

Rosa Hildegarde Babler

September 8, 1895 – Aug. 1917

Miss Rosa Hildegarde Babler, mention of whose tragic and untimely death was made in these columns last week, was born in this village on the 8th day of September, 1895. She received Holy baptism in early infancy and was confirmed with a class of twenty-seven on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1911. She received her education in the local schools and was graduated from the high school with the class of 14, being a member of the first class to finish the high school course in the new school building. After completing her course in high school she followed the vocation of teaching and her success along that line was much above the average. However, owing to somewhat impaired health, she decided to discontinue teaching for the time being, and of late had been spending more or less time with her sister, Mrs. Henry M. Steussy, in Milwaukee, where she was under medical treatment.

Details in connection with the auto accident which resulted in her death, while returning from Milwaukee a week ago Monday, were fully related in last week's Messenger. When the physician arrived at the scene it was thought that Miss Babler was the least injured of the three. There was not even a scratch or a bruise upon her person, and it was thought that she would soon recover from the shock of the accident after regaining consciousness. But she was injured internally and passed away within three hours after being taken to the hospital, despite the fact that an operation was performed in an effort to save her life.

The deceased was a girl of beautiful character and because of her many commendable qualities she won the admiration and esteem of old and young alike. She always greeted her acquaintances with a smile, and her bright and cheerful disposition radiated sunshine into the hearts of all with whom she came in contact. In her manners she was modest and unpretentious, and selfishness was a minus element in her personality. She never enjoyed life more than when her friends were privileged to share their pleasures with her, and now that her familiar form will ne'er more be seen; now that her voice is forever stilled; they realize more keenly than ever her sterling worth as a friend and companion.

But great as is the sorrow among her large circle of friends, it is upon her bereaved parents and sister that her sudden and untimely demise falls most heavily. Words can but feebly express the great and crushing sorrow that has befallen them, but despite the dense clouds of gloom that now envelope them, the knowledge of the universal esteem in which their loved one was always held must surely bring to them a measure of consolation. The deceased is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Babler, and one sister, Mrs. Clarice Steussy, of Milwaukee, to whom the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community goes out.

The deceased was always actively identified with the church and social affairs of the village. She was a member of the German Reformed Sunday school, the Junior Ladies' Aid society and the local camp of Royal Neighbors of America.

Funeral services were held at 1 o'clock on Thursday afternoon last from the family home, and one hour later from the German Reformed church, the Rev. A. Muehlmeier officiating. The edifice was not nearly large enough to accommodate all who sought admission, and most numerous were the beautiful floral tributes sent by sympathizing friends. Interment was in Highland cemetery, the pall bearers being Wendell Barlow, Melvin Lynn, Wilbert Dick, Ray Schoonover, Alfon Gemperly and Conrad Stauffacher.

(Tombstone lists her as Hildegard, not Rosa)