

Liberty School News

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Liberty School News is edited by Michael and Toni Meier and is published by **German Settlement History, Inc.**, an organization dedicated to the preservation and development of historic artifacts in the Town of Spirit, Southeast Price County, including “**Our Yesterday House**” built in 1885, **Liberty School**, built in 1919 and “**The Machine Shed**” housing logging and farming tools and equipment from 1880 to 1950. You may contact us at N894 S. German Settlement Road, Ogema, WI 54459. (715)564-3299 or gshinc@centurylink.net. Check out our web site at www.germansettlementhistory.org GSHI is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit tax exempt organization. **You are welcome to visit us at any time, but call ahead to make sure we are home to show you around.**

Here Is Someone You Probably Didn't Know!



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**Abram Adams, A Prominent Man in Spirit!
More about him on next pages>>>>>>**

ABRAM ADAMS

Abram Adams was a fascinating person who resided in Price County, Wisconsin, originally in the Town of Brannan, currently the Town of Spirit, since 1921.

Many specific details of his life are unknown, however, some things are known. The evidence of record shows that he was born to James and Caroline Green Adams, on September 10, 1844, in the village of Greene, New York. He was married to Helen Stevenson, the daughter of Thomas and Helen Stevenson, on July 8, 1874, at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The 1890 U.S. Census of Veterans shows that Adams served aboard the USS *Essex* as a Seaman in the U.S. Navy from July 1863, to August 1864, and as a Corporal in the 47th Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry from January 1865, to September 1865.

The USS *Essex*, a 1,000 ton ironclad river gunboat, took part in the Red River Campaign of March—May 1864. The Red River Campaign comprised a series of battles fought along the Red River in Louisiana during the American Civil War from March 10 to May 22, 1864.

Adams was a world traveler. Of record is a document showing that he sailed from Liverpool, England, and Queenstown, Ireland, arriving in New York, on April 20, 1874.

The 1880 U.S. Population Census, town of Brannan, 1 June 1880, shows Adams, age 36, was born in New York and his occupation was running a sawmill. His wife Helen, age 26, was noted to be a housekeeper. Living with them were a son Benjamin, age 5, and B.S. Stevenson, a father-in-law, age 55, noted to be working in the sawmill.

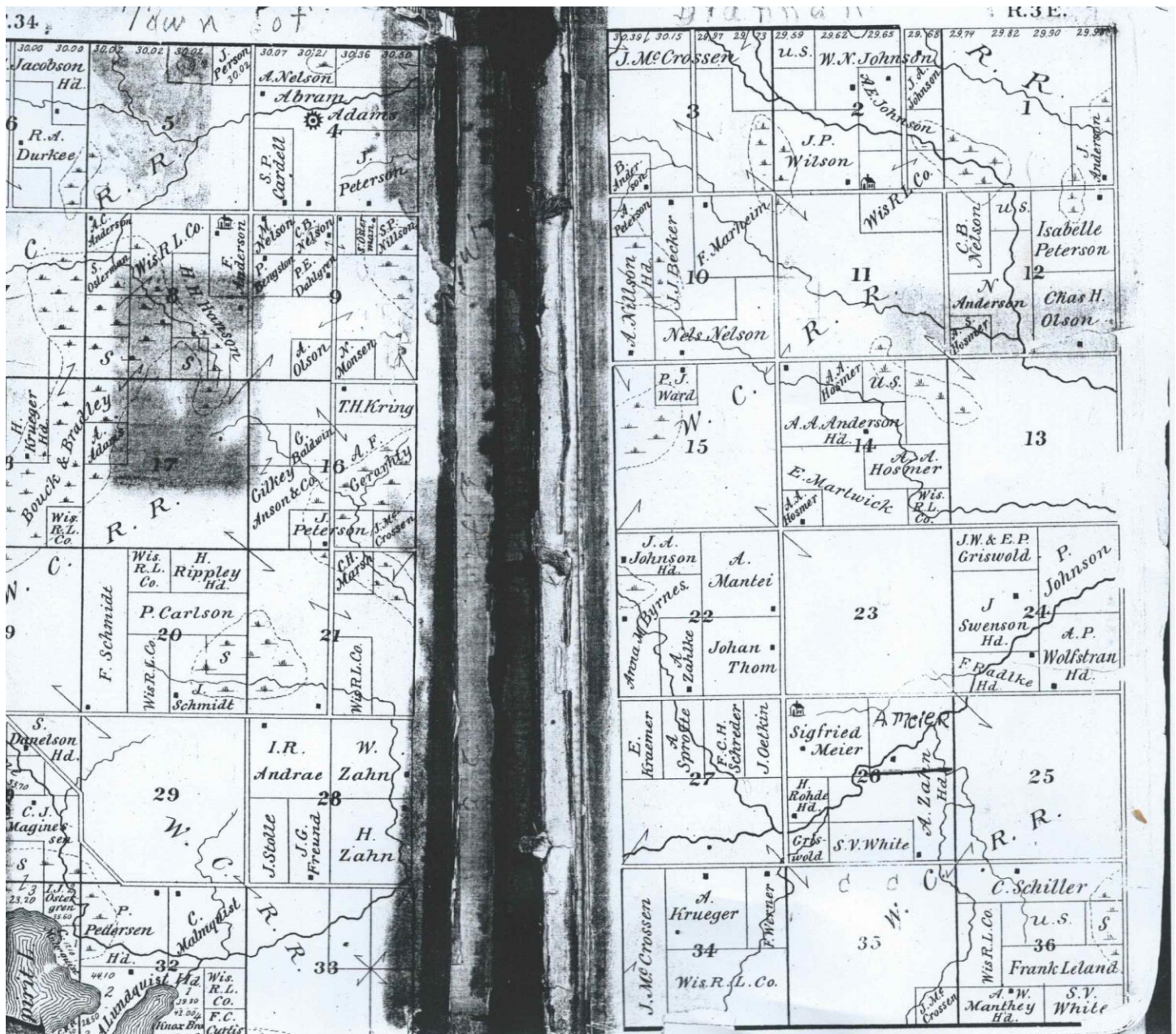
In his publication *A Glimpse of the Early History of the State of Wisconsin Relating to Price County* (ca. 1905), Sackett stated that *“at the spring election in April 1879, the town of Brannan, consisting of the south two tiers of towns of the county, and embracing the settlements at Ogema and Spirit, completed its organization and elected its town officers. The first town meeting of Brannan was held as provided for in the act of creating Price county at the school house in town 34, range 3 east known as the Spirit settlement on the 1st day of April 1879 when A. Adams was elected chairman.”*

Under an act of the legislature passed in the early spring of 1879, the county of Price was established.

The History and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley 1891-92 noted *“The village of Phillips became the county seat of Price county on its organization in March, 1879. A handsome county building was erected in 1880, at a cost of \$10,000, with a temporary jail.”* Adams, as a town chairman, was a member of the Price County Board of Supervisors. At a Board meeting on March 15, 1880, he was appointed to a building committee *“...with full authority to perform all acts necessary to be performed by such committee in the matter of the erection of County buildings...”*

The History and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley 1891-92, noted that Adams had taken up a homestead claim, *“but he had not yet moved his family to the property.”*

He was awarded a Homestead Certificate on April 23, 1891 for the south half of the north-east quarter and the south half of the north-west quarter of section four, in township thirty-four, north of range three east, (Brannan, later called Spirit) containing one hundred and sixty acres. You will see his name in this Plat Book from about 1900 on Section 4 below (upper left). Note also the symbol for a sawmill.



On October 31, 1884, Mrs. Helen Adams, of Phillips, had purchased Lot 14 and the north-west one-half of Lot 13 of Block 3 of the Village of Phillips, for the sum of \$200.00. This was on Avon Avenue.

THE BEE reported on August 25, 1885:

“Mr. A. Adams has his fine house on Avon Avenue nearly completed. When finished it will be one of the finest in the city.”

THE BEE reported on September 1, 1885:

“A. Adams in fixing up his Phillips property has made a practical exposition of the beauty of the hardwoods of this region. Mr. Adams owns a saw-mill in the south-eastern portion of this county, where he has cut up much birch and maple in addition to his regular run of pine. From this mill he has shipped up a birch floor which he has laid in the hall and dining-room of his building here. The lumber was sawed three years before it was dressed and matched, and has lain in dry quarters ever since. It is laid in strips an inch thick and two inches wide, showing an inch and a half face as it lies in the floor. The grain is simply beautiful; with all the delicate tints from dark brown to faintest green that is shown by the richest walnut. When oiled and polished this floor will be second in beauty to nothing in the state.

