

Chapter 4 East of Town

Subject matter here originates within the territory north and northeast of New Melle between Hopewell Road and Highway "D", and extending into the controversial "T.N.T." area.

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4.1
*The Harry
Sudbrocks*

On April 7, 1926, Harry A. Sudbrock and Miss Myrtle Marie Schlote were married in St. Charles. Both came from farms southeast of New Melle that were later to become part of the TNT area. Forty-seven years ago the Sudbrocks settled on the old Samuel Cunningham farm of 352 acres on Highway "D", where they have successfully devoted their lives to operating a stock and grain farm, and where they raised a family of three children, namely: Bernice Kohler, Harold and John (Jack). They have six grandchildren. Sunday, April 4, their many friends and relatives joined in the celebration of their 50 happy years together. The occasion was an Open House at St. Paul's Lutheran Hall. They are members of St. Paul's Church.

The frame house where the Sudbrocks have lived for so many years is nearly 100 years old. Another historical site on this farm is the Cunningham family cemetery. Harry and his son Jack walked with me to the high ground where the cemetery is located on a knoll overlooking the beautiful countryside. Here Samuel Cunningham was buried 111 years ago. His wife was buried beside him in 1884. As years passed, other family members were also buried there. His son John, prior to his death in 1932, willed the farm to the Masonic Lodge, but set up a \$1000 fund for the cemetery's perpetual care. Earlier he had constructed a low concrete wall around the 50 foot square burial ground, with an attractive wrought iron fence anchored into the cement. Soon the Masons sold the farm to Elmer Connor of Clyde Mosley of St. Louis County. The Connors and the Mosleys were present at the Sudbrock Open House. We sincerely congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Sudbrock and wish them many more happy years together.

No. 129 APR. 12, 1976



MR. and MRS. HARRY
SUDBROCK — 1926

Dual 4.2 Anniversaries

In 1953 Frank and Alma Stevener, lifelong residents of New Melle, experienced the happiness of having both a daughter and a son married in the same month. Velma was married to Bill Ziesemer on Aug. 9 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle. Glen and Sally (nee Gay) were married Aug. 29 at Charlottesville, Va.

Bill and Velma live in Collinsville, Ill., where Bill is a teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran Church School. His teaching career, after graduating from Concordia Teachers College-River Forest, Ill., began at St. Paul's in New Melle, where he remained five years. In 1956, Mr. Ziesemer accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran School in Charter Oak, Iowa, and taught school there until transferring to Holy Cross last year. They have a daughter Carolyn, and a son Mark.

Carolyn's friend, David Johnson, from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, accompanied the Ziesemers to New Melle. David and Carolyn are students at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Glen and Sally live in Falls Church, Va., just across the Potomac from our nation's capitol. Glen is a research analyst in the Defense Communication Agency, Department of Defense, specializing in electronic computers. His office is in the Pentagon. Glen is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia. Mr. Stevener's position has afforded him numerous opportunities for extensive travels, and accounts of his recent trip to Melle, Germany, were of particular interest. Glen and Sally have two sons; William of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Craig, and a daughter, Michele.

Last week these two families came to visit New Melle for a dual 25th wedding anniversary celebration with parents Frank and Alma, and brother Lawrence and sister-in-law Veneda Stevener, and children Bob and Lori.

The Steveners from Falls Church brought along Martin Morris, a fine young man from Oxford, England. Last year Martin was a high school exchange

student, hosted by the Steveners. He is a soccer enthusiast, and plans to study economics at Princeton University. This summer Martin flew back to the U.S., I believe especially to see Michele.

On Sunday, Aug. 20, their visit was climaxed with an open house at the home of Lawrence and Veneda. Relatives and friends took advantage of delightful weather to gather on the lawn for an equally delightful opportunity to help them celebrate. It was also an opportunity to briefly review the Stefner/Stevener beginnings.

August Heinrich Stefner and his wife Clara Maria sailed to America with their family in the 1850's from Germany, and settled in the vicinity of New Melle. On April 2, 1862, during the Civil War, a son Frederick Carl Georg Stefner was born, and baptized at St. Paul's. His immigrant father died five years later in 1867. Georg spent his boyhood on the family farm located southeast of New Melle "in the Callaway,"

(Township 46-1 Range 1 & 2 East, Section 36 and 31).

On Nov. 14, 1886, Georg married Florentine Carolyn Gravemann, a German born girl. These were the parents of Frank Stevener, who was born April 10, 1899, and christened Franz Walter Oskar Stefner. Frank grew up on the Callaway farm homeplace, diligently walked to and from the Lutheran German School during his boyhood, and married Miss Alma Toedebusch of New Melle on Oct. 25, 1925. The old church records that Harold Toedebusch, Milda Greiwe, William Uhlmansick and Norma Brandenburg were in their wedding party. Some time in the early 1900's the Stefner name was changed to Stevener.

Frank retired 14 years ago but has continued farming on a limited basis, plus he is becoming known as an expert basket weaver. The demand for his oak woven baskets is more than he had ever expected. Frank and Alma celebrated their 50th wed-

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GEORGE and CAROLINE STEFNER

4.3

Giant Dogwood Tree

Years pass, and occasionally some properties, dating even as far back as the Spanish Land Grants, remain in the same family from generation to generation. More often though, a piece of property will be sold and resold many times. Farms and timberland may be divided into separate parcels. The rural western part of St. Charles County is experiencing this form of progress more and more each year.

Historic old places are often ruined, and the natural terrain and virgin flora growth suffer greatly when this happens, unless each successive owner follows sound conservation programs. I would like to think that those of us who are fortunate enough to own a small part of this beautiful Callaway Hill country, are really just caretakers for a brief period in our times. The simple treasures of nature were here long before we came. What we have now was conserved by our predecessors for us to enjoy, and what we save and protect will be equally enjoyed by future generations.

No one appreciates what previous caretakers have saved more than Mike and Tommy Ledford. The Ledfords, a very personable and talented couple, have come into the St. Louis area from Jackson, Miss., but actually they are native Texans. They have purchased a beautiful 10-acre tract of land along Hopewell Road that was originally a part of the John Nadler, Sr. farm, and have just completed building a handsome home. Mr. Ledford is a District Sales Manager for Itek Graphic Products in St. Louis, a Division of Itek Corporation. Mrs. Ledford is an accomplished artist and sculptress. She intends to teach an art class in her home in the near future. They have three daughters and all attend schools in Texas. Kris, 18, is a student at Southwest Texas State, the Alma Mater of "L.B.J.," and Gail, 15, and Tammy, 16, are in schools in Dallas.

