

# An Illinois Farmer

A history of the Mammoser  
family farm at Island Grove,  
Illinois

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At Island Grove, Illinois

*Alvin and Darlene Mammoser describe life and work on their family farm across five generations*



St. Joseph's Church at Island Grove

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## Introduction

**S**t. Joseph's Church at Island Grove is a parish church out in the country. It stands at a high point in the region. From there an expanse of softly rolling cropland unfolds as far and wide as the eye can see.

The fields are filled with green crops in the summertime. Amidst them are small woodland groves that the folks call 'timbers.' The timbers seem to pin the great apron of grain to the earth, demarking a vast landscape of working lands, large fields, low watersheds and woodlands. It is mostly open, gently undulating and variegated across broad fields and stream bottoms.

Across this landscape is a vast crisscross of straight roads on mile-square section lines. Slow, quiet creeks flow through the latticework of fields and roads. In this landscape of arrow straight roads and winding streams, the ground sometimes dips and rises through the timbers. These bottom areas look quite fertile and often are planted.

St. Joseph's is a handsome little church of red brick, high arched windows and steep roofs of black shingles. Prominently in front is a tall steeple. The little church might be set in some

verdant countryside of central Europe. Like other country churches in this part of Illinois, it stands at a special point in the land. Island Grove got its name from a grove of trees that appeared like an island in the seas of prairie grass.

Other graceful churches are to be found in the small villages and towns around there. There are also handsome federal-style court houses in the main squares, fine brick buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, real architectural gems. The other great structures of the region are giant grain elevators at key points on the rail lines, in little towns and out in the country.



**A**lvin and Darlene have their farm in Grove Township, just down the road from the church. It's on the section at 1700 north/200 east in Jasper County close to the county line with Effingham County. It's where his family has been living and farming for over 150 years. Alvin, now in his 80s, is a fourth generation farmer on this land. His family's origins go back to Alsace, where he would likely be descended from many more generations of farmers.

Their home is just a half mile from St. Joseph's. It's a tri-level with a big picture window, a typical mid-century Midwestern home, well-worn and comfortable. The south-facing picture window looks over a little front lawn with bunches of flowers blooming brightly in summer. Near the door is a small flower bed and statue of the Blessed Virgin. Across the road is a field filled with green corn in the sun-drenched summer.

A gravel driveway leads back to a barnyard holding the likely accoutrements of an Illinois farm. There's a big barn and by the barn stands a tall concrete silo that appears to be slowly tumbling down it's not been in use for so long. There are a couple big corrugated metal grain bins looking a bit rusty. There was a milking shed for the dairy but that was taken down years ago. It's all close together and has the look of a farm of a few decades ago, before farming operations got so big.



Alvin and Darlene have five children, Lisa, Doug, Patrick, Steve and Stacy. They have 13 grandchildren, some married and several others now in college. They have growing number of great grandchildren all quite young.

The Mammosers are among the founding families of St. Joseph's Parish and they helped to build the church at Island Grove. The parish was established in 1874. The red brick church with its prominent steeple was finished in 1922. It's the third church to stand at the site, at a crossroads opposite to their section, at the highest point in Jasper County. The church faces east. Across the road is a parish hall and cemetery, and a tall water tower for EJ Water that was much more recently built.

There have always been a lot of people living on the farm. Old photos from the days of Alvin's grandfather show a large family of brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles living in the farmhouse. The whole area was populated by large farm families. Although a rural place, Grove Township was always filled with farm families busy with all of their activities.

It is the same nowadays. While Alvin is retired, he and Darlene continue living in their home on the farm. Their son Doug and his family live in the older farmhouse on the adjacent parcel, while Steve and his family have their home on the farm, a little further away on the west side of the section. Their son Pat has a home further south in Jasper County, while their daughter Stacy lives with her family in Effingham. Their daughter Lisa lives with her family in Iowa.

The Mammosers arrived from Europe in the 1850s and came to Island Grove in the 1860s. Earlier arrivals opened the way. The Illinois Central Railroad was built through Effingham in the 1850s and some settlers were in the region well before that. Some miles to the north in Coles County, Abraham Lincoln's father Thomas Lincoln and his step-mother Sara Bush Lincoln built their farm in the 1840s.

The 1860s and 70s must have been a busy time of settlement of this region. The establishment of towns, the foundations of churches and courthouses, in large part occurred in this period.

So they were part of a great flow of in-migration. They worked hard to build up their farm, as did all their neighbors, and so they built up a lively and productive society in this rural region.



Alvin worked his land for 60 years. He knows every part of it, every gully, slant, dent and gradation, the pitch at every point. He knows the rises and where the land slopes to swales. He knows the special spots; he knows the high area of seven acres or so where anything he plants grows well, even alfalfa.

He knows the movement of water in the small spaces across the farm, at every point how water will flow, change course, divert, hold, pool, and find its course to culverts and creeks.

He needs to know this to operate the disc, the planter, and the spreader. He may be among that last generation of American farmers who farmed without computers, who farmed with their eyes, and their hands, and their direct knowledge of the contours of their ground.

The drainage off a farm in central Illinois leads to creeks, to rivers, to the great rivers and to the Gulf. The farmer's task is to manage the space where water meets the earth, under rain or sunshine. It has been remarked that, in managing the small piece of earth that is his, a farmer looks out upon the whole universe.

That might explain Alvin's fascination with farming and his constant concern for the weather. He is a fourth generation farmer and he'll likely be the last of his family to work the farm.



I first met Alvin and Darlene in the mid-1990s and visited them occasionally over the years. We had lunch and I asked a lot of questions about farming. Darlene makes very tasty roast beef and good salads too. They didn't seem to mind my

questions. Other times I called and asked Alvin about the year, the crops, the season and the weather. Those were interesting conversations.

I enjoyed driving down there. It's about a three hour drive south from Chicago on Interstate 57, turning east onto I-70 at Effingham. The Interstate runs parallel to old Highway 40 there, through a little burg called Montrose. Alvin told me how to get to his farm from there, following the road south to the Lutheran church, then east along the 'hardtop' that makes a peculiar zig-zag at the county line, then rises slightly to St. Joseph's and goes down along the south edge of their farm to their house.

One year, after stopping for lunch, I had to get back on 57 because I was continuing south to see my cousins in Arkansas. Alvin told me to go out to the 'blacktop' and make my way south, then drive thirty miles west crossing the Little Wabash River to a town called Salem, where the Interstate goes through.

Another time I drove a big arc north of Effingham to see the farm country up to the Shelbyville Moraine.

These drives gave me a good sense of the lay of the land. But I couldn't gain any deep understanding of it except from my conversations with Alvin.





# Chapter 1

## Farm History

### *Arrival in the region*

There is only one branch of the Mammoser family in this area; theirs is the one farm owned by a family of this name. Alvin's great grandfather Joseph was born in Alsace in eastern France. Joseph arrived by ship to America in 1850. The family name on the ship's register is 'Mammosser.'

He was for some time in Matteson, a small town south of Chicago where others in the large Mammoser family had farms. His son John, Alvin's grandfather, was born there and was about two years old when the family came south to Island Grove in Jasper County. They probably arrived by way of the Illinois Central Railroad (IC), which runs through Effingham.

They arrived in 1864. The original forty acres that they acquired was railroad land purchased from the IC Railroad at \$7 per acre. They soon added to their land, buying an adjoining 80-acre parcel on the same section just to the west. It was purchased from a man by the name of Mason, a wealthy landowner who lived just north of Island Grove.

Alvin often wondered why Mr. Mason would have sold this large parcel to the family. A clue came some years ago when he and Darlene were looking at gravestones in a nearby cemetery,

where they noticed the graves of several Mason children. Apparently the man lost his family in an influenza epidemic around the time of the Civil War, which may have led him or his daughter to sell the land.

Eventually they expanded the farm to 280 acres, just under a half-section. It has remained that size ever since. Alvin's farm is 260 acres tillable, 280 acres altogether, now leased to the Jansens who pay rent on 267 acres. Today the land is valued at about \$8,000 per acre.

Alvin also owns 10 acres in the woodland or 'timbers' just southeast of St. Joseph's Church. It is timber land that they bought a long time ago, shortly after the purchase of the farm. Over the years they've taken some good wood out of there for use on the farm and buildings, although nothing in recent years.

So the farm acquired its current dimension a long time ago and has changed only in its relative size. What was once a good sized farm supporting a large extended family, in the days of Alvin's father and grandfather and great grandfather, is now a relatively small farm in Illinois.

### *The setting of the farm*

Where they settled is ideal; it was grassland not timber, but they were near to timber. They might have used the trees to build a log house to live in. Soon, however, they built a two-story farmhouse of plaster and clapboard walls. It was in the style common to the region, a 'T-house' with two floors in front and a single floor for the kitchen extending to the rear. Nearby was what was called a 'summer kitchen,' a little building made of soft brick walls 2-feet thick, which served as something like a fruit cellar.

Alvin's father, Urban, was born in this home in 1904. It was the family home until the 1930s. A similar T-house can still be seen today on the neighboring Weishaar farm.

Alvin's father built another farmhouse nearby in 1936. This

is the home in which his son Doug and his family now live. The family built a new house adjacent to the original one in 1953. This is the home in which Alvin and Darlene raised their family and where they now live. The old 'T-house' was dismantled but the outline of its foundations can still be seen in the ground, in the front yard of their house, when it gets really dry in summer. The little summer kitchen stayed in place for some time after the old farmhouse was gone.

Alvin and Darlene's home is on what used to be called Rural Route 1. It now has an actual street address, based on coordinates assigned to all roads in the county, which allows it to be located by GPS. The home is near the crossroads at 1700 north and 200 east in Jasper County.

The road in front, running straight along the section line, was a dirt road until about 1952, at which time it was made a gravel road. It was not until 1975 that it became a hard top road, made of thick oil-like tar and 'chat' or little stones. The traffic on such a road gradually compresses this substance to make it quite durable.

In the fields were hedgerows, which they called fence rows, which stood every quarter mile, enclosing off forty acres. They were tree lines of dense brush and trees, mostly of a tree called Osage Orange. When Alvin was young the fence rows were full of game in the brush; he hunted rabbit, quail, and pheasant in them. Eventually the fence rows were bulldozed down and the fields combined into larger fields. This was done to accommodate the ever larger farming equipment that farmers had to get into the fields. So the fence rows are gone now, although in recent years a lot of deer has appeared in the timbers. Alvin doesn't recall seeing deer when he was young.

### *Neighbors*

**T**he Mammosers' neighbors just to the north on the same section are the Weishaars, whose farm is 120 acres. The two families have been neighbors for a long time. Indeed, they were neighbors in Alsace before emigrating to America.

This was discovered by a cousin of Alvin who went there and examined baptismal records. He saw that, way back in the 1700s, a Weishaar was godparent to a Mammoser child.

Perhaps the two families emigrated together, but it's not certain as the Weishaars arrived at Island Grove a little bit later. Their title to the land is dated a couple years later than that of the Mammosers. They've been neighbors in America for more than 150 years, although now just one unmarried Weishaar son remains on their farm and he is the last of them.

Their neighbors just to the south across the road are the Koebeles. They arrived in the area within two or three years of when Alvin's great grandfather arrived. At first they lived with the Mammosers while they built their own house.

Other neighbors are the Lidys, Cohorsts, and Jansens. The Jansens are good friends. In recent years they have expanded their holdings and continue working a large farming operation. So, in retirement, Alvin leases his land to them.

The Mammosers have been living amongst their neighbors for a long time, all farming families within a mile. Some of them must have known each other in Europe before emigrating. They would have been speaking the same Germanic dialect, which was their language at home and in church for many years after their arrival.

### *Early days*

While the location was ideal the soil was not very good. It is a very acidic, white soil by nature. It wasn't like the good black soil to the north around Champaign. They couldn't grow corn in it, although they could grow wheat. The wheat they grow in this region is a soft red wheat, not the hard wheat of out west in Dakota. It's a soft wheat used to make baking powder, cake flour; it makes a dense flour. So they grew wheat mainly for home consumption.

They grew fodder crops for cattle, hay to feed horses and cattle; they grew 'red top' hay which would grow in the sour



ground. And of course they kept a large garden. So they were essentially subsistence farming. What market products they had were mainly dairy products; they would take eggs, milk and cream to market. They made butter and cottage cheese on the farm.

In the early days the little nearby towns of Dieterich and Montrose didn't yet exist. They had to go by wagon to Teutopolis (T-town) and probably to Effingham to get to markets and stores. T-town is ten miles away and Effingham is three miles further. It was a full day's travel by horse-drawn wagon on rough earthen roads that followed the section lines through the countryside.

Nowadays, driving on Route 40, which parallels Interstate 70, the two towns are quite close and appear to be almost merged together, with service stations, car repairs, modular homes, gravel pits and so forth along the roadside.

"They screwed up the zoning laws and just let it sprawl," Alvin says about current conditions.

In the days before electricity, paved roads and automobiles, life in this remote rural area was undoubtedly difficult. But families were large and close and they must have lived as well as they could.

Reflecting on their life, in terms of their material life, Alvin sums it up succinctly. "They lived," he says. "That's about it."

### *Preparing the ground*

**T**he Shelbyville moraine is a gentle feature in the Illinois landscape about 50 miles northwest of Island Grove. It marks the southern extent of the great Ice Age glaciers. Driving along Route 16 west of Mattoon, one can see rolling ground where the glacier stopped. A good place to see it is about three miles west of Shelbyville, north of Route 16, where a road going east from a little place called Dollville crosses through hilly land.

