

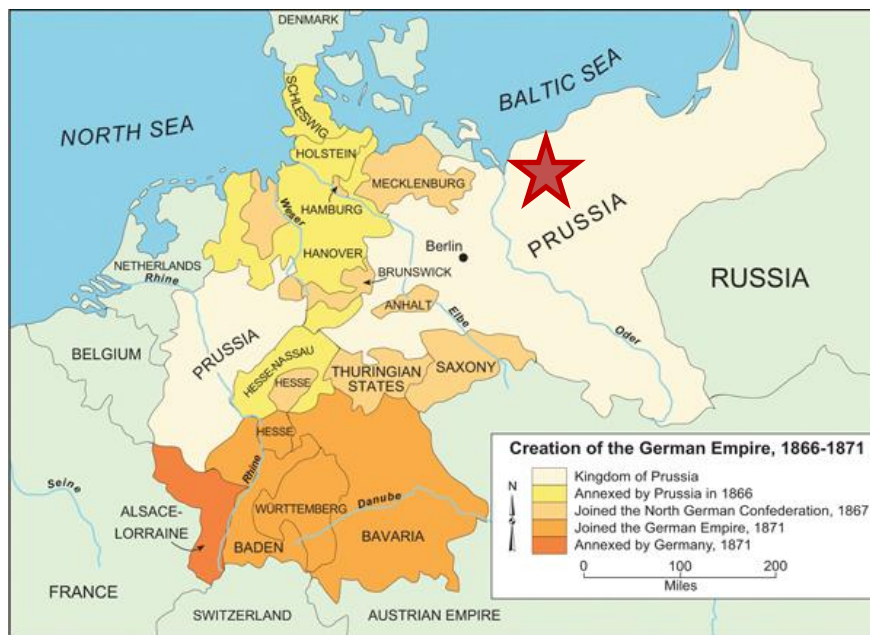
MUELLER FAMILY



RYDER AREA RESIDENTS
SINCE 1915

EUROPEAN BACKGROUND

Herman Gustav Mueller was born in 1866 in the Kreis Regenswalde region of Germany (see top map), which is now part of Poland (see lower map). He married Bertha Willhemenia Zumach in 1890. They lived in the village Prutzen, where daughter Ida was born. They had four children before arriving in the U.S., three of which died in infancy.



Note that Mueller origins are very close to the Baltic sea, which perhaps accounts for their affection for pickled herring, which has been passed down through the generations (the affection, not the herring)!



CROSSING THE ATLANTIC



The vessel was the Roland, from this steamship line. The trip took about 11 days; cost was \$35.00

133-A-1-29					
Family name ⁴⁶⁰ Müller			Given name Ida		
Accompanied by ^{30YRS} HERMAN - ^{30YRS} BERTHA.					
Age 4 Yrs.	Sex	M. ☒	S. ☐	Occupation	Nationality
	Mos. F	W.	D.	NONE	GERMAN
Last permanent residence (town country, etc.) Gietzig				Destination Wisc. Lake Benton	
Port of entry BALTIMORE, MD.		Name of vessel Roland			Date Sept. 10, 1896
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form 548-C					

Immigration card for Ida (Herman Jr.'s older sister) for arrival in Baltimore (September 10, 1896).

ARRIVAL IN U.S.

Herman, Bertha (both age 30) and daughter Ida (b. July 12, 1892) arrived in Baltimore September 10, 1896, on the ship Roland from Bremen, Germany. Their passage was paid by a relative (believed to be a Garmatz; Bertha's mom was a Garmatz) of Lake Benton MN.

The Muellers settled in the village of Verdi (southwest MN; see map below), located a few miles from the larger city of Lake Benton. Shortly after their Verdi arrival, Carl was born (September 21, 1896; died in 1913), and they had three more children in Verdi: Otto (January 16, 1899), Herman Jr. (April 27, 1901), and Elsie (August 15, 1908).



Declaration of Intention (1st)

Filing a Declaration of Intention was the first step toward naturalization for admission to U.S. citizenship. Most had to wait a period of years after making a declaration before applying for naturalization. The second filing had to be made within 7 years—no record that Herman followed through with naturalization filing. Declaration below was October 15, 1901.

United States of America,
STATE OF MINNESOTA,
COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

District Court, Ninth Judicial District.

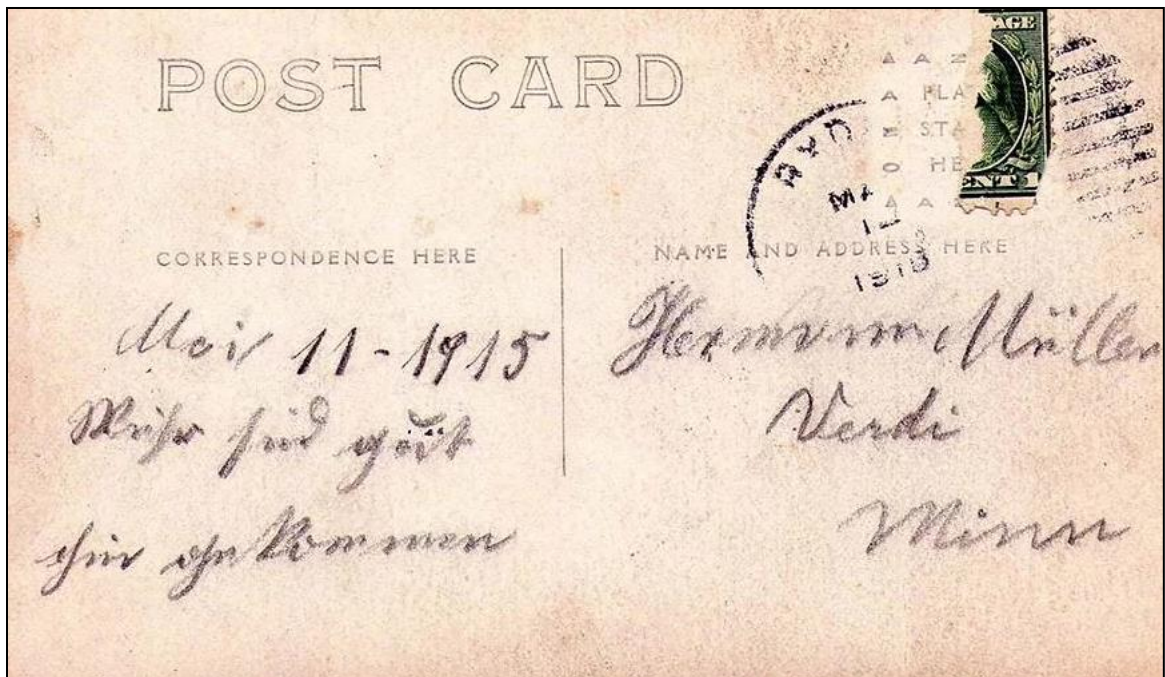
Herman Muller personally appeared before
the subscriber, the Clerk of the District Court of the Ninth Judicial
District for said State of Minnesota, being a COURT OF RECORD, and made oath that
he was born in Germany on and about
the year eighteen hundred and Sixty five that he emigrated to the
United States and landed at the port of Baltimore on
or about the month of October in the year eighteen hundred and
Ninety six; that it is bona fide his intention to become a Citizen
of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any
foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the
Emperor of Germany whereof he is a subject.

