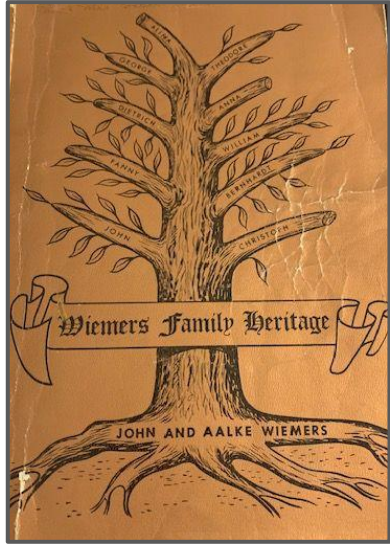




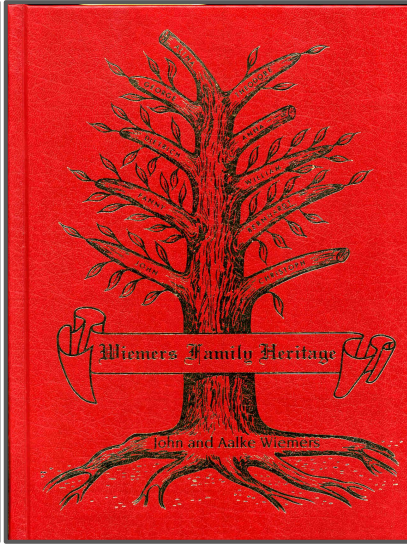
Johann Hinrich
and
Aalke Janssen
Gerdes
Wiemers

Wiemers Reunion 2023

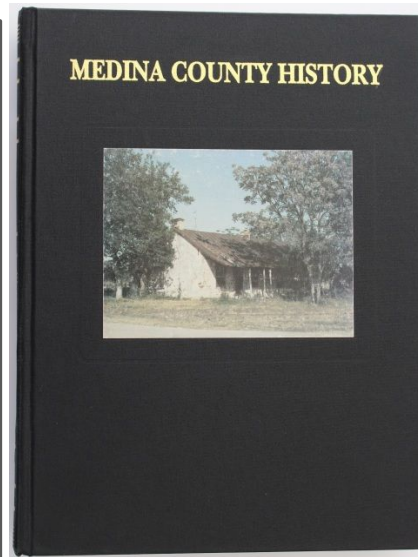
Sources



1823-1966



1823-1994



Vol. I



WIEMERSREUNION.COM



FamilySearch
Tree
Reference

www.familysearch.org

www.pricegen.com

"German Naming Practices"



www.ancestry.com

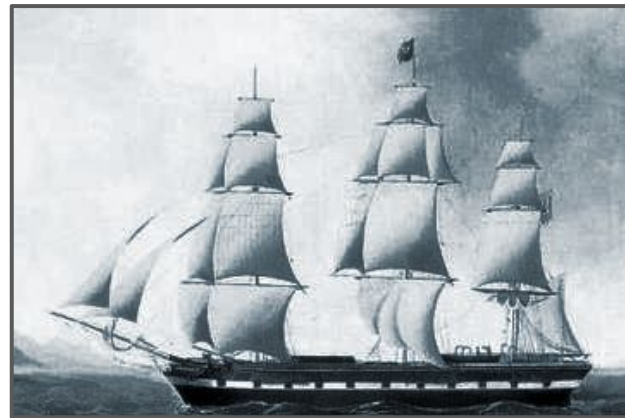


<https://gw.geneanet.org>

How did Johann and Aalke get to America?



Admission on the ship was 3 Bremen Groten (equivalent to \$16 in 1850). Each ticket today would cost about \$627 to board the ship.



Johann
1851

Johann Hinrich (25 years old) and his brother, **Christoph Anton** (28 years old), left on either a ship called "*Herschel*" (102 passengers) arriving on Dec. 22 or 25, 1851 or "*Hermann Theodor*" (84 passengers) arriving on December 22, 1851 to Galveston.



