

Obituary.

Louis Strackbein was born March 18, 1836, in Wunderthausen, Westphalia, Germany where he was baptized and confirmed by his good Christian parents in the supreme faith.

In 1854, at the age of 18 years, Mr. Strackbein left his home country and with his parents emigrated to America where they settled at first at Kansas City. Later they moved to Red Bud, Illinois.

During their residence in Red Bud the terrible Civil War burst forth and feeling the call of his adopted country, Mr. Strackbein enlisted in the Seventh Illinois Cavalry prepared to fight bravely for the righteous cause of the North and the preservation of the Union.

Like all others who participated in this desperate struggle, he met with many hardships and endured much, but held steadfast to his belief that he was helping to mould a great nation, at that time ravaged and torn by dissensions that could not be adjusted only by the force of arms. To add to the privations he suffered as a soldier he was finally captured while on a foraging expedition with a couple of his comrades and was imprisoned for eighteen months in Andersonville prison, which will go down in history with the Black Hole of Calcutta and other horrible war prisons. It was there that he saw thousands of brave men die of exposure, starvation and evil treatment and time did not dim the memory of what he suffered in body and soul during those strenuous months. In speaking to his friends about this one period in his life, he always especially emphasized the fact that it was God's wonderful hand that brought him safely through.

In 1865 Mr. Strackbein came to Wheatland, and settled on the farm near Big Rock, where he was married on June 9, 1868, to Mary E. Homrighausen. Nine children were born to them, five sons and four daughters, of whom two daughters, Mrs. Fred Knowles and Mrs. William Bentrutt succeeded him in death.

After toiling on the home farm for about 41 years, Mr. Strackbein and his worthy wife retired about ten years ago and came to Wheatland, to quietly enjoy the fruits of their labor among their many old friends. On June 9th, 1918 this worthy couple had the privilege of celebrating their golden wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren.

He passed away after a few weeks of patient suffering, firm in his faith in his Saviour, on Tuesday morning, October 14th, 1919, at the age of 83 years, 6 months and 26 days.

He is survived by his wife and five sons John, George, Louis, Frank and Albert, all of whom live in this vicinity; two daughters, Mrs. C. W. Conrad, of Idalia, Colorado, and Mrs. Herbert Lendt, of Bennett, Iowa; one brother George, and one sister, Mrs. Mary Kelting, of this place; and 26 grandchildren.

His life was one of peace and good will towards his neighbors and friends in the time of need and his good deeds went unheralded but those who knew him will ever retain the memory of that kind man who has gone to reap the fruits of eternal happiness.

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He was born Johann Ludwig, but known by his middle name which was common.

On the heels of the Great War when anti-German sentiment was strong, this is a generous obituary for a man who suffered greatly for his adopted country. The horrors of the Anderson POW camp cannot be exaggerated.

Strackbein made what would have been considered a good marriage to the daughter of one of the German community's most prominent families, the Franz Homrighausens.

Notes by Dr. Paul Riedesel