Subscribed and sworn to this 15th day of October A. D. 1901 } Herman Muller
G. J. Larson Clerk.
by Grant Matthews Deputy

ARRIVAL IN RYDER

What you see below is the message on the back of a postcard mailed from Ryder by Herman to the Mueller home in Verdi Minnesota (the front is a picture of the Ryder elevators). Note that the date is May 11th, 1915. We can't read script German (or printed German for that matter), but our thoughts are that this is the notification to the family that he arrived safely. News clippings suggest that he purchased land shortly after his arrival (see next page). At some point he returned to Minnesota, and then made the permanent move to Ryder, with family, in October of 1915.

The land purchase was a quarter section, 2.5 miles southeast of Ryder from Andrew Oberg, who had purchased the land from the General Land Office in 1907. The land has been owned by Muellers since that original purchase.



FROM THE RYDER NEWS

(Thanks to archival researcher Cousin Gary Sorenson)

A party of land seekers from Lake Benton, Minn., were here last week and were piloted about the country by H. C. Miller. Two deals were made—Herman Muller and Herman Lenaburg each buying a quarter section.

**May 20th
1915**

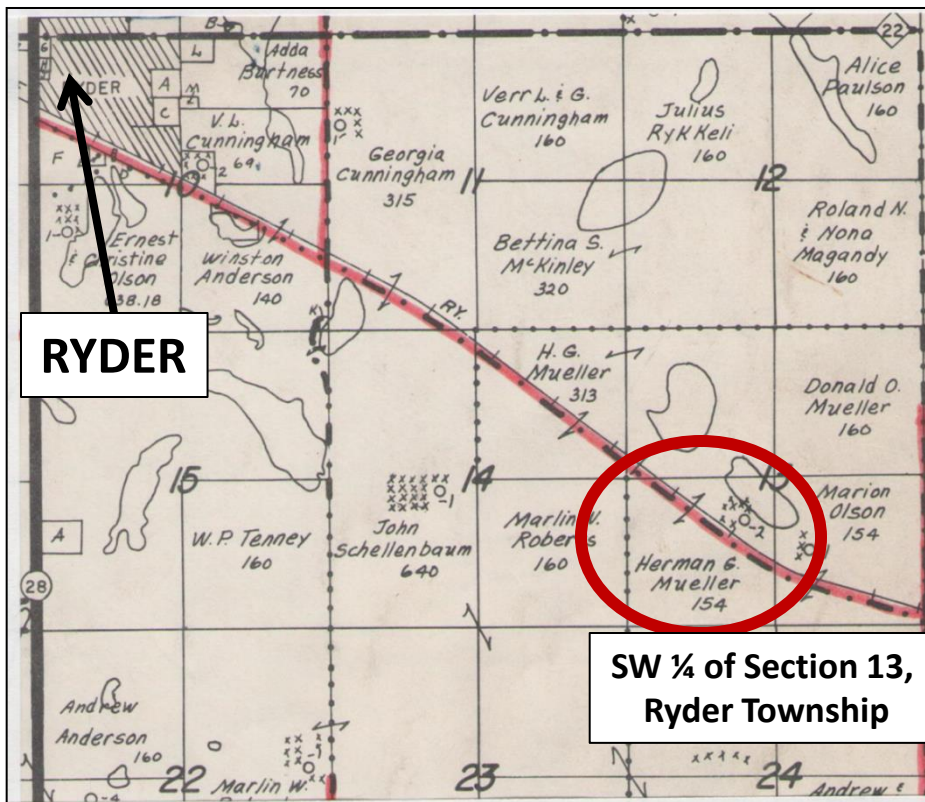
Herman Muller, who purchased the Andrew Oberg farm east of town, arrived Monday from Lake Benton, Minn., with a car of machinery and stock. Mr. Mueller's wife and four children arrived the same day.

**Oct. 14th
1915**

Herman Miller, east of Ryder, hauled out lumber for a new house Tuesday. Mr. Miller owns the former Andrew Oberg farm.