Aalke
1855

Aalke Janssen (Gerdes) (16 yrs old) came with her family in 1855. Her 2 younger brothers, Harberth (age 5) and Dietrich (age 2) died enroute.

Christian Bernhard and wife, **Engelina (Poppen)** with family came later in 1868

Christian
1868

The State of Texas,
COUNTY OF MEDINA.

District COURT Spring TERM. A. D. 1856

Personally appeared Johann Hinrich Wiemers

who declares upon oath that he is the natural born subject of the King

of Hannover that he was born

in Paradee, Kingdom of Hannover

that he is thirty five years of age; that he emigrated to the United States of Ameri-

ca, and arrived at the port of Galveston in the State of Texas on or about

the 20th day of December A. D. 1851; that it is his bona fide intention

to become a citizen of the United States, and renounce forever all allegiance, and fidelity to any

foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly any and all allegiance

to the King of Hannover

and that he will bear true allegiance to the United States, and support the Constitution of the same.

Sworn to and subscribed before me,

this 1st day of Sept A. D. 1856.

Johann Hinrich Wiemers
Frank Reuberger
Clerk of the Court

STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF MEDINA.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the original, from the Records of the District Court of said County.

In Testimony Whereof I hereunto set my hand and the Seal of said

Court at Castroville this 1st day of

September A. D. 1856.

Frank Reuberger
Clerk County Court Medina County

Citizenship Application

Johann Hinrich Wiemers

Subject of the King of
Hannover

Emigrated to Texas and
arrived in Galveston, TX
on or about 20th of
December 1851.

Citizenship Paperwork
of
Johann Hinrich Wiemers

When they left Aurich Ostfriesland, Hannover...

Historical affiliations

-  County of East Frisia 1464–1744
-  Kingdom of Prussia 1744–1808
-  Kingdom of Holland 1808–1810
-  First French Empire 1810–1813
-  Kingdom of Prussia 1813–1815
-  Kingdom of Hanover 1815–1866
-  Kingdom of Prussia 1866–1871
-  German Empire 1871–1918
-  Weimar Republic 1918–1933
-  Nazi Germany 1933–1945
-  Allied-occupied Germany 1945–1949
-  West Germany 1949–1990
-  Germany 1990–present

Frederick Wilhelm IV



Frederick Wilhelm IV in 1847

King of Prussia

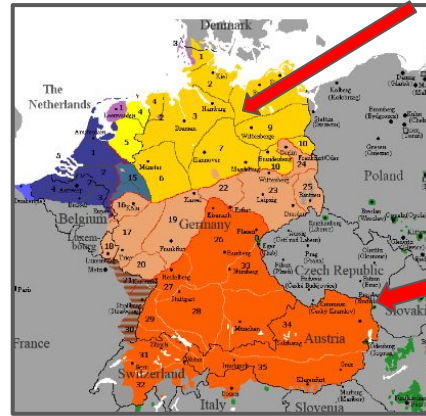
Reign

7 June 1840 – 2
January 1861

When both Johann and brother, Christoph Anton Wiemers (1851) and Aalke Janssen Gerdes (1855) left from Bremerhaven, it was under King Frederick Wilhelm IV of the Kingdom of Hanover in Prussia.

Our ancestors spoke Plattdeutsch!

(low altitude)



Hochdeutsch

(high altitude)

Martin Luther was instrumental in wanting Germany to establish one common language when he translated the bible from Latin into German...This was Hochdeutsch.



