

[Arnold, Odin Benedict]

Odin B. Arnold, died at his home on Maple Ave., Bemus Point, yesterday morning at 10 o'clock at the age of 94 years. He was a lifelong resident of the Town of Ellery where he had long been a familiar public figure. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Nettie D. Winchester; three grandchildren, Mrs. Robert E. Went of Brooklyn, and Glenn A. Winchester and Miss J. Lucille Winchester, at home, and three great grandchildren. Funeral services will be held tomorrow (Sunday) at 2:30 p.m. at the Universalist Church, Bemus Point. Rev. Emerson H. Jones of Clarendon, Pa., a former pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bemus, will officiate. Mr. Arnold led an active life. For the last year and a half, he had been confined at home. Mr. Arnold was born May 30, 1841 on the Arnold homestead about a mile below Bemus Point, the son of John and Mary Griffith Arnold. He was one of seven children. His first wife was Pauline VanWert, who died in 1872. One child, the daughter named above, was born to this union. His second wife was Minnie Buel, who died in 1927. He was a member of the Universalist Church at Bemus Point of which he and his parents were among the founders, and a charter member of the Bemus Point Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows. For many years, Mr. Arnold served as a Justice of the Peace and member of the Ellery Town Board and later as welfare officer. For about thirty years, he operated Grove Cottage, his property on Lakeside Drive, as a summer boarding house. Because he had observed and participated in the many changes which have occurred during his more than 90 years, his reminiscences and comment on affairs were of unusual interest. He recalled the first house built in what is now the village of Bemus Point; witnessed the progress of transportation from an ox-team to the airplane; the method lighting from the tallow candles which he helped prepare as a boy, to the brilliant lighting system of today; in fact, all the great strides of the last century took place during his lifetime, and it was one of his pleasures to compare the old with the new, and recount the experiences of his early years. Odin Benedict Arnold said that he was named after Dr. Odin Benedict, the first resident doctor in the Town of Ellery. In honor of his namesake, the Doctor gave Odin (when a small boy) four sheep. Odin let the sheep out to shares to increase. Odin called it "Doubled Out" and by the time Odin was quite a lad he had 30 sheep, which he sold for his start in life. Odin also said that his grandfather, David Arnold, was a lumberman, and when he came to Ellery he bought about 300 acres of land of Capt. John Silsby, who had taken it up from the Holland Land Company. And that as fast as David's boys became of age, he gave them each a farm, in various places....."set 'em up to a farm," said Odin. But David kept the deeds to the farms. The family was large and friendly and had large family gatherings with roast pig, etc. Finally, Odin's father, John Arnold died suddenly, and that set Old David to thinking....and he immediately had the deeds for the farms made out to the boys....

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