

## SHIAWASSEE FARMER IS TAKEN BY DEATH

**Fred Kramp, 61, Dies at  
Hospital Following Appen-  
dicitis Operation**

Fred Kramp, 61 years of age and a nearly life long resident of Shiawassee county, passed away about 10:30 o'clock this morning at the Memorial Hospital. Mr. Kramp suffered an attack of acute appendicitis a week ago and was operated upon last Thursday. His condition rapidly became more serious until his death this morning.

Mr. Kramp was born near Chesaning on March 31, 1870, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kramp. He never married. He lived with his parents until 1900 when he found work in the West, where he remained for 11 years. He then returned to Shiawassee county, purchasing the farm in Shiawassee township known as the Horn farm, and had resided there with his mother since.

He is survived by his mother, two brothers and three sisters. They are John Kramp, Jr., and Edward Kramp, both of Shiawassee township; Mrs. Carrie Orth of Clare; Mrs. Mary Fess of Fisherville, Ont., and Mrs. Fanny Schiffer of Bay City. Another brother, George, passed away four years ago.

The funeral arrangements have not been completed yet.



## TRIPLE FUNERAL FOR BROTHERS TO BE HELD SATURDAY

Triple funeral services for Fred, Edward and John Kramp will be held at the home of their mother, Mrs. Louise Kramp, six miles south of Owosso, Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, it was announced this morning.

The three caskets will be placed side by side in the large living room of the home. The Rev. A. W. Hueschen, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, will officiate, and burial will take place at Oak Hill Cemetery.

# ARE KILLED AN HOUR AFTER PLANNING FOR BROTHER'S FUNERAL

7-29-31

**Testimony at Inquest Today  
Indicates Cloud of Dust  
Stirred Up by Passing Car  
Blinded VanEver**

## STANTON TESTIFIES

**Driver Swears He Met Speed-  
ing Car a Moment Before  
Crash; Dust So Dense He  
Was Unable to See It**

Testimony taken this morning at an inquest into the deaths of John and Edward Kramp, killed last night south of the city, when the car in which they were riding crashed into a county road grader, indicated that a dense cloud of dust stirred up by a passing car blinded Clevo VanEver, driver of the car, and was the immediate cause of the accident.

### Car Speeding North

Both VanEver and the grader, driven by George Stanton, were going south, while the car that kicked up the dust was going

north. Stanton, one of the witnesses at the inquest, testified that several cars had met or passed him, as he was proceeding south toward the Maple River bridge, and all had churned up considerable dust, but the one that passed a moment before the crash, he said, was traveling at a high rate of speed, and churned up so much dust that when he (Stanton) turned around to look at it, the dust was so thick he was unable to see the car. He turned back to his steering wheel, he said, just as the crash came. He declared that he saw nothing of the VanEver car until after the crash, and asserted that he didn't believe that VanEver could have seen the grader, because of the dust.

The grader, Stanton said, weighed about seven tons and was traveling at a rate of four miles an hour. The impact pushed the grader into the ditch.

**John and Edward Kramp,  
Shiawassee town, Die In-  
stantly as Car Strikes  
County Road Grader**

## FOLLOW BROTHER SOON

**Clevo VanEver, of Owosso,  
Driving Car, Has Frac-  
tured Jaw; Mother Sus-  
tains Broken Thigh**

The condition of Clevo VanEver and his mother, Mrs. Etta VanEver, injured last night in the crash that killed John and Edward Kramp, was stated at Memorial Hospital today to be as good as could be expected. They will recover.

The bodies of three brothers, all Shiawassee Township farmers, lay side by side today in the funeral home of Knapp & Smith, as the result of the most tragic and fateful sequence of events on record here in years.

Two of them were instantly killed in an automobile accident last night, less than an hour after they had made arrangements for the funeral and burial of the other, who died Wednesday, following an operation. Two other persons are in Memorial Hospital badly injured as a result of the crash.

The dead are: John Kramp, 56, and Edward Kramp, 53, killed in the accident, and Fred Kramp, 61, who died following the operation.

The injured are: Clevo VanEver, 35, employed by the Owosso Boiler & Welding Works, and his mother, Mrs. Etta VanEver, 60. VanEver has a fractured jaw, badly lacerated face, and possible internal injuries, while his mother has a fractured thigh and broken leg.

The accident that killed the two brothers and injured the other two people occurred at 5:30, just north of the Maple River bridge, on the continuation of Washington street, south of the city, when a Buick coupe driven by VanEver crashed into a county road grader driven by George Stanton, whose wife is a cousin of the men killed. Stanton lives on a farm in the Maple River district.

While the two brothers were in the city to arrange for the burial of the third brother, their mother, Mrs. John Kramp, Sr., past 80 years of age, and an invalid for years, waited at home, only to receive later the news of their

death. John and Fred Kramp lived with their mother, while Edward Kramp, who was married and had a family, lived nearby.

#### Caused by Cloud of Dust

The accident is believed to have been caused by a cloud of dust raised by a car that passed the car driven by VanEver as it approached the road grader, blinding VanEver. Both the grader and VanEver were going south. Stanton, driver of the grader, declares that he knew of nothing until the crash came while VanEver says he doesn't remember what happened. Mrs. VanEver, Sr., however, recalls that the car did pass them before the crash, and Stanton says the same thing.

#### Both Die Instantly

Both of the Kramp brothers were killed instantly, while Mrs. VanEver, Sr., was thrown through the windshield and landed in the middle of the road. VanEver was out of the car, walking around when help came. The Kramp brothers sustained fractured skulls and were still in the car when officers and an ambulance arrived. They were both in the back seat of the car.

