

## The Unternaehrer Old Place

As told by Albert Friederich Unternaehrer to, with additions by, Rosie Etta Unternaehrer. Edited and typed by Eugene Friederich England in July 1992.

When Frank Unternaehrer reached the age of 18 he knew he would have to leave Germany. (ed., It appears that he was living in Alsace-Lorraine which was a part of Germany at that time. Unternaehrer is a Swiss name with its origins in the little Swiss mountain village of Roomos near the town of Entlebuch which is in the Lucern Canton.) They had a conscription law which required all eighteen-year-old males to register with the government and enter the armed services for a period of not less than two years. (Also we couldn't imagine what war was. Something unbelievable. I learned about conscription in school and it sounded terrible.) Frank, being of a gentle nature, determined he would not do this, but would go to America where he could live as a free citizen and not be involved in war or even training for such.

He left for America in February 1877 at the age of 18 (Naturalization papers). He sailed from Le Havre, France on the ship "Atlantic" (Naturalization papers). He came through New York and settled in Brunswick, Missouri, where Frank had an Aunt Holland. Her first husband, Bill Whitmer?, died. Her second husband was a Tschann (Frank's mother was a Tschann – a Swiss name). She may have had a son by the name of Ed. Anyway, Tschann died and Aunt Holland married Albert Holland, a tinner who made gutters etc. (ed., A. Udell said that he understood that Frank went back to Europe for a while. The Brunswick newspaper, "The Brunswicker" verifies this in an article printed on May 2, 1884. It said, "Charley Tschann, Ernest Wessin, and Frank Unternaehrer of Alsace, Germany arrived in Brunswick last Saturday, having been only sixteen days on the journey. These young men are nephews of the late Victor Tschann.)

Frank worked for Charlie Meyer. He worked there when Charlie started his dairy business. Later Frank worked for August/Gustav? Kinkhorst hauling beer to Dalton using a team and wagon.

Frank became acquainted with Christine Barbara Kuhn who came over from Linsenhofen, Wurtttemberg, Germany at the age of 21. She lived Brunswick with Mrs. Eickle at the north end of old wagon bridge (which was not there at the time).

On 13 January, 1890 Frank and Barbara were married. The marriage certificate, issued by the local German church, listed two witnesses: Thomas Tschann and Christian Kuhn. The newly weds moved to river bottom land, known as "the bar", that Frank had bought for \$6 an acre. This land was across Grand River from Brunswick and between Grand and the Missouri rivers. They lived in a 1 or 2 room log house that Frank had built while he was batching on the land. Around

1905/6, this house was moved back and a new house was built. It had 2 rooms upstairs and 2 down.

To this union were born 6 children: Catherine Anna, 1890, Jacob Adolph, July 15, 1881, Rosa Maria, October 31, 1894, Frieda Emma, 1896, Pauline Mathilde, 1897, and Albert Friedrich, November 20, 1898.

The bar land was subject to much flooding which destroyed crops. After a particularly bad flood in 1909, the Unternaehrer family decided to move to higher ground. They sold the land for \$50 an acre with the provision that they would cut the cotton wood trees to clear the land and the lumber would be used toward their next house.

They found 160 acres northeast of Brunswick that Les/Noah? Riley had for sale at \$40 an acre. Les had planted a fine orchard; but, did not have the money to build a house. Two creeks ran through the farm, Lake and Possum Creek.

In the spring of 1910, Frank cut trees along the two creeks for additional wood to build his house. He hauled the trees to the saw mill to process into lumber. Adolph cut slabs to burn for fuel to power the saw mill. Jerry King ran the mill. The frame of the house went up that spring; but, the rest of the house had to wait until after harvest. The crew that finished the house; John Carl (no kin to the Carls), Bill Bates (Uncle Buds Uncle), Frank, and Albert batched in the hen house during the week – going to the “bar” Saturday night. The house was finished right after Christmas. It was a 1 & ½ story structure painted white with green trim with lots of ginger bread around the porch. There were 4 large rooms downstairs and 2 large and 2 small rooms upstairs all finished and livable. There was a cellar under the house. The house had three gables across the front with a 6' X 8' veranda on the second floor and below a porch with a concrete floor. There were also two gables on the south with a long roofed back porch below. The roof made an ideal place for drying fruit in summer and fall, as it was accessible from the two gabled windows. Peaches were laid out on cloth on wire frames and covered with cheese cloth. These were taken in at night and put out again on sunny days. The veranda was an excellent sleeping place on hot summer nights as it had a sturdy railing all around and an entrance door to the upstairs hall. On the north side of the house was a porch sandwiched between an inside kitchen pantry on the west and an outside pantry on the east with an entrance to the cellar.

