

The Arrival of a New Pastor by Rev. Henry Camin (1892-1976)
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Monday, July 30, 1917 – Left St. Louis for Kansas City. Will travel all night.

Tuesday, July 31, 1917 – Arrived in Piper, Kansas. We stayed at Mr. Marxens until we could buy things for our house. Visited Knetters in the evening.

Thursday, Aug. 2, 1917 – We lived in the parsonage. The first day. Have a lovely home. Bought our furniture in Leavenworth.

Saturday, Aug. 4, 1917 – The congregation here at Usher, Kansas gave us a shower + brought everything imaginable in the line of eatables, also 8 hens, a large rooster + 2 small roosters, 3 pk (pecks) of potatoes, ½ ham, 1 whole bacon, 3 lbs butter, 2 pails of lard, basket of tomatoes, a cake, 3 cans of coffee, 2 boxes of coffee, 1 doz. eggs, 1 can of plums, 1 can of pumpkin, 2 cans of cocoa, 1 qt. strawberries, 4 qts. cherries, ½ gal. pickles, ½ qt. jelly, 1 box spaghetti, 1 qt. black raspberries, 3 glasses of jelly, 1 box coconut, 1 box raisins, 3 lbs. of rice, 1 lb loose coffee, 2 lbs. powdered sugar, 15 lbs. of sugar, ½ doz. teaspoons, 1 bottle brandy, 2 loaves bread, 1 gal. vinegar, head of cabbage, ½ pie + 2 glasses of jelly.

Sunday, Aug 5, 1917 – Birthday of Mrs. M. Schust. Installed in my church in Usher. Rev. Dick of Leavenworth officiated + Rev. Hafner of Potter assisted.

The events above are transcribed from the 1917 diary of Rev. Henry Camin, the pastor of the congregation between 1917 and 1920. A copy of the diary was graciously given to the congregation last month by Rev. Camin's granddaughter, Barbara R. Jahansoozi.

The diary begins just after his graduation from the Seminary through December 19, 1917. Very little of church business is mentioned, but it provides a unique insight into the living conditions and life of a new Pastor and his young wife, Helen Bickel, in a rural Kansas congregation.

Steve Mariano



Rev. Camin, Helen and children; Helen & Henry, born while here