

**THE
HOUSE FAMILY
FROM DIERSHEIM, GERMANY
IN 1817**

**WITH SUPPLEMENT OF
HENRY HOUSE**

MORGAN COUNTY, INDIANA



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Mr. and Mrs. Harmon House

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MOORESVILLE PUBLIC
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Mr. and Mrs. Harmon House

Preface

We first started working on a family history in 1957. We prepared a genealogical record of the Henry House family at that time and this inspired Tad House to do the same of the George Houses in Hamilton County. He used the same charting method for better reference between the two.

In 1968 we hung a crude chart of the House family on the wall at the House Reunion. Many of the younger members of the family urged us to put in writing the things we knew about the emigration of our ancestors from Germany and their migration later from Virginia to Indiana.

There was an old walnut bureau in a storage room (we called "behind the curtain") when I was a child and it was full of letters, old checks and papers that mice lived in for years. The bureau was moved to an upstairs room in 1929 and about four years ago we moved it to a new garage at the farm.

My wife, Anna Lee, started searching thru the papers and typing some of the letters. The first she typed was the one by Violet (Hadley) Burch in 1899. Next we found some of the German letters and for the first time we had them translated into English and typed in their entirety. Many have had the opportunity to do this but no one had ever done it before. From that time 2-1/2 years ago we have been extremely active on this genealogy. My wife, Anna Lee, has worked diligently by my side all thru this research and I doubt that without her aid and enthusiasm I would ever have attempted such a project.

All the papers that we have are now in mouse-proof containers and stored in the garage at the farm. The checks, tax receipts and other papers are all arranged in bundles and according to dates, thanks to my wife. This project is not finished and never will be. Many questions are still unanswered. We intend to continue working on it and hope others will be inspired to work on their respective sections. We are quite willing to pass on the information we have to them and hope they will do the same for us.

Some people will be extremely interested and others will say, "So what!" That is every one's privilege but they cannot escape the heritage of their ancestors. The cause and effect is there whether they care to admit it or not. Since our discovery of the relatives in Virginia 22 months ago after a separation of 133 years many have been amazed at the similarity of the families after all these years. To think that each group is so much alike.

Perhaps I should explain who I am. I am the fourth child of Douglas House, son of Henry House of Morgan County, Indiana. I was born in 1910 and raised in the Henry House homestead 2-1/2 miles southeast of Mooresville.

Harmon House
(Mrs.) Anna Lee House
108 Bellaire Ave.
Dayton, Ohio 45420

July, 1971

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

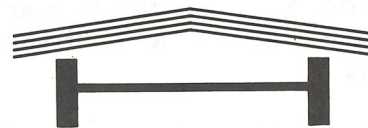
This information has been gathered from The Mooresville Library; The Indiana State Library; The Fort Wayne-Allen County Library; The Maryland Historical Library and Pratt Library at Baltimore; The Library of Congress and The National Archives in Washington D.C.

Also, from the Old Mooresville Cemetery; the New Mooresville Cemetery; Bethesda Cemetery; Mt. Olive Cemetery; Carey Cemetery at Strawtown, Indiana; Sigourney Iowa Cemetery and Greenwich Cemetery in Virginia.

Many people have contributed so much, especially Mrs. Barbara (Townsend) Meyer, Coulee, Washington; Mrs. Hazel Clayton, Bryson, Texas; Mr. George House, Sigourney, Iowa; Mrs. Bernice (Pfaff) Sherwood, Sigourney, Iowa; Mr. John L. Clay; Mrs. Walter (Townsend) Thompson; Mrs. Albert Sheets; Mrs. Naomi (Watson) Holden; Mrs. Mary (Burge) Keller; Mrs. Elizabeth (Tressler) Taylor; Mrs. Wanda (Rusie) Potts, Mrs. Bonita Marley; Mr. Tad House; Mr. Noble Lehner; Rev. Wilhelm Staudte, Diersheim, Germany; Mr. Gottlob Schlörer, Diersheim, Germany and many, many others.

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The House of Howard, Inc.



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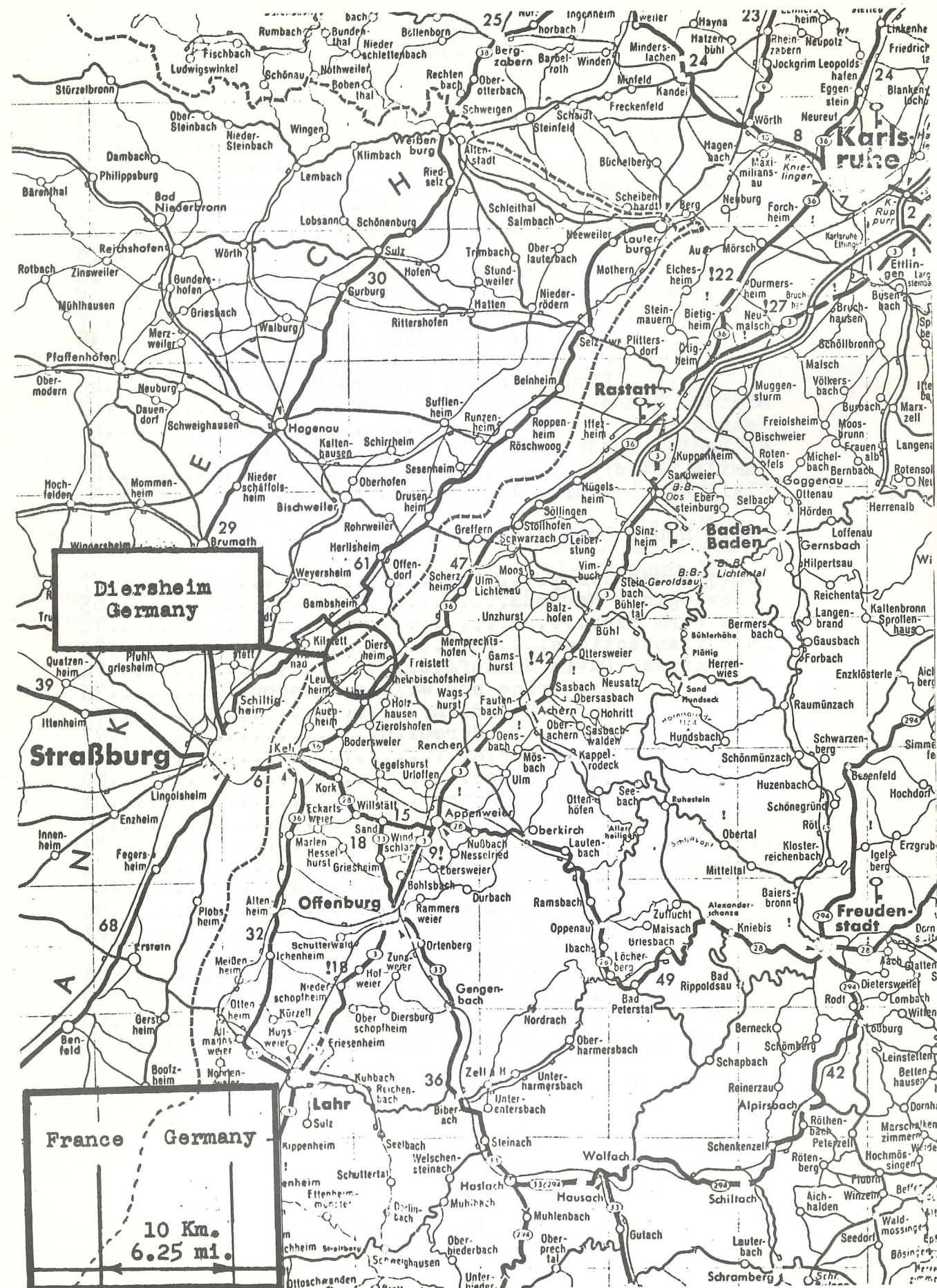
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The House name has been known in the village of Diersheim (pronounced Diers-heim), Germany since 1580. Diersheim is located about one mile east of the Rhine River and is about five miles north of Kehl, which is just across the river from Strasbourg, France (see map). The countryside around Diersheim is quite flat like a river plain. Today the Rhine is in one channel but 150 years ago it was spread out into many channels. Diersheim's population today is about 930.

I had always heard from my Dad and his brothers and sisters that our family came from Baden Baden, which is a city with a population of about 40,000. Baden was a duchy forming what is now southwest Germany. Diersheim is about 20 miles southwest of Baden Baden as the crow flies. Baden Baden is in the foothills, with hot springs and mineral baths, and has been a health spa for many centuries.

We first learned that our family came from Diersheim when we had the nine German letters, that our family possessed, translated in the spring of 1969. We visited in Diersheim all day Saturday and Sunday, May 30-31, 1970. Mrs. Mildred Thompson, of the Sheets family, had visited there for about two hours on July 4, 1958. She was driven there at that time by her niece and husband, Barbara and Fred Meyer. Barbara and Fred Meyer lived in Germany for eight years and visited Diersheim several times. We give Barbara and Fred full credit for obtaining virtually all the Germany part of our records. Mildred Thompson had learned that our families had lived in Diersheim from information at the Mooresville Library given to her by Mrs. Sage, the former librarian, several years ago. Mildred's brother, George Townsend, also visited Diersheim a few years ago.

The name of the first House family that we have at this time is Lorenz House. His son, Johann Georg Hauss was born in 1722 and married Barbara Thorwartin in 1749. Her father was Michael Thorwartin of Leutesheim. Their son, John House, was born in 1766 and married Maria Margaretha Schreiner on 8 June 1791, on her 17th birthday. She was the daughter of Jacob Schreiner, the local mason. Jacob Schreiner's wife was Anna Margaretha Hagin. Jacob Schreiner had two other children, Margaretha Barbara Schreiner, born 9 October 1780 and Johann Jacob Schreiner born 12 August 1783. These two people are an aunt and uncle to all of us in America.

John House and his father, Johann Hauss, are listed as fishermen. John and Maria Margaretha (Margaret in English) had five children by 1803, namely; Margaret, John, Catherine, Michael and Barbara. Note that the first, third and fifth are girls and the second and fourth are boys. Margaret married George Sheets in 1814 and had one child, Laura Alice, while still living in Germany. (Please refer to the folded chart for better clarity of the connections.)

About April or May of 1817 the parents with their five children, George Sheets and daughter, Laura Alice, John's new bride, Catherine Barbara (Bless) House and Michael Rusie, eleven in all, started to America.

We were told on our visit to Diersheim that the reasons for their leaving were the absence of industry to make a living; farming would

not support a living; floods from the Rhine River; wars; and yellow fever. The person we talked to was the school teacher, Mr. Gottob Schlörer, who was born in 1891. He is the authority on the history of Diersheim. We gave him reproduced copies of all the old German letters and after he finishes with them, he told us he will give them to the museum at Kehl.

Mr. Schlörer told us that he was amazed at the frankness of the Michael Bless letters and that he could have gotten into considerable trouble. We pointed out to him that many of the letters were brought to America by other immigrants. He said that he could have had trouble anyways. (The translated letters are a part of this book.)

Mr. Schlörer allowed us to photograph many of his own family charts. The House name appears in several places on these charts.

We had written the minister, Pfarrant Wilhelm Staudte, that we were coming to Diersheim in May, 1970 and he was expecting us. We visited in his home several times in the two days we were there. We also visited in the home of Hans and Louise House, who lives across the street from the minister's home. Louise was a House before she married Hans House, but no relation. She is almost certain to be descended from the Schreiners. Hans is a full time farmer and also takes care of the finances of the church.

Sunday noon we had lunch at the Adler (Eagle) Restaurant. It dates back for 200 years so was there before our families left there in 1817.

I was told many times that John and Catherine Barbara (Bless) House had just been married and were on their honeymoon. We have tried and hope some day to locate their marriage records in Germany. The Lutheran Church at Diersheim was built in 1731. Our families attended this church for 86 years before leaving for America. We attended this church on Sunday morning May, 1970. We had time and opportunity to photograph only one sheet of church records, which happened to be the birth (1797) of Catherine House, wife of Michael Rusie. Years ago the sister village of Rheinbischofsheim separated from Diersheim and some of the records may be at that church. The marriage of John and Catherine Barbara (Bless) House is the one thing we would like to obtain most. We were shown the newer house on the spot where Michael Bless I, Catherine's father, lived and we photographed it from the outside. It is now the third house from the south end of town on the road to Honau. It is across the street from the mill. The old mill burned down in 1899 and was rebuilt. It is owned by Mrs. Hummel. There is a picture on the wall in the Hummel home of Napoleon's army entering Diersheim about 1796. This picture is to stay in the Hummel family permanently. George Sheets served in Napoleon's army for 14 years before coming to America. He was 31 when he came to America so must have been quite young when he entered the army.

We have John House's naturalization papers of 1857 among our family papers and when we found his and George Sheets' applications for citizenship dated 1855 and 1856 at the Court House in Martinsville, Indiana, we first learned that they had sailed from Amsterdam.

As far back as I can remember, I have always heard that they took six months in crossing the ocean. I also knew that the father died at sea and was buried in the ocean. Now we know that Laura Alice Sheets also died at sea. Mrs. Edna (Rusie) Manford told us that her family always heard that the body was wrapped in a sheet and buried at night. Tad House told us that he always heard that they used a chunk of coal to make the body sink.

My family was always told that they nearly starved to death and that at the bottom of a barrel, from which they had eaten they found horses' hoofs. We have tried to collect as many stories that have been handed down as we can.

SUMMARY OF SAILING DATE, CROSSING TIME AND LANDING DATE

<u>Source:</u>	<u>Sailed</u>	<u>Voyage</u>	<u>Landed</u>
<u>Citizenship Application</u>			
John House	April 1817	--	Oct. 1817
George Sheets	April 1 1817	--	Sept.10 1817
<u>From Obituaries</u>			
George Sheets	1817	6 months	Sept.
John House	May 1817	6 months	Oct. 1817
Catherine B. House	1817	6 months	Oct. 1817
Michael Rusie	April 1817	6 months	Oct. 1817
Catherine Rusie	1817	6 months	--
Barbara Butner	--	--	Oct. 1817

You may select from this summary which you think is correct but we place more confidence in the applications for citizenship. The parties were living at that time and had been in America less than 40 years. Obituaries and tombstones are made after the party is gone and we very frequently find errors in these.

The remaining nine of this family landed at Baltimore. Baltimore was not a place where immigrants usually landed at that time. They were starving and may have landed anywhere they could. In 1823 only 562 immigrants landed at Baltimore whereas 4,247 landed in New York. There are no passenger lists existing for Baltimore before 1820. We found the following news item in the Marine News column of both the morning and evening papers of Baltimore of September 23, 1817:

Heading: "Port of Baltimore." "Arrived yesterday. Dutch ship Herstellir Zink, from Amsterdam, 98 days from the Texel with 225 passengers.--F.C.Graff."

This would make the arrival of this ship September 22, 1817. The Texel is an island at the mouth of the Amsterdam harbor. I have no proof that it was our ship but since it came from Amsterdam, carried immigrants and arrived at about the right time I wonder if it could be our ship.

The following is a story we found at the library in Baltimore which describes the conditions on immigrant ships in the year 1817:

From "Federal Republican and Baltimore Telegraph"- Friday, October 31, 1817.

"We have heard much of the horrors of the slave trade, and of the great efforts made to suppress it but the sufferings of the African we hope have not so completely engrossed the sympathies of Europe and America but that some little interest may be awakened in behalf of the miserable Germans and Hollanders who, in fleeing from starvation at home, to this land of abundance, are entrapped into a condition not a whit more enviable than that of the wretched beings who composed the cargo of a slave ship.

"The following fact which is only one among many others that have been noticed in the papers within the last 6 months, while it proves that avarice and cruelty can find employment without going to the shores of Africa, will lead every humane mind to enquire whether there is no punishment for the wretch who, for the sake of the little pelf can inveigle his fellow creatures into a situation little better than the black hole of Calcutta and doom them to inevitable misery, despair and death.

"The account we here give was received by the Keeper of the Steam Boat Hotel Reading Room Books, from the master of the barque Mary, from Cork, which vessel arrived in Hampton Roads on Wednesday last, on her way to Alexandria.

"The Mary put into St. Michaels (one of the Azores) about the 15th of September for provisions and water, and found there the Dutch brig Adelfen, from Rotterdam, which had also put in for supplies. The Adelfen was bound for Philadelphia and left Rotterdam with 200 passengers, she had been out 91 days when she stopped at St. Michaels during which 40 of the passengers had died, principally from being so thickly crowded together in a space incapable of accommodating them; while some of the number were actually starved to death. Four of the unfortunate victims were thrown overboard after the brig reached St. Michaels Roads.

"An American ship had also touched at St. Michaels a few days before the Mary; she was from Amsterdam bound for Philadelphia; had been 66 days out and 400 passengers on board."

--Norfolk Herald

The Sheets family settled in Prince William County, Virginia. The John House family settled in Adams County, Pennsylvania. I had always assumed that Michael Rusie settled in Virginia (both Michael and Catherine Rusie's obituaries state that they did) but recently I discovered that his first child, Susan Rusie Rooker, has her place of birth in the 1850 census as Pennsylvania. According to Michael Rusie's obituary he and Catherine House were married in 1819 so apparently they were not married at the time of the crossing in 1817. Barbara House was 14 when she came over and her obituary states that she lived in Baltimore for three years and then joined the others. We do not know where Mother Margaret House and her unmarried son, Michael House, lived at that time.

History states that the eastern part of Adams County, Pa. was settled first. Adams County has Gettysburg as the county seat. York County, with York as the County seat, is just east of Adams County and elsewhere in this book there is a letter, translated from German, to the Sheetses in Virginia from John Klotter in York County, Pa. in 1829. We have not established the relationship of the Klotters to the Houses as yet.

John House' first two children, Charlotte and George were born in Pennsylvania. The John Houses moved from Pennsylvania to Prince William County, Virginia in 1822 to join the others. My Dad always told me that they stayed at one place a few years and were not satisfied so moved.

George Sheets and Michael Rusie bought 100 acres of land in Virginia in 1822. This information was found at the Manassas Courthouse by Ruth Hoffman, Lucy Hutchison and their mother, Mae House.

Michael House married a Virginia girl named Harriet Haislip and had only one child, Nathaniel House, born in 1829.

In 1836 all but the Michael Houses decided to move to Iowa. Michael chose to stay in Virginia; I would judge because of his wife's family ties there. By this time the Sheetses, Rusies and John Houses had 22 children ranging in age from 2 to 18 years. The George Sheetses, John Houses, Michael Rusies, Mother Margaret House and Barbara House started to Iowa by covered wagon. Nathaniel House was left alone in Virginia with his parents and mother's parents while 22 of his cousins seven aunts and uncles and his grandmother left for the west.

We have never established what route they took but we do know that when they got to Plainfield, Indiana, they ran out of flour. They were directed to Mooresville to obtain flour and arrived there on Christmas Day, 1836. Samuel Moore persuaded them to stay there for the winter and when spring came they decided to stay and not continue further.

Mooresville was 12 years old at that time. It had been founded in 1824 by Samuel Moore. We know that the population was about 200 in 1837 so it must have been about 170 when this party of 30 arrived. There was a vacant house where the Light Co. office now stands and some of them occupied this house. Later the George Sheetses settled in the Bethesda neighborhood southwest of Mooresville. The Rusies settled in Mooresville. The John Houses settled in Madison Township. Their eighth and last child Susan was born in Mooresville on March 22, 1837. Her mother arrived in Mooresville by covered wagon just three months before she was born.

We do not intend to go into great detail on the various families in this book but will briefly say a few words about each. Margaret Sheets was the first to die in 1849. George Sheets lived until 1877 and they are buried at the Bethesda cemetery southwest of Mooresville. Two of his sons, Frederick and Daniel, operated a store on the southwest corner of the square in Mooresville from 1851 until 1892 and did considerable farming. Frederick built the large two story brick

house at the southeast corner of Main and Clay Streets in the early 1880's. It still stands and is now an apartment house. When new it was the finest house in Mooresville. The brothers also operated a store at Alaska, in the southwest part of the County. Another son, William Sheets was a Methodist minister and a doctor at Jeffersonville, Indiana.

The Rusies lived in Mooresville and were masons, plasterers, boot-makers and tanners. One daughter, Matilda, married Samuel Shanafelt and with their children moved to Bryson, Texas. The following item appeared in the Mooresville paper:

HEADING HO FOR TEXAS

"The undersigned having determined on emigration to Texas will offer at public sale on Monday, December 10, 1877 at their residence in the town of Mooresville, all their furniture, stoves and household goods generally. Also, some buggies and spring wagons. Terms made known on the day of sale. Sale to commence at 10 o'clock A.M."

J. H. Mills
Samuel Shanafelt

The father, Samuel, died in Oklahoma on the way out by covered wagon. His grave has never been located. There are quite a number of descendants in and around Bryson, Texas. Bryson is 70 miles northwest of Ft. Worth. We have carried on considerable correspondence with Mrs. Hazel Clayton, whose first husband was Samuel Shanafelt, grandson of Matilda (Rusie) Shanafelt. She states that her father-in-law and mother-in-law always referred to Mooresville as "back home". These people in Texas have the old German Rusie Bible. Michael and Catherine Rusie are buried in the new Mooresville cemetery. (Mrs. Wanda Rusie Potts told us about the Texas relatives.) The following is another old newspaper clipping:

A REUNION

"One week ago today August 13th a large number of the children and grandchildren of Michael and Catharine Rusie assembled at the old home. The day being the 83rd anniversary of the birth of Catharine Rusie. A large dinner was served and the day was spent very pleasantly by all. Following are the statistics of the family of Michael and Catharine Rusie: number of children 9; living 7; dead 2; present 6; absent 1. Grandchildren 36; present 25; absent 11; great grandchildren 14, present 6, absent 8. Quite a number of presents were given Grandmother Rusie at the reunion."

John Henry Rusie came to Mooresville with the group in 1836 at the age of two and died in 1923. He was the last of the party of 30 to survive. He was a lieutenant in the Civil War and later was in the furniture and undertaking business in Mooresville.

Amos Rusie, son of Asbury Rusie, was a very famous ball player. He pitched the New York Giants ball team to a world championship in 1894. He was known in the baseball world as the "Hoosier Thunderbolt".

John House is listed in Blanchard's book on Morgan County as a poll tax payer in Madison Township for 1842. We visited the house on Labor Day, 1969 and Mrs. William Neitzel (present owner) allowed us to examine the farm abstract. She had lived there for 46 years. We learned from the abstract that John House did not actually buy the land until 1850. We found many names of the George House children of Hamilton County and children of Charlotte Shanafelt in Keokuk County, Iowa, on the abstract. George and Charlotte preceded their father in death so their children shared in their grandfather's estate.

The House Reunion was held at the Mooresville town park in 1931 and Albert House, the Reunion President, asked me to lead a group of cars out to the former John House farm. Mrs. Neitzel told us in 1969 that she remembered that day 38 years before. We walked to the back of the garden and had a drink from the old spring. The house now has some very thick walls indicating that there may be logs inside. There are 62 acres in the farm.

A newspaper clipping, Dec. 19, 1874

A PLEASANT MEETING

"Father House of Madison Township celebrated his 80th birthday on Friday, December 19th by giving a dinner for his children and grandchildren to the number of 31, about half of whom were present. The dinner was excellent and abundant and was mostly prepared by Mother House who is now in her 77th year. Father and Mother House are still keeping house and although they are getting somewhat feeble they are still enjoying life."

-Written by One That Was Present.

John House had eight children but I will not discuss them in detail in this part of the book. Charlotte Shanafelt moved to Sigourney, Keokuk County, Iowa in 1854. The John B. Houses had moved there in 1852. Both are buried in the cemetery in Sigourney. We visited in Sigourney Thanksgiving Day of 1969 and the day after. The Shanafelts have run out there and we were told that the last had moved to Ames, Iowa several years before. Saylor Shanafelt's widow lives in Waukegan, Illinois, and we wrote to her but received no answer.

We soon located several of the John B. House descendants at Sigourney. Our first contact was with David House, age 15, who is of the sixth generation American born. His father, George House, is a farmer and the postmaster at Sigourney. We also met George's mother, Mrs. Harold House, and his sister, Mrs. MaryBeth Soth, from California. Unfortunately, George's father had died quite suddenly a week before our visit. George has one daughter and seven sons, so the House name should not run out in Iowa.

We also met Mrs. Bernice Sherwood, and her mother, Mrs. Dora Pfaff, age 85. Mrs. Pfaff was the daughter of Alando House and the granddaughter of John B. House. Mrs. Pfaff has a very large family. One son, Roger Alton Pfaff was a Federal Judge in California and is now retired.

Another son of John House, George House, moved to Hamilton County, Indiana in 1841. There are a great many descendants there today and we of the Henry Houses of Morgan County and the George Houses of Hamilton County have had an annual reunion since 1918. Tad House prepared a family tree of the George House family in 1957.

Margaret House, the Mother, is buried in the old cemetery on Washington Street in Mooresville. The tombstone states that she died May 18, 1850 at the age of 77 years and 6 months. This cannot be right. She is listed on the census of 1850 as living with her daughter and son-in-law Barbara and Christian Butner. The census was taken on Sept. 11, 1850. We know positively from the German Church records that she was born on 8 June 1774. The six months could not be right if she were born in June and died in May. Her youngest daughter, Barbara, married Christian Butner in 1842. They did not have any children. Barbara and her mother are buried side by side. Christian is buried 30 feet away with his first wife. Mrs. Edna (Rusie) Manford told us that there was talk about building the Mooresville Library where this cemetery is located. She said that her father, William Rusie, objected because his ancestors were buried there. She said that because of his objections the idea was dropped.

