

D. A. Baumgartner Meets Tragic Death

Mr. Baumgartner is a brother of L. L. Baumgartner and Mrs. Rohr of this place and the sympathy of this community goes out to them.

The following account was gleaned from the North Manchester News-Journal:

D. A. Baumgartner died Saturday just before noon at the Wabash hospital from burns he had received early Saturday morning when oil exploded that he was using to start a fire at the North Manchester hatchery. It was about 5:30 that the fire occurred. Mr. Baumgartner occupied a room in the rear of the hatchery for sleeping quarters. After dressing he went to start a fire in the stove using coal oil. There must have been coals in the stove, for an explosion followed. The burning oil was thrown onto Mr. Baumgartner and his clothing caught fire. He fought the fire for a bit and then made his way to the front door.

Noah Bolinger was in the alley by the Bunker second hand store and heard the explosion. He hurried in the street and as he did so saw the flames in the hatchery. When he reached the door Baumgartner was trying to get it open. Bolinger broke the door in, and dragged Baumgartner out, tearing off his burning clothing. He was so badly burned that the skin slipped from his hands. Dr. Z. M. Beaman was called, and Baumgartner was given first attention and sent to the Wabash hospital.

Mr. Baumgartner was of Swiss parentage but was born in Adams county near Berne about 60 years ago. He came to North Manchester about seven years ago opening a branch of the Geneva hatchery. Later he and other associates acquired an interest in this and several other hatcheries. Mrs. Baumgartner died about 20 years ago. A son, Herbert, lives in California, and several brothers and sisters are living, Edward at Berne, Lewis at South Whitley, Charles of Hartford City, Mrs. Emma Rohn of South Whitley and Mrs. Mary Oplinger of Berne. During his residence in this city he has made many friends. He was regarded as square and upright in every way, and his death brought a shadow of sorrow to all.

L. L. Baumgartner received a telegram Tuesday from the deceased's son stating that he would arrive here Thursday evening. The funeral will be held at the Linn Grove church Friday morning at 10:30. Interment in nearby cemetery.

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