

[Palmer, Sidney E.]

OBITUARY

Sidney E. Palmer died Sunday, May 24, at his home, Gerry. He was born at Columbus, Chenango county, N.Y., Sept. 29, 1811, consequently he was in his 85th year at the time of his death. He leaves a wife to whom he was married 59 years ago last April, and four sons, Herbert S. of Gerry, Everett L. of Sycamore, Ill., Frank S. and Arthur L. of Kansas.

Mr. Palmer was a man of prominence in the community where he has so long resided and to an unusual degree enjoyed the respect and confidence of his townspeople. He represented the county in the state legislature one term but declined a renomination. At one time and another he held nearly every town office from supervisor down. In all the positions of trust to which he was chosen he rendered intelligent, faithful, honest service, and was a model for emulation by young men.

But he is most widely known by reason of his long incumbency of the office of postmaster. When 57 years ago he arrived at Gerry he became connected with the postoffice and ever afterwards to his death he was either postmaster or deputy. His first commission as postmaster is dated July 29, 1841, and it is believed that just before he died he was the oldest living postmaster in the United States, considering the length of service. In 1841 the postoffice was known as Vermont, being changed in 1873 to Gerry.

Mr. Palmer was for many years a Mason, religiously meeting his dues until a few years ago [when] Sylvan lodge of Sinclairville constituted him an honorary member for the remainder of his life.

In religious belief and practice Mr. Palmer was a Universalist.

The funeral will be held Wednesday, May 27, at 11 a.m., from the home and will be conducted by Rev. S. W. Sample of the I. C. church of Jamestown.

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