



Christian Fricke
Caroline Schaper

GRANDPARENTS

Like the soft, steady glow of the sunlight,
May your lives continue to shine.
May the years toward tomorrow be richer
As your interests, devotion, entwine.

May you, too, shed your light 'long the pathway,
Guiding others to walk hand in hand.
May the light of the Father so bless you
That your joys will be numbered as sand.

May today be a highlight forever-
Adding warmth you may constantly share,
Blessed with loved ones and friends all around you
And the knowledge God's presence is there.

Thelma Anna Martin

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CHRISTIAN and CAROLINE FRICKE

The following appears in The History of Marshall County, Iowa published by The Western Historical Company 1878, p. 685

"Fricke, Christian, farmer Sec. 19; P.O. State Centre; was born in Brunswick, Germany, July 12, 1832; came to this country in 1853, and came to this county in 1865; he owns 220 acres of land, valued at \$30.00 per acre. He is Lutheran in religion and Republican in politics. His wife, Caroline Schaper, was born in the same place in 1833; they were married in 1857 and have nine children----." At the time of the original printing there were ten children. The name of Henry, their seventh child who died when very young, had been omitted. A daughter named Fredericka was not born yet.

Leaving behind what security and comforts they had in exchange for the unknown took great courage. Specifics about their early life in America are somewhat sparse as little time was left from daily activity for thinking about or even recording such information. It is known, however, that Christian Fricke moved his family by train from Illinois to Iowa City, Iowa. From there the family travelled by ox cart and/ or wagon to their new homestead located about six and one half miles northeast of State Center, in Marietta Township, Marshall County, Iowa. A picture of the old homestead appears on the next page of this book.

Christian and Caroline Fricke were the parents of eleven children. All but one grew to adulthood, married, and reared a family. Edward, the eighth child, lived for the longest period of time attaining an age of 90 years 5 months and 7 days. One son, Henry, died when a very small child. He was accidentally burned by a bucket of scalding lye water. A record of his birth and of his death was located in St. John's Lutheran Church in August 1981. In 1964 Ernest the last living child died in Willmar, Minnesota.

A display shown at the 1981 Fricke family reunion held on August 16, 1981 featured a large picture of Christian and Caroline Fricke hanging on a wall where all could see it. Beneath the picture lying in a horizontal line on a large display board were wedding pictures of each of their children. At the bottom of each wedding picture was a list of the children of that particular family.

Christian Fricke was not only a successful farmer but an expert in slaughtering animals, helping and teaching his neighbors and friends how to "butcher" and how to care for meat. The mathematical genius of Christian Fricke was recognized and respected by all who knew him.

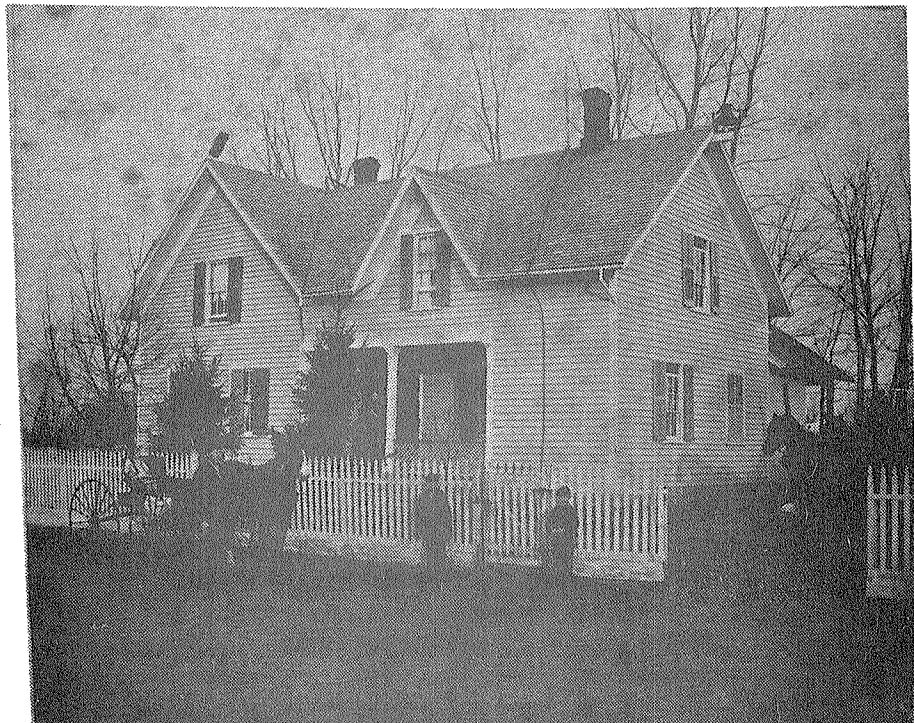
Christian and Carolien Fricke (con't)

Christian and Caroline Fricke were members of St. John's Lutheran Church located approximately three and one half miles north of State Center. They are buried in the St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery located about a quarter of a mile south and a quarter of a mile east of the church. Similar monuments mark the grave of each. (picture of one of the markers is included in this book.)

