

North Germans in the Boomer Township Area

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In the years after the Civil War a number of North German immigrants settled north of Council Bluffs in rural northwestern Pottawattamie County, Iowa, between the town of Crescent and the Beebeetown area, just over the border in Harrison County. Later in the 19th century other North German immigrants, including members of the extended Wohlers family, came to the northern part of this area. This Germany community was large enough to support St. John's Lutheran Church in central Boomer Township, organized in 1894, which is still flourishing as of 2016.

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About This Report

In earlier years I have written substantially about early northwestern Pottawattamie County and especially the Danish settlers in the Boomer Township area. Much of this material is now on-line.

In this report I turn to the North German immigrants who came to the Boomer Township area in the years after our Civil War ended in 1865.

To view the initial version of this report on-line as of 15 Jul '16:

- Access the website *kirstenpedersen.weebly.com*.
- Under the *Maggie's World* item in the main menu, select *Maggie's Neighborhood*.
- This should open the *Maggie's Neighborhood - Preface* page, which contains lists of local history reports, most dealing with northwestern Pottawattamie County, Iowa. This report is named *North Germans in the Boomer Township Area*.

If you are not familiar with Pottawattamie County, you will find a county map about five pages later.

This report mentions the Rief family. For more about this family, see my *Reel's Cemetery in Boomer Township* report.

Contacting Me

My initial version of this report is bound to contain errors - Please report them to me at your first convenience. Also I would appreciate hearing from others who could help with the early history of rural northwestern Pottawattamie County.



Sources for North Germans in the Boomer Township Area

- The immediate source for this report is my *St. Paul's* database, which contains brief biographical information for over 35,000 individuals whose families had some connection with the northwestern Pottawattamie County, Iowa area.
- For those interested in Pottawattamie County history, the *Pottawattamie County History on the Internet* section of *Pottawattamie County, Iowa - An Historical Overview* lists the major on-line vital records indices for Pottawattamie County residents, some of which I used in this report.

The following are sources specific to this report.

- ***Genealogy in Schleswig-Holstein*** - www.rootdigger.de (created by Klaus Struve of Kiel). This is an incredibly rich database; the Emigrants section contains data for around 100,000 Schleswig-Holsteiners who emigrated.
- ***Genealogy Research in the Parish Erfde*** - www.erfde.com. The community of Erfde in Schleswig has created an impressive list of those who left Erfde for other countries.
- ***1000 Emigrants To America From The District Of Harsefeld*** - <http://lemmermann-genealogie.de/emigrantstoamerica.pdf>
These emigrants (from the 1850s to about 1939) came from the former administrative units called "Amt Harsefeld" and Himmelpforten, i.e. the area more or less constituted by the parishes of Bargstedt, Harsefeld, Ahlerstedt, Bliedersdorf, Neukloster, Apensen and Mulsum.
- **HISTORICAL RESEARCH SERVICES**, Jens Müller-Koppe
- <http://www.hist.de/KB-hannover.htm>
PARISH REGISTERS of the "Evangelisch-Lutherische Landeskirche Hannover"
...
Sprengel (area) Stade
(complete: 14 Kirchenkreise, 163 parishes, 167 different parish registers)
...
Church district Buxtehude
Ahlerstedt, Apensen, Bargstedt, Bliedersdorf, Buxtehude, Harsefeld, Horneburg, Mulsum, Neukloster
- *St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Centennial Anniversary, March 13, 1994*

Historical Overview

Most of the North German immigrants to the Boomer Township area were from Schleswig, Holstein, and Hanover. In particular, the Rief and Witt families came from the Erfde area in Schleswig, southwest of the city of Schleswig, while the Reese and Wohlers families came from Hanover, just west of Hamburg.

Today's Germany consists of sixteen states called Bundesländer, the northernmost being Schleswig-Holstein. Berlin, Hamburg, and Bremen are amount the sixteen states. Most of the former Kingdom of Hanover is now in Lower Saxony, with capital the city of Hanover.



Northern Germany

(courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org)

Until 1864, Schleswig and Holstein were under Danish control. In 1864 combined Prussian and Austrian forces crushed the hapless Danish army. Schleswig and Holstein passed from Danish control and in 1871 became part of the newly created German Empire, as did the former kingdom of Hanover (once spelled "Hannover").

Because of Prussia's dominant position in the German Empire, those with North German ancestors may sometimes read that their ancestors were from Prussia, even though those ancestors lived far to the west of the historic Prussia, most of which is now part of Poland.

In 1920, after Germany's defeat in World War I, the citizens of Northern Schleswig, at the top of the following map, voted to return to Denmark. The remainder of Schleswig and Holstein remain combined in one Bundesland, Schleswig-Holstein, with capital in Kiel.



The Schleswig-Holstein area of north Germany

courtesy of commons.wikipedia.com

Immigration to the Midwest from Schleswig-Holstein

In 1848 political unrest spread over much of Western Europe. Also in 1848 the First Schleswig War between Denmark and the German Confederation began. Both the reform movement in Germany and the German efforts to remove Schleswig-Holstein from Danish control failed. Subsequently a substantial number of disaffected German-speakers emigrated, many coming to the United States and settling in the eastern part of our Midwest.

In 1857 a group of about 37, mostly North German immigrants, left Davenport, Iowa and in July pioneered the settlement of what is now Grand Island, in Central Nebraska.

Some years later in 1864, as a result of the Prussian and Austrian victories in the Second Schleswig War, Schleswig-Holstein passed from Danish to German control. However, many Schleswig-Holstein residents soon discovered that the German yoke was more onerous than the Danish yoke they had just thrown off, especially when it came to military service. In the United States the Homestead Act and railroad expansion were opening vast new areas to settlement. Steamships were replacing sailing ships, making emigration through ports like Hamburg and Bremen much easier.

After 1864 thousands of emigrants left Schleswig-Holstein for the American Midwest. In fact, Iowa has towns named Schleswig and Holstein, while the Iowa town of Manning now has an authentic house-barn brought over from the North Frisian area of Schleswig.

Many Schleswig-Holstein emigrants coming to the Midwest stopped for a time around Davenport, Iowa, which once was considered the most German city in the United States.

