

### **Andrew Gottman**

John Andrew Gottman was born on December 7, 1842 in Keulte, Waldeck, Germany. He came to this country on October 31, 1866. He located at Palmyra, Merian County, Mo., and lived there until the latter part of 1874 when he moved near Queen City on a farm just a little west of the place where his son Victor now lives. He lived in this community the rest of his life.

He was united in Holy marriage to Louisa Knittel on March 13, 1873. To this union God blessed with five children who are all living. This was one of the few homes where family worship was a vital part of the home life. He was an industrious farmer. He provided well for his home thru hard work. He was a kind and loving husband and father.

He was baptized and confirmed in early life while yet in Germany. He joined St. Johns Lutheran Church in 1876 during the pastorate of Rev. Raymond. He was talented in teaching, speaking and in leadership so he soon became an active leader of the Church serving on the Church Council as an elder until 1925 and was given a "Life Membership" upon retiring in Jan. 1923. He was succeeded by his son, William who has held this office since then. He was Superintendent of

the Sunday School for years. He was also District Superintendent of Sunday Schools in Schuyler County for a number of years. He even preached the Gospel for St. Johns in emergencies especially for funerals in the German tongue. His whole life was wrapped up in the work of his Savior and to his last day he wanted to go to church.<sup>N</sup> He with his good wife did a great deal for the religious life of this community. He has written a beautiful epistle in the hearts of all who knew him. Like his Christian brother and co-worker, Mr. Snowbarger, on the Council, he has lived a life that is a challenge to all his children, grand-children and all the young people of this community. He was very anxious to go home to Glory in his trying days of the closing days on earth.

Fifty-four years ago he had a great misfortune when he had a sunstroke and he has been sickly ever since. He took seriously sick about three weeks ago and has been confined to his bed most of the time since then. He suffered a great deal and so he failed very fast. In those hours while on the thresh-hold of eternity he called for his brothers and sisters who had passed on before and spent

much time in prayer and quoting Scripture and the last audible words were: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." He was facing the new home in Glory and so he peacefully went on from this earth's pilgrimage to his Christ. His good wife and children did all that they could for his comfort and peace, but it was his time to go Home. He went to his reward a grand old soldier of the Cross, A loss to us, a gain for heaven. "Absent from the body at home with the Lord."

He was the oldest member of St. Johns Church. He was several years over four score—a pilgrimage of 87 years, 3 months and 14 days. He leaves to mourn his death his good wife and the following children: John, Mrs. Mary Gardine, William, and Victor all of Queen City and Mrs. Katherine Lundstrom enroute for the State of Washington. He also leaves to mourn his death 10 grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends. He died last Friday at 6:30 p. m.

The funeral was held at St. Johns Lutheran Church on Sunday at 2 p. m. his pastor, A. O. Althafer preaching the funeral sermon and the Queen City Mens Chorus doing the singing. He was laid to rest in the Germania cemetery while his soul went home to God who gave it.