This birch flooring can be bought in the log, delivered at the mill, for \$5.00 a thousand feet, and the cost of sawing it, which is more than pine, is about the same. To make it into flooring costs say \$3.00 more, and then it is worth \$25 or \$30.00 beside the railroad. The margin of profit in the work is about the same as the chap realized who bought for one dollar and sold for two--”one per cent.”

The hardwood of this part of the state is large and solid, with straight grain, and without knots. The lumber is worth in actual quality double that sawed in other places which habitually supply the hardwood market, owing to the infinitesimal amount of waste. The timber stands everywhere among the pine, and only needs enterprising men with adequate machinery, to double the present business of northern Wisconsin.

The only reason this lumber is not in demand for inside finishing right here at home is that the houses being hurriedly built are not as a rule set on a solid foundation, and when they settle, settle unevenly and open the best made joints in the woodwork; wherefore it does not pay to incur the expense of the fine joiner-work necessary on hardwood trimmings. But the time will come.”

THE PHILLIPS TIMES reported on February 18, 1888:

WILLIS

“A. Adams will commence to haul his lumber to Willis this week, having cut and shoveled out a road between here and Brannan.”

July 27, 1894: The Phillips fire.

THE BEE reported on September 19, 1894:

“Mr. A. Adams is about to commence the erection of two fine residences on his lots on Avon Avenue. Let the good work go on.”

THE BEE reported on February 14, 1900:

Married

“HOBE-ADAMS.--On Saturday evening Feb. 10th, Mr. O.K. Hobe of Knox Mills to Miss Helen Anita Adams of Brannan.

This quiet but pretty wedding ceremony took place at The Manse, the Rev. Samuel Howell Murphy officiating, and was attended by the mother of the bride, Mrs. Helen Adams and Mr. and Mrs. M. Christianson and family. After the ceremony the groom became the host and invited company and Mr. and Mrs. Murphy and family to the wedding supper at Hotel Van. Page 4

The bride is the niece of Mr. and Mrs. Christianson and at various times has visited Phillips, and has made many friends in this city. The groom is the superintendent of the E.H. Hobe Lumber Co. of Knox Mills. The party returned to their home at Knox Mills that evening, where they have furnished a beautiful home and where they were surprised by a gift of a piano from the Swedish-Norwegian Consul for Minnesota, Mr. E.H. Hobe and wife of St. Paul, had been added to the adornments of their home. THE BEE, and all friends of the bride and groom wish them a long and happy life."

The Presbyterian Church and Manse on Avon Avenue were directly across the street from the Adams' two residences. As of 2016, neither the Church nor the residences are still standing.

THE PRENTICE CALUMET reported on December 6, 1900:

"Mr. and Mrs. O.K. Hobe gave a Thanksgiving dinner and all present say they never enjoyed a finer dinner. How could it be otherwise? When Mrs. A. Adams and daughter, Mrs. Hobe, start to do a thing they do it right, you can rest assured. The dinner was followed by singing, solos being rendered by Mr. Hienbach, of St. Paul, and Mrs. A. Adams. It was a great display of talent for our small berg, and we hope for a repetition soon. There was also a story, "When I was a Boy," by the Hon. B.S. Stevenson."



"Mr. Hienbach, E.H. Hobe Lumber Co.'s bookkeeper from St. Paul, has come to Knox to stay and we welcome him, as he is a fine singer as well as master of a fine violin that he has played for twenty years and is not afraid to use it."

THE BEE reported on January 26, 1901:

"Born, to Mr. and Mrs. O.K. Hobe, of Knox Mills, on Saturday, January 19th, a son."

THE PRENTICE CALUMET reported on August 29, 1901:

"Mrs. O.K. Hobe entertained last Sunday. Those present were: Mrs. Helen Adams and daughter, John S. Brandt, of St. Paul, and Dr. Jacob Dahl, of Minneapolis. All had an enjoyable time. The music was fine as was also the songs rendered."

Of record is a photograph by Oswald Scheller, a Phillips photographer, showing Ben Adams playing the violin, Anita Adams playing a pump organ, John Blondin (sic) playing a violin and Gerda Jacobson playing a guitar. The photograph is ca. 1897 as Scheller was a photographer from 1894 to 1898. His studio was located at 165 S. Avon Avenue, just down the street from the Adams' home across from the Presbyterian Church and Manse. Anita and Ben Adams were the children of Abram and Helen Adams with residences in Brannan and Phillips. The Blandin's and Jacobson's were their neighbors in Brannan.

THE PRENTICE CALUMET reported on October 17, 1901:

"We understand that the E.H. Hobe Lumber Co. has sold their entire business to Mr. Bradley, of Tomahawk. We will miss Mr. Hobe, for he has brought a great many settlers to this place. He has built up Brantwood and Knox Mills and has been a great help to the community. We wish him success where ever he may go."

THE BEE reported on March 21, 1903:

"Mrs. A. Adams died March 13th, 1903, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. O.K. Hobe, 3214 2nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn., where she had gone for a visit last September, before going to her new home in Idaho. Her health had been failing for a number of years, and it was necessary to undergo a very critical operation. She had only left the hospital a short time when taken with pneumonia, after which she had a paralytic stroke on the right side, and had nearly recovered from that when taken with the grip, then asthma. They were even then hopeful of her recovery, when a second paralytic stroke, this time on the left side, reached her heart, and she died without a struggle.

Mrs. Adams was born in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, in the year 1856. She was of Scottish descent, her great grandfather being nephew to the 16th Earl of Crawford. Her ancestry was traced back, very remotely, to King Robert Bruce.

She leaves a husband, a married son, B.S. Adams, who resides in Idaho, a married daughter, Mrs. O.K. Hobe, of Minneapolis, a daughter, Hacil Valvere, aged 15 years, a son, Eben, aged 13 years and a father, Mr. B.S. Stevenson, who is also in Idaho, and a sister, Mrs. Barbara Christianson, of this city, all of whom are inconsolable at their irreparable loss.

Mrs. Adams was a lady of rare sweetness of disposition and beloved by all who knew her."

Sometime prior to 1903, the Adams' moved to Juliaetta, Idaho, where they built a new house in 1905, in the style of a Scottish castle, in honor of Mrs. Adams' ancestry. Mrs. Adams did not live to see their new house.



Photo courtesy of Tracy Schwarz

After moving to Idaho, the Adams' are reported to have started a seed company selling Alaskan wheat. They eventually got into some legal trouble for false claims and the U.S. Mail. Page 6

Daughter Helen Hobe continued to reside in Minneapolis and visit her father in Idaho. *KENDRICK GAZETTE* (Kendrick, Idaho) reported on April 16, 1909, that “Mrs. O.K. Hobe and son Earl left Tuesday evening for Minneapolis.”

Adams continued to travel into his later years. In December 1922, at the age of 78, he sailed from Los Angeles, to Honolulu, returning to Seattle, in February 1923. In November 1923, he traveled from Kingsgate, British Columbia, to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

A Florida Deaths database at www.FamilySearch.org shows that Adams died on November 2, 1925, at Tampa, Florida, and was buried at Juliaetta, Idaho, on November 3, 1925. His occupation was listed as a farmer. Death on one day in Florida, and burial the next in Idaho, may indicate a possible date error.

Photos of Adams and the Adams’ house in Idaho are courtesy of Justin Cope.

Written by Bill Hoffman with contributions by Karen Baumgartner. February 2016.

At the Price County Board meeting on January 13, 1880:

“Motion made that a suitable ordinance or resolution be drawn, providing for and authorizing the issue of the bonds of Price County to the amount of \$10,000 in denomination of \$500 with interest at the rate of 8% per annum, the sum of \$2,000 with accrued interest to be payable each for five successive years commencing with the 1st of June 1881, said bonds to be made payable at the first National Bank of Milwaukee, to be negotiated by the County Treasurer, David O’Brien, at not less than par or face value and that the fund so received, on the sale of said bonds, shall be set aside and only used for the purpose of providing a site and erecting County buildings in the Village of Phillips, the County seat of Price County, for the use of said County.

Roll called and above motion carried, all voting aye.”

At the Price County Board meeting on March 15, 1880:

“Sup. Adams submitted the following resolution--

Resolution No. 36

Resolved, that A. Adams and Wm Farrell members of the Board of Supervisors and F.W. Sackett, County Clerk, be and are hereby appointed and constituted a building committee for Price County, with full authority to perform all acts necessary to be performed by such committee in the matter of the erection of County buildings, and that they shall be required to report at each regular meeting of the Board, as to the progress and condition of the work, and further

Resolved that said committee shall continue to act and remain a standing committee until the buildings are completed and said committee discharged.

It shall be the duty of this committee to examine and report upon plans and specifications for the building, negotiate for a site, and superintend the erection of said building, examine and endorse or make a recommend on all bills submitted to the board in the matter of the County buildings, and to perform all other duties usually performed by such a committee and report as above required.

Moved by Sup. Farrell that the above resolution be adopted.

Roll called and resolution adopted, all voting aye.”

A Hunting Story, by Dick Dastardly

(aka Dick Rhody)

Anyway, here's my deer hunting story. I know that stories like this abound and are the fodder of many a deer camp evening around the pot-bellied stove. We were gathered on a hardwood ridge, about 25 of us. This was the "Old Rhody" gang. Some, including my dad, Ed Rhody were seated on a hollow fallen tree log. Others stood around munching their sandwiches. Our sandwiches were packed in big red handkerchiefs along with candy bars and maybe an apple. Our rifles were neatly leaned against trees. We had a cozy fire blazing and the gang was hanging out around it. Talk was easy with the telling of tales from seasons past. Uncle Harry Koenen went about gathering wax paper and candy bar wrappers and stuffing them into the hollow log. Harry kind of snorted when he giggled and he was snorting merrily as he cleaned up our litter. Then, he torched the paper and stood back, snorting quietly. My dad suddenly jumped up, swatting at his rear end to put out his smoking pants. We all roared. Then, the stories and kidding continued.

One tale I recall was about Grandpa, Henry Rhody, and his old well used 38-55 Winchester 94. I don't recall exactly who was walking with him, but that was the kid, now a man, that told the story. They were somewhere well South of Maple Ridge Farm, possibly back at what were called the canyons. There, as they walked on a railroad right of way, a nice big buck came up on the old rail bed and stood sideways, about 50 paces away. Grandpa up with the old gun and BOOM! He shot black powder hand loads pushing cast bullets. When the smoke cleared, there lay the nice buck, dead as a door nail. The boy and Grandpa walked up on the deer and the kid exclaimed "Grampa, that was a great shot!!". Oh, not all that great son, said Grampa. The kid said you shot him right in the head! I'd say that is a great shot. Grampa said "I was aiming for his middle". .

So, anyway, there we were high on that ridge enjoying our lunch, laughing and talking and having a fine time when one of the guys said "hey! Comes a deer two ridges that way". We got quiet and looked where he was pointing. Sure nuff, there was a good sized buck just coming down that ridge towards the swale below. We sat around and wondered if we could take that deer on our next drive when he topped the next ridge close to us. We had one greenhorn from Chicago hunting with us that year and he said in a loud voice, "do you think he'll come up this hill?" We all said SSHHHHHHHHHH! Then, we quietly got our rifles and got down on one knee or stood next to a tree for a good rest so as to make a steady shot. Sure as God made little green apples, that buck kept coming straight towards us. I think he must have had a death wish. When he got to about 100 feet from us Uncle Harvey (Rhody) shot him. Then we all shot him, more than once each.

Finally the greenhorn from Chicago shot him one more time and shouted "I got him!". Uncle Harvey, in his dry drool way said "You can have him." That deer wouldn't hold hay. He was so shot up that we had to tie all his legs together in order to drag him in one piece. So, that's my story and I'm stickin' to it.

"Electricity Comes to Knox Mills –
Comment on back of photo reads "'Hooking Up', April 22, 1942.
The photo was taken by the Knox Cheese Factory."



ELECTRICITY COMES TO KNOX MILLS/SPIRIT
by
JOYCE BANT

REA crews travelled through the American countryside, bringing teams of electricians along with them. The electricians added wiring to houses and barns to utilize the newly available power provided by the line crews. A standard REA installation in a house consisted of a 60 amp, 230 volt fuse panel, with: A 60 amp range circuit. A 20 amp kitchen circuit. Two or three 15 amp lighting circuits

A ceiling-mounted light fixture was installed in each room, usually controlled by a single switch mounted near a door. At most, one outlet was installed per room, since plug-connected appliances were expensive and uncommon. Wiring was performed using type NM nonmetallic sheathed cable, insulated with asbestos-reinforced rubber covered with jute and tar. Page 9

Many of these installations still exist **today**, though most have been augmented to support a greater number and variety of appliances.

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936, enacted on **May 20, 1936**, provided federal loans for the installation of electrical distribution systems to serve isolated rural areas of the United States. The funding was channeled through cooperative electric power companies, most of which still exist **today**. These member-owned cooperatives purchased power on a wholesale basis and distributed it using their own network of transmission and distribution lines. The Rural Electrification Act was also an attempt made by FDR's New Deal to deal with high unemployment.

(From Wikipedia Rural Electrification Act https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural_Electrification_Act)

By about 1940 the REA was ready to bring electricity to the Knox Mills/Spirit community but it was a cooperative so memberships were needed. It became part of the Spirit Grange initiative to solicit those memberships and they became very instrumental in getting electricity to the area by signing farmers up through memberships. Arvid Blomberg recruited Grange members to go around to collect memberships from local farmers. The cost was \$5 but that was a substantial amount because the yearly income in 1941 was estimated to be \$1,750 and for the local farmers it may have been far less so the memberships were hard to sell. Electricity was a new thing to them and they worried that the good fortune of being able to get it might not be feasible and they would lose their \$5. Another electric company, Lake Superior Power Company (now Xcel Energy), had provided electricity along Highway 8 and a few miles south a few years earlier but stopped just before Knox Mills because they were considering the long distances they would have to run lines, the cost to run those lines. It wasn't very profitable to go into the less densely populated areas so the farmers in the Spirit-Knox Mills area would have been without electricity if it weren't for the cooperative electric company, now known as the Price Electric Cooperative.

Enough memberships were sold and Grandma Sophia nee Goetzke Lind's diary records when electricity came to Knox Mills. On **May 31, 1941** she wrote "Staked for REA". On **October 23, 1941** she wrote "Electricians started wiring the house" and on **October 28th** she wrote "Electricians finished wiring". The wiring was done but it wouldn't be until the next spring that they would get their electricity.

On **December 26th** she wrote "Got washing machine". A washing machine would have been something very important to her as washing clothes before electricity was a tedious job. It took the entire day. First the water was hauled in from an outside pump to be heated on the wood cookstove. A tub was filled with the heated water. First the whites were washed, then the colored clothes and then the heavy work clothes. Laundry that needed sanitizing was put in boiling water on top of the stove and heavily soiled clothes had to be rubbed with soap and scrubbed on a ribbed washboard (see photo below). After the clothes were cleaned the water had to be replaced in the tub with rinse water and the clothes recycled through again. Everything was wrung out by hand or by a manually run wringer. After the clothes were washed and rinsed they had to be hung out on a line to dry.

It wasn't until **April 22, 1942** that they "got electricity right after dinner – yard light didn't work (they came back the next day to fix it)". Two days later she tried out her washing machine and "it worked". **April 24th** that year was a **Friday** and Mondays were always wash days but Grandma couldn't wait.



The tank of the washing machine had an agitator that rotated back and forth to clean the clothes. The tank still had to be filled by hand with pails of water that had been heated on the wood cookstove. Instead of wringing out the clothes by hand there was a wringer at the top of the machine where you hand fed the clothes through to a tub of rinse water. The clothes were then sloshed by hand through the water to rinse them and hand fed back through the wringer. There was a hose at the side of the tank to drain out the water a pail at a time.

Before: The washboard & tub

After: The wringer washing machine

Tuesday was ironing day. Until the electricity was hooked up an iron was heated on the stove and ironing was done on an ironing board. Permanent press (wrinkle free) material hadn't been invented until about 1953 and it took awhile to replace the kind that wrinkled so everything needed to be ironed so a day had to be set aside for that and included with the regular household chores.

