

## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

### Marian's Grandmother: Eva Heimann Bahr Wohlleber

*Marian* "She never seemed like a lady who went through so much difficulty. I remember visiting her when she lived at the Ritz Hotel in Watertown. She gave me a nickel to spend at Tom Johnson's store, which was below the Palace Apartments. I suppose I did some errands for her, and then she would give me a nickel- I thought it was really great. I don't really remember too much about her. I don't think we saw Grandma very much, and then you know, you didn't have a lot of money to go into town, so you didn't go.

*Norm* "You had to have a good reason to go to town to take a car or team of horses"

*Marian:* She lived in a little apartment; she had a bed that came out of the wall. I was 14 when she died. It seems like I remember Inez Johnson more, and getting hand me downs from her daughter, Betty".

I can't remember them ever eating at our place. She was kind of hard -not hard-boiled but she didn't like that house because it didn't have a bathroom she told her husband I'm not living there-that story is on the tape. We would have never got the tapes except we went to a funeral out there and a half cousin (Violet Rausch) was talking about the tapes and sure enough we learned more- that's where Deb started getting interested in genealogy.

Deb: If it wasn't for you.....(laughing)

Marian: I kind of wish it wasn't for me (laughing).

*Inez Johnson* "Grandpa Wohlleber came to town to buy the house, and Grandma didn't want to go in. 'Well Pa I trust you, you pick me out a nice house with a bathroom'. That was the one on Maple. So Grandpa Wohlleber goes to Uncle Jim and these people with the name of Schultz wanted to sell their house awful bad, it had no bathroom, just a little bit of cottage, so on a day or two after the deal was made, and so forth and so on Grandma says, "Pa, you take me to town, I want to see the house, and he takes her to town and takes her to see the house and she looks at it from the outside and he took her in the front door and she said "Pa, Pa, for what you buy this house, I will not live here and there's no bathroom!" She would not move. So they owned the house, but she never lived in it. So then, they got this other house on 4<sup>th</sup> street".

*Oney* "I remember Uncle George telling me that Grandma got \$10.00 a month rent out of those houses in Watertown".

*Evelyn Publman* " I loved her raw potato dumplings".

*Marian and Oney* " They called them bulldogs."

*Marian* " I think they used old frozen potatoes, they would boil the potatoes and then mash them with baking powder, flour and salt, then drop them in boiling water. You had to be careful not to boil them too long or they would fall apart".

Evelyn remembers them served with butter, Marian remembers they were served with a brown gravy, with a little vinegar in it.

*Evelyn Publman* " I think she had the flu for Grandpa's funeral. I remember hearing that she was really sick, and I think her sister Augusta fell down the stairs around that same time".





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*Summary of Inez Carlton Johnson and Gus's daughters, recorded interview on July 21<sup>st</sup> 1988 regarding immigration of Eva Heimann Barr and her two children and marriage to John Wohlleber.*

Inez "Grandpa Barr used to do a lot of trading, as mother used to tell it and while he was gone one of his children died. He had quite a time getting back and it was some days before he got home. Grandma Wohlleber took a great big old board and laid out the little girl herself and packed her in cold, wet sand until the father got there for the funeral. Mother [Bertha] would remember how they would go out and get pails of sand".

Viola "I don't know, but I was sure Dad said there were twins in Germany ... Could have been one died then, and maybe one died later"

*Summary of Gus Barr's recorded interview on Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1961 regarding his mother Eva Heimann and his father Carl Bahr:*

"I was born in 1874, in the village of Strasberg, Germany. It was a pretty fair sized town; a population of probably 1200 people, maybe more. My father ran the mill in Strasberg until it burnt down. After that, he bought 10 acres of land along side my mother's father. He planted it into fruit trees and kept enough out to raise a little grain for flour. He dealt in cattle and took them down to market in Hubbard-another town. He raised rye, corn, wheat and had buildings that he could put grain in. He had to thrash it with a flail, that's the way they thrashed all grain at that time".

"My grandfather had quite a chunk of land, about like a quarter here, cause he was an old timer there. My mother had 6 or 7 brothers, some got killed during the war- I guess at the time of Napoleon. They were always talking about the wars that had been in Germany; they said there were hard times before we children were born. And they said during Napoleon's time everybody had to hide their children so they wouldn't kill them- in cupboards or where ever they thought it would be the best".

"My Mother's maiden name was Heimann. Her oldest brother was August Hymen and there was a Herman Heimann. On my father's side I can remember 3 of the brothers coming down once in awhile to our place to visit my father. They were farmers around there somewhere, I don't remember where".

"On my side, there were 7 children born in Germany. Three were buried in Strasberg, Germany. There was Martha, Adolph and Emil. We used to go to the Lutheran church in Strasberg. We always had plenty to eat. My Dad didn't have a real desire to go to America, but his brother-in law Zimmer came to the United States, and he wanted my dad to go with him. He went as far as Hamburg and he looked at the water and, according to mother, said he didn't think he should leave without the family, and turned back. But later, my mother's youngest sister got married to Chris Byer, and he kept urging my dad to go along with him. He finally made up his mind to go, and he left mother and us children all behind- that was between 1882-1883".

"My Dad and my Uncle Byer went to New York, it was slow going; took about two weeks. They stayed in New York and worked in the lumberyard for awhile. Then Uncle Byer got anxious to go west to take on some of the land, so they started out and got to Scranton, Pennsylvania, where they worked in the coal mine for most of the summer".

"My Dad figured on coming back and getting us, but he hadn't made any arrangements with us. He was just going to see if he liked it. Then in November, when he was about ready to come over, he was killed in the mines, on my birthday. They couldn't find my uncle; he left and they lost the address".





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“We finally got word from the man who owned the boarding house where my Dad had been living- he got the address from a letter from the old county, it took quite a little while before we found out”.

“Uncle Byer had gone west and he stopped in Minnesota and wrote for his wife to come. My grandmother thought it would be a good thing for mother to go along. She wanted to keep my oldest sister as she was ready to get confirmed that year and also my youngest sister. Then Uncle August bought the place that we had and they moved in there with my two sisters and Grandma Bahr. But Bertha and I and Momma came over with my Aunt Byer”.

*Summary of Inez Carlton Johnson and Gus's daughters, recorded interview on July 21<sup>st</sup> 1988 regarding immigration of Eva Heimann Barr and her two children and marriage to John Wohlleber.*

“We decided that she came over in 1884- Bertha was 8 years old and Gus was ten. They left the other 2 children, Elva and Mary over there. Once they got to Mitchell, they separated. Gus went with Byers and Bertha and Eva rented a little room. Eva did whatever she could: wait tables, wash dishes”.

*[It appears that Eva and John married in Mitchell as we have a picture that looks like a wedding picture taken in Mitchell]*  
“They moved to Watertown. Mother [Bertha] was 8 years old and wanted to go to school, and so she would go live in with families and work for her board and room. A family by the name of Bradley was very mean to her, their girls would leave all the work for her to do. She left and went to work for Mrs. Sears. Somewhere along the way there was some Dr and his family that wanted to adopt her. Mother went over there and it wasn't very long before she got so lonesome for her mother that one night she got up and told them she wanted to go home. She ran to where her mother was living and she rapped on the windows and said “Oh Momma, Momma, I want to come home to you. And Grandma let her stay”.

*Inez* “It was about 2 years after they came over that Aunt Elva and Aunt Mary came. Grandma was married and mother always told the story when they came out, they ran out to meet them, and of course, they spoke in German and she had been a little Americanized and learned to say “Hello, hello” and they didn't know what she was saying. Uncle Gus was there, and he was so tickled”.

“And you know that stinking old brother of Grandma's, I don't know which one, was it Adolph or someone, had the selling of their land and he kept the money and gave them such a little bit to come over with that Aunt Elva and Aunt Mary often told the story how they sold some of their things to eat on the boat- I forget how long- it took them prit near a month didn't it? The ship was very rocky, Aunt Elva always said.”



