Rites Held Tuesday
for Frederick Bretz

Frederick Bretz, 92, the oldest resident of Middle Bass island, died at his home on Middle Bass, Sunday, at 5 a.m. Pneumonia was the cause of death.

He was born in Mecklenberg, Feb. 8, 1843, and came to this country when 20 years of age. He located in Sandusky and bought a vineyard on Middle Bass in 1865. The following year he was married to a Miss Caroline Burggraf. His wife died 10 years ago.

He made a reputation as a grape grower and was popular with all the people of Put-in-Bay township.

He is survived by three sons: Fred Bretz, of Cleveland, and Edward and Herman Bretz, of Middle Bass, and a daughter, Mrs. Julie Rehberg, of Put-in-Bay. Louis Rehberg, of Sandusky, is a brother, and Mrs. Caroline Graves, who died recently at her home in this city, was a sister. There are three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

3-22-1935

Funeral services were held from the home on Middle Bass, Tuesday afternoon. Rev. J. C. Stellhorn, of Sandusky, conducted the service. The body was laid to rest in the Middle Bass Island cemetery.
HERMAN BRETZ, 64
CLAIMED AT ISLAND

Herman Bretz, 64, Put in Bay, died Thursday morning at Magruder hospital where he had been a medical patient since last Saturday. 10-8-1943

Mr. Bretz is survived by a brother Edward, Middle Bass, and a sister, Mrs. Julia Rehberg, Put in Bay.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday at Middle Bass, with the Rev. D. A. Cassetta officiating, and burial will be made there.
—Mrs. Fred Bretz died at the family home at Middle Bass, Tuesday morning, aged 77 years. A stroke of paralysis caused death. She spent Sunday afternoon and evening writing and complained to her husband that she had a headache and would go to bed. Her husband followed her into the bedroom a few minutes later and his wife was unable to speak. He phoned to Put-in-Bay for the doctor and his married daughter, Mrs. John Rehberg and they arrived at Middle Bass about 1 a.m. The doctor was unable to do anything for Mrs. Bretz and she lingered until Tuesday morning when she passed away. She leaves her husband, two sons, Ed and Harmon of Middle Bass, and one daughter, Mrs. Rehberg of Put-in-Bay. Mr. Bretz is a brother of Mrs. H. A. Graves of this city. The funeral was held Thursday afternoon from the residence and the body laid to rest in the Middle Bass cemetery.

3-13-1925
Doctor and Nurse Drown in Lake.

Dr. Griest and Nurse Schultz Lose Their Lives.

2-23-1923

Dr. Theodore Griest and Miss Sylvia Schultz were drowned in the Lake near Green Island last Saturday evening. The doctor was out making professional calls at Middle Bass and Miss Schultz, who was nursing Mrs. T. B. Alexander, had gone with him for the ride. The calls were made at Middle Bass and they were on their way home and the doctor was evidently showing Miss Schultz the various islands, when the automobile ran on to thin ice and sank immediately.

When the doctor and his companion did not return promptly the Island men at once began a search. Fires were lighted at Put-in-Bay in conspicuous places and the light in the Perry monument turned on. Port Clinton was notified and the whistle at the water works was blown at intervals to guide them to shore. The searchers were out all night. A fisherman, who had seen the auto near Green Island headed a party who went in that direction; another party went to North Bass, and still another toward Pelee. Sunday morning a track was discovered near Green Island, the ice that had formed the previous night was broken and a thin coating of oil came to the surface. A match was lighted and thrown on the water and immediately there was a blaze. The searchers had located the spot where the auto sank. Grappling hooks were secured and the auto was soon raised from where it sank in 30 feet of water. Again the searchers tried and this time the body of the nurse was brought to the surface. The body was taken to Catawba Island and Undertaker Nel-decker summoned. On Monday the body of Dr. Griest was recovered and his body was brought here and prepared for burial. Dr. Yelley viewed the remains and rendered a verdict of accidental drowning in both cases.

The body of Miss Schultz was shipped to her home in Indiana, and Dr. Griest to his former home at Delta.

Dr. Griest had practiced on the Island for the past five years. He was often called to the other Islands and he never refused to answer a call. In the summertime he answered calls with a motor boat but in the winter, when the lake was frozen over, he used a machine. He was well liked on the Island. His mother kept house for him, but it is said that he was engaged to be married to Miss Schiele in the spring. Miss Schultz was a professional nurse and was on the Island nursing Mrs. Alexander when she took this fatal ride. She, too, was to be married in the spring to a Toledo gentleman.