Wednesday was mending day. Clothing had to last as long as possible. Most of it was made by hand on a treadle sewing machine. Socks and mittens were knitted by hand. When clothing was completely worn out it was saved to make quilt pieces or rag rugs, which were also made by hand.

Thursday was "catch up" day. **Friday** was cleaning day. **Saturday** was baking day. Bread and pastries had to be baked to last the week. **Sunday** was a day of rest...to go to church, visit friends and family and to entertain visitors.

The next to be replaced was their battery radio on **February 11, 1943**. Grandpa Arthur liked to listen to farm reports and news which was on after lunch so that was an important upgrade. On **April 9, 1945** the Lind's got a milking machine and the next spring they got a refrigerator. The refrigerator may have come so long after electricity was hooked up because of WWII and that refrigerators weren't available because the materials used to make them were needed for the war effort. Until they got that refrigerator the men cut ice for keeping food from spoiling and stored it under sawdust which helped keep it from melting during the summer. Grandma's diary records that in 1942 they cut ice on Bass Lake for 3 days in February, in 1943 and 1944 they cut ice off and on in March at The Pond in Knox Mills. They must have planned for the refrigerator because they didn't cut ice in 1945 and they got the refrigerator on **May 1, 1946**.



L: Dam on river to hold back water for Knox Mills pond;

R: Lind's making ice on Knox Mills Pond to store in sawdust for summer use – Year unknown



The Spirit Grange by Joyce Bant

An organization that was beneficial to farmers was the Grange that was organized as Price County No. 1 in 1937 by State Master Herman Ihde. In 1940 it was renamed Spirit Grange No. 739 and meetings were held at a school located just into Lincoln County at the corner of Sunwall Road and Highway 86. In addition to the regular membership there was also a Juvenile Grange. The school had a basement where the Juvenile Grange was able to have separate meetings from the regular Grange. Sometime later the Grange moved their meetings to the Spirit Town Hall where they met until 1951.

Grandma Lind's diary is one record of the Grange that survives. In 1944 Mabel Bergeson got Grandma's job as Pomona, Nina Swenson became Ceres and Jane Fickel as Flora. Henry retained his job as A.S. On serving: Ella, Mabel, Iola, Ruby, Gertrude Johnson and myself. On [March 9, 1945](#) the Grange executive committee visited her to audit the Secretary and Treasurer books. On [March 17, 1945](#) they had a basket social to raise money and netted \$26.85. On [December 11, 1945](#) the 3rd and 4th degree was conferred to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Johnson, Elroy Johnson, Hilda Pearson and A. Borg. On [October 8, 1946](#) they initiated 8 new members into Grange 1st and 2nd degree. They were Carl Larson, a couple from Glen Flora, Arnold, Virginia Johnson, Terry Johnson, Raymond Borg, and Merle Stoughton. A bunch from Glen Flora came down to watch us initiate. On [October 29, 1946](#) Grange officers and 12 members went to Glen Flora to initiate or put on 3rd and 4th degree, also opening drill. On [November 12, 1946](#) Mrs. Al Brown replaced Grandma as Lecturer. On [November 19, 1946](#) they initiated Thomas Berhow, Mrs. Feldheim, Mrs. Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Lindwall, Mr. and Mrs. Garlick, Mr. Nelson, Feldheim boy, Mrs. E. Fickel, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Starr.

The only other surviving record of the Spirit Grange is the Juvenile Secretary Record that showed that ages of juvenile members ranged from 5 years on up (Charlotte Christianson was the 5 year old - Mrs. Walter Johnson was her Mom). The record shows they started their meeting with the pledge to the flag and followed with singing, a lecture, discussion of activities such as presentation of plays and baseball teams and after the meeting ended they played games until their parents were done with their meeting. Officers were the same as the regular Grange...Master, Overseer, Lecturer, Steward, Assistant Steward, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, Gatekeeper, Ceres, Pomona, Flora, Lady Assistant Steward and the Matron who was an adult, for the years records were available (1938 – 1945) it was Mrs. Irene Ostring and Mrs. Walter Johnson. Members were: Anderson – George & Ulysses; Bergeson – Lowell & Muriel; Blomberg, Erland; Borg – Raymond & Bobby; Calhoun – Bobby, David & Donald; Christianson, Charlotte; Crowell, Ardis; Englund – Ardyth & Duane; Engstrom, Francis; Ernst, Delwin; Evans – Jerry & Judy; Fryklund, Doris; Harrsch, Richard; Johnson – Bobby, Delores, Donna, Doris, Harriet, LeRoy, Lois, Marion, Paul, & Vernon; Jorgenson, Lloyd; Kring – Douglas, James & Richard; Larson – Marjorie, Shirley & Virginia; Marheine, Arleigh; Nelson, Gladys; Nyberg, Lloyd; Oman, Leland; Ostring, Laurie Jane; Peterson, Eva; Ritzman, Alice; Schloski, Lyle & Sharlene; Soderstrom, John; Swanson, Joyce; Swenson, Billy; and Wyman, Jimmie.

The regular Grange members not only were there to help solve farm problems (see “electricity comes to Knox Mills”), but also celebrated milestones in their lives together. Arthur and Sophia Lind and other farmers were members and it was about the time that small farms began to disappear that the Spirit Grange disbanded. The Grange was formed in 1867 by farm leaders who felt such a group could help farmers in their economic and social battles. The Grange organization still exists and can be found online.

Sheryl is a former German Settlement Board Member now working in Omaha at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. This is a write-up about her:

Lookin' at U - Sheryl Brietzke

February 11, 2016



Sheryl Brietzke and her granddaughter, Lily.

Each Thursday, we randomly feature a medical center employee. This week, we learn more about:

- **Name:** Sheryl Brietzke
- **Hometown:** Omaha
- **No. of years at UNMC:** One year as Kelly Service and five years as UNMC employee.

Tell us a bit about what you do:

I am a dispatcher for the UNMC trouble/help desk. I answer incoming calls for various maintenance issues. Calls can be anything from a room that is too hot or too cold, air flow being too negative or too positive, ceiling/window/roof leaks or entrapments in elevators. The No. 1 goal each day is customer service, and I strive to follow through as I enjoy the dispatcher position.

Tell us of a time you witnessed an example of your favorite brand value at UNMC:

Everyday I witness "working together." It starts with a caller who calls in a trouble call, and the dispatcher who works with them by asking questions such as "What building are you in?" "What is the room number?" and "What is the issue in the room?" Then it takes the dispatcher to enter all the information and send it off to the proper area where the trouble call will be addressed. Calls also are prioritized according to the need of the call.

With the upcoming transition merging UNMC and Nebraska Medicine facilities, "working together" already has begun and will continue to help make the transition a positive goal.

What are your favorite winter activities?

Before moving back to Omaha in 2009, I lived in northern Wisconsin. I loved to snowshoe, cross country ski, four-wheel on the trails and sometimes walk across the frozen lake in town to visit friends out in their heated shack during ice fishing season.

List three things people may not know about you:

- I have two wonderful and successful adult children, an amazing son-in-law, and a 3-year-old granddaughter who calls me by my childhood nickname instead of Grandma -- and I love it! Oh, I can't forget my sweet cat Zoe, too!
- I lived in Puerto Rico with my family during the early 1960s (my father was Air Force), and 50 years later, I took my son there for his 40th birthday. He was surprised that after all those years I was able to drive right to the house my family lived in on base.
- I lived in a small town in Wisconsin (pop. 854) for 10 years before moving back to Omaha. Rib Lake was the town and area both my parents were from originally. I was able to research and find endless genealogy on both my families through court houses, church records and people in the community that knew my parents while they were growing up.



Obituary for James "Jimbo" Bockholt

James "Jimbo" Bockholt, age 72, passed away Monday, November 30, 2015 at Ministry Sacred Heart Hospital.

Jimbo was born on February 2, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois to John and Lucille (Himsel) Bockholt. In 1948 the family moved to the Spirit area where Jim attended Liberty School and Rib Lake High School. Jimbo served his country in the US Army for 2 years. Jim later moved to Tomahawk where he held various jobs until his retirement. Jim's greatest pride was his German Shepherd, King, he and King were often seen walking the streets of Tomahawk visiting with people. An accident 4 years ago left Jim paralyzed and a resident of Golden Age Nursing Home.

