

26. The Story of John Crubel, Immigrant

Now we will digress from the story of Heinrich and Maria in order to learn some of the story of my Johnnie's family, the Crubel family. The original John, my Johnnie's grandfather, came to this country from Germany in 1853. His story is highly interesting and deserves to be told in depth, but we cannot do that in this Story because there are too many undocumented areas and inconsistencies in the records that would require levels of research beyond what we can do right now. The inconsistencies begin with his last name, which has been listed at least seven different ways in the records we have, including Cruebel (daughter's birth record), Crebal (land records and children's birth records), Crabel with an umlat over the a (land record), Crubel with an umlat over the u (marriage record), Crubel (land record, obituary), Krubel (reported by John's great-granddaughter), Riar (reported by one of John's granddaughters), and Grubel (Find-a-Grave Memorial 2876622). Most of the names are variations of Crubel, but because the Riar name that is so different has allegedly been reported by a granddaughter of his, I don't think we can disregard it. We are very grateful these family records exist, incomplete as they are, and we applaud those who have helped to build the story of the John Crubel family to date. As with nearly every family history, there are confusions and inaccuracies in these family records, caused by incomplete or incorrect source data (even census data), misinterpretations, faulty memories, inexpert record-keeping in county offices, fires and other "acts of God" that destroy records, etc. What we will try to do for this Story is bring new research to the family records and highlight puzzles and inaccuracies that may still need to be researched and addressed in the future. Here are examples: We now believe based on new research that John's birth date was January, not February; that Josephine Hoefer came to America at age 11, not age 8; that John sailed from Germany as "Steerage" or cargo rate (meaning he did not have a cabin), not as a stowaway; that John was not in the Civil War and therefore could not have been a deserter; that John bought his first land in 1858, not 1871; that Aunt Lena was Caroline, John Crubel's daughter, which indicates there was misunderstanding in her identification of John Crubel as John Riar; and that the gravestone recorded in *Find a Grave* as "John Grubel" is actually "John Crubel." Despite all the new research we are able to bring to the story of John Crubel, it is evident that research in the future may change or clarify parts of the history, and therefore we will include here only an abbreviated record of John's life.

We will start with his obituary posted in the *Dyersville Commercial* June 1908, then review written information from family records, Census data researched by cousin Fred, and an abbreviated chronology of John's life with notes and records researched mostly by cousin Fred in county courthouses and libraries in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Death of an Aged Pioneer Settler of Bear Grove Last Thursday

John Crubel, probably one of the oldest men in this vicinity, died at his home near Petersburg, Thursday, May 28, at 7 o'clock at an age not allotted to many, namely 92 years, 4 months and 3 days. He had only been sick a few days. The cause of his death was old age.

Deceased was born in Magdeburg, Prussia, on January 25, 1816, where he received his education and spent his youthful days. At the age of 37 in Sept. 1853 he sailed to America, spending the first winter near Burlington, Iowa. The next spring he came to New Vienna and in 1857 he was married to Catherine Lampe by Rev. Ort in St. Boniface Church. They resided on a farm about 4 ½ miles northwest of that place.

Three children were born them, John, Kate and Henry, the latter died in his infancy. Kate was married to Clem Pille. She also died a few years after her marriage. In June 1867, his wife died and

was buried at New Vienna. A few years later Mr. Crubel moved onto the farm 4 ½ miles northwest of Petersburg where he has since resided.

Deceased was a strong and healthy man during his entire lifetime and has done much to convert the wild prairies into tillable soil. He was a kind neighbor and father and had a legion of friends during those many years. During the fifties he was admitted a member of the Roman Catholic Church and has ever since lived and worked as an exemplary member of that faith. A few days prior to his death he received the last rites of the church, passing away peacefully, to receive the well-earned awaiting reward.

His son John with whom he made his home is the only surviving member of the family to mourn his loss.

The funeral took place Monday morning at 9 o'clock in the SS. Peter and Paul's Church at Petersburg, Rev. Father Sassen officiating. After which interment took place in the nearby cemetery, there to await the day of resurrection.

