

Interview with Theresa Kuntz Bachmeier (TB)

Conducted by Mary Ebach (ME)
December 2, 1999, Rugby, North Dakota
Transcription by Mary Ebach
Edited by Jay Gage and Lena Paris

- ME:** We're going to be taping here today. Today is December 2, 1999. My name is Mary Ebach, I'm a volunteer for the Germans from Russia heritage Collection in North Dakota State University Libraries in Fargo, ND. We are visiting with Theresa Kuntz Bachmeier in Rugby and thank you for taking the time Theresa. We will start off with you telling me your name.
- TB:** Theresa Kuntz Bachmeier.
- ME:** What is the date of your birth, and when you were born.
- TB:** I was born the April 10, 1909.
- ME:** 1909 and where were you born, Theresa?
- TB:** In Blumenfeld, around Orrin.
- ME:** What was your father's name?
- TB:** Engelbert.
- ME:** Engelbert?
- TB:** Kuntz.
- ME:** Where was he born?
- TB:** In Russia.
- ME:** Do you know the name of the town or village where he was born?
- TB:** Well he was born in Alsace. [Elsass, Kutchurgan District]
- ME:** They were Alsacers then?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** When did he die?
- TB:** He died on July 20. I don't remember anymore.
- ME:** Where did he die?
- TB:** At home.
- ME:** In Blumenfeld?

- TB:** In Blumenfeld, in the town of Orrin. He lived in Orrin and was craving for watermelon. The neighbor woman went to Rugby and brought him watermelon and before they went to bed, he craved watermelon. So they had lunched with watermelon and being tired went to bed. He put the blanket over and fell on the bed with one hand wanting to open his pants (bib overalls) and he was dead. That was a hard death.
- ME:** That fast?
- TB:** That fast, yes.
- ME:** Where is he buried?
- TB:** In Orrin.
- ME:** Let's go to your mother now. What was your mother's name?
- TB:** Elizabeth Duchscherer.
- ME:** Elizabeth Duchscherer. And what was her maiden name?
- TB:** Duchscherer.
- ME:** Her maiden name was Duchscherer?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Where was she born?
- TB:** In Mannheim.
- ME:** When did she die?
- TB:** She died in (pause while she gets her book with the information in it). Grandpa Kuntz died July 20, 1959.
- ME:** Your father?
- TB:** Yes, my dad died on July 20, 1959.
- ME:** July 20, 1959.
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** What about your mother?
- TB:** Grandma died November 23, 1969.
- ME:** And where is she buried?
- TB:** Next to dad.
- ME:** Do you know where and when your mother and dad were married?
- TB:** That I do not know, but I think it was in Mannheim.
- ME:** So they were married when they came to America?

- TB:** Yes, they already had the oldest son.
- ME:** They already had a child when they came.
- TB:** Yes, Sebastian.
- ME:** How many brothers and sisters do you have in your family?
- TB:** I have 6 brothers.
- ME:** And what are their names, who is the oldest?
- TB:** Sebastian, John, Julius, George, Mike and Frank.
- ME:** And then your sisters.
- TB:** I had four sisters, we were five girls and Dorothy.
- ME:** What is her last name now?
- TB:** Boehm.
- ME:** Boehm.
- TB:** She married...the first husband was Senger and he passed away with a heart attack. So she married John Boehm from Karlsruhe. After he passed away, she went back to Devils Lake again and is in the home now.
- ME:** She's older than you are then?
- TB:** Yes, two years older than myself. And then there's Frances, Mary and Rosina. Mary passed away two or three years ago.
- ME:** Who was Frances married to?
- TB:** She was married to a Steffan. And Rosina was married to John Brossart he passed away, so she's single now.
- ME:** So you still have two living sisters.
- TB:** Yes, two living sisters, three Dorothy is still alive.
- ME:** When did your parents come to America, do you know that?
- TB:** In 1901. They came and stayed in South Dakota for the winter and then they moved because the other brothers and sisters came from the old country. They came back to Blumenfeld and that's where they stayed till they passed away.
- ME:** Do you know where in South Dakota that they came to?
- TB:** They were in South Dakota with one of my dad's uncles. He took them in and didn't want them to leave South Dakota. But they wanted to go and join the other family members.
- ME:** Do you know when your folks came to this country, and the name of the ship they came on?

- TB:** That I don't remember.
- ME:** That's OK. And then did they homestead?
- TB:** Yes, they did. They homesteaded right away.
- ME:** And where was that again?
- TB:** It was Blumenfeld.
- ME:** In Blumenfeld?
- TB:** In McHenry County.
- ME:** Do you know anything about your grandparents or great-grand parents when they went from Germany to Russia to America?
- TB:** No, I don't.
- ME:** That goes back quite a ways.
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Do you remember family stories that your father or mother told about Alsace in Russia?
- TB:** Oh yes, they said many things sometimes, but you know it doesn't all fit together.
- ME:** Tell us a little bit about those that you remember.
- TB:** My dad said they had to do everything by hand.
- ME:** In Russia?
- TB:** In Russia, when it was threshing time, the grain was cut by hand.
- ME:** Sickle?
- TB:** Sickle, and then the rest of them had to go and put it in little piles to dry. And then those little piles would dry, they took them and put them into a fence they had made because it was a little higher than the bottom. The bottom was solid, and made the top with some slits so the grain fell down into that part and then those piles would dry and the grain was put in the fence. Then the horses were turned in and tramped all the seed out.
- ME:** And then the grain fell to the...
- TB:** Yes, the grain fell down into those slots.
- ME:** That was a hard way of doing it wasn't it?
- TB:** They knew how.
- ME:** Well sure.
- TB:** You know, I have to tell you a little story. There was a man who never farmed, but he had a hayrack with a box under it. He had the hayrack fixed with the boards spread apart so when he had the bundles put

on to where they had to haul them, he got on the hayrack and stepped out the grain. In the evening he drove home and emptied it, so he had some chicken feed and maybe a few bags for himself.

ME: Sure.

TB: That's what happened.

ME: Yes, it's almost like stealing isn't it?

TB: Yes, it was stealing, but he was watched. They always had to have supper at the house. So when they had supper, two men stayed out there, took what he had in the bottom; and he went home. But when he came home, he found out he didn't have what he wanted that day.

ME: I guess that shows you that stealing doesn't pay.

TB: No, that didn't pay.

ME: It did for once, but not the second time.

TB: Well, it did more than once. He did it before, and it happened again and again.

ME: Do you remember your folks talking about anything else that happened in Russia? Now that we've been talking about harvesting. Did they ever talk about church, government, army or anything like that?

TB: Not that I know. They had to walk to the church. They also had a few cows, and then there was always someone that would take the cows to the chutor (?), which was like a little village. All the cows were in the same place, and that person took them out into the country to herd. In the evening he brought them back to do the milking. The cows knew where they were supposed to go. They went to their home.

ME: I think there is something that kind of interests me, as to how did they decide to come to America? Do you know that?

TB: Yes, it was said they were talking about a war going on. My dad was drafted, and was a soldier in the old country. He was in the military for three years and walked home 49 miles. I don't know what they called them, madrosa (not sure of the spelling) in German, but that means the head one, higher than those when they got into the military. He was taken into the war as a soldier, and was a good dancer. So they played tunes for him and he had to dance the gosechuk (not sure of the spelling). You don't know anything about the gosechuk do you?

ME: Not by that name, but you tell me how they did the dance.

TB: You know they acted out the dance while they were dancing - jumped and stepped on both feet.

ME: Kicked their feet out?

TB: Yes, jumped, clapped and slapped their hands behind. I don't know if it was Mike Hager's wife who lives here in town, they put her in the hospital. He just loved seeing my dad doing that dance, if there was a wedding.

ME: So when he was a soldier he did this dance?

TB: Yes, he had to do this for the men. They paid him to do this.

