

Obituary.

There died in Atchison, on the 25th ult., an old citizen and pioneer of Kansas and Atchison county, whose departure from our midst calls for, I think, a little more notice than the very short one given him in THE DAILY CHAMPION of that date, for which paper he was a constant subscriber since 1858. An unflinching "Free Soil" man, a staunch Republican, a firm friend, a kind neighbor, and an honest man, he was one of those grand old heroes who fought the fight for freedom in Kansas, and to whom the present generation is indebted for the beautiful and happy homes, the peace and prosperity with which we are surrounded in this, our dear old Republican Kansas.

James Ingels was born in Fayette county, Pa., in 1811, of which home he had distinct recollection, although he left there when only 7 years of age, moving to Madison county, Ind., with his father in 1818. There he remained until 1840. He was married in 1834. In 1840 he removed to Buchanan county, Mo., settling on the bottom eight miles below where St Joseph now stands. Here, by hard work and untiring industry, he opened up a farm of sixty acres, and had just put it in crop, when the great, and of late much talked of, flood of 1844 destroyed his home, crop and everything, leaving him with a wife and six helpless children, utterly destitute, with nothing but what clothes were on their backs. In these days of population and plenty, it is hard to realize the condition of the pioneer, stripped of everything. One can now-a-days travel round the world in far less time than it would take Mr. Ingels to return to his father's home, and "aid" was a thing unknown. St. Joseph boasted only six houses. Kansas was a part of the Great American Desert. For Iowa, then, Mr. Ingels struck, and locating near the north line of Missouri, opened up a large farm. In 1850, he moved into Bedford, the county seat of Taylor county, and was for three consecutive terms elected County Surveyor of that county. When the struggle for the Freedom of Kansas soil came on, in 1856, not being able to close up his affairs immediately, he sent his son at once, and himself followed the next year, landing in Doniphan March 4th, 1857. From this time on he was one of the recognized Free State men of Kansas. A warm friend and supporter of Jim Lane, the latter, invariably stopped with Mr. Ingels when in his neighborhood, and his older sons frequently acted as a body guard to the great Free State leader. Accompanying him on one occasion, to the vicinity of Grasshopper Falls, where Lane was to make a speech, they captured two Missourians on picket, who revealed the fact that about 700 more of their valiant fellow statesmen were lying in wait in said town for Jas. Lane. Lane did not speak in Grasshopper Falls that night. On another occasion, Mr. Ingels and his sons, and some half a dozen others, accompanied Lane to the neighborhood of Atchison, where he was advertised to speak. Arrived in the vicinity, they found the town occupied by Missourians, and deeming it best to keep out of town for that day, Lane disposed of his force, consisting of eleven men, in part of a cornfield near the present site of Tomlinson's slaughter house. Two or three hundred mounted Missourians advanced as far as where Young's brewery is now situated. After vainly endeavoring to form and charge Lane's formidable force, they retired back to town, reporting that Lane had 1,000 men occupying that cornfield and hillside. Mr. Ingels spent the most of the day in town with them.

But I presume these reminiscences are "twice told tales" to THE CHAMPION. Mr. Ingels located three and one-half miles northwest of Atchison, and lived there until a few years ago, when he moved into Atchison, where he has since resided. His wife, the constant, faithful and loving companion of all his trials, misfortunes and successes through life, died very little over a year ago, March 19th, 1880. From that day, Mr. Ingels gradually sank. The "Oak and Ivy" so inseparably united in youth, could not stand the shock of separation in old age, and on the morning of the 21st of May, 1881, without a struggle, he fell asleep in his son's arms, and rests in peace, his life's work done.

Mr. Ingels raised a family of fourteen children, and also an orphan boy. He had eleven sons and three daughters. His memory is dearest to those that knew him best, and his few faults are hidden under a multitude of virtues.

C. H. M.