

60 years in USA

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I was born 1842 in Aldenbroy Germany
my father owned a farm there which
he bought uncultivated and we children
had to work hard which we were
used to and seemed like we didn't
mind mother bore 8 children 2 died
in infancy 1 born dead then my oldest
brother John was born 3 years later
I was born in 3 years later another
boy Adolf was born who died suddenly
when a year old a year later Heinrich
was born who still lives and then
3 years later Bertha was born who
died in 1862 was married & had 2 children
& 2 grandchildren.

In this farm we worked hard every
year a piece of ground had to be
cultivated and father John and I
would in the fall often very cold
carrying a hoe and father would
cut the heather which grew there
freely we made a big pile of it and
burnt it after warming ourselves
on it. I remember in my early life
probably an infant we had a hired
man I don't remember too much of this
my father was married twice and his
first wife (my mother's sister) died
& always felt my father ^{worked} as all.

2 too hard that I think was the
cause mother loosing the children
she didn't have a Dr. just a midwife
but when Bertha was born some-
thing went wrong and they had
a Dr. I remember this real well when
father called us in the am. he said
we all most lost our mother, I was
then 7 years old. the midwife would
^{come} in the a. m. bathed and took care
of her. Adele my step sister had to
take care of her ^{during the day} & neighbor would
bring in a meal of oatmeal cooked
& strained and that is what a young
mother would get maybe a piece
of white bread along, we had a
reed baby buggy and I had to
roll the baby to sleep. Adele
& mother didn't get along too well
Adele thought she had to do too
much work she was 9 or 10 years
older then I, and I don't doubt it
she had to work hard she
married when she was 19 years old
and I remember my father helped
them buy a farm and I think
they were happy I was fond
of her I had always slept with
her

ing used to go and see her on foot 2 hrs. walk leave in the a.m. come back in the eve. we all ways enjoyed each other she had 2 boys one was killed in the second war. the oldest boy then is still living my sister wanted him to be a teacher and under great sacrifice he became one now 1969 he is retired in 1909 I decided I wanted to come to America my Mother said if any of my girls can have it better then I have had it I be glad to let her go. that was in Aug 1909 then one afternoon we became company as we were lunching and who was it? D. Meyers & wife from America abe did not know of them Mother who was his cousin remembered them leaving many years ago they had settled in Nebr. and home steted and got some

4 good land, a large farm
there were poor buildings on
it so they told us but they
were fortunate made money
and build barns and nice
home the first thing I
asked them are you going
back. I am going too to Mo.
where my fathers sister
had lived she was dead at
this time but I wrote to
her daughter my cousin
for some time she was an
only daughter and she
asked me to come that is
really what started me.
but Meyers had already
bought their return ticket
so the next morning we
went by train to Bremen
in hopes that I could go
on the same ship really I
didn't realize how difficult.

3. it would be to travel in the states not able to speak one word of english but the good Lord was with me I got on the same ship, and had a lot of fun there was an english man on our table Meyers and I where on the same table and I think this man had a drink too much anyway he wanted to date me or a dance that nite on shipboard I acted the bashful girl because I couldnt understand one word he said but Mrs Meyer would translate it and I still just grinned, and I didnt have a date with him but there was another fellow who could talk ~~english~~ ^{celestial} and I went with him but it wasnt all sunshine I shared a cabin with 2 other girls

6. and we had become very friendly and that nite when I came to my cabin ~~told~~ my ^{friend} good nite went in and vov there 2 girls had their ^{fellows} in bed with them I demanded for them to get out but they told me to go to bed I slept in the upper bed and I waunt about to go to bed this had caused a disturbance and several people crowded around one of them was young wo^o man I'd say about 35 years she was from Oldenburg also she told me to report it which I did'nt want to do all I wanted for them to get out which they finally did the next a.m I told Mrs. Meyer about it

4. wasn't I lucky that they were there she said we have a short sofa in our cabin and you can sleep in there from ~~then~~ on. But the worst was yet to come the day before we docked every body had to go to a certain office tell if you were smuggling anything in the country and how much money you had so help me I had only little over \$20.00 and that was'nt enough. (Mr Meyer was with me) this officer told me I had to go to Ellis Island and maybe would be sent back to Germany but Mr. Meyer spoke up and said I take her with us and take all responsibility

