

LaCrosse ^{Biography} Salzer, John Adam

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Life of
John A. Salzer



Autobiography

A Translation from the Diary of

John Adam Salzer

MOTTO: "VICTORY OR DEATH"

Dedicated to His Grandchildren

By His Daughter

EMMA SALZER HALLAUER

Jan. 1, 1925

Springfield, Mo.

JOHN ADAM SALZER

- 1823—Born in Dettingen, Wuerttemberg,
Germany.
- 1846—Immigrated to U. S. A.
- 1847—Located at Galena, Ill.
- 1849—Received call to preach—refused.
- 1849—Married Wilhelmina Joerris at Ixonia,
Watertown, Wis.
- 1852—Accepted call to preach. First appoint-
ment, Iowa City Mission.
- 1855—Deutch Creek, Wash. Co., Iowa.
- 1856—Fort Des Moines Mission, Monroe, Iowa.
- 1858—Baraboo, Wis.
- 1860—Manitowoc, Wis.
- 1861—Rock River Mission, West Bend, Wis.
- 1863—Peru, Ill.
- 1866—LaCrosse, Wis.
- 1869—Located at LaCrosse, Wis.
- 1886—Organized the John A. Salzer Seed Co.
Served as president until his death.
- 1892—Died in LaCrosse, Wis.

THE DIARY OF JOHN ADAM SALZER.

PERSONALITIES.

I, John Adam Salzer, was born December 8, 1823, in Dettingen, County Urach, Kingdom of Wuerttemberg, Germany.

I was brought up and taught in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church. From youth up I lived a pious life, according to my judgment, as also that of the people about me.

I had the privilege of being loved more by the townspeople than any of my brothers and sisters. I had five brothers and one sister. Consequently I had a high opinion of myself and became proud and vain.

IMMIGRATION.

In the year 1845, I wanted to leave my home and immigrate to America; but, since I had no money and my parents would give me none, I had to remain at home. My parents promised me that they would furnish me with the necessary funds if I would remain at home and work one year. So I gladly stayed and, like Jacob when he labored for Rachel, the year passed quickly. I worked hard, but even the hardest labor was sweetened by the happy hopes of getting to America.

When the year was over, I wanted my money for traveling from my parents, but what a disappointment; they would not give me a penny, and said that where five could live, a sixth could also find work. I was saddened but not disheartened.

nor discouraged, nor did I give up my plan. My uncle offered to loan me the money on my promise to return it when I had earned it. When my parents heard that they gave me the money themselves. And so I came to America.

On the ocean I dreamed that I was a preacher and in a chancel with another preacher. I soon forgot this dream as I had no idea of its ever becoming real. Then, when I ascended the pulpit for the first time with Brother Heinrich Nuelson and preached, this dream recurred to me.

When I reached America I got in with Godless companions, from whom the dear Lord delivered me quickly, as a brand out of the fire; drawing me to Him in love. I had the bitter experience of seeing my best and most trusted friends before my conversion, become my bitterest enemies; so much so that my once very best friend wanted to stab me, and I believe would have done so, had not the dear Lord let a black cloud come between me and the raging one, so that he could not find me that night.

MARRIAGE.

July 12, 1849, I married Wilhelmina Joeris, born near Mettmann, Bezirk Disseldorf, Germany. Rev. C. Jost performed the ceremony.

DESCRIPTION OF UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES

Since My Conversion, Friday Evening, 1846

THE CALL.

In the month of May, 1849, I received my first call from the Lord to preach, thru the church. I refused, however, in order to remain at home. Be-

fore this I experienced the Lord's blessing on all I did. I also had the Grace of Perfect Love, which is a beautiful experience. Now, having shrunk back from preaching, I lost this Blessing, and indeed so gradually that I did not realize its loss for some time; and the Lord also withdrew His gracious presence, and thus instead of perceiving His blessings on all I did, now it was the reverse. Thus time passed. Often I had almost unbearable, severe twinges of conscience because of this call to preach, and often I would privately promise the Lord to go if He desired it. In this deplorable condition I spent four and one-half years. During this time I found out, like Jonah, that I could not flee from the Lord. At last it seemed everything worked against me and I said to my wife, "Although I seem lucky, yet just when I want to grasp it, it has flown." The past months were the hardest in worldly matters for I lost heavily financially, but always got a clear insight into what the will of the Lord was, for me.

THE DECISION.

