

The Georg Rippe & Caroline Piepenbrink Family

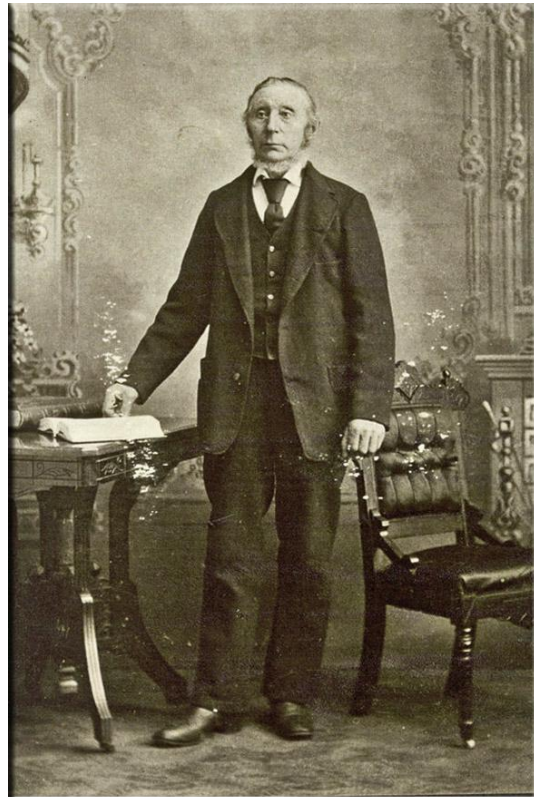
By Sharlene K. Miller

Name: Georg Rippe
Called: George Rippe
Born: 08 January 1826 near Hannover, Germany
Died: 13 March 1899, Fillmore County, Nebraska

1st Wife: Caroline Piepenbrink
Called: Caroline Rippe
Born: 08 January 1826 in Germany. Probably in Anemolter, Hannover, Germany
Died: 07 March 1886 in Fillmore County, Nebraska

2nd Wife: Mary Link Loufer
Called: Mary Rippe

Georg Rippe was born in Germany on the 8th of January in 1826.¹ It is possible that his parents were Christ and Dorothea Anna Rippe. Based on the age of his first child, he probably married Caroline Piepenbrink in Germany around 1846, when he was 20 years old.



Georg Rippe (1826 to 1899);
photo courtesy of Sharlene Miller nee Sieckmann.

After their marriage, Georg and Caroline lived in the village of Anemolter which is a small village on the Weser River northwest of Hannover. The land around Anemolter and Schinna is quite flat and the homes are mostly half-timbered buildings constructed of red brick with red clay tile roofs. The families tended to build their homes clustered in small villages or “dorfs” and then they farmed the surrounding areas. The farmers probably grew wheat as they do now and raised dairy cattle. It is most likely that Georg and Caroline lived in one of these homes and farmed. It is not known if they were landowners or if they worked for someone else.

While living in Germany, they had two children, Christ Wilhelm Ernst Rippe (b. 17 December 1847 in

¹ Grace Evangelical Church (Ohiowa, Nebraska), “Death Records 1888-1981,” p. 34, no. 178, Georg Rippe death entry (1899); Nebraska State Historical Society microfilm publication MS4202 Lincoln,

Anemolter²). Their second child died in Anemolter on 05 March 1849 and was buried in the cemetery at the St. Vitus Evangelical Lutheran Church in the town of Schinna, which is only a few miles south of Anemolter where the



