A BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN NEIDIG

by Isaac Neidig

Muscatine, Iowa

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I. John Neidig's Ancestors and Brothers

About 1755 or 1760 three brothers by the name of Neidig came to Pennsylvania from Switzerland. All three were single. Their given names were Adam Neidig, Daniel Neidig, and J. Lenhart Neidig. Adam settled in Berks County, Daniel settled in York County, and J. Lenhart went up the Susquehanna River to Penns Valley in Centre County.

J. Lenhart bought land in Penns Valley, settled there, and followed farming all his life. He raised a large family of children. Some are still living in the county up to this date. He had a large farm, lived to be quite old, and died of old age.

Daniel's record is short. The writer has no track of what became of him or where he got to after he settled in York County. It seems all track is lost of him or any of his relations.

Adam that settled in Berks County bought two large farms and followed farming all his life. He was a large farmer in his day. He married and had a family of two sons and one daughter. The older son's name was John, and the younger son's name was Abraham; the daughter's name was Elizabeth. Adam Neidig lived on the Berks County farm a number of years and then, in the course of years, he sold his farm in Berks County and bought one near Harrisburg in Dauphin County. This was a tract of 318 acres of real good land, on which he moved with his family, lived the remainder of his days, and died of old age.

After he got old, Adam divided the farm between his two sons -- John and Abraham. But they had to pay a certain sum to their sister, to make her equal with her brothers in the estate of their father. Abraham took the north part of the farm, and John the south part.

The sister Elizabeth was married to S.M. Farrows, and they settled in Cumberland County near the town of New Cumberland. There they bought a farm and lived on it for a number of years. Then they sold the farm and moved to Dayton, Ohio, and had a family of two sons and two daughters. At Dayton they went in the hotel business. The father S.M. Farrows died soon after they had moved to Dayton, but the rest of the family kept on in the hotel business and did well. The younger son got married, had a family, and went into business of his own. The mother Mrs. Farrows and her other son and two daughters kept on with the hotel. In the course of time, the mother became quite old and died. The son and two daughters then sold the hotel and bought a tract of land near the city of Dayton, on to which they moved and lived the remainder of their days. None of the three were ever married, and they were all quite old when they died.
The brother Abraham was a blacksmith by trade and followed his trade rather than farming his land. He neglected his farming and, in the course of time, ran in debt. He often borrowed money from his brother John, until he got much in debt to him. So one day he asked his brother John to buy his farm. He would sell it to him if he would buy it. In the course of time John bought the farm. Then John owned all of his father's farm of 318 acres. John was a good farmer and attended well to the farming of his land. He made it pay and in time got quite well off in the world.

Abraham then bought a farm of about one hundred acres in Cumberland County on the Susquehanna River at the mouth of the Conodoguinet Creek. In the point of the two streams he laid out a town and called it Neidigstown. It had that name for a number of years, but of late the name was changed to West Fairview. There he lived the remainder of his days and died of old age. He had a family of eight children -- five sons and three daughters. The sons' names were David, Jacob, Abraham, John and Samuel; the daughters' names were Elizabeth, Polly and Catherine. After the death of their mother, Polly stayed with their father for years. After the death of their father, the farm was sold. Abraham and Jacob bought it and lived on it for some years, and their sister Catherine kept house for them as neither one of them was married. In the course of time, Abraham and Jacob sold the farm to their uncle John Neidig and then moved to Dayton, Ohio. All the rest of Abraham's family moved west -- some to Ohio, some to Indiana, and some to Illinois and Iowa. As far as the writer knows, they all have died.

II. John Neidig's Wife and Children

John Neidig who was married to Mary Bear was quite a large farmer after he owned all of his father's farm. They had a family of twelve children -- nine sons and three daughters, of which one son and one daughter died in infancy. The names of those who lived are as follows: Elizabeth, Abraham, Daniel, John, Samuel, Benjamin, Annie [Anna], Jacob, Isaac, and Jonathan.
Elizabeth Neidig

Elizabeth was married to a Mr. Michael France [Frantz], a large farmer in Dauphin County within five miles of Harrisburg. They both were members of the U.B. Church. They had a family of two daughters -- named Mary and Lissie. After this, Mr. France died at the age of 31. He died happy in the Lord. The daughters both grew up. Mary France was married to Mr. John Raser [Raysor], son of [U.B. preacher Rev.] John Raser, Sr. They had a family of two sons and one daughter named Sue. The children are all yet living, but their mother died some years ago. She was a good Christian mother and died in great peace. She also was a member of the U.B. Church. Mr. Raser is still living, but he is getting feeble and old. His daughter Sue is still at home single and takes good care of him in his old age. They still live on the same place near the city of Harrisburg. Lissie France, sister of Mary, was married to Mr. John Miller, a son of Andrew Miller. Andrew lived within three miles of Harrisburg and was a farmer all his life time. Lissie and John also lived in Dauphin County. They had but one child, a son named Samuel. Soon after this Lissie died. At what age she died the writer does not know, but she died young. She also died a Christian.

Abraham Neidig

Abraham Neidig got married to a Miss Hakey [Hagey] and soon after moved to Frederick County, Maryland, on a farm his father Rev. John Neidig owned there at that time of 170 acres. Abraham was a good farmer, raised big crops of grain every year, and was quite well off when he died. They had a family of three sons and a daughter that died in infancy. His oldest son Isaac got married and was a farmer all his life time. He lived on the old homestead after the death of his father. The second son Jacob was of a weak mind and almost insane. He was not able to take care of himself and was well in years when he died. The youngest son Henry died at the age of 18 years. He was a real bright and promising boy, and he died quite suddenly. Abraham took his father's farm at a certain sum and made yearly payments to his father in order to give the younger ones of the family their share to make them equal with the older ones. He lived on the place all his life and died at the age of 69 years.

Daniel Neidig

Daniel Neidig married Fannie Niesby. Her parents lived near Hummelstown, Dauphin County, and owned a large farm near Harrisburg, on which Daniel and his wife lived. But they did not live on the farm long till Daniel took sick and died at the age of 27 years. He died in strong faith and in trust in the Lord. They had but one child, a daughter named Mary. When grown up, she married Samuel Bowman, a son of Jacob Bowman of Lebanon County. Jacob owned a large tract of good land and was a large farmer all his life. Samuel moved on the old homestead, and they had a large family of sons and daughters. He and nearly all their children were members of the U.B. Church. Samuel lived to be quite old when he died happy in the faith. His wife is still living and has her home with one of her daughters, who is married to a Mr. Wevick and lives in Hummelstown, Dauphin County.
John Neidig was married to a Miss Nancy Hershey, a daughter of Christian Hershey\textsuperscript{2} of Lancaster County. She lived near the city of Lancaster. Her father owned a large farm and was a large farmer all his life. He also was a preacher of the gospel and a member of the U.B. Conference. There were five children in the Hershey family -- four daughters and a son named Abraham. The writer does not know the oldest daughter's name, but she married to Mr. Michael Hoover\textsuperscript{3} and had quite a large family. They second daughter's name was Elizabeth; she married a Mr. Brenaman and had a large family. Nancy, who married John Neidig, was the third daughter. The youngest daughter Hattie married John Kurts. All of Christian Hershey's children and sons-in-law were members of the U.B. Church in good standing except the Brenamans, who belonged to the Albright Church.

John Neidig and his brother Samuel were both married about the same time. Then their father divided the homestead farm between them. John took the north part of the farm at a certain price and made to his father six yearly payments of $400 each in order to give the younger ones their part of their father's estate. He had a family of one son, one daughter, and a daughter who died in infancy. The son's name was Christian, and the daughter's name was Elizabeth. When the daughter was old enough she got married to Mr. Daniel Runkle. He was born in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County. After they were married, he then started a store in the town of Highspire, Dauphin County. In the year 1849 he sold his store, and in the spring of 1850 he and his wife and his father-in-law John Neidig moved west to the state of Iowa and settled in Linn County in the place where the town of Lisbon is now located. [The story of that eventful trip is given in the account of his brother Isaac's family.] John Neidig bought a good farm of two hundred acres above Mount Vernon in Linn County, Iowa.

John Neidig's son-in-law Daniel Runkle and John Kurts started a good farmer's store of nearly everything the farmer needed, and they had a good trade and did reall well in their business. Daniel was blessed with a large family of children -- five sons and two daughters. All the family are members of the U.B. Church in good standing except the oldest son, who doesn't make any profession of Christianity. Daniel Runkle was a local preacher and a useful man in his days. He was in high standing in his conference among his brethren in the church; as a preacher he was always well received wherever he preached. Soon after they got to Lisbon, he built him a good two-story brick house. They moved in and he lived in it all the balance of his life. After he dissolved his partnership with John Kurts, he had a good farm near Lisbon that he continued at quite a long while. Then he went in the hardware business with his cousin Adam Runkle. They had a good store and did lots of business. He kept at it for a number of years, but of late years his health got so poor that he could not attend to it as he wished. He hired his son George to take his place to help run the store. He never recovered his health, but got worse all the time. At last he died in a strong faith and with assurance of a home in the Heaven above. His wife still lives in the old home, and his youngest daughter is still single and stays with her part of the time.
(John Kurts was a brother-in-law of John Neidig. Mr. Kurts moved from Lancaster County to Iowa with his father-in-law Christian Hershey and all the family that were still with Mr. Hershey at home. They had moved to Lisbon in Linn County in the spring of 1849 [1847?]. Mr. John Kurts bought the farm where part of Lisbon is located. He laid out part of his land in town lots. He and Daniel Runkle were together a long time in keeping store, and then they dissolved their partnership. Mr. Kurts continued in the same business for many years and then sold out to two of his sons. After that he lived a retired life and devoted most of his time to writing deeds and for the public. He is still living, but he is getting quite feeble and not able to do scarcely anything. The most of his family are members of the U.B. Church.)

John Neidig's son Christian married [the daughter of his mother's sister] Miss Nancy Hoover, a daughter of Michael Hoover. Mr. Hoover had moved from Franklin County to Iowa about the same time John Neidig moved out. He bought a farm in Linn County and lived on the farm a number of years. After he got too old to do work on the farm, he then sold it and lived a retired life the balance of his days. He had his home with one of his sons and died in the town of Lisbon of good old age. His wife died long before him. Christian had a family of two sons and two daughters -- all are members of the U.B. Church in good standing. He was a fine and good singer in all religious meetings and there was no better in revival meetings. He could do much good by his singing. Once in a while he would preach, but he did not think that preaching was his work. He died in great peace and of a strong hope of a home in Heaven to rest in peace for ever. His wife is still living and has her home with her daughters. She stays a while with one and then with the other -- and sometimes she stays with her son Al who lives in Muscatine.

John Neidig died at the age of 74 years. His wife out-lived him only a few years. They all died in the faith of the gospel, with strong assurance of a home in Heaven with the blessed. They all were members of the U.B. Church in good standing.

Samuel Neidig

Samuel Neidig was married to Elizabeth Miller, the daughter of Andrew Miller. Mr. Miller lived near Harrisburg and owned a large farm. He was a farmer all his life, and he had a family of eight children -- four sons and four daughters. A local preacher and a member of what is now called the Church of God,4 he was a good man and a good preacher. He and his wife both died happy in the Lord. After he was married, Samuel Neidig took the south part of his father's farm. He took it at a certain price and paid his father in yearly payments of $500 in order to give the younger ones their equal portion of their father's estate.

Samuel Neidig had a family of three children -- one son and two daughters. The son was named Solomon and died at the age of 18 years. He was a very bright and promising young boy and a member of the U.B. Church. The older daughter's name was Mary. She was married to Mr. Isaac Niesley, son of a Martin Niesley who lived near Middletown in Dauphin County. After Isaac was married, he and Mary moved on to a farm quite near Harrisburg, one that his father owned. They lived to have but only one daughter when his wife Mary took sick and died suddenly while yet quite young. She and her husband were members of the U.B. Church, and Mary died so very happy
in the Lord. Isaac married again some years after the death of his wife and is still living on the same place.

Samuel Neidig's younger daughter's name was Sarah. She was married to a Mr. David Herr. He was the son of Henry Herr, who owned a good farm adjoining the city of Harrisburg. (Henry Herr was a farmer all his life, and he and his wife were good members of the U.B. Church. He was quite a useful man in his community, and he was often appointed guardian of the estates of orphan children. He lived and died in the same place of old age and in the faith.) David lived in Harrisburg nearly all his life time. He dealt in livestock, mostly horses, and would buy out in the west and ship them to the eastern cities for sale. He did well in the business and was at it for a number of years. They had a family of two sons and two daughters. Both sons died when they were quite young, which was a severe stroke on the parents. The daughters are both married and doing well. Their husbands are in good businesses in the city of Harrisburg and are well-respected by all. David Herr was on his way to Philadelphia on a business trip when the [train] car he was in wrecked and he was killed, which was a hard stroke on his wife and daughters and friends. Since his death his wife makes her home with her daughters. She is a good Christian lady and a member of the M.E. Church in good standing.

Samuel Neidig died at the age of 52 years. His wife lived a number of years after his death and died at about the age of 75 years. They were both loyal United Brethren and well-respected by all. They gave liberally of their means to the church and the cause of Christ. They both died in the faith of the religion of Christ. They lived many years on the old homestead farm, but in the course of time he rented the old farm to a party to farm it for him. Samuel then bought a small tract of land joining the town of Highspire and lived a short time on this place before he died in great peace.

Benjamin Neidig

Benjamin Neidig got married to a Miss Snavely, who was born and raised in Cumberland County. Her parents died when she was quite a young girl, and Mr. George Sherban was appointed to be her guardian. She had her home with Mr. Sherban till she was grown up. She also had a brother by the name of John Snavely who was a dry goods merchant in the city of Harrisburg for a number of years, but in the course of time he sold his store and moved to the city of New York where he died. After she and Benjamin were married, they then moved to Frederick County, Maryland, on a hill property of his father. The place joined his brother Abraham's farm and contained a flowing mill and 30 acres of good land. They had a family of three sons and one daughter. One of the sons died when he was quite young. After Benjamin's children were pretty well grown, his wife died. She was a good faithful Christian and died in the faith. They both were members of the U.B. Church at the time. In the course of time he married again, to Miss Mary Smith of the town of Hagerstown. Soon after this he sold his mill property and, in the year 1849, they moved west to Iowa and came to Muscatine. There they settled down and lived the balance of their days.
Benjamin went in the butchering business in Muscatine in partnership with Mr. Kencate. In the course of time they dissolved, and Benjamin and his son Maurice carried on the same business for many years and connected the ice business with it. They did well, made money, and got pretty well off. They kept together until Benjamin got too old and feeble to do work. Then he retired from the business and lived a retired life the rest of his days. He was a good Christian man and was respected by all. When he came to Iowa he united in membership with the M.E. Church as there was no United Brethren Church in the place at that time, but his wife remained in the U.B. Church while she lived -- and was a member in good standing and a good worker in the church. She died long before him. His daughter Ruanne stayed with him while he was living, and she was real good and took care of him all their years. He lived to the age of 86 years and 7 days. His two sons and daughter are still living in the city of Muscatine. The daughter Ruanne is still single and has her home and boards with Mrs. Peck. Her father left her enough to make her life an easy one, and she has plenty to keep her comfortable. B.F. Neidig, the youngest son living, is running a printing press with Charles Canway as partner, and they are doing well. Maurice, the oldest son, went in the pork packing business with Charles Cadel some years ago. After two or three years they found it did not pay, so they wound up the business at some loss. Since then Maurice has not been in any business, but he does some work in the oat meal mill at times.

Anna Neidig

Anna Neidig, daughter of Rev. John and Mary Bear Neidig, died at the age of 12 years. She was a bright promising girl and loved by all.

Jacob Neidig

Jacob Neidig got married to Miss Catherine Tshopp [Shopp]. Her father lived on a farm near Shiremanstown in Cumberland County and was a farmer all his life. His name was John Tshopp, and all his family were members of the U.B. Church in good standing. After Jacob and Catherine were married, they moved on a small farm of 75 acres that his father owned near the town of West Fairview in Cumberland County. They lived on this farm for two or three years. In the fall of the last year they lived there, Jacob bought a farm of his own near Kingstown, on which they intended to move the following spring. But in the winter Jacob took sick and died at the age of 31 years. He died very happy, for he was ready when the call came to go in great peace. His wife lived many years after his death, and his sons are still living. The older son John owns a farm near Hinemans tavern [Shiremanstown] on which his son lives. John's wife died a number of years ago, and he has his home with his son. He never married again, and he lives a retired life. He and his wife belonged to the U.B. Church. When he was grown, the younger son Harry married Anna Rupp and went in the dry goods store business in Shiremanstown. He kept at it for some years and then sold out and went into farming. He kept at it till at last his health failed and he had to stop farming. He now lives a retired life and is of feeble health.
Isaac Neidig

After our father Rev. John Neidig quit farming and the farm divided between sons John and Samuel, Isaac (the author) made his home with brother John and Jonathan made his home with brother Samuel. Jacob lived with brother Abraham in Maryland. Isaac was now about 15 years of age, and Jonathan was about 13.

Isaac worked on the farm in the summer time and went to school in the winter. He stayed about two or three years and then went to Neidigstown in Cumberland County to learn the tanning trade. He stayed and worked there for a man by the name of Ruby for twelve months. After this he went with his father and mother to Baltimore, Maryland. Father Neidig was sent there by the Pennsylvania Conference to take charge of the Otterbein Church as their preacher. He stayed three years and then went back to his old home in Pennsylvania. Soon after they got to Baltimore, Isaac worked in Daniel Callfuse's morocco tanning yard. He worked there 13 months and then went to work for George Rayment in his tanning yard for twelve months. After that he went back to Pennsylvania and worked nine months for Mr. Greenwalt in his tanning yard in the city of Harrisburg. By this time he had a pretty good inside on the tanning trade. In October of 1831 he heard that there was a tanning yard for sale in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County. So Isaac and his father went to see the place and they liked it. Isaac bought the place for $2100 -- there was 30 acres of land with it, and the stock in the yard amounted to $1500. The property was bought from Michael Wise, who was selling out for the reason that he was elected county judge.

