

[Bridger, Jacob S.]

Jacob S. Bridger

The death of Jacob S. Bridger, one of Cooperstown's oldest and most highly respected citizens, occurred unexpectedly at 3:15 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at his home on Pioneer street. Mr. Bridger had suffered with heart trouble for some time, but his condition had not been regarded as alarming and he had just returned from a walk to Main street and was seated in his chair when the call came.

The son of William and Mary (Newkirk) Bridger, he was born November 18, 1858, at Greenbush. In his boyhood he went with his family to Cherry Valley and worked on the home farm until a young man. Some fifty years ago he came to Cooperstown and was at first employed by Captain P. [Peter] P. Cooper in navigating the steamer "Gem," one of the first passenger boats on Otsego Lake. Later on for fully forty years he was employed as assistant manager of the Cooperstown Aqueduct Association and as a mechanic in the machine shops of the Clark Estate.

He was a quiet and unassuming citizen of great worth, a skilled and faithful workman, and these qualities together with his unfailing good cheer and kindness won for him a host of friends who will feel a keen sense of personal loss in his departure.

Mr. Bridger was twice married. His first wife was Ellen Gazley, who died in 1917 [on September 21st]. In October, 1919, he was united in marriage to Bessie Ely, who survives, together with one brother, Samuel Bridger, of this village, and many nephews and nieces.

The funeral service will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home, the Rev. Father Jackson L. Cole, rector of Christ church [his wife's church] officiating. The Rev. Charles Kramer, pastor of the Universalist church, will officiate at the committal service at the Lakewood cemetery vault.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 29 Mar 1940

Transcribed on 3 Jul 2018 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY