

Transcript: Floyd Hornbach

Interviewed and Transcribed by Rita Kirchgassner, January 24, 1984

Edited and Researched by Karin Page

SIDE I

KIRCHGASSNER: The interviewer is Rita Kirchgassner. The interviewee is Floyd Hornbach.<sup>1</sup> We are in York Township of Dearborn County. To start out, tell us about the Hornbach family.

HORNBAACH: O.K. Andrew Hornbach,<sup>2</sup> he settled in York Township in 1865 on the property now owned by Nessman, and he had thirteen children. One of whom was Charles Hornbach, who lived on property now owned by Raymond Miller, who has since torn down the house and rebuilt. Charles Hornbach had a store on his property which I remember going to when I was four years old. He also bought cattle, grain, and hay and would haul it to Guilford and put it in boxcars, and ship it out to Cincinnati, and so forth. He made his trip to Cincinnati through the mud road with his team of horses to pick up groceries for the store and take produce and eggs. Now, Andrew Hornbach, he had thirteen children. And some of them, there was 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 - about nine of them that settled here and lived in this area.

KIRCHGASSNER: Do you know any of their names?

HORNBAACH: Yeah, That lived in this area and Albert Hornbach,<sup>3</sup> he lived where Gilbert Hartman<sup>4</sup> now lives.

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<sup>1</sup> Floyd Hornbach (died 11 Oct 1993) "Lifelong resident of Yorkville. Air Force Staff Sergeant in World War II; active member of North Dearborn Legion Post 452 and St. Martin Church, Yorkville. Former secretary of North Dearborn Water Corporation and Mutual Fire Insurance of Dearborn County. Survived by wife, Evelyn, son, Larry, and daughter Linda, brothers George and John." ("Dearborn County Obituaries," Hornbach, Floyd, Press 12 Oct 1993.)

<sup>2</sup> Andrew Hornbach "Died at his home near here, Sept. 27, Andrew Hornbach, aged 87 years. Mr. Hornbach started in life a poor man, borrowing a little money to engage in the huckster business, but died the wealthiest man in York township." ("Dearborn County Obituaries," Hornbach, Andrew Kennedy, 7 Oct 1897.) A. Hornbach owned land in York Township Sections 13, 14, 15 ("Atlas of Dearborn County Indiana," D.J. Lake & B. N. Griffing, 1875, 23). "The town that sleeps," The Dearborn Register, 19 Jun 2003, p. 1 & 3C; St. Martin's Church, Hornbach Store, Widolff's store. "Yorkville citizens are thrifty, high-class," The Journal-Press 3 Feb 1987, 7-B.

<sup>3</sup> Albert Hornbach naturalization in Ohio, Scioto County Probate Court (Hornbach Family Files, Lawrenceburg Public Library).

<sup>4</sup> Gilbert J. Hartman (died 21 Apr 2017) "85 years old, of Yorkville, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marcella Hartman; daughter Cynthia Gutapfel; grandchildren Byron and Lisa Hartman; parents

KIRCHGASSNER: Do you know where they were born? They really want the names and such. I know where these places are, we can fill them in later.

HORNBAACH: My great-grandparent, Andrew Hornbach, was born in Baden, Germany. He lived in Middletown for a while and then settled in York Township. And he married Frances Kirkhoff.<sup>5</sup> She was also born in Baden, Germany. Like I say, they had thirteen children, two of them died in infancy. Albert Hornbach married Sophia Behm and they had eight children. There was Louis Hornbach, Lena Kuebel, Lena, she married a Kuebel, Anna Schnetzer, Elizabeth Fuchs, Rosa Weyhouse, Rose Alfrich, Cecelia and Otto. Otto died at an early age. Then there's Lela Hornbach - she wasn't married. And then there's las Hornbach, he married Ann Catherine McGillian. They had six children - John, Frank, Adolph, Theodore, Charles, and Carrie<sup>6</sup> - she married a Hillebrand. They lived in Middletown. Rosa Hornbach she married John Krieger and they had seven children. There was Clara, Rose, Mary Winter, Catherine, Jake, Frank and Bill. They lived, Louise Hornbach they lived where McNeese now live. Now, Charles Hornbach, he married Rosita Kuebel. They had ten children – Joseph, Carl, William, Sophia, Matilda, Louise married a Young and Helen married Lange and Joe Martin and Adolph, Johann and Josephine. Johann Hornbach, he was one of the children, he wasn't married. Then they had Jacob Hornbach. He married Mary Widolff , they had eight children - Frances Hartman she married a Hartman, Frances did, and August Hornbach, Anthony Hornbach, Gertrude, Philomena; and Marie Hornbach, she married a Vogelsang; Annie and Elhora, they died in youth. Then they had another son, Joseph Hornbach. He died at age fourteen in 1866. Then there was George Hornbach. He married Helen Ege.<sup>7</sup> They lived where Dave Gartman now lives. They didn't have any children. Then there was Michael Hornbach. He married Elizabeth Steinmetz<sup>8</sup> and they had six children - Michael, Edward, Olivia, Nordmeyer, Edwina - she married a Schnetzer. And Raymond and then Geneva - she married a Vogelsang. The other one was Mary Hornbach – she. Now Michael Hornbach, he lived where Agnes Lieland now lives and then he had property where Stevens live now. Mary Hornbach she married Philip Fuchs<sup>9</sup> but they didn't have any children. Now, they lived back on the old place where Andrew Hornbach now lives and that is owned by Mossman.