*Inez* “In the meantime, Grandma had more kids, more Wohlleber kids, and so forth and so on, had many hard years, my they had hard years out there, like now, you meet with conditions.

*Violet* “I know that some of the Wohllebers went to Grover school, it's in the records in the Grover book; they must have stayed with Dad. Aunt Emma, Will and Fred, it's in the book that they went to school in Grover”.

*Violet* “She had a house in town that was on 4<sup>th</sup> street because I know they used to tip the toilet every Halloween”.

*Inez* “She didn't stay very long after Grandpa died, that fall, he died in Jan, she didn't want to say there to tend to the fires, someone had to be with her, she wasn't capable of it, you know. .





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*Evelyn:* “She had two houses, I’m not sure if she lived in both...”

*Inez* “That is because Grandpa Wohlleber came to town to buy the house: Grandma didn’t want to go in to town, “Well Pa I trust you, you pick me out a nice house with a bathroom. That was the one on Maple. So Grandpa Wohlleber goes to Uncle Jim and these people with name of Schultz wanted to sell that house awful bad, it had no bathroom, just a little bit of cottage, so on a day or two after the deal was made, and so forth and so on Grandma says, “Pa, you take me to town, I want to see the house” and he takes her to town to see the house and she looks at it from the outside and he took her in the front door and she said “Pa, Pa, for what you buy this house, I will not live here and there’s no bathroom.” She would not move, she would not move.

“So they owned the house, but she never lived in it. Then, this other house was on 4<sup>th</sup> street, Violet This one had a bathroom then, on 4<sup>th</sup> street it must have been the house on Maple that got tipped over all the time. “



“I remember Owen and Edger had to go and set that up so many times – so Edgar and Owen went and moved that toilet off the hole it was setting on and they covered up that hole so it looked like grass on top and then they went away and they watched that night, and those guys came to tip over the toilet and fell in ”

*Inez* “I want to tell you something girls, they rented that place, and there was always undesirable people got in there and wouldn’t pay rent, and they would come to the door. By that time, Grandma Wohlleber was with us then, and mother and she would go down and dig at that house, and no rent.

*Oney* “I remember Uncle George telling me that Grandma got \$10.00 a month rent out of those houses in Watertown”.

*Inez* “After Grandpa Wohlleber died she lived in the Grand Hotel and Grandma Kiley was there too, Uncle Jim’s mother. Grandma Wohlleber and Grandma Kiley used to sit down there in the lobby and those two old ladies were awfully cute, they loved to talk about the war and everything and traveling salesman would come up and talk to them. So, I happened to be down there one evening and these men were talking to Grandma Kiley and Grandma Wohlleber and I said “Now there’s a boyfriend for you” and she raised up her hand and said “Inez, Inez, for what I want a man to sleep on mine shirttail? She was so cute-she just raised her hands...She stayed there until they moved to California. Then after that she lived in the Ritz apartments. But first she lived in the Liebert building, up above the Harbor Bar. She was living with us when mother got the word that Lowell had drowned”.





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### Marian's Grandfather: John Baptist Wohlleber

*Evelyn Puhlman* "I just remember he had this big thing on his neck before he died".



*Summary of Inez Carlton Johnson and Gus's daughters, recorded interview on July 21<sup>st</sup> 1988* "Ok, then old Grandpa Wohlleber helped with money, because they didn't have enough when they left there to get the girls home, he got the girls here, but the brother never did send Grandma the money."

*Inez* "I remember Gus telling how he learned tailoring from Mr. Wohlleber. That was a little bit of history and I really feel bad because no one took a picture of that cottage where Claytons is now, and he had his tailor shop in the front and he lived in the back. He made suits, there was no such thing as readymade suit for men. There was a judge, a great big man, in fact he had a chair made for him, because no ordinary chair fit. Judge Bennett was his name. Mr. Wohlleber made his suits and he made other's suits. Then a man came along that would come out from some company and make made to measure suits for all the men, like old Bloom and Lovitt, you know, and that's what put him out of business and then I guess he went out on the farm".

*Inez*: George Wohlleber took him to Rochester, you remember hearing, he had this great big thing on his neck. George took him down and he did fine and he contracted pneumonia and George Wohlleber called the Grand Hotel and talked to Uncle Jim and told him the stand of things and to tell George to come down, he didn't want to be there alone. So my Dad boarded the train that night and when Dad got there he couldn't be saved, he got pneumonia and so then he came back with Grandpa Wohlleber's body with Uncle George. Grandma and Grandpa Wohlleber had moved to town in the fall and he went to Rochester in January. She hadn't been in town very long.

*Inez* "If I remember rightly, Grandma Wohlleber got sick, I can't remember if she got to go to the funeral, but after the funeral mother stayed with her because no one could leave her alone, and then mother got the flu and she was sick for quite awhile.





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### **Marian's Uncle Gus Barr (half brother to John Wohlleber)**

*Evelyn Pulhman* “He had a heart of gold. He couldn’t stand to think of that baby in Richland Cemetery without a headstone. He asked his step-brother’s to chip in, but they didn’t, so he got one anyway. It was just his stepbrother, but he had such a soft heart”.

*Summary of Gus Barr’s recorded interview on Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1961 regarding his immigration to America and homesteading with his aunt and uncle Byers. :*

“We got to Hamburg and the ship we were going to take was gone; we didn’t get there in time. We had to stay in Hamburg a few days and wait for the ship to come in. While we were sitting and waiting, there were people crying, you know, and they didn’t have quite enough money. I was listening, they must have been German because I can remember, and I said to myself, I wished I had the money, I’d give them money to come over. I was always ready to help. I felt so sorry for them, you know. I was sitting there with mother and Elva and Jeske’s wife, Hattie- she was only a baby then. Finally the ship came in; it was an immigrant ship- a freight ship for horses and cows”.

“When we got on the ship it was windy and rough but we went anyway and it got worse as we went on further. The ship got to swaying from one side to the other and the waves kept going over the ship. We slept down below in berths- all at once it got so bad it threw me out of bed and I fell down on the floor.”

“Then the captain and crew were working fast to keep the water out. We had a close call there that time; that was across the English Channel. It’s rough and if it gets windy then it’s worse. That was quite a storm”.



“I really didn’t get seasick at any time until I was up there one day and then I got seasick and then I was sick all over. I don’t know if it was the water that I drank or what made me sick”.

“We wanted to go to New York...but our ship wasn’t dated for that, can’t remember the name of the port, but I remember when we got to the harbor, they had an investigation for all of the ships, to see what we had in our trunks and so on, we didn’t have much, only a couple of feather beds”.

“We went to Mitchell, South Dakota on a train, the boxcar had seats/planks along each side for all the immigrants, they probably didn’t have enough passenger cars to take us and we didn’t have that kind of ticket. In Mitchell, uncle rented a house and we all moved in and he went with the “landseek crowd” to Roscoe or Ipswich. When he came back he got a wagon and made a cover on it, just like they have in the pictures, and we started out across the prairies. My mother and sister stayed in Mitchell. She could of come and took up land, but she didn’t want to. They had quite a lot of Germans there and they got acquainted and they had quite a lot to do. None of us spoke English”







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“They took me-I was supposed to go. They said, Gustuv, you’re going along with us. And, I didn’t say nothing. Seems I was willing to go. I didn’t know what I was getting into ‘til I got to going across the prairies and it was just the wilderness. Mitchell was small, there was no other town until we got to Aberdeen. We couldn’t make over 20 miles/day. We stopped in Aberdeen to water the horses. It was an Artesian well, if I remember. There was some sod shanties and some with boards, there didn’t seem to be anyone living in those that we passed. I slept in the back of the wagon and I was very homesick for my mother. I was lonesome a long time. When we got to Aberdeen, Uncle bought a small raking plow and tied in on the side of the wagon and bought a cow too”.

