



August Reimers, Sergeant, Co. E, 15 MO Infantry, US

1841 September 23: August Ernst Christian Reimers was born in Schwerin, Mecklenburg, Germany to Johann and Sophia Reimers. He was the fifth of six children and was baptized a month later on October 10th.

23.	10.	Oct. Der D. S. = Johann Jos: chim Heinrich Reimers.	So. Sophia Maria Ag. nete geb. Leonhard.	August Ernst Christian	1. D. S. in Schwerin 2. 5. J. in Schwerin 3. D. S. in Schwerin 4. Malergesell	Stage Friedrichs Ernst Wilcken Christian Adack Leopold Leonhard	ide 21 35.
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1848 August's Reimers' father Johann died during the revolution and his mother, Sophia, moved her young family to the United States. She had four children at the time of their emigration, Johanna, Henry, Alexander and August. Two children, Carl and Dorothy, had died previously.

¹ fold3.com/Reimers, August/Memorial

² Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500-1971 image. 384 (accessed ancestry.com)

"We went to Hamburg and were booked to sail on a large clipper ship. But when we came down to the ship to go aboard, the ship was crowded, and there were some 90 people left over, we among them. A small Norwegian brig, by the name of the Sleipner, was chartered. The ladies were put in the officers' cabin, but the rest of us had to go between decks. Ninety people were about all that the little craft could hold, so we sailed for the Land of Liberty. We encountered a very severe storm on the way over, but arrived safely in New York after 32 days on the briny deep. We had a lot of friends on board the big clipper ship, and when we got to New York, we were anxiously waiting for them to arrive. But they never came. The clipper ship, with all on board, was lost, and no one ever knew what became of them, while our little Norwegian brig weathered the storm, and carried us over safely.

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1852 Sophia Reimers died in New York.

"We lived in New York until 1852. In the Fall of the year, my sister wrote from St. Louis, where she was located, asking us to come to St. Louis. We started on the cars to Buffalo, and from there took a steamer over the lakes to Chicago to get a chance to ride on a canal boat to La Salle, Ill. From there we went down the Illinois river on the steamer Belle Golden, arriving in St. Louis after 15 days from New York."

³ Quad-City Times, Davenport, IA, Sunday, 27 Dec 1908, pg. 12 (accessed newspapers.com)



“Steamboating at that time was in its glory,” he writes, “Sometimes the levee would be crowded with boats, his recollections of his steam boating days which followed showed that he was first on the Herald, running up so that one would have to wait, in order to get a chance to land. In the fall, when the Herald laid up, I took a berth on the steamer Equinox, running up the Tennessee River. “Then next summer he was again on the Missouri, and in the fall, shipped on a boat that took a theatrical troupe down the river to New Orleans, playing at all stops.

“I then shipped on the steamer Capital, one of the largest steamers that ever ran on the river,” he continued. “She ran between New Orleans and Bayou Sara, making three round trips a week. This was in the old slavery days, of course, and the company that owned the boat, also owned all the deck hands and firemen who were slaves. She was a three decker. The Negro quarters were the apt part of the middle deck and I used to love to go back there in the evening, and hear the Negroes pick on the banjo, and dance. It was very exciting, and I spent many an evening there, enjoying the sport.”

The Capital had a mail contract, and the Republic was built along speed lines, in the hope of outracing her and securing the contract. Captain Reimers relates the story of their famous race from New Orleans to Bayou Sara, the Capital reaching each town first and the Republic passing her during her stop to put off the mail.

“The negro hands were the most excited of anybody on the boat,” he says. “One of them got a coil of rope, and when we were passing the Republic, threw the rope toward them, and hollered out, ‘I say there, you Republic, catch on behind.’ We did not lose our mail contract.”

He became the office boy in Balmer & Weber’s music establishment, until 1855, and then became a baker’s apprentice, working on the boats that plied the lower rivers

⁴ Online, no copyright

for three years. Then he became a candy maker's apprentice in St. Louis and by 1860 was employed there as a journeyman candy maker.

- 1860 July 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in St. Louis, St. Louis County, MO showed nineteen-year-old August, a candy maker, living in the household of a Candy Manufacturer named John Farrell.

December: *"The war cloud began to lower and we in Missouri knew there was going to be trouble, so we organized and drilled in secret. I was enrolled in Captain Zeis's company, and as early as December, 1860, we used to drill at the Apollo Gardens."*

- 1861 April 18: *"Along in April it got to be pretty lively in St. Louis. They raised a Secessionist flag at the corner of Fifty and Pine streets, and everybody was excited. Pretty soon Fort Sumter was fired upon. On the 18th of April, I went down to drill at Apollo gardens. When I got there, no one was there except the sentry at the gate, who told me to go inside the house. When I got inside, I was asked my name, and was told to go home, get a blanket, and report at the arsenal, which I did, and my career as a soldier was commenced."*

- 1862 February: *"In February we marched away to the Southwest on the campaign which terminated in the Battle of Pea Ridge. It was fearful weather, and the first night out it had snowed about six inches. When we got into camp, the roads were rough, and our teams could not come up, so we camped in a cornfield, with nothing but our haversacks to fall back upon, and snowing for all its worth. Three of us in my company, myself and two others, gathered up a lot of corn stalks, spread a blanket on the stalks, lay down and covered ourselves with the other two blankets, and slept all night. I had pulled off my shoes, they being very wet. In the morning when we woke up, our blankets were covered with four inches of snow, and we had slept good and snug in under the snow. I hunted for my shoes, and found them in under the snow, frozen hard, so that I could not put them on. But we had a fire of fence rails, and I soon thawed them out, and put them on my feet."*