Among the fine tree specimens standing on the Ledford property is a near champion flowering dogwood tree (*Cornus Florida*). Our State Forester, Mr. Robine, ranks it the No. 2 flowering dogwood tree in Missouri, second only to one in West Plains. The Ledford Dogwood measures 43 inches in circumference at the trunk. The crown spreads 30 feet and the height is 30 feet. The West Plains tree is 45 inches around, 36 feet wide and 31.6 feet high. Both trees are well over 100 years old.

Uniquely, this official Missouri State Tree was present to welcome a fine family from Texas when they arrived, and all can be assured that they will be the best of caretakers. We too welcome the Ledfords to the New Melle community as neighbors.

The Eastern United States flowering dogwood is Missouri's favorite spring flowering tree. Flowers, which appear before the leaves in April, are greenish yellow in a dense head with four showy, white petal-like bracts $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches to 4 inches in diameter, in undulating horizontal planes, that

seem to float unsuspected at different levels. A stroll through a Missouri woods on a warm sunny April day, when the dogwood is in full bloom, is a joy unsurpassed. Again in the fall, when the egg shaped fruit in clusters adds a dash of bright scarlet to the brilliant red, pink and yellow leaves, the dogwood is something to behold.

The special characteristics of the wood rivals the tree's reputation as a beautiful ornamental. Because of the wood's high resistance to shock it is used almost exclusively for weaving shuttles, and spool and bobbin heads, golf club and mallet heads, and jewelers blocks.

Flowering dogwood is native from the east coast to about the eastern two-thirds of Missouri, north as far as Ontario, and south to the northern section of Florida.

No. 120 FEB. 4, 1976

4.3

4.4

NADLER HOMESTEAD

The "Nadler Family Reunion" and the "original family log cabin homestead" were discussed in previous articles. However, the cabin described was not the original Nadler home. The original John Nadler Sr. cabin was situated on a 147 acre farm approximately one-half mile due west of the cabin referred to in the June 24 and October 28 New Melle News columns, and which has been restored by Amedee B. Shields.

The 1875 atlas shows that Mr. Shields' log house was on the property of a C. Beumers, and was located on his 76 acre farm. At some later date, John Sr. purchased the C. Beumers property as evidenced by the expanded Nadler acreage (219.7 acres) in the 1905 plat book.

The true history of some of our first settlers can be confusing, so it is important for families to safely retain abstracts, letters and assorted papers for filling those missing blanks.

The McCabe family on Hopewell Road have developed the Nadler home and grounds into a beautiful estate. I visited with Ellen McCabe and her sons recently. We poured over the old atlas and plat book pages, read through a one-half inch thick abstract and toured every nook and cranny of the house.

The abstract, or rather a book of many abstracts, has interesting accounts of previous owners. It shows, for instance, that Jonathan Bryan, *nephew* of Daniel Boone, did the surveying work. Daniel's wife was a Bryan. The house was constructed in two units and joined together with an open "dog trot" and although in later years the logs were framed over, this early settler design can be clearly seen from a second floor storage area. The inside walls have been plastered or panelled but Ellen has purposely kept the logs and mortar exposed in closets.

Very old homes often have low doorways which may indicate that men were of shorter stature in former years. Some will say, though, that this was done to force an intruder to stoop as he entered thus allowing someone from the inside to wield a very effective club.

John Nadler Sr. apparently raised two families. The children listed in the abstract were John G., John C., Frederick W. (his picture appears in the 1905 plat book), Charles, John F., Hy L., Ernst H., Ernest E., Clara C. E., Anna (nee *Thomann*), Katherine C. (nee Toedebusch), John E., Florentine M. E., Francis F., Aug F., and Fredrich O.

No. 63 DEC. 23, 1974



*The Nadler Homestead
Brocker*

4.5 *The Shields Home*

We are indebted to men like Amedee B. Cole Shields, who has recently moved from his home in St. Louis to retire to his farm off Hopewell and Schwede Roads, just a short distance northeast of New Melle. He is in the process of restoring the old log home on the property.

Amedee brings with him an interesting family heritage, which is described briefly as follows. His maternal great-great-grandfather came down the Ohio River on a raft in 1819 as a trapper and fur trader. When he and his partner reached Cairo, Ill. they separated momentarily so that Mr. Cole could make a side trip to St. Louis, which was becoming a well known fur trading center.

When he returned, the unfaithful partner had skipped out with their raft and loads of furs. Mr. Cole then returned to St. Louis and later settled in Chester, Ill. where he founded the Cole Milling Co. His son, Nathan Cole, however, settled in St. Louis and was elected that city's Mayor in 1869. Cole Street in downtown St. Louis is named after him.

The family of Mr. Shields on his mother's side came from Mississippi where his grandparents owned and operated a large cotton plantation before the Civil War.

The old log house referred to earlier, was apparently built by or for John Nadler Sr. around 1860. John was a frequent visitor in New Melle in the years prior to his death in 1910.

Several papers concerning his transactions in 1909 are available but earlier papers that would throw some light on the building have not been located. Those of 1909 show bills of sale for such items as 50 pounds of flour for \$4.45 from G. W. Karrenbrock, one pair of spectacles for \$1.50 from Ed Rickmers Jewelry, 1000 pounds of animal bone manure for \$10 from A. C. Hoefner and a new wagon bed for \$10 from A. Auning and Son Wagon Makers.

Then there is an itemized list of all visits made to him by Dr. Muhm. Doctors' visits were paid

in corn, wheat and firewood. Mrs. Shields has refloored and paneled only one of the five rooms.

