

Notes Concerning Gerhard and Ursula Tembrock

John Tembrock, July 15, 1995

From records at the Stearns County Heritage Center, St. Cloud, Minnesota

While traveling from Henry Tembrock's home on Big Birch Lake to Duluth, I stopped for an hour at the Stearns County Heritage Center. With the assistance of Robert Lommel, assistant archivist, the information listed below, concerning Gerhard and Ursula was located. Copies of this information are now available in a folder labeled "Gerhard Tembrock" at the center. Note the conflicts in spelling, ages and dates in the records from different dates. Based on the census data Gerhard was born in 1844, which conflicts with the 1835 date shown on his grave marker.

1. Minnesota June 1880 census record for Spring Hill Township, listing:

George (?) Tembrook, born in Holland, age 36
Ursula, born in Austria, age 25
Mary, age 2
Anna, age 1

2. Minnesota May 1885 census record for Spring Hill Township, listing:

Gerhard Tembrock, born in Holland, age 41
Ursula, born in Austria, age 31
Mary, age 7
Anna, age 5
Joseph, age 4
Margaretha, age 2

3. Minnesota June 1895 census record for Spring Hill Township, listing:

Gerhard Tembrok, born in Prussia, age 51
Ursula, born in Austria, age 41
Mary, age 17
Anna, age 16
Joseph, age 13
Maggie, age 11
Katie, age 8
Gerhard, age 4
Henry, age 1

4. US June 1900 census record for Spring Hill Township, listing:

Gerhard Tembrok, Holland, age 56, 20 years (?) in US
Ursula, Aug 1853, Austria, age 46, married 22 years
Joseph, Aug 1881, age 18
Maggie, Sept 1883, age 16
Katie, Dec 1887, age 12
Gerhard, March 1891, age 9

Henry, Jan 1894, age 6

(Note: the Adam Kolb family is enumerated directly after the Tembrok family)

5. Affidavit of Dec 7, 1896 requesting issuance of Gerhard Tenbrock final citizenship papers, and stating:

That Gerhard Tenbrock made his declaratory statement before the clerk of Stearns County about 1874, that said papers were lost, and requesting the court to issue his final papers.

(The application was witnessed by G. Schulzetenberger and P. Zens, neighbors of Gerhard. The affidavit was signed with "his mark" indicating he did not know how to write)

6. Obituary from Melrose Beacon of Feb 21, 1902 stating:

"G. Tenbrock who moved his family to this city from Spring Hill about two months ago, died at his home here on Sunday morning of consumption, aged about 58 years. The funeral was held at St. Boniface church Tuesday morning."

7. Obituary from the Melrose German Language paper of Feb 22, 1902:

(Note: The following translation was made by a chinese student from Taiwan, taking a german language course at the University of California at San Luis Obispo.)

"Well prepared on the difficult passage to eternity, Mr Gerhard Tembrock, at age 57, was blessed during the memorial mass last Sunday. The deceased was born in Holland and came to America at age 25. He first worked in New Munich, where he married Ursula Sperl from Miere Grove soon after his arrival. Then they moved into a farm in town Spring Hill, where he lived and worked until about a year ago. From there he moved to Melrose, unfortunately, his days were already counting down at that time, since he suffered from T.B., which gradually took his life after nine years. Many people attended the funeral, which took place on Tuesday. His six children are in mourning for their fathers death with their mother. May he rest in peace ! - The children of the (?) family."

(Note: Based upon the above information, Gerhardt was born about 1844, and came to the US about 1870, at approximately 25 years of age.)

8. 1896 Plat of Spring Hill Township 124 North. Range 33 West showing, for plat #6:

Gerhard Tembrok, owned 80 acres across the county road from Ursula Sperl's 154 acres. Adam Kolb owned 200 acres, and Michael Kolb owned 160 acres in plat #7 south of plat #6

(Note: I have attached two drawings I made, one for 1896 and one for 1994 showing the location and ownership of the properties relative to the county roads. Per Dorothy (Kolb) Korte, the log cabin that the Gerhard family lived in on the farm was torn down by Mike and Gertrude (Lippsmeyer) Kolb when they built a new house in the 1920's)

9. 1938 aerial photograph of the plat #6 area

10. Obituary for Ursula Tembrock from Melrose Beacon of 9 April 1931 stating:

“Ursula Schieman was born in Nemlowitz, Bohemia, Austria on August 18, 1853. She came to this country in 1876 and spent a year in Chicago Ill before coming to New Munich. She was married to Gerhard Tembrock at Meire Grove in 1878. They came to Melrose from Spring Hill township in 1901, and Mr. Tembrock died in 1902. Mrs. Tembrock resided in Melrose until 1919, and has since lived with her daughter, Mrs. Lippsmeyer. She is survived by a sister and brother, Mrs Anna Dicks of Neblen S.D. and John Schieman of Melrose.”

11. A German language description of the village of Nemlowitz, stating that it consisted of 30 houses and that the county seat is in Klattan.

12. A copy of an old large scale map of Bohemia, showing the location of Klattan (southwest of Prague near Pilzen).

(Note: When I arrived at the Heritage Center, there already was a folder for Gerhard Tembrock in a file cabinet. Within the folder was a map of Holland with the town of Zutphen circled. There was no explanation with the map, hence do not know the significance of this. Zutphen is located approximately 65 miles East of Amsterdam.)