

## **News-Sentinel, The (Fort Wayne, IN) - Wednesday, April 16, 2003**

IRA CLAIR GERBER, 89, of Berne, died Tuesday, April 15, 2003, at Swiss Village, Berne. Born June 12, 1913, in Kidron, Ohio, he was a member of First Mennonite Church, Berne. He retired from Dunbar Furniture as an upholsterer after 42 hours and was a U.S. Army World War II veteran. Surviving are a son, Don Gerber of Fort Wayne; daughter, Mrs. Dick (Karen) Smitley, Fort Wayne and Mrs. Jeanelle Gerber, Sequim, Wash.; brother, Leonard Gerber, Kidron, Ohio; sister, Verda (Coiser) Nussbaum of Orville, Ohio; five grandchildren, Krissy Grostefon, Julia Shriner, Matt Gerber, Brent Smitley, Chad Smitley; nine great-grandchildren, Carrell and Luke Smitley, Noah Gerber, Megan and Cody Smitley, Ellie Gerber, Jaime, Nathan, and Nicole Shriner. He was preceded in death by his wife, Vera in 1998; his parents, Peter and Anna (Hofstetter) Gerber; brothers, Elam, Alvin, Wilson and Roy, sisters, Helen Geiser, Etta Geiser, Ella Amstutz, Orpha Geiser and Viola Gerber. Services are 10 a.m. Friday at First Mennonite Church, Berne, with the Revs. Craig Maven and Harold Nussbaum officiating with calling one hour prior to services and from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday at Swiss Village Chapel. Burial is at M.R.E. Cemetery, Berne. Memorials to Swiss Village Endowment Fund.