

November 2009

Ancestral Newsletter #1

Hello Relatives,

Mom had done so much genealogical research that it would be a shame not to share it with anyone who is interested. So, I am creating newsletters from the past and I'm compiling a list of relatives who may be interested in receiving future copies.

This first issue begins with the wedding of Franz Xaver "Ferry" Rieder and Anna Brechtel in 1896. They will serve as our point of reference as we journey through time. On the genealogical page, you will find the birth, marriage and death dates of their 7 children. Plus, there is a photo of the whole family, which, from our info., was most likely taken in 1918. This is an interesting coincidence because the article is about a cyclone in that same year. That article was taken from "A History of Plain, Wisconsin".

And finally, on the last page, there is an excerpt from an autobiography that Mom wrote in her freshman year, at Pius XI. It seems only fitting that she should get the last word in.

Not everyone is interested in genealogy, so, if you would like to stay on the list, please call me or drop me a note. If you are not interested, it is not necessary to respond. I'll just cross your name off the list.

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Hope you enjoy it!

Hi Jim,

So far you are the only cousin I have on the list. I'm sure I'll add more as I find out who has an interest. This is a fun hobby and I actually have another newsletter almost complete, which I plan to send out in January.

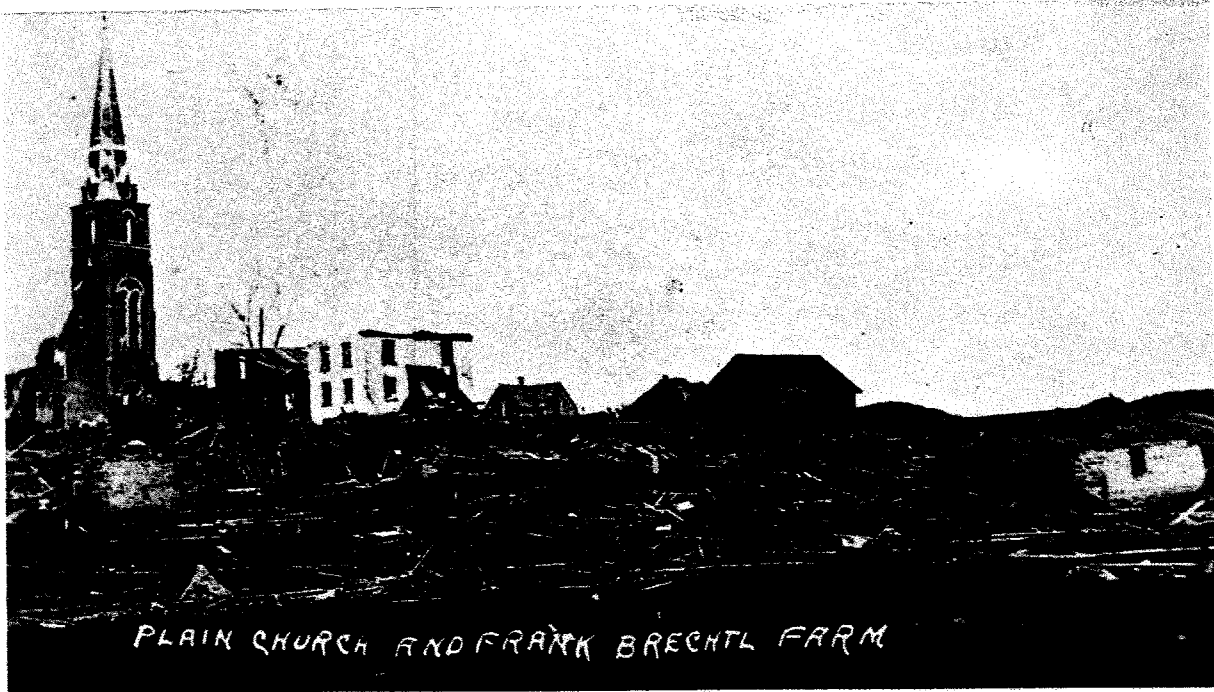
I'm going on vacation to California for 3 weeks - I really need a vacation. Life has been a bit taxing these last few years. But when I get back I'm hoping to start interviewing the Uncles and hearing their stories.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Love,
Deb



Wedding Day of Ferry Rieder and ANNA Brechtl November 16, 1896



Cyclone - 1918

In the early evening of May 21, 1918, the sky was overcast, the air was sultry, with an eerie stillness over all. Looking up the valley, to the south of the village, a twisting mass of cloud churned up the Highway 23 towards St. Luke's. Suddenly a roaring wind, then a few seconds of calm. The roll of thunder followed by forks of lightning and darkness fell with a heavy sluicing of rain.

