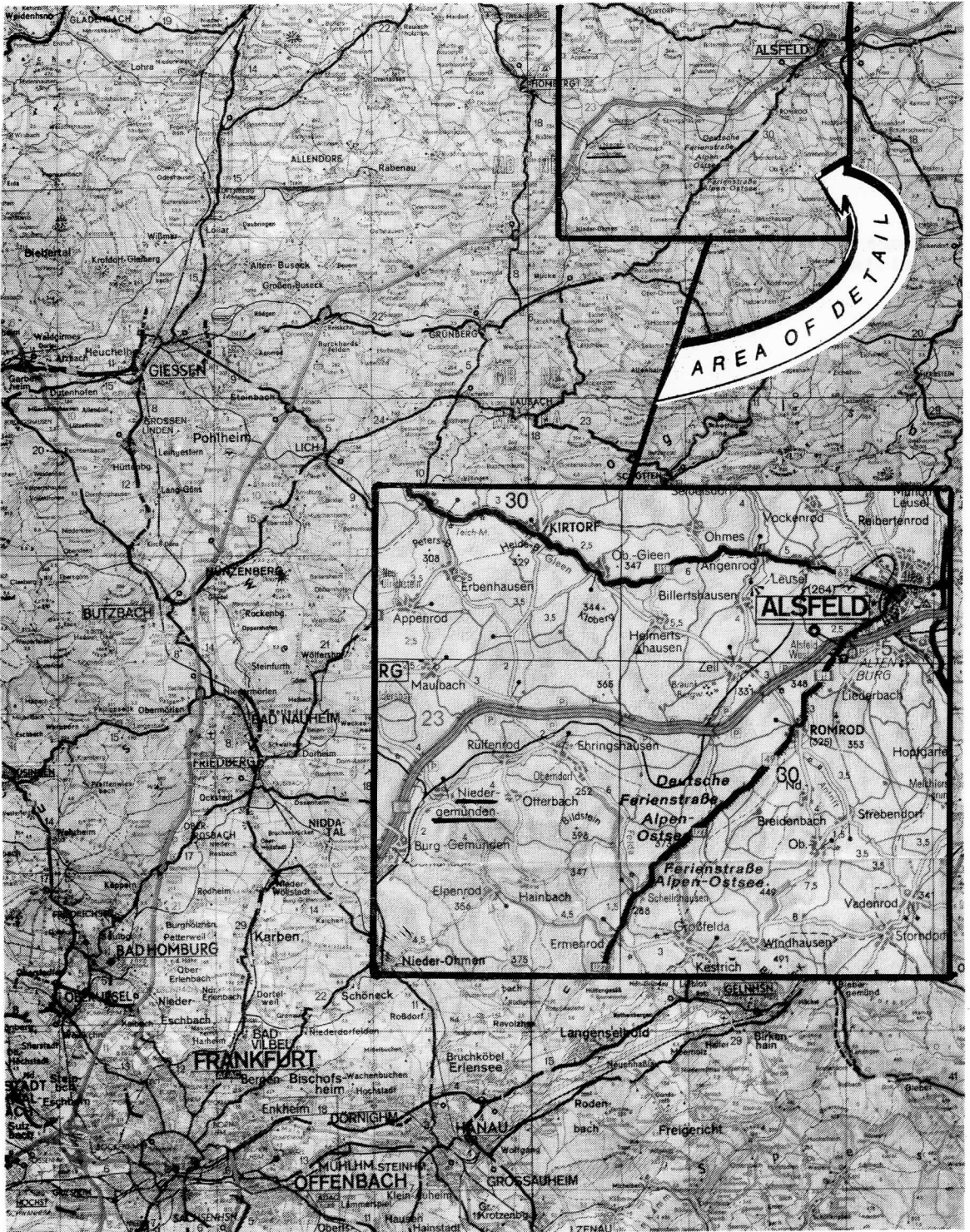
We hope that you receive as much pleasure from reading this book as we had in writing it.

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LOCATION OF NIEDER-GEMUNDEN (SEE INSET) IN WEST GERMANY



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