Additional History

Some thirty years have passed since I finished the first edition of this Persohn genealogy in 1954. Our forebears Joachim and Karoline Lange Persohn and their seven children in generation A are all deceased. Most of generation B are also departed. Even relatives in the third or C and fourth D generations are missing, but life goes on day after day and new descendants are added to the genealogy family. This makes this an unending job, to keep it up-to-date, but it is interesting work.

As mentioned in the first story, our ancestors were religious people and attended services in a pioneer church of the Evangelical Association in the township of Maple Grove in Manitowoc Co. As more people settled in the Brillion township, some held religious services in their private homes.

The first communion service was held February 12, 1862 at which time these relatives: H.J.Timm, Minna Timm, Joachim Persohn and Caroline Persohn and others from the community were received on probation. In Aug. of 1863 more new members including William Persohn, Carl Persohn, Johann Meitzner, Sophie Meitzner, Fred Timm, Fred Bastian and others from the area were added. H.J. Timm served as class leader for the young parish and the Rev. Christian Schultz of Green Bay helped the group. They also organized a Sunday School.

On Aug.28, 1864 Fred Hintzmann and Henrietta Hintzmann and four others joined this group of worshippers. By Jan.1, 1865, Albertine Persohn, my grandmother known as Mrs. Carl Zick, was also with the group seeking membership to the church.

During 1868 and 1869 regular meetings were held in a school house in the township of Brillion. Between 1860 to 1869 circuit riders and pastors from Newton, Green Bay, Charlestown, Schleswig and Sheboygan served this congregation. Rev.G.L.Limper served from 1870 to 1872 and during his ministry the first church was built at the S/E corner of the S/E one quarter of the S/E quarter of Sec.10 in Township No.20 North of Range No.20 and the parsonage in Sec.11. An acre of land was purchased from each John Meitzner and Fred Hintzmann for the sum of $45.00. The church deed (where church building and parsonage stand on) was deeded to John Meitzner, Christian Tesch, Michael Reichardt, Henry Timm, Fred Bastian, John Schulz, Ludwig Timm, William Persohn and Charles Persohn as Trustees to hold church property for the German Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Town of Brillion, Mar.14, 1871.

This is registered in Vol.1 of Incorporation on page 30 on Mar. 24, 1871. It is registered as the Charlestown and Brillion Mission in the German Fond du Lac District of the Northwestern German Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Land description is recorded in Reg.of Deeds book Vol.1 p.602 and 603 in Calumet County Court House, Chilton, Wisconsin.

During the next thirty years families increased and membership increased also, making it necessary to build a new church building. An extra half acre of land west of the church was bought from Henry M. Bastian on Mar.12, 1901. Same description as above, with an additional 5 rods west and 16 rods north. This makes a total of 2½ acres for the church and the parsonage.

The west 5 rods of church property were deeded to Fritz Bastian, Carl Zick, Henry Bastian, Geo. Wolfmeyer, David Reichardt, Robert Timm, Henry Zick and Carl Keuer; Trustees of the German M.E.Church of Brillion in Calumet Co. or their successors in office. Mar.12,1901. Recorded 7/6/1901 in Vol.31 Page 570 in Cal. Co. Court House.

The first parsonage was built while Rev.Ferdinand Karnopp served from 1873 to 1875. Fire destroyed the parsonage in 1928 during the Rev.W.P.Kramer's pastorate. The present parsonage was built shortly afterward. The Kramer family lived in a cottage on the campgrounds during the rebuilding of the parsonage.

The congregation has celebrated its 50th or golden jubilee on Apr.21, 1912, its 75th anniversary on Apr.24 and 25,1937, the 100th anniversary May 13, 1962 and now the 125th anniversary Sept.20,1987. There was remodeling and improvements made to the inside and outside of the building and surroundings, but the word of God was preached to all who entered to worship thru out these years. More then 40 ministers have served this parish.

Many births, confirmations, deaths and marriages have taken place over the years. The congregation has had organizations for every age group, such as BibleSchool, Youth Fellowship, Ladies Missionary Society, Ladies Aid (now United Methodist Women), Methodist Men and Sunday School for all ages. The members were also musically inclined so some music was always presented for the services. We have welcomed many new ministers and also bid farewells to pastors and their families. There were fellowship meals with each doings.

One quarter mile west and a little to the south side of the road of the original church, there are remains of the camp-meeting grounds started by our ancestors. Religious services were held in a tent in the beginning.Later a frame tabernacle and private cottages were erected. Religious services were held, during the summer, for several days and evenings. People attending from surrounding cities stayed in the cottages during these days. They prepared their meals and cooked on oil stoves. All had to furnish their own bedding for the cots and bedsteads. There was a well on the grounds, which supplied water for cooking, drinking and your morning wash up time. There was a hand pump on the well, you pumped your pail full of water and carried it to your cottage. Relatives said lamps and lanterns were first used on the camp grounds. Then a delco-light plant supplied the electricity. The later years the public service supplied the electricity.

