

CHARLES LOSE (1856-1940)

Born March 9, 1856 in the modest home of a thrifty shoe merchant of 321 Cherry Street, Montoursville, the second child and first son of James and Phoebe Starr Lose. Charles Lose was five years old when the first two companies of Williamsport marched to fight in the Civil War.

Lose's maternal grandparents were Quakers who resided in the Pennsdale area. Charles' father, James Lose frequently called "Uncle Jim", the "Old Angler", or "Pap" was a shoemaker in Montoursville, having his shop at his home on Cherry Street. His mother, Phoebe Starr, married James about 1850 and died in 1884, two years after her son Charles was married to Rebecca Johnson, the daughter of the Honorable Henry Johnson, of Muncy and Williamsport. Charles and Rebecca were the parents of eight children.



Fishing was almost a major occupation for Charles and his three brothers, as reflected in later life when he said, "They fished for trout from the time their mother first fitted them out with a bent pin, a piece of thread, and a shoot from the lilac bush, and they continued to fish until rheumatism and old age cut them off from their heart's desire."

During his boyhood in Montoursville, Charles did all sorts of chores to earn extra money, including driving a herd of cows to pasture morning and night, being compensated a dollar a month. He attended elementary schools in Montoursville and was capable of teaching at age 15.

Charles graduated from Montoursville High School in 1874. He also attended Muncy Normal School, Lafayette College, Bucknell University and Columbia University in New York City.

His career from 1884-1920 included being head of two normal schools, a county superintendent and supervisory official of two city schools. In 1920, at age 64, Mr. Lose was in an automobile accident which resulted in spending his remaining years in blindness. He proceeded during the last 20 years of his life to give to the world the best he had. He was also elected three times to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, first in 1929 and finally in 1933, where his principal service was in education and conservation.

As it must to all men, death came to Charles Lose five days before his 84th birthday on March 4, 1940 at his final residence at 31 N. Loyalsock Avenue in Montoursville. Mr. Lose died within hearing of his beloved Loyalsock and reposes in the Muncy Cemetery, within reach of another favorite and friendly stream and leaving to us the legacy of "The Vanishing Trout".