

[Backus, Ora O.]

ORA O. BACKUS

Ora O. Backus, a lifelong resident of this vicinity, died at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning, December 10, 1940, at the home of his son, Stanley S. Backus, in the village of Hartwick, N.Y., where he was temporarily staying.

Mr. Backus was born June 24, 1850, in the town of Pittsfield, N.Y., a son of Solomon S. Backus and Betsey Angel [Angell] his wife. His brother, Allen Backus and his sister, Mary J. Morse, had predeceased him by many years.

On October 18, 1876, he was united in marriage with Clara Wing, a daughter of the late Walter Wing of Morris. Mrs. Backus died January 19, 1932. Three children were born to them, one of whom, Walter A. Backus, died April 10, 1907.

Mr. Backus has been long identified with the civic and community affairs of the town and village. He was, for a long time, trustee of the village of Morris and, for many years, and to the time of his death, was president of the Morris Fair Association, being widely known among fair officials and horsemen.

From the time of his marriage until December 1902, he owned and operated a large farm north of the village of Morris. In that year, he moved to the village of Morris, [and] purchased the Jabez Collins place where he had resided for 38 years.

He was, all his life, a member and faithful attendant of the Universalist church in Morris, in which church the funeral services were held at 2 o'clock, Thursday, December 12th. The Rev. F. [Frederick] G. Leonard, the pastor of the church, officiated.

Mr. Backus was a highly respected and honored member of the community all his life and will be mourned by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, not alone in Morris, but generally in those fields where he had been for many years most active.

He is survived by two sons, Dr. H. W. Backus of Cooperstown and Hartwick and Stanley S. Backus of Hartwick; and by three nephews, Chester T. Backus of Morris, Porter R. Backus of Hartwick Seminary and Charles T. Morse of Washington, D. C.

A few days prior to his death he went to Hartwick where he was taken suddenly and violently ill and died four days after the attack. He will be widely missed in the vicinity of Morris, for, to the day of his death, he had been an active participant in all village and community affairs and was daily in contact with residents of the valley.

He retained his physical and mental alertness to the last and never, to the day of his death lost his zest for participation in anything that had to do with the community life.—Local.

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