About a week before the services were scheduled to begin, the grounds were cleared of long grass and old dry leaves. Cottages were housecleaned and lights were supplied with oil and glass chimneys cleaned. The local church members donated their time and labors to be

ready for the inspiring services.

My grandmother, Albertine Persohn Zick, lived about a quarter mile southwest of the campgrounds. One year one of her children was sick and she was unable to attend the services. She told us on a quiet evening she was able to hear the minister preach and the congregation sang familiar songs.

Visitors came by train to Forest Jct. and Brillion depots and local people escorted them to the grounds. Local people came with horse and buggy and later years with automobiles.

On July 4th the local congregation always had their annual church picnic on the grounds. A pot luck lunch was served at dinner time. Games were played in the afternoon and everyone enjoyed the day, but it meant back to the farm for chores. Family reunions and even a funeral were held on the grounds in later years. The local people have many memories of activities on the campgrounds. The last campmeeting services were held June 23,1968.

Two young women of the congregation served as Deaconess at the Bethesda Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. One young man served in the African mission field. Three young women became preacher's wives. This shows Gods Word did fall on fertile ground.

Items for this part of the history were found in the articles written for each anniversary celebration.

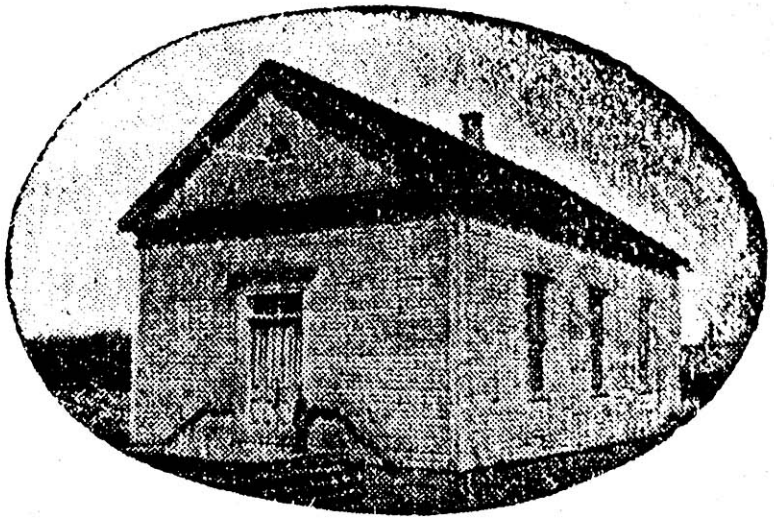

Photo from snapshot of first church
Donated by Clalie Bastian Zahn

From the Brillion City Library the June 1860 Census of the Brillion township showed this report of the Joachim Persohn family.

House No.	Family No.	Name of family	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
768	768	Jakim Parshon	49	Farmer	Prussia
		Catherine "	47		"
		Charles "	23	Farm Laborer	"
		Minnie "	21	Service	"
		William "	16		"
		Annie "	14		"
		Caroline "	9		"
		Albertine "	6		"
		Henreitta "	19	Service	"

I don't know if Hannah had a middle name of Annie else the age would be right for Hannah.

Joachim Persohn lived on a 3 acre plot of land in township of Brillion in Calumet in Calumet County with this description: Northeast corner of Northwest quarter of Sec.10 Township20 Range20.

The following information was taken from the booklet "A Pioneer Boy's Story of Brillion in its Early Days". 1850-1875 it was written for the Brillion News by Elmer Fuller.

In 1857 Joachim Persohn settled in the north part of the town and the succeeding year was joined by his son, Carl, who with J.H.Timm had journeyed to Kansas, with a view of locating there, but the prairie country did not appeal to them, and they headed for Wisconsin, traveling much of the way on foot. Timm located in the extreme north part of town on the banks of Devil River, where he later constructed a dam, and built a small saw mill, and later a grist mill. Carl Persohn at the age of 88 enjoys the distinction of being the oldest continuous resident of the town having lived here continuously for 68 years.

Another part of "Pioneer Boy's Story" from Fuller's Story.

It appears that in his young days Mr. Carl Persohn possessed somewhat of an adventurous disposition and the stiring days just before the Civil War gave such as he, ample opportunity for adventure. Born in Germany in 1837, and coming to America in 1857, he journeyed to Kansas territory, then the scene of much violence resulting from the clash of pro-slavery and anti-slavery elements. Six weeks of the turmoil in "Bleeding Kansas" was enough for this peaceable young German immigrant boy and he worked his way back to good old Wisconsin. One of his companions on this journey was John Timm. After returning to Wisconsin he lived for a short time in Waukesha county, but in 1858 his parents homesteaded on what is known as the John Greve farmstead.

Wilhelmina, the oldest daughter, was married in Waukesha county to Johann Heinrich Timm. They started their life together with a journey to a northeastern corner of township of Brillion in Calumet

County. Many hours of hard labor faced the young couple as they cleared land and built a home. To make use of the wood that was cleared from the land, Johann Timm had erected a saw mill and sawed the logs into lumber. Sickness and death took their toll in the family with four children dying with black pox and two of unknown cause, but they continued their life.

Henrietta experienced some different hardships during her first married years. Her husband Johann Peters served in Co.H, 6th Wis. Inf.(GAR 1861-1865). After he returned from his tour of duty, he was employed by his brother-in-law, Johann Timm, at Timm's saw mill and grist mill. He suffered an accidental death at the mill pond. Henrietta continued to raise her children with the help of family members. She was fortunate to meet and marry Friedrich Hintzmann. They farmed for some years and then moved to a small plot of land ¼ mile north of Brillion to enjoy their retirement years. Henrietta lived to a ripe old age of ninety years.

Wilhelm was crippled in early childhood and stayed a bachelor all his life. His physical handicap did not stop him from enjoying life. He served many years as a trustee, local preacher and organist in the Methodist church. He attended church regularly as long as he was able. In his obituary it stated, he gave generous donations to church-related institutions and colleges. In his home church, he gave a generous donation in the form of electric lights for the sanctuary. Kerosene lights had been used in the church before this.

Wilhelm also sold a tonic medicine, known as "Alpenkrauter". This gave him an opportunity to get around with his horse and buggy. Some of the younger daughters of his sister Albertine, worked for Uncle Wilhelm and his mother, Karoline Persohn. The girls had to harness and hitch up his horse to the buggy, when he went to deliver his "Alpenkrauter". One thing which Johanna and Sarah mentioned that had taken place during their stay, was about his half cookies. The girls had to bake cookies and when they were served at the table, he would always break a cookie in half for himself, leaving the other half on the cookie plate. Of course the girls ate the half cookie. Then he would break another one in half. That way they always had half cookies to eat.

This clipping was donated by Frebert Bastian.

CRIPPLED COBBLER GIVES $65,000 TO A VILLAGE METHODIST CHURCH

Chicago, Oct. 26.—Wilhelm Persohn, a congenital cripple, the romance of whose life lay in his devotion to the little Methodist church at Brillon, Wis., left $25,000 to the pension fund of the church.

Persohn never was able to stand on his feet unaided, and his parents, who brought him to this country from Germany when he was 13, taught him to be a cobbler. He invested his meagre savings in land and the land grew in value. All went to the church.

"The Lord has given me money in such a wonderful manner that it belongs to Him and I shall return it to Him," was the cobbler's motto.

During his life he gave $65,000 to institutions of the church. For his last years he reserved the interest on $25,000 and upon his recent demise it was found that the principal had been left to the pension fund. For twenty-seven years he was preacher, organist and choir leader of the church at Brillion.

I typed out a copy of the paper clipping.

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I received all the following information from Lorna Mae Barnes Winter from Scotia, Nebr. She is a granddaughter of Emma Richard Sautter and was also gathering material for the Sautter Genealogy.

1. On her marriage license she stated her name as "Emma W. Richard," her mother as "Hannah Parson" (sp) and father as "William Richard".

2. This was taken from her obituary:
Emma Wilhelmina Richard was born Oct.16, 1864 at Anipee, (misspelled) Wis. and passed away Oct.8, 1948 at the age of 83 years, 11 months and 23 days.
At the age of nine months, her father was killed in the Civil War. Sometime later her mother, Mrs.Richard, married Mr. Timm. In 1872, when Emma was eight years old, they came to Nebraska and settled in Polk County. Emma was the eldest daughter in a family of 13.

3. Ahnapee, Kewaunee County, Wisconsin, changed its name to Algoma in 1897. (Information from State Historical Society of Wis.) Aug.25, 1980.

4. Also from Wisc. Historial Society

Census 1860 July 14, Ahnapee, Kewaunee Co. Vol.___, Page 89

House No.	Family No.	Name of family	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
299	299	Fred Richards	49	Farmer	Germany
		Charlotte "	50		"
		Charles "	23		"
		William "	20		"
		Ferdinard "	15		"
		Minnie "	11		"
		Frederick "	9		"

I feel this is most likely the family of William Richard. However they did place an (s) on the name.

5. Census 1870 June 21 Brillion, Calumet Co.

House No.	Family No.	Name of family	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
36	36	Timm, Lewis	24	Farmer	Prussia
		" Hannah	23	Keeping	"
		" Emma	6	house	Wis.
		" Frederick	3		"
		" Caroline	9/12 (Born in Sept.)		"

6.
On his military records he was mustered into service March 22, 1865. Credited to Ahnapee Sub. Dist.87. 5th Cong. Dist. Wisc. 11th Reg't Infantry. (Age 25, born in Germany-farmer, enlisted for 1 year. Eyes, Blue; hair, Sandy; Complexion, Light; height 5ft.9in.

Another Military record-- Gives a different (age).
R.11 Wisc.
William Richard
Pvt., Co. G, 11 Reg't Wisconsin Inf.
Age 35 years
Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated
Mobile, Ala. Sept.4, 1865

Remarks: Drafted Pvt. from enrollment.
Died of disease Aug.9/65
in Marine Hosp. Mobile. Ala.

Record of Death and Interment.

Name and No. of person entered ------- William Richard No.81
No. and location of grave ---------- 124 Mobile City Graveyard "Soldiers Rest"
Hospital number of deceased ---------- 1631
Regiment, rank and Company ---------- 11th Wisconsin Inf. Vol. Private Co. G
Residence before enlistment ---------- Ahnappee, Kawanna Co., Wisc. (sp) (sp)
Cause of Death ---------- Chronic Diarrhea
Age of Deceased ---------- Thirty-five
Nativity ---------- Kingdom of Germany
Date of Death and Burial ---------- Died Aug.9th
Burial Aug.10th, 1865

There were several young children with Hannah and Lewis Timm when they left for Nebraska. The new life in Nebraska must have agreed because more children joined the family making a total of 13 children.

Caroline and Friedrich Bastian started housekeeping on land one-quarter mile north from the Persohn homestead. As in the other families, death also was experienced in the first years of their married life. Working conditions were primitive and doctors were scarce and not always available when needed.

Albertine had the opportunity to work in Appleton before her marriage. When she married Karl Zick they started their housekeeping in a log house. Karl had been a caretaker of geese in Germany, but here in America he raised sheep. This made wool available for Albertine to do her knitting of warm clothing for her family. Albertine loved to sing religious songs and even rendered a solo in the Sunday morning church service.

Another important place in this area, which was used by these early ancestors was the cheese factory and general merchandise store located on the Southwest corner of the East half of Sec.10 Township 20 Range 20.

On Apr.27, 1888, John Zick sold a ½ acre of land to Wm. Praeger for $50.00. (Recorded in Book of Deeds Vol.19 P.621 in the Register of Deeds office in Calumet Court House, Chilton, Wis.)

The factory was started between 1885 and 1890.

John Wolfmeyer bought that property on Feb.1, 1890 for $600.00. (Recorded in Book of Deeds Vol.20 Page 462 at Court House, Chilton, Wis.) John Wolfmeyer worked as an apprentice for other cheesemakers to get his training to become a cheesemaker. That was all that was required, in those days, to operate a factory on your own.

John Wolfmeyer married the oldest daughter of Caroline and Friedrich Bastian, Emma Bastian, on Dec.10, 1891.

The house across the road from the factory was built in 1899 and the store next to the factory was built in 1901. The factory has changed ownship several times. John Wolfmeyer sold to his son Leland, when Leland got married. Leland sold to Elmer Schreiber. During these next years Alvin Wolfmeyer, second son of John, was preparing himself for the cheesemaker trade. He took a course at the Dairy School at University of Wisconsin and graduated in 1923. An apprenticeship learning was still the only requirement for making cheese, but the schooling made it possible to get an earlier start.

Elmer Schreiber sold the factory as a partnership to Alvin Wolfmeyer and Alvin's brother-in-law, Harvey Schnell in 1923. Several years later Alvin bought out Harvey's half and operated it with hired help. Alvin bought the house and store when he got married in 1927. Alvin Wolfmeyer moved the factory equipment into the store building after World War II, which closed the store. In 1951 he sold the business to Harold Zick. Around 1956 Zick sold the milk business and equipment to Theil Cheese Plant. After several years the land was sold to Bernard Geiger, a farmer. All trace of the factory is gone, but the well and pump still remain, and the land is used for farming again.

