

Pioneer Elkton Resident Passes

1940

Mrs. Josephine Severn, 79, Elkton, pioneer resident for the past 70 years passed away at her home southeast of here Thursday afternoon after an illness of three years.

Born December 8, 1861 in Canada, Josephine St. John came to Michigan at the age of nine years with her parents. On August 17, 1879 she was united in marriage to Avery Severn in Caseville. The couple, among the first settlers of Oliver township cleared the land where Mrs. Severn lived until her death, building a log cabin to be replaced later by the present home. During her later years, Mrs. Severn recalled for her grandchildren, the fire of 1881, the many hardships of the pioneer days and the changing events in the history of the township and the county.

Mrs. Severn is survived by her three daughters, Mrs. Viola Wilfong, Pigeon, Mrs. Henry Carson, Port Austin, and Mrs. George Parker, Owendale; her seven sons Edward and William Severn, at home, Peter Severn, of Owendale, Nelson, Charles and Frank Severn, of Elkton, and George Severn, of Cass City; her two brothers, Telesfore St. John, of Seattle, Washington and Peter St. John, of Canada; 33 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Her husband and infant son preceded her in death several years ago.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Silas Parker at 1:30 o'clock from the home and at 2 o'clock from the Canboro Latter Day Saints' Church Sunday. Burial was made in South Oliver cemetery.

Relatives and friends from a distance who attended the funeral included those present from Mt. Morris, Port Huron, Linden, Freeland, Bay City, Detroit, Yale, Flint, Highland Park, Ubyly, Bad Axe, Kinde, Port Austin, Pinnehog, Cass City and Harbor Beach.