

Death of Jens Edward Rasmussen -- An Excerpt From Sarah Jane's Journal

Transcribed by Scott Rasmussen, great-grandson.

My husband went to the show on Thursday, March 16, 1950. I was not very well and had not been since before Christmas. I had been teaching the special interest group in mutual for a few weeks. We were studying, "The Articles of Faith in Everyday Life." I guess I over taxed, anyway my nerves got bad again so I had to give it up. I did not go to the show that night. Father came home and was sick all night. I got Reuben Hurd to take me to J. Roy's store the next morning and I called Joel at Oakley. He came over and stayed for a few days. The other children came that evening from Oakley and Robert and Lethe came from Burley with them. Lethe examined him and said he had a kidney infection. He was very ill. Joel stayed until Sunday. Father woke up about 2 A.M. Sunday morning and seemed very discouraged, as if he felt he was not going to get well. I called Joel and he went for Orville Beecher and they administered to him; then Eula came down and had breakfast with us. She led us in the family prayer and it was wonderful the faith she had. She visited with Father and he seemed better. The children all came from Oakley again that day. Robert and Lethe also. Lethe said the infection was clearing up. Josie took my washing home with her. Robert stayed and the others went home. Yost came over to Elba with a play Monday night. That was the first Roberta knew her father was ill. She was in the play and came down after it to see us for a little while. She and Douglas came over Tuesday and stayed until Wednesday night. Robert went home Tuesday evening. Father appeared much better. Thursday morning he woke up with a cough caused by his heart. I got Reuben Hurd to take me to phone to Lethe. I came home and gave him some digatol. We had breakfast. Father helped me do the dishes. He shaved, went out to the toilet, came back, and stood and talked to Orville Beecher for awhile. We both laid down on the davenport and rested for awhile and visited. I prepared dinner; he ate a good dinner. Then I said, "Let's lie down for awhile." He said, "No. I will sit here in my big easy chair." He just got sit down and said, "I can't take this," got up, and started for the davenport-- just got his head and shoulders on it and passed out. I called and called to him and struggled to get his feet and legs up on the couch. Finally he coughed and seemed to come back, but was suffering untold agony. I ran outside and called for help, then ran back to see if he was still alive. I finally ran over to Hurd's and sent Reuben to get the Elders and call a doctor. Orville and his father came and administered to him, but he just couldn't stand to have their hands on his head. The doctors said it was no good for them to come, they couldn't do anything. Reuby and Ren, Ella Beecher, Eva Hurd, Beth Ward, Merlin Ottley, and Keith D.--all were there, but there was nothing anyone could do. He passed away about _____. Someone called the children from Oakley. They were in Burley to a sale. They came as soon as possible. Beth went for Roberta.