

[Clark, Edward Stevens]

MR. EDWARD S. CLARK

Died, at his home on Center street, in this village, on Thursday morning, November 25th, Mr. Edward S. Clark, aged 87 years, 9 months and three days. In the death of Mr. Clark, Perry loses one of the oldest and best known citizens. He was one of the pioneers of the town and a man of strong individuality. Notwithstanding his advanced age, his physical faculties were unusually good until several months ago, when he suffered a paralytic stroke. Since that time he has gradually failed, and gangrene finally appeared, resulting in death.

Mr. Clark's mental faculties were always keen and he retained them until the end. His vivid recollection of early events, and his thorough familiarity with local history, made him an entertaining personage.

Mr. Clark was born in Tamworth, N. H., February 3d, 1815 (Washington's birthday), and he had frequently remarked in a jocular manner, that the world had produced at least two great men, General Washington and himself.

His parents were Mr. Greenleaf Clark and Mrs. Betsy Stephens Clark. They removed from Tamworth to Perry, November 3d, 1815. They were parents of 12 children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the ninth. Of the large family of children, but two remain—Mr. George Clark and Mrs. Mary E. Hunt, both of this place.

When his parents came to Perry—then called Ninevah—there were but five houses in the place. Mr. Clark lived to see Main street burned twice and built up three times. During his lifetime he has seen the place grow from a small hamlet to its present size and prosperous condition.

When a young man, Mr. Clark learned the trade of tanner and currier, and on April 16th, 1834, he went west to work at his trade. He was in Canada at the time of the "Patriots' war" in 1837, and was an ardent sympathizer with the patriots, although he did not take part in the struggle. Shortly after the war, he returned to Perry, to the homestead farm, and on December 18th, 1855, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarepta M. Edgerly, who died December 28th, 1884. Two children, Mr. Barton E. and Miss Sarah Clark, were the fruit of their union, both of whom survive.

Mr. Clark was a man of considerable military spirit, and was a prominent figure in the days of "general training." The old building in the rear of his residence was in early days used as an arsenal and a storing place for the old cannon which was used in the war of 1812, and also in the Patriots' war, by the company of artillery of which the late Captain Elias Tallman was commander. The cannon now graces the Pioneer grounds at Silver Lake, an interesting relic of the early history of this section.

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There was a large attendance at the funeral services, which were held at his late residence last Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. C. [Charles] Palmatier of the Universalist Church, officiating. Mrs. M. S. Nobles assisted in the services, and sang very acceptably two appropriate solos.

The remains were laid at rest in our beautiful Hope Cemetery, where 21 members of the family now repose.

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