

Daniel Wichser
October 8, 1869 – December 26, 1941

Death Claims 'Dan' Wichser; Services Conducted Monday
Highly Respected Citizen Monticello Suffers Heart Attack

Striking with a lightning-like suddenness which stunned the entire community and plunged it into sadness, death claimed Daniel Wichser, 72 years of age, highly esteemed resident of the village for the past 50 years, at about 3 o'clock Friday afternoon.

Dies in Car

Mr. Wichser's unexpected death came as a staggering shock to members of his family and his myriad of friends and acquaintances, because he had apparently regained much of his strength after having been quite seriously ill a number of weeks before. Mr. Wichser, a victim of heart trouble, suffered frequent attacks and it was while driving his car Friday afternoon that he passed away, the victim of a stroke.

A passing motorist found Mr. Wichser's lifeless body in his automobile near the edge of the village on Monroe street. Apparently sensing the arrival of a heart spell, Mr. Wichser had stopped his car but was unable to get out of the machine before passing away.

Pleasing Disposition

The sudden passing of "Dan," as he was familiarly referred to by his many friends, removes from our midst a robust, refreshing individual, whose buoyant good nature and understanding disposition will be greatly missed. He valued his friendships highly and always entertained a feeling of genuine neighborliness toward his many friends.

Native of Switzerland

Daniel Wichser was a native of Switzerland, having been born in Canton Glarus Oct. 8, 1869, the son of Casper and Sarah Blum Wichser. He received his education in his native land and in 1888 he emigrated to America, coming to Green county, where he was employed on farms in the vicinity of Monticello for three years. In 1891 he embarked in the pump and windmill business in Monticello, taking as a business partner James E. Moore. The business was located where the Joe J. Voegeli hardware store now stands. Two years later he severed his partnership and conducted the business himself. His interest in the farm implement business dates back to the late 90's, when he became involved in a partnership with the late Ezra Babler. Mr. Babler's interest in the business was taken over some years later by Mr. Wichser's brother-in-law, Fred Zweifel, now a resident of the Verona vicinity. Subsequently Mr. Zweifel's interest was taken over by the late Chas. Marty, Sr. Mr. Wichser retired from active business in 1921, when the shop was taken over by a son, Wilbert Wichser.

On March 8, 1897, Mr. Wichser was united in marriage to Sarah Zweifel, the ceremony taking place in New York. Mr. Wichser's activities as a public official included several years as a trustee on the Monticello village board. He was a member of the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church and the Masonic lodge.

Surviving are two sons, Wilbert and Ivan, Monticello; two daughters, Mrs. Clyde Johnson and Mrs. Darell McCaslin, Evansville; a brother, Baltz Wichser, West Alice, 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death were his wife, one daughter in infancy, 10 brothers and sisters and his parents in Switzerland,

Funeral Monday

Funeral services were conducted at 2 Monday afternoon in the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church, Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, church pastor, officiating. Burial was in Highland cemetery. Final rites were conducted under the auspices of the Monticello Union lodge.

From the Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Rock, Green, Grant, Iowa and LaFayette, Wis; 1901 p875-876.

Mr. Wichser was born in Canton Glarus, Switzerland, Oct. 8, 1869, is a son of Casper and Sarah (Blumer) Wichser, both natives of the canton just mentioned. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom nine are now living: Magdalena, the wife of Franz Hefty; Sarah who married Jacob Kundert; and Elsbeth who married Melchior Zwicky, all three still making their homes in Switzerland; and Melchior who remained in Switzerland until 1883, when he too, came to America; Rosa, the widow of Jacob Schindler of Switzerland; Daniel who came to Wisconsin, and Baltz who is located in Beloit.

The father worked in a cotton factory in the city of Betschwandan, where he died in 1894, at the age of sixty-four years. His widow still has her home in that city. They were both members of the Swiss Reformed Church. The paternal grandfather of Daniel Wichser was Melchior Wichser, who was killed by a fall in the mountains in middle life; he was the father of four children, and was engaged in various occupations. The maternal grandfather of Daniel Wichser was Jacob Blumer; he died in Switzerland at the age of 70 years and left a small family.

Daniel Wichser was reared in Canton Glarus, where he received the benefit of the very excellent common school system that prevails in the Mountain Republic. After his school days were ended he entered a cotton factory, where he was engaged for three years. He worked a year in a sawmill, and another on a railroad, before coming to America and making his home in Monticello, Wisconsin, where he has lived until the present time.

He crossed the ocean in 1888 and his successful career in this country is but another illustration of the value of pluck and determination, which the lives of thousands of his compatriots have already given to the world.

For the first three years after his arrival in this country Mr. Wichser worked on a farm, and was then employed in the town of Monticello as a machinist. By this time he felt competent to engage in business for himself, and, forming a partnership with James E. Moore, operated the windmill and pump business. For two years, he carried on this business alone, until uniting with Ezra L. Babler, the two have carried on business together up to the present time.

Mr. Wichser was married March 8, 1897, to Miss Sarah Zweifel, a daughter of Fred and Sarah (Voegeli) Zweifel. To this union have come two children, Wilbert Lincoln and Nina. Mr. and Mrs. Wichser are members of the Swiss Reformed Church. Politically he is an active Republican, and his standing in the community is attested by his election to the village board. He owns his own home in the village and has built a very complete shop. While still a young man, he is regarded as one of the leading business men of this section.