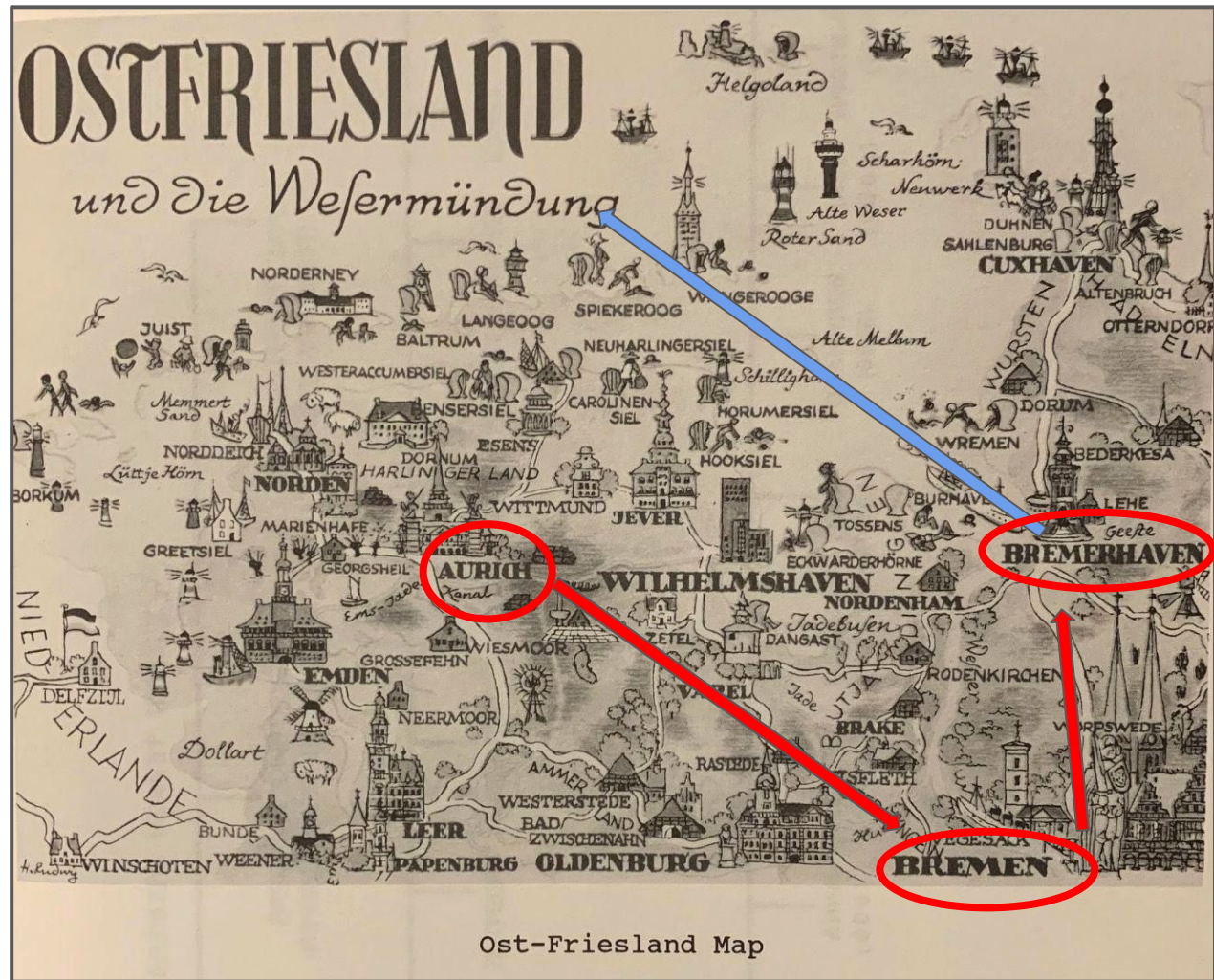


Usually took 3 days from Bremen
to Bremerhaven.

It took 7 weeks (if good
weather) to Galveston.