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Robert and Marth (Hornbach) Hartman; brothers, Irvin and Melvin Hartman. Survived by Sons, Gary, Eric, Steve, and Mark Hartman; daughter Sharon Wilgenbusch; 19 grandchildren. ("Dearborn County Obituaries," Hartman, Gilbert J., 21 Apr 2017.)

<sup>5</sup> Frances Kirchkoph (Dearborn County, Indiana p 853, as cited in Hornbach Family Files, Lawrenceburg Public Library).

<sup>6</sup> (Dearborn County History p. 853 as cited in Hornbach Family File, Lawrenceburg Public Library.)

<sup>7</sup> "George was married Helen Ege, and is also a farmer in York township." (Dearborn County History p. 853 as cited in Hornbach Family File, Lawrenceburg Public Library.)

<sup>8</sup> (Dearborn County History p. 853 as cited in Hornbach Family File, Lawrenceburg Public Library.)

<sup>9</sup> (Dearborn County History p. 853 as cited in Hornbach Family File, Lawrenceburg Public Library.)

KIRCHGASSNER: Which one of these was your grandfather?

HORNBACH: Charles Hornbach<sup>10</sup> was my grandfather.

KIRCHGASSNER: He married Rosina Kuebel.<sup>11</sup> And then, your father was who?

HORNBACH: John F. Hornbach.<sup>12</sup>

KIRCHGASSNER: You want to tell us a little bit about what your father and grandfather, what they did for a living, what the Hornbach's did?

HORNBACH: Like I say, Charles Hornbach, he had a store about two miles down the road here<sup>13</sup> - where Ray Miller lives. And as far as I know, that store must have started about 1900, and then it discontinued, I guess, in about the '40s or '50s, somewhere in there. But I can remember, they had, when I was four years old of getting in trouble in there.

KIRCHGASSNER: What did you do?

HORNBACH: I can't ... it was bad. And he sold cattle and bought cattle and sold them and traded and stuff like that.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did he have like a general store?

HORNBACH: Yes. It was a general store.

KIRCHGASSNER: What kind of products did they have?

HORNBACH: Everything. He even had goods and shoes, and they had groceries, and candies - just about everything you would find in a store in them days, you know. They had a pretty good line of stuff. I mean, it wasn't a big store, but they had a little of everything. People used to come from miles just to buy shoes there, my dad told me. My dad, when he first married - that was John Hornbach - he lived in a house for about a year, then they moved down next to the store, down there where Martin Kuebel owns the house now, and that is where I was born. We lived there from 1914 to 1919 - a log house. Three of us

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<sup>10</sup> Archibald Shaw, *History of Dearborn County Indiana, Her People, Industries and Institutions: Jacob Hornbach*. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1915 p. 853-854. (Lawrenceburg Public Library: accessed 14 Oct 2021 and Hornbach Family File, Lawrenceburg Public Library).

<sup>11</sup> Charles Hornbach m. Rosina Kuebel of Cincinnati (Hornbach Family File, Lawrenceburg Public Library)

<sup>12</sup> John F. Hornbach married Helen Ege 7 May 1913 at St. Martin's Church Yorkville. (Source: Lawrenceburg Press 25 Apr 1963; Hornbach Family File, Lawrenceburg Public Library.)

<sup>13</sup> (Hornbach Family File, Lawrenceburg Public Library)

were born down there, and then dad bought my mother's home place - Ege place - and we moved up there. There were six of us children, and dad farmed and he also had some other jobs, like he was county councilman for about thirty- two years. He was on the advisory board for a good long while.

KIRCHGASSNER: For township trustee.

HORNBAACH: He wasn't township trustee.

KIRCHGASSNER: But I mean, he was on the advisory board.

