

[Filkins, Delina Ecker]

STATE'S OLDEST WOMAN DIES AT 113 YEARS, 4 MOS.

At the ripe old age of 113 years and four months to a day Mrs. Delina Filkins, the state's oldest resident, passed away Tuesday morning at 4 o'clock at the home of her son, Frank Filkins, at Richfield Springs.

Mrs. Filkins retained the possession of her faculties in a wonderful degree to the end of her long life. Dr. S. A. Haggerty, her physician, called to see her on Saturday and found her in good condition but she became ill on Sunday from which time she was confined to her bed, passing peacefully from the infirmities of old age. She was able to read without glasses and had even cared for her own room until her last illness.

Mrs. Filkins lived at Jordanville her entire life until November 1st when she moved to Richfield Springs to be near her son and grandson. She was affectionately referred to throughout all that section as "Grandma" Filkins.

The funeral was held at the home at Richfield Springs at 1 o'clock Thursday afternoon and at 2 o'clock at Jordanville the Rev. George C. Boorn, pastor of the Church of the Messiah [Universalist], Cooperstown officiating. Interment in the family plot at Jordanville.

Delina Ecker was born in the town of Stark, May 4, 1815. She was a daughter of William and Susan Harwick Ecker. Her grandfather, John Ecker, about 200 years ago built the house in which she was born. It has been remodeled and repaired, but is still standing a mile and a half south of the house in which she lived most of her life. During her girlhood she learned to spin, weave and make her own clothing.

At the time of her birth James Madison was president of the United States, Daniel S. Tompkins was governor of this state, and DeWitt Clinton, mayor of New York. She well remembered when the Erie Canal was opened, and also the opening of the first railroad in this section, the Utica and Schenectady. [On] February 19, 1834, she was married to John Filkins, a farmer, who died June 3, 1890.

When she was 100 years old she took her first ride in an automobile. Her children and grandchildren had for many years gathered at her home to celebrate her birthday anniversary. Her life was secluded and uneventful, but very useful. She was born just after the second war with England, and heard stories of that war and the War of the Revolution, by some of the actual participants. She also remembered vividly the Civil War. Her father lived to the advanced age of ninety-seven years, and one brother, Rufus Ecker, lived to be nearly 100 years old.

In addition to her sons Frank and Alonzo, she had four other children, all of whom are dead. She had three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 7 Dec 1928