

The History of the Carl Heuer Family

Meanwhile, on that same day in Miford Township, Brown County, the family of Carl and Hannah Heuer, their 3 sons, Johan Carl, Johan Joachim and Joachim Heinrich were also killed. (*Hannah was the sister of Caroline Clasen, who lost her husband Charles and son Frederick at Birch Coulie.*) Here is the documentation on this family:

Satterlee, Marion P., Outbreak and Massacre by the Dakota Indians in Minnesota in 1862

P. 42: "Just at the time of the attack Carl Heuyers and Joseph Emery of Leavenworth, drove into Mey's yard, and were killed and the team taken."

P. 44: "Carl Heuyer, (killed at Milford), was absent when his wife Hannah and sons Carl and John were killed at the home."

Bryant, Charles S. A History of the Great Massacre by the Sioux Indians, in Minnesota

P. 139-40: "Murder of the Heyers Family: "Six miles from New Ulm there lived, on the Cottonwood River, in the County of Brown, a German family consisting of the father, mother and two sons, both young men. A burial party that went out from New Ulm on Friday, the 22nd, found them all murdered and buried them where they were killed. They were probably killed Monday or Tuesday, as decomposition was far advanced when they were found. The poor woman had most horribly and shockingly outraged and mutilated by the infernal devils, who, not content with the violation of her person and the taking of her life, superadded an act of fiendishness of a most dreadful but *nameless* character."

Census, 1860, Milford, Brown, MN, Image 43:

401 395 Carl Heuer 63 m farmer 700 200 Mecklenburg

Hanna 50 f 150 "

Carl 30 3 "

John 23 "

Joachim 18 "

(*Carl Heuer is the half brother of Charles Clasen who died in the outbreak at Birch Coulie.*)

The family lived next door to my great-great grandparents, Henry and Caroline Clasen, in Milford in 1860.

The family is memorialized on the Milford Monument located 8 miles west of New Ulm:

Henry Heyers, Dorothea Heyers, Carl Heyers, John Heyers and Joachim Heyers

Also, on the Pioneer Monument, in front of the Brown County Courthouse in New Ulm:

Heuyers, Carl, Heuyers WIFE Hannah, Heuyers, SON John, and Heuyers, SON, Carl, Jr.

St. Paul Daily Press, Aug. 29, 1862, p. 1:

Thursday, Aug. 21: Expedition sent out. Found and buried four bodies--man, wife and two sons, named Haer. They were Protestant Germans. In their bed was found about \$160.00.

There is no doubt this is the same family. We do not know where they were buried but apparently at the place they fell.

(There are also discrepancies in the spelling of the Heuer name. Heuer is the family name in Willershagen, Blankenhagen, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany. The name is Heyers on one monument and Heuyers on the other. Satterlee uses Heuyers and Bryant, Heyers. There is also a difference in the number of their children. The Milford Monument lists 3 and the Pioneer Monument, two. There were 3 children according to birth records in Germany and census records in Minnesota. I've read it was not unusual for this to happen. Also Carl's given name on his birth record is Carl Heinrich Gustav Heuer. He was called Henry on the Milford Monument, Carl on the Pioneer Monument and Charles and Carl on land and probate records. His wife, Hannah was called Johanna on her birth record, Hanna on census and Dorothea on the Milford Monument.)

Footnote

As there were no surviving members of the Heuer family in America, Carl's probate was settled with John Clasen (*son of deceased Charles and brother to deceased Frederick*) and minors, Ellen and Mary Clasen (*daughters of deceased Frederick and his wife Martha McConnell Clasen*) being named as heirs. They received the monies due to the depredation claim for damages from the outbreak and the homestead in Milford Township. That farm was eventually sold to my great-grandfather, Carl Clasen, and it was there my grandfather, Henry Clasen was born.