

TRAGEDY IN ASHLEY

This incident happened on the lot which now is the home of Milton and Dorothy Schauer, north of the courthouse in Ashley. The story was taken from the November 20, 1913 issue of *The Ashley Tribune*, and was translated from German to English by Leona Neu.

TRAGIC ACCIDENT HAPPENS TO ASHLEY CITIZEN

As *The Tribune* is going to press, word has spread like wildfire of the

sad news that David Schulz, an employee of John Hoffman, died suddenly.

He fell from the windmill tower at the Louis Ruben place.

At about one o'clock on Friday, Schulz was on the windmill tower. As he was about his work, the hired girl of the Ruben family came out to get water for the cow.

She put the windmill in gear, and Schulz stepped to the side to get out of the wheel's way. But a gust of wind turned the wheel, struck him, and threw him off the tower.

[The fall] knocked him un-



Early photograph of David and Fredriecka Schulz together with Susan.

conscious, and it was so severe that several ribs of his were broken.

Schulz died within minutes. More will be reported next week.

The following was written in the November 27, 1913 issue—in the newspaper's English section:

Last Friday, at about one o'clock, people were startled and saddened to hear that David Schulz had fallen from the Louis Ruben windmill tower, and died a few minutes later.

Schulz had been employed by Sheriff Hoffman to attend to the latter's implement and pump business.

Schulz had made a windmill tower to be installed on a farm north of town. It is supposed that he climbed the Ruben tower to get a measurement for a rod which was missing from the windmill that was to be set up out in the country.

While taking the measurement, the windmill was started by an employee of the Rubens who did not know that anyone was up on the tower.

Schulz was then brushed from the tower platform [by the wind] and dashed to the ground with such force that an arm, collarbone, several ribs, and other bones were fractured.

Dr. E.H. Maercklein was hurriedly summoned, but death ensued in a few minutes in spite of all that could be done.

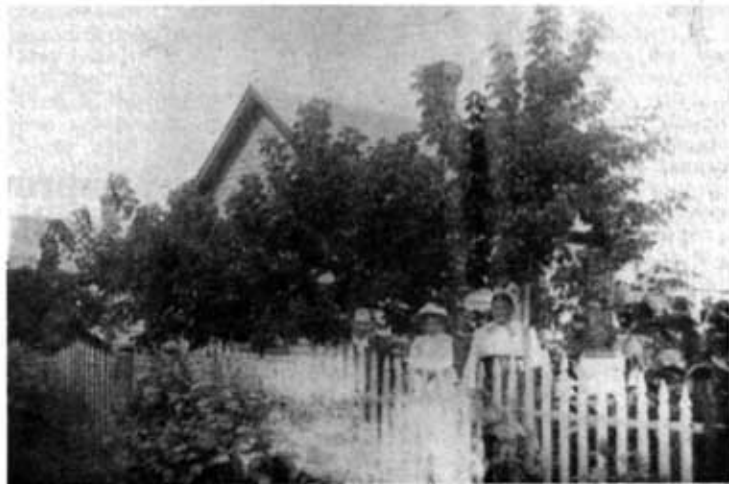
The following was printed in German, and translated by Leona Neu:

David Schulz, who was killed from a fall off a windmill tower, as was printed last week, was buried Sunday with services at the Evangelischen Lutheran church [editor's note: now Zion Lutheran Church] in Ashley on Sunday morning.

Pastor Schulz officiated. His text was "And there shall be no more death." Such a large crowd gathered for the funeral that the church overflowed.

After dinner, Pastor Schulz led

The doctor rushed
to save him.
to save him.



The Schulzes and Susan at their home on Second Avenue N.W. in Ashley. Many Ashley houses had picket fences in the early 1900s.

the procession out of town to Peace Lutheran Church (eight miles east of Ashley) where burial took place.

One hundred twenty-six wagons and buggies and a large crowd of people had assembled.

Pastor Schulz held another funeral service at the graveside, after which he returned to Ashley for worship at the church that evening.

David Schulz was a quiet man, ambitious, and hard-working. May he rest in peace.

The following are comments by Leona Neu:

The wife of David Schulz was

the former Fredriecka Schlabsz.

Her first husband, Johann Schulz (brother of David), had also died in a freak accident several years before, in August 1894, while running a threshing rig.

Johann broke through the wood frame on top of the machine and his leg got caught in the machine, being badly mangled.

He was taken to the house where he died from his injuries.

It was the same year Fredriecka married the brother, David.

Fredriecka was the great-aunt of Leona Neu. There were no children born to those unions, but they raised a girl, Susan, daughter of Andreas and Karolina (nee Schlabsz) Sackmann. □