In the 1920s, agricultural experts at the University of Illinois

declared that corn could not be grown south of this. The farms at Island Grove could grow the 'red top' hay, which is almost never seen nowadays, and the soft red wheat, but not corn. Alvin explains that his land has only a thin layer of topsoil, 6 to 8 inches deep at most, below which is thick clay. It is because the ancient glaciers didn't reach this land.

Before the 1920s there was no application on the fields. But the farmers 'sweetened up' their land beginning in 1920s, applying lime to raise the alkali level and lower the acid content of the soil.

Improving the soil was the work of decades. The first phase was the application of lime from limestone over several years. Limestone was dispersed on the fields in order to neutralize the soil, bringing it to the 7 on the pH scale. This began around 1920, when Alvin's father was a very young man.

Limestone came in on the railroad in bulk, in large rail cars like hopper cars. It was scooped out into wagons and carried to the farms, then it had to be hauled by cart out into the fields. The farm hands would scoop it out and cover the fields. They must have done that every two years – in intervals of two years – for a certain time applying the lime on the fields to neutralize the soil until it brought up the pH balance. At first they spread 3-5 tons of limestone per acre (!), which would last for 20 years. Then, with this base, it was applied in quantities of 2-3 tons per acre on 20 to 40 acres per year in a rotating way.

With limestone the land became more fertile. Then they applied phosphate and potash. The phosphate came in by rail in very heavy 100 lb. brown sacks. The farmers had three days or so to empty the rail cars of these sacks before having to pay the IC Railroad. Later, during the years when Alvin's father was managing the farm, they applied potash. This was again applied manually although by then they had a tractor-drawn spreader to apply it in the fields.

During these decades they worked hard to gradually build up the soil. With the application of potash, at that point in time, they were able to begin to grow corn. Soybeans came in about '45.

They followed a 4-crop rotation, winter wheat followed by clover, corn, and soybean. Wheat growing was common in the region as was the clover. Clover was needed for dairy cows and the beef cattle. The manure from the animals would have been turned into the garden. And there were orchards as well, everybody had an orchard; there were large areas of orchard on all the farms around there.

So they were largely subsistence farming, gardening, tending orchards, and carrying eggs and dairy products to market.

“We didn’t grow much corn, it didn’t yield much; we had cattle, hogs, chickens, and they needed corn to eat,” says Alvin. “I’m talking 60 years ago. We had to pasture the cattle, the pasture was usually more grass, timothy, so we had only 70 acres of corn,” he says.

They didn’t work much with the pasture, it was just grass pasture not alfalfa, which makes good hay not good pasture. There were 40 to 50 acres of pasture on the farm and the cows ran free. Nothing was as intensive then as today and they didn’t need much money. Alvin, his father and younger brother would take eggs and a little cream to sell in nearby Dieterich, but there was just not much cash to be had.

Nowadays the old 4-crop rotation has been generally replaced by a 2-crop rotation of corn/soybeans, while the orchards are largely gone from the farms. The trees were taken out as more and more of the land was devoted to commodity crop farming. Alvin knows of only one orchard in the area now, a fruit grower near Effingham.

### *Pursuing productivity*

**T**o be highly productive the soil in this part of Illinois needs potash, phosphorous/phosphate, and nitrogen. In the 1950s nitrogen came, about the time Alvin finished high school in ’54. The nitrogen is liquid, it is injected with very sharp injectors about a foot into the ground and as soon as injected it expands as a gas in the soil.

Over time these applications must have changed the quality and the content of the soil, really the nature of the soil, perhaps made a permanent organic change in the soil. Sixty bushels of corn to the acre was a common harvest when Alvin was a young man. Now, in this area of Jasper County, they're harvesting 140 bushels per acre on average, a more than 100 percent increase.

"It made a world of difference, it's unbelievable what it did for corn," says Alvin, speaking of the nitrogen. He says that at this time too, more herbicides came in to control weeds. "Before we had 50-60 bushels to the acre, that was good corn. Then there was incredible change in the late '50s."

Suddenly they added 50 bushels and more to the acre, so it began to make sense to grow corn commercially.

Alvin reflects on the change from the days of his great grandfather and his grandfather, to the days of his father and his own early years on the farm. "The only real difference," he says, "instead of pulling a plow with horses, we pulled with a tractor. The crops and crop rotation were all the same." Then in the 1950s came fertilizer, chemicals, and new seed. This caused an amazing yield jump.

Still, he says, in a basic way farming is not that different now. The materials, the seed, the fertilizer, the herbicide have changed and continue to develop. And the 'brains' of it have changed with the introduction of the big computerized machinery used nowadays in the fields. But the fundamental task, the basic challenge of farming has not changed.

"We're still reliant on the weather, we can't change that," he says. "Even in a spring with too much water, even the guy with the most advanced machinery, he still has to replant his corn."

Some years have too wet of a spring, others are too dry in spring and early summer. They can't irrigate in dry seasons. The big aquifer up by Mohomet, a little west of Champaign, is too far away and it probably wouldn't pay to bring the water south. The farmers in this part of Illinois will always remain dependent on the rain. In most years they get enough.

### *A remarkable pastor*

The farmers in the area received enormous help from Fr. George Nell, who was pastor of St. Joseph parish from 1922 to 1961. For four decades this priest, who came from Chicago, helped to improve farming and quality of life in the region.

“The farmers back then, they didn’t have connections to know about things,” says Alvin. Fr. Nell brought the farmers together while he worked with farm extension people and a farm advisor from the University of Illinois. He formed a Dairy Herd Improvement Association to implement basic good farming practices, testing for the animals’ weight, testing the cream, keeping the better cows, the hogs with good back fat, and so forth. He showed them how to do it and they did it.

He also formed a Co-op Activity Parish Service to improve the roads, to which the farmers chipped in to get gravel roads. Before gravel the roads were dirt roads that were often mud. When Alvin was a freshman in high school in Newton in 1950, the school bus went just on Highway 33 to avoid getting stuck in mud.

Fr. Nell was also instrumental in getting electricity out there. He knew how to organize and have petitions. Electricity came to the area in 1942; before then lighting was by candles and kerosene lamps.

### *A lively community*

One might think that life was pretty dull way out in the country before electricity and paved roads. It actually wasn’t.

Alvin remembers a very lively society in the days of his youth. There were lots of barn dances, games and sports. Alvin remembers a lot dancing with music from local musicians. There were plenty of fiddlers and a little band from Ste. Marie, and they had dances in the parish hall at Island Grove.

They played a lot of card games and sports. They loved to play ball games. After mass, on two Sundays in the fall, they

had softball tournaments on four makeshift diamonds in the pasture by the church. There was no TV until 1954 and then it was just one station and that was not very good. But in nearby Newton, the county seat, they could go to see movies. And there were taverns in Newton, too.

When a new barn was built they would have a dance. The farmers always got a lot of help to build a barn. Even if you had a busy day you would go in the afternoon to help, it was all reciprocal. One man would serve as carpenter, everyone else was volunteer labor. They built the old hip-roofed barns so familiar in the Midwest countryside. They painted the new barn red, white or brown, or left it with no color. Now the barns and the way of building them have changed and the barn dances are pretty much a thing of the past.

Alvin doesn't know why his great grandfather and the other first settlers went so far out in the country to build their farms. "We can never figure it out," he says.

Regardless, they were certainly able to make a good life around Island Grove.

### *Three decades of dairy*

When Alvin returned from a year at college to work on the farm in 1955, it was run pretty much as it had been for a long time. His two uncles, bachelors, were satisfied with subsistence farming. They had just 10 or so milking cows, from which they would make a little money in Dieterich selling cream. Those meagre proceeds paid for their necessities and their wine. So they were content.

Alvin and Darlene were just starting their young family. They were young, energetic, and wanted more income from the farm. He and his father wanted cash flow. And the times were changing. Nitrogen was coming in. They were now spraying herbicides. And dairy farmers were upgrading from metal milk cans to bulk tanks holding 600 gallons.

The farm had electricity since 1942, which supported the

refrigeration required for a large dairy operation. Before that, they would keep butter and milk cool by putting it down in a well. There was a rope to raise and lower it to a little shelf down in the well.

They wanted a farm for more than just feeding themselves. “I wanted to make a living out of it,” Alvin says.

So, at a time when most farmers in the region were choosing to specialize in something, dairy, or hogs, or cattle, they chose to go into dairy farming. Alvin ran a dairy farm for 30 years, beginning in 1957. It didn’t make him rich but it was a good enough business to provide for his family and put his children through college.

On the dairy farm, they had about 50 Holsteins. Farmers in the region prefer the black-and-white Holsteins, which give much more milk than other cows such as the brown Jerseys. Their cows were naturally accompanied by another 50 animals, including calves, heifers and some steers raised for meat. They butchered two steers every year for family consumption, using the services of a slaughterhouse in Ste. Marie.

For dairy operations, Alvin and his father built a large milk house by the barn. In the milk house was the ‘milking parlor,’ which had 4 milking units in 4 separate stalls. It was a ‘pipeline milker’ with a glass pipeline leading to the bulk tank, which was in a separate room. They also built another building for the calves a little way down the road.

Every cow was different but on average she gave about 50 lbs. of milk per days. That’s 2,500 lbs. of daily milk from a herd of 50 milking cows (divide this by 8 to get the gallons). They sold milk to Prairie Farms, a large dairy farmer’s cooperative. A truck came every other day for the milk. A ‘milk check’ came in the mail every two weeks.

The size of the herd stayed quite consistent through the thirty years of dairy farming. The whole family helped. Alvin’s younger brother John helped on the dairy farm while he was growing up. His sons helped and Darlene helped. Darlene and the boys carried fresh milk to the newly born calves every day.

The first milking started at 5:30 am. Alvin's sons took turns getting up early to help. The second milking was in the afternoon. It began, as Alvin says, "When the basketball game ended!"

He enjoyed playing ball with his three sons, two-on-two, and they played until one side won by two points. Then they went to milk the cows. They had the cows penned up and waiting, then they led them in one by one. It took about 5 minutes to milk each cow. It took about an hour-and-a-half for the fifty cows, including clean up. Then they went in to dinner.

The truck coming every other day took the milk from the bulk tank, testing it for butterfat content, and to ensure it was clean milk without antibiotics. If a cow were given an antibiotic treatment, then it was milked separately and its milk disposed of for a period of time before it could rejoin the herd.

The bulk tank could cool the milk very quickly, taking it from 90 degrees to 50 degrees in just two minutes. It was "flash cooled" without pasteurization. The bulk tank had an agitator, such that the cream would not separate and come to the top. This bulk tank was installed in the milk house in about 1965.

Before that, they kept the milk in 10-gallon cans in a cooler. In these the milk cooled much more slowly and the cream would separate. When they brought it into the house for drinking they would stir it a bit to mix in the cream. But Darlene didn't like this milk, she didn't like the texture of it.

The coming of the flash cooled bulk tank changed everything. When its use became widespread, the milk stored in the 10-gallon cans was reduced to the status of "grade B" milk. In earlier days, Alvin's mother made cottage cheese. The family made butter and drank the buttermilk. This ended with the bulk tank.

Of course they kept milk for home consumption, taking it directly from the bulk tank. Comparing this fresh milk to what comes from the grocery, Alvin says, "It was about 4,000 times better." Just fresher and better tasting.

They did not pasture the cows. They raised enough hay, corn



and soybean on their farm to feed the cows. The hay was grown on 25-30 acres, from which they tried to get two cuttings in a year. The hay was fed to the cows separately from the other feed, which was a mix of silage, corn grain and soybean meal. The silage, composed of the entire corn plant ground up, was stored in three silos. They also made a large pile of it on the ground, which was mashed down with the tractor and kept well preserved in this way.

If there were corn left at the end of the harvest, after making silage, Alvin would sell it on the market. He always sold his soybeans on the market. It was in a sense gambling, he says. The trick was always in deciding when to sell, although usually, in those days, a farmer could figure a harvest price, then add \$.15 to .20 per bushel through the winter and sell it the next spring.

Alvin stored his grain on his farm and, when ready to deliver it, took it to a point called Lis just south on Highway 33, where big grain elevators stand adjacent to rail tracks. To get there, he followed the back roads on his tractor, pulling two wagons loaded with grain. At Lis the trains load up with enormous quantities of corn and soybean, then run to Effingham where they connect with the IC (now CN) tracks. From there the grain is transported 700 miles south to a point near New Orleans, where a giant elevator on the Mississippi loads it on ships for export.

When Alvin started with the dairy farm, the milk truck came every second day with a 2,500 or 3,000 gallon tank. There were 30 dairy farmers selling milk in Jasper County then, and the truck made stops at 24 farms to fill this tank.

Nowadays there are some six dairy farms in Jasper County, each with about 300 cows, all Holsteins. Now a big semi-tanker comes to the farms for the milk, and the milk of just three of the farms will fill it. In Richland County to the south there is one farm with Jersey cows, it's quite large with perhaps 700 cows. The Jerseys give less milk than the Holsteins but their milk is much higher in butterfat. Everybody sells to the Prairie Farms cooperative.

By the mid-1980s the farms in Jasper County and throughout Illinois were consolidating and becoming ever larger and more specialized. By that time, Alvin and Darlene's children were grown up, in college and on their way to jobs off the farm. So they thought they didn't need the cash income from the dairy operation so much anymore.

Instead of going larger, they decided to sell the animals and return to grain farming. They found that while their income went down, so did their expenses, especially the electric bill! So they made out just as well and kept the farm much as it was until the time Alvin retired.



## Chapter 2

# How He Worked The Farm

Alvin believes he was fortunate to avoid military call up in the mid-1950s because of an abundance of reservists in the aftermath of the Korean War. Instead of the Army, he attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for one semester in 1955, studying electrical engineering. He returned home to work on the farm after that.

