

From the Sheboygan Telegram, November 27, 1918

## DEATH BRINGS USEFUL CAREER TO CLOSE

### FRANK GOTTSACKER PASSES AWAY

#### LONG CAREER AS EDITOR

For Nearly Forty Years He Had Charge of Editorial Department

Postmaster Frank Gottsacker, aged 66 years, for many years editor of the National Demokrat and at the present time an associate editor of that paper, died at 9:10 o'clock this morning at St. Nicholas Hospital of paralysis of the bowels.

The deceased had been ailing for some time, and he was last seen in public in the big peace parade Nov. 11 th, when he headed the delegation from the post office. On Wednesday, Nov. 12th, two days later, he was at the post office the last time, going home ill. It is stated that he had become chilled standing in the open waiting for the peace parade to start.

Monday, Nov. 18th, he was taken to St. Nicholas hospital from his residence, 1623 North Tenth street, and underwent an operation there on the same day. Several days later his condition became serious and on Monday of this week was pronounced critical.

Members of his family in other cities were summoned and arrived here yesterday. He remained in the same condition yesterday, some holding out hope that he had rallied. But in the twenty-four hours prior to his death he sank rapidly and death ensued as stated.

His death was received with mutual regret thru out the city where he had worked for many years in the newspaper field, thru which efforts he had become widely known, and was well liked by everyone.

For the past five years, he had not been so active in the newspaper work, having relinquished the position of editor of the Demokrat to his son, William Gottsacker, when he was appointed postmaster of this city by President Wilson in August 1913. During these five years he was connected with the paper as associate editor, but retained his interests there.

As the senior of all the newspaper men in the city Mr. Gottsacker was much respected and held in high regard by all of the newspaper men of the city, and there will be none in the city or vicinity who will regret more his death than they.

Mr. Gottsacker was a careful and painstaking editor, and every one on his staff in all departments was required to have those qualities. He was born June 15th, 1852, in the Rhine province of Germany, a son of William Gottsacker who was born in the same locality. The father came to America, settling at Manitowoc in 1853 and there followed the shoemaker's trade. He made the voyage alone to the new world, but when he had completed his preparations for a home in this country, he sent for his family, consisting of his wife and one child, Frank Gottsacker. *[This contradicts ship records which indicates the three came together on the same voyage—jg]*

They arrived in 1855 and the family home was maintained at Two Rivers until 1860, when a removal was made to Sheboygan, where the father engaged in shoe making to the time of his death on Aug, 7th 1 898.

In educational opportunities, Mr. Gottsacker was somewhat limited, owing to the fact that when eleven years of age he entered upon an apprenticeship to the printing trade under August Pott, with whom he

remained four years, beginning in 1804. He was afterward employed in the office of the Milwaukee Herald for two and a half years, but since the 8th of October, 1870, for a period for forty-eight years, he had been with the National Demokrat of Sheboygan, and stayed connected as stated in the past five years.

When he entered the office as foreman, he became a stockholder when the business was reorganized under a company form. In 1886, he was chosen editor and chief and had so continued, making the Demokrat one of the leading German papers of the state until he was appointed postmaster.

During the administration of President Cleveland in 1885, Mr. Gottsacker was appointed deputy collector of revenue in his district, but in the fall of 1886 resumed his connection with the National Demokrat and had continuously served as editor, and also acted as secretary and treasurer of his company.

A progressive policy was adopted by his paper, all questions being handled by him on a broad minded public spirited plan of public necessity and of the possibility for improvement.

For a long term of years Mr. Gottsacker was recognized as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in Wisconsin and had been prominent not only in matters relative to the commonwealth and to the nation, but also in local interests. For two years he represented the eighth ward as alderman, for six years was county chairman of the Democratic party and for three terms had been a member of the school board. He had been a member of the state central committee and his grasp of the political situation made his opinion sought in wide range in the councils of his party.

On the 25th of October, 1876, Mr. Gottsacker was married to Miss Anna Brand, who died Nov. 22nd, 1900. In 1902 he was married to Margaret Gottsacker. She and the following children survive: William, who succeeded his father as editor of the Demokrat, Mrs. Arthur Sukowatey, John and Joseph Gottsacker of this city, Mrs. J.P. Schadweiler and Peter Gottsacker of Farmer, S.D. and Sister Franka who teaches at Chicago and Frank Gottsacker Jr. of Milwaukee. All were here when death came except the last name who is ill and unable to answer the summons to his father's bedside.

A record was made by Mr. Gottsacker as head of the Arbeiter Veroin of this city, having been elected president of that society each year for forty years, since the day of its organization. He also was president of the St. Boniface society and belonged to the Knights of Columbus, St. Leo Court Catholic Order of Forsters and the Sheboygan Branch No. 18 Catholic Knights. He was one of the most prominent members of the Catholic church in this section of Wisconsin, having taken an active part in the work of that church for many years.

Funeral services will be held Saturday morning at nine o'clock at Holy Name church. Rev. Thill will officiate and the interment will be made in the North Side Catholic cemetery. He was the third postmaster of Sheboygan to die in office in recent years.