- ME:** When he was in the army for three years, then did he leave Russia?
- TB:** Yes, he returned home; then another brother was drafted. My Uncle Sebastian was drafted after my dad. My grandpa lost his wife and remarried, and she had three or four boys, I'm not sure, and they went free. The Kuntz side had to go in the army, and that's why they left Russia.
- ME:** When your dad came over did your grandma and grandpa come too?
- TB:** Yes, my dad's side and my mother's side both came.
- ME:** You said when your grandpa remarried, do you remember that woman's name?
- TB:** Yes, I remember her. Well, she wrote her name Kuntz when she married my grandpa, but she was married before to a Giesinger. My grandpa Kuntz got married to her, but she brought those boys to the Kuntz home. The Kuntz boys had to go into the army, the Giesinger's did not.
- ME:** Do you know what the names of those Giesinger's were?
- TB:** Yes, there was a Jacob, a Bruno and there was a Joe or John. He was in Canada.
- ME:** I see, well, that's all really interesting. It's good that you can still remember. You've got such a good memory, Theresa. It's good that you can tell us all about those things.
- TB:** Yes, the more we get into it, I believe that one's name was Joseph.
- ME:** The Jacob Giesinger who lived here...
- TB:** That was my dad's step-son, and they were good friends. When there was anything going on, Jacob Giesinger came to us. They hired my brother to work for them and were close friends.
- ME:** Do you ever remember your folks saying that they would like to go back to the old country?
- TB:** They talked a lot about it being better there in some ways.
- ME:** In Russia?
- TB:** In Russia, but they didn't like the idea of what was going on and what had happened there.
- ME:** Did your parents get letters from some people?
- TB:** Yes they did. Well, you know, the family that stayed there had another sister that was still there, they wrote letters back and forth.
- ME:** Do you have those letters?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** Do you know who might have those letters?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** They probably didn't save them.
- TB:** No they didn't. There was nobody in the family that could read German.

- ME:** Was it German or Russian that they wrote?
- TB:** German I think, but maybe that one was a Russian one.
- ME:** Did your folks ever talk Russian?
- TB:** Oh yes.
- ME:** They did?
- TB:** Yes, they could rattle it just like you and I rattle our English. They talked Russian in their home. My dad said all my folks talked Russian. I've got an aunt in Canada who was full-blooded Russian when she talked.
- ME:** Did you learn to speak Russian?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** When they spoke Russian, when did they learn to speak German?
- TB:** They had German before they...
- ME:** They spoke both German and Russian.
- TB:** They knew the German before the Russian. They grew up German, but the friends around them were all Russian, and that's how come they spoke both.
- ME:** So you never learned to speak Russian, didn't even understand one word of it?
- TB:** "Dobravetcha" (not sure of the spelling) that means hello.
- ME:** Ma never knew one word of Russian.
- TB:** Yes, praying. My uncle Sebastian and my dad while visiting one another, being just a mile apart, (talked gibberish), what it was we don't know.
- ME:** Did you speak German at home with your children?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Did your children learn to speak German?
- TB:** Most of them. They knew how to speak it and could understand it.
- ME:** They could understand you?
- TB:** Yes and they still do. They can talk it, if they want to.
- ME:** What about your grandchildren, children's children now, do any of them speak German?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** Not even a prayer or a swear word....? The next thing that we talked a little bit about what were some of the chores that you had to do when you were at home?

- TB:** Milk, rake the yard, get the kindling wood, and pick everything up that burned in the coal stove.
- ME:** Clean the house?
- TB:** Clean the house, yes.
- ME:** Help cook?
- TB:** Whatever there was that I could do...including carry water.
- ME:** What did you like to do best?
- TB:** What had to be done. I had to wipe the dishes and sweep the floor. My other sister washed the dishes and cleaned the table. Then we carried the water in for the night and next morning. If there was washing, we had to carry all the water in as well.
- ME:** When you were a bad girl, now it never happened, and your brother was a bad boy, did they scold you different than your brother?
- TB:** No, we got in fights, not many times.
- ME:** I know you weren't a bad girl. Where did you go to school?
- TB:** It was a mile and a half from our home.
- ME:** Was it a country school?
- TB:** Country school.
- ME:** How many years did you go to school there?
- TB:** Well; I was in the eighth grade.
- ME:** You went to the eighth grade?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Did you go to school all year, while school was in session or did you have to stay home sometimes and help?
- TB:** The last time, when I was in the eighth grade, I had to go to Anamoose, ND, where I was a cook. I had to get breakfast, dinner and supper. We had a great big new house, which had 49 windows.
- ME:** Where you lived?
- TB:** In Anamoose and (I can't understand that word) in the basement which we had at home. I had to cook for two boys.
- ME:** So that wasn't your home, that's where you went to work?
- TB:** That's where I went to work. My dad had rented the place; so it was mostly half of the summer that we were in Anamoose. It was about 20 miles from our home. It took time going back and forth with the horses. At that time we didn't have a car. Then my brother gave me 25 cents, and I had to walk to Anamoose and get a ring of sausage.

- ME:** How far did you have to walk?
- TB:** A mile; and then when I walked home the neighbor's man, I kinda knew him, had an old car without a top picked me up and dropped me off, because the road was just a little ways from the house.
- ME:** Then you worked there, while you went to school.
- TB:** No, I had to quit school when I was in the eighth grade.
- ME:** When you went to school, were the rest of the kids that went there all German or were there some...
- TB:** They were all German.
- ME:** They were all German.
- TB:** All German.
- ME:** What kind of games did you play when you went to school?
- TB:** Anti-high over, tag, and drop the handkerchief. (laughing)
- ME:** When you went to school, how did you get there? Did you walk or did you drive?
- TB:** We walked most of the time. In the winter, they hauled us with the sled.
- ME:** How far was it from your home?
- TB:** About a mile and a half.
- ME:** The teacher that you had, was that a man or a woman?
- TB:** It was a woman in the first place I went. Then we had an old woman, who was a nice woman and heavy set. I still remember her.
- ME:** Now you're a Catholic; and your parents and grandparents were they all Catholic, going back as far as?
- TB:** All.
- ME:** Do you remember anything about your religion like church feast day, and can you tell us a little bit about that?
- TB:** Yes, I remember that. We had to stay home from school and had to go to the religious school in April. We always had two months of religious school.
- ME:** Was that taught by the nuns?
- TB:** No, it was taught by a man, but he was...
- ME:** When you were little, he was old.
- TB:** Yes, their oldest son was as old as I was, that's how I knew them. It was Lena Heintz.
- ME:** Uh huh.
- TB:** That was her dad.

ME: Her dad taught you.

TB: ...taught yes.

ME: Then they taught you your prayers and ...

TB: Prayers and went to Holy Communion, Confirmed and Confirmation.

ME: When you went to church were all your prayers Latin or German?

TB: No, they were German.

ME: The Mass was in German?

TB: Everything was still in German, when I left Blumenfeld.

ME: What was the name of the priest that was there mostly?

TB: I think it was Father Miller, I'm not so sure about that.

ME: When were you baptized or confirmed? I know you don't remember when or where you were baptized.

TB: In Blumenfeld.

ME: In Blumenfeld. Who were your sponsors, your godfather and godmother?

TB: My sponsors were my aunt Josephine Kuntz and uncle Frank Joseph Duchscherer.

ME: Did you get a certificate when you made your First Communion or Confirmed?

TB: Not at that time.

ME: Were your parents or grandparents there to help when the church was started? Were they there when they built the church?

TB: Yes, when our church was built in 1906, I'll never forget in my whole life, because it was put on a foundation.

ME: Which church was that?

TB: Blumenfeld.

ME: What was the name of it?

TB: It was known as the Blumenfeld church.

ME: Was it in the country?

TB: Yes, a country church.

ME: Your parents and grandparents helped build it?

TB: Yes.

ME: What did your dad do to help build it?

- TB:** I suppose what he could.
- ME:** Did he bring horses in?
- TB:** That I couldn't say. Well, they didn't dig a foundation at that time, but they had (can't understand the word) that was the last time I saw the country church. Then they moved the country church to my grandpa's land that he had homesteaded when he come to the Blumenfeld country. They moved it across the lake; and it just about fell down, as there were so many people against the moving part; but they finally got over it.
- ME:** Why did they move it?
- TB:** Well, they had it long enough in that area; and there was hardly anybody left there, so they moved it further in as not very many had cars. But then there was a split, when some of them were mad and went to Orrin; and some of them stayed.
- ME:** Is that church still there?
- TB:** I think it burned down not too long ago.
- ME:** Do you remember, when you went to a funeral, what some of the songs were they sang?
- TB:** No, about the same as here.
- ME:** Do you know anything about the iron crosses in the cemeteries?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Did your relatives help make any cross?
- TB:** My grandma and this Paul had iron crosses in the cemetery.
- ME:** Who made them?
- TB:** They were made in Orrin; I think it was a Kessler, I'm not too sure.
- ME:** Do you remember any of your relatives, whether they had to make a coffin or were they all bought?
- TB:** They were all bought.
- ME:** You don't remember anybody having made a coffin? Now we are getting into Christmas. How was Christmas celebrated in your home, when you were home with your parents?
- TB:** There was a Christkindel, and no Santa Claus. The Christkindel came in the house with a rod and branch.
- ME:** The Christkindel?
- TB:** The Christkindel, and with the rod you received a few slaps on the back.
- ME:** Why?
- TB:** Well if you was mean..
- ME:** If you were bad...

