

HENRY FRICKE

VII

Seventh Child of Christian and Caroline Schaper Fricke

HENRY FRICKE

born May 15, 1870

died February 2, 1873



Henry was born on the Christian Fricke farm approximately six and one half miles northeast of State Center, Iowa. He was baptized at St. John's Lutheran Church.

He was the only child of Christian and Caroline Fricke never to attain adulthood.

When only a little over two years, eight and one half months of age he died of burns incurred when he was accidentally scalded by falling into a bucket of hot lye water.

The date of his birth and that of his death may be found in St. John's Lutheran Church records at State Center, Iowa.

The following is dedicated to Christian, Caroline and Henry

UNDERSTANDING

I'll lend you for a little while a child of mine, He said,
For you to love while he lives, and mourn for when he's dead.
It may be six or seven years, or 21 or '3,
But will you, till I call him back, take care of him for me?
He'll bring his charms to gladden you, and should his stay be brief,
You'll have his lovely memories as solace to your grief.

I cannot promise he will stay, since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught down there, I want this child to learn;
I've looked this wide world over in my search for teachers true,
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes, I have selected you.
Now will you give him all your love, nor think the labor vain,
Nor hate Me when I come to call and take him back again?

I fancied that I heard them say, "Dear Lord, Thy will be done.
For all the joy Thy child shall bring, the risk of grief we'll run.
We'll shelter him with tenderness, we'll love him while we may,
And for the happiness we've known, forever grateful stay.
But should the angels call for him, much sooner than we've planned.
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes, and try to understand.