

The Brunsville Blitz

Brunsville, Iowa

September 2013 Edition 34

Great Granddaughter of Mary Bruns Shares Family History

Following are some notes from Eileen Sommer, great granddaughter of Johan "John" and Mary Bruns:

It is my understanding that John and Mary Bruns moved to Iowa in 1901. They apparently farmed 320 acres of land and lived east of what is now the golf course, where the Oetken family has resided these past years.

John and Mary had eight children. The three oldest daughters, Emma, Martha and Johana, may not have moved to Iowa. They were over 18 years old. The other children were my grandfather, John Frederick "Fred" (age 14), William "Bill" (age 9), Louis (age 7) and Ethel (age 4). Their youngest daughter, Marie, was born in 1904, a month after John died of pneumonia at the age of 52.

In 1909, Mary sold 80 acres of the farmland, so that the town could be built. Brunsville was named in her honor.

In the 1930s when devastating natural disasters and the depression were happening, she lost her remaining 240 acres of the farmland. As a widow, she had kept the land for nearly 30 years. Mary died in 1944, at the age of 87.

Bill and Hannah Bruns farmed at Brunsville and raised two sons, William and John. Then William and Betty Bruns raised their four children, Mary William, Nancy and Phil, in Brunsville until 1972, when they moved to Minnesota. They were the last of the Bruns family to live in Brunsville.

I don't know when the other Bruns children moved on, except for my grandparents, Fred and Emma Bruns. They lived in Johnson Township for a year. In 1915 they moved to Minnesota to farm.

Louis and Anneka "Carrie" Bruns had two children, Lucille and Elsner. They lived in Le Mars, Iowa, when I knew them.

Ethel (Brunsville) and Henry Dirks moved to Texas.

Marie (Brunsville) and William Dirks moved to Akron, Iowa, and later to Colorado.

The oldest daughter, Emma (husband John Becker) died at the birth of her 10th child, in 1921, at the age of 44. Mary Bruns raised this child until he was six.

Martha and Dick Mulder lived in Montana.

Johana and William Mammen may have lived in California. That is where their daughter lived.

Mary seems to have been a very strong woman. It is an honor to have a town named after her.

My grandparents, Fred and Emma Bruns, are buried in the Le Mars cemetery.

Emma died of tuberculosis in 1925 at the age of 30, leaving behind four young boys. Fred continued to farm in Minnesota, remarried and had two daughters. He died in 1948. I was a year old so I did not get to know these two grandparents. My family would visit the Brunsville area at times, so there is a special place in my heart for the area. In Brunsville, Bill and Hannah were always happy to see their nephew and his family.

-submitted by Eileen Sommer

Harvest Funfest

October 5, 2013, 9 am – 2 pm

Plymouth County Fairgrounds – Le Mars

Over 50 vendors/crafters! Time to start Christmas Shopping!

For more information, contact Cheri Daum at

SLC0851@yahoo.com

The annual Halloween party is coming soon!
See volunteer meeting & party info on last page.

Winner of Four Seasons Garden Club Yard of the Month: Karen & Vernon Harrington

Pet of the Month: Elvis

Owners: The McHale Family



Torey, granddaughter of Steve & Glenda McHale, holds Elvis. Priscilla is sitting on the left.



Photo submitted by Karen Harrington

Thinking of You

Barry Poe, who had surgery on his toe 9/18

Birthdays

Logan Robbins Sept. 1
Mike Willer Sept. 1
Nicole Plueger Sept. 2
Stan Korthas Sept. 4
Autumn Fuller Sept. 7
Heather Reister Sept. 8
Amy Lubben Sept. 11
Verda Marienau Sept. 12
Craig Oetken Sept. 15
Steve Sherrill Sept. 17
Todd Oetken Sept. 18
Gaylen Tapper Sept. 19
Reno Dickman Sept. 21
Lori Wilken Sept. 22
Gene Dickman Sept. 23
Wayne Brown Sept. 23
Jason Marienau Sept. 23
Marilyn Renken Sept. 28
Dixie Oetken Sept. 29
Kathi Oetken-Oct. 1
Conner Von Hagel-Oct. 4
Nikki Eisma-Oct. 5
Drew Dickman-Oct. 8
Jacy Plueger-Oct. 15
Cody Oetken-Oct. 16
Kelli Schloffeldt-Oct. 20
Ottie Kleihauer-Oct. 23
Donna Taylor-Oct. 27
Charlotte Lubben-Nov. 3
Kevin Borchers-Nov. 7
Kim Willer-Nov. 7
Kelly Beitelspacher-Nov. 7

