

[Barber, Josiah]

JOSIAH BARBER

Death of a Prominent Manufacturer

Another of Auburn's old and respected citizens, and one of the prominent founders of her wealth and prosperity, has been called from earthly toil, in the decease of Josiah Barber, Esq.

Mr. Barber came to Auburn over a half century ago, in 1829. He came from Hudson, on the North River, to continue the woolen manufacture, which he had followed for twenty years previous with his father, and took a contract in that business in Auburn prison, with Messrs. Wood and Underhill, employing three hundred men, which contract he continued until 1857, the carpet business occupying him during the latter part of the time.

In 1846-7 he built the large manufactory known as "Barber's Factory," an old landmark of the town, as familiar as its churches. In conducting this establishment Mr. Barber gave his personal supervision to its details, and made a daily habit of visiting its every department several times each day, for a careful inspection of its working. This he continued up to almost the last hour before his final illness, even at the ripe old age of four score years, and with his sons to aid in the business.

As a kind friend and neighbor he was respected by all who knew him, and in his family he was all that a kind husband and father could be to the dear circle at home. His loss will be felt as that of a valued member of the community and an honored citizen.

News & Bulletin, Auburn NY, Sat. 1 May 1880

The Rites of Sepulture

The funeral of the late Josiah Barber was largely attended yesterday afternoon. The spacious residence was crowded with sympathizing friends and neighbors who gathered to pay the last sad tribute of the living to the dead. Among those present were the operatives of the factory of which the deceased was the owner. The services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. St. John of the Universalist church, who read selections from the scriptures and made some remarks which were replete with tenderness and sympathy and well calculated to soothe the bruised hearts of the afflicted family. The body lay in a Spanish cedar casket, covered with cloth and mounted with trimmings of oxydize and gold. The features in death looked as natural as when in life. The burial did not take place until 5 o'clock and was strictly private, the family and relatives only going to the grave. The pall bearers were selected from the old citizens and comprised the following named gentlemen: W. G. Wise, Charles Standart, Daniel Hewson, Richard Steel, Charles G. Briggs, N. Beardsley, S. Willard, Dr. H. Robinson. Sr., L. W. Nye, David Wright, H. Woodruff, M. S. Myers, C. S. Trowbridge and B. F. Hall. The mortuary arrangements were under the supervision of Pearls & Tallman. Interment was made in the family lot in Fort Hill cemetery.

Evening Auburnian, Auburn NY, Tue. 4 May 1880