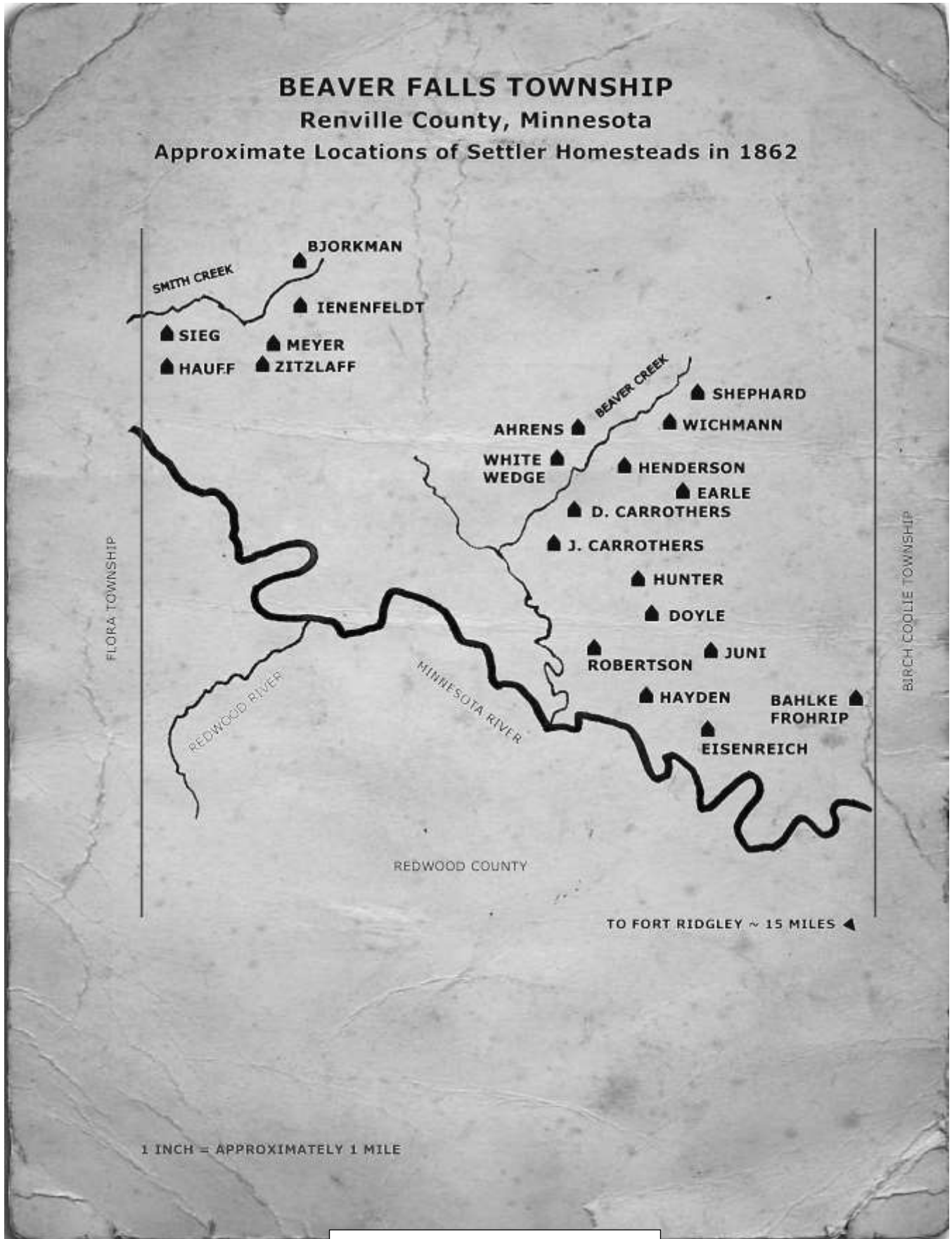


# Beaver Falls Township



Source: Mary P. McConnell - 2013

## Beaver Falls Township

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Beaver Falls was the first county seat in Renville County. At the time of the war, it was the most populated area in Renville County. The frightened settlers literally evacuated the entire township and only twelve of the twenty-six original settler families returned, but not for several years. Those families are notated by an \*asterisk by their name. All that remains today are a few buildings, a town hall, a cemetery and a county park. The Chassie and Levant family are not shown on this map as their homestead sites were not located. Marion Satterlee's list states they lived in Beaver Creek. The Schmidt family is also not shown. They lived in Section 14 and 15 near the Whites and the Wichmanns.

### **\*Henry and Minnie Ahrens Family**

Henry and Minnie (Carolina Wilhelmina Sophia Bobzin) Ahrens were married in Illinois in 1860 and had one child, Frederich, at the time of the war, and she was pregnant with another. They were one of the first settler families to return to their homestead after the war. They lost their home and all of their worldly possessions and fled to Illinois, the state from where they had originally emigrated from, to rebuild their lives in Beaver Falls. Ahrens filed a claim for 160 acres on portions of Sections 11 and 14 in 1871.

His biography states: "For almost fifty years, Judge Ahrens earnestly and devotedly served his town, county, state and country in various official capacities, being the county's first treasurer, one of the earliest commissioners, and later being honored by being sent to the state senate in which capacity he showed that same solid worth and good judgment which had previously been his distinguishing characteristics."

Henry and Minnie moved to the nearby town of Morton in 1903. He died in 1914 at the age of 81 years. Minnie died in 1910. Their children were: Frederich, Fredericka Marie, Eliza Louisa, Henry William (married to Urilda Anna Carruth), Wilhelmina, William, Lena, Francis H. (Frank), and Charles F. Ahrens. Henry and Minnie are buried in the Beaver Falls Cemetery in Renville County along with children Minnie, Willie and Lena.

The Ahrens family and the Wichmann family were life-long friends and neighbors. Henrick Ahrenz (Arens) filed a Depredation Claim #353 and received \$480.00 as full payment made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages. An extensive narrative on this family is found on Find A Grave Memorial #106475424.

### **Andrew Bahlke**

Andrew Bahlke was a Mecklenburg immigrant who came to America with his sister, Maria Frohrip and her children, arriving at Castle Garden in New York on October 23, 1855. The family worked their way to Minnesota and settled on the southeast quarter of Section 25. Part of that land today is now the Morton City Cemetery.

On August 18, several Dakota came into Bahlke's yard and shot his barking dog. When he came out to investigate, he was shot and killed. He may have been buried on his property by his nephew, John Frohrip who came upon the scene later. Andrew's sister, Maria, tried to flee and was shot in the back several times but survived. More of Maria's story is found in the Frohrip narrative, in the New Settlers chapter and in Volume I.

### **Peter Bjorkman**

Peter Bjorkman narrowly escaped the attack by the Dakota and spent a night in a slough, witnessing the slaughter of many of his neighbors. He was responsible for saving the lives of Ann Lettou and her children, Augusta and an infant, when he came upon them in the woods and escorted them to Fort Ridgely. Unfortunately, we know nothing more of this man whose escape and heroic deeds were an inspiring story of the

## Beaver Falls Township

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war. Marion Satterlee's book lists his name as Petrus and his home as St. Paul, But Gregory Michno's book indicates he was living near the Smith Creek settlement. A Petrua Bjorkman (or Peter Burkman on film) filed a Depredation claim, Claim #21, for \$350.00 and received part payment for relief of depredation damages.

