

# the KAISER FAMILY CHRONICLE



Number 2 (Spring 1983 edition)

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Christoph & Sophia Kaiser

The Kaiser family newsletter is an annual event, and is published in the spring of each year. It contains material of interest to the descendants of Christoph Kaiser (1819-1893) and Sophia Hoefe Kaiser (1829-1901), who were born in the small farming village of Langenholzhausen, in Lippe-Detmold, Germany; emigrated to the U.S. in 1856; and resided until their deaths in Freeport and Florence Township, Stephenson County, Illinois. Included in the newsletter are: a short essay concerning some aspect of Kaiser family history; reprints of old-time news articles; family file notes (births, deaths, marriages, etc.); re-union information; progress reports on the compilation of the Kaiser family history; and items contributed by readers (contributions are encouraged!). New subscribers may send their name, address, and a \$2.00 annual subscription fee to the editors: Karen and David Williams  
1413 Oakwood Ave.  
Menomonie, WI 54751

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LANGENHOLZHAUSEN

### Part I: Founding to 1684

Christoph and Sophia (Hoefler) Kaiser, the "immigrant ancestors" of our Kaiser family, were born and raised in the small German farming village of Langenholzhausen in the principality of Lippe-Detmold, Germany. Church records indicate that the Kaiser and Hoefler families lived in the village for many generations. We therefore find it appropriate to here relate a brief history of Langenholzhausen:

The village nestles along the banks of a stream called the "Osterkalle" (East Kalle), at the base of a hill known as the "Habichtsberg". Before it today spreads a broad meadow, which was in ancient times forested, then cleared and divided into farm fields by the villagers. Across the valley rises the "Kirchberg" (Church hill), so called because folk crossed it to attend the parish church in Langenholzhausen. The Haiberg, just west of the village, harbors remains of Iron Age hearths and graves, attesting to the antiquity of human habitation in the area.

Early Germanic tribes occupied the area of Lippe at the time of Christ: first the Cheruskans, and later the Saxons. It seems that the Saxons either founded the little village along the Osterkalle, or took over an earlier settlement, for the name "Holthusun" is Saxon, and it is with this name that the village first enters historical records. In 772 A.D. the area which is now Lippe was conquered by armies of the Frankish king Charlemagne, who then proceeded to Christianize the Saxons.



The founding year of the church in Langenholzhausen is uncertain, but it appears to be one of the oldest parishes in Lippe. Certain clues point to a founding date between 800 and 900 A.D.-- that is, shortly after Charlemagne's conquest. Of the current visible structure, the tower dates back to the 10th or 11th century, and the body of the church to about 1350. The church bells were acquired in 1515, shortly before a major remodelling took place. The population of the village at this time was roughly 130, living on 17 farmsteads.

The early 1500's were the time of the Protestant Reformation. Lippe remained strongly Catholic until the death of its Count Simon V, but thereafter Lutheranism gained a foothold, and one of its foremost supporters was Simon de Wend, the noble 'patron' of the parish of Langenholzhausen. In 1541, after the death of the parish priest, Johann von Silixien, Langenholzhausen received its first Lutheran pastor.

The 1500's were a century of growth. In 1568 the mill on the Osterkalle was built, a gift of the deWend family. It is near the church, in the center of the village, and still operating today. In 1590, the population of Langenholzhausen was about 300 people, residing on 45 farmsteads. The parish population numbered about 1,500, and included folk in the neighboring villages of Kalldorf, Erder, Varenholz, Stemmen, Tevenhausen, and Heidelberg.

The 1600's were a century of great and terrible upheavals. By law, the ruler of the land could determine the religious order of his subjects. In 1605, Count Simon VI of Lippe publicly discarded Lutheranism and embraced the Reformed religion. The change seems to have been well accepted in Lippe. The order of service was changed, colorful church windows were replaced by more sober colors, and wall murals such as those which had been painted on the walls of the church in Langenholzhausen a century earlier, were covered by thick wall hangings. But elsewhere in Europe, religious changes were causing great stirs, and 1618 marked the beginning of the terrible Thirty Years War between Catholic and Protestant forces which was to devastate Germany.

