

Luxembourg Gazette, September 18, 1888

St. Donatus, Jackson County, Iowa: at the beginning of September 1888

Recently, Mrs. Haxmeier, Peter Kalmus (Kalmes), N. Schroeder from Bellevue, together with the land agent Boylen from Cedar Rapids went on a trip north and west (,) in (to) Lake Benton and Pipestone, Minn. There we found good land and beautiful crops, but little rye. In Pipestone it strikes the stranger that the houses are all built of a red stone, which gives the place a very unique appearance. In Sioux Falls the undersigned and Mr. Haxmeier visited old friends, Mr. N. Homan and Mr. Goebel, then also Mr. Portz in Reiter, seven miles from Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls has a good chance of becoming a big city. Great palace-like buildings already adorn the south side. In business terms, everything is alive. In terms of the church, a lot is still behind schedule. We went to church in the morning and attended the mass, and what did we see—only two women! The next day it wasn't any better. The church doesn't even have a bell. Irish!

From Sioux Falls I went to Alexandria via Canton to see my son. Right at the depot we refreshed ourselves with L. Meisch in the boarding house. Here in Alexandria the temperament devil spits. On Sunday we met many of the compatriots who settled before and after the service. A trip to the country took us to many friends and showed us that the crops were beautiful, only where the hail fell on July 4<sup>th</sup> it was not the case. The land here is beautiful and cheap.

Our next destination was Alton, Iowa, to see Haxmeier's son-in-law. Since Sioux Co. is heavily populated by Luxembourgers, we met many acquaintances, as well as in Le Mars. There was a wedding at N. Hoffmann's, where the whole family was gathered. Of course an excursion was made to the country where C.D. Hoffmann accompanied. We returned via Remsen. The "strict" handling of the Temperance Act was noticeable to us. As a result of Prohibition, the private houses have been turned into inns. Every house had St. Louis or Milwaukee beer, sometimes both. In the past, it was only men who drank, now women and children join in too. The farmers are all in good circumstances. The crops have suffered from frost and rain.

Then we went from Le Mars to Petersburg, Boone Co. Neb., to see my son-in-law J. J. Andre. Despite the fact that the place is only a year old, it has a bank, newspapers and all kinds of shops have sprung up there as if conjured up. Four miles from the city there is a German Catholic church, unfortunately much too small; they now want to build their own house of worship in Petersburg; signatures were collected when I was there. The land of Petersburg is good, almost rolling, so that the water easily drains off. The oats had suffered from frost here, but the rye was quite nice. Here is another good opportunity for German Catholics. The price of the land is still a moderate one. In Adams Co., too, we found many well-known compatriots, some who had their home in St. Donatus earlier: Konsbruck, N. Siren and others. Also "Batallion Carre", J.P. Heuertz, we met and how happy he was.

(cont'd Sept. 1888 article)

At Rosalind you have your church and a young Catholic priest, Luxembourger, Mr. Stoltz. The harvest in this part of Nebraska was not good (a) year ago, but this year it is the best I have seen on my trip.

Via Juniata and Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha, Neb., we went back to Gilbertville, Iowa. A dear friend of his father, J. Nemmers and several other acquaintances reside here. From a Catholic point of view, there is a splendid way of the cross in the open air, three pretty chapels, where the blessing is given during the procession of the Corpus Christi and a new brick church, which is just under construction and is 130 x 50 feet in size. Happy, even if worn out and tired, we reached home and thanked our friends and acquaintances for the good reception we found.

N. Krier