

## COL. JOHN FRANK

Died at his residence in Avon tp., Oakland Co., Mich., Friday evening, Dec. 30, 1887, Col. John Frank; aged 88 years 11 months and 12 days. Funeral at residence Monday, Jan 2d at 12 o'clock M. Funeral services by Rev. S. H. Robling of Bay City; interment in Rochester Cemetery.

Col. John Frank was born in Middlebury, VT., Jan. 18, 1799. His father dying when he was four years old he lived in the family of Mr. Keeler, in Middlebury, until he attained his majority, when with a companion named J. Bump he started in the spring of '21 on a trip to New Orleans, going by way of Pittsburgh, down the river to Cincinnati where they met a party from N.O., who reported yellow fever raging there. Changing their course they went to Columbus, expecting to engage in surveying, not succeeding in this they visited Buffalo, Black Rock, Niagara and Rochester, NY and returned to Vermont where Col. Frank went to work for Judge Dan'l Chipman, remaining a year and a half. In the fall of '22 he went to Boston and worked in a distillery until the spring of '23, when he came to Michigan with letters of introduction from Judge Chipman. He stopped with Dr. Cyrus Chipman, who had two years previous settled on the s-w ¼ of sec. 26, Avon Township, known as 'Chipman's Corners' where in a short time he bought of the Government the ½ of the s-e ¼ of the same section 26, and went to work on his land, clearing and fencing and that summer built on it a small log house, boarding at the time with Dr. Chipman, paying two days work each week for his board, and the balance of the time working on his place, and in December of that year ('23) he married Arabella, daughter of Dr. Chipman and sister to the late C.A. Chipman of Avon. He moved his young wife to his little cabin and commenced keeping house. For the next three years he alternated between working on his farm and jobbing on the old Territorial Road from Detroit to Ypsilanti and surveying in the western part of the State. He soon after purchased another lot of land on sec. 36, opposite his home.

September 13, 1831, he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Territorial Militia of Michigan by Gov. Stevens T. Mason; was promoted to Major Oct. 3, 1836 and to Col. Dec. 13, 1837.

He continued to improve his farm rapidly, enduring all the hardships and privations of pioneer life with the true courage of the Yankee, up to Sept. 6, '46, when his wife died and left to his care seven children – 4 daughters and 3 sons – who all continued to live with him until March 1, '49 when he married Adeline Ketell of Troy. In November of the same year he moved on to the Dr. Adams farm in Troy, which he bought and afterwards sold to his son John C. Frank. In 1851 he moved back to his Avon farm where he continued to reside until his death having lived on it sixty-five years, with the exception of the two years he lived in Troy.

Col. Frank received the title to his land from President Jackson, and it has never since been deeded or encumbered.

In politics Col. Frank was an old-line Whig up to the formation of the Republican Party, which he joined and he continued to be a staunch Republican up to the time of his death.

He was a strong Universalist in his religious belief, and was a prominent member of the Universalist Society of Rochester.

E.R.

Newspaper Clipping 1887