The Indiana Houses and the Virginia Houses carried on correspondence over the years. Daniel Sheets stated in his diary on April 24, 1890, "I addressed a letter to Nat House in Va." Our family has a letter from Michael House to his brother in Indiana, John House, written in 1868. We also have a letter from Nathaniel House to his cousin in Indiana, Henry House, written in 1875.

Then recently, after this book was well under way, another letter was found. In April, 1971 while repair work was being done on the fire place at the old farm house; the mantel was removed and there was the deteriorated letter between the mantel and the wall. This letter was written by Nathaniel House of Virginia to Henry House of Indiana on October 26, 1878. This letter is included in this book and may be considered the sequel to Nathaniel's letter of 1875, in which he stated he was thinking about remarrying.

The girl down the road he married was Catherine Reid. The baby is John Nathan House, husband of Mae House now living near Greenwich, Virginia. Henry Michael House did get married on December 19, 1878 and he is the grandfather of John, Dale and Evelyn Clay. Paps Michael House lived until 1884.

We went to Virginia (with the first two letters) and the afternoon of September 19, 1969 we soon made contact with Ewing House working at his barn. To our knowledge this was the first physical contact between the Virginia and the Indiana Houses in 133 years.

We next met Ewing's mother, Mrs. Mae (McMichael) House. The next day Ewing and his mother rode around the neighborhood with us and we met a number of other relatives. That evening we visited with Ewing's sisters, Lucy Hutchison and Helen Croushorn and families

in Manassas. We learned at that time that John Clay of Naperville, Illinois, had prepared a family geneology in 1960 of the Michael House family.

We learned that one of the direct blood second generation was still living in Galesburg, Illinois. We drove to Galesburg in November 1969 and met Mrs. Amelia Maxwell at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Virginia and James Green. I had the privilege of reading the letter to her written by her grandfather in 1868 and one written by her father in 1875, nine years before she was born. Amelia (House) Maxwell grew up in Virginia, married John Maxwell and moved to Galesburg in 1912. We also met Amelia's two sons, LaVerne Maxwell from Colorado and Earl Maxwell with his wife and daughter from Iowa. At the same time we met Dale Clay and wife Pearl and daughter Nancy, Dale's sister Evelyn Clay of Galesburg and his brother John L. Clay III and wife Viola of Naperville, Illinois, who drove down to Galesburg to meet us. Their mother Elsie Conway (House) Clay, daughter of Henry Michael House, grew up in Virginia, married John L. Clay and moved to Galesburg in 1907.

Since September 19, 1969 the Indiana and Virginia Houses have visited a lot. Eleven from Virginia and seven from Illinois came to the House Reunion at Mooresville in August 1970. Mae House, age 82, rode from Virginia with her daughters, Lucy Hutchison and Ruth Hoffman and families; and Amelia Maxwell, age 86, rode from Illinois with her daughter Virginia and husband James Green and Dale and Pearl Clay. Mae House is of the second generation since her husband, John Nathan House was Amelia's brother. John and Viola Clay came from Naperville, Illinois.

The Houses of Virginia did not know that any others existed. They did not know that Michael House had a brother and three sisters. It was quite a thrill for each of us to learn about the others. When we located Michael House's grave on September 20, 1969 we were the first to have ever visited all nine graves of the ones who came from Germany.

Lucy Hutchison told us that when she was a girl she recalls hearing her Uncle Henry (Nathaniel House's oldest child) say to her father, "I believe we have some relatives in Indiana".

I too have heard many times that "some stayed in Virginia". I am even sure I have heard the name Nathaniel House mentioned.

This August we showed several of our "new-found" relatives the graves of the eight immigrants from Germany buried in and near Mooresville, including Margaret House, mother of all the Houses.

About 25 years ago Frank Sheets sold his house in Mooresville to Marcus and Ruby Park and moved to Florida. He told Ruby that he was trying to clean the house up nice for them so had cleaned the attic and burned some papers. He gave Ruby a wooden box which he said had contained some family papers from Germany when they came over. He said that the papers were old and dirty so he burned them.

I do not know if these papers pertained to all the families or just the Sheetses. I am telling this in order that future generations will not look for them or at least they will know where some, if not all, of them went. Max Park has the box now at Seymour, Indiana, he does not claim ownership but says he is merely keeping it.

Miriam Hughes, Lorain and Byron Park in Mooresville have a candlestick holder in their home which came over on the boat. Mrs. Albert Sheets and her son, Harold, have a camphor bottle in their home northwest of Mooresville, which also came over on the boat. (Pictures of all three treasures are shown in this book.)

There were 26 persons of the first generation American born from the four families. Four were never married and one had no children. We are including a supplement of the Henry House line of Morgan County, Indiana in this book; John Clay prepared one of the Nathaniel Houses of Virginia and Tad House prepared one of the George Houses of Hamilton County, Indiana. We have done the early part which is the most difficult. The newer ones are relatively easy. We only hope that some of the other descendants of the first generation lines will prepare a supplement of theirs. We have considerable information on the other lines but did not use it in this book because of space and the fact that we hope others will want to use it.

We have ¹⁵⁷155 persons listed in the second generation. We feel that this listing is fairly complete and accurate. The numbers after the names indicate the number of children of the third generation. If and when we obtain all these numbers we will know the number in the third generation. Some lines of the families have now reached the sixth generation American born. In these lines of the family we have the names for ten generations, back to Lorenz House.

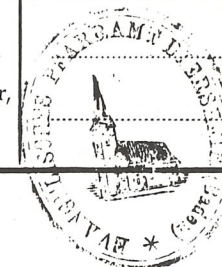
The House name is well established among the Michael House descendants in Virginia. Michael's only brother, John House had three sons, George, Henry and John B. House. The House name is well established from George House in Hamilton County, Indiana. The John B. House descendants now have seven young boys in Sigourney, Iowa, to carry the name there. Henry House of Morgan County, Indiana, had four sons. Nathaniel died when a baby, John Michael was never married, Otto had no children but Douglas had three sons. Raymond, the youngest, had two daughters, Harmon had no children but Henry P. House had one son Douglas. Douglas has two small sons, Steve and David, and these are the only ones to carry on the House name from Morgan County.

Auszug aus dem Taufregister

Der Evangelischen Kirchengemeinde Diersheim

Jahr 1749 Buch Reg. Nr. 12 Seite 68

Zu- und Vornamen:	Schütz, Hans		
geboren:	29. Juni 1749	in	Diersheim
getauft:	30. Juni 1749		
Der Vater:			
Zu- und Vorname:	Schütz, Hans Adam		
Beruf:	Bürger	in	Diersheim Bekenntnis: evang.
Die Mutter:			
Geburts- u. Vorname:	Schreiner, Barbara Bekenntnis: evang.		
Sonstige Angaben (etwa über den Erzeuger, Großeltern, Paten):	--		
Gebühr 0,60 DM Gebührenfrei!	Diersheim		den 16. Juli 1958
Z 60 Verlag Guthmann, Karlsruhe		Unterschrift: <i>M. ...</i>	



Auszug

aus dem Trauregister

der evangelischen Kirchengemeinde Diersheim

Jahrgang 1749 Seite 16 Nr. 1

Alle für die Abstammung wichtigen Angaben, die in dem vorbezeichneten Eintrag enthalten sind, müssen wiedergegeben werden; auf andere Einträge darf jedoch zur Ausfüllung nicht zurückgegriffen werden.

Bräutigam:	Hauß, Hanß Georg
Trautag:	11. Februar 1749
Braut:	Thorwarth, Barbara von Leutesheim
Eltern des Bräutigams:	Hauß, Lorenz Bürger
Eltern der Braut:	Thorwarth Michael von Leutesheim
Sonstige für die Abstammung wichtigen Angaben:	-----



Ort und Datum: Diersheim, den 16. Juli 1958

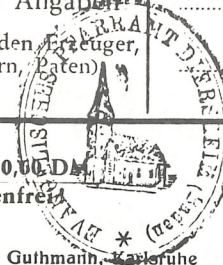
 Unterschrift: *W. Schwan, J.*

Auszug aus dem Taufregister

Der Evangelischen Kirchengemeinde Diersheim

Jahr 1766 Buch 1732 Reg. Nr. 9 Seite 228

Zu- und Vornamen:	H a u ß , Johannes	
geboren:	3. Oktober 1766	in Diersheim
getauft:	5. Oktober 1766	
Der Vater:	Hanß Georg Hauß	
Zu- und Vorname:	Bürger u. Fischer in Diersheim	
Beruf:	Bekenntnis: evang.	
Die Mutter:	Thorwart Barbara	
Geburts- u. Vorname:	Bekenntnis: evang.	
Sonstige Angaben (etwa über den Zeugen, Großeltern, Paten)	Zeugen: Hanß Georg Hauß, Christian Weick, Bürger zu Rheinbischofsheim Hanß Georg Schreiner Katharina König	
Gebühr 0,00 DM Gebührenfrei	Diersheim, den 16. Juli 1958	



Z 60 Verlag Guthmann, Karlsruhe

Unterschrift:

Extract From the Baptismal Register of the Congregation of Diersheim

On October 3, 1786, during the night around 11 o'clock was born to Hans Schutz, the local citizen of Oberdiersheim, by his wife Barbara, ne Hagin (Hag), a little son, who was baptized on November 1 and given the name Johann Georg.

Baptismal Witnesses present were:

- 1. Matthias Bless, the local citizen
- 2. Hans Hauss, unmarried son of Hans Hauss, the local assistant judge
- 3. Barbara, wife of the Michel Murren, the local citizen

Signed T. Konig, pastor

To assure the accuracy of the copy

Diersheim, July 5, 1958



Moser

Extract From the Baptismal Register of the Congregation of Diersheim

In the year of our Lord 1814, on the 6th of December, at 12 noon in the congregation of Diersheim were openly married and blessed into holy wedlock:

Johann Georg Schutz, Johannes Schutz the Elder's, citizen of Diersheim and Barbara, ne Hag's unmarried and legally eligible son, up and coming citizen and carpenter to

Margarethe Hauss, unmarried and legally eligible daughter of Johannes Hauss, the citizen and fisherman, and Margarethe, ne Schreiner.

Witnesses: Johannes Hauss, citizen and lawyer
Martin Stephan, citizen, both of Diersheim

Diersheim, December 6, 1814

Signed Fischer, pastor

To assure the accuracy of the copy

Diersheim, July 5, 1958



Moser

Evangelisches Pfarramt
7641 Diersheim.

Zur Zeit: 7744 Königsfeld, 23. Apr. 70
Familienferienheim der
Evang. Brudergemeine

Mr. Harmon H o u s e
108 Bellcaise Avenue
D a y t o n Ohio 45420 USA

Betr.: Ihre Anfrage vom März 1970:

A u s c h r i f t !
=====

Extract aus dem Kirchenbuch der Evangelisch-Lutherischen
Garnisongemeinde sub titato der Kopulirten
in anno 1774. 1773.

Marie/Margar./des/Grenad./Jacob/Schreiner/und/seiner/Ehefrau
den 13. April ist der Grenadier Jakob Schreiner, mit Anna
Margar. Weiland Jacob Haags zu Thiersheim
ehl. Tochter ehrlich eingesegnet u. copuliert worden.

Sub titulo der Getauften
in anno 1774.

Marie Margar. des Grenad. Jacob Schreiner, und seiner Ehefrau
Anna Margar. Töchterlein ist.
geboren den 8. Juni 1774.

Margar. Barbara ... gebohren den 9. Oktober 1780

Johann Jacob ... gebohren den 12. Aug. 1783.

Extract im Quartier zu Pirmasens den 15. May 1784

(Unterschrift)

Feldprobst u. Konsistorialrath.

Mit freundl. Gruß!

W. Staudte, Fow

Wilhelm Staudte
7641 Diersheim
Ruf 358 Rheinbischofsheim

West-Germany

C O P Y (Translation)

of the record of marriage of the parish Diersheim in
1791 Nr.1

In
onethousandsevenhundredandninetyone, the 8th of June,
after three proclamations and guardianship approval on
the part of the bridegroom and paternal approval on the
part of the bride, there were matrimonially copulated:

H a n s s H a u s s, legitimate procreated and surviving
legitimate son of the late Johann Georg Haussen, citizen
and fisherman from this place and his wife Barbara, a nee
Thorwartin, to day twentythree years and six months old, and

M a r i a M a r g a r e t h a, legitimate procreated and
unmarried daughter of the citizen and mason from this place,
Jacob Schreiner and Anna Margarethe, a nee Hagin, to-day
seventeen years old. As witnesses of this copulation there
have signed besides the betrothed couple the overseer of
the bridegroom Johann Georg Schreiner, the citizen and
Alderman of this place, father of the bride, the citizen
and fisherman Michael Hauss, brother of the bridegroom and
the citizen and grocer of this place Jacob Haag, brother
of the bride's mother.

signed: Johannes Hauss as bridegroom
Maria Margaretha-Schreiner, hand-sign
of the bride, who declares that she is
not able to write.
Hans Georg Schreiner as overseer
Jacob Schreiner as father
Johann Michael Hauss as witness
Jacob Haag as witness.
J. Hoenig as priest.

Certified copy
Diersheim, 16 July 1958

Evangelic Pastorate
s. Moser SEAL



Extract From the Baptismal Register of the Congregation of Diersheim

In the year 1792, on February 16*, in the evening around 6 o'clock
was born to Hans Hauss the fourth, local citizen and fisherman by
his wife Margerethe ne Schreiner, a little daughter, which was
baptized on February 8* and named Margarethe.

Baptismal witnesses:

1. Hanss Martin Stephan, the local citizen and weaver
2. Margaretha, unmarried and legally eligible daughter of
Jacob Gotz, the local citizen and alderman.
- (3. Hanss Martin Stephan marked an X and declared that he
cannot write.
4. Margaretha Gotz marked an X and declared that she cannot
write.)

Signed Katharina Schreiner Gottel
Signed Johannes Hauss as cousin

Signed T. Konig, pastor

To assure the accuracy of the copy

Diersheim, July 5, 1958



Moser

* Note a mistake in the dates.

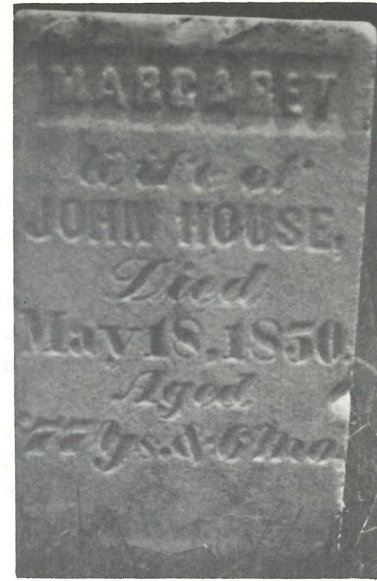
The part about the X handsign is little literally translated.
Hans or Hanss is a nickname for Johann or Johannes (John).

There is great inconsistency in the spelling of names.
Surnames often have an en or in added in certain declensions.
I have left those out in the translation.

NOTE: Tombstone Birthdate Feb. 6, 1792



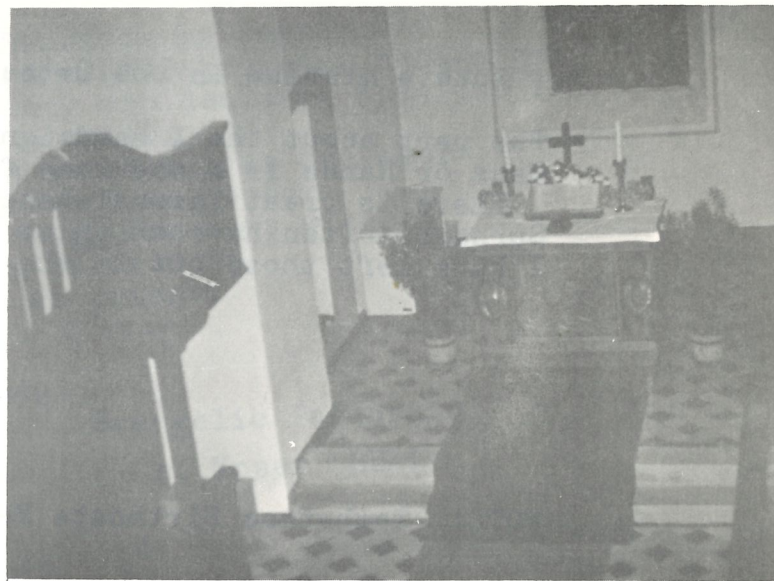
House in Diersheim the Houses occupied before coming to America. Now gone.



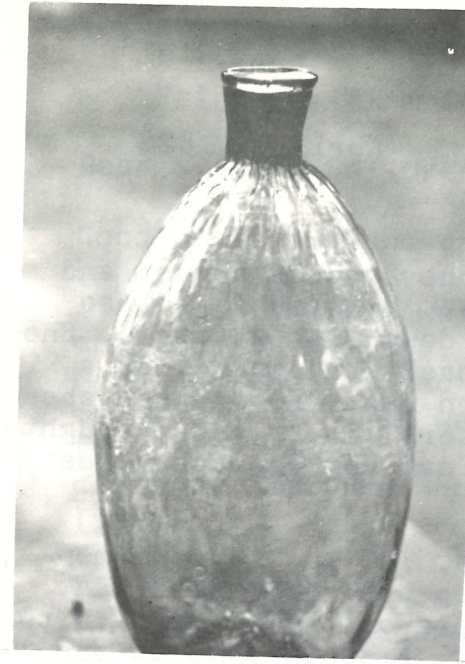
Grave of Margaret House Grand-Mother of all our families.



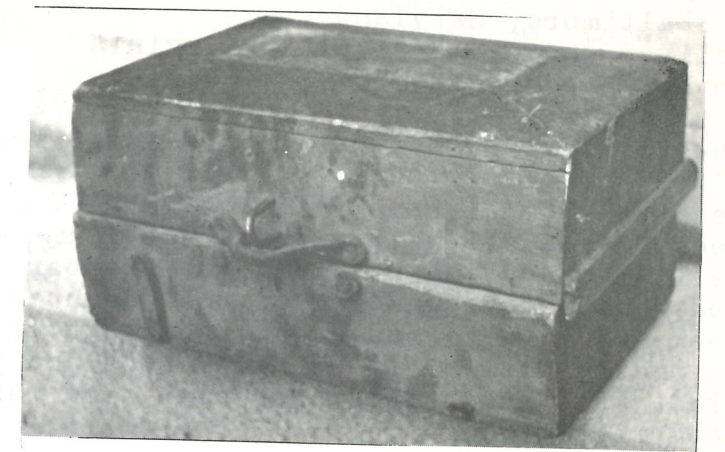
Lutheran Church in Diersheim built in 1731. Still used.



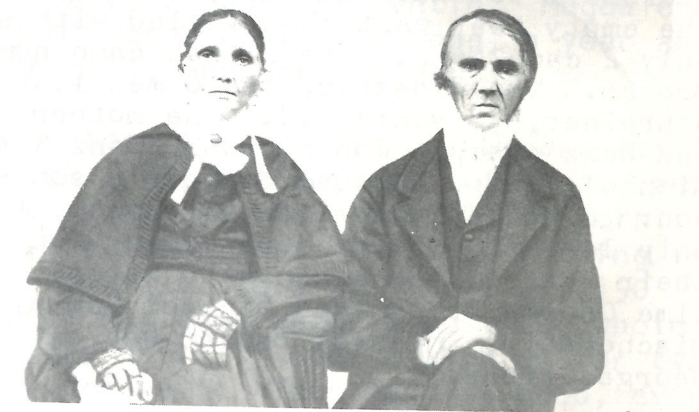
Interior of Church.



Camphor Bottle that came over on boat.



Box that carried family papers from Germany.



John and Catherine Barbara (Bless) House



Candle Stick Holder that came over on boat.



Amelia (House) Maxwell and Mae (McMichael) House of the second generation. (Photo-Aug.15,1970)

From Michael Bless
 To Johanas House
 % Chas. Karthaus
 Baltimore, Maryland
 Deliver on your arrival in Virginia
 in North America

Diersheim
 April 7, 1828

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law and friends,

Received your letter from the 10th of June on the 28th of August and see you are all well. Thank God I am well also. My wife is not so well. The day we received your letter she was down with a fever. She had gone to the wedding of the daughter of Michael Granzen. Just a week ago my wife had a baby son, but he was born dead, so you see she is really not well. We had 4 sons and 5 daughters, 1 son and 1 daughter died. The daughter's name that died was Katarina, her Godmother was Katarina House.

A bad tragedy occurred here on the 29th of June, 1827. 10 young men from Diersheim took a shipload of wood to Strasbourg. The wood was delivered, the money was paid and the 10 men were on their way back to Diersheim to their mothers, wives and children. A storm came up and the empty boat went down filled with water. 8 men lost their lives, only 2 came home. The 2 that came home were David Rusie and Michael Brosam. The oldest of the 8 men lost was our brother-in-law, Michael Schreiner, 38 years old. One mother lost her 3 sons, Michael, George and Hanz Kramp. Johan Brunk, Hanz Kramp, son of Schneberben and Michael Kramp, the dam builder's son and Michael Konig, the shoemaker's son. 6 weeks later Michael Brosam, the one that was saved, took another ship load of wood to Strasbourg. On the way back in the same place, their boat filled again with water. This time 2 lost their lives. This time George Brosam and Michael Schreiner, the son of the glaser of Bischepheim. Michael Brosam was saved again; also Michael Herlings and George Gerber.

Hans Herling did not go to America as he had planned but got married to Barbara Vogtin from Beutesheim. He passed away after about 2 years of marriage. They had a son, Johanas, but Barbara was pregnant with another child. The child, a son, also died after 6 months. She is still a widow.

Our sister Margarete is still a widow. She has no house of her own anymore. Our brother-in-law, Michael Schreiner, sold the house while he was still living to pay debts. Christian Schreiner, brother of Michael, bought a house of Martine Saulhaber and Martine Saulhaber bought a house from Michael Schreiner. Our sister is renting a house from Andreas Buerdel's wife. She is a divorcee. Mrs. Buerdel bought the house from George Bless.

Write to me again next year how you are. Greetings to all of you from Michael Bless. This is all the news. Greetings from my wife & children.

Your Brother,
 MICHAEL BLESS

Dear House
 Write my address to Mr. Steits in Brunswich, New York.

Karl Humel

From: John Klotter
 To: Mr. George Shitz (Sheets)
 Buckland
 Prince William County, Va.

York
 August 30, 1829

Dear Sister, Children & Friends

Good blessings and greetings and the Love of Jesus Christ. We were happy to receive your letter, and to know that everything is well with you. We are well and happy too. We were blessed with 6 children: Magdalena, Regena, Kathrina, Barbara, Johan and Freidrick. My son Freidrick had a painful death. Two years ago in September my husband Johanas was burning some trees and bushes on some unfinished land, the little boy had followed his father, he came too close to the fire and his clothes started to burn; he died 15 hours later.

This was a sad experience for us, but God helped us in our sorrow. The next year we were blessed with another little boy. He will be one year old in September. His name is Johan Vallentin. Magdalena is married to a man by the name of Jacob Freidrick Long, a year ago last May. She has a 9 month old girl, her name is Maria.

I would be so happy if you and Barbara could visit us, we are still on the old place 3 miles from York. We have 50 acres of land. We sold 60 bushels of corn and wheat. We got 50¢ a bushel for corn and \$1.50 for wheat. We built a new barn last year. Everything is paid for, but we had to have a new well. This well cost us \$150 and it is not paid yet. This well has good water almost the whole year, but by September it is partly dry. If God is with us for two more years we will have paid for the well. This land is good, everything grows on it. We also planted fruit trees 4 years ago and some of them bring fruit already.

We like this place so much we would not sell it for \$600, so I think we will live and die here. You write in your letter, that you are not very happy where you are and plan to go to Ohio; it would be nice, if you would come to York, but you must know what you like to do. Your religion is not welcome there, we have no trouble here and go to church every Sunday.

We all send greetings to all cousins and friends. Magdalena and her husband send special greetings to Johannes House. They would love to see him again. We received only one letter from you and you say you sent three letters, so I believe you are writing the address wrong.

Please write it to:

Puisilfarm in York County
 York Township

Johan Klotter

From Michael Bless
To Johanas House

Diersheim
October 27, 1849

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law,

Greetings to you and your children. Received your letter and am happy to hear you are well and doing fine. We are not too well, but our children are all well. We have 12 children, 2 of them died. The living children's names are Barbara, Michael, Katrina, Martine, Margerete, Christian, Elizabeth, David, Ludwig and Frederick. Christian died 5 years ago. He was 21-1/2 years old. I guess Keller told you all about us and how many children are married.

Dear sister and brother-in-law, if Keller had not gone to you and told about us it seems to me you had all forgotten about us. The last letter we received from you was more than 20 years ago, you still lived in Virginia. I have thought often of you and where you are in America. If I had come to America I would not have been able to find you since I would not know your address. Four children are still unmarried and I think should go to America. Elizabeth would like to go and if you think it would be a good move please write to me.

You still have money here according to your guardian Johanas Jung. There is still about 200 fr. If one of my children should come to you they could use this money for the trip but it is up to you to say.

We had a bad time over here. We tried to be free like you in America but it did not work out. There was a revolt in 1848. The top men were put in jail and Haker took off to America. The Diersheim people put on a parade to Offenburg in wagons decorated with flowers and each wagon had a flag, black, red and gold. These were the freedom colors. Now we have two parties, democracy and aristocrats. There is so much trouble here, it was like a war of the poor and the rich. The Grand Duke, after he saw what was going on in Offenburg left by night to France. There was war between one state and the other. Three of our boys had to be freedom fighters, Martine, David and Ludwig, but Martine was married so he came home, Ludwig came home because he just turned 18. Only David had to stay but he came home after 10 days. One day 120,000 Prussians came over the state line by Mannheim on the Rhine and Neckar, but a big fight drove them back, then they went over the Rhine at Phillipsburg and Knielingen. Then they came to Rederath and Rastatt. Rastatt is a fort. The Prussians took it over but not for long. Many people had to flee and went to Switzerland, some to America, because they did not like the form of government.

