

[Brigham, Randall W.]

END OF A LONG AND USEFUL CAREER

Brief Sketch of the Life of a Respected Townsman—Randall W. Brigham

Randall W. Brigham, whose death on Wednesday evening of last week was briefly mentioned in the last issue of the Record, was a son of Jabez and Elizabeth Hart Brigham, pioneers of this town, who came from New Marlboro, Mass., and settled in Perry in 1816 on what has ever since been known as the Brigham farm, located a little over a mile north and west of this village.

He was one of a family of seven children—five sons and two daughters—and was born on July 4th, 1826, on the homestead farm where all of his long and useful life has been spent. He was educated in the common school and assisted his parents on the farm.

On November 5, 1851, he was united in marriage to Miss Annette Richards of Perry, by whom he had two children, Henry R. and M. Belle, both of whom preceded him to the better home. Mrs. Brigham passed away in February, 1907.

Mr. Brigham was a splendid type of the sturdy manhood that has had such an important part in the development of the country. His name was a synonym for integrity and in consequence he was chosen to fill numerous positions of responsibility, which he did with a fidelity that was characteristic.

He was supervisor of the town in 1871-82, and in 1873 he was chosen highway commissioner, which office he faithfully filled for a period of nine years. He was one of the promoters of the Silver Lake Railway, for the construction of which the town was bonded and work was begun in 1870. He was one of the railroad commissioners during the period of its construction.

Mr. Brigham was an excise commissioner under the old license law and cast the deciding vote that made the town dry 41 years ago.

He was prominent as one of the organizers of the Silver Lake Agricultural and Mechanical Association in 1880 and was its first president, to which office he was re-elected for several succeeding years. He was one of the organizers of the Wyoming Historical and Pioneer Association, and an active participant in the work of building the log cabin which contains so many relics of pioneer days. He was an officer of the Association for several years and a trustee at the time of his death.

Mr. Brigham was one of nature's noblemen. As a husband, father, friend and counselor, he measured up to the highest standard. He was a painstaking and thrifty farmer, as the development of the farm under his

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management testifies. The attractive home always had the open door of hospitality, and the kindness and courtesy of its inmates were proverbial.

Much of sorrow fell to Mr. Brigham's lot in being obliged to part with his loved ones, but he bore it with the courage and fortitude of the true christian, whose characteristics he always exemplified in his daily life.

The end came as a blessed relief, for he was ready and longing to go to the better land, where his faith gave him the conviction that he would meet his loved ones in a happy reunion. Surely, he deserved the Master's welcome: "Welcome, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Funeral services were largely attended at the family home last Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, conducted by his minister, Rev. Clara Morgan of the Universalist Church, of which he had long been a devoted and faithful member. Miss Morgan's remarks were particularly well chosen and a beautiful tribute to the value of such a life as Mr. Brigham has lived.

Out of town relatives and friends who attended the funeral were: J. H. Hart of Waterbury, Conn.; Mr. French, Mrs. Joseph Olp and Mrs. Bingham of Mt. Morris; Louis J. Brigham of Rochester and Mr. and Mrs. L. Perry of Warsaw.

Interment was in the family lot in Hope Cemetery.

Perry Record, Perry NY, Thu. 29 May 1913

Transcribed on 11 Mar 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY