

V2-79

Story Written by Grandma (Gertrude) Schnurr

Gertrude Schneider was born in Germany on March 17, 1832. While a young girl she came to Canada - to New Hamburg, where she worked in a hotel and met Valentine Siegner, a son of Johannes Siegner and Anna Catherine Schroeder. Anna Catherine was born in 1790 and died April 30, 1861. Johannes and Anna Catherine were from Alsace Lorraine which belonged to France but was now a part of Germany. They had five sons Eckhardt, John, Frederick, George and Valentine born July 27, 1826.

At this time Germany was under military rule and demanded the young boys join the army. Valentine was one of these. He disobeyed the rule of the army in some way and was court-martialled and destined to be shot but he and two other young Germans escaped the jail they were confined in and got to the sea by way of the sewer. They managed to get on board a sailing vessel and persuaded the captain to permit them to remain on board, which he did but warned them firmly he would make them sto-aways. They were warned sternly not to move away from where he hid them until he gave them the word to leave and then to leave as quickly as possible. This they did each going his own way and Valentine came to Southern Ontario finally working in New Hamburg on a beer wagon. Gertrude Schneider also worked at this hotel. It was here that she and Valentine finally