

Short Essays
By Gerhard (George) Willke (1897-1950)
Maria Stein, Ohio



*Alois J. Willke Family 1916.
Al, Alois, Marcella, Caroline, Edgar, Tanta & Lucille. Behind hedge: Marie & George.
House and office built in 1900.*

MY HOUSE, 1910

My home is located on Main St. in the little village of Maria Stein. It is about a square west of the church, being the fourth house on the right of the road. It can easily be found for it has a cedar fence, it being the only one in the neighborhood.

It is a frame house and is two stories high in the front and one in the rear. The paint of the house and office which is a little east of the house is of a yellow color while that of the stable is green. The walks are all made of cement.

Looking from the southeast you see the front porch, the bay window and the back porch. In the upper story you see the central part extends farther east than the front part. From the west the house seems plain the only thing that you see is that the central part extends out farther than the front and back.

The house and yard now have a dreary look, the snow cover the nice green lawn of the summer the roses, canna's, and geraniums are blooming. The back yard is just as dreary, the trees are bare and the leaves occasionally peep through the snow. The little flower garden there is hidden from view and nothing but the little fence which surrounds it is visible.

AN INCIDENT IN MY LIFE 1909

It was on the 29th of December in 1904 during our winter vacation that we left Maria Stein to take a sleigh ride to our Grandparents in Minster.

The way going there was fine, there being plenty of snow and beautiful weather.

It was about two o'clock when we arrived in Minster. We stopped in front of my Grandparents house and took Grandma out for a ride.

On the way back to Grandma's house again we had to cross the car track at a street corner, and as we were crossing it I saw the car coming not two hundred feet away at full speed. I grabbed the whip and lashed the horse, it started with a jump. We were over it in time.

When I came in the house I was still shivering for fright.

Going home we were more careful in crossing the track. But it had gotten colder and the way home was fearful. We were almost frozen when we arrived home.

That night I could not sleep on account of the incidents I had just passed through. I would not like to have such incidents again.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS OF MINSTER, 1910

Probably the most needed improvement in Minster is the paving of Fourth Street. This street as it is now is more like a country road than a principal street of the town with about 2000 inhabitants. A petition has been circulated and it is hoped that the people of Minster will take kindly to it.

Sewers would be another great improvement. It is almost a necessity for in the Spring and other rainy times some streets are almost submerged by water.

A new spoke factory, as there are rumors, will soon be built in Minster. Although this factory would be a great improvement, a factory where iron or steel products are made would be a still greater one.

The new street car line to Fort Loramie is another great improvement.

June 2, 2016

The following stories were copied in 1973 from a composition book found in our attic. These stories were written by Gerhard (George) Willke while he was in high school in Minster in the years 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912. I gave the original book to Mrs. (Alfrida) Willke.

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Current Owner of the former Willke house