

## 25. The Heinrich Segbers Homestead

The following photo shows the Heinrich and Maria Lammers Segbers Homestead built in 1869. The photo was taken on the occasion of the wedding of one of my cousins, John Segbers, second child and first son of the eleven children of my father's youngest brother William. He married Emma Lies on November 17, 1908, two years before I married your grandfather Johnnie. As you see here, it was a double wedding attended by a large number of relatives and friends and the traditional German marching band. William had inherited the Segbers homestead and raised his family there. His first child Theresa was actually born in the house the night Heinrich died there following the amputation of a leg. John was born October 15, 1886, in New Vienna. His wife Emma Elizabeth Lies was born November 9, 1884, in New Vienna. Emma's father John Lies played the tuba in one of the early German bands that played in New Vienna for all occasions when a marching band was needed, like the Corpus Christi procession, the First Holy Communion procession, at weddings, or giving concerts in the town park in the summer. Double weddings were very common since families were large and there was a lot of intermarrying between families. The church ceremony and Wedding Mass were typically held early in the morning and were not too lengthy because all the participants would have been fasting from midnight the previous night, in order to receive Holy Communion at the Mass. The wedding reception was an all-day affair. Traditionally weddings were held on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday so the families had time to prepare for the wedding reception in the home. Eight of the children in my family had double weddings: John and Anna on January 21, 1903, William and Elizabeth on January 19, 1904, Anton and Katherine on January 12, 1910, Joe and I on November 22, 1910.



So what we have learned so far is that our ancestors were prosperous farmers, that their farms were all quite near each other in the New Vienna and Petersburg areas, that our ancestors had some good farm land, that a good stand of timber was important for farmers then, and that the families in the area were often closely connected by relationship or marriage. The Homestead Act, by the way, did not apply to our ancestors' land purchases. It was passed by the federal government in 1862.

The Homestead Act, enacted during the Civil War in 1862, provided that any adult citizen, or intended citizen, who had never borne arms against the U.S. government could claim 160 acres of surveyed government land. Claimants were required to "improve" the plot by building a dwelling and cultivating the land.

Fred: "Very little land in Iowa was granted under the Homestead Act. Since it was passed in 1862 and Eastern Iowa was settled by then. Much of Eastern Iowa land was given for service in the military (Mexican War, etc.), and that, too, was before the Civil War. Farms became "homesteads" when they were passed down to another generation, as John Sr. to John Jr. And even then a name sometimes stayed with a farm for a generation or two as 'the old Althoff place'."



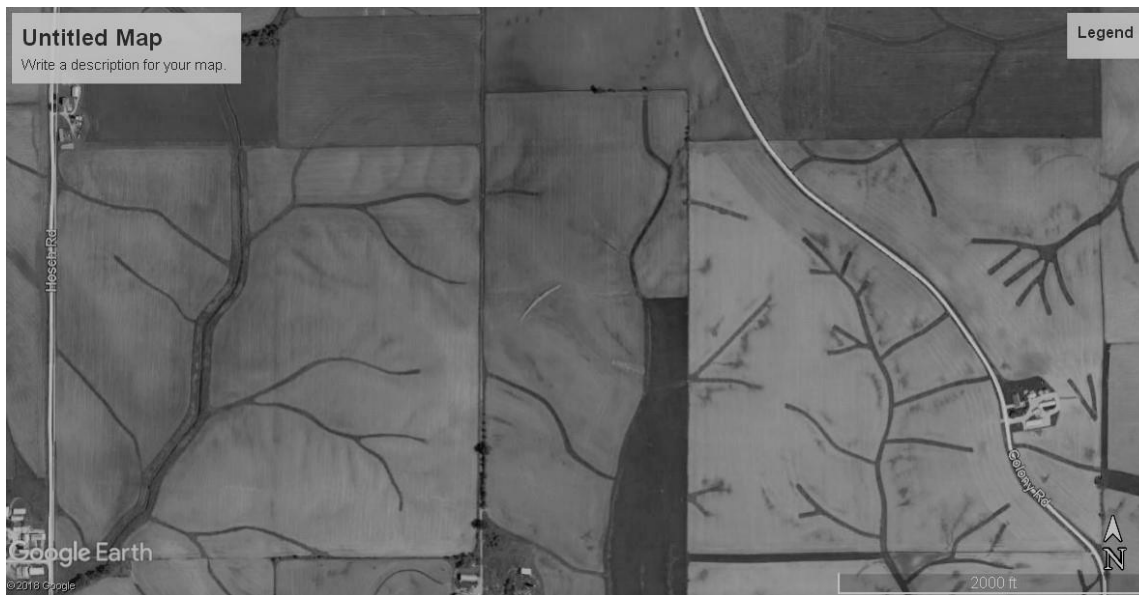
Fred: “Here is an April 29, 1969, aerial view of the Heinrich Segbers farm showing original Heinrich Segbers farmhouse on the left, built in 1869. The house was torn down in 1977 and rebuilt. Obviously, some of the farm buildings are new. It is still a working farm today. In this photo we see clearly how close the house was to the Military Road. There is a dwelling with no inhabitants on the 1870 census entry following Heinrich’s. It is a dwelling number without a “household.” Heinrich is on the last page of the Liberty Township census ledger. By that time there were eight more dwellings than households, meaning eight uninhabited dwellings. In Heinrich’s case, I think the new brick home built in 1869 was the dwelling with the household, and the original home was still standing, so it counted as a dwelling.”

Fred continues: “The photos above and below are from my cousin Judy Klas Winter, who grew up in the original Heinrich Segbers house. She verified this information with her brothers. She says that the big brick house on the Heinrich Segbers farm was built in 1869, and that matches the window sash inscription on the picture.”

Judy: “OK. So my brothers corrected me on the old farmhouse we grew up in. It was built in 1869. But we can’t find any pictures of the west side of the house that had the inscribed limestone piece. Daryl said Dad always joked with Mom that when the house gets to be 100 years old, he would build her a new one. He didn’t quite make it, but was close, building our new house in 1977.

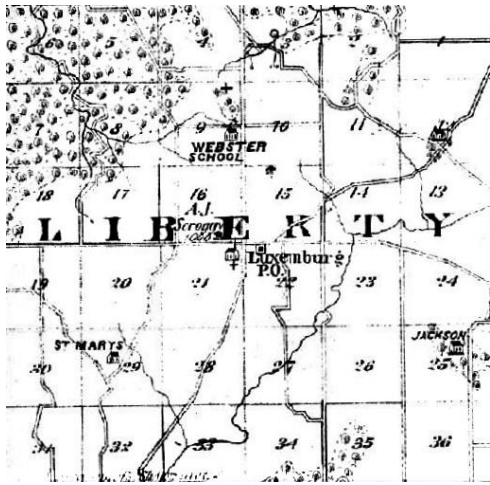


I am attaching two photos here. One was taken when Dad purchased his 4030 John Deere tractor, and the south side of the house is in the background. In the right corner (the southeast corner) is what we called the 'old kitchen.' It was just storage when we lived there, but apparently had been the original kitchen when the house was built. The other photo is an aerial photo taken in 1969, coincidentally the year the house turned 100 years old. I don't know when the other original farm buildings were built, but I know that old red barn could possibly have been just as old as the house."



Cousin Fred: This Google Earth photo above of the North Half of Section 30, TWP 90, R2W shows the Heinrich Segbers farm on the right, the Henry Sabers farm on the left, and the Klas farm in between the two. The land between the two farms became the Klas farm in 1884, when my great-grandfather bought the Detten farm from Anna Detten, widow of Bernard who died in 1875. (Wonder if Heinrich or Henry wanted to buy it! She didn't sell until she just had one minor child at home). The new Henry Sebers house is in the upper left corner on the green patch of 21 acres that extends into Sect. 19. This farm has a stream running through it. The tan crescent-shaped item in the northern part of the Klas farm is a terrace. There are also terraces on the right border near the bottom of the Klas farm. They run parallel to the eastern fence and are hard to see in the green field.

Fred: "The Segbers farm did not have to be cleared. The earliest maps show it as prairie, and with the ridge road running diagonally through it, there was a lot of land that was well-drained and ready to be plowed and planted. The immigrant article in *Roots and Wings* mentions how easy it was to start farming with little capital investment. Anna Deppe Bruggeman talked about clearing the thick hazel brush and saw grass, but that was in the flatter and wetter rich land of Bremen Township of Delaware County. I don't think there was anything but prairie grass on the hill tops of the Segbers farm. There is no creek or stream running through the Segbers farm, but the western part (Section 29) does have a 'draw' in it. I know that because I had trouble getting a pickup up the hill out of the draw once in early spring when the land was slippery (thawed on top, frozen underneath). Here is an early map of the area. There is no timberland marked around the Segbers farm in Sections 20 and 30."



The earliest settlers built log cabins first, like the ones below, typically 16 feet by 20 feet, then built farm buildings for their farm implements, grains, and later for their animals. They enlarged the log cabins as needed until such time as they were ready to build a larger house. Cabins like the ones below were usually one-room buildings. The one on the left was the Hellman cabin in New Vienna in 1854.



Frank Klostermann of New Vienna, pictured below beside the log cabin in which he was born on



October 14, 1853, was the son of Joseph and Agnes Klostermann. The latter moved to New Vienna from Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1844 and built the log house in this picture in 1846. The photo was probably taken in the 1870s or 1880s. There were photos as early as 1829 in the United States, but photography did not come to the Midwest until the Civil War. This photo could have been taken by a traveling photographer. The farm implement hanging on the cabin wall to the man's left is a scythe for cutting wheat. The curved apparatus on his left

is an oxen yoke. I do not believe that Heinrich and Maria had to build a log cabin like these. Given what we know and surmise about Heinrich and Maria, I think that through the Lammers brothers as intermediaries, Heinrich arranged to buy the Klostermann farm move-in ready and with a house already on it.