In the September, 1853, number of "Der Christlicher Apologete", an article appeared, making a great impression on me. I thought the writer must have read my heart, and wrote what he found transpiring there, and I saw my greatest duty was to preach the gospel. That night after reading the article, being wakeful and restless, I awakened my wife and asked her if she had read the article. Rubbing the sleep out of her eyes she said, "Yes". "What impression did it make on you?" I asked. "Oh, none in particular", she said.

“So”, I said, “I think you ought to get up and read it prayerfully, for it made such a great impression on me that I cannot sleep.” Saying this thoroughly aroused her. So we spent the night in prayer for guidance from God in this matter. At ten o’clock the next morning we came to the conclusion that if God wanted us as workers in His Vineyard, we would go. As soon as this decision was reached we had great peace.

A few weeks later, the Presiding Elder, Rev. J. Plank, asked me and then I told him all my experiences concerning the work of preaching. “But”, I said, “I do not think God wants me to preach.” “Why not?”, asked Brother Plank. “Because of the following experiences”, I said. “Two weeks before our second quarterly conference meeting, I was reading ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ which made a deep impression on me, since my experiences coincided so much with Christian’s. Then I promised the Lord to go provided He wanted me, and decided to pray twice daily especially about this Call; and that I would tell you all about it when you should come to Quarterly Meeting, and I should take your reply as coming from the Lord, and what you would say would guide me. Now, when Quarterly Meeting came, you did not come, and I took that for a sign from God that He did not want me to go and preach, else He would have sent you here on time”. Brother Plank replied, “I see this in an opposite light”. I then told him I had written him a letter telling him of my experiences, but as I was about to drop the letter in the postoffice I was kept from doing so with the thought that Brother Plank might think

I was thrusting myself into the ministry. Brother Plank replied, "Dear Brother, in all this I can see only one thing, and that is that it is the will of God that you should go and preach." Then I told him of the article which had appeared in the 'Apologete', and how we had come to the conclusion that if God called us, we would go. He then said that I should get ready right away.

EARLY SACRIFICES.

Then I began to sell, but what a shock! It was as if I had been struck in the face when I had to sell things so cheap; yet I considered it a sacrifice the Lord desired me to bring. When all was ready to travel, my wife was taken sick and we were hindered from going. (The last day I was also compelled to shoot my horse). Finally I started with my wife and three small children, the oldest, three and one-half years old and the youngest, sixteen months.

GOING TO MY FIRST APPOINTMENT.

The trip was very hard and dangerous. We had to drive from twelve to fifteen miles before we could get a drop of milk or a drink of water, then too, it was so cold that we could hardly bear it from one station to the other. The last day we had to ford Cedar River. There we experienced bodily danger, and really expected to find a watery grave. My wife closed her eyes as I drove into the water. Two children were in the buggy-box wrapped in bedding, the baby was on the mother's lap. But when the water got so deep that the buggy-box began to fill with water and the buggy

began to tip in the water—then I cried to the Lord. Then my wife opened her eyes and saw the danger and joined with me in prayer, “Lord, help”. Then we were permitted to experience, “Wenn die Noth am Groesten, ist Gott am Naechsten. (When danger is greatest the Lord is nearest).” He helped us out and I drove as quickly as possible to the nearest house to warm myself, wife and children—this house, however, was nine miles distant.

IOWA CITY MISSION.

Having arrived at our destination I spent two weeks looking for a house. Finally I got the promise of one to be had at the end of four weeks. I was glad to wait so long—but when the time came to move, he refused to let me have the dwelling because I was a Methodist preacher. Then I decided to leave this place again, but when I thought of the great dangers this would bring my wife, I changed my mind, and exerted myself to the utmost to get a house, and succeeded in finding one twelve by fourteen feet. This did not afford enough room and so I had to build a leanto of boards in order to store things from wet and weather.

Before this was entirely completed, my wife bore me a son, strong and large—but such a monstrosity—I never saw anything like it. This was such a shock to us parents. Only the Lord could and did give us grace to bear this trial. After my wife recovered, somewhat, I began travelling over my field of work.

CHEATED.

I bought a horse from a brother, represented to be free from fault but soon found that I was

cheated. The horse ate nothing, was so shy that I feared to use it longer—since in the course of a few weeks, he had broken the buggy three times, and imperiled my life twice. Satan and his followers did not leave me alone during these times, but I can say that I became resigned to the will of God and can and did forgive the brother—and I offered him the horse very cheap as I could not use him, and he had misrepresented him. This caused many an inward battle, before I was master of the situation, especially since I had to preach the gospel to that man, and now, by the grace of God, I can say, I bear that man no ill will and I love him as any other and as if nothing had happened.

