

1832
STALLOSTOWN

CENTENNIA**L**
MINSTER
OHIO

1932
MINSTER

SOUVENIR
of the
One Hundredth Anniversary
OF THE FOUNDING
OF
MINSTER, OHIO



September 28, 1832 September 28, 1932

FOREWORD

IT is indeed probable that had the early founders of the town and church realized how thoroly the people of this age would appreciate a complete history, such a story would now be accessible for reference. Instead are repeated the tales of the older citizens and verified facts obtained by tedious examination of old books and records. A broken link appears now and then because some records have become lost in the general shifting of the years.

Much of this information came into my possession as secretary of the Minster Centennial Society, and I have attempted to compile these happenings with the most critical accuracy. The task has been a pleasure, altho admittedly difficult. Mistakes, no doubt, there are, for it is a human work.

I acknowledge the assistance rendered the late C. H. Dickman by the late Judge Stueve who found the records of the court action of 1836; by the late Henry Feldman who contributed many facts; by Henry Sextro thru whom he received the Stallo family birth records from Rev. Henry Zuhone pastor of Vestrup, Germany. And to Rev. Sixtus Meyer, C. PP. S. who loaned the early church records; to Sister Mary Adelaide, C. PP. S., who contributed the facts concerning the early activities of the Sisters; to Mrs. Frederick Krull who tells the family history; to Miss Hilda Woehrmyer for her kind permission to include the poem written especially for this occasion by her aunt; and to all others who have assisted and contributed, but of whom space does not permit individual mention, I am most sincerely grateful.

This history, uniting the past with the present, is now presented for your enjoyment, interest and approval.

September 28th, 1932

VELMA F. SCHMIEDER.



CHARLES HENRY DICKMAN, III

November 22, 1862

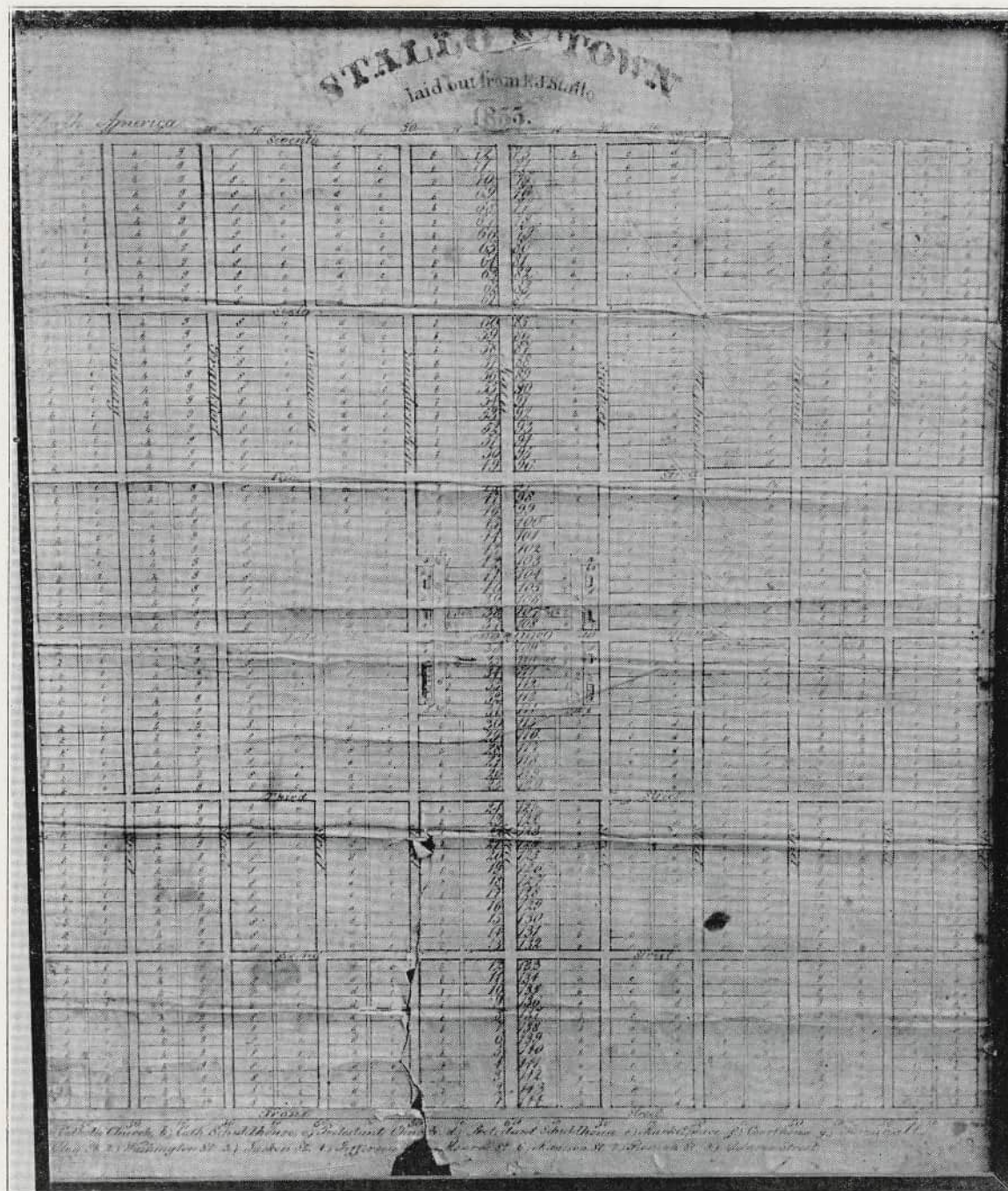
February 29, 1932

A Book of Remembrance

Mal. III., 16.



THE idea of some form of commemoration or celebration of the Minster Centennial had its inception in the mind of the late Mr. Charles Henry Dickman III. His profound admiration and gratitude for the courage with which the pioneer settlers braved the hardships of early colonization and founded this thrifty town which we now with just pride call our home, induced him to collect the many interesting facts necessary to preserve this story for posterity. He began as far back as 1900, when yet a young man, and in his later years gave unsparingly of his time and means to promote this interest in the community. Just what his exact plans were, we shall never know, but we who were privileged to be near him, know that he intended to assemble the results of his labors into a short history of Minster for us to read and treasure. After living in such great anticipation of this event it seems an irony of Fate that he should be removed by the cruel hand of Death just a few months previous and thereby be denied the realization of his fondest dream. His legacy to us was a wealth of notes which form the nucleus of this narrative, and therefore to his memory, we respectfully dedicate this book.



- A—CATHOLIC CHURCH
- B—CATHOLIC SCHUHLHOUSE
- C—PROTESTANT CHURCH
- D—PROTESTANT SCHUHLHOUSE
- E—MARKET PLACE
- F—COURT HOUSE
- G—TOWN HALL
- 1.—CLAY STREET
- 2.—WASHINGTON STREET

- 3.—JACKSON STREET
- 4.—JEFFERSON STREET
- 5.—MONROE STREET
- 6.—MADISON STREET
- 7.—ROMAN STREET
- 8.—ADAMS STREET

Main Street sixty feet wide, all others fifty feet. Alleys sixteen. Fourth Street sixty feet, all others fifty feet.

ON BACK OF PLAT

The State of Ohio, Mercer County ss: I, James Watson Riley recorder of sd County do hereby certify that the within plat was left with my deputy recorder during my absence to New York sometime during the last summer, that a certificate which appears to belong thereto

was by him recorded from the 11th to the 13th of June (probably the 13th,) and is not on file and that the plat has been this day by me recorded on pages 280-1-2 and 283 of letter B, Mercer County Ohio Records, November 26, 1833.

James Watson Riley, Recorder.

HISTORY OF MINSTER, OHIO

To all there is a beginning. Following the creation, thru the subsequent prehistoric ages, the era of the mound builders, the Indian habitation, and the early history of our country we come to the founding of Minster, Ohio.

In the years of the eighteenth century, religious and political upheavals in Europe had caused many to become dissatisfied. They were seeking a haven where they could live in happiness and worship according to their individual belief in God.

The early years of the nineteenth century were known as the era of expansion and exploration. The early colonists of the Eastern seaboard began to march westward over the Alleghenies to that fertile valley of the Ohio river. News of the wonderful country floated over the sea to those left behind. It even reached into Continental Europe and we find in German history a period of years in which this idea of migration was a foremost topic. Those of more than moderate means fancied a settlement in the new land that would forever perpetuate their family name.

It was these men and women who were not afraid to cast off the shackles of oppression and persecution and to leave home and friends, who landed on the shores of their adopted country fired with that will to accomplish and to establish, who eventually became the founders of Minster. What the cause or motive of their leaving the Fatherland we shall probably never know. Who planted the original thought and desire in the minds of these men must also remain unknown to us. They braved the unknown and their lowly cabins have developed into the lovely homes of today.

This was all a great wilderness, the territory of the Miamis, Shawnees, Wyandottes and Ottawas. In 1749 the first English leaders had built a fort at Laramie. A trail had been blazed thru this section via the portage of the St. Marys River to Ft. Wayne. The Declaration of Independence had been signed in 1776. In 1778 Daniel Boone had passed thru here as a prisoner of the Indians. The Northwest Territory had been opened in 1787 and Ohio had been admitted as the 17th state of the Union in 1803. In 1813 General Harrison had established a fort at St. Marys. In 1807 on January 16 Miami County which included the present Darke and Shelby and part of Montgomery, had been organized. In 1809 Darke County had separated and in January 1819 Shelby had taken all that part of

Miami north of its present limits. In 1820 Mercer County had been formed and in 1832 the U. S. Government had purchased the last Indian Reservation in Ohio which ended forever the Indian disturbance. Settlement was slow for there were no gold fields or trading posts to attract.

Transportation at that time was difficult. In 1782 General George Rogers Clark made a trail from the town of Washington (now Piqua) to what is now the junction of the Hardin-St. Marys Pike and north over the Wilderness Trail to Ft. Laramie.

This same trail was surveyed in April 1808 by Armstrong Brandon for the sum of \$20.34 $\frac{1}{4}$. A road was built in August 1808 being 17 miles and 52 poles in length and was declared a public highway in June 1809 and ordered opened. In 1813 the road was fully completed and the Act of March 3, 1819 established the first Post road to carry mail from Troy, Piqua, St. Marys, Ft. Wayne and Ft. Defiance to Ft. Meigs. This road wound thru the great virgin woodlands and the traveler saw the wilderness in all its gloominess and listened to the howling of the wolves. The usual mode of travel was by foot or horseback, a few being fortunate to come over it on a "spanker" which carried four passengers and was drawn by two horses at the rate of two miles per hour. The end of a day's journey left the body sore and the mind beset with fearful anticipations of the oncoming night and the day to come.

THE FOUNDING OF STALLOSTOWN

On the first day of September in 1832 a group of 97 young Germans of which Margaret Stueve was the only woman met in Cincinnati, Ohio to form a stock company to purchase a Section of land in Mercer County, Ohio for the purpose of establishing a settlement. The conditions bound the company to furnish sufficient money as a joint fund to purchase and enter the land and lay out the town. Francis Joseph Stallo was designated as the man to carry out these conditions and to report at the earliest possible date.

Accordingly he was entrusted with all the money and authorized to enter the land in his own name with the understanding that he would execute a deed to each member as soon as the government issued the land grant to him. Immediately thereafter Stallo, accompanied by six men, John B. Feldman, John Herman Suhman, John Frederick Rohenkohn, rest un-

known, set out from Cincinnati on foot headed for the Land Office at Piqua in Miami County, Ohio. Mr. Feldman related in later years they had \$800.00, the fixed price of a Section all in silver in a tin box which the six men carried on their shoulders. At one point between what is now Dayton and Troy they encountered a band of Indians on horseback. The chief dismounted and tapped the box with his hand indicating money. Stallo was master of the situation and shook his head negatively then pointed to the box and to his gun indicating powder. The Indians left immediately and the party passed on. They arrived at the Government Land Office in Piqua on September 28th, 1832 and with this \$800.00 purchased:

S-E $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 27, Township 7, S. of Range 4 E
S-W $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 26, Township 7, S. of Range 4 E
N-E $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 24, Township 7, S. of Range 4 E
N-W $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 35, Township 7, S. of Range 4 E

As evidenced by Receipts numbers 805-806-807-808. (See illustration next page.) No record has been found that explains the selection and purchase of these particular sections. Family histories disclose that the Prengers, Schmitmeyers, Sextros, Bernings and Quebbes had previously bought land and settled to the east, and the Hoyings and several others to the west. It is a probable supposition that this may have been an influence.

Soon after this purchase Stallo made a plat and divided the land into 144 shares, with each share subdivided into ten parts of lots, and he named it "Stallostown." He estimated and calculated the price of each share to be \$8.50.

On April 14, 1833 he assembled the members and having before him the purchase receipts and the plat he appointed a committee of three. They prepared 144 slips of paper each bearing a number of a share or lot. These were placed in Stallo's hat and each paid membership was entitled to withdraw one slip, the number of which was to be the number of the lot owned. The result (from court record) was:

Lot number	1—H. Woebkenberg
" "	2—Shnite
" "	3—J. H. Barger
" "	4—Henry Evers
" "	5—John H. Steinemann
" "	6—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
" "	7—A. Thiesing
" "	8—F. Fortman
" "	9—J. H. Sommers
" "	10—John Schaden
" "	11—John H. Semerman
" "	12—Anton Martin
" "	13—Herman Busch

" "	14—J. B. Ortmann
" "	15—F. Fortman
" "	16—J. H. Meskers
" "	17—John H. Tonke
" "	18—F. Fortmann
" "	19—Frederick Baumgartner
" "	20—H. Mohlmann
" "	21—M. E. Gausepohl
" "	22—Anton Haverbeck
" "	23—Hermann Beckman
" "	24—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
" "	25—F. Juergens
" "	26—John Zimmer
" "	27—J. B. Meyer
" "	28—F. M. Busse
" "	29—John Zimmer
" "	30—J. H. Stueve
" "	31—B. Teemann
" "	32—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
" "	33—H. Mohlman
" "	34—H. H. Benke
" "	35—John H. Busch
" "	36—F. Heckman
" "	37—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
" "	38—Sylvester Uchlert
" "	39—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
" "	40—F. Rhoenkohl
" "	41—John H. Warnke
" "	42—J. Heitmann
" "	43—J. Harmsen
" "	44—G. Newmann
" "	45—J. C. Starts
" "	46—George Gottliff Beyers
" "	47—B. H. Busse
" "	48—Joseph Semermann
" "	49—C. Teeman
" "	50—John B. Kuper
" "	51—J. H. Busch
" "	52—B. H. Busse
" "	53—M. Meyer
" "	54—F. Rhoenkohl
" "	55—George Charles Smith
" "	56—Peter Grentish
" "	57—T. Mensie
" "	58—J. H. Westjohann
" "	59—Heirs of H. H. Quartman
" "	60—B. Menker
" "	61—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
" "	62—F. H. Heckman
" "	63—Daniel Haben
" "	64—John W. Roof
" "	65—H. Woebkenbert
" "	66—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
" "	67—J. H. Bangers
" "	68—J. C. Albers
" "	69—John H. Gerveins
" "	70—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
" "	71—B. F. Feldman
" "	72—B. A. Kuper

N-4

Receiver's Office at *Piqua Ohio.*

September 28th 1832.

No. 566

Received from *Francis Joseph Stalle* of *Cincinnati*

the sum of *One Hundred* dollars and _____ cents,

being in full payment for the North east _____ quarter of section No. *Thirty five* in township

No. *seven* South of range No. *four* East, containing *One Hundred & Sixty* acres,

at \$ 1.25 per acre.

\$ 125.00

John W. Johnson Receiver.

Copy of original receipt on file in General Land Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D. C.

The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, *Francis Joseph Stalle* of *Cincinnati*

has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a certificate of the Register of the Land Office at *Piqua*

whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Francis Joseph Stalle*

according to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 28th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands; for

the North east quarter of Section thirty five, in Township seven South of Range four East

in the District of Lands subject to sale at *Piqua Ohio* containing one hundred and sixty acres

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Francis Joseph Stalle*

NOW KNOW YE, That the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,** in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several

acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, have given and granted, and, by these presents, do give and grant, unto the said

Francis Joseph Stalle

Have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature the same may be, unto the said

Francis Joseph Stalle

and to his heirs, the said tract above described. To

have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature the same may be, unto the said

Francis Joseph Stalle

In testimony whereof, I, *Andrew Jackson*

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto

affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the twenty second day of November, in the year of our

Lord one thousand eight hundred and Thirty three, and of the Independence of the United States the

fifty eighth.

By the President, *Andrew Jackson*

John W. Johnson Receiver of the General Land Office.

3.8
1246535

Copy of patent record on file in General Land Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D. C.

Lot Number 73—M. Engel Gausepohl
 " " 74—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
 " " 75—J. A. Tholking
 " " 76—Cordmann
 " " 77—J. H. Suermann
 " " 78—J. H. Sommer
 " " 79—C. L. Neumeister
 " " 80—F. Buschmann
 " " 81—B. A. Kuper
 " " 82—J. C. Albers (or Ahlers)
 " " 83—G. Fryling
 " " 84—B. Kramer
 " " 85—J. F. Siggins
 " " 86—H. Bohlke
 " " 87—F. Rhoenkohl
 " " 88—Gertrude Stueve
 " " 89—John Zimmer
 " " 90—F. L. Busse
 " " 91—F. L. Busse
 " " 92—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
 " " 93—F. Rhoenkohl
 " " 94—J. Bruns
 " " 95—F. H. Fryling
 " " 96—F. H. Westjohann
 " " 97—H. Meyer
 " " 98—John Schap
 " " 99—John H. Summer
 " " 100—F. M. Westjohann
 " " 101—C. F. Nieter
 " " 102—B. H. Borderding
 " " 103—John Schaden
 " " 104—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
 " " 105—F. A. Stulle
 " " 106—John H. Wilkin
 " " 107—Anton Kramer
 " " 108—B. Bollinghouse
 " " 109—M. G. Stueve
 " " 110—John Tonke
 " " 111—M. G. Fryling
 " " 112—Simon Elliott
 " " 113—H. Snider
 " " 114—Francis John Heckman
 " " 115—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
 " " 116—F. H. Feldman
 " " 117—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
 " " 118—J. G. Tauben
 " " 119—John Zimmer
 " " 120—B. Wisel
 " " 121—Christian Felle
 " " 122—George Henry Boemer
 " " 123—F. S. Bomback
 " " 124—J. Luke
 " " 125—F. H. Teemann
 " " 126—Heirs of F. J. Stallo
 " " 127—F. B. Tangemann
 " " 128—Henry Zumbring
 " " 129—F. Fortmann
 " " 130—J. Suermann
 " " 131—John H. Gokken
 " " 132—Clemens Seimer

" " 133—John Gerhard Beckman
 " " 134—B. F. Friederick
 " " 135—John W. Roof
 " " 136—Same
 " " 137—J. H. Feldmann
 " " 138—John H. Tonke
 " " 139—John H. Pelster
 " " 140—H. H. Mohlman
 " " 141—G. H. Thies
 " " 142—Peter Thiel
 " " 143—Bernard Borgsted
 " " 144—John D. Uhlbarn

After this drawing of lots Stallo in his own handwriting wrote an agreement of which the following translation appears as an exhibit in the court records of the bill in chancery mentioned later:

"I, the subscriber Francis Joseph Stallo from Damme in Germany, at present residing in Cincinnati, do herewith certify, that I have this 28th day of September, 1832, purchased at the Land Office in Piqua, Ohio, 4 quarter sections of land intended for a town to be called Stallos Town. The said land is lying in Mercer County, In township 7 S. of Range 4 East, containing 4 quarter section viz: the NE quarter of Section 34; the NW quarter of Section 35; the SE quarter of Section 27 and the SW quarter of Section 26; which altogether makes an entire section or 640 acres of land. I have this day laid out a town called Stallostown. There is 11 streets from south to north and 7 streets from west to east both these streets being the principal ones are each 60 feet wide all the other streets are to be but 50 feet wide in the center of each side. In streets adjoining the principal streets there are to be 4 public places which are to be sixty feet wide and the streets 50 feet wide and each of these places is to be two hundred and seven feet long as it is marked on the subjoined map. There are to be further between each street running east and West 12 numbers; all these numbers are to be divided into five lots and there is a street running through each of these lots from south to north so that there are five lots to each number running in a direct line to the Main street; there is an alley sixteen feet wide between all these lots which is also designated on the map. All the streets and alleys are to be opened whenever public convenience shall require it. All numbers run from south to east along Main street and you commence with No. 1 at the southwest corner and so on at the west side of the street to No. seventy two inclusive, then northeast the east side counting 73 and so on up to 144 numbers in the town each sixty-eight feet and one third feet front running clear through that side of the street. The lots of Stallos Town to be

sold under the condition that the purchaser has to pay for all costs that occur and expenses. The following lots in Stallos Town are sold by Joseph Francis Stallo to the below named persons which I hereby relinquish to them forever for me and my heirs.

Francis Joseph Stallo."

Then followed the same list as aforementioned.

The members decided that there should be no delay in taking possession of the land and soon thereafter Stallo with about thirty members arrived at Stallstown, to join with those who had come the year previous. Their first task was to fell trees and build their cabins. Afterwards several of the men assisted Stallo in surveying and clearing the timber for the streets. Main street was made first and next the intersecting Fourth street. Stallo built his cabin on Lot 37, that is on the northwest corner of Fourth and Main streets. Some of those who we know definitely to have come with Stallo were John B. Kooper who had the first store, F. Rohenkohl, J. B. Feldman, Voltke in whose home the first church services were held and Gossman who helped survey Fourth street. On June 11th, 1833 the plat of Stallstown was recorded on Pages 280-1-2-3 of Book Letter "B" in Mercer County, Ohio.