The pallbearers were John Bruggemann, Henry Scherbring, J.F. Boeckenstedt, Jos. Boeckenstedt, Theo. Bruggemann, and Jon. T. Goedken.

In the *All Saxony, Prussia, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1760-1890* records site there is a Johann Christoph Cruebel born January 25, 1816, listed with Johann Christoph and Marie Christine Cruebel, who may be his parents. Additional records are all in German, so we will not pursue more of John's genealogy at this time.

Family Records for John Crubel

4.1 John Crubel (Crebal) (Cruebel) (Krubel) Father of John Crubel

25 Feb 1816 – 28 May 1908 (92)

Born in Magdeburg, Sachsen-Anhalt (Saxony-Anhalt), (Prussia), Germany

Sep 1852 Arrival in USA at age 36 as a stowaway

1856 Census Residence age 40 listed as Buchanan, IA

1858 Married Anna Maria Catherina Elisabetha Lampe at age 42 in New Vienna, IA

Had 3 children with Anna Maria Catherina Elisabetha Lampe, 2 boys, 1 girl, 1st boy is "Crebal", second child girl is "Cruebel", 3rd child boy who died is "Crebal"

Settled in Bear Grove, Iowa

Buried St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Petersburg, IA

4.1 Anna Maria Catherina Elisabetha Lampe Mother of John Crubel

22 May 1832 – 1 Jun 1867 (35)

Born in Thiene Hannover, Niedersachsen, Prussia, Germany

Only child of Johann Henrich Lampe and M. Catherina Rehtien

1958 Married at 25 to John Crubel in New Vienna, IA

1867 Died at age 35, probably in childbirth since her third child Henry Crebal, born June 1, 1867, also died then.

Died in New Vienna, Iowa, USA

It seems reasonable that John Crubel, landing in New Orleans during the height of the steamboat era, probably took a steamboat north to the popular port of Burlington, where he purportedly spent

his first winter. The following spring he may have taken the Burlington Railroad from Burlington to the interior of Iowa and thence north to New Vienna, but it is more likely he continued north by steamship from Burlington to Dubuque, Iowa, and thence made his way overland slightly northeast for 30 miles to New Vienna. From New Vienna he is said to have traveled at some time about 50 miles west to Buchanan County, where one citation lists his Census residence at age 40 on the 1856 Census. However, there was no 1856 Iowa State Census, only an 1854 State Census, and there is no John Crubel or John Riar listed for Buchanan County. Iowa became a Territory in 1838 and achieved statehood in 1846, just seven years before John made his way there. At any rate, John was in New Vienna at that time for his marriage to Catherine Lampe.

Information from Sister Julia Crubel, granddaughter of John, April 1965:

“Dad’s mother died when he was small. She died when his baby sister was born and also the mother died, so he does not remember her. And Mother came over when she was eight. I can remember her telling us the story, and her name was Hoefer and she came from Datteln, Westphalia, Germany, about 20 miles from Essen, N.E. in 1873. Dad was born in Iowa. Grandpa lived with us, so Ella might know something about him. All I know about him is he had a long white beard and we all played with it.”

Geraldine Crubel Best, great-granddaughter of John Crubel, wrote this summary of the Crubel and Hoefer families in 1973:

“John Crubel came to this country in 1853 as a stowaway settling in Bear Grove, Iowa. He was born in Magdeburg, Prussia (now in East Germany) and whatever reason prompted him to leave Prussia at the age of 37, alone, will remain his secret. He married Catherine Lampe in 1857 in New Vienna and ten years later she died leaving him with two small children to raise. John Crubel purchased his first land in 1871 (\$46.25 per acre) and he didn’t show up on a census record there until 1870. A name change either occurred then, via the census people, or he’d been missed on the 1860 census. Catherine was born in Prussia also, but very little was found about her family. She was only 35 when she died and records were sketchy. John lived to be 92.