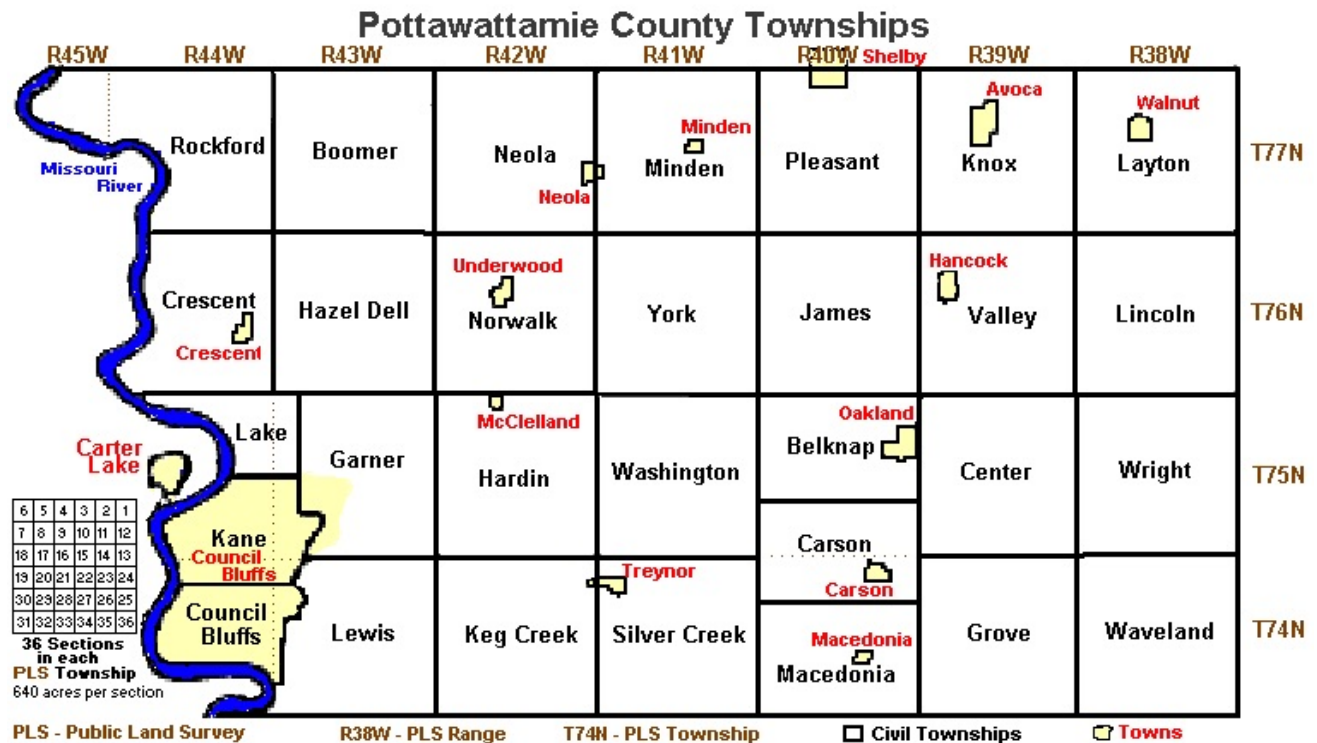
Council Bluffs lies about half way between Davenport and Grand Island. Beginning in 1869, rail travel from Davenport to Grand Island was possible if one changed from the Rock Island Railroad to the Union Pacific Railroad in Council Bluffs.

A final note:

Because of confusion caused by the territorial changes in the northern Germany area mentioned near the beginning of this report, those researching individuals who came from the areas mentioned herein should expect inconsistencies in the recorded birthplace. As an extreme example, the same individual might report Holstein as his or her birthplace in the 1870 census, Schleswig-Holstein in the 1880 census, Prussia in the 1900 census, and Germany in the 1910 census.

Roots of the North German Community in the Boomer Township Area

The German community north of Council Bluffs, Iowa seems to have started just northeast of Crescent, and then to have spread further north, into northern Boomer Township in Pottawattamie County and southern LaGrange Township, Harrison County, just north of Boomer Township.



Pottawattamie County, its Townships and Incorporated Towns courtesy of Dennis Walsh, iowagenweb.org/pottawattamie

It is likely that two early immigrants from North Germany played a role in attracting their North German compatriots to this area:

- **Johann Christofer "Chris" Oamek**, a native of Mecklenburg east of Hamburg, immigrated in 1857. He initially lived in southeastern South Dakota. Oamek worked as a freighter and finally settled in west central Hazel Dell Township around 1864.
- **William Peters**, born somewhere in Prussia, was on the losing side in the failed German revolution of 1848. Peters came to the United States via England in 1850 and worked in the west as a freighter and in other occupations. He married a teenaged Mormon girl in Utah in 1858 and was living in the Council Bluffs area in the 1860 and 1870 censuses. In 1870 Peters finally settled in central Boomer Township.

St. John's Lutheran Church



St. John's Lutheran Church, Boomer Township courtesy of Tom McLaughlin

The North German settlers being discussed tended to attend St. John's Lutheran Church, located on the county road in central Boomer Township.

The congregation was organized in March 1894 with 17 voting members. The building shown above was dedicated in December 1897. In the interim services were held in the Boomer Township hall, still standing across the road.

In 1949 a two-bedroom home was moved onto the church site from about a mile to the south (as the crow flies) to serve as parsonage, a role it still plays. The St. John's parsonage happened to be the small home in which I spent the first twelve years of my life, from 1935 to 1948.

In 2003 a new sanctuary and fellowship hall was built. The present church is now used for educational purposes.

St. John's is a member of the Missouri Synod. It's website is stjohnshoneycreek.org.

The Pigeon Post Office

The Pigeon Post Office and country store was located about 3/4 miles east of St. John's Lutheran Church. The Pigeon Post Office was in operation from 1889 to 1902, closing soon before the advent of Rural Free Delivery to the area.

I know of two postmasters:

- William Reese, 9 Dec 1889 - May 1893.
- John Henry Peter Witt, May 1893 - 26 Feb 1902.

In February 1902 the Pigeon Post Office was discontinued, with mailings sent to the Reel's Post Office in northwestern Hazel Dell Township. In January 1904 the Reel's Post Office closed, as Rural Free Delivery began from Honey Creek.

