

Wilhelm Loehe, Georg Grossmann, Wartburg College, and the Iowa Synod

A Presentation for the International Loehe Society

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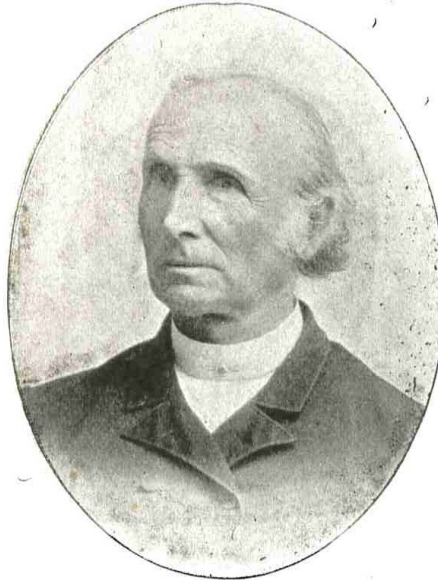
Wartburg College

Wilhelm Löhe



Wartburg Kalendar, 1884.

The story of how a school named Wartburg came to be in Waverly is actually several inter-related stories, one of which starts with Wilhelm Löhe.



Johannes Deindörfer,
*Geschichte der Evang.-
Luth.Synod von Iowa und
anderen Staaten* (Chicago:
Wartburg Publishing
House, 1897).

G. Grossmann

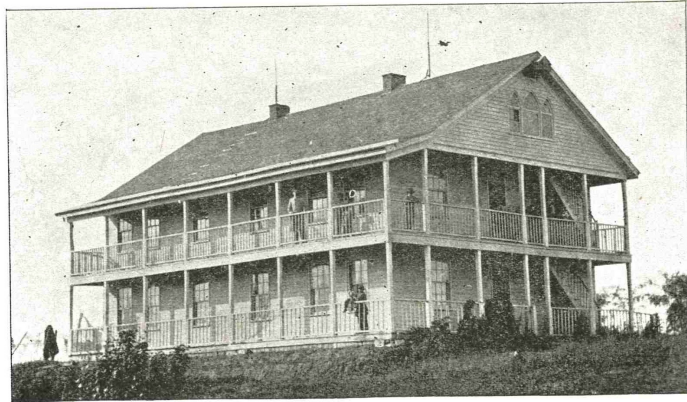
In 1852 Löhe sent Georg Grossmann to Saginaw, Michigan to start a school to train teachers for Lutheran parochial schools.

Saginaw, 1852
Dubuque, 1853
St. Sebald, 1857

Iowa Synod organized 1854

After disagreements with the Missouri Synod, Grossmann moved the school to Dubuque and then to St. Sebald. The Iowa Synod was organized at St. Sebald in 1854. Grossmann would serve as president into the 1890s.

The school at St. Sebald



Seminar Wartburg, St. Sebald, Iowa

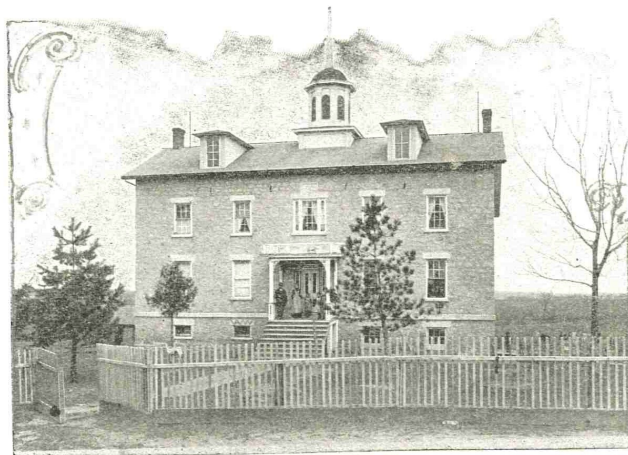
Johannes Deindörfer,
*Geschichte der Evang.-
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House, 1897).

