

Leonard Rhyner

January 11, 1898 - Oct, 14, 1918

SOLDIER LAID TO REST

Military Funeral for Leonard Rhyner Sunday Afternoon

The remains of Leonard W. Rhyner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Casper Rhyner, of this village, which arrived recently from overseas, were lowered to their last resting place in Highland cemetery Sunday afternoon with military honors, the last rites, for the young soldier who died in the service of his country, being in charge of the Fred Amstutz Post of the American Legion.

Preceding the burial a short service was held for the family and other relatives at the Voegeli undertaking parlors, the Rev A. Muehlmeier, pastor of the Reformed church, officiating.

As the casket was carried from the undertaking rooms, Lieut. Schindel gave the command, "present arms," the color bearers and soldiers carrying rifles coming to that position, while the balance of the men responded with the hand salute.

The funeral cortege then proceeded to the cemetery, headed by a company of sixty or more World War veterans, practically all of whom were in uniform. Major Mitchell, under whom the deceased served when he first entered the service, and several other Monroe veterans, as well as delegations of ex-service men from New Glarus and Belleville, were among those who were present to pay their last tribute of respect to their departed comrade. The Relief corps also marched to the cemetery in a body.

Arriving at the cemetery Rev. Muehlmeier conducted a brief service, which was followed by singing by the church choir. Major Mitchell was also heard in a short talk, during which he told of the excellent character of the departed soldier while a member of his command.

Then came a salute by a firing squad composed of four members of the local post—Keller, Armstrong, Aebly and Legler—which marked the close of the impressive service for the young soldier who was the third Monticello boy to sacrifice his all on the battle fields of France in defense of the stars and stripes.

The color bearers were Ammon and Bontly; color guards, Bridges and Zimmerman; pall bearers, Barlow, Foster, Hauri, Voegeli, Lynn and Schoonover. The body arrived in Monticello Friday noon, accompanied by Corp. Lightcap, of Co. L, 52nd Infantry, Sixth division, who remained here until after the funeral.

The death of Leonard W. Rhyner occurred on Oct, 14, 1918, while serving with the colors in France and was due to an attack of pneumonia. He was one of the first of the Green county boys to answer the call of the colors, enlisting for service with Co. H, of Monroe, and accompanying that unit to the Mexican border. While in Texas he was transferred to the Headquarters company of the 127th infantry which sailed for France in March, 1918. He was a member of this unit at the time of his death.

The deceased was born in Jackson county on the 11th of January, 1898. although practically all of his life had been spent in the vicinity of Monticello.