TEMPTATIONS.

At New Years great temptations greeted me. The cold was intense, especially when driving from one field to another. Then I was tempted to return to my former home where I did not need to suffer and freeze for the sake of the gospel. There warmth and quiet always awaited me. I soon realized that no bad thoughts could come from God, so I prayed and He gave me grace to bear the cold, and put that missionary song in my heart: "Wenn von den Geistlich Toden." Then I was filled with joy and did not feel cold anymore.

On January the tenth, 1854, while holding revival services, Satan came directly to me while I read my text, Rev. 2:17, "He that overcometh, will I give to eat", so that while I read Satan came and said, "Now, what will you do with that text? You recently preached about it. What will people think? You don't know anything more about it,

now you are serving stale things again." I doubted that I had preached about this text but took another. After preaching, I asked two brothers whether I had ever preached on this text—they said, "No". I was astonished to think the devil would ascend the pulpit and tempt me there. I asked God to help me and if Satan ever attempted to repeat his actions that God might give me His spirit, so that I might quickly recognize Satan.

GOING BLIND.

On the 22nd of March, 1854, I got such sore eyes that everyone thought I would become blind. The right eye was cut three times. The pains I endured are unspeakable. However, in six weeks I was able to preach again, the Lord thus helped me. Praise His Holy Name.

TRIALS BY THE BRETHREN.

My hardest experiences I had in the fall of 1854, with my colleague, old Brother Haus, who brought thirteen complaints against me, without having said anything to me. I was entirely ignorant of all until the brethren whispered snatches of various complaints; but they were utterly groundless and false. However, he tried his best, and if God had not given me unusual grace, I do not think I could have borne it. But God gave me the sword of the Spirit, and taught me to fight, and strengthened my arm. The last blow which I gave him was this: "Brother Haus, I believe you think I should reverence you and give you the credit that alone belongs to God." Upon this thrust he retreated.

The first year with its sorrows and joys had passed. It had proved very hard for me, but, praise God it is past. I advanced more than one hundred dollars. There were only a few conversions this year on this mission. The time for separation from dear brothers and sisters had come; I was sent to Deutch Creek Mission. Farewell ye dear ones.

DEUTCH CREEK MISSION.

The year of 1855, was spent on Deutch Creek Mission, Wash. Co., Ia. This is my second year in the ministry. This Mission is called the 'Lazy Mission', because the people do not wish to make up the preacher's salary. This year I got \$150.00 Mission money and \$60.00 from the members, and had to support a wife and three children, besides keeping a horse. This year there were twelve souls saved and sixteen joined the church—God keep them true to him for eternity, Amen. Lord, hear us. We built a church which was finished by July Fourth, with two-thirds paid and the rest secured.

In the beginning of the conference year dear Brother Werner travelled over the Fort Des Moines Mission, but soon had to give up; and died happy in Jesus. He was permitted to work only 'one hour' in the Lord's service.

I now had this field to work with mine and travelled over it twice, encouraging and strengthening the brethren. When I returned from my second itinerary, my horse sickened and died in spite of all my efforts to save it. Often I had been offered \$150.00 for him—and now he is dead.

FORT DES MOINES MISSION.

Conference time approached and I went to Rock Island to attend. It was a helpful time. When I heard my appointment, Fort Des Moines, I was much afraid, because, having been there twice, I knew the conditions well. Resigned to the will of God, I hastened home and in great sadness, told my members that I had to move.

I bought a horse for \$120.00, leaving \$50.00 debt. On the second day of my journey, my horse shied, broke the buggy, dragged me out of the buggy and along the road. How it was possible not to be injured, God only knows. The horse ran into a corner and stood still; so I was enabled to get up and look around. What a fright to see my wife lying on the street crying, and two children lying elsewhere. I found my wife had three bruises, and Marie had a broken arm—and I had two days' travel to reach my destination. When I arrived there I could get no room to live in and resolved to build a hut in the woods belonging to Father Metz. For sixteen days I and two children stayed with one Brother, and my wife and two children stayed with another, where two and one-half families lived in a one-room block-house. Finally, I had an opportunity, which I accepted, to buy a block-house in Monroe for \$240.00 and pay in installments.

I worked in this field in four different counties for two years. Sixteen members were gathered into the church, most of them converted. This was not many, but under the existing circumstances and difficulties the number was considerable. Praise the Name of the Lord Jesus, Amen.