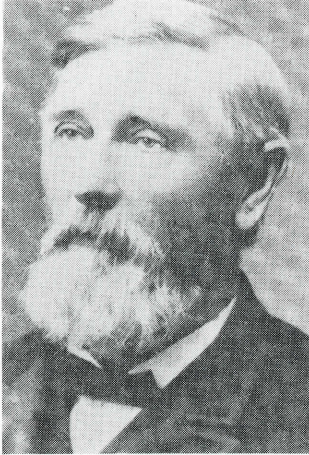
The sturdy rough hewn oak timbers are otherwise exposed as originally built. It nestles against a hillside, creating a walk-in ground level floor above the two upper floors. Two massive limestone fireplace flues stand on each end and compliment the sturdy timbers below.

The peaceful surrounding landscape includes many beautiful matured cedars and two giant walnut trees. Am, whose golfing partner is Ralph Dumbell, is a man as modern as 1974, yet he is a man who deeply appreciates and cherishes the past. All who possess these qualities are happy men and women.

JUN. 26, 1974 #37

See 4.6

A. G. Settler Casper H. Beumer



John F. Beumer



Wilhelmine Beumer

Tracing one's roots has become a favorite leisure activity for thousands of enthusiastic people today, and often when all doors seem to close on a remaining vital link the unexpected happens.

Months ago a letter was received from a lady in Gray Summit, who was searching for information on the Beumer family. Her name is Janet Daniel. She was especially interested in information pertaining to her great-grandfather Casper H. Beumer.

This week Janet came out to see us. The day before she had been to the Probate Court and to the Recorder of Deeds office in St. Charles, where she succeeded in

getting copies of her ancestor's will, estate closeout papers, and a deed.

Mrs. Emma Porter, supervisor of the archives for the St. Charles County Historical Society on Jefferson Street in St. Charles, was also very helpful. Next, she searched through the records at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle. There, to her great delight she found the first birth to be recorded in the church records to be her grandfather. It reads, "12 June 1840, Friederich Wilhelm Beumer, son of Casper Henrich and Catharine Margarete nee Bolten." From there on a number of other references to the Beumer family were discovered in the church records.

Janet had already become somewhat familiar with her grandfather. His will, for instance, found at the Probate Court, outlined all of his property at the time of his death on Dec. 23, 1919. In exacting detail it even listed the names of his horses and mules. She also found the following account in the 1895 "History of St. Charles, Montgomery and Warren Counties, Missouri" on page 269. It reads: "Judge John F. Beumer, farmer St. Charles — Judge Beumer was born in the city of St. Louis June 12, 1840, and was the fifth of ten children of Casper H. Beumer, native of Prussia, who came to America in 1838, and located in St. Charles (county) two years afterwards. The father was a carpenter by trade and followed that occupation for many years. He is still living, a respected citizen of this county, at the age of 76. The mother died in 1882. The other two of their family of children living are Louisa, the wife of John Wilke, and Caroline, the wife of William Willbrandt, all living in this county.

"Judge Beumer was reared in this county, being brought up on a farm, his father having engaged in farming as well as the carpenter's trade. At the age of about 21, he went to work at the wagon maker's trade at Wentzville, which he followed for some two years at that point, and then moved to St. Charles township. In the fall of 1869 he settled on the farm where he now resides. While in St. Charles township, at

Boscherttown, he was engaged in buying and shipping grain, principally wheat and corn, in which he did not meet with good success. In 1882 he was elected a judge of the county court, a position he filled with credit to himself and to the general satisfaction of the public. In 1863 Judge Beumer was married to Miss Johanna Willbrand (it was then added to name), of this county. She died in 1865. His present wife was a Miss Minnie Eggerman. Judge Beumer resides on a farm of 140 acres." End of quote.

Janet's trip to St. Charles and New Melle would now be complete if only she could locate the site where her great-grandfather settled after leaving St. Louis in 1840 with his wife and infant son, the future judge. Certainly with he being a carpenter, and at such an early date when German immigrants were first arriving, he must have constructed his own log home in the wilderness vicinity of New Melle. So, we began searching her papers, and my old 1875 St. Charles County Atlas maps in earnest. There, in a deed, was the following location "Township 46 Range 1 East Section 24." Switching back immediately to the maps we found the name "Reumer" in a corner of Section 24. A four-year mystery had been solved. The map maker long ago had printed the letter R instead of B. When I told her where the place was, just off Hopewell Road, and that we could go to see it, she was almost trembling, and remarked, "Goodness, this New Melle area is really holy ground."

In June, 1974, I had written a brief account of the restored log home owned by Mr. Amedee Shields located a short distance northeast of New Melle. It was believed to have been the first home of John Nadler who owned the adjoining property, and that C. Reumers may have just owned the land for a brief period. Mr. Shields could only remember that his great-grandfather Nathan Cole had purchased the property as a country retreat during his term as Mayor of St. Louis after his election in 1869, or later. Now,

however, we were certain that it was Casper Beumer who constructed the two-story log home with two massive fireplace limestone rock chimneys on each end.

The visit with Mr. and Mrs. Shields was most enjoyable. They have done a superb job in converting the old log home into a modern comfortable residence. The exterior had been framed over years ago. The chimneys though are as they were originally, and the interior side of the hand hewed oak logs on both floors have been left exposed. Janet murmured, "This is too much" as she moved her hand slowly over the surface of the logs and fireplace stones her own great-grandfather had worked on so hard in carving out a home in a new, free world.

James and Janet Daniel, and their family, live in Gray Summit, where, as a sideline business, they maintain a large apple orchard known as "George's Orchard." You may want to visit their roadside apple and cider stand this fall on Business Route 66, three miles west of Pacific.

* * *

Kenneth G. Beumer: The community was deeply saddened to hear of the accidental death of Kenneth Beumer, age 15, only son of George and Laverne (Borgmann) Beumer of Matson. The accident occurred at the sawmill in Matson. He was a student at Washington High School. Funeral arrangements and services were from Pitman's Funeral Home and Christ Lutheran Church in Augusta on Sunday, Aug. 13.

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No. 234 AUG. 14, 1978



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Profile - 4.7
 Mary Louise Aulbert

Among the charming characteristics of any community, or of any family, are the presence of those people who have stood the trials of life from low key, but hard, pioneering days, to the present 20th Century pace, and have grown to accept it all as God's Will. With this genuine acceptance of a changing world, pleasant personalities develop. They become the kind of personalities we all like to know and be with.

