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## The Family History of William Joos (Bill Joos Speaking)

Dad (Ernest Joos) and nine families went up the year before and bought ground.

Dad was born in Alta, Illinois on March 5, 1911. Then at the age of 2 years old, the family along with the animals and machinery, moved to Lenney, Minnesota. Everyone traveled by train. This move took place during the fall of 1913. We moved to Minnesota because of the amount of cheap land that was available.

The farm had no electricity, and the walls of the house were insulated with one foot of sand. The house was heated with a parlor stove, which used hard coal for fuel. We used kerosene lanterns and lamps to light the house. The boys would light the lanterns in the house and set them in 5 gallon pails to go to the barns. Later on, Dad bought gas lanterns.

After the move to Minnesota, my brother Ernest got scarlet fever and died on January 25, 1914.

Dad & Mom (Ernest Joos and Louise Aupperle) came to Illinois from Germany. They were both 16 years old. Dad & Mom did not know each other when they were living in Germany.

The land Dad bought was flat and wet. The first three years there was little crop. Then a dredge ditch was put in to drain the water from the land. This helped raise better crops.

Dad put in a deep well and used a windmill to pump the water. Then he put a storage tank in and covered it up with hay to keep it from freezing. The windmill pumped water into the storage tank, which had an over-flow-pipe. The tank furnished water for the cows in the barn, and each cow had a drinking cup. There were around 14 cows. The tank furnished water for the hog barn, also. The pipes to the hog barn were buried 6 feet under the ground. The well furnished water for the cooling tank (inside the house) for milk, cream, and home brew. The over flow from the cooling tank went to the stock tank outside. There was no running water in the house. The kitchen range had a reservoir that held 10 gallons of water. We used water from the reservoir to take our baths.

When Dad bought the place, there was one barn for livestock. Later on, he bought a round-roof barn from Sears and Roebuck for the horses. We also had a cattle shed for the young stock. The cattle shed had a large door. The inside was framed with poles and woven wire was strung around the poles. During the fall, straw was put around the building to keep it warm.

Dad bought a surge milk machine, and during the harvest, the girls would milk the cows in the evenings. The girls would have to take the laundry out to the milk house to wash; as there was running water in the house.

Dad also had a threshing rig, and used a rumely oil pull tractor. John & I (Bill) used the rumely to plow with. It pulled a six bottom plow. At age 15, I started hauling bundles into the threshing run with the team and a hayrack. The grain was hauled to Lenney (about 5 miles away) with the team and the wagons. Some grain was stored in the grainer.

I came to Illinois on October 31, 1932. I would pick corn by hand for 15 cents per bushel. In the spring, I worked for Sam Unsicker for \$1.00 a day for room and board.

The farm sale was on September 24, 1942, and the folks moved back to Tremont. Mom & Dad lived with Bill & Bertha Michel for months until the folks' house was ready to be moved into in Tremont. Sam then came to live with us.

Grandpa John Joos was born on November 27, 1847 and died on August 3, 1931. Grandma Johanna Keller Joos died in 1886.

In the fall of 1913, the families that went to Minnesota were Ernest, Robert, Otto, and Gottlieb Joos; Fred Aupperle, Jake Bauman, George Hueker, Albert Allenspack, and also Rudy Dollinger.

*Emil Joos went up with the group,  
after the families were settled male Emil came back  
He wasn't married at that time.*