Surviving Jim are:

2 sisters, Elaine (Frank) Ulrich, Ogema and Donna (Gary) Kelley, Colona, IL.
Brother, Don (Mary) Bockholt, Atoka, Tennessee.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, brother, John "Jack" Bockholt, Sister, Marge Mitchell, 2 nephews, John and Tom Kelley, and a great grand niece, Kennedy Ulrich

The family has given a generous memorial gift in Jim's memory to German Settlement History, Inc. for Liberty School News.

American Legion Riders Honoring Local American Heroes with Remembrance Wreaths—Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, King, WI, December 12th, 2015



The American Legion worked hard to ensure no veteran at King was forgotten this holiday season. On Dec. 12, National Wreaths Across America Day, live, balsam remembrance wreaths were placed at the headstones of fallen veterans at nearly 1,000 locations across the country and overseas. Locally, a remembrance ceremony was held at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in King, WI to ensure that the individuals buried there, who served to protect the freedoms of our country are not, and never will be forgotten. A total of 5400 wreaths were placed on the headstones of our veterans.



5400 wreaths to King for this event. The man standing in foreground is Everett Johnson, born and raised in the Spirit area. He is an active member of American Legion Spirit Post 452, District 11 for 44 years. Now also a Life member of District 11 American Legion Riders and involved with District 8 American Legion Riders, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

If you wish to help cover a headstone of a veteran at King in 2016 you may purchase a wreath for \$15.00. Please make check to ALRA, send to ALRA, 1130 13th St., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. Page 15

Stories of Stone Lake by Herb Magnuson

In 1925 my dad took this picture with his camera which used glass plates for negatives. He used a string to trip the shutter.

It is a picture of two twenty-year old Baptist immigrant missionaries that he met at the Charlie Bergeson farm. They were in Ogema to raise money for work to be done in Africa. Their names are Ida Erickson and Jennie Jacobson. Ida continued on to Africa and Jennie became my mother.

They were two classy gals for that time. They came from an area that was between Sweden and Finland which is now part of Finland. Their families had money enough to send boys to America but the girls got here by becoming missionaries. Their relatives had come to Duluth and northern Wisconsin. There were Ericksons among the Finnish people and in Marengo, Ashland County, there are distant relatives of ours.

They were well-educated for that time in the Swedish language. My mother did not enjoy the brand of Swedish that was spoken by the Magnusons and Danielsons. It was a spoken dialect that was used at the dinner table in our house when I was a kid and was used until grandma died. I believe that the language used by the Swedes from the southwestern part of Sweden contained too much Norwegian.

I remember Ida from 1939 when I was eleven years old. She had spent 10 years in Africa and was given a one-year vacation. She stayed at our farm for one month. She expected to return to Africa and she did and spent the rest of her life there and was buried among the people she spent her life working with. Mother heard that she died in 1951.

I was absolutely mesmerized with that gal. The things she told me, I have remembered all my life. It was in the fall around potato digging time. Most evenings we would go down to our big root cellar to see the day's harvest. We would sit on two boxes and she would tell me stories about her time in Africa. It seemed to me that it was one big jungle full of footpaths between the areas where small groups of people lived. The expression I remember most was "God expects his children to wear clothes."

She must have been a saint!

I recognize the gate in the picture. Most all of the homesteads had one. The government advised the people to build their houses in the center of their 160 acres. Farms usually had a fence around their house to keep the animals away. Most of them had some chickens that always wanted to get close to the house's kitchen. These gates were sold by the early stores. This one was fancy with a decoration on top to keep the chickens from sitting on them. Some places with a plain gate would fasten tree branches on them to keep the chickens off. This gate in the picture I threw on top of a scrap iron drive during World War II.

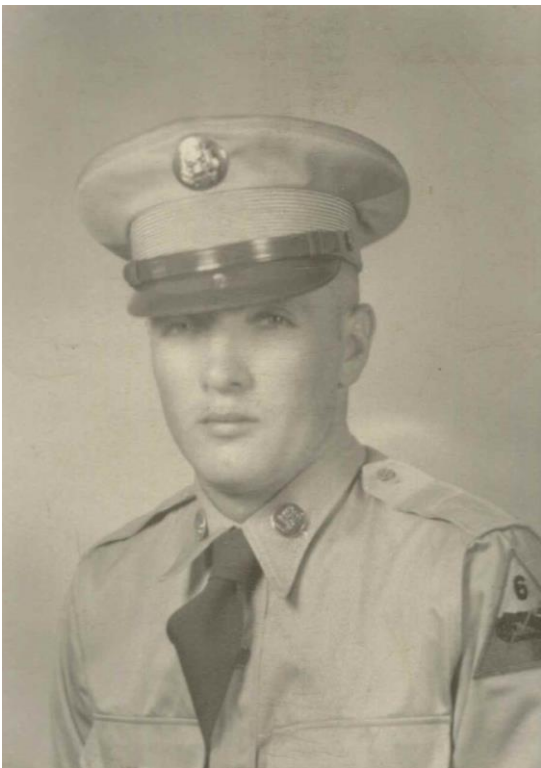


A Hero in Our Midst, by Lavon (Bunny) Komarek

Bunny Komarek has written a tribute to her late husband, Eugene (Bud) Komarek. Her story begins on the following page. Here are some photos that go with the story:



The Komarek home on YY. How it looked when Bud was a youngster, going to Liberty School.



Bud Komarek, 6-1-54, Age 19



Bud's family, July, 1967.
Back row: Brenda, Bunny, Barbara
Front: Beth, Steve, Becky (Betsy born 2 years later)
(seated children are neighbor's kids) Page 17

A HERO IN OUR MIDST

The grandparents of Eugene (Bud) Komarek, immigrated from Czechoslovakia in the late 1800's to Chicago. Later Frank Sr. his wife Marie and baby Frank moved to the Athens area. In 1919 Frank met and married Lucia Veitenhans from the city of Athens. Her father was a well known brick layer and had helped in the construction of the brick homes and churches in that area. Many of them still remain there. Frank and Lucia farmed in the Town of Johnson and raised 8 children. Arleen (Weinke), Orval, Laurel (Fat), Vangel (Birdie Hartwig) , Almira (Dolly Olwell), Franklin (Junior), Eugene (Bud), and Mirella (Babe Blasel). They moved to the Town of Spirit in 1942, to the Bill Reiman farm on YY. The younger children, Dolly, Jr. , Bud and Babe, attended the Liberty School across from the Luthern Church.

Bud graduated in 1948 from the eighth grade and helped his family with the farm work. At the age of 15 he went to work for a farmer in Athens and in 1952 , at the age of 17 he came down to Dorchester to work for Wilber and Audery Stockwell. (parents of the auctioneer). There he would join the community youngsters and play softball at the Lawndale School after the evening chores were finished. LaVon(Bunny) Fritsche also attended these ballgames with her cousins and sisters. Bud enjoyed the game of softball and impressed the kids with his batting skills. We all thought he was cute, but he had his eye on Bunny. We became good friends that summer and in the Fall he went to work for more money at the Ed Brecke Mink Ranch and Farm east of Dorchester. He was now about 9 miles from our community. We went to movies in Abbotsford (I was not allowed to go alone as I was only 13) and came up north to the Komarek Family Farm. Soon good friends became childhood sweethearts. We said "someday" we would get married. I still had all my high school and games and proms and I was busy in 4-H , so we were not so serious. Eventually he moved back up north and we saw less and less of each other. He had a few girlfriends and I had my eye on a few boys in school. Bud worked at the shoe factory in Rib Lake, and hung out with some of the party kids from there. I was not a party person, and was not old enough to party. In May of 1954 , Bud joined the Army, along with three other young men from the area. He took his basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. and his AIT (advanced individual training) at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. His choice in the military was mechanics so he was in the Ordnance Unit. He was a wheel vehicle mechanic, and an armored tank and diesel mechanic. That fall he was stationed at Ft. Carson , Colo. It was common at that time to take a whole unit and do temporary duty in Germany. So after nearly a year at Ft. Carson , his unit transferred to Germany. There he quickly made rank and in 1956 , he came back on leave to Wisconsin , with the rank of E-5 (Specialist 5) . He came to Dorchester to see Bunny, now a senior at Medford High School. They talked about getting married the next year in June. on the 5th anniversary of their meeting each

other. His 30 day leave time was spent getting reacquainted and making wedding plans for June 15, 1957. In May Bunny received a phone call from Colorado. Sgt Komarek's unit was being transferred to Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin to help train National Guard units that would come there that summer. How convenient. Now Bud was up north every week-end and could attend Bunny's spring concert in MHS, her graduation, and plan the wedding.

