

10-13-1859

MARTIN CONRAD ROCKTEACHER

The funeral of Martin Conrad Rockteacher whose body was found in Rock river near Janesville, March 23d, took place at Eagle Wednesday afternoon with interment in Oak Ridge cemetery, Rev. Laudon of North Prairie officiating.

Martin was born in Eagle, October 13th, A. D. 1859, and was a son of Mathew and Frances T. Vonrueden Rockteacher who came to Eagle from Germany in the early fifties.

Martin attended the Eagle school and later engaged with the Esterly Reaper Works at Whitewater. He was an expert machinist and thereafter for many years traveled for the Harvester company in the north and northwest.

After the death of his father July 21st, A. D. 1904, he made his home with his mother and cared for her affectionately and faithfully up to the time of her death March 18th, A. D. 1921.

He worked at various trades, hotel clerk at Milton Junction and at Eagle, carpenter, painter and paper hanger. On October 6th he left Eagle and arrived at Milton Junction the following morning. Registered at the hotel and went away on the evening of that day, and on the 8th day of October he came to North Prairie on the afternoon west bound train and visited his niece, Mrs. Dewey Stocks, daughter of his brother, John. From

there he again went to Milton Junction and that is the last that was heard from him.

On March 23d trappers saw his body floating down the Rock river five miles north of Janesville. The authorities there held an inquest and determined that he was murdered. At the time his body was taken from the river a flat lime stone weighing fourteen pounds and three ounces was tied to his body with a three eights inch new rope which was fastened to the stone by wire. A wire was also tied to his coat and from which a loop extended which it is believed held some other weight intended to hold his body down.

The identification was brought about by the efforts of Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald, of Eagle, an intimate friend of Mr. Rockteacher, who with Dr. W. G. Doern, of Milwaukee, got a description of the dead man which tallied with that of Mr. Rockteacher. A brother, John M. Rockteacher, and Frank Jaken went to Janesville at the request of Dr. Fitzgerald and identified the spectacle case marked Stevens Point as the one given to him by Mr. Jaken and the handwriting in the note book as that of Mr. Rockteacher. The body was exhumed and brought to Eagle for burial. Sheriff Mosely and Undersheriff Gary are making a thorough investigation of the case. Mr. Rockteacher was five feet and nine inches high, wore a mustache, weighed about one hundred and sixty pounds, and usually carried large sums of money on his person.

He leaves one brother, John, the only surviving member of the family, two brothers, Arthur and Frederick A., and three sisters, Mrs. Henry Fluger, Mary and Frances, preceded him in death.

CARD OF THANKS

The undersigned extend thanks to all who so kindly assisted them by word and deed in identifying the body of their brother and uncle, Martin C. Rockteacher, and at the burial.

THE ROCKTEACHER FAMILIES.