

Martin and Ruth VanRaden

1904-1992

And their ancestors

Ratmeyer
siblings:

Back -
Clarence,
Earl,
Walter.

Front -
Bertha,
Ruth,
Lydia &
Susan.



Martin VanRaden



1914, age 8
Martin with
sister
Margaret



1924 – Martin
age 18

1922 – Ruth
age 18



Martin and Ruth wedding 1929 Forreston, IL Honeymoon in Iowa

NEWLYWEDS WILL BE AT HOME ON JULY 1

Miss Ruth Ratmeyer Becomes
Bride of Martin VanRaden in
Home Ceremony, June 19

A quiet wedding was solemnized Wednesday, June 19, at 7 P. M. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ratmeyer when their daughter, Ruth, was united in marriage to Martin Van Raden in the presence of near relatives. To the strains of the wedding march, played by a sister of the bride, Miss Susan Ratmeyer, the bride entered upon the arm of her father attended by Miss Margaret Van Raden, sister of the groom. She was met at the altar by the groom attended by Earl Ratmeyer, brother of the bride. The wedding ceremony was made both beautiful and impressive by the use of the double ring ceremony. The Reverend Huenemann of the German Reformed church officiated.

The bride was dressed in a beautiful gown of white crepe de chine and lace and carried a lovely French bouquet of flowers. The bridesmaid was dressed in a gown of white flat crepe. The groom and his attendant were dressed in the conventional dark blue.

The bride and groom are both well known and popular in this community, both having been born and reared near Forreston.

After the ceremony a bountiful wedding dinner was served, after which the guests enjoyed a social evening. Out of town guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Klaas Modderman of Alexander, Iowa, and Miss Luella Timmerman of Hurley, South Dakota.

The bride and groom left early next morning for a short honeymoon to points in Iowa. The bride traveled in an attractive ensemble of jade silk crepe with accessories to match. They will be at home after July 1st. Their many friends join in wishing them a joyous and prosperous married life.

Ratmeyer family:
Back - Susan, Lydia,
Earl, Walter, Clarence;
Center - Ruth, Bertha,
Florence;
Front - Edward and
Elizabeth (parents)



Joe and Martin VanRaden loading hay into barn, Alvin and Margaret in front, ~1920





Martin and Ruth
VanRaden's farm
Forreston, IL
photos 1952-67



Care packages sent to German relatives, 1948-49

50¢

1 shirt
1 girls coat (#5)
1 " skirt + sweater #2
1 apron 25¢
8 feed sacks 1.20 ✓
2 pr. soap 50¢
2 hdk. 20¢
needle, thread, buttons .15¢
2 pkg. pudding 15¢
1 lb. candy 35¢
1 " tea 89¢
3 lb. lard 50¢
7 yd outing flannel 1.75
envelopes + papers 10¢
2 dresses 2.00

Sent to:
Georg Jaspers
Pethum, DEU
1948

Sent 1948

3 dresses
1 suit
3 sweaters
7 feed sacks
1 pr. shoes
2 skirts
Writing papers
pencils
~~matches~~ Lard
Candy.
3 pudding
2 jills
dried peas 1/2 tea
barley
soap
handkerchiefs
Needles
Thread

Sent Sept. 10 - 1949

1 lb. Cocoa
1 " Can Meat
1/2 " tea
3 pkg. Pudding
6 yds. cloth
(feed sacks)
2 dresses
1 lb. soap

Delivered to
Bertha Jaspers
Pethum, DEU
Sept 11 - 49

Pajamas 2 Coats
" 2 shirts
" Suit
" dress
" 4 coveralls
Jugentline Knit
Candy
Sandstone 92
Potho Linnen
Apr 13 - 48
From Bertha

Suit
dress
4 coveralls
2 Pajamas
candy
writing paper
envelopes
Buttons
thread
3 pants

