

[Benson, Nelson]

Death of Nelson H. Benson

As the new year came to with all its joy and gladness, the life of Nelson H. Benson, one of the most respected and oldest residents of Troy, quietly went out. The deceased had long been known as the veteran school teacher of this city. He was born at Williamstown, Mass., [on] May 20, 1813, and was consequently in the 63d year of his life. He came to this city about 40 years ago, and first opened a private school to the basement of the old Universalist church. When the free school system was organized to this city he accepted a position as grammar master in one of the public schools, and for more than 30 years, until ill health compelled him to resign, he occupied the position of teacher at different periods in the First, Second, Fifth and Eleventh ward schools. It was his life work, and it was well performed. In public he was quiet, unassuming and unobtrusive. He was one of the oldest members of Trojan lodge of Odd Fellows, having been connected with it for 39 years. He had held every office to this organisation, and was at the time of his death its treasurer. He was also a member of King Solomon's Primitive lodge of Masons. He was the founder of the Odd Fellows' funeral aid association, and was also one of the original members of Trojan division Sons of Temperance. His sympathies were always with the cause of temperance, and at one time he was editor of a temperance paper called the Aquarian. Political honors he cared little for, although he was at one time supervisor from the Second ward, and was also one of the school commissioners appointed by Mayor Kemp when the new school law went into effect. He had also been vice president and a director of the Troy building and savings association. At the time of his death he was in the employ of Neher & Calder, insurance agents. He leaves a wife [Matilda], two sons, Nelson H. Benson, jr., and Benjamin D. Benson, and three married daughters, all residing in New York. He also leaves two brothers in this city, Russell F. and Sylvander G. Benson. The deceased was warm hearted, charitable, and always ready to do a kind action. He leaves many friends as well as relatives to mourn his loss, and his family have the sympathy of the entire community. His sickness was a little singular. He was first afflicted with bilious fever, which was followed by typhoid, then by a kidney difficulty, and lastly a disease of the bowels. He had been confined to his residence five weeks. The funeral will occur Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock, from the Universalist church.

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