### **\*David and Elizabeth Carrothers, Willie, Johnny, and Emmet**

The Carrothers brothers, sons of William and Elizabeth Carrothers, lived very near each other on Beaver Creek. David and his brother James were working as carpenters at the agency at the time of the war. David made his escape to Fort Ridgely after his two sons, Willie and Johnny, were killed near their home while escaping with the Henderson, Earle and White families. Elizabeth and her baby Emmet were taken hostage. They were freed at Camp Release six weeks later on September 26.

When the family was reunited, they spent some time in Oshawa in Nicollet County where Francis was born. By 1866, the family had returned to Beaver Falls, and Carrothers filed a claim for 160 acres on Sections 15 and 21. The village of Beaver Falls was plotted on his land located on the northwest quarter of section 22. In 1867, he filed a claim for an additional 120 acres in Section 15.

Carrothers built the first home in Beaver Falls and their child, Ida May, was the first child born in the new village in 1866. Son Edward soon joined the family. Elizabeth was missing from the 1885 census so she was either deceased or living elsewhere. David, 50, was living with sons, Frank, 21, and Edward, 17 on that census.

Carrothers once served as sheriff for Beaver Falls and was among those who testified in the trial of Chay-ton-hoon-ka, who was found guilty and hanged. Elizabeth and David also testified against Tate-hdo-dan who had taken her prisoner. He was also found guilty and hanged. It is not known when David and Elizabeth died or where they are buried. David Carruthers filed a Depredation Claim #51 for \$1,100.00, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages.

### **\*James and Helen Carrothers, Althea and Tommy**

James Carrothers, born about 1830, and Helen Paddock were married in Sparta, WI on October 23, 1856 when Helen was about fourteen years old. His parents were William and Elisabeth Carthens, as transcribed on marriage record. Her parents were Thomas and Laury Paddock. On the same day his brother David filed for land in Beaver Falls, James filed for 160 acres in Section 22 and a month later filed for two additional plots in Section 28.

Carrothers was with Nathan White on his way to a political meeting in Owatonna on the day of the outbreak. His wife Helen had been friendly with the Dakota, learning their language and their traditions, and they taught her how to use herbal plants to treat and cure various ailments. She and her children were captured, but they escaped and finally reached Fort Ridgely after eight days of perilous hardship.

In 1867, Carrothers was appointed Renville County commissioner and elected again in 1870. He soon resigned and left the county in 1872. The family moved to St. Paul and then St. Peter, and it was there they divorced. James then joined the cavalry in Wisconsin and served during the Civil War. James Carruthers filed a Depredation Claim, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages, amount and claim number unknown.

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Helen then married Dennis McNanney in 1869 and they had three children, Helen Mar, Arthur, and Moses. The couple moved to Brainerd, MN, and were there for seven years; they then moved to Bismarck, ND, and then to Montana. McNanney was involved in lumbering and railroad construction. He died in Montana in 1877. After his death, Helen remained in the area and was hired to cook for employees of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Later, she left Montana and came to Minneapolis, worked for a while as a dressmaker, and then operated a boarding house.

After several years in Minneapolis, she moved west again, first to Portland, OR, and then to Tacoma, WA, where she kept another boarding house. During this time, she twice lost everything to fires. Helen finally returned to her old home in Dodge County, MN, and, in November 1896, she married Lemon H. Tarble, a widower. They farmed land in sections 5, 6, and 8 in the northwest part of Ashland Township, near Dodge Center until 1905, when they moved into town.

Helen was the author of a book published in 1904, which relates the story of her capture and escape from the Dakota. During this time, she lectured on the subject of the war, and, for a number of years during the state fair, she had charge of the Old Settlers building. Mr. Tarble died in 1918. Helen died on July 2, 1921, at the age of 78 in Dodge Center and was survived by a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren. Her obituary mentions that in her last few years, she was tenderly cared for by her son, Arthur J. McNanney, and "everything was done for her that a loving heart and hands could do." Her funeral was held at the Methodist Church in Dodge Center. She is buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Dodge County, MN. It is not known what happened to Althea and Tommy or their father. Bill Cox provided a portion of this narrative on Helen's Find A Grave memorial #57988111.

### **John and Mrs. R. Chassie**

John and his wife R. were listed as refugees from Beaver Creek at Fort Ridgely. Nothing further is known of them. The name may have been Chaffee.

### **John Doyle**

John Doyle was a single man who was with the twenty-seven members of the Earle, Henderson, White and Carrothers families when they attempted their escape. His name does not appear on any victim lists so he may have broken away and fled on his own. He lived very near the Hunter and Juni families, probably in Section 23. John Doyle of Rice City in Meeker County, filed a Depredation claim #2105 for \$120, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages.

### **Jonathan and Amanda Macomber Earle, Chalon, Ezmon, Julia, Radnor, Herman and Elmira**

Jonathan Earle was born in Vermont in August 30, 1816 in Vermont, the son of Calvin Earle and Eunice Whipple. His wife Amanda Macomber was born in 1820. Jonathan was a graduate of the University of Vermont and was a school teacher in western New York. The family moved to Columbia County, WI where Jonathan served in the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1858. The family then moved to Beaver Falls about June, 1862, east of the creek, just north of the Carrothers brothers and six miles northwest of the Lower Sioux Agency on Section 23.

On the day of the war, fifteen-year old Radnor died a hero as he tried to defend his father with a shotgun loaded with pebbles while trying to escape with the Henderson, Carrothers and White families. His mother Amanda and sisters' Julia and Elmira were taken captive, and their father, Jonathan, and brothers' Chalon, Ezmon and Herman, separately escaped. Ezmon became a citizen defender of the fort and later shared his reminiscences of the

## Beaver Falls Township

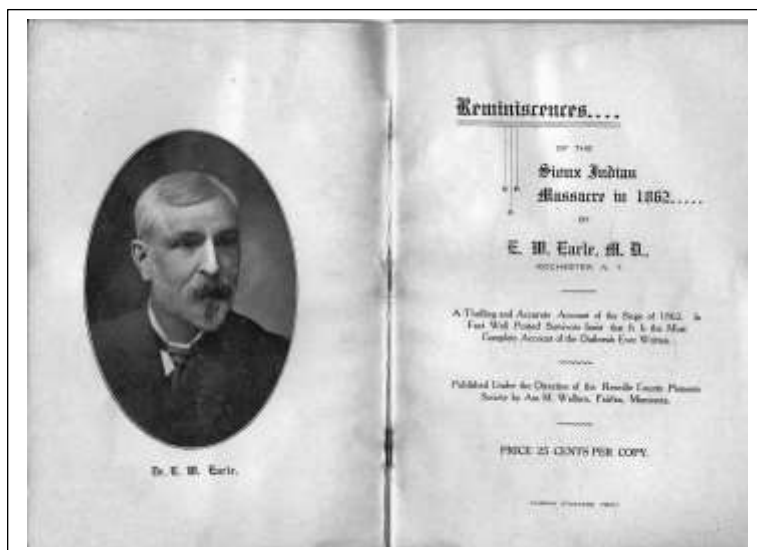
two battles, which are found on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society and included in Wedge's *History of Renville County*. It is called "Thrilling Experiences of a Boy During the Sioux Massacre". Ezmon and Chalon joined Col. Henry Sibley's force and were with the Joseph R. Brown burial party when they found and buried their brother Radnor on September 1, 1862.

Their father Jonathan was injured while escaping by being cut by sharp grasses on his feet and legs. He had shed his trousers as they were slowing him down en route to safety. He made it to Cedar City, then Hutchinson and then to St. Peter. In late September, he journeyed to Camp Release in a 4-horse team and wagon, accompanied by friend Nathan White, where he was reunited with his captive family.

