

Peter A. Gloudemans

I, Peter A. Gloudemans was born Jan. 17, 1869 to Adrian Gloudemans and Johanna (Van Rooy) Gloudemans, both natives of Holland. I was a triplet, my sister Dinah and brother Anton had the same birthday. Dinah lived a long life raising a large family with included two Norbertine priests and three Dominican nuns. Anton died when he was three months old. Then there were six other children in the family. We lived on a 365 acre farm in what was called the Town of Kaukauna and its now part of Little Chute.

My parents were devout Catholics and religion was the center of our lives. I went to St. John Catholic Grade School. After that my parents sent me to St. Lawrence Seminary at Mount Calvary for high school. I stayed there for two years of college. I learned to say the rosary in Latin; which became an everyday event in my life.

I felt I wanted to be in the retail business. Pettibone Peabody Co. in Appleton hired me. I stayed there for several years acquiring retail business knowledge, which was helpful in future years.

My brother Arnold was also working in Appleton at the Hearthstone Mansion as a coachman. He introduced me to Therese Moder who also worked at the Mansion. She became my wife in 1890. Her parents had a farm in the town of Dale, and we were married at the Catholic Church in Hortonville. We had eight children, Richard, Laura, Rose, Mayme, Emery, Wallace, Prudence and Bernice.

My brother Henry and I in 1896 decide to open a one-story retail store in Little Chute. It was called Gloudemans Brothers. After a few years, Henry decided to sell his share to me. I had the second story built on the store which provided living quarters for my family. We were the only store in the area. Business was thriving, so I ordered sewing machines and apples by the carload. We had two men delivering groceries. Warehouses had to be built on back of the building to accommodate stock. Farmers came to town on Saturday night to do their shopping. We carried feed, groceries, dry goods, rugs, linoleum and men and woman's clothing. Sunday the store was closed. It was a day dedicated to God and family. I enjoyed a Sunday afternoon ride out in the country to visit relatives.

Tragedy happened to our family in 1906. My son, Richard, age 14, and daughter Rose, age 10 died of scarlet fever. Laura had the disease but survived. She became the St. John Church organist at age 15. I sang bass in the choir.

In 1906 I was one of the charter members who founded the Bank of Little Chute along with Herman Verstegen, Henry Weyenberg, William Geenen and Henry Mollen. I served as Bank President from 1929 until 1938. In 1911, I became Village President. I served for 9 years. The crash of 1929 changed the business climate. People lost their jobs and had little money. Our stock had to be reduced drastically. Families did not have money for necessities such as food. I sold the groceries and gave them credit by putting it on the books. On October 12, 1938 I was ready to leave home to attend daily mass when I was stricken with a heart attack. I died that morning.

Little Chute Historical Society Cemetery Walk 2009

MAIN ST. DEPT. STORE, LITTLE CHUTE WIS.

1324