William and Frances Hoefer were both born in Westphalia, Germany and came to this country about 1874. They sailed from Bremen, Germany to New York and came by train to Dyersville. This family came with ten children ranging in age from four to twenty-four. Six boys and a compulsory military draft in Germany prompted this move. He lived to be 85 and she lived to be 88.”

Information from Geraldine Crubel Best by telephone January 6, 2014:

“Aunt Lena Goedken was a good source of information and said that John Sr. came to New Orleans on a ship, then went up the Mississippi to Bear Grove, Iowa, close to Petersburg, 37 years old. His name was Riar. Aunt Lena Goedken’s husband knew John Riar before he became John Crubel. Did the Census people name him in 1860? (Aunt Lena is Geraldine’s aunt.)

Catherine Lampe was 25, born May 22, 1832. The 1860 Census listed her as a cripple. She died June 1, 1867, at age 35. John died May 1908 in Petersburg. Barney Lampe is Catherine’s dad.

Josephine Hoefer was born in Datteln. William Hoefer and Frances Althoff are Josephine’s parents. Came at age 19, listed on the census as Finney.

John Sr. had a limp, used a cane, grandpa and grandma had lots of kids and when they visited grandpa the grandkids loved to pull John’s beard.

John Sr. was in the Civil War, came to this country in 1853, married at age 41 in 1857, so between when he came back to Bear Grove, the Census people changed his name to Riar. He deserted the Civil War. 1860 Census as Crubel.

Henry Goedken lived in Lamont, Iowa. There were lots of Goedkens.

John and Catherine lived on a farm 4 ½ miles northwest of New Vienna. Several years after his wife's death in 1867 John moved to a farm 4 ½ miles northwest of Petersburg, in 1871.

Was there possibly confusion in Lena Goedken's mind about Aunt Geraldine's inquiry? My oldest brother John married Agnes Raue. Might "Raue" have gotten garbled into "Riar?" This is another good area for future research.

Here is the available census data for the Crubel and Lampe families. Cousin Fred: "I found this census data on the microfilm. Some of it does not make sense! But census data is known for errors."

1880 Census Delaware County, Colony Township

Crebal, John	60	Farmer	Germany
John Jr	16	Son works on farm	Iowa
Throde, Katherine	40	Other (relationship) single housekeeper	Germany

1885 Census Delaware county, Colony Township

Crebal, John Sr	69		
John Jr	19	born in Dubuque County, parents foreign-born	

1905 Census Delaware County (these are individual info cards)

Cruebel, John Sr	born in Germany, 50 years in US, 50 years in Iowa
	no military service
John, Jr 18	laborer, born in Iowa, mother born in Germany,
	(ages do not match up; could be census taker error on card).

1870 Delaware County, Colony Township

Name	Age	Occupation	Value Real Estate	Value Property	Birthplace
Lampa, Barney	60	Farmer	400	100	Prussia
Catherine	60	Keeping house			Prussia
Henry	35	Farmer	1,000	400	Prussia
Druksion	30	Keeping house			Prussia

Mary	8			Iowa
Anna	7			Iowa
Druksion	6			Iowa

This is one household...interesting that the real estate is split between members of the household. The name is Lampa...but it might be a census taker error.

Lampe, Barney	35	Farmer	800	20	Oldenburg
Dora	28	Keeping House			Oldenburg
Henry	5				
Mary	3				
Frank	2/12				

1870 Dubuque County, Liberty Township

Pille, Clemen	63				
Henry	27				
Eliz	28				
August	1				
Pille, Anton	15	Lives on William Winter farm as a laborer			Oldenburg
Pille, Josephine	12	Lives with Joseph and Josephine Fordman "at home"			Oldenburg

Census records for Delaware County: the 1900 Census for Colony Township shows John Cruebel, May 1864 and Josephine Cruebel Oct. 1864. Also in the household are son John Feb. 1887, 13, daughter Elizabeth Oct. 1889, 10, daughter Hellen June, 1893, 6, son Henry Feb. 1896, 4, daughter Ella Oct. 1898, 1 and John Cruebel, Father, Jan. 1815, 85 widower.