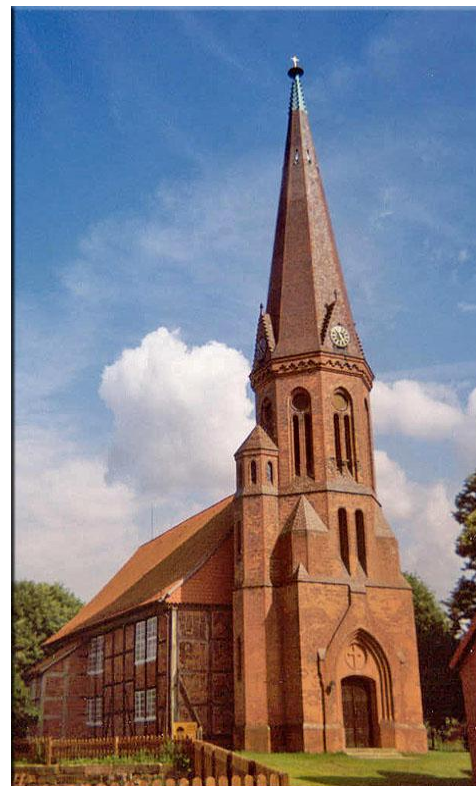
Picture of the city limits of Anemolter, Nienburg, Germany. (Photo taken by Sharlene Miller, January 1998)

Rippe family lived. The birth and baptism records for these children are at the St. Vitus Church in Schinna.

When Georg Rippe was a young man in his late teens and early twenties, the life in Germany was very difficult for citizens, who were not born of noble blood. Thousands of Germans tried to revolt against tyrannical rulers; however, many were unsuccessful which resulted in their imprisonment or death. Religious persecution was also common in Germany during this time period. The exact reason that Georg and his family left their homeland is unknown, but it is certain that they were hoping to start a new and better life in America.

Georg emigrated to America between the years 1851 to 1854. He settled for a short time in New York and then later settled in Will County, Illinois. According to the recollections of William Rippe (grandson of Georg), Georg bought 240 acres of land in Will County. He paid a price of approximately \$7.00 per acre. The Public Land Records of the State of Illinois show that Georg Rippe purchased unimproved railroad land on 25 October 1867 in Will County, Illinois. This land was located

² St. Vitus Evangelical Church (Schinna, Niedersachsen, Germany) February 1997.



St. Vitus Evangelical Church in Schinna, Nienburg, Germany.
Photo taken by Sharlene Miller, June 1998.

two miles south of the town of Beecher. The legal description of the land is the W ½ of the SW ¼ Section 28, Township 33 North of Range 14 East of the 3rd Principal Meridian, Will County, Illinois. The land was purchased for \$9.00 per acre.³



Evangelical Church and cemetery of Schinna, Germany. Ernst Rippe, eldest son of Georg and Caroline Rippe nee Piepenbrink was baptized at this church.
Photo taken by Sharlene Miller nee Sieckmann January 1998.

Will County, Illinois was not very heavily populated at the time Georg arrived. Many of the homes were log cabins that were made entirely of wood, without nails, windows, or hinges for the doors. The usual cabin was about 16 to 20 feet square. Cracks between the logs were filled with mud and the roof had shingles which were held in place with poles that were laid on top. The homes had no insulation and were very drafty and cold in the harsh winters of Will County. The Illinois Central Railroad was completed in 1853 which helped to encourage settlers to come to the area.⁴ By the time Caroline, Ernst and Anna arrived there were a few more settlers.

According to the ship manifest record, Caroline Rippe, age 30; Ernst Rippe, age 9; and Anna Rippe, age 54 (who may have been Georg Rippe's mother) arrived in New York on board the "Shakspeare" [sic] from Bremen on

³ Illinois State Archives online databases, "Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales," entry for Georg Rippe, <http://www.ilsos.gov/GenealogyMWeb/PublicLandSalesNameServlet>.

⁴ Muriel Mueller Milne, *Our Roots are Deep, A History of Monee, Illinois*, (South Holland, Illinois: South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society, reprinted October 1990, original 1973).

August 20, 1856.⁵ They were passengers who were going to Illinois. The Rippes probably traveled to Chicago and Will County by train within a short time after their arrival in America.

