

Johann Kaspar Steinmann Swiss Immigrant

...grubbing and ditching was his following...

To

John Casper Steinmann American Success

We cannot measure his character and his life by the ordinary standards which are commonly used for measuring men.

By

Roger Dooley

For the Monticello Area Historical Society

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MEMOIRS
OF
GREEN COUNTY
WISCONSIN

**From the Earliest Historical Times Down
to the Present**

IN TWO VOLUMES

Madison, Wis.
Central States Historical Association
1913
Volume 2

John C. Steinmann

John C. Steinman. Among Green county's distinguished citizens and leading men of affairs the name of John C. Steinman, of Monticello, has long been prominent.

He is a native of Switzerland, the mountain republic of Europe, which has furnished the great North American Republic with no small share of the latter's moral bone and sinew, being born May 13, 1854, and spent the first seven years of his life at or near the place of his birth.

In 1861, in company with his mother, he took passage on a sailing vessel for the United States and after a long and tedious journey of fifty-

seven days' duration they landed at the port of New York, coming from that city direct to Green county, Wisconsin, and locating four miles west of the city of Monticello.

Later, Mrs. Steinman remarried and moved four miles west of New Glarus, where young John remained until his thirteenth year, when he was given his time, immediately following which he began to make his own way in the world as a farm hand at the munificent remuneration of six dollars a month.

Mr. Steinman continued in that capacity until his twenty-third year, his wages having been several times increased the meanwhile. By industry, thrift and economy, he succeeded in saving, during the period indicated, the sum of \$500 and with that substantial beginning he took to himself a companion and helpmate in the person of Miss Barbara Legler, to whom he was united in the holy bonds of wedlock on the 31st day of January, 1878.

Like himself Mrs. Steinman was poor in the world's goods and during her girlhood and early womanhood was obliged to earn her own living by honest toil. She was born in Green county in the year 1856, received the usual public school education and has proven a true helpmate to her husband, in whose efforts she has always heartily assisted and to whose success she has in no small measure contributed.

After his marriage Mr. Steinman purchased seventy-one acres of land in New Glarus township, to which he at once removed and to the improvement of which he addressed himself with courage and determination. He and his good wife prospered on this small farm, but at the end of five years he sold it to advantage and in partnership with Fred Knobel engaged in general merchandising at Monticello.

To this line of business he devoted his attention for a period of thirteen years during which time he greatly enlarged the capacity of his establishment and built up a trade second in magnitude and importance to that of no other merchant in the town and to but few in the county.

Disposing of his interest in the business at the period indicated Mr. Steinman gave his attention to other enterprises, notable among which was the first exclusive clothing store ever established in Monticello, which he operated, in connection with his son, from 1897 to 1906.

In the latter year Messrs. Steinman, with two other gentlemen, organized a stock company, which was duly incorporated and of which the subject was elected president, a position he still holds.

In addition to his mercantile business Mr. Steinman is engaged in the lumber business at Monticello, being interested with others in a large lumber yard and doing an extensive business, also furnishing contractors and

builders with all kinds of material required in their line of work.

Although the principal stockholder of the two enterprises, Mr. Steinman for the last two years has not been an active member, having turned the management over to other hands, the better to give his attention to the real estate and insurance business, which he has built up in the meantime.

In this, as in other undertakings, his success has been very satisfactory, although his object in engaging therein was not altogether for financial gain, but rather as a pleasant means of employing his leisure time.

In the most liberal meaning of the term he is a self-made man and the architect of his own fortune. His life, which affords many striking contrasts, truly exemplifies the oft-forgotten truth that there is no royal road to success, and gives added emphasis to the cardinal American doctrine that the possession of those qualities which are the inheritance of every lad of spirit, industry, economy and inflexible purpose, may bring to the humblest son of toil the richest rewards the world has to bestow.

Mr. Steinman was trained in the Republican school of politics and has always been an active and influential adherent to that party.

While zealous in the support of men and measures and liberal in his contributions of both time and money to its necessities he is not a partisan nor an aspirant for office, notwithstanding the fact that his fellow citizens have from time to time honored him with important trusts.

He was a member of the county board for thirteen years, supervisor of assessment nine years, making twenty-two years of able and faithful service previous to his retirement in 1910.

Fraternally he belongs to Monticello Lodge No. 83, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the organization of which he took an important part, as his name on the charter attests. He has likewise filled all the offices within the power of his brethren to bestow, besides contributing in many other ways to the growth and prosperity of the order in his town.

He is also a charter member of the German Reformed Church Association, of Monticello.

Mr. and Mrs. Steinman are the parents of three sons and two daughters, Lena, the oldest of the family, is the wife of H. L. Karlen, of Monticello, in business with his father-in-law; George, the second in order of birth, is engaged in the clothing business in Monticello; Fred, the second son, is a bookkeeper for the lumber company; John C., Jr., is an architect, and Mata, who is at home.



*Front: Mrs. Barbara Steinmann, John C. Jr.,
Mr. John C. Steinmann. Rear: George, Magdalena
(Lena) and Fred, circa 1895.*

SOUTHWESTERN
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COUNTY

BIOGRAPHICAL

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**John Casper
Steinmann, Circa 1875**

John Casper Steinmann
father
killed in
Civil War

ALEXANDER AUNE,

Traveling Artist,

Mathew Steinmann

JOHN CASPER STEINMAN

John Casper Steinman, Sr., was born on May 13, 1854, in the village of Niederurnen, Canton Glarus, Switzerland. He was baptized in early infancy, and when seven years old he emigrated with his mother and his grandfather to the United States in 1861.

After a voyage of fifty-seven days on a sailboat, they landed at New York harbor, and then came direct to Green county, Wisconsin. Mr. Steinman first lived with an uncle, Deitland Thomm, in the town of Washington, about five miles west of Monticello.

In 1862 his widowed mother became the wife of Friedolin Zimmerman, living four miles southwest of New Glarus, and Mr. Steinman made his home most of the time with his mother and stepfather until he reached the age of fourteen years, when he hired out to work on a farm in the neighborhood. His wages were six dollars per month for the six summer months, and the next winter he stayed at the same place for his board and went to a common school in the country district. The following spring he again hired out to the same farmer, for the same wages.

In the fall of 1870 he went to the village of New Glarus, to learn the harness-maker's trade, and he attended the Confirmation School during the winters. In March, 1871, he was taken ill with pneumonia but was over his sickness soon and on April 2, 1871, he was confirmed with a class of twenty-six boys and girls by Rev. Etter, of New Glarus.

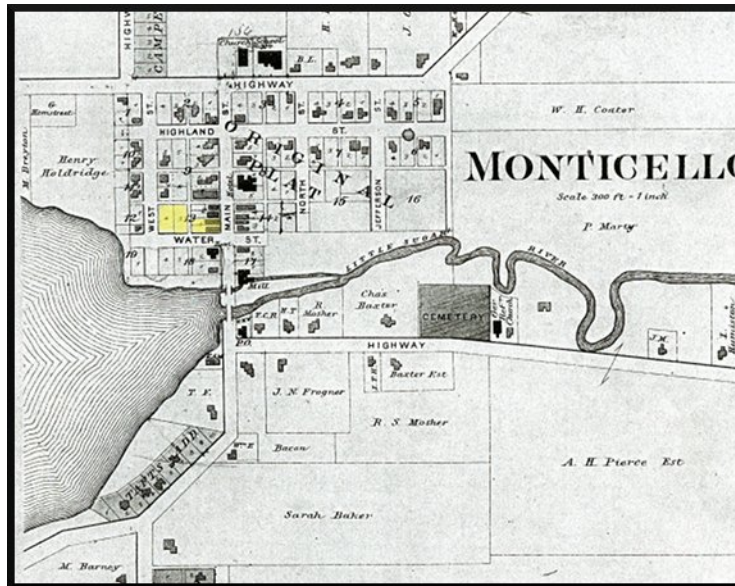
From that time on he worked out; grubbing and ditching was his following, except one season he made cheese. On January 31, 1878, he was married to Barbara Legler, of the town of New Glarus, and the young couple at once settled on a small farm located about five miles west of the village of New Glarus, which Mr. Steinman purchased by making a small payment on said farm. With the help of Mrs. Steinman's uncle, the young couple were able to begin farming, although Mr. Steinman had to pay nine per cent interest. During the first few years everything was cheap; milk, sixty-five cents per hundred; hogs, two dollars and twenty-five cents; eggs, five cents per dozen; cattle and horses were very cheap.

They stayed on that farm five years and were quite successful, having started in with only five hundred dollars which Mr. Steinman saved during his nine years working for other people. In 1883 Mr. Steinman sold his farm and moved to Monticello, Wisconsin, where he entered into a co-partnership with Fred Knobel, a cousin of Mrs. Steinman's.

This firm, under the name of Steinman & Knobel, started in the general merchandise business, in a rented store building owned by Thomas Mitchell. The two partners had five thousand dollars in cash together; they had little education and had no business experience. They opened their store the latter part of January, 1883. The building stood where Fred W. Voegeli's furniture store is now, on the north half of Lot 1, Block 13, of the original plat of the village of Monticello.¹ This firm continued in business in this old frame building until 1889, one year after the two railroads were built into Monticello. The

¹The site of Melvin E. Lynn's Hardware Company.

firm bought the old building and Lots 1, 3, 4,² including a blacksmith and wagon shop and dwelling and some other vacant lots. In the spring of 1889 they erected the first solid brick building, thirty-two by seventy, two stories high, on the corner of Lot 1, Block 13, in the village of Monticello. In 1887 the first railroads were built into Monticello—the Illinois Central and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul.



From the time the railroads entered Monticello, the village commenced to prosper and build up. In 1885 Mr. Steinman was elected chairman of the town of Mount Pleasant. As Mr. Steinman was a young man without any experience in public affairs, it was rather a hard task for him to be the head of a township government; but he did so well he was reelected the following year. Mr. Steinman was elected as supervisor or member of the county board for thirteen years from the village of Monticello. In 1901 he was elected supervisor of assessments³ of Green county,⁴ which office was created by the state, and Mr. Steinman held that office for nine years, and on account of sickness he declined a fourth term. He has held various offices, such as town clerk, village assessor, for several years, and for several years he was

2) These blocks were built up and now include the site of Karlen & Sons Ford and Karlen's Hall as well as the Peoples Supply Co. building.

3) **Monticello Messenger, November 22, 1904 - STEINMAN CHOSEN AGAIN.** In view of the experience he has gained during his first term of office and the thorough and conscientious manner in which he performs the duties which devolve upon him, the County Board of Supervisors, in session at Monroe last week, acted wisely in re-electing J. C. Steinman to second term of three years as Supervisor of Assessment. Mr. Steinman received 23 of 26 ballots cast. Mr. Steinman is the right man in the right place and the members of the county board are well aware of that fact.

4) **Monticello Messenger, May 26, 1903 - J. C. Steinman, County Tax Commissioner off to Madison** to discuss new mortgage tax law with Governor La Follette.

appointed by the state tax commissioner⁵ as a member of the county board of review. In 1900 he was appointed census enumerator for the village of Monticello and town of Mount Pleasant.

Mr. Steinman was running a clothing and shoe store⁶ at that time, but his oldest son, George, who was then only seventeen years of age, took charge of his father's store and Mr. Steinman put most of his time in outside work⁷ such as auctioneering,⁸ selling real estate,⁹ ¹⁰ insurance,¹¹ and attended to his official business. In 1904 Mr. Steinman bought one-half interest of M. F. Studly in the firm of Studly & Karlen Lumber Company. He also acquired one-half interest in the Karlen & Person grain and feed business. Since that time the lumber and feed business has been continued under the firm name of Karlen & Steinman Lumber Company.

In 1906 Mr. Steinman, E. J. Blum and John Dick merged their three stores into a corporation, known as the Peoples Supply Company, conducting a general store. Mr. Steinman was elected president of the

5) **Monticello Messenger, July 31, 1912** - J. C. Steinman, member of the income tax board of review for Green County, was in Monroe Monday for a meeting of the board. At a session Monday evening the meeting was adjourned until Tuesday, August 6. Income Tax Review Board of Green County named - C. W. Twining of Monroe, J. C. Steinman of Monticello and S. A. Schindler of New Glarus, have been appointed by the State Tax Commission as members of the income tax review board for Green County.

6) **Monticello Messenger, March 22, 1904** - One of the most attractive window displays that we have noticed for a long time is the one in the window of J. C. Steinman's Clothing Store. It needs but a glance at this display to convince one that this entertaining store is up-to-the-minute in everything pertaining to men's and boys wearing apparel. Their showing of new spring suits is certainly the swellest of the swell and as much can be said of the balance of their spring arrivals. For correct styles at reasonable prices you will make no mistake in going to Steinman's.

7) **Monticello Messenger, October 13, 1909** - Get your hunting licenses thru J. C. Steinman. Issue while you wait, day or night.

8) **Monticello Messenger, March 9, 1910** - The parsonage of the German Reformed Church was sold on Saturday at public auction, doing to David Legler on his bid of \$810.00. The sale was held in front of the Bank of Monticello and was conductive by **J. C. Steinman, Auctioneer**. The parsonage will soon be removed from its present site to take way for its new and more modern successes.

9) **Monticello Messenger 1903** - Advertisement for The Steinman & Humiston Land Agency Real Estate, Loans, Renting and Insurance.

Monticello Messenger, August 29, 1904 - J. C. Steinman has succeeded the Steinman and Humiston Land Agency and is now ready for any business in the real estate line that may be entrusted to him. He has a number of prospective buyers of farms in view and parties having farms for sale will do well to list them with him. On the other hand, those who are in the market for farms will find it to their advantage to consult Mr. Steinman before investing. Besides a most desirable list of Green County farms, Mr. Steinman is also agent for a select list of lands in the famous Canadian Wheat Belt, as well as a first class list of lands in the Dakotas. By all means, make it a point to see him before you buy or sell. *(The joint agency is now know as J. C. Steinman Real Estate and Insurance Agency.)*

10) **Monticello Messenger, Nov. 23, 1910** - **NEW REAL ESTATE FIRM**. We wish to announce to the public that we have formed a co-partnership for the purposes of engaging in the real estate business, the firm to be known as Steinman and Voegeli Real Estate Agency. We are now ready to list farm and village property and those who wish to buy or sell will do well to call on us. Our headquarters will be at the clothing store of The Peoples Supply Co. J. C. Steinman and Emil Voegeli.

11) **Monticello Messenger, April 24, 1918** - Notice to Car Owners. When you want your automobile or truck insured you will find it to your advantage to consult the undersigned. We can insure your car for a term of three years against fire and theft for less premium than you would have to pay in a stock company for fire insurance alone. Do not forget that I am agent for the Wisconsin Automobile Insurance company, the home office of which is at Monroe. Be sure to see me and get rates before insuring your car elsewhere. **J. C. Steinman, Local Agent**

corporation and also director, and is still at the head of this concern at this writing, although he has not taken an active part in the store.

Mr. Steinman was also a charter member of the Reform Zwingli Church of Monticello.¹² It was he with twelve others, also members, who started the congregation in 1887 in the Methodist Episcopal Church on the north side of the village. In 1888 the congregation erected a new church and a new parsonage on Railroad avenue, and Mr. Steinman has been a member of the consistory board most of the time since its beginning and has for years been the treasurer, which office he now holds. He was always a willing worker and helper both in work and finances. He also was always ready and willing for any development and improvement for the village. He built several good substantial buildings, of which the store now owned by the Peoples Supply Company is the first brick structure that was constructed by Steinman & Knobel. Mr. Steinman built several dwellings. In 1910 he bought six acres of land and laid it out into lots in the south part of the village, now known as the Steinman addition to the village of Monticello.

Mr. Steinman has always been a booster for Monticello. He is a stockholder¹³ of the Bank of Monticello and has been a director¹⁴ for many years. He was a notary public¹⁵ for many years, in which capacity he signed hundreds of legal papers and was always ready and willing to give free advice to his customers and friends. As a citizen his political affiliations were republican,¹⁶ and he became a strong, progressive La Follette follower. He was a delegate from Green county to the state convention at the time Hon. Robert M. La Follette was nominated and elected governor of the state of Wisconsin."

The above brief outline of the life of John Casper Steinman was written by himself in 1925.

Mr. and Mrs. Steinman were married on the 31st of January, 1878, at New Glarus, Wisconsin. To them were born eight children, five sons and three daughters: Lena, who is Mrs. H. L. Karlen; Barbara, who died at the age of

12) **Monticello Messenger, January 11, 1911** - J. C. Steinman, Trustee of the Monticello Cemetery Association (also secretary)

13) Bank of Monticello 50th Anniversary 1896 - 1946 Pamphlet - On March 16th, 1896, a group of enterprising citizens started procedure to make it a reality. Mr. Trogner and Mr. Sears, who were operating the private bank, were interested in the forming of a state bank. In addition to them at that first meeting were Edward Wittwer, Fred W. Humiston, Jacob Marty, Christ Bontly, John Bontly, Albert Fulton, Henry Holdrich, J. C. Steinmann and Fred Knobel. At an adjourned meeting held a week later they were joined by Dietrich Stauffacher, Jacob Wittenwyler, Edgar F. Wright, Dietrich Freitag, David Zimmerman, Oscar J. Persons, Dr. Dwight Flowers and Fred Breylinger. A committee was selected to negotiate with Trogner and Sears for the purchase of their building and equipment.

14) Former Directors - J. C. Steinmann, 1916-1941

15) **Monticello Messenger, November 22, 1904** - **NOTARY PUBLIC.** Having received my commission as notary public, I desire to inform the public that I am prepared to execute conveyances, such as deeds, mortgages, leases, etc., also to transact any other business where the service of a notary are required. Your patronage solicited: J. C. Steinman

16) **Monticello Messenger, May 24, 1904** - J. C. Steinman and J. B. Pierce were off to Madison a day or two last week, taking in the sights of the republican state convention.

eight years; George; William, who died in infancy; Fred H.; John; Wilbert, who died when three years old; and Mata, who is Mrs. Melvin E. Lynn.

George Steinman, oldest son of John C. and Barbara (Legler) Steinman, was born in Monticello, Wisconsin, December 29, 1882, and attended the local grade schools. He is now a member of the Peoples Supply Company of Monticello. He married Inez Kilgore and they have a son,^{17 18} Gordon, of Madison, Wisconsin.

Lena Steinman is the wife of Herman L. Karlen and the mother of three children: Royal W., Cloyance and Helen Inca.

Fred H. Steinman, born in Monticello, Wisconsin, April 12, 1886, received his early education in the local grade school and spent two years as a student at the Monroe high school prior to entering the Monroe Business Institute, of which he is a graduate. In 1905 he became a partner in the Karlen & Steinman Lumber Company of Monticello. Interested in public affairs, he has served as a member of the village board for about five years. He has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in Masonry and is also affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and his name is likewise on the membership rolls of the Green County Rod & Gun Club and the Decatur Lake Country Club. In 1907 he married Miss Alva Marty, daughter of Jacob B., Marty, and they are the parents of three children : Gladys, who was born February 18, 1909, and is attending the University of Wisconsin; Frederick, born August 25, 1918; and Kathleen, born August 16, 1921.

John C. Steinman, Jr., who was born in Monticello, Wisconsin, February 28, 1889, supplemented his grade school education by two years high school work in Monticello, completing the latter half of the high school course at Mondovi, Wisconsin. Subsequently he spent a year as an apprentice in the office of Irving F. Hand, a Beloit architect, and thereafter studied architecture for three years in the office of Henry Wildhagen, of Ashland, Wisconsin.¹⁹ He became associated with the Karlen & Steinman Lumber Company of Monticello²⁰ as architect and partner in charge of building, construction and contracting. He has served as a member of the village board for one year and was president of the Parent-Teacher

17) **Monticello Messenger, Tuesday, April 17, 1906** - Died - Mr. & Mrs. George C. Steinman mourn the loss of an infant son, Eugene Lee, that was born to them at 9:00 Sunday Evening. The child passed away at about 12:00 yesterday and the remains were interred in the local cemetery this morning at 10:00.

18) **Monticello Messenger, Wed., October 5, 1910** - Mr. and Mrs. George C. Steinman mourn the loss of their infant son, Milo Burnell, whose death resulted from convulsions on Saturday afternoon, following a comparatively brief illness. The little one would have been just two weeks old had it lived until the following Monday. Brief services were held at the house at 10 o'clock Sunday morning and later at the old cemetery, where the remains were interred in the family lot.

19) **Monticello Messenger, December 22, 1909** - Jack Steinman, who has a position with one of the leading architects at Ashland, arrived home Wednesday evening for a visit with the folks at home over the holidays.

20) **Monticello Messenger, February 28, 1912** - Jack Steinman, who has been spending a number of weeks at home, has concluded not to return to Ashland this year. Instead, he will associate himself with the Steinman and Karlen Lumber Co. and remain in Monticello for the time being, at least.

Association for two years and president of the Business Men's Association for one year. He is a member and a worthy exemplar of the teachings and purposes of the Masonic fraternity. In 1912 he married Martha T. Linehan, of River Falls, Wisconsin, who was a teacher in Ashland. They are the parents of two sons: John W., born January 29, 1913, who is a graduate of the Monticello high school and is now studying architecture at the University of Illinois; and Howard R., born in Monticello, June 15, 1920.²¹

Mata E. Steinman, the youngest child of John C. and Barbara (Legler) Steinman, attended the Monticello grade and high schools and is now bookkeeper at the yard of the Karlen & Steinman Lumber Company. She is the wife of Melvin E. Lynn, proprietor of the business conducted under the name of the Melvin E. Lynn Hardware Company in Monticello²².



Mrs. Barbara Steinmann, Mata, Mr. John C. Steinmann. Rear: John C. Jr., Magdalena (Lena), Fred, George.

21) **Monticello Messenger, Feb. 6, 1918** - Jane Ann, the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman, Jr., passed away at a Madison hospital this morning, following an illness of about three weeks. The little one was taken to the hospital Sunday morning, but the condition of the child at that time was such that its chances for recovery were considered very meager. The remains will be brought home this afternoon but no arrangements for the funeral have as yet been made.

22) **Monticello Messenger, May 17, 1917** - Melvin Lynn, who is taking a course of special instructions in tire vulcanizing, was home from Milwaukee over Sunday and returned to the city Monday afternoon for another weeks siege.

Family Traditions Relating to John Caspar Steinmann

Researched and prepared by great-grandson

Robert H. Naylor II — 29 March 1997

Over the years, various family traditions have been told relating to Johann Kaspar (John Caspar) Steinmann's birth and father, the circumstances of his emigration from Kanton Glarus, Switzerland, to Green County, Wisconsin, with his mother and his grandfather, and her marriage to Friederich Zimmermann. Research has shown that there are both fact and fiction in these accounts.

Emigration to America

The tradition most oft heard is that Maria Magdalena Steinmann's husband, who was also a Steinmann, came to America at the time of the Civil War, took someone else's place in the Union Army for a bonus, sent the bonus back to Switzerland to finance his wife and son's emigration, and then was either killed in battle or captured by Confederate forces and died in a Confederate prison camp.

John Caspar Steinmann emigrated from Switzerland with his mother, Maria Magdalena Steinmann, and his grandfather, Johann Kaspar Steinmann. They boarded the ship *Helvetia* at Le Harve, France, and arrived in New York City on 10 May 1861.²³ They apparently continued on almost immediately to New Glarus, Wisconsin.

A search of military records at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., turned up no Steinmann who would fill the role of Magdalena's "husband." The only Steinmann listed from either Wisconsin or New York was a man who would have been 12 years old when John Caspar was born in 1854, and who had been using the surname Steinmann as an alias. A review of the timing of events at the beginning of the Civil War provided strong evidence that the story of John Caspar's father serving in the Civil War was fallacious. The opening shots of the Civil War were fired at Ft. Sumter, South Carolina, on 12 April 1861, and the next weren't until June at Fairfax, Virginia. Patriotic fever ran high after Ft. Sumter with many volunteering for service; thus there was no need for anyone to pay someone to take their place. Finally, given the means of transmitting money and the time required to travel from Switzerland, through Le Harve, France, to New York, it was impossible for anyone to have sent an "enlistment bonus" to Maria Magdalena after Ft. Sumter in time for her and the other members of her family to have arrived in New York by 10 May 1861.

Other Steinmann Family Members in America

When Maria Magdalena Steinmann, along with her father and son, arrived in New Glarus, Wisconsin, they were not coming alone to a new country. Her sister, Anna Maria Steinmann, was married to Johann Jakob Deitland of Thun (Kanton

23) Entries for Caspar, Magdline [sic], and Caspar Steinmann, ship *Helvetia*, 10 May 1861, lines 326, 327, and 328. Passenger List of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1820-1897. Records of the U.S. Customs Service, Record Group 36, National Archives Microfilm Publication M237, roll 210, April 18 - May 10, 1861.

Bern) and Benken (Kanton St. Gallen), and had settled in the New Glarus area about 1857.²⁴ They were farming in the New Glarus area, and would have been there to assist the arrival of the newcomers.

In addition, there may have been other relatives in the area. Maria Magdalena's first cousin, Verena Steinmann Sigrist, and her family may also have been in the New Glarus area. The records of the Zwingli Reformed Church in New Glarus record birth and baptismal dates for their three children in 1851, 1853, and 1855.²⁵ It is quite possible that they had come before their children were born, as the first Swiss settled in New Glarus in 1845.²⁶

Who was John Caspar Steinmann's father?

Further research turned up a history of the Steinmann family of Niederurnen, Kanton Glarus, Switzerland, written by a Swiss genealogist from local parish records. It shows that Maria Magdalena Steinmann had two children, both listed as illegitimate:²⁷

Johann Kaspar born 13 May 1855²⁸
Magdalena born 4 July 1859 –died 3 September 1859

This would explain why Maria Magdalena's husband could not be found in Civil War military records. Since the fighting picked up shortly after her arrival in the United States, the story about a husband who had died in the fighting became plausible and lent legitimacy to John Caspar.

A possible father for John Caspar may have been one Melchoir Steinmann of Switzerland. This would fit with the portion of the tradition that Maria Magdalena Steinmann had married a man with the same last surname, a not uncommon occurrence in that area of Switzerland at that time.

A search of legal papers from Green County, Wisconsin, turned up a partial file for the estate of the infant heir of Melchoir Steinman, deceased. The first

24). Ordinances Performed at the Instance of Robert Kaspar Steinmann, from "Steinmann Family of Neiderurnen, Kanton Glarus, Switzerland," Research in Parish Records by Julius Billeter, Genealogist, Completed December 1938, entry #1068, page 71. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Microfilm #0387822. Dietland Tomm married Maria Magdalena's sister, Anna Maria, on 18 February 1841. His name occurs with various spellings; in fact, it is not his real name, which was Johann Jakob Dietland, according to Billeter's work, where he is noted as "Johann Jakob Dietland of Thun and Benken, to America." Apparently when he arrived in the United States, his name got recorded as Dietland Tomm (Dietland of Thun), and he and his family were thereafter known as the Tomm family. Washington Reformed Church Cemetery, Location: Section 21, Church Road at Highpoint Road, Town of Washington, page 1: THOM, Joh. Diethland, Burder von Benken, Bezirk Gaster Kanton St. Gallen, Ehemann der Frau Maria HUME geb. STEINMAN, v. Nieburg, gest. 18 Aut 1879, 1m 60 ys.

25) Baptismal register entries for Verena (entry #17, vol. 1, p. 73), Fridolin (entry #72, vol. 1, p. 81), and Katharina (entry #33, vol. 1, p. 93) Sigrist. Records of the U.C.C. Church, New Glarus, Wisconsin, 1850-1861. Book I, p. 23, entry #3, Register of births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths. Microfilmed by the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

26) Helen M. Bingham. *History of Green County, Wisconsin*. (Milwaukee: Burdick & Armitage, Printers, 1877), photocopy republic by the Green County Historical Society, Monroe, Wisconsin, 1960. pp. 248-49.

27). Billeter, "Steinmann Family of Neiderurnen, Kanton Glarus, Switzerland," entries #1070, #1567, and #1568, page 104.

28). The birth date used by John Caspar Steinmann and accepted by the family is 13 June 1854.

document in this file, dated 19 March 1869, is a petition to the Judge of the County Court from Dietland Tom²⁹ asking to be appointed as the general guardian for Casper Steinman, age 14 on the 15th of May 1868, the infant heir of the estate of Melchoir Steinmann, deceased. The same day the Judge appointed Dietland Tomm as Caspar Steinman's guardian, upon the posting of a \$100 bond. In this same paper, the Judge referred to "the estate of Melchoir Steinman late of Germany, deceased." On 27 April 1875, the County Court, Green County in Probate, ordered Deitland Tomm to appear on the 13th of May to render an annual account as the guardian of Caspar Steinman. The following day, J. Casper Steinman wrote to Judge Dinwiddie stating that he would be of age on May 13th and that he would like to have his money from Deadland Tom, who will not now give him any cows or money. The last paper in the file is an undated letter from Casper Steinmann, received by the Court on 12 June, to the Judge stating that his uncle Deadland Tom settled on 10 June.³⁰

Maria Magdalena Steinmann and her marriage to Friederich Zimmermann

Various versions of how Maria Magdalena Steinmann came to America and later wed Friederich Zimmermann have been told over the years. One of the more pervasive states that after she immigrated to New Glarus, Wisconsin, from Neiderurnen, Kanton Glarus, Switzerland, she became a housekeeper for Mr. Zimmermann and, some time later, married him in order to have a means to support herself and her son, John Caspar Steinmann. Later generations stated that they knew of no children from this marriage.³¹

Maria Magdalena Steinmann arrived in New York City on 10 May 1861, with her father, Johann Kaspar Steinmann, and her son, Johann Kaspar (John Caspar) Steinmann.³² They apparently moved quickly to New Glarus, Wisconsin.

The records of the Zwingli Reformed Church of New Glarus show that Maria Magdalena Steinmann married Friedr. Zimmermann on 18 July 1861, just over two months after she landed in New York.³³

Friederich was a widower with four children, his wife, Verena Rhyner, having died some 15 months earlier, on 3 March 1860. When Maria arrived, Friederich's children were 1½, 4, 5½, and 7½ years old.³⁴ He was probably in dire need of

29). Dietland Tomm's name is spelled in various ways throughout these court documents. See footnote #2.

30) Court File: In the matter of the estate of the infant heir of Melchoir STEINMAN, deceased. Green County, Wisconsin, Wills #789, maintained in 1985 by Ekum Abstract & Title, Inc., 1118 - 17th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566, (608) 328-8221. No further documents relating to this matter could be found at that time.

31) Family tradition as related by Gladys Steinmann Naylor and Kathleen Steinmann Hoesly, granddaughters, to the compiler at various times between 1955 and 1985.

32) Passenger records for the *Helvetia*, arriving New York 10 May 1861.

33) Marriage register entry for Friedr. Zimmermann and Magdal. Steinmann, 14/18 July 1861. Records of the U.C.C. Church, New Glarus, Wisconsin, 1850-1861. Book I, p. 23, entry #3, Register of births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths. Microfilmed by the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

34) Records of the U.C.C. Church, New Glarus, Wisconsin, 1850-1961. Entry in Family Record Book I, vol. 6, p. 97. Microfilmed by the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

someone to care for and raise them, and possibly also a bit lonely. And Maria did need someone to support her and help raise John Caspar, who was then 7 years old.

Although it may be that they were both somewhat desperate and had a very short courtship leading to a practical wedding, it is also quite possible, if not probable, that this marriage had been arranged beforehand and that it was the end goal of Maria's emigration from Switzerland. Such arrangements were common at that time. Immigration to the New Glarus area where her older sister, Anna Maria Steinmann Thomm, was already living with her family, especially with the prospect of a recognized marriage, may have seemed the solution to her problems.

The marriage to Friederich Zimmermann was, according to all accounts, no fairy tale life. Fridolin apparently did not like having John Caspar around and beat him. John Caspar reportedly used to run away from home and Maria would go find him and beg him to come back. When he was 14, John Caspar apparently decided that he had had enough and left the Zimmermann household permanently.³⁵

The tradition that Maria had no children by Friederich Zimmermann is not true; however, it may be partially the result of the fact that none lived to reach one year of age and thus were probably not mentioned in later years, leading subsequent generations to conclude that there had been no issue from this marriage. According to the records of the Zwingli Reformed Church in New Glarus, there were three children from this union:

Alma Katherine, born 9 February 1863, died 3 March 1863.

Unnamed male child, born and died 14 January 1864.

Fridolin Heinrich, born 24 December 1867, died 1 March 1868.³⁶

– Prepared by Robert H. Naylor II – 29 March 1997

35). Family tradition as related by Gladys Steinmann Naylor and Kathleen Steinmann Hoesly, granddaughters, to the compiler at various times between 1955 and 1985.

36). Records of the U.C.C. Church, New Glarus, Family Record Books I, Vol. 6, p. 97.

Land Abstract Information, 330 S. Monroe St.³⁷

Researched by Pamela Schilder, current Steinmann house owner.