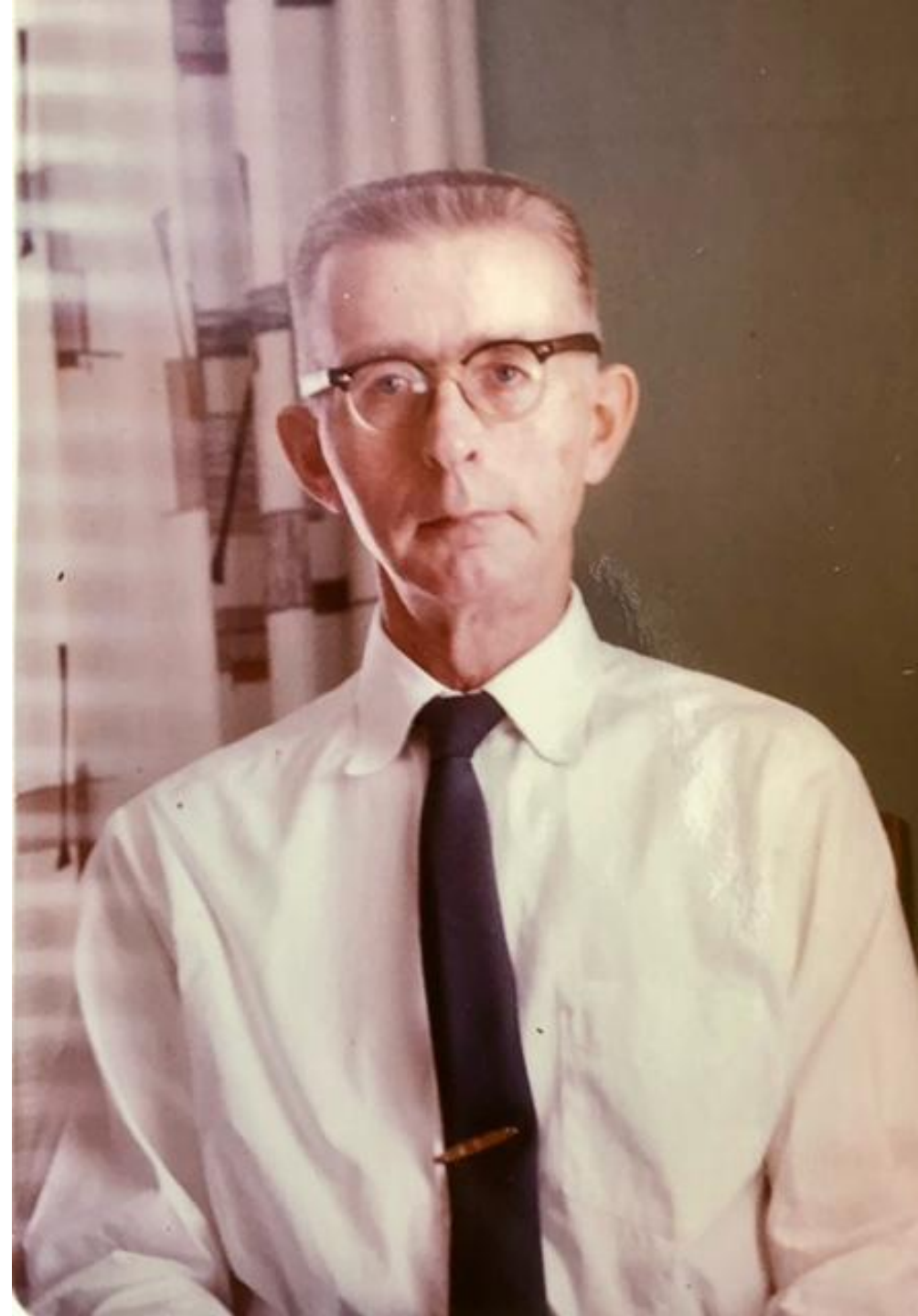


1955

Ruth and friend



Ruth &
Martin



March 1978

Katie, Ruth and Bud Van Raden and Joel Van Laven



May 5,
1982

Letter
from
Grandma
Ruth

May 5 - 1982

Dear Paul -

I hope you don't think we have forgotten you just because you don't hear from us. I think of you every day and hope all is well with you, and that you are too busy to get lonesome or home-sick.

I manage to keep myself busy - sewing, quilting, cooking, baking and cleaning. Am enjoying the warmer temperatures. and the fresh Asparagus from the patch. I keep watering it. It is very dry and dusty here. Had a little shower today - barely enough to settle the dust.

The farmers are planting corn, the field across the road has been planted. It's also time for the weekly job of mowing the lawn again. The bushes need trimming. These are all things I can't do any more. What I need around here is a handy man.