Anniversaries

Griz & Mona Schiltz Sept. 5
Steve & Lori Westhoff Sept. 7-
They celebrated at the Legion with a dinner, reception & dance. Many people attended. The Westhoffs are one of B'ville's favorite families.
Kevin & Keri Borchers Sept. 14
Stan & Mary Korthas Sept. 27
Kelli & Wayne Schloffeldt-Oct. 1
Kathi & Todd Oetken-Oct. 3
Kelli & Josh Babcock-Oct. 4
Linda & Max Utesch Jr.-Oct. 14

SCHOLAR OF THE MONTH

Nancy Schlichte

Congratulations!

Pat Renken, son of Marlyn & Mary Renken, was united in marriage to Naomi Schoen at Bev's on the River, Saturday, August 24. Suzy (Renken) Tournillon, her husband, Jeff, and daughter, Callie Mae, flew in from Chicago for the wedding. Mary flew back to Chicago the following day to attend the National Labor Union Convention and spend time with Suzy, Jeff and Callie Mae, who started school on Monday, August 26.

A daughter, **Taylor Sue**, was born to **Jake & Caroline Sitzmann**. Grandparents are Vernon & Janna Sitzmann.

A daughter, **Jenna Justine**, was born to **Brad & Kathy Sitzmann**. Grandparents are Vernon & Janna Sitzmann.

A son, **Brooks**, was born to **Brandon Phelan & his girlfriend, Sarah**. Brandon runs Prairie Rose Golf Course.

A son, **Ty**, was born to **Zach & Jill Westhoff**. Grandparents are Kris & Rick Westhoff.

A son, **Syler Jet**, was born to **Sandra (Renken) & Nick Johnson** on Sept. 10 at 1:31 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce & was 19 inches long. He has a big sister, McKinley, who is 2 1/2 years old. Grandparents are Rod & Sarah Renken. Says Sandra: "Nick and I are very happy!"

Cody Oetken graduated from ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp). Kate Oetken, Craig Oetken, Kari Lang & Lisa Oetken flew to California to attend the graduation.

Visitors

Mary Poe, mother of **Barry Poe**, stayed with Barry after his toe surgery on Sept. 18. Mary lives in Woodbine, Ia.

Recipe of the Month: CARMEL APPLE COOKIES

1/2 cup shortening	1 tsp. ground cloves
1-1/3 cup brown sugar, firmly packed	1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 egg	1 cup grated peeled apples
2-1/4 cup sifted flour	1 cup light raisins
1 tsp. baking soda	1/2 cup apple juice
1/2 tsp. salt	1 cup chopped walnuts
1 tsp ground cinnamon	

Cream shortening, sugar & egg until light & fluffy. Sift together dry ingredients & add to creamed mixture. When well blended, stir in remaining ingredients, except icing.

Drop by level tablespoonfuls 3" apart onto greased baking sheet. Bake in moderate oven (350 degrees) about 12 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove cookies and cool on racks. When cool, spread with Carmel Icing. Makes about 4 dozen.

CARMEL ICING:

Combine 1/4 cup butter & 1/4 cup brown sugar, firmly packed, in saucepan; cook until sugar dissolves, about 3 minutes. Add 1-1/2 cup sifted confectioners sugar, 1/4 tsp. salt & 2-1/2 Tbsp. dairy half-and-half or light cream; beat until smooth. (If frosting becomes too thick when spreading on cookies, thin it by adding a little more cream.)

-submitted by Karen Harrington



Syler Jet Johnson

Alan Wilken stops in hometown of Brunsville on way to RAGBRAI



Alan Wilken & his mom,



Steven & his dad,



Steven & Peggy

Alan Wilken, Peggy and Elmer Wilken's oldest son, shares his experience on this year's RAGBRAI. Alan graduated from Le Mars Community High School in 1972, works in Missouri City, TX and visits Brunsville a few days each year. The following is his account of the latest trip to his hometown.