- 1845 - First owner of the land Robert Witter (bought from the government)
1888 - Sold to Susan and Thomas Zimmerman and the land was divided for homes.
2-7-1888 - Land was sold to Anna Barney
3-29-1902 - to Fred Elmer, Sr.
10-7-1903 - to J. C. Steinman
3-2-1905 - J.C. Steinman and wife Barbara took out \$4000 mortgage at the Bank of Monticello or lien against property
2-6-1907 - Release of Mortgage
6-1-1915 - J.C. Steinman Sr. to Barbara, his wife, Warranty Deed \$1.00
3-31-37 - Barbara Died
2-24-1939 - Certificate of Descent
 Magdalena Karlen, daughter
 Fred H. Steinman, Son
 George C. Steinman, Son
 John C. Steinman Jr.; Son
 Mata E. Lynn, Daughter
9-29-1943 - John C. Steinman Sr. sold to Christ & Hattie Yaussi
Then there was something written which seemed like a lawsuit by some of the original land owners children: Pierce, Herrick, Witter, Elmer (defendants).
2-10-1945 - Ruled that the defendants are barred from any claim to the property
7-8-1953 Hatti Yaussi died
Property went to Elaine Teuscher, their daughter.

37) This is information that I took from an old abstract of deed which I was able to see at Ekum Abstract in Monroe. Pamela Schilder

Monticello Messenger Articles

A few Steinmann articles, of a personal nature, gleaned from the Monticello Messenger by Pamela Schilder, Monticello Librarian and current Steinmann house owner.



The Steinmann residence on East Highland Ave., Monticello, before their new home on Prospect Ave. was finished. Circa 1900.

Monticello Messenger, Tuesday, October 13, 1903 - J. C. Steinman and family will become residents of Prospect Avenue³⁸ in the not far distant future. Mr. Steinman has purchased the two lots owned by Fred Elmer, Sr., just south of F. Loveland's, upon which ground was broken yesterday for a new and modern residence. He proposes to have the structure completed and ready for occupancy by January next.

Monticello Messenger, November 24, 1903 - The work on J. C. Steinman's new residence on Prospect Avenue is being hustled along and the structure is rapidly assuming definite proportions. The work of shingling was completed Saturday.

Monticello Messenger, December 1, 1903 - Wallace Severance was in town from Freeport on business Saturday. His firm has the contract for putting in a

38)Note that Prospect Ave. is now South Monroe Street and Railroad Ave. is now East Lake Ave.

private gas plant in J. C. Steinman's new residence, and he was here doing some preliminary work on the same.

Monticello Messenger, December 22, 1903 - J. C. Steinman's elegant new residence on Prospect Avenue is now in the hands of the plasterers and will no doubt be ready for occupancy within 2 to 3 weeks.

Monticello Messenger, January 12, 1904 - S. P. Wallace, of the firm of Wallace, Severance & Co., is here from Freeport, at present, installing a 25 light gas plant in the store of E. J. Blum. The work will no doubt be completed within a day or two. The plant is the same as the one installed in Albert Stroller's residence several months ago and which has since been in successful operation. The firm recently placed one of the plants in the new residence of J. C. Steinman, on Prospect Avenue, now nearing completion.

Monticello Messenger, May 2 1904 - J. C. Steinman is making preparations for the building of a cement walk in front of and leading to his handsome new residence on Prospect Avenue. When all improvements are completed, Mr. Steinman will have a piece of property of which he may justly feel proud.

Monticello Messenger, May 24, 1904 - J. C. Steinman's new residence is now in the hands of painters, Wm. Hyde having the work in charge.



Steinmann's new residence on Prospect Ave.

Monticello Messenger, April 5, 1905 - J. C. Steinman has purchased the cottage on Railroad Avenue owned by F. W. Humiston, paying \$1,200 for the same. The transfer was made Saturday.

Monticello Messenger, October 3, 1905 - Mr. & Mrs. Steinman were passengers to Madison Wednesday morning, the lady going there to enter the sanitarium for treatment. While the gentleman returned home the same evening.

Mrs. Steinman's health has been very poorly for some time and her many friends sincerely trust that her stay at the above named institution will not be without the desired results.

Monticello Messenger, October 17, 1905 - Mrs. J. C. Steinman, who has been receiving treatment at the Madison Sanitarium for the past two weeks, submitted to an operation at that institution yesterday and is recovering nicely from the effects of the same. Mr. Steinman, who accompanied her there Sunday, returned home this morning.

Monticello Messenger, October 31, 1905 - Mrs. J. C. Steinman, after submitting to an operation, spent Saturday at home and will return to the institution Sunday morning. Mrs. Steinman's health is improving rapidly and she expects to return home for good in about two weeks.

Monticello Messenger, November 14, 1905 - J. C. Steinman was off to Reedsburg on business the first of the week. Returning, he stopped off at Madison and was accompanied home by his wife who has been receiving treatment at the Madison Sanitarium. Mrs. Steinman is now home to stay and it will please her friends greatly to learn that her health has been greatly improved.

Monticello Messenger, May 29, 1906 - J. C. Steinman came very near being put out of commission for a while on Wednesday last, as a result of a mix-up with the "kicking-end" of his horses. He was carrying a box into the barn behind the horses, when one of the animals became frightened and started to kick, making use of him for a target. He received a kick on the right and one on his forehead, as well as a few minor taps, before he finally got around to the horse's head and quieted the animal. He happened to be close to the horse, when it started to kick; otherwise his injuries might have been more serious.

Monticello Messenger, June 12 1906 - Miss Mata Steinman celebrated her 8th Birthday on Friday last. Assembled at her home on Prospect Avenue, to assist in making the day an enjoyable one, was a number of Miss Mata's little friends and there was no limit to the fun that materialized. Games of various kinds were played and not the least of the enjoyable features were the tempting refreshments that were set before the little folks. The little hostess was presented with many pretty gifts by those present.

Monticello Messenger, September 18, 1906 - Mr. & Mrs. Steinman and daughter Miss Mata, left Sunday for Ridgeway and Verona, where they will visit relatives. They are making the trip by team and expect to arrive home the last of this week.

Monticello Messenger, December 4, 1907 - Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Steinman and their son George C. Steinman, departed yesterday morning for Hot Springs, Arkansas, where both Mr. & Mrs. Steinman will remain for an indefinite period for the benefit of their health. George expects to return home the last of the present week. Mr. Steinman, who has been suffering for several months with sciatic rheumatism, showed quite a little improvement during the past week and

it is to be hoped that his progress toward recovery will be more pronounced as a result of this change.

Monticello Messenger, March 11, 1908 - Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Steinman arrived home Saturday evening from a stay of several months at Hot Springs, Ark. Mr. Steinman is looking unusually well and it is to be hoped that the benefits he derived as a result of his stay at the Springs will prove of the lasting kind. Mrs. Steinman is feeling somewhat indisposed just at present, due to an attack of the grip with which she was taken before starting homeward.

Monticello Messenger, March 25, 1908 - Mrs. J. C. Steinman, who has been quite poorly since returning from the south, is slowly recovering and is now able to sit up a portion of the time.

Monticello Messenger, June 16, 1909 - Jacob and Barbara Legler drove here from Verona Saturday for an over Sunday visit with relatives. Returning home they were accompanied by Miss Mata Steinman, who will remain there until the last of the week.

Monticello Messenger, July 21, 1909 - County Supervisor of Assessment, J. C. Steinman, was uncomfortably near a death-dealing bolt of lightning, while in the vicinity of Argyle recently. He had just driven into the barn of Wm. Case for shelter from the storm, when lightning struck the barn and killed a cow not more than 6 feet from where Mr. Steinman was standing. Outside of a hole which was torn in the barn basement, no other damage resulted to the building. Mr. Case and his son were also in the barn at the time.

Monticello Messenger, September 8, 1909 - J. C. Steinman offers for sale a new and modern 9 room house on Prospect Avenue,³⁹ excellent location and fitted with every modern convenience, including water system and electric lights. Price \$4,000.

Monticello Messenger, September 15, 1909 - J. C. Steinman has been having quite a bit of trouble with the index finger of his right hand of late, the result of a scratch received on a barbed wire some two weeks ago. It has been causing him a great deal of pain at times and he has been unable to do any writing at all. Mr. Steinman says that he ought to be getting busy with his assessment books, but he is unable to do so until the wound heals and the healing process seems to be a rather slow one.

Monticello Messenger, July 20, 1910 - Mixed Up In a Runaway - J. C. Steinman, narrowly escaped serious injury as a result of a runaway in which he figured while on his way home from Jordan Township Friday evening. He was driving along on Jordan prairie at 9 o'clock when his horse suddenly became frightened at an old buggy, which was standing in the tall weeds by the roadside. Mr. Steinman made an effort to stop the horse, but one of the lines broke in two and he was then powerless to do more than to turn the animal in toward the

39)Would this be the home that he just built?) Ad appeared at least 6 times from Sept. to Dec. 1909.

fence. In doing so, the buggy overturned and Mr. Steinman was thrown to the ground on his head and shoulders. The horses continued to run a short distance further, when it turned into a farmyard. Fortunately, Mr. Steinman was uninjured beyond a few bruises. The horse had one of its hind feet cut and the buggy was only slightly damaged. After righting matters, Mr. Steinman resumed his journey homeward, arriving here at 11 o'clock.

Monticello Messenger, August 17, 1910 - Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman and daughter, Miss Mata, departed Friday morning on a trip of a week to ten days to points in northern Wisconsin. They will spend a few days at Ashland with J. C. Steinman, Jr. and on their way home they may call on friends in Hudson, River Falls and Roberts.

Monticello Messenger, August 24, 1910 - H. L. Karlen and family and George Steinman and family left Monday morning for an outing of a week or 10 days to Lake Kegonsa,⁴⁰ It is expected that Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman, who have been in the northern part of the state for nearly 2 weeks, will join them there the last of the week.

Monticello Messenger, August 31, 1910 - Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman and daughter Miss Mata, arrived home on Monday after an absence of three weeks. They spent the week with J. C. Steinman Jr., at Ashland, 3 days with Mr & Mrs. Emil Voegeli at Rice Lake and the balance of the trip they were in camp at Lake Kegonsa with the families of George Steinman and H. L. Karlen, all of whom returned home at the same time.

Monticello Messenger, November 23, 1910 - The Green County Board of Supervisors, at its session on Thursday last, paid a high compliment to J. C. Steinman by re-electing him Supervisor of Assessment, despite the fact that he was not a candidate. Mr. Steinman received 15 votes out of 27 and while the action of the board must surely have been gratifying to him, and the compliment was well deserved, he stood by his declaration made a year ago that it was his purpose to retire. The board members placed a high measure of value upon Mr. Steinman's nine years of service and was conclusively shown by the action above referred to.

Monticello Messenger, March 29, 1911 - J. C. Steinman, B. L. Clark, W. E. Baumgartner and Rosco Smith each purchased a Ford Touring car of John J. Voegeli the past week. All delivered with the exception of Mr. Steinman.

Monticello Messenger, April 26, 1911 - Population of Monticello - 671

Monticello Messenger, May 17, 1911 - Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman and Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Steinman enjoyed an auto ride to New Glarus Friday afternoon in the former's Ford car. While there, they had the pleasure of being shown through the new milk condensing plant.

⁴⁰Lake Kegonsa is near Stoughton, WI.

Monticello Messenger, May 17, 1911 - Miss Tillie Weiss, who has been making her home with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman since she returned from Freeport a number of weeks since, returned to that city some time ago and submitted to a 2nd operation at St. Francis hospital on Monday. Mr. Steinman was in Freeport Saturday and again Monday to be present during the operation.

Monticello Messenger, May 24, 1911 - Mrs. J. C. Steinman went to Freeport last Thursday to visit Miss Tillie Weiss, returning home Friday evening.

Monticello Messenger, June 7, 1911 - Miss Tillie Weiss, who recently underwent a 2nd operation in Freeport, arrived here Monday evening and is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman.

Monticello Messenger, June 21, 1911 - Miss Mata Steinman spent a portion of last week with Monroe relatives.

Monticello Messenger, August 2, 1911 - Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman, daughter Miss Mata, W. E. Bontley and Family, H. L. Karlen and Family and George Steinman and family, who have been enjoying an outing at Lake Kegonsa for the past two weeks all returned home Sunday evening, with the exception of Mrs. George Steinman and son Gordon, who remained in Madison to visit relatives a few days. They all report a splendid time and unusual luck in the fishing line.

Monticello Messenger, August 23, 1911 - Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman made an auto trip to Madison last Wednesday, being accompanied by their son, John Steinman and Miss Martha Linehan, who departed the same day for their respective homes at Ashland and River Falls.

Monticello Messenger, September 6, 1911 - Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman and daughter, Miss Mata, and Mr. and Mrs. George Steinman departed on an auto trip to Milwaukee yesterday. From Milwaukee Mr. and Mrs. George Steinman will go to Chicago by boat.

Monticello Messenger, September 20, 1911 - George Steinman has completed arrangements for a new residence in Steinman's addition. The work of excavating for the foundation being already underway.

Monticello Messenger, October 25, 1911 - Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Karlen and daughter Helen, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Steinman and daughter Gladys, and Mr. and Mrs. George C. Steinman and son Gordon, drove to Argyle Saturday and were guests of George Legler and family, until Sunday afternoon.

Monticello Messenger, October 30, 1911 - George Steinman and family, F. H. Steinman and family and H. L. Karlen motored to Argyle Friday. The gentlemen going there on a hunting trip. Returning Sunday, Mrs. George Steinman and son stopped at Monroe for a few days visit with her sister, Mrs. M. C. Durst.

Monticello Messenger, December 27, 1911 - John Legler and family of Verona were over Xmas guests at the home of the gentleman's sister, Mrs. J. C.

Steinman.

Monticello Messenger, February 7, 1912 - George Legler of Argyle, who attended the dairyman's convention at Monroe, was here for a visit at the home of his sister, Mrs. J. C. Steinman.

Monticello Messenger, January 3, 1912 - Miss Martha Linehan, of River Falls, is a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman.⁴¹

Monticello Messenger, February 7, 1912 - Mr. and Mrs. George C. Steinman and son, Gordon, are in Madison for a wedding of the lady's sister, Miss Lea Kilgore, which is to occur this evening.⁴²

Monticello Messenger, February 7, 1912 - George Legler of Argyle, who attended the dairyman's convention at Monroe, was here for a visit at the home of his sister, Mrs. J. C. Steinman.

Monticello Messenger, March 6 1912 - George Steinman and family, F. H. Steinman and family, H. L. Karlen and family and Mrs. M. Karlen enjoyed a sleigh ride into Washington Township Friday evening, where they spent a number of hours very pleasantly with Mr. and Mrs. Will Karlen. They took with them ingredients for an oyster supper, which was served that evening.

Monticello Messenger, May 26, 1912 -The frame work for Jack Steinman's bungalow, located at the south of Steinman's addition, was raised the last of the week.



Monticello Messenger, Sept. 4, 1912 - H. L. Karlen and family left yesterday for Lake Kegonsa, where they will enjoy an outing of a week to 10 days. They made the trip in their Ford car.

Monticello Messenger, January 4, 1913 - Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman Jr., arrived home Saturday evening from a visit of 2 weeks with relatives and friends at River Falls, the lady's former home.

41)She was the fiancée of John C. Steinmann, Jr.

42)Lea Kilgore married Avon R. Nottingham; she also wrote a small book of poems titled Bittersweet and published by Horizon House, circa 1942.

Monticello Messenger, July 7, 1921 - Melvin E. Lynn 26, Miss Mata Steinman 23, Monticello, were among those to apply for marriage licenses at the county clerks office during this past week.

Monticello Messenger, July 14, 1921 -

POPULAR YOUNG COUPLE WED

Miss Mata E. Steinman becomes bride of Melvin E. Lynn

A pretty nuptial event transpired at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman on Prospect Avenue at 5:00 last Thursday evening, when their daughter, Miss Mata E. Steinman became the bride of Melvin E. Lynn. Rev. A. Muehlmeier, pastor of the Reformed Church, spoke the words that made them one in the presence of only the immediate relatives of the contracting parties and a small company of friends. The bride was attended by Miss Hilda Dick, intimate friend of the couple, while Cloyance Karlen, a nephew of the bride, officiated as best man.

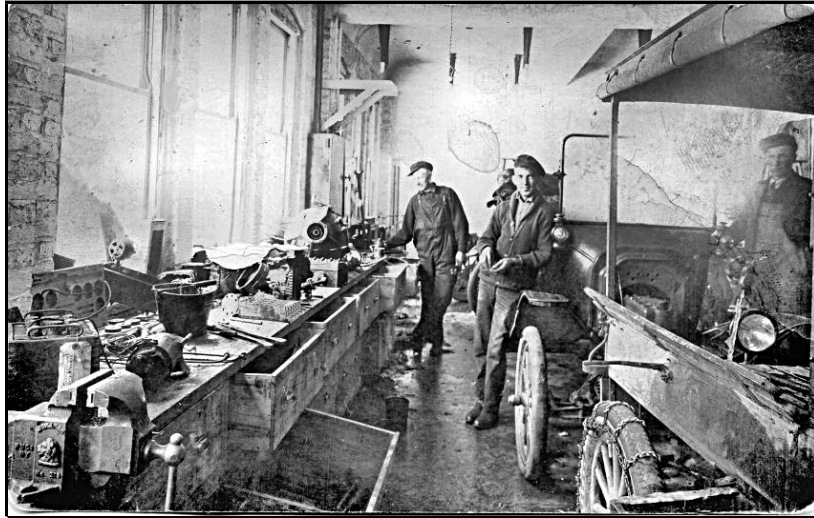
To the strains of Lohengrin's wedding march, played by Miss Marion Burgy, the bride and bridesmaid descended the stairs to the landing on the lower floor: Here they were met by the groom and his attendant and were escorted to the parlor where the ceremony was performed under a pretty arch of asparagus and summer hydrangea, which was tastefully arranged in front of a bank of ferns. The double ring ceremony was used.