After erecting a monument to their fallen son, the family moved to LeMars, Iowa where Jonathan died in 1874; he is buried in the Memorial Cemetery in LeMars. Radnor's monument was later moved next to his father's grave, but his remains were left where he was buried. A monument was then erected on a wayside stop north of Morton, ½ mile from where he is buried. More on the monument is found in the Historic Sites chapter. Amanda died in 1894 and she is buried next to her husband in the Memorial Cemetery.

Chalon was born July 10, 1843 in New York. He married Ella M. Beadell on February 20, 1873. They were the parents of two children, Estrella and Ralph, both born in LeMars, IA. Chalon served in the Civil War as a corporal/sergeant in the Minnesota Cavalry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Co. H. In 1875, he filed a claim for 80 acres of land on Section 4 in St. Louis County, MN. He was last found living in Montana but no records were located about his death and burial.

Ezmon Earle was born June 16, 1845 in Centerville, Allegany, NY. He became a doctor and practiced medicine in New York. From *The HISTORY OF WYOMING CO., NY* by F. W. BEERS, 1880: "Dr. E. W. Earle is a son of Prof. J.W. Earle, widely known in western New York as a teacher. He was born June 16th, 1845, in Centerville, NY, and in 1850 went with his father's family to Minnesota, where his brother was killed and his mother and sister were made captives in the Sioux War He was married Jan. 31st, 1867, to HANNAH HILLS, of Yorkshire, N.Y. He graduated at Cincinnati Medical College in April, 1877, and now has a lucrative practice." Ezmon's wife Hannah was born June 24, 1846, the daughter of Thomas H. and Elizabeth Owens Hughes of Arcade, Wyoming, NY. The family lived in Salamanca, NY, Sioux City, IA, Arcade and Rochester, NY. They were the parents of William Hughes Earle, born April 4, 1886. Ezmon wrote a paper that was subsequently published as a pamphlet. The entire paper can be found at the Renville County Historical Society in Morton, MN and is shown with their permission.



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Radnor Clifton Earle was born February 17, 1847 and died a hero in the U.S.-Dakota War on August 18, 1862 while saving the lives of his father and brothers.

Julia was born April 21, 1849 and married George W. Young on October 17, 1869. They were the parents of Earle D., born April 4, 1873. The family lived in Sioux City, IA.

Herman was born June 20, 1853. Nothing further is known of him.

Elmira H. Earle was born November 29, 1855 and married Milton A. Andrews on September 6, 1876. They were the parents of Arthur, Julian, and Julia. They lived in Sioux City, IA. Elmira, aka Lillie, died in 1935 and is buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery, located in Lehigh in Webster County, IA alongside her husband, Milton.

Johnathan W. Earle filed a Depredation claim #1144 for \$4,770.00, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages.

### **Balthasar and \*Theresa Eisenreich, Sophia, Peter, Mary, John, and Joseph**

There was a land patent issued to the Eisenrich family in May of 1862 which indicates they may have only lived in the township a short time before the war. Balthasar Eisenreich was among those killed very near his home while trying to escape with the Hayden family. His wife Theresa and their five children, Sophia, Peter, Mary, John and Joseph, were taken hostage, and were taken to the David Faribault house where they were joined by the Juni and Zimmerman families. They were eventually found by Captain Marsh and his troops. This group was attacked again on their way to Fort Ridgely, taken hostage and freed at Camp Release in September, 1862.

Theresa married Albert Dagen and they added five children to their family. In 1865, the family was living in Mankato, MN. In 1866, Theresa filed a claim for land on Sections 26 and 35 in Beaver Falls Township and Albert filed in Section 24. The family lived in Beaver Falls until about 1895 when they were found living in Spring Brook Township in Kittson County, MN. Son Joseph filed for a land patent on Section 26 in Kittson County in 1895.

Theresa died in 1909 in Karlstad at the age 76; she and Arthur are buried in the Spring Brook Cemetery. Sophia died January 24, 1873 at the age of 17 years, 8 months and 24 days and is buried in St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery in Franklin, MN. The Eisenreich story in more detail is found in the New Settler Stories chapter. Brian Eisenrich, 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandson contributed to this narrative.

### **Maria Bahlke Frohrip and Children Louisa and John**

Maria Frohrip was living with her brother, Andrew Bahlke, who had selected a homestead site overlooking the Minnesota Valley on Section 25, now part of the Morton City Cemetery. Maria and her children had immigrated to America in 1855 after her husband had died in Germany. Her brother Andrew was killed after finding his dog shot by Dakota. He scolded the Dakota for killing the dog and they in turn shot and killed him.

Maria was shot and seriously wounded and discovered later lying in the yard by her son John who had been away that morning. John loaded her in the wagon and they escaped to Fort Ridgely. Her daughter Louisa was working at the Lower Sioux Agency that day and she escaped with the John Nairn family. The family was reunited at the fort.

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John and his mother Maria later moved to Winneshiek County, Iowa, and Louisa is said to have stayed with the Nairn family after the war. Maria spent the rest of her life at her daughter Mary Dresselhaus' home where she died in 1887. She is buried next to Mary in the Locust Lane Salem Cemetery in Locust, Iowa.

Louisa Frohrip married Valentine Bott on September 14, 1864, in St Peter, MN at the North Western Hotel, and they settled in the Redwood Falls area where they raised their twelve children. Louisa took her own life in 1921, and is buried next to her husband and son, Willie, in Lamberton City Cemetery in Redwood County.

John married Carolina Maria "Mary" Sundermann on April 18, 1866, in LeSueur County, Minnesota. They raised their seven children and farmed in the area near Fort Ridgely. John died in 1881 and is buried next to his wife in Fort Ridgely Cemetery. John Frohrip filed a Depredation Claim #472 for \$600.00 and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages. For more on the Bahlke/Frohrip family, see the New Settler Stories chapter and Volume I. Kathy Brow, 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grand niece, contributed to this narrative.

### **Ernest and Augustine Fechner Hauff, Ernest Jr., Frederick, Attila and Henrietta**

This family immigrated from Posen, Prussia in 1853 and settled in Minnesota in 1857. They were members of the Middle Creek Church. Augustine and two children were killed at their home just south of Smith Creek, and Ernest and two children were killed while escaping from the home of John and Carolina Meyer, in the SE quarter of Section 7. Ernest had grabbed two of his children and was running down the bluff when he was shot and killed. The Dakota killed the two children by kicking them to death. There were no survivors in this family.

A Depredation claim #1024 for \$500.00 was filed on behalf of Ernest N. Hauff (decd.) by August Ziebarth, Administrator. It is not known if any claimant received full payment.

### **Patrick and Mary Hayden and Daughter Catherine John Hayden**

Patrick and Mary Hayden lived north of the Minnesota River on Section 35. On the day of the war, Patrick and his wife and child headed to the fort for safety, but he returned home thinking the Dakota would not attack. Something changed his mind and he started off toward Fort Ridgely again but was killed near the David Faribault house, 1 ½ miles east of the Redwood Ferry. Mary and her small child, Catherine, had made it to the fort safely.

Patrick's brother, John, who lived with Patrick and Mary, also perished that day at about the same place while he was helping the Eisenreich family escape. There is nothing further known about Mary and her young child so she may have remarried. The Hayden story in more detail is found in the New Settler Stories chapter.

