

Reunion for 2006 is Aug. 20, 2006  
Camp Trinity 12-7

# People

NEW HAVEN LEADER

Sept. 7, 2005

## Family of Dr. John Engelbrecht holds reunion at Camp Trinity

The family of Dr. John Engelbrecht held a reunion at Camp Trinity Aug. 28.

Those who attended from New Haven were Teddy and Geraldine Engelbrecht; Jim and LuAnn Engelbrecht and children, Craig, Eric and Brett; Tim and Lisa Engelbrecht and children, Rachael and Amy; John and Sandy Engelbrecht; Frieda Carey; Joe and Jenny Pritchett and children, Cameron and Samantha; Donna Wehmeyer and Chelsea.

From Hermann, attendees were Laurie Steinbeck and children, Eli and Hannah.

Those attending from the St. Louis area included Rick and Donna Joern, Reed and friend, Alex; Audrey Heseman; Dick and Doris Blumer; Bernie and Kathy Spaunhorst; Joe and Mary Carey, Vicky, Morino and Katie; Jodi Walsh and children, Charlie and Joseph.

Washington area attendees included Darren and Lisa Gleeson, Drake, Jenna and William; and Calvin and Liz Blumer.

Bob and Carolyn Wilmesher came from Ohio to attend the reunion.

Dr. Engelbrecht was born August 27, 1867, the son of Casper B. and Anna Marie (Schlomann) Engelbrecht. He grew up in the Drake community.

He was orphaned at the age of ten and lived with various relatives, whoever was willing to take care of him.

Engelbrecht married Anna Louisa Hilkerbaumer, who was born Aug. 19, 1867, the daughter of Gottlieb H. and Wilhelmine L. Hilkerbaumer.

By the time he graduated from the Homeopathic Medical College in St. Louis in 1893, he was married, had a baby daughter, and was \$800 in debt for his education.

He began his medical practice in Berger but, a few months later, decided to relocate to Stony Hill.

Engelbrecht went to Stony Hill because there was no doctor there and he knew he was needed. The closest doctor was at New Haven, 12 miles away.

He hung out his shingle at the Evangelical Church parsonage, because the church had no pastor and the home was available.

In 1944, at age 77, he was still practicing medicine, traveling the surrounding hill country as he had

been doing since 1893.

He no longer had a sign to direct patients to his office. In fact, he didn't bother to replace the first sign after it wore out because everybody knew where he lived.

When Engelbrecht began his medical practice, he made house calls on horseback. He went out in the middle of the night when called upon to do so, in calm or stormy weather. Only his great coat shielded him from the elements and he would sometimes be soaked to the skin and his coat would be frozen stiff!

In all those years of riding horseback to attend to the sick and deliver babies, he only suffered one serious accident.

Louis Egley had made an urgent call for the doctor. Egley lived about three miles northwest of Stony Hill and had been injured in an accident.

A gale-category wind was blowing as the doctor mounted his horse and headed toward the Egley home. His great coat flapped and, in doing so, struck the horse, causing the high-strung horse to run away.

The horse ran off the road into the woods, scraping against a white oak tree. The good doctor was thrown from the horse and lay unconscious in the woods for a time.

When he came to, Engelbrecht realized he had a broken cheekbone and several broken ribs.

He managed to stagger to the home of Louis Grannemann where he collapsed at the door.

Dr. Engelbrecht was carried to his home on a cot and Dr. Aufderheide from Drake went to Stony Hill to look after Dr. Engelbrecht and Mr. Egley.

The doctor had to spend two weeks in bed, but was up, seeing patients before he was supposed to because his patients needed him.



**Dr. John Engelbrecht and his wife, Anna Louisa Engelbrecht, nee Hilkerbaumer.** Dr. Engelbrecht died March 15, 1945 and his wife died the following year. He was a country doctor at Stony Hill for over 50 years and the Engelbrechts have many descendants in the area.

As time marched on, the doctor was able to procure a top buggy set up as a two-horse rig. One horse could not drag the buggy through the mud and roads in that era were very rudimentary. The new trappings meant the doctor could travel the hills to visit his patients with a greater degree of comfort and protection from the weather. He kept four horses so he could alternate the double teams.

In 1915, he bought a second-hand Ford and began to make his housecalls by auto; however,

because the roads were so bad, he often had to rely on his faithful horses to get him through.

Over the years, he delivered 900 babies, including 13 sets of twins, only losing one mother in childbirth.

He didn't send bills to his patients because he figured they knew they owed him and would pay him when they were able.

Dr. John Engelbrecht died March 15, 1945. Anna died in 1946. They are buried at St. James U.C.C. Cemetery at Stony Hill.