His father Urban had three brothers. Two of these, Alvin's uncles John and Albert, were bachelors who lived and worked on the farm. Alvin was especially close to his Uncle Albert, who taught him on many topics including mathematics. What Alvin learned from these informal lessons allowed him to jump ahead one grade in school. That's how he met Darlene Woods, who grew up in the town of Newton. They've been together ever since.

The two uncles eventually fell ill and died. Alvin was needed on the farm so he returned home from college to work the farm and never regretted it. He took over the farm in 1955 and worked with his father until his father passed away in 1967. When his boys became old enough they helped him on the farm.

He managed it for six decades until he retired finally in 2014.

He and Darlene remain in their home on the farm and enjoy spending time with their large family. He's still watching the seasons come and go, reading the farm bureau reports, and observing the work going on in the fields.

While talking to Alvin in the years since his retirement, I've gotten some idea of how he worked his farm. I've learned there is a lot to farming, yet one consideration is paramount. After all is said and done, it's about the weather.

### *A rainy spring in 2015*

I called Alvin in June after a rainy spring, inquiring about the corn crop.

He said there was a window in April, about mid-April around the 20<sup>th</sup>, when the farmers around there got the corn in. As for soybeans, not all are in yet. "Don't get me wrong," he said, "there is a lot in, but not all areas are planted yet."

In the past, they didn't think to plant corn until the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, hence the old saying 'knee high by the Fourth of July.' But nowadays they can plant so fast with the big machinery, so it was all in by the first of May. It's waist-high now and will be close to tasseling by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

In Alvin's area, they don't plant the same kind of corn as up in the 'black ground' of central Illinois around Champaign. Up there, top soil is 8 feet deep, and storm water penetrates through to the drainage tile that has been laid below the surface.

The ground around Island Grove is totally different from the black ground; it's old clay pan and silt loam with 6-8 inches of top soil. Water won't seep through the clay so no drainage tile was laid. The ground has surface drainage, but water doesn't go away quickly, it can't seep through.

The nature of the soil there is largely due to the fact that the ground was never under the Ice Age glaciers, which didn't move that far south. The Shelbyville Moraine that is for miles rolling ground and low, hilly gravel, about 40 miles to the

northwest beyond Highway 16, marks the furthest extent of the ancient glaciation. From there northward is excellent black ground.

So a lot of spring rain will hamper the planting, but heavy rain will cause less damage once the corn is in and growing and has good root depth and height. “Up here on the prairie, away from the rivers, corn can take up a lot of rain,” Alvin says. And referring to the old adage about the Fourth of July, he says, “When it’s that high, it can take up a lot of water.”

Alvin was always very cautious to preserve his top soil; he had to be because his farming depended on it. He bought different kinds of seed corn, the 105-day (early corn) was planted first, then 110-day, then 115-day (late corn), and all kinds of different varieties. He planted some of each.

Now most soybean is no-till planted. He couldn’t no-till back when he was farming, he didn’t have the machinery for it. He disked, planted and used a spreader to apply a certain amount of fertilizer. Now all of this is carefully controlled by satellite. The spreader applies very precise amounts of fertilizer. Corn is harvested with a combine harvester with GPS data telling the farmer what the moisture is at different spots, how much yield he’s getting, and so forth.

Still, as always, everything depends on the weather. For example, when to fertilize. There’s an enormous weather difference from the Effingham and Jasper counties area up to Champaign. Around Island Grove it warms up more often. So it is usually too wet in fall and farmers must wait until spring to begin work on a new crop. Because the soil needs to be below 50 degrees °F to apply nitrogen. But further north in ‘black ground’ country the ground is colder, so they can fertilize in the fall up there.

## *Planting amidst low prices in 2016*

I called in late February to ask when planting would start.

“This year?” said Alvin. “Prices are not near as good as they should be.”

This led to a long discussion of planting and yields.

All the farmers now have such big machines, they can get so much done in so little time, just two or three days, they go once over fields and they're ready to plant. Last year, there was a 3 to 4 day window for planting around the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, which is the ideal time to get everything in. And it rained for a month after that.

Alvin needed a couple weeks to plant. That's the big change in the past twenty years. For him, if he had just a 3-4 day window, by the time he got the planter out there, he would have had just enough time to plant one or two fields before the rains began again.

He would first disc to open and to dry the earth, then go over it with field cultivator and harrow, a roller with teeth. His tools were not so wide, 16 feet wide, and he had to go over a field three or 4 times before planting. He didn't practice no-till.

Now there is “vertical tillage” with a cultivator shovel, and a basket roller (with teeth), usually used just once for tillage. The tools are all 25-30 feet wide. There is a lot of no-till planting of soybeans but not of corn, which doesn't yield as well with no-till.

That's the bottom line – yield. The average yield is always about the same, but variations from year to year are big. The cause is the weather, but what about the weather? Nobody really knows.

Last year was the best bean yield ever, they were getting 85 bushels per acre, had yields up to 90 bushels instead of 50. And there was a lot of 200 bushel corn yield last year, pushing the upper end for corn.

It was the weather but nobody knows why. Was it the temperature at a certain time or rain at a certain time? Last year 2015 was very wet in spring, then dryer. There might be 5" of rain and then weeks of nothing. Some dry spells are good, when the plants send roots down deeper. It's not known for sure why '15 was so good, yet it completely depended on the weather.

For Alvin, when he got a corn yield of 160 bushels to the acre he was happy, and 50 bushels for beans was good. Since his time there has been improvement in the seed, now it's GMO. The GMO affects its characteristics, e.g., drought resistant, root worm resistant, etc. There are 7 to 8 enhancements to the seed. The seed makers know how to make it, they know what works.

We talked at length about seed.

More traditional ways of seed improvement also continue. Seed corn is still grown in Illinois, and farmers in the vicinity of a seed company will grow it. Alvin knows of one to the north around Tuscola, and there's a big Pioneer plant further north near Bloomington, also another over in Indiana not far. But in Alvin's area there's no cultivation of seed corn.

Seed corn requires de-tasseling. They bring kids in busses to the farms for two weeks in summer for de-tasseling. The farmers plant 14 rows of female and 2 rows of male to cross breed the plants. The kids walk through the rows behind the cutter, de-tasseling all the females so they can't pollinate themselves. All the pollen remains on the male plants so the female plants are pollinated by the male.

They cross it sometimes over years to breed certain resistances into the seed called 'stacks', which resist worms, disease, and so forth. It is a full-fledged cross breeding and the next year they might cross it again, the seed then having three parent groups.

Seed corn produces less per acre, about 40-50 bushels per acre is good for seed corn. And it's expensive at about \$250-300 per bag. While one bag of seed corn would plant 2.5 acres,

nowadays it may plant just two acres.

Now they're growing seed corn all over the world, in Hawaii, in Brazil. Alvin recalls a year when Brazil had late weather, which kept farmers in Illinois waiting for seed. Some farmers are seed corn dealers, kind of like middle men for the big seed companies. Alvin himself was for a time.

Alvin would buy seed from different dealers to get a nice mix of seed. The companies delivered the seed in February, it came in sacks, while now it comes in big tanks on trucks. They are black plastic cartons containing seed, including corn seed and soybean seed.

Regarding GMO, he makes the point that GMO seed doesn't directly enhance the yield, that non-GMO will have the same yield if all conditions are perfect. But the GMO fixes root worm, ear worm, weeds, and is now protecting from viruses and leaf blight. The leaf blight can come in certain years, if it rains a lot at a certain time, and without the GMO they have to spray with fungicide. It's expensive, they don't want to spray but if not the plants will get it.

No matter the seed, the soil or the planting method, there is one eternal constant in farming. "Still you've got to watch the weather," says Alvin.

### *Wet spring, dry summer in 2017*

**I** called in September to ask, how is this year?

"Dry, dry, dry" he said. "I can't remember the last time it rained, not even 2 or 3 tenths of an inch, which doesn't make any difference."

He was thinking that rain might come up from the south, from a hurricane down in the Gulf, but it was too late for the corn.

During planting time in April it was quite wet, they had 10-12 inches of rain. The plants didn't come up, there was too much rain, the fields flooded and the ground got crusted. Almost



everything had to be planted again.

“I would venture, around here, 80% of corn had to be replanted,” said Alvin. “Of course it depends on where you are,” he added. His son who lives near Newton, just 12 miles south, said they had 5 inches of rain in July, a big thundershower, while up at Island Grove they had nothing.

“Most summers it’s that way,” he said. “A hurricane will change that, like the one going over Florida now, we may get caught up in the stream coming north.”

He talked about the hurricane that recently hit Houston. “It used to be that the area around Houston would get 5 to 10 inches, then northeast Texas would get 6 inches, Arkansas would get five, then we’d get 6 inches,” he said. “But that hurricane over Houston just dumped everything there.”

Then he added, a little philosophically, “But we’ve been fighting Mother Nature our whole life, so we’re used to it.”

As for the upcoming harvest, he doesn’t expect it to be real good, some fields good and others not, with yields ranging from 0 up to 200 bushels per acre. A few fields didn’t pollinate, there were no kernels on the cob. The specific reason why is unclear.

“Maybe there were a few really hot days when it was supposed to be pollinating, it was too hot on those days,” he said. “We went through a spell, two weeks in late April, we had 13 to 14 inches of rain, then so dry, now we have later corn, and it didn’t ripen right, it more or less just died instead of ripen naturally.”

“Soybeans are late too,” he said. “You always plant corn first and we had to replant, and soybeans suffered from dryness, they’re not filled as good and they’re small, some are still green enough that they would benefit from rain...we’re waiting for that hurricane.”

If overall the year is poor to mediocre, the farmers all have federal crop insurance. They insure for so much per acre, so at least they won’t go broke. Farmers need this insurance now for banks to lend to them.

Normally by now the harvest would be in full swing, but it has not begun. Instead farmers are chopping up their corn to make silage.

We talked about silage and dairy farming.

Every part of the green corn stalk goes into making silage, leaves, ears and all. The stalks are fed into a loader to a mixer. The material ferments and is put on the ground under long plastic covers where it becomes warm and keeps all winter.

Most dairy farms in the area have 300 cows, so they need 200 acres of corn for silage. They mix silage, grain, ground up corn, and feed. They stir this together, then every cow gets a bite of silage and corn, and some hay, every day. The animals like the taste of it.

In an ideal world, for each cow, she's milked for 10 months, she's dry for two months. She's impregnated again three months after calving. They breed her on the farm. For many years, while Alvin ran the dairy farm, he would bring out what they called the 'bull man' who sold semen, which was stored in a nitrogen thermos jug, then thawed out. He was an expert at inserting the bull semen into a cow. Eventually he taught Alvin this delicate craft.

Alvin explained that all the farming methods he describes are standard practices of long standing. He farmed much as his father and grandfather. What's changed in farming greatly is the scale of it and the technology of it: computerization, GPS, pinpoint farming, and so forth. Alvin believes farming is much more efficient now.

"Now they're farming 10 times as much, they're farming three, four, five thousand acres," he said. Computers, satellites, automatic steering systems know precisely where to spray, none is wasted. "They drop it exactly where it's supposed to be."

One of his neighbors couldn't plant corn because the computer on his tractor failed. If a farmer has tractor trouble now, the first thing he does is hook it up to a computer to diagnose it.

“The days of the old shade tree mechanic are gone,” he says.

In Alvin’s day, it was just him on his tractor, with his intricate knowledge of his farm and how to farm it. “No one was bothering me, I was just minding my own business,” he says.

“We didn’t have it (computerized farming) earlier because we didn’t know how.”

But the farm was much more self-sufficient. He recalls the farm as it was when his father had it, back in the mid-1950s, when they had orchards, apple, pear, cherry, it was all for home consumption. “Whatever was left Mom would can,” he recalls.

It was so different then, everybody in those days had an orchard. Every farm had chickens and some hogs. When Alvin’s father ran the farm they usually had 700 to 800 chickens. His mother sold the eggs commercially, she gathered them herself. They would get 500 to 600 eggs per day, that’s 2 to 3 cases per day, cardboard cases. And the buyer would come twice per week; it was their main cash crop.

“We had our own feed, corn, oats, we added a mineral supplement, we’d grind it,” for the animals, he recalls.

As for the current trend to organics, Alvin is not too impressed. “People in Chicago, they’re paying three or four dollars for a dozen eggs, we just laugh at ‘em,” he says. “But we’ll take their money.”

### *A very good year 2018*

**I** visited Alvin and Darlene in early July and learned what a good year looks like.

“The ear is 3 to 4 inches long and it’s pollinating now,” Alvin explained about the green corn growing abundantly in the fields all around. It’s a really important time, when each one of the silks is pollinated to make one kernel. The stalk sometimes has a secondary ear but rarely.

“It’s a beautiful color this year,” he said. Conditions were

perfect. It had been dry. The rainfall was so spotty. Where his son Pat lives just 12 miles south it was not dry, they had good rain.

Then everything hit just right, during the longest days of the year that give the most light. It rained. It was not too hot, and the corn got all this moisture. While it was real dry the corn was resting, putting in roots to find moisture; a little stress is not bad for it. Then it surged, grew two feet really fast, now it's 6 to 7 feet tall; just three weeks ago it wasn't that high.

"And we have no control over it, that's the thing, you take what you get," he said.

Alvin used to plant 20 to 22,000 plants per acre, now they're planting 36,000 per acre. "Now the genetics are so much better, the stalk is stiffer," he said. "When I was young if we planted that dense it'd all fall over."

But he emphasizes that a good year is not man made, that it's got to keep raining.

