




Flashback To The Past

By Sandra M. Black



The funeral of AUGUST BECK was held Tuesday, May 6, 1941, at the Lutheran Church at Glen Arbor at 10:00'clock with Rev. R.R. Lather officiating. The service was held on the mainland and then the body was taken to the South Manitou Island. The body was accompanied by Mr. IRWIN BECK, HARLEY BECK, and MR BARNHART, the sons and son-in-law; C. Bennett and Rev. Lather. A short service was held at the coast guard station and then the body was taken to the cemetery where the commitment service was read.

AUGUST BECK was born December 1, 1853, in Berlin, Germany. He came to the United States in 1868. He, with his parents, two brothers and one sister, left Germany in the month of May. They were six months on the ocean, arriving in New York the latter part of September. They arrived at the South Manitou Island in the month of October. The family stayed with Mr Beck's uncle. In the spring of the year they settled in the wilderness on a 160 acre homestead. He stayed with his father, mother, and two brothers for a number of years. Then he dissolved partnership and bought a 160 acre homestead and this is where he carved his home out of the wilderness. He married Lizzie Haas in 1873. On his homestead he built a log house which stands today, and as the years went by he started building new farm houses and outer buildings which still stand today, and here is where he reared his family of nine children. He was a very successful farmer and gained many friends in Leelanau County. He died May 4, 1941 at his son's home in Empire, Michigan.

He leaves in his passing, three daughters, MRS MARY MORSE of Homestead, Mich., MRS ALVINA WEST of Grand Rapids, and MRS HATTIE BARNHART of Grand Haven, two sons, HARLEY BECK of Michigan City, Ind., and IRWIN BECK of Empire. Also 25 grandchildren 17 great grandchildren and a host of friends

(From the November 1991 issue of the South Manitou Memorial Society Newsletter, a clipping apparently from the Leelanau Enterprise, saved by Sharon Mary (Beck) Prehn.)