

Abraham Klassen was born the son of Jakob and Katherina Klassen on Dec. 15 1883 in the village of Grunfeld in Russia. In 1891 he migrated to Canada with his parents who settled on a farm in the Rosenfeld district of Manitoba.

In 1900 the family moved to Saskatchewan and resided on a farm three miles south east of Laird. The deceased worked in the district on his fathers farm and as a farm labourer till 1907.

On May 26 1907 he was baptised upon the confession of his faith by Elder Peter Regier and joined the Mennonite church at Eigenheim.

On June 7 1908 he was united in marriage with Aganetha Bergen. They moved to a homestead west of Laird ferry. After three years they purchased a farm north of Laird. This union was blest with six children two boys and four girls.

On Nov. 20 1918 tragedy struck the home when the dear wife and mother passed away a victim of the flue epidemic.

On Oct. 28 1919 he married Helena Bergen, with whom he shared joys and sorrows for more than fifty four years. Seven children were born to them. Two girls and five boys.

There were many difficult years and trying times. Years of hard work and small returns. Much greater however were the joys and blessings of the large family and the fruits and accomplishments of dedication and faith in God. He took an active part in community and church activities. Serving as trustee and director on numerous committies and organizations.

They retired from their farm to Laird in 1959. In Aug. of 1968 father suffered a ruptured appendix and surgery. He regained his strength and recovered remarkably well. After a time of convalesing in Saskatoon they returned to their home in Laird.

By Oct. of 1971 his health was failing. It was difficult for them to remain alone in their home for winter. They decided to move to Saskatoon and make their home with their daughter Helen. Here they remained till Aug. of 1973 when due to fathers failing health they moved into the Rosthern Nursing Home.

Father was lovingly cared for by mother and the Nursing Home staff. He adjusted to his difficult lot with remarkable cooperation. Always content and appreciative of the care given him. By Dec. 30 his weary body had become very weak and quiet. That morning he was attended to by mother and brother Jake. Shortly after they gave him his morning bath he passed away quietly at 10:A.M.

Funeral services were held Jan. 3 1974 at 2 o'clock in the Tiefengrund church at Laird. Officiating were Rev. Bob Friesen, assisted by Rev. H.T. Klassen and Rev. A.E. Regier.

Active pallbearers were the six sons. Jake, George, Abe, Isaac, Benno, and John Klassen. Millars Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

He was predeceased by five brothers and four sisters, his first wife Aganetha, fourteen year old son Peter, and two grandchildren.

He leaves to mourn his passing his dear wife Helena, six daughters, Helen of Saskatoon, Nettie (Mrs. Pete Wiebe) of Mission City B.C., Tena (Mrs Jake Janzen) of Waldheim, Mary (Mrs George Adrian) of Rabbit Lake, Elizabeth (Mrs Helmuth Friesen) of Watrous, Margaret (Mrs Bernie Nuefeldt) of Winnipeg. Six sons, Jake of Waldheim, George of North Burnaby B.C., Abe and Isaac of Saskatoon, Benno of Laird, John of Abbotsford B.C., Six daughters in-law, five sons in-law. Forty nine grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. One brother John of Saskatoon and one sister Marie (Mrs Nick Boldt) of Mountian Lake Minnesota. One stepbrother Mr. Ben Friesen of Laird, two stepsisters Mrs Helena Heinrichs of Regina and Mrs Susanah Daniels of California.

He reached the age of 90 years and 15 days.

In loving memory mother and family.