Mary Hayden (Mrs.) filed a Depredation Claim #58 for \$775.00 and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages.

### **Stephen and Clarissa Henderson, Lydia and an Unnamed Child**

Stephen and Clarissa Henderson lived near Beaver Creek, very near the Earle and Carrothers families on Section 22. Clarissa was ill the morning of the war. The Earle, Henderson, White and Carrothers families made plans to escape together and lay Clarissa on a feather mattress in the family buggy. One-half mile from their homes, they were attacked by the Dakota. Henderson, who was fluent in Dakota, attempted to negotiate their release by surrendering their wagons and animals but keeping the buggy which they would then have to pull by hand. They thought they had an agreement, but suddenly the Dakota began firing at them. The men dropped the buggy and

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ran. The Dakota pulled Clarissa and the mattress from the buggy and set it on fire. Clarissa, her two daughters, one named Lydia, age 2, and the other name unknown, age 9 months, were savagely burned to death.

Stephen miraculously escaped and later joined the Joseph Brown burying party that buried Clarissa and their daughters. That next day, September 2, Stephen was killed at the Battle of Birch Coulee, so there were no Henderson family survivors. The family is memorialized by a marker commissioned by the Renville County Pioneers Association. For more details and a photograph of the monument, see the Historic Sites chapter of this book.

### **\*Andrew and Elizabeth Hunter**

Andrew Hunter was born in New York in 1830 and moved with his family to Illinois. He came to Minnesota in 1852 and worked as a teacher with the well-known missionary Dr. Thomas Williamson, so he was absent from his home quite often. Hunter was a very early settler in Beaver Falls, living south of James Carrothers. He served as a probate judge before the county was founded. His wife, Elizabeth, was born March 30, 1883, the daughter of Dr. Thomas and Margaret Poage Williamson. Elizabeth and Andrew Hunter were married on April 19, 1858.

Andrew and Elizabeth were with the Stephen Riggs party as they made their escape. Shortly after, Elizabeth died on March 13, 1863 and is buried in the Green Lawn Cemetery in Traverse, Nicollet County, MN.

Andrew was found farming in Beaver Falls in 1870 with new wife Ann, who was born in 1850 in Ohio, and their four small children, Jenny, Mary, Jane and Robert. In 1873, Hunter filed claim for 160 acres in Section 23. In 1880, the family was farming in Henryville in Renville County, and they had three additional children: Maggie, Ester and Ruth. It is not known when Andrew died or where he is buried. Andrew Hunter filed a Depredation claim #717 for \$1,150.00, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages.

### **William and \*Wilhelmina Zitzlaff Ienenfeldt and Bertha**

William Ienenfeldt was born in the Posen Province of Prussia and immigrated to Canada, then to Beaver Falls in 1860. Wilhelmina's family came from the Nackel Province of Prussia. Wilhelmina and William met and fell in love, married and settled near her father, John Zitzlaff and his other two daughters and son. This extended family lived on adjacent quarter sections of land near Smith Creek, probably Section 7, for five years prior to the war. In April, 1862 Wilhelmina gave birth to Bertha.

On the day of the attacks, Wilhelmina discovered her husband dead at their home, stabbed with a butcher knife and her home ransacked and plundered. She and her infant, Bertha, were taken captive and released six weeks later at Camp Release. Wilhelmina's story of captivity is riveting, as she managed to survive as a seamstress for the Dakota by working on cloth taken in plunder. Her story appears in Volume I. The Zitzlaff, Ienenfeldt, Sieg and Meyer families were all related and were members of the Middle Creek Church.

At Camp Release, she met a "special soldier," Fredrick Grose, who offered to accompany her to Fort Ridgely. While travelling, Fredrick proposed to her and asked her if she could leave the tragedy behind her and make a new life with him. She agreed and that union was blessed with 3 sons and 7 daughters. Minnie died in Olivia in 1911 at the age of 69. Her daughter Bertha married Charles Lawin and settled on a farm south of Renville. She died in 1947 in Renville County, MN. Carol Shubert contributed to this narrative.



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Wilhelmina's story can also be found in the book *German Pioneer Accounts of the Great Sioux War of 1862*, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. A Depredation Claim #453 was filed on behalf of Wilhelm Imenfield (decd.) for \$800.00, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages

**\*Benedict and Maria Schwab Juni, Benedict, Jr. Christian, Anne Maria, Elizabeth and Frederick** Benedict, Sr. and Mary (Maria) Juni were Swiss immigrants living peaceably with their family near the Hayden and Eisenreich families. When warned by neighbors, Benedict, Sr. loaded his wagon and sent his wife and children, except for young Benedict, Jr., to the fort while he remained to care for his stock. When the Dakota appeared, Benedict, Sr. escaped to the fort. Ten-year old Benedict, Jr. was taken hostage near his home and released six weeks later.

Mary and her children were taken captive while escaping with the Hayden and Zimmerman families. They were taken to the deserted Faribault house before being released. Christian, Elizabeth and Frederick then made it to Fort Ridgely with their mother.

Benedict, Jr., born January 12, 1852, in Bern, Switzerland lived with friends in Le Sueur for a time after he was released from captivity, as his father, Benedict Sr. had enlisted with the Army. Benedict, Jr. married Bertha Krause in 1881 in New Ulm, and they were the parents of five children. Her father had been killed during the war. Benedict was a school teacher. He died February 12, 1922 and is buried in the New Ulm Cemetery. Benedict, Jr. wrote a 23-page account called "Held in Captivity" which was published in 1902.

Christian, born February 13, 1854, lived with the Scheffler family in Le Sueur after the war. He married Caroline Engler in 1881. Christian died April 13, 1916 and is buried at Spirit Hill Cemetery in Jordan.

Anne Marie was listed on Fred Johnson's refugee list at Fort Ridgely but not on other Fort refugee lists. Recent research by the Brown County Historical Society finds that Anne Maria, born in 1855, married Homer Crocker and died August 12, 1895 in Otter Tail County. They had three children, Lucy, George and Silas according to census records. Silas and Lucy went to live with Benedict Juni, Jr. after the death of their mother and are listed living with him in the 1900 census. Crocker was a Civil War veteran who was enumerated as a Union veteran in 1890 and had served in Co. G, 38<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. Anne Maria is buried in the Fairview Cemetery in Deer Creek, MN. Homer Crocker then moved to Washington State and remarried. His memorial is on Find A Grave but there is no date of death. He is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Tacoma.

Elizabeth, born September, 1858, was adopted by the Distler family of Jordan. She died November 12, 1914 in Jordan in Scott County, MN at the age of 56 and is buried at Spirit Hill Cemetery in Jordan. She never married.

Frederick, born in 1862, was adopted by the Townsend family. Nothing further is known about him.

Their mother Mary died soon after the war, thought to be from "nervous prostration produced by fear and anxiety for the welfare of her family during the terrible days of the Sioux Massacre in 1862." These are the words written in Benedict Juni, Jr.'s reminisces.

Benedict, Sr. volunteered and served as a private in Co. L, 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Cavalry after the outbreak and served during the Civil War. In 1868, he filed a claim for 160 acres on Sections 25 and 26 in Beaver Falls Township. He later married Ernestine Massopust and moved to the Milford area in Brown County where he died in 1897 at the

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age of 72. Benedict and Ernestine are buried in the New Ulm City Cemetery. Benedict Enni filed a Depredation claim #589, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages, amount not known.