Such a personality is Mrs. Mary Louisa Ida (Fienup) Aulbert. Mary Louisa was born 98 years ago on October 1, 1877 to Henry Fienup and Elizabeth (nee Hetlage) Fienup on their farm a short distance southeast of New Melle. She was baptized October 28, 1877 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle by the Rev. Friedrich Matuschka. Following her schooling at St. Paul's she was confirmed there at the normal age of 14 on March 22, 1891 by Pastor Henry Grefe, and at the age of 25 she was married to John Henry Aulbert by Pastor Grefe.

The Aulbert brick home built by her husband's parents years earlier from bricks made at the New Melle Brick Factory, became the bridal home for the young couple. The home is located on Highway D, two miles east of New Melle. The Aulbert Homeplace, shown with this article, pictures Henry John Aulbert, and his wife Marie (Weidkemper) Aulbert. In the center stands John Henry. Note too, how formal the evergreens have been trimmed.

Here Mary Louise raised three children; Henry, Marie Borgelt, and Clifford. Hilda, their second child died in early childhood. Mr. Aulbert died March 1, 1955 at the age of 83 years. Mrs. Aulbert continued to live there until the place was sold in 1964. She then moved into a mobile home near her daughter Marie. In 1970 the mobile home was moved adjacent to her son Clifford's home, where she lives today.

Both Marie and Clifford are proud of their family heritage, as they deserve to be, and both have contributed old documents to piece history together, not only of their parents, but also of their grandparents.

Their grandfather, Heinrich Johann Aulbert, was born Dec. 15, 1836 in Melle, Germany, Province of Hannover. Two years later, on March 29,

1839 Maria E. Weidkemper was also born in Melle. At this same time a certain piece of land was being sold by Francis W. Schroeder in far off St. Charles county, Missouri, U.S.A. to Florentine Maria Meyers. Good fortune was to acquaint these two young Germans when they became teenagers, to re-acquaint them later in America, and to make them joint owners of the original Schroeder property.

In the early 1860's Henry became disillusioned with conditions in the Fatherland, and being an orphan he set forth on his own to secure a passport to America. It was granted in 1866, and he set sail in June 1867. The "Passverein Konigreich Hannover", as well as his Citizenship Paper dated Feb. 20, 1869, is before me at this writing.

Upon his arrival he first settled in the vicinity of Florissant, Mo. He then moved to Iowa, and later came to New Melle where he met Maria. She had come to America with her parents and was living on the Weidkemper farm near Highway "T" and Foristell road intersection. They were married April 30, 1870 at St.

John's Cappeln church by the Rev. Theo. Mensch. A warranty deed dated Oct. 9, 1874 shows when the aforementioned Schroeder farm was purchased by Henry John Aulbert from Florentine M. Wickert (nee Meyers). Henry and Maria lived first in a log cabin a short distance from the present brick home. The log cabin was the birthplace of their only son John Henry in 1872. Henry's

mother died in 1910, and his father in 1912.

Returning now to their daughter-in-law of 98 years, we find Mary Louisa a very contented person reflecting happily over her life as a homemaker, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She feels proud of her family, and grateful that she can still live alone and provide for most of her needs. She seldom misses a Sunday service at St. Paul's.

She recalls how her husband's father would make regular trips to town on horseback carrying a basket full of eggs as payment for such staples as salt, sugar and flour. The special basket he used was woven by John Thielmann. Grandson Henry cherishes it as a family heirloom. For a brief period it will be placed on display in the store.

Mary Louise celebrated her 98th birthday with a family dinner in her daughter's home (Marie Borgelt). Also present were her younger sister Mrs. Elizabeth Meyer (87) and her brother W.F.J. Fienup (Reference an earlier Cracker Barrel News article on the life of Bill Fienup). The birthday party was highlighted by the reading of a "Resolution" from the Missouri Senate, sent to her by Senator Joe Frappier in honor of her birthday.

No.

4.87 Mar 19
Aulbert's 100th



MARY AULBERT

MARY AULBERT'S 100TH

On Saturday, Oct. 1, Mrs. Mary Louisa (Fienup) Aulbert reached that very select group of centenarians in the world, and she becomes the first person to celebrate all of her 100 birthdays as a citizen of the New Melle area. Two years ago we all joined in the 100th birthday celebration of Mrs. Martha (Riesmeyer) Muhm. Mrs. Muhm came to New Melle from Augusta as a bride, and continued to reside here until

recently. (Ref. Cracker Barrel News Issue No. 70 dated Feb. 10, 1975). Both of these grand ladies were close friends throughout the long span of years from raw pioneer days to the modern space age.

Mary was born Oct. 1, 1877, to Henry and Elizabeth (Hetlage) Fienup on the Fienup farm near the southeast edge of New Melle. Her parents were born in Germany and came to America as immigrant children. The Fienups were of the Lutheran faith, and were members of the historic 1858 "Old Stone Church," St. Paul's in New Melle. Here Mary was baptized on Oct. 28, 1877, by the Rev. Friedrich Matuschka, confirmed at the age of 14 on Mar. 22, 1891, and married at the age of 25 to John H. Aulbert.

John Henry's parents were also German immigrants. They came to America in the late 1860's, and later settled on a farm east of New Melle. The farm was purchased by the Aulberts on Oct. 9, 1874. This too became the home of John and Mary. Here they reared three children, Henry, Marie (Borgelt) and Clifford. John Aulbert passed away in 1955 at the age of 83 years. In recent years Mary has lived near her son, Clifford, and daughter-in-law, Aldine.

Mrs. Aulbert is a contented, gracious lady, who is devoted to her family, performs most of her own household chores, attends church regularly at St. Paul's and is blessed with a clear mind and positive memories despite her advanced age. When asked what she attributes her long life to, she replied, "Going to church and believing in God."

Mary Louisa's family, other than her children, includes grandchildren, Joyce Zollmann of New Melle, and Joann Palmer of Wichita Falls, Texas, both daughters of Mrs. Marie Borgelt; and great-grandchildren, Gayle and Jay Zollmann, and Lisa and Kavin Palmer. Her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Meyer passed away in January of this year at the age of 90 years.

The only other close member of her family is her brother, William F. J. Fienup of Chesterfield, (Ref. "Meet William F. J. Fienup" in the Cracker Barrel News Issue No. 83 dated May 12, 1975). Mr.