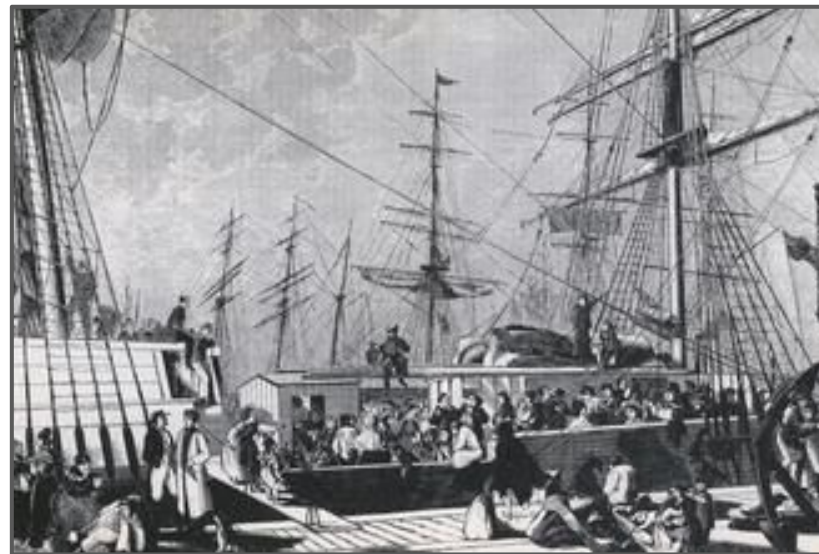
Central Wharf,
Galveston, TX 1861



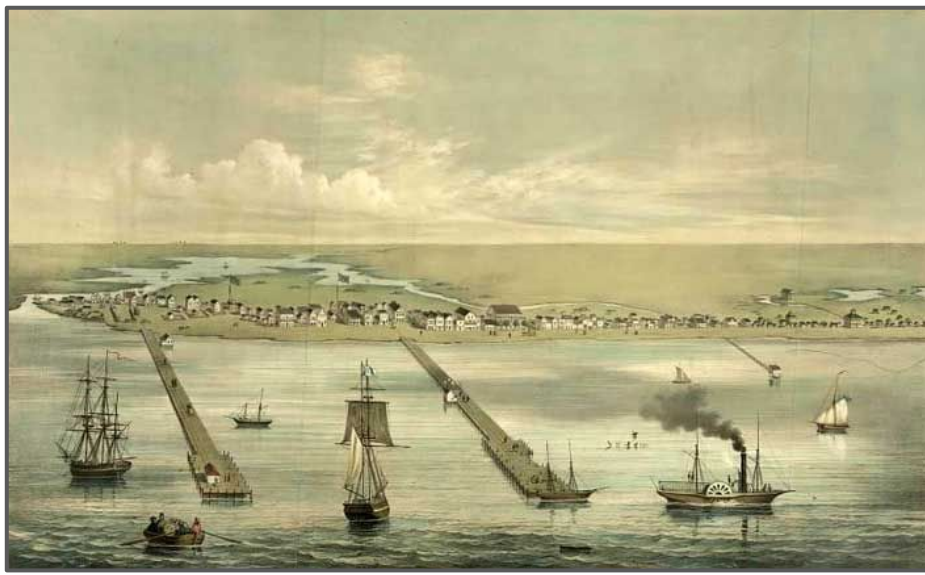
Ost-Friesland Map



Inside the brig



Bremerhaven Port



Indianola Texas, Lithograph by Helmuth Holtz, 1860



Town of Indianola (Indian Point) ca. 1870

The brothers traveled from Galveston to Indianola and then on foot to Medina County. They marked direction for the next day's travel with a wooden peg.



