

**MATHIAS HERMANN  
PIONEER RESIDENT**

(Continued from page one)

Several days later a team of oxen brought their possessions to their log house where Mrs. Herrmann did her best in the matter of setting up housekeeping, while Mr. Herrmann set up a shoe shop as he was a shoemaker or cobbler, the first one in this section of the country. In spare moments Mr. Herrmann tilled the soil which was a hard task as the trees had to be cleared off the property as it was very densely wooded. The trees were chopped off and crops planted around the stumps until they could be grubbed out, which took about three years on their fifteen acres.

John Selig, Sr., a brother to Mrs. Herrmann, used to haul the leather supplies, purchased in Chicago out to Deerfield with his team of oxen, usually taking several days to make the trip. An amusing incident is told about Mr. Herrmann in connection with his cobbler's shop. A special bit of leather was needed so Mr. Herrmann went to Chicago after it. Missing the only train back he boarded a freight train with his roll of leather on his shoulder. When the train reached Highland Park it did not stop at the station and he, thinking that it didn't intend to stop, threw off his leather and jumped out after it, injuring himself quite seriously, however he succeeded in getting his leather home in time to finish the pair of shoes. In rainy or snowy weather slabs of leather were often placed over the beds in the cabin to keep out the rain and snow, and for warmth.

Boughs of Hawthorne bushes were dragged over the land as plows, cultivators and the like were then unknown. Only possessing one horse and a cow, these two were often hitched together, which contrary to expectations, worked out very successfully. Mrs. Herrmann always made her own lighting apparatus which consisted of lard melted in a dish into which a twisted cloth was placed. After this hardened it was used very much like a candle, furnishing enough light for the occupants of the cabin. In later years she made candles until the kerosene lamp came onto the market. Various articles of their furniture were made from walnut logs chopped out of their woods.

As there were no stores in the immediate vicinity, no means of conveyance (except oxen teams) and as various produce was exchanged for clothing and food stuffs, Mrs. Herrmann often walked to Half Day or Wheeling with baskets of eggs and jars of butter, returning with the needed supplies. When meat was not included in the meal, the family would crack nuts, which would then take its place. Often Mrs. Herrmann would carry a bag of flour all the way from Wheeling or Half Day on her shoulder. In later years they traded at the McCartney General Merchandise store in Deerfield.

At this time the plank road, so called because of its being made of planks, was the only traveled road, but there were Indian trails, one of which ran directly through the Herrmann property. This road now known as Prairie avenue or the Half Day road, was kept in repair by a man named Snell to whom all who passed over "his" road had to pay a toll charge. In later years when the grains and farm produce were hauled to Jefferson, first by oxen and later horse teams, a toll charge of fifty cents was made at the toll gate at Higgins road. Later this was cut to 25 and then to 15 cents. This money was used to defray the cost of upkeep.

Indians were numerous when Mr. and Mrs. Herrmann came to Deerfield and they often had dealings with them, always finding them to be peaceful. Once when the neighbors had gathered at the Herrmann home for the fall butchering of hogs, a group of about fifty or one hundred Indians, scattered for about a mile along the trail, appeared. Some of the women were carrying their papooses on their backs. The group halted some distance away, but the chief and a couple of followers advanced to the chicken yard fence, in which yard the white men were working. Nothing was said for some time, finally seeing the Indian chief eyeing the dead hogs, Mr. Herrmann took several pieces of liver and cutting a huge piece of the pork, handed it to the chief, who, however, shook his head and said in rather halting, stammering, guttural English, "Catch me a chicken!"

Pigeons and deer were often seen. Mr. William Herrmann of Chicago tells of his experience with a deer. Many years ago while walking on what is now Old Telegraph road he heard a rustle in the bushes behind the fence at his side. He halted and hesitated, wondering what it was when suddenly the beautiful head of a deer appeared. The deer observed him for fully two minutes when evidently deciding that he meant no harm, stepped into full view, an exceptionally fine specimen of a buck. Mr. Herrmann wondered if it would attempt to jump the six foot rail fence, when suddenly the deer gathered itself and sprang clear over it, as gracefully as anyone could ever imagine, disappearing in the heavy growth of trees, running to the slough where the herds always congregated.