HORNBAACH: Yeah. And county councilman. And he also had some jobs like measuring ground - measuring to see how much tobacco, stuff they could sell, and stuff like that. And, then, he was in the insurance business a little bit. He was an appraiser for an insurance company. Sometimes he'd, at [?] sales, he'd be the Clerk of sales. He had several pieces of property that he was an administrator over. Then he done a lot of other things, but mainly he done farming. We raised tomatoes during the hard years there - in the '30s. And we'd raise them by the truckloads then, but about four or five acres we raised. And that was the best income that you could make at that time. But it wasn't much, but it was something.

KIRCHGASSNER: How many acres did he farm?

HORNBAACH: He farmed about sixty acres, I would say. We had a hundred-acre farm, and he farmed about 50-60, yeah, about sixty acres. He always made a living. We always had something to eat, but the Depression years were pretty rough.

KIRCHGASSNER: Can you give me an idea of what life was like in general during that time?

HORNBAACH: Well, I never forget, back in the '20s or '30s, you know, when we didn't have no lights, you didn't have no inside plumbing or, you didn't have nothing. But the nights would be cold when you had to go outside, and I'll never forget, in 1932 when we got lights. We had an old model T Ford then, and we got in the car and we went up the road and we lit the whole house up, and, boy, from before a little candlelight, it looked like a hotel all lit up. But we had lights and that was something.

KIRCHGASSNER: Were you the first in Yorkville to have lights?

HORNBAACH: No, it come through this area - everyone got them. Well, not everybody. Some of them didn't sign up for them, see and didn't' all get them.  
KIRCHGASSNER: But 1932.

HORNBAACH: Yeah, that was the year. I am pretty sure I am right on that. That [lights] was a great thing. That electric was about the best that ever happened, as far as, in them days, you know. You didn't have no furnaces. You had stoves. You might have to have one downstairs and one upstairs. It would get so cold in your room, water would freeze.

KIRCHGASSNER: They would like to know what a typical day was like for you as you were growing up in Yorkville? What was it like?

HORNBAACH: Before we got electricity, we used to have to milk the cows, get up in the morning early and milk, after we were older. Dad wouldn't make us milk until we were about, say, ten years old. But then, we would have to go out and milk in the morning. And then, get ready and go to school. And then, at night, I mean, once we got a radio, I would say that was in the '20's yet. We had a radio and then we wouldn't go out to milk until we had listened to Lum and Abner,<sup>14</sup> Amos and Andy, see. That was a big thing in them days. Unless we would go out to milk first and then come in. But, we had to listen to that - that was a big thing in them days. But radios weren't too plentiful. I remember when the first one I ever heard was Marie Miller Widolff<sup>15</sup> down there had it. You had to plug it in your ear. You couldn't get no sound anywhere else. And I was pretty young then, I guess that's about sixty years ago, probably. Things kept improving all the time. But when we were younger, we had to walk to school. There wasn't no transportation. Of course, we didn't have far to walk and we'd run home at noon and eat. Then I went to high school. We went to high school at New Alsace for one year - that was in 1929 - then they closed it up, but there wasn't no bus out there. We had to either drive out or somebody take a horse and buggy and go out. I mean, the Bushes' would always have the horse and buggies. We might change off with [neighbors]. We still had the old model T Ford, but once that wore out, we didn't have a car for quite a while back in the '30s. You couldn't hardly afford a car with all the kids. We were - about four or five were born during that time. It was pretty rough that way. But we managed. We had a good time. We would go down to town to the store on Saturday night or Sunday, play a little cards and shoot the breeze.

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<sup>14</sup> Lum and Abner radio comedy by Chester Lauck and Norris Goff from 1931 to 1954. ("Lum and Abner," Wikipedia article; accessed 21 Oct 2021.)

<sup>15</sup> Marie Miller Widolff b. 17 Nov 1895; d. 8 Jun 1963; 68 years old, Yorkville, IN. Born at Guilford, IN. Died at Yorkville, IN. Buried St. Martin's Church Cemetery, Yorkville, IN. ("Dearborn County Obituaries," Marie Miller Widolff, Press 13 Jun 1963; Register 13 Jun 1963.)

KIRCHGASSNER: What kind of cards did you play?

HORNBAACH: Well, we couldn't play poker much, but we played euchre and stuff like that. But we liked penny-ante but sometimes we would and sometimes we wouldn't. If you had money, we might play for a little while. But a quarter would last all night, practically.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did your parents play euchre and such? Do you know where the game originated from? It's a game that's only really played in the mid-west, they say.

HORNBAACH: Is that right? I don't know - I don't remember.

KIRCHGASSNER: A lot of them say that when they go up east or whatever, no one's ever heard of the game. Or in Florida, they've never heard of euchre.