### **Mary, John and Magdelene Schurch, Children of Maria Juni from Her First Marriage**

Mary married Michael Zitlaff and both were killed the day of the conflict. John was taken captive while herding cattle at Big Stone Lake. Magdelene escaped to Fort Ridgely with her mother. Darla Gebhard, Brown County Historical Society, gave assistance in the preparation of the Juni/Schurch narratives.

### **Levant Family**

Mr. and Mrs. Levant, 2 daughters and a son were killed, and their eleven-year old son August escaped to Fort Ridgely. He was probably adopted and had his name changed as there is no further information about him. It is not known where in Beaver Falls the Levant family was living at the time of the war, and nothing further was found on this family.

### **\*John and Caroline Zitzlaff Meyer, Lydia, Johnny and Sarah**

John Meyer immigrated from Württemberg, Germany in 1853 and became naturalized in New Ulm in 1857. He met Caroline, the daughter of John Zitzlaff in Beaver Falls and they married. Their homestead was in the southeast quarter of Section 7. They were members of the Middle Creek Church. Meyer, age 35, lost his entire family during a bloody, gruesome encounter which he witnessed while trying to escape on a hayrack. He made it to Fort Ridgely and aided in the defense of the fort; his name is inscribed on the commemorative marker as John Moyer.

After the war, the Fort Ridgely refugees were sent to St. Paul where John met Justina Krueger (Krieger) who had also lost her spouse and two children in Flora Township. They married, and soon John volunteered and served with the Mounted Rangers who accompanied General Sibley on his Dakota Territory expedition. He later served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regiment. In 1868, Meyer filed a claim for 160 acres in Section 7.

The family then settled in Sharon Township in LeSueur and lived there about 15 years, then moved on to Olmsted County and finally to Hatton, Dakota Territory, near Grand Forks. John died in 1892 and Justina in 1908. Both are buried in the Holmes Methodist Cemetery in Grand Forks County, ND. Johann Meyer/Mayer filed a Depredation claim #69 for \$1,640.00, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages. Sheri Kennedy, 25<sup>nd</sup> great granddaughter, contributed to this narrative. For more on the Meyer family, see the New Settlers chapter.

### **\*Jane, Angus, Gustava, William and Martha Robertson**

Jane Anderson Robertson was the wife of Andrew Robertson, who died in 1859 and who had served as superintendent of the agency schools. She was living near the mouth of Beaver Creek in Section 27 at the time of the war. Jane, a mixed blood, was known as Anpachiyawin or "Day Break Woman." She and her children were taken captive and released at Camp Release six weeks later. Her daughter, Marion Hunter, wife of Alexander, was also taken captive after her husband was shot and killed near Wabasha's village.

Jane and her family were found on the 1865 census in Faribault, MN and lived there until 1871. She filed a claim for 167 acres in Section 27 in 1870 and then returned to Beaver Falls Township with daughter, Martha. Jane died at the age of 93 on March 10, 1904 at Browns Valley, MN and is buried at St. Mary's Episcopal Cemetery, which

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is located next to what is now called the Old Sisseton Agency, south of Sisseton, SD. Jane A. Robertson filed a Depredation claim #190, amount not known, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages. Her Find A Grave Memorial is #61986286.

Gustava, born in 1844 in Minneapolis, married Christina Blume in 1874. They had five children, Bertha, William, Francis, Josephine and Margaret. He died September 1, 1915 and is buried in the Beaver Falls Cemetery. His tombstone reads Gustavus. William's Find A Grave Memorial is #79717772. There is nothing further found on Martha.

### **Thomas Robertson**

Thomas Robertson was the 22-year old son of Jane and Andrew Robertson. He was among those who warned white settlers in his neighborhood that the Dakota were killing whites, and they should flee. After his family was taken captive, he was forced to accompany the Dakota on attacks at New Ulm and Fort Ridgely. He was eventually tried by a military commission but was acquitted. In the winter of 1862-63, he was in the Dakota camp at Fort Snelling, and then went to Crow Creek reservation in Dakota Territory.

By 1865, at the end of the Civil War, he was a corporal in Company L, 1st Regiment of the MN Heavy Artillery. After the war he was a chief scout in one of the Dakota scout camps that were organized to protect the area settlers. When the Sisseton-Wahpeton reservation was established in 1867, Thomas moved to the S.E. quarter of section 29, Veblen Township in Marshall County, SD where he farmed 160 acres of land next to the cemetery in which he is buried. He married Ida M. Standfast in 1875 and they had six children. After Ida's death in 1909, Thomas married Nancy Santee. He died near Veblen on January 30, 1924 at the age of 84 and is buried in St. Luke's Episcopal Cemetery in Veblen. Portions of this narrative were found on Find A Grave memorial #58493897 written by Bill Cox.

Thomas A. Robertson filed a Depredation Claim #178, amount unknown, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages.

### **\*Franz (Frank) W. and Mary Schmidt**

The Schmidt family was inadvertently left off the attached map, but they lived on Section 14 and 15 according to the following biography. They were part of the Carrothers, White, Henderson and Earle escape party.

From *The History of Renville County, Volume 2*, Compiled by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, Chapter XXXVIII, p. 1101:

"Franz lived in Renville County before the Indian massacre, was born in Germany, July 4, 1832-3, and died March 17, 1914. He came from Germany to America in 1850, remaining one year in Illinois and then coming up the Mississippi river in the steamboat to the mouth of the Minnesota river; went up the Minnesota river to North Redwood, where he worked for the government, putting up buildings and breaking land for the Dakota on the south side of Big Stone Lake. After two years of this kind of work he worked in New Ulm for two years and married in 1859 at West Newton, Minnesota, Mrs. Mary Rissor. Her maiden name was Mary Euchegel and she was born Aug. 24, 1827 (8), and died April 14, 1907. Her first husband was killed by a falling tree. She had one son, Henry, by the first marriage, who is now a farmer of Beaver Falls Township.

## Beaver Falls Township

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Franz W. Schmidt homesteaded 160 acres in sections 14 and 15 in Beaver Falls Township, about Jan. 1, 1860. He left this place at the time of the Sioux War and brought his family to Ft. Ridgely and then to Hastings, Minnesota, where he left them for a year. He came back after a two hours' stop in Hastings and enlisted in Company L, First Minnesota Calvary, and served one year, fighting the Dakota. Then he moved his family to New Ulm, where he lived three years, then coming back to the homestead in Beaver Falls Township in 1867, where he lived until his death."

Franz filed claim for 160 acres on Section 14 in 1868. Frank and Mary are buried in the Beaver Falls Cemetery in Renville County, Minnesota. Buried nearby is a Frederick Schmidt, born in 1864, possibly their son. Franz Wilhelm Schmidt filed a Depredation Claim #107 for \$600.00, and full payment was made to the claimant was made for relief of depredation damages.

### **The Shephard Family**

This family lived in the most northern part of the Beaver Creek settlement, either on Section 11 or 14. They were among the most recent arrivals to settle there, just before the outbreak. They were a part of the Henderson, Earle, Carrothers and White escape party but the family does not show up on the lists of those taken captive, killed or as Fort Ridgely refugees. They may have made their escape on their own. There is nothing further found on this family.

### **John and Anna Zitzlaff Sieg, Freddy, Amelia, Emmy and Louisa**

John Sieg was born in Neu Grunau, Marienwerder, Westprussia and he married Anna Zitzlaff before they immigrated with the Zitzlaff family. Anna was the daughter of John Zitzlaff, a widower who brought his family to what is now Renville County about 1857. John and Anna were living with her father, John Zitzlaff at the time of the war. They were members of the Middle Creek Church. John and Anna Sieg's entire family were killed. They are likely buried on the family property.

