

1852-----1958

### OUR FOLK FATHERS CHALLENGE

Today we're gathered here in a Thiessen reunion,  
In honour of Abraham and Maria's memory, and their wedded union.

For both of them, Raggia was their birth place,  
Abraham was born Nov. 22, 1852, the record relates.  
Maria was born in a Siebert family with children eight,  
December 21, 1853 was her birth date.

They were married March 20, of 1875,

Four years later they crossed the ocean, in America to arrive,  
With them came their two children, Katherina and Johann,  
Their parents, the Siebert's and Thiessen's & others who've gone on beyond.

On the north prairie, east of Henderson, they made their homestead,  
But his parents went on to Minnesota's farmland instead,  
Here the Thiessen's worked from morn till night,  
Bringing up their children in that which is right.

Many times death was to knock at their door,  
While three of their small children left for God's heavenly shore,  
But seven of their ten children grew up and wed,  
All farmers they were, but Johann liked the threshing machine best.

Their children; Katherina, Johann, Maria, Margaret and seven were the names of  
the first five.

Then Abraham, Peter, Carl, Ferdinand and Anna in that order, arrived,  
Margaret and Karolina did come but were not two,  
and Peter only one, when he passed from their view.

In 19th Abraham and Maria lived long years.

But 5 years later from pneumonia, he answered death's trumpet sound,  
Then sorrow again came suddenly, now to their son Anna, by the death of his wife,  
When a baby daughter was born, and we say, Oh, how short is this life.

Daughter Katherina's life by influenza in 1918 was taken,

Also granddaughter Maria their husband, how Maria's faith must have been shaken,  
Three years went by, then a Steingard she wed,  
But she died one year later, with two strokes that she had.

Though great grandfather only reached the age of 56 years,  
And great grandmother 68, through many hardships and fears--  
But time won't permit the many things one could say,  
Of those here today, and those living before our day.

But what of these descendants now living, that stem from their name?

Are our lives useful? Or labored they in vain?

Though most of us are farmers, tilling the soil,  
Our work is not in vain, if it's for God that we toil.

Irrigation work here played quite an important part,  
With John and Gustav's machine making the start.

Several granddaughters have ministered to sick bodies need,  
With Elisabeth (Rempel) now Wiebe taking the lead.

Some of the great grandchildren are missionaries and preachers,

Others are nurses, farmers and teachers.

Some have served in Pax and V. S.

Others in I-W work and G.P.S.

Many are going to school preparing for life's work,

Others in business or employed, no tasks must we shirk.

Each plays his small part, though insignificant it may be,

Improving for God's kingdom for all of us to see.

The great-great grandchildren are still too young,

To tell us of their life's work they have done.