

La Mott George Bates, son of George W. Bates, Jr., and Emily Robinson Bates, was born October 13th 1847 at West Richfield, Ohio, and passed away at his home in Elsie, Michigan September 28th 1939, at the age of 91 years, 11 months and 15 days.

^{By 1852 at the age of five he and his}
~~the~~ family moved to Oberlin, Ohio in 1852 but lured by attractive reports of life in central Michigan where his paternal grandmother resided, ~~they~~ ^{they} brought ~~the little seven year old boy and his little~~ ^{the little} sister Lizzie. By train to Cleveland, boat to Detroit and train again to Fenton (then the terminus of the Grand Trunk railroad), this little family ^{of four} reached Byron by stage where they stayed all night. The remainder of the journey was made by team through a woods trail to Elsie.

This tiny settlement of four log houses was to become the present village of Elsie and be his residence place for eighty three years. In one of the log homes, now the site of ^{the} Elsie bank, lived J. D. Siekels, whose daughter Amanda, later became his wife.

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His father purchased a farm of forty acres on the Meridian, north east of Elsie but resided here only a short time when he moved to another farm, a mile and a half north of Elsie. From this place, La Mott walked to the village school to receive his education, naturally limited. The hard work and privations of those early settlers ~~were~~ ^{was} his lot. He learned to plough with oxen at the age of eleven ^{and hold corn for} earning ~~cents~~ ^{cents} a day. When later he received twenty five cents a day, he counted himself well on the way to prosperity.

Simple food wrested from the virgin soil, home spun clothing, candlelight, hides of wild animals used as beds, for needed commodities - all these were among his memories of childhood.

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At the age of fifteen he ~~went~~ ^{returned} to his birthplace in Ohio to learn the harness-making trade, and after a three years' apprenticeship, joined his father in the harness business in Elsie.

In 1872, La Mott Bates entered the general merchandising business with J. F. Hasty as partner in the store situated on the northwest corner of Main and Ovid streets.

A year later he married Amanda Sickels, who was a loving and faithful companion to him for the long span of sixty years, Mrs. Bates passing on 1933.

Four boys and a girl were born to this union - Charles of Durand, Clyde D. deceased, Bion L. of Ovid, Harold of Seberwainig and Mrs. Ruth Oren of Shepherd.

Mr. Bates was in business in Elsie for forty years. During this time he served as President of the local School Board, President of the Bank, and Supervisor of Duplain township for thirteen years. He was Michigan's oldest Mason, having joined the fraternity in 1869. He acted in the capacity of Master of the Elsie lodge for ten years.

Upright in character, of a genial disposition, sympathetic in his dealings with fellow men he became a much beloved and highly respected citizen in his locality. Almost all of his immediate circle of friends, have preceded him in death, and his passing, while deeply mourned, is a blessed release for a weary soul.

Besides the four children who survive, are eleven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, four nieces and nephews. All of whom bless the memory of this worthy ancestor.

Write telling many good things about and honor in the community John