In the summer of 1833 the first attack of the Asiatic cholera visited this territory and although it was in a mild form many of the settlers took sick.

Stallo became alarmed and whenever new settlers were expected, he would meet them south of town and warn them. On the day that he met John Henry and Mary Elizabeth Shulte, a young couple from Cincinnati, he told them that he would probably not see them again. He died the next day on July 26th, 1833 a victim of this cholera and his sorrowing friends buried him alongside his little cabin near the street, where they could pass it daily.

After several years his body was removed to the St. Augustine's cemetery and years later it was again removed but the final resting place of this sturdy pioneer is now unknown to all even his descendants.

A book belonging to his eldest living son lists the first, second and third deaths in Stallstown as follows:

- 1—On November 26, 1832 the first person died in Stallstown—Herman Boeckmann.
- 2—Wilhelmina Goehrman from Holdurf Damme died on February 28, 1833 in Stallstown, buried on February 29th.

- 3—Anna Mary Kramer, three years old, daughter of Henry Kramer of Ruhlen-dorf Damme, died in Stallstown, July 20, 1833.

Could it be that Stallo himself was the fourth?

When he was swept away by this sudden illness the remaining settlers took fright and for a time the future of Stallstown was threatened. Winter was approaching and many returned home. One of these was J. B. Feldman who secured work at a stone quarry near Cincinnati. When he decided to leave in the Spring, his employer had no money for his wages so he gave him a herd of cows which Feldman drove to Stallstown. He sold them to Mr. Sextro who then had the distinction of owning the first cows. During the summer of 1834 more came to claim their lots and to become citizens of this little settlement, many bringing their families with them.

Some had no conception of the conditions and the story of Mrs. Wiechelman and her family of nine is probably true of others. When her belongings were deposited on the large stump which served as a platform she inquired the way to Stallstown and wept when informed that she had reached her destination. The five little log cabins did not appear to be the thriving settlement she had imagined.

Life at that time was one of privation and adversity. The men chopped down the trees and it was the work of the women to clear the underbrush and saplings by the use of a crude tool resembling a hoe. Swamps and stagnant pools abounded and a foggy condition prevailed. Water was obtained by collecting the rain in barrels and later in wells dug by a Mr. Wessling. The food consisted of wild game supplemented by corn bread and pap. This territory abounded in linden trees, the leaves of which, possessing medicinal and flavoring qualities, were a frequent adjunct to the daily meal.

In the early years three and four families lived together in one house. An open log fire kept them warm and a tiny candle or tallow wick lamp furnished light. Each individual ground the grain necessary for family use, and privileged indeed were those who owned a coffee mill which could be used for this purpose. Some carried the grain on horseback to the mill at Piqua but this was a long and dangerous trip.

The crops of 1835 were a failure and no grain for meal and flour was available here. Children were starving for want of bread and the dark spectre of famine was looming over the horizon. Some of the farmers in the neighborhood learned of this and donated grain. The news

of this dire want spread as far as Covington and the Quaker settlement there sent a wagon load of flour, so large that it was drawn by four horses. They took this flour to the home of William Shilling, the town's first shoemaker, who lived on North Main street, and asked that he distribute it. The citizens here were poor, but they offered their choicest possessions in payment which the Quakers refused stating it was an act of mercy.

Francis Joseph Stallo had been an educated man and justly loved and trusted by his followers. He died intestate without having executed deeds to the several purchasers as required. For the purpose of securing title to these purchasers a bill in chancery was filed on November 16th, 1836 in the Common Pleas Court of Mercer County then sitting in St. Marys. This bill is a very lengthy legal document and the court order only is quoted:

JOHN ZIMMER, B. J. FELDMAN,
JOHN H. PELSTER, JOS. SURMAN et al,
vs. In Chancery.

JOHN M. STALLO, LEWIS STALLO,
MARY ANN STALLO, THEODORE
STALLO, and THERESA STALLO.

"the defendants, the legal heirs of said Stallo being infants, appeared by their guardian at litem, when it was ordered by the Court that the defendants as they became of age should severally convey to said owners or original purchasers their respective lots of shares, and in their failure to do so within six months after attaining their majority, this decree is to operate as a conveyance."

Wm. M. Murdock was appointed administrator of his estate. Theresa Stallo was found in Montgomery County, Ohio and notified of the Court proceedings, but the other heirs were not located. Accordingly the court appointed John W. Roof guardian at litem. Later the Court was petitioned to sell the lots owned by Stallo to satisfy his debts which were listed as follows:

"Nicholas Greenbaum,	acc't	\$ 7.26 $\frac{1}{4}$
M. W. Huxford,	acc't	4.50
John Casper Gohr,	acc't	5.90
Wm. M. Murdock	acc't	3.00
John Ritz by Adm.	acc't	50.00
John H. Gossman,	acc't	5.50
Henry Burgading	acc't	8.00
		\$84.16 $\frac{1}{4}$

And said administrator has every reason to believe that said intestate owes in Cincinnati to different individuals at least one hundred dollars so that it is probable the whole amount of debts will amount to one hundred and eighty

dollars. Amount of effects—\$50.00, deficiency \$130.00."

J. B. Feldman was appointed assignee and completed the sales.

THE VILLAGE OF MINSTER

All influence of Stallo was now ended and the name of Stallstown was changed to Minster derived from the city by the same name in Germany. It was not until March 5, 1839 that it was incorporated as a village and on April 27, 1839 the first election was held in the home of Charles Lau. The voters were 1. A. Haverbeck, 2. B. H. Kramer, 3. C. H. Lau, 4. F. Schaper, 5. H. Berkman, 6. G. Luckman, 7. F. Sprehe, 8. B. Klus, 9. H. H. Busch, 10. H. Mering, 11. H. Paning, 12. M. Drees, 13. H. Lemmermuhle, 14. C. H. Dickman, 15. H. Benne, 16. E. Albers, 17. H. H. Stueve, 18. H. Knostman, 19. F. Schroder, 20. T. Fleckenstein. J. H. Gosman was judge and C. H. Lau and B. H. Kramer were clerks. The result of the votes cast was:

Mayor	John M. Drees...	19	votes
	J. H. Gosman.....	1	"
Recorder	J. H. Gosman.....	17	"
	M. Drees.....	1	"
	H. Berkman.....	1	"
Council	C. H. Lau.....	20	"
	A. Haverbeck.....	20	"
	G. Luckman.....	19	"
	B. H. Kramer.....	19	"
	B. Klas.....	1	"
	F. Schaper.....	1	"

Oath of office administered by David Catterlin, J. P.

The ordinances accepted were:

1. To prohibit obscene language, noise etc.
2. To prohibit fighting.
3. To prohibit galloping horses.
4. To prohibit nuisance.
5. To determine the height of chimneys.
6. To lay a fine for not accepting office.

All contracts of apprenticeship had to be recorded with the town council.

There were few fences here in the early forties and cattle and horses would stray away from the owner's land.

The law protected the owner however and anyone finding a stray animal was compelled by law to register same with the Justice of the Peace, 'Squire J. H. Steinemann, who made a record in the "Stray Book." A "Stray Notice" giving full description of the animal and signed by the finder was then posted in some public place. If no claim was made within a certain period of time the animal was sold to pay the costs, and the balance belonged to the finder. The following is the copy of a notice, the original

of which was discovered between the pages of an old book.

STRAY!

"Taken up by the subscriber about 3 miles west of the town of Minster near the free school German Township, Mercer County, Ohio, a mouldy mare, supposed to be 12 or 16 years old, of a middling height and supposed to go with young. No other marks or brands to be seen. The owner is requested to prove property, pay the charges and take her away. April 19th, 1842. Henry Grieshop."

About this time the Ohio Militia was organized and all men of military age, that is 18 to 45, were required to belong. The men wore no regular uniforms and furnished their own guns. Once each year they were required to report for two days muster or pay a fine. In 1842 the Lafayette Light Infantry Company, Second Brigade, Twelfth Division O. M. was organized here and the first muster lists the following:

B. H. Nienberg, Joseph Bussing, Henry Dorsten, Henry Dorsten, Jr., Henry Wendel, Henry Budde, William Miller, Anton Haverbeck, Peter Gast, C. Surman, Henry Ahrens, J. D. Ahlers, Joseph Meyer, Theodore Oldiges, William Menke, H. H. Busch, Joseph Kokenge, B. A. Wendel, Joseph Schurman, J. M. Drees, Elbert Alberts, Henry Richter, J. G. Lukman, John Widey, Joseph Garwels, Joseph Pilliod, Fred Kramer, Joseph Wendel, B. Schulte, Carl Berting, B. H. Benne, Anton Gohr, Henry Willoh, Henry Tangeman, J. H. Steinemann, Joseph Enneking, Bernard Flockman, William Scholling, H. Knostman, John Schemmel, Henry Muhle, B. Zumbrink, Nicholas Fullenkamp, B. H. Kuper, Bernard Messe, Henry Hemsath, H. H. Teskamp, Franz Schaper, Franz Lange, Bernard Baumer, B. Joseph Rassing, B. H. Ostendorf, J. R. Schmitmeyer, Henry Eilerman, Henry Worman, B. H. Kotter, Henry Tinnermann, Joseph Wente, J. H. Hollit, H. Schmitmeyer, H. H. Brockman, Franz Sprehe, Ed Bessler, John B. Willoh.

This company remained active for about twenty years. Sham battles were held, the canal bridge on Fourth street being the usual center of attack. Paper caps of a peculiar construction were used in the guns which resulted in a loud noise. When fines were levied, lack of money did not excuse payment; some article was taken instead, as is shown by these two notices which are found still legible:

"Taken the following property of A. Wendel to satisfy a fine oppressed against him by the Court of Brigade of appeal within and for the 2nd, Brigade, 12 Division O. M. to wit; one lot lumber, one clock.

Levy the following property B. H. Nienberg to satisfy a fine oppressed against him of the Brigade Court of Appeal within and for the 2nd Brigade, 12 Division O. M., to wit; one wagon, 2 bees hives with bees."

Lack of markets, malaria fever and the very great amount of sickness which accompanied the opening of the wilderness, had greatly retarded settlement. The building of the Miami and Erie canal and the reservoirs brought to these people their first commercial work and opened a market for the products of agriculture.

The first shovel of ground in building the canal was turned on July 21st, 1825 but it was not until several years later that it had progressed to this section of the state.

Wages averaged 30c a day with a few snorts of whiskey and the day meant sunrise to sunset. Subcontractors, who engaged to excavate from one to five miles of Canal bed found it difficult to secure workmen. As whiskey was believed to neutralize the effects of the fever the subcontractors were compelled to supply it to their hands in "jiggers" (two oz.). In these days of prohibition and alleged intemperance, it is interesting to know that the contractor who could offer the most "jiggers"—running as high as 16 a day—secured the most workmen. J. B. Schworer and B. Ortman of Minster each subcontracted a mile in 1842.

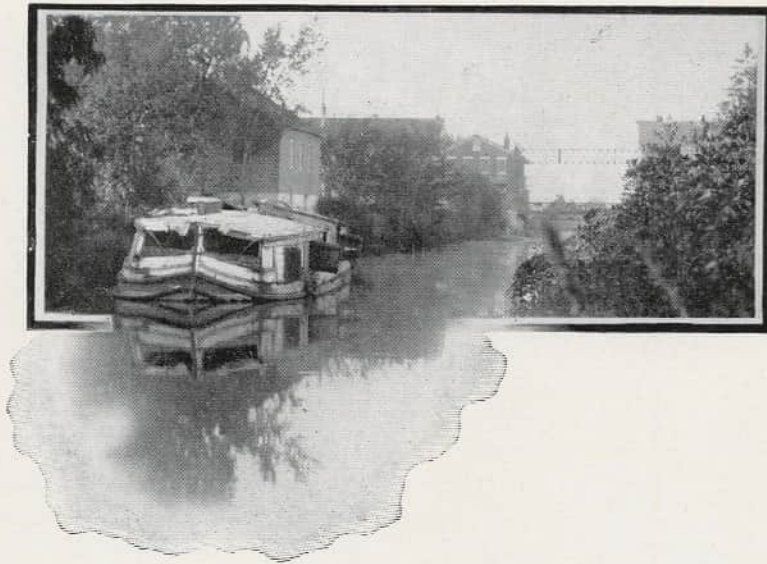
The workmen employed during the four years the canal was under construction in the vicinity of Minster, were mostly Germans, and many of them earned sufficient money to purchase land and establish farms.

The late Henry Feldman, a son of J. B. Feldman, then a boy of 7 years, told that during the digging of the canal the Governor of the State came thru Minster on an inspection trip riding in a carriage drawn by two horses. The people of Minster gave him a real welcome, which the Governor declared to be the heartiest he had received on the whole trip, and he asked how he could reciprocate. He was informed that no dividend had been received from the canal contract. The governor replied that this matter was not under his jurisdiction but that he would do all in his power to aid them. In a short time the money was received to pay the workmen.

On July 4, 1837 the first packet boat came from Dayton to Piqua. There was a three-day celebration with General Harrison coming on the second day.

By 1838 the canal had been completed as far as three miles north of Piqua.

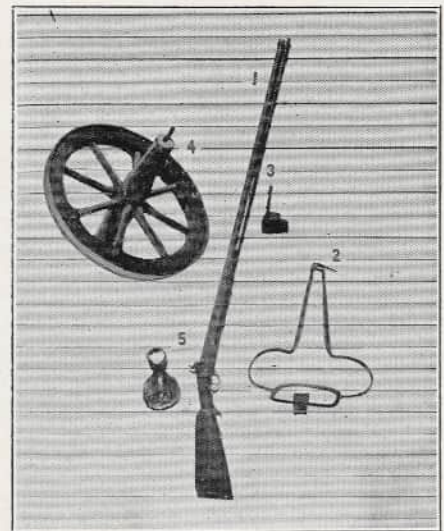
In 1843 the first boat reached Minster. This was a day of rejoicing here and as the great crowd



OLD CANAL BOAT



TOWN HALL AND FIRE DEPARTMENT



- No. 1. Gun owned and carried by John B. Feldman in 1833.
- No. 2. Iron frame used to hold a skillet over the flame in an open fire place.
- No. 3. Tallow lamp.
- No. 4. Original wheel from one of the many wheelbarrows used by contractor Bernard Ortman during the building of the canal.
- No. 5. Part of a grubbing hoe also used by Contractor Ortman.

of interested onlookers gathered on the banks the church bells pealed a welcome.

On November 7, 1846 the village council granted to John H. Steinemann and Francis Sprehe the right to construct a mill race from the Loramie Reservoir to the canal and to use any street necessary provided a bridge was built wherever this race crossed a street. This council meeting was held in the home of John H. Gossman and Third Street was selected. The purpose of this race was to supply water to operate a grist mill owned by Francis Sprehe.

This same year Randolph of Virginia bought 2,000 acres of land here in Mercer county which was intended to become the home of his 318 freed slaves. At Cincinnati these slaves were put on canal boats and sent north. When the boats came to Minster they were met by armed men who refused to let them land. The boats were forced to turn back and many of the slaves finally landed near Piqua. For many years the descendants of these slaves sought to recover this land by court action.

The year 1849 will ever be memorable in the history of our town. This is the year the cholera epidemic swept over the country exacting its toll of thousands. In Cincinnati 4,000 fell victim to this terrible plague and in Minster 247. In some cases whole families were carried away within a week. A person might be hale and hearty in the evening and the morrow might find him pale and cold in death.

This plague descended upon the people here in the latter part of June. During the months of July and August the people died so rapidly that the bodies were collected twice each day and buried in four tiers in two trenches each seven feet wide on the west portion of the cemetery. This unmarked section is mute evidence of the toll of the dread disease. No funeral arrangements, no religious service, no weeping relatives to follow, just wrapped in a plain shroud placed in a crude box and taken by some surviving friend to the last resting place. The neighbors would then take all personal effects, soak them with grease and oil and burn them. Any surviving children were taken by the nearest neighbor or relative and raised as their own. Thru this the original family name of many of these children were changed, which accounts for the disconnected family history of some of the older citizens.

It is related that the cholera claimed no victims west of the canal. This cannot be verified and was probably due to the fact that very few had homes on the west side. Early historians of Ohio tell that during this epidemic no birds flew over the infected area.

Startling conditions confronted new arrivals after 1849. The population had been depleted and houses were vacant.

Records for that year show that community life was retarded, no mercantile business was transacted, no bricks were made, construction of the church was halted, and the town records list the following appointments:

July 1849.

F. Sprehe Recorder for John Schemmel Deceased.

B. H. Nienberg Council for H. Kalverlage Deceased.

J. H. Stueve Supervisor for H. Kalverlage Deceased.

August, 1849.

J. H. Tangeman Supervisor for J. H. Stueve Deceased.

I. G. Luckman Trustee for B. H. Benne Deceased.

H. Knostman Marshall for H. Willoh Deceased.

In 1850 and 1851 there was a recurrence but with very few fatalities.

During the next few years the town flourished.

On April 13th, 1850 an election was held and passed to build a sidewalk along both sides of Main street and one side of Columbia or Fourth Street. Clemens Stueve was awarded the contract for sawing and delivering the lumber for said walk which was to be completed by August 1st, 1850.

On August 28th, 1855 the town council purchased a hay scale for \$135.00 and B. Stoltz was appointed scale tender. The fee for weighing was 20c per load of which the tender was to get 5c. Records disclose that 85 loads were weighed from August 1855 to April 1856.

Pork packing became the leading industry in 1857. Grain and lumber were bought from the farmers and shipped to the markets of the north and south. Hundreds of 60 and 80 ton freight boats plied up and down the canal. Passenger packets carrying 40 and 50 people made the trip to Cincinnati in two days and three nights. They were the Pullmans of the fifties. Settlers came in from both directions, taking up unclaimed congress and canal lands. The whole country between Cincinnati and Toledo prospered.

The trip on a canal boat was a never to be forgotten experience. The fare in 1858 from Minster to Cincinnati was \$1.50. When the trip became monotonous for those on board and if the weather was favorable, a plank would be laid from the side of the boat to the shore and those who felt the need of exercise could walk alongside.

The larger boats carried both passengers and freight. The front section was for the passengers, the center section for the freight and the rear section for the men and horses comprising the crew of the boat. Drivers and horses were usually changed whenever the boat passed thru a lock or at least every six miles. From the early records we find the name of Frank Sprehe as captain of a boat and those of John Lauferweiler, John Wiggenhorn, and Anton Friedrichs as drivers, while that of J. B. Meyer is listed as owner of the boat "St. Bernard."

In 1859 the first arrest was made, and in January 1860 the citizens presented a petition to the village council to build a jail. This same year several gravel sidewalks were built.

During the conflict between the North and the South from '61 to '65 many from here answered the call of "Uncle Abe."

After the war a period of readjustment and improvement followed. In 1867 the council bought a gravel bank near Piqua, and the gravel used to surface Main and Fourth streets was brought here by canal boat.

The coming of the railroad in 1877 stimulated trade and gave further contact with the outside world.

In the years from 1880 to 1890 the discovery of oil advanced the price of real estate and many people moved to Minster.

In 1898 the Spanish American war claimed several of our citizens.

The beginning of the 20th century brought with it a spirit of industrial growth. Many industries were founded and those already established were expanded. Many of these are the prominent industries and business concerns of today. Electric railways were perfected and the Western Ohio Railway company began to operate into Minster, a service which they continued until 1931.

The year 1913 will be remembered as the "flood" year, when high water was threatening. Minster itself being located on the highest point between Cincinnati and Toledo, did not suffer any loss of life, or much damage to property. High water prevailed and many roads were impassible. Transportation was suspended for several days and electric light and telephone service was impaired.

In 1914 a great civic improvement was made. Both Main and Fourth streets were paved and many sidewalks were made on the other streets.

The year 1917 brought great sorrow and suffering to all. The monstrous World War engulfed nearly all nations in a terrible conflict. The pride of Minster's manhood was drafted and the majority sent overseas to fight the enemy on foreign soil. These were anxious moments for all. Each family was interested in receiving the latest news from the front line of battle. Some returned, and some gave their life that "Old Glory" may continue to wave over a free country. Those at home helped to win the war by subscribing to the Liberty Loan issues, and Minster "went over the top" by subscribing more than its quota each time. Fuel and food had to be conserved and all will remember the "substitutes" apportioned to each family. The people here, although of German descent, were very patriotic, and it was at this time that the names of the streets were changed, and the German language supplanted by the English in church services.

Several years afterward the North Park was landscaped and a memorial erected to the veterans of this war.

During the last fifteen years international advancement has been made in the sciences and inventions. All of these have affected the general growth of this village.

Electricity has been made to serve every whim, the telephone connects the distant points of the world, the newspaper brings the day's news and the motion picture depicts it, and the newest marvel, the radio permits the spoken word to traverse space and be heard almost simultaneously.

Over paved highways the automobile traverses the trails where once the Indian and trader passed; thru the air the airplane swiftly carries its load of passengers and freight.

With these advantages of transportation the community has progressed so greatly, and so necessary to our very existence have become the modern inventions that the past seems so remote, like another world, and the present so consummate that the future cannot be comprehended.



MRS. ELIZABETH KUHLMAN

Mrs. Elizabeth Kuhlman, the daughter of Peter and Anna Maria Lauferweiler was born in the Rhineland, Prussia, Germany in 1840.

In 1847 her father and mother together with their seven children embarked on a sailing vessel for new America. It was a fast ship and after a trip of only six weeks and three days they landed at Baltimore on July 4th, 1847.

