

BEIDLER FAMILY IMPORTANT PART OF COMMUNITY FOR 104 YEARS

S. L. Beidler One Of Mount Pulaski's Greatest Boosters

The pioneer druggist of Mount Pulaski was Samuel Linn Beidler, who located in this city during the year 1857. He was born June 23, 1836, on a farm between Mount Joy and Middletown, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

His life was one of continuous activity, and he took great interest in everything he was connected with.

At an early age he was placed in the drug store of John R. Landis in Middletown. After two years, when Histen and Miesse became proprietors, they made young Beidler manager of a branch store the firm had started in Portsmouth. At this place the "little clerk" took charge of the entire business, not only selling but ordering goods.

Mr. Beidler's father died in 1849, and the mother followed in 1850. Two years later he went to Lancaster, and then Trenton, New Jersey, where he found employ-

a charter member of Mount Pulaski Commandery No. 39 Knights Templar, of which he was Commander in 1880.

He was the second man to propose the building of the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield Railroad, now Springfield Division of the Illinois Central.

From the very first his drug store was a favorite meeting place for the pioneers of the area for many miles around. It was in front of this store during the Civil War that upon the arrival of the Chicago Tribune by way of the Chicago & Alton Railroad to Lincoln, and overland to Mount Pulaski, that Mr. Beidler would read the War News to the assembled crowd.

All through the years he was always active and alive to the best interests of the city, and assisted to the best of his ability and means toward every public enterprise. He assisted in starting a coal mine on south Garden St., and did valiant work in other lines toward the building of this city.

101 years old and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Holmes.

Beidler Family Was Large

The father, Samuel Lindamuth Beidler, was born near Mount Joy Penn., June 23, 1836; died in Mount Pulaski, Ill., Oct. 21, 1901.

The mother, Prudence Ann Capps Beidler, was born in Mt. Pulaski, Ill., Dec. 18, 1841; died in Chicago, Dec. 7, 1926.

There were 11 children in the family, all born in the old Beidler brick home on Marion street, namely:

Helen Beidler, born Nov. 3, 1860; died Nov. 3, 1861.

Monter Clarence Beidler, born Jan. 12, 1862; died Nov. 12, 1887.

Frank X. Beidler, born Feb. 16, 1864; died Oct. 24, 1932.

John Lindamuth Beidler, born Dec. 27, 1865; died April 7, 1927.

Snow Flake Beidler, born Dec. 13, 1867; died Aug. 29, 1878.

Imogene Ann Beidler, born Oct. 5, 1872; died April 21, 1907. She married Dr. Wm. A. Swain and was the mother of the Swain triplets, Louise, Miriam, and Prudence.

Reil Capps Beidler, born Feb. 1, 1874; died March 13, 1951.

George Capps Beidler, born Dec. 20, 1876; lives in Chicago.

Paul Eugene Beidler, born July 14, 1879. Lives in grandfather's home on North Lafayette Street.

Robert Blaine Beidler, born Sept. 17, 1881; died Sept. 12, 1894.

Donald Cameron Beidler, born Aug. 8, 1885; died Oct. 18, 1943.

Names of Grandchildren

Among the grandchildren were the children of Dr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Swain, namely: Linn Beidler Swain of Burlington, Mass.; and the Swain triplets, Mrs. Erich (Louise) Hein, of Chestnut; Mrs. Miriam McCann Hazelwood, of Lincoln; and, Mrs. Ronald (Prudence) Gobleman, of Springfield. Louise is the mother of the following children: Erich Hein, Jr., of Peoria; Mrs. Earl (Delores) Maxheimer, Mrs. Wm. (Nancy) Dittus, Mrs. Richard (Wanita) Froschauer, Mount Pulaski; William Hein, Chestnut; John Hein, U.S. Army in Germany. The Heins' have 11 grandchildren.

Miriam has two children, Jack McCann of Peoria and Mrs. Darrell (Barbara McCann) Richner, Washington, Ill.

Prudence has one son, Donald Gobleman, of Springfield. Miriam has three grandchildren.

Reil C. Beidler and Etta Sherbondy Beidler have three children, namely: Everett Beidler, of Mount Pulaski; Samuel Linn Beidler, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; and Mrs. Graham (Dorothy) Eddy, now in Iran, Asia.

