

[Helmer, Adam Peter]

HAD WORKED FOR BARZILLAI HODSKIN

Adam Peter Hodskin, who bore the distinction of being one of the sole surviving men of this community who sixty years ago was employed in the sawmill of Barzillai Hodskin, builder of homes and business enterprises of his time, died in his sleep at his home on Dies street Thursday afternoon. Funeral services, conducted by Rev. H. [Herbert] P. Morrell [Universalist], were held Monday afternoon with interment in Fairview Cemetery.

Mr. Helmer was a Canadian by birth, the son of George and Katherine Walter Helmer, and was born at South Mountain, Ont., May 7, 1850. At eleven years of age he moved to Macomb, this county, and at seventeen came to Canton to permanently settle here.

He was twice married, each time to a cousin. His mother was a sister to the fathers of both of his wives. He married first Lucy Walters, daughter of William and Christian Walters. Of the two children born to that marriage, a daughter died in infancy and a son was drowned in the Grasse river. Following the death of his wife, he married Dora Walters, daughter of Henry and Mary Burch Walters on Dec. 18, 1888. Mrs. Helmer died in 1931.

It was in the early seventies that Barzillai Hodskin took over the Jackson sawmill in this village, and for 30 years Mr. Helmer was employed in this and other plants. The mill eventually burned and the lumber business in Canton passed over the horizon. From 1907 on Mr. Helmer turned to farming and was also a teamster.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. [Loretta] Paro, Syracuse; four sons, Orson, Copenhagen; Enos, Langdons Corners; Norman and Adam, Canton, and eleven grandchildren.

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