

From: German Family History, by Fr. Ambrose German

"Frank German, the oldest of the eleven children of Basilius German and Gertrude Sager, was born on February 12, 1849 at Buffalo, New York, where his Father was conducting a six loom shop for weaving cloth. The family soon moved to a farm near Niagara Falls, but in 1852, the family went to Stark County, Illinois to take up farming. It was in the local school there that young Frank received his education, and then helped his father farm until he reached the age of 22. He also worked for a short time in the coal mines on his father's farm, and for 3 months helped build the railroad which ran nearby. At the age of 22, he began to farm for himself in Peoria County, Illinois.

By that time he had married Elizabeth Messing. The ceremony took place on November 16, 1869 in his parents' home near Princeville, since there was no Catholic Church nearby. A priest came from some distance for this occasion, since it was to be a double wedding. Frank's sister Fredericka was married at the same time to George Heinz.

Mr. German owned 80 acres in Peoria County which he farmed from 1871 to 1885. He sold this land, and on November 28, 1885 he moved with his family to Nebraska, where he bought 200 acres in Burrows Township. He traded this land in 1903 for 240 acres in Grand Prairie Township, just east of St. Mary Church. In 1905 he erected a fine house on this property. He was a feeder of cattle and hogs, a shareholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company of Humphrey, and served as road supervisor of Burrows Township for 18 years, and was a trustee of St. Mary Church.

Mr. and Mrs. German farmed for many years before they retired to Humphrey, Nebraska. It was here that Mrs. German died on December 22, 1928. Mr. German lived on in Humphrey for 4 more years, and then made his home with his son, Leo. He died on January 20, 1941, one of the oldest men in the Community."