Isaac married Miss Mollie Miller, daughter of Andrew Miller, on January 12, 1832. She was a sister to his brother Samuel's wife. On the following spring they moved on the place he bought in East Hanover and carried on the tanning business there for six years. Then the price of leather went so low that tanning became a rather poor business and it would not pay much to continue. So after six years he sold the whole and all the property belonging to it to a Mr. Warner Thomas, a man from the town of Lebanon. After this Isaac bought a farm in Cumberland County containing 236 acres for $6000. It was not far from the town of Hagerstown. He farmed there for six years and then sold the land to Daniel May for $9000. After this he could not suit himself to buy a farm the following spring, and he moved with his family to Shiremanstown. They lived but one year in Shiremanstown and then bought the Jacob Rupp farm near that place for which he paid $8500 for 103 acres. After living there about five years, his wife died at the age of 35 years with the consumption. She was a good wife, a good mother, and a good Christian woman. She had many friends and was loved by all that knew her. She died very happy and in great peace. She was conscious to the very last and uttered this word of a hymn about two or three hours before she died:

Bright angels are from glory come.
They're round my bed; they're in my room.
They want to waft my spirit home.
And all is well; yea, all is well.

They had a family of six children -- five daughters and one son. The youngest daughter died at 11 months old.
Isaac Neidig sold his farm in the fall of 1849 to a Mr. John Rupp to get ready to go along the following spring to with his brothers John and Jonathan to Iowa. Benjamin had moved out the year before to Muscatine. About two weeks before he started for Iowa, Isaac then married Pollie Burtner. Her parents lived in Cumberland County near the town of Hagerstown. Her brother Reuben came along with them to Iowa. When they were all ready to start, the company numbered 35 -- big and little, young and old. Their names were as follows: Jonathan and Isaac Neidig and their families; Jacob Hershey and family -- along with his father [Rev. Abraham Hershey] and mother, Samuel Frantz and his family, Doctor Hershey, and his sister Lissie; Jacob Klepper and family; mother Erb and her two sons Jacob and Christian; Jenny Grimmer; Reuben Burtner; Henry Batdorf; and others. The Hershey and Isaac Neidig company took passage on railroad car. The railroad then finished 60 miles from Harrisburg at Lewistown, and from there they took passage on the canal boat to Pittsburgh.

Isaac’s brother John was in another company. They took passage at Harrisburg on a canal boat for Pittsburgh. Their company's names were as follows: John Neidig and wife; Daniel Runkle and wife; Abraham Funk and family; Mr. [A.] Rupart [Rubant] and family; and others. Nearly all this company were from Dauphin County. They took passage of the steamboat Belle of the West at Pittsburgh for St. Louis. On their way down the Ohio River, some distance below Cincinnati, their steam boat took fire and burned to the water's edge with great loss of life and property. Quite a good number were burned to death, some were badly burned, and some jumped in the river and were drowned. As it happened in the night, it made it so much worse. A number just escaped with their night clothes on. Some lost all they had on the boat in goods or furniture. John Neidig and his son-in-law Daniel Runkle and all their families got out safe on shore in their night clothes. They had two large trunks in which they had their clothes and most of their money. As they started for shore, Mr. Runkle took hold of the one and John took the other -- and they dragged them out on shore. The women took care of themselves and the children. In that way they all got out safe without being hurt or burned. But they lost all their goods and $60 that was in another trunk they could not take with them. (Abraham Funk lost all he had on the boat except the money which he had with him at the time. Some of his family were badly burned before they got out on shore. It was indeed a great and terrible calamity and destruction of life and property. About 30 lost their lives.) There was a house nearby where they went and stayed until another boat came along -- and in a day or two one came. So they took passage on it. After this they got along pretty well till they landed at Muscatine, Iowa. Then John went on to Lisbon, Linn County. It was four weeks from the time they left Harrisburg till they reached the end of their journey there.

Isaac Neidig's company took passage at Pittsburgh for St. Louis on the steamer Mount Vernon. The fare to St. Louis was $8.00 for adults and 40 cents per hundred pounds of freight for their goods. From St. Louis to the city of Muscatine, they took passage on the steamboat Financier at a fare of $4.00 for each adult and 25 cents per hundred pounds of freight for their goods. They started at Harrisburg April 7, 1850, and arrived at Muscatine April 27 -- which made a journey of 20 days. The trip all the way was a pleasant one, and all kept well. Here in Muscatine, some bought homes and some rented houses to live in for the present. The Erbs bought a small two-story frame house for which they paid $600. Jonathan Neidig bought a new two-story brick house for which he paid $1300. Isaac Neidig bought a new one-story brick house for which he paid $800.
Jacob Hershey rented a house for a short time, but he soon went to work and built himself a three-story brick house -- it was one of the finest houses in town at that time. Samuel Funk also bought a one-story frame house. Jacob Hershey's father and mother made their home with their son-in-law Jonathan Neidig. The Klepper family bought a farm four miles from town, moved on it, and have lived on the same place ever since -- they are still living but are getting old and feeble.

Isaac Neidig's company were nearly all members of the United Brethren Church in good standing, and about the first thing they did was to build a church as the place was without a building to worship in. So they built a brick one 36 x 50 feet with a good basement to it -- at a cost of about $3300, lot and all. The basement was finished the same fall, and in the winter they had a big revival meeting. There were a good many converts, among them some of Isaac Neidig's daughters and Jacob Erb -- who is still a good and faithful member and one of the leading men in the church. Erb is a good Christian man, and the most of his family are also members. In the next spring, the upper room was finished. In September 1851 the church was dedicated by the Rev. George Miller, who was then pastor of the charge for three years. Brother Miller came here directly from Baltimore, Maryland. He was a fine preacher, a real good man, and a Christian out and out. Before Rev. Miller had come, Rev. Mr. Lincey held the first revival in the U.B. Church in the winter of 1850. A Rev. Mr. Everhart had preached there for the first summer. They were both good preachers. The old church house is still a good building, but of late years it has been too small to accommodate the congregation that meet from time to time. So the brethren went to work and built a new one much larger than the old one -- at a cost of about $13,000, lot and all. When the first church was built, it was the nicest and largest in town. But the next year the Methodists built one that was some larger than the U.B. Church.

Jonathan Neidig was the youngest of the Neidigs of Rev. John Neidig. After Jonathan was of age or more, he married Miss Catherine Hershey. Her father owned a farm of two hundred acres of land near Carlisle in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, on which they lived. Jonathan, after he was married, then moved on his father-in-law's farm and followed farming for a number of years. They had a family of five children, but two died in infancy. The living were two daughters and one son. The older daughter's name was Emma, the other's was Kissie, and son's name was Abraham. In the year 1848 or 1849, Jonathan made a visit to Iowa. After traveling around to see the lay of the country, he fell in love with Iowa. Before he started for home, he at that time bought some Cedar River bottom land and one lot near the courthouse square. After he got home, he then gave such a good report of Iowa that his father-in-law and his brother-in-law Jacob Hershey were all willing to move to the state of Iowa.

Jonathan and the others then offered their farms for sale and soon found people to buy. Jonathan sold his 200 acre farm at $60 per acre. Jacob Hershey sold his for $100 per acre -- he had 100 acres. They got ready to move in the spring of 1850. Father Hershey was a minister of the gospel and did a good deal of preaching in his younger day, but at this time he was too old to preach but little. He was a true and faithful Christian man nearly all his life time; his wife, too, was a faithful Christian. They lived only a few years after they got to Iowa; they both died very happy in
Jonathan Neidig, after arriving in Iowa with Isaac's company in 1850, bought a tract of land lying in the Cedar River bottom. There was no house on it, for it was all wild land. Jonathan lived in town then, so he went to work and built a three-story brick building near the court house square. The house was intended for a boarding house and a farmers' hotel. His brother Isaac moved in the building, ran it as a boarding house for a little over a year, and then turned it over to John London. In the course of time Jonathan Neidig bought a farm of 160 acres of land four miles from town in which he then moved and followed farming for some years. About this time he traded the hotel to John Cole for 1300 acres of wild land in Cedar County. And besides, Cole paid him $1500 cash -- Jonathan made a good trade with Cole, for some of the land got valuable after a few years in his hands. In the course of time Jonathan sold his farm four miles from town and then moved out to Western College, which was located in Linn County. There he bought two lots and built a good two-story frame house on them. When it was finished, he then moved into it. He also bought a good farm near the place. Some of the land he rented out to be farmed, some he farmed himself. He gave a great deal of his means to the support of the College. He was too liberal for his own good, but he did all for God's glory and course and the church. He lived quite a long time at Western, and on February 20, 1868, he died a good faithful Christian and in great peace at the age of 56 years. His widow lived many years after his death. She, too, died a few years ago. She had her home with her daughter Kissie and died at that place. They lived in David City, Nebraska. She, too, died in the faith and a true Christian at about 80 years of age.