With telephone wires down, communications were cut. No one realized that the twister had left a path of destruction at Lone Rock, damaged buildings and livestock on the West Spring Green prairie and Lower Big Hollow. Soon we heard of the devastation around Plain and then the incredulous "the church is down."

Swirling towards Plain from West Spring Green, the cyclone hit George Brey's large barn, on Highway 23; at Joseph M. Blau's the dwelling was moved several feet, two barns, machine shed, and granary demolished; all the outbuildings and orchard were badly damaged at Vincent Meixelsperger's; at Alois Beck's, all the buildings except the chicken house were razed, the house blown from its foundation. Little John, age four, was found dead in the ruins, and Andrew, his brother, was injured. John Blau lost all his buildings except the house which was damaged. Henry Neuheisel's big barn collapsed. At Casper Volk's farm, south of Plain, the dwelling and outbuildings were wiped out. At Fred Schoenman's farm every building but the house was gone. At Frank Brechtl, the home was demolished and all of the other buildings were wrecked. ~~Frank Brechtl's~~, barns and house were damaged. Herb Liegel lost all his buildings, the house was moved from its foundation and destroyed most of his livestock. The pasture was strewn with debris from end to end.

The rectory was flat. Father Pesch was injured as he was flung out. The roof was lifted up at the Sisters' house and replaced. An upstairs curtain was wedged between the wall and the roof. The Catholic school was slightly damaged. St. Luke's Catholic Church, one of the most beautiful edifices in the state, lay in ruins, with only the steeple and one sacristy left standing. The Crucifixion Group on the high altar, imported from Muenchen, Germany, was damaged very little. Clarence Bettinger, an eighth-grade pupil, crawled through the ruins, removed the chalice with hosts from the tabernacle, and carried it up to the Sisters' house.

The sawmill of Joseph Ruhland was blown away. About one-third of the back end of the Albert Liegel garage located on Main Street was torn away and the roof wrecked. Part of the restaurant conducted by Miss Anna Rolette was damaged. The plate glass front of the Plain State Bank was blown in. Beck and Nachreiner Store received some damage. The homes of William Reuschlein, Baptist Schwartz, and Schweitzer Bros. were damaged.

The house of Alois Ruhland, presently the home of Leo Kraemer on Cedar Street, was lifted in the air, turned upside down, and set on the foundation with the roof underneath the building. All of their household goods and furniture, including the piano, was wrecked. The family managed to reach the basement in safety.

The entire roof was taken off William Reuschlein's store and every window in the building smashed.

George Grauvogl, John Nachreiner, William Reuschlein, Alois Beer, J. W. Bauer, Jesse Voelkel, Mike Schutz, and Joe Kraemer lost their barns.

The powerhouse was taken and here J. B. Nachreiner was injured.

From Plain, the cyclone swept east across the marsh, wrecking the house built by Andy Hutter, Jr., in the fall of 1904 on land owned by John B. Hutter. Having wrecked the barn on Casper Volk's farm, northeast of Plain, the cyclone crossed over the hill, uprooting trees in its path, tore away about one-half of ~~the barn~~'s barn, flung ~~Mr. Rieder~~ across the yard, moved the machine shed and corncrib from the foundations, and swept the chicken house over into the field, besides badly damaging the house. Up the adjoining valley, Julia Quirk's home was flattened.

