

FRED HOPPER

Funeral services for Mr. Hopper were held from his home on South n Street yesterday afternoon at clock conducted by Rev. James R. Stein. Interment was made in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Fred Dufay Hopper, aged 74 years, departed this life on Easter Sunday evening, April 17, 1938, following an illness which had lasted for several years.

He was born April 5, 1864, in Hartland Center, Livingston County, Michigan, the son of Hiram and Marietta Palmer Hopper. On February 7, 1899, he was united in marriage to Myra Almeda Morey and to this union were born four children, including two daughters: Evelyn, (Mrs. Harold Marsh) who passed away in 1924 at the age of 22 yrs., and Julia, (Mrs. Seeley Lozo) of Vermontville, and two sons: Lyman Hopper of Linden, N. J., and Francis Hopper of Muskegon, Mich. Besides his wife and three children he is survived by a half-brother, Vern Hopper of Detroit, and a half-sister, Mrs. Herbert Bush of Howell, Mich.

Mr. Hopper lived in Vermontville for the last thirty-five years, most of which time he was actively engaged in trade as a carpenter. A number of the buildings and houses in the village are projects in which he wrought his skill and art.

He was a workman that needed to be ashamed."

By ART CARLSON

LAKE ODESSA, like Mulliken and other towns, had its beginning with the coming of the railroad through the section. That was in 1887.

For many years before that, Clarksville, five miles northwest of the present site of Lake Odessa, was quite a flourishing little place. It had its stores, shops and other establishments.

When word came that a railroad was coming through, Humphrey R. Wager, an Ionia capitalist and at that time president of the Ionia County Savings bank, purchased the old Zeb Townsend farm of 120 acres at \$60 an acre. Mr. Wager and his surveyor, Francello Palmer, later named the community Lake Odessa from the township and the lake bordering on the south.

Immediately after the Wager deal, there was a general exodus from Clarksville to Lake Odessa. Merchants moved their stocks to the new settlement and in some cases stores also were carted along. Houses sprang up and it wasn't long before the territory around the lake numbered a few hundred people.

Charles D. Pritchard was the first school teacher in Lake Odessa, early classes being held in a small room of a building used for various purposes. The structure later was destroyed by fire. The present school edifice, conspicuous in a town of its size, was erected some years ago.

One of the most prominent families in the history of Lake Odessa is that of Miner. For many years Horace Miner ran a general store in Clarksville. Later, he conducted a dry goods establishment in Lake Odessa. Then came his son, Otis Miner, who operated the store more than 55 years, retiring a few years ago. Horace and Otis Miner were postmasters there at various times while Otis now is justice of the peace. Horace Miner also was a leading factor in the establishment of the hotel in the early days of the town.

Today, Lake Odessa, now in its 51st year, has a population of approximately 1,200. It has an enterprising main street, many fine residences, churches and various public buildings.

It is an especially active place in the summer months when vacationists flock to the lake for rest and recreation. Many homes and cottages dot the shores of one of the most popular resorts in the section. Nearby is a large tabernacle where religious services are held at various intervals throughout the summer. There also is a large park, fronting the main street, where tall, shady trees make an ideal picnic grove.

Lake Odessa is on highway M-50, about midway between Charlotte and Grand Rapids. Much traffic passes through the town, which is a convenient stopping-off place for motorists traveling eastward and westward across the state.

Lake Mulliken, which is an outgrowth of Hoytville, Lake Odessa grew out of Clarksville. In fact, Mulliken and Lake Odessa have quite a bit in common. Both sprang from villages five miles away and each came into existence in the same year and because of the same reason—the coming of the railroad. But Lake Odessa's 1,200 population far exceeds the 300 in Mulliken.

MRS. BERT BISEL

Eliza Baker Bisel was born April 17, 1868, in Ottawa County, Ohio, the oldest child of Jane and Gideon L. Baker. When twelve years of age she accompanied her parents to Michigan and they settled in Chester township where she lived until her marriage. During this time she took an active part in the Chester Congregational church.

She was united in marriage to Bert Bisel of Charlotte on January 2, 1889, and they established their new home in Charlotte, later moving to Vermontville township where they have since resided and spent the rest of their 49 years of wedded life. To this union was born three sons. Besides rearing her own, she mothered a granddaughter and grandson since very small children.

Mrs. Bisel had been an invalid for the past two years, during which she bore her affliction patiently. Besides her husband, who so tenderly cared for her during the days of ill health, she was always comforted by the grandchildren, Helen and Delbert. She passed to her eternal home Thursday, February 3, 1938, at 10:00 a. m.

Deceased is survived by the husband; three sons, Jay Palmer, Daniel Everett and Ernest Harry Bisel, all of Lansing; four grandchildren, Lawrence Bisel (now deceased), Helen and Delbert Bisel, of Vermontville and Jane Bisel of Lansing; one sister, Mrs. Martha Goodrich of Benton; one brother, George Baker of Chester, several nieces and nephews, besides a host of friends who will always hold her memory dear.

Funeral services were held at the Pray funeral home in Charlotte, Sunday, February 6th, at 2 o'clock with the Rev. James R. Stein of the Vermontville Congregational church officiating. Interment was made in the Millerburg cemetery.

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Pioneers Raised Money in Unusual Ways to Get Things They Wanted

Special to The State Journal:

VERMONTVILLE, Feb. 12 — Not only did early pioneers encounter untold hardships, but funds for various enterprises often were raised or obtained in unusual ways.

Older residents here recall how they have heard told the manner in which some of the money, which helped to purchase the first Sunday school library in the village, was received.

Bears were the most troublesome creatures roaming the wilderness in the early days. They were exceptionally bold and often made raids upon pig pens. There was one particular bruin who had his lair in the woods north of here. His depredations became so frequent that it was decided to organize a hunt for his destruction.

The decision became final a few days later when the bear prowled out of the woods and came toward Henry J. Martin, a small boy, who was playing in front of the family home. A neighbor saw him and screamed to Henry's mother, who rushed out and took the child into the house just in time. A general hunt followed in which the bear was killed by a bullet from the gun of Reuben Sanford. The meat was divided among the families. The skin was sold for about \$7, the money going toward the purchase of the Sunday school library.

ED. E. MOORE PASSED AWAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

(Jackson Citizen-Patriot)

Edwin E. Moore, passed away at his home, 103 N. Wisner, Sunday noon, November 14, 1937, aged 73 years. Survived by his wife, Myrtle; five children, Warren E., Mt. Vernon, Ill.; Mrs. Agnes Wells, Memphis, Tenn.; Nell W., Connellsville, Pa., and Donald of Jackson and Marion, Toledo, Ohio. He was a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. The body was removed to the Knickerbocker-Bates funeral home where services were held Wednesday at 4 o'clock. Interment at Woodland cemetery, Jackson.