Homes they built when they got to Texas

Tent made from cloth or animal skin

Lean-to—grass on one side and dug hole in earth

Mud Brick—door, small or no windows, dirt floor

Dug-out—dug a hole and built home over the hole

Log Cabin (logs vertical)--plastered walls with caliche & dirt floors, pitched roof, door, small windows

log cabin (logs horizontal)--very rare because lack of large logs, dirt floor, door, and more windows

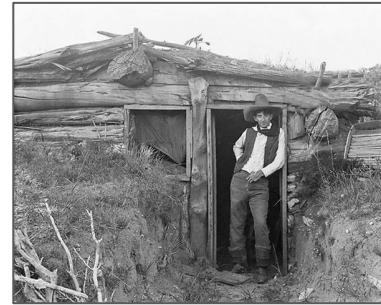
Usually slept outside unless bad weather. Cooking was always outside. Very little furniture—log or rocks for chairs, prairie grass mat for bed.



Lean-to & Brick



Log Cabin



Dug-out



House in Castroville
ca. 1847

Meanwhile...back in Texas!

1836—Fall of the Alamo and Texas independence from Mexico at San Jacinto
—REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

1844—Henri Castro sent first immigrants to Castroville, Medina County (114 people)

1846-1847—Quihi settled in March; Vandenburg in September; and in 1847 D'Hanis was settled.

1846—Texas annexed to UNITED STATES

1846-1848—US/Mexican War

1849—Cholera Epidemic & drought

1850—90 families in Medina County (129 immigrants; 128 US Army in D'Hanis)

1851—Johann & Christoph arrived in Galveston

1855—Aalke arrived in Galveston

1856—Johann & Aalke married

1858—Rev. Shaper circuit rider introduced Methodism and met under Wiemers Oak

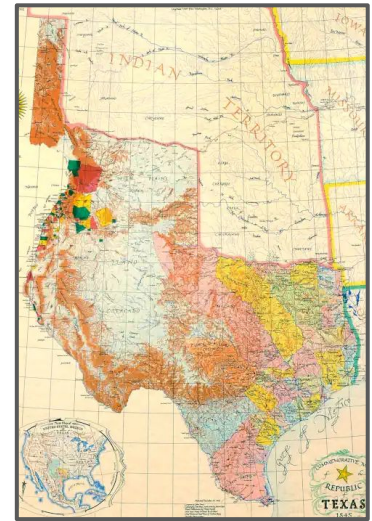
1860—Johann & Aalke gave land and formed Ebenezer Methodist Church of New Fountain

1860—Texas joined CONFEDERACY (Medina County voted 207 to 140 against secession)
—Texas Rangers left; more Indian raids

1861-1865—CIVIL WAR

1876—US recognized that Texas joined UNITED STATES (TX was not allowed to vote in the 1868 Pres. election)

1877—Last Indian attack in Medina County

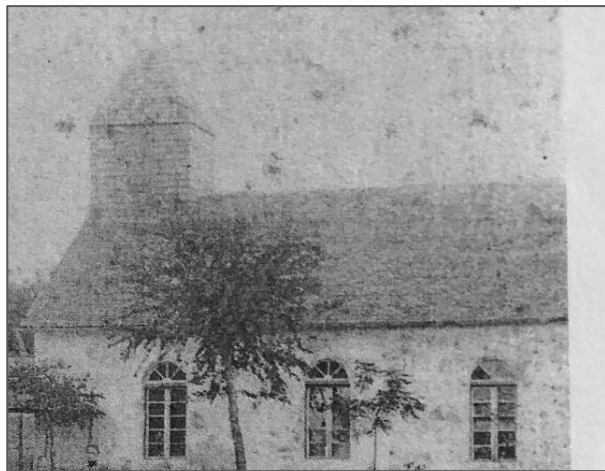


Texas ca. 1845



Kirche Westerende Kirchloog
in Aurich, Ostfriesland where
the Wiemers Family worshipped.

Later in **1858**,
they met under
the Wiemers
Oak at their
home and then
established the
New Fountain
Methodist
Church.

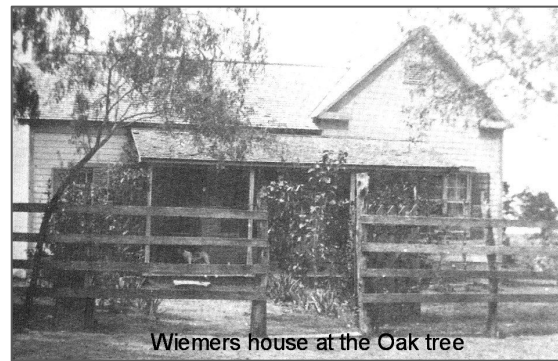


Johann Hinrich (John Henry) Wiemers (30 yrs) married
Aalke Janssen Gerdes (16 yrs) at
Quihi Bethlehem Lutheran Church on
June 15, 1856.

Today's existing church building in Quihi was built in 1913.



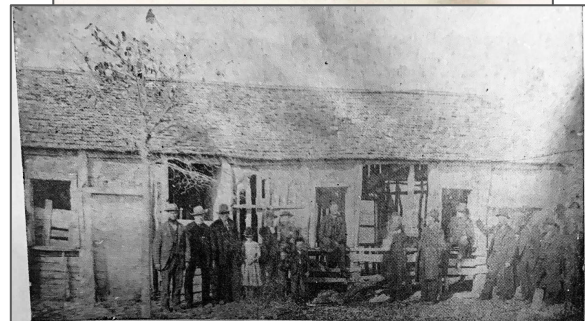
Early meeting under the Oak Tree



Wiemers house at the Oak tree



Early days of NEW FOUNTAIN METHODIST CHURCH



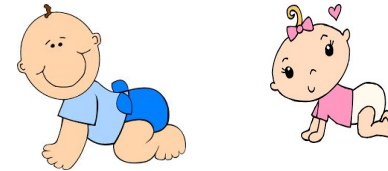
First church building with parsonage annex built (date likely about 1859)
at Soldiers' Camp. Building also served as school building as preacher served
during the week as school teacher.

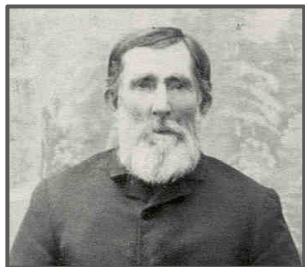
NAMES IN OSTFRIESLAND

“Especially in Ostfriesland”

- Evolved over time—most had a surname by 1500's
Tom Baum (Baum=tree), so Tom that lived by the trees
Tom Krause (krause=curly hair), so Tom with curly hair
Tom Bauer (Bauer=farmer), so Tom the farmer
- Prior generations during 1800's (when they came)

(add -s)	or	(add -en for male; -in for females)
<u>Harm</u> Gerdes (grandpa)		<u>Harm</u> Gerd (father)
Johann <u>Harms</u> (father)		Johann <u>Harmen</u> (son)
Karl <u>Johanns</u> (son)		Anna <u>Harmin</u> (daughter)
- **-No set standard for spelling names & evolving over generations:**
Faselius, Fasel, Fasler
- **Phonetic spellings** or making **Americanized** or **recorder misspellings**:
Ahlke, Aalke Venne, Fenne, Fanny Hinrich, Henry Christoff, Christoph, Christopher
- **First Names**
 - 1st born son=name of paternal grandfather
 - 2nd born son=name of maternal grandfather
 - 1st born daughter=name of maternal grandmother
 - 2nd born daughter=name of paternal grandmother—Aalke was 2nd daughter (grandmother was also Ahlke Janssen)
- **Named after Godparents**
- **Naming multiple children the SAME name** (usually named after the death of an infant sibling; Johann had an older brother named Johann Hinrich that died at 3 months)
- **“Rufname”**= name you were called underlined in records
Some did not follow any conventional naming!





JOHANN'S LINEAGE

Tepke Hemmen Wiemers (ca 1632-1700) & Tjelde Bohlen (ca 1650-ca 1719)

↓
Hemme Tepken Wiemers (1690-1730) & Gesche Warnkes (1694-1748)

↓
Teepke Hemmen Wiemers (1720-1810) & Taalke Margaretha Janssen (1735-?)