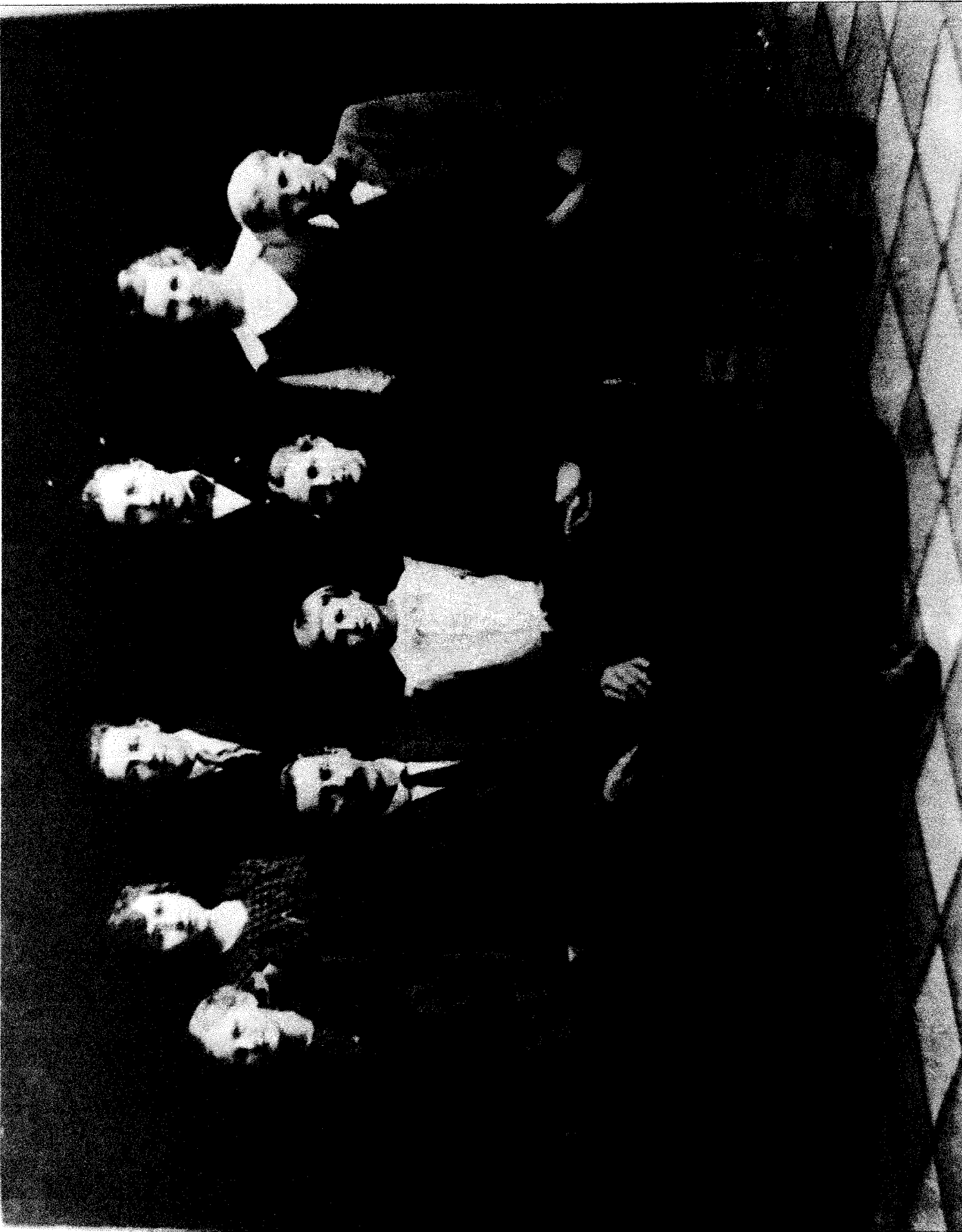
Swirling over the Kaley woods, the cyclone hit Irish Valley by tearing off the upper story of the Milton Yanke house and wrecking the summer kitchen. Mr. Yanke tried to hold the door of the summer kitchen closed, only to be sucked out and later found dead, pinned underneath a large uprooted tree in the yard.