Now I better quit about this kind of news and tell you some about our sister in Lauterbourg. We went to Lauterbourg to show your letter. 3 of our sister's girls are still at home. Katrine was married but her husband passed away. She has one boy 10 years old. Barbara also has a boy who is not married. All send greetings to you and please write again. Also greetings to Keller. I am 60 years old. If my children would go to America and would take care of me there I would come if I would be 70 years old. I am always your friend and brother.

MICHAEL BLESS

From Michael Bless
To Johanas House

Diersheim
July 26, 1850

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law

Greetings to all of your children, your mother and brother and sisters. Received your letter early in May and read where you are all well and I am real happy about it. We are all well too. You sure are wondering why I haven't written to you before but I had trouble from one side to the other because Johanas Jung, your guardian would like to be relieved of his responsibility. He is getting too old and can't remember things. Nobody wanted to take over this job of being guardian. So the mayor asked me (Michael Bless) to take over this job. So I took over. After all legal bills are paid there should be about 200 fr. left.

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, you say if I get the money I should send it to you with somebody we can trust. This money still has to come into my hands but without authorization I cannot send it. If it gets lost I have to stand good for it. David Rusie told me he asked his brother Michael Rusie if I should give this money that is still in Germany to his son Michael. He would take this money and come to you in America and he would like to repay you after he gets there. He means well if he would keep his word. They would not give Michael Rusie the money because at this time he is a soldier and nobody would trust him as he would desert the army and go to America. I would not give that money to anybody without security so you have to tell me now what I should do. Should I send the money by bank check or you could write an authorization yourself. If you want to give it to somebody tell me whom and how much. Your mother has to sign it too and then be notarized.

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, I am very sad, my daughter Elizabeth is ready to come to America. She is going to bring this letter to you. She is going to Jacob Ehrhart's stepson, Hans Hechler who came to America last year. She was ready to go at that time because Hechler talked to her about it but her sisters and brothers talked her out of it. He wrote her 2 letters already and urged her to come. They bought a farm and house in Wisconsin, Jefferson County, Fort Atkinson. She has told everybody for a whole year that if she really had an invitation to come she would come. Now she is not going to be stopped anymore. With her goes Michael Stephen, he is the son of my brother-in-law and on the 8th of August they go to LaHarve. It goes a little too fast for us, we did not know anything about it a week ago.

Dear Sister, I think it would be nice if you could be together. She could come to you or you to her. I told her she should try to come to you. The last letter I wrote to you I sent with Jacob Ribs. He went to New Orleans. This family went to Texas and with them is David Rusie the soldier, Michael Rusie's brother's son. The old father, Jacob Ribs, died at sea and his wife died 2 days later before they got to their son.

Page 2
(7-26-1850)

Dear Sister, 2 weeks ago we visited our sister in Lauterbourg; she is well again but her husband has bronchitis. The girls are fine and all send greetings. Our sister still thinks of your last day in Germany with her and you came down the hill so fast that you almost broke your neck. I don't know much news any more. We still haven't recovered from the war. We are still occupied by the Prussians. Our soldiers still must go to Prussia to work but there are not too many here, most went to America.

Also, I would like to let you know Elizabeth Keller, daughter of Keller's sister, would like to go to America, but she cannot go, she is not 21 years old yet. Michael Rusie's sister, Katrine, would like to have a letter, her address is Michael Koenig and tell him greetings from her and her brother to all of you.

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, I don't think I will ever come over because of my age. My wife and I are both 60 and have 5 children married. Some day we will see each other and our hearts will be full of joy that nobody can take from us.

Dear Sister, greetings to Keller, if he is not too far from you, I would like to hear from him, how he is and if he is well. He must be a happy man, I bet he wished he was only 30 years old. Dear Keller, I still like you very much even if we had some differences in Germany. You outbid me on some land but this is all forgotten. Greetings to your wife and children and live a good life so that one day we can put our tired head down and can say we lived a good life.

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, greetings to all of your children, your sister and brothers. Dear Brother-in-law, an extra greeting from my wife, to your mother-in-law and on your house and sister Katrine. She still thinks about her childhood years.

I write this letter to you on the last night that my daughter Elizabeth is with us. I can't think anymore so I send only love and stay always your brother and friend.

MICHAEL BLESS

From Michael Bless
To Johanas House

Diersheim, Germany
October 25, 1851

Dear Sister & Brother-in-law:

Greetings to you, your children and your families, also, to Mr. Keller and his wife. I wrote to you and I hope that you received the same because Elizabeth Keller told me she would take the letter along. She was gone about 8 days when I received your letter with the papers. I went to the court house with those papers but they don't want to have anything to do with those papers because they are not authorized. He asked, "Was this letter written by him?" And I said, "Yes, it looks like the same handwriting." But let's wait a half year and if nothing happens up to then we see what we can do. This time is not over yet.

Now, it's time for Jacob Schriener again. He wants to come to you too, but it's risky to send the money thru him, because if he don't have any luck over there the money might be gone so I better wait 'til spring then go to Strasbourg and send it thru a money order, but you have to let me know where I should send it to.

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, in the letter I sent thru Elizabeth Keller I gave her the address of my daughter Elizabeth but I am going to put it again in this letter in case you did not get it from Elizabeth Keller. I just wish you could get together with my daughter Elizabeth. We sure worry about her. Now Mother is all alone and after she has raised so many daughters and can't be with them. I am alone also, because my son David had to go in the army on September 30, 1851. Ludwig works on a boat on the Rhine. He and Hans Gramzy had a boat built and transports gravel with it. This fall I will have to do the plowing all by myself. I still have Frederick but he is too little to help me.

Dear Sister, you write in your letter how you were at a church revival and that they took in 300 people all at once. Please tell me what you mean. Now, I like to end my letter and I like to tell you that we have not had a good spring. No fruit on the trees, potatoes no good, we got a little bit more than we put in the ground. We should have had 300 baskets full but they made only 35 and those are not fit to eat, but I trust in God, He knows best what's good for us. If he wants to take care of us His hand is never too short. If He can't help us any more and calls us home it is well. Now greetings to all of you there present. Written in a hurry.

MICHAEL BLESS

From Michael Bless
To John & Catherine (Bless) House

Diersheim, Germany
May 31, 1853

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law

Heartfelt greetings to you, your children and your friendships. Your nice letter I have received and I saw that you are all well and it has made us very happy. Thank God we are well also. I saw in your letter that I should send you money that's coming to you thru John Gerber from Links. But as far as I know he is not going right away. I would like to get your money over there if only I knew how. Maybe I could send by money order to a lawyer but let me know what address to send it to because I don't know much about those things. Let me know what I should do.

Of course, it would have been better if I myself could come over and my daughter Elizabeth told me I should come, it was very good over there. I myself believe it is better in America than it is in Germany but it is not very easy when you are old. Saying goodbye from everything is not easy even if some of them go along some would stay back.

In Muellerschang's letter he read that Hechler bought a piece of land for \$420. He probably believed that somebody from here would come over there but nobody wants to go so far. I talked to my sons David and Ludwig they should go over there but right now David is a soldier in the army and he would not be able to go over there. He is not allowed to leave the army unless the parents go with him. The young people do not realize what is going on in Germany. We think we might have some bad times. It is getting worse from day to day. We even hear war rumors that say the Austrians are going against Switzerland because they are keeping some of our people prisoners and they want them back. But I trust that war won't happen because God is looking out for us.

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, my greatest wish would be if you could visit my daughter Elizabeth and she could come to you and you would have the pleasure of one of my children. I wrote to Elizabeth about this but she has a family already and it would not be so easy for her to come with them. I would like to know how far you are from each other.

Our sister in Lauterbourg died this winter. She has not been sick and was with her family at the breakfast table and at 9 o'clock she died. My son Michael, Barbara and Katherine were at the funeral. Her three daughters, not married, keep house together; they take care of the acre, they do the plowing, sewing and make hay. They all send greetings and wish you health and good luck.

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, I would have written before but I always wait so I can give you more news about what's going on in our country. A year ago they tried to get Fredrich House or Fred (Fritz) Schulce but neither of those men got to be mayor, so they had a second election. A man by the name of Martine Stephen got the job. They are so many riots about this. People from Diersheim haven't got a good name because they make so much trouble for them. It was like a revolution. They go thru the money, they don't do anything for the people. Everything goes wrong.

Last year we had high water from the Rhine and the water was over everything but we had no trouble in Diersheim but they had trouble in Kehl and Aunheim so that one of the dams broke loose and the water was over the highway by Strasbourg. It took houses away and made everything like a wilderness. It was warm in winter and too cold in spring and now it is summer but all we have is rain. The acre where we plant hemp looks bad and if we can't get anything off this what would we pay our bills with. I have so much to pay, more than you would have. I still need \$50 to get hay. I sold my horse for 100 fr. and I ride to town with my cow. I have 3 cows, 2 bulls and 2 pigs.

Dear Sister, in Diersheim we have not got as many pigs in the whole town as you have. If you sold \$132 in pigs and still have 70 big and little, then you are rich. There are still farmers that haven't got any pigs in their stable because they are high; 1 pig costs 9 to 10 fr.

If you write me again this fall let me know how many pigs you have and do you have them all on one place and how do you feed them? and how many cows do you have? do you have a horse? Let me know how you fertilize your land and do you live in log houses? or do you have homes like us? because you have plenty of wood. I heard about this through your Brother-in-law, George Sheets. You also write that you make sugar, let me know, have you got a sugar tree? I am really nosey, I like to know everything about you because we cannot talk together anymore. I like to let you know also that Michael Russe's brother's wife died. She was in Rubrichtsau with her daughter, got sick and died. Now the old man is by himself. His son Michael works for George Granzy, a carpenter. His daughter-in-law had 2 children by Michael but the children are not married yet. He did not do good in this marriage because she is sick and she is in Baden Baden for her health (arthritis). The doctor helped him so she got to go there without pay.

Now I want to tell you the costs; wheat costs 12 fr., 25# oats 6-7 fr. Now I have to finish my letter because my son-in-law, Martine Saulhaber would like to write a few lines so I wish you good health and hope that this letter comes to you. Good luck and 1000 greetings to your family. Also, give greetings to Mr. Keller's wife and children. Keller would probably say "If I only was young yet" because he is richer than all the families in Diersheim. Greetings again.

Michael Bless the 2nd

From Martine Saulhaber
To Jacob Schriener

I like to let you know that I received your letter from the 15th of October, 1852, and heard that you bought a very big farm and we are very glad about this and happy about it. I should have written you before how it is in Kehl. The man says that he does not owe you any money and he only laughs about it. But I told him that he was mistaken that he (Jacob Schriener) could go to the law.

Friendly greetings on all of you.

Martine Saulhaber

From: Michael Bless
 To: Mr. Johannes Haufs (House)
 In Mooresville, Indiana
 Morgan County

Diersheim
 February 14, 1854

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law

Thank you for your letter, we are glad to hear you are all well and happy. Thank God we are well too. Greetings to your children and to Keller and Schreiner.

You write you had a dry summer and the land did not bring much fruit and vegetables. We had a wet year, so much has rotted in the ground and we had so many mice this year they did a lot of damage. Some people did not get enough out of the ground to plant for the next year. Everything is very high priced and if we would not get from other countries, we would have to go hungry. I am sure God in heaven will take care of us, but so many people do not believe in God and make trouble and say, "Let the county take care of us." 32 families are getting some extra groceries from the county, every day more are applying for help and we have to pay for them.

We had a letter last fall from Elizabeth and Hechler. Hechler's mother died on the 31st of August, 1853 and a son of Hechler's died. He was 2 years old, they buried him beside his grandmother, he died November 7th, 1853. The parents are very sad, but believe in God and God will give them peace.

Hechler tells us he is doing fine with his 7 acres of land. They had 304 bushels of wheat, he sold it for 72¢; sold 12 bushels of barley for 45¢ a bushel, and 153 bushels of oats for 25¢ a bushel. His farm is almost paid for, he still owes \$100 to Michael House, his neighbor. He hopes to sell 2000 pounds of pork, this will bring \$100. It sure is easier to get rich in America than in Germany.

Hechler wrote he is not able to make the trip to you in Indiana, he is too busy and you write you are too old to go over there; because you are too old I am afraid this may be you never will get together.

This spring a few of the young men from Diersheim leave for America, so I hope Ludwig, our son, will go too, if I have money enough. He needs at least 150 fr. We are having a boat built to transport gravel. I paid 250 fr. down, but still have a debt of 150 fr. I will try to sell the Hohlenweg acre and hope I make some money on it. If only you had asked us to come over there 20 years ago. If Keller had not come to you with my letter, you would probably have forgotten us, you were still in Virginia when I received your last letter, more than 20 years ago. I wrote 4 letters but I received no answer. Was ready to come in 1842 but my wife was against it, now she is sorry. We are too old now. More people would go to America but can't sell their houses, believe me, it is no good in Germany anymore.

Page #2
 (February 14, 1854)

Now there is a rumor of war; the Russians and Turkish people are fighting already and burn and destroy everything. We pray to God he will be with us. It was so cold in December and January but we still have so many mice they do so much damage. I told you about this at the beginning of the letter. School boys are out to kill mice. They get 3 fr. a dozen from the City.

It is really hard, many families eat turnips 3 times a day. It was also a good year for apples. We still have 8 bushels left.

Wheat cost 20 fr. for 25 lbs., barley 12 fr., corn 13 fr., oats, 6 fr. The price for beef is 10 fr. a lb., pork 15 fr., veal 9 fr. I sold vegetables and meat for about 100 fr. Sold a cow for 56 fr. We still have a horse, 2 cows, 2 calves and 2 pigs. We butchered 2 pigs for the winter. As you see it is hard to make a living here.

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law, we sure hope to hear from you before our son Ludwig arrives there. If not, so I hope you look out for him as he will be a help to you. I hope God will be with all of us, if we have not much in material goods, God is with us, this we know.

Hope this letter will arrive at your house and find you in good health as it leaves us. Greetings to you and your children. Hope Susanna and her sister will write to us. We love you all. Goodbye until we meet again.

MICHAEL BLESS

Jacob Uhl left Germany without a goodbye. We think he is with Michael Rusie, his brother-in-law. His wife sends greetings to her husband and brother. She plans to go there too.

Michael

From Michael Bless
To Johannes Haufs (House)
Mooreville, Indiana
Morgan County

Diersheim
May 28, 1854

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law

Greetings to you and your children and all your friends. Michael Rusi wrote he would like one of his family to come to America. Fredrick Rusi, the son of Katharina Rusi is ready to come; so is my son Ludwig. As you know, you still have money to get from here, so I promised 100 fr. of this to Frederick Rusi; my son would bring the rest, but Jacob Rusi would also like some of the money so the wife of Jacob Uhl could go to her husband. Michael Rusi, son of David, would also like to go to America and have some money. We believed Jacob Uhl to be with you, but his sister wrote, he is still in New Orleans. He couldn't go any farther, he ran out of money.

There was a meeting in the county house last night to determine what to do with the old man David Rusi. He is old and poor and the county has to take care of him. So the decision was to send him to his children in America, the county will pay 60 fr. to this trip. Now you have to write me who gets the money. I promised the money to Katharina's son, he is a good boy, the rest is up to you. But please write me how to divide the rest of the money. I see to it that I get a note from each of them.

Dear Sister, I think there are 4 of you to get this inheritance, the children from Sheets and you, Michael Rusi's wife and Barbara Butner. I would like to know if you had received my letter before Rusi wrote to me. I wrote 3 letters-to you, Elizabeth and Schreiner. I went to the postoffice myself, yours and Elizabeth's letters went over LaHarve, but the letter to Schreiner over Breman. I like to know which one got there first. Hello to Keller, he sure was lucky that he went to America. It is hard to earn a living here. Keller's father-in-law died on his way to the church on Good Friday, Michael Bless the first, was with him, he died in his arms.

There is an unrest between the Catholic and protestant churches; the Catholics like to get back the Cloister estates they lost in the revolution in 1848. We like the present government. We do not want a revolution again. May God be with us, we all sing with Martin Luther the song, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God. Our government official Frederick sent an ambassador to the Pope in Rome to settle this unrest.

Now I better stop writing about all this. We are looking forward to a better year. So far everything looks good on our field, so we don't have to go hungry, it's God's will. As I was writing this letter, Katharina Rusi came over, she is now ready to let her son Frederick go to America and if Michael Konig should die, she would sell out and go to America also. Katharina told me that Jacob Rusi had a letter written by Christian Humel, but he did not tell me or Katharina anything about it. So you see he is not honest with us, his relatives.

Page #2
(May 28, 1854)

Dear Michael Rusi, I will put a note in this letter from your brother's son, as you see he needs some money. I believe if he had enough money, he would rather go to Texas to David than to you. I really feel sorry for him. If he takes that woman along, right now she is in a poor people's bath in Baden-Baden. If he bring her along he would have to get a maid for her.

Hope you receive this letter in the best of health. We are all fine. Greetings to all of you, from your brother,

MICHAEL BLESS, the 2nd

From: Michael Bless
 To: Johan Haufs (House)
 Mooresville, Indiana, Morgan County

Diersheim
 April 23, 1859

Dear Sister, Brother and Children

Greetings to you all from us all. Heard from Rusie you wrote a letter to Uls (Uhlis?) and told them to tell me to write to you. I was so sure I had written the last letter. I am so forgetful lately. As I opened your last letter a gold dollar rolled out, this sure surprised me. Thank you so much for the same; will never spend the money, but keep it as a keepsake.

We had a very dry summer in 1858 but the harvest was good. Our hemp was not too long, but I sold it for 20 fr. 100 lbs. Wine turned out very good but still better in 1857. Sold wheat in 1857 for 10 fr. for 25 lbs., in 1858 for 8 fr. Had plenty of potatoes in 1858 and sold 100 lbs. for 12 fr. Winter started early last fall. We had to work hard and fast to get the potatoes in the house before frost. Winter was mild and spring came early, so we were able to put oats and barley in ground at the beginning of March.

I haven't too much news, only there are war rumors. All young men have to serve the army. Barbara's son Fredrick left today; he was put in the artillery. Barbara is not very lucky; lost her husband Martine Saulhaber October 1857 on a Sunday morning. He had been working all day Saturday in his workshop, it must have been a stroke. Our son David went to Bishofsheim to the doctor, but too late. Martine Saulhaber's death came as a surprise; he had not prepared his family for all the work he left behind. The oldest son was travelling, he was in Switzerland at the time and could not come to the funeral. The two older sons have been taking care of the father's blacksmith shop. But the second son has to go to the army, the next boy is almost too young. Barbara and her husband had 14 children together 8 are still living. This is not easy for Barbara as a widow. Karl Kiummel, the city accountant died of a heart attack. The oldest daughter of the Fautenbacher's died this spring. She left one son 20 years old. She had been a widow for a long time. Magdalena and Barbara live in her house, Maria is married to a baker, but not too happy.

The only news I can give you is that there will be a new bridge built from Kehl over the Rhein. They send a man 60 ft. down in an iron case. The man has to work away the dirt the drilling is done from the top. Many a man has lost his life down there. The pay is good, 5 fr. an hour, only people with a lot of debts will take this dangerous job.

Now a little news from our family. Our son David married Saloomea Kaiser from Rheinbischofsheim in December 1857. They have a little son 6 months old, he is a good boy. Now I will end my letter, please forgive me for not writing so long. Hope this letter will reach you in good health. We are not all well, but satisfied. Greetings from all of us here to all of yours. Greetings to Keller, Herzog, Uhl and Rusie. Lorenz Koenig would like to go to America but he can't sell his house.

MICHAEL BLESS the 2nd

From Michael Bless
 To Johanas House

Diersheim, Germany
 April 4, 1860

Dear Sister, Brother and children and all acquaintances:

Our heartfelt greetings to you all, dear children. We are now growing older every day. How often we shall be able to let you hear from us we do not know. As we are growing in age, so we should grow in wisdom, grace of God and toward man. Now, my dear ones, I do not wish to write you too extensively since you shall be told verbally how everything is with us. There is again talk of war and war cries. According to the prophesies there shall break out a bloody war over Germany.

Dear Sister, we do not know at all what kind of a present to send to you. Our hemp has all been spun, and otherwise we do not know what we could send to you. So they were after me all week that I should let myself be painted (photographed), since Konig's (King) could so easily bring it along to there. I said always that I do not want to send my old head to America any more. So the days go by until today the 4th, they left me no peace. So I said if Mother would go along I have no objections. So today at 11 o'clock we go to Bischepheim. At 12 o'clock it was already done. Dear Sister, I have had a duplicate made. I think you could send one to Elizabeth. I hope you will have yourself done also and send to us.

Write to us some news. Hechler has also written to us. He writes they have had a year of failure. The wheat froze out. Then they sowed summer wheat in the spring. Then came insects that spoiled it, that not much of it was harvested. They haven't written for a long time either. Ludwig was mad at me. Two years ago he wanted to buy a property. He said it was 80 acres. He thought he could buy the land for twelve hundred dollars. He had only about 800 fr. If I could send him some of it, if he could pay only half of it, the rest he could pay later. I said what should I do. I don't wish to sell anything, and to borrow the money and pay the interest I don't wish to do either. He should go to Iowa to your son, there land is still less expensive.

I want to close my writing and wish to send you all many thousand greetings and to wish you to receive this in good health. Say hello to all the others, Rusi, Keller. Now dear Keller, I have often said of you, I have always had a longing for America, but have never gotten there; you have never wanted to know of it and you have gotten there. But thank God that you are there. I have said it so many times that you would have a hard time of it if you were here salary wise and leaseholds are very costly. Now farewell, I am remaining your dearest brother and friend.

MICHAEL BLESS

From: Johann George Schmitt
 TO: Mr. Johannes Haufs (House)
 Mooresville, Indiana
 Morgan County

Honau
 September 12, 1877

My dear Father and Brother Henry

Now I take the time to write to you and hope my letter will find you in good health. I had a good trip home, was not seasick. It took 15 days by boat. We had a lot of fun. On Friday, the 7th, in the morning we arrived in Bremerhaven, then on another boat to Bremen, the train left Bremen at 4 o'clock and I arrived in Strasbourg at 11 o'clock in the evening. I walked home to Honau. The fields really looked good, a lot of tobacco, hay and turnips, fruit trees are full of all kinds of fruit. Apples, pears. Wine is also plentiful. Plenty of wheat, 100 pounds cost 24 marks.

Kehl and Strasbourg are built up after the war better than before.

Jacob House, your friend is still living, so is Ludwig Bless, the one who lived with Henry. Please tell Henry to say greetings to all the neighbors.

Best wishes, your friend

JOHANN GEORGE SCHMITT

Note: George Smith is listed in the census of 1860 and 1870 as being a farm hand living with John House. His age was 37 and 47 years and he was born in Baden.

MORGAN CIRCUIT COURT

State of Indiana, Morgan County, ss:

BE IT KNOWN, That on the 11 day of May, 1855 the same being the judicial day of the Term of said year of the Morgan Circuit Court, of Morgan County, Indiana, held at the Court House in the City of Martinsville in said County and State, before the Honorable Judge of said Court, the following proceedings were had, viz:

APPLICATION OF JOHN HOUSE FOR NATURALIZATION

And now comes JOHN HOUSE and produces in Open Court his declaration of intentions in these words and figures, viz:
 The State of Indiana) SS:
 Morgan County)

JOHN HOUSE an alien and free white person in order to become a citizen of the United States makes the following report of himself, to-wit:

That his name is JOHN HOUSE; that he was born in Baden, Germany; that he is 60 years of age; that he is of the German Nation, that he migrated from Amsterdam, Holland on or about the day of April 1817 and arrived in United States the day of October, 1817; that he intends settling in Morgan County, Indiana and that he owes allegiance to Leopold 2nd Grand Duke of Baden.

And that the said JOHN HOUSE now declares on oath before the Clerk of the Morgan Circuit Court that it is bona fide his intentions to become a citizen of the United States and renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever and particularly to Leopold 2nd Grand Duke of Baden whereof he is at present a subject.

Signed: JOHN HOUSE

Made sworn to and subscribed before me this 11 day of May in the year of 1855.

O. R. Dougherty, Clerk

By: John Ray, Deputy

And thereupon said JOHN HOUSE proves in open court by the testimony of Allen Hicklin and William J. Hanker, citizens of the United States that he had resided in the United States for the term of Five years, last and has not been out of during that time, and that he has resided in the State of Indiana for one year immediately preceeding and during all the time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

And said JOHN HOUSE is now sworn and says that he will support the constitution of the United States and that he does now absolutely renounce and abjure forever all allegiance and fidelity from any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever and particularly to Leopold 2nd Grand Duke of Baden of whom he has heretofore been a subject.

And the said JOHN HOUSE is now duly declared a citizen of the United States.

(Taken from Order Book No. 1 of Morgan County Records.)

NOTE: George Sheets's application was very similar to John Houses except the following: 69 years of age; left Amsterdam on or about the 1st day of April 1817; arrived in United States on the 10th day of September 1817.

(Recorded Aug. 9, 1856. Page 405 - Order Book.)

THE STATE OF INDIANA, MORGAN COUNTY

To all to whom these present shall come - Greeting:

Know ye, That at the May Term, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty Seven of the Morgan Circuit Court of the County of Morgan aforesaid,

John House made the proof and took the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the oath of Allegiance required by law, before said Court, and was then, that is to say, on the 17th day of May 1857, by said Court, duly admitted a Citizen of the United States.