- TB:** If you were bad.
- ME:** The Christkindel, wasn't that a good one that brought you candy or presents?
- TB:** Yes, but you know the Christkindel had to say "Where are the bad girls and boys that didn't listen to their father and mother." That's what the words were.
- ME:** When did you get your present and candy?
- TB:** Well, they put it on the floor and when you went to get it, they were going to slap their fingers, but you got it.
- ME:** What do you know about the Belzenickel?
- TB:** Not much of that, there was no Belzenickel.
- ME:** What do you remember about Easter? How did you get ready for Easter?
- TB:** As far as I know, we had a little path across from the house, where we went to school, that's where the Easter rabbit laid our eggs.
- ME:** Were they colored eggs?
- TB:** Yes, they were colored eggs.
- ME:** Did you also have candy too?
- TB:** Yes, colored candy, those long ones...
- ME:** What about Holy Week, when did you go to Stations of the Cross?
- TB:** Yes, we went to Stations of the Cross.
- ME:** When you were still home, did you go to church on Good Friday and Holy Thursday?
- TB:** Yes we did. If there was snow we had little overshoes on; when the snow got deeper, we stepped into the snow with the overshoes.
- ME:** And then you went to church on Good Friday in the afternoon.
- TB:** I don't remember anymore, but I think it was in the morning.
- ME:** What about Easter Sunday, did you get all dressed up in new clothes?
- TB:** Oh yes, what do you think....
- ME:** You wore hats and nice dresses.
- TB:** We had everything nice, good, and the best.
- ME:** Was always first...
- TB:** And when we got home, we had to take them off; and put other clothes on.
- ME:** When you was married, did it take place in church?

- TB:** Yes, in Orrin.
- ME:** Then after you got married, did you have a meal or did you start in dancing right away?
- TB:** No, we had a meal.
- ME:** And then you started dancing?
- TB:** No, in the evening we went to Fulda, and there was dancing and a supper.
- ME:** And the supper?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** How many days did that go on?
- TB:** Two full days.
- ME:** Did they sing any German songs?
- TB:** Yes, they did.
- ME:** Do you remember any songs they sang?
- TB:** No, I don't remember any songs but Peter Bischoff, old Tony and Adolph Goerger (?) played at the wedding.
- ME:** Accordion?
- TB:** Accordion and fiddle the "geich".
- ME:** Do you remember what kind of meals you had, and what did you have to eat at the wedding? was it just roast beef or chicken or...
- TB:** I think it was chicken for dinner at my folks' house, and the supper was at Bachmeier's.
- ME:** Did they have schnapps?
- TB:** Oh yes, and beer.
- ME:** Was the beer home-brewed?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** What kind of wedding gown did you have? Was it a long white one or a dress?
- TB:** It was a light lavender one.
- ME:** A dress?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** That was your wedding dress.
- TB:** Yes.

ME: Do you know anything about a liebsband sash?

TB: A what?

ME: Liebsband sash, that I don't know either...

TB: No.

ME: How many bridesmaids did you have?

TB: There were two.

ME: Did you have a flower girl?

TB: No.

ME: Did they take pictures, when you was married? Do you have a wedding picture of yourself?

TB: Yes, I had one.

ME: Who took the picture?

TB: Hanson's in town here.

ME: Where did you meet your husband?

TB: At my brother's wedding in Fulda.

ME: So it wasn't arranged by your folks?

TB: No.

ME: It was something that just happened. What kind of music did you play in your home when you were home with your folks?

TB: We had a phonograph at home; and my brother could play the mouth organ, which he did for hours.

ME: Did anybody play the accordion, clarinet or anything else?

TB: No.

ME: Did you sing?

TB: Yes, we sang.

ME: Can you sing any songs now?

TB: No.

ME: Oh just one.

TB: That's gone.

ME: Just one.

- TB:** No, I cannot do that. We had to sing for old man Lacher or was it Lena Heintz' dad who thought I was a good singer.
- ME:** That's why you should sing now.
- TB:** I forgot all about that. There wasn't always singing time.
- ME:** Where did you go when you went to parties or dances? Did you go to town or somebody's farm?
- TB:** Yes, we had an old place where my uncle lived, there was dancing on Sunday evening, but only till 12 o'clock when we all had to go home.
- ME:** Sure.
- TB:** My sister had a birthday and they had a dance in our summer kitchen. That was a full one.
- ME:** When you got sick, cut yourself or burned yourself, what kind of medicine did they use do you remember? Did your grandma mix up some medicine or?
- TB:** They did what they could, what they knew to put on tied it up and put on some salt.
- ME:** Salt?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** What did they use salt for, when you cut or burned yourself?
- TB:** To quit bleeding.
- ME:** Did they use Camilla tea for anything?
- TB:** Yes, when you had a swollen foot or hurt somewhere they made camilla tea.
- ME:** And they used that too.
- TB:** And you know what the...

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Side Two – Part I

- ME:** We were talking about the white linament, what did you do with that?
- TB:** If there was something swollen or hurting, and to this day I'm using it.
- ME:** And where did you get the white linament?
- TB:** From this lady up here..
- ME:** Was it Watkins?
- TB:** Yes, Watkins; I got a bottle of it now.

- ME:** Then did your mother ever give you, if you had an upset stomach, some sugar with a little bit of peppermint in it?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** You didn't do that.
- TB:** She never found out, when we had a stomach ache.
- ME:** When you had babies, was there women that came over to help you? Were any of your children born at home or were they born in the hospital?
- TB:** Two of them were born at home.
- ME:** The lady that came over to help you, what was her name?
- TB:** Margaret Jundt.
- ME:** Did your parents ever get any German newspapers?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** They didn't.
- TB:** They couldn't read German.
- ME:** Your folks couldn't?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** Did you get like the North Dakota Herald?
- TB:** No, I didn't get it.
- ME:** Ok.
- TB:** Not German.
- ME:** Do you remember when your family first got electricity and the telephone?
- TB:** No, I do not remember; but they had the telephone, when I was married.
- ME:** What were some of your favorite radio programs that you listened to?
- TB:** I don't remember anymore.
- ME:** When you first saw television, and saw Lawrence Welk, for example, was that pretty exciting for you?
- TB:** That was exciting for me, and was always tuned in. But my dad was interested in the early morning radio.
- ME:** There is one thing that I want to ask, before we get too far away here. You had a relative that built a radio and an airplane. Tell us what his name is and what he did?
- TB:** Matt Duchscherer, not Tuchscherer.

- ME:** How is he related to you? Is he your uncle?
- TB:** His dad was a brother to my grandpa.
- ME:** To your grandpa. Tell us about this radio and airplane, because I think this is really worth talking about.
- TB:** He came and hired me. The first thing you know, he went and got a piece of wood and started cutting out a radio and by morning it was talking.
- ME:** He built that all by himself?
- TB:** He built that all by himself, by bending a little wire he put on himself. But when he made the airplane I wasn't there, so I don't know about that.
- ME:** But you said it flew.
- TB:** But it flew went up and fell down on the wagon box.
- ME:** But he did get it up in the air?
- TB:** He got it up in the air, yes.
- ME:** And he built all that from scratch?
- TB:** All by himself, and that was Matt Duchscherer. His mother couldn't believe that he had all this knowledge in his head.
- ME:** We had some pretty smart relatives, didn't we?
- TB:** We sure did. He was one, and explained it to me.
- ME:** For the radio?
- TB:** For the airplane, as well, he said, "Watch those clouds take the electricity from the sky, that's where it comes from as he explained it." I don't remember everything anymore.
- ME:** Of course not, because he was interested in it.
- TB:** Yes, he worked with the priest; and they had built the new church in Karlsruhe. They did the entire church, including the electricity. The priest had the key.
- ME:** But you were there when he built the radio, weren't you?
- TB:** I was there, and saw it myself. I was going to go to bed; but he didn't want me to, because he said, "It's going to play."
- ME:** What do you remember about the German foods that your mother or grandmother made?
- TB:** Everything that was good.
- ME:** Now you still make them, I know you do.
- TB:** Kuchen, blachenda, bean soup, baked bread with loaves this high. Potatoes and knipfla, borscht, holupsi and lots of them.