The bride was attired in a charming gown of white georgette over white satin and wore a bridal veil. Her bouquet was a shower of roses and swansonia. The bridesmaid's gown was a pink organdy and she carried a bouquet of roses.

Following the ceremony, a six o'clock dinner was served in four courses, under the direction of Mrs. P. J. Aultman, assisted by Mrs. Ray Schoonover and the Misses Marie Freitag and Rosa Benkert, of Monticello, Mrs. Ray Nelson, of Beloit, Miss Irene Welch, of La Crosse, and Miss Gertrude Hodges of Monroe. Sweet peas were used in the table decorations,

The bride and groom departed the following morning on an auto trip to Clear Lake, Iowa, where they will spend a week to 10 days in a Lakeside Cottage. They will also visit other points in Iowa and southern MN. They were joined at Clear Lake the first of this week by Miss Marie Freitag and Royal Karlen, who also made the trip overland.

The principals in this happy nuptial event are both natives of Monticello and have always enjoyed the friendship and esteem of our citizens in general. Both are graduates of the Monticello High School. The bride is a young lady of many commendable qualities and has always taken a prominent part in the church and social affairs of the village. The groom is an x-serviceman and experienced something over a year of service with the 89th division. Since his discharge from the army he has been employed as a mechanic at the Karlen garage.



Monticello Messenger, July 21, 1921 - Melvin F, Lynn and bride returned yesterday from their wedding trip to Clear Lake, Iowa, and other points in Iowa and Southern MN. The trip was made by automobile.

We thank Pam Schilder for the above Messenger texts. Photos are from the Monticello Historical Society archives.

J. C. Steinman, Sr., Wife, Observe Anniversary Moved to Monticello Over Fifty Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinman, Sr., esteemed residents of Monticello since the early nineties, had the anniversary of their marriage in their home on Monroe street Friday. In the evening the event was marked by a family gathering at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Herman L. Karlen.

Mr. and Mrs. Steinman came to Monticello from New Glarus township in 1883 and they have since made their home here. For many years Mr. Steinman

was engaged in conducting a general store here in company with the late Fred Knobel. Later he retired from this line of endeavor and opened a clothing store which he conducted for several years. This was subsequently merged with the Peoples Supply company, with which company he is till associated, although he retired from active business in 1907. In addition to his interest in the Peoples Supply company, he is also interested in the Karlen & Steinman Lumber company. During the closing years of the last century Mr. Steinman was also engaged to some extent in buying cheese in company with Mr. Knobel, and they also operated a creamery in Monticello for a term of years, with a branch at Exeter Crossing. H. A. Zum Brunnen, now of Hasty, Minn., was in charge of the Exeter station.

Mr. Steinman, now 81 years of age, is still enjoying comparatively good health, although he is more or less afflicted with rheumatism from time to time. He is still a familiar figure on Main street and scarcely ever misses his daily walk down to the business section. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Steinman has served for many years as a director of the Bank of Monticello and is an elder in the Swiss Reformed church. For many years he served the congregation as treasurer. Mrs. Steinman, who is 79, is also enjoying comparatively good health.

The marriage of Mr. Steinman and Barbara Legler occurred in New Glarus on Jan. 31, 1878, the ceremony being performed by Rev. J. T. Etter. They made their home on a farm in that vicinity before coming to Monticello in 1883.



They have five children: Mrs. Herman L. Karlen, Geo. C. Steinman, Fred H. Steinman, J. C. Steinman, Jr., and Mrs. M. E. Lynn, all of whom are residents of Monticello. There are also 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

All were present at the Karlen home Friday evening with the exception of one granddaughter, Mrs. Richard Dugdale, Lebanon, Ind., one grandson, Gordon K. Steinman, and a great-grandson, Richard Steinman, Madison.

Monticello Messenger, April 11, 1935 -

Editor in Tribute to J. C. Steinman

William T. Evjue Writes "Saturday Letter" to Local Resident

Writing his regular "Saturday Letters" in his editorial columns, William T. Evjue, editor of The Capital Times at Madison, pays the following tribute to J. C. Steinman, Sr., Monticello.

"You are one of the oldest and most enthusiastic subscribers of The Capital Times and we want to pay tribute to your continued interest in matters of public interest and in the news of the day.

Recently when The Capital Times came in for a bit of an attack by a reader in Columbus, you were good enough to send in a nice letter in our defense. You have always been a warm supporter of The Capital Times and of the Progressive movement in this state. Although nearly 81 years old, you are as ardent as ever in your enthusiasm for those great principles laid down by the elder La Follette, whose wisdom has been demonstrated through the passing years. Your personal friendship with the late Sen. La Follette was in keeping with your loyalty to the cause, and no one in your home town of Monticello was more value to the Progressive movement than you. Thanks again for your interest in The Capital Times. It's fine to know that we have supporters in such men as yourself."

Monticello Messenger - April 1, 1937 -

**Mrs. J. C. Steinman, Sr., Expires;
Burial Rite Friday Evening**

Well known local citizen called after illness of two months

Monticello lost another of its well-respected and highly esteemed citizens with the passing at 6:50 Wednesday morning of Mrs. J. C. Steinman, Sr., 80 years of age. Mrs. Steinman had been ill for the past two months or more in her home on Monroe Street, where she answered the final summons. Advancing years and complications were given as the cause of death.

Mrs. Steinman was taken ill shortly after New Years and had been bed-fast practically all that time. For the past two weeks or more her condition had been critical and it was only through sheer determination and will power that she was able to remain alive the last few days during which time she was almost constantly in a coma.

Native of New Glarus: Barbara Legler was a native of New Glarus having been born there July 15, 1856, a daughter of George and Barbara Schindler Legler, who were among the early settlers of the vicinity. She was baptized August 17, 1856 and was confirmed in New Glarus April 6, 1873, by Rev. Etter. On January 31, 1878 she was united in marriage to John Casper Steinman, Sr. The ceremony took place in New Glarus. The couple resided on a farm in New Glarus Township for 5 years following marriage, subsequently coming to Monticello where they have resided for the past 54 years.

The passing of Mrs. Steinman removes from our midst a woman of many sterling qualities and news of her death has occasioned sincere regret among a large circle of friends. She was admired by young and old alike.

Mrs. Steinman was a member of the Monticello Reformed Church, its ladies aid society, woman's missionary society and its Sunday school home department. Mr. and Mrs. Steinman had the pleasure of observing their 59th wedding anniversary Sunday, January 21, of this year.

Survivors besides the widower are two daughters, Mrs. H. L. Karlen, Mrs. M. E. Lynn, Monticello, three sons; George C., Fred H. and John C. Steinman Jr. all of Monticello. 11 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Five brothers. She was preceded in death by a daughter and two sons.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:30 p. m. Friday in the home at 2:00 p. m. in the reformed church. Pallbearers will be all nephews. Interment will be at Highland Cemetery.

J. C. Steinman, Leading Monticello Citizen, Passes at 88 Years

Prominent in Affairs of Green County for More Than a Half Century—Funeral Services Tuesday

J. C. Steinman, 88, Monticello's first citizen and prominent in the affairs of Green county over fifty years, passed away at his residence on Main street in Monticello at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon after an illness of a few hours. Death is attributed to senility complications.

Funeral services are announced for Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church, with Rev. A. R. Achtemeier officiating and interment in Highland cemetery. The body will be taken from the Voegeli funeral

home to the Steinman home Sunday morning. Tuesday noon until the time of the services the body will lie in state at the church.



J. C. Steinman, on his 85th birthday, 1939, as he stood on the spot he identified as the site of Nick Gerber's first Green county cheese factory, opened in 1868. Factory foundation in pasture of old Albert Babler farm in Washington Township is outlined by growth of weeds. As a boy he delivered milk there.

Came Here as Youth

Eighty-one years a resident of Green County he made more than one man's impression on the life of the period in which he lived. During that time he rose from emigrant boy to man of affairs and important public position.

He was rugged of constitution and although retired from active business and feeling the impairment of advancing years he continued a regular daily routine to occupy his time. He never lost interest in life or his pride in his home and garden. Through the past summer he worked in his garden on his knees and personally directed the painting of his residence.

He was a remarkable man in many respects. His memory made him a source of unfailing historical information. He was a regular reader of The Times every afternoon and did his reading without glasses. He saw the birth of the Green county factory system of cheese making and it is appropriate that the tablets marking the sites of the first cheese factories bear his name.

Mr. Steinman as a resident of Monticello fifty-nine years was known as an enterprising citizen of the highest integrity, churchman, business man, banker, neighbor. He was active and useful for many years, growing in public respect as his character gained for him position of leading citizen. Coming to Green County as an immigrant boy he made the best of limited advantages to educate himself and completed an interesting and successful career. He retired from active business 30 years ago.

Authority on Taxation

The study he gave to the tax problem in connection with Gov. Robert M. La Follette's taxation and equalization reform laws and establishment of a state tax commission won for him statewide recognition as tax authority as Green county supervisor of assessment forty years ago.

Mr. Steinman was also authority on historical facts since he became a resident of Green County in 1861. Each year for over 40 years, starting a new book January 1, he has kept a day-by-day diary that is a complete history of doings and events, weather, births, marriages, deaths, accidents, fires, new buildings, everything of any consequence in his home and neighboring community. His diary has been useful many times in establishing definite dates in the lives of his neighbors.

Saw First Cheese Factories

Fifteen years ago when The Times first suggested as proper time to seek

out and establish for all time the exact location of Green county's first cheese factory producing cheese for the outside market. Mr. Steinman was able to furnish unquestioned information to support historic data gathered at that time.

Working on a farm in Washington township in a Swiss settlement where farmers were milking six to 10 cows and he knew Nick Gerber as he came from Ohio in 1868 and founded Green county's first cheese factory in the making of Limburger cheese, Mr. Steinman was 14. One of his chores after milking was to drive from the Blum farm to the Babler farm with the milk morning and evening. A year later, in 1869, he knew by personal information that Mr. Gerber opened the first Swiss cheese factory north of Monticello. He assisted in placing the roadside boulders bearing bronze tablets of the Green County Historical society now marking the sites of the first two factories for the benefit of future generations. He spoke at the dedication at the old Babler farm on Sunday, Sept. 10, 1939, and recalled Green county's first Cheese day in 1873. Thus he made valuable contribution to the basic history of Green county's dairy industry.

Always Hardy and Active

Hard work in the open in his young manhood made him a marvel physically and by simple living and right habits he kept himself fit except for disability due to arthritis of increasing severity in recent years. Too nervous to longer write with a pen he penciled long letters, written without glasses, that were legible to every word and letter.

Automobiles came into use at the time he was supervisor of assessment and despite popular prejudice because drivers of horses feared the cars and the few owners were among the well-to-do, he put a car into practical use. Engaged in his taxation work he placed farm valuation by personal observation, driving over unimproved highways and covering the county as it was never traveled before by one man. He kept up with new cars and frequently made long trips, his regular winter stays at Hot Springs, Ark., for baths for his ailment, palling for overland auto trips. His building operations at Monticello include a large garage and dance hall.

Lost Father in Civil War

John Casper Steinman was born in the village of Nieder Urnen, Canton Glarus, Switzerland. He was 7 when he emigrated with his mother and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Casper Steinman. His father, Melchior Steinman, had left Switzerland before them, arriving in February, 1861. He met recruiting officers working among the emigrants on New York's waterfront who were offering bonus of \$300 for enlistments in the civil war with assurance that the war would be nothing more than a skirmish that would soon be over. Joining the Union army for what he thought was a brief period that would permit him to join his family on arrival he was sent to Tennessee and

participating in the first engagement he was mortally wounded and died in nine days.

Came By Sail Boat

His wife and son and the parents were on the ocean in a sailboat 57 days and received the tragic news as they landed in New York harbor. Disappointed and depressed the family determined to journey on to Green county. They arrived in Monroe May 13, 1861, the boy's seventh birthday. Here they joined an uncle, Deitland Thomm, who came ahead of them and settled in Washington township, five miles west of Monticello. The boy lived with his uncle and the mother found employment. In 1862 she married Fredolin Zimmerman, four miles southwest of New Glarus. The boy at 14 worked on a farm for \$6 a month for six summer months and in the winter worked for his board while attending district school.

The village of New Glarus attracted him in 1870 and there he learned harness making. He attended confirmation school and April 2, 1871, he was confirmed by Rev. J. T. Etter with a class of 26.

Bought Small Farm

He spent part of 1876 in Iowa and except for one season in 1877 when he made cheese at Farmers Grove before going to New Glarus he worked out doing farm work, grubbing and ditching until January 13, 1878, when he married Barbara Legler, New Glarus township. They settled on a small farm five miles west of the village of New Glarus purchased on a small down payment and paid 9 per cent interest on the balance. During the first few years farm product prices were down, milk 65 cents a hundred, hogs \$2.25, eggs five cents a dozen, cattle and horses very cheap. Starting with \$500 saved during nine years, He made what he considered a successful start, and in 1883 he sold his farm and located in Monticello, where he joined Fred Knobel in business as Steinman and Knobel. With \$5,000 in cash, little education and no business experience, they opened a general merchandise store in January, 1883, occupying a frame building until 1889, when Mr. Steinman built the first brick building in Monticello, 32'x70', two stories. This was two years after the railroads came into Monticello, which began to grow, the railroads increasing the importance of the village as a business center.

Mr. Steinman in the early '80s was in the cheese business in connection with the firm of Steinman & Knobel. They operated five factories and in the sale of the product Mr. Steinman made business trips to all parts of the country, calling on jobbers.

Chairman of Mt. Pleasant

Mr. Steinman was elected chairman of the town of Mount Pleasant in 1885 and was reelected. This was his introduction into public affairs and was followed by thirteen years on the county board as supervisor from the village of

Monticello. He was elected Green county supervisor of assessments in 1901, when the office was newly created by the state. He resigned as county supervisor to be a candidate for the new position and the board on the first ballot vote gave him the election with nineteen votes. At the end of four terms he retired because of impaired health. He filled the office nine years while the state passed through early administration of new taxation laws. The Wisconsin tax commission recognized his ability, calling him in frequent consultation and appointed him to the Green county board of review.

During his term as supervisor of assessment he was in the clothing business at Monticello and with his son, George, then 17, in charge of the store, Mr. Steinman devoted his time to official duties, also doing auctioneering, and selling real estate and insurance. He acquired the interest of F. K. Studley in the Studley & Karlen Lumber company in 1904, and also half interest in the grain and feed business of Karlen & Person, the lumber and feed business being since continued under the name of Karlen & Steinman Lumber company.

E. J. Blum, John Dick and Mr. Steinman in 1906 merged their three stores into a corporation known as the People's Supply company, conducting a general store with Mr. Steinman as president.

Charter Church Member

He was a charter member of the Reformed-Zwingli church of Monticello, he with 12 others starting the congregation in 1887. A new church was erected in 1888 and Mr. Steinman has been a consistory member since the beginning and the treasurer.

Several substantial buildings and homes erected by Mr. Steinman have contributed to the improvement of the village. Six acres south of the village purchased by him in 1910, annexed as Steinman addition, were built up with fine new homes. He was stockholder of the Bank of Monticello and a director until 1940. As a citizen his political affiliations were republican and he became a strong progressive and follower of the senior LaFollette. He was elected Green county delegate to the state convention at the time "Old Bob" won his nomination resulting in his first election as governor.

The wedded life of Mr. and Mrs. Steinman continued 59 years. Since the death of Mrs. Steinman March 31, 1937, Mr. Steinman has lived in the old home. Surviving of nine children are three sons, George C. Steinman, in the clothing business; Fred H. Steinman and John C. Steinman, in the lumber business, and two daughters, Mrs. Herman L. Karlen and Mrs. M. E. Lynn, all residing in Monticello. There are also eleven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Mr. Steinman at the time of his death was president of the People's Supply company and also president of the Karlen & Steinman Lumber company.

