

Rev. Frederich August Herman Lossner

Frederich August Herman Lossner was born 28 June 1839 in Mugeln bei Oschatz, (Leipzig), Saxony, Germany, He came to America in 1848 at the age of 9 with his parents, locating at Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

He was planning to be a doctor and started to study homeopathic medicine, not theology. While rooming with a Lutheran minister, however, he was so impressed with the man that he decided that he, too, would become a minister. His medical studies were not wasted in the ministry; he was frequently called upon to help the sick, since he was often serving congregations that were far from doctors.

He started his ministry as an un-ordained circuit rider.

According to a report by his daughter, Magdalena (May), while riding his circuit, he was taken into custody by soldiers fighting in the Civil War (which side is unclear). They planned to execute him by a firing squad until parishioners arrived on the scene and said, "That's our pastor!" He was also said to have killed a rattlesnake on one occasion for food when he ran out of food while riding his circuit.

One time while he was riding his circuit, he was stopped by a small band of men who demanded he throw down his gun and his money. He said, "I have no gun, I'm a man of God travelling to my church." At that the apparent leader of the band advised him that travelling alone and unarmed was dangerous in those parts. Then he told the others to put away their guns and to ride on; he would catch up to them later. The stranger then rode along with Rev. Lossner nearly to the town that was his next stop. The stranger left him outside the town, and Lossner did his service and headed out to the next place. Outside of town, the stranger again emerged and rode along to provide protection. It's uncertain how long these protective services were provided, but at some point, Rev. Lossner began to sense that parishioners he had come to serve were avoiding him. When he asked what was wrong, he learned that they were distrustful of anyone who had Jesse James as a companion.

[Corroboration of this tale may be possible from diaries of Herman that have been passed down along with sermons to Otto, then to Walter, then to Kevin Lossner. Because they are rolled and very brittle and written in German script, their rehydration and translation may be long in coming.]

In 1861, Candidate Lange was traveling to Kansas to be a missionary. He met F. A. H. Lossner of Iowa City, Iowa, at the end of the railroad. "From there pastor and candidate set out in a buggy for the new field of activity, . . . arriving at Clarks Creek near Junction City (Kansas), on August 13, 1861. Of this trip Lange wrote: 'We were under God's open sky day and night. We bought bread, as we needed it, from the settlers, and we brewed coffee wherever we happened to be.' The entire journey took them three weeks. . . On his way back to Iowa City, Lossner stopped at Leavenworth, Kans., to conduct services for the Germans living there. . . Neither Lange nor Meyer could be immediately ordained for their work, and Lossner, too, was not ordained."

Lossner studied for the ministry at Ft. Wayne and St. Louis where he graduated in 1860. Concordia, Springfield also lists him as a graduate who was ordained May 31, 1863 at Marshalltown, Iowa.

Rev. F. Doescher got Herman Lossner as an assistant at Marshalltown (Iowa) in 1863; whence the surrounding country was served and the church extended. That same year Lossner married Charlotte Frederika Klebe in Rock Island, Illinois, daughter of William Klebe and Elizabeth Behrehs.

Starting in 1864 he served parishes in Beecher, Illinois, Lake Zurich, Illinois, and Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Zion congregation in Grant Park, (Illinois) was organized on March 13, 1882. Under the direction of Rev. Herman Lossner, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Beecher, (Illinois). Several men formed the small congregation, which has grown and prospered through the years. These men purchased two acres of land on which a building was constructed to serve a three-fold purpose: that of church, school and parsonage. It was constructed at a cost of \$1,925, a small sum today, but in those days a large sacrifice for the families involved. Only German services were held until 1927, when English was introduced.

In the year 1895 he accepted a call to Green Isle, Minnesota. He served that parish for 5 years.

Six families of German heritage called the Rev. Lossner in 1899 to start St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. (City?) Pastor Lossner was 60 years old when he was installed on Jan. 21, 1900.

Upon his retirement he served the church at Salem, Oregon.

"Failing health prompted Pastor Lossner's retirement (again) in the spring of 1906, less than a year before his fatal heart attack on Jan. 29, 1907. He was the eldest Missouri Synod pastor in the District at the time of his death. Following funeral services at St. John and in Portland, Pastor Lossner was buried at Lone Fir Cemetery in Portland." [later moved]

(Obituary, Salem (Oregon) Statesman, 30 January 1907):

LOSSNER--At his home, corner Fourteenth and Center streets, in this city, at 4 o'clock a.m. Tuesday, January 29, 1907, Rev. H. Lossner, aged 67 [sic] years.

After an illness of a week, surrounded by friends and relatives, Rev. H. Lossner passed peacefully away, of heart failure. He came to Salem about seven years ago, and was the beloved pastor of the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church on Center street. He was the founder of the church and built the parsonage. Besides his wife he leaves eleven children and sixteen grandchildren to mourn his death. He was a indefatigable worker and a public spirited citizen. He had been engaged in the ministry for forty-six years.

Cause of Death: Heart attack

Medical Information: Reportedly diabetic.

Note:

The above was compiled from research information provided to me by Randall Lossner in April of 2010. Frederich August Herman Lossner was my great grand uncle and indeed both great and grand. His father, Carl August Lossner (1799-1886) was my 2nd great grandfather. Frederich August Herman Lossner was the 2nd great grandfather of Randal C Lossner who provided the research information. Thanks go to my cousin Randall

Donald J Plefka

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