

Phil H. Barber, Former Local Banker, Dies

Philip H. Barber of 47 Guest street, Battle Creek, retired dean of Eaton county bankers and great-grandson of one of the founders of Vermontville, died Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 23, in a Battle Creek hospital, where he had been a patient only about an hour and a half.

A Battle Creek resident the past 45 years, Mr. Barber had retired in 1960 as a senior vice



PHILIP H. BARBER

president of the Michigan National bank in charge of its Charlotte branch. He and his wife had spent winters in Arizona.

He was born in Vermontville, a son of Edward Dwight and Frances (Dancer) Barber. His father was a son of Homer G. Barber, a son of Edward Hinman Barber, who was a native of Benson, Vt., and one of the 13 incorporators of the village of Vermontville in 1836.

Homer G. Barber, a merchant, organized the private Barber Bank in Vermontville in 1862. In 1907 the institution was incorporated as the Barber State Bank.

The son, Edward D., became president of the bank after his father's death in 1909 and also headed the Eaton County Savings Bank in Charlotte, which he was instrumental in organizing. After his death in 1931, his son, Philip H., headed both banking firms.

The two banks were merged at the end of 1954 and in 1959 were acquired by the Michigan

National Bank, at which time Mr. Barber was named senior vice president in charge of the Charlotte bank.

As a youth, he attended Howe Military Academy, graduating just in time to enlist in the Army during World War I. On April 24, 1922, in the chapel of Battle Creek's St. Thomas Episcopal church, he was married to Helen Bollons Murphy, whom he had met while she was a music student at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Barber was a member and former vestryman of St. Thomas Church, Battle Creek, in Charlotte, he was a charter member of the local American Legion Post and a senior active member of the Rotary Club.

He is survived by his wife and two nephews, Col. Homer G. Barber of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and Edward G. Barber of Hastings. His two brothers, Vance and Keith, preceded him in death.

The Shaw funeral home in Battle Creek was in charge of funeral services held at 11 a.m.

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Friday in St. Thomas Episcopal Church there. The burial office for the dead was conducted by the Rev. Charles P. James, rector of the church. Interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers were Ervin Broeckert, Laurence E. Rogers, Max Bushong, Donald A. Zinn, William B. Otto and Richard Bruno.

43-Year Lansing Resident Dies

Mrs. Vera A. Gordon, 71, of 911 Drury Lane, died Tuesday at a local hospital.

She had been a resident of Lansing for 43 years. She was a former member of North Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, and choir director.

Surviving are her husband, Arthur; a son, Arnold R. of Lansing; a daughter, Mrs. Arleen Patterson of Lansing; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. Richard Perkins of Lansing.

Services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the Estes-Leadley Colonial Chapel, with burial in DeWitt Cemetery.

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