

### **Rev. Schmidt Installed at Serbin**

Rev. Herman Schmidt of Dexter, Iowa was installed Sunday as pastor of the Lutheran Church at Serbin. The church had been without a resident pastor for two and one-half years and when it seemed that about all ministers to whom the call had been extended would not accede to the invitation, Rev. Schmidt accepted. He was reared in that community and his parents still reside there and his acceptance was welcomed by the entire membership.

The installation sermons were preached Sunday morning by Rev. Fischer of Giddings and Rev. Bohot of Winchester. The Giddings male choir under leadership of Prof. Dube rendered several selections which were very acceptable. During the afternoon, a reception was tendered the new pastor and his family, at which time Prof. Louis Kasper delivered the address of welcome in behalf of the membership.

The Serbin church was founded in 1854. On May 23, sixty-eight years ago, a body of Wends in Germany who could not tolerate persecution and who were denied their religious freedom emigrated, five hundred in number, with their pastor Rev. John Killian to Texas. The party landed at Galveston December 14 1854 and, with pastor, a church organ and a church bell, they proceeded to the Serbin community. A log house was soon erected on the spot of the present church site and this house served as parsonage, school and church house. Rev. Killian besides serving his own colony, would make a trip on horse back once a month to New Ulm, forty miles away and preach. He also preached at Shelby (Austin County), Swiss Alp (Fayette County) and at Bastrop.

The present rock building was dedicated December 3 1871. The older inhabitants of this section of the state still remember that day as being one which drew people of all denominations and classes for miles and miles. The largeness of the building and its location away from any of the principle lines of travel of those days were extraordinary features. The building stands today as it was originally planned. Rev. Killian continued to serve as their pastor preaching in three languages English, German and Wendish until he was succeeded on July 22, 1883 by his son the late Rev. H. T. Killian who served for almost forty years, death having called him from his active labors. Another son of Rev. John Killian, Prof. G. A. Killian, was teacher for more than forty years of the parochial school which is maintained by the church. He was a master musician on the pipe organ and his music has charmed many hearers for the many years. The present pastor is the successor of Rev. Killian and the school is taught by Profs. Schroeder and Kasper. More than a dozen ministers and teachers have gone from that church to stations scattered over many states.