

Schrams in Thornton Township

Conversation with Jerry Charles Schram (now deceased) – 2-23-2007

Gerhardt Carl Schram

Name originally spelled Schramm

Great great grandfather, Henry?, brought family to America so son, Henry, (18) could avoid the mandatory draft into the German army. Great great grandfather had 13 children.

Great grandfather , Henry Schram, met a girl in this country who had been born in a village 13 miles from his home in Germany. They married and had 13 children. Spent some time in Papillion area before coming to Buffalo County . Known as a land entrepreneur. Gave each child land, 1-3 sections. Some did not know how to handle it and lost their land. He bought the Ripp place, north of them in Cedar Township for a daughter who married a Ripp. Gave land for the cemetery when his daughter-in-law died and there was no place to bury her.

Jerry lived in a house at same intersection as St. Mary's Catholic Church at Prairie Center. The house was on the place when Henry bought the place. The place and the families who lived in the house apparently when directly down through the generations from great grandfather who first bought (homesteaded), to grandfather, to father. When Jerry was a child he grew up here. There was a root cellar which held the first septic tank. A new root cellar was dug

The house: The original house was two stories on a sod foundation with a hole under it. There was a still in there at one time. Grandfather had a carbide generator in the yard. Great great grandfather, Henry, put an addition on the north. Grandfather put a shed style addition on the south livingroom. Master bedroom on east. The new kitchen and pantry went here, 2 bedrooms upstairs. The old pantry became a bathroom at some point. There was a porch on the southwest corner which held the Post Office. The mail would be delivered here from Kearney and then all the neighbors would come to get theirs. The basement, under the original house, was a hole with shiplap boards for walls. During the Depression that wood was removed for use as fence posts so Jerry remembers it with dirt walls and the sod foundation around the top. The pantry had a linoleum floor. Lift it and a trapdoor was revealed. It led to the basement? But there were no steps. At one time, when the weather was bad, Jerry thinks, and trash could not be taken outside to be disposed of, it was dropped down this hole. As a child, Jerry explored this collection and found unusual whiskey bottles.

South of house was a drive-over scale, south of that a vineyard
2 root cellars on the place

Pasture had a buffalo wallow – pivot on it now, hauled in loads of dirt to fill

Draw – hole, possibly used by Indians

Farm place across road where another family member lived, had a root cellar, kegs on one wall. Great grandfather made wine, had a hose to siphon wine out of barrels.

Also a hole with a carbide generator, copper lines to house for lights

Questions to ask Jerry: (phone – 236-8268)

When was the still in the basement? Bricks in a pile. Ggpa made wie. Pantry in old part of house (or closet) became bathroom. False floor, rap door. 1930, shiplap used to repair barns. Even used steps. Jerry dug down. Found flasks. Square nails. Ggpa bougdWas there one basement – under the original part of the house? Did the trapdoor in the pantry where the trash was dropped lead to this basement?

Grandfather, Carl

Wine recipes oral, Jerry wrote it down

Basically the same recipe used with different fruit

Has taken some to State fair and won prizes

Rhubarb, chokecherry,

<rootsweb.com/~nebuffal> portion on cemeteries in the county

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery at Prairie Center

The cemetery part was donated to the church for a cemetery in year 1910 by Henry Schram, and the first burial was that of his daughter in law Anna Paitz Schram, on January 27, 1910.

Schrams buried there:

SCHRAM, Agnes	1881 - 26 May 1942 wife of Valentine
SCHRAM, Anna	1890 - 1910 wife of Valentine
SCHRAM, Henry	10 May 1857 - 5 Jan 1944
SCHRAM, Henry Jr	1887 - 5 Oct 1932 son of Henry Sr
SCHRAM, Otilia	18 Oct 1863 - 2 Apr 1938
SCHRAM, Valentine	1884 - 27 Oct 1967

Ripp's buried there:

RIPP, Henry	6 Aug 1861 - 17 Oct 1944
RIPP, Johanna	21 Nov 1871 - 19 Jun 1953
RIPP, Joseph T	17 Nov 1895
RIPP, Matilda D	11 Nov 1895-1 Nov 1957 wife of Joseph
RIPP, Peter J	22 Oct 1893 - 18 Dec 1955