Let's look briefly at pioneer farms and farming practices in Iowa as it was for Heinrich and Maria in the 1850s. This excerpt is from *Livinghistoryfarms.org*.

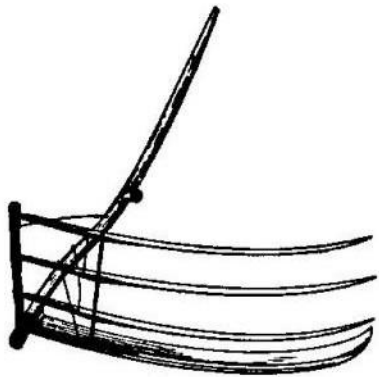
The split rail fence, wheat field, rooting pigs, and log house represent a four-year-old farm, established when Iowa became a state in 1846. The farm site is in transition between subsistence agriculture (producing enough for the family to survive) and becoming a profit-making farm. Most farms in 1850 averaged 160 acres in size, with farmers cultivating anywhere from 25 to 40 acres. Corn, wheat, and potatoes were the three major crops in 1850. Most farmers used their corn crop to feed the pigs that were then sold for profit. Wheat and hogs were cash crops for farmers, and potatoes were a staple with nearly every meal and lasted throughout the winter.

Until pioneer families earned enough money to purchase modern 1850 technology, they relied on older farming methods. For example, women prepared food over an open fire even though wood-burning cookstoves were available. The majority of people who settled in Iowa in the 1840s and 1850s came from the Eastern United States and were eager to build a multi-room dwelling like they had lived in before coming west. Log houses were temporary structures that the pioneers improved or replaced once the farm was established.

Pioneer families relied on poultry for three major purposes: meat, eggs, and money. Most pioneers who raised pigs built a smokehouse to help preserve the pork. In 1850, barns were of less significance to the farm than in later years. Pioneers used barns to store tools and some crops, rather than to house animals. The big barns that are associated with modern farms were not built in Iowa until the 1870s.

Fred: "The plowing was done with oxen, and since the wheat was planted early, and the corn later, there was plenty of time to plow the land. I think I read someplace that oxen could plow about an acre a day. Of course, with no "headlights" that might mean a short day at the beginning of the

plowing season for wheat, and a longer day when plowing for corn in late spring. I think the hardest work was harvesting the wheat crop.” Let’s look at this good discussion on [livinghistoryfarms.wordpress.com](http://livinghistoryfarms.wordpress.com).



**FIG. 104—THE AMERICAN CRADLE. THE TOOL USED FOR REAPING UNTIL AFTER THE MIDDLE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

Wheat is planted in early spring and ripens in early July. Farmers with only a few acres of wheat cut it with a grain cradle. A grain cradle is a type of scythe with long fingers attached on one side.

The fingers catch the grain as it is cut and then deposit it in a pile at the end of the cutting swing. A skilled cradler could harvest 1 ½ -2 acres a day. One or two people followed the man with the cradle and tied the wheat into bundles using the straw itself. After cutting and binding into bundles, the wheat was piled into shocks and allowed to dry in the field. After the bundles were dry, they were stored in a barn or a carefully built stack and capped with prairie grass to shed rain until threshing time.



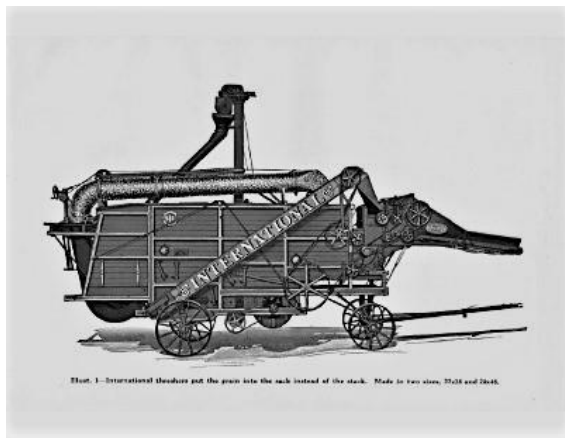
Wheat and oat plants have a head of edible grain at the top of a long stem. After the grain is cut and dried, the seed heads have to be removed from the stems. This is called threshing. Threshing on farms with small amounts of grain was done using a tool called a flail. A flail has a long handle connected to a short heavy club with a flexible joint. It is used to break the seed heads apart. The bundles of grain are laid on a tarp or a tightly fitted floor and the heads are beaten with the flail. A man with a flail could thresh about 7 bushels (420 pounds) of wheat a day. When the threshing was completed, the straw was raked away and used as bedding, and the wheat and chaff

were winnowed. For small amounts, the wheat and chaff would be dropped through the air on a breezy day. The lighter chaff would blow away and the heavier grain would fall onto a tarp on the ground.

