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Isaac Thiessen *

Isaac married Katharina, the daughter of Abraham and Helena (Klassen) Buhler who had lived in the village of Mariental in Russia. Her family immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1875²⁸. Katharina, their last child, was born in Mountain Lake, Minnesota in 1877²⁹

Isaac and Katharina were married on November 29, 1896³⁰ in the Bergfelder Church and began their married life in the town of Mountain Lake. Their two children were born in town, Helena on February 2, 1898 and John on January 11, 1906,³¹ where Isaac was an implement dealer. In 1918 they moved 1/2 mile east of town to the farm which they purchased and made their home.

Katharina was a very kind and practical person; always ready to help those who were sick or in need. She brought sunshine into the lives of all those she loved and who loved her. She was ill for a number of years with diabetes. She died of breast cancer in 1934³² at the age of 57 years, shortly after the marriage of her son John. She is buried in the Mountain Lake cemetery.

Isaac continued on in Mountain Lake for some time and later joined John and his family in California. He was married again in 1943 to Agatha Wiens and they lived in Reedley where he was able to enjoy his grandchildren; the walks down to the King's River through the grape vineyards or to admire the wild poppies; a walk to the pecan grove to gather nuts and then carry them home to dry so that they could be enjoyed during the winter; or the many games of Chinese checkers that he patiently taught each one of his seven grandchildren.

Agatha was a very good grandmother the short time of their married life. She enjoyed sewing for the grandchildren and in many ways brightened their lives. She always had a snack for a grandchild that showed up at her door just to say hello, and a word of encouragement or praise for any project or achievement.

After Agatha's death in 1956, Isaac moved to southern California and made his home with son John and his family who had moved there in 1950. He continued to enjoy his evening walks in Reseda with his youngest grandson Don and they searched the skies together for "Sputnik." Isaac lived with them until his death at the age of 84 years in 1958. He is buried at Glen Haven Memorial Park in Glendale, California.³³