↓
Christoph Tepken Wiemers (1780-1848) & Anna Margarethe Lahnemann (1782-1863)

(1st born brother was [Tepke Hemmen Christophers Wiemers](#))

↓
Johann Hinrich Wiemers (1826-1906) & Aalke Janssen Gerdes (1839-1923)

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
[Christoph John](#) [John Christopher](#) [Bernhardt Christian](#) [Fanny Christina Hardt](#) [William Dietrich](#) [Dietrich William](#) [Anna Meta](#) [George Henry](#) [Theodore John](#) [Alina Johanna Oefinger](#)

AALKE'S LINEAGE



Ulfert Fasel (1540-1587) & wife?

Eldo Wolfgang Faselius (1587-1641) & Christine Boekmann (?-1639)

Rev. Anton Günther Faselius (1622-1680) & Gebekke Riesebieter (1622-1672)

Abraham Faselius (1644-1694) & Sophia Catharina Zedelius (1650-1729)

Johann Harmens Faseler (1683-1751) & Marie Hinrichs (1687-1747)

Hinrich Harms or Faseler (1715-1766) & Venneke or Fenke Hinrichs (1722-1792)

Harm Hinrichs (1748-1786) & Gelke Gerdes (1742-1802)

Gerd Harms (1778-1855) & Ahlke Janssen Kaiser (1779-1861)

Jan Hinrichs Gerdes (1809-1889) & Venne Margarethe Dirks Fannie Telken (1813-1857)

Johann Hinrich Wiemers (1826-1906) & Aalke Janssen Gerdes (1839-1923)

Christoph John John Christopher Bernhardt Christian Fanny Christina Hardt William Dietrich Dietrich William Anna Meta George Henry Theodore John Alina Johanna Oefinger

Anton Günther
Faselius
1622-1680

Jan Hinrichs John
Gerdes
1809-1889



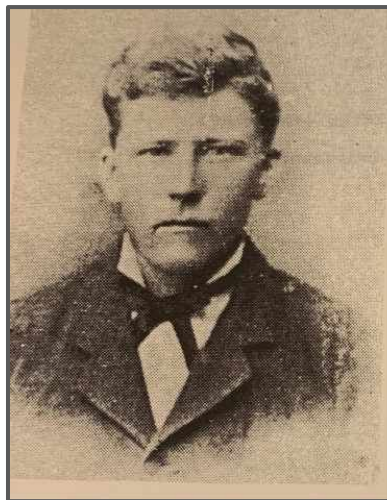
Rev. Christoph John Wiemers
(July 15, 1857-Sept. 18, 1878)

Married on December 12, 1877

Wilhelmina Elisabeth Caroline Voss
(Jan. 26, 1856-Jan. 5, 1939)

They had one child, **Christoph John Helumuth Wiemers** (1878-Sept. 1878).

Rev. Christoph died of Yellow Fever while in LA and then 2 weeks later their son died. Wilhelmina also contracted yellow fever after childbirth but recovered. Her mother died 2 years later of the same disease.

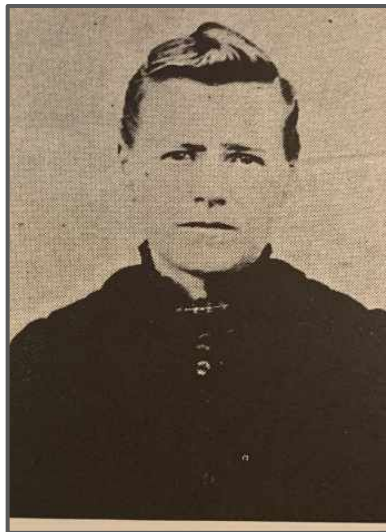


John Christopher Wiemers
(Feb. 24, 1859-July 29, 1895)

Married on June 15, 1879

Antje Faseler
(Feb. 8, 1862-June 25, 1925)

They had 8 children.



