



Jacob A. and Anna Schmidt

JACOB A. SCHMIDT, son of Andreas and Eva Schmidt, was born October 26, 1848 in the village Alexanderwohl, South Russia. He was the fifth child in the family; one brother Jacob, who passed away one day old, one brother Heinrich and two sisters, Anna and Maria being older. He grew up in the home of the parents and attended the village school. At the age of 19 in 1867 he was baptized by Elder Peter Wedel and became a member of the Alexanderwohl Church in Russia. On March 7, 1871, he was married to Anna Unruh, the daughter of David and Helena Voth Unruh. Two children were born to them in Russia; Eva on Christmas Day, 1871, who died January 23, 1872 at the age of 29 days, and a son Jacob born May 23, 1873. When the migration to America took place, they too, with his family and his brothers and sisters and father and mother came to America. At first they came to Nebraska on the Burlington Quincy Railroad. Here they experienced the sadness that their child Jacob died and was buried on the Nebraska Plains. From there they came to Kansas and settled in Marion County on Section 15 of West Branch Township. It was the first winter that their daughter Helena was born. He was a farmer all his life as long as he was able to farm. Later they moved to the Sand Creek community where the younger children attended the Sand Creek School. His wife Anna took sick and suffered from mentality, so she was finally taken to the Bethesda Hospital in Goessel, where she died on August 3, 1904 at the age of 53 years, 9 months, 15 days. The funeral services were held on August 5th in the Alexanderwohl Church. Elder Peter Balzer officiated - text, Hebrews 12:1-2. After the death of his wife, two of his sons purchased some land close to the Heimbaugh School and so they moved there. After his son Abraham and David were married and daughter Maria went to attend Bethel Academy, he came to live with his oldest daughter, Helena, the Jacob B. Thiesens. Here he spent the rest of his life. Eleven children were born to them of which 5 died in infancy. Lived in matrimony 32 years, 4 months, 27 days. When the Tabor Church was organized in 1908 he too became a charter member. He suffered a stroke on May 7, 1920 and his strength gradually decreased and a month before his death heart trouble was added to his sickness. His daughter helped take care of him to the end. His favorite