Christian and Caroline Fricke were representatives of the energetic and respected families "settling" the mid-west in the mid and late 1800's, and passed on to their children a legacy of which they might well be proud.

The following picture is of the home of Christian and Caroline on the homestead six and one half miles northeast of State Center.

The picture was provided by Elnora Eckhardt, grand-daughter of Christian and Caroline.



Children of Christian and Caroline Schaper Fricke

1. William H. Fricke
 - b. January 20, 1859
 - d. May 4, 1941
 - m. June 20, 1900
 - Annie Murray Renton
 - b. December 25, 1870
 - d. 1910
2. Charles Fricke
 - b. November 12, 1860
 - d. May 23, 1917
 - m. February 20, 1887
 - Carolina Kelling
 - b. 1861
 - d. 1939
3. Louis Fricke
 - b. September 9, 1862
 - d. 1941
 - m.
 - Anna Wilhelmina Earnestine Grey
 - b. January 16, 1863
 - d. 1929
4. Louisa Fricke
 - b. March 31, 1864
 - d. August 23, 1939
 - m. 1885 or 1886
 - Henry Krueger
 - b. December 20, 1856
 - d. June 28, 1930
5. Wilhelmina Fricke
 - b. March 25, 1866
 - d. May 22, 1934
 - m. October 20, 1883
 - Louis Eckhardt
 - b. July 5, 1865
 - d. October 1, 1907
6. Johanna Fricke
 - b. February 15, 1868
 - d. September 11, 1922
 - m. July 7, 1894
 - Louis Gerke
 - b. November 16, 1864
 - d. February 25, 1941

Children of Christian and Caroline Schaper Fricke (con't)

7. Henry Fricke
 - b. May 15, 1870
 - d. February 2, 1873
8. Edward Fricke
 - b. February 19, 1872
 - d. July 26, 1962
 - m. April 22, 1901
 - Sarah Catherine Thoma
 - b. September 23, 1874
 - d. July 28, 1928
9. Frederick Fricke
 - b. April 15, 1874
 - d. September 1, 1961
 - m. August 26, 1900
 - Elizabeth Wolken
 - b. September 19, 1880
 - d. April 4, 1968
10. Ernest Fricke
 - b. October 14, 1876
 - d. August 31, 1964
 - m. January 29, 1907
 - Josephine Schwartz
 - b. September 24, 1887
 - d. July 9, 1976
11. Fredericka Fricke
 - b. August 25, 1879
 - d. January 19, 1914
 - m. November 11, 1899
 - Richard James Davis
 - b. May 11, 1866
 - d. January 9, 1937

Christian and Caroline's first four children were born at Sandwich, DeKalb County, Illinois.

They came to Iowa in 1865 so the youngest was approximately one year old when they moved to Iowa and the oldest was six.

Their last seven children were born in Iowa.

Christian and Caroline Fricke came to Marshall County Iowa in 1865. They located six and one half miles northeast of State Center.

State Center is a community located in State Center Township. It began as a town called Center Station when the Northwestern Railroad bought 80 acres of land from A.C. Babcock, laid track and started services to the area.

In 1864 the first home was moved into State Center from Marietta a town sixteen miles away.

The Union Hotel was the first structure in the town and was built as part of a bargain with the Railroad so that travelers who came to the station, had a place to eat and stay.

The first store was a one story frame building built in 1865. The store sold groceries, boots and shoes.

Dr. O.S. Hunt arrived in 1866 and was the first physician to settle in State Center. The first blacksmith also came in 1866.

During the period 1866-1867, there were about six hundred people in State Center showing a surprising growth.

In 1867 the first block of businesses were erected using brick. Also in 1867 a high school building was completed at a cost of \$8,000.00. Miss Jennie Bradbury taught the first school in town, which was a little shanty school house.

The town incorporated in 1867.

The yearly average temperature for State Center is 48.3° with the winter average 25.4 and summer 69.6.

In the 1800's and early 1900's items needed by the families could be ordered from the catalog. Some food items came by the barrel.

The horse drawn plow, picking corn by hand, oats to shock in the field, thrasher crews, huge gardens, one Sunday dress or suit; maybe to town once a week. These are some of the things they took for granted and we wonder how they did it.