“I don’t know where Uncle got the lumber, but he rounded up a little lumber to build that shack and we had the breaking plow and the team and he broke up a little to make sod and we sodded up the house, it had two windows in it, one room. We couldn’t get much water from our well,, there was a bachelor who had a shanty nearby and we used to go there to get a little water to help out. Aunt sent me to get some water with a pail and I couldn’t get nothing into the pail because the water was low. There were some steps in the corner of the well, it was square- so I went down into the well. But then I couldn’t get out. Aunt could see me if she looked out; it wasn’t so very far, it was just off the claim and on the other fellow’s claim. So finally she did look out and she came and pulled me up out of the well”.

“ Uncle Byer had 160 acres, a sod barn, a team of horses and one cow. It was summer yet, it was warm yet and we were not able to put in a crop that year. They had a little money to hold us over the winter. In those days they burned hay and buffalo chips. They were real buffalo chips- we could see the buffalo trails and people followed them with their wagon train. We didn’t have much to eat, we had milk soup, as long as the cow lasted and aunt would bake bread. After that she made soup, the same as you would have made milk soup, you’d take flour like you do in the old country, but we used water instead of milk and she’d add a little fat meat. We didn’t even have potatoes; I don’t know how we lived- there was nothing to butcher, but we must have brought along fat, because she always fried a little fat to strengthen the soup”.

“The second year we were busy all the time. I helped, and aunt helped sodden up the house. When we weren’t busy otherwise, we’d take a team and go out and pick up buffalo chips and pile them up for the winter. I would pick up buffalo bones, they were buying them in Ipswich. You could get 10 dollars a pound for a load of buffalo bones. We’d get the horn, we used to save the horns off them; a lot of them would polish the horns afterwards”

“ I spent two years with my uncle, I helped him dig out the stone; he broke a little, maybe 5 acres. He couldn’t do very much with the team he had anyway, only old horses. Then, the folks sent for me and I went. They took me to Aberdeen and I went to Watertown and my step-father met me there”.







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### **Marian's Aunt Bertha Barr Carlton (half sister to John Wohlleber)**

*Inez* “Mother was married when she was 18. She worked all the time until she was married, and my father bought grain out at Grover, and that’s where she met him. And then they went to ND, my father left Grover and went to town of Hannock/Hanton, north of Grand Forks, that’s where they first started, then transferred to Larrimore, that’s where I was born. I was five years old and my mother had not seen her mother in 5 or 6 years and so she wanted to go home to see her mother. We went to Watertown on a train to see Grandma Wohlleber and they were living on some farm, it seemed to me that it was near South Shore”

*Inez* “There was Lowell and I, and the little soldier brother Ernest. I was a 1 1/2 when Lowell came and when Lowell was 1 year old, Ernest came, so mother had 3 in 2 1/2 years. Yeah-yeah-you see what kind of babying I got!. I was 8 or 9 years old before George came, we were in York, North Dakota. We came back to Watertown in 1919”.

*Inez* “On Armistice Day when we heard those bells and things whistle the war was over we said “Now our Bizzy will come home”. About 3 in the afternoon, the depot agent came. I happened to be looking out the window and I saw him coming down the street and I thought Oh-oh. Then he was at our door and he stood there with great big tears running down his cheeks and I said “Is it Ernest?” “Yes”.

“My Dad had gone to the county seat to pick up the boxes that you could send the Christmas stuff overseas and he wasn’t home, there was Mother and I, and I turned to mother and I’ll never forget it, I said “Mother, you’re not going to like this...”

*Inez* In 1921, I was teaching and my husband was managing a store in North Dakota, we had been out for a ride with some friends, it was a wicked looking Sunday, on the way back, it was just black. I was pregnant with Betty, and I looked at those black clouds and I remember saying to myself that it was wicked. We drove up in front of the Farmers Cooperative Store that Tom was managing; this banker came out and said to stop; he said “Mrs. Johnson, your brother drowned” There had been a terrible storm in Watertown. Tom wanted to get full details and I went prit’near crazy”.

“That was the 20<sup>st</sup> day of May-the next day my mother gets the telegram about Lowell. The following day the telegram boy comes again and handed her the telegram from the government that said the body of Ernest P Carlton will arrive at Holcomb, New Jersey the 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> day of May. He was killed overseas in the war - he died in 1918 and his body got in here in 1921”.

“Those days they used to bring the body home you know, and she had Lowell’s body in her home. He was buried the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May and all this time poor mother sat there waiting to hear from the government. In the meantime, this duplex on Broadway was for rent, mother couldn’t stand the cottage after they brought Lowell’s body in the front door, she just couldn’t stand it, so we moved, oh she was he movingest women you know, that ever was”.

“All right, we got over here and we called it the Tappen duplex on North Broadway, and then we got another word from the government that they were leaving New York or Pennsylvania and his body would be in Chicago and from Chicago to Minneapolis and they told the day that it would be June 12<sup>th</sup>. A solder accompanied the body from New York to Chicago, Chicago to Minneapolis. He was not a Codington County soldier but they still honored him. We had the funeral Flag Day, June 14. At that time great military rights were given a solder”.





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“The funeral was in the Methodist Church, they all couldn’t get in, they had to have part of them out in the courthouse. It was hot, like one of those 100 degree days. They put the body on a caisson driven by horses. Earl Hurnt and Ed Kiley were two of his pallbearers. They walked down Kemp Avenue, everyone in the stores was out in front and the flags were at half mast and Mother, Dad and I rolled in behind the caisson. And the “Pax” man played and Mother turned to Dad “Dad, wouldn’t Bizzy love to know he was being honored?”

### **Marian's Aunt Elva Barr Kiley (half sister to John Wohlleber)**

*Inez* “Aunt Elva went to work in a hotel, she was 17 when she came over. After they got married they lived in Watertown, Uncle Jim was working for Elfie Schoener who had a cigar factory on Kemp, around about the Star Laundry. Uncle Jim made cigars and worked for him, then they moved to Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Ed was the oldest, then Ella came and then Uncle Jim went in the liquor business. They came back to Watertown and went into some saloon. I was married in 1914 and they were in the Grand Hotel at least 2 years by then and were quite well established at that time”.

*Inez*: Uncle Jim got out of the Grand Hotel, business got awfully dull...I think it was 1924.

### **Marian's Aunt Mary Barr Lockie (half sister to John Wohlleber)**

*Inez* “Aunt Mary lived in Aberdeen. But I must tell you along the way, that Aunt Mary, after mother was married, came to live with her, in Larimore, ND. I was born and she was expecting Lowell, and Aunt Mary met Uncle Nick and oh, he was quite the flower of the town, because he made ladies clothes, and oh, he was picked up by, what you call, the higher, not the better people, but say people who had money”.

“He was bound to have a wedding, and a white wedding, he was going to have a white suit and he wanted Aunt Mary to have a pretty little white dress and Mother put on the wedding...they were married in a church, I think it was the Presbyterian Church and Uncle Nick had a little room, I suppose where he did all his ladies tailoring and everything, and mother being pregnant with my brother Lowell, she put on the wedding dinner. She often told about that, how many angel foods she made and she made chicken and she often told about that, and she told about Aunt Mary’s dress. Somewhere we used to have a picture of it but it was white and had pretty little pink and orchid flowers, kind of a “Big Bertha” thing, Uncle Nick made it. They lived in a little small roomed apartment and somewhere I’ve got the picture of them in their little apartment, Uncle Nick, had a piano, they were very musical you know, and they were sitting there at this piano and Aunt Mary had her arm on him and then of course Clarence was coming and then they had to get a different place. Not sure if Aunt Mary was hungry to come back to be with her people or if Uncle Nick didn’t have any business-he liked the best of everything, and maybe they couldn’t come up with meeting it, whatever, they came back to Watertown and kept house for Gus.

