

Klammer Family



The Klammer name came to America in October 1860 when Friedrich Klammer emigrated with his parents and his brother Wilhelm. Friedrich was born in Pulsberg Brandenburg, Germany to Elizabeth nee Krautz (1812-1878) and George Klammer (1809-1890). The family left Germany on a three-mast sailing vessel and, after a six week journey, arrived in New York. They first settled in Defiance, Ohio. After two years there, George, a stonemason, came to Fremont Township, Fayette County, Iowa to look for work.

Friedrich moved to Shabbana Grove, Illinois. Here Albert C. (A.C.) Klammer was born, one of five children (Susan, Christine, Bertha, Fred) in the family. Albert's mother, Louise nee Friedmann, died when the children were young. Friedrich paid his brother and sister-in-law, Wilhelm and Dorothea (who also had 5 children) to raise his children.

Albert and his brother Fred and their cousin Phillip, the youngest of Wilhelm's family, were close to the same age and were lovingly called "triplets" because they were always together. They were confirmed together and were referred to in Westgate, Iowa as a "real handful".

Albert attended Concordia College at St. Paul, Minnesota and graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri in 1911. He did post-graduate work at the University of Michigan and at Minnesota State Teachers College.

In his first assignment, as a pastor, he served three small congregations in Iowa. Thereafter, he served as pastor in Rapidan, Minnesota for five years, in St. Cloud, Minnesota for five years and in Good Thunder, Minnesota for eight years. He was installed as pastor at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth in 1931.

He served there faithfully until he retired in 1960. Soon after his arrival at St. Lorenz, he introduced the English services. He instituted adult instruction classes in English and brought into the fellowship of the congregation English-speaking people who had lived in the community for years. After his retirement he continued serving the congregation in a limited capacity. In 1971, the congregation held a special celebration honoring his 60 years in the ministry. He will always be remembered for his excellent sermons, ministry to the sick and his ability to memorize hymns and verses.

Pastor Klammer enjoyed theological studies, astronomy, fishing, and playing chess and pinochle. In 1913, Albert married Margaret Wuerflein, who was born near Ansback, Germany. She was not only a wife and mother to their ten children but also a faithful co-worker in the service of the Lord. Their children include: Margaret Doctor, a nurse in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Theodore, a Lutheran minister and professor at Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Gerhard, a public relations manager at Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri; Edward, director of the Music Department at Concordia Publishing House; Werner, a professor at Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; Dorothy Kohn, a homemaker in Decatur, Illinois; Martin, a businessman and former Lutheran teacher in Houston, Texas; Enno, a pastor and college professor in Salem, Oregon; Monica King, a school teacher and homemaker in Houston, Texas; and Ruth Knoll, a homemaker and artist living in Frankenmuth with her husband, Alan.

As of 2005, Pastor and Mrs. Klammer have 38 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren and a number of great-great-grandchildren. Pastor Klammer died in 1977 and Margaret died in 1985. They are buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery.



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