In Witness of which, I, Jefferam K. Scott,

Clerk of said Court, here-unto afix the

Seal thereof, and subscribe my name at

Martinsville this 13

_____ day of

Feby. 1858

(Signed) J. K. Scott, Clk.

GEORGE JOHN SHEETS was born in Diersheim, Baden, November 1, 1786 and died at the residence of his son Frederick S., in Mooresville, December 14, 1877, at the advanced age of 91 years. In 1815 he was married to MARGARET HOUSE, and in 1817 they emigrated to United States and landed at Baltimore in September, after a toilsome and perilous voyage of 6 months on the ocean, during which they suffered much for food and water. While at sea the only child they had was taken sick and died. On arriving in America they settled in Prince William County, Virginia, where they remained for 19 years and where the 7 surviving children and 1 deceased were born. He was one of the earliest settlers of this county, coming to Mooresville in December, 1836. His wife died February 9, 1849, and for nearly 29 years he has lived single with his children. Tho living to such a great age he was never a healthy man, often suffering much from nervous spells and finally from bronchial affliction and spitting of blood, which, with the decay of nature's functions, produced his death. For several years he has been retired from active pursuits. 60 years ago he became partially deaf and for some time past has been almost totally deprived of his hearing. He was a carpenter by trade having served a regular apprenticeship in Germany, and was a superior workman, tho he always lived on a farm which was managed by his sons. At the age of 14 he was regularly confirmed in the Lutheran church, but as there was no organization of that name in Virginia, he and wife joined the New School Presbyterians, but when they came to Indiana they united again with the Lutheran, of this body he was a member until death. He was very regular in his religious duties and strict in observance of the Sabbath and when there was a meeting in the neighborhood, gathered his children in a company and required them to read selections of scriptures which he would afterwards explain. His teachings have born remarkable fruit in that all of his children became members of the ME church, and one has been an itinerate minister for 26 years. Father Sheets was a good German scholar, a diligent student keeping up with the spirit of that time and a strong advocate of every moral reform opening his house to Christian ministers both for entertainment and worship. In his later days he became very much concerned for the moral improvement of the people and visited from home to home.

NOTE: He and his wife are buried in Bethesda Cemetery, southwest of Mooresville. Certified Diersheim Church records give George Sheets's birth as 3 October, 1786 and baptised 1 November 1786. Church records gives his marriage date as 6 December 1814. Tombstone gives his wife's death as February 10, 1849.

JOHN HOUSE was born in Baden, Germany, December 19, 1793; was married to CATHERINE B. BLESS April 1817. Emigrated to United States with his wife, father and mother, 3 sisters and 1 brother in May 1817, and after a voyage of 6 months in which they suffered greatly by sickness and hunger and after burying his father in the ocean, they landed in Baltimore, in October, 1817. He settled in Adams County, Pennsylvania, where he lived until the year 1822 when he moved to Prince William County, Virginia where he resided until the year 1836, when he moved with his family to Morgan County, Indiana, where he lived until his death which occurred September 19, 1878, age 84 years. He was born and baptized in the Lutheran church, in which he continued to live, conforming to the outward form of religion, but knowing nothing of the experimental knowledge of Christ, until the year 1830, when brought under the influence of the Presbyterian church he sought and obtained the evidence of sins forgiven. He united in fellowship with that church and continued to live an acceptable member until he moved to Indiana, and finding no Presbyterian church near him he united with the ME church, in which communion he continued to live until his death. He was an exemplary Christian, always filling his place in the church, until the infirmities of old age caused him to desist. He was the father of 8 children 3 of whom with the companion of his youth, preceded him to the other shore.

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CATHERINE B. HOUSE, wife of John House. Catherine B. House was born in Baden, Germany May 11, 1797. She was married to JOHN HOUSE May, 1817 and emigrated to the United States in the same year. She and her husband after a voyage of 6 months on the ocean suffering greatly with sickness and hunger landed in Baltimore, Maryland October, 1817. She and her husband moved from Baltimore to the state of Pennsylvania and settled in Adams County where they remained until the year 1822. They then moved to the state of Virginia settling in Prince William County where they resided until the year 1836 when they moved to Morgan County, Indiana and here Sister House resided until the day of her death, August 5, 1876. She was 79 years. Her parents were members of the Lutheran Church and Sister House was a member of that church from her infancy to the year 1830. But never having experienced the change of heart she was brought under the influence of the Presbyterian Church and sought and obtained the evidence of sincere forgiveness and united with the Presbyterian Church (joined ME Church) White Lick Society.

NOTE: John and Catherine House are buried in the Mooresville Cemetery, south end.

CATHERINE RUSIE was born August 18, 1797 in Germany, and emigrated in 1817. The family of which she was a member landed in Baltimore, Maryland, and settled in Virginia where they remained until 1836, when they came to Indiana, and settled here 46 years ago. They had been members of the Lutheran church in the old country, and here, with her husband, she became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been an earnest witness of all its history, since she was constant in attendance upon the means of grace, and clear in her religious expression up to the time that age and infirmity kept her from attendance.

Mother Rusie was one of 5 children whose father died on the ocean during a long voyage of 6 months and was buried in a watery grave. It has often been stated by her and others who were on that voyage, that all the children died and many of the grown persons. She was the mother of 9 children one of whom died in infancy, and all but one who died a few years ago are still living, and remember and revere her memory. All her life has been spent in the church; first having a birthright in the Lutheran, afterwards confirmed, and for many years enjoyed membership and--then in the ME church. Her house has been the home of many a wearied itinerant; and she always recognized with pleasure her pastor, and gladly accepted religious counsel and pastoral service. I have visited her several times since I have been pastor here, and always found her spiritual health ready for the event of her death. She died at 8-1/2 o'clock April 12 as she hoped to die, easy and quiet.

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NOTE: RUSIE--on Friday morning, November 14, 1873, congestive chills, after an illness of 24 hours, MICHAEL RUSIE, age 77 years.

MICHAEL RUSIE born April 13, 1797 in Germany. He and 9 others of his associates set sail for America in April 1817, on which voyage they encountered many severe trials and privations from cold, storms and hunger. They were on the ocean 6 months, landing in United States in October 1817. They settled in the State of Virginia where he was married to his present wife in 1819. Since the arrival of this party in America 3 have passed on to their long home. 7 still living to quite advanced ages. Michael Rusie left Virginia for Indiana in October 1836 arriving in Mooresville in December of same year. He was a member of the Lutheran church for many years and not finding the church of his choice at this place, he became identified with the ME church, and afterwards assisting in organizing a Lutheran church at this place; but the organization failed, since which time he has not been identified with any church, but has lived an upright life, and of late has expressed, as being ready to meet his final result that awaited him, and that his faith was in God. He died on the 14th, at 6AM. The weary wheels of life stood still; and he ceased at once to work and live, and with a few short struggles all was over; and his body cold in death for vital spark of life had taken its departure for that land from which no traveller ere returned. Peace be to his ashes.

NOTE: Catherine and Michael Rusie are buried in Mooresville cemetery, south end.

BARBARA HOUSE BUTNER was born in Baden, Germany, about June, 1803 and died in Mooresville, on Friday morning, August 31, 1877 at the age of 74 years. The family of her father, who died and was buried at sea, emigrated to America arriving at Baltimore in October, 1817 where Barbara remained 3 years, the others of the family had removed to Pennsylvania. Afterwards they resided in Virginia 14 years, and came to Mooresville, Indiana, in the year 1836. Mrs. Butner was married to her now bereaved husband, CHRISTIAN BUTNER, October 23, 1842, since which time the events of her life have been familiar to many of the survivors. She made the profession of religion and joined the ME church in that remarkable revival under the labors of Rev. John S. Birt, where so many veteran Methodists were converted and the present church building was soon afterwards erected. Being born a Lutheran and uninformed with reference to many of the Christian's privileges, after her conversion she testified to her elder brother, John House, that she was happy all the time. She had a strong mind, was a good reader and thinker, especially in the scriptures, and an efficient worker in the church, tho of late her bodily health prevented her attendance at church and during her last illness she had great difficulty, since the nature of her affliction, in giving expression to her feelings. In answer to inquiry about her spiritual condition she said, "You need not have any fear about me." The day before her death at family worship, she became happy and praised the Lord. Later in the day she remarked, "My home is in Paradise, where all good people are." She was the youngest of a large family of whom only three, John and Michael and Catharine Rusie, survive.

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CHRISTIAN BUTNER was born October 25, 1790 at Bethany, Stokes County, North Carolina, and died October 5th at 8 o'clock PM. He was married to ANN R. PFAFF, March 30, 1819 and became a resident of East Tennessee in 1826, and of Indiana in 1830. He became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1834 and under the ministry of Rev. Phillip May. He had, however, been a member of the Moravian Church for some time before that. His first wife died March 27, 1842 after a life together of 23 years. He was married the second time to BARBARY HOUSE October 23, 1848*, with whom he lived 29 years, when she died, and since that event he has been living with his children.

The time of his death he had reached and almost completed his 90th year, an age that very few attain unto. Father Butner has been a devoted Christian quiet and unassuming in his manner but clear in his religious expressions. He had been familiar with the history of the Methodist Church in Mooresville for 46 years and has witnessed her many displays of divine power in rivals of religion. He was a ripe shock of corn and as such has gathered into God's garden.

*Marriage records show this date to be 1842, not 1848.

Barbara Butner is buried beside her Mother in the old Mooresville cemetery. Christian Butner is buried 30 feet away by his first wife.

To John House
Mooresville, Indiana

Bristoe Station
Prince W Co., Va.
January 11th, 1868

My Dear Brother

After a long silence I seat myself to answer your last letter. I feel somewhat ashamed on account of my negligent delay, but must beg you to excuse me. It is not because I do not like to write you and allso glad to hear from you but simply because I have to work hard and do not feel like writing with my stiff fingers. But let this seffice and I will try and do better in the future. We are all tolerably well. I am very much afflicted and sometimes very severly. We are getting along as well as could be expected under the circumstances as the niggers are our superiors. They have the elective franchise and was compelled to vote the radical tickets for delegates to a convention to frame a constitution for our state to suit the radical congress. The negroes were formed in what they call a union league and under that league they are sworn to support that party and many of them would have voted the conservative ticket but were afraid to do so. In fact many did and were immediately lynched and many were scared on the penalty of death. Now just think here are these poor ignorant people just from bondage who have but very little knowledge of our political matters who as the President says (truly too) does not know how to cast a vote and in fact many had forgot what names they registered under and on that account could not vote. And here these votes are forced on us to form a convention to make our state convention when I think the very best of our men should only have voted. I am opposed to universal suffrage to the white people. I would not be opposed to the negro voting if he were capable and in time when they become more enlightened then it will be time enough. But most assuredly they were better off in slavery than now. Of course there are some exceptions. But as a whole they were better off. We see nothing here what it is further south but it is enough seen here to confirm what I have said. They are lounging around many half clad and not enough to eat. They could get plenty of work to do if they would but won't until necessity compels them and as a matter of course that makes them dishonest and many have flattered themselves that they would get farms by confiscation but if ever that comes to pass there will be a war of races. Now as for myself I care nothing about slavery, but I feel for them who had scarcely any other property and Lincoln had no more authority (than I had) under the constitution of the United States to set them at liberty. He said it was a military necessity, but now that is stopped. But enough of the niggers at present.

I was glad to hear of your good health and that you are doing well. I suppose you are like myself have to work hard in your old age though we ought not to complain as an honest employment is the best satisfaction a man can have and he feels better both in health and spirits. We are living very well now, have plenty to eat and ware and by the blessing of God we hope so to do if this rotten government will let us alone. I sold last year about \$300.00 worth of grain and have about 150 bushels of oats now for sale and it is supposed they will be worth \$1.00 per bushel in the spring. They are worth now 75 cts. per bushel, corn is worth \$1.20 per bushel, wheat is from \$2.60 to \$3.00 per bushel, hay per hundred pounds 75 cts., horses and cattle are high. I have 4 horses, 10 head of cattle, 38 head of sheep, 20 head of hogs and Nathaniel has a little threshing machine that brings us in a little. Nathaniel has 6 children and another close at hand, 4 boys and 2 girls. I will now close as it is bed time. Excuse this as it is written in a hurry. The family joins me in much love to you all. Write as soon as convenient and let me know how all are and are getting along. Is Sheets living yet? Nat says tell Henry House to write him and also tell Daniel Sheets he will write him soon.

May the giver of all good gifts guide, protect and finally save you is my Prayer.

Good night Dear Brother

Michael House

Michael House Prince

Bristoe Station Wales

Let us hear from you soon.

I forgot to inform you by your request of my copper mine. I have not examined yet but I believe there is copper and judging from the piece I found it will be valuable. The man that I leased to rather took the advantage of me and before I acknowledged the lease I requested him to make some alterations in it and he did not seem willing and he gave it up and afterwards threatened to law me for non-compliance. I will give you more particulars in my next as I have not room now.

NOTE: The child close at hand was Hattie (House) Francis-born February 3, 1868.

To Henry House
Mooreville, Indiana

Greenwich Prince Wm. Co. Va.
September 15th 1875

Dear Cousin

I expect you think I do not intend to comply with my proposition. I acknowledge I have delayed writing longer than I should have done but wishing to send you one of my pictures I waited until I had one taken. I went to Warrenton 2 months ago but failed as the artist had gone away, so then I went to Alexandria and succeeded which I will send you. It would have been better had it been a shade darker though everybody says it is a good picture. I am sorry to say I fear you will not be able to get Paps and Mothers as they cannot have them taken no nearer than Warrenton and the ride is too great for them but if it is possible I will send them to you. I hope you will send me yours for it is a great pleasure. I feel grateful for Uncle and Aunts. We have had a good corn season but wheat and oats a failure. I did not more than double my seed of the two latter, the hay crop was allso short. We had rain nearly the entire of August. I never saw such a rainy August and the last of it Broad Run was within a foot of being as high as it was in 1829, so says Pap and a good many others. It done a great deal of damage.

Tell Uncle John Pap says if it was not for his affliction he would be a man yet. That he can mow grass yet very well for a half day at a time and says it agrees with him better than any other kind of work. He ploughed corn 2 days this summer but I can see that he is getting quite feeble. Mother is allso quite feeble and this summer has had bad health. Her eyesight has returned. She can see to thread the finest needle without specs, in fact has no use for them.

Uncle Henry and Samuel Haislip are quite well. Uncle Sam is living with his oldest son Robert, who is a carpenter and Uncle Sam tends the farm. Uncle Henry lives across Broad Run opposite Langhyer upper mill is farming. The youngest daughter of Uncle Sams married one of William Halls sons and he is farming for Uncle Henry.

Now one word about the Ladies. I am very much oblige to you for your offer but I cannot get my consent to marry yet but if I should I think Old Virginia can beat Indiana for beauty and managers. I tell you there is three who is my near neighbors that are hard to beat so you can see I would not go far. I must now close and beg you to excuse this for I wrote it in a hurry. We are all well and hope this may find you all well. Write as soon as you can and be sure to send your picture. All of us join in love to you all.

Your sincere cousin

NATHANIEL HOUSE

Greenwich Oct. 26th 1878

My Dear Cousin

I feel ashamed to write to you after having treated you so mean by not writing sooner but better now than never. I was sorry to hear of Uncle's Death though He had lived to a good old age and there is one comforting thought that He is gone from a troublesome world to a wor..... bliss and our great desi..... be to meet him there..... Lord give us grace to..... the same. Pap took the..... news much better than expected he said he was expecting to hear of it and he feels shure it will not be long before he will follow. Last April We thought he would die and so did the doctors but the Lord ordered otherwise. He gave me directions how he wished to be buried O the sad though. But thank God he is now able to walk about the farm and has been to see me twice this summer and says he feels better than he has for 5 or 6 years. His urine stoped on him and there was such a stricture that it was with the greatest.....ty the Dr. could insert an.....ment at one time he thought...would have to give it up.....him which of course.....give relief for a while and.....ld not have lived more than a week afterwards I urged the Dr. to persevere with the instrument and he did time and again and succeeded at last and there was fully one gallon taken from him this had to be done by the Dr. for 5 or 6 days and after that I could insert the instrument and now Pap has to have one and can use it himself which he

has to do about twice in 24 hours he uses it so far with..... causes no pain the Drs. say if he had attended to this difficulty 6 or 8 years ago it would have been..... better for him. They also say..... Bladder is paralyzed..... can never urinate a..... to use an instrument..... lives. Mother..... still able to attend t..... affairs. She spent the..... this week. I have been..... confined this week with a.....in my left knee rheumatism and cold. I cannot.....which but.....thank ful it is getting better. My children are all well. I expect my oldest Son Henry will get married in December he is now living with Pap and will if he gets married one of my daughters allso live with Mother the rest are with me except Daniel the next oldest Boy he is trying speculation in the way of cattle and sheep.....I must tell you.....taken another companion since I wrote to you have.....married 2 years the 24 of this.....and have an interresting little.....old. We have named.....than. I married a miss.....5 ye...old when we.....me is Catharine.....makes me a good Wife.....work and manage.....letter I will give you the.....of my marriage more fully.....hope you al...ha...got wel...nd are doin.....write soon and tell me of a.....relations especially John Bless.....us join in love to you all. Write soon and I will answer immediately.

Your devoted Cousin

NATHANIEL HOUSE

NOTE: Henry Michael House was married Dec. 19, 1878.
John Nathan House was born July 31, 1877.
Nathaniel's second wife was Catharine B. Reid.
Paps (Michael) died July 2, 1884.

OFFICE OF Y. B. MEREDITH
Pastor M. E. Church, North Indiana Conference

Sigonier Noble

October 30, 1874

Dear Father & Mother House

I have promised myself and you, for a long time to write you, but have never found time till now, and would not have it now if I did not drop everything else and take it. I am reminded this morning by the first drops of snow that almost another, is added to the years of your lives-not long till another "birthday". We are in our usual health, though Cansada, and Mary are just over an attack of diptheria. Sarah feels a great deal of pain-but weighs 160. I do not think she ever will feel quite well. The children are-five of them-in school, and the three younger at home. The summer was excessively dry, and the corn crop almost failed, gardens failed, fruit, potatoes, etc, are scarce for the same reasons: though there is a sufficiency to supply home demand, the price is high, and money close, which will make it hard on the poor.

But not withstanding these things, trade is brisk, and men of means are getting rich. If I had possessed \$500 last spring I could have made \$1000 out of it this summer and not spent three days in doing so.

I have just turned into my forty third year, but I can hardly realize it, except for the care, and anxiety on my mind. I feel as young as at twenty five, am heavier than ever before at this time in the year.

How Much I wish you could visit us. I suppose you have moved before this time; well be it so. I could have wished you in town on account of church privileges, etc. but if you are best satisfied where you are, I shall not complain.

If I had known before it was too late, I would have made an excuse to run down during the Exposition at Indianapolis, a round trip for \$6.50. We cannot all come, and I cannot now-even alone.

Give our love to all our friends, when you meet with them. If you are spared, and we are, we hope to meet again this side of the "river"; if not, "over there". Ah, this hope is everything to us who are soon to pass away. I am working harder than ever before in my life, and this is saying a great deal, for I have always worked hard.

Y. B. Meredith

Home
Feb. 11th, 1876

Well, Father and Mother House how do you do, quite feeble, I expect. We have been thinking and talking about you lately almost every day. This morning we got out your pictures and looked at you it seemed as if I could almost talk with you so nacheral did you loock. My mind run back 30 to 36 years how often we met in church and around the family allter, what changes has taken place. Some that met with us then have pased away and are now where sicknefs sorrow and death are no more. Some of us still remane here on earth to mingle with the joys and sorrows of carth. I hope we may all meet in Heaven. We are all well, hope these few lines may find you the same. We have quite a warm winter, plenty of mud and bad roads. I suppose you have heard that Lottie our last daughter is married. She was married in Oct. to R. J. Knox. She is teaching school he is going to crop with his Father this year, gets one third of all they raise cattle and hogs and what is on hand they have a large lot of good hogs 25 or 30 head of cattle 15 or 20 hundred bush of corn, gets one third of that.

Our family is quite small this winter, only Charlie, Mother and myself. Charlie goes to school. Saylor and John are out seling sewing machines. Wm. and Kate are runing the Galory. Times has been a little dul in ther line this winter. Well I suppose you would like to know how I am geting along. We are out of dept only what I owe you. Have some money left, ehough to run us through this summer without going in dept, if we have no bad luck. I have 25 head of good hogs, Saylor has 16, I have six milk cows 8 head of steers and heifers, 3 head of horses all the stock I have. John House and family are all well and doing well.

Well I must close as diner will soon be readdy. I wish you could eat dinner with us once moore. We have the smoke house hanging full of pork and beef. No one to help us eat it. Mother sends her love to you all. No more. Write David Shanafelt and family to Father and Mother House, well Henry and family, how do you all do, I expect you are makeing sugar. We have good sugar weather here if we had the trees.

Love

D.S. (David Shanafelt)

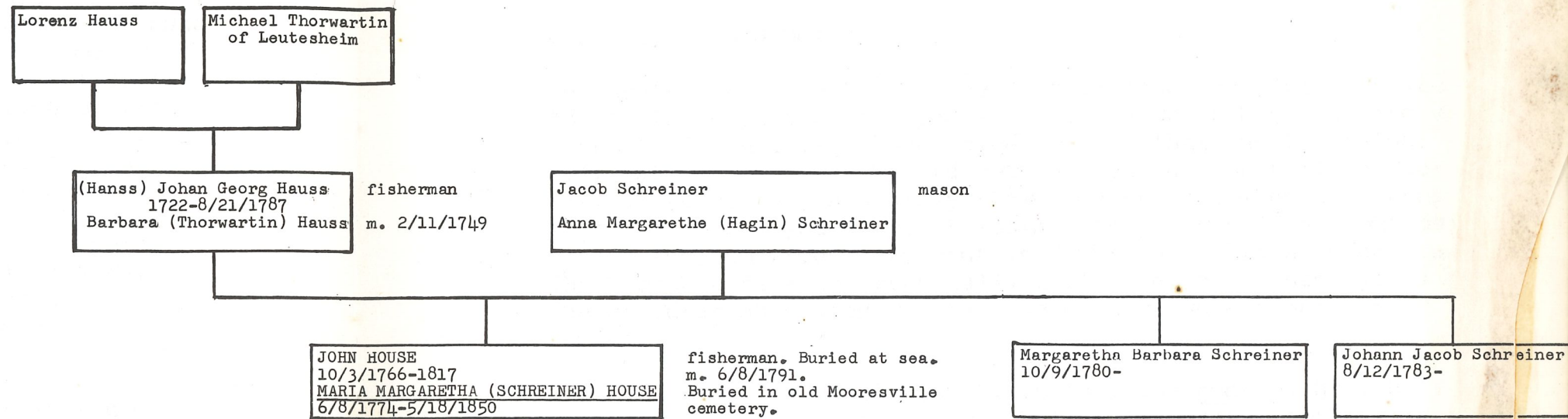
CAPITAL LETTERS indicates the 11 who sailed from Amsterdam, Holland, in April 1817. Two died at sea. Nine landed at Baltimore six months later.

Chart Release No. 1, July 1971.
Please destroy all others.

Underscore indicates those who traveled by wagon from Virginia to Indiana in 1836.

A number after the name indicates the number of children, if known.

Hans or Hanss is a nickname for Johann or Johannes (John).



JOHN HOUSE m. April or May 1817. Came to America on
 12/19/1793-9/18/1878 their honeymoon. Buried in Mooresville
 CATHERINE BARBARA (BLESS) HOUSE cemetery, south end.
 5/11/1797-8/5/1876

Charlotte Shanafelt
 9/22/1818-5/10/1864
 David Shanafelt
 3/9/1814-1/7/1886
 m. 3/28/1839

George House
 11/5/1820-9/22/1877
 Lucy (King) House
 1/16/1822-1/28/1880
 m. 10/1/1840

Henry House 13
 3/23/1823-1/4/1899
 Elizabeth (King) H. 2
 -9/23/1848
 Sarah E. (Fultz) H. 11
 10/15/1826-5/3/1907
 m. 9/23/1844
 m. 10/25/1849

Catherine Beeson
 10/17/1825-4/22/1866
 William S. Beeson
 5/23/1825-3/13/1867
 m. 12/31/1848

John B. House
 2/27/1828-6/19/1897
 Sarah E. (Jackson) House
 11/10/1830-7/9/1916
 m. 12/10/1850

Mary Ann Fansler
 12/18/1830-11/30/1899
 David Fansler
 5/8/1823-9/16/1890
 m. 7/25/1850

Sarah Meredith
 2/19/1834-10/4/1911
 Yancey B. Meredith
 10/11/1832-3/22/1891
 m. 12/9/1855

Susan Turley-Houton
 3/22/1837-6/10/1917
 D. Harrison Turley
 8/31/1815-12/31/1890
 Garaway F. Routon
 5/ /1830-8/5/1902
 m. 1/8/1857
 m. 3/8/1897

Susan (Rusie) Rooker
 2/18/1820- /1907
 William A. Rooker
 1/6/1819-8/16/1849
 m. 12/26/1839

Elizabeth A. Shanafelt 0
 Kate M. Beatty 4
 Amanda J. Shanafelt
 John D. Shanafelt
 D. Saylor Shanafelt
 Daniel L. Shanafelt
 Charlotte E. Knox
 Charles D. Shanafelt 0

John R. House 4
 Isabelle A. Carey 6
 Leoner C. House 0
 Cintha J. House 0
 Newton H. House 4
 Obed Albert House 4
 Ellen J. Peck 1
 David F. House 4
 Mary C. Newton 5
 Robert M. House 8
 Richard M. House 0

Sarah Jane House 0
 Harriet Coster 4
 Anna Burge 3
 Virginia Leathers 5
 Nathaniel House 0
 Charlotte House 0
 Dora Hadley 5
 Douglas House 5
 John Michael House 0
 Charles Otto House 0
 Katherine McPherson 1
 Mary Gertrude House 0
 Ethel Park 6

John H. Beeson 0
 Henrietta Beeson 0
 Infant 0
 Ida L. Beeson 0
 Martin C. Beeson 0
 William O. Beeson
 Bertha C. Beeson 0

William Beeson was a farmer in Madison Township.

Alando Alton House 9
 Catherine Ann Parish 2
 Mary E. Armstrong 2
 William H. House 2
 Alvin House 0
 Millie L. House
 Della (House) Sheets 0

John B. House moved from Indiana to Sigourney, Iowa, in 1852. There are many relatives there today.

Cansada Fansler
 Canadace Fansler
 William R. Fansler
 Martha Fansler
 Ora B. Fansler
 Ettie D. Fansler

David Fansler was a wagon maker. He fought in the Civil War.

Bascom Meredith 0
 Adelle Meredith
 Cansada Kessler
 Bowman Meredith
 Mary Meredith
 Malcomb Meredith
 John Meredith 0
 Thomas B. Meredith 0
 Eva Meredith
 Della Freeley
 Fennie Meredith 0
 Mamie Rinker

Yancey Meredith was a Methodist minister.

Cora E. Paddock 6
 Colona Turley 0
 Honora Turley 0
 Leora Jackson 4
 Katherine Jackson 5
 Rose Watson 7
 Willie Turley 0
 Infant 0

Susan House was born in Mooresville 3 months after her mother arrived by covered wagon. Harrison Turley was a saddler and farmer in Madison Twp.

Thomas B. D. Rooker 0
 Candace C. Day 2
 Mary C. Moon 2
 Wallace A. Rooker 0

sheets:
 -2/7/1899
 en (Bray)Sheets
 4/22/1910
 a. 6/3/1858

" Sheets 0
 Hilderbrand 1
 Harvey 2
 sheets 0
 ts 0
 y 2
 s 4
 sheets 2
 ts 6
 ts 0

Sheets is still Mooresville.

George House moved from Morgan to Hamilton County in 1841. Tad House prepared a family tree in 1957.

Henry House remained in Morgan County. Farmed in Brown Twp. The author of this book is the fourth child of Douglas House.

Alexe
 1/8/1
 Esthe
 11/8/
 Mrs.

Asbur
 Harri
 Owen
 Em

Amos

Asbur
 calle
 Thund
 ball
 the M
 to th
 ions

Schreiner

CATHERINE (HOUSE) RUSIE
8/18/1797-4/12/1881
MICHAEL RUSIE
4/13/1797-11/14/1873

m. 1819. Settled in
Mooresville. Buried
in Mooresville cemetery
south end.

Michael House married a
Virginia girl and remained
in Virginia. Buried in
Greenwich, Virginia.

MICHAEL HOUSE
6/1/1800-7/2/1884
Harriet (Haislip) House
12/10/1805-3/31/1886

BARBARA (HOUSE) BUTNER
6/26/1803-8/31/1877
Christian Butner
10/25/1790-10/5/1880

Alexander Rusie
1/8/1822-¹⁸⁰³
Esther (Dorrell) R.
11/8/1820-2/15/1863
Mrs. E. J. Albertson
¹⁸⁰⁵

Charles Rusie
8/17/1824-4/13/1885
Minerva (Shrake) R.
1/13/1826- /1912
m. 12/17/1845

Michael H. Rusie
11/22/1826-9/19/1873
Unmarried

Matilda C. A. Shanafelt
5/11/1829-7/16/1905
Samuel Shanafelt
5/28/1826-9/12/1888
m. 12/24/1850

Jacob Rusie
9/20/1831- /1901
Mary (Richardson) R.
-3/2/1888

John Henry Rusie
12/22/1834- 7/7/1923
Mary J. (Olleman) R.
1838- /1920
m. 9/4/1857

Margaret Carter
4/12/1838-
Stephen Carter
m. 4/ /1859

Charlotte Rusie
4/25/1842-
Infant

Nathaniel House 11
10/2/1829-3/1/1901
Anne Virginia (Sudduth) H. 8
8/11/1829-10/6/1870
Catherine B. (Reid) House 3

m. 10/23/1842. Buried
beside her mother in
Old Mooresville
cemetery. Christian
is buried 30 feet away
with his first wife.

Asbury Rusie
Harriet Rusie ^{Allen}
Owen Rusie
Emma Rusie ^{Vann}

Mary Ballard 2
William B. Rusie 5
Laura Thompson 2
Catharine Robbins 5
Lillian Card 3
Michael Rusie 5
Thomas Rusie 0
Amanda Rusie 0.
9

Charles Rusie fought
10 months in the
Civil War.

Sarah Jane Bailey 2
Henry Carvoso Shanafelt 1
Cary Shanafelt 0
Eddy Columbus Shanafelt 0

The Shanafelts moved to
Bryson, Texas, about
1877. There are many
Shanafelts in that
vicinity today.

Robert Rusie 0
Wallace Rusie 2
Arthur Rusie 2
Howard Rusie 1
Leonard Rusie 1
Brooks Rusie 10
Carrie Fletcher 5
Ora Comer 2
Rosie Brownfield 3

Walter R. R.
He fought in the
Civil War.

Arameda Rusie 0
James H. Rusie 3
Frederick Rusie 0

John H. Rusie was an
undertaker and furniture
dealer in Mooresville.
He was a lieutenant in
the Civil War.

Otto Carter 0
Minnie Bruce 1
Hattie Carter 2

Henry Michael House 3
Margaret Anne Reid 2
Daniel Webster House 6
John House 0
James House 0
Ella Virginia Hazen 3
Nathaniel Piper House 2
Hattie Francis 1
John Nathan House 10
Mary Virginia Jones 5
Amelia Louise Maxwell 4

Elsie (House) Clay, daughter
of Henry Michael House married
and moved to Galesburg, Ill. in
1907. Amelia (House) Maxwell
married and moved to Galesburg
in 1912. Mae House, wife of
John Nathan, and Amelia Maxwell
are still living.

MARGARET (HOUSE) SHEETS
 2/6/1792-2/10/1849
 GEORGE SHEETS
 10/3/1786-12/14/1877

m. 12/6/1814. Settled at
 Bethesda southwest of
 Mooresville. Buried in
 Bethesda cemetery.

LAURA ALICE SHEETS
 -1817

Buried at sea.

Margaret L. A. Keller
 11/9/1817-10/20/1900
 Michael Keller
 5/23/1823-7/23/1897
 m. 4/21/1850

David W. Keller	7
William H. Keller	5
Henry F. Keller	3
John D. Keller	4
Mary C. DeWeese	4

Margaret Keller's birth is from her obituary and tombstone. It does not agree with her census records. David W. and William H. Keller moved to the Garden Grove and Humeston part of Iowa. Mary DeWeese lived at Marion, Indiana.

George E. Sheets
 1820-7/26/1887
 Elizabeth (Pennington) S.
 11/11/1821-4/8/1893
 m. 3/8/1841

George D. "Dick" Sheets	3
Mary Peck	1
Samuel Sheets	0
Philip Sheets	0
Nathaniel Sheets	2
Savannah Shock	1
Jane Britz <i>ght</i>	2

George E. Sheets moved to Hamilton, County, in 1850 near Strawtown. Dick Sheets served in the Civil War.

John Sheets
 1821-11/22/1887
 Cynthia A. (Harryman) S.
 3/6/1824-2/12/1885
 m. 2/22/1844

William Henry Sheets	4
Mary Margaret Lee	5
Emma Elizabeth Carter	1
John Dayton Sheets	2
Charles Sheets	1
Frank Sheets	0
Lillian B. Evans	1
Edgar Sheets	5

William Henry Sheets was a colonel in the Civil War.

Frederick Sheets	6
2/24/1823-7/6/1891	
Charlotte (Hawk) Sheets	6
11/20/1829-3/11/1870	
Caroline (Woodard-Peoples) S.	
6/2/1835-4/20/1901	

m. 10/14/1852
 m. 10/30/1879

Laura Alice Sheets	0
William O. Sheets	3
Kate Alma Comer	1
Harry O. Sheets	7
Hattie L. Comer	2
Mertie Gertrude Townsend	8

Frederick and Daniel operated a store in Mooresville for over 40 years. They owned several farms too.

Daniel Sheets	
6/18/1825-12/17/1901	
Unmarried	

Catherine B. Sheets	
3/14/1830-10/26/1859	
Unmarried	

William Sheets	
1832-12/1/1909	
Ada "Addy" (Woodard) S.	
11/8/1844-10/31/1906	

m. 11/12/1868

William Sheets was a Methodist Minister and doctor at Jeffersonville, Ind.

David P. Sheets	
11/18/1833-2/7/1899	
Nachael Ellen (Bray) Sheets	
5/12/1838-4/22/1910	

m. 6/3/1858

William "Chick" Sheets	0
Laura Belle Hilderbrand	1
Mary Alice Harvey	2
George H. Sheets	0
Ida M. Sheets	0
Anna M. Bray	2
James Sheets	4
Frederick Sheets	2
Albert Sheets	6
Walter Sheets	0

Mrs. Albert Sheets is still living near Mooresville.

BRIEF HISTORY OF DIERSHEIM (GERMANY)

Written for Mr. Harmon House, Dayton, Ohio 45420, U.S.A.
By Gottlob Schlörer, Diersheim, on September 24, 1971

1. Changes of Recent Time:

The name Diersheim exists only once in Germany! It is situated with its complete landmark in the low country of the Rhine, which the Rhine has washed out in about 25,000 years since the ice age. Its inhabitants were farmers and small trades men until before the two world wars. They belonged to the tribe of the Lower-Alemanni. Through the great migrations after the second world war they have been heavily intermixed with work and east refugees and foreigners. At the same time the picture of the village and the occupation of the inhabitants has changed. Through this, their local dialect of Lower-Alemanni has been lost. Today, 1971, the former agricultural village has changed into an industrial settlement, whose men and women work in industry that has moved in since World War II. Formerly there was no vital industry here because of the immediacy of the border. Thus, many people, who were neither farmers or tradespeople, had to move to the cities or emigrate to other countries.

2. Origin of the Village:

Diersheim has not grown out of a single settlement, but out of several homesteads, which were situated about 1000 meters apart on separate islands in the Rhine. This has been proven by the many artifacts that have been excavated by Schlörer. Prof. Dr. Nierhaus has published a massive book on this subject. (Title: The Swebish Burial Grounds of Diersheim.) The graves show us Germanic burial practices and Roman influences over a period of 250 years originating from the Romans at Argentorate (Strassburg). Around 350 A.D. Diersheim became Alemannic. In the sixth century our region came under Frankish rule. Diersheim belonged to the Frankish Gau Mortenau (District Mortenau). The name describes a landscape of many water-courses, swamps and island.

3. Christianization:

The Franks brought with them Christianity, Roman property rights, in agriculture crop rotation. These were hard times for the tough Alemanni who had their own ideas on religion, work and rights. Around 720 A.D. a monastery was founded in the neighboring borough of Honau. There is no written proof that the monks of Honau introduced Christianity in Diersheim, but the name "St. Brigit's Chapel", which stood until the

erection of our present church in 1730-31 here at the brook, certainly points to Honau, since St. Brigit was held in reverence there.

4. The Village's Name:

When and how the name "Diersheim" originated is unknown. In Lower-Alemanni tongue even today it is called "Dirsche". In 1141 it was called Tirsheim, 1390-Thiersheim, 1461-Beede-Dierscheym, 1612-Dierschen, 1758-Dierssheim, 1812-Diersheim. The reason for this is that for a long time there was no standard orthography, each writer had its own. Because of this it is often impossible to find a reliable explanation for a town's name. Far past the 15th century Diersheim was a little, one-street village to the right of the brook which flows past the last house into an old Rhine branch. On the left bank stood only the seven homesteads which later were known as Upper Diersheim. Written evidence of this is the Korkerwald document of 1476.

5. Change of Government:

Frequent change in dominion, many hardships through wars, and constant floodings of the Rhine with its destruction of harvests, were shared by Diersheim with all the Rhine parishes of what is today the District of Kehl.

Through the introduction of Christianity, Diersheim automatically came under the sovereignty of the diocese of Strassburg. The bishop of Strassburg - of the house of Lichtenberg - set up his brother as liege lord over us in 1273 in order to increase the might of the house of Lichtenberg. Diersheim was under the rule of Lichtenberg until 1480. From then until 1736 it was Hanau-Lichtenbergian, then until 1802 Hessian and finally from 1803 until today Badenese.

6. Perils of War:

One of the worst days in the history of Diersheim is 4-20-1797, which is when the French General Moreau crossed the Rhine at Diersheim to have battle with 11,000 Austrians. In the little house, which at that time was at the outskirts of town (now Kirchgasse No. 76), remnants of shots are still to be seen. Day and place of this great battle have been chiseled into the Arc of Triumph in Paris. That evening the French army leader took his quarters in the Diersheim mill.

7. Channelization of the Rhine:

The Tulla channelization has proved to be a great blessing to the present for our village. Through this the Rhine flow was forced into a 250 meter wide bed. From this time on it could not alter its course at will. At high water it can flood into the area to the left and right of the stream to the high-water dikes, but it cannot do damage otherwise anymore. Channelization was begun here after a fever epidemic in 1825 and was completed in 1872. Now our boundaries were stabilized and malaria disappeared out of the Rhine Valley where before it had ravaged in plagues among the inhabitants, since now the breeding waters of the anopheles were laid dry.

8. War 1939 - 1945

The second World War forced us into three evacuations, which were of short duration since all returned home as quickly as possible. Those who lived farther into the land had very little understanding for our distress in living so close to the country's border. The perils of this time also gave evidence of many compassionate Christians that taught what it is to consider your neighbors as brothers. The chronicler was commander of the fire-brigade at this time, and as such was not permitted to leave the village. Through bombardment of grenades 86 houses suffered heavy damage in part. There were dead and wounded through bombardment and air raids.

After the war was lost, elements without quality for leadership came to the surface for a little time. This seems to be an evil evident in all states and all humans. But even this troublesome uproar came to an end. The people of Diersheim - who always had been an industrious little folk, set out on reconstruction, and their accomplishments were superior.

Today we try very seriously to make lasting friendships beyond our borders, so that our heirs will be spared the evils of war, as we in Europe have been afflicted with so often. Each thoughtful man, and especially each Christian, has to apply himself to build bridges to other nations.

9. A Chronicler:

One who writes a chronic, has to stay with the facts and has to avoid any bias. Behind me are 80 years of life, days of sunshine and those of hail-showers. I have learned to

recognize, that all historic events are fruits particular in development to their own time. For this reason judgement of the past will have to be denied to those who are living today. Even the sense of what is right is a put-on, stretchable and changeable conception. Borders between right and wrong waver soon to the one and then to the other side. One has to grow quite old to be able to recognize this!!

10. Home of my Choice:

Diersheim has become the home of my choice. My oldest pupils are now over 70 years old. 1911 was when I first started to teach in the Diersheim school. Three generations have taken instruction under me. I know them all and love them as my students without exception, because I know that all - without exception - are only "the guided".

Diersheim, September 24, 1971

(Signed) Gottlob Schlörner

OFFICE OF Y. B. MEREDITH

Pastor M.E. Church, North Indiana Conference

May 2, 1876

Ligonier, Noble County

Dear Father and Mother

We received a letter yesterday from Clarence and Ida to Bascom and Adelle in which they say you are both quite feeble. We are very sorry to learn this, though glad to know that the Dr. thinks you will get better now. We did not forget you, nor fail to feel anxious about you, and always told the friends when they wrote to let us know how you were. Sometimes they did give us some particulars, and sometimes only mentioned the matter in a general way. The reason I have not personally written more frequently, is that the children have been writing and we have been hearing from you in that way.

This leaves us in usual health: in fact the general health is most excellent. We have made a little garden but nothing is through the ground yet; some are just now getting their gardens ready for planting. Sabbath night, ice froze $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick. The peach trees were just coming out in bloom but I do not think they are hurt, and no other fruit is in bloom yet. The woods here just begin to show a little green; wheat looks very fine and everything bids fair for a good crop year. Bascom has hired to an egg and butter shipper for six months at \$25.00 per month, he boards at home. This is better, we think than being away among strangers. Adelle is just out of school, and will stay at home this summer. Cansada, Mary and Malcom will go to school for two months. Ida promised to write again very soon, and we hope to learn then that you have recovered. If you should get worse we shall want to know it at once. We know you must feel more interested in that which lies on the other side of the river, than in anything earthly, and we feel sure you are sweetly sustained by grace while you, like Moses looks over into the promised land. Our Blessed Father has said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake them." May you rest in Him to the end! Our love to all.

Y. B. MEREDITH & FAMILY

August 17, 1876

Dear Brother, Sister and Father,

I received your letter and must say it gives me great grief to hear of Mother's death. It being so sudden that it is hard for me to think that I will never see her any more on earth. But I feel that if we do our duty we will meet in heaven. I would say to Father that we all deeply mourn his loss, but hope he will bear up bravely.

I think often of home and would have liked to have been with you all. I would like for you to write often and let us know how you are all getting along. We are all well at present.

From your affectionate brother,

John B. House

OFFICE OF Y. B. MEREDITH,
Pastor M.E. Church North Indiana Conference

La Grange, Indiana
May 6, 1877

Dear Father

It seems like a long time since we wrote you and so it is, but you know how such things are suffered to pass along. While Bascom was there we heard from you through him but since he came home we hear nothing from Mooresville. I ought to have written you earlier but for the fact that this was moving year for us; we have just got moved and the inside of the house fixed up, a comfortable house; there are in the upper part, parlor, & parlor bedroom, sitting room and three bedrooms to it. Below, is a kitchen, dining room, pantry, wash-room, with cistern in it, and cellar, all on the same level and all quite roomy. The lower part is a basement, not in, but behind the bank. We have fine shade in the yard; the Parsonage stands in the same yard with the church. There are 170 full members, and 58 probationers in the charge, some four or five families live in the country, the others in town. I think it will prove to be a good charge. As you know it is the Co. seat of this Co. We are within 7 miles of the Michigan line, so you see we cannot get much farther "North". I am very thankful that Bp Wiley did not make me P.E. I need to be with these boys, beside it is no lift to a man to be made P.E. these days. Bascom has not been up since we came, this is not in the route he drives, but they are going to send him here occasionally, so we hope to see him once in a while. We expect him to stay with us and go to school this coming winter. We have a fine school building here, cost \$32,000. Will be finished (main building) this I wish, we all do, that you could come summer with us, but I suppose you feel too feeble for such a trip. The prospect for a wheat crop is said to be the best ever known in this country; there is a fine prospect for fruit except apples--of these we cannot tell for they are just beginning to leaf out. Some say there will be a light apple crop this year because there was such a large crop last year. One man near here has his crop of corn planted, and many others will plant this coming week. I would rather wait until the ground gets warm. Now I hardly think of any other general fact which would interest you. Probably you will feel an interest in knowing where we are financially. We have lived through the dreadful crisis so far. Some times it has been very close work, and looked like making a good deal of sacrifice for the privilege of preaching the gospel, but it is all right. I have served the church as faithfully as I knew how, for sixteen and a half years, have not been able to lay up a dollar, but the "Lord will provide".

Page 2
(May 6, 1877)

We talk of you often and I was thinking tonight how lonely you must feel after so many years together with our dear Mother, now that she is gone: but it is only a little while, the boundary line between the two worlds is narrow. How strange it seems that kindred can be so soon weaned from each other! Our friends there very seldom wrote us. And did not the Lord raise up friends for us where we are, we should be indeed alone in the world. May the blefsted Lord sustain you in your decline, and if we meet no-more here, will hope to meet in the "morning". I got some pictures a few days ago and enclose one for you. Give our love to all who will appreciate it. Sarah is gone to bed, but told me to tell you, she will get her picture and send it as soon as may be. If we could, we would be so glad to hear from you often. I must close now for it is ten o'clock and I must preach twice, attend clafs, and teach a Bible-clafs tomorrow.

Your affectionate children

Y.B. & S.E. Meredith

Addition written on top of letter:

We are 18 miles from where we were last, in a North East direction. If you feel like you can endure the trip, and I can raise means I will come after you. Let me know.

Office of WM. BEATTY, Photographer

Sigourney, Iowa
January 1880

Mr. Henry House

Dear Uncle,

I have often thought of writing you but have neglected it 'til now. The fact is I am kept very busy with family cares and helping my husband in his office. I have often thought of visiting you at some future time but so many of those I loved have crossed "over the hither side" that it seems now it would hardly be a satisfaction to me. Dear old Grandfather and Mother, Aunt Kate, Henrietta, John Clarence and Ida Beeson and your own Charlotte, namesake of my own dear sainted mother and sister Amanda. What a goodly company have gathered over the river to welcome us in the sweet bye and bye.

There was in Grandmother's possession a picture of my Mother taken just before I went to Ind. to school. It is in a case, father on one side, and Mother on the other. If you have it or can get track of it, please send it to me. We want a copy. I will return the original or a photograph of it. Have the case carefully sealed, now please attend to this, you will confer a very great favor on us all by so doing. Where are Uncle Meredith's now? If there is a picture of sister Amanda deceased, taken in a case when she was a little girl, send that too. I will amply reward you for your trouble.

Very truly, etc.

Kate Beatty.

Saylor Shanafelt's letter attached.

Opian Wells Co. Ind.
Feb' 16, 1880

Henry House

Dear Bro'.

Yours of the 11th was received today. You will find the receipt enclosed as per request. If I had been my own man, with as much time at my disposal as I could have desired, I should have written many letters this year, but I have been on the wing about all the time and have had to depend on the girls to keep up the family correspondence; they were neglectful and so matters have gone. Bascom wrote us once that Charlotte had consumption, and the first we knew of her death was through the Advocate. We have spent a very pleasant year here in most respects. There has however, been such mud as I never saw before. True I have seen spots where it was as deep, but here it has been one perpetual mud hole wherever you could go. All travel stopped, except on foot, or by railroad. We have had no snow to amount to anything until last Friday night--it snowed about six inches deep but it is nearly gone now, and we are in the mud again. My work has been a very hard one this year, but I have stood up under it remarkably well. We have had a little friction lately at this place--had to try a notorious case which has annoyed the church for ten years--some have taken sides and it may cut my feed short--cannot tell yet. Our congregations have been very large and interest excellent. My P.E. says he will not suffer me to remain another year--the whole Conf' was indignant at my appointment here, etc. I should not be surprised to be sent back to the south side of the Conf' this spring, but cannot tell yet. We have kept our health remarkably well for so open a winter. More and more I realize the utter vanity of human hopes, as I see how our friends are fading away, and more and more value the undying hopes of religion. Bascom is in Colorado but we do not know whether he has gone into business yet, are looking for a letter every day. As often as you feel like writing I will answer.

Love to all

Y. B. MEREDITH

Addressed to John House, Hamilton County

September 12th

Mr. John House

Dear Cousin - I am happy to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter received so long since that I am almost ashamed to attempt to answer it. When your letter came to hand I was attending school at Sigourney. I am now teaching in Baden I have a very full school and there are more entering every day. I expect I will have to employ an assistant this winter. Last summer when I attended school I commenced my collegiate course; my teacher Professor _ was very sorry to have me leave school; as he said I progressed very rapidly. In six weeks I was able to read and write German; Latin is not so difficult as German yet I did not progress so rapidly. I got as far as equations in Algebra. But my purse was not heavy enough to attend high school very long; I went till money was all expended and then I commenced teaching. Cousin J you would come to Iowa and teach school this winter. There is a teacher wanted in the district adjoining mine and I am sure it would be pleasant to have you so near me.

It is raining today and very cold for the time of year. We have not had much frost this fall but a very fair prospect if it continues so cold. John I have a great mind to stop writing for this letter is as long-if not longer-than the last one you sent me. Perhaps you think I would better stop-Well I won't do it for spite if you will not write long letters I will! You inquired what I had done with my Baptist preacher-I have'nt done anything with him yet-and I do not think I ever will--so you must not be boasting of your minister cousin. I have'nt got any beau at present--indeed not a very fair prospect for any soon.

As I did not finish my letter Tuesday I will try to finish it today. It has cleared up and became warm without frost. I have not seen our folks for some time, perhaps I will go home tomorrow John I tried to write tomorrow in the line above this I don't know whether you can read it or not. I imagine I hear you say-what a letter to be written by a school teacher and one who is studying the classics. What from writing composition, and punctuation. Well don't be too rigid in your criticisms for this was written in haste and hence, the sentences are broken and illy arranged; typographical errors are a natural consequence. Hence, excuse. Write soon if you deem this worthy a reply.

Adieu

KATE

PS: Please give love and good wishes to all and accept my finer regards for yourself. Do not wait so long before you answer this, for I am anxious to hear from you. Remember me as your affectionate Cousin.

KATE SHANAFELT

Address as usual Sigourney, Iowa

I have taken this quotation from your last letter and from the language it seems that you were glad to acknowledge the kind receipt, but ashamed to answer, the same expression may be applied in my behalf as it was the 19th day of Oct. that I received your letter, it was dated Sept. 12th.

Camp of the 101st Regt.
Near Atlanta
August 14th/64

Dear Brother,

As I have just partaken of a hearty breakfast of government rations and feel pretty well in my sphere this fine Sabbath morning, I thought that I might interest you by taking up my pen and writing a few lines for you to read. I received your kind letter dated August 5th and was truly pleased in reading its contents. As a matter of facts I should be much more gratified to be with you and to hear you talk, and to talk with you, than to read your letters under the present circumstances. Although the latter is very agreeable, the former would be to me more so. We have had no fighting in our front for the last two days, there being an agreement made between our men and the rebels not to fire at each other, unless one or the other advances with arms. Our line of works are within two hundred yards of the rebs. We get up on our breastworks and talk across to each other, and occasionally some one gets an agreement made with the Johnnies (as we call them they call us Billy) to meet half way to track such notions as may be agreed upon. The rebel regiment that lays in our immediate front is the 1st Kentucky. They are as saucy as Kentucky people generally gets I recon. But they dont make much off of the back woods Hosiers such as compose the 101st.

We had two men killed in our Co. since the 4th of this month a fighting for the position we now occupy. Dixon Sheets, J. Joland, Seaborn Wheeler, Charles Caco, James Harris, John Hollingsworth, John Miller are with the Co. and are enjoying good health. I dont know whether you knew the last three names or not, if you dont George does. There is a great deal of talk and rumôr among the Indiana troops about getting to go home to vote this fall. They seem to think that if they are not allowed to go home to vote that they will not be entitled to a vote at all. I dont know how the soldiers are further north but you ask a soldier here at the front who he thinks will be the next president, he will tell you that if Richmond and Atlanta are taken before the election that Lincoln will be elected. You ask a soldier here in the field who he will support if allowed the privilege, his immediate reply is I will vote for Lincoln and Johnson. Hurrah! Lincoln, Johnson.

I believe that I shall close for this time hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours truly,

From John R. House

To Newton H. House

Tad House has the original letter.

Savannah, Geo.
Dec. the 26th/64

Dear Sister,-

I received your letter dated Nov. 16th ult. and was truly glad to hear from you. It is also a great pleasure to know have the privilege of answering it. I might have written sooner, but I thought that I would wait until after Christmast. I came off of picket at eight o'clock Christmast morning. I had pretty good times during the day and eat a large mess of sweet potatoes for supper. About nine o'clock I lied down and slept soundly untill next morning. Our grubb is a little scarce at the present, but it is better than might be expected after establishing our new line of communications in supplies.

They are now clearing the Savannah River of obstructions, which had been placed in it by the Rebels to hinder our boats from running up. The job will be completed in a day or two, and then they say that we will have plenty of rations. For my part I dont see what would be to hinder them. I will ensure none of us to starve while the south yields as spontaneously as she does. I had no idea that Georgia was so productive until we left Atlanta enroute for Savannah. Hogs, chickens, geese, turkies, turnips, sweet potatoes, honey & sorgum molasses, meal and flour were to be found in large quantities on nearly every plantation. We that is the army lived off of the country for twenty one days and never drew a ration from Uncle Sam's stores. Whenever we found any thing we took what we wanted, and by the time the rear of the army came along if it was not all taken, it was put in the supply train or burnt. Take it along or burn it was the motto of the march.

I must close the bugle has sounded inspection which will be in fifteen minutes. I am well and hearty and the rest of the boys are all well. I was glad that you gave me the the information that you did concerning the boys that are at home. I was anxious to hear from them and so was others hear in the Co. Write soon again as I am always anxious to hear from home.

From your affectionate
Brother

John R. House

Tad House has the original letter.

Camp of the 101st Regt. Ind. Vol.
In the Field N.C. April 29th, 1865

Dear Sister-

Hostilities having ceased between the Confederates & Federal armies we about faced yesterday morning, and took up our line of march enroute for Richmond, Va. We leave Raleigh with fifteen days subsistence loaded into the supply trains. We are ordered to put ourselves into light marching order, and to travel at the rates of fifteen miles per day. On our arrival at Richmond preparations will there be made for our further journey. Which will doubtless be speedy towards insuring us that we are enroute for a destination in our own native state. How long it will take to accomplish our journey I have no idea. But we were insured by an official order that we were done fighting and that we would return to our homes as soon as convenient, there to enjoy as true citizens should the liberty & freedom of our glorious country that we have so nobly maintained through all its perils. I received your letter dated April 15th and was glad to hear from you, and to learn that you were all doing well. I can say that my health has improved considerably in the last few days. The rest of the boys are all well.

I have had to write in a hasty manner and in double quick time. We have been marching today and have just went into camp and got orders that the mail would go out at half past three o'clock which leaves me but a few moments to write in. I hope this will suffice for the present but I have no idea when I may have an opportunity to write again. Please write soon as I am ever anxious to hear from you. Remember me.

Your Brother

John R. House

NOTE: John R. House was the oldest son of George House, Hamilton County, Indiana. We have 15 letters written by John while he was in the Civil War.

Tad House has the original letter.

HENRY HOUSE SUPPLEMENT

Henry House was born in Prince William County, Virginia, on March 23, 1823, the third of eight children of John and Catherine Barbara (Bless) House. His parents came to America from Diersheim, Germany in 1817 and I have heard many times that they were just married and were on their honeymoon.

We know of two other Henry Houses and let us explain who they are. Henry Michael House (1853-1944) was the son of Michael House and always lived in Virginia. He is buried at the Greenwich Cemetery in Virginia. Henry P. House (1897-) is my older brother and now lives at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Douglas House is my father and the Henry House of whom we are writing was his father, and my grandfather.

Henry House moved from Virginia to Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana, arriving there on Christmas day, 1836, at the age of thirteen. He lived in Madison Township from 1837 until he was married. Following are extractions from a story which appeared in the Mooresville paper some time in the 1870's or 1880's:

PERSONAL REMINISCENCE - by John D. Carter

"...in came 1843 and I concluded to hire a good hand. I had a fine young mare that I could spare and I had my eye on a man by the name of Henry House and I proposed to Henry House that I would let him have the mare if he would work for me 6 months, or I believe, it was 5 months, \$60.00. He proved to be a good hand and I kept him all summer and fall.

...in the Spring of 1844 I hired Henry House again at the same price.

...House and I went on with the other work...

...Henry House would take Vincent down to the old stable, set him in the shade and hay him to jump, when Henry would catch him.

...I kept House until late in the fall."

Henry House had two brothers and five sisters. The oldest was Charlotte who was born in Pennsylvania. She married David Shanafelt on March 28, 1839 and moved to Sigourney, Keokuk County, Iowa in 1854. They farmed in German Township now known as Plank Township. The name was changed during World War I. Their first child, Elizabeth A. Shanafelt, age three months, is buried in the Old Mooresville Cemetery. David and Charlotte are buried at Sigourney, Iowa. Their daughter and son-in-law, William and Kate M. Beatty operated a photographic studio in the 1880's on the northwest corner of the square in Sigourney. We visited Sigourney in November, 1969, and found that the last of the Shanafelts had moved to Ames, Iowa, some years before. The Shanafelt name has now run out there but undoubtedly there are many others elsewhere.

George House also was born in Pennsylvania. He married Lucy King on October 1, 1840 and moved to Hamilton County, north of Indianapolis, in December 1841. His oldest son, John R. House, fought in the Civil War. We have typed 15 of his Civil War letters (loaned to us by the late Tad House) and three are included in this book. The George Houses of Hamilton County and the Henry Houses of Morgan County have had reunions since 1918. Tad House wrote a family tree of the George House family in 1957.

Catherine (House) and William Beeson were married December 31, 1848. They had seven children but we believe that the family has run out. We think that most of them died from consumption.

From Daniel Sheets's Diary:

2-14-1889 "Death - Burthy Beeson of consumption Hamilton Co."

2-16-1889 "Burthy Beeson dissesed in Hamilton County was brought here on 5 oclock train for burrial this evening. A verry heavy rain fall just at the time of burial. Amanda Peck and Obed and David House came with the corps."

John B. House married Sarah E. Jackson on December 10, 1850 and moved to Sigourney, Iowa, in 1852 and farmed in German Township. One daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was married to a dentist, Dr. J. N. Armstrong. The John B. Houses are buried at Sigourney. There are many descendants around there today. Some of the descendants are now in the sixth generation American born.

Mary Ann House married David Fansler on July 25, 1850. He was a wagon maker. One daughter, Belle Patton lived near Brookside Park in Indianapolis and came to the House Reunions at the park. I remember her visiting us at the farm between the beginning of the House Reunions in 1918 and the time my Dad died in 1923. We have lost tract of any descendants.

Sarah E. House was married to Yancey B. Meredith, a Methodist Minister, on December 9, 1855 and lived in many places in northern Indiana. Miriam Hughes remembers her visiting her family. She is buried at Anderson, Indiana. She had 12 children, seven of whom were living at the time of her death in 1911. We know nothing about any present descendants.

Susan House was born three months after her mother arrived in Mooresville by covered wagon. On January 8, 1857, at age 19, she married David Harrison Turley, a widower with 8 children. The following is from an article written September 4, 1927 entitled "Turley Reunion":

"He (David) must have had a wonderful personality, when I think how he, a widower of 41 years with a family of 8 children ranging from 16 years to a few months in age, could win the heart of a 19 year old girl, and hold it all through the succeeding years of their life together; gain her parents consent to the marriage of their youngest child, I am amazed and wonder how he did it. Nevertheless it was accomplished and another family of children added to the first."

After David's death Susan married G. F. Routon on March 8, 1897.

Now, to get back to Henry House. He married Elizabeth "Betsy" King, daughter of John King, on September 23, 1844 and lived in a clap-board house on what we know as the John House-Anna Burge farm. Betsy was a sister of Lucy King who had married George House and moved to Hamilton County. Her descendants, namely, the Costers, are double cousins of the many George House descendants in Hamilton County.

Henry and Betsy had two children, Sarah Jane and Harriet. Sarah Jane died in 1853 at the age of eight years and Harriet lived until 1928. Betsy died in 1848 leaving her husband with two small children. He then married Sarah Elizabeth Fultz on October 25, 1849. At that time his children were 4 years and two years old.

I would like to tell you just a little bit about Sarah Fultz' family. She had a brother Thomas Fultz whom I remember quite well. During the time I knew him he lived in Mattoon and Decatur, Illinois, with his children. He came to Indiana every summer and visited around among the relatives. He had been a house carpenter and was a Civil War veteran and pensioner. He was an extremely likable fellow and I remember many of his stories quite well. As a child I shared my bed with him on many visits as did many of his other relatives. One of his stories was about how the officers in the war had a turkey for Christmas. Naturally, the enlisted men did not think that that was fair so Uncle Tom stole the turkey and cooked it in the woods. Years later Uncle Tom was at a meeting of veterans. The speaker spied Uncle Tom sitting down front and said "There is the man who stole my turkey." Uncle Tom immediately admitted that he was right. The former officer had known all the time who stole the turkey.

Sarah Fultz House also had two other brothers, John E. and Joshua and nephews Amos and John E. Some of them lived near Coatesville, Indiana, and I can remember them visiting the farm on Sundays when I was a boy. There are Fultzes living near Coatesville today.

Betsy (Henry's first wife) and Lucy (George's wife) had a brother named Obed King. Their father gave Obed King 130 acres of land in 1842. This was the Douglas House land south of the road, about 30 acres of the southeast corner of the John House-Anna Burge farm and the 49 acres of the Ethel Park creek-bottom ground. We have designated it as Tracts C, D, E, and G on the included chart.

Obed King sold his 130 acres to Capt. Samuel Rooker in 1849 for \$1,200. Capt. Rooker was a land speculator and owned 4,500 acres at various times. Henry House bought 12-1/2 acres, we call Tract E, for \$225 in 1852. In 1857 he bought the remainder for \$4,000. This was a jump of 3-1/2 times in value in eight years. Our explanation is that the large frame house had been built during this eight years. I had heard many times that Samuel Rooker had built the house and had lived in it. (The house is still being occupied.) The kitchen part of the house has round logs for floor joists, the rest has sawed

joist. This indicates that the kitchen may have been built before the rest. I have heard my Dad tell about Rooker telling how one day he was sitting on the front porch with the sun shining and looked out to see the bottom field covered with water. There had been a big rain up stream.

Henry's first seven children; Sarah Jane, Harriet, Anna, Jenny, Nathaniel, Charlotte and Dora were born in the clapboard house. The rest; Douglas, John, Otto, Katherine, Mary Bell Gertrude and Ethel were born in the new house.

When I was a small boy there were some remains of a log cabin west of the house. There were three sides standing and chickens would roost in it. Mary Keller told us that she could remember it quite well. She said that it had a lean-to shed on the north side and a gate on the south side to open to the orchard to the west. She said that in the rear of the cabin was a very low window. One day Grandmother Sarah House started to the orchard and instead of going thru the gate decided to go thru the cabin and step thru the window. Just as she was ready to step thru the window she saw a big snake on the window sill.

Uncle John House told me that when he was a boy that some woman came to visit from Indianapolis and brought a boy with her. Uncle John and the boy tried to cross the swamp below the hill at the cabin and got mud all over themselves. Their mothers took them to the cabin where they were stripped and washed. I have the fireplace crane from this cabin at the farm.

My brother, Henry P. House, told us that he helped our Dad saw the remains of the cabin into cook wood. The wood was as hard as iron. The swamp is virtually gone due to drainage and the lowering of the water table.

Henry House bought 100 acres, Tracts A and B, from Harriet and John Coster in 1873. He bought 27 acres from the Paul Cox estate in 1878 we call Tract F. We would say that there were about 256 acres in the home farm. Besides this land my Dad pointed out to me 38 acres his Dad owned on what is now the Hadley Road.

Douglas and Brother John entered into an agreement to run the home farm in 1882. My Dad told me many tales about their farming; one was that they lost hogs in droves by cholera before the days of vaccination.

Another excerpt from the Daniel Sheets Diary:
3-23-1886 "A Surprise Party of connections attended Henry House's 63rd Birthday. Had a good time and the day was much enjoyed."

Henry House died on January 4, 1899 after long suffering which is referred to in his obituary. Actually, I have frequently heard that it was necessary for him to catheterize himself for several years. Today an operation would readily correct his condition.

Following his death Douglas and John operated the home farm for their mother under the name S. E. House and Sons until her death in 1907. We have many checks with the heading, "S. E. House and Sons". These checks are a fine source for signatures of relatives and old neighbors. Otto House operated a grocery store in Toadlope (Aroma now) in Hamilton County and later he and Wallace Park had a meat market in Brooklyn.

After Sarah House's death my Dad was administrator for the estate and had a sale. We have the clerk's record of 106 items at the sale. Elizabeth Taylor's daughter, Ann Adrian, has Item #52, a "stand-table", in her home in Logansport (purchased for 25 cents).

The land was divided up; Ethel and Wallace Park buying 76 acres, Tracts F and G to the south; John M. House and his sister, Anna Burge, bought 94 acres to the west, Tracts B, D and E; Douglas bought 80 acres, Tracts A and C with the house. The land was surveyed and Henry P. House remembers as a boy, helping carry the surveyor's books and saw all the witness rocks put in place.

Otto and Ora House bought the 80 acres to the east from the McPhersons in 1899. This land was never a part of the House farm.

John House and Anna Burge had the clapboard house on their land torn down and built a new frame house. They noted in the Bible (that Mary Keller has) that the house was built December 14, 1907 and they moved in on March 26, 1908. The barn was raised January 1, 1908.

Mary Keller told us that the clapboard house was never occupied during her life time. She said that it was two story in construction, had a stairs, was used for the storage of grain and was an eerie thing to see at night. Ethel Park passed there one night and became frightened from a flapping cloth over a window.

Mary Keller was born in 1883 and from as far back as she can remember lived in the farm house until the time she was married. She was married here and Bess Hamilton played the organ. They spent their first night in the upstairs. Wallace Park took most of the slats out of their bed and the bed fell down. They found the slats on the porch roof and had to retrieve them and reassemble the bed on a cold night.

After Douglas House got the home place in 1907 he had the barn moved some distance north and closer to the house. In 1967 Bess Hamilton, Mary Keller, Frances and Paul Allen visited us at the farm. We took them thru the house and barn. When Mary saw the interior of the barn she was amazed. She said that there was Grover's stall, and others, just like it used to be 75 years ago. She said that once her brother,

Clint Burge, dared her to jump from the hay mow onto a bunch of hay. She did and bounced into a piece of machinery. To this day she has a slight scar on her face as evidence of the dare.

After the division of the home farm in 1907 five of the brothers and sisters lived quite close to each other on adjoining farms. Uncle John House and his sister Aunt Annie Burge lived to the west; Douglas, my Dad, lived on the home place; Uncle Ott and Aunt Ora House lived to the east; and Aunt Ethel and Uncle Wall Park lived to the south. We had the old crank type wall telephone with everyone on the same line. Uncle John and Aunt Annie had two rings, ours had three rings, Uncle Ott and Aunt Ora had two long and two short rings and Aunt Ethel and Uncle Wall had four rings. There were many other families on the same line, which was line 90. This arrangement was unbroken for 16 years, or until 1923 when my Dad died. I was born in 1910 and can well remember visiting my Aunts and Uncles on the three other adjacent farms.

Uncle John bought his first and only car in 1918, a Ford sedan. He learned to drive at the age of 58. The House Reunion was started that year at Brookside Park on the northeast side of Indianapolis; he would figure for days how to get there without going thru downtown. At one time Uncle John took a course in painting at Earlham College in Richmond. He was very good at painting; unfortunately, in later years most of his pictures were lost in a fire in Mooresville. Uncle John had lung fever when a young man and could never do hard work. He told me that once my Dad dug a log up near the house and he helped him saw blocks off for cook wood. While my Dad split the blocks Uncle John rested. From that he took a backset and never went out of the house all winter. Once he tried to join a lodge and years later Doug Leathers told how some objected to taking him in on account of his health. Doug Leathers told them that he would outlive them all and he did, living to 94 years. Aunt Annie kept a box of pictures under her dresser and I always enjoyed looking at them. Uncle John and Aunt Annie moved to Mooresville in 1929, and lived where the post office is now located. Uncle John gradually went blind in his latter years. Each time we visited him he would cheerfully say, "Uncle John is all right but this old house that he lives in is falling apart." Frances Allen told us that she remarked to him that it was a shame that he could no longer see the color of the flowers, green grass and the trees and his reply was that, "I am not the one to be pitied, I still have the memory of the flowers, grass and trees; the ones who have never seen these things are the ones to be pitied."

Uncle Ott married Ora McNeff, a sister to my Mother so they were double aunt and uncle to me. They started housekeeping near Joppa, then in 1899 they bought the McPherson farm, across the road from our farm. Uncle Ott liked to work with tools and do carpentering. He had a gasoline driven milking machine, the first lawn mower in the neighborhood, carbide lights in the house, a mail box that was cranked from the road to his house on wires (thus eliminating the walk down the lane), and a winch to change wagon beds by one man.

He had a woodshed that connected to the house and an outhouse that connected to the woodshed by a breezeway. That was something to go to the outhouse without going out of doors. He bought a red Maxwell roadster in 1910 and drove it until 1916. I remember this car quite well. In 1916 he bought another car, a black Maxwell roadster. Uncle Ott and Aunt Ora once made a trip to California. In 1917 they went to Florida. My Dad fed their hogs while they were away and I gathered their eggs and was permitted to keep the egg money. That was the year of the terrible snow--February 1917. He and Aunt Ora moved to Mooresville in 1927, after he, at age 64, excavated a basement under the house that he had bought.

Ethel and Wallace Park, to the south, had six children and there were five in my family. All of us were always very close; we spent lots of time playing together. (A book could be written about the escapades of these cousins.) Uncle Wall died in 1924 and Aunt Ethel moved to Mooresville in the fall.

Douglas House, my Dad, was the first of the Henry House children to be born in the new house. He died in this house, never having lived anywhere else. He never owned a car. I can well remember riding with him in the buggy. He was treasurer of the church and I can remember him counting the pennies collected at Sunday School. He was by far the huskiest of the three boys but died at 64, long before John and Ott.

Douglas died in December 1923, a neighbor Fritz Keller died in February 1924 and Wall Park died in April 1924. Thus, the old neighborhood that we so dearly loved was broken up.

Kate House married Guy McPherson and had one child, Norris. Guy died in 1901 and Kate in 1902. Norris was raised by her Aunt Clara McPherson. Her son and grandchildren now live in Greencastle, Indiana. Her husband, David Houck has remarried and also lives in Greencastle.

Aunt Jenny Leathers lived on the Waverly Road closer to town. I can remember visiting her and playing with the Tressler children. It was here that I got my first experience with a bamboo pole for vaulting. I was fascinated with their bank barn with a ramp for the pony to climb to the second floor. Uncle Harry worked in the bank at Mooresville and I remember visiting the bank and wanting to see the money. My Dad was planting corn on May 15, 1919 when Aunt Jenny died and I recall him unhitching the horses and quitting work.

Aunt Harriet lived at the corner of South and Indiana Streets, Mooresville when I was very young. My sister, Charlotte, told us that it was there that she saw her first English walnuts. The first time that I was ever a pallbearer was at her funeral in 1928.

Aunt Dora lived across from the Library in Mooresville before moving to Evansville. They had a party at her house before moving and we small children ate in another room from the grownups. Aunt Dora later visited us at the farm and I remember her telling me about an April Fool joke her grandsons played on her by putting salt in the sugar bowl.

Charlotte House lived to age 24, unmarried, and died from consumption. She is buried near her parents under the name Lottie House.

We do not know where Sarah Jane, Nathaniel and Mary Bell Gertrude are buried. There are two cemeteries near the East White Lick Church which they attended and they could be buried there.

Any time anyone got sick at the farm they were always brought into the living room where there was a heating stove. When my Dad died in 1923 Uncle John turned around and said, "That makes five I have seen die in that corner." Dad told me many times that his Dad built the two south rooms next to the garden for his parents to spend their last days in. He said that when he got the bellyache that he would go and sit behind their cook stove. His grandmother died in 1876 and his grandfather in 1878. From the Yancey B. Meredith letter of 1874 (included in this book) it appears that they may have moved there in 1874, so evidently did not live there very long.

Anna Burge's three children were born in this house. Also, Douglas's five children and Joan (Taylor) Weinland. Joan was the last of the House descendants to be born here. She was born in 1924.

In 1958 we bought my brothers' and sisters' interest in the farm, which was the 80 acres that Douglas owned. The land south of the road with the house has been in the House family for almost 114 years.

At this time Henry House has 38 blood descendants deceased, 149 living making a total of 187 direct blood descendants. At present there are 204 living Henry House family members. On July 3, 1965 all the Henry House descendants were invited to the farm for a family gathering and 82 were present.

Remember--Henry House was only one of the 26 first generation American born.

III. First generation American born
 1. Second generation American born
 A. Third generation
 a. Fourth generation
 1. Fifth generation
 1a. Sixth generation

III. HENRY & ELIZABETH (KING), HOUSE

1. Sarah Jane House
2. Harriet Mahala & John Coster
 - A. Arthur Coster
 - B. Rees & Grace (Kincaid) Coster
 - a. John Kincaid & Dorothea (Young) Coster
 - " " & Dorothea (Kette) Coster
 1. Charles Rees Coster
 2. David John Coster
 - b. Mary Ellen & Duncan Randall
 1. Lenore Grace Randall
 2. Eric Charles Randall
 3. Esther Elaine Randall
 4. Cynthia Ruth Randall
 5. Judith Elizabeth Randall
 - c. Ruth Alice & William Richard Colclesser
 1. Richard Rees Colclesser
- C. Amy & Anthony Lehner
 - a. Noble & Lorine (Whiteman) Lehner
 1. Richard Anthony & Sue Ellen (Naffziger) Lehner
 2. Alan Warren Lehner
- D. Ralph & Sarah (McNeely) Coster
 - a. Harriet Victoria & James Carpenter

III. HENRY & SARAH ELIZABETH (FULTZ), HOUSE

3. Sylvia Ann & Dan Burge
 - A. Flora Alice Burge
 - B. Mary Agnes & Arthur Keller
 - a. Frances Geraldine & Paul VanBuskirk Allen
 1. John Edmond Allen
 - C. Clinton Edmond & Minnie (Cooper) Burge

RELATIVE

3-23-1823 - 1-4-1899
 8-2-1845 - 10-29-1853
 8-8-1847 - 12-31-1928
 8-20-1873 - 11-6-1895
 1-10-1876 - 5-26-1956
 10-17-1919 -
 " "
 6-21-1963 -
 5-28-1964 -
 1-22-1923 -
 12-19-1948 -
 2-23-1950 -
 8-30-1951 -
 8-15-1953 -
 4-23-1956 -
 7-11-1925 -
 9-30-1947 -
 11-20-1881 - 3-20-1969
 6-2-1919 -
 8-17-1946 -
 8-4-1951 -
 3-12-1884 - 7-22-1968
 4-18-1925 -
 3-23-1823 - 1-4-1899
 10-28-1850 - 4-18-1938
 4-22-1881 - 9-6-1881
 11-4-1883 -
 7-3-1906 - 8-18-1970
 2-10-1937 -
 8-21-1886 -

SPOUSE

- 9-28-1848
 11-12-1888 -
 7-19-1919 - 12-27-1954
 7-10-1922 -
 2-20-1924 -
 1-5-1883 - 10-4-1952
 6-6-1920 -
 7-19-1944 -
 2-12-1886 - 9-15-1968
 10-21-1928 -
 10-15-1826 - 5-3-1907
 - 1-13-1952

	RELATIVE	SPOUSE
4. Virginia Frances "Jennie" & Harrison "Harry" H. Leathers	5-21-1852	8-21-1855 - -1933
A. Twins - Roy R. & Lottie E. Leathers	-1882	
B. Blanche & Cecil I. Tresslar	8- -1883	10-31-1877 - 8-6-1956
a. Virginia & Kirk J. Kendal	10-6-1903	7-28-1902 - -
1. Jean Esther & John F. Dale	6-25-1931	7-26-1930 - -
1a. Esther Ellen Dale	10-2-1956	
1b. Barbara Ruth Dale	8-13-1958	
1c. Arthur Kirk Dale	8-16-1960	
1d. Julia Jean Dale	10-13-1961	
b. Elizabeth & Paul A. Taylor	1-4-1906	6-8-1910 - -
1. Elizabeth Ann & Norbert E. Adrian	2-5-1932	6-6-1929 - -
1a. Paul Norbert Adrian	12-22-1958	
1b. Stephen Philip Adrian	6-2-1960	
1c. Ann Elizabeth "B'Ann" Adrian	9-29-1961	
1d. Jeffrey David Adrian	11-29-1963	
c. Harry R. & Helen (Hobson) Tresslar	11-4-1907	7-4-1941
1. Harriett L. & Gerald Barnes	3-14-1930	
1a. Laura Jeanne Barnes	4-18-1954	
1b. Raymond L. Barnes	1-24-1956	
1c. Theresa Lynn Barnes	2-19-1958	
2. Margaret & Robert F. Roe	1-19-1933	
2a. Michael Wayne Roe	7-11-1953	
2b. David Leslie Roe	6-10-1954	
2c. Steven Charles Roe	10-24-1956	
3. Cecil T. & Georganna (Hornie) Tresslar	3-19-1934	
3a. Douglass Allen Tresslar	10-10-1961	
3b. Julie Kay Tresslar	4-13-1963	
C. Henry M. Leathers	-1890	1-17-1895
D. Adlai Leathers	-1892	6-18-1913

	RELATIVE	SPOUSE
5. Nathaniel House	9-2-1853	10-27-1854
6. Charlotte "Lottie" House	1-11-1855	9-1-1879
7. Saphronia Dora & Franklin Hadley	8-18-1856	7-5-1854 - 7-16-1914
A. Violet & Alvan V. Burch	1-15-1879	9-24-1911 - -
a. Harold & Dorothy (Thompson) Burch	8-14-1909	1-10-1940 - -
1. Kathy & Bert Bonnel Jr.	5-28-1941	
1a. Wendy Beth Bonnel	3-6-1966	
1b. Kristen Karen Bonnel	11-30-1968	
2. Owen Ward & Alice (Jordy) Burch	9-14-1942	5-7-1947 - -
3. Karen Burch	4-20-1950	7-2-1915 - -
b. Gerald & Mary Lucille (Bowman) Burch	8-14-1909	
1. Gerald Randolph & Kay (Kuebler) Burch	7-16-1940	
1a. Debora Kay Burch	8-31-1967	
1b. David Burch	11-19-1968	
2. James Dowling & Nancy (Goetz) Burch	4-23-1943	
2a. Jay Burch		
2b. Cindy Burch		
2c. Robert Gerald Burch		
3. Jane Burch		
c. Alvan V. & Virginia (McCready) Burch Jr.		
1. Pamela & David Garman		
1a. Jennifer Garman		
2. Cheryl Burch		
3. Alvan V. Burch III		
4. Virginia Jane Burch		
B. Horace & Mary (Britton) Hadley		
a. Harland & Connie (Rozier) Hadley		
C. Lottie Hadley		
D. Bess & Owen Hamilton		
E. Helen & Albert Ward		
	8-7-1921	7-3-1884 - 8-26-1957
	8-19-1965	9-8- - 3-26-1961
	5- -1883	
	8-8-1970	10-18-1883 - 7-10-1959
		1-19-1892 - -

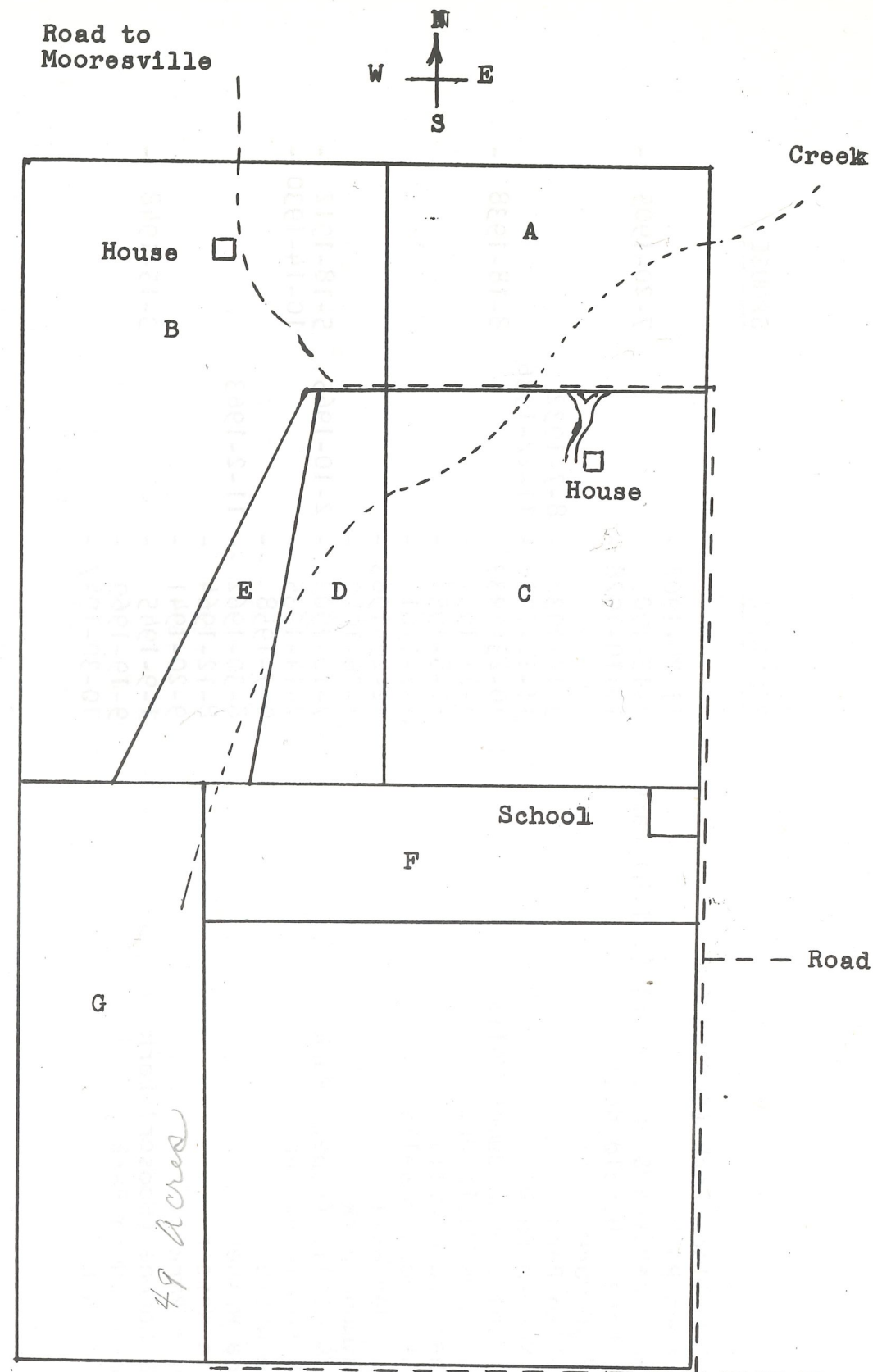
	RELATIVE	SPOUSE
<u>8.</u> Stephen Arnold Douglas & Piercy May (McNeff) House	12-18-1858	4-24-1879 - 3-18-1951
A. Henry Pierce & Jane Elizabeth Congdon(Hebard)House	9-18-1897	1-31-1902 -
a. Herbert Douglas & Sandra Ellen (Hillman) House	10-8-1940	-
1. Stephen Douglas House	2-21-1968	-
2. David Eugene House	12-27-1969	-
B. Norma & Ray Knox Taylor	10-22-1900	10-19-1897 -
a. Robert House Taylor	10-23-1922	-
b. Joan Mae & Bernard Weinland	5-4-1924	7-2-1922 -
1. David George Weinland	11-18-1948	-
2. Bruce Taylor Weinland	11-27-1950	-
3. Jean Ann Weinland	1-15-1953	-
4. Joyce Lynn Weinland	10-21-1954	3-14-1956
5. Judith Kay Weinland	10-24-1958	-
c. Josephine & Robert Dougherty	12-7-1925	8-21-1925 - 5-28-1966
1. Randall Scott Dougherty	5-5-1953	-
2. Ronald Wade Dougherty	11-14-1954	-
d. Jean Alice & Roger Buck	2-7-1927	6-21-1924 -
1. Linda Sue Buck	1-20-1950	-
2. Gail & Michael Harkins Conroy	1-19-1951	-
3. Russe11 Warren Buck	7-23-1952	-
4. Bonnie Diane Buck	1-22-1954	-
5. Douglas Allen Buck	2-2-1956	-
e. Charles Ray & Ruth (Owen) Taylor	9-7-1930	2-9-1933 -
1. Brian Ray Taylor	12-13-1964	-
2. Jeffrey Owen Taylor	5-22-1966	-
f. Janet Pauline & Maynard Paul Cox	3-9-1935	3-4-1931 -
1. Connie Lynn Cox	4-5-1957	-
2. Joseph Allen Cox	3-15-1959	-

9. Stephen Arnold Douglas & May House (Continued)10. C. Charlotte & Herbert Harrison Fuller

	RELATIVE	SPOUSE
a. Barbara Ann & James Clegg	10-13-1907	11-11-1902 -
1. James Gregory Clegg	7-22-1929	-
2. Thomas Fuller Clegg	2-3-1955	-
3. Gary Lynn Clegg	9-14-1956	-
4. Timothy Clegg	7-8-1960	-
5. Jeffrey Kekila Clegg	3-11-1962	-
b. Kenneth & Mary Jane (May) Fuller	4-4-1969	3-4-1932 -
1. Angela Hope Fuller	4-19-1932	-
2. Lee Harrison Fuller	7-10-1956	-
3. Henry Fuller	4-23-1959	-
4. Christopher Fuller	7-31-1960	-
5. David Fuller	7-27-1963	-
c. Richard Fuller	9-10-1965	-
D. Harmon & Anna Lee (Gross) House	6-16-1946	-
E. Raymond & Carey Grace (Cramer) House	3-12-1910	12-16-1913 -
a. Nina Jane & Paul Edward Langley	9-3-1913	11-24-1917 -
1. Steven Paul Langley	9-15-1943	7-5-1943 -
2. Anthony Alan Langley	9-15-1962	-
b. Virginia Louise & Allan Bennett Larson	4-1-1964	-
John Michael House	4-16-1947	-
Charles Otto & Ora (McNeff) House	12-5-1860	5-3-1955
Katherine Louisa & Guy McPherson	9-6-1863	7-29-1942
A. Norris & David Houck	4-29-1866	3-7-1902
a. James McPherson & Helen (Jome) Houck	8-3-1898	8-21-1949
1. David Jome Houck	9-22-1921	-
2. Robert Edgar Houck	4-10-1947	-
Mary Bell Gertrude House	4-1-1957	-
	6-13-1868	11-2-1868

	RELATIVE	SPOUSE
13. Ethel Elzina & Oscar Wallace Park	11-9-1869	4-5-1954
A. William Byron Park	1-26-1896	2-18-1870 - 4-8-1924
B. Miriam Elizabeth & Roy Lee Hughes	4-28-1898	10-20-1894 - 2-2-1938
a. Miriam Elizabeth "Mickey" & Frank Sylvester Ebey	3-1-1922	8-19-1920 -
b. Donna Jayne & John William Taylor	5-10-1924	7-25-1920 - 6-4-1971
1. Jack Lee Taylor	3-5-1954	
c. Sue Alice & Edward Starkey	3-4-1934	
1. Janet Sue Starkey	11-11-1954	
2. James Edward Starkey	6-11-1958	
C. Marcus House & Ruby Cathrine (Taylor) Park	3-30-1900	7-1-1900 - 4-13-1971
a. Elizabeth "Betty" Ann & Howard Dale Crews	3-22-1923	9-14-1923 -
1. Larry Dale Crews	11-12-1945	
2. Garry Park Crews	5-30-1949	
b. Richard Wallace & Charlotte (Mause) Park	4-4-1927	9-9-1927 -
1. Michael Joseph Park	10-10-1949	
2. Stephen Marcus Park	5-4-1953	
3. Linda Cathrine Marie Park	3-2-1955	
c. Phylliss Irene & Richard Paul Bernard	12-7-1933	2-23-1930 -
1. David Richard Bernard	12-8-1952	
2. Paul Arthur Bernard	2-23-1954	
3. Jane Ann Bernard	8-24-1956	
d. Max Harold & Joan (Dyer) Park	7-19-1938	1-16-1938 -
1. Stacey Lynn Park	5-8-1961	
2. Shelia Park	3-11-1963	
3. Sherry Park	12-2-1967	
4. Susan Knox Park	6-12-1969	

	RELATIVE	SPOUSE
13. Ethel Elzina & Wallace Park (CONTINUED)		
D. Loraine Elnora Park	11-20-1902	7-20-1905 -
E. Lawrence Wallace "Jack" & Anna Pearl (Smith) Park	9-15-1905	
a. Tressia Hope & Harold Neal	10-10-1928	
b. Vonda Faye Park	3-19-1932	8-7-1932
c. James Allen Park	11-22-1936	11-22-1936
d. Dereil Norman Park	10-23-1939	
e. I'Neil Jane & John James Walls	4-23-1957	8-18-1938 -
1. John James Walls Jr.	11-6-1958	
2. Barbara Jane Walls	1-7-1961	
3. Richard Joseph Walls	12-29-1963	
4. Brian Jay Walls	1-26-1942	
f. Jack Raymond Park	7-10-1909	2-10-1965
F. Leon Dale & Millie (Papet) Park	7-14-1935	5-18-1912 -
a. Nancy & Donald Weiser	9-7-1958	10-14-1930 -
1. Dale Weiser	8-30-1962	
2. Donna Weiser	8-12-1964	11-2-1963
3. Gayle Weiser	9-20-1941	
b. Katharine Park	1-9-1945	3-15-1948 -
c. Bruce & Lorena (Hooser) Park	9-19-1969	
1. Clinton Edwin Park	10-30-1947	
d. Virginia Park		



The west 3/4 of Section 7, Township 13, Range 2 east.
Brown Township, Morgan County, Indiana

United States to Samuel Jones-July 18, 1821. Tracts A & C. 80 acres.

Samuel Jones to John King-Feb. 4, 1831. Tracts A & C. 80 acres. \$800.00

John King to Obed King, his son-April 21, 1842. Tracts C, D & E 81 acres and Tract G 49 acres. (For love and affection)

John King to Elizabeth King, his daughter-Jan. 11, 1844. Tracts A & B 100 acres. (For love and affection)

Obed King to Samuel Rooker-Oct. 22, 1849. Tracts C, D & E 81 acres and Tract G 49 acres. \$1,200.00.

Samuel Rooker to Henry House-April 6, 1852. Tract E 12-1/2 acres. \$225.00

Samuel Rooker to Henry House-Sept. 7, 1857. Tracts C & D 68-1/2 acres and Tract G 49 acres. \$4,000.00.

Harriet and John Coster to Henry House-Feb. 25, 1873. Tracts A & B 100 acres. \$2,000.00.

Paul Cox estate to Henry House-April 13, 1878. Tract F 27 acres. \$1,040.00.

William S. Beeson and Sarah Beeson to Henry House-March 20, 1879. 38 acres in Sec. 32, Twp. 14. \$1,500.00.

Henry House to Sarah House by will probated Jan. 25, 1899. All property for her life time.

Norris McPherson, minor, to Douglas House, Oct. 12, 1907. 1/9 of A & C = \$694.33-1/3.

Harriet Coster, unmarried.	}	to Douglas House-Nov. 9, 1907. 7/9 A & C. \$4,860.33-1/3. (Tracts A & C 80 acres. 9/9=\$6,249.00)
Anna Burge, unmarried.		
Jenny and Harry Leathers.		
Dora and Frank Hadley.		
Charles O. and Ora House.		
John M. House, unmarried.		
Ethel and Oscar W. Park.		

Douglas House to May House for her life time. Tracts A & C, Dec. 1923.

Henry P. House, Norma Taylor, Charlotte Fuller and Raymond House sold their interest in Tracts A & C to Harmon House on April 26, 1958.

John M. House and Anna Burge bought Tracts B, D & E in 1907. 94 acres.

Ethel and Wallace Park bought Tract F 27 acres and G 49 acres in 1907.

We have tax receipts on Wm. S. Beeson, estate on 90 acres in Sec. 6 for 1883. From 1884 to 1893 the tax receipts were billed to Henry House.

Henry House was billed for taxes on the 62 acres of the John House estate in Madison Twp. up to 1889. John House died in 1878.

Otto and Ora House bought the 80 acres east of Tracts A & C from Polly McPherson on Dec. 1, 1899. This land never belonged to Henry House.

DAVID SHANAFELT was born in Washington County, Maryland March 9, 1814 and died January 7, 1886 at Sigourney, Iowa. When 13 he moved to Ohio and in 1836 to Mooresville, where in 1839 he married Miss CHARLOTTE HOUSE, who died in 1864. In 1854 he moved to Iowa, and became one of the pioneers of Keokuk County, where he lived until his death. In 1871 he married Mrs. Clarissa Carter who still lives. He was the father of 8 children, 3 of whom are dead. For about 50 years he was a member of the church. He was ready, and has entered into his reward.

NOTE: Charlotte and David Shanafelt are buried at Sigourney, Iowa.

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Clipping from scrap book at Mooresville Library:

ANCIENT INHABITANTS:

John House and David Shanafelt are farming near Sigourney, Iowa.

Jacob Shanafelt is working at his trade (millwright) in St. Louis.

OBITUARIES

August, died BEESON on the 17th inst. at her late residence one mile east of Mooresville after a protracted illness CATHARINE, wife of WILLIAM BEESON, aged about 45 years. Long and severe as were her sufferings she did not murmur but presented in a remarkable degree the power of Christian faith and fortitude. She rests in peace and our loss is her infinite gain.

.....

WILLIAM S. BEESON, son of William and Mary Beeson, was born in Highland County, Ohio on the 23rd day of the 5th month 1825. His parents were both exemplary members of the Society of Friends and settled within the limits of White Lick Monthly Meeting about the year 1826. During the following year his father deceased leaving a large family of small children to the care of his mother. On the 3rd day of the 12th month 1848 William S. Beeson was married to CATHARINE HOUSE who deceased on the 22nd day of the 4th month 1866. Their children John Henry, Henrietta Mary, Ida Elsie and Martin Clarence are deceased and the youngest William Otto and Catharine Bertha are the only survivors of a family of six. On the 27th day of the 2nd month 1878, William S. Beeson was joined in marriage with Sarah Keaton, who now survives him. Our deceased friend and brother, in the course of his life has tasted the cup of sorrow and affliction deeply, having lost his father at the age of two and has buried an affectionate wife and 4 dear children, and also witnessed the destruction of his house and all his conveniences by fire. He was well trained in youth by a devoted Christian mother, yet he was wild for a few years in early life, but soon became conformed to a professed Christian life and served the Friends Church for many years acceptably in the station of an Elder. His Christian profession was not of a spasmodic excitable character but was steady and of even tenor. He was sound in the doctrines of Christianity, as professed by Friends, and was of unshaken faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Through all his sickness and until the close of life which took place on the 13th inst. at 10 o'clock PM. His disease was pulmonary consumption.

NOTE: Catharine Beeson was born Oct. 17, 1825, died April 22, 1866.

MRS. SARAH B. MEREDITH

On the 4th day of October, 1911, MRS. SARAH B. MEREDITH left her home in Anderson, Ind. and entered the long desired and eternal mansion promised her by her Savior. She had passed the 78th milestone of her earthly journey on the 19th day of the preceding February. She was the widow of REV. YANCY B. MEREDITH, one of the prominent men of the North Indiana Conference. She was married to him December 9, 1855, and they spent thirty-one years together in the work of the ministry. In the service rendered by her husband as pastor and Presiding Elder, Sister Meredith gave her earnest co-operation to the work of the church so far as home cares would allow. In her later years she delighted to talk of the incidents, trials and triumphs of those early years of the ministry.

Of the twelve children given them, seven survive. With the children living in Anderson she had the comfort of their presence during the last years of her life. She was a widow for more than twenty years. These years brought their trials and discouragements, but hers was an optimistic faith and it lifted her above troublous circumstances by holding in view the better inheritance for which she was being prepared. She had a true mother's solicitude for her children, and the fervency of her prayers will be remembered as an inspiration. Her love for the church seemed to increase with age. To be present at the services on the Sabbath day was the ambition which stirred her heart throughout the week. She fought physical frailty with a determined will and was in her place in God's house almost to the last. She was one of the most appreciative listeners her pastor had.

The funeral services were held in the First Church, Anderson, and were conducted by her pastor, Rev. Chesteen W. Smith, assisted by Rev. L. M. Krider and Rev. P. J. Albright.

CHESTEEN SMITH

From: NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE MINUTES 1912-16
(In Indianapolis Library)

THE REV. Y. B. MEREDITH, A.M.

YANCY B. MEREDITH was born near Mooresville, Morgan County, Ind., October 11, 1832. He was the son of Nathan and Jane Meredith. His father was a teacher, and both his parents were prominent and devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Brother Meredith's youth was passed in Mooresville and vicinity until he was some eighteen years of age. His father taught him privately and did not send him to school. He learned the business of a carpenter, and also painting. At this age he removed to the State of Iowa, where he entered a seminary. For three years he went to school and worked alternately at his trade of a carpenter. At the end of this period he returned to Indiana. In his school he was a very diligent student, and these habits of study continued his life long. He made up for early deficiencies in opportunity by careful study, making himself to be indeed a self-educated man.

December 9, 1855, he was married to MISS SARAH E. HOUSE. Of twelve children, eight are now living, left with their mother to lament their loss.

Brother Meredith was converted while he was in Iowa, and there united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. After his marriage, he was licensed to exhort in 1857, and in 1858 was licensed to preach. In 1860, he was admitted on trial in the Indiana Conference, and in due time he was ordained Deacon by Bishop Ames, and Elder by Bishop Simpson. His appointments in the Indiana Conference were, Waverly Circuit, Lancaster, Bowling Green, Patoka, Owensville, Newburgh, Boonesville.

From Boonesville he was transferred to the North Indiana Conference, in the spring of 1871. His appointments among us were: Columbia City, Ligonier, LaGrange, Greenfield, Ossian, Roanoke, Presiding Elder of the Ft. Wayne District and New Castle. At the close of his first year at New Castle failing health obliged him to take a supernumerary relation, which was soon after changed to superannuated, making him twenty-five years of effective service, the early portion of which was on a very large and laborious circuit.

Since Brother Meredith's superannuation, he has been engaged in various enterprises; a portion of the time in the Bethel work. He has never been rugged since a severe sickness in the summer of his second year on the Ft. Wayne District. A decline set in which slowly, but surely, continued its ravages. His last illness began in August, 1890. He was, however, confined to his bed but one week. During all his sickness he was hopeful and courageous, expecting and desiring to recover, and anxious to do more for the Master. He expressed himself that he did not believe his life work was finished, that there was so much yet to be accomplished. He declared that his desire to study and preach the gospel was never stronger than then. Even a few minutes before his departure he expressed a hope that he would soon be better. And so indeed he was, but in a grander way than he

had anticipated, for Sunday, March 23, 1891 (*March 22), Palm Sunday, just as the church bells were ringing for evening service, he quietly and unexpectedly passed away, appearing to be conscious and to recognize those about his bed. He departed so gently that his companion could not tell when he ceased to breathe and was not certain of it until she had spoken to him three times without answer and had shaken his shoulder. Then was it manifest that this good man had joined the triumphal procession, and was waving the palm of victory as he entered with the Redeemer into the new Jerusalem.

Thus he finished his labors, aged 58 years, 5 months, 11 days. On Tuesday, the 24th, his Presiding Elder, the Rev. Dr. Stabler, held his funeral services at his late residence, assisted by his Pastor, the Rev. A. S. Wooten, and several other members of this Conference. His remains were interred at New Castle.

Brother Meredith's long and useful service in this Conference has caused him to be well known to us all. In his family he was ever loving and indulgent; to his companion he was a true husband, her constant stay; as a citizen, he was a man of firm convictions, standing up for the right without consideration of the consequences. He was a genial companion, cheerful, a fluent conversationalist, a true and sympathizing friend. During a long and confidential acquaintance the writer never heard an unpleasant or unworthy word from his lips, nor saw in him uncharitable thoughts. His character and reputation were always above reproach, and such as becomes a faithful minister of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He was a faithful pastor, found in the family circles of his people, by the bedside of the sick and comforting the dying. As a Presiding Elder he watched diligently for the best interests of all, and hence he was honored and loved. He was as diligent in his study as in any other portion of his work. His sermons were thought out and elaborated with great care and frequently written, though seldom read. He gained a deserved reputation for eloquence, and his discourses commanded universal respect. His reasoning was cogent, and he delighted in the sturdy themes that demanded strong mental power. His aspirations were as lofty as his spirit was gentle. He bore trials with great patience. He was a hearty Methodist.

During his last week his wife remarked to him she feared to leave him lest she might find him dead when she returned to the room. He answered, "Mother, if you come into the room and find I have passed away in your absence from my side, just remember I am in heaven." He often said that no man could afford to sin. While it was a great trial to him to cease from active work, he bore superannuation with resignation, and looked forward with hope to the day when he should enter upon the activity of the nobler life. Let us lay the palm upon his grave while he wears the crown.

From NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE MINUTES 1888-96 (Indianapolis Library)
 *Death date incorrect - Palm Sunday was on March 22, 1891.

SUSAN VIRGINIA HOUSE was born in Mooresville, Indiana March 22, 1837 and died June 10, 1917 at the ripe age of 80 years, 2 months, and 28 days. She was the daughter of John and Catherine Bless House.

In her early girlhood, reared by parents of strong Methodist faith, she was early converted to God in that faith. Later she united with the church where her husband was a strong pillar, that of the Christian church and remained a steadfast and earnest member until death. And now while it is not my intention to write a eulogy on the life of the deceased for she fain would have it so yet I feel that I cannot refrain from speaking of some admirable and beautiful traits of character which she possessed.

The first of which at the age of 19 years, when she became the wife of DAVID H. TURLEY, she assumed the motherly duty of eight children, some of whom are present and could no doubt rise up and call her blessed for the love and care she bestowed upon them in their helplessness.

She was the mother of seven children, four of them were waiting, no doubt, on the other shore. These were Colona, Honora, Willis and Leona. The surviving children are Mrs. Harvey Paddock at whose home she was so kindly cared for during her last illness; Mrs. Hicklin Jackson; and Mrs. Sam Watson of Martinsville. She was left a widow in 1890. After about seven years of widowhood, which were spent on her farm on which she had continuously lived since going there as a bride, she was united in marriage to G. F. ROUNTON of Camby, Indiana on March 8, 1897. This also proved a very happy union. She carried into this home the same grace and dignity seasoned with love and thoughtfulness for others that characterized her in her first home. This union lasted about five years which was broken by the death of Mr. Rounton. She then went to Mooresville to reside and continued her residence there letting the same beautiful influence fall upon her friends and neighbors.

She was a devoted, earnest worker in the Christian church in Mooresville, working with her hands and heart until ruthless disease laid its hands upon her.

Her burial was in the cemetery at Mt. Olive church in Madison Township.

NOTE: David Harrison Turley was born August 31, 1815, died December 31, 1890.

From the Democrat

HENRY HOUSE, the deceased, came of an industrious race. He was the son of John and Catherine Bless House, who came to the United States from Germany on their wedding tour. They first settled in Virginia, where the subject of this sketch was born March 23, 1823. He died on his farm at White Lick in the early morning of January 4, 1899, having reached the good age of more than 75 years. In 1833, while Henry was a child of ten years, his parents moved from Virginia and settled in Mooresville, where they remained about a year, removing from Mooresville to Madison township. In 1844 he was married to ELIZABETH KING. To this union two children were born, one of whom survives her father. Mrs. House died in 1848, and in 1849 he was united in marriage to SARAH E. FULTZ, to whom were born in the passing years ten children, eight of whom with the bereaved widow mourn their great loss. Mr. House was converted when a youth of sixteen, in Mooresville, under the able ministry of the late Rev. Mr. Burk, of the M.E. Church. How fitting that here from the church of his choice, here among the friends of his earliest Christian life all that is mortal should be carried to their last resting place. Immediately after his conversion he united with the M.E. Church and through all these eventful years he remained an intelligent and honored member. He had during these almost sixty years filled nearly all the offices filled by laymen, and in all positions alike was found faithful accepting with diffidence from time to time these offices as thrust upon him, but having once accepted he was diligent in the discharge of the duties of the same. May his mantle fall upon some one worthy to be his successor. These years of official relation stretch over a period of more than half a century, and at the time of his death he was still class leader, though the relation was simply nominal, another acting for him, all feeling that this was due him in view of his long and faithful service. The little church at White Lick that had been his church home for more than fifty years will miss him sadly in every way. For many years he has been like a father to the little flock, and for many years he walked among them like a patriarch and leader. He was an earnest churchman, believing strongly and earnestly in the creed and policy of his church; yet he was no bigot, but liked to see an earnest and whole souled belief on the part of any and all members of sister churches. He found time, even before becoming an invalid, to keep well informed in current events both in church and state. His piety was of the sunny kind. He believed in laughter not frivolous but joyous. He verified the words, "The joy of the Lord is your strength." His home was ever the home of the weary itinerant and many will be saddened when they learn that he has passed on to the beyond. For many years he was an invalid, and for the last six or seven a great sufferer. Yet through it all maintained his Christian fortitude, wondering how long the unequal contest would last, but never in a spirit of murmuring. And as one visited him and contemplated the coming dissolution they felt to exclaim "Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his."

NOTE: Henry House came to Indiana in 1836; not 1833 as indicated above. He was 13 years old (not 10) at that time. He is buried in Mooresville Cemetery with his wife Sarah E. House.

SARAH E. FULSE was born in Tennessee, October 15, 1826, died May 3, 1907, age 80 years, 6 months, 18 days. She was united in marriage to Henry House, October 25, 1849. To them were born twelve children, eight of whom are living, Mrs. Harriet Coster, Mrs. H. H. Leathers, Mrs. Frank Hadley, Mrs. O. W. Park, Mrs. Anna Burge, Douglas House, Otto House, and John House. Her husband dying eight years ago, she lived almost sixty years on the farm on which she died. More than sixty-five years ago she was converted and joined the M.E. Church at old Salem. While not permitted on account of physical infirmities in later life to take an active part in the duties of the church she was ever a true and devoted christian, exemplifying in her daily life the faith she possessed in the promise of the gospel of Christ. She needs no words of praise or commendation with those who knew her best, but will always be remembered as a true and constant friend, a kind and obliging neighbor, a devoted wife and loving mother. Her home was always the abode of hospitality and good cheer and those who were given the privilege of association with her there, always found a generous welcome. Grandma never became too old and infirmed to be forgotten by her grandchildren. The stronghold she has gained upon their affection will wield its influence in their lives. As long as her strength remained her mind was clear and she bade those present a loving goodbye, after which she sank into unconsciousness which seemed so perfectly blended into a sort of angelic repose that her last moments passed out quietly and peacefully. Mother has gone before, her life work and its influence for good are left with you. She will be missed. Our hearts are sad. Yet there is a blessed hope when we awaken into a perfect life when there is no night or sorrow, no sin no pain or death, in the presence of Him who hath done all things well. Today our vision of Heaven seems more beautiful and more alluring than ever for now, mother is there, standing at the portals beckoning to us to come home. It is hard for us to understand why those so dear are snatched from us, but it is only by the transition of such sainted souls as hers that the Divine Providence gives us brighter glimpses of the happy reunions that awaits us in the promised heritage beyond.

NOTE: Buried in Mooresville Cemetery with her husband, Henry House.

From the Book "COUNTIES OF MORGAN, MONROE AND BROWN, INDIANA"
1884 - Chas. Blanchard, Editor:

Page 226 BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

HENRY HOUSE, native of Prince William County, Va., and third of eight children of John and Catharine B. (Bless) House, natives of Germany, was born March 23, 1823. His parents came to America in the year 1800 and into Morgan County in 1836, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Our subject was reared upon a farm; remained with his parents till twenty-one years of age, and at the neighborhood schools, both in Virginia and Indiana, acquired a fair English education. His father died in 1874, at the age of eighty-four years, and his mother two years earlier, at the age of seventy-seven. On September 5, 1845, our subject was married at Mooresville, to Elizabeth King, a native of Indiana, who died September 28, 1848, leaving two children--Sarah Jane and Harriet. Sarah Jane died at the age of five years. On October 25, 1849, he married Sarah E. Fultz, of Tennessee, and by her had born to him eleven children--Anna, Virginia, Charlotte (deceased), Nathaniel (deceased), Dora, Douglas, John, Otto, Catharine, Gertrude (deceased), and Ethel. Mr. House is a class leader in the Methodist Episcopal Church, a Democrat in politics, and a temperance man from principle. He is an industrious and successful farmer and stock-grower, and his property accumulations are due solely to his own industry. He owns 400 acres of fine land in Morgan County, to the management of which he gives his personal attention. He is a lover of learning, and a liberal supporter of churches and benevolent institutions without reference to sect or creed.

- NOTE: 1. His parents came to America in 1817, not 1800.
2. Henry House's father (John House) died on September 19, 1878, not 1874. This would make his mother's death (Catharine House) in 1876.



Time 1897

Grover, the Horse
Douglas House holding the horse
May House on ground
Henry House on stile
Sarah E. House on stile

Mary Burge Keller with guitar
Bess Hadley Hamilton standing
Anna (House) Burge on ground
John M. House painting
Clinton Burge with dog



Six Brothers and Sisters

Harriet Coster
Anna Burge

Douglas House

John M. House

Otto House

Ethel Park

Between 1919-1923

Mother has fallen asleep, the heart that has beat so faithfully for more than 81 years is quiet now, her frail body that has grown so very frail during the passing months, is free, at last, from pain, her pale lovely hands are at rest, no more will they be extended in glad greeting to children and friends.

HARRIET M., daughter of Henry and Sarah HOUSE was born August 8, 1847 and on December 31, 1928 at 9:30 A.M. the silver cord was broken and her earthly life was ended, at the age of eighty-one years, four months and twenty-three days.

At an early age she was converted, confessed her faith and was united with the Methodist Episcopal Church at East White Lick. She continued a member of this church until October 1926, at which time she moved her membership to the Mooresville M.E. Church. Through all her life she kept her deep faith, relying on her Heavenly Father to give her strength to carry the burdens of life, and to enable her to meet the sorrows of serious illness and death that came to her. Although for years her health would not permit of attendance on divine services, she was insistent that her family be found there. And to her until her last hours the ringing of the church bells was a sweet sound and she often spoke of how much she enjoyed hearing their sweet music. The end came quickly and unexpectedly but she had known for months that her summons to go to that fairer land, might come at any time, and although she enjoyed the fellowship of children, grandchildren and friends exceedingly, and said if she could live longer life would be very pleasant, but if it were God's will that she should go she was ready and willing and she was very confident that she would not have to go far alone. Even in our sorrow, we feel that.

March 1, 1871 she was united in marriage to JOHN COSTER, who preceded her to the unknown shore in July 1889 after eighteen years of companionship. One son, Arthur, died in November 1905. Her daughter, Amy and two sons Reese and Ralph were left to cheer her declining years and they have done everything in their power to make her last years pleasant ones and that all her paths might be paths of Peace. Throughout all the years of her long widowhood she was faithful to her trust. She kept her little family together and though laboring under great handicaps she, with the help of her Heavenly Father brought them safely to maturity and continued to the last to be interested in their problems proving at all times a wise councilor. She was ever quiet, unassuming, patient and unselfish, thinking always of others and willing at all times to work that others might find rest or pleasure and even in the last years when two attacks of pneumonia had weakened her body she was ever considerate of others, asking little rather than cause others trouble. Throughout her entire life she has taught by actions as well as by precept. By her life she has erected in the hearts of her children, relatives and friends a memory that is a monument more lasting than metal or stone.

After coming to Mooresville she enjoyed the many kind acts of friends and neighbors, appreciating always a friendly word and getting many hours of sincere pleasure out of the many beautiful flowers that were brought to her by friends and neighbors. Besides her sorrowing daughter and sons she leaves to mourn her loss three sisters, two brothers, five grandchildren and many other dear relatives and friends. Four sisters and one brother having preceded her in death.

SYLVIA ANNE BURGE, aged 87, died at her home in Mooresville, on April 18, 1938. Death was caused by a stroke of paralysis. She had been ill about nine days.

The daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Fultz House, she was born in Morgan County on October 28, 1850. All of a long life was spent in the county of her birth. On April 29, 1879, she was united in marriage to DAVID ARTHUR BURGE, deceased. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Mooresville.

Surviving her are a daughter, Mrs. Mary B. Keller, Indianapolis; a son, Clinton E. Burge, Los Angeles, Calif., a granddaughter, Mrs. Frances Allen, Indianapolis; two sisters, Mrs. Ethel Park of Mooresville and Mrs. Dora Hadley of Evansville; two brothers, John and Otto House of Mooresville.

Funeral services were held at the Methodist Episcopal Church on Wednesday, April 20, Rev. Hutchinson officiating. Burial was in the Mooresville Cemetery.

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MRS. DORA HADLEY, age 82, widow of the late FRANK HADLEY, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bessie Hamilton, of Evansville, Wednesday, August 31 (1938).

She is a former resident of Mooresville having resided here several years ago, and was DORA HOUSE, previous to her marriage to Mr. Hadley. She leaves three daughters to survive her, Mrs. Violet Burch of Evansville, Mrs. Albert Ward of Buffalo, New York; and Mrs. Hamilton, with whom she was making her home at the time of her death; one sister, Mrs. Ethel Park and two brothers, John and Otto House.

The body was brought to Mooresville for burial, Thursday afternoon. Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at two o'clock at the Methodist Episcopal Church. Interment will be in the Mooresville cemetery.

VIRGINIA FRANCES HOUSE, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth House, was born May 21, 1852, passed away at her home near Mooresville on May 15th, 1919, lacking but six days of reaching her 67th birthday. At eight years of age she joined the Methodist Episcopal church at East White Lick, near the place of her birth. She was married to HARRY H. LEATHERS Sept. 9, 1880; to them were born five children. Lottie died in June of 1882, Roy in August, 1882; Henry, Jan. 17, 1895; Adlae, a young man full of promise for a bright future, died on June 18, 1913 and Blanche, who was Mrs. Cecil Tresslar, died Nov. 18, 1913. Mrs. Tresslar left three children, Virginia, Elizabeth and Harry, who with their father came to share the home with Mr. and Mrs. Leathers and to these grand parents, these children were the rainbow upon their cloud of sorrow. After drinking deeply of the cup of grief in the giving up of all their children and it is, perhaps, in the rearing of these grand children that Mrs. Leathers' life work shines brightest. Those in touch with their lives never doubted the influence back of them and her work will follow her in their lives.

Sunday morning found her and her entire household in their various places in the Sunday School and Church services, an example to the homes of the community. The three churches in which she gave her life's services are the White Lick, Mt. Gilead and the Mooresville M.E. Church--attending the Mt. Gilead Christian Church for sixteen years because there was no church of her own close, but to which she gave the same loyal support she did to her own. She believed profoundly in the church and would allow no reproach brought upon it or her pastors. Linking her life very early with the Divine she grew into a christian faith that knew no wavering, being able to always stand because her life was built upon a rock. She was quiet and unassuming in her expression but all knew her to be a kindly christian woman who showed her faith by her works, always ready to help when called upon, thinking upon the things of good report and having in her tongue the law of kindness, thus passing through life loving and being loved. She sought not her own praise and if her gentle spirit could speak today she would say: give not the praise to me but to Him at whose feet I have sat and learned, for by His grace I am what I am.

She leaves her husband, H. H. Leathers, her three grand children, her son-in-law, Cecil Tresslar; three brothers, Otto, Douglas and John House; four sisters, Mrs. Anna Burdge, Mrs. W. O. Park, Mrs. Harriet Coster, all of this community, and Mrs. Dora Hadley of Evansville and a large circle of friends who arise up and call her blessed and in whose memory she will ever be precious.

"Beautiful toiler thy work is done.
Beautiful soul into glory gone,
Beautiful life with His crown now won."

OBITUARY

DOUGLAS A., son of Henry and Elizabeth HOUSE was born in Brown Township, near Mooresville, Dec. 18, 1858, died Dec. 13, 1923, lacking five days of reaching the 65th milestone.

His entire life was spent on the farm where his death occurred.

He was the seventh of a family of eleven children. Mrs. Dora Hadley of Evansville, Mrs. Harriet Coster, a half sister, Mrs. W. O. Park, Mrs. Anna Burge and the two brothers John and Otto, are the surviving members.

October 27, 1896, he was married to MAY McNEFF. She, with the five children, Henry, Mrs. Ray Taylor, of Waverly, Charlotte, Harmon and Raymond, bear witness to the loss the home has sustained.

His greatest earthly interests were bounded by the four walls of home. Wordly pleasures had no lure for him.

At the age of 23, he united with the M.E. Church at White Lick, under the pastorate of Rev. Whorton. His interest in this church never wavered and so long as its doors were open, he was faithful in attendance and support.

The illness which resulted in his death, began about two years ago. Throughout his affliction, although his suffering was intense at the last, he was patient (and uncomplaining) always anxious to spare others concerned. He maintained silence in reference to his condition, until it was no longer possible to conceal it.

For some time he had realized the serious nature of his illness and expressed a willingness to go. Death had no terrors for him.

On Sunday, preceeding the call, he took an active part in the home service held by his friends and relatives. The day before his death he sang, "At the Cross," and repeated his evening prayers in strong, clear tones. As the night drew near its close, he sang "The Golden Sunbeams Around Me Play, Jesus Turn My Night to Day."

He went "down the valley" without "human comrade" but surely a tender hand guided him all the way.

As friends and neighbors, we recognize our loss. He was possessed of the qualities which identify real man. In being true to himself, it was impossible for him to be false to others.

NOTE: Douglas House was 8th (not 7th) child of 13 (not 11) children.

OBITUARIES

CHARLES OTTO HOUSE, age 78, died at his home in Mooresville on Wednesday, July 29, 1942.

Mr. House was the son of Henry and Elizabeth Fultz House and was born on September 6, 1863. He was married to ORA McNEFF on February 17, 1896. He was a member of the First Methodist Church.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Ora McNeff House, a brother, John House; and a sister, Mrs. Ethel Park.

Funeral services will take place at the First Methodist Church on Friday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. Rev. Albert Schmitt will be the minister in charge. Burial will be in the Mooresville Cemetery.

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ETHEL PARK - Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, April 7th (1954) in the First Methodist Church by Rev. Harold Criswell and Rev. Wm. Koehnlein for Ethel Park 84, who passed away April 5 (1954) at her home 122 East Main Street. She had been ill for about three weeks.

Mrs. Park was born at White Lick east of Mooresville, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Fultz House. Her husband O. W. PARK, died April 8, 1924. She was a member of the First Methodist Church.

Mrs. Park is survived by four sons, Byron, Marcus, Lawrence, and Leon, and two daughters, Mrs. Miriam Hughes and Loraine Park. She had fourteen grandchildren and six great grandsons and one brother, John House. Interment was in the Mooresville cemetery.

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JOHN M. HOUSE Dies at Age of 94
JOHN MICHAEL HOUSE, lifelong resident of this community, passed away May 3, (1955) at his home at 104 W. Main Street after an illness of about two months. Rev. Harold Criswell was to conduct services at the First Methodist Church this afternoon (Thursday) and burial is at Mooresville cemetery.

Mr. House was born near Mooresville December 5, 1860 and farmed in Brown Township most of his life. He had lived at his West Main Street home for 25 years and had retired from farming. He had never married, but is survived by many nephews and nieces.

OBITUARY

Today we are assembled to pay our last tribute to the memory of KATHERINE LOUISA HOUSE. She was the daughter of Henry and Sarah E. House and was born near Mooresville, Ind. on April 29, 1866. As the sun was sinking on Friday, March 7, 1902, the life that had so long resisted death gave up the uneven contest. The weary wheels of life stood still. As the boatman appeared, her pure spirit ascended to be with God forever. From early childhood she was a lover of the true, the pure and the good. During a revival held by S. W. McNaughton she, with her youngest sister, was converted and joined the church at East White Lick. She proved herself one of its loyal members. No night was too dark to withhold her from prayer meeting, and no pleasures were great enough to absent her from Sunday school. On August 20, 1895, she was married to GUY McPHERSON, whom she survived only seven months. Behind her is left little Norris, who has not yet emerged from childhood's day. She was born August 3, 1898. What brilliant plans were broken, what high ambitions were baffled, and what bitter rending of household ties! And now as we stand before her lifeless form, we cannot call her dead, for to such there is no death. An angel walks o'er the earth and bears our best loved things away. He leaves our hearts all desolate, for he plucks our fairest and sweetest flowers, but they are transplanted into bliss. She had often given expressions that clearly indicate the blessedness and hopefulness of her experience. True the beautiful life we have been considering has gone out, but only to appear and shine forth with undimmed luster in another world. She now lives on some far stretching plain, in gloryland, where the river of life rolls into crystal waters, along the ever-green shore, and the tented hosts of the redeemed are gathered. On the evening before her death she called incessantly for her bible, and when she held it in her hands we heard the faint whisper "Father". Let us think that her dying eyes read a mystic meaning, which only the rapt and parting souls may know. Let us believe that in the silence of the receding world she heard the great waves breaking on a further shore, and she had felt already upon her brow the breath of the eternal morning.

TO Mary Burge, Blanche Leathers,
Amy Coster
Mooreville, Indiana

Richmond, Indiana
May 16, 1899

Dear Ones All:

We have just finished our washing and I will write to you while Mamma is getting dinner and we will drive over this afternoon and mail it. We had the "awfulest" time with our washing this morn. In the first place we were out of starch and forgot to get any yesterday and had to use flour, then Mamma got the fine clothes up and the line slipped down and was so loose she had them all to take down, tighten the line and hang them up again.

Well, I must tell you about our trip driving through. Nell and Charlie Comer came to Indianapolis with us and we nearly laughed ourselves sick. You know we brought our old hen and chickens with us. Of course there wasn't room for them inside the carriage with all four of us in, so we had to tie them on behind. We had them in a box and let the lap robe hang down over them. We just made foolish remarks and laughed over the chickens all the way. Chick said we would turn them out at Friendswood and herd them. Horace would ask about every two minutes if our bird was on behind yet. And just as we drove into Indianapolis in front of one of the fire department buildings one side of the old box fell down and a man out in front of the building halloed and told us we were loosing something and Horace and Chick had to jump out and fix it on. We drove into a livery stable as soon as possible and left the chickens and then drove around. Horace told the liveryman to curry them and give them some hay while we were gone and the man like to kill himself laughing. We went to see Lily and then Nell, Horace and I went to Uncle Ed's and staid all night. We got started about 9 o'clock Sunday morn and did not stop until we came to Greenfield just about noon. We stopped and got some dinner and started on expecting to get to Cambridge City and stay all night.

It was just about 4 o'clock when we got to Knightstown and just had 15 miles to go. We thought we could make Cambridge City by 8:30. Well, we drove and drove and drove and I begun to think we never would see Cambridge. Our wheels begun to squeak and we were expecting to have a hot box any minute. Finally we came to a town and we thought it must be Cambridge but we were expecting to see electric lights and a much larger place. We stopped and Horace asked some boys if it was Cambridge and they said no, Cambridge was two miles farther on. Well, we thought we could not go any farther so we stopped at a livery stable and put up our horses. When we took the wheels off one of them was a fire. We then went to a hotel. I was afraid to sleep in a room by myself so we just asked for a room and never let on but what we were husband and wife. Horace registered for us and the landlord told him to write wife after my name and Horace did. The next morn the lady of the house asked me if I had ever kept house before or if we were just going to housekeeping. I told her were just going to housekeeping. She then asked if I thought I would like it. I said, "O, yes," I thought I would. I was scared to pieces for fear I would say something and give myself away. We left soon

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as breakfast was over. It was raining when we started and kept it up all that day (Monday). We arrived here just about noon. We came in past the college buildings. Earlham is a beautiful place. James Whitcomb Riley recited at Earlham College Hall last night. Coming into Richmond we crossed the finest bridge I ever saw. It was very long and wide and the whole floor was cement with walkways on each side. It had no cover but had iron railing on the sides with nine large gas lights on each side. Richmond has another bridge nearly like this one on another road.

Richmond is a very pretty city. There are sixteen churches here, five of them are M.E. (more M.E. than any other). I don't know how many school houses there are. There is a business college besides Earlham. The courthouse is finer than the one in Indianapolis. The library building, Westcott Hotel and many others are very fine buildings.

Well, I will quit and let someone else write awhile.

Answer soon. Mary, you and Blanche and Amy write to me. I have so many letters to write I can't write to each one of you.

Lovingly,

Violet

NOTE: Violet was Violet (Hadley) Burch (1879-1967)
Horace was her brother Horace Hadley (1881-1921)

THE OLD HOSS AND BUGGY.

You kin talk 'bout your Maxwell, and your Overland and your
Ford,
And the Cadillac and Buick that some people can afford.
And there's the Studebaker that's as fine as it can be;
But the old hoss and buggy yit, is fine enough fir me.

You kin brag 'bout your gearing and the speed they travel at;
Some sixty miles an hour and they're not much good at that.
For you'd like to have one ninety, or even ninety-three;
But the old hoss and buggy yit, is fast enough fir me.

You kin harp 'bout your engine and the gasoline they take,
And brag 'bout your sparkers and the different kinds of makes,
But they're all so complicated, or at least they seem to be;
But the old hoss and buggy yit, is simple enough fir me.

You kin crank and turn your sparker on and grab the steer and
sit,
And throw your brakes and honk your horn, and just dig out and
git.
And if there's nothing happens you may win a victory.
But the old hoss and buggy yit, is safe enough for me.

You kin laugh and turn your nose up and holler out and say:
"There goes an old back number yit, a gettin' in our way."
But I want to tell you plainly that the highways always free.
And the old hoss and buggy yit, is good enough fir me.

There ain't no style 'bout me that's either great nor small,
I've got no auto neither, just a hoss and buggy's all.
But when I drive along the road I'm as happy as can be,
Fir the old hoss and buggy yit, is style enough fir me.

--John M. House

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

"Jim, you've gone away and left us,
And your pens forever still;
But the lines you wrote to bless us
And our sadden hearts to cheer
Will live on for endless ages,
And the children yet unborn,
Will come forth and sing thy praises
Until Resurrection morn."

--John M. House

NOTE: These are two of the nine poems that we have, that
were written by John Michael House, son of Henry
House, Morgan County, Indiana.

NOTES

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