

Obituary – Balthaser Zimmerman
Edited by Kendra Thompson

OBITUARY

BALTHASER ZIMMERMAN

Written by Konrad Zimmerman

With a heavy heart and deep sadness, I am reporting that on January 23, 1936 an event took place that led to the death of my beloved brother, Balthaser Zimmerman.

At five o'clock in the afternoon he went to the store to secure a box in which to send food items to his youngest son, Jacob, who was attending Ellendale College in Ellendale, N.D. Upon returning from the store, he went to the basement of his home to add coal to the furnace. Suddenly his wife heard a thumping noise. As she opened the door to the basement she saw her husband lying at the foot of the stairs. He was unconscious. It was concluded that he fell backward because of an apparent heart attack, as indicated by an injury to the back of his head. The right side of his body was paralyzed.

Our son, Gideon, a high school student, was in the home at the time, immediately went to get help from a neighbor, called the doctor, and also his parents and family members. They came quickly, and stayed by his bedside through the night. He never regained consciousness. He never spoke even one word. He died at 6:30 a.m. on January 24, 1936, at the age of 65 years and two days.

Funeral services were held on January 29th in the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Lehr, N.D. His pastor, Rev. J.J. Abel presided. Rev. Adolph Guenther of Venturia, N.D. and Rev. Ermel of the Evangelical Church also in Lehr, participated in the service. The text for the message was John 13:7 - "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later." The pastors spoke heartfelt words of comfort. A large attendance of friends and relatives were present.

The departed was born on January 22, 1871 in Friedenstal, Bessarabien, (Ukraine), where he was married to Barbara Whal. They are the parents of nine children: Gottlieb, Israel, David, (a pastor in Pennsylvania), Alexander, Oscar, Jacob, Emilie Werre, Bertha Amen and Ida Koeplin, all of whom attended the funeral.

The departed came to the United States in 1911 and settled on farm land seven miles south of Lehr. On March 29, 1931 his wife, Barbara died. On November 22, 1931 he was united in marriage with Christina Schmierer of Linton, N.D. He died at the age of 65 years and two days. The mourners include his deeply bereaved widow; nine children, eighteen grandchildren; brothers Konrad of Lehr and Johann of Friedenstal; two sisters, Katharine Kallis and Friederika Janke, both of Friedenstal.