

# Pioneer Citizen Passes Sunday

Martin Sturm, 81, a resident of Pigeon for seventy-six years, died at his home here Sunday afternoon at one o'clock, after an illness of approximately two and a half months.

Mr. Sturm, a son of the late August and Mary Sturm, was born in Saginaw, Mich., on May 3, 1866. He moved with his parents to Pigeon when he was five years of age. They settled in a section of backwoods near what is now Sturm Road, which is about forty rods south of the Campbell Road. His early childhood was spent here, helping his father clearing the land for a farm. When he was fifteen, he obtained a job helping build the Grand Trunk Railroad which was being constructed from Caseville South.

On October 14, 1892 he was united in marriage with Miss Christina Yackle, who survives him. They made their home near the homestead owned by his father. Mr. and Mrs. Sturm celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1942. To their union were born five children, all of whom survive.

Mr. Sturm was active in the social, civic and religious life of the community most of his life. He was at one time a member of the School Board of the old District No. 5 and was a township road commissioner for many years.

Mr. Sturm became a member of the Methodist Church in 1883 and was active in church affairs the remainder of his life. He served at various times as church financial secretary, trustee, president of the board of trustees, president of the Epworth League and class leader. He was a Sunday school teacher for sixty years. He helped quarry stone for the new church building that was erected in 1898-1899, when the church location was changed from Berne to Pigeon.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, are five children, H. Alfred Sturm, Pigeon; Mrs. Lillian Leipprandt, McKinley Township; Mrs. Dorothy Brown, Birmingham; Dr. George A. Sturm, Bad Axe; and Elfrieda Webster, Birmingham; two sisters, Mrs. Sophia Wilfong and Mrs. Rosa Schubach, both of McKinley Township and eighteen grandchildren.

A private funeral was held at the home Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock. The body was taken at 12 o'clock to the Pigeon Methodist church where funeral services were held at 2 o'clock and to the Pigeon cemetery for interment. The Rev. H. E. Duttweiler, Rev. William Morford, officiated at the funeral.