America then, as today, was patriotic and the city of Baltimore was celebrating the glorious Fourth of July. Cannons were booming, guns were being fired and noise of every kind was prevalent. People were parading and shouting and the subject of this sketch now tells with a chuckle of the impression this made on their little family. Here they were in a strange country which from all appearances was in the throes of a war and she can remember her mother gathering the children close to her in protection and exclaiming in German, "Why did we ever leave our good home in the Fatherland?"

After a few days rest they came by way of overland stages and canal to New Bremen. Two months later they settled in Amsterdam, a little settlement situated half way between Minster and New Bremen. This land also had been originally purchased by Stallo but he had sold it to two bachelors, who in turn sold it to the immigrants.

Mrs. Kuhlman's father bought a tract of 18 acres of which 1 1-2 acres were west of the canal and could not be cultivated because there were no bridges nearby.

Mrs. Kuhlman was only seven years of age when she came here but she can remember when the post with its four signs, one "Stallstown," one pointing south marked "Loramie's," one pointing north marked "Bremen" and one pointing west marked "Maria Stein," stood on what is now the Northeast corner of Fourth and Main streets.

She attended school and church in Minster for several years and then moved with her parents to Maria Stein, later going to Cincinnati where she secured employment. In this city in the year 1866 she was married to Mr. Henry Kuhlman, with whom she returned to Minster where they lived together to celebrate their golden wedding in 1916.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Kuhlman were prominent in all affairs in Minster and many people can remember her especially for her great assistance in the care of the sick and needy.

Mr. Kuhlman passed away in 1917 and Mrs. Kuhlman is now living with her daughters enjoying the fruits of her labors.

She is Minster's oldest living citizen and the best wishes of all are showered upon her.



INTERIOR OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH



REV. SIXTUS MEYER, C. P. S.



ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

CHURCH HISTORY

No history of this town can be complete without mention of the prominent part the adherents of the Roman Catholic Church have taken in its development.

As soon as the early pioneers had cleared a little tract of land and erected a few houses, they gathered together to worship their Creator and to beg of Him the spiritual guidance of a pastor. The first mass here in Stallstown was celebrated in the house of a Mr. Voltke which was located on the Northwest corner of Main and Fifth Streets, by Rev. Prof. M. Horstman on Christmas Day, 1832. This date marks the real birth of Catholicity in Auglaize County.

Of Father Horstman records tell us that he was a little above ordinary stature with full and well proportioned figure but of pale complexion. Born in Glandorf Germany he resigned his chair in the University at Osnabruck in April 1832. Leaving home on August 28th, he and six followers embarked Sept. 7th on the ship Columbus and after a tedious voyage of nine weeks arrived at New York on November 6th, 1832. They continued their journey via Albany, Buffalo and Lake Erie to Detroit. After a short stay he and a partner traveled partly on foot and partly by stage thru western Ohio, passing Defiance, Wapakoneta, Piqua, Troy, Dayton and arrived in Cincinnati on December 12th, 1832, where they were most cordially received by Bishop Purcell. Returning this same way they paid a short visit to the colonists at Stallstown where he celebrated the Feast of the Birth of Our Saviour.

Later he purchased the present site of Glandorf for a small sum, and then returned to Detroit. On January 15, 1833 he founded the town of Glandorf which he called his home. At this time there were only two priests in northern Ohio, one at Glandorf and one at Canton.

Father Horstman was a man of great learning versed in sacred sciences, in mathematics, in astronomy and philology. Being a practical naturalist he was excellently qualified for colonization. He could survey, parcel out lands, select wood for building, designate places for habitation, others to be destined for farms, the rest to remain as woods; and as a thorough Homeopathist, he was a soccering physician to the sick. Courage and self denial marked his character in the many and toilsome travels on foot. Neither dense forests nor swamps nor rivers would detain him; thru the forest he sought his way by astronomy and the latter he cross-

ed on a time worn log; besides he carried heavy burdens, articles bought at some distant market; strengthening himself with but a morsel of bread, milk or water. He was always ready to bring spiritual consolation to the Catholics scattered in the surrounding territory and each month he traveled thru Wapakoneta to Stallstown, where all Catholics within a radius of fifteen miles would gather for services. On these visits he would administer the sacraments including baptism, rectify marriages previously contracted before civil authorities, and bless the graves of the faithful departed.

Services were usually conducted in the same dwelling at that time owned by Charles Henry Dickman 1st, and it was here that Mrs. Dickman and Mrs. Kalverlage sewed the vestments worn at the first funeral mass.

The burial place was opposite the church on the east side of the street.

In 1833 Bishop Purcell made his first trip thru this territory. Following his visit to Piqua he went to Greenville where the mass was offered up at the home of Charles Caron. He also visited the estate of Judge Piatt in Logan County and from there made his way up to the Auglaize River in Putnam County to Glandorf. On his return to Cincinnati he visited in Stallstown and Hamilton.

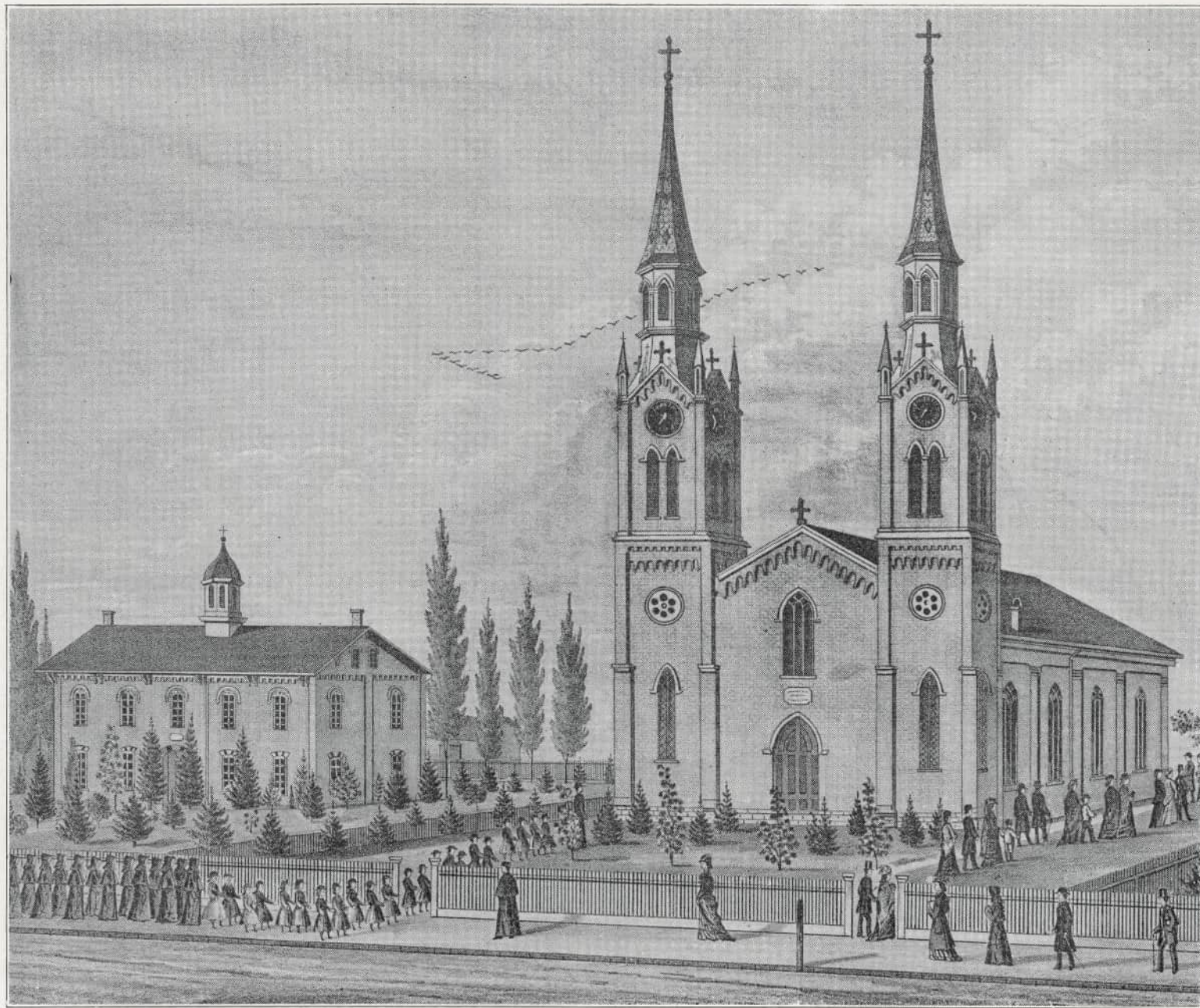
In 1835 the first church was built on the site now known as the North Park. It was 40x60 and 16 logs high. On those Sundays when Father Horstman did not come, the people would gather here and some older person would lead in prayer. In the same year a school was built near by on Lot 42, Block B.

It was in 1835 on April 17th, that Bishop J. B. Purcell pontificated on Passion Sunday in Stallstown and confirmed a class of 80 persons. One hundred twenty received communion. All had been instructed by Rev. Father Horstman. From here he went to Piqua where he said mass at the Home of Joseph Wellman.

Father Horstman was succeeded in April 1835, by Rev. Joseph Brand who called himself pastor of Stallstown. The first baptism recorded by him was Francis Henry Ferdinand Stuckenborg on Sept. 20, 1835.

In November 1835 Rev. H. D. Junker (who later became Bishop of Alton, Illinois) became pastor.

In August 1836 Rev. Francis Bartels was assigned.



ST. THERESA'S SCHOOL AND ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH IN 1880

The following entries copied from the German records of C. H. Dickman 1st, who was a cabinet maker by trade indicate the zeal of this congregation and their desire to beautify their small church.

1835 May 5th—Made plan of high altar, pulpit, cupboard and communion railing	\$ 6.00
June 13th—Wood for same.....	18.00
Labor to complete.....	79.00
Aug. 10th—Made plan for parsonage.....	2.00
Aug. 24th—Made plan for confessionals; made plan for benches; and material, all	5.50
Sept. 19th to 26th—Labor on above.....	7.00
Oct. 5th—Paid by John Tangeman in Stallstown.....	117.00
Dec. 10th—New board for pulpit.....	.18 $\frac{1}{4}$
1836, April 5th—Step for altar.....	.31 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bought from Cincinnati for pews:	
5 dozen hinges.....	5.00
5 packages screws.....	2.50
1 package screws.....	.58
Freight to Piqua and bringing it here.....	5.42
June 21st—Completed pews contracted for in October 1835, labor and material, 62 pews at \$2.37 $\frac{1}{2}$	147.25
Paid by treasurer of church on Nov. 28th, 1836.	
1837, July 10th—Bench for school; 6 large windows in parsonage with glass at \$3.43 $\frac{3}{4}$	20.62 $\frac{1}{2}$

Records do not disclose by whom the church or parsonage was built.

In 1836 the Bishop again visited Stallstown. It was during this year that the name of the congregation was changed to St. Augustine's, a name by which it has been denominated ever since. In December 1838 Rev. Henry Herzog came and remained for seven years until 1845. In 1840 Bishop Purcell again visited the congregation and on his way North stopped overnight in St. Marys at the home of a Mr. Black.

It was in 1845 that the Fathers of the Order of the Most Precious Blood took charge of the congregation and they have remained the spiritual directors of this community. No less a person than Rev. Salesius Brunner the first Provincial was the first priest of the Order to take charge of the parish. During the latter part of the year his duties as Provincial demanded his entire time and Rev. John Vandenbrock came as pastor. Under his supervision in 1848 the brick church was built. The entrance was on the east end at the alley. This was done because the greater portion of the town lay east of the

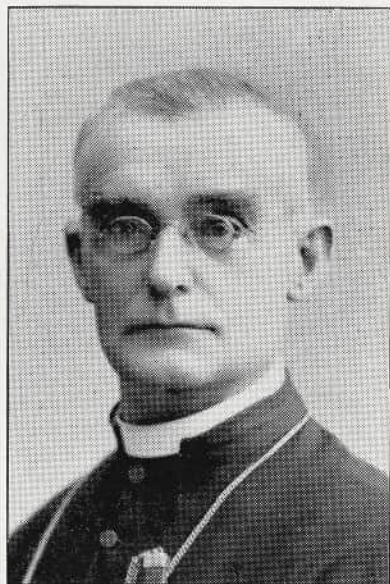
church on Main Street. A tower was placed on the church at the entrance. The total cost of this church was \$15,000, a considerable sum of money in those early days. Five hundred twelve thousand, seven hundred and eighty-one bricks were bought from J. H. Steinemann and B. Ortman and William Finke for \$1380.16, and the brick work was done by Betz and Keyth of Dayton. The cornerstone was put in place by John H. Kalverlage, local stone mason.

Rev. Maxmillian Hamburg succeeded him in 1849 and he with the assistance of Rev. Andrew Kunkler of St. John went about during the siege of the cholera attending the sick and dying. It is said of Father Max that he was beloved by all his people and that he would often delight the children by giving them a ride on his yellow pony. After the cholera epidemic he was sent to Germany to further his studies.

In 1850 the church building was completed and blessed by Bishop Purcell. At that time Minster could boast of having the largest church in this section of the state.

From 1850 to 1852 the records contain the names of the following priests: the Fathers Andrew Strefvater, Engelbert Ruf, Anton Capeader, Jos. Bildstein, Mathias Kreusch, Rochus Schultz, Nicholas Gals, William Wilhelmy, H. Dambach, Jacob Ringele, Falk, H. Henneberg. Many of these served temporarily as assistants.

In 1851 the erection of a convent was begun, but the building progressed slowly since most of the labor was performed by the Brothers who were interrupted in the work when the farmland demanded their attention. Between cultivating the fields and harvesting the crops they were more than builders. They prepared and hauled the lumber, erected the frame work, helped with the masonry, covered the roof and finished most of the interior carpenter work. Much of the lumber was donated by the people and one day a contest was arranged and a prize given for the longest log. The result of this has been forgotten. Late in 1852, the entire village rejoiced with the Sisters who took possession of their convent dedicated to Our Lady of the Visitation. When all was in readiness, they began the Perpetual Adoration of the Precious Blood of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Little did the villagers know and appreciate the full meaning of this great event in the history of their parish. Only then, when the scroll of Time is unfolded to our view, will it be known what the quiet but powerful voice of prayer and supplication for blessings and mercy, has obtained for the people of Minster. Through the years, while the busy world worked and played, the convent walls re-echoed the



Rev. ANDREW KUNKLER, C. PP. S.



REV. ALBERT VOAG, C. PP. S.



REV. EUGENE GRIMM, C. PP. S.



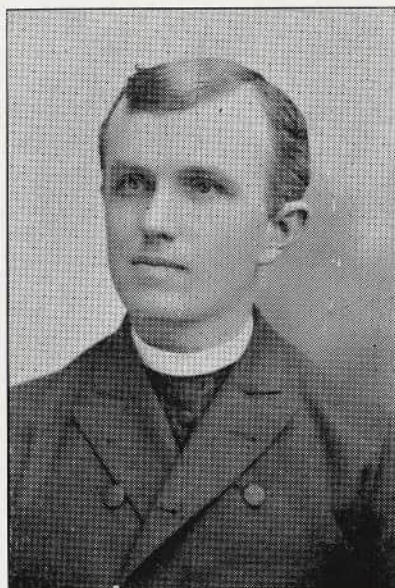
VERY REV. HENRY DREES, C. PP. S.



Very Rev. BONIFACE RUSS, C. PP. S.



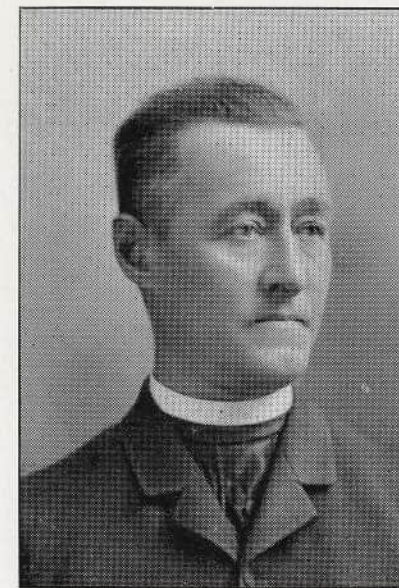
Rev. RICHARD SCHWIETERMAN, C. PP. S.



REV. ALOYS MALIN, C. PP. S.



REV. BERNARD DICKMAN, C. PP. S.



REV. CHRISTIAN NIGSCH, C. PP. S.

unceasing offering of the Precious Blood, for the welfare of souls.

In the same year, according to the wishes of Father Brunner, a boarding school for girls and young ladies, also an orphanage was established.

From 1852 to 1885 Father Andrew Kunkler was pastor of St. Augustine's congregation.

A parsonage was erected in 1853 on the same site now occupied for this purpose. In 1861 the following Trustees were elected: Joseph Bussing, president; Bernard Voeke, vice president; John M. Drees, secretary; Bernard Meyer, treasurer. On January 14th, 1861 a notice was posted to sell the old parsonage by public sale. This building was located on Lot 44, Block D, just south of the present church near the well, and had been built in 1837. Frank Sprehe bought the building at this sale for the sum of \$101.00 and moved it to its present location on Fourth Street now the residence of August Schunck.

The most prominent improvement was the erection in 1867 of St. Theresa's school for girls at a cost of \$7,000.00. This money was raised partly by subscription of the members and partly by a large church "fair." This building was used for school purpose until 1896 and later for a meeting place and social gatherings and in 1931 the march of progress passed its ultimatum and it was demolished to make place for the new High School building.

In 1874 the church was remodeled. The tower at the entrance was taken down and two towers, each 190 feet high, built on the west end by Anton Goehr. Twenty feet were added to the length of the church making its total length 140 feet. The interior was frescoed by DeCurtins Bros. and new stained glass windows were put in and the beautiful stations placed on the walls. The cost of these improvements was more than \$20,000.00 which was partly paid by subscriptions. At this time it was intended to make the entrance on the west end but opposition to this plan was so great that it was dropped.

During his pastorate the first mission was conducted in the new church. In commemoration of this the members of the congregation erected a large wooden cross near the entrance of the church. This cross was later placed on the old portion of the cemetery, near the chapel where it stood for many years until Time erased it. Persons passing by it conjectured as to its real significance, whether marking the grave of some former pastor, the grave of the founder of this town or in honor of the 247 whose individuality was lost in the sad year of 1849. This latter is generally believed to be correct.

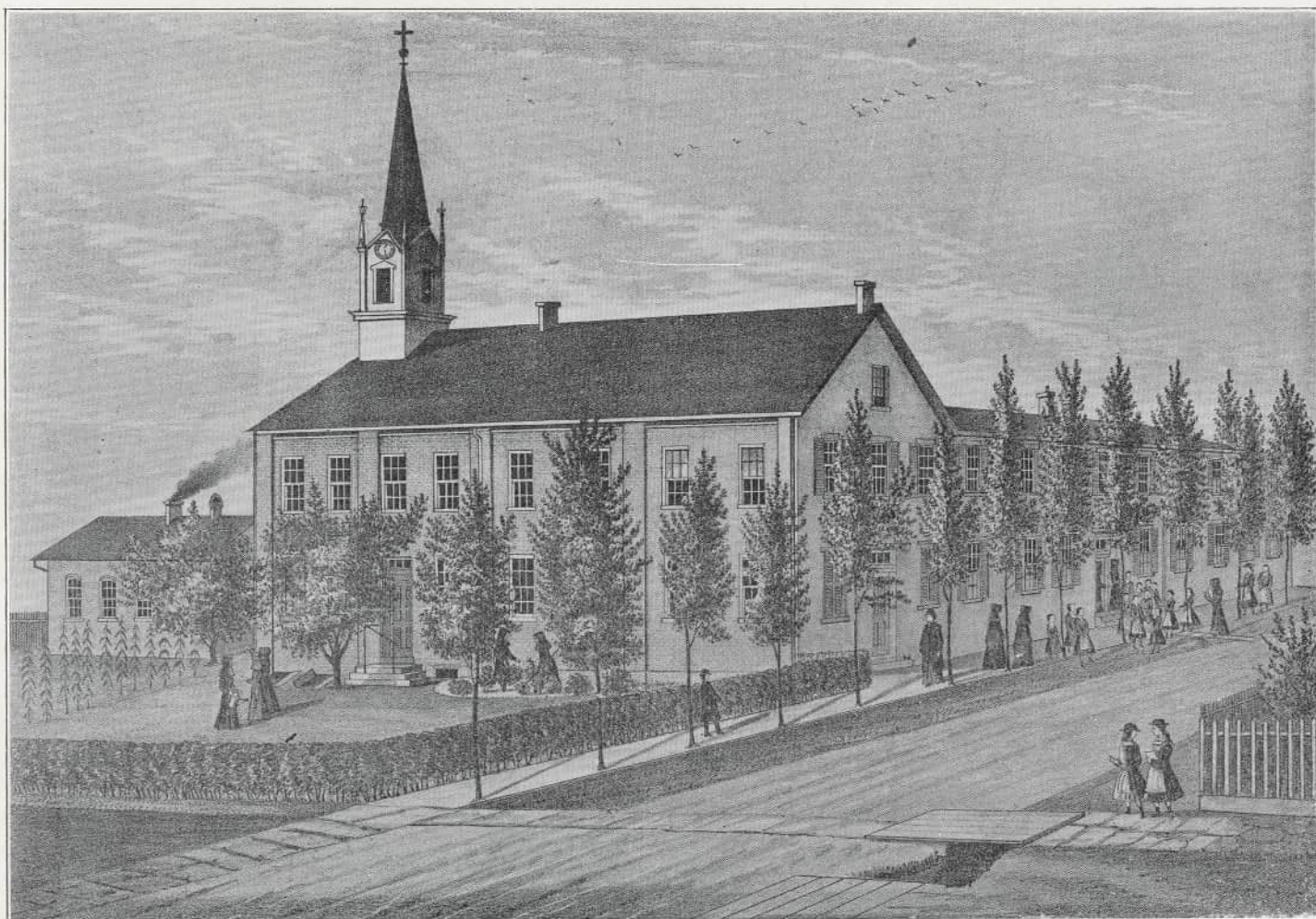
Father Kunkler was a very pious man, good and sincere. He wanted above all things to do right. He was of humble nature, willing and giving, ruling as a good father with indulgence to his people. It is said of him that he was tall and dignified in his bearing, very learned, an able speaker and possessing a keen sense of humor. He endeared himself to his people and was always spoken of as "the good Father Andrew." He labored here for 33 years and on July 12, 1885, he preached his last sermon and bade farewell to the people of Minster and left as a missionary to the state of Missouri. There while conducting a mission in Weston, Missouri, he suffered a paralytic stroke and died shortly after. His remains were brought to Carthagen and then to Minster where he is now buried. His funeral was attended by a great multitude, the mass being celebrated by Archbishop Elder and the funeral sermon delivered by Bishop Dwenger of Ft. Wayne.