The Iowa Synod needed pastors, so a seminary began. To prepare students for seminary, the Synod needed a preparatory program to ready students for seminary and so what would become a college began. The goal of a school to train teachers was set aside for the present.

1878 – Grossmann began again the mission of training teachers.

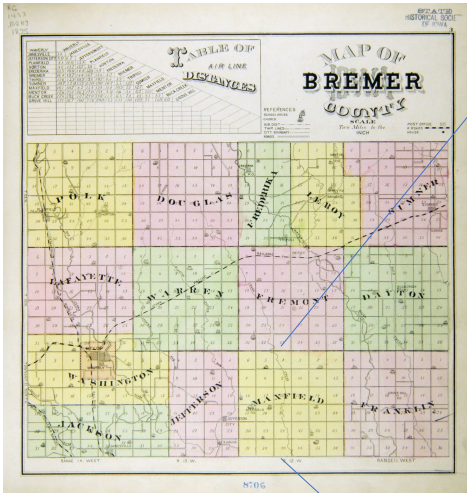
The orphanage at Andrew, Iowa

Johannes Deindörfer,
Geschichte der Evang.-Luth. Synod von Iowa und anderen Staaten (Chicago: Wartburg Publishing House, 1897).

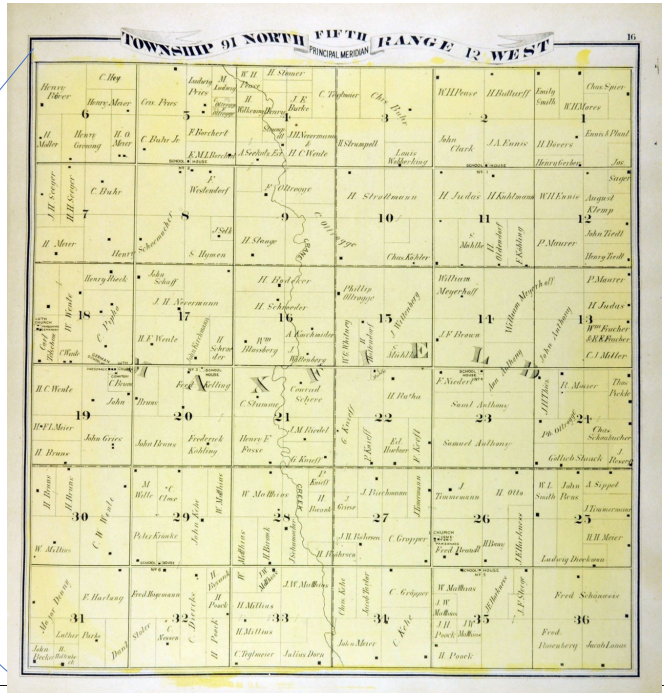


Waisenhaus zu Andrew, Iowa

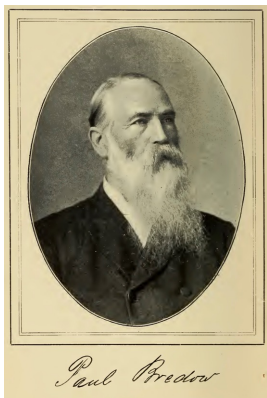
In 1878 Grossmann began his teachers' seminary again, using part of an orphanage in Andrew, but it was too small to remain there.



Maxfield Township in *Atlas of Bremer County, Iowa* (Waverly: H. S. Hoover and Wm. P. Reeves, 1875; Lithography by J. Knauber & Co., Milwaukee, WI), 16.



Another story begins when German immigrants from Cook County, Illinois settled in Maxfield Township in Bremer County, Iowa. They asked their former pastor, from the Missouri Synod, to visit. The Missouri Synod eventually sent a pastor, who stayed briefly, and was not replaced. An Iowa Synod pastor brought the congregation, which came to be known as St. John's Lutheran Church Maxfield, into its fold.



Rev. Paul Bredow, pastor at St. John Lutheran Church Maxfield, 1871-1899.

P. Bredow, *Erinnerungen aus dem Leben und Wirken eines Amerikanisch-Lutherischen Pastors* (Charles City, IA: Druckerei und Binderei des Familien-Freund, 1904).

