

**GERMAN UNION CEMETERY**  
**THREE-GENERATION GENEALOGY**

*Created By: Ronald R. Prinzing*

**UPDATED:** June 4, 2014

Surname: **SIEMERS**

Name: **HENRY SR.**

Other Possible Spelling of First Name: **HEINRICH**

Middle Name If Any: **R.**

Gender: **MALE**

Date of Birth: **AUGUST 27, 1838**

Place of Birth: **HANOVER, GERMANY**

Date of Death: **SEPTEMBER 30, 1904**

Place of Death: **AT HIS HOME IN FOREST TOWNSHIP – RICE COUNTY – MINNESOTA**

Place of Burial: **GERMAN UNION CEMETERY – FOREST TOWNSHIP – RICE COUNTY –  
MINNESOTA**

Plot Number: **47d**

Father:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Date of Death:

Place of Death:

Place of Burial:

Mother:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Date of Death:

Place of Death:

Place of Burial:

Marital Status: **MARRIED**

Date:

1. **MARGARET MARY MEYER (MEYERS)** born: JUNE 23, 1844 in GERMANY

Children:

1. **FRIEDRICH SIEMERS** born: MAY 10, 1864 in GERMANY
2. **HENRY SIEMERS** born: DECEMBER 24, 1866 in GERMANY
3. **LENA M. SIEMERS** born: AUGUST 17, 1870 in GERMANY
4. **DEDERICK SIEMERS** born: DECEMBER 18, 1871 in GERMANY
5. **LOUISE SEIMERS** born: MARCH 5, 1879
6. **WILLIAM SIEMERS** born: DECEMBER 1875 in MINNESOTA
7. **JOSEPH SIEMERS** born: AUGUST 20, 1882 in FOREST TOWNSHIP – RICE COUNTY -  
MINNESOTA
8. **SOPHIA MARGARET SIEMERS** born: DECEMBER 14, 1874 in MINNESOTA
9. **ANNA BELLE SIEMERS** born: MAY 16, 1884 in FOREST TOWNSHIP – RICE COUNTY –  
MINNESOTA

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**OBITUARY**

Last Name: **SIEMERS**

First Name: **HENRY (HEINRICH)**

Middle Name or Initial: **R.**

News Paper: **RICE COUNTY JOURNAL – RICE COUNTY - MINNESOTA**

Date: **OCTOBER 7, 1904**

AN OLD AND HIGHLY RESPECTED PIONEER RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF FOREST, WHO CAME TO THIS COUNTRY IN THE EARLY PIONEER DAYS AND HAD HEWN OF VALUABLE FARM FROM THE FORESTS OF THE WOODED COUNTRY IN WHICH HE TOOK HIS CLAIM, DEPARTED THIS LIFE AT HIS HOME IN THE TOWN OF FOREST FRIDAY, SEPT. 30. DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS THE OLD MAN HAD BEEN IN ILL HEALTH AND DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS WAS QUITE ILL, AND HE DEPARTED TO THE BRIGHT BEYOND FRIDAY. SPOUSE IS MARGARET MARY MEYERS SIEMERS.

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## THREE-GENERATION GENEALOGY

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### BIOGRAPHY

**BOOK - EARLY PIONEERS AND INDIANS OF MINNESOTA AND RICE COUNTY, BY LILLIE CLARA BERG. PUB. 1959.** Siemers, Henry R., Sr. Henry R. Siemers, Sr., was born in Hanover, Germany, and died September 30, 1904. He was married to Margaret Meyer in Germany before emigrating to United States with his wife and four children. They settled in Forest township, Rice County, Minn., in 1860 when he rented an 80 acre farm located one mile east of Millersburg (later years known as the Henry Clute farm). Soon after he bought 160 acres north of Millersburg on which he lived many years. Their nine children were: Fred, Henry, Lena, Dedie, Willie, Louise, Joe, Sophia (Mrs. Joe Lapeska) and Anna (Mrs. Jacob Prinzing) who lived on the farm adjoining the Prinzing homestead. There are twenty grandchildren, thirty-nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren living. Anna recalled an experience her mother, Mrs. Henry Siemers, Sr., had in the pioneer days on the homestead: "After taking the cattle to water at Wolf Creek, which runs through the farm, one cow fell in and was unable to get out alone. So she got a rope, threw a lasso over the cow's head and, tying the other end of the rope to a horse's tail, rode the horse, pulling the cow to safety."

### BIOGRAPHY

**BOOK - RICE COUNTY FAMILIES. PUB. 1981** Siemers. Heinrich (Henry) R. Siemers, born August 27, 1838, in Hanover, Germany, was married on August 20, 1863, to Margaretha Mary Meyers, born July 19, 1844. They emigrated from Hanover, Germany, in 1872 with Margaretha's mother and their 4 children, Friedrich, Henrich, Carolena and Diedrich. They lived with relatives for a short time and then purchased 160 acres of land near Millersburg where Henry died on September 30, 1904. Margaretha continued to live there with her children, purchasing more land, but later built a house on one of the farms near the German union Cemetery and lived there until she died on December 13, 1919. Their children were Friedrich (May 10, 1864, to October 15, 1923), Heinrich (December 25, 1866, to June 13, 1926), Carolena (August 17, 1870, to January 3, 1939) and 8 children, all born in America were MaryAnna (December 2, 1874--did not live), Sophia Margaret (December 14, 1874, to July 16, 1955), Williw (January 10, 1876--did not live), William (January 1, 1877 to September 1, 1936), Louise Maria (March 5, 1879, to March 6, 1899), Johann Heinrich 9January 26, 1881, to March 15, 1882), Joseph (August 20, 1882, to December 19, 1936), and Annabell (March 16, 1884, to May 5, 1957). Henry was married to Beatrice Fick and their 3 children were William (married Lorna Hill, 2 children), Louis (married Isadore Close, no children), and Elizabeth or Bessie (married Ralph Chester, 2 children); his 2nd marriage to Louise Evert produced Merrill (married to Ila K. Nolan, 2 children), and Maynard (married Ardes Laursen, 3 children). Caroline married a Favro and had Amelia (married Alfred Albert, 2 children), Henry (married Helen LeBlanc, 3 children), and Louise (married Albion Kattenberg, 1 child). Jane (married Fredrick Giehler, 1 child) and Lucille (married Albert P. Anderson, 1 child) were the daughters of Diedrich. Sophia was married to a Fick and their children were Margaret (married George Berg, no

