

Heinrich family celebrate centenary of ministry

On October 4, 2008, descendants of Rev John Heinrich and his wife Augustina (pictured right) met at Laidley Baptist Hall to celebrate 100 years since their namesake's arrival in Australia.

Relatives were kept busy in the day renewing contacts. Some cousins had not met or communicated with each other for years – great reminiscences were enjoyed. Roll books recorded descendants of each Heinrich sibling - Ruth, Carl, Walter, Daniel, Myrtle, Samuel and Mildred. Ron Heinrich (son of Sam) welcomed all present including Rev Dr David Parker, historian for the Baptist Union of Queensland and past President, Pastor John Lane and also Richard Scanlan, a local historian whose parents were married by Rev John Heinrich. Rev Dr Parker spoke about the influence that the early German Pastors had on establishing Baptist churches in Queensland.



Queensland Baptist (January 1, 1909) detailed the events that unfolded upon arrival at Blenheim.

Rev Heinrich preached his first sermon (in German) at Blenheim on Sunday December 13, 1908 using Psalm 122:6-9 as his text. Their salary at that time was fixed at 120 pounds per year. The Heinrich family lived in the manse a short distance from the Blenheim Church



Below are some excerpts of a summary of the life and times of Rev John and his wife presented by Keith Heinrich (grandson of Carl):

- Johannes (John) Heinrich was born in Berlin, Germany on September 6, 1875 and migrated to America arriving in New York on November 20, 1891 at 16 years of age. Shipping records show that he traveled alone.
- Augustina was born in Luxembourg in 1882 and traveled to New York with her family in 1894.
- John began his Theological studies at Rochester Seminary around 1900 at age 24 and was ordained at Delmont South Dakota possibly on June 17, 1906.
- John and Augustina were married on May 15, 1906 at First German Baptist Church in New York. The building still stands today.
- John and Augustina had two children while serving in Delmont – Ruth (1907) and Carl (1908).

In 1908, the Heinrich family responded to a call to serve the congregations of Blenheim and Tent Hill, arriving in Brisbane on December 1, 1908. An article from the

building. On the first and third Sundays of each month, Rev Heinrich preached at Blenheim and on the second and fourth Sundays at Tent Hill. The journey from Blenheim to Tent Hill involved a long journey by horse drawn vehicle. The Heinrichs had the use of motor buggy transport in 1913. In 1928, the congregations of both churches presented the family with a new Chevrolet car at a cost of \$205. Rev Heinrich was very active in the young people's ministry and formed "Christian Endeavour" groups at both churches. During his ministry, there was the complete transition from the German to the English language.

John and Augustina served the Blenheim and Tent Hill Baptist communities for 22 years and retired in 1931 to their property at Coominya. In 1933, John took up another pastoral assignment in Kalbar. In 1935 his health declined and he passed away May 5, 1936 at age 60. Augustina continued to live at the farm until her death on February 16, 1943. They are buried at Laidley cemetery.

By Ron Heinrich with assistance from Keith Heinrich and Richard Scanlan