

Otis F. Breylinger

July 13, 1882 – March 19, 1921

Otis Breylinger Dies Under Automobile

Monticello Business Man Meets Instant Death In Accident Near Monroe

The people of Monticello and vicinity were shocked and saddened beyond measure at about 4 o'clock last Saturday afternoon when the distressing news reached the village that Otis Breylinger, life-long resident of Monticello and well known hardware merchant, had been instantly killed in an automobile accident a short distance north of Monroe. Mr. Breylinger left for Monroe on a business errand at about 2 o'clock and intended to be back home within two hours. He was driving a Ford roadster which he recently acquired for business use and the frightful accident which cost him his life occurred shortly after he had left the city on his way home, and about a half a mile north of the Illinois Central tracks,

Mr. Breylinger was driving alone and there were no witnesses to the accident. At the point where the car overturned the road bed is of macadam and fairly smooth, the grade being uphill to the north which direction he was traveling. The presumption is that he was in a hurry to get home and was driving at a good speed when the accident happened, this being indicated by the fact that the car was hurled over endwise, As the car over turned, Mr, Breylinger was pinned to the ground, the edge of the seat and top supports resting on the side of his head and neck. The rest of his body was clear of the wreck. It is stated that he received a fracture of the skull and no doubt death was instantaneous.

The wreck was discovered only a few minutes after the accident happened by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nugent, Mrs. Edward Blumer and another party who were driving to Monroe in the Nugent car. They had all but passed the point of the wreck when Mrs. Blumer happened to notice the overturned car. At about the same time another member of the party noticed the prostrate figure of a man partly pinned under the machine. The got out to investigate but were unable to raise the machine sufficiently to permit of moving the body. Mrs. Blumer and Mrs. Nugent were about to go to a nearby farm house for help when they noticed another car approaching and the driver was signaled to hurry up. It proved to be Mr. and Mrs. Werner Blumer and Mr. Blumer assisted the other men in raising the car and removing the body from underneath. It was not until then that the identity of the unfortunate victim was known,

Others had reached the scene by that time and the coroner and a physician were summoned from Monroe. The remains were taken to Shriner Bros. undertaking parlors and brought to Monticello the following day. Inspection of the Ford touring car which he was driving showed that a nut had come off the bottom of the spindle bolt on the right front wheel. The bolt worked out of one of its sockets which caused it to bend into an L shape, thus doubling the wheel under the car and throwing it over. The windshield, top and left rear wheel of the car were broken, but otherwise the machine was not damaged.

Otis F. Breylinger was the second oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Breylinger and a native of Monticello, having been born in this village on July 13, 1882, He received his early education in the local schools and later entered the Monroe high school, from which institution he graduated with the class of 1900. For some years thereafter he followed the vocation of teacher in the district schools of this vicinity. Later he became associated in the hardware business with his father, the late F. J. Breylinger, pioneer hardware merchant of the village. After the death of Mr. Breylinger, Sr., Ivan G. Breylinger became a partner and the business was carried on for some time under the firm name of F. J. Breylinger's Sons, For the past few years he has been the sole owner of the business.

Mr. Breylinger was a man such as any community can ill afford to lose, and his sudden and unexpected death comes not only as a cruel and crushing blow to those near and dear to him, but the entire community shares in the sorrow which his passing has occasioned. His loyalty to the community was second only to his devotion to his home and family. He was always actively interested in matters of a civic nature and his support was never lacking in any project which had for its object the advancement of the village in which he made his home. He was an active and esteemed member of the Masonic, Eastern Star, Odd Fellow and Modern Woodmen lodges. For the past six years he had served in the capacity of treasurer on the Board of Education and was also secretary of the Monticello Fire department, having for years been one of the most active members of that organization.

His marriage to Miss Sylvia Hoesly, of New Glarus, occurred on Sept. 23, 1909, and to this union one son, Robert, now ten years of age, was born. Besides the bereaved widow and son, who were so suddenly bereft of a kind and indulgent husband and father, he is survived by his aged mother and two brothers, Leon J. Breylinger, of Racine, and Ivan G. Breylinger, of Winneconne. In the great affliction that has overtaken them the sorrowing relatives have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community,

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at 1:30 at the house and 2:00 o'clock at the Reformed church, with the Rev. A. Muehlmeier officiating. The popular esteem in which the deceased had always been held was fully evidenced by the large number present at the last rites, there having been close to 1100 who viewed the remains at the close of the service. The funeral was held under the auspices of the local Masonic lodge and there were over 150 Masons in line when the remains were borne from the church to their last resting place in Highland cemetery. Monroe, New Glarus, Albany and Belleville lodges were represented.

The floral tributes were unusually numerous and most beautiful. Among the most conspicuous were pieces from the Masonic, Eastern, Star, Odd Fellows, Modern Woodman lodges, the Fire department, the business men and the Monroe Masonic ledge. There were also many beautiful pieces from individuals.