Throughout his life it was almost a daily habit for him to visit the down town section of Monticello

–The Monroe Evening Times, Saturday, August 29, 1942

J. C. Steinmann Eulogy

He became an apprentice to a harness maker in New Glarus so that he might enjoy the privilege of attending the classes in religious instruction preparatory to confirmation. He learned how to make cheese and was placed in charge of a factory at a very early age. He went to the plains of Iowa and “broke prairie” for a season or two. He was an auctioneer, a merchant, a real estate agent, an insurance agent, a cheese sales man, traveling all over the eastern United States, literally creating a market for the five cheese factories which he and a business partner owned at that time. For a number of years he was a county assessor and became quite an authority on taxation, and developed quite a high degree of proficiency in appraising the value of property.

Always he was building, organizing, establishing. He went from one thing to another, engaging in turn in a number of enterprises, for none of which he had ever had any formal, technical training. Of him it can be said truthfully, he accomplished much with very little. Throughout his earthly career the one outstanding characteristic was energetic activity, systematically and intelligently directed.

Any attempt to seek out the secret, the motivating power, the guiding norm of Mr. Steinman's life will sooner or later bring us to his family; and within the family circle we will be led, directly to Mr. Steinman's life partner, the mother of his children. She kept the spiritual fires aglow on the family altar. And these fires in turn, served as a guiding light for Mr. Steinman's various enterprises, and kindled the flames of honest zeal and constructive ambition within his heart and mind.

To account for Mr. Steinman's achievements one must take into consideration this loyalty to home and family, this devotion to a beloved and loving wife and add to those a determined persistence in giving his best to every task which confronted him. No task was too humble, no toil too arduous if it led to something better, or if it contributed to the security and comfort of his family.

We who are gathered here this afternoon to pay tribute to Mr. Steinman, can recognize without difficulty that the community of Monticello has lost an extraordinary personality. We cannot measure his character and his life by the ordinary standards which are commonly used for measuring men. He was so many sided, capable of so many kinds of leadership, so resourceful, so large of vision, so tremendously devoted to the task at which he worked that it will be quite impossible for any one man to fill the vacancy which he leaves.

Mr. Steinman was not only a good business man who overcame apparently insurmountable obstacles by sheer persistence, energetic pursuit of purpose and determination of will, he also possessed the soul of an artist. He appreciated beauty in any form, whether it was mediated to him by eye or ear, He was not a musician, neither time nor opportunity presented itself so that he could cultivate and develop that talent. Yet he appreciated. good music,. He could not create pictures with word, pencil or brush but he did love form and. color and sought to satisfy his artistic hunger by creating beauty in his garden. He loved flowers! And his flower garden was equaled by few and excelled by none of his neighbors in this community.

Mr. Steinman was a wise father, a devoted husband. He ardently loved and was devotedly loved by the various members of his family. Sons and daughters, grandsons and grand daughters, great grandsons and great grand daughters, nephews, nieces, cousins and all manner of in-laws eagerly sought and cherished his counsel and his companionship.

Mr. Steinman's business ability, his passionate love for beauty, his tender and sympathetic consideration for others made him a very valuable member of the local church of which he was one of two remaining charter members. Mr. Steinman may not have been well acquainted with the historical background of the denomination of which he was a part, and he may not have been well versed in the philosophical or creedal basis of his church, but he loved and was loyal to it.

Without question or hesitation he accepted the favors and took advantage of the privileges which every Christian church member may receive and does receive from his participation in the worship and service activities of his church. Willingly and uncomplainingly he assumed any and every obligation and accepted any assignment that came to him by virtue of his membership. When health permitted he was in his pew at every worship service, not because he had to be, but because he wanted to be. He could not understand how anyone could unintentionally or deliberately neglect this source of moral strength and spiritual inspiration. If Mr. Steinman's pew was vacant, the rest of the attending membership knew that he was out of town or too ill to leave his home.

Here again we say, an extraordinary man has fallen in our midst, one who was so simple and direct in his faith, so sure of his Lord, so faithful to his task, that his departure leaves a vacancy of immense proportions. For many, many years he was treasurer and through his friendly counsel and at times stern admonition instilled the principles of Christian stewardship into the hearts and minds of the membership of this church. Practically since its organization he occupied an executive position of one kind or other in the church which he was instrumental in organizing. It the last annual congregational meeting he was unanimously re-elected as an elder of this congregation. Throughout the sixty-four years of is membership he manifested an intelligent interest in, practiced a loving generosity toward, and gave his loyal support to his church. In this capacity he

will be sorely missed.

One might go on and on speaking of the various forms of contribution which Mr. Steinman made to the community of which for so long a time he was so intimate a part, but I am sure that this would not be the wish nor the desire of him in whose memory we are assembled here today, let it suffice for us to say of him -

*Servant of God, well done,
Thy glorious warfare passed;
The battle fought, the victory won,
And thou art crowned at last.*

He will be sorely missed indeed and not easily forgotten. His death is a distinct loss to the community, to the church and to his three sons, his two daughters, his eleven grandchildren and his eleven great grandchildren who survive him. A severe loss, and yet also a definite and distinct gain!

For the departure of a soul such as Mr. Steinman is not like the sinking of the evening star into the darkness of the night; but like the morning star lost to our view in the brightness of the day. Throughout his life he was a Builder, and as a Builder who has been called to greater and nobler tasks he reminds us who remain that we should be building, temples still undone. And so in memory of him whose departure we mourn, we pray

“We would be building, Master, let Thy plan Reveal the life that God would give to man.”

Though Mr. Steinman is physically no longer in our midst, we have not lost him. For we can lose our loved ones only through forgetfulness. They continue to live in us and through us. In this sense Mr. Steinman cannot die out of this community, for he lives in hearts and lives and institutions left behind. In moments of sacred joy, in hours of hallowed sorrow he will beckon us on to love and duty. In times of trial and temptation; in times of success and failure he will stand out before our mental gaze. Once again we will feel the pressure of the hand that gave childhood's blessing, friendly encouragement and moral support. Once again we will hear his voice uttering words of counsel or comfort.

So long as any one who has been influenced by Mr. Steinman continues to live and labor and love in this community, so long Mr. Steinman lives on here in the community to which he has contributed so much. And we, by the purity of our lives, by the nobility of our deeds, by the honesty of our acts prove, that being dead, he yet speaks and labors in our midst.

No, we have not lost Mr. Steinman. His living on is not even dependent upon the manner in which we carry on. He lives on, not only because of us, neither in spite of us, he lives on because he is one of that innumerable host of whom Isaiah of old speaks when he says: “Thy dead shall live!” He was one of those believers whom Jesus had in mind when He said, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he

that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die.”

Thus we believe that Mr. Steinman lives, he goes on from here. He was an active builder here upon earth, now he is working directly for and directly under the supervision of the Master Builder, even Jesus Christ. And may we suggest that living on he continues to be interested in the welfare of his family and friends. If this is the case, and, we believe it is, he might say to us today, as he has said by his entire life:

*We are building every day,
In a good or evil way.
And the structure, as it grows,
Will our inmost self disclose.
Till in every arch and line
All our faults and failings shine;
It may grow a castle grand,
Or a wreck upon the sand.
Build it well, whate'er you do;
Build it straight, and strong, and true;
Build it clean, and high, and broad;
Build it for the eye of God!*

(I. E. Diekenga)

Thus as we mourn there is a note of gratitude to God that he brought us into contact with a man such as Mr. Steinman. We mourn, yet even as we mourn we are thankful to God for Gospel and Church, by means of which Mr. Steinman was brought into a saving contact with Jesus Christ, the very Son of God.

Because of the faith which enabled men like Mr. Steinman to live a life such as he lived we do not fear nor hate the experience which took him from our midst. By his life, his attitudes, his simple trust, his confident faith in the saving love of God, he has taught us that “Death is as much a part of living as birth is”. Our period here upon earth is but a preparation for that final moment of departure when we shall enter more fully upon that course of life upon which we were embarked here upon earth.

Does not the life of Mr. Steinman speak eloquently the message voiced by one of the poems written by Noah Baker?

*It matters little where I was born,
Or if my parents wore rich or poor;
Whether they shrank at the cold world's scorn,
Or walked in the pride of wealth secure.
But whether I live an honest man, It matters much!
It matters little how long I stay
Whether in youth I am called away,*

*Or live till my bones and pate are bare.
But whether I do the best I can
To soften the weight of adversity's touch
It matters much!
It matters little where be my grave,
On the land or in the sea,
By purlin brook or `neath stormy wave,
It matters little or naught to me.
But whether the Angel Death comes down
And marks my brow with his loving touch
As one that shall wear the victor's crown,
It matters much!*

And so my friends let us learn to believe in, and. let us learn to obey and. serve Him, in Whom our departed friend, believed, and Whom he sought to obey and to serve. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him might not perish but have everlasting life." "Thy dead shall live..., Those who dwell in the dust will awake, and will sing for joy." "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and. whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die."

Karlen & Steinmann Lumber Co.

Studley, Clark & Co. Dealers in Lumber, Salt, Coal, Stucco, Lime, and Brick –
Monticello – 1891

Monticello Messenger, December 14, 1904 - Dissolution of Co-Partnership
Notice is hereby given that the firm of Studley & Karlen is this day dissolved by
mutual consent. F. K. Studley having sold his interest to J. C. Steinman. The
future business will be conducted by Karlen and Steinman at the old stand.

Monticello Messenger, December 20, 1904 - J. C. Steinman, yesterday,
bought O. J. Persons interest in the grain and feed business of Persons and
Karlen and the same will now be consolidated with the lumber business of Karlen
and Steinman.

Monticello Messenger, December 20, 1904 -

CHANGE IN LUMBER FIRM

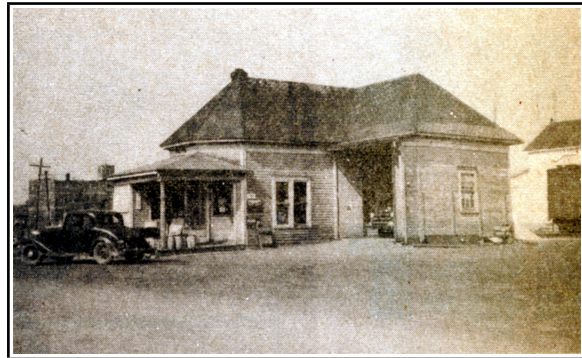
J. C. Steinman, the popular clothing dealer, has embarked in the lumber
business, having last week purchased F. K. Studley's interest in the firm of
Studley and Karlen. The firm will hereafter be known as Karlen and Steinman.
Mr Steinman is too well known in the vicinity and throughout the county to need
any introduction from this source and his connection with the firm will doubtless
increase the popularity it now enjoys. Mr. Steinman will be represented at the
yards by his son, Fred H. Steinman, who for some time has held a position with
the old firm.

Monticello Messenger, February 13, 1906 - Karlen and Steinman have
made arrangements for the coming season whereby they will be prepared to
furnish estimates and contract for the construction of buildings complete,
including the carpenter work and all material. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Monticello Messenger, February 23, 1910 - Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Steinman
and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Karlen left this morning for Milwaukee, where the
gentlemen will attend the annual convention of Wis. Retail Lumber Dealers
Assoc. Mr. and Mrs. Karlen will also go to Chicago to visit relatives before
returning home.

LUMBER YARD MARKS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the Karlen lumber Company in Monticello. The sprawling business on the southeast edge of Monticello has a history, which is closely interwoven with the fabric and (*word torn out*) of the village itself. It is certain that there was a lumber business previous to this and that for a time it was owned by two gentlemen, one named Humiston, the other Studley. In 1900, H. L. Karlen entered into a partnership with Studley and since that time until now the name Karlen has been part of the lumberyard. For a long time, from 1904 until 1960 or 61, the lumber company was known as the Karlen & Steinmann Lumber Co. The name of Steinmann was added after John Casper Steinmann bought into the business.



NO DETAILS were able to be obtained on this old picture, but it is believed to be the office of Karlen Lumber Co. in the early days.

Both men, Karlen and Steinmann, figured heavily in the early development not only of the lumberyard, but of several other businesses as well. H. L. Karlen, who lived from 1874 until 1955, was not only involved in the lumber business, but was closely associated with pioneering several other businesses in Monticello, including a feed mill which stands next to the present lumberyard. It

has been sold by the Karlen family and is now the site of the new Walnut Grove plant slated to open soon.

H. L. Karlen also built Karlen & Sons Ford Garage in 1917 and, in 1920, he added a second story to the big brick building which served as Karlen's Hall and has served many purposes from a roller-skating rink to dance hall, movie theater to school gymnasium.

H. L.'s sons, Royal 'Barney', Sr., and Cloyance were involved in the operation of the Ford garage for many years.

John Casper Steinmann came across the ocean from Switzerland shortly after the Civil War, a voyage that took 57 days. He farmed, became a cheesemaker, then a cheese broker, and also became involved in a mercantile business in Monticello in 1883. The People's Supply Co., was located where Dickson's Grocery is now. He died in the 1940's shortly after his wife, Barbara Legler-Steinmann, passed away.

When Steinmann joined the firm, both he and Karlen eventually brought their sons in the business and other relatives joined the staff as the times called for.

Steinmann's sons, John Clarence and Fred, both eventually owned a portion of the business. Fred had graduated from Green County Normal School in bookkeeping and John Clarence had worked as an architect in Ashland, Wis., for a German architect, Hans Vielhagen.



PRINCIPALS IN THE YARD (probably 1950) were Howard Steinmann, Royal "Barney" Karlen, Sr., H.L. Karlen, John Steinmann and Royal "Barney" Karlen, Jr.

H. L. Karlen's sons, Royal, Sr., and Cloyance were both involved with the Ford Garage while Royal, Sr., who was called 'Barney',⁴³ ran the lumberyard from 1941 until his death in July, 1973.

In '41, the Steinmann 'boys,' Howard and John, went into service. After the war the Steinmann brothers were involved with the yard until 1960, when they struck out in different directions. Today, Howard works for the architectural firm Flad and Associates, Madison. John is a well-known Wisconsin architect who maintains his office in Monticello.

Barney's brother Cloyance took over his interests after his death and now runs the yard with Ed Schneider and the help of Art Hustad and Mr. Veryl Adamson and some extra help from time to time.

During the progression of the business, Fred Steinmann's sister, Mata Steinmann-Lynn, and his daughters, Gladys and Kathleen, also worked there.

When John and Howard Steinmann sold their interest in the yard, it became Karlen Lumber Co., the name it carries today.

43) Royal Sr. earned the nickname 'Barney' after his driving habits were compared with Barney Oldfield's. Oldfield was a famous racecar driver of that era.

Today, the business is located where it began 75 years ago in the area called 'Hinterstadli' on the outskirts of the village.


The mill next door, once burned and rebuilt, has been replaced by the large, new Walnut Grove plant. The railroad track that ran right past the main building has been replaced by the popular Sugar River hiking, biking and snowmobiling trail. Many of the old sheds still serve to store lumber and other supplies, while others are now empty. The small, original office was replaced by a new Steinmann-designed one on the firm's 50th anniversary in 1950.

It is an active business still, yet the Karlen Lumber Co., carries with it a good share of the village's history.



MR. H. L. KARLEN
Invites you and your friends to help
celebrate his
50th Anniversary
in the lumber business and announces the
Formal Opening
of new offices
Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12, 1951
Open House nine to nine
Movies . . . Refreshments . . . Favors
Dancing at Karlen Hall Saturday Evening
Nine to One
KARLEN & STEINMANN
LUMBER CO.
Monticello, Wisconsin

MONTICELLO
WIS.



BOX HOLDER



Monticello's "Jimtown," circa 1950. The main group of buildings in the middle-ground belong to the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber and Feed Company.



Karlen and Steinmann owners and employee. L-R: Royal 'Barney' Karlen, Sr., Ed. Wallom, John C. Steinmann, Fred H. Steinmann, and Herman L. Karlen.

Karlen-Steinmann Loss \$50,000

Monticello Fire Levels Feed Mill

Fire of undetermined origin yesterday morning caused an estimated \$50,000 damage at the Karlen and Steinmann feed mills, Monticello, destroying a 70' x 70' foot building. The building contained the main warehouse and secondary warehouse joined by a feed mill.

Fifteen firemen answered the alarm turned in by Clifford Klitzman. A farmer east of Monticello, and were at the scene of the fire in eight minutes.



Main objective of the firemen was to save a building, which was separated from the mill by a 12-foot driveway. A strong wind from the north threatened the lumber yard buildings which all were south of the fire.

Lost in the building, termed as one of the best equipped feed mills in this section of the state, were three mixing tanks, one grinder and all small tools, building parts and stanchions which were stored in the basement under the secondary warehouse. Two railroad car-loads of feed were stored in the warehouse Saturday.

The blaze may have been burning for quite some time before the alarm was turned in, firemen said. Several residents remarked seeing smoke at the yards but thought it was a train taking on water near there.

Firemen put out the last flames around 3 p. m. yesterday and were standing by yet at 5 p. m.