"If I had my druthers we would have an inch of rain every Saturday night," he says. "We don't want to go too long without rain."

Alvin's land cannot get irrigation, there's no groundwater. "Not in this clay pan ground," he says, which he contrasts to the black ground up north.

When his father had the farm they were still only growing 40 acres of corn. They didn't have the equipment for more. And even when he was running the farm it took a long time to work the fields for planting. His equipment was 12' wide, now they use equipment that's 40' wide.

When Alvin took over the farm in the mid-50s he planted 70 acres of corn, 70 acres of wheat and hay, 70 acres of pasture, and 70 acres of beans. When he left farming he was planting 140 acres of corn, 20 acres of wheat, and 100 acres of soybean. He had quit pasture and cattle.

He retired finally four years before in 2014. Now his land is all corn or soybean, all planted in two days. It is leased to his

neighbors the Jansens. They disc one day, come in the next with an implement that serves as field cultivator and land leveler with rolling baskets. The planter follows behind. They spray it later.

“Now the prepared land is in such good shape, which was a problem down here in the clay soil,” he said.

The Jansens have enough people to work it day and night. They use a 16 row corn planter. The tractors in Alvin’s day didn’t have enough horsepower to pull an implement like that; the higher horsepower of tractors now puts no limit on farming.

The Jansens are a big family working 800 to 900 acres, which is a relatively small amount of working land now in the region. They’re milking 150 cows with no pasturing, it’s all indoor feeding. Alvin doesn’t know of anybody pasturing dairy cows anymore. On rolling ground there is a lot of beef cattle on pasture, but flat ground is just better used for crops.

Alvin worked his farm for 60 years and he knew his land very well, every roll, slant and crest. He knew where the water would run, where every wet spot was. Because this determined how he ditched it. He would usually make a cross-ditch, 50 yards from the end of field, to drain the field. As soon as he was done with planting, before the sun went down, he ditched.

The ditcher, a round device, goes crossways to push the ground out, making a cross-ditch leading to the bigger ditches at the field edges. He would ditch at the east end of the field, as most of his ground here slopes eastward.

Alvin thinks it’s like two different worlds, that of his ground compared to the black ground further north, where water is drained off by the clay tiles below the surface.

Retired from farming now, he still works reading meters for EJ Water. He drives a route seven days per month, using a laptop computer that reads the meters automatically. He enjoys the part-time job, although it’s gradually being replaced by satellite meter reading.

## *Too wet a spring in 2020*

**I**t was at the end of May when I called again. Alvin told me that 2019 had been a very good year weather-wise, but 2020 was wet again.

There had been a lot of pop-up showers, consistent rain but no gushers, nothing like the drenching the Chicago area got last week when 8" rain fell in four days. Still, the ground around Island Grove is very wet.

Less than half the corn crop is in and it's getting late. It's about the same with soybeans, although maybe more than half are planted now.

"When it gets to June, it's late," said Alvin, matter-of-factly.

So 2019 had been a good year, the price was not good but the crop was good. There is the China embargo that has caused a surplus of corn and beans, which farmers are holding now in their own siloes.

And there is a pandemic. The slaughterhouses are shut down, causing a surplus of hogs and beef cattle. So the price of meat is low – for the farmer, not at the grocery store.

Everything is on a timetable, Alvin explained. Usually hog barns hold about 2,000 animals, they get them at about 10 lbs., raise them to 230-235 lbs., that's the best size. If you have a 400 lb. hog, it's not prime, the meat is not near as good.

So they're gaining a pound a day, then it's time to go to market, and they've got another 2,000 little ones coming. Now, because the slaughterhouses are closed, they had to stop the production by the sows.

Alvin's land is leased out to the Jansens his neighbors down the road. They have switched to beef cattle, he thinks they're feeding about 500.

It was at a certain point in time, some decades ago, when farmers in the region began to specialize. They specialized in hogs, or cattle, or dairy. They went big into one of these,

combined with crop farming. Alvin decided to neither specialize nor to grow his farm larger. His land was paid for and he enjoyed farming the way he was. He sold his dairy herd and continued crop farming. His 280 acres used to be a big farm. Now it would be considered small. He just kept farming and enjoying his work until he retired.

His soil is heavy clay, he has only 6-8" of good black soil on top. "It varies", he says. Below the topsoil is a gray, sticky soil, the clay pan that goes about 2.5 to 3 feet down, so when you want to dig a pond you don't have to go down too deep.

"It's nasty," he says of the clay. "But if you put enough fertilizer on it, it's good, it does just fine."

I told Alvin about my little garden in Chicago, about its thick clay soil that comes from what was the ancient lake bottom.

Alvin told me that when he was just beginning to work on the farm, he came with his high school's FFA group to visit the Union Stock Yards in Chicago. They also went out to Libertyville to see a feed mixing mill. The new O'Hare airport was just opening and it was way out in the country.

Alvin said his granddaughter now lives in Glen Ellyn, a suburb 20 miles west of Chicago. "That's good black ground out there," he says of the suburbs.

Alvin's land is mostly dense clay but it doesn't require plowing. Actually he hasn't plowed since about the mid-1980s. It was about then when everybody quit plowing.

"You don't want to plow too deep," he says. "Of course nowadays they don't plow, they have unbelievably good planters," he says. "Land conditioners' they call them, they only push down 2-3 inches deep. There's a lot of no-tilling."

Because the planters are so good, they just put the seed in, the soybean seed about 2-3 inches deep, and 2 inches apart.

When he started farming, he had to make a track, to make loose ground around the seed. Now you don't need loose soil. He was planting 120-130,000 seeds per acre of soybean, and 22-24,000 seeds per acre of corn. That was a lot in the 80s. Now

the seed is so much better, they're planting 30-35,000 seeds per acre.

"It's unbelievably changed," he says, with high yields, now 200 bushels to the acre is not uncommon.

Still there's a lot of field work. The farmer has to disc the field to cover the old crop, then come in with the land conditioner to plant. Alvin is impressed with the result. "It's a beautiful seed bed," he says.

As always, our conversation closes with talk about the weather, the wet conditions this spring.

"All we got here now is pop-up showers," he said. "If we're lucky they miss, otherwise we won't get the crop in this week."

Such a shower can be just a mile wide. But there have been no tornadoes this spring, it's been quiet.



**I**called again later in the year in mid-October. By then his perspective on the year was different. It was looking like a fairly good year.

The corn is very good. The soybeans are not so good, there was no rain in August. There had been no measureable rain since the first of August. Alvin was interested to learn that it was raining in Chicago at the moment.

"We're very dry," he said.

Still, the weather was beautiful for harvest. "They're out most good days in October," he said of the farmers in the fields.

For two months they had enjoyed warm days and cool nights.

"I'm thinking we're in San Diego," he said with a laugh.

The corn was earlier. July was a real wet month. So the corn was established when the dry weather hit. The soybeans have



later development. Soybeans like late rain. It's got the seed in there. The moisture makes the beans larger.

Now, because it's been dry, the top beans are small. They didn't develop anything in the pods, just seed.

"It's just the weather, we can't do anything about it."





## Chapter 3

# Farm, Faith and Nature

### *A farm family*

**A**lvin and Darlene have five children, 13 grandchildren, and a growing number of great grandchildren all quite young.

Their son Doug, the eldest, was a teacher and coach at Newton High School for many years. Now retired, he lives on the farm with his family near to Alvin and Darlene, in the house built by Alvin's father.

Their son Steve, who is a professional financial advisor, built a house for his family nearby, on the west road by the old fence row, just north of the church. Their son Pat, an insurance broker, built a home for his family further south in Jasper County.

Their daughter Lisa lives with her family in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She was a choral director and instructor at Cornell College there. She is recently retired from that position. Their daughter Stacy is a speech therapist who lives with her family in Effingham.

They're sons are all athletic. They always played a lot of basketball on the farm. The children and grandchildren have acquired eight or nine state championships, competing in

basketball, pole vault, and high jump. Steve jumped 6'10" in high jump.

Alvin is in his 80s now. He had a hip replacement and suffered a fall, giving him difficulty in walking. All of the grandchildren are through high school now, so he misses watching their games.

His great grandfather founded the farm; he is the fourth generation to live on the farm. His boys are the fifth. Alvin's great grandfather Joseph was born in Alsace in France, his grandfather John was born in Illinois, his father Urban was born on the farm in 1904. Alvin has two sisters and one brother whose son now lives in the Chicago area.

The family came to Island Grove in 1864 and began with a farm of 40 acres. The original 40 acres were added to and the farm soon acquired its current dimension of 280 acres. It has changed only in its relative size. What was once a good sized farm supporting a large extended family, in the days of Alvin's father and grandfather and great grandfather, is now a relatively small farm in the Illinois landscape.

Now Illinois farmers plant and harvest a thousand acres or more. They manage large herds of 300 or more dairy cows. Others have gone big into hog raising operations. They work in the fields with enormous machines with advanced computer systems.

Despite the enlargement and technical advances, one factor remains constant. And it will remain a difficulty for farmers for all time, probably forever. Every farmer still waits on the weather. As Alvin often says, everything depends on it.

### *Rain*

A farm is a great garden. And as any serious gardener knows, it requires much work to get things to grow. Planting must occur in a window of time, in harmony with a season's particular pattern of rain. And time is of the essence.

Alvin and Darlene have a good garden, as they always have.

And it's still a lot of work. Alvin remembers springtime days in the midst of planting, he moved quickly from the field to the garden, getting the garden in before rain, putting in tomatoes and sweet corn and everything else for the season. Then he was back out on the tractor before rain would delay the planting. Those were always busy days under the cloudy skies of an Illinois springtime.

Rain and temperature are controlling factors, and rain especially is a preoccupation throughout the seasons. As Alvin has watched weather move over his half-section over six decades of farming, he's always been surprised by how selective it can be. Rain is an unpredictable thing. The clouds can unleash it across the whole region, or just send it down in patches here and there.

"We were really, really dry, really needed the rain," he said one year. "The corn was really looking bad on the verge of rolling up."

"Then three weeks ago we had two 3-inch rains in two days," he said. "It fixed it up really quickly."

But he said a little bit north they got more rain, a lot more rain; there were three 10 to 11-inch rains in two days, turning the young soybeans yellow. Other summers they've had nice rains in spots just to the north or south, while his farm stayed dry.

Any visitor to this wide open, watered landscape of central Illinois will come to see rain in a new way. Out in the open fields, under thick low clouds, you can see the gray streaked edge of rain far off, then come up suddenly like a wall of drops, big cold drops that brush off your arms, quickly wetting your clothes. Then the rain might suddenly move off again to the distance.

Where the clouds will drop some rain is just unknowable. The rain is like a living thing moving where it will. The little patterns can't be known but Alvin has a good sense of the big picture, the great patterns; he knows where he is on the earth.

There's something about the I-70 corridor, that east-west

concrete ribbon crossing through central Illinois. It marks more or less the line where two fronts clash, where warm southern air that comes up from the Gulf hits cold northern air coming down from Canada. Along this floating line of converging air masses the weather pattern is one of constant change, producing a mild average through shocks and extremes.

“We’re far enough south, just enough, to get the Gulf’s warm air,” says Alvin.

The air coming from the south brings warmth, but the wind will suddenly shift directions. Then the temperature can drop 20 degrees in 2 minutes. Then you see a big, dark roll cloud from the north bringing rain. The dark cloud occurs in this warm-cold air mix.

“Sometimes we need it really bad,” says Alvin of the rain.

He says it’s in the early spring before planting, in March, when the two fronts move together and “bounce around” up there.

“It will rain, then turn cold, that’s why we have lots of ice,” he says.

And that’s when he and Darlene like to be indoors watching a lot of high school basketball.

### *Storms & floods*

Illinois is a land of rain and rain comes from storms, sometimes extreme storms produced from shocks in the air masses. Illinois is a land of tornados. Alvin, out in his fields and on the roads around there, has seen quite a few. In his lifetime he’s seen at least a dozen.

Alvin and Darlene have been fortunate, none have hit their home. But one came close, very close in the summer of ’74, which was the centennial year of St. Joseph’s Parish and they were all set up for a big picnic on the church lawn. A large tent had been put up for the next day’s picnic.

It was 5 o’clock in the afternoon when the tornado came, it went right by the church but missed, it took everything but

missed the church.

“A tornado comes right down, it makes an ungodly amount of noise,” says Alvin. “It’s something you’ll never forget.”

They go at will, however they will, he says. This one went toward the northeast and kept going, straight toward the church. It flattened a neighbor’s barn.

“We could see it come through the fields.”

Alvin and Darlene were in the yard watching. There was no radio warning. It was one of those afternoons of many tornadoes; earlier in the day he had seen one a mile west. A few minutes after getting home another one came much closer. The kids were sent to the basement.

This one went straight, it went about two miles, it was a small tornado 50 yards wide at its base, it flattened corn, it pulled soybeans right out of the ground. It fortunately missed the church and just devastated the tent, paper plates and utensils scattered everywhere (farmers found them months later when harvesting). Still, by 10 pm that night, a new tent was delivered from Terre Haute with about 50 men from the parish working to set it up.

Alvin has seen farms completely gone, he’s seen a brick house with the roof taken off and the bricks were still standing, with straw and 2x4s driven into trees. That was from a tornado that touched down between there and Ste. Marie. Another, the Newton tornado in ’89 destroyed a lot of houses. But the only one that came really close was the one in ’74.

Of course there is another great event of nature that comes in a land of rainstorms, which is flooding. Illinois has many meandering streams and rivers that wind through the fields as they once wound through the prairies. The small streams rise in fields and quietly flow into tree-lined creeks that border fields and pass through culverts beneath roads. These widen out to shallow rivers flowing southerly to the Wabash, the Ohio and the Mississippi.

The prairie streams and rivers are gentle, often in the summer

dry. But in springtime they can rage. So the rivers have earthen levies built along them to hold the floods, lest the floodwaters flow outward and spread 40 or 50 miles over the low farmland. The bottomland inside a levy can be quite good and is often planted.

The flood Alvin and Darlene remember most is the '08 flood when a ten-foot earthen levy on the Embarras River broke south of Ste. Marie. The Embarras (*pronounced 'em-bra'*) is a pretty river that rises in farmland south of Champaign and flows through five or six counties. It flows down through the middle of Jasper County to the town of Newton, which is the county seat, and bends southeast past Ste. Marie on its way to the Wabash near Vincennes.

It was a summer flood that washed out everything, a lot of corn was lost. The surging river pushed up over the top of the levy south of Ste. Marie, lots of water piling way high up, then the levy just gave way.

“When it goes it goes, taking the river with it,” says Alvin. “It just roars, just pours into it,” he says of the breach.

“My God how much was underwater? It was miles of water.”

The water was 80 feet deep where it gushed through. It was flat ground there, it washed all that away. The river was really dirty, full of the silt from farms in late spring. Alvin thinks there must have been 40 acres of sand spreading out from the breach, when the flood subsided, and 10 square miles of standing water. All the flat ground was covered with sand.

“It was really sickening,” said Darlene, when she recalled seeing the aftermath of that '08 flood.

Fortunately for Alvin, there's not ever been serious flooding on his land. His farm is quite well located.

“We're at the crest of a rise, a kind of 'continental divide' between the Little Wabash and the Embarras,” he explains. “So we're as far away from a river as you can get down here.”

Alvin says that Island Grove is the highest point in the region west of Terre Haute. Surveyors would go to the highest points



when they surveyed this region. That's where the church stands at Island Grove and, just across the road, is where the tall water tower is located.

Alvin was impressed one year when some surveyors were out looking for the first survey point. They asked to dig near the west corner of his property, in the pasture up by the church. There they found a rock of the first surveyors, a kind of marking stone, buried three feet in the ground. It must have been from perhaps the 1830s.

### *Church and school*

**T**hrough this wide swathe of south-central Illinois there are a lot of fine small towns with tidy town squares and handsome 19<sup>th</sup>-century courthouses. This is country where early on, in the 1840s, a young lawyer Abraham Lincoln rode the judicial circuit on horseback, through the counties to the north of Jasper County.

Many fine churches were built in the towns and out in the countryside, for Catholic parishes and Protestant congregations. And there is a strong tradition of public schools. Perhaps it is a unique American mingling.

Island Grove is a geographical designation like many others in rural Illinois. It is a high point in the land, in the southwest corner of Grove Township. It was named for a slight rise that had woods upon it and appeared like an island in the prairie.

"It's just a spot on a map where there's a name," says Alvin. His great grandfather and grandfather helped in the building of St. Joseph's Church there. So Island Grove came to stand for the parish.

Like a lot of such places in rural townships there was a grade school there. There was never a store, only the church, the church hall, the parish house and a grade school. It was not a parochial school but a 1-room schoolhouse called Island Grove School. It was there until about 1950, Alvin recalls. All the elementary schools were like that, they were 1-room schools,

one about every 3 or 4 miles. They were public schools, although there is a parochial grade school called St. Thomas in Newton.

Alvin attended Island Grove School. Then he went to high school in Newton, the biggest town and county seat of Jasper County about 15 miles away. He didn't play basketball in high school because back then there wasn't a way to get home after school except by school bus. Kids didn't have cars and he would have had to walk all the way home after practice.

Now the whole county goes to Newton for school, all the kids. There used to be schools throughout Jasper County but these were all closed and consolidated. Alvin and Darlene watched more and more school consolidations occur over the years as the farm population gradually declined. Now all the schools are in Newton. There's one unused school nearby, it's real nice, the township bought it for a dollar and uses it now for other purposes. Another former school in the county was turned into a tavern!

Newton High School had an enrollment of 950 students when their eldest son Doug was in high school in the late '70s. That was the high point of its enrollment. It's been going down ever since and now there are about 500 in the high school. As there has been ongoing consolidation of farms, there are fewer farmers and fewer kids.

St. Joseph's church remains quite active. It is now within St. Isadore parish under the pastorship of a priest of the Diocese of Springfield. He visits several rural parishes on Sundays to say mass. The parish encompasses a five-mile radius circle around the church and all the Catholic families within that area go to St. Joseph. There are about 120 families in the parish.

St. Joseph's, handsome little red brick church, is one of just a few Catholic churches out in the country. Another is St. Aloysius at Bishop's Creek, a parish that is just a bit older than St. Joseph. There is a creek named Bishop's Creek that designates the place, just outside the little town Dieterich, about 5 miles southwest of Island Grove in Effingham County.

The others, out in the country north of Effingham, are Sacred Heart at Lillyville, and St. Mary of Help at Green Creek. The rest of the churches are in small towns. St. Michael is in the little town of Sigel. St. Rose is in the tiny burg of Montrose. In Ste. Marie, 25 miles away to the south, is the parish of St. Mary. In Teutopolis, St. Francis parish is under the care of Franciscan priests.

Teutopolis is an old town that has now become something of a 'bedroom community' of Effingham. There is a public school that used to be operated like a parochial school. The parish is adjacent and owns the school building and there is a shrine of the Blessed Virgin on the school grounds. T-town is a community of Catholics and, according to Alvin and Darlene, they're not terribly happy about new people coming in.

But a lot of new people are coming in to neighboring Effingham, the biggest town in the area, where I-55 crosses I-70, and the IC tracks come through. It's booming, has lots of industry, good manufacturing companies and jobs. In years past Effingham was more of an agricultural center. Now it has 15,000 residents, 25,000 people working there, 5 truck stops, 47 restaurants, 2 interstates and 2 railroads coming through.

It's sprawling. A lot of people who work in Effingham now attend St. Joseph's on Sundays. In Dieterich, about 9 miles southeast of Effingham, there's a new subdivision that is all filled up. The town leaders were quite shrewd to build this subdivision; they agreed to sell lots for \$5,000 each, quite cheap, and now they've picked up a lot of taxable properties there.

It has all changed a lot since the days of Alvin's grandfather and great grandfather, when Effingham was quite far away, when it was reached with a team and wagon rolling slowly over muddy or frozen fields and roads.

For Sunday mass at St. Joseph, a priest came from the Franciscans in T-town. A man and wagon would go for him on Saturday and he would stay with a local family Saturday night, then return to T-town after mass on Sunday. The families around St. Joseph's took turns hosting the priest.

Though it's just seven miles away, it was not easy going to T-town by wagon. It was a half-day drive on dirt roads through the fields, and these were often very muddy. It must be no coincidence that in Jasper County there are two townships called "Muddy", one "North Muddy" and the other "South Muddy", through which runs Big Muddy Creek. These are just south of Grove Township.

So the wagon drivers would be going along with father sitting beside them. And when they hit a muddy spot they would sometimes ask father for permission to curse the horses to pull harder. Permission was always granted.



## Chapter 4

### Philosophy of a Farmer

*A perfect '21 when wet spring gave way to  
exceptional summer and fall*

**I** called Alvin last spring. And again in November.

April of '21 was too wet to plant. He said there's been a lot of rain and it's been cold, the days were too chilly for the ground to dry out. And it's just the time of the year when farmers are anxious to get in the fields.

Still it's early, there's time to wait. He said that further up north they've had good conditions, they've been busy in the fields.

I mentioned the dry weather up here in Chicago, that we've had something like a springtime drought with little rain. He knew about it, because he reads the weekly farm report on conditions across the state, as reported by farmers (about 20 contributors from all over the state).

We talked about the differing conditions up north and those of his more southerly region straddling the I-70 corridor, that concrete ribbon cutting across south central Illinois on a line roughly marking where, high above, great air masses clash.

Alvin sees this whole picture, from the regional way down the scale to his farm.

“You know the weather is always so variable, you’ll be dry, your neighbors just a little up north will have showers every other day,” he said. “You just can’t predict it.”



I asked when he puts his garden in, thinking it’s a few weeks earlier down there. We discussed the cultivation of tomatoes and when to plant them, which doesn’t occur up here until early May to miss the frost. They plant earlier down there and we agreed that tomatoes thrive in warm weather given lots of water.

Regarding his garden, Alvin told me that he and Darlene have just about given up on gardening, it’s too much work now at their age. Still, they will put in a few tomato plants when the warm days come.



We talked again in early November. They had a very good year, Alvin told me. In fact it was a great year, the crops set records.

I asked, what made it a great year? His answer came without hesitation: the rain.

“Whenever it was supposed to rain, it rained. Every five days or so we got a nice rain, a half to 1 inch of rain” he said.

“It was wet in Spring, then dried up long enough, with the machinery nowadays they can get it in so fast.

“Then we were dry when it was harvest time, just ideal.

“We had a wonderful fall, beautiful clear days, they hit it hard. When you have real good conditions for two weeks you can get a lot out.”

So it was wet in the spring and wet the whole summer, with just the right amount of rain just when needed consistently across the growing season, perfect for corn and soybeans both.

“Yield-wise, it’s the best year we’ve ever had,” he said. “Yields like we never heard of.

“Of course the seed had a lot to do with it, they have it so refined now, but we didn’t do anything different. The seed was good, the ground was well prepared like always, the weather made the difference.

“People just shake their heads, never seen anything like it.”

The yields were 250-260 bushels/acre of corn, 70-90 of soybean. He said the harvest is about 90% in now, only here and there a field is not in.

Alvin was reading the farm bureau reports, as always. He saw that further north they had too much rain. They couldn’t get crops out, it was too muddy. It gets so muddy in the fields, he explained, they get ruts, they’re battling with the machinery and trucks can’t get into the fields.

“For our part we were just lucky, when they had 3” of rain, we got a half-inch.”

According to the farm bureau report, they had a little below average yield up north, it was too wet all year.

“We were way above average here,” he said.

I asked if everyone was in for winter now. He explained that lots of people around there have livestock, less and less dairy, but a lot of beef cattle and hogs, so they’ll be busy getting ready for winter.

We talked about the recent Hurricane Ida down in the Gulf. It brought no rain to the area, it peeled off and went east of them. He said sometimes they’ll get rain that’s the remains of a hurricane, one of those long rainy days when it rains all day. But this one turned and went east across Tennessee, which seems to be a new pattern.

We talked about the current national concerns with inflation and the supply-chain impediments. They haven't had trouble with shipping grain, he said, but there are supply shortages of fertilizer, the whole thing is out of whack.

"The prices we're getting, everything is high now, but fertilizer prices are high too, so everything is going and coming about the same," he said.



Summing up the season, the record harvests, the excellent weather, he said, "It's about time we get the good weather!"

Then he said, with a sense of gratitude, "The good Lord sent it to us, so we'll take it."

Then we talked about the weather this week, the beautiful days so far, warm and dry, although the weatherman's forecast is for rain.

"When they say 100% chance of rain then it might rain," he quipped. "You can't tell."



Farming will always be about the weather. No matter how sophisticated the seed and machinery, no matter the cost of it all, it all goes in before you know what the weather will be.

You always plant for top production, Alvin told me. But so many factors of nature come into play, you don't know the outcome. You may have to replant everything.

"But we've been fighting mother nature our whole life," he says, "so we're used to it."

You can't fool mother nature, he told me. You can't plant winter wheat too early, you can't plant winter wheat in the summer, winter wheat is planted in October. The farmers want it to grow about 2-3 inches, not too much.



You don't want too wet of an autumn, you want just enough so the wheat grows three inches, maybe four, then with the first frost it stops growing and it's perfectly set for the winter. That's the way the plant is put together, it can't just be changed, you can't trick mother nature. She'll do what she wants with the plant the way she has designed it.

Again, it all depends on the weather. The weather controls all.

Alvin recalled that 2012 was the worst corn crop in memory. The next year 2013 was the best. What's the difference? It's the weather, but what about the weather? That's uncertain.

Average rainfall is forty inches in a year, and that comes out pretty much the same year after year after year. But it's a matter of when the rain falls. Some years the rain fell at all the right times. Then there was a bumper crop, the best in Illinois in memory, up to 200 bushels to the acre in some areas.



A compass is helpful for a first-time traveler who is navigating the roads around there. It's a great grid of roads following the section lines, crossing at right angles every mile. But when you come to a crossroads, way out in the country, you have no idea which way you're facing.

Alvin takes a little pride in his sense of direction, which comes naturally from a life lived in the vast landscape. When he was working for the water company, driving the roads through Jasper and Effingham and the surrounding counties to read water meters, he would tell the driver "go west" or "go north" at the next crossroads. And the driver often asked him to clarify, "you mean turn left, or turn right?"

He just naturally knows where he is.



There is something that distinguishes a farmer, one with a long and deep connection to his land, from the rest of men. It is his sense of connection to land everywhere. And his strong sense of its value as land, be it tamed or untamed. In this he differs from the builder, the developer, the land agent or broker. These others see land worth merely its sale price, which determines its use. What marks a farmer is his much deeper connection to it.

Alvin related the experience of a bus trip with the FFA when he was a sophomore in high school. They came up to Libertyville to visit a feed mixing mill and also saw the Union Stock Yard in Chicago. Back in those days in the 1950s Libertyville was a little town out in the country, way north of the city. Now it's a busy suburb.

This led to a discussion of all the suburban sprawl around Chicago. Alvin thinks it's a pity because when it's developed it can never be turned back.

