

Good Afternoon My name is ADRIANNA JANSSEN. I was born in Oss Holland May 26, 1852

I came to Little Chute with my Parents Arnold & Joanna Strick when I was 4 yr. old We lived on Wilson St near the railroad. I would have 5 younger brothers & sisters.

Being from the same town I would meet and begin courtship with Martin Jansen even though there was 12 years difference in age. I turned 17 four days before I Married Martin. We were married at St John Catholic Church in Little Chute by Father Verberk.

We live on a farm for 7 years before moving into Little Chute when my husband got a job in a mill. Our home was on Buchanan Street.

We had 20 Children. The 8th child, Henry, would die as a very young infant. The 10th child Johnny would die of diphtheria at age two. The other 18 were healthy and lived to provide much happiness and comfort to me. My children are Georgianna , Theodore, Arnold, Elizabeth, William, George, Peter, Henry, Martin, Johnny, John, Patrenella, Katherine, Henrietta, Mary, Adrianna, Henry, Johanna, Josephine, and Arthur.

When the crowd was at home we used ½ bushel of potatoes at a meal, 12 to 14 loaves of bread each day and 800 pounds of pork plus 600 pounds of beef a year. I would like to have those meals again because I would have lots of good company and lots of help from the children.

When the children were at home, my mother spun the yarn for their stockings and mittens, and I would sit up at night until 11:00 o'clock to keep up with my knitting. For their clothing, I bought cloth at the stores and made their clothing myself.

I never had any trouble with my house work because the children always helped me. With the aid of the boys who stayed at home until they were 21, we never had any trouble supporting the family.

My husband died of pneumonia on April 13, 1915 at the age of 62. He was laid to rest here. Our youngest child was only 6 yrs. at the time and 10 of the children were under the age of twenty. I was 51 yrs. at the time.

By the time I was 63 yrs. I had 87 direct descendants including 18 children, the youngest 18 yrs. and the oldest 44 yrs. 62 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

I am confined to a wheelchair now.

I can't work like I used to but my children do the house work for me. I would enjoy having the children about me again and to be able to clothe and feed them again.

I enjoyed the good neighbors. We used to go to dances and parties and always had a good time.

Although there is a streak of gray here and there in my hair and I am not as active as I once was on account of the almost superhuman work I had to do in raising 20 children, a friend said that is how I retain my youthful sparkle of eye and alertness of mind.

I died in July of 1930 at the age of 65.

Little Chute Historical Society Cemetery Walk 2012



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PHOR. RESEARCHER (STOLBMAN)