3) and they let me go and
uncle Meyer as I called him
was a father to me and
Tante la mother. she was
a mother of 15 children of
which 3 had died but they
raised 12 on their farm
they were very well to do
and they loved to talk
German but spoke a broken
English. as we landed in N.Y.
Tante Meyer bought some Bananas
and gave me one I took a bite but
didn't like it. we went to see the
Niagara Falls that was in 1909
before the cave in as it is now it
was wonderful anyway to me
I had never seen a Waterfall
then we went to Omaha there we
saw a big parade in honor of
Pres. Taft that is the first and only
Pres. I ever saw as I can remember
finally we got to Wayne Nebr.
their home town the family
didn't know they were coming.

etc. so there was nobody to meet us but one of their friends was in town shopping and said he take us home (it was on his way home but he was in a big farm wagon had delivered corn, but if we wanted to ride in a farm wagon we were welcome had only one seat so Tante Meyer and I sat on the seat and the man stood behind us. I had on a pale blue silk blouse and the reins would rub me once and a while so I put my hand there & he noticed it and said we have Water in America that will wash out but it didn't the were leather reins and sort of greasy. that was my first ride in America Meyers children were glad when we came and accepted me wonderful to this day I love every one. I was very strong those days and Willie like to shouffle with me but I was the strongest

which tickled them and he would
try it over & over Willie is dead
now when I go to Nebr which is
very seldom but I always visit
his widow, she has me ^{over} for a
big meal & we play cards after
wards. Bernie & his wife who I
know very well lived close to
them and they were invited
also of course when I go there
my head quarters are with
the Meyersdinks in Pender
another little town, Gesine
& Herman are just like
brother & sister to me. Gesine
and I used to sleep together
and work together i milk the
cows & separate the Milk
I helped with the socking
and clearing. The first
meal I had it was Supper

~~11:4~~ 11:4 and they had a large table full
there were 8 children Mr & Mrs ^{and} J.
made 11. anyway there was
a plate with something on it
it looked like cake and I had
had no cake in Germany well
it was passed around and
I took a piece and they all ate
it ^{with} their meat & veg. and I thought
it was desert but when you are in
Rome you do as the Romans do
and oh my it was corn bread
which I had never eaten before
and I could not hardly eat it
but I managed (now I love it)
chapter 2. Tante Meyer thought
I should go to school to learn
the language which I gladly
did I went 3 months I could
read pretty good but didn't
know what I read so I quit
and went to work for a retired
English couple who didn't
know any German they
(over)

"had a garden couple cows chickens
and so forth the lady took
me by the hand outside
showed me a chicken and said
chicken chicken eggs eggs
cows horses and whatever
she saw I got along fine
made \$3.00 a week and
board room I liked it
they would take me along
wherever they went often
went to a neighbor who
had a girl my age and
we became good friends
and a son I'de who fell in
love with me and wanted
to marry me and I said oh
no I have to marry a man
who can talk German
for I expected some day
of going home & take
my husband along

and first thing I knew he
he had bought some German
books and was studying it
but I just liked him as a
friend then I changed jobs I went
to work for Idas brother but I did
not like it there although they paid me
\$5.00 a week they were not clean so
I decided I would go to Mo. and see
my cousin which I did and they were
so glad I came the funny part of it
was I came on the train and I got
sort of sick and when I got in
Methu of course I didn't know
anybody but I could talk a little
english so I saw a police man and
I went to him and asked him
if he knew Schulenberg or Groene
he said he knew of them but he
said there is a man here that has a
hardware store he knows them he
comes from Babbtown that is where
they all lived so we went to
him and he had heard all about
me he took me in his office and
called Schulbergs they lived closest
I he knew them all well went to
school with them and belonged to
the same church

V3) and we talked like we had
known each other ~~along~~ ^{long} had been
away for a long time this man was
Henry Harpst whom I married later
his mother had just died and he
didn't go out that is to party &
and I didn't see much of him except
in church I went to St Louis
for work because there was at
any thing in Meta or Babbtown
I was Ladies Maid in St. Louis
& I loved it ^{got it a week} when summer came
they went on a vacation & I
went to my cousin in Babbtown
we went to Honey creek Mission
feast & here was my Henry &
we had our first date and
the 7th Nov: we got married
he was a wonderful Husband
we had 4 children all of them
living. then came the world
war, thank the Lord Henry
didn't have to go. in 1918 my
oldest brother was killed
in the war

My Mother begged me in every letter to come for a visit since my husband was in business (Hardware store he couldn't go but insisted that I should go and I didn't want to go alone so we decided I take the baby (Helen) then not 2 years old and we went by ship the "George Washington". we went 3rd class return ticket for \$180.00 when we were the 5th or 6th day on the ocean during the nite it was awful quite the engines had stopped running I got up went in the hall wanted to go to some people I got acquainted with

