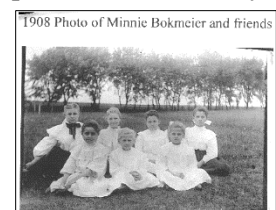


ZSJ HISTORY 1905-1915

Pastor Viet Geissendoerfer continued to serve the two congregations until 1906. In 1907, Pastor Joseph Westenberger was called to serve the two churches. There were 9 children in his family, so again the parsonage was enlarged. The churches flourished under his leadership with the start of the Ladies Aid and the first official youth group. One of the more popular “fundraisers” was the auctioning of picnic lunch boxes created by the young women and then bid on by the young men to earn the privilege of sharing some time and a good lunch with the young lady. One box social event held in 1907 raised \$65.95 for 23 boxes! The proceeds went to buy a pump organ for the country church. In that same year



the largest funeral to date was held for August Storck and his 16-year-old son, tragically killed in a lightning strike on their farm. There were 176 teams of horses in the procession and the country church could only hold half the attendees.



The first confirmation classes to have pictures taken was in 1908. (We are still missing pictures from 1909, 1910, 1912, 1914, & 1916, if anyone runs across them!) The churches continued to hold services in German, until the outbreak of WW I in Europe. Since Pastor Westenberger could only preach in German, his oldest son, also a pastor, would come and preach at funerals in English. This became an increasingly stressful time for those of German heritage, especially after the US entered the war. In 1914 Pastor Westenberger retired and lived in town until his death.

Both churches continued to grow with over 100 baptisms, 71 children confirmed (including the first class at Zion in 1915), 18 marriages (including 2 of Pastor Westenberger’s daughters) and sadly 30 deaths (7 were children). Other notable historical events were:

1905, Dr O B Harriman dies in Hampton; the Julliard School of Music opens; the Russian Revolution begins under the rule of Nicholas II; the University of Sheffield opens in England.

1906, The San Francisco earthquake devastates CA; Xerox is founded; Lusitania is launched from Glasgow; Mt Vesuvius erupts near Rome; TB vaccine is developed.

1907, Oklahoma territory is created; 1st taxis appear in London; US financial crisis averted after a bank panic; UPS is founded; one millionth immigrant arrives at Ellis Island.

1908, Boy Scouts founded in London; SOS becomes the official international distress signal; Olympics are held in London; Hoover vacuum patented in Ohio; The Model T sells for \$850; The Cubs win the World Series; 1st airplane crash injures Orville Wright and kills his passenger.

1909, Titanic construction begins in Belfast; Robert Peary journeys to the North Pole; Ottoman Turks kill thousands of Armenian Christians; Joan of Arc achieves sainthood; 1st US war planes are purchased.

1910, 1st commuter flight in Ohio; Ford sales reach 10,000 cars; Frankenstein premieres as a movie; Hailey’s comet is visible; The ballet Firebird premieres in Paris; Charlie Chaplin performs in the US.

1911, Amundsen reaches the South Pole; 1st plane lands on a ship in San Francisco harbor; The Mona Lisa is stolen and returned to the Louvre; Mars Candy is founded; Standard Oil is dissolved into 34 smaller companies due to new anti-trust laws; 1st Indy 500 is run with an average speed of 74.5 mph.

1912, The Titanic sinks killing 1,500; AZ becomes a state; Girl Scouts founded in Savannah; Fenway Park opens; Woodrow Wilson elected president; 1st parachute jump from a plane.

1913, Keokuk dam is completed; Death Valley records 134 degrees for all time highest temperature; moving assembly line created in Detroit; Federal Reserve created.

1914, WW I begins; Lincoln Memorial construction begins; Babe Ruth debuts with the Boston Red Sox; Panama Canal opens;

1915, the Jefferson Highway (it was actually a dirt road) was created including Sheffield, Chapin and Hampton; 1st long distance call placed; Pluto photographed; “In Flanders Field” is penned; Lusitania sunk by a German U-Boat as WW I continues; 1st Native America woman lawyer argues before the Supreme Court; President Wilson marries; the 1 millionth car rolls off the Ford assembly line; Rocky Mountain National Park created.