Rev. Paul Bredow Dies.

Rev. Paul Bredow, an early pioneer among the Lutheran pastors of Iowa, died at noon last Sunday, Jan. 2, 1910. He was born March 25, 1830, in Germany. He attended the schools in Germany and was confirmed in 1858. At nineteen years of age he commenced to prepare for the ministry. After three years' study he came to America, and in 1861 settled in St. Sebald, Clayton county, Iowa, where he was ordained by the late Rev. Dr. Grossman, and later he was elected pastor of a church at Portage City, Wis. Mr. Bredow was next called to Ottumwa, Iowa, where he took charge of a church. He was pastor of a church seven years at Dubuque. On Dec. 28, 1871, he came to Maxfield, Bremer Co., where he was pastor for 22 years. His church became known as the Bredow church, and it is best known by that name to this day. In 1899 he resigned at Maxfield and came to Waverly where he made his home until death ended a busy life.

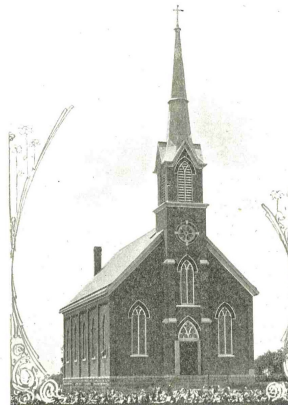
Mr. Bredow was married to Enille Grossman at Dubuque on May 18, 1856. He was the father of fourteen children of whom nine are living. The living children are: Pastor H. Bredow of Sumner; Prof. Julius Bredow of Oakkosh, Wis.; Gustav, Otto and Sigmund Bredow of Waverly; Mrs. Agnes Niedorf of Charles City; Mrs. Sophie Appel, wife of the pastor at Hamler, Ohio; Mrs. Clara Lorch wife of Pastor Lorch at Mason City; and Miss Hilda Bredow at home.

A busy, useful and helpful life was ended at noon last Sunday when nearly all his children were present in the death chamber. Pastor Bredow had reached the age of seventy years, nine months and six days.

The funeral takes place this Thursday at 10 o'clock a. m. and will be conducted by Rev. Richter, Rev. Lutz and Pastors Raush and Ide.

Waverly Republican, 6
January 1910

St. John's Lutheran, built 1891.

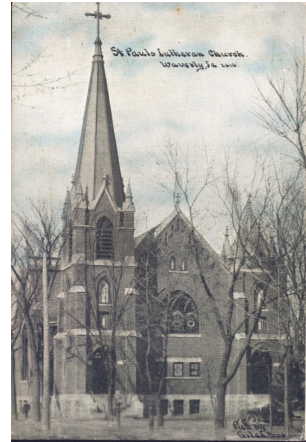


St. Johanneskirche, Maxfield, Iowa

Johannes Deindörfer, *Geschichte der Evang.-Luth. Synod von Iowa und anderen Staaten* (Chicago: Wartburg Publishing House, 1897).

In 1871 Rev. Paul Bredow took charge of St. John's Maxfield and remained as its pastor until 1899..

Bredow's work in organizing new congregations in 1870s and later



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, built in 1907.

Bredow set about bringing German Lutherans into the Iowa Synod, including organizing St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly in 1872.

1880 Census for Bremer County

Total Population	11,198
Foreign Born	2,883
Born in German Empire	1,981
Born in Sweden and Norway	8