“That's good black ground around Chicago, it's a shame they cover it over,” he said. “When you grow up with it and live with it your whole life, that land is real important. You know every hump and ditch in it.”

Farmers will sell when the market arrives and the high price is offered, but they sense the value of their land and what's lost with it. The developers, the realtors, the land brokers, they care nothing for that.



A farm is a great garden. It is a work of man and nature.

Alvin knows his farm very well from 60 years of working it. He knows the rises and where the land slopes to swales. He knows the special areas. Like the high area of seven acres or so where anything he planted would grow well, even alfalfa.

Alvin says an inferior farmer, one of poor judgement, would always choose to buy the cheapest seed, and get the expected

result in his crop. He would pay for just half the spray needed for his crop, so lose the whole crop to insects.

Still every farmer is reliant on the weather. Can't change that! Even the guy with the most advanced machinery, even he will still have to replant his corn after a very wet spring. And after a dry spell that comes too early and lasts too long. The big computer-controlled farm machines with GPS can't create a steady pattern of rain.

"It's not man made, it's got to keep raining," he says.

"If I had my druthers we'd have an inch of rain every Saturday night... don't want to go too long without rain," he says. But he can't control it, come what may. So he accepts each season with a bit of fatalism.

"Like they say, another year another dollar."



Alvin and Darlene were busy this fall. There were three grandchildren married, three weddings, at St. Joseph's, at Bishop's Creek, and at Newton. There were two baptisms of great grandchildren. And there was a funeral. Alvin's sister age 78 passed away, she lived in Effingham.

Alvin was the oldest of four, his younger brother John is 17 years younger. There were two sisters between them.

Their eldest daughter Lisa is now retired from her position at Cornell College. She and her husband are moving to Louisiana, where he's from. They had a home for a while in New Orleans, now they're moving to town near there.

Alvin says he's not much of a city boy, he doesn't like cities. But he'll go to New Orleans to visit his daughter and to eat there. He loves the good seafood.



Alvin worked his farm for 60 years. It is 280 acres (almost a half-section), the same farm his great grandfather Joseph founded. After 150 years of working the land, it's apparent what the farm has given.

Alvin and Darlene are happy for their children, all of whom have grown up and gone on to pursue successful careers, each in a different field. Their children learned a lot growing up on the farm but never gained first-hand experience managing it. Whether anyone in the family continues farming is not of great importance. The land will be kept and leased to other farmers and someday provide an inheritance.

Now they're watching their grandchildren come of age and pursue their paths in life, and enjoying the sight of their great grandchildren growing up.

They have an old black and white photo of the family. It's a picture of his great grandparents surrounded by their large family on the farm.

It's a picture that shows what is most important about the farm. It is about the family. So it provides the best happiness that anyone could ask for.







## Descendants of Joseph Mammoser

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### Generation 1

1. **JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> MAMMOSE**r was born on 12 Nov 1829 in France. He died on 29 Oct 1896. He married **BARBARA APRILL**. She was born on 26 Jan 1825 in France. She died on 17 Jan 1874.

Notes for Joseph Mammoser:

Joseph Mammoser, male, 21 yrs., farmer, from France, destined for New York. Arrived New York on a ship called the "Seine" from Havre on May 15, 1850. Name given on ship's register as "Mammoser."

(Glazier-Filby: Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at US Ports 1850-1855, vol. 1, pg. 70)

According to Tony Mammoser, in correspondence of April 11, 1998, Joseph moved from Cook County to Island Grove, Illinois around 1864.

Joseph Mammoser and Barbara Aprill had the following children:

2. i. **BARBARA<sup>2</sup> MAMMOSE**r was born on 06 Sep 1854. She died on 29 Apr 1911. She married **JOSEPH MEINHART**. He was born on 13 Jan 1845. He died on 20 Aug 1906.
3. ii. **MARY MAMMOSE**r was born on 06 Oct 1858. She died on 15 Apr 1930. She married **Joseph Weishaar Jr.** in 1883. He was born in 1858. He died in 1939.
4. iii. **LOUISE MAMMOSE**r was born on 18 Dec 1860. She died on 14 Nov 1930. She married **Victor Lustig** on 13 Jan 1879 in Effingham County, Illinois. He was born in 1854. He died in 1935.
5. iv. **JOHN M. MAMMOSE**r was born in 1862 in Illinois. He died on 18 Jul 1932 in Effingham County, Illinois. He married **Barbara Einhorn** on 14 Oct 1886 in Jasper County, Illinois. She was born on 01 Oct 1863 in Alsace. She died on 12 Apr 1939 in Jasper County, Illinois.
6. v. **JOSEPHINE MAMMOSE**r was born on 23 May 1865. She died on 09 Nov 1891. She married **Joseph Einhorn Jr.** on 14 Oct 1886 in Effingham County, Illinois. He was born in 1859. He died in 1943.

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### Generation 2

2. **BARBARA<sup>2</sup> MAMMOSE**r (**Joseph<sup>1</sup>**) was born on 06 Sep 1854. She died on 29 Apr 1911. She married **JOSEPH MEINHART**. He was born on 13 Jan 1845. He died on 20 Aug 1906.

Joseph Meinhardt and Barbara Mammoser had the following children:

7. i. **MARTIN<sup>3</sup> MEINHART**. He married **DELPHINE KOEBELE**.
- ii. **MITILDA MEINHART**. She married **BEN COHORST**.
8. iii. **JOSEPH MEINHART JR.**. He married **FRANCES COHORST**.
9. iv. **THERESA MEINHART**. She married **JOSEPH COHORST JR.**.
3. **MARY<sup>2</sup> MAMMOSE**r (**Joseph<sup>1</sup>**) was born on 06 Oct 1858. She died on 15 Apr 1930. She married **Joseph Weishaar Jr.** in 1883. He was born in 1858. He died in 1939.

Joseph Weishaar Jr. and Mary Mammoser had the following children:

- i. **TONY<sup>3</sup> WEISHAAR**.
10. ii. **JOHN WEISHAAR**. He died on 13 Mar 1940. He married **Katherine Lidy** on 05 Oct 1897. She was born in 1873. She died on 07 Jan 1958.
- iii. **EDWARD WEISHAAR**.
- iv. **JOE WEISHAAR**.
- v. **ALOYSIUS WEISHAAR**.
- vi. **CHARLES WEISHAAR**.
- vii. **PHILLIP WEISHAAR**. He married **ELSIE BRUMMER**.

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## Generation 2 (cont.)

- viii. ALFRED WEISHAAR.
- 11. ix. ANN WEISHAAR. She married LAWRENCE PALS.
- 4. LOUISE<sup>2</sup> MAMMOSER (Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 18 Dec 1860. She died on 14 Nov 1930. She married Victor Lustig on 13 Jan 1879 in Effingham County, Illinois. He was born in 1854. He died in 1935. Victor Lustig and Louise Mammoser had the following children:
  - i. JOSEPH<sup>3</sup> LUSTIG.
  - ii. GEORGE LUSTIG was born on 21 Jun 1890 in Wheeler, Jasper, Illinois, USA. He died on 12 Mar 1960 in Chicago, Cook, Illinois, USA. He married AGNES ???.
  - 12. iii. ANNA LUSTIG. She married JOE FLOOD.
  - iv. FRANK LUSTIG.
  - v. LENA LUSTIG. She married RAY BRUMLEVE.
  - vi. LEO LUSTIG.
  - vii. CLARA LUSTIG. She married ADOLF KOEBELE.
- 5. JOHN M.<sup>2</sup> MAMMOSER (Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born in 1862 in Illinois. He died on 18 Jul 1932 in Effingham County, Illinois. He married Barbara Einhorn on 14 Oct 1886 in Jasper County, Illinois. She was born on 01 Oct 1863 in Alsace. She died on 12 Apr 1939 in Jasper County, Illinois.

Notes for John M. Mammoser:

Name given as "Mamosier" in the 1920 Soundex, which lists birthdate as 1866.

Chart supplied by John Mammoser (grandson) lists birthdate as 1862.

Notes for Barbara Einhorn:

Illinois Statewide Marriage Indew gives date of marriage as 04 Oct 1886.

John M. Mammoser and Barbara Einhorn had the following children:

- 13. i. ANTHONY JOHN<sup>3</sup> MAMMOSER was born on 14 Aug 1887 in Grove Township, Jasper County, Illinois. He died on 23 May 1966. He married Clara Mary Thoele on 21 Sep 1915 in Effingham County, Illinois. She was born on 26 Jul 1891 in Illinois. She died on 10 Jun 1980 in Fayette Cnty, Illinois.
- ii. FRANK J. MAMMOSER was born on 10 Sep 1889 in Illinois. He died on 06 Oct 1937 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married GERTRUDE KAUFMAN. She was born on 13 Aug 1892. She died on 23 Jun 1978.
- iii. BERNARD MICHELL MAMMOSER was born on 08 Sep 1892 in Grove Township, Jasper County, Illinois. He died on 30 Mar 1942 in Jasper County, Illinois.

Notes for Bernard Michell Mammoser:

On June 5, 1917, on his World War I Draft Registration Card, he was listed as a single farmer, self-employed.

- iv. JOHN L. MAMMOSER was born on 21 Nov 1893 in Illinois. He died on 12 Jul 1955 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois.
- v. ALBERT PHILIP MAMMOSER was born on 21 Apr 1896 in Grove Township, Jasper County, Illinois. He died on 22 Sep 1960 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois.

Notes for Albert Philip Mammoser:

World War I Draft Card says he was a farm helper, employed by John Mammoser of Teutopolis, Illinois. He was single on June 5, 1917, the day of registration.

- 14. vi. IDA B. MAMMOSER was born on 31 Jul 1898 in Illinois. She died on 26 Feb 1949 in Pesotum, Illinois. She married Charles Schweighart on 07 Apr 1920. He was born on 15 May 1900. He died on 26 Feb 1991.
- 15. vii. CLARA M. MAMMOSER was born on 18 Oct 1900 in Illinois. She died on 13 Mar 1954. She married GEORGE HANDFLAND. He was born in 1899 in Illinois. He died on 19 Mar 1951.
- 16. viii. URBAN ALOYSIUS MAMMOSER was born on 23 May 1904 in Illinois. He died on 19 Oct



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### Generation 2 (cont.)

- 1967 in Teutopolis, Illinois. He married Rose A. Bierman on 26 May 1936. She was born on 14 Jul 1908. She died on 21 May 1984 in Teutopolis, Illinois.
17. ix. **MARIE C. MAMMOSER** was born on 02 Jul 1907 in Illinois. She died on 12 Mar 1978. She married Leonard Lidy on 04 Apr 1940. He was born on 29 Jun 1912. He died on 26 Feb 1974.
6. **JOSEPHINE<sup>2</sup> MAMMOSER** (Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 23 May 1865. She died on 09 Nov 1891. She married Joseph Einhorn Jr. on 14 Oct 1886 in Effingham County, Illinois. He was born in 1859. He died in 1943.
- Joseph Einhorn Jr. and Josephine Mammoser had the following children:
- i. **LUCY<sup>3</sup> EINHORN**. She married **LEONARD STEGER**.
18. ii. **MARGRET EINHORN**. She married **AUGUST BRUMLEVE**.
19. iii. **JOHN EINHORN** was born in 1889. He died in 1957. He married Olivia Swingler in 1919. She was born in 1893. She died in 1979.

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### Generation 3

7. **MARTIN<sup>3</sup> MEINHART** (Barbara<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph). He married **DELPHINE KOEBELE**.
- Martin Meinhart and Delphine Koebele had the following children:
- i. **ANNA<sup>4</sup> MEINHART**. She married **FRANK DOOLING**.
- ii. **DOROTHY MEINHART**. She married **BEN PRUEMER**.
- iii. **GILES MEINHART**. He died in 1944.
8. **JOSEPH<sup>3</sup> MEINHART JR.** (Barbara<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph). He married **FRANCES COHORST**.
- Joseph Meinhart Jr. and Frances Cohorst had the following children:
- i. **ROSE<sup>4</sup> MEINHART**.
20. ii. **LAWRENCE MEINHART** was born in 1908. He married **DOROTHY BERGBOWER**.
9. **THERESA<sup>3</sup> MEINHART** (Barbara<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph). She married **JOSEPH COHORST JR.**.
- Joseph Cohorst Jr. and Theresa Meinhart had the following children:
21. i. **CLARA<sup>4</sup> COHORST**. She married **RAYMOND KOEBELE**.
22. ii. **AGNES COHORST**. She married **CLEM BIERMAN**.
- iii. **LUCY COHORST**. She married **HENRY DUST**.
- iv. **MADGE COHORST**. She married **HARRY BIERMAN**.
23. v. **LEONARD COHORST**. He married **MARIE BIERMAN**.
24. vi. **LARRY COHORST**. He married **MARILYN WESTENDOFF**.
10. **JOHN<sup>3</sup> WEISHAAR** (Mary<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph Jr.). He died on 13 Mar 1940. He married Katherine Lidy on 05 Oct 1897. She was born in 1873. She died on 07 Jan 1958.
- John Weishaar and Katherine Lidy had the following child:
25. i. **LEO<sup>4</sup> WEISHAAR**. He married Catherine Habing in 1926. She died in 1996.
11. **ANN<sup>3</sup> WEISHAAR** (Mary<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph Jr.). She married **LAWRENCE PALS**.
- Lawrence Pals and Ann Weishaar had the following children:
26. i. **ELVIRA<sup>4</sup> PALS**. She married **ED FALTIMIER**.
- ii. **RAYMOND PALS**. He married **BETTY COATS**.
- iii. **ROBERT PALS** was born in 1937. He married **NANCY HARDIEK**.
27. iv. **LORETTA PALS**. She married **CLARK ISLEY**.

