Claus Johann Reimers

Claus Johann Reimers was born on June 4, 1858, in Lunden, Schleswig-Holstein, which was then a part of Prussia. His father, Hans, was 26 and his mother, Anna, was 36. He married Marie Margaretha Brocksen on October 7, 1884, in Carroll, Iowa. They had nine children in 18 years. He died on August 31, 1938, in Holstein, Iowa, at the age of 80, and was buried there.

Baptism 20 Jun 1858
Certified record of the Evangelical-Lutheran Parish Church in Lunden--Born 4 Jun 1858.

Schleswig-Holstein
Claus was born in Lunden and was listed as living in Weddinghusen (now part of Weddingstedt) prior to emigrating to the U.S. His wife, Marie Brocksen, was from Wesselburen. We do not know if he knew her before immigrating. They were married less that 4 months after her arrival in the U.S.
April 26, 1883

At the age of 24, Claus Reimers departed from Hamburg, Germany, on April 26, 1883 on the S.S. Australia, Captain Gerhard Franck. He had been living in Weddinghusen, Holstein. He arrived in New York on May 14. His occupation is listed as Zimmerman (Carpenter).

Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934

May 14, 1883

Claus Reimers arrived in New York, on May 14, 1883, at the age of 24. He was on the same ship as his future sister-in-law, Mathilda Brocksen Arps.

New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957

Oct 7th 1884

In Presence of Wm. Oldham F.A. Suydam, Justice of the Peace, Claus Reimers married Marie Brocksen in Carroll, Iowa.
Marriage Register

Claus Reimers, Resident of Manning, Iowa, Carpenter.
--Parents: Hans Reimers, Annie Arps-- Married: Mary Brocksen, Resident of Manning, Iowa --Parents: Thos. Brocksen, Margaretha Sammann

Carroll County Courthouse

(A later photo)

March 21 1884

Claus Reimer's Declaration of Intent to become a U.S. Citizen.--Renouncing allegiance to Emperor William, Carroll County, Iowa.

1885

-Claus worked as a Miller in the employ of Mr. V. Roush---Back in 1882 the Manning Roller Mill was established by V. Roush. The mill was 32 x 42 in size, with an engine room 16 x 32 which contained a 45-horsepower engine and boiler. The building was three stories high, had three 42-inch stone burrs for grinding wheat, and one 36-inch burr for corn and feed. The reducing capacity of the wheat burrs was 200 bushels per day.
Holstein, Iowa

Claus Johann Reimers, moved from Manning, Carroll Co., Iowa, Saturday, 11 Aug 1888; to work at the mill for V. Roush, in Holstein, Ida Co., Iowa; We learned that he is a first class miller and was in the employ of Mr. V. Roush, for three years in Manning, Carroll Co., Iowa; Claus Reimers who works for V. Roush, had the misfortune to lose the little finger of his left hand by getting it caught in the machinery Thursday 16 Aug 1888; Dr. Eckmann amputated the bruised finger and Claus returned to work. His family joined Claus Johann Reimers in Holstein, Ida Co., Iowa, Wednesday, 5 Sep 1888, living in the house south of A. J. Gleason Shop; Claus lived in Holstein, Ida Co., Iowa until his death in 1938; Source of information: The Holstein Advance Newspaper, 1888, English version.

August 28, 1888

Naturalization Certificate

January 1, 1895

The family lived on a farm in Silver Township, Cherokee County, Iowa.
1900

Claus J. Reimers married Mary in 1884. They had seven children in 13 years. In 1900, he was 41 years old and lived in Logan Township, Ida County, Iowa with his wife, Mary, 2 sons, and 5 daughters. He was a tenant farmer.

1900 United States Federal Census

1905

In 1905, Claus Reimers lived in Holstein, Iowa.

Iowa, State Census Collection, 1836-1925
Holstein Business District
From Holstein Centennial Book 1882-1982. Column on right shows places where Claus Reimers had businesses.

Main Street, Holstein, Iowa
The Claus Reimers Saloon was at the very end of Main Street in this picture.
1910

In 1910, Claus J. Reimers was 51 years old and lived on Main St. in Holstein, Iowa with his wife, Mary, son, and 5 daughters. They lived on Main St. He was a Keeper of a Lodging House.

1910 United States Federal Census

Claus Johann Reimers

He was known as "Der roten Prinz"-- "The Red Prince" because of his red hair.

1915

In 1915, Clans J. Reimers was 57 years old and lived in Iowa. He was a barkeeper.

Iowa, State Census Collection, 1836-1925
1915

From Holstein Centennial Book 1882-1982. "The 100 ft. bar, the longest straight bar in the U.S. I think my great-grandfather, Claus Reimers, is at the very end in the top photo. His son John Reimers in the bottom photo too. -"In 1912...A new law had been passed to limit saloons to one per 1000 population so Holstein was only entitled to one."

Main Street, Holstein, Iowa

I think the brick building in the middle was where the "Longest Bar" was. (Photo is from 1947).
The Reimers Cafe and Boarding House.

The Claus Reimers family and/or his daughter, Marie Kelley’s family may have lived upstairs at times while they managed the boarding house.

