A Legacy in His Own Words:
Bernard Joseph Nurrenbern's Family History

Shared by Steven Nurrenbern
November 2026

Introduction

Family histories are more than a collection of names, dates, and places; they are treasured stories that preserve the memories, experiences, and traditions of earlier generations. This handwritten family history by Bernard Joseph Nurrenbern (President of Nurrenbern Furniture) and shared by his great-grandson, Steven Nurrenbern, offers a personal connection to the family's past.

Through Bernard's recollections, a chapter of family history is preserved in his own words, allowing future generations to learn about their ancestors' lives, their journey to America, and the experiences that helped shape the family. The transcription of this handwritten account ensures that his memories and the story he chose to share will continue to be read and appreciated by descendants for generations to come.

Written in 1930, Bernard's account follows several generations of the Nurrenbern family, beginning with his ancestors' emigration from Verden, Germany, in 1834 and their eventual settlement in Perry Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. He describes how the family began with a modest home built from timber cleared from their land, then gradually expanded its farms through years of hard work, saving, and cooperation among family members.

He also recounts the development of the early Catholic churches in Evansville, the challenges of rural life, and the distribution of family property among the children. Continuing into later generations, Bernard tells how his own family carried forward the tradition of work and perseverance, building farms, acquiring property, raising children, and establishing businesses.

Bernard created a lasting link between past and present—a valuable family legacy that helps ensure the Nurrenbern story will not be forgotten.

Photos are shown first, Translation is after the photos.



Photograph of the Bernard Branch of the Nurrenbern Family

No. 1-A
Bernard Nurrenbern (in Europe spelled Nurrenbeherns) was born September 2, 1797, and died August 29, 1877.

No. 2-B
Joseph Nurrenbern, son of No. 1-A was born December 24, 1829 and died July 2, 1906
Mrs. Catherine, wife of Joseph, was born May 14, 1834 and died November 24, 1906. Maiden name was Brenner.

No. 2-B
Henry Nurrenbern, son of No. 1-A was born September 26, 1832, and died July 2, 1902
Mrs. Catherine, wife of Henry was born July 14, 1838, and died February 17, 1902. Maiden name was Rollet

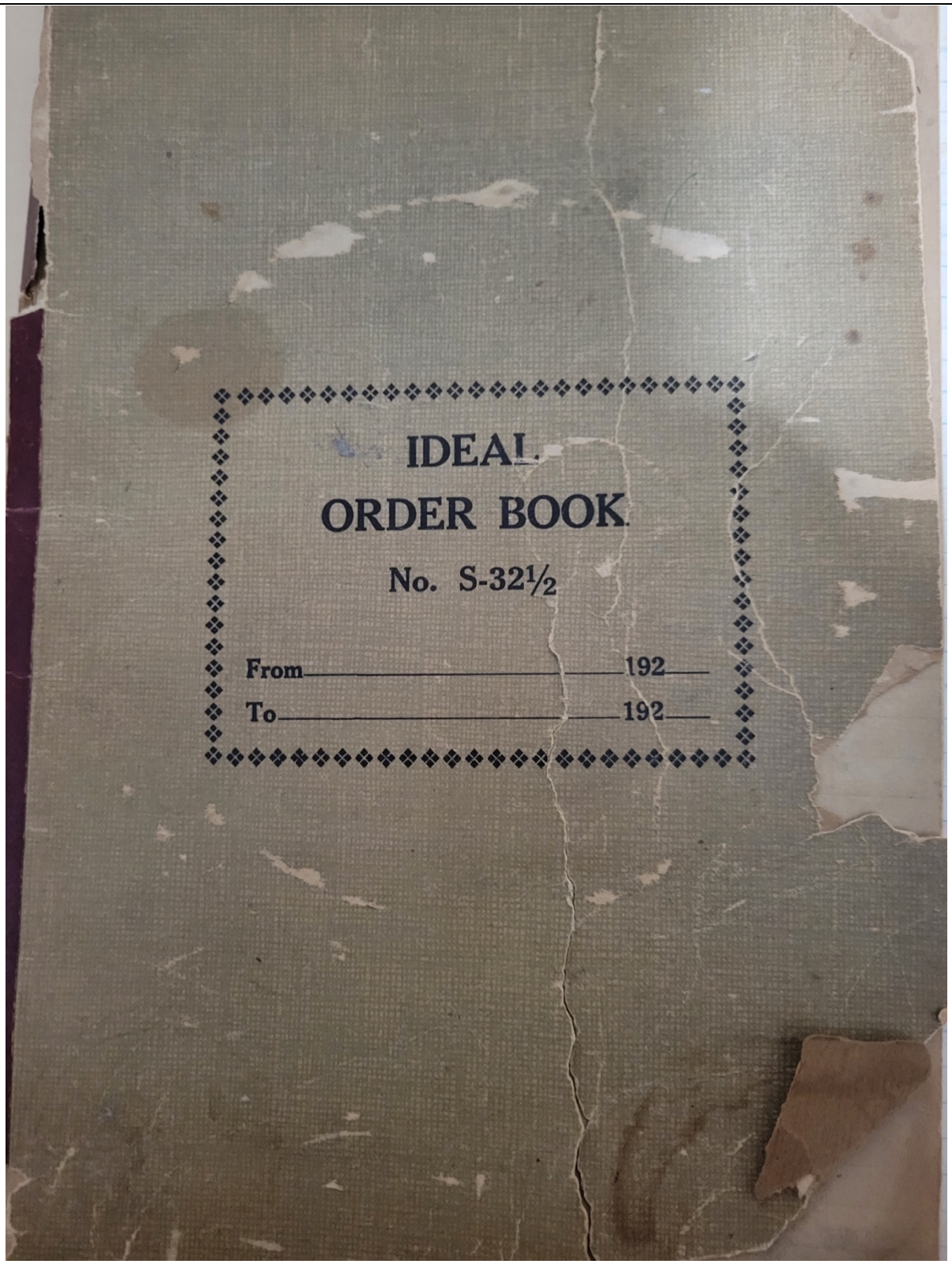
No. 3-C
Children of Joseph and Catherine, 4 boys and 2 girls.
Ben J. Nurrenbern was born November 25, 1856 Died July 20 1942
Susan Mesker was born February 2, 1859
George Nurrenbern was born October 18, 1863
Frank Nurrenbern was born September 20, 1870
Anna Nurrenbern was born March 30, 1872
Joseph Nurrenbern was born September 22, 1875