BARABOO, WIS.

I am now going to Rockford to Conference. At Conference my appointment was read, Baraboo, Sauk Co., Wis.

A LOG-CABIN PARSONAGE.

Upon our arrival there, the brothers offered me a half-built log-cabin for a parsonage, but with the promise of completing the building. But the first month passed and the second. The third month brought snow and cold and sickness. Several times I tried to get the brothers to finish the building, but they paid no heed—until at last four of my family lay sick.

HARD TIMES.

Here it was that for four months I had the stovepipe pass through the window—and where I made floors for the rooms out of boxes—and where we all got well smoked. I plastered the house then, and built two chimneys, and dug a well, and as I had to ride a great deal besides doing my work, I had a hard time.

DROWNING.

One day just as I was plastering, Bro. George Movy brought my son, Henry, into the house as drowned, in a well which had been frozen over. We worked over him from noon, 12 o'clock, till evening, 7 o'clock until we brought him to life again with God's help. Oh, what pain and sorrow this was.

On this field we had many hard times, specially so the second year. I lost my horse and had to

work in harvest fields for people, in order to get a living during the second year.

WONDERFUL RESULTS.

Fifty-three (53) joined the church during these two years, of which twenty-five were converted through my ministry.

SATAN BUSY.

Here I was once censured by Bro. Keil, Sr., because I preached a sermon against misers and miserliness and was a miser myself, else I would not have bought myself a cow and a pig. If I had not been miserly, said he, I would have trusted the brothers to bring me milk and meat. "Good", said I, "Do you remember when I asked you for some meat that you replied, "No, meat now is too cheap to give to the preacher," and I also asked three others who had meat for sale, but they also said they could spare none. Should the preacher and his family eat meat only when it is expensive? etc. etc."

In this year I held protracted meetings in the house of Bro. C. Keil, where we had six penitent souls at the altar. There were a number of Godless Belial's children present who tried continuously to disturb the meeting. I warned them privately, but when they disturbed the more, I asked the members to pray earnestly—for the devil was trying hard to disturb us. When the meeting came to a close, the housewife came to me and said, "You, Salzer, you lied. You said the devil wanted to disturb the meeting. There is no devil in my house. I wanted to give you two heads of

cabbage to take along home, but now you get none". I asked her then if God disturbs people when they come together to worship Him—or if the devil does?

In the year 1858, my claim was \$280.00 and I got \$124.00, lacking \$156.00.

In the year 1859, my salary was to be 298.00 and I got \$108.00 thus lacking \$190.00.

MANITOWOC, WIS.

Conference time came and Brother Buehrer and I travelled together to Galena. On the way my horse got so sick that we gave up all hopes, but the Lord helped us here too. At this Conference I was appointed to Manitowoc, Wis. This was represented as a very hard field and I went with a heavy heart. But the dear Lord showed me at the first prayer meeting I held, that He had sufficient work for me to do.

A GREAT REVIVAL.

I arrived in Manitowoc Tuesday night at nine o'clock, Oct. 25, 1860. On Wednesday evening I held the first prayer meeting. During the meeting the number seventy-two (72) people large and small, was so impressed upon me—as being the number to be saved for the Lord that year. I told it immediately to those present and encouraged them to work for the Lord. During the first year there were really 72 persons' names written in the church-book as members on probation. Give God the Glory! Hallelujah! Amen.

Bro. Schulz was my helper. He had hard experiences because of bad roads and of the poverty of the people.

The year 1861 was passed also on the Manitowoc Mission. But this year was not so good as last year, although I had two good helpers this year, C. G. Becker and Ph. M. Frey. There was much sowing for the future done, however. May the Lord bless the seeding. Twenty (20) joined our number during the year. Praise the Lord.

The reason why the results were not so great as the year previous is probably because we could hold no protracted meetings because of the weather; and last year I alone, without any help of my dear brothers, held meetings for twelve weeks. For seven weeks a young girl was at the altar almost every night, with whom I also worked and prayed much. She was converted the last evening of the meetings—and through her I had to suffer much later on. On this field a deaf and dumb mute of about forty years of age was converted. Praise the Lord.

ROCK RIVER MISSION, WEST BEND, WIS.

The year is past. Conference time has come. It convenes at Freeport. At this Conference I found that the Presiding Elder was partial, and I had almost resolved to give up; only through prayer was I steadfast, and I went to my field of labor trusting God to go with me.