Lippe, though technically neutral, did not escape the effects of the long, brutal conflict. Lippe's neutrality was violated as both German and foreign troops marched along her roads; troops were quartered in the villages; food for men and animals was requisitioned, and when not freely given, was stolen. The villagers hid their valuables, then their foodstuffs, and drove cattle into the forests. Goods were plundered, cattle stolen by the soldiers. There were also quiet periods during the long war years, but many fields lay fallow due to a shortage of horses, seed, and workmen.

How did the village of Langenholzhausen escape devastation. In September of 1623, General Tilley's German Catholic troops were quartered in the village, and in November, Spanish Catholic troops. In 1625, the village was plundered by Danish soldiers as well as by Tilley's troops and those of the German Kaiser. In 1633, Swedish Lutheran soldiers were quartered in villages of the parish, and an official of Varenholz (township) reported to Detmold:

"We are here in sorry circumstances. I fear that the entire region will be annihilated. The suffering is here so great, that it is indescribable. No village is so small that it does not quarter a regiment. Neither bread nor beer is available, and there is no means to create any ... The village of Langenholzhausen lies almost totally in ashes, only the mill, the church and a few farmsteads still stand ..."

Quoted in Wilhelm Süvern's "Ein Gang durch die Jahrhunderte" in Beiträge zur Geschichte der Kirche und des Kirchspiels Langenholzhausen (Kalletal, Lippe, Germany: 1975) pp. 25-26.



Langenholzhausen

HISTORY (cont.)

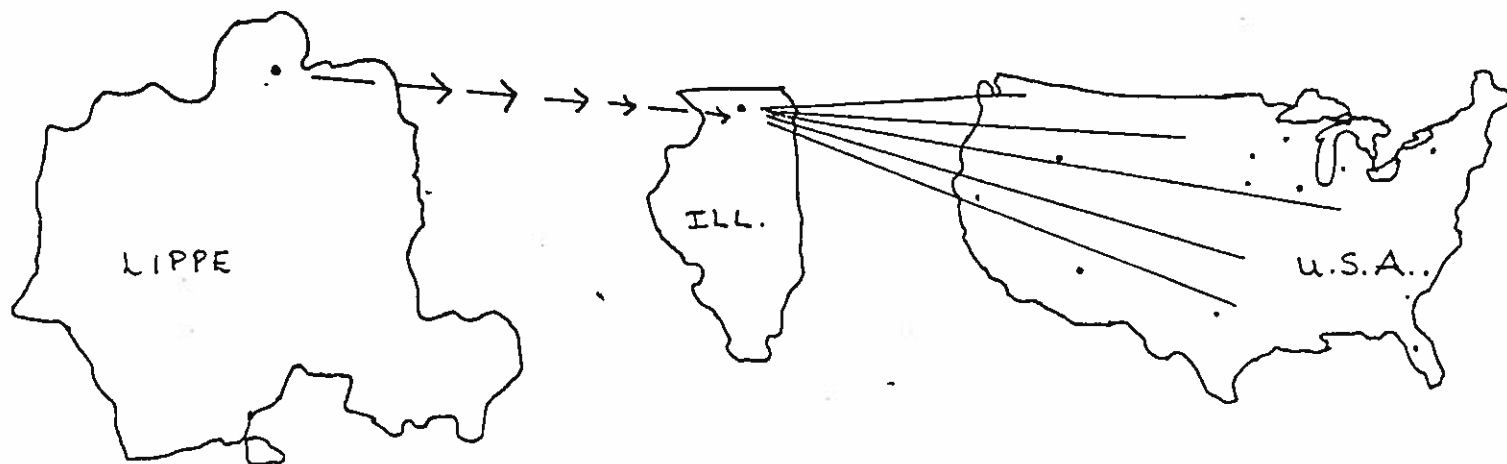
In 1636, the bubonic plague -- "Black Death" -- struck Langenholzhausen, and many who had survived the burning of the village and the long years of want and hunger fell victim to it. Between 1616 and 1648, the population of Lippe sank from 40,000 to 26,000. Hostilities lessened in the 1640's, and rebuilding began slowly. But the large farmsteads, which in earlier years had been the backbone of the village, were burdened with debts, short of livestock and seed, as well as manpower; many lay in ruins, others had mortgaged or sold off acreage--they could not easily make a comeback.

