

JOSHUA VAN HOOSEN

Died, July 11, 1894, at Harper Hospital, Detroit, Joshua VanHoosen, of Stoney Creek, aged 64 years. Funeral services were held at the late home, under the direction of the Masonic fraternity of which Mr. VanHoosen was an honored member. Hon. E. R. Wilcox delivered a beautiful eulogy of the deceased and interment was made in Mr. Vernon Cemetery.

Joshua VanHoosen, second son of Joshua VanHoosen and Melinda Hunter, was born in the Province of Quebec, Jan 18, 1830. When the subject of this sketch was six years of age, the family came to Michigan having spent, previously, some time in the state of New York. The trials and privations of this early pioneer life must have hastened the acceptance of responsibility, for when Joshua was fourteen he begged of his father the privilege of buying his home until his majority this being granted he obtained employment at the Stoney Creek grist mill at seven dollars per month, where he worked until the obligation was released. At seventeen he commenced work upon a farm for Mr. Calvin Parker and at twenty bought half interest with Mr. Parker. After working the farm one year he went to California where he remained two years, earning enough means in that time to enable him to return and buy Mr. Parker's interest in the farm. In 1844 he married Sarah Taylor, daughter of Captain Taylor, one of the early settlers of Oakland County. The young couple entered upon their life's work with brave hearts and met the inevitable struggles and privations of pioneer life with the fortitude which only pioneer life incites. Their union was blessed with two daughters, Alice, born April 16, 1855 and Bertha born March 26, 1863. The former, now Mrs. J. C. Jones, is a resident of Chicago and her sister is a practicing physician in the same city.

Forty years and more Mr. VanHoosen spent upon the farm which he purchased in his early manhood and before his determined will and sturdy hand the forests fled away and fields of waving grain smiled in their place. The oak trees bowed their heads to make way for fruit trees full of fragrant bloom.

In his struggle for a competency, he did not overlook his duties as a citizen. For thirty years he was connected with the school board of his township, for twenty years he served as director or president of the Agricultural Society of Oakland County, and for sixteen years as president of the Horticultural Society. He recognized the benefit that might be derived from the Grange and was always associated with the one of Rochester farmer's Clubs or other societies: general improvement found in him a warm advocate. A man of the fine executive ability and rare judgement, a natural leader and convincing speaker, he always felt himself hampered by the lack of early training, which he gave in unstinted measure to his children and would have given to every youth of the county could he have so ordered it. His voice was always heard on the side of education and it seemed almost strange that one who had fought Nature in her material strength so many years should have so keen an appreciation of things immaterial. His reading and self improvement was constant, and kept him always in touch with the issues of the day. When he was but seventeen he was a subscriber to the New York Tribune, whose politics he heartily

indorsed. From this allegiance he never wavered, and tho' he cared little for office, came to be recognized as a force in political circles.

In religious thought he was ever in advance. When a child he was christened in the Roman Catholic Church. In early youth his associations and influence were those of the Baptist Church. When at seventeen, he became a subscriber to a Universalist paper, his conduct was looked upon as rank curiosity. As long as the Universalist Church in Rochester was in existence, he was its interested supporter. Later in life he felt that no creed had preached enough to hedge about the possibilities of the human mind. He loved the truth for her own sake and to philosopher ever sought more earnestly than he to follow her, though she might lead him through abysses of doubt, and despair he faltered not. For Truth's sake would he brave public opinion, though most sensitive to the approbation of his fellow man. With integrity, love of truth and a remarkable capacity for mental development as component parts of his character it is not strange that each succeeding year found him more widely known, more thoroughly appreciated.

He did not grow old in the common acceptation of the term. Added years brought more complete knowledge of life's opportunities, greater capacity for enjoyment. The most logical description is the smile of a little child were alike to him sources of pleasure (unable to read the rest of this sentence). His quick vision pierced all paraphernalia and raised the man for what he really was. Thus he himself wished to be judged and thus only could he be. No test could be supplied to his strong upright positive character that it would not ring trusted. He was a staunch citizen, a good neighbor, a true friend, a loving father and a loyal husband. We who mourn his loss shall not see his like again.

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