

CITY'S OLDEST RESIDENT DIES THIS MORNING

Mrs. Jane Acker Died This Morning After Extended Illness

Mrs. Jane Acker, 96, Decatur's oldest resident and member of one of the earliest and most prominent pioneer families in Adams County, died at 10 o'clock this morning of old age and infirmities. She had been ill for several weeks.

Until three years ago, Mrs. Acker had been quite active. Since that time, she had remained in her home at 227 South First street but had been able to get around the house until her fatal illness.

A native of Adams County, she was born in St. Marys township. Her family for many years was prominent in Republican affairs in the county and was associated with much of the early development of this territory.

Until almost the very end, Mrs. Acker's mind was active and she was able to recall times in Adams County when Indians were still common visitors and wolves endangered the lives of travelers.

Mrs. Acker was born in a two room log cabin between Bobo and Pleasant Mills, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Zacaria Smith, October 9, 1840.

Her father was the first elected sheriff of Adams county. He was on the original commission which selected the name of "Bluffton" for the Wells county seat. While she was still a girl, her father was drowned and her mother raised the family of five children and managed to keep all of the 600 acre farm but 80 acres intact.

When Mrs. Acker was 10 years old, the family moved to a new hewed log house, one of the finest in Adams county.

Mrs. Acker married Irvin Acker in 1860. The family moved to Decatur in order that the children might attend the local schools. He preceded her in death March 2, 1923.

Surviving Mrs. Acker are three daughters: Miss Eva Acker at the home on South First street, Mrs. Dora Myers of Hartford township, and Mrs. Frank Blissner of San Jose, California. Mrs. Lois Black, a granddaughter, also makes her home with Mrs. Acker. There are 15 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the home. The Rev. Kenneth Timmons, pastor of the Christian Church of this city, will have charge of the services. Burial will be made in the Decatur cemetery. The body will be removed from the Zwick & Son funeral home Sunday afternoon and may be viewed at the home after 3 o'clock.