Jonathan Neidig's daughters were both married on one day -- Emma to Mr. Steele and Kissie to Mr. Overholser. In the course of time, the two daughters and their husbands and their mother all moved to the state of Nebraska, near David City, Butler County. There the sons-in-law each bought a farm and then went farming. Their mother bought two lots in David City and built herself a good frame house on them. There she lived the balance of her days. Jonathan Neidig's son Abraham went to Cedar Rapids and bought an interest in a printing office. In the course of time he sold out his interest and bought another in the town of Marshalltown. But in the course of time he sold out again, and then he, too, with his family moved to the same place where his brothers-in-law had located in Nebraska. He bought a large tract of land and then went in the sheep business, but he could not make it pay. The sheep died for him, he closed out his business raising sheep, and moved to Omaha. There he traded some in real estate and married a lady of that city for his second wife, as his first wife had died some years before this. From there he moved to Los Angeles, California. Then Emma and her family moved to South Dakota, and now their children are scattered. Kissie and her family are still living in David City, Nebraska.

(Jacob Hershey built a saw mill below town on the river, ran it for some years, and did well with it. His son-in-law Frances helped him in the lumber business. About this time Benjamin Hershey, a second cousin of Isaac Hershey, came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Isaac Hershey bought the mill and then built it much larger. Benjamin has run it for a number of years and is still running it on this date in 1894. It is called the lower mill. Mr. Isaac Hershey got quite wealthy in the lumber business, and he was supposed to be worth about two million dollars. He died a few years ago at the age of about 75 years. His widow still lives but is old and quite feeble.)
After this Jacob Hershey bought a small farm near town on which he moved and then put most of
the place in small fruit and chicken-raising. He did well in that business, stayed on that place a
number of years, and then sold out and moved into town again and lived a retired live the balance of
his days. He died at about the age of 80 years. Mr. Jacob Hershey was counted one of the best men
in the community. He was a good and faithful Christian all his life time and a United Brethren out
and out. He died a happy death in the Lord and full of hope of a home in Heaven. His widow lived
but a few years after his death. She, too, died in the faith.)

III. The Family of Rev. John Neidig's Son Isaac (this author)

Isaac Neidig and George Springer went in partnership in Muscatine in the grocery business.
They stayed together a little over two years, sold to Stock and Duber, and dissolved partnership.
Each then went in the same business on his own. After several years in the business, Isaac Neidig
then sold out to Samuel Shammo. After this Isaac did some farming near town on land that he
rented. Then his son-in-law Reuben Burtner wished him to clerk for him in his farm implement
store, and he agreed to do so. Reuben Burtner was married to Isaac Neidig's second daughter Mary.
But in the course of time Mr. Burtner was induced to move to Quincy, Illinois, to go in partnership
with George Molton -- who was in the same business in that city, but in a small way. So after the
Neidigs lived in Muscatine for 20 years, the Burtners and Neidigs pulled up stakes and moved to
Quincy. Isaac Neidig worked for the firm for a number of years. In the course of time Molton and
Burtner dissolved partnership, and Burtner bought out Mr. Molton's interest in the business.
Burtner ran it for a while on his own. In the course of time Burtner sold out his implement store to
Andrew Wickey, moved to Kansas City, Missouri, and took an interest in the Moline Plow
Company. But Isaac Neidig stayed in Quincy and worked for Andrew Wickey. In two or three
years Burtner moved back to Quincy and then went in with Wickey in partnership in the same
business. Then Isaac Neidig's wife took sick and died at the age of 56 years, 8 months, and 10 days.
Converted when but a girl young in years, she was a good Christian nearly all her life time and
always faithful and willing to her Heavenly Father's will. She enjoyed religion to the fullest extent.
She died happy in the Lord.

Isaac Neidig then made his home with the Burtners, but only for a short time -- as Burtner
was getting ready to move to the state of Nebraska to improve a tract of land he then owned. After
they moved, Isaac made his home with the Wickeys and still worked for Mr. Wickey. In about six
months he quit work and made a visit east to Pennsylvania for about three months. After he came
back from the east he again worked for Mr. Wickey. At this time Isaac Neidig married Miss
Martha Curran, a lady who then lived in Quincy and had her home with her sister, Mrs. Grimshaw.
After working a while longer for Mr. Wickey, Isaac Neidig and his wife moved to Wichita, Kansas,
and there went into the agricultural business in that city. There was a good opening at that time for
the business, as there were only two small stores that sold farm implements. But in less than two
years there were nine in the place -- some large firms started up, and the smaller ones could not
compete with them. The trade was so cut up and goods sold so low that it would not pay to stay in
the business. After a little over two years in business there, Isaac sold out and moved back to
Quincy again. There he went to work for Mr. Wickey again, but only for a short time -- he got so
lame in his knees that he had to quit work.

By this time the Burtners had lived on their ranch in Nebraska about two years. Then their son-in-law Mr. Millett persuaded them to move to his ranch in Kansas and take charge of the same. They moved, but their son Owen was to stay on the ranch to attend to the farming that summer and to try, if possible, to sell the ranch in that time. Then Reuben Burtner asked his father-in-law to move out and keep house for his son Owen. So Isaac Neidig and his wife moved out early in the spring and stayed to the last of October. While there they did the best they could at keeping house for Owen and taking care of the stock. But it was a hard summer for both the old folks. In the fall Isaac had rather poor health and was so lame in his knees that he was not able to do work. So he lived a retired life, and in the course of time he and his wife moved back to Muscatine, Iowa. After having been there about three weeks, Martha his wife took sick, suffered three weeks, and died. She was a good Christian from a child up. She always tried to live a Christian life, and when her change came she was ready to go in peace. She always was a member of the Methodist Church in good standing. She died at the age of 65 years, 10 months, 10 days.

Isaac Neidig then made his home with his daughter Sarah, who was married to J.S. Patton. He stayed with them from the last of August 1882 till the following spring. Then in May he went to Kansas and stayed nearly all summer with his daughter Susan, who is married to G.M. Huffman. Late in the fall he came back to Muscatine and again has his home with his son-in-law Mr. J.S. Patton. In May of the following spring he again went to Kansas. This time he stayed with his son-in-law R. Burtner for one year and six months. In time he made a short visit to his daughter Sue. Burtners lived at this time at Pomona, Franklin County. After this, Isaac then came back to Muscatine and made his home with his daughter Lissie, who is married to Philip Stein. Here he has had his home ever since.

Mary Neidig

Mary Neidig married Reuben Burtner. He moved from Iowa to Illinois to Nebraska to the Kansas ranch of his son-in-law Mr. Millett. After R. Burtner stayed there two or three years, he bought a ranch of 640 acres near the town of Pomona, Franklin County, Kansas, on which he moved and followed farming and stock raising. After three or four years living on the farm, he then rented the ranch to be farmed. Then he moved to East Chicago, Indiana, and there went into partnership with Andrew Wickey in manufacturing hay rakes and other farm implements. After they were together a year or more, he did not like the way the business was run and so he sold out his interest in the plant to Mr. A. Wickey. After that he and his son Clinton went in the coal, wood and feed business. They were doing well at that, but then Reuben's wife took sick. She died in a short time at the age of 54 years. She was converted when a young girl and lived a Christian life nearly all her life time. She was a member of the U.B. Church until after she was married and moved to Quincy. Mr. Burtner also was a member of the U.B. Church while living in Muscatine. Then she and her husband united with the M.E. Church as there was no U.B. church in Quincy at that time. She belonged to the church when she died. She always had a strong hope and assurance of a home in Heaven.
After the death of Mary, R. Burtner thought he could not stay in East Chicago any longer. So he concluded he had better move back to Kansas. He did move, and he made his home with his daughter Sue -- who is married to A.M. Benton and lives in the town of Pomona, Franklin County. The writer is sure he has a good pleasant home with them. He has his farm rented to parties to farm, but he looks after the repairs of fences. He also raises some stock, mostly hogs. They had a family of eight children, but three died quite young. Two sons and three daughters are still living -- and all are married. The oldest daughter Ida is married to Capt. Eugene Millett. They have but one child, a daughter Jennie Millett -- 12 or 14 years old, a real smart awake girl full of life. Mr. Millett had a large cattle ranch in Elsworth County, Kansas, of about 3500 acres of land on which they spend their summers. In the winter time they live in Kansas City, Missouri, but he goes back and forth to see after his stock on the ranch. He also has a ranch in the state of Texas. He used to have lots of cattle on both ranches -- from six to ten thousand head. He used to make lots of money in his younger days, but of later years the cattle trade has not been very good. Neither of them belong to any church. They make no profession of Christianity. They believe in enjoying themselves and having a good time in the world.

The next daughter Sue Burtner married a Mr. Benton. He is clerking in a large store in Pomona, Kansas, at a good living. They have a good and pleasant living. They both do enjoy and live religion in its fullest extent. They both are members of the Methodist Church in good standing and well-respected by all. They are a real happy family. Mr. Benton has been class leader for some time in his church. Bessie Burtner, the youngest of their daughters, was converted in a revival meeting at home while yet a young girl. She is married to a Mr. Merion of Kansas City -- who is in the real estate business in Kansas City, where they live. The writer does not know whether he belongs to any church or not.