We all have a lot to be Thankful for, as we had some great ancestors, we live in a great country and in a great era in history.

THEIR FAITH SUSTAINED THEM

In the 1860's thousands of farmers from Illinois, and other eastern states and northern European countries took up homesteads in the virgin prairie of Iowa.

Some German families settled in this area. They found ideal conditions for establishing their homes and in time prospered as God's blessings were bestowed upon them.

These people were brought up with a great faith in God and they wanted their children to grow up with the same faith.

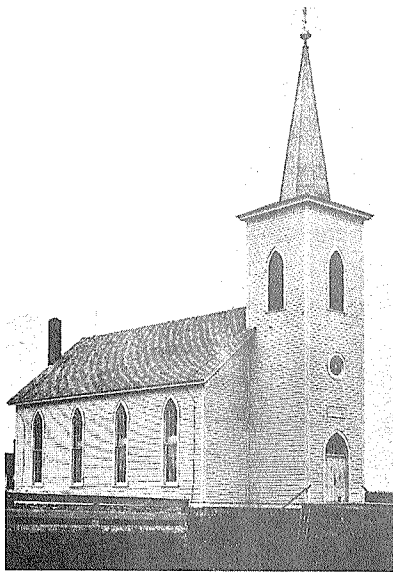
At first they were satisfied by having a circuit riding missionary but soon desired their own church home.

On April 17, 1865, St. John's Lutheran Church was organized. The charter members of the church were: Louis Hartwig, Henry Oehlsen, Louis Frohwein, Henry Schaper, Fred Bader, August German, August Eckhardt, George German, and Fred Oehlsen. They bought five acres of ground for \$100.00 where the church and school were built.

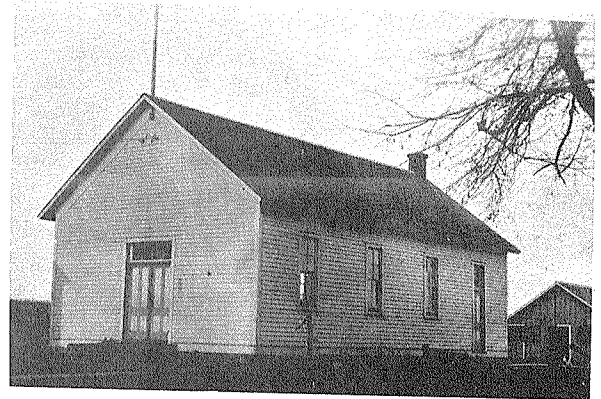
On April 17, 1870, the first class was confirmed in the church. To these struggling pioneers the interior of the old church must have afforded an atmosphere of reverence, hope, comfort and peace, all important in the lives of the early settlers. Here the families worshipped, had baptism's, confirmations, weddings and funerals. The interior of the old church, as it appeared on a Christmas Eve when the tree was lighted with real candles, may still evoke in the minds of some a precious memory of bygone years.

The children attended St. John's Lutheran Parochial School built to provide for, not only a secular education, but of even greater importance, for religious instruction preparatory to confirmation and a guide through life.

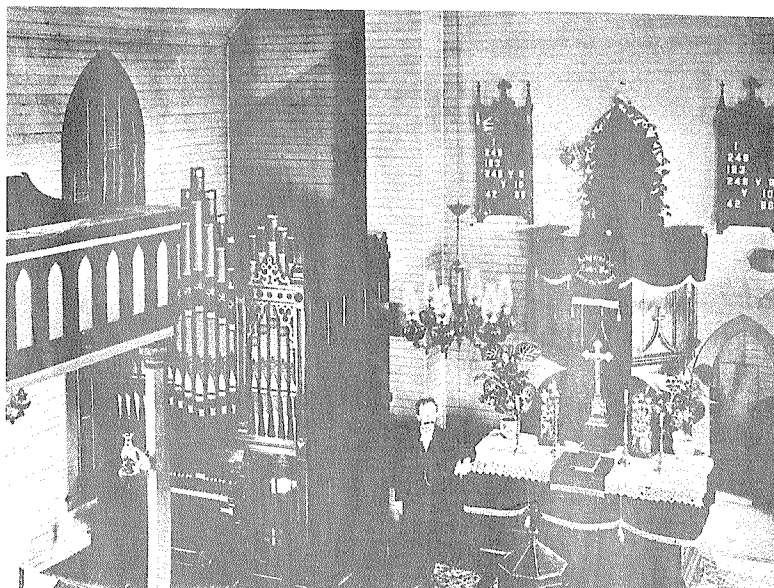
The following page shows a picture of the exterior and interior of the first church; also a picture of the school house.



