

LAST RITES FOR SAM AMSTUTZ, 36

August 17, 1892—1929

Services Held Sunday Afternoon; Death Occurring Friday Morning

Last rites for Sam Amstutz, aged 36, well known Monticello World War veteran, whose death from hanging occurred Friday morning were held at 1:30 Sunday afternoon from the Voegeli funeral parlors.

A large crowd of mourners, including many friends and acquaintances from other villages and cities, were in attendance. The services were conducted by Rev. A. Muehlmeier, pastor of the Reformed church. Interment was in Highland cemetery.

News of the self-inflicted death of Mr. Amstutz came as a shock to the entire community. He had spent the greater part of his life in or near Monticello and was well liked by all who knew him. Although he had been in poor health for some time, he had shown no outward signs of dissatisfaction with life. A notebook, found on his person, revealed despondency as the motive for his act.

Mr. Amstutz had been missing since early Friday morning when he told his wife he would be home late for dinner. His lifeless body was found hanging from a rafter in the garage behind the home shortly after six o'clock in the evening by Mrs. Amstutz. He is believed to have stood with one foot on the running boards of two cars, adjusted the rope, and then jumped off.

Mr. Amstutz was a native of this vicinity, having been born August 17, 1892, in Adams township, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Amstutz. His father, then engaged in cheese making, later owned and conducted the Grand Central hotel here. For many years, Mr. Amstutz was employed by his father in managing the hotel.

The deceased served during the World War with Co. H, 127 Inf., Monroe, holding the office of sergeant during the closing months of his service. He was twice wounded in engagements at the front. His brother, Sergt. Fred Amstutz, after whom the local Legion post is named, was killed in action.

The marriage of Mr. Amstutz to Miss Cora Ripley, Monticello, took place about 10 years ago. For about a year he was employed in the Yates Machine shop, Beloit, after which he returned to Monticello. He had conducted a soft drink parlor here for the past several years.

Survivors besides the widow are two small daughters, Marjory and Marion, the mother, Mrs. Mary Amstutz, two sisters, Mrs. Henry M. Marty, Markesan, and Mrs. Fred H. Stauffacher, Monticello; and three brothers, Herman, Walter and William, all of Monticello.

Pall bearers at the funeral were Charles R. Kohli, Monroe, lieutenant of Co. H, J. W. Barlow, R. H. Schoonover, Geo. C. Legler, R. W. Woelffer and O. D. Curtis, all local Legionnaires.