

Mrs. Lonah Wittwer Expires After Fatal Explosion of Stove
Final Services Held Friday For Esteemed Village Resident
April 28, 1885 - July 26, 1939

Funeral services for Mrs. Edward Wittwer, well known and highly esteemed life-long resident of Monticello, who passed away at 11:50 on Wednesday night of last week in the Deaconess hospital, Monroe, where she had been taken in the Voegeli ambulance following a gas explosion in the basement of her home in the morning, were conducted at 1:30 Friday afternoon in the Voegeli funeral home and at 2 in the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church.

Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, church pastor, officiated. Interment was in Highland cemetery. Pallbearers were: Henry C. Klassy, Dick Freitag, Emil Voegeli, Albert Moritz, Henry D. Freitag and Jacob Burgy, all of Monticello.

Seriously Burned

Mrs. Wittwer was seriously burned about the body shortly before 11 o'clock when she was about to do some laundering in the basement of her home. In some way gasoline exploded and her clothing ignited. When she emerged from the house her clothing was nearly burned off her body.

At the hospital medical authorities at first believed that she stood a good chance of recovering. At about 4 30 in the afternoon, however, she began to fail rapidly and relatives were summoned. A blood transfusion was administered but was of no avail. The severe shock which she sustained at the time of the explosion, coupled with the burns, which were more serious than at first believed, were too much to overcome.

Lonah Vivian Pierce was a daughter of James E. and Susan Baxter Pierce, having been born April 28, 1885, on the Pierce homestead farm at the south edge of the village. She was graduated from the Monticello high school and from the Janesville Business college. For two years she taught rural schools and for a number of years thereafter was engaged in stenographic work. She was married to Mr. Wittwer March 9, 1910, in Monticello. Mrs. Wittwer took an active part in lodge work and helped organize the Eastern Star chapter in Monticello. She was a charter member and its first matron. She was a member of the women's foreign missionary society of the Methodist church. That denomination is not represented in Monticello, however. She was also affiliated with the Royal Neighbors.

Mrs Wittwer attended the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church

A Severe Shock

News of the sudden tragic death of Mrs. Wittwer came as a severe shock to her many friends in Monticello and elsewhere. Her untimely death has removed from our midst a woman of many sterling qualities and her passing occasioned sincere regret among her acquaintances.

She was a friendly, energetic person and was known for her cordial greetings to all, young and old alike. Never complaining, Mrs Wittwer went through life seeing the bright side. Even upon the event of her fatal burns she never complained about the suffering which she endured.

Surviving besides the bereaved widower are three brothers, Arthur, Frank and Ira B Pierce, all of Monticello; two sisters, Mrs. M. J. Magoon, Gladstone Mich, and Mrs. J. H. Falter, Janesville; and several nieces and nephews.