*Inez* “Grandma Wohlleber was in the Grand Hotel when Eunice and Wilber were married and there were none of us invited; that hurt Grandma and Aunt Mary just said, well she couldn’t afford to have us all to dinner, but I’ll have you later.

*Inez* “But Grandma Wohlleber was hurt lots about the things Aunt Mary would do, she never included her much...But Aunt Elva and Uncle Jim, I will say this girls, that Uncle Jim Kiley was wonderful to Grandma Wohlleber...”





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### **Marian's Uncle Will Wohlleber**

*Marian* "We went to see Will in the 60's. Evelyn was with us. We took him out for supper. He drove us around and showed us his fields. We went as far as the Badlands and then went home, Evelyn was not feeling well. We stayed at Winner the night before; we had a room with a connecting door. I was worried about her then".

*Marian* "Will was a lot like my Dad, he was more quiet than Fred and George. Everett always said he got a little more in the will because he had helped Will out. Actually, Will was in the process of making some changes, but died before he could add the rest of the kids. He got as far as Everett - but Everett did help him move to Winner, with horses and wagons, so he probably should have gotten more than the rest of us".

### **Marian's Uncle George Wohlleber**

John B Wohlleber, died in 1920, George lived on the farm until he moved in 1938, when Eva Wohlleber died. In the will, the farm was left to all the kids together. Grandpa Wohlleber bought it from the family, and George bought the one that Johnny and Francis lived on. Donnie and Iva Lowe lived there when they first got married. Marian can remember once, they "caught" her when she was calcimining that high ceiling in the old house, they stopped over once, and she was embarrassed as she was not ready for company. Calcimining was a cheap way to freshen up the walls, like a thin paint. Marian remembers that Grandpa Wohlleber bought the old house for \$2,000 and sold it to Truens for \$8,000. (Doris Wohlleber's Mom was a Truen, married an Adolph.) George moved to the Twin Brooks when Iva and Donny got married.

### **Marian's Aunt Emma Wohlleber Alexander**

*Evelyn Puhlman* "We used to call her little Aunt Emma".

### **Marian's Uncle Fred Wohlleber:**

*Marian* "We went down to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (that would have been 1961). Evelyn went along, George and Mrs. Lowe were there too, there was a lot of SD people. They stayed at Emma's. Deb stayed with Delores and Marilyn. They gave her a kitten to take home. Brad stayed with Barb and DeEll that weekend, he did not go with. Viola Raush and Edgar were there. We stayed at Fred's, they had a big house; Raush's stayed upstairs, they must have had the celebration at church".

Fred had his leg amputated because of diabetes. They would stay with Gus's family. Inez Johnson was very close to Bernice and Wayne.

Marian: I thought it was so nice when they asked me to go along (that was Delores from Iowa, Fred's daughter) We went down to Uncle Gus's for a couple days. She didn't know them very well.

Deb: Maybe your Uncle Fred wasn't as close to uncle Gus.

Marian: "Yes, not like Dad and Gus. And Gus's daughters would have been quite a bit older. They were a little uppity- seemed to have the attitude that Grandma Wohlleber married their Grandpa first. Evelyn Puhlman kind of emphasized what a big family John had- also referred to Great-Grandpa Wohlleber as "old Wohlleber".

### **Marian's Uncle Ernest Wohlleber**

*Inez* "He was born out there near Medicine Lake and then he died when he was about 2 yrs old, I remember Uncle George saying he could remember when they took him in this buggy, they must have taken him to the cemetery to be buried and he said he remembered that trip. He was two years younger than George" (Ernest is in Graceland Cemetery and so is a Girl Wohlleber- maybe this is a second set of twins).





## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

### Marian's Father: John Wohlleber

*Marian* "He was a wonderful Dad, he come down to Minneapolis to stay for 2-3 days with me. We went to see Jerry Lewis at the Orpheum. He didn't think much of the cities but that was pretty nice for him to come down to stay in my apartment. I can't remember which one it was- I think I could use the kitchen to cook. I met Anabelle and her sister then. He much have taken the train down.

"He met Norm, he came with me to visit Dad when he was in the hospital. I remember Norm was such a gentleman"

"He was a gentle man. His personality was most like Johnny, when Johnny was older. Oney said Grandpa Wohlleber liked Molly Crandall; they went to ball games together. Dad always trusted everyone. One time Johnny checked the hired mans suitcase, he thought he had drugs. Dad always felt sorry for people if they didn't have work."

*Marian* "Her first husband was Grover Gapp, brother to Floyd's dad, they divorced. According to Oney, someone named Leite used to write to Grandpa Wohlleber, "but the only one he was interested in was Mrs [Molly] Crandall, she was friends with Grandpa. Her brother was Orin Crandall, she had a Southern drawl."

"Dad bought me an apricot colored coat with a fur collar and a hide-a-bed that was really comfortable. He bought the Severson place, north of Summit, before he died. He was thinking about moving to a place of his own. I can remember him singing a song about a girl "I took my girl to a fancy ball, and this is what she ate....it would go on and on about how she said she wasn't hungry, but this is what she ate -how he could sing that song! That would really go back, I suppose when I was 11 or 12. He liked to sit with his friends. I didn't like them, Yarns and Walt Meyers, but I guess we couldn't be unneighborly.



"Dad took me to an outdoor movie, we had to nap in the afternoon so we would stay awake. Oh how we looked forward to those shows- they were across the street from Max and Manley's old house, on the corner. I ate those banana marshmallows and I got sick, had to throw up out the window on the way home. I must not have been sitting down, one guy called me "Nipper" when I was on the bench up front.

*Joyce*: "I really can't remember too much when I was small. Maybe I didn't see him that much except when we would drive up there (I believe to the old homestead place. I first remember seeing a grove of trees (nothing else around) and would know we were almost there. When I was little I remember eating canned meat (packed in fruit jars when we ate there). Home made ice cream, too I think. I remember that floor in the summer kitchen which your Mom said was in bad shape. Seems to me it even had holes and you had to watch where you walked. Also the cistern. I think your Mom had a piano there and she could play by ear."

"I can't remember anything special about Grandpa himself, only the farm, I remember when we lived in Milbank and even before my Dad died, my mother would send me to Penney's at Christmas to buy Grandpa and uncles a pair of sox each, 25 cents a pair. I don't remember what your Mom got. When I think back now I sure seemed young to be doing all that."

"Grandpa Wohlleber must of always been nice to be 'cause after Dad was killed I sure thought the world of him-thus I asked him to give me away. I often wonder if my Grandpa Schultz's feeling were hurt 'cause I lived with them at the time. I guess it never entered my mind then and I'll never know. I have lots of nice memories of Grandma and Grandpa Schultz in Milbank. I think Carol and I spent a lot of time there. It seems my Dad and Mom ran around and drank a lot".





## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

### **The House in Mazeppa Township**

*Marian* “The yard could have been beautiful, there were plum trees and apple trees, and strawberries. There were two houses across from it; Mose’s lived across from us. The house had decorative spindles under the roof of the porch all the way around. Then roof was low enough that you could climb out of your window and jump off.”

“There was a room to eat in and a room to cook. You would go into the entryway, and then into a summer kitchen. It had such a weak floor, you thought you would fall through it. Then there was the regular kitchen, and a great big living room with a bay window that had stained glass window panes. One bedroom was downstairs. Upstairs there was another big bedroom and one smaller one. You could put a small cot in the hall. Dad and the boys slept upstairs. Inez had the smaller bedroom and I had the one downstairs. We slept on straw ticks or feather”.

“We washed clothes in the summer kitchen. We would pump the water from the cistern- that house had a pump in the shed. The cistern was under the summer kitchen, it held about 1000 gallons. The downspouts went into the cistern, that way we always had soft water. The stove had a reservoir next to the coal; that was how we would heat water. Some people didn’t have a cistern, they had a 50 gallon barrel. If you didn’t have eaves trough to run into the cistern, you would take a plank so the water would run off”.



