

[Bliven, John]

BRIDGEWATER

John Bliven, who for many years has been well known throughout this valley, died in his home on South street Wednesday morning. He was born in this town March 8, 1844, and attended the country schools. In his early teens he began doing business along speculative lines and in farming lines. He understood all kinds of farm labor, land values, animal characteristics, training and values, and the agricultural routine. He started the first livery stable here, selling out to Peter Chapin. After a year he went to Virginia. He meant to make a permanent home there, but it was not all he dreamed, so he returned and started a livery at West Exeter. After six months he went to Saranac, Mich., bought a large farm, sold that and returned here. He next went to Sioux City, Ia., bought 600 acres, which he sold a year later and came to our village, where he stayed three years, then taking a farm near Brookfield; and next bought the Donahue farm, which gave him 400 acres, the largest farm in our town. In 1911, leaving this farm in care of his son Frederick, he and his wife removed to our village, where she died May 19, 1915. He first married Miss Bernice Crumb in Virginia, and his second wife was Miss Nellie M. Utter of Bridgewater, and their sons, Bert Bliven, of Janesville, Wis., and Frederick Bliven, on the farm, both survive with their four children. The married granddaughter is Mrs. Arthur Washburn, living near the home farm. Mr. Bliven was a Democrat, but not a politician. He served one term as excise commissioner. He was a great lover of and successful in breeding fine horses. He was an enterprising, energetic, successful business man, and has made some successful real estate deals in our town. He was a loyal and helpful friend and a kind and considerate neighbor, the kind that held his friends for many years. He attended the Universalist church, and Rev. Dewitt Lamphere [Lamphear] officiated at his funeral Friday afternoon and gave a fine tribute to the kindly human side of the man who, after a long and trying illness, had passed beyond. Among those gathered for the service was his aged sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Chapin, who is 86 years old and who has so often of late spent hours with him, talking of their childhood days. A brother, Charles, the youngest of a once large family, also survives. He lives in California. The bearers were H. E. Palmer, H. Seifert, Charles D. Woodworth, Mark Willis, M. Tripp and Charles H. Clark. Interment in Fairview Cemetery.

*The Courier*, Brookfield NY, Wed. 21 Jan 1920

[Bliven, John]

BRIDGEWATER.

Jan. 29.—John Blivin, who was born in our town March 8, 1844, died Wednesday morning, the 14th. A farmer's son, much of his life was spent in that business. He had been in the livery business at times and had made numerous and successful real estate deals. In early life he had been for a time in Virginia, Michigan and Iowa, returning here for a time after each stay and business venture elsewhere. Many years ago he purchased a large farm near Brookfield line, and adding to those acres had a 400 acre farm, the largest farm in town, which is a part of his estate. In 1911, with his wife, who was Miss Nellie Utter, he removed to our village, leaving his son Frederic on the farm. An elder son, Bert Bliven, is living in Janesville, Wis. Mrs. Bliven died in May, 1915. Mr. Bliven was a Democrat, but took no active part in politics. He was loyal to his friends, was known as a kind and helpful neighbor, was energetic in business until the last few months. He attended the Universalist Church and the Rev. DeWitt Lamphear delivered a fitting address at the funeral in his late home Friday afternoon. He was of a once large family, of which his youngest brother, Charles, lives in California, and an elder sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Chapin, who is 86 years old, lives here. They have spent many happy hours the past winter talking over childhood days.

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