- ME:** So you learned to make all this from your mother?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Now, do you still make all of those things?
- TB:** I used to make them all.
- ME:** Did you teach your children how to make them?
- TB:** Yes, some of them know; and some of them weren't very interested, so they have to ask each other now.
- ME:** You said your mother taught you how to make kase kuchen, when she said.....
- TB:** It was kuchen - and we was making the topping. My sister was going to beat the eggs and mother said we were "essel" (dummies).
- ME:** Why did she say that?
- TB:** Because we didn't know how. The egg yolk makes the thickening by mixing it with a fork.
- ME:** Instead of mixing it, why is that better than beating it?
- TB:** Because beating the eggs makes it watery, I found that out.
- ME:** And your mother already knew that, so she was going to tell you.
- TB:** My mother already knew that.
- ME:** Now you were "essel?"
- TB:** Now we were "essel."
- ME:** When your daughters make all these things, do they turn out pretty good: the way you made them?
- TB:** Oh yes, they had to make them a few times; but they learned. Some of them make good kuchen.
- ME:** That's good. It's good they learned how, and that their husbands and their children like it.
- TB:** They all like kuchen. I heard somebody from Selz say they ate some of Theresa's kuchen.
- ME:** That's pretty darn good that they can make it similar to what you made. Did your mother crochet or knit?
- TB:** My mother knit, crocheted and sewed. She was a good seamstress.
- ME:** Did she knit clothes for you or was it just...
- TB:** She didn't knit clothes; but she could knit anything she wanted and crocheted without a pattern, which she did in the old country. I cannot understand how she could do that. We had a sewing machine; and she made a big part of it. The opening was about so wide (she shows with her hands) and was made with flowers on it. It was so pretty, and for years we had it, and she didn't have a pattern.
- ME:** You crochet and don't use a pattern.

- TB:** No, I can take it off by counting every stitch; and that's what does it; and it's what she remembered.
- ME:** Now, when you were a child you said your mother sewed. Did she take the older girls' dresses and make them over for the younger girls?
- TB:** Sometimes.
- ME:** Or did you all have your own?
- TB:** We had our own. I couldn't wear my sister's dresses, because I was smaller: and I was the smallest in the bunch.
- ME:** Did you do any sewing yourself?
- TB:** Oh yes, I sewed everything for the children. Sometimes I would sew until 4 o'clock in the morning.
- ME:** We didn't talk very much about your mother. We did talk about your dad and his family. What was your mother's maiden name?
- TB:** My mother's mother Theresa.
- ME:** It would be your grandmother that we talked about. You said she was Italian?
- TB:** Italian.
- ME:** What was her name? You said her maiden name was Theresa Miller.
- TB:** No, that (pointing to a picture) was Theresa Miller.
- ME:** And that was your grandmother?
- TB:** That was my grandma, and I don't remember her mother's name. My mother said you couldn't talk with her.
- ME:** Why?
- TB:** She said she couldn't understand her Italian language. I remember Grandma Bachmeier said, "You know she was in Harvey at the home, where they had Italian nurses and nuns." She said, all you could hear was (cackling sounds), and she understand nothing."
- ME:** I thank you, Theresa, for taking the time to talk about this. It's always interesting for me to listen to and it's important that it be kept up. Maybe your children don't think about making a tape of you. Your grandchildren someday are going to say, "I wish we had talked to grandma about this." So what we are doing today is really very important, because I can't ask my mother or grandmother anymore. I'm sure they would have had some good stories to tell, because life wasn't always hard; it was fun too.
- TB:** Yes, they had their fun days.
- ME:** Sure we need to know. I'd like to ask my grandma some things, and I can't. But now your grandchildren have it.
- TB:** I remember your grandma.
- ME:** See, I don't.

- TB:** I remember your grandma, how we carried up the supper or dinner to my grandma. To this grandma (pointing to picture) she was in bed. It was carried in a little blue kettle.
- ME:** Do you remember what my grandma cooked or weren't you around that much?
- TB:** No, I wasn't there.
- ME:** What can you tell me about my grandma that you....
- TB:** What I remember from your grandma (basel Marion): they made those good doughnuts, the kind with raised dough.
- ME:** Was it bread dough?
- TB:** It wasn't like bread dough, but something like it. It was different, as they used eggs and lard in the dough. I don't know if they put lemon in the dough. I'm not sure about what they put in. But oh, were they good!
- ME:** Did grandma visit very much?
- TB:** Oh yes, she knew a lot. Sometimes your grandma spent a whole week at our place.
- ME:** She had a few relatives. By the time you get all the Duchscherers and Tuchscherers together.
- TB:** I suppose, she didn't like it very much in some places. They didn't have very much company. I don't know what it was, or didn't have enough room. Anyway, she and my mother always slept together.
- ME:** Well grandma was a little person too; wasn't she?
- TB:** Oh yes and heavy. Well, you can't say she was that heavy; but she was stooped over because of her back.
- ME:** You said she was bent over from working so hard?
- TB:** You know what she did. She carried water on both shoulders using two wooden pails.
- ME:** Do you know of anything else that you would like to talk about that you want to be remembered by. We talked about so much already haven't we?
- TB:** No, I think we have it all done.
- ME:** I thank you; and I know it's time for your lunch, so I'd better let you go. Thank you again.
- TB:** I got some coffee now.

END OF TRANSCRIPT PART 1

- TB:** First it was a mile and a half, which we had to walk morning and evening. Then it was a little bit more, when the school was moved.
- ME:** Were these country schools?

- TB:** Country schools.
- ME:** And that's down by Orrin, where you went.
- TB:** No, it was west of where we moved. Orrin was seven miles east of us.
- ME:** How many years did you go to school?
- TB:** That was a long time. I did go through the eighth grade.
- ME:** Did you. Well that's very good. Were there times when you had to stay home from school and help with the work, I mean like harvesting or...
- TB:** Not very often. Towards the end I had to stay home because my dad had rented land near Anamoose and that was about 20 miles from our home. And I had to go there and prepare breakfast, dinner and supper. Imagine, out of school I went there. (She takes a break here while she gets her bread into the oven).
- ME:** Sorry Theresa, we had to take a little break here to get the bread in the oven. When you went to school, were there other nationalities there, like Norwegians?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** Were they all German in your school?
- TB:** All German Catholic people.
- ME:** They were all Catholic people then.
- TB:** And there were just one, two, three, four, five families. Some had two, some had three, some had four children.
- ME:** Do you remember anything funny or good that happened when you were going to school? Did the teacher stay at the school or did she stay at your place?
- TB:** She stayed at our place one year, but then I didn't go. She boarded at our house, because she knew my folks. She was from Towner and was a Selzler. When my dad come from the old country, he boarded with those people. They didn't have a family yet; and he boarded there and worked on the section, (the railroad) over the winter. He walked back and forth from our place, can you imagine.
- ME:** That's a long way. When you went to school did you walk to school or did your dad take you? Mostly walked, but in the winter we were hauled to school by the oldest boy who drove the horses.
- ME:** So when you didn't walk, you used the horses. Was this on a wagon or sleigh?
- TB:** No, it was on a sled.
- ME:** Do you remember when somebody misbehaved in school, what did the teacher do?
- TB:** Sometimes had to stay after school.
- ME:** Let's talk about your religion. You are Catholic, you are right. Did you have catechism in the summertime?

- TB:** Yes, we had two months of Catholic catechism.
- ME:** Two months?
- TB:** It started in April, and in June we had our First Holy Communion.
- ME:** Was that taught by the priest or by nuns?
- TB:** No, it was a man. It was Lena Heintz's father who was the teacher, who had an Uncle, Michael, with a stick and line in front of it, and he gave it to the boys.
- ME:** That's too hard isn't it?
- TB:** That was so dumb.
- ME:** Yes, that was too hard. The language in the church, was that in German or Latin?
- TB:** It was Latin and German. They preached in German.
- ME:** Were your parents still living, when the Mass went from Latin to English?
- TB:** My folks weren't living then.
- ME:** When you were baptized, who were your sponsors?
- TB:** My sponsor was my dad's sister-in-law.
- ME:** What was her name?
- TB:** Josephine Kuntz and my sponsor was Uncle Jack Duchscherer.
- ME:** Where were you baptized?
- TB:** In Blumenfeld.
- ME:** In Blumenfeld. When were you confirmed?
- TB:** I was confirmed in Orrin, and that had a new church with no chairs. It was not finished and a lot of people brought their own chairs or folding chairs. The younger generation all had to stand.
- ME:** What was the name of that church?
- TB:** That I couldn't tell you, but it was the Orrin...But you know lightening struck it and burned the new church that was built a little bit east of the elevator.
- ME:** Do you remember any church celebrations like the feast day of the church, cheich vi fest?
- TB:** Yes, I remember.
- ME:** Tell us about some of them that you can remember.
- TB:** All I can remember about cheich vi fesht, my folks got company from Fundal (Fulda), like Giesinger's who always come down. This Mr. Giesinger's mother was staying with the Giesinger family. She was my dad's second mother.