*Marian* “The water was used to wash clothes, not to drink. Some people kept food down in the well outside. I remember keeping food cold in the cistern in the summer kitchen. One time Johnny came home after he had been out, and wanted some pork chops that were down there. They didn’t make it; he dropped them on the way up! “

“The old summer kitchen had wainscoting. We had to scrub the wooden floors, and try to get the dirt out of the cracks. Inez and Evelyn and I used to get after me to get the floors cleaner. One year when I was about 13 or 14, Fred and Emma and our cousins and some other people came up. I had those floors clean then! And we had fried chicken, some vegetables and potatoes, and apple pie for dessert. Then I went to stay with them at Uncle Gus’s. He was batching it then”.

“One year I took a charge out at Herbergers. We had a big door going into the bedroom; we probably had a sheet hanging there. I made some pretty curtains to hang up, and we got a blue davenport and chair, they had mahogany wood on the arms. ”







## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

### **Marian's Grandfather Herman Krause**

Marian: “ We always hung out in South Shore, I knew Grandpa Krause but not Grandma Krause, she died before I was born.

*Marian* “When he was giving his things away, he gave us a heavy white bedspread, chenille-like. The Lentz’s were his neighbors. Will Krause lived with him. He was a nice man. I think Oney was kind of like him- and Alfred, too. Alfred had a kind heart, he was very thoughtful, he would always stop in to see Dad. Inez was very nice, too.

### **Marian's Grandmother Augusta Korth Krause**

She was a big women, about 350 pounds. Marian remembers that she died of blood poisoning, from stepping on a nail. Her death certificate says she died of diabetes. Norm Pugh remembers John Wohlleber and Herman Krause had a threshing machine and his dad Clem went to work threshing for them when he was about 14. Augusta didn't have any meat so she cooked a goose for breakfast-she must have cooked it all night to have it ready for breakfast. Clem couldn't get over that.

### **Marian's Mother Hattie Krause Wohlleber**

*Marian* “I remember when she died, we were sent to Henry Clausen’s. His wife was a Beskow. They lived in Watertown. I was 9 going on 10, Elmer was 7 going on 8 and Oney was 12. It is funny the things you remember at a time like that. They had orange chiffon cake, which was really a treat in those days”.

*Marian* “I remember my mother was in and out of the hospital a lot. The Salvation Army gave me a doll for Christmas and Elmer got a toy, too. Alfred bought me a swing for the doll”. Dad had to declare bankruptcy, he could not pay for my mother’s hospital bills. Evelyn was always at the hospital when Mom was there. She was in and out of the hospital so many times, I think she had to have a lot of blood”.

### **Marian's Uncle Herman Krause**

*Marian* “Herman came back with ‘problems’ after the war. I think they call it trauma now. He also had a drinking problem. He blew the windows out of the house trying to light the gas burners on the stove. He also had diabetes and went to the Black Hills VA; his leg was amputated. He lived with Dad for a while. Sometimes if he wasn’t doing other work, he worked as a hired hand and worked for George or Johnny. Oney said the uncles didn’t like it when he came over to visit because he would “ eat all the brot”. He used to say "Istabibble I shant’ worry”.

### **Canadian Krauses- Marian's Uncle Johnny and Lillian Krause and cousins**

*Marian* “I remember Johnny Krause and his wife bought me a box of hankies as a little gift, for staying there-not sure when that was, but it was when I was still living at home”.

Leona Krause Oberg “Ralph (her brother) has the picture of the sod house. All I remember is the granary that was divided in half. They had three kids at the time. They were very poor on the prairie. There was no wood. In the summer they gathered cow chips and let them dry, put them in a little wagon or in a gunnysack. We had so much fun, that is the way we played- we didn’t have any money or bicycles, but enjoyed knowing we were helping Mom and Dad. I don’t remember much about Dad’s family. We didn’t ask him a lot of questions when we were growing up. We were too busy working.”

Roy Krause said he remembered his Dad had said that Will Krause played the violin. They all had violins.







## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

Herman had a violin, he took it apart, and sanded it really thin, he had one of the best sounding fiddles around. Ralph accidentally broke his Dad 's (Johnny Krause's) fiddle. That was in the 30's there was no money to replace it. He always felt bad about that. He laid it on the Chesterfield (couch) when someone came to the door. Ralph took a run and landed on top of it. They played old time music, dancing tunes and waltzes. Herman was a good violin player, he used to play at dances and parties.

They said they went to the states fairly often. Donny was born in 1961, so Leona didn't want to go then (is that when they came to SD?) Leona has a daughter 7 hours away. In 2001 they celebrated their 60th Anniversary and then her husband had a stroke May 15th. He was 1 1/2 hours away, in Rehab. Leona had to drive in the storms and rain, at one time he could not walk. In 2002 he attended his granddaughters wedding.

### **Ralph and Leona Krause (cousins)**

Leona (Ralph's wife) went to school with Roy, she got mad at him, because he was picking on her brother, and she went out to the play ground and punched him. Ralph fell in love with her when he saw her pumping water at the village well. He was getting fertilizer at a store in town, she was only about 14 or 15. He though she had an impressive figure. She was attracted to him later, when she saw him on the ball team. He thought he should get to know her, at the box lunch social he looked for her basket, and few of the older guys gave him a hard time, they would keep bidding the price up 25 cents, until he had to pay \$2.25 for her basket.



### **Uncle Johnny and Lillian Krause**

Their shack was built, hauled from Cereal, then moved to Meeting Creek, they only had 2 rooms, 1 kitchen and a bedroom. Then they moved to Edburg for one year, then to Bill Morrell's place. Harry wasn't living there, Roy was about 5; then they moved to where Harry and Julie live now, and purchased the land.

### **Visits to the States**

Krause's had visited the states just before a tornado went through Johnny Wohlleber's place, he had just built a hop-roofed barn, and it tore the shingles off (1944) there was a family reunion at South Shore, picnic by the lake. That might have been the same one that took the hen house when Mom was living at Kozaks. Another time they came, they had a picnic by the gulch.





## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

### CHILDREN OF JOHN AND HATTIE WOHLLEBER

#### Alfred Wohlleber

Alfred's wife Inez married Floyd Baker, they had Mark and Bonnie. Mark lives in Racine. After Inez got married, Joyce and Carol moved in with Grandma Schultz. Bonnie went to St John's Grade School. She married Dick Martinson, and later divorced. She lived in Duluth, and died of breast cancer. Dick is in Colorado now. They had one boy Richard Jr, who lived in Nebraska. Richie and his wife Linda have a little boy.

*Marian* "Alfred worked around Stockholm for some people name "Hanson's". Alfred was a very caring person. He used to haul lignite coal from Rapid City, and sell it. It was a soft coal, cheap, they used it to burn. That's the way you had to make your money when you didn't have a job. He never got confirmed with the rest of us kids, I suppose he and Everett went to work at about that age, and were not home anymore".

Marian: "I think Alfred got in with the wrong crowd and then he started drinking. "

*Oney* " Alfred was killed near Rapid City, on the Ellsworth Air Base. He drove out to visit me when I was in CC camp, about 8 or 9 miles from Hill City. He bought a brand new 1940 Chevy for \$750 the fall before Inez got killed, and then he traded for a special deluxe 1941. Inez must have driven it back after the accident. I don't know what tribe he had working for him, I'm not sure if they were getting along too well. Rossie didn't relieve him so he drove straight through on the day he was killed"

"He was a muscled man, they called him "Dempsey", he got his name when he took his shirt off in the gravel pit. Alfred carried lignite coal from Rapid City to Milbank. He probably took it to a lumberyard, that is where we would buy it. It was hard to burn, took a lot of kerosene. He would always stop and visit Dad when he was at the Hubert Hotel".

Marian "They played "Beyond the Sunset" at his funeral. They had it at the Methodist church. He never was confirmed as a Lutheran.