Peace agreements were signed in 1648, and Germany began to build from the ruins of war and to revive economically. Evidence of this in Langenholzhausen can be seen in the records of repairs made to the church through the 1650's and 1660's. In 1684, a new order of church service was once again introduced in the parishes, and also (a boon to later genealogists!) the church began recording marriages and baptisms.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## SOURCES:

1. Beiträge zur Geschichte der Kirche und des Kirchspiels Langenholzhausen, Kalletal, Lippe, Germany, Evangelisch-reformierten Kirchengemeinde Langenholzhausen, 1975.
2. Peter, August Wilhelm. Lippe -- Eine Heimat und Landeskunde, Detmold, Germany, Lippischer Heimatbund, 1970.
3. Süvern, Wilhelm. Das Kirchspiel Hohenhausen, Lemgo, Germany, F.L. Wagener, 1965.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Contributions to this newsletter are requested, and will be gathered gratefully! Remembrances of family members (Mom, Dad, Aunt Sophie, Uncle Charlie, Grandpa Kaiser ...), of life on the farm (or in the city!) in the "good old days", etc., would be great. "Family File Notes" must come from people in the know. "Yesteryear's News" could be a photocopy of a yellowed news clipping from your scrapbooks. Articles such as "Twins!" in this issue share important family events with us all. Let's make this newsletter a family affair!

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YESTERYEAR'S NEWS

(from the weekly German language newspaper Deutsche Anzeiger of Freeport, IL:  
Wednesday, January 19, 1881, p. 8, col. 4)

"Gestorben.

Am Dienstag letzter Woche, 10 d.M., ist wohl die älteste Bewohnerin des Towns Lancaster, Frau Katharine Kaiser, die Mutter des im selben Town wohnhaften Hrn. Fr. Kaiser und des Hrn. Chr. Kaiser vom Town Florence, im hohen Alten von 85 Jahren an Alterschwäche gestorben. Frau Kaiser war in Langenholzhausen, Amt Varenholz, Fürstenthum Lippe-Detmold, im Jahre 1796 geboren und vor etwa 25 Jahren mit ihrem Gatten, der ihr nun schon vor etwa 17 Jahre in Tode voranging, nach der neuen Welt eingewandert. Schon seit mehreren Jahren hatte sich bei der Entschlafenen das Alter fühlbar gemacht und der am genannten Tage eingetretene Tod erschien ihr als Erlöser von allen irdischen Leiden. Die Leiche wurde am Donnerstag Vormittag auf dem hiesigen Friedhofe zur Erde bestattet."

\*TRANSLATION (by the editors):

"Deaths.

On Tuesday of last week, the 10th of the month, Mrs. Katharine Kaiser, the oldest resident of Lancaster Township, and the mother of Mr. Fred Kaiser of the same township and Mr. Christoph Kaiser of Florence Township, died of old age at the great age of 85 years. Mrs. Kaiser was born in the year 1796 in Langenholzhausen, Township of Varenholz, Principality of Lippe-Detmold. Nearly 25 years ago, she emigrated to the new world with her husband, who preceded her in death about 17 years ago. The deceased had felt [the ills of old] age for many years, and death came to her on the above-named day as a release from all earthly sorrows. The remains were interred on Thursday morning at the local cemetery."

EDITOR'S NOTES: Information culled from old newspaper articles can be extremely valuable to the genealogist, but any facts presented must be regarded with caution, and if possible, be verified by more reliable sources. Obituaries are often inaccurate, since the information was provided by relatives who may have been grief-stricken and overcome by the unhappy event. The obituary above is a case in point. Burial records at St. John's UCC in Freeport state: "Widow Kaiser, born in July 1795 in Langenholzhausen, Lippe Detmold, died 11. Jan. 1881, buried 13. Jan. by C. Hoffmeister, Pastor."

Here we have a different birth year! (as well as a different date of death--but count backward from the date of the article to the "Tuesday of last week", and one quickly sees that the news article is in error!). When was Catharine Hahne Kaiser born? What year to believe? Most accurate will be records made at the time of the actual event. So we check back in time and place to the parish church in Langenholzhausen, Lippe-Detmold, Germany, where we discover that birth, confirmation and marriage records all report the birthdate of "Sophia Catharina Hahne" Kaiser as 13. January, 1798. She may not at her death have been the oldest resident of Lancaster Township after all!

