

[Kougher, Gifford]

Gifford Kougher shoots Himself With Gun Monday

Gifford Kougher, 55, ended his life by shooting himself through the chest with a large calibre [sic] rifle in an outbuilding on his farm south of this village on Monday night.

Sheriff Gerald K. Nellis said he learned the man had threatened to take his life on previous occasions. He and Coroner Clark E. Congdon of Fort Plain investigated and then the coroner gave a verdict of suicide.

Mr. Kougher, who had been suffering from heart trouble, left the house at 5 o'clock Monday afternoon, apparently to attend to the chores. When he did not return, Joseph Droski, who resides on the farm, went in search of the man. Mr. Droski found the lights on in the barn and finally located Mr. Kougher, lying on the floor with the rifle under his body.

Officials, in reconstructing the suicide, said that Mr. Kougher had put the butt of the gun on the floor, leaned against the muzzle, and then discharged the rifle by pushing the trigger with a stick, which was found with the gun.

Mr. Kougher was born on April 2, 1884, the son of John and Mary Hufnail Kougher. He was a member of the Mohawk Valley Lodge, 86, Knights of Pythias. The body was taken to the A. G. Schwartz & Son Funeral Home in Fort Plain.

Besides his wife [Eva Ullman Kougher], he is survived by a son, Voorhees; a daughter, Ruth; his mother, Mrs. John G. Kougher, Town of Minden; a brother, Howard, and a sister, Mrs. Clarence Rockwell, Town of Minden.

Funeral services were to be conducted at the Catharine Nellis Memorial Chapel in Fort Plain this afternoon at 2 o'clock, with the Rev. W. [William] A. Haney, pastor of the Fort Plain Universalist Church, officiating. The body was to be placed in the chapel vault to await burial in the spring.

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