Must tell you about the (2 day) quilt show we had here in town last week. It was held at the Methodist Church.

Over 170 quilts were on display. Everywhere you looked were quilts - Basement, Sanctuary + upstairs, they all had number on. When you arrived you were given a booklet telling who made it. My quilt was No. 6 and was displayed in a dining-room setting as a table-cloth on a large round table. The picture was in the Forrester paper.

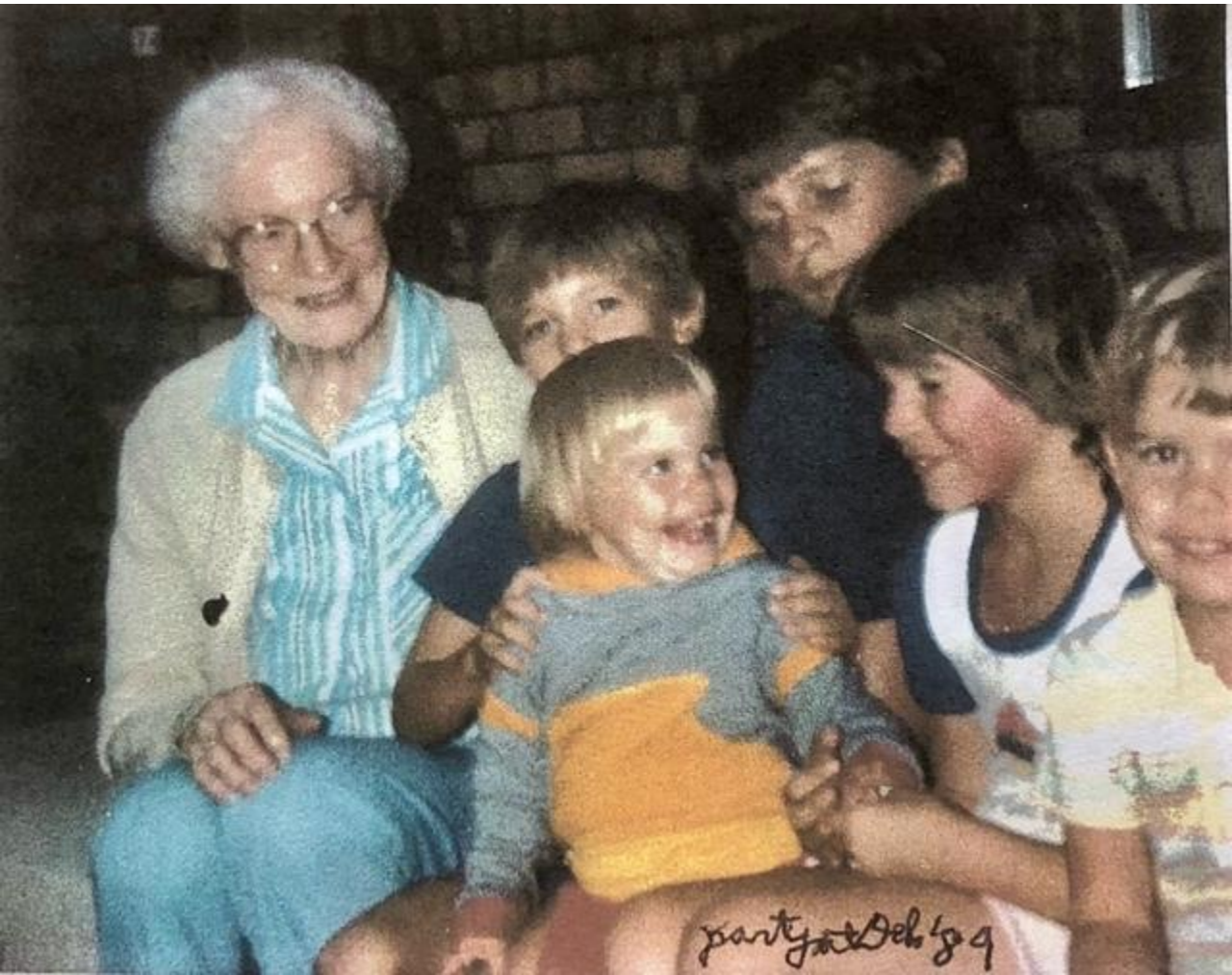
Your mother is having some copies made but I don't have them yet. It was all very interesting. The ladies of the Church served lunch of Bar-b-q or ham sandwiches, Salads + Bar Cookies.