The article does, however, give a birthplace (invaluable), name two survivors, and mention fairly accurate dates for Catharine Hahne Kaiser's emigration, and the death of her husband. No obituary has been found for him, as the issues of the Freeport newspapers at the time of his death have unfortunately been lost.....

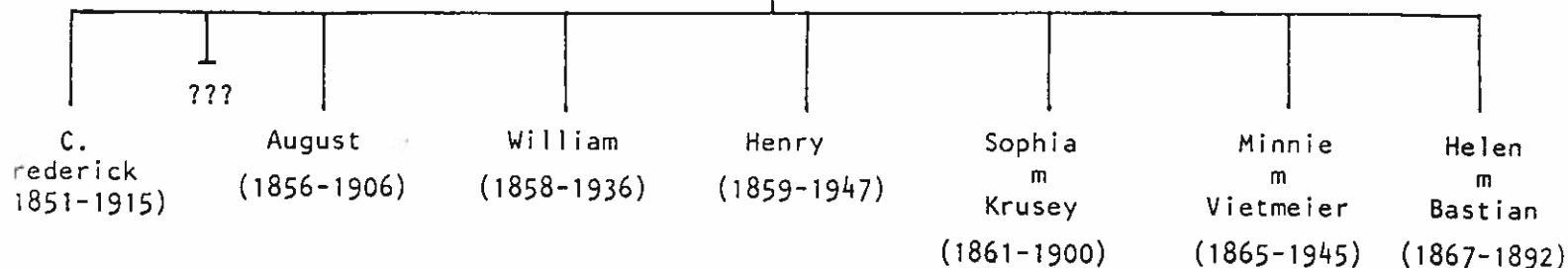
Freeport Daily Bulletin (January 13, 1881, p.4 col.2; "Town Talk"):

- "The funeral of the late Mrs. Keiser of Lancaster occurred today. It was largely attended."

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## FAMILY FILE NOTES \*

Christoph Kaiser m Sophia Hoefer  
(1819-1893) (1829-1901)



The purpose of this section is to keep track of important events in the lives of Kaiser descendants by recording those which occurred during the year preceding publication of this newsletter. Appropriate items would be births, marriages, deaths, divorces, college graduations, military enlistments or discharges, silver or golden anniversary celebrations, etc. The Spring 1984 issue of the "Kaiser Family Chronicle" will list 1983 events. Please forward any such "Family File Notes" to the editors!

BIRTHS

- \* Twins Sarah Elaine and Shay Elizabeth (descendants of August Kaiser), b. 4. September, 1982, in Freeport, IL. Parents: Alan and Janet (Kaiser) Cunningham of Crystal Lake, IL.

MARRIAGES

- \* Stephen Kaiser (desc. August Kaiser) to Barbara Chapin; m. 4. Sept. 1982, in Lena, IL.
- \* Keith Kloepping, Jr. (desc. Sophia Kaiser Krusey) to Delores Kramer; m. 16. Oct., 1982.

ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

- \* 40th Wedding Anniversary: Pauline Krusey m. Paul Moring 10. Oct. 1942. They were honored at a family dinner party hosted by their children, Dennis and Darryl Moring and their families.
- \* 54th Wedding Anniversary: Edna Krusey m. Charles Diffenderfer 18. Dec. 1928, in the home of Grant Wolf at Lanark, IL. They are the parents of six children, and were honored at a family dinner party on their anniversary.



Paul and Pauline Moring and family at 40th.

DEATHS

- 1982
- \* Emma Phillipina Kaiser Hill, granddaughter of Christoph and Sophia Kaiser (dau. of William and Emma Schauer Kaiser), b. 17 Aug. 1894; d. 5. Feb. 1982, at Primghar, IA. She was a lifetime resident of Sutherland, IA, and is buried at the Waterman Cemetery there.

## \* FAMILY FILE NOTES \* (cont.)

DEATHS1982

- \* Alvina Koertner Kaiser (wife of Walter Kaiser, son of August Kaiser), b. 19. Feb., 1892, near Pearl City, IL; d. 3. August 1982, in Freeport, IL. Burial was in Chapel Hill Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established for St. John United Church of Christ (Freeport), of which she (and many other Kaisers, from Christoph and Sophia on down) was a member.