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**Generation 3 (cont.)**

- v. GEORGE PALS.
  - vi. JOHN PALS.
  - vii. MARY PALS. She married LOUIS DOMENICK.
  - viii. LENA PALS. She married RUDY STACHEL.
  - 28. ix. ALPHONSE PALS. He married FREIDA PROBST.
12. **ANNA<sup>3</sup> LUSTIG** (Louise<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Victor). She married **JOE FLOOD**. Joe Flood and Anna Lustig had the following child:
- 29. i. LORETTA<sup>4</sup> FLOOD. She married Donald Meinhart on 04 Feb 1949.
13. **ANTHONY JOHN<sup>3</sup> MAMMOSER** (John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 14 Aug 1887 in Grove Township, Jasper County, Illinois. He died on 23 May 1966. He married Clara Mary Thoele on 21 Sep 1915 in Effingham County, Illinois. She was born on 26 Jul 1891 in Illinois. She died on 10 Jun 1980 in Fayette Cnty, Illinois.
- Notes for Anthony John Mammoser:  
World War I Draft Registration Card
- Anthony John Mammoser and Clara Mary Thoele had the following children:
- 30. i. LAVERNE JOHN<sup>4</sup> MAMMOSER was born on 21 Jun 1917 in Illinois. He died on 01 Sep 1997. He married CATHERINE ALEEN VAN ETTEN. She was born on 27 Jun 1920. She died on 03 Apr 2002.
  - 31. ii. RUTH V. MAMMOSER was born on 19 Jan 1921. She died on 08 Feb 1985. She married OSCAR JACO.
  - 32. iii. TABITHA BERTHA MAMMOSER was born on 04 Jan 1923. She died on 21 Jun 2010. She married KENNETH E. RUBIN.
14. **IDA B.<sup>3</sup> MAMMOSER** (John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 31 Jul 1898 in Illinois. She died on 26 Feb 1949 in Pesotum, Illinois. She married Charles Schweighart on 07 Apr 1920. He was born on 15 May 1900. He died on 26 Feb 1991.
- Charles Schweighart and Ida B. Mammoser had the following children:
- 33. i. BERNICE<sup>4</sup> SCHWEIGHART was born on 09 Feb 1922. She married Joe Wilhelm on 05 Jun 1946. He was born on 04 Aug 1917.
  - 34. ii. MILDRED SCHWEIGHART was born on 23 Mar 1924 in Champaign Cnty, Illinois. She married Harold Kleiss on 05 Mar 1946. He was born on 10 Dec 1923.
  - 35. iii. BERNARD SCHWEIGHART was born on 26 Jul 1926. He died on 15 Oct 1990 in Tuscola, Illinois. He married Betty Decker on 06 Jan 1949. She was born on 29 Jun 1929.
  - 36. iv. EUGENE W. SCHWEIGHART was born on 15 Dec 1928. He married Phyllis Schumacher on 31 Jul 1954. She was born on 03 Mar 1934.
  - 37. v. JOHN R. SCHWEIGHART was born on 03 Feb 1932. He married Ruth Schumacher on 03 May 1952. She was born on 25 Nov 1932.
  - 38. vi. CHARLES E. SCHWEIGHART was born on 12 Sep 1934. He died on 06 May 1989 in Champaign Cnty, Illinois. He married Shirley Hausman on 01 Oct 1955. She was born on 23 Jun 1935.
15. **CLARA M.<sup>3</sup> MAMMOSER** (John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 18 Oct 1900 in Illinois. She died on 13 Mar 1954. She married **GEORGE HANDFLAND**. He was born in 1899 in Illinois. He died on 19 Mar 1951.
- George Handfland and Clara M. Mammoser had the following children:
- i. ALBERT GEORGE<sup>4</sup> HANDFLAND.
  - 39. ii. ELAINE HANDFLAND was born on 08 Apr 1943. She married George Larry Ganley on 26 Jun 1965. He was born on 17 Dec 1941.
16. **URBAN ALOYSIUS<sup>3</sup> MAMMOSER** (John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 23 May 1904 in Illinois. He died on 19 Oct 1967 in Teutopolis, Illinois. He married Rose A. Bierman on 26 May 1936. She was born on

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### Generation 3 (cont.)

14 Jul 1908. She died on 21 May 1984 in Teutopolis, Illinois.

Urban Aloysius Mammoser and Rose A. Bierman had the following children:

40. i. ALVIN J.<sup>4</sup> MAMMOSEER was born on 02 Jun 1937 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married Darlene Woods on 23 Aug 1958. She was born on 04 Sep 1936 in Newton, Illinois.
  41. ii. ANNA MARIE MAMMOSEER was born on 28 Aug 1940 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. She married Vincent G. Keck on 29 Sep 1962 in Shelby Cnty, Illinois. He was born on 12 Oct 1938.
  42. iii. LOUISE MAMMOSEER was born on 02 Apr 1943 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. She married Joseph W. Nuxoll on 04 Apr 1964. He was born on 04 Apr 1941 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois.
  - iv. LEO A. MAMMOSEER was born on 31 Dec 1946. He died on 23 Apr 1947 in Jasper County, Illinois.
  43. v. JOHN C. MAMMOSEER was born on 14 May 1952 in Mattoon, Illinois. He married Patricia Jean Litzelman on 18 Oct 1975. She was born on 18 Dec 1954 in Newton, Illinois.
17. **MARIE C.<sup>3</sup> MAMMOSEER** (John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 02 Jul 1907 in Illinois. She died on 12 Mar 1978. She married Leonard Lidy on 04 Apr 1940. He was born on 29 Jun 1912. He died on 26 Feb 1974.

Leonard Lidy and Marie C. Mammoser had the following children:

- i. MARY<sup>4</sup> LIDY.
  44. ii. TERRENCE JOSEPH LIDY was born on 19 Jan 1943 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married Paula May Sill on 30 Oct 1976. She was born on 04 Sep 1948 in Salem, Illinois.
  45. iii. JOHN LEONARD LIDY was born on 27 Jul 1945 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married Nancy Allen on 25 Jul 1970. She was born on 08 May 1948.
18. **MARGRET<sup>3</sup> EINHORN** (Josephine<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph Jr.). She married **AUGUST BRUMLEVE**.

August Brumleve and Margret Einhorn had the following child:

46. i. ARTHUR<sup>4</sup> BRUMLEVE. He married ROSE ???.
19. **JOHN<sup>3</sup> EINHORN** (Josephine<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born in 1889. He died in 1957. He married Olivia Swingler in 1919. She was born in 1893. She died in 1979.

John Einhorn and Olivia Swingler had the following children:

- i. MADONNA<sup>4</sup> EINHORN. She married ARTHUR LOBMIER.
47. ii. JOHN EINHORN JR. was born in 1923. He died in 1958. He married MARY HERBOTH. She was born in 1927.
48. iii. LOUIS EINHORN was born in 1926. He died in 1959. He married ROSELLA MEINHART. She was born in 1931. She died in 1997.
- iv. KENNETH EINHORN was born in 1929. He died in 1962.

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### Generation 4

20. **LAWRENCE<sup>4</sup> MEINHART** (Joseph<sup>3</sup> Jr., Barbara<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born in 1908. He married **DOROTHY BERGBOWER**.

Lawrence Meinhart and Dorothy Bergbower had the following children:

- i. JANE<sup>5</sup> MEINHART was born in 1937. She married ROBERT HEWING.
  - ii. CAROL MEINHART. She married ED BUENKER.
  - iii. DANIEL MEINHART. He married MARY VAHLING.
  - iv. JOHN MEINHART.
21. **CLARA<sup>4</sup> COHORST** (Theresa<sup>3</sup> Meinhart, Barbara<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph Jr.).

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**Generation 4 (cont.)**

She married **RAYMOND KOEBELE**.

Raymond Koebele and Clara Cohorst had the following children:

- i. **GEORGE<sup>5</sup> KOEBELE**. He married **MARILYN SWINGLER**.
- ii. **RUTH KOEBELE**. She married **RICHARD JANSEN**.
- iii. **CLETUS KOEBELE**.
- iv. **GERALDINE KOEBELE**. She married **JAMES ATHOFF**.
- v. **MILDRED KOEBELE**.
- vi. **ESTELLA KOEBELE**. She married **ROBERT SMITHENRY**.
- vii. **DOLORES KOEBELE**. She married **LOUIS BIERMAN JR.**
- viii. **EUGENE KOEBELE**. He married **JEAN CONNOUR**.

22. **AGNES<sup>4</sup> COHORST** (Theresa<sup>3</sup> Meinhart, Barbara<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph Jr.). She married **CLEM BIERMAN**.

Clem Bierman and Agnes Cohorst had the following children:

- i. **JOSEPH<sup>5</sup> BIERMAN**. He married **MARY JANE REPKING**.
- ii. **PHILLIS BIERMAN**. She married **PETER HYLAND**.
- iii. **MARGARET BIERMAN**. She married **JERRY KESSLER**.
- iv. **ELLEN BIERMAN**. She married **JIM ROLLER**.
- v. **PATRICIA BIERMAN**.
- vi. **DAVID BIERMAN**.
- vii. **NIKOLAS BIERMAN**. He married **JODY ROSS**.

23. **LEONARD<sup>4</sup> COHORST** (Theresa<sup>3</sup> Meinhart, Barbara<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph Jr.). He married **MARIE BIERMAN**.

Leonard Cohorst and Marie Bierman had the following children:

- i. **LARRY<sup>5</sup> COHORST**.
- ii. **CLETE COHORST**.
- iii. **CAROL COHORST**. She married **TOM BRYANT**.
- iv. **KATHY COHORST**.
- v. **JANET COHORST**.
- vi. **THERESA COHORST**.
- vii. **GEORGE COHORST**.

24. **LARRY<sup>4</sup> COHORST** (Theresa<sup>3</sup> Meinhart, Barbara<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joseph Jr.). He married **MARILYN WESTENDOFF**.

Larry Cohorst and Marilyn Westendoff had the following children:

- i. **KAREN<sup>5</sup> COHORST**.
- ii. **SUSAN COHORST**.

25. **LEO<sup>4</sup> WEISHAAR** (John<sup>3</sup>, Mary<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, John<sup>3</sup>, Joseph Jr.). He married Catherine Habing in 1926. She died in 1996.

Leo Weishaar and Catherine Habing had the following children:

- i. **VINCENT<sup>5</sup> WEISHAAR**. He married **MARIAN ZUMBAHLEN**.
- ii. **LEONARD WEISHAAR**. He married **MARYLENE REIS**.
- iii. **JANE WEISHAAR**. She married **DONALD EMMERICH**.
- iv. **MARY WEISHAAR**. She married **JOHN WESTFALL**.
- v. **BERNICE WEISHAAR** was born in 1940. She died in 1996. She married **TOM**

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**Generation 4 (cont.)**

FEHRENBACHER.

26. **ELVIRA<sup>4</sup> PALS** (Ann<sup>3</sup> Weishaar, Mary<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Lawrence). She married **ED FALTIMIER**.  
Ed Faltmier and Elvira Pals had the following children:
- i. **WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> FALTIMIER**. He married **RITA WILLENBORG**.
  - ii. **DONNA FALTIMIER**. She married **MIKE WOODS**.
  - iii. **JULIA FALTIMIER**. She married **STEVE EMMERICH**.
27. **LORETTA<sup>4</sup> PALS** (Ann<sup>3</sup> Weishaar, Mary<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Lawrence). She married **CLARK ISLEY**.  
Clark Isley and Loretta Pals had the following children:
- i. **GLEN<sup>5</sup> ISLEY**. He married **VICKI WILSON**.
  - ii. **VICKI ISLEY**. She married **WAYNE GALLAGER**.
  - iii. **DENNIS ISLEY**. He married **CAROLYN GRUNLOH**.
  - iv. **KEVIN ISLEY**.
  - v. **BRETT ISLEY**. He married **JILL RICHARDS**.
28. **ALPHONSE<sup>4</sup> PALS** (Ann<sup>3</sup> Weishaar, Mary<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Lawrence). He married **FREIDA PROBST**.  
Alphonse Pals and Freida Probst had the following children:
- i. **LOUIS<sup>5</sup> PALS**. He married **JOANN FALLER**.
  - ii. **MARTHA PALS**. She married **TON BUERSTER**.
  - iii. **RICHARD PALS**.
  - iv. **MADONNA PALS**. She married **DAN PATTON**.
  - v. **THOMAS PALS**.
29. **LORETTA<sup>4</sup> FLOOD** (Anna<sup>3</sup> Lustig, Louise<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, Joe). She married Donald Meinhart on 04 Feb 1949.  
Donald Meinhart and Loretta Flood had the following children:
- i. **WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> MEINHART**. He married **KAREN WAGNER**.
  - ii. **WAYNE MEINHART**. He married **PATTI MICHL**.
  - iii. **LEONARD MEINHART**.
  - iv. **LLOYD MEINHART**.
  - v. **STEVEN MEINHART**.
  - vi. **MARILYN MEINHART**.
  - vii. **KEITH MEINHART**. He married **DENISE MCFARLAND**.
30. **LAVERNE JOHN<sup>4</sup> MAMMOSER** (Anthony John<sup>3</sup>, John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 21 Jun 1917 in Illinois. He died on 01 Sep 1997. He married **CATHERINE ALEEN VAN ETTEN**. She was born on 27 Jun 1920. She died on 03 Apr 2002.
- Notes for LaVerne John Mammoser:  
Listed as Lavern, 2 yrs. 6 mo., in the 1920 census. Also went by Ernie.
- Enlisted as a private, Army Serial Number 36024352.
- Notes for Catherine Aleen Van Etten:  
Went by Aleen.
- LaVerne John Mammoser and Catherine Aleen Van Etten had the following children:
- i. **LAURENCE GERARD<sup>5</sup> MAMMOSER**. He married **ANITA LOUISE WILEY**.
  - ii. **ANTHONY FRANCIS MAMMOSER**.