Your Dad just called to say that Judy + Andree are coming to have something welded so I'll be having company to-day.

Hope you are well, Have a "Happy Birthday"

Love, Grandma

Ruth with grandkids,
1989 left, 1983 right



Ruth
~1988





Ruth 1904-1992, Martin 1905-1979

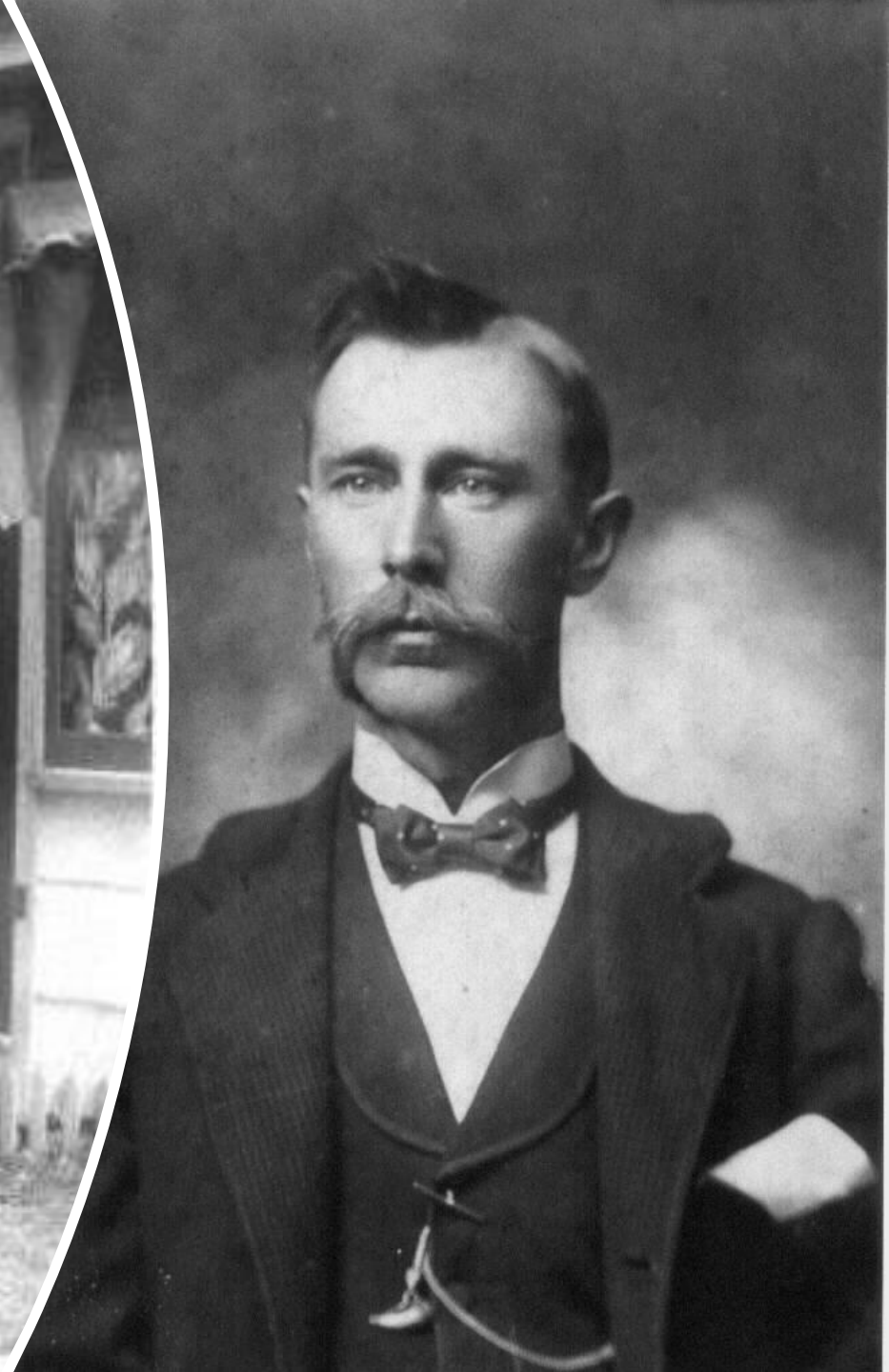
1890
Joe VanRaden

father of
Martin



1946 Joe and
Bena VanRaden

1897 Joe
VanRaden



Joseph Van Raden

Forreston, Ill., Oct. 30.—Funeral services for Joseph Van Raden, 78, will be held at 2 p.m. Monday at the Van Raden home and at 2:30 p.m. at the Reform church, Rev. Anthony Tinklenberg officiating. Burial will be in White Oak cemetery.

