

## **John Urben**

**1869 - 1916**

John Urben, whose death was chronicled in these columns last week, was born June 16, 1870, at Inkwil, Canton of Berne, Switzerland. In the spring of 1889 he left his native country and emigrated to America, arriving in Monroe on April 1. He was a cheesemaker by trade and for nine years following his arrival here he was employed continuously in a factory near Barneveld, Iowa county.

A little over fifteen years ago he came to Monticello and since that time he had been associated with the wholesale cheese firm of Edw. Wittwer & Bro., being one of the leading stockholders of the concern. He was an expert judge of all kinds of foreign cheese and of late years had done practically all the buying for the firm. Mr. Urben was a man of keen judgment and exceptional business ability. When he came here from the old country he had but ten dollars to his name, yet he was able to get a good start in life through the practice of rigid economy during his first few years in this country and when he passed away he was numbered among the wealthiest men in this vicinity. He was not only an expert in the cheese line, but was also a good judge of real estate values, and he had bought and sold many farms during recent years.

Mr. Urben was possessed of a friendly and open hearted disposition and was ever ready to lend a helping hand to the needy or those in distress. During the past year he was instrumental in raising a large fund for the needy in his native land and he was always ready and willing to donate money or lend his assistance in any worthy charitable undertaking. He was a public spirited citizen in every sense of the word, one who was always a loyal booster for his home town and county and a man of real worth such as any community can ill afford to lose.

Since coming to America Mr. Urben had made four trips back to his native land, where he visited his aged mother and other relatives. He had planned another trip after the conclusion of the war.

Mr. Urben's death occurred on Monday, Nov. 11, at the Madison general hospital, the particulars of which were given last week. He had reached the age of 46 years, 5 mos, and 26 days.

Mr. Urben was married to Miss Euphemia Freitag on March 4, 1904, who, together with one son, Walter, survive him. He is also survived by one brother and one sister, who still live in Switzerland, his mother having died in August of this year.