

Lake Odessa Resident Marks 99th Birthday

(Special to The State Journal)

LAKE ODESSA, June 17 — John M. Bower, oldest resident of Lake Odessa, celebrated his 99th birthday very quietly at his home Thursday, June 16.

Born in Thamesville, Ontario, Canada, the only living child of the family of six children of Henry and Anna McDonald Bower.

Grandpa Bower, as he is familiarly known, has a very keen and alert mind and a wonderful memory and still recites poems learned as a boy and also has composed several. He has always been very active, walking to town or visiting friends and relatives every day until an illness several months ago from which he has never fully recovered. His hobbies are reading and his flowers and vegetable garden and he had always taken care of it until this year.

Mr. Bower was converted when a young man at the West Odessa church and later transferred his membership to the United Brethren church in Lake Odessa and was a trustee of the church for many years after it was built about 1895. He has always been an active and devoted church worker since a small boy and tells he was secretary at the Tamarac church when about 17 years old. He also tells an interesting story of his forefathers, how his grandfather, Samuel Bower, received a medal in the Revolutionary war which is still in the family.

Mr. Bower also remembers his parents telling of coming by boat on the river to Detroit and by team of horses to Ypsilanti when he was only four years old. They later moved to Woodland township and when a young man moved to what is now known as the Bower homestead four miles northwest of town and lived in a log cabin until the present frame house was built. He moved to the village about 1920.

He has seen the community grow, farmland cleared, the town moved from Bonanza Corners, one half mile north, to the present location when the railroad was built about 1887.

Mr. Bower's first wife (Rachel Lepard Bower) died in October, 1932, and his second wife, Cora Monks Bower, died about a year ago; also a son, Merton, died four years ago. His other children are Mrs. J. J. Griebel, Mrs. George Barker and Mrs. Arvilla Murty of Lake Odessa, the latter is residing with him for the present, and a son, Tello, of Big Rapids, with whom he spent the winter; 16 grandchildren, 25 great and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

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Mrs. Belle Hawkins

Mrs. Belle Hawkins, 83 years old, of 327 Prairie street, died Saturday evening at Hayes-Green-Beach hospital following an illness of several months. She was born March 11, 1866, in Walton township, the daughter of David and Elizabeth Claus, and has resided in this community her entire lifetime. She was the widow of Harvey Hawkins, who died in 1939. She was a member of the Free Methodist church.

Surviving are two stepsons, Ray Hawkins of Vermontville, the widely-read R.T. correspondent from that district, and Hector Hawkins of Lansing, and a foster son, John Myers of Charlotte.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock at the Pray funeral home. Rev. A. D. McLachlan officiating, assisted by Rev. A. Hoffman. Burial was in Bosworth cemetery, Walton township.

George W. Boyles

George W. Boyles, 79 years old, of Carmel township, died Monday at the Meyer convalescent home here. He was born September 19, 1869, the son of Richard and Mary Boyles, in Carmel township, where he spent his entire life, being a retired farmer. Surviving are two sons, Albert of Carmel township and Irvin of Milwaukee, Wis., a daughter, Mrs. Marie Cook of Chester township, and a brother, John Boyles of Tonkawa, Okla. Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon at two o'clock at the Pray funeral home, Rev. F. J. VanDyk officiating. Burial was in Millerburg cemetery, Carmel township.

Funeral Set Monday For Vermontville Man

(Special to The State Journal)

VERMONTVILLE, Sept. 10—Funeral services for John McDonald, 70, of Vermontville will be held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Ward funeral home. Rev. D. A. Rood of Vermontville will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn cemetery at Vermontville.

Mr. McDonald died at the home of his son, Clifton McDonald of R. 1, Vermontville, Friday morning following a lingering illness. He had been a resident of this town for 30 years. In addition to the son, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Kauons of Lansing; two sisters, Mrs. Margaret Jackson of Detroit and Mrs. Sarah Burtch of Ionia, and four grandchildren.

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