

EDWARD, RICHARD AND FRED WEIDENBACH

The earliest recollection was told by Edward to his children. On the day of which the Great Blizzard of January 1888 began, he and his twin sister, then seven, were in school in Scotland. The children were not permitted to leave the schoolhouse until someone came for them. The twins were among the last to leave. An uncle brought them home safely by groping from building to building.

the brothers all told of the struggles of the family after their father left. Richard said he worked for various relatives who were on farms. he was paid in produce many times. Fred told his sons that as a small boy he started to work for Frank Cash who owned a general store in Scotland. His first job was picking over potatoes for fifty cents a day.

Fred continued to work as a clerk in Scotland until 1919. Richard, Ed and their mother Sophia homesteaded in western South Dakota near Cottonwood. Richard's patent to the E½ of the NW¼ S7 T1SR19E is dated January 21, 1909. Two years later, on February 5, 1911 Richard bought the NW ½ S11 T97N R59 of Hutchinson County. He married Rosie Frank on March 1. The pastor was Henry Treick the Reformed minister and the witnesses were Richard's uncle Wilhelm Weltz and Rosie's uncle Philip Engel. Richard fed cattle and operated this farm until his death. It was sold in 1975 to Dwight Bietz a great great grandson of Heinrich the brother of Konrad.

Edward bought a meat market in 1914 in Scotland from William Logeman and sold it the same year to Cisar and Cisar. The next winter he visited his father Friederich in San Francisco. There he attended the Panama Exposition and evidently sought employment. He reported that San Francisco was "no place for looking for work". The 1915 Census of South Dakota lists his occupation as cream buyer in Scotland.

On March 1, 1919 the three brothers purchased a general store C.P. Heil and Son in Avon, South Dakota. Edward and Fred moved to Avon to operate the business. Richard intended to join them shortly before he died in 1922. As a result of the death of Richard, the store became Fred Weidenbach Company and Edward purchased another general merchandise business "up the street". As friendly competitors the two brothers each ran their businesses until their deaths. Emma, the widow, of Fred still owns and operates his business at this time.

(Written sometime prior to the late 1970's)