

**Adams County Historical Museum clipping with handwritten date of Thursday, Dec. 3, 1936**

**MANAGER OF BERNE WITNESS DIES TUESDAY**

Fred Rohrer, Aged 68, Dies at Home Here; Native of Switzerland

Fred Rohrer, aged 68, founder and manager of the Berne Witness Company, died at his home on North Jefferson street, shortly before 1 o'clock Tuesday morning, following an illness of about ten days. The immediate cause of death was pneumonia, which set in about 24 hours before his death. He had suffered for some time from Bright's disease and arthritis.

Mr. Rohrer suffered considerably during the last stages of his sickness, but passed away peacefully.

**FUNERAL TODAY**

The funeral was held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Mennonite church, with Rev. C. H. Suckau officiating. Burial was in the M.R.E. Cemetery. The body lay in state at the church from 1 to 2 o'clock this afternoon. Members of the Berne Chamber of Commerce attended the funeral in a body.

Mr. Rohrer was widely known throughout this community and was for many years one of the leaders of this town. He had been in ill health for many years, but was able to be at his office most of the time. Several months ago he was confined to his home for several days when he suffered from high blood pressure, but he recovered. He was at the office the last time Friday morning, November 20. He became bedfast in the afternoon of that day and his condition was pronounced serious two days later. He gradually weakened until the end.

Mr. Rohrer was born near the city of Bern, Switzerland, December 9, 1867, the second in a family of 14 children. His parents, John Christian and Rosina Danz Rohrer, moved in 1883 with the family to America, settling first in Wayne county, O. Mr. Rohrer was 16 years old at the time and two years later the family moved here.

Upon locating in Berne, Mr. Rohrer clerked in a local store for a few years and then entered the Tri-State Normal College at Angola. He was graduated with honors in 1896.

It was during his last year in college that he began to learn the printer's trade as an apprentice with the Steuben Republican.

Mr. Rohrer returned to Berne on July 31, 1896 and purchased a job printing plant, made a few additions, including a Washington hand press, and on September 3, 1896, appeared the first newspaper printed in Berne.

During the first four years, Mr. Rohrer was alone in the business, but in November, 1900, he formed a partnership with three other men, retaining half interest.

Mr. Rohrer, from October, 1928 to 1932, held the office of postmaster here and was not acting manager during that period.

He was leader of the anti-saloon forces of clearing the town of its saloons in the notable campaign of 1903, which went on for four years. During that time his (cut) ... "Saloon Fight in Berne", which went through three editions in English and one in German. The book had more than a national circulation. The story of his memorable fight has been printed in many newspaper and religious periodical in the country.

Mr. Rohrer was a leader in many civic projects. He was named Trustee of the Anti-Saloon league of the state, served as secretary of the large Mennonite denomination for many years, named manager of the community auditorium and chairman of the board of directors of the Peoples State bank, and many other organizations, social and religious activities.

Mr. Rohrer was married November 16, 1893 to Miss Emma Reusser. They had a family of five children: Ira D., the older son, president-manager of the John Wilding Paper company of Fort Wayne; Paul, who assembled and built an airplane, and who, after four successful flights, on Thanksgiving day, 1916 - 20 years ago Monday - was killed in attempting to make a landing. Ruth A. was the third child and she is the wife of Orten Wulliman, an employe of the Berne Witness. Miss Margaret H., at home, was long an employe of the firm as stenographer and bookkeeper until ill health prevented. Evangeline, the youngest, is the wife of David Embler, Jr., both graduates of the Westminster choir school.

Surviving besides the wife and children is a sister, Lizzie, of Fort Wayne. All other brothers and sisters preceded, his brother, Robert, of Tennessee, dying last May.

There are five grandchildren who survive, Eleanor and Marjorie, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Rohrer; Hilda, Mary and Robert Lewis, children of Mr. and Mrs. Orten Wulliman of this place.

Adding to the story-book life of Fred Rohrer, is the fact that in 1920 he was bedfast for nine months. A contrivance was made so he could still "push the pencil," figure jobs and make estimates. He had telephone connections to his bed and answered long distance calls.

**Contributed by Karin King**