

DID YOU KNOW.....

A look back at early area history as found in the archives of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum by Susan Schlecht

*Continuing with the unique way in which deaths were reported as news, we have excerpts from an article which appeared on the front page of the **May 20, 1919** edition of **The Enderlin Independent** concerning the death of a well-know resident.*

THE GRIM REAPER TAKES MRS. KABER

Death Comes Suddenly from Broken Artery Caused by Violent Fit of Coughing

The news of the sudden death of Mrs. A. Kaber came as a great shock to everybody in Enderlin last Monday morning. While she had been in poor health for more than a year past, there had been no thought of her death.

Mr. and Mrs. Kaber went to Florida last fall to escape the severe winter weather in the hope of benefiting her condition and had returned but a few weeks ago. The change of climate had not seemed to be of much benefit to the lady and she was still feeling poorly. Since their return Mr. and Mrs. Kaber had been staying with their son Ellis on the farm just west of the city and Saturday their son Walter and his wife motored up from their farm at Rutland for a visit and on Sunday evening they had all been visiting – Walter and wife, Ellis, Mrs. Cora Wold and Mr. and Mrs. Kaber. They had but just separated for the night when Mrs. Kaber was taken with a violent coughing attack, immediately after which she exhibited signs of internal hemorrhage. Although a physician was immediately summoned by phone, he was too late, for the spirit of Mrs. Kaber had flown before his arrival, her death taking place at 9:40.

Deceased, whose maiden name was Emma Wick, was born near Franklin, PA, August 19, 1858 and was 60 years, 9 months and 6 days old at the time of her death. She was married to her surviving husband in 1890 at Niagara Falls, NY and they lived at Bradford, Pa, for a year, coming here then, where they settled on the homestead which has since been their home until moving into Enderlin in 1900. Four children were born to them, two of which – Howard and Louis, died of scarlet fever during the epidemic a few years ago. Two sons, Ellis and Walter, still remain with the grief stricken father to mourn the loss of a kind and loving wife and mother. Mrs. Kaber leaves also three sisters – Mrs. Cora Wold of the city, Mrs. Jennie Gleason of Warner, Alberta, Canada and Mrs. Lizzie Watts, who is living in Oregon.

The funeral was held in the Presbyterian Church, of which Mrs. Kaber had been a life long member, Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The profusion of flora offerings, the crowded church, attested eloquently to the high esteem in which Mrs. Kaber was held in our community. She was of a kind and loving disposition, never happier than when she was helping in some good work and was always an active worker in the church and Ladies' Aid society.

The hearts of many friends go out in sympathy to the bereaved ones in their great sorrow.

Sue's comments: In the early days, it was common for deaths to appear as news articles instead of obituaries and much editorializing was always done as to the wonderful attributes of the deceased. It was also not unusual for some of the news articles to include statements such as: "His life was insured for \$4,000 - \$2,000 in the Maccabbees and \$2,000 in the Workmen's Lodge - the former is payable to his wife and the latter to his only child". Maybe publishing that information was intended as an incentive for the poor widow to easily find another husband or assurance to the community that she would not become a burden to society! Evidently everything was considered available for public knowledge!

