

OBITS NOT JUST IN DAILY NEWSPAPERS

by Ron Darrah

Genealogists can sometimes overlook a rich source for obituaries by confining their search to the standard daily or weekly newspapers published in their ancestors' hometowns.

Many times a larger and more detailed death notice appears in a specialized periodical that relates to that ancestor's life. These periodicals may have been produced by a club, a lodge, an employer, a school, or an ethnic organization.

I was reminded of this fact when I ran across an entry in the *Home Journal* newsletter of February 24, 1938. The *Home Journal* was produced by the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home in Knightstown, Indiana. Their obituary article read as follows:

DEATH OF EVA J. KOHLMAYER

The death of Mrs. Eva J. Badiac Kohlmeyer, an ex-pupil, occurred at six o'clock the evening of Feb. 11 at her home, 417 East Maple Grove Ave., Fort Wayne. The cause of her death was heart disease. She had lived in Fort Wayne nearly all her life.

Mrs. Kohlmeyer was born August 9, 1877, and was admitted to the Home from Allen County Jan. 27, 1892. On account of age limit of sixteen, she was discharged June 28, 1894. Her father, Lewis Badiac, was a veteran of the Civil War, serving in Co. H, 91st Ind. Vol. Infantry. Eva had two sisters, Mary A. and Nora A. (twins), who were members of the Home the same time as she.

Mrs. Eva Jane Kohlmeyer, aged 60, succumbed to heart disease Friday at 6 p.m. at her home, 417 East Maple Grove Avenue. She was a lifelong resident of Allen County.

Surviving are the husband, George E. Kohlmeyer; a daughter, Miss Millie Adelia, and a son, Thomas E., both at home; three sisters, Mrs. Marvin Bitner, of Fulton, Mich., and Mrs. Edward Erwin and Mrs. Henry Bruggeman, both of this city, and a brother, Louis P. Badiac, of this city.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 2 p.m. at Klaehn & Sons' Funeral Home, with the Rev. A. P. Bourns officiating. Burial in Bowers Chapel Cemetery. Friends may view the body at the funeral home.

Mrs. Kohlmeyer is survived by her husband, George E., a daughter, Miss Millie Adelia, and a son, Thomas E., both at home; three sisters, Mrs. Marvin Bitner of Fulton, Mich., and Mrs. Edward Erwin and Mrs. Henry Bruggeman, both of Fort Wayne, and a brother, Louis P. Badiac.

The funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 14, at 2 o'clock at Klaehn and Sons Funeral Home in Fort Wayne, Rev. A. P. Bourns officiating. Burial was in Bowers Chapel Cemetery.

Compare the Knightstown *Home Journal* obituary with the one above from the *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel*. Notice the entire italicized section, rich in genealogical detail, is missing from the standard newspaper version.

Don't overlook these specialized publications; you may just break down one of those famous walls!