

Martin County, Minnesota Obituaries
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March 2015

BARNES, John Beriah

"An Old Settler Passes Away"

After a lingering illness, covering a period of two years, Mr. John Beriah Barnes passed away at his residence in this place, on Friday evening, Feb. 6, 1903. Cause of death being bright disease.

Deceased was born Jan. 8, 1829, in Franklin County, New York. In 1853 he was married to Miss Electa Lee, of the same county, and they made it their home until 1857, when the young couple came west and settled on a farm twenty miles west of McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa. In 1861 they came to Minnesota, settling first in Mower County. In 1865 Mr. Barnes took a claim in the then little known but now prosperous and rich county of Martin. He lived on this claim, section 27, Center Creek township, until about eight years ago when he moved to Granada, where he has since made his home until the time of his death.

Mr Barnes was always a leader in everything which tended toward the advancement of the town. During his residence in Center Creek he has filled several honorable position of trust: justice of the peace, chairman of the school board and township treasurer.

Five children were born to them, namely, Martha, who died in childhood; Mary, wife of G. F. Andross; Alice A., wife of H. M. Park; Jennie, wife of O. E. Park; and George H., all residents of Center Creek.

His life companion and four children survive him.

Since 1876 Mr. Barnes has been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, having been converted under the preaching of Rev. Bliss, who conducted meetings in the Barnes' school house during the winter of '76. During his life he lived a consistent, Christian life and his many kind deeds will long be remembered by the host of friends who mourn his loss.

The funeral service, held in the Congregational church in this place Sunday afternoon, Feb. 8, was one of the largest in attendance ever held in the county. Services were conducted by Rev. J. H. Barr, of the Granada M. E. church, assisted by Revs. Hartley, Brown and Willoughby.

Interment was made in the Center Creek cemetery.聽

[Obituary clipping, unnamed Granada newspaper, Granada,MN.]

BARNES, Electa

Mrs. Electa Barnes passed away Friday, June 2, 1911, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. May [Mary] Andross.

Deceased was born Sept. 18, 1827, in Franklin Co., N.Y. In 1853 she was married to John B. Barnes of the same county and they made it their home there until 1857 when they came west and settled on a farm in Iowa. In 1861 they came to Minnesota, settling first in Mower county, then in 1865 they took a claim in Martin county.

In 1895 they moved to Granada where they made their home until the death of her husband, which occurred Feb. 6, 1903. Since then she has made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Mary Andross, at the same place. Five children were born to them. One died in childhood and the other four survive, all living in Center Creek township.

Early in life Mrs. Barnes united with the M. E. church, of which she was always a faithful member. The funeral services were held in the M. E. church, Sunday, June 4th, which were largely attended. Services were conducted by Rev. Ferris, his text being taken from Job xvi 22.聽

(Obituary clipping from unknown newspaper)

BARNES, Mary Eliza

Mary E. Barnes was born Feb. 8, 1855, near Egypt, a village in New York state. She was the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Barnes and the widow of the late G. F. Andross. Mrs. Andross died at her home in Granada Oct. 25, 1941 at the age of 86.

The Barnes family came from Franklin County, New York, to McGregor, Clayton county, Iowa, in 1857 where they lived for four years.

They then moved to Preston, Mower County, Minnesota, where they resided from 1861 to 1865. Their next move was by covered wagon to the homestead in Center Creek township where the third and fourth generations of Barneses still live.

It was from this home that Mary Barnes was married to G. Frank Andross Dec. 12, 1877. To them were born three children, all of whom survive: Mrs. Carrie Eglin of Granada, George L. Andross of Center Creek, and Mrs. Oral H. Oothoudt of Guckeen.

After nearly twenty years of marriage, Mr. Andross passed away following a long illness.

An obituary can give only dates on the outstanding events in the life of one who has lived 86 years. A biography of the life of a pioneer daughter, wife and mother, would hardly be adequate to tell of the changes that have taken place in the more than three quarters of a century that Mrs. Andross lived.

Mary Barnes came to Center Creek with her parents in a covered wagon in 1865 and enjoyed the distinction of being a "Covered Wagon Pioneer". When her parents came to Martin County on the cross-country trip from the Preston, her duty as a 9-year-old was to keep the cattle near the rest of the moving outfit. She rode a horse all those slow miles.

Lincoln was assassinated the spring the log house was built on the homestead. Prairie fires in the fall and blizzards over the same prairies in winter menaced the

security of that home many times during the years that followed. That dread disease of those days, diphtheria, struck the home and Martha, the eldest daughter, became ill and died.

Through the vicissitudes of those hard times, Mary Barnes, as the eldest daughter, took her full share of the duties and responsibilities that were the part of pioneer families.

Then came the time when she married, and with her husband went to her own home on a farm only a mile or two from her girlhood home. After fourteen years of farm life, Mr. and Mrs. Andross built a home in the village of Granada and retired from the farm which they rented. Mr. Andross' health failed and after a long illness he died Sept. 3, 1897, and again heavy responsibilities fell to the lot of his widow. A few years later she closed her home and went with her children to live in the home of her mother, Mrs. J. B. Barnes, after the death of her father, who had moved from the farm to a home in Granada.

During these long years of service to her home and family, Mrs. Andross saw the prairie trails disappear and paved highways take their place. She saw ox and horsedrawn vehicles give way to mechanized farm tools and speeding automobiles. She saw what was considered impossible until a few years ago--soaring airplanes in the sky.

With no modern labor-saving equipment in her home, she cared for her family and home and there was time for church work, time to help care for the sick, and many a home received practical help from her in times of trouble or need.

Sunday always found her at church services and her faithfulness to her church and its needs never failed. She was the last surviving charter member of the Granada Congregational church.