No. 4-D
Children of Ben J. Nurrenbern, 2 boys and 1 girl.
Leo J. Nurrenbern was born March 8, 1894
Bernard J. Nurrenbern was born April 11, 1896
Anna Nurrenbern was born July 17, 1902

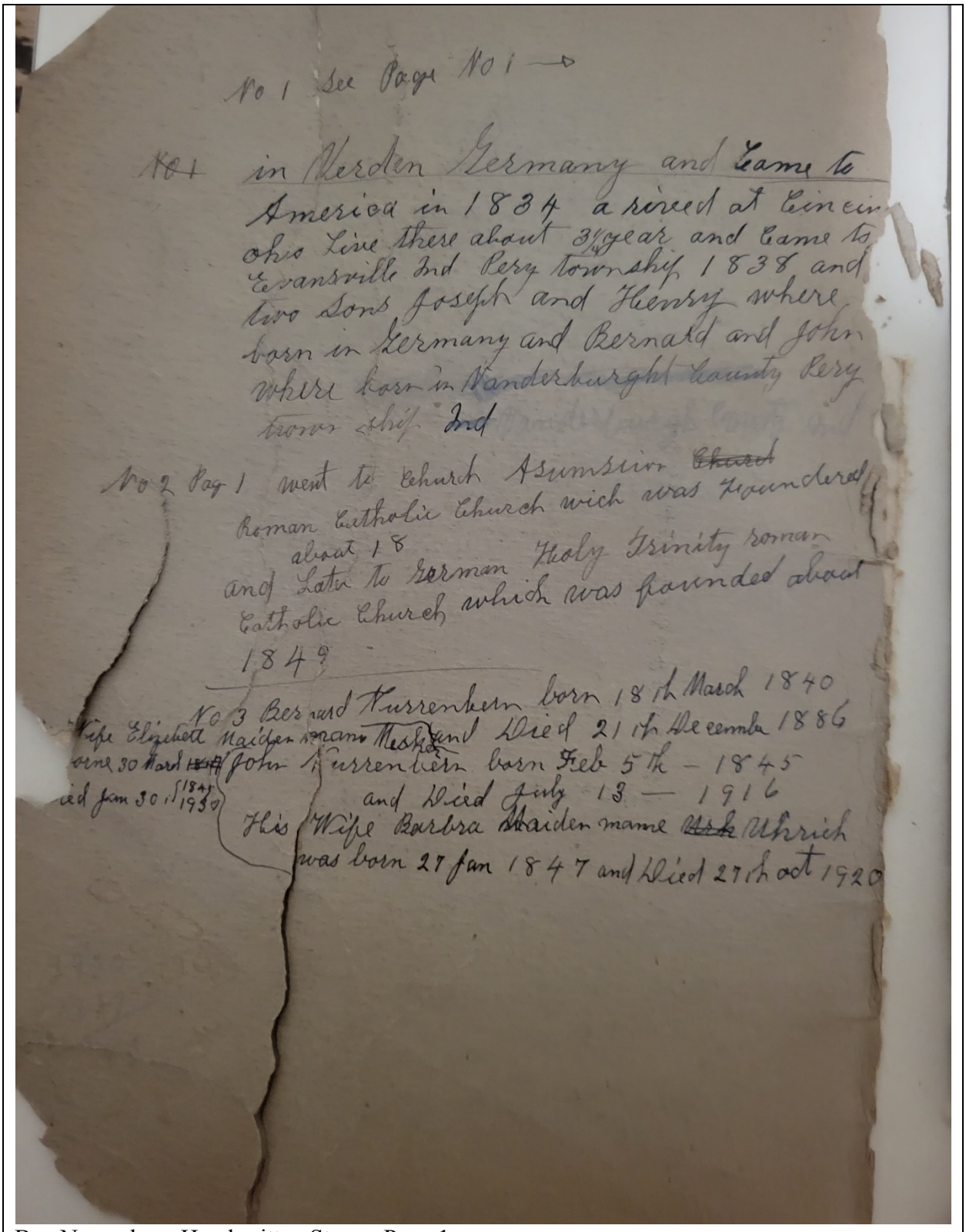
No. 5-E
Children of Leo J. Nurrenbern 3 boys and 1 girl.
Jerome Nurrenbern was born July 21, 1928
Eugene Nurrenbern was born July 23, 1926
Rosella Nurrenbern was born June 10, 1928
Robert Nurrenbern was born June 17, 1930

