

Jay Danford Silvernail

Jay Danford Silvernail was born in Ancram, New York, Jan. 21th, 1854. He was the only child of Abram and Anna Silvernail. At an early age, he came to Wisconsin with his parents who settled at North Prairie. Here he spent his early manhood.

Sixty years ago on Dec. 25th, 1879, he was united in marriage to Annie E. Stead. They made their home in Reedsburg for a few years. After which they moved to this vicinity where they have since resided.

To this union was born five children, May Adell Smart who preceded him in death four years ago and little Ora Belle who died in infancy. Three children, Arthur of Whitewater; Guy of Genssee and Mrs. Beulah Bayer of Waukesha and his wife, Annie, and two grandsons, Jack Silvernail and James Smart survive him.

Mr. Silvernail died early Wednesday morning, April 24, 1940. Aged 86 yrs., 3 months and 3 days.

To this brief summary of Mr. Silvernail's life it seems fitting to add a few remarks and lines of tribute to this venerable old gentleman of Eagle. Residents will recall that he was the first rural mail carrier out of Eagle. He was assigned this post in 1901 and retained it until his retirement twenty one years ago. As with all pioneers and he was a pioneer in the rural mail system, he had to contend with

Only one with endurance and perservance could cope successfully with the difficulties encountered. The daily travel over ill-kept roads, oozing with mud in the spring, dust laden in summer, snow drifted and at times impassable in winter, and at their best "a long cry" from the concrete highways of today were just part of the day's work. In his later years he liked to recall and relate many of his experiences in that humorous manner that made his listeners so greatly enjoy his quaint narratives.

Added to his keen sense of humor his friendly attitude to all was notable. He was ever ready to give aid freely and willingly, thus proving himself a kind neighbor and friend.

His last illness he met with the same calm acceptance that he met all crises in life. Patiently he suffered, always considerate of the ones administering to him and deeply grateful and appreciative of the many kindly attentions shown him by the loving neighbors and friends.

His life long in years, full of the attributes that go with a good life, ended just as a few days dawned.

The funeral services were held from the home in Eagle. Rev. Beers of North Prairie officiated. The inspirational sermon and the prayers, the beautiful rendition of two vocal solos by Philip Beahlen of Palmyra, aided much in solacing and comforting the grieved ones. Mr. Silvernail was laid to rest in Oak Ridge cemetery, Eagle, Wis.

The Eagle Quill
May 3, 1940