Right after our wedding we did not have time to take a honeymoon and moved to Ft. McCoy. We bought a small house trailer and paid \$6.50 lot rent and \$6 electricity. We lived on post and I did laundry for a few soldiers. We had a wringer washer out back and I would wash outdoors. In September of 1957, Sgt Komarek's unit returned to Ft. Carson, CO. and we live in Colorado Springs, near the base of Cheyenne Mountain. In the spring of 1958, Sgt Komarek re-enlisted for 4 more years and received orders for Hanau, Germany. This time his unit was not going with him. He left for Germany in September, 1958. Baby Brenda was due in December so I remained in Wisconsin until she was born. Three months later in March of 1959, Bunny and Baby Brenda took a small plane from Wausau Airport to Chicago Midway Airport and from there to LaGuardia Airport in New York City. We spent the night at Ft. Hamilton and the next day we boarded a TWA (Trans World Airlines) Propeller Airplane and joined 18 mommies and 18 little infants for our flight to Frankfurt, Germany. We had left in a blizzard, but when we arrived in Ireland to refuel it was an absolutely stunning view, beautiful, lush and emerald green. The little hamlets from the air looked quaint, as out of an old history book. We continued on to our destination in Germany. Sgt Komarek was there to greet us and meet his sweet little Brenda for the first time.

We lived on the German economy, in an apartment on third floor, above a meat market and a Gasthaus (beer garden and restaurant) Mutti, our landlady was retired and so the beer garden and eating facility was no longer operating. Mutti and her husband Opa were wonderful. Mutti could speak broken English, but Opa could not. They fell in love with the new American baby and I had a lot of help. We lived about 10 kilometers from Sgt Komarek's duty station. There in Horstein, Germany, Barbara was born on Christmas 1959. Beth born in May 1961 and joined our family. There was much to do and we did a lot of sight seeing and visited other countries during this time. We returned to the U.S. A. in August 1961, just as the USSR was building the Berlin Wall. It was a stressful time as we were only a short ways from the invasion sites.

We came back to the States on a wonderful Pan Am jet. taking only 8 hours to the east coast. From there we picked up our '58 Chevie and drove across the state of New York, through the Catskill Mountains. It was beautiful and we stopped in Detroit to pick up my mother. She was employed as a nanny and housekeeper for a widowed Doctor with 5 children. We then drove to Frankfort, Michigan and loaded our car, and us on a ferry and went to Marinette, WI. to a family reunion, at my sisters home. We could

only spend a short time in Wisconsin, and then we headed down to Texas, to Ft. Hood. We pulled a house trailer and after two days, arrived in Texas in August. Nice and HOT. We did find a nice trailer park under some pecan trees and loved the area, as well as our friends and landlord. Sgt Komarek attended NCO Academy and was promoted to E-6 Staff Sergeant. We actually loved Texas and the big "man made" lakes. We were busy raising the babies #4 Becky was born there in Dec. 1962. SSGT Komarek was working with the commanding General on an inspection team that traveled to various Posts in the surrounding states. In Nov. 1963, we were only a few miles from where President Kennedy was shot. Ft. Hood was on alert status, and all the men were called back. SSGT Komarek had been in Arkansas at the time, and now was at home, with me. Other soldiers were not so fortunate, and could not leave post and come home.

In May of 1964 SSGT Komarek received orders to return to Germany for the third time. This time it would be Baumholder, Germany. SSGT Komarek left for Germany in September and we received our flight orders in November of 1964. At first we lived in temporary housing on post. One day Bud came home from work and said the 1st. Sgt from Headquarters & A company has someone in his unit from Wisconsin, maybe you know them. They are from a place called Ogema, Wisconsin. Ervin and Kathy Andrae were there too, Newly married. So they came to our house for that Thanksgiving dinner. A small world. Our children were older so we chose to live in Military Housing on Post. A beautiful apartment on second floor with a balcony and a short walk for the children to school. They joined Girl Scouts, and we were active in school and the NCO Wives Clubs and Bud was the night manager of the Enlisted Mens Club. Baumholder was beautiful and we were close to France and Luxembourg, where our young Girl Scouts placed a wreath on General Patton's grave during a ceremony at the American Cemetery there. We as a family were very honored and our children grew to be very patriotic as they would often see their dad stop the car, get out and salute the flag being lowered at the end of the day. We would also exit the car and place our hand over our heart. The theaters also played the National Anthem before each movie, and being an "Army Brat" made you aware of the Military protocol off and on post.

In 1967, at the nearby Military Hospital in Neubrucke, Germany, our son Steve joined our family. There was much excitement and celebration going on. Even the doctor sneaked the little girls into his office so they could visit the new baby boy. However, we soon found out that SSGT Komarek was being promoted to SFC Komarek E-7 and was on orders for Korea. We were relieved he was not going to Vietnam. We were regularly receiving news of someone we knew that had been killed or wounded. So in July of 1967, we came back to Wisconsin. We decided to stay with my mom Verona Fritsche in the Stetsonville area, while Bud would be gone for 14 months to Korea. The older children went to school in Stetsonville and I worked at the Medford Co-op. As the year progressed my mother was diagnosed with cancer, and we knew it was going to be

a sad departure , when we had to move on again.

SFC Komarek returned from Korea in October, 1968 . We were once again heading to Germany. So after his leave time and sending out household goods to Germany, we packed our 14 suitcases, hugged my mom , and cried most of the way to Milwaukee. We were bringing our car and had to be in New Jersey on New Years Day for our flight out. It was #4 Becky's birthday the 28th of December. A roaring blizzard. We had chains on the car and bumper high snow. We inched along and 11 hours later we arrived in Milwaukee. The next morning the roads looked good , but the report was not good. We stayed ahead of the blizzard all the way to the east coast, arriving the night of the 30th our flight. Bud was with him in Baumholder and Korea . After loading our car on a ship for Germany , it was time to leave the U.S.A. I called my mom one more time , to tell her I loved her. The last time I would speak to her.

Soon we were in Kitzingen Germany, the children were settled in school , and we were given a beautiful apartment on first floor. Now we had 4 bedrooms, and 3 bathrooms, my automatic washer and dryer, convenient schools and American shopping centers. Commissary, PX, and beauty shop. The Children had the AYA for fun and games and life was good. A new little Komarek was on the way and we were hoping for another boy the end of July or beginning of August. A life too good to be true in the army. About the middle of July, SFC Komarek was given the news that our 3 year tour in Germany was being cut short and that in about 6 months he would be leaving. His orders had come for Vietnam. We had a choice of staying there, or coming home. we chose to come to Wisconsin. Without my mom , we decided to buy a home in Rib Lake during his time away.

We arrived home in the middle of February 1970. We rented above Mel Gallistal's in Ogema for a month and then moved to our home in Rib Lake. Soon SFC Komarek left for School and training at Ft. Bragg, N. C. and spent 8 weeks there. It was in intensive course that the Green Beret trained at. In July he came home for a brief stay and then it was on to Ft. Bliss, Texas to Vietnamese Language School. He was to be an advisor to the SVA (South Vietnam Army). He wore a beret and had to speak their language. He had a personal driver and a lot of responsibility. There were 12 Americans and 800 SVA be Soldiers.

He left in September for Vietnam. His tour would be 13 months. He was with the SVA and they were going into places (Cambodia) that we were told they could not go. They stayed on land bases along the border and it was during one of these stays that things got hot. They were returning from Cambodia. The 12 Americans were on their own and were overrun by the Viet Cong. The land base was on fire and the jp fuel was exploding and the equipment was on fire. SFC Komarek crawled out of the secure area and into the open and radioed in air support and the unit was saved. He was awarded a second

bronze star medal for heroism.

I did not know any of this had taken place. I only knew that every night I would gather our children and kneel down and pray for their dad ,and then they would pass his 8X10 picture from the dresser, and each one would give him a kiss goodnight.

