

[Allen, Elihu

Elihu Allen

The death of Mr. Elihu Allen, which occurred at his residence in Pierrepont Manor, July 16, 1886, was not unexpected, as his health had been gradually failing since early spring. There was no apparent disease, but a giving out of vitality consequent upon a long and active life which only lacked a few days of eighty years. He was the fourth son of Joseph and Prudence Earl Allen, who came into this country from Galway, N.Y., in 1805 in company with Pardon Earl and who were the first settlers of what was then called Bear Creek. Of the family of nine children born unto them only one remains, viz, Hiram, who with his four brothers, Joseph, John, Harvey and Elihu, lived for many years in Pierrepont Manor. On the 3d of August, 1806, the subject of this sketch was born in a log house on the spot where stands the blacksmith shop owned by him and for so many years his place of business. We think he was the first child born at Bear Creek after its settlement, and there are but few of the town of Ellisburgh who have been residents longer than he. He learned the blacksmith's trade of his father and followed it through his life, having a strong attachment for his shop and going daily to his work even after it ceased to be remunerative in consequence of his age and failing health. He was a good mechanic and his work was always done in a thorough and careful manner.

When about sixteen years of age he signed a temperance pledge and remained a faithful advocate of the cause until his death. Though by his persistent advocacy he often incurred the slights and contumely of his opposers, he lived to rejoice in the moral sentiment that had grown up against the use of intoxicating drinks, and looked forward to a time when the entire country should [would] be free from the curse of intemperance.

Naturally of an argumentative turn of mind, he was interested in, and took an active part in debating societies, and when engaged upon a subject with which he was in sympathy, proved an opponent of no mean ability. Only a year or so before his death his taste for such contests carried him to Wardwell Settlement several times on stormy evenings to engage in debate. In his belief he was a Universalist, and he was always ready to champion his religion or his temperance and political opinions.

In 1839 he was married to Almira Andrus, daughter of George Andrus, Esq., of Adams, and for nearly fifty years they have lived in the house to which he brought his bride, and where three sons were born to them: George Allen, of Buffalo, William J., of Adams, and Edward B., whose sudden death seven years ago removed the one with whom he hoped to spend his declining years. Thus has passed away an aged citizen who has seen the wilderness of 1806 blossom into the fertile fields and pleasant hamlet of '86,

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and whose reminiscences of early times were interesting an accurate. His funeral took place from his late residence, Rev. Richmond Fiske, of Watertown, assisted by Rev. Asa Saxe, of Rochester, officiating. The remains were placed in the cemetery of the village.

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