

EARLY PIONEERS OF THIS COMMUNITY



Henry Vonderlieth was born in Hanover, Germany and his wife, Catherine Weckel, in Wurtemberg, Germany. In early life they came to the United States and were married in Logan County, Illinois.

In 1838, Mr. Vonderlieth established his home in this locality and worked at his trade of brick laying. He erected the first brick residence in Mount Pulaski. Later he owned and operated a small farm adjoining the Village of Mount Pulaski. His

death occurred in 1886 at the age of 69 and his wife passed away in 1878 at 65 years of age. They were the parents of six children who reached years of maturity, and, Peter and Paul died in childhood. The other members of the family were: Elizabeth, who became the wife of G. L. Schafer; Anna, wife of C. F. Schafer, a hardware merchant of Mount Pulaski; John M., who died in 1885; Catherine, the widow of Henry Meister; Adolph; and George, who died in 1901.

HELPED BUILD BUSINESS INTERESTS HERE



MR. ADOLPH VONDERLIETH

A native of Logan county, Mr. Vonderlieth was born in Mount Pulaski township, Nov. 2, 1856, and was a son of Henry and Catherine (Weckel) Vonderlieth, both of whom were natives of Germany.

To the village schools, he is indebted for the educational privileges which he received. He pursued his studies in the old courthouse, which had been built by his father and which was used for school purposes after the removal of the county seat to Lincoln.

After completing his education, he learned the blacksmith's trade under the direction of G. L. Schafer and followed that pursuit for 15 years, thus gaining a start in life and securing thereby the capital to embark in other fields of activity. On abandoning his trade he became the general superintendent of the Union Coal Company at Mount Pulaski, a position he held for seven years. While still working at the blacksmith trade he established a

brick yard in 1877 at the edge of the city, and successfully carried it on while with the coal company, continuing its operation until 1893, and giving employment to 15 or 16 men.

In 1898, he became a partner of R. D. Clark in the real estate, insurance and loan business under the firm name of Vonderlieth & Clark.

On Sept. 7 1879, Mr. Vonderlieth was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Lipp, Lincoln, Ill., a daughter of John and Catherine Lipp, who were early settlers in the county. Their children were Henry L. and Walter A., both graduates of the high school of Mount Pulaski, and Lena, who died at the age of five. The wife and mother died Aug. 14, 1887, and Mr. Vonderlieth was married Oct. 8, 1889, to Anna Lipp, a sister of his former wife. To this union was born one son, Julius Edward.

Upon its organization in 1884, Mr. Vonderlieth became a director of the People's Savings & Loan

Nursing Home, Hospital Gift of "Home Town Boy"

"Henry And Jane Vonderlieth Foundation"

The gift of a nursing home and hospital, fully endowed, is the finest contribution this, or any other community could have bestowed upon it.

This is a definite reality that the future holds for Mount Pulaski and surrounding communities.

This generous contribution to a community already remembered in outstanding gifts by other Mount Pulaskians, is to be known as the "Henry and Jane Vonderlieth Foundation".

It was in January 1959, that Henry Vonderlieth of Millburn, New Jersey, first broached the matter of a hospital fully endowed, to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Downing, cousins, in a letter asking for the reaction of the community to such a gift. Needless to state it received a very enthusiastic reception from every walk of life.

Nursing Home Most Important

A nursing home for the aged was then added to the proposed gift when the Vonderlieths stopped in Mount Pulaski last September, enroute home from a vacation trip in California. In fact, at a semi-public meeting held at the grade school Mr. Vonderlieth stated that after visiting and talking with a number of Mount Pulaskians, he and Mrs. Vonderlieth arrived at the following opinion:

"It is the desire of Mrs. Vonderlieth and myself to help your community rather than to cater to our whims. We have learned in the brief time that we have been here that a hospital is not the only answer to your needs. You need a nursing home for the aged. And, perhaps that is more important. Having both would be better of course, and I think you'll get them."

Two Trusts Set Up

Two trusts have been established to become effective on the passing from this life of Mr. and Mrs. Vonderlieth. The one trust will be set up in the name of the "Henry and Jane Vonderlieth Foundation," to be turned over to the hospital trustees. The other trust that has been set up is for their son, Adolph, who became a hospital patient while attending Harvard University in 1931. Upon his death, half of the principal of the trust will be turned over to the Foundation, and the other half will be kept as an endowment from which the hospital and nursing home will receive the annual income in perpetuity.