Marian "I think his wife Inez might have had a miscarriage around the time he died, also."  
Carol, Alfred's other daughter, also passed away, and his son Dean died as an infant.

**Mom' memories of her brothers:** Everett was handsome, Johnny too, Oney looked like the Krauses, especially Otto Krause, and Elmer looked like my Dad.

#### Everett Wohlleber

*Dad* "Everett had a cart that he used to haul his stallion around to breed horses; later he got a truck. People wanted to raise their own horses; a good horse was about \$500.00. He would wait until they got one, then he charged fifteen dollars if it was a female and ten dollars it was a male".





## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

*Marian* “When Lillie was still alive, before we were married, they had a house south of Vi and Oney’s, but it burned down. They lost everything. It was ½ mile south of the old Wohlleber place. Padgett’s lived there once, too. Lillie was a really good cook- fresh bread and cookies. She was kind of shy”.

“ One time when Joyce was out visiting, we all went to Ike’s Chicken Shack. Everett bought the lots that Alfred had bought when his son was buried. But, he wanted to buy them for the price that Alfred paid!”.

*Ernest Beyers* “ Around 1930, one of your Uncles, I think it was Everett, brought George out, and they stopped in and spent the night with us. George had bought a thrashing machine west of the Mississippi”.

*Marian* “ Everett helped Will on his ranch, so he got a little more inheritance from Will, for helping him move.

### Johnny Wohlleber

*Marian* “Johnny was stationed at Camp McCoy, near Sparta. Before he was married, and before he went into the service, he worked in Madison, Minnesota for awhile- he liked the farmer he worked for; his name was Schlosser. I think he came to visit John in South Dakota once, too.”

Francis grew up in Kilborn township. She met Johnny when she was working in the St Hubert Motel in Milbank. She was a cook and Johnny was a maintenance man. The Mehegan’s were there then, they said “Magee”

“They went off to get married and her family had dinner for all of us- I think it was pork chops”. Mom said that was the first time the families met.

Johnny had a broken arm or elbow as a kid; he couldn’t straighten out his arm. He was an MP. He was discharged from the service because he couldn’t shoot the gun straight. He was at Camp McCoy.

### Inez Wohlleber- sister

*Mom* “Inez stayed with Emma Steinocher when she was 15, for part of a year. She went to high school in South Shore. Maybe you could contact Mrs. Rausch, Emma’s daughter, to see if she remembers anything about Inez. She lives in California.”

“Inez worked for some Judge in Watertown, and for Halbergs, who owned the clothing store. Some had two people working for them. One to do the cooking and one to take care of the children. She could really cook- I’ll never forget how light her biscuits were-and the fancy lemon meringue pie she made, the meringue was really high”.

“I went to visit her, I would stay for an hour or so. I remember thinking that she had it made. She would sit under the hair dryer fixing her hair to go out and she would say, sit over here where I can see you. She had a bowl of candy kisses, and told me to take some.”

“ The night of the accident, she left the dance with her friends. There were nine in the car and they ran out of gas. A truck came along and hit them. Two people lived 3 days and she was one of them. Evelyn was there every day. We heard about it constantly on the radio. We visited her in the hospital. Some of the people had to be pried out of the car, but she looked perfect, like nothing happened. She always had her hair fixed perfectly, and she didn’t have a hair out of place. I remember as I looked at her I saw a tear in the corner of her eye”.





## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

*Marian* “Howard Meyer came to visit Inez when she had the flu. He went up to see her in her room and I remember Dad did not like that. Larry Schauf was a friend of Inez’s. He worked on the farm in Lester Prairie. He was not around as much as Inez wanted. We never met him when they dated, but he asked for her picture after she died, before he went into the service”. He thought a lot of her. He kept in touch with Oney. They used to double-date. He joined the service, and Ingaman Jenson ran into him in the Army”. We wrote to him for a long time, and we met him once in Watertown”.

“Everyone liked him a lot- we had his picture but it got thrown away. He got married, probably had some children. He’s gone now, too. I kind of thought I could get him, but he didn’t go for me”. (Larry Schauf was born in SD, in the Elrod Township, Clark County census in 1920, born in 1919).

”I used to write to Ingaman Jenson when he was in the service. He was a nice guy, from Denmark. He was a cousin to Haaken. He ran into Larry when he was in Ft Lewis Washington where they were training and they got to talking about who they knew”.

Knute Erickson went to school with Inez – Betty's brother-in-law, she married Henry.

Mavis Krause said they wanted Inez to come out to Washington, but she did not want to be so far from her Dad.

“I remember reading that Geraldine Tesch celebrated her BD at the Senior Citizen Center (per SD marriages, Jeraldine Schultz married Melvin A Tesch in 1938. He married again in 1945 so they must have been divorced. She was born May 18 1919 and died November 1976)” She was friends with Inez.

*Mauriece Southwick* ”As to where your mom’s family lived, I’ll have to ask around. All I’m sure of is that the John Wohlleber family lived on the George Wohlleber farm across the road from us. Here were two families with no mother. John was good to help do anything around the house. My Dad had to be cared for by us kids. Your Grandpa always made sure they had what they needed; Inez had a gas washing machine. She would have me over to wash clothes, because we did not have a gas washing machine. We both had five brothers and a Father to wash for- imagine, we would do all those muddy overalls, - and we never knew enough to change the water!” Inez was about my age and we were good friends. I felt so bad when she was killed in a car accident. John was a little older and my brothers used to tease me about him. Elmer played with my youngest brother Bob. The George Wohlleber’s moved to the Wilmot area. “

“We also remember John Wohlleber’s living on the Kozak place. There was a schoolhouse south of their place where I’m sure the kids went to school. When living on the George W. place the kids went to school at Mazeppa 2 located west to the first road then about two miles north. We and Southwicks all went to Mazeppa 3. The man’s name who is writing the history of schools in Grant County is Steve Misener. He lives in the next house west of us on the south side of the street (road) -Johnson Avenue”.



*Ernest Beyers* , regarding the picture of Inez’s funeral “ My Uncle Will had a new Ford car in 1940, he wanted to drive us all to Inez’s funeral. I am sure my aunt and mother were on that picture, but they must be in the back”.

### **Evelyn Wohlleber Holmes-sister**

*Marian* “June Kannas came home with me from school one day. Evelyn had fig cookies after school; that was a treat”.

“If someone would ask her out, like Emil Lege, or Benny Buste, she would have me ask Dad if she could go out, then I would go and whisper to him”.





## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

*Norm* “That was kind of the German way, the girls would ask their Dad’s for permission”.

*Marian* “Rich and Evelyn went to Webster to get married. They lived in South Shore for a while, he was a bartender. I'm not sure what age I was when Evelyn got married, but she wasn't very far, about two miles on a farm across the field. She would cross the field and walk over-maybe once or twice a week, but she usually had so much work to do right there. I'm not sure if she wanted to get married. Johnny Zirbel was a friend of Rich's; I think they met on a blind date. We really didn't have anything in common with the Holmes. Evelyn and Rich were friends with the Crawford's, their son owns the Crawford Mortuary in Watertown”.

*Marian* “Evelyn mothered everyone. She would have everyone for Thanksgiving; she'd have a big dinner at Wilmot. She loved children. She had a miscarriage, once, she fell on the steps, I think she had a tumor after that, and could never have any children of her own”.

*Mom* “One time I was at a dance with Rich and Evelyn- I was 18 and he wouldn't let someone drive me home” Evelyn worked so hard, she probably only got to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She missed a lot of school. One time they took me to Valley City, ND. Rich was working up there and they took me with them, I guess to give me a change of scenery. I don't remember where we stayed, but I remember we had a picture taken there.

*Marian* “They came here after their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and spent the weekend. She brought a lot of food, they spent a night with us, I wasn't able to come out, I was expecting Tom.

*Marian.* “I wanted to stay out there when she was sick and in the hospital. Sylvia Allander, her good friend, and Rich kept saying she was going to be OK. They must have come down for Thanksgiving, too.