A former doctor at Put-in-Bay lost his life while answering a call in the summer time. He attempted to cross the channel to Middle Bass during a storm in a skiff. A big comber upset the boat and both he and his oarsman were drowned. The body was recovered a few days later.

The Islands make a special inducement to secure a physician. They furnish him with a home, guarantee him a minimum income and help whenever possible in answering calls to neighboring Islands. The State Board of Health sent a physician here to look after the immediate wants of the people on the Islands.

The late Dr. Griest carried an insurance of $15,000 in the Mutual of New York. This will be distributed among his mother, brother and his divorced wife.

3-9-1923
FOUR DIE AS CAR FALLS THROUGH ICE BRIDGE

ISLAND DOCTOR AMONG VICTIMS

Bodies of Dr. and Mrs. Edam and Children Have Been Recovered

A pall of tragedy fell suddenly over Ottawa county's insular divisions late Wednesday afternoon when the famous ice bridge claimed the lives of four Put-in-Bay residents.

Victims of the tragedy were Dr. George J. Edam, 58, his wife, Mrs. Loretta Edam, 28, and their two children, George, Jr., three years, and Barbara, two years.

The family was wiped out when the Edam car plunged through three-inch ice 200 feet off Atwoods Point on Middle Bass and immediately settled on the floor of the lake under the decks.

The physician was said to have been taking his family for a ride when he drove from his Put-in-Bay home to call on patients living on Middle Bass island.

The bodies of the physician and his wife were recovered soon after the accident, and nurses and volunteers worked for hours in an unsuccessful attempt to revive them. The bodies of the two children were trapped in the closed car and were not recovered until yesterday.

Mrs. Mildred McCann, postmistress at Put-in-Bay, was watching the car as it crossed the ice, and saw it plunge downward only a short distance from the shore at Middle Bass. The tragedy occurred at five o'clock Wednesday.

The postmistress called her son, William, who with a group of other young men, including Fred Young, Gaius Hallock, Alfred Parker, Maurice Arndt, Ethan Fox, Arnold Burggraf and Edmond Miller, formed a living human chain to drag the floating bodies of Dr. and Mrs. Edam to heavier ice. They used artificial respiration and a respirator in an unsuccessful attempt to revive the victims.

William McCann and Fred Young were at the end of the human chain, and they pulled the bodies from the icy waters. The two bodies were taken to Dr. Edam's house where two island nurses, Mrs. Larry Wires and Mrs. Elizabeth Sutter, continued efforts to revive them.

Members of the Put-in-Bay Volunteer fire department and other workers shortly after 8 o'clock yesterday forenoon located the death car with grappling hooks. Grappling irons were placed under the front axle, and the car was pulled by block and tackle to the shore, after ice had been cut away to Middle Bass island.

The bodies of the two children were found in the back seat of the car. The windshield of the car was broken, where Dr. and Mrs. Edam had apparently escaped.

The tragedy occurred seventeen years, almost to the day, when Dr. Theodore Greist, Put-in-Bay physician, and a Cleveland nurse plunged in a car to their deaths off Green Island, while they were riding over the ice bridge. It also occurred a day following the warnings from Marblehead coast guardsmen who declared the ice bridge unsafe for travel.

Dr. Edam and his family moved to Put-in-Bay last November from Lakewood, where he had previously practiced. He succeeded Dr. Robert C. Suttle as resident physician, when he resigned to take a position in Toledo.

Dr. Edam was a graduate of St. Louis University School of Medicine, and had also attended John Carroll University, Cleveland, and Ohio State University Columbus. He was house physician at St. John's hospital, Cleveland, for two years after his graduation. It was there that he met Loretta Elson, Ravenna, Ohio, student nurse, who he married five years ago in Chicago, where Dr. Edam was taking a post-graduate course at Mendelein hospital.

Due to the lateness of the accident and lack of transportation facilities, Dr. Raymond Semon, Ottawa county coroner, gave Mayor Henry Fox of Put-in-Bay, the power of acting coroner. The bodies of Dr. and Mrs. Edam were flown from Put-in-Bay to the Port Clinton airport yesterday forenoon where a Charles J. Andrews Sons' funeral coach met the plane and took the bodies to Sandusky.

A later plane carried the bodies of the children. Funeral services will be held in Lakewood.

Hire Substitute

Joint funeral services were held Monday at the Reidy Brothers funeral home in Lakewood for the Edam family, and from St. James' Catholic church in the same city. The Rev. Vincent Jones officiated.

The bodies were taken from Charles J. Andrews Sons funeral home in Sandusky to Cleveland. The bodies were laid to rest in Cleveland.

2-23-1940