### **\*Nathan Dexter and Urania Frazer White, Eugene, Julie, Frank and Millard Jehiel Wedge**

Nathan White was the son of Harvey and Olive Wheeler White. He married Urania Frazer in 1845 in Erie County, NY. The Whites had moved to Renville County near the end of June, 1862. White was absent from his home on August 18 as he was on his way to a political meeting with James Carrothers, so his wife Urania and her children fled with the Earle, Henderson and Carrothers party. Urania, Julia, age 14, and Frank, 5 months, were taken captive. Their son Eugene was killed while escaping, but twelve-year-old Millard managed to escape, eventually reaching St. Peter where his father caught up with him. Their nephew, twenty-nine-year old Jehiel Wedge, was also killed as he tried to protect Clarissa Henderson.

Urania had special protection while held captive and was treated kindly by the Dakota. Eventually her husband arrived at Camp Release on October 5 in a 4-horse team and wagon to retrieve her and their family. Two weeks later, the family traveled to St. Paul, then on to stay with friends in LaCrosse, WI who were able to financially assist in getting this family back on their feet. In March 1863, they returned to Minnesota, and eventually they moved back to their old homestead and engaged in farming.

White filed a claim for 160 acres of land in Section 15 in October, 1864 and an additional 160 acres in that section in 1871. Nathan and Urania had two more children after the war, Rose and George. They also had three

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children who died of cholera shortly before they moved to Minnesota: Ellen, Harlow and Oscar. In 1873, Nathan and his son Millard built a flour mill on Beaver Creek,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile above Beaver Falls.

Urania's story is well-documented on-line, and a photo taken in her later life shows her with Minnie Buce (Busse) and Helen Carrothers and depicts these three very amazing heroic women from Renville County. Urania also wrote a narrative of her time as a captive called: "CAPTIVITY AMONG THE SIOUX, AUGUST 18 TO SEPTEMBER 26, 1862" BY MRS. N.D. WHITE, (Minnesota Historical Society Collections).

Nathan died July 4, 1904 in Renville County, and Urania died February 28, 1913 in Bertha located in Todd County, MN where she was living with her son, Frank and his family. It is not known where they are buried. Nathan D. White filed a Depredation Claim #491 for \$2,138.00, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages.

Jehiel Wedge was the son of Samuel Wedge, Jr. and Hannah McNeal and a nephew of Nathan and Urania. He was killed while fleeing with this family. He is honored on the Henderson, Wedge & White Monument located north of Morton. See the Historic Sites chapter for more on this monument. A Depredation Claim #1142 on behalf of Jehiel Wedge (decd.) was filed by Andrew Hunter, Administrator for \$390.00.

### **\*Diedrich and Margaret Boorman Wichmann and family**

The Wichmanns immigrated to the United States from Hanover, Germany in 1853. Diedrich and Margaret were the parents of Fred, Diedrich, Henry, Dorothea, Fredericka, William and John, who was the first child born in Beaver Township after the war. They were living on Section 14 at that time of the outbreak.

Wichmann was on his way to his job at the agency and heard gunfire. He was one of the earliest to sound the alarm that the Dakota were attacking the agency, by running across the prairie and up the bluff to warn his family and neighbors. The family escaped with the Ahrens and Schmidt families and headed east toward Fort Ridgely where they stopped to pick up son Fred who had made his escape there earlier. They then went all of the way to Illinois where they remained the next couple of years. They moved back to Brown County in the fall of 1864, and in the spring of 1865, had moved back to their old claim located on the northeast quarter of section 14 as the first settlers to return to Beaver Falls Township. Wichmann filed a claim for 160 acres of land in Section 14 and a portion of Section 11 in 1871.

A biography later published says this: "But they had been there but a short time when news came that the Dakota were again on the rampage. Mr. Wichmann accordingly took his family back to Redstone in Nicollet County. Then with his three oldest sons and Henry Ahrens, who in the meantime, after the Massacre, had been living in Illinois, he came back to his claim. They were encouraged in this by Col. William Pfaender, then in command at Fort Ridgely. Col. Pfaender believed that the danger was past, and that settlers were safe in settling in the country ravaged by the Massacre. He knew that the departure of the Wichmanns would discourage other settlers from coming. He accordingly offered Mr. Wichmann arms and ammunition and told him that he would be protected." After he and his three sons spent the summer building a house, the family returned to Beaver Falls in the fall, and were then the only settlers in the township.

Diedrich was described as "one of the most honored of the early pioneers, one of the heroes of the days of the Indian War, and for many years an esteemable citizen." He died in 1891 at the age of 69 and he and his wife,

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Margaret died in 1892, and both are buried in the Beaver Falls Cemetery in Renville County as are his children, Dorothea, Cosmos and Diedrich and their spouses.

Cosmos, aka Fred, was born in 1846 and married Anna Wehlman. He died in 1911 and Anna in 1913 and both are buried in the Beaver Falls Cemetery. They were the parents of Ida.

Diedrich, born in 1848, married Louisa Sperber. He died in 1896, and Louisa in 1910 and both are buried in the Beaver Falls Cemetery. They were the parents of eight children: Bertha, William, Margretta, Louise, Henry, Adelia, William and Ella.

Henry John was born in 1852 and died in 1920 in Livingston, MT. He married Marie Wehlman in 1884 and they were the parents of Ruth Florence.

Dorothea was born in 1855 and married Julius Scheffler. She died in 1920 and Julius in 1940, and both are buried in the Beaver Falls Cemetery. They were the parents of Amelie, Frederick, Emma, Julius, Lydia, William, Louise and Henry.

Frederica was born in 1856 and married Carl Hannemann. She died in 1924 and Carl in 1934, and both are buried in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Long Prairie, Todd, MN. They were the parents of Clara, Ludwig, Julius, Emma, Anna, Carl, Helena and Otto.

William, born in 1859, died in 1928 in Seattle, WA. He married Clara Hummel in 1882 and they were the parents of Edward. William wrote a narrative of his experience and it can be found online. He served on a committee of the Renville County Pioneers Association, along with Henry Ahrens and Millard White. This was a group that was instrumental in erecting monuments to mark the graves of several slain in the Indian outbreak; those honored were Mrs. Stephen Henderson and her daughters, Eugene White, and Radnor Earle. See the Historic Sites chapter. The association also erected the Schwandt monument. William also served on a committee whose work resulted in the publication of *The History of Renville County, Volume 2*, compiled by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge.

John C. Wichmann was born in 1861. He married Kate Howard. There are no further details on him.

Dietrich Wichmann filed a Depredation Claim #734 for \$1,025.00, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages.

### **Michael and Mary Juni Zitzlaff**

Michael Zitzlaff was the son of John and brother of Wilhelmina (Inenfeldt), Caroline (Meyer) and Anna (Sieg). He was heading for the Lower Sioux Agency to trade his butter and eggs with his sister Wilhelmina when he saw the fire and smoke, so they turned around to warn their families and neighbors. Both Michael and Mary were killed that day. Mary was in the last trimester of her pregnancy with their first child.