November 17, 1930

Typed list of the Bernard Nurrenbern Branch for 5 Generations



Well Worn Index Book



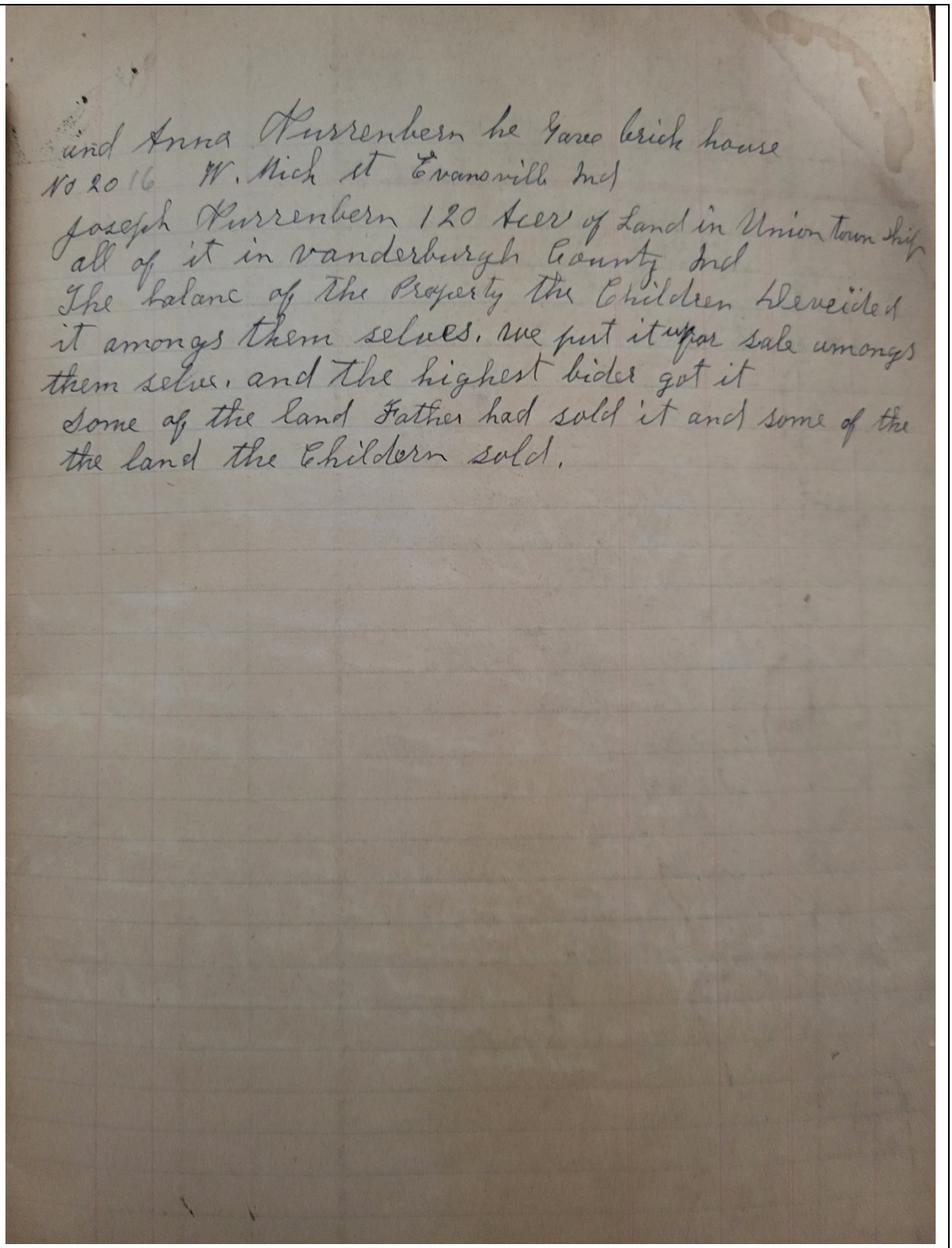
No 1 See Page No 1 →

No 1 in Werden Germany and Came to America in 1834 a rived at Cincin ohio Live there about 3½ year and Came to Evansville 3rd Perry township 1838 and two Sons Joseph and Henry where born in Germany and Bernard and John where born in Vanderburght County Perry trowns ship 3rd

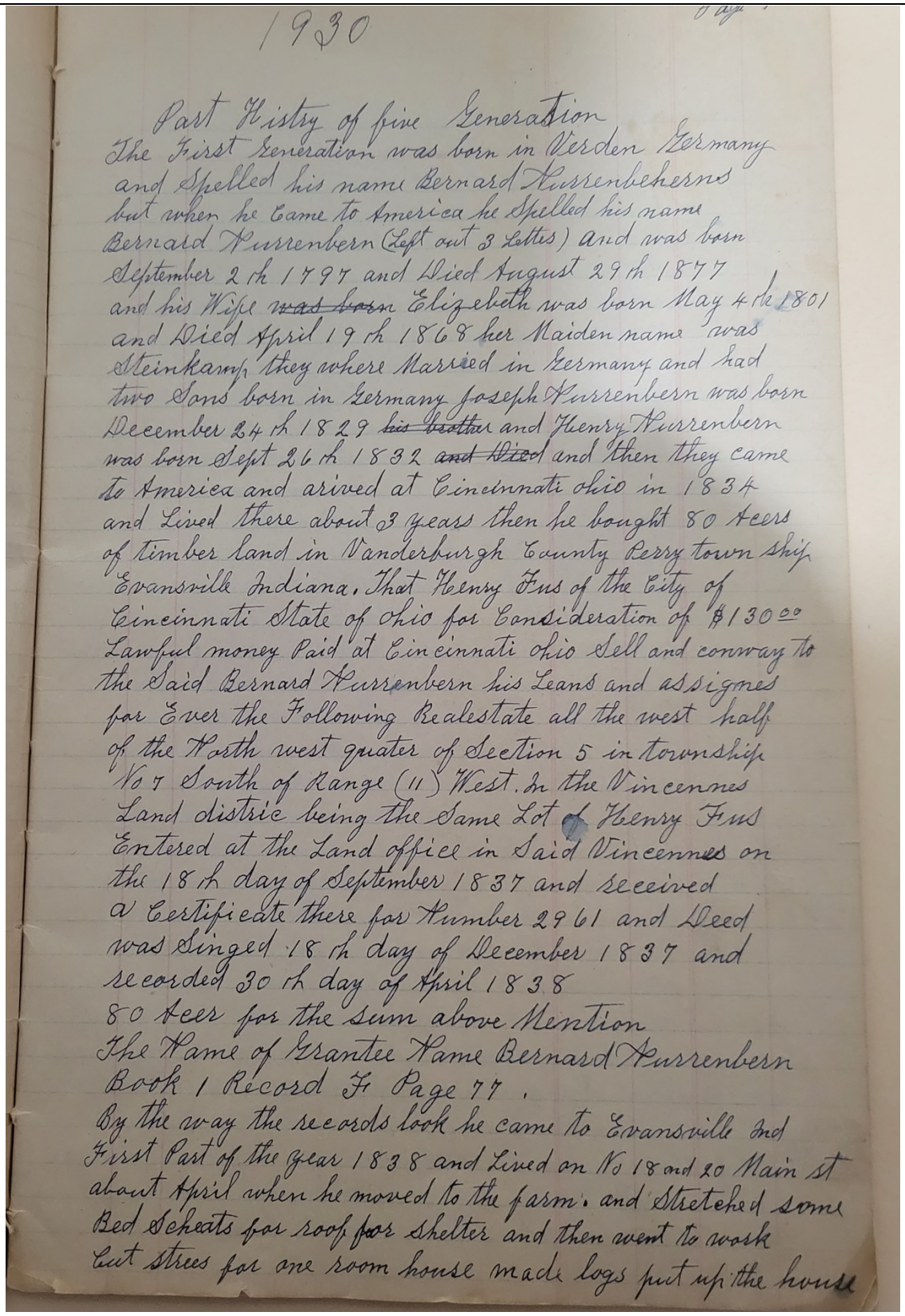
No 2 Pag 1 went to Church Assumsion ~~Church~~ Roman Catholic Church wich was Foundered about 18 and Later to Garman Holy Trinity roman Catholic Church which was Founded about 1849