Rev. Christian Nigsch then took charge of the congregation and administered to its needs until 1890 when he took sick and died on November 25th. During his pastorate the church debt was reduced, some improvements made and nine acres were added to the cemetery. The St. Marys Institute a boarding school for girls was erected in 1888 by the Sisters. It was Father Christian who conceived the idea of a memorial to Father Kunkler and who purchased the beautiful monument which is today a credit to the cemetery. He was a great lover of music and was instrumental in developing a splendid choir under the leadership of Mr. John Horst, the organist.

After his death a new pastor in the person of Rev. Albert Voag was appointed and he remained until 1897. In December 1895 a new organ was installed at the cost of \$2,500.00. Father Albert, a sincere man and an eloquent speaker delivered a farewell sermon to the congregation so touching that all eyes were moist.

Then came Rev. Aloys Malin to take up his duties in 1897. He supervised the second renovation of the church when the entrance was built on the west side. On June 2nd, 1901 the church was dedicated by Very Rev. Boniface Russ who was authorized by Archbishop Elder to perform the ceremony.

Rev. Malin was succeeded by Rev. Eugene Grimm in 1903. He guided the spiritual destinies of these parishioners for 18 years until his death in a Chicago hospital on December 28th, 1921. During his administration the present parsonage was built in 1906 and the new convent in 1911. He was a good pastor, very strict and yet very lenient, possessing a pleasant per-



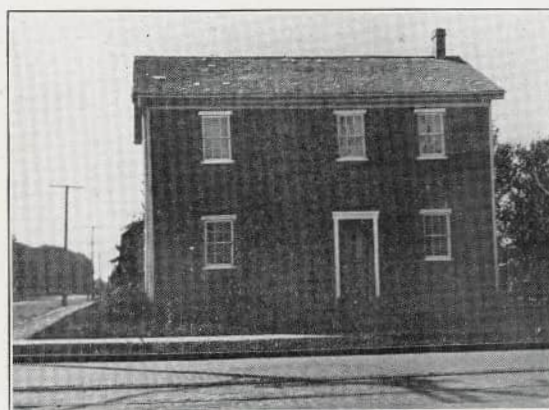
VIEWS OF THE OLD CONVENT



NEW CONVENT OF THE SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD
AND ST. MARY'S INSTITUTE



ST. THERESA'S SCHOOL



HOUSE ON CORNER OF FIFTH AND MAIN
STREETS WHERE FIRST CHURCH
SERVICE WAS HELD

sonality and friendly to all. His funeral services were held here with Archbishop Moeller pontificating at the mass and also delivering the funeral sermon.

Rev. C. Hummer served as temporary Pastor, both during his illness and after his death, until February 2nd, 1922, when Rev. Richard Schwieterman was appointed Pastor. Father Richard had previously been here for several years as assistant to Father Grimm and it was a great joy to the congregation to hear of his appointment. He came here on Friday and on Sunday delivered his first sermon using the topic "A good Shepherd will lay down his life for his sheep." He was elated to be back with the people he loved and all were anticipating great things for the future. But alas, God alone knows the future and on Tuesday February 14th, at six-thirty P. M. Father Richard Schwieterman was mortally wounded while performing one of his sacred duties and died an hour later. The shock of this news caused a pall of sorrow to settle over the people like the darkness of the night. His funeral was one of the largest ever held in St. Augustine's Church.

At the time of Father Grimm's death the church was draped in mourning. Before this period was over the Holy Father Pope Benedict XV. had died and before the official term of mourning had again ended Father Schwieterman's death occurred.

From February to April various priests served as temporary pastors and on April 15th, 1922, Rev. Sixtus Meyer was appointed. Father Sixtus has served continuously since then. He is a man of sincere piety and devoted to his work. He has made many improvements most notably of which are the building of the beautiful approach to the church which was done in 1922, the marble altar erected in 1925 and the redecorating of the interior in 1927. Thru his efforts the church was consecrated by Bishop Albers of Cincinnati, Ohio, on December 7th, 1931.

May God grant him many more fruitful years in his vineyard, and continue to bestow His blessings upon the members of St. Augustine's Congregation.

ASSISTANTS

Some of the earlier assistants have already been named. Others were Fathers Ignatius Selb, Mathias Kenk, Frank Nigsch, Theobald Schoch, Peter Kuhnmuensch, Herman Pohl, Erhard Fritz, Peter and Lawrence Shirack, Richard Zoller, Alphons Grussi, Norbert Groth, Julius Heffner, Liberat Shupp, Linus Stahl, Sixtus Meyer, Richard Schwieterman, Francis

Striegel, Anthony Pax, Otto Weber, Anthony Polusczak, Mathias Schmidt, Otto Brackman, Louis Poettkoetter, and the present assistant Hubert Greb.

MINSTER BOYS WHO HAVE BECOME PRIESTS

Very Rev. Boniface Russ, C. PP. S.
 Very Rev. Bernard Austerman
 Rev. Joseph Dwenger, afterwards Bishop of Ft. Wayne.
 Very Rev. Henry Drees, C. PP. S.
 Rev. B. Dickman, C. PP. S.
 Rev. Bd. Russ, C. PP. S.
 Rev. Chas. Meyer, C. PP. S.
 Rev. Thomas Meyer, C. PP. S.
 Rev. Lawrence Meyer, S. J.
 Rev. Alfred Meyer, C. PP. S.
 Rev. Edward Jacob
 Rev. ——— Nipper
 Rev. Willibald Sliemers

THE CHURCH CHOIR

Good music elevates the hearts to Heaven.

One of the earliest organists was Mr. Renfort who came to Minster in 1856 and from 1866 to 1868 Mr. Becker directed the choir. About the year 1868 Mr. J. P. Collett accepted the position as organist and remained until 1873 when he was succeeded by Mr. J. V. Schiffer whom the people remember as a fine singer. In April 1880 Mr. John Horst took charge of the choir and schools. He was followed fifteen years later in December 1895 by Mr. F. J. Boerger who remained until 1912, and under whose leadership the male choir was organized in 1907. His successor is Mr. A. H. Knapke the present organist.

In 1917 the group of singers was organized into a permanent church society. The St. Augustine's Choir has become well known in the diocese and has been invited to sing at many special celebrations.

On June 26th of this year the choir celebrated its silver anniversary with a special program in church followed by a social gathering. At the present time the officers and members are: Pres. Aug. D. Luckman, Sec'y. and Treas. Louis Hoying, Librarian Elmer Oldiges, Louis Koverman, Edward Oldiges, Harry Eiting, Edward Wendel, Henry Hagedorn, J. T. Haverbeck, Henry Olding, Nicholas Hogenkamp, Ed-Schunck, Harry Heckman, M. Hartman, Herman Oldiges, Ben Froning, Herman Oldiges, Jr., Charles Ahrns, Louis Hafner, Urban Wetzels, Albert Riethman, Frank Oldiges, William Massing, Jerome Meyer, Ed Luckman, A. H. Knapke, Director.

SCHOOLS

As we have already read the first boys' school was built in 1833 on Lot No. 42, Block B. Here Mr. M. Boehmer taught the three R's.

Several years later the girls were also admitted to this school which was then taught by the good and capable Teacher Schemmel.

In the fall of 1848 Rev. Brunner arranged to have the Sisters take charge of the education of the girls of the neighborhood. Accompanied by their superioress, Sister Rosa Schlupf the three teachers, Sister Albertina Schleinzer, Sister Victoria Wunderle and Sister Adelaide Schmerge came to establish a school for girls. The Religious had no convent but were housed in a private home which also served as the school and which was located on Lot 54, Block A.

The undertaking, accompanied by hardships and great inconveniences was interrupted by the siege of the dreadful cholera which ravaged the town and extinguished many families. It would have been wanton imprudence to expect that the Sisters, all frail in health, should remain exposing themselves unnecessarily to the deadly disease. Not through cowardly fear, but in obedience to the orders of Superiors they closed the school and retired to the convent at Maria Stein. As soon as the plague subsided they returned and resumed their work with zeal and devotion in the home of Mr. Schemmel who had died without heirs.

This was located on Lot No. 40, Block C and continued in use until 1867 when the St. Theresa's School for Girls was erected on Lots 45 and 46, Block D. It was a two story structure and 40x70 feet in its dimensions. Albert Vanden Brock had the masonry contract and he was assisted by Jacob Vanderhorst; Theodore Goehr was the master carpenter, while Edward Koverman and Bernard Fischer acted as his assistants. The brick was delivered at the site by Bernard Ortman and the sand was brought to Minster from Lockington by a canal boat in charge of Captain Bernard Barhorst. Among the persons who attended school in Minster during the first year were:

Marie Woehrmyer Bernhold, Maria Berting Kruse, Elizabeth Helmsing Goeke, Amelia Vallo Schmieder, Agnes Drees Hoying, Catherine Depweg Thiedick, Elizabeth Bockrath Fischer, Anna Meyer Wernsing, Mary Hinders Lambers, Elizabeth Bensman Meyer, Mary Rakel Morsey, Anna Pieper Ritter, Mary Meyer Decker, Josephine Pieper Knostman, Mary Kramer Drees, Elizabeth Fortman Horstman, Jane

Schemmel Fischer, Agnes Haverbeck Reising, Clara Schafer Heckman, Anna Senger Roettgerman, Anna Wendeln Koester, Carolina Stern, Kate Brandewie, Frances Schafer Rahm, Anna Vallo Vanderhorst, Sophia Koverman Haas, Jane Wuebker Bensman, Elizabeth Meyer Riploh.

Of the teachers here Sisters M. Celia Lange, M. Josephine Bates, M. Victoria Magle, M. Monsuetta and M. Angeline are recalled by many.

In 1853 a four room brick school building for boys was erected on the southwest corner of Fifth and Lincoln Sts. Mr. Sprehe explained the principles of learning here followed by Mr. Renfort, Mr. Collett and Mr. Schiffer. Beginning in 1880 and continuing for a period of sixteen years Mr. John Horst had charge of this school. Assistant teachers under Mr. Horst during these years were Aloys Roessner, J. H. Reitmeyer, Frank Hackman and B. Sherman.

This building was moved to Lot No. 43, Block B, and in 1895 the elegant brick edifice was erected on this location. The first school term in this building began in September 1895 with Mr. F. J. Boerger as Superintendent, T. W. Sullivan and B. J. Raterman assistants, and the Sisters teaching in the lower grades. On February 3rd, 1905 at 7:30 A. M. this building was destroyed by fire. The Board of Education consisting of John Horst, Pres.; S. A. Haverbeck, Vice Pres.; C. H. Dickman, Clerk; Bernard Nagel and Jos. Beckman took immediate steps to rebuild. Bonds in the amount of \$10,000. were issued and the contract awarded May 23rd, 1905 to Wm. Brodbeck, St. Marys, Ohio, for the sum of \$16,937.32. During the rest of this year and the first part of 1906 school sessions were conducted in the old St. Theresa's school and various other places.

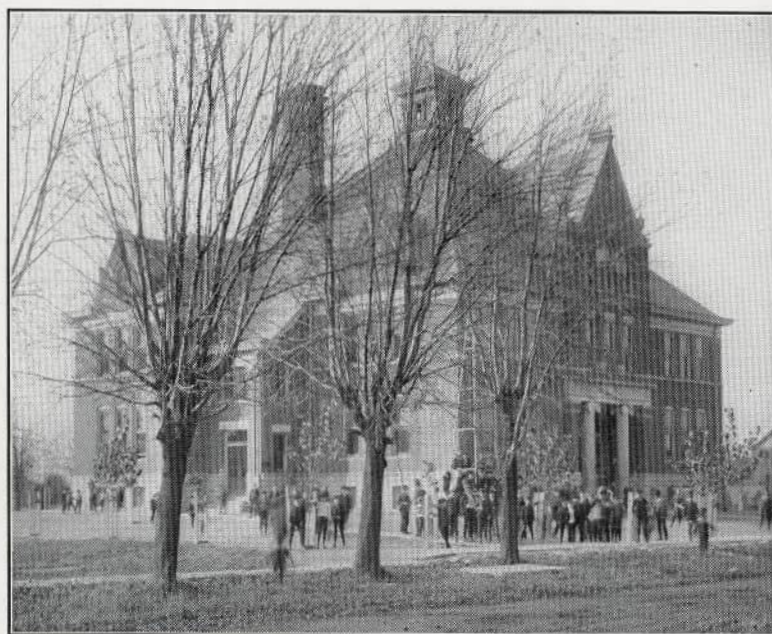
The 1906-7 term of school was opened in the rebuilt building on Sept. 3rd, 1906 with the following teachers: Hugo J. Anthony, superintendent; F. J. Boerger, principal; Sisters M. Angeline, Thonella, Felicia, Anna, Dulla, Alarda and Philomena. Of these Sister M. Angeline completed her twenty-fifth year as teacher in the local schools in 1912.

The High School was given a first grade rating by the State of Ohio in 1909 and has maintained it continually since then.

The first class graduated from the High School department in May 1909 and the mem-



MINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOL



SCHOOL BUILDING DESTROYED BY FIRE FEBRUARY 3, 1905

bers were Frank W. Dine, Chas. J. Kaiser, and Lawrence Steinemann.

In 1912 Mr. A. H. Knapke became principal of the High School and in 1913 Mr. J. C. Halsema was appointed Superintendent.

In 1915 the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools honored the high school by selecting it as a member. It has been so recognized each succeeding year since that date. Membership in the above association is sought after by all schools but is granted to comparatively few. On December 28, 1928 the Minster Grade Schools had the honor of receiving the first certificate granted in Auglaize County designating them as a First Grade Standard School.

In 1929 parts of several surrounding country school districts consolidated with the Minster School District.

As the number of pupils in the grade and high school department increased the capacity of the present building became overcrowded. In November, 1930, the citizens of Minster voted on a bond issue of \$88,000 for the purpose of erecting a High School building. This carried by a large majority and in the spring of 1931 the Minster Board of Education signed a 99 year lease with the Diocese of Cincinnati for the corner lots on Fifth and Hanover Streets. Immediately the

Old St. Theresa's school was razed and the general contract for erecting the High School Building was awarded to Mr. Joseph Melcher, of Minster, Ohio, for the sum of \$66,554.00.

It was completed in December, 1931 and formally dedicated on January 1st, 1932. The present Board of Education is composed of John G. Dues, President; Chas. Heckman, Charles Nagel and Harry Lehmkuhl, clerk. Two members, Mr. Frank Schmuecker and Mr. C. H. Dickman passed away just a few months ago.

The High School teachers are J. C. Halsema, superintendent; A. H. Knapke, principal; Harold T. Seery, Emma Ewald, Myrtle Kramer, Sisters M. Palma and M. Eleonora.

In the grade schools are: Sisters M. Symphorosa, M. Virginia, M. Stanislaus, M. Mary Ann, M. Bertrauda, M. Theona, M. Gabriel, M. Agnita.

From the earliest times the Minster Schools have been supported by public funds and the Sisters as well as the other teachers have at all times submitted to county examinations for license to teach. The subjects taught have corresponded with the State requirements and the highest standard of education has always been fostered. Fortunate indeed are those who are privileged to pursue their studies in the Minster Public Schools.





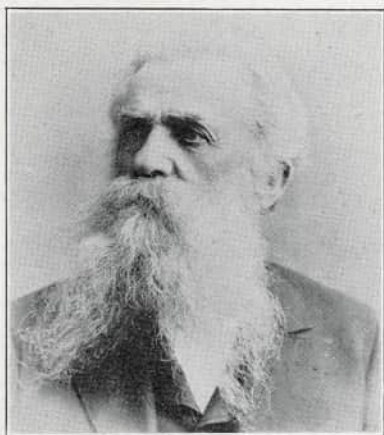
JOHN MARTIN STALLO
Son of F. J. Stallo



MARY STALLO KIEFER
Daughter of F. J. Stallo



RAYMOND A. STALLO
*Son of Lewis Stallo standing on location
of first grave of his grandfather F. J. Stallo.*



THEODORE CHRISTOPHER
STALLO
Son of F. J. Stallo



THERESA CAROLINE STALLO
VINTON
Daughter of F. J. Stallo

"Ohio, my country, I love thee for these!"—Alexander Auld

by Theresa Vinton Pierce Krull, great-granddaughter of F. J. Stallo, who acknowledges her debt for data and pictures to the late C. H. Dickman and Mary A. Stallo Kiefer; to Anna Anderson Stallo, Raymond F. Stallo, Ruth Patterson, Elizabeth Vinton Pierce, Stallo Vinton, Francis Stallo Ruddell, Harry E. Zimmer, Henry Sextro, and the Reverend Henry Zuhone.

Francis Joseph Stallo, Founder of Minster and his Family

Francis Joseph Stallo, schoolmaster, book-binder, scientist, and leader of men, born in Damme, duchy of Oldenburg, Hanover, Germany, May 2, 1793, founded Stallostown, now Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio, September 28, 1832. He was spiritually and racially akin to those successive groups of substantial Germans who saw in the young America a field for new lives in a new world. As Velma F. Schmieder, of Minster says, "those blessed with sufficient worldly goods fostered the thought of perpetuating the family name in new towns." Our Francis (or Franz, as he was christened) Joseph Stallo, did so with ambition, courage, foresight, and benevolence, yet with feeling for the old world, evidenced in the very naming of the streets-to-be.

On Minster's Centennial Day, his living descendants unite in feeling with Minster, join in giving to history the first fullest record of his life, albeit still incomplete. The loss of his papers in hasty destruction of possessions in the tragic epidemic of 1833 and the orphaning of his children, deprived town and family of needed data.

Francis Joseph Stallo sprang, as was said of his schoolmaster nephew, Judge John Bernard Stallo of Cincinnati, who came in 1839, from indeed a race of schoolmasters, and from Frisian stock, suggesting the family traditions of both Dutch and Danish blood, features of both reappearing in various descendants. Mary Stallo Kiefer insisted that there was an Italian line. While no proof exists, non-Nordic dark eyes, darker skin, do appear in certain Stallos descended from F. J. Stallo's parents.

He is described as a tall blond man with short straight nose, and firm expression, these characteristics reappearing in each generation, somewhere; the trait of holding his head on one side

while talking reappears markedly in his grandson Lindley Vinton.

His grandparents were Frantz Stallo, and Katharine Margaret Holthaus, of Sierhausen, Oldenburg, Hanover, parents of ten! Their fourth child, John Bernard Stallo, 1758-1782, married Katharine Liening. Of their seven children, the fifth was our "Franz Joseph," born May 2, 1793, in Damme, died July 23, 1833 in Stallostown, Ohio.

F. J. Stallo seems to have been educated to follow the family's pedagogical calling. He taught school in Glandorf, in lower Hanover west of Bielefeld, Westphalen, and perhaps 50 miles from Damme, also about 24 miles north-west of Munster.

In 1816 he learned the art of binding books, often practiced by schoolmasters, adding skill in their exteriors to quick absorption of literary content. He became a tree nursery expert, and scientific apiarist, receiving two medals for bee culture, which were treasured in the family till lost about 1890. His eldest daughter distinctly recalled his Bremen home, where he practiced the art of *espalier*, the training of fruit trees upon trellises, in one plane, for ventilation, improved fruit,—and against walls fanwise, where space required or artistry suggested. He took young trees also to Bremen markets to trade or sell for leather for his book-bindings. His dooryard was enclosed by walls, and separated from the nurse enclosures, also walled, by stiles. An hour-glass stood upon a stone, noted by gardeners coming and going. Another hour-glass is said to have measured the time spent in binding, determining charges for the work.

Mary Stallo Kiefer recalled that patrons who came for their books in cold weather, often after church, sat with their feet upon little foot stoves,

though there was a great porcelain stove which burned peat, which, with the "three-legged piano", were signs of prosperity.

In 1803, F. J. Stallo met his future wife, Katharine Schaiper (Schaefer), daughter of a ship-builder of Dutch blood, who came over in a carriage drawn by two horses. Mary Stallo Kiefer recalled this equipage as the maternal relatives' manner of travel, and that her uncles wore blue coats with shining buttons. It is said that the marriage, celebrated July 27, 1814, added the bride's dowry to the bridegroom's prosperity.