As farmers put more land into production and the size of wheat fields grew, cutting, binding, and



threshing grains by hand was too slow. Between 1850 and 1900, harvesting equipment and methods changed and became more efficient. The grain cradle was replaced with the mechanical reaper—a horse-drawn machine that could harvest 10-12 acres a day! In the 1880's, a knotting device was added to the reaper to tie the bundles of grain automatically, eliminating the tedious hand tying.



As wheat production increased, hand methods of flailing and winnowing were replaced with threshing machines and fanning mills. The threshing machine and fanning mill were eventually combined so that threshing and winnowing were done at the same time.

By 1900, threshing machines had increased in size and were powered by steam engines instead of horses. Neighbors often went together to hire engine crews and threshing machines to share costs. Because of these changes, the labor required to harvest grain dropped from 23 hours per acre in

1850 to 8 hours in 1900.

Wheat production in Iowa peaked in the 1870's then slowly declined. By 1900, wheat was a distant fourth in importance of Iowa crops after corn, oats, and hay. In early Iowa, the importance of oats increased as horses replaced oxen as a power source on the farm. Oxen can get all the nutrition and energy they need from grass, but horses need grain for energy when they are working hard. In 1900, over 168 million bushels of oats were produced in Iowa, mostly as feed for livestock.

Fred: "So we see that in early pioneer times a skilled harvester with a cradle could cut 1.5 acres a day, which means it would take 6-7 days just to cut the wheat of an average farm. Then it would have to be shocked (stacked) to dry and hauled to the threshing area. Using a 'flail' seven bushels of wheat could be threshed in a day, meaning it would be another 15 days of work! Wheat was ripe in early July, so it would be about August before the grain was ready to be measured for sale, which is why I think the census data on the 1856 census is from 1855 crop production."



Here is a hyperbolic but very interesting account of how the most famous mechanical reaper came to be invented and what that meant for agriculture, *Cyrus McCormick Inventor of the Mechanical Reaper* by The Ulster Scots Language Society.

What is the definition of greatness? How may we recognize a great man or woman? Jonathan Swift in *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) offers a possible definition: 'And he gave it for his opinion, that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together'. This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of a man who comes close to meeting the definition provided by the Church of Ireland's most famous Dean of St Patrick's, Dublin, and one-time Prebend of Kilroot.

Cyrus Hall McCormick, the inventor of the mechanical reaper and philanthropist, was born on 15 February 1809 at 'Walnut Grove', the McCormick family farm in Rockbridge County, Virginia. Rockbridge County is in the Shenandoah Valley, an area of Ulster-Scots settlement on the western side of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The McCormicks were descendants of James McCormick, one of the defenders of Londonderry in the great siege of 1689. James McCormick was one of the signatories of the address of the city and garrison of Londonderry presented to William III by Revd George Walker. The McCormicks had their origins near Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone, close to where President Grant's Simpson ancestors had their roots.

Robert Hall McCormick (1780-1846), Cyrus's father had patented a number of agricultural implements and spent 28 years working on a horse-drawn mechanical reaper but success just eluded him. In 1831 he handed the project to his son, who had already developed a variety of plough designs. Drawing on the work of his father, Cyrus managed to design and built the first practical reaping machine within 18 months. According to some accounts, Cyrus McCormick may have even designed, built, and tested his reaper all within six weeks.

Shortly after constructing his first reaper Cyrus went on to harvest his first crop with it later that year, harvesting an acre an *hour*. Cyrus invited his neighbours to see the world's first mechanical reaper in action. Astonishingly, they failed to recognize the evidence of their own eyes and how the machine had the potential to transform their lives. They thought it was all just entertainment. They would watch Cyrus harvest and then they would return home and use their old hand scythes. They would say things like, 'I'm running a farm, not a circus'.

The disappointing reaction of his neighbours may explain why Cyrus did not patent his machine until 1834, the year after Obed Hussey of Cincinnati, Ohio, patented his reaper.

In 1839 Cyrus and Leander J. McCormick, his brother, moved to Chicago where they established what was to become the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, a huge factory complex for manufacturing agricultural implements. In 1843 Cyrus sold 29 reapers and each year after that he sold more and more. By 1850, he was selling 5,000 reapers a year. By that stage Cyrus and Leander had been joined by their brother William in the business.

As American agriculture was beginning a period of rapid expansion, Obed Hussey and Cyrus's inventions proved timely. There was intense competition between the two men and indeed other rival manufacturers, but Cyrus McCormick was to emerge as the market leader for two reasons: First, the ever innovative Cyrus constantly returned to the drawing board to revise and improve his basic design, producing new models almost every decade.

Secondly, Cyrus was a superb businessman, carefully using newspaper advertising and manipulating newspaper editorials to promote sales. Cyrus's glossy posters were well ahead of their time in sales psychology. He also employed a vast network of trained salesmen able to demonstrate operation of the machines in the field. The expansion of the American railroad network allowed the wide distribution of their agricultural machinery to hitherto distant market areas.

