

Middelkamp Cemetery

This cemetery appears to be a quintessential family plot, with the parents, some of their children and some of their grandchildren. There are seven marked graves, all appear to be related, as well as at least six “unknowns”, marked with simple stones. An old iron fence surrounds the graves.

Interred:

John (Johann) Herman Middelkamp October 11, 1805 – October 22, 1866

Margaret Katherine Middelkamp July 16, 1819 – April 29, 1905

L.M. Middelkamp November 18, 1861 – November 18, 1861

George G. Middelkamp November 16, 1858 – October 15, 1860 stone has a rose, symbol of earthly brevity.

Elisa C Middelkamp September 26, 1850 – April 15, 1852 Only the bottom part of the stone remains at the cemetery, the rest is preserved with a descendent. Her stone also has a rose matching George’s, and both have an inscription along the bottom in German, translated to read “Now sleep quietly in your grave until we meet again”

Caroline M Kamper April 2, 1888 – December 24, 1892.

Mary (Marie) Margarethe Kamper September 21, 1873 – October 22, 1878.

John Herman was born in Badbergen, Bersenbruck, Hanover, Germany (then Prussia) and baptized October 15, 1805, the son of Gerhard Hermann and Anna Adelheid, nee Kappelmann. He arrived in the United States Aug 11, 1834, leaving from Bremen on the ship “Bramin” and headed to Baltimore. He had a brother, John Gerhard Middelkamp, 1808-1868, who presumably arrived with him and is buried at nearby Harmonie Cemetery. In 1837, after working in Pittsburgh and other areas, he settled in Warren County, Missouri, buying a tract of timbered land approximately 4 miles east of Warrenton. On this property he built a log cabin and established a small farm. Sadly this homestead also was the beginning of the family cemetery following the death of several of his children. His naturalization date is also not known for certainty, could be John was naturalized

October 24, 1856. It was reported that John received a “good German education” and had “much more than the ordinary intellectual abilities”.

Margaret Kathrine Schlueter, also known as Catharina Margareta, was born in Groenloh, east of Badbergen, Hanover, Germany (then Prussia) and baptized July 14, 1819. It is possible her family attended the same church as did the Middelkamp family in Badbergen. She left Germany at the age of 17 on October 4, 1836 aboard the ship “Olbers” with her parents Johann Herman, age 46 and Anna Adelheid, (maiden name Bockhorst) age 48 and brother Henry, age 15. They arrived in New Orleans on December 8, 1836.

John and Margaret were married on May 28, 1838 in Warrenton, Missouri by Caleb Williams, Justice of the Peace. They lived on their farm their entire marriage, and had a total of eleven children, losing two in infancy and one at birth. These children are all buried in this cemetery, daughter Elisa C and sons George G and L.M. They had eight children that lived to adulthood, four sons and four daughters. Their names and dates are as follows:

Henry Herman	January 27, 1839 – April 19, 1897
John Herman	March 22, 1841 – December 25, 1903
William	August 2, 1843 – May 14, 1923
Anna Marie	July 16, 1845 – March 5, 1914
Mary	March 10, 1848 – January 16, 1929
Herman Johann	July 14, 1853 – October 12, 1901
Margarette (Maggie)	November 1, 1855 – August 3, 1923
Caroline	April 2, 1863 – March 3, 1933.

It is interesting to note that, as expected, their children married into other large families of the area. John Herman married Malina Strack and Margaret married William Strack. Anna Marie married Herman G Kamper, Mary married Garrett Koppelman, and Caroline married George J Heidtmann. Many are also buried in the nearby cemetery at Harmonie Church.

Land records exist of the various parcels the Middelkamp family acquired over the years. At one time they owned 368 acres. The remains of their homestead was surveyed in 2016. It consisted of a house with a cellar, well or cistern, spring

house and three outbuildings. The farm eventually was occupied by two Middlekamp sisters and was still a residence in 1949. It was all abandoned to the land prior to 1972 when the Innsbrook resort purchased the property.

The 1840 census has the couple living on a farm in Hickory Grove township with one male child under the age of 8, presumably Henry. Neighbor Hiriam Brandt is listed in the same census as living nearby.

In 1843, John and Margaret sold forty acres of their land located 3 miles southeast of Pitts to the founders of the "German Lutheran Evangelical Church of Harmonie", which is now simply called "Harmonie Church", on Stracks Church Road. The church was also called "Strack's Church" because of the long association between the church and the Reverend Carl Strack (father of Malina, first wife of John Herman Jr).

The 1850 census has the Middelkamps living with five children, "H" (presumably Henry) age 12, John age 9, William age 7, Ann age 5, and Margaret age 2. They own \$300 in real estate, and John is still farming. John Herman was also known as a furniture maker following his immigration and settling in Warren County, namely for his unique way of making chairs. Quoting from the book "The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri" "Most (German furniture makers) did not make chairs on a regular basis, but turned them out on occasion for their own use and that of their friends. Other German or German-trained cabinetmakers also made chairs, though they were not identified in the census returns as specializing in chair-making. Chairs designed with three maple slats, turned maple stiles with knob finials, and hickory rungs and stretchers, are credited to an immigrant named Middelkamp, who worked in Warrenton".

In 1860 the family was listed in Elkhorn township, still on the farm, and John's occupation is listed as a "wheel wright". Son Henry, age 21, was now the farmer. There were 8 children still living at home; John H age 19, John W age 17, Mary Annie age 12, Herman J age 7, Margaret A age 5 and Frederick G (presumed George C) age 1. The family's real estate was valued at \$4000.

On October 22, 1866 John Herman died at his homestead at the age of 61 in an accident. He was moving a load of wood and it slipped, falling on him and crushing him. Quoting from the "History of Warren County" published 29 years after his death in 1895, regarding John Herman, "Being a man of industry and

intelligence, economics and a good manager, he prospered abundantly and became one of the substantial farmers and well-to-do citizens of the county. He accumulated an ample competence for himself and family.”

By 1870 the census lists Margaret, age 51, and children Herman, age 17, Margaret age 13 and Caroline age 7 as still on the farm. The real estate is now valued at \$3000 and personal assets are valued at \$1200. The family lives next to daughter Annie and her husband, Herman Kamper, who emigrated from Prussia in 1844. Herman is farming.

In 1880 Margaret only has one child left at home, Caroline. They are still living next to daughter Annie and her husband, who now have 4 children. Interestingly enough, the census records also lists another occupant of the house, Herman Koppelman , age 36, classified as “idiotic”. It is presumed the family took him in when his father passed away. The 1870 census lists Herman and his father as farming nearby after arriving from Prussia in 1862. Herman could not read, write or speak English. Additionally, daughter Mary had married Garrett Koppelman in 1868, so there could be some connection there.

The final time Margaret was listed in a census was in 1900. By this time, she is living with her daughter Annie and son-in-law Herman Kamper, and Herman Koppelman is listed as a “boarder”. Annie is listed as having had 8 children with 6 still living. The 2 children Annie and Herman lost are presumed to be Caroline and Mary Kamper, who were buried with one stone for both girls. They were born well after their grandfather died. It is presumed they were all living on the family farm.

Margaret’s obituary stated that she died on the family farm she had spent her life on since her marriage. Her funeral service was held at Strack’s Church, aka Harmonie church. It mentions she was buried in a cemetery nearby.