

POEM: FORTY-FOUR YEARS

Congratulations. We're all here to say,
To these our grandparents, for their wedding day;
Let's roll back the years of time,
And bring back memories to our mind.
Forty-four years have now gone by,
Since the Lord saw fit to bless this tie.
Grandpa's first wife went to her heavenly home,
And left Grandpa here with six children alone.
But soon came the death of little Jake,
God saw fit his sickly body, home to take.
Forty-four years since the Lord made willing,
Grandmother to take this task so filling ---
Of Motherhood, to five children young,
Of which only two, their school life had begun.
Elizabeth was a baby then,
So no honeymoon this wedded life began.
Many times things must have seemed dark and blue,
But God's grace was sufficient to see you through.
God blessed you both materially,
With land and labor, and also spiritually.
Earning his young wife's reputation,
When no other way of transportation.
Carriage too, was of great interest to Grandpa,
Many a building he saw with his hands and saw.
Time passed by, and the children were grown,
Ready to establish a home of their own.
Daniel was the first to be wed,
With Maria Epp, his young wife he said.
Daughter Maria also was wed that same year,
Jacob Friesen was the man she held dear.
In December of 1930, you moved to town,
Your two grown boys in Bachelorhood to abound.
Then Abraham too, decided to be married,
Martha Epp was the name she carried.
Later another Epp girl, Lena by name,
Aaron's wife she became.
For Elizabeth, nurses' training was the call,
Healing the sick in hospital wards and hall.
Later she too, Dan Mierau, a widower wed,
And Mothered his child, clothed it and fed --
Like grandmother once had taken her in,
When but a little baby she had been.
Then one year a trip to California you took,
To spend the winter months in a sunny nook.
Other trips were made to various states,
And Canada too, your story relates.
From Ohio's Conference, to Chicago's World Fair,
By Grandpa was made, a trip indeed rare.