Bassett –

Homesteaders before 1880

1873--C. A. Borders, B. Turner, F. Chisler, F. J. Weldin, M. Conners, J.C. V. Kelley, B. J. Holmes, W. S. Hall.
 1874--S. S. St. John, J. M. Smith, J. Gass, N. L. Coombs, Joel Miller, N. Fellers, J. Trumbull, W. J. Neely, J. E. Holloway, F. G. Hamer, B. Streigle, G. H. Cutting, W. G. Patterson, S. W. Thornton, E. Goodsell.
 1875--G. R. Tracy, S. W. Powers, H. Stanford, J. Schutrum, P. D. Keys, J. H. Borders, D. K. Larimer, E. Cooperider.
 1876--G. P. Caldwell, J. A. Waters, G. Schmid.
 1878--J. Lake, George Gilming, Z. A. Weldin, L. W. Weldin, D. McCan, W. Weldin, Rebecca S. Neely, C. C. Smith, W. J. Turner, T. Spencer.
 1879--Caroline M. Gilming, J. Gass, L. F. Lyberger, R. Gass, F. Gunst, W. S. Ball, T. Caton, A. Henderson, A. W. Smith, I. S. Tracy, F. W. Magee.

Census Records

1900 – Papillion, Sarpy Co., NE [2 Schram families next door to each other]
 Schram, Henry – 52, born May 1848, married 16 years, born Ger. Im'g 1873, nat., farmer
 A-----, 36, wife, born Oct 1863, married 16 years, 7 children, 6 living, born Ger.
 Valentine – 13, son, born June 1886 in Ne
 Henry – 12, son, born Nov 1887 in NE
 Mary – 10, daughter, born Sept 1889 in NE
 Lizzie – 7, daughter, born July 1893 in NE
 Matilda – 4, daughter, born Nov 1895 in NE
 Katie – 1, daughter, born June 1898 in NE

Schram, Robert – 40, born Sept 1848 in Ger, married 16 years, im'g 1873, Na, farmer
 Elizabeth – 35, wife, born Dec 1864 in Ger, married 16 years, 7 child., all living
 Mary – 15, daughter, born Sept 1884 in NE
 Angie – 13, daughter, born Feb 1887 in NE
 John – 11, son, born Feb 1889 in NE
 Fred – 9, son, born Feb 1891 in NE
 Joseph – 7, son, born May 1893 in NE
 Jacob – 5, son, born Aug 1894 in NE
 Louis – 2, son, born Sept 1987 in NE

1910 - Federal Census – Thornton Township, Buffalo Co. NE
 Schram, Henry – 53, married 26 years, 8 children 8 living, born Bav. Im'g 1873, farmer
 Otilia, 47, wife, married 26 years, 8 children, 8 living, born Bavaria
 Henry – 22, son, single, born in NE
 Marie – 20, daughter, single, born in NE
 Elizabeth – 17, daughter, single, born in NE
 Otilia– 14, daughter, single, born in NE
 Catherine – 11, daughter, single, born in NE
 Maggie – 9, daughter, single, born in NE
 Carl – 7, son, single, born in NE

Schram, Valentine – 23, head, widowed, married one year, 1 child, 1 living
Anna – 3/12, daughter, born in NE
[living next door to Henry]

1920 Federal Census – Thornton Township, Buffalo Co. NE
Schram, Henry, Jr. – 32, single, born in NE, farming [living next door to Henry, Sr.]

Schram, Henry, Sr. – 62, married, immigrated in 1876, nat. in 1919, born in Bavaria
Otellia – 54, wife, born in Bavaria
Catherine – 21, single, born in NE
Carl – 17, single, born in NE
Schmitz, Margaret – 19, Widow, born in NE

1930 Federal Census – Thornton Township, Buffalo Co. NE
Schram, Henry, Sr was living with Henry Jr.

Thornton Township

Name:

Probably for Samuel W. Thornton who homesteaded there in 1874
(first homesteads were in 1873)

Raised 8 children, oldest daughter married John Swenson of Sartoria
Represented Buffalo Co. in State Leg. In 1886
Maternal grandfather – married 4 times, 22 children

Location:

Third row of Townships, 4th from the west, next one after Divide.
Starts a mile east of Highway 10.