Seven children were born to this couple with bright future seemingly secure: Five children lived to accompany the father to America: John Martin, Ludwig (Louis), Mary Anna, Theodore Christopher, and Theresa. Little John Bernard the first born, and Victor Ernst Ferdinand, next youngest, died at tender age, separated from their mother (prematurely taken) even in death.

(For complete genealogical tables see pages following history).

The immediate actuation of emigration to America, we do not know. But the parents and five living children "left Germany" on "April 24th, 1831, in the morning at ten on Sunday," for Amsterdam. The mother was in failing health some time before even this last terrestrial journey. Anxious to be again at church, she had insisted on rising too soon after the birth of the little Theresa, and was ailing the rest of her life. Mary Stallo Kiefer recalled being beckoned repeatedly to her mother's bedside for instructions. Unable to continue with her dear ones to the new land, the mother died in Amsterdam, when only 38, presumably among kinsfolk. Her courageous husband secured a nurse for the younger children, setting sail from the old world, never to be seen again by him, though three of those children were to again know the high seas. They "embarked on the ship *Jano* on May 2nd, 1831" (the father's 38th birthday) "and arrived in New York June 19th, 1831, in Cincinnati on July 27, 1831."

In Cincinnati F. J. Stallo followed his profession of book-binding, finding employment in the print shop of the Mr. Phillips said to have become the partner of William H. McGuffey who later published the famous Readers. Mr. McGuffey became Stallo's warm friend, bringing him many books to be bound.

Stallo, his children and nurse, made their home in the tavern of which Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Zimmer Sr. were proprietors. Mrs. Zimmer's daughter of an earlier marriage, Maria Malinda Klink (the Klinks of Hagerstown,

Maryland) married Mr. Zimmer's nephew Jacob Zimmer Jr. The younger Zimmer became widely known as producer of "Zimmer's Spanish Tobacco," perfected by crossing Cuban pollen with purest Ohio varieties. Jacob Zimmer and the elder Nicholas Longworth, both horticulturists, became warm friends.

The attention of Mr. Phillips was drawn to Mary Stallo, age 10, playing about her father's worktable, perching strips of paper-cuttings upon her little ears for "pretend curls." Mrs. Phillips agreed that they must borrow the pretty child. She "would not go without Theodore." Their going became a permanent arrangement when the good nurse died in the spring of 1832; new homes for the sons became a new problem for their father. The elder Mrs. Zimmer had long since taken the four-year-old Theresa into her arms and heart, becoming thereafter "Mother Zimmer" of loving memory. Her grandson Harry E. Zimmer, treasures her Bible, printed in German, 1802, in which she entered the births of her own children, adding (in German): "Theresa Stallo was born 6 February 1827 and came to me 1 August 1831. Margaretta L. Zimmer." Her granddaughter, Eliza Zimmer Hecker gave to Theresa Vinton Pierce (Krull) a four-poster doll bedstead made for the first Theresa Stallo (Vinton) by some kind German carpenter. Now nigh a century old this little bed has delighted many children.

The Zimmers moved to Miamisburg, Montgomery county, Ohio, buying in 1833 the tavern which had already stood long on the main street, the old road coming from Dayton, down which came the regular coach, to change horses, watered from the tavern pump. Years later, Mary Stallo Kiefer's daughter, Dora Kiefer (Patterson) loved to be taken by grandfather Kiefer to see this great event, arrival of the Dayton coach.

But we anticipate. Francis Joseph Stallo had not relinquished his desire to found a town. In company with Cincinnati Germans, his inclinations were toward northwestern Ohio. The site chosen, now Minster, in the county now Auglaize, lies upon the divide between the head waters of Lake Erie and the Ohio.

On October 5, 1927 Theresa V. P. Krull left the Saint Marys trolley "at the turn" in Minster and stood in "Stallstown" for the first time. Met by the late Mr. C. H. Dickman, he said promptly "You are now near the spot (pointing) where your great grandfather tied his horse and fastened also to the tree a board upon which he wrote 'Stallstown'."

Mr. Dickman related to me also, among several long sympathetic Stallo-Minster-centennial talks, how Stallo had journeyed from Cincin-

nati to Piqua on foot, he showed me the original plat of the town, with streets already designated "Berlin," "Vienna," etc., imperialistic choices for a pilgrim casting his lot with America, but revealing fatherland love.

After 1865 Theresa Stallo Vinton received from Ohio a surprising \$50 in final settlement.

The "John Roop appointed as guardian" must be the Johann Ruff mentioned in an old 1821 German geography loaned to Mr. Dickman by Mrs. Francis Louis Stallo (Anna Anderson) of Punta Gorda, Florida. In this are a number of entries by John Martin Stallo, eldest son of F. J. Stallo beginning November 1833. To his retroactive (apparently) entries we owe those dates of the family's departures from Damme, Europe, arrival in Cincinnati. The very next page is headed "Death"—"our dearly beloved father died of the cholera, July 23, 1833, written in this book in remembrance by John Martin Stallo."

We wonder if he, now 16, ever went to Minster with his father, as entries occur of "the first death in Stallstown," Henry Beckman, November 26, 1832. He enters the names Wilhelmina Gossman and Anna Mary Kramer "from Holdorf Damme." Again, "following sums did Johann Ruff receive, \$110.86, for 80 acres of land, \$414.00 from Gossman, \$10.00 for the house. The following for house rent—" unfinished. Again, the numbers 6-32-37-39-61-66-92-104-115-117-126." Records disclose that these were some of the lots that Stallo drew. The sums above may be the remainder of the estate after Johann Ruff had settled it.

And what of those other fatherless boys?

At some time, John Martin and Louis, 17 and 15, inheriting their father's love of nautical adventure, found work aboard passenger boats plying between Cincinnati and Shreveport, Louisiana. Theodore, not to be outdone, ran away, succeeding in finding his brothers but they returned him to the Phillips' jurisdiction.

A family story of this period is fraught with pathos and the Might-Have-Been. One day the lads saw ahead of them in the streets of New Orleans a man with the familiar blue coat and shining buttons, plainly a sea-faring man from the old world. They were certain it was their uncle. They followed him a long time. But, forging for themselves had developed caution as well as courage. They hoped he would turn and recognize them, yet did not dare to speak. The man went on—and the reunion, which might have changed family history, never took place.

On one return Louis brought Mary a little white dog, a box of oranges (rare in the north)

—and a parrot! The dog she gave to Katie Phillips, much older than herself. Elizabeth Vinton Pierce says flowers and pets run in the family. And when she first saw the home of Francis Louis, son of the Louis above, how natural it was to find at his home "trellises,—and pets!"

F. J. Stallo's burial where he fell had pointed to the haste the dreadful epidemic conditions imposed upon even children, but he was subsequently laid to rest in the older part of Saint Augustine's cemetery. What disturbing person took away the body of Stallo, when, why, or whence, we do not know.

In 1836 the town's name was changed to Minster, possibly reminiscent also of Germany. Saint Theresa's Madchen Schule erected its brick building in 1867, and the town's life progressed as you will read elsewhere.

And what of the orphaned Stallo children's maturity?

John Martin Stallo, 1816-1875-6, roved the seven seas, knew every fortune and misfortune of the sea-faring man, visiting many lands. In early '60's he went to Indianapolis, Indiana, making his home with his youngest sister, Theresa Stallo, and her husband, Almus Eugene Vinton, in the Vinton homestead still standing. Without fortune but retaining physical and mental vigor, the Vinton children recalled him as a "storybook uncle," of leonine strength, one who "could crush a walnut on one hand with one blow by the other," "peaceable, yet ready to kill anyone he suspected of menace toward those children he watched while gardening." To another niece, Dora Kiefer (Patterson), he "gave a string of buckeyes because she was born in Ohio." Later he was a toll-gate keeper near Indianapolis. If it be said his one weakness hindered his better fortunes, let it be recorded that on his deathbed he refused restoratives, saying firmly "I want to go to heaven: I haven't taken it for two years!" Self-control, belief in Another Land, at life's close!

With Ludwig (Louis or Lewis) 1818-1851, Stallo's group, the other descendants were not so often in touch, which we regret. His wife rests at Lima, Ohio, as does his son Francis Louis. Their two children were Louise Stallo Brown, (no children) and Francis Louis Stallo (1849-1929) who married Anna Anderson, who lives now in Punta Gorda, Florida, greatly interested in this distant centennial. Their surviving son Raymond Anderson Stallo, Columbus, Ohio, born 1884, married Rose C. Fagan. Their surviving son, Raymond Fagan Stallo, who has a younger sister Rose Mary, expects to represent his branch at the centennial.

Ludwig Stallo lost his life in an accident aboard a Mississippi river steamboat the "Anthony".

Mary Anna Stallo Kiefer, 1821-1915, first daughter of the founder, lives in beloved memory, a vivid personality. If eldest daughters tend to resemble fathers, we see in her earlier portrait the straight brow and nose, the high-spirited ambitious look. The later portrait mellows with long years of wifely, maternal, neighborly experience. Four doors north of the Zimmer tavern, Miamisburg, was the Kiefer jewelry and toy shop, just below it the Kiefer home. Louis and Augustus Kiefer, both became well-known business men in Indianapolis in later years, Louis in jewelry and clocks, Augustus in the wholesale drug business. But back in Miamisburg, Louis had wedded the little ward of the Phillips', Mary Anna Stallo. Their children, Louis, Dora (Patterson), and Charles, were born in the dear river town they loved to call "OUR-amisburg."

Mary Stallo Kiefer undoubtedly had psychic powers. She said little of it, her husband encouraging the known tests of it. She did often tell of two remarkable dreams she had at the exact dates of deaths of her brothers Louis and Theodore, corroborated by the news which came slowly in those days. The dream of Louis' death was of its occurring in a Mississippi river boat explosion, the fact.

The Kiefers moved to Indianapolis after the Civil war, the sons carrying on the paternal profession, though Louis A. Kiefer had a real gift for art as avocation. For years citizens coming down Massachusetts avenue of mornings set their watches by Kiefer time. These bachelor brothers live now in retirement in Lakeland, Florida, going to Punta Gorda since, to make acquaintance of the Francis Louis Stallo cousins.

Dora Kiefer married Dr. Amos W. Patterson, established physician of Indiana stock. Their daughter, Ruth Patterson, is a member of the faculty of the College of Education, Butler University, Indianapolis.

John Theodore Stallo, 1824-about-1900, always known in this country as Theodore Christopher, (his initials the same as Theresa Caroline's) was the other bachelor son of F. J. Stallo. He too inherited the roving foot, travelled eventually to California, settling in Arizona. He had a gift for finding mines, but never the means to develop them. A friend named the "Ruth Mine" for Theodore's great niece, and Ruth Patterson still treasures a turquoise matrix from it. T. C. Stallo once owned the "water rights" for a ranch of vast head of horses, and did help lay out the town of Globe,

Arizona. He lived alone, watering a profusion of flowers about his little house from his well. His flair for beauty, like his sister Theresa's but less practical, showed itself in love of jewelry, and acquisition of a lace spread when he expected relatives. In 1882 Mr. and Mrs. James H. Ruddell (Mary H. Vinton) visited him and the latter saw him in Globe in his last winter, visiting with her second husband, Ambrose P. Stanton. "Uncle Theodore" never lost affection for his nieces. He rests, though not a Mason, in the burial plot of a friend in Globe's Masonic Cemetery.

Theresa Stallo, who assumed the middle name Caroline, grew into her 'teens at Miamisburg wonderfully pretty. So that the elder Zimmer forbade her entering the public rooms, for all taverns had strange men patrons not always gentleborn. "She must stay within and sew." And there was other instruction in domestic arts. The Huff dry goods shop was "up" and across the street, the Huff home immediately opposite. Mrs. Huff taught little girls fine stitches and paid them for their work. Theresa Stallo Vinton's expert, exquisite needlework survives to testify, as did her domestic accomplishments generally, to those years of training a girl born with love of beauty "always beautifying the simplest place," (her husband's tribute).

A young man she did meet, Almus Eugene Vinton, of New England parentage well known to older Miamisburg families, won her heart. Their wedding day November 12, 1846 was so mild, the young bride wore a gown of white swiss. This happy weather was followed by a snowstorm. In Lafayette, Indiana was born, 1848, their first child, Mary H. Vinton, and they spent a year in Saint Marys, Ohio, saddened by the hammering of coffins in another epidemic but gladdened by the first son's birth, Merrick Eugene, 1849. In 1850 they removed to Indianapolis, Mr. Vinton entering partnership with Lewis Hasselman, also of Montgomery county, Ohio, in a foundry and machine shop. The other Vinton children were born in Indianapolis: Lewis Edward; the twins Lindley and Elizabeth Stallo, and David Francis. Mary H. Vinton married James H. Ruddell an attorney, of Kentucky blood, in 1871; long after his death she married A. P. Stanton, also an attorney. Her living children are Almus Goar Ruddell, Francis Stallo Ruddell. The former married Clementine Tucker. Their older son married Marie Bruhn, their younger is Warren T. Ruddell. F. S. Ruddell married Anna Nye Stanton. Their younger sister was Nancy Ruddell. The elder Ruddells are of the third generation of Ruddells to live on the family farm lands near Indianapolis.

Merrick E. Vinton married Susan MacIntire, Indianapolis. Of their four sons, the eldest married Mary T. Wheeler, who survives him; Stallo Vinton, of Passaic, New Jersey, survives also his younger brothers, Almus E. Vinton II, who married Anne Hurty; and Merrick E. Vinton II.

Lindley Vinton, New York attorney, married 1), his third cousin, Helena Stallo, 2) Josephine Carstarphen. His twin, Elizabeth Stallo Vinton, married Henry Douglas Pierce, Indianapolis attorney of New England blood. She believes she is the only living granddaughter of F. J. Stallo, and leaves her Vinton homestead of 67

years in this Minster Centennial month. Her surviving children are: Theresa Vinton Pierce, wife of Frederic Krull (their only daughter was named Theresa Stallo Krull, son, Fritz Krull II); Henry Douglas Pierce II, married Georgia M. Moore; Elizabeth Vinton Pierce II lived to be 29.

The children of Henry Douglas Pierce II,—Georgiana M., and Vinton Pierce, are, we think, with Rose Mary Stallo, the youngest living descendants of Francis Joseph Stallo: could our ancestor return, he would surely smile upon these little people, for, despite his desire for distant lands, he took always his own motherless children with him.

Genealogical Tables of the Stallo Family

Table I.

The Stallos in Oldenburg, Hanover, Germany. (from records sent to the late C. H. Dickman by the Rev. Henry Zuhone of Vestrup, Germany).

Frantz Stallo married January 30, 1747,

Katharine Margaret Holthaus,
Sierhausen, Oldenburg. Grandparents of
Francis Joseph Stallo.

Children:

- 1—John Henry 1748-1807
Ten children
- 2—Katharine Margaret 1750-1828
No children
- 3—John Herman 1754-1828
Two children
- 4—*John Bernard* 1758-1782. Married
Katharine Mary Liening.
Schoolmaster, Sierhausen; parents of
Francis Joseph Stallo.
- 5—John Frederick Stallo
Two children

Table 2

Family of John Bernard Stallo, Katharine Mary Liening.

John Bernard Stallo 1758-1782. Married

Katharine Mary Liening

Schoolmaster, Sierhausen, Oldenburg.

Children:

- 1—Margaret Elisabeth 1784-1808
- 2—Katharine Marie 1786-1788
- 3—Bernard Henry 1788-1818
Schoolmaster, Glandorf, Hanover.
- 4—Katharine Marie 1790-?
- 5—*Frantz Joseph* born May 2, 1793; Damme,
Oldenburg, Hanover. Died July 23,

1833, Stallstown (Minster), Ohio
Married July 27, 1814.

Katharine Schaeper (Schaefer) born January 20, 1793; died April 2, 1831. *Frantz Joseph Stallo* left for America April 24, 1831; arrived in New York June 19, 1831; founded Stallstown September, 1832.

(For their children see Table 3).

6—Mary Angela born September 6, 1795; died July 29, 1822.

7—John Henry born October 19, 1797; died March 23, 1844.

Probably the father of Judge John Bernard Stallo of Cincinnati and John Henry Stallo who died in Indianapolis, also a daughter, married Goas. See table 4.

Table 3

Francis Joseph Stallo, founder of Minster, Ohio

Francis Joseph Stallo born May 2, 1793—
Damme, Oldenburg, Hanover. Sponsors,
Frederick Stallo, Bernard Kemphaus, Katherine Mary Wobkenberg. Married July 27, 1814 to

Katharine Schaeper, born January 20, 1793; died April 2, 1831.

Their children:

- 1—John Bernard born April 10, 1815; died October 9, 1816. Sponsor, Bernard Stallo.
- 2—John Martin born October 10, 1816; died about 1875. Sponsors, Bernard Henry Stallo, Casper Schaeper. Unmarried.
- 3—Ludwig (Louis, Lewis) born November 10, 1818; died about 1851. Sponsors, John Bernard Schaeper, Elisa-

beth Stallo, Bernard Sieve. Married Mary Jane Fullweiler. She is buried at Lima, Ohio.

Two children. See other tables.

- 4—Mary Anna born January 1, 1821; died March, 1915. Sponsors, Mary Schai-per, Anna Mary Tebbe, Henry Stallo. Married June 28, 1843, Louis Kiefer, Miamisburg, Ohio.

Three children. See other tables.

- 5—John Theodore (Theodore Christopher) born 1824; died 1900. Sponsors, Theodore Moorman, Frederick Vo-gelsang, Agnes Baume. Unmarried.

- 6—Victor Ernst Ferdinand, born Decem-ber 23, 1825; died December 28, 1825. No sponsors given.

- 7—Theresa born February 28, 1827; died August 31, 1892, Indianapolis. Spon-sors, Mary Adelaide (Moorman) Stallo, Mary Angela Schaiper, Ferdi-nand Rusche. Married November 12, 1846, at Miamisburg, Ohio, Almus Eugene Vinton, born March 9, 1821; died June 21, 1870, Indianapolis. Six children. See other tables.

Table 4

John Henry Stallo, seventh child of John Ber-nard Stallo and Katharine Mary Liening, was the father of John Bernard Stallo of Cincinnati.

Children—

- 1—John Bernard Stallo, of Cincinnati, Ohio, Born Sierhausen, Oldenburg, 1823-1900. Married Helena Zimmerman, daugh-ter of a rich wine merchant," who was "partner of Nicholas Longworth" Sr.

John Bernard Stallo became a noted judge, sent as Minister to Italy under President Cleveland. Lived in both Rome and Florence. Died abroad, as did his widow.

His children (order not sure):

Linda, married Hotze.

Hulda, born 1855; died unmarried in New York 1931.

Helena, married Lindley Vinton, 1883 in Cincinnati, son of A. E. and Theresa Stallo Vinton, of Indianap-olis. Died in New York 1891. One infant child died.

Edmund Kittredge Stallo—named for Judge Stallo's law partner. Married 1) Laura MacDonald, Cincinnati; Two daughters Laura, Princess Fran-cesco Rospigliosi, born about 1888; two children, Helena, Princess Joa-chim Murat, born about 1883; died

1932; One child, Laura, married 1931.

Married 2) May Harrington Hanna.

Married 3) ——— lives in Califor-nia and will not keep in touch with relatives.

- 2—Elizabeth Stallo Heidlage, born April 16, 1825. Son, Theodor born about 1862. Daughter, Sister M Leonissa, of Oldenburg Academy, Indiana.

- 3—Agnes Stallo Brunsman, born May 2, 1827.

- 4—Anna Mary Stallo Goas, born Novem-ber 20, 1831.

- 5—Theresia Stallo Tuka, born January 31, 1834.

- 6—John Henry Stallo, born Sierhausen, Oldenburg about 1845; died, In-dianapolis, about 1867.

Table 5

Family of Ludwig (Louis) Stallo, third child of Francis Joseph Stallo.

Louis Stallo, born November 10, 1818; died about 1851. Married Mary Jane Fulweiler.

Their children:

Louise. Married Richard Brown.

No children.

Francis Louis born March 29, 1849; died November 14, 1929. Married Anna Anderson, Punta Gorda, Florida.

Children:

Louis James born March 14, 1877; died August 21, 1932.

No children.

Raymond Anderson born July 21, 1884. Married November 28, 1906, Rose C. Fagan.

Children:

Raymond Fagan, born February 20, 1908.

Richard Clyde, born June 16, 1913; died June 14, 1914.

Rose Mary, born January 13, 1919.

Table 6

Family of Mary Anna Stallo Kiefer, fourth child of Francis Joseph Stallo.

Mary Anna Stallo, born January 1, 1821; died March, 1915. Married 1843, Louis Kiefer, (born 1818) lived Miamisburg and Indianapolis.

Children:

- 1—Louis A. born January 1, 1844.

- 2—Dora, born about 1848; died, Dec. 1928; married Dr. Amos W. Patter-son. Two children: 1 infant son and Ruth born about 1880.

- 3—Charles, born April 22, 1856.

Louis A; and Charles Kiefer live now in Lakeland, Fla.

Table 7

Family of Theresa Stallo Vinton, seventh child of Francis Joseph Stallo.

Theresa Stallo born February 6, 1827; died August 31, 1892, Indianapolis. Married November 12, 1846, at Miamisburg, Ohio.

Almus Eugene Vinton, born March 9, 1821; died June 21, 1870, Indianapolis.

Children:

1—Mary Hannah born January 22, 1848, LaFayette, Indiana; died March, 1924, Indianapolis.

Married 1) August 30, 1871, James Henry Ruddell, Indianapolis, who died September 19, 1885.

Four children. See other tables.

Married 2) January 11, 1899, Ambrose P. Stanton, Indianapolis; died May 25, 1912.

