SAD AND FATAL ACCIDENT.

William Duemcke Suddenly Killed By the Accidental Discharge of Shotgun.

This community received a severe shock last Sunday evening when the news was brought to town that William Duemcke, second son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Duemcke, had accidentally shot himself with a shotgun, which inflicted a wound that resulted in his death a few moments later. Young Duemcke had been in the country, and while returning in a spring wagon in company with George Clark and Jules Meugniot, Jr., met the awful fate above mentioned. As the boys were coming down the hill by J. E. Martin's place young Duemcke, who was sitting on the side of the seat next to the brake, attempted to throw the brake on. In so doing he lifted the shotgun, which he held in his hand, and in some manner one of the hammers struck against the wheel of the wagon and the discharge from the gun took effect in the right side, the entire load penetrating the right lung. Upon being shot the young man threw the gun back over his head several feet. His companions called to him to know if he was hurt, and he replied: "My God! I am killed!" His family were immediately summoned and a physician sent for, but within a few minutes death had relieved him of his pain.

The deceased was a young man who had many friends. He was of a cheerful and jovial disposition, and was an industrious and straight forward boy. His entire life had been spent at Wathena, and the sad and terrible end he met is deeply deplored by all, while the shock is a severe one to his grief stricken parents and brother and sisters. Funeral services were held at the German M. E. Church Wednesday afternoon, and a large concourse of sorrowing friends assembled to pay their last tribute of respect to the unfortunate young man to whom such a sad fate had befallen. Burial was at Bellemont cemetery.

Only 17 years old, just in the dawn of manhood, with a strong physique and good natural intellect, it is indeed sad to contemplate his sudden and untimely end and to reflect upon the shocking manner in which it was produced.