No 3 Bernard Nurrenbern born 18th March 1840
Wife Elizabeth Maiden name Meske and Died 21th Decemb 1886
borne 30 March ~~1847~~ John Nurrenbern born Feb 5th – 1845
died Jan 30 1950 and Died July 13 — 1916
His Wife Barbra Maiden name ~~Ulrich~~ Ulrich
was born 27 Jan 1847 and Died 27th oct 1920

Ben Nurrenbern Handwritten Story - Page 1


and Anna Nurrenbern he Gave brick house
No 2016 W. Nick st Evansville Ind
Joseph Nurrenbern 120 Acer of Land in Union Town ship
all of it in Vanderburgh County Ind
The balance of the Property the Children Devided
it amongs them selves. we put it up for sale amongs
them selves. and the highest bider got it
Some of the land Father had sold it and some of the
the land the Childern sold.

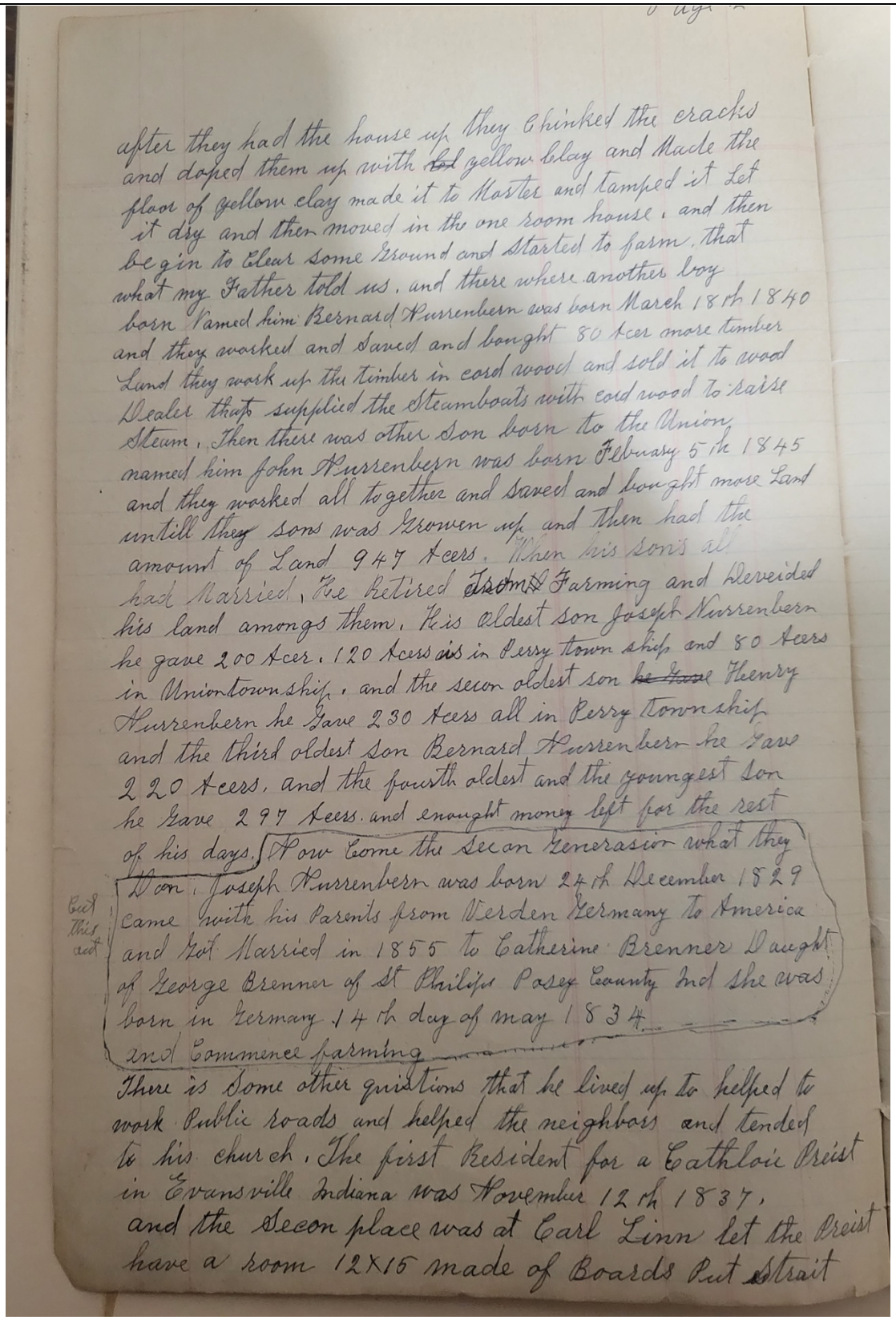
Ben Nurrenbern Handwritten Story - Page 2



1930

Part Histry of five Generation
The First Generation was born in Verden Germany
and Spelled his name Bernard Nurrenbeherns
but when he came to America he Spelled his name
Bernard Nurrenbern (Left out 3 Lettes) and was born
September 2th 1797 and Died August 29th 1877
and his Wife ~~was born~~ Elizebeth was born May 4th 1801
and Died April 19th 1868 her Maiden name was
Steinkamp they where Married in Germany and had
two Sons born in Germany Joseph Nurrenbern was born
December 24th 1829 ~~his brother~~ and Henry Nurrenbern
was born Sept 26th 1832 ~~and Died~~ and then they came
to America and arived at Cincinnati ohio in 1834
and Lived there about 3 yeass then he bought 80 Acers
of timber land in Vanderburgh County Perry town ship
Evansville Indiana. That Henry Fus of the City of
Cincinnati State of ohio for Consideration of $130.00
Lawful money Paid at Cincinnati ohio Sell and conway to
the Said Bernard Nurrenbern his Leans and assignes
for Ever the Following Realestate all the west half
of the North west quater of Section 5 in township
No 7 South of Range (11) West. In the Vincennes
Land distric being the Same Lot of Henry Fus
Entered at the Land office in Said Vincennes on
the 18th day of September 1837 and received
a Certificate there for Number 2961 and Deed
was Singed 18th day of December 1837 and
recorded 30th day of April 1838
80 Acer for the sum above Mention
The Name of Grantee Name Bernard Nurrenbern
Book 1 Record F Page 77.
By the way the records look he came to Evansville 2nd
First Part of the year 1838 and Lived on No 18 and 20 Main st
about April when he moved to the farm. and Stretched some
Bed Sheats for roof for Shelter and then went to work
Cut Strees for one room house made logs put up the house