*Marian* “I used to fix Evelyn's hair, Lillies's hair and Grandma Holmes's hair. Rich always liked to go to weddings.

*Marian:* Ken Holmes was a clerk of court in Milbank-Rich's brother.



*Marian* “I always looked up to Oney and Evelyn. Evelyn was always there when anyone needed her. She would babysit and stay all night with the kids”. One time, on the way to get her to babysit, Mom drove Oney's car, and she and Vi went into the ditch. Oney had a great big Hudson, he could see something had happened”.

### ***Memories from Barbara Bernstein, niece of Rich and Evelyn.***

“Evelyn was probably the nicest women I ever met. All the kids loved her, and they loved all the kids. Rich was pretty much a confirmed bachelor when he married her. She took good care of him and he took care of her, too. She was the janitor at the Lutheran church for years. Sometimes Rich would help her...they often would have trouble with beer cans thrown into their yard. Rich would go around picking them up. He would clean all the yards, down to the church at the end of town. One time the minister asked him why he was doing that-did he have a guilty conscious? He quit picking up their beer cans”.

“They started on the farm by South Shore, it was called the Evergreen Stock Farm. Later they came to Wilmot and lived with Grandma Holmes until she died. She owned the house to begin with. After Evelyn got some inheritance, they bought the house from her, and added a bathroom.





## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

### Rich Holmes

“Rich tried to get into the CC camp, but was turned down in 1945 for being too old. He always worked on construction. He had been in training for WW 1, but it was over before he was finished”.

“Rich sold a lot of his stuff before moving into the apartment. A week before he died, he couldn't get out of his car. We took him to the hospital then. He had lung cancer and emphysema. They let him smoke in the hospital. The doctor said we would keep him as comfortable as possible, no sense making him quit smoking, at that stage it was too late. I was with him when he died. He had been given some medicine for pain, and then he just went to sleep.”

### Deb Remembers Evelyn and Wilmot, South Dakota.

We used to call her Uhvie.....I don't know how that name got started; I suppose we couldn't say her name. I remember going there on the train and meeting Rich and Evelyn in Milbank, driving to Wilmot on the road along the Big Stone Lake. It was pitch dark; sometimes it was foggy and sometimes, by the light of the headlights, we could see frogs hopping all over the road. When we got there, late at night, she'd make grilled cheese sandwiches or fried egg sandwiches. They were always fried in butter. In the morning she'd make a big breakfast. Those train rides must have really made us hungry!

When we first went to visit her, they had an outdoor toilet. I don't remember when they got an indoor toilet, but we were sure glad when she did.

When I was really little I remember we had to be quiet; Grandma Holmes lived with them and she had the bedroom downstairs. She had a long braid that she would curl around the top of her head. We would watch her comb her hair and braid it. Sometimes she had Mom do it. She didn't drink coffee- just hot water out of fine china. She made braided rugs- she taught me how to braid. I would tie the cloth onto the back of the spokes of a wooden chair, so I could pull as I braided. They were not as even as hers!

She would teach me how to play a few songs on the piano and when she died I got her piano. Dad borrowed Manly Owen's horse trailer and they brought the old upright to the cities. After I married Dan, we brought it back to South Dakota. I had to leave it in the house after Dan died, I didn't know where I was going and there was nowhere to store it. I'll always regret that.



Grandma Holmes used to sit in an old rocker that was in front of the two big windows in the dining room. We never sat in it when she was alive, but after she died, I would sit there and rock. It was a small rocker, without arms. That little chair was so comfortable and comforting. I can remember rocking Tom there when he was little.

Evelyn made pickled green beans- those were my favorite. She also made the miniature sweet pickles; I would take a bunch of them upstairs and munch on them when I read old books. She made really good dumplings too. I don't think she had a sink in the kitchen; we did dishes in a pan of hot water.

I stayed there when Brad was born and I remember that- I was four. I don't remember getting a new brother, but I do remember that Evelyn made me a special Easter basket that year. She set out carrots for the Easter Bunny, and told me if they had tooth marks on them, the I would know he had come. Even though I was only four, I can remember that I saw some carrot on her tooth! I used to go and stay a week.







## Wohlleber Family Memories

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I was hardly ever bored. There were two little old ladies across the street, we went over there to watch “the stories” and have “coffee”. Then we would have to go clean the church; I helped by lining the Sunday school chairs carefully along the row of tiles. I liked to play Sunday school when I was there. I would also play the piano there. Sometimes she had to tell me to keep it down!

I can remember singing *You Are My Sunshine* with her as we drove around. And there was always the garden. I remember going to pull carrots. She used to let me play around in the kitchen, and practice cooking. I made graham crackers with powdered sugar frosting and served them to her on a platter. That probably wasn't very good for her diabetes.

Evelyn taught me how to sew. She had an old foot-feed sewing machine upstairs and I loved to hear it hum. I loved her left over scraps; I would cut them up, and keep them in a little box, thinking I would make a quilt someday.

We would go pick up Rich at the shed where he kept his road grader. He got Brad a little miniature road grader once. Rich took me fishing with his friend Mr. Amman and his daughter. Rich loved to fish and he brought home huge fish from the lake and Evelyn would bake them. She had little china fish bone plates. She had a beautiful china cabinet with an old key in the lock, it was always fun to unlock the cabinet and put the dishes away.



I loved to sit on Evelyn's front porch and watch the people drive through town. She always had pansies planted in a large tire in the front yard. She also had large rose bushes in the yard.

Sometimes we went to Sisseton, where we would visit the Allanders, good friends of theirs. She would always talk about their daughter Ruth Ann, who was older than I was. I remember being jealous that Evelyn liked her so well. Sometimes we would visit Rich's sisters and brother-in laws. They were all very nice people. When I got older, I would walk uptown by myself and go to the Variety Store and the Drug Store. Those were the years when I liked comic books; Veronica, Jug Head, Archie and Betty- and don't forget the Super Heroes.

The year of Wilmot's 75<sup>th</sup> centennial, I was twelve. I thought I was pretty grown up. I had a red and white striped surfer shirt that I planned to wear to the street dance. I begged Evelyn to go up town and I think she was horrified when I jumped into the crowd and started to do the Pony or whatever the dance was at the time. She made me stop and go home. I remember lying in bed; we were close enough that I could still hear the music of the “Beagles”. I felt like I really missed out! I also won a ride on a four- seater airplane that weekend. We had to call Mom and Dad to be sure it was OK. The plane took off from a cornfield west of town and we flew to Milbank and back. There were two adults with us. The girl in the front seat screamed hysterically the entire time. I think Evelyn was glad when that ride was over! Actually she was probably glad when the weekend was over!

When I was a little older, I think I was a more manageable and considerate guest. I remember Evelyn lying down a lot; she must not have not been feeling too well then. When she laid down, I would read. I loved to read. In the upstairs bedroom I found a library of old books. I spent days reading those old treasures, and I still have them. I was introduced to Edna Ferber and Lloyd Douglas on those warm summer afternoons. Also, there were lots of neat things in her attic; I remember an old horsehair blanket. I would love to look through the treasures in her attic.





## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

Evelyn was my baptismal sponsor, along with Joe Amdahl. She came to Minneapolis for my birth and was there for my confirmation. I was sixteen when she died. I kept this note with her funeral bulletin; it must have comforted me during that time. *“In one sense, there is no death. The life of a soul on earth lasts beyond her departure. You will always feel that life touching yours, that voice speaking to you, that spirit looking out of others eyes, talking to you in the familiar things she touched, worked with, loved as familiar friends. She lives on in your life and in the lives of all others that knew her.”* Angelo Patri.

Years later her memory lives on, for me and everyone who loved her. Besides my parents, Evelyn probably influenced my life, interests, philosophy and faith more than anyone else. After she died, I would have dreams where I could hear her voice as she called for me to come down from upstairs, where I was reading on a lazy summer afternoon. Those were wonderful memories. She gave everything she had to those she loved, and asked very little for herself.

