

Jantzi, John T.

John T. Jantzi of Pigeon entered his heavenly home on his 88th birthday, Feb. 19, 2010 while at Medilodge of Sterling.

Born in AuGres on Feb. 19, 1922, he was the son of the late John and Fanny (Troyer) Jantzi. He was married to Mary Swartzendruber, who preceded him in death Nov. 23, 1963. On June 4, 1966 he was married to Naomi R. Swartz, who survives him.

John was a farmer. He also worked as a self-employed carpenter and for Pigeon Lumber Company for over 50 years, retiring in 1987, but continued working in the carpentry business another 10 years. He was a custom woodworker, a hunter, and a fisherman. He also loved reading, studying history, and working with the soil. He loved and adored his children and especially playing with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a faithful member of Pigeon River Mennonite Church where he taught Sunday School and served as elder.

In addition to his wife, Naomi, John is survived by three sons, John (Lois) Jantzi of Danville, Pa., Darren (Kathie) Jantzi of Lake Mills, Wis., and Kevin (Sarah) Jantzi of Valparaiso, Ind.; two daughters, Diane (Gerald) Swartz of AuGres and Rose (Clayton) Shetler of Goshen, Ind.; 10 grandchildren, Stephanie (Dan) Tuuri, Deborah (Rob) Schneider, Crystal (Seth) Kanaskie, Derrick (Nichol) Jantzi, Sarah (Nidhal) Bouazizi, Jonathan Shetler, Adrienne Jantzi, Michael Jantzi, Will Jantzi, and Heidi Jantzi; two great-grandchildren, Anna and Davin Tuuri; a sister, Matilda Kipfer of Corinth, N.Y.; sisters-in-law, Miriam Jantzi of Phoenix, Ariz. and Miriam Jantzi of Lima, Ohio; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Arlyn, in 1982; five sisters, Anna Bontrager (Clarence), Katie Swartz (John), Minnie Jantzi, Edna Mast (Eli), and Fanny Litwiller Swartz (Art, John); and seven brothers, Will Jantzi (Rose), Andrew Jantzi (Verda), David Jantzi, Jerry Jantzi (Alta), Albert Jantzi (Mabel), Alvin Jantzi, and Elmer Jantzi.

Funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at Pigeon River Mennonite Church, with the Rev. Alvin Yoder, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Visitation from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m. until the service, Tuesday at the church.

Memorials may be made to Pigeon River Mennonite Church, Helping Hands Ministry, or Pigeon Food Pantry

Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home, Pigeon, is conducting the arrangements.