Fienup, inventor, poet, musician, champion skeet shooter, philanthropist, and president of the R. C. Can Company before retirement, was also born and raised in New Melle. "W. F. J." often returns to visit his sister, and now in honor of her 100th birthday, he has arranged a special "Open House" celebration at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle starting at 12:30 p.m. and concluding at 3 p.m. All of her friends and acquaintances are cordially invited.

Mrs. Aulbert has also been honored with many congratulatory cards from friends and relatives, a card from the St. Charles County Republican Central Committee, an official "Resolution" from State Senator Joe Frappier and the Missouri Senate, and special cards from Lieutenant Governor Bill Phelps, and President Jimmy Carter.

Remember "Open House" for Mrs. Aulbert is Sunday, Oct. 9, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle on Highway D, west side of town.

No. 193 OCT. 5, 1977

4.7 & 4.8

4.9

LONGEVITY

Whenever someone in our midst reaches some golden age plateau in this earthly life, we pause to honor that person and to reflect on what possible formula he or she may have followed throughout the long years to make that goal possible.

Comments about this by the older folks vary greatly and medical science do not agree on a common set of guidelines. Heridity, common sense in our living habits, and moderation, appear to be the most important factors.

Our thoughts today are of Mrs. Mary Louise (Fienup) Aulbert who departed January 24, 1979 at the age of 101 years. Services were held from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle on Saturday January 27. The Rev. Gary Archbold presided. Interment was in Lynn Cemetery-Wentzville. Funeral arrangements were handled by Swantner Funeral Home.

She is survived by her children Henry, Marie (Borgelt) and Clifford, grandchildren Mrs. Joyce Zollmann and Mrs. Joann Palmer, and great-grand children Gayle and Jay Zollmann, and Lisa and Kovin Palmer, other relatives and friends.

Mary was born October 1, 1877 to German immigrants Henry and Elizabeth (Hetlage) Fienup on the Fienup farm near the southeast edge of the present town of New Melle. She was baptized at St. Paul's October 28, 1877 by the Rev. Friedrich Matuschka, confirmed there at the age of 14, and married at the same church to John H. Aulbert on March 22, 1891 at the age of 25 by Rev. Henry Grefe.

The bride and groom moved into the Aulbert brick home two miles east of town on Highway D, and this remained Mary's home until 1964, nine years after her husband's death in 1955. Since 1964 she lived near her daughter Marie, and later near her son Clifford and daughter-in-law. Thus, up to the last few days of her long life she maintained her own household, with very little dependency on others.

This characteristic, I am sure, had much to do with her longevity. Even just before her

death in the hospital, when nurses were doing everything possible to make her comfortable, she remarked — "I wish I could do things for myself".

On November 5, 1975, a profile of her life appeared in the Cracker Barrel News, and again she was remembered in "Mary Aulbert's 100th" on October 1, 1977. On October 9, 1977, a big celebration was given in her honor at St. Paul's Hall by her illustrious brother Wm. F. J. Fienup, then 87 years old. (Ref. this column Issue No. 83 dated May 12, 1975). Mr. Fienup passed away just seven months ago. At her 100th Birthday Party she attributed her longevity to "Going to church and believing in God".

Going to church was truly a way of life with her. This sweet petite lady, always so carefully dressed, complete with hat and white gloves, will be missed by all who knew her. A song written by Mary's brother several months ago was read by Pastor Archbold, and sung by Mr. Lloyd Hoffman at her service. The third of three verses reads as follows: "May we ever grateful be, For all things that come from The-Give us strength to bear our cross — When reverses cause a loss. And we wish and hope and pray — For your guidance day by day. So that in eternity — Glorified your Name will be." — It is believed that Mrs. Aulbert is the oldest person to have been buried from the 135 year old St. Paul's congregation.

Longevity in the southwest section of St. Charles County has been, and is being enjoyed, by an unusually large number of folks considering how sparsely settled the area has always been. Many have lived to be well in their nineties, and many more far in their eighties and nineties are living today. My aunt, Mrs. Lena (Schiermeier) Meier, was born and raised in Cappel. She died in 1967 at the age of 102. The third centenarian in the New Melle community is, of course, Mrs. Martha Muhm, wife of the late Dr. Oscar Muhm of New Melle. (Ref. Cracker Barrel News Issue No. 70 written February 10, 1975 when she was 100 years old. Mrs. Muhm will soon be 104 years old. She is doing fine and living in a nursing home in Ferguson, Missouri. What is her formula for longevity?

Well, it may be in these words of hers, quote — "I have learned to be content in whatever state I am in," and she adds, "Smile and the world smiles with you. Weep and you weep alone." When confronted another time she replied — "I guess I am just made of good stuff".

The area, too, may have something to do with longevity. It is a peaceful, neighborly section stretching out over forested rolling hills that are the highest in elevation in St. Charles county. It is said the early immigrants settled here because "it was a healthy place to live".

No. FEB. 7, 1979

4.9

4.10

EWALD H. TOEDEBUSCH, SR.

It was in 1904 that William F. Toedebusch chose to settle in the vicinity of New Melle. He purchased a farm in the beautiful rolling hills just two miles east of town and was married to Miss Lydia Nadler in 1905. Bill Toedebusch became a successful farmer, ran a saw mill and a threshing outfit. He and Lydia raised a family of four sons; Ewald, Omar, now of Chillicothe, Mo., Frank, who has remained on the farm in New Melle, and Wilbert of St. Louis.

Ewald, the oldest, started early in life in the transportation business. First as a young lad he would load up his father's spring wagon with water jugs during the threshing season and supply the hot, thirsty crew with refreshing cool cistern water. He was the "water boy." Later as a teenager Ewald ran a poultry and egg route for the Paul and Joerling store in New Melle. This experience led him to the decision to start his own trucking business. So, in 1928 he started the Toedebusch Transfer business with two trucks, with headquarters in Wentzville. It remained at that location until 1936, when the business was moved to 926 Cass Ave. in St. Louis. The venture grew and prospered over the years, and the family name of TOEDEBUSCH, painted in bold letters on scores of tractor-trailers could always be seen on the nation's highways. The company's truck terminals were in St. Louis, Kansas City, Boonville, Columbia, Fulton and Mexico, Mo. As president of the firm, Ewald worked hard to promote the trucking industry, and held a number of high offices toward that end. He was a member of Missouri Bus and Truck Assn., the Traffic Club of St. Louis, and Life Member of A.T.A. and M.T.A. Ewald loved the outdoors. He was an avid skeet shooter, and spent many exciting hours in the duck blind. The company's calendars year after year featured reproductions of famous game bird paintings.