The rails and rail fences on the Herrmann farm were all made by hand by Mr. Herrmann and his wife, out of trees taken from their acreage. Some of the fences were of the crisscross type, making a crooked fence, while others were made of rails laid through holes in posts which had been set into the ground, thus making a straight fence.

The story is told that one afternoon a group of neighborhood boys were out hunting when they scared a fox. Pursuing it, the fox in its frenzy climbed a tree which can still be viewed on the former Huehl property, now Bannockburn Wood. This tree trunk grows straight for about four feet and then veers off in a direct southerly direction while its branches grow straight into the air, following the direction of the first four feet of the trunk. The peculiar character of the tree's growth made it a simple matter for the fox to climb it, where it stayed until after the sixth attempt to shoot it, it was actually killed. (The gun was one of the old fashioned kind that had to be primed for each shot). This incident led to a rumor that the foxes in this new country climbed trees and this rumor had to be discredited.

Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Herrmann attended the Reformed Dutch church of Northfield, later called the Evangelical Lutheran Reformed church, then located on the Dundee road where the Northfield Union cemetery now stands. This, a distance of five miles, was walked every time they went to church, (a distance of ten miles a round trip.) Horses used for farm work had to rest on Sunday and were never used for pleasure, until later years. All the children were christened in this little church—the altar is now in the possession of Mrs. John Huehl (Louise Herrmann). Her husband was also christened before this little wooden altar. In 1845 a story appeared in a Chicago newspaper which stated that this church was the oldest in this section of the United States. In 1875 what is now the St. Paul's Evangelical separated from the mother church and it was here that Mr. and Mrs. John C. Huehl were confirmed and married, their five children christened as well as confirmed, funeral services for the two sons held there, the two daughters married and one grandson, Robert Elmer Schmidt, christened, quite an unusual record.

Mr. Herrmann was the first president of the board of the St. Paul's Evangelical church and Mrs. Herrmann a prominent figure in the Ladies' aid, she being the oldest member in point of age at her death, aged 87 years. In 1875 Mr. Herrmann and Mr. Bartmus walked carrying the song, board from the old church to the new. Their hands became so numb that they finally took their knitted mufflers from around their necks, tied it around the board and slipped it over their shoulders, arriving at the St. Paul's Evangelical church in Deerfield with the board intact. A stained glass window in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Herrmann was given the St. Paul's Evangelical church by the seven children a few years ago and was given a place on honor, it being the first window on the north side of the church, directly across from the window in memory of the first pastor, Rev. Allardt.

Mathias Herrmann passed away at his home in Deerfield on May 9, 1896 and Barbara Herrmann passed away at the home of her daughter, Sarah, in Chicago, November 2, 1917.

The following is a copy of the passport from France to America used by Mr. Herrmann in 1852 and a copy of his first naturalization papers, both of which may be of interest:

**Final Certificate of Naturalization**  
United States of America  
State of Illinois,  
County of Cook, ss.

Be it remembered, that on this second day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, in the Circuit court of Cook county, in the state of Illinois, (the same being a Court of Record, having a clerk and seal), and of the October term there, for the year aforesaid, Mathias Herrmann, an alien, came into court and applied to be admitted as a Naturalized Citizen of the United States, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the said applicant has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for and during the full term of five years last past, and one year and upwards immediately preceding the date hereof, in the state of Illinois, and that during said term of five years he has sustained a good moral character, and appeared to be attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order, well being and happiness of the same; and two years and upwards having elapsed since the said applicant filed the declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, according to the provisions of the several acts of congress heretofore passed on that subject; and he having now here in open court, taken and subscribed the oath required by those laws, to support the constitution of the United States, and to renounce and adjure all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever and more particularly all allegiance which he may in any wise owe to the Emperor of France, whereof he was heretofore a subject.

It is therefore ordered and adjudged, by the court, that the said Mathias Herrmann be, and he is hereby admitted to all and singular, the rights,

privileges, and immunities of a Naturalized Citizen of the United States, and that it be certified to him accordingly, which is done by these presents.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court, at Chicago, in said county of Cook, this second day of November, A. D. 1864, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-ninth.

Signed:  
Wm. L. Church,  
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

(This document bears a five cent "Intervenee Express" stamp.)

**Passport**

French Republic.

Liberty, Equality, Fraternity (this is crossed out with ink on the passport.)

Passport to Foreign Countries, good for one year.

In the name of the French Republic (this also is crossed out and President of the Republic substituted).

We, prefect of the Upper Rhine, require the civil and military authorities of the States friendly or allied to France to allow to pass freely Mister Herrmann, Mathias, cobbler, native of dwelling at Muntzenheim, going to Buffalo, America to settle there, and to give him aid and protection in case of need.

The present passport is valid for to go out of France.

Done at Colmar, le 14th August, 1852. The prefect incapacitated, the Attorney of the Prefecture G. Tezener, by the Prefect, the Attorney of the Prefecture, the General Secretary, B. Marks.

General Police of France, Passport to Foreign countries, good for one year.

Department of the Upper Rhine, Registrar W. No. 931.

Description:  
Aged: 22 years.  
Height: 1 meter, 68 centimeters.  
Hair: grey blond.  
Forehead: Oval.  
Eyes: Light brown.  
Nose: Pointed.  
Mouth: Medium.  
Beard: Black.  
Chin: Round.  
Face: Long.

Complexion: Light.  
Distinguishing marks: None.  
Signature of bearer: Herrmann.  
Price of passport: Ten francs.

Leaves for New York on the steamer, Havre, Havre, France, the 5th September, 1852, the Commissioner of Police, by delegate F. P.

Stamped: City of Havre; Lower Seine; Commissioner of Police.  
On the passport used by Jacques (Jacob) Herrmann in 1854 "Empire Francais" was substituted for

"French Republic," and "In the name of the Emperor" for "President of the Republic."

Miss Emada A. Griswold, teacher of French in the Deerfield-Shields high school, who made the translations of the passports made the following notations: "This is evidently a passport from the days of the First Republic (1793 to 1804), adopted for the uses of the second (1848 to 1852). Note the crossing out of "Egalite, etc." the motto of the First Republic, and of the present (the third), but evidently not of the second, also the substitution of "President of the Republic" for "the French People." The Second Republic ended on December 2, 1852, when President Louis Napoleon became Emperor Napoleon III."

**NEW CAUTION SIGNS  
PLACED ON STREETS**

Hope To Prevent Accidents at Crossings by Placing of Signals

In an attempt to prevent accidents at crossings, caution signs of metal, painted yellow, have been put at the intersections of streets in order to prevent crashes. On the Grand avenue-Chestnut crossing at Deerfield road, the new concrete road seemed to be the signal for the speeding up of delivery trucks at a rate far too fast for the safety of their own cars, or those of others, and pedestrians' lives were menaced many times. It is a miracle that some of the many little children, who live on the short street, have not been killed.

The new signs signal the motorist to reduce speed to twenty-five miles an hour in the residential sections, and twenty miles in the business section. The narrow road through the subway has had the curbing painted in broad stripes of black and white and the safety signal, with its flashing red light, has been moved to the north side of the road, nearest the station, because it was struck so many times when it was in the center of the road.

**DEERFIELD HISTORY  
TO PRESS NEXT WEEK**

The History of Deerfield goes to press next week. Family histories have been coming in rapidly during the past week. The American Legion Post of Deerfield is desirous of having as complete a record of this vicinity as is possible. Club and organization records are not complete. To date the Chamber of Commerce, the Deerfield Men's club, the Masonic order, the Briergate Golf club, and several women's organizations have furnished no data. Please telephone Deerfield 177R for history appointments.

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