

Blasius Elmer Killed In Tragic Accident In Jordan Township Thrown From Wagon Box To Ground on Gott. Lauber Farm (1872 – 1938)

The hearts of Monticello's residents were heavy when shortly before noon yesterday (Wednesday) news was received of the sudden and accidental death of one of the village's highest esteemed citizens, Blasius Elmer, who passed away shortly after 10 o'clock.

Occurred on Farm

The accident which claimed the life of this fine gentleman, who died at the age of 66 years, happened on the farm of Gottfried Lauber, a friend of Mr. Elmer, who resides in the northern part of Jordan township. Messrs. Elmer and Lauber had been close friends for some years.

When Mr. Elmer didn't have any work he would invariably go out to his friend and pass the hours working about the farm. Yesterday Mr. Elmer was assisting Mr. Lauber in getting the poultry house in condition for the winter. They had hauled one load of litter away and were returning to the barn for another, in driving up to the building it was necessary for them to drive across a concrete gutter. The wagon box in which they were riding was of the old fashioned dump type and the jerk which was caused by going through the gutter loosened the front end of the box, throwing both men to the ground in the rear.

Mr. Elmer's neck was broken when he struck the ground and it was thought he might have also suffered a fractured skull.

Was Hurt 25 Years Ago

A peculiar incident in connection with Mr. Elmer's sudden death is the fact that exactly 25 years ago this week he had the misfortune of breaking his collar bone in an accident at the Stout corner, when the horse he was driving suddenly became frightened and tipped the buggy over. Riding with him at the time was his sister, the late Mrs. Conrad Stauffacher.

Native of Switzerland

Blasius Elmer was born in Elm, Canton Glarus, Switzerland, Sept. 25, 1872, a son of Christopher and Ursula Rhyner Elmer. At the age of nine years he accompanied his family to America, settling in this vicinity. He obtained his education in his native country and here in Monticello. He spent his entire life following the farming vocation and for many years owned and operated a farm in the south east section of the village. He sold the farm to Adam Duerst seven years ago and had since resided in Monticello. Mr. Elmer never married.

Came as Sad Blow

Mr. Elmer's sudden and unexpected death came as a sad blow to his many friends and relatives in Monticello and vicinity. Through his many years of affiliation with the local Reformed church he had created an unusually large number of friends, all of whom learned with sincere regret of his tragic death.

The sudden passing of "Blazzy," as he was familiarly known, has removed from our midst a man whose sterling character and exemplary character had won him the friendship of countless friends throughout the county. He was well known for his unquestioned honesty in his dealings with fellow citizens. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to neighbors and friends in distress. It can be truthfully said that he combined those rare and genuine characteristics representative of real manhood.

He was a member of the Monticello German Reformed church and for many years he was Supt. of the church, ending his services in that capacity in 1925. Since then he had been secretary of the Sunday school. He had been a member of both the English and German choir for many years.

Surviving to mourn his death are one sister, Mrs. Ursula Kernen, Sheboygan, one brother, Rev. Jacob Elmer, Freeport; two half sisters, Mrs. Thos. Zimmerman, Monticello, and Mrs. John Duerst, New Glarus, and one half-brother, Sebastian Elmer, Woodland. Calif. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Mrs. Robt. Stauffer and Mrs. Jacob Kuehni, Iola, Kans, and two brothers, Fred and Christ Elmer, and two half-sisters, Mrs. Conrad Stauffacher, Sr., and Mrs. Kathryn Grimm, and one half-brother, Henry Elmer.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed at the time this publication was issued.