

[Bemus, Jotham]

Jotham Bemus of Bemus Point

By the death of Jotham Bemus of Bemus Point, which occurred on the 4th of this month, there was removed from life one of the few remaining descendants in his generation of Wm. Bemus, a pioneer settler of this county, who came here on March 9, 1806, and settled on land in the town of Ellery on the east shore of Chautauqua lake.

Jotham was the son of James Bemus, the grandson of Wm. Bemus, and the great grandson of Jotham Bemus Sr. of Bemus Heights, Saratoga Co., N.Y. He owned the land on which was fought the battle of Bemus Heights, and he was a soldier in the Revolutionary army, and it may be said in a very literal sense that he fought in defense of his fireside and his home.

The first Jotham Bemus was born in 1788; died it is supposed in 1786. He married Tryphena Moore, who was of Scotch descent. Wm. Bemus, his son, was married to Mary Prendergast, daughter of Wm. Prendergast, one of the pioneer settlers of this county. His son James, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born Feb. 2, 1797; died in 1874. He married Tryphena Boyd; he had three children, David, Jotham and Katherine. David died some years ago; Katherine married Ross Horton of Bemus Point and died after a lingering illness on Feb. 7, only three days after her brother Jotham.

In early life Jotham lived on his father's farm, part of the original homestead bought by his grandfather, Wm. Bemus. About 1849, when the emigration caused by the gold fever was prevalent in this section, he went with his brother David and settled in Sacramento, Cal., where he was prominently identified with the fire department in that city. After the return of the forty-niners Jotham lived on the old farm until his marriage April 10, 1864, to Pauline Winch of Lakewood. He then removed to a farm on Chautauqua lake above Bemus Point, building a number of cottages and calling the resort Ravenswood. He lived there a number of years. Later on he erected a house at Bemus Point where he died. He had two children, James H. and Stella, the wife of Frank S. Goodrich of Cleveland, O.

Mr. Bemus was a man of reliable character, strict integrity and great kindness of heart; Republican in politics and a member of the Odd Fellows in good standing; a prominent farmer in Ellery. In religion he was a Universalist and connected with that church at Bemus Point.

His funeral occurred from his late residence Thursday, Feb. 6, conducted by Rev. Jas. Kittell of the Methodist church. The burial was in Bemus Point cemetery.

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