

DEATHS

Mr. Daniel D. Witmer, of Peoria, Ill., formerly of Grabill, Ind., and father of Mrs. Chester Moser, passed away March 17 in Peoria. He was almost 85. Funeral [is] in Harlan, Ind.

(Karin King note: Buried in Leo Memorial Park, Leo-Cedarville, Allen County, Indiana)

(Handwritten date: April 15, 1967)

FATHER OF MISSIONARY DIES

Mrs. David Zehr returned from Baden, Austria to attend the funeral of her father, Mr. Sharpe, of Pekin, Indiana. She also visited the Zehr family at Gridley, Illinois and shared life experiences in Austria with the Salem congregation at the Midweek service.

(No handwritten date)

DEATHS

Bradley Becker, thirteen month old son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Becker of Woodburn, passed away May 3.

MENNO STEURY of Berne, Indiana, born February 5, 1901, son of Peter and Mary Mazelin Steury, died Saturday, April 22, 1967 in Decatur, Indiana.

Surviving are his wife Velma Augsburg Steury, and three sons, Robert D., Palmer and Ron. Also five daughters, Mary Jane Weller, Mrs. Robert (Betty) Reinhard, Mrs. Dean (Lois) Williams, Mrs. Ronald (Nancy) Lautzenheiser and Linda Steury.

Mr. Steury was a member of the Evangelical Mennonite church of Berne where funeral services were held with Pastor Veryl Roth officiating. Burial in the church cemetery.

(Karin King note: buried in Evangelical Mennonite Church Cemetery, Berne, Indiana)

(Handwritten: "Summer 1970")

MRS. NOAH H. REDIGER [Amelia Oyer], 84, died July 5 in Glendora, California, where she was residing with her daughter, Frieda. Funeral services were conducted in Glendora by Rev. Daniel Dyck of the Pomona Missionary Church. Burial was in Memory Lawn, Phoenix, Arizona. She was preceded in death by her husband, Noah. Surviving are four children: Mrs. Homer Price of Lake Havasu, Arizona, Dr. Milo Rediger of Upland, Indiana, Lloyd Rediger of Fort Wayne and Frieda Rediger of Glendora, California.

(Handwritten: "Summer Year 1970")

EDWARD BEITLER, 89, Geneva, Indiana, was born October 30, 1880, son of John Beitler, and passed away July 12, 1970. He was married to Sarah Zehr, May 29, 1909, who preceded in death in 1964. Surviving are two sons, Glenford Beitler, Decatur and Leonard [Benny] Beitler, Fort Wayne, and a niece, Mrs. Erma Graber, who was raised in the Beitler home. He was a member at the Evangelical Mennonite church where funeral services were held with Rev. Robert Zehr, pastor, officiating, assisted by Rev. Kenneth Hawkins, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene.

(Karin King note: buried Evangelical Mennonite Church Cemetery, Berne, Indiana)

(For May 15, 1948)

ELMER W. RABER, son of Peter and Anna (Mosiman) Raber, was born March 12, 1892 in Livingston County, Illinois, and departed from this life on April 4, 1948 at his home in Woodburn, Indiana at the age of 56 years and 22 days.

In 1914, he was united in marriage to Pearl Mabel Oyer of Odgen, Iowa. To this union two children were born: Mrs. Opal Brayton of Fort Wayne, Indiana and Mrs. Ola Gerig, of Woodburn, Indiana.

As a young man he accepted Christ as his Savior and united with the Defenseless Mennonite Church of which he remained a faithful member until death. He had been in failing health for a number of years; his death, however, came very sudden, and as an unexpected shock to his loved ones and to the community, but we know that what God does is well done.

He leaves to mourn his departure his two daughters, Mrs. Opal Brayton and Mrs. Ola Gerig, of Woodburn, his mother, Mrs. Anna Raber, and one brother, Roy, of Fort Wayne; three sisters, Mrs. Esther Oyer and Mrs. Mamie Oyer of Woodburn, and Mrs. Irma Albersmeyer of Fort Wayne and three grandchildren, besides a large group of relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, his father and two sisters.

Bro. Raber met with some real disappointments in life, the greatest of these was undoubtedly the early departure of his companion when his children were yet small. No doubt because of that experience he had many lonely hours in life, and yet apparently he had grace to arise above the circumstances and manifest a cheerful disposition to all with whom he came in contact.

