

Weekly Journal

White Pigeon, Mich. Saturday, December 14, 1878

1<sup>st</sup> page, 3<sup>rd</sup> Column

### **Death of Mr. James Buchanan**

The following biographical sketch of Mr. James Buchanan of this village, was written by his son, Mr. John J. Guchanan and is taken from the *Deaf-Mute Mirror* published at Flint, Mich.:

On Thursday, Thanksgiving day, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, Mr. James Buchanan died suddenly and quietly at his residence at the age of 71 years in White Pigeon, St. Joseph Co., Mich. He died of consumption, and just half an hour before his death, had a hard congestive chill. The deceased was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1807, in Waterloo, Seneca Co., New York. Living on a farm several years, he then moved to Lockport, N.Y., and continued living on a farm. His father, Samuel, had to enlist in the war of 1812, and left his family in charge of his oldest son. James Buchanan learned the trade of tailoring in Lockport. In 1830 he went west to the village of White Pigeon, where at that time there were but four or five white families, and several hundred Indians. He was a soldier in the Indian war, called the Black Hawk War, that was in 1830 and 1831. His wife, before her marriage, was a brave girl, who helped do the cooking for about five hundred soldiers sent from Detroit. In 1843 James Buchanan was united in marriage to Jane Masterman, daughter of John Masterman, who was the first wagon maker about 1833. They lived a happy and peaceful life together 35 years till [this part is torn out] Several years afterwards, Buchanan was elected treasurer of White Pigeon. At that time there was never any honester man than Mr. Buchanan as the treasurer. He served several years. He leaved his family, consisting of his wife, three sons and two daughters, all of whom are now living. He leaves his old friends who deeply sympathize with his afflicted wife, who is, no doubt, the oldest pioneer in White Pigeon. In the afternoon of Sunday last, his funeral took lace in the M.E. Church, which was closely crowded with those who knew him. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. James Webster, its pastor, and Rev. Mr. Stevens, of Constantine.

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-One of the pleasant events of last week was the marriage of Mr. John Gunn, of Ypsilanti, and Miss Ella L. Buchanan of this village, at the residence of the bride's mother, by Rev. James Webster on the evening of December 5, 1878. Both are deaf mutes. They were previously informed as to the ritual employed, and were prepared intelligently to assent to the usual questions. One novelty of this service was the placing of a ring on the bride's finger, an old custom, yet novel, because not much in use now. The bride closed this marriage service by repeating the Lord's Prayer by mute signs, which was very interesting. Mr. Wm. Allman, Jr., of Sturgis, also a deaf mute, served as bride's groom and Mrs. Andrews, of Three rivers, a bride's maid. The company will not soon forget that evening and its pleasant social intercourse. The objects of greatest interest were Mr. and Mrs. Gunn, and their old schoolmate, Mr. Allman, who enjoyed each other's company so much. The well wishes of all present go with this couple to their home.



The following tokens of respect were presented: A coffee pot and cup and saucer, Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Green and their little grand-daughter Bessie; nickel plated teapot and silver plated napkin rings, Professor Plowman, Mrs. Plowman and Miss West; silver plated card receiver, Mr. Wm. Allman; pair of vases, Mr. and Mrs. Bliss; a pitcher and pair of vases, Mr. and Mrs. Labadie and their adopted son; ottoman cover and one dozen towels, Mrs. Swan; one pair of salt cellars, Mrs. Knapp; glass fruit dish, Mrs. Burchell; set of toilet mats, Miss Emma Bliss; necktie, Mrs. Andrews; set of glassware, Mr. and Mrs. Sekell.

