

Former Furniture Dealer Here Died At His Home On Thursday

Mr. Daniel Ritter, Who Came
Here Many Years Ago
From Germany

PASSED AWAY AT HIS HOME

Is Survived By His Wife And
A Family Of Seven Ad-
vanced Children

Mr. Daniel Ritter passed away
on Thursday morning of this week
at his home on Fourth street in
Minster at the advanced age of



MR. DANIEL RITTER

eighty-five years. He was one of
the very elderly persons of this
community and he had an inter-
esting career as a merchant in this
city during his life. He came to
Minster when he was a young man
and conducted a furniture store at
a site on east Fourth street over a
period of more than fifty years.
He also served the people of the
community as an undertaker dur-
ing the larger portion of the time.

The passing of Mr. Ritter marks
the exit from the stage of com-
munity action of the last member
of that company of business men
who have been referred to as
"Pioneer merchants in Minster."
Many of them died within the cur-
rent decade and several of them
passed on within the past several
months. Among this number of
operators not one remained in the
field longer than Mr. Ritter and
very few of them covered a larger
field than he did while he was in
the midst of his largest activities.

Mr. Ritter was born in Korbes,
Germany, on December 18, 1848,
and he continued to live in that
country until he was sixteen years
of age. He was a son of John Rit-
ter and Elizabeth Rowiddle Ritter
both of whom had been born and
reared in the Fatherland. They
came to America in about the year
of 1864 and brought their family
with them. They established them-
selves in this section of Ohio and
one member of their family, who
is Mrs. Katherine Gerber, sister
of the deceased Daniel Ritter, is
still living in Minster. A son who
is John Ritter, brother of the sub-
ject of this narrative, is living at
Indianapolis.

During the month of March of
the current year Mr. Ritter ob-
served his fiftieth anniversary as a
business man in this city, so that
he must have started a store here
in the year of 1874. He learned
the trade of cabinet maker in
New Bremen and came to this city
two years prior to the time when
he engaged in business for himself.
He located his business at the same
site where he was operating when
he sold his interests last spring.

On November 3, 1874, and at the
same time when the young man
was organizing his new business in
this village, he was united in
marriage to Miss Anna Pieper, a
young woman of this community.
They established their living quar-
ters at a place adjoining the store
room and continued to live there
over the passing years. Mrs.
Ritter, who is in her seventy-
eighth years, survives, as do all
of the seven children who were
born to them during the near
sixty years of their marital life.

The children are: Henry Ritter
at Detroit, Michigan; Mrs. Clara
Diskman at Chicago, Illinois; Mrs.
Mayme Troring, Joseph Ritter,

(Continued on Page 2)

Former Furniture Dealer

(Continued from Page 1)

Mrs. Juliana Wochmyer, Mrs.
Nora Wochmyer, John Ritter, of
Minster. There are also twenty-
five living grand children and two
great grand children.

Mr. Ritter's career as a merchant
in Minster has been made reference
to in many newspaper paragraphs
during the past few years and since
his long service to the people be-
came a matter of general concern.
He started in business when the
rules for daily action were dif-
ferent in all respects from the ones
that are followed at this day and he
knew from an individual experi-
ence how the changes effected the
general trade.

When he offered his services to
the public as an undertaker it was
customary everywhere to build
coffins with saws and hatchets
and he did this in unnumbered
cases. The furniture that he of-
fered to the public was made in
his own shop and his working hours
extended from sun rise to sun set.
He was, in fact, a product of the
old school of dealers and his record
has a tinge of romance to it for
those of the latter day observers.

He worshipped at the St. Au-
gustine church while he lived in
this city and was identified with
some of the auxiliaries of the pa-
rish. The funeral is to be held at
that church on Monday morning.