**Oct. 12th
1916**

HOME QUARTER PURCHASE



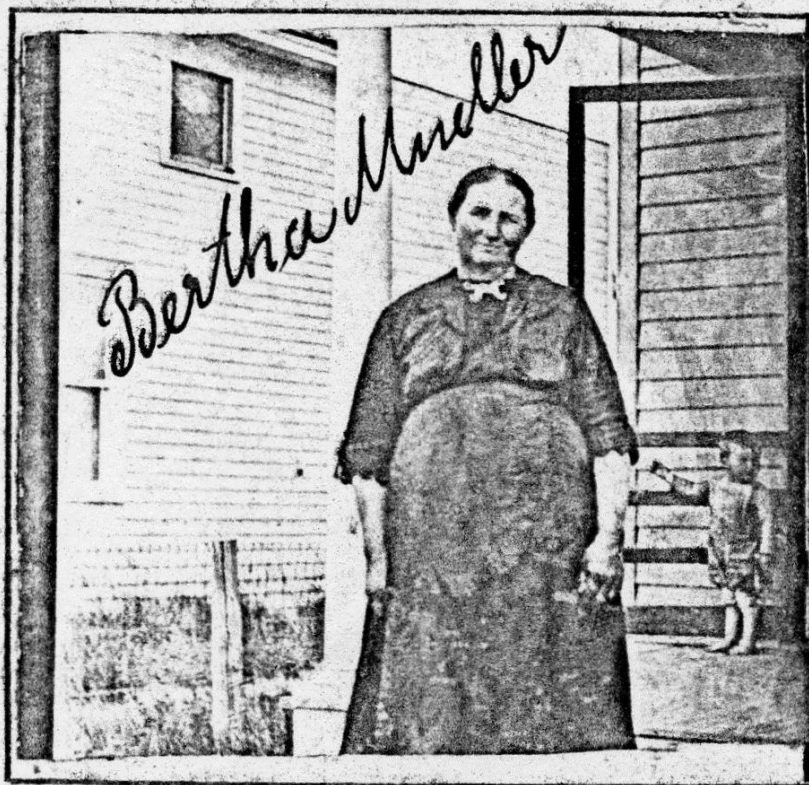
The original farm homestead house, where the Muellers lived for at least a year, until the new farmhouse was built in the fall of 1916.

HERMAN'S ALIEN REGISTRATION

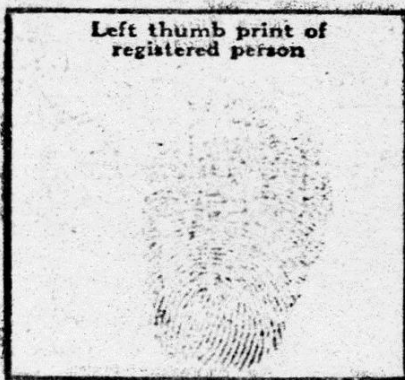


Photo used for registration. This photo is actually a postcard, and several were printed—we have one original. Thought to have been taken after Ryder arrival, but maybe earlier. The postcard style was not available before 1908.

BERTHA'S ALIEN REGISTRATION



Left thumb print of
registered person



NOTE.—The issuance of this registration card does not relieve the registrant from full compliance with any and all laws and regulations now existing or hereafter made concerning the conduct of such alien females.

MUELLERS AND THEIR CHILDREN



Rare photo of Bertha and Herman together. Following Herman's death (1927), Bertha's brother Carl Zumach lived with the family, working as a hired hand, until his death in the 1940s. No other Zumachs were in Ryder.

Photo of Mueller children taken shortly after move to Ryder. Standing: Herman and Otto. Sitting: daughters Elsie and Ida.



THE EARLY RYDER YEARS



The Mueller farmhouse was built in 1916, and remained habitable (albeit without indoor plumbing) through the 1970s.

The Mueller Children

- Ida: Worked briefly at the historic Hotel Fredeen. In 1918 she moved to Montana to work as seamstress, and later that year married John Mayer. She lived the rest of her life in Montana. She had two children, Vernon and Esther.
- Otto: Left Ryder in the 1920s, and lost communication with the family. Changed his name to Donald L. Grey.
- Herman Jr: Stayed on the Ryder farm until 1969 (more on him later).
- Elsie: Married Benny Lewis, and lived for several years a mile east of the Mueller farm. In later years lived in Minot. She had two children, Dorothy and Marjorie.

OTHER MUELLERS IN THE RYDER AREA

Julius Mueller: Herman's older brother Julius (1860-1924) settled in the Parshall area. His daughter Emma (1889-1959) married John Schnase, also of Parshall. They had three children: Gerhard, Ralph and Emma. All are buried in the Parshall cemetery.

Amelia Mueller: Herman's older sister Amelia (1854-1917) married Friedrich Radant. They too were originally Verdi residents, but during at least a few years (circa 1917) they lived northwest of Ryder. Amelia died in January of 1918, and is buried in the Ryder cemetery (see news clipping below).

Ryder Woman Dies.

Mrs. Frederick Radant died at her home northwest of Ryder on the former Wiswell place, Monday morning, Dec. 31, after a lingering illness of many months, aged 63 years. Besides the husband she leaves to mourn her departure a son and daughter, who have the sympathy of the community.

The funeral was held in the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran church at Ryder Thursday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

THE EARLY FARM DAYS



Herman Sr. and wife Bertha on the farm.



1930 photo of Bertha with her five grandchildren. The older two are Vernon and Esther (Ida), the two young boys are Ervin and Don (Herman), and the baby is Dorothy (Elsie).

THE BRANDTS AND THE MUELLERS

In 1917 the Carl Brandts moved to the Ryder area from Sherburne, MN. Sometime around 1925 Herman Jr. and the youngest Brandt child, Bernice Yhanna, began dating.

August Peterson to Carl Brandt of Sherburne, Minn., one-half section, one mile east of old Ryder for the sum of \$11500, last Tuesday.

From the Real Estate Transfers column of the Ryder News, July 27, 1916.



Bernice's father Carl, with wife Emile Triebess

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brandt, parents of C. J. Brandt, arrived last Friday from Sherburne, Minn., and will make their future home here. Mr. Brandt purchased a farm from Aug. Peterson, southeast of town, formerly rented by J. J. Long.

The above clipping from the Ryder News (April 5, 1917) suggests that Carl Jr (C.J.) was a Ryder resident before the family arrived. His brothers, Harvey and Albert may have moved early too, although they are not mentioned in any news item at this time.

THE BRANDTS AND THE MUELLERS



Three of Bernice's six brothers were lifetime residents of Ryder (left to right): Albert, Anthony and Otto

A most peculiar string of circumstances occurred to one of our young farmers, Carl J. Brandt, last month. On the 18th he was married, on the 19th his crop was hailed out, and on the 20th he was drafted into the army. Nothing should phaze him now.

Bernice's oldest (and favorite) brother Carl, now married, left Ryder in the fall of 1920 (as did brother Harvey). Years later he settled in Eddy County, ND. In August of 1917, he did earn the above mention in the Ryder News.