### **John Zitzlaff**

John Zitzlaff was a widower from Nackel Province, Posen Preuszen, Germany who immigrated to America with his four children, Caroline, who was to marry John Meyer, Wilhelmina who was to marry William Inenfeldt, Anna who had married John Sieg and Michael who was to marry Mary Juni. The families eventually staked adjacent claims on Section 7 around Smith Creek and made new lives for themselves. They lived there peacefully

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until that awful day of August 18 when the Dakota crossed the Minnesota River and began attacking the white settlements. John was killed and fourteen of his family members were also killed at the Meyer home as they attempted their escape. Only John Meyer, Wilhelmina Inenfeldt and her baby Bertha survived. A Depredation Claim #2386 was filed on behalf of Sig. Zitzlaff (decd.) for \$1,500.00 by Ulric Lipp, Administrator; it has not been determined who the claimants were and if any payments were made for relief of depredation damages.

### Those Who Were Killed

Andrew **Bahlke**, 45, brother of Maria Frohrip  
Johnny, 7 and Willie **Carrothers**, 6, sons of David and Elizabeth  
Radnor C. **Earle**, 15, son of Jonathan and Amanda  
Balthasar **Eisenreich**, husband of Theresa  
Ernest, 39, and Augustine **Hauff**, 26, Otilia, 11, Frederick, 5, Ernest, Jr., 2, and Henrietta 1  
John and Patrick **Hayden**  
Stephen, 32 and Clarissa **Henderson**, 28, Lydia, 2 and unknown daughter, 9 months  
William **lenenfeldt**, husband of Wilhelmina  
Mr. and Mrs. **Levant**, 2 daughters and a son  
Caroline **Meyer**, wife of John, Sarah, 4, Johnny, 3 and Lydia, 2  
John and Anna **Sieg**, Louisa, 12, Emmy, 11, Amelia, 8 and Freddy, 6  
Jehiel **Wedge**, 29, nephew of Nathan White  
Eugene **White**, 16, son of Nathan and Urania  
John **Zitzlaff**  
Michael and Mary Juni **Zitzlaff**

### Those Who Were Taken Captive

Elizabeth **Carrothers**, 37, wife of David and Emmet, 6 months  
Helen **Carrothers**, 21, wife of James, Althea, 4 and Tommy, 2  
Amanda **Earle**, wife of Jonathan, Julia, 13, and Elmira, 7  
Theresa **Eisenreich**, 29, wife of Balthasar, Sophia, 7, Peter, 6, Mary, 4,  
John, 2 and Joseph, 4 months  
Wilhelmina Zitzlaff **lenenfeldt**, 18, wife of William, and Bertha, 4 months  
Benedict **Juni**, Jr., 10, son of Benedict, Sr. and Marie  
Jane **Robertson**, 49, wife of Andrew, Angus, 20, Gustava, 18, William, 11 and Martha, 6  
Thomas **Robertson**, 36, son of Andrew and Jane  
John, 16, and Magdelene **Schurch**, children of Mrs. Benedict Juni and step-children of Benedict Juni  
Urania Frazer **White**, 37, wife of Nathan, Julia, 14 and Frank, 5 months

### Those Who Escaped

Henry, 29 and Minnie **Ahrens**, 20 and son Frederick  
Peter **Bjorkman**, 41  
David **Carrothers**, 39

## Beaver Falls Township

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John, 46 and R. **Chassie**, 42 (possibly Chaffee)  
Jonathan **Earle**, Chalon, 19, Ezmon, 17 and Herman, 9  
Maria Bahlke **Frohrip**, 65, sister of Andrew Bahlke, Louisa, 18 and John, 22  
Mary **Hayden**, 19, wife of Patrick and Catherine, 1  
Andrew, 32 and Elizabeth Williamson **Hunter**, 29  
Benedict, Sr., 37 and Marie Schwab **Juni**, Christian, 7, Anne Maria, 6, Elizabeth, 3 and Frederic, 1  
August **Levant**, 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. Levant who were killed  
John **Meyer**, 35  
Franz W. (Frank), 30 and Mary Euchegel Rissor **Schmidt**, 35  
Millard **White**, 12, son of Nathan and Urania  
Diedrich, 40 and Margaret **Wichmann**, 38, Cosmos (Fred), 16, Diedrich, 13, Henry, 10, Dorothy, 6,  
Fredericka, 5, William, 3 and John 1

### Beaver Falls Descendants

Bahlke/Frohrip	Kathy Brown, Emmett Smith, Richard Bott, Ron Renner Tami Brown, Nora Mohamed, Curt Frohrip, Myrna Renner, Carol Ellinger, Elizabeth and Ingrid Neigum, Scot Hultberg, Evelyn Bade, Jay, Jon, Tim Frohrip and Michelle Zwickey, Jeanne Ketchum, Dee Sasse, Marie Busson, Paul, Perry and Philip Ziegenhagen, Lester Frohrip, Gloria Just, Jim, John ad David Frohrip, Mary Jones, Bob Just, Rebecca Friman, Rachel Simpfenderfer, Kay Jerke, Cleo Lephart, Brian, Michael, John Bade and Barb Lindgron.
Eisenreich	Brian Eisenrich, Kris Sampson
Gluth	Nancy Rieke Gulbranson
Juni	Fred Juni
Ienenfeldt/Meyer, Sieg, Zitzlaff	Stan and Carol Schubert, Terri Culbert, John Lawin, Frank Lawin, Edward Lawin, Lillie Lawin Bratsch, and Winnie Lawin Weispfenning, Willard Bratsch, Virgil Bratsch, Percy Bratsch, Savilla Bratsch Shubert, Gilbert Bratsch, Deloris Bratsch Howard, Verona Bratsch Beckler, Ruth Bratsch Jacobson, Dennis Bratsch, Virginia Bratsch Faiman, Willis Bratsch, Goloria Bratsch McGovern, Rosalean Bratsch Savoie, and Beverly Bratsch Kubesh.
White	Julie Machnik

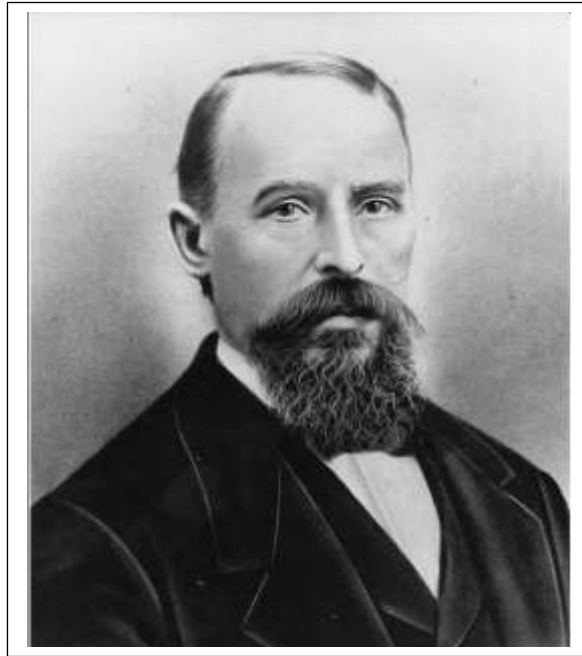


# Beaver Falls Township

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## Beaver Falls Survivors

**Henry Ahrens, photo courtesy of the Renville County Historical Society**



**Left, Helen Mar Paddock Carrothers, Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society;  
Right, from the family album of Ellen Johnson, great-great granddaughter**



## Beaver Falls Township



Left, Bertha Ienenfeldt Lawin, photo courtesy of Ruth Jacobson; right upper, Bertha Lawin, and lower, Wilhelmina Ienenfeldt Grose, photos courtesy of Carol Shubert and Robert Bartosch



Helen Carrothers Tarbel (right), Urania S. White (center), and Mary Schwandt Schmidt (left), three survivors of the Sioux War of 1862. Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society. All three wrote riveting narratives of their experiences in the U.S.-Dakota War.

