

Life History of Henry Vogt

I, Henry Vogt, was born February 14, 1853. My father died in 1854. His name was Henry. My mother was married again in 1858 to John Lawrence and in 1863 I was chased from home by my step father. I went to my brother, Carl F. Vogt who lived in New Bremen, now Tinley Park.

In 1867 I went to Chicago and attended a school about two years.

In 1869 I went to work in a grocery store conducted by Mr. G. Rusher until the Great Chicago Fire came in 1871. I lost all my savings and my good clothes in this fire.

October 1st, 1872 I took over the little store and saloon of my brother Charles at Tinley Park, with a couple of thousand dollars which my mother had saved for me. In 1873 I bought the corner east of the brick store from mother. In 1874 I was married to Miss Mathilda Wille.

In 1881 I went to Syracuse, and Cardiff, New York State, to buy the six lots where the store and home now stand on.

In 1882 I built the home and in 1883 I thought of going out of the store business and getting on a cattle ranch in Texas or somewhere else. So I went out prospecting a while and I started out to Wisconsin, Minnesota, Minneapolis and St Paul, to South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, California, Utah, Colorado.

I went to Pike's Peak on horse back over the narrow gauge which was only 16 inches wide for the horses to travel on to the summit of Pike's Peak. On one side of the path was a sheer drop from 5,000 to 6,000 feet. If a horse should slip and stumble it would mean that both horse and man would be lost.

From there I went to Colorado Springs, New Mexico, El Paso, Texas, Weatherford, Fort Worth, Dallas and to Kaufman. Here I bought one thousand acres of land for a cattle ranch at \$2.25 per acre or a total of \$2250.00. Four hundred acres were clear and 600 acres were timber land. I paid \$250 down and when I came home my wife would not go with me so I gave up the deal west with me so I gave up the deal and lost the \$250 I had paid down. Then I went to Oklahoma, Arkansas, Hot Springs, Little Rock, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia, then to New York where I bought \$2500 worth of dry goods and notions on credit and the goods arrived in Tinley Park before I got home. From New York I went to Boston, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, over the suspension bridge to Rochester, Pennsylvania, Pittsburg, then to Washington, D. C. There I had a guide for five days to show me through the city and to see the gardens and park in Washington. There one can see every plant that ever grew on God's earth. Then I went

to Cleveland, Ohio, Detroit, and back to Chicago. This was a trip to the Pacific ocean then to the Atlantic ocean and home to Tinley Park.

In 1886 I built the brick store. In 1891 I bought the farm from H. Rippe. In 1895 I built the vault in the cemetery. In 1899 I went on a trip with John Servis to the old government of Mexico. The first stop was at Kansas City, then to Fort Worth and Weatherford in Texas. There I saw a cattle ranch with 5,000 head of cattle. The next stop was at El Paso where we crossed the Rio Grande river into the government of Mexico. We started from Chicago January 24, 1899 and got back home February 24, 1899. There were 36 in our party. We had a Pullman sleeper and that was our home by day and night. We travelled all through Old Mexico and have seen great sights, also saw a bull fight. There were 6 bulls and 12 horses killed, also one man was taken out of the ring as dead.

July 8th, 1901 I started for Europe. I was on the Atlantic from July 10 to July 17 when I landed in London. It took me a week with a guide to see the biggest part of London. On July 25th I went to Paris and here it took me another week with a guide to see the most wonderful sights of Paris. August 2nd I went to Switzerland and I stayed in the Alps and in the mountains to August 6th then I went to Italy to Milan and I stayed only a few days as I could not speak Spanish and I did not like it there. So I went back to Switzerland for another week. The sights in these mountains are great. Then I went to Luzern. Interlock then through the tunnel Gothard. Then through the tunnel to Gothard. It took the fast train 20 minutes to go through. Then I went on to Zurich, Niederhasel and Oberhasel to Oberglatt to Bern and Basel. On August 13th I went to Muehlhausen, Alsace, then to Freiburg and Strassburg. August 16th I went to Carlsruhe, Herenhausen, August 18th to Hamburg, Cox Haven, Cappel-Medlum, to Eystrup then to Hassel to Bruchhausen yearly market and to HoyaMeering. On August 20 I went to Hanover then to Berlin, Potsdam, Charlottenburg where all the kings and Kaisers and their wives are laid away in mausoleums and big vaults. August 30th in Hamburg, then to Bremen to the boat office. Stayed over night then on to Berlin where I took in all the sights for five or six days, then to Altenburg, Zwenka, Leipzig, Muehlhausen, Eisenach to the Wartburg, to Beschhausen, Cornberg, Rocenses. Here is where my father and mother lived right opposite from Mr. Ernest Bierschenk in Rockenses. Mr. Ernest Bierschenk is a cousin on my mother's side. From here I went to Middelsten Hoshbach, Mitterrode Koenigswald and Hohen-eiche then to Spangenberg to Cassel and Wilhelmshohe to Frankfort, Lau-

terbach then to Wiesbaden, Ruedesheim. At the last named place is the best wine on the Rhine. I went with a boat up the river Rhine to Coblenz and Koeln. I also went with the cog-wheel railroad up the Rhine from Ruedesheim to the Leichtweils (Hoele) or Cafe and to the National [Denkmal] or monument, where the song "Die Wacht Am Rhein" has come from. Next I went to Cox Haven to Cappel Medlum to Dresden in Saxoh with the Schwebe Bahn up to Sochwartz then to Waldheim and Hettrice. Oct. 6th I went back to Hassel and Oct. 8th Diedrich Schuman, his brother-in-law August and John Boeyer went with me to Bremen to take the boat. October 15th I arrived in New York and the 18th I arrived home.

In 1903 I built the Saenger Hall. In 1912 I retired from the store business in which I was engaged for 40 years. I then turned the business over to my son Henry. I have been doing a little real estate and insurance business ever since.

Upon retiring from business I arranged to give my customers and friends a good day in the Saenger Hall and in the Linden Garden. On September 29, 1912 I put on a big celebration. I had a brass band and about 60 singers. I had a barbecue, a 400 pound ox, beer, wine, coffee, ice cream and all the eats that was wanted for about 2000 people and they all had a good time.

In 1921 I went with the Servis Tour to Yellowstone Park. We started August 18, 1921. The first stop was at St. Paul. Here we had an auto ride through the city then to Minneapolis and at Bismark, North Dakota we had to set our watches one hour back. September 17 we arrived at the Mammoth Hotel from where we could see the Old Faithful Geyser play. Then we went 50 miles by automobile over the mountains of Yellowstone Park. As we travelled along we saw lots of buffalos, bears and deers by droves. We went to Jackson Hole 65 miles further up in the mountains. About 7500 feet up there is a big lake and this lake is 440 feet deep. There are great sights in Yellowstone Park in fact too much to write about. On August 25 we started for West Yellowstone, then to Salt Lake City. Here there is an immense dance pavilion, the Mormon Temple and Mormon Tabernacle. In this place is the biggest organ in the world. I heard it play. Then we went to Denver to Colorado Springs, to Manitou, then to the cave of the winds. The next morning at 2 o'clock we went with automobiles to Pike's Peak to see the sun rise.

Then for home. It is about 1060 miles from Colorado Springs to Chicago. We took the C. R. I. & P. railroad for home.

I wrote this when I was 75 years old and I thought that I was through traveling.

HENRY VOGT, SR.