

[Diefendorf, Victor Zoller]

Victor Diefendorf, Well Known Fort Plain Businessman, Dies

Victor Z. Diefendorf, 62, of Mohawk Street, a prominent businessman and life-long resident of this village, died unexpectedly on his way home from his place of business yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Diefendorf had been in poor health for several months. He had been at the F. Diefendorf and Sons Book Store, which he operates, yesterday morning. On his way home from work in the afternoon, he collapsed and was taken to the Kilmer Building on Mohawk Street where he died shortly afterwards.

He was born July 18, 1892, in Fort Plain, the son of Fenton G. and May Zoller Diefendorf. He served in France with the AEF during World War I.

Mr. Diefendorf became a member of the Diefendorf firm in 1918 and had conducted the business alone since the death of his father approximately 23 years ago [in 1931].

He started his business career with his father and the late Theodore S. Waters following graduation from Fort Plain High School in 1911, and had been connected with the store for more than 40 years.

He was a member of the Fort Plain Masonic Lodge, Community Club, American Legion, Universalist Church of the Messiah, Men's Club of the church, and had served as clerk of the board of management of the church. Mr. Diefendorf was very active in civic and church work.

Surviving are his wife, Mabel [Lipe], of Fort Plain; three sons, Robert H. and Fenton D. Diefendorf of Fort Plain, and Alan L. of Buffalo; and two grandchildren of Fort Plain.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Gray funeral home. The Rev. James Alcock will officiate and burial will be in Fort Plain Cemetery.

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