

Southwest Mississippi Genealogical Society

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Brunnert Family

Bernhard Friedrich Brunnert was born in Germany and family legend has it that he first came to the United States and Summit, MS accompanying his daughter, Dorethe, who was to marry Henry Habig, a wealthy Jewish merchant of Summit. He then returned to Germany and brought the rest of his family over. However, he and Dorethe arrived in New York on October 5, 1867 on the ship, Weser, from Bremen, Germany. His wife and 5 of their children didn't come over until May 14, 1870 when they arrived in New York on the ship Frankfort. The family settled in New Orleans.

Bernhard and his wife, Henrietta Sophie Louisa Rodemann, had 14 children tho several died very young and at least one son, Gustave Adolph Frederick William Brunnert (1843-1887), stayed in Germany. Bernhard and Henrietta are both buried in the oldest section of Hollywood cemetery, and both died in 1880.

Their oldest daughter, Johanna, married Alexander Heidenreich. He was born May 23, 1833 in Rign, Russia, died February 20, 1895 and is buried in Jewish Cemetery, Summit, MS. She is buried in Hollywood along with most of their children.

The Heidenreich children included sons Henry (1867-1951) and Ben (1870-1940) who owned B. A. Heidenreich Co., Hardware and Plumbers, 110 Main Street in McComb per the 1914 City Directory. It shows Henry as president but he's also listed as a machinist for the ICRR. Ben was the vice president, secretary-treasurer, and general manager. Ben married Effie Marrette and they had two sons, Marrette and Phillip.

The other children of Johanna and Alexander Heidenreich were Adolph, Julius, Sara Helena married Charles L. Carroll, Effie M., Louis, and Hattie.

Dorethe F. Brunnert and Henry Habig had 4 children: Bernhard, Henrietta, Paul and Henry Habig.

Elise Margarethe Henrietta Brunnert (1851-1904) married Gustave Pixburg and they had two children: Wilhelmina and Paul. Mr. Pixburg was the superintendent of the German Protestant Orphan Asylum in New Orleans.

This Asylum was founded by Lutheran ministers and opened June 2, 1867 to care for children who lost their parents due to epidemics and the Civil war.

Helena Louisa Christine Brunnert (1858-1912) married Louis Hipkins Kell (1844-1922). Kell was the foreman of the ICRR machine shops in McComb beginning in 1874 and continuing in that position for 24+ years. He was born in Alexandria, Virginia. His father was an expert coppersmith and affiliated with several railroads as a skilled mechanic. Louis started his railroad career in Jackson, TN at the age of 16.

Helena and Louis had 6 daughters: Marie, Julia, Lillie, Bella, Helen and Louise Kell. The family lived in a 'commodious' house on Railroad Avenue in McComb, and Mr. and Mrs. Kell were 'members of the Knights and Ladies of Honor of McComb City.'

The Brunnert's other children were: Mathilde (1845-?), Auguste (1846-1846), August Bernhard (1847-1848), Adolph (1848-1850), Maria (1858-?), Johan (1859-1887), Christian (1860-?), Henricke (1862-1947), and Auguste C. (1867-1918).

Information taken from various sources including Ancestry.com, Rootsweb, and Find A Grave and is not guaranteed error free.

Remaining 2016 Meeting Dates

November 15 - Fall Potluck Dinner

September Meeting

September 27, 2016 at 6:00 PM

J. J. White Church
(Use last door on Third Street side)

Speaker: Dawn Taylor, President of
the Amite County Historical and
Genealogical Society

Methodist Episcopal Records

President's Corner

..... Rick Penick

A big 'Thank You' to Janice Brock for hosting our July meeting at her wonderful camp on the Bogue Chitto River. Nothing beats relaxing on the back porch and watching the river flow by along with occasional groups floating the river on inner tubes. Of course, the air conditioning inside was great, too! And, thanks to Janis Dowe for providing beautiful centerpieces of Zinnias--all grown personally by her.

We had a great group of members and a few guests. The food was delicious thanks to our 'official cook,' Jimmy McDaniel, and the great side dishes furnished by members.

Chris Watts is a very entertaining speaker and we enjoyed his presentation on his book, 'The Great Sweet Potato Raid.' He's rapidly selling out of them, so if you haven't bought a copy, you need to contact him as soon as possible.

Update on Holmesville Courthouse Project

After voting not to proceed with repairs to the courthouse because the bids to repair it were much higher than the funds available, the Pike County Board of Supervisors voted at the August 26, 2016 meeting to apply for another Department of Archives and History grant. Currently the county will have to come up with \$127,000 to complete the project even with the original grant and a \$50,000 contribution by the Pearl River Basic Development District.

Hidden questions in the Federal Census

Be sure you haven't overlooked these possible leads to further sources of information:

- 1820 - Has a column to be checked if the resident is a foreigner who has not been naturalized.
- 1840 - Has a column for Revolutionary War pensioners and their ages.
- 1880 - Has a question about illness and diseases of the residents.
- 1910 - Has a column to indicate if resident is a Civil War Veteran.

The Centenary College of Louisiana Archives and Special Collections recently completed a collaborative digitization project with Perkins School of Theology's Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University. As a result, researchers now have online access to publications documenting Methodist Episcopal Church congregations along Louisiana's Gulf Coast and in East Texas during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Gulf Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church formed in 1893 and merged with the Southern Conference in 1923. "The Gulf Conference was erected to take care of several English speaking congregations which sprang up among settlers from northern states (mainly Iowa) in the western part of Louisiana and in Texas."

<http://www.centenary.edu/library/archives/methodist/digitalcollections>.

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Contact: rickpenick@hotmail.com

First Vice President: Jimmy McDaniel

Contact: jimmymcdaniel59@yahoo.com

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Contact: betty0323@hotmail.com

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Contact: carich@bellsouth.net

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Contact: ginyaz@bellsouth.net

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