

## Woltemar/Nolte/Schranz/Bruknee Cemetery

This cemetery is located in close proximity to the Harmonie Church cemetery. It consists of four headstones, divided into pairs. One headstone is surrounded by an old wrought iron fence. Inscriptions are in the German language on most. There are also three other uninscribed stones, not certain if marking burials or not. A notable burial in this cemetery is a Civil War soldier who served on the Union side and died in a nearby skirmish. Connections amongst those interred are suggested by some records yet have yet to be confirmed.

Interred:

Johann Friederich Wilhelm Woltemar May 3, 1813 - April 28, 1875

Herman F Nolte died March 26, 1862

M L Schranz May 25, 1868 - Jan 11, 1869

Elisa Bruknee May 3, 1853 - May 16, 1869

Johann Frierderich Wilhelm Woltemar, commonly known as "Wilhelm", was born in Hanover, Lower-Saxony, Germany (then Prussia) to parents Wilhelm Frederick Woltemar and Annie Sophie Wilhelmine Ketten. His immigration date is not currently known however it was prior to 1852 as on January 23, 1852, land grants indicate he purchased a 200-acre farm in Hickory Grove township, Warren County, Missouri. This farmland is now part of the Innsbrook community, and the building that is referred to as "the old farmhouse" was their home. Wilhelm married Lucia Margaret (Schnuck) Meinershagen January 27, 1861 in Warren County by Justice of the Peace William Horstmann. Wilhelm was twenty-four years her senior, and the couple had four daughters, Elise in 1861, Lydia in 1866, Ann in 1868 and Margaret in 1873, not long before Wilhelm passed. Margaret's daughter Caroline, from her marriage to Friederich Meinershagen, which ended in divorce, also lived with the family. She assumed the last name Woltemar and is buried in the Schnuck cemetery with this name.

The 1870 census lists Wilhelm as a farmer in Hickory Grove township with real estate worth \$2000 and a personal estate worth \$4700. He is a neighbor of Henry Brandt, and his wife Margaret and the five daughters are all living with him as well

as a farm laborer. Wilhelm passed away at a relatively young age leaving Margaret with their four young daughters. Margaret was appointed executor of his estate.

Buried next to Wilhelm is Herman FW Nolte. Herman served as a soldier in the Civil War and fought on the Union side. Sadly, he was killed in a skirmish near Marthasville, Missouri at the age of 25, not even three months after he enlisted on January 7, 1862. His enlistment records state he was born in the "Kingdom of Lippe" in 1836 or 1837 and was a farmer. He was described as being 5'6" tall, having a light complexion with brown eyes and black hair. Herman served as a Private in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Company F Missouri State Militia Cavalry, 2<sup>nd</sup> organization. He enlisted in Warrenton under Captain McFadden for a period of three years or until the war ended. His Civil War record states he was "mortally wounded March 25, 1862 at the house of Dr Briscoe near Marthasville, Missouri in the effort to capture the noted Captain Henderson, he has since died".

According to Warren County records, early in 1862, the Union army of Brigadier-General Pope marched through Warren County, Missouri and camped for quite a while in the area of Truesdale. There were approximately 10,000 men, and it was reported that the citizens of Warrenton "extended every possible kindness to both officers and men". Herman would have been a member of this group. In March 1862 they received a report that a man name Henderson had been recruiting and drilling Confederate soldiers in the county. The militia determined he needed to be captured, as he seemed fearless in his efforts to aid the rebellion. Thirty men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Cavalry, Herman's unit, left Warrenton March 20, headed to a farmhouse north of Marthasville owned by Dr Warner Briscoe and his wife Jane, where it was reported Henderson was camping with his recruits.

According to the *History of Marthasville* this was called the "Skirmish at the Briscoe-Pillep Place". On March 25, 1862 Union troops discovered Henderson and his men nearby the farm and chased the group to the farmhouse. Some reports state that Mrs Briscoe provided coats and bonnets to the men so that most could escape disguised as women. As Union troops approached the house demanding surrender, a shot fired from inside struck a young Union militiaman. It is presumed this was Herman, who died the next day. Henderson had armed himself and began shooting from a nearby bean field. He was hit by return fire and mortally wounded while fleeing on horseback, dying a few days later at a hospital in

Warrenton. Private Conrad Drunert, a bugler in Captain McFadden's company, was also seriously wounded. Records indicate that the official Civil War headstone marking the gravesite was requested January 9, 1888.

As for Herman's ancestry, a record was found for Hermann Nolte born October 19, 1836 in Evangelisch, Lage, Lippe, Prussia to Friedrich Wilhelm Nolte and Henrietta Sophie Catherine Schierholz. He was baptized October 30, 1836. This could very well be the same person, as there are several similarities. Immigration records state that in 1850 Carl Wilhelm Nolte with his children Herman, Caroline and Wilhelmine came to Missouri from the same area that J.F. Wilhelm Woltemar came from, which could be a reason for their gravesite proximity. Additionally, Caroline Nolte, his sister, possibly had a first marriage to a Woltemar, according to records found in Warren County, Missouri, and was subsequently married to John Herman Schnuck. She is interred in the Schnuck cemetery.

The gravesite of M.L. Schranz, a child who died at the early age of a bit over 7 months old, is surrounded by a very old beautiful iron fence. Not much has been found about this child, however. At this time, the only possible connection found was for a Johann Schranz. Johann, born in Hungary November 1, 1821, emigrated with his wife Maria and two older children from Hungary July 6, 1858, on the "Orpheus" from Bremen, Germany to Cincinnati. The 1870 census has them listed as living in Elkhorn Township, Warren County, Missouri. The 1880 census lists him as a butcher in Warrenton with two children, Edward B born in 1863 and Caroline in 1870.

Elisa Bruknee, buried next to M.L. Schranz, is another mystery. There is a possibility she immigrated with her family aboard the "Orpheus" in 1858 with the Schranzs, which could be a reason for the burial proximity. George Bruckner, also from Hungary, and Elisabeth are listed on the same immigration schedule as the Schranz's in July, 1858. George is also listed on a later census record as living in Hickory Grove Township with a post office of Pitts. So far no other possible connections have been found. But the search will continue on all of these people.....