There is a record that documents the baptism of Maria Sophia Karolina Rippe, daughter of George Rippe and Carolina Piepenbrink at the St. Paul's Evangelical Church in Monee, Will County, Illinois. She was born 13 July 1860 and was baptized on 11 November 1860.⁶

Georg and Caroline lived in Washington Township, Will County, Illinois until they moved to Nebraska in 1878. They had six or seven children born to them in Will County. The children were: **Henry** Edward, **Lena** Caroline Pauline, Maria Sophia Karolina, Heinrich Johann Ludwig **Louis**, **Emma** Dorothea Maria, **Mary** and **Sophia** Lena.⁷

On 30 September 1878,⁸ eight years after his son and daughter-in-law, Ernst and Louisa nee Gewecke settled in Nebraska, Georg Rippe purchased the N ½ of Section 24, Township 5 North of Range 2 West in Belle Prairie Township from Sidney H. Hill for \$2000.⁹ They lived in a dugout when they first moved to their farm. Later they built a frame house.¹⁰ Georg continued farming until March of 1886 when he sold the farm to sons, Louis and Henry, for a total of \$3200. According to Delores Skeens¹¹ Georg Rippe moved to Fillmore County in 1873. She states that he bought one quarter of land. One half of the land sold for \$2000 and the other half for \$1600.

⁵ Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at the Port of New York; (NARA microfilm publication M237, roll 165); Manifest for Steamship Shakespeare, date of arrival 20 August 1856, entry for Rippe.

⁶ St. Paul's Evangelical Church Records published in "Where the Trails Cross."

⁷ Ohioa Centennial History Book Committee, *Ohioa 1887 to 1987*, (Nebraska: Self Published, 1987), page 210.

⁸ United Methodist Women of Ohioa, Nebraska, *The History of Ohioa 1887 – 1976*, (Nebraska: Self Published, 1976), p. 44.

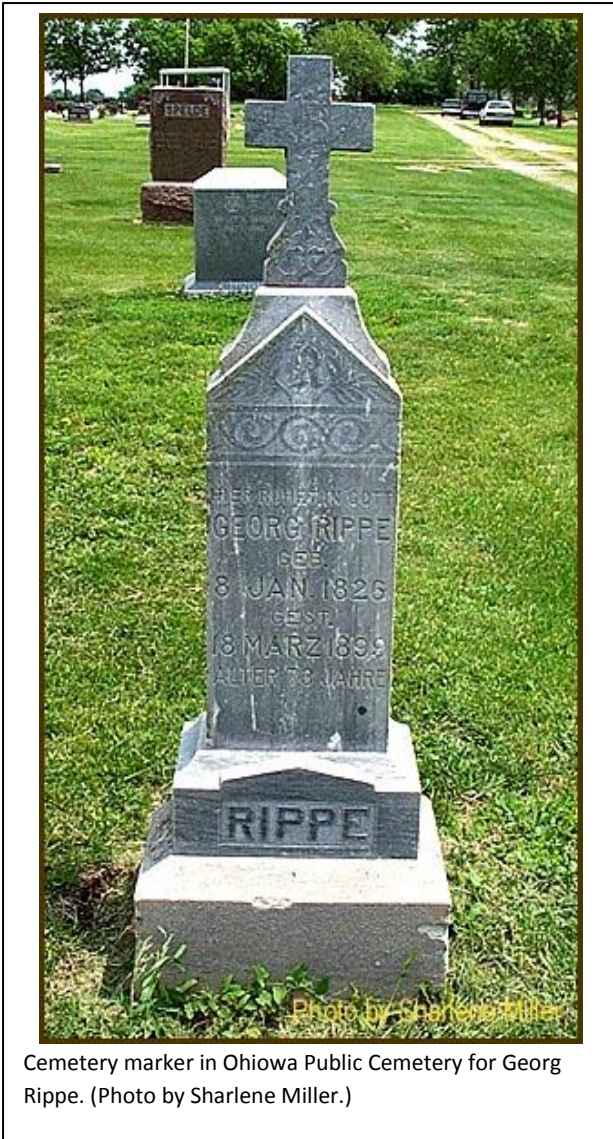
⁹ George Remmers, "Family Narrative about Rippe Family," (unpublished); received from George Remmers in 1998.

