

Mathias C. Durst

January 29, 1864 – January 1948

Mathias Durst, 83, Former Co. Sheriff, Dies Here Monday Rites Held Wednesday for Well known Official, War Veteran

Culminating a period of failing health which had its inception about five and one-half years ago, death claimed Mathias C. Durst, 83 years of age, highly esteemed former Green county sheriff and public official for 35 years, at 3 o'clock Monday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Willis J. Marty, Monticello, with whom he had made his home in recent years.

While seated in the sheriff's office in Monroe in the capacity of deputy, Mr. Durst, familiarly referred to by his many friends as "Matt," suffered a stroke. He never fully recovered from its effects and had made his home here with this son-in-law and daughter since that time. He became critically ill two days before his death.

In addition to serving as Green county sheriff for two terms, Mr. Durst also served as undersheriff, deputy sheriff and poor commissioner.

Born in New Glarus

Mathias Durst was born in New Glarus Jan. 29, 1864, the son of Sebastian Durst and Salome "Minnie" Duerst, pioneer settlers of that community. When he was eight years of age, the family moved to Monroe, where he received his education and was confirmed in St. John's church. He came to Monticello in 1887 and operated a hardware store for five years, moving back to Monroe in 1892. On Feb. 29, 1889, he was united in marriage to Una Kilgore, the ceremony taking place in Monticello. In 1882 he joined Co. H when the unit was organized and was in Milwaukee during the strike of 1886. In 1895 he was commissioned a first lieutenant of the company and went south in 1898 with the First Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers. Mr. Durst proved to be a very popular officer. He was discharged Oct. 19, 1898, at Monroe, following Spanish-American war service. He re-enlisted in the reorganized company Nov. 29, 1898, and was commissioned a captain in December of the same year Mr. Durst was Green county's oldest ex-soldier.

Mr. Durst was a gunsmith until he was elected Green county sheriff in 1906. He served as under-sheriff for five sheriffs. Again in 1925 the people of the county chose Mr. Durst as sheriff. With the exception of his two terms as sheriff, he had served as undersheriff or deputy until illness forced him to retire. Mr. Durst was county poor commissioner for 15 years. Guns were his hobby, the love for which he had acquired at an early age. Besides the daughter, he is survived by one sister, Mrs. Eli Knapp, San Diego, Calif. He was preceded in death by his wife in 1931, and two brothers, Fred, in 1935, and Henry, in 1939.

Funeral Held Wednesday

Funeral services were conducted at 2 Wednesday afternoon in the Voegeli funeral home. The Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, pastor of the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church, officiated and burial was in Highland cemetery where military rites were conducted at the graveside.