THE KANSAS FAMILY RETIRES IN DYER, ARKANSAS

By

Virginia Kamm Rhodes

The parents of Martin Kamm were both immigrated from Switzerland. His father was Mathias Kamm and his mother was Margaret Spani. They were married in Basil, Kansas, in 1882. Mathias died in 1933 at the age of 77 years and Margaret lived until 1952 when she was 90 years of age. They were the parents of eleven children, all living to adulthood with the exception of one daughter, who died in infancy.

Martin Kamm was born March 6, 1887, in Basil, Kansas. His wife, Stella Irene (Williams) Kamm was born December 21, 1896, in Flemingsburg, Kentucky. Her parents were John Edward Williams and Addie Hawes Williams. Martin and Stella were married May 22, 1916, at Council Grove, Kansas. They are the parents of six children. They had eleven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Martin was a farmer and lived most of his farming years near White City and Junction City, Kansas. He and his wife retired in 1959 and moved to Dyer, Arkansas, and built their home near their daughter, Virginia Kamm Rhodes.

They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, May 22, 1966, at their eldest son's home in Manhattan, Kansas, with all their children present.

Martin enjoyed living in Dyer as he took care of Frank's cows and horses and did odd jobs. He would walk to town and get the mail, then sit on the loafers bench and hear a lot of tall tales. Stella was always busy with house work, cooking, and sewing. She was an active member in the E.H.C Club. Both were members of the Dyer Methodist Church.

Jaynee Rhodes, granddaughter, was three years old when they came to Dyer. They enjoyed her and that kept them both busy. Grandpa taught her how to ride her little pony. She grew up, married, and had a beautiful little girl, Kristie, which they enjoyed her until she was three years old and they moved to Florida. Later Jaynee blessed them with twin great-grandsons, Jeremy and Nicholas. The Kamms spent 27 beautiful years together in Dyer and then Martin was called home to be with the Lord on January 23, 1984.

Stella lives alone and keeps busy with her home and Church. She celebrated her 89th birthday in December and plans on enjoying Dyer's observance of Arkansas' Sesquicentennial birthday on May 17, 1986.

1. Virgil Kamm and family moved from California to Dyer in 1971. Children of Martin and Stella Kamm:

11. Martin Kamm, Jr

12. Lyle Dale Kamm

13. Virgil Merle Kamm

14. Virginia Addie Kamm Rhodes

15. Stella Willodeen Kamm

15. Allen R. Kamm

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