HORNBAACH: Is that right? Also, I mean, when you had to go out at night you had to take a lantern or something like that. I mean, you didn't have flashlights back in them days, I don't believe. I don't remember of us having any. And we'd take a lantern and you could see for a ways. And when you went to bed at night, you took a lamp up to bed with you unless you had three or four lamps. That's the way you could see. Couldn't heat all your house because one stove wouldn't do it and you didn't want too many stoves. Some of the house was closed off in the winter-time.

KIRCHGASSNER: You went to grade school at St. Martin's?

HORNBAACH: Yes. I went to grade school at St. Martin's<sup>16</sup> and went to New Alsace high school for one year, and then, in the following year, 1929 and 1930, is when they started down in Guilford. And I went there for three years. And all the rest of us went to Guilford. Graduated from high school.

KIRCHGASSNER: What was grade school like at St. Martin's?

HORNBAACH: Well, I guess we learned something.

KIRCHGASSNER: What was your courses in?

HORNBAACH: Oh, courses. Well, we had history, I remember. And we had English. We had arithmetic. We had ...

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<sup>16</sup> Photo and information about St. Martin's school "Yorkville citizens are thrifty, high-class," The Journal-Press, 3 Feb 1987, 7B

KIRCHGASSNER: Did they teach you German?

HORNBAACH: No. I think though, I knew how to talk German when I went to school, but they did not teach it there anymore.

KIRCHGASSNER: You knew how to speak it but you didn't know how to write it?

HORNBAACH: I never did learn how to write it. I do remember, I mean, I could understand a little bit yet, but at one time I could talk pretty good.

KIRCHGASSNER: Some people still went to confession in German until 1942.

HORNBAACH: Could be, yeah. My mother, I remember she'd go. Maybe later than that.

KIRCHGASSNER: I'm surprised they didn't teach. But by then you were taught by the sisters from Oldenburg. Were they strict?

HORNBAACH: Well, yeah. They were, I mean, you went to school to learn and that's what they done. They wanted you to learn. They didn't want you cuttin' up in there.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did you go to church every day?

HORNBAACH: Yeah. Went to church every day. And we had, even during the summer months, they expected you to go to church in May. And I remember my mother stressed that quite a bit. And we usually went to church all during the month of May. See, our school would be out in April, back in them times. And we had one hundred and twenty days, I believe.

KIRCHGASSNER: Do you remember your parents ever saying anything exciting happen at Yorkville? Do you remember any of the old stories if there was?

HORNBAACH: Not off hand.

KIRCHGASSNER: There was never really a robbery or murder or ...

HORNBAACH: No. They never told of anything like that. They told us some drownings, you know. Some people would cross a creek and maybe drown or something like that. But I can't ever remember mentioning anything about any robberies or anything like that.

KIRCHGASSNER: The people I've interviewed, they all say the same thing, that it was mostly like a farming community. Life was basically the same and such. But I know you know the businesses really well that were here. I would like you to describe that what the town looked like. Could you describe what the town looked like?

HORNBAACH: In my time, I was a little late for some of that, but you remember the Hornbach store down there and the Widolff store. I remember the Widolff store before they had put their saloon on there. I mean, they had the post office there then and then that saloon. In them days, you had your slot machines, you know, and they done pretty good on them slot machines.

KIRCHGASSNER: Really? I didn't realize they had slot machines there.

HORNBAACH: Yeah. But then they had to be discontinued later on. They were kind of allowed for a while. But, they done pretty good on them and they had them all over. I mean, this wasn't the only place they had them. But, I remember, right here, where I live here, there used to be a shop. This Zimmer, Nick Zimmer, he had a hardware shop. He sold farm implements and stuff like that. And it was, I can remember that, and I guess it must have been torn down about 1925 or '30. And this house, part of this house is made of that lumber out of that shop.

KIRCHGASSNER: When was that shop here? Do you know approximate dates?

HORNBAACH: In 1925 it was torn down, but I don't know when it was built. But I know around here you could still tell where the roads and everything were yet, when we bought this house, see, when we bought the property. Albert Feist had built the house. Ed Aust was the carpenter that built it. The front part of the house. Not the whole house. And, it was built pretty good. And it had poplar lumber in it, and that lumber has really held up good. I know I've had it checked out and it's really ... I can remember, like I say, that store down where the ... I can just barely remember where there used to be a saloon right down there past Cash's. And I remember, I think, Charley Zerr run that at one time, for a while. I can just barely, I guess I was, it must have been before the, I must have been awfully young. I don't know. I just barely remember that part of the ... But I can't remember any of these other saloons that they used to say they had here.

