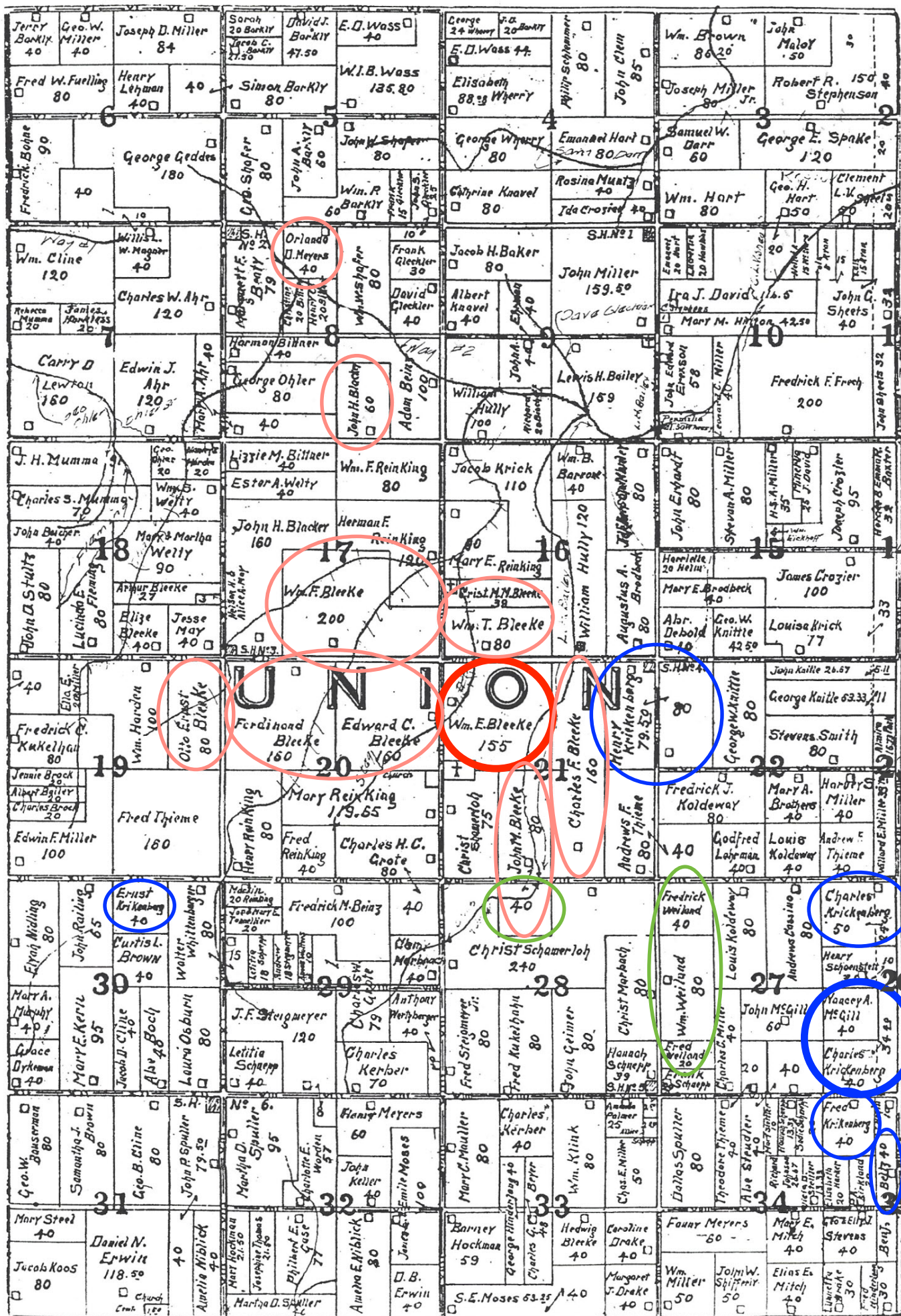


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Bleeke and Krueckeberg Land Ownership circa 1904

Melvin Krueckeberg - Aug, 2020 edited by Steve Krueckeberg - Aug 2021

Beginning with Section 21 on the map, the 155 acres owned by Wm E Bleeke was the original "Bleeke home place". This land was first settled by the pioneer Johann HP Bleeke and his wife Christina (Schwier) Bleeke. Johann and Christina had four sons, two of whom died before the family arrived in Union Township. The two surviving sons were Christian Friedrich (b. 1821) and Carl Friedrich Wilhelm (b. 1825).

Christian Friedrich & first wife Louise (Vahlsing) Bleeke & Heirs

In Section 8 - Their only son John H Blakey (b. 1855) owned 60 acres in the SE¼. John's son Arthur C (b. 1880) and Arthur's son Hugo (b. 1906) acquired an additional 40 acres (NE¼ of NW¼) — this was the farm where Melvin Krueckeberg grew up. Melvin drove tractor for Hugo during spring planting.