After the insurance adjusters have made their estimates, the site will be cleared and a new mill and warehouse will be erected on the same site, officials of the firm said. It will take approximately two weeks to clear the site.

The fire was fully covered by insurance and was the first fire in the firms 53-year history, H. L. Karlen, founder and present partner of the firm, said.

– Monticello Messenger, March 14, 1954

Karlen & Steinmann Lumber Co.

by Cloyance W. Karlen

In October of 1900, Herman L. Karlen acquired the interest of Fred Humiston in the lumberyard and joined with F.K. Studley to operate as a partnership. In the year 1904, J.C. Steinmann, Sr., and son, Fred H. Steinmann, purchased the Studley interests and the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co. was formed. They sold feed and building supplies. In 1912, J.C. Steinmann, Jr., an architect, became a partner.

In 1941, R.W. 'Barney' Karlen, Sr., joined the firm and in 1945 acquired a share. In 1944, J.C. Steinmann, Jr., passed away and his interest was taken over by his sons, John W. and Howard Steinmann. In 1945, Fred H. Steinmann retired, as did his son, Frederick, and their interests were acquired by the remaining partners.

In 1951, the firm moved into a new and modern office building designed by John W. Steinmann. The feed mill and feed warehouse burned down in 1954 and were replaced with a new and modern feed mill.

Following the death of Herman L. Karlen, the firm continued to operate under the name of Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co. until July of 1961 when the Karlen interests bought the shares of John and Howard Steinmann. The firm then became known as the Karlen Feed and Lumber Co. A few years later the feed mill was sold and the firm became The Karlen Lumber Co. In September of 1976, Karl R. Wellman of Madison purchased the firm's holdings and is operating the business under the name of Karlen Building and Supply Inc.

THANK YOU!

AFTER 76 YEARS

doing business at the

same location, the Karlen Lumber Co. has sold its business to Karl R. Wellman, who will continue to operate it in the same way, which has become a tradition in Monticello.

WE HOPE THAT we have helped Monticello to grow and prosper and we wish to thank each and every person who has helped us to grow.

WE SURELY HOPE that the community will continue to patronize Karlen Building and Supply, Inc., as you have the Karlen Lumber Co.

THE PERSONNEL that you have been doing business with are still the same and at this time, Karlen Lumber Co. wishes to thank all those who have worked with us to serve you.

WE ESPECIALLY wish to thank the personnel now on the job, for without Edward Schneider as manager, Arthur Hustad and Edward Schlittler, yardmen, and Veryl Adamson, bookkeeper, we could never have carried on.

AFTER THE DEATH of R. W. Karlen, Sr., these people became the backbone of our business. Although the business has been sold to Mr. Wellman, you will still find Ed as manager, and Art and Veryl here to serve you.

THANKS AGAIN to the many customers who have let us serve them through the years.

KARLEN LUMBER CO.

Since 1900

—Monticello Past & Present, 1975

Monticello Messenger, July 13 1955 -

Rites Held Saturday For H. L. Karlen,⁴⁴

Local Lumberman



Funeral services for H. L. Karlen, 80 years of age, who passed away at the St. Clare hospital, Monroe, on Wednesday morning of last week following a gradual decline in health, were held at 2 Saturday afternoon in Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church here.

The Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, church pastor, officiated, and burial was in Highland cemetery. Pallbearers were six nephews, John W. and Howard R. Steinmann, Monticello; Frederick R. Steinmann, Milwaukee; Gordon K. Steinmann, Madison; Melvin Lynn, Jr., Eau Claire, and Kenneth Hoesly, New Glarus.

The son of Rudolph and Magdalena Klossner Karlen, he was born Dec. 5, 1874, on the Karlen homestead in Washington township. He had lived in Monticello and the surrounding area all of his life except for 10 months on a farm near Royaltan. He attended the Marty rural school and an agricultural short course at the University of Wisconsin. On April 18, 1899, he was united in marriage to Lena Steinmann.

Pioneer Lumber Dealer

A lumber dealer here for nearly 55 years, Mr. Karlen first entered business here Oct. 1, 1900, as a partner of F. K. Studley and also was in the feed and stock buying business with O. J. Persons. In 1904, J. C. Steinmann, Sr., and son, Fred, joined Mr. Karlen in the lumber business and the firm has since been operated as the Karlen & Steinmann Lumber company. In 1912, J. C. Steinmann, Jr., became a partner, and after his death in 1944, his sons, John and Howard became partners. Frederick R. Steinmann also was a partner but sold his interest to the remaining partners.

Saw Community Grow

A creative individual, H. L., as he was best known to his many friends, took a keen interest in the progress of the community and figured prominently in its

⁴⁴Herman Karlen was not baptized with a middle name or initial. He chose L., later in life, to distinguish himself from other Herman Karlens in the region.

growth. Always planning and looking ahead he would, upon occasion, pick up an artist's pencil and sketch a building for a prospective customer.

Mr. Karlen built the Karlen & Sons Ford Garage in 1917 and in 1920 he added a second story to the big brick building, which has served as Karlen's hall for many purposes. Mr. Karlen set up a theater in the hall during the silent movie days and the hall has also been the scene of many a thrilling basketball game. H. L. had no hobbies, but he always took a deep interest in sports and recreation for the young people of the community. He promoted baseball teams in Monticello from 1908 to 1913.

The community has lost a most valued citizen, a progressive merchant, and a good friend. He will be deeply missed, not only in the firm which he founded, but by his many friends and acquaintances as well.

Mr. Karlen was a member of the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church and served on the church consistory for one term. He was also a member of the Monticello Community club.

Surviving are his wife; two sons, Royal W., and Cloyance W., Monticello; one daughter, Mrs. Richard Dugdale, Monticello; two brothers, Jacob, Glendive, Mont., and Fred A., Monticello; two sisters, Mrs. Frieda Thompson and Hulda, San Bernardino, Calif., and eight grandchildren.

Karlen & Sons Ford and Karlen's Hall

by Cloyance W. Karlen



On June 6, 1918, the firm of H. L. Karlen & Sons, a partnership, was formed by Herman L. Karlen and his sons, Royal W. Karlen and Cloyance W. Karlen to purchase the Ford dealership from Leon A. Voegeli and Ray (Pat) Schoonover, who had both been inducted into the army.



The dealership was then located in a small building at 110 E. Highland Avenue. Half of this building is still standing on this site when this is written, February 28, 1977.

In the spring of 1919 land was purchased at 120 W. North Avenue and the house located on this land was razed and a modern reinforced concrete and brick building was constructed and was completed in October 1919 as a one story building.

In the fall of 1918 Karlen and Sons signed up to handle the Fordson Tractor and implements.

In the spring of 1920 the decision was made to build a second story to the present building to be used as a recreation center for Monticello and the community.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Karlen took over the management of the Karlen Hall which was soon known far and wide for its movies, dances and as a basketball center.

At this time there was not a better basketball court for a good many miles around and the Karlen Hall soon became known for its fine dance bands and entertainment of all kinds. The Moser Brothers and the Frauenfelder family, both of Switzerland, were some of the world famous entertainers to show in Karlen Hall.

In the year 1947 a 60 by 66 foot addition was added to the present building. The new building housed an up to date repair shop with six repair stalls and other repair space.



Cloyance and Royal 'Barney' Karlen on the 50th anniversary of Karlen Ford.

In 1941 Royal W. 'Barney' Karlen Sr. acquired a share in the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co. and proceeded to take over the management of Karlen & Sons. In 1952 Royal W. Karlen Jr. joined the Karlen & Sons firm as a full time sales man.

In the spring of 1973 the Karlen & Sons firm sold their business to Royal W. Karlen Jr. and Dennis Wold of Milwaukee. The business operated under the name of Karlen-Wold Ford, Inc. In the fall of 1976 Royal W. Karlen Jr. acquired full ownership and it is now operated under the name of Karlen-Ford, Inc.

Steinmann Architects

1912-1976

by John C. Steinmann

John Clarence Steinmann, Jr. born February 28, 1889, youngest son of John Casper and Barbara Legler Steinmann was a young architectural designer working in Ashland, Wisconsin, in 1911. In 1912 he returned to Monticello to affiliate with the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Company located at the east edge of Monticello, as "Architect" and Builder. This was actually the founding of what was to become three generations of Steinmann Architects that have prevailed through this bicentennial year of 1976.

The laws of the State of Wisconsin requiring registration and licensing of Architects were passed during 1918, and John C. Steinmann, Jr. became a licensed Architect on November 18, 1932.

During the years 1912 through 1944, he was responsible for the design and construction of hundreds of buildings of all kinds, including farm buildings, residences, cheese factories, and civic buildings, in Green County, Madison and elsewhere.

Many of the finest residences in Monticello were designed and built by him.

He passed away in the fall of 1944 at the age of 55.

John W. Steinmann, son of John Clarence and Martha Linehan Steinmann, was born January 29, 1914, received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1936. After graduation he worked as an architectural designer in various places and returned to Monticello to work in the architectural department of the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Company under the direction of his father, until 1941. During 1941 and part of 1942 he worked as an Architect-Engineer on design and construction of the Truax Military Air Base in Madison. He was drafted into the Corps of Engineers during the fall of 1942 and separated from service 38 months later, January 1946.



John W. Steinmann

The architectural department of Karlen and Steinmann was re-activated under his direction, and gradually expanded over the years until 1960, and became known as John W. Steinmann and Associates, Architects and Engineers. In 1960, interests in the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co. were sold to the Karlen members of the firm, and John and Howard moved to the present office at 311 Urban Road, and the name became Steinmann Architects.

—Monticello Past & Present, 1976

Monticello Man Named Fellow in Construction Unit

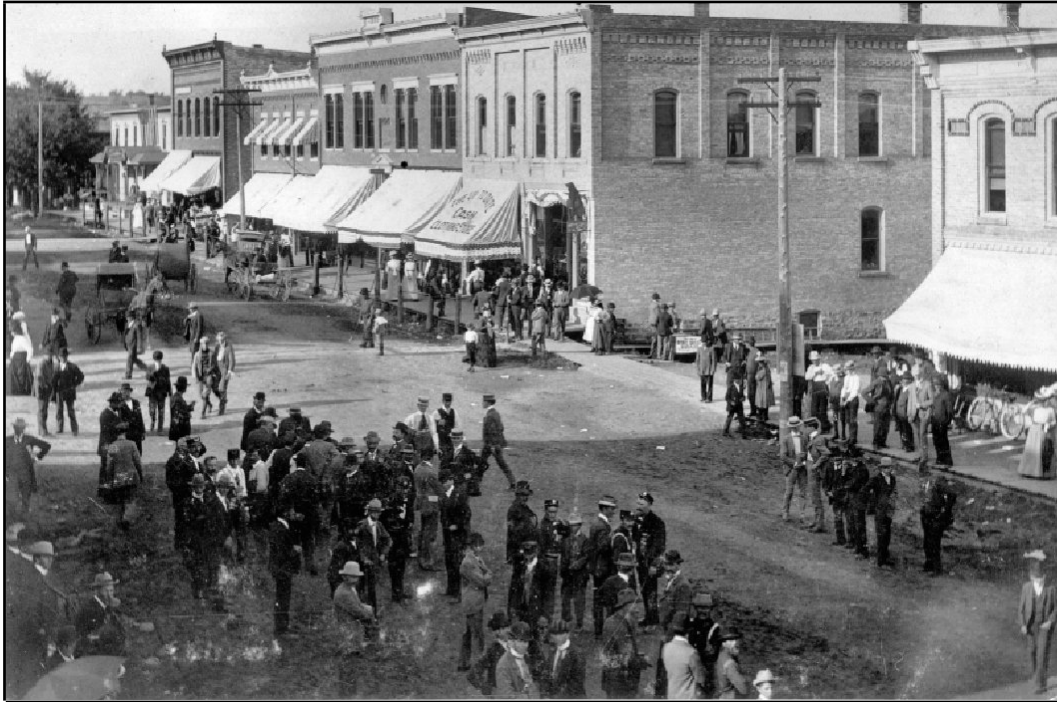
Howard R. Steinmann, Monticello, a member of the firm, Steinmann Architects, is one of 12 individuals for the construction industry to be advanced to the rank of Fellow in The Construction Specifications Institute, it was announced today.

The Institute with headquarters in Washington, D.C. is the nation's only technical organization dealing with all aspects of construction communications.

Its membership includes individuals from all sectors of the; construction industry and currently it has approximately 11,000 members in 113 chapters throughout the nation.

Steinmann, a specification writer and administrator with Steinmann Architects, received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Marquette University and studied architecture at the University of Illinois and engineering at the University of Wisconsin.

He has been a member of the Institute since 1964 and has served the Madison Chapter of the Institute in a number of capacities and is currently serving a two-year term as president of the chapter.



Steinman's Cash Clothing store, on the east side of Monticello's Main St. It's the building in the middle-ground with the printed awning, circa

Steinman's Cash Clothing

Monticello Messenger, March 7, 1905 -

George C. Steinman departed for Chicago this morning where he will spend a number of days in selection of a new line of spring goods for his fathers clothing store.

Monticello Messenger, March 14, 1905 -

J. C. Steinman, the up-to-date clothier, has a new ad in this issue which is worth looking up.

We Hate to Do It!



It seems like a sacrilege to offer these suits and over coats at such prices, but we

MUST HAVE ROOM

for the new spring goods that will soon begin to arrive. So we are lopping off the prices.

The stylish suits and overcoats that caused so much talk when we first displayed them a few months ago, are now re-market at

CLEARING PRICES...

A remarkable opportunity Better get in line.

Copyright 1905
By THE HARVARD STEINMAN & FISCHER CO.

THE HARVARD STEINMAN'S CASH CLOTHING STORE

The People's Supply Company



The building was erected by J. C. Steinmann & Fred Knobel in 1889. It's business, owned by Dick & Staedtler, was one of the three that merged with Steinmann and Blum to form the People's Supply Co.



Ed. J. Blum's dry-goods store, also one of the three consolidating businesses, was on the east side of Main St. next door to the Steinmann clothing store. It would be sold to Royal Woelffer, in 1922, as part of a company realignment.

Monticello Messenger, January 2, 1906 -

STORES TO CONSOLIDATE.

Important Change in Business Circles After February 1 Next.

An important change in the business circles of the village will transpire on or about the first of February next, when the stores owned by Dick & Staedtler, E. J. Blum and J. C. Steinmann will consolidate. The consolidation of the firms above mentioned has been talked of for some little time, but not until last Tuesday evening was any definite action taken in the matter, when a meeting of the parties interested was held.

The new firm will be incorporated under the laws of the state of Wisconsin and the incorporators will be E. J. Blum, Fred Blum, Jr., J. C. Steinman, Geo. C. Steinman and John Dick. Jr. Henry Staedtler, Jr., of the present firm of Dick & Staedtler, will not become a member of the new enterprise, it is stated, owing to his desire to engage in another line of work. It is understood that the new company will incorporate for \$30,000.00

This will be one of the most important business changes that has taken place in this part of the county for years. The express purpose of the promoters in consolidating their several interests is because of the fact that united under one management they will be better enabled to successfully compete with the mail order houses of the large cities. The advantages of such a move is at once apparent under the new order of things, merchandise can be purchased in much larger quantities than had been possible heretofore. Thus securing the advantages of price concessions that invariably go to the large buyer, operating expenses will be reduced to a great extent and in many ways the consolidation will bring about changes that will result to the mutual advantage of the owners and their patron's as well. For the next two weeks Monticello promises to be the Mecca for bargain hunters. Commencing the last of this week, the three stores entering into the new arrangement will have reduction sales running full blast and these sales will continue at the respective stores for a period of at least two weeks. The object of the merchants in holding the sales is to reduce their stocks as much as possible before taking inventory, and there promises to be something doing when the big bargain events get under way.

Each of the firms will issue special sales bills, which will be distributed within a day.

Monticello Messenger, March 13, 1906 - OFFICERS ELECTED

The Peoples Supply Co., elected a Board of Directors and officers for the ensuing year at a meeting of the stockholders held Tuesday evening last: The officers elected are as follows:

President - J. C. Steinman
V. P. - Fred Blum, Jr.
Sec & Treas. - E. J. Blum
General Mgr. - John Dick

Monticello Messenger, September 5, 1906 - George Steinman & wife departed this morning to Chicago to remain several days. The gentleman will purchase a new line of fall goods for the clothing department of the Peoples Supply Co.

Monticello Messenger, April 17, 1907 - We have received 5000 new rolls of wallpaper for our spring trade. Prices from 3 ¹/₂ to 20 cents per roll. If you want anything special in wall coverings, such as burlap; Sanitas, oil cloth, varnished tile, etc., we will be pleased to show you samples and quote you prices.

Peoples Supply Co.

Monticello Messenger, October 20, 1909 - George C. Steinman, wife and little son went to Madison last evening, the gentleman on business for the Peoples Supply Co. Mr. Steinman will return tomorrow while the lady and child will remain for a few days visit at the home of her mother, Mrs. E. M. Kilgore.