Mr. Van Raden, a lifelong resident of Forreston, dropped dead at his farm home about 7 a.m. yesterday while engaged in work on his farm. His daughter-in-law, Mrs. Martin Van Raden, who lives in an adjoining house on the farm, saw him fall.

He was born on a farm near Forreston, Oct. 6, 1870. Surviving are his widow, Vena; a daughter, Margaret, librarian at Hope college, Holland, Mich.; a son, Martin; three brothers, Henry, Herman and Christ, all of Forreston; and one grandson

Mrs. Joe Van Raden

FORRESTON — Mrs. Joe Van Raden died early this morning at a local nursing home after a lingering illness.

The former Bena Wibben was born Feb. 11, 1879 at Ridott, the daughter of George and Mattie Wibben.

She was married Nov. 19, 1901 to Joe Van Raden and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Dayton (Margaret) Van Deusen of LaGrange; one son, Martin of Forreston; two half brothers and two half sisters; one grandson; and four great-grandchildren. One son preceded her in death.

She was a member of the Forreston Reformed Church.

Funeral services will be Saturday at 1:30 p.m. (CST) at the DeGraff-Roe Funeral Home and at 2 p.m. at the Forreston Grove Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. C. W. Muyskens, of the Reformed Church, will officiate.

Burial will be in White Oak Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home beginning tonight.

Joe VanRaden
1870-1948

Bena
VanRaden
1879-1958

1888
Engelke
and Aaltje
VanRaden
family

Joe: 2nd from
right, back
row



Jan (John) VanRaden, brother of Engelke VanRaden

Civil War Record: Grant's Army of the Tennessee, Company C 46th IL Infantry

Year	Date	Location	Event
1839	Sep 13	Germany	Born in Neermoor
1851		Forreston, IL	Immigrated to USA
1861	Sep 10	Freeport, IL	Joined Union army
1861	Dec 28	Camp Butler	Training
1862	Feb 14	Ft Donelson, TN	1,634 men killed, 15,822 wounded
1862	Apr 26	Shiloh, TN	3,482 men killed, 16,420 wounded, > half of 46 th IL
1862	May	Corinth, MS	One-month siege, >2,000 casualties
1862	Oct 4	Matamora, MS	Jan's Colonel and Lieutenant killed

Year	Date	Location	Event
1862	Nov 30	Tallahatchie River, MS	Winter camp
1863	May 15	Vicksburg, MS	3-month siege, 8,037 casualties
1863	Sep 1	Louisiana	Expedition to guard trains and ferry
1864	Jan 4	Freeport, IL	Furloughed, with a hero's welcome
1867 ~		Allison, IA	Moved, but left his rifle in Forreston, IL
1899	Mar 3	Allison, IA	Died, age 59
After 1900	4 generations	Forreston, IL	Joe, Martin, Walter, Paul inherited rifle

Civil War rifle carried 1861-64 by Jan (John) VanRaden



Paul VanRaden with rifle, 2024



Edward and Elizabeth Ratmeyer

65th Anniversary 1966, 59th Anniversary 1960



Edward Ratmeyer 1879-1972

Edward H. Ratmeyer

FORRESTON - Edward Henry Ratmeyer of Forreston, a retired farmer, died Tuesday night in his home following an extended illness.

He served as a board member and taught adult Sunday School classes for many years at Forreston Reformed Church. He also was church janitor for many years. Mr. Ratmeyer was treasurer of Forreston Mutual County Fire Insurance Co. for more than 30 years.

Born May 11, 1879, in Maryland Township, he was the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Schure) Ratmeyer. On Dec. 5, 1901, he married Elizabeth Dorothy Kaney near Forreston.