Because of Cyrus's efforts in making harvesting grain easier and inventing the reaper, his invention allowed farmers the world over to harvest grain faster and cheaper than ever before. Prior to inventing the reaper, farmers could only harvest 1/2 an acre a day; after the reaper was invented, farmers could harvest 12 acres a day. Thus, farmers were able to conserve money by using less manual labour, a point which also potentially served to undermine the case for the American South's 'peculiar institution' as slavery was euphemistically described. The mechanical reaper did not require a person to toil all day to harvest crops. Instead, a farmer merely needed to operate the machine and the reaper would do the rest of the work. Cyrus's work allowed farmers to cultivate plots of land bigger than ever thought possible.

Hence, the observation of the prominent (and controversial) American politician William H. Seward, the Governor of New York and Secretary of State to Presidents Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, that as a result of McCormick's invention 'the line of civilization moves westward thirty miles each year'. The McCormick reaper truly unlocked the Midwest as the granary of the world.

Cyrus's invention secured him an international reputation and international recognition. In 1851 at the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, organized by Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, his reaper won a Gold Medal. In France Cyrus was elected a corresponding member of the prestigious Academy of Sciences. In the Academy's estimation, Cyrus had 'done more for the cause of agriculture than any other living man', an observation with resonances of Jonathan Swift.

The young Cyrus McCormick's goal was to earn a million dollars. In 1833 that was a huge amount of money when one considers that the average worker only earned a nickel (five cents) an hour. By the late 1850s he *had* earned a million dollars. He had also changed the way people farmed, with his wheat harvester called the reaper. In the great tradition of American philanthropy Cyrus and his wife were very generous benefactors of the poor and the needy.

Cyrus Hall McCormick died in Chicago on 13 May 1884. In 1902 the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company became part of International Harvester Company.

Cyrus McCormick transformed agriculture and made possible the diversification of American industry. In 1831 90% of the US population was involved in farming. By 1870 only half of the US population was employed in agriculture. In 2006 less than one half per cent of the US population was directly employed in agriculture and yet that exceedingly modest proportion of the population produces more food than the entire country can consume.

The McCormick family farm in Rockbridge County where Cyrus invented the mechanical reaper was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1964. There is a statue of McCormick on the front campus of Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Virginia.

Here is a slightly different view of the development of the McCormick Reaper, from *Encyclopedia.com*.

The machine with which the name of Cyrus Hall McCormick has always been associated had many inventors, notably Obed Hussey, who patented his machine in 1833, a year before the first McCormick patent. Hussey's machine was the only practicable one on the market before 1840. It was the McCormick reaper, however, that invaded the Midwest, where the prairie farmer was ready for an efficient harvester that would make extensive wheat growing possible. In 1847 McCormick moved from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, where the first machine was built, to Chicago.

Perhaps, as his biographer contends, McCormick (or his father, Robert McCormick) did most effectively combine the parts essential to a mechanical grain cutter. Other improvements came in the 1850s and 1860s—the self-raker, which dispensed with the job of raking the cut grain off the platform, and then the binder, first using wire to bind the sheaves and later twine. The first self-raker was sold in 1854, seven years before McCormick produced such a machine. The first wire binder was put on the market in 1873, two years before the McCormick binder. Through effective organization the McCormick reaper came to dominate the field. The invention helped facilitate the rapid economic development of the rural Midwest, and the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company's massive factories in Chicago helped transform that city into an industrial giant.

The fact remains that early agriculture was very labor-intensive, and I think that Heinrich and Maria started out that way. However, I also think that Heinrich would have bought and used mechanical farming aids as they became available and were efficient for the amount of crops he and his family grew. Even before mechanical implements became available, farming in this country was still superior to the farming conditions our ancestors left in Germany, as Fred reminds us here:

I think the conditions in northern Germany were much worse than in the United States at that time. In the *Klas* book (1997), I wrote "Generally speaking, the land around Steinfeld has poor soil. The area east of Steinfeld by Lehmden and Osterfiene is flat and somewhat sandy and marshy. It borders the 'grosses moors' or great marshes. By the early to mid-1800's, the land could not adequately feed its growing population. Farms were frequently divided into smaller and smaller family parcels as families grew. Farm income was supplemented by digging peat in the bogs and moors in the winter, making wooden shoes, and spending haymaking season in Holland as laborers. Also, the small farmers usually kept a small flock of sheep so they could engage in knitting and weaving to make clothes for their families and hopefully to sell to others. But the income from these handiwork crafts was also being reduced by a growing manufacturing base as Germany was becoming industrialized. Villages such as Lehmden and Osterfiene were small collections of houses and 'heurhauses,' usually located on farms at a point where several roads intersected." So it took more workers to probably produce less crop in northern Germany, resulting in poorer conditions for everyone.