Christian Friedrich & second wife Maria (Ruopp) Bleeke & Heirs

In Section 21 - In 1854 the patriarch Johann HP and Christina transferred title of the "home place" to their oldest living son Christian Friedrich Bleeke (b. 1821), who in 1899 transferred title to his seventh son (and Maria's sixth son) Wilhelm E Bleeke (b. 1871). Soon after, Wilhelm moved to California. In 1909 Wilhelm, still unmarried, sold the land to his youngest brother, Otto Ernst (b. 1876, father of Gretchen and Steve's great grandfather). The maps shows that Otto owned another 40 acres (Section 19), which eventually went to his older brother Theodore Wm Bleeke (b. 1869).

By the time this map was made, Charles Fr Bleeke (b. 1861, second son of Christian Fr) had acquired 160 acres. Later on, Charles's son Joseph (b. 1893) got the north half and the other son Fredrick (b. 1896) got the south half.

John M Bleeke (b. 1865, fourth son of Christian Fr) owned 120 acres. This land transferred to John's oldest son Simon (b. 1889), and then to Simon's nephew Norbert Bleeke (b. 1928). Norbert is 91 years old and still lives on site, with his wife Lillie of 67 years. According to Norbert, the 40 acres south of the road were sold ~ 35 years ago.

In Section 16 - Wm T Bleeke (aka Theodore Wm Bleeke, b. 1869, sixth son of Christian Fr) owned 80 acres. His sister Christina M Matilde (Bleeke) Bienz had 39 acres.

Carl Friedrich Wilhelm & Maria (Bevelheimer) Bleeke & Heirs

In Section 17 - Carl Friedrich's oldest son Wm F Bleeke (b. 1855) owned 200 acres.

In Section 20 - Brothers Edward C "Christian" Bleeke (b. 1863, the second son) and Ernst "Ferdinand" (b. 1872, third son) each owned 160 acres.

Bleeke and Krueckeberg Land Ownership circa 1904

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Carl Friedrich and Dorathea (Weiland) Krückeberg & Heirs

Carl Friedrich and Dorothea (Weiland) Krückeberg are Steve's great great grandparents. Unfortunately, Carl Friedrich died ~ 1852, having lived in Union township for only two years. The widow Dorathea and her oldest son Carl HW (then age 17) labored to keep the family intact.

In Section 27 - Carl Heinrich Wilhelm (b. 1835) eventually acquired 90 acres and additional land west of the state line (total 150 acres). The NE corner (75 acres) went to Carl HW's second surviving son Ernst Wilhelm (b. 1871), then to Ernst's son Paul (b. 1899) and then to Paul's son Arthur (b. 1924, d. 2018). Arthurs's widow Olga W (Thieme) Krueckeberg is still living on site.

The SE corner was the location of Carl HW's "second home place". His grandson Louis Frederick eventually sold the farmland and barn to Rex Marbach, but the residential part of the home place (4 acres), the barn and a noncontiguous portion of the adjacent strip (8 acres) now belong to Sharon (Krueckeberg) Tester. The homes of Sharon's mother Esther (Schumm) Krueckeberg, sister Carol (Krueckeberg) Bentz and sister Susie (Krueckeberg) Ballard are located in strips of land along the State Line Road in Sections 23, 35 and 35, respectively

In Section 34 - By the time the attached map was made, Carl HW's oldest son Friedrich Christian (b. 1860) had acquired the original "home place" (40 acres), the original log cabin and the more-permanent house which was built around 1880. Unfortunately, the 1880 house burned down in the 1960s. Another house was built, and is now the home of Leo Thieme. The farm land is currently owned by Sandy Springer, who's husband Virgil Marlin is step son of Arnold Thieme.

In Section 30 - Carl HW's third son Ernst Krueckeberg (b. 1899) owned 40 acres. This land eventually went to Ernst's sister Sophia Louise (Krueckeberg) Thieme and her husband Johann Friedrich Thieme, then to their son Charles Thieme, then to Charles' son Wilbert. The house is currently occupied by Wilbert's widow, Ella Thieme.

In Sections 21-22 - Ernst Wilhelm Heinrich "Henry" Krueckeberg (b. 1850, Steve's great grandfather) was the youngest son of Carl Friedrich and Dorathea. Ernst eventually bought 160 acres on either side of road (600 E). These 160 acres eventually went to Ernst's second son Martin (b. 1887), although it has been said that Ernst's third son Henry C (b. 1903, Steve's grandfather) held joint ownership for a period of time. Interestingly, Ernst's oldest son William (b. 1881, father of Herman H and Edgar) owned 80 acres across the road in Section 15.

Heinrich "Henry" Wilhelm & Sophia Wilhelmine (Piehl) Weiland

The exact relationship of Heinrich Wm Weiland and Dorathea Weiland is unknown at this time. Family histories suggest that each had a different mother.