

## Last of the Pioneers.

Died, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. H. Benedict, on West Main street, Vermontville, Monday, April 12, 1897, at 7:59 a. m., Hon. Daniel Barber, aged 97 years, 3 months, and 27 days. Funeral at the Congregational church, Wednesday, at 2 p. m. Mr. Barber was born at Benson, Vermont, December 16, 1799. He is doubtless the oldest Mason in Michigan if not in the United States, having joined that fraternity at the age of 21, and retaining his membership in Vermontville Lodge No. 232 until his death, making 76 years in which he walked uprightly on the level of time, having his actions circumscribed and kept within due bounds, and his faith ruled and guided by the Great Light. He came to Michigan with the Vermont colony, and was one of the pioneer settlers of the village and township. He has served in the legislative assembly of the state and in many important positions in the township. He was one of the founders of the Congregational church and has ever been a pillar of strength in its financial and spiritual growth. His life has marked almost the entire history of the 19th century, and he has watched the grand onward march of all our wonderful modern improvements. His life commenced during the administration of President John Adams with Thomas Jefferson as vice president. During the previous year Washington was made lieutenant general and commander-in-chief of the army, and the war with France was in active operation, and the capital had not yet been established at Washington. He was in his 13th year when war was declared against Great Britain in 1812, and Boston had not yet issued its first daily paper, the "Daily Advertiser." As a lad of 16 he heard the booming of the cannon during the battle of Lake Champlain, and the celebrated battle of New Orleans which closed the war was fought the same year. He was in his 21st year before the first steamboat plowed the waters of Lake Michigan. He was a man and a Mason before the first cotton seed was planted in Louisiana, and had been a voter eight years when General Jackson was inaugurated president. Every canal, railroad and steamboat line, the telegraph, sewing machine and every kind of mowing and reaping machinery as well as all our fine agricultural implements have been invented and used during the life of this venerable citizen. And during this time he has retained his full mental vigor until a few weeks before his death, and, with the exception of his rheumatism, his bodily health has remained excellent until nature collapsed from the weight of years and the bright spirit left the tired clay to enter upon its everlasting rest. As the multitudes followed the patriarch Jacob to his grave, so followed the many friends of our dearly beloved to his last resting place, and so may we be prepared to follow the immortal spirit to his bright celestial home.—Vermontville Echo.