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**Generation 4 (cont.)**

31. **RUTH V.<sup>4</sup> MAMMOSER** (Anthony John<sup>3</sup>, John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 19 Jan 1921. She died on 08 Feb 1985. She married **OSCAR JACO**.  
Oscar Jaco and Ruth V. Mammoser had the following children:
- i. **SANDRA<sup>5</sup> JACO** was born in 1940. She died in 1988.
  - ii. **OSCAR JACO**.
  - iii. **JUDY JACO**. She married **DALE KIMMEL**.
32. **TABITHA BERTHA<sup>4</sup> MAMMOSER** (Anthony John<sup>3</sup>, John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 04 Jan 1923. She died on 21 Jun 2010. She married **KENNETH E. RUBIN**.  
Kenneth E. Rubin and Tabitha Bertha Mammoser had the following children:
- i. **CONNIE<sup>5</sup> RUBIN**. She married ??? SEHALL.
  - ii. **PARTICIA RUBIN**.
  - iii. **KENNETH RUBIN JR.**
  - iv. **CANDICE RUBIN**. She married **CHUCK BURNS**.
  - v. **ANGIE RUBIN**.
33. **BERNICE<sup>4</sup> SCHWEIGHART** (Ida B.<sup>3</sup> Mammoser, John M.<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born on 09 Feb 1922. She married Joe Wilhelm on 05 Jun 1946. He was born on 04 Aug 1917.  
Joe Wilhelm and Bernice Schweighart had the following children:
- i. **ROBERT<sup>5</sup> WILHELM** was born on 13 May 1947. He married Judy Boudreau on 11 Apr 1970. She was born on 26 Oct 1948.
  - ii. **BARBARA WILHELM** was born on 26 May 1948. She married J. Edward Worrell on 20 Oct 1973. He was born on 10 Jul 1945.
  - iii. **CHARLES WILHELM** was born on 25 Jun 1949. He married Gloria Shivers on 02 Sep 1972. She was born on 15 Dec 1949.
34. **MILDRED<sup>4</sup> SCHWEIGHART** (Ida B.<sup>3</sup> Mammoser, John M.<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born on 23 Mar 1924 in Champaign Cnty, Illinois. She married Harold Kleiss on 05 Mar 1946. He was born on 10 Dec 1923.  
Harold Kleiss and Mildred Schweighart had the following children:
- i. **NANCY<sup>5</sup> KLEISS** was born on 08 Aug 1948. She married **BRUCE ERICKSON**. He was born on 23 Sep 1955.
  - ii. **THOMAS KLEISS** was born on 09 Jan 1951. He married Barbara Nelson on 23 Jul 1977. She was born on 04 Feb 1952.
  - iii. **JERRY KLEISS** was born on 06 May 1955. He married Linda Davidson on 24 Jul 1976. She was born on 24 Aug 1952.
  - iv. **MARIE KLEISS** was born on 16 Dec 1966.
35. **BERNARD<sup>4</sup> SCHWEIGHART** (Ida B.<sup>3</sup> Mammoser, John M.<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born on 26 Jul 1926. He died on 15 Oct 1990 in Tuscola, Illinois. He married Betty Decker on 06 Jan 1949. She was born on 29 Jun 1929.  
Bernard Schweighart and Betty Decker had the following children:
- i. **MARJORIE<sup>5</sup> SCHWEIGHART** was born on 23 Feb 1951. She married Robert Metheny on 04 Oct 1969. He was born on 28 Dec 1929.
  - ii. **BEVERLY SCHWEIGHART** was born on 21 Feb 1954. She married Steven Wetzel on 02 Aug 1975. He was born on 15 Aug 1954.
  - iii. **JANE SCHWEIGHART** was born on 28 Mar 1955. She married Burlin Lewis on 23 Apr 1983. He was born on 22 Sep 1951.
36. **EUGENE W.<sup>4</sup> SCHWEIGHART** (Ida B.<sup>3</sup> Mammoser, John M.<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born on 15 Dec 1928. He married Phyllis Schumacher on 31 Jul 1954. She was born on 03 Mar 1934.  
Notes for Eugene W. Schweighart:

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#### Generation 4 (cont.)

John Mammoser gives a first name of William.

Notes for Phyllis Schumacher:

John Mammoser gives a first name of Phillis.

Eugene W. Schweighart and Phyllis Schumacher had the following children:

- i. PAMELA<sup>5</sup> SCHWEIGHART was born on 06 Jun 1955. She married Terry Kieseewetter on 21 Oct 1977. He was born on 22 Dec 1948.
  - ii. DEBRA SCHWEIGHART was born on 13 Oct 1956. She married Hal Bingaman on 26 May 1979. He was born on 22 Jul 1956.
  - iii. KEITH SCHWEIGHART was born on 08 Aug 1959.
  - iv. LYLE SCHWEIGHART was born on 17 Apr 1961. He married Lorrie Robeck on 15 Dec 1985. She was born on 06 Aug 1960.
  - v. GLENN SCHWEIGHART was born on 17 Jun 1965.
37. JOHN R.<sup>4</sup> SCHWEIGHART (Ida B.<sup>3</sup> Mammoser, John M.<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born on 03 Feb 1932. He married Ruth Schumacher on 03 May 1952. She was born on 25 Nov 1932. John R. Schweighart and Ruth Schumacher had the following children:
- i. ROGER J.<sup>5</sup> SCHWEIGHART was born on 22 Jun 1953. He married Karen Glavan on 16 Jul 1977. She was born on 03 Dec 1952.
  - ii. PEGGY J. SCHWEIGHART was born on 29 Sep 1954. She married William Mayer on 11 Aug 1973. He was born on 16 May 1952.
  - iii. KENNETH J. SCHWEIGHART was born on 13 Jun 1956. He married Beneta Condiff on 18 Jun 1977. She was born on 03 Sep 1956.
38. CHARLES E.<sup>4</sup> SCHWEIGHART (Ida B.<sup>3</sup> Mammoser, John M.<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born on 12 Sep 1934. He died on 06 May 1989 in Champaign Cnty, Illinois. He married Shirley Hausman on 01 Oct 1955. She was born on 23 Jun 1935. Charles E. Schweighart and Shirley Hausman had the following children:
- i. MARK<sup>5</sup> SCHWEIGHART was born on 24 Mar 1957. He married Karma Waldbeser on 28 Oct 1978. She was born on 14 Mar 1957.
  - ii. DALE SCHWEIGHART was born on 23 Sep 1958. He married Cindy Meadows on 21 May 1988. She was born on 22 Feb 1957.
39. ELAINE<sup>4</sup> HANDFLAND (Clara M.<sup>3</sup> Mammoser, John M.<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born on 08 Apr 1943. She married George Larry Ganley on 26 Jun 1965. He was born on 17 Dec 1941. George Larry Ganley and Elaine Handfland had the following children:
- i. PHILLIP JOSEPH<sup>5</sup> GANLEY was born on 03 Jul 1966. He died on 13 Aug 1967.
  - ii. JOHN LAWRENCE GANLEY was born on 29 Aug 1974.
  - iii. GAYLE MARIE GANLEY was born on 27 Dec 1976.
40. ALVIN J.<sup>4</sup> MAMMOSER (Urban Aloysius<sup>3</sup>, John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 02 Jun 1937 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married Darlene Woods on 23 Aug 1958. She was born on 04 Sep 1936 in Newton, Illinois. Alvin J. Mammoser and Darlene Woods had the following children:
- i. LISA L.<sup>5</sup> MAMMOSER was born on 23 Jun 1959 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. She married MARTIN HEARNE. He was born on 26 Jul 1954.
  - ii. DOUGLAS N. MAMMOSER was born on 31 Mar 1961 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married Beth Schmidt on 16 Jun 1984. She was born on 28 Oct 1961 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois.
  - iii. PATRICK A. MAMMOSER was born on 16 Jun 1964 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married Peggy Keller on 03 May 1986. She was born on 18 Nov 1964.
  - iv. STEVEN M. MAMMOSER was born on 11 Mar 1968 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He

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**Generation 4 (cont.)**

married Jodi Daniels on 25 Jul 1992. She was born on 15 Jul 1968.

- v. STACY A. MAMMOSER was born on 29 Jan 1971 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. She married Michael L. Gibson on 08 Oct 1994. He was born on 28 Jun 1968.

41. ANNA MARIE<sup>4</sup> MAMMOSER (Urban Aloysius<sup>3</sup>, John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 28 Aug 1940 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. She married Vincent G. Keck on 29 Sep 1962 in Shelby Cnty, Illinois. He was born on 12 Oct 1938.

Vincent G. Keck and Anna Marie Mammoser had the following children:

- i. RICHARD JOSEPH<sup>5</sup> KECK was born on 21 Jul 1963 in Coles Cnty, Illinois. He married Sharonann Broderick on 05 Jul 1996. She was born on 27 Jul 1961 in Boardman, Ohio.
- ii. GARY EDWARD KECK was born on 01 Aug 1964 in Coles Cnty, Illinois. He married Laurie Ann Bounds on 10 Jun 1995. She was born on 09 Sep 1970 in Elgin, Illinois.
- iii. BRADLEY LEO KECK was born on 30 Sep 1968 in Coles Cnty, Illinois. He married Leah Elane Hakman on 13 Jan 1990. She was born on 20 Dec 1967 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois.
- iv. CAROL ANN KECK was born on 11 Feb 1971 in Coles Cnty, Illinois.
- v. JOHN ANTHONY KECK was born on 09 Nov 1983 in Coles Cnty, Illinois.

42. LOUISE<sup>4</sup> MAMMOSER (Urban Aloysius<sup>3</sup>, John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 02 Apr 1943 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. She married Joseph W. Nuxoll on 04 Apr 1964. He was born on 04 Apr 1941 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois.

Joseph W. Nuxoll and Louise Mammoser had the following children:

- i. BARBARA R.<sup>5</sup> NUXOLL was born on 19 Dec 1967 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. She married Sergio I. Ochoa on 21 Sep 1991. He was born on 13 Sep 1963.
- ii. DEBORAH L. NUXOLL was born on 04 Dec 1969 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois.
- iii. GREG J. NUXOLL was born on 08 Jul 1972 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married Deana K. Hartke on 16 Sep 1995. She was born on 17 Apr 1972.

43. JOHN C.<sup>4</sup> MAMMOSER (Urban Aloysius<sup>3</sup>, John M.<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>) was born on 14 May 1952 in Mattoon, Illinois. He married Patricia Jean Litzelman on 18 Oct 1975. She was born on 18 Dec 1954 in Newton, Illinois.

John C. Mammoser and Patricia Jean Litzelman had the following child:

- i. MICHAEL JOHN<sup>5</sup> MAMMOSER was born on 26 Feb 1980 in Decatur, Illinois.

44. TERRENCE JOSEPH<sup>4</sup> LIDY (Marie C.<sup>3</sup> Mammoser, John M.<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born on 19 Jan 1943 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married Paula May Sill on 30 Oct 1976. She was born on 04 Sep 1948 in Salem, Illinois.

Terrence Joseph Lidy and Paula May Sill had the following children:

- i. KARA MARIE<sup>5</sup> LIDY was born on 10 Dec 1979 in Olney, Illinois.
- ii. PAUL JOSEPH LIDY was born on 17 May 1982 in Olney, Illinois.

45. JOHN LEONARD<sup>4</sup> LIDY (Marie C.<sup>3</sup> Mammoser, John M.<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born on 27 Jul 1945 in Effingham Cnty, Illinois. He married Nancy Allen on 25 Jul 1970. She was born on 08 May 1948.

John Leonard Lidy and Nancy Allen had the following children:

- i. JOHN VINCENT<sup>5</sup> LIDY was born on 10 Dec 1976 in Evansville, Indiana.
- ii. GEORGE ALLEN LIDY was born on 20 Jan 1979 in Evansville, Indiana.

46. ARTHUR<sup>4</sup> BRUMLEVE (Margret<sup>3</sup> Einhorn, Josephine<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser, August). He married ROSE ???.

Arthur Brumleve and Rose ??? had the following children:

- i. WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> BRUMLEVE.
- ii. ROY BRUMLEVE.



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**Generation 4 (cont.)**

iii. SCOTT BRUMLEVE. He married TINA LIDY.

47. JOHN<sup>4</sup> EINHORN JR. (John<sup>3</sup>, Josephine<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born in 1923. He died in 1958. He married MARY HERBOTH. She was born in 1927.

John Einhorn Jr. and Mary Herboth had the following children:

- i. CHARLES<sup>5</sup> EINHORN.
- ii. LINDA EINHORN.
- iii. KAREN EINHORN.

48. LOUIS<sup>4</sup> EINHORN (John<sup>3</sup>, Josephine<sup>2</sup> Mammoser, Joseph<sup>1</sup> Mammoser) was born in 1926. He died in 1959. He married ROSELLA MEINHART. She was born in 1931. She died in 1997.

Louis Einhorn and Rosella Meinhart had the following children:

- i. ANTHONY<sup>5</sup> EINHORN.
- ii. REBECCA EINHORN. She married WESLEY SALYERS.

Prepared By: Rev. Thomas O. Mammoser, Gaylord, MI

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