

HENRY THIESSEN was born in Schleswig-Holstein, an area in northern Germany near the Danish border, on May 12, 1876. His parents were Heinrich Thiessen (1836-1900) and Elizabeth Hingst (1844-1914). He crossed the Atlantic in 1898 on a ship called

Henry came to Idaho to visit an older brother, Gustav, who operated a large wheat ranch about thirty miles southeast of Lewiston, Idaho. It was located at the foot of the Fountain Grade and was known as "Halperst Station" as it was an overnight stop for the horse-drawn stages between Lewiston and Grangeville, Idaho.

Gustav was married to Mary Waseem in 1894. Henry met Mary's sister, Elizabeth Waseem, and they were married on December 2, 1902 in Lewiston. Mary and Elizabeth Waseem's parents came from Germany, but the girls were born in Eagle Grove County, Iowa. About 1890, they came west with their parents by railway express car from Iowa to Uniontown, Washington. Elizabeth was born April 3, 1876 in Iowa.

Henry and his family moved to the Fountain Ranch in 1903 when his brother Gustav's family moved to Tammany, a wheat growing area ten miles south of Lewiston. About 1909, they built a new ranch home, and continued the wheat ranch operations. On November 17, 1910, he and his family left on a five-month trip via ocean liner to Germany to visit his family in and near Neuminster.

In 1914, he and his family moved to Sweetwater, Idaho, on to the 800-acre Craig Donation Claim which was seventeen miles east of Lewiston. He soon purchased several top quality registered Hereford heifers from a well-established Hereford breeder near Kansas City, Missouri. These became the foundation stock for his famous and well-known "Henry Thiessen, Registered Herefords".

He earned many Grand Champion and Top prize ribbons when showing his stock at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition show at Portland, Oregon. Almost annually, for the show's Grand Champion animal, he was in direct competition with L. E. Rothrock's nationally known short-horn cattle of Sprague, Washington.

The shock of his life time came when in 1930, his nineteen year old son, Henry, Jr., suddenly passed away from pneumonia. Then due also to failing health on March 28, 1936, his famous herd of Herefords was dispersed. He and Elizabeth then moved to Lewiston where they lived, except for the last year or so, until their deaths. She passed away June 17, 1950 and he on June 28, 1951.