

Mrs. Lena J. Devring.

It is with the deepest sorrow that the many friends of Lena J. Davis-Devring learned of her death. Her early life was spent in this vicinity and altho of necessity many of her old associates have moved away, there are still many left who will miss her greatly. We clip the following from an Albion paper:

The death of Mrs. L. J. Devring occurred at her home, in West Erie street Sunday evening, February 28, 1909, after an illness of about four months duration. Miss Lena May Davis was born in Vermontville, Michigan, Dec. 12, 1856 and was united in marriage to Mr. L. L. Devring in 1893. They came to Albion the following year and since that time have made this city their home. She is survived by her husband and one brother, W. E. Davis, of Vermontville, and two sisters, Mrs. E. L. Park, of Low Gap, Washington, and Mrs. A. A. Smith, of Clackamas, Oregon. Mrs. Devring was a member of the Eastern Star and during her residence here has made many friends who join with the bereaved family in their sorrow. Funeral services were held from the home Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Homer G. Barber.

Born in Benson, Rutland county, Vermont, November 25, 1830, Homer G. Barber passed from earth at his home in Vermontville, on Wednesday morning, March 10, 1909, in the seventy-ninth year of this mortal life. The father, step-mother and four brothers constituted the pioneer family that came from Vermont and settled in Vermontville 70 years ago. Of the twenty-two families that formed the Vermontville Colony and located in the wilderness during the three years which followed purchasing the land and erecting the first log cabin in 1836, there are now only four survivors, all living in Michigan, Henry J. Martin of Vermontville, Mrs. Francis Mears Stebbins of Grand Rapids, John C. Barber of Battle Creek and Edward W. Barber of Jackson. The record of the original pioneers is nearly closed.

Of the early settlers in Vermontville not one lived a more active life than Homer G. Barber. His education was obtained in the primitive district school, three months in the winter, and

two terms of four months each in the Vermontville Academy, while the rest of the time for eight years was devoted to work among the stumps on a new farm. In 1847, at the age of seventeen, he went to Kalamazoo and soon became head clerk in the post-office of that town, Alexis Ransom being the postmaster. Two years later, in 1849, in company with Chauncey A. Dwight, Hinman S. Dickinson and Franklin P. Hopkins, he went to California, the new El Dorado of youthful hopes, ambitions, and desires to get on in the world.

These Argonauts went to New York intending to take a steamer to Panama, cross the isthmus, and by another steamer on the Pacific make the trip to San Francisco. On arriving in New York it was learned that the steamer passage had been engaged by others for three or four months ahead, but the packet ship, Sheridan, withdrawn from the New York and Liverpool line, was advertised to sail for San Francisco, and these four Vermontville gold suckers engaged passage on the Cape Horn. Homer and Hinman spent about two years gathering gold dust and nuggets and then returned home by way of the isthmus of Panama, their treasure worn in leather belts around their waists. Soon after reaching home, Homer bought the farm just east of the village that later was owned by Hinman S. Dickinson, to whom he sold it in 1855, and engaged at once in what became his life work, a successful career as a merchant, and continuing in it until his last illness and death.

For a longer period than any other citizen of Eaton county, he was engaged in business as a general merchant, and for more than half a century was closely identified with the industrial, social, political, intellectual and moral interests of his village, town and county.

In 1861, when Lincoln became president, he was appointed postmaster, and held the office for eleven years; he also served as town clerk, justice of the peace and in other local offices, and in 1870 was elected state senator for the district composed of Barry and Eaton counties, but he never sought for political office or the distinctions of political life. True to his own inclinations and tastes he adhered to a business career, and the result was a notable success. When talked of as a candidate for representative in congress, in 1880, he declined to permit the use of his name.