

JAMES CHIPMAN

From the scrapbook of Mrs. Fred (Dorothy Chipman) Wilkins

James Lawson Chipman was born in Avon Township May 2, 1844, being at the time of his death fifty-nine years and twenty days old. He died at his home in Leon Township, St. Clair County, Mich., Friday morning, May 22, 1903 of consumption. His remains were brought to Rochester Saturday that they might be laid beside his kindred in our beautiful cemetery. He was the youngest son of Cyrus A. Chipman and Mary Lawson, his wife.

The Chipman family, in the early history of Oakland Co., and especially that of Rochester; their names find a place in its archives.

As early as 1821 his grandfather with his eleven children came to Rochester and took up his home about two miles south of this village; at that time there were but two houses in Rochester. After the death of the grandfather, Cyrus A. Chipman came into possession of the home here and here James was born. In his early childhood he was surrounded by the influences of a cultured Christian home. His mother and sisters, Martha and Alta, were among the charter members of the Rochester M. E. Church, one brother, George, was an ordained minister of that denomination but passed on early in his manhood before he had entered largely into the work of the ministry.

On the old homestead James lived until all but two of his immediate kindred had gone to their Eternal Home. Two brothers, Henry of Macomb and C. O. Chipman of Detroit, still live. In 1901 he moved to his new home at Brown City.

James Chipman was a man of sweet disposition and possessed more than ordinary intellect and if it had always been put the best use would have influenced the community. He married Ida Eastman Faulk five years ago. Two children were born to them – a boy and a girl. Francis died there years ago. The death of this child was the cause of Mr. Chipman taking a better view of life than ever before, and through the circumstances, the prayers of his sainted mother and sisters were answered, and during the part year he gave himself unreservedly to God, and although at the eleventh hour he was received into relationship with the Savior. He greatly desired to be taken into the church and partook of the Holy Communion. Too sick to go to a minister he longed for one to come to him, and while living a long distance from any church finally two, Brothers Durr of Yale and Healy from Capac, met at his bedside and there in the sight of God and man he confessed his faith and had his name placed upon the church records at Yale.

A wife who tenderly cared for him during the weary months of sickness and baby James of three years, with a stepson Carl, to whom he has been a loving father, are left to mourn.

Patience and resignation, with the utmost gratitude for the care given him, characterized his last days.

The funeral was held Sunday afternoon from the home of Mr. And Mrs. J. W. Eastman and at 3pm from the M. E. Church.