¹⁰ Ohioa Centennial History Book Committee, *Ohioa 1887 to 1987*, (Nebraska: Self Published, 1987), page 258.

¹¹ Delores Skeens, *The Genealogy of Louis Henry Rippe*, (unpublished, undated manuscript); received from Delores Skeens in 1997.



Georg and Caroline Rippe nee Piepenbrink home in Fillmore County, Nebraska;
Herman Rippe later lived in the home and it is currently owned by
Willard Rippe; photo courtesy of Willard Rippe and Sharlene Miller.



Cemetery marker in Ohioia Public Cemetery for Georg Rippe. (Photo by Sharlene Miller.)

was awarded \$75 from the rent of their homestead and a monthly allowance of \$24.00. The court allowed her to reside at the home until her death. Mary remained in Fillmore County for about one year. On 19 February 1900, she married Mr. Fritz Wenzelburger.¹⁴ According to the marriage license application, she was 47 years old and was born in Germany to Chris Link and Annie Schlauger. Her place of residence was listed as Ohioia, Nebraska. Fritz Wenzelburger was 46 years old and was

Following the death of his wife, Caroline, and after selling his farm to his sons, Georg purchased 40 acres of land north of Ohioia for \$1600.¹² Georg Rippe married a woman named Mary Link Loufer. She is named as the legal widow in the probate records in his estate file.¹³ Georg and Mary lived in the country on the 40 acre parcel in the SE ¼ or the NE ¼ of Section 5, Township 5 North, Range 1 West of the 6th Principal Meridian in Franklin Township. At the time of his death, Georg's person property was valued at \$2143.30. His widow



Cemetery marker in St. Johannes Evangelical Cemetery in Franklin Township, east of Ohioia.

¹² Wilmetta Yearout nee Rippe, letter addressed to Sharlene Miller dated March 1997, held by Sharlene Miller in 1998.

¹³ Fillmore County, Nebraska, Probate File #582, Decree on Final Account, Georg Rippe, 18 August 1899.

¹⁴ Fillmore County, Nebraska, Marriage License no. 2637, Wenzelburger – Rippe (19 February 1900).

also born in Germany. His parents were Jacob Wenzelburger and Christina Rola. He was from Alexandria, Nebraska. It is possible that Mary moved to Alexandria after she married Fritz Wenzelburger.

Some of the children and grandchildren used to visit Georg and Mary and great-grandchild Harold Rippe tells that his father, Will, remembered Mary giving the children candy. Not all of the children were pleased with their father's choice to remarry after their mother's death and considered that Mary "took-over." It is possible that this is the reason that Georg is not buried beside Caroline Rippe.

Georg Rippe died in Fillmore County on 13 March 1899¹⁵ at the age of 73 years, 2 months and 5 days. [*Note: the newspaper notice states the date of death was 13 March and the probate file states 14 March 1899.*] He died of bronchitis. Georg Rippe was buried in the Ohiowa Public Cemetery. Caroline Rippe nee Piepenbrink died on 07 March 1886 at the age of 60 from consumption. [*Note: Consumption is an old term for tuberculosis. It is possible that it is also confused with asthma or other lung disorder.*] Caroline is buried at the St. Johannes German Evangelical Church Cemetery located 1.5 miles east of Ohiowa, Nebraska. There is no church remaining at this cemetery. The cemetery is in the northeast corner of Section 16 in Franklin Township.

For additional information please refer to the attached documentation.

¹⁵ "Death notice for Georg Rippe," unnamed and undated newspaper clipping from Fillmore County, Nebraska newspaper (about 15 March 1899), no page or column cited.