Ben Nurrenbern Handwritten Story - Page 3



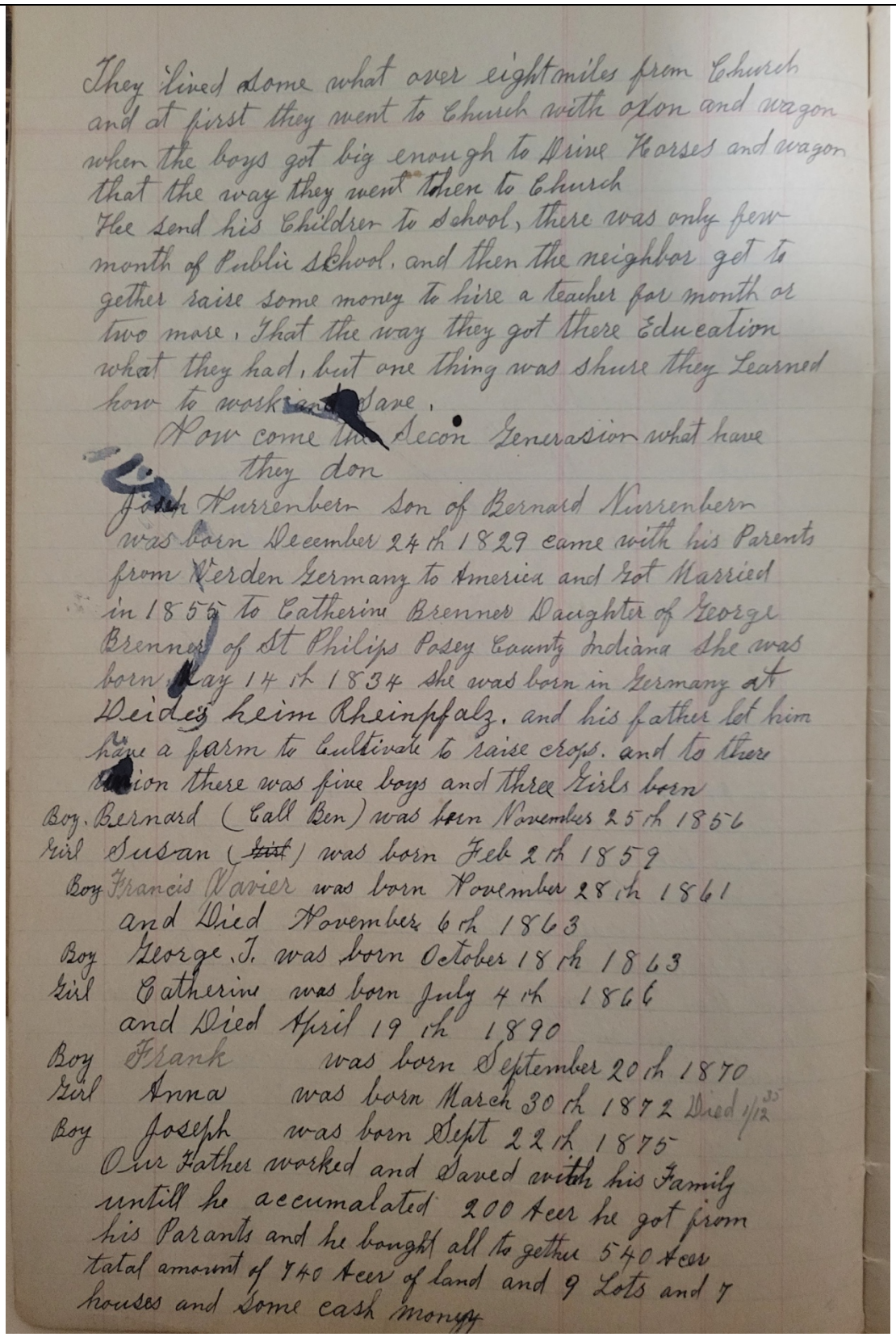
after they had the house up they Chinked the cracks and doped them up with ~~Cal~~ yellow clay and made the floor of yellow clay made it to Master and tamped it Let it dry and then moved in the one room house. and then be gin to Clear some Ground and Started to farm. that what my Father told us. and there where another boy born Named him Bernard Nurrenbern was born March 18th 1840 and they worked and Saved and bought 80 Acer more timber Land they work up the timber in cord wood and sold it to wood Dealer that supplied the Steamboats with cord wood to raise Steam. Then there was other Son born to the Union named him John Nurrenbern was born February 5th 1845 and they worked all to gether and saved and bought more Land untill they sons was Growen up and then had the amount of Land 947 Acers. When his Son's all had Married. He Retired ~~from~~ Farming and Devided his land amongs them. His oldest son Joseph Nurrenbern he gave 200 Acer. 120 Acers ~~is~~ in Perry town ship and 80 Acers in Union township. and the secon oldest son ~~he Gave~~ Henry Nurrenbern he Gave 230 Acers all in Perry Township and the third oldest Son Bernard Nurrenbern he Gave 220 Acers. and the fourth oldest and the youngest Son he Gave 297 Acers. and enought money left for the rest of his days. Now Come the Secan Generasion what they Don. Joseph Nurrenbern was born 24th December 1829 came with his Parents from Verden Germany To America and Got Married in 1855 to Catherine Brenner Daught of George Brenner of St Philips Posey County Ind She was born in Germany 14th day of may 1834. and Commence farming