Memories about the factory and store are many. Early farmers for many years had to take the whey (aby-product of the cheese making process) along home to feed their hogs. Years later a large tank truck came around collecting whey from all factories in the area. The last years cheesemakers had to get rid of the whey himself.

Nora Krueger Reichardt remembers when no cheese was made on Sunday mornings.

I have asked Nelson Wolfmeyer to give me some interesting information about the factory and store and this is what he wrote.

"Nora Reichardt is right when she says no cheese was made on Sundays. Milk was brought in on Saturday nights. It was skimmed and the farmers took the skimmed milk home for the hogs and the cream was sold, I believe to some dairy in Appleton. The farmers kept Sunday mornings milk cold for Monday delivery. Later on this skimming at the factory was done on Sunday morning so we would be through in time to go to church. The farmers didn't get as much money from this type of operation, but as most were good Methodists they didn't mind. Eventually, however we made cheese on Sun."

Patrons of the factory saved themselves many a trip of going to town, because they could buy their main necessarities from the store. They carried a line of yard goods, sewing notions, general hardware and groceries. Cookies, crackers and candy was sold by bulk. They took eggs in trade for groceries.

When the farm truck replaced the horse and wagon, a gasoline pump was added to the services available at the store. A corner in the store also served as an Ice Cream Parlor.

Travelers passing thru the area occassionally patronized the store and factory for cheese and necessarities. People staying on the campmeeting grounds made good use of the store's services also.

Another article from Nelson's letter.

"The following events took place before my time, but I remember them from conversations by my parents and others.

My father's family was brought up in the Town of Woodville. This I believe is west of Forest Junction. Robert Timm ran a saw mill at or near his farm. Apparentally the mill was run by a steam engine and my dad was the fireman. I wouldn't be surprised if he boarded somewhere in that area and so met my mother, Emma Bastian.

Apparently they bought the cheese factory after they were married. They bought the factory from Adolph Praeger. It's possible that they lived upstairs in the factory at first. There was a small room in the southeast corner of the factory which served as store before the new store building was put up.

We also had a barn and stable in the back and kept horses, wagons and buggies. Cheese was hauled to Forest Junction by horse drawn vehicles and shipped by rail to Appleton. And of course supplies for the store were also picked up at Forest Junction depot.

Yes, my Dad was janitor at the church for many years. I recall when he got his first Model T Ford. Probably the first time he ran it, he went to church on Saturday night to ring the bell, which was customary at that time. He drove around the church three or four times to figure out how to stop it.(The Model T).

Nelson and Alvin Wolfmeyer were sons of John and Emma Bastian Wolfmeyer. They gave me this interesting material about the factory and store.

During the early years, of the ancestors life in America, some schools were built. Their children attended the schools to get their education. Employment of some of the children was also found in the

larger towns of Appleton or Green Bay.

Many descendants of our forefathers have enjoyed many years of married life. Quite a few have celebrated their 50th anniversary and some have had more then 60 years of wedded bliss.

The early ancestors were mostly farmers and lumbermen. Their children and grandchildren had more opportunity for higher education. Some became teachers, preachers, missionaries, nurses, doctors, lawyers and specialists in various other occupations.

I have seen many generation pictures of relatives with three, four and even five generations in the picture. I'll let each of you make your own collection of your families.

When I started up-dating this family history, I forgot to ask for information on men and women, who had served in military duty, since 1954. I know there are many who served and some also gave their lives for their country during these years of the Korean and Viet Nam undeclared wars. There are some serving in the armed forces at the present time. We are not forgetting those in the service of our country and honor them for their service.

God has blessed our ancestors with many descedants in their new home land of America. The descedants were gifted with an assortment of talents which helped them prosper during their earthly years.

I want to thank all relatives for their co-operation with the information given to make this genealogy possible. Thanks to June Bastian, who typed up all the names and dates for me. Also thanks to my brother Wilbert, who proof read my history section.

If there are any errors, they were not made intentionally. If any names and dates are missing, it is because we did not receive the information. PLEASE send me any errors so I can correct the master copy. Would appreciate it if relatives would keep us informed of any additions of births, deaths and marriages since the last ones listed in this book. It has taken me several years to get all this material together. I would like a yearly list of all changes of records, so I can send out up-dated lists every year for all to add to your books, as long as I am able to do so.

Thanks for your patience with me, while I was assembling this material. Many thanks again and God Bless you All.

Signed,
Myrtle Keuer Loose
N8702 Bastian Rd.
Brillion, Wi. 54110
Phone - Area code 414-
756- 2797

June's address is:
June Bastian
~~N8537 Bastian Rd.~~ 240 Bentwood Dr.
Brillion, Wi. 54110
Phone - Area code ~~414~~ 1-920
756- 2947