Monticello Messenger, March 8, 1911 - George Steinman left for Chicago this morning to select a new line of goods for the clothing and furnishing dept. of The Peoples Supply Co. Mrs. Steinman and son, Gordon, accompanied him as far as Beloit, where they will spend a few days with Mrs. Elmer Gilman.



The interior of the People's Supply Store branch that was the former Blum Dry-goods. Florence Babler is the clerk behind the counter.



Monticello Messenger, January 8, 1938 –

**John Dick, Business Man Here For 32 Years,
Now Retired**

Sells Interest in Peoples Supply Company Store

John Dick, veteran Monticello business man, who has been connected with the business interests of the village since 1904, and for the past 30 years one of the principal stockholders in the Peoples Supply company, retired from the company the first of the present week, his holdings having been taken over by other members of the corporation, principally W. E. Blum and Geo. C. Steinman. Minority stockholders in the company are J. C. Steinman, Sr., and Fred S. Blum, neither of whom have been actively interested in the concern.

Enters Business in 1904

Mr. Dick first engaged in business in Monticello in 1904, at which time he and his brother-in-law, the late Henry Staedtler, Jr., acquired the general store owned by Albert Stoller, now a resident of California. This store was founded in 1883 by J. C. Steinman, and the late Fred Knobel, and was originally located in a frame building which stood on the site now occupied by the Voegeli furniture store. Messrs. Steinman & Knobel came here from New Glarus township and beat the

railroads into Monticello by four years. To them belongs the honor of erecting the first brick building (in 1889) in the village, which is now the home of the Peoples Supply company. Mr. Stoller succeeded Steinman & Knobel in the spring of 1906.

(NOTE: This 1906 purchase date is incorrect since, in the above paragraph, Dick & Staedtler purchased from Albert Stoller in 1904. Other than that the sequence of owners appears to be correct. R.D.)

In the fall of the same year Mr. Steinman opened a clothing store in the building now occupied by the W. L. Wichser Implement store, moving some years later to the room in the Ubert building, now occupied by the M. E. Lynn hardware store.

At that time E. J. Blum, in business here for many years, conducted a general store in the adjoining building which now houses the Woelffer drug store.

Formed Present Firm

On Jan. 8, 1906, the Peoples Supply company came into being, the stores owned by Dick & Staedtler, E. J. Blum and J. C. Steinman being merged into one corporation. Mr. Staedtler did not become affiliated with the new company. E. J. Blum remained a stockholder until January, 1916, when he retired.

W. E. Blum became financially interested in the company in 1908 and has since been actively identified with the business always having been in charge of the grocery department. It is understood that he will henceforth devote his entire attention to the shoe department, while his former duties will be assumed by Henry J. Elmer, known as "Grocery Hank," who has been employed in that department continuously since 1921.

Wilbert J. Dick, who has been a familiar figure in the grocery department for a long term of years will no longer be connected with the store. It is stated that he will devote his entire time in the future to the Hilltop Poultry farm, an enterprise which he has conducted for several years as a side line. Erwin Spring succeeds him in the grocery department.

Continues in Charge

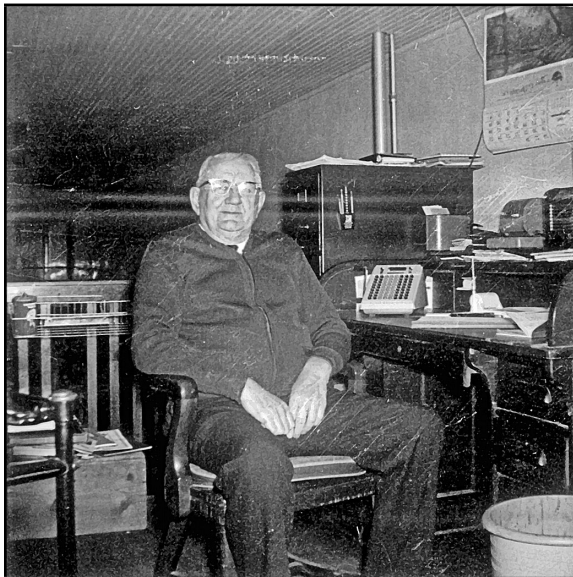
Geo. C. Steinman, who has been financially interested in the company since its inception, will continue in charge of the clothing and gents' furnishings department. George has had more than a third of a century of experience in selling men's and boy's apparel. He was behind the counter for seven years in his father's store prior to the consolidation, making a total of 37 years to his credit.

In common with practically every resident of Monticello and vicinity, The Messenger staff regrets that Mr. Dick has voluntarily concluded to fade out of the local business picture. In all the years that he has been in business here he has been held in the highest regard, not only as a business man but as a public spirited citizen. No one has ever taken a more active part in promoting the

general welfare of the community than has he, and we confidently believe that this fact will be generally conceded. During the past 30 years or more he has held many offices of public trust. He has served for many years as a trustee of the county farm and has had much to do in shaping the affairs of that institution. Until a short time ago he served as a member of the county outdoor relief committee and was recently appointed a member of the Green county pension board. He has long been prominent in the affairs of the local Reformed church and for several years has served as president of the congregation.

Patrons Know, Says Owner

Signs 'Not Needed' For Blum's Monticello Store



MONTICELLO – There are no exterior signs on Monticello's only dry goods store and often only a few things grace the two large front display windows.

Why? Says the owner: "Everyone around here knows where Bill Blum's store is."

He should add, "They know what I sell too," for many generations of the same families have been coming to the store for more than half a century, including five generations of a Blum family, no relation.

Bill Blum has been at the same location since 1907 when he started as a delivery boy for People's Supply Company, a firm that, in those days, operated three stores in the bustling community that had 16 passenger trains arriving daily.

Bill is 75, and spends a full day at the store daily despite a heart attack in December of 1963 that kept him hospitalized for a month and convalescing at home an additional three months.

"I feel good now," he said, "and have no thoughts of retiring. I like to be with people. I like the personal relationships in the merchandising business. Why, I think I know everyone in a radius of four miles of Monticello and they know me."

He continues in his role as president of the Bank of Monticello also, a position he has held since 1957. He joined the board of directors in 1942.

He plans to keep the store just as it is. "If I had an heir I would have modernized 10 years ago," the genial businessman said.

He again considered remodeling the old brown brick structure a year ago but his friends and patrons talked him out of it. “We like the old-fashioned atmosphere and the service by the employees,” they told him.

The store hasn't changed much since the old days. Display counters are typical of those found in stores earlier this century. Light fixtures hang down from a galvanized metal ceiling, but the globes have been replaced by fluorescent fixtures.

Deep grooves are worn in the steps leading to a closed second story area that once contained the ready-to-wear clothes, beauty shop and tailor shop. Now only the main floor grocery and dry goods sections remain.

At the mezzanine level is Blum's open, railing-surrounded office area where he can watch the store below, and decide if his five employees need assistance.

He has been sole owner since 1943 when he bought out the last of the partners. When he stated 58 years ago, his dad was one of five owners.

Blum, who enjoys discussing those early days, recalled he took the job on July 1, 1907, because it offered a handsome wage increase for him – from \$5 per week on the nearby family farm to \$12.50 for an 80-hour week.

“It was excellent pay for those (missing text). It bought a (*missing text*) suit cost \$17.50, shoes were \$1.75, coffee was 15 cents a pound and sugar was 6 cents a pound.”

Merchandising skill comes from experience, he declared. He learned a good lesson after World War One, when he bought a car load of sugar.

“At wars end, it was selling for \$42.50 per 100 pounds, but I managed to contract for a carload at \$26.90 per 100 pounds. Before long, it dropped to \$10.90 per 100. I learned something from that. It was good experience.” Blum said.

Though skilled merchandising methods he has remained competitive with stores in Monroe and elsewhere and enjoys a good business, but he would not recommend that eager young men set up businesses in small communities.

The wholesale houses and larger stores in the cities are hurting the merchants in small communities. Cars carry patrons to bigger stores where there are wider varieties of goods and often times lower prices, he said.

Locally, he has found that the re-routing of Highway 69 around the village hurt his business somewhat. And he noted that there is little for local groups to promote, as the community has only one industry, a cheese factory that employs 6-7 people.

What are the great changes that have evolved in small community merchandising? He noted two—the shift from bulk to packages in food, and the

now widespread use of frozen foods.

Bill Blum has changed as needed to stay competitive, but still prefers the old-fashioned patron-proprietor relationship that existed in 1907 when he embarked on his merchant career.

–By Jerry Amblang, *The Capitol Times*, Circa 1965

Brothers Buy Store

Blum To End His Business Career

By Mrs. O. D. Curtis

MONTICELLO (Times Special) – W. E. (Bill) Blum will end his long-time career in the grocery-dry goods business on April 1, when the Dickson Brothers, William and Tom, take over as the new owners of Blum's Store.

Bill, as he is known to his many Monticello friends, became associated at the age of 17 with People's Supply Store, Monticello, starting work there on July 1, 1907. At that time the grocery section of People's Supply was on the east side of main street where the new post office building is now located. The dry goods section was next door in the now Woelffer Drug store building and the clothing and shoes section was across the street in what is now Blum's store.

On May 1, 1922, the entire operation was moved to the west side of main street in the present Blum's store building. The present store handles just groceries and dry goods.

In 1916 Bill bought out the share of his uncle, E.J. Blum, leaving John Dick, George Steinmann, J.C. Steinmann, Fred S. Blum and himself in the corporation. In 1936 Mr. Blum retired and Bill purchased his share, leaving Bill Blum and George Steinmann as partners. Upon the death of Mr. Steinmann, Bill became the sole owner and operated the business under the name of Blum's Store. He was gone from the enterprise for a two-year period, that of 1918 and 1919, when he served with the United States Army in World War I.

Bill, who is the veteran



Irene Marty & Ronda Richards

businessman in Monticello (60 years) obtained the services of Henry J. Elmer on July 1, 1922, and he continues as an employee in Blum's Store at the present time. Other employees are Miss Irene Marty, Mrs. Helen Rinehardt, Mrs. Mary Waunita "Nita" Schuler, Mrs. Anna Gempler and Miss Debra Saxer.

He had another long-time interested helper when Ronda Richards became his everyday visitor at the store since she was three years old, and missed very few days in not being in the store at some time or other until she graduated from high school. Miss Richards, now employed in Madison, still helps Bill out on weekends.

Tom Dickson, who will be actively operating the store, plans to continue it as Blum's Dry Goods and Grocery Store, with the same help assisting him.

Bill and his wife, the former Lena Marty, who celebrated their golden wedding several years ago, have no definite retirement plans except a little travel, and his daily walk up town to visit the many long-time friends he has.

—Monticello Messenger,

Monticello Messenger, April 1924 -

M. E. Lynn Hardware Business Store Has New Owner

M. E. Lynn becomes Hardware Merchant Dick L. Zentner Retires—Will Devote Time To Other Business Interests

A change in local business circles is now in the making, due to a deal which was consummated the latter part of the week and in which the Dick L. Zentner stock of hardware figures as the principal item. As a result of the transaction, Melvin E. Lynn will retire as mechanic at the Ford garage and enter the hardware game, either as part or sole owner of the business. Definite information on this point was not available this morning. The former J. H. Figi residence property on Railroad avenue, owned by Mr. Lynn's father-in-law, J. C. Steinman, Sr., is turned in as part payment on the hardware stock.

The work of invoicing the stock was started Tuesday morning and it was announced this morning that the work would be finished sometime today. Albert Schlatter, of the New Glarus Hardware and Implement Co., New Glarus, and Fred Marty, of the firm of Dedrick & Marty, Brodhead, with G. Kooreman & Son, local accountants, are in charge of the inventory work, which has moved along at an encouraging clip from the start.

The stand which is now undergoing a change in ownership is one of the oldest

in the village, having been founded by the late F. J. Breylinger⁴⁵ back in the pioneer days. Mr. Zentner acquired the business about three years ago, but until that time it had always remained in the Breylinger family.

The new hardware merchant is a native of this vicinity and an ex-service man. He is a young man who has had a great deal of experience in various lines of business and his numerous friends have confidence aplenty in his ability to make a success of the new venture.

Mr. Zentner, who retires from the business, has enjoyed a satisfactory trade during the time he has been at the helm, and steps down and out only because of other business interests. He is a third owner of the Monticello Auto company, local distributors of the Buick line, and will doubtless devote his entire time to that business in the future.

Monticello Messenger, Aug. 17, 1933 -

Geo. Graf to Build On Site Occupied By Old Landmark

Old Hardware Store to Be Wrecked to Make Way For New Structure

A real estate deal which means a big improvement over on the north end of Main street was consummated within the past week, when George Graf, who for the past two years or more has operated a soft drink dispensary in the Monticello hotel, became the owner of the business property owned by the estate of the late Fred Breylinger, located at the corner of Main and Highland streets.

The property consists of a 60-foot frontage on Main street, upon which stands the old two-story frame building on the corner and a one-story brick building adjoining on the south. The change in ownership of the property means the razing of one of the old landmarks of the village. In the early days the first floor of the frame building was occupied by the Grange store. The second floor, known as Herrick's hall, was the first and for several years the only dance hall in the village.

Along in the early eighties, the old frame structure was acquired by the late F. M. Breylinger, pioneer hardware merchant of the village, and for many years thereafter it was familiarly known as Breylinger's hardware store. Subsequently Mr. Breylinger built the brick building to the south and the frame structure had since been used for the tin shop and for storage purposes. ***The M. E. Lynn Hardware company occupied the buildings until about two years ago.***

45) F.J. Breylinger, a native of Austria, lived in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Wisconsin. He had a tin shop in Juda and later opened a tin shop in Monticello. His shop is believed to be the Otis Breylinger hardware store site, which was located on the site of the present Chateau Tavern. —**Monticello Past and Present, 1976**

To Erect Spanish Tavern

But now the old and familiar picture is to be changed a lot. Mr. Graf already has a force of men engaged in razing the frame building and in its stead will rise a modern two-story brick veneer apartment in which Mr. and Mrs. Graf will make their home.

The front of the brick building is to be transformed into a Spanish type effect, with facing of either brick or stucco. The interior of the room will be converted into a Spanish tavern, with booths and dancing space in the rear. Facing the east will be an open air "beer" porch with direct access to a rock garden in the rear of the lot. The north half of the space back of the buildings will be reserved for parking space.

It is understood that Mr. Graf acquired the property for a consideration of \$2,000. Contemplated improvements will run in the neighborhood of \$3,500, exclusive of fixtures, according to information obtained from J. C. Steinman, Jr., architect, who is now busy with plans and specifications for the new enterprise.

Note: Interim Store Location

Excerpt From Monticello Messenger, January 8, 1938.

...In the fall of the same year Mr. Steinman opened a clothing store in the building now occupied by the W. L. Wichser Implement store, **moving some years later to the room in the Ubert building, now occupied by the M. E. Lynn hardware store.**

The Wichser Implement building was at the north east end of Main St. at the intersection of Main and East Highland Ave. The Ubert building, according to this description, was on the south side of Woelffer's drug store where our postoffice now stands. This, then, was the location of the Steinman's Cash Clothing store as well as, later, the M. E. Lynn Hardware store. I think Mr. Lynn must have occupied this location from 1930/31, when he left the Breylinger building, until Jan. 1939 when he moved to the Voegeli furniture store on the west side of Main St. -R.D.