KIRCHGASSNER: There was supposed to be one across the street. But I think those were pretty well gone by the turn of the century, too. I remember one time you were telling me that there was a blacksmith shop.

HORNBAACH: Oh, yeah. There was a blacksmith shop right down the road here, about where Eric Hartman's house is now. That used to be a brick house there. I

don't know if you remember that or not.

KIRCHGASSNER: No, I don't.

HORNBACH: And on this side of that, there was a blacksmith shop, where the people used to come to have their horses shod. John Miller, oh, these Miller's around here. His grandfather run that for a good while. And then Bill Miller, his son, kind of helped him out. I can remember bringing horses there.

KIRCHGASSNER: Are there any other buildings left that you know of?

HORNBACH: Can't think of anything.

KIRCHGASSNER: Because, I know the post office was always the general store. Do you remember when the railroaders would come in?

HORNBACH: No, but my dad tells about it. When they built the railroad, stuff like that. I guess that was about the time I was born, 1916, I believe the railroad went through here, I remember them saying.

KIRCHGASSNER: They said that some of the boarded in Yorkville.

HORNBACH: Yeah. I remember my mother saying there used to be some stay at an old house down the road, the place there, and they used to camp there, you know, in the house around there. Now, my dad tells that at one time they thought about bringing that railroad up through the hollow here, and maybe right through here, but it never went through. But I don't remember. That was just a little bit before I was, I guess I was just born about that time. I can remember when they put the, I don't know if you remember about the oil line they through here. They had an oil line through here at one time.

SIDE II

HORNBACH: Well, it run, I know it run back there through my dad's on back towards Bud Miller's place there and then through Hartman's on down and back through here. And the farmers, they used to take their teams and drag them pipe. They'd bring them in and drag their pipe down through. And I remember the farmers, my dad had a team on there for a while.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did they get much oil from it?

HORNBACH: Well, we never got the oil. The oil was pumped. There was one

pumping station at [?] in Batesville. That was one of them. That's when they put the ... that has been a good while ago.

KIRCHGASSNER: I can remember my grandmother talking about it. She was telling about, Grandmother Amodore said that some lost some of their money in the venture, too.

HORNBACH: Well, I don't know about that but I can then remember building it. And I remember my dad, he kept on working for a while, even without his horses. He would lift them. And one morning he was going to go to work, him and Bill Zerr. But, they were working down there and here, Mr. Zerr he comes over and he says, "Well, Bill won't be going to work with you anymore. He had passed away, overnight." And they were so heavy to lift, and stuff like that, they thought it might have caused a hemorrhage. But, I mean, it was hard work, ya know. They had things to dig them out, if I remember right. I can kinda remember yet. It has been fifty years ago, to sixty years ago.

KIRCHGASSNER: Are the pipes still underground?

HORNBACH: I think they dug them up. I know where there's one that always showed up. And I haven't been back there down on our place in the creek. And it would always show up. I thought they came around and dug them up.

KIRCHGASSNER: Gosh! Just think about the oil around now.

HORNBACH: That was pumped, I don't know from where, but it was a good ways. It was just a six-inch line - nothing compared to what they put in now.

KIRCHGASSNER: Another thing I wanted to talk about with you was the church. You where there when the rectory burned? What year was that in?

HORNBACH: Yeah. I think it was '37. Well, I can remember when it burned, yeah. I can remember we getting the word, you know, in Church. And people hollering the place was on fire. And we went over and took what stuff we could get out. You know, it was pretty well burned. And then the thing was, there wasn't nothing to do until, I think they finally got a fire engine there. But, I can't remember if they saved any of the building.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did they ever find out what caused it?

HORNBACH: No.

KIRCHGASSNER: 'Cause life in Yorkville, a lot of it really revolves around the church.

HORNBAACH: Yeah. That is one of the things, I mean. Well, like you have all the history of the school. A lot of kids and people from this area for a long while went to school there and got a pretty good education. I mean, just like I have got some notes here that tells about when they had school here yet. And after the North Dearborn school was started, you know, how these kids would get over there and do real good over there. I mean, they had their education to go ahead, and so forth, and they had good teachers here, and everything. And, how many of them, I think about, oh heck, about... I made a little note here. Said how many went to. The one priest. He went to school there for a little while and he graduated ... Steinmetz. Four engineers, two veterinarians, two, as far as I know, two nurses. And there's about fifteen teachers, which about eleven of them are also coaches. And then there's a student, there's a doctor right now, that's taking his student, whatever you call it? Internship or something.

KIRCHGASSNER: Right. That's residency.

HORNBAACH: And, at that time, I mean, we had really a, you know, before that, you couldn't get quite the education in these small schools. They couldn't teach that many subjects, you understand. And then, after you went over there, I mean, you had a broader, you get more credits and everything. You could get to college. The kids really done well. I would say, out of that bunch, there's about twenty-five on that list, I guess. I would say that's out of a group of about sixty-five, probably.

KIRCHGASSNER: I would say ...

HORNBAACH: Sixty maybe. I mean, to do that well, you know. Of course, there are others that went, too, but I'm just talking about what I know. I mean, I may have missed some.

KIRCHGASSNER: There are some that went through college that aren't teachers. I mean like Mark Widolff has his degree.

HORNBAACH: And what's, your brother, Dan. Yeah, he's got a degree to teach.

KIRCHGASSNER: One thing I wanted to ask you, though, one thing I find interesting, I don't know. I don't know if your, grandmother - did any of them believe in the hexes? Do you remember any stories about them that you could share?

HORNBAACH: No.

KIRCHGASSNER: But, have you heard them talk about it?

HORNBAACH: Well, you heard them mention that, but I can't remember any specifics about it, see. But, like I say, "She was hexed," or something like that. And then they would see lights going out there, you know, or think there was ghosts or something like that. I think maybe they done it more to scare the kids than anything.

KIRCHGASSNER: One of those lights, one of those stories, they say, was when those beams of lights came, that it went to that Peg-leg Miller's grave and then they never saw it again. But, they want to know, do you have any idea why these German people from around here, who were so religious and such, believed in the hexes?

HORNBAACH: No. I think it was more, when I heard them mention it was more of a joke or something, I think.

KIRCHGASSNER: But at one time they say that some of them or that they thought that somebody was really hexed. But it was the older generations. Because my dad just rolls his eyes every time I even mention the word "hex." They just wondered if you had heard it. 'Cause I had interviewed Ted Schantz and he knew some of the stories but they were even beyond him. You know, his generation, that he would remember.

HORNBAACH: I've also got, on my mother's side some information. Can I?

KIRCHGASSNER: Yeah, because that's the information I want you to give about. We've got fifteen minutes left and I want to get this.

HORNBAACH: Oh my God. Joseph Ege, he ...

KIRCHGASSNER: Okay, you better spell Ege for me. E-G-E.

HORNBAACH: Yeah. E-G-E. He settled in Dearborn County in 1832 and later bought the property which is now owned by the family, the John Hornbach family. They built a house that was torn down. The house that stands there now was built around 1890. It's now owned by Dale Graff, a property of about fifty acres. But he had fifteen children and six of them lived in the Yorkville area and are buried in the cemetery here. And the, I can give you the names of them. And, then, Joseph Ege, he lived on this property up there. Then John Ege, that's my grandfather, he lived on it. Then, my mother, she was an Ege, John and Helen Ege Hornbach. They lived there from 1919 til 1979. And now we own it. It's

five generations that have lived on the properties. All from, back, as far as I can go is 1852.

KIRCHGASSNER: Ege, he's the one that married a Heimberger, right?

HORNBACH: Yeah, he married a Heimberger.

KIRCHGASSNER: He married a Rachel Heimberger? What was her name?

HORNBACH: I don't know. Wait a minute. [Walks away to get something]. He married a Marie Magdalene Heimberger.

KIRCHGASSNER: OK. I just wanted to make a point. The property that we're talking about, up the road there, the Heimberger's owned the property from 1833. That was part of their original ... She was one of the first ones to come over.

HORNBACH: Her mother was born in Alsace-Lorraine, France. I got some information. But, Joseph Ege, but he had, you'd be interested in this, John Ege, that was the property I was just telling about. Then Matilda Miller, her name was Ege, Matilda Ege Miller, she lives here in Yorkville and the property is now torn down. And then, Helen Ege, she was a Hornbach, she lived on the Dave [Garlan?] place. They didn't have any children, but Matilda Miller, she had eight children – Jerome and Fred and Morris and Edwin and Marie and George and one or two others.

KIRCHGASSNER: Now, these are children of Joseph and Mary.

HORNBACH: Yeah. These are the ones I've been telling you about. And then there was a Maryanne Ege. She married a [Salm?] and her husband died early. And then she lived up there with Dave Garden. They didn't have any children. Marie Josephine Ege, she married a Vogelsang. They had two children and I forget what their names are. All but they lived down there on the Vogelsang property. And then there was Rosita Ege Marmet. And they lived down there where Ralph Yeager lives and they had three children. Matilda and Charlie and another one I think. There was two of them, Matilda Miller and Charles Marmet down here. That's six of them. Well, five of them are buried here. My grandfather, John Ege. Now, John Ege, he had eight children, my mother, Norman, Joe, and Otto, [?], Lydia, and Anna, and Agnes. Agnes died about fourteen years old. And Anna died when she was an infant. But that's the Ege family that lived in this area.

KIRCHGASSNER: What did they do for a living?

HORNBACH: Well, they farmed. As far as I know they farmed. If they done anything else. Now, John Ege, now, like I say, Helen Ege ... They all farmed, really. Now what Marie Vogelsang done, I don't remember what she done.

KIRCHGASSNER: Didn't the Ege family, weren't they the ones that donate the Town Hall?

HORNBACH: Yes, they donated the lumber for it and helped build it, I believe.

KIRCHGASSNER: Didn't they donate the property?

HORNBACH: The Heimberger property was where the Town Hall was built.

KIRCHGASSNER: Do you remember the Town Hall?

HORNBACH: Yeah. It was a nice little place. We used to go in and play around it. I guess, I would say about 1924 or something like that it must have been torn down.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did they used to have political debates there, and?

HORNBACH: Well, I don't remember the debates but it seemed to me that we used to go in and play, try to play, like bowling, and stuff like that. They set pins up and we'd bowl. That was what the place was really built for, for the young people to have a place of entertainment, because there was nothing around. And they would give plays there and stuff like that. I think I can remember when they give a play or two in there. But there ain't much, it's just a little bit. It may have even been before that, maybe in '22 I can remember that when they hauled it away, you know, somebody bought it - it might have been before that, maybe around '22 that they.

KIRCHASSNER: Let's get back to the Russell Kiel property now.

HORNBACH: I guess maybe you are right. I guess maybe. I mean when that was torn down it was used as a recreation area for baseball and stuff like that. Now, that priest's garage, that was built later on, too, that wasn't built when the schoolhouse was. I can't remember when they built the church because I was born just a year before that. But I can remember my grandfather he was kinda

of an inspector of the building. He often told me, you know, you have seen the book that showed how many loads of stuff they hauled, and how much money they give and time they put in, and all that. He kept a record of that - the stuff that was there and stuff like that and all that stuff up to... He was kinda the overseer of the whole thing. I mean, that part of it.

KIRCHGASSNER: Do you have anything else for us? On anything.

HORNBAACH: Yeah. I would like to add something. Would you be interested in this water company?

KIRCHGASSNER: You know, I was thinking about when that happened.

HORNBAACH: Yeah, I got something here. I also got something about the insurance company. [Sound of papers rustling] Okay, 1957 it started out, this water company. Father Walsh<sup>17</sup> was, he started. In 1957 a meeting was held to investigate getting water in this area from the Sunman community to New Alsace and Yorkville, maybe to Guilford. After finding out from some information from the State, it was found out that there was not enough water available for that project, see. So, in 1961-'62 Father Walsh started again and got a different group of directors [lists Directors]. Pastor contacted Mr. Rudolph from the Town, the engineer from the Town of Greendale. He promised he would help get it started, then we could get plenty of water from Greendale. In 1962 to 1963, we got a lawyer and he drew up our by-laws and plan and then got us, with the engineers, and SEIC to plan the line. In 1963, we got a loan from the Federal Housing Association and started with our line, after getting members and easements for the right-of-way. And finally, by 1964 water was pumped into our lines and lines were installed for Mount Pleasant, Guilford, Yorkville, New Alsace, Weisburg, Lawrenceville, St. Peters, Penntown, and also up and down some of the roads. That was practically the whole of North Dearborn area. In 1973, with Dale Nowlin as president, James McManus treasurer, [other committee members listed], we got a grant and a loan that extend the line up Georgetown Ridge and up State Road 1 for a short way. And also St. Leon, Southgate and East Central High School area. We now have about eighty-six miles of line, 850 members. We started off with 285 members.

KIRCHGASSNER: That's still a lot. I mean, that's starting out big, really.

HORNBAACH: 285 and now we got up to 850 within a period of 18, 19 years. Our area has grown. We had to get more water from another area, from another water corporation in 1983 to keep us supplied with water. All this was done by, I

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<sup>17</sup> Father Charles F. Walsh b. 02 Sep 1895 d. 11 Jan 1981. (Dearborn County Obituaries, Lawrenceburg Public Library.)

mean, there was no money involved. Nobody got any money.

KIRCHGASSNER: You had a long hard battle on that, didn't you?

HORNBACH: Yeah that was a long... It was a big deal. At least at that time it was. Anymore now, after Father Walsh had planned, and showed how it was done, there's a lot of other companies come in and got information from him and that made it much easier. But this is one of the first ones. This was, I think the first one in this area that was installed.

