

Dec 7, 1939

Adams County Native Kills Wife and Self Elijah Nidlinger Kills Bride of Two Months This Morning

Elijah H. Nidlinger, 75, former resident and native of Adams county, shot and killed his bride of two months and then took his own life at his Warsaw home early this morning.

Nidlinger, a former Union township farmer, who had lived since his birth on the farm near the Root township line until about 20 years ago was said to have been despondent over marital difficulties with his bride.

A note addressed to a son, Roy Nidlinger, who lives at Monroe, south of this city, said that "I had a very lonesome life living alone (his first wife died May 30, 1933) but now it is not worth living. I want my son Roy to look after settling up my estate and Asa Leckrone, of Warsaw, as attorney, as he is familiar with my business." The note was found in the house.

The body of his wife, Mathilda Hani-Nidlinger, was found on the front porch, riddled with four bullets. She was clad in a nightgown. Nidlinger's body lay on the bed fully clad except for shoes, a bullet in his head and one in his heart.

Police believed that he had brooded all night and sometime before 7:00 am this morning sat on the bed, fired the four shots into his wife, as she lay sleeping and then turned the .22 caliber revolver on him. The second shot into his heart killed him. The authorities believed that Mrs. Nidlinger, although fatally wounded, took the gun from his hand, placed it on the dresser and struggled to the porch for help. Her body was found there.

The deceased was born near here December, 1864. Surviving besides the son, Roy are a daughter, Mrs. James Sprague and a sister, Mrs. John D. Stults, Decatur.

Funeral services have not been arranged. The bodies were taken to the Landis and Hietman funeral home in Warsaw. It was reported that the Nidlingers had quarreled frequently since their marriage.

Fri., Dec 8, 1939

Nidlinger Funeral Service Saturday

Double funeral services will be held at the Landis funeral home in Warsaw Saturday morning at 9:30 for Mr. and Mrs. Elijah H. Nidlinger, who were found shot to death in their home Thursday morning.

The body of Mr. Nidlinger, who was a native of Adams county and well known in this community, will be brought to the Decatur cemetery for burial. Sunday afternoon, another service will be held for Mrs. Nidlinger and burial will be in Oakwood cemetery at Warsaw.

Adams County Historical Museum
1939 Scrapbook
Transcribed by Danielle Warmuth