R. Burtner's oldest son Owen married a Miss May Bell, a lady of Brooklyn, New York. He had employment there in a photographic picture gallery and worked there a year or two in the year of the world's fair. He then went to Chicago and there went in the same business with another man as partner. His wife was staying in Brooklyn. Neither Owen nor his wife make any profession of Christianity. Clinton Burtner, the youngest son of R. Burtner, is married to a Miss Zee Embrey. Her parents live near the town of Attana, Franklin County, Kansas. Clinton and his father were in the coal, wood and feed business in East Chicago for several years. Last winter he sold out his business and in the spring of 1894 he moved on his father's farm near the town of Pomona, Kansas. He and his wife both made a profession of religion, and the writer thinks they are members of the M.E. Church. They have two children, both boys.
Sarah Neidig

Sarah Neidig, daughter of Isaac, married Mr. J.S. Patton. He is a native of Ohio and he came to Muscatine about the year 1850 or 1851. He was a carpenter by trade, and he and Henry Madden worked together for about two years. If the writer remembers rightly, he and a Mr. Cadel ran a door sash factory for several years. He also was in the tombstone business. In the course of time he bought an 80 acre farm about four miles from town, moved on it, followed farming for some time, and then rented the farm to Henry Miller. After that he then moved to town and the writer thinks he went into partnership with Mr. Levi Eckle in the lumbering business. The writer thinks they were in business together about seven years. Then they dissolved the partnership and divided the stock, and each went on his own book. Mr. Patton ran his about three years and then sold out his entire stock of lumber at wholesale to a Kansas lumber company that had their plant at Topeka. With the Mussers and some others, Mr. Patton then formed a company which was afterwards called the Muscatine Lumber Company. They bought the vacant saw mill and lumber which was located at the mouth of Mad Creek and on the river. The company made some changes and enlarged the mill. They got it in good running order, made a good thing out of it, and did good work in sawing lumber. This mill ran four or five years. One summer day in the month of June, as a train of cars passed on the river track, a spark of fire from the locomotive fell in a pile of laths near the rail road track and set it on fire. As there was a strong wind at the time, the fire was spread and could not be gotten under control until the mill and a great amount of lumber was destroyed. The loss was about two hundred thousand dollars. But as good luck favored the company, they had it heavily insured. They also got some damage paid them by the rail road company, so at the end they did not lose so much. After that Mr. Patton put his means some in a Des Moines bank and some in a Wilton bank. He also has valuable real estate property in Des Moines and in Muscatine.

They have a family of two sons and one daughter. He and all his family are members in good standing of the Methodist Church. Their older son Ellsworth went in partnership with his uncle Sam Neidig in the grocery business in the city of Des Moines, Iowa. They were together several years and doing well, but the business did not suit E. Patton. He preferred the lumber business. So they dissolved partnership and sold out their store at wholesale. He then started a lumber yard in Des Moines. He ran the business for some years and was doing well, but one summer day about eight years ago he went bathing with his brother Milton and others in the Des Moines River and the dear boy drowned. It was a terrible strike for his parents to bear, and for his brother and sister and friends. He was a good pure Christian boy and a bright business young man, honest in all his dealings. He was at the age of 21 years at the time. The younger son Milton is clerking in the bank his father has an interest in Des Moines. He is a bright, smart young man full of business. He is a real good boy and well-respected by all. If he lives, he is bound to make his mark in the world for good.

Their daughter May Patton was educated for the ministry of the gospel. After she was through school, she commenced her master's work. At one time health failed the preacher who was appointed by the Conference on the Muscatine Circuit, so May Patton was appointed in his place to take charge of the work. She took the work, and her work gave perfect satisfaction to all. She also
spent part of a year in Wichita, Kansas, as an assistant pastor of the M.E. Church in that place -- where she also did her work well and with satisfaction. After that she was engaged to be assistant pastor for a Detroit, Michigan, church. She stayed at that place about one year -- where she also was well-received and had many friends in church and out, wherever she would labor in her Master's cause. She enjoyed religion to its fullest extent and had faith in the leadings of the Holy Spirit. She is possessed with that faith which takes hold of God. She has been very sick over the past three months, but is getting well again as of this date of September 5, 1894.

Lissie Neidig

Lissie Neidig, daughter of Isaac, was married to Philip Stein. He was a son of Jacob Stein, who was a farmer and lived near Union Deposit, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Philip came to Muscatine about the year 1851 or 1852. Soon afterward he and his cousin L.G. Stein went into the furniture business. L.G. Stein died some years ago, but Philip is still in the same business and has been in it for over 40 years. His present wife is his second wife. He had two daughters with his first wife. The older's name was Lottie and the other's was Alice. Lottie was a beautiful girl, so lady-like that she was loved by all. She was a good pure Christian girl, but at about the age of 17 years she took sick and died. She was ready to go when death called for her, and no doubt she is safe at home in Heaven. The other daughter is married to Mr. George May of Chicago, and they live in that place. Mr. May has a business of manufacturing steam force pumps. He had done well and had a good trade before the hard times set in, but he still has a fair trade.

(P. Stein had three children with his second wife -- two others died quite young in their infancy. Their younger daughter Mary is grown up and still living at home. She is a very good girl, cheerful and full of life. She loves company, and all that call on her are made welcome at her home. She seems to bring sunshine in the home and community she moves in and around. Mr. Stein and his wife and the two daughters are all members of good standing in the Presbyterian Church. He is also one of the elders of the church. He is a good Christian man and he lives religion in his day by walks. He loves his church and his brethren and sisters of the church. He is much respected in church and out of it. His wife also is living a true Christian life and is esteemed by all her friends and neighbors. She is highly thought of and respected by all. She is living to gain the home in Heaven which is promised her.)

Susan Neidig

Susan Neidig, daughter of Isaac, was married to Gabriel M. Huffman. His parents moved from Ohio to Johnson County, Iowa, where his father bought a farm near where Western College is now located. Here Gabriel went to school in the winter and worked on his father's farm in the summer. He first got acquainted with Susan Neidig at Western College, as she also went to school there at the same time he did. In the course of time his father sold his Iowa farm and moved to Miami County, Kansas, near the town of New Lancaster. There he bought a farm and was a farmer nearly all his lifetime. His father also was a preacher of the gospel and a member of the Kansas Conference of the United Brethren Church. His son G.M. still remained in Iowa and was then teaching school at different places. He married Susan Neidig about the year 1865 or 1866, and then
they moved to Kansas near where his father moved to. There he bought 400 acres of land which he farmed along with other land that he rented to farm. This land was near the town of New Lancaster. He rented a house in town to live in, but he did not farm long until he failed. A call came to preach the gospel and be a minister for Christ. He gave heed to the call and followed his Master's leading to work for the salvation of souls. He then received a quarterly conference license to preach the gospel and, in about two or three years after that, was admitted as a full member of the Kansas Conference. The conference was held at Lecompton, but the writer does not know the date. After this G.M. Huffman gave his full time to the ministry and has continued in the preaching of the gospel up to this date. He is one of the leading men in his conference, and he is always well-received wherever he is sent to preach. He has filled the office of presiding elder for the past six years. He was also elected a delegate to the last General Conference, which was held two years ago in May at Dayton, Ohio. They have a family of two daughters and four sons. Their oldest son is also called to the ministry and is a member of the Kansas Conference of the U.B. Church in good standing and at work for the Master in the saving of souls. He is quite an exceptional preacher and is doing good work wherever he is sent.

Their oldest daughter is married, and her husband is also a minister of the gospel of Christ and a member of good standing of the Kansas Conference. He is quite a good and successful preacher and has revivals wherever he is sent on his work. His wife is also a wholesale Christian and a good help to him in all his work. Their next oldest son Harley also has a license from the quarterly conference to preach the gospel. Their third son Roy is running a printing press in a town not far from Lecompton and is doing well with it. He also is a member of the U.B. Church. Rev. G.M. Huffman's family seems to be a model family. They never had a death in their family. They are nearly all grown up, they all belong to the same church, they have four preachers in the family, and they all are trying to live a Christian life. The parents now live in Lecompton, where they have a good home of their own.