There is information in the 1995 New Vienna book about the Lampe family. *“John Henry Lampe, born Thiene, Hanover, Germany, married Mrs. Henry Tegeler in Germany. They had two children: John Henry born in 1833 and Bernard who died in infancy. Elizabeth then died (must be the Tegeler widow). Henry married again in 1835 to Catherine Rechten, with whom he had two children. John Bernard, 1836, and Catherine, 1839, were born in Germany. They came to America around 1848.”*

Here is a chronology of the life of the original John Crubel, father of the extended Crubel family. It is compiled from family records available to date and corrected as needed by new or current research.

1816 Jan 25 Born in Prussia

1852 Sept (or 1853) arrived in U.S. as John Crubel, age 36, in Port of New Orleans, sailing as “Stowaway”, made his way up the Mississippi River to Iowa, spent first winter near Burlington. Fred: Family records say John was a stowaway on the ship, but similar emigrant experiences indicate he sailed as Cargo Class (steerage), meaning lower fare for those willing to travel in the ship cargo hold for the return voyage from Europe after a cargo ship had unloaded its freight cargo from the United States. New Orleans was a popular port for immigrants from Germany because Germany was becoming industrialized in the latter half of the 1800's. Germany needed raw materials for manufacturing processes, plus its population had outgrown Germany's ability to grow enough food to feed it. So American ships used the New Orleans port to ship raw materials (cotton, etc.) from the South and food (grain and meat from the Midwest using the Mississippi for inland transport to New Orleans) to Germany and Europe. The returning ships filled their cargo spaces with immigrants. The "cargo rate" listed on German immigration flyers was the rate for immigrants living in the cargo bays of the returning ships. Many of the immigrants who did not have relatives in the American Midwest first worked in the shipping yards of New Orleans, then went on to St. Louis to work, and finally were able to establish themselves in the farmlands of the Midwest. For single guys, the two most common reasons to emigrate were to avoid the military conscription in Germany, or to own land. If land was passed on by primogeniture ‘first born’, and a son was not the first born, he would have no chance of owning land unless he married a woman who owned land, and then he would often take her last name.

1853 (or 1854) springtime, came to Bear Grove near Petersburg, Iowa. Fred: Unless he worked for someone at Bear Grove, this does not seem correct.

1856 Census residence age 40 listed as Buchanan, Iowa? Fred: I did not find John Crubel in the Liberty or New Wine township 1856 census. There is no John Crubel nor John Riar on the Buchanan County census.

1858 May 18 Married Catherine Lampe in St. Boniface Church, New Vienna, resided on a farm 4 ½ miles northwest of New Vienna. Might this have been his father-in-law's farm? Fred: The 1869 Colony Township plat shows H. Lampe Jr owns the SW 1/4 and the W 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 13 (about 80 acres, 55 open land, remainder in timber. The adjacent NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 is owned by what looks like a D or B Lampe. So yes, the newly married couple could have resided with the Lampe in-laws for a while. There is a Barney Lampe in the 1870 Census that shows Barney's land value at \$320, which would probably be timber. But John purchased his first land in Iowa in 1858, not 1871. The farm that John and Catherine purchased two months after their marriage is almost adjacent to the east of the D/B Lampe land, and the 40 acres of timber is adjacent as well. I'm still wondering if they were in the timber business (logging, etc.) But there are some people who settled in Iowa and wanted to clear their own land! Book on this is *Eliza, An Iowa Pioneer Woman* by Frances Bries Wojnar, Amethyst Press of California, 1992.

Fred: I did locate the marriage record for John Sr. and Catherine. Unfortunately, they did not keep the application for the marriage license at that time in Dubuque County. The record in Marriage Book 2, p. 35 says: Entry 166 John Crubel (Crubel has the two dots, an "umlaut" over the u) and Catherine Lampe on application and below it says: "The above marriage was solemnized on the 18th day of May, 1858, by James Orth, Missionary." The Rev. James Orth was the third pastor at St. Boniface (1856-1865).

