

John H. Baebler Sr.

July 9, 1866 - 1946

John H. Baebler Sr., Prominent Monticello Citizen, Dies at 79

John H. Baebler, Sr., 79, prominent in Mt. Pleasant town and Monticello village affairs, died at 2:30 Wednesday afternoon, collapsing in downtown Monticello of a heart ailment from which he had suffered for some time.

A resident of Mt. Pleasant township since he came from Switzerland at the age of 19, Mr. Baebler had been identified closely with the life of that community. He was a pioneer in rural road improvement and was one of the first in his area to use a road drag to improve drainage.

For over 20 years he served as clerk of the Babler school and was clerk of the township for a decade. When the Baebler family retired in 1923 and moved to Monticello to live, Mr. Baebler was elected to two terms on the county board of supervisors as representative of the village. Since 1933 he had been custodian of Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church, of which he was an active member.

John H. Baebler was born July 9, 1866, in Natt, Canton Glarus, Switzerland, son of Vinzenz and Maria Stauffacher Baebler. He arrived in America June 2, 1886, settling in the town of Mt. Pleasant. On Feb. 17, 1895, he married Anna Rhyner in Monticello, the Baebler family celebrating their golden anniversary at an open house and dinner last year.

After their marriage they moved to a farm near Lu Verne, Ia., returning to this area in 1901 and settling on the Evergreen home farm, Mt. Pleasant, from which they retired in 1923, moving to Monticello.

Surviving are the widow; two sons, John H. Jr., on the home farm, and Dr. William V. Baebler Monticello dentist; a daughter, Mrs. Edward Stone, Washington; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one brother, Vinzenz Baebler, Mt. Pleasant; and three sisters, Mrs. Barbara Pagel, Freeport, Mrs. Marian Kubly, Monticello and Mrs. Henry F. Freitag, Villa Park, Ill.

The body will remain at the Voegeli Funeral home until noon Saturday when it will be taken to Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church to lie in state until 2, when Rev. A. R. Achtemeier will conduct the last rite. Burial is to be in Highland cemetery.