2—Merrick Eugene born December 19, 1849, Saint Marys, Ohio; died June 17, 1918. Married Sept. 11, 1872, Susan VanDeman MacIntire, Indianapolis. Four children. See other tables.

3—Lewis Edward born May 11, 1852; died August 3, 1853.

4—Lindley born February 4, 1855, Indianapolis.

Married 1) Aug. 3, 1880, Helena Stallo, Cincinnati (1863 — Dec. 4, 1891).

Married 2) September 3, 1897, Josephine C. Carstarphen born July 19, 1861.

No children.

5—Elizabeth Stallo (twin of Lindley) born February 4, 1855.

Married June 30, 1875, Henry Douglas Pierce, Indianapolis, born April 9, 1848; died May 23, 1929.

Five children. See other tables.

6—David Francis born December 11, 1857, Indianapolis; died Florida, February 1, 1874.

Table 8

Descendants of Francis Joseph Stallo not recorded on previous tables. Grandchildren of Theresa Stallo Vinton.

Children of James H. Ruddell and Mary Hannah Vinton. (See previous tables).

1—Ambrose Vinton born June 27, 1872; died July 2, 1872.

*2—Almus Goar Ruddell, born July 29, 1873. Married April 12, 1899, Clementine Ruddell, born October 28, 1875.

Children:

1—James Henry Ruddell, born April 19, 1903. Married June 30, 1926, Marie Bruhn.

2—Warren Tucker Ruddell, born February 9, 1910.

*3—Francis Stallo Ruddell, born December 22, 1874.

Married September 18, 1924, Anna Nye Stanton.

4—Nancy Ruddell, born June 4, 1880; died November 3, 1886.

*Live on Ruddell farm lands near Indianapolis.

Table 9

Descendants of Francis Joseph Stallo, not recorded on previous tables. Grandchildren of Theresa Stallo Vinton.

Children of Merrick Eugene Vinton and Susan V. MacIntire.

1—Thomas MacIntire Vinton, born October 5, 1874; died March 29, 1923. Married June 25, 1902, Mary Toffey Wheeler, born November 2, 1875. No children.

2—Stallo Vinton, born December 15, 1876. Attorney of New York, N. Y., and Passaic, New Jersey.

3—Almus Eugene Vinton, born July 31, 1879; died November 11, 1921. Married February 24, 1904, Anne Hurty, born November 23, 1880. No children.

4—Merrick Eugene Vinton, born August 17, 1883; died May 7, 1907.

Table 10

Descendants of Francis Joseph Stallo, not recorded in other tables.

Grandchildren of Theresa Stallo Vinton.

Children of Henry Douglas Pierce and Elizabeth Stallo Vinton.

1—Theresa Vinton Pierce, born March 4, 1877. Married December 29, 1908, Frederic Krull, born March 18, 1876.

Children:

Theresa Stallo Krull, born July 11, 1910; died July 21, 1910.

Fritz Krull Jr., born October 29, 1913; died January 26, 1915.

Live at Indianapolis.

2—Henry Douglas Pierce Jr., born December 12, 1883. Married June 30, 1917, Georgia M. Moore, born Dec. 10, 1889.

Children:

Georgiana Moore Pierce, born February 4, 1923.

Vinton Pierce, born August 7, 1924.

Live at Indianapolis.

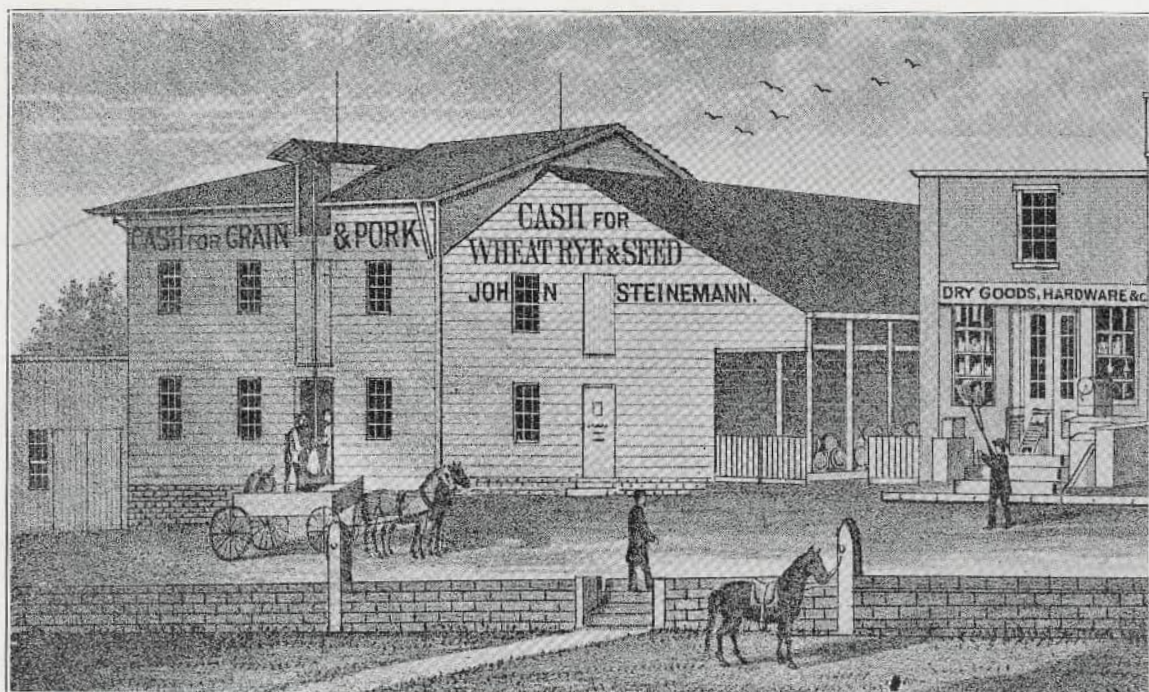
3—Prescott Pierce, born and died August 9, 1886.

4—Elizabeth Vinton Pierce, born March 23, 1888; died July 17, 1917.

5—Mary Hannah Pierce, born December 25, 1892; died March 7, 1893.



RESIDENCE AND TANNERY OF FRANK PIENING



STORE OF J. H. STEINEMANN

*Click---click---the sound of the axe I hear---
Swung in the forest by*

“THE PIONEER”



Written by

KATE M. WOEHMYER

Born: May 15, 1868

Died: August 10, 1932



“Turn backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight.”
Turn back a century; let us gaze at this sight:
A country that is level for miles around,
And dense forests where timber and game abound;
A few log cabins among the towering trees,
A sturdy Pioneer here and there we see.
The danger of the Red Man is just passing away
As the first settlers come here to stay.
Immigrants they are, who left all to cross the sea,
And establish homes here, in the land of the free.
Among them we see Mr. Stallo, and other progressive men,
This level wooded site looks good to them.

Let us halt a moment, dear reader, pause—and in spirit see,
Your ancestors and mine, arriving here among the trees.
A century ago—1832—the village was laid out, one mile square,
A site for church, market and park was traced there with care.
Streets and alleys laid out, width and depth of the lots,
They were carefully marked on the chart with number or dots.
Through his interest in the settlers, Mr. Stallo gained fame
And “Stallostown” was the village’s first name.
Hardships and struggles they had to undergo,
To clear the country of swamp, underbrush and foe.
Large snakes, rattlers, perhaps wolf and deer
Were prowling around when the pioneers came here.

Their hands tilled the soil and sowed the seed,
Planted the corn, hoed and pulled the weed.
They chopped the trees in the forest dense,
Split the rails and built the fence.
They toiled long hours with their axe in hand,
To build a little log cabin on their land.
They ate their frugal meal in the morn and at night,
While the sperm-oil lamp gave a dull, flickering light.
They made a cistern of a hollow sycamore tree.
At their well the old oaken bucket we’d see.
They cradled their barley, oats and rye,
Bound it in sheaves, they left it in the sun to dry.

Placing a cloth on the floor, they flayed their grain.
To grind their corn into meal, to Piqua they came,
With a bag of corn on their back, they walked all the way,
My record is uncertain if they came back the same day.
Their shotgun was the weapon for foe or food—
And their meals were cooked in kettles crude.
Through the thick woodland they blazoned a trail;
And of every opportunity of progress they took avail.
Honor to the Pioneer mother is due for her work never was done,
Caring for the cabin and children; also working in the sun.
With the harvesting of hay and corn she helped a great deal,
She baked her bread on the hearth, churned, and prepared the meals.

Teas and herbs she gathered and dried outside, or on the cabin wall,
To be used in sickness for medicine; the doctor they did not call.
After the sheep were shorn, she spun the wool into yarn,
The spinning wheel as a relic still has a great charm.
She knit her husband's socks, her own and her children's hose,
The Pioneer family went to church in homespun clothes.
The children shared their hardships already when small,
Their parents had no time to play with them at all.
In the forest that surround them, the oak and buckeye tree
Furnished their playthings, the acorn and buckeye on a string we see.
Gathering burrs to make a basket and clover to make a wreath,
And playing in the haymow was about the only treat.

When they grew older and had to go to school,
They had to start so early it was still dark as a rule.
Only a trail led to the schoolhouse, perhaps, they had miles to go.
They often slipped and fell, it was muddy, their progress was slow.
Here and there they had to cross a creek over a narrow log—
Sometime they could not see ahead in the densest of fog.
Often for their safe return their parents would pray,
They knew the dangers should snake or animal get in their way.
Their hearts must have been heavy at the tremendous work
That was continuously before them, but they did not shirk.
The first settlers were God-fearing Christians and their first aim
Was to have a place to worship God and praise His name.

Records show they had Catholic Church service in 1832 . . .
Rev. Horstman, a missionary priest, their religious needs knew.
Stationed at Glandorf, he looked after missions miles away,
Walking all the distance uncomplaining, and with hopeful ray,
To bring spiritual comfort and consolation to the settlers around,
This Pioneer priest's life with hardships and sorrows did abound.
Do you recall the log building near the market place,
It may be *there* that on Sundays the service you could trace.
A terrible affliction, the cholera raged in 1832 and 33
Among the victims the benefactor of the village we see.
Many a settler's home, sad and lonely it left,
Of a father, mother, son or daughter bereft.

The name "Stallstown" was changed to "Minster" in 1836
The same year the name "St. Augustine" to the parish was affixed.
St. Augustine was the fourth mother parish of Cincinnati diocese I read,
With St. John as a mission, established in 1836, the narrative said.
Immigrants came to Minster and settled, the little village grew,
For the merchant, the carpenter, cooper and day laborer there was work
to do.

The Erie canal, already under construction, gave work to many,
They had a chance, by hard labor, to earn an extra penny.
The Pioneer had no outlet for his product, it made business dreary,
Till shipping by boat started in '42 between Cincinnati and Lake Erie.
The Canal created a new boom, north and south, too and fro,
If the ice did not prevent, the boats with their cargo would go.

A new brick church, still in existence, was erected in 1848,
Rev. John Vandebroek was the Pastor in charge at that date.
The beloved Rev. Kunkler took charge of the parish in 1852.
Thirty-three years the joys and trials of his devoted people he knew.
The dreaded epidemic, cholera, broke out again in 1849.
Many a Pioneer was among the victims that time.
Then came the Civil War; the Pioneer's son enlisted and went to war,
While at home the Pioneer and his family awaited the news from afar.
1867 more progress in the village; they built St. Theresa's school
Rev. Kunkler supervising the construction; "For girls only" was his rule.
Later years, going to and from school was my daily walk,
Recited my lesson or worked out examples on the blackboard with chalk.

Looking out from the south window, when at school, one day
I saw men pull down the large cross in the churchyard and take it away.
The Mission Cross they called it, its record I know not,
But a vision of it is in my mind as these lines I jot.
Near the northeast corner of the church ground it stood,
It was high, square, painted white, and made of wood.
They enlarged the church—I can't quite remember the year,
But the erection of the magnificent church towers is clear.
Playing in the school yard, we watched how much higher they'd go,
The progress of height to us children seemed oh, so slow.
Father Andrew was near the church every day, and here and there he'd dart
Encouraging the workmen who were constructing this work of his heart.

Life a lofty monument, the stalwart towers can be seen for miles around
Pointing out to the surrounding country where the church can be found.
They are also a fitting memorial to Fr. Kunkler, the priest Pioneer,
Who offered the services and preached here for thirty-three years.
'Twas a sad blow when in 1885 to go on missions, he left town.
This great calamity, everyone thought, would never be lived down.
Two years later he came on a visit to Minster once more,
Into his ears, their joys and sorrows his parishioners did pour.
Three years later, Dec. 17, 1889, St. Augustine Church was draped in black,
Sad were the faces of the parishioners—their beloved friend was back.
The hands, that so often stretched out to bless or give welcome are cold,
His soul has gone back to his Maker—the story is told.

The largest funeral cortege Minster probably ever will see,
Followed his beloved body, moving slowly under the line of trees
To a mound in the center between the old cemetery and the new,
The Pioneer family graves fill the west, the east has only a few.
There he slumbers, still the leader, at the head of the class—
His former parishioners gathered around him—how many—alas!
Less than a year later the congregation is gathered again at the mound,
Rev. Christian Nigsch near Father Kunkler his resting place found.
Pastor of the congregation since 1885, well liked by all,
November 25th, 1890, the young leader answered his Master's call.
His summons: "Come home, young Shepherd, your work is done,
Enter upon the reward your short labor has won."

1900—a new century, nearly all the pioneers are at rest,
Their children and grandchildren have tried their best
To follow in their footsteps and continue the work,
To improve the village and country, no labor to shirk.
We should cherish their memory and honor their name,
Never forget the hardships suffered when first they came.
They labored for our welfare, they died without fear,
Minster and the surrounding country owes its civilization to the Pioneer.
My parents also lie slumbering, 1890, 1897 the markers tell.
I did not visit the home town often after that last farewell.
Fate took me to the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific too,
But distance never crowded out scenes of my childhood, ever new.

1932

A century passed, it is the centennial year,
What would the Pioneer family see if they now came here;
No swamp or dense forest would greet their eye.
Traveling bad roads would not make them sigh.
Instead of the cabin they would see a modern home,
The children not in danger when to school they roam.
They need not set the hen to hatch the chick,
To the brooder now they would owe the trick.
They need not wear the clumsy wooden shoe,
Cloth, leather, canvass and rubber the factories use.
They need not worry with spermoil wick and candle light,
Gas jets and electric bulbs are shining bright.

Of the old covered wagon and spring wagon there's no trace,
The motor coach, automobile and truck have taken their place.
Drawing water from well and cistern in winter appalled,
Now they turn the faucet if the water is installed.
To carry a message or ask a favor, no distance to walk,
Call them by telephone, "Hello"—then talk.
They were accustomed to see the hawk and the eagle fly.
Now the hum-drum of the airplane might make them sigh.
Reading the news of the country in the paper once a week,
Listening to the radio in your home you hear, if news you seek.
To keep the villager warm they bought wood from the farm,
Now gas, a hot air furnace and steam heat keep the citizens warm.

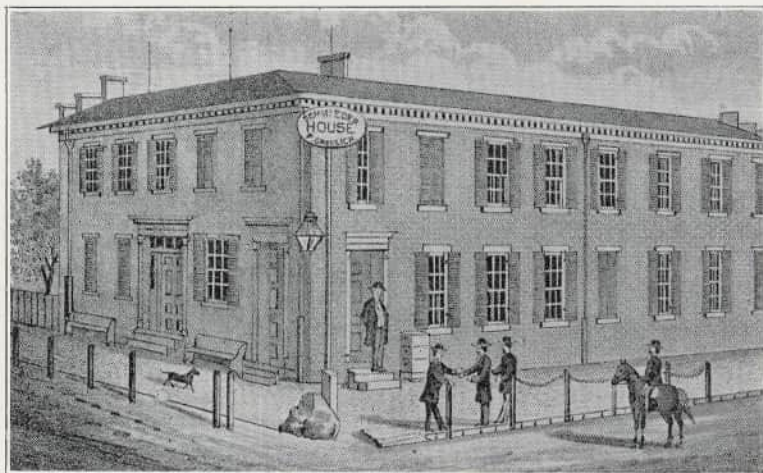
Men only cast their ballots at the town hall election day,
The Pioneer's daughter with equal rights, now goes the same way.
The canal he helped dig is abandoned and full of weed,
Shipping is done by truck or the iron steed.
Coming to the churchground, how the old settler would stare,
His little brick church and frail steeple are gone from there.
Two massive towers, adorned on all sides with a time face of a clock,
In accuracy of telling time any day, the shadow of the sun does mock.
Three sets of steps, sidewalks, a large open space adorn the grounds,
Inside, wide vestibule, stained glass windows and frescoed walls are found;
The sanctuary is beautifully frescoed and has a marble floor,
On the marble altar, the "Eucharistic King" rests behind the door.

Sitting in the nave of their own church walls perhaps they would hear,
A sermon delivered by Father Sixtus, the language would sound queer.
Examining the church between the sanctuary on the east and towers on
the west,
The north and south walls of the pioneer church now rest.
Bewildered, they would look for the girls' school they built on the next lot,
A beautiful modern high school they would see on that spot.
At the west side of the convent they used to enter the chapel door,
Now they find the chapel in the center of the building on the second floor.
A site vacant for more than a half century, the market place,
The American Legion war tablet you there now trace.
Names familiar to the Pioneer are inscribed on there,
His grand and great grand children are mentioned there.

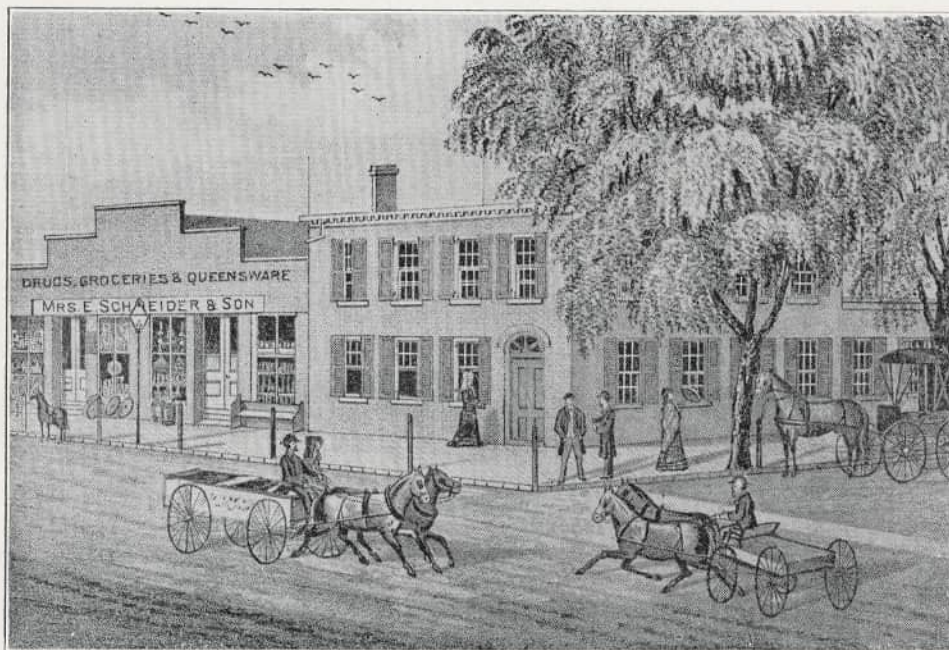
For service to his country he is rewarded by an honored name—
Honor and esteem for his struggle is the Pioneer's fame.
Lest we forget that Mr. Stallo and Pioneers planned the market place,
Why not make this a resting place for the relics of their hardships to trace.
A room as a museum could be arranged, the treasures to hold,
Preserved there for reference when the *bi-centennial* history is told.
What a memorial honoring Mr. Dickman it would be,
Who deserves credit for gathering the relics that there we'd see;
Crude implements of agriculture and of the fireside and home,
To gain knowledge of pioneer life our school children could roam.

The cemetery wonderfully improved—the little chapel still there,
Where the pioneer priest and congregation knelt in prayer.
From the chapel, north, south, east-level sloping to the west—
The leader, Mr. Stallo and his workmen are at rest.
The prayers and Mass service held there have hallowed the ground—
Not far from them their "priest pioneer's" resting place is found.
The structure is frail—a little improvement would be
A monument to the memory of Pioneers this chapel we'd see———

And then—before the last lines could be finished—the angel of death in-
tervened; but we who remain add just this line of dedication to her
memory, as the "great-grand-daughter of a pioneer."



SCHMIEDER HOUSE *Corner Fourth and Main Sts.*



SCHNEIDER BLOCK *Corner Fourth*

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Today, dear reader, you and I are living in this village of Minster, this village of lovely homes, clean streets and peaceful harmony. It is almost impossible to picture the dense forest and treacherous swamp that greeted the settler of yesterday. Gone is the lighted candle on the table and the log fire in the open fireplace. Passed forever is the homespun cloth and the homemade utensil. Let us retrospect for a moment and step back to the years ago.

Each individual then followed his "trade" and they were mutually dependent upon each other. The hatmaker, the locksmith, the shoemaker, the tanner, have vanished and instead we have the manufacturing company of a distant city whose product we purchase from the local merchant. The first merchant must have been Mr. Kuper, and we can imagine the corner of his cabin where the few settlers came to trade wares. C. H. Dickman I opened his store in 1837 and his day books, still preserved, list detailed transactions. Opening a page at random, we find:

June 10th, 1839

Sold: 1½ pint whiskey.....	\$.11
¼ lb. snuff.....	.12½
½ gal. whiskey.....	.25
1 lb. sugar.....	.04
1 doz. eggs.....	.02½
8 yards linen.....	1.00
1 lb. butter.....	.12½
1 pint vinegar.....	.04
½ bu. corn meal.....	.22
6 lbs. cotton.....	1.50
1 spool thread.....	.10
1 box matches.....	.18¾
1 grave marker.....	.50

Money was scarce, nearly all business having been done on a basis of exchange of commodities. State banks had been organized and bank script was the chief form of money, although a very limited amount of Spanish milled dollars were yet in circulation. This money was very odd and when small change was needed the quarters were cut into four pieces, sometimes called "cut money" because of its propensity for cutting holes in the pocket. The value was estimated according to size, one piece being called a fip, 6¼ cents, two pieces a bit, 12½ cents, and three pieces a fip and bit 18¾ cents. About the only money that was needed in those days was for paying taxes, and immediately after these were taken up by the tax collector who went from house to house, the people began to save for the next year.

