

**Robert Marvel [61666]**

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Robert Marvel [61666] was born in Sussex County, Delaware on October 7, 1805. In early life he followed the sea for some seven years, but in 1835 removed to the west and settled in Pike Township, Hendricks County, near Indianapolis, Indiana. Nothing in his life calls for special notice but an extra ordinary fast, which he began in his eighty-fourth year and continued for sixty-seven days, attracting the attention, not only of the general public, but the medical men throughout the country. On July 13, 1889, Mr. Marvel ate his last regular meal. For thirty-eight days he took absolutely nothing into his stomach. On the thirty-ninth day he drank a small quantity of milk and at regular intervals continued to do so. Altogether he drank not to exceed one-gallon of milk in the sixty-seven days that elapsed after he began to fast. The effect of the abstinence was that he reduced himself to a living skeleton. He was regularly attended by a well known physician, but he resisted all proffered food. After fasting a full month, he one day arose from his bed, seized a pan of water that stood near, and drank some of it. Afterwards milk and water were left near him, and occasionally he would rise from his bed and drink a little. During the last week of his life he left his bed only at long intervals, when he would spring up and wander about the house. He evidently suffered severely though everything possible was done for his comfort. His fast is the longest on record as far as is known. The longest other case of voluntary fasting was that of Tanner who ate nothing and drank only water during forty days. Marvel died August 19, 1889.