Mrs. VanEver, Sr., has been taking care of the aged mother of the three Kramp brothers, and Mrs. VanEver, Jr., drove out to their home Wednesday afternoon and brought the brothers and her mother-in-law into the city to make funeral arrangements for Fred Kramp. They made arrangements for the services Friday afternoon at 2:30 at the home.

Then Mr. VanEver, who had finished his work, volunteered to drive the Kramp brothers and his mother out to the Kramp home while his wife prepared supper. They left the funeral home and went to Oak Hill cemetery, where they made arrangements for the burial of their brother. Completing the arrangements, they drove south, the two brothers to their death.

The grader which the VanEver car hit weighs 6 1-2 tons, and was shoved off the road into the ditch. Stanton, who was in the cab, which is on the rear of the tractor-propelled grader, was thrown out through a window and into the ditch, but sustained only a few bruises.

Dr. G. L. Cramer, coroner, and Deputy Sheriff Ray Gellatly investigated the accident, and Dr. Cramer was to hold an inquest today to determine whether there was any negligence on the part of the driver of the grader, or on the part of VanEver.

#### Shock Stuns Mother

The condition of the aged mother, Mrs. Louise Kramp, 81 years old, was considered quite serious. The news of the death of her sons stunned her for several hours and it was necessary to call a physician for her last evening.

Mrs. Kramp's health has been failing for several years and she has been unable to get on her feet for many months.

Her daughter, Mrs. Fanny Schiffler, fears for the aged woman's life when she fully realizes that the accident took her last two sons.

# Tragic Accident Is Recalled By Death

## Mrs. Louisa Kramp, Whose Three Sons Died in One Day, Is Taken

Mrs. Louisa Kramp, aged Shiawassee Township woman who in 1931 saw three of her sons buried on the same day after two of them had been killed in an automobile accident after making funeral arrangements for a brother who died a few hours before, expired at 3:15 o'clock this morning at the Kramp home, six miles south of Owosso.

Since that day—July 29, 1931—when the tragic news was brought to her that her three sons were dead, Mrs. Kramp had been almost helpless. It was feared at the time that the shock would prove too great for her. She survived, but it is believed that it was that shock more than anything else that eventually led to her death.

#### Born in Canada

John Kramp, Jr., was born in Rainham, Ont., on March 9, 1875, and was the second oldest of the four sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Kramp who had moved to Rainham from their farm near Chesaning, Mich., shortly after the birth of their first son, Fred, who was born March 31, 1870, and who passed away yesterday morning about 10:30 o'clock at the Memorial Hospital.

Edward, the third oldest, was born in Rainham, May 15, 1878, and George, the youngest son, who passed away about five years ago, was born there on March 26, 1883.

About 1889 the family returned to the United States and purchased a farm just south of Owosso on the Bancroft road. All of the sons remained with their parents but Edward who was married to Miss Gertie Peck of Henderson, on October 20, 1902, at Owosso.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kramp settled in Henderson and lived there for 10 years. They then purchased the farm south of Owosso known as the Scranton farm and had resided there for the last 18 years.

#### Leaves Four Children

There were four children born to them, all surviving. They are Cecil, Lawrence and Carl, residing at home, and Mrs. Harold Suggate of Lansing. Mrs. Suggate has two children.

The two elder Kramp sons, John, Jr., and Fred, never married. In 1900 they went to the State of Washington together where they found employment. They remained there for 14 years and returned to Owosso, purchasing the Horn farm, about six miles south of Owosso, in Shiawassee Township, where they had resided since with their mother.

All of the sons were devoted Christians and were members of the Salem Lutheran Church of Owosso, although, because of the mother's ill health they had been unable for many years to attend church as they desired.

The surviving members of the family are the mother and three sisters. Mrs. Fanny Schiffler, of Bay City, Mrs. Carrie Orth, of Clare, and Mrs. Mary Fess of Fisherville, Ont., and Mrs. Edward Kramp and children.

The accident occurred a few miles south of Owosso late in the afternoon, when the Kramp brothers, John and Edward, were returning home after visiting Knapp & Smith's Funeral Home and selecting a lot in Oak Hill Cemetery for their brother, Fred, who had died earlier in the day at Memorial Hospital. The car in which they were riding, driven by Clevo Van Ever, and accompanied by Mr. Van Ever's mother, Mrs. Etta Van Ever, struck a road grader. The two Kramps were killed instantly and Mrs. Van Ever died later.

There hasn't been a day since the accident that Mrs. Kramp didn't speak of it, or call out to her sons. After the accident, a daughter, Mrs. Wesley Schisler, of Bay City, lived with the aged woman, feeding her daily because she was too feeble to feed herself. For the past four weeks she had been confined to her bed, critically ill.

Funeral services will be held at the Knapp & Smith Funeral Home at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon with the Rev. A. Walter Hueschen, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, officiating. Burial will take place at the lot where the sons were interred, in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Born in Buffalo, N. Y., on May 11, 1850, Mrs. Kramp was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Heist. She came as a young girl, with the family, to Chesaning, where she was reared.

On May 22, 1868, Miss Heist was married in Owosso to John Kramp. They settled in Chesaning, lived there three years, and then went to Ontario where they remained on a farm for 20 years.

About 1891, Mr. and Mrs. Kramp and their family returned to Michigan, settling on the old Cramer farm, north of Owosso. Since then they always lived in the vicinity, on farms in Rush and Shiawassee townships.

Mr. Kramp died on May 29, 1925 and the first of their four sons, George, died in 1927.

Surviving Mrs. Kramp are three daughters—Mrs. Joseph Orth, of Clare; Mrs. Nicholas E. Fess, of Fisherville, Ont., and Mrs. Schisler. There are eight grandchildren.

Mrs. Kramp was a member of the Lutheran Church.