At the southwest corner of Fifth and Zweibrucken streets Mr. Herman Dirksen made the earthenware crocks used by every family. One square north on the same side of the street Mr. Henry Diersen operated a grist mill. To him the farmer brought his oats (no other grain) to be ground into an edible product. The kernel was first placed in a large flat pan over an open fire and heated for a few minutes, probably a half hour, and then Mr. Diersen, assisted by the farmer, would turn by hand the huge stone roller which would crack and flatten the kernel until it resembled the rolled oats of today. This cracked oats could be cooked without previous soaking and he enjoyed a profitable trade.

The first complete grist mill was built in 1838, a two-story block house about 30 by 40 feet belonging to Herman Suhrman, located about one and a half miles south of the village on what is now the William Sommer farm. It was a horse-power mill and relieved the need of taking grain to Piqua. The next mill was built by H. H. Vocke on the corner of Fourth and Freyburg streets in 1846. In 1854 Sprehe and Depweg built a mill on Frankfort street near Fourth. The water from the mill race did not have enough power, and a steam engine was installed here. This increased the cost of operation and their success was limited.

Mr. Vocke was host at the village tavern, where many a weary traveler halted his journey for a short repast. From 1880 until the new century this was the Schmieder House, famous thruout the county for its genuine hospitality.

In 1842 Clemens Stueve erected the first steam power saw mill. Many years later we had two, one operated by Wieman Bros., the other by Mr. Herkenhoff. This was an industry which became obsolete with the passing of the timber lands.

The coming of the canal stimulated new mercantile trade. The products of the cities were now available at a reasonable cost. The "Arcade" store building, still standing (tho no longer occupied), on the east bank of the canal near Fourth street, was erected and occupied by Frank Sprehe. Prominently displayed were bright hued calicos, heavy woolens, stout shoes and boots, oil lamps, copper kettles, barrels of crackers, dried fruits and striped candy sticks for good little boys and girls. Paper scrip money was in use although many purchases were paid for with eggs and butter. On Main street Kramer's store was established. About 1860 pork packing became the leading industry.



OLD ANCHOR FLOUR MILL



OLD FOURTH STREET CANAL

J. B. Meyer and John Henry Steinemann were the leaders in this line. They also bought the farmers grain which they shipped to the markets at Toledo. Black walnut timber was sent to Cincinnati to the furniture factories.

Barrels were now needed in which to ship the pork to market, and the cooper shop came into being. For years Minster's two cooper shops supplied barrels for the local trade, and as the demand here waned new markets in Chicago contracted for the entire output. Many can recall the buzz of the saw and the musty smell of the damp wood as the cooper bent the stave and nailed the hoop. Gone also are both of these.

Then Nienberg's bakery. How the children were delighted with his cakes and cookies. The designs were so large the cake was cut in several sections and placed together in the pan. A cookie man with blue sugar coat and large raisin buttons, riding on a brown cookie horse, was a real treat with which to reward a good deed. The "zwiebacks" or rusk baked here was delivered by wagon thru all the neighboring towns and shipped in barrels via canal boats to the cities.

The stage coach was the means of transportation between towns. After 1840 the wilderness trail was supplanted by the indescribable, unspeakable corduroy road. From 1850 all except foot passengers paid toll to pass over it until 1883, when the county commissioners purchased the road from Stephen Wedney and made it into a free pike. In 1925 this road was surveyed by the state and paved.

The first railroad, the C. H. & D. entered Auglaize County in 1856 and in 1877 the first train of the L. E. & W. entered Minster. The coming of the railroad marked the passing of the canal boat and the stage coach or "hack" as it was called. Two passenger trains operated daily making connections with the main lines. Freight was handled cheaper and faster. This service was continued until 1902, the year the Western Ohio Railway Co. extended its system into Minster. The electric line offered excellent passenger service every two hours, which so affected the railroads that they reduced their service to only one train daily, and confined to freight and express service only. As the railroad surpassed the canal boat, and the electric line the railroad passenger service, so the automobile on the paved road sounded the death knell for the electric line and on January 16, 1932 the last car left Minster.

The first street lights were oil lamps set on posts at the corners. These were followed by the gas lights and every evening the "lamp lighter" wended his way with his little ladder

to light the lamps. Each morning he retraced the same route to extinguish them. Mr. Lambers and Mr. Theodore Oldiges are remembered as the last of their line. Electricity brought the flickering are light and later the tungsten street light.

The first fire protection was the bucket brigade. Each man was compelled to own a bucket and when the church bell sounded the "fire" alarm all rushed to give assistance. Later the town purchased the old Hand Pump which required thirty men to stand at its levers and put forth every ounce of strength in their bodies.

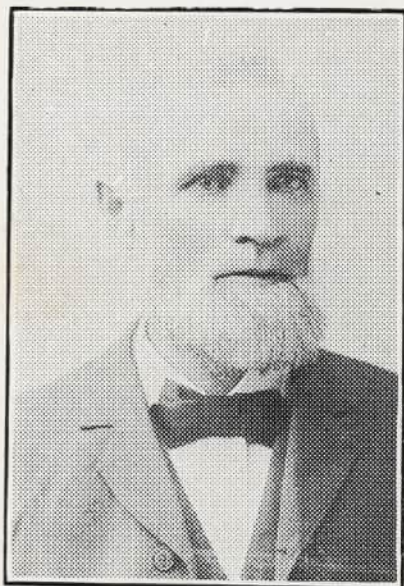
Before the canal boat and stage coach carried mail into Minster it was brought by a rider on horseback. On Sundays after church service the town crier would mount the little platform in front of church, ring his bell to attract attention and call the names of those fortunate to hear from relatives far away. He would also announce all sales and auctions. Mr. Joseph Buessing was the last "town crier."

Then there was the familiar town character known as the "book binder." He was a native German and came here along with Father Kunkler and Dr. Schmieder. He lived alone, kept alive by these men, and no one is now at hand to tell his exact name. Those who recall him say he was tall and very thin, always wearing a dress coat and a silk hat. Some of the older families treasure books bound by him and many young men of the sixties received private tutoring from him. He was very eccentric but absolutely harmless.

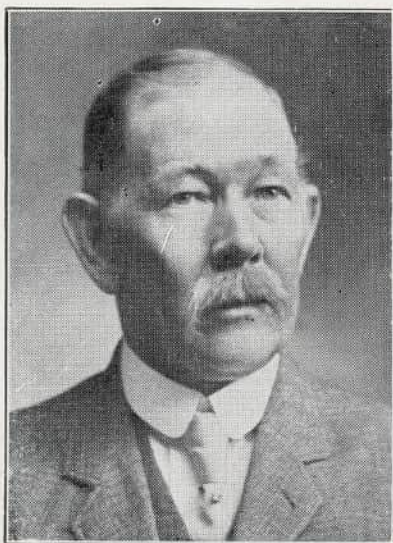
In 1843 when Dr. J. P. Schmieder settled here the physician rode on horseback to his patient, carrying his "pill bag" on his saddle. Then when bottles came into use he made most of his own medicines, and the "fever bottle," with its "directions for taking" on a tag attached to the neck of the bottle by a red string, had its familiar place on the clock shelf of every family. Dr. Schmitz and Dr. Laire had previously administered to the sick and ailing here, but were not permanent residents.

How many of us cherish an old daguerreotype of some loved one. A tiny piece of tin, usually with a very stern visage on it. What a thrill it must have been in those days to pose for the visiting photographer. Today we can have a beautiful photograph with soft features and tinted to almost lifelike resemblance.

Amusement in the days gone by was made to order by the individual. Shooting matches for the men to display their marksmanship, "kaf-fee-clatches" and "schaffskop" for the ladies, and dances for the young folks. And the old



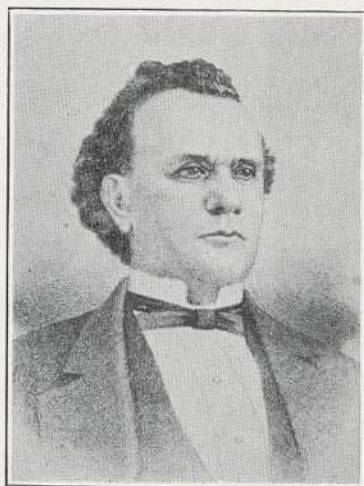
FRANK HERKENHOFF



THEODORE B. STEINEMANN



FRANK SCHMUECKER I



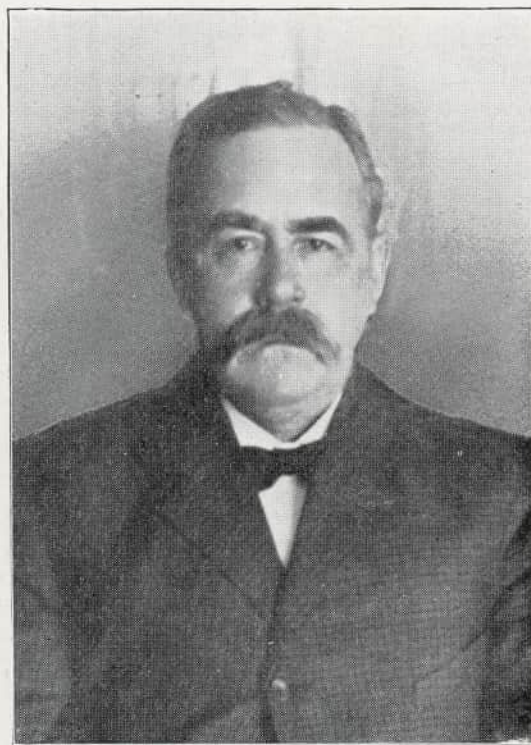
DR. J. P. SCHMIEDER



J. B. KRAMER



JUDGE C. A. STUEVE



JOHN HORST

fashioned wedding dance when a good time was had by all.

The old Columbia Opera House, used for all public affairs, a dance one night, maybe a political speech the next and a picture show the next. And who remembers the first "nickelodeon." Way back about 1905 when we could see two one-reel pictures for a nickel. Usually comedies, impossible ones, and how they did flicker. With the "Intermission please to change reels" sign flashed between reels and a half-hour intermission between shows to permit rewinding, and then sometimes the light would go out, or the machine wouldn't work and there wouldn't be any show at all. Today we pay more, 'tis true, but what do we see? A continuous motion picture lasting several hours. Unconscious of any changes of reels, we see a complete drama, a news reel and a clever comedy. Some pictures are even colored beautifully and move with such smoothness that the eye is not aware of any discomfort.

The mill race has been closed for a long time and the canal is no longer an object of pride. Years ago the water in it was so clear the bottom could be easily seen. Since the last boat in 1904 the canal has been sadly neglected. The "swing" bridges have all been replaced by modern structures.

Minster has been treated most favorably by the elements. Once or twice certain sections were inundated by water and with the exception of the damaging storm of 1909 we have had little property loss from this cause. We have had several serious fires, of which the mill fire of 1912 was probably the most outstanding, but with the citizens here all careful, properties well kept, and with proper fire equipment to protect, much damage has been forestalled.

The farmer today has no need for the "accommodation barn" of the village storekeeper.

It was always a rule that the eldest son in the family would inherit the family farm, and should there be only a daughter her husband would adopt her family name, to eliminate confusion in making a transfer on the county records. In this manner and also thru the adoption of orphans during the cholera years, many of the original family names were lost. But even now we have many of the descendants of the early settlers still living here. The Kramers, the Feldmans, the Steinemanns, the Schmitmeyers, the Stueves, the Thiemans—all these names are familiar to us today.

Fifty years ago the listed business directory was:

John Laufersweiler.....Hardware
Laufersweiler &
Bornhorst.....Boots and Shoes

Sprehe & Depweg.....	Hydraulic Mill
Steinemann Bros.....	Pork Packing
Frank Piening.....	Tannery
Mathias Goeke.....	Agricultural Imple- ments
Bernard Kaiser.....	Agricultural Imple- ments
Frank Bey.....	Meat Market
Goeke & Darlinghaus.....	Blacksmiths
John H. Steinemann.....	Brick Maker
Anton Goehr.....	Contractor
Joseph Decker.....	Cooper
H. C. Drees.....	Manufacture of Car- riages, Blacksmithing
Michael Jacob Jr.,.....	Manufacture of Car- riages, Blacksmithing
Theodore B. Steinemann.....	General Store
Mrs. E. Schneider & Son.....	Drugs and Groceries
A. Haverbeck.....	Hardware
A. C. Schmieder.....	Hotel
Knostman & Hogenkamp.....	Furniture and Under- taking
J. P. Schmieder.....	Physician
Rev. Andrew Kunkler.....	Pastor
William Mersman.....	Saloon
John Goeke.....	Saloon
F. Wieman.....	Saw Mill
Twenty-five years later, it was:	
Grothjan Bros.....	Fruit Store
Kramer & Haverbeck.....	Hardware
H. Kuhlman.....	Millinery and shoes
F. Schmuecker.....	Merchant Tailor
Boston Dry Goods Store.....	Dry Goods
Theodore Kempker.....	Hardware
Mrs. Huninghake.....	Grocery
J. B. Kramer.....	Dry Goods and Gro- ceries
William Nienberg.....	Dry Goods & Gro- ceries
F. Fischer.....	Cheap Store
John Horst.....	Dry Goods
August Schunek.....	Jeweler
Anton Meyer.....	Grocery
Minster Cooperage Co.....	Barrel Manufacture
Minster Machine Co.....	Makers of Machinery
Star Brewing Co.....	Brewers
T. B. Steinemann.....	General Store, Lum- ber, Grain Elevator
John Wernsing.....	Dry Goods, Grocery Lumber
John Laufersweiler.....	Hardware
Joseph Busse.....	Blacksmith
Rulmann Drug Co.....	Drugs
B. Bornhorst.....	Shoes
August Luckman.....	Shoes
J. B. Meyer.....	Saloon and Grocery
Minster Creamery.....	Creamery

The business directory of 1932 lists many changes. We know the filling station with its

courteous attendant. We receive our mail at our own door every few hours and listen to news as it is broadcast by means of the radio. We hear the voice of relative and friend from afar over the telephone.

Today the paved road has replaced the pike, the automobile the horse and carriage; the garage now services the family steed instead of the blacksmith; each town lists the automobile license instead of recording "stray" notices.

Gone forever are the saw mill, the packer and

the cooper, the lamp lighter and the town crier, the hitching rack and the horse block from which the ladies dismounted, the village pump and its accompanying watering trough for the horses.

These are pleasant memories to be cherished by all, and may our labors of today be recalled in the same spirit when the next century has passed. Minster has been the home of our forefathers, and it is with just pride we now call it our "home town."

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

Minster, Mercer County, Ohio

John H. Gossman.....October 21, 1839
Edward Von Beseler.....July 19, 1848

Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio

Bernard A. Wendeln.....November 10, 1848
Herman H. Busch.....December 16, 1850
William Balgenort.....July 29, 1853
Fritz Kramer.....September 20, 1854
John Eiting.....July 27, 1861
Fritz Kramer.....August 31, 1861
William Roetge.....March 18, 1869
Fred K. Kramer.....March 11, 1873
Anton Friedrichs.....January 6, 1881
John B. Tangeman.....August 14, 1885
N. J. Koch.....October 1, 1885
Anton Friedrichs.....May 15, 1889
John B. Goeke.....May 8, 1893
Anton Friedrichs.....June 8, 1897
Joseph F. Meyers.....May 24, 1901
A. W. Herkenhoff.....June 23, 1910
H. B. Thieman.....July 11, 1913
Ruth A. Wendeln
(Acting P. M.).....December 1, 1914
Bernard Sherman.....December 31, 1914

Karl H. Sherman.....March 9, 1916
Benjamin Hegeman.....June 4, 1924

Rural free delivery service inaugurated June 1, 1904. The first carriers were R. F. D. No. 1, Robert C. Schmieder; R. F. D. No. 2, Ferdinand C. Luthman; Substitute carriers, R. F. D. No. 1, George Schmieder Sr.; R. F. D. No. 2, John Woehrmyer.

Village delivery service was inaugurated August 1, 1923, with Elmer B. Gerwels the first letter carrier. Second letter carrier, Julius F. Budde, was assigned to duty November 21, 1923.

The Post Office advanced to second class July 1, 1928, and was relegated to third class July 1, 1931.

Personnel of the Post Office at present:

Benjamin Hegeman.....Postmaster
Herbert J. Hegeman.....Assistant Postmaster
Irwin J. Morsey.....Clerk
Julius F. Budde.....Village Carrier
Elmer B. Gerwels.....Village Carrier
William G. Thieman.....Rural Carrier
Robert C. Schmieder.....Rural Carrier
Julius H. Woehrmyer.....substitute Rural Carrier
Alfred Gausepohl.....substitute Village Carrier.

CIVIL DIRECTORY

DIRECTORY

A. W. Herkenhoff.....Mayor
Al Fischer.....Clerk
August D. Luckman.....Treasurer
Harry Gephart.....Marshal and Street Commissioner

Village Council

Henry Kaiser, President Oscar Rulmann
Edward F. Busse William Bushman
Edward Meyer Peter Boehmer

George Clune.....Fire Chief
B. Ortman.....Board of Public Affairs
H. B. Boecker.....Board of Public Affairs
Charles Bornhorst.....Board of Public Affairs
Ed P. Schunck.....Clerk Board of Public Affairs
M. W. Utz.....Superintendent Light and Waterworks Plant
Joseph Schwenzer.....Assistant Superintendent Light and Waterworks Plant



FOR OUR COUNTRY

**Civil War**

Angelbeck, Gustav
Friedericks, Anton
Gosman, Herman
Haverbeck, Herman
Luckman, John
Tangeman, Bernard
Tangeman, Joseph
Uhlorn, Henry
Wilbring, John

Spanish American War

Hinders, Joseph
Schwenzer, John

World War

(As listed on Memorial Tablet)

Ahrns, Charles E.
Albers, Clem F.
Athmer, Henry
Bachman, Frank
Bachman, Walter
Bensman, Albert
Bensman, E. J.
Bensman, L. B.
Bernard, George
Bernhold, Robert
Berning, Clem A.
Bertke, Charles
Bockrath, Joseph
Boecker, Ben H.
Brandewie, A. A.
Brandewie, J. H.
Budde, Richard
Busse, Andrew
Busse, Charles B.
Dahlinghaus, J. A.
Dahlinghaus, H. B.
Depweg, S. L.
Deiters, Henry
Eiting, Herbert
Feldman, Henry
Fiely, L. F.
Fischer, Charles

Fischer, George
Fischer, Henry
Fortman, Leo
Fortman, William
Fosnight, J. H.
Frey, A. T.
Frierott, F. J.
Gephart, Albert
Gephart, R. F.
Gerwels, Elmer
Gerwels, Joseph
Grothjan, Ben
Grothjan, William C.
Goeke, Clarence
Hackemoeller, W.
Heitbrink, Henry
Herkenhoff, Al
Horst, Raymond
Huninghake, J.
Jacob, Urban
Kaiser, Lawrence
Kemper, Joseph
*Koetter, Ben
Koetter, Robert
Kohnen, Charles J.
Kohnen, Harry J.
Kramer, Andrew
Krampe, Henry
Kuhn, Anton
Kuhn, August
Lampert, Ben
Laufersweiler, C.
Laufersweiler, M.
Meyer, Edward
Meyer, Edwin J.
Meyer, Joseph
Meyer, Joseph
Meyer, Victor
Oldiges, T. M.
Osterloh, Albert
Osterloh, Aloys
Otting, Charles, J.
Otting, William H.
Purvis, C. V.

Rager, E. R.
Reinders, John
Rempe, Harry
Rentze, Frank
Riethman, J. H.
Riethman, Louis
Ripploh, A. C.
Ripploh, H. J.
Roetgerman, F.
Rohlfing, A. H.
Rohlfing, E. M.
Rohlfing, S. B.
Schaefer, Andrew
Schaefer, C.
Schmieder, Fred
Schmieder, S.
Schneider, Louis
Schuler, Alfred
Schuler, Peter
*Schulte, Walter
Schulze, Louis
Schunck, Ed P.
Schwenzer, Joseph
Seeger, B. H.
Sherman, A. Fred
Sommer, Ed F.
Stueve, John G.
Stueve, Henry E.
Tangeman, Henry
Thieman, Charles H.
Thobe, Henry
*Thobe, Joseph
Vahle, Frank
Vallo, Elmer
Vallo, Oscar
Vanderhorst, P.
Weber, A. F.
Wehrman, Joseph A.
Wetzel, S. U.
Weiskittel, John
Wilke, August
Winkler, Leonard
Wochrmyer, W.
*Died in service.



LODGES AND SOCIETIES

American Legion Post No. 387

"We serve in peace as in war." This post was chartered April 15, 1922 and its membership is composed of veterans of the World War.

The officers of this post are:

R. M. Ayers.....Commander
Joseph Schwenzer.....Vice Commander
H. H. Cull.....Adjutant
Louis Bensman.....Finance Officer

Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post

No. 387, the purpose of which is to assist the Legion, was organized February 12, 1923.