Surviving are his widow; three sons, Earl C., Clarence E. and Walter H., all of Forreston; five daughters, Mrs. Martin (Ruth) Van Raden, Mrs. Lydia E. Harrenstein, Mrs. LeRoy (Susan L.) Folkerts and Mrs. Alvin (Bertha M.) Wubbena, all of Forreston, and Mrs. Warren (Florence) Kaney of Baileyville; 25 grandchildren; 53 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mrs. Edith Kaney of Forreston. He was preceded in death by two sisters.

Funeral service will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday in Forreston Reformed Church, with the Rev. Ralph Houston, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in White Oak Cemetery here.

Friends may call at Dougherty Funeral Home, Forreston, Thursday afternoon and evening. A memorial fund has been established.

E. H. Ratmeyers Honored on 50th Anniversary

Friends, neighbors, and members of the immediate family paid honor to Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Ratmeyer on their golden wedding anniversary at their home in Forreston Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Open house was held in the afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock for friends and neighbors and in the evening for members of the immediate family.

Afternoon guests were welcomed by Mrs. Matilda Wubbena, who also had charge of the guest book. Serving refreshments were Mrs. Walter Ratmeyer, Mrs. Martin Van Raden, Miss Esther Alberts and Mrs. Jesse Kaney.

Centered on the dining room table was a beautiful anniversary cake surmounted with golden leaves among white frosting. Yellow mums, greenery and white candles were used effectively for table decorations.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Kaney were the only callers who had been guests at the Kaney-Ratmeyer wedding Dec. 5, 1901. Mr. Kaney and Mrs. Ratmeyer are cousins.

The 1901 ceremony took place in the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Kaney, who lived in the North Grove vicinity. The wedding service was read by Rev. E. Bloesch, pastor of the church.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ratmeyer lived on the farm northeast of Forreston just north of the gravel pit. They lived there until 1933 when they moved to Forreston. Their son, Clarence, was married in 1933 and now lives on the old Ratmeyer place.

Mr. and Mrs. Ratmeyer have eight children: Earl Ratmeyer, Mrs. Martin Van Raden, Mrs. John Harrenstein, Clarence, Walter, Mrs. LeRoy Folkerts, Mrs. Alvin Wubbena, and Mrs. Warren Kaney, all of whom live within a few miles of Forreston.

From 7 to 10 in the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Ratmeyer welcomed their children and 24 of their 25 grandchildren. The absent one is Walter Van Raden, who is in the service at Tampa, Fla. The Ratmeyer children presented each of their parents with a gold wrist watch in commemoration of the golden wedding, the third generation on the maternal side of the family tree in succession. Mrs. Ratmeyer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Kaney, and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kaney, each were married more than 50 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Ratmeyer received the congratulations and best wishes of their many friends and of their children and grandchildren.

1951

Elizabeth
(Kaney)
Ratmeyer
1881-1975

In Memory Of
Elizabeth D. Ratmeyer

November 4, 1881

February 9, 1975

Services

Wednesday Feb. 12, 1975
Forreston Reformed Church

1:30pm

Officiating

Rev. Ralph Houston
Rev. Luther Ratmeyer

Interment

White Oak Cemetery
Forreston, Illinois

Dougherty

Mrs. Edward Ratmeyer

FORRESTON - Mrs. Edward (Elizabeth Dorothea) Ratmeyer of Forreston died early Sunday afternoon in Villas of Shannon Nursing Home.

Mrs. Ratmeyer was a member of Forreston Reformed Church and an honorary member of the church's Ladies Guild.

Born Nov. 4, 1881, in Ogle County, she was the daughter of August and Elizabeth (Zumdahl) Kaney. She was married to Edward Ratmeyer Dec. 5, 1901, in North Grove. He died May 1, 1973.

Surviving are three sons, Earl C., Clarence E. and Walter H., all of Forreston; five daughters, Mrs. Martin (Ruth) Van Raden, Mrs. Lydia Har-

renstein, Mrs. LeRoy (Susan) Folkerts and Mrs. Alvin (Bertha) Wubbena, all of Forreston, and Mrs. Warren (Florence) Kaney of Baileyville; 25 grandchildren; and 56 great-grandchildren.

Funeral service will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in Forreston Reformed Church. The Rev. Ralph Houston, pastor, and the Rev. Luther Ratmeyer of Nebraska, a grandson, will officiate. Burial will be in White Oak Cemetery here.