This cellar stored as much as 75 bushels of apples and 35 to 40 bushels of peaches harvested from the orchard. The orchard consisted of Ben Davis and Gano Apples with several Jonathan trees, one or two winesaps and one black willow twig. There were a few peach trees, several blue damson and red plum trees, a few green gage plum trees, two or three cherry trees and one wonderful pear tree which bore big delicious fruit until 1985. Then there were the two peach-plum trees that Frank and Barbara planted. Some of the food produced

was a 20 gallon jar of peach butter, fifteen 20 gallon jars of apple butter, 10 gallon jars of pickles, 30 gallon barrel of sauerkraut. Albert washed his feet real good and tromped it. They kept a big rock and a round board and used it to weight the kraut down.

Four cedar trees were set out in the front yard, which were enjoyed for beauty in the winter and shade in the summer. These later were cut down in the 1950s and sawed into lumber from which Adolph made a cedar chest for his second wife. At her death, this was sold along with other household items and lost to the Unternaehrs.

Other buildings were erected in 1910. A barn known as the little barn was 40' X 40' with attached silo on the NW corner and a windmill near the SE corner. This barn had a cupola in the center of the cabled roof where pigeons nested. M.A. Kelso helped dig a well which was the same time the hen house was being built. Sue Atterbury's dad did the drilling. Hit rock at 22 feet. Well went down to 126 feet. Prue Chackelford's brother/ son ? did work.

1910 Catherine Anna was married to a Bud Bates who was a plaster/brick layer/. He would come home in the winter time and help saw wood. This year the hen house, well, little barn, and house were built.

1913 The machine shop was built. Logs were cut for the big barn.

1914 The big barn was built.

1918 The silo was built. World War I was over November 11. Albert was on his way to Keytesville to enlist in the armed forces when the news arrived.

The big barn was located upon the hill to the SW of the house. Albert had many memories of pulling hay up into the huge loft with the hay fork. Other buildings erected were directly to the southwest: A coal & cob shed, and west and north of an out door toilet, then southwest of that was the shop with a smoke house in the back. Many a rainy day was spent mending harness and other things in that shop. A heavy door in the center back of the shop opened into the smoke house where the delicious aroma of hickory smoked meat hung in the air. Hams, bacon, and twisted stuffed seasoned sausages all hanging to absorb the taste of hickory smoke. Sawdust was set afire in a bucket sitting on the floor and allowed only to smolder.

West of the shop and across the "working" driveway stood the chicken house with three compartments. One for laying hens, one for feed, and one for setting hens to hatch baby chicks. Across the driveway, East, was a large wire pen built to house and feed setters. There is a picture of Barbara shelling corn into this pen to feed some of the lazy hens.

There was a cistern directly to the South of the back porch and East of the back door of the house for drinking water. Water was also caught in a cistern to the NE corner of the North Porch. There was a third cistern directly to the South of the little barn for livestock. To the back of the back porch was a huge area of concrete beginning at the East end of porch extending out about 12 feet running around and past the cistern to the West end of the house. There was a short step down to the concrete patio at the West end of the porch. This concrete made it very nice for having clean shoes before coming into the house. The West end of the back porch had a door which opened into a pantry which housed the cream separators and various other articles. The kitchen had a large table running along the West wall with a bench behind it. Frank sat at the North end and Barbara sat at the East side of the table. A pie safe stood against the wall North and West of Frank. The kitchen pantry door opened in directly East of the pie safe. There was a small window in the center of the West wall of the pantry, which permitted cool fresh air to enter. A shade was hung so it could be pulled against the sun. Many a gallon crock of milk was set there on the shelf to let the cream rise and to drink, etc. There was a kitchen cabinet along the East wall of the pantry; but, I think it may have been put there later, as was a large porcelain sink with a draining board and a pitcher pump, by Adolph and Hattie.

There was a large machine shed West and South of the little barn out in the pasture. The threshing machine and other farm machinery were kept here. This shed was torn down about 1935.