Present officers are:

Mrs. E. A. Frey.....President
Mrs. A. W. Herkenhoff.....Vice President
Mrs. Bernadine Thieman.....Secretary and Treas.

St. Boniface Branch No. 799, C. K. of A.,

a fraternal organization organized in November 1895, after several years of growth surrendered its charter.

Minster Aerie No. 1391, Fraternal Order of Eagles, received its charter April 26, 1906 and elected as its first officers:

Joseph E. Schmieder.....President
Charles J. Laufersweiler.....Vice President
August Schunck.....Chaplain
M. A. Anthony.....Secretary
Louis Bornhorst.....Treasurer

Of the original 62 charter members, 16 have died, 25 have withdrawn, one has been transferred and 20 are among the present members.

In 1911 the aerie erected a business building on Fourth street at a cost of \$18,000, and in 1920 the dancing pavilion and ball park were built on a tract of 13 $\frac{1}{3}$ acres, just north of the corporation line.

The aerie has paid over \$15,000 in sick benefits and \$4,000 in death benefits, and now has a membership of 275. Its officers are:

Edmund F. Morsey.....President
Theodore Althoff.....Vice President
Oliver Bensman.....Chaplain
Leo H. Frericks.....Secretary
Al Barhorst.....Treasurer

Holy Name Society was organized January 1, 1931 as a branch of the national organization of the same name.

Present officers are:

Robert C. Schmieder.....President

Stephen Schmitmeyer.....Vice President
Frank Meiring.....Secretary
Edward Busse.....Treasurer

Father Andrew Kunkler Council No. 2158, Knights of Columbus, a fraternal organization was organized in 1920 with 16 charter members. This council has been very active and now has a membership of about 140. The present officers are:

Ben Lehmkuhl.....Grand Knight
Harry Heckman.....Deputy Grand Knight
Leo Albers.....Recording secretary
Frank M. Oldiges.....Financial secretary
Louis Hafner.....Treasurer

St. Boniface Commandery No. 270, Knights of St. John, is a fraternal society organized in September 1895 having a beneficiary fund. Many of its members belong to the uniform rank.

The present officers are:

Charles E. Ahrns.....President
Clarence Huelsman.....Vice President
S. H. Froning.....Recording secretary
Leo H. Frericks.....Financial secretary
J. B. Ahrns.....Treasurer

St. Boniface Ladies' Auxiliary No. 265, Knights of St. John, a social organization having a benefit fund, was established in January, 1932, with 56 charter members.

In 1900 an auxiliary known as St. Mary's Auxiliary No. 87 was formed, but the charter was surrendered several years later.

The present officers are:

Miss Genevieve J. Dickman.....President
Mrs. Bernadine Kuhn.....Recording secretary
Mrs. Isabel Frey.....Financial secretary
Mrs. Gladys Dorsten.....Treasurer

St. Augustine's Catholic Orphan Institute was incorporated February 7, 1851 under the laws of Ohio by John M. Drees, Anton Vagedes, Bernard Wendeln, B. H. Adelmeier, J. P. Schmieder, B. A. Kuper, H. H. Helmsing, J. H. Steinemann and Anthony Wendeln.

After 1849 the remaining settlers cared for those little children made fatherless and motherless by the terrible cholera epidemic. Finally the charge became great and this charitable institution was founded. Its avowed object is to maintain and educate orphan children, and

in past years has given support and care to many.

Joseph Woehrmyer.....President
Joseph Busse.....Vice President
Stephen Schmitmeyer.....Secretary and treasurer

St. Boniface Benevolent Society was organized in October 1871 for the purpose of aiding the sick and the needy, and to care for the widows and orphans of deceased members.

The original officers were:

Henry Tarp, President; Bernard Wehlage, Secretary; Henry Tarp, Martin Jacob and Bernard Wehlage, Directors.

The present officers are:

Lawrence Naber.....President
Joseph Busse.....Vice President
Al Frey.....Secretary

St. Monica's Married Ladies' Society, formerly the St. Theresa Ladies' Society, is the oldest, having been organized in May 1847 by Rev. Salesius Brunner. Its primary object was to beautify and care for the church. This

society has given much to the church, the most memorable of which was the gift of the clocks in the towers. In 1869 the young ladies withdrew from this society and in May, 1912, the name was changed to St. Monica's Society.

The present officers are:

Mrs. John Feldman.....President
Mrs. Fred Steinemann.....Secretary
Mrs. August Luckman.....Treasurer

St. Rosa Young Ladies' Society was established in 1869 to care for the interior of the church and supply the needs of the pastor.

The present officers are:

Miss Louisa Steinemann.....President
Miss Margaret Melcher.....Secretary
Miss Cleopha Boehmer.....Treasurer

Other church societies are the **Children of Mary**, a society for girls of school age; **St. Aloysius Society** for boys of school age, and **Guardian Angel Society** for small children. These have been established for many years and enjoy a large enrollment.

MAYORS

Year	Name		
1839	John M. Drees	1869	J. M. Drees
1840	John M. Drees	1870	J. P. Schmieder
1841	C. H. Dickman	1871	J. P. Schmieder
1842	Henry Zumbrink	1872	J. P. Schmieder
1843	Francis Sprehe	1873	J. P. Schmieder
1844	J. H. Gossman	1874	C. Depweg
1845	J. H. Gossman	1875	C. Depweg
1846	Francis Sprehe	1876	C. P. Depweg
1847	Francis Sprehe	1877	C. P. Depweg
1848	Francis Sprehe	1878	J. P. Schmieder
1849	H. H. Busch	1879	J. P. Schmieder
1850	H. H. Busch	1880	J. P. Schmieder
1851	H. H. Busch	1881	J. P. Schmieder
1852	J. P. Schmieder	1882	John Laufersweiler
1853	J. P. Schmieder	1883	John Laufersweiler
1854	J. P. Schmieder	1884	John Laufersweiler
1855	J. P. Schmieder	1885	John Laufersweiler
1856	B. A. Wendeln	1886	John Laufersweiler
1857	H. Knostman	1887	John Laufersweiler
1858	J. P. Schmieder	1888	John Laufersweiler
1859	J. P. Schmieder	1889	John Laufersweiler
1860	J. P. Schmieder	1890	Henry Busse
1861	J. Henry Hut	1891	Henry Busse
1862	J. Henry Hut	1892	T. Vanden Brock
1863	J. Henry Hut	1893	T. Vanden Brock
1864	H. Elbert, (resigned May)	1894	T. Vanden Brock
1864	H. Knostman	1895	T. Vanden Brock
1865	Fritz Kramer	1896	Joseph E. Schmieder
1866	H. Knostman	1897	Joseph E. Schmieder
1867	J. P. Schmieder	1898	Joseph E. Schmieder
1868	J. P. Schmieder	1899	Joseph E. Schmieder
		1900	Louis Drees
		1901	Louis Drees
		1902	Louis Drees
		1903	Louis Drees
		1904	Louis Drees
		1905	Louis Drees
		1906	B. H. Meiners
		1907	B. H. Meiners
		1908	B. Sherman
		1909	B. Sherman
		1910	B. Sherman
		1911	B. Sherman
		1912	M. A. Anthony
		1913	M. A. Anthony, (died April 1913)
		1913	Louis Drees
		1914	Louis Drees
		1915	Louis Drees
		1916	Joseph E. Schmieder
		1917	Joseph E. Schmieder
		1918	Joseph E. Schmieder
		1919	Joseph E. Schmieder
		1920	Joseph E. Schmieder
		1921	Joseph E. Schmieder
		1922	J. T. Haverbeck
		1923	J. T. Haverbeck
		1924	Louis Ley
		1925	Louis Ley
		1926	August Herkenhoff
		1927	August Herkenhoff
		1928	August Herkenhoff
		1929	August Herkenhoff
		1930	August Herkenhoff
		1931	August Herkenhoff
		1932	August Herkenhoff



PAVING OF
FOURTH STREET



HIGH WATER
IN 1913



FOURTH STREET
IN 1912

Commercial and Industrial

J. J. DUES MACHINE COMPANY

The late J. J. Dues, former president and general manager of The J. J. Dues Machine Company, began to sell farm and threshing machinery in 1884 and on January 5, 1895, erected a machine shop at Chickasaw, Mercer County, Ohio, manufacturing and selling machinery.

In June 1896 he located in Minster and with the late A. L. Herkenhoff became interested in the machine shop business. Some time later J. J. Dues sold his interest in this machine business and began selling and rebuilding threshing machinery. In 1922 the J. J. Dues Machine Company was incorporated with J. J. Dues as president and general manager.

The company manufactures the standard and complete line of "Dues" huskers and shredders, and also rebuilds their own and foreign makes of power farming and farm machinery.

The present officers and directors of the company are John G. Dues, Fred B. Dues, J. B. Kuhn, A. H. Schwieterman and George C. Dues.

INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT CO.

This company was incorporated March 19, 1915 as the Cummings Machine Company, for the purpose of manufacturing concrete mixers, by the following incorporators: C. H. Dickman, Frank Schmuecker, J. F. Kramer, F. J. Thie-man and Ben Sommer. Later the same company added a line of gasoline and electric locomotives.

On December 28, 1921, the name of Cummings Machine Company was changed to Industrial Equipment Company. This company's equipment is installed in almost every foundry, and is known throughout the world.

The present officers of this company are J. W. Eiting, President; L. G. Fischer, Vice President; C. F. Eiting, secretary; C. L. Dine treasurer, and E. A. Frey, general manager.

KRAMER & DICKMAN CREAMERY CO.

This company began business in 1888 as the Summit City Creamery Company, a partnership composed of J. B. Kramer and C. H. Dickman. The first cream was gathered in December of that year and the first butter churned. In 1895 they began buying milk instead of cream and during the next 15 years they operated stations in all neighboring localities. In 1907 the concern was incorporated as the Kramer & Dickman Creamery Company

and during the next years their products were butter, artificial ice and ice cream. In 1920 these were discontinued and at the present time the company buys cream, poultry and eggs direct from the farmer. Present officers are Louis Huenke, President; Harry Komminsk, secretary; C. H. Dickman, treasurer and manager.

MINSTER COMMERCIAL CLUB

This club was organized February 16, 1909, to promote the civic welfare of Minster, and was incorporated July 28, 1924, when the present home on Frankfort St. was purchased. The first officers were August Schunck, President; B. Sherman, first vice president; H. G. Ritter, second vice president; J. T. Haverbeck, secretary; B. F. Schmiesing, treasurer; J. W. Laufersweiler, C. F. Herkenhoff and Fred Goeke, directors. All citizens of Minster are entitled to active membership and the organization has been influential in the advancement of business and industrial relations.

Officers are Frank M. Oldiges, president; Frank Brinkman, secretary; Eugene A. Frey, John F. Herkenhoff, August D. Luckman, H. G. Luckman, Robert Steinemann, Joseph Westerheide, directors.

MINSTER LOAN AND SAVINGS CO.

This company was organized August 30, 1883, by John Laufersweiler, David Beckman, Peter Mittler, Louis Meyer, Bernard Hogenkamp and Nicholas Koch. It has served the people for many years and the present officials are Ben Boecker, president; J. B. Meyer, vice president; Bernard Bornhorst, treasurer; Loretta Laufersweiler, secretary; John Fortman, Charles Bornhorst and E. F. Westerheide, appraising committee.

MINSTER MACHINE COMPANY

This company originated from a partnership that was formed on June 1, 1895, between the late A. L. Herkenhoff and the late J. J. Dues. Their plant, at that time, was located at Chickasaw, Ohio, but the business was soon moved to Minster and the company, operating under the name of Dues & Herkenhoff, specialized in repairing boilers and gas engines and in general repair work.

On September 1, 1895, the interest of the late J. J. Dues was purchased by C. L. Dine and the late C. F. Herkenhoff, and this company

operated until August 1, 1901, when it was incorporated with the following financially interested: C. L. Dine, C. F. Herkenhoff, A. L. Herkenhoff, B. J. Raterman and Caroline Herkenhoff. The name Minster Machine Company was given to this new company.

On October 19, 1903, B. J. Raterman resigned as the secretary-treasurer of the company and his interest was purchased by C. F. Herkenhoff, A. L. Herkenhoff, C. L. Dine and J. W. Eiting. The directors at that time were C. F. Herkenhoff, president; C. L. Dine, vice president; A. L. Herkenhoff, general manager; J. W. Eiting, secretary treasurer; and Frank Herkenhoff.

From 1903 to 1916 the Minster Machine Company manufactured oil field machinery, operated a grey-iron foundry and established themselves prominently in the clutch industry.

In 1916 the company designed and manufactured a product called the Minster Heavy Duty Drill press, and this line of equipment became very popular with the trade.

In 1925 officers of the company disposed of the line of Minster Heavy Duty Drill Presses and immediately engaged themselves in the manufacture of a complete line of Power Presses. Since that time the company has enjoyed a very good business with this line of equipment.

In 1928 death claimed both A. L. Herkenhoff and C. F. Herkenhoff, and at that time John F. Herkenhoff was elected to the position held by his father A. L. Herkenhoff, while Frank L. Herkenhoff, son of C. F. Herkenhoff, was elected to the board of directors. C. L. Dine was made president of the company.

The Minster Machine Company was started as a small business but grew to a large manufacturing concern, employing approximately 150 men in normal times.

MINSTER MILLING COMPANY

This company was established in 1913 after the mill and elevator of Meyer and Schmiesing had been destroyed by fire in 1912. The milling industry has always been prominent in Minster. In 1854 John D. Rush erected the water power mill of Sprehe and Depweg. In 1885 Herman Rulmann Sr. bought this mill and installed a series of iron rollers to make flour. After a few years Henry Bensman bought his interest and in 1891 B. H. Meiners entered into partnership with him. In 1909 ownership was transferred to J. H. Meyer and Benjamin Schmiesing. Under their management a gas engine was installed and the Anchor brand flour, made by

millers Joseph B. Rayner and Herman Oldiges, was used extensively here. The present milling company, of which Edward Sudhoff is manager, has discontinued the manufacture of flour and now handles a complete line of feeds.

MINSTER MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

This company was organized by an act of legislature on February 21, 1849, as the Minster Fire Insurance Association. The original incorporators were John M. Drees, Francis Sprehe, B. A. Wendeln, H. Tangeman, H. Willoh and H. H. Stueve. The first election was held December 15, 1849, and officers elected were: B. A. Wendeln, president; Bernard Kruse, vice president; Francis Sprehe, secretary; H. Tangeman, treasurer.

The original constitution and by-laws were written in the German language. It was re-organized in October, 1908, as the Minster Mutual Fire Insurance Company and is licensed by the state of Ohio to write insurance. The present officers are: L. G. Purmort, president; J. B. Raterman, vice president; Velma F. Schmieder, secretary and treasurer.

MINSTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

The Minster Telephone Company was organized in 1902 as The Minster Home Telephone Company by C. L. Dine, J. W. Eiting, Bernard Frierott Sr., F. J. Maiser, C. F. Herkenhoff, Fred Kramer, J. W. Lauferweiler, M. Osborn, Frank Schmuecker and George Van Oss. The Bell Telephone System had installed the first telephones in 1895, and after the organization of the Home Telephone Company many were compelled to subscribe to both in order to insure good service. To eliminate this the Home Telephone Company leased the Bell lines in 1905 and in June 1910 completed the purchase thereof. It was organized in 1905 under its present name, and has grown from 66 subscribers in 1902 to over 500 at present.

Officers of the company are: C. L. Dine, president; Bernard Frierott, vice president; J. T. Haverbeck, secretary and treasurer; M. Osborn, director; J. W. Eiting, director; Frank M. Oldiges, general manager.

MINSTER WOOLEN MANUFACTURING COMPANY

This company started business as a partnership in 1897 and was incorporated in 1914. At

the present time it manufactures cloth, wool batting and batting. Officers are Charles Bensman, president; Frank Herkenhoff, vice president; Louis A. Drees, secretary and treasurer; John W. Eiting and H. B. Boecker, directors.

MINSTER STATE BANK

This bank was organized in February, 1912, to serve the financial needs of the citizens of Minster and vicinity. It succeeded the Citizens Bank, a partnership banking house which had been established in 1888 as the Minster Banking Association. On November 13, 1901, an attempt was made to burglarize the Citizens Bank but the vigilance and courage of local citizens prevented a loss.

The present officers are: J. W. Eiting, president; C. L. Dine, vice president; August Schunck, cashier; Leo Frericks, assistant cashier; J. W. Eiting, C. L. Dine, August Schunck, L. G. Fischer, J. T. Haverbeck, J. C. Halsema, Frank Eiting, William Nagel, directors.

THE MINSTER POST

The Minster Post, published weekly, was established in 1896 and is now in its thirty-seventh year. It is published by the Post Printing Co., and is a six column, eight page paper, all home print, and covers the field it embraces well.

An up-to-date printing plant is maintained by the company in connection with the newspaper, and its business in commercial printing covers much more than what might be regarded as the normal field for its activities.

The first issue of The Minster Post, with Henry Holterman as owner and editor, appeared March 12, 1896. It was of five columns, and was printed in German with the inside pages in English. At this time the Lampe building, at the southeast corner of Fourth and Hanover Sts., housed the newspaper plant.

Bernard Sherman became owner of The Post on July 6, 1896, and shortly after moved it into that part of the building now occupied by Busse and Berning, on West Fourth St., that is now used for display of automobiles. In 1898 the entire newspaper was printed in German, but for many years now has appeared as a publication in English.

A part interest was acquired by J. T. Haverbeck from B. Sherman, on March 1, 1900, and

in March of 1902 the entire plant was taken over by Mr. Haverbeck, who in 1905 moved into the Kuhlman building, the present site of the post office. From 1905 to 1912 the business was conducted in this location, after which it was transferred to the Eagle building, on West Fourth St.

Within a few weeks the plant will be moved into the building, formerly known as the Steinemann property, located at the southwest corner of Fourth and Cleveland Sts. This building was purchased by The Post Printing Co., and is now being placed in readiness for occupancy.

Shortly after acquisition of the business by J. T. Haverbeck, it was conducted in its entirety as the Post Printing Co., with Mr. Haverbeck as general manager. The business grew steadily, and from July 1, 1918 to January 1, 1923, Louis H. Naber was interested in the business and acted as factory manager. In 1923 Mr. Naber severed his connection here and located in Toledo.

Early in 1923 Harry B. Heckman came to Minster from Cincinnati, and became identified with the company and supervises as factory manager, in which capacity he is now acting.

The Post Printing Co. has installed the latest and most modern printing equipment in recent years. It is a general commercial printery, turning out such work as office forms and folder and catalogue work in one or more colors.

When the present manager took charge of the business only from three to four persons were employed. Typesetting machines, automatic presses and other up-to-date machinery have been installed since, with the result that the number of employees has been greatly increased.

STAR BEVERAGE COMPANY

This company was organized July 1, 1903, as the Star Brewing Company with Math Goeke, president; Frank Herkenhoff, vice president; Charles Herkenhoff, secretary-treasurer and manager; A. W. Gerwels and George Van Oss, directors.

The manufacture of beer in Minster dates back to the early years. In 1869 there were two breweries here, one operated by George Luckman and the other by B. H. Nienberg. In 1869 Lange and Sons built a brewery in the southwest part of Minster and in 1870 the local people

had the first taste of Lager beer brewed in Minster. In 1875 Peter Mittler became affiliated with this institution as brewmaster, in which position he continued until 1898. Steinemann Brothers purchased the business in the spring of 1883 and operated it until the buildings were destroyed by fire in June 1888. The new building was erected in 1890 and the same year the ownership passed to Peter Mittler, Math Goeke, A. W. Gerwels, Bernard Frierott and Frank Herkenhoff. Extensive improvements were made in 1890 and again in 1895, and in 1901 a large refrigerator system and automatic bottling machine were installed. Mr. Mittler sold his interest to J. B. Meyer in 1899 and Joseph Brinkman was his successor as brewmaster.

After the death of Mr. Frierott in 1903 this was reorganized as the Star Brewing Company. In 1907 George Van Oss was succeeded by A. W. Frierott as director.

After the adoption of the Eighteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States, the name was changed to the Star Beverage Company and the company manufactures "Wooden Shoe" soft drinks and near beer.

The officers are: A. W. Frierott, president and manager; Henry Frierott, vice president; Frank L. Herkenhoff, Elmer Gerwels, J. W. Eiting, directors.

Joseph Brinkman is still active as brewmaster.



MAIN STREET



Before the white man set foot on American soil it was the Indian trail over the portage between the Miami River on the south and the Maumee River on the north.

When Gen. George Rogers Clark marched from Ft. Washington to destroy Ft. Loramie and Loramie's store in October, 1782, he traversed it on his way to Girtytown now St. Marys.

When Francis Joseph Stallo and his associates came it was here they built their log cabins.

The first stage route from Piqua to St. Marys led over it.

The first religious service was held in the house on the northwest corner of Main and Fifth Streets.

The first cemetery was on lot 96, Block A.

The first school for the girls was in a house located on this street.

On it was located the home of Charles Lau where the first town election was held and the home of J. M. Drees the first Mayor.

J. B. Kooper conducted the first store here.

On this street was located the first cane molasses mill, the first brewery, the first cigar factory, the first bakery, the first locksmith, the first blacksmith, the first shoemaker, the first cabinet maker.

The first village inn was conducted here.

The first Post Office was located in the home of John H. Gosman on this street.

The first physician, Dr. Laire, stopped on this street in 1834 and the first permanent physician, Dr. J. P. Schmieder, located here.

POST PRINTING CO.
MINSTER, O