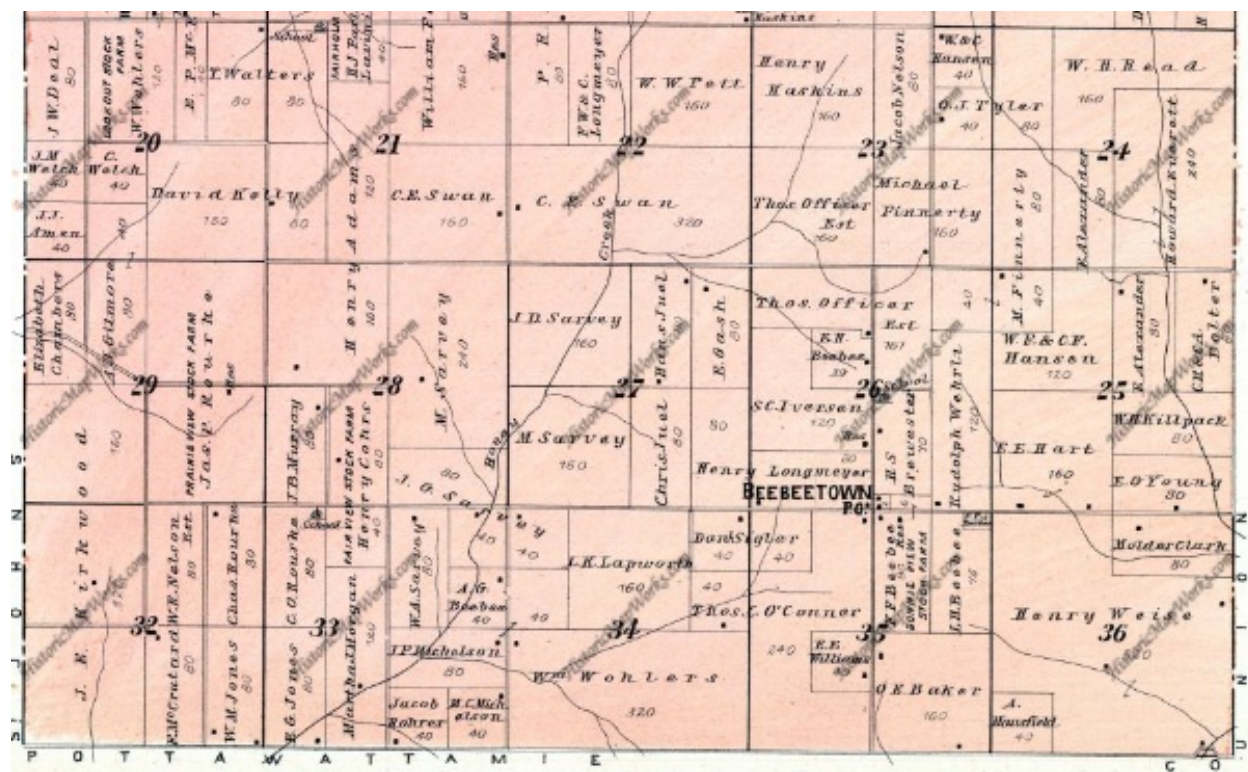
I believe that the Pigeon post office and store was located in the farm home first occupied by Mr. Reese, and then by Mr. Witt. To reach the post office site, take the road east from just south of St. John's Lutheran Church. The post office was on the right-hand side, just before turning to go south.

After the advent of rural free delivery, most individuals living in the southern part of the area being discussed had a Crescent or Honey Creek address, while most of those in the northern part had a Missouri Valley or Neola address.

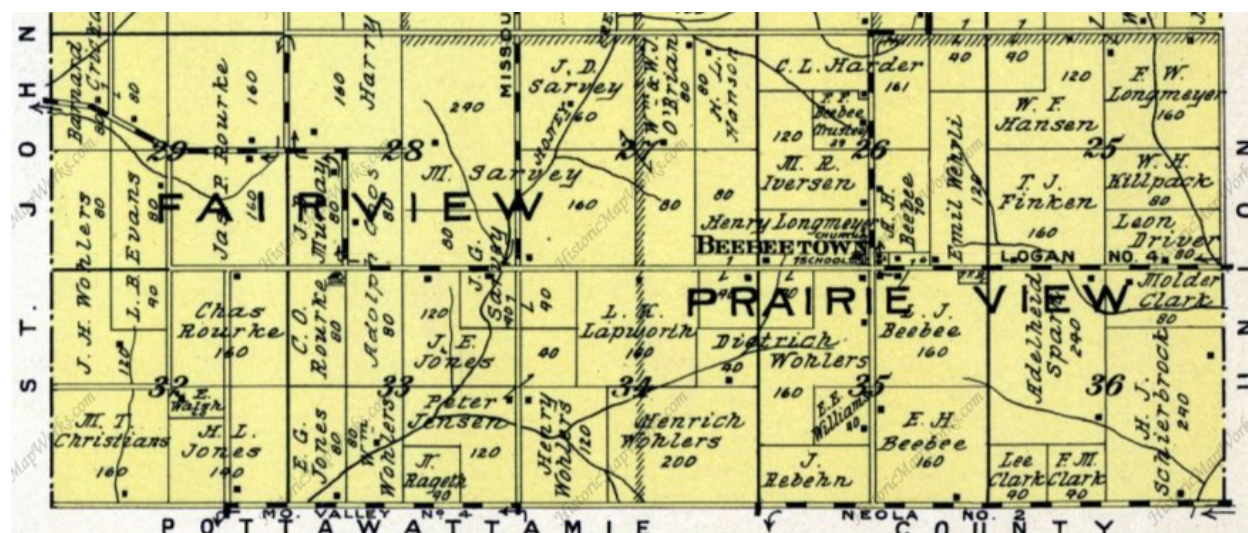
Boomer Township had a number of other earlier post offices within the township boundaries, but none were as long-lived as the Pigeon Post Office. Other Boomer post offices I know of were French, Harrison and Boomer.

The Beebeetown Area

Southern LaGrange Township, just north of Boomer Township, marks the northern edge of the area discussed in this article. Here are two barely-readable plats:



1902 - Southern La Grange Township, Harrison County, Iowa
from the Ogle atlas courtesy of mapworks.com



1914 - Southern La Grange Township, Harrison County, Iowa
courtesy of mapworks.com

The above maps of southern LaGrange Township are difficult to read, you may be able to find Beebeetown just above the word "Prairie" on the second map.

In 1914, Beebeetown was the site of the one-room Prairie View School, a church, a store, and perhaps a few other businesses. A few years later, a consolidated school, which offered classes through high school, was built in Beebeetown. This school drew students from northeastern Boomer Township as well as the Harrison County area around Beebeetown. This school was abandoned when the Tri-Center school opened to the east in 1962. The school gradually fell into ruin and was demolished a few years ago.

Viewers with good eyes can note the surname Wohlers:

On the 1902 map:

W. Wohlers Lookout Stock Farm in Section 20:

Wm. Wohlers in Section 34.

On the 1914 map:

J. H. Wohlers in Sections 32 and 29.

Wm. Wohlers in Section 33.

Henry Wohlers in Section 34.

