

Wilhelm THIESSEN

1841 - 1927

9 Mar 1999

He was united in holy wedlock with Agnes Ratzlaff at Jansen, Nebraska on January 24, 1915. This union was blessed with three children. He leaves to mourn his departure, his wife and three sons: Otto, of San Jose, Willie of Reedley, and Ira of Orange Cove, all in California, and three daughters-in-law, and six grandchildren.

He is also survived by two brothers and five sisters: David Thiessen and Wilhelm Thiessen; Mrs. Lena Flaming, Mrs. Sara Schmidt, and Mrs. Marie Richert of Abbotsford, British Columbia; Mrs. Agnes Warkentin of Dalmeny, Saskatchewan; and Mrs. Susanna Dick of Mt. Lake, Minnesota.

Thus come to end a full rich life that will be long remembered by those who were privileged to know him personally.

There is no time that we could set for parting,
We who must remain,
Are never ready for such pain.
He was buried on 6 Apr 1958 in Reedley, CA.

Gerhardt had his elementary schooling at Jansen, the first year of high school at St. Paul, Nebraska and the rest in Rosthern, Saskatoon, Canada; Normal School in Saskatoon, Sask. 1915-16. He finished Moody Bible Institute in April of 1914 and the N.B.T. Seminary in 1918 with a theology degree.

They were in China 1921-27 and 1932-1942. Rested at Reedley (nervous and low blood pressure) and opened mission work in Orange Cove, Calif. in the Village Chapel June 1945. There he preached till March 1947 when his heart gave out again. He took a trip to Oregon, British Columbia, Sask., Manitoba, Minnesota and Montana in 1946 to report on his work, being at the E.M.B. conference in June in Langham, Sask.

Agnes had her elementary schooling at Jansen and studied in Moody Bible Institute; also some evening classes.

Gerhardt and his wife were ordained as minister and missionaries to China June 16, 1918 at Jansen, Nebraska by Rev. B. O. Kroeker. Dr. G. P. Schultz and Rev. Kornelius P. Epp preached.

He was married to Agnes RATZLAFF (daughter of Bernhard RATZLAFF and Susanna F. THIESSEN) on 24 Oct 1915 in Jansen, NE.

Newspaper article.....

Rev. G. T. Thiessen, Orange Cove, Calif. - We, Agnes (nee Ratzlaff) and Gerhardt T. Thiessen, could not celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary on Jan. 24, 1955, because of my hear condition contracted by the experience in concentration camp, and threats in court during the invasion and occupation of China by the Japanese. In spite of that we rejoice in the fact related by the Psalmist in Psalm 126:3, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Agnes can still help in the work of the village Chapel, which is mainly migrant work, and I have neither pains nor discomfort other than being constantly tired.

We were born, raised and married near Jansen, Neb.

Agnes RATZLAFF was born on 1 Oct 1885 in Jansen, NE. She died on 13 May 1973 in Reedley, CA. Rev. Gerhardt THIESSEN and Agnes RATZLAFF had the following children:

- +66 i. **Otto R. THIESSEN.**
- +67 ii. **Willie THIESSEN.**
- +68 iii. **Ira THIESSEN.**

15. Sara THIESSEN was born on 28 Sep 1887 in Jansen, NE. She died on 31 Jan 1979 in MSA Hospital, Canada.

She was married to August B. SCHMIDT (son of Benjamin SCHMIDT and Eva C. UNRUH) on 2 Apr 1908 in Dalmeny, Sask., Canada. August B. SCHMIDT was born on 13 Dec 1884 in South Dakota.