Recently the company was sold to the Anderson Trucking Company.

On Thursday, Sept. 25 Ewald Toedebusch died at the age of 68 years. He died at St. John's Mercy Medical Center of an arterial illness. Funeral services were conducted at Buchholz Mortuary in St. Louis. Burial was in the Memorial Park Cemetery. The Rev. Milton Nauss, pastor of The Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, where Mr. Toedebusch was a member, officiated. Ewald was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Melle.

Survivors include his wife, the former Frances London; a daughter, Mrs. Ramona Rudolph of Fairfax, Va.; a stepdaughter, Miss Barbara London of St. Louis, and three brothers, Omar, Frank and Wilbert; and four grandsons. His son, Ewald, Jr. preceded him in death.

No. 104 OCT. 6, 1975

4.10

4.11

SMITH LAND GRANT

It would be safe to say that a very large portion of all lands granted to individuals originally by the U.S. Government in this area came under the Act of Congress of April 24, 1820, which provided for the sale of Public Lands.

The abstracts that many people have today of their properties bear this out. These abstracts not only trace through the various owners since the original grant, but they also contain interesting stories. So it is with the abstract supplied by William H. Ward of New Melle.

On September 9, 1835, President Andrew Jackson signed a land grant over to John Smith for 40 acres on the SE Quarter of Sec. 32, Township 46 N. of Range 2 East (E. of New Melle approximately three miles). Mr. Smith died in 1862 and in his will of 1856 he provided for his wife and two daughters, Mary Tarbell and Julia Smith.

An interesting quote from his will reads "I also give to my said wife my negro woman, Agness, to be disposed of according to her discretion, and a life estate in my two negro boys, Isaac and Jordan, now age about 18 and 15 years." We can be glad those times have changed.

John Smith's daughter, Mary, a widow at the time the will was drawn, married Thomas Jefferson Howell in 1860. They became heirs to the property in 1862. It was sold to a Hy. W. and Caroline Schiermeier (no relation, apparently) for \$140 in January 1868. He died within a few months and their children, Mary Caroline, Mary Wilhelmina, Caroline Catharine and John Hy., are mentioned as heirs to various properties. Widow Caroline married Johann Heinrich Uhlmansiek in November 1868.

As time passed, daughter, Catherine W. married Frederick W. Tieman, and daughter, Catherine C. married Hy. F. Koenig. The two couples sold the 40 acres to Hy. Uhlmansiek for a small sum in 1884. Hy. and his wife, Caroline passed it on to Edwin

Stevener in October 1916. Edwin and wife, Emma sold it to C. Hy. Bornhop for \$3750 in November 1934. Mr. Bornhop then sold it to Walter and Sylvia Carpenter in April 1938. John and Myrtle Kelly, in April 1945, were the next owners.

Finally, we come to Mrs. Adele C. Meyer, who prompted me to look into this abstract. She lives near the store, so we have frequent conversations on various subjects. Mrs. Meyer and her husband, John acquired the property in 1946, and lived there until October 1952, at which time they sold it to Samuel and Blanche Newman. In 1964 the property changed hands once more when it was sold to William H. and Ava Nell Ward.

The Wards have lived there ever since. For the present, the story ends on the 40 acres John Smith received from the government 140 years ago. Little did he realize that it was destined to change ownership 12 times during that period. It points out quite clearly how temporary one's earthly possessions really are.

No. 69 FEB. 3, 1975

4.11

New Melle

"From The Cracker Barrel News"

Bill Schiermeier

Phone: 828-5580

4.12

THE THIEMANN BROTHERS

Henry Oscar Thiemann, age 87, and his brother Edward H., age 80, both native sons of New Melle, having been born on a farm one mile east of New Melle on Nadler Road, and both World War I veterans, have both departed from us within the past few days.

Oscar was born Nov. 18, 1887. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and entered World War I Service May 27, 1918 as a Private in Company C, 349th Infantry, 88th Division. During his service in France he participated in the battle of Haute Alsace, and was discharged from the Army June 10, 1919 at Camp Taylor, Ky.

Upon returning home to New Melle, Oscar became a carpenter and continued in that trade until his retirement. He never married. For 40 years he made his home with his brother Ed.

Oscar passed away Oct. 29 at Katie Jane Memorial Home in Warrenton, eight weeks after suffering a stroke. Memorial services were conducted at the Pitman Funeral Home by the American Legion Post 323 of Wentzville, and funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Sylvester Toerne at St. Paul's in New Melle. Mr. Thiemann was survived by his brother Ed.

Edward H. Thiemann was born Sept. 27, 1895, baptized only three days later at St. Paul's, and was confirmed there April 4, 1909. On that same day a young lady by the name of Doré Stratman was confirmed at St. John's E. & R. Church in Cappeln. They were to become man and wife 11 years later.

On April 28, 1918, at the age of 23, Ed entered World War I service. He was assigned to the Wagoner Supply Co. 356th Infantry. In June, after training just

one month he was shipped overseas for active duty. Three months later, on Sept. 28, Ed was promoted to "Wagoner."

The principal duty of a Wagoner was to haul supplies to the "front" in buckboard wagons drawn in many cases by a team of Missouri mules (see Issue No. 101 dated Sept. 15, 1975). He is credited with having participated in the battles of St. Mihiel, and the Meuse-Argonne offensives.

Wagoner Thiemann experienced a number of dangerous assignments, but one experience he remembered most vividly happened minutes before the Armistice was signed. He had bedded himself down for the night on the ground near his team. Soon a shell exploded. After recovering from the shock unhurt he saw that one of his horses was dead, his wagon had been blown to bits, and two buddies lying near by had been killed. Lest we forget, such experiences and worse, can be told by the hundreds of thousands of young men who have fought to preserve the freedom we first gained 200 years ago.