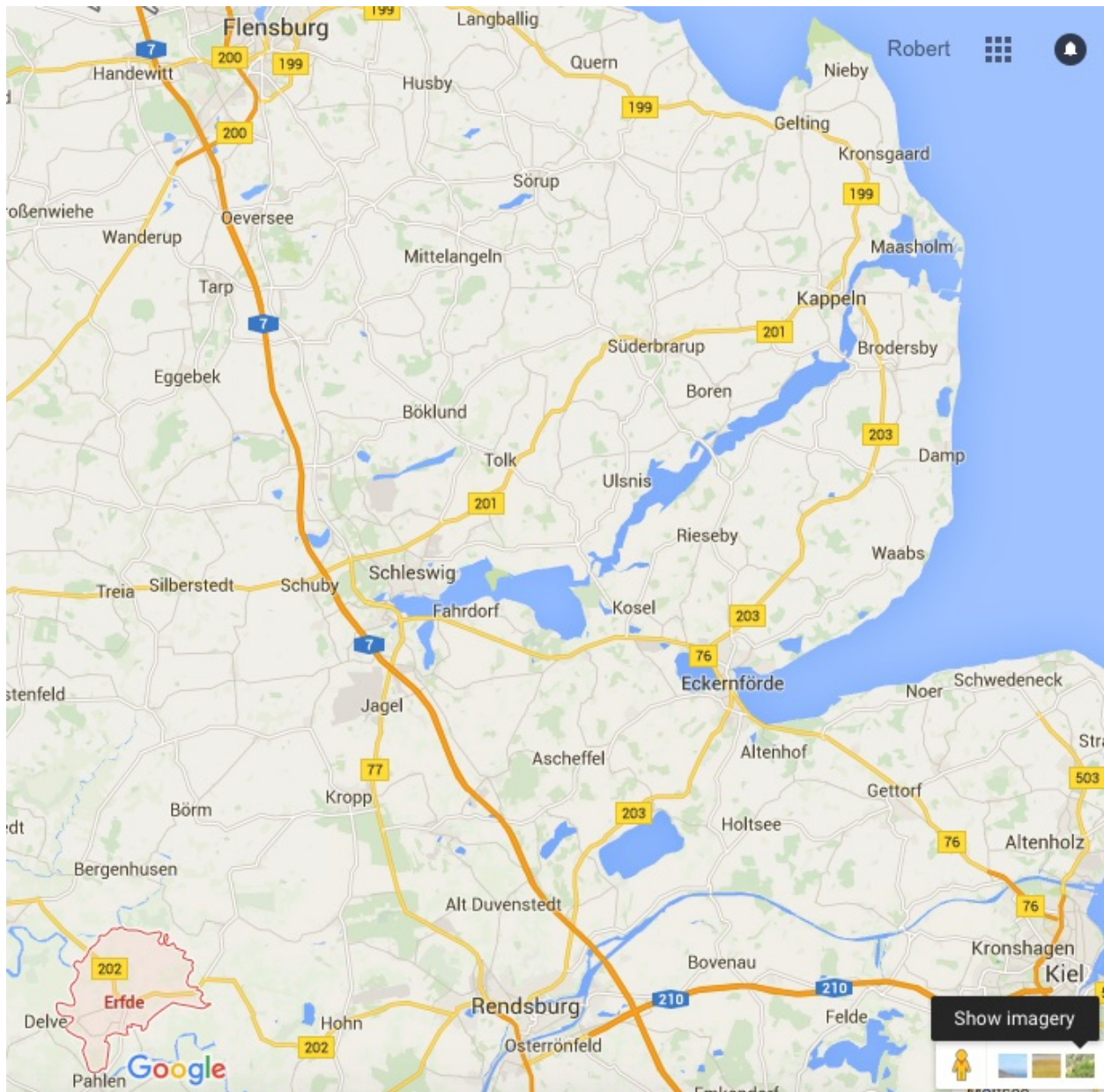
Henrich Wohlers in Section 34.

Dietrich Wohlers in Sections 34 and 35 (three houses).

. The Wohlers extended family emigrated from rural Hanover just west of the city of Hamburg (family immigration is outlined in a following section).

Wohlers descendants were such avid baseball players that one summer sixty years ago the roster of the Beebeetown community baseball team included seven young men named Wohlers, along with a subsequent Hall-of-Famer from Omaha named Bob Gibson.

Immigrants from Erfde and the Surrounding Area in Schleswig



The Erfde Area in Schleswig
courtesy of google.com

Erfde municipality is near the bottom left corner. The cities of Flensburg is on the top, Rendsburg on the bottom, and Kiel on the bottom right. The city of Schleswig is near the middle of this map.

Erfde is in the Bundesland (state) of Schleswig-Holstein, but historically was in south Schleswig. Holstein is further south.

The scope of the migration from Schleswig-Holstein to the United States is apparent if one looks at Erfde municipality. Erfde historians have compiled an on-line list of around 400 who emigrated from this rural parish, often containing birthdates and information about where they settled. (Today the population of Erfde parish is only around 2,000).

Among those who left Erfde for the Midwest were members of the extended Rief family. Rief family members figured prominently in the establishment of the north German area of settlement north of Council Bluffs. The Witt family also came from the Erfde area