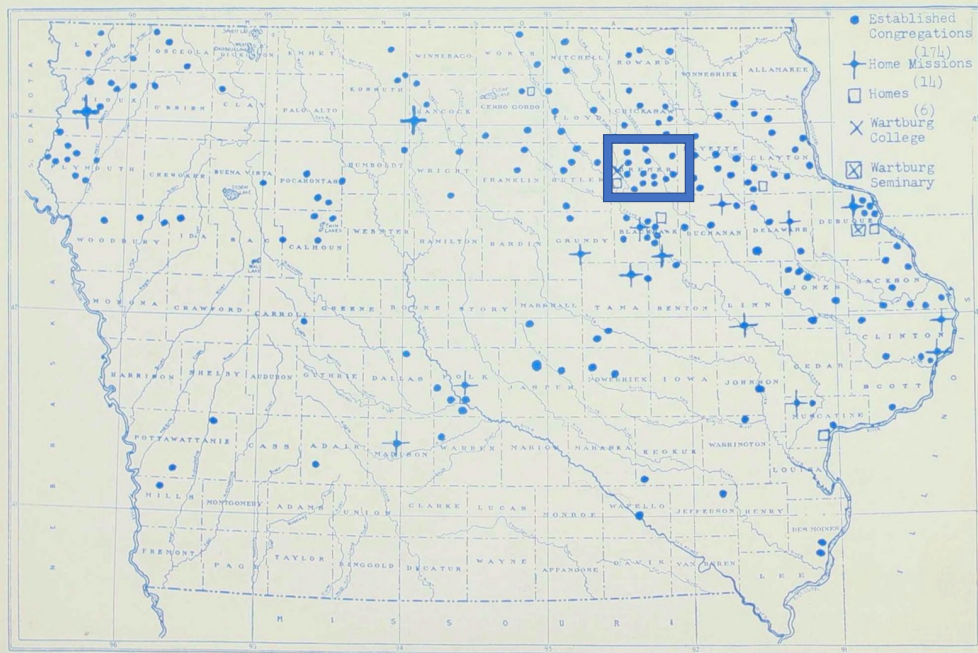
1880 Census figures for this county show the importance of Germans in its population. By 1880, some of the American-born residents of the county were children of German immigrants who had arrived in the United States in the 1850s and 1860s.

American Lutheran Church congregations in Iowa, 1954.

Thirteen are in Bremer County, more than any other county in the state.

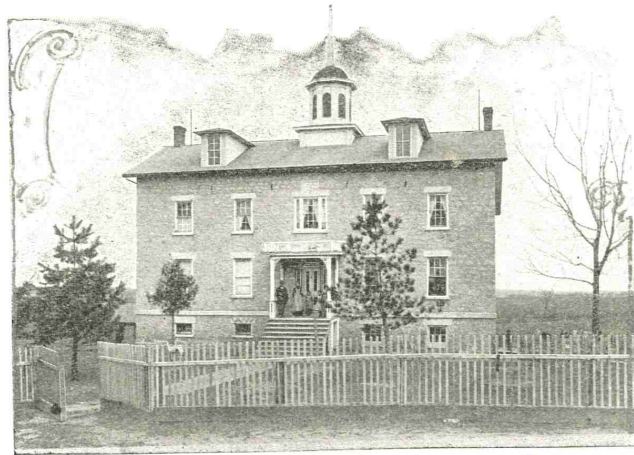
These would have been Iowa Synod congregations before the 1930 merger of several German synods that created the American Lutheran Church.

Credit:
Palimpsest,
June 1954, back cover.



The American Lutheran Synod in Iowa — 1954

The orphanage at
Andrew, Iowa



Waisenhaus zu Andrew, Iowa

Johannes Deindörfer,
*Geschichte der Evang.-
Luth.Synod von Iowa und
anderen Staaten* (Chicago:
Wartburg Publishing
House, 1897).

The facilities of the Andrew orphanage were inadequate for the school Grossmann had in mind.

1879 – Where should the new school settle?

Several Iowa communities hoped to attract Grossmann's school, including Andrew, Mitchell, and Waverly.

The first mention of efforts to attract the German college to Waverly.

Waverly Republican, 27 February 1879

THE GERMAN COLLEGE.

A Card in Relation thereto by Rev P. Bredow.

In regard to the erection of the German college in Waverly the undersigned would beg leave to give the following information:

This college shall be for the purpose of the education of young men for teaching school in both languages, the English and German, and the institution will be under the control of the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa. Connected with the institution will be a public school, open to any one, to learn either German, or English, Latin or Greek, or any other branch, and the terms will be very liberal. Also there will be a chance to take lessons in music for young and old folks, as Prof. Eichlet, of the college, is able to perform on almost any musical instrument.