**Samuel Neidig**

Samuel Neidig, son of Isaac Neidig, was the only son that Isaac had and was the youngest of his family. He was born at Shiremanstown, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, on the 4th of October, 1843. At he age of 19 years he enlisted in the Union Army in the Rebellion. He joined the 24th Iowa Regiment and continued in the same till the war was ended. He was in service for his country over three years. During that time he was in many hard-fought battles, but he always came out without being hurt -- although in some battles that he was in men fell on his right hand and on his left hand. At one time when they were camping quite a while at Helena (?), the Chaplain and some others of the army got up a religious revival and kept it quite a while. Samuel and others got converted in the meetings. From that time on he tried to live a Christian life. After his conversion he would write such good letters home to his parents, often telling them how much he did enjoy religion and how glad he was that he had Christian parents who taught him the better way to walk in.
After he came home from the war, he went to Cedar Rapids and bought a grocery store and went in business there. He had a good store and kept it nice and clean. People had confidence in his honesty, so he had a good trade from the start and really did well. For some time he continued in the business alone, but in the course of time he thought he could do better by taking a partner and then going in the wholesale business. So he took a partner, but the writer does not remember the partner's name. They laid in a heavy stock of groceries and continued in the business for some years, but they found out they were getting too many bad accounts in their books which would be hard to collect -- if at all. He also found out his partner was not the man he thought he was. He found he was losing money by keeping at it in that way, so they dissolved the partnership and settled up the business. They sold out the balance of the store at wholesale. Samuel Neidig then moved to Des Moines, Iowa, and he and [his nephew] Ellsworth Patton formed a partnership and went in the grocery business in Des Moines. They were together quite a while, but E. Patton did not like the business and preferred to be in the lumber business, so they dissolved, and Sam has kept the business himself until this day. He is doing real well and has a good store and a good trade. He has a good home of his own. He was married to a Miss Clara Turner. Her parents lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at that time. His wife is still alive. They never had any children. They both are members of the Presbyterian Church in good standing.

IV. United Brethren Career of Rev. John Neidig

The Rev. John Neidig, the father of the Neidig family in the foregoing history, was one of the founders of the United Brethren Church with the Rev. Mr. Otterbein, Boehm, Geeting and others. Father Neidig was a member of the Mennonite Church. His church elected him as one of their preachers by ballot of the members of his congregation. He was at this time at the age of 25 years. But it was not his wish to become their preacher, for it seemed to him a hard task for him to do the work of ministering having but little education and no Christian experience -- or "change of heart," as he called it. But he thought after the church elected him for the work, he would obey the call of the church and do the best he knew how. But the more he tried to preach, the more he failed -- because of the need of a change of heart. So he got to reading the scriptures more and more, and it found it needful to have a change of heart and to be born again to be a successful preacher. He did not rest, but went to God in earnest prayer and seeking for a change of heart. He kept on praying until he found the desire of his heart -- until he was sure he was "converted," as he called it.

He then told of his experience of the change of heart he obtained by ardent prayer to God. He then preached the same to his church -- that they must be born again and have a change of heart in order to please God and get to Heaven at last. But the members of his church would not receive his "new doctrine," as they called it. In the course of time they shut the church door against him -- and "cast him over the fence," as they called it. When he was written out, nearly all the young people of his church came out with him -- and upheld him in his "new doctrine," as it was called. The young people would follow him and attend his meetings at nearly all his appointments. He soon had plenty of places to preach, both in school houses and in houses of families. His followers were called "Neidig's People" instead of Mennonites. He kept in his new work, which increased all the time in numbers. For now he preached the true gospel to the people -- the new birth and change
of heart which was needful for salvation and to enjoy the religion of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Philip William Otterbein was then living in Baltimore, Maryland. He was a member of the German Reformed Church. He, too, had experienced a change of heart and the new birth. He was a man full of the Holy Ghost. He was well-educated and a fine preacher. He also came out of his former church and started an independent church of his own in the city of Baltimore. His church people were called the "Otterbein People." Martin Boehm lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He also was a member of the Mennonite Church. He also came out from his church and worked independent of any church, so his followers were called "Boehm's People." George Adam Geeting started in the same way. He also was a member of the German Reformed Church and lived in Maryland. His followers were called the "Geeting People." Rev. Mr. Albright also started his church about the same time in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and his followers were called the "Albright's People." All these men preached the one and same doctrine of a change in heart and the new birth -- and a holy living in the world, and the enjoyment of a true heart-felt religion and strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the course of time Rev. P.W. Otterbein conspired with the above Brethren and so learned that they had the same faith and preached the same gospel that he was preaching and enjoyed the same religion that he enjoyed. So in the course of time he named a set time and place and then invited them to meet him at that place and time named to hold a conference with them. The place named was in York County, Pennsylvania, at the home of a proven family near the town of Little York. There they met at the time and place named -- except for Mr. Albright, who did not meet with them and was bound to have a church of his own. While these Brethren were meeting together, each related the manner of his work and success in the ministry. They found all their work of labor was all the same -- that is, the salvation of souls and the up-building of God's kingdom on earth. So they agreed to unite themselves in one body of a church, and they gave it the name of United Brethren in Christ. Then the name of Neidig's People or Otterbein's People was all done away with, and instead there was the U.B. Church -- and still to this date the Church has the same name. The writer has met parties in his time that said the United Brethren Church was a split of the Methodist Church, but that is not true -- for there never was any connection with any one of the founders of the U.B. Church with the M.E. Church.

From this time on, the Church grew in numbers and membership so that up to this date over 30 thousand have been converted and united with the U.B. Church. Rev. Father Neidig preached the gospel 51 years, and he was quite a popular preacher. He preached more funerals than any other man in his day. He was often called to go some times as far as thirty or forty miles in those days, and would preach a full sermon some times an hour or more long. People would come to a funeral from far and near. Preachers in those days failed. They ought to preach to the living and not to the dead. Great crowds would go to attend funerals in those days. Father Neidig also attended camp meetings and big meetings. He almost always was called on to preach the Sunday morning sermon, at which time there was always the largest congregation to preach to. He had a strong clear voice. He always preached with much earnestness in the presenting of the truth of the gospel.
Father Neidig never took charge to travel a circuit. But if the circuit preacher would get sick, or ill in some way that he could not fill his appointments, then Rev. John Neidig would fall in and take his place and fill his appointments until he was able to fill them again himself. In doing that, Father Neidig would be gone from home -- some times for two weeks or more. He also had more weddings to attend to than any other minister in his community.

After the homestead farm was divided between his sons John and Samuel, Father and Mother Neidig moved in a 1-1/2 story house that stood in the same yard as the old homestead house. It used to be a tenant house, but John and Sam repaired it and fixed it up in good shape before they moved in. There was a girl by the name of Pollie Weaver that Father and Mother took to raise when she was but three years of age. By then this girl was grown up, and she stayed with them a long time and did the work for them. But the time came when she got married. Then Father and Mother Neidig made their home with their son John. There they spent the balance of their days. Mother Neidig died two or three years before Father. She was at the age of 74 years, and she died fully ready and prepared for the heavenly home which was in waiting for her. Father Neidig died at the age of 78 years, 9 months, 2 days. He died full of faith, in hope of eternal life, and full of assurance of a rest in Heaven with all the people of God.

The name of the writer of this history is Isaac Neidig. He is one of the sons of Rev. John Neidig, who is the Father of the Neidig families in this history. Isaac Neidig was the next to the youngest of the Neidig family, and is the only one living at this time on the 8th of October, 1894. In a few more weeks he will be at the age of 85 years. He enjoys good health in both body and mind -- sound in body without having any aches or pains. The only complaint he has is lameness in his knees, but he is able to get around real well by going slow in his walks. The foregoing was all written by him without using eye glasses, he having his second sight for the past four years.

Isaac Neidig was converted when at the age of between 16 and 17 years at a revival meeting held in the town of Highspire, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, which is now over 68 years ago. From that time on till the present time he tried to live a Christian life. When he was first married, he then erected a family altar and the fire was never allowed to go out on the altar as long as he had a family. His trust always was in that Friend which sticks closer than a brother, and he found that Friend to be a never-failing Friend -- He is always near those who love and serve Him faithfully. I. Neidig has been a member of the United Brethren Church nearly all his lifetime. He always was loyal to his church. He has been honored with the office of class leader at two different places -- in the east where he was living then, and in the first twenty years living in Muscatine he was class leader at least ten years. He also served about that long as Sunday School superintendent and has also filled the office of class steward. He has been one of the trustees of the church in Muscatine since the first church was built in the year of 1850 up to this present date in 1894. I. Neidig loves his church and God's service and is much determined to make Heaven his eternal home when God sees fit to call him home.
V. Rev. John Neidig's Family Tree

[The following family tree appears with Isaac Neidig's narrative. It seems to have been prepared from the original 1894 manuscript for the 1947 transcription and typing, with an update as of 1947 by the Rev. Mrs. Harold R. Megill. Furthermore, the tree seems to have been updated several times since 1947 -- the last entry being made July 1963 by the Rev. Mrs. Megill's daughter Esther. Only ministerial designations and years of birth/death have been preserved throughout the tree by THE CHRONICLE. Geographic, occupational and other notations (marriage dates, month and day references, ancestors of in-laws, etc.) appearing on the tree are not here reproduced beyond the 2nd generation, but they may be obtained from the copy at the Conference Archives.]