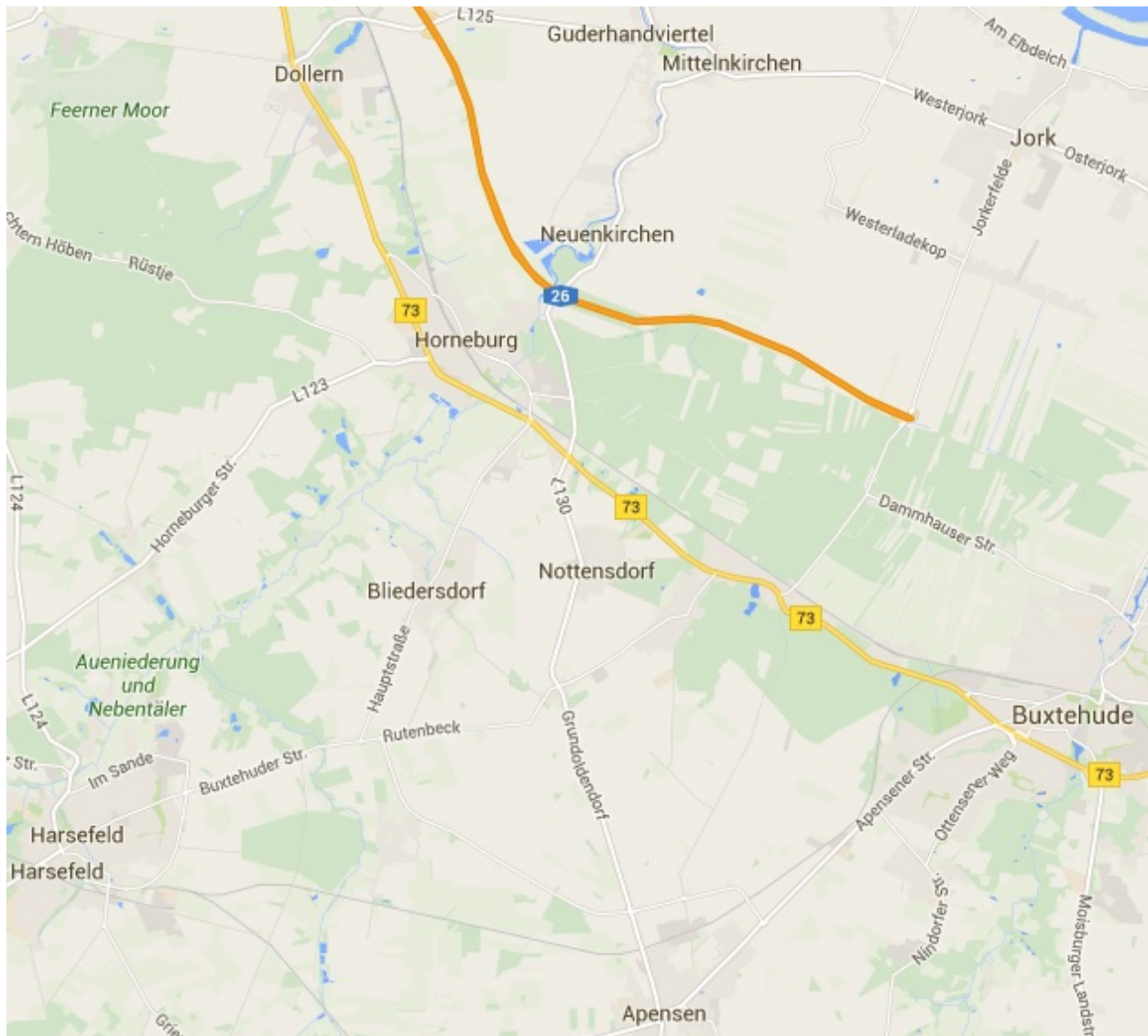
Just northeast of Erfde, but not shown on the above map, are the even less-populated municipalities of Meggerdorf, Tetenhusen, and Alt Bennebek, all of which provided immigrants to the Boomer Township area.

These are all rural municipalities southwest of the city of Schleswig. Today they are in Schleswig-Holstein Bundesland, in Schleswig-Flensburg Kreis (district), and Kropp-Stepelholm Amt.

Gemeinde (municipality)	Location	Lutheran Church today?	Population
Erfde	E of Eider river SW of Schleswig	yes	1,878
Meggerdorf	NE of Erfde	no	687
Tetenhusen	E of Meggerdorf	no	953
Alt Bennebek	NE of Meggerdorf	no	358

These communities, small in population as they are, tend to have named sub communities (e.g., Meggerkoog in Meggerdorf).

Immigrants from Horneburg and the Surrounding Area in Hanover



The Horneburg Area in Hanover courtesy of google.com

Dollern, where the Wohlers family lived, is in the top left. The Reese family may have originally come from Apensen at the bottom.

Hamburg is to the east across the Elbe River. The small city of Stade, population about 50,000 is north of Dollern.

This area was part of the kingdom of Hanover until the 1870s. Now it is part of the Niedersachsen Bundesland of Germany (in English, Lower Saxony state).

The following are all rural municipalities west of Hamburg and south of Stade. Today they are in Nieder Sachsen Bundesland, in Stade Landkreis (district), and Horneburg Samtgemeinde.

Gemeinde (municipality)	Location	Lutheran Church today?	Population
Horneburg		yes	
Dollern	north of Horneburg		1,747
Bliedersdorf	southwest of Horneburg		1,721

These communities, small in population as they are, tend to have named sub communities (e.g.,).

Partial List of Boomer Area North German Immigrants

Caveats for the Following List:

- All the individuals mentioned herein are in my St.Paul's database.
- Boomer Township is north of Council Bluffs in northwestern Pottawattamie County Iowa. Within Boomer Township are the Grange Cemetery, Reels Cemetery, and St. John's Lutheran Church.
- The North Germans of the Boomer Township area were but a small fraction of the thousands of German immigrants who came to Pottawattamie County in the last half of the 19th century. In particular, German immigrants primarily settled the towns of Minden and Treynor.
- Expect some who lived in the area for only a few years or who rented to not appear herein.
- I have omitted German-speaking individuals whom I know were not from north Germany (e.g., Bolliger, Rohner, Wehrli).
- I have not yet included most of the complicated extended Wohlers family.

Alphabetical List by Male Heads of Household

Christians

Matthias Martens Christians & Maria Elisabeth Jens of Oldenswort, Schleswig
(remained in Schleswig):

- **Matthias Martin Christians** b. Oldenswort, Kreis Eiderstedt, Schleswig 1796; married Maria Elisabeth Jens at Uelvesbüll, Schleswig 1825; d. Oldenswort 1858.
- **Maria Elisabeth Jens** b. 1805; d. Oldenswort 1855.

Selected Children:

- **Christians, Johannes Adolf** - St. John's Charter Member (1847 - 1895) b. Oldenswort; married Catherine Magdalena Bielfeldt 1872.
- **Catherine Magdalena Bielfeldt** (1847 - 1928) b. Friedrichstadt, Schleswig d/o Jacob Holm Bielfeldt and Catherina Witt (see Witt below). to Boomer Township, Section 16 or 21 ~ 1875; interred Grange Cemetery.
- **Christians, Magdalena** (1842 - 1924) b. Oldenswort; married J. H. "Heinrich" Jurgens (see Jurgens below).

Feller (see also Schroeder)

Feller, unknown (father of Hans H. Feller):

- **Feller, Hans H.** (~ 1848 - 1923) b. Schleswig-Holstein; married Catherine Schroeder.
- **Catherine Schroeder** (1850 - 1922) b. Alt Bennebek, Schleswig, d/o Hans Schroeder and Catherine Jess (see Schroeder below). immigrated 1881; to Boomer Township, Section 8 bef 1885; interred Grange Cemetery.

Greve

Greve, unknown (father of Claus Greve):

- **Greve, Claus** (1837 - 1928) b. Schleswig-Holstein; married Christina ____.
- **Christina** ____ (1839 - 1870). immigrated ~ 1867; married Mary ____;
- **Mary** ____ (1844 - 1899). to Boomer Township, Section 5 in 1877; married Catherine Magdalena (Bielfeldt) Christians (see Christians above) in Pottawattamie County in 1901. interred in Rose Hill Cemetery, Missouri Valley w/ two first wives.