Yours Respectfully,
P. BREDOW.

The third story relates to Waverly's successful efforts to attract the German college. Bredow was prominent in the effort. Clippings from 1879-1880 show the progress.

**Meeting in the Interest of the Proposed
German College.**

On two different occasions we made mention of an effort on the part of the leading ministers of the German Church to locate a college in or near the city of Waverly. We stated in the *REPUBLICAN* the benefits derived from such an institution, and pointed out the offers made by other localities. The ministers who are interested in the matter prefer Waverly on account of its natural advantages, and if proper encouragement is given, from a financial point of view, here the college will be located. Below is a summary of a meeting held last Tuesday in this place in the interest of the object mentioned:

Meeting called to order by E. Knott. Dr. Oscar Burbank was elected chairman, and George Morehouse secretary. Moved that a committee of three from the city of Waverly, and three from the country, be appointed to solicit subscriptions. E. Knott, J. R. Smith, and Peter Fosselman, were selected as a committee from Waverly. Fred Bruns, Henry Wente, and John Bruns, were selected a committee from the country. Moved and carried that the secretary write a subscription paper. Adjourned.

Waverly Republican, 10 July 1879.

In early July a meeting organized Waverly's effort and named individuals who would solicit pledges of financial support to bring the school to Waverly. Waverly pledged \$4,000, which sealed the decision.

To Contractors.

Those wishing to put in bids for the building of the proposed German College, will find the plans and specification at Burbank & Lee's Drug Store, until August 20, 1879.

The committee reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

REV. P. BREDOW, }
O. BURBANK, } Com.
F. C. SOHLE, }

Waverly, August 6, 1879.

13-2w.

Waverly Republican, 7 August 1879

By early August 1879 a committee was soliciting contractors' bids for the school building.

Will. R. Knight was awarded the contract for building the German college. No better man in Iowa could get the job.

Waverly Republican, 28 August 1879.

The successful bidder was William R. Knight, appropriately enough, though Wartburg College would not choose the knight as its mascot until 1935.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE.—Last evening the laying the corner stone of the German College took place in this city with imposing ceremonies. There were present a goodly number of our most prominent citizens. Lack of space forbids further comment beyond these brief lines.

Waverly Republican, 10 June 1880.

The cornerstone was laid in June 1880.

THE GERMAN COLLEGE.—The brick work on the German College is completed to and including the 3d story. All Mr. Knight has to do now is to add about five feet more of brick to constitute the attic. The building is 40 x 60 feet, three stories high, with basement (of stone) and attic. There are 64 windows and four outside doors in the building. The basement is divided into rooms as follows: furnace room, pantry, dining room and kitchen, to be used for the students; the first floor is divided, first,—one half for a class room and the other half as living rooms for the professors; the 2nd story apartments are all class rooms, while the 3d story will be divided into sleeping rooms for the students. The college will undoubtedly be ready for occupancy at the close of the fall months.

Waverly Republican, 26 August 1880.

The building was nearly finished by late August 1880. The Waverly Republican offered a description of the “German College.”



Waverly Republican, 25 November 1880.

Dedication of the German College.

WAVERLY, Iowa, Nov. 23, 1880.

Yesterday, at 2 1/2 o'clock, the dedication exercises of the German College took place.

At an early hour, the room was crowded with the many friends of the institution.

At the appointed time the learned Professor, Dr. G. Freitchel, of Mendota, Ill., was introduced and addressed the congregation in English.

While speaking of education, the Dr. made the grand assertion, that true education was the result of a perfect and harmonious development of the mental, moral, and physical man.

Hon. A. F. Brown was then introduced and spoke upon the carrying on of the work, from the standpoint of a citizen of the city and county.

At different times during the afternoon, excellent music was furnished.

