

Pioneer is Dead

**Sampson Pillars, Prominent Life-long Resident of Root Township
Succumbed Sunday
at age of seventy-eight
Funeral Service Tuesday Morning**

Sampson Pillars, life-long resident of Root Township, and one of the best known men of his community, died Sunday morning at three o'clock at his home a mile and half north of this city.

Mr. Pillars had been in ill health for some time, from hardening of the arteries, with complication of heart trouble, but he had not been bedfast, and only Saturday had been able to be out.

Had he lived until next November 23, he would have been seventy-eight years of age. He was born in Root township, November 23, 1840, on the old Pillars homestead, which is not the Kukelhan farm. He was a son of Benjamin and Sarah Pillars.

At the time of his marriage to Miss Mary Auten, February 18, 1862, they went to housekeeping on the farm on which they spent the remainder of their lives, and on which the deaths of both occurred. The wife died just a year ago last August 24, since which time their only daughter, Sarah Ann, and her husband, C. D. Kunkel have lived on the home place with Mr. Pillars, ministering to him with every attention possible.

Of his parental family, Mr. Pillars has but one brother surviving - Benjamin, of this city. Two sisters, Mrs. John Fonner, Mrs. James Harkless; a brother, Will; and a half-brother, Stephen Purdy, are deceased.

Mr. Pillars was a faithful member of the Concord Lutheran church. The funeral will be held Tuesday morning at ten o'clock from the residence, the Rev. A. K. Mumma, former pastor of the Concord Lutheran church officiating. Burial will be in (continued on page four) the Decatur cemetery.

Mr. Pillars was long a member of the Masonic lodge, which order will be in charge of the funeral.

~~~~~

**The Fort Wayne News and Sentinel, Allen Co., IN: September 23, 1918**

**S. PILLARS, DECATUR, DIES AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS**  
(Special to the News)

Decatur, Ind. Sept 23 -- Sampson Pillars, 78, died Sunday morning about 3 o'clock, at his home, about a mile north of this city, after a short illness of hardening of the arteries. He had, however, not been bedfast, and had been able to be up and about the house Saturday.

He was a prominent farmer of Root township, where he lived for many years. His wife, formerly Miss Auten, died only a short time ago. He is survived by one child, a daughter, Sanna, wife of Calvin D. Kunkel. Since the death of Mrs Pillars, Mr. and Mrs. Kunkel had lived with her father and had cared for him. There are two grandchildren, Mrs. Fanny Moses and Sherman Kunkel.

The deceased was a member of the Concordia Lutheran church. Funeral services will be held Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock from the residence, a mile north of this city. Rev. A.K. Mumma, former pastor of Concordia Lutheran church, will officiate

~~~~~

Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, Allen Co, IN; September 24, 1918

DECATUR, Sept. 23 - Sampson Pillars, 78 years old, and a resident of Root township his entire life, died at his home a half mile north of Decatur, Sunday, at 3 o'clock. The cause of death was a hardening of the arteries with a complication of heart trouble. He had been in poor health for some time but had been bedfast only since Saturday. He was born November 23, 1840, and had he lived until the 23 of November, would have been 78 years old. He was married February, 1862, to Miss Mary Ann Auten, who preceded him in death a little more than a year ago. Since her death, Mr. Pillars made his home with their only daughter, Mrs. C. D. Kunkle, who lived on the home place. One brother, Benjamin, of this city, survives, as do also two sisters, Mrs. John Fonner and Mrs. James Harkless. The funeral will be held Tuesday morning from the residence, at 10 o'clock, Rev. A. K. Mumma, of the Concord Lutheran church, officiating. Burial will be in the Decatur cemetery.