As we have seen from the 1856 census information, Heinrich already had crops and marketable hogs from the 1855 farming year, which indicates that he started farming immediately upon arrival in New Vienna in 1854. A significant benefit of traveling in early spring was that Heinrich and Maria would be able to settle into their new farm, buy the livestock they needed, and work the farm immediately. Maria's brothers would have helped them buy livestock and farm implements as well as house furnishings. They could begin planting the fields and garden as soon as the weather turned warm enough. I am impressed that Heinrich managed to get that much production going during their first two years in New Vienna. To me this kind of progress indicates that they did indeed

buy a move-in ready farm, with existing farmhouse and soil that had been previously tilled. They had another baby, John, in December 1855, with three older children ages 1, 5 and 7.

Fred: "If Heinrich started farming in 1854, the produce information would be from his second year of farming, 1855. The census was too early in 1856 to get crop data for that year. 1854 is the same year my great-grandfather started farming nearby, so I think the amount of land under cultivation is about average (and similar to John Klostermann as well). The early 1850's were great years for farming. Parity was at 104, meaning the relationship of farm and non-farm prices was better than in the 'Golden Age of Agriculture', 1910-1914. Parity dropped to 93 with the Panic of 1857, but then rose through the Civil War period to a Parity of 200 in 1865. So, these were very good years to start farming, even better and eventually twice as good as the 1910-1914 prices. This probably explains why Heinrich did so well in buying land, etc."

Let's take another look at the 1856 Census:

Henry Sabres, 35, born in Germany, resided in states 11 years, occupation is farming; Mary Sabres, 37; Sophia 9; Mary 5; Henry 2; John ½; 1 naturalized voter and 1 militia in household (would be Henry); 10 acres of spring wheat planted, 100 bushels produced; 5 acres of corn planted, 50 bushels produced; ¼ acre of potatoes planted, 30 bushels produced; 5 hogs sold, market value \$20. Note: This crop data must be from 1855, as the census was certified in July 31, 1856.

The very next entry in the census was John Klostermann, 32, resided in state 10 years, born in Germany, farmer; Mary, 30; Francis, 11; Casper, 8; Anne, 6; Joseph, 4; 10 acres of spring wheat planted, 100 bushels produced; 8 acres of corn planted, 160 bushels produced; ¼ acre of potatoes planted, 35 bushels produced; 5 hogs sold, market value \$40.

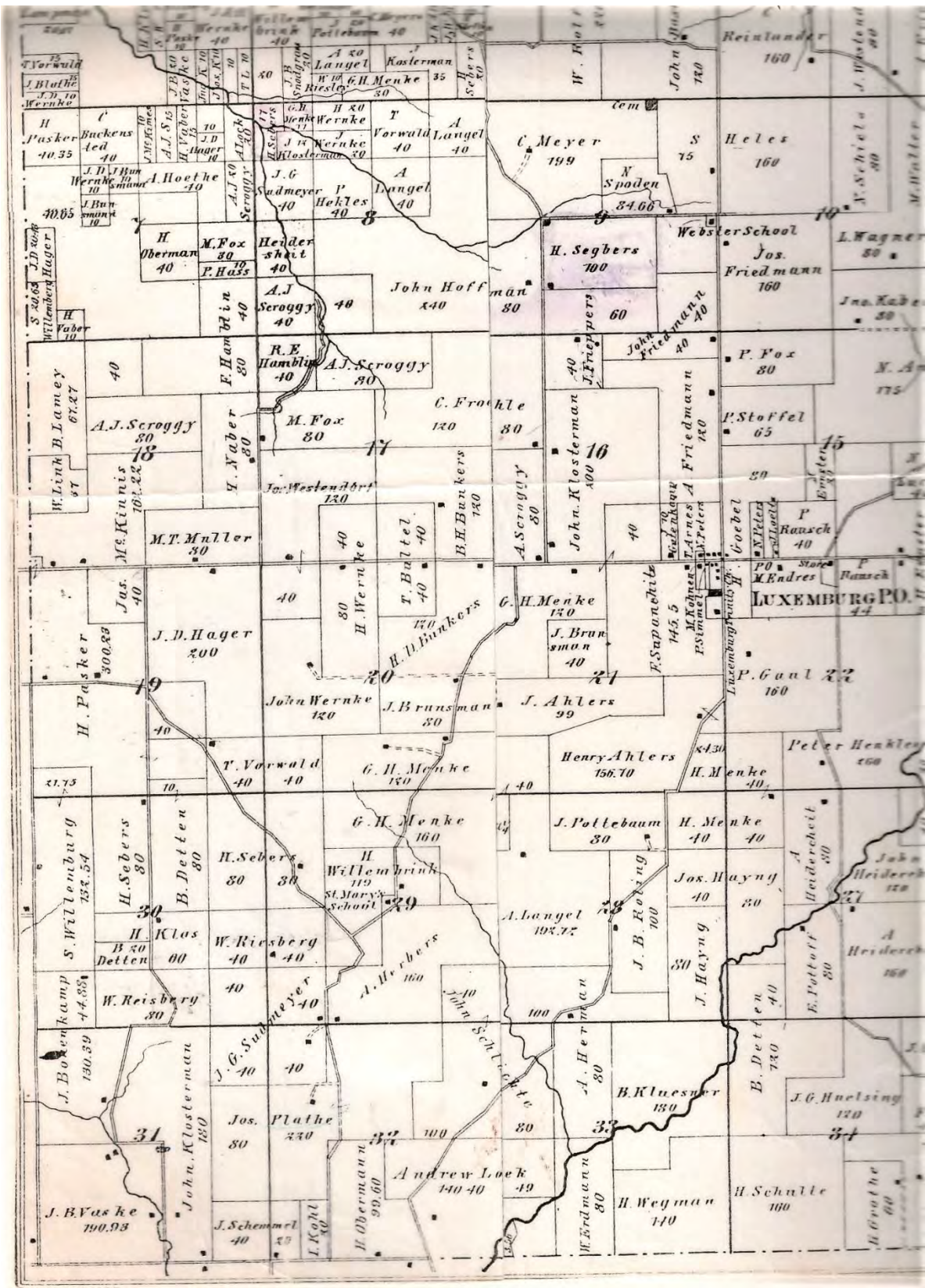
Fred: "A census typically asked for data on wheat, corn, potatoes, butter, cheese and wool. I'm surprised none of these farms produced wool. Most farms had a small flock of sheep to produce wool for spinning into yarn for the family. Maybe wool was considered like garden produce, to be used by the family. The Schemmel Woolen Mills were constructed in 1846 in New Vienna, or maybe it was too soon after beginning farming to have the fences, shelter, etc. needed for sheep. I checked the 1856 compiled census data online, and it says that Liberty Township produced 351 lbs of wool, New Wine Township produced 318 lbs, but Colony Township just west of Liberty, produced 2,840. Corn production per acre was higher in New Wine Township, but the value of hogs sold was about the same \$7.50-\$7.70 average, so they must have sold them at about the same weight, usually 300 lbs, instead of the standard 220 lbs when the market moved from fat hogs, which were lard producers, to lean hogs. Most of the hogs sold went to Dubuque at that time. As we have seen on the 1856 Census, Heinrich must have started farming immediately upon arrival in New Vienna, because the crop data from 1855 shows that in the past year (1854-1855) Heinrich had produced the following: 10 acres of spring wheat planted, 100 bushels produced, 5 acres of corn planted, 50 bushels produced, ¼ acre of potatoes planted, 30 bushels produced, 5 hogs sold, market value \$20."

