

Chapman, Joseph W.

His father Amasa D. Chapman was born in Connecticut and emigrated to New York when a young man, where he followed the calling of a farmer. In 1822 he married Miss Hannah Aikin, a native of Mass., and of this union two children were born, J. W., and G. W., both residents of Waterford Township. A few years after their marriage the mother died, in 1825, in New York, while still in the prime of womanhood. In 1839 Mr. Chapman came to Michigan settling in Pontiac Township and clearing from the forest a comfortable home and a fine farm. There he resided about fifteen years, when he sold it and went to Kentucky, where he remained for about five years.

Upon his return to Michigan the father purchased a farm on section 35, Waterford township, where he died Dec. 1, 1882.

In Genesee County, N. Y., J. W. Chapman was born, June 8, 1823, and was at the age of 2 years deprived of his mother's care. The opportunities for an education offered in his youth were limited, but he became a well-informed man through reading and observation. At the age of 21 years he commenced work for himself, and for two years worked by the month. Careful economy enabled him to purchase an unimproved farm in White Lake township, this he cleared and improved it, residing upon it for eight years and six months. He was successful in his efforts to cultivate and improve his farm and this became his chosen calling.

He sold this farm and bought land in Waterford township, on Section 17. Once more he commenced the labor of developing an attractive estate and for ten years resided upon this homestead. In 1865 he sold it and bought a farm on Section 29.

When he first came to this county wild game was plentiful and he became an expert hunter. For forty-nine winters in succession he hunted and trapped and probably had killed more deer than any other resident of Oakland County at that time. At one time he served as road commissioner.

His wife was Catherine Crawford, who was born in Ontario, County, N. Y., daughter of William and Mary Crawford, natives respectfully of New York and Connecticut. Her parents came to Michigan in 1830, settling in Pontiac township, where they passed the remainder of their lives. The father died in 1849, and the mother in 1854. Their family consisted of eight children. Marriage records at Pontiac show that Joseph W. Chapman married at the age of 23, November 8, 1846, Catherine Crawford and she was 19 years of age at the time.

He was raised in Cedar Lodge No. 60, August 28, 1856 and dimitted to form Waterford Lodge No. 98, Feb. 5, 1857. he died October 7, 1903.