

Monday, June 1, 1942

## Funeral Here Today for Rev. Joel Lehman, 80 Minister, Church Worker, Farmer, Dies on Saturday

Funeral services were held at 2:00 o'clock this afternoon at the Mennonite Church for Rev. Joel Lehman, 80, prominent retired minister and farmer who died at his home northeast of Berne at 10:00 Saturday. Death was caused by pneumonia.

### Injured in Fall

Rev. Lehman's death came after a short illness and as a great shock and surprise. He had planted corn on Wednesday but became ill shortly afterwards. His sickness developed into pneumonia and despite the best of medical care, he failed rapidly. Rev. Lehman was injured nearly two weeks ago when he fell and it is thought that probably the fatal illness was brought on by the injuries suffered in the fall. He was widely known and favorably known throughout this community and had lived on the farm where he died for the past 40 years. He was the father of Miss Hilda Lehman, local school teacher and a brother of Isaac Lehman who was fatally hurt here last October when struck by a car.

### The Obituary

The following obituary was submitted for publication:

Joel Lehman, son of Abraham and Barbara (Zuercher) Lehman was born on January 29, 1862, and passed away on May 30, 1942, at the age of eighty years and four months. In the summer of 1880, he found his Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who from that time on became his gудie. Through baptism on October 30, 1880, he became a member of the First Mennonite Church of Berne, Indiana. When a youth of nineteen, he was selected as a Sunday School teacher. He faithfully and loyally served the Sunday School in this capacity for a period of over fifty years.

In January 1888, he was chosen by the church to serve in the ministry; by preaching; by conducting Bible and Prayer Meetings; by teaching in the Sunday School; and by visiting the sick. On September 18, he was united in holy matrimony to Miss Anna Sprunger, daughter of David and Barbara (Lehman) Sprunger.

In January, 1890, he was ordained as a minister of the Gospel. In the spring of 1890, he received a call from the evangelistic committee to preach the Word in the Salem Church at Dalton, Ohio. He was obedient to this call. With his wife and child, he went to

Dalton, Ohio on May 18, 1890. After serving this church for two months, he received a further call to preach the Word in the Church at Hayesville, Ohio. He served the two churches simultaneously, preaching in the churches at Hayesville the first Sunday of each month for a period of three years.

After rendering his services in the Salem Church for some time, Rev. Lehman was chosen for full time service as officiating minister in the administration of all church duties. He served this church for a period of twelve years, serving until April 1902, at which time he returned to his home community and purchased a farm two miles northeast of Berne, where he resided the rest of his days. He has served the local Mennonite Church in the capacity of associate pastor; as teacher in the Sunday School; visiting the sick and bringing comfort to them.

On October 2, 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Lehman celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Preceding him in death is his daughter Elva, who died during childhood; also two sisters, Mrs. J. P. Habegger and Mrs. David Habegger; and two brothers, Ulrich and Isaac.

Surviving him are his bereaved wife, Anna, four sons and three daughters. They are: Gilbert of Harmon, Ill.; Mrs. John Rohrs of Edgerton, Ohio; Frieda of Evanston, Ill.; Carl and Myron of Berne and Hilda and Palmer, at home; also two sisters, Mrs. A. J. Moser, Mrs. Louis Reiff and one brother, Abraham. Seven grandchildren survive.

The family greatly feels the loss of a beloved father and friend. He leaves behind him a host of friends and relatives who have revered him and loved him for this staunch Christian character and spirit of good will throughout the years.

**Adams County Historical Museum**  
**1942A Scrapbook, image 81-82**  
**Transcribed by Jim Cox**