- ME:** This Giesinger that you're talking about, Theresa, is that Jacob Giesinger?
- TB:** Yes, they had grandma Kuntz staying with them. That was his mother, who married my grandfather. (There is a break here while she puts some bread in the oven to bake).
- ME:** Sorry about the break. We finally got the bread in the oven. Theresa's baking bread and does it smell good. We were talking about your church celebrations. When they celebrated the feast day of the church was the bishop there or other priests from around or....
- TB:** Yes, sometimes they were. For confirmation, the bishop was there.
- ME:** Who was the bishop when you were confirmed?
- TB:** Bishop Ryan.
- ME:** Did your parents or grandparents help build a church or was it already built when they got there?
- TB:** No, they helped build it.
- ME:** They helped build it. Do you remember what they did, when they helped build it?
- TB:** That I don't know, as I was married at the time. They moved the church to another location west of there. There were some people that had cars. They could also come to church with horses and sled or buggy.
- ME:** Do you remember what songs they sang at a funeral?
- TB:** I don't remember any more. They always sang in German.
- ME:** I'm trying to remember the name of that song Ma said they used to sing. It was this long, and sung at the cemetery.
- TB:** My two uncles were still single. I remember them; they were not young. There was one that was younger, but he died before and never had married. He was about 17 or 18 years old when he died. He got wet in the fall and then got real sick (he got pneumonia). That I remember as well as today, because he walked across the road to our place and my mother had to give him a hot bath. (In German © she made hot water and put the wash tub in front of the bed and then he had to undress and put his feet in the hot water and covered his head which made him sweat).
- ME:** When you don't have doctors like we do now, they did the best they knew how.
- TB:** (In German) - Grandma was sick, then Paul died. He died in November, and grandma died after New Year's in 1915.
- ME:** Do you know about the wrought iron crosses at the cemetery? Do you know anybody around there that used to make them?
- TB:** I think I did at one time, but I don't remember any more.
- ME:** How was Christmas celebrated in your family, when you was young? When you was still at home.
- TB:** We were told Christkindel is coming, and she came in with the rod. We had a door that went through the bedroom on the north side of the house and come out from the kitchen, and I went out there.

(Tape ended - Begin new tape)

ME: What did you do, when you was Christkindel?

TB: What was I supposed to say, Christkindel had a "rod" for the bad girls and boys who didn't listen got a "rod".

ME: You were tough.

TB: Tough.

ME: Do you know about the belzenickel?

TB: Well, that was mostly the belzenickel.

ME: The Christkindel gave presents and candy?

TB: Yes, they did. There were pails behind them with stuff in them, and they gave it all to Christkindel. It was set in front of them, and they had to get it.

ME: Were they dressed up?

TB: The children?

ME: The Christkindel.

TB: Yes, they wore a long dress, and didn't know me. That only happened once.

ME: Did you have Christmas presents that you...

TB: Yes.

ME: What about Easter, and what did you do for Easter?

TB: My dad had everything arranged by the time we got up. You know we had a little path from the house by the garden fence, when we went to school. There were the Easter eggs. The Easter rabbit knew where to jump.

ME: Did you go to church much during Easter?

TB: Only when there was no presiding priest (on that particular Sunday), because Orrin had the resident priest. Then we had him one Sunday, and they had the next Sunday. Know what I mean now?

(rotating schedule was used)

ME: They took turns. When you got married, where did you get married?

TB: In Orrin.

ME: What year was that?

TB: I can't remember now.

ME: Where did you get married?

- TB:** In Orrin.
- ME:** In Orrin. When you were married did they celebrate for one or three days.
- TB:** When I was married we celebrated two days. The first day, we had dinner at my folk's.
- ME:** You were married in the morning.
- TB:** Yes, and in the evening we went to my husband's folks and there was a dance with music by Pete Bischoff and old man Tony Adolph Goerger(?)
- ME:** Gallagher?
- TB:** Adolph Goerger.
- ME:** Adolph Goerger?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** And they furnished the music for you.
- TB:** Yes, and also the next day.
- ME:** Did you dance all night?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** Did you have a wedding dress?
- TB:** It was a lavender wedding dress.
- ME:** How many bridesmaids did you have?
- TB:** Just the two.
- ME:** Just two. Did you have a flower girl?
- TB:** No, no flowers at that time.
- ME:** Did they have any dances for the bride and groom for money?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** They didn't do that. Did the people that were at your wedding do any singing of German songs?
- TB:** They sang, but I don't remember the kind of songs.
- ME:** I think Germans just like to sing, Theresa, don't they?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Do you remember when you were married and had a meal, what was served?
- TB:** I don't remember anymore.
- ME:** Did they have any schnapps?

- TB:** Yes, beer and schnapps which was home-brewed beer.
- ME:** Home-brewed beer. Who made the beer?
- TB:** My folks and his folks.
- ME:** When they cooked for your wedding dinner, who made the food was it your neighbors or your family?
- TB:** Well it was my sister-in-law, that was the cook; Julius' wife and Dorothy helped.
- ME:** Was there a photographer there that took pictures at your wedding?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** Where did you meet your husband?
- TB:** I met him several times. The first time I saw him was when Julius and Mary were married, but then I didn't know him.
- ME:** Was this arranged by your family or did you just meet him?
- TB:** No, I just met him. It was at Haman's place and my husband's folks were there too. They were invited to Julius' wedding.
- ME:** Theresa, we are going to continue with where we left off the other day. Sorry about the interruption. You have a relative that didn't come to America, who was that?
- TB:** A Meier, he was married to my dad's sister Frances.
- ME:** Was that your dad's older or younger sister?
- TB:** Younger.
- ME:** Is she the only one in the family that didn't come to America?
- TB:** No, Mrs. Roos was older than she.
- ME:** Do you know why they didn't come to America?
- TB:** They couldn't afford it and didn't believe they had anything, when they come over here; they would be so poor and couldn't make it here.
- ME:** Do you know if any of your ancestors came from Germany?
- TB:** No, that I don't know.
- ME:** Do you remember any stories that maybe your father or your grandfather told about living in Russia?
- TB:** They said many times, it was good living in Russia. They had their friends like we have here. But they didn't have anything to get to the border, and couldn't afford to get ahead.
- ME:** Do you ever remember any stories about any farming they did or what their home was like?

- TB:** The farming I told you, they had to cut the hay and crop with the sickle. Then the children had to put it in little piles so it dried out and when it was dry, they had to pick it up and put it into a fence. When it was real dry, they turned the horses in and they had them thresh it by stepping it all down.
- ME:** That's for threshing, now for the grain.
- TB:** That was made a little higher so the wheat fell to the bottom. There were little grooves so the wheat fell down and wasn't stepped on.
- ME:** Sounds like they were pretty smart.
- TB:** They were not the dumbest people. They knew how to do it; so that's the way they made the hay in the fields and done it like we would here. They cut the hay with the sickle and put it together with the rake in piles. When those little piles were dried they hauled them home and put it in big piles, just like we did here.
- ME:** Did you ever help with any of that?
- TB:** I helped at home and raked a lot of the hay. The first pile I made I thought that should be nice by stepping the hay down so it settled, and then I asked my dad if my stack was nice. He said, "just like a cuckoo's nest." I still remember those words when he said, "It looks like a cuckoo's nest."
- ME:** When you did all of this farm work, you were also in the house helping your mother.
- TB:** Yes, lots of times.
- ME:** Do you remember some of the things that your mother made when they were out haying or doing the harvesting? What type of meals did your mother cook?
- TB:** She baked bread, cinnamon rolls, and sometimes kuchen.
- ME:** Kas knipfla?
- TB:** When we worked far away, there was no way she could bring out the food as we had to go about five miles to put up hay, then we wouldn't be home for dinner.
- ME:** So you must have had a lot of horses then?
- TB:** Well there was 6, 8 or 10 horses, and then the cows they milked.
- ME:** Did you milk a lot of cows?
- TB:** Twenty-four I remember, because I had to milk them by myself one morning, when my brother was working on the threshing rig. He was called home, his wife having given birth to a baby. Then my mother fell and hurt herself by the well, and my older sister was in Devils Lake at my brother's place. So I was the only milker at home. I milked those twenty-four cows that morning and made chicken soup.
- ME:** The same day?
- TB:** That same day, it was no fun (spass).
- ME:** I'll bet your arms were tired.