Juergens & Jurgens

Claus Juergens & Anna Schrum:

Selected child of Claus Juergens & Anna Schrum:

- **Juergens, Peter** - St. John's Charter Member (1849 - 1923) b. Holstein; immigrated 1868; married Maria C. Schroeder in Pottawattamie County in 1879.
- **Maria C. Schroeder** (1857 - 1889), b. Holstein d/o _____ Schroeder & Magdalena _____. to Boomer Township, Section 29 bef 1885; interred Grange Cemetery.

Jurgens, J. Heinrich (1830 - 1904) b. Germany; married Magdalena Christians;

Magdalena Christians (1842 - 1924) sister of Johannes Christians (see above); In Boomer Section 4 1885; in Boomer Section 15 ~ 1890; in LaGrange 1895; d. Keg Creek; interred Grange Cemetery.

Oamek

Oamek, Johann Christofer "Chris" (~ 1814 - 1901); b. Hohenfelde, Mecklenburg; married Sophia Dorothea Wilhelmine Wiedeman,

Sophia Dorothea Wilhelmine Wiedeman (1815 - 1899) b. Mecklenburg, divorced in SD 1862; to Hazel Dell Sec. 19 in 1864;

married Mary (Straub) Sigea in Pottawattamie County in 1866.

Mary (Straub) Sigea (1839 - 1876) widow of Charles Sigea who was killed in 1861 near Denver by Indians;

married Magdalena () Schroeder 1878; divorce

Magdalena () Schroeder (abt 1827 - after 1905) was the mother-in-law of Mrs. Peter Juergens (see above). interred with Mary in Reel's Cemetery.

Peters

Peters, William (1818 - 1896) b. Prussia;

to US 1850;

married Margaret Armstrong in Utah 1858;

Margaret Armstrong (~1842 - 1895) b. Staffordshire, England;

to Boomer Township, Section 16 in 1865;

interred Grange Cemetery.

Rebehn (see also Wohlers)

- **Rebehn, Joachim** - St. John's Charter Member (1853 - 1925) b. Hanover; married Anna Rececka Magdalena Wohlers in Hanover 1879.
- **Anna Rebecka Magdalena Wohlers** (1859 - 1920) b. Hanover d/o Hein Wohlers & Margaretha Brandt (see Wohlers section below).
immigrated March 1883 on SS Westphalia from Hamburg w/ Heinrich Wohlers;
13 children 10 of whom reached adulthood;
in Boomer Township in 1885; in Section 2 in 1902;
moved to Otter Tail County in central Minnesota with about six children ~ 1915;
interred w/ children in Wadena, Minnesota;
three children remained in Boomer area and interred in Grange Cemetery (Voss, Iverson, bachelor son).

Rief

==>Grandsons of Sievert Rief and Trien Margreth Paulsen:

==> Sons of Sievert Rief and Wiebke Schrum:

Rief, Sievert (1840 - 1919) b. Erfde, Schleswig;

married Caroline Margaretha Witt in Illinois ~1865;

Caroline Margaretha Witt (1844 - 1887) b. Meggerkoog d/o Peter Witt (see below);
interred Reel's Cemetery.

to Pottawattamie County before 1870; to Hazel Dell Sec. 6 bef 1880;

married Emma Rief in Hall County, NE 1888.

Emma Rief (1864 - 1930) b. Erfde, Sievert's first cousin;

interred w/ Emma in Walnut Hill Cemetery, Council Bluffs.

Rief, Juergen "John" (1842 - 1924) b. Erfde, Schleswig;

married Christina Vogt in Cook County, Illinois 1865;

Christina Vogt (1841 - 1885) b. Erfde sister of Hans Hinrich Vogt (see below);

to Pottawattamie County before 1870; to Crescent Sec. 13 bef 1885;

married Antonia Edger in Pottawattamie County 1888;

Antonia Edger (~ 1855 - 1924);

interred w/ Antonia in Walnut Hill Cemetery, Council Bluffs; first wife interred Reel's Cemetery.

Rief, Peter (1845 - 1925) b. Erfde, Schleswig;

married Anna C. Thiesen in Pottawattamie County 1868;

Anna C. Thiesen (1848 - 1914), b. Holstein;

in Hazel Dell Township 1867; in Council Bluffs 1885;

interred in Walnut Hill Cemetery, Council Bluffs.

Rief, Hans (~ 1854 - 1922) b. Erfde, Schleswig; immigrated ~ 1871;

married Catherine Seibeos or Sievers in Pottawattamie County in 1872.

Catherine Seibeos (1854 - 1932).

in Norwalk Township 1880 - 1900; in Alhambra, California 1910+;

five children, all died young.

==> Son of Peter Rief and Margaretha Ohm:

Rief, Peter (c. 1847 - 1922) b. Erfde, Schleswig;

married Sophia (Mandelko) Bracker in Pottawattamie County 1882;

Sophia (Mandelko) Bracker (~ 1847 - 1926), sister of Frederika (Mandelko) Vogt and
widow of Johann Bernhardt Bracker (1846 - 1882);

to Hazel Dell Sec. 8 & 7 bef. 1885;

interred Reel's Cemetery.

==> Son of Hans Rief and Margarethe Brammer:

Rief, Charles (1842 - 1912) b. Erfde, Schleswig; brother of Sievert Rief's second wife;

immigrated 1871; lived in Hall County, Nebraska;

married Anna Catherina Sieck (1848 - 1915) in 1871 in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Reese (see also Wohlers & Witt)

Hein Reese and Adelheid Wohlers of Bliedersdorf and Dollern, Hanover:

- **Hein Reese** b. Bliedersdorf 1827; married Adelheid Wohlers 1850; d. Bliedersdorf 1869.
- **Adelheid Wohlers** b. Dollern 1820; immigrated 1881; d. United States (see the following Wohlers section).

