

The Obituary of Daniel Van Vickel of Harrison Township

(The following obituary is reprinted for its genealogical and historical value. It appeared in the October 10, 1884, issue of the Democrat and Watchman.)

The venerable Daniel Van Vickel, Esq., one of the oldest citizens of Harrison Township, died at his late residence, Monday, September 29th (1884), after an illness of two weeks of inflammation of the bowels. He was born in Walnut Township close to Ashville, on the 25th day of February, 1817, and was nearly 68 years old. He was the only son of Daniel Van Vickel, the old miller of the War of 1812 fame.

His father migrated to this state in 1803. At the breaking out of the War of 1812, he and three brothers entered the services, but in a short time Daniel was discharged and sent home, as it was considered he could be of more service at home grinding flour than in the field, as at that time mills and millers were very scarce. For many years his father ran the old mill below Millport, for his esteemed friend, Philip Foresman, who has long since been dead.

Here young Daniel learned the milling trade and worked for his father many years, but preferring the farm to the dusty mill, he moved on a farm, and ever afterward followed that vocation for a living. He obtained a fair education at select schools, as there were no public schools in his young life.

In those early days, wild game was abundant in this section of Ohio, and he and his father spent considerable time in hunting and ran many narrow risks of their lives while in pursuit of bears and other wild animals, which were a terror to the few settlers along the streams. He loved his old rifle dearly and in his younger days was a marksman hard to beat. Whenever he drew the bead, something was sure to fall. But as time dimmed his eyesight, he laid aside his old companion which was near and dear to him.

His early life was spent in helping to clear up the wilds of this county. He always was a hard worker, and a man well fitted to brave the storms of a forest life. He lived to see his native county one of the finest in the state.

He was first married to Elizabeth Clarke, who bore him seven children. His second wife was Phebe Whitehead, and to them were born two children. His third wife, who survives him, was Nancy Hudson and to them were born five children.

Five of his children preceded him "to rest," as he termed it. The remaining nine are all grown except one boy, thirteen years of age.

His memory dates back and was associated with most of the noted men of the early history of Ohio. He had a mind that never failed him, and carefully filled with past reminiscences, he was a most interesting man to talk with.

When the Williams Bros. were preparing their history of Pickaway County, they obtained much information from him. He has a peculiarity of remembering dates, and in relating many incidents that had occurred years ago, he would give exact dates as to year, month and day. This he did from memory. Probably but few men living today know the history of the country as he did.

As a citizen he was quiet and unassuming, but always in the lead when any enterprise that was for the promotion of what he believed to be for the good of all was to be pushed forward.

He loved his neighbors and always lent a helping hand to the poor. He believed more in actions than in words, and his house and comforts sheltered and fed many a poor way-faring traveler. He always told his family "never to turn any one away hungry." His name has saved many a man, and he has stayed the sheriff's hand more than once. Honesty was his motto, and all his obligations were met with one hundred cents on the dollar. He admired an honest man above all others. He had no place in his mind for a rascal, and if ever once deceived, the same person need not entertain the faintest hope that the action would be repeated.

When the Rev. Filler said "He was known as a model citizen," he could have paid no higher tribute to the dead, nor spoken the honest feelings of all his neighbors better than he did. He had not an enemy in the whole world. He was at peace with everyone.

In politics, he was at first a Whig, casting his first vote for Gen. Harrison in 1840. When the Whig party broke up, he connected himself with the Republican party, and always remained in its lines. He always contended that human slavery was wrong, and did all he could to help free the slaves in the South. He was not as strict a party man as many. In state and national elections he voted with his party, but in county and township elections he always voted for those he considered the best men, believing they would be the proper men to attend to home interests.

In religion, he believed in the one true and living God, and in Him he trusted his all. He always believed that if he lived an honest upright and creditable life that at the close of life he would have nothing to fear, and how near right he was proved to him in the peaceful manner in which death came to him.

