

[Beach, Arad S.]

Arad S. Beach

Arad S. Beach died at his home on Church street in Groton, May 9th, after an illness extending over some six weeks. He had been in feeble health for some months, and he with his family felt that his days were nearly numbered. He was born in the town of Groton, December 17th, 1823, on Lot 94 adjoining the old State Road, one and one half miles west of Peruville. He was the son of Able A. and Elizabeth Smith Beach, and the only survivor of a family of six children.

In 1832 his father moved to Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio. The locality proving unhealthy the father soon sold his interest there and returned to Lansing, N.Y., locating at or near Lake Ridge. In the spring of 1837 he with the late William Baldwin purchased the store at Peruville then known as the Woodbury store, and began business under the firm name of Beach & Baldwin, Arad S., then a lad of fourteen, becoming their clerk. He [Arad] remained in the employ of the firm until its dissolution in 1845. He then took up the business of fire insurance canvassing for the old Montgomery Mutual Co. located at Canajoharie, N.Y. His territory embraced the counties of Chemung, Steuben and Alleghany [Allegany]. He continued in this several years, during which time he had purchased what is now known as the Nathaniel Steel farm in the town of Dryden.

In 1850 he married Miss LaVilla S. Giles, daughter of the late James Giles, of Dryden. In 1851 they established their home on this farm. He followed farming until the spring of 1855 when he sold his farm and stock and again turned his attention to insurance which became his life work. He soon added to the list of the companies he represented, many of the strongest and foremost, both foreign and domestic. After leaving the farm he located at Peruville where he remained until the spring of 1864, when he removed to McLean. There he remained until November 1871 when he removed to Groton where he has since resided. In 1874 he purchased the property on Church street which he remodeled and which has since been his home. He still continued the business of insuring. But as his cares increased he tired of the details, and other matters demanding his attention, he sold an interest in the business to other parties, and it was carried on under the name of A. S. Beach & Co., and later of Beach, Hopkins & Co.

For twenty-five years after coming to Groton he was in active business with large and varied interests. He was an early stockholder in the First National Bank of Groton, and for years an active member of its Board of Directors.

In June 1897 he suffered a stroke of paralysis, that thereafter lamed one half of his body and slowly but surely dimmed his mental powers, and he gradually lost his hold upon life's affairs. As a business man he was

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industrious, careful and painstaking, and his judgment was trusted fully by some of the strongest business men of the county, they having the feeling that anything trusted to him would not be neglected.

His was a kindly nature shown by his love of children and his care and tenderness toward dumb animals, and he never knowingly took the life of any creature. He was a good husband, a kind and indulgent father, a good neighbor, given to hospitality and kindly deeds. He is survived by his wife and three children, Jay G. Beach and Mrs. E. E. Dye, of Groton, and Mrs. Mary Powers, of McLean.

In matters of religion he was early identified with the Universalist denomination. Later he was interested in the phenomena of Spiritualism. Caring little for politics he cast his first vote with the Whig party, then voted with the Republicans and later with the Prohibitionists. That he ever acted up to the best light given him, is the belief of one who knew him intimately for three score years and ten.

His funeral occurred on the 11 inst. from his home, services conducted by the Rev. W. A. Smith. Burial in Groton Rural Cemetery where he rests free from cares and worries that beset a busy life.

W. E. M.

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