

### Pioneer Resident Dies

Louis D. Riedesel, pioneer resident and farmer of Springrock township for nearly sixty years, passed away at his home southwest of Wheatland on Saturday morning, October 12th, 1929, at the age of 82 years and 26 days. His death was caused by a recent attack of bronchial pneumonia.

Louis D. Riedesel was born Sept. 16, 1847, in the province of Westphalia, Wunderthausen, Germany, where he was baptized and became a member of the Lutheran Evangelical church. Being one of a large family, he was forced to shift for himself early in life, and in May, 1866, in company with a number of other young immigrants, he came to America, locating first at Kansas City, Mo., where he worked for a relative, Philip Knoche, for two years. That was right after the close of the Civil War, and the freeing of the slaves left thousands of acres of the southland without necessary labor help. He worked there for two years, then went by rail to Hannibal, Mo., where he took the steamboat for Davenport in April, 1868. He often told of that trip by rail, where the train ran over old wooden rails that had to be repaired as they went, the passengers assisting in that work and also in clearing trees that fell across the right-of-way in the dense forests.

Arriving at Davenport, he soon secured work on a farm near Dixon for Ephrem Snyder, where he worked for two years. Mr. Snyder sent him to school during the winters, giving him his only education. About that time, or at the close of the Franco-Prussian war, his brother Henry D., now deceased, who had been a soldier in the Germany army, also came to America, and he was followed by another brother, George, who now lives at Norman, Oklahoma.

It was in 1870 the three brothers decided to buy some farm land, so purchased a small tract northeast of Wheatland, part of which is now the Joe Blumer farm, and sowed it to wheat. Waiting for that crop, they engaged in mason work, which they followed for a few years with their farming. They disposed of the farm northeast of town, and purchased a larger tract southwest of town in 1870, and devoted their entire time to farming.

Louis was married August 18th, 1880, to Anna Elizabeth Wagner, and they lived the first year on the place now owned by John Mess, which was a portion of the large farm. In 1881 they moved to the home where they lived continuously until the time of his death.

To them were born ten children. Two of these died in infancy, and one daughter, Pauline, passed away in November, 1914. Left to mourn him are his aged wife, three daughters, Mrs. Henry Schnede, Jr., of Wheatland; Mrs. Henry Mueller, of Grand Mound; and Mrs. Blaine St. John, of Calamus; four sons, Louis, Ephrem, Philip and Perry, all residing on the home farm. He is also survived by the one brother, George, of Norman, Oklahoma, one half-brother and two half-sisters whom he had not heard from in a number of years; six grandchildren and a number of other relatives and friends.

He was a man who was ever industrious, an excellent neighbor and a credit to the community in which he lived for so many years. He affiliated with the St. Paul's Reformed church when he came here and was a staunch supporter and worker for that church, practicing and teaching the age-old laws of God to his children and with his friends.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of E. H. Balster, and short services were held Monday afternoon at one o'clock at the home, and at two o'clock at St. Paul's Reformed church, with burial in St. Paul's cemetery. Rev. B. M. Fresenborg paid one of the finest of tributes to the departed citizen and member in a most excellent sermon, and the church was filled with relatives and friends.

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The church back in Germany was not Lutheran but Reformed (Calvinist) like St. Paul's in Wheatland.

He was christened Georg Ludwig, but like many he was known by his middle name. The "D" was only an initial.

Notes by Dr. Paul Riedesel