1983

- \* Agnes Kaiser Duncan, granddaughter of Christoph and Sophia Kaiser (dau. of William and Emma Schauer Kaiser), and sister of Emma Kaiser Hill (see above). Born 18 March 1900, Sutherland, IA; d. February 1983, at Primghar, IA. She was a lifetime resident of Sutherland, IA.
- \* Charles Diffenderfer, husband of Edna Krusey Diffenderfer (desc. Sophia Kaiser Krusey), d. 20 Feb. 1983, two months after the celebration of their 54th wedding anniversary. He was a lifetime resident of the Lanark, IL area.
- \* Anna Bobb Moyer (mother-in-law of Carolyn Kaiser--Mrs. Robert--Moyer, desc. August Kaiser), age 91, d. 24. March, 1983, in Freeport, IL. Although not a direct Kaiser descendant, Anna Moyer was well-known to Kaiser relatives in and around Freeport.
- \* Ernest Henry Krusey, grandson of Christoph & Sophia Kaiser (and youngest son of John and Sophia Kaiser Krusey); b. 23 September 1897 by Florence IL, d. 10. June 1983 in Freeport, IL. Burial in Oakland Cemetery, Freeport. He was the oldest direct Kaiser descendant present at the first two Kaiser Family Reunions, and his presence will be sadly missed at the Third...

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TWINS IN THE KAISER FAMILY TREE

The article contributed by Katy Kaiser concerning twins in the Kaiser/Koertner family raises a question concerning the prevalence of twins in the Kaiser family lines. There seems to be no strong tendency to twinning in our Kaiser family, but twins -- usually non-identical -- do occur here and there. (World Book Encyclopedia states that twins occur once in every 80 to 87 births, and that the tendency to twinning is hereditary.) The editors are unable to recall any records of twins born in the Kaiser or Hoefer families prior to 1856, but twins among Kaiser descendants occur in the lines of August, William and Henry, as well as among descendants of Sophia Kaiser Krusey. Any reader with information about twins in the Kaiser clan (or about any other seemingly hereditary characteristic!) is encouraged to write to the editors!

\* \* \*

TWINS!!

Alvina Koertner Kaiser died August 3, 1982, at age 90 years, five months, and 18 days, just one month before the marriage of her grandson Stephen Kaiser and Barbara Chapin, and the birth of twin great-granddaughters to Janet (Kaiser) and Alan Cunningham. When Jan first told her grandmother of her pregnancy, Alvina asked her conspiratorially, "Are you the one who will give us our twins?" You see, Mom Kaiser had always firmly believed one of her grandchildren would have twins -- it just was a foregone conclusion because her mother had been a twin!

This spunky lady, the last in a family of three brothers and five sisters, was convinced to the last of this fact; she was equally determined to attend Steve's and Barb's wedding in Lena, Illinois. Isn't it ironic that both of the events would occur on the same date and that she would miss them by such a short period of time? Obviously, she was correct that twins would be born to a grandchild, but how ironic that she would not live to see it.

September 4, 1982, was quite a day for the family of Harold and Joyce Kaiser -- Jan was home planning to attend her brother's wedding when the twins changed her mind for her. Instead of the wedding, early that morning she gave birth and her parents as well as other members of the family managed to live through both momentous events. The bride and groom were able to visit Jan and the twins before they left (see picture), but it sure was a busy day for the family!



The Twins and Their Admirers

Alvina's prediction came true with the births of Sarah Elaine, five pounds 5 1/2 ounces, and Shay Elizabeth, five pounds 14 1/2 ounces, at approximately 9:30 the morning of September 4, 1982!

Contributed by Katy Kaiser

Editor's Note: Alvina Koertner, b. February 19, 1892, near Pearl City, IL, was the daughter of Conrad and Henrietta (Stieneke) Koertner. Her parents were both born in Calldorf, Lippe, the village just west of Langenholzhausen, home village of the Kaisers. Calldorfers attended the parish church in Langenholzhausen. Alvina Koertner married Walter A. Kaiser, grandson of Christoph and Sophia Kaiser, in January, 1913, in Freeport, IL.

