

[Brooks, George]

George Brooks

The death of George Brooks, Esq., one of Cooperstown's oldest citizens, occurred at his home on Leatherstocking street Sunday at midnight, the result of an acute attack of intestinal indigestion. He had been suffering also with a cold and his condition had caused him to keep to his bed during the day, Sunday. His physicians, however, felt no alarm as to his condition and it was the general impression that he was improving. He had just taken a drink of water when he fell back upon the bed, passing away immediately.

In George Brooks Cooperstown had intimately associated with its history for a half century one whose character was in many respects unique. As a lawyer he earned a reputation as an untiring and absolutely fearless fighter for the interests he represented, allowing no human consideration to thwart him in carrying out his designs. For this spirit not only in his professional career but in his own business enterprises, which were large, he became the subject of severe criticism on the part of his friends and enemies alike. In curious contradiction to this trait, and accentuated by it, he possessed in large measure a kindly disposition denoted by his friendly genial bearing toward all with whom he came into contact. In his career he was the author of not a few good works and many of the needy have been helped in the unostentatious manner that characterized his habit of life. His loyalty to his friends, his Democratic spirit and his public benefactions are all well known by the people of this community.

Mr. Brooks was the son of the late William and Hetty Brooks and was born in the town of Middlefield, May 15, 1837. His father was a farmer and his early days were spent upon the farm where he attended district school. His education was continued at the Delaware Literary Institute at Franklin, Delaware county, and at Union College. From the latter institution he was graduated in 1859. He entered as a student the law office of Luther I. Burditt in this village and later formed a partnership with that well-known attorney. For some time he was associated with the late E. M. Card., Esq., in the practice of his profession. During the latter years of his life he gradually relinquished the practice of the law to give increased attention to his business enterprises. In these he preserved a live interest to the last.

As has already been stated his business interests were many and important. He was the moving spirit in the organization of the Clinton Mills Power company and the Cooperstown Gas company of this village. For many years he was a director and manager of the C. & S.V. railroad and a director of the Second National bank of Cooperstown. The Water Works companies of Delanson, Schenevus, Afton and Otego were organized by him as was the Schenevus National bank.

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In the matter of public benefactions the most notable is the Nurses' Home at Thanksgiving Hospital, which was built at a cost of some \$10,000, that the purpose of his friend, the late Samuel M. Shaw, one of whose ambitions was the erection of such a building, might be carried out. He was a member of the Mohican Club and was one who had its interests deeply at heart. For ten years the club enjoyed the use of its present club house free through his generosity.

Mr. Brooks is survived by his son-in-law, Russel Warren, and grandson, Master Leslie Brooks Warren, Mrs. Brooks having died in 1906, and in March of last year, his daughter, Mrs. Russel Warren, passed away.

The funeral was held at the late residence at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, the Rev. George Wilson Scudder, pastor of the Universalist church, officiating. The pall bearers were G. M. Jarvis, W. Corey, Dr. D. E. Siver, James W. Tucker, Robert M. Bush of Cooperstown and M. E. Baldwin, Esq., of Schenevus. Interment in Lakewood cemetery.

Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 4 Nov 1910

Transcribed on 14 Mar 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY