CHURCH HISTORY

The Germans who settled in this region were Lutherans. From the History of Dane County by Keyes we learn that the Blue Mounds German Lutheran congregation was organized in 1858 with seven members. These were: Heinrick Kahl, Heinrich Bilse, Jacob Bilse, Philip Kably, Daniel Becker, Michael Bilse, and Ferdinand Steyer. Services were first held in the homes. A church was built in 1868. This proved to be too small and was torn down. The second church was struck by lightning and destroyed. The last church was built in 1907. Reverend Nitardy was pastor of this church for many years. The pastor of the first church was Rev. John Deindoerfer.

Finally the last church was also torn down. This was in 1953. It had not been used for many years as the people attended services in Mount Horeb.

At the present time a very modern and beautiful church has just been completed in Mount Horeb. It was dedicated July 31, 1955.

CHEESE FACTORY

The first cheese factory in German Valley was built in 1888. The German Valley Cheese Company was organized at that time. In 1937 the factory was enlarged.

The cheesemakers were of Swiss decent, therefore, Swiss cheese was always made here. The following were cheesemakers: Mr. Strup, Dan Rothlisberger,
Rudy Schaller, Gottfried Schaller, Jack Matti, Leo Hiltbrand, Gottfried Friedli, John Burkharte (who died of heat stroke in factory), Thoni Klarer.
The factory closed in December 1953. As it contains living quarters, it is now rented as a residence.

In early days, before modern methods of cooling milk were used, it was necessary for all patrons to haul their milk twice each day, and the cheesemaker made cheese every forenoon and every night. He put in long days, sometimes not finishing until midnight.

Most farmers say that even though it is convenient to now have a truck come to the farm to pick up milk, they miss the cheese factory because there they met their neighbors and exchanged news each day. They had many friendly chats and saw their neighbors more often than they now do.

FARMS OF GERMAN VALLEY

THE AUGUST HEUSER FARM

(Information by August Heuser
Written by Olin Ruste)

In the late 1840's or early 50's my grandparents Peter and Sophia Heuser together with other relatives and friends from Ritansau, Germany settled in the town of Blue Mounds, Wisconsin. They had heard glowing and exaggerated accounts of unbelievable opportunities of free land ready to be planted, where every one was given equal rights. Why they chose this particular