Everett and Esther McDonald Beidler have two daughters, Mrs. Loren (Delores) Ayers, Mount Pulaski, and Mrs. Edward (Donna) Didmar, of Springfield. There is one grandson.

Samuel Linn and Elizabeth Lawrence Beidler have one daughter, Mrs. Thomas (Mary Linn) Landes, of Chillicothe, Ill. There are two grandchildren.

The Graham Eddy's have two children, Graham Eddy, Jr., of Washington, D.C., and Mrs. Karsten H. (Marcia) Moritz, Baton Rouge, La. The Eddy's have one grandchild.

Paul E. and Ethel Lynch Beidler had two children, Robert L. Beidler and Mary Louise, who was the wife of William Earl Fry, of Springfield.

The children of George C. Beidler and the (late Virgie Smedley) of Chicago, Harold Beidler and Mrs. Doris Valentine of Chicago. One daughter, Mrs. Helen Humble, is deceased. There are four grandchildren.

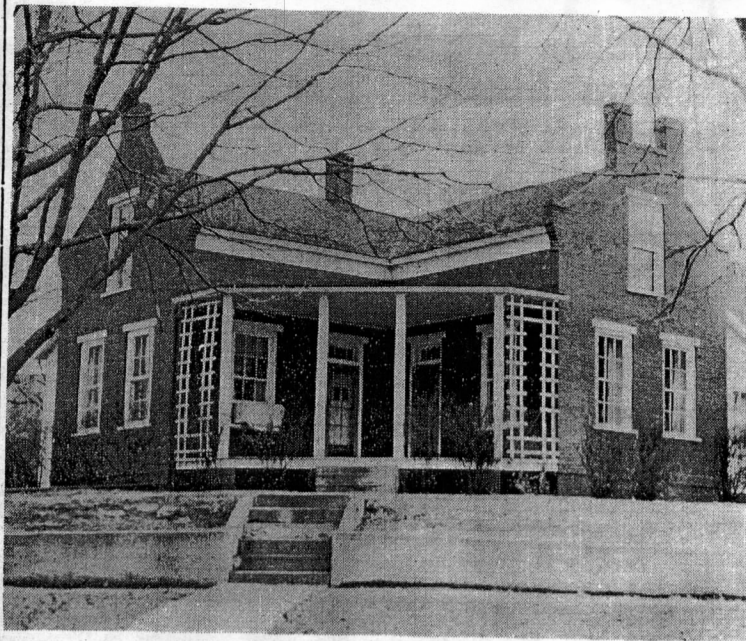
HIGH CORN YIELD IN 1914 - 45 BUSHELS

(1914)

A recent copy of the Decatur Review had the following to say:

"That corn in the north half of Austin township will yield 45 bushels to the acre this year is the statement made by crop experts at Maroa. In that section of the county the corn is particularly good and the average seems high. Between Maroa and Mount Pulaski the corn is said to be in exceedingly good shape, and also over as far as Latham. But north and west of there it is not so good."

BEIDLER HOMESTEAD ON NORTH MARION



Donald C. Beidler Was Inventor Of Twin Camera

(Oct. 21, 1943)

Donald Cameron Beidler, native of Mount Pulaski, died from a sudden heart attack at 5 p.m., Monday, Oct. 18, 1943, while busy with his photographic work in the Beidler-Viken Studios, Inc., Manhasset, Long Island, New York. He was aged 58 years.

Mr. Beidler's health became impaired about five years ago from a heart ailment, and at that time was bedfast for many months. Apparently recovering from his illness, he continued his duties in the studio, which had become widely known in the New York City area, and was patronized by many of the nationally-known families living in the east. The news of his death came as a great shock to relatives and friends alike, many of whom had met him when he visited the old home city in August.

He was born Aug. 8, 1885, in Mount Pulaski, Ill., a son of Samuel Linn and Prudence Ann Capps Beidler, being the youngest child of a family of eleven children, eight boys and three girls. His grandfather, Jabez Capps, founded Mount Pulaski in 1836, and his mother had the distinction of being the first girl born in this city, the date of her birth being Dec. 18, 1841. His father came here in 1857 and opened a drug store on the west side the square, and this location after a period of 80 years, is still a drug store, now known as the Carter's Pharmacy. (1961 - Dean's Sundries).