- TB:** You know we were used to it, but twenty-four cows had to be milked.
- ME:** Do you remember if these cows were Hereford's?
- TB:** They were just Herefords.
- ME:** You were all raised Catholic, right?
- TB:** All were, yes.
- ME:** What are some of the things that happened in church - like church feast day celebration?
- TB:** The cheich avei fest was really nice that I know. And we always got company. We did not have an eating place in our church at that time, as long as I was home. This grandma Giesinger was our grandma until she died, because my grandpa married her the second time after his wife died.
- ME:** Who was that Mrs. Giesinger married to?
- TB:** Joe Giesinger.
- ME:** Do you know what her husband's name was?
- TB:** Joseph, I believe.
- ME:** Now when you had the church celebration, were there a lot of priests that came?
- TB:** Usually about three priests, and there was a big crowd all the time. They all came mostly with a bus.
- ME:** Did they have benediction afterwards, or don't you remember that?
- TB:** No, the priests had dinner at the people's homes.
- ME:** Did they have a procession?
- TB:** No, not that day it was in Lieva Hotguts Dag. You know what that was? There was a procession.
- ME:** What day was that?
- TB:** Lieva Hotguts Dag was usually in June.
- ME:** June?
- TB:** Yes, June.
- ME:** Was the Mass at that time in Latin or German?
- TB:** It was in Latin and German.
- ME:** And German did the priest, when he preached, preach in German?
- TB:** Yes, he did, and it was always really nice.
- ME:** Did you sit with your mother or did you sit with the little children?
- TB:** No, when we grew up so they could trust us, and not goofing around or else we got it. Then we had to sit up in front like all our class.

- ME:** Did your parents or grandparents help build any of those churches that they went to?
- TB:** Oh yes, they helped build the Blumenfeld church.
- ME:** Who was the priest at the time, do you remember?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** When you say they helped build it, what did they do? Was it a brick or a wooden church?
- TB:** No, it was a wooden church.
- ME:** It was a wooden church, and I suppose your brothers helped too.
- TB:** The one's that could work, but I think it was built in 1905 or 1906 about that time. The cornerstone was set in the back of the church in cement. On it was written when it was built, but I forgot about it.
- ME:** When did you get married?
- TB:** On February 20th.
- ME:** February 20, was it a nice day or a stormy day?
- TB:** It was a real nice day, and no snow.
- ME:** Did you have a big wedding?
- TB:** Yes, we had a wedding dance at my husband's folks, but the dinner was at my folks, and the supper at his folks. There was a dance that night with Pete Bischoff and Adolph Goerger furnishing the music.
- ME:** Did this go on for a couple of days?
- TB:** Two days. The second day it fell apart, as they all had enough.
- ME:** Was there somebody there to take pictures?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** There wasn't. Did anybody in your family sing or play the accordion?
- TB:** In my family there were no musicians, but they played the harmonica (maul doodla).
- ME:** Did you play anything - like the organ?
- TB:** I could do a little bit, but not much. My folks had a big organ.
- ME:** Did you do any dancing?
- TB:** We went to dances but not very often, because it was all far away; and nobody had cars. Orrin was the only one we could go to.
- ME:** You said that this relative of yours that's on this picture did this dance.
- TB:** My dad.
- ME:** Oh, your dad.

- TB:** My dad did the gosechoke, which was a special dance and then they...
- ME:** Do you remember how they did it?
- TB:** Yes I remember a little bit. I saw them do it, but you know they knew just when to do it. They sat down, jumped a little forward, and then they got up and clapped their hands behind their backs and played with their hand. But we didn't know what it was all about.
- ME:** Did they teach you how to do that dance?
- TB:** No, when my dad was at the wedding, Mike Hager coaxed him to dance the gosechoke.
- ME:** It sounds like it would have been fun to watch.
- TB:** That was fun, everybody quit and watched.
- ME:** I think I know what kind of dance you're talking about, but it would be nice to have seen it in person. All I have ever seen was on television, but you have to see it in person.
- TB:** Yes, that was the gosechoke, and he did that when he was in the service.
- ME:** He was in the service in Russia?
- TB:** In Russia.
- ME:** Do you know about how long he was in?
- TB:** I think it was three years and then he had another brother who had to go. That was Sebastian, but I never seen him dance the gosechoke.
- ME:** I've never heard it called that, so I'm glad you are using that word. It's good to know about that.
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** There are some things, Theresa, that I think we all know a little bit about, but you can tell us a little bit more. Did your mother or you have any medicines that you used to make at home...like when you had a sore, what did they do for it?
- TB:** They cooked the Camilla tea, that was a medicine for all of us.
- ME:** If you had a sore, they put camilla tea on it.
- TB:** If you had sore feet, they made the tea; and you soaked your feet. Cooked chicken soup was always made, when somebody was sick.
- ME:** That you just ate.
- TB:** You ate that, but the tea was cooked.
- ME:** But you drank the tea though sometimes.
- TB:** All the time.
- ME:** What about if you had a cut, what did they did for that? If you cut yourself with glass or a knife?

- TB:** They didn't have anything else, but they would put flour on it to make it stop bleeding and wrapped it up.
- ME:** Do you remember anything that you might have done with vinegar? Did they ever drink vinegar for an upset stomach?
- TB:** Not that I know of, but we knew it was good for us. We mixed a little sugar, vinegar and water.
- ME:** And that was for...
- TB:** That was for an upset stomach.
- ME:** Upset stomach?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** What about if you had a headache, did they put something on your forehead?
- TB:** It was wrapped up cold or hot whatever season it was. In winter warm packs; in summertime it was cold packs.
- ME:** Sure. Can you think of something that are wrong with people today? There are more things wrong than used to be. Do you think that you were healthier?
- TB:** Yes, I think we were. We didn't have the medicine that children and people get now; and we were healthier, because our folks didn't have the doctors. We were eleven children in our family and never had a doctor in the house on account of sickness. But there was something else going around in the winter time, it was...
- ME:** Flu and pneumonia.
- TB:** No, it was a break out on your...
- ME:** Chicken pox.
- TB:** It come into the school. I had two brothers who were so crusty with sores; they had it in other schools like Orrin. My dad went to Orrin and got some salve and that helped. It was terrible! The teacher come to the house and saw why they couldn't come to school. The one was real young, and the other was older than myself. He was four years older than I was and was very sick.
- ME:** Were all of you, your brothers and sisters, born at home or were you born in the hospital?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** What about your children, your sons and daughters, were they born at home or in the hospital?
- TB:** Yes, they were born at home.
- ME:** Then you had a lady come in to help you.
- TB:** Yes, she was always a grandma.
- ME:** She helped when you had your children.

- TB:** I was in the hospital.
- ME:** You was in the hospital?
- TB:** For two of them I was home, and Margaret Jundt was....
- ME:** She was the lady who came and helped you. Now your parents or you, did they read any German newspapers?
- TB:** My parents couldn't read German.
- ME:** Did you read like the North Dakota Herald?
- TB:** We could read a little bit, because we went to German school. But our parents also went to German school, but they didn't have the books.
- ME:** I remember the North Dakota Herald, the German paper which used to come...
- TB:** Der Staatz-Anzieger.
- ME:** They used to come on Saturdays, and they read that from cover to cover all the time.
- TB:** I know Schneider, our neighbor, when the mailman took so long to come around, walked down to our place and got the Der Staats-Anzeiger.
- ME:** Do you remember when you first had electricity and the telephone?
- TB:** I wasn't home anymore, as I was already married. Yes, I remember the phone was there before I got to Fulda.
- ME:** Was it hard to switch from a cook stove to an electric stove?
- TB:** No, it wasn't hard; it was real nice; but we missed the heat in the winter time.
- ME:** Ma had a hard time baking bread, because the cook stove baked better bread than the electric stove.
- TB:** Yes, that was the truth. Pflom kuchen was so good.
- ME:** Don't talk about food now Theresa, it makes me hungry. What about switching from kerosene lamps to electric lights. The light was a lot better with electricity.
- TB:** Oh yes, my sister and I crocheted with the kerosene lantern setting between us. She was sitting on one side of the table, and I on the other side.
- ME:** How did you take care of that kerosene lamp? Did you have to put kerosene in it very often or?
- TB:** Oh yes, we were up crocheting until our mother would come out and say, "get to bed", because it costs so much for kerosene. It was ten cents a gallon and was too much.
- ME:** Why sure, every penny counted. I'm going to ask you about a relative of yours that built a plane. Would you tell me his name and where he lived?
- TB:** He was Matt Duchscherer from Karlsruhe, and when I got to know him, he got me for a hired girl. That evening he brought in a piece of wood and saw, made a little box and then started to make a radio. The

next day, it being 4 o'clock in the evening, I was going to go to bed and he said, "no get up, this is going to play tonight." He started making wires and fixing the tubes and had it going by 4 o'clock. I still remember the name of the...they were dancing, and playing but I did not see the plane when he made it. The plane he made went up, when it was up; it fell down onto the wagon box; and that was the end of the airplane.