Bad This act

There is Some other quistions that he lived up to helped to work Public roads and helped the neighbors and tended to his church. The first Resident for a Cathloic Preist in Evansville Indiana was November 12th 1837. and the Secon place was at Carl Linn let the Preist have a room 12X15 made of Boards Put Strait

up and Down. The American peopel called the Preist hut. In 1838 on Sunday they had Servie in Some one Parlor, but the Parlor soon became to Small for the Peopel, they had to Stand out side. Begining of the year 1839 The Preist Started a Chapel in ~~two story~~ the secon story of a frame building on Northwest corner of Main and Secon st. This Location Served as church in the Moring and after Mass as a School, and a littel side room where the Preist Sleped and used it as living room. when the Lease expired They rented a Larger Place on Main and third St East of the Court house with more room. In the year 1839 they bought Lot No 111 Secon St. between Main and Sycamore st for $1.000. in 1840 they bought 200000 brick for to build Church. In August 5th 1840. The Corner Stone was laided for the Assumpsion Church. The Irish and Germans and French wher all to Gether. In 1848 the German Peopel got to gether and talked about building a German ~~German~~ Church. The first lot they bought was March 27th 1849 for $900. Shortly there after they bought adjoining Lot for $750. Then they farmed a building commite in the Summer 1849 they getting Matirel ready for building and on the Feast of Holy Trinity the Corner Stone was Laided for the new church and begin building. and then came the Decease they Call Cholera Dangrous Disese and delayed the work very Much. Labor got short. and then the Congregasion went to work them Selves to help finish it. And on Pentecost 1851. They went from the Assumptak The 1st Catholic Church in Evansville. in Large prariad to the New Trinity Church for selebrasion and was Blessed by the Bishop. The Church not only finished on the out side but it was finished through out with alters Pulpit organ Puews and two Church bells the Cost between $19.000 and $20.000 the balance of about $10.000 Debts.

Ben Nurrenbern Handwritten Story - Page 5



They lived some what over eight miles from Church and at first they went to Church with ox on and wagon when the boys got big enough to Drive Horses and wagon that the way they went then to Church
Hee send his Children to School, there was only few month of Public School. and then the neighbor get to gether raise some money to hire a teacher for month or two more. That the way they got there Education what they had, but one thing was shure they Learned how to work and Save.

Now come the Secon Generasion what have they don

John Nurrenbern Son of Bernard Nurrenbern was born December 24th 1829 came with his Parents from Verden Germany to America and Got Married in 1855 to Catherine Brenner Daughter of George Brenner of St Philips Posey County Indiana She was born May 14th 1834 she was born in Germany at Deidesheim Rheinpfalz. and his father let him have a farm to Cultivate to raise crops. and to there union there was five boys and three Girls born

Boy. Bernard (Call Ben) was born November 25th 1856
Girl Susan (Died) was born Feb 2th 1859
Boy Francis Xavier was born November 28th 1861
and Died November 6th 1863
Boy George J. was born October 18th 1863
Girl Catherine was born July 4th 1866
and Died April 19th 1890
Boy Frank was born September 20th 1870
Girl Anna was born March 30th 1872 Died 1/12 35
Boy Joseph was born Sept 22th 1875

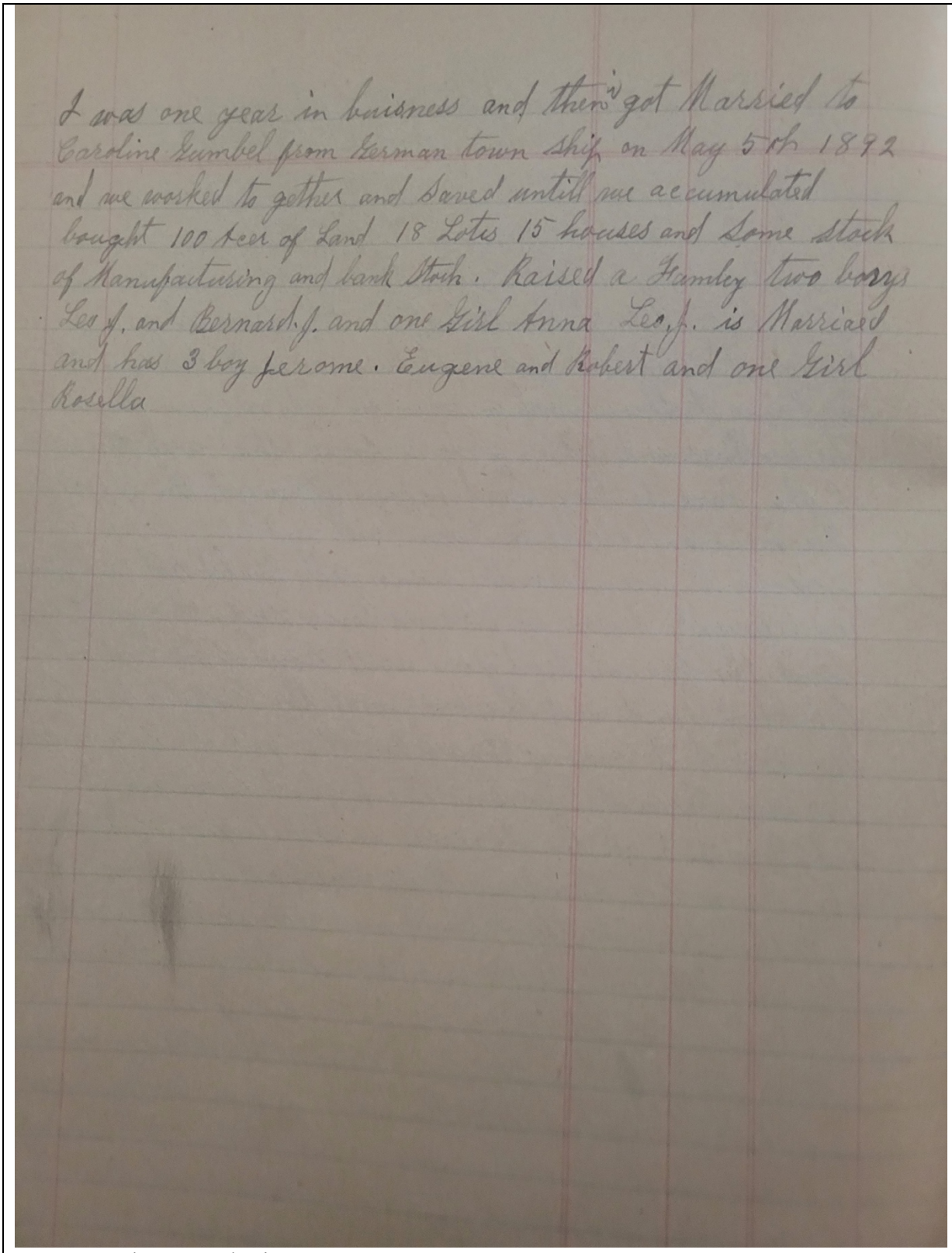
Our Father worked and Saved with his Family untill he accumalated 200 Acer he got from his Parants and he bought all to gether 540 Acer total amount of 740 Acer of land and 9 Lots and 7 houses and some cash money