Alvina Koertner Kaiser at the first  
Kaiser Family Reunion (1981)



REUNION NOTES

1982 About 40 descendants of Christoph and Sophia Kaiser gathered at the Florence Station, Illinois home of Glennen and Kay Kaiser, for a share-a-dish picnic lunch on Sunday, August 3, 1982. Relatives attending were from the Freeport area as well as from Rockford, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The weather was beautiful and we had a good time sharing old family photos and information. Family charts were distributed, as well as the first edition of the annual family newsletter, The Kaiser Family Chronicle. The highlight of the day was Cousin Ervin Gitz's talk about the Florence Station Band, and his modelling of his Grandfather Bastian's band uniform from the 1880's -- still in great shape, and it fit Ervin well!

1983 The Third Annual Kaiser Family Reunion is due to occur at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, August 7, 1983, again at the Florence Station, IL home of Glennen and Katy Kaiser. All relatives who are interested in the festivities are asked to set this date aside and join the family. Anyone who would like more information is asked to contact the Glennen Kaisers at 815/235-9364, or to write them at:

5729 S. Clover Road  
Freeport, IL 61032

1983 The Krusey Family Reunion (Sophia Kaiser, dau. of Christoph and Sophia Kaiser, married John Krusey) is scheduled to be held on Sunday, August 21, at the Ben Miller Park in German Valley, IL. For further information, please contact LaVonne Krusey Heid, 232 Shoreland Rd., Rockford, IL. Phone 815/633-5759. People may also contact Pauline Krusey Moring, Baileyville, IL 61009.



Lacking only an instrument, Ervin Gitz entertained the 1982 Kaiser Reunion; Ernie Krusey (seated) observes.



Some of the relatives attending pose for a group photo

(Kaiser Reunion 1982)



PROGRESS REPORT on the Compilation of the Kaiser Family History ...

The 1982 Kaiser Family Reunion provided a goldmine of old family photos. We now have copies of wedding photos for each of the Kaiser children excepting Henry Kaiser, who married Friederika Schauer in March, 1883. After her death, he married Rosa Schollhammer. Anyone owning a wedding portrait for either of these marriages is urged to contact Katy Kaiser!

Tracing of descendants continues. Anyone wishing to aid in this effort is urged to fill out, for their own immediate family, the "Family Sheet" accompanying this Chronicle issue. (More family charts, for your siblings, parents, etc., can be photocopied from this original). Please also write current addresses of any family members listed, on the reverse of the sheet, as well as any other biographical data you wish to provide (military service, education, occupation, hobbies and personal interests, etc.). Completed family sheets should be returned to:

David and Karen Williams, 1413 Oakwood Ave., Menomonie, WI 54751

NEEDED!

Anyone having any knowledge of family matters or items of interest (old photos, letters, heirlooms, diaries, Bible records, family stories or traditions, recipes, news articles, etc.) to share with your family chroniclers please contact any one of the compilers listed here. All help is treasured and brings us one step closer to the publication of an interesting and well-rounded Kaiser family history. Please remember--this is your Kaiser family history, so we need your help.

OUR GOAL:

The publication of an attractive, historically accurate, well-researched and documented genealogy, illustrated by photographs of family sites and members; a readable work fleshed out by character sketches and biographical information.

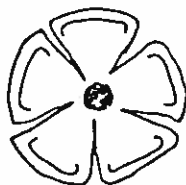
COMPILERS:

GLENNEN & KATY KAISER (5729 S. Clover Rd., Freeport, IL 61032) and BOB & CAROLYN MOYER (514 W. American, Freeport, IL 61032). Collecting genealogical data on descendants of the Kaiser and Schauer families, and researching records in the Freeport, IL area. Katy and Glennen also have a camera and tripod setup which allows them to photograph prized family portraits on anyone's kitchen table. Numerous relatives have shared their photographic heirlooms with them.

DAVID & KAREN WILLIAMS (1413 Oakwood Ave., Menomonie, WI 54751). Editors of the Kaiser Family Chronicle. Knowledgeable in German language and script. Currently researching the family background in Germany and early Freeport, consulting early church records, and researching the history of the village of Langenholzhausen.

BERNADINE HABECK (4813 Hampshire Ave. N, Minneapolis, MN 55428). Gathering information on descendants of William and Henry Kaiser, who settled in Sutherland, IA.

One variant of



the "Lippische Rose"



SNAPSHOTS from the

1982



KAISER  
Family  
Reunion