As his tour in Vietnam came to a close , he was given orders to Oklahoma City, to be an advisor to the National Guard . That required him to attend another school in Ft. Sam Houston, TX. for 6 weeks. I planned to stay in Rib Lake and not join him this time. He had served 18 years and was going for 20 so that would mean more moving and more schools for the children....but about a week after he went to Oklahoma City. I received a phone call. It was a Friday night. He said, start packing the movers are coming on Monday and we will be leaving Wisconsin on Thursday for OK City. He found a fabulous house in Midwest City , OK and we were on our way once again.

We loved Oklahoma City. It was nice and warm and our home was very nice and we had a fenced in back yard for Steve and Betsy to play shaded with peach, plum, pear, and apple trees. Honeysuckle and bridal wreath vines covered our patio. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and attached garage all hardwood floors. A dream house for \$120 rent. Another school for the children to attend. We were very near Tinker AFB and under the flight pattern of the big B-52 airplanes limping back from Vietnam. This was our home for two years . As an advisor to the National Guard , SFC Komarek was away from home on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Monday and Tuesday he worked at the armory, and on Wednesday and Thursday he was off work and spent his leisure time in the garage building doll houses and go carts. He also loved to go fishing on the big lakes nearby and purchased a boat.

In October 1973, he once again had orders for a new duty station. He also was promoted to E-8 First Sargent Komarek. We were on our way to Ft. Riley, Kansas. It was very difficult to find living quarters there , all of the rentals were either too small, too expensive or too ugly. We decided to buy a home there, and sell the one we were renting out in Rib Lake. We found a new 5 bedroom, 2 bath with a fenced in yard, and unattached garage. It was \$20,500 and a very good deal. We were in our newly purchased home only a few weeks when a major ice storm struck. It took out all the power from Abilene to Topeka and broke off over a hundred telephone poles. Somehow , we managed with a space heater and a week later the power was restored. Being 1st Sgt. was a real challenge, so Bud purchased some horses and every week-end he would take his family to the ranch and ride horses and relax. He "hated" his job as it was very stressful. He was also still winding down from his time in Vietnam. He decided he would now retire as he had served 20 years in the army. Just as he was about to submit his retirement papers, another great miracle happened. He was placed on orders to Ft. Snelling, MN. Wow, so close to home, what a blessing. We were able to sell our nice home that we lived in only 6 months, and move to West Saint Paul, MN.

We took our favorite horses and boarded them nearby. He was again given the duty of National Guard advisor in a three state area, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Another school for the children.

Master Sargent Komarek was now the Senior NCO of the MAIT Team at FT. Snelling. He was on the road again on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Monday they wrote up and critiqued the inspections from the week-end. Tuesday and Wednesday they had off and Thursday they had organized athletics to help them get some exercise. He had a more relaxed life, wonderful team mates and we enjoyed living in a nice big city once again. I went to work at Target, W. St. Paul and the older girls found jobs in the area. We found a church that had a guitar Mass and the children loved the big schools. Brenda was able to graduate after the first semester of her senior year, as she had all of the credits that she needed. She then went to beauty college only a few miles away. The elementary school was right over the fence in our back yard and across the street. Betsy had started kindergarten and Steve was in second grade. This would be our new life for two years, with trips home whenever possible.

Two years later M/Sgt Komarek was offered the rank of E-9 Sargent Major. However, we were to return to Germany yet another time. We would have to complete at least two years in the army to retire as an E-9 . With 4 teen aged daughters and two smaller children Top decided to hang up his uniform and retire. We initially had planned to erect a Wausau home on his parents property on YY, but when we came home for Easter week-end in 1976 , he was driving past the Wilson School on 86. It had a 4 Sale sign and he said, "I always loved that school". I said YUK!!!! It belonged to Marty Salverson at the time and so he paid him \$100 to hold it for us. He retired on June 30 , 1976 and we moved to Spirit. I did not like all the work and the challenge this school offered, but now I would not be comfortable any place else.

Bud Komarek, retired Master Sargent (E-8) , Vietnam hero, my hero, passed away from a heart attack at the young age of 59, on July 10, 1994. We miss him every day, but cherish the memories of a very colorful and exciting life.



Medals described

next page



Eugene O. Komarek

Medals in Order of Arrangement

- **Bronze Star w/ 2 Oak Leaf Clusters & "V" for Valor**
- **Meritorious Service Medal**
- **Good Conduct Medal x7**
- **Viet Nam Gallantry Cross**
- **National Defense Medal**
- **Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**
- **Viet Nam Service Medal (w/2 Stars)**
- **Republic of Viet Nam (RVN) Staff Medal**
- **Republic of Viet Nam Campaign Medal**

Above his name badge: Overseas Service Medal
Blue Bar on top row: Army Presidential Unit Citation

Others of Note: Viet Nam Armor Badge

Driver & Mechanics Badges (Given to operators with a High Degree of Skill in Operation and Maintenance of Government Equipment.

Expert Marksmanship Badges for:

Rifle
Submachine Gun

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96222

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 4572

26 October 1971

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
(SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

1. TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

KOMAREK, EUGENE O. [REDACTED] SFC USA 3d Arm Cav Bde TRAC APO 96266

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal (Second Oak Leaf Cluster) with "V" Device

Date of action: 1 May 1971

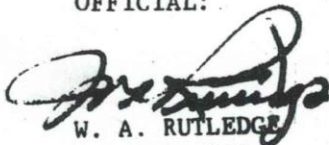
Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of
Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962

Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Sergeant First Class Komarek distinguished himself by heroic action on 1 May 1971 while serving as Maintenance Advisor to the 3d Armored Cavalry Brigade, Army of the Republic of Vietnam. At 0230 hours, Viet Cong sappers infiltrated past outpost positions around a supply point and planted timed explosives which blew up the ammunition dump at Thien Ngon Airstrip. Sergeant Komarek accompanied the members of the team to the communications track, but once it became clear that an observer was needed to assist in adjusting fires, he left the cover of the personnel carrier and moved to the perimeter berm. There, in an exposed position, he remained for the duration of the attack. Although the area inside the perimeter was receiving incoming helicopter rockets, and burning ammunition boxes that were propelled by the continuous secondary explosions in the ammunition dump, Sergeant Komarek continued to provide vital information as to the status of the units displaced along the perimeter, and the status of the burning dumps. Completely disregarding his own safety, he left his position and exposed himself again to assist his counterpart extinguish fires on the tops of trucks and tracked vehicles. Sergeant First Class Komarek's heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

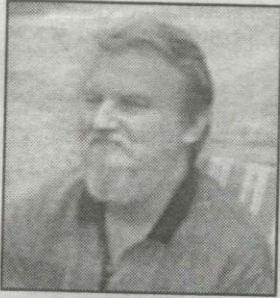


W. A. RUTLEDGE
Colonel, USA
Adjutant General

DONALD H. COWLES
Major General, USA
Chief of Staff

Bernard W. Miller

1947-2016



Cemetery in the Town of Spirit, Price County. Family and friends are welcome from 1 p.m. until time of service on Friday at the funeral home. The Maurina-Schilling Funeral Home in Abbotsford is entrusted with the arrangements.

Bernard was born on July 21, 1947, the son of William and Norma (Meier) Miller in Prentice. He attended Prentice High School. Bernard worked for the Chicago Northwest Railroad in Milwaukee and the oil fields in Texas for a number of years and

most recently logged in Ely, Minn., Custer, S.D., and in Price County until becoming disabled. They then purchased a hobby farm in the Town of Holway. Bernard married Brenda Komarek on June 22, 1987 in Bessemer, Mich.

Bernard loved gardening, tending his animals on his hobby farm, canning, traveling, singing (especially Johnny Cash music) and reading history books.

Bernard is survived by his wife, Brenda Miller of Medford; children, Dawn Schlenvogt of Port Washington, Clifford Miller of Port Washington, Wendy (Terrance) Hart of Fredonia, Heidi (Trampus) Geiger of Athens, Heather (Thomas) Fox of Dorchester and Isaac (Kristina Hermanson) of Mosinee; grandchildren, Dakota, Amber, Skylar, Jordan, Sophia, Leigha, Benjamin, Jayden, Riley and Payton. He is further survived by his brother, James Miller, and a sister, Nelda Phillips.

He was preceded in death by his grandson, Stephen Paul Miller, and a brother, Richard Miller.