Friends may call at the Dougherty Funeral Home, Forreston, Tuesday afternoon and evening.

A memorial fund has been established for the Gospel Association for the Blind.

August Kaney 1856-1937

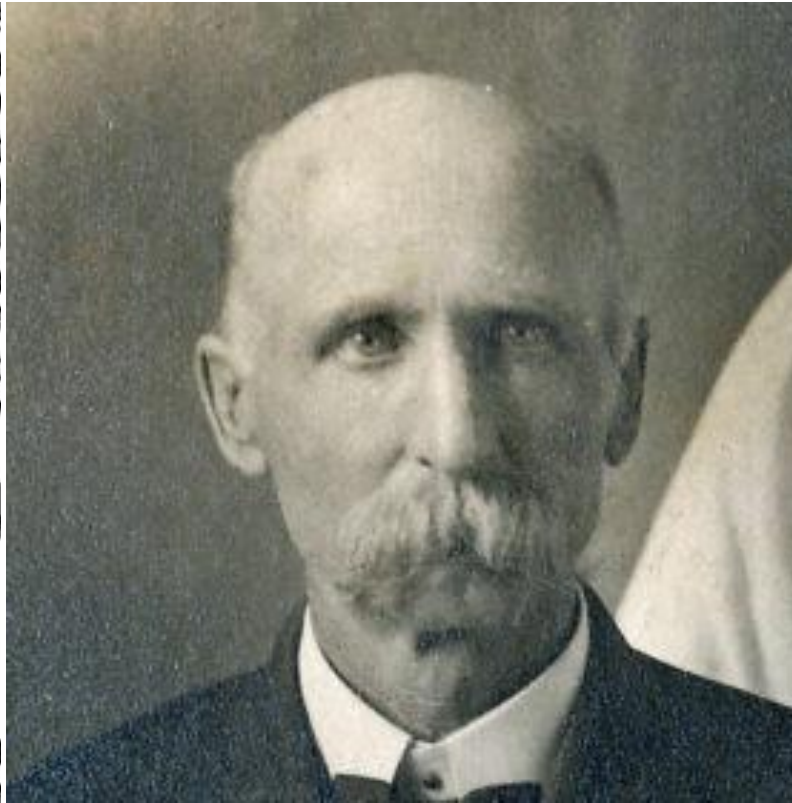
Elizabeth Kaney 1857-1932

(parents of Elizabeth Ratmeyer)

Mrs. August Kaney, Forreston
Forreston, Ill. Oct. 29—Mrs. Elizabeth Kaney, 75, wife of August Kaney, Sr. died early this morning at her home in Forreston. She had been in failing health since she suffered injuries in a fall on ice about two years ago. Her condition was not regarded as serious, however, and death came very suddenly.

She leaves her husband, three sons, August, Jr., Arthur and Irwin, and a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Ratmeyer, all residing on farms near Forreston.

Arrangements for the funeral have not as yet been announced.



AUGUST KANEY

August Kaney, Sr., was born in Maryland township, Ogle county, Illinois, July 12, 1856. He spent his entire life in Ogle county and closed his eyes in death at Oregon, Illinois, July 3, 1937, attaining the age of 80 years 11 months and 21 days. The departed was a life long member of the church.

Mr. Kaney was united in marriage with Elizabeth Zumdahl at Mount Morris on March 6, 1879. She preceded him in death October 29, 1932. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kaney, of whom three died in infancy. The deceased is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Ratmeyer, and three sons, August, Jr., and Arthur, of Forreston, and Irven of Freeport, twelve grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on July 6, at one o'clock at the DeGraff funeral home and at 1:30 at the First Evangelical church, with Rev. H. J. Stelling, pastor, officiating, assisted by Rev. Connor of the Church of God of Dixon. Mrs. Charles Ranz and Mrs. Fred Diehl sang. - Rev. Albert Manus of the Prairie Dell Presbyterian church presided at the organ.

Six grandchildren acted as pall bearers. Interment was made at White Oak cemetery.

Left: Heinrich (Henry) Ratmeyer 1844–1921

Father of Edward Ratmeyer

Right: Heinrich Kohne (Henry Kaney) 1817-1899

Father of August Kaney