KIRCHGASSNER: Yeah. He really had some foresight.

HORNBACH: Yeah. I think he done more for the community than anybody around. I mean, he also got this Blood Bank and there's other things that he was involved in. He was interested in getting the sewage system, but that didn't get done.

KIRCHGASSNER: No. Now, you had something on the insurance?

HORNBACH: Yeah. Well, that was, it might be. In 1977, the Mutual Insurance Company of Dearborn County<sup>18</sup> moved to Yorkville. This company was started on March the 15<sup>th</sup>, 1870 and records are in the office that prove that it was approved by farmers of area of Manchester, Weisburg, New Alsace, Yorkville, Dover, Lawrenceville, Wright's Corner, Moore's Hill and so forth, for the purpose of protecting members against fire damage to their property. At one time there were about five hundred members. At the present time, there are about three hundred members and it protects against fire, wind, theft, vandalism, and also liability. During the hundred and fourteen years, the company boasts of paying all the damages and have never had a lawsuit brought against them. Present officers James McManaman, president, Justin Murtaugh, vice-president, Martha Shaefer, treasurer, Floyd Hornbach, secretary, John C. Miller, adjuster. And I got the book in there, and I can show you the minutes of the first meeting in 1870.

KIRCHGASSNER: This is interesting.

HORNBACH: It is. I'll show them too you after a bit. It's really a ... And, no kidding, it's been in existence that long. 'Course, the way I got into it, my father-in-law, he taught me all about it. He was secretary for thirty years, I think. And my dad was adjuster for the company for a while and got involved. But, they're doing real good, I mean, the company is. Of course, we may not be able to give everything that some of these companies give, but we do give the

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<sup>18</sup> "Mutual Insurance Company Dearborn County Records and Minutes Volume Two: 1910-1983," Lawrenceburg Public Library.

principle things, fire, wind and that. That is the most important things. Yeah, it's a, it is a ... and right now, well, I mean, we got annual reports and stuff like that for the members. I could see them doing real good. In fact, we're giving them a ten per cent discount this time on their bills on account of this was a good year. If you invest good and we've have good income, not too many damages.

KIRCHGASSNER: Yeah. That always helps, too.

HORNBAACH: Yeah. But, I mean, it should be going to the members, the money should go back to the members. I think, some of the worst things that have happened my time around here. Well, one of them you mentioned was the fire. As far as the community was concerned, I mean, just the main thing - it was the fire at the priest's house and then the tearing down, I mean, the discontinuing of the St. Lawrence school. And the fire across the road right here which they thought the whole town was going to start.

KIRCHGASSNER: Now, tell me what year that was in.

HORNBAACH: That was in, on April 29, 1981. I mean, I'll never forget that day. Because we were roused about 1 o'clock in the morning. And the house was done through, I mean, burned up, in fact, not all together burned up. But, if we weren't aroused by some guy going through here at 1 o'clock in the morning, nobody would ever knew it. We woulda knew it a little bit longer, I mean, the houses were about ready to burn down. But the fire companies from Sunman and Guilford really helped. I mean, we saved 'em till it was just barely starting to burn before they got here. They got on the house and, well, after they got here it was simple. But, the trees were on fire and the winds were blowing down the road. I don't know if you remember that night. People were on top of the houses way down the road there. Said that leaves were flying down there, on fire. Boy, the wind was going in the right direction for a burn-out, I'll tell you. We were lucky, it was a lucky night. I mean, a lot of people.

KIRCHGASSNER: The whole town would have gone.

HORNBAACH: Yeah. Or if there wouldn't have had no fire companies, yeah.

KIRCHGASSNER: There wouldn't have been no way to stop it. Anything else that happened?

HORNBAACH: Well, I mean, when they discontinued he post office, you know, and stuff like that. I mean, that was kinda ...

KIRCHGASSNER: You have seen lots of changes in your lifetime.

HORNBACH: Well, I've seen a lot of, yeah! I mean, like your dad. We've seen from the time that they had airplanes started to fly, cars, practically no cars, at, when we were younger. Now, I remember riding in horse and buggy, going back and forth to see my grandparents, and stuff like that, you know. When we were younger, I mean, three, four years, five years old. We used to get wrapped up and get in the horse, in the buggy. And then you see, oh man, an awful lot of change since that time. The start of electricity, heat, inside plumbing, and then you got television, and jiminy, and then, boy.

KIRCHGASSNER: I think we have a couple of minutes left. I want to, I don't think we did this at the beginning. I want you to tell them when you were born. What was your birthday?

HORNBACH: I was born on February [tape ends before answer is completed]