### Oney Wohlleber-brother

*Marian* “Oney and Jr Fiebelkorn went to Milwaukee to work in the Foundries. They gave Arlene and I a ride to come down to live in the cities at the same time”. Oney gave Joyce his guitar.”

*Wayne White* “I remember Oney, he sold accordions. He came to stay with us one winter, he would play the accordion and Vera would play the piano”.

Mom “Oney and Harvey Boxseth sold accordions around Harlan Iowa, I had an accordian too, but had to let it go back, couldn’t afford the monthly payments. Dale Adolphsen also sold accordions and he came over to look at mine. I could play it a little”.

Oney worked on the railroad for a short time. He had a brand new 46 Chevy, Dad thought it was a coupe. Oney would leave it at Grandpa Pugh’s station and would walk to the train station. Dad was home on vacation one time and he and Elmer were going out; Elmer said they could use Oney’s car- Dad said he found out later that was not the case!

### Oney's Memories (transcribed from tape done in 2000)

*Oney* “I used to sing quite a bit with the guitar in them days. This guy from Oklahoma, he played the fiddle and I’d play the guitar and we’d play over the ship telephone system.”



*Marian* “Remember when we started singing in the choir, did we have one choir practice, Rose got us lined up to sing in the choir over to church one time. I don’t know if we sang anything or not. Oney used to like to play the guitar”.

*Oney* “I think I gave my guitar to Joyce didn’t I?”

“There was this one guy, I met, that’s the one I gave my mattress to. He was kind of a songwriter. He wrote a couple songs and I wrote one too. I gave him my mattress to sleep on, on the ship, he took my mattress...but I really didn’t need my navy mattress, the ship had one. I picked out a tune and made up the words”.

1. Oh, tonight I feel like crying, my poor heart aches just for you,  
Cannot help me the way I feel  
Nothing makes me feel so blue, dear, than the thought that you might leave  
Oh so happy if my love you can see.





## Wohlleber Family Memories

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3. I will always love you darling, with a heart that's always true  
I will raise the name and hold it .....  
I will make you oh so happy, you'd be proud of me I know  
When the things you want my darling, I will find.

4. Now the vows I made you dear, shall hold true until the end,  
All the promises I kept and always will  
I want to share with you my name dear, till I make it to your love,  
When I come for you I hope you're waiting still

"I wrote that in about an hour one night. That song probably would have sold if I would have sent it down to, like, all those stars in Memphis, they might have redid it a little".

"This guy that I got pretty close to, the reason I suppose was that I kind of liked that music and they used my bunks and stuff, a bunch of guys would get together and play guitars, some of them guys played like professionals. Some could really sing...I was on the outside listening in".

" Charles Vance gave me a letter, that he wrote to his wife, and I mailed it after I got back to the states. He lived in Mass. He could pick out song on the guitar....(*there was*) nothing like Tommy Dorsey, Boogie Woogie, Glen Miller, Moonlight Sonata, Guy Lombardo, Francis Hess and His Mess. And there was Leo Fortin in Watertown" .

### **Elmer Wohlleber-brother**

*Marian* " Elmer and Doris got married in November and Arlene and I left that fall. Lilly made the wedding dinner- four chickens

*Marian* "Dad got him out of the Army through the Red Cross, he was needed at home on the farm.. Elmer probably didn't remember our mother at all -it was hard not having a mother".

*Norman*: "Elmer worked on the railroad as a cook- he was a good cook, too. He farmed at he same time, he had a herd of milk cows that Doris took care off. Elmer was working for another crew at first, but wrote a letter to Chicago to see if he could be on my crew so he could be closer to home".

### **Other Family: Daughters of Gus Barr**

*Marian* "Lillian Barr Mischke made cakes- she made Grandma Wohlleber's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake. She was a very caring person.

*Deb* "Violet Rausch had an afternoon tea for Mom and I after Dan died. She had a lot of the family there, not sure who they were, but she had a beautiful table, and delicious poppyseed cake".





## Wohlleber Family Memories

Compilation of family memories collected by Deb Pugh Meade

### Nieces and Nephews

#### Joyce:

*Marian* "Joyce was born at Albee, at her Grandmother Schultz's house. Her sister Carol was 3 years younger. A lot of people from Twin Brooks went to Racine; there were jobs there because of the war. Joyce's mother worked in the shirt factory. Doris and Berbee, Elta and Herb, Gay and then they all came, there were a lot of jobs. Her family went to Racine first. Gordon Nielson went too, and then he would bring Joyce back to SD to visit. Grandpa Wohlleber walked her down the aisle at her wedding".

*Joyce* "I never liked moving to Racine. I told everyone here we weren't staying and always wanted to go back to SD. Here I am 60 year later, still in Racine. I lived to get back in the summer, to Grandpa's farm. When I was about 14, I got to go to barn dances with Marian, Elmer and Oney.

Mom" Joyce's Mom was a hard worker, she worked in a laundry. Joyce must have come up every summer after they moved to Milwaukee."

#### Dean

*Vi* "Dean would pick up his stroller and walk around while he was in the stroller. He would go out to the cows, down to the road, straight out to the field. I thought the stroller would keep him in one place, but it didn't stop him".

#### Hazel Moore [Hattie's cousin]

*Marian* "We gave Hazel Moore a ride to SD when I was about eight. That was when Johnny Krause came to visit. Hazel lived out on 36th Ave towards the Airport, Aunt Hannah lived with them".



#### Inez Johnson (Mom's half-cousin, daughter of Bertha Carlton)

*Inez* "When we landed in Watertown in 1919, we sold the things we didn't want to bring along from York. Tom had just got back the first of June from the Philippines after being gone 2 1/2 years, and mother wanted to go back to Watertown, she wanted her son Ernest, our soldier boy, buried in Watertown. I can readily see why; she was very lonesome for her people, Aunt Mary, Aunt Elva, Gus, and her mother out here, who wouldn't be?"

*Inez* "Well anyway, when we first came we stayed with Uncle Jim in the Grand Hotel, imagine he put up with us, Mother and I and Dad. Tom said for me to go with them because he was going out to get a job. She had this all planned before we knew when Tom was coming home from the service, so he said you go on and go with your mother. We stayed in the Grand Hotel for a month and then it was on Mrs. Heathcote's cottage up on NE, and we lived there from 1918 till 1921.

*Inez* "Yeah, because Betty was coming. And then we lived in the duplex about 2 years and the place was too hard to heat, so then we moved back up on the north side, in a little house, a nice little house, and mother didn't like that, we lived there maybe 2 yrs, then we moved down on North Broadway where Aunt Mary used to live, up at about 7 or 800 block.





## Wohlleber Family Memories

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Then we moved to a place on Maple, and from there we moved down to the big house next to the Episcopal church, then a Mr. Micheals, a real estate man, sold it because it belonged to somebody else. Then I got this job at Paulis's, but Mother thought it was too far for me to walk all the time...so we moved down the Waddel house on First Avenue".

My dad died when were living in the Waddell house [that was 1929], then we moved to the May Apartments- the cockroaches were so bad it was awful. Then there came this nice house down on 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue SE, the Horsewell house, and so we moved down there. Tom was traveling for some coffee house or something and we were there 2 years and half and Mr. Horsewell was out on a state house and a state job and they were coming back because he didn't get re-elected, so we moved again to the house over here on 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue and we were there 45 years. I'll never forget the day we moved in, of course it was old, after living in the nice Horsewell house, I just cried and cried. 45 years we lived there, then Tom came and we went into the Palace....

Story from Maecille Beskow.

May, 1889: The Kususkes and Robert Noeldners got off the train in SD with all their worldly goods, looking for their friend Carl Beskow. They started for Aunt Tony and Uncle Freds, there were four people, and they walked nine miles. That was the day her Dad was born.

