

Ernest and Louise Joos Family History

Ernest Joos and Louise Aupperle were both born in Germany. Ernest and Louise were both 16 years old when they came to the United States of America. They didn't know each other in Germany, Ernest journeyed here by boat with his families and the journey took 7-10 days. Louise came over by herself when she was 15. Some of her family, including her mother, came later. The Jooses settled around the Princeville area and farmed the Holmes estate on Route 88 just north of Peoria. (Alton, Illinois)

Ernest and Louise met and were married and had 14 kids: Carrie, Herman, Bertha, John, Frieda, William, Ernest, Frederick, George, Emma, Paul, Louise, Benjamin, and Samuel. Since the price of land was going up in Central Illinois, Ernest and some other families in the area decided to look for land somewhere else. A land agent came and took Ernest and some of the other men to the Red River valley in Minnesota. He showed them some available land (which was mostly prairie sod) that had never been farmed. In the winter of 1913, nine families from Central Illinois decided to move to Tenney Minnesota. There was a lot of land that they could get very cheap. The land was only about \$65.00 per acre. The families that moved were: Ernest Joos & family, Robert Joos & family, Otto Joos & family, Gottlieb Joos & family, Fred Aupperle & family, Jake Bauman & family, Albert Allenspack & family, Rudy Dollinger & family, and George Hacker & family. They moved their families, households, animals, and machinery all on one train from Peoria, Illinois.

In Tenney, Minnesota there was no electricity on the farm. The outer walls of the house were one foot thick and were insulated with sand. They used kerosene lanterns and lamps to light the house at night. In order to have light in the barn the boys would light the lanterns in the house and put them in five gallon buckets so the wind wouldn't blow them out. Later on, Ernest bought gas lanterns. Soon after they moved up to Minnesota, Ernest Jr. got scarlet fever and died on January 25th, 1914. The land that Ernest bought was very flat and wet. During the first three years, they didn't get much crop. They put in a dredge ditch to drain the land. Then they were able to raise better crops. Ernest put in a deep well, and used a windmill to pump the water. He then put a storage tank in the hay mound and covered it up with hay so that it wouldn't freeze in the winter. The windmill pumped the water into the storage tank, which had an over-flow pipe on it. The tank furnished water for the cow and hog barns. The pipes to the hog barn were buried six feet under the ground. The well furnished water for the cooling tank (inside) for milk, cream and home brew! The overflow from the cooling tank went to the stock tank outside. In the winter they would attach a wire from the house to the barn, so that when there was a severe blizzard, they could find their way to the barn without getting lost.

Ernest was a great livestock man. He raised purebred Clydesdales (to do the farm work), cattle and also Scottie Dogs. There was a market out east for Scotty Dogs and Ernest made more money with the dogs than he did on his hogs. There was no running water in the house. The kitchen range had a reservoir that held 10 gallons of water. They used the water from there to take their baths. The house was heated with a parlor

stove that used hard coal for fuel. When Ernest bought the place, there was one barn for livestock. Later on, he bought a round roof barn (from Sears & Roebuck) for the horses. We also had a cattle shed (with a large door) for the young stock. It was framed with poles, with wire strung around each one. In the fall, they threshed around the building. Ernest bought a surge milk machine. Through the harvest, the girls milked the cows in the evenings. The girls had to take the laundry out to the milk house to wash it because there was no running water in the house.

Ernest also had a threshing rig. They used a rumely oil pull tractor. John & Bill used the rumely to plow with and it pulled a six bottom plow. At age 15, Bill Joos started hauling bundles in the threshing run, with a team and hayrack. The grain was hauled five miles to Tenney with a team and wagon. Some grain was stored in the grainer.

Since the closest church was 50 miles away in Morris, Minnesota, the nine families took turns having church in each other's houses. Horse barns surrounded the Morris church, since there were no cars at the time. Most Germans wouldn't let you bring a car to church. Ernest was one of the first people to have a car (a Model T touring car). The school that Ernest & Louise's children attended in Minnesota was one mile from their house. The children went to school by horse and buggy. They had to take their own drinking water with them. The children had a nine month school year. They didn't go to school until the crops were harvested and had to quit school for the spring planting and fieldwork. It took Bill Joos 10 years to go through 8th grade. He never went to High School.

Since there was no money, the children had to furnish their own entertainment. There were 40 to 60 kids in all. They used to get together and play games such as: Drop the handkerchief, Farmer in the dell, and Fox & goose. They had some neighbors who were a middle-aged couple (Art & Katie) with no kids. In the winter, they invited all the young folks over. They would bring everyone in by horse and sleigh, since there were no cars. Art would play the violin, Katie would play the mouth organ, Bill would play the accordion, Fred would play the banjo, and they would have a dance. They loved to square dance and play a lot of their favorite songs like: "Ain't Gonna Rain No More", "Golden Slippers", and "Marion Parker". When one of the neighbors would put up a new barn, they would have a barn dance for the public before putting hay in the hay mound. Art, Katie, Bill, and Fred played for them a lot!

As Ernest & Louise's kids got older, they gradually moved back to the Peoria area since their aunts and uncles lived there. So on September 24th, 1942, Ernest & Louise had a farm sale and moved back to Tremont, Illinois. Ernest & Louise lived with Bill & Bertha Michael for months until their house in town was ready.