

Unknown Berne newspaper dated Friday, April 26, 1912

MRS. ANDREW MERTZ ENDS HER LIFE

Mrs. Andrew Mertz in French Township ended her life yesterday morning by hanging herself. Her mind had been partly unbalanced for some time, caused by sickness.

She was 48 years old and leaves a sorrowing husband, 3 daughters, 2 sons, a mother, 4 sisters and 3 brothers.

The funeral will be held Sunday morning at 9 o'clock at the house and at 10 o'clock at the Missionary church three miles west of Berne.

(Paper not stated - Tuesday, April 30, 1912)

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Diller and babe, of Pandora, O., Dan Amstutz of Ft. Recovery, O., and Mr. and Mrs. Amos Amstutz of Grabill, attended the funeral here Sunday of their relative, Mrs. Andrew Mertz.

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Rev. Adam Wittwer of Archbold, O., preached the funeral sermon of Mrs. Andrew Mertz last Sunday at the Missionary church, three miles west of Berne. It was by far the largest funeral ever held in that church. Not nearly all the people were able to get inside who had gone to show their sympathy to the heart-broken father and children whose loved one took such a sad departure from them.

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, Allen County, Indiana; April 26, 1912

TWO SUICIDES IN ADAMS COUNTY

DECATUR, Ind. April 25 - For the first time, perhaps in the history of the county, Coroner J. C. Grandstaff, of Preble, received two calls at about the same time to hold an inquest on suicides. One was a man, aged fifty-two, a prominent farmer of St. Mary's township, who shot himself in the head at 6:40 o'clock this morning, and the other was Lizzie, aged 48, wife of Andrew Mertz, living two and one-half miles west of Linn Grove, in French township.

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Mrs. Mertz had also been ill and it is said, suffered from derangement of the mind. This was also noticed about two years ago, though she became better at times. She arose as usual this morning, made a fire, put on the coffeepot and tea kettle. Her husband also arose and went to feed the horses. When the children arose, they found the mother gone and as her absence continued, the eight-year-old son went to look for her. He found her lifeless body hanging in the children's playhouse in the orchard. She had taken a piece of outing flannel torn from a comfort, made a rope of it and tied it to a joist, climbed to a ladder, and then swung herself away, her feet four inches from the floor. Her neck was not broken, but she suffered death by strangulation. She weighs about two hundred pounds and the strain was a severe one.

She was a woman broadly known for her charity and many homes of widows were replenished from her well-stocked larder. She leaves the husband and five children. Her mother, Mrs. Mary Amstutz, is also living in French township. The following brothers and sisters also survive: Dan Amstutz of Fort Recovery, Ohio; John of north of Berne; Amos of Grabill; Will of Linn Grove; Sarah Zimmerman of Linn Grove; Mary Klopfenstine of north of Berne; Rosa Templon of Petroleum; Anna Buhler of Pandora, Ohio.

All contributed by Karin King