Selected Children:

- **Reese, John William** (1851 - 1941); b. Dollern; immigrated on the *SS Pommerania* 1875; married Catherine Euler in Harrison Co. in 1876.
- **Catherine Euler** (abt 1848 - 1920) b. Dollern. to Boomer Township, Section 21 in 1876; ran Pigeon Post Office 1889 - 1893; one adopted child; interred Grange Cemetery. St. John's Charter Member.
- **Reese, Adelheid Margethe** (1854 - 1929) b. Hamburg or Hanover; immi. 1875; married John Henry Peter "Peter" Witt in Harrison County, Iowa in 1877 (see the following Witt section).
- **Reese, Henry** (1860 - 1938); b. Bliedersdorf; immigrated 1881; married Anna Margaret Louise Wohlers in Pottawattamie County 1885.
- **Anna Margaret Louise Wohlers** (1862 - 1938); b. Schwinge, Hanover; immigrated on the *SS Bohemia* 1883. to Boomer Township, Section 27 ~ 1885; nine children; interred Grange Cemetery. St. John's Charter Member.
- **Reese, Margaret A.** (1865 - 1953) b. Hanover; immigrated 1881; married Jacob Holm Witt in Pottawattamie County in 1884 (see the following Witt section).

Schroder & Schroeder

Schroder, John (1855 - 1916) b. Rendsburg, Schleswig;
immigrated about 1870;

married Anna Matilda Nielsen (1862 - 1953) in Pottawattamie County 1878;

Anna Matilda Nielsen (1862 - 1953), b. Dronninglund Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark;
to Boomer Township, Section 30 bef. 1880;
interred Grange Cemetery.

Hans Schroeder & Catherine Jess of Alt Bennebek, Schleswig:

- **Hans Schroeder** b. Alt Bennebek 1817; married Catherine Jess 1840; d. Alt Bennebek 1864.
- **Catherine Jess** b. Tetenhusen 1814; d. Grand Island, Nebraska 1902.

Selected Children:

- **Schroeder, Hans Henning** (1840 - 1904) b. Alt Bennebek, Schleswig;
married Anna Glk in 1867.
- **Anna Glk** (1842 - 1890) d/o George Glk & Maggie Frahm.
immigrated to Pottawattamie County in 1881; to Hall County, Nebraska in 1881;
interred Grand Island Cemetery.
- **Schroeder, Peter** (1842 - 1905) b. Alt Bennebek, Schleswig;
married Catharina Margaretha Sieck in Erfde, Schleswig 1870;
- **Catharina Margaretha Sieck** (1846 - bef 1900) b. Erfde, Schleswig (see Sieck below).
immigrated ~ 1871; in Boomer Township 1880; to Hall County, Nebraska abt 1881;
interred Grand Island Cemetery.
- **Schroeder, Claus** (1844 - 1896) b. Alt Bennebek, Schleswig;
married Charlotte Louise Dorscher in Scott County, Iowa 1873.
- **Charlotte Louise Dorscher** (1853 - 1909) b. Holstein d/o John & Christiana Dorscher.
to Hazel Dell Sec. 6 bef 1880;
interred Reel's Cemetery.
- **Schroeder, Catherine** (1846-1850 - 1922) b. Alt Bennebek, Schleswig;
wife of Hans Feller (see above).

=> Other Schroeders:

Schroeder, Hans (~1816 - 1895) b ____;

married Christena ____;

Christena ____ (~1823 -);

to Crescent Sec. 12 bef 1880.

raised Chris Oamek's youngest child, Edward Omig;

interment location unknown.

Sieck (see also Schroeder & Rief)

Claus Sieck & Elsabe Margaretha Lorentz of Erfde, Schleswig:

- **Claus Sieck** b. Erfde 1822; married Elsabe Margaretha Lorentz in Erfde 1846; d. Erfde 1876.
- **Elsabe Margaretha Lorentz** b. Scheppern, Erfde 1826; d. Erfde 1878.

Selected Children:

- **Sieck, Catharina Margaretha** (1846 - bef 1900) b. Erfde; married Peter Schroeder (see Schroeder above).
- **Sieck, Anna Catherina** (1848 - 1915) b. Erfde; married Charles Rief (see Rief above).

Spark (see also Wohlers)

Spark, Heinrich - St. Johns Charter Member (1843 - 1911) b. Dollern, Hanover; married Adelheid Veebrock (1844 - 1920) b. Horneburg, Hanover; immigrated in 1892 on the *Russia* with four youngest children; settled in southern LaGrange Township; interred Grange Cemetery.

Vogt (see also Rief)

Hinrich Vogt & Wiebke Thiessen of Erfde, Schleswig:

- **Hinrich Vogt** b. Erfde 1807; married Wiebke Thiessen in Erfde 1836; d. Erfde 1858.
- **Wiebke Thiessen** b. Kleinsee, Schleswig d/o Hans Thedens Thiessen & Catharina Odefey; d. Pottawattamie County, Iowa 1879; interred Reels Cemetery.
- **Max Thode** b. Erfde 1800; married Wiebke Thiessen in Erfde 1859; d. Pottawattamie County 1883; interred Reels Cemetery.

Selected Children:

- **Vogt, Christina** (1841 - 1885) b. Erfde; married Juergen "John" Rief in Cook County, Illinois in 1865 (see Rief section above); interred in Walnut Hill Cemetery, Council Bluffs.
- **Vogt, Hans Hinrich** (1843 - 1901) b. Erfde; married Frederika Mandelko in Harrison County, Iowa 1873.
- **Frederika Mandelko** (1856 - 1938) sister of Sophia (Mandelko) Bracker Rief. to Crescent Township Section 13 bef 1885; sixteen children of whom fifteen reached adulthood and about twelve remained in Council Bluffs; interred Reel's Cemetery; St. John's Charter Member.

Witt (see also Reese)

Peter Witt and Margaretha Julia Sievers of Meggerkoog and Erfde, Schleswig:

- **Witt, Peter** (1815 - 1883) b. Meggerkoog, Schleswig.
married Margaretha Julia Sievers;
- **Margaretha Julia Sievers** (1819 - 1894) b. Schleswig.
to Boomer Township, Section 24 in 1870;
interred Reel's Cemetery.

Selected Children of Peter Witt and Margaretha Julia Sievers:

- **Witt, Detlef** - St. John's Charter Member (1843 - 1899); b. Erfde;
married Anna Margaretha Carstens in Cook County, Illinois 1868.
- **Anna Margaretha Carstens** (1844 - 1919) b. Erfde, Schleswig.
to Boomer Township, Section 18 in 1868;
interred Reel's Cemetery.
- **Witt, John Henry Peter** - St. John's Charter Member (1851 - 1931) b. Meggerkoog;
married Adelheid Margrethe Reese in Harrison Co., IA 1877.
- **Adelheid Margrethe Reese** (1854 - 1929), d/o Hein Reese and Adelheid Wohlers
(see Reese above).
to Boomer Township, Section 24 in 1883;
ran Pigeon Post Office from 1893 to 1902;
interred Grange Cemetery.
- **Witt, Jacob Holm** (1858 - 1914) b. Erfde;
married Margaret Reese in Pottawattamie County in 1884.
- **Margaret Reese** (1865 - 1953) d/o Hein Reese and Adelheid Wohlers (see Reese
above).
to Boomer Township, Section 22 in 1870;
interred Grange Cemetery.
- **Witt, Hans Heinrich** (~1864 - 1935) b. Erfde;
married Christina Jensen in Pottawattamie County 1886.
- **Christina Jensen** (1864 - 1904) b. Nebraska d/o Niels Jensen & Mary Westegaard
of northeastern Hazel Dell Township.
to Boomer bef 1880; to Missouri Valley, IA 1895-1900;
interred Rose Hill Cemetery, Missouri Valley.