1858 August 27 Purchased land from Robert McKinnis in consideration of the sum Sixteen hundred dollars (\$1600) in hand paid by John Crebal in Dubuque County, Iowa, NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 in Section 19 of Township 90 (Liberty), Range 2 W, except a piece deeded to James McKinnis by Alfred Howard and wife in the east part of the NW corner of Sec. 19, N part of the WW 1/4 tract quarter of the NW 1/4 of Section 19 to run south equidistant to make 22 acres, one acre of land commencing in the SW corner of Section 18. NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 7 (this appears to be timberland), Containing in all 105 and 63/100 acres. (This land is only a half mile north and half mile west of the original 80-acre H. Sebers farm in section 30. This farm only had 65 acres of open land.) Fred: So, we were wondering how John Crubel Sr. got his start to buy the 120-acre farm near Petersburg plus 40 acres of timber (160 acres total) in 1871. As I said earlier, I didn't think he could amass the \$6,500 for the purchase by working as a hired hand. He either had to rent or own a farm. Amazing part is that he bought the farm a couple of months after he married, so he must have been saving up while working before marriage. This info also fits the obituary, about 4 miles NW of New Vienna! With only 65 acres of farmland, this was not a big farm. But John and Catherine did not have a big family, either. However, the farm is close to Pine Hollow, and had 40-acres of timber. John also had 40-acres of timber with the farm at Petersburg (actually, about a few miles west of the first timber) until he sold the timber in 1886. I wonder if he did some logging or timber work (cutting firewood, posts, etc.) It's just a thought.

1859 First child Catherine "Cruebel" is born.

1860 Census listed as John Crubel or John Riar? Fred: John should be on the Liberty township census for 1860, but I cannot find him on the on-line census.

1860 Census lists Catherine Lampe as a "cripple"? Fred: Who found her on the 1860 Census? She was married in 1858, so John should be on the 1860 census too. Also, there should have been documentation about the cause for her classification as 'cripple.'

1860 Census John Riar 46? Fred: No, he is Crebel on his first found land purchase in 1858 and has always been a variation of Crubel. He deserted the Civil War? There is no record that he was in the Civil War. He was a landowner from 1858 to 1871 in Liberty Township. Listed on the 1860 Census as Crubel? What census? The Riar name has been proposed by Lena Goedken. The Goedkens were early settlers to Iowa as well and settled at Bear Grove. Two of them married Knuevens, who were my great-grandmother's half-siblings, and lived on the Althoff farm 2 miles west of Bear Grove and bordering the Crubel farm. I can look up more research on this as I have info from a Knueven-Goedken researcher--a nun in Montana. Is it possible that the Goedkens knew Johann Cruebel as Riar in Germany? In the huerleute system in Germany the farm workers, or huers, took the last name of the farm on which they lived. For example, my great-great grandfather lived as a huer on the Altenkamp farm in Germany. He returned to his birth name (Klas) when he emigrated to

America about 1850. His son retained the Altenkamp name in Germany, (and correspondence documents this) until he came to America in 1854. There are even legal documents dealing with inheritance in Germany that use the Altenkamp name for him. If John lived as a huer and worked on the Riar farm, he would have been known as John Riar. The only documents we have are what we think is his birth date in Magdeburg and his marriage license, which lists him as Crubel, with the umlaut above the u.