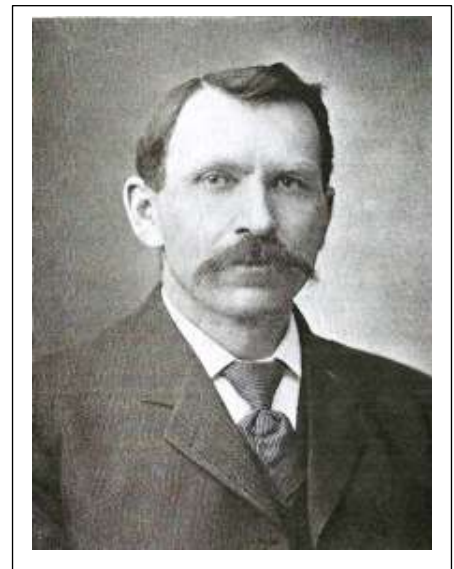
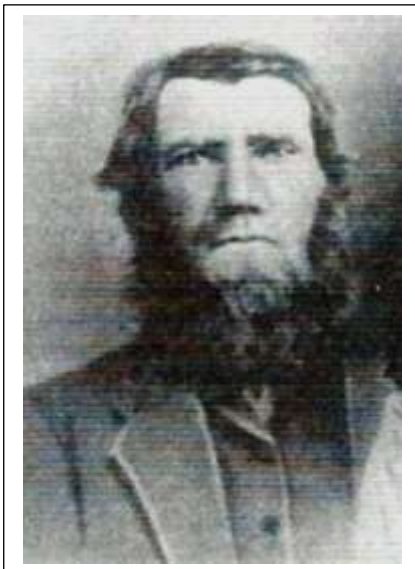
## Beaver Falls Township

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**Louise Frohrip Bott and Family, photos submitted by Kathy Brown**



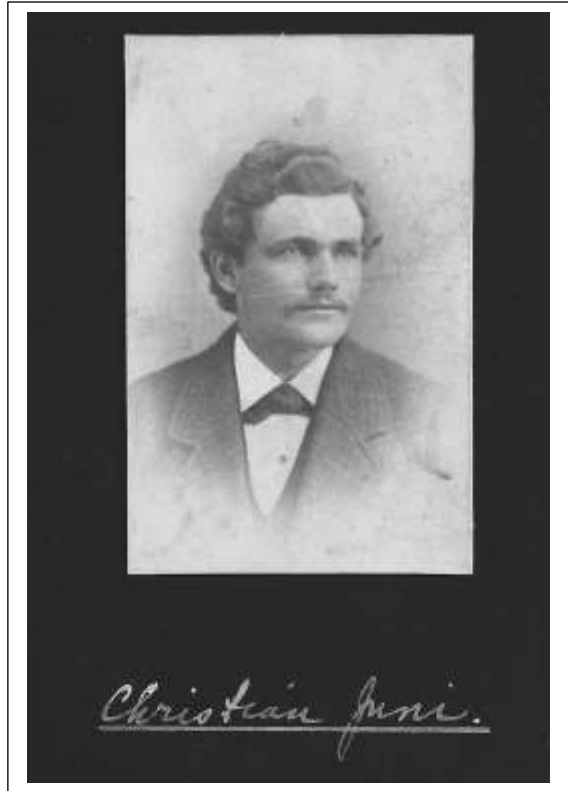
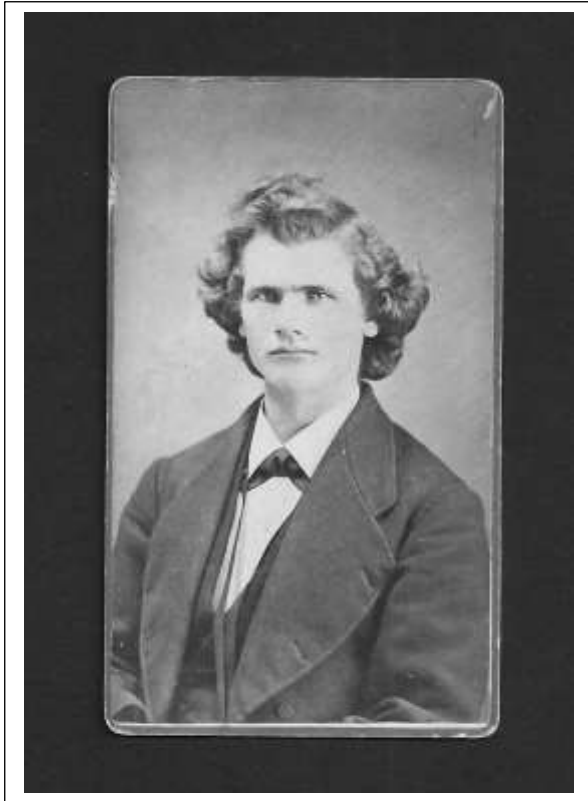
**Diedrich and Margaret Boorman Wichmann, photos courtesy of the Renville County Historical Society; right, their son, William Wichmann, photo courtesy of Don Heinrich Tolzmann**



## Beaver Falls Township

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Left, Benedict Juni, Jr. and right, Christian Juni, both from the Collection of the Brown County Historical Society, New Ulm, MN



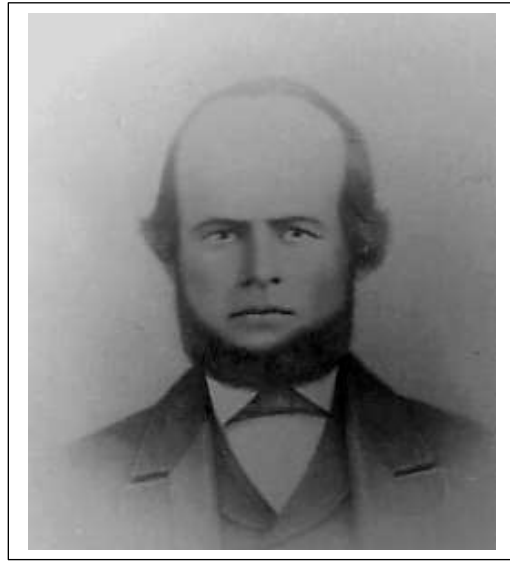
Left, Justina Krueger Meyer, wife of John Meyer, photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society;  
right, Justina and John Meyer, photo courtesy of Sheri Kennedy



## Beaver Falls Township

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**Justina and John Meyer, photos courtesy of Sheri Kennedy**



**Left, Justina in the 1880's and lower, her funeral in 1908**



# Beaver Falls Township

## Beaver Falls Homestead Sections

Ahrens – Sections 11 and 14

Bahlke-Frohrip – Section 25

Carrothers, David –  
Sections 21, 22 and 15

Carrothers, James –  
Sections 22 and 28

Doyle – Section 23

Earle – Section 23

Eisenreich – Sections 26 and 35

Hauff – South of Smith Creek

Hayden – Section 35

Henderson – Section 22

Hunter – Section 23

Ienenfeldt – Section 7

Juni – Sections 25 and 26

Levant – Section Unknown

Meyer – Section 7

Robertson – Section 27

Schmidt – Sections 14 and 15

Shephard – Furthest north homestead,  
Section 11 or 14

Sieg – Section 7

White – Section 15

Wichmann – Section 14; Zitzlaff – Section 7