Sleep on, our loved one, sleep on and take your rest,
Pillow your head upon the dear Savior's breast,
We loved you well, but Jesus loved you best,
So sleep on, dear one, just sleep on, and take your rest,
And since it's only sleep we'll not say goodbye,
For some bright morning we'll meet you in the sky.
With all our loved ones who have gone before,
We'll be with our dear Savior to part never more.

Funeral services were conducted at the Mennonite church in Woodburn, by the pastor, Rev. E. M. Rocke.

(KK note: Buried Woodburn Cemetery, Woodburn, Allen County, Indiana)

(For August 15, 1948)

OBITUARIES

DAVID KLOPFENSTEIN, 85, Grabill, died of leg and back injuries at 4:15 a.m. Thursday, July 29. He received leg and back injuries Monday when an auto driven by David D. Yoder, his son-in-law, collided with another car. Surviving Mr. Klopfenstein are three sons, Irvin, Howard and Ralph, Grabill; three daughters, Mrs. Elsie Yoder, Grabill, Mrs. Hazel Mills, Ft. Wayne and Mrs. Clara Freeman, Hometown; 17 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at the Grabill Evangelical Mennonite Church on Sunday, August 1, with Rev. Reuben Cantrell officiating. Mr. Klopfenstein was one of the original members of the Grabill church.

(Karin King note: David buried Old Leo Cemetery, Leo-Cedarville, Allen County, Indiana)

(For August 15, 1948)

MARTHA M. BIBERSTEIN, daughter of Peter and Lena Neuenschwander, was born in Bluffton, Ind. August 10th, 1888 and died at the Adams County Hospital at 2:20 A.M. Saturday July 3, 1948, at the age of (cut off)

(Karin King note Martha BIBERSTINE is buried Evangelical Mennonite Church Cemetery, Berne, Indiana)

(No date)

LAVINA STUCKEY, daughter of Nicholas B. and Anna Zimmerman Stuckey, was born near Flanagan, Illinois Sept. 10, 1871. She was the second child in a family of three girls and four boys. For many years she lived with her parents on a farm northwest of Flanagan, Illinois.

Her mother preceded her in death April 17, 1906, her father, August 6, 1913, one sister and one brother in infancy, also a brother Henry of Wauseon, Ohio in January 1946.

In her youth, she accepted Christ as her Savior, uniting with the Defenseless Mennonite Church in Waldo Township, S.E. of Flanagan. In 1919 after moving with her sister and family to near Wauseon, O., she united with the Zion United Brethren Church, which she faithfully attended as long as her health would permit.

For the past two years, she had been in poor health, but it was not until the last month of her life that her condition became critical. When on April 20, 1948, she passed on to be with her Lord whom she dearly loved, having attained the age of 71 years, 7 months and 10 days.

Surviving are two brothers, Eli of Streator, Ill., Amos of Flanagan, Ill., and her sister Mrs. Clara Johnson of Delta, Ohio, with whom she made her home since the demise of her father.

Brief services were held at the Lehman Funeral Home in Flanagan, with Rev. H. E. Bertsche, pastor of the Salem Defenseless Mennonite Church officiating. Funeral text was Eccl. 8:8. Interment was in Center Cemetery, N. W. of Flanagan.

(August 15, 1948)

HUBERT DEVON STUCKY, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stucky, Grabill, Indiana, was born November 25, 1926 and departed this life March 26, 1948 at the age of 21 years, 4 months and 1 day.

Hubert was born and raised in the Grabill community and was a graduate of the Leo High School in the class of 1945. He was a member of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Grabill.

He leaves to mourn his departure his parents of Spencerville, two brothers, Glenn and Earl of Ft. Wayne, two sisters, Lorene Snelling, of Auburn and Joy Stucky of Ft. Wayne. One sister preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held at the Grabill church with the pastor Rev. Reuben Cantrell officiating, and Rev. M. L. Klopfenstein assisting. Burial and graveside services were at the Leo Cemetery.

"Abide with me: fast falls the even tide;

The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:

When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,

Help of the helpless, O abide with me!

Adams County Historical Museum

1933-1953 Scrapbook, Image 022

Transcribed by Karin King