First Church



Old School



Interior of first church



Wm. A. Smith & Son
MARSHALLTOWN, IA.
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In August of 1982
Chris and Gertie Fricke
found the obituary of
Christian Fricke and
also the Memorial card
from Caroline Schaper
Fricke.

Both have been reproduced
to the best of our
ability.

The obituary was not
found of Caroline's
although the Mar-
shalltown papers that
are on file were
searched in vain.

1903

AGAIN THE PIONEER.

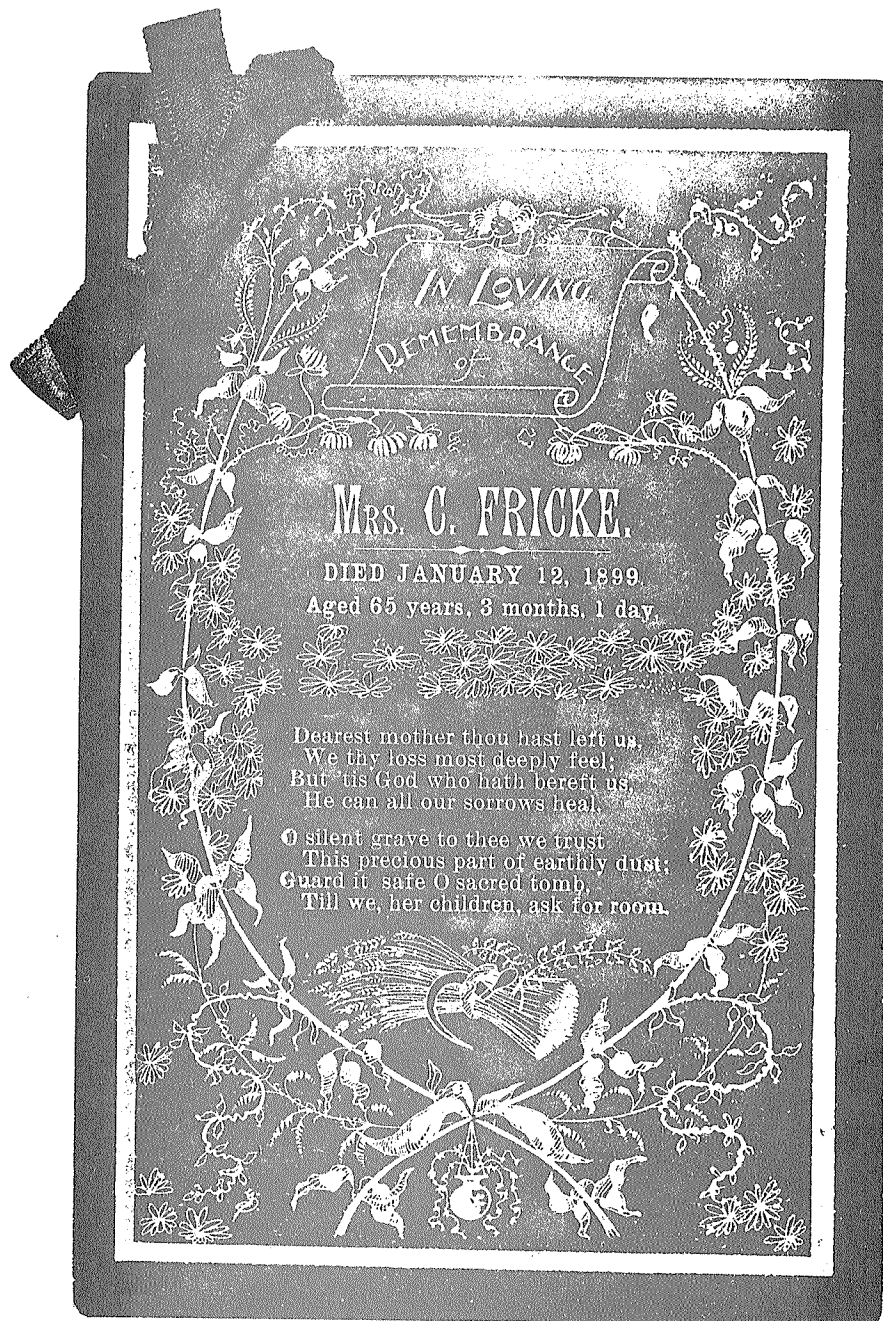
One More Taken From the Ranks of the County's Early Settlers.

