

CHARLES BARTZ ✓ INSTANTLY KILLED

8-2-1923

FERNEY MAN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING SATURDAY MORNING WHILE HARVESTING

Charles Bartz, aged 34, residing near Ferney, was instantly killed Saturday morning while harvesting grain in his field one mile west of Ferney. The remains were found in the field shortly thereafter.

The fatal bolt hit about 10:45 that morning during a heavy electrical storm which visited that vicinity. Mr. Bartz, during the storm continued with his labor, and it is believed that a contact was formed with the positive and negative when he grasped a lever, and which resulted in his death.

Wm. Wage, who was working in an adjoining quarter when an exceptionally heavy bolt struck, saw Mr. Bartz's team running away, and believing that something was wrong, and upon investigation, found his neighbor's remains.

Fred Meister and son, Alvin, who were working about a mile from the spot, found the team standing in the fence corner when they left the field to go to the noon meal. The binder was found some time later implanted against a post, where it had lodged and was torn from the harness when the horses started to run.

Dr. Dunn was called from Groton, and upon a medical examination he found unmistakable evidences of electrocution. Part of Mr. Bartz's hair on the back part of his head was singed, and near his left eye, the flesh was bursted open. These, and a few bruises, were the only marks upon his body. It is thought that he received the bruises when he fell from the binder.

The funeral was held from the Hanson township church, Tuesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Burmester.

The deceased is one of the best known young men of that community. He was held in the highest regard by all who knew him because of his unswerving honesty and exemplary character. He is survived by his mother, with whom he made his home; also two sisters, Mrs. Otto Schinkel and Mrs. Jenson of this city, besides a number of other relatives.