

# Joseph D. Winteregg

July 13, 1872 – August 30, 1944



Photo by Alicia Kneuss

Joseph D. Winteregg, son of Joseph and Katharina Winteregg, was born on July 13, 1872 in Harford Township, Adams County, Indiana. On October 13, 1895, he married Coroline Sprunger, daughter of Abraham and Katharina Moser Sprunger. Caroline was born on June 15, 1873 in French Township, Adams County, Indiana.

From this marriage came six children: Isadora, Gerhart, Edna, Catherine, Norman, and Ruth. He built a house for his family on the corner of Lehman and Dearborn steets in the south part of Berne, Indiana. While it has been greatly modified, this house still stands today.

J. D. Winteregg started his professional life as a clerk in the Berne post office. He later entered the real estate and the insurance profession by joining the business of Amos Hirschy, who had offices over the Sprunger, Lehman & Co. store. In 1905, they moved into offices at the rear of the Bank of Berne block.

In 1912, J. D. left Amos Hirschy and became the Cashier at the Bank of Berne, a position that he held for sixteen years. In 1914, J. D. Winteregg helped to found the first business organization in Berne, The Berne Business Men's Association. J. D. served as secretary of the organization.

The purpose of this association was to maintain a "high standard of integrity," maintain a credit rating bureau, and "to further the general welfare of the town."

After leaving the bank, he became manager of the Adams County Farm Bureau. He held that position for ten years, and then entered retirement for the last five years of his life.

J. D. died on August 30, 1944 after a period of illness. While he suffered from high blood pressure, the cause of death was listed as carcinoma of the stomach. After Caroline died on October 2, 1945, the house was sold to Noah Habegger, owner of the Berne Equity Meat Market, for \$6,650.

Even though he did not attend high school (which was a common practice at that time), J. D. Winteregg was known for his wisdom and ability in financial affairs. People in the Berne area often came to him for sage advice. A member of the Mennonite Church of Berne, J. D. was a man of principles and values.

#### SOURCES:

The Berne Witness, Thirtieth Anniversary Souvenir Edition, September 3, 1926.

The Berne Witness, September 1, 1944.

**Contributed by Leland Winteregg**