On the 1892 Plat Map below we can see the location of some of our ancestors' farms: the timber in the top center of the map, bought in 1854 as part of the original purchase; the original homestead of 80 acres plus 80 acres bought in 1854, lower left; the 100 acres that Heinrich bought in Section 9

for \$2400 in 1865, center right; and the 97 ½ acres Heinrich bought in 1867 for \$3950 and then sold to his son, my father, for \$4000 in 1877, ten years later. We can also see the Roling homestead in the lower right, where my mother's father and family lived. The Plat Map following that is the 1874 one, and the two pages following that show the original land deeds for Heinrich and Maria's farm.

Note from Fred: The deed is done in front of the local Justice of the Peace. It references the date the land was purchased by John Klostermann (May 14, 1850) which is unusual. The document says that deed is effective December 30, and says that Heinrich is a resident of Dubuque County. This makes me think that there was rental/purchase agreement made earlier, and this is the final payment to complete the sale. This is similar to the deed my great-grandfather, Henry Klas Jr. had when he made the final payment to Horatio Sanford, who had purchased the land from the government. The deed lists only the final payment. I'm guessing Heinrich made a payment when he started farming the land, and the final payment at the end of the year to complete the sale.





# Homestead Deed

The for Recd.  
Dec 21. 1855  
10. 11. 1855

John Klusterman & Wife to Hannah Segbers  
Deeds

Know all men by these presents, that I John Klusterman and Maria Anna his wife of Dubuque County, State of Iowa, in consideration of the sum of Four hundred and fifty Dollars in hand in hand paid by Hannah Segbers of Dubuque County, State of Iowa, do hereby sell and convey unto the said Hannah Segbers the following described premises, to wit: The west half of the, with west quarter of Section twenty nine, and the east half of North East quarter of Section thirty three, in Township Ninety, North of Range the West of the fifth T. N., and the East half of the South East quarter of South East quarter of Section five in Township Ninety North of Range the West of the fifth T. N., containing One hundred and Eighty four acres more or less - from a Deed dated the tenth day of May Eighteen hundred and fifty, and we do hereby covenant with the said Hannah Segbers that we have lawful title of said premises; that they are free from incumbrance that we have good right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same: And we do hereby covenant to warrant and defend the said premises against the lawful claims of all parties whatsoever.

Given this 21<sup>st</sup> day December A.D. Eighteen hundred & fifty five

In presence of  
Henry Schimmel

John Klusterman  
Maria Anna Klusterman

Dubuque County R.C.P. Page 4077 408.

