

Thursday, March 30, 1939

Mrs. Robert Riesen Dies Early Today

Well-known Local Woman, 43, Dies at Hospital after Short Illness

Zulpha May Riesen, aged 43, wife of Robert Riesen of South Fulton Street, Berne, died this morning at 6:30 o'clock at the Adams County Memorial Hospital at Decatur. Death came after a very short illness and comes as a great shock to her family, relatives and friends. Few people knew of her illness and while death was not expected by those who knew her condition, it was sudden nevertheless.

The diagnosis was given as thrombosis by her attending physicians. Mrs. Riesen became ill Sunday morning, but her condition was not believed serious until Wednesday when she was rushed to the hospital for an operation. Despite the best of medical care, she grew gradually weaker. Thrombosis is said to be the obstruction of a blood vessel by a clot of blood, and complications arose, causing the bowels to become paralyzed or obstructed.

She is believed to have suffered greatly during her brief illness.

Mrs. Riesen, besides being a home maker, was employed at the Berne Manufacturing Company on West Main Street.

Surviving are the husband, two daughters, Mary Ellen, aged 18 and Emma Louise, aged 14, the mother, Mrs. Emma Allspaw and the following brothers and sisters: Orval, Robert and Paul Allspaw, and Mrs. Clem Smith, all of Berne and Normal and Earl Allspaw, both of Indianapolis.

Mrs. Riesen was a faithful member of the Evangelical Church. The funeral will be held at 1:45 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the home and at 2 o'clock at the Evangelical Church, Rev. M. O. Herman officiating. Burial will be in the M.R.E. Cemetery.

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Monday, April 10, 1939

John Gerber Dies in Fall on Saturday

Former Local Man Plunges Down Cellar Stairs; Rites Here Tuesday

John J. Gerber, aged 62, formerly of this community and a brother of Ben Gerber, prominent local man, was instantly killed at 3:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon when he

fell down the cellar stairs at the Fred K. Schwartz home on Dayton Ave. at Fort Wayne. Mr. Gerber was a cousin to Mr. Schwartz and had been residing at the Schwartz home for the past two years.

Dr. Walter E. Kruse, Allen County Coroner, said death was due to a fractured skull. It is said that Mr. Gerber slipped and fell, plunging down the stairs and hitting his head on the concrete floor.

Mr. Gerber had stayed at the Sol Neuenschwander home at Fort Wayne before moving to the Schwartz home. Mrs. Neuenschwander, who is deceased, was his sister.

The deceased was born in French Township, Adams County, May 31, 1876, a son of Christian and Fanny Spichiger Gerber. He spent 40 years of his life in this community, being a laborer. He was never married.

Surviving are a brother, Ben Gerber of Berne; a sister, Mrs. Aldine Dubach, widow of Fred Dubach and a half-brother and two sisters are deceased.

The body was removed from Ft. Wayne to the Yager Undertaking establishment here and then to the Ben Gerber home. The funeral will be at 9:45 o'clock Tuesday morning at the Ben Gerber home and at 10 o'clock at the Cross Reformed Church here, the Rev. H. H. Meckstroth, pastor of the St. John's Reformed-Evangelical Church at Vera Cruz officiating. He was a member of the Vera Cruz Church. Burial will be in the M.R.E. Cemetery.

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Saturday, December 9, 1939

DeMille

Marilyn Eunice DeMille, 3, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl DeMille, 4414 Winter Street, died at 12:45 am today at the residence after an illness of two weeks of a throat infection.

Surviving are the parents, two sisters, Bonny and Sharon, at home and the grandparents, the Rev. and Mrs. E. A. DeMille of Detroit, and Mr. and Mrs. Alex DeBoer of Grandville, Mich.

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Thursday, March 30, 1939

## Funeral for Sam Steiner is Held Today 86-Year-Old Local Retired Farmer Dies Monday Night

Samuel Steiner, aged 86, highly respected retired pioneer farmer, passed away at his home on E. Water Street at 10:30 o'clock Monday evening. He became seriously ill for the fore part of February with blood poisoning resulting from an infected corn and later from dropsy and complications.

Mrs. Steiner, 83, his wife, has been critically ill for several weeks from a heart ailment.

The final rites for Mr. Steiner were held today. The service at the Mennonite Church of which he was a faithful member, was held at 2 o'clock following a short service at the home at 1:45 pm; Dr. C. H. Suckau officiated and burial was made in the M.R.E. Cemetery.

Mr. Steiner was born February 28, 1853, at Chibo, Switzerland, the son of Jacob and Elizabeth Liechty Steiner. As a nine-month-old baby, he accompanied his parents and other members of the family in a group that made the 3-month-long rough voyage on a sail ship to the U.S. They first settled in the Sonnenberg, Ohio community and later moved to a farm near Berne where they were pioneer, hard-working, frugal but prosperous farmers.

The deceased grew to manhood and on April 29, 1878, was married to Marianne Sprunger. They celebrated their golden and 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 29, 1928, and April 29, 1938 respectively.

Seven children were born to the union. Those surviving are Oscar of French Twp., Mrs. Noah Baumgartner, Ferd, Mrs. Amos Stauffer and Gerhart, all of Berne. Sarah and Harvey preceded.

Brothers and sisters surviving are John, Jacob, Mrs. Elias (Rebecca) Riesen, Mary, Christine and Mrs. Daniel (Anna) Stauffer. One brother, Fred, preceded, as did the parents.

Eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive.

Mr. and Mrs. Steiner moved from their modern farm three miles north of Berne on the Tile Mill Road 21 years ago last November to their home on Water Street. Ever active, Mr. Steiner continued work and even this year was engaged in pruning trees and vines and had a list of gardens that he had planned to spade and plant. In his earlier days, Mr. Steiner often split as high as 300 rails a day, described as no small feat.

He served many years as a Sunday School teacher at the Mennonite Church and was an avid reader, especially of the Bible, Bible commentaries and the religious publications.

**Adams County Historical Society 1939 Scrapbook, Image 078-079 -  
Transcribed by Jim Cox**