1. Adam Neidig (from Switzerland): farmer, Berks Co. & Dauphin Co.
   2. Elizabeth Neidig
      m. S. M. Farrow: farmer, Cumberland Co.; hotel, Dayton OH
      3. Farrow son [married]
      3. Farrow son [single]
      3. Farrow daughter [single]
      3. Farrow daughter [single]

2. Abraham Neidig: blacksmith & farmer, Dauphin Co. & Neidigstown
   m. [?] 
   3. David Neidig
   3. Jacob Neidig
   3. Abraham Neidig
   3. John Neidig
   3. Samuel Neidig
   3. Elizabeth Neidig
   3. Polly Neidig
   3. Catherine Neidig

   m. Mary Bear
   3. Elizabeth Neidig
      m. Michael Frantz
      4. Mary Frantz
         m. John Raysor
         5. two Raysor sons
         5. Sue Raysor
      4. Lissie Frantz
         m. John Miller
         5. Samuel Miller
   3. Abraham Neidig
      m. Miss Hagey
      4. Isaac Neidig [married]
      4. Jacob Neidig [single]
      4. Henry Neidig [single]
      4. Neidig daughter [died in infancy]
   3. Daniel Neidig
      m. Fannie Niesby
      4. Mary Neidig
         m. Samuel Bowman
         5. Bowman daughter
         m. Mr. Wevick
         5. a large family of other sons and daughters
   3. John Neidig
      m. Nancy Hershey [daughter of Christian Hershey]
         [sister to Hattie Hershey (married to John Kurts),
         and ? Hershey (married to Michael Hoover)]
      4. Elizabeth Neidig
         m. Daniel Runkle
         5. George Runkle
         5. four other sons and two daughters
      4. Christian Neidig
         m. Nancy Hoover
         5. Al Neidig
         5. one other son and two daughters
      4. Neidig daughter [died in infancy]
3. Samuel Neidig
   m. Elizabeth Miller [sister to Mollie]
   4. Solomon Neidig [died at 18]
   4. Mary Neidig
      m. Isaac Niesley
   5. Niesley daughter
4. Sarah Neidig
   m. David Herr
   5. two Herr sons who died young
   5. two Herr daughters who married
3. Benjamin Neidig
   m. Miss Snively
   4. Maurice Neidig
   4. B.F. Neidig [male]
   4. Neidig son [died young]
   4. Ruanne [single]
   m. Mary Smith
3. Anna Neidig [died at 12]
3. Jacob Neidig
   m. Catherine Tshopp
   4. John Neidig
   m. ?
   5. Neidig son
4. Harry Neidig
   m. Anna Rupp
3. Isaac Neidig
   m. Mollie Miller [sister to Elizabeth]
   4. Neidig daughter [died at 11 mo.]
   4. Mary Neidig
   m. Reuben Burtner [brother to Pollie]
   5. 3 children died in infancy
   5. Ida Burtner
      m. Capt. Eugene Millett
   6. Jennie Millett
   5. Sue Burtner
      m. A.M. Benton
   5. Bessie Burtner
      m. Mr. Merion
   5. Owen Burtner
      m. May Bell
   5. Clinton Burtner
      m. Zee Embrey
   6. two Burtner sons
4. Sarah Neidig
   m. J.S. Patton
   5. Ellsworth Patton [died at 21]
   5. Milton Patton
   5. Rev. May Patton
4. Lissie Neidig
   m. Philip Stein
   5. Lottie Stein [died at 17]
   5. Alice Stein
   m. George May
4. Susan Neidig (1841-1919)
   m. Rev. Gabriel M. Huffman (1842-1932)
   5. Rev. William Huffman
   5. Eda Huffman (1870-1942)
   5. m. Rev. Francis Marion Testerman (1864-1936)
   6. Charles Castle Testerman (1890-1956)
   m. Gladys Pratt
   7. stillborn Pratt son (1921)
   7. Eleanor Pratt (1923-)
      m. Thomas Baldwin Brown (1919-)
      8. Thomas Castle Brown (1947-1952)
      8. Charles Raymond Brown (1949-)
      8. Richard Alan Brown (1953-)
      8. Pamela Jean Brown (1954-)
      8. Laurie Ann Brown (1961-)
   7. Barbara Pratt (1937-)
      m. David Lee Winters (1935-)
   6. Howard Francis Testerman (1891-1894)
6. Claud Marion Testerman (1893-1918)
6. Iva Bernice Testerman (1894-)
m. Fred LePort Spangler (1895-
7. Margaret Louise Spangler (1921-
  m. James Linzzo
  8. Barbara Frances Linzzo (1945-
  8. James Linzzo (1950-
  m. Lawrence Kerr
7. Edward William Spangler (1926-
  m. Marian Perrin
  8. Paul Edward Spangler (1949-
  8. John Alan Spangler (1954-
  8. Janet Marie Spangler (1960-
6. Rev. Lenora Pearl Testerman (1897-
  m. Rev. Harold Rexford Megill (1896-
7. Esther Lenora Megill (1924-
  7. Lawrence Rexford Megill (1925-
    m. Abelia Cruz (1925-
    8. Patrick Lawrence Megill (1951-
    8. Michael Rexford Megill (1956-
7. Maurice Wray Megill [d. 3 mo.] (1930)
7. Harold Keith Megill (1932-
  m. Viola Grass (1936-
  8. Denee Esther Megill (1960-
  8. Susan Gail Megill (1962-
7. Donald Mervin Megill (1934-
  m. Mary Alice Herrick (1936-
  8. Kevin Michael Megill (1962-
  7. Kenneth Alden Megill (1939-
6. Minnie Artacene Testerman (1899-
  m. Benjamin Leroy Holland (1897-
  7. Mildred Ann Holland (1922-
    m. David Halstead Riege
    8. Susan Howe Riege (1949-
    8. David Halstead Riege, Jr. (1951-
7. Warren Leroy Holland (1925-
  m. Rita Dillon
  8. Deborah Page Holland (1952-
  8. Scott William Holland (1959-
7. James David Holland (1931-
  m. Jean Merriman
  8. Stephen David Holland (1956-
  8. Janice Merriman Holland (1957-
  8. Elizabeth Fitch Holland (1963-
6. Roy Elza Testerman (1901-
  m. Edna Fowler (1903-
7. Virginia May Testerman (1929-1933)
7. Roy Lee Testerman (1938-
  m. Norma Jean Carter (1934-
6. Harold Harlan Testerman (1904-
  m. Jessie Edmondson (1905-
6. Athena Ruth Testerman (1905-1958)
  m. Lionel Ewing (1900-1963)
  7. Robert Gilmore Ewing (1925-
    m. Elizabeth Stanley
    8. Gary Dean Ewing (1948-
    8. Douglas Robert Ewing (1951-
    8. Terri Sue Ewing (1953-
    8. Sandra Jo Ewing (1954-
7. Dolores Jolene Ewing (1930-
  m. Harold Bunce
  8. Richard Daryl Bunce (1952-
  8. Michael Scott Bunce (1957-
  8. John David Bunce (1963-
7. Elloise Ewing (1930-
  m. John McVicker
  8. Cynthia Lu McVicker (1953-
  8. Barry Scott McVicker (1956-
  8. Pamela Ruth McVicker (1960-
6. Gwendola Louise Testerman (1910-)
   m. Robert Lloyd Wentz [br. to William] (1909-)
7. Mary Carolyn Wentz (1941-)
8. Robert Morris Wentz (1943-)
6. Ethel Grace Testerman (1913-)
   m. William Wentz [br. to Robert] (1910-)
7. William Henry Wentz (1933-)
   m. Marlene Fay Haines
8. Michael William Wentz (1956-)
9. Steven Bradley Wentz (1960-)
7. Doris Arlene Wentz (1931-)
   m. Thomas Eugene Everhart
8. Janet Sue Everhart (1956-)
9. Nancy Jean Everhart (1959-)
8. David William Everhart (1961-)
9. John Thomas Everhart (1963-)
7. Betty Lou Wentz (1937-)
   m. William Leroy Harrison
5. Nora Huffman
5. Nathan Harlan Huffman (1872-1944)
   [missionary to Puerto Rico]
   m. Minnie Levisa Marquis (1870-)
   6. Marquis Rice Huffman (1900-)
   6. Harold Neidig Huffman (1902-)
5. Roy Huffman
5. Howard H. Huffman (1881-1956)
4. Samuel Neidig (1843-)
   m. Clara Turner
   4. Emma Neidig
   m. Mr. Steele
   4. Kizzie Neidig
   m. Mr. Overholser
   4. Abraham Neidig
   m1. ?
   m2. ?
3. Neidig son [died in infancy]
3. Neidig daughter [died in infancy]

End Notes

1. U.B. preacher Rev. John Raysor was the founder and namesake of Raysor's Church, which stood about a mile east of Penbrook and is considered the mother church of Penbrook's present Grace United Methodist Church. Gibble's History of the East Pennsylvania Conference states that Rev. John Neidig's granddaughter Mary Frantz married Rev. John Raysor. This is an error. Rev. John Raysor died in 1850. Mary Frantz married Rev. John Raysor's son, also named John, who was not a minister and who was still living when this paper was written in 1894.