State of Iowa }  
Dubuque County } On this thirtieth day of December A.D. 1855, before me Henry Schimmel, Justice of the Peace, in and for said County, personally came John Klusterman and Maria Anna his wife, to me known to be the identical persons whose names are affixed to the above Deed as grantors, and acknowledged the same to be their voluntary act and deed,

Given Under my hand, December the Thirtieth day A.D. 1855  
Henry Schimmel Justice of the Peace,



# Additional Land Deed

John Maires & wife  
So, (Warranted Deeds)

Henry Sigbars

Know all men by these presents that we John Maires and Susanna Maires his wife of Dubuque County state of Iowa in consideration of the sum of Two thousand four hundred (\$2400.) Dollars in hand paid by Henry Sigbars of Dubuque County, state of Iowa, do hereby sell & convey unto the said Henry Sigbars the following described premises, to wit:

The North East quarter (1/4) of the south West quarter (1/4) of section nine (9) and the North West quarter (1/4) of the South East quarter of section nine (9) and the South half (1/2) of the North West quarter (1/4) of the North West quarter of section five (5) Township No. ninety North of Range No. two West of the fifth Principal meridian being in all one hundred acres more or less, in Dubuque County, state of Iowa, and we do hereby covenant with the said Henry Sigbars that we are lawfully seized of said premises, that they are free from incumbrance that we have good right and lawful authority to sell & convey the same - we do hereby covenant to warrant & defend the said premises against

the lawful claim of all persons whomsoever - and the grantors aforesaid relinquish all contingent rights including Rights of Power, which they or either of them have in said land.  
Signed this 28th Day of February A.D. 1865.

In presence of  
W.S. Rein

\$2.00 of Rev. stamps  
J.M.S.W. Feb 28/65

John Maires  
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Now there remains only the question of certainty about whether the farm Heinrich and Maria bought was “move-in ready.” This we will probably never know for sure, but based on all the information we have just reviewed, including the Lammers brothers presence in New Vienna, the wealth Heinrich had accumulated in Cincinnati, the various ways in which land could be purchased at that time, I think we can make a “best guess”, as we did for their covered wagon travel. We have two best guesses here: mine and Fred’s, and they differ a little.

Cousin Fred: I don’t think they would have taken the risk of traveling in a covered wagon in winter, especially with a small baby. I think they made the six-week journey in the early spring of 1854, put money down on the Klostermann farm when they arrived in Iowa, and farmed the 1854 crop season. They paid the balance of \$450 on Dec. 30, 1854, and became the owners of the farm.

My best guess is a little different for the following reasons: My father Henry was born November 25, 1853. The records we have tell us that there was a window of time they could have traveled, between the birth and the time the Iowa census was taken. Normally a new mother is advised to avoid long travel in the postpartum period, birth to six weeks after birth. So the earliest they would have traveled would be mid-to-late January. Because I am proposing, based on research, that they stayed with German families, or in inns and taverns whenever possible, and that they took the best roads available for comfort, namely the paved ones like the National Road from Ohio to Indianapolis and then the paved road northwest to Crawfordsville, the trip may not have been nearly as hard as we believe the earliest pioneers’ trips were. Also, as the professor from the University of Iowa reminds us, the travel from Cincinnati to Iowa was quite different from the travel on the Oregon Trail, which is the pioneer travel most people have in mind when they think about covered wagon travel. As we have learned, pioneers did travel with six-week-old infants, even in the winter. In addition, because the winter of 1854 seemed to be an exceptionally cold one, and because crossing creeks and rivers was the most time-consuming and dangerous part of a trip, I believe that Heinrich and Maria would have preferred to take advantage of frozen creeks and rivers for safety and speed. Also, as we have seen, during an exceptionally cold winter, there might be ice chunks floating down the Mississippi River as late as April, as well as flooding from the spring melt. Ice chunks were a significant hazard for spring crossings. Taking all these things into consideration, and until more research surfaces with contradictory or different information, my best guess about a “move-in ready” farm would be as follows:

1. Heinrich and Maria left Cincinnati in late January, arriving in New Vienna in mid-to-late March.
2. By agreement with John Klosterman, the Lammers brothers had arranged for a new house to be built on the Klostermann farm, near the Military Road, into which Heinrich and Maria moved when they reached New Vienna. With money available from Ohio, this may have been a larger cabin or even a two-story frame house like the ones they had seen, or possibly lived in, in Ohio. The house would have been move-in ready.
3. The Lammers brothers may have helped arrange for a hired hand and a house girl to help Heinrich and Maria get started in New Vienna. The hired hand would have helped Heinrich get the land ready for plowing and planting, and the hired girl would have helped Maria take care of the children, obtain necessary supplies, and settle into their new house.
4. Heinrich and John Klostermann both farmed the Klostermann farm that summer while John built a new house on his new farm. John and his family continued to live in the log cabin or

other house they had been living in, perhaps in the western parcel, until they moved on to their new farm.