Lina Louise Wiemers Oefinger
George William Wiemers
Emma Henrietta Wiemers
Anna Francis Wiemers
Christopher John Wiemers
Louise Melinda Wiemers
Ernest Theodore Wiemers
Lisette Wilhelmina Wiemers



Bernhardt Christian Wiemers
(Feb. 18, 1861-Oct. 14, 1932)

Married on Jan. 31, 1885

Zeda Saathoff
(Dec. 17, 1863-June 22, 1941)

They had 9 children.

Alwina Fanny Wiemers Hartman
Katie Louise Wiemers Muennink
John Alfred Wiemers
Mimke Frederick Wiemers
Otto Jacob Wiemers
Ida Anna Wiemers Ward
Benjamin George Wiemers
Robert Schweer Wiemers
Agnes Alina Wiemers Holder



Fanny Christian Wiemers

(Feb. 8, 1863-Oct. 6, 1913)

Married Nov. 8, 1883

Henry George Hardt

(Apr. 18, 1860-Jan. 26, 1937)

They had 10 children.

Rev. Daniel George Hardt

Alina Hardt

Alice Marie Hardt

Louis Dietrich Hardt

Benjamin Henry Hardt

Anton John Hardt

Wesley William Hardt

Dr. Henry Benjamin Hardt

Charles Theodore Hardt

Benjamin Frederick Hardt



William Dietrich Wiemers
(Sept. 20, 1865-Apr. 20, 1951)

Married Aug. 29, 1889

Johanne (Jane) Ida Lehmberg
(Nov. 30, 1868-Oct. 12, 1907)

They had 4 children.

Wesley John Charles Wiemers
Marvin Willis Alfred Wiemers
Pearl Alina Medora Wiemers
May Olivia Wiemers Davis



William Dietrich Wiemers
(Sept. 20, 1865-Apr. 20, 1951)

Married on Dec. 28, 1909

Maria Friedericka Sophia Karbach
(Oct. 1, 1871-Mar. 3, 1948)

They had 3 children.

Eugene Lee Wiemers
Eunice Marie Wiemers
Peacock
Ethel Lois Wiemers Davis



Dietrich William Wiemers
(Oct. 24, 1867-Apr. 13, 1953)

Married Dec. 29, 1888

Trientje Ennen Bohmfalk
(Oct. 3, 1868-June 11, 1934)

They had 7 children.

John Henry Wiemers

Emil Dietrich Wiemers

Alma Gesine Wiemers Muennink

Theodore George Wiemers

Lydia Ann Wiemers Schweers

Alfred Ben Wiemers

Erna Ida Wiemers Grell



Anna Meta Wiemers

(June 27, 1870-Apr 23, 1960)

Anna was never married and took care of her elderly mother before she died.

She was the family's beloved "Aunt Anna".



George Henry Wiemers
(Mar. 29, 1873-Jan. 27, 1960)

Married June 6, 1905

Ida Jane Ada Bischoff
(Oct. 1888-Sept. 16, 1981)

They had 5 children.

Edwin John Wiemers

Milton Christian Wiemers

Marvin George Wiemers

Minnie Alina Wiemers Buss

Wesley Christoph Wiemers



Theodore John Wiemers
(Aug. 4, 1875-Jan. 3, 1963)

Married 1900

Cathrina “Katie” Schweers
(Mar. 2, 1875-Sept. 11, 1961)

They had 3 children.

Aleen Vera Wiemers Bohmfalk

Wilkes John Wiemers

Clinton Theodore Wiemers



Alina Johanna Wiemers
(Dec. 19, 1877-Feb. 17, 1907)

Last child, Alina, did not marry and passed away of an illness at an early age of 29 years old.