2. The name of Christian Hershey first appears on the conference roll in 1807. He was appointed presiding elder of Lancaster District in 1814, and the annual conference of 1818 was held at his home. A Christian stalwart of boundless energy, he traveled the 30-some appointments of the Lancaster Circuit at the age of 62. In 1846 he traveled to Iowa and purchased land to relocate there. The following year he sold his Manheim Township farm for $17,000, formed a colony of 61 persons (consisting mainly of his children and their families), and began the long trek to Linn County, Iowa. The company traveled by train, canal and steamboat to arrive at Muscatine in May 1847. They proceeded by land 50 miles north to settle on the land selected the previous year and lay out the village of Lisbon. Rev. Hershey paid the expense of moving the entire group. In 1850, he erected with his own funds a small brick church that was the first church building erected by the United Brethren in Iowa. The 1853 annual conference met in that building, but Christian Hershey died the day before the conference began. In 1880 the United Brethren of Lisbon erected the larger building that hosted the denomination's 1881 General Conference and now houses the federated congregation (served by the United Church of Christ) formed in 1921 by joining the local United Brethren and Reformed bodies. NOTE: The 1847 date comes from Gibble's History
of the East Pennsylvania Conference and agrees with the date given in Between the Rivers: A History of the United Methodist Church in Iowa. This disagrees with the 1849 date given in this document, which apparently is either an error in recall by Isaac Neidig or an error in reading Isaac's handwriting by the 1947 transcriptionist. Gibble, however, also specifies that "in the company were his five children with the families of each, among them being the Rev. John Neidig, Jr., who was married to his daughter Nancy." This disagrees with the 1850 date and other details given in this document concerning John Neidig. It appears that Gibble is in error in stating that John Neidig was a member of the 1847 company, and that son-in-law followed Christian Hershey to Iowa three years later.

3. Gibble's History of the East Pennsylvania Conference identifies this son-in-law as Michael Hoover and credits him with accompanying his father-in-law Christian Hershey on his 1846 reconnaissance trip to Iowa. Everything considered, it is the opinion of THE CHRONICLE that Hoover is probably the correct name.

4. Andrew Miller was probably a member of that part of the Reformed Church that supported the revivalistic style of Rev. John Winebrenner who, like Otterbein before him, found himself outside of mainstream Reformed practice and theology. On Sunday July 4, 1830, the Reformed minister Winebrenner preached his famous "baptism sermon" and then proceeded to the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg where he was re-baptized by immersion by his U.B. friend Rev. [and later Bishop] Jacob Erb. This event is considered to be the final break between Winebrenner and the Reformed Church and the beginning of the Church of God [officially known as the Churches of God in North America (General Eldership)].

5. Henry Herr (1798-1853) was married to Fannie Shopp, of the Shiremanstown Shopp family. The elegant farmhouse this couple built in 1843 is still standing, although strangely out of place in the expanded city of Harrisburg, at the corner of Verbeke and North Fourteenth Streets. The annual conference session of 1832 met at the Herr residence, which probably stood at the site of the newer house. Mr. Herr was a man of considerable wealth. He held stock in a bank, the Harrisburg Cotton Company, and the Harrisburg Bridge Company. He also owned a number of lots and houses. Herr Street was named after him. He was class leader class steward of rural Rayson's Church (near present Penbrook) and a trustee for the first church held by the United Brethren in the city of Harrisburg. His widow lived until 1882. This couple and some of their kin are buried in the Harrisburg Cemetery, which was laid out on the Herr's farm.

6. Daniel Sherban was very active in the United Brethren Church in the Shiremanstown area in the early 1800's, and his home was the third preaching appointment [after those of John Shopp, Sr., and Christian Erb] established in the region. Speaking of Shiremanstown, Rupp's History of Cumberland County states: "The first house erected here was built by Daniel Sherbahn, executor of George Schebely, for the widow of the deceased, in the summer of 1813. When the first house was built, all on the south side of the road was one dense forest. In 1814 John Davis erected the house now occupied by Dr. Mateer. Both these are on the north side of the road." It appears that Isaac Neidig incorrectly assigns the name George to Mr. Sherban -- and that the Miss Snively whom Benjamin Neidig married was the daughter of George Schebely [Snively] and was raised by Daniel Sherban. [About 1849 Dr. Mateer sold his home, built by John Davis in 1814 and the second structure in Shiremanstown, and the adjacent lots of ground to Bishop Erb. Except for a period of about five years when he resided in York, Bishop Erb lived in that house from that time until his death in 1893. The present Shiremanstown Church, which was relocated in town (see end note 7, below) at the urging of Bishop Erb, occupies lots adjoining this property.]

7. The home of John Shopp, Sr. (1761-1821) [Holdcraft's History of the Pennsylvania Conference incorrectly identifies the person with those dates as John Shopp, Jr.] is still standing on the south side of the route 11 expressway about a mile northeast of Shiremanstown. One of the earliest and most enduring United Brethren appointments in the entire denomination, the home was the scene of several great revivals -- one in October 1803 at which Otterbein, Boehm and Newcomer all were present; one in 1819 at which eight children (5 sons and three daughters) of John Sr. were converted in a single night (two other daughters previously having been numbered among the believers). The annual conference of 1826 was held in that home. Shopp's Church, probably one of the first ten such buildings in the denomination) was erected on the property in 1827. Rev. John Neidig, Bishop Christian Newcomer, Rev. John Snyder [see volume IV of THE CHRONICLE] and the Reformed (but revivalistic) minister Rev. John Winebrenner [see end note 4, above] were all present at a great love feast held in the new building on Sunday October 14 of that year. That church, which stood by the present Shopp's Cemetery next to Trinity High School, hosted the annual conferences of 1830, 1835 and 1844 before it was razed and its materials used to erect a larger building in Shiremanstown proper in 1854. The cemetery, which is a registered
conference historical site, is owned and maintained by the Shiremanstown United Methodist Church. Buried there are Bishop Jacob Erb, John Neidig Jr., John Shopp Sr. and his wife [the Shopp surname also appears as "Tshopp" and "Tschopp" on various tombstones] and several other prominent U.B. pioneers.

8. The name/location "Hineman's tavern" is unknown and serves to illustrate the editing process used by THE CHRONICLE in preparing this document for publication. Isaac Neidig was a poor speller and apparently had difficult handwriting. The 1947 Kansas typist who transcribed the material was instructed to copy the document "just as she found it." The typewritten document, then, contains both the errors in spelling of Isaac Neidig and the errors in reading his handwriting. For the sake of readability, we have attempted to correct both types of errors. In most instances the intended word was evident; in those instances where it was not, the context of the word and/or knowledge of Pennsylvania geography and United Brethren history was considered and the "best educated guess" was supplied. Without a knowledge of Pennsylvania place names, the typist apparently read "Hineman's tavern" for "Shireman's town." In this instance, and with some family names, what we believe to be the correct rendering is placed in brackets behind what is given in the typewritten text. In general, for the sake of readability, only what we believe to be the correct rendering is supplied without any indication that a decision was made. For those interested, the unedited text is available for inspection at the conference archives.

9. While this entire 1894 article by Isaac Neidig appears to have been unknown to twentieth century East Pennsylvania Conference historians, John W. Kiracofe of Boiling Springs, Cumberland County, in the Pennsylvania Conference apparently had access to some form or portion of the document. A very active laymen with a passion for U.B. history and genealogy, he made at least one trip to Iowa to research the Lancaster and Cumberland County U.B. pioneers who settled there. He apparently came across some writings of Isaac Neidig there. As Kiracofe does not identify Isaac as a son Rev. John Neidig and does not use the same name spellings given in 1947 typewritten version used for this article, he probably did not have access to that complete document. In an article of his reprinted in volume II of THE CHRONICLE with a circa 1945 date line, he quotes an Isaac Neidig account of the trip to Iowa. Most of the information and phrasing is identical with that given here, but that account also names the Joseph Yordy family and Cramer family as traveling with the John Neidig company and states "In the Yordy family, nearly all were burned to death -- the father, the mother and some of the children. Bretzes had a large family; all were lost but two small children." Of Rev. Joseph Yordy, Gibble's History of the East Pennsylvania Conference states that "he was among the passengers of the Belle of the West which met with disaster and ... lost nearly all his possessions. Early in the year of 1851, he died in Iowa."

10. Western College was established at Western, Linn County, by the United Brethren Church in 1856. The site for the college, eight miles south of Cedar Rapids and near present-day Shueyville, was influenced by the gift of land and cash gifts exceeding $6,000. It was hoped that the college would attract a town around itself, but that never happened. Also, the proposed railroad from Cedar Rapids to Iowa City never developed. The school always struggled against difficulties, mostly financial. In 1881, the college accepted an offer of $20,000 and moved two counties west to Toledo, in Tama County. In 1906, the institution was renamed Leander Clark College. [The General Conference of 1905 reports that Major Leander Clark, who was not a United Brethren, of Toledo offered $50,000 to endow the college if the denomination would raise another $100,000. Andrew Carnegie then agreed to provide $50,000 of that amount if the denomination would raise the remaining $50,000.] In 1919, the college merged into Coe College (established in 1851 by the Presbyterian Church) in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, and ceased being a United Brethren Institution. Its alumni files and other records were deposited with York College (founded by the United Brethren in 1886) in York, Nebraska. The administration building of York College burned to the ground in 1951. That latter institution eventually merged with sister EUB school Westmar College (founded by the United Evangelicals in 1900) in Le Mars, Iowa, bringing all the remaining records of Western College back to Iowa. Westmar is presently a United Methodist college of the Iowa Conference.