Ben Nurrenbern Handwritten Story - Page 6

They Devided some of there Property among there Children. They Gave Ben J Nurrenbern one hundred Acer in Perry town ship. And Susan Mesker forty Acers in Union town ship. And George J. Nurrenbern Eighty Acers in Knight township. And Frank Nurrenbern one hundred and twenty Acers the old home Steate in Pery Town ship Anna Nurrenbern got brick house 2016 W Michigan st the house Father Lived in when he retired from farming the brothers and Sister gave to Anna that was the wish of the Parents they Died before. anna got the Deed to the hous and 2 Lots in Evansville Ind Joseph Nurrenbern the youngest Child Got one hundred and twenty Acers in Union town ship. Some of the Land the Parents had sold and Some of the land the Children sold. and the balane of the Property the Children Devieded it among themselves. We put it up for sale among them Selves. and the highest bider got it and then put all the Proceeds in one lump and devieded it among Six Children there where no other heirs all the Property the Parents had was in Vanderburgh County State of Indiana. They had no will or Testiment

Now Comes the son Ben J Nurrenbern son of Joseph and Cathrein Nurrenbern He started to farm when he was 27 yrs old and Single My Father gave me farm to tend and Loaned me team to farm with and Stayed at home and boared with them free. ~~Board~~ when I had my work don i helped them for seven yeass then I got down with Rheumatism Laided up 6 month with that then the Dactor advesed me to quit farming. if i diden I would get down with Rhumatisme again. so I sold my team an Implents and went to town and rented the farm. so I got in the Fusniture Buisness with the Man name Jacob Schneider each one put up half of the money to do Buisnes. and about 4 month after he want to sell out so we hum and ~~hawed~~ hawed back and forth untill I made him a price to take or give. So he took and I paid him then I was by my self

I was one year in buisness and then I got Married to Caroline Gumbel from German town ship on May 5th 1872 and we worked to gether and Saved untill we accumulated bought 100 Acer of Land 18 Lotis 15 houses and Some stock of Manufacturing and bank Stok. Raised a Family two boys Leo J. and Bernard J. and one Girl Anna Leo J. is Married and has 3 boy Jerome. Eugene and Robert and one Girl Rosella



Ben Nurrenbern Handwritten Story - Page 8

Translation

IDEAL ORDER BOOK No. S-32 ½

[Ben Nurrenbern]
Pg. 1 See Page No. 1

No. 1 [Bernard Nurrenbern was born] In Verden, Germany and came to America in 1834, arrived at Cincinnati Ohio. Lived there about 3 year[s] and came to Evansville Ind., Perry Township in 1838 and two sons, Joseph and Henry, where born in Germany and Bernard F and John where born in Vanderburgh County, Perry township, Ind.

No. 2 Pag 1
Went to church at Assumption Roman Catholic Church which was founded abt 18? and later to German Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church which was founded about 1849.

No 3
Bernard [F] Nurrenbern, born 18th March 1840, and Died 21st December 1886. Wife was Elizabeth (born 30 Mar 1847, Died Jan 30 1930), maiden name Mesker.

John Nurrenbern, born Feb 5th 1845 and Died July 13, 1916. His wife Barbara, maiden name Uhrich, was born 27 Jan 1847, and Died 27th October 1920.

And Anna Nurrenbern. she have brick house W. Mich. at Evansville.

No 20. Joseph Nurrenbern, 120 acre of land in Union township, all of it in Vanderburgh County Ind.
The balance of the property, the Children deveided it amongst them selves. We put it up for sale amongst them selves, and the highest bider got it.
Some of the land Father had sold it and some of the land the Children sold.

1930
Part History of five Generations

The First Generation was born in Verden, Germany and spelled his name Bernard Nurrenbeherns, but when he came to America he spelled his name Bernard Nurrenbern (left out 3 letters) and was born September 2nd, 1797 and Died august 29th, 1877,
and his Wife, ~~was born~~ Elisabeth was born May 4th 1801 and Died April 19th 1868. Her Maiden name was Steinkamp. They were Married in Germany and had two sons born in Germany. Joseph Nurrenbern was born December 24th 1829 ~~his brother~~ and Henry Nurrenbern was born Sept 26th 1821 ~~and Died~~ and then they came to America and arrived at Cincinnati Ohio in 1834 and lived there about 3 years. Then he bought 80 acres of timber land in Vanderburgh County, Perry township, Evansville, Indiana.

"That Henry Fus of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio, for Consideration of $130.00, Lawful money Paid at Cincinnati, Ohio. Sell and convay the said Bernard Nurrenbern his land and assignes for Ever the Following Real estate all the west half of the North west quarter of Section 5 in township No 7 South of Range (11) West, in the Vincennes Land distric being the Same Lot of Henry Fus
Entered at the Land Office in said Vincennes on the 18th day of September 1837 and received a certificate there for number 2961 and Deed was signed 18th day of December 1837 and received a Certificate there for lumber 2961 and Deed was Singed 18th day of December 1827 and recorded 30th day of April 1838.
80 acer for the sum above Mentioned The Name of Grantee Name Bernard Nurrenbern Book 1 Record F, Page 77.

By the way the records look he came to Evansville Indiana First Part of the year 1838 and lived on No 18 and 20 Main st about April when he moved to the farm. and Stretched some Bed Sheets for roof for shelter and then went to work.
Cut trees for one room house. Made logs, put up the house.

After they had the house up, they chinked the cracks and doped them up with ~~red~~ yellow Clay and Made the floor of yellow clay. Made it to Morter and tamped it. Let it dry and them moved in the one room house. and then begin to clear some ground and started to farm. that what my Father told us.
and there where another boy born. Named him Bernard Nurrenbern was born March 18th, 1840 and they worked and saved and bought 80 acres more timber Land. They worked up the timber in cord wood and sold it to wood Dealer that supplied the Steamboats with cord wood to raise Steam.