Mr. Thiemann was discharged July 11, 1919. He returned to his home town, became a life long painter by trade and married Miss Dora Stratman Jan. 15, 1920 at Cappeln E. & R. Church. The ceremony was performed by Pastor. Bechtold. Ed's health began to fail in the 60s. He pulled through a number of operations. However, on Nov. 9, 1975 he passed away at the Lincoln County Hospital, 10 days after the death of his brother.

Memorial services were conducted at Pitman's Funeral Home by his American Legion Post 323 of Wentzville, and funeral services were conducted by Pastor Toerne at St. Paul's. Ed was also a member of the V.F.W. of New Melle. Survivors include his wife Dora, daughters Darlene Joerling

and Doris Wildschutz, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The photo shown with this article is reproduced from page 52 in the book entitled "St. Charles County's Participation in the World War," a record of the men in military and naval service; a history of war activities at home, and a brief chronology of the Great War. It was published by the Honor Roll Association of St. Charles County. The servicemen from this area that are pictured on this particular page are as follows: (3) Andrew J. Schulz of Foristell, (4) Louis Schlueter of Wentzville, (7) Landon F. Schiermeier of Defiance, (13) Edward H. Thiemann of New Melle, (17) Hugh T. Turpin of Foristell, (19) Henry O. Thiemann of New Melle, (20) George T. Turpin of Foristell. The writer's brother Landon drove a tank in the St. Mihiel and Argonne operations. His helmet and medals are in the store museum case.

Among those listed in the book who lost their lives in World War I service is Arnold H. Niederjohann of New Melle. Ed Thiemann and Arnold were good friends, and once while in France the two met each other by chance. When they parted and shook hands Arnold mentioned to Ed that he may not see him any more. The next day, on Sept. 23, 1918 Arnold was killed by a high explosive shell. Many other familiar names, brief biographies, and photos are shown in this historic book which may be discussed more fully in a future article. There is August Edward Almeling, Walter C. Borgelt, Oliver J. Brandt, Frank Beumer, Ernest F. W. Fuerman, Fred J. Kamphoefner, Frank H. E. Stevener, August G. Schemmer and Edwin J. Wessler, all from the New Melle area, many of whom fought together in the two great battles mentioned earlier.

No. 110 NOV. 26, 1975

4.12



Many servicemen from the Wentzville-New Melle area served their country during World War One. This picture, reproduced from a book, "St. Charles County in the World War," shows several of these. See text for fuller identification.



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Schierbaum, 1907

4.13

By Bill Schiermeier
Profile-Katherine Schierbaum
Near Highway DD, approximately 5 miles northeast of New Melle, stands the Schierbaum family farmstead. There, since her marriage in 1907, lives a very gracious lady who we were privileged to visit a few days ago. She is Katherine M. (Ruebling) Schierbaum.

Mrs. Schierbaum was seated comfortably in a beautiful old antique rocker working on a cross stitched quilt block when we arrived. I pulled up another rocker near her so we could rock-and talk about her long life she remembers so vividly. Her daughter, Mrs. Louise Hueffmeier, her son, Dorris, her granddaughter and my wife were also present to fill in and listen to historical anecdotes.

Katie, as she is affectionately called by all her friends, was born 92 years ago on October 14, 1886 on a farm west of New

Melle on Holt Road. Her parents were Karl (Charlie) H. Ruebling; born in 1859, and Matilda B. (Nieweg) Ruebling, born in 1862.

When Katie was still a small child, her family moved to the "Bluff Spring" area near Schwede road, east of New Melle. For a few years she attended the Bluff Spring grammar school, but due to her mother's death she would often stay home to keep house for her father. Thus, she was deprived of her full eight grades.

Katie talked about the many horse and buggy shopping trips to Kessler's, Meier's and Hoefner's general stores in New Melle as a young girl, and of her first train ride with her sister from Wentzville to Union Station in St. Louis to attend the Worlds Fair.

From the station they rode a street car to the fairgrounds, became "never so tired walking

from place to place", and were too frightened to ride the famous giant Ferris Wheel. It was quite an experience for two young country girls in a big city at the turn of the century.

Digressing briefly away from the Ruebling family, let us become acquainted with Katie's future in-laws, the Schierbaums.

Henry Schierbaum came from Germany as a teenager. After a voyage of three long months in a small sailing vessel, he landed at Port Orleans, came up the Mississippi to St. Louis, then up the Missouri River to the Femme Osage Creek area, and finally into New Melle to be numbered as one of the town's early settlers. His wife, Caroline, also had come as a young girl from Germany.

Henry was a blacksmith and wagon maker. His blacksmith shop stood on the southwest corner of the Mill and Peters

4.13

Streets in New Melle. The home to the rear was of log construction, and later framed over and enlarged by John H. Kessler.

Henry and Caroline Schierbaum left New Melle in the late 1860's and built a log cabin along the branch that ran through their farm. Today there is no trace of the blacksmith shop in town, nor of the log cabin near the branch.

Katie remembers seeing only a few rotted logs years ago. The Schierbaum gravesites are located in the German Methodist Cemetery in New Melle.

Oscar W. Schierbaum, who some day would be Katie's beloved husband, was born in the log cabin on November 14, 1874. We know little of Oscar's boyhood days but Mrs. Schierbaum recalls her husband's stories how his father and several neighbors cut huge timbers in the nearby woods, hauled them to the new homesite, notched them with broadaxes and erected the 20 foot by 20 foot, two story log home that is still a part of their modernized farmstead.

It was Oscar's job to carry bricks for the flue. This would be in the late 1800's, and quite possibly the bricks had been fired at the Stahlhuth Brick Factory in New Melle.

Katie and Oscar were married in February 1907. Weeks earlier she had gone to Arnold Hoefner's store in town to select beautiful cashmere cloth for her wedding gown. The gown was made by Mr. Hoefner's sister.

On their wedding day, she carefully packed her wedding gown in a suit case and Oscar hitched the mules to a spring wagon. They were off to Wentzville to board the Wabash for St. Charles. Upon arriving in St. Charles they immediately walked from the station to Meyer's Jewelry Store on Main Street to purchase their wedding rings, then up the hill to the court house for their marriage license. Farther on the minister was waiting at the Methodist Church to perform the ceremony.