Was John in the Civil War and could he have been a deserter? “The Enrollment Act, 12 Stat. 731, enacted March 3, 1863, also known as the Civil War Military Draft Act, was legislation passed by the United States Congress during the American Civil War to provide fresh manpower for the Union Army. A form of conscription, the controversial act required the enrollment of every male citizen and those immigrants who had filed for citizenship between the ages of twenty and forty-five. Federal agents established a quota of new troops due from each congressional district. In some cities, particularly New York City, enforcement of the act sparked civil unrest as the war dragged on, leading to the New York City draft riots on July 13-16. This act replaced the previous Militia Act of 1862.” John was born February 25, 1816, so when the Act was passed, he had just turned 47 and should have been exempt from conscription. Fred: It was possible to buy an exemption from the draft. A number of men did that. My great-grandfather was on the list of “alternates” for the draft. When some of the drafted men from Bremen Township didn’t pass the physical (seems unlikely for farmers) or bought exemptions, the draft quota went into the alternates and my great-grandfather was drafted. My personal feeling is that “avoiding conscription” may have referred to Prussia for John Sr. and the multiple spellings of his name may have been to hide his name, as William Hofer/Hover/Hoefer did when he came to the U.S. with his children, who included adult sons, in 1876.

1864, May 5 Second child John “Crebal” is born

1867, June 1 Third child Henry “Crebal” is born, dies, Catherine dies with him, daughter Catherine is 8, son John is 3. Petersburg was founded in 1866 and, and the parish was founded in 1867. Two farmers each donated an acre of land for the cemetery (it is about a half mile east of Petersburg, and not by the church). Catherine and infant Henry who both died in 1867 were among the first parishioners buried in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery there.

1870 Census lists John Crubel?

1871, Mar 9 Sold land, Johann Crabel (with umlat over the a) to Heinrich Pasker (Book KK, p. 216, Land Records, \$4000 paid in hand by Heinrich Pasker: NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 19 except piece deeded to James McKinnis by Alfred Howard and wife, containing one acre more or less, the N part of the SW 1/4 tract quarter of the NW 1/4 of Section 19 to run south equidistant to make 22 and 63/100 acres, one acre of land commencing in the SW corner of Section 18, NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 7, all in Township 90, Range 2 W, containing in all 105 and 63/100 acres.

1871 March 16 John Crebal Sr. purchased: NW ¼, NE ¼ and SW ¼ of Section 34, Township 90 (Colony), Range 3 West of the 5th Prime Meridian (90-3-34), 120 acres, SW ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 1, (90-3-1) (This is 40 acres of timberland), Total: 160 acres from James Dickson for \$6500 (James Dickson had bought the land the year before for \$5835.) Fred: This is the farm at Bear Grove. Bear

Grove is about two miles east of the Crubel farm at Petersburg on the road to Vienna. The area is still referred to as Bear Grove today, as there is still a patch of timber there. Bear Creek runs through it. I remember you thought this was a lot of money. I checked the real estate values of the neighbors when I went through the 1870 census (year he before he bought). They were: James Dickson, \$5,835 (John Sr. bought this farm the next year for \$6,500, Albert Mensen, 160 acres, \$6,700, Joseph Gephart, 160 acres, \$6,400, John Lammers, 237 acres, \$9,600, Michael Puetz, 120 acres, \$4,000.

1878 Daughter Catherine, who had married Clem Pille, died, age 19, possibly in childbirth?

1886, Feb. 18 John Crubel, Sr. sold to Schrunk SW ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 1 (timberland, no price indicated).

1886, Mar 2 Son John married Josephine Hoefer, had 11 children with her.

The 1894 and 1904 Colony Township (Twns 90, Range 3, West of 5th Prime Meridian) plat maps show the J. Crebel/Crubell farm as the N ½ of the SW ¼ (80 acres) and the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ (40 acres) of Section 34. Fred: The 40 acres bordered the north end of the Theodore and Elizabeth Schulte-Althoff farm. The notation I have with the map in the 2000 Althoff Book says that “William and Franciska Schulte-Althoff Hoefer’s daughter, Josephine, married John Crebel/Crubell. They farmed in Section 34, just north of the Althoff home farm, until moving to Wisconsin. Their farm later became the Elizabeth Geistkemper (granddaughter of William and Franciska) and Herman Westhoff farm.” By the way, Heinrich Pasker owned a lot of land around the piece he bought from John Crubel Sr. The actual land that John Crubel Sr. owned later became the Gosen farm. On the 1906 plat map, the land is owned by Gertrude Pasker, one of Heinrich Pasker’s daughters, and she married John Gosen. The 1869 Plat map shows the land owned by J. Dickson, and as I recall, Dickson had several patents, so may have been a land dealer.

