

THEY STAY MARRIED

Vermontville Boasts Many Couples Who Have Been Wed More Than 50 Years

(Grand Rapids Press)

Vermontville, a small village of fewer than 600 population, always has boasted of its old people, some passing 90 years of age and many who are more than 80.

The oldest married couple in the community is Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cross, who were married 65 years ago last May and began housekeeping in a log house a mile south of town. He reads without the aid of glasses and with Mrs. Cross, who is lame, keeps the home and yard spotless.

They are the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Carrie Sparks and Mrs. Effie Allen of Lansing.

Wed 61 Years

The next oldest couple is Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bailey, married 61 years. Mr. Bailey until a few years ago worked at his trade as tinsmith.

On South Main street are Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Dikeman, married Oct. 18, 1879, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Green, married in 1880. Mrs. Dikeman and Mr. Green are brother and sister and live a few houses apart. Another sister Mrs. Edmund Sprague, and Mr. Sprague, married 3 years, live next door to the Greens.

West Main street has three couples who have passed the golden anniversary. Rev. F. P. Sprague and Mrs. Sprague, married in 1878; Mr. and Mrs. James Boyles, married in 1881, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith, married in 1883.

Six Married in 1879

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Grant celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1929 and Mr. and Mrs. John Walsh in 1931. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Davis will celebrate their anniversary this summer.

A few miles in the country live Mr. and Mrs. Edward Averill, who have been married 61 years and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Barrett 58 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Burdette Wright chose 1879 as their wedding year.

Last March Mr. and Mrs. Peter Chatfield celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and a few weeks ago Mr. and Mrs. William Sweet also celebrated.

This community was shocked to learn of the sudden death of Harvey Hawkins at his home in Charlotte Thursday afternoon. He owned and lived on a farm here for a good many years. His funeral was held at the U. B. church in Charlotte Saturday afternoon with burial in the Freemire cemetery beside his former wife whom he preceded him seven years ago.

36 Card of Thanks

We wish to express our many thanks to Rev. Hoffman for words of comfort and consolation. Rev. Cox for the messages in song. The beautiful foral offerings from the U. B. church, Prairie St. neighbors, also Lake street neighbors of Vermontville, besides those of brothers and sisters and grandchildren and other friends.

Mrs. Belle Hawkins
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hawkins
Mr. and Mrs. Hector Hawkins

CHARLES W. BENEDICT

Charles W. Benedict was born in Onondague, New York, October 11, 1850, and departed this life on Wednesday, June 23, 1937, having reached the age of 86 years, 8 mo., and 12 days.

On August 14, 1874 he was united in marriage to Exene M. Briggs, who passed away twelve years ago. One son came to bless this union, Ernest R. Benedict, of Vermontville.

He leaves one son, two grandchildren, Evelyn R. Staup of Nashville, and Alton G. Benedict of Lansing; two sisters, Mrs. Elida Clapper of Vermontville, and Mrs. Eda Cupples of Charlotte, and several nieces and nephews. He was a life member of the F. & A. M. Lodge No. 232 of Vermontville.

Masonic funeral services were held at the Ward funeral home at two o'clock Friday, June 25, Rev. F. M. Clough officiating, and burial was at Woodlawn cemetery.

Charges	Description
48.00	
4.50	
4.50	
11.50	
1.50	
1.50	
	Account rendered
	1.50

37 ELDER J. W. ROACH

The passing of Will Roach Wednesday noon removes from among us one who had the respect and esteem of everyone regardless of faith, religion, church affiliation or age. He was a man of outstanding religious proclivities and lived his words twenty-four hours of the day; doing exactly as he would be done by, with a tolerance toward those that did not agree with him that was almost sublime. His helping hand and heart knew no barriers; he would help anybody and everybody that was deserving or in need both spiritually and materially. He gave to all mankind the right to do their own thinking, but by his preaching, example and precept he was able over a period of years to assemble a congregation of followers who by their sincerity and right living gathered others to the flock until it was and is of quite large proportions, being known as the Roachites; this in itself was an endeavor of great merit, and reflects a sincerity and pureness of living very seldom seen.

Being an Elder did not interfere with Will Roach being one of the most successful wool and poultry buyers in this section. Many a time a load of poultry or wool came into the yard with only a child not yet in his teens as driver and seller. The produce would be weighed and the check made out and pinned in the child's pocket, and home he would go to come back the next year and the next and the first thing the Elder knew that child had grown up and his children came as he did.

He has comforted the worried, nursed the sick, said the last comforting words for the departed ones; married many, but never in the fifty or more years of his ministerial activities did he ever make a charge or take up a collection. He has preached in doors and out; in all kinds of buildings from a cottage to a fine edifice, but the thought has always been the same—he did not commercialize goodness.

About two months ago he experienced the same premonition that the patriars did in Biblical days, that his end was near. He did as they did; put his house in order, he had all accounts and bills that were current and payable at the end of the month paid at once and then he gradually began to fail. He expressed his desire to the writer that if there was any man that he had ever wronged knowingly or unknow-

October 1, 19

EXERCISE 8—MONTHLY STATEMENT—DEPARTMENT STORE

LESSON 31

Mrs. W. J. Barker
9231 Beechwood Ave.