This was my second RAGBRAI. My son, Steven, and I arrived in Brunsville from Missouri City, Texas (suburb of Houston) Wednesday, July 17th and visited my mother Peggy Wilken and brother Keith's family from Le Mars for a couple of days before heading south to Council Bluffs. We rode the whole week July 21 through July 27 from the Missouri River at Council Bluffs to the Mississippi River at Fort Madison. The second day, Monday, we completed the Karras loop which is an additional loop added to the days ride to push the distance past the century mark. In this case, the mileage was 110 miles. We actually ate breakfast twice in the same town as well as endured 95 degree heat and an Iowa thunderstorm with small hail that evening. The big disappointment for the day was missing our shower due to lightning. The following afternoon we took the opportunity to visit my brother-in-law in Des Moines. I didn't keep track of the number of pieces of pie, gallons of Gatorade or the amount of ice cream I personally consumed on the ride but the number and amount was significant. No Lance Armstrong sightings to report on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday. I guess he couldn't keep up. The last day the weather was wonderful for riding. The day started out at a cool 53 degrees and warmed to a high temperature of 73 degrees. It felt like we were flying the last 62 miles. We started at 6:15AM in Fairfield and arrived at Fort Madison before noon with a couple of hours in the middle spent taking pictures, chatting, eating snacks and eating lunch in the pass through towns. Steven and I made it safe and sound with no injuries during the week.

A group of National Public Radio journalists from Washington DC were riding with our charter company. It seems the Iowa Caucus planted the seed for the return trip. You can see their interesting report at this URL <http://returntoiaowa.tumblr.com/>

CORNER CAFÉ COVERAGE

Evening Specials

Sun. Serving pizza only

Mon. Alicia's Mexican Specialties

Tues. Corner burger & fries \$6.95

Wed. 8 pc. broasted chicken & fries \$10.99

Thurs. Biker Night!

Steak sandwich \$6; Hamburger or cheeseburger \$4;

Hotdog \$3; Pop, \$1; well drinks or regular beer \$2

Fri. 8-10 oz. prime rib, salad, & potato \$13.95

16 oz. king cut prime rib & potato \$15.95

Sat. Ribeye steak (12-14 oz.), potato & Texas toast \$16.95

Oak Street steak w/Corner's special seasonings (12-14 oz.

Ribeye), potato & Texas toast \$16.95

Sirloin steak dinner (10-12 oz.), potato & Texas toast \$12.95

LEGION EVENTS

Sept. 29 Test Fest Feed 12pm-4pm, open to public, free-will donation, sponsored by Sons of American Legion Post 724

Oct. 1 Legion meeting 8pm, & Sons of American Legion meeting 7pm

Oct. 19 Annual Halloween Party & Fall Festival –Food, Costume Parade @ 6pm (see details on next page)

Oct. 26 Surprise Birthday Party booked. Public is invited.

Improvement to the Park

The Brunsville Park's latest improvement is the concrete poured just north of the shelter house. Thank you to all who completed the project.

Natalie Raasch, daughter of Andrea & "Corner" Dave,
takes her dressed-up duck to the fair



Enjoy Brunsville's Annual Halloween Party,
"Halloween Fall Fest," Sat., Oct. 19, in the Brunsville Legion
(All activities will be indoors)

A meal of hot dogs, bag of chips & drink will be provided

Play games and be sure to wear a costume! No judging will be done-everyone will be a winner!

Kids will receive candy and a prize!

Donations of cookies and bars are welcome-please bring to the Legion

If you would like to volunteer, please attend a quick meeting Tues., Sept. 24, 6 p.m. at Donna Taylor's house, located outside of Brunsville on Juniper Ave. (Directions from Brunsville: 1 mile east on Jet Road, turn right onto Juniper and go 1 mile north. Taylor's house is located on the right side of road.)

Quote 'Ems

Did you ever wonder why when you dial a wrong number it's never busy?

I went to the doctor the other day. He gave me a list of several foods I shouldn't have. Then he asked me if I understood. I said, "Yes, anything good I can't have."

Life is short, eat your dessert first.

-submitted by Lonesome Jack

Dear Readers:

Thank you so much for your donations and support. You are always invited to send information to be published. Donations are welcome and appreciated more than you know. :)

*Thank you!
Susan Willer*

Blitz Staff

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