Then there was other son born to the Union, named him John Nurrenbern, was born February 5th, 1845, and they worked all together and saved and bought more land untill their sons were Growen up and then had the amount of Land – 947 acres. When his sons all Married, He retired from Farming and Deveided his land amongs them. His oldest son, Joseph Nurrenbern, he gave 200 acres, 120 acres in Perry township and 80 acres in Union township; and the secon oldest son, ~~he Gave~~ Henry Nurrenbern, he Gave 230 Acers all in Perry township,
and the third oldest son, Bernard Nurrenbern, he Gave 220 Acers, and the fourth oldest and the youngest Son, John, he Gave 297 acres and enought money left for the rest of his days.

Cut this out
Now comes the Secon generation. what they done.
Joseph Leo Nurrenbern was born 24th December 1829, came with his parents from Verden, Germany to America and got married 1855 to Catherine Brenner, daughter of George Brenner of St. Philips, Posey County, Ind. she was born in Germany 14th day of May 1834 and Commence farming.

There is some other questions that he lived up to helped to work Public roads and helped the neighbors and tended to his church. The first Resident for a Catholic Priest in Evansville Indiana was November 12, 1837, and the Secon place was a Carl Linn, let the priest have a room 12 x 15 made of Boards put Strait

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up and Down. The American people call the Priest hut. In 1838, on Sunday, they had Service in some one Parlor, but the Parlor soon became too small for the People. They had to Stand outside.

Beginning of the year 1839, The Priest Started a Chapel in ~~a two story~~ the Secon story of a frame building o Northwest corner of Main and Secon St. This location Served as church in the Morning and After Mass as a School. And a littel side room where the Priest Slept, and used it as a living room. When the Lease expired, They rented a Larger Place on Main and Third St, East of the Court house with more room. In the year 1839, they bought Lot No 111 Secon St, between Main and Sycamore st. for $1.000 in 1840 they bought 200 000 bricks for to build Church. In August 5th 1840, the Corner stone was laid for the Asumpion Church. The Irish and Germans and French wher all to Gether. In 1848, the German People got to gether and talked about building a German Church. The first lot the bought was March 27, 1849 for $900. Shortly thereafter, they bought adjoining lot for $750. Then they formed a building commite in the Summer of 1849. They getting Materials ready for building and on the Feast of Holy Trinity, the Corner Stone was laided for the new church and begin building. and then came the disease they called Cholera, Dangerous Disese and delayed the work very Much. Labor got short and then the Congregation went to work them Selves to help finish it. And on Pentecost 1851, they went from Assumption, the 1st Catholic church in Evansville, in Large prariad to the New Trinity Church for Selebrasion and was Blessed by the Bishop. The Church not only finished on the outside but it was finished through out with alters, Pulput, organ, Puews, and two Church bells the cost between $19,000 and $20,000, the balance of about $10,000 debts.

They lived somewhat over eight miles from church and at first they went to Church with oxen and wagon.
when the boys got big enough to Drive Horses and wagon, that the way they went then to Church.
He sent his Children to School. There was only few month of Public School, and then the neighbors got to gether raise some money to hire a teacher for month or two more. That the way they got their Education what they had, but one thing was Shure they Learned how to work and save.

Now come Second Generasion what they have done.

John Nurrenbern, Son of Bernard Nurrenbern, was born December 24th 1829, came with his parents from Verden, Germany to America and Got Married in 1855 to Catherine Brenner, Daughter of George Brenner of St. Philips Posey County, Indiana. She was born May 14th 1834. She was born in Germany at Deidesheim, Rheinpfalz, and his father let him have a farm to Cultivate to raise crops, and to their Union there was five boys and three Girls born:

Boy Bernard (called Ben) was born November 25, 1856
Girl Susan was born Feb 2th 1859
Boy Francis Xavier was born November 28th, 1861 and Died November 6th, 1863.
Boy George T was born October 18th 1863.
Girl Catherine was born July 4th, 1866 and Died April 19, 1890.
Boy Frank was born September 20, 1870.

Girl Anna was born March 30th, 1883, Died 1/12/1935.
Boy Joseph was born September 22, 1875.

Our Father worked and Saved with his Family until he accumulated 200 Acer he got from his Parants and he bought all to gether 540 Acer total amount of 740 Acer of land and 9 Lots and 7 houses and some cash money.

They Devided Some of their Property among their Children.
They Gave Ben J Nurrenbern one hundred Acers in Perry town Ship.
And Susan Mesker forty Acers in Union township.
And George T Nurrenbern Eighty Acers in Knight township.
And Frank Nurrenbern, one hundred and twenty Acers, the old home Estate in Perry town Ship.
Anna Nurrenbern got brick house, 2016 W Michigan. it was the house Father Lived in when he retired from farming.
The brothers and Sister gave to Anna; that was the wish of the Parents. They died before Anna got the Deed to the house and 2 Lots in Evansville, Indiana.

Joseph Nurrenbern, the youngest Child, Got one hundred and twenty Acers in Union town Ship. Some of the land the parents had sold and some of the land the Children sold, and the balance of the Property the Children Devided it among themselves. We put it up for Sale among them Selves, and the highest bider got it and then put all the Proceeds in one lump and devieded it among Six Children. There were no other heirs all the Property the Parents had was in Vanderburgh County, State of Indiana. They had no will or Testiment.

Now Comes The son of Ben J Nurrenbern, son of Joseph and Catherine Nurrenbern. He started to farm when he was 27 years old and Single. My Father gave me farm to tend and Loaned me team for farm with and Stayed at home and boarded with them free. ~~Board~~
When I had my work done, I helped them for seven years, then I got down with Rhumitism, layded up 6 months with that. Then ~~k~~ the Doctor advesed me to quit farming, if I diden, I would get down with Rhumitism again. So I sold my team and Implemts and went to town, and rented the farm. So I got in the Furniture Business with the Man named Jacob Schneider. each one put up half of the money to do business and about 4 month after, he want to sell out. so, we hum and ~~hayed~~ hawed back and forth until I made him a price to take or give. So he took and I paid him them. I was by myself.

I was one year in business and then I got Married to Caroline Gumbel from German town Ship on May 5th, 1892, and we worked to gether and Saved until we accumulated bought 100 Acer of Land, 18 Lots, 15 houses and Some Stock of manufacturing and bank Stock. Raised a Family – two boys, Leo J. and Bernard J, and one Girl, Anna. Leo J. is Married and has 3 boys – Jerome, Eugene and Robert and one girl, Rosella.

The End