

(Handwritten date: Monday, April 22, 1940)

...DIES SUDDENLY FRIDAY EVENING

Funeral For Prominent Carpenter Was Held This P.M.

Eli Baumgartner, 70, former town councilman and long a prominent carpenter and contractor, died at his home on West Water street at about 5:15 p.m. Friday. The almost sudden death removes a citizen who had long been identified with the civic life of Berne.

Death was attributed to heart trouble. He had first complained of feeling ill Thursday after he went to make some estimates on some construction work. He was confined to his bed on Friday and complained of neuralgic pains in his arms and chest. The unexpected death came as a great shock to his fellow citizens.

Funeral services were held this afternoon at 1:45 at the home and at 2:00 o'clock at the Mennonite church of which he was a faithful member since January 1, 1888. Dr. C. H. Suckau, pastor of the church, officiated. Burial was made in the M.R.E. cemetery.

The decedent was born in Wayne county, Ohio, December 11, 1869. In 1872, he moved with his parents, Christian and Fanny Gerber Baumgartner, to this community. When eight years old he began to help his father cutting down trees one mile north of Vera Cruz. Always industrious, at 12, he commenced to work in a tile factory, where he continued four summers.

In 1886 he began working for the late J. A. Sprunger, doing all kinds of work, in factory and saw mill, engineering, making "Mougey" harrows, cider press work, painting and doing carpenter work on houses.

Later, he chose for his trade carpenter work, and continued under a boss until 1893, when he began contracting himself and continued to do so to the time of his death.

He made for himself a good reputation as carpenter and builder and probably built more houses here than any one contractor.

He was married to Louise Lehman on December 23, 1894, at the Mennonite church, the late Rev. S. F. Sprunger receiving the vows.

Surviving besides the widow, are the following children: Ira Baumgartner, superintendent of schools at Sylvania, Ohio; Mrs. Edwin (Ora) Nussbaum of near Berne, Mrs. Earl (Elva) Winteregg of Los Angeles, California; two brothers, George and Ed of Fort Wayne and a sister, Mrs. Eli (Lavina) Amstutz of Apple Creek, Ohio.

One child died in infancy. Seven grandchildren survive.

Brothers and sisters preceding were Sarah Ann, Aldula, Lenhart, Emma Louise and Calvin.

Mr. Baumgartner was a Democrat and served efficiently on the Town Council here 1921-1925. He was also a member of the German Cornet band which was organized here in 1892.

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, April 10, 1940)

Miss Mabel Wolfe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wolfe, is the valedictorian of this year's graduating class of the Jefferson Township High School near Berne. Her four year average grade is 90.9 per cent.

Miss Eileen Brewster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Brewster, is the salutatorian with an average of 89.9 per cent.

(Handwritten date: Tuesday, April 30, 1940)

DR. ELLA J. BARNHILL FUNERAL ON THURSDAY

Private funeral services will be held Thursday morning at the Chalfant-Perry & Pook Funeral Home for Dr. Ella J. Barnhill, 79, retired optometrist, who died of pneumonia Monday at 9:30 p.m. at the Methodist Hospital. Burial in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Dr. Barnhill was taken to the hospital after receiving a fractured hip in a fall several weeks ago in her room at the home of a daughter, Mrs. George Kempf, 818 West Packard Avenue. She alternated in residing with her daughters, Mrs. Noah Zehr, 301 West Creighton Avenue, and Mrs. Kempf.

The deceased retired two years ago after being an optometrist for 40 years, including 31 years in this city and seven years in South Whitley before coming here. She was a graduate of Ada Normal School at Ada, O., and of the McCormick Opthamology School in Chicago. Dr. Barnhill was a member of the First Church of Christ Scientist.

Surviving are the two daughters; a brother, John M. Jones, of Lincoln, Neb., and seven grandchildren. Friends may view the body Wednesday at the funeral home.

(Handwritten date: Monday, April 17, 1940)

Dr. Ernest Franz, prominent pioneer physician of this place, recently celebrated his 75th birthday and was honored with a special dinner. Dr. Franz has been a physician here since the horse and buggy days and is widely known. He is still in good health.

(Handwritten date: 1940)

Word has been received here of the birth of a baby boy, John David, March 6, to Dr. James and Elizabeth Gottschalk-Hawk, of Indianapolis. This is the second child and son in the family.