

page 36

Sunday, October 29, 1876, I, John P. Thiessen, married Miss Helena Ratzlaff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johann Ratzlaff, of Mountain Lake (Cottonwood county) Minnesota, formerly of Waldheim, Russia.

My wife, Helena Ratzlaff was born Saturday, February 12, 1859 in the village Waldheim, in Russia. In 1876 she came to America with her parents and settled in the state of Minnesota.

September 16, 1926 at 5:30 p.m. she died in the Lord, reaching the age of 67 years, 7 months and 4 days.

page 37

Our daughter, Helena, was born Tuesday, November 1, 1877. (11:00 a.m.). January 18, 1903 she married Jakob Willems, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Willems. Kiowa county, Oklahoma, formerly of Fuerstenwerder, Russia. Jakob Willems died at 10:30.... September 1, 1920 in the Clinton hospital.

Their children:

- Minnie born July 30, 1905
- Albert, born June 13, 1912
- Selma, born January 13, 1921

page 38

Our son Johann was born, Tuesday, August 26, 1879. (added - John died in the Home for the Aged on September 2, 1976 at 10 a.m.)
He married Katarina Neufeld, November 29, 1905.

Their children:

- Son Alvin, born September 25, 1906
- Son John, born August 28, 1907
- Daughter Tina, born September 8, 1909
- Son Edward, born February 16, 1911. He died March 1, 1912.
- Son Peter, born March 28, 1913. He died April 6, 1914.
- Son Herbert, Born June 1, 1916
- Daughter Selma, born December 20, 1919
- Daughter Bertha, born April 28, 1921
- Daughter, Lydia, born January 30, 1927

page 39

Our son Heinrich was born August 6, 1881.

On Monday, July 24, 1882, was a fateful date for him. He was left in the yard playing without charge for a few minutes. In his play he followed a flock of ducks to the pond. When mother noticed he was missing she investigated. Led through a presentiment, she looked to the pond and saw something in the water. She ran to the pond and saw the child's face down in the water. She jumped in, although the water was deep, and brought the child out, but alas the child was dead. A few steps further she would have been in danger, because the water was deep. It was about 4:30 p.m. I was mowing grass in the field. The child had followed the ducks along the dam and then slid down between the willows into the water.