He attended the Mount Pulaski grade school and high school, then located in the east part of the city, and graduated from the high school in 1904. During the

school years he became interested in photography, and after employment in Bloomington and Lincoln, and making experiments at home, he left for Chicago, where he was employed in studios, the Koehne Studio being the business where he remained the longest. Starting in the photographic business for himself, he opened a studio in the Lyon and Healy building. A. J. Viken, a man highly skillful in the mechanical end of photography was employed by Mr. Beidler.

Invented Twin Camera

In later months, Mr. Viken entered the business as a partner, and it was here they invented and perfected the twin camera, which was afterward to make their work widely-known in the photographic field. Moving to larger quarters in the Illinois Woman's Athletic Club building, and expanding their business in a few years, sold out to Underwood & Underwood of New York.

Attract Wide Attention

They went to New York City and in 1929 decided to open a new studio in Manhasset, Long Island, just across the sound from New York. Always inventing new methods in photography, their work of unusual quality began to attract the attention of a wide area in the east, and for years they merited and did a very extensive business. One of Mr. Beidler's most interesting experiences was the visit on New Year's Day, 1942, to the home of the late J. Pierpont Morgan, where he photographed the refugee English children that were then living at the palatial Morgan home. He continued in the work he loved up to the last seconds of a useful career.

He now rests in the Mount Pulaski Cemetery.

1961—Two brothers, Paul E. Beidler, Mt. Pulaski, and George of Chicago, survive.

Nationally Known In Photographic Field



DONALD C. BEIDLER

SAMUEL LINN BEIDLER

ment in a drug store. He got the Western fever after hearing a visitor from Toledo, Ohio, talk. So, he packed his belongings and started West, first visiting with relatives in Philadelphia, Chambersburg and Middletown. Starting out again, he was accompanied by a man named Job Deckard, driving a horse and buggy. At Canton, Ohio, Deckard robbed his companion and drove away at night, leaving Beidler alone and penniless, among strangers. The sale of his watch paid his coach fare to Yellowbud, Ohio, where his brother, Dr. J. H. Beidler, was located.

Came Here on Horseback

Mr. Beidler was clerk in the Yellowbud post office about one year, then he started on horseback for Illinois on Feb. 12, 1857. He reached Elkhart, Logan County, after riding for 18 days over boundless prairies. He clerked in Elkhart for a short time, then went to the new town of Lincoln to work for Kelso and Boren, druggists. He was later placed in charge of a branch store in Mount Pulaski, this being in November, 1857. Mr. Beidler built a drug store that same year on the site of the Jabez Capps log cabin structure, housing his store and home, on the west side of the square.

At that time he was made deputy postmaster. He was continued in office by his friend, President Abraham Lincoln. During Johnson's administration he was retired as postmaster, but was reappointed by President General Grant in 1869, and held the office without interruption until 1882.

Mr. Beidler was made a Master Mason in 1868, and was a charter member of Mount Pulaski Chapter No. 1211. In 1871 he was made

Always A Booster

He was especially prominent and active in promoting the Logan County Old Settlers' Ass'n., most of the annual meetings being held in Mount Pulaski. He served for many years as secretary of the association. It was through his planning, and with the co-operation of several business men and residents, that the great Semi-Centennial Celebration in 1886 was such a famous success. Another big event of which he was the principal promoter, was the celebration in which a group of soldiers was sent up from Springfield and captured San Juan Hill, the Fort being located on the west side of square.

In 1883 he turned over the drug business management to his son John, and went into semi-retirement. At this time he purchased the Mount Pulaski Republican from T. H. Smedley and a few years later changed the name to the Weekly News. Mr. Smedley remained with the paper until 1902. From then on until 1932, the paper was published by the sons, Reil C. and Paul E. Beidler. In August, 1932, the paper was sold to Harry J. Wible, who had come to Mount Pulaski from Lincoln, and who consolidated the papers as the Times-News.

Married First Girl Born Here

On Feb. 8, 1860, he married Miss Prudence Ann Capps, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jabez Capps, in their home on North Lafayette Street, now occupied by a grandson, Paul E. Beidler and wife. The minister was Rev. Briggs. The 1860 bride had the honor of being the first girl born in Mount Pulaski. They began housekeeping in the brick house Mr. Beidler built on Marion Street, now