Memories of
Andrew and Rosa (Schultz) Rosentreter

by their granddaughter
Margaret Rose (Rosentreter) Bloome
in her 80th year, 1992

We were told they came to America in the early 1880s. Grandpa became a citizen of the U.S. on March 29, 1888, having lived here for the required five years before becoming a citizen.

Grandpa was a medium size man. I think of him as about the size of Victor or Elmer. Grandma was a petite little German lady. Grandpa had a full, long white beard. He liked to tease us girls by kissing us and rubbing our faces in his beard. We really didn't like it.

When they arrived in America, they came directly to Carlinville. The Catholic priest helped them get settled. They lived in a log house south of Carlinville, near the entrance to Lake Carlinville. Later, they moved west of town where they lived for many years. The farm is north of Lake Renker.

When they left Germany they had three small children: Joseph, Mary and baby Andrew. Grandma and the baby became very seasick. We were told baby Andrew died and was buried at sea. Grandma and Grandpa raised a large family: **Joseph, Mary, John,** Grandma named another son **Andrew, Paul, Peter, Albert, Regina and Alexander.**

Joseph left home and went to work in Wisconsin. He worked for an undertaker. Later he became an undertaker and had a funeral home of his own in Milwaukee. He married and had two children: George and Olive. Joseph never returned, even for the funerals of his parents.

Mary married Frank Schwab. They had one son: Edward. They farmed.

John married Anna Mack. They had two daughters: Adriene and Anna Catherine. John also farmed. He died of tuberculosis of the lungs (T.B.) when the girls were quite small.

Andrew was next. He never married. He was engaged to be married when he had a hunting accident. He lost a leg. His bride-to-be broke the engagement. Grandma sent him for more schooling since he wouldn't be able to work like his brothers. He was fitted with an artificial leg. He went to Wisconsin and worked for his brother Joe. He became a drifter and the family lost track of him. On his death, a friend notified Joseph, who prepared his body for burial and sent it home. He is buried in Old Calvary Cemetery.

Paul married Rose Leritz. They had seven children: Marie, Lucille, Agnes, Clarence, Robert, Harold and Leonard. Paul was a dairy farmer.

Peter married Christina Bomkamp. They had seven children: Margaret, Louise, Victor, Elmer, Dorothy, Walter and Edward. Peter farmer all his married life.

Rose married Antone Schaffer. They had four sons: Leonard, Antone, Edward and Raymond. Rose died at age 27 from T.B. when Raymond was a small baby. He too died, at about three years of age. A friend, Kate Abel helped care for Rose during her illness. After Rose's death, Antone married Kate, who helped him raise his boys. Tony was a carpenter.

Albert married Lillian Beasley. They had no children. Albert farmed.

Regina (Jenny) married Edward Dugan. They had three daughters: Agnes, Rose Marie and Theresa. Jenny died when Theresa was a very small baby. She too died of T.B. Albert and Lillian Rosentreter raised the baby. They were her Godparents. The Dugans also farmed.

Alexander married Victoria Beasley. They had a son: Norman. Alexander died of T.B. when Norman was small; aged two or three. Alexander and Victoria farmed only a short time, as he died quite young.

Most farmers at that time had a few cows, raised some hogs and had chickens. Living only three or four miles from town, they would drive the fat hogs on foot to a market near the railroad station. On one occasion, Grandpa and son drove a bunch of hogs to market. After the hogs were sold, Grandpa sent the boy home. He remained in town and didn't come home that night.

The next day Grandma had the boys hitch a horse to the buggy and she went to town to find her Andrew. She knew where to find him: a tavern. When she asked about him, she was told he had left the day before for Germany to visit relatives. He took the money from the hog sale to make the trip. They were surprised she didn't know of his plans.

I don't remember being told how long he was gone. But when he came home he had a place to live but he was no longer the farm manager. Grandma had gone to a lawyer and had everything put in her name. I would guess she gave him spending money.

After all the sons married, Grandma bought a little house on South Broad Street. It wasn't too far from St. Joseph's Church. She and Grandpa walked to church as long as they were able.

I remember having Sunday dinner at Grandma's often. We children had Sunday School right after Mass from 11:00 to 12:00. We would walk to Grandma's house. Our parents always brought in milk, butter, eggs and meat. Most people then usually had a small chicken pen in their back yard.

I remember too, how Grandpa would go home with us for a week. He would help my father. He cut and split wood, mended harness and made single- and double-trees.

Grandpa liked his booze. My father would have a barrel of cider made each fall. Grandpa would drink that cider until it was almost vinegar.

Grandpa spent his time between his children helping out wherever he could. He was always on hand for butchering. Grandpa was quite a gardener too. His garden was on a clay hillside but he raised lots of vegetables, including potatoes. They always made lots of sauerkraut.

My father told of how Grandpa went to town and had his beard shaved off. His two dogs nearly ate him alive because they thought he was a stranger. All was well after he spoke to them.

Grandma was really a saint. She was always available when a new grandbaby arrived or during illness. There was lots of illness in her life. She lived to bury more than half her children.

They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. I remember how the families surprised them with a basket dinner. We grandchildren missed school that day. The anniversary gift was a congoleum rug for the dining room.

Grandpa had a stroke a few years later. He could not talk or swallow. He didn't last long.

Rosentreter, Andrew + Rose

Peter ↓ Peyton's Great-Great Grandfather