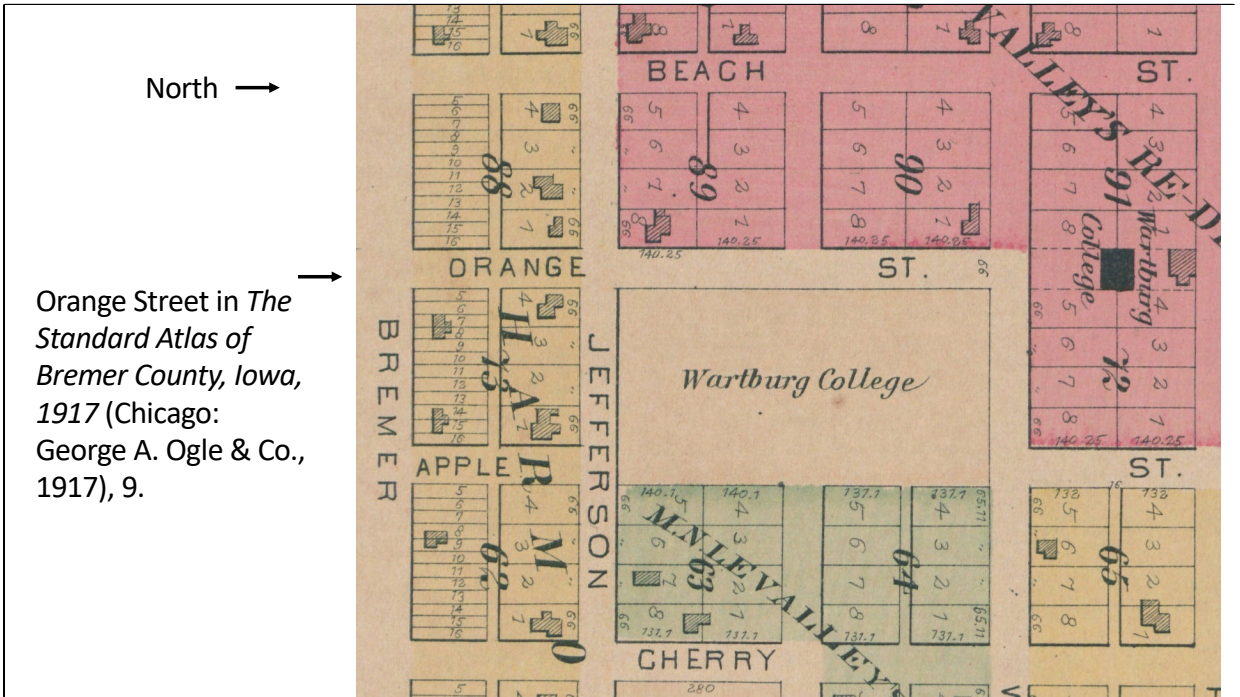
At this time, Prof. Dr. Grossman pronounced the Dedication Prayer, with much feeling, at the close of which he repeated the Lord's Prayer assisted by the congregation.

Considerable money was raised at different times during the afternoon, but the exact amount we did not learn.

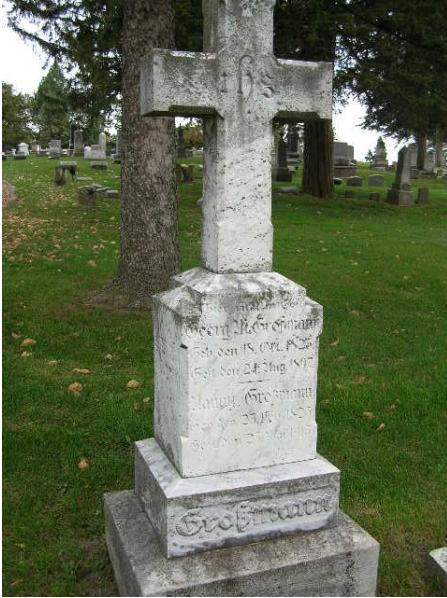
VISITOR.

EXTRAORDINARY OFFER. From the

The first building of the school, now Old Main, was dedicated in November 1880.