Between Hawk Road and Keystone Road, 115th Road and 205th which is Pole Line Road
North and slightly east of Kearney

Mostly in the Wood River watershed with streambeds draining south, except on the
northern edge which slopes toward the South Loup

Originally prairie. Deer, antelope, wild horses, buffalo, Indians. Now mostly tilled
agriculture, center pivots, some pasture land.

Five sections of the 36 have no farmsteads more probably because of expended acres in
farm size and abandoned farmsteads than large pastures.

Communities:

Prairie Center – Community settled early

First postmaster, Samuel Spry, appointed July 2, 1874

Churches:

Haven's Chapel Methodist Church – organized in 1884. Still active, in its 3rd building
St. Mary's Catholic Church – organized in 1890

Cemeteries:

Prairie Center Cemetery – Est. 1883

Located 2 miles south of Prairie Center post office
Catty corner to Haven's Chapel church
John Wort (D's father) first burial in what had been a corn field

St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery – Est. in 1910

Land donated by Henry Schram\
First burial was that of his daughter in law Anna Paitz Schram, on Jan. 27, 1910.

Current families:

Kegleys, couple Altmaiers, some Richters, Stengels, Giffins, & Andy Howe

Early families:

1873 – 8 homesteaded

Bartlette Turner – Obtained a prairie schooner at home in Missouri and started west to find land for himself in 1873. Ended up here and after scouting around, settled on a homestead in Thornton Township.

1874 – 15 homesteaded

Samuel Thornton

Sylvester St. John – Came from Wisconsin to Kearney in Sept 1872, just as it was being platted. First town clerk of City of Kearney in 1873. Also served as city treasurer and on the Council. Established an insurance and real estate agency. Invested in property in Kearney & the county, including a homestead in Thornton Township

F. G. Hamer & G. W. Patterson – Kearney businessmen also investing in land

James Gass – came with his parents in 1873, filed a homestead in 1874. Hunted from here to the Dismal River (100 miles) in those early days. In the bad years figured he could stay here on the money it would cost him to leave and go some place else.

Wm. Neely

1875 – 8 homesteaded

1876 – 3 Homesteaded (grasshopper & drought years)

1877 – none

1878 – 10 Homesteaded

Rebecca Neely, wife of Wm

3 Weldins – Z. A (Zephaniah, b. 1840), L. W. (Lewis W., b. 1839) & W. (William, b. 1843) – so, probably three brothers & their families.

1879 – 11 Homesteaded

D Wort family came to Prairie Center from Illinois in 1879. Purchased land from the RR.

Peter Schars – came in 1879, purchased a farm in Thornton township. Served 2 terms as sheriff 1883-87 & two terms on Co. Bd of Supervisors. He was the sheriff who asked D Wort to be deputy.

Philip Altmaier, wife Gertrude, & son Adam

Adam married before they all moved to NE. Had 13 children.

At least 4 sons who each had 6-7 children

1910 (Jerry Schram)

Henry Schram

One of 13 children

Immigrated in 1873 from Germany

Met & married Otilia, born in a village 13 miles from his home in Germany.
8 children according to census records

Lived in Sarpy Co. first. (Schram State Park)

Came to Thornton Township after 1900, before 1910

Lived at same intersection as St. Mary's Catholic Church at Prairie Center

Known as a land entrepreneur. Gave each child land, 1-3 sections. Not all land in Buffalo Co.

Jerry grew up in original house

Sod foundation

Cellar under the house, possibly still down there, pile of bricks

Shiplap wood walls, stairs gone, probably used in 1930's

Vineyard south of the house

Great grandfather made wine, so did Jerry

Porch on southwest corner which held the Post Office

Pasture had a buffalo wallow – pivot on it now, hauled in loads of dirt to fill