

Obituary—Ida Richards

May 21, 1876 – Dec. 31, 1912

Mrs. S. E. Richards, whose maiden name was Ida May Zwickey, daughter of Fred and Elizabeth Zwickey, nee Weissmiller, beloved wife of our highly esteemed editor, Mr. S. E. Richards, whose tragic death was briefly mentioned in last week's paper, was born in Monticello on May 21, 1876. She received her education in the schools of Monticello, where she had spent all of her life, with the exception of about one year, 1895-6 during which time her husband was engaged in conducting a newspaper at Lone Rock. She was married to Mr. Richards at Evansville, Wis. on April 11, 1894. This union was blessed with two children—one daughter and one son—Bernice and Roswell.

In the sudden and untimely passing away of this worthy woman the community loses one who was spoken of in the highest terms by those who knew her best. An ideal neighbor, loving wife and mother, her kindly countenance will not only be missed by those nearest and dearest to her, but by the entire community as well. Besides the care for her family she always took a keen interest in the work of publishing *The Messenger*, assisting in the office more or less of the time each week until her health failed.

But ever since last May Mrs. Richards had suffered from nervous illness and despondency. The greatest of care and attention was given her at home and yet, in an unexpected moment, she wandered from her home on Monday evening, Dec. 30. She was missed shortly after 6 o'clock that evening and her watchful relatives at once gave the alarm, searching parties being immediately sent forth. What happened before she could be found is well known to all. We are sorry to state that her injuries were of such a nature that, although the closest of medical attention was given her she could not recover and quietly breathed her last at 12:40 on the following morning.

Mrs. Richards was generally known in Monticello where she had lived all her life and was prominent in social circles there. She was a member of the Royal Neighbors, and a woman of much business ability. She leaves one sister, Mrs. George Bidlingmaier, of this city, one brother, Fred Zwickey, of Osage, Ia., and a half-sister, Mrs. Edward Blumer, of Monticello.

Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved husband, the dear children and other near relatives of the family in their great and sorrowful affliction. And indeed, they have reason to sorrow, for Mrs. Richards, in the days she was well, was closely devoted to her family and to look after the comfort and welfare of those about her was to her a great pleasure.

Funeral services were held at the German Reformed church Thursday afternoon, Jan. 2, at 1:30 o'clock, the pastor of the church officiating, assisted by Mr. Jacob Elmer, theological student at the Mission house at Franklin, Wis. The number in attendance at the last sad rites was unusually large, many being present from neighboring towns and country. The floral tributes were numerous and most beautiful, fully attesting the esteem in which the deceased had always been held. Besides the individual offerings there were pieces from the Business Men of Monticello, the Royal Neighbors, Modern Woodmen and the Jenny Wren club.

After the services the remains were tenderly laid to rest in the new Highland cemetery. The Royal Neighbors attended the services in a body and carried out brief services at the grave, the pall bearers being from the auxiliary order, the Modern Woodmen. Out of respect for the departed, all business places were closed during the services.

Certainly the entire community desires most sincerely and respectfully to extend its sympathies to the family, so suddenly visited by a mysterious but wise and merciful providence, in their great sorrow and heaviest of earthly bereavements.