

Friday, July 24, 1942

Peter C. Lehman Dies Thursday at Age of 94  
Rites Here Sunday for Prominent Retired Farmer

Peter C. Lehman, 94, prominent retired pioneer farmer and the oldest person in this community, died at 3:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon at his home just west of Berne, along state road 118. Mr. Lehman had been bedfast the last four weeks. Death was caused by infirmities of old age according to the attending physician.

Mr. Lehman was believed to be the oldest person in this part of the county. He had been, until recently, unusually active for a man of his years and was faithful in attending church services as long as he was able to be around and also did considerable work around his home until recently.

Mr. Lehman was a native of Switzerland. He was born in the Sonnenberg district of Switzerland, Nov. 3, 1847, a son of Christian and Anna Sprunger Lehman.

When a mere lad of six years, or in 1853, he accompanied his parents and sister Barbara to this country, crossing the wide Atlantic in a journey that required many days. The trip across the Atlantic was made in the sailboat "Arbelle" and the sea was so rough at times that the boat was tossed around like a cork and several persons died aboard.

Landing in America, the family settled at Sonnenberg, Ohio, but after the first year came to this community where Mr. Lehman's father purchased the farm later owned by William Reusser.

They cleared this farm and in 1891 he acquired the farm where his son Wilbur now lives. In 1913, he erected his present home just west of town. While farming he was also prominent as a lover of fine horses.

Mr. Lehman was married to Christina Luginbill on Nov. 11, 1869. She is deceased.

Surviving are the following children: Mrs. Eli Baumgartner, Berne; Mrs. Otto Sprunger, Bluffton; Amos, Monroe; Mennas, Ft. Wayne; Wilbur, Monroe Township and Delson, at home. A sister, Mrs. Eli Hirschy of Berne, survives along with 30 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his wife, the parents and the following brothers and sisters: David and John Lehman and Mrs. Jerry Luginbill, Mrs. Philip Sprunger, Mrs. David Luginbill and Mrs. Dan Sprunger.

Mr. Lehman was one of the first members of the First Mennonite Church here. The funeral will be Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the church, preceded by a short service at the home. The Rev. Alfred M. Clauser will officiate and burial will be in the MRE Cemetery.

**Adams County Historical Museum**

**1942A Scrapbook, image 83**

**Transcribed by Jim Cox**