

BENJAMIN OSBORNE BURNED TO

DEATH

Shortly before noon last Saturday a fire alarm was sounded and it was discovered that Ben Osborne's barn was on fire. A large crowd quickly gathered and when it was found that Mr. Osborne was missing extra effort was made to extinguish the flames. The chemical engines were used at first and then water from the hydrant a short distance away. As a result most of the building was saved, but when it was possible to enter the building Mr. Osborne was found lying face down in the hay and burned beyond recognition. The remains were conveyed to Maret & Co.'s Undertaking rooms and Coroner Dr. Harper, of Madoc, and the Provincial authorities at Belleville were notified. During the afternoon the Coroner and Provincial Officer Hammer visited the scene of the tragedy, and after securing all available particulars decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

The exact cause of the tragedy will never be known. Mr. Osborne had been in poor health for sometime, and worried a good deal over the fact he was unable to resume his work, although financially there was no necessity for it. The fact his hearing was nearly gone also caused him to keep to himself a good deal and to worry a good deal more than he would otherwise have done. When he wandered away from home a few weeks ago, it was the result of ill health, and in this case he apparently went to the hayloft to be alone when in some way the fire started. Earlier in the forenoon he had gone up for his mail and had appeared about the same as usual.

The late Benjamin Osborne was sixty-one years of age and had lived in Marmora practically all his life. He was highly respected and his tragic death came as a shock to the community. He leaves a widow, one son, Ernest, of Winnipeg, and two daughters, Dora and Marion at home. He is also survived by two brothers, Daniel of Marmora; and James of Seattle; and five sisters: Mrs. M.E. Merriam, Harwood; Mrs. W.A. McKeown and Mrs. Albert Taylor, of Vancouver, B.C.; Mrs. David Taylor, Warsaw; and Mrs. Henry Loucks, of California.

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon. Service was conducted in Marmora United Church by Rev. O.J. Beckley and interment was made in Marmora Protestant Cemetery.