- ME:** This is very important Theresa, because he wasn't an engineer working for some big company; he did this out of his own home.
- TB:** Out of his own home, and they lived across the road from Karlsruhe.
- ME:** He built the radio, and it played.
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** And he built an airplane, and it flew.
- TB:** It flew up.
- ME:** Well, it flew and crashed, but he did it.
- TB:** He did it, and told me how the electricity works. He said it comes from the sky; all that thunder it's all electricity.
- ME:** Now the man that built the airplane, how was he related to you?
- TB:** He was my mother's first cousin.
- ME:** Your mother's first cousin.
- TB:** Yes, he was a Duchscherer.
- ME:** With a D not a T.
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** We have to get that straight, Theresa. Do you have a relative you really like the best--like an aunt, uncle or cousin?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** Do you remember both of your grandparents, your mother's and your father's parents?
- TB:** Not my dad's, they were gone before I was born. (Go in and get that white envelope with pictures in it). This is my first cousin that died, and these are the ones from Rochester that called me last night. This is the gosechoke dancer.
- ME:** That's your father?
- TB:** That's my dad.
- ME:** "Schtolz" man.
- TB:** No.

- ME:** I mean the way he stands.
- TB:** He learned that when he was in the army.
- ME:** He stands like a soldier.
- TB:** Yes, that was important.
- ME:** What was your mother's maiden name?
- TB:** Elizabeth Duchscherer.
- ME:** She was a Duchscherer, and that was my grandma's sister.
- TB:** No, not your grandma's sister, she was your grandma's aunt. And this is my grandma and this was my uncle, they are the brothers to her.
- ME:** Your mother's brothers?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Your mother's mother?
- TB:** My mother's mother.
- ME:** That is a very good picture, Theresa.
- TB:** She was born Italian.
- ME:** Your grandmother was Italian?
- TB:** My great-grandma was a full-fledged Italian, her mother was a full-fledged Italian; but she married a German by the name of Joe Duchscherer.
- ME:** Do you know if this picture was taken in Russia?
- TB:** No, that was taken in Blumenfeld.
- ME:** OK.
- TB:** Not too far from where my folks lived by Schaan's, and this was the baby.
- ME:** What was his name?
- TB:** Paul.
- ME:** And he was a Duchscherer?
- TB:** That was a Duchscherer, they are all Duchscherer's on here.
- ME:** What was her husband's name?
- TB:** Her husband's name was Joseph.
- ME:** Did they just have the three boys?

- TB:** No, there's one in Canada.
- ME:** Now on the back of the picture it says Grandma Theresa Duchscherers last name was Miller. Her maiden name was Miller?
- TB:** That's what they said, but her mother was a full-fledged Italian and married a German.
- ME:** Did they get married in Russia or in Germany?
- TB:** In Russia. I think it was Russia; they were all not married when they came to our country.
- ME:** You have some really, really good old pictures, Theresa. It's not everybody that has pictures they can still show. You should have those in a picture frame.
- TB:** Yes, I just got this. My daughter contacted this relative, Jack, who had a neighbor and was the daughter of his grandchild who had this picture. She put her hands on it and had them made so I have one. I paid \$5 for it, but it's worth it.
- ME:** It is so good.
- TB:** Yes, this is Uncle Mike, this is Uncle Jack and this is Uncle Paul. I remember how he and my brother used to talk. I can still remember him getting very sick and my mother got the tub from under the bed and put real hot water in there with his feet in the tub a blanket over his head and over the tub. He had to sit on the bed with his feet in this hot water that made him sweat. He had pneumonia, that's why he died.
- ME:** How old was he when he died?
- TB:** I think he was about 17 or 18 years old.
- ME:** Do you know, is he buried in Blumenfeld too?
- TB:** Yes he is. He and his mother died within two months. I think he died in November, and my grandma died in January.
- ME:** Was she sick when she died?
- TB:** She had a stroke. I was in the house, when two men brought her in on their arms and put her to bed. She took the crucifix and put it in the holy water, stuck it in her mouth that I still remember. She was sitting on the bed at the time.
- ME:** Very religious person.
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Do you know if she was fairly young when she died?
- TB:** I couldn't tell you.
- ME:** But she is buried in Blumenfeld too?
- TB:** She is buried in Blumenfeld. She and her son are buried side by side. They had the same crosses on those...

ME: Sometime I'm going to have to go out there and look up some of my relatives, and I know you said that these are Duchscherer's.

TB: Yes, they are Duchscherer's.

(end of tape, turn over, begin other side of tape)

ME: Are there any other relatives that you would like to talk about or anything that we have not discussed?

TB: Yes, there are some Duchscherer's that moved from Blumenfeld to Canada. He is my godfather and his name was Jacob Duchscherer.

ME: Do you know where in Canada they live?

TB: I don't know that anymore.

ME: Are they still living?

TB: No, they are gone a long time ago, as they were probably older than my parents.

ME: Is he on this picture?

TB: No, I think he was related to their dad (pointing to picture), Duchscherer.

ME: Now when we were talking about relatives, you said you remembered my grandma.

TB: Your grandma?

ME: My mother's mother.

TB: Oh yes, (Basel) Aunt Magdalene. I still remember her as well as today. When we walked, I had the kettle; and she had her cane and was so stooped over, when she helped me bring food to grandma, to this grandma here (pointing to picture).

ME: This lady that we are talking about her maiden name was Magdalene Duchscherer she married a Kloetzel who was my mother's mother and father. It was Theresa's relative too, because this Magdalene Duchscherer that we're talking about this grandma, was your dad's, and your mother's relative.

TB: My mother's relative, because she talked about Kloetzel's; but we never saw the people.

ME: This Kloetzel died in Russia, but then grandma was married again to a Moser.

TB: A Linghor right?

ME: A Moser. But grandma had a daughter that was married to a Linghor.

TB: She living in Devils Lake, and I still remember that.

ME: You have a good memory, Theresa.

TB: Yes, my mother said she baked good bread.

- ME:** Grandma did?
- TB:** No, that Mrs. Linghor baked as good a bread as my mother; that I remember.
- ME:** So it was your father, your father's mother, explain again how we are related.
- TB:** We are related through the Duchscherer's your mother, your grandma was a Duchscherer my grandpa married a Duchscherer, and her name was Theresa.
- ME:** So your grandpa, your grandfather and my grandmother were brother and sister.
- TB:** Yes, Your grandma and my grandpa were sister and brother, that's right.
- ME:** Then we have it straight. No wonder I like to visit with you so much, you have so much family information to talk about.
- TB:** No wonder.
- ME:** Theresa, we're talking now about things that used to be and how they were. When you look at today, do you see a good life or a good future for the world?
- TB:** No, I don't; the children have too many rights, which is not good. Now the parents should ask the children what they are supposed to do.
- ME:** What about religion, do you think the children are being taught enough religion?
- TB:** I think they are taught enough, but are they keeping it?
- ME:** Are there things that you did that you passed on to your children...like baking or sewing?
- TB:** Yes, I already said you didn't learn that at home. You know my daughter made blachenda, but I told her before she made them what to put in so they turn out right. Her mother-in-law didn't make them right. They didn't taste like...
- ME:** Is that the one that brought those in? She made them right, because they tasted good.
- TB:** Yes, She made them right, because I told her just exactly how to make them.
- ME:** That's the only way we learn to do those things, Theresa, is if you stand there and say more of this and more of that.
- TB:** And I said now I want you to put in onion, sugar, little bit of salt, pumpkin and pepper. Mix it all up.
- ME:** How did you make the dough?
- TB:** She knew how to make the dough. I used cream, lard, flour and milk to mix the dough.
- ME:** You didn't use any salt or baking powder or anything like that?
- TB:** No, you can put in a little baking powder and add a little salt if you want to but it's not necessary; it's in the pumpkin mixture.
- ME:** That reminds me, Theresa, we are through with the blachenda now. You told me about your mother teaching you how to make kuchen?

- TB:** Not me, my sister and I.
- ME:** Tell us about what happened.
- TB:** Well, she was going to beat the eggs, and my mother came there in time to tell us that we were dummies (essel).
- ME:** Why was that?
- TB:** Because we didn't know that we shouldn't be beating the eggs to make a thickening. When you beat the eggs with a beater they get watery. Most likely, she stopped us and called us "essel".
- ME:** When someone knows what they dong, like us that don't know what we are doing we are...
- TB:** That's right, we wouldn't know the difference (in German) that, if we beat them too much, they would get watery. But I know it now.
- ME:** It makes sense.
- TB:** Makes sense, right.
- ME:** So the eggs were used for a thickening, but were not beaten.
- TB:** Not beaten. They are just mixed with the fork, slowly pulled up and down.
- ME:** Now your kids can all talk and understand German, right.
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Do they still talk German when they come and visit you?
- TB:** The older ones do; but the younger one's, like Carol, aren't much on German. Helen can talk whatever she wants. She is a gabber (and has a goosh).
- ME:** Wonder where she got that from.
- TB:** I don't know. Anyway, she has worked for a doctor for 18 years. Somebody asked her if he was going to hire her. The doctor said, "you cannot be bought" we need you. His wife is also a doctor, so they need her.
- ME:** Is that your daughter?
- TB:** That's my daughter, Helen.
- ME:** How many children did you have?
- TB:** Nine.
- ME:** You had nine. How many boys?
- TB:** Two.
- ME:** Two boys.
- TB:** Seven girls.

