

[Beach, George]

OBITUARY.

GEORGE BEACH.

At his home in Stockwell, about four miles south of this village in the town of Sangerfield, on Saturday morning, occurred the death of George Beach, at the age of 73 years. Mr. Beach had been in poor health for some time and his death was not a surprise to those who were nearest to him. Four years ago he underwent a serious operation at a hospital in Baltimore, but the relief was only temporary and he never regained his former health.

George Beach was born in Sauquoit, Oneida county, N.Y., April 26, 1837. When [he was] seven years old, his parents moved to Brookfield, where they remained three years, and then they removed to Sangerfield. Mr. Beach was educated in the common schools and in Sangerfield learned the blacksmithing trade from Jerome Lawton. He worked with him two years and then learned the carpenter's trade with the Cadys. About the year 1870 he went into the carpenter business on his own account and that had been his business since. He worked mostly in the towns of Brookfield, Sangerfield, and Marshall, among the farmers, putting up hop houses, barns, dwellings and farm buildings generally. In the course of his career he built the opera house at Brookfield, and also the opera house at North Brookfield. In 1885 Mr. Beach, as a member of the Board of Supervisors, was appointed with Peter Dutton of Utica, Frank Wheeler of Boonville, R. A. Smith of New Hartford, and James Hagerty of Rome, a committee empowered to build a new insane asylum for the county at Rome. The committee appointed Mr. Beach superintendent and designated him to have charge of the construction, and this he did very successfully. The condition the building is in to-day best illustrates the quality of the work put into it. He superintended the erection of the Harper-Booth Memorial at the Masonic Home at Utica in 1886, and the erection of the children's building connected with it. He was known generally by builders throughout the county as an expert builder and a most careful and conscientious man, who could be trusted with any responsibility. He was not always engaged in building, but during the intervals would work at almost anything. Though one of the most modest men in the world, Mr. Beach did not hesitate to undertake anything which needed doing, and better still, he made a success of what he undertook. In quite a number of instances, when there were cases of contagious disease in the locality where he lived, he was called upon to act as nurse, for the reason that no one else could be obtained to do the work, and Mr. Beach was always ready to fill a gap where one could make himself useful. He always escaped the contagion and generally brought his patients through successfully.

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He had resided on the farm where he died since the spring of 1860, and there he had engaged in hop and general farming.

In politics Mr. Beach was a Democrat until the until the free silver craze under Bryan disrupted the party, when he went over to the Republicans. As a Democrat he represented the town of Sangerfield in the Board of Supervisors in 1884 and 1885, and [in] 1889 and 1890 he was justice for sessions, sitting as a side justice at the terms of county court. Beginning with 1887 he was justice of the peace for many years, which made him a member of the town board, a position in which he rendered valuable service in the conduct of the business of the town.

[On] January 6, 1860 Mr. Beach was made a member of Sanger Lodge, F.& A.M. of this village, and he has held the various positions in that lodge, including that of warden. He was also a member of the Masonic Veterans Association of Utica. He was a member of the Universalist Church of North Brookfield while it lasted [as early as 1852 and no later than 1901] and a few years ago united with Grace Episcopal Church of Waterville. He was a charter member of Waterville Grange, Patrons of Husbandry... He was also a charter member of the Patrons of Industry.

In 1858 Mr. Beach married Mary Stetson of Stockwell, who died several years ago. His second wife is Mary Lathrop of Jersey City, N.J., who survives with an adopted son, Dr. L. E. Beach of Baltimore, and several nephews and nieces.

In some respects Mr. Beach was a remarkable man. His height was six feet four inches, and a better proportioned man physically would be hard to find anywhere. His weight was 250 pounds. His health, up to the past few years, was always good and he needed the services of a physician only when he came to be examined for health insurance... His traits of character were also on the same scale. He was a whole-souled, large-hearted man with a kindly disposition, slow to arrive at any conclusion, but his judgment of human nature, as of building, was excellent. While he had the strength of a giant, no one ever saw him angry. He would go to any length to serve a neighbor, to relieve suffering or distress, and those who know him best admired him for his many excellent traits of character.

Sanger Lodge No. 129, F.& A.M., conducted the funeral from his late residence at Stockwell, Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, and there was a large attendance of his brother Masons, neighbors and friends. Interment was made at the cemetery in Stockwell.

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