

Frederick Henry Oltrogge

Frederick Henry Oltrogge was born February 9, 1832, in Hildesede, Hanover, Germany.

Having been baptized in early infancy, and later duly instructed in the fundamental Christian truths, he was at the age of fourteen years confirmed and received into the communicant membership of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

After completing his education in the German Volksschule of his native town, he learned the trade of a joiner, being apprenticed to Mr. Christian Werhahn, who subsequently became his step-father.

When twenty years old, Mr. Oltrogge, together with the family of which he was a member, emigrated to America and chose the occupation of a farmer, which occupation he followed in the vicinity of Grinnell, Iowa. He was an industrious man and in the course of time accumulated considerable property, so that he leaves his family in comfortable circumstances.

On the 18th of February, 1853, Mr. Oltrogge was married to Miss Anna Matzen. This proved to be a very happy union, and it was blessed with the following children:

William Oltrogge, Margaret Oltrogge, now Mrs. Edward Schultz, Anna Oltrogge, now Mrs. Bert Mosemann and Mary Oltrogge, now Mrs. Truman Lynch.

It was also the privilege of Mr. and Mrs. Oltrogge to be the grandparents of four bright little children.

In addition to the immediate members of his family, including his beloved wife, Mr. Oltrogge's surviving relatives are:

Mr. Christian Werhahn, his step-father; Henry Oltrogge, his brother; his five half-brothers, the Rev. Mr. Frederick Werhahn, of Chicago; Mr. Christian Werhahn, of Chicago; Messrs. August, John and William Werhahn, of Great Bend, Kansas and his sister, Mrs. Ulrike von Holten, of Greenburg, Kansas.

Mr. Oltrogge had the reputation of being a good husband and father, as well as a staunch citizen and faithful church-member. To his credit be it said that he always stood by his pastor and by his unflinching loyalty lent him valuable support in the work of the Kingdom. Both in Malcom Township and Grinnell he was a member of the church board, and at various times he was elected as delegate to attend the synodical meetings of the Southern District of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and other States. He thus had opportunity for making the acquaintance of many pastors and laymen outside of his own congregation. He showed keen interest in all church matters, and was a man of sound Christian character, so that his good name will abide with us as a treasured heritage.

Sunday, May 13, Mr. Oltrogge was taken sick very suddenly and on Tuesday had to undergo an operation for appendicitis at the city hospital. On Thursday his condition became critical, and realizing that his end was drawing near, he by earnest prayer made preparations for meeting his God. Thus, on Thursday evening, at 11:30 he passed away as one who had kept the faith, and for whom there was laid up a crown of righteousness, as we have every reason to believe. Mr. Oltrogge reached the age of 55 years, 3 mos. and 11 days.

"Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

The funeral was conducted at the home Sunday, May 20, at ten o'clock by the Rev. H. Brueckner. Burial was in Hazelwood.