

Gottfried Karlen

Oct. 15, 1849 - July 30, 1916

Gottfried Karlen, brief mention of whose death was made in these columns last week, was born on Oct. 15, 1849, at Boltigen, Canton of Glarus, Switzerland, being a son of David Karlen and his wife, nee Kohli.

The early years of his life were spent in the land of his nativity, where he attended school and received a careful education. He was baptized Nov. 11, 1849, and confirmed April 14, 1865.

The subject of this sketch came to America in 1876, first locating in New York and spending a year there with a brother. He then came to Green county, Wisconsin, and for a number of years thereafter followed the vocation of cheesemaker. Later he became the owner of a fine farm in Adams township, a few miles west of Monticello, and during the following eighteen years he was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. Fourteen years ago he retired from farming and removed to this village to spend the declining years of his life.

Mr. Karlen was married on March 14, 1876, to Miss Anna Marty, the widow who survives him. This union was blessed with five children, two of whom, one son and one daughter, preceded him in death a number of years ago. The surviving children are Fred C. Karlen, who conducts the old homestead farm, Sam G. Karlen, of Washington township, and Miss Louise Karlen, who lives at home. Besides his immediate family, he is survived by five grandchildren, three brothers and two sisters.

Mr. Karlen had always enjoyed robust health up to about a year ago, when he suffered a stroke of paralysis from the effects of which he never fully recovered. His final illness was occasioned by heart trouble and the intense heat which was in evidence at that time, the combination proving too much for his weakened constitution to withstand. He breathed his last on the evening of July 30, at 7:30 o'clock, having reached the age of 66 years, 9 months and 15 days.

Mr. Karlen was a man who stood high in the estimation of his friends and acquaintances, having always enjoyed an enviable reputation for honesty and square dealing. He was a loving and indulgent husband and father, a kind and accommodating neighbor, and a faithful and consistent member of the German Reformed church, having always attended the services regularly.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, August 2, at 1 o'clock from his late home and at 1:30 p. m. at the German Reformed church. The services were conducted by Rev. A. Muehlmeier and were attended by an unusually large concourse of neighbors and friends of the family, many being present from a distance. Interment was in the old cemetery.