

Box 148

Hinckley, Illinois 60526

February 24, 1990

Leifheit

Dear Ms. Highsmith ~

My father and I visited State Center one afternoon last June, and, when I explained to someone in the library why we were there, she mentioned you as someone who might be able to help me.

I am interested in genealogy and family and local history. I became curious about State Center after learning that many people from Hinckley and Waterman, Illinois ~ some of them my relatives ~ had moved there in the late 1800s and early 1900s. One Saturday my dad and I decided to take a drive to see the town we had heard mentioned so many times. We explored State Center and Hillside Cemetery and found several names that are ~ or were in the past ~ the names of Hinckley and Waterman families as well, including Baies, Nehring, Papenberg, Taggart, Reingardt, Riemenschneider, and Leifheit.

I would like very much to learn more about why so many families chose to move to State Center and also to learn more about my relatives there. I tried

• to contact some people there who I thought might be related to me, but I received no response. I don't want to be a pest or make anyone uncomfortable, so I haven't pursued it further. I hope you don't mind my writing to you. I would be most grateful for any bit of information you could give me or if perhaps you could help me to make contact with someone who is a distant relative.

I have relatives on both sides of my family who moved to State Center. One of them was William Leifheit, my great-grandfather's older brother. My grandfather told my dad stories about visiting his uncle in State Center when he (my grandfather) was a child. My dad and I found the graves of William and his wife in Hillside Cemetery. I know of three of their children ~ all girls born in Iowa in the 1870s ~ but I know nothing more about them. I don't know their married names ~ or even if they were married ~ so I don't know if they have descendants still living in State Center or not.

The mother of William Leifheit and my great-grandfather was Caroline Eckhart Leifheit. When my great-grandfather, Adolph Leifheit, died in Aurora,

Illinois, in 1931, the obituary said that Mr. and Mrs. Ed Eckhart of State Center attended the funeral. This has led me to believe that I might be distantly related to the Eckharts who still live there. When my great-grandmother, Louise Tharant Leifheit, died in 1937, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sterke and daughter Gertrude and Louis Hartwig of State Center came to Illinois for the funeral. I don't know if they were relatives or not.

On my mother's side of the family, my great-grandfather's sister, Hattie (Harriet) Riemensneider Biersen, and her husband, George Biersen, moved from this area to State Center. I noticed that Riemenschneider is a common name in State Center and wondered if they might be related to me as well. My mother's maiden name was Riemensneider.

Please excuse my boldness in writing to you. I'm anxious to learn all I can about my family's history and especially its connections with State Center. If you can tell me anything or can put me in touch with someone who could, I would appreciate it very much. Because of the demands of my job, I'm not sure when it will be possible, but I would like to visit State Center and

the courthouse in Marshalltown this spring to do some family research. Any information or advice you can give me would be helpful and greatly appreciated.

Does State Center have - or has it ever had - a local newspaper?

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for any help you can give me. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Leifheit

Records from Hillside Cemetery and related families.

BAIE - Evelena Riemenschneider Baie 1873-1949, Albert Baie 1859-1941

Ethel Ethelington Riemenschneider 1885-1970, Nelson Riemenschneider
1887-1965

NEHRING - Ernie owned lot in Sec II, Block II and row 12

Linda Lou Aug 9, 1940 - Aug. 17-1940

Charles R. 2-13-1957 - July 14, 1960

May M. Sept. 12, 1887 - Aug. 17, 1971

William C.. Aug. 24, 1868 - Jan. 22, 1958

PAPENBERG - Section II

Block 2, Row Ed Papenberg owner

Adolph 1874 - 1940 (May they rest in peace) Emma A. 1879-1951

Block 10, row 17

Ruth I. 1912 -

Earl W. 1912-1955

A son Ronald Papenberg lives 1940 Fairman Av. State Center

Block 15, Row 12

Bertha A. Papenberg 1893-1963 William H Papenberg 1879-1967

Son Arnold Papenberg 401 - 2nd Ave. NE State Center

Daughter - Mrs. Ben Overman - 106-3rd Av NW, State Center

TAGGART- Section 1 Block 5 Row 16 David Banks Owner

1. John William Banks 1862-1948

2. Almira J. Banks 1860 - 1939

3. Laura A. Taggart 1900- 1931

BANKS on back of stone Homer Banks 1876-1876

5. Electa wife of W. A. Taggart 1867-1900

6. Mary S. wife of David I. Banks 1835-1893

7. David I Banks 1836-1918

8. W. A. Taggart 1867-1916

John James Bank 1847-1920

RENGARDT - Section 2, Block 7, Row 8

1. Father - Christ H. 1851 - 1939

2 & 3 REINGARDT

4. MOTHER - Carolina W. 1848 - 1928

HARTWIG

8. Louis W. 1864-1942

Ella M.. 1867 - 1927

RIEMENSCHNEIDER (Other riemenschneiders in State Center not related)

Section 2, Block 15, Row 17

BIENSEN

4. Harriet (Riemenschneider) 1878-1973, George A. 1881-1968

Dau. Hope M. Bear 1912 -

Lloyd L. Bear 1912-1977

Son - George & Barbara Biensen - 703 - 2nd St. State Center

LEIFHEIT - Section 1, Block 2, Row 16

1. Alma Leifheit Janz 1884-1930

2. Julia

3. PATTON - Julia Leifheit wife of Max Patton Aug 6, 1878 -

April 4, 1905

Section 2 , Block 8, Row 8

1.

2. Mary 1867 - 1933

3. George W. 1864-1930

4 & 5. BADER

LEIFHEIT

5. Mother Mary Leifheit 1857 - 1928

7.

8. Father William Leifheit 1848-1929

Amelia Leifheit, known as Millie married as the second wife of
Louis Schaper and is buried in Minnesota.

ECKHARDT

Edward S. Eckhardt 404 - 2nd Av NW State Center has the records
of this family, and as he remembers it is as follows:

Caroline Eckhardt who married Adolph Leifheit was an older
sister of Edward Eckhardt (1869-1952) who married I. Hilleman
(1871-1954). They were the parents of-

Walter (1897-1963) ^{Wife} and married Irma Seberg (1897- now deceased)

They were the parents of 2 girls (who do not live in State
Center) and one son Edward S. Eckhardt whose wife was Shirley
now deceased and they were the parents of two sons -

Jim 410 - 2nd Av NW, State Center. Lives in the old Eckhardt
home

Mikel 709 - 2nd St. SW State Center.

GERKE - Henry and Minnie (Hartwig) Gerke both deceased- both ~~deceased~~.

Children living Leora Metge, Ildra Rohrer, Gertrude Monroe,

Harold Gerke 2402 Eastman Av. living on the home farm;

All live at State Center, Leora Metge died Jan 28, 1991