1) but lo a steward met me
and forced me to go back
in my cabin, go or I lock
you in of course I went
Helen was in there alone
The next am. we found out
they had a severe fire
in machine room out
of three engine 2 burnt out
and they went on the
1 one engine to England
where the engine were
repaired and when the
were repaired we had to
(low water) and we had to
wait 12 hrs before could go
on, we landed finally in
Germany and my friends
went on & they wanted to
celebrate. I left as soon as
I could get away I wanted
to get home, I made good
connection and landed in
Nuenkoop a friend of my
sister was there & recognized

16) her & she knew they were looking
for me & Helen and I had so much
luggage more than the average
traveler so she spoke to me and asked
if I was Mrs. Harpist I said yes
I could still cry when I think
of that moment, they lived
close by there she took me home
served me coffee and send a
boy on bicycle to my parents
who were there in a short time
buggy horse mother & Dad
that was a home coming
I'll never forget I had talked
German to Helen ever since I
had planned the trip and
she amazed me how well
she talked and took to my
people Bertha was at home
but came soon. Heini was
also out with his girl her
and I became big friends
and are to this day.
I don't remember how long
we stayed I think 6 or 7 days.

144 we had a good trip home
I was met at the depot by my
husb. and children I'll never
forget Helen saying
da ist ja Papa. That was
in 1921. in 1931 Mrs. Lancaster
called me & she was in the
Hosp. and wanted to come
home but the Dr. wanted
to have somebody with
her. ^{she had 2 children in school} I accepted & paid me
\$1.00 a day I stayed 2 weeks
and she could manage
there is where my nursing
career started. 2 weeks later
Mrs. ^{Ross} ~~Johnson~~ ^{for} ~~the str.~~ called she was going
to have a baby & wanted to come
home with 3 days I went she
paid me \$2.00 a day I was
kept busy next pt. paid me \$3.00
so finally Dr. Taylor got
a hold of me & wanted me
to work in the Hosp.

"then it was different I worked
12 hrs for \$4.00 then in 39 I went
to a school conducted by a
Nun, Sister Christidi
and I passed exams and
became a L.P.N. licensed
practical nurse then soon
the eight hr. day started
from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. I did lot
of private duty nursing
also floor work. In 1945
The Card Club Henry & I
belonged to made a trip
to the West Colorado Wyoming
Utah in 1946 also yellow stone Park
it was wonderful Henry too
enjoyed it so much we were
on Pikes Peak Colo, and in
Utah salt lake and went
in swimming I loved
every bit of it. we did most
of our own cooking in the
cabins which we could those
days I have composition book on
this trip

19) in 1948 I made another trip with
Billie Eggert and family
we went to old Mexico and Banff
as far as Lake Louise it was
a wonderful trip

1950 Henry became sick he
couldn't urinate as it happened
I had a catheter & I catheterized
him which gave him immediate
relief but I insisted the next
a.m. he had to go to a Dr
in 1951 we celebrated our 40 year
wedding anniversary at Anna's
House Dad was ailing all
the time in 1954 early Dr Taylor
called Dr Sugarbaker on
the case (Dad was in the
Hosp.) and he said it was
cancer of the
and in Aug. he died as I
write this it is 1971 Nov. 2
and it has been a lonesome
time. In 1956 my friend
Jeni Hagstedt Meyer
wrote me she was a year
older than I

20) that they her school class
had had their golden
Jubiläum (confirmation in
church and she said you better
write Pastor Tremsky & tell
him you are in America and
cant come next year, I was
living then with Leona
(and I wish I still was there
but Anna insisted I should
get an Apt. which I did
I live with Loeshes now for
13 years, my father & Mrs. ^{Edwards}
worked together in ^{Germany} ^{father}
and now we live together
I have a 3 room apt. and I am
not well in 63 I broke my hip
and still suffer from it
ⁱⁿ I have heart trouble & bladder
and I went to the golden
Confirmation and also
toured Germany Switzerland
Lichtenstein mostly Germany
toured the Rhine saw lots
of beautiful churches & so forth

21) in 1966 I flew to Germany
my parents & my sister Bertha
had just away and I mostly
visited old friends & relatives
in 1969 my brother grand
daughter was confirmed
& they insisted I must come
and I did. now in 1972
my brother & wife have their
golden wedding I would
love to go but I am
afraid to take the money
I might have to go into
old folks home yet and
that is very expensive
Herb. told me once I would
not have to worry going
there but I will be ⁵⁰ 55 years
in March and I am still
alone