Only the minister and a lone

sponsor were present to admire the handsome couple. However, Goebels Studio was not too far away. Here Mr. Goebel, the master photographer in St. Charles during the early 1900's preserved for posterity that precious wedding day scene of 71

years ago. How pretty the bride was, and Oscar was justly proud.

Again, the wedding gown was packed away. It was time now for a wedding dinner just for two at some forgotten restaurant, followed by the train ride back to Wentzville where the mules were waiting at the livery stable to take them to their farm home.

The log home Oscar had helped to build when only a boy, with exposed white washed logs on the inside, served as their humble home until their family grew larger and larger, necessitating further improvement and expansion.

Dr. Reed and his wife came often to Wentzville to deliver babies at the Schierbaum home until the list grew to include Ivan Herbert (deceased), Rube Charles, Caroline Louise Hueffmeier, Matilda Catherine Pitman, Ella Toleda Kothe, Alivia Ida Smith, Mary Katie (deceased), and Dorris Oscar.

Mrs. Schierbaum, in her reflections, wonders how she could have done it without the conveniences she enjoys today. Little ones had to be watched so they would not break off and eat loose white washed plaster mortar; older ones had to be reminded to bring in three boxes full of fire wood each winter day; milk, butter and other foods had to be drawn from the cistern before each summer meal; clothing she had made by the basket-full had to be washed and mended regularly; kettles of apple butter had to be cooked; ovens of bread had to be baked; hundreds of jars of fruit and vegetables had to be "put up; and six or seven hogs had to be butchered. She especially described what it was like to cook for four carpenters, her husband and family for weeks in 1914 when the big barn was being built.

It was the life she knew and loved. Upon our leaving, she arose to show us her quilts and how the original house was constructed. It was obvious those four walls held many pleasant memories for her. God has blessed Mrs. Catherine Schierbaum with good health, a fine intellect, and a wonderful family, which besides her children in-

cludes 10 grandchildren (six whom are married) and 11 great-grandchildren.

Nov. 15, 1978

No.
249



New Melle

Bill Schiermeier
Phone: 828-5580

"From The Cracker Barrel News"

4.14

THE RAPE OF HOWELL AND HAMBURG

"The Rape of Howell and Hamburg, Missouri (an American Tragedy)," is the title of a new book written by Donald K. Muschaney, a native of the area.

Thirty-nine years ago, when Adolf Hitler marched into Poland, our country became alarmed over the possibility of being drawn into a world conflict. We were ill prepared, and the need for vast quantities of materials needed to protect ourselves was slowly dawning on the American people.

Many of our elected and appointed officials in government, who had been chosen to lead us, and deal with us democratically, forgot they were servants of the people. Rash, unreasonable decisions, wanton waste, and violations of human rights often prevailed.

Among these vast quantities of supplies needed was dynamite, or TNT." Government officials started looking around the country for a new site where TNT could be produced. In 1940 the "experts" decided they needed a triangular shaped piece of ground starting at the present Daniel Boone Bridge and fanning out along U.S. Highway 40 to the northeast, and along Missouri State Highway 94 to the southeast.

This would engulf the towns of Howell and Hamburg, and 18,000 acres of some of the most beautiful countryside in Missouri, where families for generations had been born and raised; and where ancestors of present inhabitants had been buried.

No family was more affected by this fantastic decision than was the Muschaney family. Author Don Muschaney grew up in the Howell/Hamburg area. His father, Morris, and other members of the family were leaders in the community.

He watched them prosper in the land they loved so dearly, witnessed the government takeover of all land and property, experienced even trials in court, was on the scene to see the sadness in the eyes of older folks, and the bewilderment in the eyes of the young.

It has left a deep impression on him, and few are better prepared to tell the story as it really was.

A paragraph in Mr. Muschaney's "Forward" reads, "Every citizen should know what happened to these two tiny towns during World War II and the shameful way the inhabitants were treated by the Federal Government. It is in this vein that I write of the events as an American tragedy."

Much of the history centers around his Uncle Karl and Aunt Vera Muschaney who were even sued by the government. After years of research and documentation Don has completed a very readable and highly educational 282-page book.

It is filled with historical facts, verbatim correspondence, plus many heart warming stories relating to the people living in the area at the time. Also, in Part IV, the author has reproduced 54 old pictures that will bring back memories to people who can still recall the bustling towns of Howell and Hamburg.

The book is in four parts, namely, "The Nightmare," "The Way Things Were," "The Way Things Are," and "The Photographs."

Part I, suitably entitled "The Nightmare," introduces the conditions that led to the government's decision to take over the Missouri site. Legal procedures follow, with actual letters from President Roosevelt and the War Department.

The exodus, preceded by a giant auction in Howell of personal belongings, is described. Details of land transactions, land

options, protests by land owners, happenings in mass meetings, the construction of the TNT plant, actual documented court proceedings, and the final decisions, are all historically presented in a most interesting manner.

Part II should be especially interesting to old timers, and local history enthusiasts. Mr. Muschaney describes "The Way Things Were" in and around Howell in early days. There are personal family letters, references to the four-room Francis Howell High School, life around Muschaney's General Store, the Deserted Village Library of 1924, and the list of books it then had. Paragraph after paragraph mentions names of those who lived there, and descendants may find actual experiences, or conversations of their parents or grandparents.

Part III briefly discusses who owns the land today, and commitments still not fulfilled, such as care of some 28 cemeteries dotting the landscape.

Part IV will be enjoyed for its photographs. There is the scene of Howell's Main Street, scenes of Hamburg (see recent Cracker Barrel News Issue No. 239 and 240 "History of Hamburg and Hy Seib"), F.H.H.S., churches, homes, Muschaney Bros. General Store, Toonerville, Howell Cemetery, and many others.

The hardback book will soon go on sale for \$15.00, and due to a very limited supply it will surely become of increasing value.

STORE CUSTOMERS 1878 LEDGER

Continuing in the Forstell area there were A. H. Matthew, R. W. Scruggs, Hy Ellis, Charles Harbine, James Young, W. T. Hughes, John H. Parsons, George F. Swope, C. T. Richards and Peter Bruning.

No. 253 DEC. 18, 1978

4.14