- ME:** Are any of them still living in or near Rugby?
- TB:** Just one girl is living in Rugby.
- ME:** What's her name?
- TB:** Cecilia.
- ME:** And what's her last name?
- TB:** Heilman.
- ME:** Heilman, I see. Do you know if any of your children or grandchildren have done anything like this? I mean have they asked you a lot of questions about your past?
- TB:** We had talked about it; if it meant anything to them, I wouldn't know.
- ME:** Did anybody make a record or tape of it?
- TB:** No.
- ME:** Theresa, you've got so much history that I could sit and listen to you for hours talking about them. Things come to mind for you some of them are funny and some are sad, but that's the way life is.
- TB:** Right, but I still know what I'm talking about.
- ME:** That's what's so amazing, is that you are 90 years old. I see on your picture over there, you are 90 years old. Your memory is excellent and you get around well.
- TB:** Yes, if my feet would carry me better, it would be better.
- ME:** Well, maybe you can sacrifice your feet, as long as you have your memory.
- TB:** That's what I thought too.
- ME:** You had a hobby, and that was crocheting wasn't it?
- TB:** Crocheting, and I could sew if I wanted to.
- ME:** In your crocheting, you never used a pattern, you just looked at the picture and you could do it.
- TB:** Yes, by counting.
- ME:** That's amazing too. I've seen some of the beautiful things you have crocheted, and it's wonderful.
- TB:** But my mother could crochet, knit, and sew. She could do anything she wanted to do. We had a sewing machine, and she didn't have anything to put on, so she crocheted the bottom without a pattern and about that wide a zig zag.
- ME:** Does anybody still have those?
- TB:** My sister asked me, if I know what happened to them. I said no, you was home longer than I was. Why don't you know it? So I never found out what happened to it. She and I each crocheted about that wide at the bottom of the bed sheet. We used them on top of the bed, with heavy white sheets on our bed where we slept. We made it about that wide with nice flowers on it.

- ME:** Did you embroider?
- TB:** No, we just crocheted.
- ME:** There are so many things that are so interesting, because I know you said my mother baked a lot of good bread. That's something that isn't being done anymore. Do you still make your own bread?
- TB:** I still make it, but I buy the frozen dough, but I still could. My mother told my older sister, and my older sister told me, she said in German, "Theresa bakes better bread than she did".
- ME:** That's a compliment.
- TB:** Yes, that's the truth.
- ME:** That's a hard thing to do. It sounds simple, but to make good bread is something special.
- TB:** You have to work the dough down in time and know how many times you work it down.
- ME:** How many times did you work it down?
- TB:** Well, you know I got up during the night. At that time we set the dough in the evening and then got up after midnight and worked the dough down. In the morning the dough was raised high again, you worked it down again and after that it was raised again. Then it was put into loaves; and sometimes, if it wasn't quite right, it was worked down and raised again.
- ME:** When you put it in the pans, did you let it raise again?
- TB:** Yes.
- ME:** Just one time, right?
- TB:** If it needed raising, you worked it down again.
- ME:** About how many loaves of bread did you bake at one time?
- TB:** About six or eight. We put two loaves in a pan; and if was a long pan, we put in three loaves.
- ME:** Now on the day that you baked, did you make kuchen or anything like that?
- TB:** Yes, kuchen, bean soup, or potato soup.
- ME:** What did you usually make on Friday's, when you didn't eat meat?
- TB:** All kinds of things, like blachenda soup or noodles, potatoes and noodles and dompf noodla, that's the raised ones. When she baked bread, a lot of times we had dompf noodla and milk to drink.
- ME:** Sounds like good eating, Theresa. On the day that you butchered a pig, for example, did you do everything in one day...like making the sausage?
- TB:** Yes, every time we also made the sausage.
- ME:** Did you help with the blood sausage or didn't you make any?
- TB:** Yes, we made blood sausage too. I didn't like to do it but...

- ME:** Schwartamagan? (head cheese)
- TB:** Oh gosh, I liked that schwartamagan (head cheese).
- ME:** How did you make the schwartamagan?
- TB:** We used the head and some of the bottom of the belly from the pig and some skin. Not too much skin, the head and some red...
- ME:** You cooked the head?
- TB:** We cooked the head.
- ME:** And you cut the meat off.
- TB:** We cut the meat off and whatever other meat was used. We cooked that with some red, and some dark meat, and ground it up with the other meat. That was good.
- ME:** You put it in the stomach?
- TB:** Yes, we had to clean the stomach.
- ME:** Cleaned the stomach and then put this ground meat in the stomach and boiled the stomach?
- TB:** Then you boiled the stomach and pressed it. The next day you could eat it. Frank, my brother, is a good schwartamagan one. Don't forget the garlic.
- ME:** Were spices used in there?
- TB:** And spices.
- ME:** Which spices?
- TB:** Salt, pepper and garlic.
- ME:** Did you put bay leaf in?
- TB:** No, it's a little bit too strong, but that is good schwartamagan. Somebody in Esmond and Ambrose still make it. Betty brings me some once in a while.
- ME:** And when you ate it, you dipped it in vinegar?
- TB:** Yup, dunked it in vinegar.
- ME:** Well, one day we brought in some horseradish for you, Theresa.
- TB:** Oh, I just about ate all mine.
- ME:** And you said we didn't make it right. We ground up the horseradish root and then you said, what do you do with it after that? How did you tell us to do it?
- TB:** When you have it ground, you put boiling water on it. After so many hours you rinse it, pour that water off, and then you add vinegar and sugar.
- ME:** Put it in small jars; seal it; and when you eat it, you get tears in your eyes.

- TB:** Yes, right.
- ME:** You get tears when you grind it too, Theresa.
- TB:** I know, because my brother did it in front of my door when he ground it.
- ME:** That will clear up the cob webs, but it's good. Everything that you've talked about I ate myself and most of it, in today's standards, wasn't the best food. But there were 12 in my family and we all lived.
- TB:** That was true at our place too.
- ME:** So if it wasn't the best according to some cooks, it was good for us.
- TB:** Yes, it's just like a lady said, she get's meals on wheels. I said, "yes I do too, but it's not the best." (In German - By me, the cats get it sometimes)
- ME:** Your cats are going to live well of what you don't want.
- TB:** I said, what you get is always flat. She said, that right. She said, I can do better and I said, right. I know I can do better than to make it like that.
- ME:** If you make potato soup, it would be better?
- TB:** You know, yesterday I got a potato. It was as big as my fist, bigger, hard and not cooked soft. The cat's wound't even eat it. When they are soft, they eat the potatoes. I took a knife and cut it and they gave me cream to put on. I didn't put it on, because I couldn't eat it. I wasn't going to waste the cream, after I had cut it up.
- ME:** There is one thing that I thought of, Theresa: when you lived on the farm, did you sell cream or eggs in town?
- TB:** We sold cream. Once in a while we sold eggs, but not very often.
- ME:** Did you sell this in Rugby or...
- TB:** No, it was in Berwick or Balta, mostly.
- ME:** When folks talk about the future, their grandma and their mother what would you like them to say about you?
- TB:** I don't know. What I heard was from my sister and she said, "Mother said that I baked better bread than she did."
- ME:** Well, I can add my own. There's a lot of things that we can remember you for; and that you are such a happy person; and are still a tie to my mother and that's...
- TB:** That's for sure. You had a good mother.
- ME:** Yes, do you know if there is anybody else that you can think of that maybe remembers some things that we could ask them, like we did with you?
- TB:** I don't know.

- ME:** I think we'll just end it for today. I want to thank you for your time and for sharing with me and for all the future people that are going to listen to this tape. All that you said that people are going to get some information from, will be glad that we did this, Theresa. There are so many things that die with people that nobody knows about.
- TB:** We covered a lot of areas.
- ME:** Yes, we did. I thank you again for your time, and for the time you spent when we did the video tape here, when you made the kase knipfla.
- TB:** You know, we never was that close and we know each other for a while now, but we didn't know what we were, what's behind us or...
- ME:** Maybe some people think she's just a little old German lady; but when you talk to that little old German lady, there's a lot of things that we recorded. Thank you Theresa.
- TB:** You're welcome.
- ME:** Tell them goodbye.
- TB:** Goodbye now, we tried our best. I love them all.

(Mike, from here on the tape, I go to the top of this transcript to finish off the tape, since it is the beginning of the tape, that got taped over, again, sorry.)