

[Cole, Byron]

Byron Cole, a prominent farmer of the town of Richfield, owns a good farm of 192 acres in District No. 3, upon which he systematically and successfully carries on general farming, dairying and hop-raising. His father, Joseph Cole, was born in Columbia, Herkimer County, and learned the trade of blacksmith, which he followed for many years before he became of age. Attaining his majority, he married Achsah Pearl, of Fairfield, and died at the age of forty-four, his wife dying when nearly eighty-one. They were the parents of seven children, viz: Hamilton, deceased; E. Darwin, living in Clinton; Washington and Wellington, twins, both deceased; Byron, the subject of this sketch; Marion P. and William H., both living at Clinton.

Byron Cole was born in Cedarville, Herkimer County, March 2, 1830, and attended school until he was thirteen years old. About that time his father died, and afterward until he was twenty-one he worked on the farm and attended school as opportunity offered. Then, in company with two of his brothers, he bought a large farm in the town of Columbia, Herkimer County, and the three worked it in partnership [for] eight years, Byron at the end of this period selling out to his brothers, and marrying Caroline Miller, who was born in Columbia, Herkimer County October 9, 1830, and was one of ten children. One, John, died when twenty-one years old, and nine are yet living, viz: Adam, Jacob, Philip, William, Mary, Mrs. Cole, Cornelia, Melinda and Kate. All married but William and Cornelia, who occupy the old Miller homestead in the town of Columbia. After marriage Mr. Cole went to the town of Exeter, and worked on a farm for five years, when he bought the place upon which he now lives. At that time the farm contained fifty-seven acres, and to this he has added from time to time until it now contains 192 acres. He and his wife have had seven children, viz: Clayton, living at Winfield, married Jennie Bowen and they have three children—Lee, Merton and Clyde; Carrie M., wife of Clark Getman, has had four children, only one of whom, Lynn, is now living; Blanch V. wife of William B. Dayger, a farmer of the same town, has one child, Carrie; Florence and Ada are both deceased; William J. and Emerson are at home.

In religion both Mr. and Mrs. Cole are Universalists, and in politics Mr. Cole is a Republican. He is a man very much respected in this town, and though solicited often to accept public office, he has almost invariably preferred to devote his attention to his farm, the only exception being that at one time he served as Roadmaster. He is a most genial gentleman, a good neighbor and citizen, highly esteemed in the community, and has many friends.

Mrs. Caroline Cole is the daughter of William J. and Nancy (Haner) Miller, both of whom were born in the town of Herkimer, Columbia County, and both lived and died near where they were born, and where they had spent all their lives. Mr. Miller lived within a few weeks of being fourscore years,

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while Mrs. Miller lived to the ripe age of eighty-eight. The parents of both were among the earlier settlers of the town of Columbia, where the father of William J. Miller erected and conducted one of the first gristmills of Herkimer County, and he and his wife lived to be very old people. The older stock of both the Miller and Haner families were identified with the Dutch Reformed Church, and the male members of the families were whigs and Republicans.

Biographical Review, Otsego County, 1893; p.653

— Byron Cole died at his home Monday night, November 13, caused by blood poison from the amputation of one of his toes which he recently had the misfortune to crush. The funeral was held at the church at Cedarville Thursday. Mr. Cole lived near East Winfield and was a prosperous farmer and was much respected by all. His wife died about a year ago. He leaves two sons, Clayton and Emerson, and two daughters, Mrs. Will Dayer of Richfield Hill and Mrs. Getman of Dolgeville to mourn his loss.

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