Mr. Vonderlieth also stated relative to the financial handling of this undertaking that he would advise his trustees to spend not more than 50% of the capital in building, leaving the remaining 50% for investments which would be handled by the Maplewood

Association of Mount Pulaski, and was office secretary. In business affairs he prospered and his success is the legitimate outcome of his own well-directed labors. Energetic and determined at the outset of his career he had advanced steadily as the years went by and his earnest purpose had been fulfilled. He had been active and influential in the affairs of the town and had served as a member and president of the village board.

Mr. Vonderlieth was one of the charter members of the Knights of Pythias Lodge and was its first chancellor. He was also a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He belonged to the Second Lutheran Church and withheld his cooperation from no movement or measure which tended to advance the material, intellectual or moral progress of the community.

Henry L. Vonderlieth Attained Prominence In Financial Circles

National Magazines Sought His Services In Circulation Field.

Another success story of a former Mount Pulaskian, who attended grade and high school here, which should prove an added incentive and inspiration for our present day youth, is that of Henry L. Vonderlieth.

He was born July 2, 1881, in Mount Pulaski, Ill., (the same day James D. Garfield, President of the United States, was assassinated) the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Vonderlieth.

Mr. Vonderlieth not only graduated from the local schools, but after two years at the University of Illinois (eye trouble forced him to discontinue his studies), he taught in the Mount Pulaski grade school for two years. (Gene Clear was a pupil.) He worked in the post office, and in the offices of the Mount Pulaski Coal Mine Co., and the Mount Pulaski Wind Mill Co.

In 1904 Mr. Vonderlieth had an opportunity to join his brother Walter, who had gone to work for the old Success Magazine the year before. After receiving valuable experience in the Success Magazine offices and in actual field work in Illinois and Wisconsin, Henry took charge of the newsstand promotion of the then famous McClure's Magazine. His job with McClure's required a

Bank & Trust Co. of New Jersey. This he stated would prevent the two projects from becoming too heavy and a burden on the community.

Another Possibility

The possibility of the building of Retirement Apartments to house aged couples who do not need nursing care, was also spoken of highly as another possibility. He also stated that charges should be very reasonable ones in view of the fact that operating expenses were assured. This is one of the features that makes the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Vonderlieth so outstanding — relieving the folks of this community of a portion of the burden of ever-increasing hospital costs.

To Mr. and Mrs. Vonderlieth, Clarence Tomlinson, Lorah Lipp and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Jarvis, this community owes an immense debt of endless gratitude.

great deal of travel so that in the course of three years he visited wholesale and retail news-dealers in practically every city of 25,000 and over, and every state in the Union.

In Demand by Big Magazines

Christian Herald called him in 1908 to take charge of circulation promotion. In less than a year he became Circulation Manager of McCall's Magazine where he stayed until 1913.

His next advancement was with Today's Magazine — later to become Today's Housewife. Part of the nine years spent in this position, he also acted as Circulation Manager of American Agriculturist, then published by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., later Secy. of U. S. Treasury.

Bus. Mgr. of Financial World

In 1924, he launched the Reader's Service League, wherein he acted in an advisory capacity for 20 trade periodicals. He became associated with FINANCIAL WORLD as Circulation Manager in 1925 and seven years later became Executive Vice-President and a director of the corporation. He continued as business head of Financial World until 1949 when he resigned to devote more time to his own investments and to rest and recreation. However, at the request of Mr. Louis Guenther, the publisher, he continued to act in an advisory capacity until a few years ago when he sold his stock interest in FINANCIAL WORLD to his former associates.

Since 1923, he had resided in Millburn, N.J., with his wife, the former Jane Lyster Splint.

One son, Adolph, suffered a breakdown while a junior at Harvard University in 1931 and has been hospitalized since that time.

He is an ardent golfer and is a long-time member of the nationally-known Baltusrol Golf Club.

Early in his New York career, he, his brother Walter, and two other circulation managers founded the XYZ Club which is still going strong.

Although retired from active business, Mr. Vonderlieth keeps quite busy reading magazines and books and in particular investment and financial newspapers, etc. Although old in years, Mr. Vonderlieth still keeps physically fit with his golf, long walks, and other activities.



MR. HENRY L. VONDERLIETH