

Rites for Pioneer Resident



—Davenport Times Photo

Mrs. Marie Schneider

Funeral services for Mrs. Marie Schneider, Wheatland's oldest resident, who died at her home here Monday morning, March 4th, 1940, were held last Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at St. Pauls Evangelical and Reformed church, following a short prayer service at the home. Rev. Clarence Koehler conducted the services and paid splendid tribute to this esteemed member of the church and beloved pioneer citizen.

Favorite hymns, "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" and "Naher Mein Gott zu Dir" were sung by Mrs. Ella Zeller, Mrs. Edna Ott, Albert Wagner and Kenneth Hoffmann, accompanied by Miss Wilma Riedesel.

Walter Thiele, Raymond Fox, Irvin Schneider, Norman Schneider, Lawrence Witte and Louis Witte, grandsons of the deceased, served as pall bearers, and flowers were in charge of Mrs. Edna Alexander and Miss Vivian Thomas. Burial was made in St. Pauls cemetery.

Marie Magdalena Knoche was born May 3, 1846, in Wunderthausen, Westphalia, Germany, where she was baptized in infancy and later confirmed in the Evangelical faith.

The lure of better things in the United States prompted her to leave the old country, and she came to this country on the "Hansa," the first steamship to make the Atlantic crossing. She arrived here on her nineteenth birthday, May 3, 1865, and a little over two years later, on Oct. 17, 1867, she was united in marriage to Mr. Louis Schneider, by Rev. J. Rettig of St. Pauls Reformed church.

Mr. and Mrs. Schneider began their married life on the farm southwest of Wheatland, now owned by their son Ferdinand, and there they lived and prospered until in 1904 they built a new home in Wheatland and retired to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Mr. Schneider died in 1921, and since that time her constant companion in the home has been her daughter, Miss Emilie.

Mrs. Schneider was the oldest member of St. Pauls church, and a charter member of the Ladies Aid of that church. She was a most faithful member, attending church services regularly until her health failed her. Holding high her faith in her Creator, she was a very devoted mother to her children and their families, and her prayers were for all her friends, and especially for those who were ill or unfortunate.

She accepted life as it was offered to her, making the best of all things, and being likewise practical, she looked forward to the end of life as a part of her own task, even so far as having her daughters assist her in choosing the beautiful white dress in which she was laid to rest.

She was the mother of nine children, and those surviving her are Miss Emilie at home, Mrs. Elizabeth Thiele, Mrs. Lena Schneider, Ferdinand H., Mrs. Louis Fox and Mrs. Robert Witte, all of this place. Besides her husband, two daughters and one son preceded her in death. She also leaves 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

The picture of Mrs. Schneider, shown above through the courtesy of the Davenport Times, was taken on her 91st birthday.

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The "favorite" hymn sung in German translates as "Nearer My God To Thee" of Titanic fame. By the time of her death, there were very few other living emigrants from Wunderthausen.

Notes by Dr. Paul Riedesel