During the latter years of her life, Mrs. Andross maintained a home with her daughter, Mrs. Carrie Eglin, in Granada, spending part of the time with her children and months at a time at the home of her sister, Mrs. Jennie Park.

Death was due to the infirmities of age after two weeks illness, although she had been in failing health for the past year or more.

Funeral services were held at two o'clock Monday afternoon, Oct. 27, 1941, at the Granada Congregational church with the pastor, Miss Alzina Munger, officiating and Rev. R. K. Chapman assisting.

Burial was at Center Creek cemetery beside her husband.

Beside her children, Mrs. Andross leaves four grandchildren, Mrs. M. B. Zachary of Caliente, Nev., Donald B. Eglin of Granada, Winston O. Oothoudt of Guckeen, and Ruth Andross of Granada, and two sisters, Mrs. Alice Park and Mrs. Jennie Park.聽

(Obituary clipping from unknown newspaper.)

SCHWAGER, Abel (ALPEN)

Mrs. Chris Schwager has passed on, marking the final summoning of another pioneer of the Sherburn community. The end came Saturday evening at 9:30, following several weeks' illness from flu which developed into pneumonia.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at 130 from St. John's Lutheran church, Rev HW Neunaber officiating. Burial was made in the Sherburn cemetery. Pall bearers were Chas. Landin, EH Stoterau, MJPool, MM Schendel, MN Johnson and JC Flygare.

Abel (Alpen) Schwager was born December 7, 1849 in Germany and came to this country at the age of nineteen. She was married to Chris. Schwager at Davenport, Iowa, February 5th, 1875. Nine years later she came with her husband and family to this state, when they settled on a farm in Elm Creek township. The couple were continuous residents on the place until 1910 when they decided to quit the activities of farm life and move to town. They bought a residence property here, later disposing of it and moved to Fairmont for a short time. In 1923 Mr. Schwager built a fine new house in the central part of town which was since their home until their death. Mr. Schwager preceded his wife in death by five months, he having passed away August 16 of the past year. (Sherburn Advance 10 Jan 1929)

Mrs. Schwager was a woman of many lovable traits of character and was held in universal esteem as a neighbor, wife and mother. Her life was enriched and blessed by seeing all of her children grow to maturity and taking their places in the ranks of the communities best citizenry. Her place in the home which she had so long brightened by her gracious presence has been made vacant by the hand of death...a place which no one except a mother can ever fill. Sympathy goes out to the children in being bereft of their wonderful mother.

Mrs. Schwager was the mother of nine children all of whom survive. They are: Mrs. HE Steinhorst, Dunnell; Henry Schwager, Sherburn; Mrs. AC Blowers, Welcome; Herman Schwager, Sherburn; Mrs. Andrew Carlson, Fairmont; Mrs. Minnie Peterson, Sherburn; Harry Schwager, Reading, Mn; Burt Schwager, Sherburn, and Mrs. Aaron Routier, Minneapolis. She is also survived by 28 grand children and 4 great grandchildren, and 3 sisters, one of whom resides at Rock Island, Illinois and two in Germany. 聽

(Sherburn Sentinel Jan, 1929)

(Note: Abel Alpen was 24 years old when she came to US on board the "Allemania" from Hamburg to NY May 4, 1872.)

SCHWAGER, Herman

Herman Schwager, 71, retired Sherburn area farmer, died Monday night after a long illness. Funeral services will be conducted Friday. There will be services at 11am for the family at the Congregational church in Sherburn. The body will lie in state at the church until 2pm when there will be a service open to the public. The Rev. Chester Olson will officiate. Burial will be in the Sherburn cemetery.

Mr. Schwager was born at Durand, IA. March 15, 1883, coming to Sherburn area with his parents when a small boy. From 1909 until 1911 he was employed as a barber in Iowa. In 1911 he returned to the Sherburn area where he farmed until eight years ago when he moved in Sherburn.

Mr. Schwager was married to Minnie Schultz at Alpha Jan 16, 1906, who survives. Surviving are the following children: Harold, Auburn, Wa., Marion, Seattle, Wa. Roger and Mrs. Walter Christian, Sherburn; also the following brothers and sisters: Mrs Ann Steinhorst, Sherburn; Mrs. Aaron Routier (Tillie), San Diego; Henry and Mrs. Minnie Peterson, Sherburn; Mrs. Andrew Carlson, Fairmont; Mrs. Arthur Blowers, Welcome; Harry, Minneapolis; Bert, Sherburn; also nine grandchildren.

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(Sentinel, Tues 9 Obituary- The Sherburn Sentinel 1956)

SCHWAGER, Minnie (SCHULTZ)

MRS SCHWAGER, SHERBURN, DIES IN WASHINGTON

Mrs. Herman Schwager, 68 of Sherburn, died Monday at Renton hospital, Renton, Wash., of pneumonia and complications. She had been spending the winter with a son and daughter in Washington.

Mrs. Schwager was born Minnie Frieda Schultz, July 4, 1887, in Illinois. She came to Jackson with her parents as an infant. The family moved to Sherburn when she was a small girl.

She was married in 1906 to Herman Schwager at Alpha. They farmed in the Sherburn area until retirement. He died Feb. 8, 1954.

Survivors include: two daughters, Mrs. Walter Christian(Marcella), Sherburn; and Mrs. Ernest Ehlers (Marian), Seattle, Wash; two sons, Harold, Auburn, Wash.; and Roger, Jackson; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. A daughter, Margaret, is deceased.

Family services will be at the Congregational church here at 11am Saturday.

Public services at 2pm with the Rev. Chester Olson officiating. Burial will be in the Sherburn cemetery. Morgan Funeral home is in Charge.