

Martin and Adelgunda Heiner were German immigrants to the U.S. Upon arriving in 1845, they couldn't speak a word of English and arrived almost penniless in Waynesboro, Pa. Martin worked in odd jobs for 14 months until he settled down as a laborer in an iron factory.

In 1852, Martin and Adelgunda began attending meetings with Elder Jakob Secrist, a convert from the region who was on his way from Utah to Germany to serve a Mission. Elder Secrist spent about a month in the area visiting his sister before continuing on to Germany, and during this time he became acquainted with the Heiners. Before he departed for his mission, he baptized both Martin and Adelgunda.

The Heiner embraced the gospel and raised their family faithfully in the church. Their son George wrote the following tribute to his parents:

"I feel very thankful for my goodly parentage. I think my father and mother were true Israelites. They received the gospel with thankful hearts. I thank them for giving me a good strong body, for straight limbs, and good habits and a desire to do things. For a good memory and for good eyesight and for teaching me the true gospel and teaching me reverence for God. I always tried to carry out their counsel and advice; their example has always been a beacon of light to me. I want to honor them through all eternity."

Martin and Adelgunda were simple people with great faith, and their love for the gospel was carried on by their children. One simple example shows the love, dedication, faith, and commitment to the gospel of Martin and Adelgunda Heiner and their descendants. In George's personal history he wrote:

"When father (Martin) moved to North Morgan in September, 1863, he was appointed to furnish the sacrament for the meetings. He and mother (Adelgunda) attended this until my mother died from the effects of a stroke on December 24, 1894. Father then asked to be released, and I was appointed in his stead. Father had the sacrament for 31 years. My wife (Sarah Jane Taggart Heiner) and I attended to the sacrament until she died, September 29, 1933. When I awakened on Sunday morning, my first thought was the sacrament. I never felt that it was a burden, but felt that I was just doing my duty. I don't remember of ever being late with the sacrament. Thirty-one years for father, and thirty-nine for me, makes seventy years in all. My son Horace is the Bishop of the North Morgan Ward now, and he is still furnishing the sacrament."

Horace Heiner and wife, Amy Alice West Heiner, continued furnishing bread for the sacrament for another 23 years. In total, three generations of Morgan Ward. This simple example of faith and dedication to the calling are a strong testimony to me and my children of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Submitted by Newell Wright. His wife, the former Julie Gold, is a descendant of the Heiners (Julie, daughter of Melba Heiner, daughter of Horace Heiner, son of George Heiner, son of Martin).