

Our grandparents, the Jacob Thiessens, were born in Lichtfelde, South Russia. They were married in 1865 and lived in Rudnerweide, South Russia, where they attended the Rudnerweide Church.

They immigrated to the United States with their six children, all daughters, ranging in age from eleven years to twenty-one months. They arrived in America on the ship named "Vaterland." They came to Newton, Kansas on July 4, 1877 and for three weeks, they lived with Mrs. Abraham Regier. They bought eighty acres of land in Harvey County, five miles west and two and one-half miles south of Moundridge, Kansas. Later, at different times, they purchased two more eighties and a quarter section adjoining the original eighty. Almost 100 years later, there are producing oil wells on this land today.

There was much work to do on the farm and the girls had to work very hard. The sod had to be broken, the house and other buildings erected, trees planted and the fences built. There was no time for the family to be idle. Grandfather was a hard worker. Everything he did was done neatly and accurately. Among other abilities, he was a skilled carpenter which he used to good advantage.

The Thiessen family traveled twelve miles with horses and wagon to attend the Bethel Mennonite Church, south of Inman, Kansas. During the busy farming season, the horses had to rest on Sunday so the girls walked four miles to the old Eden Church and then walked home again after the church services. All of the ten children who reached maturity were baptized by Elder Toews and became members of Bethel Church.

Grandmother was a kind and loving mother and grandmother, always seeking the welfare of her children and grandchildren. Her great desire was that one of her family might become a missionary and her prayers were