

VAL LATZ' FATHER KILLED.

Valentine Latz, whose father was the victim of the accident mentioned in the following item, formerly resided a few miles southwest of this city and has a number of friends here who will read the account of the affair with interest. The item is taken from a recent Illinois paper:

"Last Saturday morning at about 8:30 o'clock as Peter Latz, a well known citizen of this township residing about three miles northwest of Stillman Valley, was crossing the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway bridge over Rock river near the mouth of the Stillman, he met passenger train No. 2, Overland Limited, near the west end of the bridge. He was struck by the engine, killing him instantly and hurling his body into the river twenty feet below. As soon as possible the train, which was running at a high rate of speed, was stopped and the bruised and lifeless body of Mr. Latz was rescued from the river by Ross Preston assisted by the train crew and passengers, having in the meantime floated down stream about forty rods, and conveyed to the Atwood & Dustin undertaking rooms at Stillman Valley. Coroner W. W. Hanes was immediately notified and at 4 p. m. Deputy Newcomer of Mt. Morris empaneled the following jury: W. A. Miller, J. C. Scott, C. S. Dustin, A. E. Agnew, D. C. Robbins and J. A. Atwood, who after examining the conductor, engineer, fireman and brakemen of train No. 2 and other witnesses returned the following verdict: 'That the deceased, Peter Latz, came to his death at about the hour of 8:30 o'clock a. m., June 6, 1903, at or near the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway bridge spanning Rock river between the towns of Marion and Byron in Ogle county, Illinois, from injuries received by being struck by the engine of passenger train No. 2 of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway company. We further find from the evidence that said railway company and the employes on said train No. 2 were not to blame for the death of the said Peter Latz.' 'Mr. Latz was a native of Germany and was 75 years, 4 months and 8 days old, and had resided in Illinois since 1848. For about twenty years he lived in Rockford where he was engaged in the business of shipping poultry hides, furs, butter and eggs. Twenty-six years ago he moved to his farm, three miles northwest of Stillman Valley, where he has lived a retired and quiet life. He owned valuable real estate in Rockford and Byron and had amassed a competency. He leaves a wife, four sons, Alexander, of Byron; Peter, of Rockford, and Valentine and Albert, who reside upon the family homestead, and one daughter, Mrs. Frank Preston, of San Luis Obispo, California. The funeral was held from the M. E. church at the mouth of the Stillman on Sunday afternoon and was conducted by the pastor, Rev. Charles Virden, of Byron. A large concourse of neighbors and friends of the family were present to express their sympathy with those who were so suddenly bereft of their husband and father. The interment was made in the Byron cemetery. The pall bearers were: Noah Preston, Walter Stalker, Simon Spigiemyer, Thos. Gibbs, H. C. Alfred and Gust Johnson. There were many beautiful floral offerings laid upon the casket and the kindly offices of neighbors and friends were apparent in the very thoughtful and helpful manner in which they aided the stricken family in the great sorrow which has come to them.