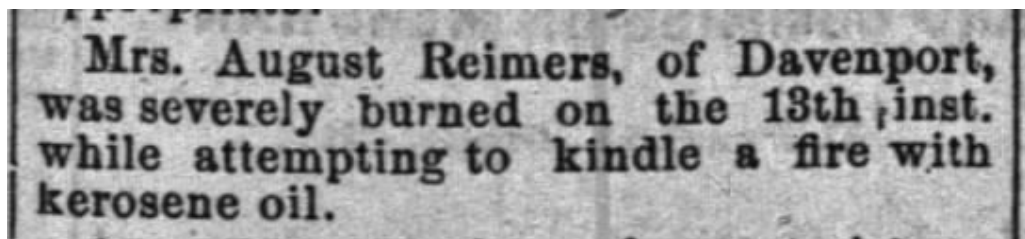
November 1: Promoted to Corporal.

January to December: Company Muster Rolls. Present

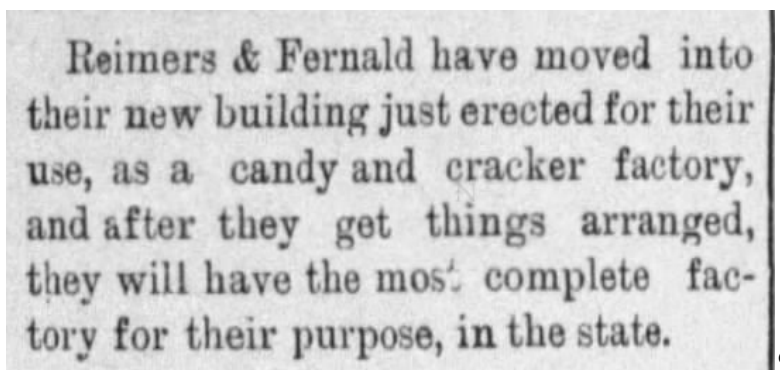
- 1863 May 25: Promoted to Sergeant.-----The same night he was promoted he remembered: *"That night we camped in the yard of a large plantation, and were very much in need of water. The well at the house soon gave out, there being so many men after the water. A river was not far away, about a quarter of a mile, and I made up my mind to get some water; out of the river. The confederates held one side of the river, while we held the other. The river was not so very wide--*

January to June: Company Muster Rolls. Present.

- 1864 January to December. Company Muster Rolls. Present.
- 1865 May 29: Promoted to Lieutenant.
- 1867 March 30: Reimers married Christine Muller in St. Louis, MO.
- 1871 Reimer family moved from St. Louis to Davenport, IA.
- 1877 April 13: Reimers' wife, Christine, died from burns.



- 1879 October 2: Reimers married Mary Elizabeth Schmidt in Muscatine, IA.
- 1880 June 1: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Davenport, Scott County, IA showed August, a candy manufacturer, and Mary living with several children, ages four to twelve.
- 1888



- 1892 May 25: Reimer's second wife, Mary, died from Tuberculosis.
- 1893 Reimers visited Germany and while there married Clara Elizabeth Filzhut.

⁵ Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA, Wednesday, 18 Apr 1877, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)
⁶ The Daily Times, Davenport, IA, Friday, 28 Dec 1888, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)



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- 1900 June 19: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Davenport, Scott County, IA showed August, manager of candy factory, and Clara living with his fifteen year old son, Morgan James. There were two servants living with the family as well.
- 1901 The National Biscuit Company purchased Reimers & Fernald Factory. The National Biscuit Company was the original name for Nabisco.

REIMERS-FERNALD PLANT SOLD.
Deed Filed Which Conveys It To the National Biscuit Trust.
A deed of bargain and sale has been made, executed and filed by and between the Reimers & Fernald Co., a corporation of this state and the National Biscuit Co., whereby for the consideration of \$1, and other good and valuable consideration, all the real estate owned by the party of the first part, to-wit: lot 8, in block 62, in LeClaire's Second addition to the city, is conveyed to the party of the second part.
This involves the transfer of the Reimers & Fernald plant to the National Biscuit Co.

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- 1903 The Reimers had built a large home in the 1890's and called it "Claremont."

⁷ Photo retrieved from Ancestry.com, user submitted, JCWestberg.

⁸ The Daily Times, Davenport, IA, Tuesday, 15 Jan 1901, pg. 5 (accessed newspapers.com)

MRS. REIMERS ENTER-
TAINS AT "CLAREMONT"
The first of a series of card parties which has been anticipated for some time by those who had invitations was given Monday by Mrs. August Reimers at her home, "Claremont" on the river road. The affair was most successful in its conclusion. The house was profusely decorated with flowers and all that goes to make the surroundings pleasant for a company of guests. The hostess was assisted in



1908 December 25: August Reimers died in Bettendorf, IA. He was buried at Oakdale Memorial Gardens in Davenport, IA.



Third wife Clara at her husband's grave.

⁹ Daily Leader, Davenport, IA, Sunday, 31 May 1903, pg. 9 (accessed newspapers.com)

¹⁰ Photo retrieved from Ancestry.com, user submitted, JCWestberg

¹¹ findagrave.com/user submitted/PBrock