THE CHURCH



In 1917, Herman was one of the seven founders of the Immanuel Lutheran church. Also a founder was Carl Brandt, the father of Bernice, who eight years later, married Herman Jr. The building itself dates back to “Old Ryder,” and until 1917 was used as an adjunct classroom for the school. It often was referred to as the “German Lutheran Church”, to distinguish it from the more established St. Johns, founded by Norwegian Lutherans in 1904. An article in the Ryder News in 1928 stated that Immanuel Lutheran had 12 voting members (St. Johns had over 200). Services continued at the church until the 1960s, when the few remaining communicate members (mostly Muellers) merged with the Norwegian Lutheran.

MISSIONFEST AT "NEW" MUELLER HOME

Each summer, the Ryder Immanuel Lutheran church had a large picnic referred to as "Missionfest." It appears that the Muellers were a popular host.

From the Ryder News (July 15th, 1920)

Immanuel Lutheran Church mission festival next Sunday in Herman Mueller's grove 2 miles east of Ryder. German services at 11 a. m., English services at 3 p. m. All are welcome,

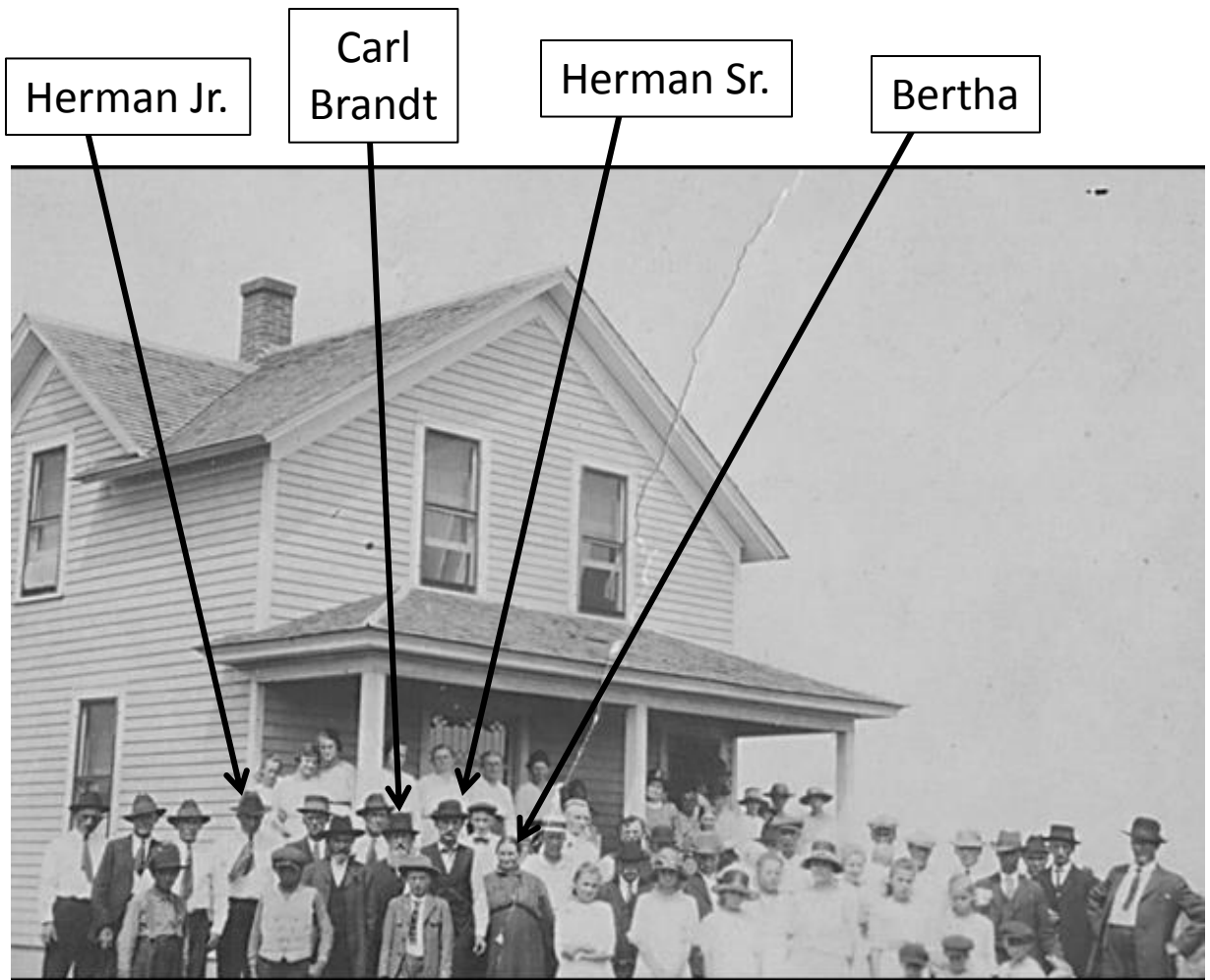
Mueller's "grove?" Did previous land owner Andrew Oberg plant trees? Where did this "grove" come from?

From the Ryder News (July 14th, 1921)

The Emanuel Lutheran church will hold a Mission Festival at the Herman Miller farm, 2 1-2 miles southeast of of Ryder, Sunday, July 17. The forenoon services at 10:30 o'clock will be in German and the afternoon services at 2 o'clock in English.

Missionfest at Mueller home becoming annual event.

MISSIONFEST AT “NEW” MUELLER HOME



This photo is from the 1920 or 1921 Missionfest at the Mueller home. Interestingly, note that Herman Sr. is standing next to Carl Brandt. Their children would marry each other a few years later. Bernice could be somewhere in the photo—she would have been around 12-13 at the time.

AN IMPORTANT MARRIAGE



On November 21st, 1925, Herman Jr. married Bernice Yhanna Brandt. We suspect that Herman and Bernice met through the church, although their farms were only ~2 miles apart via prairie trails.

Following Carl Brandt's death, the Brandt farm was operated by Otto Brandt (Bernice's brother) and later his son Myron (Mert) for many years.

AN IMPORTANT MARRIAGE



MILLER-BRANDT

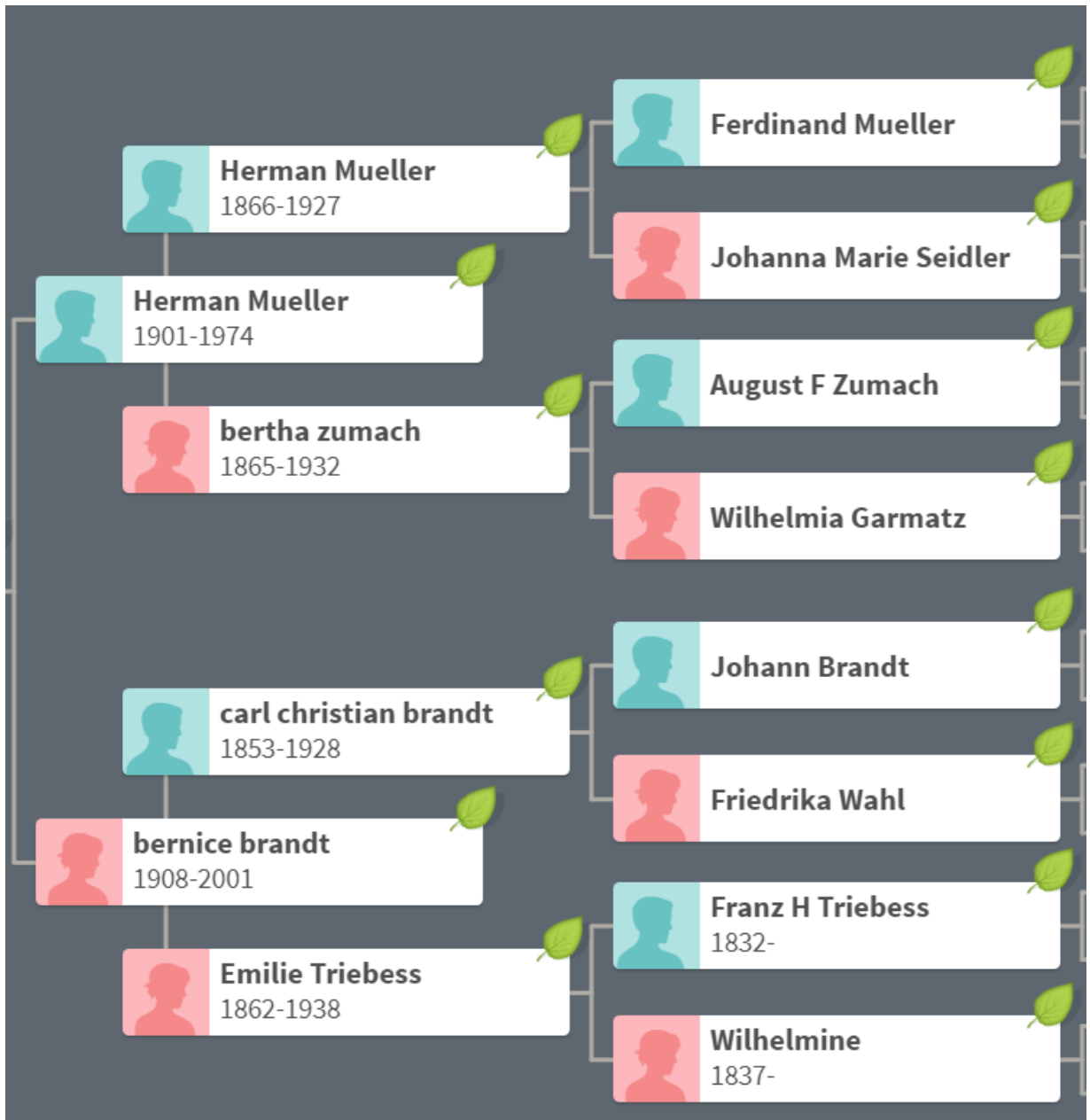
Ryder community was pleasantly surprised to learn of the marriage of Herman G. Miller to Bernice Brandt at Minot last Saturday afternoon. Rev. F. E. Brauer, pastor of the St. Pauls Evangelic Lutheran Church of Minot performed the ceremony. Elsie Miller, sister of the groom acted as bridesmaid and Albert Brandt, the bride's brother was best man.

Herman is a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Miller, living southeast of Ryder, and is highly respected for his sterling qualities.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brandt of Ryder.

Interesting comments from the above Ryder News article: 1) the community was “pleasantly surprised,” and 2) Herman senior had “sterling qualities,” but what about Carl Brandt?

HERMAN AND BERNICE GENEOLGY



DECLARATION OF INTENTION (2nd)

It appears that Herman Sr. did not follow through with his 1901 Declaration of Intention (for citizenship) and filed again in 1926. He died six months after completing this. There is no record of him filing the second naturalization papers, so it is unlikely he ever was a U.S. citizen.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ORIGINAL 34

No. 2331

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

~~Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof~~

State of North Dakota
County of Ward ss: In the District Court
of Ward County, N. Dak.

I, Hermann Mueller, aged 60 years,
occupation farmer, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white, complexion medium, height 5' 6" inches,
weight 165 pounds, color of hair grey, color of eyes blue,
other visible distinctive marks large and on left thumb
I was born in Lobus, Germany
on the 23rd day of November, anno Domini 1865; I now reside
at Ryder, Ward Co. N. Dak.
(give number, street, city or town, and State)
I emigrated to the United States of America from Bremen, Germany
on the vessel Rosand; my last
foreign residence was Wobys, Germany; I am married; the name
of my wife is Rebecca she was born at Wickmuth, Germany
husband has and now resides at Ryder, N. Dak. (Ward Co.)
It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to The German
Empire, of whom I am now a subject;
I arrived at the port of Baltimore in the
State of Maryland on or about the 11th day
of November, anno Domini 1896; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
SO HELP ME GOD.

Hermann Mueller
(Original signature of declarant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of
said Court this 14th day of June, anno Domini 1926

[SEAL]

Max Golberg
Clerk of the District Court.

By _____ Clerk.

14-36

THE FIRST GENERATION DEPARTS

DEATH TAKES H. G. MUELLER SUDDENLY

Funeral services were held today for Herman G. Mueller, farmer living two miles east of Ryder who died Monday at a Minot hospital from paralysis of the intestines.

Mr. Mueller, who was 61 years old, was taken to Minot last Thursday by his son, Herman, suffering from what was thought to be appendicitis. He was taken ill on the previous Tuesday evening, but was able to be up most of the time. Acute pains set in which indicated the seriousness of his illness, and he was advised to hurry to a hospital. The operation revealed the true nature of the disease, but surgical treatment was futile, there being no hope for a recovery.

Funeral services were held from Immanuel Lutheran church, the Rev. Tiemann of Parshall officiating.

His wife, two daughters, Mrs. John Meyer, Carter, Mont., and Mrs. B. H. Lewis, Osseo, Wis., and two sons, Otto Mueller and Herman Mueller, who lives with his parents on the farm, survive Mr. Mueller. Mrs. Meyer arrived yesterday from Carter, Mont., but Mrs. Lewis was unable to be here for the funeral.

Died: Jan. 17, 1927

Mrs. Bertha Mueller

Mrs. Bertha Mueller passed away at her home southeast of Ryder on Saturday at the age of 67 years, and one month. Bertha Zumach was born in Germany October 19, 1865. Her husband, Herman G. Mueller preceded her in death in January 1927.

Mrs. Mueller is survived by four children, Herman of Ryder. Mrs. Bennie Lewis of Ryder. Otto at Billings, Mont. Ida at Carter, Mont. and five grandchildren. A brother Carl Zumach residing near Ryder, besides her sisters and brothers in Germany also survives.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon from the German Lutheran church here. Rev. Kirk E. Klopp of Konaburg officiating.

Died: Nov. 19, 1932

THE FIRST GENERATION DEPARTS

CARL BRANDT PASSED AWAY LAST MONDAY

Carl Brandt, farmer living 5½ miles southeast of Ryder, passed away suddenly Monday morning at 1:30 o'clock following a paralytic stroke. Death was unexpected as Mr. Brandt had been in apparent good health previously. However, he had suffered a similar stroke about six years ago.

Funeral services were held at the home today (Thursday) at 1:30, and at the St. John's Lutheran church at 2:30, the Reverend Jagow of Anamoose, N. Dak., officiating. Interment was made in the Lutheran cemetery. The pallbearers were W. H. Gettle, Martin Schuir, O. W. Meyer, John Schrempf, Rufus Magandy, and Ed Peterson.

Mr. Brandt moved here with his family in 1917 from Sherburn, Minn. and bought a farm, on which he lived until his death.

He was a highly respected citizen in the community and his passing means the removal of a valued friend and neighbor.

Mr. Brandt is survived by his wife and eight children, four of whom live in this community, the others having settled near Sherburn, Minn. Those who live here include Otto, Anthony, and A. P. Brandt, and Mrs. Herman Mueller.

The obituary will appear in next week's News.

Died: June 11, 1928

Ryder Pioneer Woman Passed Away

Mrs. Amelia Brandt passed away at the Trinity hospital Minot Saturday September 10th. at the age of 76 years 1 month and 15 days. Her husband preceded her in death in June 1928.

Amelia Trieheess was born in Germany July 25, 1862. Came to the United States with her parent in 1868 and settled in Ill. She was married to Carl Brandt in 1881 and moved to Sherburn Minn. in 1891, and lived there until 1917 when they moved to Ryder N. Dak where she lived until her illness and was taken to the Trinity hospital Aug 27, 1938.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the cemetery. Rev. E. A. Freiburger of Kongsburg officiating.

Mrs. Brandt is survived by the following children Henry, Mountain Lake Minn., Carl, Grace City Harvey and Elsie (Mrs. Meyers, Sherburn Minn. Albert, Otto, Anthony, and Berneice (Mrs. H. Mueller) all of Ryder. There

are 25 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, two brothers in Illinois and one brother in Oregon.

Pallbearers were Martin Schuer, Christ Morlang, Adolph Riemer, Paul Bluhm, Fred Schieve and Edw. Schiewek.

Died: Sept. 10, 1938

THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED



Following the death of Herman Sr. in 1927, Herman Jr. ran the farm until his retirement in 1969. Joining him in the operation of the farm in 1947, following a brief stint in the Navy, was his son Don.



Beginning in 1953, Herman and Bernice lived in Ryder during the winter months, renting different houses near the school. In 1961 they purchased the former home of their son Don (just south of the school). Herman died in 1974, and Bernice continued to live in this house until 1997. She died in 2001.

THE HERMAN AND BERNICE FAMILY



Photo from 1943 with sons Don and Ervin, prior to the *surprise* arrival of Herman 3rd in 1947.



The 3rd generation of Muellers on the farm:
Ervin, Don and Herman 3rd (aka: Butch or Gus).

THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUELLERS



Ervin (1926-2002)

Children: Sharon (1948-), Sean (1949-), Keith(1950-)
Allan (1951-), Kathleen (1955-1973)



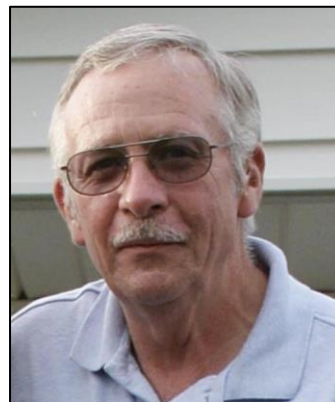
Son Sean



Daughter Sharon



Son Keith



Son Allen

THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUELLERS



Don (1928-1999)



Daughter Khylene (1949-1996)



Son Keven (1950-)



Son Kirby (1957-)



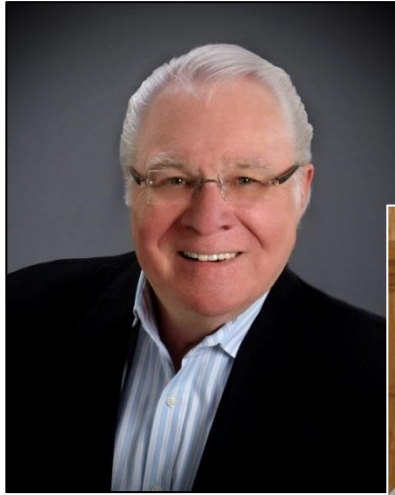
Son Darik (1959-2019)

3nd GENERATION MEETS 4th GENERATION

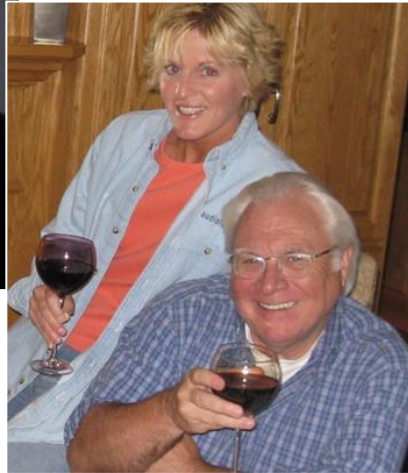


Summer of 1952: Uncle Butch takes niece Khylene (brother Don's daughter) for her first dance on the farm.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUELLERS



Herman 3rd (1947-)
aka: Butch or Gus,
with wife Karen.



Daughter Messina (1971-)



Son Ben (1979-)
with wife Julia



Daughter Caitlin (1982-)
with husband Robbie

A NEW BEGGINING

Following the death of Don in 1999, 4th Generation Kirby began a “clean-up” (burn down) of the many falling-down buildings of the farm. This included the farmhouse. But from the ashes, came a new prairie chateau, containing many remnants of the old buildings, and the Kirby Muellers became summer residents.



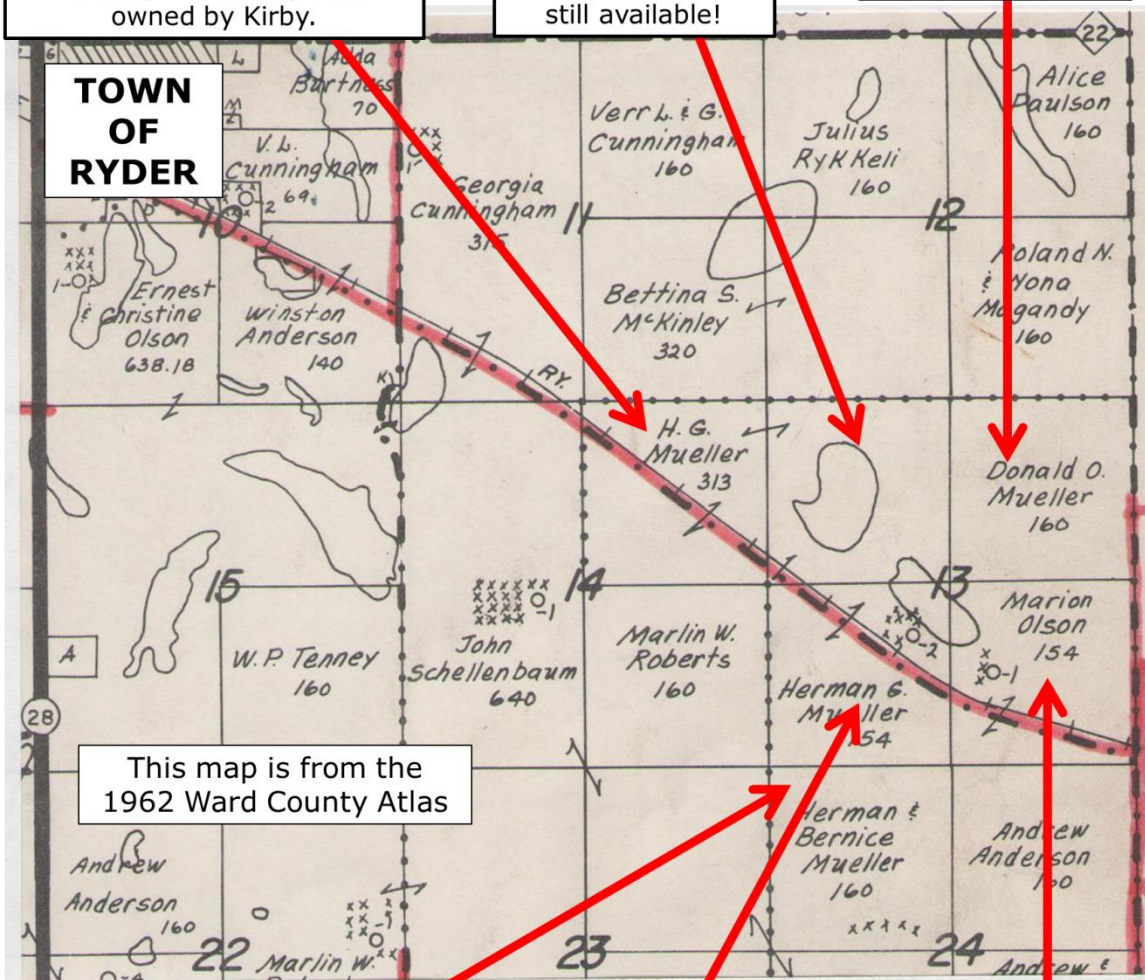
HOW MUELLER FARMS WAS BUILT

Obtained through Quit Claim Deed by Herman II in 1944 (the property was owned by noted banker C.H. Christenson for many years, and hence, has always been called the "Christy" Quarter). Now owned by Kirby.

Purchased from Alonzo Mann by Herman II in 1942. Now owned by Gus. Many lakefront lots still available!

Originally owned by Mahoney Family. Purchased by Don in 1951. Now owned by Kirby.

TOWN OF RYDER



This map is from the 1962 Ward County Atlas

Purchased from Albert Stinson family by Herman II in 1943. Now owned by Kirby.

Home Quarter
Purchased from Andrew Oberg in 1915 by Herman I for \$5200. Oberg purchased from U.S. in 1907 for \$200. Now owned by Kirby.

Originally Ahlgren quarter. Purchased from Marion Olson by Don in 1972. Now owned by Kirby.

MINORITY OWNER OF MUELLER FARMS



Gus Mueller standing on his lake front land (note Kirby Mueller farmstead in distance). This $\frac{1}{4}$ section is located directly north of the Mueller home $\frac{1}{4}$ section, and was purchased from Alonzo Mann.

MAJORITY OWNERS OF MUELLER FARMS

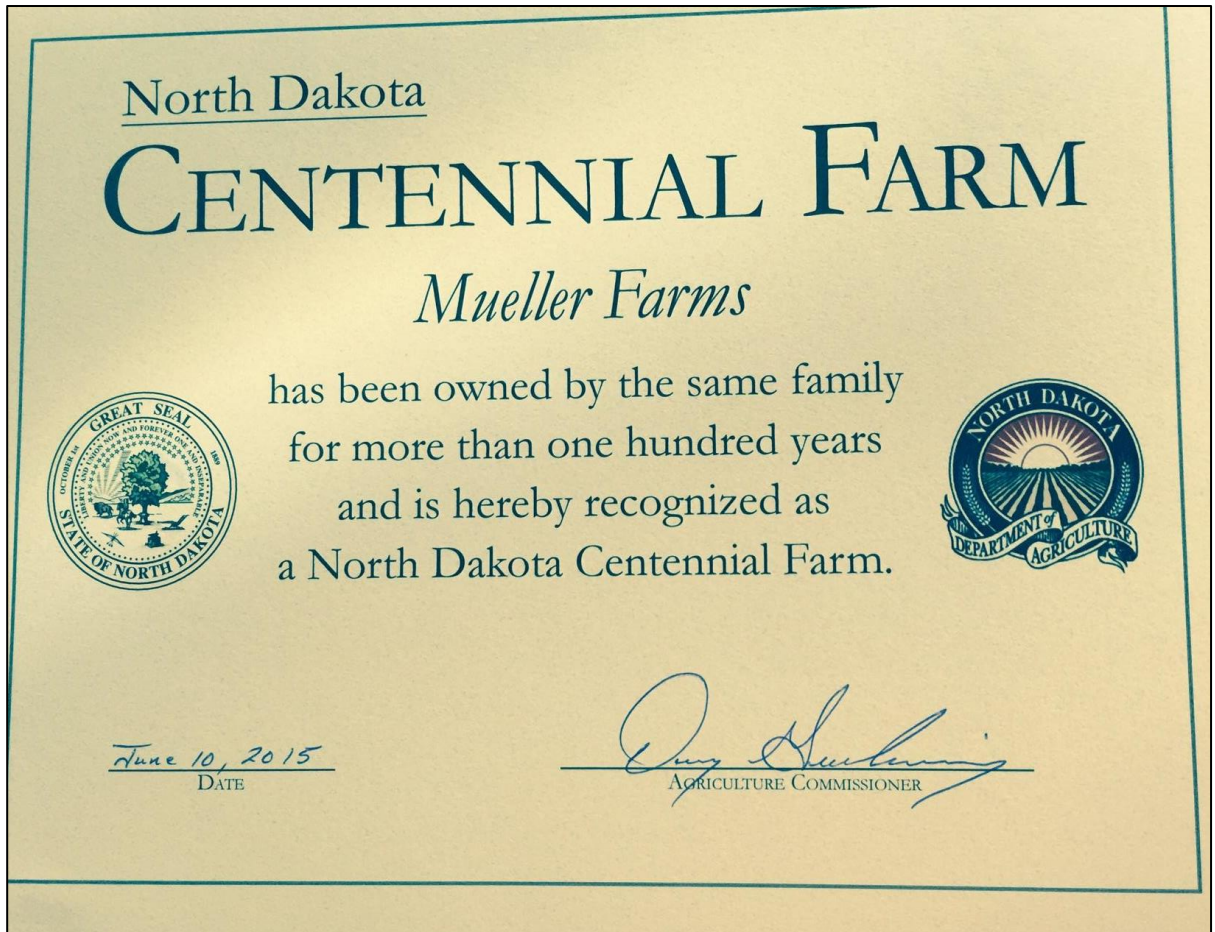


Kirby and Cindy Mueller. Kirby and Cindy have three sons: Cody, Kyle and Kip (See below).



Kirby and Cindy family—the 5th Generation of Muellers (L to R): Cody, Murika (Mrs. Kyle), Kyle, Becca (Mrs. Kip), Kirby and Cindy.

THE MUELLER FARM TURNS 100!



The North Dakota Centennial Farms Program celebrates the state's agricultural heritage by recognizing families that have lived on and/or owned their farms or ranches for more than a century. The program was started in 1988 as part of North Dakota's centennial observance the following year. Since then, hundreds of families, including the Muellers, have registered their agricultural operations as Centennial Farms in more than 40 North Dakota Counties.

THE BIG CENTENIAL BASH

SAVE THE DATE

Mueller Farm Centennial Celebration *Mirth, Music & Merriment* August 22, 2015

Mid-Afternoon: Enjoy the music, beverages, outdoor events and good companionship on the LakeView Patio.

Sundown: Taking the LakeView Stage will be the dynamic "Highway 6 Band." Rockin' and dancing encouraged.

Bring your lawn chairs, coolers, and other outdoor party essentials for a fun day at the farm: Mueller Farm 2.5 miles southeast of Ryder—Follow The Tracks.

The Farm Centennial drew over 50 Mueller and Brandt relatives, and on the day of the event at least 100 more area friends arrived to help celebrate. The big outdoor party was somewhat dampened by bad weather, but creative minds moved the attendees to the Ryder gym for an evening of mirth, music and merriment.

CENTENIAL FARM CELEBRATION



The Gus and Kirby Mueller families



The cherished certificate is displayed by owners

THE NEW ROAD SIGN



In 2017, after 102 years of negotiations, the road from Ryder to the Mueller farmstead finally was christened with its appropriate name.

TODAY THE MUELLER FARM
WELCOMES THE 6TH GENERATION



LIVING THE HIGH LIFE SINCE 1915

