

JAMES A. HERSEY

Jas. A. Hersey, of near Mt. Vernon, Macomb County, whose death we chronicled last week, was born in Cayuga, NY, in the year 1805, and came to Michigan in 1818. Was married to Miss Julia Lawson of Shelby, Macomb County, about 1831. His father, John Hersey, came to Michigan in 1817 and located on southeast section 10, which embraces a goodly portion of the Village of Rochester. Here he built a sawmill, being the first in the county. This was located a short distance from the Wilson Flouring Mills, in this village, on Paint Creek. A run of stone in this mill also furnished flour for the early settlers, which although was not exactly like our roller process, was nevertheless nutritious and sweet, being separated from the bran by a hand bolt.

James Hersey followed his father to Michigan the next year, in fact, removing hither with his father's family, which had up to this time remained East. Not unlike all our pioneers, Mr. H's life was one of toil and often privation, yet not unmixed with many pleasures. Our acquaintance with Mr. Hersey commenced shortly after we located in Rochester nearly 18 years ago, and we had always found him a kind hearted, conscientious man, a good citizen, upright and honest in all his dealings with his fellowmen, and we believe, a Christian gentleman.

Several years ago he was instrumental in building the Methodist Church at Mt. Vernon doing much of the work with his own hands and donating the whole to the cause he loved. Shortly after the completion of this church, his wife died and her funeral services were held here, the first of the kind held in the house. Mr. Hersey's funeral services were so held there last Sunday, being the last one held there up to this writing. Mr. H. has resided for many years upon his farm, about four miles from Rochester, with his daughter, Mrs. Charles Coryelle, and had long since retired from the cares of life. Peace to his memory.

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