I was sent to Rockriver, 1861.

I took for my first subject the words, "Thou shalt go where I send thee, and preach what I tell thee", using Jonah's experiences as illustrations, Jonah, 1:7. The circuit is hard to travel. It has eight preaching places. One I gave up, however took up another. I preached two hundred and

eleven (211) times during the year. Had good times. We are kept in love and all is well. There were thirty (30) large and small joined the church. The circuit did well in cancelling the church indebtedness and raised the preacher's salary to within about fifty (50) dollars. Collections were better than before. The members are: some, very good; some, medium; and a few, lukewarm and lazy in God's work and in fulfilling their duties.

The October Conference, 1862, is to be held in Inlied.

TRIALS OF A PREACHER.

I am returned to Rockriver Mission for another year. In the name of the Lord.

So far all is well. Till the third quarterly meeting I have had twenty-four (24) accessions, and eighteen (18) testify to the saving grace of God. Praise His name.

In this year I had an experience I shall think of as long as I live. Bro. Wil. Finstermacher of Kopp's Settlement had made a debt to Mr. Seise of Salzburg and given two notes. He paid one and as the storekeeper trusted him and thought he would pay both notes, he laid both notes together; and F. took both notes and pocketed them. When the storekeeper told him he had only paid for one note, and to give him back the second note, or pay it, F. said, "I paid my note." So, now, there was a complaint made and I had to investigate it. The committee found F. guilty and decided he should pay the note within two months. Then he began to swear and threaten, etc. When I visited the

members shortly after this before going to Conference, Sister F. stood in front of her house, where I had to pass by when going to visit Father Stillig. When I saw her, I got out of the buggy, went to her and spoke with her. I had hardly been there two minutes when Mr. F. came and made a great racket, and sprung upon me with an axe in his hand in order to kill me. This through the grace of God was prevented. Now this brought an investigation by the "Albrechtsleuten", where F. was a member, and he had to apologize, etc., etc.

PERU, ILL.

Conference convenes in Freeport, Ill. I went two days later as I had an understanding with Bro. Heidel, Pres. Elder of the Mo. district, to come to him in St. Joseph. When I arrived in Freeport Bro. P. Hinners told me immediately that I could not go and Bro. Schuler came to me and asked me since when I had become a rebel, and that I could not go with his permission. And so I came to Peru, Ill. This time I thought the two Pres. Elders had done this to spite me—sending me to Peru when I wanted to go to St. Joe.

WHAT I FOUND.

I found six members in the town with an old church debt of \$700.00. If this debt was not paid until the fifteenth of April, 1864, the church was to be sold. With God's help the debt was paid, and in addition a new church was built in Troy Grove, all paid.

PERSECUTION—HORSEWHIPPED.

I tried to hold protracted meetings in Peru twice, but the weather was against us and I almost

believe it was the Lord's will that in this Sodom nothing was to be done. However, when in February, 1864, pleasant weather came, I announced a series of meetings resulting in great blessings, and twenty-five (25) joined the church at one time. But then the devil was aroused, and used specially the L. preacher, Sikmann, to hinder and oppose. One evening they let two doves fly through the windows, calling out, "Here comes the Holy Spirit"—and once they let a chicken fly in. Yet this was not enough. One day when I was calling on people in company with Bro. C. Loeber, we came to Mrs. Genter, the wife of a Lutheran deacon, who attended our meetings often, was converted and had joined the church. When we had been there a few minutes, her husband rushed in wildly calling out, "What are you doing here? Get out!" Bro. Loeber took hat and cane and left quickly. I, however, did not believe that an L. deacon would conduct himself so shamefully—so devilish—as he proceeded to do. He took a horse-whip and whipped me unmercifully, and my back, my face and hands showed bruises for a long time after.

The first year is past on Peru Mission. It was a year of work, but praise God, He did all things well. There were twenty-nine (29) conversions, and thirty-four (34) joined the church. The Missionary collection amounted to \$123.00—all other collections were good. The field did nobly. All are united in love. God be praises and thanksgiving. We go to Galena for Conference.

SECOND YEAR IN PERU, ILL.

January, 1865. The Conference at Galena was the first German one held, and all passed off well. I was returned to Peru for a second year. We made arrangements immediately to build a parsonage; on which I personally labored sixty-one and one-half ($61\frac{1}{2}$) days from morning till evening.