Last Saturday forenoon in the
down pour of rain Christian Fricke
was laid to the rest afforded by the
grave. He died Wednesday after-
noon, May 27th, from the effects of
a cancer which for five years had
been eating his life away. He was
treated by local physicians, at dif-
ferent times was under treatment
at Marshalltown and at Des Moines,
last year submitted to a surgical
operation and treatment in a Chi-
cago hospital, but the hideous dis-
ease increased and finally con-
quered—as is usual.

Christian Fricke was prominent
among the pioneers of this portion
of the county. In 1865 he with
wife and four children settled on
the raw prairie on the western line
of Marietta township, making a
farm which was his actual home
until his return from Chicago
about a year ago. Since that time
he lived in the home of his son Ed-
ward, where he died. Possessing
the kindness, the honesty, the in-
dustry and the thrift of the Ger-
man immigrant, he made friends of
all his acquaintances and acquired
an easy competence. The dimin-
ishing number of the settlers of
his time loses one of its best factors.

Christian Fricke was born in
Brunswick, Germany, July 12,
1832, and came to America in 1855.
His wife, Caroline Schaper, was
also born in Brunswick in 1833,
and they were married in this
country in 1857. To them were
born eleven children, seven sons
and four daughters, all of whom
except one son are living. The
mother died four and a half years
ago. Mr. Fricke was a consistent
member of the French Grove Luth-
eran church, and at that church,
after a brief service at the old
home, his funeral sermon was de-
livered by the pastor, Rev. A. J.
Boehm, and the last tribute of love
and respect paid on Saturday, May
30th, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bohrofen, of
Grimes, Iowa, the latter a niece of
deceased, were present at the fu-
neral services.



The above is a copy of the Memorial card from the funeral of Mrs. Christian Fricke.

The following article was copied from the Marshalltown Times Republican dated January 16, 1899 on page 8.

'FUNERAL OF AN AGED LADY'

"Special to Times Republican State Center January 16, 1899.

The funeral services over the remains of the late Mrs. Christian Fricke were held today. Deceased was over 70 years of age and was an old resident of this place."

Note: Memorial card states age as 65 years, 3 months, 1 day.

The preceeding pages are without number but should be in the following order:

82-G-6 (last numbered page) Their Faith Sustained Them

- (1) First Church, old school, interior of first church
- (2) Christian Fricke tombstone (picture provided by Renton Fricke)
- (3) Flowers from funeral of Christian Fricke (picture provided by Laura Nehring)
- (4) Christian Fricke obituary as printed in the paper (provided by Chris & Gertie Fricke)
- (5) Memorial Card of Caroline Fricke and information found in Times-Republican (card provided by Chris & Gertie Fricke; T-R information found by Irma Fricke)
- (6) This page of explanation which will be numbered as though the preceeding pages had numbers.

WHAT IS IT WORTH ?

What is it worth, that tiny hand
You often hold so tight,
That small, little face with its bright, little smile
That seems to make everything right,
One little heart and two rosy cheeks,
The chatter that lasts through the day,
The hours of quiet when nighttime arrives,
The moments of laughter and play?

What is it worth, that small, golden head
And that dear, little turned up nose,
Soft, little fingers that never are still,
A fragrance as sweet as a rose,
One precious kiss that enters your heart
And means all the world you shall find,
Small dancing feet that never once stop,
An active and bright little mind?

Worries and heartaches, troubles and woes,
Yet laughter to last through it all,
It takes but a hug from two tiny arms
And quickly you're seven feet tall,
One little angel all smiling and gay,
No richer treasure on earth,
Yours from God's heaven, to have and to love,
Never knowing just what it is worth.

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Garnett Ann Schultz

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GRANDMAS

Grandmas are for looking,
At grandkids with such joy.
Grandmas love 'n love 'em,
Each precious girl and boy.

Grandmas show more patience,
With every child alive.
Grandmas gifts are humble,
Try without them - to survive!

Grandmas are for patching,
And darning all the sox.
Grandmas may look simple,
But are sly as any fox.

Grandmas seem to know just how,
To bake those cookies swell.
Grandmas take out aches and pains,
And make the grandkids - well.

Grandmas seem to always, always,
Do things from the heart.
Grandmas are a part of you,
From which you never part.

Grandmas have more patience,
And will play, just endlessly.
Grandmas are important,
To we - and thee - and me.

Grandmas have lived long enough,
To understand a child.
Grandmas are unselfish,
Wonderful and mild.

Grandmas are reliable,
As earth's good, old, firm sod.
Grandmas seem ethereal,
Because they're close to God.

By Magazine Editor
Henry Richmond

The above was brought in to be put in the book,
I'm sorry but I don't know which magazine it
came from who to receive permission from.
Thanks to the author.