

Anna Wittenwyler

Aug. 14, 1854 – February 6, 1946

Funeral Rites Held Saturday for Mrs. John Wittenwyler Remains of Oldest Person In Village Interred in Highland Cemetery

Funeral services for Mrs, John Wittenwyler, Sr, 91 years of age, Monticello's oldest resident and an esteemed citizen of the village for the past 40 years, who passed away on Wednesday afternoon of last week at the home of a daughter, Mrs. James F. Hancock, following an illness of a few weeks' duration, were conducted at 2 Saturday afternoon in Grace Evangelical church, the Rev. W. J. Abe, church pastor, officiated, and burial was in Highland cemetery. Pallbearers wore Edward Weiss and Bernie Wilde, New Glarus, John Cotherman, Monroe, Harris Wittenwyler, Alfred Aberhard and C. M. Wittenwyler, Monticello.

Stroke Proves Fatal

Mrs. Wittenwyler had always been an unusually active individual but she began to show the effects of her advanced age last October when she first became slightly ill, and since that time she had never quite regained her previous good health. She was bedfast for about 10 days, suffering from a heart ailment and old age complications, On several occasions the members of her family felt the end was very near but Mrs. Wittenwyler rallied each time. Then on Monday, Feb. 4, she suffered a sever stroke, her entire left side becoming paralyzed, and it was this condition that was the immediate cause of her death.

Oldest member of a family of 15 children, Anna Voegeli was born on the Voegeli homestead farm, a few miles northwest of Monticello, on Aug. 14, 1854, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jost Voegeli, pioneer settlers of this community, Of Swiss origin, her father combined cheesemaking with his farming operations, and Mrs. Wittenwyler, who as the eldest of the 15 children shared many of the hardships of those rugged frontier days, always took pride in recalling those early days when her father delivered his cheese to Madison and other points by horse and cart, the only means of transportation before the advent of the railroads.

The farm where she was born is now the home of the widely known Voegeli Brown Swiss cattle, owned by Jac. Voegeli, a nephew of Mrs. Wittenwyler.

On Feb, 14, 1878, she was united in marriage to John Wittenwyler, the ceremony taking place in the New Glarus Evangelical church. The couple farmed for a number of years a short distance west of Mrs. Wittenwyler's birthplace and subsequently moved to a farm about three and one-half miles southwest of Monticello, now owned by a son, John. They moved to Monticello to make their home 40 years ago. Mr, and Mrs. Wittenwyler had the pleasure of celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary Feb. 14, 1941, about one month before Mr. Wittenwyler's death. She was a member of Grace Evangelical church and of its Ladies' Aid society.

Tireless Worker

A tireless worker, Mrs, Wittenwyler, despite her advanced age devoted a great deal of attention to her garden during the summer months, then turning to rug making in the winter. Evidence of her art in rug making can be seen in the homes of her children as well as grandchildren. Mrs. Wittenwyler was much more rugged than her frail appearance indicated, and she never rested as long as any tasks were not finished. Not only was she a devoted wife and mother, but an ideal neighbor as well, always ready and willing to help any friend in need.

Surviving ave three sons, John, Matt H., and Walter, Monticello; three daughters, Mrs. Ernest Cotherman, Monroe, and Mrs. Bertha Keller and Mrs. James Hancock, Monticello; one sister, Mrs. Regula Hefty, Valley Falls, Kansas; three brothers, William and Emil, Monticello, and Albert, Monroe; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.