Wohlers (from Dollern, Hanover just west of Hamburg)

Claus Wohlers & Anna Margaretha Cordes of Dollern, Hanover:

(ancestors of all Wohlers in my *St. Paul's* database)

- **Claus Wohlers** b. Aspe, Hanover 1791 s/o Martin Dietrich Wohlers & Alheit Brunckhorst; married Anna Margaretha Cordes in Bargstedt, Hanover; d. Dollern 1870.
- **Anna Margaretha Cordes** b. Dollern 1796 d/o Joachim Cordes and Catharine Margrethe Gerken; d. Dollern 1875.

Selected Children of Claus Wohlers & Anna Margaretha Cordes (all born Dollern)
(includes the two children and all the grandchildren known to have immigrated to the Boomer Township area):

- **Johann Wohlers** (1815 - 1880) s/o Claus Wohlers & Anna Margaretha Cordes married Magdalena Zahrenhusen in Horneburg in 1847; d. Dollern.
- **Magdalena Zahrenhusen** (1810 - 1866); d. Dollern.

Child of Johann Wohlers & Anna Margaretha Cordes:

- **Wilhelm Wohlers** (1849 - 1927) married Maria Meinke in Horneburg in 1870.
- **Maria Meinke** (1850 - 1932).
immigrated 1885-1887 w/ seven children; three children born later;
lived in LaGrange Township, Harrison County; ten children;
interred Grange Cemetery.
- **Catharina Margarethe Wohlers** (1818 - 1870) d/o Claus Wohlers & Anna Margaretha Cordes married Hein Cohrs in Horneburg in 1836; d. Dollern.
- **Hein Cohrs** (1810 - 1861) b. Dollern; d. Dollern.

Selected child of Catharina Margarethe Wohlers & Hein Cohrs:

- **Heinrich "Henry" Cohrs** (1849 - 1928) b. Dollern;
married Elizabeth S. C. "Betty" Witz in Horneburg in 1874.
- **Elizabeth S. C. Betty" Witz** (1848 - 1933).
immigrated 1882; three children;
settled in Hardin Township near McClelland before 1900;
interred Downsville Cemetery south of Underwood.
- **Adelheid Wohlers** (1820 - ?) d/o Claus Wohlers & Anna Margaretha Cordes married Hein Reese in Neukloster, Hanover in 1850 (see Reese section above).
- **Claus Wohlers** (1823 - 1886) s/o Claus Wohlers & Anna Margaretha Cordes married Georgine Luise Schlicting in Horneburg in 1862; d. Schwinge.
- **Georgine Luise Schlicting** (1833 - 1880); b. Neuhaus/Oste, Hanover; d. Schwinge.

Selected children of Claus Wohlers & Georgine Luise Schlicting:

- **Anna Margaret Louise Wohlers** (1862 - 1938) married Henry Reese in Pottawattamie County in 1885.
- **Henry Reese** (1860 - 1938) b. Bliedersdorf s/o Hein Reese & Adelheid Wohlers (see Reese section above).
immigrated 1881; nine children;
settled in Boomer Township, Section 27 before 1895;
interred Grange Cemetery.

- **Hein Wohlers** (1826 - 1900) s/o Claus Wohlers & Anna Margaretha Cordes married Margaretha Brandt in Horneburg in 1854.
- **Margaretha Brandt** (1831 - 1908) b. Heinbockel, Hanover. eight children, all born before emigrating; Hein & Margaretha immigrated on *SS Lessing* 1888; interred Grange Cemetery.

Selected Children of Hein Wohlers & Margaretha Brandt

Three children died young in Germany. The remaining five listed below emigrated.

- **Claus Wohlers** (1857 - 1928) immigrated ~ 1876; married Margaret Greve in Boomer Township in 1887.
- **Margaret "Maggie" Greve** (1866 - 1961) b. Erfde (see Greve section above); immigrated 1885. in Boomer Township Section 17 before 1902; eleven children; interred Grange Cemetery.
- **Anna Rebecka Magdalena Wohlers** (1859 - 1920) married Joachim Rebehn in Hanover in 1879.
- **Joachim Rebehn** (1853 - 1925) b. Hanover. immigrated 1883 (see Rebehn section above).
- **Heinrich William Friedrich "H. W." Wohlers** (1861 - 1933) immigrated 1883 w/ Rebehn family; married Wilhelmina J. Hansen in Harrison County in 1895.
- **Wilhelmina J. Hansen** (1869 - 1947) b. Benzin, Pommerania d/o John Carl Hansen & Caroline Kruger; immigrated ~ 1882 w/ parents. in Boomer Township Sections 3 about 1893; four children. Parents of Arthur Wohlers; thus grandparents of my Wohlers second cousins. interred Grange Cemetery.
- **John Henry "Henry" Wohlers** (1867 - 1914) immigrated ~ 1881. married Catherine Elizabeth Christians in Pottawattamie County in 1891.
- **Catherine Elizabeth Christians** (1873 - 1927) b. Hamburg, Germany d/o Johannes Adolf Christians & Johanne Magdalene Bielfeldt (see Christians section above). to LaGrange Township before 1905; eight children(two died young); interred Grange Cemetery.
- **Wilhelm Wohlers** (1869 - 1947) immigrated ~ 1886; married Mathilde "Tillie" Christians in Pottawattamie County in 1894.
- **Mathilde "Tillie" Christians** (1875 - 1952) b. Walnut, Iowa d/o Johannes Adolf Christians & Johanne Magdalene Bielfeldt (see Christians section above). in Boomer Township, Section 8 before 1900; seven children; interred Grange Cemetery.

- **Claus Johann Friedrich Wohlers** (1867 - 1938) b. Schwinge; immigrated 1885; married Rebecca M. Spark in Harrison County, Iowa in 1889.
- **Rebecca M. Spark** (1870 - 1943) b. _____ d/o Heinrich Spark & Adelheid Veebrock; immigrated 1888. lived in Harrison County and Boomer Township; ten children; interred Rose Hill Cemetery, Missouri Valley.