Monticello Messenger, Dec. 15, 1938 -

Lynn Hardware Will Move to New Home

Leases Building Occupied By Voegeli Furniture Store

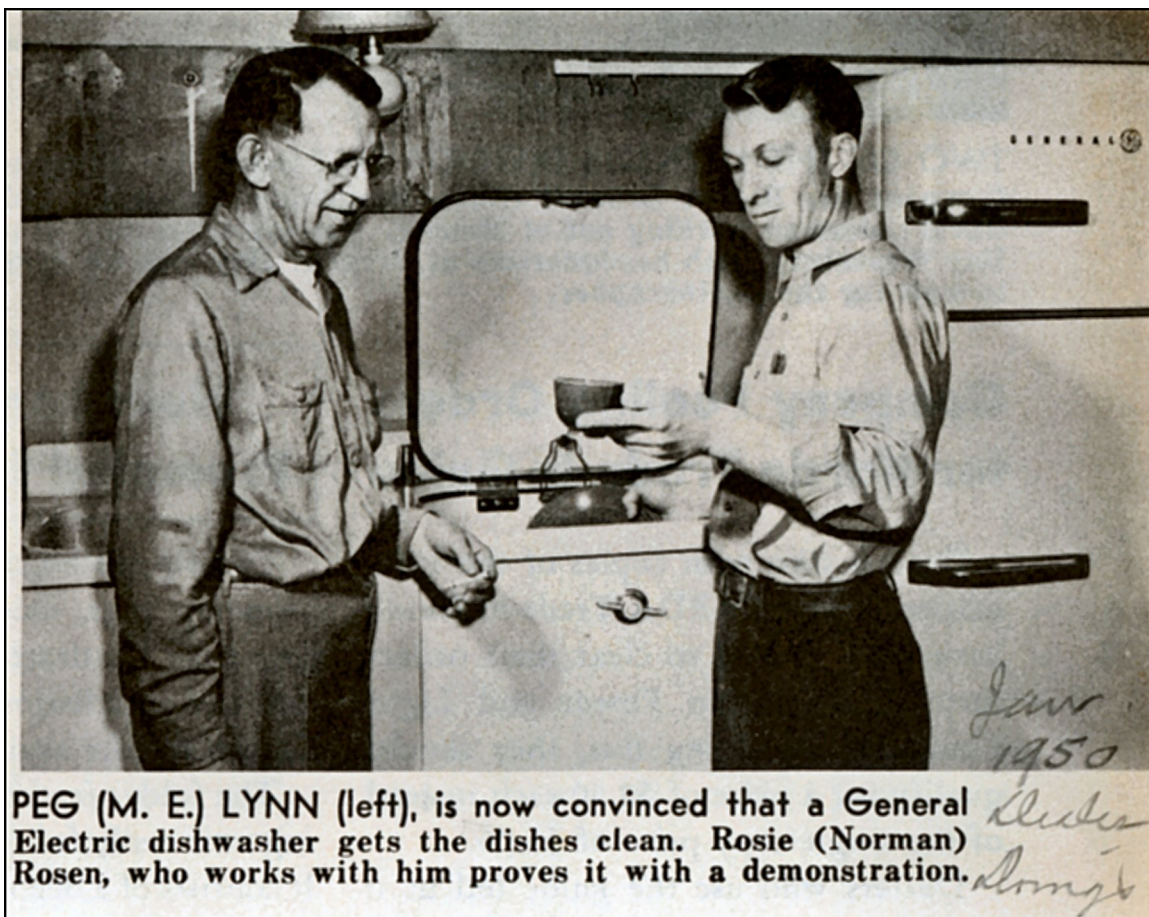
The M. E. Lynn Hardware company will have a new home after Jan. 1 as the result of a deal which was consummated on Saturday of last week in which Mr. Lynn obtained a lease on the Fred W. Voegeli furniture store.

Mr. Voegeli will give all of his time in the future to his embalming business

and will make the necessary improvements to his funeral home to do all of his work there.

The rapidly changing styles in furniture make it virtually impossible to carry a complete line of furniture in a small community. In view of these existing conditions Mr. Lynn will carry only staple items such as beds, mattresses, etc., but will make arrangements for prospects to purchase their needs in a convenient manner.

Readers of The Messenger will notice another page news of the great price-slashing sale which Mr. Lynn is conducting in an effort to reduce his stock before commencing moving operations the first of the year.





Early Lynn Hardware store.



"Peg" in front of his Main St. store.



Lynn Hardware & Appliance sale, circa 1957.

John and Barbara Steinmann's Children

Magdalena (Lena) Jan. 16, 1879 - 1956

Rites Held Sunday For Mrs. Herman L. Karlen, Age 76

Funeral services for Mrs. H. L. Karlen, highly esteemed resident of Monticello for nearly her entire lifetime, who passed away at 7 p.m. On Wednesday of last week in the St. Clare hospital, Monroe, were held at 2:30 Sunday afternoon in the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church.

Mrs. Karlen was 76 years of age.

The Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, church pastor, officiated, and burial was in Highland cemetery. Pallbearers, all nephews, were Melvin Lynn, Jr., Madison, Lieut. Gene Lynn, Seattle, Wash., Kenneth Hoesly, New Glarus, Gordon Steinmann, Madison, Howard R. and John W. Steinmann, Monticello.

Mrs. Karlen was taken ill Dec. 21 and was hospitalized two days later.

Lena Steinmann, the daughter of J. C. and Barbara Legler Steinmann, was born on a farm in New Glarus township, Jan. 16, 1879, she was united in marriage to H. L. Karlen, the ceremony being performed in Monticello by the late Dr. Muehlmeier. She spent her entire married life in Monticello with the exception of one year when they lived in Royalton, where Mr. Karlen managed a farm for an Oshkosh firm. Mr. Karlen was a partner in the Karlen & Steinmann Lumber company here for over 50 years.

She always took a keen interest in the various organizations of the village. Mrs. Karlen was a member of the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church and its Ladies Aid society. She was a life member of the Missionary Society and was also a life member of the Women's Relief Corps and of the Monticello chapter of the Order of the Easter Star.

A home-loving type of individual, Mrs. Karlen was a tireless worker, always willing and ready to help her friends and her family. She enjoyed the deep respect of an unusually large circle of friends and acquaintances. She will be



deeply missed by her family and friends throughout the community.

She is survived by two sons, R. W. Karlen and C. W. Karlen, Monticello; one daughter, Mrs. Richard Dugdale, Monticello; one sister, Mrs. M. E. Lynn, Monticello, and eight grandchildren.

Mrs. Karlen was preceded in death by her husband, July 13, 1956, three brothers, George, 1940, John C. Jr., 1944, and Fred H., 1952, and by two brothers and one sister in childhood.

—Monticello Messenger, Dec. 1956

Barbara, Oct. 24, 1880 - Aug. 17, 1889



George C., Dec. 29, 1882 – Dec. 1942

Geo. C. Steinmann, Veteran Monticello Businessman, Called End comes Sunday After Nine Week Illness of Heart Disease



Funeral services for George C. Steinmann, 59 years of age, prominent and highly esteemed Monticello businessman for 44 years, who passed away at 1:20 Sunday afternoon in his home here following an illness with heart disease, which had its inception more than two months ago, were conducted at 2 Tuesday afternoon in the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church.

Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, church pastor, officiated, and interment was in Highland cemetery. Masonic services were conducted at the grave by members of the Monticello Union Lodge No. 155, of which he was a member. Pallbearers were: Henry J. Elmer, W. E. Blum, J. P. Zweifel, Jr., W. D. Elmer, O. D. Curtis and Adolph Kistler.

Mr. Steinmann, whose health had not been in the best condition for a number of months, first became seriously ill about nine weeks ago and he entered the St. Clare hospital, Monroe, at that time. A serious heart ailment failed to yield to treatment but a slight improvement permitted him to return to his home several weeks ago, where his condition remained much the same throughout the days which followed.

Prominent Merchant

George C. Steinmann was born in New Glarus township, Dec. 29, 1882, the son of John Casper Steinmann Sr., and Barbara Legler. In infancy he came to Monticello with his parents and attended both the grade and high schools here. On Sept. 2, 1903, he was united in marriage to Inez Kilgore, the ceremony taking place in Monticello. His career as a Monticello businessman began 44 years ago, when, at the age of 15, he became associated with his father in conducting a general store. Some years later the Peoples Supply Company was formed and he became a member of the firm and had been active in its operation ever since.

The passing of Mr. Steinmann removes from our midst a robust, refreshing individual, whose every day presence in the business district will be missed much

by his many friends and acquaintances. News of his passing was received with sincere and deep regret by the myriad of friends with whom he had come into contact during the many years in which he was associated with Monticello business interests. "Stein," as he was familiarly referred to by many of his friends, was the type of individual who could laugh just as heartily at a joke aimed at him as when he executed the same at another's expense.

Mr. Steinmann was a member of the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church, the Order of Eastern Star of Monticello, past master of the Monticello Union lodge, and of the New Glarus chapter.

Survivors are his widow, one son, Gordon K. Steinmann, Madison; two brothers, Fred H. and John C. Steinmann, two sisters, Mrs. H. L. Karlen and Mrs. M. E. Lynn, all of Monticello, and one grandson, Richard Lee Steinmann, Madison. His parents, two brothers and one sister preceded him in death, his father having passed away Aug. 28, 1942, at the age of 88 years.

—Monticello Messenger, December 17, 1942

William, March 30, 1885 - June 11, 1885

Fred H., April 12, 1886 - 1952



**Fred H. Steinmann,
65, Dies Sunday in St.
Petersburg, Fla.**

**Rites Set for Friday P. M.
Prominent Retired Businessman**

Monticello and the surrounding community was plunged into sadness Monday morning when it was learned that Fred H. Steinmann, aged 65, highly esteemed village resident and prominent retired local business man had passed away Sunday evening in St. Anthony's hospital, St. Petersburg, Fla., where he had been hospitalized since March 6 after suffering a heart attack.

Mr. and Mrs. Steinmann, accompanied by Adolph Arn, left Monticello Feb. 28 for a months vacation in Florida.

Letters from Mrs. Steinmann to relatives and friends here during the past week indicated that Mr. Steinmann was

progressing nicely but that he was still not out of danger.

Life-Long Resident

A life-long resident of Monticello, Mr. Steinmann was born April 12, 1886, the son of John Casper and Barbara Legler Steinmann, Sr. He attended the Monticello public schools and the Monroe Business College. On Sept. 10, 1907, he was united in marriage to Alda Marty, the ceremony taking place in Monticello.

Prominent in Business

One of the original partners of the Karlen & Steinmann Lumber company, which was founded in 1902, Mr. Steinmann was active in the business until his retirement Jan. 1, 1949.

Mr. Steinmann was keenly interested in civic and public affairs. He was a member of the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church, Monticello Union lodge No. 155, the New Glarus Chapter, Monroe Commandery and Madison Consistory.

Mr. Steinmann was elected a director of the Bank of Monticello to succeed his father following the latter's death a number of years ago.

Surviving are his wife; two daughters, Mrs. R. H. Naylor, Washington, D. C. and Mrs. Kenneth H. Hoesly, New Glarus; one son, Frederick R., Milwaukee; two sisters, Mrs. H. L. Karlen and Mrs. M. E. Lynn, Monticello and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers, George, in 1942, and John C. Jr., 1944, and one son, Donald, in 1915.

The Steinmann's were enjoying their first visit to Florida. Mr. Steinmann had been in poor health for several years and his health previous to the stroke had been considered reasonably good.

Funeral Services Friday

Funeral services will be held at 2 Friday afternoon in the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church. The Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, church pastor, will officiate and burial will be in Highland cemetery.

Members of the commandery will serve as an escort and the Monticello Union lodge will conduct Masonic services.

Friends may call at the Voegeli funeral home from 7 p. m. Thursday until 10:30 a. m. Friday.

-Monticello Messenger - March 1952

**John C. Jr. ("Jack")
Feb. 28, 1889 – Nov. 25, 1944**



**John C. Steinmann Is Found
Dead in Monticello Home**

John C. Steinmann, 55, Monticello architect and contractor closely identified with civic affairs, was found dead in bed about 1:30 Saturday afternoon in his house in Monticello. Death was attributed to an attack of heart disease suffered about six hours earlier, according to physician's report.

Mr. Steinmann was found by business associates of the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber company who became worried when he failed to report for work Saturday. He had been downtown Friday evening and had visited with friends. Mrs. Steinmann was in River Falls, called there by the illness of a brother.

Funeral services are to be conducted at 2 Tuesday afternoon in the Zwingli

Evangelical and Reformed church by Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, pastor. Masonic services will be conducted at the grave in Highland cemetery. The body was taken this afternoon from the Voegeli funeral home to the Steinmann residence and will remain there until noon tomorrow when it will be taken to the church.

Talented in the architectural field, Mr. Steinmann had planned the modern homes in Monticello built in what is known as the Steinmann addition. He had blueprinted homes for others in this vicinity, had drawn plans for the beautiful and unusual Gonstead Clinic building in Mr. Horeb and for a doctor's home in Dubuque. He was affiliated in the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber company with a brother, Fred H. Steinmann and a brother-in-law, H. L. Karlen. The company originally was known as the Studley and Karlen Lumber company, Mr. Steinmann, Sr., purchasing the interest of F. K. Studley in 1904. The senior Steinmann was president of the company at the time of his death Aug. 28, 1942.

He was born Feb. 28, 1889, in Monticello, the son of John C. and Barbara Legler Steinmann. He attended Monticello grade school, Mondovi high school and Beloit college, and on Nov. 14, 1912, married Martha T. Linehan of River Falls, the ceremony being solemnized in Milwaukee. Mr. Steinmann, at one time, was in Ashland for a short space, engaged in practical operation of his architect's

profession, but had lived virtually his entire life in Monticello.

He was active in membership of the Zwingli church and of the Masonic lodge No. 155.

Surviving, besides the widow, are two sons in service. First Lt. John W. Steinmann, instructor at Ft. Belvoir, Va., and Lt. Howard R. Steinmann, with a Marine headquarters company in the Pacific theater; two grandchildren, the twin son (and daughter) of Lt. and Mrs. John W. Steinmann; a brother, Fred H., Monticello, and two sisters, Mrs. H. L. Karlen and Mrs. M. E. Lynn, Monticello.

A daughter Jane Ann, his parents, two brothers and a sister are deceased. The one brother, George C. Steinmann, died in December 1942 of heart disease a few months after his father passed away.

– **Monroe Evening Times, November 27, 1944**

Wilbert
July 14, 1891 - Oct. 1, 1894



Mata E., June 8, 1898 - Sept 26, 1975

Mrs. Mata E. Lynn, Monticello died Friday, September 26 in Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, where she had been a patient for five weeks. She was the former Mata E. Steinmann, the daughter of John Caspar and Barbara Legler Steinmann. She graduated high school in 1916. On August 7, 1921, she was married to M. E. (Peg) Lynn, in Monticello, by the late Rev. A. Muehlmeier. She has always lived in Monticello.

She is survived by two sons, Melvin E. Lynn, Jr., Eau Claire and Gene E. Lynn, Bellevue, WA; six granddaughters and one grandson. Preceding her in death were her husband in 1969, one sister, Mrs. Herman (Lena) L. Karlen; and three brothers, George; John C. (Jack) Jr., and Fred Steinmann.

Mrs. Lynn was a member of the Zwingli United Church of Christ, Zwingli Ladies Aid Society, member of the New Glarus Order of Eastern Star, No. 235, member and secretary of the Foreign Peoples Missionary Society. She was a Past Worthy Matron when the O.E.S. was in Monticello, and a Past Grand Adah of the Grand Chapter of the O.E.S. (WIS) in 1950.

Eastern Star Services were conducted on Monday, September 29, at 8:45 p. m. at Zwingli Church memorial lounge, where the visitation was held for Mrs. Lynn. Funeral services were conducted on September 30, at 1:30 p.m. at Zwingli United church of Christ by Rev. Charles G. Workman officiating. Interment was at Highland Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Fred T. Burgy, Carl J. Dick, Wilbert Dick, Royal W. Karlen, Jr., C. W. Loveland and Howard R. Steinmann, all of Monticello.



—Monticello Messenger, October 2, 1976



M. E. 'Peg' Lynn, 74, dies After Extended Illness; Rites Today

M. E. (Peg) Lynn Sr., 74 years of age, a retired Monticello businessman, died at 10:10 p. m. Monday at his home here after an illness of two and one-half years.

He had been hospitalized numerous times during that period. He was dismissed from the St. Clare hospital, Monroe, only last Saturday after being a medial patient there for a week. He had experienced respiratory trouble for quite some time.

Mr. Lynn was born in Exeter township, Dec. 17, 1894, a son of John and Mary Edgar Lynn. He received his education in the Monticello schools.

A World War I veteran, "Peg" served with the U. S. Army from May 1, 1918, until his discharge as a Private First Class with Co. E on June 5, 1919. He served in France for 13 months with the 314th Ammunition Train.

On July 7, 1921, he was united in marriage at Monticello to Mata E. Steinmann by the Rev. Muehlmeier in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Steinmann. He was a hardware and furniture dealer here for 35 years, retiring in 1957.

"Peg" was a member of the Zwingli United Church of Christ, where he was formerly a member of the consistory and also taught Sunday school for three years. He was a member of the Monticello Masonic lodge No. 155 and the Madison Consistory and was a member and past patron of the Monticello Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Lynn also was a member of the Amstutz-Marty American Legion post and was a former member of the Monticello Community club. He was presently serving as municipal justice of the peace here.

He is survived by his wife; two sons, Melvin E., Eau Claire, and Gene E., Bellevue, Wash.; six granddaughters, and one grandson.

He was the last member of his family, and was preceded in death by three brothers, one in infancy, Robert and Spencer.

Funeral Services Thursday

Funeral services will be held at 2 this (Thursday) afternoon in the Zwingli United Church of Christ. The Rev. J. Allan Mittler, church pastor, will officiate and interment will be in Highland cemetery. The Amstutz-Marty American Legion post will provide an escort for the funeral.

Friends may call at the Memorial Lounge at the church. Memorials will be used for the church and medical research funds.

– **Monticello Messenger, March 27, 1969**