

# **George Stillwell Shot Accidentally by Joe Back and Dies From the Wounds the day Following. The Accident the Result of the Careless Handling of Fire Arms.**

Last Saturday a painful accident occurred to Mr. George Stillwell of this place which resulted in his death the day following. Mr. Stillwell will probably be better known to many as the proprietor of the Southern Hotel, opposite the Mo. P. Depot at this place. The facts are briefly as follows: On Saturday morning, before day, George Stillwell and Joe Back, his brother-in-law, went down to the mouth of the Bonne Femme River hunting ducks. At the Bonne Femme they were slipping up on some ducks, Stillwell being at the oars and Back with his loaded gun was sitting right behind him. The careless part of the affair is in the fact that Back was carrying his gun with both locks cocked. While carrying his gun in this dangerous condition the cap dropped off of one tube; he stopped and got the cap and replaced it, and the supposing he was pulling the trigger of the hammer he held with his thumb, pulled the other, discharging the contents, a load of duck shot, in the left shoulder of his brother-in-law, Stillwell, just in the deltoid muscle, tearing away the point of the shoulder and lodging the load in the upper part of the left breast and lung. This happened about four miles below this city and on the Howard county side. Back then left Stillwell and went for Mr. Long, on Charley Canoles place, in Howard, and Mr. Long and himself brought him to town in a wagon. As soon as they reached town medical aid was procured and amputation decided upon, but Drs. Holman, Cooper, Howard and Hurt on visiting him for that purpose, discovered that reaction had not taken place and found it unnecessary. He lingered through Saturday and Saturday night and died Sunday morning at 5 o'clock. No Coroners inquest was held, the victim repeating time and again that it was an accident and his brother-in-law was not to blame for it, and the family and friends were also perfectly satisfied of the truth of it. Joe Back, of course, is very distressed and has been sadly taught the lesson of being careful with fire arms and we hope the other hunters who read this sad result of carrying a gun with both locks cocked, will take warning and profit by his experience. Mr. Stillwell was buried Monday afternoon

This article was contributed by Bill Scroggin and taken from the Boonville Weekly Advertiser, 11 November 1881 issue. – Thanks Bill.

## **Veteran Tailor 70— If This Were Feb. 29**

J. A. Haerle, last of Boonville's old time tailors is 70 years old today – or was 70 years old yesterday – or sometime in between! For he was born Feb. 29, in the leap year of 1884.

Mrs. Haerle surprised her husband yesterday evening with a party marking his anniversary. There were 37 relatives and friends present.

**Because of this accident of birth he has had only 16 birthday anniversaries during the 70 years. Not only has he had to wait during periods of four years for an anniversary but at one time he was cheated even of the fourth year event. That was when the calendar moved through 1900. For though 1900 was 16 years after his birth year it was not a leap year, the rule being that the year that is divisible for 100 is not a leap year unless it is also divisible by 400. So Haerle had no anniversary between 1896 and 1904.**

He was born in Boonville at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Haerle, Sr., who lived in a house at the foot of Main Street hill where the Standard Service Station now stands.

His father was a tailor here before the Civil War, and his brother Louis, also became a tailor. When Jacob Haerle, Sr., died, Jacob Jr., apprenticed of his brother Louis. The shop was upstairs in the building whose ground floor is now occupied by Lammers Barber Shop on Morgan Street.

It was in 1905 that Haerle began his apprenticeship. At different times he worked there with the late John Stammerjohn and the late Clarence Diringer. A tailor-made suit which would cost about \$75 or \$80 now was made in those days for \$30, Haerle says.

After working at this trade for ten years, Haerle tried other lines going back to tailoring in 1921 when he took over the tailor shop at the Missouri Training School for Boys. Except for a short absence during a change of administration he has been at the school since. During that period that he was not at the Training school he worked three years at Kemper Military School as tailor.

He has been continuously in charge of the tailor shop at the Training School since 1941 – thirteen years in October. Before that he served 12 years at the school, making 25 years of tailoring at the school.

The tailor shop today is far removed from the shop of his early days. There is no handwork, even buttons are sewed on by machinery, and buttonholes worked by machinery. The shop force usually consists of 12 boys aged 14 to 17. Under the supervision of Haerle and Mrs. Haerle who assists in the shop half of each day, the boys turn out many supplies for the school.

The workclothes, shirts, jackets, and coveralls for all the boys are made here. The shop also turns out drapes, curtains, window shades, sheets, pillow cases, table cloths, raincoats, gymnasium pads, gymnasium shorts, divan covers, and other such articles needed in equipping the school.

All clothing and personal supplies needed by new boys are requisitioned through the shop, and when the boy leaves, he is dressed out in clothing stocked at the shop.

The shop is well lighted. The floor is covered with linoleum. There is an electric water cooler, and a big exhaust fan. Stock is stored up stairs, and also downstairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Haerle were married Dec. 5, 1905, and will observe their golden wedding anniversary next year. She was Miss Martha Deuel before their marriage. They have three children, all of Boonville, Fred D. Haerle, W. R. Haerle, and Mrs. W. L. Willers