1920

In 1920, Claus J. Reimers was 62 years old and lived on Hamburg St. in Holstein, Iowa with his wife, Mary, son, and 3 daughters. He was a Lunch Room Manager.--It appears that he had to close his bar due to prohibition. His granddaughter Mabel was raised by the family after she was left behind when her mother remarried. She and my Uncle Warren Kelley were more like brother & sister than cousins. She considered her Aunt Marie Reimers Kelley (my grandmother) to be her mother. Grandpa Reimers would let them have one ice cream a day at noon in the restaurant.

1920 United States Federal Census
1922

A Warranty Deed selling the property from the estate of his wife, Marie Brocksen Reimers.

January 1, 1925

On January 1, 1925, Claus Reimers was 66 years old and lived on Davenport St. in Holstein, Iowa with his son and daughter.

Iowa, State Census Collection, 1836-1925
In 1930, Claus Reimers was 67 (71) years old and lived on Kiel St. in Holstein, Iowa with his daughter. He was the Proprietor of a Lunch Counter. He would buy spiked beer and "White Lightening" from Chicago to entertain his friends. His daughter, Marie Kelley would get mad at him getting drunk and pour the liquor down the sink. Claus would get angry at his son-in-law, Bill Kelley, for singing Irish songs in German. His grandson, Dean Kelley remembers that his grandfather would sit in a big overstuffed chair when he would visit. After he left, Dean's mother would search the crevices for coins he would let drop from his pockets. His daughter Emma never married and took care of her father to the end of his life.

1930 United States Federal Census

Grandpa Reimers' Sword

My dad always said that his grandfather Reimers carried this sword in parades as a German sympathizer in the German American Bund. But it appears that the sword is actually a "Select Knight" ceremonial sword for the AOUW, Ancient Order of United Workmen, which was a fraternal benefit society affiliated with the Masons that would offer insurance as well as sickness, accident, death and burial policies.

AOUW

Ancient Order of United Workman--close-up of sword hilt.
Cafe was next to Masonic Lodge.

Location where Claus Reimers had a cafe--2011 from Google Maps Street View.

August 31, 1938

Death Certificate
Obituary

Claus J Reimers at Journey’s End

Obituary

Claus J. Reimers was born in London, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany on the fourth day of June, 1880. His wife passed away May 24, 1931. He was baptized in Holstein, and at an early age converted to the Lutheran faith.

In 1902, at the age of 22 years, he left his home land and came to America, settling at Manning, Iowa, where, having learned the milling trade as a young man, he worked as a miller. There he was united in marriage with Anna Maria M. Bredesen on October 1, 1914.

After three years at Manning, Mr. Reimers came to Holstein, and there, also, he followed his trade for three years.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Reimers, two having passed away, one in infancy, and Harry of Wisner, Nebraska, who died three years ago. The living are: one son, John D. of Holstein, and six daughters, Mrs. Anna Hewitt of Providence, Minn., Mrs. Elinna Reimers and Mrs. Mary Kelley of Holstein, Mrs. Albert Cline of Salt Lake City, Mrs. Bertha Phillips of Indianapolis, California, and Mrs. Ivan Reimers of Chicago. These, and numerous grandchildren, besides many friends and neighbors, are mourning the departure of Mr. Reimers.

Displaying the book of health throughout life, he began failing a few years ago, and the past few months he carried his usual cheer, courage, however, to walk a little about the house, where he received the best of care from his daughter, Ernest, mother of Mrs. Mary Kelley, the only two daughters living in Holstein. He passed away Wednesday afternoon, August 26, 1936 at the age of 56 years.

Mr. Reimers for many years was engaged in various business enterprises in Holstein, and his last, before retirement, was his successful general business. He died in the home of his son in law, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Kelly.

The funeral was held at two o'clock Friday afternoon, with services at the W. W. Kelly home, Rev. A. C. Long officiating. The coffin was borne by Mrs. G. P. Johlund, “The Old Saged Cross,” and “On the Garden,” accompanied by Mrs. A. F. Olson.

Six granddaughters served as pallbearers—Miss Evelyn Piper, Mrs. Gertrude Cline, Mrs. Ida Kelley, Mrs. Sarah Hewitt, and Mrs. Olive Kelley. The remains were buried in the Holstein cemetery.

The family and relatives and friends attending the funeral—Mrs. Mathilda Apgar and son Ernie, Mrs. A. M. Kelley, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Reimers of Spring City; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hewitt of Aesacea; John Reimers and sister Emma, and Mrs. Olga of Nevada; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hewitt and sons, Alvin and Charles, Jr. of Picton; Miss Mina Richardson, Mrs. C. B. Reimers of Spring City; Mr. and Mrs. George Carls and children, George, Jr., Marlin and Jean, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Carls of Bloom City; Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Piper and sons, Ellis Jr. and Billy, Mr. H. O. Piper and Mrs. B. W. Kelley, R. O. Kelley, and Mrs. Gertrude Pinette of Carls; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Houck of Holstein, and Mrs. Anna Kelley of West Side; Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Kelley and Mr. and Mrs. William Shaw of Omaha; Mrs. William Himmels of Fort Dodge.

Claus J. Reimers at Journey’s End
Cemetery Plots

He purchased in 1903...lot 1 block 184

Holstein Cemetery