1900 Census for Colony Township shows John Cruebel, Father, widower, the Head of Household was his son John Cruebel, born May 1864.

1901, Feb. 16 John Crubel, Sr., widower, sold to his son John Crubel, Jr, for \$100:

- NW ¼, NE ¼ and SW ¼ of Section 34, Township 90 (Colony) Range 3 West of the 5th Prime Meridian (90-3-34) 120 acres
- E1/2 of NW1/2 of SW1/4 of NW1/4 of Section 7, 90 Range 2 West 10 acres (probably timber- no prior record of John Sr. buying it, timber land probably closer than 40 acres of section 1)

Fred: This is actually a way of passing a farm on to the next generation, or sometimes, to a spouse. Obviously, the farm and timber were worth much more than \$100, but John Jr. was the only heir.

1902, Feb. 8 John Crubel, Jr. purchased for \$12,447.50 at public auction with the highest bid, from G.H. Ovel et all Referees Deed (There were 11 heirs to this land and the court referee ruled that it could not be divided equally.):

- E1/2 of NW1/4 of Section 34, 80 acres
- SE1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 27 except a strip one rod (16 feet, probably access road) across the north end, 39.5 acres
- Total 119.5 acres

Fred: This was a common practice when there were a lot of heirs inheriting a farm. The executor of the estate would file a suit (non-hostile) against the other heirs and become the plaintiff. The others would be the defendants, and a referee would then order the farm to be sold instead of the heirs trying to divide it.

1902, June 10 John Crubel, Jr. and wife sold:

- NE1/4 of NW ¼ of Section 34, 40 acres, to Peter Loecke (one of above heirs) for \$4,200
- SE1/4 of SW14/ of Section 27 except a strip one rod, 39.5 acres to Clemmens Bockenstedt for \$4147.50
- In this transaction John and Josephine Crubel added 40 acres to their farm for \$4100

Fred: My great-grandfather on my mother's side did this quasi-realtor thing...bought a large neighboring farm, and had it pre-arranged to sell parts of it to other neighbors, so he could add 30 acres to his farm.

1908 May 28 John died in Petersburg, Iowa, buried in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery. His gravestone reads John Grubel Born 25 Jan 1816, died 28 Mar 1908. Here is that Crubel family gravestone, listed as "Grubel" in Find A Grave Memorial 92876622, "created by the Pealers July 1, 2012".



This gravestone reads:

JOHN
GRUBEL
GEB
25 JAN 1816
GEST
28 Mal 1908
CATHERINE
FRAU VON
JOHN GRUBEL
GEB
22 MAL 1832
GEST
1 JUN 1867



Fred: To me, the name on the marker is Crubel. I think the photographer who did the grave census misread it, although the shadow on the “C” does make it look like a “G”. There are two Crubel children buried at Petersburg (sons of John Jr. and Josephine) and they are clearly marked Crubel.

Carolyn: All the available records to date indicate that John Crubel was always John Crubel. Could Aunt Lena’s husband have confused John Crubel with a member of the Raue family and the Raue name in oral transmission became garbled into Riar?

Feb 20, 1914, John Crubel Sr. and Josephine, his wife, sold the SE 1/4 of NW ¼, NE 1/4 and NW 1/4 and SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 34, Township 90, Range 3 W, to Barney Koelker for \$28,000.

Fred: John and Josephine’s investment in the farm was \$4,200. The years 1910-1914 were the best in Iowa farming history (the Golden Age). So John Jr. and Josephine probably had a substantial amount of money to purchase land in Wisconsin.

From these brief records we see clearly that the original John Crubel who came to America in 1853 did indeed become a successful pioneer and farmer, a respected member of his community, and the founder of a large family through his one remaining child, despite the tragedies of losing a young wife, an infant son, and a grown daughter. His descendants today number in the hundreds.