Old Main stood at the north end of a segment of what was then known as Orange Street. The first “Wartburg” in Waverly was the school for training teachers. Wartburg College moved to the Waverly campus from Mendota, Illinois in 1885, but moved to Clinton, Iowa in 1894. Wartburg College would adopt orange and black as its colors while in Clinton. The school for training teachers, sometimes called the Wartburg Teachers Seminary or the Wartburg Normal School, remained in Waverly until 1933 when it was merged into Wartburg College in Clinton. In 1935 Wartburg College returned to the campus in Waverly.



Death of Rt. Rev. G. M. Grossmann.

Rev. G. M. Grossmann died on Tuesday. He had been sick for several weeks with heart trouble and dropsy. Funeral Friday at 1 p. m., Rev. Dr. S. Fritschel, of Dubuque, and Rt. Rev. J. Deindorfer, officiating. A large number of clergymen were present to pay the tribute of their respect to the memory of the deceased.

The following children are left to mourn the death of an honored and loved father: Mrs. P. Bredow, Maxfield; Mrs. G. Amman, Ash Grove, Neb.; Mrs. P. Kuethe, Waverly; Mrs. H. Hoerig, Watertown, Wis.; Mrs. P. List, Chicago; Miss Nanny Grossmann, Gottfried Grossmann and G. A. Grossmann, publisher of the Phoenix.

"Prof. G. M. Grossmann was born at Gross-Bieberau, Hessen, Germany, Oct. 18, 1823. He graduated from normal school at Friedberg, Hessen, studied theology at the university at Erlangen, Bavaria, and was ordained in 1852 by Rev. Meinel, of Hamburg. In 1852 he came to America and was appointed principal of a teachers' seminary at Saginaw, Mich. In 1853 he went to Dubuque and started a theological seminary and in 1854, together with Revs. J. Deindorfer and S. Fritschel, founded the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and other states, of which body he was president for forty years in succession, until it numbered 300 ministers and 500 congregations. He was president and professor of the theological seminary after it was removed to St. Sebald, Clayton county, Ia., in 1857, for 17 years, and one year at Mendota, Ill. In 1877 he was elected president of the teachers' seminary started in Andrew and afterwards removed to Waverly and united with the Wartburg college, which position he held until 1891, when he resigned after celebrating his fiftieth anniversary as teacher."

Waverly Republican, 26 August 1897.

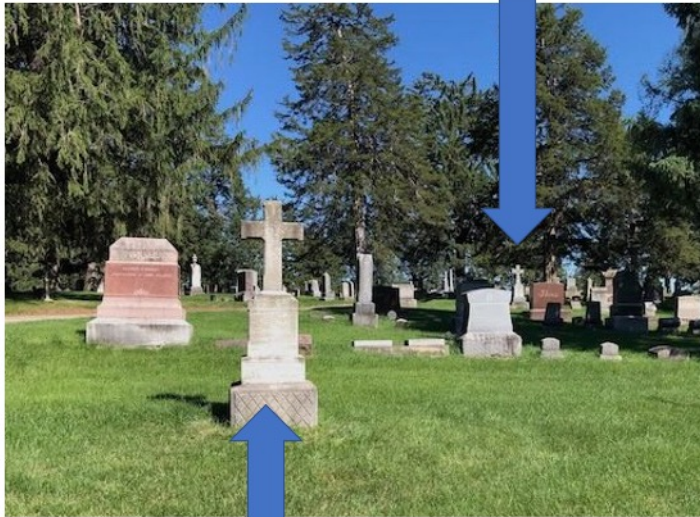
Georg M. Grossmann died in 1897 and is buried in Harlington Cemetery in Waverly.



Photo of Rev. Paul Bredow's coffin with portrait of him.

Rev. Bredow and his wife are buried in Harlington Cemetery, just down the hill from the grave of Georg Grossmann, Bredow's father-in-law. Bredow had married Grossmann's daughter Emilie in 1866. Perhaps that is another piece of the complex story that brought Wartburg College to Waverly.

Georg M. Grossmann marker



Paul & Emilie (Grossmann) Bredow marker

The End