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THE HISTORY OF THE BURMEISTERS

The Burmeisters originated, to the best of my knowledge, in Vahnerow, Ost Preusen, (East Prussia) Germany. Today this area belongs to Poland and the Polish name is Waniorowo and is located in the northwest corner of Poland. They called themselves Hinterpommern (which means behind) and that was the language they spoke. The people who lived to the south were called Forepommern (which means in front) and their language or dialect was different from the north. The large city of Stettin is located to the south; the county seat is Greifice, the Polish name is Szczecinski. Batzwitz is a city directly south of Greifenberg. (All this can be found on the map of the German Empire, map 23, 24 and possibly 38 & 39). Vahnerow was a small town of about 200 to 300 inhabitants. (This information I got from the Mormon Church Library at Shawano, Wisconsin, and is available to anyone interested).

To the best of my knowledge, the group that immigrated to America from ^{the} Port of Hamburg, included Johann (also called David) Burmeister (1792-1879), his wife, Hanna, nee Bauman, (1792-1862), their son, Heinrich (1821-1901), his wife, Charlotte, nee Ebert, (1817-1879). There also were 2 married daughters, Mrs. William Kallies, and Mrs. Schroeder, who immigrated and settled in the Bonduel area. The Burmeisters sailed on the ship, Eastace, captained by a man named Smith, in 1857. The family was listed on the indirect passenger list, which meant they didn't have first-class fare and were below deck with no conveniences and they also had to supply their own food. The passenger list stated that Henry was an arbeiter (laborer) in the Old Country. They landed in Quebec, Canada, March 31, 1858. From there they drifted to Watertown, Wisconsin. My grandfather, William Burmeister, told me that they stayed there 1 year and then came to Bonduel and homesteaded or patented 80 acres of land for the sum of \$200. Said land is still in the Burmeister name. They purchased it March 6, 1868 and was recorded June 29, 1870 in Henry and Charlotte Burmeister's name.

Henry and Charlotte had 3 children: William (1847-1923); Anna (1857-1917); and a son, Karl, listed on the passenger list as 6 months old. We have no knowledge of him; he may have died before they settled in Bonduel. The original house was a log house and stood directly west of the present brick house. In 1866, Henry became a citizen of the United States, having declared his intentions 2 years prior. I could find no evidence or record that Johann, Hanna or Charlotte ever became U.S. citizens.

William married Louise Prochnow in 1871. They were blessed with 10 children. Anna married Gottlieb Berkahn on August 26, 1875. They, too, had 10 children. These children and offspring will be attached to this history when completed.

Some of the early German settlers were Johann & Henry Burmeister, Gottlieb Manthei, August Kallies & Karl Stern. They were devout Lutherans. In 1863 these men asked the Rev. P.H. Dicke of Belle Plaine to organize St. Paul's Lutheran Church. They purchased 40 acres of land for \$85 of which St. Paul's Church still owns 37 acres. From the very beginning these settlers were concerned about the Christian education of their children. Even before the congregation was organized, Henry taught the children in his home. Later the pastors taught school until the school was built and a teacher called.

On April 30, 1898, Henry sold the farm to his son, William and his wife, Louise. This warranty deed was recorded May 9, 1898. The deed read as follows: "Together with all personal property owned and held and situated on the aforementioned real estate of the first party except wearing apparel and bedding."

On October 29, 1910, William and Louise sold the farm to their son, William H. & his wife, Emma, according to conditions of one certain bond of support. It read as follows: "Know by all men and by these present that I, William H. Burmeister and wife, Emma, of the Town of Hartland in Shawano County and the State of Wisconsin, party of the first part are held and firmly bound unto Louise Burmeister and William, her husband of the same place, County and State aforesaid, parties of the

second part, in the sum of \$2,000, lawful money of the United States of America, to be paid to the said Louise Burmeister and William, her husband, for which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, firmly by these present, sealed with our seals and dated October 29, 1910."

Now therefore, if the above bounden William H. Burmeister and Emma, his wife, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, shall well and truly pay and deliver, or cause to be paid and delivered unto the said Louise Burmeister and William, her husband, the moneys, goods and chattels hereinafter enumerated and specified, and do and perform all other matters and things as hereinafter mentioned and specified in the following, that is to say:

- 1st: \$50.00 lawful money of the United States each year.
- 2nd: The upright house, upstairs, downstairs and basement for dwelling during their natural life, but should it be destroyed by fire or otherwise, then a new one must be erected for same services and to be kept in good repair on the same premises where they now reside.
- 3rd: One fourth acre of land near the house for garden purposes to be well manured, plowed and prepared each year for planting purposes.
- 4th: All privileges to well pump and water, out houses, sheds and barns.
- 5th: 5 barrels of good wheat flour, 1 dressed hog to weigh 300 lbs., one quarter of good beef to weigh 100 lbs., 6 good chickens for cooking, 20 bushels good eating potatoes, sufficient vegetables, 50 dozen good fresh hen eggs, 50 lbs. of good table butter, 50 lbs. of good white sugar, 20 lbs. of good coffee, 2 lbs. of good tea, 10 lbs. dried apples, 5 lbs. good prunes, 50 lbs. good laundry soap, 20 lbs. good (chain) lard, 20 gals. good cariseen (kerosene) oil, 5 gals. good table syrup, 2 gals. good vinegar, 10 lbs. good oatmeal, 8 lbs. good wool, 50 lbs. good salt each year, and 1 quart good fresh sweet milk each day.
- 6th: As long as they can agree to all eat from the same table, then said eatables need not be furnished.
- 7th: One horse and rig for our driving, when desired.
- 8th: All washing, mending and cleaning.
- 9th: Good stove wood, dry and prepared enough for one cook-stove and one heater and delivered at the house.
- 10th: In case of sickness, doctor, medicines, and good care must be furnished, and in case of death a respectable burial and a gravestone set for each to cost \$50.00

These are the conditions William H. Burmeister and his wife, Emma, agreed to, plus the money that William and Louise Burmeister set aside for the seven living children, which William H. Burmeister and his wife, Emma, paid.

On March 20, 1945, William H. Burmeister and his wife, Emma, sold the farm to Norman Burmeister and his wife, Esther. The farm is still in their possession.