

Florentine Britzel Schneider  
 On Sunday evening, November 5th  
 the hand of the Angel of Death was  
 laid on another of Spring Rock  
 Townships most valued pioneers.  
 Many have gone before but none  
 were more beloved or more highly  
 honored than Mrs. Florentine Britzel  
 Schneider. The bell in the steeple  
 has tolled before in marking the pas-  
 sage of a soul into the Great Beyond  
 but never has it marked the passage  
 of one who will be missed by so  
 many.  
 Florentine Britzel Schneider was  
 born in Wunderhausen, Germany, on  
 the 19th day of January, 1831. Her  
 early girlhood days were spent in  
 the land of her birth. In 1852 she  
 was united in marriage to Mr. Lud-  
 wig Henry Schneider, also of Wun-  
 derhausen. To this union was born  
 ten children, Ludwig Henry who  
 was born August 16, 1854, Kath-  
 erine, born January 20, 1857, John,  
 born February 24, 1859, Samuel,  
 born January 18, 1861; Conrad,  
 born January 10, 1863; Philip, born  
 October 15, 1864; Frederick, born  
 May 4, 1866; Laura Katherine born  
 April 10, 1870; and George, born  
 August 12, 1873.  
 Their first seven years of married  
 life was spent in the land of their  
 birth, until in 1859, accompanied by  
 their two children, Ludwig Henry  
 and Katherine, they sailed to Amer-  
 ica. They settled near Wheatland  
 and were among the earliest of pio-  
 neer settlers of this township. Only  
 a few years elapsed and they were  
 able to buy their own home.  
 In the early days of this country,  
 churches were few, so many times  
 the little hut was transformed into  
 a House of Worship where the early  
 Germans gathered to worship the  
 God of their Fathers. Mrs. Schnei-  
 der was a charter member of the St.  
 Paul's Reformed Church here. She  
 received a heavy blow in the year  
 1879, when her husband passed  
 away, but staunch in her belief in  
 the goodness of Christ, she was able  
 to bear the burdens that were thrust  
 upon her. Besides her husband, she  
 was preceeded in death by six of her  
 children.  
 Mrs. Schneider was raised and  
 brought up in a Christian faith and  
 congregation and was educated ac-  
 cordingly. She has always been a  
 faithful member of this church, but  
 in the last few years, she was not  
 able to take an active part on ac-  
 count of old age coming on. She  
 was not able to attend the Semi-  
 centennial jubilee on that account.  
 Besides her children, Philip A.,  
 Frederick A., Lizzie and Mrs. Wm.  
 Kelding, she leaves to mourn her  
 death seventeen grandchildren, three  
 great grandchildren and a host of  
 relatives and friends.  
 She passed away into the Life  
 Eternal at the ripe old age of 80  
 years, nine months and 17 days,  
 having long passed the three score  
 and ten years that is commonly  
 allotted. She passed away at her  
 home that has always been hers  
 since she arrived in America. Her  
 daughter, Lizzie and her grandson  
 stayed with her. In last weeks  
 notice of the death, we spoke that  
 she lived with her grandson and  
 instead her grandson lived with her.  
 Mrs. Schneider was of the grand  
 old stuff which made the early days  
 of the country seem comfortable.  
 Always ready to help a friend or  
 neighbor and never faltering in her  
 belief for the right. Her sterling  
 qualities have made her beloved by  
 all and her passing away is regretted  
 by all that knew her.

Published November 15, 1911 in the  
Wheatland Gazette.

Her maiden name was actually Beitzel (also spelled as Bätzel in Germany). There are some typographical errors for the children. It says there were ten children, but only nine are named. Elizabeth Lydia ("Lizzie") is omitted and the birth date for Laura Katherine should have April 10, 1868 (Lizzie was born in 1870).

They actually came to America in 1857.

Notes by Dr. Paul Riedesel