Family and friends may express condolences online at www.maurinaschilling.com.

Paid Obituary 7805

He also attended Liberty School



Nora M. McMahon

July 2, 1942 – March 2, 2016

Nora M. McMahon, age 73, passed away on Tuesday, March 2, 2016, at Flambeau Hospital in Park Falls with family at her side.

Nora was born on July 2, 1942, in Chicago, Illinois, to Elaine (Meier) and Eugene McMahon Sr. Nora spent many years with her grandparents, Len A. and Nora Meier, in Phillips and graduated from Phillips High School in 1961.

Nora had a love of travel and new experiences and lived for various times in Chicago, New York, France, Mexico, California, Texas and Tucson, Arizona. Nora returned to live in Phillips in 2011 to spend time with her dear aunt, Joy Ann Diefenbach.

Nora loved people and maintained lasting friendships with many people she met on her life's journeys. She was an

avid reader and had strong opinions she wasn't shy about voicing. Nora loved to cook and bake and to entertain friends and family. She also loved feeding and watching birds and other wildlife.

Nora was married to Stuart Umphrey for 11 years. She was preceded in death by her step-sister, Joanne (Worden) Fourton. Nora is survived by her twin brother Eugene (Kathleen) McMahon of Algonquin, Illinois; sister, Elaine (Cassie) Tomaszewski of Hudson, Florida; brothers Frank (Joan) McMahon of Crestwood, Illinois, and James (Jackie) McMahon of Western Springs, Illinois, and step-brother Thomas Worden of Phillips. Also surviving are many cousins, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Heindl Funeral Home is assisting the family. A gathering for family and friends to celebrate Nora's life will take place later this spring/summer at Liberty School in Spirit.

Nora left her estate to German Settlement History, Inc.

German Settlement History, Inc. Membership/Gift Form

You are invited to become a member of GSHI. German Settlement History, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization whose mission is to protect, conserve and display buildings, artifacts and documents of historical value for educational purposes. Members are persons who contribute \$25.00 or more at any time during the year. Membership continues through the month of January the following year. As a member of GSHI you will be contributing to our mission, receive the Liberty School News and will be eligible to vote in person or by absentee ballot at the GSHI January Annual Meeting.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Amount _____ Membership Year _____

Categories: Please check one

- Swamper (non-member)—\$1.00 to \$24.00 per year _____

The following categories qualify you as a Member:

- Sawyer—\$25.00 to \$49.00 per year _____
- Teamster—\$50.00 to \$99.00 per year _____
- Woods Boss—\$100.00 to \$499.00 per year _____
- Homesteader—\$500.00 to \$999.00 per year _____
- Settlement Builder—\$1000 or more per year _____

Other Non-Membership gift _____

Please make checks payable to GSHI and mail to:

German Settlement History, Inc.
N894 S. German Settlement Road
Ogema, WI 54459

Telephone: 715-564-3299 Email: gshinc@centurylink.net Web: germansettlementhistory.org

Consider a **Legacy Gift**, a contribution to the long-term mission of GSHI. Your accountant, banker, investment advisor or insurance agent may be able to help you with a will, a power of attorney and a medical directive. When you discuss these matters you may also want to discuss how you can contribute to the long-term Endowment Fund of GSHI. This Fund is intended to preserve the land and the buildings of GSHI so that our mission can continue on into the future.

- **Send me more information on Legacy Gifts to GSHI**

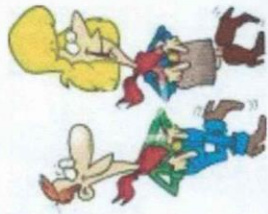
Book Order Form

Please make check or money order payable to German Settlement History, Inc.
 Mail to: German Settlement History, Inc., N894 S. German Settlement Road,
 Ogema, WI 54459

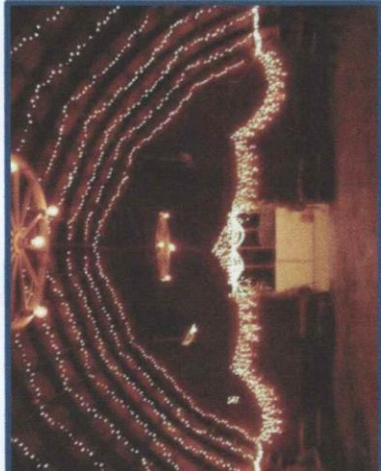
Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Here is an order form for books that have been written by folks right here in The German Settlement. We have had several volumes reprinted and/or rebound and now have a sufficient supply of each of these titles. We think these books give an accurate flavor of life and people here from 1880-1950. You can order them by mail or stop by and pick them up.

Name of Book	Price Each	Quantity	Total
The "Never Miss a Sunset" Pioneer Family Series by Jeanette Gilge			
A Winter's Promise	\$5.00	_____	_____
Never Miss a Sunset	\$5.00	_____	_____
All Things Heal in Time	\$5.00	_____	_____
Best of Intentions	\$5.00	_____	_____
Satin in the Snow	\$5.00	_____	_____
As Long As I Have You	\$5.00	_____	_____
Full set of all six books	\$20.00	_____	_____
Also by Jeanette Gilge:			
City-Kid Farmer	\$5.00	_____	_____
Growing Up Summer	(no longer available)	_____	_____
The "Saga of Spirit Valley" Series by Carl Rhody			
The Saga of Spirit Valley	\$7.50	_____	_____
The Saga of Spirit Valley II	\$7.50	_____	_____
The Saga of Spirit Valley III	\$7.50	_____	_____
The Saga of Spirit Valley IV	\$7.50	_____	_____
The Saga of Spirit Valley V	\$7.50	_____	_____
Full set of all five books	\$35.00	_____	_____
Also by Carl Rhody:			
Spirit Falls Logging Boom Town	\$7.50	_____	_____
Books by James Rhody:			
The Pleasure of the Sorrow	\$5.00	_____	_____
Brant's Bear	\$10.00	_____	_____
German Settlement History Booklet	\$2.00	_____	_____
			Merchandise Total
Shipping:	Orders for \$10.00 and under please add \$3.50		_____
	Orders over \$10.00 please add \$7.50		_____
			Total Order



12th Annual G.S.H.I. Barn Dance/Fund Raiser



At the Darrel & Luann Lind Farm
located 3/4 mile north of County YY
or 2 1/4 miles south of Hwy. 86
at N1169 German Settlement Road
in the Town of Spirit, WI.

A Silent Auction will be held during the dance.
If you would like to donate items for the silent auction
please contact Luann at 715-564-3340
or to make a cash donation make checks payable to:

G.S.H.I. and mail to:
German Settlement History, Inc.
N894 S. German Settlement Road
Ogema, WI 54459

The Board Members of German Settlement History, Inc.

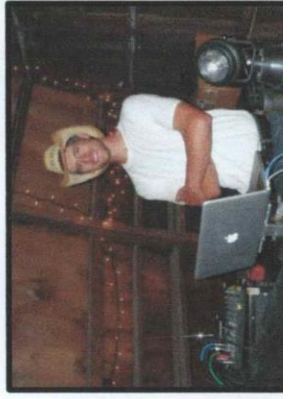
Invite you to join family and friends on
Memorial Day Weekend
For an evening of fun and socializing!

Sunday
May 29th, 2016
7:00 p.m. ~ Midnight



Gary Edinger
will be calling
square dancing.

DJ Music provided
by
Eric Gladson
'That 1 Productions'



Free Will Donation
gets you into the barn dance.
There will be free refreshments
of pie, ice cream & lemonade.

G.S.H.I. is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization
to protect, conserve and display buildings, artifacts and
documents of historical value for educational purposes.
Visit our website @ www.germansettlementhistory.org

Finally, Three more items:

- 1) When you next visit the Yesterday House check out the Family History panels that are displayed there. Recently Dick Zielke provided two new panels for his ancestral families: Hentrick and Zielke.
- 2) If you are a snowbird, you should know that the Post Office will not forward your issues of Liberty School News—so please tell us the dates when you will be away, and if you send us your winter address we will try to make sure you don't miss any copies.

3)

Picnic and Open House Saturday, July 30, 2016

Please join us at Liberty School
for a fun time together.

11:00 to 3:00

Bring a dish to pass. We'll
provide brats, dogs, buns and
beverages