[Botsford, Charles Ezra]

The Late Charles E. Botsford, C. E.

Mr. Botsford, the left-hand figure in the picture[1], was a resident of Springville, N.Y., for sixty-five years since his arrival there with his parents when eight years old. He was one of the early students of Springville academy where he developed an aspiring taste for mathematics and the sciences. He became a civil engineer and for about seven years was assistant and division engineer on the Brooklyn city water works. Later, he developed railroad work as his speciality and attained an enviable reputation as locating engineer. He assisted in building the Rondout & Oswego railroad, the Sullivan & Erie, the New Haven, Middletown & Willimantic, being chief engineer of the latter.

To Mr. Botsford, Springville is largely indebted for her two railroads. Being familiar with land north and south of Springville, it was easy for his practiced eye to find feasible routes, and having the confidence of financiers he led them this way. In his later years, he enjoyed his home, his family, his books, too much to allow his profession to take him away. He collected a library of several thousand volumes, enjoyed good literature and desired others to acquire a taste for it. He loaned his books and years ago joined in a movement to establish a circulating library which proved to be a forerunner of the Springville Public library. He also assisted in starting an asociation which collected and read scientific works and finally joined in donating this collection to the public library.

Mr. Botsford's funeral was held from his late home in Springville on Saturday, Nov. 4, the Rev. Nathaniel S. Hill, pastor of the Universalist church of Springville, officiating. Burial was in the Maplewood cemetery. Buffalo folks who attended were Mr. and Mrs. James Shotwell, Miss Mayme Shotwell, Miss Marion Putnam and Mrs. Adam Stroh.

Buffalo Courier, Buffalo NY, Sun. 10 Dec 1911

Transcribed on 13 Feb 2024 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY

---

[1] Not shown here