At the Christ Yanke farm, now the Leo Ederer property, the barn was blown over, the hay blown through the broken windows and doors of the house on the Mike Schutz farm. At this house, all of their clothes were blown out of the house. The three barns on the Mike Schutz farm were scattered. The horses had jumped into the mangers. The roofs were taken from the icehouse and smokehouse. Hail fell here as large as golf balls.

It was the same story of destruction near Leland. At the Schwanke homestead the barn was taken and most of the cattle killed. At Henry Raddatz, all the buildings lay in ruins. The trees were uprooted by the Rudolph Leidig house. Here the storm split. It destroyed the huge mission cross on top of St. Mary's cemetery hill. Crossing the road there, part of the roof and most of the steeple of St. Mary's church were torn off. Huge trees were uprooted at the next homestead and the roofs of the barn, house, and woodshed blown off.

At White Mound, the barn was wrecked on the Herman Ostermeier's farm. A feather bed was found caught up in a tree at the John Haas farm.

The tower of St. Luke's church, which remained standing after the cyclone of May 21, 1918, was dynamited April 5, 1919. Many came for a last view of this magnificent tower. Lawrence Beck climbed up the tower, attached a rope so as to bring the falling debris of the dynamited tower into the open gutted church basement.



Rieder Family: Frieda, Clara, Herman, Albert, Laura, John
sitting: Ferris, Donald, Anna 1918?

HUSBAND RIEDER, Ferry Germany
 Born 25 Nov 1870 Place
 Chr. Germany
 Marr. 16 Nov 1896 Place
 Died 10 Apr 1951 Place Plain, WI
 Bur. Plain, WI Place
 HUSBAND'S FATHER Plain, WI Place
 HUSBAND'S MOTHER Plain, WI Place
 OTHER WIVES

WIFE BRECHTL, Anna
 Born 22 Sept 1874 Place
 Chr. West Allis, WI Place
 Died 23 Mar 1953 Place
 Bur. Plain, WI Place
 WIFE'S FATHER BRECHTL, John Baptist
 WIFE'S MOTHER HUTTNER, Anna
 OTHER HUSBANDS

CHILDREN (List each child (Whether living or dead) in Order of Birth)

SEX	SURNAME (CAPITALIZED)	GIVEN NAMES	WHEN BORN		WHERE BORN		STATE OR COUNTRY	DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE			WHEN DIED			
			DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN		COUNTY	TO WHOM	DAY		MONTH	YEAR	
1	RIEDER,	Clara C	21	May	1898	Plain	WI	3	Jul	1923	6	Jan	1931	
2	"	Albert H	19	Aug	1899	"	"	"	10	Sept	1929	4	Jan	1955
3	"	Herman	16	Jul	1901	"	"	"	25	Aug	1937	20	April	1973
4	"	Laura C	10	Jul	1903	"	"	"	6	Jul	1926	30	Mar	1981
5	"	Frieda	28	Jul	1905	"	"	"	WEITZER, Alois F	2	Mar	1978		
6	"	John B	16	May	1907	"	"	"	18	Oct	1941	26	Jan	1974
7	"	Donald	16	Jan	1911	"	"	"	KLAUS, Walter	4	Sept	1965		
8									29	Sep	1936	21	Feb	1985
9									WEISS, Martina M					
10									16	Nov	1938	7	MAR	1984
11									RING, Bertha					

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

OTHER MARRIAGES

ENTER ALL DATA IN THIS ORDER: NAMES: WATSON, John Henry PLACES: Sharon, Windsor, VA DATES: 14 Apr 1794 To indicate that a child is an ancestor of the family representative, place an "X" behind the number pertaining to that child.

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FAMILY GROUP RECORD

A Voice From The Past: From the Autobiography of Junilla Weitzer 1943

My first real trip was out to my grandfather's farm which is about one hundred thirty miles. I was about nine months old at the time and I remained there about a month with my mother, while my father returned home to continue with his work. Incidentally, he is a plumber. When I was about two years of age I stayed for a visit at my grandmother's again, only this time I stayed all alone.

While I was there my uncle put me on his back and climbed to the top of the silo. From there we called down to my mother and grandmother and they held their breaths until he brought me safely down again.



Ferry Rieder Farm, Plain, WI

Junilla Weitzer, approx: 1930