When asked by a friend if he was willing to die, he replied calmly and peacefully that he "was ready, and prepared to meet his God." At one o'clock Monday afternoon, when he heard the old clock strike, he whispered to his son, Vause, who was watching over him, and said "Six more hours and I will be at rest." He died at about half past eight that night. In the evening, a while before he died, feeling

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life giving away, and conscious that only a few more hours at most awaited him, he called all his family about him, and talked to them as only husband and father could talk, and when through gave them the assurance that death was no terror to him. He said he was "ready and waiting," and just a few minutes before his death he whispered, "all is well." He died without a struggle, surrounded by his family and

kind friends. He had lived a life creditable to himself and of usefulness to his neighbors, one which gave him so much pleasure at the end, and tonight he rests in the sanctuary of the tomb, beneath the quiet watch of the stars. By his own request, he was buried in Reber Hill Cemetery on Wednesday.

Death Records for the Year Ending June 1, 1860

Persons Who Died During the Year Ending June 1, 1860
Copied from census records by Darlene Weaver.

**Salt Creek Township enumerated by J.B. Evans,
assistant marshal**

(Listing name, age, sex, place of birth, date of death, profession, cause of death, length of illness).

Lucy C. Heidges, 1, female, Ohio, July, cholera, two days.

Elisabeth Shoppell, 1 month, female, Ohio April, unknown, one day.

Elisabeth Ruse, 14, female, Ohio, September, eireseptitis, 10 days.

Henry Nye, 6, male, Ohio, April, small pox, 12 days.

Eliza Meinhorter, 4, female, Ohio, October, scarlet fever, five weeks.

Susan C. Heidges, 7, female, Ohio, January, scarlet fever, two weeks.

Samuel Noble, 42, male, married, Ohio, April, farmer, consumption, four months.

✓ Oliver Dunkle, 13, male, Ohio, August, scarlet fever, three days.

✓ B.F. Butterbaugh, three, male, Ohio, August, croup, four days.

Daniel A. Pontius, 1, male, Indiana, July, croup, two days.

Godfrey Cramer, 81, male, widowed, Wurtemberg, May, farmer, old age.

Frances Roose, 48, female, married, Pennsylvania, January, winter fever, two weeks.

Charles Anderson, 5, male, Ohio, August, scarlet fever, seven weeks.

Martha A. Dunlap, 2, female, Ohio, November, lung fever, three weeks.

✓ Samantha J. North, 2, female, Ohio, June, typhoid fever, three weeks.

Jacob Shaffer, 21, male, Pennsylvania, June, consumption, 16 months.

✓ Norman Butterbaugh, 2 male, Ohio, September, inflamed bowel, one year.

Lavone Culp, 1, female, Ohio, July, scarlet fever, nine days.

Henry Whisler, 29, male, Ohio, January, farmer, consumption, four years.

Harriet Morgan, 39, female, married, Ohio, March, consumption, three years.

Mary Fowler, 77, female, widowed, Virginia, March, palsy, three months.

Circleville Township, J.B. Evans, assistant marshal

Agnes McKinzie, 1, female, Ohio, August, unknown, eight days.

Martin Datter, 52, male, married, Baden, July, gardener, typhoid fever, four weeks.

George Bower 10/12, male, Ohio, August, chill-fever, four days.

Mary A. Stein, 2, female, Ohio, April, scarlet fever, one week.

Alice F. Riffle, 4/12, female, Ohio, March, scarlet fever, one week.

Marcus B. Lutz, 13, male, Ohio, July, lightning, suddenly.

Noble Doan, 68, male, married, Connecticut, May, heart disease, two weeks.

Muhlenburg Township

John Alexander, assistant marshal

Arthur M. Martin, 9/12, male, Ohio, April, lung fever, 14 days.

Ponnie Meese, 4/12, female, Ohio, February, disease unknown, 14 days.

Henry Darst, 75, male, widowed, Maryland, July, farmer, accidental, three years.

Solomon Propps, 30, male, married, Virginia, August, farmer, consumption, two years.

Flora Rowe, 2, female, Ohio, February, croup, two days.

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