

John A. Gemperli

Jan. 24, 1853 – May 1921

John A. Gemperli, for more than thirty years a resident of Monticello and vicinity, passed away at 10 o'clock Friday morning at the family home in the north part of town. He had been in failing health for a period of five months due to a severe cold which he contracted and which subsequently developed into tuberculosis. While his condition had been such of late that he was not expected to survive for any great length of time, yet he was able to be about a great deal of the time and was down town only the day before he was called upon to answer the final summons. The unexpected announcement of his death was received with sorrow among a large circle of friends.

John Alois Gemperli, son of Johann Baptist Gemperli, was born in Oberuzwil, Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland, on Jan. 24, 1853. He was baptized in his home town and it was there that he spent his boyhood days. In 1877 he was married to Maria Klingler, from whom he was subsequently divorced. His marriage to Miss Anna Erb, the widow who survives him, occurred in 1891 and the following year the couple came to America. They first made their home on the Stauffacher farm, a few miles north-east of Monticello, and since then have lived continuously in or near the village.

After leaving the Stauffacher farm Mr. Gemperli followed the carpenter trade for a number of years. Later he engaged in the saloon business in Monticello and remained in that business until five years ago, when he sold out and retired.

Mr. Gemperli was known as a man of industrious disposition and it was because of his thrift and frugality that he was finally able to get a start in business for himself. For many years he had been a familiar figure on the streets of the village, and his death removes from our midst one who will not only be greatly missed by the bereaved family but by many old old friends as well,

Besides the widow, he is survived by one daughter, Mrs. John G. Blum, of Monticello, and Alfon J. Gemperli, of Modesto, Calif. The latter was unable to be present at the funeral on account of being under quarantine for scarlet fever. He is also survived by two grandchildren and a number of relatives in Switzerland.

Funeral services were held from his late home Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock and at 1:30 at the Reformed church. A goodly number of neighbors and friends were in attendance at the services, which were conducted by the Rev. A. Muehlmeier. The remains were interred in Highland cemetery.