

## CANAWLERS AT REST

### HENRY STUENKLE

**b. December 12, 1822**  
**d. 19—**

**By Carolyn I. Schmidt**

Henry Stuenkle was born in Hanover, Germany on December 12, 1822. There he obtained a fair education. He came to America with his parents at the age of eighteen. He obtained a job in New York working on the Erie Canal that was under construction at that time.

Built between 1817 and 1825 to connect the Hudson River at Albany, New York to Lake Erie at Buffalo, New York, the Erie Canal was the first transportation system between the eastern seaboard and the western interior. It originally was about 363 miles long, had 36 locks, and overcame an elevation change of about 565 feet. Transportation costs were cut by about 95%. It helped New York City become the main U.S. port. Population soared in the western part of the state. The canal opened western regions to settlement.

Henry worked on this great enterprise for one year. He then was hired by a rich merchant in Cincinnati, Ohio as a hostler and served in that capacity for nine years.

In the meantime, Henry married Johanna Cook. She was born near Munson, Prussia on April 6, 1827. She was five years his junior. They became parents of Henry Christian, Louisa, Mary, August, Amelia, Gustaf H. and Theodore Stuenkle.

While living in Cincinnati, the Miami & Erie Canal was opened from there to Toledo, Ohio in 1845. Perhaps Henry saw the influence the canal had on the growth of industry and agriculture and noted that the Wabash & Erie

Canal was going to be built through Gibson county, Indiana and would provide transportation for farm products.

Henry purchased forty acres of land in Gibson County, Indiana around 1850 and became one of the county's earliest settlers. He moved his family there from Cincinnati. He had great success in farming the land and eventually became the owner of four hundred and sixty-three acres, which he later divided among his four living children. He and his family were members of the Evangelical Church. He was still alive in 1914 when the *History of Gibson County, Indiana* was published.

On November 26, 1847, Henry and Johanna's oldest child, Henry Christian Stuenkle (later changed to Stunkel also in census Stinkle), was born in Johnson township, Gibson county, Indiana. He was reared in his parent's home and obtained a fair education from public schools. He began farming the one hundred and twenty-two acres of land he received from his father.

On October 13, 1870, at the age of twenty-three, Henry C. Stunkel was married to Louisa C. Hasselbruick, born in 1849. They had six children: Amelia, John, Philip, William, Carl and Paul Stunkel. The 1900 U.S. Census shows John F. age 26 a lawyer, Wm. age 21 a laborer, Carl age 18 a laborer and Paul age 16 a laborer. Amelia was no longer living with her parents.

Henry C. Stunkel became one of the leading farmers in the community by using progressive methods. He purchased additional land to add to his farm giving him a total of three hundred and eighteen acres. It had substantial buildings and all the improvements and accessories of a model farm. His family belonged to the German Evangelical Church and he was a Democrat.

Henry C.'s wife Louisa, later called Louise, died in 1917 and was laid to rest in St. Stephens Cemetery in Warrenton, Gibson county, Indiana that was founded in 1854 and now is associated with the United Church of Christ. Henry C. died in 1937 and was laid to rest beside Louise.

It is likely that our subject Henry Stuenkle and his wife Johanna are also buried in the old part of St. Stephens Cemetery. Many stones were in unreadable condition and some were missing when Bob & Carolyn Schmidt looked for their grave markers.

August and Amelia Stuenkle were deceased prior to 1914. Gustave H. Stunkel was born on January 23, 1862,

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died on September 6, 1954 and was buried in St. Stephens Cemetery. We do not know what happened to Henry and Johanna's other children, Louisa, Mary and Theodore.



HENRY C. STUNKEL  
1847-1937  
LOUISE C. STUNKEL  
1849-1917

Photos by Bob Schmidt



Henry Stuenkle's Family							
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place	
<b>Stuenkle, Henry</b>	12-12-1822	Hanover, Germany					
m. Cook, Johanna	4-05-1827	Munson, Prussia					
Stuenkle (Stunkel) Henry C.	11-26-1847	Gibson Co, IN	1937	Gibson Co, IN	10-13-1870	Gibson Co, IN	
m. Hasselbruick,* Louisa C.	1849		1917	Gibson Co, IN	10-13-1870	Gibson Co, IN	
Stunkel, Amelia	1872	Gibson Co, IN					
Stunkel, John F.	1873	Gibson Co, IN					
Stunkel, Philip G.	1876	Gibson Co, IN	1947	Gibson Co, IN			
Stunkel, William G.	1879	Gibson Co, IN	1951	Gibson Co, IN			
Stunkel, Carl H.	1881	Gibson Co, IN	1948	Gibson Co, IN			
Stunkel, Paul T.	2-04-1884	Gibson Co, IN	10-03-1977	Gibson Co, IN			
Stuenkle, Louisa		Gibson Co, IN					
Stuenkle, Mary		Gibson Co, IN					
Stuenkle, August		Gibson Co, IN	prior 1914				
Stuenkle, Amelia		Gibson Co, IN	prior 1914				
Stuenkle, Gustaf H.**	1-23-1862	Gibson Co, IN	12-06-1954	Gibson Co, IN			
Stuenkle, Theodore		Gibson Co, IN					

\* Hasselbrink according to marriage record

\*\* Gustav H. Stunkel according to St. Stephen's Cemetery Records on Find-A-Grave

**Sources:**

Ancestry.com

Public member trees

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/65079273/person/36153115873?src=>

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/65079273/person/36153115876>

Roots Web Cemetery Index 1800-2010

Find-A-Grave

#105377944 Henry C. Stunkel

Indiana Marriage Collection 1800-1941

Henry C. Stunkel

Louisa Hasselbrink

Stormount, Gil R. *History of Gibson County, Indiana: Her People, Industries and Institutions*, Indianapolis, IN: B. F. Bowen, 1914.

U.S. Federal Census 1900, 1910, 1920