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children), Bernhard (married Minnie Radloff, 4 children), and Elsie (married Rudolph Zanmiller, no children). Her 2nd marriage was to Joseph Lepaska. William had 2 children, Hewarth (married Emma Eleanor Mattison and 7 children) and Kenneth (married Hazel Anderson, 8 children). Louise was married to Dierking and their was 1 son, Henry (married Pearl Prinzing) who had 3 children, Joseph (married Mae Brown Thompson, 3 children), Ruth (married Neal Pearson, 3 children) and Roger. Annabell's 1st marriage was to Ole Eng and they had 1 son, Emanuel (married Verna Bell Shaw, 5 children), and her 2nd marriage was to Jacob Prinzing and their 2 children were Raymond (married Lucille Mae Keane, 4 children) and Marian (married Cecil R. Hutton, 6 children).

### **BIOGRAPHY**

**BOOK - RICE COUNTY FAMILIES. PUB. 1981** Henry and Margaret Siemers. Heinrich R. (Henry) and Margaretha (Margaret) Mary (Meyers) Siemers, emigrated from Hanover, Germany, to Forest Township in 1872. It is said that they came from wealthy parentage and left all behind. It was the family's hopes to return to Germany in the later years and claim their rightful wealth, but all hopes and dreams were eventually put aside and never realized. Like many German emigrants, Henry supposedly left his homeland so that he would not be drafted into the Germany army. Henry and Margaret had 4 children born in Germany, who came to America with them, namely: Fred, Henry, Lena (married Favro) and Dedrick. Margaret's blind mother, Anna (Fronthingham) Meyers, also came with them. It is said that she always felt bad that she could not be of more help to her daughter, Margaret, that all she felt she could do was sit and hold a baby. (Two of her grandchildren were named after her: Mary Anna, born 1873 (did not live) and Anna Bell (Prinzing) born March 16, 1884.) Margaret's mother died November 1891 at the age of 84, she is believed to be the first burial in the German Union Cemetery in Forest Township as the original date of the cemetery is 1891. The cemetery is located on County Road 61 just a short distance form the former farmhouse of Henry Siemers and upon the boundary line of the Siemers and Evert property. The death of Margaret's mother could have been the reason for starting the German Union Cemetery on the Siemers property. It is believed that the Siemers family left Germany from the city of Bremen and they made the long, difficult voyage across the ocean by steerage, that section of the ship occupied by the passengers paying the lowest fare. Dedrick, a small infant, became very ill on the voyage and the parents worried for fear he would die and they would have to bury him at sea. His sister, Lena, about 2 years old, clutched a doll during the entire trip and still had it when they reached their destination. Upon their arrival in America, the family went directly to Bridgewater Township where they made their home for a time with Adelaide (Meyers) Albers, an aunt of Margaret's, being her father's sister. Eventually, Henry and Margaret, with their children and Margaret's mother, rented an 80-acre farm one mile east of Millersburg. In later years this farm was known as the "Henry Clute Farm." Sometime prior to 1900 Henry Siemers purchased his first farmland. It consisted of 160 acres in section 18. (The present owner of this land is Mr. Novotny.) An additional 100 acres was purchased in section 18. The 1899 Rice County Director stated that Henry Siemers owned 262 acres

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in section 18, valued at \$3,494. The post office address was then Lester. Between the years of 1873 and 1884, 9 more children were born to Henry and Margaret, but only 5 survived. They were named Sophia (Mrs. Joe (Fick) Lepaska), William, Louise (Mrs. Albert Dierking), Joseph and Anna (Mrs. Eng Jacob A. Prinzing.) Margaret Siemers had been a midwife in Germany and continued to be one after coming to America, driving a team of fast ponies with a fancy rig and going all over the countryside to help with deliveries. At one time she was baking bread when someone needed her services, so she took the bread, which was in the process of raising, with her in the buggy rig and baked it in the house while caring for the mother-to-be. Following Henry's death in 1904, Margaret remained on the farm and with her sons, built up a substantial estate. If not working in the fields herself, pitching hay and shocking grain, she would take a hot meal out to the men. Sometimes she would take out pancakes which her daughter, Anna, had made. Anna (Annie Prinzing) was famous for her delicious thin pancakes, making them so large they covered a plate. (The delicious thin pancakes are prepared to this day by granddaughters and great-granddaughters.) An amusing story is that one time Annie, just a little girl, baked some bread, and her mother, breaking off a piece, eating it, and not liking it, said to her daughter, "Awna, Awna, I'd die by this bread." The Siemers daughters had worked for the wealthy Grant family in Faribault as did their brother, Dedrick. He drove the horses and did yard work for the family. Margaret died at the home of her daughter, Anna Prinzing, on December 13, 1919. There was so muc

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**SIEMERS FAMILY MARKER**