During the year the indebtedness for the parsonage was almost entirely collected and paid. It was not a year of unusual blessings for building up God's work, yet we had thirteen (13) conversions. The year passed quickly. Conference came. Collections were all good. Missionary collection was \$119.90. The field did much this year for the maintenance of God's Kingdom. Fourteen (14) joined the church.

October, 1865. The Conference held in Milwaukee was a blessed one, Bishop Becker presiding.

THIRD YEAR IN PERU, ILL.

It pleased God and the church to send me to Peru Mission for a third year. May God grant that this year may be a greatly blessed one. May God give me strength to do His work with vigor and zeal, earnestly striving for the salvation and blessing of many souls. Amen.

The third year is now ended. Fifteen (15) were converted. We raised here in these three years about \$3,000.00. All church debts, and improvements paid; a church in Troy Grove built, a lot was bought, and a new parsonage was built. God be praised—it is all free from debt.

LACROSSE MISSION, WIS.

Conference convenes in Chicago.

1866. Conference sent me to LaCrosse, Wis., where I found only one member in town.

The year passed with its many burdens and troubles. My whole salary was \$112.50—this to live on during the year.

Twenty-six joined on probation.

Conference was held in St. Paul. I was returned to LaCrosse.

1867. My old motto (heard from Papa Plank) "Victory or Death", was again my decision. I began again in the name of the Lord.

I gave up Burr Oak, because, first, they did not wish to do anything for God's cause—I had to take even fodder for my horse with me—and second, because they did not want preaching any longer.

So far everything has gone well. Eighteen (18) have joined the church. This year my salary was \$312.00.

I am going to Galena to Conference.

THIRD YEAR'S WORK.

1868. My old place, LaCrosse, for the third year. Oh! May the Lord do 'Wonders and Signs' in this year; help me to work earnestly. God bless my work. Amen.

During this year I had many trials and temptations to meet, but what hurt me the most and gave me much worry and heartache, was the deception and spitefulness of brothers on Breckenridge.

My salary was (?). Received from the Mission, \$300.00. From the members, \$254.00. Together, \$554.00. From this I paid for house rent, \$144.00; for the keep of a horse, \$110.00; traveling to Tomah, \$18.00; thus \$272.00 from \$554.00 left \$282.00 for our maintenance.

1869. I am going to Chicago to Conference. I am obliged to locate, because of my property. I am not able to sell it, nor to rent it without great loss.

The LaCrosse Mission included Mormon Coolee, 7 miles southeast; Chipmonk Coolee, 13 miles south; Breckenridge, 18 miles south; Burr Oaks, 25 miles north; Tomah, 40 miles east, and LaCrosse.

“VICTORY”

APPENDIX.

The laws of the Methodist Church during Father's early ministry permitted preachers to remain only one year in one field. Later the law was changed permitting two year's residence and later to three years.

Having served his allotted three years in La-Crosse, and having made some real estate investments, Father decided to locate there. As he was very fond of growing things, he built his first green house, consisting of a glass-covered lean-to against the southern side of the home. A brick cistern held the water supply. An ascending brick flue extended through the length of the greenhouse. This was enlarged at one end for a fireplace, the other end raised for a chimney—this gave ample and steady heat.

Father was always fond of making slips or cuttings and loved to watch them take root and grow. Later he called these his "babies"—and that part of the greenhouses devoted to their growth was his "baby-house".

From this small beginning developed the John A. Salzer Seed Co.—their extensive greenhouses and warehouses and world-wide trade of today.

Father was highly esteemed by all who knew him for his humility, faith, integrity, honesty and liberality. He always had the hearty co-operation and assistance of our dear gifted Mother in all attempts at Godly and self-sacrificing living, and in helping others to attain a higher plane. No doubt much of the success of his ministry was due to her self-sacrificing devotion to principles of righteousness.

During his La Crosse ministry Father bought the present church site, moving a small frame structure thereon, in which services were held until 1879, when it was remodeled and enlarged.

It was ever the ardent wish of both parents to erect a building suitable to the growing needs of the community and congregation, as a thank-offering to the Lord for His exceeding great and many blessings throughout their lives. Plans were often discussed—but they were not permitted to see their culmination.

In 1895 it was the privilege of their children to see the consummation of their parents' hopes, in a beautiful limestone church in Gothic style, on the location that John A. Salzer had bought in 1867.

Wilhelmina Joerris Salzer died in LaCrosse, June 27, 1886.

John Adam Salzer died in LaCrosse, January 22, 1892.

Their bodies lie side by side in the family lot in Oak Grove Cemetery.

